



ASSOCIATION

MISSOURI TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION

Improving the Art of Taxidermy Through Continuing Education Since 1980

June 2009 Newsletter

The 2009 MTA Competition & Convention is fast approaching.

Several of our members and officers attended the shoot at River Hills and took part in a very lively meeting afterward. Subjects ranged from the Deer Classic to the upcoming show and everything in between. There will be some changes at this year's show. Read the business meeting minutes and the competition rules for more details. Also, we are trying to give more information about our judges and the awards to be given. *All information pertaining to awards may not be available at the time of this mailing; so please contact me, if you have questions.*

MTA Business Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2009

The minutes from the March meeting were read. Doug said his insurance company would not insure the contents of the trailer due to it being in the MTA's name. "That would open each member of the association to law suit"? Bill said he would check with his agent.

Bill gave us an update on the position of the Deer Classic. He said the Bowhunters just paid their share of the money needed to pay off debts 2 weeks ago. This meant that in the mean time a radio station in Sedalia started charging interest to their bill. The interest amounted to nearly \$300. Gary made a motion that the MTA pay its 1/3 of the amount now; so that Bill and Jeri are not out of pocket. Motion was 2nd and approved. MTA Secretary is to send check to Bill ASAP.

Doug mentioned Sportmans Alliance wants to have an alliance with the MTA. We decided to discuss this further at the Aug. meeting. He also said that the block of rooms at the Capital Plaza-Jeff City will be released from us on July 7th; so members need to reserve their room as quickly as possible. He told us the menu included chicken breast, pork loin, and all the trimmings, and the cost for the association would be ~ \$23.95 per person. He brought up the idea of a minimum bid to be placed on any seminars to be auctioned off. It was agreed that bidding should start at \$150. Doug & Christine had visited the hotel a week ago to look it over. He believes that most of our boards, mounts, etc. should be able to be brought in through the front doors.

Lee Smith spoke about the Scholarship Committee next. He says we need new people on it. Lee and Debbie Cross are the only ones still actively involved in the process. We have been on it since it first began. One will have to remain, but we need 2 people to fill out the committee. These 2 must have been members for at least 5 years. Scholarship Applications are to be sent out in the June packet. They must be postmarked by July 31st to be eligible for the 2009 drawing. Rules will also be included.

Cole Cruickshank was asked about seminars planned. He said there are 8 seminars scheduled for the show. Larry Schumaker – whitetails trouble areas, Marcus Detring – mammals anatomy, Randy Pike – birds anatomy, Don Frank – Head Cast LM Bass, Cole – painting LM Bass, Dave Bartlett – possibly mounting a mammal, Pat Reed – unknown, and the Guided Tour of the Capital Building. Pat Reed may be coming to us benefit of the UTA. They may also put up an information table in our vendor's area.

Next there was some discussion about possible vendors coming this year. McKenzie is undecided, Research will not be coming, Ohio Taxidermy is a possibility, as is Matuska. There are no definite suppliers lined up as of yet. Don Cross suggested that suppliers be approached with the idea of giving members a discount on supplies ordered during the week following the show, if they are unable to attend. A schedule for times for vendors to be open will be included in this year's schedule sheet. Debbie is to check with the judges to see what seminar times work best for them.

Cole had sent Doug & Debbie a list of suggestions for our show. We went over several during the meeting:

A) The suggestion was to withhold blue ribbon winner's score sheets until after the banquet. It was decided to have all competitors pick them up at the registration desk on Sun. morning.

B) A suggestion was made to give members 30 min. to an hour to vote for people's choice

award with no ribbons placed. This was agreed to with only the stipulation of no Blue Ribbons placed.

C) The Polytranspar Award is a Fish award. It goes to the highest scoring fish in the show. In order to cut down on the confusion, it was decided to add a 1 in front of Prof. scores, a 2 in front of Master's scores. BUT the JUDGE still has final say!!

OF _____

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D) It was suggested that judges should be asked not to enter the competition area while pieces are being placed. This may be done. No definite decision was made.

E) It was agreed that it will be unnecessary to withhold ribbons from mounts during the time that award sponsors such as the MO Dept. of Conservation and MO Trappers' Assoc. are choosing their winners.

F) An idea of offering cash awards for All Best of Categories was tabled 'til a later date.

G) It was stated that we should NOT use in of state judges every year. (This was due to the need we felt to use in-state judges to help off set costs due to recent financial uncertainties this year.) It was explained that this was a one time deal, and that all of our judges are well qualified due to each of their own experiences in competitions and judging.

H) The idea of handing out a pamphlet the night of the banquet with the order of awards to be given out as well as space to fill out winner's name was agreed upon unanimously.

I) It was agreed that the judges (and possibly the sponsors of other awards) should be handing out the individual awards.

J) Clarification of the criteria for major awards was asked for, and we will try to do so.

K) The suggestion of a slide show during the banquet of the piece that won each award was accepted as a good idea, if a slide projector and screen can be found. Cole said that Codi Wissman has volunteered to take photos and prepare the slide show for us.

L) More major awards were asked for; Dewayne has volunteered to work toward getting more for the association.

M) A meet & greet pizza party was suggested. We agreed with the understanding that the association will not be paying for it.

We agreed to try a membership drive by doing a mass mailing of all licensed taxidermists in the state of Missouri. Debbie will obtain a complete list from the MDC and a date will be set for all members who can to help with the collating, addressing, stamping, etc. This will probably be done at one of our meetings.

Garland spoke to someone at a show recently who said they contact the local Chamber of Commerce to get local businesses to make donations, sponsor awards, etc. It was agreed that he and Dewayne should get in touch with the Jefferson City Chamber to see what might be done.

Information to let competitors get better acquainted with our judges will be in the show packet this year.

Another change was voted on; there will be an amendment to a competition rule already in place: 14.A) Any mount that is done in a workshop, seminar, or school will be eligible for ribbons, score sheets, and critiques in their appropriate category, but will NOT be eligible for "Best of Category" or any other major awards. It was decided to give out 2 Scholarships this year. After the show, a decision will be made as to whether we will use another \$500 (in place of a third scholarship) to pay for our winter seminar. Garland doesn't think the person (an MTA member) should need to be paid to give a seminar. James said he understood the reason for payment was due to it being for 2 days, and the fee is their pay for all expenses as well. Gary suggested a 1 day seminar and asking \$25 to participate. Cole thought a 1 day seminar would be good; no need to stay at hotel, and use the money from 3rd scholarship to allow members to participate free of charge. These ideas will all be discussed and voted on during the Aug. meeting when we will know how this year's show has done.

The subject of the Deer Classic and whether to remain as a sponsor was discussed at some length. Doug presented several options: 1st was that we remain as before, but have a contract stating we only had a limited liability. Gary told us this wouldn't work because Ron Roper & Jason would be our employees. And he said that as sponsors, if the Classic ran into debt and the other two organizations couldn't pay their shares, the MTA would be legally responsible for the entire amount no matter how much. It could feasibly wipe out our account and the CD we recently invested in. It was agreed by most of us that this was not something we were willing to risk. The second idea was to go in as a display. This would mean getting a set fee from the Classic for a guaranteed number of mounts from us on display. We also agreed to ask for the continued usage of the back corner for a seminar area. Bill doesn't think we'll get this deal, but that's what we decided would be our best chance of staying in the public eye, but not having to risk our association. The motion was made to accept this proposal, 2nd, and passed. Doug is to type up a letter stating our decision and see if Ron takes the deal. If not, we'll find other ways of going public. This brought us back to the idea of a mass mailing to all licensed taxidermists in the state.

James Graham mentioned applying for a scholarship. Lee read the rules of scholarship eligibility which state Master Taxidermists are not eligible. It was agreed to propose that: "MTA scholarships be open to all members regardless of division level".* This was written and signed by 3 members, and delivered to the Sec/Treas. at the June meeting. It will be voted on at the Aug. meeting. Another set forth was that we should change the scholarship rules: "to allow scholarships for study of reproductions, reproduction parts, and how to integrate them into their work and art form". This will also be voted on in Aug.

Mr. H.A. Nixon stood to thank the members present and the membership in general for their thoughtfulness, their support, and prayers during his time of loss.

The meeting was adjourned.

***Since the meeting, Committee Members discovered in past meeting minutes where this issue was discussed before, and it was agreed to allow masters to apply for classes they aren't already masters in. The change in wording has already been made in the Scholarship Guidelines.**

MTA News

Mr. H.A. Nixon would like to thank each member of the association for the card, calls, gift, & show of support since the loss of his wife, Jackie. H.A. says, "The Association means a great deal to me." On behalf of the Association I would like to say, "H.A., you mean a great deal to the Association. You helped create it, and we owe you a debt we can never repay. We hope you will continue to attend MTA events so we can have the privilege of visiting with you in the future."

Cole Cruickshank say the **KANSAS TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION** has issued an invitation to all MTA members to join them for a **Snake Mounting Seminar on June 28th, 2009** at Cindy Cunningham's 2nd Creation Taxidermy School near Cabela's in Kansas City, KS. The seminar is FREE to any who come. It is a hands-on seminar, but you may purchase a skin there, or you can just watch. The KTA will be holding their meeting first. The seminar is expected to begin at ~ 1pm. For more information contact: Cole: cole@timberlandtaxidermy.net or call (816) 724-0271.

Two Board Member positions will be up for a vote in Aug. Don Cross and Rick Morris have been on the Board for 2 years; so a vote will be taken to re-elect or replace them. We will also be voting for 2 new Scholarship Committee Members. These members must have been MTA members for at least 5 years. Please be thinking of nominees for these positions in the coming weeks.

A change to the rules for Scholarships was proposed at the June 13th meeting:

This was introduced by Garland Lessley: **Proposition A**) to allow scholarships for study of reproductions, reproduction parts, and how to integrate them into their work and art form. Please consider these proposals. If you can not attend the Aug. meeting, a Proxy Ballet is attached for your convenience. Please return this to Debbie Cross by July 31st, 2009; so your vote may be counted.

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MTA Proxy Ballet

Please check yes or no to the following proposition:

Proposition A) to allow scholarships for study of reproductions, reproduction parts, and how to integrate them into their work and art form. YES___ NO___

Please return to: Debbie Cross, 1659 Little Bay Rd., Hermann, MO 65041