

MISSOURI



# MISSOURI TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION

Improving the Art of Taxidermy  
Through Continuing Education Since 1980

## March 2026 NEWSLETTER

The 46<sup>TH</sup> annual MTA convention will be held at The Wyndham Executive Center in Columbia, MO August 13-16. Check our website at: [www.missouritaxidermist.org](http://www.missouritaxidermist.org) for further details as they come available.

Wyndham Executive Center  
2200 I 70 Drive SW  
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[www.missouritaxidermist.org](http://www.missouritaxidermist.org)

### **MTA January 2026 Business Meeting Minutes**

#### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

- Meeting called to order by president
- Zach gave updated financials
- Discussed options for raffle items and auction items, it was mentioned that people would like to see some additional items for women. It was also discussed that a paid seminar by the whitetail judge could be an option to auction but we would need a reserve amount as they have sold for less than their value in the past. This was brought up because the whitetail judge does not have enough time to do judging and critiques if they also do a seminar at the show. At the last meeting we discussed having a member do the whitetail seminar instead of the judge to ensure we are not overloading them due to the high number of whitetail entries compared to the other categories.
- It was discussed to have the March meeting at Jacob Helbings shop where there is more space for work and lodging available. Date is set for 3/7/2026.
- It was determined that newsletters would be mailed by Zach as the email and text systems have not worked.
- The board asked the members to bring ideas of seminars they would like to see at the show to them for consideration
- It was discussed how the layout will work at the show this year by moving the vendor room to allow for more vendor space and the traffic to flow by the vendor room.
- Meeting adjourned

### **MTA March 2026 Business Meeting Minutes**

#### **Old Business**

- Minutes were read from the January 2026 meeting
- Discussion about fundraiser options presented. President stated for people to be thinking about options for fundraisers at our August show.

#### **New Business**

- Financial report presented by Zach.
- A letter of concern from a member who couldn't attend the meeting was read by the President. The letter addressed the following concerns:
  - Importance of getting newsletters mailed out to members in a timely fashion
  - Member wanted to see a comprehensive financial statement with a clear breakdown of expenditures.
  - Member wanting to see an updated members list

- Member concerned with the Association hosting a paid for seminar from our whitetail judge, Gary Weir at the upcoming show. He wanted our association to stay away from paid for seminars, and all seminars at the show to be of no charge.
- Member has concerns with Mr. Weir's professional reputation
- Member would like to see the association send out postcards for the upcoming show to all license holders in Missouri and out of state association members.
- Member willing to design and prepare postcards and to handle the show packets if necessary.
- Member reported that about a year ago the association deposited nearly \$18K in a brokerage account and today the value of that account is \$20,679.73. The account has seen \$2744.26 in growth during that time.

-After letter was read, Zach gave the updated information about mailing out the newsletters and financial statements. He received an updated members list on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, so now he has the names and addresses to begin sending them. The updated members list will be posted to the website soon.

-Cory gave updated information about the show venue. They would like to book us out to the 2029 show so we can lock in our dates and lock in room rates and venue fees. The only thing that will change is the price of banquet food and concessions. Cory will get a contract from the venue and will be voted on during our June meeting.

-Discussion about or June meeting, the meeting will be June 6<sup>th</sup> at Curt Shahan's shop parking lot in Columbia. We will refurbish the backboard and do any other maintenance needed before our show.

-Meeting adjourned.

### **Spring Workshop March 7<sup>th</sup> 2026**

Our spring workshop was held at Jacob Helbing's shop in Powersville. There were 25 members present on Saturday, with many of them showing up early on Friday to help prep hides and get forms ready for the Saturday workshop. We got 13 pieces mounted on Saturday, 8 game heads, 2 Lifesize pieces, and three ducks. The Helbing family has a lodge a couple of miles from Jacob's shop, so lodging was available to all those that needed to stay. It was a fun weekend and there was a lot of discussion about doing something similar for our next spring workshop.

### **Upcoming Events**

**Summer Meeting/Workday  
9 am  
Curt Shahan's shop parking lot  
1446 Jade Rd  
Columbia, MO 65201**

Our summer meeting will be held on June 6<sup>th</sup> at Curt Shahan's shop parking lot at 9am at the above address. We will be refurbishing the backboards and doing some other maintenance before our show date. This will be our last meeting before the show, so several things will still need to be discussed. Lunch will be provided. Bring a chair

### **Additional Information**

Shortly after writing this newsletter, the newsletter and an updated financial statement will be mailed to all members on the members list via USPS. I also wanted to make all members aware that the newsletters and financial statements will be posted to our Associations website each newsletter cycle. You can always find that information at [www.missouritaxidermist.org](http://www.missouritaxidermist.org). For those that use Facebook, the upcoming meeting information is also posted there.