

2024 PA State Taxidermy and Wildlife Art Championships Major Awards

<p>◆ Best of Show ◊ Breakthrough Award Winner ◊ Taxidermy <i>Sponsored by the PTA & Breakthrough Magazine</i></p>	<p>(Judges Choice) Chosen from the Best of Category winners from ALL Taxidermy divisions.</p>
<p>◆ Taxidermy Today Woody Award <i>Sponsored by Taxidermy Today Magazine</i></p>	<p>(Judges Choice) Excellence in Taxidermy – An Award for a mount deserving of an honorable mention in the show.</p>
<p>◆ WASCO Award</p>	<p>(Judges Choice) Most Artistic Entry</p>
<p>◆ Competitors Best of Show ◊ Artisan Award <i>Sculpted by Ken Walker & sponsored by the UTA</i></p>	<p>(Competitors Vote) Chosen by your fellow competitors.</p>
<p>◆ Taxidermist of the Year</p>	<p>(Judges Choice) Chosen from the Taxidermy Best of Category winners from the Master Division.</p>
<p>◆ Taxidermy State Champions</p>	<p>Highest scoring - first place/blue ribbon entry in each category from the Master Division of Taxidermy.</p>
<p>◆ Best of Show ◊ Wildlife Art</p>	<p>(Judges Choice) Chosen from the Best of Category winners from ALL Wildlife Art Divisions. Winner receives the Ned Smith Print.</p>
<p>◆ Wildlife Artist of the Year</p>	<p>(Judges Choice) Chosen from the Wildlife Art Best of Category winners in the Master Division.</p>
<p>◆ Wildlife Art State Champions</p>	<p>Highest scoring – first place/blue ribbon entry in each category from the Master Division of Wildlife Art.</p>
<p>◆ Competitors Award ◊ Master</p>	<p>(Judges Choice) – 1st \$1,500, 2nd \$750, 3rd \$500 – See “PTA Competitors Award” for eligibility and complete details.</p>
<p>◆ Competitors Award ◊ Professional</p>	<p>(Judges Choice) – 1st \$750, 2nd \$375, 3rd \$250 – See “PTA Competitors Award” for eligibility and complete details.</p>
<p>◆ Best All Around Taxidermist</p>	<p>Awarded to the individual receiving a ribbon in 4 categories in any combination of division and collecting the highest point total with those 4 mounts. The 4 categories must include: A Whitetail or Gamehead, A Bird, Turkey or Waterfowl, A Fish, Reptile or Amphibian, & A Lifesize Mammal (Large or Small).</p>
<p>◆ Best Professional Entry <i>Sponsored by Bears Den Taxidermy</i></p>	<p>(Judges Choice) Chosen from the Professional Division Best of Category winners.</p>
<p>◆ Best Amateur Entry <i>Sponsored by Research Mannikins</i></p>	<p>(Judges Choice) Chosen from the Amateur Division Best of Category winners.</p>
<p>◆ Rising Star Awards (Top 3 Jr. Amateur Entries)</p>	<p>(Judges Choice) Sponsored by longtime PTA Member Ronnie Hall of MD. 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$25 – Chosen from the Jr. Amateur Division Best of Category winners. If 1 person is the BOC for multiple categories – they can only win one award – the next eligible piece/person then becomes eligible.</p>
<p>◆ PTA Taxidermist Choice Award</p>	<p>(Members Vote) Chosen by all PTA members registered for the convention.</p>
<p>◆ People’s Choice Awards ◊ 1st, 2nd, 3rd</p>	<p>(Ballot Vote) Chosen by the PTA members & public in attendance.</p>

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◆ Perry Klein Memorial Award ◦ Collective Artists Awards	(Judge Choice) 1st, 2nd, 3rd & HM – Perry Klein was a longtime PTA member who loved sharing his skill & talents with everyone. Perry & his son, David also loved to do pieces together and enter in the Collective Artists Division. Perry was tragically taken away from us way to early while hunting with his son in 2005. The 1st place winner in the Collective Artist Division receives the Perry Klein Memorial Award.
◆ PA Game Commission Award	(Judges Choice) Best Whitetail
◆ PA Fish ◦ Boat Commission Award	(Judges Choice) Best Fish
◆ Jack Wilson Memorial Award	(Judges Choice) Best Bird – Jack Wilson was a Canadian bird taxidermist who pioneered many different techniques used today and was an inspiration to anyone that ever met him.
◆ Ducks Unlimited PA Chapter Award	(Judges Choice) Best Waterfowl
◆ Best Turkey Award <i>Sponsored by Scritchfield Knives</i>	(Judges Choice) Best Turkey
◆ Blue Mountain Chapter Safari Club International Award	(Judges Choice) Best Large Lifesize
◆ PA Trappers Association Award	(Judges Choice) Best Furbearer
◆ Ruffed Grouse Society Award	(Judges Choice) Best Ruffed Grouse
◆ PGC Commissioners Award	Chosen by a representative of the PA Board of Game Commissioners as their favorite entry.
◆ Best Bear Award <i>Sponsored by the Hughes Forms</i>	(Judges Choice) Best Bear
◆ Best Gamehead Award <i>Sponsored by Research Mannikins</i>	(Judges Choice) Best Gamehead
◆ Best Skin Mounted Reptile / Amphibian Award	(Judges Choice) Best Skin Reptile/Amphibian
◆ Best Wildlife Photograph	(Judges Choice) Best Photograph
◆ Best Replica	(Judges Choice) Best Replica
◆ Ozark Woods Brian Harness Memorial Award	(Judges Choice) Most Artistic Small Mammal – A talented artist, sculptor, innovator & World Champion taxidermist, Brian had a huge influence in the taxidermy industry & his artistry was evident in everything he did.
◆ Van Dyke's Most Original ◦ Creative Award	(Judges Choice) Most Original & Creative entry in the show.
◆ Rick Burkholder Memorial Award	(Michelle Burkholder Choice) Most Artistic Predator – Rick was an avid outdoorsman & especially enjoyed coyote hunting with hound dogs. Coyotes, Furbearers, & Cats will be considered for this award.
◆ Polytranspar Award	Highest scoring fish painted with their products.
◆ McKenzie Taxidermist Choice Awards	(Ballot Vote) *Whitetail Deer *Lifesize Mammal *Bird *Fish – chosen by the PTA competitors.
◆ Pro-1 Performance Chemicals Award	Highest scoring entry using Pro-1 products.
◆ The "Mounted In Alaska" Award	(Judges Choice) A piece that tells a story.
◆ President's Challenge Cup	(PTA President Choice) Theme: "Fight or Flight"
◆ McKenzie Distinguished Service Award	(PTA President Choice)
◆ Pre-Registered Winner	1 Winner – Drawn from all who pre-registered for the convention. Winner receives a FREE registration for the following year.
◆ The Rod Connelly Memorial Award	(See page 25)
◆ Tom Cat Award	\$300 to the best cat mount in the show chosen by the mammal judges.

Convention and Competition Entry Tips

1. Please list ALL names of those attending so that I.D. badges can be included in pre-registration packages. Changes and additions hold up the line at the registration desk.
2. I.D. Badges must be worn visibly at all times! **Security will ask you to leave without a proper I.D.**
3. A membership of any kind along with convention registration entitles the member, spouse, and any children or mentored youth under the age of 18 into the convention. 18 Years of age and over must have their own membership and registration. Parents of adult members, in-laws, and shop employees must also have a separate membership and registration. The membership and registration entitles everyone listed on your registration to attend seminars, visit the suppliers' area, and view the competition area. **(You cannot walk in off the street without a membership and convention registration just to visit the suppliers' area.)**
4. A family membership entitles someone in your immediate family (spouse, child or mentored youth under the age of 18) to compete without a separate membership & have a vote in the election. Convention registration need not be paid for this person but competition entry fees must be paid for each entry. A family membership gets two votes in the election of Officers and Board Members.
5. A life membership entitles you, your spouse, and children or mentored youth under the age of 18 to compete without a separate membership. A life member only receives 1 vote in the election. A convention registration in the life member's name covers everyone listed above but, each person must pay their own competition entry fees.
6. Habitats are a separate competition entry and must be paid for accordingly.
7. Life Memberships, \$800, may be paid in installments but must be paid in full within 2 years. If not paid, the member will be dropped back down to a single membership needing re-newed each year. No Refunds. Invoices will be mailed out once a year near renewal time to remind you and show the balance due. The payment schedule is at the members' discretion.
8. Read your competition rules & fill out the entry form carefully. There are many "Special Awards". Please check the appropriate boxes on the entry form if your mount was done with or contains any of the products listed. There is no extra charge for these special awards.
9. Collective Artists - Please list the names of the all artists who worked on this entry and one business name for the computer's purpose.
10. Extra membership, convention registration, & competition entry forms are available on our Facebook page **PA Taxidermy Association** and website **www.pataxidermist.org** or by calling Bob Gray directly at 724-272-5477 or 724-295-0186.
11. Competition entries can be sent to the show with another person - you don't have to be present to compete, just be a member and be registered for one day of the convention and pay your competition entry fees.

PTA COMPETITOR'S AWARD



****Only Awarded at Convention Competition****

The PTA Competitors' Awards Rules and Regulations

("The PTA Competitors' Award rules will follow the rules established by the World Taxidermy Championships for its Competitors' Award.")

As a participant in the PA State Taxidermy & Wildlife Art Championships competition, taxidermists who enter three or more mounts in the Master or Professional Divisions, are eligible to enter to win one of six big cash awards, called "The Competitors' Awards". These awards will total \$4,125.00 in prize money and is divided as noted below.

Master Division:

\$1,500 First Place • \$750 Second Place • \$500 Third Place

Professional Division:

\$750 First Place • \$375 Second Place • \$250 Third Place

The Competitors' Award finalists in each division will be the five competitors with the highest point total for three entries. Once these five highest scoring competitors (in each division) are determined, each competitor's three top entries will be grouped together. The five groups will be labeled A, B, C, D, and E and all of the division judges will vote by secret ballot as to their selections of the groups most deserving of the Competitors' Awards. Their criteria will be accuracy, originality, and difficulty. The purpose for this final evaluation by secret ballot is to allow for minor fluctuations between the judges in each category for determining scores that brought the entries there to begin with. The results will be known only by the competition committee to be announced at the PTA Awards' Banquet. In case there is a tie, the money will be divided equally.

Taxidermists who wish to compete for this Competitors' Award can do so by entering three or more mounts in either the Master or Professional divisions. The entries can be in any category (birds, fish, mammals, gameheads, etc.) and if an individual has more than three entries, his or her highest three scores will be used. Unlike a "Best All-Around" competition, the competing entries are not limited to being in four different categories, but may include multiple entries in the same category. Example: three birds from one competitor could accumulate enough points to be included in the five finalists.

Important: A competitor can only compete in one division for The Competitors' Award - Master or Professional. If a competitor has more than three entries in both the Master and Professional Divisions, he or she must specify in which division he or she would like to compete for the money. In other words, you cannot compete to win awards in both divisions. Failure to specify will cause a forfeit on winning any of the Competitors' Awards. Any competitor entering three or more mounts who wishes not to compete for the prize money will be allowed to do so by signing an affidavit when entering his or her mounts.

Interpretations of all rulings or regulations (and any rules not provided for) will be decided by the PTA Competition Committee. If you have a specific question regarding the competition, contact the PTA President.