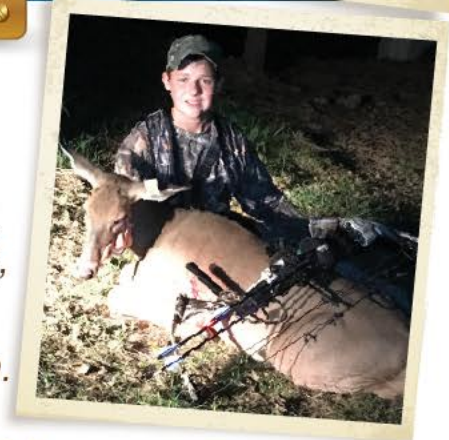


Member Spotlight



BLAINE LEISTER

“I just recently became a member of the PTA for the first time because I attended the Cabelas Taxidermy Weekend. At the show I learned so much, like setting a deer eye, rebuilding an ear butt, and how to mount a pronghorn. I really enjoyed talking to other taxidermists and receiving tips from them.”



My name is Blaine Leister, I am fourteen years old and I live in Montgomery county PA. Some of the activities that I enjoy in the outdoors is hunting, fishing, and trapping. I also enjoy working on the family farm, riding 4-wheeler and dirt bike. I love to hunt alongside my Dad and my brother, I have shared many irreplaceable memories with them while hunting and fishing.

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I had an interest in taxidermy ever since I was little. I self taught myself how to do European mounts. I started doing European mounts for close family and friends and every year I build on knowledge and skills and improve on my techniques. I now feel more confident and have begun doing European mounts for

the public. I currently do between seventeen-twenty European mounts a year. I love seeing the big bucks that come in and hearing the story of the hunt.

I had always thought about trying to mount something but I could never get it done. I couldn't find time to do it because every step takes time and I was busy on the farm. Last year a good friend asked me if I would want to watch while he mounted a pheasant and of course I couldn't pass up the offer. After that day I was hooked and wanted to try to mount one of my own. I have only mounted two pheasants which I entered at the Cabela's show. I have also mounted a squirrel, and I am currently working on a trout.

I have learned that taxidermy is an art and the end goal is to have the animal look as close to real life as you can. Making an animal appear real has been more challenging than I thought but I enjoy the challenge. I like learning how to mount different animals and one day I hope to pursue taxidermy as a career.