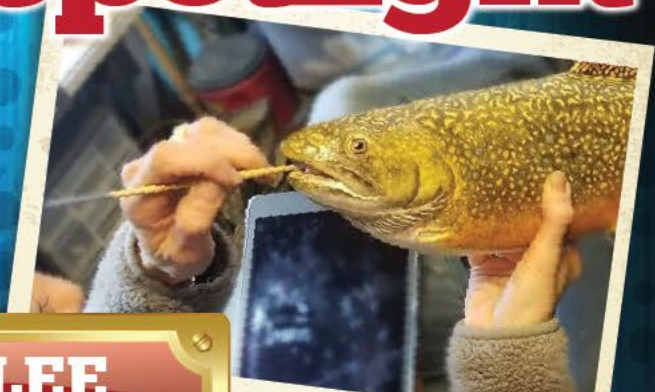


OCTOBER / NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2018

# Member Spotlight



## JENALEE KOSTELLA



My name is Jenalee Kostella and I'm from a little town near Indiana, PA. I work full time as a Direct Support Professional for Special Needs. I have been married for 4 years to my husband, Chris and we have an Irish Setter that has more energy than the local power plant! In the winter time you can find me at my job, spending time with my family, chasing the dog or working in the shop. In the summer, good luck finding me at all! I'm probably still doing those same things but also on a boat or being outside as much as possible. My husband and I enjoy fishing as much as we can!

I graduated from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh in 2002 with a degree in computer animation. I did freelance computer graphics for awhile and decided I didn't want to sit behind a computer the rest of my life. Anyone who knows me, knows that sitting still for 5 minutes let alone 12 hours a day is next to impossible. That's how I ended up working with special needs adults for the last 15 1/2 years. About 3 years ago, I decided it was time for a change and really thought about what I wanted to do. So while my husband and I were out fishing one fall day, we debated if I should go to school for cosmetology (I was also working as a receptionist at the local salon) or learn taxidermy...and you can only guess what I chose! And, of course, Chris was excited to have his own in house taxidermist.

For years I have always thought about Taxidermy. I

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remember when I first thought about it. Not exactly sure where we were but I just remember being around a lot of animals and my grandfather said my granddaughter could do that! And that pretty much had me interested from that point on. My family has always processed their own deer so the dirty work was never a problem for me.

Life got in the way a few times and I decided that I wasn't going to let that happen anymore. So for an entire winter I did research by perusing the net and talking to some people. Many suggested joining the state association. I mounted my first fish in 2017 and knew I could use some help. So in 2018 I joined the PTA and went to every seminar I could with a friend and my husband. Through help from a great friend I talk to daily and others along the way, nervously, I entered my first competition at Cabela's just to get a critique. From that point on, I have grown in confidence from the people I have met from this amazing organization!

I'm self taught with many things and this is by far one of the hardest I have tried. I competed this past March at the state convention in the amateur division, got tons of great advice and I am even more determined and thirsty to learn as much as I can. The PTA has been a vast library of knowledge and invaluable information. I can't thank everyone enough for the help and boost along the way! I hope this can inspire someone to go after what they dream of!