

Member Spotlight



~ April, May, June 2012 ~

Leslie Jungbluth



My name is Leslie Jungbluth, I am 29 years old and have just recently moved to back to Pennsylvania from Washington state. I live in New Freedom, PA with my husband Mike and our two cats. I graduated with a degree in Environmental Resource Management with a focus on Wildlife and Fisheries. I grew up in a non-hunting, non-outdoors family. I was never exposed to taxidermy until after I finished college. While up in Anchorage, Alaska for some job training following my graduation, I was introduced to the art of taxidermy while visiting some of the local shops and furriers in downtown Anchorage.



Once I returned home I began feverishly researching and learning as much as I possibly could about taxidermy; what had started as just an interest turned quickly into a passion. I joined Taxidermy.net and had



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the privilege to meet some absolutely fantastic taxidermists. I finally built up the confidence to try my hand at some projects and with the help, teaching, and guidance from others in the field I began my journey into the art of taxidermy.

I am primarily self-taught and I focus entirely on Mammals (both gameheads and lifesizes of all species, shapes and sizes). My forte is predators. There's nothing I enjoy more than to bring a spark of life back into an animal and produce a piece of art that will bring back memories and inspire people for years to come. Taxidermy allows me to mix two of my passions: art and animals.

Currently I am in the process of saving up to purchase a parcel of land to have both my house and my taxidermy shop built. With the acquiring of my permits and licenses I will be taking in wholesale work primarily and customer projects/commissions as time and space will allow. Once my shop is complete, I will be taking in customer work full time.

I joined the PTA just this year (2012) and am so very glad I did. I also entered my very first competition piece (a lifesize fox) as well. The amount of information I learned from the variety of seminars and critiques and the great friends and colleagues I had the opportunity to meet was irreplaceable! Having the opportunity to learn, share knowledge, view absolutely stunning and inspiring mounts on the show floor, and to meet new friends was a life-changing experience and I am grateful to be part of such a fantastic organization.



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Member Spotlight

~ January, February, March 2012 ~

Joe Simmons



My name is Joe Simmons and I live in Slippery Rock, PA. I attended Pennsylvania Institute of Taxidermy in 2002 and there I learned from some of the best taxidermist to include Jason Snowberger, Kent Stryker and Chuck Henry. I started Simmons Taxidermy in 2004. I have been a PTA member since 2003. I have received some great lessons while competing at several shows to include The PTA show and WVTA show. I can also say that I have learned a great deal from being a committee member volunteering at the PTA show for several years in the competition area. This allowed some one on one lessons with some great judges. It's one of the best places to get a lot of great taxidermy tips. I also enjoy many outdoor activities besides hunting and fishing, I also enjoying gardening. I have been growing garlic that I received from an old Italian friend (it came to the states with him from Italy) for several years now. Recently I won first place at the Butler Farm Show with it. Just ask around I'm sure you'll find someone who has tried it and loves it. One of my other favorite things is a yearly fishing charter on the Free Spirit, Tri State Charters . We caught monster King salmon and last year it was monster Browns. We took my nephew and he caught one of the biggest Browns of the charter's career it was eighteen pounds with a big hook jaw. What an awesome trip if you haven't had a chance to do something like that you have to. Be warned it is addicting and will keep pulling you back year after year! In 2011 I won Best in Category with a mule deer at the WV Taxidermy show. It is a special muley since it was one my Dad killed years ago. I recently taught my wife to archery hunt and 2010 I helped her get her first buck in rifle a pretty decent eight point. Although she missed an eight point from 20 yards this year with her bow (but don't bring it up to her she hates to lose at anything right Paul).

