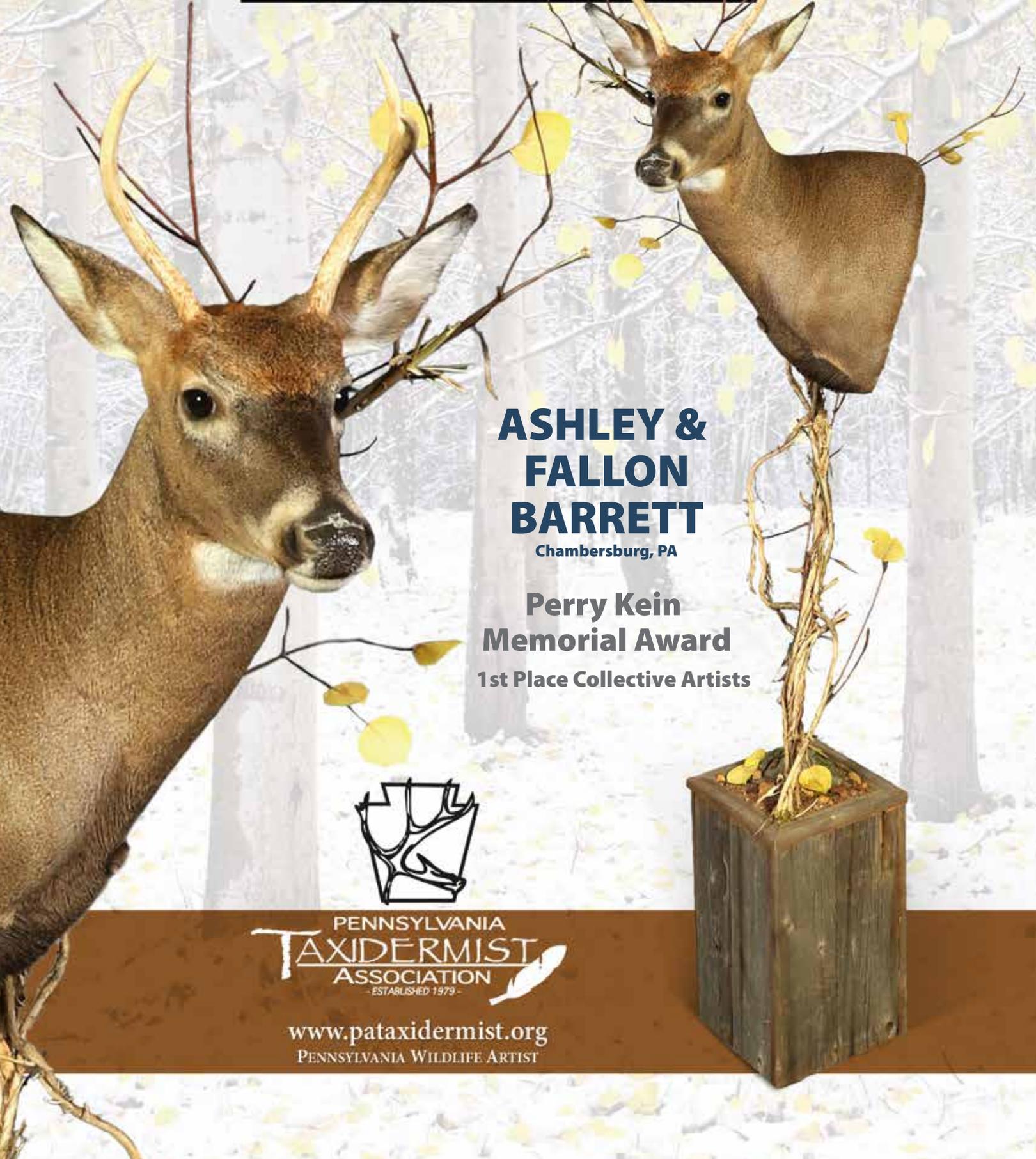


Fall/Winter 2020

THE REVIEW

A PUBLICATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION



ASHLEY & FALLON BARRETT

Chambersburg, PA

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I hope everyone is doing well and having a good taxidermy season. To say that this has been an unusual year is an understatement. With the multitude of restrictions due to the pandemic we have been very limited and have been unable to implement most of the ideas that we had for the year. With that being said, we had a member suggest that I be afforded an additional year as president due to the restrictions during my term.

After further discussion, and polling of our members, along with board approval, we have decided to give the entire group of board members and officers an additional term. In doing so, we will also save the association approximately \$800 dollars by eliminating the election process for the upcoming year.

Unfortunately, we also had to make one of the hardest decisions that our board and officers have ever had to make. We have decided that it is in the best interest of our association to cancel our 2021 State Convention. No matter what your thoughts or beliefs are on the pandemic the restrictions are very real. As I am writing this, cases and restrictions are both on a steady rise. With judges coming from across the country and one even outside of the country, making advanced travel plans are nearly impossible. We also have members coming from over 30 states. There is no way for us to know what the travel restrictions will be at the time of our show. As we have seen in the spring of 2020, travel out of many states had been banned and at times people returning from outside of their home state have faced quarantine restrictions. Our vendors also reached out to us regarding travel restrictions by their companies. These shows take a ton of logistical planning and ensue a large overhead cost that we need to cover. Mandate restrictions on the venue are continuously changing. In November restrictions were 20% of capacity, then moved to 10%. As of right now, indoor gatherings are limited to 10 people. There would also be social distancing requirements of 6 feet between all seating and appropriate spacing of vendor booths to reflect this as well. The venues would also be required to provide enforcement of head counts, social distancing and mask compliance. No receptions would be allowed, no cornhole, no pizza party etc. Concessions would also require us to guarantee a daily income for food sales which has changed since the pandemic. Even if we could have the show I don't think it would be very enjoyable for our members. With so many unknowns and restrictions it would be unlikely that we could cover our costs and would result in a financial loss to the association.

With the above mentioned restrictions, we are currently in the planning phases of a potential virtual show. Though it will never replace an actual show, we are committed to the idea of giving our members an alternative way to come together to learn, share, and be part of the camaraderie that makes us the Pennsylvania Taxidermy Association. Even with the return of in person shows and events, our enhanced knowledge of technology that we have gained in the planning process of a virtual show will make things more efficient and provide more opportunities for our members to interact.

Sincerely,
Vince Spellane



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PENNSYLVANIA TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting – July 11, 2020 – Indiana, PA

Board of Directors Present: Vince Spellane, Ray Kowalski, Jens Jorgensen, Ashley Barrett, Bob Gray, Heather Miller, Chad Horst, Crystal Confer, John Czerniakowski, Jason Confer, Jason Krause

Board Members Absent: Bob Evans

Guests: Becky Snyder, Schaun and Suzette Mack

The meeting was called to order at 10:38 am.

- **The treasurer's report was presented by John Czerniakowski.** John went through the revenue and expenditures from March 13, 2020 through July 7, 2020. Checking Account total - \$11,607.55, Savings Account total - \$25,056.90. We currently have a total of \$36,664.45. We need to reserve \$1457.20 for legal funds, \$1267.00 for PTACT, and \$5.00 for Camp Compass out of the funds we have. Thanks to Ashley Barrett, Heather Miller, and Brian Hendrick for donating the fees that they were paid for doing seminars back to the association. Jason Krause motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Jens Jorgensen seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

- **2021 State Show**

- If we have to cancel because of COVID-19, there will not be any cost to the association. If it is canceled less than 4 days before, we would be responsible for the food costs. They are working on putting together a COVID-19 contract that we will need to sign.

- **Public Art Show**

- Vince is in communication with a retired art teacher in Indiana and has a lot of art contacts in the area. She is willing to run the art show end of things.
- There is a space right inside the main doors where we will set up the art show. This is going to be open to public artists to submit artwork into. It will be open to the public to view the same time our taxidermy show public viewing will be open.
- Vince is going to talk to the lady about it being more of a gallery than a competition for the adult artists and allowing them to sell their pieces and do a competition for the kids. It could be a people's choice competition and the top three would get a ribbon. Another idea is that she would run it completely on her own and we would just get the money for the public coming in the door.

- We are talking about having a public seminar during the public viewing time also. Jason Confer is going to reach out to the owner of Night Eyes to see if he would be interested in doing a seminar on hunting predators.

- Went over the layout of the usage of space for the show at the Kovalchick Center.

- **Schedule**

- We will not be able to go in on Wednesday night due to them having a basketball game.
- Set up of backboards will start at 5:00 am on Thursday morning.
- Vendor setup will start at 6:00 am on Thursday morning.

- **Seminars**

- Dennis Wessner - Mounting a turkey
- Paul Cales - Tanning
- Dan Bantley - Business Seminar
- Gary Bruch
- Jason Krause
- Josh Hunt
- Cory Caruthers
- Matthias Fahrni
- Hutch
- Mike Rohanna
- Landon Martin - Website Design and Creating Google Listing
- Wendy Wenner - Ashley will reach out to her. She is a quickbooks advisor and offered to do a seminar.
- Jenalee Kostella - Advertising and Social Media
- Children's Seminars - Jason Confer is setting these up. Ideas: setting eyes on changeout heads and using eyes to show expression, painting replicas realistically. First seminar - habitat, Second seminar - paint a reptile for on the habitat.
- Judges - Verbal Commitments from - Cory Caruthers - Birds, Mike Rohanna - Whitetail, Jason Krause - small mammals, Josh Hunt - large mammals, Matthias Fahrni - fish, Hutch - Habitat. We should work on a backup judge for fish given the circumstances with COVID-19.
- Ronnie would like to sponsor an award for cats. Ashley will get more details on what he is thinking for this award.

- **Bear Donation from the 2020 State Show** - The bear is mounted. Waiting for the base to get built due to COVID shutdowns. Donation coming from doing the bear will be over \$1000.

- **Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve** - It has been on hold due to COVID-19.

- **PTA Website** - The new site is built. The Macks are working on getting our current domain name to use for the new website.

- **PTA Facebook Page** - We have been working on trying to post something every day to keep the interest in our page. An Instagram page has been created. We will start posting on Instagram more.

- **Committee Reports**

- **Elections** - Our contract is up with Singer Accounting. If we know of any CPA or another 3rd party person, we need to work on getting bids for the upcoming year. We did get a bid from Singer Accounting. We might look into moving to an electronic vote in the future. Nominations for officers and board positions are open to December 31. Current Nominations: John Czerniakowski for Treasurer, Crystal Confer for Secretary, John Pesalis for BOD, Jason Confer for BOD, Dan Swanson for BOD, Chad Horst for BOD, Jens Jorgensen for BOD, Suzette Mack for BOD, Schaun Mack for BOD, Jason Krause for President, Ray Kowalski for Vice President

- **Setup Committee** - Jamie Cameron and Jason Krause will be co-chairs.

- **Next Meeting:** January 2, 2021 (January 9, 2021 - Weather Make-Up Date) at 9:00 am - Preferably Altoona

Crystal Confer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 pm.

Votes Conducted Through Email Since the Last Meeting:

- Ray Kowalski motioned to approve March's meeting minutes. Heather Miller seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

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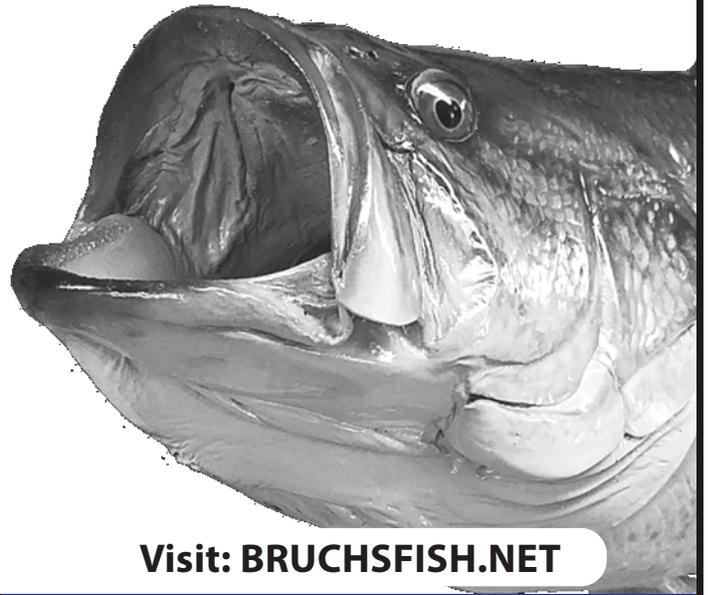


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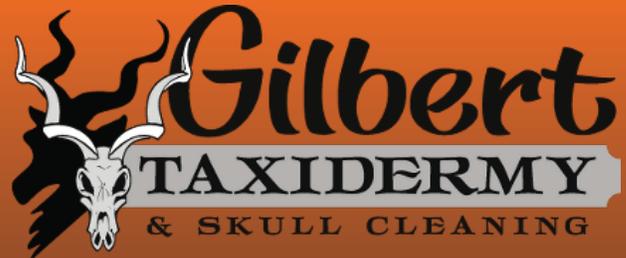
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How to Make Fake Snake Heads

- Jason Krause

I didn't have a real snake head available to take photos so here I used a previously made snake head as my subject. I have used this method on other things as well. I have made molds of antler tines to be used in antler repairs, impression molds of tree bark to use in making habitat and making small rocks. For a snake I make the mold as soon as the snakes head is able to be pulled away from the frozen snake, so the head is still mostly frozen when molded.



Photo 1, it must be 100% silicone and acrylic paint. The acrylic paint acts as a catalyst to cure the silicone quickly.

Photo 2, a glob of silicone is placed on my mixing plate and a small amount of paint next to it. Only a small amount of paint is needed, the more paint you add the faster the silicone will cure.

Photo 3, silicone and acrylic paint mixed together well.



Photo 4, I apply the mixture with a tongue depressor. On a fresh snakes head I would do this in two or three separate steps, top of head and let it cure, bottom of head joining to the top and allow it to cure and then a third mixture to add more thickness to the mold.

Photo 5, mixture spread on snake's head.



Photo 6, I personally use Smooth-Cast 325 from Smooth-On to cast my heads. It's clear and can have pigment added to it. I put a pinch of red flocking in mine. I like the transparent red coloring it gives to the head, I also use this same mixture to make artificial mammal noses and septums.

Photo 7, this is the casting when pulled from the mold.

I have found that once the mold is made the casting will come out better if you allow the mold to cure for at



Published July 13, 2018 BY LISA PRICE TNSPORTS@TNONLINE.COM

least a day before you pour a casting. Moisture and liquid plastic interact badly and I think that the mold must be allowed to give off the moisture in the curing process before a good cast can be made. If you can put the mold and 325 in a pressure pot to cure the result is a clear plastic with a red tint to it.

Some fine tuning will have to be done on the casting because a snake never dies in a perfectly symmetrical pose. I use Apoxie sculpt to straighten things up.

I will use the final casting as a mannikin to place the snake skin on when mounting.

I'm always happy to help, you can reach me at my studio at 570-345-3664.





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The COLLECTIVE ARTISTS of 2020



Like Father, Like Daughter

- Tiffany Barrett

Appreciating the outdoors and developing a love for hunting is something that was very important for our family to instill in Fallon, our daughter. This love included taxidermy. Fallon has grown up attending taxidermy shows and voiced a desire to someday mount something of her own.

Roughly two years ago, Fallon began going along archery hunting with Ashley. At 5-years-old, she loved checking trail cameras and getting her face painted. Whether they were in the blind or the tree stand, she never missed an opportunity to hunt with her dad.

During the summer of 2019, Fallon decided that she would like to shoot a deer of her own. Her pappy, Steve, gave her a crossbow to use. With little practice, she learned to shoot it very well.

Fall came, bringing hunting season. On the third trip to the woods, a frosty October morning, Fallon took her first deer with a crossbow. For Ashley, this was more exciting than any deer he had ever taken himself.

With the Pennsylvania Taxidermy Show coming up in the spring, Ashley and Fallon decided to mount her deer and enter it in the collective artist division. They spent many nights and weekends pouring foam, setting eyes, and designing habitat.

Making the trip to the Seven Springs Resort in March

of 2020 held a greater level of excitement for Fallon. Though she had entered flat art in years past, this was the first year she was able to enter a piece of her own. Not just any piece, but a deer that she took and was able to mount with her dad.

Ashley and Fallon were thrilled to find that they won first place in the collective artist division at the Pennsylvania taxidermy show 2020. Their mount sits in the dining room, where Fallon gets to show it off when her friends come over. She continues to love nature, hunting, and learning the ways of animals with her dad.





The COLLECTIVE ARTISTS of 2020



**2ND PLACE
COLLECTIVE ARTISTS**
Daniel Parmer & Tyler Coleman
Brewers Duck Hybrid



3RD PLACE COLLECTIVE ARTISTS
Scott Lengel, Landon Martin & Chad Horst
Ringneck Ducks

The COLLECTIVE ARTISTS of 2020



HONORABLE MENTION

Darrick Bantley & Brian Wagner -
Whitetail



COLLECTIVE ARTIST COMPETITORS

Jason Martin & Clair Weaver
Moose/Bear

(Even though they didn't place within the 4 spots awarded for the Collective Artists Division, these 2 guys earned the votes of the folks at the show and won the 3rd Place People's Choice Award.)

The COLLECTIVE ARTISTS of 2020

"...there is **ALWAYS A BACKSTORY** *and a* **WHOLE LOTTA HEART** *attached to each piece."*

The Collective Artists Division is for competition pieces where more than one taxidermist has worked on the entry. It can be entered in the name of the studio or each artist can be listed as the creators. In this division there are not separate categories - the whole piece is judged as one even if it contains a combination of animals.

There is no limit to the number of entries a studio or group may enter in this division. However, there will only be one: 1st Place, 2nd Place, 3rd Place & Honorable Mention. The winner of this category is chosen by all the judges based on their opinion - not a score. The judges vote as a group on which piece they like best. Awards are given based on the group's decision. Collective Artists' pieces are not eligible for any awards determined by score (ex: Best of Show) but this division is non-restrictive as far as special awards.

The 1st Place winner in the Collective Artists Division receives the Perry Klein Memorial Award. 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. The father/son duo competed together in March of 2005 and received an Honorable Mention with a gray squirrel. Later that year, Perry was tragically taken away from us way too early while hunting with his son.



DAVID & PERRY KLEIN

In 2006 the Perry Klein Memorial Award came to be and holds a special place in the hearts of those who have achieved this honor. This division sees a wide range of taxidermy talent within its ranks. Competitors have been father/son, grandma / granddaughter, hunting buddies, husband/wife team, studio employees, students & their mentor, and like minded taxidermists or like this year's

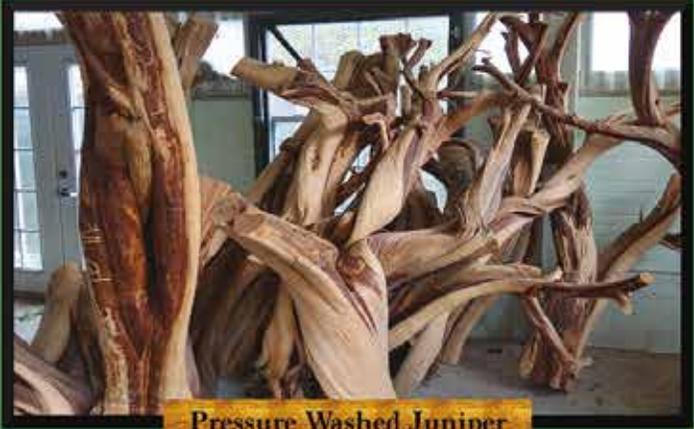
winner a father/daughter duo. One never knows from year to year if there will be any pieces entered in the Collective Artists Division or like this recent year - more entries than there are awards! One thing is for certain ... there is ALWAYS a backstory and a whole lotta heart attached to each piece.



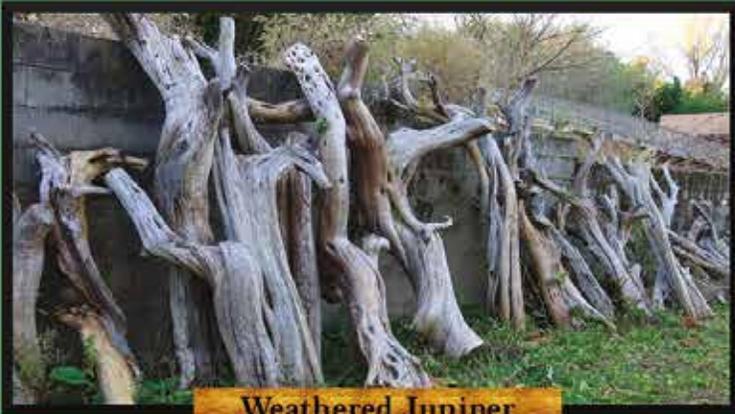
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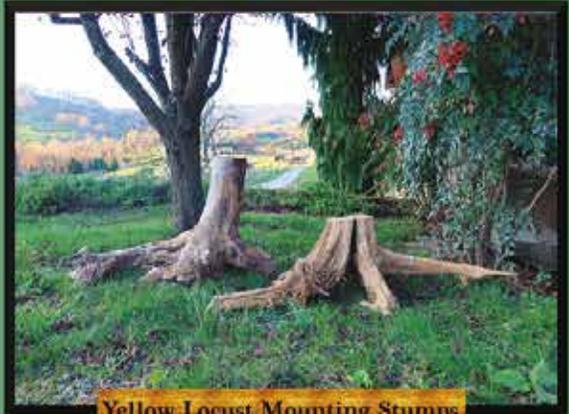
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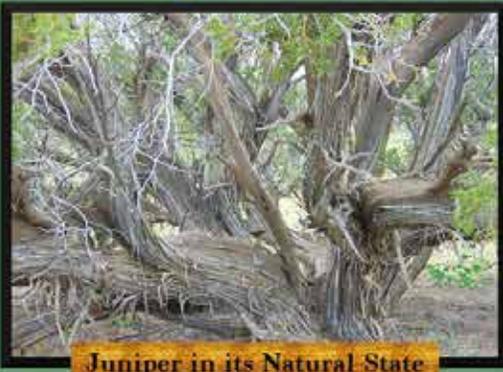
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Custom Artificial Barnwood Made Easy

– an article by Scenes-n-Nature®

Barnwood is a recognizable feature in taxidermy, especially when used as a panel. Even though real barnwood is an option, creating a custom piece ensures you have the perfect fit for your mount. This article will walk through how to make an artificial barnwood panel with Scenes-n-Nature products. The technique can even be used to create curved barnwood.

Start by cutting the basic shape for the panel. We recommend using plywood or thin styrofoam; the latter is easier to mold into curved shapes. Use the proper tools and form the shape you want. Once that's done, clear the work station for the next step.



Cut strips of Plaster Cloth (NT6148- NT6150) to lay over the surface. Briefly dip a strip of Plaster Cloth in water to activate the plaster. Smooth plaster over the surface with your fingers while the cloth is wet. This will fill the holes for a uniform texture. Repeat the process until the panel is covered, overlapping the previous strip by 50 percent. The more layers the stronger

the panel. If making a contoured piece, attach the foam to the mount while the Plaster Cloth is wet. This will allow the panel to dry with the same curve. If wanting a flat panel, simply let it dry.



After the Plaster Cloth has dried, you can apply plaster. Use the Plaster Mixing Set (NT6172) and Plaster Brush Set (NT6173) to mix Contour Sheet™ Plaster (NT6165, NT6168). The mixture should be the consistency of sour cream. Apply the plaster with a plaster brush. This will immediately create grooves similar to a natural wood grain finish.

Use long, thin strokes for the best result. Add a knot by dipping out a puddle of plaster and prodding it with the brush. Go back around the



Custom Artificial Barnwood Made Easy

– an article by Scenes-n-Nature®

knot with long strokes to reinforce the wood grain made before. When the plaster is dry, you can use sculpting tools to add finishing touches, such as cracks, for further realism.



When the texture and appearance of the panel is how you want it, you're ready to add color. The Rock Color System liquid pigments (NT6177-NT6186) are perfect for this. Pour the pigment in spray bottles from the Spray Bottle Set (NT6190) and dilute with water until the desired pigment strength is achieved. Three colors were used for this example: Raw Umber, Stone Gray and Slate Gray.



Spray small amounts of pigment in various spots on the panel. Then, blend the colors with a paint brush, following the wood grain. Plaster absorbs the color, so it will dry lighter. Keep adding more layers to get a darker finish. If it looks like it will be too dark, use a paper towel to dab color away when it's wet. Once you have the desired color, let it dry.

Just like that, you have a barnwood panel. Enhance the realism even more using products from our Nature's Fiber™ or Nature's Floor™ product lines to create moss effects or add



other plant life. Visit scenesnnature.com to learn more about these products. Scan the QR code to watch a how-to video detailing this process and check out other videos on our website.



Member Spotlight



JENS E. JORGENSEN



I have gained so much from being a member of the PTA, and look forward to many more learning experiences.

Hello PTA members, my name is Jens E. Jorgensen and I live in Mercer County in western PA. I have been happily married to my wife, Rosanne, for going on 18 years. We have two wonderful children, our son, Jens A., is nine, and our daughter, Julianna, is seven. Taxidermy is a part time job for me (Rosanne might beg to differ!), but truly a passion I have had for most of my life. My day job, selling spine surgery equipment, keeps me busy in OR's in western PA as I am present and involved in all the surgeries. We also have a farm, raising cattle, pigs, and deer, as well as a couple businesses I have with my brothers. I am also heavily involved with my children's sports and sit on the board of our local Little League. My other passions outside of all this are hunting and fishing here in PA, as well as hunting Western big game most every year.

My journey into taxidermy started as a youngster, always having an interest in it as a child. My mom tells stories how there were always "dead animals and birds in our freezer", and when she'd ask why they were there, my response was "cause I'm gonna mount 'em!". Most of those were casualties of my BB gun. My dad is really who got us all interested in the outdoors, hunting and fishing as time would allow. He also would travel out west on occasion hunting elk and mule deer, and I vividly remember anticipating phone calls every night hoping for news of him connecting on game out there. I would read every hunting magazine I could get my hands on. As I got older into high school, sports consumed a lot of my time, but I still managed to hunt and fish. College was much the same, between studying and collegiate sports, I had a full schedule, but I still got outdoors as much as I could.

Once out of school and working, I then felt it was time to pursue my lifelong dream of taxidermy. I bought a couple deer mounting DVD's and I was hooked! Early on I did some deer for family and friends, but was yearning to get better and learn more. Online I found the PTA, and called a couple people who lived close to me from the member list. The one who sticks out was Dan Snyder. He told me to come visit his shop some time and we could chat. I took him up on that, and his biggest recommendation for me to improve was join the PTA, and so I did. That was a complete game changer for me. I still remember walking into the competition room that first year and being awe struck. The artwork I saw was both amazing and inspirational. I have not missed a show since then.

As I look back early on, myself, family, and friends thought my work was fantastic, and it was ok. But, I wanted more than that, and the shows truly opened my eyes into quality taxidermy. The knowledge I have gained over the years attending the conventions has made me look at this art form completely differently, regardless of what my customers think. I cannot quantify what the PTA has done for me along this path of taxidermy. Let's face it, things change and advance over time in everything, taxidermy is no different. Going annually has allowed me to keep "up to date" with supplies and techniques. I have learned so much attending seminars, meeting and talking with other taxidermists, and visiting others shops that I have met thru the PTA. Between all the knowledge gained, the friendships created, and saving on supplies, I truly can't afford not to attend our annual convention!

I haven't competed as much as I'd like, but hoping to change that in the near future. I have always just brought customer shoulder mounts, by doing so I have learned so much from the judges. I always had the mindset to listen to their critiques and use that to drive me to go home and study to improve. I encourage everyone to bring pieces to the show, what a valuable learning tool. What has given me the most joy, is watching my son over the last few years compete. From an early age we saw he had interest in art, and figured what a great way to express that in taxidermy. He has taken to doing fish (which oddly I don't do). He truly has an eye for color, and extreme patience for a child his age. I've enjoyed watching every piece he has done, and taken tons of pictures and videos of each one along the way. He has come so far in the last four years, I can't wait to see where this journey takes him. I also look forward to him trying mammals and birds as he gets older.

In closing, I want to say a big "Thank You" to the PTA, and everyone who has helped me along this journey. I have gained so much from being a member of the PTA, and look forward to many more learning experiences. I currently sit on the BOD hoping to help the organization flourish to help more taxidermists in the coming years. I feel I need to do my part to give back to an organization that has given so much to me. Lastly, the biggest "Thank You" to my wife and family for supporting my passion for taxidermy, I couldn't do it without them.

Pennsylvania Taxidermist Association, Inc.

Membership Application Form

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING!!

NEW PTA MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Business Name _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Web Site _____

Licensed Taxidermist? Yes No PTA Certified Taxidermist? Yes No

MEMBERSHIP PLAN: Single Membership - \$50.00

(Check One) Family Membership - \$75.00

Life Membership - \$800.00**

DUES \$ _____

**Life membership may be paid in installments – but must be paid in full within 2 years.

Legal Fund Donation: \$5 \$10 \$25 \$50 No, Thanks \$ _____

Camp Compass Donation \$5 \$10 \$25 \$50 No, Thanks \$ _____

WEB-SITE LISTING: Please check one of the following:

Yes, I want included on the WEBSITE. No, I do not want included on the WEBSITE.

TOTAL DUES / DONATION ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make checks payable to: PA TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION & mail with form to: Dee Carley, 628 N. Fraley St., Kane, PA 16735
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~ CLASSIFIED ADS ~

Free for PTA Members

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WWW.EASTCOASTCAPES.COM Just may be the best site in the world for buying taxidermy capes, hides, and life size skins. We buy, sell, and trade for all legally taken capes and life size skins.

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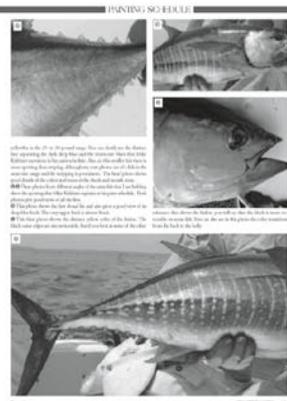
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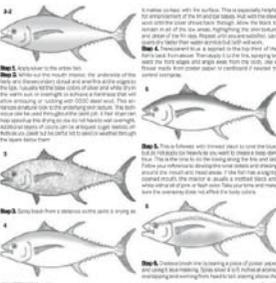
PAINTING SCHEDULE:
Painting a Yellowfin Tuna by Mike Kirkhart

Step 1: Prepare the paint. The paint should be prepared in a clean, dry container. The paint should be mixed with a small amount of water to create a smooth, consistent texture. The paint should be applied in thin, even coats.

Step 2: Apply the base color. The base color should be applied to the entire body of the fish. The base color should be applied in a uniform, consistent manner.

Step 3: Add the details. The details should be added to the fish, including the fins, scales, and eyes. The details should be added in a consistent manner.

Step 4: Finish the fish. The fish should be finished with a clear coat of varnish. The varnish should be applied in a consistent manner.



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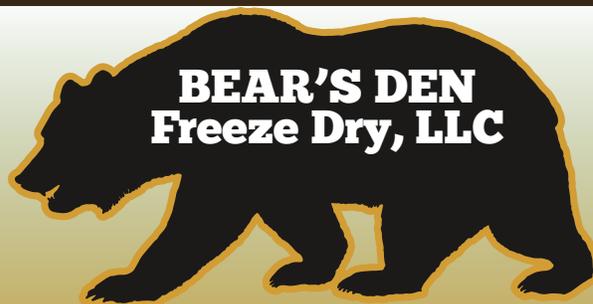
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