



MEMBER Spotlight

APRIL • MAY • JUNE 2016

Danelle Harrison

Hi! My name is Danelle Harrison. I own and operate Harrison's Taxidermy in Leesport, Pa. I run a full-time, full-service taxidermy studio, which I started ten years ago. I am very proud of how far I've come in the past ten years. I have established a great customer base, and I am always improving my work.

My love of taxidermy actually started fifteen years ago, in high school. I had to do a senior project in order to graduate, the whole class did. The project needed to include a fifteen-page paper, a twenty-minute speech, and we had to spend twenty hours in the field of our choice.

Most girls did their reports on nursing or teaching, but my mother gave me a different idea. She suggested that I do my report on taxidermy, since my father has been taking me hunting since I was a child, and I had my first buck at a taxidermist. So I called the taxidermist

and asked if I could spend twenty hours just watching the process. Those twenty hours turned into every day after school, a part time job, and then a full time job right out of high school.

I competed in my first PTA competition when I was sixteen. I was ecstatic when I won the Rising Star Award. Winning that award completely fixed my love for taxidermy and competing.

Fifteen years later, I still look forward to the convention every year. I love going to the seminars to learn the latest and easiest ways of the taxidermy

process. However, I feel that competing is by far the best way to better your work. The judges can tell you how to master the skills you have. Even this past year, I learned so much about the pieces I brought to the show. The PTA constantly pushes their taxidermists to be the best, and I am a better taxidermist because of them.

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