

APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2018

# MEMBER

## Spotlight



### CHRIS SKACAN

My name is Chris Skacan. I own and operate Wildlife Perfections Taxidermy in Moon Township PA. At age 9, my father took me to a taxidermist to pick up his first buck that he harvested with a bow. I was amazed at all the different mounts. That day I knew I wanted to be a taxidermist but I didn't know how to get started.

At age 17, my father took me to an archery shop where the owner also did taxidermy. As my father looked at all the archery equipment I talked with the taxidermist and told him about my love for taxidermy. He encouraged me and told me how to get started. I purchased a bunch of videos and tried my hand at mounting a squirrel.

I was shocked how well it turned out and was hooked. I met with a bunch of local taxidermists but at that time no one was willing to share their secrets.

I was determined to learn more and met a taxidermist by the name of Wayne Thomas. He was willing to take me on as an apprentice. He taught me the basics about the business and taxidermy. He told me about the PA Taxidermist Association having a show every year with suppliers and seminars to learn more. He booked reservations and we were off to my first taxidermy show.

It was like a different world. Everyone was so friendly and shared all their tips and secrets. I met so many amazing taxidermists and never wanted to miss a show. We went every year and I opened my shop in 2003. In 2008, I went through a family hardship and gave up hunting and taxidermy.

In 2012, I met my wife, Suzette. There was just something missing in my life and she encouraged me to start doing taxidermy again.

In 2013 we went to our first convention together and I started my business once again. We have gone every year since and this past year I competed at my first show.

I am so grateful for the PA Taxidermist Association. It's because of their organization that I am confident today. With the help of

all their great seminars I have learned more than I could on my own. Every year my wife and I meet more and more amazing people that become close personal friends.

I have learned so much since competing my first time that I encourage anyone that wants to improve their work to check it out.

I can't thank the PA Taxidermist Association enough. It's because of their organization that my work improves every year.

**"I am so grateful for the Pennsylvania Taxidermist Association... I've learned so much!"**

