

# MEMBER Spotlight

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## Chuck St. Clair



My name is Chuck St. Clair and I solely own and operate my studio, St. Clair Taxidermy Studio, located in Boswell, Pennsylvania.

My interest in wildlife and taxidermy started long before I was an adult. As a young child, growing up on our family farm, I always loved hunting, fishing and the outdoors. When it came time to choose a career after high-school, taxidermy just seemed like the perfect fit for me. In 1986, after completing my instruction at the PA Institute of Taxidermy located in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, I became a licensed taxidermist through the PA Game Commission.

I joined the PTA in 1986 and since have become a lifetime member. Although taxidermy school taught me the basics of the trade, I credit the PTA conventions and competitions for educating me in the latest techniques, newest products and business ideas so that I was equipped to run my own business successfully. Each year the convention seminar line-up of the masters in this trade have helped me to produce higher quality work for my clients. I have gained knowledge by countless conversations with other fellow taxidermists to learn the tips of the trade and put into practice many ideas expressed in the business seminars provided at the convention.

As a full time taxidermist, my passion is to see the PTA

organization strengthened by others whose goals are to see this industry not just as a hobby, but as a thriving, successful business venture to those who are willing to work hard and keep pushing themselves to excel. I would love to see the PTA focus more on how to equip taxidermists to run a business and to run it successfully. Competitions are great, don't get me wrong, I believe it is a great way to learn to excel from the critiquing of the judges. But the bottom line is that ribbons don't pay the bills. Learning how to operate a successful business, is what we also need continuous education on.

My business has slowly grown to where I can support our family of 5 on one income and I have operated my studio on a full time basis since 1986. I have invested in the community on an ongoing basis

through various educational presentations for the Boy Scouts, church groups and wild game dinners and I have participated in both the Make a Wish Foundation and the Wounded Warriors in Action. I have three daughters, ages 19, 14 and 12, with whom I love sharing my passion for the outdoors. They are all avid archery hunters in the fall and love hunting turkeys in the spring. My wife, Angie, is a full-time stay at home mom who homeschools two of our daughters and helps run the clerical end of the business. It is my greatest joy to spend time with my daughters and my wife experiencing the outdoors.

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