

FSTA 2026 Awards

We have made a few changes to some of our Awards.
Read over the criteria for each award.

1. Best of Youth Division Award – This award is chosen by judges collectively from mounts of all species in the Youth Division. Judges are not bound by numerical score. *Sponsored by Allison Doty of Morgue Made Taxidermy*

2. Best of Amateur Division Award– This award is chosen by judges collectively from mounts of all species in the Amateur Division. Judges are not bound by numerical score. *Sponsored by*

3. Best of Commercial Division Award– This award is chosen by judges collectively from mounts of all species in the Commercial Division. Judges are not bound by numerical score. It will be judged for aesthetics, not mechanics. Any species of a bird, fish, reptile, mammal, or combination can be mounted in a display and entered to be viewed and interpreted by the judges without use of a flashlight. *Sponsored by Travis Burge of Forgotten Coast Taxidermy*

4. Best of Professional Division Award – This award is chosen by judges collectively from mounts of all species in the Professional Division. Judges are not bound by numerical score. *Sponsored by Scott Staton of The Waterfowl Studio*

5. Best in Masters Division Award – This award is chosen by judges collectively from mounts of all species in the Masters Division. Judges are not bound by numerical score. *Sponsored by Scott Staton of The Waterfowl Studio*

6. Best Whitetail Shoulder Wall Mount- Professional- This is awarded By Judges collectively. Not bound by numerical score. *Sponsored by*

7. Best Whitetail Shoulder Wall Mount- Masters- This is awarded By Judges collectively. Not bound by numerical score. *Sponsored by Landon Blankenship of Blankenship Waterfowl Taxidermy.*

8. Best Habitat Award - \$25.00 entry fee. Without a habitat, taxidermy entry would not have made such an impact. Habitat must show accurate habitat representation. Habitat must be proportionate to the mount. This award is chosen by the judges collectively from all entries. Ribbons are awarded in each Division, There is no critique for habitat. *Sponsored by Charlie and Terry Lastella of Lastella Taxidermy*

9. McKenzie Mammal Best of Category Award -Open to all entries in the Professional and Masters Division. This award is the people's choice. *Award provided and sponsored by McKenzie Taxidermy Supply*

10. McKenzie Fish Best of Category Award - Open to all entries in the Professional and Masters Division. This award is the people's choice. *Award provided and sponsored by McKenzie Taxidermy Supply*

11. McKenzie Whitetail Best of Category Award – Open to all entries in the Professional and Masters Division. This award is the people's choice. *Award provided and sponsored by McKenzie Taxidermy Supply*

12. McKenzie Bird Best of Category Award -Open to all entries in the Professional and Masters Division. This award is the people's choice. *Award provided and sponsored by McKenzie Taxidermy Supply*

13. People's Choice Award – Determined by the vote of FSTA members as their favorite competition piece, all entries. *Sponsored by Barney and Theresa Durham of Durham Taxidermy*

14.-16 Ducks Unlimited Award – This is awarded to the waterfowl mount with the best representation of the bird. This is not bound by numerical score or division. 1st 2nd and 3rd place awarded. Awarded by an FSTA member who is a representative and /or are affiliated with Ducks Unlimited. *Ribbons provided and sponsored by Ducks Unlimited, first, second, and third place Awards sponsored by Barney and Theresa Durham of Durham Taxidermy*

17. Best All Around Award – \$50.00 entry fee. Professional and Masters Division. Competitors entering this special competition must first enter in four different Category of competition. Bird, Skin mount fish, Reptiles, Life Size Mammal small or large, or Game-head. Entries in the required four areas may not include rugs, novelties, crustaceans, freeze dry or reproduction. Freeze dry and reproductions parts may be used as long as the competitor does all the work. The person with the highest total numerical score with four entries will win this award. Each entry must score 80 or higher to qualify for this award. All mounts must have a qualifying score to win this award. Entries may be composed of mounts entered in both Professional Division and the Masters Division.

18.-20 Challenge of The Arts Award - \$25.00 entry fee. This is a judge interpretation, division open to all species collectively. It will be judged for aesthetics, not mechanics. Any species of a bird, fish, reptile or mammal or combination of them can be mounted in a display and entered to be viewed and interpreted by the judges without the use of a flashlight, there will be a first, second, & third place. This is considered a very creative piece with a challenge that allows all work to be judged equally. Only an individual artist may enter. This Award is open to Professional and Master's Division. This Category has 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place awards. Sponsored by Charlie and Terry Lastella of Lastella Taxidermy

21. Collective Artist Award – There is a \$40.00 per person entry fee. This is open to all species. This award will be given to the group with the highest numerical score. Group must consist of more than one person. All members of the group must be a FSTA Member. One member of the group must be present to enter the piece and accept the award. Must specify all members of the group at time of entry. Note: this would be a great opportunity for parent or guardian to work with a youth. This Mount will NOT be eligible for any other award except Collective Artist. And can not be entered in any other category. Only one animal on the entry will be scored and habitat will NOT play a part of scoring the collective piece. All members must have taken part in the mounting of the animal. Sponsored by

22. Father George Cummings Award (Best Hog) –\$50.00 entry fee. Must be Florida resident. This award is given to the competitor who has best succeeded with his or her efforts in the “Spirit of Taxidermy Competition” with an entry that reflects Father Georges great appreciation for the Florida wildlife by mounting a wild hog. Entry can be head mount, whole body, adult or piglet, or mixed in with other species in a piece. Recipient can be chosen from any division. Not bound by numerical score. To be chosen by current President. Sponsored by

23. Martha Maxwell Award for Women- \$30.00 entry fee. Must be a Florida Resident. This award is open to women all divisions, on one piece that an individual is competing with. Cannot be a combined effort and the award is not bound by numerical score. This award is chosen by judges collectively. *Award sponsored by Trina Pritchard.*

24. Mount Off Competition – \$50.00 entry fee. Chosen by FSTA Members by ballot. Winner is awarded ½ of money collected. *Sponsored by Logan Blankenship of Blankenship Painting.*

25. Presidents Challenge Award – \$75.00 entry fee. This years Challenge is Waterfowl. Winner receives ½ of money collected and \$250 cash prize. This Is not bound by numerical score or division. Winner is chosen by current FSTA President. Every year an animal/theme will be chosen by the President and the Board. For this award and the competitor must mount that animal in order to be eligible to win this award. Next years animal will be chosen after the convention. The chosen animal will be announced in the Newsletter, Website and social media. *Sponsored by Jeff Whittlock of Bucks and Boars Taxidermy*

26. Polytranspar Award – This award goes to the most realistic application of Polytranspar Products and is the **highest scoring Fish** entered in Masters or Professional Division. Must be indicated on convention registration. The winner is chosen by the fish judge. *Award provided and sponsored by McKenzie Taxidermy Supply*

27.-28 PRO-1 Award – Must be indicated on Convention registration. Awarded by the highest scoring piece in Professional or Masters division using PRO-1 Glue. *Award provided and sponsored by PRO-1.*

29. Second 2 Nature Award – Must be indicated on Convention registration. Must have invoice Number and form Number. This award goes to the highest scoring mount on a Second 2 Nature manikin in Professional or Masters Division. They also receive a \$100 Gift certificate to use at Second 2 Nature along with a certificate for a free hat and Tee-Shirt. *Award provided and sponsored by Second 2 Nature.*

30. McKenzie Distinguished Taxidermists Award – This award is chosen by the President, Officers, and Board Members of the FSTA. For their choice of a member that has shown great effort and sacrifice for the betterment of the FSTA. *Award provided and sponsored by McKenzie Taxidermy Supply*

31. Van Dyke Award – This award to **chosen by judges collectively, is not bound by numerical score**. This award is for the **most original and creative presentation** entry in Professional or Masters Division. *Award provided and sponsored by Van Dyke / McKenzie Taxidermy Supply.*

32. Mounted in Alaska Award –This award is **an artistic award**. Presented to the piece that **tells the best story**. Must be in Professional Division or Masters Division. **Chosen by Judges collectively**. *Award bronze bear claw provided and sponsored by Knights Taxidermy Inc.*

33. Brian Harness Memorial Award –**Overall merit of presentation of small mammal** (coyote or smaller) or a turkey. The mount needs to reflect something Brian might have done. Open to Professional or Masters Division. **Selected by mammal Judge. Not bound by numerical score.** *Award provided and sponsored by Ozark Woods Taxidermy Supply*

34. FSTA Best of Hog – This is awarded to the Highest scoring Hog in the Masters Division. Sponsored by

35. FSTA Best of Whitetail Open Mouth -This is awarded to the highest scoring Whitetail Open Mouth in the Master's Division. Sponsored by

36. FSTA Best of Whitetail Closed Mouth- This is awarded to the highest scoring Whitetail Closed Mouth in the Master's Division. *Sponsored by Christopher Montgomery of Tall Timber Taxidermy and Tannery*

37. FSTA Best of Game head- This is awarded to the highest scoring Game head in the Master's Division. *Sponsored by*

38. FSTA Best of Reptiles & Amphibians This is awarded to the highest scoring Reptile or Amphibian in the Master's Division. *Sponsored by Manny Martinez of 90 miles Taxidermy*

39. FSTA Best of Waterfowl- This is awarded to the highest scoring Waterfowl in Master's Division. *Sponsored by Steven and Sheryl Stocks of Wildlife Art Taxidermy*

40. FSTA Best of Upland Birds / Turkey- This awarded to the highest scoring Upland Bird or Turkey in Master's Division. *Sponsored by*

41. FSTA Best of Mammals / Life Size- This is awarded to the highest scoring Mammal / Life Size in the Master's Division. *Sponsored by*

42. FSTA Best of Fish Skin Mount- This is awarded to the highest scoring Fish Skin Mount in the Master's Division. *Sponsored by*

43. FSTA Best of Fish Reproduction- This is awarded to the highest scoring Fish Skin Reproduction in the Master's Division. *Sponsored by*

44. Best Florida Whitetail Deer- This is Awarded to the best representation of a Florida Whitetail. As we feel they are a species of there own it is open to all divisions, it is not bound by numerical score. Must be a Florida Whitetail Deer, Must be a Florida Resident. This award is chosen by a staff of DC's Whitetail Taxidermy. *Sponsored by DC Sims of DC's Whitetail Taxidermy.*

45. Woody Award- Is presented to honor Excellence in Taxidermy. **Chosen by the Judges collectively from Blue Ribbon Winner** in any category (other than Novelty and original Wildlife Art and Sculpture.) *Sponsored by Taxidermy Today Magazine*

46. Artisan Award- This Award is chosen by your fellow Taxidermist for their favorite Mount. Open to all Division, not bound by numerical score. This is "The True Taxidermist Prize." *Provided and Sponsored by The United Taxidermist Association*

47. Wasco Award – Entries in all divisions are eligible. To be **selected by the judges collectively** as the **most artistic entry**. Includes a \$100.00 merchandise gift certificate. *Award provided and sponsored by McKenzie Taxidermy Supply.*

48. Breakthrough Award- (**chosen from best of category winners**) in making the selection judges are **not bound by any numerical score**. It is **chosen by the judges collectively** from all the best of category winners. *Award provided and sponsored by Breakthrough Magazine.*

49. Future Taxidermist Class – *Children 15 and under get a chance to participate in a seminar that was designed with them in mind. They are the Future of Taxidermy. Sponsored by Joseph Kutner of Racks and Jaws Taxidermy*

