

## 2022 Kansas Association of Taxidermy Show Judges

**TIM COOLEY – Judging birds** Tim Cooley currently resides in Iowa with his wife Jenn, daughters Hayley & Avery and son Hunter but he considers himself a Colorado native. Tim was born and raised on the front range of Colorado where his love for wildlife began. He spent his early years exploring the outdoors with his dad and older brother. The three of them, enjoyed all aspects of hunting, but Tim always had a passion for birds. Tim entered his first taxidermy competition with a standing wood duck in 1999, he was 13 years old. He received a third-place ribbon in the novice division. He was proud. Tim took a break from competing in taxidermy to play college baseball and start a family. In 2012, he decided to come back and entered six pieces in the novice division at the UTA (United Taxidermy Association). Tim received best of category in waterfowl and highest scoring entry. That show is where Tim learned that the taxidermy community is where he belonged. He spent the weekend, meeting inspiring master taxidermists. In 2014, Tim received his first best of category in the profession division and his very first Wasco award. He now has over a dozen best of categories, five Wasco Awards, best of show at western regionals and most recently two national titles. Tim has developed a passion for studying anatomy and is looking forward to sharing his knowledges that he learned from a little bit of hard work, a little bit of dedication, a lot of drive and a ton of listening and executing.

**KENNETH BAUMAN – Judging Fish** Kenneth Bauman operates Bauman's Taxidermy Studio and Custom Fish Replicas in Anadarko, OK. He began his taxidermy career in 1989. Kenneth is a State, National, North American, and World Champion.

**JIM BEENKEN – Judging Mammals and Game Heads** Jim Beenken started taxidermy in the '70's. He has won State, National and World titles. He won best in World in the sculpting competition. He has also sculpted manikins for taxidermy catalogs. Jim has experience in all phases of taxidermy from elephants to weasels.

**WES MOTE – Judging Whitetails** My name is Wes Mote. I'm from Gene Autry, Oklahoma. As a small kid I was always fascinated with the beauty of wildlife, especially whitetail deer. I would draw pictures of the wildlife I would see while sitting in my tree stand. From a small age I wanted to be a taxidermist and combine my drive for art and the outdoors into a career. After an eight year stint in the military I decided it was time to follow my passion. Through my career I have been able to showcase my talent and win several awards including: North American Champion, Oklahoma State Champion, Second in World, Breakthrough Best of Show, and various other awards. Getting the chance to combine my artistry with my passion for the outdoors is a life dream for me. I look forward to meeting everyone and seeing some amazing pieces.