



## SHOW ISSUE

## KAT TRACKS

[www.ksassociationtaxidermy.com](http://www.ksassociationtaxidermy.com)

### Back At The Drury In 2019



The Drury Inn in Wichita will be the host hotel for our 2019-2020 Annual Convention again. As most of us agree, this is one of our favorite venues for the convention. With an early registration room rate of \$107 per night, the deadline to get this rate is 2/18/2019. Be sure to take advantage of this rate early as we have a block of rooms reserved for members and attendees of the KAT. Make sure that you identify that you are with the KAT when you reserve your room. Again, the room rate will include a hot breakfast and hot appetizers and alcohol during the dinner time. Register online at [druryhotels.com](http://druryhotels.com) and enter our group code #2300503 or call 800-325-0720.

The early registration deadline this year is March 4th. If you are planning on eating at the banquet on Saturday night, meals must be paid for by this date. Entries can be paid for at the show but to enter the drawing for a 2020 membership and registration paid for, your registration needs to be postmarked by the 4th.

We had such a good response from the silent auction last year we have decided to repeat the silent auction format again this year. If you have any new or used items in good

useable condition and would like to donate them to the auction, contact Brian Sigman.

This year, the kids program will start at 10 am with a program by The Great Plains Nature Center. After the program, the kids will paint a life size frog that everyone will get to vote on during People's Choice. For information please contact Avery Rush.

We will again be offering a scholarship worth \$750. To enter the scholarship drawing, please message or email Tim Stidham before March 11. This scholarship can be used to further your knowledge in the taxidermy area of your choice. Other than submitting your name, the only requirement is that the recipient will provide a brief summary of the experience at a meeting during the next year.

Again this year, all entries will be photographed prior to being placed in the showroom. All competitors will be able to place their own mounts in the showroom until noon on Friday when the judging begins. After that time, mounts will be placed by the showroom committee. If your mount(s) win a major award, please be ready to have them photographed with the awards Saturday after the banquet. While this may cause a slight inconvenience in the showroom, it is logically necessary if you want to have this photo at the show.

If you want to compete in the Annual KAT Scramble on Friday night, contact Chris Rickard or just bring a piece to mount. As always, there will be plenty of fun and learning during this event. The winner of this event will also receive a plaque for first place and a check for \$100. The second place finisher will also receive a plaque.

Remember while unloading and loading that there are many behind you waiting to do the same. Once you get your mounts unloaded, please move your vehicles as we will have attendants in the drop off area to keep an eye on your mounts until you get parked and can return to the prep area. If you have a trailer, it will need to be parked in the north lot so remember to lock it after it is parked!



## President's Column

**By Tim Stidham**

As the show season begins I hope you all have begun at least one of your projects! This is a busy time of the year for all of us and I always find myself caught between show pieces, customer work and wanting to get out into God's wilderness. As I think about all of the things I could be doing, I still must focus on what's in front of me....lot's of work!

I was able to take a few days off and attend my first Dallas Safari Club Convention last month with Gary Penn, Tom and Kathleen Bowman, Don and Linda Rush and a few others. All I can say is WOW! I'm thinking that there were probably close to a thousand booths of hunting, fishing and anything outdoor related in the world. This was an item on by bucket list and something I will attend next year also.

Via Kathleen's networking, we were able to meet and talk with Andries and Steffi Van Wijk who graciously donated a safari to our auction. As the ad says, this is a great opportunity for two hunters and observers to hunt the Limpopo Province of South Africa. Take a look at their website to get a full idea of the beauty of their offer. I will happily start the bidding at \$1000, so bring your checkbooks and let's have some fun!

We have several new features to our show this year and one will be the scribe process. If you wish to scribe for a certain judge, send me your name before March 18. We will draw your name before the show and if you are chosen you will be allowed a three hour time frame to scribe for that judge. All winners will donate \$50 to the KAT for this educational experience.

One issue we will be deciding this year at the meeting will be where to have our 2021-22 shows. We will have proposals from the Drury and from the Sheraton Four Points in Manhattan. We will also be addressing whether we want to keep the Show in one location or to move it around in the future. I would like to have you think hard about these issues and be a part of the dialog.

We will also be voting on the proposed By-Law additions with regards to a Code of Conduct and a Disciplinary Process. These have been discussed and identified to all members per the notification process in the By-Laws.

Lastly, don't forget that the World Show will be in Springfield, MO from April 30th through May 4th. This is a great opportunity to be a part of one of the biggest gathering of talent and expertise in our industry. The networking alone will be worth the price of the registration! *I'll have more about this in the next edition.*

Tim

## 2019 Officers and Board of Directors

### President

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## KAT Scramble

Make plans to be a part of the KAT Scramble on Friday evening, March 22, 2019. This is a live mounting event that is open to any registered participant of the convention. The people choose the winning mount and the first place winner receives a plaque and a check in the amount of \$100.00. For more information contact Tim Stidham @ 816-536-1974.



# African Safari

## A hunt of a lifetime DONATED to the KAT To be LIVE Auctioned

*By Van Wijk Safaris*

Join van Wijk Safaris for eight days of hunting and relaxation in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. This trip will be for two hunters and two observers and include all accommodation, meals and daily laundry, \$500 per hunter credit towards trophy fees, services of a Professional Hunter, trackers, skinners & camp staff, transportation in and around hunting area and transporting of trophies to a South African Taxidermist.

**CONDITIONS:** This is a 2x1 hunt (2 Hunters, guided by 1 Professional Hunter). Credit can only be applied towards Trophy Fees and not additional tours, trips or daily rates. Rates are subject to change without prior notice. Certain species require CITES or TOPS permits. Only animals taken or wounded will be charged for. Day of arrival and day of departure will be charged for irrespective of number of days booked. The hunt starts upon pick up at the airport and ends with drop off at the airport. Donated Hunts will be hunted out of our Wilde Avontuur Lodge in Limpopo Province. Hunts in different Provinces will cost \$200 per person per day extra. Hunting method is Rifle, Muzzleloader or Handgun (can be upgraded to Bow). A **\$2000.00 deposit is required to secure booking.** Deposit is redeemable against trophy fees, side trips and/or tours taken but NOT refundable. Animals not listed may be available. This hunt will be valid until 31 December 2020.



### EXCLUDES:

Air Travel Day of arrival and day of departure will be charged at \$150 per person  
Transport to and from OR Tambo Airport (\$400 per trip, \$800 Total)  
15% VAT (Tax) on daily fees and wounded animals  
Hire of rifles and ammunition if needed  
Hunting Licenses and Permits where applicable  
Taxidermy, Dipping & Packing of trophies  
Shipping of trophies from South Africa  
Additional Trophy Fees as per price list of the year that the hunt is taken  
Side Trip and Tours as per price list of the year that the hunt is taken  
Gratuities



Let Andries and  
Steffi Van Wijk  
help you to  
“Exceed Your  
African Dream!”



# 2019 Judges



## Gene Smith - Whitetails

At the age of 15, I began to pursue my passion for taxidermy after having the first whitetail harvest of my life mounted. I became fascinated with the art of taxidermy and attended my first show in 1987. In the early 90s my skills started to excel and I even started sculpting my own manikins. My career has been full of learning and some nice accomplishments along the way. My loves are Jesus Christ, my family and friends and the whitetail deer. I look forward to being with you all at the show this year.



## Rick Krane- Fish & Reptiles

Over the past 30 years, New England born and New Hampshire's own most celebrated Taxidermist Rick Krane has become recognized as one of the best fish taxidermist in the World. Rick has won Top Honors at the World, National, International and State championship taxidermy awards for his beautiful life like taxidermy displays.

Humbly and diligently through hard work and a lifelong commitment to the betterment of taxidermy, Rick has amassed a long list of honors and accomplishments in the industry.

In addition to Museum projects and custom commission pieces of art, many of Rick's displays have been featured on the front cover of taxidermy, carving and wildlife art magazines. Rick is a highly sought after veteran nationally certified Judge and Instructor. Rick has judged and conducted seminars in numerous Taxidermy, Wildlife Art, and Wood Carving Competitions including sanctioned events of the National Taxidermy Association, International Guild of Taxidermist, United Taxidermy Association and the prestigious World Taxidermy Competitions.

For over 30 years Rick had provided education and knowledge for the betterment of taxidermy in 35 states throughout the USA and Canada.

Rick has diversified Anglers Artistry in to a multi-faceted business. Teaching being Rick's great passion, Instructional DVDS and learning material, and of course, mounting Fish for an impressive clientele.



## Brandon Zahn-Birds

I am a full time taxidermist from Boling, TX. I branched out from just enjoying waterfowl and the outdoors as a professional guide on the Texas coast to start preserving my own memories. What began as a hobby in 2007 had grown rapidly into a way of life for me. I specialize in anything with feathers but also provide the full range of taxidermy services in my shop. I began competing at the state level and have been fortunate to become a multiple time state champion and Wasco winner in every state I've attended as well as a national champion and world champion. It is with great pleasure that I am able to judge state shows and have the ability to share my self taught knowledge.



## Garland Lessley-Amateur & Art

I began my professional taxidermy career in the late 1980s. After completing a 26 plus career in the US Air Force, my wife Connie and I returned to our childhood home in north-central Missouri. I opened a full time studio in Huntsville, MO.

I have competed at state, regional, National, UTA, International, and world shows, nearly every year since then. I enjoy attending seminars and discussing issues with other taxidermists, suppliers, and the general public. But most important to me is teaching what I know, giving seminars, judging, and helping out where I can.

I enjoy hunting and fishing as most of you, but, my number one challenge today is keeping up with my two sons and four grand-kids: a granddaughter in college, a grandson that plays numerous sports, and his love for hunting and fishing (wonder where this comes from); and two granddaughters, who love gymnastics, and soccer.



## Clay Wagner-Gameheads and Mammals

I am a taxidermist from Lott, Texas. In 2017, I won second in the World in lifesize mammals. I have been National Champion in Gameheads, Multi State Texas Champion with Whitetails, Lifesize and Gameheads. I have also been a Seminar Speaker at the World.

# QUICK SHEET FOR THE CONVENTION

Early room reservations at the Drury by February 18, 2019. Remember to let them know you are with the KAT for the early room pricing of \$107 per night. Complete information is on the KAT website [ksassociationtaxidermy.com](http://ksassociationtaxidermy.com).

Shirt order form-Adult on one side and kids on the other. This can be included with the early registration. Shirts must be paid in advance on the shirt order form.

**Early show registration is March 4th, ALL banquet tickets need to be purchased by this date in order to eat at the banquet.**

**Hall of Fame nominations emailed or messaged to President Tim by March 11, 2019**

**Scholarship entries emailed or messaged to President Tim by March 11, 2019**

***Scribe entries must be sent to president Tim by March 15th. Remember that if you are drawn to be a scribe for a judge, it will be for a three hour period that the judge and scribe will determine and there will be a \$50 donation to the KAT for the learning experience. All entrants must be eighteen years old and a member of the KAT.***

**\*Registration begins at 8:30 am and ends at 5:00 pm on Friday.**

**\*Day passes only for Saturday from 8-9.**

**\*Mount judging begins at noon on Friday. After that, all mounts will be placed in the showroom by the committee.**

**\*Silent Auction begins at noon on Friday and closes at 1 pm on Saturday. All monies must be settled by 2 pm on Saturday. See Brian Sigman to pay.**

# KAT on the Prowl



The Kansas Monster Buck Classic asked the KAT to have a booth in the show with some live mounting seminars. Jim Keller led the charge and what a charge it was! Chris Hinshaw mounted a flying pheasant and a standing gadwall on Friday while Wes Becker, Brian Sigman, and Cory Foth mounted 4 deer on Saturday. Jim Keller

mounted a Turkey on Sunday. There were many people that came by and asked questions about how taxidermy is done and what to look for in a quality piece. Pamphlets were given out to individuals who came by with information about the KAT and its website.



There were numerous individuals who are looking to get started in Taxidermy that said they will seriously consider joining the association to better themselves. It was a great way to spread some knowledge about the KAT, its members and what they should be getting from quality work. This was a great event for the KAT to get exposure and a huge thank you goes to all involved for giving back to the world of taxidermy and to the KAT!

For information about how to be a part of this event in the future, contact Jim Keller, Wes Becker or Chris Hinshaw.

The President's Challenge this year is a raccoon. This was determined by last year's winner, Cindy Cunningham. So bring your best raccoon as I know that Cindy will be ready to defend her title!

# Rug Making

**Seminar #7 on Saturday** will be a lesson on rug making. Rug mounting – stretching – finishing.

What you need to get started so bring your questions. Clint Bowman will be doing the head mounting. Tom Bowman will be explaining hide stretching while Sue Penn will explain the finish work. It will be a lesson on trimming, sewing felt border and backing. Anyone interested in the whole process or just finish work come see us at the seminar Saturday morning. This is a seminar put on by our own that you won't want to miss!

**Remember to pre-register by March 4th to be eligible for the drawing for a free membership and registration for the 2020 Show.**

## Calling ALL Kids!



Do we have a program just for you! This year, the program will start at 10 am with a presentation by The Great Plains Nature Center. Word has it that there might even be a live opossum in attendance! After the presentation, the kids will be painting a pretty nice size frog as part of the program designed by Avery Rush. These are good size little critters that will be fun to paint and will be judged by you at the People's Choice. All kids are eligible to paint and participate!

# Proposed KAT Disciplinary Code

## **Expulsion:**

Any member may be expelled for conduct which brings discredit upon, or is otherwise detrimental to, the KAT by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Allegations of misconduct made against a member shall be submitted to an officer of the KAT.

Following a Board of Directors review of the allegations, and after consideration of any response made by the individual concerned, the Board of Directors shall determine if the charges are justified and of such a nature to warrant expulsion.

## **Liability:**

For any reason what so ever, legal action cannot be taken against the KAT.

If a dispute arises, the two parties responsible shall be required to settle their matters on their own expense and time.



If you build your own bases, rock ledges or any artificial rock add-ons, Dale Manning of Habitat Rock is offering KAT members a great deal. You can order a 4x8 rock panel for \$294. The online price is \$310 and if we order a skid, eight panels, he will ship it to us at the show. Anyone who uses this knows what shipping would be and how good this deal is. You will need to contact Dale at 406-543-5501 to place your order by March 11th. He will take your cc over the phone and get your panel(s) on the skid. Don't wait....order now!



# Proposed K A T Code of Ethics

I will obtain and maintain all applicable licenses and/or permits necessary for the taxidermy work in which I am engaged.

I will abide by, all applicable conservation and game laws, statutes and regulations as well as fully cooperate with any State and/ or Federal wildlife official/agency.

I will conduct my operation and services in an ethical and professional manner.

- Rates for services will be clearly defined to customers.
- Rates and services will not be misrepresented.
- Refrain from false or fictitious advertising.

Work will be done in a professional manner and to the best ability of the taxidermist.

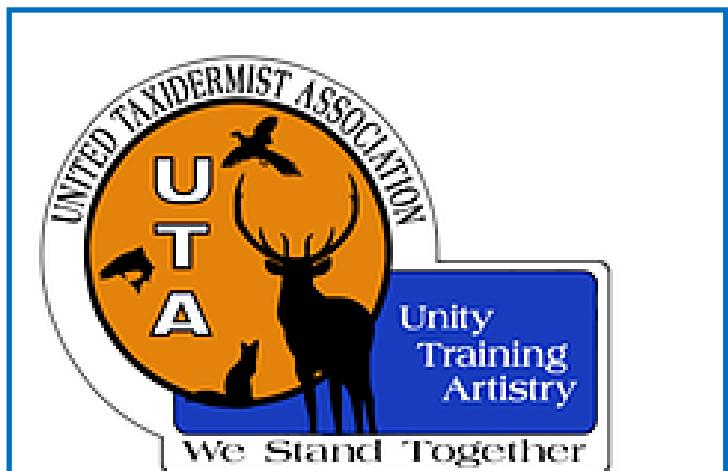
I will refuse to alter or falsify trophy characteristics to misrepresent and manipulate official trophy records.

I will always, safely and properly handle specimens entrusted to me for trophy preparation.

- Clients will be advised of any circumstance that could endanger their trophy or its quality. I will make sure to inform client of trophy potential to avoid disappointment with finished product.

Principals of professionalism and integrity will be maintained.

- I understand that illegal, disruptive, or other behavior determined to be detrimental to the KAT or KAT participants, may result in discipline and/or termination of my membership.
- 8. I agree to the personal responsibility of contacting a member of the KAT Executive Board if unethical practices involving taxidermy by KAT members are brought to my attention.



The UTA provides education and training services regarding all aspects of the art of taxidermy including a variety of technical services to taxidermists, state associations and others who share a passion and love of the art. It's a collaborative effort between our members, our peers, and our sponsors. For more information or to learn how to join the UTA contact Tim Stidham at 816-536-1974 or visit our website at United Taxidermy Association.



Chris Hinshaw  
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Promoting the highest Standards of Professionalism

**As we improve with every piece we do, our best work is yet to come!**