

Artistry by James Gray

Convention and
Competition
March 15 & 16, 2013



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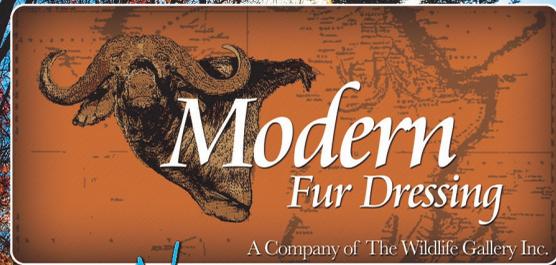
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33rd Annual Virginia Taxidermists Association March 15 & 16, 2013

Best Western Waynesboro Inn and Suites Conference Center

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Directions

The Best Western Waynesboro Inn & Suites Conference Center is conveniently located in the heart of the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, just 5 minutes from the crossroads of I-81 and I-64. Since we are situated in Central Virginia at Exit 94 off of I-64, our hotel is easily accessible from all areas of the state.

Directions: I-64 to Exit 94. At the top of the ramp, turn right onto Route 340 and follow to the intersection of Lew Dewitt Blvd. Turn left at the light onto Lew Dewitt Blvd. and continue to the first stop light. Turn left at this light onto Apple Tree Lane. Continue straight ahead and the hotel is located on the right adjacent to Cracker Barrel.

Message From The President

Happy New Year to all. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. I can not believe the show is just around the corner. Your board members have been hard at work preparing for the convention. I hope everyone is working on some competition mounts. I would like to ask everyone to please support your association by attending this years show and entering a mount or mounts in the competition. Support the hotel we are in. If you need a room for overnight please consider staying at the hotel. The we are charged for the convention space is affected by how many rooms we fill. Last year because of the low turnout and low room reservations, we were charged a lot more for the convention space. In order to maintain the quality of our show we need your support. We need a good turnout this year so please participate. Support the vendors, attend the seminars, participate in the auction and attend our banquet. Most of all enjoy the company of your fellow taxidermists. Have a great time, looking forward to seeing everyone. Also, please get your membership dues and convention registration in early. Membership year is from January 1st to December 31st. Please bring to the show any items you would like to contribute to the auction. Thank you.

Gerry Viola

The Taxidermy competition has three levels: Amateur, Professional and Master. The Amateur level is for someone who has never competed before or has not won a blue ribbon in that category. The Professional level is for someone who has competed but feels he still has room for improvement. The Master level is for the taxidermist who has either won two blue ribbons in the Professional level or who feels he is ready for the stricter judging of masters. Once entering in the Professional level of a category, a taxidermist may not return to the Amateur level, as well as, once a taxidermist has entered into the Masters level of a category, a taxidermist can not return to the Professional level. There is also a youth category for taxidermists age 15 and under. Those in the youth level are eligible for the Horizon Award.

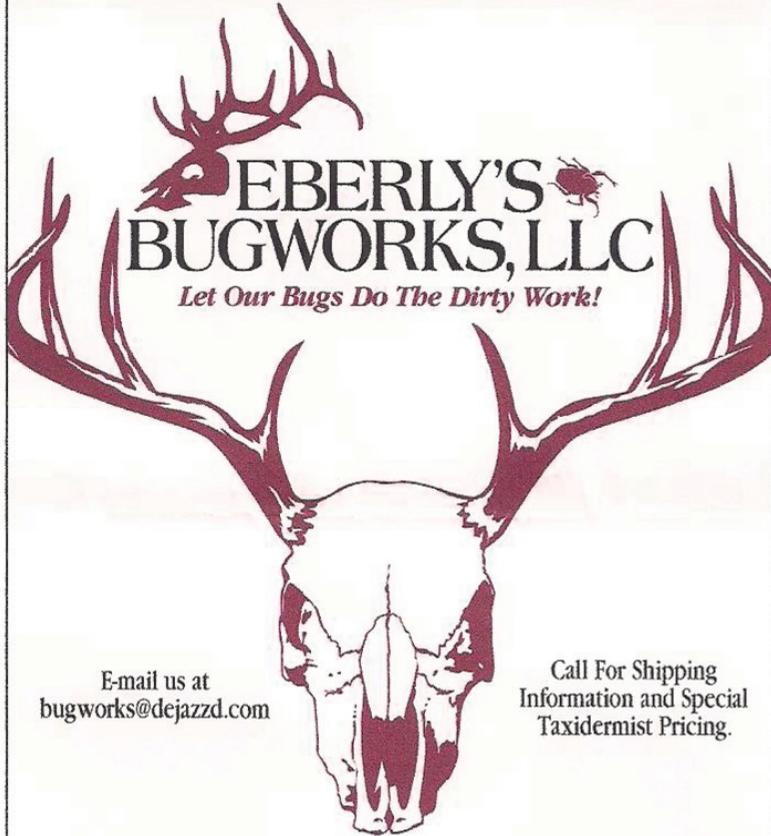
Competition pieces are judged based on a score sheet that begins with a score of 100. The judge may deduct points for areas he feels is lacking based on the score sheet. Entries receiving a score of 90-100 receive a first place ribbon. Entries receiving a score of 80-89 receive a second place and entries receiving a score of 70-79 receive a third place. There can be multiple winners at the same level in a category or none at all. Placing is not dependent on what other mounts score.

Competition categories are: Whitetail Deer head, Game head, Life-sized Large Mammal, Fish, Birds, Small Mammal and Reptiles. A taxidermist may also have the mount's habitat judged.

Virginia Taxidermist Association Rules for Competition
(Amended January 2009)

1. The VTA, its officers and/or Board of Directors shall not be responsible for damage, theft, accidents, etc (amended January 2009) to any mounts entered in the competition, under any circumstances, or for the bodily injury or accident of any person involved in or viewing the competition (Amended January 2009). Anyone feeling the need for insurance on their entries shall purchase such through their local insurance agent.
2. All members entering mounts in competition will be required to fill in the mount declaration and sign this form stating that they have read, understand and obeyed all competition rules (Amended January 2009).
3. Entrant must be a member in good standing of the VTA, or their state association, before entering VTA competition. Each entrant must also be registered for the convention. To earn NTA points one must be a member in good standing of the NTA.
4. Members may enter as many entries as they wish in all categories.
5. Protected species will not be allowed in the VTA competition without proper permits and/or documents with specimen (Amended January 2009).
6. The Competition Committee reserves the right to restrict viewing of any entry deemed inappropriate or detrimental to the image of fishing, hunting, and/or taxidermy (Amended January 2009). All such entries will be judged privately.
7. The judges will make the FINAL decision on how mounts place in competition. If the entrant wishes to challenge a judges decision, the challenger/entrant must pay a \$25.00 challenge fee to the VTA. At this time, the next most qualified person in attendance, as picked by the VTA officers, will re-judge the mount in private, with no knowledge of the previous score. The second judging will be final (Amended January 2009).
8. Only the competition Committee can be in the competition room with the judges while judging is in progress.
9. Soliciting by suppliers or members in the competition area will be prohibited.
10. Members in the competition area during public viewing are encouraged to wear VTA apparel and their name badge.
11. Entries may be entered by individuals, shop employees or as a collective group. If assistance is given by shop employees or the mount was a collective effort by more than one person, the mount must be entered under the name of the studio or everyone's name that assisted. Individual entries must be mounted entirely by the person entering it, with no assistance from anyone in any way (Amended January 2009). If reasonable proof is established that this rule has been violated, the person is question may be required to mount the same type of specimen entered in competition for a panel of the Board of Directors and Officers.
12. No mount or part of any mount can be entered in competition that has been judged in a previous Virginia competition.
13. Entries may be entered by individuals or shop employees. If assistance by shop employees is given, the mount must be entered under the name of the studio (Amended January 2009)
14. Entries in cases must have a removable top and sides. Cases must be removed by the entrant before judging.
15. If a combination mount is presented at registration and multiple pieces are paid for and entered separately, they will be scored and awarded accordingly.
16. Any member found violating a competition rule will be subject to the loss of any and all awards. No refunds of any kind will be made (Amended January 2009).
17. To be eligible for Judges Choice Best in Category or any of the other major awards (Wasco, Breakthrough, etc.) a mount must score 90 points or better using the NTA scoring system (Amended January 2009).
18. If a mount has received a blue ribbon at any other state competition or higher, the person receiving the award must move up to the next higher division in that category at the VTA competition (Amended January 2009).
19. To be eligible for Best All Around, the taxidermist must be a Virginia resident. (Amended July 2001) To be eligible for the Best All Around taxidermist of the VTA, you must enter a total of four mounts, all in different categories (Game Heads, mammal, bird, fish or reptile), either all 4 in professional for best all around professional or all four in masters for best all around masters. There is a minimum combined score of 320 before award will be given out (Amended January 2009).
20. An entrant may enter a piece solely for People's Choice competition. It will not be judged by the judges, nor will it be eligible for any of the judge's awards.
21. An entrant may remain at the Amateur level of competition until he/she receives a blue ribbon in that category. He may choose to move up to the Professional level prior to that, but once moved up, he/she may not move back to the Amateur level. An entrant may remain at the Professional level of competition until he/she has received two blue ribbon in that category of competition. He/she may choose to move up to the Master level prior to that, but once moved up he/she may not move back to the Professional level (Amended January 2009).
22. Any infraction of any VTA rules will result in disqualification of the entry and forfeiture of any awards and/or monies won by that entry. Registration and entry fees will not be refunded (Amended January 2009).

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Please Remember To Bring Items For The VTA Auction

*"One man's trash is another man's
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Election Nominations

President	Gerry Viola
Vice President	Danny Waters
Board Members	Natalie Broce Tom McComas Kenneth Newton
Sec./Tres.	Nominees Needed

If you know anyone that would like to be on the ballot, please let one of your board members know.

What Goes On Around You

How to tell when hunting season is over



Check List Complete:

- I scouted the area all summer . . .
- I searched out the best location for my tree-stand
- I set it all up a month ahead of time . . .
- I trailed the herd . . .
- I picked out a trophy buck . . .
- Two days before opening day I rechecked every aspect of the hunt . . .
- Everything was in place
- Sunday morning, I woke up at 2 am
- I put on my camo, loaded my pack, set out for my stand
- This was destined to be an epic hunt

As I approached my deer stand



. . I changed my mind, decided to go to church instead!


Board of Directors Meeting
December 8, 2012
Gavid's Steak House, Waynesboro

Board Members in Attendance: Gerry Viola, Dayton Henry, Howard Carter, Danny Waters, Doris Symm, Tom McComas, Natalie Broce, Sherry Helmick

Board Members not in Attendance: Jennifer Beck, Mike Harmon

Meeting called to order at 11:03am

Minutes and Treasurer's report read and approved

New Business

- The fundraiser for Bass Pro Shop took place on. Changing the date may bring in more of a profit. Tom McComas discussed other options to raise money.
 - Natalie Broce and Sherry Helmick sent out a letter for donations.
 - Awards are being requested.
 - Elections for this year. Nominees will be Natalie Broce, Tom McComas and Kenneth Newton. We need two additional board members.
 - Gerry Viola discussed the USSA. Mark Poroit will be donating his time to go on a special hunt with a child.
 - It was discussed trying to find a place for the backboards. Tom McComas is storing them right now but is not able to next year.
 - Next meeting will be February 9th at 11:00am
 - Meeting adjourned at 12:49pm
- 

Upcoming Events

February 14th through 17th, 2013

The 37th Annual National Wild Turkey Federation Convention 26th Annual Grand National Wild Turkey and Whitetail Deer Taxidermy Competition Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN Contact the NWTF at 1-800-THE-NWTF or visit the NWTF website.

March 7th through 9th, 2013

The 34th Annual Pennsylvania State Taxidermy & Wildlife Art Championships – Convention & Trade Show Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Seven Springs, PA Contact PTA President Dave Houser at (717) 957-3637 or visit the PTA website.

March 8th and 9th, 2013

The 33rd Annual South Carolina Association of Taxidermists Convention & Competition Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites (Phone 803-736-5600), 8105 Two Notch Road, Columbia, SC 29223 Contact Kenneth Jackson at 803-481-9660 or visit the SCAT website.

April 18th through 21st, 2013

The 27th Annual West Virginia Taxidermy Association Convention & Competition Days Inn Hotel and Convention Center, Flatwoods, WV Contact Billy Robertson, President at (304) 915-0055 or visit the WVTA website.

May 7th through 11th, 2013

The 2013 World Taxidermy & Fish Carving Championships Crowne Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Springfield, IL, USA Sponsored by Breakthrough Magazine (800) 783-7266. Visit the World Show website.

July 17th through 20th, 2013

42nd Annual National Taxidermists Association Convention & Competition Crowne Plaza, Baton Rouge, LA Contact Cindy Crain at (985) 641-4-NTA or visit the NTA website.

There are several magazines available in the taxidermy industry. Each offer articles, hints and tips, reference information and much more.

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4 issues per year

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