

*Virginia
Taxidermists
Association
January, 2018*



**VIRGINIA TAXIDERMISTS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONVENTION AND COMPETITION
MARCH 23—24 2018
BEST WESTERN HOTEL INNS & SUITES
WAYNESBORO VIRGINIA**



***100% Non-smoking facility * Complimentary full breakfast buffet * Indoor saltwater pool
24 hour business center and fitness center
Room rate is \$94.99 per night March 22-24
Must reserve by March 1, 2018 for this rate.***

109 Apple Tree Lane, Waynesboro VA 22980 (exit 94 off I-64)

www.bwwaynesboro.com 540-943-1100

Media News

Be sure to check out our updated website at www.vataxidermists.com We have made significant improvements which include the ability to pay dues and convention registration fees on line!

A big Thank You to those who have worked on this project. We also now have a Twitter account. Our sign is **@VATaxidermists!**

Don't forget to check on our Facebook page as well.

We also have implemented a new logo. It is more color friendly to printing and reproduction on promotional items such as T-shirts, cups, hats, etc.



Board Members

Officers

President

Danny Waters

540-997-0119

540-679-9115

dannylwaters@gmail.com

Vice president

Robbie Anderson

540-765-8479

anderson2655@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Suzy Anderson

540-520-4567

anderson2655@gmail.com

Directors

Gerry Viola

703-928-7513

gviola@nyconcretecorp.com

Chris Lacy

540-219-5338

lacystaxidermy@yahoo.com

Daryl Howdyshell

540-487-9181

dhowdyx2@gmail.com

Matt Jones

804-445-3832

mjones0308@gmail.com

Gary Spradlin

540-448-2573

garys542@aol.com

Tom McComas

540-943-1330

tmccomas@

Ken DeVivi

540-226-2055

vldevivi56@gmail.com

Rick Denzler

804-437-2458

radenzler@yahoo.com



2018 ELECTIONS

At the upcoming show it will again be time to elect officers and directors to serve your organization.

Please give thought to joining the board as an officer or board member.

Your organization needs your participation.

There is work and responsibility in being on the board but there is also satisfaction in knowing that you are making a contribution to your organization and helping in planning so that our shows continue to be outstanding events. We all want to see this organization prosper and grow!

There are exciting things happening in the VTA in the coming year. Much has already been done; we have a great looking new website and have made an initial move in the direction of working with the DGIF to benefit all Virginia taxidermists.

The following positions are open for 2018:

President

Vice president

Secretary/Treasurer

2 Directors

If you would be willing to serve in any of these positions, please submit your name to Suzy Anderson by March 1 so that she can have accurate ballots prepared for the show.



Letter from the President

Greetings to all members & interested taxidermists:

I hope this has been a very productive and profitable year for everyone. I have spoken with several taxidermists and some have over 100 deer to mount. I had a good year even though I'm trying to downsize.

This is my last year as president (4 years). It has been an honor and pleasure to serve you, our membership. I have been on the board since 2008. I've really enjoyed this adventure. The journey as president has had it's ups and downs. When I was elected president I had 3 big goals to accomplish:

1. Make our show more family oriented
2. Purchase a trailer for our backboards and show necessities, and
3. To make our show bigger and better.

Our 2017 show was awesome, getting more mounts and attention. I would like to thank you as members and especially to all the board members I had for making this all happen.

Nominations are open this year for President, Vice president, Secretary/Treasurer and board members. Please try to serve your wonderful organization by running for an office.

As for the show this year, it has the makings of being another awesome show. Check out the judges, seminar instructors and all the other good things listed in this newsletter.

Get your mounts ready for competition. Remember, the life size bobcat is the President's animal.

In closing, again thank you all for allowing me to serve you. If you have any comments, suggestions or gripes, or questions, please call me at 540-997-0119.

Danny Waters
President

*The President's Animal is a
Life-size Bobcat*



From the Secretary

Hi everyone. It's been a busy year for your Board. Some of the things accomplished this year have been launching of the new VTA website and Twitter, a raffle for prizes, scheduling world class Judges for the upcoming show and more!

As a reminder the show dates are March 23-24, 2018. Be sure and complete your pre-registration information and as always, feel free to contact me with any suggestions, feedback, questions by email anderson2655@gmail.com or by phone at 540-520-4567

Also remember to get those mounts ready and sign-up for the Mounting War! Lots of extra's happening this year so we are looking forward to seeing you!

Suzy Anderson

2018 Judges

Whitetails - Gene Smith

Game heads & Mammals - Owen Eldred

Birds - George Hipes

Fish & Reptiles - Sam “Woody” Pompell

Amateur & Habitat—Rick Denzler

Commercial Mounts: Board of Directors

(commercial mounts are not scored)

Wildlife Art and Wildlife Photography:

Board of Directors (no scoring)

Seminars

Artificial Trout Head/Commercial Bodies -

Woody Pompell

Whitetails - Gene Smith

Mounting a Duck - George Hipes

Custom Ear liner Techniques—Owen Eldred

Casting—Matt Maruli

Finishing Work for Whitetails-Ken DeVivi

Large Game Form Alteration—Kip Hughes

Finishing back of Pedestal—Chris Lacy

2018 SHOW SCHEDULE

Friday, March 23

- 8 am—11 am: Registration desk open, competition entries received
- 10am—12pm: **Seminars**
Artificial Trout Head/Commercial Bodies - Woody Pompell
Whitetail - Gene Smith
- 10am—1pm: Supply area open
- 2pm—4pm: **Seminars**
Mounting a Duck - George Hipes
Custom Ear liner Techniques - Owen Eldred
- 2:30pm—6pm: Supply area open
- 2pm—3:30pm: Registration desk open, competition entries received
- 4:30pm—5:30pm: Membership meeting - **PLEASE ATTEND**
- 5:30pm—8:30 Meet & Greet, Auction
- 8:30pm—11pm: Mounting Wars—any game head. \$25.00 entry fee.

Saturday, March 24

- 8am-9am: Registration desk open competition entries received. **NO ENTRIES AFTER 9AM**
- 9am-11am: **Seminars**
Casting - Matt Maruli
Finishing Work on Whitetail - Ken DeVivi
- 9am-1pm: Supply area open
- 10:30am-11:30am: Competition viewing, voting for Taxidermists Choice and Officer election
- 12pm—1pm: Children's' seminar -Rebecca Cobel
- 1pm—3pm: **Seminars**
Large Game Form Alteration - Kip Hughes
Finishing Back of Pedestal - Chris Lacy
- 3pm—4:30pm: Competition viewing with ribbons in place, critique with judges, public viewing
- 6pm Banquet, raffle drawing, auction and awards presentation

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS CURRENTLY OUR SHOW SCHEDULE. HOWEVER, LAST MINUTE CHANGES MAY BE MADE IF NECESSARY DUE TO UNEXPECTED CIRCUMSTANCES.

VENDORS

Jim Allred

Kip Hughes

Jenkins Taxidermy

Robin's Nest

Jordan's Bear Den

McKenzie

And more to come. . . This is not a complete list of vendors at this time. For more information closer to the show, check our website.



**Virginia Taxidermist Association 2018
Annual Convention and Competition
Registration Form**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Convention Registration

2018 VTA Membership Dues (Individual \$60, Family \$85, Business \$115)	\$	_____
VTA Member Pre-Registration Fee - \$50.00(due before March1)	\$	_____
VTA Member Registration at the door-\$75.00	\$	_____
Banquet –Saturday March 24th		
Adults attending \$ _____ x \$25.00ea.	\$	_____
Children attending \$ _____ x \$13.00ea. (4-12yearsold)	\$	_____
TOTAL	\$	_____

Competition Registration

- Fees: \$20.00 ea. for the **first 3 entries** \$15.00 ea. for any **additional entries**
 \$20.00 ea. for **Commercial entries**
 \$30.00 ea. for **Entries at the door**
 \$20.00 ea. for **Habitat, the first 3 entries** \$15.00 ea. for any **additional habitat entries**
 Free for the **1st Horizon Award Entry** (under 16yrs old)
 \$10.00 ea. for any **additional Horizon Award entries**

<i>Category</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>Habitat</i> to be judged (Yes or No)	<i>Entry Fee</i> <i>(Please enter Amount)</i>
Game head, Mammal, Bird, Fish, Reptile, Wildlife Art		Professional, Master, Amateur, Commercial		
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$

Make Checks Payable to:
Virginia Taxidermists Association(VTA)
 Mail with form to:
 Suzanne Anderson
 2655 Edwardsville Rd.
 Hardy, VA 24101

Entry Fee Subtotal	\$
Best All Around-Add \$20.00	\$
President' Award-Add \$15.00	\$
Competitor's Challenge-Add \$25.00	\$
Competition Registration Total	\$
Convention Registration Total	\$
Total Due	\$

Mount Declaration:

Mount Number/Specimen:	List any awards and the State your mount has won:

Virginia Taxidermist Association Rules for Competition

1. The VTA, its officers and/or Board of Directors shall not be responsible for damage, theft, accidents, etc 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. 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.
3. Entrant must be a member in good standing of the VTA, or a reciprocal association of the VTA before entering VTA competition. Each entrant must also be registered for the convention.
4. Protected species will not be allowed in the VTA competition without proper permits and/or documents with specimen.
5. 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. All such entries will be judged privately.
6. 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.
7. Only the competition Committee can be in the competition room with the judges while judging is in progress.
8. Soliciting by suppliers or members in the competition area will be prohibited.
9. Members in the competition area during public viewing are encouraged to wear VTA apparel and their name badge.
10. 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. 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.
11. No mount or part of any mount can be entered in competition that has been judged in a previous Virginia competition.
12. Entries in cases must have a removable top and sides. Cases must be removed by the entrant before judging.
13. If a combination mount is presented at registration and multiple pieces are paid for and entered separately, they will be scored and awarded accordingly.
14. Any member found violating competition rule will be subject to the lose of any and all awards. No refunds of any kind will be made.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. To be eligible for the Best All Around Taxidermist of the VTA, you must enter a total of four mounts, all in different categories (Gamehead, 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.

Print your name if you have read the above rules and agree to abide by them.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Please Print and Mail Form and Payment To:

Virginia Taxidermists Association(VTA)

Suzanne Anderson

2655 Edwardsville Rd.

Hardy, VA 24101

AWARDS

Awards are tentative based on sponsorship and delivery. If you would like to sponsor an award, please contact Suzanne Anderson at 540-520-4567 or anderson2655@gmail.com

Please note that all awards and criteria are subject to change.

- **Breakthrough Award** – Plaque and a \$100.00 merchandise gift certificate for Breakthrough. The judge's Choice Best of Show Award should be selected by all judges, by mutual agreement, from any of the first place entries in the competition. Any entry not earning a first place is not eligible.
- **Wasco Award** – Award and a \$100.00 of merchandise gift certificate for WASCO. The most artistic entry chosen by all judges.
- **Polytranspar Award** – Engraved plaque and a \$50.00 merchandise gift certificate for WASCO. Best use of Polytranspar paint.
- **Competitor's Challenge Award** – Cash based on entries in Professional and Masters Divisions – you may enter any three mounts in any category (they can be the same category) – There is a Professional and Masters division. The judges will choose the winner. It is not based on scores.
- **The McKenzie Taxidermy Supply Distinguished Service Award** – A plaque of recognition and a \$100.00 merchandise gift certificate from McKenzie. Any member, in good standing with their state association, who has done the most during the past year to promote professionalism in his/her business, advance the art of taxidermy, depict taxidermy and hunting in a positive image, share knowledge of taxidermy techniques, improve the quality of his/her taxidermy work, promote the goals of the state association. Chosen by the board members of the association.
- **People's Choice Best of Category** – Deer head, Game heads, Small game life size, Big Game life size, Birds, Fish, Reptiles, Habitat, Wildlife Art. Voted by the people through special ballot.
- **Judges Choice Best of Category** - Master and Professional Division – Deer head, Game Heads, Small game life size, Big game life size, Birds, Fish, Reptiles, Habitat. The judges will choose the winner. It is not based on score.
- **Chris Barnhardt Memorial Award** – Masters Division. Highest scoring small mammal.
- **Al Holmes Award** – Best habitat mount in the competition. The Habitat judge will choose the winner. It is not based on score.
- **Calloway Custom Woodworks** – Most artistic mount award and \$50.00 merchandise gift certificate. Judge will choose the winner that is on a Calloway base.
- **Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries** – Best native species. The judge will choose the winner. It is not based on score.
- **Les Harper Award** – Best bear mount in the competition. The judge will choose the winner. It is not based on score.
- **The Virginia Deer Hunter Association** – Best deer mount in the competition. The judge will choose the winner. It is not based on score.
- **Research Mannikins** – Amateur Division. The judge will choose the winner. It is not based on score.

- **Best Commercial** – Best commercial mount in the competition.
- **Best All Around Professional** – Best Professional mount in the competition. Based on score.
- **Best All Around Masters** – Best Masters mount in the competition. Based on score.
- **People’s Choice Best of Show** – Highest votes from the people’s choice voting.
- **Judges Choice Best of Show** – The judges choose the winner. It is not based on score.
- **Service to Virginia Taxidermists Association Award** – Voted on by the board.
- **Kenneth Denzler Memorial Award** – Sponsored by Rick Denzler and awarded to the best amateur mount at the competition. Rick Denzler chooses the winner. Not based on score.
- **The National Wild Turkey Federation Award** – Awarded to the best turkey mount in the competition.
- **Starfish Award** – Awarded to the best reproduction fish at the competition.
- **Jason Jenkins Award** – Best Professional small mammal based on score.
- **Kip Hughes Award** – Best large mammal in Masters Division. Based on score.
- **Pro-1** – Use of Pro-1 chemicals. Awarded by Paul Cales.
- **Ducks Unlimited** – Awarded to the best duck.
- **Second to Nature** – Mounted on Second to Nature form.
- **Van Dyke** – Most original entry.
- **Hog Wild** – Best hog in the show.
- **Artisan Award** – Voted on by the people.
- **Mounted in Alaska Award** – Best entry that tells a story. Judges decide.
- **Horizon Award** – Awarded to the best youth mount in the competition. It is based on score.
- **President’s Award** – Chosen by the president, not based on score.
- **Golden Example Award** – Artist must be at least age 60 on date of competition and competition must have been completely developed not more than one year before date of judging. The judge will choose the winner. It is not based on score.

NOTE: Please be aware that awards and criteria are subject to change.

DOING GOOD THINGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

***Kudos to board member Gary Spradlin**

There is a young girl in Alleghany County with a very rare form of cancer. Her name is Emily Byer and a Rockbridge County firefighter named Matt Wilmer who has cancer in the spine, lung and brain.

In December, VTA board member Gary Spradlin organized and held a two day fundraising event to help the families with medical expenses and travel for treatments. Gary had much help and support from generous local people who donated their time and products to the effort. They had a great variety of activities taking place over the two days, such as a chili cook-off, a cornhole tournament, a cake decorating contest and many door prizes and raffles. There was food available and musical entertainment. This was a big event—and a very successful one!

The event raised \$10,000 and was split between the Byer and Wilmer families. We hope that this will relieve them of some of their burdens as they continue to cope with their situations.

So good to see our members out in their communities doing good things!

* VTA member Pete Runion sends his thanks to all who sent cards and messages of support and offered to do whatever they could to help when he injured his back.

* The VTA made a contribution to a NCTA member Keith Bowman whose son, Brandon, passed away and was buried on December 26, 2017.

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries News

As many of you know, the DGIF recently sent out a form for recordkeeping that they would like all taxidermists to use. As you also know, this did not find favor with many taxidermists in our organization. The VTA organization felt that the DGIF overlooked a valuable resource in designing this form and that we, as an organization, should have had input during the design.

The VTA then requested a meeting with DGIF to clarify some issues and try to improve the relationship between our organizations.

The following page is a copy of what was presented to DGIF at the meeting that took place on October 7, 2017. It was prepared by Rick Denzler.

We will keep the membership informed of what, if anything, results from this meeting.

“On behalf of the VTA membership we hope to start a positive relationship with the DGIF and thank you for your time today! It is some issues and questions, cares and concerns we would like a better understanding on. Of course we do not expect you to have the answers to all our questions. Ken and I alone have over 50 years in the taxidermy business. Our goal is to offer some suggestions to help direct our newer taxidermists and offer our advice, opinions, and experiences to the DGIF.

Permit Conditions:

Selling of unclaimed mounts:

Bears and Turkeys: suggestion, is it possible for taxidermists to get an exception to this by specific documentation provided on case by case approval from DGIF?

Fur-bearers: Is Fur Dealers Permit necessary for replacement hides or gifts?

Records: Requires must maintain records for 3 years, often display mounts, unclaimed antlers, specimens, and personal mounts are older than this.

Log Book:

While the new suggested log book/invoice was an attempt at uniformity, this is an area where the VTA could have been of assistance to DGIF.

- * It seems conformation numbers are the wave of the future with phone check ins.**
- * The taxidermists charges and such are not relevant to the log book.**
- * Some taxidermists use their invoice as Log Book.**
- * From bagging, tagging, numbering, marking hides sent to tanneries, it is no stand fast rules.**
- * We would like to help develop a handbook of rules for the Taxidermist.**
- * If possible we would like to help the DGIF by hands on instruction taxidermists with questions.**

Please refer any New applicants or ‘confused taxidermist’ to the VTA website or officer. We will try to assist in following regulations.

Problem Resolutions:

*** Some taxidermists feel insulted by the approach of some DGIF officers. I know I speak for most in saying I would not jeopardize my livelihood and reputation by messing with illegal stuff. We also understand the DGIF have a job to do.**

*** Hopefully we can better train our people and clarify some of these issues and topics.”**



**The President's Animal for 2018
Is a life size Bobcat**



**HOG
WILD!!!**

DOIN' IT AGAIN IN 2018!

 VLADSTUDIO

McGuire's Freeze Dried Turkey Heads!!!

Excellent Quality!!!

Unbelievably Realistic!!!



McGuire's Taxidermy & Freeze Drying
7134 Highland Turnpike
McDowell, VA 24458
(540)357-3392

You Supply Head: \$55.00
We Supply Head: \$70.00
(Prices for unpainted heads)



The Birthplace of HUNTING MEMORIES that Last a Lifetime!



(304) 832-6635 MountainMeadowHunting.com

