

A winter forest scene with snow-covered trees and a bright light source filtering through the branches. The scene is dominated by dark, snow-laden evergreen trees. A bright, warm light source, possibly the sun or a lamp, is positioned at the top center, casting a strong glow and creating a lens flare effect. The light illuminates the snow on the trees and the ground, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. The overall color palette is a mix of deep blues, greys, and whites, with a touch of warm yellow and orange from the light source. The text is overlaid on the lower portion of the image, centered horizontally.

**VIRGINIA TAXIDERMISTS
ASSOCIATION
JANUARY, 2017**

VIRGINIA TAXIDERMISTS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL COMPETITION AND CONVENTION
MARCH 17—18 2017
AT THE BEST WESTERN HOTEL INNS & SUITES CONFERENCE CENTER



100% Non-smoking facility * Complimentary full breakfast buffet
Indoor saltwater pool * 24 hour business center and fitness center

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

[Www.bwwaynesboro.com](http://www.bwwaynesboro.com) 540-942-1100

Please contact the hotel directly for reservations.

Special group room rate of \$89.99/night is available through February 3, 2017

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Danny Waters

President

540-997-0119

540-679-9115 cell

dannylwaters@gmail.com

Robbie Anderson

Vice President

540-765-8479

Suzy Anderson

Secretary/Treasurer

540-520-4567

srmcguire@carilionclinic.org

Directors

Chris Lacy

540-219-5338

Gerry Viola

540-752-7263

Pete Runion

540-896-2469

Tom Mccomas

540-943-1300

Brian Williams

540-960-1643

Judy Waters

540-997-0119

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all members & interested taxidermists:

A new year is upon us. What a year 2016 was! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

After talking to many members, everyone has plenty of work for the upcoming year. Remember to charge enough for your work. Don't make your business a non-profit organization!

Your show is coming together nicely. February 3 is the last day to get rooms at the Best Western at the special rate. Reserve your room by calling the hotel at 540-942-1100.

Convention pre-registration saves you money and helps the show run smoothly. Several new things have been added to the show this year. More details in the newsletter.

We will need 3 new board members.

Think about helping your organization grow. It is a wonderful, fulfilling job.

The Virginia Outdoor Sportsman show at Richmond Raceway Complex on August 11-13, 2017, is willing to have reduced rates or a rebate paid to the VTA for all VTA members participating in the show. For more information you can call David Posner at 804-748-7469 or visit the Virginia Outdoor Sportsman Show page on Facebook.

We will have 20 vendors at the show this year. A great way to save money. Discounts and no shipping if they have it at the show. Don't forget to thank the vendors for the Meet & Greet which is a great social time.

This year there will be 2 auctions, on Friday and Saturday nights. Bigger auction items at the Saturday night auction include a hog hunt donated by Mountain Meadow and a base with a L/S bear form (L-B-52) from Hughes Forms.

We will also have a silent auction with bid boxes.

Our seminars cover a little bit of everything. Thanks to our instructors for their effort.

You still have time to mount a squirrel for the President's Award.

I look forward to seeing a lot of squirrels.

In closing, feel free to call me if you have questions, gripes, or ideas.

Danny Waters, President





LETTER FROM SECRETARY/TREASURER

Hello everyone, it's been an exciting and productive year for the VTA. Some of the MANY accomplishments we have completed in 2016 are:

- Purchased a trailer for the VTA to use for storage of competition and vendor backboards
- Adding the Collective Artisan Award for the 2017 show
- Adding credit card option to pay at the show (more details to follow)
- A donation was made on behalf of the VTA to Franklin Mabe in memory of his passing
- Due to successful fundraising events we raised \$1211 for the VTA in 2016. Two events were done including Chris Lacey's workshop event and ticket sales for a Cudde Back camera at the Expo.

As you can tell we have been busy working on ways to continue to grow the organization. Along with that growth comes a more organized and successful show for 2017. One way that helps make for a more successful show is preregistering. Not only does it **SAVE YOU MONEY**, but it also allows for a speedier check in at the registration table. I encourage you to take advantage of preregistering and mail your registration to me no later than

March 10th, 2017.

If you need any assistance in preregistering, please feel free to contact me for support.

In closing, the board looks forward to continuing to bring the VTA to new heights in the future and encourages YOU to bring ideas and suggestions. As a challenge for our organization, we have a collective goal of having the most successful fund raising year in VTA history for 2017! We encourage you to also bring any donations for the auction to help raise money. Your donations and willingness to participate directly result in the success of the VTA and our goal for 2017.

Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions, feedback, questions etc by email anderson2655@gmail.com or by phone at 540-520-4567

Again, I look forward to serving you and am excited about the possibilities and future of the VTA!

Suzy Anderson

IN GENERAL

Please consider pre-registration for the show.

Pre-registration is a twofold bonus:

Helps things flow more smoothly at the registration desk and speeds up getting the competition entries processed.

Pre-registration saves you money (always a big plus!). *The pre-registration fee is \$50.00 and the cost to register at the door is \$75.00.*

Pre-register and save 1/3 on the fee!

We are happy to announce that we will be accepting credit cards at the show for fees, dues and auction purchases! Members using credit cards may see an additional 3% charge to offset the organizations cost of accepting them.

See the letter from the secretary for details.

YOUR ORGANIZATION NEEDS YOU

Please give some serious thought to serving your organization by serving as an officer or board member. Our organization was founded to promote the taxidermy industry by taxidermists FOR taxidermists. Everyone is very busy but taking time to contribute to the growth of the organization is very rewarding. Always remember that the Competition/convention is YOUR Competition /convention and your input is a very necessary part of making it a success!

NOTE: *The membership application and competition registration forms in this publication are also available on our website: www.vataxidermists.com*

NEW FOR 2017

The VTA is adding/modifying some competition categories for the upcoming show.

Wildlife Photography—sub category of *Wildlife Art*

Entrants must have actually taken the photograph. Photos captured from trail cams will not be eligible. No “photo-shopping” allowed except for cropping. Photos are to be mounted for hanging. As our organization is for taxidermists, not professional photographers, there will be no “amateur, professional or masters” categories for entry and awards based on the people’s choice vote only in two classes—Adult and Youth.

Photos must be no smaller than 4 X 6” or larger than 11 X 17”.

(For those interested in wildlife photography, there was a post on the VTA Facebook page back in July about a young wildlife photographer. Dust off those cameras and head to the woods and fields!)

Mounting Wars

This competition was previously known as Speed Mounting.

Rather than limiting it to deer heads, this year the ‘war’ will be any game head.

COLLECTIVE ARTIST

Two or more people can work on an entry/entries. These entries will not be scored and the winning pieces will be selected collectively by our judges based on artistic merit. An additional fee will be charged to each/all competitors entering into this special competition. Two winning trophies/plaques will be awarded to the winning participants. If more than two people worked on an entry, extra trophies/plaques can be ordered at the winner’s expense.

The entry fee for collective artist is \$25.00.

PARTICIPATION DRAWING

LAST YEAR THE VTA INTRODUCED A NEW EVENT THAT WE WILL CONTINUE FOR 2017. ALL COMPETITORS ARE ENTERED FOR A DRAWING AS FOLLOWS:

Amateur Division—convention fees paid for 2018

Professional Division—convention fees and membership dues paid for 2018

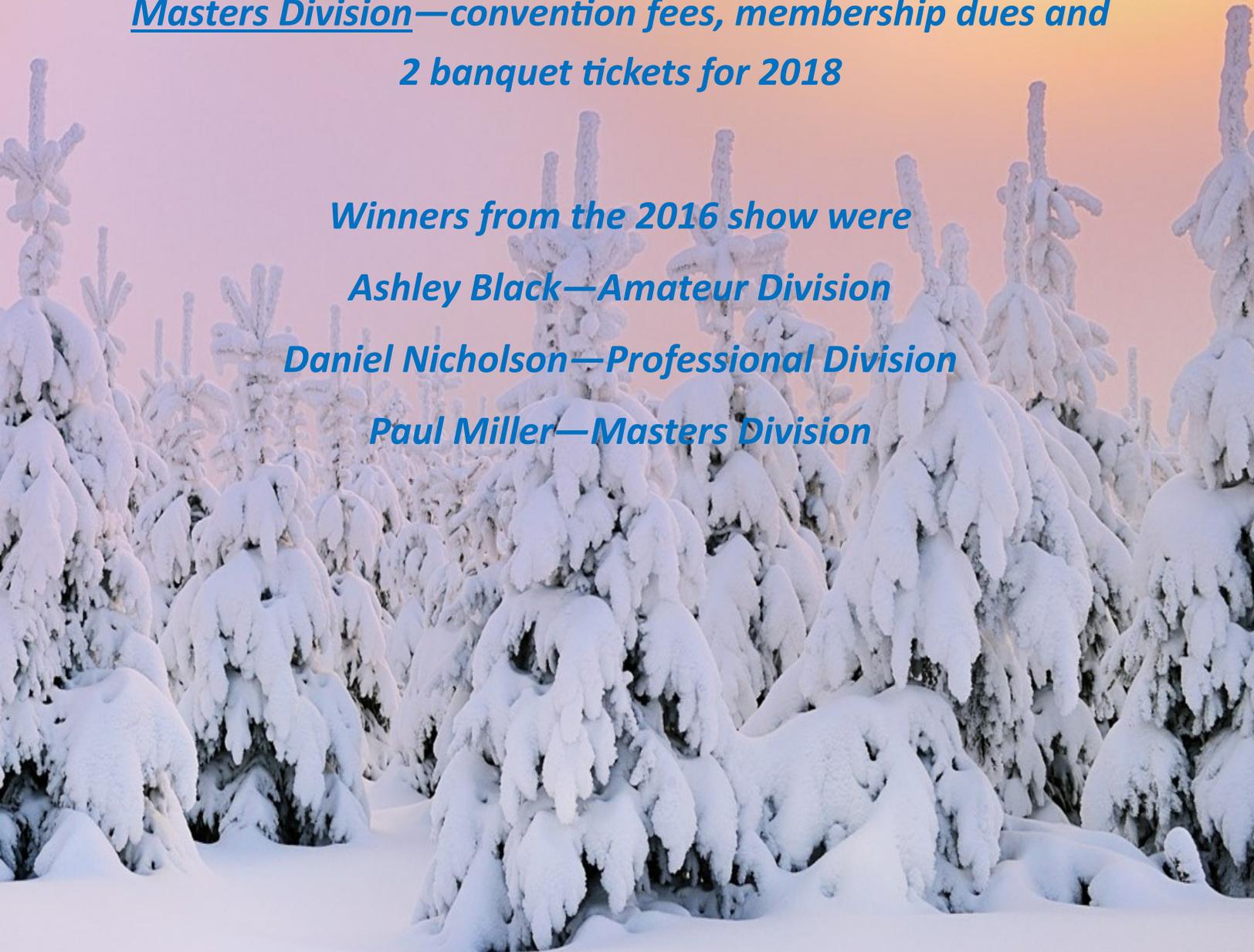
Masters Division—convention fees, membership dues and 2 banquet tickets for 2018

Winners from the 2016 show were

Ashley Black—Amateur Division

Daniel Nicholson—Professional Division

Paul Miller—Masters Division



2017 AWARDS

AL HOLMES

POLYTRANSPAR

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

STARFISH

VA DEPT. OF GAME/INLAND FISHERIES

BILL TAYLOR AWARD

LES HARPER AWARD

CALLOWAY ARTISTIC AWARD

GOLDEN EXAMPLE AWARD

CHRIS BERNHARDT AWARD

BEST LOOKING HOG

BEEFY COLLINS AWARD

WHITETAIL DEER AWARD

DUCKS UNLIMITED (2)

HORIZON AWARD

PRO 1 AWARD

KIP HUGHES AWARD

JASON JENKINS AWARD

VAN DYKE'S

WASCO

BEST ALL AROUND (2)

COMPETITORS CHALLENGE (2)

JUDGES CHOICE BEST OF SHOW AND BREAKTHROUGH AWARD

UTA ARTISAN AWARD

PRESIDENTS AWARD

MOUNTED IN ALASKA

COMMERCIAL MOUNT

PAYER EYES GIFT CERTIFICATE

Best Habitat

Best use of Polytranspar paint

Best turkey

Best reproduction fish

Best native species

Best amateur

Best bear

No points

Over all helping out VTA and other taxidermists

Best waterfowl—both Professional and Masters

Best youth

Highest scoring large mammal—Masters

Highest scoring small mammal—Professional

Most original

Most artistic

Professional and Masters

Professional and Masters

Squirrel for 2017

Judged by board members

Best commercial mount judged by board members

Best use of Payer eyes judged by Payer Eyes

2017 AWARDS

JUDGES CHOICE BEST OF CATEGORY

Professional and Masters

DEER HEAD

GAME HEAD

LIFESIZE SMALL GAME

LIFESIZE BIG GAME

FISH

REPTILES

BIRDS

HABITAT

TAXIDERMISTS CHOICE BEST OF CATEGORY

DEER HEAD

GAME HEAD

LIFESIZE SMALL GAME

LIFESIZE BIG GAME

FISH

REPTILES

BIRDS

HABITAT

WILDLIFE ART

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

JUDGES AND SEMINARS FOR 2017 SHOW

JUDGES

Fish and Reptiles—Frank Kotula

White tail deer—Justin Hinson

Amateur, Habitat and Youth—Danny Smith

Game heads and Mammals—Steve Tugwell

Birds—George Hipes

Commercial mounts—VTA board members

SEMINARS

Paul Cales—Tanning

Kip Hughes—Base making

George Hipes—Mounting a duck

Eye & Ear setting on Boar and Bear—Steve Tugwell

Fish casting—Frank Kotula

White tail competition mounting—Justin Hinson

Turkey mounting—Harold McGuire

Hands-on Eye & ear butts—white tail deer—Chris Lacy

Childrens seminar—Suzy Anderson



SHOW SCHEDULE 2017

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

- 8:00—11:00 Registration desk open, competition entries received
- 10:00—12:00 Seminar
Tanning—Paul Cales
Base making—Kip Hughes
- 10:00—1:00 Supply area open
- 2:00—4:00 Seminar
Mounting a duck—George Hipes
Eye & Ear setting on boar & bear—Steve Tugwell
- 2:30—6:00 Supply area open
- 2:30—4:00 Registration desk open, competition entries received
- 4:30—5:30 Membership meeting—all members PLEASE ATTEND
- 5:30—8:30 Meet & Greet, Auction
- 8:30—11:00 Mounting War—any game head

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

- 8:30—9:30 Registration desk open, competition entries received up until 9:00
- 9:00—11:00 Seminar
Fish casting—Frank Kotula
White tail competition mounting—Justin Hinson
- 9:00—1:00 Supply area open
- 10:30—11:30 Competition viewing, voting for peoples' choice, officer election
- 12:00—1:00 Children's seminar with pizza
- 1:00—3:00 Seminar
Turkey mounting—Harold McGuire
Hands on eye & ear butts on white tail deer—Chris Lacy
- 3:00—4:30 Competition viewing with ribbons in place, critique with judges, public viewing
- 6:00 Banquet, raffle drawing(s), auction and awards presentation

NOTE: *This is currently our show schedule, however last minute changes may be made if necessary due to unexpected circumstances.*

2017 Vendor List

East Coast Tannery

Noonkester Taxidermy Supply

Jim Allred Taxidermy

Carolina Fur Dressing

Hughes Forms

Robins Nest Animal Rugs

Jenkins Taxidermy & Tannery

U.S. Skull Hunter

Mark & Lisa Harris—Driftwood

Pro 1 Performance Chemicals

Ruozzi and Sons Supply

Skin and Bones Custom, LLC

Ohio Taxidermy Supply

McKenzie Taxidermy Supply

Headquarters Taxidermy Supply

Calloway Custom Woodworks, Inc.

Sivko Furs, Inc.

Jordan's Bear Den

Payer Eyes

Kasey's Custom Knives

**VIRGINIA TAXIDERMISTS ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Catagories of Membership:

_____ **Individual** **\$60**
_____ **Family** **\$85**
_____ **Business** **\$115 – Includes business name on the VTA website**

Circle one: **New** **Renewal**

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone# (home or business) _____ Mobile _____

Date of birth _____ email address _____

Company Name _____

Company Address if different from above _____

One year membership (January 1 to December 31) includes the VTA newsletters, pocket card, education, and protecting your rights. When you join the VTA you become a better informed taxidermist. Your dues work for your right to hunt and practice taxidermy. The VTA has a primary focus on unity and education.

Dues need to be paid prior to participation in the annual convention/competition. Dues may be paid at the convention. Send check payable to Virginia Taxidermists Association to:

VTA C/O Suzy Anderson
2655 Edwardsville Rd
Hardy VA 24101

Virginia Taxidermist Association
Annual Convention and Competition
March 17 & 18, 2017
Best Western Inn & Suites, Waynesboro, Virginia
Registration Form

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Convention Registration

2017 VTA membership dues (see application) \$ _____
 VTA member pre-registration fee - \$50.00 due before March 10th \$ _____
 VTA member registration fee - \$75.00 due at the door \$ _____
 Banquet Saturday, March 18 Adults _____ @ \$25.00 \$ _____
 Childrer _____ @ \$13.00 \$ _____
CONVENTION REGISTRATION 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 - first 3 entries**
 \$15.00 ea. for additional **habitat entries**
 Free **first Horizon Award entry** - under 16 years old
 \$10.00 ea. for **additional Horizon Award entries**

Category	Species	Division	Tag#	Habitat	Tag#	Entry Fee
Game head, mammal fish, bird, reptile wildlife art		Masters, Professional Commercial Amateur	VTA use only	judged yes/no	VTA use only	Please enter amount
						\$
						\$
						\$
						\$
						\$
						\$

Make checks payable to:
Virginia Taxidermists Association (VTA)
Mail form and check to:
 Suzanne Anderson
 2655 Edwardsville Road
 Hardy, VA 24101

Entry Fee Subtotal	\$
Best All Around - add \$20.00	\$
President's Award - add \$15.00	\$
Competitors Challenge - add \$25.00	\$
Collective Artist - add \$25.00	\$
Competition Total	\$
Convention Total	\$
Total Amount Due	\$

NO MOUNTS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON SATURDAY UNLESS PRE-REGISTERED!

Judges and competition committee's decision are final.
Unruly behavior will not be tolerated and no refunds will be given.

Below must be completed and signed in order for registration to be accepted

**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 violate, 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 (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 (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).

Mount Declaration

Mount #	VTA Use	List other shows where this mount has	List awards won with this mount
Only	Specimen	been entered	

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

SOME VTA FUNDRAISING AND EDUCATION!



Deer Mounting Seminar at Chris Lacy's shop last September

Thanks to Chris and Kris Lacy for hosting this, to Robbie and Suzy Anderson for their help, and to Payer Eyes and Paul Cales for donations!



AT THE BIG GAME SHOW AT AUGUSTA EXPO



AUGUSTA EXPO SHOW

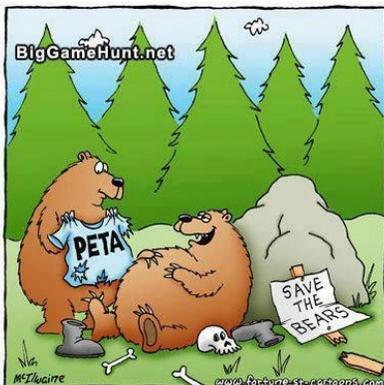
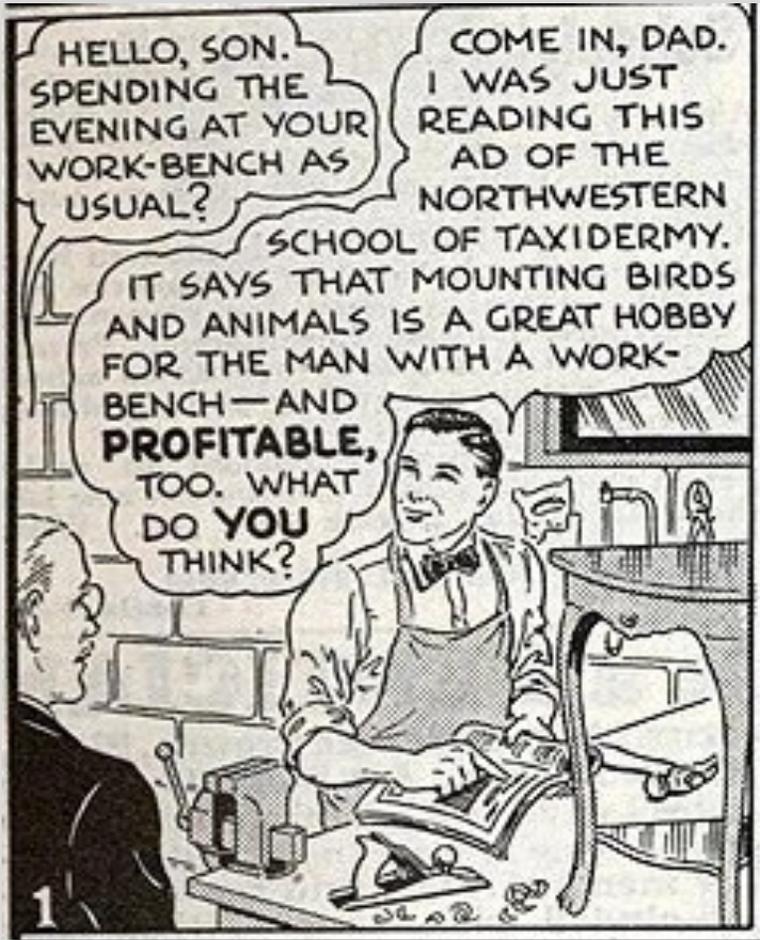
TRAIL CAM DRAWING WINNER

The organization thanks High Country Outfitters in Lexington, VA for their donation of a trail camera.

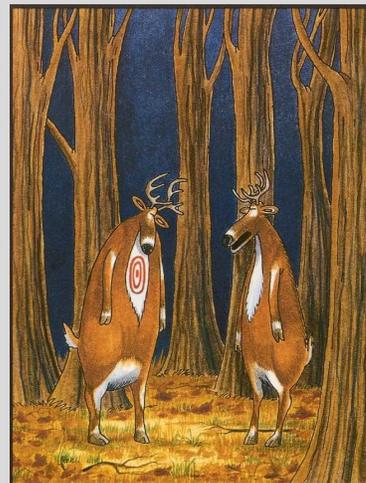
We sold chances at the Augusta Expo Show and the drawing was won by Dennis Dubec of Mechanicsville, Virginia



A LIGHTER LOOK AT HUNTING AND TAXIDERMISTRY



"I think it stands for, "Please Eat The Activist," which is exactly what I did!"



"Bummer of a birthmark, Hal."

DON'T FORGET



The President's Animal is a squirrel!



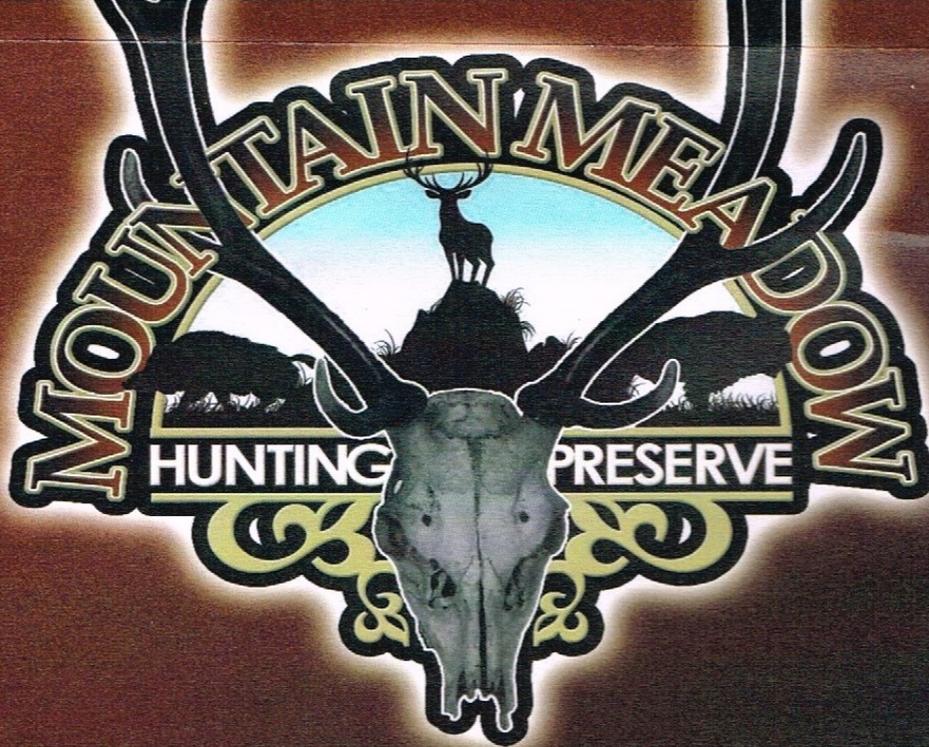
Virginia is
Hog Wild
Again this year!

A light brown rabbit is the central focus, sitting upright and looking towards the left. It is surrounded by a lush garden of flowers, including tulips in shades of pink, white, and yellow, and small white daisies. Several Easter eggs are scattered around the rabbit, including a purple one with white speckles and a white one with blue speckles. The background is a soft, light green and yellow, suggesting a bright, sunny day. The overall scene is festive and celebratory.

REMEMBER. . .

**BY MID MARCH
SPRING WILL BE**

WELL ON IT'S WAY



(304) 832-6635 MountainMeadowHunting.com

The Birthplace of HUNTING MEMORIES that Last a Lifetime!

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)

CATALOGS FILLED WITH THE PRODUCTS YOU NEED...

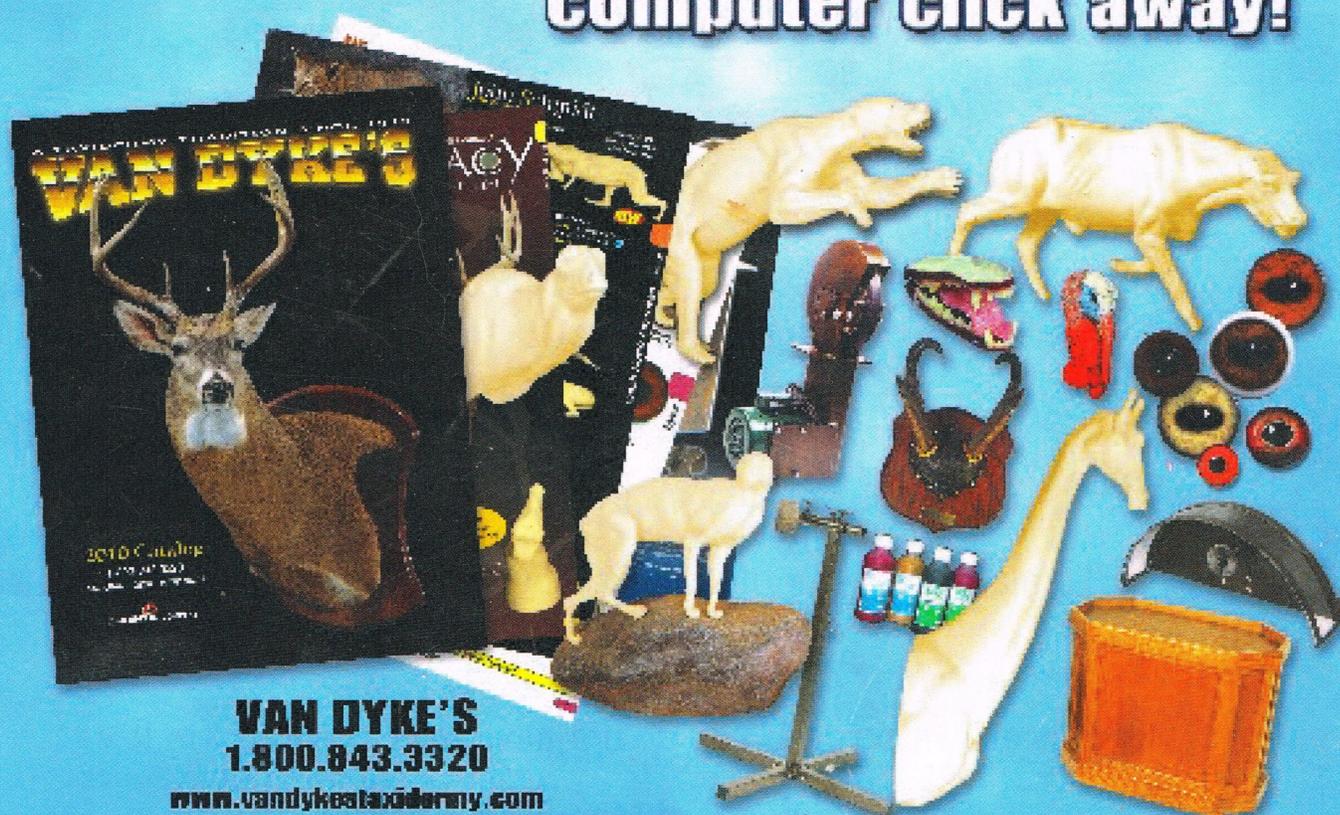


MCKENZIE

1.800.279-7985

www.mckenzie-taxidermy.com

**Just a phone call or
computer click away!**



VAN DYKE'S

1.800.843.3320

www.vandyke-taxidermy.com