

MICHIGAN TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION

38th Annual Competition & Convention

March 18-22, 2020

Devos Place, Grand Rapids, Michigan



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PRE-REGISTRATION-Registering your entry prior to March 1, 2020 reduces the mount fee from \$25.00 to \$15.00. There will also be a drawing for everyone that pre-registers. If your name is drawn you win next year's registration fee.

*****2020 SPECIAL*** ENTER 2 MOUNTS GET 3RD MOUNT FREE (excludes habitat)*****

REGISTRATION-Wednesday, March 18th is registration day from 9:00am to 9:00pm at DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. **Your membership card will get you into the Ultimate Sports Show for free. Just show your 2020 membership card. You MUST pay the convention registration fee to enter a mount, attend the seminars and/or to enter the supplier area. If you cannot attend the entire convention, you can purchase a one-day pass for the seminars for \$25.00.** All entries must be registered by 9:00pm. (Exceptions for inclement weather conditions) All grooming must be done in the grooming room ONLY. There will be a professional photographer available to take photos of your entry. They can be purchased for a fee. **Entries must remain for the duration of the show-5:00pm Sunday. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

CHECK OUT-At 5:00 pm on Sunday, competitors may line up outside the competition area, after the Membership meeting. A Board member will escort you with your mount card to your mount, which you can then remove from the area. If you have more than one entry be sure to inform the Board member, so you can move on to the next piece. **The MTA cannot be responsible for any mounts left past 6:00pm Sunday.**

PARKING/UNLOADING-When you arrive at the DeVos Place with your entries, use the parking ramp under the DeVos Place (right before river on Michigan Avenue). Go straight into the ramp to the far south. There is a freight elevator at the far end which takes you right to the registration on the 3rd floor. This parking ramp has a steep incline and the height is only 8'3" tall so be aware of your vehicle/trailer height. **There will be absolutely no unloading of mounts in front of the DeVos Place on Monroe St.** If you have a large piece that you need assistance with, please call John Crabb at 517-936-7213 or John Proctor at 517-474-4792 or come to registration and we will assist you.

SELLING OF MOUNTS-You may sell your **Competition** mounts at the convention, but you must register it as one to sell when you register. The MTA will receive a 10% donation of the purchase price. The MTA will NOT accept responsibility for any mount sold illegally or without the proper paperwork. This shall be the sole responsibility of the seller and buyer.

PUBLIC MOUNTING- Kelly & Jeff Agren will head up our public mounting, including mounts for Dream Maker Mounts and Hunt of a Lifetime at the show. Anyone interested in helping out with either of these special events, please contact Kelly at 989-370-3806 to sign up for a specific time.

ACCOMODATIONS-We've made a hotel change to a different hotel: **DoubleTree by Hilton – Grand Rapids Airport. When calling for reservations, use the block of rooms under the Michigan Taxidermist Association.** Call (616) 957-0100. There are a limited number of rooms, so please call early. The DoubleTree by Hilton – Grand Rapids Airport is located at 4747 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512. Other accommodations include the Amway Grand Plaza 800-253-3590 or the Holiday Inn 616-235-7611 Call for availability and pricing.

MICHIGAN TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION AUCTIONS-These auctions are a very important fundraiser for our association. Join the fun by cleaning out some of your unused supplies, donate time to the association with a “day in the shop”, getting rid of unused Christmas gifts, find a local business willing to donate, put a bucket together with new or used items with a theme. The items don’t need to be taxidermy related. Use your imagination and make it a “star” at our auction!

SUPPLIER ROOMS-

Some suppliers encourage pre-orders to be picked up at the show. Many suppliers also have show specials which can save money on products and/or shipping. If you have questions, please contact the specific supplier before the show. **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SUPPLIERS BY PURCHASING AT THE SHOW.**

SUPPLIER HOURS:

THURSDAY

3:00 - 5:00 pm

FRIDAY

11:00am - 1:00pm

2:00pm - 4:00pm

SATURDAY

11:00am - 1:00pm

2:00am - 4:00pm

JUDGES/JUDGING

Masters/Professional Judges

Whitetails – Owen Eldred & Wes Mote

Mammals/Gameheads – Jean Roll

Fish - Randy Budzynski

Birds – Jonathan Wright

Habitat – Kurt Ainsworth

Novice Judges

Whitetails – Curtis Cook & Travis Walle

Mammals – Shane Martindale & Todd Ekstrom

Fish - Brian Watson & Jayson Clark

Birds – Mike Guest & Jake Sexton

JUDGING/SCORING - Judging will begin Wednesday as our Judges become available and will be completed by Thursday at noon for ribbon placement by 1:00pm. We will be using 1-First, 2-Second, and 3-Third for scoring. Don’t forget to sign up for a critique time, starting on Friday for a Friday or Saturday time. Sign up at the Membership table.

- The Judges must break all ties for trophies or major awards before the judging is complete.
- See specific judging rules under division descriptions.

After the judging is complete, the Judges ARE NOT allowed to change any ribbons. Do not ask them to do so. If you have a problem, please contact the competition chairperson, John Proctor. He will use his discretion to settle any disputes and his ruling is final.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

<u>DAY/TIME</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	
<u>THURSDAY</u>			<u>ROOM</u>
You are not allowed in the competition area as judging has not been completed, so you need to go to the first floor and follow the Riverwalk all the way to the south elevator. We will have signs to guide you to the right elevator.			
9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	JOHN CRABB	NEW MEMBERS MTG	
9:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.	HILTON EPPLEY	ALL THINGS WHITETAILED	A-B
2:30a.m.- 5:00p.m.	HILTON EPPLEY	ALL THINGS WHITETAILED	A-B
<u>FRIDAY</u>			<u>ROOM</u>
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	JONATHAN WRIGHT	PHEASANT	A
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	RANDY BUDZYNSKI	FISH 101	B
1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.	JEAN ROLL	SKINNING MAMMAL EARS	A
1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.	TAD'S TAXIDERMISTRY	WAR BIRD TURKEY FAN	B
<u>SATURDAY</u>			<u>ROOM</u>
9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	OWEN ELDRED	WHITETAILED FINISHING	A
9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	TRAVIS MCCLEOD	BIRD ATTACHMENT POINTS	B
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	WES MOTE	WHITETAILED EARS & ANTLERS	A
11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.	ANDREA HUNTLEY	FREEZE DRYING	B
2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.	WENDI JOHNSON	CASTING TREE BARK	A
<u>SUNDAY</u>			<u>ROOM</u>
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	BRIAN HENDRICKS	NORTH AMERICAN PREDATOR STUDY	A

IMPORTANT CONVENTION EVENTS:

Wednesday, March 18: Registration – 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. - All mounts **MUST** be at the Registration table by 9:00 p.m. (Exceptions for inclement weather conditions)

There will be a professional photographer available to take pictures for a fee.

Thursday, March 19: New Members & First Time Competitors meeting – 9:00 a.m. We have a special meeting for NEW MEMBERS or first-time competitors; however, all members are welcome. Please join us on the River Overlook outside the rooms where the seminars will be held. You are not allowed in the competition area as judging has not been completed, so you need to go to the first floor and follow the Riverwalk all the way to the south elevator. ***Competition room will be closed to everyone except Judges and board members that need to be in there.*** Judging to be completed by 12:00pm for ribbon placement by 1:00 pm for show opening.

Friday, March 20:

9:00 a.m. – Sign-ups begin for Judge critiques

5:00 p.m. – Social Hour at DoubleTree by Hilton – Grand Rapids Airport

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Dinner with ticket You must have a ticket to attend the dinner.

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – “Family Friendly” activity – to be announced, open to all members

8:00 p.m. – Silent Auctions and Live Auction

Saturday, March 21:

12:00 p.m. – TAXIDERMISTS CHOICE BALLOT DEADLINE (see MTA Desk)

5:00 p.m. – Banquet Social Hour at DoubleTree by Hilton – Grand Rapids Airport

6:00 p.m. – Banquet Dinner (**must have ticket to attend**)

7:00 p.m. – Awards Presentation (after dinner those who did not attend dinner will be welcomed into the awards banquet.)

8:00 p.m. – Silent Auctions and Live Auction (immediately following Awards)

Sunday, March 22:

2:00 p.m. -? Membership Meeting/Elections we have a MEMBERSHIP MEETING followed by a BOARD MEETING. As a member, it is important to attend to give feedback on the Convention/Competition and give ideas for future meetings and competitions. **THIS IS YOUR ASSOCIATION!** At the end of the Membership meeting there will be a Membership Drawing where one lucky member could win up to \$100...Must be present to win!!

Board meeting to follow membership meeting

5:00 p.m. – Mount Pick Up

DEFINITIONS OF DIVISIONS

YOUTH DIVISION

This division is for our young and upcoming Taxidermist ages 18 and under.

For guidelines and rules see page 18 and youth registration see page 19.

JUDGING – this division is judged by the Novice Judges which are qualified MTA board members or representatives shall judge Novice division

NOVICE DIVISION

The Novice Division is for the newer Taxidermist to get a feel for the taxidermy competition.

JUDGING – Qualified MTA board members or representatives shall judge Novice division Your mount will be judged from a distance of 6 feet away. A critique is not guaranteed.

DIVISION SPECIFIC RULES (for complete list of rules see pages 10-11)

- Two blue ribbons in Novice division in any category or combination of categories requires you to move up to the professional division the following year.

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

The Professional Division is for the Taxidermist advancing in their art.

JUDGING - Hands on judging will be done by World Class Taxidermists. Points toward your Award of Excellence begin in this division.

MASTERS DIVISION CRITERIA

The Masters Division is to show your skills above the Professional Division. You will be competing against the best of the professionals.

JUDGING - World Class Taxidermists dig deep while judging to find flaws in these mount entries. You will have less competition but stronger competition.

DIVISION SPECIFIC RULES (for complete list of rules see pages 10-11)

- Entries in the Master's division reproduction category must be originally done by the competitor and cannot be purchased from a supplier.
- Best All-Around (Master Division only) consists of 4 categories. They shall be Game Head, Mammal, Fish and Birds. The winner must have attained a score of at least 80 points on each of the 4 mounts to be eligible (A score of 79 or lower on any one mount will eliminate any chance of winning). The mounts may also be entered into regular competition in their respected categories and receive additional awards if they qualify (Best of Show, Best of Category, etc.). The 4 mounts entered in the Best All Around category **MUST** be chosen at the time of registration and cannot be changed once judging has started. You will be required to pay registration for general category and Best-All-Around if competing as such.
- Educational Award Requirements – The rules for the Educational Award are as follows. It must make use of the art of taxidermy (some type of mount). It needs to provide the viewer some type of education of some phase of taxidermy, nature, natural phenomena, conservation, etc. All show Judges will judge the pieces entered. To qualify the piece **MUST** score at least 80 points at the Masters level. The piece shall be judged using the following standards.... 50% of the score shall be based upon the education and the statement the overall piece provides. 25% of the score shall be based on the taxidermy skills used, and 25% of the score on the use of habitat.

MASTERS OF MASTERS DIVISION CRITERIA

Once a member has earned their Award of Excellence, they are eligible to compete in the Masters of Masters Division in the category that earned them their Award of Excellence. This division is the most prestigious one in the M.T.A. It is mandatory that all body work, bird bill casts and parts be done by the participant. Nothing should be bought except eyes.

JUDGING - Judging in this division will be very demanding. Mounts must be technically correct as well as artistically oriented and creative. Multi Ribbons will be awarded with 1, 2, 3. The Judges will choose the best first place entry and the winner will receive a trophy as well as a \$500.00 cash prize. The winner's name will also be placed on the traveling trophy.

COMMERCIAL DIVISION

CATEGORIES

• Birds • Fish • Reptile • Life-size Mammals • Deer and Game heads

JUDGING

This is a Judge's interpretation division open to all species. It will be judged for aesthetics, not mechanics. Competitors should strive to present life-like entries.

Judging will be completed by the Novice Judge from a 6-foot distance with no hands-on judging.

DIVISION SPECIFIC RULES (for complete list of rules see pages 10-11)

- Limited to two (2) entries per registered member.
- Space will be provided for business cards for participants interested after judging is completed
- No other forms of advertising will be permitted
- All mounts must be able to hang on a backboard or set on a table.

AWARDS

Multiple ribbons for First, Second and Third place.

Mounts are not eligible for any other awards

No points will be awarded towards the Award of Excellence

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

1. Mounts must remain for the duration of the show (5 p.m. Sunday) **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
2. Mounts entered at owner's risk. Every precaution will be made to secure the entries. The MTA will not assume responsibility for loss due to damage, theft, fire and/or natural causes.
3. All nameplates indicating the taxidermist name and/or business name must be covered by the competitor before mount is entered. No pictures showing the taxidermist and/or the business shall be allowed in the judging area until judging is complete. No names or pictures are allowed on the originality sheets. Absolutely NO signs advertising guide services will be allowed in the show at ANY time. Failure to comply may result in disqualification of mount.
4. No business cards are to be placed on or around competition pieces on the convention floor at any time during the show with the exception of the commercial division. This ensures the safety of all competitors mounts from being damaged or stolen by ensuring the general public is not encouraged to reach across the security barriers that are in place.
5. Permits must accompany any protected species.
6. The MTA will not accept any mounts depicting man-inflicted injuries such as a trap on leg, gunshot wounds, arrows in flesh, or any mount done in poor taste. The competition chairman has the right to remove any such mount from the show.
7. There will be multiple ribbons in all divisions.
8. Reproduction parts are acceptable (i.e. duck heads, feet, fish heads).
9. Freeze-dried will be a separate category. **Exception – you may use a freeze-dried turkey head only in the Turkey categories.** Any other freeze dry method must be entered in the freeze dry category. Competition chairman will have final say in any disputes.
10. **NO ONE** will be allowed in the judging area until judging is complete. **ONLY people designated by competition chairman will be allowed in judging area during judging.**
11. Spotted fawns and juvenile/immature species may be entered (questionable out of season specimens must have a breeder's authority). Juvenile/immature entries must have a sign for display with explanation of origin or death.
12. Domestic dogs and cats may NOT be entered.
13. Freeze Dry Category: All preparation, mounting and finish work must be done by the competitor. You cannot purchase a freeze-dried specimen from a commercial vendor or private individual and enter it into competition.
14. Extra credit MAY be given for doing your own Reproduction parts; forms, etc. provided they are done well and in accordance with the score sheets. Please indicate so on your originality sheet.
15. No novelty mounts allowed (i.e. mounts depicting animals in a human or unnatural setting. The competition chairman will remove any mount as such brought to the show).
16. The Judges must break all ties for trophies or major awards before the judging is completed.
17. You may NOT enter a single category in two different divisions (Example – you may not enter a deer head in both the Professional and Masters divisions, Commercial Division is exception). You may enter different divisions in different categories (Example – you may enter a deer head in Novice division and a fish in Professional division, etc.).
18. You MUST have received a blue ribbon to be eligible to receive Best of Category Award. Best of Category Awards are ONLY awarded in the Professional Division and Masters Divisions.
19. You MUST have received a blue ribbon to be eligible to receive a State Champion Award. State Champion Titles are ONLY awarded in the Master's Division.

20. **After the judging is complete, the Judges ARE NOT allowed to change any ribbons. Do not ask them to do so. If you have a problem, please contact the competition chairperson. He/she will use their discretion to settle any disputes and their ruling is final!**
21. Sportsmanship-The MTA has gone to great lengths to obtain the most experienced and qualified Judges in the world. All Judge's decisions will be final. Competitors should conduct themselves in a professional manner. Unsportsmanlike conduct could result in disqualification and forfeiture of any and all MTA awards as well as being barred from future competitions.
22. Habitat Category Requirements-The habitat entry fee must be paid in order to be eligible for the Habitat category. Eligibility for entry also requires the habitat to be part of a regular specimen entry for the current year competition. Score sheets will be used by the individual Judges for each entry as a basis for evaluation. Competitors may receive first, second or third place ribbons as determined by the respective Judges. The overall best first place habitat piece would receive the Best of Category (if entered in the Professional Division) or State Champion (if entered in the Master's Division) award for the Habitat category. Habitats must consist of a minimum of three separate mediums. Mediums may consist of dirt, rock, grasses, trees and bushes, water, ice, snow, moss, etc. Habitats may not be purchased in a completed state from another individual or company and used to compete. Individual materials may be purchased to use in construction of the competitors original finished habitat.

MICHIGAN TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION AWARDS LIST

- AWARD OF EXCELLENCE & MASTERS OF MASTERS AWARD** (See attached rules for further information)
- BEST ALL AROUND** Masters and Masters of Masters divisions only and consists of four categories. They shall be Game Head, Mammal, Fish and Bird. The winner must have attained a second place on each of the four mounts to be eligible. A place lower on any one mount will eliminate any chance of winning. The mounts may also be entered into regular competition in their respective categories and receive additional awards if they qualify (Best of Show, Best of Category, etc.). The four mounts entered in the Best All Around category MUST be chosen at the time of registration and cannot be changed once judging has started. You will be required to pay the registration for general category and Best All Around if competing as such. This award comes with a plaque and a trophy.
- BEST OF CATEGORY** This award applies to any separate category within the Masters & Professional Division (see category list for further information). To qualify, a mount entered must win a blue ribbon. In the event of a tie, the respective Judge in that category will decide the best of category. This award comes with a trophy.
- BEST OF SHOW** Must have a blue ribbon to win. Will be chosen by the five respective Judges. Winner will receive a trophy and a \$1,000 cash award (\$500 of this award is sponsored by Taxidermy by Dourlain).
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS AWARD** This award goes to the best artistic piece in the novice and professional divisions and will be voted upon by the Board of Directors. This award comes with a trophy and a \$250 cash award sponsored by Brad Eldred of Wildlife Gallery.
- BREAKTHROUGH AWARD** Must win Best of Show. A plaque is presented along with a \$100 cash OR gift certificate award.
- CHELSEA TAXIDERMY WATERFOWL AWARD** Chosen by the respective Bird Judge as the highest scoring waterfowl in its natural habitat. Waterfowl must be entered in Professional Division. You can only win this award one time. The winning mount will receive a \$200 cash prize and a hand carved decoy (carved by John VanSlambrouck). Award sponsored by Chelsea Taxidermy Studios.
- COMMEMORATIVE BUCKS OF MICHIGAN** Chosen by a representative from CBM as the best portrayal of a native Michigan species of Elk, Bear, Turkey or Whitetail deer that represents the goals of the CBM. This award comes with a trophy/plaque.
- DALE CORNETET AWARD** Awarded to a fish scoring 95 or higher in the Masters or Masters of Masters Division. This award comes with a trophy.
- DUCKS UNLIMITED AWARD** Chosen by the respective Bird Judge as the best waterfowl in the show. Mount must have a blue ribbon in Professional or 2nd or higher in Masters to qualify at Judge's discretion. Award comes with either a trophy, plaque or print.
- EDUCATIONAL AWARD** It needs to provide the viewer, some type of education of some phase of taxidermy, nature, natural phenomena, conservation, etc. All show Judges will judge the pieces entered. To qualify the piece MUST score at least 2 (80) at the Masters level. The piece shall be judged using the following standards.... 50% of the score shall be based upon the education and the statement the overall piece provides. 25% of the score shall be based on the taxidermy skills used, and 25% of the score on the use of habitat entered. To qualify, the piece must score at least an 80 at the Masters level. The winning mount will receive a check for the sum of \$500 and a trophy. The winning mount MUST be donated and put on public display.
- HILTON EPPLEY AWARD** This is awarded to any mount completed on a Hilton Eppley Form. Winner to be selected and award to be provided by Hilton Eppley

HORIZON AWARD	Chosen by the respective Judges for the novice or youth divisions as the best youth mount (ages 18 and under). The award comes with a trophy. This award can only be awarded to a youth participant once in their lifetime.
KEN KLEINERT AWARD	Chosen by the respective Judges for the novice or youth division as the most artistic youth mount (ages 18 and under). The award comes with a trophy.
LIFETONE AWARD	Awarded to the highest scoring fish in the competition which was painted with Lifetone paints. Competitor must also obtain a blue ribbon to win. This award comes with a trophy. Any fish entered in competition using this paint is eligible.
MCKENZIE SERVICE AWARD	Any member in good standing with the association, who has done the most during the past year to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote Professionalism in his/her business 2. Advance the art of Taxidermy 3. Depict Taxidermy and hunting in a positive image 4. Share knowledge of taxidermy techniques 5. Improve the quality of his/her taxidermy work 6. Promote the goals of the state association
McKENZIE TAXIDERMIST CHOICE - BEST BIRD AWARD	This award goes to the best bird or combination mount, waterfowl or upland to be decided by popular vote of membership (any registered competitor)
McKENZIE TAXIDERMIST CHOICE - BEST FISH AWARD	This award goes to the best fish mount, reproduction or skin mount to be decided by popular vote of membership (any registered competitor)
McKENZIE TAXIDERMIST CHOICE - BEST LIFE-SIZE MAMMAL AWARD	This award goes to the best life-size mammal, small or large to be decided by popular vote of membership (any registered competitor)
McKENZIE TAXIDERMIST CHOICE - BEST WHITETAIL AWARD	This award goes to the best whitetail shoulder or pedestal mount to be decided by popular vote of membership (any registered competitor)
MICHIGAN TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION ABOVE AND BEYOND SERVICE AWARD	This award goes to a business, group or someone who has gone above and beyond in service to the MTA. This award comes with a plaque.
MICHIGAN TRAPPER'S ASSOCIATION AWARD	Chosen by a representative of the Michigan Trapper's Association for the best fur bearing mount in their natural habitat. This award comes with a trophy/plaque.
MOUNTED IN ALASKA AWARD	Awarded to the life size mount that tells the best story. It will be judged by the MTA members. Award will be a bear paw plaque. Sponsored by Knights Taxidermy.
PEOPLE'S CHOICE MASTERS/MASTERS OF MASTERS	Chosen by the MTA Members as the best mount of their choice. Only two votes per family membership. Award comes with a trophy and a \$200 cash award. Any mount entered in Masters/Masters of Masters is eligible.
PEOPLE'S CHOICE NOVICE	Chosen by the MTA Members as the best mount of their choice. Only two votes per family membership. Award comes with a trophy and a \$50 cash award. Any mount entered in Novice is eligible.
PEOPLE'S CHOICE PROFESSIONAL	Chosen by the MTA Members as the best mount of their choice. Only two votes per family membership. Award comes with a trophy and a \$100 cash award. Any mount entered in Professional is eligible.
POLYTRANSPAR AWARD	Awarded to the highest scoring fish in the competition which was painted with Polytranspar paint. Competitor must also obtain a blue ribbon to win. This award comes with a \$50 gift certificate and plaque. Any fish entered in competition using this paint is eligible.

PRESIDENT'S ANIMATION AWARD	Chosen only by the President and must portray some type of movement within the mount. Any mount entered is eligible. This award comes with a trophy/plaque.
PRO-1 AWARD	Must use a Pro-1 tanning or hide paste product and registered with mount information.
RON'S GAMEHEADS AND MORE YOUTH AWARD	Winner to be selected by Ron & Sophia Furgeson. The winner will be a youth entry and can be any mammal, any size. This award comes with a plaque and \$50 cash prize. This award is sponsored by Ron's Gameheads and More Taxidermy.
SECOND 2 NATURE AWARD	This award will be for the highest scoring mount on a Second 2 Nature manikin. The winner will receive a trophy/award, a Second 2 Nature t-shirt or hat and a \$100 Second 2 Nature gift certificate.
SKUTT'S WILDLIFE TAXIDERMISTRY UP-AND - COMING AWARD	Any novice entry will be eligible. Winner will be selected by all of the Novice Judges. This award comes with a trophy and \$100. Sponsored by Skutt's Wildlife Taxidermy.
STATE CHAMPION	This award applies to the combined categories- Fish, Manikin, Reptile / Amphibians, Whitetails, Game heads, Mammals, Birds, Habitat, Reproductions, Freeze dry within the Masters Division. To qualify, a mount entered must win a Best of Category. The respective Judge in that category will decide the State Champion. This award comes with a trophy.
UTA ARTISEN AWARD	Award to be decided by popular vote of membership (any registered competitor). This award comes with a trophy/plaque.
VANDYKE AWARD	Chosen by the Judges as the most artistic mount in the Masters or Professional Divisions. The mount must have a blue ribbon to be eligible and show some type of artistic merit. This award comes with a plaque.
VETERAN AWARD	Selected by John Crabb. This award comes with a trophy/plaque.
WALNUT CREEK HARDWOODS ENDEARING AWARD	This award will be open to any division as long as it's on a Walnut Creek Hardwood panel or base. This award will also be presented with a \$50 Walnut Creek Hardwood gift certificate.
WASCO AWARD	Chosen by the four respective Judges. The guidelines are as follows: exhibition of taxidermy, creativity and artistic merit. It does not matter which company's supplies, paints, or manikins are used in the piece. This award comes with a crystal type trophy and a \$100 gift certificate.
WHITETAIL AWARD	Chosen by the representative of the award sponsor for the most natural depiction of the whitetail species in the show. This may include both whitetail life-size and shoulder mounts. This award comes with a trophy/plaque.
YOUTH DIVISION AWARD	Chosen by the respective Novice division Judges as the best mount in that age group. Any mount is eligible. Award comes with a trophy.
YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD	The Michigan Taxidermist Association Youth Scholarship Award will be voted on by the Novice Judges. This award comes with a trophy and \$300 cash sponsored by K & K Tannery award to be paid to the instructor of the winner's choice. Youth must be present for photo with award & mount. The instructor must be a MTA member and will be paid the cash upon completion of the class. Class must be used within one calendar year or money will be transferred to the next year.

Awards subject to change based on supporter/sponsor

MICHIGAN TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Point Values	<u>Masters Division</u>	<u>Professional Division</u>
	1 st Place = 5 points	1 st Place = 2 points
	2 nd Place = 4 points	2 nd Place = 1 point
	3 rd Place = 3 points	

TOTAL POINTS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE-30 *All points must be earned at the Michigan State Competition/Convention. *10 points must come from Masters Division with 2 blue ribbons *20 points remaining can come from Masters Division or Professional Division or a combination of the two.

CATEGORIES AS FOLLOWS:

Whitetails/Game Heads Mammals Fish/Reptile Birds

- ** The competition chairman and the president, combined shall use their discretion as to if and where any mount in question shall be applied. Their decision shall be final.
- ** Reproductions and recreations shall fall under the category which they are judged in.
- ** Mixed group mounts shall be given credit for the appropriate category in which each mount falls under.
- ** Rugs shall fall under mammals or appropriate category. *Group mounts get one score.
- ** Best All Around mounts shall be given credit for the appropriate category in which each mount falls under.
- ** Group competitors and educational categories shall not be applied towards the Award of Excellence.

Retroactive Points:

From 1983-1985 there were no divisions. They will be counted as Professional Division.

1985 ribbon winners were the introduction of the Masters Division and will be counted as first place Master ribbons.

1986-Present – mounts shall be awarded the appropriate points as per division and ribbons.

**COMPETITION CATEGORIES FOR
NOVICE, PROFESSIONAL, MASTERS & MASTERS OF MASTERS**

(Commercial categories on page 9 & Youth categories on page 18)

DH-	Whitetail Deer Heads and ½ Mounts
OMWT-	Open Mouth Whitetail Deer Head – Open Mouth Defined as: to be able to see any part of the finished interior anatomy of the mouth
SGH-	Small Game Heads (Coyote and smaller)
LGH-	Large Game Heads (Larger than Coyote)
BS-	Upland Game Birds – Single
BG-	Upland Game Birds – Group
TUR-	Turkey Category (freeze dried head/feet allowed)
TURG-	Turkey Group
WS-	Waterfowl – Single
WG-	Waterfowl – Group
SM-	Small Mammals (Smaller than Raccoon)
MM-	Medium Mammals (Raccoon-Coyote)
LM-	Large Mammals (Larger than Coyote)
GM-	Group Mammals – All Sizes
CWFS-	Coldwater Fish Skin – Single
CWWMFS-	Coldwater Fish Wall Mount Fish Skin – Single (for Masters MUST finish both sides)
WWFS-	Warmwater Fish Skin – Single
WWWMFS-	Warmwater Fish Wall Mount Fish Skin – Single (for Masters MUST finish both sides)
FG Fish-	Group (all species)
SWF-	Saltwater Fish
RUGS-	Rugs
MX -	Mixed Group
RS-	Reptile/Invertebrate – Single
CA-	Combined Artists
EDU-	Educational
PC-	Parent/Child (youth under 18 judged at Youth level by Novice Judge)
YOUTH-	Youth Division
FD-	Freeze Dry (all mounts with freeze dried parts, exc. Turkey)
BAAT-	Best All Around Taxidermist (Masters Level Only)
MAN-	Manikin
REPO/AH-	Reproduction Antlers/Horns
REPO/FAR-	Reproduction Fish/Amphibians/Reptiles/Invertebrates
INV-	Invertebrates
HAB -	Habitat
SKA -	Skeletal Articulation

YOUTH DIVISION GUIDELINES AND RULES

General Rules

1. A \$5.00 entry fee per child is applied regardless of the number of mounts entered. Mount fees are waived for this division.
2. The registration fees are waived as long as the child's parent/guardian/mentor is registered in the competition.
3. It is not mandatory that a child enter youth division (Ex. He/She may enter Novice or Professional divisions if so desires).
4. A child may not enter youth division and any other division in the same category.
5. Parental assistance will be allowed in the skinning and preparation of the specimens. Guidance will be allowed during the mounting and finish work of the specimen but must be kept to **hands off level**. Child must do the actual mounting and finish work themselves.
6. A picture board may be set up with pictures of the youth division participants collectively gathered. No names shall be listed with the pictures for the safety of the youth. Parents are encouraged to bring pictures of their youth on registration day for said board.
7. A participation certificate will be awarded to all youth that participate in the youth division.
8. This division shall be multi-ribbon with first, second, and third place ribbons awarded to those that qualify.
9. Judges choice award shall be given out in each age group that has entries.
10. The Youth Division shall be divided up into 4 age groups, 5-7 year olds, 8-12 year olds, 13-15 year olds and 16-18 year olds.
11. The Youth Division shall have 5 categories in which to enter – **Birds, Mammals, Fish, Reptiles, and Game Heads**.
12. Youth division is to be judged by the respective Novice Division Judges
13. The Novice Judges shall collectively choose the Judge's choice award for each age group.
14. The Horizon Award will only be awarded once in the lifetime of the youth participant. After a youth competitor wins this award they are no longer eligible to receive it in future competitions.

YOUTH DIVISION REGISTRATION FORM

Name of Youth _____ Age _____

Parent/Guardian/Mentor Registered _____

Number of Mounts Entered _____ Category(s) – Birds, Mammals, Fish, Reptiles,
Game Heads

List Species Entered _____

Picture of Youth _____ \$5.00 Entry Fee _____ Registration Waived _____

Parent/Guardian/Mentor Statement: I, _____, witnessed the above youth mount
the species indicated on this registration form. Below is a list of all areas where assistance was given as well as an
explanation of the amount of help that was given to the youth in each of those areas.

Signed by witness: _____

-----Registration Personnel cut here after youth registers-----

Youth Division Check List Mount Number _____(registration personnel only)

Adult Assistance Explanation

- Specimen skinning _____
- Specimen Prep _____
- Form Prep _____
- Eye Setting _____
- Ear liners _____
- Apply Hide/Skin _____
- Skin Alignment _____
- Sewing _____
- Finishing _____
- Painting _____
- Base Work _____
- Antler Attachment _____
- Attachment to Base _____

**MICHIGAN TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION
CONVENTION & COMPETITION REGISTRATION**

Pre-registration for competition entry must be postmarked by March 1, 2020 to receive pre-registration price of \$15.00, later entries will be charged \$25.00.

Membership and registration fees must be paid in order to attend convention seminars.

Make checks payable to Michigan Taxidermist Association and mail to: Kathy Proctor, 11784 Winfield Rd., Jonesville, Michigan 49250.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

I certify that I mounted and finished my entries unassisted, and I agree to enter all mounts at my own risk.

Signature: _____

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE CHECKED IN AT REGISTRATION BY 9:00PM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020

ALL ENTRIES MUST REMAIN IN THE SHOW ROOM UNTIL 5:00PM SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020

COMPLETE FORM WITH DESCRIPTION OF DIVISION, CATEGORIES & AWARDS ON PREVIOUS PAGES

*****2020 SPECIAL*** ENTER 2 MOUNTS GET 3RD MOUNT FREE (excludes habitat)*****

DIVISION	CATEGORY	CHECK IF ENTERING HABITAT? ADD ENTRY TO NEXT LINE	SPECIES	ELIGIBLE FOR:							FEE
				COMMEMORATIVE BUCKS	PRO HIDE PASTE	POLY-TRANSPAR	LIFE-TONE	WALNUT CREEK HARDWOOD	Hilton Eppley Form	2nd to Nature	

TOTAL # OF ENTRIES _____ TOTAL ENTRY FEES \$ _____

Did you receive the Wasco Award for 2020 _____ if so, which state? _____

Are you a United States Military Veteran? _____

(OVER TO COMPLETE REGISTRATION/ENTRY FORM)

Membership and registration must be paid in order to attend convention seminars.

Banquet Dinner – (\$30.00 per person - \$10.00 12 & Under). **You must be signed up by March 10th, 2020** for the banquet. No exceptions. ****There will not be any tickets available at registration OR the night of the event!**

Friday Night Dinner – (\$25.00 per person – \$10.00 12 & Under). **You must be signed up by March 10th, 2020** for the event. No exceptions. ****There will not be any tickets available at registration OR the night of the event!**

**We are required by the hotel to have our numbers for the meals submitted in advance.

TOTAL COSTS DUE

Registration Fee.....\$50.00..... \$ _____

Mount Fees due \$ _____

Banquet Dinner Tickets: **You must be signed up by March 10th, 2020** for the banquet.

Number of Tickets _____ x \$30.00..... \$ _____

_____ x \$10.00 12 & Under..... \$ _____

Friday Night Dinner Tickets: **You must be signed up by March 10th, 2020** for the event.

Number of Tickets _____ x \$25.00..... \$ _____

_____ x \$10.00 12 & Under..... \$ _____

Membership Dues (if not already renewed) \$45.00..... \$ _____

I would like to make a donation to the MTA Dream Maker Mounts Program:

\$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed..... \$ _____

Now accepting Visa/MC for your convenience!

Card Number _____ Exp Date _____ 3 Digit Code _____

**MICHIGAN TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Website URL: _____

New _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Annual Dues (membership Jan – Dec) \$45.00 (Now accepting Visa/MC)

I would like to make a donation to the MTA's Dream Maker Mounts Program \$ _____

Card Number _____ Exp Date _____ 3 Digit Code _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Children (18 & Under – please list names and DOB's)

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____

All information and upcoming events pertaining to our organization can be found at:

www.michigantaxidermist.com

Check us out on Facebook

**Michigan Taxidermist Association
c/o Membership Coordinator
Kathy Proctor
11784 Winfield Rd.
Jonesville, Michigan 49250
kathy@jpriverbendtaxidermy.com**



DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

