

# Nebraska State Taxidermists Association



## 40th Annual Competition

**June 13-16, 2024**

**Quality Inn & Riverside Convention Center,**

**265 33rd Ave, Columbus, NE 68601**

**(402) 564-1492**

**Room Rates: If Booked by May 10th \$105.00 (Be sure to mention NSTA)**

**Early Show Reservation Deadline: June 4th, 2024**

Seminars by award winning Taxidermists,  
Taxidermy Supply Vendors, Auctions, Network with other  
Taxidermists, Raffles & Games, Family Fun, and plenty more.

**Online Registration Available**

**[nebraskastatetaxidermy.org](http://nebraskastatetaxidermy.org)**

### **Vendors**

Ohio Taxidermy Supply

Scenes N' Nature

H-S Panels AK Hangers

G-2 Taxidermy Supply

### **\*Sponsors\***

Nelson Butcher Shop ~ Matuska Taxidermy Supply

John Willer ~ Bill Harmon

Safari Club International ~ Pizza Ranch

Whitetails Unlimited ~ Ted Nugent

Deer Meadows Outfitters ~ Mike Sisson

Plus many more

## **Judges:**

**Randy Holler– Birds:** Randy is our bird judge this year. Randy is a great person to be around, and highly talented as a bird taxidermist, most recently winning Best In World Bird. Randy is excited to be at our show, and will be doing a seminar on reference interpretation, and how to apply it to your mounts.

**Mark Gonnering– Whitetails:** We are privileged to have Mark as our whitetail judge this year. Mark travels from Wisconsin, and his name is synonymous with whitetails. Mark was part of the team of sculptors who made many of the whitetail forms sold by Matuska's. Mark will be doing a hands on seminar on deer ears and eyes.

**Justin Frick– Game Heads and Mammals:** Please welcome Justin back again this year. Justin hails from Casper, Wyoming, where he operates a full time taxidermy shop. Justin is honored to be judging mammals again this year, and will be mounting a mule deer in his seminar.

**Matt Welsh– Fish:** Matt will be judging fish and reptiles this year. Matt is from Kansas, and well known as a first rate fish taxidermist. Matt has recently taken home the honor of Second in World Fish Reproduction. Matt will be showing the detail painting on a walleye.

## **Gun Giveaways! Celebrating NSTA 40th Anniversary:**

One Ruger handgun will be given away in a drawing for all early registrants. Another Ruger handgun will be a prize for the winner of the live mounting competition. Two crickett guns will be given away in a drawing for kids, 12 and under, that are in attendance. One boy and one girl will be drawn.



## **Hands On Seminar:** Whitetail ear

butts and eye setting with Mark Gonnering. \$25 fee. Limited to 10 spots. Please preregister by calling Daryl Keyes at 402-276-1005. Attendees need to bring all supplies.

Observers are free to attend

## **NSTA 40th Anniversary T-shirts**

Watch "Nebraska State Taxidermists Association" Facebook page for a link to order specially made T-shirts celebrating the 40th Year of the NSTA. Different colors and designs will be available to order. Orders will be delivered to the convention.



## Competition Divisions

**Youth** – This division is for children. Anything their little minds and hands can create are welcome. Register these pieces at the registration table, not on the registration form.

**Amateur (18 years old and under)** – This division is for the young novice taxidermist and hobbyist.

**Amateur Adult** – This division is for the adult novice taxidermist and hobbyist.

**Professional** – This division is for the taxidermist engaged in the taxidermy industry for profit.

**Masters** – This division is for the taxidermist who has won 2 “Best of Category” awards at any time in any state, national, or world competition in a particular category or anyone who chooses to compete at the highest level.

**Collective Artist** – This division is for two or more taxidermists who have composed a piece together. They must compete at the level of the highest taxidermist. One ribbon will be given for each award. Ribbons may be purchased for the other taxidermists on the team. *Not* eligible for Best of Category, Best of Show, Competitor’s Award, or WASCO awards.

**Commercial** – This division is for *any mount from any category and any skill level*. Mounts will be reviewed from a slight distance and no flashlights will be used. One ribbon per mount will be awarded. Mounts entered in this division *are not* eligible for any other awards.

**Challenge of the Art** – This year’s challenge will be any **Possum**. All mounts will be given the same consideration by the judges regardless of division. The highest scoring mount out of all of the **Possum** entries from this category will be the award winner. This year’s award winner will choose the 2023 challenge species. Mounts entered in this challenge are also eligible for all other ribbons and awards.

**Avian Challenge**– Rules are the same as Challenge of the art. This year’s challenge is **Specklebelly Goose**.

**Best All Around Taxidermist**– Must do a bird, fish or reptile, game head or deer head, and a life-size, highest cumulative score will be the award winner.

**Competitor’s Award**– 2 divisions Master’s or Professional, highest accumulative score of 4 mounts, all must be in Master’s or Professional.

## Categories

**Bird**– any non-waterfowl bird; permits must accompany protected species.

**Waterfowl**– any waterfowl; permits must accompany protected species.

**Turkey**– any turkey.

**Fish**– any fish with actual skin; cast head and artificial fins allowed.

**Whitetails**– whitetail deer shoulder or half-lifesize only.

**Game heads**– all game heads including mule deer; excluding whitetail deer; including half-lifesizes; no rugs.

**Life-size Mammals (amateur categories)**–any mammal.

**Small Life-size Mammals (pro & master)**– any mammal coyote size and smaller.

**Large Life-size Mammals (pro & master)**– any mammal larger than a coyote.

**Reptiles**– any reptile.

**Reproductions**– any medium other than skin mounted taxidermy; commercial and self-made reproductions will be accepted; including acrylic, fiberglass, bronze, and woodcarving.

**Live Mounting Competition**– 3 hours will be provided for each competitor to put a mount together. Skin and form may be prepped, and form may have replacement nose attached, ear butts sculpted, etc. Eyes must be set and ear liners glued in during the competition. A short amount of time will be allowed the next day for final grooming, and then mounts will be moved to the competition room for voting. First, second, and third place will be awarded based on a vote of your peers.

## NSTA Point System

All ribbons (except the commercial division) will be awarded based on the following point system:

<b>First</b>	<b>90-100</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>80-89</b>
<b>Third</b>	<b>70-79</b>

*For a full list and qualifications for each award offered at the NSTA show, please contact Daryl Keyes*



# Schedule

## Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

1:00pm-2:00pm

2:00pm-8:00pm

## Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

7:00am-10:00am

8:00am

10:00am-12:00pm

11:00am-5:00pm

1:00pm-3:00pm

2:00pm

3:00pm-5:00pm

5:30pm-6:30pm

7:00pm-10:00pm

7:30 pm-8:30pm

## Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

8:00am-10:00am

9:00am-5:00pm

10:00am-12:00pm

12:00pm-1:00pm

1:00pm-2:00pm

1:00pm-4:00pm

1:00pm-4:00pm

4:00pm

2:30pm-4:30pm

5:30pm-6:15pm

6:15pm-7:00pm

7:00pm-10:00pm

After Banquet

10:00pm-11:00pm

## Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

8:00am-9:30am

8:00am-10:00am

8:00am-10:00am

10:00am

Vendor and Competition Room set-up

Registration open

Registration & entries accepted for competition.

Competition Room closes; Entries placed by committee after this

**Seminar 1– Emily Woltemath-** “Bird Prep and Mounting”

Vendor Room Open

**Seminar 2– Matt Welsh-** “Detail Painting Walleye”

Silent Auction open

**Seminar 3– Randy Holler-** “In depth Reference Interpretation”

Picnic- Everyone is welcome. **Free to all Attendees**

**Seminar 4– Live Mounting Competition w/Calcutta**

**Live auction–** Selling most forms & smaller items

**Seminar 5– Scenes N’ Nature-** “Habitat”

Vendor Room open

**Seminar 6– Mark Gonnering–** “Eyes and Ears” hands on

Competition Room open for Competitor’s Choice voting

**Seminar 7– F3 Displays–** “A New Way to Detach Antlers”

Show Room open to public

Competition Room Open for Critiques

Silent Auction Closes

**Seminar 8– Justin Frick-** “Mounting a Mule Deer”

Social time

Banquet

Awards presentation and auction

Pictures taken of mounts with ribbons/awards and Taxidermists

Competition Room open

Business meeting– Everyone is welcome to attend. Elected officials announced.

Competition Room open for critiquing

Vendor Room open

Mounts are released

**Note: Time change for entry deadlines!** If you want to place your mount in the showroom, you must come Thursday afternoon/evening. Judges will begin at 8 on Friday, and mounts will be placed by committee members.



Challenge of the Arts this  
year is an **Opossum**



Avian Challenge is **Speckle Belly**

# Scholarships

**Nebraska State Taxidermy Scholarship: (\$500)** The NSTA Scholarship is sponsored by John Willer, and the NSTA. It will be awarded to the best candidate and is chosen by the Executive Board. Fill out the application, which is available for download on the NSTA website or on Facebook, to tell why you would like to receive the scholarship. The Scholarship money must be used within 1 year, before the next annual convention. The money will be paid directly to the instructor/class that you wish to attend, immediately prior to your class. Use of scholarship money is up to the discretion of the executive board members and may be denied at any time. Deadline for submitting an application to the NSTA for the Scholarship is June 13th, before registration closes.

**Justin Suurvarik Scholarship (\$250.00)** “I created The Justin Suurvarik Memorial Scholarship to help any taxidermist who would like to attend a class to better their skills and advance the art of taxidermy. Justin was about the art of taxidermy. He did not like looking at a ‘dead fish on a stick’, but a fish that showed movement and was artistic in the mount. He was primarily a fish and reptile taxidermist, but was branching out to learn game heads when he died. When I choose a winner for the scholarship, I want to know who you are, what you want to learn, the class you hope to attend, and above all read the passion for taxidermy in your words. It does not need to be a long letter but could be a short paragraph, just include the things mentioned above. The scholarship is worth \$250, and will be paid through the association to the class of your choice. Thank you for allowing me to continue to honor Justin in this way.”

**Jennifer Suurvarik**

Justin Suurvarik Scholarship expires in 1 year at the next year’s show. Submit your applications to Daryl at the address below.



## Questions?

**Daryl Keyes**

**29497 205th Ave**

**Columbus, NE, 68601**

**darylkeyes93@gmail.com**

**402-276-1005**

**[www.nebraskastatetaxidermy.org](http://www.nebraskastatetaxidermy.org)**

**Facebook:**

**Nebraska State Taxidermist Association**

