



WATA NEWS LETTER

Distributed 3 times per year: June—December and Pre convention

Our mission

The Wyoming Association of Taxidermy Artists, a non-profit organization, will help to increase public awareness of quality taxidermy, raise the standards of taxidermy through its annual competition, increase the knowledge of its members through educational seminars and form a camaraderie between taxidermists statewide.

WATA Officers

President—Justin Frick
307-455-3549

Vice President—David
Hrabovsky
307 778 2051

Secretary—Susan Orcutt
307-360-7337

Treasurer—Rusty Bell
307 660 7412

Directors

Steve Marrou
307 587 4863

Nate Winterland
307 750 2495

Jarrad Blair
307 340 0092

Tate Follett
970-846-5908

Jeremy Lucas
307-461-2250

Wade Stoll
307-331-8249

President's Letter

Well, it's getting that time of the year again for the annual competition and dinner. We are hoping to see all of you that have supported us in the past, and hopefully some new faces as well. We have a great lineup of judges this year, and are going to implement some changes to our show layout this year in hope of streamlining the process a little cleaner. As always we will be having a members meeting Friday morning of the show please try to attend this meeting as the future of the show is in need of help, and new ideas. Our Wyoming Challenge this year is an Antelope (pronghorn), so hopefully we can stack some antelope in this show. We have decided this year to change the social hour up a bit, there will be beverages, and food, as well as the showroom being opened up before to allow for taxidermist choice voting. Hope to see you all there...

Justin Frick



Secretary Notes

The winter meeting was via conference call on January 11th, 2020. Present were Justin Frick, Rusty Bell, Susan Orcutt, Wade Stoll and Lynn Stewart. Justin started the meeting. Justin informed us about what judges we would have and said he has been contacting them for their Bio info and what seminars they would be doing. Rusty said the city of Casper has been in contact with him about the Western Regionals and he would give them Justin's phone number if we wanted to proceed. I was suggested that we purchase beer mugs and sell them during the show and have a keg of beer. If mugs are purchase they will have unlimited beer at the show. Susan said she had the keg set up and the banquet. The banquet will be prime rib with sides and dessert. Susan also has some food set up for social hour. It was mentioned that we would like social hour to include more activities. Justin suggested that we vote for taxidermist choice at that time. Susan suggest getting in some vendors during the public showing. It was mentioned to keep it small and only vendors that relate to hunting fishing ect. Wade suggested that we reach out to game and fish so they could talk to taxidermists about CWD and how to help watch for it. Wade will contact his Game and Fish warden and Susan will reach out to Pinedale. Susan has been working with the city of Pinedale and they will be reaching out to other towns to advertise the show. The Pinedale tourism board will be adding an award. They city will also be reaching out to our congressmen along with Lynn Stewart. Lynn suggested we find another sponsor for the best base. It was suggested that we reach out to Ken with Rustic Creations. Susan has already spoke with WYOGA and will contact Muley Fanatics for award. Justin has already spoke with Mckenzie, Matuska, Trufitt. Mckenzie has said they plan to come to show as a vendor. Lynn had contacted SCI, Senators, Rmef, ect. Justin suggest we also do a vendor appreciation lunch on Friday. Susan Second. Susan had already ordered the belt buckles from Montana Silversmith and we upgraded them from last year.. We need to remind people to bring ideas were to have show next year along with bids. Susan will be getting plywood and hinges for another back board. We also will need to get fabric for divider for judging. Susan will order more ribbons. Lynn will MC again this year. Reminder Rusty and David are up for re-election this year!

We are looking for bids for the show next year! If you want it in your town please bring info to the business meeting Friday morning April, 24th

Mckenzie ad here

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ALUM
801 Rice Street
Leslie MI 49251

Matuska ad here

Judges Profiles

Bill Neuman

Bill Neuman returned to Minnesota after 4 years in the USMC in 1994. He started doing taxidermy in 1996 part time for 7 years, then full time for 2. He then moved his family to Bismarck, ND to work for Dakota Taxidermy, where he has been employed for the past 15 years. Bill enjoys the outdoors, he grew up hunting, fishing, and trapping all over Minnesota. He started competing in 2000 and has won many top awards. To his credit he has over 20 BOC, 9 Best of Shows(1 National), 6 Wasco's, Taxidermist of the Year, Competitor's Choice Award at World, 1- 3 rd in World, 3- 2 nd in World and 2 World Titles (large game heads and Lifesize). He also recently clinched his third Gold medallion this past year with 1st place Carl E. Akeley Award at this past World Taxidermy Championship. Bill has signed on with McKenzie Taxidermy Supply as a sculptor and had added some new products this past year and looks forward to adding to his line of Neuman-nikins. He has judged ND, MN, SD, WI, NB, IA, New England, MT, MO, OR, TX, OK, UT, and Nationals. He looks forward to coming to your show, meeting new people and assisting you with anything he can, so don't be afraid to ask.

Scott Humble - Springville, Utah

My fascination with the art of taxidermy began as a young boy at the age of 12 through the JW Elwood supply company correspondence course. I entered my first taxidermy competition at the age of 17 and have been an active competitor ever since. I believe participation in taxidermy conventions and competitions has helped me reach my potential as a taxidermy artist. I have been fortunate to meet so many talented and inspiring people over the years through my association with different taxidermy organizations. I believe the more you know how to do yourself, the more successful you will be as a competitor and taxidermy businessman. I like teaching others and helping them to improve their skills. I am an All-Around Taxidermist and enjoy all aspects of taxidermy and have had some success competing at State, Regional, National, and World competitions.

Our family has a small farm where we keep game birds, waterfowl, exotic pheasants and a small herd of fallow deer. I am blessed to have a supportive wife, Jenny , who encourages me to do what I love to do and loves wildlife and the outdoors as much as I do.



Raffle tickets for this Smoker Grill
available at the show
\$5 each or 6 for \$20. Other items
will also be drawn for.

Winner will be announced after the
show!

Vendors

Trufitt Life Forms Call Bill at 801 973 2455 for any supplies you might need. No shipping and show discounts apply!!

Rustic Creations: custom bases and panels, specializing in real barn wood.

Rendezvous Rugging: All your rugging needs.

Mckenzie Taxidermy Supply.

Important Tidbits

*****Early Registration*** by April 11th, 2020**

Banquet tickets

You must present your banquet tickets for admittance to the awards banquet. This is necessary for an accurate count and to be eligible for door prizes.

Name Badges

Wear your name badges when at the show. Please return badges after the show

Please try to bring 3 items for the auction.

Wyoming Challenge: Pronghorn Shoulder or Pedestal.

Registration forms on wyoata.com

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF TAXIDERMISTRY ARTISTS



RUSTIC CREATIONS AD. You have file

Competition categories and Divisions

Each participant may have three entries in each of the following nine categories of taxidermy art

Game Heads: All shoulder mounts including horned, antlered, or predatory. Includes half Lifesize. No Rugs

Pronghorn game head: All pronghorn antelope shoulder and half Lifesize mounts

Small mammals: Coyote size or smaller. Babies from this species will be included

Large mammals: All hoofed species and large predators. Babies from this species will be included

Bird: Any single bird mount

Bird Group: Any combination of two or more birds

Fish: All single skin mounted fish. Artificial fins and heads permitted.

Fish Group: Any combination of two or more skin mounted fish. Artificial fins and heads permitted.

Reproduction: Any reproduction fish or reptile

Sculpting and original art: Any medium. Fiberglass, wood, bronzes, or another media.

Anyone may enter any division however, any taxidermist who, in the past has won 2 "Best of Categories" at any State, National, or world competition must move to the higher division in that category.

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Competition Rules

1. All competitors must be current WATA members
2. Any mount entered in the WATA competition cannot have been entered in any past Wyoming Taxidermy Show.
3. No freeze dried entries accepted. (turkey heads and antlers in velvet are exceptions)
4. All entries must be totally done by the competitor un assisted.
5. The competition area will be closed to all the competitors during the judging.
6. Protected species must be accompanied by the permits through the show.
7. Distasteful entries will not be allowed.
8. Ribbons will be awarded on a point system basis, i.e. if enough points are accumulated to warrant a blue, red or white ribbon.
9. Mounts entered into the show are done at the owner's risk. Security will be provided for the displays. The Wyoming Association of Taxidermy Artists will not be held responsible for any damages.
10. The decisions of the judges are final! Discourteous behavior toward judges or officials will not be tolerated.
11. Entries in cases must have a removable top and sides to allow for judging.
12. After judging has been completed and the display area open business cards may be displayed next to each entry.
13. When judging mounts, extra credit may be given for the use of an original form
14. No frills added to the backboards

Scoring and Awards

The Wyoming Association of Taxidermy Artists will be using NTA score sheets for our competition. The competition entries will be scored on their mechanical soundness, craftsmanship and anatomical accuracy with bonus points given for difficulty and originality. At the time of the registration the participant can decide if they want the habitat with the mount scored. A good habitat score can improve an overall score and a low score can hurt the mount's overall score. Having the habitat scored is up to the participant. Points earned by NTA members at this competition will go toward their NTA Award of Excellence.

Competition Divisions

Masters: This is the highest level of competition. This is for the taxidermist who wishes to compete at the most technically correct, artistically oriented and creative level.

Professional: This division is for the taxidermist who is engaged in normal professional level taxidermy

Novice: This division is for the beginner taxidermist just starting out with emphasis on teaching them the standards expected in today's taxidermy industry.

Scoring Breakdown

Masters: 92-100 First Place, 86-91 Second Place, 76-85 Third Place

Professional: 90-100 First Place, 80-89 Second Place, 70-79 Third Place

Novice: 85-100 First Place, 75-84 Second Place, 65-74 Third Place

Major Awards

Participants can earn first, second, or third place ribbons on their entry depending on the score of the mount. The "Best of Division" award will go to the highest scoring blue ribbon in each of the different categories Montana Silversmith belt buckles in Masters and Professional. Other awards include People's Choice, Judges Choice, Taxidermists Choice, The Wyoming Challenge, Polytanspar, and the Wasco Award. In addition there will be several sponsored awards including , Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for "best game head", WYOGA, Dubois Anglers and Wildlife Group for Best fresh water fish, Dubois Outfitters and guides for best predator, Muley Fanatics best Mule Deer. Mayors Choice, Sublette County tourism Award, Most Outstanding Migratory Bird and Upland Bird by Bear and Wood. Best custom Base from Rustic Creations, Matuska competitors award, Breakthrough Award, Pro 1, Other awards may be added after the news letter goes to print.

Show Agenda

Thursday, April 23rd, 2020

9:00 AM-12:00 PM SET UP!! Volunteers needed!!

12:00 PM-6:00 PM Registration Set Up

7:00 PM Social Time: Vote for Taxidermist Choice, Buy a Beer Mug and Drink all the beer you want for free and during show. Great Food and Fun Visit and Games. 7:00 PM till ?? **Displays closed to judging at 7:45 p.m.**

Friday, April 24th, 2020

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Business Meeting *Need Bids for next years show. Vice President and Treasurer up for election

10:30 AM to 11:30 AM Wyoming Game and Fish CDW Awareness how Taxidermist can help battle CWD!!. *You are highly encouraged to Attend.*

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM Lunch in Vendor Area: Free Lunch Vendor Appreciation. Support the Vendors

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM Seminar. Ross Richard Mounting a Pronghorn start to finish

DISPLAY AREA CLOSED UNTIL AFTER THE BANQUET

6:00 PM Cocktail Hour (Rendezvous Point)

7:00 PM Banquet Dinner and Awards, Silent Auction.

Banquet will be Prime Rib with sides and Dessert. Cash Bar.

Will move to Ice Arena after Banquet & Awards to see ribbons and scores

*****No ball caps please. *****

Show Agenda

Saturday, April 25th, 2020

8:00 AM– 4:00 P.M. Open to the Public. Peoples Choice Critiques

8:30 AM-11:30 AM **Bill Nueman** How to alter a mannequin.

12:00 Am-2:00 PM **Scott Humble** Casting and finishing techniques using a variety of materials and paint mediums

2:00 PM– 4:00 PM **Tracey Jacobson** How to mount a competition Mule Deer.

4:30 Tear down, **Volunteers needed to load trailer.**



Montana Silversmith Belt Buckles. Masters and Professional, Best of Division

When you purchase a **WATA** Beer Mug at the show, you will be entered in a drawing for gift cards. Also unlimited beer fills from the Keg during the show.



2020 WATA Registration Form April 23rd thru 25th, 2020

Name _____

Spouse and children if attending: _____

Business name: _____

Address: _____

Phone _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email: _____

Competition Fees

Entries received by April 11th. Includes WATA membership, seminars and entries:	\$125.00	\$ _____
After April, 11th, 2020	\$175.00	\$ _____
Lifetime WATA members	\$100.00	\$ _____
After April 11th, 2020	\$150.00	\$ _____
Wyoming Challenge (Pronghorn Shoulder or Pedestal).....	\$15.00	\$ _____
Best All Around Taxidermist	\$10.00	\$ _____
Competitors Award (50% return to winner)	\$10.00	\$ _____
After 5 Mounts there is \$10 Charge for each Mount..... @	\$10.00	\$ _____
Family Fee (If family wants to attend Seminars or enter pieces)	\$50.00	\$ _____

AWARDS BANQUET :

ADULTS	QTY	CHILDREN (6-17)	QTY	CHILDREN (5-UNDER)	QTY	
\$35.00	_____	\$17.50	_____	FREE	_____	\$ _____
<u>Total Due</u>						<u>\$ _____</u>

MOUNTS ENTERED

Species	Description	Category	Division
ex—whitetail deer	Table mount/ Wall	Game Head, Bird, ect	Master, Prof, Novice, ect

*******Please specify beside entry if eligible for Polytranspar award (PT)*******

Signed _____

I certify that the above entries were mounted and finished by me unassisted:

<p><u>Mail to:</u> Rusty Bell 347 Cook Road Gillette , WY 82716</p>	<p><u>To Pay with a Credit Card</u> Call Susan at 307-367-2390 Rusty at 307-660-7412</p>
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Wyoming Association of Taxidermy Artists By-Laws (Revised April, 2013)

I. The official name of the organization shall be the "Wyoming Association of Taxidermy Artists" and shall be referred to as the W.A.T.A. as established on March 31, 1989

II. Purpose:

- A. To form a group of quality minded taxidermists whose main goal is to improve the quality of taxidermy within Wyoming
- B. To educate fellow taxidermists and the public about the art of taxidermy
- C. To actively participate in the governmental legislation process affecting the taxidermy industry
- D. To assist members of the WATA and the general public in their understanding of the Federal and State Fish and Game laws.
- E. To accept funds as shall be necessary to carry out the purpose of the WATA
- F. To set goals yearly for the association.

III. Membership

Open to all licensed taxidermists within the State of Wyoming. Out of state taxidermists need not be licensed in Wyoming to become a member.

Associate membership:

Open to all non-licensed individuals (employees of taxidermists, hobbyists, suppliers and the general public) . The associate member is a non-voting member with competition rights.

Membership termination: (amended and added April 2013 at the general meeting)

Members of the Wyoming association of taxidermy artists are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with State and Federal game laws. Any member convicted of a willful flagrant violation of any state or federal game law violation or engaged in other conduct that sheds a bad light on the Wyoming Association of Taxidermy Artists shall have their membership in the association terminated. In the event such action becomes necessary, an executive session shall be convened either in person or via live feed conference to determine the facts of the situation. Based on the facts the issue shall then be decided by vote at the annual business meeting. Any membership dues paid by the expelled person shall not be refundable.

IV. Membership fees, dues and duration

A charter membership period and fee of \$20.00 will close on May 20, 1989. New memberships will be \$25.00 per year with a renewal of the same. Affiliate memberships

will be \$25.0 per year with the renewal of the same. The membership year will be January 1-December 31. Dues may increase at the discretion of WATA membership.

V. Administration board and terms of office

- A. Offices: President, Vice-president, Secretary, Financial Secretary/Treasurer
- B. Term of office and election procedure:

President: Two year term, elected by the general membership. Obtain judges and some awards.

Vice-president: Two year term, elected by the general membership. Convention sites and suppliers and vendors

Secretary: Two year term, elected by the general membership. Duties to include head of newsletter committee and general correspondence/convention

Financial Secretary/Treasurer: Two year term, elected by the general membership. duties to include membership list, convention records etc.

Board of Directors : Appointed by the president. Duties to include special awards and all other duties assigned.

*** Each "year term" will run from the date of the annual meeting to the date of the following annual meeting on staggering years.

C. Nominations by members not at yearly business meeting would be allowed and vote casting also.

D. An individual must be an active member for one year prior to election, to be allowed to run for office.

VI. Meetings

An annual meeting of WATA will be held in conjunction with a series of educational seminars and a formal taxidermy art show and competition. The date and time of this yearly meeting will vary from year to year, but it will usually be during the spring or summer. Additional meetings of the officers will be held as necessary, by phone, email or in person.

ACCOMODATIONS



Sundance Motel 148 east pine street

www.sundancemotelwy.com

307-367-4789

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Wyoming Taxidermy competition prices.

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Wyoming Taxidermy Association rate is \$65.00 per night plus tax. Cancellation policy is 24 hours advanced noticed or one night stay will be charged.



1. Call the Hampton Inn & Suites directly at 307-367-6700
2. Choose option "0" to speak to our front desk.
3. Request a room in the Wyoming Taxidermy Block or Group Code C-WYT.
4. Choose an available room type.
5. Provide a credit card guarantee and receive a confirmation number.
6. All reservations in this block need to be book by 4/11/20 and have a 48 hour cancellation policy.

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Annual membership \$25.00

Send to: Rusty Bell

347 Cook Road

Life membership \$300.00

Gillette, Wy 82716

Vendors List	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	COMPANY	PHONE
Bill Bauman	1744 S. Redwood Rd	Salt lake City	UT	84104	Truffitt	801-973-2455
Christine Crowel	PO Box 480	Granite Quarry	NC	28072	McKenzie	800-279-7985
Travis Gregg	737 Jackson Rd	Blanchard	MI	49310	Wildlife Gallery	989-772-4100
John & Nikki McFerran	351 Scott Street	Billings	MT	59101	B&L Scales	406-248-4531
Tom Mastuska	3735 Highway 71	Spirit Lake	IA	51360	Matuska Taxidermy	712-336-3256
Trophies Unlimited	P.O. Box 417	Buffalo	Wy	82837	Trophies Unlimited Taxidermy	(307) 684-9018
Ken Conley	PO Box 1897	Lander	Wy	82520	Rustic Creations	307-330-6672
Nick	315 W. Sherman St.	Lebanan	Or	97355	Research	

Members list here



Susan Orcutt
PO Box 2206
Pinedale, Wy 82941

«name»
«address»
«city» «state» «zip code»