



## OHIO TAXIDERMY CHAMPIONSHIPS RULES OF COMPETITION

1. Every precaution will be made to secure the entries. All entries are at owner's risk. Though security will be provided, The Ohio Taxidermists Association (OTA) does not assume responsibility for any losses incurred. This includes, but is not limited to: fire, theft, accidents, personal injury and/or natural disasters.
2. The OTA reserves the right to restrict from open viewing any entry deemed inappropriate or detrimental to the image of taxidermy or hunting. All such entries will be scored privately and entrant will be furnished with the score.
3. Absentee participants must pay registration fees and all applicable entry fees.
4. The number of entries per category is unlimited; however you cannot enter the same category in two separate divisions except for the commercial division. Once you win two Best of Category ribbons, you must move up to the next division in that category. It takes a blue ribbon to win best of category.
5. Endangered/protected species need proper permits and paperwork WITH THE MOUNT to be entered. Birds of Prey and songbirds are permitted with proper paperwork. NO Exceptions.
6. The competition area may be closed during judging, except for the competition committee.
7. Any infraction of the rules will result in disqualification of the entry and forfeiture of any awards and fees.
8. Any competitor who exhibits behavior deemed abusive towards any Judge, committee member, or OTA member or family will result in disqualification of the entry and forfeiture of any awards and entry fees.
9. Questions arising from the OTA competition will be resolved by the competition committee. Their decision is final!
10. Reference pictures are allowed, limit three per entry.
11. No mount can be entered in the Ohio Taxidermy Championships/OTA Competition more than once. Mounts previously winning World and/or National **TITLES** are NOT ELIGIBLE to be entered. EXCEPTION: World & National Champion entries CAN be entered in Master of Masters IF the competitor meets all of the other requirements of this award.
12. Entries in cases must have removable tops and sides for judging.
13. Entries will be held for display for the duration of the show.
14. Any mount will be deemed ineligible if too many of the judging criteria are hidden from view or not included on the mount (i.e. single duck head coming out of a hole in a tree).
15. Any juvenile species (coyote or smaller) will be judged in the small mammal category.
16. Any names, photos or logos that may reveal a competitors entry must be omitted or covered securely.
17. Complaints shall be brought to the Competition Committee, **NOT Judges**. Re-judge fee is \$50.
18. You must show your mount I.D. receipt to claim your mounts. DO NOT LOSE THIS RECEIPT! Entries may be made at posted times and cannot be removed before posted times. Any entry not claimed will be left unattended.
19. The above rules are a general overview of the competition rules. The OTA reserves the right to review and amend these rules at any time deemed necessary.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

The Ohio Taxidermy Championships will be open to all OTA members in good standing. Awards progress by division.

## **JUDGING**

1. Judges for the OTA will be selected by the OTA advisory board.
2. Each judge will score each entry separately on an approved competition score sheet. Entries will be given a score of 90-100 First Place; 80-89 Second Place; 70-79 Third Place; 60-69 Honorable mention. Some Special Awards may be selected by criteria other than totally by score.
3. No judge will be allowed to enter a mount in the competition. Judges family may enter, but not in the category the judge is judging.

## **SPECIAL AWARDS**

The OTA will make every effort to have listed awards available at the show, HOWEVER we do not guarantee corporately sponsored awards will be available at every OTA Competition. In some cases additional sponsored awards may be added.

Entries in some Divisions may not be eligible for some of the special awards as determined by OTA officials and/or judges.

### **MASTERS STATE CHAMPION MEDALLIONS**

One award in each of the following categories: (Must score 90 or more points)

Bird, Fish, Mammal, Gamehead, Whitetail, Reptile

### **COLLECTIVE ARTISTS AWARD**

One "Collective Artists Award", chosen by the judges from all of the Collective Artist entries.

Entries may be in any of the categories and can be single or group pieces. Groups can be mixed categories

### **BEST PROFESSIONAL AWARDS**

One "BEST" in Bird, Fish, Mammal, Gamehead, Whitetail and Reptile. (Must score 90 or more points)

### **BEST ALL AROUND**

Competitor must enter FOUR pieces – 1 gamehead, 1 fish (or reptile) 1 life size mammal and 1 bird. Pieces will be judged collectively by all four judges. Scores do not apply.

### **WASCO AWARD**

Most artistic entry picked by all of the judges. Criteria: Exhibition of Taxidermy skill, artistic merit.

### **VAN DYKE AWARD**

Most original and creative entry, picked by all of the judges

### **ED PIASKOWSKI - PERFECTION OF DESIGN AWARD**

A mount in any category exhibiting excellent taxidermy, extreme attention to detail and using ALL(or nearly all) self made components including habitat. Scores do not apply. Chosen by the judges.

### **BREAKTHROUGH AWARD**

Judges Choice Best of Show

### **TAXIDERMY TODAY- WOODY AWARD**

Chosen by judges for Excellence in Taxidermy

### **PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE AWARD**

Chosen by OTA President, scores do not apply.

To be eligible for this award, entry must meet the theme pre-specified by the OTA President.

Entry can be in any Division and is eligible for other awards

### **POLYTRANSPAR AWARD**

Judges Choice fish using Polytranspar Paint

### **BEST HABITAT**

Chosen by judges

### BEST AMATEUR ENTRY

Chosen by judges

### HILTON EPPLEY AWARD

Highest scoring mount on a Hilton Eppley Award

### McKENZIE TAXIDERMISTS CHOICE

Bird, fish, mammal and whitetail voted on by attending taxidermists

### PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Bird, fish, mammal, gamehead, and reptile voted on by all convention attendees

### LADIES CHOICE

Voted on by female attendees only

### DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Voted on by the OTA BOD from all of the entries. OTA Board members not eligible

### DIRECTOR'S AWARD

Best mount entered by an OTA board member by vote of OTA Board

### ART LEDGER PHEASANT AWARD

Highest scoring pheasant.

### STARFISH AWARD

Best Reproduction Fish

### COMPETITORS AWARD

Participants in the Ohio Taxidermy Championships who enter **four or more mounts** in the Professional or Masters Divisions can register to also compete for the Competitors Awards.

-An additional entry fee is required to participate. All fees are as indicated on the OTA Registration/Membership form. To compete for the Competitors Awards all applicable fees must be paid.

- Unlike the "Best All Around" competition, the entries may be from any of the typical categories listed in the rules except Freeze Dry. The competing entries are not limited to being in four different categories, but may be in as many categories or as few categories as the competitor chooses, as long as a minimum of four mounts are entered. If a competitor enters more than four mounts, the four highest scoring mounts will be added to determine a total score.

- Entries may not be split between Professional and Masters Divisions and a competitor may not register for this award in both divisions. The competitor may still choose to enter additional mounts in the other division but scores for the Competitors Award will be counted only in the division he/she registered for this award.

-A 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place cash award will be made in each division as follows: 1<sup>ST</sup> \$200, 2<sup>ND</sup> \$150, 3<sup>RD</sup> \$100

## **CATEGORIES AND BEST OF CATEGORY AWARDS**

### **FISH**

WARM WATER FISH (bass, pike, crappie, etc.)

COLD WATER FISH (trout, salmon, catfish, salt water)

REPRODUCTIONS (Commercial Replicas allowed in the professional division. Masters MUST be original work.)

### **MAMMALS**

SMALL MAMMAL (coyote or smaller)

LARGE MAMMAL (bigger than a coyote)

### **WHITETAILS**

WHITETAIL DEER CLOSED MOUTH

WHITETAIL DEER OPEN MOUTH (Any parting of the lips will be considered open mouth)

### **GAMEHEADS (other than whitetail)**

### **BIRDS**

WATER FOWL

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

NON-GAME BIRDS

## **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS**

**FREEZE DRY** (not eligible for Best Professional or State Champion Medallions.) Entrant must state "Freeze Dry".

**HABITAT** (Habitat category has special category ribbons. Habitats enter in the division of the mount.

**NO LIVE PLANTS ARE PERMITTED IN HABITAT**

## **DIVISIONS**

Entrants choose their division. However, the OTA reserves the right to elevate entries as seen fit.

**JUNIOR** – Multiple 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & Honorable Mention ribbons. No best of category. Open to ages 16 and under. Age will be taken into consideration. Judging will be done by qualified individuals. Critiques will be given.

**COMMERCIAL** – Multiple 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & Honorable Mention ribbons. No best of category. Judging is done at a distance. Judging done by qualified individuals. No critiques will be given, only comment sheets.

**AMATEUR** – Multiple 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & Honorable Mention ribbons. No best of category. The competition committee reserves the right to curve scores if necessary. Judging will be done by qualified individuals.

**PROFESSIONAL** – Multiple 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & Honorable Mention ribbons. One "Best of Category" ribbon awarded per category or sub category as applicable. One "BEST PROFESSIONAL" awarded in each major category. The competition committee reserves the right to curve scores if necessary. Critiques will be given.

**COLLECTIVE ARTISTS**- Single 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbons. The single, BEST piece (as determined by the judges) will receive the "Collective Artists Award". Mount must be done by 2 or more individuals. Judges will choose the winners from all of the entries in the division. (Entries in this division are not eligible for People's Choice, Taxidermists Choice and Breakthrough Awards.)

**MASTERS** – Multiple 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbons. One Best of Category ribbon awarded per category or sub category as applicable. No curve will be applied. Only Masters will be eligible for STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALLIONS. Critiques will be given.

## **MASTER OF MASTERS**

Is open to previous Ohio State Champions ONLY. Each eligible competitor will receive notice.

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