

OHIO TAXIDERMY CHAMPIONSHIPS

AWARDS AND CRITERIA 2023

OHIO TAXIDERMISTS ASSOCIATION SPONSORED

AWARDS:

MASTERS STATE CHAMPION MEDALLIONS

- *One awarded each in Whitetail, Gamehead, Lifesize Mammal, Bird, Fish, and Reptile & Amphibian. There are no restrictions on the use of commercially available products, including fish, reptile, amphibian, etc. reproductions but preference may be given to self-made components as deemed appropriate by the judges. Competitors are encouraged to specify. Must score 90 or more points to be eligible.*

MASTER OF MASTERS AWARD

- *Competitors who have earned Best of Category (or equivalent) in the Masters Division (or equivalent) at a state or regional show are the only individuals eligible to enter this Division. Mounts that have won National, North American, or World Championships/Titles are eligible to enter this Division. Mounts that have been entered previously into the Ohio Taxidermy Championships are eligible to enter this Division. Freeze dried entries are not permitted in this Division. Entries into this Division are not eligible for any other awards at the Ohio Taxidermy Championships.*
- *Voted upon by the Judges and the Master Division Competitors. The winner of this Division receives a prestigious Ohio Master of Masters Award, sculpted by Cary Cochran. All entries in this Division, regardless of species or size, will compete in one combined category. A competitor's entry may have one or multiple mounts on a single display or habitat but shall be voted upon as a singular piece or composition. The competitor's entry, including the habitat shall be the sole work of the competitor. Commercial mannikins, commercial reproduction parts, fish and reptile/amphibian replicas, and commercial habitat components are permitted, but self-made or altered components shall be a consideration based on the "Originality" criteria described later in this section*
- *Judging for this division will consist of a secret ballot for the best entry from each of the judges in the Master Divisions (Whitetail, Gamehead/Lifesize Mammal, Bird, Fish/Reptile & Amphibian, Habitat). Competitors in the Master division will act as an additional judge. Competitors entered in the Master Division will have the opportunity to cast one ballot for their favorite entry in the Master of Masters division. These Master Division competitor's ballots will be tallied and then added to the judge's votes. In the event of a tie, judges will discuss and reevaluate entries until a winner is determined. Scores will not be given for entries in this division and all judges' decisions are final.*



- *Judging/Voting shall be based on the following criteria: 1. Sound taxidermy practices and craftsmanship 2. Artistic merit 3. Originality 4. Composition and design 5. Difficulty of specimen. Entries in this division shall be judged to very high standards. All entries in this division will be displayed as a group in a special area separate from all other mounts and are ineligible for any other awards.*

BEST PROFESSIONAL DIVISION AWARDS

- *One awarded each in Whitetail, Gamehead, Lifesize Mammal, Bird, Fish, and Reptile & Amphibian. Must score 90 or more points to be eligible.*

BEST YOUTH DIVISION AWARDS

- *One awarded each in Whitetail, Gamehead, Lifesize Mammal, Bird, Fish, and Reptile & Amphibian. No minimum score for eligibility.*

BEST HABITAT

- *One awarded in Master, Professional, and Amateur Divisions. There are no restrictions on the use of commercially available products but preference may be given to self-made components as deemed appropriate by the judges. Competitors are encouraged to specify. Must score 90 or more points to be eligible in Master and Professional Divisions; excludes Amateur Division.*

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE AWARD

- *Chosen by the OTA President. Scores do not apply. Entry must meet the theme pre-specified by the OTA President to be eligible. Entry can be in any Division and is eligible for other awards.*

DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

- *Voted upon by the Board of Directors. Active BOD's are not eligible.*

COLLECTIVE ARTISTS AWARD

- *This division will be judged by Master Division standards and should be considered a division for advanced, professional and masters taxidermists. The entries will be judged on craftsmanship and mechanical soundness, anatomical accuracy, artistic merit, and taxidermy knowledge and ability. The mount must be technically strong to be competitive, but composition, design and originality must be a major component also. Original parts or components shall be noted on the entry card. A score of 90 or higher is required to be eligible for first place, 80 or higher for second place, and 70 or higher for third. Chosen by the judges. Competitor must specify to be eligible.*

BEST ALL AROUND



- *Competitor must enter FOUR pieces within the Master and/or Professional Divisions and be comprised of:*
 - *One Whitetail or*
 - *One Gamehead or*
 - *One Bird or*
 - *One Fish or*
 - *One Reptile/Amphibian*
- *Pieces will be judged collectively by all four judges. Scores do not apply. Competitor must specify which entries are applicable. Cash awards and the number of placings will be determined based upon participation.*

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION COMPETITOR AWARD

- *Competitor must enter FOUR pieces in any Category (singly, or in any combination) within the Professional Division. Competitor must specify which entries are applicable. All pieces must score at least 80 points (2nd place) to be eligible for consideration and the cumulative score must be no less than 350 points. If no competitor achieves a cumulative score of 350 points, no award will be presented.*
- *Cash awards and the number of placings will be determined based upon participation. In the event of tied cumulative scores, the OTA Competition Committee reserves the sole right to either determine and split the cash award(s) appropriately and/or consult with the Judges to select the winner(s).*

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

- *One awarded each in Whitetail, Gamehead, Lifesize Mammal, Bird, Fish, and Reptile & Amphibian as voted upon by the public.*

BEST OPEN MOUTH WHITETAIL

- *One awarded in Master and Professional Divisions. Must score 90 or more points to be eligible.*

BEST CLOSED MOUTH WHITETAIL

- *One awarded in Master and Professional Divisions. Must score 90 or more points to be eligible.*

ED PIASKOWSKI PERFECTION IN DESIGN AWARD

- *Awarded to an entry exhibiting excellent taxidermy, extreme attention to detail, and using ALL (or nearly all) self-made components, including habitat. All entries are eligible. Scores do not apply. Chosen by the judges.*

ART LEDGER AWARD FOR BEST PHEASANT

- *Chosen by the judges.*

BEST IN SHOW SCULPTURE



- *Chosen by the judges.*

BEST IN SHOW FLAT ART

- *Chosen by the judges.*

BEST IN SHOW PHOTOGRAPHY

- *Chosen by the judges.*

BEST REPRODUCTION

- *Chosen by the judges. There are no restrictions on the use of commercially available products but preference may be given to self-made components as deemed appropriate by the judges. Competitors are encouraged to specify.*

BEST FREEZE-DRIED AWARD

- *Chosen by the judges. Will be assigned the most appropriate judge as selected by the Competition Committee. Not eligible for Divisional Awards, The Breakthrough Award, The Woody Award, or other awards which specify “taxidermy” within the criteria. Competitor must specify to be eligible.*

CORPORATELY SPONSORED AWARDS:

THE BREATHROUGH AWARD

- *Awarded for Best in Show. Chosen by the judges.*

THE WOODY AWARD

- *Awarded for Excellence in Taxidermy. Chosen by the judges.*

THE WASCO AWARD

- *Awarded to the most artistic entry. Chosen by the judges. Entries that have won The WASCO Award at another competition are not eligible.*

THE ARTISAN AWARD

- *Awarded to the most artistic entry as voted upon by competing taxidermists.*

THE VANDYKE AWARD

- *Awarded to the most original and creative entry. Chosen by the judges.*

THE MOUNTED IN ALASKA AWARD

- *Awarded to an entry that conveys a story. Chosen by the judges.*

BEST PROFESSIONAL ENTRY



- *Awarded to the best entry in the Professional Division. Must score 90 or more points to be eligible. Chosen by the judges.*

BEST AMATEUR ENTRY

- *Awarded to the best entry in the Amateur Division. Chosen by the judges.*

BEST YOUTH ENTRY

- *Awarded to the best entry in the Amateur Division. Age may be taken into consideration. Chosen by the judges.*

NWTF AWARD FOR BEST TURKEY

- *Chosen by the judges.*

TAXIDERMISTS CHOICE AWARDS

- *One awarded each in Whitetail, Gamehead, Lifesize Mammal, Bird, and Fish as voted upon by competing taxidermists.*

THE POLYTRANSPAR AWARD

- *Awarded to the best entry using Polytranspar paints with preference given to Fish and Reptiles & Amphibians. Chosen by the judges. Competitor must specify to be eligible.*

LADIE'S CHOICE AWARD

- *Awarded to the best entry as voted on by the women in attendance at the People's Choice Voting.*

MASTER DIVISION COMPETITOR AWARD

- *Competitor must enter FOUR pieces in any Category (singly, or in any combination) within the Master Division. Competitor must specify which entries are applicable All pieces must score at least 80 points (2nd place) to be eligible for consideration and the cumulative score must be no less than 350 points. If no competitor achieves a cumulative score of 350 points, no award will be presented.*
- *Cash awards and the number of placings will be determined based upon participation. In the event of tied cumulative scores, the OTA Competition Committee reserves the sole right to either determine and split the cash award(s) appropriately and/or consult with the Judges to select the winner(s).*

THE PRO-1 AWARD

- *Awarded to the highest scoring entry using PRO-1 hide paste. Competitor must specify to be eligible.*

THE NRA KEEPING FREEDOM ALIVE AWARD



- *Chosen by the judges.*

THE BUCKEYE AWARD (IN MEMORY OF STEVE WHEELER)

- *Awarded to the best representation of a species currently native to Ohio. Non-native, feral, or naturalized species are not eligible. Chosen by a representative selected by the Competition Committee.*

BEST RE-CREATION & RECONSTRUCTION AWARD

- *Awarded to the best re-creation and/or reconstruction. Will be assigned the most appropriate judge as selected by the Competition Committee. Not eligible for Divisional Awards, The Breakthrough Award, The Woody Award, or other awards which specify “taxidermy” within the criteria. Competitor must specify to be eligible.*

