

# The Illinois Taxidermist Association Convention & Competition

March 16-19, 2023

Northfield Inn Suites

3280 Northfield Drive

Springfield, IL 62702

Reservations: (217) 523-7900

[www.illinoistaxidermist.com](http://www.illinoistaxidermist.com)

Hotel reservations must be made by phone to receive the ITA  
nightly rate of \$108 : Deadline February 19

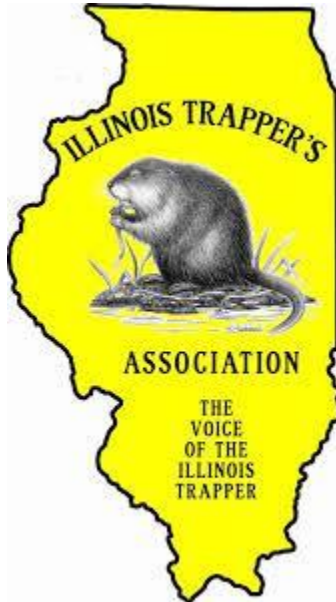


# 2023 Vendors

Rhonda's Ruggery

Larry Dablemont Driftwood

M&R Furs



**2023 Competition Judges**

Jena & Abel  
Everage – Indiana  
Game heads & Mammals



Larry O'Malley -  
Minnesota  
Whitetails



Lowell Shapley –  
Texas  
Birds



Cory Foth – Kansas  
Fish



### **Registration Fees**

Entitle you and your family to all seminars, the general Membership Meeting and free access to the Competition Viewing Area and Suppliers Room.

### **One-Day Pass**

A one-day pass will be offered to those who are unable to attend the Convention for the entire weekend. The day pass shall be issued to an I.T.A. member with current dues paid for a fee of \$25.00 per day, registration fees shall not be charged. This pass shall entitle you to only attend the seminars scheduled for the day the pass is issued.

### **Membership Dues**

Dues are payable at this time (membership year is from March 1<sup>st</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup>). Dues alone do not entitle you to attend seminars, entry to display area or access to Suppliers sales area.

### **Competition Fees**

Competition fees are separate from the dues and registration fees. These fees are payable with registration or on site at the Convention.

### **Hotel Reservations & Banquets**

The host hotel has given the I.T.A. reasonable room rates. We encourage you to stay at the "Host" hotel. There will be a special award dinner Saturday night. Children's meals will be \$5.00. Your decision to stay at the hotel and partake in the evening dinner is important to the I.T.A. Facility charges are based on room reservations and meal attendance. We hope that you keep this in mind when you make your hotel reservations and plan your evening dining.

## **Mount Registration Guidelines**

All entries must be the sole work of a current member and Registered Competitor. Artificial Parts, Original or Purchased are acceptable. If reason-able proof of a violation is established, the person in question may forfeit rights to compete in current competitions and may endanger the possibility of competing in future I.T.A. competitions.

Any mount or previously judged parts (example: cast heads, parts, etc) entered into the I.T.A. competition cannot have been entered into any past I.T.A. show or be a past Best in World, N.A Champion or National Champion winning mount.

Protected species must be accompanied by the permits throughout the show.

Distasteful entries will not be allowed, subject to the discretion of the Judges Committee.

Mounts entered into the show are done at the owner's risk. Display area will be locked when not attended by the I.T.A. members.

Removable covers will be allowed. Covers are to be removed by the owner before judging. This also means that the owner will be responsible for putting the covers back on.

Reference material may be submitted with any entry to substantiate pose, color, etc. All notes and reference cannot identify the competitor.

Mounts must be finished at time of entry. This means completely dry, free of pins, carding, etc.

A final grooming area will be available. Final grooming must be done prior to placing the mount in the competition room. A member of the Competition Committee will then place the mount in the competition show room.

Only the Competition Committee members can be in the judging room with the judges while the judging is in progress.

Any concerns regarding judging will be brought to the attention of the Competition Committee, NOT the judges. The judges' decision is final.

After judging has been completed, business cards may be displayed next to each entry.

There will be no early release of mounts. Special permission will only be granted by the consensus of the Competition Committee in emergencies only.

Any members found violating a competition rule will be subject to the loss of any and all awards and will not be allowed to participate in the next year's competition. No refunds of any kind will be made.

All first place ribbon winners will receive their score sheets after the Awards Banquet.

A competitor may not enter the same category in 2 divisions. For example, (1) whitetail in professional and (1) whitetail in advanced.

## **COMPETITION DIVISIONS**

### **PROFESSIONAL**

Open to any ITA member who is eligible to enter competition and is registered for the convention, except those individuals who are required to compete in the Advanced Division.

### **MASTERS**

Open to any ITA member who is eligible to enter competition and is registered for the convention, wishing to compete in the Masters Division. However, any individual who has previously received three or more blue ribbons and at least one Best of Category Award in a single category at prior ITA competitions is required thereafter to compete in the Masters Division for all mounts entered in that particular category.

### **YOUTH**

Open to any ITA member who is eligible to enter competition and is registered for the convention and is sixteen years of age or younger. There is no entry fee for mounts entered in the Youth Division.

### **COMMERCIAL**

Open to any ITA member who is eligible to enter competition and is registered for the convention.

### **COMBINED**

#### **ARTIST**

Open to any ITA member who is eligible to enter competition and is registered for the convention.

### **FREEZE DRIED**

Open to any ITA member who is eligible to enter competition and is registered for the convention.

## **COMPETITION CATEGORIES**

### **SINGLE FISH**

Warm Water: Bass, Bluegill, Crappie, etc.  
Cold Water: Trout, Salmon

### **SINGLE MAMMAL**

Small: Fox, squirrel and smaller – 16½” or smaller, nose to base of tail, including infants

Medium: Coyote and smaller – beaver, raccoon, fox, etc. 16½ ”-44”, nose to base of the tail, including infants

Large: Larger than a coyote – bear, deer, etc. – 44” or greater, including infants.

Nose to base of tail measurements are given mainly as a guide for categorizing infants for a given species. For example, a fawn with a nose to tail measurement between 16½ ” and 44” would be a medium mammal. Exceptionally large specimens of a given species with a nose to tail measurement of 17” would remain in the small mammal category where the adults would traditionally be. Borderline or close call measurement shall be evaluated and categorized by the judging committee and their decision shall be final.

### **SINGLE BIRD**

Waterfowl: Ducks and geese

Turkey: Any turkey

Upland: Pheasant, quail and grouse

Other: Any non-game species



## **SINGLE**

### **GAMEHEAD**

Whitetail: Any whitetail game head, ½ life size  
Whitetail OM: any parting of the lips  
Horned/antlered: Mule deer, elk, sheep, etc,  
½ life size  
Other: Bear, coyote, boar, etc., ½ life size  
(Half- life size is considered any mount from  
the front of the hind quarters forward. Any  
mount showing the hind quarter will be  
classified as life size)

## **SINGLE**

### **REPTILE**

Any reptile: Turtle, snake, etc.

## **MIXED/**

### **MULTIPLES**

Any combination of two or more of the same  
or different specimen, done by a single  
competitor

## **REPRODUCTION**

Any reproduction of reptiles or fish. Any other  
reproductions will be place in reproduction  
other. Must be whole animals.

## **Reproduction**

Antlers and any other parts of an animal.

## **Other**

## **ORIGINAL ART**

Any artwork, 3-D or flat

## **COMMERCIAL**

Any specimen(s) produced for a customer, commercial work only. Specimen(s) entered are not eligible for ANY major awards.

## **COMBINED ARTISTS**

Entries that include the combined effort of 2 or more artists will be entered in this category ONLY. This category will include all species and will only be eligible for a Best of Category, first, second and third place awards as well as special awards. Entries in this category however will not be eligible for any major awards. This is a single division (masters and professional combined). Entries will be judged at the masters level. No part or piece of any combined artist entry shall be entered into any other category of competition. Mixed/Multiple: specimens will be scored individually, and an average of their scores will determine the overall score of the entire composition.

## **FREEZE-DRIED**

Any species freeze dried as whole/skeletal intact. Parts are exempt. For example: turkey heads, nose, tongue, etc. All species will compete against each other. For example, a freeze-dried fish will compete against a freeze dried bird or mammal.

## **BEST ALL-AROUND TAXIDERMIST**

Best All-Around Taxidermist competition shall be open to any member who is eligible to enter competition and is registered for the convention. Competitors for the B.A.A.T. Award must enter one mount each of a fish,

bird, a mammal and a gamehead. These four mounts must be designated as the competitors B.A.A.T entries at the time of registration and may come from any taxidermy competition category. The award may be given to a single competitor, providing all mounts entered scored at least a third place. Freeze Dry, reproduction and Art are not eligible.

### **Competitors Award**

Competitors Award is open to anyone who is eligible to enter competition and is registered for the convention. Competitor must enter four mounts in any of the fish, bird, mammal, gamehead and reproduction fish categories and be in any of the taxidermy competition categories. Entries must be designated at the time of registration. Freeze Dry and art are not eligible.

### **MULTIPLE SPECIMENS**

Entries that include any combination of two or more of the same or different species will normally be entered in the MIXED/MULTIPLE category, in which case, each specimen shall be scored individually by the appropriate judge. These individual scores will then be averaged to arrive at an overall score for the entry and be eligible for awards, including Best of Category in the MIXED/MULTIPLE category. A competitor may however, and at his option, elect to have one or more of the specimens entered and scored as an individual entry in the appropriate SINGLE category, in which case specimen so designated would be scored individually, charged a separate entry fee and be eligible for awards, including Best of Category, in the appropriate SINGLE category. Additionally, a competitor may designate one or more of a less dominate specimen as being part of the habitat and not to be individually scored. In such case, the specimen(s) so designated shall be considered only to the extent that they add or detract from the overall merit of the piece.

## **NEW FOR 2023 – Master of Masters**

Who is eligible: Past or present ITA Judges, anyone who has received a score of 90 or above in the Masters Division at any previous competition, National Champions, North American Champions, “Best in World” winners, and previous “Best of Show” winners.

How to win: All competitors from the Masters Division and ITA Judges from the current year are eligible to vote on their choice. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners will be awarded.

What can be entered: Any piece of taxidermy that has not previously been awarded ITA Master of Masters 1<sup>st</sup> place. Depending on space available at the venue, location of these entries will be determined at the convention. They will be staged together behind a stanchion located in the front common area, the vendor room, or the showroom. Standard competition entry fees apply.

## **MAJOR AWARDS**

### **BEST OF SHOW**

Award shall be selected by the judges from the Best of Category winners – Masters Division.

### **BEST PROFESSIONAL ENTRY**

Award shall be selected by the judges from the Best of Category winners – Professional Division

### **COMPETITOR’S CHOICE**

Award shall go to the entry receiving the most votes by those competing in the Competition. Voting takes place Friday immediately following the general Membership Meeting.

### **PEOPLE’S CHOICE**

Award shall go to the entry receiving the most votes cast by non-competing members and the visitors viewing the mounts on display. Voting takes place Saturday.

## **BEST ALL-AROUND TAXIDERMIST**

Award shall go to the Illinois Taxidermist whose four entries accumulate the highest number of BAAT points. BAAT points are assigned on the basis of the competition division and ribbons award as follows:

<b><u>Ribbon</u></b>	<b><u>Professional Division</u></b>	<b><u>Masters</u></b>
	<b><u>Division</u></b>	
First Place	3 points	4 points
Second Place	2 points	3 points
Third Place	1 point	2 points

## **COMPETITORS AWARD**

Award shall go to the taxidermist whose four entries accumulate the highest point total using the BAAT point system. Entries may be either in the Professional and/or the Masters Division.

## **BEST OF CATEGORY**

Award shall be available in each category in both professional and masters divisions. An entry must have been awarded a first place ribbon to be eligible for the Best of Category.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Any mount done by competitor(s) may be entered as long as it has not been a past Best in World, N.A. Champion or National Champion winning mount. These mounts are welcome for Master of Masters division only.

**ITA strongly discourages online sharing of photos of any competition entries at the convention prior to the completion of judging. Thank you for your cooperation!**