

The Illinois Taxidermist Association Convention & Competition

March 14-17, 2024

Northfield Inn Suites

3280 Northfield Drive

Springfield, IL 62702

Reservations: (217) 523-7900

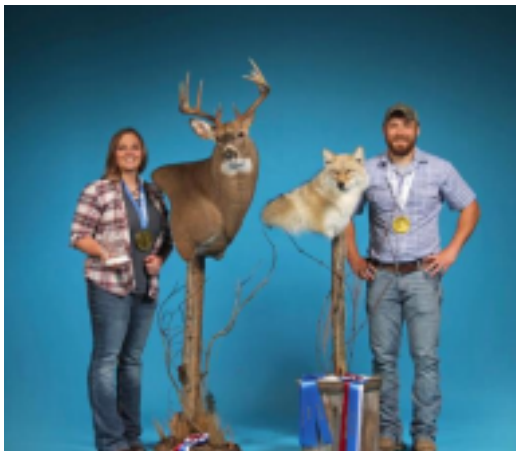
www.illinoistaxidermist.com

Hotel reservations must be made by phone to receive the ITA
nightly rate of \$110: Deadline Feb. 24th



2024 Competition Judges

Jena & Abel
Everage – Indiana
**Game heads &
Mammals**



Larry O'Malley
- Minnesota
Whitetails



Lowell Shapley – Texas

Birds



Jimmy Lawrence – Iowa

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 1st to February 28th). Dues alone do not entitle you to attend seminars, entry to the 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 but will be able to be added back to the piece before any major awards are voted on. This 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 references 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 showroom.

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 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 lifesize)

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 placed 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.

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 divisions. Entries must be designated at the time of registration. Freeze Dry, MIXED/MULTIPLE and ORIGINAL 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 dominant 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.

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. 1st, 2nd, And 3rd place winners will be awarded.

What can be entered: Any piece of taxidermy that has not previously been awarded ITA Masters of Masters 1st 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 in the showroom. Standard competition entry fees will 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:

Ribbon Professional Division Masters Division

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

Awards 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 display only.

2024 I.T.A MEMBERSHIP & CONVENTION REGISTRATION

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Spouse _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_ Phone() _____ E-mail _____

Business

Name _____ Names

of Family Members Attending _____

Membership Plan *Membership includes spouse & children 18-*

_____ Member-\$50.00 _____ Supplier-\$50.00 _____ Board _____ Charter \$ _____

Convention Registration *Required to enter seminars and vendors*

_____ Early Registration (Postmarked by March 1st) -----\$40.00
_____ Late Registration-----\$50.00
_____ 1-Day Registration-----\$25.00 \$ _____

Awards Banquet *Saturday Evening, Please indicate number of meals*

_____ Adult - \$30.00 _____ Children - \$5.00 \$ _____

Competition Registration *Please indicate number of entries*

_____ Masters/Professional/Commercial-----\$25.00
_____ Youth Entries-----FREE
_____ Competitor's Award (4+ entries) -----FREE
_____ Best All Around Taxidermist (See rules for eligibility) -----FREE
_____ Combined Artist Challenge (goes toward Scholarship Fund!)-----\$50.00 \$ _____

Total dues, registration, and meal tickets

\$ _____

Please complete and mail to:
Illinois Taxidermist Association
23100 E. 20th Rd.
Nokomis, IL 62075

If you are competing, please also fill out competition entry registration form.

Divisions

(See Competition Rules in the show packet for a criteria)

- Freeze Dried Commercial
- Combined Artist Professional
- Youth Masters
- Master of Masters

Categories

(See Competition Rules in the show packet for criteria)

- Turkey
- Upland Bird
- Other Bird
- Whitetail Deer -Closed Mouth
- Whitetail Deer -Open Mouth
- Gamehead -Horned/Antlered
- Gamehead -Other
- Reptile
- Mixed/Multiple
- Reproduction
- Reproduction -Other
- Original Art
- Freeze Dried
- Warm Water Fish
- Cold Water Fish
- Small Mammal
- Medium Mammal
- Large Mammal
- Waterfowl
- Combined Artist

Division	Category	Species/Description	Polytranspar, Lifetone, or PRO-1 products?	Parts: Commercial, Altered, Original	Form: Commercial, Altered, Original	Indicate 4 mounts to be considered for competitors award.

ALL COMPETITORS MUST SIGN AND DATE BELOW

I have read and agree to follow all competition rules and requirements set by the Illinois Taxidermist Association.

X _____ Date _____



ITA Convention Schedule

Thursday, March 14, 2024

5:00-7:00 PM: Backboard Setup. Pizza afterward for those who help, bring your screw guns! 7:00 PM: Pre-Show Board Meeting
8:00-10:00 PM: Registration open.

Friday, March 15, 2024

7:00-10:00 AM: Registration. NO MOUNTS ACCEPTED AFTER 10 A.M.
9:00-1:00: Vendors open.
11:00 AM: General membership meeting. All members are welcome to attend. After the meeting, the showroom will be open to competitors for Competitor's Choice voting.
12:00-1:00: LUNCH BREAK
1:00-4:00: SEMINARS: **Member Seminars**- Jake Phillips: Painting Turkey Head and
Dan McKee: Mounting a Whitetail
3:00-5:00: Vendors open.
6:00-????: World Famous ITA Auction, Free Pizza, & Cash Bar

Saturday, March 16, 2024

8:00-9:00: Registration open for convention only. No mounts accepted on Saturday!
8:00-4:00: Competition room open for critiques. Please sign up for a critique time @ registration.
9:00-12:00: SEMINAR: **Jimmy Lawrence**: Painting Largemouth Bass
9:00-1:00: Vendors open
10:00-4:00: Competition room open to the public. Free will donation.
10:00-????: Kid's Seminar: (Sign up at registration desk)
12:00-1:00: LUNCH BREAK
1:00-4:00: SEMINAR: **Lowell Shapley**: Habitat Design/Composition
3:00-5:00: Vendors open
5:00-6:00: Happy Hour
6:00-7:30: Banquet Dinner
7:30-????: Awards Presentation

Sunday, March 17, 2024

9:00-10:00: Board meeting
9:00-1:00: Vendors open
9:00-12:00: Competition room open to the public. Free will donation.
9:00-1:00: SEMINARS: **Jena Everage**: Mounting a Whitetail - **Abel Everage**: Bobcat Armature, Building/Painting Rock Habitat - **Larry O'Malley**: Aggressive Mount Composition 1:00 PM: Mount dismissal. No mounts dismissed before 1:00!

Backboard take-down and door prizes after mounts have been removed!