

# Nebraska State Taxidermists Association 35th Annual Competition

**Where:** Ramada Inn 265 33rd Ave Columbus, NE 68601

**How to Contact Hotel:** (402)564-1492

**Reserve room by May 17th**

**Room Rates: If Booked by May 17th \$104.95** (Be sure to mention NSTA)

**Early Show Reservation Deadline: June 1st, 2019**

**WHEN: June 14th, 15th, and 16th, 2019**

**What to expect:** 7 Seminars by 6 award winning  
Taxidermists, Vendors, Auctions, Mingle with other  
Taxidermists, Raffle, Family Fun Barbeque, and plenty more.

**For Your Convenience Online Registration Available**

**Check it out at [nebraskastatetaxidermy.org](http://nebraskastatetaxidermy.org)**

## **Vendors**

**Old Barn Tannery/Ohio Taxidermy Supply, Fatherree Stands**

**Matuska Supply, Roostin' Ridge, H&H Tannery**

**H-S Panels, Raccoon Valley Velvet Service**

**Rinehart Supply**

## **Judges**

**Mike Orthober– *Birds & Fish:*** Mike is one of the most well known taxidermists in the world, and extremely talented. Mike is from Egg Harbor, WI. For almost 40 years Mike has been amazing us with quality work and competition pieces that are at the top. Don't miss Mike's Seminar on bird anatomy.

**James Graham– *Whitetails:*** We are privileged to have James for our whitetail judge this year. James is from Ferguson, MO, where he has his taxidermy shop. James is an excellent taxidermist and judge, known mostly for his whitetail and turkey work. James is doing an outstanding seminar on Habitat and Composition.

**Brian Olson– *Game Heads and Mammals:*** Please welcome Brian to Nebraska from the state of Wisconsin, where he operates a full time taxidermy studio and sculpts forms for Matuska Supply. Brian brings a long list of experience to the competition arena, and you will find him knowledgeable as well as articulate in his ability to teach. Brian's seminar on mammals will be informative and helpful in making your mammals more life-like and anatomically correct.

## Competition Divisions

**Youth** – This division is for children. Anything their little minds and hands can create are welcome. Register these pieces at the registration table, not on the registration form.

**Amateur (18 years old and under)** – This division is for the young novice taxidermist and hobbyist.

**Amateur Adult** – This division is for the adult novice taxidermist and hobbyist.

**Professional** – This division is for the taxidermist engaged in the taxidermy industry for profit.

**Masters** – This division is for the taxidermist who has won 2 “Best of Category” awards at any time in any state, national, or world competition in a particular category or anyone who chooses to compete at the highest level.

**Collective Artist** – This division is for two or more taxidermists who have composed a piece together. They must compete at the level of the highest taxidermist. One ribbon will be given for each award. Ribbons may be purchased for the other taxidermists on the team. *Not* eligible for Best of Category, Best of Show, Competitor’s Award, or WASCO awards.

**Commercial** – This division is for *any mount from any category and any skill level*. Mounts will be reviewed from a slight distance and no flashlights will be used. One ribbon per mount will be awarded. Mounts entered in this division *are not* eligible for any other awards.

**Challenge of the Art** – *This year’s challenge will be a Mule Deer* All mounts will be given the same consideration by the judges regardless of division. The highest scoring mount out of all of the **Mule Deer** entries from this category will be the award winner. This year’s award winner will choose the 2020 challenge species. Mounts entered in this challenge are also eligible for all other ribbons and awards.

**Avian Challenge**– Rules are the same as Challenge of the art. This year’s challenge is **Ringneck Pheasant**.

**Best All Around Taxidermist**– Must do a bird, fish or reptile, game head or deer head, and a life-size, highest cumulative score will be the award winner.

**Competitor’s Award**– 2 divisions Master’s or Professional, highest accumulative score of 4 mounts, all must be in Master’s or Professional.

## Categories

**Single Bird**– any non-waterfowl bird; permits must accompany protected species.

**Single Waterfowl**– any waterfowl; permits must accompany protected species.

**Single Turkey**– any turkey.

**Single Fish**– any fish with actual skin; cast head and artificial fins allowed.

**Whitetails**– whitetail deer shoulder or half-lifesize only.

**Game heads**– all game heads including mule deer; excluding whitetail deer; including half-lifesizes; no rugs.

**Life-size Mammals** (*amateur categories*)–any mammal.

**Small Life-size Mammals** (*pro & master*)– any mammal coyote size and smaller.

**Large Life-size Mammals** (*pro & master*)– any mammal larger than a coyote.

**Reptiles**– any reptile.

**Reproductions**– any medium other than skin mounted taxidermy; commercial and self-made reproductions will be accepted; including acrylic, fiberglass, bronze, and woodcarving.

**Live Mounting Competition**– 3 hours will be provided for each competitor to put a mount together. Skin and form may be prepped, and form may have replacement nose attached, ear butts sculpted, etc. Eyes must be set and ear liners glued in during the competition. A short amount of time will be allowed the next day for final grooming, and then mounts will be moved to the competition room for voting. First, second, and third place will be awarded based on a vote of your peers.

## NSTA Point System

All ribbons (except the commercial division) will be awarded based on the following point system:

<b>First</b>	<b>90-100</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>80-89</b>
<b>Third</b>	<b>70-79</b>

*For a full list and qualifications for each award offered at the NSTA show, please contact Daryl Keyes*

**Thursday, June, 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

# **Schedule**

2:00pm-4:00pm

Vendor and Competition Room set-up

4:00pm-?

Registration open, except during meeting

6:00pm-7:00pm

Board meeting. All volunteers are welcome to join.

**Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

8:00am-**3:00pm**

Registration & entries accepted for competition. **Note: Every mount will be photographed before final**

10:00am-6:00pm

Vendor Room open **placement in the competition room.**

12:00am

Competition Room closes; Entries placed by committee after this

9:30am– 11:30pm

**Seminar 1– Brian Olson–** “Competition Mammals”, *Trouble Areas on mammals; feet, tail, eyes, ears, etc.*

1:00pm-3:00pm

**Seminar 2– Don Ball–** “Mounting an antelope”

2:00pm

Silent Auction open

2:00pm-3:00pm

**Kids Seminar-** All kids are welcome

*3:00pm-5:30pm*

**Seminar 3- James Graham-** “Artistry in Taxidermy”, working with art materials for habitat

6:00pm-7:30pm

**Family Night. Picnic supper at the Park**

8:00pm-11:00pm

**Seminar 4– Live Mounting Competition–**Watch mounts going together

After BBQ

Executive Board Meeting

**Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

8:00am-10:00am

**Seminar 5– Tom Matuska–** “Taxidermy Business”

*8:30am*

***Kids Fishing at lake***

9:00am-4:00pm

Vendor Room open

*10:00am-12:00pm*

***Seminar 6– Sam Gaylord–*** “Bear Rugs” *Skinning, stretching, prepping, mounting a bear rug*

*12:00pm-1:00pm*

*Competition Room open for Competitor’s Choice & People’s Choice voting*

*1:00pm.-4:00pm*

*Show room open to public & Critiques*

1:30pm-3:30pm

**Seminar 7– Mike Orthober-** “Bird Anatomy Part 2”

5:00pm-6:00pm

Live Auction & Social time

6:00pm

Silent Auction Ends

6:15pm-7:00pm

Banquet

7:00pm-8:30pm

**Awards presentation**

After Banquet

Pictures taken of mounts with ribbons/awards and Taxidermists

8:30pm-11:00pm

Competition Room open

**Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

8:30am-10:00am

***Business meeting–*** Everyone is welcome to attend.  
*Newly Elected officials announced.*

8:00am-1:00pm

Competition Room open for critiquing

8:00am-11:00am

Vendor Room open

9:00am-1:00pm

Competition Room open to public

1:00pm

Mounts are released

# **Scholarships**

**Nebraska State Taxidermy Scholarship: (\$500).** The NSTA Scholarship is awarded to the best candidate and is chosen by the Executive Board. Write a letter of application to tell why you would like to receive the scholarship. Explain some of the following: How is the money going to be used? How will it further your taxidermy knowledge and skills? Why are you a good candidate for the scholarship?

The Scholarship money must be used within 1 year, before the next annual convention. You will be awarded the money once we have confirmation of where and when you are using the money. Use of scholarship money is up to the discretion of the executive board members and may be denied at any time.

Deadline for submitting an application to the NSTA for the Scholarship is June 14th, before registration closes. If you would like to submit your application sooner (recommended), mail a letter to the president. You may also use email to submit your application. Addresses are listed below. Any other questions, please call Daryl Keyes at (402)276-1005

**Send your application to:**

**Daryl Keyes**

**29497 205th Ave**

**Columbus, NE 68601**

**darylkeyes93@gmail.com**

## **Justin Suurvarik Scholarship (\$250.00)**

I created The Justin Suurvarik Memorial Scholarship to help any taxidermist who would like to attend a class to better their skills and advance the art of taxidermy. Justin was about the “art” of taxidermy. He did not like looking at a “dead fish on a stick”, but a fish that showed movement and was artistic in the mount. He was primarily a fish and reptile taxidermist, but was branching out to learn game heads when he died. When I choose a winner for the scholarship, I want to know who you are, what you want to learn, the class you hope to attend, and above all read the passion for taxidermy in your words. It does not need to be a long letter but could be a short paragraph, just include the things mentioned above. The scholarship is worth \$250, and will be paid through the association to the class of your choice.

Thank you for allowing me to continue to honor Justin in this way.——Jennifer Suurvarik

Justin Suurvarik Scholarship expires in 1 year at the next year's show. Submit your applications to Jennifer at the address below, or to the NSTA President.

**Jennifer Suurvarik**

**866 Lodge Pole Dr**

**Black Shaw, CO 80422**



# Judge Profiles

Letter from **Brian Olson**: "Thank you for selecting me as one of your 2019 judges. I'm a lifelong Wisconsin resident, and have been married to my wife Michelle for 30 years. We have two children, Curtis (25) and Emily (23).

I started in taxidermy at the age of 18, and have been a taxidermist for 35 years. I started competing at 19, and went to conventions and seminars to learn from other taxidermists.

Over the last 20 years I've been sculpting whitetail and mule deer mannikins for Matuska Supply Company. Sculpting requires an attention to detail and has broadened my knowledge of anatomy, making a more lifelike mount. As your Gamehead and Mammal judge in 2019 I hope to pass on some of my knowledge to help you become a better taxidermist. Here are some of my major awards:

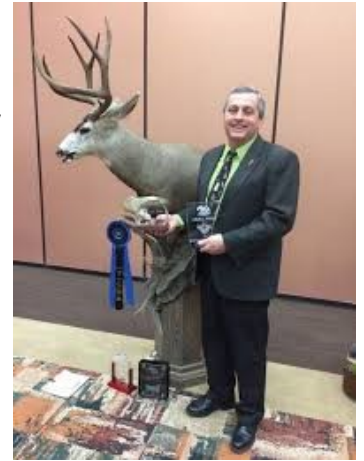
1997 World Show Competitors Award- 1<sup>st</sup> place Professional Division

1999 Best in World Mixed Group- Game head and Birds

2001 Competitors Choice Best of Show World Competition

2014 National Champion- Game heads

5 WASCO Awards, 2 UTA Artisan Awards, 3 Breakthrough Best of Shows"



**Mike Orthober**- Mike is one of the most well known taxidermists in the world, and extremely talented. Mike is from Egg Harbor, WI. For almost 40 years Mike has been amazing us with quality work and competition pieces that are at the top. Mike has excelled in all areas of taxidermy, but his favorites are small birds, which he does for museums.

Mike's record in the competition arena is outstanding. Multiple State Championships, Best of Show in Iowa and Wisconsin, National Champion, North American Champion, Nationals Best of Show, Taxidermist of the Year, several WASCO awards, twice Master of Masters winner, Second in World Title, and two Best in World Medallions.

His judging is equally impressive having judged several state shows, Nationals, The World Taxidermy Championships, European show, Russian Show, and the New Zealand Show. We are honored to have Mike back again this year to share his knowledge.



**James Graham**- We are privileged to have James for our whitetail judge this year. James is from Ferguson, MO, where he has his taxidermy shop. James is an excellent taxidermist, known mostly for his whitetail and turkey work. James has won so many awards, especially for whitetail, that they are too numerous to list.

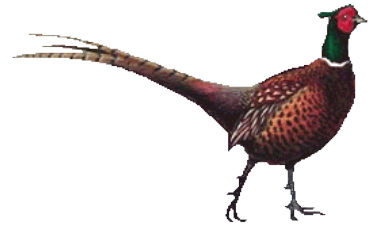
James is excited to share his knowledge of deer with us this year, after having judged our show last year, and will be providing an exceptional seminar. Please take advantage of his willingness to share, and learn from his experience. James is an interesting teacher, and makes learning fun, entertaining, and very educational.



# New This Year!

## Avian Challenge

Rules for the Avian Challenge– The rules will be the same as the Challenge of the Art Category, but only bird species will be used. The Challenge this year is a Ring-Necked Pheasant. Bring a pheasant in any pose to enter the Avian Challenge. Mounts are eligible for all other awards. All entries will be judged for the challenge with no consideration of Division. One mount will be chosen as the winner of the Challenge, and that person may choose the species for the Avian Challenge next year. A special Thanks to John Willer for sponsoring this award!



## Live Mounting Competition

**Live Mounting Competition Rules**– 3 hours will be provided for each competitor to put a mount together. Skin and form may be prepped, and form may have replacement nose attached, ear butts sculpted, etc. Eyes must be set and ear liners glued in during the competition. A short amount of time will be allowed the next day for final grooming, and then mounts will be moved to the competition room for voting. First, second, and third place will be awarded based on a vote of your peers. Winners will be announced and recognized at the Awards Ceremony.

### ***Reminder***

**Challenge of the Arts Species for this year:  
Mule Deer**