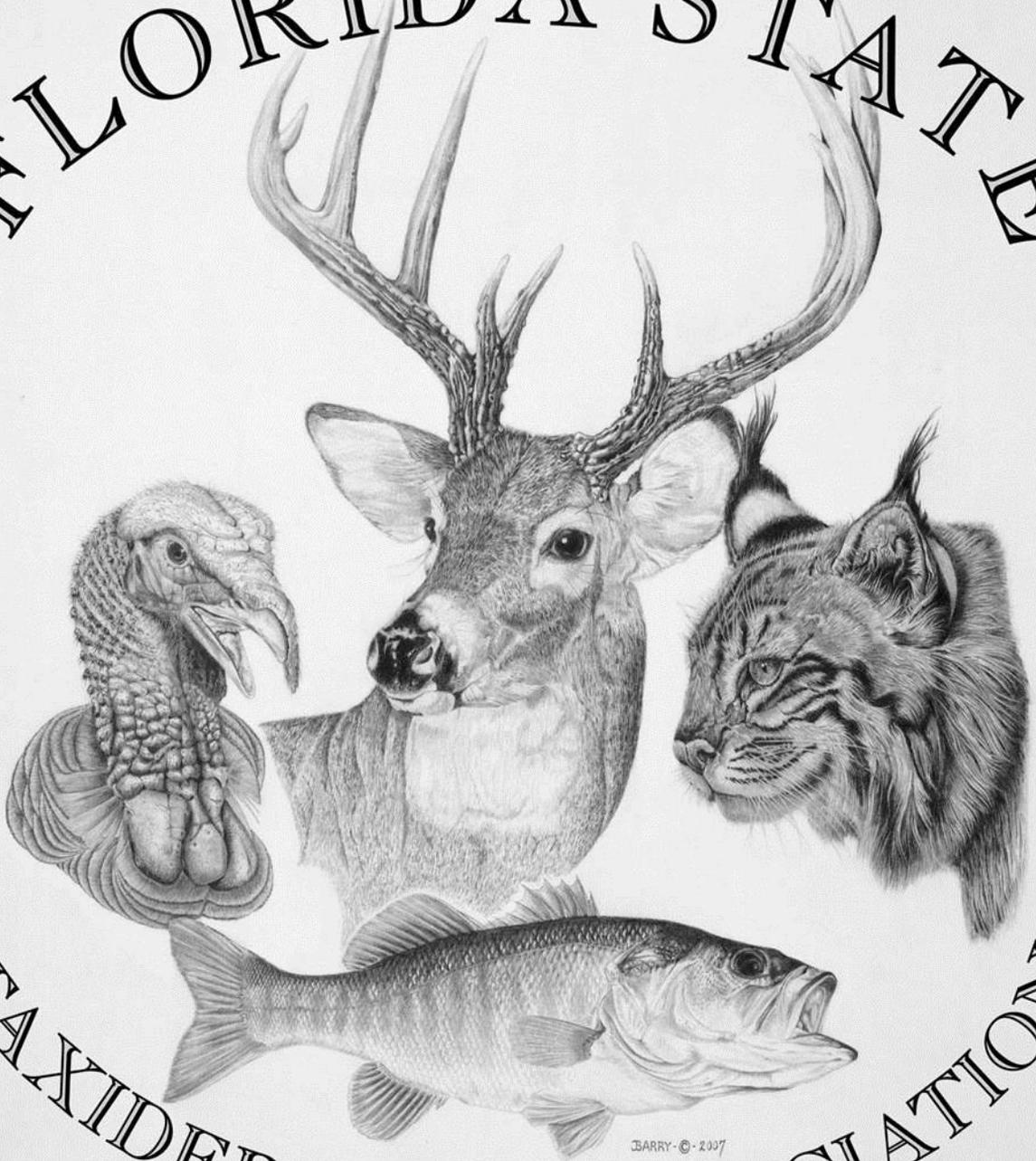


FLORIDA STATE



TAXIDERMISTS ASSOCIATION

BARRY © 2007

2007 canyon gear

*May 2017 Newsletter*

# Florida State Taxidermist's Association, Inc.

## ***FSTA Board:***

### **President:**

Trina Pritchard  
352-567-1521

### **Vice President:**

Jared Mallard  
904-483-7568

### **Secretary:**

Janice Floyd  
863-697-0914

### **Treasurer:**

Charlotte Lord  
352-542-7337

## **Board of Directors**

Donnie Gordon  
850-322-3734

Dale Buffenmyer  
352-317-3831

Barney/Teresa Durham  
386-328-7515

Jesse Kelly  
904-769-6699

DC Simms

To All My Fellow Taxidermist and Friends,  
Hello!

Hello to everyone. Let me start out by saying WOW what a great convention. I need to thank all of you for attending and making this another wonderful year. Without your support we would not exist. It amazes me that we come for the education and gain so much more. The friendships that we find can make a world of difference. Thank you to all the vendors that attended. You help us make a great show. The 2018 Convention will be held at the Ramada Inn and Conference center in Lakeland Florida. 863-688-8080 February 8,9 &10<sup>th</sup> 2018.

This next show should be an exciting one. We are looking at some special guest and judges for our 2018 show. We will be posting this in our next newsletter, along with the schedule of events. Our next Presidents challenge will be a full body mammal any size. This should be interesting for all you fur lovers out there.

I would like to thank all the new board members for their hard work and input over these months. Our goal is to give our members the best convention possible. We look forward to your comments. If you need to contact anyone, please don't hesitate to call.

**In closing encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11**

Be Blessed.

Sincerely,  
Trina Pritchard  
FSTA President

## LETTERS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

I hope this finds everyone healthy, well and productive with lots of work. We just wrapped up our board meeting this past weekend and it was very productive! Lots of great ideas and suggestions for our next annual convention in February 2018. Speaking of our convention, what a great show it was. Attendance and entries were up, great judges and seminars and something I look forward to every year. I still laugh when I think about our auction with Ratso Pennington pulling every dollar out of our pockets. I'm still trying to figure out how to put to use the armadillo/rubber squirrel I somehow bought. I did however, find a use for the juicer he sold me....I am now eating healthier every morning!

I'd like to encourage each of you to talk to a few taxidermists that you might know and talk to them about our show and how much fun it is to attend. See if you can bring some new members into the association. I've been a part of this great association since 2000 and I can truly say it has made such a difference to me personally & professionally. I have met so many great people who I can say are my friends all across the United States. This networking is one of the most valuable learning resources we have as taxidermists. I have learned so much from so many people over the years that you cannot put a price tag on it. If you are a taxidermist, whether full-time, part-time or just do it as a hobby, there is no better place to learn than to be part of the FSTA. Everyone I have ever met at the show was more than willing to answer questions or explain how they put something together.

If you truly want to become a better taxidermist there is no better place than your state association. Competing at the show is, in my opinion, one of the best ways to learn and get better at our craft. Competing puts your work "Out There" and regardless of your skill level, this is how you get better. Not everyone wins.....I get that, especially after you have spent countless hours working on your entry. But competing is really all about learning and continuing to improve year after year. The judges we bring to our show every year are great judges. They know their stuff and if you approach each of your entries with that mindset and listen to that judge, you will get better. I've screwed up more things than you can possibly imagine with a competition entry, but it has made me a better taxidermist because of it.

Our board is working very hard to implement the ideas, thoughts and suggestions we have for our next show. That is our goal and mission, to make each show better and bigger than the last for our membership. Please mark your calendars and start setting aside a few dollars each week. Remember to thank our vendors each time to order from them. Their donations and attendance at our show is greatly appreciated. If you have a suggestion or idea, please contact Trina or Jared or one of the board members. We'd love to hear from you.

Thanks and may the good Lord continue to bless each of you.

Scott Staton

# From Dale's Desk

## Prep for Competing: A Suggestion

The FSTA Convention is next February and thinking about an entry piece to enter into the competition probably doesn't pop into your head on a regular basis during the summer. Life is busy these days and unless you are going to another competition prior, most of us feel we have plenty of time and it is something I'll contemplate closer to the show. Everyone has their personal goals in regards to competing and the range of where you are in experience with competitions vary from the just starting out person too being a seasoned competitor. There are many aspects to competing and many reasons why we put in the hours, hard work, money, and dedication. One reason for competing is to increase our skills and produce better quality work. A judge will tell you in your critique, you need to work on this or that and usually, there are multiple areas that need improvement. Sometimes it isn't hard to get a little discouraged or overwhelmed. They will say you need to study your reference material, work on blending your colors, work on symmetry, etc. So how do we go about doing this? One challenge is just getting started or what I like to call getting into a "show piece state of mind". Like I said previously, we are all busy people. Some of us are full time, some of us are part time and let's tell the truth about taxidermy. It is hard work. No matter which category you are in, neither one is easy. Usually when I start getting a potential show piece ready, I always like to mount a few pieces and hopefully at least one piece will be up to snuff to make the trip to the show or I'll pick out a customer piece that looks nice. Time or specimen seem to dictate this and sometimes that doesn't happen, so you don't take anything. The old "waiting to the last minute" to get something together seems to be the norm lately and really, can you work on those trouble areas when you are pinched for time?

Let me make a suggestion: take a section of time in your regular taxidermy work schedule and work on a specific area. We all have problem areas that we need to work on, but this method doesn't consume a lot of time overall. For example: Let's say you really need to work on deer ears and ear butts. During a week or during a month if you are mounting deer heads on the weekend, really concentrate and work hard on making every deer ear "show quality" during your normal shop time. Take some extra time to study your reference material, work on detail, thickness, etc. You might spend an hour longer than normal, but by working on one particular area of the mount and doing it multiple times over, you will improve. Then after some time on ears, you pick some other area for a length of time, maybe skin alignment or sewing better seams? Whatever you feel are some weaknesses or look at those old score sheets from the past year. I used to practice this method regularly and in my case, I would take a week of mounting birds and concentrate on one particular area, like the size, shape, symmetry, etc. of a duck's head. Sometimes it might be twenty extra minutes of studying the characteristics of that particular species head or working on the feather patterns. Then on to another area for another week. This also includes trying a new product or working in a slightly different method in your system. Even after many years, I'm still tweaking how I do things in the shop. I don't have large chunks of time, who does? But keeping an open mind and continuing to try a new product or make small adjustments every now and again has helped me to improve my bird taxidermy. When I did settle down to attempt a competition piece, I felt I was more prepared and usually the mount went smoother because I wasn't trying this or that at the last minute. We all have our weaknesses in our taxidermy, but persistence and hard work will prevail. I remember sitting in a seminar over 30 years ago where Howard Callahan, a bird

taxidermist from Louisiana, was asked the question: when does it get easier? His response was: after you mount a thousand birds. I thought Wow! But you know, he was right. The point is, keep on learning and working hard. So if you are inclined, try taking a week to work on that trouble area this summer. The competition isn't really that far away. No matter what level you are at in this life-long learning process, you might be surprised of your improvements come next February.

Keep working hard,

Dale Buffenmyer

# You never know where you will gain your inspiration

## My Introduction To This Art

Me and my dad carried a bass to the local Guy. You had to walk through his living room, which was his display room. I was about five at the time. The guy asked my Dad if I was able to watch him skin it. Dad says Of course, so we walk back to the shop. He picks me up and puts me up on a barstool and popped a eye out of the fish, that's something you don't forget. But it would not be until I was 25 that a man named Blaine Young let me shadow him on a buddies deer. I'm sure you can guess which side turned out good. Blaine let me help with one more deer that was another buddies. He then told me after that deer I was on my own. I haven't stopped since.

By D.C. Sims

# FSTA SUMMER CLASS JULY 29 2017

This WILL BE A MAMMAL CLASS GIVEN BY TRINA AND DC SIMMS . THIS WILL BE A HANDS ON MOUNTING CLASS THAT YOU WILL NEED TO SUPPLY A SMALL ANIMAL AND ALL OF YOUR SUPPLIES TO DO THIS CLASS. (PLEASE NOTHING LARGER THAN A BOBCAT).

This is an instructional class to help you possibly construct your animal easier with different techniques.

You can bring your lunch or we will break for lunch .

Please contact me before July 10<sup>th</sup> to confirm this class will fill quickly and we cannot take more than 10 people.

Trina 352-567-1521

The class will be located at 43653 county Road 54 east Kathleen Fl 33849

**FLORIDA STATE TAXIDERMISTS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**Annual Convention and Competition**

**February 8,9,10 2018**

**Ramada Inn**

**Lakeland Florida**

**863-688-8080**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouses' Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Childrens' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you or your spouse will volunteer to help during the convention

**Registration Information**

Registration/Seminar Fee (Family Included): \_\_\_\_\_ \$45.00

**(Pre-Register prior to January 1st 2018 to receive your first mount entry free)**

Day of show Price:\$65.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Night Dinner, Award Banquet and Auction**

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ (each) \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_ (children 12 and under are free)

**Competition Entries**

Number of Mounts: \_\_\_\_\_ Amateur (A) or Professional Division (P) (each)\$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Mounts: \_\_\_\_\_ Masters (M) Division (each)\$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Mounts: \_\_\_\_\_ Habitat (H) (each)\$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Mounts: \_\_\_\_\_ Commercial (C) Youth(Y) (each)\$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Mounts: \_\_\_\_\_ Martha Maxwell Award NC \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Mounts: \_\_\_\_\_ Challenge of the Arts (COA) (each)\$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Mounts: \_\_\_\_\_ Presidents Challenge (PC) (each) \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of mounts \_\_\_\_\_ Walnut Creek Award(on walnut panels only) **TOTAL DUE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the highlighted code above and indicate what you are bringing to competition, be sure to indicate whether it is a wall, table or floor mount. If your mount will take up more than a 2' X 2' space please let us know that as well:

***\*I agree all mounts entered have been completed by me or my studio and failure to comply with FSTA competition rules will result in my disqualification for ribbon points.\****

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed registration forms to: **FSTA, Inc.**  
**Attn: Charlotte Lord**  
**3955 SE 55 A highway**  
**Old Town Florida 32680**

# Florida State Taxidermists Association, Inc. Membership Application

**Preserve Your  
Profession!**



**Share taxidermy with  
friends and family!**

*Membership Status:*

- New  
 Renewal

**Annual membership: \$50.00**

*(Membership is from Convention to Convention)*

For voting purposes dues need to be paid 30 days prior to the next convention.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (DAY) \_\_\_\_\_ (EVENING) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donations to the Florida State Taxidermists Association

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ other

F

S

T

A

Please make check payable to your state association.

Mail completed membership application to:

Florida State Taxidermists Association, Inc.

Charlotte Lord

3955 SE A Highway

Old Town Florida 32680

352-578-5529