

GENERAL RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE 2012 MTA STATE COMPETITION

- All mounts entered in the 2012 MTA competition cannot have been entered in any previous MTA shows.
- No freeze-dried entries or freeze-dried parts. No exceptions for turkey heads.
- Protected wildlife must have all necessary permits and paperwork with the mounts at all times.
- All entries must be totally done by the competitor by themselves, unassisted. An exception to this being tanning, forms, eyes, etc.
- Only paid entrants in the competition and/or their spouses can attend the clinics / seminars. A \$25.00 individual fee or \$75.00 for all clinics / seminar fee will be charged for all non-competing members or taxidermy vendors / exhibitors (with a pass) wanting to attend the seminars.
- Removal of entries will not be allowed until the close of public viewing on Saturday evening, March 24, 2012. The only exception to this will be that of extreme weather / emergency.
- The only way to enter the doors at the show will be by a competitor pass. Each entrant and spouse will receive one pass.
- There will be time allowed for grooming and arranging each entry prior to judging.
- Distasteful entries will not be allowed (wounds, traps, etc.) at the discretion of the directors.
- Each mount will be given a numerical score (Scores necessary for winning ribbons are noted below).
- **You must pay the full membership and registration fees in order to be eligible for any award(s) with a cash or monetary value.**
- **Must have blue ribbon a score to qualify for Best of Category and MTA Cash awards.**
- The decision of the judges on each entry is final!!! Discourteous behavior toward judges or show officials will not be tolerated. Behavior of this kind could lead to disqualification of a competitor and a request for them to leave with their entries. Remember that all critiques are intended for the benefit of the taxidermist.
- After judging has been completed, point ribbons will be displayed and you may, at this time, identify your mounts with business cards. Plaques and ribbons for major awards will be held and announced at the awards banquet.
- The number of entries allowed is unlimited.
- Entries in glass cases must have a removable top and sides to allow for judging. The top and sides must be removed prior to judging and then replaced by the competitor.
- The Holiday Inn Hotel Grand and competition staff will do all they can to see that your mounts are secure; however, they cannot insure them from danger or theft. **All mounts entered into competition will be done so at owner's risk.**

TYPE OF ENTRIES INCLLUDE:

SINGLE ENTRY(S)

A single individual entered mount on any type of base.

GROUPED ENTRY(S):

1. When an entry consists of two or more different species or specimens on the same base you may enter any or all of them as single entries. They will be judged in their own individual category and as single individual mounts. (For instance, there are three pieces and the entrant would like to have two judged, if there are only three pieces in a group, the entrant wants only one judged, etc.)
2. The competition entry fee of **\$95.00** will cover three mounts for judging; if a fourth mount is entered, there would be an additional charge of **\$10.00** for the fourth piece. Each mount in any Group Category entry will be considered an individual piece when calculating entry fees.

COLLECTIVE ARTIST CATEGORY:

This category is for multiple artists who have worked on a single piece. Entry fee for this category is as follow: Individual membership & registration entry fee @ (\$145.00) + collective artist entry fee \$10.00. If this is the only mount entered in the competition then a shop membership @ (\$150.00) + registration entry fee of \$95.00 (each employee must fill out a membership form) = \$245.00 + collective artist entry fee \$10.00 per individual.

*Note that only one individual will be allowed into the seminar / clinics with this registration and all others must pay the seminar / clinic fee. If there are other mounts being entered in the competition then those persons must register individually. An additional \$10.00 mount fee applies if this entry makes the overall entry number greater than three.

MONTANA BEST ALL AROUND: Only Master and Professional may enter. Competitors must compete with, 4 individual entries, in 3 of the 5 following categories: Fish, Bird, Life-size mammal, Game-head, Reptile. Two entries may be of the same category, however, these must be different species. You must receive blue ribbons for all four entries. The winner of this category will be determined by the highest accumulated score. In case of a tie the judges will make a final decision!

MONTANA CHALLENGE: This is special entry category that is a Montana specimen chosen annually by the previous winner using the guidelines established by the MTA.

COMPETING DIVISIONS EXPLAINED:

The Master, Professional, Adult Novice and Junior Novice Divisions of the MTA convention have always been a way for the competing taxidermist to enter themselves into a class of other taxidermists who are at a similar level of experience. It is a choice that each individual taxidermist can make on his/her own. In fact, it is even possible for the competitor to enter two different divisions. For example, if you are a Professional in birds, and a novice in fish, it is only fair that you be allowed to enter two different divisions. In essence, the MTA wants competitors to be able to compete in levels that will be most beneficial to their advancement in taxidermy. You cannot enter two like species in separate divisions. (i.e., you cannot bring two deer heads for competition and enter one in novice and one in professional. They must both be entered in one division).

For those of you who would like a little help in deciding which division is right for you, the following is a general guideline:

****After receiving more than one best of category award you must move up to the next division for that category.***

JUNIOR NOVICE: Pertains to novice competitors who are 17 years and younger. This division allows the judges to separate the Novice Adult from the Young Novice competitors, and tailor their score sheets accordingly.

ADULT NOVICE: Pertains to someone who is over the age of 17 and is a beginner taxidermist's and considers himself or herself to be in the early stages of learning.

PROFESSIONAL: Pertains to someone who is a practiced taxidermist and is capable of performing taxidermy at a business or professional level.

MASTER: Pertains to someone who has achieved a high level of expertise in his or her field, and has the ability to consistently produce award winning work.

SCORING AND JUDGING:

All divisions in the 2010 MTA Competition will be clearly marked for the judges. This will allow the judges to better score and critique the pieces based on its division. Scores for each division are as follows.

Junior Novice Division: 60-69 Honorable Mention: 70-79 3rd place: 80-89 2nd place: 90-100 1st place.

Adult Novice Division: 60-69 Honorable Mention: 70-79 3rd place: 80-89 2nd place: 90-100 1st place.

Professional Division: 70-79 3rd place: 80-89 2nd place: 90-100 1st place.

Master Division 70-79 3rd place: 80-89 2nd place: 90-100 1st place.

AWARDS categories FOR 2012

• **Best of Category – Judges Scores—Junior Novice:**

Fish (skin) _____ (replica) _____
Bird (upland) _____ (waterfowl) _____
Gamehead _____
Whitetail Gamehead _____
Small Lifesize _____
Large Lifesize _____
Reptile _____

• **Master of Division – Junior Novice**

• **Best of Category Judges Scores– Adult Novice:**

Fish (skin) _____ (replica) _____
Bird (upland) _____ (waterfowl) _____
Gamehead _____
Whitetail Gamehead _____
Small Lifesize _____
Large Lifesize _____
Reptile _____

• **Master of Division – Adult Novice**

• **Best of Category Judges Scores – Professional:**

Fish (skin) _____ (replica) _____ (Cash Awards)
Bird (upland) _____ (waterfowl) _____ (Cash Awards)
Game head _____ (Cash Award)
Whitetail _____ (Cash Award)
Small Lifesize _____ (Cash Award)
Large Lifesize _____ (Cash Award)
Reptile _____ (Cash Award)

• **Master of Division – Professional** _____ (Cash Award)

• **Best of Category Judges Scores – Masters:**

Fish (skin) _____ (replica) _____ (Cash Awards)
Bird (upland) _____ (waterfowl) _____ (Cash Awards)
Gamehead _____ (Cash Award)
Whitetail _____ (Cash Award)
Small Lifesize _____ (Cash Award)
Large Lifesize _____ (Cash Award)
Reptile _____ (Cash Award)

• **Master of Division – Masters** _____ (Cash Award)

Original Art Best of Category (Public Vote):

Junior _____ Adult _____

Skull / Antler Best of Category Art (Public Vote):

Junior _____ Adult _____

Montana Challenge (Mule Deer) _____ (*Cash Award)

Collective Artists Award Professional: _____ (*Entry Cash Award)

Collective Artists Award Master: _____ (*Entry Cash Award)

(*Adult Cash award = Split the entry fees cash)

Major Awards:

Peoples Choice (Public Vote) _____ **(Cash Award)**

Taxidermists Choice Awards:

Best Life Size _____ **Best Fish** _____

Best Game-head _____ **Best Bird** _____

Best Reptile _____

Montana Best All- Around – (Judges Choice):

_____ **(**Split entries Cash & Cash Award)**

Best of Show – (Taxidermists Choice):

_____ **(Cash Award)**

Best of Show – (Judges Choice):

_____ **(Cash Award)**