

September 6, 2011

MTA members,

This is just a short note to update you on a few items:

- The 2012 Montana Taxidermists Convention and Show will be held at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana Hotel 500 Midland Road in Billings. Reservations can be made by calling 1- 406 248-7701. Let them know you are part of the MTA convention. The cost for a room is \$85.00 per night. Be sure and set your Calendars for the Convention dates of March 22-24 and the 25th. The Convention will begin on Thursday this year. **Set-up will be handled on Wednesday (Local area volunteers will be needed).** We will place a schedule on line www.mttaxidermists.com as soon as we get the seminar / clinics finalized. **Registration will begin on Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. and go through 3:00 p.m. During that time all mounts and participants will be photographed and grooming will be finalized.** Judging will begin at 4:00 p.m. and conclude at 10:00 a.m. on Friday morning. Seminars will take place on Friday and Saturday with one possibly occurring on Thursday afternoon. Ribbons will be distributed after judging concludes. The Banquet and awards ceremony will be *Friday evening*. **The Convention will conclude on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. - mounts will be removed at that time and the show room and vendor's area taken down.** You are not obligated to stay over to Sunday but there will be a hands-on seminar on Sunday (more information is following). We will also need volunteers to tear down Saturday evening.
- The board has tried since the ending of the March show to coordinate with the bear aware folks to put together two seminar / workshops. We had facilities lined out East and West but could not get a commitment from them.
- With the difficulty of coordinating workshops / seminars through the year (post convention / show) the board has determined to put the efforts into providing additional, extended seminar(s) into the convention time slot. There will be an extended seminar on Sunday March 25th from 10:00 – 4:00 with a break for lunch. Ray Hatfield will be the Clinician. This will be free to anyone who has paid a full membership / registration fee or full membership / seminar fee. There will be an additional fee for those who have not paid full registration fees (\$50 membership + \$25.00 seminar fee). This will be a hands-on life-size form alteration seminar for the first 15 early full registration participants. Those wishing to be one of the 15 early full registered members must be one of the first 15 to register. You will also need to bring a life-size form to alter, with pictures that show the position that you desire to achieve. Be sure and check the space indicating your desire to be a participant in this seminar on the registration form. **Note: Additional Convention registration forms can be acquired on-line www.mttaxidermists.com.** There is unlimited space for observers, who are fully registered members but only 15 spaces for direct hands-on participants, so register early!
- The convention schedule for seminars / clinics will be available online as soon as I get the judges and clinicians information. We know that we will have at least five seminars / clinics not including the extended hands-on workshop by Ray Hatfield on Sunday the 25th. The other clinics / seminars are being put together at this moment. We are awaiting the information from the judges / clinicians as to the specifics of their presentations. These will be updated on the **web-site www.mttaxidermists.com** as we get the information. I hope to have this posted in September.
- The board determined to make the Montana Best All-Around a major award and raise the standard of achievement for this award. This year the winner will need to receive **all blue awards** on all four of the mounts entered. Mounts will represent at least three of the five categories (life-size, bird, fish, reptile or game-head) and must be four different species. Two entries can be of the same category but must be different species.
- The registration forms, competition guidelines have been updated on-line www.mttaxidermists.com.
- Please note there has been an effort to clarify the registration fee for collective artists. If you are registering as a shop membership there is still individual collective artist fees. If an individual from the shop is competing with other individual mounts they must register as an individual member.
- Be sure and upgrade to the next division on your registration form for any category in which you have won more than one best of category award.

- We are always interested in gaining additional **sponsors for the cash awards**. If we have names and donations before the printing process begins for the programs we can include them in the program. The more sponsors we have the more we can give out to award winners. If you know someone who can make a donation for the **silent public auction**, let me know so that their donation can be properly publicized and put together prior to the start of the show. The paper work gets real busy the closer we get to the show, so the more things that can be finalized prior to the show dates, the easier and more efficient the final printings will be.
- If you know of a vendor that would be interested a space at the show, let me know as well and I will forward the information to the individual who is coordinating this area (Bruce Babcock).
- There is still a lot of scheduling and organizing to put the 2012 Convention together, but things are definitely in process and coming together. Special thanks to the board members and others who are assisting in the different areas.
- **It will be necessary for some MTA members to commit to serving on the board for 2012 and 2013 if the MTA is going to continue moving forward. There are several positions that will be vacated after the March Convention. Now is the time to begin the process of filling the vacancies. A nomination form is enclosed.**
- The board remains committed to the educating of youth and public in regards to taxidermy. We are working on having demonstrations on-going during the convention for Saturday. There could be more than one going at the same time slot. These will be in the general public view and geared toward simple instruction and techniques that properly represent a quality, MTA desired, educational standard. We will be seeking to advertise and promote this instructional demonstration within the area schools and public areas.
- We need to have volunteers to assist in setting up and taking down at the convention. There is a sign-up sheet online www.mttaxidermists.com that shows the time slots that need to be filled for this need as well as assisting in registration and taking admissions, etc. The more volunteers, the less work for each individual. If you would like to help, let me know the time slot you will be able to fill, I will make out a master schedule with your name on it and update the online slots.
- This newsletter is also being sent via Email. If you have an Email address and did not receive an Email then it is likely that I do not have the correct information. To update your Email send me a note to the Email address below and I will update your file.
- It will be important for you to have access to Email or the web-site for future information, as this will likely be the final mailing through the postal service. The time involved in the printing, addressing, stamping, folding and stuffing is not practical. The communication to the membership is important so please update your Email address or access to Email. If it is impossible for you to get access to the web-site and Email, call me or contact me and I will make every effort to accommodate your needs. I will assume that you have access unless I am contacted.

Ray Bicknell MTA Secretary

RAY BICKNELL
210 FOREST DRIVE
KALISPELL, MT 59901
(406) 756-1855
reeltaxidermy@bresnan.net