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Spring 2023 Newsletter

Save the Date: March 30–April 2, 2023!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone,

Happy New Year! Hopefully everyone is well and had a most excellent summer and fall. It may not seem it, but our 2023 show is right around the corner. The board is in high gear and it looks like we are going to have a great event again this year.

We have an amazing lineup of judges this year. Tim Perkins will be judging fish and birds, and Tom Weickum will do the mammals and game heads. Dean Ursitti will judge our whitetails, and Bob Coughlin will handle the commercial and habitat divisions. All are world-class taxidermists and judges with decades of experience and success.

We also have a number of seminars planned for you with one that is interactive, if you'd like to bring your own materials. As a reminder, the President's Challenge this year is any whitetail mount.

We are looking forward to seeing you all!

Jerry St.Pierre
UTNY President



2023 Schedule of Events

Thursday, March 30

- 4 – 4:30 p.m. Board of Directors meeting
- 4:30 p.m. Set up competition and supply areas—everyone’s help is appreciated!
- 6 – 9 p.m. Registration and competition pieces received

Friday, March 31

- 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Walk-in and board member registration and competition pieces received; *all board members’ pieces must be received by noon*
- 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Pre-registration pieces received
- 9 – 11:30 a.m. **Seminar #1:** Setting Up Gamehead Eyes, Ears, and Noses for Mounting with Tom Weickum [While not required to attend, you can bring a form, eyes, and earliners if you’d like hands-on practice during the seminar]
- 10 a.m. Supply area opens
- 12 p.m. Judges’ meeting; judging begins
- 1 – 4 p.m. **Seminar #2:** Setting Up Turkeys and Mounting Techniques with Todd Capitano
- 5 – 6 p.m. Competition room open for viewing; voting for member-chosen awards
- 6 – 7 p.m. Warm-up party! Food and drink provided.
- 7 – 9 p.m. **Seminar #3:** Posing and Posturing Waterfowl for that Living Look with Josh Saville

Saturday, April 1

- 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Supply area open
- 8:30 – 11 a.m. **Seminar #4:** Whitetail Deer Techniques with Dean Ursitti
Seminar #5: Airbrush and Painting Techniques with Tim Perkins
- 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Competition room open for ribbon viewing and judges’ critiques
- 1 – 3 p.m. **Kids Seminar**
- 1 – 4 p.m. **Seminar #6:** Mounting a Corsican Sheep with Bob Coughlin
- 2:30 – 4 p.m. Supply area breakdown
- 6 – 6:30 p.m. Cocktail hour with hors d’oeuvres, cash bar
- 6:30 p.m. UTNY banquet, auction, and awards ceremony; competition room reopens after the banquet

Sunday, April 2

- 9 a.m. UTNY membership meeting with voting for vacant board positions; **all members should attend**
Competition pieces may be removed after the membership meeting. Please bring your mount ticket(s) to pick up your mount(s).
Your help is needed—please stay after to help break down the competition area! The UTNY Board of Directors will meet after the competition area break down.

This schedule is subject to change.

2023 Competition Judges

Dean Ursitti – Whitetail Deer

This year's whitetail deer judge will be Dean Ursitti from Laplata, Maryland. Dean is a World Class Whitetail taxidermist and has owned Creative Whitetails Taxidermy for over 30 years. As both a judge and a competitor, Dean has won many prestigious award at the State, National, and World level. These include the 2003 Third in the World Whitetail Award, 2001 National Champion, 2001 NTA Award of Excellence, three-time Eastern Regional Champion, two-time Breakthrough Award Winner, six Judges Choice Best of Show Awards, and many more.



Tim Perkins – Birds and Fish

Most people call me Perk or Perky. My wife Edna and I live in a cabin in the woods 12 miles outside of the little town of Bloomer in northern Wisconsin along with our two grouse dogs Brauny and Magnum and a Newfie named Echo. We have a son and daughter in law who live about 12 miles away in Chippewa Falls. I started dabbling in taxidermy when I got out of high school. A few years later I took some lessons from a taxidermist here in Wisconsin. I joined the WTA around 1990 and started competing. I went full time in 1994 and never looked back. I do all phases of taxidermy, but a big part of my workload is skin mount and reproduction fish. I've been very fortunate to win many awards including North American Champion. I also sculpt fish forms for Matuska Taxidermy Supply in Iowa.



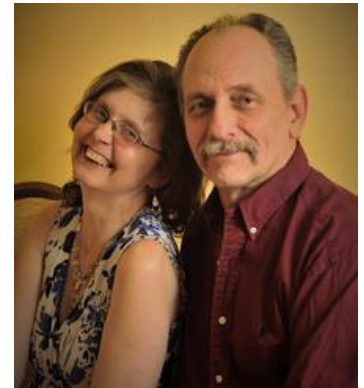
In my free time I chase ruffed grouse all over northern Wisconsin. I call it a hobby, but my wife calls it an obsession. I also enjoy duck and turkey hunting. Fishing is an addiction also: walleye, smallmouth, lake trout, salmon...I'm not too fussy. I'm very honored to be judging the UTNY show this year and am looking forward to meeting all of you.

2023 Competition Judges

Bob Coughlin — Habitats, Youth, Commercial, and Wildlife Art

Bob has been doing taxidermy for 45 years. He was a member of both the New York Taxidermy Association and the Empire Taxidermy Association and played a role in the unification of the two associations into the UTNY. He also created the logo for the United Taxidermists of New York. Bob was one of the first UTNY board members under President Dennis Mortenson.

Bob is a six-time recipient of the Best All Around Taxidermist award. He has won awards in New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Canada and at both the nationals and world show. Bob has judged many state shows, most recently the NJGSTA this past July. He lives in Binghamton, New York, with his wife of 29 years, Cindy.



Tom Weickum — Mammals and Gameheads

World Champion Taxidermist Tom Weickum came from a hunting and fishing family. Tom's interest in taxidermy started at the age of six when an ad in the back of Boys Life magazine sparked his imagination. Years later Tom recalls career days in elementary school where he took his class down the street to his local taxidermy shop. The taxidermists there were receptive to the interests of a young boy and it was there that Tom immersed himself in the art form that would later become his career. Tom worked at that shop after graduating high school in 1982. After nine years, he started Rocky Mountain Artworks. In 1995, Tom started sculpting forms, which took him in a different direction in his field. "God bless our troops and God bless America."



Holiday Inn Auburn-Finger Lakes Region

75 North Street
Auburn, NY 13021

Directions

From Interstate 90:

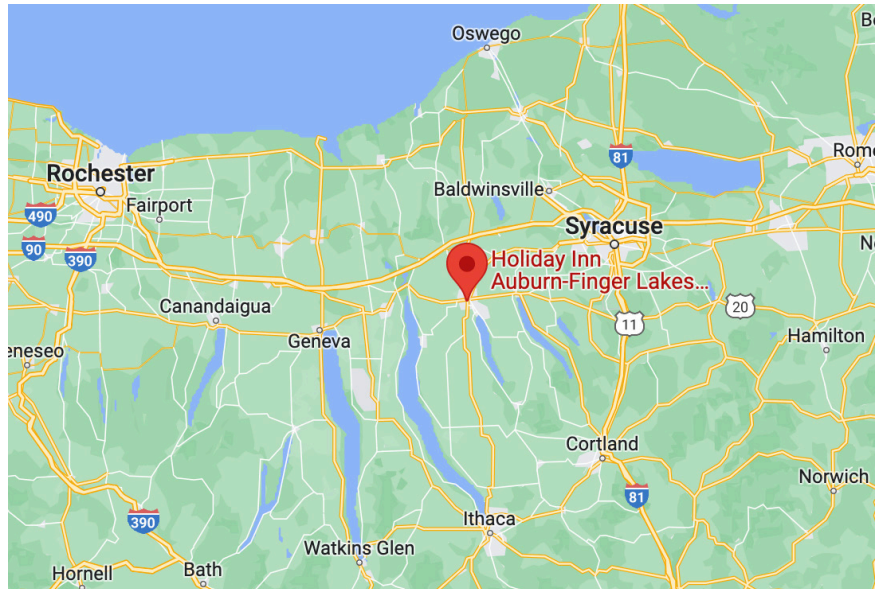
Get off exit 40 at Weedsport and turn right on NY RT 34 South. After about 8 miles, the hotel is on the right.

From Interstate 81:

Get off exit 15 in Lafayette. Turn left on NY RT 20 West. The hotel is about 26 miles farther at the intersection of RTs 20 and 34.

Nearest Airport:

Hancock International, Syracuse, NY



Newly renovated with two on-site restaurants and an indoor pool!

All convention and competition activities will take place at the hotel.

Nearby attractions:

- Bass Pro Shops
- Waterloo Outlet Stores
- Skaneateles Shops
- Finger Lakes wineries



Be sure to reserve at least two weeks before the show to get the UTNY discounted rate of \$99/night.

Three ways to book:

- Online with group code UTB
- Using this link directly: tinyurl.com/UTNYRoom2023
- Scanning the QR code here to use your mobile device



Special Awards

Awards in this list are subject to change.

Judges' Choice Awards

Al Holmes Habitat Award - Best habitat among all entries

Breakthrough Award - Overall best of show

Jordan's Wild Turkey Award - Best turkey in the Professional or Masters division

Mounted in Alaska Award - Best large species life-size or gamehead

Research Manikins Best Small Mammal Award (2) - One Professional and one Amateur winner

Tru Bond Trappers Award - Best indigenous New York small mammal

Sivko Fur Best of Show, Commercial Division - Chosen from Commercial division blue ribbon awardees

UTNY Best of Show, Youth Division - Chosen from Best of Category awardees across the Youth division

UTNY Best of Show, Amateur Division - Chosen from Best of Category awardees across the Amateur division

UTNY Best of Show, Professional Division - Chosen from Best of Category awardees across the Professional Division

UTNY Best of Show, Masters Division - Chosen from Best of Category awardees across the Masters division

UTNY Habitat Award - Best habitat across all entries

UTNY Joseph Bruchac Memorial Award - Best whitetail deer across all divisions

UTNY Upland Gamebird Award - Best upland bird in the Professional or Masters divisions

UTNY Waterfowl Habitat Award - Best waterfowl habitat

Van Dyke Award - Most creative entry in the Professional or Master divisions

Warren Hardendorf Memorial Award - Best small mammal in the Masters division

WASCO Award - Most artistic entry

Woody Award for Excellence in Taxidermy - All pieces considered

Awards for Highest-Scoring Mounts

Best All Around Taxidermist (\$25 entry fee) - Highest total score (minimum 340) of mammal, bird, fish, and gamehead in all divisions

Buckshot Tannery Pro Life-Size Mammal Award - Highest score for a life-size mammal

Jack Wilson Award - Highest-scoring waterfowl in the Masters division

Larry Clingerman Award - Highest-scoring waterfowl in the Professional division

Safari Club Adirondack - Catskill Chapter Non-North American Award - Highest-scoring non-North American big game mount in the professional or masters divisions

Safari Club Adirondack - Catskill Chapter North American Award - Highest-scoring North American big game mount in the professional or masters divisions

West Wind Taxidermy Gamehead Award - Highest-scoring gamehead in the Amateur division

West Wind Taxidermy Life-Size Award - Highest-scoring small or large mammal in the Amateur division

UTNY Best Non-Gamebird Award - Highest score for non-gamebirds in the Professional or Masters divisions

UTNY Distinguished Taxidermist Award, Amateur or Professional Division (\$25 entry fee) - Highest total score (minimum 260) of three pieces in the Amateur or Professional divisions

UTNY Distinguished Taxidermist Award, Masters Division (\$25 entry fee) - Highest total score of three pieces (minimum 260) in the Masters division

Walnut Hollow Country Awards - Five awards total; one for each of the highest-scoring mounts among birds, fish, turkeys, mammals, and whitetails

Whitetails Unlimited Awards - Three awards total; one for each of the highest-scoring whitetail mounts across the Youth, Amateur, and Professional divisions

The Wildlife Gallery Best Gamehead Award - Highest score among all gamehead entries

Special Awards

Awards in this list are subject to change.

Taxidermists' Choice Awards

The following special awards are determined by taxidermists' votes during the convention weekend.

McKenzie Bird Award

McKenzie Fish Award

McKenzie Mammal Award

McKenzie Whitetail Award

UTNY Gamehead Award

Gunner's Turkey Award

UTA Artisan Award - Most artistic entry

UTNY Board and President's Choice

The following special awards are voted on by the UTNY board or selected by the president.

McKenzie Distinguished Service Award - As voted on by the UTNY board

UTNY Mike Rudzinis Memorial Award - President's choice

UTNY Dennis Mortenson's President's Challenge Award (\$10 entry fee) - Whitetail mount

Product-Based Awards

To be eligible for these special awards, you must note product use at the time of registration.

LifeTone Award - Judges' choice from fish painted with LifeTone Hydromist products

PRO-1 Award - Judges' choice best entry for any mount using PRO-1 hide paste or tan

Polytranspar Award - Judges' choice for fish painted with Polytranspar paints

Rules for all UTNY Competitors

1. All attending competitors must be dues-paying members of UTNY and must be registered at the convention. Your registration badge must be worn at all times.
2. All competition pieces need to be registered for the competition and the appropriate fee(s) paid.
3. You must pick up your packet before entering competition pieces. All competition pieces must be delivered to the check-in area by 4:30 p.m. on the Friday of the convention weekend. Any final grooming is to be done only in the check-in area prior to the official judging session. Pieces may not be removed until the end of the board meeting on Sunday. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Anyone wanting someone else to transport their competition pieces on Sunday will need to supply a written document to the competition committee with both parties' signatures for release.
4. No one is to be allowed in the competition area prior to, or during, judging other than authorized competition committee personnel.
5. Pieces may be used to compete only one time in a UTNY competition.
6. Hangers must be placed so that they extend above the panel on backer. If two hangers are required, space them on full inches apart for pegboard display. You can move them back down after the show.
7. A piece can be rejected from competition if members of the committee judge it to be lewd or offensive to the general public (i.e. blood, traps, arrows, etc.). **NO LIVE AMMO** is permitted.
8. Any plaques or signs identifying the taxidermist or customer must be removed or obscured before judging. All glass cases must be removed by the competitor only and before judging. This will be done in the grooming area.
9. Multiple ribbons will be awarded in most categories, according to quality of work. In the event of a tie, duplicate ribbons will be given.
10. Score sheets will be given to competitors. It will be the competitor's responsibility to keep their documentation. UTNY will only hold the scores of each competitor, not their detailed score reports. Raw score will be used for the ribbon placement in all categories and divisions. Judges will be notified of the division and category.
11. Any unsportsmanlike behavior will result in the loss of your ribbon(s).
12. Animals hunted legally in the world are allowed with proper permits, including transport permits. Hawks, owls, songbirds, or eagles will be allowed with proper state and federal paperwork. The competitor is responsible for knowing and following all such laws pertaining to species on federal or New York State protected or threatened lists.
13. **JUDGES' DECISIONS ARE FINAL.**
14. All competition pieces will be entered at the competitor's own risk. UTNY is not responsible for any liability due to damage, theft, fire, or natural causes.
15. Any competitor 16-years-old or under will receive a ribbon and may register under family membership. They must still pay the competition entry fee.
16. If you bring any animal that does not conform to any category, you must submit photos and reference pictures for the judge to determine if it was correctly interpreted in the mount. There will be no Best of Category ribbon.

Divisions of Competition

1. Amateur – Anyone new to taxidermy competition. Any amateur who has won two first-place ribbons in a given category must move up in that category only.
2. Professional – Any competitor who has won two first-place amateur ribbons in that category or a Best of Category. Any professional who has won three first-place ribbons in a given category must move up in that category only.
3. Master – Any competitor who has won three first-place ribbons in that category
4. Youth – Any competitor 16 years old or younger can compete under a family UTNY membership but must pay the entry fee(s)
5. Commercial – Any average customer piece, open to all competitors. The reason for having a commercial division is to have an average customer piece critiqued. Judging is done without flashlight or physical touch. Entries are eligible for Taxidermists' Choice, President's Trophy, and WASCO awards. There is no Best of Category awards in this division.

Some thoughts when choosing a division...

- Ask many who have been competing for a while. They will tell you the best benefit to competing is the knowledge you will gain through the critiques of your piece. Your work will very likely improve faster than it ever would have on your own.
- The higher the division, the higher the scrutiny the judge will use. The ribbons may come harder but the input from the judge will be more in-depth.
- First-timers often think they should start in the Amateur Division. You might consider entering the Professional Division. The judging is to a higher standard and the critique will be much more detailed... you will learn more, faster.
- The Commercial Division is basically judged from several feet away (e.g. from a customer's viewpoint). Pieces are not scored on a point system and there is no detailed score sheet. Ribbons can come easier, but you won't get the benefit of the score sheet and critique. If you are hungry for knowledge, you might be better served in any of the other divisions.

Note any competitor may move up to a higher division at any time, but cannot drop back.

Categories of Competition

A mount can only be entered in one division in the competition (e.g. you cannot enter the same mount in the master and commercial division at the same time). Open categories are open to competitors in any division. Open categories include, but are not limited to: collective artist, novelty, wildlife art, freeze dry, and commercial. Entries in open categories are not eligible for distinguished taxidermist or any special awards unless specifically listed.

1. Youth, Amateur, Professional, and Master Divisions

- Whitetail deer heads (open or closed mouth categories)
- Gameheads (open or closed mouth categories, all other animals including 1/2 life size)
- Large life-size mammals (larger than a coyote)
- Small life-size mammals (coyote and smaller; juvenile large mammals, fawns, cubs, etc, will be included as small mammals determined by body mass as to coyote size)
- Upland birds, waterfowl, turkeys (allow freeze dry heads)
- Reptiles (skin mounts)
- Reproductions (fish, reptiles, amphibians, replica antlers, etc)
- Fish: All fish are judged as a two-sided mount in the professional and masters divisions. Commercial, youth, and amateur divisions are one-sided. The judge will need to see two eyes and the finished area to blend the seam in order to score the fish. Please specify the division and category on the entry sheet. The competition committee will classify anything questionable into the commercial division.

2. Wildlife Art

Wildlife art will be any open division, to include, but not exclusive of: sculpture, painting, photography, carving, casting, or flat art. The judges will choose the winner. Nothing will be allowed that is lewd or offensive to the public (e.g. traps, blood, or arrows) and NO LIVE AMMO.

3. Commercial Division

Whitetail deer, gameheads, birds, mammals, and fish are the only categories in this division. Only first, second, and third places are awarded. Judging will be done without the use of a flashlight or physical touch. Commercial pieces will be eligible for taxidermist's choice.

4. Freeze Dry Taxidermy

This will be an open division. Entries must be designated for this category. No other freeze dry will be in the general competition other than turkey head.

5. President's Challenge

6. Best of Category

These ribbons will be awarded in each division for the categories listed above in the Divisions listed in #1. The Best of Category ribbon will go to the highest blue ribbon entry. If a division has no blue ribbon, it will not receive a Best of Category ribbon.

7. Collective Artists Category

UTNY Convention Registration



UTNY Convention attendees must be current UTNY members or the guest of a member. Members can bring up to four guests with their Convention registration. Dues are paid annually. If you are entering pieces into the competition, you must register separately. Hotel stays must be booked with and paid for directly with the venue.

Convention registration for you and your guests includes access to seminars, the supply area, and the competition floor for viewing. Saturday night's Awards Banquet is not included in your convention registration. If you wish to attend the banquet, you can purchase a ticket(s) with this form.

UTNY MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to United Taxidermists of New York and mail to:

Lore Lozier, UTNY Secretary
 3241 Flint Hill Road
 Naples, NY 14512

If you are also competing, all registration fees can be accounted for in the same check. Questions? Call Lore at 585-245-3276.

ANNUAL DUES: \$35 = \$ _____

CONVENTION PASS:

4-Day Convention Pass: **\$50** = \$ _____

1-Day Convention Pass: **\$30** = \$ _____

Guest Passes — Up to 4 passes included with your registration

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

BANQUET TICKETS:

UTNY Member: **\$40** = \$ _____

Adult Guest (from guest pass list): # _____ @ **\$40 each** = \$ _____

Adult Guest (not on guest pass list): # _____ @ **\$45 each** = \$ _____

Child Guest: # _____ @ **\$10 each** = \$ _____

CONVENTION TOTAL: = \$ _____

UTNY Competition Registration

All competitors must be UTNY members and registered Convention attendees. Youth division competitors (16 years and under) may compete under a family member's UTNY membership.



COMPETITOR INFORMATION:

Name: _____

COMPETITION ENTRIES:

Mount Entries: # _____ @ \$25 each (pre-registered) = \$ _____

_____ @ \$40 each (day-of registration) = \$ _____

Wildlife Art Pieces: # _____ @ \$10 each = \$ _____

SPECIAL AWARD ENTRIES:

Best All-Around Taxidermist: \$25 = \$ _____

UTNY Distinguished Taxidermist: \$25 = \$ _____

President's Challenge: \$10 = \$ _____

COMPETITION TOTAL: = \$ _____

YOUR SHOWPIECES:

All showpieces must be registered. Each entry must have BOTH a division and category listed unless you are entering in an Open Category.

All special awards are subject to change. Look for other product-based special awards at the registration desk when you arrive. It is the responsibility of the competitor to sign up for special awards.

DIVISIONS:

Youth, Amateur, Professional, Masters, Commercial

OPEN CATEGORIES, NO DIVISION:

Wildlife Art, Novelties, Freeze Dry Taxidermy, Collective Artists

CATEGORIES:

Gamehead, whitetail deer, small mammal, large mammal, upland bird, waterfowl, turkey, reptile, fish, reproduction, habitat

SPECIAL AWARD PRODUCTS:

Polytranspar, LifeTone, PRO-1, Walnut Creek

#	Division	Category	Species	Open or Closed Mouth	Eligible Products
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					

If entering collective artists pieces, list their names here: