



# KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF TAXIDERMISTS

**FALL 2014**

**KAT TRACKS**

[www.ksassociationtaxidermy.com](http://www.ksassociationtaxidermy.com)

## Convention 2015



Although it seems like our 2014 competition just ended, it's time to mark your calendars for the 2015 convention and competition. This year's annual event will be held in Wichita at the Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview on March 27-29, 2015. Reserve your room before February 23, 2015 to receive your early registration rate of 95.95.

Listed below are some of the many conveniences we will experience.

- Free Hot Breakfast
- Free 5:30 kickback with hot food and cold beverages
- Free internet access
- Free soda and popcorn and more!

We will begin much earlier on Friday this year so make plans to arrive early on Friday as much help will be needed to set up and begin the registration process. Much more to come so don't be left out....make your reservations early and plan on being in Wichita next spring!

## Welcome to our new members!

**Paul Cheney Triple Threat Taxidermy Kansas City, KS**

**Tom Hayes Back to Nature Hutchinson, KS**

**Dan Wayne Kansas City, MO**

**Jerry Perrin Shawnee Archery Topeka, KS**

**Gary Winkel Cedar Hills Taxidermy Hutchinson, KS**

**Next Meeting Date  
January 17, 2015**



## **Randy Pike** 1953-2014

The news on Saturday morning, September 20, 2014, sent a wave of sadness throughout the country as we learned of the unexpected passing of a colleague, judge and friend Randy Pike.

Randy was known by many of us and will be missed in many circles. The Nevada (MO) Daily

Mail described Randy as a well-respected lawmaker, who represented Vernon County and most of Bates, was a frequent presence at city and county events, routinely attending the Nevada Vernon County Area Chamber of Commerce meetings and luncheons and business and community functions in Nevada and throughout Vernon County.

They went on to say that Randy Pike was a talented taxidermist and wood carver. He was awarded World Champion Taxidermist in 1988. In addition to receiving the Missouri Distinguished Taxidermist Award, Rep. Pike had also judged world and state woodcarving and taxidermy competitions for 20 years. <http://www.nevadadailymail.com/story/2121257.html>

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Randy's family and the many friends and colleagues he had in the Missouri Legislature, his community and the taxidermy world. Randy Pike left this world ten days before his sixty first birthday and will be missed by all.

## Moving Forward

by Cory Foth



It looks as if another hunting season is upon us! I hope you all have as successful season as you would like. I know the fall can be busy with lots of things going on, but always try and remember to be professional and courteous in your dealings with your customers. I would like to update the fact that we have re-stained all of the backboards for the upcoming show in March. Most of the materials were donated, so the cost was extremely minimal to the

KAT. It looks as if the MOKAN competition was another success. I hope all that could make it did, and for those that didn't, they could make it in the future. The hotel is booked and the next meeting, and LAST meeting before the show will be January 17 at 10am, 400 W Douglas Ave, Wichita, KS 67202. Hope to see you there.

## From the Heart



There are a few things that I will mention this time. First I want to wish the family and friends of our friend Randy Pike our deepest condolences. Randy was a professional and had a passion for the taxidermy industry and conservation in general. I met Randy several years ago when I entered an amateur fish in the MTA. He was very

constructive, objective and encouraging to me as he offered his critique and that is largely what kept me going forward. I also had opportunities to see him in the political arena as we were in the same party in bordering counties. Randy worked hard for conservation and was an advocate for our industry. He was loved and respected in many arenas and will be greatly missed by many people.

Next, I would like to express my gratitude to all who attended and participated in the 3rd Annual MO-KAN Competition. I can tell you that all who attended had the experience of seeing seven mini seminars and fellowshipping with some of the best taxidermists in the two state area. I was fortunate enough to have a twelve year old young man want to mount a crawdad. Having brought several, I put him to work. Before the end of the competition, he had taken it completely apart, cleaned it out and reassembled it. At the end, we painted the one I had put together at home and he was so excited as I sent all of it home with him. I love working with the future and he is it. I would also like to see some of this at our conventions and am considering doing some kind of a hands on for the kids. I would love any feedback you might have on this.

I have a special heart felt thanks to Rudy Epply for donating some complete forms and items for the auction we had, as that covered all but three dollars of the costs we incurred to put this on. This is a huge opportunity that has grown every year and looks to be even bigger next year. Also a huge thanks to Cindy Cunningham for opening her shop for us to have a place to host this awesome event. Without a place this size, we would not have this opportunity going forward. Once again this year, the KAT received several new members from this event.

I will be completing the pricing survey and hope to have it to Clint along with the updated membership list soon to put on the web page. Please take the time to fill it out and send it back as it will lend valuable information for each of us going forward.

Lastly, I hope you all have a great beginning to the season as the hunting reports and the economy in general are both looking up. Most of all, be careful out there and spend time with the ones who mean the most to you. It could all end tomorrow. Until next time friends....

Tviper56...out.



## 3rd Annual MO-KAN Competition



The third annual MO-KAN Competition was a huge success. Seven contestants and close to forty observers filled the shop at Second Creation Taxidermy on Saturday, September 13th. Pictured above is Cole Cruikshank with his first place bobcat pedestal mount and Dawne Stacks with her second place armadillo.

The annual event drew competitors and spectators from three states and allowed people to visit seven work stations and observe taxidermists at work. A bbq lunch was served afterwards followed by an auction with items donated from Rudy Epply and Ohio Taxidermy.

There was no cost to any of the sponsoring groups as the auction covered all of the expenses. Special thanks to Cindy Cunningham for opening her shop for this event. This event yielded five new members for the KAT!

### 2014 Officers

**President: Cory Foth**  
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**Vice President: Clint Bowman**  
1135 Vista Del Lago  
Council Grove KS 66846 (620) 440-1040

**Secretary: Tim Stidham**  
1515 Eagle Glen Circle  
Raymore, MO 64083 (816) 536-1974

**Treasurer: Brian Sigman**  
714 N. Flora  
Wichita, KS (316) 806-0687

**Past President : Cindy Cunningham**  
**Eastern Director: Dennis Costlow**  
**Eastern Director: Shawn Wilson**  
**Western Director: Jeff Helm**  
**Western Director: Dave Selenke**  
**At Large Director: Dennis Shumaker**  
**At Large Director: Edd Savage**

