

Bruce Taylor



Bruce Taylor has been an artist & Taxidermist since childhood. At age 9 he took a taxidermy correspondence course from the NW School of Taxidermy in Omaha. He mounted all species of animals until 1990 when he started Taylor's Fish Taxidermy. Bruce's first wood carving was from a stump of wood. It went on to win first place at the NMTA, and CTA shows. It also received second place at Nationals in 2000. His second fish wood carving entered at Nationals received the prestigious: Best of Show Technique.

Bruce's carvings begin with a pattern from an actual fish. Measurements from head to tail are taken and 5 or 6 girth measurements. He cuts the basic shape with a band saw. Then using various knives, hammer, chisel and a dremel tool, he details the body and mouth. Bruce prefers Jelutong wood for the fish body and Tupelo for the fins.



Jelutong is a dense wood from Madagascar Indonesia, and Tupelo from Tupelo Mississippi. Individual scales are meticulously burned into the body one by one. Typically about 4,000 scales for a 20" fish. This takes hundreds of hours depending on the size of the fish. He then brings the fish to life using paints. About seventeen different colors are used to achieve a rainbow trout. Lastly Bruce gives special attention to designing a natural habitat scene. Each species of fish is depicted in its own unique environment. Bruce likes to recreate your special story by incorporating additional fish, worms, flies and lures in the habitat.



Bruce Taylor