

and ribbons. "I thought it would be a fun thing to do for the kids, and it gives them time to run, jog, walk, play or kayak under the bright sunshine beaming with his two children, Vincent, 9, See **SUNDAY** on B5

# Taxidermist makes good catch last longer

By Don Sapatkin  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Rocco DiPasquale was munching a sandwich, his hook in the water for perhaps 15 minutes, when something big bit. He knew quickly what it was.

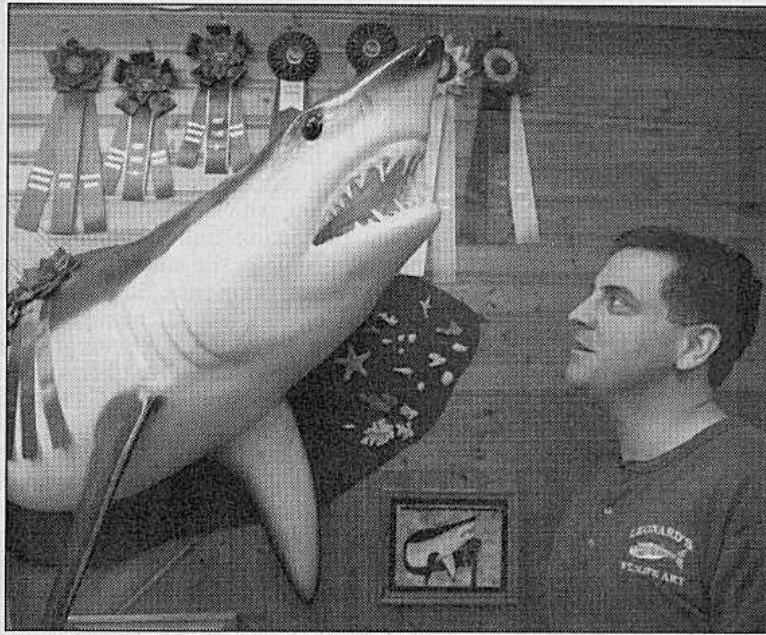
"He started ripping the line out and he jumped out of the water right away, probably about 10 feet," DiPasquale said. "We all yelled 'MAKO!'"

And when the shark weighed in at 274 pounds at the South Jersey Marina, DiPasquale knew quickly where it would lead: to Jeff Leonard Jr., a 34-year-old taxidermist in the business for less than five years.

"I think he's the best around. The way he does the colors is more realistic," said DiPasquale, who lives near the Leonard family store in Upper Darby. "Everything looks alive."

That's a supreme compliment for any taxidermist, especially when much of the final mount often is not real. This particular mako is entirely fake, a fiberglass reproduction.

Leonard never saw the actual shark, which was butchered into more than 150 pounds of meat at the marina in Cape May. Working with a mediocre See **TAXIDERMY** on B5



JOHN SLAVIN / Inquirer Suburban Staff

**A replica of a 274-pound mako shark won** Jeff Leonard Jr., 34, first prize in the Pennsylvania Taxidermy Association championships last month. Leonard crafted the fiberglass piece from a snapshot.

## INSIDE

### COMMENTARY

**The Rendell administration** needs to

decorated World War II navigator in the Army Air Corps. **B6.**

### Voter Registration

**Today is the last day** to register to vote. You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. resident and will be 18 or older by Ele