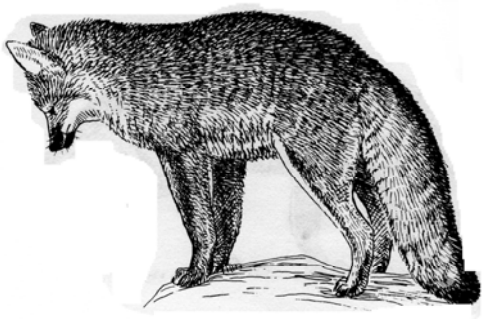
TRAP-LINES

New York State Trapper's Association Fall Edition 2008



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NEW YORK STATE TRAPPER'S Association

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President's Report:

As we reflect back to events that happened over the past year we see our accomplishments and set backs. When things are going great everything is quiet. When events happen that institute change we react. Sometimes people react to changes in a negative way, most of the time we adapt to the situation.

As trappers we tend to resist change, we are set in our ways, most people don't understand the trapper or sportsmen in general. We are passionate about our beliefs. It's in the way we handle these changes that makes a difference.

Sometimes leadership has to make decisions that effects everyone. These decisions aren't always popular but necessary. No one person makes decisions for the rest of the NYSTA. The Board of Directors talk to each other and get each other's opinions. With the information given at the time we make a decision on the best way to handle the situation. At times we don't want to make these decisions, but I assure you, we make these decisions to ensure that our children and grandchildren can continue to trap.

It's ironic, we are one of the oldest professions in America. Most of the early settlements were Fur Trading posts, which then became large cites. Our state capital started as a fur trading post. Now it is the place where we have to fight for our rights to trap.

New York trappers are lucky we have a good relationship with the DEC. Many states don't have the dialog that we have with the department. In those states that don't or can't communicate with their state wildlife department, they have often been severely restricted with their use of traps. Even fewer states have someone to work for them and to educate the politicians. If we didn't have David Miller in Albany, we would of lost the ability to trap a long time ago.

On a lighter note, another convention has come and gone. We had a great turnout. Both dealer buildings were full. We had more tailgaters than I can remember seeing at our convention in a long time.

With the high gas prices we weren't sure what to expect. It is hard to judge what kind of turnout we actually have until after the convention is over and tally up the figures. I would like to add, that the fairgrounds people, who man the gate, said there seemed to be more children that attended this year. Whole families attending together. I was given advice to hold an event that you would be proud to have your grandmother attend. I think we have accomplished that. This all couldn't be possible

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President's report continued...

without all the volunteers that make this event possible. I give a personal "***Thank You***" to everyone that has helped make our convention one of the largest in the country.

It has only been a week since the convention ended. I have already received letters complimenting us on a wonderful convention. They liked seeing how the kids were involved, the scavenger hunt was a big hit along with the muskrat float building and the trap basket giveaway. I've had great comments on the Adirondack Story Teller on Friday night and the addition of the band on Saturday night. These comments are valuable to the decision making process for next year's convention. I'd ask you to send in comments on what you liked or didn't like. The convention is for the trappers that attend, your voice can help us make it more enjoyable for everyone.

Another addition to our show that I see has great potential to grow each year is the Fur Handler of the Year Award. This award was the idea of Region 6 Director Pat Arnold.

Congratulations go out to Joe Van Houton for his superb fur handling that made him the first award recipient. The first year didn't have a huge turnout but it wasn't a giveaway. The fur that was submitted was from experienced fur handlers, some of the best in the state.

Trapping season is coming upon us quickly. I wish everyone a great season with lots of fur on stretchers. Be safe and take advantage of the new Trapper Mentoring Law that went into effect this year. Now kids under 12 years old can legally set traps under the direct supervision of an experienced trapper. This will allow our children to enjoy the experience of trapping. It is a great introduction to trapping for them. Thank you for your support of NYSTA.

Dave Leibig - NYSTA President
1374 Warren Road
Delhi, New York 13753

607-829-6813 or beavertrapper64@yahoo.com

Executive Director's Report

On the Convention

I think a convention report would be complete if I said nothing more than "a good time was had by all". The vendors were happy and the attendees were happy, in fact everyone that I talked to was happy. What more could we ask?

The Trapper Training class scheduled for Saturday morning was first advertised, then cancelled, then rescheduled. I am most grateful to Gerry Leggerri, Angie and Lou Berchielli, Toby Edwards, Andy McDuff, ECO Gibbs, Pat Arnold and John Rockwood for stepping in to make the class a success. My apologies to any one I may have forgotten. About twenty students participated and were certified. There were several adults and three women. It really is a pleasure to see more women getting interested and involved in trapping.

Students attending the Trapper Training Class.

Fund Raising

Fund raising went very well. Both the Chinese Auction and the live auction did better than last year and the proceeds from the mailed out raffle tickets nearly tripled from last year.

Fundraising is an important ongoing activity for NYSTA. We will continue to offer raffles and other events that you, our members will be willing to support. We will be holding a ten gun raffle soon, so be looking for the tickets.

I do want to offer our sincere thanks to each and every individual and group for the support of the past raffle. I also want to tell you how deeply ***I appreciate this support. You are all most generous***.

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Executive Director's Report continued...

I know folks, that fund raising isn't a lot of fun, but it is one of those necessities of life if we are to continue be recognized as New York States strongest proponent for proper wildlife management and sound conservation practices.

Legislation

There is little activity in the legislature at this time. This is an election year and everyone is busy trying to get re-elected. This will be an important election both nationally and statewide, especially in the Senate.

The important thing is to be sure that you vote and vote wisely!

Attention: Ginseng Hunters!

Here's a last minute thing to think about. Just recently I heard some rumblings that there may be some problem with exporting ginseng out of New York State. Understand that under the CITES Act any state that allows the harvest of ginseng root and/or expects to export that root must have a federally issued export license. There are very stringent rules that individual states must adhere to about recording the harvest of ginseng and if the state fails to keep or file these records the feds may take their export license away.

Apparently there has been some "glitch" in New York's recording or filing and as a result New York may--- I say may---- lose their export license as described above.

Now---- before anyone gets too excited keep in mind I said rumblings and although the source is very reliable that person only said "this may be a problem."

A few days ago I had an opportunity to talk to an old friend, Congressman Maurice Hinchey. Congressman Hinchey, among other things deals with the Dept. of Interior (the people who deal with such matters), and said that he would see what he could find out and perhaps would be able to help if in fact there is a problem. This is all that I know. As more details come along I will put them on the web site.

Dave Miller
607-522-4707 or guarddn@empacc.net
P.S. That Andy Smith sings pretty good… who'd have guessed?

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THE PROOF IS IN THE CATCH

JTI then and Now

The year was 1988. Then Chief of DEC's Bureau of Wildlife, Gary Parsons, had come to a NYSTA Board of Director's meeting, and was threatening to mandate the use of padded traps only, on land throughout New York State.

As a consequence, NYSTA President Bob Stanton appointed a committee to respond to DEC's threat. Initially known as the "Padded Trap Committee," 5 members were appointed; Dave Miller, Angie Berchielli, John Milks, Janice Henke, and myself, Al West as Chairman.

The first meeting with DEC was quite contentious and the committee as a group walked out of that meeting. We eventually got back together with DEC, but that walkout set the tone for those early meetings.

The "padded trap mandate" was eventually dropped. But one outcome of all this is that JTI and DEC did develop a dialog on many other issues of mutual concern. In the early 1990's JTI developed language that was approved by the Board of Directors and supported by DEC that required that most foothold traps, set on land, to be covered and equipped with a pan tensioning device. Research had shown these requirements increase selectivity and reduced the chances of injury to captured animals. Dave Miller work with Assemblyman, Mike Bragman, who met with JTI and introduced the legislation.

The bill passed the legislature and was signed into law by the Governor in 1991. The passage of that legislation removed a lot of pressure that had been building in the legislature "to do something". From these successes the Committee was given a new name, the " Joint Trapping Initiative Committee" (JTI). The primary goal remains; ***to sustain and improve trapping in New York.*** At the time we concentrated our efforts on three major areas: public education, trapper education, and research on traps.

New York has had an excellent trapper education program since becoming mandatory and was improved upon through the efforts of the JTI with the inception of advanced seminars aimed at educating experienced trappers. The first of these was held after the bill became effective in 1992.

A lot of water has flowed over the dam since those days. The JTI Committee has evolved into an important working committee of NYSTA and is one of the major links with DEC for the New York State Trappers Association. Through this long process, a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation has developed between JTI and DEC.

With the passage of the new by-laws JTI is now a permanent committee for the Association. The Committee has been involved with the National BMP process; providing both comments and participation. At least one other state, Vermont, has copied New York and formed a JTI Committee of it's own. The Committee has been involved in every important issue facing trappers and DEC. Some issues have been highly visible; some little known. Some results were popular and some were not. The recent signing of the youth hunting and trapping mentoring bill by the Governor is the result of a suggestion to DEC by the JTI Committee, that DEC was able to incorporate in the legislation. JTI was heavily involved with addressing the proposed 330 trigger regulation and more recently the body gripping regulation on land.

While some of these regulations were not popular in some quarters, trappers must recognize the fact that New York has a population of 19 million people. New York is overwhelmingly controlled by downstate, urbanized values every day.

Our legislature is dominated by representatives south of the Tappen Zee Bridge. For trapping to survive under such conditions we must be creative and use our wits, and the JTI does just that. The preservation of trapping in New York is indeed the "bigger picture" and although some issues may prove unpopular, the bigger picture, ***to continue trapping,*** must be the goal.

An example of this is the recent body gripping regulations that have been implemented. With projected high fisher and raccoon pelt prices, trapper activity towards these species increased. There is also more and more use of State lands by non hunting and non trapping publics. Then there were the highly publicized capture of a number of dogs. Regardless of whether or not the trapper was at fault, trapping got a very bad name in the public eye, and more importantly, in the legislature eye. Again the pressure was mounting, "to do something."

Had we not acted, the Legislature surely would have, and without question, the results would have been far worse. Trapping itself would have been on the line...the Bigger Picture.

The current members of JTI are, Bill Schwerd, Jim Carmody, Angie Berchielli, Dave Miller, Johnny Rockwood, Ed Hamilton and myself Al West. We come from Saratoga, Albany, Steuben, Oswego, Wyoming and Warren County. Angie Berchielli, Dave Miller, and Al West are charter members of the committee dating back to 1988. The members come from diverse walks of life and every member makes significant contributions; there are no slackers. Sometimes our meetings are quite heated with disagreement on issues, but in spite of this, there is a mutual respect for each other, and we are committed to the common goal of protecting and preserving trapping in New York for our membership.

Today 20 years later the JTI is alive and well and needed even more. The issues today range from the recent proposed land use changes for the State Lands (part 190), to cable restraint legislation, the use of exposed carcasses, and the ongoing BMP process. Without question, New York trappers would not enjoy trapping as we know it in now if it were not for the involvement of the JTI Committee.

Al West, Chairman
518-793-3662 or agwthird@hotmail.com

MAKING OUR VOICE HEARD

By Jerry Leggieri

Now that all the hoopla of the two conventions is over, the ball is back in our court as to who gets elected. It's a tough choice; one candidate advocating "change we can believe in" while the other says, "change is coming". We won't find out what that "change" entails until the new president is sworn in next January.

Here in New York it doesn't seem to make much difference which candidate we support as far as the presidential race goes. The national race is certainly the most exciting one, and gets all the headlines, but as long as I can remember New York always goes Democrat, even recently when we had a Republican mayor of New York City and a Republican governor. I can't remember the last time a presidential candidate campaigned in NY other than maybe to do a fund raiser in the City. It's sad, really. They practically take up residence in so-called "battleground" states like Ohio or Pennsylvania, and totally ignore a state with 31 electoral votes; one party automatically counting them for their side and the other forfeiting them.

So, what should a trapper do in New York? Because of the above reality I've heard many people say they don't plan to vote because their vote doesn't really count. The key is to get involved locally. Back in the '60s they used to say "think globally but act locally" and that advice is still good today. Don't worry about the presidential race you won't have any clout with. Instead, become informed about the local races (city, town, county, state, and Congressional) where your voice can be heard.

Much is being made of Sarah Palin, the Republican nominee for Vice President. She's been a PTA president, mayor, and governor. She's also a member of the NRA and a hunter. I don't know if she's ever trapped. Now she's possibly our next Vice President. But before she got this far she worked her way up through local elected offices. And this is where the individual voter has the greatest influence. People in Alaska who supported her earlier runs for office are responsible for her getting this chance for the top national office.

There are a lot of races up for grabs this fall. I know in my area several contested primaries will be held this month to determine who the candidate will be in November. If one is a registered member of a political party you'll have that much more say as to who the eventual candidate will be because you can help select that person on Primary Day. And once a candidate is determined, it's up to you to become informed as to that candidate's positions on issues of importance to you.

Once you find a candidate you'd like to support there are a number of ways to help him or her. Candidates like to ask people for their votes, and do this by going door-to-door and introducing themselves. You could volunteer to take the candidate around your neighborhood to help with those introductions. Candidates can always use money so you might consider a donation to that person's campaign. A simple, painless, yet effective way to help is to offer to put lawn signs up in your yard. Many candidates have local offices where you could drop in and offer to help. They might need someone to man the phones for a period of time. And while you're helping that candidate, you're making your influence felt. The candidate knows who you are and what issues are important to you. When they get elected and one of those "issues" comes up, you'll have a much more sympathetic ear listening to your views.

I think you get the idea. Your voice is important, and it can and should be heard. Focus on local and state elections where you have the most influence and your vote carries the most weight. Not voting at all just helps the candidate you're really against because you're not registering disapproval against that person. And someday that local candidate may be running for a much higher office.

I don't think either Barak Obama or John McCain is going to do much for trapping in New York. But there are lots of candidates for local and state offices who could have a say as to how trapping is affected in the future. ***It's up to you to help get that person elected.***

Take a friend and
Get out and VOTE!

NYSTA Convention report: The kids pack basket giveaway...

We had 12 baskets to give out for free this year to kids under 16. Each of the following donated $150 to pay for the grubstake baskets. I can't thank them enough and I really appreciate their generosity:

Columbia County Trappers Association,
Columbia County Nuisance Wildlife Control,
Wildlife Consulting Services,
Tioga County Trappers Association,
Orange County Trappers Association,
Fulton-Montgomery County Fur Harvesters Association,
Foothills Trappers Association,
Rockland County Trappers Association,
Genesee Valley Trappers Association,
Mid-Hudson Valley Fur Harvesters Association,
Ulster County Trappers Association,
Region 3 Trappers Association.

I'd also like to thank ***Rid A Critter*** and ***Larry Finch*** for making additional donations to the baskets and for ***Sterling Fur Company*** for bringing all the items to the convention.

Last but not least, thank you, ***Mark Charpentier*** from ***Catskill Trappers Shack***. Mark and his son ***Brandon*** put all the items together in the baskets and helped with the giveaways.

And now, the winners were:
Miranda Cool,
Michelle Laquay,
Madison Baciuska,
Josh Knamm,
Casey East,
Devon Bartell,
Evan Appleton,
Fred Lant,
Jordan Machalek,
Elijah Baciuska,
Colby Hunter and
Brendan Caito.

Some very excited kids to say the least. Hope they all have great success this coming season. And who knows, there could be a future president or other officer, director, etc. of NYSTA in there!

Please feel free to contact me, if you or your company would like to donate now for next years baskets.

Dave Morse
Region 7S director
607-849-3090 or davidm1@frontiernet.net

Scholarships Awarded...

At our recent directors meeting the following candidates have been selected to receive $1000.00 scholarships.

These will be payable at the beginning of their second semester, providing they each receive at least a C grade average.

1. Kacie Giuliano -
   132 Mill Rd, Olivebridge, NY, 12461

2. Tyler DeLisle -
   300 Schodack Dr. Castleton, NY

3. Sarah Timmons -
   350 Funk Rd, Schodack Landing, NY 12156

Robert C. Hughes
585-728-2471 or bmh42b@frontiernet.net
Scholarship chairman, NYSTA

2009 Calendars on sale NOW.

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Tom Zeider - 845-647-4631 or contact your Regional Director for 2009 calendars.

The calendars are $20.00 each and the proceeds benefit NYSTA's legislative fund.

Fur Handler Award Winners:

I was very happy with the outcome and hope this will encourage the trappers to participate.

Youth under 13.
Mink and Muskrat
First Place: Zachary Wightman

18 and up
Bobcat -
First Place - Stamas Ilias
Second Place - Frances Daniels
Coyote
First Place - Joe Van Houten
Second Place - Harry Feineis
Red fox -
First Place - Joe Van Houten
Gray Fox
First Place - Joe Van houten
Skunk
First Place - Harry Feineis
Opossum
First Place - Harry Feineis
Fisher
First Place - Joe Van Houten
Second Place - Glenn Bold
Muskrat -
First place - Al West
Second Place - Joe Van Houten
Third - Al West
Mink
First, Second and third place - Jeff French
Otter First and 2nd- Jeff French,
Third place - John Rockwood

Over All Best Fur In Show,
Red Fox - Joe Van Houten.

Judges. Ernie Moser, Toby Edwards and Lee Crowther.

I would like to thank the Judges and Ken Ellison who were my Committee Members.

All awards and monetary support were given by the judges and dealers.

The gold trap for the 13 and under winner was given by ***Mark Schaefer*** from ***Rockland County Trapper's Association , Rid-a-critter Inc.***

I especially want to thank all the participants and all those who helped Friday and Saturday.

I have been asked to do this again next year, and we will.

There will be a few changes, the deadline for check in is 9AM Saturday. There will be a limit of one species per entrant.

I also hope to see more species and participants next year.

I would like to give my thanks to all the Directors and Officers involved in choosing me for Director of the Year. I was surprised and very pleased. I do not do things with that in mind, but it is very nice to be noticed.

Pat Arnold
Region 6 Director
315-644-4643 or patriciaarno@gmail.com

ATTENTION - ATTENTION

NYSTA NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS …

Qualifications are as follows…

1. All candidates must be 21 years of age and must be a member in good standing and actively involved in NYSTA or one of its chapters, preferably in a leadership role for at least four years. A "member in good standing" means their membership dues are current and said candidate shall not have engaged in conduct deemed prejudicial to NYSTA. All candidates must have held a trapping license and meet all other criteria set by the nominating committee.

2. All candidate nominations must be submitted to the election chairman,
   Robert C. Hughes
   10835 Isaman Rd - Box 205
   Perkinsville, NY 14529

   They must be received by December 10th, 2008.

   Nominations must be made in a written form and must include the name and address of the nominee. A petition must be signed by five NYSTA members in good standing who shall also include their names and addresses.
3. According to the new by-laws, the time table for taking office will change from the annual meeting at the fall convention to a meeting of the membership in April, or a date designated by the Board of Directors at their first meeting of the year, at which time a formal installation of new officers or directors will be performed by the secretary.

4. If we have more than one candidate for any office a ballot will be sent out to each qualified voting member, however if there are no contested offices no ballot will be sent out.

5. ***Past presidents MUST*** also file a letter of intent to be submitted to the Nominations Committee Chair by the December deadline if they are to be considered when the Board of Directors vote at the first meeting of the year. The new by-laws state that, "there will be no more than 5 past presidents serving as directors with the immediate past president automatically being one of the five if they choose to do so." The names will be submitted by the Nominations Committee Chairperson to the Board of Directors for their vote. The top 4 names will be the active, voting past presidents.

   Last, but not least folks a lot of work went into revising the by-laws and not everything is perfect yet, so please bear with us. If you do have any questions please contact me immediately and I will get an answer for you. Let us all work together to make NYSTA strong.

Regards,
Robert C. Hughes
Phone585-728-2471 or
bmh42b@frontiernet.net

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ed Hamilton upon his appointment by Governor Paterson as a Commissioner on a Board of Advisory Commissioners for the Genesee Region of the New York State Parks Commission.

Ed is an active member on NYSTA's JTI Committee and is a former New York NTA Director. He is also a former Park Manager for Letchworth State Park and is very deserving of this honor.

Way to go Ed!

Al West

Note from the Editor:

Ed Kohler reminded me at the Convention that it is not always easy to find contact information in our Newsletter.

So in this and future Newsletters, I will try to include contact information at least once for all contributors.

Do you have Meetings, Fur Auctions, Dinners and other events to announce? Please send the information to:

AngieBerchielli@MSN.com

Next Newsletter Deadline:
December 6, 2008

The Ending Of An Era, The Turning Of A Page

Jerry Leggieri's excellent article "How Far Have We Come ?" in the last issue of "Trap-Lines" prompted me to do more than a little reminiscing myself. Jerry's reference to NYSTA and the year 1973 have their own special meanings to me.

As I recall, the annual NYSTA Fall Convention at the Piseco Lake Rod and Gun Club in 1973 would have been my fourth NYSTA Convention. It probably was the first I ever attended as a vendor of trapping supplies. It was most likely also the first ever NYSTA Convention, up to that time, without my friend and mentor E. J. Dailey in attendance.

E. J. had passed away on March 28, 1973 at the age of 83.

I had met E. J. for the first time at his Flackville-Lisbon Road Trapper Supply House in the Spring of 1970. I was then 13 years old and my Dad had made the long drive up to Dailey's so that I could sell my fur to Glen Rowe who had a schedule of buying fur at Dailey's on weekends throughout the trapping season.

It was an incredible experience that I will always remember. Cars and trucks of all kinds were lined up and down both sides of the road for what seemed like miles. More than I had ever seen at any country farm auction. A line of trappers carrying all kinds of furs extended out the front door, across the lawn, down the driveway and on down the road for a long, long way. Some carried a few skins, some had bags full, some had boxes full, and some had piles they kept shuffling along as the long line moved slowly in the direction of a doorway, under a sign denoting this place as "E. J. Dailey's Trapper Supply House". There was absolutely no doubt we were at the right place. I was all ears as I stood in that line awaiting my turn to see the "***Fur Buyer"***.

Although the line progressed at a snail's pace, I enjoyed every hour of it as I listened to all the trapping stories that were being told by trappers within earshot. I believe my Dad, who hadn't trapped since his childhood, enjoyed the many stories we heard as well. When at long last we reached the door and gained a few steps inside I could see a small, thin elderly man with thick glasses and a cigarette hanging from his lips. He was greeting each and every trapper as they neared his wooden desk at which he sat guarding an old worn, black typewriter and a bottle of ginger brandy. I knew from the pictures I had seen that this was the Dean of American Trappers, whom I had probably driven near crazy with the dozens of letters full of questions I'd been sending to him for the better part of two years.

Somehow, in his busy schedule, E. J. had graciously taken the time to respond to each and every letter I ever mailed him as if they were the only ones he ever received. He must have had the patience of a Saint. Dailey received letters and orders from thousands of trappers across the country. To which he responded to every one. He wrote hundreds of magazine articles, and many books --- all typed on that old typewriter with just two fingers !

As my Dad and I reached closer proximity to Dailey, he greeted us with a handshake and "Where are you folks from?" We introduced ourselves and I felt so awed just to be in the presence of this man known worldwide as one of the "greatest trapper of all time." And I had actually shaken the weathered and cigarette stained hand that had skinned literally thousands of furbearers in it's time.

"Looks like you and your Dad had a good season" he said as his knowing eyes peered at the big boxes full of muskrats and burlap bags containing foxes, coon, beaver and a couple mink that we had been moving along the line with us for so long.

My Dad quickly informed E.J. that he hadn't trapped in many years and told him, "That fur all belongs to my son here". E.J. looked right straight at me with a bit of a grin and said "Son, you're from Oswego County? That would be a great place for you to start a trapping supply business. If you ever want to do that, I'd be glad to help you get started. You just come see me sometime when it ain't so busy around here."

I was an extremely shy young lad but I managed to blurt out, "I'm only 13 years old !" to which E.J. quickly responded with a wide smile "That doesn't matter at all, it's in your blood. I can see it. You'd do well to start selling traps and lures down in that country. You must already know a lot of other trappers. Think about it."

The line then moved ahead where I could just get a glimpse of Glen Rowe in the back room and I heard E. J. greeting the next trapper in line.

I did think about it, long and hard, for the next few months. Shortly after my 14th birthday I got enough nerve up to ask Dad if he would take me to Dailey's to buy traps and supplies to sell. A short discussion ensued about whether or not I really wanted to do this. The only part that scared me was going back to visit with E.J. - I really was pretty shy.

I had been banking my fur checks since I was 8 years old and working for local farmers and banking that pay as well.

I could do this, and I did.

It seemed like it took forever to get to Dailey's with that old, rough riding 1966 International Scout but eventually we made it. I spent over a half a day with E.J. picking out, with his help, everything I needed to get started properly. For a bit over $600.00 we filled that old Scout with boxes of various traps, lures, books, gloves, Pack baskets, trowels, and everything else I

would need to get this business up and running. I even had things piled on my lap on the way home. The old Scout was overloaded. But I was as excited as if it were an opening day of trapping season.

What a day it had been. I had befriended Elric Jack Dailey, the Dean of American Trappers and he had personally helped set me up in my own trapping supply business. There wasn't a 14 year old anywhere in this country any more proud than I at that point. I still to this day have that original hand written receipt and list from E.J. for all of those supplies I purchased that day as well as most all of the letters he ever wrote to me throughout the years I knew him.

My involvement in the trapping world at all levels, increased rapidly after that. I wrote magazine articles and even a booklet on beaver trapping which I had published when I was 16 years old. I went on to meet many of the icons of the trapping fraternity of that era. E. J. helped me establish a Blake and Lamb trap distributorship with Sam Hart, introduced me to V.E. Tingley at Dailey's Supply House when Ting started to handle the wholesale side of E.J.'s business.

I spent a lot of time with Ting while visiting Dailey's and they taught me much about the art of lure compounding and formulation. Alice Butcher and Ray Duntley graciously supplied me with O.L. Butcher products for my business and I looked forward to seeing them at every Piseco Lake Convention.

Somewhere in this timeframe I met Johnny Racquette and spent time with him at his home in Hillside between Rome and Boonville. He provided me with a place to gain my first Adirondack trapping experiences which I may share at another time.

John Olin and I spent part of a winter together in that country trapping beaver, otter, and bobcats. We used an old camp that Johnny had used in years past before his health failed, but like I said that's another story. I will say that that was the year of the perceived gasoline shortage that caused rationing at the pumps based on your license plate numbers being odd or even. Blanket beaver were around $35.00 that spring and $35.00 would buy 100 gallons of gasoline or more.

Reminiscing through a lifetime of trapping experiences in several states would occupy far too many pages here. I have been both lucky and blessed enough to have had the chance to befriend many, many trappers across this country. Some well known, some not so well known but all are considered a part of my extended family. I truly believe that my deep and continued involvement in the trapping world started with that first visit to E.J. Dailey's Trapper Supply House so many years ago.

To answer Jerry's question "How Far Have We Come ?" I would have to say "A long way since 1973". From a negative standpoint, the demographics of New York State are changing dramatically as more and more urban people move to the country bringing with them their urban ideas and oftentimes ignorance of trapping and consumptive use as it applies to wildlife and wildlife management, and large farms are turning into housing developments everywhere we look.

State Lands heretofore managed primarily for trapping, hunting, and fishing are seeing more and more use by special interest groups such as horseback riding, bicycling, hiking, etc., and that blanket beaver... well, it sure won't buy a hundred gallons of gas anymore !

However, from a positive aspect we have lost very little to the anti-trapping forces in the past 35 years. Jerry well noted that NYSTA has an excellent Executive Director in Dave Miller, who spends as much time as is needed in Albany lobbying for our rights to trap, hunt, and fish. He is our guardian in the halls of the Legislative Office Building, ever watchful of anything that may be detrimental to the life we choose to enjoy.

The era of the Fur Boom Days is past. Many of the big name trappers of that time are gone as well. Those that are left agree with me that we have seen our Golden Age of trapping and it has passed. The page has turned to a different world. Today's trappers have to be outgoing and articulate when working with a politically governed and controlled wildlife management system. Trappers are survivors and we will adapt. Most of the wildlife agencies across this nation recognize the need for trapping and hunting as effective and necessary wildlife management tools

As a member of NYSTA's JTI Committee, I believe I have personally witnessed a growth towards a more mutual understanding and respectful cooperation between NYSTA and DEC's Furbearer Management Team as we work together towards promoting, regulating, and implementing trapping as an effective and necessary wildlife management tool

In the early 1970's during a discussion with E.J. Dailey, he explained why trappers in NY lost the use of snares several decades previously. Now with new technology and the emergence of the cable restraint, we may someday be able to use this valuable tool again.

NYSTA is growing stronger. I feel that we will continue to grow as trappers across the state recognize the vital role NYSTA plays in preserving the right to trap for generations to come. The future of trapping in New York State looks bright.

I think my old friend E. J. would be proud.

John Rockwood
Oswego County Representative
315-964-1149 or loggerjohn@aol.com

Minutes of the New York State Trapper's Association Director's Meeting

Board of Director's Meeting
June 14, 2008
Herkimer County Fairgrounds

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Leibig at 9:10 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of the March meeting were accepted with minor changes, (Mid –Hudson Trapper's Association is investigating the purple loosestrife control program.)

The treasurer's report indicated that raffle tickets are selling well and dues are holding steady. Thirty-six new members were signed up at the NTA Regional Convention. Year to date we are showing an operating loss of about $4,800 for the first two quarters.

Correspondences

- Furbearer's Unlimited requested a booth at the NYSTA convention. (There was a lot of discussion on whether they were competing with NYSTA for the same dollars, there is a big need to be able to pay the Executive Director's salary. The Board of Director's wanted the Convention Committee to develop a policy on "competing organizations for Executive Board approval.
- Letter from the President of the Independent Fur Harvesters regarding the President's role in emergency regulation.
- New By-laws were passed by a vote of 155 yeas vs. 12 nays. The Board of Directors will begin operating under these new by-laws starting 6/14/08.

DEC Report - Andy McDuff

- Noted an unbaited 110 set on a log over a creek is currently illegal because it is over 8" from the creek bottom. (They will try and fix this.)
- New regulations proposed By the Division of Lands and Forest for the use of State Land, Part 190. There are a lot of issues with the proposal and many could hurt trappers. Be aware and comment.
- Fisher take for last season was 2,362 as of 5/30/08. This is down from 3,244 from last season. Andy McDuff still plans to continue the experimental late season for the full three seasons.
- Talked about nuisance beavers. An average of 2.2 beaver/permit are taken - feels permits are under utilized.
- The new furbearer tags can be scanned, this should speed up getting harvest information.
- DEC is revising some WMU boundaries - this is driven mostly be deer hunting. Region 6 will see an effect on furbearers and game birds.
- Nathan Roberts is trying to develop a new survey method for otter.

Executive Director's Report

Dave Miller reviewed a number of pieces of legislation.

- Trap tag ID Number bill has passed Environmental Conservation Committees in both Houses.
- Junior hunter/trapper mentoring bill has passed both Houses. (Editor's note: It was signed into law 7/24/08.)
- Cable restraint bill probably will not see any action this year.
- Lost Hunting Dog Bill that says a lost dog is still under control and not viewed as "running wild" so that the hunter isn't fined, is being sought by the HYS Houndsmen. NYSTA needs to support this.

There was discussion as to whether NYSTA should host the NTA Regional Convention again. This year was not as well attended or financially successful, and still takes a lot of manpower. NYSTA decided to give another state the opportunity.

Fundraising is going slow. Dave couldn't get a dinner put together in Region 3 due to lack of a good facility. Looking to reschedule this in early fall. Dave is also working with a gentleman named Tony Lieb. Who has done many successful dinners before and says we should be able to get 100-125 attendees at a dinner.

Remington Arms will help with our convention this year; they will provide at least the cost of a gun. ML Knives donated a knife and Rob Wilson donated a mount.

Dave commented on the letter from Al LaFrance and advised the Board of Directors he will respond to him personally.

NYSTA Minutes Continued...

Committee Reports

Convention Report

- Nominations are needed for Director of the Year, & Trappers of the Year.
- Need Volunteers to organize the main gate.
- Fairgrounds has bands that would like to audition. They would split the cost if we have them come in.

Motion: Convention should be open Friday & Saturday, no programs on Sunday.
Made by: Jim Greeley
Seconded by: Al West
Disposition: Carried yeas 12, nays 1

Motion: Have a country western band play Saturday night with Fairgrounds.
Made by: Jerry Leggeri
Seconded by: Dave Morse
Disposition: Carried Yeas 11, nays 1

Motion: Convention Committee should have unencumbered budget of $1,500 they can spend without Board approval.
Made by: Bob Hughes
Seconded by: Al West
Disposition: Carried unanimously

The Fairgrounds requested that we buy 3 chair stackers to help store and move chairs.

Motion: NYSTA purchase 1 chair stacker/dolly.
Made by: Jerry Leggeri
Seconded by: Jim Greeley
Disposition: Carried yeas 10, nays 3

JTI Report

The animal rights groups are using the Endangered Species Act to fight trapping. JTI & DEC discussed this. The JTI then wrote a position paper about using exposed bait, carcasses. The DEC is evaluating the information.

Scholarship

No applications have been received to date.

NTA Report

Maine and Minnesota are having real issues with animal rights groups using the Endangered Species Act to halt trapping. Maine has lynx and Minnesota has wolves and the animal rights groups are using the approach that a trap can't tell the difference between a coyote and an endangered species.

Montana had a dog caught in a 220 and they have more restrictive policy on their use than New York does.

The Feds want to increase the fees to ship furs to Canada due to higher inspection costs.

Newsletter

Deadline dates for Newsletter articles are: 6/30, 9/6 and 12/6.

Fur handling Award

This will be new at this year's convention. It will include an award for every species, submitted by those under and over 12 years of age. There will be a Fur Handler of the Year Award.

Old Business

- NTA educational materials that were presented at the March meeting did not receive strong support from the Board of Directors, particularly the coloring books.
- Camp Glengarra Committee needs to meet and make a recommendation about the proposal.

New Business

Lands & Forest proposals, Part 190, need to be looked at carefully. Please send in comments during the comment period. Dave Miller will write NYSTA's position on these regulations.

Patricia Arnold inquired why NYSTA was not a member of the US Sportsmen's Alliance. There was discussion as to the history.

Harold Palmer (President of NYSCC) inquired of Dave Leibig, at another meeting, why NYSTA was not part of the NYS Conservation Council. This generated some discussion also.

"Trapper's World Magazine" wants to be the trapper's magazine rather than the ***"Trapper & Predator Caller"*** They will be more aggressive in offering incentives to State organizations.

Adjournment

The next Director's meeting will be on Thursday 8/29/08 at 9AM at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Hogan
315-593-2196
NYSTA Secretary

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Fur Harvest Reports 2007-2008

County	Beaver Number	Otter Number	Bobcat Number	Fisher Number	Marten Number
Albany	105	7	11	22	
Allegany	360				
Broome	256		2		
Cattaraugus	481				
Cayuga	143				
Chautauqua	516				
Chemung	119				
Chenango	396				
Clinton	557	16	12	169	
Columbia	155	11	15	26	
Cortland	196				
Delaware	263		61	14	
Dutchess	133	11	41	6	
Erie	92				
Essex	452	42	11	243	124
Franklin	607	65	10	232	16
Fulton	222	15		210	
Genesee	37				
Greene	149	3	13	15	
Hamilton	329	30	10	100	64
Herkimer	410	32	7	128	24
Jefferson	874	51	32	63	
Lewis	875	91	24	216	1
Livingston	91				
Madison	268				
Monroe	10				
Montgomery	14			45	
Niagara	2				
Oneida	662	21	1	190	4
Onondaga	277				
Ontario	49				
Orange	88	9	12	3	
Orleans	14				
Oswego	774	15		134	
Otsego	267		8		
Putnam		4	1		
Rensselaer	182	11	17	72	
Rockland					
Saratoga	178	20	5	276	
Schenectady	18				
Schoharie	213		18	19	
Schuyler	64				
Seneca	35				
St. Lawrence	2,417	150	46	314	1
Steuben	319				
Sullivan	147	19	33	27	
Tioga	153				
Tompkins	53				
Ulster	145	1	11	32	
Warren	252	27	5	156	3
Washington	192	28	30	60	
Wayne	278				
Westchester	8				
Wyoming	133				
Yates	58				
TOTAL	15,088	679	436	2,772	237

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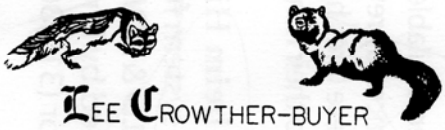

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Last Receiving Date	Sales Date
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January 12, 2009	February 16-22, 2009
March 30, 2009	May 17 - 22, 2009
June 1, 2009	**To Be Announced**

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