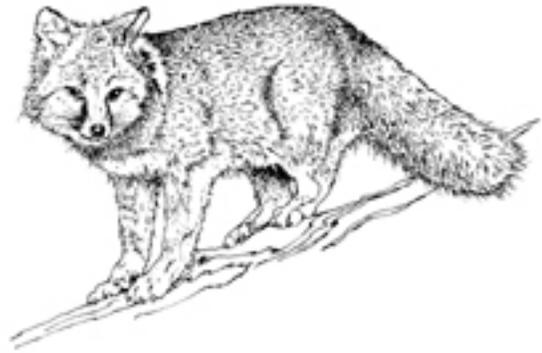


TRAP-LINES

New York State
Trapper's Association
Legislative Edition 2010
www.nystrappers.org



Inside This Issue:

- **Second Annual Members meeting** page 1
- **President's Report -** pages 2-3
- **NTA NE Regional News-** page 4
- **Youth Trapping Camp -** page 5
- **Executive Director's Report-** pages 6-7
- **Other NYSTA News -** page 8
- **Thought for the Day -** page 8
- **Brief Adirondack Trap line**
By Jerry Leggieri
pages 9 -10
- **Fur Auction Dates 2010 -** page 11
- **Deadline for Next Issue**
May 8, 2010

NYSTA's Second Annual Members Meeting

When: April 24, 2010

Where: At SUNY Morrisville State College – Student Activities Building – Theater

Registration: 8:00 am -9:00 am Program: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

(You must register to pick up your dinner tickets.)

Scheduled speakers: John Rockwood – President NYSTA
Dave Miller – Executive Director, NYSTA
Nathan Roberts
Russ Carmen
Kurt Beauregard

**And a special showing of films by Joe VanHouten;
"The Early Convention days at Piseco"**

Speakers will cover various aspects of trapping New York State. The NYSTA officers will also hold a business meeting, and it will be a good time to meet and talk to your directors, officers, and meet other members.

Directions:

The SUNY Morrisville campus is directly on Route 20 in the village of Morrisville, about half way between the villages of Cazenovia and Bouckville.



Buffet dinner includes choice of:

Prime Rib, Herb Chicken, Stuffed Shells, tossed salad, seasonal vegetables, red potatoes, rice pilaf, dessert, coffee, tea or soda

Name: _____

\$25.00 for single dinner ticket _____

\$45.00 for a couple _____

Please send this form and check to:

Dave Miller, 10213 Muck Rd., Prattsburg, New York 14873

Tickets must be purchased in advance!

And ticket money must be received by April 10th.

Please fill out the form below and send it and your check to the above address. When you register at the meeting you will receive your dinner ticket. If not enough people sign up for the dinner your money will be returned.



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New York State Trappers Association

Greetings NYSTA Members,

It certainly seems that most things are going well for New York's trappers at the present time. We've been informed that the package of regulation changes that our JTI Committee has been working on jointly with the **NYSDEC's Furbearer Management Team** is proceeding on schedule. This package is the result of over two years of diligent hard work by both parties and will provide several positive changes in trapping regulations that will benefit trappers and their fur harvesting efforts here in New York. Before these regulation changes can take effect there is a required public comment period. The list of these regulation changes will be posted in the New York Register for comment sometime this spring. I would like to have as many trappers as possible address their support of this package either by mail or email during this public comment period. It is just as important for us to address our support of positive changes as it is to address issues that negatively affect us during these comment periods. We will try to inform our membership of the dates to respond to the public comment period as soon as that information becomes available. Please watch for that information on the NYSTA website www.nystrappers.org, the NY Trappers Forum website, and/or the New York State Register. Or contact me or Dave Miller our Executive Director. Your support via this comment period will help to ensure these positive proposals become regulations for the 2010-2011 trapping seasons.

The "**Joe Van Houten/NYSTA Pelt Donation Program**" is off to a good start. Last summer my good friend and first ever recipient of the NYSTA Fur Handler's Award, Joe Van Houten, had a great suggestion to help NYSTA raise needed monies to further the many projects we are working on as well as to start others we hope to work on. Joe suggested starting a pelt donation program. He thought it

might be much easier for a trapper to donate a skin or two than to give cash donations. He said "I want to start this program off by donating 12 fisher I caught". "I want to give something back to the Association that has done so much for me, and has always been there to ensure my rights to trap." "What do you think?" I thought it was an excellent idea and one heck of a donation from Joey. I also thought "What If every trapper in NY donated just one muskrat skin – wow, what we could accomplish."

Some preliminary plans were made and discussions ensued. Joe, had recently been diagnosed with bone cancer and was undergoing intense treatments for that, and by the grace of God, his cancer is now in remission. He was able to get his fisher out of the freezer and processed them when he started feeling a bit better. Pat Arnold and I went to visit Joe and Sue in January, had a wonderful time, and began the pelt donation program with the gift of Joe's fisher plus a mink and a raccoon he found in the freezer as well.

Wayne and Stephen made up a poster and the details of the program started to take shape and was announced on the NYSTA website and the NY Trappers Forum. We still have some logistics to work out, but we do have several people who have offered their services to help collect donations of skins in their regions. We will also accept donated skins at the various fur sales held across New York State. Furs will be accepted dried at any of the collection points and green at many of the locations as well. All skins will be auctioned off at the various fur sales held here in New York by NYSTA's affiliated groups.

The first of these donations (Joe's very generous fur contribution along with donations from others that attended the sale, and from some that didn't), were auctioned off at the Herkimer Sale hosted by the Fulton/Montgomery Trappers on February 6, 2010.

The fur buyers, also did their part by being generous with their bidding and making the start of this program a tremendous success.

I want to personally thank everyone involved for their support of this project so far and especially Joey for his ideas and help in starting this.

We all hope this program becomes a very successful source of revenue to help NYSTA promote and defend the future of trapping in New York State for all of us.

The future of trapping is our responsibility and the assurance of our survival is by no means free.

Your NYSTA has several other worthwhile projects and events on the horizon as well. In this newsletter you will find information about the Youth Trappers Camp (*see page 5*).

This effort has been a pet project of Director Pat Arnold's. Pat and others have been diligently working on for some time to get this off the ground. This will be a great hands on learning experience for our trapping youth. Please be sure and read the announcement of this program on page 5. If you are willing to help I'm sure Pat would appreciate it.

Every year we have some members that voice a desire to see NYSTA hold its Annual Fall Convention at different locations around the state. The Herkimer County Fairgrounds was chosen many years ago for our convention's partly because it really is very centrally located in New York State.

We also enjoy an excellent working relationship with that fairgrounds but there are many other factors that make it very impractical to change from that location as well. Just finding the volunteers needed to run the convention is an important big hurdle.

We have however listened and we do realize that it is important for NYSTA to provide opportunities for those that have difficulty traveling to Herkimer for our Annual Fall Convention. One way that we have been able to address making NYSTA functions more accessible to trappers in all areas of New York State, is to provide for a Spring Membership

Conference. Although different from our Fall Convention in that there are no trapping supply vendors at these conferences, it does provide an excellent opportunity for trappers to interact with NYSTA Officers and Directors and to enjoy the presentations of the many guest speakers and other programs provided.

This spring's Conference will be held at SUNY Morrisville at Morrisville, NY. ***Read the cover page for more information.*** I urge you to attend and enjoy the program and the opportunities provided.

The NYSTA Officers and Directors have also made the decision to host any additional conventions, other than the Annual Fall Convention, at points other than Herkimer. This is our effort to provide as many members as possible exposure to NYSTA and the overall convention experience as possible.

The upcoming ***NTA Northeast Regional Convention*** will be held at the ***Washington County Fairgrounds*** near the eastern border of New York State on May 21st to 23rd of this year. There is more information about this event on page 4, in this newsletter as well as in other trapping publications. Please plan to attend this convention if you can. You will be glad you did.

Also, don't forget that NYSTA is also hosting the ***Fur Takers of America National Convention in Dunkirk, NY*** in June of 2011. This will be a huge national trapping event you certainly won't want to miss.

I am certainly glad that all I have to report this time has been good news. Even the fur markets, at this time have far exceeded this season's expectations. As Tom Fisher would say "It's a good time to be a trapper!". Although we've experienced some tough times on occasion in our past, I think Tom would have to agree with me when I say that I have really never found a 'bad time' to be a trapper.

John Rockwood, NYSTA President
(315) 415-4946 or loggerjohn@aol.com

Save the Date- UPCOMING EVENTS

4

Important NYSTA News

As you all know may know by now, the **NTA Northeast Regional Convention** will held at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Greenwich, NY on **May 21st thru the 23rd** of this year. I'm sure most of you aren't familiar with these fairgrounds but let me assure you that there will be plenty of space for camping if you so choose. The grounds themselves are quite large and well maintained.

The fairgrounds are located on Rt 29 just west of the town of Greenwich. Our group (the Mid-Hudson Valley Fur Harvester's) have a booth there every August during the fair week. We man this booth for an entire week from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm each day. It is no small undertaking, but by working together we manage to get it done every year.

Wayne Jones our NYSTA Vice - President indicated he is having a hard time finding people to come forward to lend a hand and volunteer with putting this convention on. As president of the MHVFH I'm putting out a call to all the trappers in Washington and neighboring Rensselaer County to come forward and lend a hand in this endeavor. We consider the Washington County Fairgrounds as our second home since we spend so much time there in August. Many of our members have already stepped forward to volunteer their time and I know Wayne would be very grateful if he had a lot more hands to help him out. Please contact Wayne at (315) 768-8115 or lluvny2@roadrunner.com or myself at (518) 658-9729 or Live2trap@aol.com.

For those of you that are on the fence about whether or not to make the journey here, let me give you a little insight as to what the area offers. For those of you that are history buffs - the Saratoga National Park and Battlefield are but a stones throw away just south of Schuylerville. Lake George and Lake Champlain are less than an hour north. Fort Ticonderoga will probably be open if you care to check it out or maybe bring or rent a boat with you and

go fishing after the convention. There are tons of beautiful lakes in the area that offer lots of fishing opportunities or you can go on a boat cruise on Lake George if you want. If your into the horses or maybe doing a little gambling you can check out the Saratoga Flat Track and the Racino that is only about a half hour drive from the fairgrounds.

No matter what your looking for, there is something for everyone to do here. This would be a perfect time to take a small vacation before or after the convention is over. I look forward to seeing a lot of familiar faces and hopefully a lot of new ones also. If you live in Washington or Rensselaer County I hope you stop by our booth and say hello or better yet - JOIN!

Jim Greeley - President,
Mid-Hudson Valley Fur Harvester's Assoc,
(518) 658-9720
Live2trap@aol.com

List to date of some of the scheduled demos to be held at the NTA NE Regional Convention:

Bob Noonan - Skunk dispatch
Jerry LeBeau - conibear 101
Jeff French - Mink
Bob Noonan - Fisher & Marten
Ed Bacon & Jim Severin - Woodland k9's
(there's always something new)
Johnny Thorpe- Bobcats
Austin Passamonte - Muskrats
Kyle Kaatz- Running a Coon & Mink line
Newt Sterling - Gray Fox
Russ Carmen - Dirt Hole set theory
Mark Zagger - Coyotes
Bill Kasten - Beaver
Dale Gamba - Coyotes
Gordie Berndt - Set location

And others To be announced.

See you all in May,

A NEW NYSTA EVENT:

Youth Trapping Camp 2010

NYSTA will be hosting a youth camp this year. It will be held on October 8-11, 2010. For many reason at this time we will put all of our efforts into just one camp for 2010.

The Youth Trapping Camp will be at NYSDEC Camp Rushford, Allegheny, New York. The cost for this camp will be around \$40.00.

Youth aged from 12-15 are welcome to attend. Enrollment is limited to 25 students per camp.

The contact person for this camp is Pat Arnold, 12374 Arnoldville Rd., Natural Bridge, NY 13665 or at patriciaarno@gmail.com

Important note: We will need to wait to have a camp in the eastern part of New York until we can locate a proper facility that will provide what we need.

We are sorry to have to make this decision, and we hope all of you understand. For those of you who so eagerly volunteered to help at that camp, we will continue to welcome your help to make this camp possible at a later date or perhaps even next year. We also will work hard to find a location for those of you that were eager to send your kids to camp.

Keep in mind too that I would more than happy to have you come to Camp Rushford and be a part of that camp, either as volunteers or as participants.

Please contact me, and watch for more information in the ***TRAP-LINES*** Newsletter and at ***NYSTA's web site at [www. nystrappers.org](http://www.nystrappers.org)***

Thank you,
Pat Arnold at patriciaarno@gmail.com

Note from the Editor:

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

***Angie Berchielli
3861 SR 85
Westerlo, NY 12193***

AngieBerchielli@MSN.com

***Deadline for information to me is May 8th
for the next newsletter that will reach our readers
in mid to late June.***

Hello Trappers, I would guess that by the time you read this trapping seasons will have pretty well wound down and everyone will be busy cleaning and storing equipment, selling the last of the harvest and getting ready to go fishing, plant gardens and visit Conventions.

Conventions by the way will be plentiful this year and next. More on that later. For now we'll look at some legislation.

Legislation

In order to save some space here I'm going to take the easy way out. I have a list of several bills that you all need to know about. Many will likely not see the light of day but you need to be aware of all of them, and, it is very important that you familiarize your self with each and contact your Assembly and Senate members with your concerns about each bill. I will list the bill numbers and a VERY short summary of each.

You can get all of the information about each bill from your (or the public library's) computer by going to the assembly or senate web site.

Type in assembly@state.ny.us or senate@state.ny.us then follow the menus.

I find the Assembly site much easier to use and bills from both the assembly and the senate are available on it. The letter "A" indicates an assembly bill, "S" a senate bill. The name after each is the legislator who introduced the legislation.

You will notice that several bills will show only one number, and either an "S" or an "A". These are "one-house" bills and although they may move through the one house (the Senate or the Assembly) they cannot become law, as long as they aren't passed in both houses.

With that, here are the bills that have been introduced at this time that may affect trapping.

A 2153-Englebright S861 Marcellino

This bill would require signs at the entry points of any public property where trapping using body gripping traps is allowed. Body gripping traps are defined as any trap that grips any part of an animal's body.

A3002- Benjamin

Would prohibit certain animals to be raised to be trapped for sport, for a fee (this would be the equivalent of a shooting preserve). **He is now aware that this does not happen.**

A3400- Englebright

Would require signage at entry points where trapping is allowed, and setbacks from trails etc.

A4777- Englebright S5432- Serrano

Would allow any county in the state to create trapping regulations, may restrict or prohibit trapping. **This is a very, very dangerous bill!** It has been around for a long time; don't let that fool you. It is extremely important that you contact your Assembly and Senate member and **insist** that they oppose this legislation.

A5381 Englebright

Would require signage on municipally owned property where trapping is allowed.

A6920 Kavanagh Nearly identical to A3002.

A8724 Sweeney

Would repeal the section of Environmental Conservation law that allows registered muskrat marshes.

All of the above bills would adversely affect trapping and you need to contact your legislators and ask them to oppose them.

Now for the positive news:

Please contact your legislators and ask them to support the following:

A3007-Barclay

Would decreased registration fee for snowmobiles used for hunting fishing trapping.

A5956 Magee S2622 Valesky

This bill would allow the use of an identification number on trap tags as an alternative to the present required name and address.

A6089 Del Monte S3542 Aubertine

This bill would authorize the DEC to regulate the use of live hold cable restraints.

S6759 Aubertine

A constitutional amendment to guarantee the right to hunt, fish and trap in New York State. This is a bill that was originally sponsored by Senator Seward. Senator Seward remains one of the very strong supporters of this legislation.

Fund Raising

I know that it seems fund raising efforts seem to just go on and on and so they do.

In order for NYSTA to be able to do what it does to protect trapping there has to sufficient funding. That proper funding is extremely important, especially during hard times.

NYSTA has tremendous responsibilities not just to our members but to every trapper in New York State and, in many ways to every sportsman and woman. At one time or another we deal with nearly every issue concerning trapping, hunting and fishing that comes along.

And perhaps equally important many environmental issues and budget issues that are of concern to anyone who has an interest in proper management of wildlife.

While we are one of the smaller organizations representing the consumptive users of wildlife, we are recognized throughout the state as one of the strongest, perhaps the most knowledgeable of those groups.

It is of the utmost importance that we maintain that image; that we have the ability (and the dollars) to have our representatives

in the right places at the right time and to support those who support us.

If you think about it that's a pretty stiff agenda for our members to support, but it is what we must do. The stakes are high.

As I'm writing this piece, new gun raffle tickets are being sent out. Each member will get two \$10 tickets. ***It is essential that you try and sell these.*** I know that during these times, it is hard to sell tickets. But these are high quality guns, and the winners may take \$150 instead of the gun if they wish.

The money raised will go a long way to maintaining our presence and visibility that we have all worked so hard for, for so many years to develop. It is the only way that we can continue to fight for you.

The winners will be drawn at the Annual Members Conference in the Spring.

I would also like to do at least two dinner auctions over the next several months. If you or your club is willing to help please get in touch with me.

NTA North East Regional Convention

This is just meant as a quick reminder that NYSTA is hosting the NTA's North East Regional Convention this spring, May 21st thru 23rd at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Greenwich, New York. (See page 4) This is a beautiful area just off Route 87 (the North way) east of Saratoga about 10 miles. These grounds are nearly on the Battenkill River, one of New York's premier trout streams soooo if you are a trout fisherman ... well what more needs be said.

I did say something way back at the beginning about saving space? Hmmm guess I'd better quit now before I get into something else.

Thank you,
Dave Miller
607-522-4707 or guarddn@empacc.net

Two long-time NYSTA Directors are inducted into the Outdoorsmen's Hall of Fame...

Congratulations,

Bob Hughes and Al West! It is with great pleasure that NYSTA announces that long time members Al West and Bob Hughes have been accepted as inductees into the 2010 class of the New York State Outdoorsmen's Hall of Fame.

The induction dinner and ceremony will be held on April 24 in Canastota.

For more information contact Pat Arnold at patriciaarno@gmail.com

Erie County:

The Erie County Trappers Association presented five young trappers with the "***Herb Eble***" Award at their recent Christmas Party at the Hamburg Rod & Gun Club.

This award honors past members who were longtime dedicated trappers. Applicants submitted essays expressing why they want to become trappers. The winners and their families attended our party and received trapping supplies including traps, lures, stretchers, books, fur handling items, and memberships in the Erie County Trappers and New York State Trappers Association.

The goal of our club is to ensure that the youngsters get the encouragement and mentoring they need, as they begin to enjoy the sport of trapping.

Thought For The Day

Do You Remember?

I know that I'm getting to be an old dog; I thought I'd jar the memory of some of our other "older" members, and recall some history too for our younger members.

So, do you remember:

* The Convention at Tupper Lake where it rained so hard that the dealers supplies were sitting in a foot or more of water. Not one dealer brought suit against us,

* Tom Fisher's Fur Taker Sales at Oneonta,

* The ash on E.J. Dailey's cigarettes at the Piseco conventions,

* The Fur Taker Sales at Old Forge run by Lee Crowther,
* The Adirondack Trappers Association in Tupper Lake,
* Attending trapper's conventions all over the state from Little Valley to Canton to Middletown to Erie County and Lockport and a lot of places in between,

* Camping at Piseco Lake, Lewey Lake, or Mofitt's Beach during the Piseco convention days,

* When Trapper Training became mandatory,

* When fur buyers came to your home,

* Ira Newman, the fur buyer,

* Director's Meetings in Tom Hays's living room in East Syracuse,

* The Cayuga County Fox Study,

* Angie Berchielli's maiden name,

* The NTA Convention at Rutland, Vermont. What year was it?

* Tri County Trappers, Finger Lakes Hunters and Trappers, and Western New York Fur Harvesters,

* The Foothills sale at the Queensbury VFW that ran so long that there were women standing in evening gowns next to the raw furs in the hall waiting to get in for the, Christmas Party scheduled for that evening,

* Sealed Bid Auctions,

* The Eastern Adirondack Trappers in Schroon Lake,

* Haskell's Hotel at Piseco,

* Where the first convention was held after NYSTA left Piseco,

* Where the first NYS Trappers Convention was held and the year,

* When DEC's chief of the Bureau of Wildlife threatened to mandate padded traps **only** on land in NY State,

* The year the JTI Committee was formed, it's original name, and who were the original members,

* Two NTA Conventions held at Syracuse and in what years,

* When coon were stretched wide and fisher were sold fur side in,

* Blake and Lamb Double Longsprings,

* NYSDEC when it was the New York State

Conservation Department. How long ago was that?

* Who Assemblyman Bragman was and what he meant to NYSTA,

* Who was Raymond Duntley and who did he marry?

* Lehman Smith and who took over from him,

* How many years have you subscribed to Fur-Fish-Game,

* Trapping before there were conibears,

* When Beaver brought a "dollar an inch" and were stretched round,

* Who was the only NYSTA President not elected to that Office,

* The two Pete Rickard's,

* Who was Bill Lethersitch.

Hope you have enjoyed this.

Al West agwthird@hotmail.com

BRIEF ADIRONDACK TRAPLINE

By Jerry Leggieri

For several years the first weekend in April has found me heading north across the border to North Bay, Ontario to attend the FurHarvesters Auction annual convention. Toby Edwards, FHA's collection agent for New York informally organizes a group to go up, and the numbers traveling have varied from 5 to 9 during the years I've attended. We all meet at Toby's house in Edinburgh and then pile into a rental van for the 10 hour trip to North Bay. The route we take goes through the heart of the Adirondacks.

Going through the mountains has been a revelation to me. Other than a few trips to Lake Placid or Santa's Workshop when the kids were younger, I've never really done any hunting, fishing, or trapping in them. Several of the guys going with us to Canada, though, have hunted and trapped extensively there, and they had one story after another about big bucks they've shot and trap lines for mink, beaver, and fisher they've run.

My friend and trapping partner, Tom DeLisle, has done extensive camping in the Adirondacks with his family, and was happy to find out from members of our party that he had the opportunity to join a club that would give him access to considerable acreage to trap and hunt.

Upon arriving home from Canada the last time we went up, Tom sent in his application, was accepted, and during the summer took several canoe trips with his son on some of the flows he now had access to. He found a lot of beaver sign and also what looked to be good fisher and marten habitat so decided to try and do some trapping up north before the season opened here in the Southern Zone.

Tom invited me to go along with him so we took advantage of a brief window of opportunity available to us when the land season that year opened in the Northern Zone on October 25th followed by water season on October 29th. We planned to set out fisher and marten traps on the 25th and then water sets for beaver on the 29th. Since the Northern Zone has a 2-day check, we'd drive up every other day to check the traps and possibly make some new sets. Because of Tom's work schedule, we'd only have a week to do our trapping. Both of us have collections of fur we've trapped in New York, but neither has ever caught

a pine marten, so that was a major goal.

The day we were supposed to set out the trap line, the 25th, saw the first major snow of the season in the Adirondacks. Here in the flatlands we got pouring rain, but the area we intended to trap near Blue Mountain Lake got upwards of 8 inches of snow, so we decided to postpone our adventure for two days.

Luckily for us we did, because when we got there on the 27th the roads we had to use for access to the property were barely accessible due to trees weighted down with snow blocking the roads or broken limbs in the roads. It was slow going into some of the areas we wanted to trap. Had we gone up on the 25th it would have been a wasted trip. One way from our houses was about 2 ½ hours.

Setting traps in the Adirondacks for the first time was to me somewhat intimidating. It's so vast compared to what I encounter here in Columbia County. You don't have the easy delineations or breaks in the environment that help funnel or guide the animals as I do where I live. It takes a while to get an eye for where to set traps and what to look for, especially for fisher and pine marten. We're getting fisher more and more here in eastern New York, but many are caught in farmland fox and coyote sets. Up north their more natural environment of hemlock, swamp, and beech woods required a different tact. Tom and I went in more or less cold as to where we planned to set traps. I would advise anyone wanting to run an Adirondack trap line to take a few trips prior to the season to scout prospective areas. It would certainly shorten the learning curve.

Tom planned to use mailbox cubbies exclusively on the ground for his sets. I brought a few mailboxes as well, but also wanted to try tree sets for fisher. This was the type of set I had seen demonstrated at the trapping conventions so I wanted to try making them as well. We would use #160 Conibears in the cubbies and I planned to use 220s in the trees. Beaver left over from the previous year was the bait and we both had a couple jars of skunk essence we had mixed with Vaseline petroleum jelly. I also used a long distance call lure at the set as well.

We had been warned by trappers who

have caught a lot more fisher than we have, not to expect much action. For one thing, fisher usually won't respond readily to bait early in the season as long as the ground is not snow covered and they have access to beechnuts. We thought the snowstorm might help us by making them more susceptible to bait with the ground covered. Also, the boxes on the ground might be more tempting since it didn't require the fisher to run up a tree to access the bait. The other problem is that fisher traps may sit empty for quite a while before a fisher, or marten, comes through. We only had a week, so were attempting to beat some tough odds.

We left at five in the morning on the 27th and started setting traps about 9. We each got in about a dozen sets. It was slow going with the snow and tree covered roads. And, as I noted earlier, it took a little time to get used to looking at the woods and finding a suitable location to set. Plus, the trees weighted down with snow didn't help, making visibility into the woods minimal. We did cross one set of fisher tracks so we were optimistic with the sets we placed in that area.

Saturday we headed back north to check traps and also to set out some beaver traps as well. We didn't catch anything in our land sets. One problem we hadn't thought about while setting traps was bears. We each had a couple sets knocked apart by bears. In fact, Tom had one of his boxes taken and we were unable to find it. The bear must have taken it with the bait inside. I found one of my boxes 10 yards from where it had been set with the trap laying on the ground. Another set in a tree had the trap snapped and the bait gone. I've had two fisher trappers tell me they have actually caught bears in their traps and have had to release them! One thing about trapping, you never know what you'll find the next trap check.

Tom's son, Tyler, came with us on the weekend and they brought their canoe so we could access some of the ponds they had scouted earlier in the fall. They had found several active beaver colonies. Over the last several years our preferred set for beaver has become the castor mound set, and usually we don't even make the mound. We just find a suitable location along the shore, preferably an area with an indentation in the shoreline that will

help guide the animal through the trap, but that's not essential. A few sticks or small logs can be placed in a "V" shape to guide the beaver into the set. A 330 Conibear is set in the water and I prefer to have the trigger on the bottom. It's not necessary to cover the whole trap with water, the beaver will still go through it. If the water is deep enough to cover the whole trap I'll use a dive stick over the top to prevent the beaver from swimming or climbing over it. A stick dipped in beaver lure and thrown on the bank completes the set. Beaver are very territorial and will patrol their domain and mark their territory like a dog. If they encounter a strange smell from another beaver, they'll go to investigate. Occasionally I've had beaver go around the trap to get to the scent, but get caught going through the trap back to the water.

Saturday night we were able to stay in the mountains at a friend's camp, so on Sunday we checked all the traps, picking up 3 beaver. We headed home that afternoon and made the trek back on Tuesday to pick up all the traps. Like I said, it was a short window.

We didn't catch any fisher or pine marten, but picked up 5 more beaver. It certainly wasn't a money making venture, but it did give us an experience in the big woods we can't get in the lowlands. We learned a lot for the next time should we get the chance to do it again.

For anyone wanting to trap pine marten, it's necessary to get a permit from the DEC and it's available from their office in Warrensburg. Don't wait until the day you plan to start trapping to apply for it because it takes a couple of days for it to be processed and mailed out.



Fur sale schedule for 2009-2010

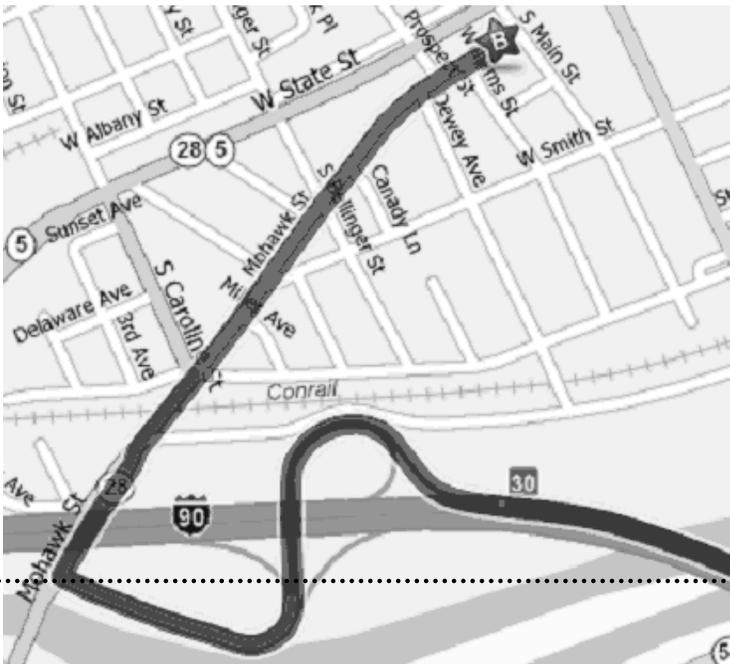
Join the Fulton-Montgomery County Fur Harvesters and the Foothills Trapper Association for our 2010 Fur Sales.

**SALE DATES:
and April 10th, 2010**

The location for the APRIL 10th sales will be the same as in 2009 at:

**VFW Post #4915
131 Mohawk Street
Herkimer, NY**

Located ½ mile from Exit 30 of the NY State Thruway, directly across from the Burger King on State Rt. 5 in downtown Herkimer. You can't miss it!!



As always, fur check-in begins at 6 AM and sale starts at 8 AM.

There is a 7% commission charged to each trapper that sells fur with 1% of that commission sent to NYSTA for the Executive Director's salary.

Call Mike Vickerson at (518) 835-8014 or Frank Farrar at (518) 885-6623 for information.



**NEW YORK STATE
TRAPPER'S
Association**

12320 Pople Road
Cato, New York 13033



Membership Application

New

Renewal

Name (please print) _____

*Why Not Give,
a membership
to a friend or
youngster, in
time for them to
get ready for this
Fall's Trapping
Season?*

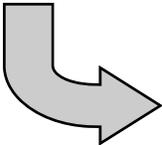
Street-RFD-Box _____

Town or City _____ State _____

County _____ Region _____ Zip _____

Ph. No. _____ E-Mail _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ (Required)



- Junior membership \$15.00/yr _____ Under 16 years of age, magazine included
- Basic membership \$15.00/yr _____ Over 16 years of age; **NO** magazine
- General membership \$25.00/yr _____ Over 16 years of age; Magazine included
- Family membership \$30.00/yr _____ two family members; one magazine included
- Lifetime membership \$750.00 _____

Your Extra Donation will Help preserve trapping in New York:

Total _____

Mail To:

NYS Trappers Association
12320 Pople Road.
Cato, New York 13033

Make checks payable to: *NYS Trappers Association*
Credit Cards can now be accepted.