TRAP-LINES

New York State Trapper's Association
Winter Edition 2011
www.nystrappers.org

We hope you enjoy this
beautiful Christmas season,

and look forward to a bright
New Year ahead.

From the Officers,
The Board of Director's and the
County Representatives of the
New York State Trapper's Association.

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NEW YORK STATE TRAPPER'S Association

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President's Report

Greetings NYSTA Members,

At the time of this writing we are three weeks into our NY trapping season. What an abnormally dry and mild fall it has been. It's certainly been beautiful weather to spend in the outdoors. I hope all of you are getting out to enjoy the trapline.

We've had a very busy year. First the Spring Membership Conference, then the FTA National Convention, followed by our own annual NYSTA Convention, and then the Homecoming at Piseco Lake. A lot of time and effort by NYSTA Officers, Directors, County Reps and volunteers was expended to make all of these events enjoyable, informative, and successful. My sincere gratitude is extended to all those who helped and participated in these events.

Our congratulations goes out to all of the recipients of this year's awards at our annual Fall Convention.

Those award winners were:
President's Award:
The NYSDEC Furbearer Management Team
Trapper of the Year: Tom Delisle
Director of the Year: Patricia Arnold
Affiliate of the Year:
Cattaraugus County Trappers Assoc. and
Erie County Trappers Assoc.
Appreciation Awards: AJ Pachucinski, Bud Eckert, Tom Zeider, and Stephen Jones

Our Homecoming at Piseco Lake was well attended, especially considering the inclement weather on Saturday. A great time was had by all and I've received much positive feedback regarding the demos and seminars.

I'd like to especially thank Johnny Thorpe, Doug Lansburg, and Mike Vickerson for their help and participation with the half day seminars of trapline instructions.

Everyone agreed that these were some of the best learning and instructional seminars they'd ever attended. All also agree that we should do something similar again in the future.

A special thanks goes out to all the folks that gave demos throughout the day on Saturday. I heard many of these extended far beyond the one hour they were scheduled for and the trappers who attended sure appreciated that. There is much to be said for learning set location and technique in actual trapline settings and that is one of the key things this event was all about.

I'd like to personally thank all those folks from the Fulton/Montgomery Fur Harvesters for their help in co-sponsoring this event. They did a great job of organizing everything. To Toby Edwards – ***Thank You*** for supplying the tent for this event. Without which, we'd have all grown webs between our toes and sprouted feathers ! Debbie Baxter stepped right up and kind of took over the sale of the commemorative hats and t- shirts and I gladly let her do so. Thanks Deb ! I greatly appreciated that as it gave me time to do other necessary chores. We also would like to thank the good folks at the Irondequoit Inn for allowing us to have this event at their facility. I think Loren and Pamela were a bit apprehensive, yet curious, and maybe even expected a bunch of whiskey drinking, buckskin clad riff raff toting guns and being rough around the edges to say the least. I know they now have a new (and better) image of today's trappers. We've been graciously invited back if we wish to do something similar again in the future.

We are going to try a different type of raffle than those we have had in the past and I believe Dave Miller will speak of that in this issue so I won't elaborate here. However, we do expect this type raffle to be very successful in helping NYSTA generate the funds that are so necessary to our survival. Please be sure and get your tickets as soon as they are available.

NYSTA's JTI Committee will be conducting a survey of our membership regarding important issues to all of us as trappers here in NY. It will be very important that ALL of our membership respond to this survey. The direction

that NYSTA and the JTI Committee will take on many upcoming trapping related issues will be based on the results of this survey. This survey will appear in the next issue of "*TRAPLINES*" in early 2012. Al West, Chairman of the JTI Committee, has more information regarding this upcoming survey in this issue so please be sure and read his column for more information.

I am happy to report that, at this time, I think we've got all the bugs ironed out of the membership renewal program as well as with the membership list and subscription list. We had a tough time with things for a bit this summer but I believe that is all behind us now. The latest problem was with renewal notices that were mailed to an address with the wrong name on them. It was a computer program problem and I have been told that program has been replaced. If you received one of those notices that contained incorrect mailing info, all you actually had to do was cross off the incorrect information and add the proper information before submitting the renewal. We received numerous emails and phone calls, thankfully, or we wouldn't have known this program problem existed. As I said, I think all the bugs are ironed out. However, if anyone has any issues that they feel have not been resolved, please get a hold of either our Treasurer, Dale Gamba (315-253-6865) or myself so we can be sure all membership/subscription issues are resolved.

Good luck to all of you on your traplines this season !

John Rockwood, President
New York State Trappers Association
114 CR 30A
Williamstown, NY 13493
Phone: 315-415-4946
Email: Loggerjohnr@aol.com

Executive Director's Report

Legislative

Since my last report I've had several, what appear to be, quite constructive discussions with the D.E.C. furbearer folks and with some key legislators about strategy that may help get some movement on the cable restraint legislation in the Assembly. There are some suggested changes to the language of the bill that would allow a trial period and reporting on that trial period that may make a positive vote much more comfortable for some of those down state legislators who find this an extremely difficult issue to deal with. There really is not more detail than what I've all ready said, but I will keep you all advised as things move along.

I visited with Senator Cathy Young in very early December; she has agreed to sponsor a bill that would allow an extended period of time for checking traps set in water in the Southern Zone. I discussed this issue with Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther some time ago and she will, I believe, Sponsor the bill in the Assembly.

There is no doubt in my mind that we will see legislation to allow a much longer season on Coyotes; perhaps to the point of taking away all protection and allowing year round hunting. NYSTA long ago took the position that Coyotes are a valuable fur bearer and fill an important niche in the environment and therefore should never be removed from the list of species that are protected by a regulated season here in New York.
We will vigorously oppose any such legislation.

I would hope that everyone will watch legislation dealing with guns very carefully. I expect to see some very dangerous stuff this year and I am very concerned that there is mounting pressure in the legislature to move some of that "stuff". In the past I have not spent a lot of time reporting gun issues to

Executive Director's Report continued...

NYSTA's membership, but because I am far more concerned than usual you will see more about those issues in reports coming from me.

It is extremely important that you begin contacting your legislators about this now!

Funding

In this issue of your newsletter you will find tickets for a ***Bear Hunt Raffle***.

Thank you ! to ***Al LaFrance*** for setting this up for NYSTA and to the kind folks at ***Lugdon Lodge*** in Maine for donating the hunt, also to ***Randy Hill*** for his donation of ***$500.00 towards the taxidermy work*** at his shop. This is a tremendous opportunity that we hope everyone will take advantage of.

Tickets will also soon be available for an ***"every day of March" raffle.*** Only I,000 tickets will be sold at $20.00 each. Prizes will include guns, fishing packages, trapping packages, a family camping package plus several gift certificates and pre-paid credit cards. All items will be worth $150.00 or more and cash will be available in lieu of raffle items.

Mark your calendars now for the Spring Conference!

This years ***Spring Conference*** will be held on ***Saturday, April 21*** somewhere in the general vicinity of ***Watertown***.

I will have a definite location by the first of the year, and an agenda will be in upcoming issues of the "***TRAP LINES***". Please plan on attending, you will be glad you did.

Til next Time
Dave

Dave Miller
Executive Director
New York State Trappers Association
Office: 607-522-4707
Cell: 607-664 7161
e-mail: guarddn@empacc.net

JTI Report

Presently the JTI Committee is putting together a survey for NYSTA that we hope to include in our next newsletter. Although we realize that opinions will vary on different matters we feel that your input is extremely important. It is our desire and duty to represent the needs and wishes of our members.

Ahead of time I would point out that there is a considerable difference between regulations and laws in the northern zone versus the southern zone. Many of the rules in the southern zone are set in law, requiring approval of the legislature and governor whereas alot dealing with the northern zone are regulations set by the Department of Environmental Conservation. It is important to recognize this distinction.

We ask that you take the time when you get the survey to fill it out and return it to us. It is of great importance that you do so and an opportunity for you to have real input. Your input will directly affect how NYSTA will move towards the future of trapping in New York State. Giving your name will be optional, that is up to you. If there is something that might not be included that you feel is important please write it down and return it with the survey. Our goal is to preserve, maintain, and improve trapping in New York State. Please help us obtain those goals by returning the completed surveys. Thank you.

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

Youth Trapping Camps

It seems such a short time ago that we were talking about a possible youth trapping camp, now we are talking about the upcoming third year.

I regularly receive emails with pictures, written notes and thank you's from both parents and students. There are already names on the waiting list for next year, the final proof that our camps are a success!

Over a hundred mentors/helpers also contributed and asked to be put on the list for next year's program. Many of the adults did numerous small things that help and no one has said I was wasting my time.

Tom DeLisle has gotten his feet wet in the eastern camp and along with 12 on site mentors gave 25 new trappers along with one returnee a great experience. He will need and would greatly welcome additional help to continue the first camp and I can see those kids clamoring for an additional returnee unit too.

Tim Strough has proven his wonderful ability to be organized and run a fine ship. That camp has added programs for 11 returnees and the 22 new campers. Our DEC has proven its dedication to the youth programs in many ways. Region 9 has made us welcome and has offered any help it can and other members of the Department have become mentors.

We are working on some changes and improvements and we will need additional experienced adult trappers to help. ***All of our mentors have to be NYSTA members, trapper training instructors will be given first chance and other will need some sort of recommend from their region and have good solid trapping experience.***

I wish to thank every person, trapping affiliate and business that gave money, trapping equipment, time, advise and support in any and all ways. All of you deserve a medal.

<u>Forms for 2012 will not be ready until March. But you can call to get the process started if you are an adult who wishes to be involved.</u>

Blessings to all and to all a Merry Christmas.

Pat Arnold
patriciaarno@gmail.com

Convention Pictures

Toby Edwards helping young people during the kids trap setting contest.

This very happy little girl was one of the winners of the NYSTA Grub Stake Pack Baskets given out during the convention.

"Thank you" to all the donors that made it happen.

Fully Guided Bear Hunt Raffle: Tickets are $10.00 each or 3 for $25.00

Fully Guided Maine Bear Hunt at the Lugdon Lodge, Eagle Lake, Maine, <u>September of 2013</u>
Drawing to be held on Saturday September 1, 2012 at 3:00PM, during the NYSTA Convention.
The winner will be responsible for contacting the outfitter to make final arrangements.

Includes:

- 1 week guided hunt (6 actual hunting days)
- Transportation to hunt site
- Lodging and meals
- Guide, baits and filed dressing of bear

Additional donation:

By Randy Hill of up to a $500 discount on mount if is done by Hill Wildlife Taxidermy, Leighton, PA.

Winner is responsible for: License, Transportation from winner's home to Lugdon Lodge and back, tips and/or gratuities, and meat processing.

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September of 2013
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Tickets are $10.00 each or 3 for $25.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Please send check to: NYSTA, 12320 Pople Road, Cato, N.Y.

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Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Please send check to NYSTA, 12320 Pople Road, Cato, N.Y. 13033

Tickets must be received no later than August 28, 2012 or they may be dropped off at the NYSTA booth, during the convention.

Thank you and Good Luck!

County News and Fur Sales:

Tioga Trappers Association 2011-2012 Schedule:

September 11 - meeting
September 24 - Trapper Education Course at Club
October 2 - Meeting
November 6 - Meeting
December 4 - Meeting - Election of Officers
January 1 - Meeting, Finalize Fur Sale & Dinner
January 8 - Fur Sale - 9am to Noon at Club
January 14 - Dish to Pass Dinner - 5pm at Club
Feb 12 - Meeting
March 4 - Meeting
April 1 - Meeting

All meetings 7:00pm at the Sportsmen's Club
Carmichael Hill Rd., Owego, NY
Questions call: Bob at 607-687-2196 or Mark at 607 –687-2986

Genesee Valley Trapper's Inc., P.O. Box 21 Victor, New York 14564

2011-2012 Fur sale dates: December 18, 2011 — February 19, 2012
January 15, 2012 — March 18, 2012

Furs <u>will not</u> be accepted before 6:30AM!!! All sales start at 10:00AM
All sales will be at the clubhouse at: 4462 Co. Rd. 32, Honeoye
Monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of every month at the Club house at 6:30PM
Our raffle for the set of 5 Dunn knives will be at our Feb. 19th auction, need tickets call me,
Tom Miller, President (585) 229-4759

<u>Foothills Trapper Association and</u>
<u>Fulton-Montgomery County Furharvesters</u>

SALE DATES: JANUARY 7th, February 4th, and April 14th, 2012

As always the **January sale** is held at the **4-H Training Center, Middleline Road, Ballston Spa,** NY.
The **February and April sales** are held at the:
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.

- 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 is sent to NYSTA for the Executive Director's salary.
- For info, call Doug Lansburg at (518) 705-7255 or Frank Farrar at (518) 885-6623

NYSTA Board of Director's Meeting

July 16, 2011
Herkimer County Fairgrounds

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Rockwood at 9:00AM with the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes from the January and June meetings were approved.

Committee Reports

Scholarship – 2 applications have been received so far from Brian Souva & Brandon Conrad. Deadline for applications is August 1st.

Election – All current officers are seeking re-election and there have been no additional nominations. (Election of officers is uncontested). Past presidents running for the post of Voting Past Presidents are Dave Leibig, Bob Hughes, Bill Smith, and Al West. Jerry Leggieri has decided not to seek re-election as a voting past president. An additional nomination is needed to fill the fifth position.

Lottery Calendar Tom Zeider has stepped down from this position. A. J. Pachucinski from Erie County has volunteered to accept this position. He is looking to add pictures to each month on the calendar. Ads must be in quickly in order to get the calendar to the printer in time.

Fur Handler's Award & Trapping Camp – Award plagues are needed for this year. Any ideas to improve youth participation would be appreciated.

Registration for both camps are about ½ full. Pat will accept applications beyond the 8/1/11 deadline on a first come first served basis if there are any unfilled slots. Great list on mentors who are participating, camp patch designed circulated, working to get permanent equipment and storage for the equipment. Western camp's chicken BBQ is being donated by a returning campers father.

Convention – Only 2 open spots remain in buildings 1 & 2. Wayne will be away for most of the convention. Dave Miller is coordinating the booklet. Cocktail party will be at the Crystal Chandler at 6:30PM on Thursday.

NTA Report

NTA convention is coming up In Columbia, Missouri. State directors need to be properly registered. Some tv production companies are contacting trappers asking to go out on the trap line to show trapping. Please do not accept invitations as we can't control the contents and trapping will probably come off looking very bad.

FTA Report

NY has the highest membership. Membership went up slightly. Excellent convention in Western NY. Next year's convention will be 6/13-16 in Elkhart, Indiana. Dave Miller has been nominated for a position on the governing board.

JTI

The JTI has not met since January, although John Rockwood , Al West and Gordon Batcheller had dinner in February to try and plan out some future actions. Main agenda is bobcat regulations, later fisher season and looking to give DEC authority to set trapping regulations state wide.

DEC Report

- Passed out "final" harvest data for 2010-2011 season
- Noted draft deer management plan can be commented on until 7/28/11
- Bobcat management plan is now top priority. Want to have it in upper DEC officials hand by early August. Fisher, marten and otter plans to follow

Andy discussed his otter research that he is doing for his Master's degree. The field work was done last winter. He surveyed two areas; one had 121 locations and was surveyed 627 times and otter sign was found at 36 locations, the second had 88 locations and was surveyed 655 times and only 5 sites had otter sign. If the method is validated in his study it will probably be used to survey the reintroduction area in CNY & WNY.

Muskrat study has found that reproduction rates among females seems to be okay. The DEC will continue to collect data to compare reproduction rates between different regions. If you are willing to freeze and save carcasses, the DEC will use them. Contact regional offices first.

Trapper mail survey results. 4500 surveys were sent out with about a 50% return rate-very good. The survey asked 3 questions and the results were as follows:

1. 64 trappers set traps in the 9 WMU's that had a late fisher season
2. 60% of trappers wanted to leave the season opening date at 10/25 while 20% wanted it moved to 11/1 to improve pelt quality
3. 66% wanted to leave the land season opener on 10/25 for all species

Opened questions again about should mink/ muskrat season open up on a Saturday for youth opportunity. Andy suggested NYSTA send a formal proposal to DEC for consideration.

New Trapper Training Manual is at the printers along with a new test. Region 7 has a new member on the Furbearer Management Team, Bill Schara.

DEC wants to report at only 2 BOD meetings/ year.

Executive Director's Report

There was no negative trapping legislation this session. Our cable restraint bill passed the Senate and while the Assembly didn't act on it, they are showing more interest. The antler size restriction bill passed both houses but the governor hasn't signed it yet. A lot of lobbying trying to convince him not to.

FTA convention did turn a small profit but the weather was poor and attendance was on the light side.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was passed out on a separate cover. It showed NYSTA was operating in the red by about $2,600 Year to date. There was some discussion on a special raffle and how to reinvest scholarship money. The Treasurer's report was accepted as published.

Convention Awards

President Rockwood sought nominations for the various awards presented at the Convention; including Director of the Year, Trapper of the Year, Affiliate of the Year and Appreciation Awards. Newsletter deadline is 7/22/11.

Old Business

Piseco Lake Rendezvous plans are being finalized. This will be a great weekend of nostalgia and super trapper training. Fulton-Montgomery County Trappers paid the $500 deposit to reserve the Irondequoit Inn facility. The expense budget is estimated to be about $3,000. President Rockwood wants NYSTA to share the expenses.

MOTION: NYSTA to pay ½ expenses up to $1,500 for Piseco Lake.

Made by: Bob Hughes
Seconded by: Al West

Disposition: Carried unanimously

The question of giving director's status to the NTA & FTA representatives was brought up again. It was discussed along with the process to accomplish this.

Motion: Amend NYSTA By-Laws to give Director's Status to NTA & FTA representatives.

Made by: Bob Hughes
Seconded by: Al West

Disposition: Carried yeas 13 nays 1

Region 6 has 2 inactive county representatives. They have not come to meetings and attempts to contact them have been unsuccessful. Region 6 Director Pat Arnold has requested that they be replaced. She is recommending the Stephen Jones be the Oneida County Rep and Roger Drake be the Herkimer County Rep. President Rockwood agreed to the changes.

Dave Miller hasn't received any articles for the proposed "Favorite Sets" book he would like to see NYSTA produce.

New Business

Vermont makes a lot of money at their dinner. NYSTA should contact representatives from Vermont to get information on how they put on the dinner or send representatives to their next dinner. NYSTA could pay for the tickets. This was tabled until January, 2012.

A new raffle was proposed. 30 day raffle-$20/ticket sell only 1000 tickets, award good pries worth $100-$150 each day. (Technically this is not legal without NYS approval).

Signed a contract with the Herkimer County Fairgrounds to keep the NYSTA Convention there for another 5 years. The cost is fixed at $2,200/year.

NY Bowhunters sent a letter in support of our cable restraint bill. Shows the importance of working with other sportsman's groups.

Al West brought up issue of Finch Lake. He noted more could be read about it on-line.

Al West raised the concern about the need to have a quorum to conduct business at the BOD meetings. Without a quorum votes can not be taken and people will have driven long distances and given up a day when nothing could be accomplished. He suggested looking into changing the by-laws to allow for a "smaller quorum".

Mark Charpentier will assemble trap baskets for kids for the convention.

Bob Hughes noted how people got into the skillet toss and trap setting contests at the FTA convention and suggested we build on this for NYSTA's convention next year.

Peter Kummerfelt is a world renown speaker and is giving 5 presentations between 9/14 - 9/18 to hunter & trapper training instrcutors. One will be at the White Eagle in Madison County. This would be worth people going to hear.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23PM. The next meeting is scheduled for 10/15/11 at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds. Start time 9AM.

Respectfully submitted

Ed Hogan
NYSTA Secretary

12320 Pople Road
Cato, New York 13033

Membership Application

New ☐ **Renewal** ☐

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

Name (please print) _____

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_____

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

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