

ALABAMA TRAPPERS AND PREDATOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Alabama Trappers and Predator Control Association
www.atpca.org

NTA Directors Report By Toby Hutcheson

As I write this article it is hard to believe that spring is in the air. It is 22 degrees outside and everything is frozen solid. But even at that, the coyotes are breeding, the big buck otter are running, and the daffodils are trying to bloom in my yard. Another fur trapping season is coming to an end, and I wonder how many more seasons that I have left in me.

The animals and wildflowers aren't the only things awakening this spring. The anti-trappers have come out with a vengeance. California has seen proposed legislation, that will stop all trapping within the State. New Mexico has no less than eight proposals that will stop all trapping on public lands, or within certain areas, or stop coyote hunting contests, or limit/stop trapping certain species like Bobcats or Coyotes. Connecticut has proposed legislation that will severely restrict all trapping within the State. Montana has seen attempts to change their trap check times, that would become an unneeded burden on trappers in that remote country. In all, roughly twenty anti-trapping bills have been introduced around the Nation.

As of now, most of this proposed legislation is in committee or moved on to public comment, and will hopefully die there. But trappers have learned the hard way that we cannot stand by and HOPE that these things will go away. The National Trappers Association (NTA) has already extended help to New Mexico, and offered help to the other States. But what is the NTA? How can the NTA help? The NTA is us. Each individual doing what they can, doing their part, gives an Organization like the NTA the ability to reach out and help the individual States in their time of need. Either thru fund raising, legal representation, or any other means available, the National Trappers Association is in our corner, helping us to fight our battles. It is important that we stand with and support the NTA now. We can no longer afford our traditional loose knit, unprepared defense system. We stand and support our brothers in other States, and pray that we never have to fight those battles in Alabama again.

On a positive note, the Federal CITIES lawsuit in Montana is done. We won! Had this suit prevailed, all animals requiring a CITIES Tag, like Bobcat and Otter, would not have been able to be transported outside of the USA. This would have effectively killed the fur market for these species, for at least ten years, until extensive, expensive harvest impact studies had been completed Nationwide. The National Trappers Association was at the forefront of this fight, and NTA Legal Council Gary Leistico was instrumental in arguing our case. This case was filed and fought in Montana, but would have affected the ability to sell furs in all 50 States.

On the domestic front, the NTA National Convention will be held in Springfield, Missouri in July. Tennessee will host an FBU banquet on April 13th at Crossville, TN., and then they will host the NTA Southeast Regional Convention in October, also in Crossville, TN..

In closing, I'd like to encourage each of you to take a kid trapping. All of the old grey haired fellows, myself included, won't last forever. We always need new faces and new trappers, with new ideas, to keep our Heritage alive. Pass it on and sow the seeds that will bloom tomorrow. I hope to see you all at our Spring meeting. Bring your furs, bring a dish, and enjoy the meal and fellowship with the good people of the ATPCA.

Toby Hutcheson

ATPCA Spring Meeting

March 16, 2019 8:00 AM
Fur pickup starting at 8 (NAFA)
Home of Darline & Steve Phillips
11178 Stagborne Drive
Cottondale, Alabama 35453

For more info call:

Vicki Sievering Home: 205-926-4072

Presidents Report

By Mike Sievering

I hope you all have had a great trapping season. I have been very busy with nuisance trapping and with skinning and putting up fur for fundraising for the association. I would like to thank all members that have donated fur to the association as part of a fundraising event. This has been a great money making activity for our educational programs and will continue to be helpful in our efforts to educate the general public.

Currently there is no new trapping legislation in the Alabama legislature, however, other states are fighting the anti-legislation. California, Montana, Colorado, Connecticut & New Mexico are all fighting to save their trapping rights. As a state association we must monitor these other states and be ready to take action when needed. Only through outreach can this be accomplished.

Vice Presidents Report

By Tracy Hare

Hello Everyone,
I hope you all had a successful trapping season despite the wet weather we have had. As for me, I've had a pretty good year. For a little humor up until Monday that is when Lisa and I buried the Ford. Turned out to be a little humorous afternoon to say the least from a pony, to cows to the Ag teacher family friends tractors trucks and ALOT of MUD. Now on to the good stuff. We are gearing up for the 2019 season to work the booths and do a little fundraising for the association. We are also planning to attend the National Convention in Springfield, MO July 11-13 2019. Tom Miranda is the 2019 National Convention Guest Speaker. If you or someone you know would like to help man a booth at any of our events please contact Vicki Sievering or Lisa Hare. Thanks for all your continued support of the Alabama Trappers and Predator Control Association. We look forward to seeing you all at the Spring Meeting on Saturday, March 16, 2019 in Cottondale at the home of Steve & Darline Phillips.

Tight Chains
Tracy & Lisa Hare
VP/Recording Secretary

Membership News

by Vicki Sievering

Even though fur prices continue to be low the association continues to grow. We currently have over 300 members We are also reaching out to past members that have dropped off of the membership roster.

If you know of someone that is interested in trapping please let them know about the association, the workshops and events and invite them to the spring and fall meetings. Bring a chair and enjoy the day talking with other trappers.

Bobby Gentry will be on hand to pick up your fur to take it to NAFA. You must be a member to use this service. If you are not a member you can join at the meeting. We accept cash, check, pay pal and credit cards.

Please plan to stay for lunch and for the meeting after lunch. It's important to get YOUR thoughts about programs that we are participating in We're looking forward to seeing everyone on March 16, 2019 at the home of Steve and Darline Phillips.

Fur Catcher Reports

Don't forget to send in your fur harvest report!
Mail to: DCNR - Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries
Division ATTN: Wildlife Section - District 4
3520 Plaza Drive, Enterprise, AL 36330

Donations Needed

The ATPCA is in need of donated fur to soft tan and sell at events to raise funds that go towards our educational programs. Education of the public is vital to our association. See any officer or director if you'd like participate in this endeavor.

Suggestion Box

Do you have a comment or suggestion on how to make the ATPCA a more successful outreach/educational organization? Is there a wild game event near you where ATPCA should participate? Do you have a story to tell about your trapping adventures? Send your thoughts, stories, pictures and info to Vicki Sievering 291 Elam School House Road Brent, AL 35034 or email vsievering@atpca.org.

Trapper Education Report By Mike Sievering

Trapper education programs this year have got to be characterized as being challenging at best. Flooding conditions and an overabundance of water and inclement weather had a negative impact in our ability to conduct these workshops.

Eleven workshops were scheduled across the state this past season. Because of weather conditions and flooding three of the workshops had to be canceled. Youth classes in Citronelle and Greensboro and an adult class at Portland Landing in Dallas County were cancelled due to weather conditions. Eight classes were successfully conducted across the state. One adult class in Hamilton and the rest were youth classes.

Nearly 200 students participated in our trapper education classes. The ages ranged from 6-21 in youth classes with the average age being 13-14 years of age. Both male and female students participated. A variety of techniques were passed on to each student - both land and water trapping. Each student was given a Duke brand DP trap (donated by Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries) and a bottle of lure which was donated by a variety of vendors. (Dobbins, Andy Weiser, Kain Lures, Fleming Traps,)

This coming season we plan on conducting at least four adult classes throughout the state in addition to 8 youth workshops in the state. Participation and interest in these classes remains high. I would like to thank all of the volunteers that make this program a success. Without your expertise this program would not be possible.

Volunteers and members are the Backbone of the Association

Volunteers help with fundraising, administrative tasks and operations, and they help spread the word about the mission of the organization.

The board of directors would like to invite each member to think about what you can do to help the association grow and be even more successful. You, the members, are valuable assets to the ATPCA.

The ATPCA has several events coming up (see upcoming events on the last page.) Please come by the booth and chat with us! Offer to help to man a booth at an event. Outreach and education of the general public will help to dispel any false information that has been put out there by anti organizations.

If you know of an event that ATPCA should attend (wild game dinners, Pow-wows, hunting and fishing events, land owner tours or other related events please let us know so we can try to attend.

The state trappers association for Alabama is building relationships with other organizations that are like minded individuals and are trying to pass the traditions that we've grown up with on to the next generation. Kids are the key to the future. Help to instill the tradition of trapping as a proper management tool to the next generation.

The ATPCA board values all of you thoughts, comments and concerns. Please contact any of the board members if you have ideas and suggestions to make our organization even better than it already is!

ATPCA Contact Information

President

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Membership Sec/Treasurer

Vicki Sievering
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NTA State Director

Toby Hutcheson
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Board members: Steve Phillips, Mike Turley, Bob Crane, Howard McDonald

ATPCA Upcoming Events

March 16, 2019

ATPCA Spring Meeting/NAFA Fur Pick up
8AM at the home of Darline and Steve Phillips
11178 Staghome Drive
Cottondale, AL

Fellowship with other trappers, NAFA Fur Pick up with Bobby Gentry. ATPCA members may bring their fur to Bobby Gentry to be taken to NAFA. (New members may join at the meeting) Lunch at noon - ATPCA will supply the meat and drinks, please bring a side dish or dessert to share with others. The meeting will be at 1pm. Please make plans to stay for the meeting as we have a lot to discuss.

April 24, 2019

AL Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus Luncheon
11am - 1pm on the South
Lawn of the Capitol Complex Montgomery, AL

We will be attending a sportsmen's day with the state legislators to promote the rights of trappers and trapping in the state of Alabama.

The ATPCA will set up educational booths and will be selling memberships, ATPCA merchandise, furs and tails at the following events:

April 4-5, 2019

National Archery in Schools Program State Shoot-off
Montgomery, AL

May 11, 2019

Soggy Bottom Kidz Outdoors

July 11-13, 2019

National Trappers Association 60th Annual Convention
Springfield, Mo.

July 12 -14, 2019

Tennessee Valley Hunting & Fishing Expo
Von Braun Center Huntsville, AL

July 19 - 21, 2019

World Deer Show
Birmingham, AL

August 16-18, 2019

Buckmasters Expo
Montgomery, AL

August 30-31, 2019

Proposed date for fall meeting Location to be announced

Please visit our website at www.atpca.org or the NTA website at www.nationaltrappers.org for more information about the regional and national conventions. Join our Facebook page Alabama Trappers and Predator Control Association.