

# The Trapline

The Official Publication of the Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association  
July 2023 Edition

## **President's Report**

The DNR and Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers (MTPCA) have agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding in which any incidental or confiscated limited species animals that the DNR doesn't need for use internally they will be assigned to the MTPCA to sell at one of the fur auctions they hold. The profit from these skins will be split 75% DNR and 25% MTPCA to be used for Trapper Education for the DNR and to help offset the cost of sending personnel to the FTA fur taker college. This program has been in the works prior to COVID, got stalled and was finally signed off in April. Hopefully this will help with getting a positive outcome from turning in incidental catches.

In addition, the DNR has signed a nuisance ordinance that states: A property owner or their designee may take the following species all year on property owned by the individual if the wild animal is doing damage or physically present where it could imminently cause damage: (a) Beaver, cottontail rabbit, coyote, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, ground squirrel, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, red squirrel, skunk, weasel, and woodchuck. For the purposes of this section, "damage"; means physical harm to forest products; roads; dams; buildings; orchards; apiaries; livestock; and horticultural or agricultural crops. Beaver or muskrat are only considered to be doing damage if their activities result in flooding or culvert blockages that cause damage as defined in this section. You can do this without a permit BUT you cannot damage the dam without a permit and this can be done only on your personnel property. Any questions call me or look up Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment #6 of 2023 on the DNR website. As of right now there has been no information on when the furbearer workgroup will get together but it should be soon.

Thank you

Mark Spencer, President

Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers

**Remember "KIDS WHO HUNT, FISH OR TRAP DON'T MUG LITTLE OLD LADIES"**

## **Membership Secretary's Report- Steve Campbell**

Happy July everyone! As time continues to move closer and closer to conventions I look forward to seeing many of you at both the NTA in Escanaba and the MTPCA Convention in Evert. We are closing in on 650+ members now so let's continue renewing and getting others involved in both trapping and the association. I've been diligently coming up with ideas to help get more members and we as a board will be revealing them during the general meeting at Evert! There will be guaranteed prizes as well as entries into prize packages from our great partners like FNT Post, PCS Outdoors, Predator Hunter Outdoors Wolfen Bait and Lures, Winter Wildlife and others! I truly look forward to revealing this membership drive at the convention and the results it will bring. Also please be on the lookout for a special offer announcement from one of our partners! We also want to announce that starting at convention we will also be offering a discounted rate for the magazine Woods-n-Water News, another great partnership with a great Outdoors company!

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On another note please ensure that we have the best current email address for you as we are continuing to try and move forward with being able to communicate with the whole of the membership via Constant Contact. Soon our newsletter will be sent out this way as well so make sure we have the correct email address.

As always if there are any questions regarding membership or magazine subscriptions feel free to reach out.

Thank you and Tight Chains

Steven Campbell  
Membership Secretary

## **Letter from the Editor:**

Hello Callers and Trappers!

Summer is here. Time to start getting ready for next season. I made up some colony traps and got a bunch of speed dipping done. Timed it perfectly (aka "got lucky")- after I got everything dipped, we had three days in the 90's with low humidity, followed by a steady rain and then more heat. The dip dried up perfectly. Not tacky at all. I've got some dying and waxing to do but at least I'm making progress.

Summer is also Convention season. The NTA Convention is this month in Escanaba (July 27-29); and our Convention is August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at the Osceola County Fairgrounds in Ewart. My niece is getting married the 28<sup>th</sup> of July so no National for me. See you in Ewart!

Be safe out there!

John Caretti  
Editor and Kid Drawing Coordinator

## **FTA/Raffle Report—FTA Director Craig Schafer**

Michigan Trappers & Predator Callers Association  
2023 Raffle  
Drawing 3 PM, August 19, 2023. Saturday  
Osceola Co. Fairgrounds. Ewart, MI. 49631

## Prizes

1. \$2000 Shopping Spree-Jay's Sporting Goods
2. 4 Man Walleye Charter
3. Ruger 6.5 Creedmoor

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4. FnT GC \$50
5. 1 DZ #2's Wolf Creek
6. RRKW Knife
7. Tactacam
8. TC Venture 243 Win
9. Rhino Blind
10. Tanned Lynx
11. Wildview Cell Cam
12. Heritage 22 LR
13. ICOTec Outlaw Caller
14. 1 DZ MB 450's
15. Shooter Girl Ladies PKG
16. Nite Lite
17. RRKW Knife
18. J3 Outdoorz PKG
19. Patriot 350 Legend
20. FnT GC \$100
21. Phantom Caller
22. Wildgame Cell Cam
23. 1 DZ #1 Wolf Creek
24. Coyote Hat & Mittens
25. ICOTec Hellion
26. 1 DZ #552 Wolf Creek
27. Lennon Lure PKG
28. Savage 17 HMR
29. Field Pod
30. Tactacam
31. Heritage 22 LR
32. FnT GC \$250
33. Tanned Wolverine
34. Savage 320, 20 ga.

## Sponsors

Barnes Hide & Fur  
Bob's Gun & Tackle  
FnT  
Gold Star Outdoors  
ICOTec Chris-Chuck  
Jay's Sporting Goods  
J3 Outdoorz  
Rapid River Knife Works RRKW  
Lennon Lures  
Reel Live Action Charters  
Shooter Girl Ammunition Jewelry  
Superior Furs  
Wolf Creek

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## **2023 Convention Dates**

MTPCA Rendezvous August 18-19, 2023  
Osceola County Fairgrounds  
101 Recreation Ave Eart, MI. 49631

NGLFH Rendezvous  
Chippewa County Fairgrounds  
September, 22-23, 2023 Kinross, MI. 49752

FTA- <http://www.furtakersofamerica.com/>

MTPCA Rendezvous August 18-19, 2023  
Osceola County Fairgrounds  
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Chippewa County Fairgrounds  
September, 22-23, 2023 Kinross, MI. 49752

FTA- <http://www.furtakersofamerica.com/>

Check out the FTA Web Page. They did a major upgrade to their web page. Along with the FTA paw print logo.

The FTA web page is the top shelf of trapping web pages now. Join the MTPCA, FTA & NTA all associations need members. For 2024, the FTA has a Trapping Calendar as a Fundraiser. Check it out on the FTA Web page.

Memberships make for a strong association.

Respectfully,

Craig Schafer  
Recording Secretary  
FTA Rep  
Web Page

## **NTA Director's Report**

A lot of things are happening in the United States as far as trapping goes. New Mexico is one, the best way to follow this is to go to the NTA web site [www.nataionaltrappers.com](http://www.nataionaltrappers.com)

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Be a volunteer- a little work goes a long way.

N.T.A. Michigan Director  
Ken (Bernie) Burzynski  
[kbernie200@gmail.com](mailto:kbernie200@gmail.com)

## **Public Relations Director's Report**

Mark Earl  
MTPCA PR Director

## **MTPCA Region 1 Vice President's Report**

Hello Trappers and Predators Callers.

NTA convention is here with the Reality show *The Mountain Men's* Marty Meierotto and family (meet and greet) . Then a Alaskan salmon dinner July 25th at the U.P. state fairgrounds in Escanaba Mi. Hope to see you here.

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES FUR HARVESTERS will be setting up fur display at the Chippewa County Fairground on August 30th thru September 2.

SEPTEMBER 3 we will be setting up fur display at Oswald's Bears Ranch from 9AM TO 4PM.

And last Northern Great lakes fur Harvesters convention is on SEPTEMBER 22 and 23 more on the convention later .

Have a safe summer!

Ed Kramer  
Region 1 Vice President

## **MTPCA Region 2 Vice President's Report**

## **MTPCA Region 3 Vice President's Report**

Hello Michigan Trappers,

Convention time is here we have some great vendors this year along with demos. Volunteers are always welcome had a great crew last year hope to see you all again this year. Not a whole lot going on this time of the year.

September 10 / 23 this year at Hudson Lake state park. There is a youth day in the camp ground there will be activities for the kids kind of like introducing them to the outdoors. I will be there to represent MTPCA and

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talk about trapping with a display of trapping equipment. If anyone would like to come join in, come on over- the more trappers the better.

Remember this year's ugly HAWAIIAN shirt day -Thursday bring 'em! wear 'em! the uglier the better.

Well, gotta go. Hope to see you all there this year.

Well paint my butt white I'm skedaddling out like the rest of the antelope.

Ken (Bernie) Burzynski.  
Region 3 Vice President

## **CONVENTION NEWS**

We are looking forward to another great convention! It looks like all buildings will be full of vendors. I have already been getting inquiries about tailgating. Things are moving along nicely.

This year we will once again have the "Possum Toss World Championships" on Saturday August 19th at 11:00am. This will be year number three. The first year of Possum Toss we had about 30 entries, last year we over 70, this year who knows. Get there early!

There will be plaques and again a stuffed Possum for the First Place Winners of each age class. Age classes are; 12 years old and younger, 13 to 17 years old, and 18 to 99 years old.

Saturday at 12:00 noon we will have the kids hay scramble. Those kids always have a good time. Immediately following the Kids' Hay Scramble will be the "Adult" Hay Scramble. (Must be 21 to enter). Trap Setting Contest is scheduled for 12:15pm Saturday. As with the Possum Toss, there will be plaques awarded to the First Place Winners in each age class.

Convention buttons will be available for sale at the MTPCA booth in the main building. These will have the artwork of the "Possum Toss" from Joe Goodman.

A.J. Clark will be doing a Kids' Workshop Saturday at 1:00pm. This year the kids can assemble a Weasel Box. Jeff Dunlap from Dunlap Lures is supplying the Weasel Lure. Thank you- A.J. & Jeff!

By the time you read this you should have received one of the volunteer cards in the mail. If you have time at convention to help out, we can ALWAYS use more volunteers. Just an hour or two can make such a huge difference.

Friday evening at convention we will have our donation dinner. Another hog has been donated for the meal. Mark Earl is heading up the meal, if you would like to bring a much needed food item please get in touch with Mark on the MTPCA Facebook page and he will add what you would like to bring. We can never have too much food!

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Immediately following the dinner will be our live auction. This is my favorite part of convention! All items are donated. If you have something you would like to donate please bring it with you to convention. Anything from traps, trapping equipment, sporting goods, artwork, crafts, you name it, we'll take it!

Here is the demo list for convention;

## FRIDAY

9:00am Joe Velchansky –Trap Preparation How & Why  
10:00am Jim Tate -----Bobcat Trapping  
11:00am Sarah Gomez-----Coyotes  
12:00pm Jeff Dunlap-----Beaver & Otter Trapping  
1:00pm J.R. -----Canines Questions & Maybe answers  
2:00pm Ken “Bernie” Burzynski –Trap Equipment in the ground  
3:00pm Trevor Barnes-----Fur Handling & Market outlook

## SATURDAY

9:00am Ernest Winter ----Predator Line Locations Management  
10:00am Mark June -----Bobcat  
11:00am Jeff Hagerty -----Muskrat  
12:00pm Nick Erny -----Body Grip Trapping  
1:00pm \*\*\*\*\*NO DEMOS\*\*\*\*\*GEN. MEMBERSHIP MEEETING\*\*\*  
2:00pm John Chagnon Fox, Red & Grey

Carl Rohler will be setting up the calling demos and will be held under the big top each day.

As you can see, there is something at convention for everyone. Please, make this year special and bring a few new folks who have never been to a trapping & calling convention before. I'm sure they will thank you.

I hope to see you all at convention.

Happy Trapping,  
Joe Velchansky, Sr.  
MTPCA Convention Coordinator

## Director-at-Large Report

I am your new Director at Large. When you get this Trapline trapping season will be about over, hope you had a great season.

Unfortunately the anti. Crowd has no seasons and keep coming up with new ways to make life difficult for the Trappers. So on that note please keep your memberships up to date. Remember that none of your MTPCA Directors receive any pay, they work tirelessly to keep our trapping rights so please support them.

Ed Lundborg  
DIRECTOR AT LARGE  
YOTEMAN50@GMAIL.COM

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## LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The MTPCA has a program called the Landowner Assistance Program.

For those of you who are not familiar with this program, it is designed to put landowners who may be having problems with wildlife on their property or lease in contact with local, licensed ethical trappers. This is free of charge control work done during the regular fur taking season. I was asked to take over this program and will do my best to help landowners with their "Problem" animals. I need help from some of you.

If you would like to be part of the landowner assistance program and be a trapper or predator hunter on the contact list, please send me your name, address, county you live in, email address and phone number. Once I have your information, if I receive a call about problem animals in your area, I can reach out to you and put you and the landowner in contact with each other. Once the damage animal or animals are removed, I will follow up with both the trapper/hunter and the land owner to see that both parties are satisfied.

One of the most critical aspects of this program is being Licensed, Responsible and Ethical. When you take on this roll managing wildlife you are also representing the MTPCA. We as an association want to promote our abilities and capabilities to the general public.

There may be times and calls when the best option for the landowner is to contact a licensed animal damage control company. But I will do my best so the opportunity to harvest these problem animals is done during the fur season.

Again, if you would like to be part of this program and help landowners in your area, please contact me with the above-mentioned information.

Thank you,

Joe Velchansky sr.  
Email [Josephv@frontier.com](mailto:Josephv@frontier.com)  
Ph. 616-894-6214

## Fur Sale Director's Report

Hi Trappers and Callers!

As most of you know, I am kind of new to the Board of Directors, filling the position of Fur Sale Director. Things are slow, as the fur prices are down and the sales are small. If you would like to help out at the Fur Sales, please contact me, or another board member. If you have suggestions, please let me know. A number of people have already made suggestions.

Please bear with me as I learn and become a better director. Thank You!!



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Calvin Miller  
Fur Sale Director

## Calhoun County Fairgrounds 2/4/23

Row Labels	Sum of COUNT	Max of BID \$	Min of BID \$	Weighted Average
BEAVER	127	\$50.00	\$5.00	\$29.55
BEAVER CASTOR	48	\$120.00	\$1.00	\$12.92
BEAVER OIL SACKS	0.61	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
COYOTE	48	\$70.00	\$1.00	\$15.73
DEER HIDES	6	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
FOX - RED	43	\$90.00	\$3.00	\$15.56
MINK - FEMALE	19	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$4.26
MINK - MALE	25	\$13.00	\$0.25	\$9.39
MUSKRAT	1693.5	\$6.25	\$0.50	\$3.37
OPOSSUM	5	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
RACCOON	136	\$11.00	\$1.00	\$3.90
SKUNK	1	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00
(blank)				#DIV/0!
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2152.11</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>	<b>\$0.25</b>	<b>\$5.76</b>

## MICHIGAN TRAPPER AND PREDATOR CALLERS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS-MEMBER OR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER OF MICHIGAN TRAPPER AND PREDATOR CALLERS ASSOCIATION AND MAJORING IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT OR CLOSELY RELATED FIELD.

### I. PERSONAL DATA

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
PRESENT ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PERMANENT ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

### II. EDUCATIONAL RECORD

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED \_\_\_\_\_ GRADUATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY YOU ARE ATTENDING/PLANNING TO ATTEND \_\_\_\_\_  
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CLASS STATUS NEXT FALL (CIRCLE ONE) FRESHMAN SOPHOMORE JUNIOR SENIOR GRADUATE STUDENT  
EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CURRENT GPA \_\_\_\_\_

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MAJOR \_\_\_\_\_ MINOR \_\_\_\_\_

### III. BACKGROUND

ARE YOU A CURRENT MEMBER OF A STATE TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION? \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE NTA OR FTA? \_\_\_\_\_

IS A MEMBER OF YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY A MEMBER OF NTA OR FTA \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ RELATIONSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

### IV. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING ON SEPARATE PAGES;

1. DESCRIBE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE CHANGED IN THE WAY THE STATE OF MICHIGAN MANAGES WILDLIFE.
2. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT MORE RESTRICTIVE GUN CONTROL REGULATIONS?
3. WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO EDUCATE THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON THE BENEFITS OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT?
4. DESCRIBE YOUR SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM GOALS AND EXPLAIN WHY YOU HAVE MADE THESE DECISIONS.

ATTACH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS, WORK HISTORY AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU WISH.

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND ATTACHMENTS TO:

Mark Spencer, N4552 Spencer Lane, Moran, MI 49760

ANNUAL DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2023

### **MTPCA Contact Info**

#### Governing Board

President: Mark Spencer - E-mail [m Spencer@mtpca.com](mailto:m Spencer@mtpca.com)

Executive Vice President: Chris Kettler E-mail [ckettler@mtpca.com](mailto:ckettler@mtpca.com)

Region 1 Vice President: Ed Kramer - E-mail [ekramer@mtpca.com](mailto:ekramer@mtpca.com)

Region 2 Vice President: Vacant

Region 3 Vice President: Ken "Bernie" Burzynski - Email [kburzynski@mtpca.com](mailto:kburzynski@mtpca.com)

Treasurer: Alyssa Cambell

Membership Secretary: Steve Campbell - E-mail [sdtrapper5@mtpca.com](mailto:sdtrapper5@mtpca.com)

Recording Secretary: Craig Schafer - E-mail [cschafer@mtpca.com](mailto:cschafer@mtpca.com)

Convention Coordinator: Joe Velchansky

Public Relations: Mark Earl - E-mail [mearl@mtpca.com](mailto:mearl@mtpca.com)

Fur Sale Director: Craig Schafer - E-mail [cschafer@mtpca.com](mailto:cschafer@mtpca.com)

NTA Director: Ken "Bernie" Burzynski - Email [kburzynski@mtpca.com](mailto:kburzynski@mtpca.com)

FTA Director: Calvin Miller - E-mail [cmiller@mtpca.com](mailto:cmiller@mtpca.com)

Director- Predator Calling Outreach: Carl Roeller

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## Region 1 - Upper Peninsula DNR Zone 1

Regional Vice President: Ed Kramer - Email [ekramer@mtpca.com](mailto:ekramer@mtpca.com)  
Regional Director: UPTA  
Regional Director: NGLFH

## Region 2 - DNR Zone 2

Regional Vice President:  
Regional Director: Ernest Winters  
Regional Director: Vacant  
Regional Director - Vacant

## Region 3 - DNR Zone 3

Regional Vice President: Ken "Bernie" Burzynski - Email [kburzynski@mtpca.com](mailto:kburzynski@mtpca.com)  
Regional Director: Jack Longstreet - Email [jlongstreet@mtpca.com](mailto:jlongstreet@mtpca.com)  
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Regional Director: Jim Tate - Email [jtate@mtpca.com](mailto:jtate@mtpca.com)

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## MTPCA Membership Application

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\_\_\_\_\_ \$25/yr Regular

\_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Senior Life Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$850 Reg. Life Membership [\$850 or \$200 down & 13 payments of \$50]

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10/yr Junior, age 15 or younger [Trapline, MOoD, Fur Sale]

\* All adult memberships get: Trap Line, MOoD (online ONLY), Fur Sale, Vote

### OPTIONAL MAGAZINES OFFERED AT A DISCOUNT:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$12/yr Trapper and Predator Caller ( 10 issues)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$18/yr. Trappers World ( 6 issues)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$13/yr. Trappers Post (6 issues)

\_\_\_\_\_ Donation

\_\_\_\_\_ Total: Make checks out to: MTPCA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Region: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: Mon \_\_\_\_\_ Yr \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone (opt.): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Membership Secretary Steve Campbell, 4322 Huron St, North Branch, MI 48461

Yearly memberships run from January 1 through December 31