



The Trapline

The Official Publication of the Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association
January 2021 Edition

President's Report

Well, we have finished another year and what a year it was. This year has been a true test of our way of life both as an American and as a trapper. First, we lost our privileges to eat, drink and be merry. Then we lost the opportunity to socialize with our fellow trappers. Hopefully with the new year we will be able to regain these things that have been taken away from us.

I would like to bring you attention to three things that are going on. First, the wolf has been delisted as of 4 Jan 2021, there has been a letter of intent filed to the DNR in that the next day several groups will be filing to get a hold of the delisting at least in Michigan. The DNR does not plan on doing anything with the wolves until this court case is resolved or does not get filed. So, in other words don't plan on a wolf season this year. The second item is last month a request was sent to MUCC policy board to get a resolution to require all traps on land to be marked in a way to let the general public know where they were. Thanks to work by Dale Hendershott and Chris Kettler this request was DEFEATED unanimously by the wildlife committee. But rumor has it that this might come back just reworded. We will be on the lookout for it. The third item is about a house bill in the federal government. The bill is HR8828 "Public Safety and Wildlife Protection Act". Basically, this bill makes it illegal for the transportation of any steel trap across state lines. The bill never made it out of committee but will be reintroduced next session. Please contact your federal representative and let the Rep know that you are opposed to this type of legislation.

The last thing I would like to bring up is probably a broken record for some but WE NEED VOLUNTEERS. This includes conventions, show, and fur sales (yes, we will have them again), so please contact one of the board members to help out. We are also looking for personnel to fill positions on the board most of our board members have been there awhile so some fresh insight would be appreciated.

Thank you

Mark Spencer

President

Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers

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

Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association 2020 Awards

Hall of Fame: Mark Earl

Trapper of the Decade: Dale Hendershot

Caller of the Year: Chris Kreiner



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Trapper of the Year: Jack Longstreet

Benefactor: Trevor Barnes

President's Award: Vickie Wright

President's Award: Brad Eshbaugh

Spouse of the Year: Jennifer Schafer

Congratulations to all of our well-deserving award recipients! Thanks for all you do for the Association- and for Trapping and Predator Calling in Michigan!

Letter from the Editor:

Hello Trappers and Callers!

You may remember this quote from the last Trapline. "I coyote trapped for a few days several years ago and took eight so I'm hoping to do as well this time." Well it didn't turn out that way. IK caught a bunch of other critters (coons, a badger and possums) but the coyotes avoided my traps. The only thing I can think of was the brand new underalls I used were contaminated. I even had a coyote pull one out from under the pan and leave it on top of the unfired trap!

To sooth my wounded pride I went back to my first love- beaver trapping. At the time of this writing, I'm at 45 for the season. Mostly doing damage control locations. I even had a couple smart ones that were firing my bodygrippers and avoiding my footholds as well as the coyotes had been. One took me three weeks to catch but I got him (a 68lb. male). I had caught his 72lb. mate a few days earlier. It's never taken me that long to catch a beaver. I have one more pond where the beavers are square-shy and, unfortunately, there's not enough water for effective drowning sets. I'd do snares under the ice but the pond is a couple miles down a seasonal road and it's too far to walk towing a sled full of beaver equipment- I'm not that mad at them!

I will say that the down market has made spending time chasing these smart critters easier to enjoy. It's fun (and occasionally frustrating) taking on the challenge! If you've never matched wits with a trap shy beaver it can be a humbling and thought-provoking experience. Remember a beaver knows every inch of its pond; and you making a set in it is like someone rearranging the furniture in your living room- you notice it the second you walk in the room. When beaver aren't shy this can be used to attract them. When they are shy, this puts them on high alert. If you want to know how I caught them- ask me at Convention. We'll pour some apple pie and I'll tell you the whole sordid tale- because the misses are the educational part!

Be safe and good luck out there! John Caretti, Editor



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PR Director's Report

As the warm fall trapping weather has changed to cold winter, our traplines have made a transition as well. The open water trappers are now battling ice or walking on it to check sets. The land trappers are battling the freeze/thaw or dealing with snow covered sets.

I always find it hard to explain to a non-trapper why i get so much enjoyment from working so hard and fighting the ever-changing weather. We as an Association are battling a new adversary tougher than Mother nature as is every other association. This COVID has taken away most of the In-person interaction we cherish such as conventions and shows. This makes it hard to share our Trapline stories and ask for trapping advice as well. I usually find myself giving a trapping related presentation to a Sportsman's Club or some other large group but this year I have been unable to do that.

Conventions and shows have been very important for recruiting new trappers or predator callers with a hint of curiosity about what we do. Please keep an eye out for those people new and old that may have an interest in trapping or predator calling. Ask them questions and answer theirs as well. Give them advice and if you can take a new person on the line with you. A willing mentor can be a crucial key to unlock the interest for a potential fur harvester.

Mark Earl
MTPCA PR Director

NTA Director's Report

Happy New year trappers

I hope everyone had an enjoyable trapping season, I know it was not very profitable. I hope in the near future the world borders will reopen and trade can resume.

On the N.T.A. front the next national convention is in Spencer Iowa July 22-24. 2021. Make plans and save dates, I am sure this will be a great convention. The N. T. A. Is doing an antler drive as a fundraiser, at the 2021 convention if you would like to donate some antlers please contact me or bring them to the convention remember every little bit helps.

On a very series note a Ms. Adams from NC has introduced a bill to ban the use of steel jawed traps and conibear traps in the USA. The bill is HS 8828. Hopefully it doesn't go any were, the NTA is watching.

Please remember to keep your memberships up to date, we need all the help we can get, also introduce someone new to trapping, if each member just introduces one new person to trapping it will increase our numbers by 100 percent. Also be safe and ethical out there.



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Ed Lundborg
NTA Director
231 342 4553

FTA/Raffle Report--FTA-Rep Craig Schafer

FTA-Raffle Report

Drawing; August 21-2021, 3 PM
MTPCA Convention
Osceola County Fairgrounds
Ewart, MI. 49631
Tickets, 6 for \$20

1. \$2000 Shopping Spree-Jay's Sporting Goods
2. 4 Man Walleye Charter
3. Ruger 450 Bushmaster
4. RRRKW Redi Ax
5. Eskimo 8" Power Auger
6. Primos Trigger Stick
7. 1 DZ, FB-DP's
8. ICOTec Predator Caller
9. 1 DZ WC #2's
10. Shootergirl Ladies PKG
11. Stealth Cam
12. J3 Outdoorz PKG
13. Escort Semi Auto 12 ga.
14. Buddy Heater
15. 1 DZ WC #1's
16. Digital Metal Detector
17. Ladies Fur Mittens/Beaver Tail Wallet
18. RRRKW Knife
19. Caldwell Field Pod
20. Savage 6.5 Creedmoore
21. 1 DZ 4.5 RBG's
22. Fox Pro Hammer Jack
23. 1 DZ FB-DP's
24. Savage 22-250
25. RRRKW Knife
26. Freedom Brand Coat Rack
27. Minn Kota Trolling Motor
28. 1 DZ WC 552's
29. 1 DZ MB 450's



The Trapline

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January 2021 Edition

30. Ruger DXL 10/22

31. River Rat Predator PKG

Prizes Sponsored By

Bob's Gun & Tackle

F n T Fur Harvesters

Gold Star Out Doors

Jay's sporting Goods

J3 Outdoorz

PCS Outdoors

Reel Live Action Charters

River Rats Trapping Supplies

Rapid River Knife Works

Shootergirl Ammunition Jewelry

All previously purchased tickets are still valid.

<http://www.furtakersofamerica.com/index.html>

FTA 2021 Rendezvous

June 17-19

Clark County 4H Fair Grounds

Charlestown, IN 47111

U.P. Trappers Rendezvous

July 9-10

Escanaba, MI. 49829

U.P. State Fair Grounds

NTA National Convention

Spencer, IA 51301

July 22-24

<https://www.nationaltrappers.com/convention.html>

MTPCA Convention

August 20-21

Evart, MI. 49631

Osceola County Fair Grounds

<http://www.mtpca.com/>



The Trapline

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NGLFH Rendezvous
Kinross, MI. 49715
September 24-25
Chippewa County Fair Grounds

I would like to place a "BIG SHOUT OUT" to Vickie Wright. Vickie is the MTPCA Treasure, and the NTA Convention Coordinator. This past year Vickie received TWO Presidents awards. One from the NTA and the other from the MTPCA. Vickie is clearly a very hard worker. She is a vital part of the trapping community. Thank You.

The MTPCA needs more volunteers. Many of the board members we have now perform double duties. There are some board members that have done this for a very long time. They do this with families, work and other domestic duties. Do you have 8 hours or more to give to the association every month? The MTPCA needs people with computer skills, people skills, grammar skills, and bookkeeping skills. Availability to work at shows, give up many hours at the MTPCA Convention, to help it run smoothly. Political skills, do you have the ability to meet with politicians in a professional manner? Our right to trap will not be won or lost in the field. It will be won or lost in Lansing Michigan. If you have any of these, or some other skill, and would like to jump on board. Contact, Mark Spencer, MTPCA President.

Sincerely
Craig Schafer
MTPCA Raffle Coordinator
FTA-Representative

MTPCA Region 1 Vice President's Report

Happy New Year Trappers, Trapping season was nice this year due to the lack of snow and ice in Eastern U.P. After gun season the ground started to freeze making it difficult for land trapping. Overall, fur trapping was good.

Northern great Lakes Fur Harvesters have a Trapping meeting January 20, 2021 at Mark Spencer fur shed to discuss whether we will be having a Trappers dinner in Mackinac City for February 2021.

The year 2020 was a difficult one with all functions being cancelled due to COVID-19.

Be safe and keep your stick on the ice.

Ed Kramer
MTPCA Region 1 Vice President

MTPCA Region 2 Vice President's Report



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By now most of you have wrapped-up your land lines and are trapping thru the ice, or like me, are dreaming of spring beaver season. I hope you all had a productive season, met your goals and had fun doing it. My land line included parts of Crawford, Roscommon, Ogemaw and Oscoda Counties. I caught fox, coon, and of course POSSUM. But the coyotes, my main target, completely skunked me. I tried big holes, little holes, flat sets, blind sets, bait, no bait, trench sets, pipe sets, all to no avail.

One day while going nuts trying to figure this out, I met an accomplished coyote trapper from West Branch who confirmed he was having similar results. We spent some time making excuses for our failures and then went our separate ways. I finally pulled my line just before deer season with little more than a couple of coyote tracks near one of my sets. Later I contacted him and got an invite to run his line with him. I learned two important lessons: don't quit too soon, and never pass up an opportunity to go on another trapper's line with him. I learned a great deal from my new friend (Thanks, John!), and later in the season his success improved considerably. Many factors affect the movement of furbearers. Weather, competition, hunting seasons, crop harvests and other factors we may not notice or understand all effect how and when animals move. If they are still around, rest assured that they will eventually resume normal activities. Wait 'em out!

Speaking of quitting, it seems to me that everything we know and love is under attack. I hear our members and others talking about losing our right to trap, our right to own guns, etc etc. Our complaining to each other accomplishes little. We must fight back! If we quit, we surely will lose it all. Be effective: contact your legislators, make telephone calls, send letters and e messages, and of course support this organization. We need more members and we need more members who are willing to help out with the operation of MTPCA. If you would like to help and get more involved please contact me.

I know that with the demise of NAFTA, the cancelation of Fur Harvesters pickups, and some country buyers sitting out this season, some of you are struggling with getting rid of your furs. I sold my furs to Roger Ruginis of Kalkaska. The prices offered were low but given the unknowns of this market I believe they were fair.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our 2021 convention in Evart this coming August.

Tom Oakey
Region 2 Vice President



The Trapline

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(Ed. Note: Wow! Same thing happened to me on coyotes this year. At least I know I'm in good company if it happened to Tom Oakey.)

MTPCA Region 3 Vice President's Report

Hello Michigan Trappers!

Wow what a year COVID comes in like a punch from the back of the room, convention's closed down, some fur pickups not run till later, state fur sales shut down, a new president in office, wolf delisted again. WOW! What a year.

Then we are trappers doing what we like to do. It may not be the best year for fur sales or prices. With that said we are conservationists helping to control wildlife population and keep it disease free the best we can.

Well, Well, Well... A slow start to the K9 season. I came back from North Dakota with COVID (i try to catch everything I go after) but, I wished I would have missed that one. Got over most of it. Man what a fight. On to the Great State of Michigan. 70 & 80 degree days down here in the start of it that slowed me down a bit. Pulled up and out for deer season. Then back at it in December and did OK. Out for the Holidays and starting again in January. I mix it up with a little water trapping. All is good.

Hope everyone had a good holiday season and are safe and healthy. Looking forward to seeing everyone this year.

GET INVOLVED BECOME A VOLUNTEER !

Ken (Bernie) Burzynski
Regional 3 VP

2021 MTPCA Convention

While writing this Mark Earl and I are coyote trapping in Kansas. What a blast!

We are all hoping our state allows us to have a convention in 2021. We are making plans as we will have one.

Vendor reservation forms will be in the mail to vendors and tailgaters by the mid to end of February. Last year we had a full house with vendors and t hat is expected this year again.

As I have said often, we can always use more volunteers. If you or you and your family would like to get more involved with the MTPCA please contact me and we would love to have your help.



The Trapline

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January 2021 Edition

As we get closer to summer I will be posting vendors and information about convention on the MTPCA Facebook page. Please check in from time to time.

If there is something you want to see at convention or do something different please let me know and I will try to make it happen. As the demo list grows I will also put that on the MTPCA Facebook page.

For now let's hope our state moves forward to allow these simple things like convention to once again bring us together as a Trapping Family.

Joe Velchansky Sr.

MTPCA Convention Coordinator

Trapline Tips (courtesy of Craig Shafer)

Bobcat RUB lure:

4 oz. Ground Beaver Castor

4 Drops Mink Musk

1 oz. Liquid Smoke

Mix well.

Let set for 60 days in a cool room.

Place on a small stump or tree approximately. 10" from the ground.

MTPCA 2021 Raffle

Prizes

1. \$2000 shopping Spree at Jay's Sporting Goods
2. 4-Man Walleye Charter
3. Ruger 450 Bushmaster
4. RRKW Redi Ax
5. Eskimo 8" Power Auger
6. Primos Trigger Stick
7. 1 DZ FB-DP's
8. ICOTec Predator Caller
9. 1 DZ WC #2's
10. Shooter Girl Ladies PKG
11. Stealth Cam
12. J3 Outdoors PKG
13. Escort Semi Auto 12 ga.
14. Buddy Heater
15. 1 Dozen Wolf Creek #1's
16. Digital Metal Detector



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27. MinnKota Trolling motor
28. 1 DZ WC 552's
29. 1 DZ MB 450's
30. Ruger DXL 10/22
31. River Rat Predator Package

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The MTPCA says, "THANK YOU!" to all our sponsors.

Tickets can be purchased from participating Board Members and at any of the shows where MTPCA has a booth.

Fur Sale Director's Report

It doesn't look like the State is going to allow us to hold Fur Sales this year. Here is the link to the list of licensed Fur Buyers in Michigan. I encourage you to call them first. Some of them only buy deer hides or for personal use. Also, some may have stopped buying due to the low fur prices and COVID-19.

https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79119_79147_81457-527550--,00.html

MTPCA Contact Info

MTPCA Contact Info

GOVERNING BOARD

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Region 2 Vice President: Dale Hendershot-----E-mail dhendershot@mtpca.com

Region 3 Vice President: Tamara Masterson-----E-mail tmasterson@mtpca.com



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 Regional Director: Jason Ray-----E-mail jray@mtpca.com
 Regional Director: Sam Berkheimer-----E-mail sberkheimer@mtpca.com

MTPCA Membership Application

- _____ \$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:



The Trapline

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January 2021 Edition

_____ \$12/yr Trapper and Predator Caller (10 issues)
_____ \$11/yr. Trappers World (6 issues)
_____ \$13/yr. Trappers Post (6 issues)
_____ Donation

_____ Total: Make checks out to: MTPCA

Name: _____

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Mail to: Membership Secretary Bruce Barlow, 4520 N. Shaw Rd. Gladwin, MI 48624

Yearly memberships run from January 1 through December 31