



NORTH DAKOTA FUR TAKERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

A Message From Our President – Gary Jepson

North Dakota enjoys the least non-essential trapping regulations of any state in the union.

We also enjoy some of the highest fur value.

There are those who would see us regulated and restricted so trapping is not profitable or effective as a management tool.

It needs to be our mission as an organization to see that this does not happen!

Gary

Dear Gary Jepson, ND Fur Takers,

We would like to thank you and your company for the generous gift of “trapping books, videos, a sweatshirt, and some furbearer carry straps”, to our fund raiser. Our benefit breakfast was a huge success, and the silent auction would not have been possible without your help.

The funds will be used towards medical costs and equipment, so you are truly making a difference in our lives.

Respectfully,

Robert and Alice Gangl

How beautiful a day can be when kindness touches it! ~George Elliston

Membership Application NORTH DAKOTA FUR TAKERS CHAPTER 3

Michelle Thomas, Treasurer
211 3rd St NW
Belfield, ND 58622
701-575-2209

Date: _____

Circle One:
New
Renewal

F.T.A Dues Only.....	\$30.00
ND Chapter 3 Dues Only.....	\$15.00
F.T.A. & ND Chapter 3 Dues.....	\$45.00
ND Chapter 3 Life Membership.....	\$125.00

Name _____ Phone _____

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MINUTES OF 2010 RENDEZVOUS MEETING by Ken Stoppler, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 4:12 p.m. by President Sheldon Cieslak.

Motion action by Ken Stoppler and seconded by Tony Brandenburger.

Financial report distributed by Treasurer, Michelle Thomas.

Rusty moved to approve the financial statement and Gary Jepson seconded it.

Tony Brandenburger was nominated for Director for East by Rick Weige. Gary Jepson seconded the nomination. Motion was passed.

Rick Weige was nominated for the West Director by Warren Thomas. Gary Jepson seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

Rick Weige nominated Gary Jepson for President. Joe Maerten seconded the nomination. Motion was passed.

Tom Kitzan was nominated for Vice President by Gary Jepson. Rick Weige seconded the nomination. The motion was passed.

Michelle Thomas was nominated for Treasurer by Rick Weige. Rusty Trosen seconded the nomination. The motion was passed.

Congratulations to all the nominees!

Topics discussed at the meeting:

- Trapper education discussion – concerns about the course promoting BMP.
- Discuss ways to get kids into trapping. More use of computers.
- Keep contact with Legislature to keep regulations in our favor using facts not fiction.
- Wildlife control services to dictate how wildlife should be managed other than their own agenda. Wanton waste by Wildlife Services kill animals ok for them and leave lay in the field but private trappers & hunters are breaking the wanton waste laws.
- To continue the Badger necropsy studies, or not. Richard Trosen motion to drop studies. Tony Brandenburger seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Discuss road closure in National Grasslands (Badlands).
- Draft letter – concerns about Spring muskrat trapping using floats, etc.

A motion to support Kimble's Gun and Ammo in Linton to buy guns for the raffle from them was made by Rick Weige. Tom Kitzan seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Rick Weige made a motion for Michelle Thomas to cater food in from the Dairy Barn in Dickinson. Gary Jepson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Rick Ackerman made a motion to send \$250 for FTA trapping segments. Gary Jepson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Rusty Trosen made a motion to have the Fall Rendezvous the weekend before Labor Day. Tony Brandenburger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Warren Thomas made a motion to have the Fall Rendezvous at Glen Ullin again. Mark Martzell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sheldon Cieslak will check on sending a card, etc to Bob Gangle at a hospital in St. Johns Hospital in Springfield, MO, 1235 E Cherokee, Springfield, MO 65804

Tony Brandenburger received an award for selling the most raffle tickets.

Sheldon Cieslak received an award for services as Association President.

Ken Stoppler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tony Brandenburger seconded the motion. The motion carried. 6:15 p.m.

SPRING 2011 MEETING MINUTES

by Ken Stoppler, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 1:45 p.m. by President Gary Jepson at the Eagles Club in Mandan, ND.

Gary made a motion to dispense reading of the minutes and financial report from the fall meeting and motion to dispense reading the Treasurer's report as we all had a copy. Motion was seconded by Ken Stoppler. Motion passed.

Rick Weige made a motion to rectify situation on getting CD's clarified as the original ownership and information on status to the treasurer. Michelle Thomas seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Ken Stoppler made a motion to send a new representative to the NTA national convention. Mark Monte seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mark Monte will be the new representative to the NTA national convention. Ken Stoppler and Tony Brandenburger will be the alternates.

Joe Maerten made a motion to send a donation to Bob Gangl who is living in Missouri following an accident. Motion was seconded by Tony Brandenburger. Motion passed. Bob and Alice will be returning to North Dakota in May.

Other topics discussed were the Senate Bill 1224 and House Bill 1454. Gary Jepson testified on Senate Bill 1224 for the coyote bounty system proposed by the Natural Resources Committee. It was discussed and gave it a no pass. The House Bill 1454 was for beaver hunting at night with lights. It also was discussed and gave it a no pass. It is still in legislative committee at this time.

Next topic of discussion was the Fall Rendezvous which will be held in Glen Ullin on August 25th & 27th. There will be trap setting contests on Friday evening at 5:00 p.m. There will be a \$10.00 entry fee and each person will be allowed to have 2 traps instead of the 1 in previous years. Also, every entrant must have a valid ND trapper's license.

The Dairy Barn will cater the meat for meals on Saturday. Everyone should bring a dessert or salad to share. Breakfast will be on your own.

Saturday will be the demonstrations, which are in the works at this time. The demonstrations were discussed and a motion was made by Tony Brandenburger to pay a cap of \$200.00 maximum to have national recognized trappers and predator callers to do the demonstrations. The motion was seconded by Joe Maerten. Motion passed.

Rick Weige agreed to pick up the permit for the raffle tickets. Tony Brandenburger will make the raffle tickets. There will be a total of 600 raffle tickets at \$5.00 each. Michelle Thomas will distribute the raffle tickets. Rick Weige will send notices to the newspapers of the Fall Rendezvous. First prize for the raffle will be a centerfire rifle up to a 30-06 and second prize will be a Henry 22 caliber centerfire rifle. It was discussed and agreed to buy rifles at Kimble's Gun and Ammo in Linton. Third prize will be \$100.00 cash. Fourth prize to be a collection of Favorite Sets of Top Trappers (3 book collection). Fifth prize will be a framed wildlife print and sixth prize will be a North Dakota Furtakers sweatshirt.

There will be several positions up for election at the Fall Rendezvous. If you know of anyone you would like to nominate or volunteer yourself for a position, you are certainly welcome to do so. Ken Stoppler made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Tony Brandenburger seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Hope to see everyone at the Fall Rendezvous meeting on August 26th & 27th at Glen Ullin.

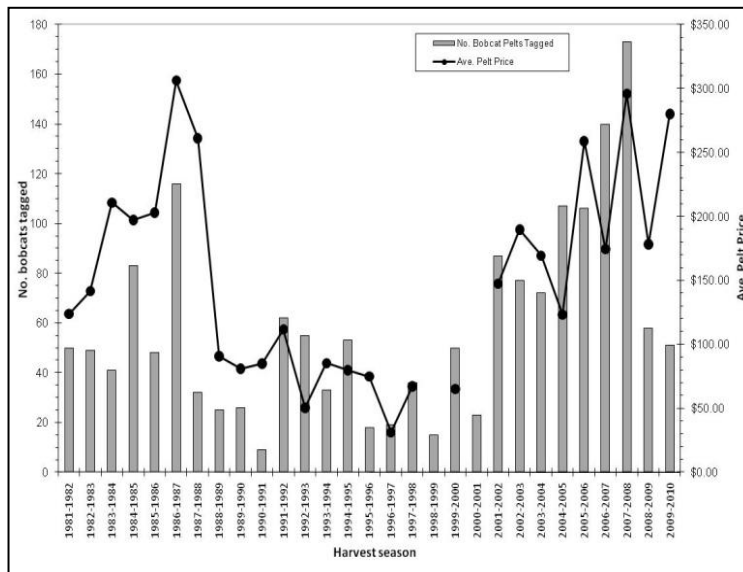
NDGFD Furbearer Update
Stephanie Tucker

In fall of 2010, my husband and I had the pleasure of attending Trappers College in Indiana. I would like to thank the members of the North Dakota Fur Takers for sponsoring my admittance to the College – it was a worthwhile experience, filled with information that I'll use frequently in my pursuit to be a responsible wildlife manager and fur harvester. And, despite bed bugs and having to leave early, it was truly enjoyable to listen to all the seasoned and passionate trappers put on their instructor hats and give away tricks of their trade.

Fall Forecast - Barring another winter to be reckon with, fur harvesters in North Dakota should have ample opportunity this coming fall to pursue their favorite furbearer. By current indications, furbearer populations appear to be healthy and going strong. Spring surveys imply that none of the furbearers are on a statewide decline. Additionally, muskrat numbers are continuing to flourish, especially in the prairie pothole region.

Upcoming Changes - The most significant potential change to the upcoming season's furbearer regulations is our proposal to open a fisher trapping season. Data we have collected and research findings indicate fishers have re-colonized areas of the state where they occurred historically. Our proposal recommends a harvest quota of 10 individuals with a bag limit of 1 fisher per trapper. We are proposing the season opens late-November and closes mid-March or when the quota is reached, whichever comes first. We will require mandatory pelt tagging to facilitate collection of carcasses for biological data. Our proposal for a fisher season will be submitted to the Governor's office in July and we should know by late-summer whether or not the proposal has been approved. If you have comments regarding the proposal for an open fisher trapping season in 2011-2012, please send them to satucker@nd.gov.

Bobcat Harvest Trends - We documented 51 bobcat mortalities (27 trapped, 11 snared, 11 shot, 1 road kill, 1 unknown) from 10 counties in North Dakota in 2009-2010. We distributed 48 CITES tags for legally taken bobcats. This was a 4% decrease in number of bobcats harvested compared to the previous season. We have not completed necropsies for bobcats collected in 2010-2011, but early-indications are the number of bobcats harvested last season was even fewer than the previous season.



Research Activities - Upcoming furbearer research activities in North Dakota include continued surveys for river otters beginning this summer. Frostburg State University was awarded additional State Wildlife Grant monies to continue investigating the distribution of river otters in central and western North Dakota. Surveys will focus on areas of the Missouri River and its tributaries.

Additionally, we are attempting to deploy 4 radio collars on adult mountain lions in western North Dakota. Currently, we have 1 mountain lion fitted with a radio collar in western North Dakota, which was incidentally trapped in 2006. Data collection will be focused on acquiring food habits and baseline data on habitat use, movements, and survival.

2011 NDFTA HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

Hall of Fame induction will take place at the Trappers Kettle Restaurant in Belfield on June 11, 2011 at 1:30pm MT.

The inductees are: **Larry Whitman – McClusky**
Jerome Roule – Medina

We would like to see as many members as possible attend. It will be a good time.

We owe a very hearty “THANKS” to Harold Hugelen and sons for their generosity and support in having this at the Trappers Kettle.

The induction committee is Bob Burns, Brent Woodworth, and Gary Jepson

**Deadline for the next newsletter is
July 25, 2011.**

DATES TO REMEMBER:

*June 23-25 – FTA National Convention
Dunkirk, NY*

*July 29-31 – MN Trappers Rendezvous
Redwood Falls, MN*

*Sept. 9-11 – MT Trappers Rendezvous
Lewistown, MT*

*Sept. 16-17 – SD Trappers Rendezvous
Wall, SD*

ND Fur Takers Rendezvous

August 26-27, 2011

Glen Ullin Park, Glen Ullin, ND

NDFTA Board Members

President-Gary Jepson (701) 863-6535
Vice President-Tom KitZan (701) 974-3778
Secretary-Ken Stoppler (701) 282-6731
Treasurer-Michelle Thomas (701) 575-2209
Directors-Tony Brandenburger (701) 349-4122
Rusty Trosen (701) 469-2245
Joe Maertens (701) 277-0883
RJck Wiege (701) 878-4878
Mark Monti (701) 453-3427
Warren Thomas (701) 575-2209

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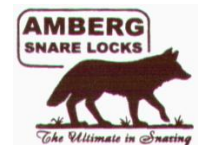
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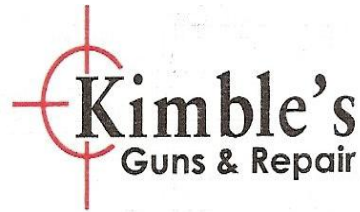
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