

President's Report

Hello my name is Mark Spencer and I'm the new President of Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers. First, I would like to thank Chris Kettler for his outstanding service as President, but due to commitments he asked if anybody would take over. So last board meeting him and I swapped positions.

A little about myself, I am a retired submarine sailor when I retired, I took over for my Dad as the fur agent for Fur Harvesters Auction. After he passed away, I started buying and selling used and new traps that he did. You have seen me at the conventions over the past 25 years. My wife and I own a Pasty/Gift shop in Brevort MI that we run from May thru Nov. So, if you are in the UP stop in and say Hi, we are 20 miles west of the Mackinac Bridge on US-2 the name of the place is Wildwood Pasties. As you all know there were no conventions in the state of Michigan so therefore a lot of people that renew their memberships at the convention are missing that opportunity. It is imperative that you don't let your membership lapse because we need the numbers. What I mean is that whenever some organization comes after our privilege to trap, we need to show legislators that we have this many voters who oppose this action. The privilege of trapping will not be lost in the swamp- it will be lost in Lansing. So, renew your membership and get another trapper to sign up WE NEED THE PEOPLE if we want to keep trapping.

Thank you
Mark Spencer
President
Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers

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

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!

I hope your season's getting off to a great start! Since I retired, I'll be predator trapping for the first time in several years. Living in Warren, it's not possible to do daily checks so 95% of my trapping is water. I coyote trapped for a few days several years ago and took eight so I'm hoping to do as well this time.

As I'm sure you know, the fur markets are all messed up right now by the COVID-19 pandemic. This may be a new reason for a market downturn, but it certainly isn't the first down market I've seen in 43 years of trapping. I'm pretty confident once this thing gets sorted out and passes, we'll have some pent-up demand and the market will move back up. I always suggest to trappers and callers that down markets are a good time to experiment with new techniques, areas, and equipment. If something works- you have a new arrow in the quiver when things go back up; if it doesn't, you've only lost out on the lower priced fur. I certainly wasn't changing my program when muskrats were \$15- I did what had worked for me in the past and applied it as much as I could. Like I said above, this year I'll mess with the coyotes a bit and if I don't catch any, it didn't really hurt me and if I learn something that helps me catch more next time- so much the better.

I'm also planning to get more serious about my calling this winter. Since I retired, I'll have more time and, after working a little project in the summer I rewarded myself with the thermal scope. Coyotes beware!

Be safe and stay healthy, Everyone! What better "social distancing" is there than being out on a stand or running a trapline?!

John Caretti, Editor

PR Director's Report

Now that the trapping season is kicking into gear, we can think about something other than this strange year we've had. Public relations have been a little difficult with the restrictions placed on us. I truly miss giving presentations to groups about the amazing things we do and the good that trapping and predator calling does. When we get back to normal, I will be ready to spread the word again. Social Media traffic has increased due to the additional time so many people have at home. It is a great way to keep our fur harvesting energy going in the off season but there are many negatives as well. Please keep things classy when you are representing our outdoor heritage and outdoor

endeavors. You only have one chance to leave a first impression and why would we want to take a step forward just to take two steps back? All cliche's aside, we have an opportunity to introduce people to our way of life tactfully and in a way that will make them want to pass it on to others.

Mark Earl
Public Relations Director
MTPCA

NTA Director's Report

Hello Trappers

A new trapping season is almost here, hope you are all ready. I am going to down size some and enjoy the time afield. My coyotes from last season are unsold, no need to have more unsold coyotes.

The NTA national convention for 2021 is in Spencer Iowa July 22 to 24, make plans to attend I am sure it will be a great convention. Also, the NTA is doing an antler drive as a fund raiser. So, if you have some sheds or antlers you would like to donate, bring them to Iowa or get ahold of me and I will see that they get there.

As always please keep your NTA and MTPCA memberships current right now times are tuff for our trapping organizations.

Ed Lundborg NTA Director 231 342 4553

FTA Report--FTA-Rep Craig Schafer

Welcome to the MTPCA's Electronic Trapline.

2020 has been hard for any trapping association to raise funds. The Fur Takers of America did manage to raise approximately \$8915.00. This was from the 2020 FTA Adventure Outings Auction. There were 10 auction outings that were up for bid. The Auction ended on September 21, 2020. Visit http://www.furtakersofamerica.com/ for more information.

Indiana Chapter 7-G is going to host the Rendezvous in Charleston, IN, June 17-19, 2021. And as a result, the Kansas Fur Harvesters have graciously agreed to move their intended hosting of the FTA National Rendezvous to 2022. Keep your fingers crossed.

MTPCA Raffle 2021

The 2020 MTPCA Raffle was postponed and moved to:



Drawing; August 21-2021, 3 PM MTPCA Convention Osceola County Fairgrounds Evart, MI. 49631

All tickets that were sold for the 2020 MTPCA Raffle are good. Ticket sales will resume on December 19, 2020 at Jay's Sporting Goods, during the MTPCA Fur Auction.

Sincerely Craig Schafer MTPCA Raffle Coordinator FTA-Representative

MTPCA Region 1 Vice President's Report

Hi Trappers we finally had a highway pickup at the end of September. Northern Great Lakes Fur Harvesters next event is the Trappers' Dinner in February. I will update you on the dinner later. During this pandemic one thing for sure is hunting and trapping season is still on so keep your trap chains tight and stay safe, eh.

Ed Kramer
MTPCA Region 1 Vice President

MTPCA Region 3 Vice President's Report

Hello Trappers

How's everyone doing this day and age? As of this printing in November the K-9 season will be upon us and starting.

What a summer it has been. Good and bad- no conventions. As for some of the good- Barnes Fur & Hide had a small Appreciation Day I attended. It was good to see some folks to interact with about trapping. With that being said I got a lot of things done. Wax dirt, traps cleaned up and tuned, supplies reordered, waterfowl gear gone through and made ready. Yes- I'm a duck hunter. (Ed. Note: We won't hold that against you, Bernie! The duck hunters are our friends and have been very supportive over the years.)

I had the privilege to attend NTA Board Meeting via zoom. Very interesting to see everyone. Our own Mark Spencer did a talk on what's going on in Michigan and did a fine job as did Vickie Wright. Great job, Guys!



Here's a hint. Magazines- I think we all get a few. Recycle them at your Doctor's office, Dentist's office, Barber and wherever. You can never know might start an interest with someone old or new to it. Posting photos?- be discrete! Remember we can be our own worst enemies. (Ed. Note: Good point, Bernie! Nothing looks sadder than picture of a big buck with his bloody tongue hanging out. Show your quarry some respect- clean things up a bit if necessary before taking and posting photos.) The season's will be upon us when this goes to post. To all have a good season and be safe. Safe journey's and watch your topknot!

Ken (Bernie) Burzynski Regional 3 VP

2021 MTPCA Convention

Before we know it, convention time will be here. It has a way of sneaking up on us faster than a possum to a dirt hole set. Next year's convention is in Evart once again, August 20th & 21st. Plans are being made to have a great convention. A few new "Attractions" for 2021 will be a cast iron cooking demo area (with taste testing I hope) and a wild mushroom and edibles demo and information booth. Games are always a fun part of any convention. We usually have a few games for the kids, a trap setting contest for all ages and the adult hay scramble. Next year with the help of a couple volunteers I would like to bring the "Possum Toss" to Evart again. It has been many years since the last Possum Toss was played at our convention. No need to worry, no real possums will get tossed. (Ed. Note: But that would make it even more exciting! LOL)

Last year (2019) we had every building full of vendors and 25 or more tailgaters. I believe we will have another full house next year. In case you wonder how these vendors get the same spots or move spots from year to year here is how it works. Once a vendor has an inside booth space or spaces, those spots are theirs until they miss a year. (Unless they made prior arrangements due to a family emergency or something of the sort). If they miss a year that space or spaces becomes available. So, in a nut shell if a vendor has a spot, it is theirs until they give it up. This works well for us the MTPCA and the vendors because they know where they are setting up. It works well with the members and all those shopping, they know where a certain vendor is set up.

One of my favorite events at convention is the Friday night meal. Yes, I like food and food likes me! Last year Joe Pugliese and crew did a great job. The reason I like the Friday night meal is it's a chance to taste some great food, but it's also a chance to sit and chat with old friends and new friends. After all, getting together to talk trapping and socialize with our trapping family is a huge part of convention. We



can order supplies and equipment on line or through the mail. But the socializing is what makes a convention for me.

And as always, our convention runs on volunteer power. Sometimes the number of volunteers run thin and we have to ask for help. If you can spare a little time during convention please contact me and we would be glad to have any help we can. Remember "Many hands make light work" Happy Trapping,

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 approximtely. 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
- 17. Ladies Fur Mittens & Beaver Tail Wallet
- 18. RRKW Knife
- 19. Caldwell Field Pod
- 20. Savage 6.5 Creedmore
- 21. 1 DZ 4.5 RBG's
- 22. Fox Pro Hammer Jack
- 23. 1 DZ FB-DP's
- 24. Savage 22-250
- 25. RRKW Knife
- 26. Freedom Brand Coat Rack
- 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

Prizes Sponsored by: Bob's Gun & Tackle, FnT Fur Harvesters, Gold Star Outdoors, Jay's sporting goods, J# Outdoors, PCS Outdoors, Real Live Action Charters, River Rat Trapping Supplies, Rapid River Knife Works, Shootergirl Ammunition Jewelry.

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

Hello everyone!

Missi's kind of busy right now so I'm filling in for this issue of the Trapline. Jay's had to cancel on us for the December Fur Sale due to the restrictions on public gatherings. We have arranged to have the Fur Sale at the Central Michigan Sportsman's Club in Stanton on December 19th. The address is 4391 E Stanton Rd, Stanton, MI 48888. Our thanks to the CMSC!

We're working on additional locations for our other sales but everything is sort of up in the air. Right now, we are looking at the Northland Sportsman's Club in Gaylord for our April sale on either the first or second Saturday of April. (Good Lord willing this pandemic should have settled down by then!) As for our February sale, we have not yet been able to lock down a location. We have been looking for something in the Marshall area. We're trying to set the fur sales down the center of the state-Stanton, Marshall and Gaylord.



I can tell folks have been working really hard to try to bring you fur sales so you'll have a place to sell your fur. These sure are strange times! Please watch the MTPCA website (mtpca.com) and Facebook page for updates.

I hope you and yours are staying healthy and safe; and that your trapping and calling is fun and successful!

John Caretti filling in temporarily for: Missi Martineau Fur Sale Director

Fur Sale Report- December 2019 Jay's Sale

Species	Count	High	Low	Weighted Average
BADGER	3	\$42.50	\$37.50	\$39.17
BEAVER	147	\$37.00	\$2.00	\$12.58
BOBCAT	1	\$48.00	\$48.00	\$48.00
COYOTE	55	\$79.00	\$4.50	\$37.50
DEER HIDES	31	\$3.00	\$1.00	\$2.16
FOX - GRAY	5	\$23.00	\$6.50	\$16.40
FOX - RED	40	\$20.00	\$3.50	\$9.14
MINK - FEMALE	4	\$6.50	\$4.00	\$5.00
MINK - MALE	12	\$8.50	\$3.00	\$6.25
MUSKRAT	2944	\$6.00	\$0.50	\$4.17
OPOSSUM	5	\$2.25	\$1.00	\$1.95
OTTER	14	\$42.00	\$8.00	\$28.57
RACCOON	218	\$20.00	\$0.50	\$7.45
SKUNK	2	\$6.00	\$5.50	\$5.75
BEAVER CASTOR -	4	\$335.00	\$195.00	\$218.75
DRY				
MUSKRAT -	1	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
CARCASS				
MINK	3	\$5.75	\$3.00	\$4.58



MICHIGAN TRAPPERS & PREDATOR CALLERS ASSOCIATION FUR AUCTION RULES

Eds. Note: Meanings of the capitalized words can be found in the "Definitions" portion of this page.

- 1) You must possess a valid Fur Harvesters License and be a current member of the MTPCA or if from out of state, your state association or the National Trappers Association.
- 2) You must purchase a LOT NUMBER, for \$5.00, in order to sell your fur. A LOT NUMBER is only good for one individual, or party (partners). You may not sell furs of another unless their furs are incorporated with yours (I.e. all furs of the same grade are sold together). Sub-lots are not allowed. LOT NUMBER'S are available from the Fur Sale Director.
- 3) You are responsible for your furs from the time you enter the auction site until such responsibility passes on to the buyer. If you NO SALE your furs, you remain responsible.
- 4) All fur will be sold in numerical order, by LOT NUMBER. (See exception under "8").
- 5) All fur must be accompanied by a correctly filled out LOT SLIP, LOT TAG and be double checked for count before being sold.
- 6) All fur will be sold as sorted/GRADED/BUNDLED and brought to the auction table. There will be no sorting of fur or breaking of BUNDLES on the auction table. No separate LOTS of same grade/species. Except for Muskrats. See "Grading, Bundling" for more information.
- 7) To keep the auction process is as quick as possible; please pay close attention when you are selling or about to sell your furs and help keep your furs moving along the tables.
- 8) If you are not prepared to sell your furs when it is your turn, you will be skipped. Your furs will be offered when convenient for the Fur Sale Director and/or volunteers assigned by the Fur Sale Director.
- 9) No switching or filling in of empty LOT NUMBERS at the fur sales will be allowed.
- 10) Deer hides must be properly salted to be sold at auction.
- 11) You or your representative must be present at all times when selling. Seller reserves the right to accept/reject the high bid on their furs. The auctioneer shall announce the final bid price to the seller, who shall immediately determine if the high bid is acceptable (sold) or unacceptable (NO SALE). In the event of a NO SALE, that LOT will be removed from the auction table for you. As soon as your other LOTS are sold, any 'NO SALE' LOTS must be removed from the auction area.
- 12) All fur sold at the auction site shall be subject to a 5% commission payable to the MTPCA. If NO SALE furs are later sold on the premises, that information must be entered on the trappers/hunters LOT SLIP and the commission paid. Members violating this rule will be subject to removal from the MTPCA by the Board of Directors, and thus loss of any, and all, future selling privileges.
- 13) It will be the sole responsibility of the trapper/hunter to pick up or make arrangements to pick up fur checks from their buyer(s).



- 14) The first 10 seller numbers have the option to rerun their unsold furs again immediately after lot number 25's furs have been completed and in the same selling order as before.
- 15) If you cannot attend but want a friend (representative) to sell your fur, they must have your current membership card and a copy of your valid Fur Harvesters License in their possession at the sale. All checks will be made out in the name of the member that holds the LOT NUMBER.

GRADING, BUNDLING

The following are the number of grades per species, allowed at an MTPCA auction. NOTE: Exceptionally large LOTS are allowed more GRADES. Assistance is available for anyone who is unsure of proper grading. A minimum of 5 of any one species is required before sorting into grades. Mink are excluded.

- Badger 3 Grades: XL, over 25"; L, 25" to 22"; M/S, under 22".
- Beaver 14 Grades: (fall or winter) 3XL, over 70"; 2XL, 70" to 65"; XL, 65" to 60"; L, 60" to 55"; L/M, 55" to 51"; M, 51" to 47"; Kits, under 47". Measure length and width or diagonals; then add together.
- Bobcat 3 Grades: XL, over 36"; L, 36" to 32", M/S, under 32".
- Coyote 3 Grades: XL, over 42"; L, 42" to 36"; M/S, under 36".
- Deer 2 Grades: Large and Damaged/Small. Note: The buyer, who bids the highest, shall buy all deer hides brought to the auction and at one of the two grades/prices. Buyer retains the right to refuse rotten, small, rubbed or slipping hides.
- Fisher 3 Grades: XL/L, over 28"; L/M, 28" to 25"; M/S, under 25".
- Fox (Grey) 2 Grades: XL/L, over 28"; M/S, under 28".
- Fox (Red) 4 Grades: 2XL, over 34"; XL, 34" to 32"; L 32" to 28"; M/S and Flat under 28".
- Martin 5 Grades: 2XL, over 23"; XL, 23" to 21"; L, 21" to 18"; M, 18" to 16", S under 16".
- Mink (Female) 3 Grades: XL, over 19"; L, 19" to 17"; M/S, under 17". (Male) 5 Grades: 2XL, over 23"; XL, 23" to 21"; L, 21" to 19", L/M, 19" to 17"; M/S, under 17".
- Muskrat 14 Grades: (Fall or Winter) 3XL, over 17"; 2XL, 17" to 15 1/2"; XL, 15 1/2" to 14"; L, 14" to 13";
 M, 13" to 11 1/2"; S, 11 1/2" to 10"; Kits, under 10". Note: Large lots may be BUNDLED in 25's with a minimum of 250 or more pelts per LOT. Large LOTS of muskrats may be separated into LOTS of 250 or more.



- Opossum 3 Grades: XL, over 25"; L, 25" to 22"; M/S, under 22".
- Otter 5 Grades: XL, over 38"; L, 38" to 34"; L/M, 34" to 32"; M/S, 32" to 30"; XS, under 30".
- Raccoon 6 Grades: Jumbo, over 35"; 3XL, 35" to 32"; 2XL, 32" to 29"; XL, 29" to 27", L/M, 24" to 22"; M/S, under 22". Note: Blue coon needs to separate from Prime coon. All Green coons will be sold as one LOT whether the LOT NUMBER contains two or more. However, they must be bundled to be sold. No more than 5 green coon per bundle due to weight.
- Skunk 3 Grades: 2XL, over 22"; XL/L, 22" to 18"; M/S, under 18". Note: All carcass skunks MUST remain outside. Please let the Fur Sale Director know if any carcass skunks need to be sold as soon as you arrive.
 It is highly recommended to sort, GRADE, tag and string (BUNDLE) your pelts prior to arriving at the auction. Space is always at a premium and you may be skipped if you are not prepared to sell when it is your turn. IF you are one of the first few sellers, it is best to have your furs ready for sale prior to 9am.

Securely tie and label with a LOT TAG to each BUNDLE of fur with string, rope, twine, or zip ties in a manner that prevents the loss of individual pelts. (Stringing through the eye, ear or mouth holes is preferred.) Wire is unacceptable.

BUNDLE/String: Muskrats in groups of 25 max; Green coon in groups of 5 max (weight consideration); all other furs in 10 max. Write number of pelts in BUNDLE, grade, and LOT NUMBER on LOT TAG. Attach a tag to each BUNDLE. All fur that is the same GRADE for any LOT NUMBER must be offered at the same time. (I.e. A seller had 4 bundles of Jumbo Green coon. He shall offer the 20 pelts for the sale together as one LOT, not four different lots.) LOTS must be signified on LOT TAG as 1 of 4, 2 of 4, 3 of 4 and 4 of 4 or as it pertains to that particular LOT.

AUCTION DAY PROCEDURES

Must verify that the seller's MTPCA Membership is current and contact information is correct for the sale.
Please pick up LOT SLIPS, string and LOT TAGS and fill out completely. Lots will not be sold until BUNDLE contains all necessary information.
Fill out the seller's information on the LOT SLIPS completely. NOTE: Many of our members make donations of furs to the MTPCA. These are always accepted and certainly appreciated. If you choose to donate, fill out a LOT SLIP as noted, with the addition of clearly marking as a 'DONATION'. Please notify the Fur Sale Director of your intentions. Also, please allow the MTPCA to determine the best MTPCA use of

Please check in at the MTPCA table prior to bringing your furs into the building.

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your furs (i.e. resale, tanning for resale or use in a fur kit. Any monies collected from donated furs sold at auction, will go to the Trappers Education Fund.).
Sort, GRADE, TAG, and BUNDLE your pelts if you have not yet done so.
Place your furs on table, in the order you want them sold (i.e. mink, muskrat, coon, coyote, fox) as space and proximity to selling time allows.
Please leave your LOT SLIPS with the appropriate BUNDLES/GRADES/LOTS of your furs, so that count and species can be verified.
Please pay attention and move your furs along the tables as the sale progresses.
Periodically, check with the computer operator to see if your copies of the sold LOT SLIPS are ready for pick up.
Pick up your completed LOT SLIPS and bring them to the buyers check writer. You are responsible for taking your slips to each buyer's writer and collecting your money.

DEFINITIONS

BUNDLE – Pelts of like species/grade strung together for ease of handling, counting, bagging; can be any number of pelts up to allowable limit outlined herein.

GRADE – The size, color, damage, etc. of a pelt; used for sorting like furs into bundles/lots.

LOT – Any number of pelts or bundles of pelts being sold at the same time.

LOT NUMBER – The numerical order in which you will be selling; used on lot slips and lot tags to identify seller.

LOT SLIP – A three part carbon-less form filled out by the seller which identifies the seller, the species being sold, quantity, grade, bid price, commission, proceeds and buyer.

LOT TAG – Any slip attached to a bundle of pelts which contains the seller's number, quantity, grade of the bundle and portion of LOT.

NO SALE – What is said when the bid price is unacceptable for the lot being bid upon.

Lot Numbers first become available during the MTPCA Conventions.

After convention they will be available from MTPCA Fur Sale Director:

Missi Martineau

(269) 425-6024 (text preferred)

Superiorfur@gmail.com



MTPCA Contact Info

MTPCA Contact Info

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Regional Director: Vacant

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Regional Director: Mark Dorman

Regional Director: Elbert Rush------E-mail erush@mtpca.com
Regional Director: Allen Ballard-----E-mail aballard@mtpca.com

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

Regional Director: Sam Berkheimer-----E-mail <u>sberkheimer@mtpca.com</u>

	_\$25/yr Regular	
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