

# The Trapline

The Official Publication of the Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association  
January 2022 Edition

## President's Report

Well, the new year is upon us- let us hope that this year is a better year than the last two.

First thing I would like to let you know is that Ed Lundborg has reconsidered his retirement and has been voted back to being our NTA Director. Thanks, Ed!

This Trapline is for everyone. In that being said the board would like anybody to submit something to the trapline. John will review and if appropriate he will get it in the next available Trapline. No photo's please. Examples are trapline story, tricks that you have learned or something you saw at a convention that you would like to share. The timeline for submission is Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup> and Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. Email your submission to John Caretti (jacaretti@gmail.com) by the above dates.

We have a scholarship available from the Jack VanHoose Endowment Fund. These awards are in the amount of \$250.00 each. Eligibility requirements: Applicant or immediate family member must be a member of the Michigan Trapper and Predator Callers and the student must be majoring in a field of study pertaining to wildlife management or a closely related major. The application form will be on our website.

Bruce Barlow (our Membership Secretary) has submitted his resignation with a date of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Anyone wishing to step up and volunteer can either contact Bruce or any board member to submit their name.

The Membership Secretary shall:

1. Be responsible for all membership records and files.
2. Be responsible for all member magazine subscriptions.
3. Deposit all membership dues paid into MTPCA checking account within 30 days of receipt.

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**"

Thank you

Mark Spencer

President

Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers

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

## Letter from the Editor:

Happy New Year Trappers and Callers!

2021 is over. Good riddance! Hoping you and yours did OK last year and we can move on to a better one.

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Fur prices are still struggling but, as I've always said – if you're trapping for the money just get a job at McDonald's. You'll be money ahead.

I did a little bit of muskrat and beaver trapping. Just enough to take the edge off my trapping addiction. I also picked up a couple mink along the way. I might get just a few more beavers this year. My cousin is considering having a coat made. If so, it'll be the seventh coat one of my family has had made from my furs. It's a good time for that! I'd rather see someone I care about wearing a beaver coat I trapped than sell them for \$10 each. Prices seem to be turning around slowly. Watch the economies of China and Russia- when they get stronger, prices will go up. At least a little.

On the plus side- I spent the last couple days hunting what we call "the Boneyard". I've been putting my leftover carcasses at the same spot for years. Needless to say, the local predators know all about it. At 4pm yesterday (Jan. 2) I shot a 24lb female bobcat. There's a bigger one on my trail cams that my buddy is hoping to take. Coyotes were hitting that spot hard too, but my cousin took a nice one and the others learned quickly.

I hope you all have a good season and stay healthy!

John Caretti  
Editor

## **NTA Director's Report:**

Happy New Year Trappers

I hope you had a great trapping season. Prices are trending up very slowly Funny how that works- prices for fur crash in one day but it takes several years for the prices to come back. With that in mind, please remember to keep your NTA and MTPCA memberships current. Just because you are not trapping doesn't mean that we don't have regular bills, and the animal rights zealots are not going to rest until they put us out of business.

At the present time we have issues in Michigan, as you are aware in Ann Arbor fur sales have been banned. The NTA and MTPCA are watching this very closely. Also, Oregon has an anti-hunting and anti-agricultural bill in the works that would make it illegal to kill any animal except for self-defense, and there are some Federal anti-trapping legislation pending.

So, if you can help your trapping association in any way- monetary or volunteer. It will surely help as you will be helping yourself and your Association.

ED LUNDBORG  
NTA DIRECTOR  
[yoteman50@gmail.com](mailto:yoteman50@gmail.com)  
231 342 4553

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## FTA/Raffle Report--FTA-Rep Craig Schafer

Michigan Trappers Predator Callers Association Raffle  
Drawing Date: August 20th, 2022 3:00 PM  
Osceola County Fairgrounds  
Ewart MI 49631

6 Tickets for \$20

### Prizes:

\$2,000 shopping spree Jay's Sporting Goods

4 Man Walleye Charter \*

Savage 350 Legend

Shooter Girl Ammun Ladies Pkg

1 DZ Feather Lite DP's

BOG FieldPod

Pistol Vault

1 DZ 160 RBG

Ruger 6.5 Creedmoore

Joe Goodman/Tom Miranda Books

RRKW Knife \*

2 Man Bird Hunt \*

J3 Outdoorz Pkg \*

Stealth Cam

Cyclops LED Light

AuSable Knife Pkg & Videos

Ruger 243 Winchester

1 DZ MB 450's

Boot Dryer

NightSnipe Hunting Light

Trigger Stick

Ruger 22-250

FoxPro Caller

Beaver Hat/Mittens

Game Scale

1 DZ MB 550's

Ruger 10-22

Tanned Wolf \*

RRKW Knife \*

Tanned Wolverine \*

Stevens 12 ga Pump

Prizes sponsored by:

Barnes Hide & Fur, Bear Creek Hunt Club, Bob's Gun & Tackle, FnT Fur Harvesters,  
Gold Star Outdoors, Jay's Sporting Goods, J3 Outdoorz,

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Joe Goodman/Tom Miranda, PCS Outdoors,  
Rapid River Knife Works, Reel Live-Action Charters, ShooterGirl Ammunition Jewelry,  
Superior Furs

January 28-30, 2022

MTPCA Booth

Weller Sport Show

Delta Plex

Grand Rapids, MI

If you have any time to spare. Stop at the MTPCA booth and volunteer a few hours at this show.

February 5, 2022

MTPCA Fur Sale 9 AM

Calhoun County Fairgrounds.

Marshall, MI 49068

March 5, 2022

UP Trappers Banquet

For Tickets Contact

Roy Dahlgren, [trapperroy@outlook.com](mailto:trapperroy@outlook.com)

March 18-20, 2022

MTPCA Booth

Gaylord Expo

Gaylord, MI 49734

March 26, 2022

MTPCA Fur Sale

Northland, Conservation Club

Gaylord, MI. 49734

June 16-18, 2022

FTA 54th Convention

Douglas County Fairgrounds

2110 Harper St.

Lawrence, KS 66046

July 15-16 2022

UP Trappers Convention

UP State Fairgrounds

Escanaba, MI. 49829

July 28-31, 2022

NTA Convention

Allen County Fairgrounds

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Lima, OH

August 19-20, 2022  
MTPCA Convention  
Osceola County Fairgrounds  
Ewart, MI 49631

NGLFH Convention  
September 23-24, 2022  
Chippewa County Fairgrounds  
Kinross, MI 49752

As always, the MTPCA is in need of more active members to donate some of their time. The MTPCA Association needs volunteers to help out at the booth during the Shows we do. At the MTPCA convention in August also.

I would like to welcome Jim Tate and Tammy McDuffie as Regional Directors. Thank You for stepping up for the trappers of Michigan.

FTA Report.

The FTA continues to fight hand in hand with the NTA for the Trappers of the USA  
If you have not already, join the FTA. [www.furtakersofamerica.com](http://www.furtakersofamerica.com)

Sincerely

Craig Schafer  
FTA Rep  
Raffle Coordinator.

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

Hello Trappers,

It's was an interesting start to canine trapping in U.P. MI. Myself I had a lot of wolf problems and it seems I was not the only trapper having problems with wolves.. I have seen many pictures and post regarding wolves being caught in Eastern U.P. and Western U.P. (but we don't have a wolf problem???) Per NRC.

On a good note muskrat and beaver season for me was good.

Hunting season in the U.P. Hiawatha Sportsman Club that has 35, 000. Plus acres was not so good. Only 15 bucks were harvested. Again NO wolf problem???. But what do I know. I'm just a trapper.

Upcoming Event:

Northern Great Lake Fur Harvesters Trappers Dinner will be held February 26, 2022 Saturday at Audies Restaurant in Mackinac City beginning with Happy Hour at 5:00 PM and Dinner at 6:00 PM. There will be raffles and door prizes.. The cost is \$15 per person.

For more information call Mark Spencer at (906) 292-4779.

Happy New Year from sunny Florida. See you in the spring.

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Ed Kramer

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

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

Hello Michigan Trappers,

How is everyone doing. another year has come and gone. Wow trapping in southern Michigan is a challenge warm, wet, muddy weather ya just got to love it and I do. This year I didn't start trapping till after deer gun November season took a little break and back at it after the holidays. Hopefully weather will cooperate a little better.

I'm always looking for volunteers. We have a fur sale coming up on February 5/22 at Calhoun County Fair grounds if anyone would be interested in volunteering for a bit it would be much appreciated. A little bit of your time goes a long way.

I hope everyone has a good year be safe out there with the new year coming on. Remember if you can mentor a new person on trapping do so.

Thank you good luck on the line. Have a Happy New Year from southern Michigan.

Ken (Bernie) Burzynski  
Region 3 Vice President

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

Some of you at this point are finished for the year. Calls and guns are packed away and traps are in a pile on floor of your fur shed. Others are just ramping up for some snowy hunts or chopping ice to catch a flat tail. I am usually the latter. Coyote tracks in the winter and spring beavers always keep me in the game.

It doesn't matter which stage of the game you are in. The one thing that doesn't change is that there are always people out there trying to take away our right to pursue fur. Remember that the fur market can go up or down but the importance of being a good ambassador doesn't.

Now that we are in 2022 we plan to continue spreading the word about Fur Harvesting.

1. We will be at the NRC meetings addressing issues that affect Fur Harvesting.
2. We will keep in touch with the Legislative Sportsmans Caucus where we can speak directly with the people making laws.
3. We will attend the MUCC Convention where we will represent the trappers and predator hunters on all of the policy issues.
4. We will attend sport shows to talk with the sporting public to rally support.

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5. We will promote our sport to the youth and to the new people that have an interest in what we do.

As a board member I want to personally thank you for your membership in the MTPCA. It makes me proud to represent so many hard working Sportsmen & Sportswomen.

Happy Fur Harvesting!

Mark Earl  
PR Director

## **2022 MTPCA Convention**

Our last convention was a big success! Let's try to top that in 2022. It seems I am always learning something each year as I hold the position of convention coordinator. This year I learned that I can rent lights along with the big top tent. For those at the live auction last convention you may remember it got dark under the big top before the auction was over. Not from now on!

If there is something or someone you would like to see or do something different, please let me know and I will try to make it happen.

This next item will make me sound like a broken record, we need volunteers. If you can spare an hour or two PLEASE contact me. This is OUR convention and many hands make light work.

Last year we had a member A.J. Clark put together a workshop for the kids. He is already getting started for this summer. He could use some help from some of you parents with younger kids. The workshop should grow each year, and with great volunteers like A.J. I know it will.

As for me, I'm getting my taste buds ready for another Hog roast. Greg did a wonderful job last year and I'm sure this year will be just as good. Bring your appetite!

Until convention,.  
Joe Velchansky Sr.  
MTPCA Convention Coordinator

## **No Longer an Otter Virgin! By Jack Longstreet**

I had a recent beaver job I was doing for the DNR. It was on an impoundment that had been dammed up by beavers for years. As we entered into the area the DNR tech and myself noticed some beaver sign. Not much but enough to try to help them out. So the DNR tech asked me where I wanted holes chopped in the dam. I set up six 330's deep enough not to be bothered by freeze up. I went back the next day and everything was froze over. In a light dusting of snow on the ice, there was some tracks on the ice. They were like nothing I've ever seen before. It appeared to be something big and dragging a tail. Not a beaver, so I guessed it must be an otter. Not knowing what their tracks even look like. The next day when I returned I could see something in one of my traps- not a beaver, but a big otter! It felt awesome. I'm no longer a otter virgin!

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I got one, and it was a big one.

So what little I know about otters, I figured they usually have a partner. I need to draw them up into my traps, so I squirted some fish oil on the ice and in the water where the dam was chopped out, so it would go down stream and maybe get the other otter to come, the next day yup another large otter! After 50 plus years of trapping I'm no longer a otter virgin for sure. Sometimes it takes a lifetime to accomplish things you thought you'd be able to do.

Even though I never got any beaver out of all of this, the DNR biologist figured the beavers probably moved out due to the lack of abundance of food source. It was still an awesome experience to catch those otters. I would like to thank the DNR for their trust in me to help them out over the years with trapping issues. I still have a lot to look forward to- I'm still a bobcat, badger, marten, and fisher virgin. As trappers we all know that everyday on the line is like Christmas, it always has its surprise's! Tight chains to you all and have an awesome experience everyday,

Jack Longstreet  
Region 3 Director

## **Fur Sale Director's Report**

### **Jay's Fur Sale Report December 18, 2021**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Count of Furs</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Average</b>
Beaver	78	27	2.5	11.22
Bobcat	1	100	100	100
Coyote	22	30	12	23.05
Gray Fox	1	15	15	15
Red Fox	10	20	13	15.75
Female Mink	1	2	2	2
Male Mink	7	13	6	11
Muskrat	2178	5.80	0.75	3.85
Otter	6	40	16	32.75
Raccoon	86	10	0.25	2.74
Badger (in the Round)	1	27.50	27.50	27.50
Coyote- Green	5	9	8	8.60
Mink (in the Round)	10	5	3.75	4.00
Grand Total	2406	100	.25	4.43

## **MTPCA Contact Info**

### **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)

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Region 1 Vice President: Ed Kramer - E-mail ekramer@mtpca.com

Region 2 Vice President: Tom Oakly

Region 3 Vice President: Ken "Bernie" Burzynski - Email kburzynski@mtpca.com

Treasurer: Vickie Wright - E-mail vwright@mtpca.com

Membership Secretary: Bruce Barlow - E-mail bbarlow@mtpca.com

Recording Secretary: Missi Martineau - E-mail mmartineau@mtpca.com

Convention Coordinator: Joe Velchansky - E-mail jvelchansky@mtpca.com

Public Relations: Mark Earl - E-mail mearl@mtpca.com

Fur Sale Director: Missi Martineau - E-mail mmartineau@mtpca.com

NTA Director: Ed Lundborg - E-mail elundborg@mtpca.com

Trapline Editor: John Caretti - E-mail jcaretti@mtpca.com

M.U.C.C. Director: Chris Kettler - E-mail ckettler@mtpca.com

Director at Large Inventory: Lisa Bagalay - E-mail lbagalay@mtpca.com

Director at Large, Raffle Coordinator: Craig Schafer E-mail cschafer@mtpca.com

Director at Large, Landowner Assistance: Mike Schippa E-mail mschippa@mtpca.com

## Region 1 - Upper Peninsula DNR Zone 1

Regional Vice President: Ed Kramer - Email ekramer@mtpca.com

Regional Director: Dan Johnson - E-mail djohnson@mtpca.com

Regional Director: Vacant

## Region 2 - DNR Zone 2

Regional Vice President: Tom Oakly

Regional Director: Mark Dorman - Email mdorman@mtpca.com

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

Regional Director - Tammy McDuffie E-mail tmcduffie@mtpca.com

## Region 3 - DNR Zone 3

Regional Vice President: Ken "Bernie" Burzynski - Email kburzynski@mtpca.com

Regional Director: Jack Longstreet - Email jlongstreet@mtpca.com

Regional Director: Sam Berkheimer - Email sberkheimer@mtpca.com

Regional Director: Jim Tate - Email jtate@mtpca.com

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## 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:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$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 Bruce Barlow, 4520 N. Shaw Rd. Gladwin, MI 48624

Yearly memberships run from January 1 through December 31