

JANUARY 2024 TRAPLINE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE

MICHIGAN TRAPPERS AND PREDATOR CALLERS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARK SPENCER

Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a great holiday season. We have had some changes to the board recently. The first is Jon Southworth has volunteered to be the Convention Coordinator and Carl Roeller has stepped down as Predator Outreach to concentrate on Vice President, Mitchell McEachern Has been appointed to fill that position. Warren Wilson was to be the Raffle Coordinator but has had some serious health issues and resigned so Lee and Heather Iverson stepped up to help out. The changes to the fur bearer regulations will be presented to the NRC in February for info and acted on in March or April. We will have representation at these meetings. One of the issues, is that the DNR is trying to reduce the coyote season down by closing it from April 30 to July 15. Merle Jones (PR Director) has been very aggressive in trying to get this measured stop. This came about, due to social media outrage on killing wet females and killing pups. So, please be careful on what you post on social media. IT WILL COME BACK TO BITE ALL OF US!

Raffle tickets for the convention will be out hopefully by early February. Please see a board member for tickets. This, is one of our biggest money makers. The next fur sale is at Marshall on February 3. There are several Predator Hunts and Competitions in the upcoming months see the dates and contact info later in this Trapline.

Thank you, Mark Spencer, President Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers

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

***The Trapline Official Publication of the Michigan Trappers and Predator Caller Association
January 2024 Edition***

Vice President Report Carl Roeller

Editors Note: Carl will be posting several upcoming predator calling tournaments in the next few days on our Facebook page as well as getting them on to our web page. The MTPCA will have people from the board at as many events as we can manage to help drive membership and show our support of these tournaments! Keep an eye out for that information

NTA Report Kenneth (Bernie) Burzynski.

Hello Trappers

I will start off by saying what a winter it is in Michigan.

NTA I will try and post the bylaws decision on changes when they come out.

No real news NTA wise here in Michigan.

With that. The eyes are on Colorado with the introduction of wolves in that state.

As sportsman of Michigan, we pretty much know how that's going to go.

Hope all had a good year and hope all will have a great year 2024 coming up.

Be proud to be a trappers and hunters remember that we are stewards of the land.

Stand-up and be proud of your heritage.

NTA Director for Michigan

Kenneth (Bernie) Burzynski.

Have a good new year.

FTA Report Craig Schafer

<https://www.furtakersofamerica.com/>

Please Visit the FTA Web Page for all current FTA happening and news.

There is still time to buy your Sportsman Calendar from the FTA! There is a chance to win a prize every single day. The money raised from this fundraiser will go to protect trapping throughout the USA.

***The Trapline Official Publication of the Michigan Trappers and Predator Caller Association
January 2024 Edition***

FTA 56th Annual Rendezvous

June 13-15, 2024

Rockingham County Fairgrounds

Harrisonburg, Virginia

UP Trappers Rendezvous

Escanaba, MI

July 12-13, 2024

MTPCA Convention

Ewart, Michigan

August 16-17, 2024

MTPCA Secretary/FTA Rep

Craig Schafer

Region 1 Vice President Ed Kramer

Hello Trappers and Predators Callers,

It looks like beaver prices came up a little at our fur sale at Jay's Sporting Goods in Clare. The Northern Great Lakes Fur Harvesters annual Trappers dinner will be in Mackinaw city at Audie's restaurant on February 24th-- Happy Hour 5pm to 6pm with dinner to follow. Public is welcome.

Thanks Ed Kramer.

Region 3 Vice President Joe Velchansky Sr.

Zone 3 Report

Trapping season is in full swing. As of today I don't have one trap in the ground or water. Not that I don't want to, I am leaving in two days to trap coyote and bobcat in Kansas with Mark Earl. So all my canine traps are waiting in totes to be loaded in the truck tomorrow morning. This will be my 3rd. year going there with Mark. I hope we can continue this trip for many years to come. Yes we have coyotes

***The Trapline Official Publication of the Michigan Trappers and Predator Caller Association
January 2024 Edition***

here in Michigan. But its always fun to trap someplace else. It's the adventure that lures me back. With the fur market on a low cycle, this is the perfect time to do a little "State Hopping".

Back here in Michigan the weather looks more like we are in England. Wet, dreary days. Temps in the 40s and 50s. Those folks that are trapping I know you are dealing with very muddy conditions. On the plus side, those folks that like to trap open water, this weather is on your side.

I recently put a post on the MTPCA Facebook page asking if members of zone 3 would like to have a spring get together. The response so far has been positive. So, it looks like I will put something together. It will be more a of a social gathering of trappers than anything else. I can put together a couple quick demos and a "Round table" of questions and answers. If anyone there has concerns, ideas or something they would like to see the MTPCA do, I can take that up at the next board meeting. As of now I am looking at the first weekend in May. Most likely on a Saturday. Probably from 12:00 to 3:00pm. If there is something you would like to see or do at this get together please let me know. I have a location in mind. I could hold this at the Central Michigan Sportsman's Club in Stanton Mi. (Yes, its close to my home).

This is my first year as Vice president of zone 3 if there is anything I can do for those in this zone, please let me know. This association needs all your help and all of your support. Any time you can give makes a huge difference. I hope all of you can get a few traps out this season. Remember, there is much more to trapping than a dollar bill. Make those memories. Take a youth or someone who has never been trapping on your line with you. You never know, you might get someone hooked in this addictive thing we call trapping!

Happy Trapping,

Zone 3 Vice President

Joe Velchansky Sr.

Public Relations Director Merle Jones

Hello everybody! Allow me to introduce myself. I'm Merle Jones from Kalamazoo, MI. I grew up on my family's farm on the far west side and went to the (then) small town school of Mattawan. Like so many I was raised hunting and fishing but I have to admit I've done very little in the way of formal trapping. My family has been on the same dirt since the 1880's. I grew up with dairy and crop farming and we owned a mechanical contracting company. Before I could drive, I was already participating in the local fire department which led to a 30 year career with the Grand Rapids Fire Dept which I will be completely retired from in the first quarter of next year.

In 2016 I learned about MTPCA, MUCCC and the NRC through my involvement with Bob Abbot's group "Michigan Predator Hunters for Centerfire at Night" which then led to my membership in MTPCA and my current position as your Public Relations Director. My job description is to "Act as the liaison between MTPCA, the Press, the DNR, the Natural Resources Commission, and the Legislature...".

Fortunately, I have quite a bit of control over my schedule and am able to attend wherever as deemed necessary. My intention is to attend all the monthly Natural Resources Commission meetings and then decide on other events as needed.

As a coyote hunter and predator caller I have become acutely aware of efforts from special interest groups such as Project Coyote <https://projectcoyote.org/> Wolf Patrol <https://wolfpatrol.org/> HSUS <https://www.humanesociety.org/> and others to interfere with our natural rights to hunt, trap and fish, and even more importantly, undermine our abilities to fulfill our responsibilities of stewardship of natural resources. One of my primary goals is to help build as strong of a firewall as possible against these threats. Our community, EVERYONE, hunting, fishing and trapping, is facing greater challenges than ever before concerning perception or public image. You can listen to my

discussion of these challenges here at the OverDrive Outdoors Podcast; <https://overdrive-outdoors-podcast.simplecast.com/episodes/merle-jones>

I've told many, I'm not here just to defend my favorite sport of coyote hunting, I took this position with the MTPCA because of the challenges that WE ALL FACE TOGETHER. We have a lot of work

to do in order to protect our natural rights and more importantly to fulfill our responsibilities to nature.

I will continue to share as much as I can here in the Trapline and wherever else I can. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, suggestions or just if you'd like to talk about something. Good luck, have fun and please keep safe!

mjones@mtpca.com

Fur Sale Director Report Calvin Miller

SPECIES SUMMARY

Row Labels	Sum of COUNT	Max of BID \$	Min of BID \$	Weighted Average
BEAVER	207	\$48.00	\$5.00	\$27.05
BEAVER CASTOR	3	\$170.00	\$6.00	\$65.33
BOBCAT	3	\$90.00	\$30.00	\$70.00
COYOTE	21	\$17.00	\$5.00	\$12.76
DEER HIDES	1	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00
FISHER	1	\$48.00	\$48.00	\$48.00
FOX - RED	2	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00
MINK - FEMALE	4	\$7.00	\$3.50	\$4.75
MINK - MALE	8	\$7.00	\$4.00	\$5.13
MUSKRAT	1498	\$6.00	\$0.50	\$2.51
OPOSSUM	1	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50
OTTER	8	\$38.00	\$25.00	\$30.44
RACCOON	22	\$7.00	\$1.50	\$3.70
SKUNK	4	\$18.00	\$5.00	\$14.75
SQUIRREL	36	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
(blank)				#DIV/0!
MUSKRAT - GREASED	156	\$2.45	\$2.45	\$2.45
BEAVER TAIL	19	\$0.70	\$0.70	\$0.70
Grand Total	1994	\$170.00	\$0.50	\$5.53

***The Trapline Official Publication of the Michigan Trappers and Predator Caller Association
January 2024 Edition***

Hello fellow Trappers! Attached you will find our fur sale report. The prices are down, as expected, because of a number of international reasons. Beaver are still selling for the hat market. The top prices for the beaver were for heavy black beaver, with the regular colors being slightly less in price. Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and wishing all tight chains in the New Year!! Fur sale dates to come are February 3, 2024, at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds, and April 13, 2024, at the Northland Sportsman's Club. Sales start at 10:00 AM, lot numbers are sold the morning of the sale, first come first serve. Any members wanting to volunteer, please contact me and I will put you to work. Thank You to the volunteers and Board of Directors!

Calvin Miller

Membership Secretary Report Steve Campbell

Happy New Year to all our members! I hope the New Year brings tight chains and downed dogs and bobcats for everyone! We are currently sitting around 635 members so please remember that we are doing a membership drive which you will find the details about down below! I look forward to seeing how hard our members work to grow this association! Remember our VOICE for our RIGHTS is only as strong as the number of members we have behind that VOICE! Get out there and get people signed up. Remember to take a kid trapping and hunting, take your neighbor and your family members because time spent outside enjoying nature's bounty is time well spent! As always if there are any questions or discrepancies with your membership or magazine subscriptions please feel free to reach out to me!

Tight Chains,

Steve Campbell

MTPCA Membership Secretary

***The Trapline Official Publication of the Michigan Trappers and Predator Caller Association
January 2024 Edition***

Hello,

As we all know with fur prices down and gas prices soaring memberships are down and we are looking for any opportunity to help grow the membership during this time. In order to do so we are looking forward to doing a membership drive for new members with the guarantee to win free MTPCA gear and a chance at some great prizes for both trappers and predator callers alike. This drive will start at our yearly convention on August 18th, 2023 and go through to our yearly convention in August 2024. The drawing winners will be picked at the yearly convention in Evart. I look forward to seeing how hard the trapping and predator hunting community can work in order to help raise memberships to help secure our future in trapping and predator hunting here in Michigan.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE Drawing

SIGN UP 1 NEW MEMBER = 1 Entry for Drawing

Sign up 5 New Members = 5 Entries for Drawing Plus Get a free Coffee Mug or Sticker

Sign up 10 new Members = 10 Entries for Drawing Plus Get A Free license plate or patch and above

Sign up 15 New Members = 15 Entries for Drawing Plus Get a Free T-shirt and above

Sign up 20 New Members = 20 Entries for Drawing Plus Get a Free Hat and above

Sign up 30 New Members = 30 Entries for Drawing Plus Get a Free Hoodie and above

Sign up 34 New Members = Free lifetime membership (this is available to all members except board members) as well as above

Please send size information as well as choice of prize with new member information

New Members will have to be signed up by July 24TH. They also must include your name as reference in order for you to get credit for new members. Drawing will be drawn at yearly convention, you need not be present to win. There will be a total of ten winners with five being trapping prizes and five being predator caller prizes. You must select one group of prizes when sending in new member information.

**IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY STEVE
CAMPBELL @ scampbell@mtpca.com**

Prizes for Membership Drive

Trapping Prizes

Grand Prize- Sponsored BY PCS OUTDOORS. AUSABLE BRAND SKINNING KNIFE PACKAGE

1ST PRIZE- Sponsored by Ralph from J&K Fur Exchange Trap Package 4 DUKE 550s, 4 110s 4 Duke DPs

2nd Prize Sponsored by Ernest Winter from Winter Wildlife Control Bait and Lure- Package of both Land and Water Baits and Lures

3rd Prize Sponsored by Jim Tate from Wolfen Bait and Lures- Package of both Land and Water Baits and Lures

4th Prize Sponsored by Hagz Trapline Product Package

Predator Caller Prizes

Grand Prize- Sponsored by FNT POST ICOTec Helion Programmable Electronic Game Caller

1st Prize- Sponsored by Paul Cianciolo from Predator Hunter Outdoors NightSnipe NS750 IR Illuminator Hunting Light Kit

2nd Prize Bog Tripod Sponsored by Williams Gun Sight INC

3rd Prize Hand/Mouth Call Package Sponsored by D&R Sports

4th Shoulder Drag Sponsored by and from KT CORDS

THE MTPCA WANTS TO THANK THE SPONSORS FOR THE GRACIOUS DONATIONS TO HELP OUT THE ASSOCIATION AND GIVE OUR MEMBERS THE CHANCES AT SOME WONDERFUL PRIZES

Sponsors Links

J3 Outdoorz

<https://j3o.com>

Wolfen Bait and Lures

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057188991280>

Winter Wildlife Control

<https://www.winterwildlifecontrolbaitandlure.com/>

J&K FUR EXCHANGE

Phone: (989) 756-2473 **Address** 2893 M-65, Whittemore, MI 48770

PCS OUTDOORS

<https://www.pcsoutdoors.com/>

KT CORDS

https://www.facebook.com/p/KTs-Cords-Accessories-100057212059477/?paipv=0&eav=AfawwNCZvLDcfWdj2NFQEUI_D87R-Z6HFjCu_rlOd7sowJXgL-9BSUK-dXW4B-dTkks&_rdr

D&R SPORTS

<https://dandrsports.com/>

WILLIAMS GUN SIGHT

<https://williamsgunsight.com/>

Predator Hunter Outdoors

<https://www.predatorhunteroutdoors.com/>

FNT POST

<https://www.fntpost.com/>

THE **MTPCA** AND **PCSOUTDOORS** ARE PROUD TO PARTNER UP TO OFFER NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS A *ONE-TIME DISCOUNT FOR BEING A MEMBER OF THE MICHIGAN TRAPPER AND PREDATOR CALLER ASSOCIATION*. THE FOLLOWING CODE **MTPCA10** WILL BE VALID FOR ALL NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS FOR A **10%** DISCOUNT AT **PCSOUTDOORS**. YOU MUST CALL **989-569-3480** WE THANK **PCS** AND THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR TRAPPING AND PREDATOR HUNTING IN THE GREAT STATE OF MICHIGAN.

MICHIGAN TRAPPERS & PREDATOR CALLERS ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW RENEWAL W/O CHANGE RENEWAL WITH CHANGE

_____ \$25 YEAR -Regular Membership * Memberships Run from Jan 1st to Dec 31st

_____ \$250- Senior Lifetime Membership

_____ \$850- Lifetime Membership

_____ \$10 – Junior (age 15 and younger)

All adult memberships receive Trap Line (email newsletter quarterly), Online Michigan Out of Doors, Fur Sale and Voting Privileges

OPTIONAL MAGAZINES OFFERED AT DISCOUNT

_____ \$12- Trapper and Predator Caller (10 issues Per Year)

_____ \$18- Trappers World (6 issues per Year)

_____ \$14- Trapper's Post (6 issues per Year)

_____ \$25 Woods-n-Water News (12 issues per Year)

_____ **Total** (Make Checks Payable to **MTPCA**)

****New This Year Please Reference Member That Signed You Up****

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Phone # _____

Zip _____ County _____

***Email Address* All Email Info Remains Private** We utilize email to communicate with members about pertinent info regarding our heritage, bills that will impact our sport and to email Trap Line via Constant Contact

EMAIL: _____

Residency Zone

Zone 1 (Upper Peninsula) Zone 2 (Northern Lower) Zone 3 (Lower Mich)

Zone 4 (Out of State)

PLEASE FILL OUT AND MAIL TO STEVE CAMPELL
4322 HURON ST NORTH BRANCH, MI 48461

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 _____

MAJOR _____ MINOR _____

***The Trapline Official Publication of the Michigan Trappers and Predator Caller Association
January 2024 Edition***

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 ST, 2024

MTPCA Contact Info

Governing Board

President: Mark Spencer - Email mspencer@mtpca.com

Executive Vice President: Carl Roeller Email croeller@mtpca.com

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

Region 2 Vice President: Dale Thorne Email dthorne@mtpca.com

Region 3 Vice President: Joe Velchansky Sr - Email jvelchansky@mtpca.com

Treasurer: Alyssa Campbell - Email acampbell@mtpca.com

Membership Secretary: Steve Campbell - Email scampbell@mtpca.com

Recording Secretary: Craig Schafer - Email cschafer@mtpca.com

Convention Coordinator: Jon Southworth – Email jsouthworth@mtpca.com

Public Relations: Merle Jones - Email mjones@mtpca.com

Fur Sale Director: Calvin Miller - Email cmiller@mtpca.com

NTA Director: Ken “Bernie” Burzynski - Email kburzynski@mtpca.com

FTA Director: Craig Schafer Email cschafer@mtpca.com

Director- Predator Calling Outreach: Mitchell McEachern

Trapline Editor: Steve Campbell - Email scampbell@mtpca.com

M.U.C.C. Director: Mark Earl - Email mearl@mtpca.com

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

Director at Large, Raffle Coordinator: Lee and Heather Iverson

Director at Large, Landowner Assistance: Joe Velchansky Sr - Email jvelchansky@mtpca.com

Director at Large, Predator Caller Outreach: Erick Trombly Email etrombly@mtpca.com

Region 1 - Upper Peninsula DNR Zone 1

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

Regional Director: UPTA

Regional Director: NGLFH

Region 2 - DNR Zone 2

Regional Vice President: Dale Thorne – Email dthorne@mtpca.com

Regional Director: Ernest Winters – Email ewinters@mtpca.com

***The Trapline Official Publication of the Michigan Trappers and Predator Caller Association
January 2024 Edition***

Regional Director: Matthew Schalk – Email mschalk@mtpca.com

Regional Director – Brad Branda – Email bbranda@mtpca.com

Region 3 - DNR Zone 3

Regional Vice President: Joe Velchansky Sr - Email jvelchansky@mtpca.com

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

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

Regional Director: Vacant

Editor's Report Steve Campbell

Thank you to John Caretti for all his hard work throughout the years of running The Trapline! After many years of hard work as the editor and board member John has stepped down from editor position. The governing board would like to thank John for the many years of dedication he put fighting for OUR rights in Michigan! I have taken over responsibility for editing this newsletter and I look forward to putting together the best Newsletter for our Members Possible! This includes articles written by members so if you have a great story to tell, a technique you think would help out members or reviews on trapping and predator calling products please reach out to me at scampbell@mtpca.com. I will be trying to get some more articles from trappers and callers alike into this newsletter. Thank you all and I hope everyone has a great New Year!