

Alberta Trappers' Association Ltd.

April 2008 Newsletter

It is Saturday and I should be out beaver trapping but a blizzard is blowing, so instead I am typing a newsletter. I have got to get a life!

When the weather breaks the beaver are out in the central region & south and they should have good fur. The birds are back and it is a good time to get outdoors for beaver and rats and enjoy the spring tonic.

The area where I have a trap line (Swan Hills) is not ready yet but I hope to get out the second week of May. Depending on the spring the water should be open and if not trapping beaver I can always cut firewood. The bears will start coming out if the weather cooperates. Usually I start seeing sign about the 12th of May and they are all out by the long weekend. In my area they often show up on the lumber roads which green up first or I will find them in the trees eating aspen buds. These are the two areas that green up first. If the spring is really warm, the green happens all at once and you will find them anywhere. To bad they were not worth more. A bear takes all day to prepare and I need more that \$60 to become inspired.

I attached a paper from our friend Shevenell Webb (Mullen). Shevenell is a trapper and she put out this paper as a result of her research for her Masters degree. It is about trappers' attitudes and their concerns with forestry and oil producers.

COURSES

A quiet time for courses although one of my instructors is putting on a private course as I write this. Next courses are scheduled for the trappers college and so far I have enough for the first course. Later we are scheduled for Lloyminster in October and possibly an industry sponsored course in Fort Chip for that month. After convention I usually get course requests and put them on the website.

Speaking of the website, we are gearing up for a brand new launch. Our man is working on a new format, better graphics and a DAO section to keep members up to date. This should happen in the next month or so. We generate between 35-40 hits a day and it is becoming one of our main communication tools. Eventually we will also have a kid's corner, so keep watching.

INTERESTING VIDEO

If you want a good 20 min. video on marten trapping and relocation from N.B to Nova Scotia, then go on to the Canadian National trappers alliance website forum. Go to "video you might like to watch" and click on the video. I tried to copy the site but it won't open for me on this page. It is a long video for the web so if it starts and stops for you, press pause and let the download catch up with the play. This is a great site as well as the Alberta outdoorsmen forum and you should monitor them both for some of the information presented. Just Google Canadian National Trappers Alliance or Alberta outdoorsmen forum to get in. You sometimes have to join to watch but often you do not. No biggie joining either of them anyways. You never get spam from these sites.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

We will be reformatting and rethinking our school program in the next year. It is wildly successful but logistically difficult to maintain. I have some ideas. We just got invited to the Women's workshop put on by hunting for tomorrow and Ross Hinter will look after that one. I will be speaking for Fort Edmonton in June and we just finished the Edmonton Sportsman show. Still chugging along.

CONVENTION

This is probably the most important convention (business section) we have had in a long time. There will be plenty of discussion on ratification for proceeding with a DAO. Check out the ATA website for convention details. The Friday is the business day and the Saturday is the fun day. I have one school group coming to the displays already and more are invited from Grande Prairie. You must be a member to vote at the convention but all are welcome to the discussions. This year we are working on buttons to identify the voters as well as a secret vote. This is also the first year that we will charge a nominal fee to attend the trade show. Brian and the Grande Prairie gang have been working hard to make this another convention success and I encourage you to attend.

OTHER

In my previous newsletter I showed you photos of a new trigger system for a rattrap. You can obtain these either from our store or direct from the producer. Contact Gord's Supplies in Prince George at 250-962-7767. Gord also sells completed weasel boxes with the new trigger as well as cedar pelt boards.

We are still working on our dealership for Spot GPS and are awaiting a shipment. London Drugs also sells this tool.

I am gearing up for a biologist workshop in May at the college as well as an instructors workshop. It looks like we will have over 30 for the biologist workshop with representatives from Alberta, BC and the Yukon. I sure hope the weather is decent and will let you know how we make out next month.

I sent Marten box details down east to Nova Scotia trappers that want to get with the program. The more we have out there the better the data that should be produced.

That about covers it I think. More next month. If you know anyone that wants on to this newsletter, send me an email. Same goes if you want off.

Regards

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