

Happy New Year! I am finding trapping a little slow thus far, but I am still managing to catch some fur. I attached a trap line diary outlining my pathetic efforts. I should be out checking line today but will put it off until Thursday while I clean up some items that need tending to around the office and home. I now have enough snow for a snow machine but a quad still would work.

Trapper Education: Only one course scheduled in January and it is at Fort McMurray Jan 11-16th. I am working on a native course for Fox Lake in Feb and we have Camrose also scheduled that month. In March we have a course at Edson (school kids) and at the end of March another course at Rocky. Watch the website for details. I have to speak with my instructors but I think the three day course with one instructor is on the way out. The days are long, no breaks for either the student or instructor and thus the quality of learning suffers. We will probably still keep the three day course with two instructors and mature students. I will let you know what we decide for next year.

Public Education: Did any of you see the vignette Michael Short and Ross Hinter did last month? I forgot to mention it but Mike and Ross (sponsored by the ACA) were on television with a one minute segment on trapping. Well done and thanks fellows.

- The school DVD is still chugging alone and Ross is booked for studio time in early February
- We will be at the Edmonton and Calgary sportsman show this year. I don't know if Red Deer will go. In addition we are booked at the University of Alberta in July for the Society of Conservation Biologist conference. This one is really exciting as it attracts a worldwide audience of professionals. Last year it was in China and fortunately this year it is in Edmonton.

OTHER:

- I see NAFA cancelled its January sale and it will now be rolled into the March sale. Fur Harvesters are still scheduled for a sale in January shortly and that might give us some idea on what is happening.
- don't forget the snare workshop at Drayton Valley Jan 30th. Contact Gary at 780-514-0494 if interested. John Prociuk and Ross Hinter will be the instructors and the workshop runs all day. There is a fee charged.
- Directors meeting 16th. January at Westlock
- I was speaking with Gordy K. about workshops and directions for the D. Unger College. If you have any requests for specific workshops at this location let Gordy or myself know. We see the opportunity for workshops not only relating to trapping but items such as fur sewing, chainsaw work, axe and saw, sharpening, quad and snow machine safety and travel, survival.....whatever relates to the bush.
- For those who have not received it yet, the magazine should be out this week

That's it for now. Heading to the bush Thursday with more to report. Keep at it, don't be discouraged with prices. We have an obligation to manage the resource no matter what the fur prices are. A good day in the bush makes up for a whole week of nastiness at the office. Take a young person trapping.

Jim

Jim Mitchell
Trapper Education