



THE ALBERTA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 1, 2022 - MARCH 31, 2023

ANNUAL REPORT

- MEMBERSHIP
- TRADITION
- CULTURE
- HERITAGE
- RESEARCH
- SCIENCE
- STUDIES
- CONSERVATION
- WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
- PUBLIC EDUCATION
- YOUTH PROGRAMS

**AND INTO THE FOREST I GO,
TO LOSE MY MIND AND FIND MY SOUL**

John Muir



Our Vision:

We see an Alberta where the sustainable harvest and management of wild furbearers is an established and recognized conservation activity that is integral to our Heritage, CULTURE, and Identity

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Alberta Trappers Association Annual Report to Government, Stake holders & Members

Greetings,

In 1971 the Alberta Trappers Association was incorporated under the Societies Act and assumed the responsibility to represent and further the interests of trappers as well as deliver services and support to the trapping community in Alberta. We have come a long way since those early days and the commitment of this organization to continue that path has not waived.

Today the operation of the ATA covers a broad and diversified scope that includes a significant commitment to education for both the professional trapper, and the public, through programs, workshops, school presentations and skill development opportunities. Engagement, mentorship, and a willingness to share our knowledge have been the cornerstones of the education program for five decades. Now with the addition of the Alberta Center for Trapping and Bushcraft and additional supporting partners, our program has achieved national and international recognition.

This year saw the ATA make some positive steps forward regarding government and industry relations both in policy, new partnered programs, and ongoing projects. The reaffirming of Public Lands policy regarding trappers and trapping policy has I think created an opportunity for trappers to engage with resource companies and build mutually beneficial working relationships. In the Chinchaga and Caribou Mountains trappers have been leading a project to gather critical data on caribou and caribou habitat in some of the most harsh and remote landscapes we have left in Alberta. Our partners NWSAR and ABMI are not only impressed by the skill and perseverance of the trappers involved, but the high quality of the data collected. We have an ongoing marten study undertaken by the Slave Lake local and Vanderwell Forestry Contractors and a harvest design project pending with ALPAC.

This year we continued our highly successful ATA Wolf Management Program which supports trappers with dedicated wolf harvest on RFMA's in caribou zones. The program focusses on the trapper effort and the data collected is invaluable to researchers. This past season has been our most successful to date and we hope to expand funding and scope for the coming year. In cooperation with Environment Canada a trapper led team is collecting specimens across Alberta to help researchers identify the cause of low breeding success in wild mink in the Athabasca delta. Trappers also participated in sample gatherings for multiple projects including a glyphosate study out of University of Northern BC and a DNA study from the University of California, Berley.

Alberta Trappers' Association



Communications is something to which the ATA makes a considerable effort. We make sure that our membership is informed and aware of relevant business before the trapping community as well as updates regarding the people, activities and events which make up our cultural mosaic. In addition, we strive to engage, inform, and educate the public regarding trapping and conservation matters. We also do our best to promote the opportunities available to people of all ages and from every lifestyle to participate in and learn traditional trapping related skills, bush craft, and knowledge that are unique to our lifestyle and define our place on the landscape.

The ATA has a strong online presence on the web and on social media. Our magazine I think is the envy of the industry and we should take pride in how our trapping community is represented in that publication.

In closing I must commend the incredible enthusiasm and dedication of our management, staff, board, instructors, and volunteers who ignore conventions, push the boundaries, and make the impossible possible. When I look at the breadth and scope of our current operations, I am both awed and inspired. We have come such a long way but looking at the opportunity that lies before us we are just getting started.

It is with great pleasure that I endorse our annual report for 2022-2023 and I wish success to all those involved for the coming year.

Sincerely,



Signature

Bill Abercrombie, President
Alberta Trappers Association





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Alberta Trappers' Association



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The Alberta Trappers Association (ATA)

Is a non-profit organization that has been in operation since August of 1971.

- Offering educational programs to schools, community groups and the general public
- Providing curriculum related programs through classroom virtual and in-class presentations, fur kit loan program and facilitating field trips
- Delivering special event programming such as youth summer camps, mentoring programming, attendance at trade shows and special group presentations – although Covid-19 but a damper on holding and attending these events in 2021, we have been busy brainstorming ways to adapt to the current situation and are looking forward to a busy summer.
- Hosting workshops for our educators to help enhance their fur industry regulations and processes.
- Offering post-secondary scholarships to students from active trapping families



**2022-2023 Scholarship Recipient
Sonja Schmelzeisen**



**Grade 4 & 5 Fort McMurray
School Presentation with Joe Gautier**



ATA 2022 – 2023 Members of the Board of Directors

Bill Abercrombie	President
Kevin Klein	Vice President
Darnell McCurdy	Secretary
Albert Mast	Treasurer
Glen Kalmbach	Director – Zone 1
Corey Grover	Director – Zone 1
Landon Delorme	Director – Zone 2
Colin Truman	Director – Zone 2
Brian Bildson	Director – Zone 3
Terry Batt	Director – Zone 3
Darcy Chambers	Director – Zone 4
Joe Gauthier	Director – Zone 4
Ken Hildebrand	Director – Zone 5
Brian Jackson	Director – Zone 5

ATA 2022 – 2023 Staff Members

Donna Moore	Executive Director
Tracey Fedorvich	Trapper Education Coordinator
Ross Hinter	Community Liaison and Program Development
Perry Kulmatyski	Program Development Coordinator – ACT&B
Tiffany Miner	Administrative Assistant
Hunter Botham	Operations Assistant
Deborah Hinter	Webmaster and Contractor
Byron Oulton	Manufacturing Assistant



Director's Perspective – Corey Grover

As the call came out to the esteemed board members, a request for one of us to write a director's perspective was asked. I volunteered to write it this year. Regret soon took over as I'm terrible at writing. So please bear with me as I fumble through this.

We have had many great people in our association who have come and gone, and I would like to thank them for their service. Being a board member isn't always a walk in the park. Part of our job as board members is keeping in touch with our zone locals, we help bring their questions and concerns to the table throughout the year. As well we help keep the information channel open. Staying on top of this is particularly hard, at times but I try my best to get it done.

Over the course of my first year on the board I have come to realize that things move at a slower pace than I had expected, there are a lot of moving parts that need to align and that is difficult to make happen when dealing with multiple entities. Things do not change overnight, so if it seems like things are not happening, I can reassure you that they are moving forward with good things to come.

One of the most important things I can pass on to the membership is that it is extremely important to stay involved and to keep asking questions and make your elected board work for you. I can't stress it enough that things will not continue in our favour if our members stop contributing, we need a strong membership to help support our trapping heritage and to keep the naysayers at bay.

I am proud to sit on the board of the Alberta trappers Association and will do my best to help the members with whatever I can. I look forward to seeing you at our AGM.



Corey sharing his snaring expertise at our 2023 instructor's camp.



Trapper Education Programming – Tracey Fedorovich

The Alberta Trappers Association (ATA) is committed to:

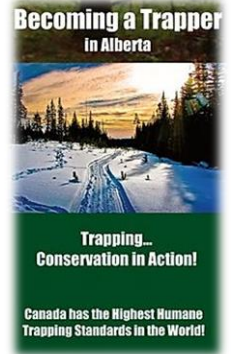
- Delivery of the approved Standard Trapper Education Course to certify first time trappers to obtain their Fur Management License.
- Delivery of the Advanced 7day Trapping course to help trappers learn to manage an RFMA.
- Teaching Best Practices courses and workshops to increase the competency level of Alberta's Trappers.
- Youth Camps introducing youth to the possibilities our organization and more importantly what Alberta's landscape has to offer.
- Creating and sustaining partnerships with Indigenous groups and communities to increase conservation and sustainability beyond our membership.
- Instructor training and development.
- Bringing in guest instructors to broaden our educational reach.



Standard Trapper Education Course, Westlock, AB November 8-10, 2022



Development and Delivery of the Approved Standard Trapper Education Course Across the Province of Alberta



What is Trapper Education?

The Alberta Trappers' Association Trapper Education Program provides the Standard Trapping course, as well as numerous workshops and presentations to schools and other interested groups year-round throughout the province.

The Standard Trapping Course is your first step toward becoming a trapper. The course includes instruction on the safe use of traps and other equipment, biology of furbearers, animal management, marketing and grading of furs, skinning, and fur handling, as well as humane trapping techniques.



**Instructors Malcolm Abercrombie and Jason Jarvie with the Standard Trapper Education class
Wildwood, AB – October 2022**



To Develop and Implement “Best Practices” Workshops to increase the Competency Level of Alberta’s Trappers

Currently we teach several training workshops and courses including:

- Remote 1st Aid Course
- Adult Mentoring Program
- Advanced 7 Day Trapping Course
- Brain Tanning Fur Workshop
- Brain Tanning Hides Workshop
- Resident Trapline Management
- Hide Processing Workshop
- Footholding Workshop
- Fur Handling Workshop
- Wolf Workshop
- Snaring Workshop
- Under Ice Beaver Workshop
- Northern Bushcraft/Wilderness Survival Course
- Public Programs
 - County & Municipalities
 - Landowners Predator Control
 - Industry Presentations

These workshops include hands-on training, demonstrations along with group activities to complement the materials being taught. Our education department continues to develop new programs and create opportunities for partnerships in training.



Hide Processing Workshop at the Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft – led by Brian Jackson and Steve Rees.



To Develop and Implement Trapper Instructor Training Courses and Workshops to Maintain and Improve Competency Levels of Trapping Instructors



Annual Professional Development Workshops for Provincial Instructors held at the ATA Trapline



Development and Delivery of School Programs to Enhance Understanding of the Fur Industry and Humane Trapping Practices

In School Trapper Industry Presentations

Studying the history of Canada's fur trade is part of the Alberta curriculum for grades four and five. To help educate Alberta's youth, we have produced school kits that are sent out upon request. These kits include furs, skulls, trade beads, etc. In addition to the fur kit program, in-person school presentations are also delivered.

Our primary objective of this project is to educate youth on the historical and current importance of the trapping industry. Our presentations focused on the topics of fur trading, trapping today, animal damage control, as well as animal habitat and how that has changed over the years.

To date, our public educators have seen **3,930** students in the classrooms of schools throughout Alberta and have done **7** virtual presentations to **296** Alberta students. We spoke to students, teachers and public individuals who were interested in attending, on the important role trapping plays in maintaining animal habitat balance and conservation in general.

Educating our youth is imperative to ensuring the future of conservation in our province. This is achieved by teaching youth the impact that trapping has on conservation of the wildlife population, wildlife management, and the importance of the fur industry today.



Tracy Connor delivering presentations to Grade 4 and 5 Alberta students.



Development and Delivery of Public Education Programs to Enhance Understanding of the Fur Industry and Humane Trapping Practices

Public Presentations and Trade Show Booths

We deliver public presentations as well as offering educational programming to unique groups across Alberta. This year, in addition to all the school programs, we delivered and/or attended **11** specialized presentations across Alberta. This includes predation, dog safety, and trade shows.

We currently have three completed fur kits, including all furbearer pelts and skulls, that we specifically use for our public education programs and our youth camps.



Edmonton Boat and Sportsman Show
In Edmonton, AB.



Trade show booth in Calgary, AB
Manned and set-up by the Calgary local



Development and Delivery of the Alberta Trapper Magazine and Maintenance of the Alberta Trappers Association Website

Alberta Trapper Magazine

The Alberta Trappers' Association publishes the Top Notch, glossy and professional Alberta Trapper Magazine on a quarterly basis. It is mailed to members informing them of current issues and concerns trappers face.

Trappers are encouraged to send stories, pictures and anecdotes about trapping experiences and life on a trapline.

The classified ads provide a service to members wishing to sell items that are of interest to other trappers.





The Alberta Trapper's Website – Deb Hinter; Webmaster and Social Media Administrator.

Apr 1, 2022 – Mar 31, 2023, saw **28,133** visitors to the website.

Google users saw the link to the ATA website in their search results **132,000** times.

- 16,371 of the visitors arrived from Google Searches vs 11,499 last year
- 2,234 arrived from Facebook vs 1,860 last year
- 61% still arrived by mobile devices with no change from last year

27,013 visitors are from Canada with the majority from Alberta

Most Popular Pages visited on our website:

1. Education and Training
2. Bushcraft Courses and Workshops
3. ATA Store
4. Fur Depot
5. Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft
6. Youth Trapper Camps
7. Calendar
8. Membership
9. Members Only Section

Members Only Section of the website has **295** members vs **237** last year.

Welcome To The Alberta Trappers Association

An Alberta Tradition, Culture & Heritage

**An Alberta where the sustainable harvest and management
of wild furbearers is an established and recognized
conservation activity integral to our heritage,
culture and identity.**



ALBERTA CENTRE FOR TRAPPING & BUSHCRAFT WEBSITE

On March 31, 2023, we began the development of a second website.

- <https://www.albertacentrefortrappingandbushcraft.com>
- Proposed - A direct link from the ATA website menu
- The second website would gain its own SEO and traffic analytics
- Proposed registration of a second domain
- The new website was offered at a 50% discount
- Focus was determined to be for the courses and workshops offered in:
 - Survival, Wilderness Training
 - Outdoor Education, Conservation
 - Bushcraft
 - Youth and Schools
 - First Aid
 - Future programs in development



WELCOME To The Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft

**SURVIVAL
WILDERNESS TRAINING
OUTDOOR EDUCATION
BUSHCRAFT
CONSERVATION
YOUTH OUTDOOR EDUCATION
FIRST AID
and more at
The Alberta Centre For Trapping and
Bushcraft**



ATA FACEBOOK GROUP

There are currently **3,840** members on the group, up from **3,587** in the last year. The group quality is rated as GOOD by Facebook. Thank you to the diligent members who advise the admin team of any possible spam taking place on the group. The majority of the group's members are from Canada, with the United States being next.

The Admin Team consists of Bill Abercrombie, Deb Hinter, Ben Brochu and Vic Toutant.

The announcements keep everyone on the group up to date and cover:

- Upcoming Courses and Workshops with the Alberta Trappers Association
- Youth Trapper Camps
- Office hours along with Fur Depot and Fur Pick Up Schedules
- Magazine Deadlines
- Membership Information
- Research in Science and Conservation projects
- Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft programs
- The members share their fur, their stories, their triumphs, and questions

ATA YOUTUBE CHANNEL

The Channel is called, **Alberta Wilderness Education Centre**

It is a holding area for the video links that appear on the ATA website and will be used for the second website, Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft.

ATA GOOGLE BUSINESS

There are 2 Business Profiles managed under Google Business:

- Alberta Trappers Association
- Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft



These listings provide phone numbers, hours of business, location, photos, reviews, and posts. The Alberta Trappers Association listing holds 15 reviews with a 4.6-star rating.

These Profile Listings provide links to news articles, our websites, along with 2 - 3 pages of information for the Alberta Trappers Association, The Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft and related activities.

These Profile Listings now provide web search results with 2 - 3 pages of information for the Alberta Trappers Association, The Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft and related activities.

Social media and webmaster tasks are always in perpetual motion with monitoring, revisions, posts, tweets, content creation and the technical challenges involved with web centric workflows. Please contact me anytime with questions or suggestions for improvements.



Administration of Compensation Programs

Trappers Compensation Program

The Trappers Program (ATCP) is a program of the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Environment and Parks (AEP).

This program provides a framework for compensating trappers for business losses incurred through industrial activity on their RFMA's when they are not able to reach a settlement with industry.

Incidences of theft and vandalism to assets on RFMA's are also considered.

ATCP	April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023
Number of claims submitted	5
Number of claims paid	5
Total claim amounts paid	\$19,720.84
Number of claims denied	0
Claims awaiting further information	0
Claims Coordinator Expenses	\$5,600.00
Misc. Expenses (advertising, fees, etc.)	\$952.38

Trappers Forest Fire Cabin Compensation Program

The Forest Fire Cabin Compensation Program is a program of the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Environment and Parks (AEP) that provides a framework for compensating trappers' business losses incurred from forest fire damages. Fortunately, there was only one claim paid to this program in this fiscal year in the amount of **\$1,745.45**.





Successful Partnerships

Youth Camp Programs

Many thanks to our partner in environmental education, the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) for teaming up with the ATA on various projects.

In 2022-2023 our youth camps were held in three locations throughout Alberta including on the ATA trapline where the participants and instructors all stayed in outfitter tents. For our northern location, students went to Camp Artaban, near Grimshaw, AB and our final camp of the year was held in the southern location of Alford Lake located near Caroline, AB.

The attendance at each camp was great with 69 young people ages 9-15 learning from our seasoned team of instructors and enthusiastic volunteers. In addition to increasing the number of young trappers, the Youth Camp is an important part of our education initiatives which not only encourage young people to take an interest in trapping but, more importantly, will teach the importance of trapping and hunting in the conservation of wildlife.

December 18-22, 2022, 7 lucky youth camp graduates that do not have anyone to help them get off to a good start had the opportunity to receive mentoring from experienced trappers to ensure success and training. This was done during one of the coldest weeks in December. We were all extremely impressed and proud of these young people. Students were taught the hands-on of setting traps, handling fur, building forming boards and practising safe handling of trapping equipment.





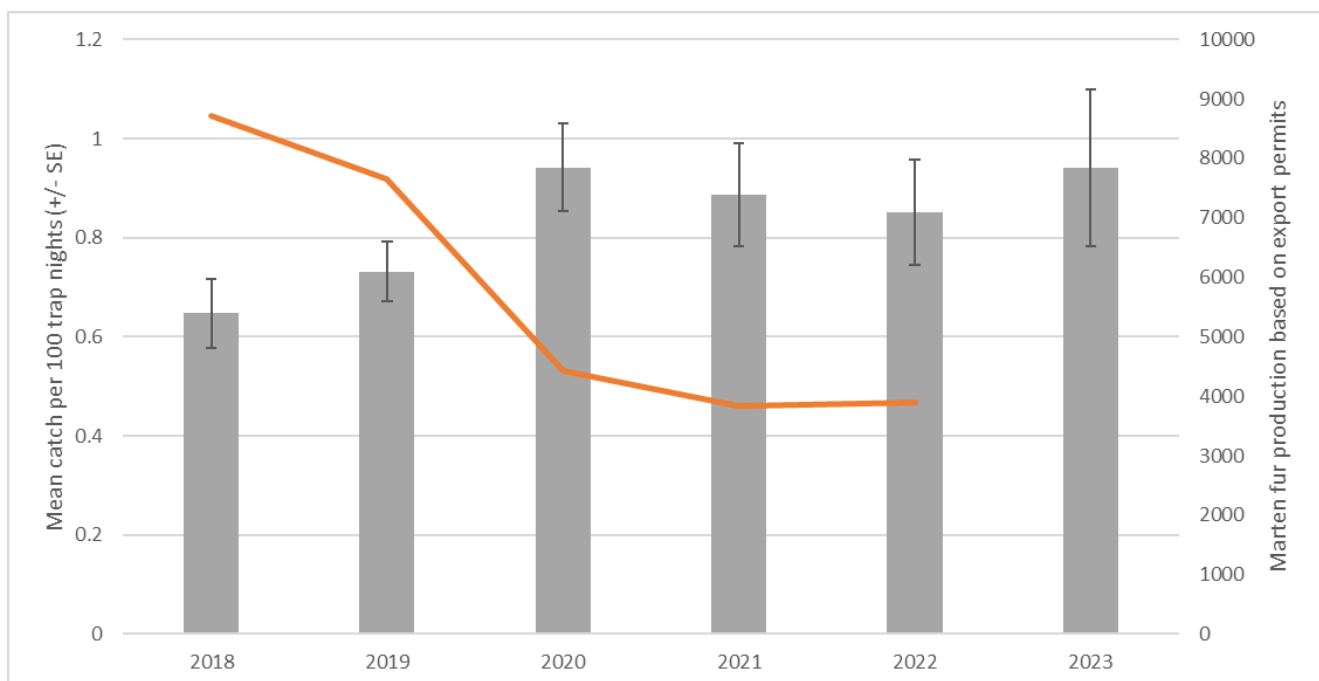
Successful Partnerships – ATA Logbook Program

Michael Jokinen

The 2022/23 trapping year broke the 1000 mark for logbooks submitted through the ATAs RFMA logbook program over the past six years. We are currently summarizing the past five years of trapper provided furbearer data into a report that will be made available to the ATA. This data set provides a benchmark for the status of furbearer populations in Alberta and further illustrates the dedication of this trapper-led organization. We have made strong progress, but there is still room for improvement and the results could be more robust if greater participation in logbooks were obtained.

Information was collected from 159 RFMAs this year, slightly below last years participation level. Over the past six years, we have received logbooks from a total of 379 individual RFMAs. Therefore, a target of 300 logbooks could be attainable if everyone were to submit a logbook each year. A total of 27 RFMAs have submitted a logbook all years.

To this point, we have not seen trends in the provincial marten data that cause concern in terms of harvest sustainability. Provincial marten fur sales (blue line) have declined since 2018, but the catch rate for an equivalent amount of trapping effort (grey bars) has remained consistent.



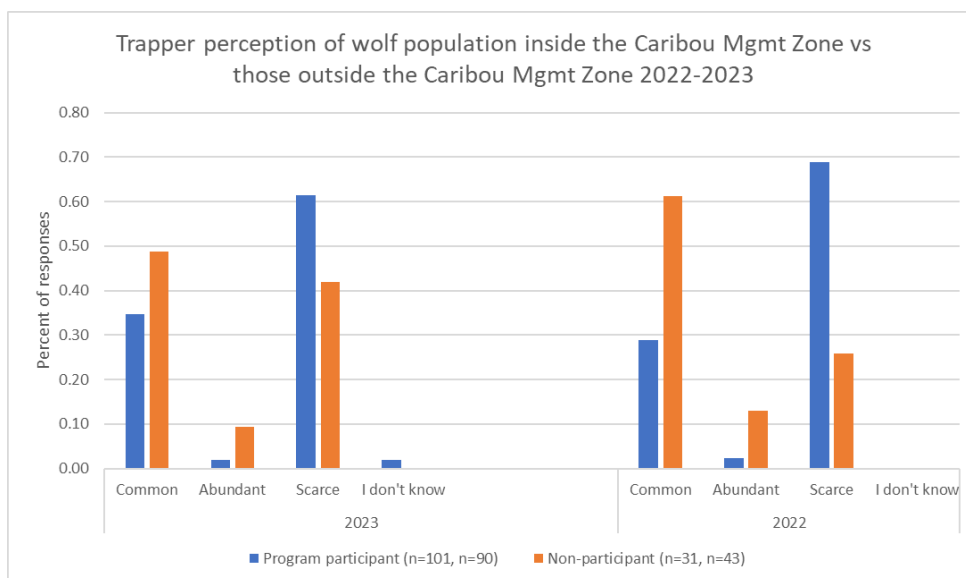


ATA Logbook Program – Michael Jokinen (continued)

On its own, a decline of more than 50 percent in the provincial marten fur production index since 2018 could have been worrying; however, our estimate of catch per 100 trap nights has not declined over that same period, suggesting that factors beyond population size may have resulted in the declining number of exported pelts. This demonstrates the value of collecting logbook data over the long term.

Having a total of four years of data for quota species and 111 RFMAs that included lynx data this year, we are moving in the right direction to meeting an adequate lynx sample size provincially. In fact, the number of RFMAs submitting lynx data came in a close third to marten with 117 RFMAs submitting data. A total of 95 RFMAs provided fisher data, while 132 RFMAs provided wolf harvest data.

This year marked the second-year wolf harvest data was included in the logbooks as part of the ATA wolf management program. A total of 101 program participants submitted a logbook in 2023, while 31 trappers outside of the Caribou Recovery Zone also submitted wolf data. A greater percentage of trappers inside the recovery zone felt wolves were scarce in 2022 when compared to trappers outside the recovery zone. However, in 2023, trapper perception inside and outside the recovery zone began to equalize.



ATA members are encouraged to keep track of their trapping effort and harvest for marten, lynx, fisher, otter, wolverine, and wolves this trapping season, and submit their completed logbooks again next year. Every logbook counts!



Successful Partnerships

2023 Philip J Currie Museum Conservation Gallery

Five years ago the A.C.A. entered into an agreement with the Philip J Currie Museum to host a conservation gallery. Over the years the displays have featured endangered species, waterfowl, and animal mounts. All the while telling a conservation story related to the displays. In the final year of the lease agreement the ATA was given the opportunity to present the story of the Alberta Trapper. Through the generosity of individual trappers and the ATA we were able to showcase the many furbearers that trappers help manage. Life size displays and engaging story boards which feature the many positive effects trappers have on species management have been very well received by the general public who visit the museum.

Although the original lease term has now expired the ATA has been able to reach an agreement with the museum for the trapping exhibit to continue to be displayed. The museum recognizes the value trappers bring and supports the use of the display for educational purposes. Moving forward the plan is for the Grande Prairie Local 1070 to take on the stewardship of the display and work with the museum to ensure our messaging reaches as far a scope as possible. The museum hosts many students during the school year, all of whom are exposed to the display. We look forward to maintaining this relationship with the Philip J Currie Museum into the future.

We encourage you to visit the Philip J Currie Museum should you be in the area.





Successful Partnerships with Our ATA Locals

Athabasca	Local 1010
Bonnyville/Cold Lake	Local 1021
Calgary	Local 1031
Drayton Valley	Local 1060
Edson	Local 1050
Eureka River	Local 1053
Fort Assiniboine	Local 1061
Grande Cache	Local 1066
Grande Prairie	Local 1070
Greater Edmonton	Local 1054
High Level	Local 1080
Hinton	Local 1082
La Crete	Local 1188
Lac La Biche	Local 1120
Manning	Local 1020
Northeastern Trappers	Local 1130
Peace River	Local 1195
Rocky Mountain House	Local 1180
Slave Lake	Local 1190
South Country Trappers	Local 1110
Sundre	Local 1193
Wabash River	Local 1210
West Central	Local 1040
Whitecourt	Local 1231





Successful Partnership with the Government of Alberta Wolf Management Project – Donna Moore

The wolf program for the 2022/2023 was a success once again. We targeted areas where the caribou populations continue to decline. Most trappers have reported that it was another tough year.

Scarce and decreasing were common responses according to our logbook data, not just in one area, but in all areas that were involved in the program.

This year we had 116 Trappers involved.

- 28 from the Chinchaga Region
- 58 from the East Side Athabasca Region
- 8 from the La Peche Region
- 2 from the Red Rock Region
- 5 from the Cold Lake Region
- 15 from the Slave Lake/Nipisi Region



With the 116 trappers actively trapping and targeting the wolf we were able to harvest 159 wolves. Which has increased from the past years of the program.

We have had multiple sightings of Caribou and larger groups at that on the landscape, which have been significantly increased from past years, so in saying that the program is doing what we need it to do. The area the wolves were harvested were as follows.

Total Wolves	Juv Male	Adult Male	Juv Female	Adult Female	Total
	24	64	29	42	159
Chinchaga	6	12	5	8	31
Cold Lake	3	3	3	2	11
ESAR	6	31	10	22	69
La Peche	2	1	1	0	4
Red Rock	0	0	0	1	1
SL/Nipisi	7	17	10	9	43



Great job to all trappers involved, the Alberta Trappers Association wants to thank all trappers for their continued support and dedication into this program and future programs.



ATA Volunteers – Ross Hinter

It is always amazing to me the numbers of people that are willing to help our organization when needed. This is often the strength of any organization as it bonds the membership together to create a strong Association.

Each year we put out a request for help with last receiving at the fur depot and loading the truck afterwards and our members come to help. We have people step up to help whenever we have an event to man a booth or unload the gear or whatever is needed. It is so much appreciated, and I want to write these few words to thank all of you who have helped us.

If I try and name all the people, I am afraid I will miss some, so I hope you all know of our appreciation. If you haven't volunteered in the past, we welcome your support this year!



Fur Depot volunteers
They answered our call for help!



Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

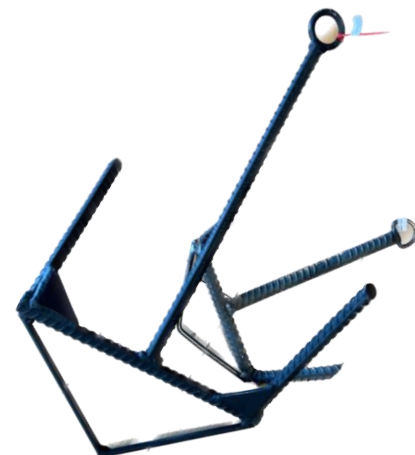


ATA Manufacturing – Hunter Botham

Manufacturing has been in the ATA for a long time, and it is an important part of the store section with regards to allowing flexibility in the products we provide. **Coyote snares, Lynx snares, Wolf snares,** and small and large **sub traps**, are examples of the products made in house. **Trap drags, anchors, Power Ram setting tool, muskrat floats** and **beaver drowning rods** are also items manufactured in house and by members of the ATA. With these products produced in house this can leave us a little wiggle room for small improvements and some custom orders to a reasonable extent.

Manufacturing - 2022-2023

Description	Unit	On Hand	No. Sold
MUSKRAT FLOAT	Each	15	1
Coyote Snare 1/16 1x19 Tail Wire 3/32 7x7 8 feet long	Each	607	252
LYNX SNARE 1/16 1X19 YELLOW TIE	Each	285	80
WOLF SNARE 5/64 1x19 TAIL WIRE 3/32 7X7-11' BLACK TIE	Each	214	194
Lights Out Snaring-Coyote 5/64 1X19 TAIL WIRE 3/32 7X7 8'	Each	2	0
BEAVER SNARE 1/16 1X19	Each	10	77
#9 WIRE - SNARE CABLE	Each	25	31
LARGE SUBMARINE MUSKRAT TRAP	Each	5	6
SM SUBMARINE MUSKRAT TRAP	Each	10	3
HEAVY DUTY 2' TRAP ANCHOR STAKE	Each	9	9
HEAVY DUTY 1.5' TRAP ANCHOR STAKE	Each	8	17
GAMBREL	Each	0	3
HEAVY DUTY WOLF DRAG-2 PRONG	Each	4	2





Successful Partnership with Northwest Species at Risk (NWSAR) and Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI)

Caribou Camera Project – Terry Batt

We have just completed our 4th season of servicing the Caribou cameras in the Chinchaga and Caribou Mountain Sub-regions. This past winter went well for the guys servicing the NWSAR Cameras. Snow conditions and temperature was moderate so there were no issues getting into them. This year was the first year of the extension to the program which gathered a lot of good data regarding densities of the ten species they are monitoring. We are not sure if we will be picking up the equipment this next season as NWSAR is evaluating the data that they have and possible going in a different direction. Also, the Audio Recording Units provided valuable information on the bird species in the different areas. These recording units are the only ones in Canada that are recording for the full year. Most programs with the recording devices are only set out for a specific species and specific time of year i.e., frog vocals in springtime. Again, I would like to thank the guys taking part in this program, it takes time and commitment to complete servicing the ATA appreciates these cameras and the efforts put in by our trappers.





Successful Partnerships with Our ATA Locals

ATA Regulatory Committee – Brian Bildson

The Regulatory committee was formed at the request of ATA members to assist in the presentation of proposed regulatory changes to government. For regulatory changes to be presented to government they must first be reviewed and approved by the membership at the ATA's Annual General Meetings.

When a proposed change is approved by the membership our committee reviews the proposal and compiles data to support the proposal when submitted to government for consideration. The committee then presents the proposal to government and follows up until a decision is reached.

In addition, the committee is available for ATA Locals to use as a resource when considering a proposed regulatory change for presentation to the ATA at an AGM. The committee can provide assistance in compiling data / research findings that support the regulatory change or alternatively identify that there is little information offering support.

At present the committee has met and presented a series of member driven proposed changes to our government partners. While we wait for our recommendations to be implemented by government, we have received positive feedback from them. And we periodically check back with them in order to keep our committee recommendations top of their mind.

The 2023 Regulatory committee is made up of myself Brian Bildson as chair and representatives from each zone. These representatives are Gary Godberson (zone 1), Corey Grover (zone 2), Jason Parker (zone 3), Dale Richard (zone 4) and Duncan Abercrombie (zone 5). We look forward to working on any new regulatory changes which may be passed by the membership at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

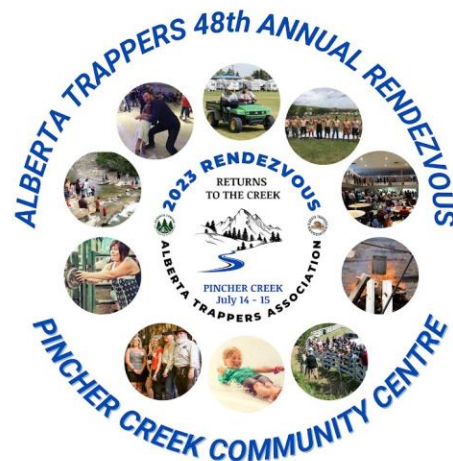




Successful Partnerships with Our ATA Local Communities

Annual Alberta Trappers Association Rendezvous & Outdoorsman Shows

Our annual Rendezvous is a provincial event that includes demonstrations, speakers, a trade show, competitions, and entertainment meant to bring together the trapping community while continuing to educate the public on the trapping and fur industry in Alberta. Trappers and like-minded individuals returned to Pincher Creek for our 48th annual Rendezvous. This was a fun and informative event that not only met but exceeded expectations. Plans are already underway for the 2024 Rendezvous which will take place in Barrhead, AB as well as our 50th Annual Rendezvous in 2025 which will be held in Lac La Biche, AB. More details to come as the planning is done.





Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft – Perry Kulmatyski

MISSION (vision) STATEMENT:

Our mission is to create and offer opportunities that allow peoples, no matter their age ability or comfort level, to experience and play in and with nature. In doing so we hope to increase understanding of habitat and wildlife management and maybe even increase youth and adult wellness.

- Our Mission statement guides us as we prepare and develop courses, workshops, and adventures for our Centre. So, what does that look like in practice? Here are just a few examples of what we offered this past season.



Kindergarten Adventure- we hosted kindergarten groups with a habitat walk, birch water tasting and tapping, cat tail dolls.



Mothers Day Morrel Mushroom Hunt with Full Baskets Candice Cullum



Junior High School gr 9's and gr 5/6 - winter intro to outdoor survival and wildlife adventure, shelter making, firewood gathering, making fires, roycraft packs and so much more....



Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft - (Continued)



Grade 5-9: Spring Habitat walk and outdoor survival skills. Cattails for cordage, dolls, food and shelter.



Healthy Families and healthy communities' parent and youth habitat walk and bushcraft chair adventure.



Perry and Ross taking a break.



Red Deer Home School Group





Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft (Continued)



In School art class and incorporating nature into art (Cattails).



Junior Forest Wardens – introduction to fur management – Squirrel and rabbit Snaring and Under Ice Beaver.



Other unique course offerings include:

- 7-day winter skills adventure with Kelly Harlton
- Moccasin Making
- Felt Basket Making
- Willow Basket making
- Basic Bushcraft 3 day course

Please visit our Photo Galleries at <https://www.albertacentrefortrappingandbushcraft.com/photo-galleries> to view more pictures of what we offer. We look forward to planning and developing more adventures. To experience and benefit from a bushcraft experience all you need to do is **BE PRESENT** and **BE CURIOUS**, the rest will take care of itself.



ATA Research Projects – Ross Hinter

Each year the academic and scientific community have contacted us and asked if we will assist them in field work and studies being done throughout the province. They have come to realize that trappers can play a key role in helping them because of our skills with wildlife, tracking skills as well as crossing all types of habitats during the cold winter months.

Over the last decade we have been involved in new projects, and this has provided us much needed recognition in our province, and for the first time in my lifetime, trappers are finally being utilized and appreciated for their skills. This is a significant part of the change as more people begin to see the importance of habitat and its link to the health of our forests and farmland.

This year we started a project with the Federal Government in a study of large predators in Federal Parks. The project started late so it was difficult to get the information out to our trappers in time for 22/23 season. However, a few of our members were able to gather scat, fur or skin samples from wolves to begin this project. They are continuing this coming season so I am hopeful that more trappers will be willing to help with this work. I will send out information on this as well as any other new projects that come along this season. They are studying large predators, so wolf, bear and cougar. Scat, fur or skin samples are all they need for this.

Another project I would like to mention for this coming season is the last stage of our snaring research. This is with wolves and is field work with snare captures. I have spoken with a couple of locals on this that take a good number of wolves each year. This is another program I will send out the details as I receive them. This is done through the Trap Research and Development Committee, (TRDC), which is part of the Fur Institute of Canada. This is good news for us to be part of this research here in Alberta.

Of course, our ongoing wolf program with the Provincial Government is continuing and Donna Moore will give the results of this program. This is in the caribou sensitive regions of the province.

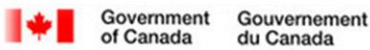
The Slave Lake local has a study going on with Vanderwell in Slave Lake studying marten and the effects of forest harvest on marten populations. We are hoping to receive more information on the first year of this work. Darcy Chambers worked with Vanderwell to set this up and he started the ball rolling with Alpac as well. Thank you for your work on these projects Darcy.



ATA Research Projects – Ross Hinter (continued)

We are working on a new project starting this year with Alberta Pacific Forest Products and will have more information on this once we receive the planned outline for this trapping season.

We are proud of the cooperation of our trappers and their contribution to these programs. It is my sincere hope that trappers will continue to help in these research programs and see the good that is being done with trapping playing such an important part in conservation and the well being of Alberta's furbearing animals.



Environment and
Climate Change Canada



**ALBERTA
PACIFIC**
FOREST INDUSTRIES INC



Vanderwell



ATA 2022 – 2023 FUR DEPOT – Tiffany Miner

This year we shipped 19,694 hides to auction, 6,750 in January and 12,944 in April. The first sale seemed to generate some optimism in the industry as the fur depot picked up substantially for the second receiving date and the final number of furs shipped was double that of the first sale. This year we received payments totalling \$22,928.10.

We had lots of wonderful volunteers on our last receiving and shipping days again this year.



Thank you to all our members for your ongoing support!



Indigenous Community Engagement, Training and Education



Standard Trappers Course taught in Wabasca, AB February 2022

Alberta Trappers' Association



Fur Depot and Retail Store





THANK YOU!

We wish to thank all our supporters who are key to our success!

Alberta Environment and Parks
Alberta Conservation Association
Alberta Forest Products Association
ATCO
Government of Canada

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Donna Moore ATA Executive Director

The Alberta Trappers Association is a registered society.
No. 500063862

***I AM A TRAPPER AND WHEN I AM IN THE BUSH
I FEEL ALIVE IN MY SOUL***

Author Unknow