

THE ALBERTA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2021 — MARCH 2022

ANNUAL REPORT

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

***IT'S NOT JUST WHAT WE DO
IT'S WHO WE ARE***

Donna Moore
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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,

It is with great pleasure that I endorse the 2021-2022 Annual Report of the Alberta Trappers Association. The undertakings documented in this year's report are impressive in substance and broad in scope. The ATA means many different things to people from all cultural backgrounds, and all walks of life. To our membership and the trapping community, it means support, market access and dependable suppliers of services, gear, advocacy, education, and training as well as a commitment to our shared passion, history, and traditions, but most of all to our people. To the conservation community, it means a willing collaborator who will step up when it counts and help shoulder the burden. To the academic and research community, we are a source of information, data gathering and willing project supporters as well as partners to help advance science for the benefit of all. To government, we are managers, deliverers of programs, training and resource harvesters that represent the best possible model for sustainable use. To industry and agriculture, we represent expert solutions to wildlife conflict, coexistence and a potential partner for habitat research and restoration. To the education system and to the youth of this province, we offer a window into a world of adventure and a lifestyle thought long forgotten, with a deep connection to the land and animals that resonates for a lifetime. To communities and families in Alberta, the ATA represents an opportunity for engagement, participation, and social development by sharing skills, knowledge, and cultural vision for humans being on the land that brings self-sufficiency, fulfillment, and mutual respect.

This year will be my 40th year as a member of the Alberta Trappers Association, 29th year on the board of directors and by the good grace of the membership beginning a 3rd term as president. The pride that I feel for this organization in how far we have come is beyond measure, and my optimism as I look to the future is unwavering. We continue to expand our educational footprint and in time this organization. through initiatives like the Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft. We will be showcasing our community and our culture to the world. Despite economic and market downturns, COVID and global instability the value-added portfolio being built by the trapping community for Albertans will ensure that trapping has a strong future.

Coming out of the pandemic despite the hardship and loss, I see opportunity. Our perspective and priorities have changed, and with that change I see people looking for alternatives to how they live their lives. What our organization and our people offer is not just the lifestyle or the skills and crafts associated with it, but the simple unselfish willingness of our community to accept and to share is what makes the bush lifestyle attractive and compelling.

In many ways we are just getting started and thanks to the dedication, hard work and passion of the contributors to this report we have something very special to be proud of and hopeful for in the future.

Sincerely,



Signature

Bill Abercrombie, President
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



Educators Perry Kulmatyski & Bre Haun with a group of eager Mayerthorpe students



ATA 2021 – 2022 Members of the Board of Directors

Bill Abercrombie	President
Kevin Klein	Vice President
Darnell McCurdy	Secretary
Albert Mast	Treasurer
Glen Kalmbach	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 2021 – 2022 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
Kimberly Verge	Part-time Store/Fur Depot Assistant



Director Perspective – ATA Board

A Rewarding Way to Get Involved – Albert Mast

I spent a few years on the board as a Zone 1 director before I took a short time off. Last year I was re-elected to the board only to find in my absence, that the board is dealing with some of the same issues that were being dealt with in my previous stint as a director. The wolf program continues and has expanded to include more trappers and RFMAs. Currently the government of Alberta administers the RFMAs, and the licensing of trappers, etc. Although spoken about frequently at the board level, this is not something the ATA is prepared to take on at this time. Last year at the AGM the membership voted to establish a regulatory committee to present to government on behalf of trappers some of the concerns brought forward about the regulations governing our trapping seasons, etc. This has been done.

Over the years I have had the pleasure of working with others in the industry presenting to classrooms of elementary children, teaching them about the world of trapping. I must say this has been not only encouraging, but incredibly rewarding. Kids ask the best questions, and they are so anxious to learn. Perry K also asked me early this year if I would be willing to tag along and help out with some classes of students grades 8 - 12 from three different schools at the Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft. I was a little intimidated as these were somewhat older kids. It quickly became apparent that these students were for the most part so out of touch with what goes on in the outdoors, that my intimidation quickly turned to one of "Wow we have a lot of work to do to educate these youth". I think the acquisition of the RFMA by Dapp and the setup of the Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft has been an amazing thing! Whatever programs, or courses that can be taught at this Centre have my full support.

Some of us that live in relatively close proximity to the ATA office, sometimes get a call to help out either receiving fur or loading fur for transport. We always have a great time working with the staff, and also the many trappers that come in with fur. We have nothing short of a wonderful facility staffed with great people who work tirelessly on our behalf.

Recently I agreed to become part of the executive as the treasurer so that opened up an opportunity for a second zone 1 director. I highly recommend to anyone who is passionate about trapping to consider becoming a director. I also participated in a couple of studies. One was a fox study, and the other an Otter/mink study. I found this very interesting, and I encourage everyone to get involved with projects such as these.

From a financial perspective, the ATA came through the first year of Covid quite well as there was a substantial amount of government assistance. This last year, or the second year of covid, even though the ATA made some major purchases, and expansions, we still came out of it with our head above water. Finally, I want to close by expressing my appreciation to the folks involved with organizing and setting up the Rendezvous. I was involved to a small degree, and it is a lot of work but very rewarding. So, thank you to all involved.



We Are Committed to Trapper Education Programming

The Alberta Trappers Association (ATA) is committed to:

- Delivery of approved Standard Trapper Education Courses to certify first time trappers to obtain their Fur Management Licence
- Delivery of the Advanced 7-day Trapping course to help trappers learn to manage a RFMA
- Delivery of “Best Management 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 our landscape has to offer
- Committed to training and development of all our instructors
- Bringing in guest instructors to broaden our educational reach
- Creating and sustaining partnerships with Indigenous groups and communities to increase conservation and sustainability beyond our membership
- Delivery of enhanced education and training to specifically support Indigenous trapping heritage



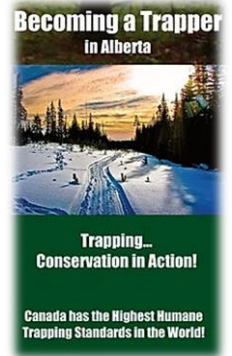
Youth Trappers Camp delivered on the RFMA



Standard Trapper Education Course, Wabasca, AB February 11-13, 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.



Instructor Jason Parker with the Standard Trapper Education class - St. Isidore, AB



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.



Tanning Workshop at the Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft – led by Bre Haun.



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



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 **806** students in the classrooms of schools throughout Alberta and have done **51** virtual presentations to **1837** 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.



Ross Hinter delivering a virtual school presentation to St Elizabeth School in Edmonton, AB



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 **15** 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.



Ross Hinter delivering a Predation Workshop in Yellowhead County, AB



Edmonton Boat and Sportsman Show in Edmonton, AB



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, 2021 – Mar 31, 2022, saw **15,592** new visitors to the website.

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

- 11,499 of the visitors arrived from Google Searches.
- 7,328 arrived by using a direct link.
- 1,860 arrived from Facebook
- 61% arrived by mobile devices

89.37% of the total visitors are from Canada with the majority from Alberta

61.22 % of our visitors are male, 38.78 % female.

Majority of visitors to the website fall into the age bracket of 25 – 54

Most Popular Pages visited on our website:

1. Trapping Courses
2. Becoming A Trapper
3. Calendar
4. ATA Store
5. Fur Depot
6. Membership

Members Only Section of the website has **237 members**.

ATA FACEBOOK GROUP

Ben Brochu joined Bill Abercrombie and Deb Hinter on the Admin team for Facebook.

There are currently **3,587** members of the Facebook group, with 3,054 of these active.

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

- Upcoming courses and Workshops
- Youth camps
- ATA hours along with Fur Depot and Fur Pick Up Schedules
- Magazine Deadlines
- Membership Information
- Research Projects

Alberta Trappers' Association



ATA TWITTER

Deb Hinter is now managing the Twitter account.

The Twitter account is used primarily to drive traffic to the ATA website.

Highest engagement on the Twitter account relates to the Rendezvous as well as to The Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft.

ATA YOUTUBE CHANNEL

The Channel is called, Alberta **Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft**.

It is a holding area for the video links that appear on the ATA website.

Apr 1, 2021 - Mar 31, 2022, saw **6,301** views on the channel.

There are **125** subscribers and the channel visitors have watched a total of **760** hours of content.

Further content related to the Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft, will be created and uploaded in time.

ATA GOOGLE BUSINESS

There are 2 Business Profiles managed under Google Business:

- Alberta Trappers Association
- Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft

These listings generate clicks through to the website and provide phone numbers, hours of business, location, photos, reviews, and posts.

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

Alberta Trappers Association Compensation Program

The Alberta Trappers Compensation 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, 2021, to March 31, 2022
Number of claims submitted	6
Number of claims paid	4
Total claim amounts paid	\$20,971.00
Number of claims denied	2
Claims awaiting further information	0
Claims Coordinator Expenses	\$1953.00
Misc. Expenses (advertising, fees, etc.)	\$ 955.88

Alberta Trappers Association Forest Fire Cabin Compensation Program

The ATA 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 were no claims to this program in this past year.





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 2021-2022 our youth camps were held in small groups outdoors on the ATA trapline with the participants and instructors all stayed in outfitter tents. The attendance was great with 51 young people ages 9-14 learning from our seasoned team of instructors and enthusiastic volunteers.

December 17-21, 2021, 8 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. Students were taught the hands-on of setting traps, handling fur, building forming boards and practising safe handling of trapping equipment.



First Youth Mentoring Course – Dec 2021





Successful Partnerships

Philip J Currie Museum Display

The ATA was asked by the ACA to prepare a display for the Conservation Gallery located in the Dinosaur Museum at Wembley. This gallery is exposed to over 100,000 visitors annually of which many are of school age. The goal of the ATA is to highlight the value to society from a conservation and cultural perspective.

The centre piece of the exhibit space and content - the display can direct walk through traffic - frame content visually and physically.

- Set positive perspective for trappers and trapping in Alberta
- Trapping Timeline in Canada's history though to present day in Peace Country
- The trapper's role in conservation research, species population monitoring and management
- Sustainable resource business and current regional family lifestyle
- Humane trapping
- Alberta Centre for Trapper Education and Bushcraft

The ATA welcomes this opportunity to share our story with the public. We appreciate the ACA providing us with the venue and chance to share our message.



Alberta Trappers

The original conservationist with dedication and passion for our wilderness.



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 Partnerships with Our ATA Locals

ATA Regulatory Committee – Brian Bildson

Background:

During the 2021 AGM, at the request of the membership, the ATA Board committed to striking a regulatory committee. The committee was to advance the previous outstanding resolutions passed at AGM from 2017 forward. Accordingly, the committee was struck, and I was asked to Chair.

The committee comprised members from across the province, bringing a wealth of experience to the table. We worked through the resolutions and built a fact-based case for their adoption by the government. Our work culminated in a meeting in May with government official David Kay.

Meeting Results:

Resolution #1 - Trap Check Regulation - Motion to increase foothold trap check periods to 72 hours on an R.F.M.A. and 48 hours for resident trappers.

- Recognition that neighbouring districts have longer trap check periods than Alberta
- Footholds allow an alternative to snaring. Incidental catches can be released unharmed.
- Economics of 24-hour trap check periods challenging to sustain.
- Modern footholds significantly reduce paw damage, ie: swivels, in-line shock absorbers, laminated and offset jaws.

Resolution #2 - Align fisher, marten, mink, & wolverine season (zone 1) with Lynx season closure of February 14th.

- Season misalignment can lead to incidental catches of untargeted species when lynx traps are used for an additional 14-day period.
- Due to open waterways and thawed muskegs, changes in weather patterns have cause later access to some RFMA's. Extended season would allow better management of the resources.
- Fur is prime during the February 1-14 period.



Regulatory Committee – Brian Bildson (continued)

Resolution #3 - Hunters to notify R.F.M.A. holders when placing wolf baits within their R.F.M.A. Hunters to post signage at wolf baits.

A safety issue arises as trappers may inadvertently come upon bears at a previously unknown wolf bait. Signage would alert RFMA holders and the public.

- By serving notice to the RFMA holder, conflicts can be reduced. Hunters could accidentally take over trapper historical bait sites.

Resolution #4 - Trappers to be allowed to retain one incidental cougar catch.

- Rather than destroying surplus cougar pelts, trappers could keep one incidentally harvested cougar pelt. This would be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.
- Incidentally harvested cougars could be donated to the ATA for education purposes with any surplus hides sold. Funds would be used for trapper education programs.

Resolution #6 - Make Break-Aways mandatory on snares, exempting foot snares, underwater sets, squirrel snares, lynx cubbies.

- Snare design specifications are currently under review by the GoA and mandatory break-aways are a part of that review.

Resolution #7 - Introduce a quota of one otter WMU 224-318-322-324-326-328-332-420-430-434.

- Presently, some government biologists are uncertain about the sustainability of the otter population in these WMU's. They are currently data deficient regarding this species.
- The ATA believes there is value in using logbooks to measure otters' occupancy, frequency, and trends within these WMU's. The cumulative value of this data, when provided annually by trappers to provincial biologists, would greatly assist when making decisions regarding otter management.



Regulatory Committee – Brian Bildson (continued)

Resolution #8: Remove the otter, lynx, and fisher quotas.

- The government is considering the removal of lynx and fisher quotas in upcoming seasons.
- The government is uncertain about the population levels of otters and is reluctant to remove quotas on this species.
- The lack of accurate information on otter populations and trends has hampered their meaningful management. The ATA would recommend using logbooks to measure populations, distribution, and trends. This data would allow us to monitor the health and trends of otters on an annual basis.

Conclusion:

The committee felt the resolution review and presentation process was productive and well worth doing. We believe there is value in continuing the committee and working to advance ATA's interests. We thank the general membership for suggesting the formation of the committee.

Best wishes
Brian Bildson
Committee Chair





Successful Partnerships with Our ATA Locals

Forestry Liaison – Darcy Chambers

- Vanderwell's Marten Study with the Slave Lake Local will commence November 2022
- Currently in the planning stages of a trapper industry project with ALPAC
- Working on the E10 Forest Management Plan in Grande Cache
- Upcoming in High Level – plans to work together with the Lesser Slave Lake Forest Education Society and Tolko
- Would like to thank the following trappers for their help with the planning:
 - Jeremy Cooper, Corey Grover and Darwin Klegg





Successful Partnerships with Our ATA Locals

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. With the lifting of restrictions, it was decided to gear up and bring this much enjoyed event back. Trappers and like-minded individuals gathered in Rocky Mountain House to connect with each other once again. The air was energized with the excitement of seeing each other, the act of breaking bread together, sharing stories with each other and enjoying more than a few laughs. Plans are already underway for the 2023 Rendezvous which will take place in Pincher Creek, AB. More details to come as the planning is done.





Successful Partnership with the Government of Alberta Wolf Management Project in the Northern Regions

The Wolf Management Project – Donna Moore

The wolf program for the 2021/2022 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 95 Trappers involved.

- 25 from the Chinchaga Region
- 48 from the East Side Athabasca Region
- 5 from the La Peche Region
- 2 from the Red Rock Region
- 3 from the Cold Lake Region
- 12 from the Slave Lake/Nipisi Region



With the 95 trappers actively trapping and targeting the wolf we were able to harvest 90 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 follow.

- 29 from the East Side Athabasca Region
- 36 from the Chinchaga Region
- 24 from the Slave Lake/Nipisi Region
- 1 from the La Peche Region



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 Logbook Program – Robert Anderson

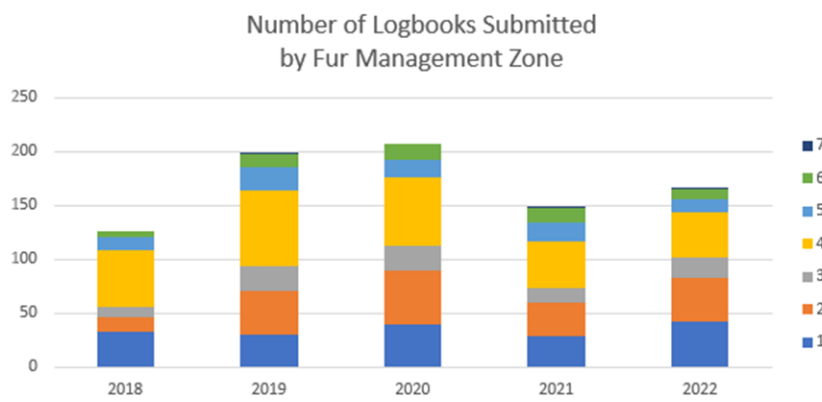
The 2021/22 trapping year marked an important milestone for ATA's RFMA logbook program. It was the fifth year following logbook simplification and increased participation rates across the province. During these past five years, roughly 850 logbooks have been submitted for 361 different RFMAs. Few (if any) trapper-led organizations can boast such a data set.

This coming winter, Alberta Conservation Association biologists will use this information to put together a report that describes what has been learned about trapping effort, what the provincial marten population trend looks like, and what we can learn about other furbearer species from trapper-provided information. What we have already learned from an initial look at the data is that it is particularly valuable when we have logbooks submitted for the same RFMA over a series of years. This helps to paint the picture of what is changing and what is staying the same over time.

This year saw the addition of wolf harvest questions, which were mandatory for ATA wolf management program participants and optional for all other trappers. Wolf data was submitted for 140 RFMAs, with a mix of that coming from those who participated in the wolf management program and those who did not.

The overall logbook participation rate ticked back up again in 2022, after a significant decline in 2021. Information was collected from 166 RFMAs this year, just slightly below the average of the previous four years. Participation increased this year in three Fur Management Zones, declined in two, and was essentially steady in two others (see graph). Logbooks were received for 24 new RFMAs this year, 17 of which were participants in the ATA wolf management program.

ATA's RFMA logbook program will be continuing for the 2022/23 trapping season. The marten harvest information collected over the past five years is starting to pay dividends, and other species hold great potential as well if we can keep up the effort over a long enough period. 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 adds another piece to the puzzle.

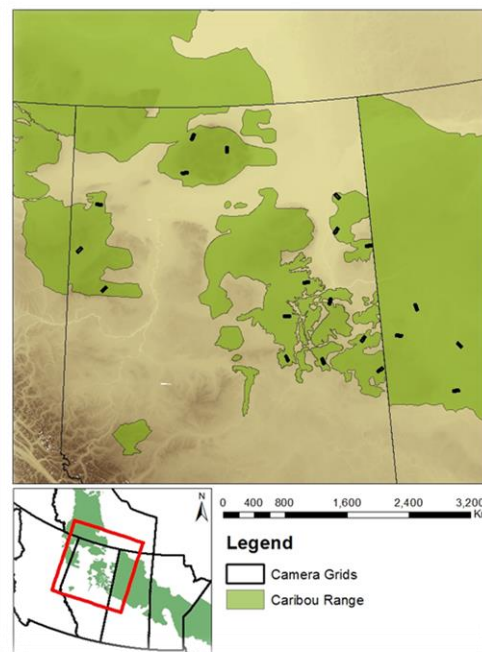




Successful Partnership with Northwest Species at Risk (NWSAR) and Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI)

Caribou Camera Project – Terry Batt

We have entered the 3rd season of servicing the Caribou cameras in the Chinchaga and Caribou Mountain Sub-regions. You would think after three years that it would get easier, but mother nature had different ideas. We had a very mild November preventing crossing on creeks and rivers and when it got cold in December, it got very cold. Camera LED screens don't operate very well when they are cold, but a couple guys did get out in late December and managed to service theirs. The rest of us who missed the few days of "milder weather" late December were dealt more cold and higher than normal snowfalls. When it did warm up in March, the guys had trouble getting around with the deep snow and not everybody has a super wide track at their disposal. Some managed to get their cameras done towards spring when the snow had a crust on it from warmer days. Others had to wait until the snow was pretty much gone. One half of a grid in Caribou Mountains and a grid in the Chinchaga Sub-region have yet to be completed for this year, heavy rainfall washing out access bridges are to blame for the most part. Most of the guys had trouble this year for one reason or other but I must compliment those that fought through the elements to complete their grids. Next year we will be picking up the cameras to complete this program. For anybody wanting to know what the cameras captured you can go on the NWSAR website and see pictures from each camera and other data they have collected.





ATA Volunteers – Ross Hinter

Within our Association it is easy to miss the opportunity to thank those who do so much for us. We have a unique group with so many that just jump in and help wherever it is needed. Sometimes when we need something unusual, even that is taken care of too. Over the years I have seen this, but in the past few years working here at the ATA each day I have seen it a lot.

I think of the work Rod and Sara Graham have done for us in the Education program. Rod cleaned and donated all of the wolf skulls, which were donated by the Edson Local (there was a pile of them!) for our education program. Very grateful to the Edson local for these! He also tanned several furs for our Public Education fur kits. He did not take any money for this. This involved a lot of time to do. I am so grateful for this. The skulls and fur have been handled now by countless school children and the public that have never seen, let alone held, in their hands these animals that we sometimes take for granted.

Cam Oulton has been a long-time friend of the ATA. He has always been a great supporter and he recently donated an open trailer that we can haul both of our snow machines or quads on. He just gave it to us! He also had his son Byron, repair anything on the trailer that was needed. Byron, just like his father, has helped us with so many projects and repairs over the years. We all think the world of Byron here. Having a journeyman welder that can repair, build, and even invent anything we could dream up has been a godsend to us.

Dale Richard has made us many things over the years as well and is always ready to help us or lend us anything he has. He has donated much of his time and skills and continues to help us.

Darrell and Joanne Walde have always been a great asset to us here as well. They are always there when needed and have helped with the fur depot and the “no fun work” of loading the truck to ship out all the fur to go to the auction. They have donated materials to help in many projects here and at our Rendezvous over the years. Joanne has donated, I don't know how many, beautiful quilts to our Rendezvous auction to raise money. There are so many things that many of our members are not even aware of that get done by the good people like the Walde's.

Albert Mast is another one that comes to mind that has done so many things for us and has found ways to get things we couldn't find. Donated many hours of his time and expertise, taught school groups, and worked to forward public education in our communities.





ATA Volunteers – Ross Hinter (continued)

I think of Chuck Hambling as I write this. Chuck has been my right hand in so many things to do with both trapper and public education. I couldn't number all the public presentations Chuck has done and continues to do for our organization. He has helped me to improve many of our programs, including the Youth Trappers Camp and has influenced so many students over the years of the importance of trapping in conservation.

The Abercrombie boys, both Duncan and Malcom, have helped and volunteered with many projects over the years. Not to mention all the times they have come through for us to teach, with short notice, to keep the education program working.

I am thinking also as I write this, the many times Candice Truman has just stepped in and worked to help at any of our programs. She is just another of those people that just "gets it done". I know there are so many others too, that I will miss here. But to all of you who have helped us with so many things we do each year I just want to say thank you for continued support. It is rewarding and inspiring to work with people like you. This past season at our Rendezvous, as we started to unload or load all our gear there were so many hands that just showed up to make light work of this. It makes me proud to be a part of this Association!

As I get older, I am becoming more aware of how much I take for granted all the good people that have helped us build this Association and may never have been thanked for all their work.

In case you didn't know, we are ever grateful to you all. Thank you from all of us here at the ATA.





Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft – Perry Kulmatyski

We have had a very busy year at the Alberta Centre building and implementing new programs. The focus of our development has been to grow programs available to schools. As we develop programs for schools, the focus will be to connect to curriculum outcomes, providing authentic Indigenous experiences, and reminding schools about the importance that connecting to nature plays in the mental and physical health for youth and adults.

We are also focused on building programs that are accessible and palatable to all people regardless of their experience with wildlife, trapping or the outdoors. We would like to have programs that provide an entry into the world of nature and the outdoors that Trappers have such an expertise and passion for.

What new programs did we offer.

- Kindergarten fur show and share (connected to curriculum)
- Continue to offer Gr. 4/5 show and share with a focus on bushcraft and connecting to nature and what you can do with sticks.
- Introduction to Wildlife (WLD1010) & Outdoor Survival (WLD1130) Field trips in Habitat
- Bird Identification Dr. Lu
- Family Connections- Male caregiver and youth outdoor trapline trip
- 7day Northern Bushcraft Survival
- Remote First Aid

What's to come?

- Willow basket weaving (Candace Cullum)
- Women's Program
- Winter Survival Dapp (Kelly Harlton)
- Medicinal Plant walk Brenda Holder (WIP)
- Dave Holder – Food in a survival Situation. (WIP)

Questions and Challenges:

- Building Instructor Capacity
- Reaching our Target Audience to fill courses? Not a problem for schools
- Are we growing the pie or fighting for same clients?



ACTB – Perry Kulmatyski (Continued)





ATA 2021 – 2022 FUR DEPOT – Tiffany Miner

This year we shipped 27,874 hides to auction, 13,071 in January and 14,803 in April, which was 3,577 more than last year. This may have been due to the decrease in fur buyers. Regardless of the reason, we filled the first semi on our April shipping day and quickly realized we would need a second truck. Luckily, we had lots of wonderful volunteers on our last receiving and shipping days. This year we received payments totaling \$33,187.28.

A huge thank you to Jason Jarvie who did our remote fur pickups all over the province again this year. He spent 19 days on the road throughout the year going from High Level to Vauxhaul and everywhere in between.



Thank you to all our members for your ongoing support!



ATA Science Programs – Ross Hinter

Trappers and Science

Over the past several years the Alberta Trappers Association has had the opportunity to be a part of some great projects involving furbearers and their habitat.

- **The 5-year wolverine study:** This was one of the most interesting ones.
- **Otter and Mink study:** In partnership with Dr. Phil Thomas, we have collaborated on several others including, studying the effects of heavy metals and toxins in otter and mink as well as other species.
- **Echinococcus Multilocularis:** Several carcasses were submitted by Alberta Trappers to help with the study of Echinococcus Multilocularis (a bad news worm) with Dr. Alessandro Massolo from the University of Calgary.
- **Fisher Reintroduction:** Also, the two-year program of live capture of fisher for reintroduction into the state of Washington. This was a very successful project to show the benefits of professional Alberta trappers willing to work with biologists and scientists in these valuable studies.

These are just a few of many other projects trappers have had the opportunity to participate in over the past decade. This has led to Alberta trappers being recognized as the field experts that they are and demonstrates the benefits of having trappers on the landscape. This is a significant step for us and has helped remove many misconceptions about trapping and the role we play in conservation.

These many partnerships have proven that trappers are the ones to engage for the field work or “boots on the ground” components of the studies.

This is so important to our future as trappers and has given us a well-earned place of respect for the work we do that benefits of all wildlife and their habitat.

I want to **thank all our Alberta trappers** that have been so willing to assist with this work. This past season we saw lower numbers of trappers bringing in carcasses, I am hoping that this season we will see more of our trappers getting involved again. Sometimes it can be a pain for trappers to hold on to carcasses and fill out the paperwork necessary to the project, but I hope everyone sees the value in our participation in this work.



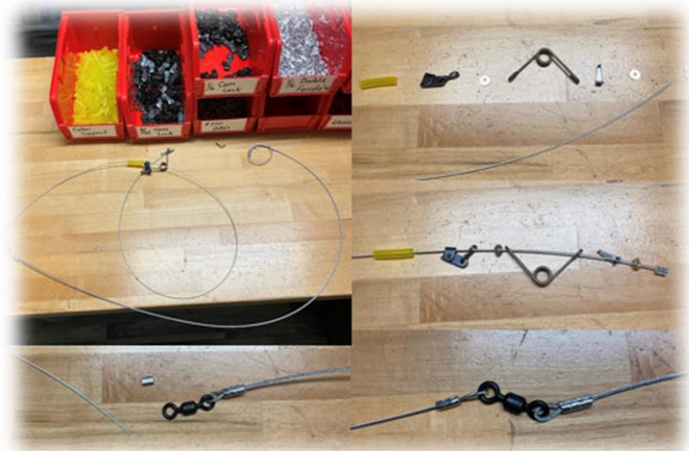
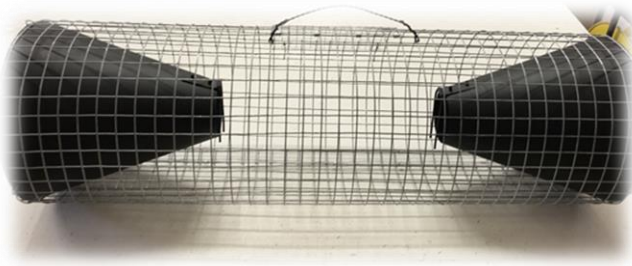


Manufacturing – Hunter Botham

As a joint effort from The Alberta Trappers Association staff and volunteers, some of the products that we sell in the store are manufactured in house. This includes all the **snares**, **submarine traps**, **muskrat floats**, **trap anchors**, **skinning gambrels** and **trap drags** - with over 2400 individual units sold in the store this year alone. This is a great asset as we can adjust for reasonable complaints or concerns on some products as needed to suit all trappers and better products in our store.

Manufacturing

Description	Unit	On Hand	No. Sold
COYOTE SNARE KIT	Each	0	5
MUSKRAT FLOAT	Each	0	11
Coyote Snare 1/16 1x19 Tail Wire 3/32 7x7 8 feet long	Each	601	342
LYNX SNARE 1/16 1X19 YELLOW TIE	Each	246	77
WOLF SNARE 5/64 1x19 TAIL WIRE 3/32 7X7-11' BLACK TIE	Each	60	139
Lights Out Snaring-Coyote 5/64 1X19 TAIL WIRE 3/32 7X7 8'	Each	8	65
BEAVER SNARE 1/16 1X19	Each	50	40
#9 WIRE - SNARE CABLE	Each	2	22
LARGE SUBMARINE MUSKRAT TRAP	Each	7	10
SM SUBMARINE MUSKRAT TRAP	Each	0	21
HEAVY DUTY 2' TRAP ANCHOR STAKE	Each	4	8
HEAVY DUTY 1.5' TRAP ANCHOR STAKE	Each	10	14
GAMBREL	Each	2	1
HEAVY DUTY WOLF DRAG-2 PRONG	Each	1	5



Alberta Trappers' Association



It's Not Just What We Do – It Is Who We Are.



Alberta Trappers' Association



Fur Depot and Retail Store



Alberta Trappers' Association



THANK YOU!

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

Alberta Environment and Parks
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No. 500063862