

The Dakota Skinner

Volume 1, Issue 2

June 2004

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Welcome to the second issue of the North Dakota Fur Hunters and Trappers Association (NDFHTA) newsletter. The *Dakota Skinner* will be published twice a year, in January and June. The newsletter provides an opportunity for NDFH&TA officers and directors to communicate to the membership; it allows members to communicate to each other; and it will help keep all of us informed of trapping related issues in North Dakota as well as other parts of the country.

As newsletter editor I see my role as an organizer of materials that are submitted for publication. With each issue the officers and directors will have the opportunity to provide information they wish to share with the membership. Likewise, the NDFH&TA members can share information with others within the organization.

I would like to have a few regular columns in addition to the updates provided by the NDFH&TA leadership. One is entitled *Tips and Tricks*. I encourage members to share techniques, tactics, experiences with new equipment, etc. with our readers. As an example, see Ron Gore's comments about "Conibear Killer Clips" on page 6.

Another regular feature is entitled *The Shortliner* which is reserved for the stories and experiences of beginning trappers and hunters, regardless of age. NDFH&TA members would like to hear these stories. In this issue read about a young trapper's first bobcat.

I not sure what the costs will be to publish these newsletters, but one way to offset expenses is through paid advertising. If our members would like to place an ad or if you know of someone who might be interested please let me know. Advertising costs have not been set but I'm sure that will be a topic of discussion at future meetings.

Well, that's about it. Our next issue will be published in January, 2005 but its never too soon to start thinking about sending in material for the next publication. You can contact me by phone, land mail, or email:

Phil Mastrangelo
3235 Crested Dr. N.
Mandan, ND 58554
701-667-9380
philmast@btinet.net

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. Perhaps I'll see you at some of the summer events (check them out on pages 3 and 8).

President's Report

Welcome to our summer issue of the *Dakota Skinner*.

I know you'll feel a great sense of pride as you look through the following pages. I certainly did, and am grateful to Phil Mastrangelo for volunteering as Editor. We'll be looking to do two of these a year and for support through ads and information in future issues. Don't be shy or hesitant to sell some ad space or contribute to an article.

Our membership continues to grow and the level of our activity increases as well. The mainstay of the membership relies upon your annual renewal, so don't miss out by forgetting to renew. You can make the membership renewal process "old news" by renewing as a lifetime member. No more reminders, one less thing to forget, and ease of record keeping for the association. As you go about your daily activities, keep an open ear or eye out for an opportunity to enlist a new member or two. They're out there, and just a little bit of conversation can produce a fellow member!

Work continues with scheduling our summer events, working with North Dakota Game and Fish Department on the Cooperative Fur Harvester Education Program, ever arising issues, this years seasons, and a couple of seminars this winter. We're also working with the National Rifle Association on some insurance issues for coverage at our own events as well as the fur harvester education program. There never is a lack of things to get done.

I look forward to seeing you this summer. Enjoy the season and start thinking about the fall and winter. Planning ahead always makes for an enjoyable experience. As always, if there is anything that you would like to see within the association, please let me know. Thank you for your support and helping the association.

Catch 'ya,

Rick Tischaefter

Regional Updates

District 1 Director Report:

I hope everyone out there enjoyed their winter and had a great transition into spring! I didn't get in any spring beaver trapping this year, but did have a new experience, spring coon trapping. A neighbor had his bales overrun by coon this year and I received the job of removing them, 27 from one stack, tough job huh? I couldn't believe the condition, very nice fur quality.

Well just a little update for all. We will be having a Fall Rendezvous at the Mark Zahn residence 9 miles east of New Town on Hwy 23. This event is scheduled for September 17th and 18th. The demo list is not yet determined, but I know that it will be worth your trip to attend. More information will be sent out this summer as well as being placed on the Website.

Speaking of Website! Has anyone taken a try at the quizzes that are located on the links page? If so, how did you do? I encourage each and every one of you to check out the site and to post replies. This is one method that will aid us in making it a better place as well as an avenue for comments and concerns. Also send in any photo's that you would like placed on the members page, it is nice to see the fun others are having.

I hope to see you all this summer and remember we need everyone to promote our great organization, recruit new members, and please renew your memberships!

Have a great summer!

Pat Brenden

Regional Updates (continued)

District 2 Director Report:

By way of introduction, my name is Ron Gore, District 2 Director. I live near Finley, ND on a small hobby farm with chickens, guineas, a turkey and a horse and a wife too. I retired from the Air Force after nearly a quarter of a century of service to our great nation. I now work for a couple of local farmers and fish, hunt, and trap in the fall/winter. I enjoy fishing, bow, gun and black powder hunting and I am a Life Member of the NRA.

I was born and raised in the mountains of western North Carolina on a rural farm. I had always wanted to trap as a youngster, but only got as far as making rabbit boxes from old hollow logs with sliding doors and baiting with apples on a trigger stick. I did manage to catch some rabbits, opossums and an occasional skunk.

I never really got to seriously trap until 3 years ago when a neighbor (Roy) who trapped a lot in the early 60's/70's during the fur boom got me hooked for life. Roy started me on the road to trapping beaver, badger, fox, mink, coon, musk-rat, and skunk (no gridders here though) by giving instructions, traps and bait. I wish that I had someone to have showed me how when I was a lad.

I encourage all of my brother/ sister trappers to teach a youngster this fine art. I am currently training a new generation of trappers as my granddaughter and grandson love to go trapping with me. Thanks also go to Rick Tischaefer for learnin' me on snaring them 'yotes, as I snared my first 2 this past season.

Any of you District 2 folks interested in a District get together, fund raiser, etc? If so contact me at my e-mail rdgore@polarcomm.com; snail mail is; RR1 Box 116, Finley, ND 58230; phone # 543-3855. I will be glad to help plan and work for our District and the NDFHTA.

Best Wishes,

Ron Gore

Upcoming Events

June 18-20: Third Annual Western NTA Convention; Fergus County Fairgrounds Lewistown, MT

July 9-10: NDFHTA District 3 Rendezvous; 4-H Camp; McLeod, ND

August 6-8: Minnesota Trappers Assoc. 45th Annual Convention; County Fairgrounds; Mora, MN

August 12-15: 45th Annual NTA Convention and Sports Show; Boone County Fairgrounds; Columbia, MO

August 21: North Dakota Furtakers Rendezvous; 4-H Camp; Washburn, ND

Sept. 12-18: Furtakers of America Trappers College; LaGrange, IN

Sept. 17-18: NDFHTA District 1 Rendezvous Mark Zaun's; Stanley, ND

Secretary's Report — *Jeremy Duckwitz*

Minutes from February 20, 2004 Business Meeting; Bismarck, North Dakota

A. Meeting called to order at 8:03 AM by Rick Tischaefter

- All officers and directors were present
- NDGFD Furbearer Biologist Jacquie Ermer was present and provided special topics:
 - New Outreach poster is available depicting ND big game and furbearing animals
 - ND Furbearer Guide will be its own one-page proclamation for ease of reading/reducing clutter; however, no regulation changes have occurred
 - group discussion on the use of 330 conibears on dry land; NDGFD is currently gathering information on this issue; no plans to change current laws
 - Muskrat hunting may be stopped; however, mink and weasel hunting will continue
- Int. Assoc. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is conducting a "Trapping Matters Workshop" April 8, 2004 in Bismarck
 - Open to all NDFHTA board members and Natural Resource Agency Personnel
 - BMP update information
 - why we trap/why we can trap
 - mechanics of traps/function
 - how to improve communication skills with the nontrapping public
- *NDFHTA board members agreed that as an organization we would help offset the cost of the program by donating \$50.00 for break-time snacks/drinks (J. Paulson/M. Beard M/C)

B. Secretary's Report

- Minutes were presented from the Steele meeting held on June 28th, 2003 (J. Paulson/P. Brenden M/C)

C. Treasurer's Report and Update (J. Paulson/J. McGuiren M/C)

- Pipestem 2003 Summer Rendezvous
 - approx. \$1,200.00 in expenses
 - \$1,688.00 deposited as income
- Clyde mentioned it would be helpful to have a second board member available to sign checks in case of an emergency
- Clyde is trying to be conservative by not utilizing funds in our current savings account
- all life-membership funds go into savings account
- currently there are 92 NDFHTA members
- remaining bills: \$264.00 hats; \$insurance \$175.00

(continued on page 5)

D. Merchandise

- New hats created; tan/camo w/ logo (\$4.00 profit made ea.)
- Tan shirts avail. (\$5.00 profit made ea.)
- Decals are available
- Merchandise order form is available

E. Old Business

- Rick is disappointed in the NTA insurance program; it was brought to his attention that the insurance only protects our organization at "sit-down business meetings" and not at rendezvous like we were led to believe
- You must have insurance to be affiliated with the NTA
- We are unable to participate in NTA board of director meetings (only one from each state is allowed and the ND seat is already held by the ND Furtakers Org.)
- Rick recommended and the NDFHTA board members agreed that we would not renew our affiliation with NTA (J. McGuiren/M. Beard M/C)
- it was decided that we would give the donated NTA muzzleloader to the ND Furtakers Org. for raffle, or give it back to the NTA

F. New Business

- Consensus was to change wording of bylaws from "annual meetings will be held January of each year", to "annual meetings will be held once/year"
- It was agreed that district boundary lines should be changed: McLean County will be removed from district 4 and added to district 1. The W/E dividing line will be brought one county lower so districts match NDFHTEP boundaries
- Consensus was to secure an honorary membership with the Missouri River Shooting Club; no membership cost, just mutual support
- Summer Rendezvous: The tentative plan is to have a summer rendezvous at the McLeod 4-H Camp June 25-26 with Joel Lyons in charge of the event. The tentative plan is to have a second summer rendezvous at the Zaun Farmstead with Mark Zaun in charge of the event. M. Beard suggested having a pig roast at the Zaun Farmstead
- Website:
 - Server problems with the NDFHTA website have been fixed with a 50 megabyte increase in speed at no charge
 - Everything on the website is up to date and working smoothly
 - Delta Waterfowl Org. is looking for summer trapping technicians
 - Phil Mastrangelo is the new newsletter editor; Phil will send out a newsletter twice/year and put it on the website
 - Group consensus was to split raffle donations 50/50 for both the Carrington and Bismarck winter events

G. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 pm (J.Paulson/M. Beard M/C)

Tips and Tricks

I bought some of the "Killer Clips" for conibears and they work real well on lath board and sticks for mounting 110's and 220's. The only weakness I discovered was the prongs on the backside tend to bend too easily. Otherwise a great product. *Ron Gore*

The Shortliner

My First Bobcat

By Daniel Draovitch (Age 11)

I have had the opportunity to learn to trap from my step dad and for the past five years I have trapped animals such as muskrats, mink, and raccoon with him. I have also learned a lot about trapping and the animals we try to trap.

This past fall I told my step dad that I wanted to try to catch some coyotes. He told me that snaring might be the best way for me to catch some coyotes, especially since there was already snow on the ground. He agreed to show me how to snare. We contacted some ranchers and they were glad to give us signed permission to trap coyotes on their land. One late December day we went out and he showed me how to find the best places to set coyote snares, and how to set them the right way.

After two months into the snaring season in North Dakota, I had already caught 12 coyotes in the snares I set! When I got up that very cold day in February I was very sleepy, however, I didn't sleep

much in the car as usual because I had one of my friends along and her dad Steve and I was excited to check my snares. The first spot we went to we checked 10 snares I had set, but there was nothing, just some tracks.

The next spot we went to the previous week before, a bobcat had slipped by one of my snares so I set another one down the hill from it. When we got there after a very cold snowmobile ride we looked down the hill and my friend saw something lying in the snow. We could tell right away that it wasn't a coyote and when Steve and John said it was a bobcat, my friend and I started jumping up and down and rolling down the hill with excitement! When we finally got to the animal, it was a nice male bobcat with lots of spots! That was the only animal I caught that day, but I definitely was not sad! I really enjoy trapping and am looking forward to next year!

Merchandise Order Form

(Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Khaki Three Rivers Shirts (\$30)

Shirts come in either long or short sleeve in khaki color only. The organization's logo is embroidered on the upper right chest area. At no extra charge your name can be embroidered above the NDHFTA logo. Shirts are sized in Small (S), Medium (M), Large (L), Extra Large (XL), and Extra/Extra Large (XXL)

	Total
Long Sleeve (quantity ___ x \$30) Size _____	\$ _____
Short Sleeve (quantity ___ x \$30) Size _____	\$ _____
Name on Shirt (if desired) _____	
Shipping/Shirt	<u>\$2.00</u>
Total for Shirts	\$ _____

Caps (\$16)

Caps have the organization logo embroidered on the front with a color combination of black and brown thread. One size fits all.

	Total
Solid Tan w/Camo Bill (quantity _____ x \$10)	\$ _____
Snow Camo Cap (quantity _____ x \$10)	\$ _____
Shipping/Cap	<u>\$1.50</u>
Total for Caps	\$ _____

Window Decals With Organization Name (\$6)

	Total
Color: White _____, Black _____, Copper _____, Specify Other _____	\$ _____

Total Order Amount	\$ _____
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Summer Events

Our **first** summer event will begin Friday evening, July 9th and continue through Saturday, July 10th. It'll be at the 4-H Camp in the northwest corner of Richland County. This beautiful location is on the northern edge of the Sheyenne National Grasslands. **DIRECTIONS:** From the intersection of Highways 46 and 18 (between Kindred and Leonard), 4 miles south to County Road 2, 4 miles west and 2 miles south. We'll have some signs at some of the more important intersections.

Friday afternoon and evening is devoted to setting things up, enjoying some great company, sharing a story or two, and some hound hunting after dark. Saturday will include a variety of quality demonstrations; maybe a terrain walk; a short meeting after lunch; and then on to some range activities and predator calling demonstrations in the afternoon. The competitive portion of the range activities will be coyote silhouette shooting, so bring your favorite coyote rifle.

Camping is available on the grounds as well as cabins. Coffee and donuts will be available in the morning and a lunch platter at noon. Bring any additional personal items you may want for the event (soda and snacks).

The **second** summer event will begin on Friday evening, September 17th and continue through Saturday, September 18th. This event will be at Mark Zaun's ranch near New Town. **DIRECTIONS:** Approximately 9 miles east of New Town on Hwy. 23. North side of the road ¼ mile. This location puts you just north of Van Hook Recreation area. Friday and Saturday are similar to the July event, with quality demonstrations in the morning, lunch, a short meeting, and range activities and predator calling demonstrations in the afternoon.

Primitive camping is available at Mark's place, and camping with hook-ups is available at Van Hook. Coffee and donuts will be available in the morning and a lunch platter at noon. Bring any additional personal items you may want for the event (soda and snacks).

General information for both events: Supply dealers and tailgating is welcome and encouraged for both events. As always, we welcome donations from anyone to help with fundraising while at the events. If you're interested in doing a demonstration or helping out, contact Rick Tischaefter at (701) 626-7150. Facility and location information can be obtained from Joel Lyons at (701) 439-2022 for the July event, and Mark Zaun at (701) 627-2242 for September.

North American Fur Auctions

2005 Sale Schedule

Sale Date - January 9, 2005	Last receiving in early December 2004
Sale Date – February 14, 2005	Last receiving in early January 2005
Sale Date – May 23, 2005	Last receiving in late March 2005

Routes run prior to last receiving dates

Rick Tischaefter POB 334, Butte, North Dakota 58723 (701)626-7150

Wild Fur Donation Program

The following members donated pelts for the Wild Fur Program this past season. The pelts were either tanned for the North Dakota Cooperative Fur Harvester Education Program or sold at scheduled auctions by North American Fur Auctions. The 50/50 drawing will be conducted at the McLeod Rendezvous and good luck to everyone. The program benefits both the association and the education program, so consider making a donation next season. A special thank you for the following donations:

Steve Baumgartner	2 coyote	Pat Brenden	2 mink and 1 raccoon
Sarah Baumgartner	1 coyote	Marty Beard	2 raccoon
Chris Tischafer	3 beaver	Joel Lyons	3 raccoon
Jerry Jaeger	1 coyote	Tom Kean	1 raccoon and 1 beaver
Danny Draovitch	2 coyote	Ken Blotter	2 raccoon and 1 beaver
Leroy Nelson	1 ermine	Clyde Isaak	1 red fox and 1 skunk
Ron Gore	1 raccoon	Kyle Krebs	1 raccoon
Tory Heid	5 coyote	John Paulson	3 muskrat, 2 mink, and 1 red fox

**SHARE THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ON
PAGE 12 WITH SOMEONE WHO IS INTERESTED
IN JOINING THE NORTH DAKOTA FUR HUNTERS
AND TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION**

2003-2004 Bobcat Harvest Season Summary

Jacquie Ermer, Furbearer Biologist, ND Game & Fish Department

The 2003-2004 harvest of bobcats in North Dakota was estimated at 69 animals based on pelt tags and submitted carcasses. Harvest in 2002 was 77 animals plus one roadkill in a closed unit. Recent harvest has ranged from a low of 9 animals in 1990 to a high of 82 animals in 2001. Most bobcats were taken by trapping (42%) followed by shooting (29%), snaring (25%) and other (3%). The sex ratio of the harvest was relatively equal 34 males and 33 female (1.03M:1F). Distribution of harvest was similar to previous years; most bobcats were harvested in Billings (23%) and Slope (17%) counties. Bobcat pelt prices remain high and should remain so for the upcoming season; average pelt price in 2003 was \$257.

2004 Voting and Elections Ballot

INSTRUCTIONS: All members vote on Questions 1 thru 4. Members from Districts 2 and 4 will vote on Questions 5 and 6 respectively. Ballots must be returned by mail to Jeremy Duckwitz, 361 78th Avenue NE, Carrington, ND 58421 not later than July 8th, 2004; or, delivered in person to Jeremy Duckwitz by 10:00 AM, Saturday, July 10th (McLeod Rendezvous).

Question 1: Bylaws Article IV, Paragraph I “The annual meeting of the membership shall be held each year during the month of January.” Strike the word “January” and replace with “February”.

Rationale – Our two annual meetings to date have been held at one of the seminars conducted each February. A seminar and meeting combination in February is convenient. January presents challenges with outdoor activities and scheduling events for members. The Board of Directors recommends a “yes” vote.

Yes No

Question 2: District boundary changes “ Remove McLean County from District 4 and add to District 1; and, remove Sheridan, Wells, Eddy, Foster, Griggs, Steele and Traill Counties from District 3 and add to District 2.

Rationale – Provides a more equal dispersion of counties and population for the association. These boundary changes will match those designed as districts within the North Dakota Cooperative Fur Harvester Education Program. The Board of Directors recommends a “yes” vote.

Yes No

Question 3: Vote for Treasurer

Clyde Isaak (incumbent) Write in - _____

Question 4: Vote for President

Rick Tischaefter (incumbent) Write in - _____

Question 5: Vote for District 2 Director (District 2 – Rolette, Towner, Cavalier, Pembina, Pierce, Benson, Ramsay, Walsh, Nelson, Grand Forks, Eddy Foster, Wells, Sheridan, Griggs, Steele, and Traill County residents only). **List your county** _____

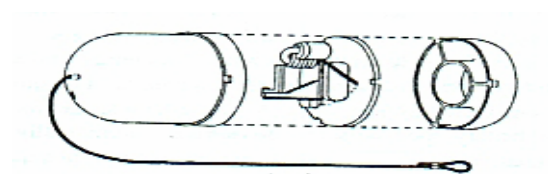
Ron Gore (incumbent) Write in - _____

Question 6: Vote for District 4 Director (District 4 – Bowman, Slope, Golden Valley, Billings, Dunn, Stark, Hettinger, Adams, Grant, Sioux, Morton, Oliver, and Mercer County residents only). **List your county** _____

Tory Heid (incumbent) Write in - _____

Summer Special – Reduced prices for trap and tool combinations!!

The Egg Trap Company



We're here to help you handle more raccoon!

Single Egg Traps - \$14 each - Setting Tools \$15 (saves \$6)

6 Pack of Egg Traps - \$80 – Setting Tools \$10 (saves \$11)

12 Pack of Egg Traps - \$156 – Setting Tools FREE (saves \$21)

Rick and Chris Tischaefter

POB 334 Butte, North Dakota 58723

HELP WANTED

Volunteers are needed to work at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's *Pathways to Trapping* booth at the North Dakota State Fair in Minot.

Assistance is needed July 26—28 from 1:00pm—6:30pm daily. Contact Jacquie Ermer (654-7475) if you can help

Membership Application

The magazine offered with select memberships is the *Trapper and Predator Caller*

All memberships are for a 1 year period unless otherwise indicated

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Age: _____

New Renewal

- Junior Membership without magazine (14 and under) \$5.00
- Junior Membership with magazine (14 and under) \$12.00
- Adult Membership without magazine \$15.00
- Adult Membership with magazine \$20.00
- Family Membership without magazine \$15.00
- Family Membership with magazine \$20.00
- Lifetime Membership without magazine (under 62) \$125.00
- Lifetime Membership with magazine (under 62) \$250.00
- Lifetime Membership without magazine (62 and over) \$75.00
- Lifetime Membership with magazine (62 and over) \$150.00

Please make payment to:
NDFH&TA
C/O Clyde Isaak
614 4th St. SE
Jamestown, ND 58401

President:
Rick Tischafer

Vice-President
Marty Beard

Secretary
Jeremy Duckwitz

Treasurer
Clyde Isaak

District 1 Director
Pat Brenden

District 2 Director
Ron Gore

District 3 Directors
Todd Braun / Chris Flann

District 4 Director
Tory Heid



**NORTH DAKOTA FUR HUNTERS AND
TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION
614 4TH ST. SE
JAMESTOWN, ND 58401**