



# South Dakota Trappers Association

Fall 2023 Newsletter

Editor: Craig Parkhurst

60 Years 1963-2023

## President's Message

Hello Everyone

Let me start off by saying what a GREAT convention Parker was! Lots of attendance, variety of vendors, demos, and some really good food. I would like to thank all the folks who helped planned, arranged, coordinated, and ensured it all worked. It truly was a team effort with Directors, members and volunteers from the crowd all working towards a common goal . . . FUN!

I especially wanted to thank Nancy Bennett, Wendy Denison, Lynda Graf, Nick Lien, Pete Harper, Frank Moser and Tara from the FARE Group. I am sure I missed someone and do apologize but these are the AMAZING folks who built the gift bags, handed them out and gave presentations to the 240+ K-6 Parker Elementary school students. The kids and staff LOVED it. It was nothing like they expected, and they were very excited for the hard work that our team did and the "coolest things ever" presentations.

I could fill several pages with all the good stuff and praise for the folks who made it happen. I fully understand after serving in the USAF, no mission depends on one person, it takes a team. Again Directors, Members, Vendors and folks who just wanted to help all made this a success.

Now comes the hard part, as they say. As much help as we had for our annual fall convention, we need 10 times more next July when we host the NTA National in Sioux Falls. Matt and Nancy Bennett have already perfectly laid out the path for us with a year (yes it has been a year already) of planning, meetings and too many hours of coordination to count (Thank you to both of them!). We know what we need to do, when it needs to be done and how it needs to be done. What we are lacking is the WHO needs to do it.

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## LOOKING AHEAD 2024

### **Spring SDTA Rendezvous**

**April 27, 2023,**

**W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds,**

**Sioux Falls, South Dakota**

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### **65th ANNUAL NTA CONVENTION**

**July 25-27, 2024**

**W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds,**

**Sioux Falls, South Dakota**

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### **Fall SDTA Rendezvous**

**September 6-7, 2024**

**Brown County 4-H Grounds**

**Aberdeen, South Dakota**

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**We will need as many members as possible to attend the Spring Rendezvous in Sioux Falls, so we are able to plan and do a run-through of the fairgrounds in preparation for the National convention in July.**

Plus over the coming year your SDTA will attend and have a presence at the Brookings, Watertown, Aberdeen, Sioux Falls, and Ft. Pierre Gun shows, as well as attendance every day at the Stock Show in Rapid City. If you can help, please let a director know. It's not a huge commitment and a lot of fun.

Please help make your Association events a success in 2024!



**Join/Renew SDTA Membership**

To become a member please print this page and mail to the address below.

Please accept this as my application in the South Dakota Trappers Association Inc. I have never been convicted of a felony, am in good moral character and will work to promote the interests and betterment of trapping.

----- **NEW** ----- **Renewal**

**Name:** -----

**Address:** -----

**City:**-----

**State:** ----- **Zip:**-----

**Email:** -----

**Phone Number:** -----

**Occupation:** -----

----**Adult Membership- Includes "The Trappers Post" magazine \$30.00**

----**Junior Membership- (under 16yrs) w/ The Trappers Post \$15.00**

----**Adult Membership- Without "The Trappers Post" magazine \$20.00**

\_\_\_ **Lifetime membership (no Trapper's Post) \$300.00**

\_\_\_ **Lifetime membership with Patch (No Trapper's Post) \$325.00**

\_\_\_ **Non-Resident Lifetime Membership (No Trapper's Post) \$350.00**

\_\_\_ **Non-Resident Lifetime Membership w/ patch (No Trapper's Post) \$375.00**

**Make Checks Payable to SDTA**

Mail To: Trina Lien, 811 S. Merton St., Aberdeen, SD 57401

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**HEY, LOOK! SDTA NOW OFFERING LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS!**

(no Trapper's Post with any lifetime membership)

**\$300.00 Lifetime Membership**

**\$325.00 Lifetime Membership with patch**

**\$350.00 Non-resident Lifetime Membership**

**\$375.00 Non-resident Lifetime Membership with patch**



NOTICE: PLEASE BRING ANY OLD ANTLERS (even old white ones) TO THE SPRING RENDEZVOUS IN SIOUX FALLS FOR DONATION TO THE SDTA. PROCEEDS USED TO BENEFIT THE ASSOCIATION!

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**The Association would like to thank Dennis Tilden for his generous donation to the Fall 2023 auction!**  
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NOTICE: Raffle tickets for this year will not be mailed out in the newsletter; however, they will be available at the Gun Shows and our Spring and Fall Conventions, as well as the National Convention in Sioux Falls in July 2024. If you would like several packs to sell please let me know and I can get those sent to you. Thanks for your understanding and if you have any questions please contact one of the Directors.

**Trina Lien**  
**SDTA Treasurer**

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We are low on many species right now. We always need more opossum, skunk, badger, weasel, fox and coyote to tan.

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If you have carcass or grease fur donations you can drop them at Peterson Furs, with John Hopple or Matt Bennett.

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**Wanted:** Paying top dollar for trapping and predator caller patches. Especially old NTA, FTA, South Dakota, ND, CA and WY patches. Email or text pics. Rusty Kramer 208-870-3217 [idahotrappguy@hotmail.com](mailto:idahotrappguy@hotmail.com)  
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**The Guided Antelope Hunt Winner was Nancy Bennett!**  
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## President's Message

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We need you, your family members and as many friends as possible to help. It is time to put names to paper for who is working where and when.

I cannot stress this enough; we will never have too many volunteers. Set up will start as early as a week prior, the actual event is Thursday-Saturday and then comes the cleanup. We need to BUILD a demo area to NTA standards, get tables in place, assist vendors finding their booths and providing help getting their items there, same for tailgaters, Kids Cave volunteers, camper attendants, gate workers, trap setting contest workers, ball toss set up/workers, trash detail, and all this comes AFTER setting up and ensuring things like Presidents Dinner and awards banquet are done!!!!

It is MY privilege to have the honor of serving as your President. You make it easy to represent you.

If anyone of you in the Sioux Falls area knows of a landscaping company who would be willing to assist in building the demo area and get the sponsorship benefit (this area sponsored by John's Yard workers) please let us know. It is this type of help we need in addition to manpower. Again, a TEAM effort and I know we have the right team already. YOU prove it every year at our conventions. PLEASE send your request of job and dates/times to ANY Director and we will get you, your family, friends on the master sign up list. This a great opportunity for groups (4-H, Sports team, 3M night shift, etc.) to do a bonding event and help out. This is the first and possibly last time the NTA will come to South Dakota, so let's do this in true South Dakota style, better than anyone else has!


John Hopple  
SDTA President



# WANTED

## Elk Ivories

Cal Medhaug (605) 208-3257  
Email: 49bar@gwtc.net




*Protecting, Preserving and Promoting Trapping*

## IDAHO TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

Regular Membership .....	\$30.00
Family Membership .....	\$40.00
Junior Membership .....	\$15.00
(18 years and under)	
Life Membership	Call (208)-870-3217

Learn More and  
Become a Member at  
[idahotrappersassociation.com/join-us](http://idahotrappersassociation.com/join-us)



Folks, again, a request for volunteers for the NTA Convention in Sioux Falls. We will need volunteers starting July 21, 2023 and continuing through the end. Please make a commitment to help!

## **Greetings Trappers,**

On Saturday October 7th, Brian and Jake Hanson, myself and Nancy taught a Beginner's Trapping Education class at the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center. The class consisted of 14 people, ages 10- adult.

The class covered:

1. Trap and snare identification and function, with hands on setting opportunities
2. Trap and snare preparation and modifications.
3. Landowner permission, location scouting and actual trap and snare setting.
4. Fur handling, skinning, fleshing and boarding.

Brian Hanson demonstrated a dirt hole set for coyotes. Snare location and setting was done by Jake and I. The outing continued on with Brian and his grandson Kamden demonstrating proper placement of Dog Proof traps.

I demonstrated 220 trail sets with H stands.

We continued on to water sets. The students were asked where a good set location would be and several of the kids pointed out a perfect location! Jake added to the discussion about reading the area and setting the area up for the correct species.

The last segment of the day was fur handling. I demonstrated skinning a raccoon and then on to the fleshing beam. Next was boarding the coon, going into detail of what the fur buyers will be looking for.

Thank you to our fellow director Seth Shriver, for allowing us to use his portable fleshing beam!

This class was a great outreach to connect with trappers, beginners and seasoned! It doesn't matter how long you've been trapping, there is always something new to learn!

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We will be looking forward to going back this coming spring for another class.

On behalf of the SDTA, I would like to thank Jason Uden and Alexandra Johnson, Wildlife and Fisheries majors at South Dakota State University, for reaching out to us to facilitate this class. Also, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks and Brookings County Adventure Center for allowing us to utilize the grounds. If you are ever in the Brookings area, stop by the Adventure Center, it truly is an asset to Brookings and the surrounding areas!

I hope everyone has a great Trapping Season!

Best of Luck,

**Matt Bennett**

**Director**

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### **2023 SDTA Award Winners**

Koffler– Matt & Nancy Bennett

Volunteer of the Year- Galen Sichmeller

Benefactor of the Year -Dave Skiede

Woman of the Year -Trina Lien

Youth/Improved of the Year Gage Imberi

### **Drawing Winners**

Youth Gun—Colt Alexander

Youth Grubstake– Gage Whitehead

Ladies' Grubstake– Kim Thompson

Adult Grubstake– Dianne Rieck





**Sportsman Raffle Winners**

- 10. Noah McIntyre
- 9. Aaron Doyscher
- 8. Mark Leonhardt
- 7. Mike Winters
- 6. Ken McDonald
- 5. Rita Frank
- 4. Sullivan Nedved
- 3. Bill Larson
- 2. Susan Hopple
- 1. Charlie Bode

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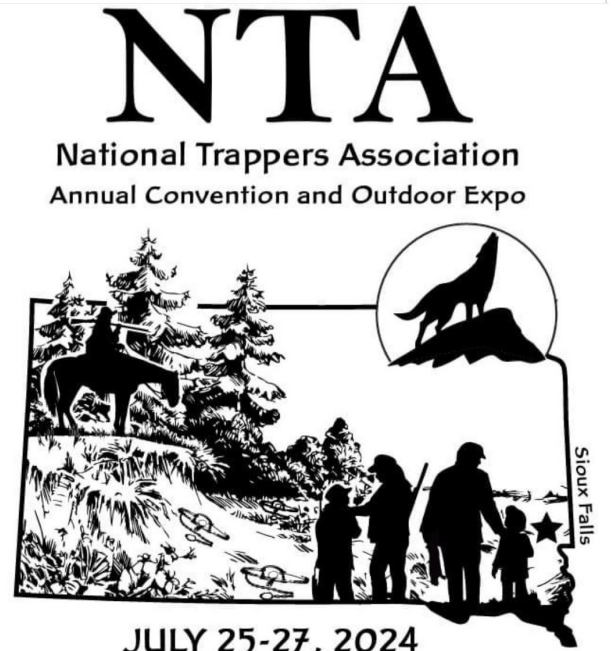
**Notice:**

Your Association has partnered with an organization called “Give Butter”, which is similar to Go-FundMe, except Give Butter will support traditional values organizations, such as the SDTA.

This is a website that accepts donations for the benefit of the SDTA billboard fund. Anyone can donate on the site worldwide, and said donations will be passed on to the SDTA. Feel free to send the link to friends and acquaintances.

Here is the link:

<https://givebutter.com/l25eko>



**JULY 25-27, 2024**  
*“Honoring our Past by Preserving the Future”*  
**Hosted by: South Dakota Trappers Association**

**\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\***

*SDTA Newsletter is now accepting advertising at the following rates:*

- \$15.00 for Business Card
- \$50.00 for Quarter Page
- \$75.00 for Half Page

**Please patronize our sponsors**



Above: The SD Rodeo Queens discuss raptors with the “bird lady” Tanya from the FARE Group.





South Dakota removed the river otter from the State's threatened species list in 2020. The delisting allowed for a trapping season, beginning in 2020, after many, many years.

Having commenced this year's season on November 1, 2023, the river otter season harvest limit of 20 otters was reached on November 18, 2023.

**Left:** Liam Barr displays his 2023 river otter catch. Liam had attended a trapping class with directors Matt & Nancy Bennett, and it seems to have paid dividends for him. Congratulations, Liam!



*"Get the intern to see how this thing works."*





SDTA  
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To receive SDTA email and the newsletter electronically, please  
send contact information to: Justin Bartling at:

[wetwillysride@hotmail.com](mailto:wetwillysride@hotmail.com)

**\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\***

**SDTA LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS** now available

*(Trappers Post not included in any lifetime membership)*

\$300.00 for LIFETIME Membership

\$325.00 for LIFETIME Membership w/ patch

\$350.00 for non-resident LIFETIME

Please see the SDTA website for details.