

## President's Report –

Our rendezvous was held on June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Velva Wildlife Club. A great day when trappers and like-minded folks get together and share stories, information, and fellowship. Our theme for this year's event was the niche market for a variety of furs and beaver. Ryan Mitchell began the day with handling skunks – trapping, pelt preparation, and extracting quill; on to beaver with Lloyd Jones showing bodygrips, John Paulson showing footholds, and I demonstrated some float and cable device options. Travis Leier worked everyone through some of the options available through OnX and showed how our current technology can be applied to our traplines. After an awesome lunch, we had the opportunity to share in some fun with Phil Mastrangelo as our auctioneer for our benefit auction; Kyle Krebs (Krebs Kustom Furs) and Garret Volk (Volk Furs) discussed their transitions into the world as a furrier; and I demonstrated the techniques for pelting with the feet on using a river otter. Special thanks to Trapline Beard Oil (Bryan Watson), Kyle's Kustom Furs (Kyle Krebs), Volk Furs (Garrett Volk) and Rod Cook with a trailer full of used traps for sale as our vendors. Thank you to everyone who attended, served food, cleaned up, did demonstrations, and supported the association. You might as well mark your calendar for June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, same location, and an even better event.

The summer has been busy for the association and its educational opportunities. I want to make sure you know about all the good things going on and encourage you to take the bull by the horns in your respective part of the state and do the same. We all have events going on throughout the year where we can do the same, and the association has the resources you need. Since our last issue of the Dakota Skinner, our folks have instructed at girl scout days, 4H summer camps, the state fair trapping booth, a women's outdoor retreat, a kid's day with Souris River Longbeards, an outdoor kids' night at the conservation skills park in Minot, and a fur harvester education course in Bismarck. Upcoming activities include a fur harvester education class for the Wildlife Sciences students at Valley City State College; a fur harvester education course at the Velva Wildlife Club October 5, 6, and 7; and a cable device class at the same location on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Our volunteers deserve the credit for this activity and there's room for more.

If you are interested in learning about using cable devices in North Dakota, or just learning more, the education program will be sponsoring a seminar on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Velva Wildlife Club. It'll be a 9 – 4 (CST) type of day and pre-registration is required. Call or text me to make that happen.

As of July 14, there were no new proclamation changes for this year.

We have raffle tickets available! There are six prizes: a Beretta A300 Ultima 12 ga. Shotgun; Kimber Custom 1911 .45 pistol; Ruger American 243 rifle with 3-9 x 40 scope; Glock G43X Gen 5 9mm pistol; \$300 Visa gift card; and a \$200 Visa gift card. Tickets are priced at \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Tickets are available (and stubs and money can be returned to) by contacting NDFHTA, PO Box 334, Butte, ND 58723, by email at [tischrc@srt.com](mailto:tischrc@srt.com). Or text (701) 460-1055. The drawing is September 5<sup>th</sup>, so hurry. Many thanks to all who have purchased tickets so far!

We are still looking for carcass animals in good condition for our education classes. If you need to get some trapping done to calm your soul and need an outlet for those

animals, we will put them to good use. Contact me ahead of time so we can work out the logistics.

In closing, remember to keep your membership current so you stay informed. Make that an easy process by becoming a lifetime member. Until next time, take care, be safe and responsible, and enjoy what Mother Nature and North Dakota have to offer.

God bless you and God bless America, Rick