

## President's Report –

Welcome to the best time of the year! Just a few things to cover with this report to bring you up to date:

The education program has been extremely busy the last few months. Since our last newsletter in early June, Bernie Kordonowy presented a furbearer education class at the Belfield Church Camp; Chris and I presented two 4-H camps (one in June and the other in July); we maintained the trapping education booth at State Fair, where an estimated 35,000 people passed through the Conservation Park; a fur harvester education course was held in Bismarck in early August, and thanks to Phil Mastrangelo, Scott Winkelman, Stephanie Tucker, Jason Friedt, Lloyd Jones, Brent Ternes, Mason Ryckman, Justin Voight, and Jeremy Duckwitz for conducting that course where eleven individuals were certified; conducted a fur harvester education course for wildlife students from UND-Grand Forks on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at the Larimore Dam Campground near Larimore. Fourteen college students were certified and thanks to Nat Bornsen, Jim Job, and Greg Meyer for conducting the course; on September 20<sup>th</sup>, twenty college students participated in the Valley City State University Wildlife Workshop. Thanks to Jeremy Duckwitz and Cody Krause for their efforts with those college students; a fur harvester education course was conducted at the Velva Wildlife Club on October 6<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>. Eleven individuals were certified and thanks to Travis Lier and Chris Tischaefter for helping conduct the course. We also conducted a “Using Cable Devices in North Dakota” workshop on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Velva Wildlife Club. Seven individuals participated in our first ever workshop that focused entirely on using cable devices. Thanks to Travis Leier for helping at the workshop.

We were able to secure a grant through the North Dakota Game and Fish Department that allowed us to add tanned Canada Lynx pelts to our education program pelt collections. Thanks to the Department and life member JR Pederson of Fairbanks, Alaska. JR manages the Alaska #9 Fur Company in Fairbanks and allowed us to purchase those tanned pelts at less than retail costs.

Fur harvester education classes and public education opportunities continue to be a big hit and very well attended. That is testimony to the quality of our program. Every course, regardless of where they are, requires a great deal of hard work and volunteer time, fuel, and expenses to make them happen. A special thank you is extended to the families of our volunteers, as it is those folks who pick up the slack when the volunteer is off presenting at a class or course. Again, thanks to the instructors and volunteers that helped make the difference – know that our future is better for your sacrifices and effort.

Members and individuals that have graciously donated much needed financial help to the education program were Mark Erickson (\$130); Brent Ravnaas (\$500); Grealing Starck (\$20); and Verlyn Starck (\$10).

I know the fur industry is having a bit of a rough ride and it's no different than anything else right now. I can give you a reason to trap furbearers – we need critters. If you'd like to donate one or more carcass animals from trapping season this year, we've got a use for them. The animals will be used in future fur harvester education classes and fur handling events. Animals should be in good condition and preferably double bagged, compressed, and frozen. We have a need for carcass muskrat, mink, raccoons, and beaver. We can plan to collect them from you, just let your district director or I know. Pelt donations are always welcome and are a huge benefit to our education program. Some are tanned to compliment collections used for education or sold through Fur Harvesters Auctions. Those returns are dedicated to our education program.

The association elections for 2023 include Vice President (Travis Leier), Secretary (Chris Tischaeyer), District 1 (Garret Volk) and District 3 (Chris Flann). Nominations should be sent to: NDFHTA, POB 334, Butte, ND 58723 or to me by e-mail at "tischrc@srt.com". Check with your nominee to make sure they are interested in seeking election or re-election. Nominations for Vice President and Secretary can come from the general membership - nominations for the director positions must come from a member in the respective district. Nominations are due by December 31, 2022.

"Raffle season" ended at the drawing on October 1<sup>st</sup> in Garrison. The winners were First Prize: Franchi Affinity 3 Semi-Auto 12 ga. Shotgun, Tim Fiebiger of Valley City; Second Prize: Ruger American Predator .22-250 Rifle, Sarah Knutson of Kenmare (Garrett Volk sold her that winning ticket); Third Prize: Ruger EC9S 9mm Semi-Auto Pistol, JR Pederson of Fairbanks, Alaska; Fourth Prize: GSG Firefly .22 LR Semi-Auto Pistol, Kenneth Blotter of Turtle Lake; Fifth Prize: \$300 Visa Gift Card, Andrea Grondahl of Bismarck; Sixth Prize: \$200 Visa Gift Card, Barry Warner of Dallas, Pennsylvania. Barry donated the \$200 gift card back to the association. Many individuals worked hard at selling tickets and it's interesting to note that all the winners except one were members purchasing tickets. Both must happen for a raffle to be successful, which is exactly what this was. Hats off and a big thank you to all who participated.

We also received some monetary donations from members during the "raffle season". Gordy Valgren (\$5); Con Hillman ((\$5); Roger Reinbold (\$5); Buck Holien (\$30); Toby Placek (\$5); Jason Friedt (\$5); and Burnell Paul (\$5). Thank you for your donations to the association.

State and national elections should be on your mind. Get educated and make sure you know who you are voting for, and most importantly, vote. It is imperative that the national elections make a turn for the better as we simply cannot sustain this trajectory. We also have a legislative session on the horizon. If you hear or

know of any proposed legislation in the works that would affect us, please let me know.

We're in the middle of the best time of the year. Take the time to be prepared, both mentally and physically, and have your equipment ready to perform as needed. You need to be a risk manager on your trap line every day of every season. Risk management is weighing what is good and productive against what is bad and would be unproductive. Being in the news or appearing on a newspaper headline with an incident that has a negative impact on what we do would be a risk. You are in charge; you are responsible; and what you do affects us all. Using risk management won't control everything, but it will control what we can control. Know what risk is; assess your line for risk every day; and do everything to avoid risk. If we all use risk management, we should have a very uneventful yet rewarding season.

Some things to keep in mind as the trapping seasons approach –

- Remember to have your written permission and have it with you;
- Keep your sets away from domestic animal or human contact;
- Save time by marking your trails, runs, and set locations while out hunting or scouting;
- Run your line in both directions – you'd be surprised at what you missed from the other direction;
- Check, check, and check your traps and equipment so it's serviceable and in top condition;
- Animal welfare deserves the highest priority – use the appropriate equipment and be timely with your trap checks;
- Work with your wildlife and fisheries managers, conservation wardens, and report violations.
- When working on private property, make sure the land is posted.

The gauge of a professional trapper is not who traps the most, handles more animals, or who has been trapping the longest. A professional trapper is a trapper who obeys the laws, shares their knowledge, continues to improve themselves through education, and serves to promote the activity by being responsible and ethical.

Happy Veteran's Day to my fellow soldiers, airmen and women, sailors, marines, and coasties. Take a moment and thank a Veteran for the freedoms we enjoy. Appreciate your time in the field and share your experiences. Remember to keep your membership current so you stay informed. Until next time, take care and be safe. Respectfully, Rick