

ALBERTA TRAPPER ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

I know I just sent out a newsletter but a couple of things have come up and I wanted to get them out. First of all I attached an interesting study on the effectiveness of bear spray that you might enjoy. The second attachment is the fall schedule for the wolf and snare workshops available through the trapper's college. Because some of them start right away, I wanted to let you know. If you are interested please contact Gordy Klassen and make arrangements (780-831-0616). The snare workshops are a full 8 hours with a multiple choice examination and a field practicum. You will receive a certificate upon successful completion. I suggest that you retain and file the certificate in the event you might want to use it later. By later, I mean that Trapper Education is moving towards some trapper designations and the workshops will lead to the designations. That's about all I can say about it for the time being.

SCHOOL PROGRAM

We received some good news! The Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) has agreed to fund a couple of projects. The first is the production of a school DVD. Although the funding will not kick in until April 2009, we are ramping up now with meetings and script writing. The DVD will touch on history and evolve to modern fur management. As we progress I will keep you posted. We also will receive money for developing kits which we will send to the schools. Once everything is in place, we will attend teacher's conferences and advertise the product. I will also be looking for volunteers to go to schools in their respective areas after the teacher and students have reviewed the kits. This will not be for another year. I will then arrange a full day workshop with the volunteers so that they are aware of what the teachers have and it should make it a lot of fun for the volunteers because all of the hard questions have been answered. The third year we now have funding for a traps4kids program. This is an American program and you can Google it on the net. Basically they supply traps and equipment for the new trappers starting out. They have a forum and a website with contacts for information. What form ours will take is debateable. The main attraction I see is hooking up new trappers with experienced trappers who will take a mentors approach and act as a resource person for the new trapper.

TRAP LINE VISITS

Another project in the works is the ability to take interested persons onto a trap line. This will be a joint project with Hunting for Tomorrow. They already have a very successful mentor program with youth hunters. I am working on two tours with my trapping area this winter. This will help me learn what the problems are, how best to arrange a tour and deal with the safety issues and the liabilities. Once we work out the bugs, so to

speaking, I will develop a workshop and then those trappers interested in taking part can join in.

COURSES

We head to Fort Chip on Saturday for a course and thus far the rest of the courses appear to be a go. Don't forget we are having a course at the college January 15th. To the 18th. And there is some interest already.

Other:

- Don't forget Open house Oct 24th in Westlock from 1-4