



Fur Sale 2015

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ARIZONA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

Ron Day
President

Scott Trowbridge
Vice President

Cheyvonne Nelson
Treasurer

Leslie Weger
Membership Secretary

P.O. Box 1847
Chinle Az, 86503

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THE SCENT POST

*The Official Newsletter of the
Arizona Trappers Association*

A word from the APA President - Ron Day

The Arizona Trappers Association (ATA) was formed years ago by trappers to benefit trappers. Today we are still an association comprised of trappers and conduct activities such as the Summer Convention, trapper's education classes, and the annual fur sale. As we are closing in on this year's fur sale we want you to know we have made three changes in the 2015 sale that are designed to benefit you the Trapper. The biggest change is the auction will go back to a "silent auction". This will be new for many of you but know that we have only had a live auction for the last 4 years. All the previous auctions (over two decades) were "silent auctions". We went to a live auction a few years ago only to take advantage of the high market. Since the market is now much lower we have gone back to the silent auction for your benefit.

The second change we have made is trappers will be limited to 5 lots of bobcats, 3 lots of coyotes and 2 lots of fox. Last year's auction had over 1000 lots and the auction was not finished until after midnight. There were many, many single lots of cats and even coyotes. Each of these required an individual auction and added hours to the sale.

The last change we have made, and one we hope we will not have to use, is the ATA now has the right to refuse fur at the door. In previous years, and last year was no exception, there have been furs taken in and auctioned that were put up very poorly. These are hides that were not fleshed completely, not sewn up properly, stretched very poorly and were in horrible condition. These hides always go for very little money - if they sell at all. We have stressed proper fur put up for many years and will now refuse very poor fur at the door. This is not intended to prevent you from selling your fur. Of the over 1000 lots last year this would have applied to less than 10. That's less than 1 %.

Here is a review of how the Silent Auction works: 1) You will still check in your fur and will receive lot numbers as you have always done; 2) The buyers will go through and grade and write down their bids for each lot; 3) The buyer bid sheets are then entered into the computer and a list is generated of the highest bid for each lot; 4) Copies of the list are printed and handed out for everyone to review. If you except the bid(s) for your lot(s) you are done and may leave. Your fur check will be mailed to you exactly like the live auction; 5) If you do not except the bid you have to stay and "No Sale" your lot when it goes up for auction. Each lot is auctioned by reading the lot and the bid. There is not an auctioneer and the only trappers here are the ones who "No Sale" their fur. This is a much quicker process than the live auction. As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, the ATA is made up of and run by Trappers just like you. Please consider getting involved and helping out. We are always in need of help at the fur sale, the convention and in teaching trappers education.

I hope to see you at the Fur Sale! - Ron



Message from the Vice President

Hello Trappers,

Hopefully the winter 2014-2015 Newsletter reaches you in good health and deep in prime fur. From all the reports I have heard the catch throughout the west seems to be down. The fur market is also seeing some corrections so we may be in for a bumpy ride.

It is human nature to overestimate the good years and forget about the average years. We all have dreams of \$1500 cats and \$80 coyotes but the reality is that those are exceptions to the rule. I remember plenty of years where a \$250 average for western cats was very respectable and \$20 coyotes were about the norm. We are all looking for a monitory return on our time and effort...but we need to be rational about the outcomes (think housing boom and bust).

Please read Mike Huffer and Ron Day's newsletter article for changes to this year's fur sale. The short version is that we will be limiting the number of lots each trapper is allowed

to submit, and poorly put up fur will be turned away at the door. This year we will be holding a silent auction as we had done in years past. If you have questions or need clarification please contact one of us.

April Howard from AZGFD also has some good information on requirements for submitting your bobcat jaws. The short version is that your bobcat jaws need to be free of all meat and connective tissue.

Brent Parker is once again chairing operations for the summer 2015 convention. Please contact Brent or one of the directors if you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer your time.

As always if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact one of us! We look forward to seeing you at the fur sale.

Scott Trowbridge - ATA VP



Update from the Fur Sale Manager

by Mike Hufer APA Fur Manager

TRAPPERS:

Our annual fur auction is coming soon. It is going to be at the same place we always have it, Gila County Fairgrounds near to Globe, AZ. Go north on Interstate 60 from Globe towards Show Low. It is just a couple miles on the east side. The auction will be Saturday Feb. 21st. Check in will start Friday, February, 20th at 12 noon to 9:00 PM and Saturday morning from 6:00 AM to 10:00 AM. The auction will be Saturday.

We have made a couple changes this year to the auction.

First, we are going to have a silent auction. Some of you have probably been to the auction when we have had silent auctions in the past; it will be the same as it was then. After all the buyers have put in their bids we will be announcing the high bid for each lot. The sellers can except the offer for that lot or stop that sale by saying, no sale.

Second, we have made changes to the number of lots each seller can put in the auction. The maximum lots a seller are

can have are, five bobcat lots, three coyote lots, and two lots for grey fox. Each lot can have as many furs as you want in them. The sellers can still have lots for other furs like skunks, badger, ringtail, and etc.

Third, we are trying to stop un-sellable fur going in the auction. So we are going to reserve the right to refuse fur in the auction. If they are wet, not fleshed, not stretched, damaged, etc. we might not allow that fur to go in auction. So, put up your fur right and get more \$\$\$ for it.

Remember, **Please**, to contact me with your fur numbers before the auction. So, I can let buyers know what will be at the auction. Call me at 480-970-5904 or email mjwild-life1@yahoo.com around the 10th of February.

Hope you are having a great trapping season and happy New Year.

Fur Manager
Mike Huffer



AZGFD

New additions to the 2014-15 Trapping Regulations.

By April Howard - AZGFD

I have been with AZGFD for almost a year now and I would like to say that it has been a great year getting to know the members of ATA, speaking with you at various events, and working with you to transition the Trapper Education Program. I anticipate many more successful and collaborative years to come.

With the start of the New Year I thought it may be a good time to review some new additions to the 2014-15 Trapping Regulations. Although there are no major changes, we did add the requirements to use a permanent marker to complete the bobcat jaw tag and a zip tie or metal wire to attach the tag to the jaw. During the tooth extraction process, which required boiling the bobcat jaws for 2 hours, ink tended to bleed and tags became detached from the jaws. Once that happened, we could no longer use those teeth as they were not associated with any particular bobcat, GMU, or gender. Hence, the permanent marker and twist tie requirements. Twist ties are available at any AZGFD location and may be picked up with your transportation tags. Please use the ties provided to secure the tag to the jaws.

During the process, we also learned that "dirty" jaws (jaws with tissue still attached) required a longer boil time and were more difficult to extract teeth. Therefore, bobcat jaws must be clean of all fur and tissue in order for the pelt to be sealed with a CITES tag.

I understand that submitting jaws can seem like a burden. Processing the jaws creates a heavy load for us as well. However, we believe this is the best way to insure trapping remains a lawful management tool in Arizona. You may be aware of the move to ban bobcat trapping in the state of California and the resultant ban on trapping of bobcats in areas adjacent to national and state parks, national monuments or wildlife refuges within the borders of California. California is also looking at setting bobcat trapping bag limits in its upcoming rulemaking. We hope to prevent a similar battle from occurring in Arizona by collecting important biological data from harvested bobcats. Reconstructing the population using age and sex data will provide us with solid harvest and population data which will be more defensible if ever challenged in court. I appreciate your cooperation with these new regulations.

I hope you all have had a productive trapping season thus far and I look forward to seeing you at the ATA Fur Sale in February!

April L. Howard

Predator, Furbearer and Large Carnivore Biologist

Arizona Game and Fish Department – Game Branch

5000 W. Carefree Highway

Phoenix, AZ 85086

Office: 623-236-7352

Fax: 623-236-7929



Hey Trapper's



Hello Trappers!

Well here we are with another year behind us. I hope everyone is getting a lot of nice fur. I am still your membership secretary and will do this job the best I can possibly do. The ATA officers and directors are talking about getting a new website up and running. The new website will belong to the ATA and not a private person this time. Hopefully it will be done soon. Until then you can keep up with the ATA on Facebook. If you paid for a membership with the Trapper & Predator Caller magazine please let me know if you are not getting it. I know some folks have two addresses which is fine, but what I need from you is the address where you want the magazine and newsletters sent to. It would really help if you include a phone number and email address too. Lifetime

members, if you want a new membership card just let me know and I'll get one to you. I had the pleasure of attending the Southwest Fur Harvesters Rendezvous back in September. I met a lot of great folks and hope to see some of them at the ATA fur auction and/or Convention. I hope to see you at the fur auction and convention.

Happy Trapping!

Leslie Weger - Membership Secretary.

928.713.0205

atamembershipsecretary@yahoo.com



P.O Box 1847
Chinle, Az 86538

Mail to:

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Arizona Trapper's Association Membership Application

Please Choose One Option Below

- Adult w/Trapper & Predator Caller Magazine (T&PC) \$30.00 - 1 year
- Adult w/NO T&PC \$20.00 - 1 year
- Junior (under 16) w/ T&PC \$20.00 - 1 year
- Junior w/ NO T&PC \$10.00 - 1 year
- Family w/ T&PC \$35.00 - 1 year
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- Lifetime (16-69) w/ T&PC \$275.00
(3 Payments may be made within 1 year)
- Lifetime w/NO T&PC \$150.00
- Old Timers (70+) w/1 year ONLY \$75.00
of T&PC (Additional yrs available at \$12.95 per yr)

New

Renewal

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ County: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Age: _____

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Please make checks, money orders payable to: Arizona Trapper's Association

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