

The Spring Convention in Review

This year's spring convention was a great success with lot of friendship and fun for all who attended. The morning started off with a demo from Clint Johnson, one of our up and coming trappers. Clint did a great job showing us how he takes coons by modern methods he has developed. Steve Hughes put on a cat demo with lots of extras on location and set placement. Steve gave us insight into his world of flat land trapping in the northeast corner of Louisiana. Later in the morning Kyle Lofton put on a coyote snaring demo with special attention to equipment and placement. Between all the trapping demos, Sterlin Kirshman of NAFA demoed proper fur handling techniques for high prices on put up fur and Tony Howard demoed otter skinning for easier fleshing.

At 11:30 the general membership meeting began with a discussion on the snaring issues we are facing. Curtis Cruse called the meeting to order and spoke about the issues coming up and then turned the floor over to Tony Howard for more discussion about the facts gathering done on behalf of the Assoc. Next, Mr. Allan Ensminger, of the Louisiana Fur Council, Land Owners Representative spoke at length about the snare issue and let the general membership know that the fur council would not support any regulations which would restrict or hinder the use of snares. After Mr. Ensminger spoke, Sam Smith, the Chairman of the Louisiana Fur Council and NTA Representative spoke reinforcing the stance the Fur Council has over regulation on snares.

After covering current and past business the general membership began the election process for the three Board of Directors to be seated this year. Four nominations were submitted and carried to a vote of the general membership. Steve Hardy and John Linzay were re-elected to serve three more years and Bo Autonberry filled the third position. After the general membership meeting concluded the Board of Directors retired to the private meeting room and elected officers to serve the next calendar year. Tony Howard was elected as President, Wesley Blanchard was elected as Vice President and Youth Education Coordinator and Rob McKay was elected to fill the position of Secretary.

With the new board seated and officers in place, the day's events moved on to the Youth Trap setting contest. What a time we had with this. Our youth are really coming on strong and doing a great job. This year's winners were as follows: 1st place, six year old boys division Aiden Bamberg. Kristyn Parker took 1st place in the ten year old girls division. Moving to the ten year old boys division, Trevor Leger took 1st place, Brock Berthelot captured 2nd and Michael Howard picked up 3rd. In the 13-15 years division which was co-ed Samantha Howard took 1st place, Ryan Leger took 2nd and Brandon Mayo came in 3rd. In the oldest division 15 and up Haryn Parker held on for 1st place with Zachary Livingston coming in a close 2nd and Wesley Blanchard finished a close 3rd. They all did a great job and really put on a show for us. It is great to see the youth of today find their way knowing they will be the leaders of tomorrow. All our youth were award prizes and certificates for participating in the trap setting contest. First place winners were award cash money to go along with their prizes. Good job to them all and I look forward to seeing more youth join our organization in the future.

After the trap setting contest we moved on into the Silent Auction and then right to the Live Auction. Even with fur prices low and gas high, members dug deep and made the auction a success raising over \$1900 for the Association general fund budget this year. The top selling item again this year as in so many years passed was the "Hooped Beaver" donated by Paul Rhodes. So many people and vendors donated to help our association this year and it makes me feel proud to know people care about our industry. Please support those who gave to our auction as they did so out of the goodness of their hearts. As a brief side note, I would like to let everyone know that Bob Jameson of Jameson Lure's suffered a heart problem and had to undergo quintuple bypass surgery. The LTAHA did send him a customer get well card from all the members. For those that don't know, Bob sent us sixteen pounds of lure to help us raise money to fight the snare issue. Please keep Bob in your prayers.

A letter from the Vice President

Hello everyone! Wow, what a time at the convention. First of all I would like to take this time to thank the board of directors for their vote of confidence in me and electing me to serve as vice president. It is a job that I take with pride and look forward to the many great things that lay ahead for this association. I promise to serve the board and the association to the best of my ability by promoting trapping in this state and helping defend our rights that are so dear to us all. I once was told that the difference between a manager and a leader is this; a manager does things right while a leader does the right thing. I am committed to doing the right things for this association and open to any suggestions, ideas and help that will be offered. We are all a team and it will take the whole team to achieve our goals. Thank you once again! The 2011 LTAHA convention went about as smooth as could be thanks to the hard work of everyone involved. To make a convention work, it takes months of planning, phone calling, organizing, last minute detailing and lots of hard work, good weather and folks showing up. Our many thanks go out to the sponsors that sent us all the material on the tables and auction items. The day would not have been as successful without their participation. These companies will be getting thank you cards from us but our biggest thanks can come from our business to those companies. I urge you all to please support these sponsors with your business so that they can continue to operate and serve the trapping community. Thank you again to everyone on a job well done!!

It is my belief that 2011 into 2012 will be a stellar year for our association. We are already receiving phone calls with lots of great ideas to propel this association forward. Many youth attended this years convention and as we all know, the future of trapping lies within those youth .It is in our best interest to cater more to those youth by having more activities geared for them. The youth trapping contest was a huge success and many youth participated. My hats off to the girls this year for whipping the boys in every division of the contest. Boys, you better turn it up a notch and get them traps out of the shed and get to practicing. You've got your work cut out for you! Plans for a youth workshop are under way and when final plans are made then we will get that information out to all. Anyone wishing to help at any future event or has any idea that we can put into action, please contact any board member or officer.

As you heard our president and others speak at the convention concerning regulations that may be put on snaring, we want all members to know that we are staying on top of the issue and will fight tooth and nail in Baton Rouge, New Iberia and anywhere else that this battle takes us. We will defend our sport and way of life and there will be NO COMPROMISE.

You have a board of directors that is committed to seeing this issue to the end and any other issue that may arise. Lots of phone calls, letter writing and meetings have been done that many will never know about, but know this- **you have the right people on the board of directors and their dedication is second to none!** You are in good hands.

Thanks for listening and don't forget to visit us at louisianatrappers.com may God Bless.

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Mr. and Mrs. Price receiving life time Achievement awards for all their hard work and dedication to the LTAHA for their many years.

A Word From the Education Coordinator

Hello everyone! 2011 is looking to be a great year for our association. A record number of youth attended this years convention and if you were there, you saw that they were having a good time. It is imperative to the future of trapping in this state that we educate as many folks as we can about trapping, especially our youth. They are the future decision makers that will decide if this sport continues on. Each year many of our members go out to local festivals, schools, hunt and fish day, youth workshops and many other places to promote trapping and educate the general public. Some times it's just a few hours and sometimes it may be a weekend. We are always looking for places to go and volunteers to fill the gaps. This means you. There are many heritage festivals that occur in this state each year along with other local events in or near your town. We want to show up in force this year and let the general public know that trapping is alive and well in the sate of Louisiana. Usually it's as simple as setting up a small table, fill it with material and traps, and get to talking about what we do best. Trapping!! It will amaze you how many folks that we talk to that say "I didn't know people still trapped" or "when I was a kid my grandpa took me trapping". Theses are great ways to start up a conversation and many folks have become members in the past this way. We have plenty of material to fill the tables such as trapping regs, trapping magazines, catalogues...etc. All we need is a little help from you. If you have never done this and are unsure of something, we are here to help. Our current board of directors is filled with many years experience talking to and educating the public. Soon all of our names and numbers will be published and all it talks is a phone call to ask for help or maybe you just may want to ride along with them first and help them. The bottom line is- there is plenty to be done and it takes people like you who are dedicated to trapping to make our education of the public successful. Please lend us your help to promote and preserve the sport that we all love. Any events that you feel that we need to set up at, call us or post it on our website so that we can get the ball rolling.

Later this year there will be an education workshop. Typically it starts Friday night and runs through Sunday morning. We are trying to secure Wadill Recreation Area in Baton Rouge but if that falls through then we will have it in Woodworth where the convention was held. As soon as details are finalized we will let everyone know. Again, we will need volunteers for this and it's always a great time. We are starting to see just as many adults as kids at this event and encourage anyone to attend. I have recently been elected Education Coordinator and am trying to build a war chest. I would like to make a fur ring from our Louisiana furbearing creatures and bleached skulls. The kids always like those. If you have any of these laying around or can secure something next season please let me know. Not being much of a water trapper, I will be challenged to get a few of those furs. Not many beaver visit my coyote sets. All help is appreciated and these items will be available for loan if you have an event. I am in talks with a few organizations to just have a 6- 8 hour work shop on Saturdays from time to time around the state. I feel that this will be an effective approach as I know everyone's time is limited. We can do some class time and outdoor demos and let the folks do some practicing and get them going in the right direction. In closing I would just like to encourage everyone to take a kid trapping, talk to co- workers about trapping and volunteer some time sharing what you love and want to protect. Keep it safe and thanks for listening. Wesley Blanchard Youth education Coordinator 337 375-1932 or slugger145@yahoo.com

September 9-12, 2011 the LTAHA will be holding a youth education work shop at the LWDF training area near Baton Rouge, La. The camp will start at 6 pm on Friday the 9th with sign in and break at noon on Sunday the 12th. Class curriculum will cover ethics, laws and equipment with on the line demonstrations. The cost will be \$25 per participant and will cover meals beginning with dinner on Friday through breakfast on Sunday. Participants will need to bring bedding for full size beds, two changes of clothing and toiletries. You must pre-register and parents will be required to fill out and sign applications and medical forms for participants under the age of 18. For more information contact Wesley Blanchard at 337-375-1932.

A Note from the President

The convention is behind us now and wow what a convention it was. I meet so many good people and learned so much. I personally felt that this was one of the best planned events we have had in a long time. I would like to thank each and every person who made the event go so smooth, from the kitchen workers and planning, auction, auction items and the demos. It all worked out great.

I would also like to express my thanks to the Board of Directors for their guidance and leadership in these trying times we face. I know we have seen a change in the titles and offices held, but we are all focused on one goal, "what is best for the trappers and alligator hunters of the state of Louisiana." I feel that the job I have been elected to do is one of trust and integrity, with a great burden to support our members through communication and perseverance. My goal is grow our membership and bring back as many of the older generation as possible while educating the new generation in the heritage we hold so dear. I look forward to meeting and listening to as many members as possible over the next few years and listening to any ideas or concerns that you may have.

While at the convention I had the great pleasure of meeting Mr. Benny Welch owner of Uncle Bens Products. The insight that Mr. Welch has and the feeling he expresses toward the people of our great state was a true encouragement for me. A statements that Mr. Welch made I feel need to be shared with the members so they can be up lifted. Mr. Welch told me that as long as we are not loosing ground (talking about laws and regs) we are still winning, but if we stop fighting for one day, we will loose a foot hold and the slippery slope is down hill from there. We talked about the trappers and common people of our state and how good these people are and how we help one another in times of need. With this thought in mind I submit to you that most of the general members go on about their daily lives and trapping seasons never thinking about what goes on behind the scenes to make sure we can trap. I for one just always thought it was my right and no one could take it away from me. The late Mr. Don Aycock taught me different and is the sole reason I join the ranks of the LTAHA. I feel that if every trapper in the state could or would join the assoc and give just a little, we could educate the general public in a way that would ensure our heritage lives as we know it today.

There are many members who have contacted me with helpful information over the past few months in and attempt to head off any legislation that we may be facing, thank you to all those who have helped with this. Some of the information is at the for front of the game plan while other information is being held on the side line waiting for the right time to use, but all the help that has been given has been looked at. All it takes is a little bit from everyone to make something grow and that is what I see happening in our assoc. One of the biggest growths I see is in the youth education. Mrs. Broxson and I spoke in depth about this at the convention and the statement was made "we can't afford not too" was made when dealing with the youth. Our youth programs have grown and we plan to reach more people this year than we did last year. Although we know we will not make trappers out of them all, we will teach them there is a need for it in the modern world and some day they may return to the trade. Please help support our youth programs.

I look forward to serving this association and want to express my belief that I work for the Trapper and Alligator Hunters of the state of Louisiana as I feel they come first. I know that there are many NWCO out there who are members of the LTAHA, myself included, but my loyalty lies with the Trappers and Gator Hunters first and foremost and serve at their pleasure and will do what is in the best interest of the assoc. as the board sees fit. Thanks for your support and if you need anything please feel free to contact me.

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Our Budget at a glance.

On May 3, 2010 \$5,220.30 was deposited opening a new account at Regions Bank. This was the general fund account and does not attach to the Life Member account. So with a beginning balance of \$5,220.30 we started the new budget. The ending balance show in this report is the ending balance of April 20, 2011, not quite a full year.

Year to date deposit are 12,861.29 – start up 5,220.30 = 7,640.99 total deposit including convention. Convention deposits were \$690 memberships, \$1925.50 auctions, \$140 hats, patches, knife, \$520 kitchen, \$1138 raffle for a total of \$3,815.04 deposited to the general fund from the convention. This means we deposited 3825.95 through out the year from memberships, small funder raisers, donations and a \$500 donation from R&P Outdoors (Jimmy Gallaspy). Our major pay outs this year have been as fellows. \$822.04 was paid to Best Buy for the computer and printer/scanner used to keep the web site up and to publish the news letters. \$750.00 was paid to youth education fund to support the different events and presentations of the LTAHA. \$1,500 was paid for 5,000 of the red logo cups we passed out at the many locations on National Hunt and Fish Day and at many other events around the state. These cups were given away to make people aware that our assoc is still alive and well in the State of Louisiana. \$426.15 was paid for our NTA dues. Most all other debits were for news letter and day to day operations such as ink, paper and postage. We also pay to the magazines \$11 for Trappers Post and \$12 for TP&C for every membership with subscription. Our total budget or cash on hand as of April 20, 2011 is \$4,632.55. Our Total cash on hand in the Life Member fund is \$2,133.94 for a combine total of \$6,766.49 cash on hand. We stretch a penny to make a nickel so we can make it work for you.

Money makes the world go around and our Assoc tries many things to keep the funds coming in to keep cost down. Membership donations go a long way every year and I can not count the times I have had members send extra money in with their dues and add a note to add to the pot. Many times it is only five dollars extra, but that small amount will cover the cost of postage on 11 news letters. For this I am thankful that we have members like that who are will to go above and beyond. This year we will be calling on members to participate in some the events such as youth education work shops and annual festivals around the state such as National Hunt and Fish Day, 4-H camps, National Refuges Open Houses and Local events that come up. I know the statement was made that we will be asking, but the truth is we don't know who to ask. If you are interested in working at any of these events please contact Wesley Blanchard, Tony Howard, Rob McKay or any board member. I know that this takes time and money to do these events, but if you give back only one weekend a year to the sport we all love, you will find it rewarding.

Our membership is planning to make large showing it the NTA National event this year in Columbia, Missouri. Our booth number will be 174 and we plan to man the booth in four hour shifts Thursday, Friday and Saturday. With the okay of the BOD we plan to offer tee-shirts, hats, decals and gator apparel in an attempt to generate as much revenue for the Assoc as possible. If you plan to attend the NTA convention in August and would like to help with the booth, please contact Tony Howard.

Also, Tony Howard is looking into a Tri-State event this year for Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana. He wants to have a Sat event some time in Oct with food and demos. This event would be just a gathering with the tri state area for fellowship and fun. If there is enough interest in the event, there will games for the adults and kids. More information will come on this event as it gets closer.

If you have any ideas for future events, please share them. Also, if you have not already found and joined the website and message board, please look us up on the web. Bring your boots as there is lots of trash talked at times. The website has done well for us this year with lots of members finding and joining the assoc. Our goal with the website is to offer a place for trappers of the state to meet other trappers and offer the general public the opportunity to learn more about the trade and industry. We have hundreds of email questions each year.

The World in Which We Live

We live in an ever changing world where information is transmitted in real time through live television, radio and the internet. For more than six thousand years our communication at a distance was done through hand written messages or in-person delivery taking weeks, months and even years. Just over one hundred and forty years ago the first Trans Atlantic Telegraph line was laid to connect the continents with rapid communication. Since that first transmission our world has become smaller while dissolving our long held beliefs and destroying our millenniums old faith. In this new world that we find ourselves, we too, can take advantage of the mass communication systems that are offered us in and attempt to maintain our heritage. There are many ways that we, the average citizens, can effectively present our trade in a humane manner not seeking conversion of those who don't understand but rather teaching the justification which affords us the right to apply our skills.

During a recent Bible study I came across a rabbit trail which lead me to the understanding, what we consider a man given right is in fact blessing given by God for us to take charge of the earth as care takers. There are many scriptures dating back as far as the Garden of Eden where God instructed man to use the beast of the earth for our needs. Now this is not a religious sermon, although I do profess my belief in Jehovah God and his son Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. I have written on this subject in brief in other issues but here I will try and expound more. No matter if you believe in the Bible as God inspired and His holy word, it is the oldest written history the world has. There is much controversy in this modern era about whom we are and where we come from. There are many theories such as, we evolved from apes or there was a great collision in space which exploded life into existents. Most if not all of these theories come from man kind's inability to have faith in something they can not physically hold, thus giving birth to ideal worship. With ideal worship came the worship of the creature instead of the Creator. Once the creature was put ahead of the Creator in this modern time our problems as trappers began. In recent months it has become even clearer just how far our society has strayed away from our Creator with the announcement that the United Nations will pass a law granting "Mother Earth" the same rights afforded a human being. With the passing of this new law Mother Earth or her designee will be able file laws suite for damages inflicted on her from man kind. This will open a whole new can of worms which will indeed affect our industry in a negative way. With this new found knowledge, I have removed the term "Mother Earth" from my writing and now use the term God as he is the Creator who I feel should be put first.

In Gen 1: 28 God told man kind to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and the bird of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Make note that God did not refer to it as mother earth, but rather earth. God at this point in our history told man to take charge of the earth and use it. Then in Gen 3:21 after the fall of man into sin, God clothed Adam and Eve in animal skins, replacing the fig leafs they had covered themselves with. This is a very important point we need to bring out in our discussions. God taught mankind that animal skin is good for clothing and to be used. He did not say until you come up with something better than fig leafs and we can see that mans best was still not superior to God's knowledge. In Gen 7:2 God tells Noah to take seven pairs of clean beast and a pair of the unclean beast and seven pair of the birds of the heavens aboard the ark. God kept the generations of mankind and the animals going. In Gen 25:27 we learn of Jacob and Esau. Esau was a hunter and his father loved to eat of his game. Esau's father was the child God had promised Abraham earlier in Gen. We find in Gen 10:7 the term snare is used for the first time and again in Gen 23:32, Gen 34:16 and again and again we find the term snare used through out the Bible. This would lead me to believe that the earliest form of trapping was in fact a snare and that it was in use in the earliest written history. Now some six thousand years later in less than one century there are those who wish to change God's plan for mankind.

Now all of this rambling has been leading up to a few points I feel we can make in our day to day conversations with the general public. As a part time NWCO, I have the opportunity to educate people who have a problem with nescience wild life. This year I have developed a new sales pitch incorporating trapping as a valuable tool

to cut down the need and cost of NWCO's. Just last week I had a gentleman explain how his family had moved into the animal's home forcing the animals to move or adapt because of this loss of habitat. Knowing the subdivision and its age, I asked the gentleman how long he had lived there. "Twenty-five years" he replied. I asked how many problems he had over the years with wild animals in his yard. "This is the first time" came the answer. I asked if he knew anything about trapping and he acknowledged that he did. I explained that with all the anti's and animal rights groups hounding the fur trade and the industry which it supports, the market had hit a slump and therefore trappers were slowing down or getting out of the business all together. I then explained that for years trappers had worked out side the city limits keep animal numbers in check while opening territory for other animals to migrate to. Now with less fur trapping in modern times, the animals have no place other than the city to migrate, therefore causing human/animal conflict like never before. The customer was open to the idea and realized that there is a need and a reason for the trapping industry. I did not try and convert him, but rather educated him a little on animal populations and he was very receptive.

Many times a customer who wants the animal relocated to the "forest" where they are supposed to live. In this case I explain how un-fair that is to the animal. The animal has built a happy home here in your back yard, attic or under their house and now I have to take them into the wild, dropping them off in another animal's territory. I explain how territorial wild animals are and that the animal will have to fight, many times to the death for their space in someone else territorial range. Even then if they win the fight and stakes a claim, he will have to eat wild food such as berries, nuts, bugs and other animals. No more trash can filled with sweet rolls, hamburgers and left over soda. I also explain disease control and what could take place if our relocation animal is a carrier of disease and we drop him off in a health population. Is all this and attempt to gain the approval for dispatch of the animal? No, rather and attempt to educate them on population control and the need for the dispatch of animals through trapping.

I always make sure to explain that trapping for the fur industry is of no cost to them as a tax payer. There has not been a government bail out of the industry and it is tightly regulated. Further more fur is a renewable resource and bio degradable. I lead this into the fact that fake fur, vinyl and nylon require us to drill for more oil as it is derived from petroleum. I had one lady explain that she did not wear real or fake fur. That is okay, but I then explained that her clothing must have come from the Arabian sands as crude oil. I pick and choose my battles and never try to insight or badger someone. But I do fight fire with fire and every chance I get, I use the anti trapping communities own words against them. While surfing a web site I read a statement that said, "between three and five million animals every year are killed for their pelt." WOW, we have a really healthy population and the key words to prove it are "every year". This statement shows two things. Number one, we are dealing with a "renewable recourse" and number two it is healthy. The site used the word "killed". You know as good and well as I do, we never kill anything, we harvest. Harvesting the animals for use just sounds so much better. I use to use the word dispatched, but more times than not, someone will say "you kill it". So I have found myself trying to change over to "harvested".

The people of our state are not as many generations remove from the country way of life as or states. Many times at a LTAHA booth set up, I hear how "my dad used to trap" or "my husband used to trap". Mostly older men and women, but still remember the days when fur put food on the table or Christmas under the tree. I personally am proud to be a trapper and I feel it is a worth trade. I too had to learn not to flaunt my techniques or show the barbaric side of the trade. You and I know that it is not always peaches and cream, but with that side left on the line, out of sight is out of mind. Pick your words wisely and yes, do something I thought I would never say, "Sugar Coat It". We get enough bad press from animal rights groups, we don't want to be our own worst enemy and our own undoing. Just remember, you stand on history, precedence and most of all on God's authority. In closing, I hope I have not offended anyone, but if I have, don't wear you feeling on your sleeves. This is my view and one of much conviction. If you wish to publish your view please feel free to write one and send it in.

Levi McCune.

The LTAHA at Work.

On Saturday May 14th, Wesley Blanchard, Rob McKay and Tony Howard attended the quarterly board meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) at the Booker Fish Hatchery in Woodworth, La. The LWF is the political watch dog that monitors any and all legislation that affects the sportsmen of Louisiana. Rob McKay researched the LWF and found that the LTAHA has been and affiliate for a number of years. Armed with this knowledge, the three men made there way into the meeting room and were accepted with open arms. With only a few days notice of the meeting, the LTAHA was not on the agenda, but the LWF board gave Tony Howard and opportunity to speak during the “new business” section of the meeting. When Tony stood to address the 30 plus members the room turned and gave their undivided attention. After Tony addressed the membership, the responses were overwhelming. The members could understand the LTAHA’s concerns and were more than willing to support our efforts in any manner that they could. In a post meeting review, the three man panel that represented the association felt that the day was well spent with a lot of good information learned about the legislative matters, while friends and allies were made. While at the meeting Tony Howard was approached about making a presentation for the East Ascension Sportsman’s League in Sept. Tony has since set up a date to make a LTAHA presentation at their Sept meeting. Also since the meeting, the emails have been constant, pointing the association in the right direction to find any new or amended legislation which will affect our industry. After everyone had left, Wesley talked the head biologist Dr. Paul Whitehead into giving the three members a private tour of the hatchery. The LWF showed that all sportsmen can come together and work for the greater good. If you get a chance please check out the LWF web site and see what they are doing in your area. They are a great allies and our association is well served by them.

That same weekend the NTA held its South Eastern in Tupelo Ms. Our very own John Linzay was asked to present a coyote demo at the convention. Reports have it that John’s demo was top notch with a lot of questions asked and good information shown. It makes our association and state proud to know that we have such trappers in our membership that are willing to share and represent in such an arena. It is also note worthy that the 2010 LTAHA board saw fit to nominate John for a position on the Louisiana Fur Council. John’s nomination was accepted and he attended his first Council meeting in early June. Please join in on congratulating on his appointment as we look forward to hearing from John in months to come about the actions of the Fur Council.

In May the Alligator Advisory Council asked for nominations for a seat which will become vacant on June 30 as the term will expire. The vacancy is the appointment Mr. Johnny Price held for the area south of US Hwy 90 and east of the Atchafalaya River. The position has been temporally filled by Dwight Savoie. After many phone calls and discussion the LTAHA submitted only one nomination to fill the position. We felt that Dwight Sovoie needed to continue on Council as he holds the views of the LTAHA at heart and a great working knowledge of the Council. Dwight has been a gator hunter since 1980 and knows the industry from every angle. Even though the appoint has not been excepted at the time of print, we feel confident that the Dwight will be appoint to an new term, so please join in congratulating Dwight in his next term.

I hope that in the next issues we will be able to get some reports from the Fur Advisory Council and the Alligator Advisory Council to keep us informed about the markets. Both of these councils feel further our industry in the world arena through advertizing and industry marketing.

If you have any information which you would like submit to the news letter, please feel free to submit it by email or snail mail (the USPS)

Louisiana Trappers & Alligator Hunters Association Officers

Feel free to contact any of our officers or board members with your questions or comments:

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I would like to thank everyone for allowing me to serve as your president for the past two years. It has been both an honor and a pleasure. I look forward to working with our new officers and in continuing to improve our great organization. If I can be any assistance to anyone please feel free to contact me.

Curtis L Cruse

Market Report

I know many of our members could not wait for the May sale at NAFA. There was lots of talk and much speculation about the market and it did go wild. Louisiana otter and cats made the show for us. Louisiana otter averaged \$90 each with highs reported of \$115 for top goods and \$40 and up for damaged and small goods. The Louisiana cats did as well with tops of \$120 for the large clear bellies and \$40 and up for small and damaged goods. Louisiana coons averaged \$10.50 with top coons selling for \$27-34 while small, off color and damaged goods sold for \$6 and under for the trim market. Louisiana beaver averaged \$11 across the board. Sorry did not have high and low at the time of print. Louisiana grey fox averaged at \$13.88 with tops at \$24 and flat and smaller sizes at \$7-9. All reports are from Louisiana trappers and Louisiana fur. Overall the entire sale did well for Louisiana trappers. This should peak interest next season and bring more competition to the market.

Put up fur paid off this year for sure. One note to add is the pinch that Louisiana trappers felt due to the unlimited shooting of bobcat in the state by deer hunters. With the rise of the market I feel that the LTAHA may need to revisit this issue with LDWF to stop the slaughter of one of the top sellers this year.