

LTAHA NEWSLETTER

2023-2024 ONE DAY TRAPPING WORKSHOPS

Dec. 9, 2023-Leaf Center- Florien, LA

Dec. 16, 2023-LDWF Field Office- Monroe, LA

Jan. 6, 2024-Winn Ranger District- Winnfield, LA

Jan. 27, 2024-Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge- Lacombe, LA

Feb. 10, 2024-Waddil Wildlife Refuge- Baton Rouge, LA

Feb. 24, 2024-Vermilionville- Lafayette, LA

SIGN UP TODAY AT LOUISIANAOUTDOORS.COM/EVENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title	Page
From the President	PGS 1-2
Updates On Convention	PGS 3
NTA Convention	PGS 4-5
Lifetime Members	PG 5
LDWF Trapper Education	PG 6
Fall Rendezvous	PG 7

FROM THE PRESIDENT

TONY HOWARD

BOARD MEETING

Half the year is already gone, and we are looking forward to our fall schedule. The Board of Directors met on June 10, 2023, in Pineville LA, and covered a huge agenda. In my career as an officer of the association, I do not remember such a busy agenda with so many items discussed in one meeting. The LTAHA is moving forward in many areas with the help of our membership.

CONVENTION

Our Spring convention was a huge success at Dewey Wills WMA. It was very nice not having guns blasting all day. It was a massive turn out with great food provided by Wesley Blanchard and Wes Blanchard. Spring 2023 is one of the most memorable conventions for me in a few years. A great time was had by all.

READINESS SUMMIT

The LTAHA and the FAC are hosting an NTA Readiness Summit in Monroe, LA, September, 22-23, 2023. After attending the one held in Idaho earlier this year, I felt it important to continue these events while the momentum was still high. Officers and NTA directors from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, West Vergina, Tennessee, Arkansas and Oklahoma have been invited. Our twelve guest speakers will present methods and tactics for representing our organizations at the state and federal levels. Also share ways to expand our membership and retain members.



FROM THE PRESIDENT CONT.

TONY HOWARD

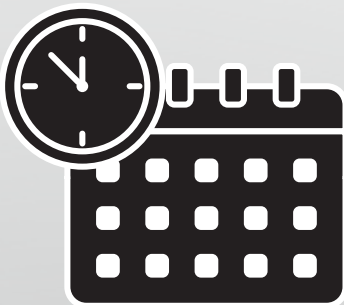


COMMISSION MEETING

We are starting a group within our membership to attend the LDWF Commission meeting each month. The first month Frank Williams was the sole attendee and brought back information about the meeting. Nothing discussed pertained to us, but we were represented. I hope this group will grow allowing for three to six members present at each Commission meeting. I would like to have friendships formed, members looking forward to attending, and having lunch somewhere nice afterward. This is a very important step for our group and I look forward to seeing it take shape. Thank you Frank for taking the initiative to help start this group.

NTA CONVENTION

As I write this report, I am preparing to pack for the 2023 National Trappers Association Convention being held in Escanob Michigan this year. Our Association will have three members present and a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote between the LTAHA President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasure will determine the way Louisiana will cast our ballot. There are many issues the National Association is facing this year and I am proud that Louisiana is voicing our opinion and being heard. I will keep you posted.



FALL RENDEZVOUS

Mark your calendar for November 18, 2023. We will be holding a fall Rendezvous at Dewey Wills WMA that Saturday. We are inviting as many vendors as we wish to come, along with multiple states. Clint Johnson is in the process of lining up demos now. What would you like to see?

EDUCATION

Randall Williamson put forth a new idea for the instructor workshops as one-day events being held around the state for instructors. Also, we are moving toward choreographed or taught instruction so we all deliver the same message each time and cover the BMPs. Our goal is to help our instructors stay on track and keep focused while developing friendships and bonds.

To follow up with Tony and shed some light on the education program, I would like to say that we are moving in the right direction. Our goal is to have at least three different locations for our instructor workshops (South LA, North LA, and Central LA). We feel that this may make it easier for our instructors so that they can have access to an instructor workshop near them. As many know, gas prices continue to rise and our instructors come out of pocket for this expense. Before, drive times could be several hours and this is what we are helping to eliminate.

We also feel that having material that we could use to stay consistent and easy to learn for new comers will be beneficial not only to our audience but for us as well.

Randall Williamson- Education Coordinator

CONVENTION



PICTURED ARE INSTRUCTORS WHO STAYED FOR THE INSTRUCTOR WORKSHOP AFTER THE CONVENTION

UPDATES ON THE CONVENTION

RANDALL WILLIAMSON-EDUCATION COORDINATOR

The LTAHA Convention was held at Dewey Wills WMA on April 22, 2023. We had a great turn out, at one demo alone there was roughly 70 people crowded around eager to watch and learn. This crowd along with the several other combined groups resulting in over 50 memberships/renewals!

The day started with the set up of our vendors including Okie Cable and Trapping Supply and Morace Family farms. As people shopped around, they couldn't help but notice the lovely donated items for the auction and the 35 Whelen to be raffled off from Guns and Barrels.

Also included was several demos from many experienced Trappers. In between events you could find the crowd enjoying some sweet BBQ or purchasing memberships/renewals near check in. There we also had merchandise such as the new shirts and embroidered items.

Next on the agenda was Beaver Skinning contest where we had 4 contestants. The winner received an etched Skinning board. The fun didn't stop there, the president gave out awards including that of Chuck Sturgis who made every single workshop and event in 2022!

The general election was to follow where some new board members were elected. Congrats to Homer Gibson, Sarah Williamson, and returning Justin Ebarb.

The convention ended with the auction, raffle, and board meeting. The following day was designated to an instructor workshop.

Overall, the convention was a huge success and we can't wait to see what is in store for the next!

Page 3



BEAVER SKINNING CONTEST WINNER



GLEN MARKLE

ALSO PICTURED
IS VICE
PRESIDENT
CLINT JOHNSON

PRESIDENT AWARD- MOST WORKSHOPS OF 2022

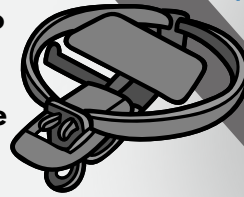
Chuck Sturgis



ALSO PICTURED IS
PRESIDENT TONY HOWARD

This year's NTA meetings were long as always. Most people think of the NTA convention as vendors and demos with the smell of lure. In fact, the whole purpose of the gathering is to handle business for the national association. I will try to cover as much of the business end as possible in short order.

Any concerns or ideas you wish to share with the NTA, please share with me.



The election for NTA president went to John Daniels of TN. John will serve his final 2-year term as NTA President in a new era of the industry. Post COVID, with wildlife management data on our side, great relations with the FTA, and the re-branding of the FBU. John has led the NTA through tough times, dark hours, and still looks to the future with optimism. With John's leadership, I hope these next two years see the trapping industry become a common topic of discussion in much larger circles



The NTA board of directors did vote by $\frac{2}{3}$ + majority to make and send a ballot amendment to the NTA membership for ratification. The amendment will require that any future NTA Presidential candidate have served as an Executive Council member. The reason for the amendment is an attempt to protect the NTA from hostile takeover by any one group including anti-organizations. Listening to the discussion was interesting and I understand the thought process behind the amendment. The other side of the debate is there is already a limited talent pool to draw leadership from and to limit more is not in the association's best interest. Louisiana voted to allow the membership to vote on the amendment. I believe the Louisiana delegate believes that there may be a better way to achieve the goal of protecting the NTA offices while not limiting ourselves to fewer candidates. Even though we voted to send it to the membership, I feel there are better options and we will know them when we hear them.

I have had a Louisiana NTA member make a suggestion about voter integrity and ballot numbering for the national-level election and ballot votes. I made a full submission of his proposal to the election committee chairman by email. I am not on the committee however it is my job to forward any idea that Louisiana NTA members may have to the proper committee chairman. If you have any concerns or ideas you wish to share with the NTA please let me know.



We also learned that our ability to sell fur to the European Union has been re-upped for another ten years through the treaty voted on by the EU. Thankfully Finland voted to allow North American fur to be traded in the EU as a commodity for another ten years without more regulation. This treaty was made possible by the hard work and dedication of many people in the industry, however, the heaviest lifting was done by the use of the Best Management Practices (BMP) which the LTAHA education is based on. So we go back for the next battle in 2033, at which time the world should be using mostly electric cars, windmills at everyone's house, and solar panels on every roof in the world. Believe it or not, if we wait to start lobbying for the market till 2032, we will lose the battle.

The NTA national headquarters is really taking shape and looks good. The money budgeted for the construction and remodel is working out well. While at the NTA auction, the building fund raised twenty-five hundred dollars on an otter stretcher plaque to be placed in the NTA HQ with donor name tags on the boards. The building has undergone many renovations and has a new roof and front sentence.

The optimism shared by the newer generation of trappers entering the industry for management and personal goals has the trapping industry standing on the edge of success as I have never seen before in the industry. I like to think of our organization as half full optimist instead of the old defeated half empty group. We are looking forward to tomorrow's advancements like an opening morning trap check. The only thing that stands in our way right now is our own inability to accept success. Lend a hand and help grow the trapping industry. Be stewards of good relations between other groups and organizations who will rely on our knowledge and leadership to better their sports and industries.

LTAHA President Tony Howard

BIG SHOUT OUT AND THANKS TO OUR LIFETIME MEMBERS!

THANK YOU!

COLBY AUTTONBERRY
JOHNNY BROOKS
SCOTT CANTRELLE
JOSEPH CHURCH
JUSTIN CULPEPPER
JAY DELEON
DICK DICKERSON
WAYNE DOMMERT
BILL DOWERS
JUSTIN EBARB
JAMES GALLASPY
DYLAN GALPIN
HOMER GIBSON
STEVE HARDY
MICHAEL HOWARD
RUSTY KRAMER



ANDY KULKA
DEWAYNE LEE
ROB MCKAY
GERALD MILLER
COREY OGE
LEON PETTY
FABIO PIERO
PAUL RHODES
CHRIS SANFORD
RYAN SCHAEFER
GEORGE SEVIN
MILTON SMITH
JON STEVENS
JOSEPH VICARI
BARRY WARNER
FRANK WILLIAMS
RANDALL WILLIAMSON
MATT LUMLEY

Thank You

LDWF TRAPPER EDUCATION



The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has partnered with the Louisiana Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to offer FREE trapper education and fur handling workshops.

FREE HANDS-ON TRAPPING WORKSHOPS IN 2023-2024

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will be hosting SIX trapping workshops this season in partnership with the Louisiana Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association. These workshops run from about 8:30 in the morning to 2:30 in the afternoon on a Saturday. Workshops are FREE to attend; all materials and lunch on-site are provided.

UPCOMING SINGLE-DAY WORKSHOPS

DATES & LOCATIONS

Dec. 9, 2023: LEAF Center (Florien)

Register: LouisianaOutdoors.com/events/192379

Dec. 16, 2023: Monroe LDWF Field Office

Register: LouisianaOutdoors.com/events/192380

Jan. 6, 2024: Winn Ranger District (Winnfield)

Register: LouisianaOutdoors.com/events/192381

Jan. 27, 2024: Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (Lacombe)

Register: LouisianaOutdoors.com/events/192382

Feb. 10, 2024: Waddil Wildlife Refuge (Baton Rouge)

Register: LouisianaOutdoors.com/events/192383

Feb. 24, 2024: Vermilionville, Lafayette

Register: LouisianaOutdoors.com/events/192384

SPACE IS LIMITED!

Although there is no cost to attend the workshops, registration is required.

ONLINE TRAPPER COURSE

Although all Louisiana fur trapper education is voluntary, those who wish to participate in LDWF's hands-on workshops are encouraged to complete this introductory online course at ConservationLearning.org.



You can register with the links above or by contacting
Tanya Sturman: 318-487-5415 or tsturman@wlf.la.gov



LATAHA FALL RENDEZVOUS

DEWEY WILLS WMA

NOVEMBER 18TH- 8:00AM- TILL

8:30AM | MEET & GREET

9:00AM | CHUCK STURGIS | OTTER DEMO

10:00AM | CLINT JOHNSON | COYOTE DEMO

11:00AM | TONY HOWARD | ALLIGATOR HUNTING DEMO

12:00PM | DANNY PERRY | FUR MARKET REPORT

TRAP SUPPLIES | GUN RAFFLE | DOOR PRIZES

FOOD | DRINKS | VENDORS

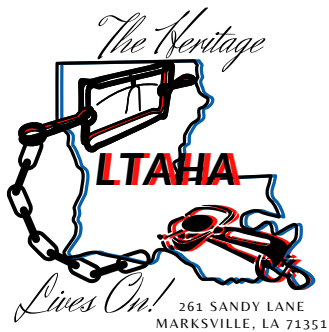


DEWEY WILLS WMA- 225

DEWEY WILLS HQ RD

JONESVILLE, LA 71343





Membership Drive

Our membership has grown every month throughout the season and leading up to the convention, but we don't want it to stop growing. The LTAHA Board of Directors is asking each member to recruit just one person by December 2022. We all know someone who use to trap or use to be a member of the Association, we want them back on the membership rolls. Invite them to a workshop or the Fall Rendezvous, point them to the web site or show them this newsletter. There is strength in numbers and fellowship shared with likeminded people gives rise to many good ideas. The LTAHA would also like to remind all members to keep your NTA membership current and up to date so the national information is always available and flowing to you.

louisianatrappers.com/membership

Membership Application Louisiana Trappers & Alligator Hunters

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

The LTAHA currently offers the following membership options:

_____ New Membership _____ Renewal _____ Donation Beyond Cost
 \$20 - Primary Membership (one year) _____ \$34 - Primary Membership w/Trappers Post magazine (one year) _____
 \$300 - Lifetime Membership w/TP magazine _____ Donation Beyond Cost _____