

## LTAHA ~2023 NEWSLETTER

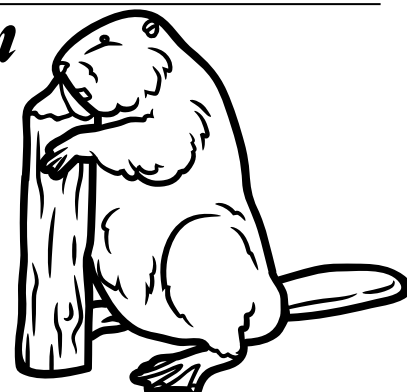


### Join Us At The Convention

**When-** April 22, 2023

**Where-** Dewey Wills WMA  
225 Dewey Wills HQ Road  
Jonesville, LA 71343

**Time:** 8:00am- 4:00 pm



### Presidents Report

#### Readiness Summit

As this newsletter is being prepared, my wife and I are getting ready for a trip to Bosie, Idaho for the NTA Readiness Summit. This event is hosted by the Idaho Trappers Assoc. The two-day event is scheduled for Good Friday and Saturday of Easter weekend. The agenda is packed with speakers and information to help the state prepare for legislation, law suites, and anti-issues. I hope to be able to tell you more in our next publication.

#### Red Wolf Update

The red wolf issue is looming at this time with more propaganda articles being published to the general public. This will help to boost support if an Endangered Species Act (ESA) recovery plan every gets launched or if the DNA thresh hold is met for a species, that has not existed in Louisiana for over 40 years. The Cattlemen Assoc. is still taking lead on this issue.

#### CT Permit Update

My efforts to have the Coyote Permit (CT) brought into the modern era, with sound practices covered by the Best Management Practices (BMP), is set to the go to the LDWF commission at the April meeting. The changes to the CT permit would allow trappers to use all BMP methods and equipment, while trapping coyotes under the prevision of the CT permit. The permit is a special license which can be purchased for the taking of coyotes outside of the regular trapping season. Trappers must keep records to be submitted annually. If passed, the changes will allow live market trappers to use the same equipment year round. I will keep you posted as this has been a five-year process for me.

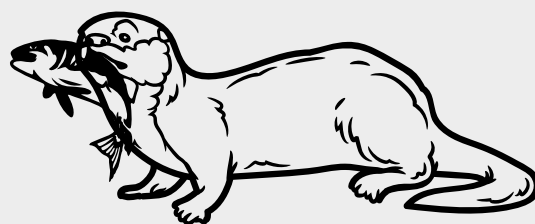


PRESIDENT-TONY HOWARD  
INTRUCTING AT TERREBONNE PARISH  
RIFFLE RANGE- HOUMA, LA

**OUR NEXT  
CONVENTION WILL BE  
APRIL 22ND! PLEASE  
JOIN US!**

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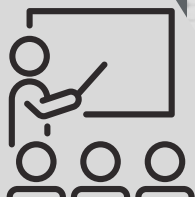
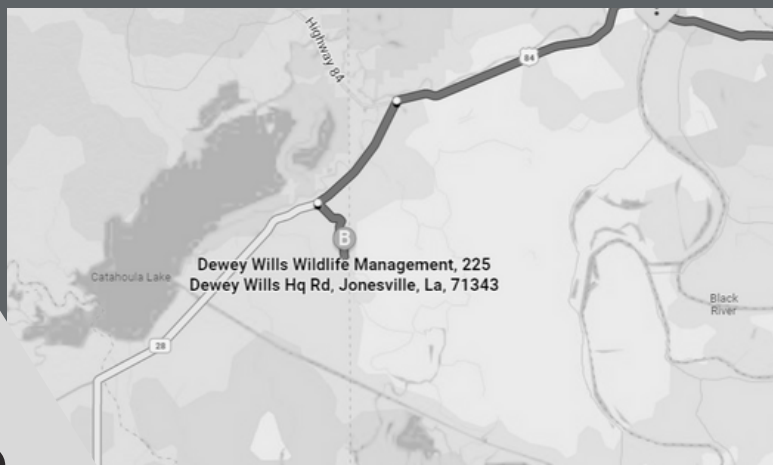


### Market Report

As everyone has heard by now, the fur market is going crazy. As always, we are on the roller coaster ride of the fur industry. Beaver felt are in high demand along with nutria felt. However, the market still is not willing to raise the price for nutria. Therefore, trappers are not bringing them out of the marsh. Pale otter (Louisiana otter) and bobcat are picking up steam and climbing at this time. Danny Perry of Perry Furs' is buying on routes again this year and will be attending the convention to pick up end of the season furs. R&P Outdoors is also purchasing large quantities of beaver and otter. Castor markets are softer than previous years but still bring a nice price ranging from \$35-\$55 per pound, depending on grade and sale point. Grey fox are finding a home with softer than expected markets, while racoon are still not wanted. The over all market is not stable and could slump at any time. Many speculators are not sure what is truly driving the market at this time, but there is real money being offered. I suggest that trappers take full advantage of it while it last. I personally dumped my fur last week, not wanting to carry any items over to next year.

### Convention

I look forward to seeing everyone at the convention on April 22, 2023 at Dewey Wills WMA. Our very own Wesley Blanchard will be providing lunch plates at the site. We will hold an auction and a stud poker raffle that day. Anyone wishing to serve as a board member needs to submit a nomination notice (on pg.6) to Justin Ebarb or Tony Howard. Serving as a BOD is not as time consuming as it might have been. We take care of most business by email or text. We still meet in person at least annually, however, weekly text are common place. The BOD seats the officers who set the course and agenda for the Assoc. The BOD then determines whether we take that course or not. Not all BOD members agree on every item of business and that is great. We work together to develop plans that are in the best interest of the trappers of the state of Louisiana period. However, BOD members are expected to vote and voice their ideas and opinions, working toward the betterment of this group. If you are interested in stepping up to the plate and helping this group grow, please stick your name in the hat.



OUR NEXT CONVENTION WILL BE APRIL 22ND! PLEASE JOIN US!

### Workshops Worked

**December 10, 2022**—Minden, Louisiana  
Minden LDWF Field Office

**January 14, 2023**—Houma, Louisiana  
Terrebonne Parish Riffle Rang

**January 21, 2023**—Woodworth, LA  
Woodworth Education Center

**February 11, 2023**—Florienne, LA  
LEAF Center at Hodges Workshop

**February 25, 2023**—Lafayette, LA  
Acadiana Park Nature Station

### Directions to Dewey Wills

Dewey Wills WMA  
225 Dewey Wills HQ Rd.  
Jonesville, LA 71343

Take LA-28  
Turn onto Dewey Wills W M A  
Turn onto Dewey Will HQ/Old  
Hunt



# INSTRUCTOR WORKSHOPS

This past year we have held three successful instructor workshops. Two of these workshops were held at the Leaf Center at Hodges Gardens and one of them held at Woodworth Education Center. We are very grateful we were able to host our workshops at these locations.


These workshops are very important to the association because it keeps the instructors informed on changes that are being made to the BMPs and regulations. We discuss how one day classes are held, how demos and presentations are held, etc. All of these things are vital to getting our students the best education/instruction from the association.

This time is always very special in the fact that it brings about so many topics of discussion. In the last newsletter, we shared that the use of the demo boxes was started. What we haven't shared was just how special these boxes are to conveying a proper trap demonstration. Each instructor was taught how to use the boxes, explain the traps inside, and how to use it as a talking piece with students.

We also had a gun safety program established. Each of the instructors were taught the importance of gun safety. On the trap lines, firearms are used to dispatch targeted animals. Just recently the LTAHA Board Of Directors voted on the use of the single shot 22 (Crickett) as the firearm of choice. With the help of donations from the board and many members, we were able to purchase five. These will be used for our three day advanced trapping workshops.

As always, safety is priority. To ensure these firearms are properly logged and taken care of, my wife has created an inventory book. The senior instructors sign out one firearm and one box of ammo per group.

The book also has item numbers and the firearms are engraved (thanks to our board member and Vice President Clint Johnson) with an item number to match. Once returned, they will be cleaned, inspected, and put away properly until the next three day workshop.



**SPORTS & OUTDOORS**

Scotty Davis  
Owner

1125 Highway 43 North      601-749-4775  
Picayune, MS 39466      Cell: 228-341-0877  
davissportsandoutdoors.com

We would like to extend a warm thanks to Davis Sports and Outdoors for working with us on the pricing of these firearms. With their help we were able to get the firearms at dealer cost. They worked in a special to include five boxes of ammo and a bore snake.

If you are ever in the area, check out Davis Sports and Outdoors located in Picayune, MS!

We intend to hold our next instructor workshop before and after the convention at Dewey Wills WMA, April 21st-23rd. If anyone is interested in becoming an instructor, please contact Randall Williamson at (225) 721-3025.

Randall Williamson Education Coordinator

## Trapping Terms

### PREFERRED TERMS

Foothold  
Cable Restraint (live catch)  
Body Grip  
Cage/box trap  
Submersion rig  
Dispatch  
Asphyxiate  
Scat/droppings/sign  
Entanglement pole  
Extra Closing/Magnum jaw  
Population management  
Non-Target Species  
Non-Target Domesticated  
Raccoon  
Vent

### COMMON TERMS

Leghold  
Snare  
Conibear/killer  
Live trap  
Drowning rig  
Kill  
Drown  
Other terms  
Kill Pole  
Kill bar  
Control  
Deer/bear/bird  
Dogs/cats  
Coon  
Back-end/booty/etc

## Key Messages

- Regulated trapping does not cause wildlife to become threatened or endangered
- Trapping is managed through scientifically-based regulations that are strictly enforced
- Animal welfare is important to us (even for pests)
- Regulated trapping provides many benefits
  - Reducing damage, agricultural loss, and potential threats to safety





## A Message from the Education Coordinator: Communication is key!



**Randall Williamson**

As Education Coordinator, I have been privileged to organize/manage the many workshops that we have had so far this year. Myself, along with many others, have witnessed the hard work of the many instructors/members of the LTAHA association. I am so proud to be a part LTAHA and a lifetime member.

This year, so far, has brought about so many highlights as well as areas of potential growth. Growth is a part of progression and it is to make us be the best we can be. To be the best doesn't just mean our personal standards, but also those who are receiving our information, our students and members. With that being said, we decided as part of the Education process to focus the last few weeks on communication. This is essential to the growth of our association.

Not long ago, my wife's job was going through a bunch of changes. She decided to learn about communication and how she can communicate as a trainer through this major change. She did a lesson online about communication from someone named Scott Mautz with Linked In Learning. In his online lesson he taught about communication and the meaning of the acronym PITCH. He said, "PITCH stands for Precision, In person, Two way, Compassion, and Honesty". After my wife told me about this acronym and the meaning of each, it made me think about how we can use this when we communicate in our association, to our students, and to our members.

As a part of precision, we must be clear and direct. Think about it, all forms of communication need this so that 'those receiving that information view it as the best or exceptional' (Exceptionalize It, pg 72). This is one reason I paired with my wife to help create newsletters that we can send to our instructors prior to our workshops. I wanted this information to be clear so that we continue to grow together. We can see the things that we are doing great at and continue those things. We can also see areas that we can try a few different things to make these workshops the best for our students. I also wanted to ensure every instructor knew the dates, times, locations, etc. of each event, who was attending, and the needs for each workshop.

By in person, I thought it also played a huge role in our association and the way we communicate. These workshops are designed to teach others about trapping and to continue having their support as the heritage lives on. We need to be mindful in the way that we communicate with each other be sure to make it personal. We love to share at workshops our own personal stories and techniques. This gives our audience not only something to learn about but also something they may be able to relate to. Building rapport and trust with your audience is key to keep them engaged in what you have to say.

The "T" which stood for "two-way" is a form of communication that involves those listening to provide input, ask questions and clarify information (Scott Mautz, Linked In). Our workshops have a time for presentation, demos, and hands on learning. During each, it is important that we allow input, questions, and a time for clarification. This is how our students will grow and develop, but our instructors as well. We can take each bit of information and run with it for our next demo or presentation. We can take some of the questions we hear within each group and teach on the processes in future presentations or demos. We can create the best in our audiences eyes.

Compassion is the next thing I would like to discuss. As instructors and those who support this heritage, we can use compassion when addressing questions/concerns. Before teaching, we must temperature gauge our audience, acknowledge their emotions and help address their needs in friendly/Compassionate manner.

The last letter in the acronym is "H". This stands for honesty. Honesty is important because it keeps us transparent with our students and members. Some examples of this in our workshops is teaching what you know and ensuring everyone leaves knowing our key messages.

As you can see this acronym can be used in the way we communicate as well. Throughout this year's workshops we have implemented some of these keys to effective communication. In the last few workshops our newer instructors have had the chance to grow as they were able to guide a demo with the assistance of our senior instructors. It makes me so excited to be a part of this association and what is to come.

Another effective tool we have used was the use of the demo boxes which were discussed in the previous newsletter. It is such a great way for students to have a visual of each of the traps we use and discuss. It also helps to keep each workshop consistent as we ensure or students learn.

I have watched us grow consistently within the past few years and look forward to our continued growth! I lastly want to extend a huge shout out to all of those who help make these events possible. Whether it is those brand new or those who have been here from the beginning, we continue to share the wisdom and knowledge of each of you. Last but not least, thank you to those who cook, clean, set up, take down, etc. your work does not go unnoticed. Thank you everyone for your support and may the heritage live on!

Randall Williamson



# Preservation & Conservation

"In the mid-1980's, the national parks service introduced an Outdoor Ethics program rooted in preservation and conservation of public lands. The park rangers shifted the responsibility of upkeep and general wellbeing of the parks to the people. It was a simple action plan: Leave No Trace. These words have also been seen as "pack it in, pack it out", but it ultimately boils down to leaving a place better than you found it.

As trappers, we haul a lot of items into the field. Fencing pliers, various pan covers, jars of all sizes, gloves, buckets, etc. Most of the time, these items are thrown into the bottom of bags, loosely into truck beds, or most often- onto the floorboards only to fall out again every time you step out. How many times have you gone down the road and seen a plastic bag fly out of a truck bed? Or seen toilet paper stuck in tree branches? Or trash damming up a culvert? Many of us hate to see it. It's an eyesore for us and a hazard to the birds, mice, and other critters that are a crucial food source for our furbearers.

Frequently, I hear the argument of leaving coffee filters, cotton swabs, etc. to decompose at a set since they are made of natural fibers, which is true. But it takes 6-8 months on average for a coffee filter to decompose. And that small plastic bag that swivels come in? It takes up to 1,000 years to degrade to the point where the plastic itself is a "micro-plastic" (smaller than the eye can see), but it never truly decomposes back into the earth. It's plastic forever. If it was your own front yard, would you wait the 6-8 months for a paper cup to decompose in your ditch? Probably not. My father was always mad just looking at the daily newspaper sitting in the driveway for more than an hour. So, let's keep that in mind when we pass shotgun shells, baling wire, jug tops, cardboard, or whatever it may be when walking around. Just a few pieces in your pockets to be thrown away later does a whole lot more in keeping a property clean and safe than you would think. It also puts us on the good side with our neighbors and others especially on public property.

Beyond showing a newer generation the ways of preserving a lifestyle and an industry, we must encourage respect between ourselves and the land we utilize. Children are very much monkey-see, monkey-do. If they see someone throw trash on the ground or walk by it without consequences, it only encourages the behavior. Take pride in knowing you did your part by setting an example for others, no matter how small the item or how little the effort. If we can set the standard of trappers being seen as stewards for treating the outdoors with decency, it will help shine a positive light on trappers as a whole."

Mattea Danielle Smith  
Trapper, Avoyelles Parish

B.S. in Geology; M.S. in Environmental Policies and Management

Nathan & Nevan Pierce



## The Regulatory Update



Before I update on current events, this is a quick explanation to understanding federal law development. Congress makes the United States Code (USC) which is very basic law with few details. Each USC has corresponding Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs) that expands and gives body to each USC with details such as applicability, exceptions, definitions and enforcement details. Each federal agency is responsible for updating the wording and sections of the CFRs they are responsible for by drafting and submitting Federal Registers. CFRs are living documents which means they are updated as life, technology and society changes.

Federal Registers provides the public official notice of a new proposed regulations existence, specifies the legal authority of the agency to issue the document, and gives the document evidentiary status.

Spring of 2023 has created much public interest as proposed updates to federal law concerning trapping in Alaska have been introduced. The National Park Service (NPS) on January 9th, 2023 is gearing up to amend its regulations for sport hunting and trapping in national preserves of Alaska.

This proposed rule would prohibit certain harvest practices, to include bear baiting and prohibit predator control or predator reduction on national preserves. Initial comments went from 5,000+ to over 54,000+ in very short time frame. Over 13,000 of those 54,000+ comments have been made public and can be read on the website (link included at end of article).

The definitions and regulations concerning Alaska are being updated to improve wording and remove legal gray areas for poor actions that would bring discredit to trappers and hunters alike. Definitions such as, but not limited to, Fur Animal, Fur bearer, Trapping, Big Game, Baiting all are being amended with emphasis on clarity. That said, not all regulators have a background on what they are proposing which is why public feedback is crucial. Feedback is a gift that goes both ways. In this case it gives regulators a chance to update wording, content or reconsider a particular section needing additional consideration before adding it to a future register. In return, the public gets the opportunity to participate in the rule making process by voicing concerns and providing insight through the comment section.

Proposed Rules have the potential to affect future regulatory updates in Louisiana as well as other states in our union. Well worded regulations tend to be used as templates for other states if they are well constructed and prove effective. As trappers and concerned citizens, all of us have the ability and privilege to weigh in on these proposals regardless of our state of record due to it pertaining to federal law as a whole. Proactive engagement, education and outreach are some of our best tools to safeguard our liberties and preserve futures.

Most respectfully,  
Nathan I. Pierce USCG Ret.  
Links:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/> (type 1024-AE70 in search bar) Comment period has been extended to 27MAR23.

PAGE #5



Houma, Louisiana





### Nominations

The LTAHA has been growing for several years now and with the return of the fur industry we are sure to have continued growth.

The success of the LTAHA is a direct result of the nine every day members who serve as the Board of Directors. The offices of President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasure are to be held by the board members and the combined group of nine make up the total board. The president will set the agenda and bring fourth association business (new/old and annual), call meetings, present board member ideas, concerns, and plans. The board votes to approve all matters that have affect on the association and all budget/non-budget items. Board members, however, do not speak in an official capacity for the board, the association, or greater membership, without expressing approval by the board. Board seats are three year terms. Every year, three new board members are elected by the general members, at the annual convention held in the Spring. This is our first notice of nomination and we request anyone wishing to serve the fellow members a little, return this nomination form. If you are nominating someone else, you will need their signature. If you are nominating yourself, make sure to sign. We are not looking for warm bodies or "yes" votes. We want members who can show up and serve the greater good of the association. Nominations can also be made the day of the convention.

Nominee name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of nominating if different: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



### 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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_