



THE ALBERTA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 1, 2023 - MARCH 31, 2024

ANNUAL REPORT

- MEMBERSHIP
- TRADITION
- CULTURE
- HERITAGE
- RESEARCH
- SCIENCE
- STUDIES
- CONSERVATION
- WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
- PUBLIC EDUCATION
- YOUTH PROGRAMS

***IN EVERY WALK WITH NATURE,
ONE RECEIVES FAR MORE THAN HE SEEKS.***

John Muir



Our Vision:

We see an Alberta where the sustainable harvest and management of wild furbearers is an established and recognized conservation activity that is integral to our Heritage, CULTURE, and Identity

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Alberta Trappers Association Annual Report to Government, Stake holders & Members

Greetings,

In 1975 the Alberta Trappers Association was incorporated under the Societies Act and assumed the responsibility to represent and further the interests of trappers as well as deliver services and support to the trapping community in Alberta. In 2025 we will celebrate our 50th anniversary yet the vision and mission for the trapping community and our wild fur resource here in Alberta has not waived.

Today the operation of the ATA covers a broad and diversified scope that includes a significant commitment to education for both the professional trapper, and the public, through programs, workshops, school presentations and skill development opportunities. Engagement, mentorship, and a willingness to share our knowledge have been the cornerstones of the education program for five decades. Now with the addition of the Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft and additional supporting partners, our program has achieved national and international recognition.

In the past year we have made significant progress in our efforts to move the trapping community closer to a self-administration model that will ensure long-term sustainability and much needed support for trappers in Alberta. We believe that our current proposal will fully fund the entire government mandate for the ATA and establish an administrative model that will facilitate and support the entire trapping community by providing fair and equitable service to all trappers. The administrative mandate will focus on supporting value added opportunities for trappers through the Logbook Trapper Data Gathering Program, more access to professional development workshops and courses and an upgraded youth/mentorship/apprentice program that will continue to revitalize our trapping culture.

We are in the final stages of a new harvest and management model that removes the barriers of mandatory quotas and registration and gives trappers the flexibility to manage their traplines for a more productive harvest.

We are in ongoing negotiations with Lands Division for a new trapper cabin policy that is less restrictive and adheres to a commonsense approach recognizing the trappers right of occupation, access and harvest in legislation and regulation.

This season we continue our highly successful ATA Wolf Management Program which supports trappers with dedicated wolf harvest of RFMA's in caribou zones. The program focusses on the trapper effort and the data collected is invaluable to researchers. We have been able to secure an additional funding increase to expand the program and increase the payments for participating



trappers. It is also our hope that in the near future, we can include black bears in the predator management model and help trappers fulfil their quota in caribou ranges. In addition, through our partnership with APOS, we will add an additional wolf harvest opportunity for any licensed trapper in Alberta excluding only participants in the existing Caribou recovery program.

As a bonus for all wolf trappers, this season we will begin the ATA- APOS Ungulate Enhancement Program. Trappers must register with the program through the ATA and will receive a payment for each wolf harvested.

Also, APOS and the ATA will, for the first time, initiate the Top Wolf Pelt contest in Alberta. Trappers can submit wolf pelts through the ATA that will be scored for both fur quality and handling. There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes totalling \$10,000 plus the winner will be awarded the coveted "Top Wolf" belt buckle. Stay tuned for details as the ATA will be rolling out both the Ungulate Program and the Top Wolf contest this fall.

In closing I must acknowledge the passion and dedication of our management, staff, board, instructors, and volunteers who ignore conventions, push the boundaries, and make the impossible possible. When I look at the breadth and scope of our current operations, I am both awed and inspired. We have come such a long way but looking at the opportunity that lies before us now our very best years may be yet to come.

It is with great pleasure that I endorse our annual report for 2023-2024 and I wish a successful and safe upcoming trapping season to all.

Sincerely,



Signature

Bill Abercrombie, President
Alberta Trappers Association





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Alberta Trappers' Association



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The Alberta Trappers Association (ATA)

Is a non-profit organization that has been in operation since August of 1971.

- Offering educational programs to schools, community groups and any interested public groups with the goal of reaching all Albertans
- Providing curriculum related programs through classroom virtual and in-class presentations, fur kit loan program and facilitating field trips
- Delivering unique event programming such as youth summer camps, mentoring programming, attendance at trade shows and specialized group presentations.
- Hosting workshops for our educators to help enhance their fur industry regulations and processes.
- Offering post-secondary scholarships to students from active trapping families
- Our Mission is to ensure that trapping continues in Alberta as a way of life that promotes respect for wildlife and stewardship of the land.



**2023-2024 Scholarship Recipient
Remington Bracher**



Youth Mentoring 2023



ATA 2023 – 2024 Members of the Board of Directors

Bill Abercrombie	President
Kevin Klein	Vice President
Brian Bildson	Secretary
Albert Mast	Treasurer
Glen Kalmbach	Director – Zone 1
Corey Grover	Director – Zone 1
Landon Delorme	Director – Zone 2
Colin Truman	Director – Zone 2
Colin Robson	Director – Zone 3
Terry Batt	Director – Zone 3
Vacant	Director – Zone 4
Joe Gauthier	Director – Zone 4
Ken Hildebrand	Director – Zone 5
Brian Jackson	Director – Zone 5

ATA 2023 – 2024 Staff Members

Donna Moore	Executive Director
Tracey Fedorvich	Trapper Education Coordinator
Ross Hinter	Community Liaison and Program Development
Perry Kulmatyski	Program Development Coordinator – ACTB
Tiffany Miner	Executive Assistant
Hunter Botham	Operations Assistant
Deborah Hinter	Webmaster and Contractor



A Year in Review: Reflections from a New Board Member – Colin Robson, Director

As a new board member of the Alberta Trappers Association, this past year has been one of significant learning, personal growth, and a deepened appreciation for the challenges and triumphs our community faces. On a personal level, it has been a year filled with more downs than ups, as I navigated the responsibilities and expectations that come with this role. These experiences, though challenging, have been instrumental in helping me grow stronger and more resilient. It's often in these moments of adversity that we discover our true capabilities and learn valuable lessons that ultimately benefit both ourselves and the organization.

The early part of the year brought some encouraging results from the fur auctions, a welcome sight amid a landscape that continues to bear the impact of global events. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the unusual economic conditions in China have undoubtedly cast long shadows over our industry. Yet, despite these hurdles, the 2024 sales have shown resilience with strong prices for certain offerings. As we look forward to the upcoming fur harvesters' sale in March 2025, there is a renewed sense of optimism that we can navigate these uncertain times with perseverance and adaptability.

The 2024 Trappers Rendezvous, held in Barrhead, was a highlight of the year. I want to extend a personal and heartfelt thanks to the committee that organized such a remarkable event. It was truly inspiring to see a bustling trade show hall filled with vendors, some of whom traveled great distances to connect with our trapping community. The energy and enthusiasm at the event were palpable, serving as a testament to the strong bonds and shared passion that unite us.

On the board side, there is much to discuss as we look ahead. We are engaged in significant initiatives, including the Ungulate Enhancement Program in collaboration with the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society (APOS) and the Best Wolf Competition, also in partnership with APOS. Additionally, we have made progress on changes to the quotas, which have been agreed upon in principle with the government. We anticipate building a closer relationship with the government, particularly as the RFMA administration functions are set to be moved back to Dave Kay's office. These developments are crucial, and we will continue to work diligently to ensure that the interests of trappers across Alberta are represented and protected.



A Year in Review: Reflections from a New Board Member – Colin Robson, Director – (continued)

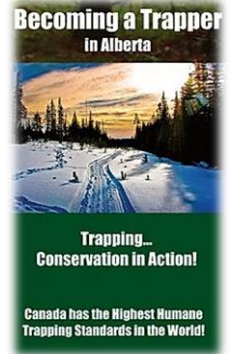
As we plan for the future, it's important to highlight the ongoing success of the Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft (ACTB). Each meeting brings news of the incredible work being done by ACTB, with an ever-expanding array of courses that now extend beyond trapping to encompass a broad spectrum of wilderness skills and nature connection. This growth is a testament to our shared commitment to preserving and promoting not just trapping, but all aspects of our relationship with the natural world.

In conclusion, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the dedicated staff in Westlock, my fellow board members, and the thousands of members of the Alberta Trappers Association. Your hard work, passion, and unwavering support are the backbone of this organization. Together, we face the challenges and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead, confident in our ability to overcome and succeed.





Development and Delivery of the Approved Standard Trapper Education Course Across the Province of Alberta



What is Trapper Education?

The Alberta Trappers' Association Trapper Education Program provides the Standard Trapping course, as well as numerous workshops and presentations to schools and other interested groups year-round throughout the province.

The Standard Trapping Course is your first step toward becoming a trapper. The course includes instruction on the safe use of traps and other equipment, biology of furbearers, animal management, marketing and grading of furs, skinning, and fur handling, as well as humane trapping techniques.



**Instructors Ryan Golby and Jason Jarvie with the Standard Trapper Education class
Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft – April 2023**



Trapper Education Programming – Tracey Fedorvich

The Alberta Trappers Association (ATA) is committed to:

- Delivery of the approved Standard Trapper Education Course to certify first time trappers to obtain their Fur Management License.
- Teaching Best Practices courses and workshops to increase the competency level of Alberta's Trappers.
- Youth Camps introducing youth to the possibilities our organization and more importantly what Alberta's landscape has to offer.
- Creating and sustaining partnerships with Indigenous groups and communities to increase conservation and sustainability beyond our membership.
- Adjust and accommodate students whenever the need arises.
- Bringing in guest instructors to broaden our educational reach.
- And finally, as Ross would put it "Riding for the ATA Brand".



Standard Trapper Education Course, Bonnyville, AB September 2023



To Develop and Implement “Best Practices” Workshops to increase the Competency Level of Alberta’s Trappers

Currently we teach several training workshops and courses including:

- Remote 1st Aid Course
- Adult Mentoring Program
- Advanced 7 Day Trapping Course
- Brain Tanning Fur Workshop
- Brain Tanning Hides Workshop
- Resident Trapline Management
- Hide Processing Workshop
- Footholding Workshop
- Fur Handling Workshop
- Wolf Workshop
- Snaring Workshop
- Under Ice Beaver Workshop
- Northern Bushcraft/Wilderness Survival Course
- Public Programs
 - County & Municipalities
 - Landowners Predator Control
 - Industry Presentations

These workshops include hands-on training, demonstrations along with group activities to complement the materials being taught. Our education department continues to develop new programs and create opportunities for partnerships in training.



Hide Processing Workshop in Westlock, AB – led by Brian Jackson and Bre Haun.



To Develop and Implement Trapper Instructor Training Courses and Workshops to Maintain and Improve Competency Levels of Trapping Instructors

Our Instructor's Camp was this June. Russ Meads delivered a Foraging for survival workshop, which was well received. It also gave the instructors a look into what is offered at the ACTB.



**Annual Instructors Camp held at the ATA Trapline
Saturday was a rainy chilly day.**



Development and Delivery of School Programs to Enhance Understanding of the Fur Industry and Humane Trapping Practices

In School Trapper Industry Presentations

Studying the history of Canada's fur trade is part of the Alberta curriculum for grades four and five. To help educate Alberta's youth, we have produced school kits that are sent out upon request. These kits include furs, skulls, trade beads, etc. In addition to the fur kit program, in-person school presentations are also delivered.

Our primary objective of this project is to educate youth on the historical and current importance of the trapping industry. Our presentations focused on the topics of fur trading, trapping today, animal damage control, as well as animal habitat and how that has changed over the years.

To date, our public educators have seen **3,820** students in the classrooms of schools throughout Alberta and have done **4** virtual presentations to **170** Alberta students. We spoke to students, teachers and public individuals who were interested in attending, on the important role trapping plays in maintaining animal habitat balance and conservation in general.

Educating our youth is imperative to ensuring the future of conservation in our province. This is achieved by teaching youth the impact that trapping has on conservation of the wildlife population, wildlife management, and the importance of the fur industry today.



Grade 4 and 5 Presentation to Ecole St. Mary's students in Lethbridge, Alberta



Development and Delivery of Public Education Programs to Enhance Understanding of the Fur Industry and Humane Trapping Practices

Public Presentations and Trade Show Booths

We deliver public presentations as well; we offer educational programming to unique groups across Alberta. This year, in addition to all the school programs, we delivered and/or attended **11** specialized presentations across Alberta. This includes predation, dog safety, and trade shows.

We currently have three completed fur kits, including all furbearer pelts and skulls, that we specifically use for our public education programs and our youth camps.

This past winter, Calgary, West Central and Edmonton Locals manned the Boat and Sportsman shows, this is greatly appreciated, so thank you all.



Edmonton Local at The Edmonton Boat & Sportsman Show - 2024



Development and Delivery of the Alberta Trapper Magazine and Maintenance of the Alberta Trappers Association Website

Alberta Trapper Magazine

The Alberta Trappers' Association publishes the Top Notch, glossy and professional Alberta Trapper Magazine on a quarterly basis. It is mailed to members informing them of current issues and concerns trappers face.

Trappers are encouraged to send stories, pictures and anecdotes about trapping experiences and life on a trapline.

The classified ads provide a service to members wishing to sell items that are of interest to other trappers.





The Alberta Trapper's Website – Deb Hinter; Webmaster and Social Media Administrator.

Apr 1, 2023 – Mar 31, 2024, saw 16,768 visitors to the website.

Google's core ranking systems look to reward content that provides a good page experience. This website has no issues detected and the rating is classed as GOOD.

Most Popular Pages visited on this website:

1. Education and Training
2. Rendezvous
3. Becoming a Trapper

Members Only Section of the website has **299** members vs **295** last year.

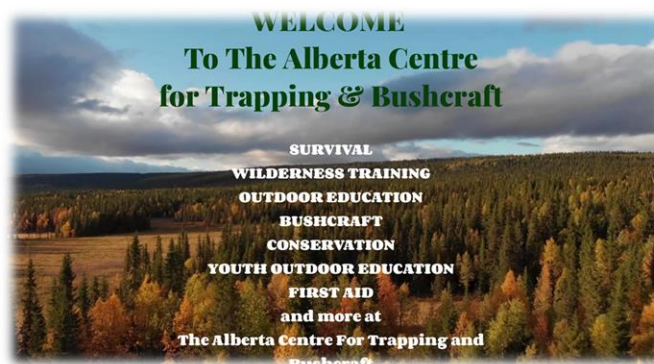


Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft Website

Apr 1, 2023 – Mar 31, 2024, saw 3,158 visitors to the website.

Focus was determined to be for the courses and workshops offered in:

- Survival, Wilderness Training, Outdoor Education, Conservation, Bushcraft, Youth and Schools, First Aid and Future programs in development.





ATA Facebook Group

There are currently **4,097** members on the group. The group quality is rated as GOOD by Facebook. Thank you to the diligent members who advise the admin team of any possible spam taking place on the group. The majority of the group's members are from Canada, with the United States being next.

The Admin Team consists of Bill Abercrombie, Deb Hinter, Ben Brochu and Vic Toutant. The announcements keep everyone on the group up to date and cover:

- Upcoming Courses and Workshops with the Alberta Trappers Association
- Youth Trapper Camps
- Office hours along with Fur Depot and Fur Pick Up Schedules
- Membership Information and magazine deadlines
- Research in Science and Conservation projects
- Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft programs
- The members share their fur, their stories, their triumphs, and questions

Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft Facebook Page

- This is a Facebook BUSINESS PAGE which is very different than a Facebook Group.
- It is focused on the Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft where we post upcoming courses and workshops and relevant posts and drive traffic to register for courses/workshops.
- It was launched October 16, 2023, and currently has **279** followers.



<https://www.facebook.com/trappersupplies>



<https://www.facebook.com/albertacentrefortrappingandbushcraft>

ATA Google Business



There are 2 Business Profiles managed under Google Business:

- Alberta Trappers Association listing on Google saw **1,737** interactions from Mar to Aug 2024, as this metric will only show a 6-month period.
- Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft listing on Google saw **328** interactions, Mar - Aug 2024, date stats are as above time frame also, only showing a 6-month period.
- The listings show contact info, website, map directions, reviews, star ratings and what we offer.



Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft Instagram Business Page

- This Instagram Profile has **358 followers** and posts upcoming workshops and courses.



<https://www.instagram.com/albertabushcraftcenter/>

ATA YouTube Channel

The Channel is called, **Alberta Wilderness Education Centre**.

It is a holding area for the video links that appear on the ATA website and the Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft website, currently hosting **31 videos**.

Social media and webmaster tasks are in perpetual motion with improvements, monitoring, revisions, posts, content creation and the technical challenges involved with web centric workflows.

Please contact me anytime with questions or suggestions for improvements. I appreciate feedback and will continue to work toward excellence in our public footprint on the internet.



<https://www.youtube.com/@albertawildernesseducation>



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Administration of Compensation Programs

Trappers Compensation Program

The Trappers Compensation Program (ATCP) is a program of the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Environment and Parks (AEP).

This program provides a framework for compensating trappers for business losses incurred through industrial activity on their RFMA's when they are not able to reach a settlement with industry.

Incidences of theft and vandalism to assets on RFMA's are also considered.

ATCP	April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024
Number of claims submitted	1
Number of claims paid	1
Total claim amounts paid	\$4,700.00
Number of claims denied	0
Claims awaiting further information	0
Claims Coordinator Expenses	\$6,545.81
Misc. Expenses (advertising, fees, etc.)	\$2,805.95

Trappers Forest Fire Cabin Compensation Program

The Forest Fire Cabin Compensation Program is a program of the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Environment and Parks (AEP) that provides a framework for compensating trappers' business losses incurred from forest fire damages. Sadly 2023-2024 showed extreme cabin loss due to fire. There were twenty-one claims Paid out to this program in this fiscal year in the amount of **\$63,000.00**.





Successful Partnerships

Youth Camp Programs

Many thanks to our partner in environmental education, the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) for teaming up with the ATA on various projects.

In 2023-2024 our youth camps were held in three locations throughout Alberta including on the ATA trapline where the participants and instructors all stayed in outfitter tents. For our northern location, students went to Marten Lakes, near Slave Lake, AB and our final camp of the year was held in the southern location of Alford Lake located near Caroline, AB.

The attendance at each camp was great with 66 young people ages 9-15 learning from our seasoned team of instructors and enthusiastic volunteers. In addition to increasing the number of young trappers, the Youth Camp is an important part of our education initiatives which not only encourage young people to take an interest in trapping but, more importantly, will teach the importance of trapping and hunting in the conservation of wildlife.

Youth Camp is a journey that never ceases to amaze me, yes, we teach them, but they also teach us!



Spike Camp @ Dapp is always a full camp





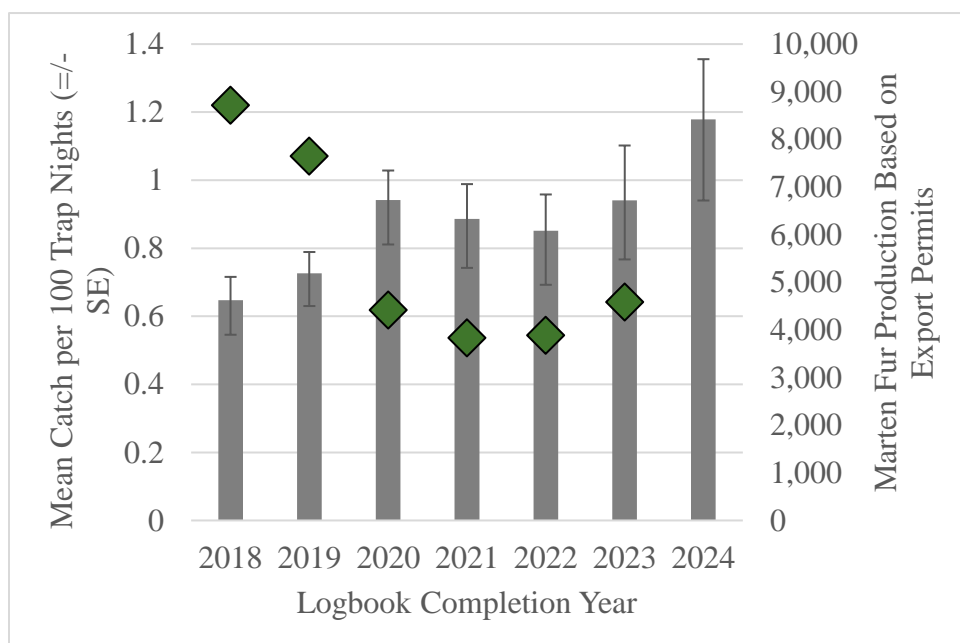
Successful Partnerships – ATA Logbook Program

Michael Jokinen

This year we will summarize the past seven years of trapper provided furbearer data into a report that will be made public through ACA's project report series. This data set provides a benchmark for the status of furbearer populations in Alberta and will further illustrate the dedication of this trapper-led organization. We have made strong progress, but there is still room for improvement and the results could be more robust if greater participation in logbooks were obtained.

Information was collected from 163 RFMA's this year, just four logbooks above last years participation level. Over the past seven years, we have received logbooks from a total of 389 individual RFMA's. Therefore, a target of 300 logbooks could be attainable if everyone were to submit a logbook each year. A total of 23 RFMA's submitted a logbook all seven years.

To this point, we have not seen trends in the provincial marten data that cause concern in terms of harvest sustainability. The provincial male to female harvest ratio (66% in 2024) is within the suggested range of >60% male each year. This past year it took the least number of trap-nights (85 trap-nights) to harvest one marten. On average, if you set 12 traps for one week you would expect to catch one marten. Provincial marten fur sales (blue diamonds) were on a declining trend until last year, but the catch rate for an equivalent amount of trapping effort (grey bars) has continued to rise over time.





ATA Logbook Program – Michael Jokinen (continued)

Having a total of five years of data for quota species and multiple years where over 100 RFMA logbooks included lynx data, is a sign we are moving in the right direction to meeting an adequate lynx sample size provincially. In fact, the number of RFMAs submitting lynx data (109 in 2024) are not far behind the number of RFMAs submitting marten data (128 in 2024). A total of 102 RFMAs provided fisher data, while 137 RFMAs provided wolf harvest data.

This year marked the third-year wolf harvest data was included in the logbooks as part of the ATA wolf management program. A total of 107 program participants submitted a logbook in 2024, while 30 trappers outside of the Caribou Recovery Zone also submitted wolf data. A greater percentage of trappers inside the recovery zone feel wolves are scarce and decreasing during all three years when compared to trappers outside the recovery zone.

ATA members are encouraged to keep track of their trapping effort and harvest for marten, lynx, fisher, otter, wolverine, and wolves this trapping season, and submit their completed logbooks next year. Have a great season out there!





Successful Partnerships – Walk Wild Pilot Project



APOS/ATA Tickle Trunk to provide kids with outdoor wear if needed. This lovely trunk was donated by Mr. Joe Gauthier.

This was the first time on a trapline or even in the bush for some of these youth.



Among so many other things these young people discovered the sheer joy of spending time in the wilderness.



No words needed.....



Successful Partnerships with Our ATA Locals

Athabasca	Local 1010
Bonnyville/Cold Lake	Local 1021
Calgary	Local 1031
Drayton Valley	Local 1060
Edson	Local 1050
Eureka River	Local 1053
Fort Assiniboine	Local 1061
Grande Cache	Local 1066
Grande Prairie	Local 1070
Greater Edmonton	Local 1054
High Level	Local 1080
Hinton	Local 1082
La Crete	Local 1188
Lac La Biche	Local 1120
Manning	Local 1020
Northeastern Trappers	Local 1130
Peace River	Local 1195
Rocky Mountain House	Local 1180
Slave Lake	Local 1190
South Country Trappers	Local 1110
Sundre	Local 1193
Wabash River	Local 1210
West Central	Local 1040
Whitecourt	Local 1231





Successful Partnership with the Government of Alberta Wolf Management Project – Donna Moore

The wolf program for **2023/2024** reached the highest numbers yet! We targeted areas where the caribou populations continue to decline. Most trappers have reported that it was another tough year.

Scarce and decreasing were common responses according to our logbook data, not just in one area, but in all areas that were involved in the program.

This year we had **117** Trappers involved.

- 26 from the Chinchaga Region
- 53 from the East Side Athabasca Region
- 10 from the La Peche Region
- 3 from the Red Rock Region
- 7 from the Cold Lake Region
- 7 from the Nipisi Region
- 11 from the Slave Lake Region



With the 117 trappers actively trapping and targeting the wolf we were able to harvest **200** wolves. From the past years of this program this is the highest number harvested yet.

We have had multiple sightings of Caribou and larger groups at that on the landscape, which have been significantly increased from past years, so in saying that the program is doing what we need it to do. The area the wolves were harvested were as follows.

Total Wolves	Juv Male	Adult Male	Juv Female	Adult Female	Total
Chinchaga	7	26	7	18	58
Cold Lake	2	8	2	3	15
ESAR	13	32	13	18	76
La Peche	0	2	2	0	4
Red Rock	1	0	0	0	1
Nipisi	1	7	1	3	12
Slave Lake	4	12	8	10	34

200



Great job to all trappers involved, the Alberta Trappers Association wants to thank all trappers for their continued support and dedication into this program and future programs.



ATA Volunteers – Ross Hinter

As we look back over this past year once again, we have had so much support from our ATA volunteers.

The help of our volunteers is the real hallmark of our association, there is no doubt. I have noticed each year many of the same people are there to help. We are lucky enough to have new people each year as well. My risk with trying to thank all the people is that I will over-look someone and I sure would not want to do that. However, I would like to name a few of our people this year as they come to mind.

Glen and Terri Kalmbach, Albert Mast, Peter Punko, Mike Pozniak, Joanne and Darrell Walde, Candice Truman and of course Pauline and Joe Gauthier. As I say there are others, so I hope they all know what a difference they make in helping us make our organization and family of trappers what it is.

A big thank you to all our volunteers that help to keep us moving forward together.



Jan and Richard Aarsen. Fur Depot Volunteers who answered our call for help!



Lloyd Cadrain, Jordan Scott & Albert Mast help regularly in the fur depot.

A Heartfelt Thank You
**TO ALL OF OUR
AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!**

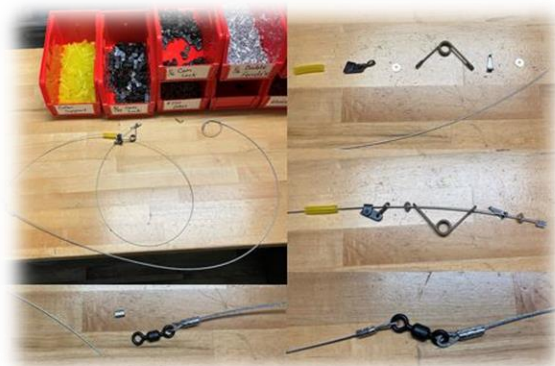
We couldn't do it without you!



ATA Manufacturing – Hunter Botham

Manufacturing has been in the ATA for a long time, and it is an important part of the store section with regards to allowing flexibility in the products we provide. **Coyote snares, Lynx snares, Wolf snares,** and small and large **sub traps**, are examples of the products made in house. **Trap drags, anchors, Power Ram setting tool, muskrat floats and beaver drowning rods** are also items manufactured in house and by members of the ATA. With these products produced in house this can leave us a little wiggle room for small improvements and some custom orders to a reasonable extent.

Manufacturing – 2023-2024			
Description	Unit	On Hand	No. Sold
COYOTE SNARE KIT	Each	9	3
MUSKRAT FLOAT	Each	18	21
Coyote Snare 1/16 1x19 Tail Wire 3/32 7x7 8 feet long	Each	611	279
LYNX SNARE 1/16 1X19 YELLOW TIE	Each	203	86
WOLF SNARE 5/64 1x19 TAIL WIRE 3/32 7X7-11' BLACK TIE	Each	46	164
Lights Out Snaring-Coyote 5/64 1X19 TAIL WIRE 3/32 7X7 8'	Each	2	0
BEAVER SNARE 1/16 1x19	Each	3	3
#9 WIRE - SNARE CABLE	Each	0	1
LARGE SUBMARINE MUSKRAT TRAP	Each	5	1
SM SUBMARINE MUSKRAT TRAP	Each	6	3
HEAVY DUTY 2' TRAP ANCHOR STAKE	Each	1	4
HEAVY DUTY 1.5' TRAP ANCHOR STAKE	Each	3	7
GAMBREL	Each	0	0
HEAVY DUTY WOLF DRAG-2 PRONG	Each	1	0





Successful Partnership with Northwest Species at Risk (NWSAR) and Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI)

Caribou Camera Project – Terry Batt

NWSAR has pretty much wrapped up the field portion of the Caribou Range Research program except for the Rainbow grid, which is expected to be done in August.

ABMI is in the process of analyzing the data collected with a final report expected this fall. All the damaged cameras and ARU's, from mostly bears and squirrels, will be turned in for repairs. NWSAR is doing a series of videos on the program with segments from trappers, forestry, ABMI and NWSAR history and what the committee has accomplished in the Northwest Region of Alberta so far. The trapper's segment is almost done and is to be shown at this years Rendezvous at the NWSAR booth and all the videos should be on their website once completed. They are also looking for new ideas or programs to fill in data gaps or to better understand the ecosystem in the Northwest Region.

This Caribou Range Research program was successful in part due to the large involvement of the trappers who have put up their hand to take part in this program. It was not easy, but it shows the determination and commitment of these guys to follow through in difficult conditions and complete what they said they would do. Thanks again to all that were involved.





Successful Partnerships with Our ATA Locals

ATA Regulatory Committee – Brian Bildson

The past year has been a remarkably productive one for your Regulatory Committee. The committee's dedicated efforts have seen much of its previous year's work come to fruition, underscoring the significant role each member plays in our organization's success.

For many years, the Alberta Trappers Association has been advocating for a review of the regulations surrounding quotas on furbearers. This has been a significant cause that the regulatory committee has championed, and our efforts have been instrumental in bringing this to David Kay's attention for government consideration.

The Board tasked the regulatory committee to design the alternate proposal and provide it to the Board for review and approval before submitting it to the government. The committee took the task on with great enthusiasm and produced a draft for consideration in short order.

At present, the ATA proposal is in the hands of the government for final approval from them. Which we have been assured is forthcoming. Regardless of government action, in collaboration with the Board, the Regulatory Committee proved capable of producing a high-quality alternate proposal to the present quota system that has stood up to rigorous scrutiny.

I thank all the committee members for their stellar work on this critical issue.

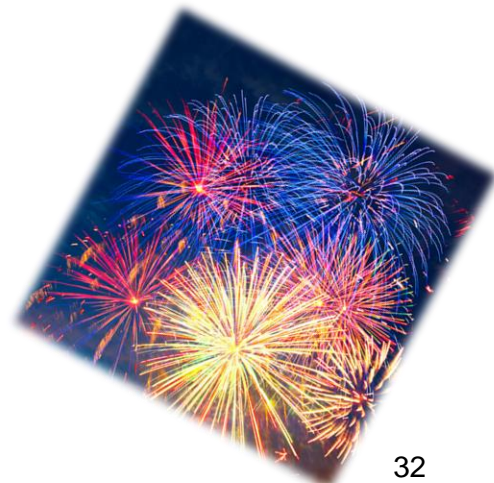




Successful Partnerships with Our ATA Local Communities

Annual Alberta Trappers Association Rendezvous & Outdoorsman Shows

Our annual Rendezvous is a provincial event that includes demonstrations, speakers, a trade show, competitions, and entertainment meant to bring together the trapping community while continuing to educate the public on the trapping and fur industry in Alberta. Trappers and like-minded individuals took to Klondike Trails and Trapline Tales in Barrhead, AB for our 49th annual Rendezvous. Folks in attendance were entertained, informed and boy were they fed. There were also loads of friendly competitions and an amazing trade show. Plans are already underway for the 2025 Rendezvous which will take place in Plamondon, AB and will be our 50th Annual Rendezvous.





Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft – Perry Kulmatyski

MISSION (vision) STATEMENT:

Our mission is to create and offer opportunities that allow peoples, no matter their age ability or comfort level, to experience and play in and with nature. In doing so we hope to increase understanding of habitat and wildlife management and maybe even increase youth and adult wellness.

Our Mission statement guides us as we prepare and develop courses, workshops, and adventures for our Centre. So, what does that look like in practice? Here are just a few examples of what we offered this past season.

Statistics of Presentations:

- In this past year we have presented 52 public ed presentations to 6261 people
- We had 30 ACTBC public presentations and walk wilds: involving 1025 people
- There were 16 ACTBC Course and Workshops with 188 people.

STUDENT PROGRAMMING (WILDLIFE, CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABILITY)

We have developed land-based programing connected to the curriculum for k-12 classes



Kindergarten Fur Show and Share- Understanding how animals adapt to seasons and field trips in habitat to view furbearers in action and to play in nature.





Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft - (Continued)

Grade 4 and 5 fur trade presentations



Lethbridge Ecole St. Mary's Grade 4 & 5 Classes



Rosary School – Manning, Alberta

Grades 7-12 presentations customized to course curriculum in areas of

- Outdoor Skills
- Intro to population
- Management in ecosystems
- Art with nature and conservation in action such as in biology classes, and guiding high school photography classes on hikes in Jasper.



Ecole St. Albert High Grade 10
Outdoor Ed – Intro to Wildlife
Management.



Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft (Continued)

Get Outside and Experience Nature! K to 12 Adventures in the Forest

These one-day or more programs have students immersed in the bush where they experience land-based learning in nature. During these learning opportunities they will discover and gain skills such as shelter making, foraging, fire making, cooking systems, knife skills, carving, tracking and identification of wildlife as they learn to be comfortable in the outdoors.



Please visit our Photo Galleries at <https://www.albertacentrefortrappingandbushcraft.com/photo-galleries> to view more pictures of what we offer. We look forward to planning and developing more adventures. To experience and benefit from a bushcraft experience all you need to do is **BE PRESENT** and **BE CURIOUS**, the rest will take care of itself.



Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft (Continued)



Teachers' convention Expo of School Student Programming (Endless Skies and Greater Edmonton)

Nurture in Nature- Mental Health Day at Barrhead Elementary School- Mental Health Strategies (The power of connecting to the nature and the impact on Mental Wellness) (please read article <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2020/04/nurtured-nature>)



School staff 1-day retreats and Professional Development-providing Walk wild and land-based learning to school staffs. We have been asked by Griesbach school to work on a pilot project with partners in forestry and oil and gas to work with students on land-based programs to help students have a deeper understanding of conservation and sustainability of wildlife.



Russ Meads Bushcraft skills throughout the year

Russ Meads is an exceptional instructor and course developer. He has developed a variety of 1,2- and 3-day courses throughout the year that provide skill development in the outdoors and that are accessible to working people. We are extremely fortunate to have an instructor like Russ and we as an organization have done a good job increasing our Bushcraft presence to fill courses. We've developed a relationship with the Edmonton Indigenous Seniors centre and have offered several courses to their members.

<https://www.albertacentrefortrappingandbushcraft.com/bushcraft-courses-workshops>



ATA Research Projects – Ross Hinter

This past season some of our trappers participated in the Fur Institute's program, Trap Research and Development Committee, (TRDC), to provide wolves snared and turned in for Necropsy. This is to provide the science to show the "full Occlusion" of both neck arteries which shows humane snaring.

This research was never in the agreement Canada signed with the European Union back in 2007 and it has been riding on our backs to complete. The same work was completed two years ago with the same protocol for coyotes and is up on the FIC website.

This coming year all trappers involved in the study will have to use the provided snares made by both "Lights out" and Senneker brand snares so that the study can be completed.

The other project was for large predator hair, muscle or tissue samples to be packaged up and turned into us here at ATA headquarters and taken to Elk Island Park where their team is collecting DNA samples to record in their database on large predators in Alberta. This project got off to a bad start when seeking to pay trappers \$20 for samples and our own provincial government stating we would then be "Trafficking in Wildlife". It was finally resolved by Bill Abercrombie. So, as this program goes forward again this year, I am anticipating a much better sample size from trappers. When we did the necropsies on the wolf program this year with FIC in Vegreville, I took samples for them off of each wolf. They received 41 samples from this. However, from our trappers at large we received only five samples in all. Three of them were from the same trapper.

I sure hope we can do better this year.

There is verbal discussion on working with U of A again this year on a study with coyotes, but I have nothing in writing yet on this. We continue to have ongoing projects with Environment Canada & Phil Thomas.

As I have stated in the past, these types of projects are of the utmost importance as we move into our future with trapping. Working with the scientists and Government communities has elevated our importance of being out there on the landscape. I hope you will all do your best to become involved.

Best Trapping Practices



**UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA**



Environment and
Climate Change Canada





ATA Forestry Liaison – Richard Aarsen

Greetings all. Just a short report on my new role as the ATA Forestry Representative.

First, my apologies for not making the AGM, but it is sheep hunting season and my sheep hunting days are numbered so I'm out there while I am still able.

I took on this role this spring when I contacted Bill with issues I was having with forestry companies regarding the new government ground rules that came out in May 2024. Thanks to Bill and Ross for defining my role and bringing me up to date on what is going on with forestry.

Logging has a huge impact on our furbearers and our ability to manage our RFMA's. We must impress on the industry and the government the impacts that the logging blocks and the follow-up silviculture has on our furbearers and on the health of our ecosystems.

My hope is that in the future the forest industry can contribute more (possibly on a per cubic meter harvested) to either the Trappers Compensation Fund or some sort of habitat fund. In the past, forest industry has contributed minimally to the Compensation Fund on the basis that theirs is considered a renewable resource that will regenerate itself. While that is technically true, logging has a huge short-term impact on the trapping industry. Seeking fair compensation will require building relationships and networking with both the forest industry and the government.

Presently, we are getting a project going that will study marten responses to timber harvest and debris piles. This is through ALPAC and the FRIAA (Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta) and the ATA. They will be studying how furbearers, primarily marten, interact with debris left in a logging block. It is built on some earlier studies from ALPAC on usage of debris by small mammals.

Because this is a new role, this will take time for me to get up to speed. But I am committed to representing the trapping industry fairly and thoroughly.



Old Forestry Patrol Cabin built in 1928 by Alberta Forest Service (as it was named then) in Wilmore Wilderness





ATA 2023 – 2024 Fur Depot – Tiffany Miner

This year we shipped 24,996 hides to auction: 9,816 in January and 15,180 in April. This was up 5,302 from last year. The first sale seemed to generate some optimism in the industry as the fur depot picked up substantially for the second receiving date. This year we received payments totalling \$28,854.39.

We had lots of wonderful volunteers on our last receiving and shipping days again this year.



Thank you to all our members for your ongoing support!



Indigenous Community Engagement, Training and Education



Standard Trappers Course held in Whitefish Lake #128 September 2023

Kehewin Cree Nation Standard Trappers Course November. 2023



Alberta Trappers' Association



Fur Depot and Retail Store





THANK YOU!

We wish to thank all our supporters who are key to our success!

Alberta Forestry and Parks
Alberta Conservation Association
Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
Alberta Professional Outfitters Society
Alberta Forest Products Association
ATCO
Government of Canada

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Visit us on the web at: www.albertatrappers.com

Donna Moore ATA Executive Director

The Alberta Trappers Association is a registered society.
No. 500063862

***I AM A TRAPPER AND WHEN I AM IN THE BUSH
I FEEL ALIVE IN MY SOUL***

Author Unknow