

## **Welcome by your new President**

Hello to all of the ISTA membership and what I call family. This is my first newsletter as President and I want you to know how much it pleases me to be addressing you. We have had some really trying times in recent years. Not only did the fur market tank in recent years but also ISTA has been really fighting a battle for our members to feel that they are indeed important.

When there is a crooked Treasurer taking the members money for memberships and merchandise, and then not giving the members their benefits, including our association magazine and newsletters, and stealing that money it is hard to overcome. We got rid of him, and recovered some of the funds, but the loss of members and good will among a number of those wronged is hard to overcome. It will be felt for many more years. Thanks to the hard work of your Board Members, progress has been made and continues, reconnecting with individuals, getting back our tax-exempt status, and good will.

Fred did an outstanding job of being persistent in our tax paperwork updates and filing status. Melissa worked many days on getting the membership list up to date, contacting people about renewals, and getting Life Members their Certificates and magazine subscriptions.

Some of you may recall that I joined the ISTA in about year 2003. In 2006, you elected me Secretary to replace a very good friend and great trapper named Harry Fox. Yes, that really was his given name. We named a scholarship for Harry posthumously the next year after his untimely death. RIP Harry Fox.

So I've been on the Board of Directors as your Secretary and as the NTA Director for the past 12 years now. It has been lots of good, some bad, and some ugly at times. But mostly it has been fun and hard work to keep this organization going along well. The numbers of kids I have helped teach Trapper Education Classes to in all these years make it worth every mile spent on the road.

Stu

## **President's Report**

I'm pleased to report that the finances and future expectations of the ISTA look good. That being said, we have been falling behind in where we would like to be. Lower fur prices have meant less donations and lower member numbers have caused us to lose ground in our abilities to donate needed funds to other states when they need it to fight antis. Back in September of 2010, the membership questioned the status of the ISTA finances and spending by the BOD. Standing rule #32 was voted in. It states, "No donations to be made that would deplete our general fund to less than \$14,000 (2 years operating expenses) with the exception of already committed items." 9/18/2010.

This rule has not been ignored but sometimes forgotten when we are asked for donations. Our general fund (Checking and General Savings together) has been below that level for a few years now. Too much spending and not enough fund raising, but the BOD and I intend to change both.

This has already begun with three great projects.

Our fur sale was Awesome! Byron Tiede did a great job of pulling this off, and it will get even better. Brian Barnes, Keith and Kenton Schegel, Jim Lippens, Mike Kepplin, Karen Tiede, Georgia Gifford, Fred Phillips, Melissa Mansfield, Corbin Bultemeier, Rodney Beauchamp, Beaverfoot, Tom Geisler, Mick Perry, Clint Vannatter, our buyers and sellers, and tailgater made the day a total success. Next year we could use a few more helpers if you can make it there. These efforts made us a very nice profit for our organization plus some very happy fur sellers.

Have you seen the ENEWS BRIEF? Jim Lippens and friend Deb have done an outstanding job of getting this project under way. If you have an email listed with ISTA, you have probably seen it. If you do have email and have not seen it, check your spam folder or contact Jim to get on the list. It will not replace our spring and fall newsletter, but it is a great way to let you all know as soon as possible about events and trapping news in general.

ISTA is putting on our first ADC Continuing Education Class. In conjunction with the INDNR, we are putting on a class in Kokomo on March 31st. 8 hours of ADC credit can be earned. The fee is \$25 for members and \$50 for non-members of ISTA. We hope to fill the classroom. Check out our website for the schedule of speakers.

Finally, you will find a return envelope in this newsletter and 6 raffle tickets for the Henry Rifle or a Bear Trap in this year's fundraiser raffle. Please return them with your donation right away before you forget.

Thank you.

Stu

## **Secretary's Report**

Hello! The trapping season is winding down and I have been so busy with the ISTA events, the flu, and life in general that the only traps I set this year were mouse traps. I did catch a substantial amount of those though! LOL

Stu and Jim have pretty much given everyone the important information that you all need to know at the moment, although there is one major thing that has to be said. As all of you know, a few years back, I took over the membership list, which had been badly abused and neglected. I did all I could to contact those who seemed to have been overlooked and in many cases I was able to re-establish their memberships and/or get them the benefits that they had previously been denied. It appeared that I had finally gotten a membership list that was current and accurate with all members receiving their magazine and new members and renewals being taken care of in a timely manner.

Then we discovered that we had been inadvertently breaking a by-law that states that the Treasurer is to be in control of the membership list and responsible for keeping it up to date and the members' benefits fulfilled. The by-laws required me to relinquish the files and all that pertained to the membership list and return it all to the Treasurer, who I am sure was not that overjoyed at the added responsibility she now has to endure. I know that she will do a good job in continuing to take care of your needs and questions. The reason I have told this to all of you is that we have stressed over the last few years that any requests or questions about the membership and its benefits were to be directed to me, the Secretary. Well, of course, that has now changed and I wanted everyone to be aware of the fact that you will now need to contact Georgia Gifford, Treasurer, with any questions or concerns with your membership. It has been very enjoyable getting to talk with many of you and I am still here to help you with anything else concerning the ISTA and trapping in general.

I hope to see a lot of you at the Spring Fling on April 7th in Salem. Also, anyone in the Portland, IN area, please come see us at the Portland Sport Show at the Jay County fairgrounds the next weekend. The dates are Friday night, April 13 from 5pm-9pm, Saturday, April 14 from 9am-5pm, and Sunday, April 15 from 10am-4pm. We will be there all weekend and we look forward to a great show as they tell us that they have made many improvements and expect it to be a huge success.

I hope you have all had an exciting trapping season and I look forward to seeing any and all of you at this year's many events.

Live, Love, Laugh,

Melissa Mansfield

## Director Report

Jim Lippens

Writing for the spring newsletter is kinda tough when there's 20 inches of snow on the ground and it's 12 degrees outside. We have definitely had a real winter, at least up here in the northern tier of counties. It's been a very busy time for the ISTA this winter. Besides trying to catch a critter or two, we've had board meetings, the Kokomo outdoor show, our very successful fur sale, and coming up the Indy show plus our inaugural ADC class. Don't forget the spring fling and general membership in Salem the first part of April. The new ISTA display case was at the Kokomo show and at the fur sale. We still have some unused space within it so if you have any ideas of what you might like to see in it, let a board member know. ISTA officers will be involved in the proposed bobcat season as it runs its course through the legal process. A couple of days ago we had our annual fur sale and had a great time. An increase in trapper lots, increase in skins sold, and an amazing increase in the dollar amount paid by the fur buyers. 6 hours of nonstop auctioning (thanks Corbin!!). I would like to thank everyone involved in the sale especially Byron and Karen Tiede for a great job. The numbers will bear out how successful this sale was. The sale would not have been successful without the attendance of the membership, so most of all thanks to all of you.

Thanks, Jim Lippens Director ISTA

The e-news brief is something new for the ISTA and as with anything new, we still are learning. As of the February news brief, we have a little over 200 e-mail addresses. I'm receiving several addresses sent to me each week and we added about a dozen at the fur sale so slowly but surely we are acquiring the addresses. One item we have noticed is if you have a g-mail account the news brief has been going to the promotion folder or spam so keep your eyes open. This has only happened to a few members so just a heads up. It is possible that sometime in the future the hard mailed newsletter would be available thru the e-mail news brief. This would be voluntary of course since not everyone has e-mail. However, in 2017 the newsletter cost the ISTA approximately \$1800.00 dollars. So if and when this happens it would be a substantial savings if even half our members voluntarily accepted it. So stayed tuned as the ISTA keeps moving forward. Anyone can contact me at [Jglippens.jl@gmail.com](mailto:Jglippens.jl@gmail.com).

Thanks, Jim Lippens

## INDIANA'S PROPOSED NEW BOBCAT SEASON

It is hoped that we will have an open Bobcat trapping season sometime in the near future. As of this writing, there has been a lot of speculation and a bit of misinformation concerning it. There is still a public input period ongoing until March 23rd. And two meetings for public comment coming up soon.

If things work out as we would like, there may be a season open in a certain number of southern counties as soon as 2019 with a limited quota. Any other information you might be seeing on social media about the season being a done deal is not correct. If you want to make your feelings known, go to <http://www.in.gov/nrc/2377.htm>. The process is ongoing, but at a normal political pace.

### 2018 Fur Sale Summary

Species	Number	Grade	Low	High	Average	Total
Beaver	5	Small/Damaged	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$11.25
	16	Medium/Large	\$4.00	\$5.50	\$6.34	\$101.44
	11	XL/XXL	\$9.50	\$12.00	\$10.63	\$116.93
	0	XXL/XXXL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	13	Green/grease	\$4.00	\$8.50	\$6.75	\$87.75
	3	Carcass	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$24.00
Coon	16	Small/Damaged	\$2.00	\$3.25	\$2.44	\$39.00
	27	Medium/Large	\$0.25	\$3.00	\$1.53	\$41.31
	262	XL/XXL	\$1.00	\$6.50	\$3.84	\$1,006.08
	196	XXL/XXXL	\$4.50	\$10.75	\$7.82	\$1,532.72
	203	Green/grease	\$2.00	\$5.00	\$3.06	\$621.18
	21	Carcass	\$1.00	\$3.00	\$1.56	\$32.76
	3	Unspecified	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$3.00
Coyote	1	Black	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
	3	Red	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$10.50
	8	Rub	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.50	\$20.00
	9	Frozen	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$63.00
	15	Green/grease	\$1.00	\$15.50	\$8.00	\$120.00
	25	Carcass	\$1.00	\$15.00	\$6.19	\$154.75
	251	Unspecified	\$1.00	\$60.00	\$16.78	\$4,211.78
Deer	2	Hide	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00

Fox	1	Small/Damaged	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75
	28	Red	\$2.75	\$20.00	\$12.36	\$346.08
	3	Gray	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$54.00
	1	Carcass	\$17.50	\$17.50	\$17.50	\$17.50
Mink	1	Small/Damaged	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50
	9	Medium/Large	\$2.75	\$6.75	\$4.63	\$41.67
	16	XL/XXL	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$9.38	\$150.08
	1	Green/grease	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25
	1	Carcass	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00
	5	Unspecified	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$25.00
Muskrat	27	Small/Damaged	\$1.00	\$3.25	\$2.13	\$57.51
	58	Medium/Large	\$0.25	\$4.25	\$2.00	\$116.00
	578	XL/XXL	\$1.00	\$5.75	\$4.09	\$2,364.02
	51	XXL/XXXL	\$4.25	\$6.00	\$5.34	\$272.34
	9	Green/grease	\$4.50	\$4.25	\$4.25	\$38.25
	65	Unspecified	\$1.25	\$4.00	\$2.37	\$154.05
Otter	3	Green/grease	\$30.00	\$43.00	\$36.50	\$109.50
	9	Unspecified	\$13.00	\$48.00	\$29.71	\$267.39
Possum	27	Green/grease	\$0.25	\$0.85	\$0.45	\$12.15
	11	Unspecified	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$2.75

## 2018 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

This year we will be electing a new Vice President and a new Treasurer. Tom Setser and Georgia Gifford are not running for reelection.

The NTA Director positions that Rodney Beauchamp is holding and the Director position that Clint Vannatter is holding are up for election. They are both running for reelection.

The election ballot will be in the Fall Newsletter with instructions on sending them in or delivering yours by hand at the convention in Tipton. Your membership must be current as of July 15th for you to receive a ballot.

Nominations for officer election must be made to the Election Chairman, Tom Setser, by July 15th in order to be put on the ballot. Anyone nominated will be contacted by Tom to see if he/she would be willing to serve. And if so, his or her name will be placed on the ballot. Tom's contact information can be found in this newsletter.

## **2018 AWARDS**

Tom Geisler is our Awards Committee Chairman. We encourage you to nominate individuals for awards for volunteering services for the ISTA. Call Tom with your nominations. 574-870-6299. Believe it or not Tom is almost as old as I am and we both text. Dinosaurs and old dogs can sometimes learn new tricks. Awards for nomination are Trapper of the Year, Youth Trapper of the Year, Pioneer Award, and Trapper Hall of Fame.