

# NORTH DAKOTA FUR TAKERS ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

### Vice President's Message By Mike Liane

I hope everyone is enjoying summer and looking forward to our annual convention in Carrington August 21-22. Bruce Willyard and his committee have been working hard to put together what is shaping up to be a terrific event.

It has been a very busy year for the Board of Directors. The legislative session, board changes and the Annual Fur Working Group Meeting with the Game and Fish have kept us on the go. The failure of SB 2146 was a huge disappointment to all of us who lobbied in favor of the bill. The ramifications of the loss to North Dakota trappers goes far beyond muskrat seasons. For the resident trapper the loss sets a serious precedence for the future. When Minnesota eventually gets reciprocity with North Dakota the rat bill will seem like a minor concern.

One of the most important efforts the board participates in annually is the Fur Working Group Meeting sponsored by the ND Game and Fish every spring. Several organizations with fur/predator control interests are invited to participate. And while this is not a policy making

group, this is the forum where issues of concern are brought forward for discussion. Several issues were identified by our board this year as a result of your responses on the member survey conducted last winter. Those of you that returned a survey can be assured that your voice was heard. I can tell you after having been involved in this process for several years that trappers have not fared well in this effort. Issues of concern brought forward by the trapping community have been greatly ignored by the powers to be with little or no progress. This has been extremely frustrating and left many questioning if it is worth our time and resources to continue participating.

I had the opportunity to share these frustrations with Game and Fish Director Terry Steinwand on one of many trips to the capitol during the legislative session last winter. Terry took notice and was receptive to our concerns which resulted in a much more productive working group meeting last May. For the first time we believed that

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Inside this issue:

East Director's Report	2
Secretary's Report	3
Hall of Fame	3
Rendezvous News	4
3-22-15 Board Meeting	5
Rendezvous Flyer	6
Advertisers	10
Treasurer's Report	11
Membership Application	12
NDFTA Board Members	13
Advertisers	

(Continued from page 1)

the Game and Fish representatives attending took our concerns seriously. We will reserve final judgment until the Furbearer Guide comes out in August, but we are optimistic that we have made progress. I hope to have time at our annual meeting in Carrington to give a brief overview of the issues we presented and any changes that resulted.

On another note, NDSU has recently completed the snare testing standards for the Game and Fish. These standards provide guidance to individuals inter-

ested in building an apparatus capable of testing release strength of breakaway devices. Final review of these standards is being completed at this time and the final version should be available very soon.

And finally, from my soapbox. North Dakota Fur Takers Association exists to support you in your trapping, snaring and hunting interests. This is where your concerns are heard. This is where your rights are defended. And there is strength in numbers. Every fur hunter/trapper in North Dakota should take this effort seriously. We need your continued

support, but we also need your help. I would like to ask every member to bring a friend and potential new member to our annual event in Carrington. Our agenda is printed in this newsletter and I believe it offers something for everyone. Come, spend the day, have some fun and maybe even go home with a new, useful technique.

I look forward to seeing you all in Carrington.

## East Director's Report by Tony Brandenburger

Hello, Tony Brandy here, one of our east district representatives.

First a little history about myself. I grew up in the Kulm / Lehr area of south central ND. I started trapping for fox in the mid 60's after reading an article in ND OUTDOORS by Badlands Bill Jaborski on fox and coyote trapping. I have continued my interest in trapping to this day with my primary focus on canines and muskrats and raccoons placing a close second.

My affiliation with NDFTA began in the mid 90's. I have served on the NDFTA board for the past 10 or 12 years.

The furbearer numbers seem to be doing fairly well here in the SE/SC part of ND. Coyote numbers are holding their own with many people telling me they are seeing more fox and fox dens. Muskrats are starting to make a come back and should do fine with the 15+ inches of rain we have received since mid-May. The mosquitoes and ticks are doing very well also!

We are planning what we feel should be a great Fall Rendezvous. There will be something of interest for all age groups plus some great food and many varied auction items. Several vendors will be in attendance so any sup-

plies you need you can arrange to pick up there and save some freight. Demos are planned through out the day so take in what ever interests you.

The one I gotta see is the 3 minute coyote skinning demo! And no, I won't be challenging him, I am more of a 15 or 20 minute person myself.

Hoping you can make it to Carrington Aug 22nd. Should be a great time with plenty to see and do! Any questions or concerns feel free to contact me.



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## Poster Enclosed

We hope that you will find a prominent local spot to hang the enclosed poster promoting our Rendezvous. You can also download more posters on our website at [www.northdakotafurtakers.com](http://www.northdakotafurtakers.com). Your help in advertising our event in your area will be most appreciated.

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## Secretary's Report by Peggy Brandenburger, Secretary

Hope to see you all at the Fall Rendezvous in Carrington, in addition to the Demos and checking out the vendors, I hope you will take time to re-connect with old friends and make some new ones. If you will be there on Friday, the evening meal will be pot-luck, a great time to share some of that garden bounty and maybe some bars or cookies, will also need bars for the Saturday noon meal.

We will also have a silent auction this year, so will be looking for any suitable treasures that you would like to donate.

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## West Director's Report by Rick Wiege

In May Adrian Dakken was inducted into the Trappers Hall of Fame. At the Trappers Kettle, Adrian is Actively Trapping at 90 years. Gary Jepson, Brent Woodwork and Bob Barne did an excellent job hosting this event. For a good time, try to attend.

The Make-a -Wish Rep was there to accept our donation in memory of Michelle Thomas.

Warren and Michelle have spent a lot of time, and work hosting most of our Rendezvous for the last 20 years.

Warren has decided not to seek reelection so we need someone to step up and take his place. If interested contact one of our Board members.

In May Mike, Tony and I attended the fur bearer workgroup. Hope fully we will see some changes.



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## Rendezvous News by Bruce Willyard

Things are really looking good for this years activities, from Muskrat trapping to speed skinning of coyotes should be an interesting event for everyone.

We'll be back in Carrington at the Foster County Fairgrounds, west end of town, check poster for Motels, camping, times and Demos.

Doors open at noon on Friday for dealer setup and registration begins for convention and trapping contest. We'll be trapping the same area as 2 years ago, its quite the place, Rick Wiede caught a flat coyote, not only was the fur flat but so was the whole thing flat. I caught a beaver in a dry land coyote set that had been out of the water for so long that it was petrified! Hard to tell what might be caught there this year, it seems to be a strange place!

### Vendors at this time

Dakota Line Snares ..... South Dakota  
Dead Coyote Snares ..... Minnesota  
Lyons Enterprises..... North Dakota  
Minnesota Trapslines ..... Minnesota

### Demonstrators

Shannon Cohrs..... Snaring and Waxed dirt. Shannon is from Dovray MN and puts on an interesting snaring demo and like to see the waxed dirt demo

Ryan Demchynski..... Skinning, fleshing boarding coyote.  
Ryan is from Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. Ryan does a very good job of explaining what he's doing and why. The speed skinning is some thing to see.

Joel Lyons..... Trapping muskrats, stand and floats. Joel is from Walcott, ND. Joel has been trapping Animal Damage for years. An interesting demo and Joel is one of new Vendors

NDGF..... Discussion on snaring: Stephanie Tucker and Bob Timian

### Election of Officers:

At the business meeting will be election of officers: A President , Chapter Representative, one east Director and one west, with Highway 83 the dividing line, does that need to be changed?

If you're interested or know some one who is contact:

Bob Burns..... (701) 728-6844  
Rick Wiede ..... (701) 878-4878  
Bruce Willyard ..... (701) 652-2109

(Continued on page 11)

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## NDFTA Board Meeting Minutes - March 22, 2015 Bismarck Public Library

Meeting called to order at 1:15 PM, by President, Gary Jepson. Board members in attendance: Dennis Kasowski, Rick Wiege, Joe Maertens, Bob Burns, Mike Liane, Tony Brandenburger, and Bruce Willyard. Secretary- Peggy Brandenburger. Also in attendance: Brent Kuss, and Rich Ackerman.

Motion made to dispense with reading of the Minutes and the Treasurer's report from the previous meeting by Tony Brandenburger, seconded by Rick Wiege. Motion carried.

Bruce Willyard reported on 2015 Fall Rendezvous preparations: Raffle tickets have been printed, rifles are always in stock so will not have to be ordered or paid for at this time, blanket has been ordered.

Gary Jepson reported on an opportunity for an additional raffle for a Commemorative Rifle valued at \$2,483.00. No interest by board members.

Bruce Willyard cites reason for board meeting is discussion of action to take after defeat of Muskrat Bill in the North Dakota House of Representatives when it passed easily in the Senate. This issue resulted in a majority of board members and officers to ask for Gary Jepson's resignation as President.

Gary Jepson states several county commissioners, a few Fur Taker members, Game and Fish, and the House Natural Resource Committee not in favor of Bill.

Lobbyists Bruce Willyard and Mike Liane report that their mission to support the passage of the Muskrat Bill (confirmed by a majority vote of Fur Takers General Membership at the 2014 Fall Rendezvous meeting) was not shared by lobbyist Gary Jepson, and that he did not lobby for the Bill.

Gary agrees he was against the Bill.

Brent Kuss and Rich Ackerman address the board first thanking Gary for his contributions to the organization and personally mentoring them, then citing why they feel that Gary Jepson no longer fully represents the interests of the organization.

Mike Liane reports on the results of the North Dakota Fur Takers Member Survey that was sent out to about 80 members with the last newsletter, 20 were returned.

Bruce Willyard presented a "ND Fur Takers Education" booklet that was printed in 1997. A good educational resource to promote fur harvest. Will decide at next General Membership meeting if new updated booklet should be printed.

Mike Liane reports that Web site will be updated. He is also compiling a list of discussion topics for the Fur Working Group Meeting, will have to send 2 or 3 people.

Bruce Willyard reports on Fall Rendezvous demos, and plans for a youth pellet gun contest.

Resignation tendered by President Gary Jepson, he leaves meeting at 4:00.

Mike Liane opens discussion on how to move ahead to fill vacancy of President. Consensus of board that the position will remain open until 2015 Fall Rendezvous, an election committee will be formed to obtain suitable candidates.

Discussion of Hall of Fame meeting May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Belfield. Make-a-Wish people will be there.

Discussion on reimbursement of expenses for travel to Board meetings. Payment will be made if individuals present a bill.

Meeting adjourned 4:40.

Secretary, Peggy Brandenburger

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## NDFTA Fall Rendezvous Schedule

### NORTH DAKOTA FUR TAKERS Fall Rendezvous August 21&22

Carrington, ND

Held at Foster County Fairgrounds  
3rd Street South and 16th Ave., West end of town

#### August 21- Friday

Doors open at Noon

Dealer setup and Registration convention and trapping contest

5:30 pm Set - trapping contest

6:30 Potluck supper, featuring lamb and moose, and bring a dish

7:00 Board meeting

9:00 Doors close for day

#### August 22 Saturday

7:00 am Breakfast

Check traps

8:00 Muskrat Trapping with floats and stands: Joel Lyons

9:00 Skinning, Fleshing and boarding coyotes: Ryan Denchemski

10:00 Snaring coyotes: Shannon Cohrs

11:00 NDGF Snares, locks & testing: Stephanie Tucker and Robert Timmean

12:00 Noon meal provided on site, free will offering

12:30 Start of Business meeting/elections

1:30 Making of waxed dirt: Shannon Cohrs

2:30 Turning coyote & coyote speed skinning demo: Ryan Denchemski

(Continued on page 9)

# **North Dakota Fur Takers**

## **2015 Fall Rendezvous**

### **August 21-22, 2015**

Foster County Fairgrounds – Carrington ND

#### Friday August 21

Fair grounds will open at 12:00 for dealers to setup  
5:30 pm – Trapping Contest  
6:30 pm – Potluck Supper featuring Lamb and Moose

#### Saturday August 22

7:00 am – Check Traps - Breakfast  
8:00 am – Demo – Muskrat trapping with floats and stands – Joel Lyons  
9:00 am – Demo – Skinning, Fleshing and Boarding Coyotes – Ryan Demchynski  
10:00 am – Demo – Snaring Coyotes – Shannon Chors  
10-12:00 – Kids BB Gun Shoot (Must have a guardian who is registered at the convention)  
11:00 am – Snares, Locks & Testing - ND Game & Fish, Stephanie Tucker, Robert Timian  
12:00 pm – Lunch – Meal provided on site, Free will offering  
12:30 pm – Business meeting with election of officers  
1:30 pm – Demo – Making waxed dirt – Shannon Chors  
2:00 pm – Raffle drawing  
2:30 pm – Demo – Turning Coyotes and Coyote speed skinning – Ryan Demchynski  
3:30 pm – Trap and Equipment Auction  
5:00 pm – Cleanup

#### Vendors

Dakota Line Snares  
Dead Coyote Snares  
Lyons Enterprises  
Minnesota Trapline Products, Inc.

#### Raffle Prizes

- 1) DPMS Panther .223 Rifle
- 2) Remington 870 12 Ga. Shotgun
- 3) Ruger 10/22 .22 Rifle
- 4) Pendelton Wool Blanket
- 5) \$100.00 Cash Prize
- 6) \$50.00 Cash Prize
- 7) \$50.00 Cash Prize

#### For more information contact:

Brent 701-752-4354

Bruce 701-652-2109

Camping available on site – no hookups

Camper Parking at City Park – with hookups

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Chieftain - 701-652-3131  
Carrington Inn & Suites – 701-652-3982

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## Fall Rendezvous Schedule of Events continued.....

(Continued from page 6)

3:30 Fun Auction

5:00 Ending and clean up

### Vendors

Dead coyote snares ..... Shannon Cohrs

Minnesota Trapline ..... Dave D'Agli

Dakota Line Snares ..... Mark Steck

Lyons Enterprises ..... Joel Lyons

### Accommodations & Rooms:

Block of Rooms at Chieftain - Chieftain (701) 652-3131

Carrington Inn and Suites (701) 652-3982

Camping available on site no hook ups

City park with hookups

### More Information:

Brent Kuss (701) 752-4354

Bruce Willyard (701) 652-2109

### Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Added feature for kids with a guardian registered at the convention,  
a BB gun shoot with bb gun as prize



# Advertisers



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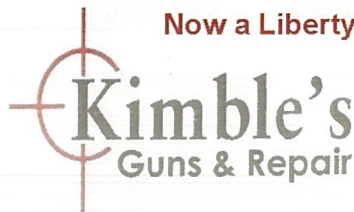
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you right!**

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(Continued from page 4)

At the fun Auction, don't forget to bring something.

One of our long time life members died last November, Laverne Gussiaas. He had over 300 dozen user traps and hundreds of collector traps. Laverne's oldest son Mike will be bring in 10 dozen traps and a few collector traps for the fun auction. Mike will have a list of users and collectors to check and see what are interested in and can contact Mike.

Also when in Carrington, Dry Dock Sports, south on 281, are holding their fall gun sale, definitely worth checking out!

## Treasurer's Report By Bruce Willyard

At the beginning of the year I sent out renewal notices to people that never made it to the Fall Rendezvous, we've had a pretty good response, some went from a yearly to a life and we signed up a few new ones at the shows been attending. Presently we have 54 yearly memberships and 54 Life memberships

Had to wait until the end of February to get the tickets printed for the Gun raffle, can only have them 6 months prior to the event.

With tickets in hand, we had a table at the Carrington Gun show at the beginning of March. Bruce Willyard, Leon Wright, Rich Ackerman and Dale Jorgenson manned the booth.

We had a coyote and fox skin at the table for the kids to touch and an assortment of Traps. Had raffle tickets available and ran a show special, buy the whole book and have a shot of Rum, sold 6 books of tickets with two whole books sold but no takers on the Rum.

Middle of March, was the Gun Show in Minot, had gotten a table for the Fur Takers, did the same set up had in Carrington. Fox and Coyote skins, assorted traps, and tickets with same show special, buy whole book, have a shot of Rum. A fellow from Wildrose was the only taker on the shot of Rum, and of course I had to have one also so he didn't have to drink alone. The table was manned by myself and Ted Gilliland, Bob Burns and Scott Evans. We sold 6 books of tickets and talked to a lot of people about the Rendezvous in Carrington in August. The Fox and Coyote were well handled by the kids.

I believe being at the Minot Gun Show was well worth the time and effort to promote the organization. Which brings us to the question, should we, do we need to, are there people enough interested to work the State Fair?

I also attended the induction ceremony of Adrian Dokken into ND Trapper Hall of Fame, the first weekend in May at the Trappers Kettle in Belfield.

Also at that same time frame was the presentation From the North Dakota Fur Takers to the Make a Wish foundation, in the memory of Michelle Thomas, the organizations former Treasurer and supporter, with a check for \$1,000 (One Thousand Dollars).

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## Email Directory

In an effort to develop better communications with our membership, we would like to develop an **email directory** of our members. Secretary Peggy Brandenburger has agreed to compile this list. Please forward your email to Peg at [pegbrandy@yahoo.com](mailto:pegbrandy@yahoo.com) to get on the list.

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## Member Dues

Within this newsletter you will find a membership form. If each of us would share this form with another trapper we could potentially double the size of our organization. There is strength in numbers and we will certainly face obstacles in the future that will depend on membership support.

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### Membership Application

### NORTH DAKOTA FUR TAKERS CHAPTER 3

Bruce Willyard, Treasurer  
431 69<sup>th</sup> Ave SE  
Carrington, ND 58421  
701-652-2109

Circle One:  
New  
Renewal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

	<u>Circle One:</u>
F.T.A Dues Only .....	\$30.00
ND Chapter 3 Dues Only.....	\$15.00
F.T.A. & ND Chapter 3 Dues .....	\$45.00
ND Chapter 3 Life Membership.....	\$125.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



## NDFTA Board Members - 2015

President – Open

Vice President – Mike Liane 701-351-0726 (mike@oakridgeent.com)

Secretary – Peggy Brandenburger 701-349-4122 (pegbrandy@yahoo.com)

Treasurer – Bruce Willyard 701-652-2109 (bwilly@daktel.com)

Directors – Tony Brandenburger 701-349-4122 (pegbrandy@yahoo.com)

-Dennis Kasowski 701-799-9127 (jkasowski@cablone.net)

-Joe Maertens 701-277-0883 (joemar1@aol.com)

-Rick Wiege 701-878-4878 (moscow@westriv.com)

-Robert Burns 701-338-2998 (burnsrob@hotmail.com)

-Warren Thomas 701-575-2209 (longhair\_countryboy@hotmail.com)

NDFTA Website: [www.northdakotafurtakers.com](http://www.northdakotafurtakers.com)

# GFW

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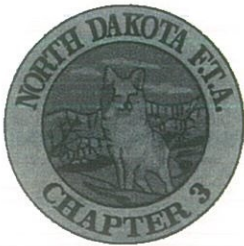
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North Dakota Fur Takers  
Association

NDFTA  
Bruce Willyard, Treasurer  
431 69th Ave SE  
Carrington, ND 58421



Hello fellow Fur Takers - Here are a few websites of Interest:

[NAFA](http://www.nafa.ca) - (www.nafa.ca )

[NDFTA](http://Northdakotafurtakers.com) - (Northdakotafurtakers.com)

[Fur Harvesters](http://www.furharvesters.com) - (www.furharvesters.com)

[NAFA](http://www.nafa.ca) - (www.nafa.ca )

[FTA National Convention](http://www.furtakersofamerica.com) (www.furtakersofamerica.com)

[National Trappers Association](http://www.nationaltrappers.com) (www.nationaltrappers.com) July 30 - Aug. 1, 2015- Hamburg, New York

## ND Fur Takers Rendezvous

August 21-22, 2015

Foster County Fairgrounds  
Carrington, ND

Details Inside this issue