

2019 Rendezvous



Fur Takers of America

The Fur Takers of America may best be explained in an excerpt from the first constitution, “We, the Fur Takers of America, do hereby pledge to further the heritage bestowed on us by the fur takers who have gone on before us. We pledge to conserve and maintain an adequate supply of furbearing animals, establish a better fur trade, support other organizations benefitting the fur taker, and helping our brother fur takers in their fight for fair laws throughout America.”



Fur Takers of America President David Hastings addresses attendees of the 51st Fur Takers of America National Rendezvous hosted by the Virginia Trappers Association at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Virginia on Thursday, June 20, 2019.

Its members hold conservation, the heritage and right to trap furbearing animals legally and ethically, as well as supporting other like kind organizations paramount since it was incorporated on October 28, 1969.

The incorporation papers stated education as one of their purposes, “To promote interest in and accumulate and disseminate knowledge concerning the trapping of furbearing animals among persons interested therein on an amateur basis.”

“Preserving our heritage while protecting our future.”

Every year the organization has an annual convention that is held in a different state, this year, the Virginia Trappers Association (VTA) was asked to host the event.

Virginia Trappers Association

The VTA was born three years prior to the FTA in 1966. While the FTA is national in scope, the VTA is a grassroots commonwealth non-profit organization which holds conservation, education and the monitoring of local legislative actions as pillars.

The VTA also has future vision and actively seeks like-minded commonwealth organizations, other state and national organizations as well as corporate sponsors to affiliate themselves. There is, and always has been, strength in numbers.

Elected officers and members of the VTA have in the past, and will in the future, work with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VGIF). The relationship is that of like-minded conservationists working together with a can-do attitude versus a them versus us mindset.

The VGIF officers attended the rendezvous and manned a booth offering conservation information as well as answered any questions attendees may have had about trapping law.

The purpose of the Virginia Trappers Association is to promote the interests of trappers and fur management in the Commonwealth of Virginia, in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Membership and trapping education are our primary focus areas. We need a healthy membership to keep the Association functioning both financially and politically.

When we stand in front of legislative bodies defending our heritage, the size of our Association counts.



Virginia Trappers Association District #1 Director, Travis Bandy welcomes rendezvous attendees to the 51st Fur Takers of America National Rendezvous, hosted by the Virginia Trappers Association.

Our trapping education program is a two-track system. We seek to provide advanced education for seasoned trappers via seminars and workshops to introduce new trapping technologies and improve fur management skills.

Also, we provide basic trapper training courses for new trappers to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to ethically and safely start their trapping pursuits.

These basic courses are one of our primary outreach efforts to commonwealth residents and young hunters and trappers.

The VTA has a number of events to assist trappers and promote trapping;

- Hold an annual fur auction to provide a market for fur
- Hold annual convention with trapping demonstrations and vendors
- Setup the VTA booth at trade shows to promote trapping
- Affiliate with national and state organizations with similar interests
- Provide trapping educational courses, seminars, and workshops
- Monitor legislative actions to preserve trapping rights

Demonstrations



Carl McGlothlin a native of Virginia, gave a 45 minute general overview of bobcat, coyote and fox snaring.

Leon Windschitl, owner of Top Lot Stretcher Company, demonstrates proper leather process and raccoon skin handling from opening cut to the pinning of the tail.





Mike Sells, combat wounded veteran, game enforcement officer, trapper, raccoon hunter, and member who serves on the Board of Directors of the Iowa Trappers Association, demonstrated how to hunt raccoon, in daylight, with hand and electric calls.

Eric Arnold, editor, Fur Taker Magazine, Rich Faler, editor American Trapper Magazine, and Fur Trappers of America President David Hastings brief rendezvous attendees, and hopeful trapping article writers, with tips on where to find submission guidelines as well as some do's and don'ts of article submission.





Kendall Obermier, owner of NO-BS Lures, spoke to rendezvous attendees about coyote trapping.

Jack Hill, owner of Lone Wolf Lures, spoke to attendees who were interested in formulating their own lure and bait. Hill gave a roadmap of everything from tincturing through the lure and bait making process.





Harry Nestle of F&T Fur Harvester's Trading Post, spoke to rendezvous attendees about beaver trapping.

Adrian Romero, landscape and wildlife photographer, spoke about the importance of carrying a camera on the trapline.





Robert Waddell spoke to attendees about the specifics of coyote trapping.

Justin Jett helps owner of Hoosier Trapper Supply, Charlie Mascheck, set up to address rendezvous attendees about trapping out-of-state and all the pitfalls and rewards that can come from an out-of-state trip.





Gary Armstrong, Fur Takers of America Hall of Fame member, and moderator for all demonstrations at the rendezvous, introduces Ron Jones, who enlightened the attendees about the benefits of double loading snares.



Videographer Nick Jensen of Floline Media, gets up close and personal covering Ron Jones and his presentation.



Claudie Taylor, who regularly harvests over 100 otters annually, spoke to rendezvous attendees about otter trapping and how to harvest more otter.

Life long trapper, bowhunter, and television host Tom Miranda, gave a motivational speech about how he came from a humble trapper background to be one of the nations' most recognizable outdoor television hosts.





Bluegrass band "Nothin Fancy," helps wind down the trappers rendezvous.

VTA volunteers that made the rendezvous possible



Chris Maitland, rendezvous sponsor and volunteer, assisted guest speakers set up and clear out before and after their demonstration. Maitland seemed to be everywhere at once.

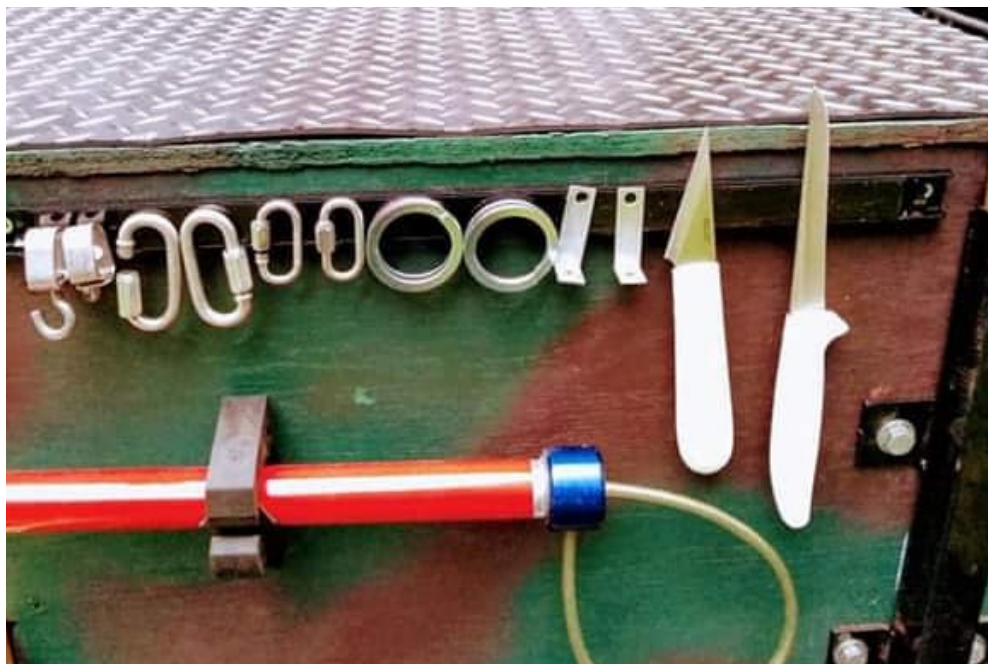
Virginia Trappers Association volunteers Peg Bryan, and Junelle Suter spent the rendezvous where needed.





James Canter and Jeff Holmes volunteered to set up the wild game calling contest.

Trapping truck contest



Jeff Talley won the trapping truck contest with an orderly and well thought out truck bed. Specialized compartments help keep traps and gear handy and out of the way. The magnetic strip keeps the small stuff available.



Winners of Trapping Truck contest:

First place winner Mr. Jeff Talley on the left, second place winner, JR Simmons in the middle with third place being taken by unknown.



FTA National Predator Calling Competition



Gage Minton belts out his coyote call for judges.

Jason Grossclose of MFK Game Calls and contest sponsor, awards Gage Milton, First Place in the Youth Division.

Open Division



Jason Grossclose of MFK Game Calls and contest sponsor awards Josh West - Third Place Open Division.



Jason Grossclose of MFK Game Calls and contest sponsor awards Brian Combs - Second Place in the Open Division.



Jason Grossclose of MFK Game Calls and contest sponsor awards Jamie Terry-First Place Open Division and Grand Champion of the Calling Contest.

What rendezvous attendees said about their experience...

It was great being on the Coyote discussion panel with Robert Wardell, Gary Jepsen, and Mark Zagger on Sunday at the FTA Virginia. Great questions and I hope you had as much fun as I did.

ED SCHNEIDER

Thanks to the VTA and FTA for the great show. It was nice to meet other members and vendors that I deal with. Finding new vendors that have the products I need was a plus, too. I also enjoyed being in the trapping truck contest and finishing first.

JEFF TALLEY

I'm not going to try and name names, because I would surely miss someone. If you have pictures of the folks that made this event such an awesome success, please post them here. To those of you who wore the shirt (or didn't) and poured your hearts and souls into this - I just want to say THANK YOU. It was my great pleasure to work with you. Love.

BRYAN NELSON

As the general organizer of the VTA I would like to thank everyone who help me at the VTA booth at the convention couldn't have asked for it to go any better.

JOSH FITCHETT

I want to draw attention to one of our own VTA legends who worked tirelessly for nearly a year to help host this event! Bryan Nelson needs a huge round of applause for basically sacrificing a year of his life to make sure this weekend was a HUGE success!!! Thank you Bryan for the endless work, organization, marketing and long days that you gave to the FTA convention! You made it possible and we appreciate you!

WILL FILLINGHAM

The 2019 FTA / VTA Rendezvous highlights and summary was created, written, and edited by Virginia Trappers Association Life Member, Michael Meisberger with help from Virginia Trappers Association Life Member Blanche Conley.

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