LTAHA FALL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

President's Report- Tony Howard

Members, I am proud to report that the LTAHA has had a successful 2024. Our 2023 education program concluded in late March with higher-than-average attendance. At the conclusion, BOD members and instructors met to discuss options to improve our classes. Several items were adopted and have been implemented for the 2024 season.

Our annual convention, in early April, was a huge success, with great attendance and fun for all. Frank Williams, Chad Grimnion, and Barry Culpeper were elected as new members of the board of directors. All three have hit the ground running with support and dedication to the trapping industry. I want to thank outgoing board members Clint Johnson, Ryan Schaefer, and Chad Mire. Their support and efforts have strengthened the LTAHA and helped build the association for future generations.

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Upcoming One Day Events

- Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge: Dec. 7, 2024
- Cypress Black Bayou Recreation (Benton, LA): Dec. 14, 2024

Reminder

If you haven't already, mark your calendars quick for our Convention this weekend! Gates open Saturday, November 16th at 7:30am!

President's Report Continued- Tony Howard

With so much loaded on our plate and so much effort to get information out to the members, the BOD elected to hire a part-time employee to aid and assist the group with information and bookkeeping. At our June 18th BOD meeting, we hired Mrs. Olivia Ebarb. The group set hours per month and hourly pay. Any overage will be approved through the President and if needed the BOD ahead of time. We made allotments for special days such as conventions and BOD meetings where hours can stack up quickly. Mrs. Ebarb reports work with the President and submits reports to the BOD as needed (statements, membership, renewals, etc.). It has been such a pleasure working with Mrs. Ebarb and her diligent work ethic is so refreshing.

The BOD worked with Regions Bank to open a Certificate of Deposit in the LTAHA name. Previsions were made for future BOD members and or officers to access the certificate in the event capital is needed in an emergency. The surplus came from several years of super frugal spending by the BOD and extra profits at the annual conventions. The surplus was built over five years. I am very proud of the work our board members have done on behalf of the membership of the LTAHA.

After working with District 1 House member Danny McCormick, District 10 House member Wayne McMahen, Louisiana Ag Commissioner Mike Strain, and LDWF commissioners, I submit the LTAHA's proposal for changes or Notice of Intent (NOI) we would like to see for the Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators program. The Department is holding off on changes or NOIs to the NWCO program.

I am proud to report that every dime of license fee collected from trapping licenses in the state will now fund the Fur Advisory Council. This was a hard-fought battle with many twists and turns, phone calls, and hundreds of emails. Because of steadfast dedication and support from within and several allies, we got the required legislation tacked on at the end of the legislative session. Having been told this would not happen and it was impossible to pass, it was drug across the finish line with legal terms being defined until the last sentence was typed in the eleventh hour. Like it or not, trapping has to step in the political arena much more than you would ever think. Thankfully we still have support in the state.

President's Report Continued- Tony Howard

The LTAHA was well represented at the National Trappers Association convention in Sioux Falls South Dakota. The LTAHA delegates took every item of business under great consideration and promoted Louisiana at every turn. We are moving forward with Louisiana 4H on educational workshops. This was a direct result of attending the NTA National this year. Also, I was asked to perform a demo at the convention. With feed back from attendees, I feel I put our best foot forward for Louisiana and our education program.

The LTAHA also had delegates at the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) annual convention in August. The relationships forged at these meetings are so important to our industry. The LTAHA was also featured in the LWF newsletter in the Affiliate Spotlight section. Few issues were discussed that directly affect our industry, however, some issues affect our everyday life. One issue discussed was litter through the release of helium-filled balloons. This issue directly affects our friends in the cattle industry. Another issue was not mowing the road ditches for wildlife. It was brought to the attention of the group that safety concerns limit this. Wider, well-kept ditches and roadways allow more reaction time for drivers meeting wildlife crossing the roadway. I feel the LTAHA was well represented and made some end rows with other groups.

I set up a booth at the NTA South Eastern in Mulberry Arkansas this past Sept. I shared pictures of the booth on Facebook and by email with many people. I also performed a grey fox demo on Sat. It was good to support other state associations and events. I made several new friends whom I hope to spend more time getting to know over the next few years.



Pictured Right: Our set up at the NTA South Eastern in Mulberry Arkansas


LTAHA
CONVENTION
Kiwanis Camp Rd Ext. Pineville, LA
16TH
NOVEMBER
Come out and enjoy the fun!
8:00am - Till
Free entry
TRAPPING & OUTDOOR SUPPLIES/
EDUCATIONAL DEMOS/FOOD/
AUCTION ITEMS/RAFFLE ITEMS/
DOOR PRIZES
DIRECTIONS
Don't forget to add extension to the address
Coming from the North:
Hwy 71/167 to Tioga Exit
Turn Left (go to the red light)
Turn left (go to Pentecostal Way)
Turn Right
(Go approximately 1/2 mile) Location on the left
Coming from the North Hwy 165:
(Go to Ball)
Turn Right on Tioga Rd
(Go to Pentecostal Way)
Turn Right
(Go approximately 1/2 mile) Location on the left
Coming from the South:
Take Hwys 165-167-71
(Go towards Tioga Exit)
Turn Right (go to the first light)
Turn left to Pentecostal Way
Turn Right
(Go approximately 1/2 mile) Location on the left
Questions?
Call Randall Williamson (225) 721-3025 or
Homer (318) 664-8558