

# MONTANA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

Working Today For a Tomorrow in Trapping  
Furbearers are a RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCE.

VOLUME 18, NO. 1

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2002

## Glasgow Middle School Requests MTA Trapper Education Course

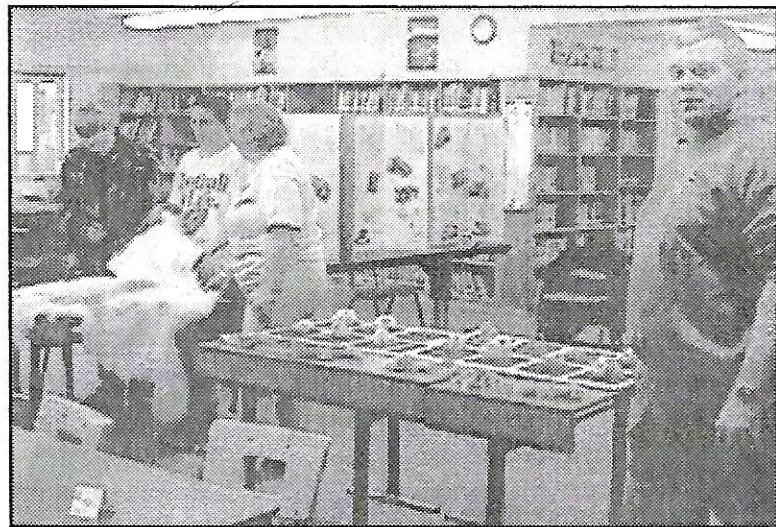
By Scot Dahms

In late November 2001, Jan Graham from the Glasgow Middle School contacted me to do a trapping program at the school. After I told her about the MTA Trapper Education Course, she was very interested in having a course at the school. A MTA Trapper Education Course was held in the District in September, so I was curious how many students would sign up.

The Glasgow Middle School would not have been able to invite the MTA to do a course at the school without the grant and needed funds that they received. The 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant pays for part of the salary for the After School Program Coordinator, any time that staff assists with programs, snacks and meals during programs. The goal of the grant is to increase math, reading, and science learning in a drug free and safe environment. The school applied for the grant using Lewis and Clark Voyage of Discovery as their theme. They had already completed programs covering black powder muzzleloaders, outdoor cooking, games of the Lewis and Clark era, and processing harvested game.

On December 8, 2001, the course was held in the school library and went very well. Ron Stoneberg, Fran Buell, and I instructed the course. Ron covered Furbearer Identification, Furbearer Conservation and Management, also Laws and Regulations. Fran covered Harvested Furbearer Usage, Safety and Health on the Trapline, and the History and Future of Trapping. I covered Ethics and Trapline Equipment. The 12 students were very interested in the many furs and skulls that Fran and Ron brought.

Of course, the students almost had to be peeled away



Fran Buell, Scot Dahms, and Ron Stoneberg (not pictured) show students furs, skulls, and MTA displays.

from the table where the traps and equipment were. The school provided snacks and a meal, so the students did not have to leave the building to find something to eat or drink. This provided more time for them to ask questions and be around the instructors. Principal Garry Stidman and other

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[www.montanatrappers.org](http://www.montanatrappers.org)  
For updates on the issues



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**Students take time during a break to make a closer inspection of the furs.**

staff assisted during the course. This was a big help.

Because of the course, The Glasgow Middle School Library requested some information about trapping for the students. A copy of the NTA Trapping Handbook was donated by the MTA to the school library. Also, Leroy and Carol Heinle of Augusta, Montana donated a year subscription of the Trapper and Predator Caller to the Glasgow Middle school and to the Brockton School library.

This was a unique opportunity that helped the MTA to get information about trapping out to more people and the school by providing a diverse selection of activities for the students. The MTA was able to certify 12 students. The grant can go for two more years, but the school needs to reapply annually to prove that they are meeting the requirements. If the grant does continue, the MTA will definitely be invited back to instruct more Trapper Education Courses in the school.

### *Vice President East Report*

Merry Christmas to Everyone! I hope this Holiday Season finds everyone doing fine. It just doesn't seem like Christmas without any snow.

It has been good trapping though, for both coyotes and cats. However it seems the mange in the coyotes is coming back in the Canadian border country.

The MTA did meet in Lewistown for the Board of Directors on December 2nd. There was a good turnout of Directors, the business of the MTA was handled and we had our usual meeting.

I would like to acknowledge the great job everyone did selling raffle tickets this past year. It is so important for us members to encourage sponsorship and to sell those tickets; as it is a main source of money that is required to run this Association. If we all do our part, the MTA itself, will benefit!

Happy Holidays to All!

*Jim Halseth*  
Vice President East

### *MTA Membership Report*

11-22-01

Hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and is enjoying the holiday season in general. We all have a lot to be thankful for.

Since last report I have deleted all members not current as of October 2001. The membership now looks like the following:

Total Members .....	459	
District 0 (out of state) .....	44	
District 1 .....	65	
District 2 .....	63	
District 3 .....	62	
District 4 .....	47	
District 5 .....	64	
District 6 .....	29	
District 7 .....	44	
District 8 .....	41	
Youths .....	21	(14 new YTD)
Life .....	44	(3 new YTD)
Family .....	100	(27 new YTD)

Looks like about half of the new members last year renewed this year. Ideas for improving membership might be giving a membership for a gift for birthdays, holidays, as raffle prizes, and as a "thank you" gift. It's twenty bucks well spent.

This is an election year. If any member wishes to take the job of Membership Secretary I will not be offended. I am willing to stay on also if nominated and duly elected.

*Bill Boehme*  
MTA Mbr. Sec.

### **DISTRICT 2 SPRING MEETING APRIL 7TH • 9 A.M. @ LAKE DIANE**

Take Phosphate Exit on I-9 Four miles West of Garrison Junction. For more info contact Bob Sheppard (406)793-5885