

Perpetuating a Partnership Success: 2nd Annual Salamonie Reservoir Trapping Camp, Indiana

by Justin Harrington and Scot Dahms

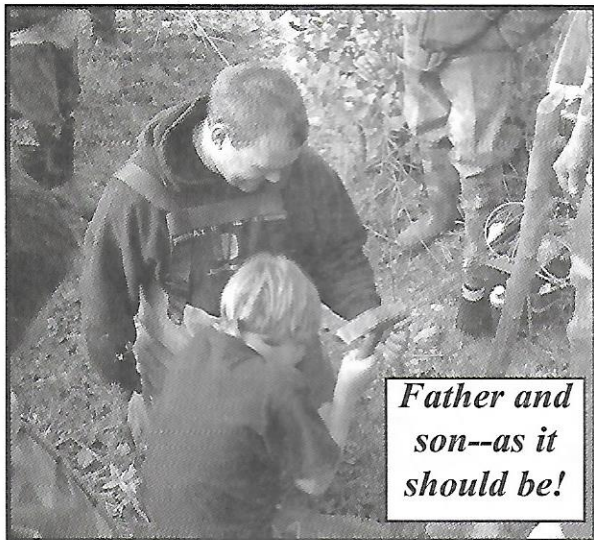
Photos by Justin Harrington and Monica Olson

For the second year in a row, the trapping camp at Salamonie Reservoir proved to be a successful venture for trapper education and recruitment. Trapping instructors from Indiana State Trappers Association (ISTA), IDNR Conservation Officer Todd Lang, the IDNR Property Biologist at Salamonie, and Salamonie Interpretive Center personnel worked together to conduct the second-annual Trapping Camp on October 10th and 11th, 2009 at

John Adams led the water-trapping group. Students and ISTA instructors checked traps on Sunday morning and harvested animals that were trapped by students.

A river otter was incidentally caught in a snare set for raccoon. The property biologist worked together with instructors to release the animal unharmed. A trap-release board was used as a better alternative to the catch-pole method in the release because it is less injurious to

ed the event. Cody Stuck won a bottle of free fox lure for guessing the correct weight of one of the beaver trapped. Trappers and instructors stayed overnight in the campgrounds and enjoyed lunches fresh from the grill on both days. Most attendees were fathers and sons or daughters, which makes the Salamonie Reservoir Trapping Camp a great family event as well as a fine recruitment event for future sportsmen. The trapping camp partnership at Salamonie Reservoir is just one of many state-sponsored outdoor experiences for new sportsmen. For further information on state-sponsored outdoor events, contact your local natural resources agency.



Father and son--as it should be!

Salamonie Reservoir in Andrews, IN. Thirty-four participants completed the course.

On Saturday morning, the Salamonie Reservoir biologist gave a presentation on trapping history, the role of trapping in wildlife management, and furbearer biology. IDNR Conservation officer Todd Lang educated trappers on trapping regulations. ISTA trapping instructor Scot Dahms taught youth and adult trappers more about trapping techniques, safety on the trap line, and trapping ethics. Demonstration furs and trapping supplies were used as teaching aids.

Saturday afternoon, trappers and ISTA instructors split up into two groups, (land trapping and water trapping) to set traps for furbearers on Salamonie Reservoir. In the field, ISTA instructors Ron Elliot, John Allen, Frank Lamm, and Chuck Iser led the land-trapping group. ISTA instructors Scot Dahms, Stu Grell, and

river otter. Trappers caught two beaver and one raccoon in one night of trapping. Trapped animals were used in fur-handling demonstrations on Sunday afternoon.

ISTA provided many giveaways, including free traps, free trapping lure, free trapping books, and free trapping magazines for all trappers who attend-



The water trapping group, and success!

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