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# Longspring Gazette

The Best Source of News & Information for Idaho Trappers  
**The ITA is YOUR NORTHWEST NAFA CONNECTION!**

## Idaho Trappers Association partners with NAFA for best fur prices by Andy White

The Idaho Trappers Association is proud to be the preferred Idaho Shipping Agent for North American Fur Auctions (NAFA). The agreement with NAFA also allows the ITA to pick up fur in Nevada. The ITA Board of Directors sealed the deal with NAFA to become a Shipping Agent this past August.

How to get the best fur prices for a trapper's hard work is probably one of the most discussed and hottest topics among trappers every year. Many ITA trappers have known for years that shipping properly put up prime pelts to NAFA is the best way to cash in on all that hard work out on the line and in the fur shed.

NAFA has long provided specific methods for fur preparation that produce the best sale prices a trapper can expect. NAFA also maintains direct and continuous contact with international buyers, which allows NAFA to publish fairly accurate value estimates for incoming furs slated for future auction sales. These reasons, and more, all point to North American Fur Auctions as being the best outlet, easily the best value, for a trapper's hard work.

Many new trappers want to learn to trap specific animals, moving on to new species as the trapping budget, time and experience allow. Reality hits fast, however, when the catch rate goes up and animals that need to be processed properly and efficiently stack up in the fur shed. What's the best way to skin, flesh and form the day's catch? Even experienced trappers can benefit from the NAFA Professional Fur Handling four-DVD set which details proper fur preparation for top money by species. The video series teaches sound fur preparation techniques that produce consistent

pelts desired by the international fur buying community. Consistent fur preparation helps NAFA graders match very large quantities of one furbearing species by pelt quality, size and color. This attracts fierce bidding on large lots of properly prepared furs, which is reflected in NAFA fur checks that consistently surpass what local fur buyers will spend.

The ITA has the NAFA Professional Fur Handling DVD sets for sale. They are just \$20 each and can be mailed to you for an additional \$6 shipping and handling charge.

No one has the worldwide fur market figured out better than NAFA. NAFA representatives stay in constant contact with all the major market buyers around the globe, including buyers from China, Greece, Russia and every other locale with a passion for real, renewable fur.

I didn't know much about how NAFA operates when I made the personal decision to ship all of my fur to NAFA. At my second ITA fur sale I watched local buyers stuffing the fur they had just purchased into NAFA shipping bags for transport to their shops. That struck a chord with me. I realized that local buyers were going to use those same bags to ship some of my fur to NAFA for a profit. Then, at my fourth ITA fur sale prices offered for some of my furs were less than what was offered in the previous sale, despite the fact that NAFA was posting sales figures that were still climbing.

Another deciding factor for me came from the ITA PayPal account. As the account administrator I started seeing donations from ITA members that simply said "NAFA commission". I realized that some very experienced ITA trappers

were shipping directly to NAFA, bypassing the local ITA sales, while still supporting the ITA by donating the same commission rate they would have paid at an ITA sale, except the donation was being calculated on a much larger NAFA fur check!

ITA member Jim DeFeyer has shipped to NAFA for more than ten years. He likes how NAFA graders do everything they can to present furs to buyers in the best possible condition. Jim joined the Wild Fur Shippers Council (WFSC) from the start. That saved him a 2% discount on NAFA commissions. He says the WFSC has sent out rebate checks in the past few years which have driven his NAFA sale commissions down to 4%, which is lower than previous ITA sales. Besides the great commission rate and higher NAFA sale prices, he also maximized his fur checks by earning several "Top Lot" awards.

The next ITA-NAFA Fur Day, where you can drop off your furs for free insured shipping to NAFA, will be held May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 in Mountain Home, ID. For more information please consult the ITA web site and Facebook page for updated information on the next fur collection day. Contact information for ITA directors and officers is listed on the web site, and they will be happy to handle further questions about the event.



## Fur Committee Report

by Shawn Jewett

The March 8, 2014 fur shipping day to NAFA went very well. By 8:30AM fur was rolling in the doors and the ITA crew stepped up to the challenges and questions that all the trappers had. The crew counted the fur and bagged and sealed it as the trapper watched. Once the paper work was filled out, the bag tag and receipts were compared for matching fur counts and the receipt was given to the trapper.

Casey and Evan from BLM kicked off the demos by presenting information about the BLM Wilderness Plan to the crowd, which generated a lot of discussion. Member Scott Brown did a demonstration on handling a fox from skinning to putting the fox on the board to dry. The demo of the fox appeared to have gone really well by the amount of people

**NEXT ITA-NAFA FUR DAY is scheduled for May 3, 2014 in Mountain Home, ID. Please contact Shawn at 208-859-1641 for more details and to VOLUNTEER!**

gathered around Scott. Brian Flatter, IDFG, addressed questions on how to work together to inform the public about trapping. Then Jim DeFeyer did a fantastic demo on skinning and putting up a muskrat from start to finish on solid boards, which NAFA prefers.

Many thanks for a job well done to all those who helped make this fun and educational day a success! We could not do this without the support of the Fur Committee, the volunteers and the trappers.

## ANTI-TRAPPING ALERT

*On April 7 three environmental groups filed an "intent to sue" with IDFG. They have teamed up to sue the state over lynx populations.*

*They believe Idaho is violating the Endangered Species Act by allowing trapping in lynx habitat. They are attempting to force Idaho into an incidental take agreement with the USFWS, which would require more trap restrictions, including daily trap checks.*

*These threats will never end. You can help! Please implore your trapping friends to join the ITA. The ITA has a long track record of working to stop these threats, but we need able bodies and constant financial support to take up these battles. For donations and memberships: idahotrappers.com.*

*Follow us on Facebook, too!*

# 2014 Election Candidates

## Andy Smith, Vice President—Incumbent

I am currently the Vice President of the Idaho trappers association. I served as a director for the ITA prior to that. I am a lifelong trapper that has trapped all over the state of Idaho. I grew up in Eastern Washington right on the Idaho border and moved to Idaho as soon as I had the chance. I have trapped from Sandpoint as far south as Jackpot at one time or another so I have a good understanding of the challenges facing trappers in all parts of the state. I have a Wildlife Resources degree from the University of Idaho. I have been involved with the ITA for many years. I became involved when I moved to Gooding right out of college. I currently live in the beautiful town of Salmon, Idaho. I am a Senior Conservation Officer with Idaho Fish and Game and have worked very hard to help develop a better working rela-

tionship between the two groups so that trappers can have more of a voice on important issues. I developed a trapper education program for Conservation Officers to help them become more familiar with trapping. I have taught trapper education all over the state and have been a driving force for the program and developed the trapper education trailers to ensure that instructors had all of the necessary equipment available to teach classes. I helped develop the wolf trapper education program and have been an instructor from the beginning. I have also taught fur handling demos at the ITA fur sales and conventions and helped organize many of the demonstrations. I became involved with the ITA for one reason, to protect our right to trap and our heritage as trappers so that future generations can enjoy the same things that I have.

## Tim Conant, Director—Incumbent

I have trapped most of my life and have learned that you never stop learning. I feel that I can help the ITA move forward by being active in all aspects of the trapping industry such as marketing, fur handling, trapper rights, rule making, public awareness, trapper ed. I would appreciate your vote so I can continue to serve the ITA as a director.

## Dan Davis, NTA Director—Incumbent

I have been the NTA director for the last 10 years, and in that time I have been influential in working as the go-to person between the NTA and the ITA. This success has come from having the time to really get to know the people at NTA, being able to call on them when needed, and having them know me well enough to respond to our needs. I am currently the Northwest Regional Director for NTA and help with many programs in their educational group FBU (Furbearers Unlimited).



I started trapping in 1976 and have never been able to put it down since that time. I attended college at Snow College in Utah and Utah State University, in the studies of predator ecology in the ADM program (Animal Damage Management). I worked at the coyote research center in Millville, Utah before taking a position with the New Mexico ADC, which is now referred to as Wildlife Services. After working for them for a time, I transferred to Idaho when a position became available. I worked until a budget shortfall terminated the position. I have since started a trap supply company and manufacture trapping equipment.

If anybody has any questions prior to voting, feel free to call me at (208)403-3896 and we can discuss what is on your mind.

## Additional Candidates

**Director Robert Miller** is running to retain his position. He was appointed by President Carney to finish Paul Jensen's term. Robert was nominated by President Carney for this election.

**Gerald Rau** was nominated by President Carney to run for a director position.

## Andrew White—Challenging for Vice President

I appreciate what Andy Smith has done for trapping and the ITA. My challenge for the VP position is driven by my concern of having an IDFG employee at the helm of the ITA if the president's seat suddenly became vacant. Would Andy Smith's employer, IDFG, exercise an undue level of influence over the ITA if he became the president? Could that potential scenario limit the ability of the ITA to fight wholly for ITA members?

I am passionate about protecting trapping in the West, and I wish to see ITA influence spreading throughout the western states in order to accomplish that. My objective in spreading that influence is to reach a position where trappers have the power to take rights and trapping methods back, rather than giving up small pieces of our rights in false compromises until there is nothing left.

Also, as the current secretary of the ITA the keys to the association are very close at hand for me already. I have created, managed and updated no less than four methods of



keeping members informed on trapping issues. The *Longspring Gazette* is my brainchild, as are the ITA email reflectors. I also currently manage the ITA membership and oversee the PayPal account that I set up for the ITA, which has directed more than \$4000 into the ITA since its inception. I am also the author of more than 90% of the ITA Facebook page posts.

A vote for me, Andrew White for Vice President, is simple insurance that if, for any reason, Patrick Carney should leave his office early, the transition from vice president to president can happen smoothly with very little disruption.

## Jason Cunningham—Challenging for Director

Native to Idaho, Jason has been an active trapper, hunter, and fisherman from a young age. His desire to volunteer and share his outdoor knowledge with others is a passion he takes pride in. Jason, believes in the need to instill sportsmanship and stewardship of the land in future generations.

Impressed by the new direction the ITA has taken with NAFA to improve auction prices for Idaho trappers, he hopes to be part of future beneficial improvements



## Angel Lovan—Challenging for Director

I was born and raised in Idaho, grew up in a hunting/fishing/trapping family. I am a mother to a next generation trapper. I am a member of the NTA and several other conservation groups in Idaho and Nationally.

I just became a certified Trappers Ed instructor. Trapping is a very big part of my life, it is a passion, I love being in my fur shed and putting up fur. I give the animal my utmost respect by putting up my fur as perfect as I can.

I believe you can never learn too much, and I remain teachable, especially when it comes to trapping, and handling fur. I love this organization and the members that I have gotten to interact with over the last few years. This group is my second family and I care a lot about what goes on, and I always volunteer when I can. I have helped Pat and Michelle with FBU banquets, collected lots of donations for the ITA and I have volunteered at the Sportsmen's shows. I attend and participate at Commission meetings, and I helped at past fur sales. I've participated in "Trap Avoidance" classes, and I help with NAFA fur pick up days.

I love to hunt, fish, and trap, and this Association is a big part of my life. I am very passionate about conservation, trapping and the ITA. I will stand up for our rights and our heritage, and represent the ITA with Respect and Pride and Heart.