



The Indiana State Trappers Association (ISTA) is a not for profit 501(c)3/509(a)2 organization dedicated to:

- Conserving Indiana's fur resource
- Preserving trappers' rights
- Educating trappers
- Increasing public awareness of trapping issues and benefits

Our Purpose

We, the trappers of Indiana, prompted by the feeling of profound respect and gratitude toward the many valiant fur trappers who have gone before us, whose courageous deeds and exploits will forever embellish the pages of our nation's early history, and being duly grateful for the rich legacy of wildlife bequeathed by our predecessors, associate ourselves for the following purposes:

- To conserve and maintain an adequate supply of indigenous fur bearing animals
- To preserve inviolate the freedom, privileges and the pleasures of the trapline for those who shall succeed us
- To uphold the fundamental rights of freedom, liberty and justice for all
- To perpetuate the friendships and associations of the outdoors
- To dedicate ourselves to the cause of mutual assistance, this by the grace of God

The ISTA helps preserve trapper's rights by:

- Monitoring proposed legislation
- Providing an organized forum for trapper's interests
- Educating the public about the benefits of trapping
- Joining forces with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources(IDNR), National Trappers Association, FurTakers of America, the Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable and many others
- ISTA has a seat on the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Committee (FWCC) where we have direct face to face contact with the Director of fish and wildlife, as well as many other wildlife conservation groups, who also have a seat. We have also sat on other IDNR committees on trapper's behalf as well as on special committees to update the nuisance wildlife laws in Indiana, and another concerning game breeder permits.



Some things the ISTA has done for Indiana trappers:

State Legislation

Snare Law

Back in the 1990's, the ISTA successfully got the snare law changed to allow a larger loop size to be used with a relaxing lock. This not only allows for much more efficient coyote and beaver snaring but also makes snares less harmful to incidental catches and pets.

Keeping 220 Caliber Style Traps legal on land

Another time, an officer of the ISTA successfully testified against a law that proposed to out law 220 sized, conibear style traps on land. His efforts kept 220s legal on land.

Local Law

One of our members informed us of a local city law that prohibited trapping. As a result, the ISTA, working thru the Sportmen's Roundtable, got the state law changed so that local government can NOT prohibit trapping. For the exact wording of the law look up 1C-14-22-10-10.

Otter Season

The ISTA strongly supported the reintroduction of otters to Indiana back in the 1980s. Members have helped monitor the developing population ever since, by turning in otters incidentally caught in beaver sets. The otter population is now strong enough to support a limited season beginning with the 2015-2016 trapping season. The ISTA helped to get this season established.

On a National Level

The ISTA has a voting member on the National Trapper's Association (NTA) and Fur Takers of America (FTA) Board of Directors.

In 2005 and 2007 ISTA hosted the National Trappers Association 46th & 48th Annual Convention, the largest yearly gathering of trappers and trapping supply dealers in the world.

In 2014, the ISTA helped Maine defeat an anti bear trapping/hunting proposition with a \$1,000 donation funneled through the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance (USSA).



Conservation

The ISTA helps to ensure sound management of furbearers by advising the IDNR about the effects that proposed rule changes could have on trappers and the fur resources of Indiana.

Otter Reintroduction

You may have seen some t-shirts with an otter on them, that say “Coming to a stream near you”. These shirts and hats were put together and sold by the ISTA to support the otter reintroduction. As a result, several thousand dollars was raised for the otter reintroduction.

Trapper Surveys:

ISTA works closely with the state wildlife Biologist providing valuable harvest data to ensure our furbearers are managed to ensure that healthy populations are maintained.

Trapper Education:

The ISTA sponsors several Trapper Education classes throughout the state. Trapper education instructors are certified by the ISTA and the IDNR. Most classes are for novices. However we do have some more advanced and/or specialized classes from time to time. You can check the ISTA website, or the IDNR website for more information. See www.PassItOnIndiana.com



ISTA Events

Public Displays and Demonstration

We have booths at various sport and trade shows.

Fur Sales

We sponsor fur sales where trappers can bring their fur and have many fur buyers on hand to bid on their fur.

Trapper Education

We have several Trappers Education (TE) classes throughout the state, as stated elsewhere in this publication. Seven (7) TE classes were held in 2014. This year's TE classes may be found at the ISTA website under the Calendar section.

Board of Directors' Meetings (Members always welcome)

We have several Board of Directors' meetings each year to which the general members are welcome and encouraged to attend. We have a spring membership meeting in April to discuss business matters and plans for the year. Watch for the dates and places in the spring newsletter and on the ISTA website.

Fall Convention - In September

Of course our biggest event of the year is our fall convention and rendezvous. We have supply dealers, trappers doing demos, contests for the kids and the membership meeting, as well as many other events no trapper should miss.

For more info about us check out our website at indianatrappers.org



Indiana State Trappers Association Membership

Your annual membership dues will gain you access to:

- Our biannual newsletter and special newsletters
- Voting privileges in the Indiana State Trappers Association (ISTA)
- The ISTA Board of Directors includes a seat for a Director to both the Fur Takers of America and to the National Trappers Association. These positions represent our members' interests with voting privileges at the National Level.
- ISTA offers Scholarships for students who are members or have parents or grandparents who are members
- Subscription to a Trapping Related magazine

Each issue of the magazine includes:

- ISTA news and event info
- Fur market updates
- State and National legislative updates
- In-depth articles about improving your catch and caring for your fur.



The Fur Trade and Trappers

The fur trade is a responsible, well regulated industry dedicated to the wise use of valuable, renewable resources. Trapping is recognized as the single most effective and safest tool for resolving animal damage problems while providing sound wildlife management.

There are a number of reasons why people trap. Most trappers cite nature enjoyment, the challenge, and recreation with their families as reasons why they trap.

Trappers are among the most knowledgeable groups about wildlife and are also among the most concerned for the preservation of wildlife habitat.

Some trappers are motivated by the experience of practicing a skill that dates back to their forefathers. Others enjoy the ever changing moods of nature, experiencing frosty mornings and the feeling of satisfaction of being able to identify animal signs and habitats at a glance.

Although trappers do sell the fur and other products from the animals they catch, very few trappers trap professionally. Some of the things that motivate trappers are no different than deer, turkey, duck, rabbit, and other hunters as well as bass and walleye fisherman. In fact, 99% of trappers enjoy those activities as well.

Trappers are responsible individuals, willing to study and respect the animals they seek. They use the most humane methods and devices available as determined in the Best Management Practices Study, and constantly update and revise the tools and methods they use. In fact all of the river otter that were reintroduced in Indiana were captured by trappers in Louisiana using the same steel jawed foothold traps that are commonly used by trappers here in Indiana.

The biological facts about trapping are clear. Harvestable surpluses can be used as a renewable resource to the benefit of both people and wildlife. Hence the ISTA motto "Mutual Benefit".



Indiana State Trappers Association Application for Membership

Name: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: () _____ County: _____
New: _____ Renew: _____
Email: _____

Mail application to the Treasurer:
Indiana State Trappers Association

Regular or family Membership with Trapper Post Magazine...	\$35.00	_____
Membership without magazine.....	\$25.00	_____
Junior membership with magazine (16 and under)	\$20.00	_____
Senior lifetime membership with magazine (60 yrs. +).....	\$150.00	_____
Lifetime membership without magazine	\$200.00	_____
Lifetime membership with magazine	\$350.00	_____
Bronze Lifetime membership	+\$100.00 donation	_____
Silver Lifetime membership	+\$500.00 donation	_____
Gold Lifetime membership.....	+\$1000.00 donation	_____

*New members will receive a patch and decal
(one per family)*

