

District 3 - Advanced Trapper Field Day
Article from Jan - Feb 2000 Buckeye Trapper
by Harry Kinnison

October 10, 1999 was the District 3 Advanced Trappers Field Day at Dennis Helman's place. The weather didn't want to cooperate at first but decided to be nice to us anyway. We had a total of 40 people attend and by their actions, I'd say they enjoyed themselves. We started out with a discussion on BMP's to let everyone have an idea what was going on with the testing. Next we did trap preparation

and treatment. We discussed using the cold dip method too, but felt it wasn't feasible to do that so just described how to do it.

Blair Granger did a water demo on raccoon, mink and muskrats in the pond. He showed different types of water sets and what to look for when starting out and explained different traps and which he preferred and why. By this time we were ready for lunch, plus the local wildlife officer Tim Rourke had shown up and while we ate he talked to us and we had some lively discussions about the laws.

Food didn't last long and then we had a canine demo by Jerry Cooper. Jerry demonstrated the standard dirthole plus a few variations and the importance of using more than one set at a location. He then followed up with a snaring set on a trail at a fence, stressing not to set right at the fence, but moving away enough to keep from getting anything caught at the fence.

Butch Barnhorst followed with his raccoon snaring demo and explaining some details about snares and how to make them and some of the new ideas he has picked up at conventions the past couple of years.

We were nearing the end of the Field Day, but we still had the beaver demo at the pond. Joe Grice and John Crosby did a very good job of explaining tools and sets to us. Some of us had trapped beaver before, but these guys had some new ideas to think about. They have been trapping out of state the last few years for beaver and showed some new things they've been working on.

Dennis then had a skinning demo with a raccoon as the subject, explaining proper cubing positions and the importance of wearing protective gear while skinning. He talked a little about the coming season and what to expect on prices even though he wasn't sure. No one really knows what is going to happen at the time of this Field Day, but he gave his opinion.

It was finally time to close the show and we packed up to go home. I think it went well and I want to express my gratitude to every one who helped out to make this Field Day a success. We are already talking about what we would like to do for next year. I am open for suggestions if anyone has anything in particular they would like to see next year.