

OSTA/ODW Trappers' Cabin
Article from January - February 2003 Buckeye Trapper
by Keith J. Landies

On August 29, 2002, we had the grand opening of the OSTA/ODOW Trappers' Cabin at the Natural Resources Area in the Geauga County Fairgrounds. Steve Gray, Assistant Chief of the ODOW, and Wildlife District 3 Manager, Jeff Herrick, were both in attendance, along with many other dignitaries and Division of Wildlife personnel. In a speech from the porch of the cabin, Steve commended the OSTA for the solid relationship that we have had with the ODOW for many years and for partnering with them on projects such as these.

Over the course of the weekend, there literally were thousands of people who went through the facility. Many had an opportunity to hear the conservation story of why trapping is a necessary management tool for our furbearer resources. We handed out over two thousand pieces of literature that explained the need for trapping in today's world.

The OSTA/ODOW Trappers' Cabin was used on September 7, 2002 for a wild turkey seminar, September 14, 2002 for a bow hunter instruction course, as well as September 28, 2002 for its first trapper education course. We are anticipating the facility being used by other sportsmen's' groups throughout the course of the winter and are thrilled to have other outdoorsmen exposed to who the OSTA is, and what we do for the trappers here in Ohio.

The cabin itself was finished in mid-August. I'd like to thank all those who contributed their time, resources, and money in building this facility. A special thanks goes to the OSTA for donating \$3,000 to help get the project off the ground. Also, I'd like to extend a thank-you for the many gifts of memorabilia, furs, traps, etc. that now hang on the inside of the cabin walls.

If you have not heard about the cabin or have not made a donation and want to, we are still very much in need of financial assistance. Because of the county involvement with building permits and the need to get an architect, the structure itself cost a good deal more than we initially budgeted. One contractor handled the costs overrun and was able to pay off all of our bills, but presently he is out of pocket a substantial amount of money. Any donation you could make to help reduce the debt should be sent to: Fur Bearers Unlimited, Attn: Dennis Klingman, P.O. Box 1302, Middlefield, OH 44062

Please make the check out to Fur Bearers Unlimited-Geauga County (FBU Geauga County). Whatever surplus funding that is acquired will be used to upgrade our displays and provide on-going maintenance for the cabin

Region B Director, Clint Cork is having a Spring Convention April 25-26, 2003 at the fairgrounds with a full schedule of demos, so all our members will have the opportunity to see their cabin first hand. Submitted by Keith J. Landies, 136 North Street, Chardon, OH 44024