

How Can I Help The OSTA?
Article from Sep - Oct 2006 Buckeye Trapper
by Mark Basinger

The OSTA is your organization and mine. We are a collective group of individuals that are interested in the conservation of our natural resources. We may have many other outdoor interests as well, but we also love the challenge of trapping.

The OSTA is a large organization of around 1700 members. There are a wide variety of talented individuals in this group. Some are great trap-tinkerers, some are great organizers, and some are great storytellers. The truth is, we all have talents, some of them just haven't been found yet.

I would ask that each of us search out our talents and consider applying them toward helping the OSTA become an even better organization. How? There are a multitude of ways in which we can help the OSTA. The biggest way most of us can help is by making a donation. Not necessarily a donation of money, but of time and talent.

A donation of time could be helping out at a spring or fall meet, sport show(s), banquets, fur auctions, or our annual convention. A donation of talent could be in a variety of ways as well. Some of our talented help includes convention demonstrators, demo announcers, sound technicians, story writers, and the actual construction of the demo area itself. A plus to the donation of time to the OSTA are the "special forces" hours awarded. Special forces hours add up quickly – especially at the convention – and allow you to receive some rather nice items of appreciation.

Donations can also be in the form of money, either directly or indirectly. The OSTA welcomes donations of both types. Donations can be made in the form of a general nature, or directed towards something like the Charles Dobbins Scholarship Fund. Fur sale commissions and donated auction items could be included here as well. Not only do the OSTA fur auctions help the seller, but they also benefit the organization. Auction items are always appreciated and make our convention auction most unique.

Another donation of talent would be in the form of leadership. For most people this is something that you "grow into." None of us are born leaders, we learn and "grow as we go." Leadership can also come in a variety of ways. An example would be organizing a trapper education class, or giving a talk at a local school. It may involve the coordination of an advanced trapper workshop or running the OSTA booth at a local fair or sports show. Staff positions within the OSTA organization are also a way to become involved in leadership. Volunteer positions – from being a County Organizer to elected positions such as the Vice President or even the President of the organization – are possible.

The OSTA is truly made up of many great people who share their time and talents for the love of trapping. After becoming involved with the "inner workings" of this great organization, I am truly blessed to see this dynamic organization grow and evolve into the best organization I know. Won't you please help us make the OSTA the best it can be? As a force of one we can do a little, but as a force of 1700 strong each pulling and working together we can accomplish so much more. Contact your District Director and ask what you can do to help. Join us, won't you? ### Mark Basinger, 18336 Goudy Rd., Dalton, OH 44618