

Springtime Events
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by Patti Conrad

In the spring the snow melts, flowers bloom, the grass starts to grow, and sparrows get into my bluebird houses and make their nests.

Spring also brings with it the OSTA Region Meets, our Spring Sweepstakes, and this year something new will be taking place. The OSTA will be hosting a Furbearers Unlimited Banquet.

Spring Region Meets. The OSTA Spring Region Meets were re-introduced in the spring of 2002. There were organized to accomplish several things. The OSTA Officers and Directors are always looking for ways to benefit and serve its members. The Meets were intended to offer an opportunity to find out more about the organization itself as well as to communicate ideas and express concerns and opinions on how the trapping industry and the OSTA are progressing.

Some members are unable to attend the State, National, or Fall Meets, so the Spring Meets provide an alternative solution. Sometimes the State Conventions are so hectic and the Officers and Directors are so busy tending to the operations of the Convention there is little or no time to talk with the members. Our goal was to provide a relaxed environment where members could take their time to express ideas and opinions.

Along with being smaller and less hectic, Region Meets have free demos and there are no gate fees. Also, there are no charges for dealers to set-up and no tailgating fees. This would be a perfect opportunity for you to sell some of that trapping or other outdoor equipment that you no longer use.

Originally, each Region's agenda was just a little different from the Fall Meets. It was understood from the beginning that the future of these events would depend upon the response that was received from the membership as far as attendance. The interest shown and the attendance would determine if they would continue to be held in each individual Region.

Members who attended the first Meets were brought up to date with the latest information on the BMP process, proposed changes in trapping regulations and old and new OSTA business.

The first Region A Meet was hosted by Ron Reinhart, then Region A Director, and was held at the District 2 ODOW headquarters meeting room in Findlay and had a small turnout. Region Director Clint Cork, hosted the first Region B Meet at the Geauga Co. Fairgrounds in Burton, and had a fair turnout. Region C held its first Meet at the Fayette Co. Fish and Game Club in Washington C.H., and was well attended. Regions A and B had more of a meeting atmosphere, while Region C was more like a Fall Meet and included some demos. Mark's "carry-in" pot lunch has become quite popular and there is always a wide variety of covered dishes available for lunch.

Corky Klausing will host the Region A Spring Meet on Saturday, April 10 this year. It will be held at Corky's home between Ottawa and Pandora. For directions and information see the ad in this issue.

Region B will be holding their Spring Meet at the Falls Township Hall in Zanesville on Saturday, April 10.

Contact Clint Cork, Region B Director, or Doug Wilson with any questions. There is also an ad for the Region B Meet.

Mark Stackhouse will host the Region C Spring Meet on Sunday, March 28 at the Fayette Co. Fish and Game Club. Details appear in the ad in this issue of the BT.

Art Scott is one of the last old-time trappers still around, and still trapping. He has a world of knowledge to share. He is the only trapper that Mark could locate that had enough knowledge of blind trail setting and dragging to do a demo at the Region C Meet. You won't want to miss that demo!

It is important to remember if the members want to continue to have Spring Meets, there needs to be more attendance. Regions B and C have had a good response, but I am sorry to say, Region A has not. Maybe members need to be reminded that the Meets are free of charge - it costs you nothing to attend. They are very informal get togethers, and everyone has a good time exchanging ideas and stories. There is not a fee for dealers or tailgaters to set up and sell, and it's a great place to bring your used equipment to trade or sell with someone. Don't forget; one man's trash is another man's treasure. What you no longer have a use for might just be an item someone needs and can't find! If you have any questions about the Meets see the ads in this issue of the BT or call any of the Region Directors with your questions, they will be happy to hear from you and to answer your questions.

Spring Sweepstakes. Each year the Sweepstakes provides the OSTA with a much-needed cash flow during our "slow season". Longtime members will remember reading about this in previous Treasure's Reports. It is an important and very true statement. Since advertising income and membership dues slow in the spring the Sweepstakes enhances our income and tides us over until the State Convention and membership dues pick up. The Spring Sweepstakes is our second largest fundraiser each year!

Again this year there will be shopping spree prizes with trapping supply dealers. First prize is a \$600 shopping spree at Sterling Fur. Second prize is \$400 at Molnar Outdoor. Third Prize is for \$200 at Sullivan Scents. The fourth and fifth prizes are for \$100 at JR and Sons and Blackie's Blends. As an added benefit of membership there is also a members only FREE drawing for a \$100 shopping spree at the trapping supply vendor of the winner's choice. Just return the green ticket you receive in your sweepstakes packet to the OSTA, regardless of whether you play the Spring Sweepstakes or not, and you will be entered into the free drawing.

Fur Bearers Unlimited Banquet. For the first time, the OSTA will be hosting an FBU Banquet on Saturday, April 17, 2004. The Fur Bearers Unlimited Banquet will be presented in the same fashion as a Ducks Unlimited or similar Banquet. Proceeds from this event will be split 50/50 between the NTA and the OSTA.

Hal Sullivan will be the master of ceremonies for the Banquet. Hal provides a unique and humorous outlook on life, and as our host, will certainly make this an evening to remember. For \$20.00 per person and \$35.00 per couple you will be treated to dinner, games, door prizes, live and silent auction, and much, much more. The doors at the All Occasion Banquet and Catering Building in Waldo, Ohio will open at 4:00 p.m. with dinner being served at 6:00 p.m. For tickets contact any Officer or Director. For information contact Steve Massie at 937-663-0287.

Even though trapping season is over, as you can see, there is still plenty to do this spring in the OSTA. On behalf of the OSTA Board of Directors, I would like to extend an invitation to each and every OSTA member, family member, and friend to attend and/or participate in any and all of these springtime events. ### Patti Conrad, 1244 Abbe Road, Sheffield, OH 44054