

## President's Report September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

This could be considered a big thank you but for those who did not attend this year's Outdoorsman days you really missed out. Over August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> we had over 2000 people attend the fantastic event in Florence, Colorado that culminated with a Saturday Night Fundraising Banquet that was record setting.

Two full days of demonstrations and seminars from Trapping, to Elk Hunting, to Fur Preparation, Bird of Prey demonstrations, Wild Game Processing, Wildgame Cooking, Hound Hunting, Fly Fishing and a ton more accented the days events that also included the Hunter Education Classes along with Live Music, Archery Instruction and Vendors to shop through, all showed that there is still a significant heart beat for Hunting, Fishing, Trapping and Wildlife Conservation. The Wildlife Calling Contest and Ugly Hunting Dog Contest was a hit that we can expand on for next year and the Kids Fishing Derby concluded with a bang after CPW stocked some significantly sized Perch and Blue Gill that the kids took full advantage of.

A big thanks goes out to the Presenters of the Event. Colorado Shed Company, Davis Tent, Royal Gorge Archery and the Salida Gun Shop.

Additionally, the following Sponsors helped to pull off the event in record fashion. Prairie Sporting Goods; Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Fremont Motor Sports; Sportsmen for Community; Star Country 104.5 FM; KLRN Radio 1400; Lookin Up Outfitters; KUIU; Hilltop Custom Meat Processing; Colorado Wildlife Council; National Wild Turkey Federation; Colorado Bow Hunters Association; Blood Origins; Colorado Chapter of Safari Club International; Muley Fanatic Foundation; High Plans Falconers; True Value Trailers; Twin Enviro Services and last but not least Fremont County.

More thanks goes out to specific individuals like Robbi and Cody with Blood Origins. Miss Rodeo Colorado 2023 Randilyn Madison and her sister Chandler along with the Miss Rodeo Lady in Waiting Georgia Strimenos.

A big thanks goes out to District Wildlife Manager Zach Holder and him helping put together so many facets of the event to not only support but to help educate the general public while partnering with so many diverse groups that really made the entire event a success. Additionally, Area Wildlife Manager Sean Shepherd and SE Regional Manager Frank McGee and all of the CPW staff, your participation is much appreciated. I would be remiss if I did not mention and give thanks to all of the donors that contributed to our fundraising efforts along with all of the individual presenters that did demonstrations and seminars that were extremely well attended.

All of these efforts will not go unnoticed in helping to support our fight of defending not only Trapping but Wildlife Management and Hunting and Fishing along with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. The CTPHA partnership with the Coloradans for Responsible Wildlife Management and engagement with the Colorado Wildlife Conservation Project is the **ONLY** chance that we have to survive on this current landscape and without thinking outside of the box and stepping out of the Trapping lane the only option is failure and we have not failed since 1996 and we are doing our best to maintain what we have while supporting not only our partners but while trying to pave the way for relevancy and sustainability. This is not the fight of yesteryear. This is a whole new game and in order for us to survive not only do we need to up our game like what Outdoorsman Days showed but we need to be able to adapt, be nimble and modify our strategy as the landscape changes.

Association election, membership and additional recognition's are in the Secretary/Treasurer Report but it does need to be mentioned that Wes Mendez received the Award of Trapper and Predator Hunter of the Year and his two boys Griffen and Hudson received a first time every dual Jr. Trapper and Predator Hunter of the Year. Jenny Burbey received Wildlife Professional of the Year Award and Brett Axton received Workhorse of the Year award. It takes individuals like this to step up from other organizations that intersect with the Colorado Trapper and Predator Hunters to help maintain the offensive and defensive positions that we fight for.

I could go on and on about where we are at but the fight is fixing to get bigger and bigger. Commission Petitions and Legislative efforts along with probable Ballot Initiatives that are being formulated are all at our door step. It's not a matter of **IF** but a matter of **WHEN** and **HOW MUCH**.

By the time you read this in the magazine the voters in Denver will have likely voted on whether or not to Ban the Sale of Fur in Denver. If you are reading this before the publication date you can go to the Website [coloradotrapp.com](http://coloradotrapp.com) and see the petition. While this might not seem to be a big deal to some it is another death by 1000 cuts scenario. When will it stop? The answer is **IT WON'T**. It's just a matter of will you stand idle or will you help with the fight? It's up to you and you are the only one that can answer that question.

We all have the same amount of time. It's just that we all use that time differently. As does our opposition.

Hopefully, you enjoy or have enjoyed your hunting season. Hopefully your Holidays are filled with the pleasures that makes you and your family happy. Hopefully we will live to fight another day but in the meantime keep your nose in the wind and your eyes on the skyline and don't take what we have for granted.

Mark your calendars for the next Outdoorsman Days August 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Florence, Colorado.

Dan Gates