

Wisconsin Trapper Education Course



Cailin Morrall, Miss WI USA receives skinning lessons from TE Instructor Al Nickel.

Regulated trapping in Wisconsin is important to our citizens by managing furbearer populations while restoring endangered or extirpated species. Regulated trapping also provides property damage control, habitat management, and protection of wetland trout streams, wild rice beds and lowland forests. Regulated trapping is managed through science based rules strictly enforced by conservation wardens and supported by the Wisconsin public (Mark Duda & Associates, 2002). Mandatory trapper education provides the basis for responsible, ethical actions.



Wisconsin
Cooperative Trapper
Education Program
(WCTEP)



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This publication can be made available in alternative formats (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc) upon request. Please call (608) 266-8204 for more information.

For more information, fill out and mail
to the nearest District Coordinator:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone (____) _____ Zip _____

Age _____

District _____



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Fur Trapping in Wisconsin

Few people realize how important trapping of furbearing animals has been historically in Wisconsin. Starting in the early 1600's Europeans such as Jean Nicolet began exploring Wisconsin, lured by the promise of waters teeming with beaver. For nearly 200 years, Europeans traded with local Indian trappers at trade centers such as Green Bay and Prairie du Chien. As white settlements expanded, trapping continued to play an important role in the development of the state.

Since those early years, trapping in Wisconsin has changed a great deal. Furs are no longer brought down the Wisconsin River to trade for tools and flour. Today, trapping of our state's furbearers is a source of recreation and income for several thousand people. It is carefully regulated to protect sensitive species, to encourage ethical practices, and to help control furbearer populations such as beaver, muskrat, and raccoon, which can become overpopulated and cause property damage, flooding, and disease. The future of trapping in Wisconsin depends on proper management and ethical trapping -- a task that requires the cooperation of all trappers, landowners, and resource managers.

Why Trapper Education?

We believe that trappers create a good image when they engage in responsible and ethical pursuit of our furbearing resources. Trapper education teaches new or inexperienced trappers ethical trapping procedures. Trapper education includes instruction in the most humane trapping methods, the history of trapping in Wisconsin and North America, and basic wildlife management principles. It is also important for trappers to learn and understand the importance of maintaining good relationships with landowners, other outdoor enthusiasts, and managers of our natural resources. The trapper education course provides a solid beginning to trapping education -- an education you will use everyday on the trapline.

Visit our website at

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/trap>

Who Must Attend?

Trapper education became mandatory in Wisconsin in 1992. All first time trappers must complete the Trapper Education Course prior to purchasing a trapping license. It is recommended that you be at least 10 years old. Class size may be limited, so early registration is recommended.

Persons exempt from this requirement must have purchased a trapping license prior to 1992, or be actively engaged in farming as defined in State Statute 102.04(3).

What You Will Learn

The course is designed to provide classroom time and outdoor practice time. An exam will be given at the end of the last session, which you must pass in order to successfully complete the course.

It includes:

- Trapping history
- Highlights in wildlife conservation
- Role of trapping today
- Principles of wildlife management
- Wetland values
- Furbearer management, biology, and disease
- Trapping laws and ethics
- Trap preparation, adjustment, setting and safety
- Humane trapping methods
- Pelt preparation, skinning, grading, and marketing
- Practice setting at least 1 dryland set and 1 water set

The Instructors

Each of the certified trapper education instructors in Wisconsin has completed a WCTEP instructor course. All are experienced trappers and many are professional biologists. They live in communities throughout Wisconsin.

Correspondence Course

A Correspondence course is available for students who cannot attend the regular Trapper Education Course classes. Completing the course objectives in this manner will take approximately five weeks.

Contact Mike Widner, Correspondence Course Director, PO Box 483, 420 Washington Ave, Baraboo WI 53913. Mike can also be reached at (608)356-3621 or e-mail; muskrat_mike@yahoo.com

Where Are The Classes Held?

Classes are held in communities statewide. The actual class locations are available by contacting a district Trapper Ed Coordinator nearest you (see back page) or by viewing the class postings on the DNR website at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/trap>

When Do The Classes Meet?

Each instructor sets their own class schedule, but commonly the course requires a full weekend or 2-3 week nights and 1/2 or full day on Saturday.

What Does It Cost?

The general course fee is \$12.00 which is paid to the lead instructor of the class. This includes all of your instruction materials. Some classes may have a higher fee if meals and lodging are provided or facility charges apply.

Instructional Materials Provided

For each student: a student manual, a set of Wisconsin trapping regulations, a graduate card, and arm patch, and first year's trapping license for successful graduates.

How Do You Sign Up?

Turn the page and locate the district where you live. The person at the bottom of the page identified with that district is the district Trapper Education Coordinator. Contact him or her to get details on course dates, times, locations, and the name of the instructor nearest you. You can use the handy form on the back page if you wish. If you cannot reach a district coordinator, contact the statewide coordinator, or

DNR Trapper Education Coordinator
101 South Webster St
Madison WI 53707-7921

