

# *Virginia Trappers Association*



The Virginia Trappers Association (VTA) is hosting a New Trapper Seminar for youths (under the age of 16) on July 16, 2017. The seminar will be held on the last day of our annual convention at the Five County Fairgrounds near Farmville, VA and is an 8-hour event (8:30 am – 4:30 pm). The seminar is free and participants will be given the basic tools (over \$100 value) they need to start their trapping adventure. Funding for purchase of the participant supplies was provided by a Department of Game and Inland Fisheries grant. The seminar will provide the knowledge, skills, and equipment to emplace land and water sets for various wildlife. Each participant will demonstrate setting land and water sets, evaluate sets for legality, and recall the best management practices for animal welfare and humane dispatch.

The VTA New Trapper Seminar is designed to encourage youth who have interest in trapping but don't have the education or tools to engage in the activity. The VTA has outreached to the Virginia divisions of the Boy and Girl Scouts of America, Future Farmers of America, 4H Clubs, and Izaak Walton League of America to promote the value of trapping as wildlife management and conservation programs.

By providing the skills and tools, these new potential trappers can enjoy the same excitement our legacy trappers experience when they find a furbearer in their trap. Realizing these new trappers will have many questions, each participant will be assigned a mentor from his/her home area to provide continued guidance, support, encouragement, and ensure ethical use of the tools available to them. The mentor will be responsible for recurring contact with the new trapper with the goal of maintaining interest, providing advice and assistance, and submitting for first catch awards. At the conclusion of the seminar, each participant will receive a Basic Trapper Training certification and patch and a complimentary one year junior membership to the VTA with a subscription to the Trapper's Post. The VTA District Directors will be notified of the new members and encouraged to assist them and get them involved in district meetings. The new trappers will be encouraged to continue their education by attending the VTA Fur Handling and Advanced Trapping courses.

The class size is limited to twelve participants. To register for the seminar, please contact Norman Pierce, [jupier8@aol.com](mailto:jupier8@aol.com), 804-720-0809 or Art Foltz, [artfoltz@comcast.net](mailto:artfoltz@comcast.net), 540-630-1756.