

South Central Chapter Alaska Trappers Association General Trapping School



This year's "SCCATA Trapping School for Beginners" was held at Beach Lake in the Chugiak/Eagle River area with both Trace Farve and Cross Sellers as our youth volunteers. There were 30 students in attendance with 10 of those being youth.

The school began with a section on "Ethics" presented by Richard Person followed by "Traps and Equipment" taught by Kevin Kidder and Richard Person. Mike Soik and Daryl Spaeth teamed up to teach marten trapping with a touch of ermine. Open water and under-the-ice beaver trapping was presented by Richard. Brian Johnson did a great job explaining how to catch canines and lynx with both snares and footholds. Joseph Person covered muskrat trapping in both push-ups and under-the-ice trapping techniques.

Mark Schmitt from North American Fur Auctions gave a short presentation on NAFA, fur grading and the "Top Lot" program. We really appreciate Mark making the trip to add to our schools – both here in South Central and Fairbanks. Of course, everyone enjoyed the free hats and t-shirts.

The school ended with three fur bearers being skinned and put up simultaneously. This was a new idea in an effort to expose the students to as much fur handling demonstrations as possible in the limited time available. The session included Richard skinning a beaver, Joseph a muskrat and Keith Bayha a mink.

The success of the school is largely due to the efforts of Lillian Person in marketing and advertising along with Keith Bayha in promoting and fielding EVERY call as registrar.

MANY THANKS to all the volunteers who make this possible each year. We look forward to helping new trappers into the industry for years to come.

