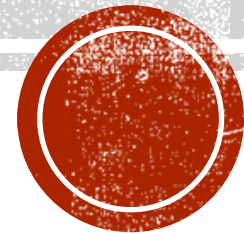


FURBEARERS OF DELAWARE

Hunter Slear

Furbearer Biologist

Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife



***We Bring You Delaware's Great Outdoors
through Science and Service***



WHAT IS A FURBEARER?

An animal that bears fur and was traditionally harvested for its economic value.
(Either fur or meat)



https://www.furcoats.com/image/cache/catalog/images/6-R32-RedFox_3_crop-800x1000.jpg



https://a.1stdibscdn.com/archivesE/upload/v_439/08_15/ct1009a/CT1009A-1.jpeg



HISTORY OF FUR TRADE

- Early North American colonization and expansion centered around the fur trade
- From the Early 1600's through the late 1800's the fur trade thrived
- Beaver pelts were highly sought after for hats in Europe
- Many early explorers were searching for Beaver, but also trapped other furbearers such as muskrats, raccoons, weasels, and river otters.



<http://www.victoriana.com/Mens-Clothing/tophats.htm>



MODERN CONSERVATION

- The fur trade caused the decline of many furbearer species due to unregulated harvest
- The late 1800's – Early 1900's saw the creation of animal bag limits, seasons, and trap regulations
- Today's furbearer harvest is highly regulated



REGULATED TRAPPING AS A WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT TOOL

- Regulated Trapping means that the activity of trapping furbearers is managed through scientifically based regulations and laws that are enforced by a state or federal natural resource agency (DNREC)
- Trapped furbearers are common and abundant
- Regulated trapping provides many benefits to wildlife and people within the state of Delaware. Especially in helping maintain a balance between wildlife and people.
- Tagging programs and harvest reporting are common ways for biologists to track species harvest.
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)



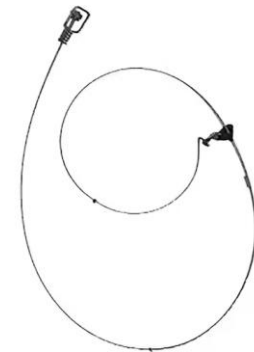
5 VALUES OF FURBEARERS

- **Economic** - Positive values includes furs, meat, and by-products such as perfume and fishing lures. Examples of negative values include crop depredation, property damage, and flooded roads
- **Ecological** - Furbearers have positive value as predators and prey in functioning ecosystems. Excessive numbers of furbearers can have negative values if they harm habitats or prey on endangered animals.
- **Cultural** - Trapping is valued by many people as part of their cultural heritage. Trapping involves outdoor skills, knowledge and respect for wildlife, and family activities. Some people look to nature or the land to provide vegetables, firewood, venison, and furbearers. Trapping provides these people with needed food and clothing.
- **Biological** - Furbearers have positive values that help us understand human health and the effects of environmental pollutants. Negative biological values include human exposure to disease and parasites.
- **Aesthetic** - Furbearers have many positive aesthetic values for fur and wildlife watching



TRAP BASICS

- **Body Gripping Traps-** These traps are designed to catch the body of the animal as they pass through it
- **Foothold Traps-** These traps catch the animal by the foot and hold it in place
- **Cable Restraints-** cable restrains are a loop that closes around the animal as they try to pass through it



WHICH FURBEARER CREATED THESE?



BEAVER

- Beavers are the largest rodent in North America
- Dark brown fur
- Large front teeth
- Weight between 25-60lbs
- Specialized for semi-aquatic lifestyle
- Webbed hind feet
- Scaled paddle-like tail



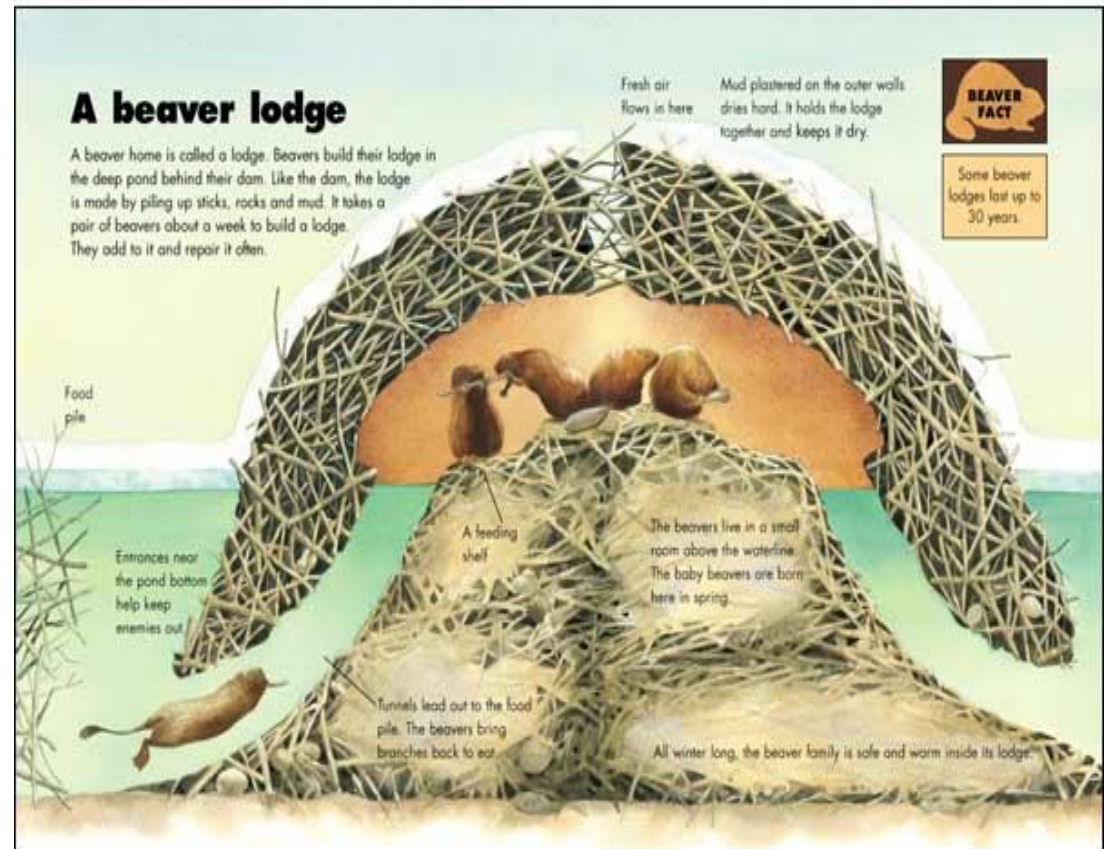
http://animalia-life.club/data_images/beaver/beaver6.jpg



BEAVER DAM AND LODGE



<https://writtenmyway.files.wordpress.com/2014/06/beaver-dam.jpg>



<http://environmentalcore.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/beaver-lodge.jpg>



COYOTE

- Coyotes resemble a medium sized dog
- They weigh between 20-50 pounds
- Coyotes have a bushy tail, typically held low when running
- Color varies greatly from rusty brown, to gray, to tan
- Coyotes have become very well adapted to life in close proximity to humans



GRAY FOX

- Gray fox typically weigh between 7-15lbs
- Average length of 31-44 inches
- Gray foxes have silvery gray (salt and pepper) fur typically with rusty orange on ears, neck, and legs.
- They have a black stripe that runs down the length of the back and tail
- They are able to climb trees



<https://www.ncpedia.org/sites/default/files/grayfox1.jpg>

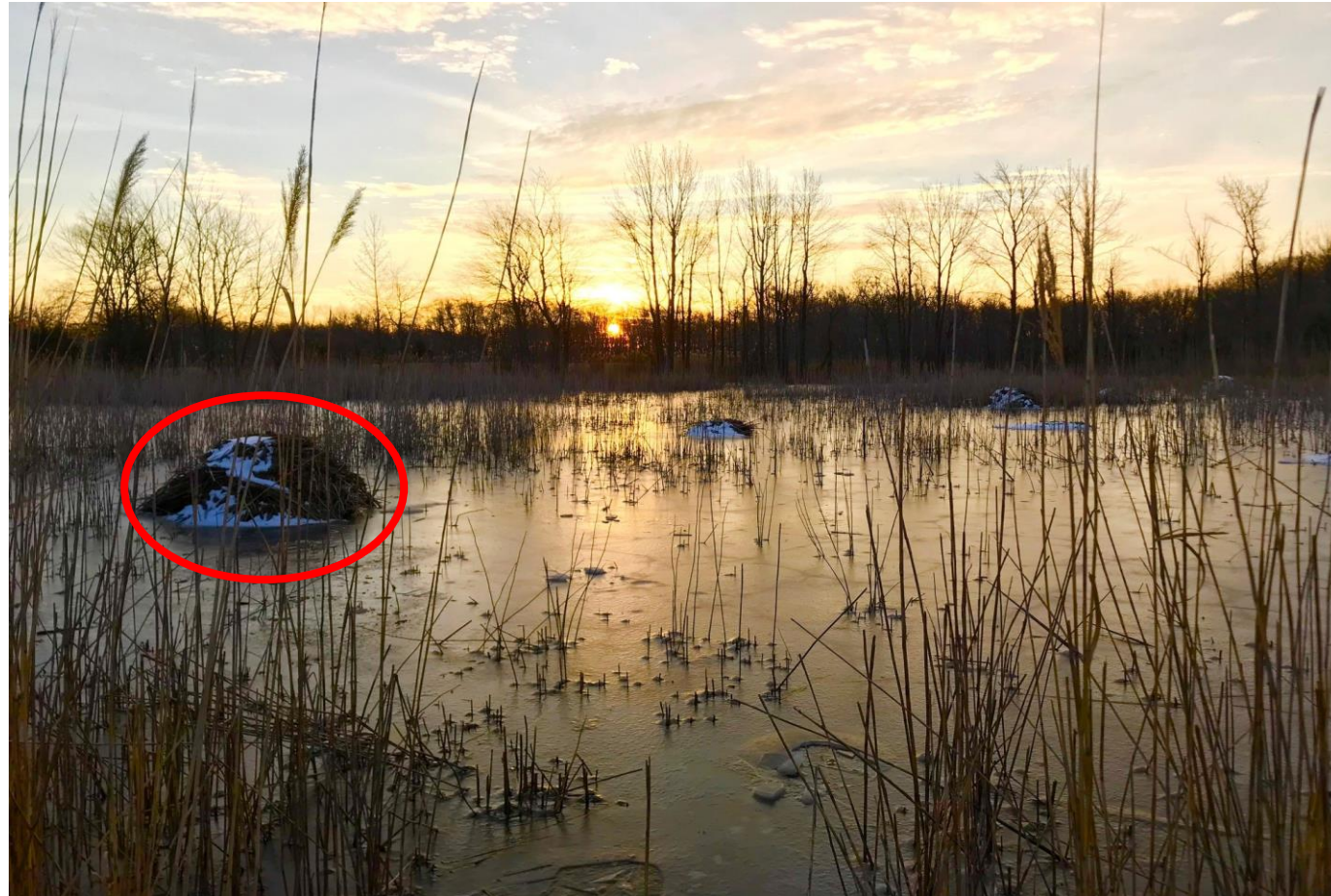


MINK

- Mink are members of the weasel family
- They are roughly 1 ½ - 2 pounds
- They have thick dark brown fur
- Very reclusive, rarely observed during the day



WHICH FURBEARER CREATED THIS?



MUSKRAT

- Muskrats weigh 1-4 pounds
- They have a long scaly tail which is flattened vertically
- Very soft rich fur which is brown/tan
- Muskrats live in huts that they build from vegetation or burrow into the banks of streams, ponds, and rivers.
- Delaware's most trapped furbearer



http://www.pgc.pa.gov/Education/WildlifeNotesIndex/Pages/Muskrat.aspx#.VsQc_IViko



NUTRIA

- Nutria are a large rodent similar in size and shape to the beaver, although they have a long scaly tail
- They have brown fur with large white whiskers and nose
- They have large yellow/orange front teeth
- Their average weight is 12-20 pounds
- They were introduced to the US from South America for their fur
- They are an invasive species in Delaware
- Extensive eradication projects have taken place in states like Maryland.



<http://www.naturephoto-cz.com/fullsize/others/nutria,-coypu-215139.jpg>



OPOSSUM

- Opossum are the only marsupial native to North America
- They weigh 4- 12 pounds
- They have 50 teeth
- They have a long scaly rat-like tail
- Their fur is white to light grey and may be tipped in yellow-brown
- Their legs and feet are dark brown to black



http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_g9Vncw88n0A/TRKgnBIE2dl/AAAAAAAAAC7g/VT6PXIsxeCE/s1600/P1540819.JPG



RACCOON

- Raccoons can weigh between 10-30 pounds
- Their fur color is black-brown to gray, with a tail that alternates with rings of black-brown
- They are well known for their black eye mask
- They are well adapted to life around humans and are often found denning in attics, shed or abandoned structures.



WHICH FURBEARER DID THIS?



RIVER OTTER

- Otters weight averages between 10-25 pounds
- Otter Fur is dark brown to gray with silver to gray underneath
- All four feet are webbed
- Otters den on the edges of ponds, rivers, and rivers. They will use abandoned burrows or excavate under tree roots.



RED FOX

- Red Fox weigh 8-12 pounds, their thick fur makes them appear larger than they really are.
- Red foxes are typically rusty red in color with black legs, their tail is tipped in white
- Red foxes have become well adapted to life in urban areas
- They prefer agricultural areas surrounded by woods and typically den on field edges or under structures



STRIPED SKUNK

- Skunks weigh 3 to 12 pounds and are roughly 2 feet long
- Skunk fur is black and white
- Skunks are well known for their defense spray which they can shoot up to 12 feet

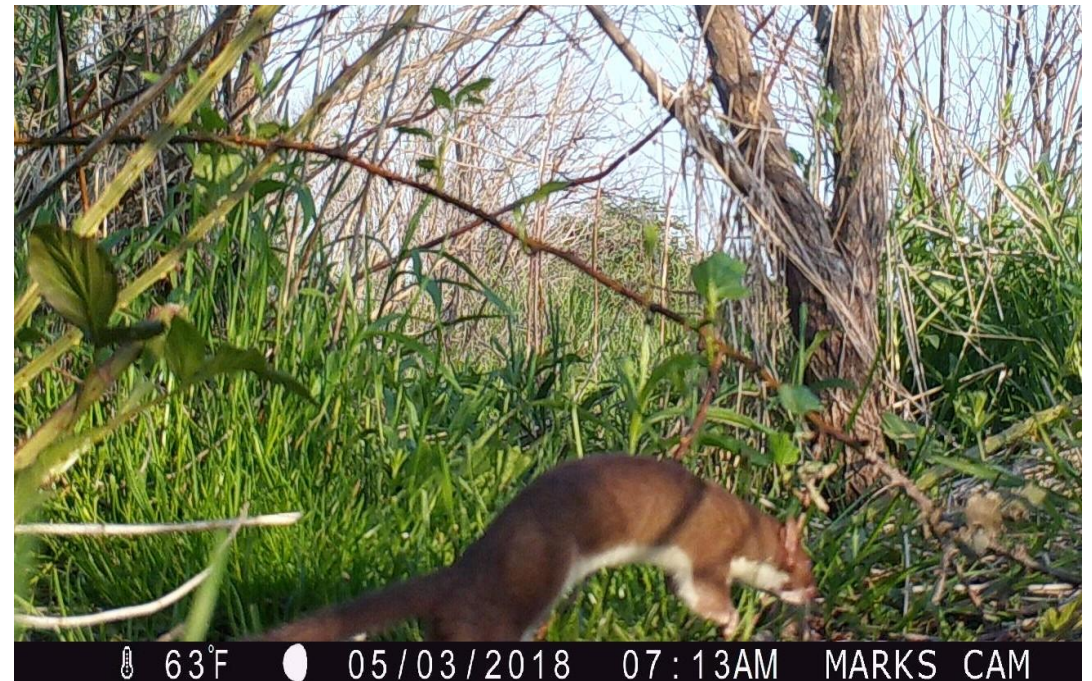


WEASEL

- Weasels have long slim bodies and short legs
- They are typically a reddish brown on the back and sides and white underneath
- Their tail is tipped in black



<https://birdscalgary.files.wordpress.com/2018/12/short-tailed-weasel.jpg>



OTHERS...

- Mountain Lion
- Bobcat
- Bear
- Wolf



<http://2.bp.blogspot.com/LCm9K9INfAw/UpMgXdHFwpl/AAAAAAAAABWM/snH5Me7hROw/s1600/Mountain-Lion.jpg>



<http://www.wild-facts.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/grey-wolf-500x337.jpg>



http://images.mentalfloss.com/sites/default/files/istock_3348602_smallheader.png?resize=1100x740



CAUTION

- Furbearers are carriers of many viruses, diseases, and parasites that can be spread to pets or people.
- Always use caution when observing wildlife and maintain a safe distance
- Do not touch wildlife that appears sick, injured, or abandoned



QUESTIONS?



(howtotrapbeavers.com)



REFERENCES

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- <http://thefurtrapper.com/home/american-fur-trade-3/>
- <http://d1940xvrxfszyc.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Raccoon-Tracks-1.jpg>
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