

The Youth Trapping Camp at Salamonie: A Partnership Success

By Justin Harrington

Trapping instructors from Indiana State Trappers Association (ISTA), DNR Conservation Officer Todd Lang, the Salamonie Reservoir Wildlife Specialist, and Interpretive Center employees conducted the first annual Youth Trapping Camp on September sixth and seventh, 2008, at the Salamonie Interpretive Center. In the morning on Saturday, the Salamonie Wildlife Specialist gave a 25-minute presentation on trapping history, trapping today as it pertains to wildlife management, and furbearer biology.

Certified trapping instructors worked together to teach youth and adult trappers more about trapping. Tables with trap equipment and tanned furs were set up to help trappers learn.

ISTA and the Wildlife Specialist provided lunch on the grill. Saturday afternoon a land-trapping group and a water-trapping group broke off to separate locations to set traps. Groups received one-on-one trapping instructions

from certified instructors.

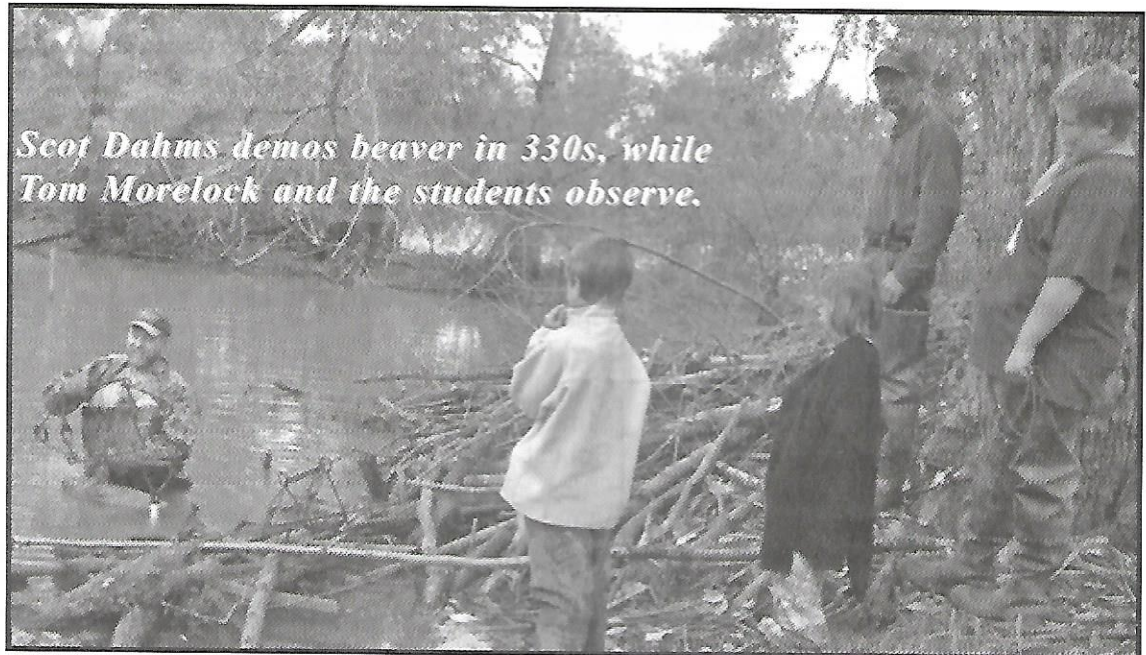
Saturday evening, some members left and others stayed for food on the grill and camping at the youth campground at Salamonie Reservoir.

Sunday morning trappers returned to the Interpretive Center for a breakfast and a video on trapping issues. Trappers then broke out in the field to check the traps they set the previous day. Trappers caught one beaver and two raccoons.

Trappers enjoyed another lunch from

the grill and returned to the Interpretive Center for prizes awarded for those who had the closest guess on weights of the animals caught. Prizes included trapping videos, a \$60 gift card to Sportsmen's Warehouse, and several \$10 coupons to the same store. ISTA provided many giveaways, including free traps, free trapping lure, free trapping books, and free trapping magazines for all trappers who attended.

There were a total of twenty three trappers attending on the first day and twenty one on the second. Trappers all gained their Trappers Education Certification. Trappers attending really enjoyed the weekend and some asked if we were going to hold this event next



Scot Dahms demos beaver in 330s, while Tom Morelock and the students observe.



year because they wanted to attend again. The program was a great success and we were blessed with good weather and planning by the partners. ISTA, Salamonie Reservoir, and Conservation Officers will be trying to coordinate another course for October 10-11, 2009, at Salamonie again.

***Thank You** to ISTA members, Tom Morelock, Ron Elliott (ISTA president), John Allen, Scot Dahms, Officer Todd Lang, Interpreter Teresa Rody, and others for all their long hours of help in making the event fun and educational for everyone.*