## Trappers to hold 50th anniversary convention

Written by Janet Rohde Tuesday, June 26, 2012 1:04 PM -

ESCANABA—On July 13-14,, the Butler Building at the U.P. State Fairgrounds here will be filled to capacity with trappers, predator callers, other outdoorsmen, trapping supply dealers, lure and bait makers, fur auction representatives, gun dealers, ORV dealers, taxidermists, crafters, quilters and more, when the U.P. Trappers Association hosts its 50th anniversary convention.

## PUBLIC

And the demos and events are nearly continuous. There is supervised, free fishing for children with prizes for "winners" at the DNR pocket park.

Instructional demonstrations include beaver skinning, fleshing, and stretching by Fur Harvesters Auction from North Bay, Ontario; coyote and fox trapping by Steve and Lori Gappa from southern Minnesota; state hopping and mink/raccoon trapping by Jeff Dunlap from Lower Michigan; predator calling and hunting by Les Johnson from Nebraska; open water beaver snaring by Rally Hess from Minnesota; weasel trapping for kids and adults by George and Bill Porter from Wisconsin; lure and bait making by Kellen Kaatz from Illinois; proper fur-handling of mink, muskrat and raccoon by Richard Clark from Wisconsin; muskrats by the thousands by Trapper Art from Wisconsin; jewelry making for the ladies by Tamie Lundborg from Lower Michigan; and a second presentation on coyote hunting and calling by Les Johnson to wrap up the two days of nearly continuous demos.

Les Johnson won the "Triple Crown" of coyote calling in 1999. In a single year he won Midwest, national and world championships.

Trapper Art and a partner caught over 8,000 muskrats during this past year. Kellen Kaatz has 17 years of experience in lure making and is a "walking encyclopedia" on modern lure-making ingredients and methods. Everyone of the demonstrators is very good at what they do, said a representative of the U.P. Trappers Association

The convention is open to the public and runs from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. Admission is \$2 for adults; 16 and under are free. Food is available.

The famous "mini raffles" and other special raffles will take place. Camping with water and electric is available.

For further information visit www.uptrappers.com or call Roy Dahlgren at (906) 399-1960.