



# Minnesota Trappers Association

## Connecting Prospective Trappers with Instructors

Greetings All Certified Trapping Instructors,

Our Trapper Education Program has evolved a great deal over the past eleven years when a Minnesota Trapper Certification became legally required for first time trapping license purchase. I'm fortunate to have played a role in its progress and development.

However, my most daunting task as the Education Coordinator over the years has been connecting prospective trappers with potential instructors outside the regularly offered classes/field training sessions hosted across the State. Although certified instructor names and addresses are available through the website, in order to guard against animal rights nuts (*and persistent students*) badgering instructors day and night, telephone numbers and email addresses are not available to the public at large through the site.

As a result, I have consistently acted as the go-between in connecting students with willing instructors. I first seek out a receptive instructor in that area/district and when successful with proper authorization, give **the student's contact information** to the instructor to initiate contact and to plan for training sessions.

Obviously, this avoided the legitimate privacy concerns shared by all, but it continues to be an extremely time-consuming task that unnecessarily slows the certification process.

Unfortunately, some students no doubt became discouraged and simply abandoned the pursuit of a trapper certification because of the substantial lag time in coordinating these successful introductions.

Sadly, this was simply unavoidable without a better system to connect prospective trappers with available instructors in a timelier fashion.

Now with better technology and the technical expertise of Carol our website professional, we propose a more streamlined and time-effective means of connecting students with instructors while at the same time guarding the privacy concerns of all.

Keep your skinning knives sharp,

Shawn Johnson MTA Education Coordinator



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## What's the difference between regular email and forwarding email addresses?

Regular email addresses and forwarding email addresses are two different address types you can have in an email system. Regular email addresses have their own, unique inboxes where you can send, receive, and access your email. You can access your inbox online or with an email client (like Outlook or Apple Mail).

Forwarding email addresses allow you to direct incoming email messages to another email address automatically. There is no inbox for a forwarding email address, and nothing is stored. It redirects any email messages sent to your forwarding email address to the other email address you specified.

The same email address can't be both a regular email address and a forwarding email address. Any address can only be used for one of these services at a time. If you change your mind, you can delete the email address or forwarding email address, and then set it up as the other option.

All Active Instructors that want to keep their email private should provide me with a **mntrappers.org** email in the following format: trappername@mntrappers.org and their regular email address to forward to. As I must enter them all by hand into the "email forwarding" file, I would like to see the names no longer than ten characters. I would also like to have the instructor's phone number if I need other information or if I need to make any changes.

I have entered several test emails, and all have passed. I created a "forward email" for myself, redfox@mntrappers.org, which sends to my mntrapweb@gmail.com account. It is working great!

The website also has an SSL, Secure Socket Layer, which gives the site some encrypted security. This SSL helps protect personal data anywhere on the site, especially the data belonging to customers in the MTA Store.

**Carol Thaemert**

MTA Website Professional

(218) 678-2386

[mntrapweb@gmail.com](mailto:mntrapweb@gmail.com)