



Slim Shares Sage Trapping Advice

By Steven Bridges
Goldthwaite Eagle

During the National Trappers Association conference held in Missouri this summer, legendary trapper Slim Petersen received the coveted National Lifetime Achievement Award.

Larry "Slim" Petersen began trapping at the tender age of eight, cleaning up on the skunks and weasels that were cleaning up the chickens in his Grandmother's chicken coop. Raised in Absarokee, Montana, Slim was running his first longline at the age of 18 with a partner while attending college. At the age of 34, Slim was living the dream of most trappers and trapping full-time doing predator control work, and fur trapping, as well as live market trapping up to the present day.

Slim has fur-trapped in Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, California, New Mexico, Texas, Iowa, Nebraska, Maine, and Georgia. Slim has trapped countless coyotes, bobcats and many other predators over the years.



Slim Petersen flashes a smile as he shares advice during the National Trappers Association Conference in Springfield, Missouri.

Slim's predator & animal damage control trapping career has included trapping for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service, which later

became the U.S. Department of Agriculture, doing animal damage control work for many years. Slim has also written many trapping books and produced several trapping instructional videos.

I sat down with Slim Petersen during the conference and discussed his life as a trapper, and how trapping has changed over his lifetime. We also discussed the future of trapping as he sees it. The information and advice Slim shared can be applied to the future of hunting and other outdoor recreation activities in danger of being restricted or outlawed.

Slim said he is concerned about the increase in anti-trapping legislation being brought to lawmakers' attention across the country. He advocates spreading positive and factual information about trapping and trappers, hoping to negate some of the negative or at least emotional-political misinformation that seems to be circulating these days.

Slim told me a story about talking to a woman in a grocery

store parking lot, which he said amounted to just one example of how to spread information to the non-trapping community.

He pulled into a parking lot to adjust his traps, trapping gear, and the day's haul of animals in the back of his truck. With the tail gate down he set about his task, and out of the corner of his eye he sees a strange woman making a bee line for him like she was on a mission, he said.

"It was obvious she knew I was a trapper with all the stuff in the truck," he said, "and she did not look happy."

As she approached Slim, he greeted her with a friendly, "hello."

"Why do you trap those animals?" she asked immediately.

Slim said he knew right away he was dealing with someone who had no idea what he really did, except that the animals he traps end up dead.

"Before I answer that, can I ask you a couple of questions?" Slim said he asked her, and she agreed.

See the next page ...

RIB SMACKIN' GOOD! **at L&B Roadhouse, Lometa**



COME SEE US at
L&B Roadhouse
for some of the best
barbecue of your life!

DON'T FORGET THE PIE!

Hours: Fri. 11-7:30, Sat. 11-4:30

17346 N US Hwy. 183, Lometa, TX 76853

512-752-3147



Welcome
Hunters!

Visit our
Gift Shop!



AROMA OF HOPE COFFEE SHOP

1105 Fisher Street • Goldthwaite • (325) 453-7610