

# OUTDOORS

## VNP reservation, fee program moves to next phase

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

This summer's flooding brought the staff of Voyageurs National Park many challenges.

The flood, which resembled the record flood of 1950, occurred within the park and, at times, shut down multiple operations.

This summer was also the start of a new reservation and amenity fee program, which launched with a select 51 campsites throughout the park.

Campsites that were selected filled quickly and little issues arose.

While some revenue was lost and visitors could not camp at times due to the flood, park officials report they were pleased overall with the reservation results.

The park will now embark on the next phase of reservation. **Starting Sept. 16 and until May 14, considered a low-use season:**

■ All visitors who wish to tent camp within Voyageurs National Park will need a

reservation with [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

■ Reservations will go live starting 11 a.m. local time Sept. 16.

■ There will be a \$10 service charge to [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) for making a reservation but no charge for tent camping.

**Starting May 15 through Sept. 15 each year, considered high-use season:**

■ All visitors who wish to tent camp within Voyageurs National Park during the will be able to start making reservations.

■ Reservation will go live starting 11 a.m. local time Nov. 15.

■ The fee structure will be the same in 2015 as it was in 2014 for tent campsites.

Visitors may make reservations by going online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling the National Call Center at 877-444-6777. Reminder: Ask for "Permits & Wilderness," not camping.

A reminder to all visitors who use [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov), to search for "Voyageurs National Park Permits & Wilderness" tab.

## Trapper certification class offered

Some may not be able to get license without certification

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

A state trapping law on the books for about a dozen years may be a surprise to some adult trappers when they seek a trapping license.

People born after Dec. 31, 1989, who have not been issued a trapping license in a previous year may not obtain a license without a trapper education certificate.

Lloyd Steen, former Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conservation officer, will with his son-in-law Matt Hartzler instruct a trapper certification class through Community Education. The two men are Minnesota Trapping Association certified instructors. More information is available online at [mntrappers.org](http://mntrappers.org).

The class is limited to 30 people at least age 12. The first part of the class is an online study course and final exam. The second part is an Oct. 4 field day at the Hartzler residence.

People interested in taking the class must first contact the Community Education Office at the Falls High school at 283-2571, Ext. 186 or Ext. 109, to find out how to become eligible to sign up for the class.

Steen said he wants people to be aware youngsters can trap until they "hit that magic age of 13" without a license, but after that, they'll be required to have a license. And if they did not have a license previously, they will need the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Alina Hartzler, left, holds a trapped pine marten next to her sister, Emma Hartzler. The girls' father, Matt Hartzler, right, is a trapping instructor.**

certification class.

"Without having previously had a license, a 24-year old is required to have the class," said Steen. "It's a big thing."

Steen said he also hopes to remind people that trapping is a part of Borderland history.

"Voyagers transported furs along the waterways and really the nation was opened up through the fur trade," he said.

And for many, trapping remains an important part of life.

"A lot of things like hunting and trapping, people aren't participating like they used to, but it's still important to a number of people who use it as one of their main forms of recreation in the fall," he said.

Trapping can be a family activity, Steen said reflecting on his own family. Steen said he has been an active trapper, even though he has not had as much time available as he'd like while serving as a conservation officer.

Hartzler has carried daughters Emma and Alina in his pack basket on his trap line, said Steen. And the youngest, Juliana, has been carried in Hartzler's arms while trapping, added an obviously proud grandfather Steen.

In addition, the certification class can help ensure trappers are aware of the laws.

"We want to make sure people are doing it legally, according to the law, and by the most humane methods possible," Steen said.

Educating trappers is important because some people have a negative perception of trapping, he said.

"There is a lot of fallacies about trapping and an anti-trapping sentiment out there, and we want to combat that by educating trappers in the correct way—using the right size trap for the appropriate animal, doing it in the most humane way as possible, following the law and ethics,

humanely dispatching and how to handle the animal," he said.

Unlike other DNR sponsored and funded education classes, like snowmobile safety and hunter education, the trapper certification is not funded by the state, said Steen.

"By law, the Legislature said we have to do the training and said the trappers association will do this," he said.

And there is no money available to make the public aware of the need for the certification and the availability of the classes, he said.

"It's up to volunteers," he said.

The class has not been offered for the last couple years after an instructor stopped conducting it.

Hartzler encouraged Steen to offer the class, noting it's required by law but not available locally.

"He got me fired up," said Steen.

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