



Advocating for Conservation and Sportsmen Since 1933

LEGISLATION IS NOW PENDING TO ALLOW THE USE OF CABLE RESTRAINT DEVICES TO TAKE COYOTES NORTH OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

CORRECTED TITLE. THE ORIGINAL TITLE STATED THAT THIS LEGISLATION APPLIED TO THE NORTHERN ZONE ONLY. IT WOULD ACTUALLY APPLY STATEWIDE EXCEPT FOR LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK CITY AND WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

The Senate Environmental Conservation Committee has reported bill S2953-C, sponsored by Senator Robert Ortt, and it is on the floor calendar. The Assembly companion bill is A9462-A, sponsored by Assemblyman William Magee. This bill is currently pending in the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee.

The NYSCC strongly supports this bill. Coyote populations are growing across the state causing increased predator damage to bird and animal populations. Additionally, they have become a nuisance species in both rural and populated areas where they are an increasing threat to small livestock and domestic pets.

- Cable restraints have been specifically designed for humane capture of wildlife while minimizing injury to the animal. We believe that they address the concerns for animal welfare that frequently arise when discussing trapping issues.
- Many state and federal agencies have tested them and they are currently permitted in 36 states as well as in areas under federal jurisdiction. It is the preferred method used by researchers to capture coyotes and similar species to be fitted with tracking collars.
 - This is the favored method for trapping coyotes in developed areas both because of the restraints' effectiveness as well as their ability to avoid injury to domestic animals.

While this bill doesn't cover Long Island, NYC or Westchester County, passage will begin to address the issue upstate and can provide an exemplar for statewide expansion.

Please support this legislation by contacting your Senator and Assemblyperson and urging them to press for passage. It would also be a suitable time to make them aware of the sportsmen's interests in general.

If you haven't met your legislators, now is a good time to get to know them. If you don't know their name or address, go to <http://assembly.state.ny.us> or www.nysenate.gov.

The Council's Memorandum of Support for this bill can be found on our website www.nyscc.com.

Call, write, email or visit your legislator today. We can't make this happen without the active support of New York's sportsmen. And tell your friends!



Grass Roots News

Advocating for Conservation and Sportsmen Since 1933

Spring 2016

Vol. 16 No. 2

BEING AN NYSCC REPRESENTATIVE IS MORE THAN SOME REALIZE

By Chuck Parker, NYSCC President

Let's start by saying that if you are a member of an organization that belongs to a county federation that belongs to the New York State Conservation Council, you are part of the Council, a valued part of the Council. For the purpose of this article if you are a councilman, a representative of an Associate or Affiliate group, a Director, Officer or a Committee chairman or member, you have a more defined role as a Council representative.

Recent recommendations of the Financial Review Committee formed last year lends itself to the writing of this article. The committee felt that the Council has a good, sound working structure. Are we taking full advantage of that structure in our general operation of the Council? Is there a need for some tweaking or getting back to basics? You be the judge.

Committees and committee members: If you see the role of your Committee as meeting once a year and that is it, then you better realize something is wrong. By their very nature some committees will be more active than others. This year at our April 9th Legislative/Spring Meeting all committees will meet for approximately two hours. Can they cover all of their business in two hours? Definitely not. They will have to communicate before the meeting on April 9th, address what the Council membership expects of their committee and define their own initiatives, directions, needs and expectations. Individual committee meetings on Saturday the 9th will be to bring together all the elements to ensure we have an active and involved committee. For example, expect the **Legislative Committee** to better identify what the Council's expectations of its members are. The **Education Committee** should be identifying some initiative it wants to accomplish and getting that information out to the general membership. By statute the Council has representatives on the different Waterfowl Task Forces in New York State. These Waterfowl Task Force NYSCC representatives **are on** our **Waterfowl Committee**. This is not an option. When reviewing this fact some representatives did not even realize they were appointed as an NYSCC representative to their respective task force. This is changing.

Other committees may have similar issues, but when Saturday the 9th is done there should be a better expectation of what a Committee sees itself doing and what the membership would like to see the committee do.

Officers and Directors are usually a more visible group when it comes to Council activities. As officers and directors we have to ensure that we are guided by and act on the consensus of the general membership. Action deadlines may not give us the time to go back and canvass those we represent on every issue, but in most cases that should not be necessary as we have our established procedures and policies. Proactive thinking and good communication with those we represent will also aid in good representation.

Delegates (Councilmen and Representatives): Being an efficient delegate can be as time consuming as being a Director. It is your role to operate a two way communication network. You have to report to your county or state organization and those who belong to that organization the concerns and actions of the Council. You also have to report back to the Council the concerns of the group(s) you represent. I have heard and experienced that sometimes some groups are just happy that they

have a delegate to the Council and are not too concerned with timely reports. Whether or not that is the case a delegate still needs to do what he or she can to keep those they represent informed. When Council representatives talk to those in Albany and elsewhere, being able to say we represent the consensus of our membership is important.

As you read this article I hope you did not see anything new as far as philosophy is concerned, but rather as a re-emphasis of our long existing mode of operation. Since I recently passed my 66th birthday I hope some of you younger guys and gals in your 50's or younger will take a look at what we are doing and consider becoming more involved. The NYSCC is moving forward with better communication, more press releases, building working coalitions, and continuing to be a strong voice for conservation and sportsmen. Insuring that our committees, officers and delegates are strongly doing their job will only add to our effectiveness.

COUNCIL SURVEY RESULTS

By Eric Bratt, NYSCC Director at Large



After the Council's September 2015 convention I was somewhat curious about the lack of attendance at the event. Afterward I put together a survey intended to go out to all organizations in the Council to identify why some groups opted not to attend. Was it the new location, the date, cost, agenda, or some other reason why groups chose not to participate? While convention attendance was the primary subject, I expanded to include spring and legislative meeting questions as well as some general organizational inquiries.

In late November I sent out a survey to all organizations for which I had current e-mail addresses, and of the 58 surveys sent I received 19 back. That was roughly a one-third return rate, and while some said that is par for the course, I was once again disappointed and had hoped for more. To top it off those who responded were not my primary targets, since mainly those who did attend were those who responded. But all was not lost since answers provided some great insight into what they experienced and how we might make this event one that garnered greater attendance.

So what did I find out? To start with, most did not have the same feeling as previous years where the entire event was at one venue. Lodging at one place and meetings at another in the center of a city were not received as well as the intentions were. Some presentations seemed to be repetitive with a common theme centered around Lake George and the Adirondacks many years in succession. Most people who attend have been doing so for many years, pointing to the fact that it is hard to raise interest and get other representatives within organizations to step forward and participate. Not surprising was the unanimous response that the success of the Council depended upon PARTICIPATION.

Many felt that the outcome doesn't produce enough results for the effort that goes into it. Surprisingly, not having a controversial issue to vote on like antler restrictions did not dictate whether or not a group would attend. Some asked for more substance and less bureaucracy. Because the response was mainly from those who did attend, input from those who employ the use of a proxy for voting purposes was relatively low.

As for the spring and legislative meetings, many felt that a publicized advance agenda would generate more interest. And those who attend the convention were more likely to participate in

committee deliberations at the spring meeting. Most respondents seemed to be happy with the Constant Contact communications they were getting if the Council had their e-mail. Additionally those who were receiving these emails did pass them on to others either within or outside of their organization.

Since *Grass Roots News* is our major vehicle of communication to the members I had to include questions regarding how it is received. Overall folks felt that GRN was useful communication with some comments for improvement. Many asked for more articles from different sources while others wanted to see specific articles from all areas of the state. Even as our world evolves into an electronic age, many still prefer the old hard copy issue to put on a shelf. Many would like to see interviews with real people, whether it be Council officers or DEC or other organizations' officials. Some want to hear about what we intend to do instead of what we have already done. A common theme seemed to be that folks want more, more, more ... of everything, but it seems we have fewer people providing material. If grades were given they seemed to give GRN a B-.

In general people say the Council needs more punch, more recognition and effectiveness. They preferred to see efforts go toward issues and legislation rather than concentrating on raising money to keep the doors open. More members mean more money, more political punch, and more people involved in general; but getting there is the great challenge. The Council is not designed to respond in a timely manner to issues that arise on a daily basis, and we are being outflanked and outperformed by the environmental or green groups.

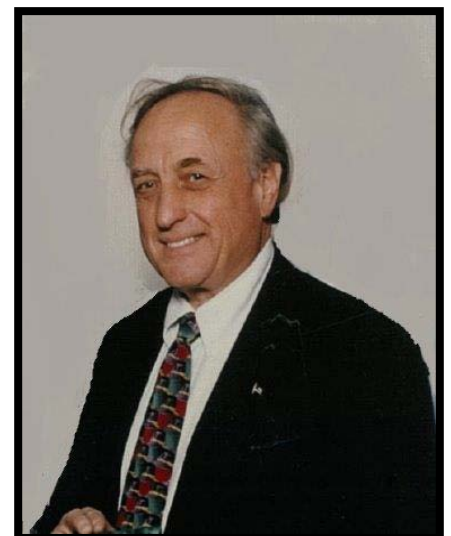
As you have read through this I'm sure that you can identify with some or all of the comments and feelings that were provided in a constructive atmosphere. Since participation has been keyed in on as a major issue of importance, I hope that each and every individual reading this can do a little more to help the cause. Get a friend to join, write an article, interview someone you respect as an outdoor resource or at the very least attend one of several events that the Council holds each year. If you have any specific suggestions contact any of the Council officers or your organization's representative. Please take the time to make a difference for future generations.

CHARLES A. BEVILACQUA
4/7/37 – 2/11/16

Long-time Region 1 Director/Alternate Director Charlie Bevilacqua passed away in February as a result of a stroke. Charlie proudly served his country in the US Marine Corps and upon returning to civilian life began decades of service to sportsmen's interests. He was an avid hunter, angler and competitive target shooter.

A Life Member of the NYS Conservation Council, Charlie also served as Councilman from both the Nassau and Suffolk County federations. He was a long-time member of the Council's Marine District committee and served on the NYSCC/NYPA Joint Task Force on Energy and Natural Resources. Back in Region 1, Charlie served on the Nassau County Forest Practices Board and the NYS Open Space Advisory Committee.

Charlie was Region 1 representative to the NYS Conservation Fund Advisory Board since 1984 and was also a Life Member of the National Rifle Association.



THE IN-BETWEEN SEASON

By Bob Brown, Executive Program Director

It's what I call the "The In-between Season." Hunting season is long gone and winter is beginning to wane, but spring is still weeks away and it is not time to get out the turkey calls yet. I was looking over my firearm collection, spotted the .32 Special lever action Winchester, and pulled it out of the rack. I sat in my chair with a cleaning rag and rubbed it down. I was about 16 when Dad purchased it and brought it home in its cardboard box. Up until that time we had only three long arms in the house: my grandfather's old single .12 gauge Iver Johnson, a single shot Remington .22 and a .12 gauge Ithaca featherweight pump shotgun. It was the first "real" rifle in the house. Dad kept it under his bed in the original box and wrapped it in an old tee shirt that smelled of Hoppe's gun oil. Dad didn't hunt much at that time in his life and living in the southern tier, deer hunting was shotgun only. I think he bought it for me to use in the future.



I would haul it out and clean it often. It brought up lots of images in my mind of "The gun that won the West." I loved those western movies; and every cowboy who rode the dusty trail had a Winchester ready in the scabbard, whether he was driving cattle on the range or shooting outlaws. John Wayne used the same exact Winchester in the movie "Stagecoach" in 1939 as he used for the movie "True Grit" in 1969 as Rooster Cogburn. Jimmy Stewart used one in "Winchester 73" filmed in 1950. And who could forget Chuck Connors as Lucas McCain in the TV series "The Rifleman"? I loved that Winchester, but I had never shot it.

My father died before shooting the rifle, and I moved to the Adirondacks where I could use it on whitetail deer. In my middle twenties I decided to hunt with that Winchester and carried it for several weekends. One Sunday morning in early November I was still hunting along a mountain trail when I came to a small brook and decided to follow it through a hardwood area. I found a large tree that had toppled over, exposing its entire root system. Sitting with my back against the roots, my scent was blocked from the wind and I had a nice view of an open forest in front of me. After about twenty minutes I heard the sound of dry leaves crunching behind me to the left. Two doe came rushing past about 50 yards away. I watched them as they continued across the creek and on up a hill, disappearing in the woods. About two minutes later I heard the crashing sound of a buck in quick pursuit directly behind me coming along the right side of the blow-down. Before I could adjust my position a five-point buck was cutting in front of me six feet away, at full speed! I did not have time to aim and shot once from the hip while sitting. He piled up ten feet away. I still can't believe I made that shot -- it was Winchester magic.

45 to 50 years later ... last week after I wiped the Winchester down, I realized that I had not shot that rifle at a deer since that day. It looks brand new. I guess over the years I got into scopes and bigger calibers. I decided that this week, when we get some warm weather, I will take it down to the rod and gun club and sight it in. Then I will bring it home and put a tag on it to remind me to use it! This rifle feels a lot lighter than my scoped rifles. I could go coyote hunting with it next week. I never have got one. I should carry it next fall during the rut. I wonder if I can find that uprooted tree. I know about where it was but that was quite some time ago. There are a lot of things to think about during the "In between season." "Honey, where is my cowboy hat?"



**CHUCK PARKER GOES TO WASHINGTON FOR GREAT LAKES DAY
FEBRUARY 24TH -25TH, 2016**

As a representative sportsmen’s organization the New York State Conservation Council was asked to participate with various other groups to urge Congressional appropriation of annual funding for the Great Lakes Restoration and Economic Revitalization initiative. If you look at the participants in Great Lakes Day you will see groups not typically aligning with sportsmen -- the Great Lakes Commission, Healthy Lakes Healthy Lives, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition, and so on.



Their agenda: \$300 million for the 2017 Great Lakes Restoration Program. Money for drinking and waste water infrastructure, protection from Asian Carp and invasive species, and economic and ecologic protection programs were some of the topics of concern. Why did this coalition reach out to various sportsmen’s organizations in the states bordering the Great Lakes? Surely they have enough groups among the different cities and communities in their mixed coalitions in the United States and Canada to promote their cause. One point became very apparent before we attended one meeting: anything done to promote clean water under this group’s agenda also aids in increasing the opportunity to fish or hunt in the buffer areas along the lakes. Anything we do as sportsmen to promote habitat for fishing and a healthy shoreline promotes a cleaner environment for stakeholders participating in this Great Lakes Day promotion. It is a natural joint venture. We as sportsmen offer increased recognition of the issues they are trying to promote. As we were talking to an aide in one New York congressman’s office the congressman was leaving but turned around when he heard us mention sport fishing on the Great Lakes; he stayed and talked with us for about 5 minutes.

The coalition for the Washington, DC, Great Lakes Day recognized that sportsmen have visibility and impact and invited us to participate. This is something that we need to recognize and use for our benefit more often.

This year’s event started with a day of information, dinner at the Canadian Embassy with a couple of presentations, and then a day of visits to Congressional and Senate offices. As a Council representative I returned having made valuable contacts with those in New York State who share our common goals. I asked some different groups to share their success stories, such as the cleanup of the Buffalo River and other topics that would be of interest to our membership. I left with a better awareness of the NYSCC’s interaction with groups and individuals not typically in a close working relationship with organizations such as ours. Let’s build upon what happened and see where the path leads.

SAVE THESE DATES:

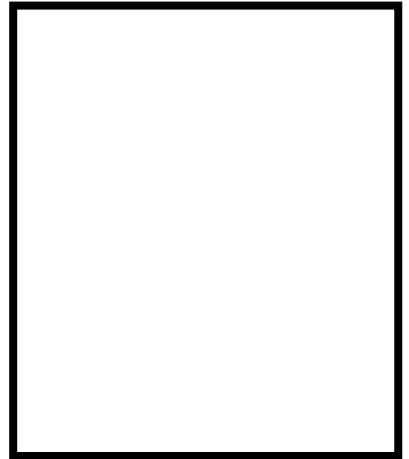
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| April 9, 2016: | Spring/ Committee meeting @ Herkimer College |
| June 11, 2016: | Board of Directors meeting- location TBD |
| August 13, 2016: | Board of Directors meeting- location TBD |
| September 9-11, 2016 (tentative): | Annual Convention- location TBD |

MARIAVILLE LAKE KIDS ICE FISHING DERBY

By Gary Mosher

On February 20th 2016, the Kids Ice Fishing Derby was held at Mariaville Lake. 28 kids registered for the event and they all had a great time! The weather cooperated; it was in the low 30's in the morning which helped maintain the 8" of ice on the Lake. Later that morning the temperature warmed up to the mid-40's and it turned windy, making for a few lawn chairs that had to be chased across the ice! Some of the surface thawed and water on the ice made it slippery by the stop-fishing time at noon.

Every child got something as a prize, each receiving a number for door prizes and a free ice fishing tip-up when they registered. At noon fishing was stopped so we could tally up the fish count. Prizes were awarded for largest perch, pickerel, bass, and most fish caught. All measurements were taken by a NYS Environmental Conservation Officer.



Isabella G. took first place for largest perch at 11". Ava M. was second with a 10 1/2" perch, and Shala H. was third with a 10 3/8" perch.

Hunter D. had first place for the largest pickerel at 23". Gemma G. and Billy S. tied with 20 1/2" pickerels.

Shala H. and Hunter D. tied for the largest bass at 16 1/2".

Gemma G. caught the most -- 9 fish!

Each child in each category of fish received a prize. Multiple door prizes were given out including fishing poles with reels, boot ice cleats, Walmart gift cards, 2-way radios, fishing tackle boxes, and more. There were more prizes than kids, and all the prizes were given to the kids.

During the morning Dave from the Mariaville Lakeside Country Store provided hot chocolate, coffee and donuts. After the prizes were awarded, Dave supplied a lot of pizza for lunch. The event was put on by the New York Conservation Officers Association (NYCOA) and was co-sponsored by the Schenectady County Conservation Council, Mariaville Lakeside Country Store, Iroquois Rod & Gun Club, Dick's Sporting Goods, Wiggly Worm Bait Supply, Wayne Gentile, and many more.

Thanks to all the sponsors, the moms and dads, ECOs Brian, Chris, and Jason, and the volunteers who made this a great event!

NEW YORK STATE OUTDOORSMEN HALL OF FAME HONORS EIGHT

By Leo Maloney

The New York State Outdoorsmen Hall of Fame proudly announces that it has inducted eight new members, including two posthumously in the Pioneer Category. These inductees represent all areas of the state and many fields of endeavor. The NYSOHOF is an organization dedicated to honoring those individuals who have spent many years preserving our outdoor heritage, working for conservation, or enhancing our outdoor sports for future generations.



Ray Besecker of Onondaga County has been a volunteer fishing instructor for over 30 years for many organizations in the greater Syracuse area. Robert C. Hughes of Steuben County has been a science teacher for 25 years and has had a tremendous influence in getting youngsters involved in the outdoors. Scott McKee of Erie County has had a major impact on improving musky fishing in that area as well as other conservation projects.

Charlie Pace of Madison County has been a key member of the Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Conservation Fund Advisory Board, and other sportsmen’s organizations. Lance Robson of Cayuga County has been a volunteer for 40 years as a shooting instructor and range supervisor involving youngsters from Boy Scouts of America to local rod and gun clubs. Ray Hrynyk, better known by his pen name of Spider Rybaak, is a prolific outdoor writer from Madison County who has authored many books and freelances for several publications.

In the Pioneer Category the late Leon Chandler of Cortland County is honored for his work in promoting fly fishing and conservation. Chandler was Vice President of Cortland Line Company where he elevated the products made there, developed the line rating system in use today, and helped promote the sport of fly fishing through seminars. Another inductee in the Pioneer Category is Charles Rechlin of Erie County who was active in local clubs and the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs. Rechlin served as president of the Erie County Federation for many years as well as its representative to the NYS Conservation Council.

The new inductees will be honored at the annual banquet on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at the Rusty Rail in Canastota, NY. Family and friends are invited to join in this evening of celebration. Registration will begin at 5 pm with dinner at 6 pm followed by the induction. Reservations must be made by April 23 by calling (315) 363-3896 or (315) 829-3588 or by e-mail at lmalone1@twcny.rr.com or sfcf@tds.net. Inductees will have their plaques displayed at the NYSOHOF Museum in Vail Mills, NY.

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MORE ON THE ADIRONDACK FOREST PRESERVE



Dan Platt shared comments relative to his experience following the release of Chuck Parker's article titled "Transitional Habitat New Growth Coming to the Adirondack Forest Preserve?" (See the article at www.nyscc.com.)

Climax forest naturally has some turnover and shifts; plant species move around; beavers build dams and hydrology shifts; but statistically the structure is pretty stable. For the most part in much of the region, species depletions had really become evident by the late 1990s. It doesn't take all that long to reach those numbers. What you see now is what you get - and will get in perpetuity.

Prior to logging trucks, logging depended on the waterways, using staging on impounded ponds set up to send the logs down river to paper mills in the spring. Much of the movement to those ponds depended on the hard-frozen winter months making it much easier to move the wood on sleds.

Softwoods tended to be selected -- there wasn't any clearcutting. Hardwoods were too heavy. However, the impact along all those pristine lakes was terrible -- lots of flooded lands with dead stands of trees for the summer folks coming to hike and fish. It partially opened the canopy, yielding a spectrum of edge and habitat types with lots of understory that really boosted animal habitat. As long as logging continued, animal numbers were doing okay but likely had already peaked in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

By the 1980's there was a lot less logging and the forests were already climaxing. Apart from a blowdown around 1995, there hadn't been anything to help carrying capacity. Since then deer and bear numbers have continued to fall. Other species such as grouse are more flexible but really enjoyed the blowdown. It has been years since DEC set any sense of management targets for any species in the 'Dacks. On the other hand, brainworm, vectored by whitetail deer, is lethal to moose.

As deer numbers have fallen moose have been able to come back. That may mean the possibility of a moose season -- megadeer; but part of the reason is low deer densities.

The fight for Forever Wild partly revolved around a book written in 1864 by George Perkins Marsh: *Man and Nature*. While serving as ambassador to Italy, Marsh argued that desertification of North Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean was due to humans cutting trees. It wasn't; it has to do primarily with shifts in monsoonal flows tied to the earth's orbit. Thus essentially started the environmental movement, particularly the question of mankind's impact on climate. The arguments to "save" the Adirondack forests revolved around the issue of drought and sustaining waterways and canal systems so important to the NY State economy.

Gifford Pinchot, who had studied then-modern forestry in Europe, served at William Seward Webb's Nehasane as its first forester, then designed a scientific management plan for George Vanderbilt's Biltmore estate in South Carolina. Pinchot, who was appointed by Theodore Roosevelt as first Forest Service commissioner and served as governor of Pennsylvania, had argued strenuously AGAINST Forever Wild, proffering a scientific forest management system instead. This set up the lines between preservationists (a la Marsh) and conservationists (a la Pinchot). The preservationists won. We have suffered ever since.

On the side: in my first excursions to the 'Dacks for early bear season, I had been advised to look for places that had orchards. In the Unit Management Plans for the Siamese Ponds Wilderness, there was some dispute about whether a road (now the John Pond trail) should be maintained between Indian Lake and the cemetery for the defunct community called Little Canada. Loggers who settled

there and had bought previously-logged Finch Pruyn lands found that the company never recorded the deeds. When they quit paying taxes (which was practice) the state foreclosed, evicted the homesteaders (by Forever Wild, they couldn't re-sell the land for back taxes), and burned their farms. The cemetery was found to lie in Warren County and so was not in Indian Lake's jurisdiction. That means the provision allowing a town to maintain public roads didn't apply and Forever Wild did. There were still apple trees when I began to hunt there. I remember seeing the last one die after a hard winter one year. The blowdowns didn't do them much good; but the terrain right around there has the memory of flat cultivated fields, not so heavily churned by blowdowns with the root rip-ups that make the land there so lumpy. There's still some cherries, etc... See: <http://prfamerica.org/2005/ReportOnLittleCanada.html>

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE



New York Sea Grant's annual State of Lake Erie meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14, from 7-9 p.m. at Southtowns Walleye Association Clubhouse, 5895 Southwestern Boulevard in Hamburg. For more information or directions contact: Helen Domske, New York Sea Grant – Great Lakes Program - UB at (716) 645-3610, or email hmd4@cornell.edu.

The Sportsmen and Women of Oneida County are sponsoring a Youth/Women Mentored Turkey Hunt on May 14, 2016. The hunt is open to youth ages 12-15 or women ages 16 and up. Everyone participating must have a valid hunting license and a spring turkey tag and must attend a mandatory instructional safety day on April 16th. You can sign up at www.cnymyhunts.org. For more information contact Scott Faulkner at 315-225-0192 or sfcf@tds.net.



New Members

DEFENDER MEMBERS:

- Richard Davenport**, Tonawanda
- Michael Jennings**, Greenwich
- Jeff Jondle**, Marilla

GUARDIAN MEMBERS:

- Walter Dixon**, Tully
- Shawn Fleury**, Central Square
- Timothy Grooms**, Pavilion
- Joseph McAdams**, Niagara Falls
- Todd Waldron**, Chestertown
- Rebecca Whitehill**, Mount Upton
- Trent Whitehill**, Mount Upton
- Unadilla Rod & Gun Club**, Unadilla

TICKS ARE ON THE MOVE AGAIN!!

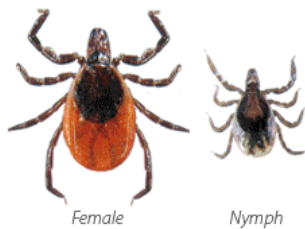
The U.S. Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health advises the following:

If you spend time outdoors or have pets that go outdoors, you need to beware of ticks. Ticks are small bloodsucking parasites. Many species transmit diseases to animals and people. Some of the diseases you can get from a tick bite are [Lyme disease](#), ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia.

Some ticks are so small that they can be difficult to see. Ticks may get on you if you walk through areas where they live, such as tall grass, leaf litter or shrubs.

Tick-borne diseases occur worldwide, including in your own backyard. To help protect yourself and your family, you should

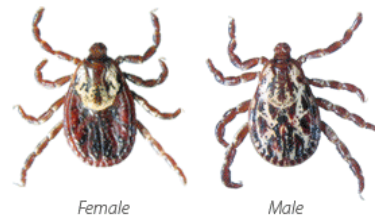
- Use a chemical repellent with DEET, permethrin or picaridin
- Wear light-colored protective clothing
- Tuck pant legs into socks
- Avoid tick-infested areas
- Check yourself, your children and your pets daily for ticks and carefully remove any ticks you find



Deer ticks : Lyme disease, babesiosis, anaplasmosis



Lone Star ticks : Ehrlichiosis



Dog ticks : Rocky Mt. spotted fever

Photos enlarged to show detail

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Dated: February 2, 2016

For Immediate Release

RE: Deer Management Structured Decision Making Results

FROM: NYSCC/ Big Game Committee

On Tuesday, February 02, 2016, the NYS DEC and Cornell University Human Dimensions Unit held an invitation-only meeting to present the finalized Deer Management Structured Decision Making (SDM) initiative, engaged to address the concerns of Yearling Buck Management and protection in NYS. Those invited represented stakeholders representing a wide range of interests, including NYSCC, the Nature Conservancy, NY Sportsmen's Advisory Council, Quality Deer management Association, Audubon Society of NY, NY Bowhunters, NY Muzzleloaders, NY Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Conservation Fund Advisory Board, NY Farm Bureau, NY Whitetail Management Coalition and NY Outdoor News.

The NYSCC would like to applaud the hard work of the NYS DEC Deer Team and Cornell University, as well as the hunting community that participated in this important work. This SDM is to afford the DEC a process by which regulatory and management-related decisions may be effectively arrived at, especially when a direct biological condition or need is not present.

Based on the results of this survey, directions concerning antler restriction were confirmed to be consistent with NYSCC positions, that promotion of voluntary restrictions shall be implemented in NYS. Additional work is required to determine the best way to promote and educate hunters as to the benefits of voluntary restrictions to reduce the percent of yearling bucks that make up the total antlered deer harvest.

“Any deer management initiative set forth by NYS DEC requires the trust of the sportsmen for success, and this SDM should serve to restore trust that may have eroded between the Department and the stakeholders,” said Rich Davenport, NYSCC Big Game Committee Co-Chairman.

The NYSCC is seeking input from member organizations as to how best to address this outreach, as to assist NYS DEC with informing the hunters of today, and tomorrow, of the benefits of voluntary harvest restraint, and the importance of the management role hunters of NYS play; a critical component to healthy deer herds well into the future.

Other concerns brought to the participating organizations included CWD concerns and potential regulatory actions to assure the disease does not enter NYS, urban deer management issues, the new WMU aggregate plan and the new CTF process currently in pilot in Region 8 and 7. We applaud the NYS DEC for addressing these important issues, and the actions needed to address these issues moving forward.



Senate bill S1555, which relates to any Department of Environmental Conservation management plan regarding mute swans, has been sent to the Governor.

The New York State Conservation Council strongly opposes this legislation and has requested that it be vetoed.

We believe that this bill, by imposing delays and redundant steps, would impose an ill-advised hindrance to the DEC's ability to deal with a destructive invasive species. The management plan proposed by the DEC is a technically sound response to a real problem and is based on solid research going back 40 years. This bill appears to be more of an emotional response to the proposed removal of an admittedly attractive bird than a viable alternative to dealing with the risk to the environment.

Mute swans are an invasive species that are detrimental to the health of native species. They cause economic and environmental harm as well as pose a human health risk. The emerald ash borer, zebra mussel, Japanese knotweed and the Eurasian Boar have already produced major negative impacts in the state. All provide evidence that the sooner an invasive species threat is addressed the better.

These birds are destructive herbivores that devastate submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) along shorelines. This vegetation is vital to the health of the shoreline environment, providing shelter for small fish and shellfish and is a key food source for a wide variety of species. SAV is also critical to the oxygenation of the water and in protecting the shoreline from erosion.

The DEC plan encompasses a full range of measures to mitigate this problem: education of the public about the problem, prohibition of the importation and propagation of captive swans, encourage control programs in bordering jurisdictions and banning the release of captive birds into the wild.

National wildlife conservation organizations, including the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the National Audubon Society and the American Bird Conservancy have all expressed strong support for reducing free-ranging mute swan populations as provided for in the AFC's Atlantic flyway management plan.

We need immediate action to ask him to veto it. Please call (518-474-8390) or FAX (518-474-3767) the Governor's office today! Your input can be as simple as the statement below.

"I respectfully request that you **veto S1555** - an act establishing a moratorium on the Department of Environmental Conservation's plan to declare mute swans a prohibited invasive species."

Senate bill S4151, which mandates the periodic preparation of a deer management plan by the Department of Environmental Conservation, has been sent to the Governor.

The New York State Conservation Council strongly opposes this legislation and has requested that it be vetoed.

The Department of Environmental Conservation is charged by law with the efficient management of white tailed deer as well as all other fish and wildlife resources. The department has the professional expertise to determine the need for developing and updating species management plans. It currently operates under the "Management Plan for White-tailed Deer in New York State 2012-2016" adopted in late 2011.

The problem with the effectiveness of white-tailed deer management does not lie within the DEC's lack of a plan but is the result of legislative micromanagement in the form of statutory restrictions on the DEC's use of proven population control methods and the unwillingness of local governments to impress upon their residents the need for serious population management.

The development of a species management plan is a time consuming and resource intensive process. Mandating the development of a management plan absence the establishment of the need for a new or updated plan is a waste of valuable resources. The best use of DEC professional staff necessitates that plan development or updating be conducted on an as needed basis and not on an arbitrary timetable.

This legislation is both unnecessary and counterproductive. The DEC can update the existing plan as it considers necessary to deal with any environmental or functional changes that may occur. Accordingly, we believe it should be vetoed.

We need immediate action to ask him to veto it. Please call (518-474-8390) or FAX (518-474-3767) the Governor's office today! Your input can be as simple as the statement below.

"I respectfully request that you **veto S4151** - an act which requires the periodic preparation of a state deer management plan by the Department of Environmental Conservation."

You must act in the next week. The Governor must act before November 21st.