



## NEW SPORTING LICENSE SYSTEM SLATED FOR JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>

**Beginning on June 1, 2020, NYS DEC will have a new DECALS licensing system.**

We've come a long way since your hunting, fishing and trapping licenses were carbon copies of the document filled out by the license issuing agent. New York finally automated its license system on August 19, 2002. At the time, it had been said that it is quite a paradox to be able to prove that you are entitled to hunt deer with a flintlock rifle here in New York by producing a computer-generated hunting license.

Since the first iteration of the Department of Environmental Conservation Automated License System (DECALS) went live in '02, the system was upgraded again in 2012.

Kalkomey Enterprises, LLC, has the contract to develop the new format. Along with creating applications like New York's license program, they also are developers of education material like Hunter Safety Training Programs. They are providing an Internet training course for new hunters that does not include range time – a temporary work-around precipitated by the need to maintain social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Changes to DECALS include the use of a new website for license sales and a new printer for producing licenses. Current printers will no longer be usable after May 31, 2020. Also, the existing vendor interface used for license sales will no longer be available after May 31, 2020.



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At this time detailed information has not been distributed to license issuing agents regarding what to do with the old printers and how training on the new system will be facilitated.

The current situation with COVID-19 may hamper the delivery and receipt of new printers by license agents. Shipments of printers will start during the month of April and will be prioritized based on agents' sales volumes from that month. Agents who sold very few licenses or did not sell any items through DECALS in April will not immediately receive printers; they will receive their hardware later.

If the Town Clerk or retail outlet where you normally purchase your license can't sell you a license on June 1, try another outlet. Shop local!

You can purchase a license by telephone at: 866-933-2257. Licenses may also be purchased on the DECALS website at: <https://decals.dec.ny.gov/DECALSCitizenWeb/citizenhome.htm>

Don't forget to buy at least one Habitat/Access Stamp when you buy your license.

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## OUTREACH -- WHAT NYSCC CAN DO FOR YOU!

By Joseph Fischer

This is just another example of how you as a sportsperson can actually change state environmental laws or NYSDEC regulations by working with the New York State Conservation Council (NYSCC). The following is a "Readers Digest" version of how this is accomplished.

Let's say you, as an individual sportsperson, want to eliminate the use of gill nets on the New York State waters of Lake Erie. (This particular example was actually accomplished!) The first thing you would do is write a brief resolution regarding elimination of gill nets citing a few reasons why this is needed. You would then take the resolution to a meeting of your local sportsmen's club and request a vote for approval. Once this is accomplished the resolution can be submitted to your local County Federation (for example, Erie County Federation of Sportsmen) for review and approval.

If your County Federation votes to approve your resolution it is then submitted to the NYSCC resolution committee to make sure it is in the proper form. It will then be reviewed by the appropriate committee (i.e., fish committee) and recommendations given to the NYSCC following the annual spring committee of the Council.

The resolution will then be submitted for a vote at the annual NYSCC fall convention. It is brought to the floor at the meeting, discussed and then voted on. If over 50% approve it obviously passes; if over 75% approve it becomes NYSCC policy. The NYSCC Legislative Vice President will then take it to the NYSDEC for approval and possible DEC regulation change or to our state politicians in Albany for support if a law is required.

This was the process in many NYSCC successes and, of course, some failures. Items like Sunday big game hunting, crossbow hunting and the ban on gill nets in Lake Erie all started using the aforementioned process. Other issues like dove hunting failed to get traction and did not happen.

This procedure using the NYSCC is the only way an organized individual grassroots sportsperson can invoke a law or regulation change in New York. If you need help in trying to write a resolution call the NYSCC office in Ilion NY at 315-894-3302. The NYSCC used to have between 10 and 20 resolutions to review and vote on every year, but in recent years there have been less than 5!!! C'mon -- there must be a lot of issues that can be submitted as resolutions, especially now!!!

The NYSCC needs your support. The Buck A Member program is one way for clubs to contribute; or become a member and send a check to the NYSCC at 8 East Main Street, Ilion, NY 13357. Visit the Council's website, [www.nyscc.com](http://www.nyscc.com), if you wish to join or donate via PayPal. It might be the best investment you will ever make! I know you have seen this appeal for money for a long time but this time it is very serious. I doubt that the NYSCC can last another year without the total support of the approximately 250,000 organized sportspersons in New York State. This will be the last time you will hear this from me!!

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### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

#### **DEFENDER MEMBERS:**

**Jason Brozdowski**, Middletown

#### **GUARDIAN MEMBERS:**

**Grand Island Rod & Gun Club**, Grand Island  
**Aaron Youngs**, Waterloo

## SWIMMING FOSSIL

By Mike Elam

I never met a fish I didn't like, whether I'm catching them, studying them, watching them or eating them. I like fish. Some of my favorite fish are the ones with prehistoric lineage, the swimming fossil. Let's start with one near the top of my list, the bowfin. Looks? Bowfin are just about as pretty as a piece of 4" cast iron pipe, but beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

In Orleans County, where I have lived my whole life (almost long enough to be a fossil myself), Oak Orchard Creek had a good population of bowfin, locally known as dogfish. Before the salmon and trout days, bowfins were one of the opportunities for a big fish. Most bowfins were 4 to 6 pounds, but there were some that would push 20 pounds and measure over 40 inches in length. They were ferocious fighters and usually mangled artificial lures. They'd attack surface lures or weed-less lures through the duck weed. The result was the destruction of the lure, especially if it was rubber or cork. I remember one bowfin, about 15 pounds, darting out of the weeds to eat my U20 Flat Fish. When it was finally boated, the hooks were crushed and the plastic body was cracked.

Bowfins were often maligned for eating more desirable fish such as bass, so for years they were killed or thrown on shore. But after surviving and being a part of the ecosystem for millions of years, they're just part of a healthy environment. All bowfin I catch are returned unharmed. I enjoy the fight and look forward to another battle with "Mr. Dogfish." They can be caught still fishing with worms, crawfish, shrimp or minnows and with just about any artificial lure, even with flyrod poppers used for bass. My nephew from Virginia tells me hot dogs also work well.

Talk about a survivor ... bowfins are the only surviving member of the Amiidae family of fish, dating back to the Jurassic period – 150 million years ago! The Navy thought enough of this survivor that they named a WW II fleet submarine "Bowfin", launched on December 7, 1942. The USS Bowfin, also a survivor, made nine patrols in the Pacific, sank around 17 enemy vessels and is now moored in Pearl Harbor next to the Arizona as a submarine museum.

What makes the fish such a robust survivor? First, it can live in low oxygen level waters. The bowfin's lung-like swim bladder enables it to gulp surface air to live. It can live for months without a meal and will eat most anything such as fish, crawfish, worms, insects, leeches and any invertebrates it can find. It has a torpedo shaped body, a bullet shaped head with a bony skull like a dinosaur, and some respectable teeth. I can attest to that hard head. When we could spear rough fish, I stuck a large bowfin square in the head and the fish left the scene throwing a rooster tail. I was left with a nearly new Lew's five tine spear missing two tines and a sore wrist. I might as well have speared a rock.

Bowfin are found in North America from Florida to Southern Ontario and Quebec. Canada, and east to the Mississippi drainage. They like bigger waters and bay areas with weedy backwater without current, waters similar to Lake Ontario bays and New York State's many larger lakes and rivers. Bowfin spawn in the spring, using the backwaters to build a nest and spawn. The male builds the nest, digging a depression around cover and lining the nest with vegetation and litter. Males attract the females and usually spawning takes place after dark. Bowfins are rather promiscuous with male and female spawning with more than one partner. (By the way, bowfin spawn is marketed as black bowfin caviar, much cheaper than sturgeon caviar. You can check it out online.) Bowfin eggs are adhesive and attach to the nest. Once they hatch, the fry has an adhesive organ on its snout and attach to surrounding surfaces until the egg sac is absorbed. The female heads to the deep water "spa" when spawning is complete. The male stays behind to guard the nest and, eventually, the



fingerlings that later will ball up and follow the male. I encountered this about 50 years ago, a large ball of small bowfins being in the company of a larger male.

Like most warmwater fish, female bowfins are larger than males. Males are in the 4 to 7 lb. ranges and females can be 15 lbs. and up. In 2017, I caught one just over 40 inches. Didn't weigh it but it must've been close to 20 lbs. Males and females both have an eye spot near their tail (ocellus). The male is more colorful with some orange or yellow while the female is plain dark or black.

For the last 12 years, we've been fishing perch at Pt. Breeze and have caught many dogfish (bowfin). I always like to catch big fish. Some days we get 3 or 4 dogfish fishing jigs for perch. All are returned and I encourage others not to destroy or waste such a unique fish. For 150 or so million years they haven't hurt anything and, most likely, help keep things in balance.

As for table fare, I have never eaten a bowfin. I've been told the meat is soft and not that flavorful. Many years ago, when we had a good business selling our speared rough fish, we had people asking for grinnel, dogfish, or mudfish, all names used for bowfin.

A lot of anglers have not encountered bowfins, and when one is caught it can cause some confusion. Until recently they have been unique, but with snakeheads making the news, some anglers mistake the bowfin for a snakehead. Bowfin are native, not an invasive. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has a publication that explains the difference between these two species.

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### ADD A LITTLE TASTE TO YOUR LURES

By Bob Brown

Always looking for a better way to catch some fish, I began to ask trout and pike fishermen at our annual Lake Colby Ice Derby how they caught such nice fish. Of course, to catch them off guard, I did this while I was weighing and entering their fish in the derby record book.



Here is what I learned. The trout fishermen were adding scent to their bait. One of the winners indicated that he always sprays WD 40 on his bait. He believed that the product has fish oil as part of its makeup; and he always sprays his tip-up lures, believing it gives him the edge. Another winner in the contest entering a nice trout told me that he dips his lures in anise, a spice found in most grocery stores. Both took prizes with their fish.

Lake Colby has no northern pike; therefore, pike fishermen can fish surrounding waters to enter the contest in the pike category. The largest pike entered was caught this year on a hot dog! That's right, a hot dog! All the time and money spent by other fishermen at local bait shops acquiring minnows, lost first place in the pike category to a good old American hot dog! The lucky fisherman made no mention of condiments such as mustard, onions or relish. With spring fishing upon us, I just might get my bait at the deli or the local hardware store. The night crawlers in my back yard are starting to party already!



Remember to be safe out there this spring with tippy canoes. When climbing slippery banks, you can't be too careful! The water this time of year is still cold, so toss an extra set of dry clothes and towel in the trunk of the car just in case. That way you can slip back in the house without your wife knowing. All the best ... Fish On!

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## CONDOLENCES

The NYSCC lost two stalwart supporters in March. Neil Newton of Albion (Orleans County) and Steve LaMere of Ballston Spa (Saratoga County) have passed away.



Neil Newton truly enjoyed gardening, fishing, hunting and trapping, and he devoted a lifetime to conservation and outdoor sports. He was a member of the Region 8 Fish and Wildlife Management Board for 20 years. Active in the Orleans County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs for 63 years, he served as delegate to the NYSCC for 35 of those years. He was past president and member of the Finger Lakes Conservation Council for 35 years, Neil was a member of the Black North Rod and Gun Club, St. Mary's Archery Club, NYS Walleye Association, and various veteran and firefighting associations. Neil was a hunter safety instructor who served on NYSCC's Hunter Education Committee for several years. As a co-founder of the DEC Walleye Cooperation rearing project, Neil made necessary arrangements for the project, including securing essential permits, being a driving force in getting improvements to the boat ramp at Lake Alice, being involved with rearing and stocking walleye fingerlings, and working with the DEC to

secure use and upgrades to the pond for raising walleye fingerlings. He also took the lead in getting centerfire rifle hunting allowed in Orleans County and was inducted into the New York State Outdoorsman Hall of Fame in April 2018.

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**Steve LaMere and Nellie Staves**

Steve LaMere followed the influence of his grandmother, Nellie Staves, in his love of the outdoors, earning degrees with concentrations in environmental management, planning and forest biology. He tirelessly worked to help preserve the environment and natural resources of New York's Adirondack Park and became the first nationally certified lake manager in New York State. Steve served on numerous regional, state and national environmental committees and professional society boards. Ultimately, he formed and operated Adirondack Ecologists LLC, an environmental consulting firm specializing in watershed management and water quality protection. His primary focus was on research, project management, environmental education and wise natural resource stewardship. Among his accomplishments were establishing the Adirondacks' first 'lake watch' program and a statewide aquatic resources education and protection program as well as designing an innovative hatchery management program concentrating on development of a trophy

trout fishery for Essex County waters and management plans to combat nuisance species introduction into Adirondack waterways. Steve most recently served the NYSCC as Region 5 Director and Environmental Policy Analyst. He received the Council's Outstanding Leadership Award in 1998 and Professional Conservationist of the Year Award in 2014.

## CORONAVIRUS: AMID HUNTER CLASS CANCELLATIONS, DEC TO ALLOW ONLINE CERTIFICATION

By Bill Conners

The Department of Environmental Conservation's Hunter Education Program has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Because people have been restricted to what has been dubbed "social distancing," it has been impossible to conduct the usual hunter education classes that are required of all first-time hunting license buyers here in New York.

According to DEC, classes that were to be held between March 18 and April 30 have been canceled. The classes included: More than 150 hunter education courses with 2,657 students already registered, more than 50 bow hunter education courses with 675 students registered, and more than 10 trapper education courses with 150 students registered. That is a total of more than 200 courses with almost 3,500 students registered.

Because NY accepts a hunter education certificate from any state in order to purchase a hunting license, many people have figured out that taking a fully online course in another state enables them to get certified, and that will allow them to purchase a hunting license in New York before turkey season. A fully online course does not require range time with an instructor. The entire course curriculum is conducted over the Internet. According to DEC, many states that offer a fully online course are now restricting their online courses to residents only because so many non-residents, including those from New York, are overwhelming their computer systems or costing them a lot of money.

New York will — at least temporarily — be offering an online course by Kalkomey Enterprises, the same company that DEC uses for the online homework necessary for the current education program. The course will cost \$19.95 per person. Right now, the course will be available for a limited time through June 30. A decision will be made at a later date as to whether or not to make the course available beyond June 30.

Anyone age 11 or older and who is a New York state resident may take the online course. Students who successfully complete the course and pass the final exam will get a hunter education certificate.

DEC has no intention of eliminating in-person courses in the future, this plan was developed simply to resolve the environment created by the COVID-19 pandemic. For that I am grateful as is Ken Foster, a hunter safety instructor with more than 40 years' experience. Foster said, "I understand the need for this temporary change, but at the same time I can't stress enough the importance of the time each student spends on the range with his or her instructor." We both see the need for students who become certified during this crisis to have to — at some future date — be required to do the range time under the guidance of an instructor.

If you were already registered for an education course and you have a valid email address included in your registration info, you should receive an email informing you of this opportunity. The intent is to make it possible for new hunters to participate in the spring turkey season beginning May 1. To access the Kalkomey course go to: <https://www.hunter-ed.com/newyork/>, or for more information go to the DEC website.

### **GENESEE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, INC.**

*Charles O. Hancock, President*

(585) 223-1850 Phone (585) 223-6855 Fax

[chancock@rochester.rr.com](mailto:chancock@rochester.rr.com) Email

A charitable foundation concerned about conservation issues, with special interest in Genesee, Livingston, and Monroe Counties.

## GET OUTDOORS – BAG A TURKEY!

By Bill Conners

The annual Youth Turkey Hunt was held the last weekend in April. I had anticipated the kids having some success because of the numbers of turkeys I had been seeing (before the lockdown) and the reports I was getting from hunters and landowners. I have not had a lot of feedback yet on the success of the kids' weekend, but there were birds taken.



**Matthew Sandison is all smiles after harvesting this turkey.**

One farmer-landowner I know had three youngsters hunting his property this weekend and all three bagged turkeys. They took 2 jakes (immature toms), and one large gobbler. That would suggest that maybe the upcoming spring turkey season is going to produce a good harvest. Whether or not it eclipses the Spring 2019 harvest of more than 17,000 birds remains to be seen.

The regular season opens Friday, running from May 1 until May 31. Hunting is permitted in most areas of the state, except for New York City and Long Island. Don't forget that along with your turkey permit, you will need your hunting license.

During the spring season, shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to noon each day. The purpose of the reduced shooting hours is to allow the hens to incubate their eggs without being disturbed for at least a part of the day.

Hunters may take two bearded turkeys during the spring season, but only one bird per day.

Rifles or handguns firing a bullet may not be used to hunt turkeys. Hunters may hunt with a shotgun or handgun loaded with shot sizes no larger than No. 2 or smaller than No. 8, or with a bow or crossbow. Remember that crossbows are not legal in Westchester County, if you happen to hunt there.

Successful hunters must fill out the tag that comes with their turkey permit and immediately attach it to any turkey harvested. Immediately means while you are still in the woods.

They must report their harvest within seven days of taking a bird. Call 1-866-426-3778 (1-866 GAMERPT) or report harvest online at DEC's Game Harvest Reporting website.

For more information about turkey hunting in New York, see the 2019-20 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide or visit the "Turkey Hunting" pages of DEC's website.

### Finger Lakes Conservation Council Inc.

Representing County Federations and Affiliate Clubs of New York State Region 8

#### Member Federations

Chemung Co. Fed. of Sportsman's Clubs  
Genesee Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs  
Livingston Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs  
Monroe Co. Conservation Council  
Ontario Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs  
Orleans Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs  
Seneca Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs  
Steuben Co. Fed. of Conservation Clubs  
Wayne Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs  
Yates Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs



**President Mike Elam**

**Vice President Bob McIlwaine**

**Secretary Glen Adams**

**Treasurer Dennis Race**

### Affiliated Conservation Clubs of Madison County *Proud Member of NYSCC*

**Since 1939!**

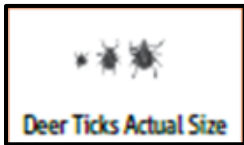
**Sponsoring: Scholarships, Kids to  
Camp, Regional Envirothon, NYS  
Sportsmen's Education, Annual  
Women's and Youth Event.**

## TICK PROBLEMS

By Douglas H. Domedion

I had a tick on me last year and one of our local DEC Wildlife Technicians found over a dozen and half on herself after completing some survey work in the field. The little creature that can cause big health problems is the deer tick which can cause Lyme disease.

We have never been too concerned about deer ticks in this area but now there has been a big surge of them it seems. For folks in the eastern part of the state, it has become a big problem. Columbia County had 636 cases per 100,000, closely followed by Greene County with 627 per 100,000 in 2016. By contrast Orleans County had 5 per 100,000 with Genesee County having 10 per 100,000 for the same period. For those of us who spend a lot of time outdoors in the fields, marshes and woods it is now becoming a serious threat to our health.



This deer tick (also called the black-legged tick) is very small, about the size of a sesame seed. The nymph (early) stage is about the size of a poppy seed and is considered a bigger problem than the adult mainly because of its small size which makes them difficult to notice, and you don't feel their bite.

Lyme disease is caused by a bacterium which is picked up by the nymphs when they gorge on small mammals like mice. They are then set up to transmit that bacteria to another host which could include you or your dog. A tick that is infected could be in the grass or shrubs just waiting for another host to come along. Not all the deer ticks carry the disease, but you can't tell if they do or not. Lyme disease can cause fever or chills, general ill feeling, headaches, joint pain, muscle pain or a stiff neck. If left untreated it can cause memory loss, pain, vision problems, decreased concentration, nerve damage, paralysis of the face muscles and numbness.

If the disease is caught early enough it can be successfully treated. If you have been bitten by a tick, you need to watch closely for at least 30 days for symptoms or a rash developing. However, some of the symptoms may not develop for months or even years so it is best to have a doctor check you out. There is a blood test for Lyme disease, and it may be wise to have it if there is even a remote chance you are infected. Normally the tick must stay attached to you for 24 to 36 hours to infect you. Lyme disease is treated with prescription antibiotics and you are likely to recover fully within a few weeks.

If you do find a tick attached to you don't just scrape or pull it off because if it is infected and the head is left imbedded, you are still in trouble. Heat (from a cigarette) is not the way to go either. The best way is to use tweezers to gently lift the tick out by its neck, being careful not to crush it, with a slow steady pull. Then clean the area with soap and water.

Prevention is the best way to NOT GET A TICK ON YOU. Any time you are walking around in tall grass or brush you have a chance to pick up a tick. Your dog may pick one up and bring it in the house where you may pick it up. There is a vaccine that you can get for your dog; see your vet. As for you, there are various sprays you can put on your clothing that will repel or kill ticks. The one I use is by Sawyer and contains .5% permethrin and is said to last 6 washings. It is sprayed on and left to dry but is not to be used on skin, underwear, hats or inner clothing. When I'm out photographing nature I have a light camo suit I use it on, putting that over my regular clothing. I also spray my boots with it. A product with DEET is also a good spray for repelling ticks.

No matter if you use the spray or not, always strip down when you get home if you have been out in the field hunting, along a stream bank fishing, photographing, hiking or bird watching and check yourself EVERYWHERE. A little extra effort is worth not getting Lyme disease. Get in the habit; ticks are coming!

My contact information is 585-798-4022 or woodduck2020@yahoo.com.

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### COMING THIS NOVEMBER TO A BALLOT NEAR YOU – RESTORE MOTHER NATURE BOND ACT

Once the political climate returns to normal and focus is back on something other than the current pandemic, voters may be asked in November whether to enact the \$3 billion Environmental Bond Act of 2020 that includes funding for projects designed to “Restore Mother Nature” in New York State. NYS DEC has provided preliminary information regarding the allocation of funding and the nature of projects that may be approved:

Not less than \$1B for restoration and flood risk reduction projects

- Not more than \$250M for voluntary buyout program for state agencies, municipalities, and non-for-profit corporations
- Not less than \$100M for coastal rehabilitation and shoreline restoration projects
- Not less than \$100M for projects that address inland flooding
- Up to \$550M for open space land conservation and recreation projects
  - Not more than \$75M for fish hatcheries
  - Not less than \$200M for open space
  - Not less than \$100M for farmland protection
- Up to \$700M for climate change mitigation projects
  - Not less than \$350M for green building projects
- Not less than \$550M for water quality improvement and resilient infrastructure projects
  - Not less than \$200M for WIIA projects
  - Not less than \$100M for municipal stormwater projects

The types of projects eligible for funding through the Bond Act are as follows:

- Projects under restoration and flood risk may include, but are not limited to:
  - projects identified in state and regional management programs;
  - purchase of private property through a voluntary buyout program administered in conjunction the Division of Housing and Community Renewal;
  - local waterfront revitalization plans; coastal and shoreline rehabilitation projects;
  - modifications or relocation to flood-prone roadways;
  - right-sizing of dams, bridges, and culverts; and
  - restoration projects of areas such as wetlands and streams, forest conservation, and habitat restoration.
- Projects under open space land conservation and recreation may include:
  - open space land conservation projects;
  - purchases of conservation easements to protect farmland;
  - purchases of equipment and land for protection of endangered or threatened species;
  - upgrades for parks, campgrounds, nature centers, fish hatcheries, and other recreational facilities.
- Climate change projects may include costs associated with:
  - green building projects or siting of renewable energy on state-owned properties;
  - natural and working lands utilization to sequester carbon and mitigate methane emissions from agricultural sources;
  - forestry projects such as habitat restoration and planting of street trees; projects to reduce urban heat island effect such as green roofs, community gardens, and community cooling centers;
  - projects to reduce or eliminate air pollution in environmental justice communities;
  - projects reducing water pollution in environmental justice communities.

- Water quality improvement and resilient infrastructure projects may include:
  - wastewater infrastructure;
  - stormwater runoff and use of green infrastructure;
  - reduction of agricultural runoff and soil health projects;
  - harmful algal bloom abatement and treatment projects;
  - septic system projects;
  - riparian buffers between farms and streams or to abate erosion; projects to reduce discharges into water;
  - lead service line replacement.



### ***Buck A Member Contributors:***

**Alden Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Alden**  
**A-On-Da-Wa-Nuh Sportsman's Club, Inc., Leicester**  
**Blooming Grove Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Monroe**  
**Carmichael Hill Game Club, Westernville**  
**Dansville Fish & Game Protective Association, Inc., Dansville**  
**Deer Search Inc., Pleasant Valley**  
**Lake Keuka Chapter Izaak Walton League, Penn Yan**  
**Northern Chautauqua Conservation Club, Dunkirk**  
**Otisville Sportsmen's Association, Otisville**  
**Pioneer Fish & Game Club, Hoosick Falls**  
**Unadilla Rod & Gun Club, Unadilla**  
**West Falls Conservation Society, Inc., West Falls**

\$2 per member: **Rockdale Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Guilford**

### ***General Contributors:***

**Walt Bennett, Oak Hill**  
**Mike & Krys Elam, Albion**  
**Steven Gruver, Oneonta**  
**Gary Mosher, Schenectady**  
**North Seneca Sportsmans Club, Inc., Phelps**  
**Patrick McBrearty, Milford**  
**Paul Schweigert, Canandaigua**  
**Keith Tidball, Seneca Falls**  
**Watervliet Fish & Game Protective Assn., Albany**  
**West Falls Conservation Society, West Falls**  
**Aaron Youngs, Waterloo**

## NYSCC PULLING THROUGH COVID-19 CRISIS

By Chuck Parker, President

Nothing is more important in this article than saying I hope you and yours are doing well dealing with the COVID-19 virus. Be safe. To those who may be suffering from the virus or know someone who is, I offer my prayers for a speedy recovery.

Turning to the **New York State Conservation Council**, we are doing OK for now. Our financial numbers are typical for this time of year. We made a commitment a fund raiser per quarter, but it did not happen for the first quarter. It is hard to sell raffle tickets for an African Safari when we are all living under a quarantine situation. But we did take alternate measures; as a non-profit we were able to apply for a federal loan under the Paycheck Protection Program of the CARES Act. Keeping our office personnel on the payroll enabled us to apply for this loan. Thanks to Mike Elam, Julie, and some others the paperwork was properly submitted and is currently under review by Berkshire Bank. Although the Council office is substantially closed, Pat and Julie have been keeping up with operations on a limited basis for our benefit, including sending out second quarter membership and donation renewals and working on this issue of *Grass Roots News*. for

**Albany:** I have contact with a few different groups that have a stake in what state government does, and action with this year's budget leaves them all concerned. Because of the COVID-19 virus, everyone favored a basic budget with all items that can be dealt on their own merit or those that were controversial removed from the budget. Sadly, we know that is not what happened. Across the board there are many items like wind power lake projects that can move forward with less interaction from concerned stake holders. Due diligence is being simply ignored. There exists an executive and legislative branch in state government for a reason, and the legislature does not give the executive branch free will just because they are of the same political party. The Governor advocated for what gave him the most power and the ability to move his agenda. There is no sign that legislators did anything but capitulate to the will of the executive branch. I know of no group that favored this year's budget approval other than special interest groups that do not face the same obstacles as the rest of us. We are not subjects to be governed; we are citizens to be served.

**Back to the Council and Rebuild 2020:** COVID-19 has put a damper on Rebuild 2020 but we are making some progress. Columbia County is again an active member of the Council, and we are seeing a few new individual members. The website continues to improve. Facebook is taking on a different appearance, and Instagram posts are increasing. This is a unique year with different challenges; we encourage you to stay active and supportive of the NYSCC.

## ORLEANS COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS, INC. Est. 1938



Albion Rod & Gun Club  
 Barre Sportsmen's Club  
 Black North Rod & Gun Club  
 Holley Rod & Gun Club  
 Junior Wilson Sportsmen Club, Inc.  
 Medina Conservation Club  
 Oak Orchard River Chapter, National Wild Turkey Federation  
 Orleans County Clay Crushers  
 Orleans County Bluebird Society  
 Orleans County Ducks Unlimited  
 St. Mary's Archers Club  
 S.C.O.P.E.  
 Yates-Carlton Sportsmen's Club





## IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY A MEMBER, JOIN TODAY!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 (OR) Club Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email (print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

### Check One:

\_\_\_\_\_ Guardian \$30  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Defender \$65  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Life \$350 \*  
 \* (individuals only)

Send application with check or money order payable to:

NYS CC  
 8 East Main Street  
 Ilion, NY 13357  
 OR

go to [www.nyscc.com](http://www.nyscc.com) and join using the paypal© feature on our homepage.

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### BENEFITS INCLUDE:

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- A+ Rated Carrier

### COVERAGES INCLUDE:

- \$1,000,000 Per Occurrence
- \$2,000,000 Per Occurrence Option is also available
- Defense Investigation and Related Cost in Addition to Limits of Liability
- Additional Insured, Such as Landlords, Added at No Additional Charge
- No General Aggregate

## Table of Contents



New Sporting License System Slated for June 1st	1
Outreach- What NYS CC Can Do for You	2
New Members	2
Swimming Fossil	3 & 4
Add A Little Taste to Your Lures	4
Condolences	5
Amid Hunter Class Cancellations, DEC to Allow Online Certification	6
Get Outdoors- Bag a Turkey!	7
Tick Problems	8
Restore Mother Nature Bond Act	9 & 10
Thank You	10
NYS CC Pulling Through Covid-19 Crisis	11