



# Grass Roots News

*Advocating for Conservation and Sportsmen Since 1933*

September / October 2018

Vol. 18 No. 5

---

## ANNUAL MEETING OVERVIEW

By Chuck Parker, NYSCC President

Written reports, open discussions, questions and answers, cooperation, sharing perspectives, and working together, even where we might disagree ... it was all there at the 85<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the NYS Conservation Council.

"From all of us at DEC, it was a pleasure to participate. I very much appreciated the dialogue on Saturday," said Tony Wilkinson, DEC's Division of Fish and Wildlife Director. Stretching more than 5 hours over a two-day period, DEC personnel covered topics from UMPs and RMPs to hatchery updates and ecosystem health. Speakers included Division of Lands and Forests Director Rob Davies, Fish and Wildlife Assistant Director Doug Stang, Bureau of Fisheries Chief Steve Hurst, Bureau of Wildlife Chief James Farquhar, Bureau of Ecosystems Health Chief Chuck Neider, Outreach and Promotions Director David Nelson, and DEC Law Enforcement Major Todd Richards.

Communication is seen as a two-way street where information received will get the same attention as what is delivered. David Nelson's position of Director of Outreach and Promotions is new, based on the need for better communication. If a question could not be answered at the convention, subsequent responses were received as early as the Monday following. Environmental Conservation Officers covered accomplishments and provided answers to questions.

Dr. Keith Tidball, our Education Committee Chair, along with his wife Moira discussed sportsman recruitment, retention, and reactivation. The Tidballs' experience through Cornell University's Department of Natural Resources and Cooperative Extension gave us a myriad of possibilities to help insure the future of hunting, fishing, trapping and the Council itself once implemented. Locavores promoting the outdoors through food -- now that is something I can sink my teeth into! Watch to see what comes from the NYSCC and our Education Committee in the future.

Continuing the recruitment and retention theme, Tony Wilkinson and David Nelson from DEC covered support for youth hunting, inclusion of the crossbow in archery season, and cable restraint use for trapping. David Nelson's position for outreach and promotion holds some real positive avenues for us to pursue.

Jerry Michael from the NY Forest Owners Association spoke about the issue of forest regeneration and the negative impact from deer populations. A touchy subject with which to address a bunch of hunters, but it was well received. NYFOA has formed a working group to discuss this matter and invited the NYSCC to be on its steering committee as a primary representative for sportsmen. We welcome the invitation and have agreed to serve.

There were only two resolutions to deal with this year. One advocating mandatory hunter orange was again defeated. The second, training of hounds for raccoon, fox, coyote, and bear having a June 1<sup>st</sup> starting date was supported. It was an interesting discussion, and comments from Dan Owen and Emily Plishner were key to its passage.

Works in progress involve position statements review and a constitution amendment committee report.

Elections resulted in a new 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Keith Tidball; a new Secretary, George Gibbs; and a new Legislative VP, Patrick McBrearty. Former Legislative VP Bill Gibson stepped down because of travel involved but

will be very active working with and supporting Pat along with the rest of the Legislative Committee. Bill Conners has agreed to cover the office of Treasurer.

As with any nonprofit organization, our financial concerns are real and will require the attention of all our members. We must develop both short- and long-term plans which will require the membership to work the plans.

Just 15 years to our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – let's make them the best ever for the NYS Conservation Council!

---

## LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK IN NEW YORK STATE

By Bill Gibson – NYSCC Legislative Vice President (Retired)

At the risk of sounding like the proverbial broken record, I cannot emphasize too strongly the necessity for every sportsman and sportswomen to actively participate in the upcoming elections. Not only must we vote ourselves, but we must also encourage everyone in earshot to register and vote. The future of outdoor sports in New York could very well be at stake.

In this year's particularly chaotic environment very little can be said to be predictable but it is clear that a change in a couple of seats in the New York State Senate could result in a shift in control to those with, shall we say, a more urban interest and a much less favorable view of hunting, fishing and trapping than the current leadership.

The name of the game is turnout. A look at past elections shows how a relatively small change in voter turnout can have a major impact on the election results and thus future legislation. And remember that sins once committed are not easily undone -- think the SAFE Act.

Thus the mantra:

**NO VOTE, NO VOICE**

The general election is on Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> and the registration deadline is October 12<sup>th</sup>.

**WORK TO ENSURE THAT OTHERS ARE REGISTERED AND PREPARED TO VOTE!**

Make sure your friends, relatives and properly disposed casual acquaintances are registered and get them to the polls. Every place that sportsmen gather should have voter registration forms readily available. Forms are available from your county board of elections and at most local government offices.

**KNOW THE ISSUES AND THE CANDIDATES' POSITIONS!**

Be an informed voter. Know the candidates' positions on issues important to you. If possible, meet them in person and make sure that they are aware of your views. And if they have been one of the good guys, be sure to thank them for their support.

**VOTE! AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO VOTE!**

This is the objective! Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> is the day. Get to the polls and bring your friends.

Have a good year!

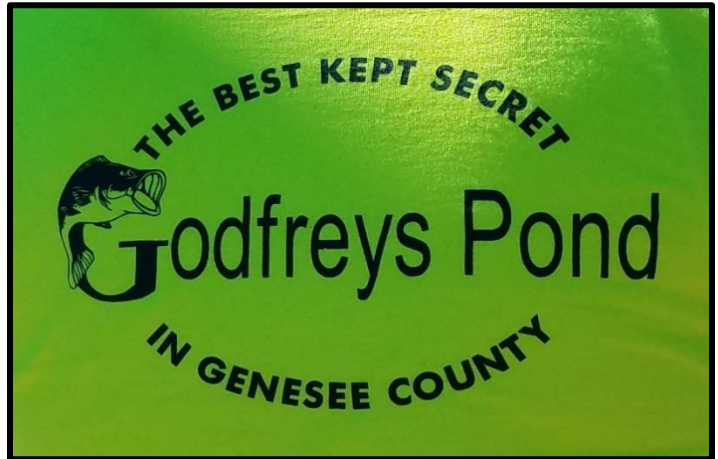


By Glen Adams, Region 8 Director

109-year-old Genesee County Fish and Game Protective Association, better known to us in Genesee County as Godfrey's Pond, held hunting and fishing days and welcomed people to its club over a recent weekend.

Back when steam engines were climbing the grade on their way to and from Buffalo, the New York Central Railroad dammed a creek, creating a pond to meet the water needs of those steam engines. Today the club raises trout to stock the pond, making an ideal place for parents to help their children learn to fish. The club also raises birds for show and release on the property.

At the celebration there were vendors, raffles, and food such as Buffalo burgers. There was also an air gun booth staffed by members of Genesee County SCOPE and Genesee County Federation. Youth of all ages were introduced or reintroduced to the fun of shooting.



Helping youth shoot, trap and fish is what we in the Genesee County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs enjoy doing to pass along our love of the outdoors.



**John J. Riter, CRPC®**

Riter, Grammatico, Reich, White & Tufts  
First Vice President  
Resident Director  
Portfolio Manager

21 Masse Place  
Batavia, NY 14020  
www.famll.com/rgrwt  
T 585.344.3325  
F 716.803.6346  
john\_riter@ml.com



**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.**



## **SUPPORT THE VENISON DONATION COALITION!**

With hunting season fast approaching, the Venison Donation Coalition wants to remind hunters of how easy it is to give back. Since its inception in 1999, the Venison Donation Coalition has coordinated the processing and distribution of over 1 million pounds of venison to Food Banks across New York State.

Coordinator Greg Fuerst explains: "The Venison Donation program has grown from one county the first year to cover the entire state and has provided more than 4 million servings of venison to hungry New Yorkers through food pantries, soup kitchens, and other food programs. We are grateful for our partnerships with the New York Farm Bureau, the Food Bank Association of NYS, NYSDEC, and processors across the state. But we couldn't do it without the support of the sportsmen and women who donate their field dressed deer."

Natasha Thompson, Chair of the Food Bank Association of NYS states, "The Venison Donation Coalition has been a tremendous partner in our efforts to build and sustain hunger free communities across the state. Venison is a local, organic, and sustainable source of healthy protein that our recipients enjoy." The Venison Donation Coalition relies heavily on state grants and individual donations through the D.E.C.A.L.S. program at any license issuing agent. If every person who purchases a hunting license would donate \$1 per year to the Venison Donation Coalition, it would insure the continuance of the program. As you are aware, grants can be cut or eliminated any time.

In addition to the D.E.C.A.L.S. program, donations can be made through the Venison Donation Coalition's website at [www.venisondonation.org](http://www.venisondonation.org) or sent by mail to their office at Venison Donation Coalition, Inc., 3 Pulteney Square, Bath, NY 14810.

The Venison Donation Coalition, Inc. is a non-profit organization that coordinates and funds the efforts of venison processing to feed the hungry throughout New York State. For more information, please call 1-866-862-3337.

---

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

#### **DEFENDER MEMBERS:**

**Brentwood Sportsmen**, Nesconset  
**St. Lawrence River Walleye Association**, Norfolk

#### **GUARDIAN MEMBERS:**

**John F Flower, Jr.**, Indian Lake  
**Ken Fridmann**, Attica  
**Robert Hodorowski**, Saratoga Springs

#### **LIFE MEMBER:**

**Frederick Rosing**, Dunkirk

## REMINISCING ON BASS FISHING, CONCLUSION

By Mike Elam, NYSCC Director at Large

Well, fall is here, and in my own experience, fishing improves as waters cool. Bass have started to feed aggressively to prepare for winter and the big females bulk up to aid egg development. Later, when the water cools into the 30's, bass school up and prepare to survive winter. Their metabolism slows but they still can be caught. On Christmas morning, 2015, I caught 18 nice smallmouth in one hour. Bass tend to school in deeper water for the winter. Anglers should avoid taking fish from water deeper than 20 or 25 feet as the bass are likely to get the bends and quite often die, making catch and release a waste.

In my last two articles I covered rods, reels and the improvements over 50+ years. Fishing lines have also seen many improvements over this period. Black nylon has all but disappeared, now used mostly for tip ups. Nylon and Dacron have been pretty much replaced by the new braided or super lines. Monofilament that helped to make spin fishing so popular, now competes with copolymer, fluorocarbon and braid. I still like mono, especially the softer versions, in cold weather. Monofilament is like ice cream -- pick your favorite. It comes in colors of green, fluorescent blue and yellow, clear, camo, red and you may even find orange. It's available in soft, ultra-thin, cold weather, low stretch, extra-strong, and abrasive resistance and I'm sure other claims to fame.

Braided super lines have adapted well to bass fishing. The thin diameter, cast ability and low stretch make it near perfect for setting the hook and pulling bass from heavy cover. An added bonus is that pike or muskies have a harder time biting off expensive bass lures. Braid works well with fluorocarbon leaders, also great for setting the hook. Fluorocarbon is also available in softer versions for casting. This, with its invisibility in water, make it worth the extra cost.

Lures ... For years anglers were on a quest for a magic lure. I remember when anytime someone came in with a nice string of bass, everyone wanted to know what lure they used. With that, many fishermen and their money were soon parted. By the mid-60's and early 70's, anglers began to understand the best way to catch bass, and any other fish, was to fish where they were!

The 50's saw many lure makers marketing lures that no fish could resist. Remember the full-page ads for Super Vivif Minnows with the swimming tail? How about the ads that said to send \$5 for surefire techniques to catch limits of big bass?



The bait casting era was lures from 3 1/2" to 5", especially top water like Bass-Oreno, Lucky Thirteen, Jitterbug or Injured Minnows and the weed-less Johnson Silver Minnow with Uncle Josh Pork Frog.

Flyrodders, almost a lost art for bass fishing, don't see many nowadays. They often used floating line with mono leaders and poppers and sometimes streamers with size 4 to 2/0 hooks. Glen L. Evans made the Frisky Frog and Arbogast made a fly rod Hula Popper. In the 50's & 60's, there were many poppers made locally in garages and basements.

Lure makers were quick to capitalize on the spinning craze. Most popular lures were downsized and sold as spinning size. There were so many lure makers in the 50's and 60's that today there are many books about fishing lures, even some specific to Heddon, Arbogast and Creek Chub. In the 50's was when we started seeing rapid improvements and innovations in fishing lures. Paint gets better, lures get better action (more natural movement), deep diving bills are added to lures and plastic body

lures. I think in some cases wooden lures worked better than their plastic siblings, but the wood ones are now collector items.

Some major lure makers had the bulk of the market. Arbogast made Hula Poppers, Jitterbug Hula Dancer, Mud Bug and many others. Creek Chub Bait Co. had the famous Pikie Minnow, Ding Bat, Darter and Injured Minnow. Heddon probably had the most variety with Lucky 13, River Runt, Tadpolly, Meadow Mouse and the Crazy Crawler. Can't forget Helin Flatfish! They had more colors and sizes than you could comprehend. Helin claimed to have sold 18 million flatfish by 1950. Burke made soft plastic lures and a real authentic looking crayfish.

Fishermen are still looking for that magic lure. In the early 60's we almost found it with the Rapala minnow. There was even a feature article in Life Magazine about Rapala, which really caught fish and still does today. Soon many manufacturers were making copies of Rapala and some even went so far as to use balsa, just like Rapala. Rebel minnows were most likely the biggest competition to Rapala and now both make a large variety of good fish-catching lures.



The weed-less methods caught on in the 60's with Snag Proof mice and frogs. Harrison Hodge marketed the Bill Plummer Frog. You cast one of these lures on duckweed or any weed bed and bass would bust through and grab your lure. A stiff rod and 12-15 lb. test were a help in setting the hook and dragging the fish to the boat. My father, brother and I had this method to ourselves for about 10 years, calling it "slop buggin'."

Nick Crème gave us the plastic worm in 1949; and when southern bass methods came north, we had a soft plastics invasion by the mid-70's. In 1975, we had another almost magic lure, Mister Twister, in many colors and sizes. Mister Twisters could hardly be used wrong. On a simple jig head they could be fished fast, slow, used like a crank bait or vertical jigged. It didn't take long for imitations of the twister to hit the market. Today there are so many, it is hard to find an original Mister Twister.

The rubber worm really caught on by the late 70's and took many largemouth and plenty of smallmouth. They also came in a multitude of colors and sizes from 4" to 12". They gave us new rigs such as Texas Rig, Carolina Rig and Drop Shooting. There were far too many manufacturers to list and many of the early worm makers are history. Soft plastics also gave us one of my favorites, the tube jig, which comes in sizes from 1" to 8". I personally like crayfish type colors or white. If it swims, it can be caught on a tube jig.

Spinner baits migrated north in the 70's and put a hurtin' on smallmouth and largemouth. Again, they come in a variety of colors and sizes.

Today we have a staggering amount of artificials to choose from: scented plastics, salt impregnated, lifelike action, photo finishes, UV bright, and multi-jointed lures to mimic natural swimming. Look at any tackle catalog and you're overwhelmed by the choices.

Unfortunately, many of the lure makers are now gone and many others have been taken over by a couple of large companies, Pradco and Normark.

A little history: Arbogast made the Hawaiian Wiggler in the 30's that, to me, is the granddaddy of today's spinner baits. The natural finish so popular on today's lures can be traced back to the Creek Chub Bait Co. that got a patent for natural scale finish in 1918.

To find bass tackle in the 50's and 60's was a challenge. Most tackle shops couldn't afford to stock a large inventory, but you could buy through the mail from ads in the outdoor magazines that took forever. There were a few catalogs, Herters being the most well known. The only problem with them was most tackle was out of stock. Catalogs began to show up in the late 60's and early 70's, but in 1974 that was about to change. The first Bass Pro Shop all-color bass tackle catalog came out. They had the inventory and specialty tackle and they delivered at good prices. Through the 70's and 80's,



catalogs flourished. As time went on we had 800 phone numbers, credit card orders and online shopping. So now, with ease of ordering and all the new lures and other tackle, could bass fishing be another cause of divorce?!

In 1968, Ray Scott started Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society (B.A.S.S.) and local chapters start to form in NY in the 70's. B.A.S.S. promotes conservation, fishing education comradery, waterway cleanups and tournaments. It also publishes Bass Master Magazine and at one time had a tackle catalog. With B.A.S.S. tournaments, new and inventive methods are developed and soon we have celebrity bass pros. The first NYS B.A.S.S. sanctioned tournament was in July 1975 at Oneida Lake. We also see the beginning of a new fishing boat, the bass boat, a near scientific fishing machine. In 1978, Bass Pro Shops turned the boating industry on its ear by offering the package deal on a completely equipped boat. Today, you could spend \$60,000 on a bass boat.



2018 ... Now we have \$1,000,000 bass tournaments, celebrity bass pros, high horsepower boats loaded with electronics, several organizations promoting catch and release tournaments, major league fishing TV shows about bass and lures so realistic, they may spawn in the spring! Poor Mr. Bass, he's just swimming around chomping on a frog, maybe a bluegill and an occasional crayfish. He doesn't know or care that he's the super star of freshwater, America's #1 game fish.

## 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

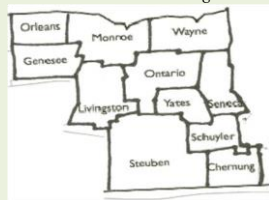


## Finger Lakes Conservation Council Inc.

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

## 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.

## FISHING FUN FOR KIDS IN WAYNE COUNTY

### 20 years Devoted to Young Anglers

By Chris Kenyon for the Finger Lakes Times

The Wayne County Youth Derby held its 20th Annual Awards Ceremony at the Sodus Point Fire hall in late July. The young anglers who competed during the month-long contest were rewarded for their fishing prowess, receiving plaques, LNB gift certificates, trophies, prizes, and more importantly, applause from the adults and peers attending the ceremony.

Walt Crum was once again the main attraction for the youngsters when he displayed his balloon art. Crum has attended this event for the last seven years and can twist and turn a balloon into any creature on earth. For this year's awards he created a balloon fishing pole with an attached fish.

After a lunch of hot dogs provided by the Wayne County Federation of Sportsman's Clubs, WCFSC President Gene VanDeusen spoke to the attendees, especially thanking parents who took the time to introduce the youngsters to fishing. With all the electronic devices being used today, it's important to get the kids outdoors.



Madison Prutzman, a derby alumnus who started fishing the derby when she was five, acknowledged the winning youngsters. Now 18, Prutzman is currently attending Alfred University majoring in pre-medical. Nancy Wilkes from McDonald's of Wayne County presented the trophies and plaques to young anglers.

The winner of the Al Shultz Memorial Challenge in the 4-7 year age division was five-year-old Logan Smith. The Wolcott angler caught all six species in that division. In the Merchants Challenge Division ages 8-16, none of the youngsters caught all five fish; however, there were plenty of first places. Marie Humbert from Hilton brought in a 3.05 pound smallmouth; Parker Williamson from Lyons caught a 4.06 pound largemouth; Shane Scharett from Marion landed 1.04 pound perch; and Blake Dora from Wolcott caught a 6 pound pike, also taking first place with his 4.03 pound walleye.

The highlight of this year's Wayne County Youth Derby was the drawing for a lifetime fishing license donated by the Wayne County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. Selecting the lucky youngster was Dave Schueler representing the Federation. Every youngster who registered for the derby was eligible for the drawing, and the lifetime license went to five-year-old Adrianna Valentine from Sodus.

During the 2018 event 48 young anglers fished the waters of Wayne County, and 21 caught and entered fish during the one-month event. The Wayne County Youth Derby is sponsored by the Wayne County Federation of Sportsman's Clubs and the Wayne County Derby Committee. For a complete list of sponsors and the official leaderboard, click on Youth Derby box on the county website, [www.waynecountytourism.com](http://www.waynecountytourism.com).



---

## DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CONSERVATION DOLLARS COME FROM?

### Reprinted from the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

By: Randall Williams - Western Engagement and Communications Manager

Thankfully, when it comes to funding for maintenance and improvement of fish and wildlife habitat or sportsmen's access, all our eggs aren't in one basket—here are the major conservation funding sources that every hunter and angler should know

Sportsmen and women know that the money we spend hunting and fishing not only drives an \$887-billion outdoor recreation economy, but it also pays for wildlife conservation and fisheries management across the country. License sales by state agencies and duck stamps from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service offer the most obvious examples, but the full picture includes a diversity of sources. Thankfully, not all our eggs are in one basket, and though we contribute heavily to the American conservation funding model, we are not alone.

At the federal level, conservation funding can be a complicated landscape of laws and acronyms. But it is critical that sportsmen and women understand where this money comes from—and it's not always out of our own pockets—and the incredible value of investing in our fish and wildlife resources now, in case there's ever a need to defend these revenue streams against shortsighted cutbacks in the future.

Get on a first-name basis with these major conservation funding programs.

### The Gold Standards

**The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act**, more popularly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act, allows the federal government to assist states in wildlife management and restoration efforts. Passed on September 2, 1937, Pittman-Robertson applies an 11 percent excise tax to sporting arms and ammunition, the funds from which are distributed to states to cover up to three-quarters of the cost of specifically approved projects. Since its initial passage, the law has been amended to tax pistols and revolvers, bows, crossbows, arrows, and archery parts and accessories. Habitat improvement, population surveys, species introductions, wildlife research, hunter education, and the building and maintenance of public shooting ranges are among the types of projects funded by Pittman-Robertson ("P-R") dollars.

In 1950, lawmakers passed **the Dingell-Johnson Act**, or the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act. Modeled after Pittman-Robertson, the law provides federal dollars to states from an excise tax on fishing tackle, a motorboat fuels tax, and import duties on fishing tackle and recreational watercraft. These funds are used to support projects relating to the management of fish populations with a "material value in connection with sport or recreation in the marine and/or fresh waters of the United States," including boating access facilities, wetlands restoration, boat safety, public education, and clean vessel sanitation efforts.

Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson have been tremendously successful, generating more than \$20 billion dollars for conservation since the first annual P-R apportionment in 1939. In addition, both laws mandate that any state seeking funds under these programs must refrain from diverting fishing and hunting license sales for any purpose other than funding their fish and game departments. In this way, they reinforce the broader fiscal structures of our conservation model.

### An Overlooked Workhorse

Although its name may bring to mind crop insurance and nutrition programs, **the Farm Bill** is the single-largest source of conservation funding in the United States. Given the fact that 70 percent of land in the lower forty-eight states is under private ownership and 45 percent of that is agricultural, American farmers and ranchers are critical to ensuring that our woods, waters, and fields continue to support healthy populations of fish and wildlife.

By supporting the nation's agricultural producers, farm bill funding improves water quality and habitat, while also incentivizing public access and wetlands protections. Among the many important programs in the Farm Bill for hunters and anglers are those encouraging the planting of cover crops and compensating farmers for removing environmentally sensitive lands from production. In addition to the sheer scale of the Farm Bill's impact on the landscape, it is a fiscally significant source of funding—experts suggest it accounts for nearly \$1 billion in conservation spending each year. In the last five years alone, more than 900,000 acres of private land in thirty different states have been opened for public hunting and fishing thanks to \$40 million in Farm Bill allocations.

### **The Premier Lands and Access Program**

In 1964, Congress established the **Land and Water Conservation Fund** to establish new and improve existing outdoor recreational opportunities on public lands. LWCF dollars come from a small fraction of the oil and gas royalties collected by the federal government and are divided into one of two pools: grants to state and local governments for projects like boat launches, playgrounds, and trail networks; and appropriations to federal land management agencies for acquiring lands, waters, and access for the sporting public. Parks, forests, shorelines, farms, ranches, and refuges all across the country have been conserved with LWCF dollars.

Over the years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has invested more than \$16 billion in conservation. Because nearly every county in the United States has benefitted from an LWCF project and the program costs nothing to taxpayers, it enjoys bipartisan support on Capitol Hill and among the American public. And given that it spends dollars raised through resource extraction on outdoor recreation opportunities, it stands as the perfect example of a balanced conservation program.

### **What's Next?**

These funding sources have made an incredibly positive impact on our nation's fish and wildlife while also improving the opportunities available to hunters and anglers. But their future remains uncertain. Experts worry that declining rates of participation in hunting will result in the diminishment of Pittman-Robertson funding. And every five years, the passage of a new Farm Bill hangs on complex legislative processes that are unfortunately too often steered by partisan gamesmanship. This year's bill is no exception.

Perhaps most significantly, however, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is set to expire on September 30, 2018, if Congress does not authorize its renewal. While there stands a tremendous amount of public support behind the process and key lawmakers have voiced their commitment, the administration's proposed FY19 budget suggests little appreciation for the fund's importance to hunters and anglers.

Federal decision makers need to hear from sportsmen and women how necessary these funding sources are to the future of hunting and fishing. Their continued contributions to fish, wildlife, and access are too important to be left to chance or the political winds in Washington, D.C.

*Randall Williams joined the TRCP as Western Engagement and Communications Manager in April 2018. Previously, he worked as an editor for Montana The Magazine of Western History and the Montana Historical Society Press. Prior to that, he worked as a fishing guide in Alaska and earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Montana, where his research explored the evolving significance of hunting in twentieth-century American politics and culture.*

## NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION COUNCIL, INC. COMMITTEE APPLICATION

**Important!! Appointment to NYSCC Committees is not automatic. If you have served on a committee in the past and wish to do so again, you *must* re-apply each year.**

Please return your completed application immediately to:

**NYS Conservation Council, 8 East Main Street, Ilion, NY 13357-1899**

### NYSCC COMMITTEES

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Sportsmen Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Archery & Bowhunting                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy & Natural Resources                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment               | <input type="checkbox"/> Firearms & Ammunition                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Preserve & Public Lands            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fur Resources             | <input type="checkbox"/> Game (Big)                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Game (Small)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat/Access                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunter Education          | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation, Lobby Team & March on Albany |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement           | <input type="checkbox"/> Marine District                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations          | <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waterfowl                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Women, Youth & Families                   |

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ REGION # \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Are you interested in serving as

Chair of one of the above committees? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Burlington Flats Fish & Game Club**, Burlington Flats  
**Chautauqua County Sport Fish Advisory Board**, Fredonia  
**Chemung County Rod & Gun Club**, Breesport  
**Depew Rod & Gun Club, Inc.**, Depew  
**Hudson Fish & Game Club**, Hudson  
**Independent Fur Harvesters of CNY**, Georgetown  
**Lima Gun Club**, Lima  
**Mad River Club**, Pulaski  
**Neighbors' Gun Club**, Rhinebeck  
**Pleasant Valley Trout & Game Club**, Pleasant Valley  
**Redfield Fish & Game Club**, Clay  
**Roe Jan Creek Boat Club**, Germantown  
**Salmon River Strutters**, Lacona  
**Toad Harbor Rod & Gun Club**, Brewerton  
**Waterloo Rifle & Pistol Club**, Waterloo  
**Wolcottsville Sportsmen Club**, Corfu



**\$2 Per Member Contributor:** Canandaigua Lake Duck Hunters, Inc., Penn Yan

### **General Donation Contributors:**

**Niles Brown**, Tully  
**William Conners**, Pleasant Valley  
**Patrick McBrearty**, Milford

### **Memorial Donation Contributor:**

**William Hilts** in memory of **Sylvia Hilts**, Sanborn





**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:

**NYSCC**  
 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.

## ARE YOU FISHING FOR INSURANCE?

To request an enrollment form or discuss coverage, call  
 United Insurance Agency, Inc. at 1-800-728-4522, ext. 313 or  
 email John Long, Jr. at: [johnjr@uia.com](mailto:johnjr@uia.com)



**UNITED INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.**

### BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Competitive Rates
- Superior Customer Service
- Experienced Claims Handling
- Knowledgeable Underwriters
- Representing the Shooting Sports Industry Since 1980
- 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



<b>Annual Meeting Overview</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Legislative Outlook in New York State</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The Best Kept Secret in Genesee County</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Support the Venison Donation Coalition</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Welcome New Members</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Reminiscing on Bass Fishing (Conclusion)</b>	<b>5-7</b>
<b>Fishing Fun for Kids in Wayne County</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Do You Know Where Your Conservation Dollars Come From?</b>	<b>9 &amp; 10</b>
<b>NYSCC Committee Application</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Thank You</b>	<b>11</b>