



Grass Roots News

Advocating for Conservation and Sportsmen Since 1933

July / August 2018

Vol. 18 No. 4

THE LEGISLATIVE YEAR HAS ENDED – FOR NOW

By Bill Gibson, NYSCC Legislative VP

The legislature has ended its 2018 session and, pending a special session, will not return until January 9, 2019. This being an election year, and a particularly contentious one, for both the legislature and the executive branch, little that was not essential or universally popular was addressed by both houses.

Exactly two bills of the over 125 separate bills on our tracking files were enacted by both houses. One extended the use of rifles for big game in Albany County for two years and the other simplified the issuance of deer management permits (DMPs) for disabled veterans. Providentially, no adverse bills on our list were similarly passed.

The Senate did pass several bills which we strongly supported: lowering the age for hunting big game with firearms to twelve, improving the investment of the conservation fund and privacy protection for hunting and fishing license information. None of them got out of committee in the Assembly. The crossbow enhancement bill was not addressed by either house.

After the February school shooting in Florida there was a flurry of new and resurrected firearms bills, including the Governor's billboard "red flag" proposal. The Assembly passed a couple of bills but none gained any traction in the Senate.

As noted above, this is an election year and a critical one. The last couple of years have been a close run thing and we desperately need a legislature supportive of our issues.

Gideon Tucker was a 19th century lawyer, newspaper editor and judge. He wrote in an 1866 court opinion:

"No man's life, liberty or property are safe while the New York State legislature is in session."

Don't let this become true. So, at the risk of repeating previous admonitions:

NO VOTE, NO VOICE - REGISTER TO VOTE AND URGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME

The primary elections for state and local offices will be held on Thursday, September 13, and you must be registered by August 19 to participate. The general election is on Tuesday, November 6 and the registration deadline is October 12.

ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO REGISTER AND TO VOTE

Make sure your friends, relatives and properly disposed casual acquaintances are registered and get 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 the 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! Again, Thursday, September 13 for the primaries and Tuesday, November 6 for the general election. Get to the polls and bring your friends.

INTERIOR SECRETARY ZINKE ANNOUNCES MEMBERS OF THE HUNTING AND SHOOTING SPORTS CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Dr. Keith Tidball of Cornell's Department of Natural Resources and Cornell Cooperative Extension accepted an invitation to serve on the Secretary of the Interior's Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council as an alternate, representing the interests of veteran's service organizations.

Established on January 9, 2018, the group is tasked with providing the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture with advice about the establishment and implementation of existing and proposed policies and authorities regarding wildlife and habitat conservation.

"I am very pleased and honored to be appointed by Secretary Ryan Zinke," said Tidball, Senior Extension Associate and Assistant Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension. "I look forward to representing the interests of veterans and military families while furthering conservation through this important work."

"We have assembled here some of the best conservationists in America," said Secretary Zinke. "Over a century ago, Teddy Roosevelt established the American conservation ethic — best science, best practices, greatest good, longest term. These sportsmen carry on the American conservation ethic in the modern day. Bringing these experts together will be key to ensuring the American tradition of hunting and shooting, as well as the conservation benefits of these practices, carries on."



Council Objectives:

- o Conserve and restore wetlands, agricultural lands, grasslands, forests and rangeland habitats
- o Promote opportunities and expand access to hunting and shooting sports on public and private lands
- o Encourage hunting and shooting safety by developing ranges on public lands
- o Recruit and retain new shooters and hunters
- o Increase public awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation and the social and economic benefits of hunting and shooting
- o Encourage coordination among the public, hunting and shooting sports community, wildlife conservation groups and state, tribal, territorial, and federal government

The Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council includes 17 members and 11 alternates. It plans to meet twice a year, and additional times as needed. Dr. Tidball currently serves as chair of the NYSCC's Conservation Education Committee.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

DEFENDER MEMBERS:

- Berne Conservation Club**, Berne
- Order of the Ancient and Honorable Huntington Militia**, **NYS Education Corp.**, East Meadow
- SAFE T, Inc.** **Southern Adirondack Firearms & Training, Inc.**, Queensbury

GUARDIAN MEMBERS:

- Richard Post**, Livingston Manor
- Watervliet Fish & Game Protective Association**, Schenectady

LIFE MEMBER:

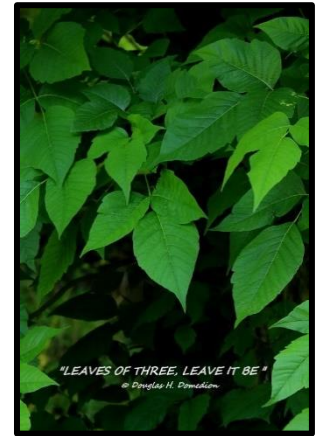
- David Rosing**, Randolph

A VERY DANGEROUS PLANT

By Douglas H. Domedion

Poison ivy can really ruin a few weeks of your summer. It is a very common plant and can grow on the ground or up a tree. Learn what it looks like and avoid it!

A bigger danger to us is giant hogweed, a non-native plant that was introduced for its unique appearance. The problem with this plant is its sap which, in combination with sunlight and moisture, prevents your skin from protecting itself from sunlight, leading to a very bad sunburn. Severe skin and eye irritation, painful blistering, permanent scarring and even blindness can result. The sap can be gotten off any part of the plant, and clothing will not protect you from it. Unlike poison ivy, the effects are something that does not clear up in a week or so. In fact, hogweed's aftermath can be reactivated by sunlight for a very long time, including into the next summer.



This plant can grow fourteen feet high and has huge leaves. Its hollow, ridged stems can reach two to four inches in diameter and have dark reddish-purple blotches. The compound leaves can grow up to five feet wide and its white flower head can be up to two and one-half feet in diameter.

A friend had a big problem with it a few years ago, including serious skin irritations. His summer was hell, and he had to avoid the sun all the time, forced to wear long sleeved shirts, gloves and a wide brim hat whenever he went outside. In fact, he felt the results of that involvement the next summer too.

Giant hogweed prefers open areas in the sun but will also grow in partly shaded areas and is found mostly in the western two-thirds of the State. It develops its huge white flower head clusters from mid-June through July, making it easier to spot at a distance.

Several other plants resemble giant hogweed. The most similar looking is cow parsnip which has a white flat-topped flower cluster compared to the umbrella-shaped cluster of giant hogweed. Another plant looking somewhat the same is poison hemlock which has no hairs on the stem and has numerous small, flat-topped flower clusters on all the branches.



So what can you do if you come in contact with giant hogweed? Immediately wash the affected area with soap and water and keep away from sunlight for 48 hours. All clothing, boots and tools should also be washed. This stuff is nothing to mess with and it is suggested that you contact your physician if you get the skin irritation.

Can it be controlled or eliminated? Yes, but this job is best left to someone who knows how to work with it. Contact the DEC Giant Hogweed Hotline at 1-845-256-3111. They are also interested in any areas where it has established itself.

If you want to try to get rid of it on your own property be careful and find out exactly how to handle the project. The best and safest method is to spray it with Round Up before it gets too large in the spring and before it develops seeds (August). Keep a close eye on the area for any future infestations, and then get something else growing there to crowd it out should it start growing from any remaining seeds in the ground.

To find out more about giant hogweed see the NYS DEC web pages at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/39809/html and www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72766.html; the latter also includes some great pictures on how to identify and distinguish it from similar looking plants.

REMINISCING ON BASS FISHING & TACKLE, PART II

By Mike Elam, NYSCC Director at Large

After writing about bait casting and fly rods in the last issue of Grass Roots News, I took a break to do some fishing and caught a few bass by accident while fishing for crappies and bluegills. I also caught some nice pre-spawn smallmouth in February and March, jigging for perch. I personally don't feel it's sporting to fish for bass that are spawning or guarding a bed.

This issue we'll cover spinning tackle. In the mid-1930's spinning reels were rare but a few were imported from France and were referred to as French reels. After WW II a well-known and affluent angler named Bache Brown imported spinning reels from France. He is sometimes referred to as the father of spin fishing in America. In the late 40's, he manufactured Bache Brown reels at his Airex Corporation and most likely made the first U.S. spinning reels. These reels used a half bail; it was a good concept but just didn't work well, and full bails were protected by a patent. At the end of the 40's, Brown sold Airex to New York-based Lionel Corporation. How many of us geezers had a Lionel electric train? Same company.



The author with smallmouth bass from Newton Falls



Spinning tackle was just beginning to show up in the U.S. in the early 1950's. By the mid-50's, spinning was the biggest thing to hit fishing since they put fins on the fish! This was a complete revolution to fishing and made for ease of casting, long casts with smaller, lighter lures and no backlashes. With more free time and spendable income, many additional anglers took up the sport.

Innovations and improvements to spinning tackle were rapid. Fiberglass rods, monofilament line and full bails came at about the same time to make a near

perfect threesome. The full bail patent expired in 1953 or 1954 and reel makers quickly switched to full bail mechanisms, a much better system than the clumsy half bail.

The major reel makers like Shakespeare, Pflueger Bronson and Horrocks-Ibbotson had lines of reels to fit most budgets. My first reel was a Bronson Jet 500 and I got over 5 years of hard use from it. In the late 50's Japanese reels hit the market. Most were of lower quality, mid-quality at best, but priced so more anglers could afford spinning tackle. I believe all those manufacturers are history.

In the mid-50's a new reel ahead of its time became available. Originally selling in the mid-\$30 range, which was expensive at the time, the Mitchell 300 was a reel all anglers dreamed of. Developed in France around 1948 by a clock and watch maker, it had unequalled smoothness, a push button spool and disc drag. Its popularity increased so much that a left-hand version, Mitchell 301, was added. The first 300s were half bail and when it was made in full bail, sales went through the roof. In the early 1960's, discount department stores used Mitchell 300s as loss leaders selling them for about \$15. This, along with Garcia Corp. marketing the 300, saw 10 million reels manufactured by 1966. I bought my first 300 in 1962 for \$14.99 and got over 20 years of service from it. The Mitchell 300 reel spawned ultra-lite, heavy freshwater, saltwater, high speed retrieve and automatic bail versions.

By the late 60's, as spinning reels continued to improve, skirted spools, right or left retrieve interchangeable handles and rear drag were available on many reels. These improvements took a

toll on Mitchell sales. Abu brought out the Cardinal 4 that Garcia turned down and Zebco marketed it. At first sales were slow with its rear drag, but it was soon the reel to own for bass anglers.

Spinning reels have improved to the point that today they are precision tools of the trade. While priced up to \$400-\$500, good reels can still be gotten for under \$50. American made? ... not many. Remember the Japanese reel? Today, Diawa and Shimano are dominant reel makers.

The Mitchell 300 is still around; an improved version, not your Grandpa's 300. It was estimated that 25 million of the original 300s were made. Many are still catching bass and anything that swims.

Spinning rods ... Fiberglass rods were the best available rods in the 1950's, 60's & 70's. Shakespeare Wonder Rods, Great Lakes, Garcia, South Bend and a little higher end Fenwick. Rods became specialty tools for rubber worms, spinner baits, heavy action and lots of different smallmouth versions and finesse rods. Bass Pro, Cabela's, Falcon, All-Star and St. Croix all make many specialty rods. Graphite rods now dominate the market with several grades of graphite. Again, how much do you want to spend? There are some composite rods that are good quality at a reasonable price.

Another somewhat hybrid reel was born in the late 1940's, the spin cast reel. This reel was easier to use and more foolproof than the open-face spinning reel and is still a great reel for kids and beginners to fish with.

Zebco started to market the first spin cast reel. Zebco sounds kind of high tech but actually stands for Zero-Hour Bomb Company; they made a timed explosive for oil fields. As methods changed in drilling, they needed a new product, and the Zebco 33 was born and still is made today. Zebco at one time was the largest reel maker in the U.S. Many other manufacturers came on board with reels like Johnson Century, Shakespeare Wondercast, Pflueger Jupitor, South Bend and Garcia Abu and were good reels that saw years of service. Shakespeare and Zebco had the greatest share of the spin cast market with the Zebco 33 being the most popular. Zebco brought out low priced plastic models like the 202 and 404. Shakespeare had several versions of their Wondercast closed-faced reel.

Before shooting docks was a popular bass fishing tactic, I used an Abu 170 to fish jigs and plastic worms under docks and in tight quarters ... simple to use and had muscle enough to horse most bass out of heavy cover.

Spin cast rods ... Most were 6 or 6 1/2 feet long and had a larger first guide that could give you a little more distance on your cast. Spin cast reels work very well on bait casting rods also.

Shakespeare, South Bend and Zebco made a kind of transgender reel by the late 1950's. This was a closed-faced spinning reel called an underspin and were used on regular spinning rods, working reasonably well. One model was the Zebco 44 and another was Garcia Abu Model 505. Today Diawa offers three versions of underspins and other reel makers offer some, but mostly in ultra-light versions.



Lure makers weren't sitting on their duffs when spinning took off. They quickly came out with "spinning size" in most of their popular lures. Lures like Creek Chub Injured Minnows, Arbogast Jitterbugs, Hula Poppers and Helin Flatfish were available in spinning size.

I've gotten carried away writing about spinning, so next issue I'll cover lures, line and talk about bass becoming America's game fish.

ATTENTION!!

Do you know of someone who should be recognized for his or her achievements? Consider nominating that person for one of the Council's annual awards – Professional, Volunteer or Youth Conservationist, Outdoor Program Contest, Conservation Educator, Lifetime Achievement, or NYSCC's President's Award. See www.nyscc.com for details about nominations.

Save the dates! September 14-16 – NYSCC Annual Meeting at the Delta by Marriott (formerly the Radisson Hotel Utica Centre), 200 Genesee Street in Utica, NY.

John J. Riter, CRPC®
 Riter, Grammatico, Reich, White & Tufts
 First Vice President
 Resident Director
 Portfolio Manager

21 Masse Place
 Batavia, NY 14020
www.faml.com/rgnwt
 T 585.344.3325
 F 716.803.6346
john_riter@ml.com



GENESEE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, INC.
Charles O. Hancock, President
 (585) 223-1850 Phone (585) 223-6855 Fax
chancock@rochester.rr.com Email

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

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



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.

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



Buck A Member Contributors:

- Chestnut Ridge Rod & Gun Club**, Dover Plains
- Finger Lakes Conservation Club**, Waterloo
- George Washington F & C Club, Inc.**, Buffalo
- Manchester Hunt Club, Inc.**, Poughkeepsie
- Otego Rod & Gun Club, Inc.**, Oneonta
- Otsego County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs**, Otego
- SCOPE Genesee County**, Batavia
- Stamford Rod & Gun Club**, Stamford
- Woodbury Field & Stream Club, Inc.**, Central Valley

General Donation Contributor: Brush Busters Hunting Club, Walton

Memorial Donation Contributor: Sportsman's Archery Club of St. Mary's, Inc., Albion

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 _____



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 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



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



The Legislative Year Has Ended	1
Hunting & Shooting Sports Conservation Council	2
Welcome New Members	2
A Very Dangerous Plant	3
Reminiscing On Bass Fishing & Tackle (Part 2)	4 & 5
Awards Nominations Notice & Annual Meeting Dates	6
Thank You	7
Committee Application	7
Annual Meeting Information, 2018 Resolutions	Insert