

Grass Roots News

Advocating for Conservation and Sportsmen Since 1933

March/April 2019 Vol. 19 No. 2

NYSCC SETS SPRING MEETING

Saturday, April 13, is the date for the 2019 NYSCC Spring/Legislative Meeting at Herkimer College in Herkimer, NY. Plan on attending to take part in committee meetings and hear various presentations. The schedule is as follows:

8 am Registration

9 am Committee Meetings

- Big Game, Archery
- Small Game, Fur Resources
- Fish, Marine District
- Conservation Education, Hunter Education
- Waterfowl
- Habitat/Access, Forest Preserve & Public Lands
- Legislation, Law Enforcement, Firearms

11 am General Session

- Department of Environmental Conservation

Noon Lunch

1 pm General Session

- Department of Environmental Conservation
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Trout Power
- Legislative Update

3:45 pm Close of Session



If you are using a GPS device, please use this address: 100 Lou Ambers Drive Herkimer, NY 13350.

NYSCC Legislative / Spring Me	eting Registration fee:	(\$30 per person)
I	My check, payable to NYSCC, is end	closed.
NAME		
ORGANIZATION		
PHONE (Area Code)	(Number)	
EMAIL ADDRESS		
Check here if you will be	using the College's wifi connection	n during the meeting
Return thi	s form with your payment <u>no later th</u>	an March 30 to:

NYSCC, 8 East Main Street, Ilion, NY 13357-1899

2019 AND BEYOND

By Chuck Parker, NYSCC President

I believe that the New York State Conservation Council is on the course of longevity in its existence and service to sportsmen and conservation. This is a pretty easy statement to make, but It takes a little longer to back it up. It also takes the commitment of our membership to ensure we stay on the course for success. The commitment is there -- we just have to ensure we are on the same page.

In my tenure as President of the NYSCC, I have been exposed to different studies, reports and opinions on what makes for a successful organization. Along with many others from the Council, I have been LinkedIn-ed, Small Business Administration administered, emailed, and advised and counseled by private individuals and professionals on what the Council or any non-profit needs for success and longevity. Consider some of the information that has been presented, and you can determine if we are on the right path.

Any organization must have the structure to maintain itself, and more importantly be forward minded to meet today's challenges and concerns. If you look just into the past, that is all you will have. Within the NFL community there is a current influx of new coaches. Have the old coaches, many of whom have Super Bowl rings, division titles, and winning seasons forgotten how to coach? It's being said that these coaches are being replaced because they have not adapted to what is needed to coach the new players. The new players are different and what worked in the past is not necessarily working today.

For the Council it is okay to respect the past, but it is more important to move toward the future. We can observe the loss in license sales or we can get involved in the recruitment, retention and reactivation initiative to bring more on board and support our cause. What do you think of locavores and their views of eating meat and vegetables that are locally grown? You can't get much more local than the wildlife that is available in New York State. What else is out there that is forward reaching and that we can support and benefit from at the same time?

The Board needs to look at many different elements to ensure we meet our mission. Nothing gives me greater satisfaction than seeing a program or initiative that is forward reaching and serves the people and the conservation principles for which the NYSCC was created.

There is one next step coming that I would like you to consider; that is the April 13th Spring/Legislative conference featuring committee meetings, DEC reports, legislative awareness, and special topic presentations. Along with feedback from those in attendance you can help shape our direction and commitment to what we should be doing. IF YOU ARE READING THIS YOU NEED TO BE THERE for your benefit, for the Council's benefit, for what we will have tomorrow. Your voice matters. If not you, then who; if not now, then when? Don't be afraid to bring a friend.

GENESEE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, INC.

Charles O. Hancock, President
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chancock@rochester.rr.com Email

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

Finger Lakes Conservation Council Inc.

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

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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
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IS THIS THE DEATH OF DUCK HUNTING IN NEW YORK STATE? An Opinion

By Ken Zolnowski, NYSCC Region 9 Waterfowl Committee

Charles Dickens may not have been a duck or goose hunter, but his words aptly characterize the current state of waterfowling in New York State:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness ..."

CHARLES DICKENS, A TALE OF TWO CITIES

I've spent the better part of 40 years in pursuit of waterfowl and while it has always been rewarding, there have been times of concern for the future of the sport. The 30- and 40-day duck seasons of the 80s and the total closure of Canada goose hunting in the early 90s certainly dealt a blow, but waterfowlers persevered and the resource rebounded to allow the long seasons and generous bags of the last decade. But Mother Nature can be cyclical and we all knew it could not last. Here in 2019, I am worried that waterfowling in NYS is on the brink of a crash owing to a perfect storm of more



restrictive regulations by USFWS and ill-conceived decisions by NYSDEC. This time I am not so certain a rebound is around the corner – and how many waterfowlers will we permanently lose to other pursuits?

There are several big changes on the horizon. USFWS biologists are concerned over a steady drop in mallard counts in northeastern states based on ground surveys and feel overharvest is responsible – so in 2019 the mallard limit in NYS and the Atlantic Flyway will be slashed from 4 birds/2 hens to 2 birds/1 hen. How long it may take for mallards to recover is anyone's guess. The mallard is consistently the #1 bird taken in NY and comprises ~40% of the NYS duck harvest.

But that is just the start of the "bad" news. Goose hunters who hunt the West Central Zone – which encompasses the Iroquois and Montezuma NWRs and the Oak Orchard and Tonawanda WMAs, as well as parts of the Finger Lakes - will see their **goose season cut from 45 to 30 days and the bag reduced from 3 to 2.** Why, you ask? Because the breeding pair counts for Atlantic population (AP)of Canada Geese dropped by ~30% in 2018 and nest counts showed near zero production. Rather than wait for this year's spring counts, Atlantic Flyway Technical Session biologists chose to immediately recommend a restrictive season.

Goose hunters in the state's South Zone were not spared either. **Their unique spring goose season (1-10 March in 2019) was deemed unsustainable beyond 2019** because band returns showed harvest of protected AP geese. The South Zone boundary lines were initially formulated to target resident Canada populations and not migratory geese.

Last but not least is the major change in the NYS Western Zone duck season dates. For the past two decades, duck dates in each zone were set by a citizen's waterfowl task force of 10-12 individuals who represented major waterfowl groups or were regional representatives appointed by sportsman's federations and approved by DEC. Bowing to complaints from a small percentage of duck hunters, NYSDEC elected to eliminate these task forces in favor of the use of a Structured Decision Making

(SDM) process which essentially employs computer modeling techniques to score season dates according to factors/objectives evaluated in a NYSDEC waterfowler survey. DEC's model was used to evaluate 10 season types to choose the "best" season. Recent Western Zone seasons were 45/15 to 40/20 splits, with a first half from late October to early December and a late second half running from 26/27 December to the second week of January. The SDM-selected season for 2019 is a 23/37 split: 19 October to 10 November, 30 November to 5 January and is LOCKED IN FOR 5 YEARS.

Despite DEC claims that the SDM process is scientific and transparent, the duck abundance curves used by DEC in the scoring were developed by Cornell University without providing any justification/documentation to DEC. (Who expects due diligence from government entities anyway?) All attempts to question Cornell directly about these curves have been rebuffed by DEC. (DEC did provide a Cornell report on the Wood THRUSH – not a duck – that had little detail and even less relevance.) Also be aware that Cornell's work was based upon bird watcher data not just from NY, but also from Ohio, Pennsylvania and Ontario. And that access to the resource was not addressed – if you're frozen out or bird watcher reports were from the middle of a subdivision, oh well. I could go on, but you get the picture.

Who are the winners/losers with these dates? Clearly swamp/shallow water (puddle duck) hunters have lost days, while big water hunters gained extra days. So you may think – these seasons favor the Finger Lakes hunters over the guys who hunt the refuges, right? Not necessarily!

<u>Many</u> Finger Lakes hunters are very upset at losing their coveted second week in January. They relish hunting in tough ice-cold conditions for large flocks of readily decoyable ducks over big water. Swamp hunters have lost Thanksgiving-week days in late November that are noted for mass waterfowl migrations. <u>So there appear to be few/no winners in this DEC debacle of a decision.</u>

A good friend who has taught waterfowl hunter education with me for nearly three decades said DEC's computerized season prompted him to "buy a crossbow." In like mind, I bought a new center fire rifle in 6.5 Creedmoor. I fear others will also see these computerized seasons much as the <u>Dickens' Season of Darkness</u> and duck stamp sales will suffer accordingly. But from Albany all we hear is the predictable: "Worry not, waterfowling in New York is in the hands of professionals ... professionals heralding the opacity *errrr* transparency of SDM ...These are surely the Best of Times!"

Editor's note: Ken has participated in 17 out of 20 Western Zone WF Task Forces over the years; was a twoterm president of the Finger Lakes & WNY Waterfowl Assn and a Director of FLWNYWA for over 30 years; a project lead in cooperation with DEC for artificial mallard nesting program on state WMAs - Tonawanda & Oak Orchard 1991-present; and a Certified WF Hunter Ed Instructor, 1986-present

REGION 7 ANNOUNCES GUN RAFFLE TO BENEFIT NYSCC

The Onondaga County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs is taking the lead For Region 7 with an 8-gun, 400 ticket gun raffle (3 rifles, 3 shotguns, 2 handguns). Tickets are \$20 each and one winner will be drawn for every 50 tickets sold. It is a "first winner gets first choice" proposition, with all guns by Remington Firearms. If a round does not sell out, that round will be a 50/50 cash drawing. The number of drawings will be determined by the number of tickets sold. Tickets will be available for distribution/sale at the April 13 NYSCC Spring/Legislative meeting. For further information or tickets contact Dave Simmons at davidrsimmons@msn.com.

This raffle is part of the suggested initiative of having each Region hold at least one fundraiser to benefit the NYSCC per year. Thank you Region 7, Remington Firearms, and Gem Sport Supply/RaLin for your efforts.

Winners subject to NICs check. If winner fails to pass NICS check, no alternate prize will be awarded. In the event that a winner fails to pass a NICS check, a new winner will be drawn. FFL paperwork to be done through Gem Sport Supply/Ra Lin of Syracuse, New York.

REMEMBER SPEARING?

By Mike Elam Photos by Krys Elam

Spearing, like bullhead fishing and smelt dipping, was a rite of spring for many New York outdoorsmen. We had two types of spearing -- wading in the shallows in hip boots or from a boat. Spearing suckers in the headwaters of streams was the most popular. New York had a spearing season from March 21 until September 30 and the law allowed spearers to take rough fish such as suckers, carp, bullheads, gar, bowfin, drum, eels and even snapping turtles. At one time, there was sturgeon spearing, mostly in the lower Niagara River.

As a spring run of rainbows and steelhead developed on Lake Ontario tributaries, some outlaws speared many of these prize fish. Some took their dirty work with them, but many were thrown on shore along with pike and a few muskrats or left to rot in the streams. This angered honest spearers and especially stream fishermen. The DEC had to address this issue, so in the mid-80s it was put up for public comment. There were no positive comments in favor of spearing and it was closed on most of New York State's freshwater bodies.

Before it was closed, sucker spearing was quite popular on tributaries of Lake Ontario in Niagara, Orleans and Monroe counties. The suckers ran up these streams into the shallow riffles to spawn in the gravel. Suckers didn't build beds but just broadcast their eggs and milt and let nature take its course.

The suckers would stage in the deeper pools during the daylight and run up the shallows at night. That's when spearers with a Coleman gas lantern, spear with a 5' or 6' handle and a burlap bag could do a number on the suckers. Sometimes one might get lucky and encounter some bonus bullheads.

There were always a few early suckers when the season first opened, but as water warmed and spring rains increased flow, the big female suckers ran up from Lake Ontario. These fish were from 3 lbs. to, occasionally, 5 lbs. The warmer weather and abundance of suckers brought out more spearers. On a pleasant Friday or Saturday night you could share a stream with 20 or more spearers.

For the most part, the suckers harvested were utilized. Somewhat bony, like a pike, some were pickled. Their meat was quite mild and you get used to picking around the bones. Some suckers were speared and left to rot ... we always have that wasteful element. But once you speared a bag of suckers and carried or dragged them up to your vehicle, you'd get more conservative on the number you took.

There were always stories of someone being speared in the foot or leg and fortunately I never encountered this, but I did poke some holes in a couple boots -- my own, of course. Spearing from a boat was by far my favorite. This meant carp for the most part, but we did get goldfish, bullhead bowfin, gar, eel and some big snappers.

There were many mudflats and shallow backwaters on Oak Orchard Creek where I was lucky to grow up. This was a carp bonanza. We couldn't wait for spearing season to open. If the creek wasn't open enough, we would take one of our rental boats and break up ice until we could get to the shallows. The wake from the boat worked really well for breaking up shore ice.

In the early 1960s I had an older mentor (early 50s, much younger that I am now). We trapped, ran setlines, fished for bullheads and speared. We speared most every night and all day on Saturday and Sunday from March 21 until early May. Most nights we would get over 50 carp, a few bullheads, bowfin, goldfish and a few gar. On Saturday and Sunday we would get 100 or more carp. We speared in any weather, many times in some pretty heavy snows. We actually developed a good customer base and could sell almost all the carp we could spear. In that early spring cold, the carp were very lethargic and easy targets. Besides, with many targets and lots of hours practice, one can become deadly with a spear.



The spears used were usually five-tine made by Horrocks-Ibbotson in Utica, NY, Shure-Catch in Richfield Springs, NY, or Lew's, the same company that made Lew's reels. H-I and Shure-Catch were the best. Some sucker spearers used spears that were homemade from potato forks or other small hand rakes.

A 5' or 6' handle was good for wading, but the hard bottom of the streams shortened the life of the spear itself. In a boat, an 8' handle was great and, back then, all the hardware stores stocked spear handles. When you were alone you could pole along the shallow

flats with an 8' handle. One time we got a 10' handle which made it easier to reach the big carp that seem to be in the deeper water. We managed a few 30 lb. fish. Our biggest weighed 37 lbs. If we stuck a big fish, we would stick him with a second spear so it wouldn't get off. But that problem was solved when we got some 9- tine Shure-Catch eel spears. Nothing got loose from them.

I said we had a good business from our carp harvest and we had to take care of our customers. One night in March we were having a carp bonanza. I stuck one more and when I shook it off the spear, the boat sank in 3 feet of water. Most of the carp floated out of the boat. Now, on top of this, the temperature was in the mid 20's and snowing pretty good. We had to take care of the customers so we got the lantern relit and speared for close to an hour to get enough carp! Then we had a two-mile slow trip home. I was pretty experienced at getting submerged outboards started. When we docked our boat, our clothes were frozen stiff. Fifty-plus years later, I'm sure that was the coldest I've ever been.

One night in May a large bowfin (we called them dogfish, and they have no fear of boats) swam under the boat. When he came out the other side, I slammed him in the head, broke 3 tines off an almost-new Lew's spear and he was throwing a rooster-tail heading for parts unknown.

When my brother was 9 years old, he was out by himself one afternoon with an 8' spear. Several fishermen on the local bridge were telling him, "Be careful, little boy!" He promptly speared a big carp and got it in the boat by himself. Kinda shut the surprised spectators up; it weighed 28 pounds.

When I write about my adventures I get a little carried away, just get a flood of memories and can't shut up. Like one night in May 1970, my brother and I were spearing carp in one of Oak Orchard Creek's many marshes. We were in about 3' of water when a large wave appeared and was heading to the boat. When it got close, it veered away from the boat so I threw the spear and it connected. We weren't able to catch it rowing so we started our 7 ½ HP Evinrude and ran it down. I was thinking "I'm in trouble, I've speared a skin diver!" We got hold of the spear handle and all hell broke loose. My brother took another spear and poked around. He said that we got a turtle, a big turtle. We got it to the surface and had the biggest snapper we'd ever seen. We'd captured several turtles before that were an honest 40+ lbs. This was much bigger and ultimately weighed in at 67 lbs.

The last time I speared was in mid-May, probably in the late 80s. My brother had called to say Johnson's Creek was full of carp. I took my 12' johnboat, spear and hip boots. My brother brought

his 5-tine pitchfork and in short order, I thought I was on a raid with Attila the Hun! After the boat was close to full and I couldn't pull it against the current; we then dragged about 6 feed bags full of carp to my truck and fed them to a neighbor's hogs.

I'll end this story with one more memory. Remember how I said that nothing got off the 9-tine eel spear? One night when I shook a securely speared carp off, I poked a nice hole in the bottom of my friend's nearly new 12' StarCraft boat. He didn't get too mad, just mad enough to throw me overboard!



WINTER ICE FISHING FUN

By Kevin Busch

On January 16th the NYSDEC, assisted by the Albany County Conservation Alliance, conducted an Albany County Ice Fishing 101 Clinic. Tim Pokorny along with Dennis Wischman of NYSDEC and others did a great presentation inside the Thatcher Park Nature Center (Albany County). Nancy Engel of

NYS Parks & Recreation coordinated the teaching and presentation portion inside the Nature Center. I'm told she also made "the bestus hot chockolate."

Throughout the day more than 50 adults and youth attended the event. After the inside presentations it was onto the ice where NYSDEC and ACCA provided all the equipment and knowledge that was needed to ice fish. Everyone enjoyed the drilling of holes, depth sounding and baiting tip-ups; and the process also including running and screaming as loud as possible "Flag!" Participants received instruction and then were set loose with jigging rods and advice to watch for the flags.

Tim Pokorny made sure that we located the fish. Numerous small mouth bass and pickerel were brought onto the ice and then released. This event definitely "hooked" many people on another opportunity that winter offers.









Buck A Member Contributors:

Bailey Mountain Fish & Game Club, Wynantskill Broome Co. Sportsmen's Assn., Inc., Binghamton The Cahoonzie Club, Inc., Sparrowbush Carmichael Hill Game Club, Westernville Collins Conservation Club, Inc., Collins **Crum Elbow Sportsmen's Association**, Hyde Park Dansville Fish & Game Protective Association, Dansville **Deer Search Inc.**, Pleasant Valley **Dutchess Co. Sportsmen's Assn.,** Inc., Salt Point Eastern Lake Erie Charterboat Assoc., Ashville Flashing Feathers Bowhunters, Ithaca Galway Fish & Game Club, Ballston Spa Glenville Fish & Game, Scotia Great Lot Sportsmans Club, Boonville Guan Ho Ha, Scotia Hawkeye Bowmen, Inc., Alden Helderberg Rod & Gun Club, Altamont Holley Rod & Gun Club, Holley Jr. Wilson Sportsmen's Club, Inc., Medina Lake Keuka Chapter Izaak Walton League, Penn Yan Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club, Middleburgh Niagara County Gobblers Chapter NWTF, Ransomville Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club, Rhinebeck Sauguoit Creek F&G Club, Sauguoit Springville Field & Stream Club, Inc., Springville Springwater Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Springwater Steuben Fish & Game Club, Rome Whortlekill Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Hopewell Junction Woodlawn Sportsmen's Club, Schenectady

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Three Rivers Coon Hunters Association, Sidney Center
Eugene C. VanDeusen, Red Creek

Memorial Donation: In Memory of Charles Ryder

SHREDDED SLOW COOKED SNOW OR CANADA GOOSE

The snow goose season in NYS is open until April 15th for most of the state (March 8th on Long Island) and the daily limit is 25 birds with no possession limit. That's a lot of goose meat, offering the possibility of many tasty shredded barbecue goose sandwiches!



Shredded Slow Cooked Snow or Canada Goose

Ingredients:

- Breast meat from 2 geese, skinless, about 3 lbs.
- 1 medium onion or shallot, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- A few sprigs of fresh parsley or a few fresh celery leaves (optional)
- ½ tsp. cracked black pepper or 6 whole peppercorns
- 2 4 cups apple cider juice
- Jar of favorite barbecue sauce

Preparation:

Place goose breasts in a slow cooker and add the onion, garlic, parsley (optional), black pepper, and enough apple juice to cover the meat. Slow cook on low heat for 8-10 hours. Alternatively, the meat can be cooked in a Dutch oven or braising pan placed in the oven at 300 degrees for 3+ hours (make sure the liquid does not cook off, adding more juice, if necessary, to keep meat covered) or in a pressure cooker for about 30-40 minutes. The meat should be tender and easily shred with a fork when done. Remove the goose meat from the pan and shred the meat, being careful to remove any stray bones or shot. Discard the cooking liquid and veggies. Mix the goose meat with your favorite BBQ sauce and heat through. You can use this same recipe for goose legs, though they may need a longer cooking time. Great for sandwiches. Serves about 8. (Note: Nutrition Facts do not include barbecue sauce).



about 8 servings per container Serving size about 1 cup			
Amount per serving Calories	240		
% D	aily Value		
Total Fat 7g	9%		
Saturated Fat 1g	5%		
Trans Fat 0g			
Cholesterol 135mg	45%		
Sodium 85mg	4%		
Total Carbohydrate 4g	1%		
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%		
Total Sugars 3g			
Includes 0g Added Sugars	0%		
Protein 41g			
Vitamin D 0mcg	0%		
Calcium 10mg	0%		
Iron 10mg	60%		
Potassium 608mg	159		

The Wild Harvest Table started as a celebration of the culinary bounty represented by wild game and fish in the Finger Lakes region of New York State. Cornell Cooperative Extension Nutrition Educator, Moira Tidball, from Seneca County started the website in January of 2009 as a resource for game and fish recipes, nutrition information, and preparation techniques.

day is used for general nutrition advice.

MARCH IS TACKLE TIME

By Bob Brown

Early March you will find me in the cellar, wishing I was fishing. It's too cold to be outside; and although I have a lot of unfinished projects to complete, I keep on looking at that corner where all my rods, reels, and fishing lures are stored and can't help but notice that a couple of rods seem short on line and several lures could use a dab or two of paint, while others need new O rings attached so that they might "swim" better.

I turn on the heater, then the radio or old television set, and reach for my tobacco pouch and pipe. (Yes, I enjoy it and I'm in my own cellar!) I tinker with my fishing stuff, inspecting each old lure to see how it might be enhanced to attract some unsuspecting trophy fish this coming summer. Are the hooks sharp? Do the bodies need to be shined up?

If it's a metal spoon, I have a can of Never Dull from the hardware store that will make it shine like new. Can I slip an O ring in the lip of the lure to make it spin faster? I also believe that every treble hook on the back end a spoon or plug should have a bit of red color on its shank. I collect red plastic sipping straws of all sizes and cut them to fit the shank of the treble hook between the treble and the eye. I strongly believe that a predator fish sees the red and that I get more strikes because of it.

After rehabilitation of some of the lures, I find myself wondering about what reels need oiling, followed by, "Is the line in each reel strong, so my fish can't break the line on a run?" Checking a couple of reels may lead to line replacement. It doesn't seem to matter what modern tool or technique they have for spooling new line on a reel, it always is a challenge!

It makes a lot of sense to have your fishing buddy to come over and help you do this, as he has had the same trouble stringing line as you have had. Besides, you can swap stories of how the big one got away, or which body of water you want to try first this year.

I word of caution at this point! Do not under any circumstances ask your wife or girlfriend to assist you with the task of spooling your line on the reel. Malfunctions can and do happen frequently during this procedure and your fishing buddy understands that frustration. Your "significant other" may not understand your facial expression or audible response which might cost you the loss of a meal, a place to sleep or an expense at your local florist.

Before you leave your man cave, you might notice that you own one fishing pole too many or find some duplicate lures that you don't need. Why not down size a little and make some youngster's day by taking him or her to an easy fishing spot. Let the magic begin!





"PUBLIC LANDS PACKAGE" HEADED TO PRESIDENT'S DESK

Compiled from published reports

On February 26, 2019, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Natural Resources Management Act of 2019 (S. 47), also known as the "Public Lands Package." Previously passed by the Senate, the bill has been sent to the President for his signature, and President Trump has indicated that he will sign it into law.

This legislative package includes measures to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund; and it creates additional hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting opportunities while also conserving and maintaining wildlife habitat and fisheries.

Once signed into law, the bill package will play an important role in the protection of conservation programs and in the future of hunting in the U.S., and more importantly, hunting on public lands.

The legislation contains many provisions important to hunters, anglers, trappers and recreational shooters, including a key element codifying the "Open Until Closed" policy on federal lands.

The "Open Until Closed" management policy will require public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service to be open for hunting, fishing and recreational shooting unless specifically closed for cause.

For decades, anti-hunting organizations have pressed lawsuits challenging hunting on public land, arguing that federal agencies must jump through laborious procedural hoops to open public land to hunting, thus creating a system where one small procedural mistake would bar hunting. The law will help curtail the lawsuits brought on behalf of the anti-hunting groups who persistently use the courts to impede hunting opportunities on public land. Ultimately it will protect hunting rights and increase hunting access on millions of acres of public land, similar to the protections which now exist for wildlife refuge lands.

Other important issues that the package addresses include:

Amending the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, informally known as the Pittman-Robertson (PR) Act, to allow certain funds to be used for shooting sports facilities. It also reduces the matching funds necessary to qualify for public shooting range development grants.

Allowing the permitting or leasing of public land for shooting and target ranges.

Authorizing the transportation of archery equipment through National Park Service lands.

And, it includes the WILD Act, strengthening wildlife conservation by reauthorizing sportsmen's wildlife conservation programs, assisting in the management of invasive species and promoting antipoaching programs.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

AFFILIATE MEMBER: Miller Park Association, Utica DEFENDER MEMBERS:

Jason Brozdowski, Middletown
Clarence Shooting Club, Inc., Elma

Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association, West Palm Beach, FL

Old Saratoga Muzzleloading Club, Mechanicville

Roads End, LLC, Altamont

GUARDIAN MEMBERS:

Frank "Rusty" Brown, Little Falls
Izaak Walton League of America- CNY Chapter, Fayetteville
Tony Monteiro, Mahopac

LIFE MEMBERS:

Tom Jurczak, Allegany Kostas Theodosopoulos, Garden City



IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY A MEMBER, JOIN TODAY!

		Check One:
Name		Guardian \$30
(OR) Club Name		Defender \$65
Address		Life \$350 *
City	State Zip	* (individuals only)
Email (print clearly)		•
-	Send application with check or money order payable t	o :
	NYSCC	
	8 East Main Street	

OR

Ilion, NY 13357

go to www.nyscc.com and join using the paypal© feature on our homepage.

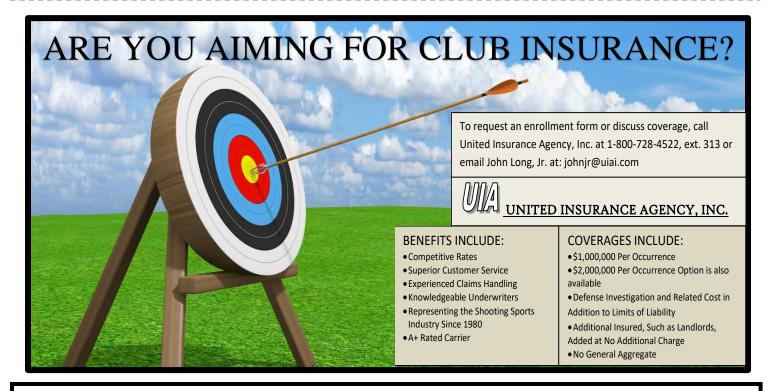


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