



Advocating for Conservation and Sportsmen Since 1933

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## REBUILD 2020 IS OUR IDENTIFIED INITIATIVE FOR THIS YEAR

By Chuck Parker, NYSCC President

Our pledge: A non-profit organization preserving and protecting the world we live in, advocating for conservation and sportsmen since 1933. We shall continue to work on behalf of the sportsmen and women of New York.

While this pledge has long been in existence and is the base for our objective, how we get there will see some changes in 2020.

Actions that have taken place and that are needed for the future are the result of positive past efforts by many, the realization of the need for doing it better or at least differently and having those active individuals old and new giving us the resources to get things done. Now for some elements for success:

**Work hour allocations.** We cannot expect our office staff, Pat and Julie, to continue to do the work based on a scheduled 80-hour work week (2 people x 40 hours) with a combined presently-scheduled 60-hour work week. We are looking at getting others to take on some of the tasks that have been done by Pat and Julie.

The possibility of coming up with a virtual office with staff working from home has been considered. In fact, it has been brought up more than once, studied by our Directors and by the SUNY Oswego Small Business Development Center. Ultimately it appears that our present office operation is the best way to go.

**An upgraded website.** The roll-out date is scheduled for January 1<sup>st</sup>, so it might already be there. We had a good website so what will be the difference? Technology wise we are moving from a web server tool that was at least 10 to 15 years old to a more up to date tool with greater capabilities. Within the budget process we will have dedicated hours assigned for website work with two individuals, Joel Fowler and Nate Kennedy, who have stepped up to be the website Designer and Manager respectively with overlapping responsibilities. We have had estimates for a new website costing anywhere from \$1,500 to greater than \$5,000. To date the Council's cost is \$0.00 with all expenses covered from donations and Nate and Joel working for next to nothing.

Updates to the website will include better search capabilities for those who use Google and similar search engines. Imagine a Legislator's aide doing a search on back tags using Google and the NYSCC coming up as a source of information. Presently they would have to be aware that the NYSCC has a website, then they'd have to go to our website and search our memos and statements.

We will have better linking with Facebook, Instagram, Constant Contact and other public media. Look for more information from those who will be managing our web presence.

**Constant Contact.** Just managing our mass communication through our Constant Contact email lists can be a time-consuming task. Legislative VP Pat McBrearty will be working directly with our CC account for at least our legislative information. Nate Kennedy with our website may also be assuming some responsibilities. By sharing the work load on this communication method we hope to free up some office hours.

**Renewed and new involvement.** As one of so many who has been involved with the Council for quite a while, I am seeing a welcome new invigoration within the Council which was highlighted during our Fall 2019 Convention. The message was best brought forward with VP Keith Tidball's Rebuild 2020 presentation. More than one person stated that they left the session with a positive 'we got this, we can do this' attitude. These individuals know that being a Council member is not just who you are, it is also what you do.

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**Signs of things getting better.** I am seeing signs that we are moving in the correct direction. Bill Conners, who is stepping back from some duties, recruited Jason Brozdowski, who is now our Region 3 Director. Jason has a special interest in forestry as well as in the legislative process.

Nate Kennedy, our website manager, is a proponent of managing forests with wildlife considerations. When he heard about the Council, he wanted to become more involved. Working in Cooperative Extension as well as being a writer, he will bring added talent to the Council. Joel Fowler, our website designer, has outdoor interests worthy of an article on its own, working with youth and the outdoors prior to his even being aware of the NYSCC.

Do you know of others within your club or County Federation who have similar interests? Do you know of others we can reach out to? Help us gain resources, and together we can work on a positive future. With the addition of three new individuals who will be adding their talents to assist the NYSCC in 2020 and coupling their efforts with the many active participants we have within our present membership, the future is looking brighter. Join us as we Rebuild 2020!

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### INTRODUCING JASON BROZDOWSKI – NYSCC REGION 3 DIRECTOR

Jason hails from Middletown, NY, a lifelong resident of the area. He has been an avid outdoorsman since he was a young man; hunting and fishing were what he lived for growing up. His father was always taking him on hunting trips to their club in Roscoe where Jason is now a shareholding owner and land steward for the entire property. Along with his father, he started fishing competitive bass tournaments at age 12 all over New York and Connecticut. He has won club tournaments and fished in the state six-man team events.

With the goals of wildlife management and habitat in mind, Jason became interested in the NYSCC. Antler restriction was the hot topic at the time, and he wanted to get involved with the policy. From there he and a few friends educated themselves, explored the topic, and interest in the Council for Jason gained steam. Driven to keep sportsmen at the forefront of policies, Jason has had experience with local level politics for most of his adult life and knew connecting with the Council was the right move.

Jason's key focus is on forestry and woodlot management for timber production with wildlife being the main driver. Without good management practices woods will have no diversity and landscapes would be very monolithic. Timber products play a great economic role for New York State. Right now deer are hurting regeneration of forest areas; and mismanagement of timber lands impacts the ability to produce high value timber. We need to come to a point of balance between timber value and ecosystem stability. Mature forests are beautiful and have their place, but they don't help the habitat on a broader spectrum.

Everyone needs to start focusing on the lands we use a little more and get that diversity back. Control of both native or nonnative invasive species is extremely important to the health of our forests. Deer browse pressure is going to put a big hole in the timber industry in the next 20-40 years. Without new forest regeneration our children won't have the woodland diversity we have grown to see and the changes that are being made from it.

New York is a very complex state with many demographics, but we need to keep up the fight. Sportsmen and women, young and old, need to be involved. There are many opportunities to enjoy our lands from hiking and hunting to fishing and trapping. Take a friend out who hasn't done some of these things, and we might just gain one more sportsman for the future.



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## NEW DEER, MOOSE FEEDING REGULATIONS

By Bill Conners

There are new regulations adopted by the Department of Environmental Conservation in an effort to reduce problems stemming from wildlife feeding. Wildlife managers feel that prohibiting the feeding of wild deer and moose is a best management approach to reduce risks associated with communicable wildlife diseases like chronic wasting disease. Such regulations can also help minimize conflicts with deer and protect wildlife habitat, according to a release from the DEC.

The new regulations also establish strict procedures for the use of tick-control devices designed to treat deer against the disease parasites. "Feeding deer and moose can artificially increase populations and change behavior, causing harm to people, wildlife, and the environment," Commissioner Basil Seggos said. "These new requirements strike a necessary balance between preventing the negative effects of deer feeding while recognizing the increased public health threat posed by tick-borne diseases and make an exception to allow the use of certain devices designed to kill ticks on deer."

DEC first prohibited deer feeding in 2002 in response to the threat of Chronic Wasting Disease because concentrating deer or moose at feeding sites increases the risk of disease transmission. In the fall of 2012, a Sullivan County judge struck down the feeding ban, saying that it was "vague." Sullivan County was the only county to do so. The law as written remained in effect for the rest of the state. The sporting community in Sullivan County remains opposed to the feeding ban. Jack Danchak, president of the Sullivan County sporting federation, is going to wait to see if the regulations impact their winter deer feeding program.

I am particularly pleased that products packaged for sale as food or edible attractants for wild deer or moose must now carry a label that clearly states that such use is illegal in New York. Commercial operations such as fenced deer farms may still use the products, hence the need for a labeling protocol.

The regulations provide exemptions for wildlife plantings, bona fide agricultural practices, livestock husbandry, and research and nuisance abatement actions permitted by DEC. Incidental feeding, such as the attraction of deer or moose to a birdfeeder will only be considered a violation if DEC has previously issued a written warning. This will allow nuisance situations to be appropriately addressed without limiting bird feeding in general.

The regulation also establishes procedures for the legal use of 4-Poster™ Tickicide and devices used to dispense it, according to the DEC; 4-Poster™ Tickicide is a pesticide registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and DEC to kill ticks on deer.

I'm disappointed that the new regulations did not ban the use of natural deer urine that can carry the prions that can cause Chronic Wasting Disease.

The full text of the new regulation is [on the DEC website](#).





**Buck A Member Contributors:**

- Broome County Sportsmen's Assoc.**, Binghamton
- Dansville Fish & Game Protective Assn.**, Dansville
- Eastern Lake Ontario Salmon & Trout Assn, Inc.**, Syracuse
- Elbridge Rod & Gun Club**, Elbridge
- Elsmere Rod & Gun Club**, Voorheesville
- Erie County Trappers**, Lawtons
- Independent Fur Harvesters of CNY**, Hamilton
- Kuneytown Sportsmen's Club**, Seneca Falls
- Niagara Co, Sportsmen's Assn.**, North Tonawanda
- Sportsmen's Archery Club of St. Mary's**, Albion
- Springville Field & Stream Club, Inc.**, Springville
- Steuben County Federation of Conservation Clubs**, Hornell
- West Albany Rod & Gun Club**, Colonie

**General Contributors:**

- Irene Arnold**, Morrisville
- Bethlehem Sportsmen's Club**, Delmar
- Gregory Crossett**, Trumansburg
- Delaware County Federation of Sportsman Club**, Walton
- Mike Elam**, Albion
- Timothy Embt**
- Jacqueline Emslie**, Poughkeepsie
- Erie Co. Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs**, West Seneca
- Federated Sportsmen's Clubs of Cattaraugus Co.**, Allegany
- Ray Gawlas**, Scotia
- George Gibbs**, Cleveland
- Rodney Gould**, Unadilla
- Hawkeye Bowmen**, Alden
- Gary Kent**, Albion
- Cheeta Lazore-Dietlein**, Brasher Falls
- Lewis County 4-H Shooting Sports Club**, Lowville
- Unadilla Rod & Gun**, Unadilla
- Millport Hunting Club**, Millport
- Leslie Monostory**, Fayetteville
- Bruce Musetti**
- North Seneca Sportsmans Club, Inc.**, Phelps
- Oneonta Sportsmen's Club, Inc.**, Oneonta
- Onondaga County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs**, Manlius
- John Phillips**, Peru
- Ronald Rybicki**, Ballston Spa
- Blake Smith**, Rush
- Captain Richard Smith**, Hamburg
- St. Lawrence Longrifles**, Brasher Falls
- Trumansburg R & P Club, Inc.**, Trumansburg
- Barbara Wells**, Romulus
- Richard Wohlgemuth**, Canajoharie
- Russell Wuest**, Marcy

**LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?**

Great Lot Sportsman's Club will be hosting 6 Guided Snowshoeing Trips this winter at the club just off the Osceola Road in West Leyden. Those interested are asked to meet at 9:45 am at the Great Lot Sportsman's Club entrance. Guides are 20-year military veterans from Boonville. You can follow the guides or take a map and explore the many snow-covered trails on your own. Afterward everyone will be treated to a hot lunch and refreshments at the clubhouse. Snowshoeing and lunch are FREE and open to all age groups! Limited snowshoes are available.

For more information or to sign up contact Guy Case @ (315) 378-7592, Andy Bailey @ (315) 225-3119 or Jim Ray @ (315) 225-1731.

You can check us out at [www.thegreatlot.com](http://www.thegreatlot.com) and download a trail map.

2020 SNOWSHOEING DATES, all at 10 am:  
18 Jan, 1 Feb, 15 Feb, 29 Feb, 14 Mar, 28 Mar.

The Schenectady County Conservation Council will have its 7th annual Kids Ice Fishing Derby on Feb. 15 from 8:30 am - 11:30 am at Mariaville Lake, Mariaville, NY. ("Bad weather date" Feb. 22.)

At registration for the event each child under 16 will receive a free tip-up, rigged and ready to fish while supplies last. Parent(s) can join their children ice fishing and they will not need a fishing license, since that weekend is a NYS DEC free fishing weekend. We will drill the hole in the ice and set the kids up for fishing, and we'll even provide the bait! Cash prizes will be awarded to the kids for the three biggest perch and pickerel. Free pizza from nearby Mariaville Lakeside Country Store will be provided prior to the prize giveaways.

This event's attendance has grown, almost doubling each year to over 110 kids in 2018. If you are in the Capital District area that weekend, come join us! No kids or grandkids? No problem! Visit us anyway to join the volunteers helping the kids and their parents! The Schenectady County Conservation Council, the New York Conservation Officers Association and many other organizations are sponsoring this great event. For more information, call Gary at 518-526-2166.

## TIDBALL'S WORK HIGHLIGHTED AT SHIFT FESTIVAL

(Article originally appeared in the *Finger Lakes Times*)

SENECA FALLS — Cornell University scholar Keith Tidball of Seneca Falls was recently selected for a 2019 SHIFT Award for his work at the nexus of outdoor recreation, conservation and public health. The 2019 Shaping How we Invest For Tomorrow Festival, held each year in Jackson Hole, Wyo., focused on "nature as medicine."

Tidball, of Cornell's Department of Natural Resources, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, conducts integrated research, extension, and outreach activities in the area of ecological dimensions of human security. The overarching theme of his work is better understanding how to amplify recruitment of citizen conservationists and resulting development and proliferation of a 21st century land ethic.

According to Tidball, this conservation ethic often emerges intensely in places and time periods characterized by violence, conflict, disaster or war. Thus, his work often occurs in "hot spots" or "red zones" and is focused on therapeutic attributes of nature and outdoor recreation among returning combatants and survivors of traumatic large scale events such as major disasters or war.

"When our personal existence is most threatened, we seem to remember our vital connection to the rest of the ecosystem, to nature, and we urgently seek to be reconnected with other life, other living things," Tidball said. A veteran himself, Tidball is focused on how time outdoors and outdoor settings can increase well-being and enhance resilience of not only combat wounded military veterans, but also currently serving service members and their families.

"So much of what we fight for, what is America, is bound up in our great wild places, our woods and waters. What we fight for is what we care about most, what we need most, what we hold most precious — that which is vital: Nature."

Each autumn the SHIFT Festival explores issues at the intersection of outdoor recreation, conservation and public health. The event builds each year's program around The SHIFT Awards, which recognize initiatives that make innovative, impactful, and replicable contributions to conservation and public health through human-powered outdoor recreation.

For 2019, SHIFT developed the business case for nature as medicine: How time spent outside can offset medical health care costs, contribute to military readiness and become a sustainable revenue model for insurance companies.

Official selections for The SHIFT Awards, which SHIFT researchers identified after evaluating more than 300 initiatives at the nexus of outdoor recreation, conservation and public health, were featured during the 2019 programming in workshops, in panels and as keynote speakers.

SHIFT is a project of The Center for Jackson Hole, whose mission is to strengthen the coalition of interests devoted to our natural world. For more information visit [SHIFTJH.org](http://SHIFTJH.org).

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

#### **DEFENDER MEMBERS:**

**Charles Balcom**, Stafford \* **David McLean**, Burlington Flats

**Christopher Rice**, Albion \* **Pannsylvania Brittany Championship Association**, Valencia, PA

#### **GUARDIAN MEMBERS:**

**Lackawanna Conservation Inc.**, Blasdell \* **James J. McGann**, Elmira

#### **LIFE MEMBER:**

**Keith Tidball**, Seneca Falls

## AN ALBANY PERSPECTIVE

By Assemblyman Mark Walczyk (R-116), representing Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties.



As an Eagle Scout, hiker, fisherman and lifelong outdoorsman, standing up for you and the thousands of sportsmen across New York in the State Assembly for the last year has been an honor. Hunting and fishing are a way of life for us here in the Front Yard of America. A source of food, a large part of our economy and family traditions that have been passed on for generations depend on our stewardship of the land.

Too often in Albany, downstate politicians paint hunters and sportsmen as gun nuts who care nothing about the animals they hunt. Over the last year, I shook hands with thousands of hunters throughout our region who not only love hunting, but also share the same sense of responsibly and ethics. We take pride in protecting wildlife and know the importance of teaching the next generation responsible firearm, hunting, and fishing practices.

During the 2019 Legislative Session, downstate interests again tried to attack our way of life. They brought legislation to the floor that not only threatened and eroded our constitutional rights granted to us through the Second Amendment but would also allow the state to take weapons from gun owners without due process. I voted against the Red Flag Bill, now a gun control law, that allows someone to petition a state court to order the temporary removal of firearms from a person who the court decides may present a danger.

Over the last few months, I've worked with Congresswoman Elise Stefanik's office on ways to tackle the cormorant problem plaguing New York. This invasive species is destroying islands and slashing the fish population in the state's fisheries. I recently sat down with several members of Canadian Parliament and they agree, the cormorant population is not in healthy balance. Our two countries have struggled to keep consistent cross-border strategies on handling the invasive birds and I'll be working on ways to empower New York to increase culling.

Looking forward to this year's legislative session, I will continue to fight on your behalf. Bills like "SAFE Act II" and legislation outlawing hunting and fishing derbies have been heard in Albany for years now. I fight tooth and nail against any legislation that attacks you as responsible gun owners and outdoorsmen.

As we move forward into my second year in office, know that you and your rights as sportsmen remain among my top priorities in Albany. I'll advocate for things like the registration of UTVs, supporting the conservation fund and common sense bills that will enhance our overall experience as sportsmen.

Some lawmakers forget who they work for. I haven't forgotten that I work for you. Hunting and fishing are critical components to the state's economy, especially in our region. Standing up for sportsmen and outdoorsmen's interests in our State Capitol is the type of fight that makes me love my job.

I'll say it again: I work for you. If there's an issue that's important to you, I encourage you to contact me anytime.

Assemblyman Mark Walczyk, 317 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601  
315-786-0284

**RECENT COURT DECISION BODES WELL FOR RECREATIONAL ACCESS**

The Second Department (Appellate Division) of the New York State Supreme Court has ruled to dismiss a lawsuit brought by Adirondack Wild and others, that would have prevented construction of a bridge spanning the Cedar River in the Essex Chain Complex, will now allow the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to proceed with development of a snowmobile trail connecting the hamlets of Indian Lake in Hamilton County, and Minerva in Essex County.

The court noted in its decision to dismiss that the prime objective of the Complex Plan was to connect rural communities in the Adirondack Park in order to provide them with economic benefits, while at the same time preserving the integrity of the land.

The Petitioners argued in their filing that the construction of the bridge and creation of the trail would be a violation of New York's River Systems Act of 1973.

The court dismissed all eight (8) causes of action as stipulated by the Petitioners, effectively opening the door for construction of the bridge and completion of the snowmobile trail. DEC has not yet announced a timetable for completion of the project.

The purchase of the Essex Chain Complex as touted by Governor Andrew Cuomo would be the basis of an economic boon for the region. The Access the Adirondacks Alliance feels this decision and the obvious economic benefits it provides, will help Adirondack communities to continue to provide emergency services, keep restaurants and stores in business, and provide needed lodging options so important to all tourism and recreation.

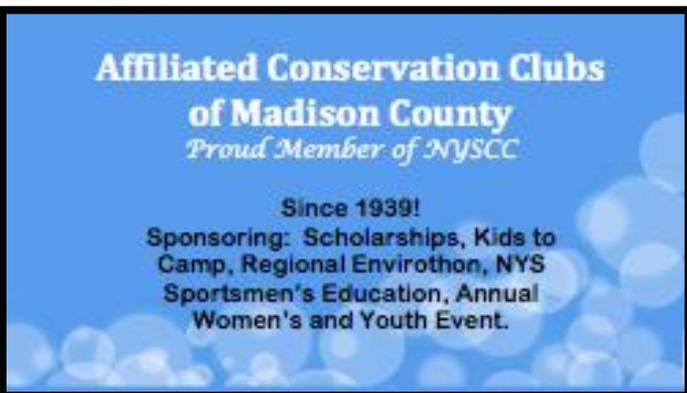
Commenting on the court's decision, Council President Chuck Parker said, "This decision brings us one step closer to the increased economic benefits that are associated with snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, trapping, and myriad other forms of outdoor recreation, the very benefits that Governor Cuomo promised all of us when he announced the purchase of the Essex Chain Complex." Parker further noted that outdoor recreation and access for everyone of all physical abilities is enhanced by a well-constructed trail network.

Hopefully this Court's decision will serve as a guide as issues are litigated into the future, finding that the DEC's determinations were not arbitrary and capricious and further noting that, "[The Court] may not substitute [its] judgement for that of the agency responsible for making the determination, and, deference to the judgement of the agency, when supported by the record, is particularly appropriate when the matter under review involves a factual evaluation in the area of the agency's expertise."

The New York State Conservation Council, Inc., is an IRS 501(c)3 conservation and advocacy organization representing the interests of the sportsmen and sportswomen of New York State. Founded in 1933, the NYSCC supports access for all, regardless of ability.

Read the court decision here:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=um%3Aaid%3Ascds%3AUS%3A2f58e4ff-c804-4566-93f5-280baf74484e>



**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**

**ODE TO THE POCKET KNIFE**

By Bob Brown

I always carry a pocket knife. I probably picked up that habit as a Boy Scout, a half century ago. Keeping it sharp was always a challenge for me, and I would spend hours carefully honing each side and testing it with the edge of a piece of paper. Some guys are so good at sharpening their knives that they show off their skill by shaving the hair off their arm, but not me. I can't ever seem to get my knife that sharp. If it cuts the edge of a sheet of paper, I'm happy.

As a Scout I had a couple of those wide pocket knives with about 15 different tools on them. You know – the two blades, cork screw, punch, screwdriver, can opener, bottle opener, fork and spoon type. As a chubby kid, the fork, spoon and can opener got the most use. I still carry one of those in the glove compartment of my car. It doesn't get used very much, but I keep it there with the idea that I will get hungry some day and stop in the grocery store and pick up a can of beans or bread and peanut butter, then drive down the road somewhere, pull over, get out my trusty knife and have lunch. Although the occurrence is rare, the thought of my plan makes me happy.



Most of my knives are the two- and three-bladed small slender ones. One or two might be missing a blade, but each day one gets chosen and slipped in my pocket. It keeps busy opening the daily mail, cutting the thread on a button or filing a fingernail. Sundays I always slip a small pearl handled one in my pocket before going to church.



Weekends I end up working around the house doing chores for the wife or in the garage or down in the cellar as well as helping the neighbors with projects. Time for the Leatherman! You feel that you are the prepared handyman as you strap it to your belt and say, "Okay, Honey, what are we going to do today?"

Hopefully going to the landfill, shopping for groceries and repairing the mailbox will not interfere with watching the football game, hunting or fishing, all while being prepared with that pocket knife ready to handle any emergency.

P.S. I am always surprised when, in a rare emergency, I forget my pocket knife and we are out with another couple for the evening and the wife of the other couple says, "Here, borrow mine ..." and takes a pocket knife out of her purse!

**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.

**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



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## NEW WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

By Nate Kennedy, NYSCC Website Manager

Happy New Year from the New York State Conservation Council! This year you will find us in our usual venues, to include NYSDEC meetings, boards and task forces, annual conferences, sportsmen's clubs, youth programs, as well as in the field. In addition, you will find us engaging more and more with current and potential members, stakeholders, and the general public in the online space.

A goal for 2020 is to be as visible and accessible as possible as an organization. As the Council remains a valuable resource for hunters, anglers, trappers, and the like, our aim is to be readily available from your home computer, cell phone, or tablet.

In doing so, we are releasing a new website and social media plan. Our current site is being updated as we shift our communication to a more digestible platform and work to more effectively share information with our membership and the public.

Using the website as a foundation, our social media accounts will allow us to engage with folks on a more regular and short form basis. Our Facebook page has been well received thus far, and we will continue using it to share information from pages like NYSDEC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, member clubs, and others. On our new Instagram account, we can share photos, videos, and messages about what the Council does, what it stands for, and why it is important.

On both accounts, we will showcase the value and success of the Council. Promoting conservation opportunities and advocating for sportsmen and women is the goal. We aim to fulfill our commitments to current members, recruit new members, and demonstrate that the Council is working diligently on behalf of natural resources and the hunting, fishing, and trapping heritages in our state. Follow along for legislative information, Council positions and statements, news updates, and more.

The Council will continue serving as the leading group advocating for sportsmen and women at the state level, both online and off. Please help us by sharing Council resources with others. Promote the organization online, join us on Facebook and Instagram, and invite your friends to follow along as well.

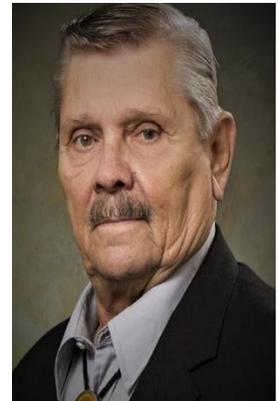
Have a great new year and keep up the great work! We owe it to the woods, water, and wildlife that we all love.

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## NRA MEMBERS – VOTE TO RETURN JOHN CUSHMAN TO THE NRA BOARD

Nominated by member petition, John Cushman is a former NRA Board Member, hunter and target shooter and remains an unyielding advocate for firearms rights. Founded and created the Sportsmen's Association for Firearms Education, recently defeating a legislative proposal that allowed authorities to enter homes without a warrant to see if firearms are stored safely. Created legal defense fund to fight handgun licensing abuses. Organizes and runs largest annual Second Amendment Firearms Civil Rights Conference in the Northeast; vigorously defends against anti-gunners on radio, television and in print. NRA Military & Veterans Affairs, Public Affairs Committees; Vice Chair, Grassroots Development; and NRA Whittington Center. Staunch supporter of the Second Amendment and an NRA Benefactor. Life member, Board member, and endorsed by New York State Rifle & Pistol Association. US Marine Veteran.



**2020 CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS- Deadline extended this year**

This notice constitutes official call for resolutions for the NYSCC for 2020. All resolutions should be sent to the NYSCC Office by **March 1, 2020**. It would be of great help if resolutions were submitted early; any resolutions not in the proper form and received by the March 1 deadline will be rejected.

County and Associate members may submit two resolutions, and Affiliate groups may submit one. Each organization submitting a resolution should investigate its facts thoroughly. Be very specific as to what is being requested along with reference to any law, order, policy or regulation. In addition, the resolution should contain reference to who should perform the action requested and by what means (law change, Department order change, request for action, etc.).

**Of statewide significance –**

**To benefit the sportsmen of New York State**

All resolutions for consideration through NYSCC should be to establish or change a position or policy for the New York State Conservation Council on a matter concerning issues of state-wide significance.

The **title** of the resolution should clearly reflect the intent.

In formulating the resolution, the “**Whereas**” statements should provide the basic facts and reasons for the resolution. The information should be specific, and provide answers to such questions as: Why is the change necessary? What are the facts leading to the final request? It should provide or reference statistics and the effect of the issue. What is the rationale for the “resolved” course of action?

The “**Be It Resolved:**” should clearly spell out what it is you wish to achieve.

The primary purpose of a resolution is to delineate a position for the New York State Conservation Council on a matter not otherwise covered concerning policies, principles, or precedent of state-wide significance. Resolutions are policy declarations and are not meant to solve local problems unless all other avenues of remedy have been exhausted on the local level. The final submitted document should be polished, well thought out and not a draft work in progress.

Resolutions are to be submitted by the organization’s official councilman to the NYSCC. Those coming from other individuals or directly from Federation clubs will not be accepted. The resolution should contain contact information for the councilman – name, address, phone number and email address. The councilman will be the primary contact for any questions the Resolution Committee may have about the resolution.

Resolutions are due at the NYSCC main office by **March 1, 2020**. It is preferred that they be sent electronically to [nyscc@nyscc.com](mailto:nyscc@nyscc.com) or if the councilman does not have email access it may be sent on paper through the US Post Office to the following address:

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

**RESOLVE**  
**VERB**  
**Decide firmly on a course of action**

**NOUN**  
**Firm determination to do something.**



**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

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***Table of Contents***



Rebuild 2020	1 & 2
Introducing Jason Brozdowski	2
New Deer & Moose Feeding Regulations	3
The Legislative Retrieval System	4
Thank You; Looking For Something to Do?	5
Tidball's Work Highlighted; Welcome New Members	6
An Albany Perspective	7
Court Decision on Recreational Access	8
Ode to the Pocket Knife	9
New Website & Social Media Engagement; Return Cushman to NRA Board	10
Call for Resolutions	11