

Grass Roots News

Advocating for Conservation and Sportsmen Since 1933

Vol. 18 No. 2

NYSCC SPRING / LEGISLATIVE MEETING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

By Chuck Parker, NYSCC President

Be at Herkimer College, 100 Reservoir Road in Herkimer, NY on Saturday, April 28 for the Council's annual Spring / Legislative Meeting. <u>Registration begins at 8 a.m. and committee sessions will convene at 9 a.m.</u>

<u>All persons</u> wishing to attend the meeting <u>are required to</u> register and pay the registration fee. The form is included in this mailing or can be found on the website: www.nyscc.com.



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

Invited presenters for the afternoon session:

- State Senator James Seward (R-53) is scheduled to speak on the Real Property Tax Law legislative revisions to 480A 480B. If adopted this legislation will give the DEC regulative authority to promote best forest management practices on privately owned forest lands. Incentive plans are established in which forest owners can choose to participate along with the means by which local governments will be compensated so not to adversely impact their tax base.
- Several representatives from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation will attend to speak to different committees and at the afternoon general session.
- A representative from the National Shooting Sports Foundation will present information on 'Hunting Works for New York.' First started in 2010, the program reached New York in the fall of 2017. New York State ranks 3rd highest in hunting license sales, positively impacting the state's economy as well as conservation efforts and recreational opportunities.

NYSCC presentations:

- Bill Gibson's legislative report will include current status on bills we follow, review of any new legislation and voting on positions to support or oppose as necessary.
- There will be an update on our position statements.
- Individual committees will meet during the morning to define their goals moving forward and discuss current issues.

The Council is encouraging those beyond delegates and committee members to attend, so reach out to the sporting community and bring a friend. While the Spring / Legislative Meeting is recognized as a working session, this year we hope that it will also be a recruitment meeting. The Board and I will do our best to present a quality meeting; we need you, the NYSCC membership, to be a force in bringing new people to attend. See you there.

NOTE: There will be no food service available on campus for this meeting. No food or beverage is allowed in the classrooms. Please bring your own coffee and snack/lunch to be consumed outside of the venue ... or travel off campus to a local establishment for lunch.

CHANGES TO RPT LAW 480-a&b OFFER TAX RELIEF & TAX BASE PROTECTION

By Chuck Parker, NYSCC President

One line item in this year's state budget is revision of the state's 480, 480-a and 480-b program. It offers much to forest land owners, promotes sound logging practices and further creates an enhanced data collection practice. The legislation devises regulatory guidelines whereby the DEC can help establish or promote best forest management practices on private forest lands. It is deserving of our support.

At https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/112691.html DEC states the following:

The Empire Forests for the Future Initiative is a multi-part program whose goal is to protect and enhance the health, quality and sustainability of trees and forests across New York State. The proposal would reform the current forest tax law to increase sustainable production from the forest products industry; adopt voluntary, sustainable harvesting guidelines; implement a timber harvesting notification system; create a wood product procurement preference; and establish cost share forest management practice and community forest grant programs. Listed below are the components of the Empire Forests for the Future Initiative:

- Reform the 480-a Forest Tax Law program to increase sustainable production of quality timber products from private lands for forest product industry in NY while preserving open space. A more detailed description is below;
- Reimburse municipalities for the tax shifts associated with the tax exemption proposed in the legislation and the existing law;
- Establish a simple Timber Harvest Notification system in the Right to Practice Forestry law;
- Provide a state procurement preference for New York grown and manufactured wood products similar to the preference for food and dairy products;
- Establish Empire Forest Incentive Program (EFIP) based on the federal EQIP program; this cost share grant program would fund good forestry practices to improve New York's forest resources. A new line in the EPF was added for \$500,000; and
- **Establish a Community Forest Grant Program** based on the federal community forest program; these grants would provide financial assistance to local governments and qualified nonprofit entities to establish and enhance community forests that include active timber management and recreational access. This program would require a 50% match. A new line in EPF was added for \$500,000.

On February 21st NYSCC representatives George Gibbs and Chuck Parker attended a meeting held by NYSDEC discussing the 480 recommendation included in the 2018 proposed budget. Also attending were those representing land owners, harvesters, Empire State Forest Products Association, Nature Conservancy, and other environmental stewards. I heard no opposition to the principles behind the proposal. There were concerns as to implementation and not knowing all the facts, since this legislation in the budget bill gives DEC authority to set regulations, or more accurately guidelines, for what the proposed 480a / 480b programs could do. Those regulatory guidelines will be subject to public hearings and input. There was a degree of reluctance expressed in this meeting. It is understandable, but this legislative proposal falls right in line with one of the Council's positions -- supporting management by regulation over legislation. To do nothing at this time but just kick this issue down the road resolves nothing. Passing this item in the budget now and letting the regulatory and comment processes do what they are designed to do seems to be the best option.

NYSCC'S CONSERVATION EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEW CHAIRMAN AND NEW DIRECTIONS

We welcome Dr. Keith Tidball from Region 8 as the new Chair of the Conservation Education Committee. Keith is a social scientist who works in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University, where his research and extension work focus on better understanding how to amplify recruitment of citizen conservationists and the development of a 21st century land ethic. In his new role with the New York State Conservation Council, Keith intends to first focus on committee recruitment, followed by priority setting. He wants to develop and disseminate a survey to all NYSCC/County Federation email addresses regarding interest levels in a few potential conservation education topics such as (but not limited to):

- Hunter and Angler Recruitment and Retention via learning about wild fish and game processing and cooking
- Youth Conservation Education rejuvenating partnerships with Cornell Cooperative Extension county offices to conduct youth programs

Dr. Keith Tidball. Submitted photo

- Veterans and Outdoor Recreation (hunting and fishing) to promote conservation behaviors and careers
- Expansion and further investment in conservation education for women (B.O.W., etc.)

Keith is active in the conservation and outdoor recreation community both in his work and in his private life. He is very active in Kuneytown Sportsmen's Club in Seneca County, as well as staying busy in conservation projects with partners such as Trout Unlimited, Trout Power, Ducks Unlimited, White Tails Unlimited, 4H Shooting Sports, and Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation. "I am looking forward to this challenge, and to working with all of the dedicated people that represent the Council and the County Federations," he said. Welcome Keith!

UPSTATE NY WELCOMES NEW NRA FIELD REP

By Jay Rusnock, Retiring Senior NRA Field Representative



L- Jay Rusnock, R- Bruce McGowan. Submitted photo

It is time! After 24+ years the torch has been passed to the capable hands of one of our own. Long time and accomplished Friends of NRA volunteer Bruce McGowan is now the NRA Representative for upstate NY.

Please join me in congratulating him and providing every assistance as he begins his new career. Many of you know him well from his support of many FNRA events around NYS over the years as well as his statewide efforts on behalf of the NYSCC.

Bruce hit the ground running, off to his first FNRA event in the Jamestown area at the end of February. He can be reached at bmcgowan@nrahq.org. Phone number to be determined soon.

It has been a heartfelt honor to help get the Friends of NRA program established and flourishing in upstate NY. We have come a long way over the program's first quarter century, from 0 up to 25+ volunteer teams raising over \$700,000 in net grant dollars annually. It has always been and will always be about the volunteers. Your dedication, generosity, ingenuity, and friendship has continually inspired me and is the greatest reason for our success. Thank you all so very much!

10 "DO NOTS" TO MAKE YOU A BETTER TURKEY HUNTER

By Bob Brown

Do Not ...

- 1. ... scout earlier than one week before the season opener! Birds tend to get shy and change habits when the woods suddenly get traffic after months of quiet. Limit your observation to the roadside and quiet trails.
- 2. ... use turkey calls to locate birds before the season. Limit your calling to crow and owl calls to locate toms early in the morning or in the evening. These calls will make the birds "shock gobble" near their roost, giving you locations without teaching them what fake gobbles sound like.
- 3. ... set up your "early morning" decoys closer than 45 yards from the roosting site for fear of alerting birds to your location. Decoys should be facing toward the feeding area, not the roost site. The jake decoy should be further behind hens (as if in pursuit) within your clear view; your best shot should be two or three yards behind it.



- 4. ... be moving around and trying to see a tom coming toward you. If you hear him, that gobble is enough. (His eyesight and hearing is 18 times better than yours.) You do not need to see him until you identify and shoot him. Wait until he appears.
- 5. ... sit on the ground waiting for turkeys, since ticks will find you first. Keep a large
- garbage bag folded in your pocket and open it wide to sit on while waiting. After harvesting your bird, place it in the bag and transport it home. That way you won't get ticks in the car. After arriving home, I always hang the dead bird in a tree for a little while so ticks can jump off; do your plucking and cleaning outside.
- 6. ... shoot until you clearly see the tom and a clear background; everyone is in camouflage. Remember, a good turkey hunter sounds like a good turkey. I have called in several turkey hunters. That is why I always sit with my back against a tree trunk wider than I am and place a yellow ribbon behind me somewhere.
- 7. ... shoot until the tom's head is high and his tail is down. I sometimes have to holler to accomplish this. I want a head shot and do not want to bust tail feathers or send pellets into a tasty turkey breast. The tom will always go to the jake decoy first.
- 8. ... move. You are set up and have made a few sleepy wakeup calls. The birds fly down but go in a different direction to feed and don't leave the general area. You feel you have chosen the wrong place to sit. Should you move or stay where you are? You are in a safe area. After feeding, the hens will go to nesting areas to lay eggs and the toms will wander back to their home area. It is best to wait for an hour and then start calling rather than take a chance and bump returning toms. Take a paperback and read -- but camo the cover!
- 9. ... forget to put the SAFETY BACK ON immediately after shooting. It is difficult to remember as you are excited and anxious to retrieve your bird. Calm down. If the bird is flopping, it's all over; he is a dead bird. If he lays quietly you may have knocked him out and he may wake up and take off. Remember -- Safety On!
- 10. ... forget to thank the landowner and take someone else with you to experience the hunt. Fill out the tag. Save the feathers for artists and scout organizations, share the stories and the food.

Good luck this season. Gobble! Gobble!

LET'S HEAR IT FOR PERCH FISHING!

By Mike Elam, NYSCC Director at Large



Yellow Perch (Perca Flavescens) are probably the most popular pan fish sought by anglers. They can be caught year-round, making them a prime ice fishing target. Perch can also be taken with minimal investment in tackle and by all ages of anglers from young children to us geezers. Perch anglers can still fish, cast or drift from shore or boats.

Very adaptable fish, perch can be found in small and big lakes, small streams and rivers, as well as slow and fast water. I've caught perch in 4 feet of water and in 50-foot depths. They are prolific spring spawners which, in some bodies of water, causes them to overpopulate and be stunted. Predators, mostly walleye and to some extent Northern Pike, help to keep things in balance.

Like most warm water species, the female perch are larger and easily recognized by their big potbellies full of eggs. These big girls start to show by early October. I personally release most of the large egg-laden hens. I don't know if this helps the population, but I feel better doing this. It seems a waste to keep them for the fillet you get.

I'm not much of an ice fisherman, but I really enjoy breaking ice with my boat to get to late season perch. Some of my fishing partners didn't know breaking ice at 35-40 mph in a boat was on their bucket list! I also love to fish from a boat when it's snowing.

Perch will bite just about any bait. Worms, minnows, crawfish, oak leaf grubs (aka waterworms), spikes, mousies and also Berkley Gulp work well. My favorite angling method is to fish with a jig. I use a 1/8 oz. bullet head I make myself with a size 4 hook. With this I use either a 1 1/2" or 2" tube jig that is

white, pearl, chartreuse or a combination of those colors. I've had some success with yellow or orange on occasion. Tipping your jig with some meat will really improve your catch numbers.

In warmer weather, May to mid-October, I prefer spikes or mousies. In cold weather, 50° and lower, I switch to minnows or a perch eye. My favorite is perch eye because they stay on the hook better so sometimes you can catch 20 or more fish on one eye. Fresh eyes will keep up to a week in cold fall weather and also freeze well. When defrosted, they look messy but still catch fish. You can also make a brine solution to keep your eye fishable. When fishing minnows on a jig, I'll often cut the minnow in pieces with the head working the best as it stays on the hook longer. The trouble with minnows is a lot of time the perch gets the minnow but you don't get the perch! When minnows are in short supply, I've used pieces of other fish like sunfish, bluegills, and other fish meat that I've cut with scissors, keeping a little skin on the meat so it stays on the hook better. When using a jig, a slow finesse presentation will get you more fish.

Cold, muddy or stained water can make for tough fishing when it comes to most warm water fish. When I encounter this condition, I go to a chartreuse tube jig and a piece of cooked shrimp for the scent. Again, I use scissors to cut small pieces. The larger the shrimp, the better the texture for staying on the hook. I love to experiment when I am fishing. One bait I've tried is raw venison on a jig. Didn't catch a perch but northern pike seem to like it.

I've tried a lot of different lines but have gone back to good old monofilament that I use on a 7' light action spinning rod. You can land some big fish on light line with patience. While fishing for perch on Lake Ontario tributaries I have taken many browns and steelhead from 10-15 pounds. We have caught more than our share of pike on perch jigs, some over 10 pounds. They are usually hooked in

the corner of the mouth and are unable to bite off. The nice thing about a jig is you don't know what you will catch next. We may catch perch, crappie, pike, bass, trout, gar or bowfin; I even caught a muskie once. I catch as many or more big fish by accident than when I'm actually going for the big fish.

For the last 20+ years, perch fishing in Lake Ontario tributaries from the Niagara River to Sodus Bay has been quite good. This may be attributed to the salmon program reducing the smelt and alewife population so some reproduction can take place. Now if the perch can survive the cormorants and gobies, it will hopefully continue. New York is blessed with some great perch fishing opportunities. The Finger Lakes and Oneida Lake can be a paradise, and Lakes Erie and Ontario offer some huge perch.

Fishing on Irondequoit Bay last December with a friend, I caught a nice perch with a big sore on each side that I let go in 25 feet of water. That fish hardly had time to get back to the bottom and my friend caught the same fish. Guess he just wanted a boat ride.



Successful ice angler shows off a couple of healthy yellow perch that he caught through more than 20 inches of ice in Long Pong, Essex County. Photo courtesy of Adirondack Champlain Guide Service

Perch are most likely the easiest fish to fillet and are great to eat. My favorite perch is 10 to 12 inches. I call them "Two Biters," two bites on each side!

WNY ENVIRONMENTAL FEDERATION TO HOLD FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT NYSCC

The Western New York Environmental Federation is seeking donations for its upcoming fundraising dinner to be held Saturday, April 21, 2018, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Southtowns Walleye Banquet Hall, 5895 Southwestern Boulevard in Hamburg, NY.

Included in the \$20 admission ticket is a roast beef sandwich with potato salad and dessert along with a chance to win a .22 Ruger rifle or one of four bricks of .22 ammunition. A cash bar will be available, and there will be door prizes, raffles and auctions. For tickets contact Dan Tone at 716-655-0975.

Donations to this event can be just about anything from sporting goods to tools to artwork or gift certificates. We appreciate your generosity! To donate items, contact Brian Krawczyk at 585-535-7053 or krawczykbrian@gmail.com.

Funds raised will benefit the New York State Conservation Council which has worked for over 80 years to preserve our rights, educate our legislators and watch legislation, support law enforcement, and monitor our license fee dollars in the Conservation Fund.

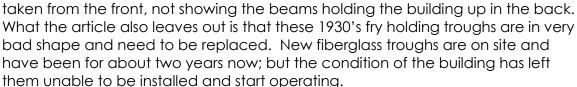
The WNYEF is made up of sportsmen and women from Allegany,
Wyoming, Niagara, Erie, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties. All counties in Region 9 belong to
and support the NYS Conservation Council. Regionally the counties participate in fish stocking,
pheasant rearing and stocking, stream cleanups, kids fishing clinics, and more.



By Glen Adams, NYSCC Region 8 Director

A very good article appeared in the February 2018 New York State Conservationist, written by the new Hatchery Manager, Robert Stein. It describes the hatchery and what happens there very well!

What the article leaves out is the condition of the fry holding troughs as pictured in the 1930's and the condition of the building they are in. The picture of the main building is





Now being a pessimist, I am concerned that with the \$4 billion NY deficit, plans that NYS DEC has stated they have to refurbish and structurally secure the building will be put on hold, and the tanks will continue to be out in the weather. They were covered prior to this winter. Please keep the pressure on the Governor to keep NYS open for hunting and fishing, Keep the pressure on Governor Cuomo to have the Caledonia Hatchery repaired and raceways installed and activated to raise fish.





5TH ANNUAL MARIAVILLE LAKE KIDS ICE FISHING DERBY

By Gary Mosher

The 5th Annual Mariaville Lake Kids Ice Fishing Derby was held at Mariaville Lake on a sunny February 17th morning. With at least 10" of ice on the lake, volunteers from the Schenectady County Conservation Council used powered ice drillers to bore holes to fish through and helped the kids and parents with the fishing. There were 108 youngsters registered along with their parents, making this the second year in a row that the number of kids attending has doubled!! All registrants were given a free ice fishing tip-up to use. Unfortunately this number was way more than expected and we ran out, but this did not deter some of the latecomers as their parents let the youngsters use their own tip-ups. NYS DEC ECOs Jason DeAngelis, Chris Valenti, and Brian Willson were our officials for measuring and documenting the fish. David Perrone, owner of the Mariaville Lakeside Country Store, provided hot coffee, hot chocolate, hot pizza, and live bait during the morning.

The fish were biting! We had a steady stream of kids coming to the registration table to have their fish, big or small, measured and documented. No matter what size fish were caught, there were plenty of smiles all around.

At noon the fishing derby concluded and results were tallied. Door prizes and raffle cash prizes were given out and all received a water bottle and a beverage coozie courtesy of Field and Stream.

The results:

Pickerel: 1st place (tie) - Matt G. 24½" & Levy L. 24½"; 2nd place - Jack G. 22½""

Perch: 1st place - Christina G. 11½"; 2nd place - Levy L. 10¾"; 3rd place - Andrew B. 9"

Bass: 1st place - Jack H. 19"; 2nd place - Gemma G. 17"; 3rd place - Lewis C. 15"

Crappy: (only 1 caught) 1st place - Kenny S. 11½"

Special thanks to the derby sponsors: New York Conservation Officers Association, Mariaville Lakeside Country Store, Field and Stream, and the Schenectady County Conservation Council, Inc., along with many co-sponsors.

NEW MEMBERS



DEFENDER MEMBERS:

Florida Sportsman's Conservation Assoc., West Palm Beach, FL

GUARDIAN MEMBERS:

Dave File, Cohoes Christopher Rice, Albion Lynne Williams, Medina

SPRING ETHICS

By Douglas H. Domedion

I had just spent about 15 minutes slowly and progressively moving my vehicle closer to some tundra swans that were not too far off the road. This slow "stalk" was working, as the swans were no longer concerned about me except for a casual glance. Another five minutes and I would be in a great position to get some good photos. Then it happened ... another vehicle came down the road, the

driver slammed on the brakes right next to me and asked, "What do you see?" Of course, that maneuver was more than the swans could take and they were off.

This type of scene has become very common in the last decade or so as the public has become more interested in the wonders and beauty of nature. As many of you know I spend a great deal of time photographing nature for the challenge of capturing a good sharp image of one of nature's creatures, much like hunting which I used to be into heavily before age sneaked up on my legs and stamina. In fact, I find it much more difficult to catch a good



image of some wild creature than it had been to "bag" them while hunting. A lot of my photographing is done around our refuge areas but in recent years I have learned to stay away from these spots on the weekends, especially during the spring migrations. The area is overrun with folks out to see all the sights; it's a great thing as it makes the public more aware of our treasures and that they need protection and management. However, many have no real clue how to act while out there, and in the process they are harassing the wildlife and taking away the experience others are hoping to enjoy. It is not really their fault; they just don't have much knowledge about wildlife or how to act near it.

Let's look at some ethics that need to be practiced while out there in the great outdoors. First, wildlife doesn't know that you mean them no harm. Their whole life is wrapped around something trying to eat them, so when folks get too close or startle them they panic and flee. This makes them waste valuable calories, may ruin their nesting season and often ruins it for other folks to see them. Today everyone carries a cell phone with a camera in it, so it's just natural that everyone wants to get one of those National Geographic close-ups. Those images you're trying to duplicate were made with powerful lenses and top-of-the-line cameras, probably running into more cash than you spent on your new vehicle. They are also taken by folks who know how to really use photography equipment and have a strong background with wildlife. So trying to get closer with your cell will not really give you a better picture, and all you're going to get is an image of the north end going south.

Second, the more you spook wildlife the shyer it will get; eventually it becomes harder to observe or photograph. Think about it. You're in the park with your kids and notice a man is kind of watching you; you get nervous so move to another area, but he follows you. Eventually he gets pretty close so you grab the kids and leave. This happens every time you go to that park so you feel unsafe and just don't go to that park again.

My advice to those who enjoy watching and photographing wildlife is to be less aggressive and realize that life for wildlife is a real life and death situation. They can't go home and eat, warm up or even find another place to stay. Stay in your vehicle unless you are at one of those refuge overlooks. Folks jumping out of their vehicles and going closer only teaches wildlife that real danger comes from vehicles; and they will begin to shy away from even correct approaches. If you are hiking and come upon some wildlife, just enjoy it and don't try to see how close you can get. You must also keep in mind that not all wildlife is harmless and they could carry rabies, have mange or be aggressive when they have young. Remember other people would like to see that wildlife too. When you see

someone watching or photographing wildlife don't just rush in; you may just be ruining a situation they were careful and patient to establish for themselves and the wildlife.



The greatest time of year is just around the corner. Winter will be over, birds are migrating back, deer are coming out in the open to replenish their winter-torn bodies and the air is super fresh. We are lucky to have both state wildlife areas and a federal refuge at our doorsteps. Get out there and enjoy it, but use common sense, good ethics and remember you are a guest in nature's house. Oh -- one other tip, don't even think about stopping to talk to me or see what I see when my camera is pointed out my van window. I 'm getting old and have a bad attitude about that so I'm not responsible!

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE...

The Great Lot Sportsman's Club will be hosting guided snowshoeing trips this winter at its club located at 4277 Osceola Road in West Leyden. Those interested are asked to meet at 9:45 am at the entrance to the Great Lot Sportsman's Club. Snowshoers can follow the guide (20-year military veterans from Boonville) or take a map and explore the many snow-covered trails on their 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 please contact Guy @ (315) 378-7592. Snowshoeing dates: Mar 20 and 24. Check us out at www.thegreatlot.com.

The Rome Fish Hatchery is looking for some spring fish stocking coordinators in Herkimer and Oneida Counties to get a few people to meet the trucks during spring stocking. Coordinators rally the troops when it's time to stock fish at a particular stream. Anyone can help with one or multiple streams; it's a great opportunity to experience firsthand how spring stocking is done. Interested? Call John Gray at the Rome Fish Hatchery @ 315-337-1390 or David Erway in Utica @ 315-793-2556.

Mike Zagata has become Director of Operations for the NY Forest Owners Association and looks forward to working with the NYSCC and its members.

The Day-Old Pheasant Chick Program is a partnership among DEC, hunters, 4-H youth, and landowners to enhance pheasant hunting opportunities throughout New York. Applications must be filed with a <u>DEC Regional Wildlife Manager</u> by March 25, 2018. <u>Applications and the "Pheasant Rearing Guide"</u> are available on the DEC website.

The Baldwinsville Rod & Gun Club (Onondaga County) will hold a pre-permit pistol safety class on March 25 and April 15 (both Sundays) from 3 to 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$40. For further details contact Warren Abbott at 315-727-8347 or wabbott@abbottfarms.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.

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.



Buck A Member Contributors:

Anglers Association of Onondaga, Syracuse Bison City Rod & Gun Club, Buffalo Black North Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Waterport Broome County Sportsmen's Assoc., Binghamton **Crum Elbow Sportsmen's Association**, Hyde Park **Dutchess County Sportsmen's Association, Inc., Salt Point** Deer Search, Inc., Pleasant Valley Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assn., Silver Creek Eastern Lake Ontario Salmon & Trout Assn., Inc., Syracuse Galway Fish & Game Club, Ballston Spa Genesee Conservation Foundation, Fairport Hawkeye Bowmen, Inc., Alden Lakewood Rod & Gun Club, Lakewood Liverpool Rod & Gun Club, Liverpool Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club, Middleburgh Niagara County Gobblers Chapter NWTF, Ransomville Niagara County Sportsmen's Assn., North Tonawanda Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Rhinebeck Oatka Game Management Society, LeRoy **Orchard Game Club**, Solvay Sauquoit Creek Fish & Game Club, Sauquoit Sportsman's Archery Club of St. Mary's, Albion Whortlekill Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Hopewell Junction

\$2 Per Member Contributor:

Jr. Wilsons Sportsmans Club, Inc. Medina

General Donation Contributors:

Timothy J Holt, Sr., Troy
Millerton Gun Club, Millerton
NY Houndsmen Conservation Association, Walworth
NYS Chapter NWTF, Mexico
Northern Oneida County ATV Club, Boonville
Carlton E. Salvagin, Hannibal
Swancott Mills Club, Lee Center
The Sportsman Coon Hunters Assn., Batavia



IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY A MEMBER, JOIN TODAY!

Cla a alla O a a a

		Cneck One:
Name		Guardian \$30
(OR) Club Name		Defender \$65
Address_		Life \$350 *
City	StateZip	* (individuals only)
Email (print clearly)		

OR

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



Table of Contents



NYSCC Spring/Legislative Meeting Is Just Around The Corner	
Changes To RPT Law 480- A & B	
NYSCC's Conservation Education Committee	
Upstate NY Welcomes New NRA Field Rep	
10 "Do Nots" To Make You A Better Turkey Hunter	
Let's Hear it For Perch Fishing	5 & 6
WNY environmental Federation To Hold Benefit	
Caledonia Fish Hatchery	7
5 th Annual Mariaville Lake Kids Ice Fishing Derby	
New Members	8
Spring Ethics	9 & 10
What's Happening Out There	10
Thank You	11