



CONVENTION 2020, SEPTEMBER 24TH

By Chuck Parker, President

A plan has been set with the best possible options available to us. We will use Zoom, an internet video conferencing and chat platform, as the key element of our annual meeting. Some alternatives will be available for those with voting privileges who are without internet access, but that will be limited.

A call for nominations has gone out via email, Constant Contact, and WordPress Messaging. Election voting will take place online with the results being announced before the close of our session on Thursday, September 24th. There were no resolutions submitted for 2020.

Three presentations by outside speakers are in the planning stages. One is DEC, the other two will be based on three possible choices.

A Council business report will include an end-of-year summary, a Rebuild 2020 initiative update, financial review, fundraising initiatives and a look into the future. Time will be set aside for open discussions via chat replies on Zoom or earlier submissions by email.



The Zoom session will start at 10 a.m. on September 24th. All voting members will receive the email invitation required to join. Others who wish to join should send us a request. There may be a short break at noon and then a second session that should end around 3 p.m.

What does this online format offer us? The means by which to run our fall convention within the restrictions of Covid-19 while completing required business. Participants will be able to listen to related presentations of interest to sportsmen and have access to committee reports. It will enable us to reach out to more people than we typically do with our normal annual

meeting and report to our membership. We will hear from our membership and further define our goals for the future. We will have the ability to record the Zoom session so that others can view it at a later date.

I hope you will attend the NYSCC's 2020 convention. Those having comments or suggestions for our meeting session, please contact me at aparker@twcnny.rr.com.

WHY SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN MUST VOTE IN EVERY ELECTION

By Larry Becker

This is a non-partisan article, the purpose of which is to encourage every sportsman/woman who is of age and a legal citizen to exercise his or her right to vote for the candidates they feel share their values. Before you fill out the ballot make sure you vet the candidates and fully understand what they stand for, what their track record is and if they come close to fitting your values. Vetting is the process of performing a background check on someone or doing fact-checking prior to making any decision, and it should not be partisan in nature. There are many examples of politicians from all parties who want to take away the freedoms we enjoy. There are also many examples of politicians from all parties who support having these freedoms.

Here are some of the freedoms we enjoy that are currently under attack. Note: even if you do not participate in some or even the majority of these activities you must support keeping them because once one cause is lost the others will follow.

- Hunting – There are strong movements by many well-funded “animal rights” groups to stop hunting. The strategy seems to be one species at a time. Through legislation and litigation, legislators are annually filing bills along these lines.
- Trapping – A target for many years, significant progress has been made to curtail trapping through various types of legislation but also through a very effective anti-fur clothing campaign.
- Fishing – If you only care about fishing you may be heartened by the fact that this is currently a backburner item for the animal rights groups. Make no mistake -- this will at some point become a priority.
- Hunting dogs – Each year more and more legislation is geared toward stopping you from housing and exercising your hunting dogs. Most of the legislation is under the guise of cruelty, whether it be housing your dogs in an outdoor kennel or temporarily restraining them or running them in hunting related contests or field trials.
- Firearms ownership – I suspect all of you are aware of the legislative efforts to curtail our 2nd Amendment rights. When the SAFE Act was passed I was sad to hear hunters tell me they weren't concerned because they did not own a pistol or an AR-15. The antis are now focused on all “automatic” firearms. What they really mean is semi-automatics, including your shotgun. The term automatic is used to deceive a public that is not familiar with firearms. Understand that once they are successful in banning semi-autos they will come after your pump, bolt action and single shot firearms.
- Ammunition – Annually there is legislation to limit the number and type of round you can buy. Putting a ban on lead ammo is becoming very popular. An effort to have every cartridge micro-stamped is also gaining traction.
- Hunting “contests” – This is another major initiative by the animal rights groups, and they are succeeding in some areas. They have convinced some legislators as well as uninformed members of the public that these contests are mass slaughters with no limits and inside enclosures where the animals cannot escape. This is not just aimed at the annual local fire department's fund raiser around squirrel or coyote hunting. It includes a sportsmen's club big buck contest or your local NWTf chapter hosting a Jakes spring turkey hunt and giving out some prizes. A friendly bet between you and your hunting buddies and even New York's Big Buck contest would be stopped if they get their way.



I am not trying to paint an unrealistic picture here, nor am I “crying wolf,” I have been tracking legislation and working with legislators for over 30 years and I can tell you the efforts to curtail all of the above are gaining traction like never before. The only way we have a chance to stop it is for every one of us to fully understand who we are voting for and what that person stands for at every level of government from your local town council to the President of our great country. There are thousands of hunters, anglers, trappers and gun owners in our state and we can turn the tide if we stand united and do our duty by voting. In addition, once you have the facts about a given candidate notify everyone you know who shares your values; educate them and urge them to vote. It will be difficult to find candidates who are 100 percent in alignment with you on all your values, so you may well have to weigh which values are most important to you when it comes to a particular candidate. It does not mean you should give up and not vote. A failure to vote is a plus for those who want to take away our freedoms -- and they will vote.

Do not be a partisan ideologue. Be a clear thinker who does their homework and understands that you are voting for the candidates you want to represent you and your values.

NYSCC VP TIDBALL ADVISES NY STATE SENATE AS THEY PASS VETERANS OUTDOOR RX ACT

After a life-altering injury while serving in the Kentucky National Guard in the late 1990s, Keith Tidball helped heal himself emotionally by returning to nature. The experience inspired his academic career working with combat veterans and disaster survivors and documenting the therapeutic benefits of being outdoors.

Tidball, 1st Vice President of NYSCC, served as a consultant to members of the New York State Assembly and Senate on the Outdoor Rx Act, a bill that seeks to make it easier for veterans to access New York State's scenic and restorative outdoor spaces. The bill passed the Senate 60-0 on Feb. 26 and now awaits the signature of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo.



The act serves as a foundation for state agencies such as the Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Department of Environmental Conservation to develop and enhance policies, programs and procedures to enable members of the military and veterans to gain nature's therapeutic benefits. Veterans are often on restricted incomes, so the bill will direct agencies to consider cost reductions for veterans to access public spaces and boat launches while also addressing accessibility issues for those with disabilities.

Tidball, who lives in Seneca Falls, New York, and serves in the New York Guard (also known as the New York State Military Reserve), coined the term "urgent biophilia" which refers to the idea that people in modern societies have developed a collective amnesia about the importance of being connected to nature. But after traumatic events people recognize nature's healthful benefits, Tidball said. Deployed from March through the end of May 2020 on state active duty to assist with addressing COVID 19, Tidball is seeing evidence of urgent biophilia among New Yorkers every day, and an increasing craving for the healing power of time spent outdoors.

"I have collected my own data as well as physiological evidence from medical practitioners that demonstrate significant therapeutic gains" from engaging with the outdoors after traumatic events, said Tidball. His lab has focused on the healing and protective effects of experiencing nature through outdoor recreation as a way to prevent veteran suicides. More than 900,000 veterans live in New York State, 72% of whom have served during periods of combat.

"On the order of 21 [U.S.] veterans commit suicide every single day," he said. "So when we're talking about urgent biophilia, and nature as a protective factor against veteran suicide, I think we're onto something that's very, very important."

Tidball's interest in this work is rooted in personal experience. His injury almost 30 years ago led to blindness in his right eye and forced him to abandon his chosen career path in the military. It also affected his ability to engage in his favorite recreational activities and, after 9/11, sent him into a severe depression which ultimately healed when he and his family bought a dilapidated dairy farm in Canoga, New York, on the northwest shore of Cayuga Lake. He and his family restored the buildings and healed the landscape, turning the land into an organic livestock farm and conservancy. He also rediscovered hunting and fishing, retraining himself to shoot and operate left-handed.

"That all created a kind of reconnection," he said. "And I had a sense of task and purpose." This reconnection, task, and purpose are keys to the healing properties of time spent outdoors, he said.

The Outdoor Rx legislation was sponsored by state Sen. Brian Benjamin (D-30) and Assemblywoman Didi Barrett (D-106). Tidball consulted on the bill and provided testimony on the facts and science of nature's therapeutic benefits. He said he hopes the Outdoor Rx Act will continue to build a movement to empower the medical community to embrace the healing power of nature, and to write prescriptions for those who have experienced trauma to spend time outdoors so that insurance agencies will cover such prescriptions.

NYSCC MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

By Nate Kennedy

Want to lend a hand in supporting the future of the New York State Conservation Council? Please consider signing up for our new Monthly Giving program. It's easy to do, and each contribution goes a long way in supporting the mission of the Council.

Find the "Monthly Giving" section of our [donations](#) page, and follow these simple steps:

1. [Visit the NYSCC Monthly Donation Paypal Page.](#)
2. Enter the amount you wish to give each month.
3. Check the box to make it a monthly donation.

Your contribution will enter you into a recurring NYSCC hat giveaway. For every 15 donations, we'll draw a winner!



As COVID-19 continues to challenge the Council's usual annual fundraising efforts, we are asking all hunters, anglers, trappers, and conservationists to join us in this new Monthly Giving program!

To see the work your donations will support, please visit the [NYSCC website](#), and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!

EHD REPORTED HERE IN NEW YORK

With the fall hunting season about to start, deer hunters should be aware that DEC's Division of Wildlife has issued an alert for the presence of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD). It is a common disease found in white-tailed deer. While more common in southern states, the disease is creeping north and has been detected in deer in Putnam and Orange Counties here in New York, the first positive cases in the state since 2011.

While characterized as infrequent in the north, outbreaks are also known to be severe and capable of high mortality. EHD is transmitted by biting flies or midges in the group called Culicoides (Ku/lick/oyed/eez). Midges are found near mud, which is their preferred breeding habitat, so outbreaks usually occur when deer congregate in wet areas at the driest part of late summer and early fall when seasonal midge activity is also at its peak. Outbreaks end when the first hard frosts take their toll on the midges, and the virus dies with the insects.

There is no evidence that humans can contract the disease through midge bites or by consuming venison that has been infected with EHD. However, it is not advisable to consume any animals showing signs of sickness.

Contact the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to report sick or dead deer, particularly if there is more than one deer in an area or dead deer are found near water. Visit the Cornell University EHD Alert page for more information at:

www.cornell.edu and type EHD in the search box at the top right of the page.

To report deer you suspect may be sick, or to report carcasses you find, contact your Regional wildlife office.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

By Mike Elam

Photos by Krys Elam

Many young hunters will never have the opportunity that many bird hunters in their late 60s and older have had. How many older hunters can remember the explosion from the grass and the cackling when a wild rooster pheasant flushed? Central and Western New York, especially the Lake Plains, were prime habitat with abundant pheasant populations.



In the late 1960's when I drove the Lake Ontario Parkway from Hamlin to Rochester, it was common to see up to 30 pheasants each day in April and May. By the late 1970's pheasants were very scarce on that same trip.

The ring-necked pheasant peaked from the late 1950's through the 1970's. It is estimated to be an approximate 90% population decline from the peak years. If you see a ring-neck now, it most likely has been released. Thousands are stocked each year, not to establish a population, but to provide hunting opportunities. Very few released birds survive the winter even when there were wild birds. Few lived more than one year.

The thousands of ring-necked pheasants stocked by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) are released at staggered intervals on public lands open to hunting such as Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and other state lands. The state birds raised at the Reynolds Game Farm in Ithaca, NY, are a very handsome bird and would be hard to tell from a wild bird.

Over several years I was fortunate to be able to help with releases. It was always a soft release where the crate with seven birds was opened and left for 2 or 3 hours to let the birds acclimate to freedom. While doing this I made some interesting observations. First, red-tail hawks often appear out of nowhere and grab one of the first birds to fly. Second, when crates are retrieved there is almost always one bird that does not want to leave. Third, there are always a group of retired hunters following the truck and some others posted at all the roads into the WMA.



I'm sure some sportsmen's groups, along with many others, are raising and releasing pheasants. There is a cooperative day-old pheasant chick program coordinated among the NYSDEC, landowners, sportsmen and 4-H youth.

Many licensed game farms offer paid pheasant hunting; and there is no doubt that all released birds are not taken, adding to the free ranging birds. These game farms provide an opportunity for hunters and are a way for young hunters to be introduced to pheasants. Youth hunts are also great for starting young hunters, giving them a chance to see a dog work the birds and get some shooting experience. It's so important to recruit new hunters, sportsmen and sportswomen. We geezers are fewer every year.

NYSDEC had a 10-year program called "Management Plan for Ring-necked Pheasants in NY" from 1999-2009 that was updated in 2010 with objectives toward enhancing pheasants and their habitat. Pheasants Forever is a great organization dedicated to improving pheasant opportunities and has

been a leader in habitat enhancement. They are excellent stewards of their finances, returning most funds to worthwhile projects.

How did pheasants get to us? We've heard them called Chinese ring-neck pheasants. Some came from China, and there were populations throughout eastern Asia into the Balkans and the foothills of the Caucasus. They were a hardy and adaptable bird and came to the United States in the late 1880s. New York State pheasants were first released on an estate near Geneseo, NY, in 1903. The first hunting season for them was established in 1908.

I was fortunate in that my dad loved pheasant hunting and always used a week's vacation for the first week of pheasant season. He was adamant about ethical hunting, never taking more than his two-bird limit and under no circumstance shooting a hen. He used to hunt with beagles, raising his own for about 12 years. When he had a good bird dog, he would fatten it up to slow it down. He would say "When a beagle is on track, you can't keep up." Many people wanted to hunt with him because his dogs were somewhat famous, but he didn't like big hunting parties, never more than two other hunters. By the time I was 8 or 9, he let me tag along when he hunted alone. I can still reminisce and hear the beagles on scent. Many times I wasn't able to keep up; but after the gun shots, I knew he would find me even when the grass was taller than me.

I started hunting pheasants 58 years ago with a JC Higgins full choke 12-gauge pump. Still have it, but it doesn't get much use. By the time I was able to hunt we had no dog, so that first year we came up with some good ways to get birds without one, but wounded birds were a problem. That winter I heard of some shorthair pointers, not registered, cheap. I parted with \$15 of my trapping profits and had a pointer. What a dog he was! He loved hunting pheasants and his pointing was picture perfect. Ironically, when he was 8 years old a hen pheasant flushed and hit his right shoulder, destroying it. He lost use of the leg but still hunted for two more years. When I got married and moved, I left the dog with my family.

When I stopped to cash my paycheck at the local bar near the job and have a beer, the local mailman was talking about a shorthair he had to sell, so I bought my new wife a shorthair. The love of my life took up pheasant hunting and even got a couple birds. She could cook a delicious pheasant. By the early 1970's my brother was hunting with us and we had four shorthairs and a golden retriever. The retriever would honor the point of the shorthairs; sometimes all four would point the same bird.

Once the pheasant population crashed, I lost a lot of interest in hunting. What happened to the pheasants was probably loss of habitat; they were a grassland nester, nesting until mid-June in New York. I can remember hens flushing from a nest while mowing hay in June. Now farms chop hay in late May and hedgerows and scrub brush have been turned into tillable land, eliminating cover and nesting sites. Farming is also more efficient and leaves less food. Predator populations have increased; nest raiders like raccoons, opossum, skunks, fox, mink, coyotes and hawks take chicks and mature birds.



Remember those long tail feathers on the roosters? There were contests for the longest tail feather. I remember getting a 23½" feather once. My wife also used many tail feathers for decorations.

How I would love to take my grandkids or another young hunter out to experience a good dog working a wild pheasant, ending with a heart-stopping flush and successful shot.

HUNTER'S PIE BAKED POTATOES, A TWIST ON SHEPARD'S PIE

This is a great recipe that can be made ahead of time, perfect for a hunting camp meal and/or a delicious recipe for friends or family just trying venison for the first time.

Ingredients:

- 1.5 lb. ground venison
- 1/2 red onion or shallot, minced
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 carrots, finely diced
- 1 cup of peas
- 1 tsp. minced thyme or oregano, 1/2 tsp if using ground
- 1/2 cup chopped parsley (optional)
- 2 cups diced tomatoes (or a 14.5 oz. can)
- a splash of wine, Guinness (any beer would work), or vermouth to deglaze the pan (optional)
- 4 large baking potatoes, such as russet
- 4 Tbsp. butter
- 1/2 cup milk
- salt and pepper to taste



Directions:

Preheat oven to 375°F. Wash and dry the baking potatoes, pierce potatoes on all sides with a fork and rub a bit of olive oil over the potatoes. Place on oven rack and bake until tender, about 45 minutes-1 hour.

Meanwhile brown ground venison in a skillet over medium heat on the stove (you may need to add a bit of olive oil depending on your pan and if the venison is sticking). Add the onion, carrots, peas, 1 clove of minced garlic, thyme, and a handful of chopped parsley. Sauté a few minutes. Add about 2 Tbsp. of wine or Guinness or vermouth to deglaze the pan, scraping up any browned bits (optional). Add the tomatoes and stir well. Cook until the liquid is absorbed and the meat is cooked through. Keep warm until the potatoes are done.

When the potatoes are done cooking and cool enough to handle, cut them in half lengthwise. Scoop the inside of the potato out into a bowl (a metal spoon or small ice cream scoop works well for this) leaving the wall of the potato intact. Place the hollowed out potato skins on a baking sheet. Add butter, milk, and 1 clove of minced garlic to the bowl with scooped out potato insides and mash/whip the potatoes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Place mashed/whipped potatoes into a quart size plastic bag and cut the corner to make a pastry-type bag or place in a pastry bag with tip if you have one. Spoon the venison mixture into the potato skins and then pipe some of the whipped potatoes on top. At this stage, the potatoes can be placed in the fridge for a few hours or even a full day until ready to finish in the oven...this makes them a fun and easy thing to serve for a dinner party with friends and family.



Put the potatoes back into the oven, preheated to 375°F and cook about 10 minutes until heated through. It may take a bit longer in the oven if the potatoes were refrigerated prior to this step. Serves 4 and the recipe can easily be scaled up or down.

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 2 potato halves
Servings Per Container 4

Amount Per Serving

Calories 690 **Calories from Fat** 140

% Daily Value*

Total Fat 16g **25%**

Saturated Fat 9g **45%**

Trans Fat 0g

Cholesterol 175mg **58%**

Sodium 440mg **18%**

Total Carbohydrate 84g **28%**

Dietary Fiber 9g **36%**

Sugars 11g

Protein 52g

Vitamin A 80% • **Vitamin C** 70%

Calcium 20% • **Iron** 60%

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:

		Calories: 2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less than	65g	80g
Saturated Fat	Less than	20g	25g
Cholesterol	Less than	300mg	300mg
Sodium	Less than	2,400mg	2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate		300g	375g
Dietary Fiber		25g	30g

Calories per gram:
Fat 9 • Carbohydrate 4 • Protein 4

A PERSPECTIVE -- NEW YORK STATE VS. THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

By John L. Cushman

In the New York State lawsuit against the National Rifle Association, there are a number of things that are just not right and need to be expressed here.

First, if -- and that is a mighty big if -- the people named in the lawsuit are truly "proven" to be guilty, then and only then should they be punished. In every case I have ever read about, only those who broke the law are punished and the organization itself continues to function, for not everyone is guilty. Only here in New York State do we have arrogant officials who want to get away with punishing five and a half million law abiding citizens nationwide for what MIGHT be a crime committed by a few. Talk about a case of throwing the baby out with the dirty bathwater!

Think about it for a minute -- if a few people working in any corporation embezzle or steal money or any other goods and/or services, only they are indicted; and only when and if they are found guilty are they punished and go to jail. You don't put the whole company out of business unless, of course, you are biased against the company because it is firearms oriented ... which of course the NRA is.

Also keep in mind the Attorney General of New York State ran an election campaign based on 'if elected she will put the NRA out of business.' This clearly shows her hatred of firearms and firearms owners. Is this the kind of person who can be depended on to render fair and impartial judgment when deciding who to prosecute and who not to prosecute? I think not, especially when we seem to have an overabundance of much more serious criminals walking the streets of New York State including those we have turned loose because of overcrowding and the new bail reform system.

In my opinion this is an outrageous abuse of power by the Attorney General aimed at the NRA considering how effective it has become in deciding the outcome of national and state elections. And it couldn't have come at a more appropriate and effective time than now, just before a national election. We are all aware of just how devious and unscrupulous the Democratic Party has become in its attempt to unseat President Trump in the upcoming election.

One more thing: we can't and shouldn't look for our Governor to step in and be the voice of reason because he, too, has clearly made it known how much he hates the NRA and all pro-gun organizations by his own actions and rhetoric. All you have to do is remember the SAFE Act that was passed in the middle of the night by both houses of the New York State Legislature and then signed by Governor Cuomo before the bill was even printed and never made it to the citizens for any public hearings at all. You know, the same Governor who has demonstrated his hatred for all legitimate and lawful firearms owners while coddling the people otherwise known as criminals who should be treated harshly and forcefully.

Now is not the time to ignore or stop paying attention to the NRA -- just the opposite. We need to be more active and involved than ever before, working harder to get our fellow gun owners and those who may not even own a gun but are supportive of the Second Amendment registered to vote; and then get them to the polls to vote on Election Day. In addition, now is the time to donate to the NRA Legal Defense Fund and the NRA/ILA so that we may be more persuasive in the elections. If we fail, we will not be able to pass on to the next generations the rights we have all enjoyed for most of our lives -- and that would be a real shame, on us.

If you are interested in reading the lawsuit by the NRA against the Attorney General of New York, go to www.nralegalfacts.org and click on 'Read the NRA's Legal Filing' at the bottom of the page. It's only 19 pages long.

Now if you have an afternoon with nothing to do then you can read the lawsuit against the NRA by New York State; this one is 169 pages long:

https://ag.ny.gov/sites/default/files/final_nra_summons_complaint_08.06.20.pdf

JUMPING WORMS? ANGLERS MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO SPREAD INVASIVE SPECIES

By Bill Conners

Remember those many years ago when you were a still a kid and you played with those little beans that would spin and flip all on their own? The little tan or brown beans — native to Mexico — are not beans at all. They are seed pods that have been inhabited by the larva of a small moth. The "beans" will "jump" when mildly heated. I have no further explanation beyond that, but they were fun to watch.

Then there are of course, jumping frogs, or more accurately, frog jumping. I think I may have engaged in an informal frog jumping contest or two when I was younger. I don't hear much about those contests these days, although I'm sure there are such contests being held somewhere in this expansive country of ours. I certainly hope so; I seem to remember them as being fun. You just have to make sure you are not violating fish and game laws when you collect your contestants.

More recently there has been a problem with jumping fish here in the U.S. — Asian silver carp — that have an impressive, if not unnerving, jumping ability. The carp are famous for being easily frightened by boats and other watercraft, the vibration and noise of which sends them leaping into the air. The fish can jump as much as 8 to 10 feet out of the water, and boaters have been injured when colliding with the airborne fish.



Jumping worms are invaders from the Far East. They are another in a long list of destructive pests that batter our environment and our economy. They been reported throughout the Hudson Valley, Capital Region and Western New York. Unlike long-naturalized earthworms, these overactive decomposers devastate soil ecosystems, soil structure, nutrient cycling, and the physical stability of plant communities around them.

Also known as Asian jumping worms, crazy worms, Alabama jumpers and snake worms, they present challenges to homeowners, gardeners, and forest managers. Jumping worms get their name from their behavior. When handled, they violently thrash, spring into the air and can even shed their tails to escape.

The Asian jumping worm — the name is applied to a small catalog of similar worms — originated in Japan and Korea. They probably came over to North America sometime in the 19th century; but they've only become common in large numbers in the past decade.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources where they were first found in 2013, "It's like stepping on the gas pedal to decomposition. Earthworms simplify what would otherwise be distinct [soil] layers. They mix that up and turn an otherwise diverse soil structure into a homogeneous mass." Jumping worms have a particular talent for leaf processing. Unlike their European counterparts which burrow deep beneath the forest floor, jumping worms stay on the surface, rapidly consuming leaf litter and turning the once cohesive mass of soil into tiny crumbles that easily erode. One study found that jumping worms can eliminate up to 95% of leaf litter in the forests they invade. As a result, organic matter in this layer doesn't have a chance to decompose and return its nutrients to the terrain. In this altered soil it's difficult for the goblin ferns and asters that line healthy forest floors to take root. I can't imagine what an overabundance of whitetail deer and the worm invader could do in combination to the understory of our forests.

It certainly doesn't help that they look pretty much like, well, worms! Anglers use worms for fishing and will oftentimes just dump their leftover worms as they collect their gear and get ready for the trip home. Importing the worms is illegal, but how can we be sure the worms you bought in the

neighborhood bait shop or out of the vending machine at the corner gas station aren't a variety of the dreaded jumping worm?

Like so many of the invasive species we are left to deal with, it is a matter of education. Asian jumping worms are smooth, glossy gray or brown and 1.5 to 8 inches long. They are relatively easy to identify if you take a look at their clitellum (the band around the body of a worm). The clitellum on a jumping worm is milky white to gray-colored, smooth, and completely encircles the body of the worm.

Take the time to read some of the literature and apply what you learn. What may seem to be an insignificant little worm could alter the ecosystem to the point that some of your favorite game animals and game birds could lose the habitat they need to thrive.

Cornell Cooperative Extension has an informative fact sheet available online. It's worth the read.

GENESEE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, INC.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

DEFENDER MEMBERS:

Darin O'Shea, Middleport

GUARDIAN MEMBERS:

Andrew Kennedy, Ogdensburg

PATCHOGUE ELKS LODGE 1323 10TH ANNUAL TOP SHOOT OUTING

Saturday, October 17 – beginning at 8:00 am at Suffolk County Skeet, Trap & Sporting Clays, 165 Gerard Road, Yaphank, NY. Cost per shooter \$160 includes all events, ammo, bagel & Danish breakfast, hero lunch w/salads, buffet dinner w/tap beer, wine & soda. \$250 in prizes to be awarded; face masks required.

Contacts:

Doug MacVittie 631-987-3171, Don Ferguson 631-484-1939, Lee DiClemente 631-921-6322

Parents must accompany shooters under age 18; shooters must supply their own eye goggles and ear plugs. Liability waiver to be signed by each shooter.

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



Buck A Member Contributors:

Chemung County Rod & Gun Club, Breesport * Depew Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Depew
George Washington F & C Club, Inc., Buffalo * Hudson Fish & Game Club, Hudson
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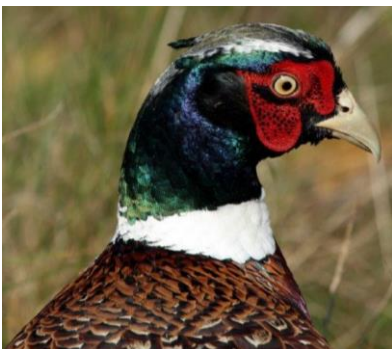


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