

Grass Roots News

ADVOCATING FOR CONSERVATION AND SPORTSMEN SINCE 1933



TRANSITION TO VIRTUAL OFFICE

BY CHUCK PARKER, PRESIDENT

Our former office building is now empty, and the keys have been turned in. With the help of those that volunteered we ended up a week ahead of our targeted completion date. Hoping I do not miss anybody: Mike Reynolds, Mike and Krys Elam, Denny, Pat McBrearty and his grandson, Jim Edic, especially Pat Dudeck, thank you for your hard work in this move.

Pat's persistence to see that we save historical as well as business records for future reference to a storage facility made for an efficient move. Working in clearing out the office showed a lot of the past. There were ledgers and 5 x 7 filing cabinets that were used to log membership information and revenue and expenses from past years. Among everything there is a president plaque that dates back to 1933, that puts the Council in its 88th year of operation. Eighty-eight years of serving the sportsmen and conservation issues is something we can all be proud of.

What we have now is an operational virtual office, a new mailing address and we are ready to continue doing business, which I hope you find meets the expectations of our Rebuild 2020 Initiative. A virtual office is a new mode of operations that offers the ability to further expand our service to the sportsmen and conservation as or more effectively than a traditional office. We do not have geographical limitations when hiring employees. We save the expenses of renting office space and the associated utilities. We have the ability for those that need access to important information in order to do their job to obtain it through their home computer.

Our phone number is still 315-894-3302. Our 2nd line/fax line is no longer in service.

Our email address is still nyscc@nyscc.com

Our new mailing address is:
New York State Conservation Council
1060 Broadway #1090
(Including #1090 is important)
Albany, New York 12204
Mail sent to our old Ilion address will be forwarded for a few months.

I would like to take a moment to recognize Pat Dudeck who was an employee of the NYS CC going on 44 years! That takes a lot of commitment and dedication to the organization. That carried over to her volunteering, as she has been off the payroll since December 31st, to ensure this transfer to a virtual office was done as smooth and efficient as possible. Thank you, Pat, for your years serving the Conservation Council and may your retirement be everything you hoped for.

Our operations are now managed by our Executive Director Casey Kordziel, who started December 21st. Casey comes to us as a SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry graduate with a great knowledge of office operations from her previous position at Frost Valley YMCA camp/environmental education center in the Catskill Mountains. Casey and Pat remain in contact as some items are still in the transitional stage. The hiring of any additional employees may be considered at a future date.

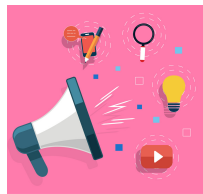
FOLLOW US TO STAY IN THE LOOP!

BY NATE KENNEDY

Stay up to date on what NYSCC is doing by signing up for our email updates!

To sign up for NYSCC website updates:

1. Visit NYSCC.com
2. Scroll down on the homepage to the "Contact Us" section.
3. Select "Email"
4. Send an email requesting to be added to the NYSCC website update list.
5. Accept the request to follow along when it is sent to you via email.



To sign up for NYSCC Constant Contact email updates:

1. Visit NYSCC.com
2. Scroll to the bottom of the homepage and select "Click Here To Sign Up" where it says "Stay In The Loop".
3. Enter your information and we'll update the NYSCC Constant Contact email list to include your contact.

As always, folks can reach out to Natekennedy60@gmail.com with any Council website or social media related questions!

NYSCC FUNDRAISING

BY KEITH G. TIDBALL, PHD

1st Vice president Keith Tidball outlined an aggressive 3-pronged approach to getting the NYSCC back on track and rebuilding the vibrancy and relevance of the Council. As one of the action items detailed in the REBUILD 2020 initiative, we have kicked off quarterly (or more) fundraisers for the Council. These fundraisers will be hosted on EBAY. The NYSCC Ebay page is - https://www.ebay.com/usr/nyscc_fundraiser Keep an eye on this for future fundraisers.

Items to look forward to in upcoming auctions include African safari hunts, collectable prints, and other items of interest to conservationists and sportsmen and women. Recently, Mr. George Steel of Lacona, New York was the high bidder for a waterfowl hunt for 4 in the Finger Lakes! Help out the council by bidding high and bidding often. Got a piece of art, memorabilia, or other item that might raise some funds? Email KGTidball.nyscc@gmail.com with ideas.



EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCHENECTADY COUNTY CONSERVATION COUNCIL CANCELS ITS 2021 KIDS ICE FISHING DERBY

BY GARY MOSHER

The Council has sadly decided it is in the best interest to all to cancel our Annual Kids' Ice Fishing Derby on Mariaville Lake in February 2021. The decision was made after three months of deliberation considering the current CDC and NYS DOH rules and guidelines for large gatherings as well as the rising COVID-19 pandemic infections locally, statewide, and nationally.

This would have been our 8th year holding this event. Every year the derby has almost doubled in attendance. Last year even with the bitter cold weather we had 92 kids registered!

On a better note, this means that 2022 derby will be even better with more prizes and giveaways!

Safety is paramount! We had many Council volunteers assisting the kids and their parents. We also had several local volunteer fire departments join us. We would like to see everyone, especially the kids, to remain healthy!

If you have any questions regarding this or would like to donate towards next year's derby, please contact Gary at 518-526-2166.

Be safe and healthy!

GREAT LOT SPORTSMAN'S CLUB HOSTING GUIDED SNOWSHOEING EXPEDITIONS FOR 2021

BY GUY CASE

The expedition is free and open to all age groups. Snowshoers can follow the guide or take a map and explore on their own.

February 13th
February 27th
March 13th
March 27th



Meet at the Great Lot Sportsman's Club at 4277 Osceola Road, West Leydon. Please arrive at 10am.

Complimentary lunch and refreshments provided (served strictly outdoors).

Due to COVID restrictions spaces are limited and reservations are required.

**THOSE WITHOUT RESERVATIONS WILL BE
TURNED AWAY!**

Please call Guy Case at 315-378-7592 for reservations and more information.

DEC TO MANDATE CIRCLE HOOKS FOR STRIPED BASS

BY BILL CONNERS

Hudson River and Marine District anglers should be aware that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will be imposing the use of circle hooks in time for the 2021 Recreational Striped Bass Fishing Season which opens on April 1.

The new regulation comes as the result of Amendment 6 of Addendum VI of the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan. The Addendum implements measures to reduce total striped bass removals by 18% relative to 2017 levels in order to achieve the fishing mortality target in 2020.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) was formed to coordinate and manage fishery resources shared by the 15 states that on the Atlantic coast of the United States, from Maine to Florida. There are currently 27 species being managed by ASMFC. Striped bass play an important role in the coastal recreational fishery.

Studies have consistently shown that one of the most influential factors affecting the survival of fish released by anglers relates to where the fish was hooked. Specifically, survival has been shown to be greatly reduced for fish that are deeply hooked in the throat or hooked deeper into the gullet or stomach. Striped bass are also particularly sensitive to being removed from the water while anglers attempt to retrieve hooks from fish they plan to release, regardless of injuries inflicted by the hooks themselves.

Traditional “J” hooks work better when a fish takes a bait slowly, does not move off after the strike, or continues moving directly forward after a strike, traits not generally common to the way striped bass take a baited hook.

A circle hook is a fishing hook manufactured so that the point is turned perpendicularly back to the hook shank and the point or barb folded somewhat inward towards the shank to form a generally circular, or oval, shape. Most “J” hook styles have the point offset from the shank and the point or barb, is not turned in towards the shank.

Various studies have shown that circle hooks mouth-hook a greater proportion of fish than typical “J” patterns. As the striper picks the bait up and moves off with it, the circle hook catches the bass in the corner of its mouth as the slack is pulled out of the line. Patience becomes key in that the anglers should wait to set the hook until the bass has taken up the slack line and is swimming away with the bait. Even then a slow and steady pull on the line will be more effective than the usual “snapping the rod back to absorb the slack almost as soon as the fish picks up the bait.

The advantage of the circle hook is that it reduces deep hooking, thereby improving survival of released fish and decreasing loss of fishing tackle. Circle hooks also improve hook-up and landing rates for many species. Data developed by the Australia’s New South Wales fisheries officials show circle hooks have mouth-hook rates ranging from 79 to 100 percent across eight popular marine species.

ASFMC has determined that the use of circle hooks – along with reducing harvest and ending overfishing – will help bring fishing mortality to the target level.

The open seasons and size limits for striped bass in all New York waters have not changed for 2021. Recreational striped bass seasons start April 1 in the Hudson River and tributaries and April 15 in marine waters. New York

The proposed regulation includes all New York State waters where recreational fishing for Atlantic striped bass occurs, including coastal waters of Long Island and New York City, the Delaware River, and the Hudson River to the Federal Dam in Troy, New York. The full text of the proposed regulation can be found at DEC's website. Comments on the proposed circle hook regulation should be sent to fw.marine@dec.ny.gov or by mail to: Division of Marine Resources, 205 N. Belle Mead Rd. Suite 1, East Setauket, NY 11733. The public comment period closes on March 8, 2021. After reviewing public comments, DEC will be adopting and publishing a final regulation.

DEER MANAGEMENT LISTENING SESSION

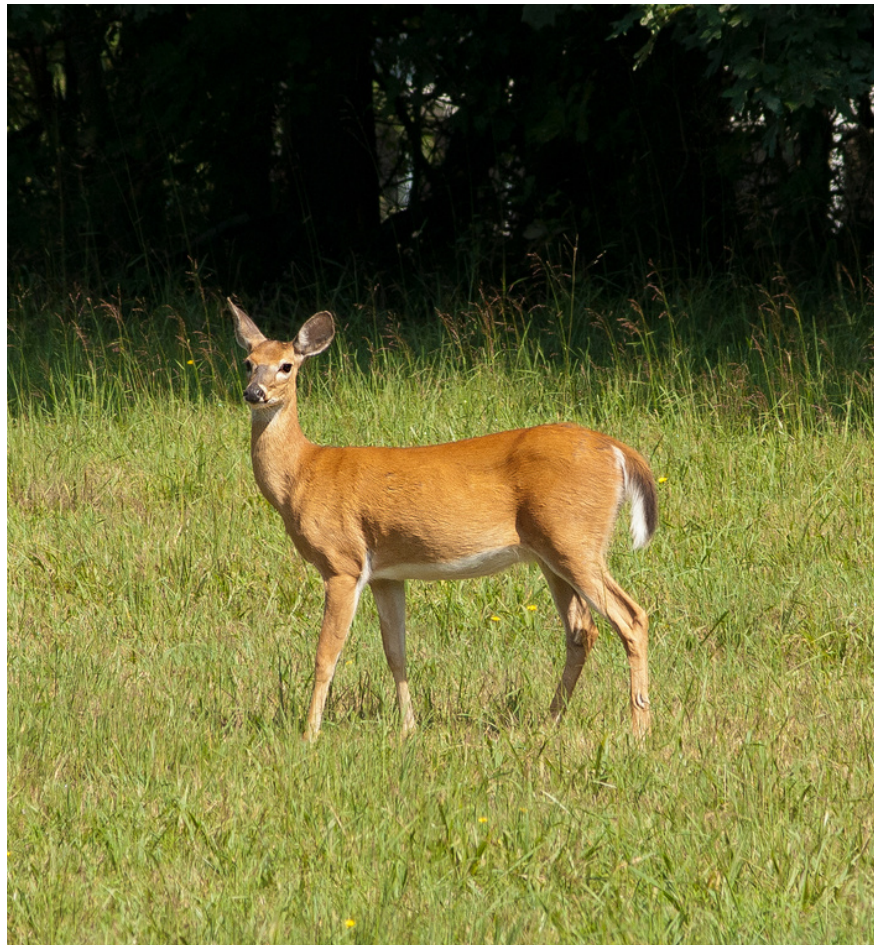
BY KEITH G. TIDBALL, PHD

The Cornell Center for Conservation Social Sciences, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, Cornell University recently hosted a series of listening sessions to help NYSDEC develop a better understanding of hunter beliefs and behaviors related to CWD. Information from focus groups will complement information from a recent statewide hunter survey on CWD (Siemer, W.F., T.B. Lauber, and R.C. Stedman. 2020. New York hunters' perceptions of chronic wasting disease. CCSS Publ. Series 20-3. Dept. of Nat. Resources & the Environment, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. 57 pp.)

The focus group topics were views on CWD, use of scent lures, disposal of deer carcasses, returning to NYS with a deer taken outside the state. Group size for the meetings were between 10-12 hunters per meeting. Meeting dates and times were (#1) Jan 12 (6:30pm – 8:30pm), (#2) Jan 13 (1pm-3pm), (#3)

Jan 14 (6:30pm-8:30pm). Zoom was used to conduct the meetings virtually (participate by computer or telephone). Grassroots news will publish results in the near future. The Cornell Center for Conservation Social Sciences, Department of Natural Resources will be doing more focus groups on a

closely related CWD project in late winter/early spring, so there would be future chances to participate. Anyone interested in participating should contact Cornell Center for Conservation Social Sciences at the following email address wfs1@cornell.edu.



DEC LAUNCHES ICE FISHING CREEL SURVEY ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN

BY BILL CONNERS

DEC will be conducting an ice fishing creel survey on the New York State waters of Lake Champlain from now until the end of March. If you have an interest in the Champlain fishery you should participate in the survey if you have the opportunity to do so.

The survey is part of a larger, two-year effort to survey both ice and open water anglers in the Champlain fishery. Data gathered during these surveys will serve as a baseline that DEC Fisheries biologists will use to understand angler use and expectations and help form management actions on Lake Champlain.

The 2021 ice fishing survey will take place at four access points: Plattsburgh Boat Launch on Cumberland Bay; Willsboro Bay Boat Launch; Bulwagga Bay Campground; and South Bay Boat Launch.

Anglers coming off the ice will be asked to participate by providing information about their day of fishing and allowing DEC creel agents the opportunity to collect biological data on their catch. Collected data will include target species, number caught, and size.

Participation is voluntary. But again, it is your fishery, help see that it is managed not just for you but for the next generations of anglers.

A copy of the Lake Champlain Ice Fishing Creel Survey plan can be found on DEC's website. A report summary of the survey results will be made available later in 2021.



FOLLOWING ALBANY LEGISLATION

BY CHUCK PARKER, PRESIDENT

I was recently contacted by a NYSCC member about State Senate Bill S-65, a bill affecting the sale of ammunition and why we are not being more vocal about it like an email from SCOPE was doing. It was a good question to ask. Let me assure you that it is on our legislative radar. The NYSCC has a subscription to the Legislative Retrieval System that is set up to monitor bills by search criteria that the Legislative VP Pat McBrearty and former Legislative VP Bill Gibson Monitor daily. You are able to monitor it too by going to: <https://nyscc.com/legislative-information/> on the website and scrolling down to and selecting Active Bills, Watched Bills, Major Bills, & Major Bills Reported To Calendar. S-65 above can be found by further selecting Prefilled Bills. Pre-filed Bills and the other search criteria are filtered so we only mention bills that we are concerned about.

As of January 8th, there are now over 2,000 bills from previous years that have been refiled because this year is the start of a new two-year session.

There are also around 100 new bills that have been filed mostly concerning COVID. Within the next several weeks there will be well over 200 bills that the Council will be monitoring just because it matches our search criteria's.

Now why we haven't brought the degree of attention to Bill S-56 that SCOPE has. Let me first say that SCOPE is not wrong we just choose to approach it differently.

While we are very concerned about gun issues our mission is more centered on sportsmen/women and conservation issues.

This Bill (S-65) is a one house bill, a version of previous one house bills in years past and show no sign of seeing immediate, if any, action.

We choose to let SCOPE and NYSRPA take more of lead on watching this style of bill. We can and will get more involved with this bill if it shows any sign of going anywhere.

With COVID this will not be a typical year other than to say that the number of bills concerning the sportsmen/women and conservation that get acted on, will be lower than we like. This does not mean we do nothing or remain in reactive mode. The legislative team and committee will have legislation that they will reach out to the legislature on. You as a council member will have the opportunity to follow suit and reach out to your Legislators, Environmental Conservation Committee Members, or the Governor's Office on different legislation. We will not speak out on every piece of legislation. What legislation we will key on will be determined by our Legislative team.

I hope that this will help our newer members gain a better understanding of how NYSCC deals with legislation and serves as a reminder for our seasoned members. If you are contacted by the council to make a phone call or write a letter, please do so, as that request had to meet a lot of standards before it was sent to you.



SMALL GAME (SQUIRREL OR RABBIT) SRIRACHA SLIDERS



Small game hunting is a great way to introduce new hunters- young, old, and in-between, to the joys of getting outside and hunting. Squirrels are plentiful across most of the state and the meat is super tasty! Here is a recipe to enjoy after a day in the field.

Ingredients:

6 squirrels or 2 cottontail rabbits, cleaned and quartered
1 onion or 2 shallots, chopped
1 carrot, cut in chunks (optional)
3 cloves garlic, crushed
2 - 4 cups apple cider juice or chicken stock
1-2 cups of your favorite sriracha barbecue sauce (easy recipe below)
4 oz. Monterrey jack or pepper jack cheese (8 slices)
8 Hawaiian rolls
8 slices of canned pineapple

Preparation:

Place squirrels in a slow cooker and add the onion, carrot, garlic, and enough juice or stock to cover the meat. Simmer on low heat for 6-8 hours. This can also be done in a Dutch oven or braising pan placed in the oven at 300 degrees for 3+ hours (make sure the liquid does not cook off). Or it can be placed in a large stock pot and cooked on the stove, tightly covered, and allowed to simmer for hours until the meat falls away from the bone (be sure cooking liquid does not cook off). The meat should be tender and easily shredded when done. Meat could also be done in a pressure cooker, such as an Instapot, set to meat/stew for 20 minutes at high pressure, using half the amount of liquid (meat does not need to be covered, just 1 or 2 cups of liquid will do). Once the meat has been cooked until tender and is cool enough to handle, remove the squirrel or rabbit from the pan and shred the meat off the bones. Be careful to remove all the bones from the meat. Discard the cooking liquid, veggies, and bones. Mix the squirrel meat with your favorite sriracha BBQ sauce and heat through (note: do not use straight sriracha sauce as this will be super spicy and not the balance of sweet and spicy that's desired!). Place 8 Hawaiian rolls on a baking sheet, cut in half. Add a slice of Monterrey jack cheese to the bottom half of each roll and toast the rolls in the oven just long enough for the cheese to melt a bit. Remove from oven and place squirrel meat on top of the cheese, top with a slice of pineapple, maybe a drizzle more of BBQ sauce, add the top half of roll, and serve. Serves about 8 people.

If you cannot find a sriracha barbecue sauce, you can make a quick one by mixing 1/4 cup sriracha sauce (Thai hot sauce), 1/4 cup of ketchup, 2 Tbsp. of maple syrup or honey, 2 Tbsp. of molasses, 1/2 tsp liquid smoke (optional), dash of smoked paprika (optional). Mix well and taste for a balance of flavor that you like...if you like more heat add more sriracha sauce. You can also just add some sriracha to spice up your favorite, jarred bbq sauce.

Nutrition Facts

~8 servings per container
Serving size 1 slider

Amount per serving
Calories 380

	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 9g	12%
Saturated Fat 2.5g	13%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 135mg	45%
Sodium 660mg	29%
Total Carbohydrate 33g	12%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Total Sugars 18g	
Includes 4g Added Sugars	8%
Protein 38g	
Vitamin D 0mcg	0%
Calcium 128mg	10%
Iron 8mg	45%
Potassium 498mg	10%

*The % Daily Value tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used as a guide.

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

This notice constitutes official call for resolutions for the NYSCC for 2021. To simplify procedures, all resolutions should be sent to the NYSCC Office by **February 1, 2021**. The Council office address is **1060 Broadway #1090, Albany, NY 12204**. It would be of great help to the Committee if resolutions were submitted early; any resolutions not in the proper form and received by the **February 1** deadline may be rejected.

Please contact Resolution Chair Stephen Wowelko at 315-506-2117 or President Chuck Parker at 315-963-8413 (aparker@twcny.rr.com) for any additional information about preparation and submission of resolutions.



Welcome New Members

Lakewood Rod & Gun Club



Thank
you!

General Donation Contributors:

Seneca County Federation of Sportsmen's Club
Delaware County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

Buck A Member Contributors:

Woodlawn Sportsmen's Club
Erie County Trappers
Ben Miller Hunting Club
Steuben County Federation of Conservation Clubs
Chautauqua County Sport Fish Advisory Board
Niagara County Sportsman's Association
South Bristol Fish & Game Association

GENESEE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, INC.

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

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

Affiliated Conservation Clubs of Madison County *Proud Member of NYSCC*

Since 1939!
Sponsoring: Scholarships, Kids to
Camp, Regional Envirothon, NYS
Sportsmen's Education, Annual
Women's and Youth Event.

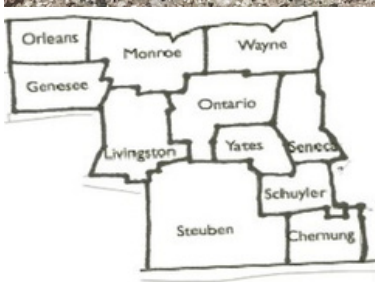
Finger Lakes Conservation Council Inc.

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

President Mike Elam
V. President Bob McIlwaine
Secretary Glen Adams
Treasurer Dennis Race

Member Federations

Chemung Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs
Livingston Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs
Monroe Co. Conservation Council
Ontario Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Club
Orleans Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Club
Seneca Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Club
Steuben Co. Fed. of Conservation Clubs
Wayne Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Club
Yates Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Club



Orleans County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

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

ARE YOU FISHING FOR CLUB INSURANCE?

To request an enrollment form or discuss coverage, call
United Insurance Agency, Inc. at 1-800-728-4522, ext. 313 or
email John Long, Jr. at: johnjr@uiai.com



UNITED INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Competitive Rates
- Superior Customer Service
- Experienced Claims Handling
- Knowledgeable Underwriters
- Representing the Shooting Sports Industry Since 1980
- A+ Rated Carrier

COVERAGES INCLUDE:

- \$1,000,000 Per Occurrence
- \$2,000,000 Per Occurrence Option is also available
- Defense Investigation and Related Cost in Addition to Limits of Liability
- Additional Insured, Such as Landlords, Added at No Additional Charge
- No General Aggregate

