Keith Sheerer of Kingsbury, NY with a trophy lake trout caught in Schroon Lake, location of the 2019 NYSOWA Spring Safari. Details on page 6. (Photo by Dan Ladd)
# NYSOWA Officers & Board of Directors

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## NYSOWA Calendar of Events & Important Dates

### 2019 Spring Safari
- May 9-12
- Schroon Lake, Essex County

### 2019 Fall Conference
- Oct. 24-27
- Cortland County

Next Issue of New York Outdoors, the official NYSOWA Newsletter
- Spring 2018
- Deadline: April 15, 2018

Email Newsletter submissions to Dan Ladd by above deadline at buck@adkhunter.com

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It’s time to review your work from 2018 and begin to prepare entries for the writing and photo awards recognition program. Submission to the EIC is easier than ever. You needn’t send in an actual tear sheet as your original. A copy of the original, with publication name and date and byline showing, is adequate. In addition, you need to send in three copies with that information deleted. And don’t concern yourself with size of paper. Just send in what you have. Entries must be received by the administrators of the writing and photo recognition programs by May 1, 2019.

Deb Brosen is again chair of the Janice M. Keesler Memorial Photo Contest. I continue to chair the Excellence in Craft writing awards chair and look forward to processing your submissions.

—Glenn Sapir

Deadline for receipt of entries for both writing and photo award entries is May 1, 2019

EIC & Photo Contest Rules & Entry Form

EIC CATEGORIES
The categories for 2018 work are: Magazine Column, Magazine Feature, Newspaper Column, Newspaper Feature, Online Publication and TV, Radio, Video and Audio Production (released or aired in 2017 and 2018). Those categories are defined as such:

Newspaper Column: A regularly appearing article, typically shorter than a feature, that has a reappearing name, slug, etc., such as “On the Trail,” “Fishing,” “Hunting,” etc.

Newspaper Feature: A newspaper feature does not regularly appear with a slug or name, is typically longer than a column, usually includes graphics and may have a sidebar(s).

Magazine Column: A regularly appearing article, typically shorter than a feature, that has a reappearing name, slug, etc., such as “On the Trail,” “Fishing,” “Hunting,” etc.

Magazine Feature: A magazine feature does not regularly appear with a slug or name, is typically longer than a column, usually includes graphics and may have a sidebar(s).

Online Publication: Online publication may be a feature, column, blog post or other electronic communication that was paid for and was first posted online before it might have otherwise been published.

TV, Radio, Video and Audio Production: Entries may be outdoor-related topics/formats, including, but not limited to, TV show, outdoor-themed commercial, movie, radio show, podcast recording, podcast etc al.

SUBMISSIONS
Print Entries (Magazine and Newspaper Feature and Column and Online Publication categories) should be sent to: Glenn Sapir, EIC Chairman, 21 Shamrock Drive, Putnam Valley, NY 10579.

Note: Electronic submission of print entries will not be accepted.

Each submission of a print entry should include:
--one original as published or copy of the original clearly showing the name and date of publication and the author’s name.
--three copies of the originally as published article, with the name and date of publication and any mentions of the author’s name, in the byline, photo credits, captions and body text deleted.
--a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you wish the return of your original entries
--a completed entry form for EACH submission.
--a check for $5 made out to NYSOWA, which covers all of the member’s entries
Online Publication entries should be sent as hard-copy printouts, under the same rules that apply to the print categories. Online Publication entries must include:
--the information requested on the entry form.
-- the URL of the entry.
--a check for $5 made out to NYSOWA, if this is the only category being entered.
--Entries must be received by the EIC chairman by May 1, 2019.

Important Information:
--Writers may submit a maximum of two entries in each category.
--The author must have been paid for the work entered.
--Work must have been published between Jan. 1, 2018, and Dec. 31, 2018 (The TV, Radio, Video and Audio Production category includes work released or aired in 2017 and 2018).
--All entries must be the author’s original work.
--Failure to follow the guidelines and rules above can lead to disqualification of entries. This is left to the discretion of the EIC chairman.
--Members not submitting a SASE can pick up their original entries at the awards presentation at the Annual Conference. Those not picked up at that time will be discarded.

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Excellence in Craft Entry Form

NOTE: THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY EACH ARTICLE SUBMITTED

Name_________________________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ______________________________ Phone Number________________________________
Email Address __________________________________________________________________________
Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication entries)__________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
Publication Name and Date  or Date of Release or Airing_______________________________________
EIC Category___________________________________________________________________________

All entries and payment must be received by May 1, 2019, sent to:
EIC Writing Awards, c/o Glenn Sapir, 21 Shamrock Drive, Putnam Valley, NY 10579

DON’T FORGET:
A $5 check or money order payable to NYSOWA must be submitted to Glenn at the above address at the time of submission. One $5 fee covers all EIC writing contest submissions.

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Janet Keesler Memorial Photo Awards Program Rules

Prints are still accepted as entries, but digital submissions are encouraged as this facilitates the judging process and, likely, make it easier and less expensive for those entering the competition.
NOTE: YOU MUST LABEL DIGITAL PHOTO ENTRIES WITH YOUR NAME, CATEGORY AND, IF ENTERING TWO IN THE SAME CATEGORY, WITH “1” FOR THE FIRST AND “2” FOR THE SECOND. E.G., JOHN-DOE HUNTINGFISHING1. ENTRIES NOT PROPERLY LABELED WILL BE RETURNED FOR PROPER LABELING BY THE PHOTO AWARDS ADMINISTRATOR! [SEE BELOW]
1. Only members in good standing are eligible.
2. Prints may be submitted only in 8x10- or 8x12-inch format with an entry form included with each photo submitted. A maximum of two photos per category may be entered. Submissions must be received by May 1, 2019, accompanied by a one-time submission fee of $5 in check form, payable to NYSOWA. Late entries will be disqualified. Entries should have the photo category indicated on the back of the photo. No name, title or caption should be provided. Chairman will assign a number to each photo and keep a record of photographer and photo number separate from the photos.
3. Each photo can only be submitted to one category. Photos from previous contests may be resubmitted if they did not place (1st, 2nd or 3rd).
4. All categories will be judged prior to the Annual Conference, and awards will be made at the Conference.
5. The following are the categories for the contest:
a. Hunting/Fishing--Hunting/fishing photographs, including hero shots, action, hunting or fishing equipment.
b. Outdoor Action--Outdoor-oriented action photographs, excluding hunting and fishing but including boating, camping, RVs, shooting sports, hiking, skiing, windsurfing, etc.

c. Outdoor Scenic--Scenic photographs of either flora or fauna, landscapes, close-ups, panoramic. These may include people, though the people should be part of the scene, not the subject of the photo.

d. Wildlife--Though the judges may take into consideration unusual aspects of the wildlife subject, such as size of antlers, length of beard and length and girth of fish, primary consideration should be given to the technical photographic aspects and general appeal of the image.

e. People--As the category suggests, the focus is on “people.”

6. Categories “A” through “E” do not exclude photos taken with black-and-white film or in a color format.

7. Photo enhancement is limited to standard shooting and/or darkroom techniques, such as: color correction, contrast control, filter use and image cropping. Digitally produced photos should not be substantially manipulated, and the electronic image is limited to correction techniques as described for film.

8. All entries must be the member’s original work. If a dispute leads to a challenge, the member must defend that image and prove it is original work. Use of royalty-free photo images of clipart is prohibited. Their use is subject to disciplinary action by the NYSOWA Board of Directors.

9. Judges shall be recruited who preferably are associated with the outdoor industry and have a professional appreciation of the specific challenges of outdoor and wildlife photography. In the absence of judges meeting the criterion, judges with an expertise as photographers or photo editors will be recruited. At least two people must participate as judges, and three is preferable to minimize the possibility of ties. No minimum number of entries must be submitted in a category to validate the judging of that category. First, second and third place prizes must be awarded if at least three entries have been submitted. No honorable mentions will be made.

10. By entering photographs in the competition, the owners agree that NYSOWA has a one-time right to print and publish any winning image in New York Outdoors or an NYSOWA awards publication unless the member objects in writing when submitting the entries. Unless the copyright owner of a photograph specifically objects in writing, NYSOWA has the right to reproduce winning images for display purposes, including display at venues selected by contest sponsor(s), subject to the approval of the NYSOWA board of directors.

11. Digital entries may be submitted to Deb Brosen: Deborah Brosen featherartstudio@yahoo.com featherartstudio@yahoo.com>

Print entries are to be mailed to the Janice Keesler Memorial Photo Contest, c/o DEBORAH BROSEN 143 Hennett Road, Valatie, NY 12184?

12. To have contest entries returned, the entrant must include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage. Alternatively, entries may be picked up in person at the Annual Conference. Entries not picked up at the conference will be discarded. NYSOWA and any of its agents will use reasonable and prudent care in handling all submissions, but will not assume responsibility for any loss or damage beyond their control.
2019 NYSOWA Spring Safari
May 9-12, 2109
Schroon Lake, NY
Essex County
https://www.rowescabins.com/index.php

Preliminary Details

Chairmen: Ed Noonan, Dan Ladd

Headquarters: Rowes Cabins 1328 US Route 9, Schroon Lake, NY 12870
https://www.rowescabins.com/index.php

About: Schroon Lake is located in the Eastern Adirondacks in the southern region of Essex County. It is considered a base camp and hub for several outdoor recreational activities. Destinations like the High Peaks, Lake Champlain, Lake George and Lake Champlain are less than an hour’s drive from Schroon Lake.

At nine-miles long, Schroon Lake itself is one of the bigger lakes in the Adirondacks and is a popular fishing, camping and boating destination. There are two DEC-operated campgrounds on the lake. Fish species include lake trout, salmon, largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike and a variety of panfish.

Nearby waters include Paradox Lake (which also has a campground) and Eagle Lake, which both have public boat launches. The Pharaoh Lake Wilderness and other surrounding public lands offer a multitude of small-boat fishing opportunities. If you have a canoe or kayak or small boat, please consider bringing it and visiting some of these waters as the timing could be just about right for Adirondack trout fishing. In fact, it could be spectacular.

Several hiking trails and destinations are nearby, including the popular one-mile hike up Severance Mountain, just minutes from Rowe’s Cabins. And in nearby North Hudson, the newly designed Frontier Town Campground is about to officially open. Weather and road conditions pending, Boreas Ponds may be accessible, which has been one of the most controversial state acquisitions in some time. It sure is something to see.

Adirondack turkey hunting is not known for having a lot of birds, but plenty of places to hunt them as there is so much public land around. We are working with local sportsmen to pin-point turkey activity and perhaps obtain some areas to hunt. We’ll do our best.

Accommodations: Rowe’s Cabins will serve as a very comfortable headquarters for NYSOWA members attending this Safari. One of the cabins will serve as the hospitality suite where the kitchen will be stocked with beverages and snacks for your outings. There are numerous bedding options, including queen, full and twin beds, as well as pull-out sofas. Space is limited so we may be crowded, but we will be comfortable.

Costs: Estimated cost at this time will be $150/person. Because we are paying a flat rate to rent the cabins we will not be doing per-night registration. The $150 fee applies regardless of if you are coming one night or for all three. Either way, it's a deal for a bed and meals in such a picturesque Adirondack setting.

Stay tuned for more details and registration in early March!
Membership News

2019 Membership Renewals

Wayne Brewer is our new Membership Secretary and is working very hard at getting renewals and a directory together for early this year. If for some reason you did not get it, Wayne sent renewal messages via email to all members asking them to update their contact information and bios.

Dues are due by March 1, 2019 and there are two payment options: (1) send Wayne a check made out to NYSOWA; or (2) make a payment on Paypal at the following link https://nysowa.org/pro-form-active-renewal/. If you pay by Paypal please let Wayne know by email. Also, if you need an INVOICE of your payment let me know.

Contact Wayne Brewer (315-759-8784) 71 State Street, Seneca Falls, New York. 13148. Email: wbrewer177@yahoo.com.

We thank Wayne for taking on one of the toughest jobs in any organization, and also John Gereau for his many years of service in this position.

Social Media News

All NYSOWA members are encouraged to visit our website, www.NYSOWA.org, and our Facebook Page. Both are not only important modern communication tools for our members, but are integral parts of the outdoor industry. There’s a good chance your readers and advertisers in your publications use Facebook and other social media platforms.

Past president Mike Joyner is currently handling the NYSOWA website while Dan Ladd is the administrator for the Facebook page. We thank Sue Bookhout for her expertise and service in getting both of these established. Meanwhile, stay tuned as coming soon is NYSOWA’s Instagram page which will showcase our member’s photographic talents.

Please join us at www.NYSOWA.org, & https://www.facebook.com/NYSOWA/
President’s Report
By Charles Witek III

WINTER IS NYSOWA’S QUIET SEASON

There are no safaris or conferences going on. Some of our members are still outside hunting or fishing through holes in the ice, but for many, winter is time for staying indoors, writing, and making our plans for the upcoming season.

In that respect, NYSOWA hasn’t been quiet at all. Up in the Adirondacks, Dan Ladd and Ed Noonan are putting together our Spring Safari. It’s going to be held at Schroon Lake, in Essex County, on May 9 through May 12. The Schroon Lake area offers a plethora of fish, ranging from lake trout and landlocked salmon to bass, pike and panfish. And for the hunters, there are turkey there, too. I’m looking forward to getting up there and seeing what I can find.

Farther to the west, Mike Joyner is pulling our Fall Conference together. Things haven’t progressed quite as far as they have with the Safari, but he’s talking to all of the right people and, unless something unexpected happens, we should all be meeting in Cortland County, in the central part of the state, during the last weekend in October. I’m looking forward to this event, too. The last time we met there, rain and wind put a damper on our outings. I still have some unfinished business with the walleyes in the Tioughnioga River, and the rainbows that swim past Lourds Camp.

The folks putting those events together are working hard to make them happen, but the plain truth is that it’s getting harder and harder to find tourism bureaus and local businesses willing to host our outings. Thus, Dan Ladd is chairing a committee that will examine that new reality, and find new ways to introduce our members to every corner of New York State. I was a part of the committee’s first conference call, and so know first-hand that they’re intent on finding the right answers.

David Figura is also looking toward the future, chairing another new committee that is already taking a long, hard look at what an outdoor communications organization such as NYSOWA needs to do to attract members and remain current and relevant in a constantly changing media environment. Maintaining a strong electronic presence is an essential part of that future. Mike Joyner has thus taken responsibility for getting NYSOWA’s website functioning properly, so that it can provide members with the functionality that they need to maintain their memberships and stay informed. Mike already has the basics of that in place, and will be making additional changes as time goes on. In addition, he and his committee are working on ways to broaden NYSOWA’s social media footprint; expect to see us take our first dive into Instagram in the coming months.

But it’s not all about committee work. Winter is show time. NYSOWA had a booth at the New York Sportsman’s Expo, held in Syracuse on the last weekend in January. The booth gives members a chance to promote their work, and gives NYSOWA a chance to promote itself to New York’s outdoor community.

And that’s it for now. I want to thank you again for being a part of NYSOWA, and look forward to meeting, fishing, working and hunting with you during the upcoming year.

Greek Peak was headquarters for the 2014 NYSOWA Fall Conference Cortland County.
Weather impacts fall deer season

I know a lot of hunters who would've traded the weather we've had the past few weeks for what we had in November. More on that, shortly.

We'll begin this year’s annual deer season wrap-up with a couple of success stories from some hunters who remain young at heart. Jean Hagadorn, who is 85 years old and lives in Queensbury, tagged a fine Adirondack buck this year.

She was hunting in Stony Creek on November 11 and had been sitting all afternoon while the temperatures up there dropped to 14 degrees. Just before sunset, a 6-point buck came by her and she sealed the deal. It was her first buck in 20 years.

Her son-in-law, Dave Patton who sent us Jean's photo and story, said, “she walks with a cane. So to see her with a pack, a Winchester Model 70 rifle, and a folding chair over her back and walking into the woods when it's 14 degrees out, that leaves little room for healthy guys to say it is too cold, or the weather is too bad to hunt in.”

Jean is already looking forward to next year.

Next, we move on to Ernie Tooker of Corinth who hunts mostly down in Delaware County. Ernie, now 80, doesn't let health issues keep him down and has a non-ambulatory license. He has gotten several during his 64-year hunting career, but none like the one he took this year early Thanksgiving morning.

Ernie was on his way into a hunting spot when he encountered a group of deer and noticed that one had antlers. He shot what he thought was a buck, but when he got to the deer he noticed it was actually a female.

It's doesn't happen often, but a white-tailed doe can actually grow antlers and there are a handful of biological reasons why this can happen. There's no question that Ernie has a very rare whitetail here.

Weather, or not

The big story coming out of this year’s hunting season is the weather, and it goes back to the beginning. What had been a dry summer quickly turned into a wet fall. It seemed like it rained nearly every weekend during the early archery season and also during the youth hunting weekend over Columbus Day. The rain also disrupted two of the first three weekends of the regular big game season.

Then came the snow. At first, it was a blessing as it came that fourth weekend of the season, which is always a good one. But a week later the entire Adirondack region got dumped on, and then even more snow came the during the last week of the season.

My brothers and I had big plans for a hunting weekend in the Northern Adirondacks. Then, 18 inches of fresh snow fell on six that already existed. We hunted, but were in snow up to our waste in places. We cut the trip short and came back to hunt our local haunts.

Still, at higher elevations even locally there was plenty of snow, which really slowed us down. Instead of making three for four deer drives, we busted our tails just to make two or three. I can tell you, we earned every deer we killed this year.

And so did a number of hunters in the Adirondacks who broke out their snowshoes, not letting the snow hinder them. In some cases they caught bucks on migratory routes, which was triggered by both the snow and the cold. But I also heard from a number of hunters who just gave up after the big snowstorm on November 16. Several told me the deer simply disappeared from their hunting areas and they couldn't find a track, anywhere. Many could not get into their camps and there were a number of
reports of stuck vehicles. We bagged our plans to go to deer camp during the final weekend because we could not get up the hill that leads to it.

The highlight of our group’s season came during the later part when, after dodging yet another storm that brought rain, snow and ice, we got a small party together to hunt the rest of the day. On one of our signature drives I put 18-year-old Adam Mitchell of Hartford on a watch where a lot of bucks have met their demise over the years. When I later heard Adam shoot, I could only hope he had a buck down.

A small tracking job ensued and what we found at the end was a piebald, 7-point buck. The deer was about half-white and half-brown, and is one that myself and another member of our group saw as a fawn a few years ago. But, we hadn’t seen it since.

Adam had no idea of this deer’s pigmentation, he thought it was just a buck covered with snow. This was his first Adirondack buck, so he was elated and we were all equally happy for him. This one is obviously at the taxidermist.

Hunters can help spot HWA

The awareness campaign concerning the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid continues. In fact, there was another workshop held at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Warrensburg office on Saturday, December 15. I attended a similar workshop last winter.

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) is an invasive species rooted in Asia that is plaguing hemlock trees and continues to spread in New York. Ever since an infestation was identified on Prospect Mountain in 2017, concern have risen of its potential spread to the Adirondacks.

HWA feed on hemlock and spruce trees, eventually killing them. Both are key species in for water quality, including trout streams, and also erosion and even forest timber.

The Lake George Land Conservancy feels that late season deer hunters as well as waterfowl, small game hunters and even trappers who tend to spend time time off the beaten path, can play a key role in looking out for HWA.

“Hunters know the woods better than most people,” said Lake George Land Conservancy Executive Director Jamie Brown. “We hope that as they sit in their favorite tree stands or duck blinds, and walk through their familiar wetlands and patches of forest, they take a few minutes to look at the hemlocks.”

The cold weather months are the easiest for identifying HWA, even though it can look like snow. Brown says hunters, and anyone roaming the forests for that matter, should look to see if hemlock trees appear distressed or dying, especially if they appear different from the past year.

“If you look really closely, see if there are any tiny white, cotton-balls on the branches,” he said. “If you see anything out of the ordinary related to hemlocks, please give us a call.”

Bunny Bowl 2019

By Ed Noonan

I have to be honest, I am always asleep when they drop that big bright ball at midnight in Times Square. The main reason for going to bed early is that I have to be up, dressed wearing my hunter orange hat and vest, and on my way to Bunny Bowl.

It all began in 1998 at the Instant Replay gun shop in Glens Falls where I was looking at their guns, and talking to the owner Gary DeCesare and Tim Guy, a sheriff in Warren County. Both of them were avid rabbit hunters and were planning a Jan. 1, 1998 rabbit hunt and invited me to join them. Not only did I say “yes,” but it gave me an excuse to buy a 20-gauge shotgun that day. Thus, the beginning of Bunny Bowl.

Fortunately, on this day the rain and wind stopped, and the 14 hunters, three kids and nine beagles headed out to a state forest area in Washington County on the first day of January. The dogs were anxious as soon as they got out of the vehicles, and so were us hunters.

Tim Guy, of Glens Falls, yelled out “Get a bunny!” and off they went with all of us following. We hadn’t gone far when the lead dog, followed by the rest, were on a fresh bunny trail. Fifteen minutes or so later, the first shot went out followed by “I missed!” But, shortly thereafter, there was a “Got’em — bunny down!”

And this is how the day went, up and down the brushy hills and valleys. I got my shot around 11:45 a.m., and it was a long shot and never touched it with a pellet. It turned out to be the first time I did not get a rabbit in the 21 Bunny Bowls. When the hunt ended at around 12:30 p.m., there were six rabbits taken and we enjoyed some very good tailgate-cooked venison chili and stew.
It's been an interesting winter in the Southeast Region from a weather standpoint, especially on Long Island where the temperatures were significantly warmer than usual for November and December before a few puffs of frigid air finally settled along the coast in January. Still, snow has been especially light throughout the region. While the mainland areas from Westchester up into the Catskills did receive some snow, the eastern end of Long Island had been completely shut out heading into February, which certainly didn’t help Suffolk County’s January shotgun or archery seasons. I’m not positive, but I am pretty sure this was the first deer season in which I didn’t hunt in any snow at all.

Safe ice for hardwater fishing fans was also scarce. Again, the further south, the slimmer the odds of finding water worth prospecting with tip-ups and jigs. On the other hand, the warmer than usual temperatures did allow for a few extra weeks of boat fishing fun with largemouth bass, bronzebacks, bluegill and crappie the usual targets. For the bass – both types – Ned rigs seemed to be a popular choice while some solid late-season panfish scores were racked-up by anglers using Berkley Trout Magnets impaled on light jigheads and worked gently just off the bottom. For those who enjoy walleye, there were some to be caught on balsa plugs at night right through Christmas week.

On the saltwater front, codfish and herring have remained the primary inshore targets. The baccala have been spotty but not unavailable off Long Island’s East End on charter and open boats sailing from Moriches and Montauk. The herring, meanwhile, seemed to be biting best from piers closer to New York City, including Magnolia Pier and Coney Island Pier. Long-range trips to the ocean canyons have also resulted in fair to decent tilefish catches, especially out of Freeport aboard the Capt. Lou Fleet.

Of particular interest on the saltwater front, there were some amazing hauls of giant blackfish this fall. Typically, an 8-pounder is considered to be a “bulldog” with a double-digit fish the tautog catch of a lifetime. This year, however, over a dozen fish weighing 15 pounds or more showed up in local reports, with several in the 18- to 21-pound class. Last year also saw a surprising number of historically big fish hit the decks.

Many have attributed the rise in size of the lunker white chins to better gear including braided lines, super-sensitive rods and strong reels with amazingly smooth drags - in addition to ever-improving electronics that allow any boating angler these days to find even the smallest pieces of blackfish structure. Another possibility, however, is that there are fewer small and medium-sized blackfish around due to heavy fishing pressure and poor recruitment over the two decades resulting in bigger, less aggressive and more cautious monsters having better odds at grabbing a bait.

To be sure, blackfish regulations were tweaked last year with the population divided into two different zones (Long Island Sound and New York Bight) having slightly different season dates and bag limits. It’s likely more tweaking will be done with this species over the next few years. Slow growers that can live well past 30 years, a typical 16-inch minimum size keeper in New York waters is likely to already be 8 years old. Sea Grant lists a 22-pounder as being 34 years old. Ken Westerfeld’s 28.83-pound world record tautog, caught aboard the Fish Bound with Capt. Kane Bounds out of Sunset Marina in Ocean City, MD, in January, 2015, was 35.75 inches long with a 25-inch girth. Interestingly, that fish has been aged at only 22 years old. It should be noted, of course, that blackfish to our south grow a little faster than in New York waters due to slightly warmer water temperatures resulting in a longer growing season. That makes me wonder if warming waters locally might also be having an influence on the size of our bulldogs over the past couple of years?

Just a thought...

With the government shutdown, little has been resolved on the regulatory front in recent weeks, at least from a saltwater fishing perspective, since the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) couldn’t provide the latest catch reports. There are still serious concerns about striped bass recruitment being low and it’s likely this species is being overfished. Benchmark assessments should be provided any day now, but don’t expect them to show any improvement.

Also due to the government shutdown, there isn’t enough time to put regulations in place for an opening of the black sea bass season in February, something for which some of the larger for-hire boat owners that sail through the winter were pushing for strongly and many with smaller boats that only fish in warmer months have generally opposed. There has been no movement on the fluke front, either, since catch numbers for that species have also been unavailable.

Just before we went to press, however, it was announced that New York is suing NMFS over its commercial fluke quotas. The state is arguing that the population of flatfish has shifted north in recent years and that hasn’t been reflected in the catch quotas, which significantly favor states to the south like Virginia and North Carolina. We’ll have more on this as things shake out in the coming months.
HUNTING TRAGEDIES

Hunt safe. Hunt smart. Be sure of your target and beyond. Every year the DEC and outdoors writers across the state emphasize this point to hunters. For good reason. Two unfortunate hunting accidents that resulted in fatalities – one in Western New York (Chautauqua County) that occurred during the 2017 season; and other that occurred at the end of this year’s (2018) regular firearms season in the Southern Tier (Tioga County) – made the news recently.

1). The Western NY incident took place on Thanksgiving 2017 when Thomas Jadlowski, 34, of Sherman in Chautauqua County shot and fatally shot and killed a neighbor who was out walking her dogs.
Rosemary Billquist, 43, was shot by Jadlowski while walking her two yellow Labradors, Stella and Sugar, behind her home at about 5:30 p.m. – 40 minutes after sunset that day. Jadlowski told police he fired a single shot from his hunting pistol at what he thought was a deer about the length of two football fields away.
Jadlowski pleaded guilty to criminally negligent homicide and hunting after sunset. He was sentenced Jan. 14 to one year to 15 months in prison by Chautauqua County Judge David Foley.

2). A Tioga County man is facing a felony manslaughter charge for the death of his neighbor and hunting buddy in a deer hunting-related shooting that took place on the last day of the Southern Zone firearms season.

An investigation by State Environmental Conservation officers determined that on Dec. 9 Dean Brockoff, 53, of Lockwood, fired a shot from his Winchester bolt-action .30-06 rifle that struck and killed David Barton, 73, according to New York Outdoors News.
The shooting took place at approximately 7 a.m. as the two were hunting together on private property in a wooded area off of Miller Hollow Road in the town of Barton in Tioga County. According to state deer hunting regulations, hunters are not allowed to shoot before sunrise. Sunrise that day in Tioga County was 7:21 a.m.
No further information has been released including the distance of the shot and whether Barton was wearing any blaze orange clothing.
Brockoff pleaded innocent in town court on Jan. 8 and is due back in court sometime in March, a court clerk said.

Fewer mallard ducks, geese; hunting restrictions will tighten next year

Upstate New York waterfowl hunters will see a decrease next year in the migratory Canada geese and mallard ducks they can shoot - and in the case of Canada geese, in the number of days they can be hunted.
The revised regulations - the result of an overall estimated drop in the birds’ numbers - were approved by the Atlantic Flyway Council in September. They were formalized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regulations Committee Oct. 16-17, according to deltawaterfowl.org.

Nothing changed for this year’s duck and goose hunting seasons, but next year things will be different, according to the DEC.
“Five the 2019-2020 seasons, the mallard bag limit is being reduced from 4 birds per day to 2 birds per day. Canada goose bag limits in Atlantic Population zones (west central, east central, northeast, Hudson Valley, and Lake Champlain) will be reduced from 50 days and a three-bird bag limit to 30 days and a two-bird bag limit,”
DEC said.
The bag limit (15) and seasons for the early goose season in September, though, will remain the same.
There are still too many resident or non-migratory birds in this state and the DEC wants to bring their numbers down.
The reason for the changes for Canada goose hunting?
“The move was largely spurred by poor Canada goose production in spring 2018, plus a 30 percent decline among Atlantic population Canadas in the most recent breeding survey,” reported deltawaterfowl.com.
According to Atlantic Flyway biologist estimates, it was the worst breeding year in the past 22 years.

And the mallards? “The reduced mallard limit is in response to a longer-term issue. Population surveys indicate breeding mallards in the northeast United States have declined about 20 percent since 1998,” said deltawaterfowl.com.

Binghamton University deer hunt – a moderate success

Binghamton University has been having problems with excessive numbers of deer for years. This year the school decided to finally take action with a three-day “controlled hunt” (pitched as a pilot program) on the school’s nature preserve just before Christmas when the students headed off the holidays.
The hunt took place Sunday, Monday and Tuesday mornings on the school’s Nature Preserve, with bowhunters and crossbow hunters only being allowed. They were all interviewed beforehand by the school’s chief of police.
Winter fun
The erratic winter weather continues to make things difficult for snowmobilers. Sledders have been doing their thing up in the Adirondacks for weeks, but even there the snow levels have been less than ideal. As of late January, snowmobile registrations are down, with a little under 82,000 as of Jan 25, compared to 91,000 at this time last year. Meanwhile, there have been eight, snowmobile-related fatalities to date – all taking place in the North Country.

The ice fishing scene in CNY and Western NY likewise got out of the blocks late. The ice fishing scene has also felt the effects of the erratic winter weather. However, an Arctic-like frigid blast accompanied by snow turned things around in mid-January. In the words one CNY bait shop owner, it went from “nothing to something” and should continue well into February. A number of ice fishing derbies and tournaments are scheduled in the coming weeks – including the statewide NYS Winter Classic Fishing tournament, which allows entries of fish in seven categories from frozen and open bodies of water and features more than $40,000 in cash and prizes this year. Read more about the NYS Winter Classic at http://www.nysiceproam.com/ Home.html

Mark your calendars for CNY/WNY Outdoor shows Sure, it’s been cold as hell lately outside. A sure cure for the CNY and WNY outdoors enthusiast is the host of outdoors shows scheduled this winter. These shows are gold mines, one-stop shopping situations for writers and photographers looking for story ideas and making invaluable contacts.

Things kicked off in January with the impressive Greater Niagara Fishing and Outdoor Expo in Niagara Falls (Jan. 18-20) followed by the New York Sportman’s Expo (Jan. 25-27) and the New York State Arms Collectors Association Albany Gun Show (Jan. 26-27).

Shows to check out in coming weeks include: Central New York Sportman’s Show (Feb. 2) at the Kallet Civic Center in Oneida; Spencer -Van Etten High School Sportsman Show (Feb. 2-3) at Spence-Van Etten High School in Spencer; Adirondack Outdoorsman Show (Feb. 9-10) at the Johnstown Moose Club, in Johnstown; Central New York Boat Show (Feb. 14-17) at the NYS Fairgrounds in Syracuse; CNY RV & Camping Show (Feb. 29 - March 3) at the NYS Fairgrounds in Syracuse; Cattaraugus County Sportmen’s Show at the Seneca Allegany Resort and Casino in Salamanca;

No tree stands were allowed. The hunters were not allowed to use bait and had to follow all state hunting regulations. When all was said and done the hunters only took four deer – a “moderate success,” said a college spokesman.

In less than one square mile, Binghamton University’s Nature Preserve contains 260 deer where (research suggests) there should be only 15 or 20 to be considered in balance with a healthy forest, according to the school’s deer management plan. College officials said they will try again next year.

Dave Henderson retires
NYSOWA member Dave Henderson, outdoors writer for the Binghamton Press, announced his retirement recently as outdoors writer for the Binghamton Press and Ithaca Journal. “This is the last newspaper column I will ever write. After more than 50 years, I am vacating this space with no fanfare nor regrets; no tears or animosity. No sense of anything left undone.”


Fifth Annual Finger Lakes Ducks And Bucks Event
By Wayne Brewer
The Finger Lakes Ducks and Bucks Event holds an annual event in partnership with the Wounded Warriors In Action Foundation and hosted by the Kuneytown Sportmens Club. The event honors wounded Purple Heart recipients from across the United States with the goal of facilitating outdoor recreation as a form of respite, restoration, recreation and camaraderie for our Nation’s combat wounded heroes. During this year’s fifth annual event, held the week before Veteran’s Day, five Purple Heart recipients experienced three days of guided whitetail deer and waterfowl hunting. The wounded warriors had the opportunity to observe Seneca County’s white deer, take a buck with a crossbow, hunt waterfowl and participate in a hunting trip the first time since their injuries. Best of all, the wounded warriors and their guides made life long memories.

The wounded warriors stayed at a house on Cayuga Lake that was donated by a family for this event. During their stay the wounded warriors dined on the game they harvested. They also learned about game preparation and cooking from Cornell Cooperative Extension Nutrition Educator and creator of Wild Harvest Table, Moira Tidball. Wild Harvest Table is a resource for game and fish recipes, nutrition information, and preparation techniques.

The three-day hunting trip ended with a banquet at Kuneytown Sportmens Club to honor the heroes and to raise funds for future events.

In his opening remarks, Master of Ceremonies Keith Tidball, Chapter Leader for the Wounded Warrior In Action Finger Lakes Chapter, stated that, “Over five years ago, when we saw an opportunity to host combat, wounded warriors, Purple Heart recipients, men and
women who have bled for our freedom and our way of life, who have defended our rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and especially in our case the happiness that comes with pursuit of fish and game in field, forest, lake or stream, well, we literally jumped at the opportunity.”

Another important guest at this year’s banquet was retired Army LTC John McDaniel, who is the founder and president of Wounded Warriors in Action. McDaniel felt that his service to the nation was not yet finished and in 2007 he established WWIA. He started as a concerned citizen taking a few Wounded Warriors out on hunting and fishing trips, but quickly saw that the need for this kind of healing was greater than he could support on his own. In 2009 WWIA was granted 501 (C)(3) nonprofit status and has been changing the lives of American Heroes across the country ever since.

The goal of WWIA is to make a difference in the life of a Purple Heart veteran by providing world-class outdoor sporting activities to the wounded warriors to assist in their recovery efforts at no cost to them. The sporting activities are a means to recognize and honor their sacrifice, encourage independence and connections to communities, and promote healing and wellness through camaraderie and a shared passion for the outdoors.

WWIA serves over 200 Purple Heart recipients each year over 50 events across North America. Some of the events include guided waterfowl hunting in Maryland; duck, goose, pheasant and chucker hunting in Alabama; deer, wild pigs, pheasant and coyote hunting in Wisconsin; turkey hunting and wild hog in South Carolina; spring turkey hunting in Florida; turkey hunting in Virginia; cast and blast in Kansas; turkey hunting in Tennessee; inshore fishing in Texas; bill fishing in Mexico; halibut fishing in Alaska; bass fishing in Kentucky; bear hunting in Maine and walleye fish in Lake Erie.

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the armed forces of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. It is specifically a combat decoration the LTC McDaniel said was a medal no one wants to receive, but everyone greatly honors.

The honored guests at this year’s Finger Lakes Ducks and Bucks were Derek Van Buren, SSG Reserve National Guard who suffered multiple shrapnel wounds and traumatic brain injuries (TBI) from a RPG (a Russian portable, reusable unguided shoulder launched anti-tank rocket propelled grenade launcher) hitting his gun truck in Afghanistan. William “Bill” Ring, E4 USMC who

suffered shrapnel wounds and PTSD in Vietnam. Wesley Black E6 Army who has PTSF, TBI and is partially deaf in his right ear from an IED blast. He also has stage 4 colon cancer and had a portion of his intestine removed. Wesley is an active firefighter and EMT. Micah Welintukonis E7 was shot in his left arm and took a direct hit from a suicide bomber with shrapnel in his left arm, face and abdomen in Kosovo that put him in a medically induced coma for two weeks and suffers from TBI. Matthew Huffman, E4 Army active duty and National Guard Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom was hit with grenade shrapnel in his right arm and the back of both legs along with suffering a concussion.

The success of the Ducks and Bucks is a result of the involvement from the entire community, including over 40 business and individual sponsors, and organizational sponsors. They include the VFW Posts, Seneca County Cornell Cooperative Extension, Seneca Falls Ducks Unlimited Chapter, waterfowl and deer hunting guides and outfitters, the Deer Haven Park and (part of the former Seneca Army Depot), members of the New York State Environmental Conservation Police; members of the Kuneytown Sportsmen Club, the 18 member of the WWIA Event Committee and all those individuals that attended the celebration banquet to honor the wounded warriors and help raise funds for future events.

The silent auction, raffles and auction at the Ducks and Bucks Banquet reinforces the generosity of the supporters. Bids on auction item are extremely generous and, in some cases, the purchased items are donated back to the Wounded Warriors being honored. To emphasize the support this event has, Lieutenant Colonel McDaniel presented Keith Tidball and the Ducks and Bucks event with a plaque for raising $70,000 during the organization’s first four years.

This year’s banquet was held on the birthday of the United States Marine Corps and the day before Veterans Day. Keith Tidball made it very clear why so many businesses, organizations and individuals supported, contributed to and attended the event, when he said, “We’re here today to honor our heroes, to remember their achievements, their courage and their dedication, and to say thank you for their sacrifices. Thinking of the heroes who join us in this group today and those who are here only in spirit, a person can’t help but feel awed by the enormity of what we encounter. We are in the midst of patriots and the family and friends of those who have nobly served.”

For more information on WWIA and Ducks & Bucks contact Keith Tidball, Chapter Leader for WWIA Finger Lakes Chapter at kgtidball@yahoo.com.
A collection of articles—167 of them—by NYSOWA member Glenn Sapir has been thoughtfully selected and published in a new, leatherette-bound volume, "A Sapir Sampler: Favorites by an Outdoor Writer." Sapir has enjoyed a long and storied career, not only having written for a wide variety of publications, but also having been the first person to serve on the editorial staffs of what was considered “The Big Three” of outdoor magazines—Field & Stream, Outdoor Life and Sports Afield. He also contributed the outdoor column to The Journal News and its predecessors for 27 years. His writing has been recognized with an impressive list of awards, including lifetime excellence in craft honors from Outdoor Writers Association of America and the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers. He has been inducted into the New York State Outdoorsmen’s Hall of Fame.

"Having retired from full-time work in 2014, after first beginning my career in 1970, I had amassed a collection of more than a thousand feature articles and columns I’d written for a variety of magazines and newspapers," Sapir said. "I wanted to select some of my favorites from 1970 until, as it turned out, 2018, and share them with family, friends and interested readers."

What was originally envisioned to be a small collection grew to a 480-page book. The articles are divided into four categories—Family and Friends, Destinations and Adventures, Interesting People and Mixed Bag—and the articles range from fishing for char in an Arctic Ocean tributary to angling for peacock bass in the Amazon basin. The hunting articles vary from pursuing caribou and moose in remote Newfoundland to stalking mule deer in Montana’s Missouri Breaks. Mixed with those many far-flung fishing and hunting adventures are accounts of outings and people close to home in the author’s beloved Hudson Valley. The subject matter also includes birding, hiking, camping, photography, rafting, tubing, camping and other outdoor recreation.

The interesting people whom Sapir has met and about whom he has written cover a cross-section of notables, from a future vice president of the United States, a World War II Congressional Medal of Honor Award recipient and a Hall of Fame sports broadcaster to professional athletes and singers and the co-founder of a retailing giant. Lesser-known but fascinating outdoors people also fill the pages of “A Sapir Sampler.” The Mixed Bag section not only includes many articles on fishing and hunting, but also demonstrates the breadth of subject matter related to the outdoors about which Sapir has written.

The first section, “Getting Started,” gives the reader a brief insight into the influences in his life that led to Sapir producing the thousands of articles he’s written.

The huge collection of articles is only available from the author. It can be ordered for $29.50, plus $5, that is, $34.50 ppd. Ten percent of the purchase price on books bought by NYSOWA members will be redirected to the NYSOWA Scholarship Fund. Checks and money orders written either to Glenn Sapir, or to Ashmark Communications, Inc., can be sent to 21 Shamrock Dr., Putnam Valley, NY 10579.
Joel Spring releases his fifth book, Strong is the Current

*Strong is the Current* deals with the aftermath of the loss of Joel Spring’s daughter to brain cancer and how he dealt with the enormous grief by spending time pondering life, death and the meaning of time while fishing local waterways. “Living every parent’s nightmare, I hope this book might help others through the difficult loss of a loved one. The book also serves up some humor and lighthearted pieces that will entertain fishermen and non-fishing readers alike” says author Joel Spring.

**Author Bio**


**Book Information**

More than just a collection of fishing stories, in *Strong is the Current* the author struggles to find meaning in life after the tragic death of his 23-year old daughter due to a brain tumor in 2016. At one point during his family’s ordeal, Joel promised his daughter that he would write a book in her honor. Through his informal writing style Joel shares with the reader his grief and his reflections as he fly fishes the Catskills or pursues gar, bowfin, bass, and northern pike in the tributaries of Lake Ontario where he lives. Seeking solace in the outdoors, fishing becomes his medication and his time on the water provides meditation time to put this tragedy into perspective. The book has humor, but also sadness that can bring the reader to tears. *Strong is the Current* is a wonderful tribute to the author’s daughter and could provide anyone of us who has lost someone special a pathway through the darkness. Joel’s openness and willingness to share his struggle is inspirational.

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**Call to Action**

*Strong is the Current* is available at [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com), as well as other fine booksellers. Please check out Strong is the Current and Joel Spring’s other books on Facebook and Instagram.
Todd Mead publishes book for the traveling deer hunter

Todd Mead has released his third book, *Pursuing Public Land Bucks: DIY Hunts from the Mountains to the Midwest*. The new book appeals to the traveling hunter working on a budget, and most of all, hunting on public land. Todd published it just before the holiday season and is making appearances at numerous sport shows and event.

Todd, who is from Kingsbury but lives in Moreau, has branched out from successfully hunting big whitetails here in the Adirondacks to doing the same in places like Iowa, Illinois, Ohio and other states. He is living a dream that so many other hunters desire, but in this book he lays out clearly how anyone can do exactly what he does. Modest is an understatement when describing him, and helping others is one of his main goals in publishing this book.

“I think I took many things for granted since I had a great mentor in my father. I didn’t realize how difficult it can be for people to learn little things that can definitely lead to more successful hunts,” he said. I figured by writing the book, I might be able to share some knowledge I have gained along the way and save some people a lot of time by reading about what I have learned while pursuing bucks on public land. I also wrote it to show people that there’s public land all over the country that holds good deer, and it is waiting to be explored. You just have to take a step out of your comfort zone and give it a whirl.”

Throughout the course of the book Todd lays out the basics, going into detail on equipment his crew uses, including tents as they often camp on or near the public lands they hunt, which really helps the budget. From there he touches on topics like getting to know locals, signs to help identify good deer hunting ground, dealing with weather and also using trail cameras; something he’s perfected over the years. Along the way he shares personal stories of both successful, and even not-so-successful, hunts to back up his points, which helps the reader put it all together.

“The secrets of success that I share are things that I have learned during my time in the woods,” Todd says. “It doesn’t mean these things will work for everyone, but these tactics have helped me achieve a level of success that makes others want to learn more about what I do and how I do it. The book starts by addressing the equipment that you will need to pull off a DIY hunt, and it dives into the different ways you can locate bucks on heavily hunted public land.”

Todd says Pursuing Public Land Bucks is much different than his previous two books, not just because it focuses on other areas, but because of the style in which it was written. “Instead of being a storyteller, I had to make an outline and try to provide examples to prove the theories that I share with my readers,” says Todd. “It forced me to write it as an educational tool. This was a challenge for me since most of my work over the years has been focused around creative writing.”

To summarize, Todd just wants to help other hunters do what we all enjoy, and that is go hunting, perhaps have some luck, all the while keeping the expenses down. He says, “I would like people to read this book and realize that there are unlimited possibilities to hunt on public land across the country. You don’t need a lot of money to do it, and you can pick a different place to explore every year if you want to see different types of land and experience hunting season in different places.”

Todd is hosting a book signing on Wednesday, Dec. 19 from 5-8pm at the Adirondac Bar & Grill in Queensbury. Meanwhile, keep an eye out for Pursuing Public Land Bucks at local book shelves. You can also keep tabs on him at his website, toddmead.com.
Need a story: head for the hard water

Even in an area known for outdoor recreation, sometimes it can be a challenge to find story material if you have a weekly column to write. This is especially the case during the winter. However, one activity that has provided a multitude of content for me over the years has been ice fishing; particularly, ice fishing tournaments.

With a few exceptions, I have to believe that any outdoor writer in New York is in the vicinity of a popular ice fishing destination. And it’s very likely that there is a tournament of some sort going on at some point in the winter. Municipalities, emergency services departments and even bait shops all hold ice fishing derbies, usually as fundraisers for their communities.

As an outdoor writer, the opportunities here are endless and ongoing. I’ve been attending ice fishing derbies since the early days of my column nearly 20 years ago. Along the way I have found there are many angles to obtain story material at these events.

First, consider participating in them. I’ve personally fished my share of tournaments over the years. One of them is a weekend-long tournament held on Schroon Lake in Essex and Warren Counties, which is where Ed Noonan and I are hosting the 2019 NYSOWA Spring Safari. Hundreds of anglers take part in this tournament and I have fished in a half-dozen of them myself. I plan to again this year.

Out on the ice, of course, are some great photo opportunities, but it is at the weigh-in at the Schroon Lake Fish and Game Club where the real photo-ops exist. Not only do I take photos of the anglers with their fish, I often interview them about their tactics, which comes in handy when writing future articles about ice fishing.

I also volunteer to help out at a local ice fishing derby on Glen Lake in Warren County, a place many NYSOWA members have visited over the years. This gives me access to the anglers and the results of the tournament for later use. Sometimes I drop in on the weigh-in at other tournaments just to get the results. There, I talk to anglers and take photos of them with their fish. I also shoot a photo of the leader-boards for reference.

Each year in early winter I gather a list of local ice fishing derbies and publish them in my column, which readers find very helpful. I include the NYS Winter Classic in this article, who is a NYSOWA Supporting member. To gather the list, I search websites and Facebook pages for this information.

Throughout the ice fishing season I share stories that come my way, and many of them come from tournaments. Then, after the season I publish the results of as many local tournaments as I can get them for. Often this requires reaching out to tournament organizers, who gladly provide this information. My readers love this and look forward to it at the end of every ice fishing season.

Ice fishing lends itself to many other story ideas. Equipment, species and trophy fish stories are always of interest, especially when there are quality photos to support the written material. One of my favorite stories is one I wrote a number of years ago on ice shanties.

So, if you’re looking for some story material, dig out the packbasket, tip-ups, and bring along your notepad and camera. You’ll have fun and will provide some solid reading material to your publication.
Possibly two of the hardest birds to get in the turkey repertoire are the Gould’s and Oscellated turkey. Mainly because of travel, border crossings, gun permits, licenses and many such set backs that we do not encounter when we are hunting Eastern or Merriams or Rio Grande birds.

My solution? Let someone else take care of it. Thus I hired on to Coues Outfitters in Tuscon, Arizona for my Gould’s hunt in the spring of 2018. Yes, I can honestly say they took care of everything. From a safe place to leave my car while I hunted (yes you ride across the border with them); to dealing with the USDA in getting my bird back across the border to a terrific taxidermist.

There are not a whole lot of outfitters in Mexico and even less when you want to hunt turkeys. Coues Outfitters (as well as Sierra Madre Outfitters) came out of the advertisement section in Turkey Call magazine. So I contacted both and heard back from them promptly. I was leaning towards Coues Outfitters because the Gould’s hunt would be a 5 hour drive from Tuscon and was $1000 less than the ocellated turkey hunt which would require an international flight at the minimum.

So I spoke with Mark Kuhn, one of the owners of CO in mid summer and he assured me I would have nothing to worry about, from gun permits all the way down the line. He was not sure what day would be opening day, as with all hunts, the calendar seems to change things. But as soon as he knew he would be in contact with me. Timing was critical as I had arranged to hunt spring bear also, in Idaho.

Mark dropped me an email in early November telling me May 1st would be opening day. I sent out my deposit to him the next day. All was good.

It was a four days drive to Tuscon. I stayed at the Super 8 motel right off the interstate. I met Mark and his partner Bobby Boido over at Bob’s house, as well as the two other hunters, Jim and Danny who flew in. I left my car and hopped in the company pickup truck for the arduous journey across the border.

We stopped on the American side at customs to get a paper that said our guns were US. Not something we bought in Mexico on the way back. Then a bit of a stop at the Mexican Customs, where Mark said, stay right here by the truck while he and Bobby took care of customs for us. It was a short ride and we stopped at Leo’s, roadside hacienda or puesto de cominda (food stand). Bobby and Mark picked up the meal of tacos, enchiladas and beers. It was top shelf, not what you’d expect. Then it was off for the four hour drive to the ranch.

We arrived at the ranch and met the owner, Mr. Adalberto Maldonado. He owns quite the spread raising mostly cattle on his 35 square miles. Since Bobby and Mark had been scouting the ranch in the days before our arrival, I was sure that they knew what to do and where to go.

Let me tell you a little about the Sonora Desert, if you’ve never been there. Its not a flat, barren piece of ground. Its very mountainous, with roads winding thru it. Lots of deciduous trees and few cactus. The area’s huntable wildlife consists of mule deer, coues deer, Gould’s turkey and there is incredible flora and fauna, of which I could not recognize, running throughout.
It was a 2 hour ride by side by sides from the front gate to our camp. It was an old hacienda made of brick and mortar back in the early 20th century. Water was collected in a cistern and pumped in, cooking by our Chef Tavo was done in a fairly modern kitchen with the use of propane and our refrigeration consisted of several big coolers. The bedrooms slept four and the living room was equipped with comfy couches and a satellite tv. Near by the goucho's or cowboys stayed in a more primitive facility. The goucho's were tasked with mending fence's, putting up new ones and tending to cattle. Bobby and Mark spoke with the goucho's (Bobby speaks fluent spanish) and asked them if they'd seen any turkeys. The answer was YES. Down near the water holes. So we settled in for the afternoon and listened for toms. To our amazement about 7 pm they started gobbling. This was our mark for the morning.

The very next morning, dark and early we headed out after a hearty Mexican style breakfast. We drove in two UTV's with all three of us hunters. We stopped at a place where we heard the birds gobbling the night before. Turns out we scared them off the roost. Oh well! So in a little while we set up in a big "bowl" with Jim and Danny and guide Mark on one side and myself with guide Bobby on the other. I got a great view of the valley and other hunters and seen my first coati mundi. A little while later the turkeys we spooked earlier responded to Mark's calls and in no time flat the tom showed himself along with a half dozen hens. The view was spectacular and I got to watch Danny pull the trigger on a nice 20+ pound bird. We hunted hard that afternoon, but to no avail.

Day two found us searching for birds all day. Bobby and I split up from Jim, Danny and Mark to cover more ground, but the turkeys were silent...until the evening. We were at camp after dinner when we heard a bird gobbling not far from us. We all took off in the direction of the bird and sat in another "bowl" where we put the bird to roost.

The following day we set up in the same area where we were the evening before. This time I got the shot off at a real nice bird not more than 30 yards away. Lots of high fives and congratulations from all and it was a nice walk back to the four wheelers.

Day four found us hunting in various spots. Jim still had his tag unfilled and Danny wanted to take a second bird, I went along for the ride. We hunted in a corral where we found lots of turkey tracks, then a few more places, but to no avail. Jim was going to spoil the guides 100% over seven years...an incredible record.

The last day and I stayed back and packed my gear for the ride back to the states. Jim, Danny, Mark and Bobby went out and hunted near the corral again. Lo and behold the turkeys were feeding in the corral and Jim finally got his bird.

After Mark fully cleaned the bird we were headed back to the USA. We stopped at Mexican customs and zipped right thru. American customs and the USDA were another story, but the two hour delay was simply an inconvenience for us successful hunters.

So in summing it all up, it was a great hunt. All the details were taking care of by Coues Outfitters and I had my bird checked in by a taxidermist in Scottsdale who is a USDA approved taxidermist and then it was shipped to Tri-Ponds Taxidermy in Glenfield, NY where it is being mounted by Gregg Lefield. If you want a hunt that is truly fantastic hunt, a low priced adventure with nothing to worry about crossing the border, I'd suggest you contract Coues Outfitters and talk with Mark or Bobby at 520-490-8367 or 520-405-3195.
Program Purpose:
National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) has entered a partnership with the Hunting Heritage Trust to create a million-dollar grant program in support of hunting and the shooting sports recruitment, retention and reactivation efforts; known as R3. Programs will be considered that emphasize and support initiatives to provide shooting sports and hunting opportunities with a focus on non-traditional participants.

Who may apply?
Grant applications may be submitted by and in the name of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) seeking funding for hunting and shooting sports R3 efforts. Organizations are only eligible for one grant award from the Grant Program.

How much grant funding is available?
A total of $100,000 will be available to qualifying NGOs for the purpose of supporting projects and/or programs designed to recruit, retain and reactive (R3) hunting and shooting sports activities. Emphasis must focus on an incremental increase of participants and must be designed to attract non-traditional participants. The amount of funding that qualifying applicants may be awarded shall be at the sole discretion of NSSF. NSSF’s award decisions are final and non-reviewable.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES:
• Grantees must use all granted funds to support the R3 Partnership Grant Program specific to shooting sports and hunting activities.
• Grant funds shall not be used for any unrelated, unnecessary or indirect expenses.
• All grant applications must be submitted to NSSF by May 15, 2019 for consideration.
• All projects must be completed by March 18, 2020.
• A final report must be sent to NSSF by March 25, 2020.

HOW TO APPLY:
**Grant proposals must be received by NSSF no later than 5pm (EST) on May 15, 2019

Download the Guidelines: for the Grant Program and Grant Proposal Outline and submit according to guidelines. https://www.nssf.org/nssf-hht-grant-program/

Completed grant proposals for consideration will be sent via email and mailed to:

Melanie Knox
11 Mile Hill Road
Newtown, CT 06470-2359
Telephone: (203) 426-1320

Email: mknox@nssf.org https://www.nssf.org/

https://nationalr3plan.mn.co
NYS WINTER CLASSIC FISHING TOURNAMENT

January 1 - February 28

Grand Prize Cash Award up to:
$25,000 Cash
(Random draw from all 1st place fish)

- 7 Categories:
  - Pike
  - Trout
  - Pickerel
  - Walleye
  - Perch
  - Crappie
  - Panfish

- Includes All NY State Waterways:
  - Ice, Open Water, Stream & Rivers, Tributaries, Reservoirs, etc.
- Up to Top 25 in Each Category Place
- Weekly, Monthly, & Overall Largest Fish Prizes
- Top 3 in Lunker Pool Paid (Each Category)
- $100 for the Largest Burbot
- For Anglers of All Skill Levels
- Youth Angler Awards
- Angler Achievement Awards
- 65+ Weigh-in Locations - Near Most Waterways
- Early Bird Door Prizes
- Formal Awards Ceremony at Batavia Downs Casino
- Register Online or at Most Weigh-In Locations

Up to $250,000
in Cash & Prizes!

(based on angler participation)

For Tournament Information, Registration, and Leaderboards:

www.NYSwinterclassic.com

BHammn Tackle
SPRINGFIELD, Va., Jan. 3, 2019 – With President Trump’s December 31 signing of the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018 (Modern Fish Act), saltwater recreational anglers just got a big leg up when it comes to the federal management of the nation’s fish stocks.

“The Modern Fish Act is a big step forward in recognizing the value of today’s recreational fishing,” said Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) Manager of Government Affairs David Kennedy. “It will help improve public access to America’s federal waters and management of fish stock, promote conservation of natural marine resources, and spur economic growth by fixing key issues in the law governing marine fisheries.”

The act authorizes the use of management tools more appropriate for recreational fishing, and seeks out better and more accurate recreational harvest data. It will also study mixed-use fishery allocation and look at the impact and provide recommendations on catch share management programs.

“What the act does for saltwater anglers is to update critical public policy to help ensure fisheries management and oversight also works for recreational anglers,” added Kennedy.

BoatUS supported a coalition of groups pushing for passage of the legislation, including the American Sportfishing Association (the act’s champion), National Marine Manufacturers Association, Center for Sportfishing Policy, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and Coastal Conservation Association.
APPLICATION FOR
NEW YORK STATE
OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSN.
SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP

Supporting Membership Dues: $60.00 per year.

Our company or organization, wishing to support the New York State Outdoor Writers Association (NYSOWA) in its program to further the causes of conservation and wise use of our natural resources, and to promote outdoor recreation activities, hereby applies for Supporting Membership.

Name: __________________________________________
Position: ____________________
Company: ____________________________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
City:____________________________________________ State: _______ Zip: ___________
Phone: _______________________________ Fax: ___________________________
E-Mail: ______________________________________
Website: _________________________ Contact: _______________________________________

Please outline your organization’s interests and activities in the outdoor field:

Applicant Signature: ________________________________________________________
Active Sponsor: ______________________________________________________________

Please enclose a check, made payable to NYSOWA, with this application and mail to:
WAYNE BREWER
71 State St.
Seneca Falls, NY 13148
APPLICATION FOR NYSOWA MEMBERSHIP

Name: __________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
City:____________________________________________________
State: _______ Zip: ___________
Phone: _______________________________
E-Mail: ______________________________________
Website: ______________________________________
Do you receive payment for your services? ________
Other Writer Affiliations: ________________________________

CATEGORIES (Note: fillers are not considered to be articles in applying for Writer status)

A: Newspaper _____________________________________________ Attach 12 tear sheets
City:____________________________________________________
Circulation: _____________________________ Column Name: __________________
Published: ___ Daily ___Weekly ___ Monthly ___ Freelance

B. Magazine _____________________________________________
Staff position: ______________________________ Freelance: ________________________
___National: Attach two tear sheets. ___ Regional: Attach four tear sheets.

C. Lecturer – Attach copies of a published schedule or six paid presentations.
Staff position: ______________________________ Freelance: ________________________

D. __ Photographer __ Illustrator __ Artist - Attach proof of publications of film/video, 8 stills, or prints.
Staff position: ______________________________ Freelance: ________________________

E. Book Author – attach a copy of the Publishing House Catalog listing the book.
Name of Book: ____________________________ Publisher ____________________________

F: Editor/Publisher – Attach a copy of a current issue of magazine/newspaper.
Name of Publication: ______________________________________________________________________

G: Radio/Television – Attach audio/video tape documenting (4) 30 minute or (8) 15 minute programs. Station:
____________________________ City: ____________________________

H. Public Relations Agency - Attach copies of (6) news releases.
Staff position or occupation: _____________________________________________________

I. Electronic Publishing – Attach 8 published outdoor columns or articles in last 12 mos. Electronic
Publication: ____________________________ web address ______________________________________

Specialties
__ a. Hunting __ b. Firearms/Shooting __ c. Archery/Bowhunting
__ d. Freshwater fishing __ e. Saltwater Fishing __ f. Flyfishing
__ g. Boating __ h. Camping/Backpacking __ i. Wilderness Survival
__ j. Trapping __ k. Outdoor Travel __ l. Outdoor Politics
__ m. Nature __ n. Environmental Affairs __ o. Natural Resources

Areas of Expertise
__ A. Book Author __ B. Magazine Editor __ C. Newspaper Editor
__ D. Public Relations __ E. Television __ F. Electronic Media
__ G. Magazine Columnist __ H. Newspaper Columnist __ I. Freelance
__ J. Radio __ K. Illustrator __ L. Lecturer

Applicant’s Signature ____________________________ Date: ____________ Active
Sponsor Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________
Active Sponsor: ____________________________

Please enclose a check, made payable to NYSOWA, with this application and mail to:
WAYNE BREWER 71 State St., Seneca Falls, NY 13148