

New York Outdoors

The Official Newsletter of the
New York State Outdoor Writers Association

Fall 2022

nysowa.org



*This photo by Bill Hilts Jr. took first place in the
Hunting & Fishing category of the Janice M. Keesler Memorial Photo Awards Contest.
Read the entire awards publication on www.nysowa.org*

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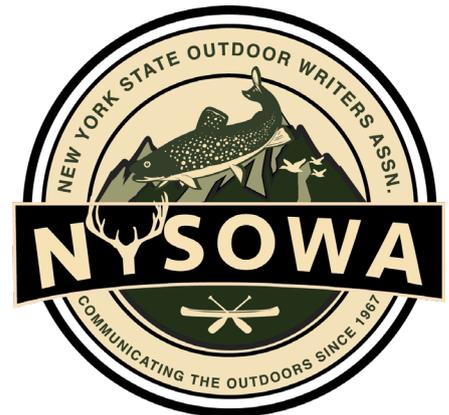
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Calendar

May 11-14, 2022
Fall Conference
Corning, Steuben County

2023 Membership Renewals

Membership renewals for 2023 will soon be underway. We are working with some new and exciting membership software that will simplify things but will also require each member to update their personal information. Stay tuned for more details over the holidays and around the New Year.

Peconic River Club Named M. Paul Keesler NY Outdoor Group for 2022

For the first time ever, a sportsman's club was named the recipient of the New York State Outdoor Writers Association's prestigious M. Paul Keesler New York Outdoor Citizen Award. The Peconic River Sportsman's Club, located in Manorville on Long Island, was recognized by the media organization.



Photo courtesy of Angelo Peluso

The Keesler Award is presented to an individual or organization that effectively has raised the public's awareness of outdoor recreational opportunities and conservation issues in New York State. The award was created to honor worthy individuals and organizations, at the same time perpetuating the name of one of the organization's dearest members. The late M. Paul Keesler spent nearly five decades promoting and conserving the outdoor wonders and recreational opportunities within New York State.

The Peconic River Sportsman's Club has a long and rich history of promoting the values and traditions of participating in outdoor sports. They achieve this through a proactive philosophy of "preserving the past and enriching the future."

The club has a long list of accomplishments, too numerous to mention, and are active supporters of the local community. The club's members are the epitome of a world class outdoor sporting club whose mission goes beyond the boundaries of traditional outdoor sports.

The club's 400-acre property consists of woodland fields, trails, a 38-acre lake, various sporting venues and several historic buildings that were part of the Donahue-Woolworth Estate. Sporting activities of the club include a licensed game preserve, indoor and outdoor archery ranges, small bore, and high-power rifle ranges, and a 50-yard pistol range that features both bullseye and turning targets, as well as steel plate shooting. The club also has a shotgun sports facility that features six combination trap and skeet fields, a 5-stand and a 15-station sporting clays course.

The club holds competitions in trap, skeet, sporting clays, rifle, pistol, and archery. Educational programs are a key aspect of the club's mission, including hunter safety training, youth conservation, and hosting a U.S. Service Rifle Small Arms Firing School to name but a few.

Members Angelo Peluso and NYSOWA president Chris Paparo will be presenting this award to the club at its December meeting.

Visit the Peconic River Sportsman's Club website at: <https://peconicriver.club>.

Mike Warren Named Pass It On Award Winner

Mike Warren, of Hornell, in Steuben County, was named the recipient of NYSOWA's Pass It On award. Each year, NYSOWA selects a member who is recognized as someone who should be acknowledged for their dedication to Pass It On. This annual award honors the person who has done the most to "pass on" our outdoor heritage.

Warren has been a member since 1983. He was a teacher at Wildwood Education Center for 35 years through special education subjects. He was a hunter education instructor and a Sportfishing and Aquatic Resource Education Program (SAREP) instructor for sportfishing for many years. He taught fishing to the local 4-H program. He ran several JAKES youth events and youth fishing contests through the years. Through the Steuben County Federation of Conservation Clubs, he gave turkey hunting seminars and held a calling contest for the participants.

Warren has been a great example for passing on outdoor knowledge to the next generation. He walks the walk, and he talks the talk.

Initiated by Bass Pro Shops and continued by NYSOWA, it is an important award given at the group's annual conference.

Both Bass Pro Shops and NYSOWA have recognized the fact that it is vital to pass on our outdoor heritage, including understanding the role of conservation and promoting an interest in our outdoor sports. This can be done in several ways such as creating awareness through writing, helping organizations that promote these activities, or directly being involved in mentoring and educating.

Retired NYODN editor Steve Piatt is a past recipient of both awards, winning the Pass It On award in 2016 and the Keesler award in 2020. Current NYODN Editor Dan Ladd was honored with the Pass It On award in 2015.



NYSOWA President



With temps well above average, it seemed like summer did not want to let go this year. As I write this though, we are finally seeing temps drop below freezing here on the Island (hoping that will put the ticks to sleep!) and Buffalo is getting buried with more than five feet of snow!

I was really bummed that we were not able to hold our annual fall conference in person this past October. Due to quite a few member conflicts that weekend and last-minute member cancelations, we had no choice but to cancel and hold the conference online. You can watch the meeting and awards presentation on our YouTube channel (https://youtu.be/ZOAgDz2_Klc). Because of the commitments we made in Corning, we decided that we will be holding our spring safari there this May. Stay tuned for more details.

One topic discussed during our meeting was how we are lacking involvement from the membership in many areas of NYSOWA (attending in-person and online events, committee participation, etc.). This got me questioning why I joined NYSOWA. At the time, I was very new to the professional world of outdoor communication. It was suggested by one of my mentors, Angelo Peluso, that I should join NYSOWA as a way to network and learn how to improve my craft from the very best outdoor communicators New York State has to offer. It was a decision that has benefited me greatly. I eagerly attended meetings, workshops, and entered my work in the craft improvement competitions. Now as president, I am working to give back to the organization that has helped me so much.

Another question I have contemplated is, what caused others to join NYSOWA? Did you too join to grow as a professional? Maybe it was for networking? A way to see how your work stands up against others in New York State? Maybe as a way to give back to new and aspiring communicators by sharing your knowledge and experiences? This led me to ponder why our current members are not more active. Are there scheduling conflicts? Lack of interest in what we offer? Feeling of not being welcomed?

In an attempt to answer these questions, we created a **NYSOWA membership questionnaire**. By now, you should have received this questionnaire in the way of a Google form (**please check your email for the link**). Please take the time to complete this form by December 1st. We are excited to hear from you so we can hopefully make changes that will be more enticing for you to be a more active member.

I wish everyone a safe and successful fall harvest and a happy and healthy holiday season!

Northern Region VP *Dan Ladd*



Deer season is winding down in the Northern Zone and it's been another warm one. In fact, this year far out-did last year if you ask this writer. Each of the first four weekends of the Northern Zone season, as well as the early muzzleloading weekend mid-October, feature temperatures in the sixties.

So, hunters were forced to make due, and some did.

While stand hunters reported a lull in deer movement during the warm stretch, groups like ours – Iron Sight Gang – and a couple of other camps I'm aware of that make deer drives had some success. Deer didn't want to move, but this style of hunting features kicking them in the tail and our group tasted success each of the first three weekends of the Northern Zone season, along with a few misses. I know of other groups that make deer drives that had similar results.

Warm-weather deer hunting isn't easy, and of course, things changed on a dime with the Nov. 16 snowstorm and now things are back to normal. Hopefully they stay that way for the rest of the season.

Dam reports

The following comes from Bill Wellman, of Plattsburgh, who is Trout Unlimited's Hyrdo Chair

Time for another update on some of the numerous New York State hydroelectric projects that are in various stages of re-licensing. Remember, some are big, and some are small, but they all have an impact on the fish and habitat of the stream where they are located. First, a rundown on Saranac River Projects:

P-8369 Lake Flower/Saranac Lake: This small project is in the heart of Saranac Lake village, on the Saranac River and was built by the Adirondack entrepreneur Paul Smith. The plant still bears his name. Owned by the Village, it has been modernized over the years and currently has one-inch trash racks and other modern appurtenances. This project will probably lend itself to a negotiated Settlement Agreement due to its relatively modern configuration.

P-4472 Union Falls and P-15000 Franklin Falls: These two projects on the upper reaches of the Saranac were originally owned by NYSEG and are now owned respectively by Kruger and Brookfield. NYSCTU has submitted comments on the re-licensing of both in respect to grate spacing, ponding and by-pass reaches. One or both are likely candidates for a negotiated settlement.

P-4114 Lower Saranac (Treadwell's Mills and Indian Rapids): The Lower Saranac Project is the lowest active power project on the Saranac, just above the infamous Imperial Dam. Owned now by Central Rivers Power, whose license makes it responsible for insuring fish passage at the now-abandoned Indian Rapids Dam, just to its east on the Saranac and site of an ineffectively breached old NYSEG hydro dam. That license clause is only effective if Atlantic salmon have access to the water above Imperial Dam. Current efforts by DEC to construct a fish ladder at Imperial Dam will cause that license clause to be invoked. Initiatives by the US Fish and Wildlife Service have resulted in agreements and funding now in place to jointly remove the Indian Rapids Dam remnants, along with other debris from the older dams at the site. The lower Saranac River is a productive Atlantic salmon spawning ground, and continued stream flow fluctuations emanating from the Lower Saranac Dam are a cause for great concern for TU and others.

Rio-Mongaup-Swinging Bridge P-9690.P-10481, P-10482: These projects are Perils of Pauline Redux. Roger Olson has had the dubious pleasure of representing NYSC-TU in this long running thriller featuring claims, counter claims, agreements, and disagreement. Although parties thought they'd reached a Settlement Agreement, that was not the case and disputes by the Delaware River Basin Commission over stream flows have been the current derailment. Talks continue and we are now in the Environmental Assessment stage. The Settlement Agreement that is still alive met TU's needs, so let's hope it survives. Stay tuned and pray for Roger's continued good health.

P-3267 Ballard Mill: This small hydro plant on the Salmon River at Malone continues in limbo, as FERC has denied a new license and progress of surrender of the site and license are obscure.

The principal owner is deceased, and efforts to resolve the issues around surrender appear unavailing. Although FERC continues to have jurisdiction as it has issued an "authority for continued operation" which is the normal course when licenses are denied, progress on the license surrender is veiled in mystery.

P-3211 Jarvis -Hinckley: This major New York Power Authority (NYPA) Project on the West Canada Creek has a significant impact on West Canada Creek inhabitants and flow. DEC, NYPA and USFWS have reached a Settlement Agreement which is seriously lacking in fish protection measures. Major problems with the Settlement Agreement are the failure to provide fish protection at the site, improve fish passage, rationalize downstream flows, and agree to the licensing of Hinckley Dam itself. DEC and US Fish & Wildlife Service, normally on our side in these matters, appears to be enticed by the offer of a million-dollar habitat improvement fund, to be paid over the course of the new license and for yet-unidentified projects. NYSCTU has made its objections known to FERC and continues to object to the failure to provide adequate fish protection at Hinckley and in the downstream reaches of the West Canada. We'll see if FERC pays attention.

P-5867 Alice Falls: This relatively small project on the Ausable River located just above Ausable Chasm in Essex County is up for a new license. The relatively modern project has 1 inch grate spacing and other fish protection measures in place. No large issues are apparent. Hopefully, this project will see a Settlement Agreement ensue before long.

P-3211 West Canada: This project, operated by Brookfield, has two plants, one at Prospect and one at Trenton. Recently, operator Brookfield proposed a Settlement Agreement which met several of NYSCTU'S objectives for this important fishery. The draft Settlement increases fish protections, improves downstream flows, enhances esthetic values, and makes other significant gains in fisheries goals. The Settlement Agreement does not meet all of TU's objectives, particularly in grate spacing. However, given the very important improvements proposed by the Agreement, NYSCTU has agreed to the draft proposed Agreement. Final details regarding white-water flows are being hashed out at this time, but final agreement is expected shortly.

Champlain -Hudson Power Express: Champlain-Hudson Power Express, the long-awaited project that will bring 1,250 megawatts of hydropower from Quebec to New York City, has closed on the financing required to bring this project to fruition. As part of the Project, the

Hudson River and Lake Champlain Habitat Enhancement, Restoration and Research/Habitat Improvement Trust Fund will receive \$117 million in funding. Over \$15 million will be allocated to these environmental projects during construction, estimated to take 5 years. The Trust is overseen by the Hudson River Foundation and will improve aquatic habitat in Lake Champlain, the Hudson River, the Bronx, Harlem and East Rivers, and New York Harbor. Area Technical Committees will screen and recommend projects submitted by government agencies and qualified non-government groups. The NYSCTU is a voting member of the Fund's Governance Committee, with Roger Olsen and Bill Wellman currently acting on behalf of the New York State Council.



The Iron Sight Gang got off to a good start this season. And yes, the two guys not wearing orange in this photo were during the hunt. Much of the crew stripped a few layers dragging one of these bucks off a mountain on an unseasonably warm day.
Photo by Dan Ladd

West/Central Region VP *David Figura*



Getting the youngsters into it: State Department of Environmental Conservation officers, along with members of local sportsman's groups, have been a driving force this fall again in hosting youth hunting events for waterfowl, pheasant and deer across the state.

Among the events held was the 8th annual Finger Lakes Deer Hunt that took place at the former Seneca Army Depot – now Deer Haven Park LLC – during the Columbus Day Weekend Youth Big Game Hunt (Oct.8-10). A total of 24 youth hunters participated. The schedule began with a mandatory pre-hunt instructional and shooting range session in which the young hunters got a refresher course on firearm safety and hunter ethics, according to New York Outdoor News.

The young hunters took 21 whitetails. Finger Lakes Community College students helped out, serving food and helped age the deer and with field dressing.

During the Columbus Day Weekend Youth Big Game Hunt, junior hunters (ages 12–15) are eligible to take one antlered or one antlerless deer with a firearm, and 14- and 15-year-old junior hunters may also take a bear with a firearm during this season.

Southern Zone Firearms Opener: Following a mostly dry, unseasonably warm bow hunting season (Oct. 1 – Nov. 18), the few days leading up to the Southern Zone big game rifle season for deer and bear kicked off Nov. 19, preceded by rain/snow and freezing temperatures in most areas.

The Southern Zone opener weekend is the biggest hunting day of the season, with the most hunters afield and roughly a third of the deer of the year's total harvest taken each year.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation over the years has scaled back the number of deer check stations it has held during the opening weekend. This year, only one was announced – in Western New York. DEC encouraged hunters to stop by their deer and bear check station on Route 69 in the town of Holland in Erie County.

Hunters were encouraged to bring harvested deer and bear to the check station where DEC staff determined the age of the animals and collected biological and harvest information.

Participation was voluntary and helps the DEC assess the status of that area's big game population. DEC also collects biological and harvest information from thousands of deer each year by visiting facilities that process the venison for hunters.

Finally, hunters are reminded that along with expanded hunting hours this season (One can hunt a half hour before sunrise and a half hour after), there is also a new fluorescent clothing requirement.

According to the DEC hunting guide: “Any person hunting deer or bear with a firearm or a person who is accompanying someone hunting deer or bear with a firearm shall wear: 1). a minimum total of 250 square inches of solid fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink material worn above the waist and visible from all directions; or 2). a minimum total of 250 square inches of patterned fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink consisting of no less than 50 percent fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink worn above the waist and visible from all directions; or 3). a hat or cap with no less than 50 percent of the exterior consisting of solid fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink material and visible from all directions.”

The Eastern Lake Ontario/Salmon River fishing scene: The salmon fishing scene at the eastern end of Lake Ontario finished up “OK,” but it wasn’t “gang busters,” according to Charter Boat Capt. Troy Creasy, of High Adventure Sportfishing, who docks and goes out of Oswego. He said weather was a factor, with “a lot of wind scattering and moving the fish around at times.”

Creasy, who switches each fall from the lake to guiding clients daily on his drift boat on the Salmon River, said the fall salmon run on the river had its usual early push around Labor Day.

However, dry, warm conditions afterward kept the river’s water level down at times, hurting the run. But when the rains finally came, “tons” of spawning Chinooks and Coho salmon came in. “It was intermittent -- feast or famine,” he said.

And it’s been the same story so far this season with the annual steelhead run, which follows the salmon run. Initially, the steelhead run was weak, with some anglers speculating whether the increase in sea lamprey numbers this year in the lake was having an effect. At this point, though, there are currently lots of steelhead in the river, many that will stay for anglers to enjoy through the winter.

Fall turkey hunting scene: Mike Joyner, veteran turkey and NYSOWA member, didn’t take a bird this fall, and spent much of his time scouting mainly in the Cortland, Madison, Broome and Onondaga county areas. Joyner said from what he saw and heard from other turkey hunters, bird numbers were “way down” compared to previous years.

He said it’s likely the result of a wet, cold spring that took out a number poults, along with an increase in predators, including fishers, coyotes and raptors (bald eagles in particular). He said also he has also seen reports of the emergence Black Head Disease and Avian Pox, two bird-killing diseases. “On top of everything else going on, there’s been a fair amount of hunting pressure,” he said.

The state’s fall turkey hunting regulations allow the taking of either sex bird, unlike the spring when only gobblers are allowed.

“Most of the people I’ve run into this fall have decided not to take hens,” he said. “They’d rather see a hen go back and have a good brood next spring.”

WNY ECO honored: The DEC recently announced that Environmental Conservation Police Officer (ECO) Josh Crain was honored with the Wildlife Officer of the Year Award from the Shikar-Safari Club International.

Crain started his career with DEC after graduating from the DEC Law Enforcement Academy in 2004. His first assignment was in Region 3. During that time, he received a letter of recognition from Governor Patterson in acknowledgement of his professionalism while helping to fight a fire at Minnewaska state Forest.

He transferred to Region 8 in 2008 and during his time in Wayne County investigated several large cases including tracing the source of a diesel spill in Erie Canal – resulting in the guilty business being forced to do remediation work and paying a significant fine.

He and other ECOs in Wayne County were also instrumental in organizing youth programs that included fishing, pheasant, deer, small game, and waterfowl hunting. Working with the Wayne County Federation of Sportsmen's Club these youth events have been very successful introducing youths to outdoor sports.

In 2012, he was transferred to Yates County, where he still currently resides. He continues to be involved with youth programs in Yates County organizing and assisting with the Yates County Youth Fishing Derby, the annual School of Holy Childhood Fishing Clinic, the annual Yates County Youth Turkey Hunt, and the annual Finger Lakes Regional Youth Deer Hunt.

Every year, Crain also co-teaches several Hunter Education, Bowhunter Education, and Trapper Education classes. In addition, he is Division Firearms Instructor and Field Training Officer. He regularly volunteers to co-teach several division and academy classes including Freshwater Fish Identification, Hunter/Bowhunter Education and Sportsmen Education New Instructor Training, Courtroom Preparation and Field Training Officer school.

Earlier this year, he was promoted to the position of environmental conservation Investigator.

Mark your calendars: Looking ahead, don't let the cold months get you down. Avoid cabin fever by attending scheduled outdoors shows including the New York Sportsman's Expo at the NYS Fairgrounds in Syracuse (Jan. 26-29) and the Greater Fishing and Outdoor Expo at the Niagara Falls Convention Center (Feb. 16-19).

NYSOWA member Bill Hilts Jr. points out this year's Greater Niagara Fishing and Outdoor Expo will be offering an Eastern Lake Erie Walleye School for the first time, scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 18. Registrations are currently being accepted. Space is limited and early sign-up is encouraged.

Featured speakers will be Craig Sleeman, Lance Valentine, Ali Shakoor, and Don Rupert, top industry professionals and charter captains who will be offering attendees "a wealth of walleye wisdom."

Cost to attend the school is \$100. This includes a seat in the school, lunch, and drink, as well as a four-day pass to the Fishing Expo. For more information on the school, including registration details, check out www.niagarafishingexpo.com.



Southeast Region VP Tom Schlichter

I hope everyone is having a great Thanksgiving, and that at least some of you managed to incorporate a few outdoor festivities into the holiday break. It's a tradition at the Schlichter household for my son, Ryan, and I, to squeeze in some bowhunting on Turkey Day morning. It's a short hunt, usually over by 9 or 10 a.m. so I can get home in time to help Felicia with the evening's preparations, but it may be the day I most enjoy hunting each season.

Obviously, that morning sit provides a little time to reflect on how lucky I am to have such great friends and family, and how important it is to share outdoors traditions with the ones we love (I'm blessed that Felicia and Ryan also love

fishing, hiking, kayaking and just about anything else you can do outside.) I also enjoy the day so much because I never have a hard deadline as I'll do everything possible to get my copy turned in before the break.

The dream, of course, is to take a turkey or a deer on Thanksgiving Day proper (it is open season for both at this point here on Long Island), but we've only been successful once in all these years, dropping a medium-sized doe awhile back. To be sure, we've both had plenty of opportunity with whitetail, but for some reason keep issuing pardons. The turkey, on the other hand, have never offered us a shot on this glorious day which simply adds to their mystique.

In any case, the point of my rambling here is that I truly am thankful for my wonderful family, the opportunity to head afield with friends and loved ones, the challenging yet amazingly rewarding fishing, hunting and outdoors experiences we get to share here in the Empire State, and to be part of such a great organization as NYSOWAA. You can bet I'll be thinking of you all on Thanksgiving morning...

Picking up where we left off last summer, while the early fall season in the southeastern parcel of the state wasn't overly hot at any point in time, it never got particularly cool until late November, either. That set up some super fishing for smallmouth bass, which were still hitting pretty well in deep, rocky water as I penned this piece.

Agreeable temperatures seemed to also keep largemouth bass on the prowl, too, chilling water temps just enough to lower weed levels and make surface fishing inviting well into October, with balsa plugs and then Ned Rigs and Jerk Baits continuing to score consistently into mid-November on many waters. On the flip side, it seems that in the limited walleye waters available for down-state action, we were a cold snap away from kicking into high gear. I do recall a similar pattern several years ago which actually pushed the best of the 'eye bite into early December. Here's hoping for a repeat.

One point of concern on the freshwater front is the continuing lack of rain in our region. While we have had a couple of fall storms come rolling through, it hasn't been enough to raise water levels anywhere close to their normal levels and has left many vernal ponds as little more than leaf-shrouded mud splotches. There's a small vernal pond on my property which I've never seen dry this late into the season in 22 years at this residence. I'm hoping it fills up again in time for our wood ducks to nest come next spring. Never had to think about that before.

On the salty side, that warm weather seemed to delay the fall blitz for surf fishermen on Long Island's north shore, although there were plenty of large stripers to be had on the oceanside, across

the New York Bight to Sandy Hook, and up into New York Harbor. A tremendous number of large bass measuring in excess of the 28" to 35" marine slot limit for the species, were landed in mid to late October and early November. Most of the biggest fish, many measuring between 40" and 50", were caught around bunker schools, which remained plentiful through Election Day.

Blackfish also got off to a strong start this fall, with some 'tog tuggers reporting their best catches in several years. The scores might have been even better if not for some particularly gusty stretches from late October onward.

Bowhunting season was in full stride as we went to press with quite a few large bucks arrowed during the rut. To be sure, many hunters on Long Island, and in Westchester and its adjacent counties, reported seeing fewer deer on average than at any point over the past several years – perhaps due, in part, to the influx of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and maybe even Blue Tongue Virus - but the number of solid, mature bucks taken has been impressive. It certainly will be interesting to see how the official numbers on hunter success square-up when they come out later this year.

Here's wishing you all a happy and safe holiday season, and more great outdoors experiences ahead.



The author's son, Ryan Schlichter, knocked down another good one this season. This fine 8-point was searching for does on Long Island's North Fork when he finally met his match.

Photo courtesy of www.OutdoorTom.com.

NYSOWA Supporting Member News

2022 Outdoor Communicator Contest Chautauqua County, NY

All \$CASH PRIZES

PLAY, LAUGH, LEARN IN CHAUTAUQUA!

Publish Period: Jan. 1, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2022

Submission Deadline: Mar. 15, 2023

Prizes: A total of three (3) winners will be selected from the submissions, awarding cash prizes and a certificate for framing, as noted here:

- 1st Prize: \$500 Cash
- 2nd Prize: \$250 Cash
- 3rd Prize: \$125 Cash

This contest is a professional communicator Excellence-in-Craft competition. Please tempt us with your best published creative outdoor story based on the Eligible Focus Categories listed below. Deliver a sense of urgency for your readers or viewers to join the fun for any of many Chautauqua County outdoor adventures with your compelling message. Your story can be about fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, biking, kayaking, boating or anything outdoors, including our grape country – wine tasting, hops farming (microbreweries), etc. Please email submissions as a PDF or web link, if possible. No limit on the number of submissions. All 2022 Contest Winners will be announced on April 30, 2023, by US Mail and by a press release from the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau.

Eligible Focus Categories:

Outdoor Adventure in Chautauqua County, NY. The focus of your story or program MUST address or highlight any of these categories of outdoor fun and adventure to be found in Chautauqua County, NY: Fishing, Hunting, Camping, Hiking, Biking, Boating/Kayaking, Bird-watching, Conservation, Wine-Tasting / Microbrew Beverages, Fossil-hunting / Treasure-Hunting, or any other

Entry Fee: Free. Send your published copy to Chautauqua County Vacation Bureau (see email address below).

Eligibility: Open to media members from every form of public communication including daily, weekly and regional printed publications (newspapers, magazines, books), blogs, website stories, radio, tv and photography. Your source of publication must be identified and included with your submitted entry.

Submit your entry to Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, Attn: Andrew Nixon, Email: nixon@tourchautauqua.com; Phone: 716-450-4569. US Mail address: Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, PO Box 1441, Main Gate, Chautauqua, NY, 14722.

**For more info on Chautauqua County, NY
please visit www.tourchautauqua.com.**



<https://www.outdoornews.com/radio/>



<https://otistec.com>

The National Shooting Sports Foundation welcomes professional media to the SHOT Show®.



With more than 2,000 members of the media from the United States and around the world expected to cover the 2023 SHOT Show, there is a limit for the number of journalists that can be reasonably and fairly accommodated. Specialized media routinely covering the shooting, hunting, outdoor and law enforcement trade may be assigned credentials until the limit is reached. A deadline for applying and assigning media credentials may be put into effect at any time at the discretion of the NSSF Communications team.

Media registration for the 2023 SHOT Show will open around the first week of October. Our advice to media wishing to attend the SHOT Show is to apply for credentials early to avoid the cutoff date. Be sure to read the application requirements and restrictions below.

Media credentials for the SHOT Show will be provided solely at the discretion of the NSSF Communications team and will be based on the following criteria:

Previous media credentialing at one or more recent SHOT Shows, or invitation to receive 2023 credentials (both subject to re-qualification review).

Demonstrated record of print, broadcast, cable or web-based coverage of shooting, hunting, law enforcement and related activities.

Because the SHOT Show is run for the benefit of the shooting, hunting, outdoor and law enforcement industry, a demonstrated record of reasonable objectivity, fairness and balance in past coverage of the industry will be considered.

Due to limited staffing for media support, no general media and no media from foreign countries other than those working for outlets regularly covering hunting, shooting, firearms and firearms-related products will be credentialed for SHOT Show.

NSSF does not recognize Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Snapchat and certain other social media platforms as qualifying news outlets for media credentials.

Show badges are not transferable. We do not permit substitutions.

Media must PRE-REGISTER for credentials; there will be NO ONSITE REGISTRATION of media. Please familiarize yourself with the Badge Types and the requirements for each one by reviewing the information.

What Did We Name Our Boats in 2022?

BoatUS Top 10 Boat Names List



SPRINGFIELD, Va., Nov. 8, 2022 -- Now that recreational boating is coming to a close in much of the country, BoatUS takes a look back at the Top 10 boat names ordered this season through its online boat graphics service and provides some commentary.

Andiamo: Meaning “let’s go / we go / come on” in Italian, Andiamo remains in the No. 1 spot from last year’s list. It’s also a happy refrain heard from the person behind the helm as they put the throttle down and head to open waters.

Osprey: This year marked the premiere of Osprey, having never before made the top 10. In a unique twist, Osprey bumped last year’s No. 2 boat name, Social Distancing, completely off the list. ‘Nuff said, right?

Serenity: This No. 3 name is so popular it has made the top 10 seven times since 2010, tying the record with Second Wind. Yep, you guessed it – both are popular with sailboat owners.

Encore: Also a newcomer to the top 10 this year, Encore may be the boat name of choice for an entertainer. Or, it could indicate the “next” boat – either satisfying the 3-foot-itis or scaling down, or maybe even coming back to boat owning after a hiatus.

Zephyr: Last appearing on the top 10 in 2010, sailors will welcome this reference to a gentle breeze back to the list.

Second Wind: Is this boat named for a new chapter in life or achievement? A comeback? A new strength? We’ll never know for sure, but gosh is it perennially popular.

Adventure: A boat with this name is usually out of the slip every weekend putting miles of water under the keel.

Knot on Call: This boat name serves as a notice that on-the-water time can’t be tampered with. Of unique importance, the owner of this boat can silence their cellphone ring in just under two seconds.

Shenanigans: Quit fooling around. Shenanigans are a part of every boating culture.

Grace: In its fourth appearance on the top 10 boat names list since 2010, Grace likely holds deep meaning for vessels with beautiful lines or for those that navigate with finesse. This is the one boat in the marina that also makes docking look easy.

For a look at all of the BoatUS Top 10 Boat Names lists over the years, go to www.BoatUS.com/BoatNames. The BoatUS Graphics service offers an online design tool that allows you to easily create custom boat graphics with fast turnaround times. BoatUS also offers simple step-by-step video instructions on how to install your new graphics yourself.

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KIDS FISHING CLINIC

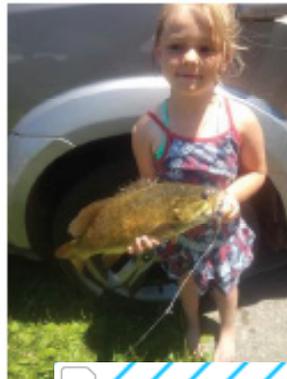
FEBRUARY 19th, 2023

"IF YOU WANT YOUR KIDS TO LEARN HOW TO FISH, YOU'LL LOVE THIS EVENT!"

GREATER NIAGARA FISHING & OUTDOOR

THE TEACHING FISHING SHOW

EXPO



The Expo is partnering with the NYS DEC and Clubs/Exhibitors who are aligned with the show's mission to introduce future generations of anglers to the sport of fishing, by providing a Clinic, where upon completion the Adults and Kids will have enough knowledge to safely get started fishing the WNY Waterways.

- This Clinic will be a hands-on/interactive event for Kids ages 7-15 years, along with their "Adult Fishing Companion" who will be taking the kids fishing in the future.
- The Adults & Kids will learn the basics from the "ground floor up" including:
 - The gear necessary including rods, reels, line, casting, knots, baits, etc.
 - The fish and their behaviors
 - The techniques to use when starting out
 - The "where" locations and "when" timing to have success
 - Personal safety and conservation of the resources
- Pre-registration On-Line is Required and Seating is Limited
- For registration info for this clinic along with information on the full 4 day show (February 16-19, 2023) visit www.NiagaraFishingExpo.com



CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK
GREATER NIAGARA FISHING & OUTDOOR EXPO

The Greater Niagara Fishing & Outdoor Expo
The Niagara Falls Convention Center
101 Old Falls Street,
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

LAKE ONTARIO TROUT & SALMON FISHERMEN

FEBRUARY 16-19, 2023

"IF YOU ENJOY FISHING THE GREAT LAKES YOU'LL LOVE THIS EVENT"

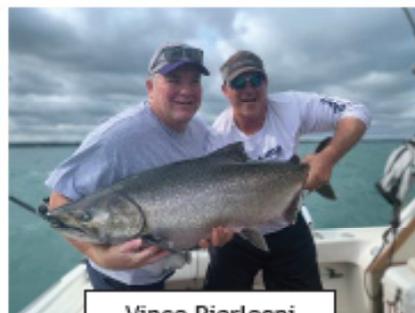
GREATER NIAGARA
FISHING & OUTDOOR

THE TEACHING FISHING SHOW

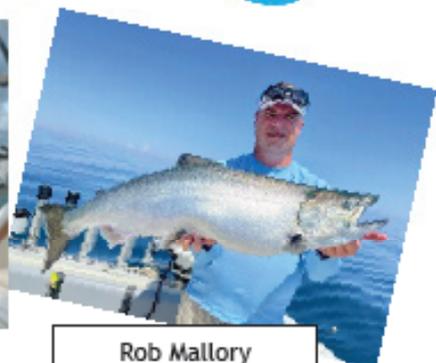
EXPO



Russell
Gahagan



Vince Pierleoni



Rob Mallory

2023 LOTSA SALMON SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS

2023 SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

- The Premier Trout & Salmon Show on the Great Lakes
- Four Packed Days of Open Lake Salmon & Trout fishing education continuing with the "teaching fishing" theme of the show
- New Beginners Open Water Trout & Salmon School offering
- The Top Manufacturers Displaying their Latest Gear
- Retailers Selling the Latest Gear at "Show Prices"
- LOTSA Salmon School (the Best on the Great Lakes)



For a full listing of educational offerings along with additional show information visit:

www.NiagaraFishingExpo.com



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Greater Niagara Fishing & Outdoor Expo
Niagara Falls Convention Center
101 Old Falls Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14303



EASTERN LAKE ERIE WALLEYE SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 18, 2023

"IF YOU ENJOY WALLEYE FISHING LAKE ERIE, YOU'LL LOVE THIS EVENT."

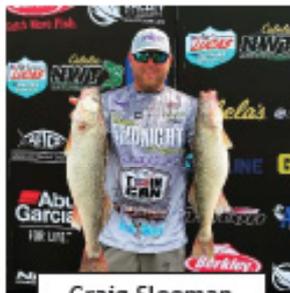
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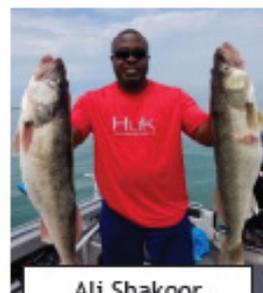
2023 WALLEYE SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS



Craig Sleeman



Lance Valentine



Ali Shakoor



Don Ruppert

- This intense school is for the experienced Walleye angler who wants to improve their Walleye catch from the Eastern Basin of Lake Erie
- Attendees who want to become better Walleye Anglers will learn how to:
 - Consistently catch more Walleye in their time on the water
 - Target and catch Larger Walleye
 - Maximize the use of their Electronics to catch more Walleye
 - Understand the impact that Wind, Currents, Bait, Water Color, Water Temperature and light conditions have on catching Walleye
- For the details on the School and to register visit www.NiagaraFishingExpo.com (2023 Top Attractions)
- For a full listing of educational offerings along with additional show information visit: www.NiagaraFishingExpo.com



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The Greater Niagara Fishing & Outdoor Expo
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ATTENTION GREAT LAKES ANGLERS

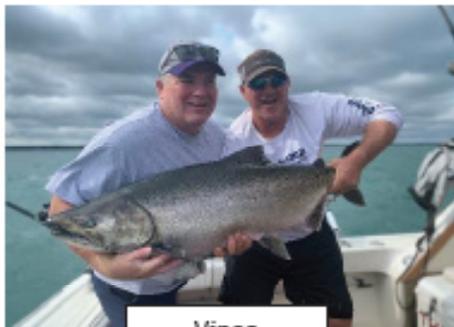
FEBRUARY 16-19, 2023

"IF YOU ENJOY FISHING THE GREAT LAKES YOU WILL LOVE THIS EVENT!"

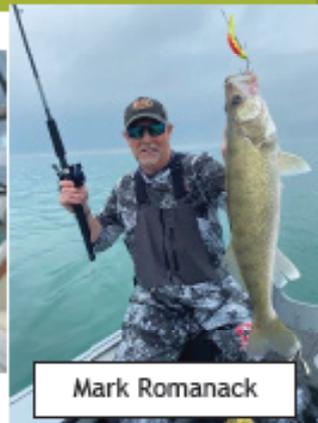
GREATER NIAGARA FISHING & OUTDOOR

EXPO

THE TEACHING FISHING SHOW



Vince
Pierleoni



Mark Romanack



Roger Hinchcliff

- This "Teaching Fishing" show provides each attendee with the opportunity to become a better angler by choosing, from a robust curriculum, consisting of over 300 hours of "Fishing Education".
- Over 170 booths of Exhibitors pack the Event Center providing Anglers the opportunity to speak with many of the top Great Lakes "Fishing Related" and Marine Electronic Manufacturers along with purchasing from high quality "Retailers" selling the latest "Hot Gear" at "Show Special Pricing".
- The LOTSA Salmon School, a new Walleye School, "Beginner Fishing" schools for Walleye, Bass, Salmon, Fly Fishing and Kayak Fishing, a Super Kids Fishing Clinic, a unique Fly Fishing "Social", The Super Walleye Clinic, Private Fly Tying Classes, the DEC Open House and a special "Women's Fishing School" are among the many reasons to attend.
- For a full listing of educational offerings along with additional show information visit:

www.NiagaraFishingExpo.com



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OUTDOOR EXPO

MINUTES OF THE FALL '22 ANNUAL MEETING

OCT. 26, 2022

The meeting, held via Zoom, was called to order by President Chris Paparo at 7:06 p.m.

Recording Secretary Glenn Sapir took the roll call. Present were President Chris Paparo, Vice Presidents Dan Ladd, David Figura and Tom Schlichter, Recording Secretary Glenn Sapir, Membership Secretary Stephen George, Director Deb Brosen and Immediate Past President Charles Witek III. Soon after the meeting began, Treasurer Leo Maloney and Director Mike Hauser joined the meeting. Absent were Directors Bob Henke, Chris Kenyon, Steve Piatt and Rich Redman.

Dave Figura moved and Deb Brosen seconded a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Two Vice Presidents and the Recording Secretary gave their reports. Because VP Tom Schlichter was having trouble with his audio, Chris Paparo gave a report on the Southeastern Region.

Because Leo Maloney, chair of the Nominating Committee, had not yet joined the meeting, committee member Glenn Sapir presented the proposed slate. All officer incumbents were renominated, except for the Membership Secretary, for which no candidate has come forth. Steve Piatt was nominated for another three-year term as a Director, and Jerrod Vila was nominated to the other Director position. An appeal was made for a volunteer to later express interest in the Membership Secretary position. Glenn mentioned that the Board of Directors had previously endorsed this slate. Bill Hilts moved and Glenn Sapir seconded the motion that one vote be cast for the entire slate, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Chris called for committee reports. Glenn Sapir reported that the Excellence in Craft program was fully funded with sponsorships from Ducks Unlimited, the Outdoor Sportsman Group and Redding Reloading Equipment. He mentioned that entries were low in the Magazine Column category and that and other details of the program will be discussed later in the meeting.

Deb reported that entries for our photo awards program were at an all-time low, but she and the judges were impressed with the quality of the work.

Leo Maloney gave the Treasurer's Report, in which he stated that whereas we are usually at about \$29,000, we are currently down several thousand dollars, with a couple of thousand dollars' worth of expenses outstanding, and that the Scholarship Fund was also down. This would be later addressed under New Business.

Dan gave reports on the Scholarship Committee and the Conference Committee. A highlight of the reports is that one person, especially one remote from the area of the conference, cannot plan a conference. Dan thanked the help he got from Leo Maloney and Joe Crance, but stated that more help is needed to plan a conference.

Chris moved on to Unfinished Business. Dan Ladd gave an on-screen presentation of new software purchased by NYSOWA that will allow members to edit their own profiles and to pay all fees, including dues, conference registration and awards program entries, via this software.

Glenn Sapir reminded Chris that a Membership Recruiting Committee was supposed to have been formed this past year, but wasn't, and that it needs to be done this year. Chris said he is giving great thought to this committee and its charge.

Chris then moved on to New Business.

Chris referred to the Membership Recruiting Committee and said he would like to see not only more members recruited but also more involvement by current members. Chris encouraged volunteers come forth to serve on that committee.

Glenn presented bylaws amendments that had previously been sent to all members. These were being proposed to remove unnecessary restrictions that would allow more members to serve as Directors and Officers. Those changes were:

Article I, Section 1, Membership, Active-Retired Membership, Delete "but cannot hold office."

Article IV, Directors, Section 3, Eligibility to Hold Office: Delete "who is a citizen of the United States and a resident of New York State"

Article V, Officers, Section 1: Insert at end of section 1: When the Nominating Committee identifies the necessity, members from outside of a specific geographical region may be nominated, elected and serve as a vice president for the region in need of representation.

Article V, Section 2. Non-Residents: Delete “except the right to hold office.”

Article V, Section 3: Duties of Officers, Vice Presidents: In the case of death...., change the Vice President “from the same region as the president” to “representing the same region as the president”

Dan Ladd moved and Deb Brosen seconded that the bylaws changes be adopted. The motion passed unanimously.

Glenn Sapir also reported that a EIC Review Committee had been formed by Chris’ direction to review the entire awards program and see what improvements can be made. He had appointed Glenn as chair, and Tom Schlichter and Charles Witek III had volunteered to serve on the committee. Glenn invited anyone else to contact Chris if they wished to serve on the committee.

Dan Ladd discussed a Fundraising Committee to be formed this year. Steve Zahurak has agreed to chair it. Chris urged members to come forth to join the committee. Dan presented a variety of fundraising possibilities, all of which may be considered by the committee.

With no further new business put forth, Bill Hilts, Jr. moved and Deb Brosen seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion was passed unanimously, and the Annual Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by
Glenn Sapir, Recording Secretary*

MINUTES OF NYSOWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS OCT. 3, 2022, MEETING

President Chris Paparo called the meeting on Zoom to order at 7:10 pm.

Chris directed Recording Secretary Glenn Sapir to take a roll call. Present were President Chris Paparo, Vice Presidents Dan Ladd, Dave Figura and Tom Schlichter, Recording Secretary Glenn Sapir, Treasurer Leo Maloney, Past President Charles Witek III and Directors Deb Brosen, Chris Kenyon and Steve Piatt. Absent were Membership Secretary Stephen George and Directors Mike Hauser, Robert Henke and Rich Redman.

Steve Piatt moved and Dan Ladd seconded to dispense with the reading of the last minutes. Motion was approved unanimously.

Leo Maloney, chair of the Nominating Committee, reported a proposed slate: President--Chris Paparo; Vice Presidents--Dan Ladd, Dave Figura and Tom Schlichter; Recording Secretary— Glenn Sapir; Treasurer—Leo Maloney; Directors—Steve Piatt and Jerrod Vila.

Leo pointed out that as of now there is no candidate for Membership Secretary to replace Stephen George, whose term is expiring. Prospective candidates are being sought.

Glenn Sapir moved and Tom Schlichter seconded the motion for the Board to endorse the slate. That motion was moved unanimously.

Glenn Sapir added that the membership at the Annual Meeting will vote on bylaws proposals to increase the eligibility of members to serve as officers and directors of the organization.

Glenn urged Chris, in the absence of a Membership Secretary, to create a Membership Screening Committee, so recruitment of new members might continue. Glenn volunteered to send welcome packets to new members.

The officers offered their reports, either orally or as a previously submitted written report.

Leo’s Treasurer’s report stated that the checking account as of the close of Sept. 2022 had a balance of \$29,258.78. The Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$2,651 in a Key Bank savings account. Leo’s report led to a discussion about fund raising. Dan Ladd reported that member Steve Zahurak has agreed to chair a fund-raising committee.

In a written report submitted to Chris, Glenn reported on the activities of the Recording Secretary, which was to record minutes of membership and Board meetings, send sympathy cards to members or their families on the passing of a member or spouse and, this year, to notify members of proposed bylaws changes, which will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

The three Vice Presidents presented reports on developments within their region, which ranged from lam-preys in Lake Ontario, to land-use management decisions in the Adirondacks, to an unusual number of various fish species in Long Island waters due to climate change.

Committee Chairs present gave committee reports.

Glenn, as Excellence in Craft Awards Committee Chair, reported that the program went well. It was funded at an all-time high thanks to Ducks Unlimited, the Outdoor Sportsman Group and Redding Reloading Equipment. Seventeen nationally renowned judges participated. Many members submitted their work in all six categories, but Glenn reported that a couple of points regarding the program would be discussed under New Business.

Deb Brosen, Chair of the Janice M. Keesler Memorial Photo Awards, reported that submissions were down markedly. She also reported that, interestingly, submissions were sent well ahead of deadline, which she applauded, rather than the usual last-minute onslaught of entries.

For the Conference Committee Report, Dan brought up a pressing issue regarding the Annual Conference, planned to begin only a few days later. It seems that the time of the conference, for a variety of reasons, conflicted with many members' schedules. Registration for the conference had been low and over the previous weekend five registrants had to cancel. At the time of the meeting only six people were registered for the conference. Glenn moved and Deb seconded the motion to postpone the conference to spring. Discussion on the motion ensued. Members agreed that NYSOWA would have to absorb the costs for guaranteed rooms and food already ordered for the Meet and Greet and the Awards Banquet. The date for the rescheduled conference is yet to be decided. The motion was passed unanimously. Dan also emphasized that one person cannot totally run a conference. A Conference Committee is supposedly in place to offer support and advice, and that committee must be utilized for future conference planning. Furthermore, in the discussion on the motion, Chris suggested creating and sending a survey to the membership to get a better understanding of what their interests are in NYSOWA membership and what they would like to see in our conference to get them to attend.

Chris rescheduled our Annual Meeting to Wednesday, Oct. 26, at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Chris moved on to Unfinished Business.

Glenn reminded Chris that he was to select a chair and members for an ad hoc Membership Recruiting Committee.

Chris then moved on the New Business.

Glenn raised two points regarding the EIC Awards program. One was that there has been a very low number of entries in the Magazine Column category, and perhaps it should be combined with the Magazine Feature category to create a single "Magazine" category or with the Newspaper Column category to create a single "Column" category. Glenn also read a letter from a member making his case for why unpaid work should be allowed in the EIC program. Both points sparked discussion, leading to Chris creating a committee to review the EIC program. He appointed Glenn to serve as Chair and Charles Witek III and Tom Schlichter volunteered to serve on the committee.

Glenn reported that he had spoken to longtime Supporting Member Liaison Robin Sharpless, who said he would be fine with someone taking over the position. Glenn recognized Robin's long service and volunteered to fill that role.

Finally, Dan moved, Deb seconded motion to extend one year's complimentary supporting membership to three entities that were helpful in planning the conference. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn Sapir - Recording Secretary

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 8 tear sheets
 City: _____
 Circulation: _____ Column Name: _____
 Published: ___ Daily ___ Weekly ___ Monthly ___ Freelance

B. Magazine _____
 Staff position: _____ Freelance: _____
 ___ National: Attach two tear sheets. ___ Regional: Attach 4 tear sheets.

C. Lecturer – Attach copies of a published schedule or 4 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 (or less) 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 |
| ___ p. Water Sports | ___ q. Cooking | ___ r. Nature |

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 |
| ___ M. Photographer | | |

Applicant's Signature _____ Date: _____ Active
 Sponsor Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Active Sponsor: _____

Please enclose a check, made payable to NYSOWA, with this application and mail to:
 Stephen George -173 Willie Road, Gloversville N.Y. 12078



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: _____
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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:

Stephen George -173 Willie Road, Gloversville N.Y. 12078