

NYSOWA's Steve Piatt (l) successfully mentored Bradley Shady, age 15 (r), during New York's youth turkey hunting weekend. Piatt is the 2016 Pass It On Award winner. Details on how to submit nominations for this year's award, as well as the M. Paul Keesler New York Outdoor Citizen Award, can be found on Pages 3 and 4.

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Contents

Membership News: 3-4

President's Report: 5

Vice President Reports: 6-12

Supporting Member News: 13-16

Membership Applications: 17-18

Membership Renewals

Membership renewals for 2022 are underway. To renew online, visit nysowa.org/?page_id=4560. Or, use printed forms on pages 30-31. For questions about membership, please contact Stephen George: capt.stephen1007@gmail.com.

Calendar

May 19-22, 2022

Spring Safari

Roscoe, Sullivan County

A Celebration of Fly-Fishing
History and Nostalgia

Oct. 6-9, 2022

Fall Conference

Corning, Steuben County

Stay tuned for more details

NYSOWA Membership News

DEC Seeking Article Submissions for *The Conservationist* Magazine

Details can be found in the Members Only section on nysowa.org.

Committee Chairs Needed for Bob McNitt Memorial Scholarship Program

Both Ed Noonan and Dan Ladd, who have co-chaired this fund/program for many years, are stepping down. The program annually sends two young people to DEC Summer Camps, sponsors two women (including one NYSOWA member or spouse) to DEC's Becoming an Outdoors Woman workshop and provides an annual college scholarship. If you are interested in being involved in this program, please contact Dan Ladd by email at buck@adkhunter.com.

Last Call for 2022 Spring Safari Registration

The deadline to register for the 2022 Spring Safari was May 1. However, late registrations will be considered depending upon availability. At press time, accommodations were nearly full but alternative accommodations are available. Contact Rich Redman or Dan Ladd for details.

NYSOWA Seeks Nominations for 2022 Pass It On Award

The New York State Outdoor Writers Association reminds members that nominations are now open for the 2022 Pass It On Award. Initiated by Bass Pro Shops, this annual award honors the person who has done the most to "pass on" our outdoor heritage. This award is given to Active Members of NYSOWA. The writer or media person is honored with a plaque at the Annual Conference and his or her name is recorded in the Annual Directory along with previous winners.

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 a number of ways such as creating awareness through writing, helping organizations that promote these activities, or directly being involved in mentoring and educating.

Nominees must be Active Members of NYSOWA. Any member of NYSOWA may nominate a person they consider deserving of this award by giving a written description of the activities or accomplishments that this person has performed to pass on the heritage of outdoor sports and conservation.

Nominations should be sent to Bill Hilts, Jr. at 618 Walnut Street, Lockport, NY 14094 or by e-mail to billhiltsjr@gmail.com.

Deadline for nominations is August 15, 2022.

The winner will be honored at the NYSOWA Fall Conference in Corning.

State Communicators Group Opens Nominations for New York M. Paul Keesler Outdoor Citizen Award

New York State Outdoor Writers Association to honor an individual or organization

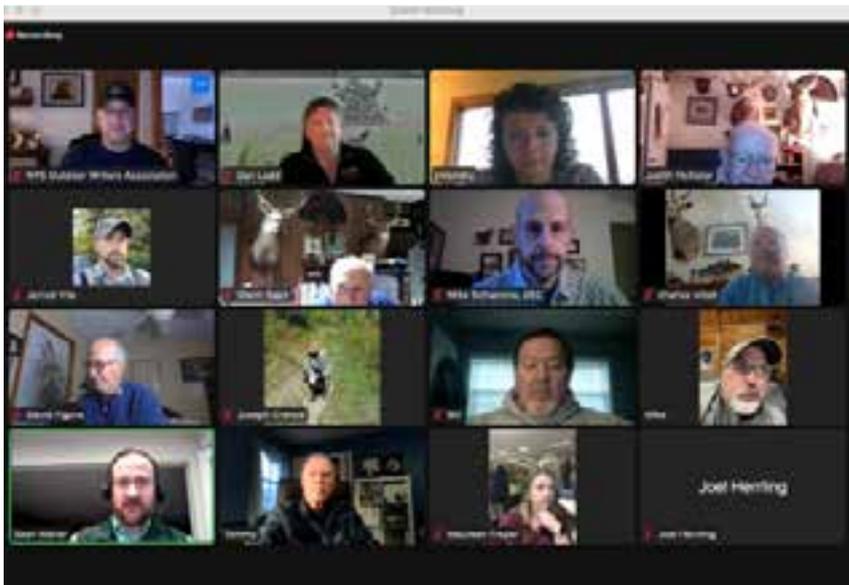
The 2022 NYSOWA M. Paul Keesler New York Outdoor Citizen Award will be presented to an individual or organization that has effectively raised the public's awareness of outdoor recreational opportunities and conservation issues in New York State. The award recipient will be officially announced at the 2022 annual conference of the New York State Outdoor Writers Association (NYSOWA) in Corning.

The award was created to honor worthy individuals and organizations, at the same time perpetuating the name of one of NYSOWA'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. Beginning with outdoor columns for the Utica Observer Dispatch and progressing to the popular New York Sportsman magazine, Keesler, and his magazine's contributors, enlightened and educated readers statewide and beyond to the wild treasures of the Empire State. Keesler also wrote books on canoe fishing New York waterways and on his beloved West Canada Creek and Mohawk Valley.

Anyone may submit a nomination of 350 words or less and have it endorsed by an active member of NYSOWA. To review award criterion and the nominating process, visit www.nysowa.org. To learn of a NYSOWA member in a nominator's area who might endorse such a nomination, contact Bill Hilts, Jr. at (716) 622-6168, or Mike Joyner (607) 753-8420 or check the website www.nysowa.org.

Nominations must be received by August 15, 2022.

Send nominations to Bill Hilts, Jr., 618 Walnut Street, Lockport, NY 14094, or email at billhiltsjr@gmail.com.



NYSOWA'S virtual Zoom sessions and meetings have proved invaluable in our ability to communicate within the organization as well as with outside entities like DEC. Such meetings provide excellent and timely story material, which is why we continue to do them even though we have resumed our two annual meetings in person. Please consider joining us during a future session.

Photo by Dan Ladd

NYSOWA President Chris Paparo



Well it is officially spring, but with significant snow upstate and temps dipping into the upper thirties on the Island, it seems winter does not want to let go just yet.

One thing that Mother Nature cannot stop is the spring turkey season which opens on May 1st. In preparation of the season opener we had an extremely informative “Turkey Talk” Zoom meeting with the NYSDEC. At the start of the meeting we had a meet and greet with the new director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Dr. Jacqueline Lendrum. Jackie gave us a background of her work experience and shared with us her plans to participate in the youth hunt with her children. After Jackie’s introduction, wildlife biologist Mike Schiavone gave us a rundown of the state’s turkey population trends and the possible causes for fluctuations. He also discussed new proposals such as all-day hunting, a spring season on Long Island, and allowing #9 shot size. The Q&A session after his presentation led to some great discussions and was a perfect opportunity for our members to ask questions and have their opinion on these proposals heard. You can watch this and other meetings by visiting our YouTube channel.

If you have not attended one of these Zoom meetings, you are really missing out. Our “Fireside Chats” have been a great way for members to better know one another and share stories. Our informative meetings with the NYSDEC and our supporting members have supplied ample content for those of us that write columns or news pieces. If there is a topic you would like covered, please let me know and I will try my best to arrange an expert in that field to speak with us.

May 19-21 you will find us in Roscoe, NY at the NYSOWA Spring Safari. Richard Redman has arranged what looks to be an awesome experience and I hope to see many of you there! To learn more about what is being offered, Richard provided us with a Zoom presentation that was recorded and is now posted on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIt07bA6n-3TlwUwc4GuDaDA/featured>. While you are at our channel, please be sure to click subscribe. Not only will you get notified when new videos are posted, when we reach 100 subscribers we can change the URL to contain NYSOWA and not a bunch of random numbers and letters.

Over the last few years, NYSOWA has been growing with the changing times. We adjusted our membership requirements to better reflect the current outdoor communicator’s market. The world of Zoom has allowed our members to be better connected with one another and be informed of pertinent news items. And we have started to use social media (Facebook, Instagram and YouTube) to better promote who we are. These are all great steps to grow NYSOWA, but most importantly we need YOUR support. Reach out to fellow writers, photographers, artists, bloggers, YouTubers, etc. and ask them to join NYSOWA. Attend a Zoom or one of our two in-person meetings. Tag NYSOWA on social media so we can share and promote your work. Write an article for our newsletter. Volunteer to serve on one or more of our committees. All these actions will not only grow NYSOWA, they will strengthen each of us as outdoor communicators.

I hope to see you all at the Spring Safari or one of our virtual events.

Northern Region VP Dan Ladd



I'm guessing that like most of New York, one of the big stories so far this spring has been the weather. The North Country has experienced a colder-than-average month of April, with sub-freezing temperatures and plenty of snow. One mid-April snowstorm dumped over a foot of snow on parts of the Adirondacks and Gore Mountain Ski Center re-opened on weekends during the later part of the month. Why not?

While the weather hasn't slowed down the fish stocking trucks, it has slowed down the fishing, especially for those who go out by boat. The big culprit here has been the wind, which never seems to stop blowing. I had an April 29 Hudson River striped bass outing planned out of Albany with fellow NYSOWA member Ed Skorupsky that was cancelled because of the relentless winds, which has also kept me out of my kayak (along with a few home projects). So, there's not much to report on fishing up this way, but that's about to change as the weather warms and brook trout anglers head for their favorite back-country ponds, which is my personal favorite type of spring fishing.

Turkeys

While the youth turkey hunt was deemed somewhat of a success locally, finding birds still seems to be hit and miss, especially in the farm country. While there's never been a lot of turkeys in the Adirondacks, it seems that where there are birds they are more than holding their own. My mentee almost got a shot during the youth hunt, but it didn't work out. I did have some luck opening day and hope all who enjoy turkey hunting have some success this spring. I bagged a big Adirondack tom opening day, but things have been quiet since.

Lake Champlain

The big lake on New York's north-eastern border has a lot going on. As I'm sure you've seen from DEC press releases, for the second year experimental pen-raising of Atlantic salmon is taking place out of Plattsburgh. And up and down the shore DEC staff is conducting angler creel surveys to gather some much-needed data.

But there's more. Lake trout are doing better than ever in the big lake, so much so that stocking has decreased. We're also waiting to hear about what, if any, sea lamprey treatments will take place this fall. Meanwhile, bass season is about to commence and that means a plethora of tournaments. Lake Champlain is a bass bonanza with both smallmouth and largemouth. Any serious New York bass angler owes it to themselves to give it a try some time.

Deer & Bear

The 2021 white-tailed deer harvest stats haven't been released by DEC yet, but don't be surprised if the buck take in the Northern Zone is down from 2020, or even the five year average. We'll see for sure when the numbers come out, but it seemed like reports from the early part of the season, when it was unseasonably warm, were minimal and that most of the bucks were taken later in the season. As for the late winter, it was a mild winter overall and folks are seeing plenty of deer this spring, so a good hunting season likely lies ahead.

The same is likely for bear. The 2021 bear harvest was down, according to DEC's stats, which means they should rebound this year. Let's see what we have for mast crops and drought and by summer we should have a better idea of the bear situation. But generally, a slow year is followed by big year in terms of the black bear harvest in the Northern Zone, especially the Adirondacks.

Gypsy Moths

One thing that may have contributed to smaller acorn production last year was a massive gypsy moth infestation in many counties, especially in the southern and eastern Adirondacks. Typically a three-year cycle, many of us are preparing for year-two and will be taking precautions with some of the trees in our yards to keep them at bay. Unfortunately, their larva will be hatching soon so if you're from this region, do some research on how to protect your trees. Some folks wrap duct-tape around them, including a few strands of the sticky side out, which stops the larva before it can go up the tree and devour leaves in the caterpillar stage. The damage these things do is hard to miss. We'll see what happens.

Kid's Fishing Derby

I am part of the resurrected Warren County Conservation Council and although participation from the sporting clubs in the county are not what they used to be, we do have some dedicated individuals who got together on April 30 to hold a special kids fishing derby at the Gore Mountain Ski Bowl. Forty youth and their families attended the event, which was free and the main prizes were fishing packages that included a fishing rod and a tackle box stuffed with lures and terminal tackle for both bass and trout fishing. Prizes went to those who caught the first and last fish, as well as the biggest and smallest and another award went to a young lady who caught the most.

It was a great day made possible by the Council, the Town of Johnsbury, the Johnsbury Fish & Game Club and the Johnsbury Jr. Outdoor Club. Special thanks to the Crossroads Country Store, Capt. Jeff "J.J." Johnson of Rod Bender Charters. If some of these people and places sound familiar, it's because they supported NYSOWA when we had our 50th Anniversary Conference in Warren County back in 2017.

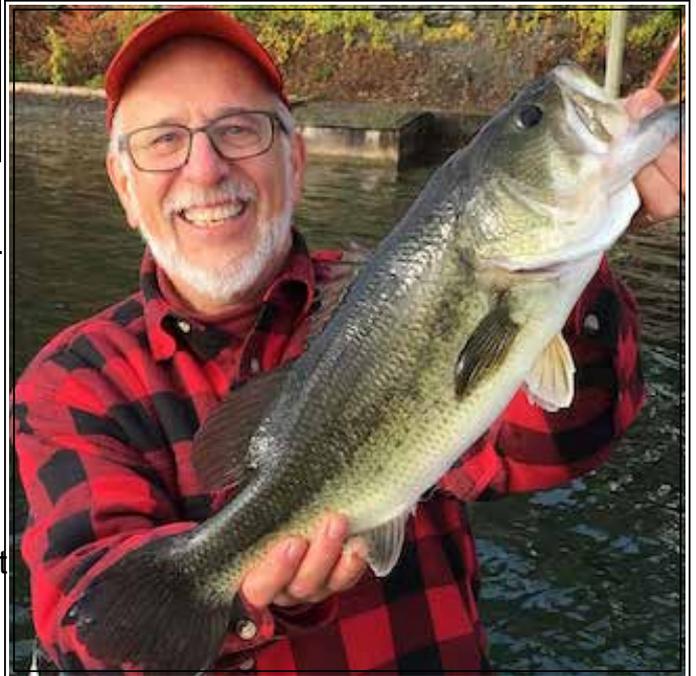
And speaking of Johnsbury youth outdoor programs, the school's National Archery in School's participants did quite well at this year's state tournament, and they also involved in the New York State High School Clay Target League



Capt. Jeff "J.J." Johnson measures a fine rainbow trout caught by a youngster at the inaugural Town of Johnsbury Kids Fishing Derby.

Photo by Dan Ladd

West/Central Region VP David Figura



Trout season opener

A cold, rainy, snowy April 1 presented some challenges to CNY and Western trout fishermen. Nevertheless, anglers turned out in droves to wet their lines on opening day on their favorite, local waterways, with many catching fish. This year featured new regulations and stream classifications – all designed by the state Department of Environmental Conservation to “simplify things” and cater to the wide mix of angler preferences. The DEC’s Inland Trout Management plan makes a sharp distinction between wild trout and stocked trout management, using a set of five management categories of inland waterways to clearly define fisheries management objectives. Other highlights of the plan include a year-round catch-and-release season and the stocking of larger fish. For more on this, and what classifications the streams near you fall under, see the DEC website. dec.ny.gov/outdoor/111015.html

Fishing Derbies back on track: Covid-19 impacted many fishing events across the state the last two years. Adult and especially youth derby contests were either cancelled or struggled with less participants. Although the pandemic continues to linger, it appears popular CNY and Western NY fishing derbies and tournaments, many which raise money for local charities, are back on track.

Among the big ones this spring:

- Oneida Lake Walleye Derby. May 7-8. Features nearly \$9,000 in cash and prizes. Last year’s winner was Kyle Magill-Jones, of Cicero. He won \$2,000 for catching the biggest fish, plus an additional \$2,500 due to the fact that the fish had a special tag on it. For more on this contest, see https://chittenangolions.org/Walleye_Derby/
- LOC Spring Derby on Lake Ontario. May 6-15. Features \$44,350 in cash prizes. Last year, 12-year-old Finnan Murphy of Pittsford took home the \$15,000 grand prize for his Chinook salmon. For more, see <https://loc.org/home-page>
- America Lake Trout Derby on Seneca Lake. Set for Memorial Day weekend (May 28-30). Features nearly \$30,000 in prizes. Last year’s winner was Rick Willower, of Geneva, who took home the \$10,000 grand prize for his land-locked salmon. For more on this contest, see <https://www.laketrounderby.org/>
- Canandaigua Lake Trout Derby. June 4-5. Last year’s grand prize winner (\$1,000) was Justin Schweinzer, of Dansville, who reeled in a record-setting, 29.25-pound laker. For more, see <https://canandaiguatrounderby.org/>
- Skip Hartman Memorial Lake Ontario Pro-Am Salmon Team Tournament. June 3-4. More than \$40,000 in cash and prizes. For more information, call (877) FALLS US or log onto the tournament (<https://lakeontarioproam.net/>) for rules and registration.
- Southtowns Walleye Derby on Lake Erie and Upper Niagara River. June 11-19. Features more than \$100,000 in cash and prizes. For more, see <https://www.southtownswalleye.com/derby>

Turkey Hunting Outlook for the 2022 Spring Season: (from Mike Joyner)

“There was a time in New York when much of the state regionally held substantial populations for all but a few areas. A good location to turkey hunt was anywhere you could hunt, and you would find birds. As outlook forecasts for feathered opportunities always depend on location, some years depend on it for probabilities of success more than others. This season, in my estimation, is one of those times. Due diligence in scouting over the past several months will give you a much better chance of success, even more so when hunting conditions change. With a substantial decline in the populations, it requires you to cover more ground to find birds willing to gobble, and with prior information that scouting gains you, your odds are more in your favor.

“What I found during my scouting and other travels in Central NY, Western NY, and the Southern Tier, many of the places I count on to see turkeys during the winter months and those

leading up to the opener have been rather disappointing in terms of consistent sightings and the reduction in flock size. In the instances where I have seen them, the number of birds in the flocks were substantially less compared to recent years. Those places local to each of you that traditionally have birds would likely still have them, but if the trend holds across the varied ecosystems found in the Empire state, you might not encounter as many as memory may recall.

“Reports of decent numbers come from northern New York and most recently from Long Island which boded well for 2023 should a season be approved. Key advice which is good boiler-plate in any given season may hold more helpful this season in keeping tactics low key. Old school tactics worked well in the days long before we had an explosion of turkey populations in the 1990s. Slow hunting instead of run and gun, soft calling, and non-aggressive confidence calling. If you know there to be a healthy-sized flock of jakes where you hunt, you can get away with more aggressive tactics to stir things up and get the older birds to come in and maintain order. In perusing social media, there were plenty of smiling young hunters from the youth hunt weekend that made good on some very nice gobblers. Best of luck and have a memorable and safe spring season”

Lake Erie Outreach Event Postponed

In an unexpected announcement received late April, DEC postponed its State of Lake Erie angler outreach event that was scheduled to be held April 26 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Lodge located with Woodlawn Beach State Park. It will be rescheduled in early summer.

The 2021 Lake Erie Annual Report is now available on the DEC website at https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/2021lakerierpt.pdf. For further information contact Jason Robinson, Lake Erie Unit Leader at (716) 366-0228.

Walleye fishing rule change:

With the walleye fishing season opening on May 1 this year (rather than the first Saturday), anglers in CNY should be aware of two rule changes on CNY waterways for the popular, tasty fish species.

- First, the daily take limit for walleye on Oneida Lake has been increased from three to the five fish – the result of a study by Cornell University researchers that show the lake’s walleye population is the healthiest it’s been in decades. The population of adult walleye was estimated to be one million fish in 2019, a level that has not been reached since the 1980s.
- Second, the illegal stocking of walleyes by unknown sources in Skaneateles Lake (an eastern Finger Lake) has been a big concern of the DEC. Net surveys have shown the fish species is naturally reproducing in the lake – a bad sign for the lake’s celebrated trout fishery. After holding a public hearing and seeking of public input for the past couple of years on the issue, DEC finally decided to approve a year-round season for walleye on the lake, with no daily catch limit. Fish, though, have to be at least 12 inches to keep.

Native American/walleye controversy

Speaking of walleyes and Oneida Lake, the DEC blocked off a section of the road and prohibited parking near the DEC hatchery in Constantia on Scriba Creek several days after a pair of conflicts between DEC conservation officers and a handful of Native American fishermen. The move came following an incident involving fishing access rights near the hatchery, which borders the stream. The episode has embroiled conservationists, anglers, state regulators, and Native Americans in a conflict over a complicated legal gray area involving Native American fishing rights under state law.

Initially, on April 2, DEC officers ticketed two men currently residing on the Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne, for spearing and taking 23 walleye at the location. One of the men, Angus Laborgne, said he didn’t recognize state fishing laws, and it was his understanding that members of New York’s indigenous tribes are allowed access to New York’s waterways at all times. Laborgne returned to Scriba Creek Tuesday, April 5, with 14 other people “from every single reserve,” he said, and took 42 more walleye using spears.

This time, however, DEC police, who were patrolling Scriba Creek along with New York State Police officers, issued no tickets – per orders from higher ups in Albany. Several days after, the DEC closed the road and prohibited parking along the spawning area of the creek using 30 large, concrete barricades. The decision to not ticket the men on the second incident outraged the DEC officers union and the Oneida Lake Association, among others.

According to a statement release by the OLA Board: “The OLA Board is extremely concerned about this practice. Clearly, spearing unlimited walleyes during the closed season while they are spawning, in the very shadow of the Hatchery, is a serious threat to the health and welfare of the species.”

The DEC office released the following statement: “DEC recognizes the importance of walleye as a subsistence and cultural resource for Indigenous Nations, and is actively consulting with the leadership of the nine State-Recognized Indigenous Nations to advance our shared conservation objectives.”

Meanwhile, Gov. Kathy Hochul recently vetoed a bill that would have expanded indigenous people’s rights to hunt and fish state land. Stay tuned on this issue. It’s not going to go away.

More Chinook salmon getting stocked in Lake Ontario

Earlier this year, the Lake Ontario Unit of DEC’s Bureau of Fisheries announced there would be salmon stocking increases in 2022. These will be the first increases since 2016, following three stocking adjustments made as a result of concerns over the lake’s forage base. The decision to up the stocking of Chinooks by 50,000 fish is correlated with a much more favorable outlook of the lake’s alewife population – the top food source for the Chinooks in the lake. The earlier decreases in stocking numbers were instituted to allow alewife numbers to recover. As a result, this year’s plan calls for the release of 50,000 more Chinooks, all to be raised in pens along the lake’s southern shore line or the Salmon River hatchery to improve survival rates. In addition, the Canadians will also be updating its stocking numbers on the north side of the lake by 50,000 fish.

Salmon River Hatchery near the Salmon River in Altmar remains closed to visitors due to a \$1.4 million dollar construction project: This includes the grounds, the fish ladder, the viewing deck and the visitor center. This is the second phase of improvements at hatchery. In late 2017, the DEC announced the completion of the first phase, which included \$150,000 for new live fish displays, improved public areas, signage and interpretive displays.

A significant portion of money for the second phase (\$750,000) is going toward a new fish ladder, which provides a direct route for the fish from a nearby open brook into the hatchery itself. Another \$150,000 is slated for a new fish crowder in the collection area. The crowder brings the fish directly into the hatchery for spawning. The remaining \$500,000 would be used to upgrade the hatchery’s visitor’s center.

Built in 1980, the Salmon River Fish Hatchery specializes in raising chinook salmon, coho salmon, steelhead, and brown trout. The hatchery was constructed to revive and enhance the Great Lakes fishery and now provides most of the fish for the multi-million-dollar Lake Ontario salmonid fishery. Each year this hatchery stocks over 1.4 million Chinook salmon fingerlings (young fish 3-5 inches long), 155,000 coho fall fingerlings (3-5 inches), 90,000 coho salmon yearlings (a fish between one and two years old), and 750,000 steelhead yearlings.

The Madcatter 46.

A huge, Hobie Cat Racing Regatta on Oneida Lake. Set for May 20-22. This annual Hobie Cat regatta features Hobie Cat sailors in different size/type boats from across the country and beyond. Hobie Fleet 204 in Brewerton is hosting the event and the boats will be launched from Oneida Shores Park in Brewerton. Read more: https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/24497#_home



Southeast Region VP Tom Schlichter

It's been a mixed bag on the regulations front this spring for New York's southeastern sportsmen. On the plus side, as many of you know, the DEC has proposed a spring turkey season for Long Island's Suffolk County in 2023. Up to now, it's been fall only for the Island's turkey hunters. Current estimates put the Long Island flock at as many as 6,000 birds combined for Nassau and Suffolk counties. While most are located on the East End, there are some significant numbers as far west as Rocky Point along the North Shore and Brookhaven on the south side.

The first turkey hunting season on Long Island was a five-day fall season in 2009 with a one-bird bag limit. After DEC established this season and, later, a two-day youth-only spring season, turkey populations in the area continued to increase. DEC believes the turkey populations here can now support additional hunting opportunities in the form of a spring season from May 1 through May 31. If adopted as proposed, the new spring season would occur in 2023 and allow hunters with the appropriate license to take one bearded bird apiece.

Despite the number of birds on Long Island, turkey hunting here isn't a gimme. I'd been trying to get one with my bow for several years. I finally succeeded last fall. What a thrill! I can't wait to have another vice come next May when spring fishing is also at its peak.

Another positive for New York's outdoors faithful are new fluke (summer flounder) regulations. Fluke fishing has been a tough go for New York' marine anglers over the past few years as warming waters seem to be driving the bulk of the population further north. Still, regulators were able to slightly loosen fluke restrictions this year, extending the season slightly and dropping the minimum size limit by half-an-inch.

The new summer flounder season runs from May 1 through October 9, provides for an 18.5-inch minimum size limit, and four fish bag limit. Reaction has generally been favorable to the new regs, as far as I can tell, although a few fluke fans have stated they would prefer to see the regs slightly tightened given the lackluster results of the past few years. Some have also advocated for a slot size limit, or even a maximum size limit, to protect more females. Male fluke tend to measure less than 17 inches, so pretty-much all of those huge "doormats" you see anglers holding up are spawners. The efficacy of regulations that actually encourage the keeping of female stock is a debate that is likely to continue in the near term.

On the downside, scup and black sea bass, both of which have current stock biomass that far exceeds minimum thresholds, are expected to see significant tightening of their regulations this year due to harvest overages in recent years. As we went to press, 2021 regulations were still in effect. There is still some (slim) hope for a last-minute stay resulting in status-quo for the 2022 season, so I'm not going to dig into the details at this point. Still, even in the best-case scenarios, significant reductions are the likely outcome. Suffice to say that, with both sea bass and scup, it would be a good idea to check current NYS DEC regulations (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html>) before heading out.

On the brighter side, May is finally here and the striper run is off to a good start with excellent catches in the Hudson Valley, Raritan Bay and western Long Island Sound. Bunker have already made their way to Montauk and Orient points, Porgies are currently swarming the Peconics, and April's blackfish season, while short, did prove fairly sweet for the few who gave it a serious try.

Freshwater action across Southeastern New York is also in full swing. With generally cool temperatures so far, trout fishing has remained strong from the Catskills to Long Island, and crappie, yellow perch and pickerel fans have put together some banner catches.

Largemouth bass action has been solid, too, with reports of fast action and a surprising number of bigmouths in the 18- to 20-inch class bringing smiles to those working Senko worms, smaller jig & pig combos, Panther Martin Sonic Streamers, and jerkbaits. As temperatures begin to push through the 60-degree range on a more regular basis in the next few weeks, some super spinner-bait and surface action should come into play. Make sure you get out and enjoy the early-season bite while the weeds have yet to crowd the surface because it won't belong until slop fishing once again rules the roost.



Kids and adults enjoy fishing for black sea bass.

Photo by 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 outdoor adventure area.

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.**

Whoa, Boaters! Slow Down on the Recent E15 News

It may not be as good as you think



SPRINGFIELD, Va., April 18, 2022 – There’s been a lot of pain at the pump lately with gas prices. The Biden administration’s April 12 move to give a waiver from the Clean Air Act to allow the sale of gasoline containing 15% ethanol (E15) during the summer months is intended to lower costs and stretch the nation’s fuel supply.

However, Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) says the unintended consequence of the waiver could inadvertently put a harmful fuel prohibited for use in recreational vessels into your boat’s gas tank.

BoatUS notes recreational vessels are never compatible with E15 (15% ethanol). It is not permitted by federal law to use E15 fuel in boats (as well as motorcycles, off-road vehicles and power equipment), voids the engine warranty, and it has been proven to cause damage to marine engines. It also causes engines to run hotter and contains less energy than E10. Recreational vessel engines may only use gasoline containing no more than 10% ethanol (E10).

“While we understand the need to save money, we are concerned that fuel retailers may market E15 (15% ethanol) fuel, such as ‘regular 88’ or ‘regular unleaded’ as a lower cost alternative to E10,” said BoatUS Manager of Government Affairs David Kennedy. “And therein lies the problem — the majority of recreational boats are refueled at roadside gas stations and, with almost no safeguards in place, there is a real chance that boat owners, looking for a bargain will misfuel their boats with E15 fuel.”

E15 dispensing pumps have a poor warning regime, sometimes just a single orange label on the pump, which is ineffective at informing consumers. A 2020 Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) poll shows that only about one in five consumers know that “regular 88” — or 88 octane fuel — has more ethanol (15%) in it than 87 octane (10% ethanol) fuel.

Kennedy further explains: “To refuel, boaters head to their local gas station with the boat in tow for a fill-up. Newer tow vehicles may be compatible with E15. “Regular 88” is selected and dispensed into tow vehicle’s gas tank. Then the boater pulls the trailer rig forward to refuel the boat. Without a clear understanding, the “Regular 88” fuel dispensing nozzle is put in the boat’s fuel tank fill, and you soon end up with a tank full of prohibited E15 fuel.”

Without the waiver, E15 fuels are prohibited for sale during the summer months (June 1 – September 15) as a way to address the higher ethanol fuel’s contribution to ground level ozone (smog) on hot days.

The administration’s April 12 “fact sheet” also notes USDA is considering additional action to facilitate the use of E15 year-round and other actions to significantly increase the sale and use of higher blends of ethanol fuels.

It is also notes EPA is considering modifications to pump labeling. “That is something BoatUS fully supports,” added Kennedy.

boatus.com

Redding Reloading Equipment Introduces NXGen Carbide Sizing Dies For Straight Wall Cases



Cortland, NY.....Redding Reloading Equipment has been a leader in Carbide sizing die technology as the first company to use Titanium Carbide, later by introducing the unique Dual Ring Carbide Sizing Dies. And now with their introduction of NXGen Carbide Technology.

Previous carbide sizing dies were generally limited by the single dimension of their narrow carbide ring which was dimensioned to hold a bullet in the thinnest possible SAAMI neck wall thickness. While this did well for bullet retention it was not always appropriate for the remainder of the case. This caused excessive sizing that limited case life as well as in many cases reduced dimensions to a level which did not fit the chamber well.

NXGen Carbide sizing dies leverage the latest advances in materials science, specifically as related to Carbide, creating new and innovative designs to increase ease of use and improved dimensional accuracy in straight wall cases. These NXGen designs create cases with profiles which do not exhibit the Wasp Waist often found with use of a traditional single ring carbide. NXGen uses a greater carbide contact surface giving these dies the ability to better compensate for a variety of wall thicknesses without over sizing the case body. Materials technologies continually advance and provide Redding engineers with opportunities to create previously unattainable design characteristics to better serve the needs of the straight wall cartridge reloader. These advances in NXGen carbide technology along with enhanced designs make possible improved ease of sizing and allow for more accurate dimensioning for the entire range of new cartridge case products from suppliers around the world.

NXGen Carbide dies for straight wall cases are the result of Redding's continued commitment to innovation and quality that now spans over 75 years. Redding Reloading Equipment has focused on building the finest quality, American Made products for the precision handloading market since 1946. To learn more about our ongoing commitment to the precision handloading enthusiast and to request a copy of the current Redding catalog visit: www.redding-reloading.com



APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN FOR \$100,000 IN NSSF HUNTING HERITAGE TRUST GRANTS

NEWTOWN, Conn. — NSSF®, The Trade Association for the Firearm Industry, is pleased to announce that the application process for the 2022 Hunting Heritage Trust Grant program featuring \$100,000 in awards is open.



The Hunting Heritage Trust Grant program is designed to support recruitment efforts benefitting hunting and the shooting sports. Qualified non-governmental organizations (NGOs) may apply for a portion of this year's \$100,000 grant total, to be used to support recruitment, retention and reactivation programs, known collectively as R3 efforts.

In its grant award process, NSSF will place an emphasis this year on programs assisting non-traditional participants.

"We encourage eligible organizations to apply for assistance with this new round of Hunting Heritage Trust grants," said Joe Bartozzi, NSSF President & CEO. "With an increase in firearm sales and also interest in hunting and recreational shooting among diverse, non-traditional audiences, we'll be focusing on assisting programs that address the needs of this growing participant base. If you've got a program in mind that meets the criteria, one of these grants can help get it off the ground."

Grant applications may be submitted only by and in the name of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) seeking funding for hunting and shooting sports R3 efforts. Project proposals from organizations other than non-NGOs will not be accepted. All grant applications **must be submitted to NSSF by May 13, 2022**, for consideration. All projects awarded grant funding in 2022 must be completed by March 10, 2023. Organizations are eligible for only one grant award from the Grant Program.

The complete grant application criteria are available here: <https://www.nssf.org/grants/nssf-hht-grant-program/>

NSSF asks organizations to read the criteria closely to understand what projects are, and are not, eligible for Hunting Heritage Program grant funding.

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About NSSF

The National Shooting Sports Foundation is the trade association for the firearm industry. Its mission is to promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. Formed in 1961, NSSF has a membership of thousands of manufacturers, distributors, firearm retailers, shooting ranges, sportsmen's organizations and publishers nationwide. For more information, log on to www.nssf.org.

visit NSSF.org

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: _____
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:

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