



Like this view?

If so, you'll have a chance to enjoy it if you attend the 2023 Fall Safari being held Sept. 29 - Oct. 2 on Thurber Pond, in Washington County. Details inside.

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Calendar

Fall Safari
Thurber Pond
Washington County
Sept. 29-Oct. 2
(Fri-Mon)
<https://www.adkbyowner.com/listings/VR12761.html>

NYSOWA 2023 Fall Safari

Sept. 29 - Oct. 2 (Fri-Mon)

Thurber Pond, Fort Ann (Hogtown),
Washington County

Summary: Thurber Pond is a 30-acre private lake in the Hogtown area of West Fort Ann. Although it is surrounded by private land, there are thousands of acres of Adirondack Forest Preserve lands very close by, which are part of the Lake George Wild Forest. We will be staying in a large rental house and an apartment adjacent to Thurber Pond.

Hunting: This location is in the Northern Zone so grouse, archery season for deer and the black bear season will all be open. Turkey season opens here Oct. 1 (Sunday). Whitetail hunting on the Thurber Pond property is buck only but there are places available where antlerless deer can be taken. There may also be some pheasant hunting opportunities, which also opens Oct. 1.

Fishing: Thurber Pond is a prime largemouth bass fishery. Fishing is catch-and-release only. Rowboats and canoes are available and should be used to prevent the spread of invasive species. Use of a pontoon boat on nearby Hadlock Pond (bass, pike) may be available and there may also be some guided Lake George trips available. There's plenty of on-your-own fishing in the region so feel free to bring a canoe or kayak. Trout anglers may want to consider the moderate 1-mile hike into nearby Inman Pond to fish for brook trout, or a Sleeping Beauty/Bumps Pond (trout) hiking/fishing combo.

Hiking: Hogtown is an extremely popular hiking area. Favorite local hikes are Buck (Dan will lead a guided hike here), Sleeping Beauty and Shelving Rock mountains, as well as the trail to Inman Pond. There is wonderful network of easy trails on the shores of Lake George that include a visit to Shelving Rock Falls.

Link to DEC's Lake George Wild Forest page: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/53165.html>

Thurber Pond Link: <https://www.adkbyowner.com/listings/VR12761.html>

Notes: Typically, the family only rents out the house, but we'll also have the family's separate apartment with four additional bedrooms. Space will be limited, back-up accommodations may be needed and are in the works.

Due to a flat rate rental agreement the registration fee is not flexible based on the number of nights one stays.

As you'll see from the itinerary, there is plenty of time to relax or explore on your own in a remote setting.

NYSOWA 2023 Fall Safari

Sept. 29 - Oct. 2 (Fri-Mon)

Thurber Pond - 189 Miller Way, Fort Ann, NY 12827 Washington County

Fee: \$150

Schedule

Friday, Sept. 29:

- Arrival (come anytime), Meet n' Greet w/Taco Bar - 5 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 30:

- Morning outings
- Lunch - on your own (meat & cheese platter provided)
- Dinner - Dan Ladd's house, 4pm Sponsored by NY Outdoor News. Pumpkin picking too (harvest pending).

Sunday, Oct. 1:

- Morning outings
- Lunch/Dinner 1p.m. - Pot luck cookout on the lake with the Iron Sight Gang (Dan's hunting crew).

Monday, Oct. 2: Departure

Outings

	Saturday	Sunday
<input type="checkbox"/> On your own hiking (maps available)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> On your own bowhunting (buck only at Thurber)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Bowhunting at Dan's (antlerless allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> On your own grouse/bear hunting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Guided hike up Buck Mt. (5 miles)	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> On your own turkey hunting	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> On your own fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing on Hadlock Pond (pontoon boat)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The following opportunities may develop, circle any that interest you:

Guided Lake George fishing, Pheasant hunting (Sunday), Trap shooting (Sunday, BYO ammo).

Off-site registration fee: \$25.

Please make checks payable to Dan Ladd and send this page to:

Dan Ladd, PO Box 302, Fort Ann, N.Y. 12827

NYSOWA President Chris Paparo

I hope everyone has been enjoying summer and getting outside as much as possible. It is hard to believe summer is almost over and fall is right around the corner. Speaking of fall, Dan Ladd has been working hard to put together an amazing fall safari at Thurber Pond, in Washington County from September 29- October 2. There will be a lot of fishing, kayaking/canoeing, and feasting on wild game. More info can be found later in this newsletter.



Last month, NYSOWA member Joe Crance put together a two-part craft improvement workshop on how to build a writer's website. They were both extremely informative as he showed how easy it is for anyone to build a very professional website. Both sessions were recorded and posted to our YouTube channel for our members to view. These sessions are not listed publicly on our channel, so please email me for the links. Access to such craft improvement sessions is one of many perks to being a NYSOWA member. We will continue to schedule more craft improvement workshops, but we need your help. I know, without a doubt, that each of you has career building advice or stories that would be beneficial to other NYSOWA members. You might think you have nothing useful to share with a group of professional outdoor communicators, but remember, no one knows everything. Learning from each other is a great way to strengthen our community. Plus, as we recruit new members, many of which are just starting out in this field, it is our responsibility to help foster the next generation of outdoor communicators. If you would like to give one of these Zoom workshops, please contact me and we can schedule you for one of the upcoming sessions.

Speaking of new members, we are currently trying to increase our membership. Each of us is surrounded by a network of writers, photographers, bloggers, videographers, YouTubers, etc. who are not members of NYSOWA. We need to reach out to our peers, explain the benefits of being a member, and try and recruit them to NYSOWA. For added incentive, if a prospective member comes to one of our conferences, they will receive a free one-year membership to NYSOWA. After attending my first NYSOWA conference, I was hooked on this organization. I met so many great people and learned so much about the field of outdoor communication. My only regret was not joining NYSOWA sooner!

I hope everyone enjoys the last few weeks of summer and I hope to see you all very soon.

Northern Region VP

Dan Ladd

The story this summer has certainly been the weather. The same storms that wreaked havoc in Orange County also tore up the Central Adirondacks, particularly the area around Long Lake, impacting travel in areas that are popular with tourists. As of this writing, Rt. 28N between Newcomb and Long Lake remains closed. I have heard no reports of tree damage in the woods or on trails but I've got a feeling hunters entering the woods this fall will have some surprises.



Bass Fishing

The summer bass tournament season is just getting going. While Major League Fishing visited Cayuga Lake earlier this year, the Bassmaster Elite Series is about to wrap up its season in Northern New York. They'll fish Lake Champlain, out of the Plattsburgh Boat Basin, Aug. 17-20, then move on to Clayton to fish the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario, Aug. 24-27. Spectator attendance at these events, especially Clayton, is expected to be phenomenal.

Also, B.A.S.S. recently held a Northern Open on the St. Lawrence out of Waddington. Northern anglers did well, including my neighbor, Rich Ortiz, who finished eighth. Ortiz (who may be available to guide at the Fall Safari), is my most recent guest on the NY Outdoor News [Great Northeast Podcast](#). Check it out if you can. Press releases, photos and media credentials can be obtained at <http://www.bassmastermedia.com>.

Hunting Seasons

It won't be long before the hunting seasons are here. Along with seasons for Canada goose and squirrel, which open Sept. 1, the Adirondack region bear hunting season begins Sept. 16 followed by grouse season on Sept. 20 in the Northern Zone. A week later, on Sept. 27, the Northern Zone archery season for deer begins, which means it will be open for the Fall Safari, being held in Washington County.

Although we have not seen the spongy moth infestations that we did in 2021 and 2022, mast crop production, especially apples, seem to be off to a slow start. It's spotty, at best, in my haunts mainly due to some hard frosts that took place in May when apple trees were blossoming. It will be interesting to see how the acorn and even beechnut crops will be this year.

Beech Leaf Disease

Speaking of beeches, DEC recently confirmed that beech leaf disease (BLD) has been confirmed on the Town of Bolton's Edgecomb Pond parcel, in Warren County, making it the first verified occurrence of the invasive forest pest there. The affected trees, discovered earlier this year by DEC, are located along a trail that runs through the property. Since beech nuts are a major food source for many Adirondack animals, a large die-off of these trees would mean a serious lack of sustenance for wildlife such as bird, deer and bears. The first confirmed case of BLD in the Adirondacks was documented in Herkimer County in 2022; it was first confirmed in the U.S. in 2012. To learn more about BLD, visit the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program website: www.adkinvasives.com.

West/Central Region VP *David Figura*



Lake Ontario salmon fishing scene: For the second time in five years, the DEC has upped its stocking numbers of Chinook salmon in Lake Ontario. There will be a 10 percent increase in Chinook salmon stocking in the lake this year, the state Department of Environmental Conservation announced along with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. The DEC said it will stock 985,180 Chinook salmon this year, up about 90,000 from the 2022 number when DEC and OMNR each stocked 50,000 salmon into the lake.

However, it would seem that with 20% cutbacks by the DEC in stocking numbers in each of the three years prior to this one that this year's fishing scene would be sub-par.

Not so, said a couple of veteran charter boat guides I talked to recently. Both men – Capt. Troy Creasy of High Adventure Sportsfishing out of Oswego and Capt. Frank Campbell of Niagara Lake Charter Services – report 2023 has been a good year for anglers on the Big O. Creasy went as far as saying it's been one of his best seasons so far, adding along with the Chinooks, his clients are landing “a fair amount” of Atlantic salmon.

The reason? Both charter boat captains noted the DEC's overall management of the lake continues to reap rewards. The stocking cutbacks were the result of studies that have shown a decline in the lake's alewife population – the main forage for Chinooks. But the alewife numbers have rebounded, thus the increase in stocking numbers this year. Meanwhile, the fish that have been stocked the past few years are apparently showing a higher survival rate than those stocked in the past, both Campbell and Creasy said. Those raised at the Salmon River hatchery are getting new, improved food. And before they're released into the lake, they're getting placed in pens along the lake's shoreline maintained by volunteers. In the pens, they're continuing to be fed and grow bigger and healthier before finally getting released in the lake.

Campbell added that there also appears to be a noticeable increase in the number of wild salmon that are reproducing. Another positive factor is the decline in the parasitic sea lamprey population in the lake, thanks to renewed lampricide treatments in the lake's tributaries that were temporarily suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In regards to the hot weather we've been having, the lake's thermocline is deeper this summer, but it hasn't made much of difference. “We're still catching fish,” Creasy said.

Campbell said one thing that the DEC needs to address is the lake's population of fish-eating cormorants that feed on the newly stocked fish. Stay tuned on that one.

Hot weather and CNY/Western NY trout streams: Speaking about warm weather, not all but many CNY and Western New York inland trout streams were affected by higher than usual temperatures during June and July, what is usually the prime time to fish. Smaller streams were particularly impacted. Steve Weiter, president of the Iroquois chapter of Trout Unlimited with most members in the greater Syracuse area told me: “I can tell you that due to low and warm waters I have not been out locally

and that when I was in the Adirondacks in early June we only fished early mornings and late evenings so as not to stress the fish.” Adam McInerney, a veteran trout/steelhead angler from Cattaraugus in Western, N.Y. added, “I haven’t been inland trout fishing due to creeks being very low (and) water being very warm. Last trout I caught was in mid-May.”

NYS Smallmouth Bass Record broken -- again: You can’t this stuff up. Last year, Thomas Russell, of Albion, caught a state record-breaking smallmouth bass while fishing in a tournament on Cayuga Lake on opening day of the regular bass fishing season. The lunker weighed 8 pounds, 5.8 ounces. This year, also on opening day and fishing in the same tournament on the same Finger Lake, the Western, NY angler caught an even bigger smallie, obliterating last year’s feat. The most recent catch tipped the scale a 9 pounds, .04 ounces. Russell believes it was the same fish he caught last year, due to identical markings. However, he chose not to certify as a new state record. It was weighed on a certified tournament scale, but there was not a certified witness from the state available. Russell told Syracuse.com he didn’t want to stress the fish out any further so he released it – making it available for another angler to land a fish of a lifetime in the Finger Lake at a future date.

National recognition of NY’s great bass fishing: Six Upstate NY waterways were once again near the top of the 2023 Bassmaster Magazine’s 100 Best Bass Lakes in the country. Previously ranked No. 1 in the country, the St. Lawrence River slid one spot to second. Replaced by O.H. Ivie Lake in Texas. Five other New York waterways made the magazine’s top 100 list including: Lake Erie/Upper Niagara River; Lake Champlain, Cayuga Lake, Oneida Lake and Chautauqua Lake. Two Bassmaster Elite Series Tournaments, with \$100,000 going to each winner, are scheduled Aug. 17-20 on Lake Champlain and Aug. 24-27 on the St. Lawrence River. Prior to the start of the regular bass fishing season this year, a tournament from the Major League Fishing Bass Pro Tour was held June 6-11 on Cayuga Lake, with \$800,000 in total prize money.

NYS Pheasant stocking a go this fall: Things were looking dark for pheasant hunters this coming fall. Pheasant hunting is basically a put-and-take activity as the birds are not native to this state and must be stocked in areas open to hunting annually by the state Department of Environmental Conservation and conservation/hunting clubs. An outbreak of highly contagious, pathogenic avian influenza, however, wiped out nearly 7,000 pheasants—the state’s entire breeder flock—at Reynolds Game Farm in Ithaca earlier this year, the state’s sole pheasant breeding facility. In late June, though, DEC announced that the fall 2023 pheasant season will proceed as planned due to the fact that the state is acquiring ring-necked pheasants from a commercial hatchery to supplement fall upland bird hunting opportunities around the state. Reynolds Game farm has since received both young (8-12 weeks) and adult birds, where they’ll be raised until they’re ready for stocking at more than 100 locations around the state, DEC said.

Straight Shooters: Central New York trapshooters turned in impressive performances recently at the Empire State Championship trapshooting event, winning four of five categories. Dan Fadden, of Cicero, had the steadiest hand and sharpest eye, taking home three of five state titles including the Singles 200, High All Around 400, and High Overall 1000 events. His wins qualify him for the American Trap Association’s Grand American “championship of champions” competition on Aug. 9 in Sparta, Ill. There, he’ll be shooting against the top trapshooters from around the country and Canada. Skaneateles resident Urban Womer, who will also be traveling to Sparta for the national competition, took home the state doubles title, breaking 97/100 clays launched in pairs. Pompey Rod and Gun Club won the Club Championship – putting final emphasis on the fact that CNY is indeed a trapshooting hotbed.

A big-money contest for the “Average Joe” angler: There are a number of fishing tournaments going on throughout the year in the CNY Western NY regions. Among them is the popular Lake Ontario Counties (LOC) Derby, which has three competitions on the lake: spring, summer and fall.

The Summer Derby, which was held from July 1-July 30 featured \$38,375 in prize money, with five categories of fish (salmon, lake trout, walleye, brown trout and steelhead) and a \$10,000 grand prize going to the largest salmon.

The fall LOC, set for Aug. 18-Sept. 4, features \$67,400 in prize money, three categories of fish (salmon, rainbow/steelhead and brown trout) and a \$25,000 grand prize going to the angler landing the largest salmon.

David Chilson, who lives in Walworth in Wayne County, is the tournament director. He stressed said the LOC Derby is for “the average Joe.” It simply comes down to winning cash for catching the largest fish in one of several divisions, he said.

“People can win fishing off a pier, off a charter boat or off their own boat. This is a tournament for the masses,” he said. “The bottom line is you can win some serious cash by just going out fishing on Lake Ontario.

The area that can be fished includes U.S. and Canadian waters from the Niagara River on the lake’s western end, all the way to Henderson Harbor on the east.

The entry fee for the fall derby is \$40 for adults, \$20 for youth (ages 10-15). For more rules and regulations, a list of weigh-in stations, places to register or to register online, go to www.loc.org.

Contestants must register prior to 7 a.m. on the day they want to fish.

Catch a big fish? The DEC has an Angler Achievement Awards Program for the regular angler. The program recognizes the anglers who caught the three heaviest fish of the year for 42 different species. Each fish entered must meet or exceed the minimum qualifying weights. The winning anglers are awarded an Angler Achievement Award lapel pin. The angler entering the heaviest fish in each species category also receives a Certificate of Achievement suitable for framing. For more, see the DEC website at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7727.html>.

****Steve Featherstone, of Syracuse.com, contributed to this column.***





Southeast Region VP Tom Schlichter

Has it been hot enough for you this summer? I'm guessing most members from New York's Southeast region would say yes. As I pen this in late July, air temperatures on the east end of Long Island, usually a few degrees cooler than in New York City to the west or the lower reaches of Hudson Valley, are in the mid-80-degree range, but there is a heat advisory in effect. The warning is issued when the combination of heat and humidity is expected to make it feel like as though it is 95 to 99 degrees for two or more consecutive days – or 100 to 104 degrees for any length of time. There have been several such advisories issued for our region already this year, and more are expected since August is second

hottest month, following July, both along the coast and in the Hudson Valley.

As you might expect then, fishing for most species in this region, whether freshwater or salt, has been a little on the slow side overall, with the best scores on the sweeter side regulated to the early morning or evening/nighttime hours. Freshwater bass fans who have reported to me some decent daytime success have done best working weedless frogs in the lilies, concentrating especially along shady edges or by tossing pig-&-jigs or weedless wacky worms as far back into the shore line brush as possible, although a few have also scored well on larger lakes by moving off the bank and working deeper ledges.

On the salty side, bay and inshore fishing for fluke, porgies and scup has been tough – which may be more a result of the fish simply not being present than climbing water temperatures. Still, there have been some fairly good catches of the summer flatties made out of Montauk, Moriches and surprisingly, western Great South Bay / Oyster Bay. In my favorite stretches of Peconic Bay, water temperatures are pushing record levels – 79.9 on July 29 in Peconic Bay vs. the record of 80.6 for that date. The result has been lackluster catches with anglers having to head well east to fish The Race or Fishers Island Sound to connect with linesiders and some big bluefish, the latter sometimes pushing 15 pounds.

A note of interest for anglers already day-dreaming about the fall and winter seasons on the Croton Watershed is that they had better keep an eye on the progress of the Delaware Aqueduct Repair Project. Glenn Sapir first alerted me to the possible disruption of fishing on specific waters earlier this year and progress of the project does bear watching. The \$1 billion project to repair the longest tunnel in the world—the Delaware Aqueduct – will require connecting a newly constructed 2.5-mile bypass tunnel to structurally sound portions of the existing Delaware Aqueduct, permanently conveying water around a leak. To make the connection, the Delaware system will need to be shut down for eight months, starting in October 2024, but water from the Croton watershed will begin drawing down this year.

The Croton system is comprised of 12 interconnected reservoirs and three controlled lakes in Westchester and Putnam counties, and typically provides about 10 percent of New York City's water supply. During the shutdown, the system will ramp up to provide 30 percent of the city's water supply. Several of the reservoirs will be drawn down more substantially than usual, and large pumping stations will be used to push Croton system water into the lower portion of the Delaware Aqueduct, which will remain operational from West Branch Reservoir to Kensico Reservoir and into the city's distribution system. Water in West Branch and Boyds Corner reservoirs will be held as reserve during the shutdown period.

While the shutdown shouldn't impact public land access and recreational use, boating and fishing activities throughout the Croton system reservoirs in Westchester and Putnam counties are likely to be affected. Among other changes, ice fishing will be restricted on several reservoirs during winter 2023/24, and some reduced downstream releases of water to various rivers and streams could inhibit stream fishing in several areas. For more information on the repair and aqueduct shutdown visit: www.nyc.gov/assets/dep/downloads/pdf/whats-new/programs-initiatives/croton-watershed-delaware-aqueduct-shutdown-factsheet.pdf.



Fluke, striper and even porgy fishing has been tough as of late in New York's marine waters, probably due to warm water temperatures. Still, bluefish – which have been mostly missing in action on the inshore scene for the past few years – have put in a solid appearance. Here's Tom with a nice chopper caught in Fishers Island Sound. OutdoorTom.com photo.



Dark Skies Fly Fishing Magazine Contributor Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in Dark Skies Fly Fishing magazine. We are looking forward to reading and reviewing your writing, photography, and video content. These contributor guidelines outline the goals and mission of Dark Skies Fly Fishing. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at Ralph Scherder, editor, Dark Skies Fly Fishing, P.O. Box 554, Coudersport, PA 16915 or email ralphscherder@gmail.com.

About Us

Dark Skies Fly Fishing is a digital regional fly fishing magazine featuring how-to, personal experience, product reviews, and destination pieces featuring rivers, lakes, and streams in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, and New York. We are looking for content regarding all species that can be caught with fly rod and reel in both known and lesser-known waters in this region.

Since 2018, Dark Skies Fly Fishing has been an online fly fishing blog, later adding an online store to sell flies, assortments, and stream guides. Various resources and media will be added in the future, including fly fishing videos featuring destinations as well as how-to related content.

Dark Skies Fly Fishing magazine will be available in a digital format published 6 times per year. Our ultimate goal is to garner enough interest from readers to warrant a print publication in the future. We are excited about this magazine and feel that it offers something that is lacking in the fly fishing industry – a high quality publication devoted to and featuring some of the best waters and fly anglers in this region, which also happen to be some of the best in the country.

Feature Articles

Our goal is to provide readers a complete resource for traveling to specific destinations and for improving their fishing skills. Feature destination articles should:

- Describe useful techniques, tackles, flies, and local perspective.
- Thorough and specific in regards to access points, hatch charts, and other important information for destination topics.
- Include important historical information, angling history, conservation issues, etc.
- Include high quality photography to illustrate each piece.
- Maps of the area that our artist can use for reference to illustrate certain destinations mentioned in the work.

Types of Articles We Prefer

- Personal experience/adventure stories.
- How-to pieces that are unique and offer fresh perspectives.
- Destination-type articles for waters within our coverage area.
- Photo essays featuring known and lesser-known waters within our coverage area or aspects of fly fishing of interest to readers in this region.
- Profiles of famous anglers, fly tyers, or conservationists from this region.

- Conservation issues of interest to fly fishers in this region.
- Conservation projects that include reclamation projects for waters throughout the region.
- Fly tying articles and videos featuring local fly patterns and techniques.
- Product reviews that are fair and relay both the pros and cons of the products and are not just fluff pieces used as payback for free products received from the company.

Photography Requirements

Article submissions accompanied with high quality photography will receive priority and maximum payment. We prefer images submitted in JPEG, PNG, or RAW format. For large files, please use a transfer service such as WeTransfer.com or Hightail to submit photos. We do not accept slides or transparencies or files on CDs. Files on thumb drives are acceptable if discussed with the editor first.

Video Requirements

We are also looking for high quality video that features destinations within the coverage area as well as how-to (casting demonstrations, nymphing techniques, etc.) and fly tying tips and techniques for various patterns. Please email before sending links to view or download video clips. Pieces that are edited and finished are preferred, but we will also consider raw, unedited video. We will work closely with the content creator to produce a high quality video that can be used on our website and social media sites. Payment for video is negotiable and based on completeness and quality of content provided as well as the finished length of the work.

Notes for Submissions

- Email queries are preferred. Please send to ralphscherder@gmail.com.
- We reserve the right to abridge and/or edit all articles and photos submitted to us for publication.
- Payment is made approximately 30 days after publication, and the pay rate varies with length and quality of the submission. Generally speaking, payment is \$50-200.
- We reserve the right to schedule or re-schedule assigned materials for any number of reasons, but we will make every effort to run the received material within a reasonable timeframe.
- Dark Skies Fly Fishing buys first-time serial rights to all materials. Previously published material is only considered if discussed with the editor beforehand.
- Dark Skies Fly Fishing purchases first-time publishing rights for both digital and future print issues, including digital reprints on our website, social media feeds, and any other current or future digital platforms.
- We reserve the right to use the material, all or in part, for the magazine's social media sites.
- We reserve the rights to use the material for digital edition archives available as downloads to active subscribers or paid customers, either by issue or by article, and for future digital archives in any form.
- Rights to use the material for articles reprints posted on our website for linking from an outside website.

Thank you for your interest in Dark Skies Fly Fishing magazine. Question and comments are welcome. We look forward to working with you!

Ralph Scherder, editor,

Website: www.DarkSkiesFlyFishing.com

Email: ralphscherder@gmail.com

Invaders in the Hudson

By Ed Skorupski

Three years ago, I wrote an article about the improving condition of the Hudson and how sewage overflows were the greatest threat to its' continued and improving health. While that still may be true, there's a new and potentially devastating ecological disaster looming – AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) – in the form of the “round goby”.

The round goby is native to the Caspian Sea and came to the US in the ballast water of transoceanic freighters. First appearing in the Great lakes in 1990, they have since spread to all the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway. Once in Lake Ontario they entered the Erie Canal through the Oswego Canal and have since worked their way eastward, finally entering the Hudson at Waterford in 2021.

Why should we be worried about the round goby?

The round goby is a voracious feeder that out competes our native species for food, feeds on the eggs of native fish (bass, bluegills,...) and, unlike our native fish that spawn once per year, the gobies' reproductive cycle allows them to breed every 3-4 weeks from April-September.

Combine these attributes and gobies can overwhelm and take over a water body in a few years displacing our native fish. Oneida Lake first saw gobies in 2013, now they are the predominant benthic species in the lake with concentrations of up to – 100/sq.yd.

Additionally, gobies are known to carry and spread VHS (viral hemorrhagic septicemia) and avian botulism.

There is no known means of controlling goby populations once a waterbody is infested – they have spread south in the Hudson from Troy to Newburgh with no indication that their spread has slowed.

While the Hudson below Troy has already been invaded, their spread north through the Champlain Canal has just started. Extensive eDNA (analytical analysis of water for trace DNA) in addition to physical sampling/monitoring electrofishing, benthic trawling and beach seining has placed them at Lock C1, but not C2. Unfortunately, nothing is being done to stem their movement and it is expected that left unrestrained, they will reach Lake Champlain in 4-6 years, where their impact on Bass, Salmon and Trout would be devastating.

Why was nothing done to stop this migration down the Erie Canal over a 10+ year period? Good question and, there are no good answers.

There are available technologies that could have stemmed or stopped the goby advancement; electric barriers as used on the Chicago Canal, bubble and hydraulic barriers, ..., but the unwillingness of NYS Canal System to first acknowledge the problem and then act on it is puzzling and DEC is unable to act unilaterally.

Lake Champlain Basin Program, a Vermont based agency, in conjunction with NYSDEC and acting on a plan developed by the Army Corps of Engineers, have developed and proposed a Rapid Response program triggered by advancement of

the goby to C5 (Schuylerville), that would include closure of the canal. This plan has yet to be accepted by all involved agencies, stifled by arguments over who is responsible for what.

While we wait the goby swims on – and in all likelihood, will reach Lake Champlain before agreements are reached and barriers installed.

Even worse, bad as the goby is, there is the threat of “flying carp”. The only thing holding back the silver and “big-head” carp from entering the Great Lakes from the Mississippi is an electronic barrier on the Chicago Canal that is just one power outage away from failure. The carp could then follow the same path the gobies have but faster.

Then we will have overwhelming, impossible to eradicate, populations of 30# fish leaping out of the water, landing in boats and injuring people.

And after the carp? With no barriers, the canal system (Erie and Champlain) remain an easy avenue of attack for any and all other AIS.

These threats are real and we have to take steps soon to prevent degradation of our waters and fisheries. While individually, we have little influence, if we act collectively, we can bring this issue to the forefront driving action to quell this invasion of invasives through the NYS Canal System.

A short e-mail or letter or phone call to your local legislator urging them to acknowledge the issue and sponsor and support legislation to install controls is our best option.

An alternative avenue is this RiverKeeper link - <https://bit.ly/3oaS8Am> It will take you to a preformatted letter that you can personalize. Complete and hit send and it will go to Gov. Hochul – a few thousand of these will get someone’s attention.

Act now because tomorrow may be too late.

(This article recently appeared in NY Outdoor News)



Seeking the Next Generation to Share My Outdoor Work

By: Roger Fulton, NYSOWA Member



I'm looking to semi-retire at the end of 2023 at the age of 76. But my New York 'outdoor' business needs some new blood to take it over. It could use someone with more hi-tech skills and ideas. I'd stay on as a 'mentor' as long as necessary.

It's an "outdoor mini-adventures" business with many hiking, biking and kayaking regional books for New York and beyond. We have database files from our previous books for the Thousand Islands, the Lake George and Saratoga regions, as well as the Finger Lakes region. Books and data on the Erie Canalway and NY Fire Towers are also included. Detailed information files on more than 500 NY outdoor venues are included. It also would include numerous PowerPoint programs we present to nature centers and libraries.

It's been a part-time retirement business for me for many years, but could have great potential for the right 'outdoor-oriented' person who wanted to expand it, or add it to their existing outdoor business. It would be a great business for a guide or someone who has another 'seasonal' business to fill their off-season time. They can lead groups or add or update my books or data bases, or whatever. My business is just a place where they can have a solid base and make it whatever they want.

I've been in the writing, publishing and business world for more than 30 years, so I have a little bit of experience to pass on to the right candidate. 😊 I can work out gradual terms without them putting up much money "up front".

I have already reached a similar agreement with people in Florida for that aspect of the business. Hope to do the same with a good candidate in New York.

Please take a look at my webpage and see if you see potential for anyone you know that might be a great candidate. www.RogerFulton.com. They can immediately take charge of all aspects of the business, or do it gradually. Either way, I'll stay on to mentor them for future success.

I just want my 30+ years of my outdoor books and work to go to a good home to be shared with future generations. Any inquiries are welcome and all terms are negotiable.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Roger Fulton
www.RogerFulton.com
Roger@RogerFulton.com

NYSOWA Supporting Member News

#RangeChallenge Returns for NSSF's National Shooting Sports Month

Shoot your #RangeChallengeSM target and enter to win great prizes!

WASHINGTON, D.C. — NSSF®, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, encourages target shooters across America, of all skill levels, to take part in the #RangeChallenge—one of the fun activities to enjoy while celebrating National Shooting Sports Month®, held during August.



For the seventh year, National Shooting Sports Month, a program of NSSF, will celebrate the sport of target shooting by reminding firearm owners to enjoy a summer day at the range—preferably with friends or family members—or to visit firearm retailers across the country to check out their special National Shooting Sports Month sales and events.

The #RangeChallenge has struck a chord with America's target shooters in recent years, providing shooters of all levels with a fun and gently competitive game, if you want it to be, that can also lead to winning great prizes.

The #RangeChallenge works like this:

Participants can pick up a free #RangeChallenge target at a National Shooting Sports Month-participating range or download a target at the #RangeChallenge website, head out onto the range during August, review the game instructions and shoot their target. The next step is to enter to win great prizes by posting a photo on the #RangeChallenge website or a photo on Instagram using the hashtag #RangeChallenge. You'll be entered to win one of 10 gift cards valued at \$500.00 each. Sharing your xq post leads to more fun and more participants, and the sooner you participate the better your odds are of winning a \$500 gift card! See the #RangeChallenge website for full details and rules.

Shooting facilities are encouraged to sign up to receive a package of official #RangeChallenge targets. When completing the sign-up form, click on the "Add an Event or Promotion" button and select #RangeChallenge Target Games under "Event Type" or contact Zach Snow for further assistance at zsnow@nssf.org / 203-426-1320 ext. 224. NSSF will also send partnering ranges a promotional package of National Shooting Sports Month items while supplies last. An updated #RangeChallenge Toolkit will help ranges with their marketing and communications efforts tied to this entertaining activity. Companies and organizations should also use the toolkit resources to promote participation in this activity throughout August.

Whether target shooters pick up a #RangeChallenge target at their local range or download one from the website, it's easy to participate in the fun and enjoy National Shooting Sports Month on the range. And don't forget to enjoy it with a friend.

Check out the [#RangeChallenge!](#)

About NSSF

NSSF 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, visit nssf.org.

NSSF Media contact: • [Bill Brassard](#) • 203-426-1320 ext. 212

National Bowhunter Education Foundation Sponsors R3 Movement & Exhibits At Recent Symposium

RAPID CITY, SD (July 31, 2023) – The National Bowhunter Education Foundation (NBEF) is a bronze sponsor of the Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports' 2023 National R3 Symposium. NBEF exhibited at a recent recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3) event that attracted hundreds of professionals from agencies, non-governmental organizations and industries. NBEF supports the Council's mission to recruit and retain hunters and shooters while educating the public about hunters' and shooters' contributions toward wildlife conservation.

"NBEF enthusiastically supports the R3 initiatives," explained Marilyn Bentz, NBEF Executive Director. "Coming together to find ways to work together toward our common goal of increasing participation and passion for the outdoors is imperative."

NBEF endeavors to spread NBEF's message about its safety and success-focused bowhunter ed classes, informational materials and to enthusiastically support the industry.



"R3 capacity has increased substantially in recent years with professionals from agencies, industry and non-profits all working together to ensure participation in and support for hunting and shooting sports," said Swanny Evans, the Director of Research and Partnerships for the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports. "The National R3 Symposium is the main venue where all of these professionals come together to share ideas, best practices and build partnerships. This Symposium and all of the benefits it yields would not be possible without the intellectual and sponsorship support from organizations like the NBEF."

The first National R3 Symposium was held in May 2018 and led to an increased awareness and efforts. Two Virtual R3 Forums supported these efforts during the pandemic. Visit the Council's website for more information.

NBEF helps bowhunters learn to be safe, successful and stewards of the sport. NBEF offers bow-hunting instructional items, books, videos, 3-D models, apparel and more at nbef.org.

About NBEF

The National Bowhunter Education Foundation offers instructional content and tools for bow-hunter education classes in the US. Helping bowhunters become safe and successful hunters and stewards of the sport are important NBEF missions. The NBEF provides bowhunter certification standards and class content that states and certain circumstances require in order to bowhunt. NBEF provides instructor training and certification.

NBEF oversees the International Bowhunter Education Program and works with the International Hunter Education Association and state agencies to coordinate a unified program. Europe and other countries accept the NBEF (IBEP) certification and conduct IBEP classes.

NBEF also oversees the International Crossbow Education Program and works with state agencies responsible for crossbow education to develop comprehensive online crossbow safety courses that teach students important laws and regulations, game identification, and safe, responsible handling of crossbow equipment.

NBEF is a 501(c)3 corporation that isn't a membership-based organization. Tax-deductible donations to support this non-profit are welcome.

Learn more at nbef.org.

Summer Boating Season Is in Full Swing: So Far, Has it Been Good for You?

**Taking a BoatUS Foundation online boating safety course
can make your boating better and safer**

ANNAPOLIS, Md., -- Summer boating season is in full swing and you've been enjoying your time on the water. Has it all been good so far?



Maybe you've found yourself in a situation where, perhaps, you felt less-than-confident behind the wheel, or simply got a sense that something didn't feel safe. The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water has the fix for that: Taking a free online boating safety course can help make you feel good behind the helm – prepared, more confident, and able to handle situations that pop up.

If that's not a good enough reason, the U.S. Coast Guard reports that 74% of boating fatalities occur on boats where the boat operator did not have boating safety instruction.

Recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard and approved by NASBLA for 36 state boating license agencies, the Foundation's free boating safety course allows you to start and stop at any time, fitting into your busy schedule. When completed, you may print your state's boating safety education certificate. More than 2.3 million boaters have taken the course since it was first offered in 1997.

"Whether you're new to boating or experienced doesn't matter," says Ted Sensenbrenner, BoatUS Foundation director of boating safety. "Everyone stands to gain by taking a boating safety education course – including all of the boaters who share waters with you," he added.

The BoatUS Foundation Boating Safety course covers state and federal regulations on how to operate your boat safely and legally. This includes rules of the road including navigation, boating etiquette, waterway traffic and common boating hazards, trip planning, communication, required safety equipment including the importance of life jackets, safe refueling, environmental considerations, basic maintenance and more. Animations, videos and knowledge assessments ensure you get the most out of the course.

To take your state's course, go to www.BoatUS.org/Free.



PRESS INFORMATION

For Immediate Release

Contact: Dennis Racine
607-753-3331

**Redding Reloading Equipment Announces
Expanded Offering of Small Base Full Length and Body Resizing Dies**

Cortland, NY..... Redding Reloading Equipment introduces a significantly expanded offering of Small Base Full Length and Body Resizing Dies. These dies will provide the extra sizing needed to successfully reload for the tighter chambers of today's Competition / Match rifles. Small Base Dies also have a following amongst marksmen and hunters who handload for semi-automatic and pump-action rifles.



As single die offerings, the handloader has the ability to complement and expand their existing die sets. The added versatility will increase capabilities for those who reload for their competition rifle as well as their trusty hunting rifle in the same caliber or those utilizing range pick-up brass that may initially need more sizing to fit their chamber. Redding is proud to offer a family of full length and body sizing dies from the 22 PPC all the way through the 35 Whelen, including the most popular competitive shooting and hunting calibers such as the 223 Remington, 6.5 Creedmoor, 270 Winchester, 308 Winchester and 30-06 Springfield.

Redding dies provide the needed capability to produce high quality loadings for all requirements in preparation for a competition or trip to the field. Through its entire range, Redding Reloading dies have been designed, produced and tested to exemplify quality and precision.

Redding continues to produce truly "Custom" die sets as well as dies for obsolete calibers. The Engineering Group at Redding requires only a chamber reamer drawing or 5 fired cases from the firearm in question to quote the production of dies for virtually any caliber and firearm. Please e-mail: engineering1@redding-reloading.com.





PRESS INFORMATION

For Immediate Release

Contact: Dennis Racine
607-753-3331

Redding Reloading Equipment Introduces New Die Set for the 400 Legend

Cortland, NY..... Redding Reloading Equipment introduces a 3-Die Set for the recently announced 400 Legend. A 40-caliber, heavy hitting straight-walled cartridge with moderate recoil, which can be used in numerous



different rifle actions including Modern Sporting Rifle platforms. Building off the success of its older sibling the 350 Legend, the 400 Legend is designed primarily as a hunting cartridge and will be used in the deer woods across many regions of the North America. With a number of manufacturers releasing rifles, it is time to get to the range and start practicing for the upcoming season. Redding die sets provide the needed capability to produce high quality loadings for all requirements in preparation for that “once in a lifetime moment.” Through its entire range, the

Redding Reloading die and die set families exemplify quality and precision and have been designed, produced and tested at our facility in Upstate, New York.

Redding continues to add cartridges to its standard product lines as consumer demand and industry support grows. It is also important to note that Redding continues to produce truly “Custom” die sets as well. The Engineering Group at Redding requires only a chamber reamer drawing or 5 fired cases from the firearm in question to quote the production of dies for virtually any caliber and firearm. Prices are quoted on an individual basis depending upon the complexity of the chambering and any need for tooling. Those seeking dies for a truly unique or obsolete cartridge should contact the Redding Custom Die Center in the company’s Engineering Department. E-Mail: engineering1@redding-reloading.com>

Download Redding Reloading’s Media Kit at
<https://www.redding-reloading.com/media-center>



PRESS INFORMATION

For Immediate Release

Contact: Dennis Racine
607-753-3331

Redding Reloading Equipment Adds New Die Set for 360 Buckhammer (aka 360 BHMR)

Cortland, N.Y. - Redding Reloading Equipment introduces a 3-Die Set for the recently announced 360 Buckhammer. A straight-wall cartridge based on the legendary 30-30 Winchester; the 360 Buckhammer will be at home in the deer woods across many regions of the United States. These die sets provide the needed capability to produce high quality loadings for hunting and shooting range requirements. Through its entire range, the Redding Reloading die and die set families exemplify quality and precision and have been designed, produced and tested at our facility in Upstate, New York.



Redding continues to add cartridges to its standard product lines as consumer demand and industry support grows. It is also important to note that Redding continues to produce truly "Custom" die sets as well. The Engineering Group at Redding requires only a chamber reamer drawing or 5 fired cases from the firearm in question to quote the production of dies for virtually any caliber and firearm. Prices are quoted on

an individual basis depending upon the complexity of the chambering and any need for tooling. Those seeking dies for a truly unique or obsolete cartridge should contact the Redding Custom Die Center in the company's Engineering Department. E-Mail: engineering1@redding-reloading.com

About Redding Reloading Equipment

Located in Cortland, NY, 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 products, ongoing commitment to the precision handloading enthusiast and to request a copy of the current Redding catalog visit: www.redding-reloading.com



It's Chautauqua Time: Catch Trophy Lake Erie Fish Now!

- **Walleye and Bass are Favorites; Lake Trout & Yellow Perch also Abound**

Chautauqua, New York – July 18, 2023: Lake Erie walleye and smallmouth bass in Chautauqua

County, NY, are big and plentiful. The best fishing on Lake Erie is from a boat or kayak, with easy lake access in multiple places. The choice of tackle depends on various factors such as fishing conditions, wind, water clarity, and personal preference. Popular and effective tackle options for catching walleye and smallmouth bass include trolling and jigging. Trolling is more famous for Lake Erie walleye fishing than jigging. Trolling involves depth control using a crankbait, a sinker weight, a weighted lead core line or a diving plane to take your lure or bait presentation to the depth of where the fish are. Most walleye anglers use a thin



braided line (20-30 pound test) and a clear fluorocarbon leader (20-pound test) for use with a diving plane. Others use a lead core line with a planer board to deploy their lure spread horizontally, adding a longer fluorocarbon leader of 35 to 75 feet. Troll at slow to moderate speeds of 1.5 to 2.5 mph making slow, frequent turns to cover different depths and suspended lake thermal areas in search of a school of forage and feeding walleye. Walleye respond well to a variety of baits and lures. Live bait options include night crawlers, minnows, and leeches. Popular artificial lures for walleye trolling include crankbaits, spinner/worm baits and soft plastics in natural colors. Experiment with different bait and lure options to find what works best on a given day. Then adjust the depth of your lures and control the boat speed based on the vertical location of the walleye. Match the lure choice to the forage size and color, and you're in the fun of fish-catching!

Bass anglers can troll to catch fish too, but many competition circuits bar trolling for bass. You have to cast by most contest rules. So, casting or jigging is the way to go. To jig, attach a jig head to your line with a good fishing knot (Palomar, clinch or uni-knot). Add a soft plastic bait or live bait to the jig. Cast the jig out, and let it sink to the bottom, or the desired depth, before using a rhythmic motion to retrieve it. Experiment with the speed and style of the jigging motion until you find what triggers the bass to strike. This works for walleye too.

Jigs are versatile lures. Variations include hook size and weight. Choose a jig head weight between 1/8 to 1/2 ounce, depending on the depth and lake currents where you're fishing. Pair it with a soft plastic trailer like a crawfish or creature bait. Natural colors like green pumpkin, brown, or black work well.

Crankbaits that imitate baitfish can be highly effective, especially when the water turns cooler. Opt for medium-length crankbaits (4-5 inches) with a diving depth suitable for your fishing area. Natural colors, such as shad or smelt patterns or simple silver/black combinations, are reliable choices. For bass, remember the effectiveness of a

Crankbaits that resemble the forage are the most effective baits. These smelt were ejected from a recent walleye catch.



drop-shot rig. These rigs offer finesse fishing at its finest and can be highly productive when smallmouth bass are finicky or in deeper water. Rig a small finesse worm or soft plastic bait on a drop-shot hook, with the hook positioned above the weight. Vary the leader length based on the target depth.

Remember, it's always a good idea to experiment with different lures, colors, and techniques based on the fish's conditions and specific preferences on any given day. Local tackle shops or experienced anglers familiar with the Chautauqua County area can provide valuable insights and recommendations based on the current fishing conditions.

Fishing for walleye in Lake Erie, particularly from Dunkirk Harbor, can be a rewarding experience. [Obtain a fishing license](#) and a current New York fishing regulations booklet to ensure you comply with the necessary regulations. Gather your gear, research the conditions, and consult the [local fishing reports](#) and online forums. [Local bait shops](#)



are a great place to get up-to-date information on where walleye and bass are being caught. In summer, walleye tend to suspend in thermal areas far offshore, and bass congregate near reefs, drop-offs, and other structures. Last, remember that fishing requires patience and persistence. Stay focused and be prepared to adapt your techniques if needed. Walleye can sometimes be finicky, so keep going if you don't catch them immediately. If you are fishing alone and are still looking for the fish, check out the guide services offered by the [Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Association \(ELECBA\)](#). We can all learn from them. The fish are definitely here!

Fishing Reports: Lake Erie Fishing Hotline, <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9217.html>; **Bill's Hooks** (Gerri Begier), 5139 W. Lake Rd. (Route 5), Dunkirk, NY, 716-366-0268; **Jerome Miller's Bait Store**, 12707 Allegany Rd., Irving, NY, 716-934-2477.

Outdoor media and editors are authorized and encouraged to use this press release, or any section of this press release, in any manner they choose, including with their own by-line. Photographs must use the indicated author byline. **Outdoor Media Contact:** Dave Barus - Fishing & Hunting Promotions Associate, Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, P.O. Box 1441, Chautauqua, NY, 14722; email: dbarus35@yahoo.com; Cell: 716-597-4081. **Visitors Bureau Travel/Accommodations Contact:** R. Andrew Nixon, Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, P.O. Box 1441, Chautauqua, NY, 14722; Office: 716-357-4569; email: nixon@tourchautauqua.com; web: <http://www.tourchautauqua.com>; www.Facebook.com/Tour.Chautauqua.

Catching Dreams Charters, Inc.

Catching Dreams Charters, Inc. a NYSOWA Supporting Member, and a registered NYS 501 (c) (3) not for profit, attended a portion of the Annual Meeting this past month in Corning. We met so many wonderful people and strongly suggest to all Supporting Members to try and make the meetings if possible. It's a great time to meet, greet, and network while having fun!



Catching Dreams Charters, Inc. specializes in providing fishing therapy to pediatric oncology patients during and after cancer treatment. Fishing therapy is a proven psychosocial therapy that offers children a respite from the marathon of treatments and social isolation.

We started in Western New York, and now offer free fishing therapy trips on Lakes Erie and Ontario, the Niagara River, the Finger Lakes, and Lake Oneida. Our goal is to be the first state in the nation to provide fishing therapy to any child battling cancer at no charge.

We need assistance from the NYSOWA members as we establish relations with medical facilities and charter boat Captains. Any information on local medical facilities or support organizations working with cancer kids is greatly appreciated. Also, any recommendations for top notch Captains really helps!

We are always available for local interviews and press support. The power of the pen has helped our cause! Please note an upcoming article to be published in the 2023 June/July edition of The Conservationist!

Thanks for all the support to date, and all the great people we have met on our journey!

Captain Ned Librock
USCG Licensed
NYS Guide License
716-870-5326

Catching Dreams Charters, Inc.
www.catchingdreamscharters.org
"Turning Wishing into Fishing"



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



<https://otistec.com>

MINUTES OF THE NYSOWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 19, 2023

In Attendance: President Chris Paparo, Vice Presidents Dan Ladd and Tom Schlichter, Membership Secretary Nate Kennedy, Treasurer Leo Maloney, Recording Secretary Glenn Sapir, Immediate Past President Charles Witek III and Directors Jerrod Villa, Deb Brosen, Steve Piatt and Bob Henke

Absent: Vice President Dave Figura and Directors Chris Kenyon and Rich Redman

President Chris Paparo began the Zoom meeting at approximately 7 p.m.

Chris raised the issue of elections. He was reminded that he must create a Nominating Committee of three people, each residing in a different vice-presidential region as defined by our bylaws. It was suggested that we hold a Zoom meeting in the fall at which the election will be held. A date still needs to be determined.

Chris mentioned that he would not be able to attend the Safari, which is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 29, through Monday, Oct. 2, at West Fort Ann. Other dates were kicked around for rescheduling the conference, but it was decided to stick to the originally planned dates.

EIC Committee Chair Glenn Sapir reported on developments in our awards program.

First, he reported that he recommends we shift to digital-only entries, to simplify entering and expediting getting entries to the judges.

Second, he pointed out that with some of our conferences, and thus awards banquets, being scheduled for the spring, he would be unable to supervise the processing of received entries and getting them off to the judges. Chris Paparo agreed to assist in this process. Glenn will become available in early April, which will allow him time to order awards, prepare award certificates, request pdfs of first-place entries for the awards publication and get copy off to the designer of that publication and create and distribute a press release. Incidentally, eliminating the mailing of entries, which this year cost us \$85.69, will be a cost savings.

This year the awards publication was done digitally only, creating a significant cost savings. Our only expense was \$250 to Greg Foster, the designer; in 2022, printing and mailing cost \$718.87, and Foster got the same fee as this year. It was agreed to continue this as a digital-only edition.

Cost saving in the awards program is essential for the financial health of the organization because the program has been greatly dependent on sponsorship. In recent years, we have been receiving \$1,500 in support each from Ducks Unlimited, Outdoor Sportsman Group and Redding Reloading Equipment. Unfortunately, DU withdrew that support this past year and the Outdoor Sportsman Group's future support is uncertain. To counter these losses, it was discussed whether first-, second- and third-place awards might be reevaluated. Currently, we are awarding Bill Suitor carvings for first place in the EIC, which cost us \$300 each for six categories. There is also approximately a \$20 charge for the engraved

plates that go with each award. Without ties, that comes to about \$1,920. Second- and third-place awards are \$50 and \$25, respectively. That comes to an additional \$450. So, in years where there are no ties necessitating additional awards, the total for EIC awards currently is \$2,370.

Our Janice M. Keesler Memorial Photo Awards recognize first, second and third place in five categories. The first-place award of a framed Deb Brosen feather art cost us \$250, and second- and third-place awards, like the EIC, are \$50 and \$25. Thus, the cost of the first-place awards is \$1,250, of the second- and third-place awards is \$375 and of the total program is \$1,625.

Discussion ensued on the merits of reducing the first-place awards to cash and perhaps making one carving and one framed art piece an award for the best of the best. Others wished to keep the current awards in place. It was decided that the board would revisit this issue after having a chance to digest the numbers presented in these minutes.

The Board discussed how inexpensive the EIC and Photo awards program entry fee is. This year, for example, 23 members entered the EIC, producing a mere \$115 in revenue. After discussion, Chris Paparo moved and Deb Brosen seconded an increase to \$25 as the entry fee for each of the two awards programs. The motion moved unanimously. It was confirmed that the entry fee can be paid online through Joinit.

Of course, some of these money-saving measures might not be necessary if we can secure more sponsors. The members of the Board were encouraged to consider their own contacts and approach those who might be candidates to be sponsors.

Dan Ladd and Nate Kennedy discussed the next Directory, which will be digital only. It was decided to make July 31 the drop-dead deadline for getting information into a member's Joinit profile and for paying dues. If dues are not paid by then, their profile will be removed from the rolls and the Joinit program.

Glenn asked for contact information for new members so that he can include them in all member-wide correspondence. Nate Kennedy said he would provide that information on a continuing basis.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 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 12 tear sheets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Specialties

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ___ a. Hunting | ___ b. Firearms/Shooting | ___ c. Archery/Bowhunting |
| ___ d. Freshwater fishing | ___ e. Saltwater Fishing | ___ f. Flyfishing |
| ___ g. Boating | ___ h. Camping/Backpacking | ___ i. Wilderness Survival |
| ___ j. Trapping | ___ k. Outdoor Travel | ___ l. Outdoor Politics |
| ___ m. Nature | ___ n. Environmental Affairs | ___ o. Natural Resources |
| ___ 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:
 Nate Kennedy 24 Lawrence Ave., Potsdam, NY 13676

Join online at <https://app.joinit.com/o/nysowa/members>



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 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: _____

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