



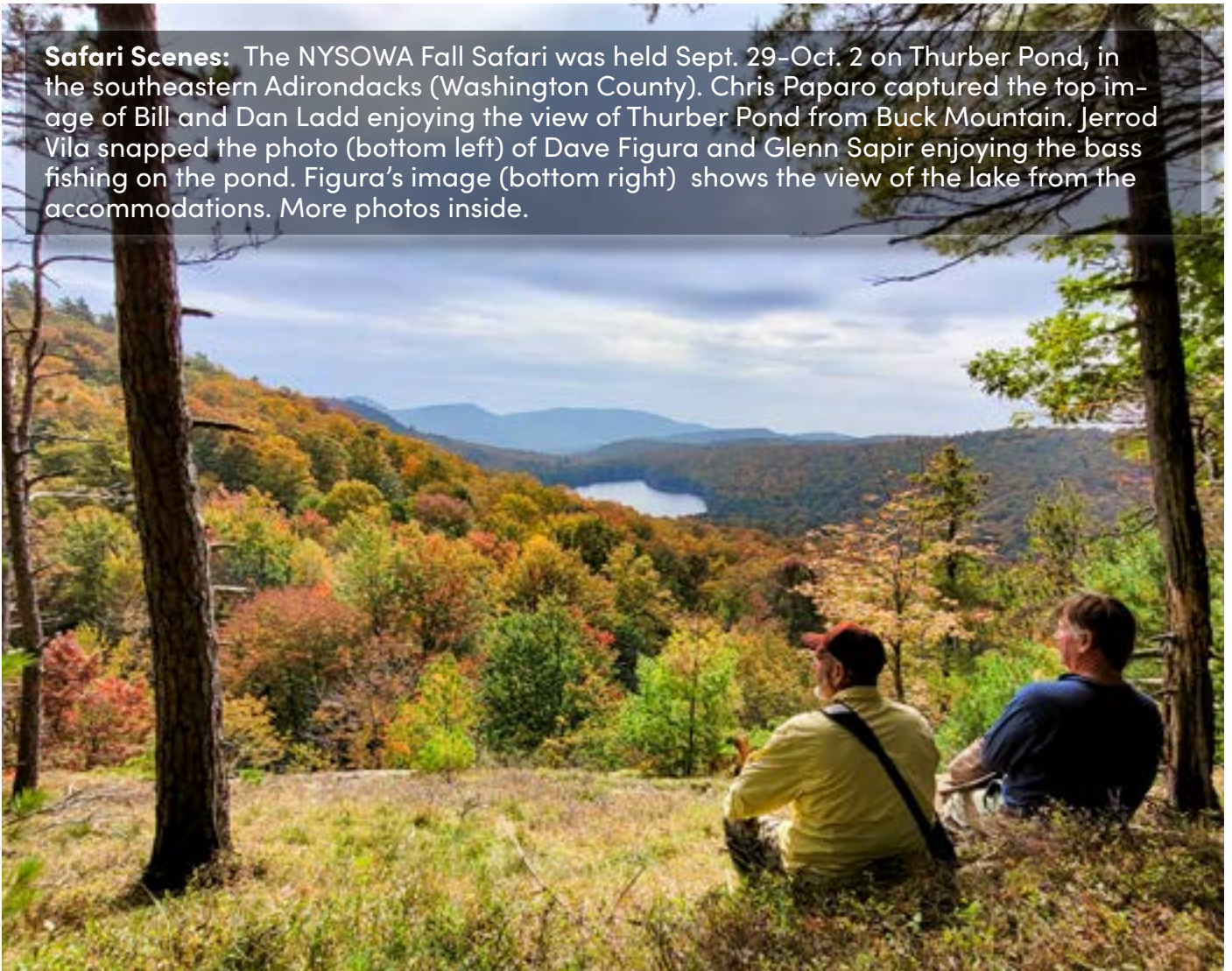
# New York Outdoors

The Official Newsletter of the  
New York State Outdoor Writers Association

Fall 2023

[nysowa.org](http://nysowa.org)

**Safari Scenes:** The NYSOWA Fall Safari was held Sept. 29–Oct. 2 on Thurber Pond, in the southeastern Adirondacks (Washington County). Chris Paparo captured the top image of Bill and Dan Ladd enjoying the view of Thurber Pond from Buck Mountain. Jerrod Vila snapped the photo (bottom left) of Dave Figura and Glenn Sapir enjoying the bass fishing on the pond. Figura's image (bottom right) shows the view of the lake from the accommodations. More photos inside.





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## Calendar

### SPRING CONFERENCE

Oswego County  
May 30 - June 2  
(Tentative)

FALL SAFARI  
Peck's Lake/Fulton County  
Sept. 12-15  
(Tentative)

## **A Fine & Pleasant Fall Safari**

Hogtown, N.Y. — The New York State Outdoor Writers Association returned to Washington County this year for a fall safari. Over a dozen outdoor scribes, including several affiliated with New York Outdoor News, gathered for the three-day event held Sept. 29 - October 2 in Fort Ann, in Washington County.

The “Hogtown” area of Fort Ann is extremely popular with hunters and hikers and thousands of acres of the Lake George Wild Forest lies nearby the safari accommodations, which were a private residence on the 30-acre Thurber Pond. Northern VP Dan Ladd hosted the event, as Fort Ann is his hometown.

NYSOWA members put Thurber Pond to good use, especially Glenn Sapir and David Figura, who took advantage of the seasonable fall weather to enjoy some largemouth bass fishing on the quaint pond. Sapir eventually convinced Figura that using pink, or bubble gum, colored rubber worms was the ticket to putting bucketmouths in the boat.

Meanwhile, NYSOWA President Chris Paparo and David Taylor, both who are affiliated with SUNY Stonybrook, donned scuba-diving gear and plied the shallow waters of Thurber Pond. While they spotted a few largemouths, what Paparo especially found captivating was the number of salamanders and caddisflies which appeared to be in the cased stage, both working along the bottom of the lake.

Paparo, Ladd and Bill Ladd (brother of Dan) also got their hiking boots out, enduring a 5-mile trail/bushwack combo up nearby Buck Mountain, one of the premier hiking destinations in the entire Adirondacks.

Meanwhile, Rich Redman and Jerrod Vila took their fly-rods to the Mettawee River, a well-known northern Washington County stream often seen as the fine alternative to the Batten Kill. Deb and John Brosen, meanwhile visited the World’s Largest Garage Sale over in Warrensburg, in Warren County and also went horseback riding before the weekend was over.

Also on Saturday morning, a handful of writers that included Sapir and contributing writers Steve Zahurak and Charles Witek III, along with Theresa Witek, ventured out on nearby Hadlock Pond, the site of the 2016 NYSOWA spring safari. Sapir had the hot bass hand again as they worked the lake in a pontoon boat provided by Cathy Matier, proprietor of the Lake Hadlock Inn and Campground.

Otherwise, the group seldom left the solitude of the Thurber Pond grounds, other than for a Saturday afternoon dinner at the nearby Hudson Falls Fish & Game Club. There, George Gedney (who was awarded NYSOWA’s M. Paul Keesler Outdoor Citizen Award, in May) and his wife Caroline, treated the writers to BBQ followed by a few rounds of trap shooting and fun game on the five-stand range. The shotgun rounds turned out to be both humbling and exciting.

The weekend wrapped up on Sunday with a wild game dinner shared by members of Ladd’s Adirondack hunting crew, the Iron Sight Gang. Between the two groups, delicacies like freshwater clams, Atlantic salmon, pheasant, wild turkey and plenty of venison were part of the table fare.

Next up, it looks NYSOWA will be visiting Oswego County in the spring of 2024 for a conference, then holding another fall safari at Pecks Lake, in Fulton County.

### **Special Thanks to:**

**The Parker Family/Thurber Pond**

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

**Lake Hadlock Campground**

<https://www.facebook.com/LakeHadlockLLC>

**George & Caroline Gedney**

**New York Outdoor News**

<https://www.outdoornews.com/new-york/>

**Hudson Falls Fish & Game Club**

<https://hudsonfallsfishandgame.wildapricot.org>





**More fall safari scenes** include clockwise from top Chris Paparo's drone shot of Thurber Pond; Chris in his scuba gear (Dan Ladd); the shores of Thurber Pond (Dan Ladd), just one of Glenn Sapir's several bass (Dave Figura); on the trap shooting range (Dan Ladd); Dave Taylor comes up for air (Chris Paparo); group photo (Dan Ladd).



## NYSOWA President *Chris Paparo*



After several weeks of above average temperatures, it is finally starting to feel like fall. Bait fish are leaving the back bays in droves, and hungry on their tails are schools of striped bass and bluefish. In the woods, we are just starting to show signs of color and we seem to have a bumper acorn crop. If we can only get a weekend without rain, I might be able to put some protein in the freezer.

The rain did not stop us from having a wonderful time at our fall safari at Thurber Pond. Dan Ladd once again put together an amazing event. Staying at "On Thurber Pond" we had exclusive access to a pristine 30-acre pond for fishing, canoeing and SCUBA diving, yes, I said SCUBA diving. As an underwater photographer, I am always eager to dive new locations, and Dan thinks I might have been the 1st person to dive the pond. The water was surprisingly warm, and crystal clear. I found quite a few largemouth bass, but they were very camera shy. I did find a ton of adult eastern newts swimming along the bottom like mini alligators. Among the thick layer of detritus, there were also many larval caddisflies munching on the decaying matter on the bottom of the pond. It was a great way to give my dive gear a freshwater dip!

A big thanks to the New York Outdoor News for sponsoring Friday night's dinner. After dinner, Dan gave us a brief presentation on how he assembles the paper, which was very insightful. Understanding the paper's layout, showed us how important an article's word count is and how/why some articles will be printed on a full page, while others might use continuation lines, and why some articles might get bumped to a later edition.

The foliage was near peak in the region, and a hike to the top of Buck Mountain with Dan and his brother Bill really showed the beauty of the surrounding area. While stomping through the Ladd's hunting grounds, it was great listening to them share stories of their many years of hunting this mountain. I quickly realized how as hunters, we all have very similar stories, even if we've never hunted a day together. Giving directions to the newbies such as, "make a left at the 'big' rock and head towards the 'large' oak tree." Repeatedly doing drives that, except for that one time twenty years ago, never work. Or scouting during the pre-season and coming up with a new way to approach a drive, but not having the courage to try something new when the season finally opens. This hike brought back so many great memories of hunting with my family at our deer camp.

After our hike, we were treated to an afternoon of trap shooting followed by a cookout dinner at the Hudson Falls Fish & Game Club. George Gedney, our host, set us up with several rounds of trap, followed by a fun round of five stand shooting. Outside of using a rinky dink skeet thrower, this was my first opportunity to participate in such an event. It was a literal blast, and I was pleasantly surprised that I was able to knock down quite a few clay pigeons!

Unfortunately, I had to return home early on Sunday for a wedding, but I heard that the rest of the safari was equally fun and relaxing. If you have not attended a NYSOWA in-person event, you are really missing out! I will admit, I was a member for several years before going to a conference. For me, I was intimidated to attend because I knew no one. I felt I had nothing to add to the event, especially being a newbie at the time I joined. Being from Long Island, I felt I would be out of place at the upstate events. Looking back, I made a huge mistake not attending the very first event after I joined. Not once have I felt unwelcome. Everyone has been eager to say hello, to take me fishing, or to bring me on a hike. As a new member, I had plenty to bring to the table. Seasoned members asked many questions about my background, as it is not every day an "upstater" meets a marine biologist. And being out of place upstate? 100% I was! But heading upstate to these events has exposed me to opportunities I would have never had down here on Long Island.

I really hope you will consider coming to our next in-person event. The camaraderie shared among the NYSOWA members is amazing, the experiences you will have will make great memories, and the potential for story ideas is endless. Be sure to keep an eye on upcoming newsletters for more details about our spring conference. I hope to see you there.



## Northern Region VP *Dan Ladd*

First, I'm personally glad everyone who came to the Fall Safari had a great time. We were blessed with some beautiful weather for our outings and especially for Sunday's pot-luck dinner with my hunting crew, the Iron Sight Gang. As always, it was just great to see everyone and the relaxed tone of this event gave us all some time to spend with each other. It was truly enjoyable!

**Deer Season:** It's been quiet in the Northern Zone as of this writing. A wash-out took care of the Oct. 21 regular season opener and warm weather has pretty much been the norm thus far for the archery, crossbow and muzzleloading seasons. For the muzzleloading weekend, we purposely visited oak stands, including one that had been hit two years in a row by spongy moths. Neither of the areas had much for acorns, or deer, but in the infested areas we felt fortunate that the oaks had leaves on them and appear to be rebounding from the infestation. From here, we'll move on to other hunting areas in hopes of some better luck.



**ADK Rail Trail:** DEC has been advising people to avoid using the Adirondack Rail Trail – the 36-mile section of former railroad between Lake Placid and Tupper Lake – as it remains under construction. DEC says that while some sections appear to be complete, work is still being done on the trail surface, parking areas, fencing and intersections. The trail will open for winter use, including snowmobiling.

**Saranac River Dams:** Two dams that stood between Atlantic salmon and upstream spawning habitat on the Saranac River, which flows into Lake Champlain, in Plattsburgh have been removed. The removal of the Indian Rapids and Fredenburgh Falls dams advances a conservation goal more than three decades in the making: reestablishing salmon runs in the largest tributary on the New York side of Lake Champlain. The removal marks the culmination of years of collaboration among the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited and other public-private partners.

NYSOWA's Rich Redman has been following the progress and is a good contact for anyone seeking further information. Check out these photos of Indian Rapids, before and after the barrier removal, that were taken by Redman.



## West/Central Region VP *David Figura*



**Fall hunting:** Fall is the favorite time for many outdoor enthusiasts in Upstate NY, with the cooler days, the fall foliage and relative lack of bugs, although ticks continue to be a concern.

The multi-faceted, fall hunting season is underway in the Southern Zone. Hunters are enjoying small game, Canada geese, bow hunting for big game (deer, bear), waterfowl, turkey, and upland birds (pheasant, ruffed grouse, woodcock).

The crossbow season for big game starts Nov. 4 and runs to Nov. 17. The following day, the regular deer hunting season, the most popular of them all, gets underway, lasting until Dec. 10. It wraps up with the late bowhunting/muzzleloading seasons (Dec. 11-19 and Dec. 26-Jan. 1).

The two big issues this fall have been the pheasant hunting season that almost wasn't and the new ammunition purchasing law the state put in place that requires background checks.

According to the DEC, New York does not have "sufficient habitat quality on a large landscape scale needed to support a wild self-sustaining pheasant population." Thus, the chance to harvest pheasants on publicly accessible lands relies on DEC's pheasant propagation program and subsequent stocking of the birds.

After the loss of the pheasant flock at DEC's Reynolds Game Farm in Ithaca in Tompkins County earlier this year due to an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza, DEC acquired ring-necked pheasants from a commercial hatchery to endure pheasant hunting opportunities around the state. DEC releases 30,000 pheasants statewide each year on more than 100 properties open to the public for pheasant hunting.

As for the ammunition background checks, I've been hearing anecdotally from more and more hunters and recreational shooters that they're traveling over state lines into Pennsylvania and Vermont to avoid any hassle. I have to believe the new law has put a crimp on local ammunition sales. Stay tuned on this issue.

**Lake Ontario fall fishing:** It was another good year of fall fishing on Lake Ontario, according to several guides on either end of the lake. Troy Creasy of High Adventure Sports Fishing, out of Oswego, said this fall ranks as one of the best late seasons he's had on the Big O in several years.

He said his clients caught lots of fish, particularly Chinook salmon. He noted the lake's alewife population, which is the main forage for the salmon and was dipping is now rebounding back. He said despite salmon stocking cutbacks in recent years, the return of the alewives has resulting in gradual stocking increases of Chinooks, with a 10 percent increase slated for next year.

He said the DEC's pen-rearing project along various points on the lake's southern shore has resulted in DEC stocking larger fish, which appears to be advantageous to their survival rate. In addition, there seems to be a healthy amount of natural reproduction of the salmon taking place as well.

Over at the lake's west end, Capt. Frank Campbell, of Niagara Region Charter Service, echoed Creasy's comments about the DEC's salmon stocking strategies and the positive signs of natural reproduction. "They're taking better care of the stocked fish," he said. "They're stocking the lake with a better product."

On a Facebook post, Capt. Matt Yablonsky of Wet Net Charters, noted the fall fishing this year on the lake's western end was "nothing short of spectacular. The mature salmon staged in good numbers and we had really good numbers of brown trout mixed in with the kings," he said.

**Salmon River and other Lake Ontario tribs:** The Salmon River fall salmon spawning run once again lived up to its reputation as a great fall Upstate NY fishing experience. Creasy, who moved in



September from guiding on a boat on the lake to guiding from shore at the well-known Douglaston Salmon Run near the river's mouth said, clients have been reeling in some impressive catches of Chinook salmon moving up the river. While the coho numbers appear to be a little down this fall, Creasy said the numbers and size of the steelhead moving up the river recently from the lake to dine on the salmon eggs in the water has been impressive. Other tributaries on the south shore, such as the Black, Oswego and Genesee are also good spots to cash in on the salmon and brown trout runs from the lake this time of year.

**Economic impact of fishing stressed in study:** With access to the Niagara River and Lake Ontario, Niagara County is home to some of the best fresh water fishing in the country. Bassmaster Magazine has ranked the area in the top 10 places for bass fishing two years in a row. "Niagara County is known for the varieties and size of fish, in addition to high catch rates, making this a desirable destination for anglers from all over the country," says Capt. Frank Campbell, who is Outdoor Promotions Director for Destination Niagara USA. Campbell said Destination Niagara USA commissioned a study by Young Strategies, Inc. to explore the visitor profile and economic impact of fishing in the county in 2022. The most notable finding from the study was that fishing generated an estimated \$58.55 million in visitor spending in the county in 2022, which is 6 percent of total visitor spending during that timeframe. The last time a survey of this nature was completed was in 2010 by Niagara University. At the time, the results indicated \$30.2 million in visitor spending in the county from fishing.

**Native American hunting and fishing rights:** Peter Reuben was recently named the DEC's first Director of its new office of Indian Nation Affairs. Among Reuben's responsibilities will be dealing with the issue of Native American hunting and fishing rights in this state. The rights were initially established as a result of three treaties the Iroquois Nations (Haudenosaunee) signed with the federal government in the late 1700s following the Revolutionary War. The treaties essentially stated the tribes retained their hunting and fishing rights on the lands they gave away, but the details and implications of this continue to be contested in New York State to the present day.

The issue got a lot of press and attention during the spring of 2022 involving more than a dozen Native Americans spearing spawning walleye during the off season on Scriba Creek, an Oneida Lake tributary near a state fish hatchery in Constantia. Some feared such activity would lead to commercialization of the fishery, and potential violence and police action if it continued on Oneida



Lake or was repeated elsewhere. However, cooler heads prevailed and only one of the individuals involved was ticketed, but charges were later dropped. The incident did not lead to a flood of similar incidents elsewhere in the state.

Reuben recently confirmed reports of isolated fish spearing incidents by Native Americans on the Salmon River near Altmar. Some of those involved had proper authorization, while others who did not have proper permits were ticketed, he said.

Joseph Heath, general counsel for the Onondaga Nation, said there's been a few meetings this year between DEC and Indian Nation officials with more scheduled, but added there is not much to update at this point.

Dave Figura arrived late at the fall safari, but once he got there, he couldn't stop fishing.

Photo by Glenn Sapir





## Southeast Region VP Tom Schlichter

Fall is supposed to have arrived in the southeast corner of New York by now, but you couldn't tell that heading into the last week or so of October as air temperatures along the coast pushed up into the mid-seventies. In fact, returning from a successful blackfish trip late in the month that saw our three-man crew limit out with fish to 6.75 pounds, we stayed just long enough over some productive bottom to give the afternoon breezes a chance to pick up. The ride home was of the rock and roll variety with no way to stay dry in our 23-foot dual console. Surprisingly, we all found the soaking rather refreshing as the water temps were still over 65 degrees.

Unfortunately, those warm water temps haven't done much to spark a hot fall run of predator species. False albacore were fair to sparse from their initial showing in September through the end of October. Action with stripers continued to be best on night tides, save for some solid daylight action with oversized fish that had to be released by boaters off Shinnecock Inlet, Moriches Inlet and the Jones Beach area. Bluefish, although slightly more abundant than in recent years, have been slow to crash the beach.

Still, there was plenty of hope in local coastal waters as we went to press since this pattern sometimes ignites a furious November as the fish do their best to feed their way from east to west once a solid cold snap or two finally arrives. The big question this year though is whether or not bass and bluefish stocks are ample enough to have some staying power. While some very large bass weighing up to 40 and 50 pounds are being caught in spurts, the lack of smaller fish remains disturbing and many anglers I've spoken with recently believe the effect of a shrinking biomass is to blame.

Adding to the worry - or perhaps confirming it - recently released results from Maryland's Chesapeake Bay 2023 Young-of Year Striped Bass Survey index came in at 1.0 - well below the long-term average of 11.1 and one of the lowest levels ever recorded over the nearly 70-year program. Chesapeake Bay is recognized as the primary nursery for striped bass along the East Coast and the results of the study have shown counts well below the average for five consecutive years now. Back in May, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) instituted emergency measures to protect the larger stripers in the breeding stock by instituting a maximum length regulation of 31 inches in marine waters along the Atlantic Coast. In early 2024, the Commission will vote on additional regulation changes aimed at reducing striped bass mortality caused by coastwide fishing activity.

According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, "The warm, dry conditions in winter and spring over the past several years have not been conducive to the successful reproduction of fish that migrate to fresh water for spawning,"

We'll keep you updated on how this all turns out. In the meantime, be sure to enjoy whatever striper action you can find this fall as regulations for the species are likely to continue to tighten. Also, keep in mind the plight of the species when playing catch and release with fish that fall outside of New York's 28- to 31-inch slot limit. A quick, gentle release should always be the goal, of course, but especially now when every single fish truly counts.

# NYSOWA Membership News

## NYSOWA Scholarship Annual Report

### The academic scholarship

Each year NYSOWA awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving college student with an outdoors-related major. This year's recipient wrote the Scholarship Committee the following:

"My name is Abigail Larrabee. I am a Junior at Paul Smith's College studying Fisheries and Wildlife biology.

"I have worked extensively with Trout Unlimited doing both conservation and outreach work, even serving in their national youth leadership council. Additionally, this summer I was an intern at the Maine Wildlife Park. Here I had the opportunity to care for several species, including deer, moose, bobcat, black bears, red fox, coyotes, and more! I had an excellent time and this definitely helped me in shaping my career goals.

"After graduating, my hope is to work with large mammals, including deer, moose, elk, and bears. I am taking courses that align with becoming a DEC officer or Game warden as well!

"I am incredibly grateful for this scholarship. It will be incredibly helpful for the costs of books and tuition! The NYSOWA is an incredible organization and I can't wait to be more involved with them in the future."

### DEC Summer Camps

Each year, NYSOWA sponsors two deserving kids to attend one of the DEC's summer camps, offered at various locations across the state. We cover the \$350 fee for each camper. This year, the DEC operated just two of its four camps: Pack Forest near Lake George, and Camp Rushford, in Western New York. Camp DeBruce, located in the Catskills and Camp Colby in the Adirondacks, were closed due to staff shortages and needed renovations.

With only two camps open, along with a rush online to register that saw all the slots taken in just over 5 minutes, NYSOWA was only able to send one child -- Joe Wasiewski, 13, of Skaneateles to Pack Forest. His brother, John, 16, also attended. The older brother's fee was covered by a special fund administered by the Skaneateles School District for special and deserving causes.

"They had a blast," said Erika Wasiewski, the boys' appreciative mother.

Our other DEC summer camp scholarship went to Robert Davis, 12, of Roscoe. Unfortunately, the lad was put on a waiting list for Camp Rushford in Western New York. An opening, though, never materialized. I contacted his father and assured him that his son would be at the top of our list next year when we once again try to find two deserving youngsters to go.

Becoming an outdoors woman

This \$400 scholarship is awarded annually to a female NYSOWA member or relative of a NYSOWA member. NYSOWA also makes a \$100 donation to the program each year to help sponsor attendees who need financial assistance.

### Becoming and Outdoors Woman

Deb Brosen, who is on the NYSOWA Scholarship Committee, attended the recent fall DEC BOW session with her sister, Donna. Another woman, NYSOWA member Shari Romar of Queens, who the Scholarship Committee had committed to sponsoring, was unable to attend due to health reasons. We will be sponsoring her for the Winter BOW. Here's Deb's account of the fall session:



“Approximately 100 women from across NYS and surrounding states gathered in September to learn or improve skills related to the outdoors at the Adirondack Woodcraft Camp in Old Forge this September to attend the annual Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) workshop.

“The setting had the feel of being at a Girl Scout camp, rather than the setting of recent years in Lake George. BOW continues to add new courses to their offerings each year, which also has women coming back every year to try new things. For the past couple of years, I have been attending with my sister, Donna Keeler.

“This year, we added canning wild game and making a birch bark frame to our course list. Since venison is the meat we prefer, learning to can wild game came at the perfect time. Since I am a wildlife artist, being able to make rustic frames of birch bark is something I have been wanting to do for a long time.

“These workshops have not only added things to my skill list, but have also given my sister and I some new products we do can together to have fun while producing some good things. BOW provides skills that will last a lifetime.”

### **Meanwhile....**

Discussion continues among members of the scholarship committee and the NYSOWA board about how to raise money to keep these scholarships going. Stay tuned. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

(Scholarship Committee members: Chairman David Figura, Deb Brosen and David Taylor)

### **More on Becoming an Outdoors Woman**

By Deb Brosen

Approximately 100 women from across NYS and surrounding states gathered in September to learn or improve skills related to the outdoors at the Adirondack Woodcraft Camp in Old Forge this September to attend the annual Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) workshop. The setting had the feel of being at a girl scout camp, rather than the setting of recent years in Lake George. BOW continues to add new courses to their offerings each year, which also has women coming back every year to try new things. For the past couple of years, I have been attending with my sister, Donna Keeler.

This year, we added canning wild game and making a birch bark frame to our course list. Since venison is the meat we prefer, learning to can wild game came at the perfect time! Doing this with other women made it fun, while being able to taste various types of canned meat made we want to do this going forward! Since I am a wildlife artist, being able to make rustic frames of birch bark is something I have been wanting to do for a long time. These workshops have not only added things to my skill list, but have also given my sister and I some new things we do can together to have fun while producing some good things. BOW provides skills that will last a lifetime!



**NYSOWA Excellence in Craft Writing,  
Janice M. Keesler Memorial Photo Award Guidelines & Rules**

We are making entry to the awards program easier than ever. At least, we hope you will find that to be the case as we convert the entry process exclusively to a digital format. No more dealing with snail mail and the costs and time that entails. No more entry forms for each entry; instead, you'll list your entries on one form. As for your entry fee, which has gone up to \$25 (covers all EIC entries; a separate \$25 fee covers all photo award entries), you can still send in a check or money order, or you can go to our NYSOWA.org website and pay by credit card.

So, if you've never entered your work in our awards program, this is the year to start. Hopefully, you'll find it easy. So, review your work from 2023 (2022 and 2023 for the Book category) and begin to prepare entries for the writing and photo awards recognition program. Of course, photos could have been taken at any time, not just in 2023.

All you need for each entry is a file of the original article as a PDF or JPG and a file of that article that deletes or blocks out your byline, the name of the publication and any other identifying information, including photos with your image. The new entry form below requires a listing of all of your entries

Because the awards presentation will take place at our banquet scheduled for the spring, rather than the more traditional fall banquet date, **entries must be received by the administrators of the writing and photo recognition programs by January 15, 2024**

Deb Brosen is chair of the Janice M. Keesler Memorial photo awards. This year I am co-administering the Excellence in Craft writing awards program with our president, Chris Paparo, and he looks forward to processing your submissions.

—Glenn Sapir

Deadline for receipt of entries for both writing and photo award entries is **Jan. 15, 2024**.

**EIC & Photo Contest Rules & Entry Form**

**EIC CATEGORIES**

The categories for 2023 work are: Magazine Column, Magazine Feature, Newspaper Column, Newspaper Feature and Online Publication; and Book (published in 2022 and 2023). Those categories are defined as such:

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

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

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

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

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

**Book:** Books or E-books with outdoor-related topics/formats, including but not limited to contract/self-published, hard-cover/soft-cover, printed/E-book, photo/fiction/nonfiction/cookbook.

**SUBMISSIONS**

All entries should be sent to [nysowaeic@gmail.com](mailto:nysowaeic@gmail.com). Chris Paparo will review your entry to be sure you've met all of the requirements and will acknowledge your entry. **You may submit entries in different emails and on different dates without having to pay an additional entry fee.**

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

Each submission should include:

--one file of the work as published

--one file of the same article, with the name and date of publication and any mentions of the author's name, in the byline,



photo credits, captions and body text, as well as any images of the author, blocked out or deleted  
--a single, all-inclusive completed entry form for all EIC submissions.  
--Proof of payment of \$25

Book entries require an additional \$10 fee for each title, in addition to the all-inclusive one-time \$25 entry fee for all writing (not photo) entries. **In addition, authors must submit three copies of their book, unmarked.** These will not be returned to the author. Books should be sent to Chris Paparo, NYSOWA EIC, 153 South River Rd., Calverton, NY 11933.

All entries, including books, must be received by Chris by Jan. 15, to be eligible for entry in the EIC Awards Program.

Important Information:

- Writers may submit a maximum of two entries in each category.
- The author must have been paid for the work entered.
- Work must have been published between Jan. 1, 2023, and Dec. 31, 2023 (Book entries must have been published in 2022 or 2023).
- All entries must be the author's original work.
- Awards will not be given in any category that receives entries from less than three members.
- If entries are from fewer than three members in either the Magazine Column or Newspaper Column category, the entries for those two categories will be combined into a Column category.
- If entries are from fewer than three members in either the Magazine Feature or Newspaper Feature category, the entries for those two categories will be combined into a Feature category.
- Audio books are not eligible for the Book category.
- Failure to follow the guidelines and rules above can lead to disqualification of entries. This is left to the discretion of the EIC chairman.
- By entering your submission, you are allowing NYSOWA to reprint your entry for promotional purposes.

**Excellence in Craft Entry Form**

NOTE: THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR SUBMISSION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

EIC Category \_\_\_\_\_  
Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication  
entries) \_\_\_\_\_  
Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book  
Publication \_\_\_\_\_

EIC Category \_\_\_\_\_  
Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication  
entries) \_\_\_\_\_  
Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book  
Publication \_\_\_\_\_

EIC Category \_\_\_\_\_  
Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication  
entries) \_\_\_\_\_  
Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book  
Publication \_\_\_\_\_

EIC Category \_\_\_\_\_  
Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication  
entries) \_\_\_\_\_  
Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book  
Publication \_\_\_\_\_

EIC Category \_\_\_\_\_  
Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication  
entries) \_\_\_\_\_  
Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book  
Publication \_\_\_\_\_

EIC Category \_\_\_\_\_  
Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication  
entries) \_\_\_\_\_  
Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book  
Publication \_\_\_\_\_

EIC Category \_\_\_\_\_  
Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication  
entries) \_\_\_\_\_  
Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book  
Publication \_\_\_\_\_

EIC Category \_\_\_\_\_  
Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication  
entries) \_\_\_\_\_  
Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book  
Publication \_\_\_\_\_

EIC Category \_\_\_\_\_  
Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication  
entries) \_\_\_\_\_  
Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book  
Publication \_\_\_\_\_

**All entries and payment must be received by Jan. 15, 2024. Send entries (except Book entries) to [nysowaic.com](https://nysowaic.com).  
Send Book entries to Chris Paparo, NYSOWA EIC, 153 South River Rd., Calverton, NY 11933.**

**DON'T FORGET:**

A \$25 fee must be paid at the time of submission. One \$25 fee covers all EIC writing contest submissions—EXCEPT THAT  
BOOK ENTRIES REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL \$10 FEE PER ENTRY.

**Janice M. Keesler Memorial Photo Awards Program Rules**

**Prints are no longer accepted as entries.**

NOTE: YOU MUST LABEL DIGITAL PHOTO ENTRIES WITH YOUR NAME, CATEGORY AND, IF ENTERING TWO IN THE  
SAME CATEGORY, WITH "1" FOR THE FIRST AND "2" FOR THE SECOND. E.G., JOHNDOE HUNTINGFISHING1.  
ENTRIES NOT PROPERLY LABELED WILL BE RETURNED FOR PROPER LABELING BY THE PHOTO AWARDS  
ADMINISTRATOR!

1. Only members in good standing are eligible.
2. A maximum of two photos per category may be entered. Submissions must be received by Jan. 15, 2024. A one-time submission fee of \$25 must be paid at time of submission. Late entries will be disqualified. No name, title or caption should be provided. Chairman will assign a number to each photo and keep a record of photographer and photo number separate from the photos.
3. Each photo can only be submitted to one category. Photos from previous contests may be resubmitted if they did not place (1st, 2nd or 3rd).
4. All categories will be judged prior to the Annual Conference, and awards will be made at the Conference.
5. The following are the categories for the contest:
  - a. Hunting/Fishing--Hunting/fishing photographs, including hero shots, action, hunting or fishing equipment.
  - b. Outdoor Action--Outdoor-oriented action photographs, excluding hunting and fishing but including boating, camping, RVs, shooting sports, hiking, skiing, windsurfing, etc.
  - c. Outdoor Scenic--Scenic photographs of either flora or fauna, landscapes, close-ups, panoramic. These may include people, though the people should be part of the scene, not the subject of the photo.
  - d. Wildlife--Though the judges may take into consideration unusual aspects of the wildlife subject, such as size of antlers, length of beard and length and girth of fish, primary consideration should be given to the technical photographic aspects and general appeal of the image.
  - e. People--As the category suggests, the focus is on "people" in the outdoors.
6. Categories "A" through "E" do not exclude photos taken in black-and-white.
7. Photo enhancement is limited to standard editing, such as: color correction, contrast control, filter use and image cropping.



Digitally produced photos should not be substantially manipulated

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

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

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

11. Entries should be submitted to Deb Brosen at [featherartstudio@yahoo.com](mailto:featherartstudio@yahoo.com).

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Janice M. Keesler Memorial Photo Awards Entry Form

NOTE: THIS ALL-INCLUSIVE FORM MUST ACCOMPANY THE PHOTO SUBMISSION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Category \_\_\_\_\_ Photo Identification: \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Category \_\_\_\_\_ Photo Identification: \_\_\_\_\_

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Photo Category \_\_\_\_\_ Photo Identification: \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Category \_\_\_\_\_ Photo Identification: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit entries to Deb Brosen: [featherartstudio@yahoo.com](mailto:featherartstudio@yahoo.com)

DON'T FORGET:

Proof of payment of your \$25 entry fee must be submitted to Deb at the time of submission.

DON'T FORGET:

Submissions for both the Janice M. Keesler Memorial Photo Contest and the Excellence in Crafts Awards for writing must be received by the awards administrators **by Jan. 15, 2024.**

###

## NYSOWA Seeks Nominations for 2024 Pass It On Award

The New York State Outdoor Writers Association reminds members that nominations are now open for the 2024 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 being 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](mailto:billhiltsjr@gmail.com). **Deadline for nominations is April 1, 2024.** Take note of the early deadline due to the shift of the annual conference. The winner will be honored at the NYSOWA Spring Conference in Oswego.

## NYSOWA Seeks Nominations

### New York M. Paul Keesler Outdoor Citizen Award

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

The 2024 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 2024 annual conference of the New York State Outdoor Writers Association (NYSOWA) in Oswego May 30 – June 2.

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 outdoor treasures of the Empire State. Keesler also wrote books on canoe fishing in New York waterways, including 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. You can nominate a member of NYSOWA (active or supporting) or a member/group outside the organization. To review award criterion and the nominating process, visit [www.nysowa.org](http://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](http://www.nysowa.org).

**Nominations must be received by April 1, 2024.** The NYSOWA Conference will again be held in the spring in 2024. Get your nominations submitted early.

Send nominations to Bill Hilts, Jr., 618 Walnut Street, Lockport, NY 14094, or email at [billhiltsjr@gmail.com](mailto:billhiltsjr@gmail.com).



# Membership Report

By Membership Secretary  
Nate Kennedy

With fall in full swing, I hope each and every one of you is having a wonderful, fun, and safe season in the field! Membership at NYSOWA has been in a large transition this year as we've made the move over to JointIt. I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who took the time to try this new software, and for being patient with me as I learn things on my end as well!

Now that we have (almost) everyone in that new system, we've been able to use it to our advantage! If you've not made the switch to JointIt, or paid for your 2023 membership, please give me a call and I can help you through it. We've barely scratched the surface of what it has to offer, but it's been great for email blasts, easy member information "look-ups", and record keeping. It's also offered a great system for online payments via Stripe. Much more to come from the programs within the software! I'll be taking the time to reach out to those who did not make the transition with us this year to find out why, and offer help if needed!

In the coming year, we'll use JointIt's resources for even more, like sending out renewals, certificates, payment receipts, and meeting links. My goal is to have any and all kinks ironed out in the system before we head into 2024, and I look forward to diving in. So far, it's been a very useful tool and a successful transition!

In the shift to JointIt, I put out a note for folks to feel free to keep in touch, and to reach out to me if you had any questions or needed any help with the new system, your account information, etc. I appreciate those who took advantage of that, and welcome you all to continue that relationship moving forward! If you ever have a question about your membership, payment status, dues, or anything else, just give me a shout. You can reach me at [natekennedy60@gmail.com](mailto:natekennedy60@gmail.com) or 315-276-1364.

Lastly, I'd like to make a plug for the **NYSOWA social media pages**. It's always such a treat to see Chris and the social media crew sharing member profiles, written works, photographs, and shared interests to the Instagram page. For those of you out in the field, sharing a new story or column, or working on something related to your own outdoor content, keep tagging [@NYSOWA](https://www.instagram.com/NYSOWA)! It's a great way for our members to keep an eye on one another, and for the rest of the world to see and learn more about what we're up to!

As always, you can find membership information at <https://nysowa.org/membership/>.

Reach out anytime, and have a wonderful rest of your fall!

# NYSOWA Membership Stories



## IT'S NOT ALWAYS ABOUT THE CATCH

*Story and Photos By Dave Figura*

*(The following is a good reason to be a member of the New York State Outdoors Writers Association. It's through networking and relationships with fellow writers that I was able to experience the following.)*

For many, a good time fishing is about how many fish one catches and/or the size of the ones reeled in.

Even more important, though, is getting out on a scenic, soul-soothing lake, river or stream and the company and conversation one experiences with fellow anglers. And if you're lucky, it includes a great meal consumed from the day's catch.

I experienced all that and more at a Chautauqua County Outdoor Media Fish Camp along with four other outdoor writers in early October in this southwestern corner of New York State. The four-day, get-together was sponsored by the county's Visitors Bureau.

The purpose was to expose us to the celebrated Lake Erie fall walleye and perch fishery; the angling opportunities in nearby Chautauqua Lake where walleye, bass, perch and monster muskie are plentiful -- and a chance to flyfish on one of the tributaries that flow into Lake Erie this time of year that boast hard-fighting, spawning steelhead. The Lake Erie tributaries along the eastern shore in New York are appropriately known as "Steelhead Alley."

Much has been written about all three angling opportunities and I was anxious to try them all. David Barus, the camp's organizer, set us up in an Air Bnb just off the eastern shore on Chautauqua Lake, scheduling us with experienced guides and "fishing hosts" for each of our three days of fishing.

Unfortunately, the stretch of warm, dry sunny conditions in the week leading up to our trip resulting in the streams being unseasonably low for the spawning steelhead who chose to stage out in the lake, rather than running up the streams. That outing was scratched.

As things worked out, walleye and muskie fishing were the offerings and we had a good time wetting our lines.

I got out on Lake Erie the first day with fellow New York State Outdoors Writer Jerrod Vila, guided by charter boat Capt. Tom Yetzer of Reel Time Charters and his soft-spoken, first mate, Randy Hinsken.

Lake Erie, which at times can blow anglers off with high wind and waves, was comfortably calm that day. The wind vacillated around 3-5 mph, the temperature was in the high 70s (unusually warm for that time of year). The skies were sunny and bright. We were bottom-bouncing spinners tipped with worms in 60-80 feet of water. The marks on the fish finder were plentiful, but the bite was slow.

Vila got us all excited as he hooked something big. "Feels like I'm reeling in a cinder block," he said, straining with his pole as the fish had several pronounced runs.

We were thinking trophy walleye. Vilas, after first catching sight of it in the water, changed his mind



and announced it had to be a huge lake trout. Once the fish was netted, though, we all laughed. It was a hefty, 30-something inch, blue catfish.

Shortly after, Vila hooked another big fish. This time, it was an appreciable 28-inch walleye, which turned out being the biggest walleye of the day. We ended up boating several more, keeping a total of six for the tasty fillets. My biggest was a 22-inch 'eye. I also lost three keepers right near the boat.

Meanwhile, writers Mike Joyner and Megan Plete Postol, also NYSOWA members, brought back two nice walleyes from their excursion on Chautauqua Lake, using a "snap jigging" technique with weighted lures. The remaining writer, John Childs of Texas, who went out himself with a guide on Chautauqua, caught some perch and silver bass, but no walleye.

When we got back to the Air Bnb, Barus was talking about going out to dinner or preparing a meal himself. But Vila, an expert cook when it comes to wild game/fish dishes, wouldn't have it. He made a quick grocery store run with Plete Postol

and came back with crab meat, celery and several other ingredients and spices

With the help of writer John Childs, from Texas, Vila proceeded to slice the walleye fillets into strips and prepared a filler with the crab meat and other ingredients.

The filler was spooned onto the fillets. The fillets were then rolled up into rolls about 2-plus inches in diameter, placed on a huge frying pan, sprinkled with mozzarella cheese and then baked.

I'd be negligent if I didn't mention the writers came up with a delicious sauce in a separate pan to drip over Vila's creation, along with couscous in another pan as a side dish. It all made for a delicious, filling meal.

The following day saw Childs, Plete Postol and Joyner got out with Capt. Yetzel on Lake Erie with slightly rougher conditions. This time, the three-some boated around 20 walleyes and kept 10.

Vila and I spent our outing that day jigging with weighted lures for walleye on Chautauqua Lake with experienced angler Don Staszcyk. Despite the best efforts by Staszcyk, who repeatedly marked fish on his fish finder in more than 20 different spots, we were unable to hook a single walleye. However, we did boat a number of silver bass and small perch.

The final day, Joyner had to leave early. The remaining four of us went out with Rob Oram, another experienced Chautauqua Lake angler. We began by trolling for three hours for muskie, but had no luck. We finished up jigging for walleyes, boating a 22- and a 17-incher,

In hindsight, the beauty of the three outings wasn't about the catch, although it was appreciable and more than enough to prompt a return to Chautauqua County. It was the chemistry and conversation of the five writers.

I came home with several bags of walleye fillets and insight into several walleye jigging techniques -- techniques I intend to try out soon on a local lake near me.

I also picked up some cooking tips for fish; suggestions on improving the offerings of NYSOWA to its members and solid advice on playing and purchasing an electric guitar and amp. (Two of the writers had played in rock bands for years, they said.)

You say you don't have the time to get together at a fishing mecca such as Chautauqua County -- or any other countless angling destinations in New York State?

Make the time. It's there waiting for you. Do it with a friend or someone you'd like to befriend.

That's how deep friendships in the outdoors world start and last.





# NYSOWA Supporting Member News

## BoatUS Foundation's Alan Dennison Elected Chairman of National Safe Boating Council



ANNAPOLIS, Md., October 17, 2023 -- BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water program supervisor Alan Dennison has been elected chairman of the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC). Created in its current form by the Federal Boating Safety Act of 1971, the Council is the nation's principal public-private boating safety advocacy organization, representing a coalition of more than 330 U.S. and international member organizations. Its mission is to promote a safer recreational boating experience through education, outreach and training.

A Chesapeake Bay boater, Dennison began at the BoatUS Foundation in 2015 and joined the NSBC board as secretary in 2017. The 501(c)(3) nonprofit Foundation is the boating safety and clean water "sister" to the nearly 800,000-member Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS).

Dennison's election signifies the seventh time a BoatUS Foundation staff member has held the NSBC chair post since BoatUS founder Richard Schwartz signed the charter which created the current NSBC, and has included Foundation presidents Ruth Wood, Jim Ellis and Chris Edmonston. "It really humbles me to be following in the footsteps of these great boating safety leaders, and it shows our long-standing commitment to our NSBC partnership," said Dennison.



"I have to thank outgoing chairman Robert Newsome for his mentorship, which helped lead me to this important boating safety post," said Dennison. Newsome, the National Marine Manufacturer Association's senior vice president of operations, remains as NSBC immediate past chair. The full slate of newly elected NSBC board members can be found [here](#).

Dennison says he hopes to strengthen the BoatUS Foundation-NSBC partnership and is excited about growing curriculum for on-water training course instructors and students. "One of the important items required for expanding the availability of affordable on-water boat handling training is to ensure we have a consistent curriculum coast-to-coast," added Dennison.

NSBC is also the organizer of National Safe Boating Week (May 18-24, 2024) and the "Wear It" life jacket promotional program. It offers a series of safe boating courses for instructors and the boating public, research publications, educational tools, and informative boating safety newsletter. Visit [SafeBoatingCouncil.org](https://SafeBoatingCouncil.org) for more. To find an affordable on-water training course near you, go to [BoatUS.org/On-Water](https://BoatUS.org/On-Water).

# NSSF's First Shots Offers New Online Resources



WASHINGTON, D.C. — NSSF®, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, is pleased to announce that its First Shots® program has posted new online resources for ranges and customers, including new promotional videos and Spanish-language instructional materials.

NSSF's First Shots is an introductory and refresher program made available through host target-shooting ranges across the country. By providing educational experiences that are safe, fun and memorable, host ranges are having great success in attracting first-timers, further engaging new gun owners and in reactivating lapsed participants.

Ranges that host First Shots are encouraged to use a new 90-second customer-facing video to promote their classes to those who want to learn more about firearm ownership and target shooting, or those who want a refresher course on safely using firearms and how to enjoy the shooting sports. A 30-second promotional video is also available. Host ranges are encouraged to integrate the videos into their websites and share them on social media as part of their recruitment, retention, reactivation (R3) marketing and outreach efforts.

Ranges, firearm instructors and shooting sports organizations that want to know more about the First Shots program and the many benefits of being a First Shots host should watch the video available at [NSSF.org/FirstShots](https://nssf.org/FirstShots).

Spanish-language materials are now available to ranges for use by Spanish-speaking customers enrolled in First Shots classes. "By creating these new First Shots resources, NSSF has responded to requests from its host ranges for educational materials to meet the demand they're seeing from their growing base of Hispanic American customers," said Zach Snow, Director, NSSF Membership Development. Ranges now have access to the Intro to Handgun slide deck in Spanish through the First Shots host portal and can request printed handbooks in Spanish for their future events.

NSSF research has shown that in 2021 alone, 40 percent of firearm retailers saw an increase of Hispanic Americans purchasing firearms.

"We're thrilled to be able to partner with NSSF to offer Spanish First Shots classes to our customers," said Tracy Fornwalt, owner of Morr Indoor Range & Training Center in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and Shoot Indoors in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. "We plan to roll out these new resources to improve our customer experience in the coming months."

## **[NSSF First Shots Host Resources Portal:](https://nssf.widencollective.com/portals/zaausutu/FirstShotsHostPortal)**

**<https://nssf.widencollective.com/portals/zaausutu/FirstShotsHostPortal>**

NSSF provides First Shots hosts with all the program materials and promotional resources to help offset overall event expenses. Shooting ranges and firearm instructors can learn how to become a First Shots host here or by contacting Ann Gamauf at 203-426-1320, ext. 247.

Anyone interested in learning about firearm safety, range etiquette and the basic firearm fundamentals to get you on the firing line, find a First Shots seminar near you!

# Redding Reloading Equipment Metric Bullet Seating Micrometer Product Line

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Cortland, NY..... As an industry leader in the design, development and production of premium handloading equipment, Redding Reloading is pleased to introduce a new line of Metric Bullet Seating Micrometers for rifle and handgun cartridges. The perfect addition to your Redding Seating Dies, offering handloaders around the world the convenience of fast and accurate changes in bullet seating depth in their measuring scale of preference. Thus, making it easier than ever to fine-tune your favorite loads or take the guess work out of loading multiple bullet types with the same seating die.

Designed to exacting parameters, the micrometer sleeve will contain both whole and half-millimeter increments. The micrometer barrel is precisely marked with 50 divisions of .02-millimeter increments and one whole revolution will represent 1 millimeter. Redding Bullet Seating Micrometers are for use with most standard Redding Seating Dies and provide a direct replacement for the original seat plug.

The new Redding Bullet Seating Micrometers for bottleneck cartridges are available for traditional bullet shapes (STD) as well as very-low-drag bullet shapes (VLD). They are also available for handgun and straight wall cartridges with traditional bullet shapes (STD) and flat nose bullet designs (FLAT).

Redding continues to 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 products have been designed, produced and tested to exemplify quality and precision.

## About Redding Reloading Equipment

Located in Cortland, NY, Redding Reloading Equipment has focused on building the finest quality products for the precision handloading market since 1946. Redding offers a complete product line including the most comprehensive variety of dies and die sets, championship winning reloading presses and powder measures as well as match precision case trimming lathes and gauging instruments. 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](http://www.redding-reloading.com)





# Redding Reloading Equipment Metric Micrometer Equipped Premium Die Sets

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Cortland, NY..... Redding Reloading Equipment introduces a new line of Metric Micrometer Equipped Premium Die Sets for handgun and straight wall cartridges. Following the introduction of the Metric Bullet Seating Micrometers, (26) new “Premium Die Sets” for rifle cartridges from 204 Ruger to 338 Winchester Magnum will be offered featuring a Carbide Size Button in the full-length sizing die and Metric Bullet Seating Micrometer on the seating die. The new metric micrometer will be available in both the “Premium” Full Length two (2) die sets and “Premium” Deluxe three (3) die sets.



The (8) new “Premium Die Sets” for Handgun Cartridges covering popular cartridges from 32 S&W Long/32 H&R Mag through 45 Colt consist of a three (3) die set which contain the Redding NxGen Carbide Sizing Die, a unique Special Expander Die and Premium Seating Die available with the (STD) Metric Bullet Seating Micrometer. These dies have a large entry / taper for easy case entry and high production.

Redding continues to 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 products have been designed, produced and tested to exemplify quality and precision.

## About Redding Reloading Equipment

Located in Cortland, NY, Redding Reloading Equipment has focused on building the finest quality products for the precision handloading market since 1946. Redding offers a complete product line including the most comprehensive variety of dies and die sets, championship winning reloading presses and powder measures as well as match precision case trimming lathes and gauging instruments. 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](http://www.redding-reloading.com)

# NBEF's Shot Placement Tools

The National Bowhunter Education Foundation (NBEF) continues to be at the forefront of enhancing the bowhunting experience, offering an array of educational tools designed to increase success and safety for bowhunters. These educational aids are designed to improve shot accuracy for quicker harvests and game recovery.

## **Advanced Anatomy and Shot Placement Guides for Whitetail Deer, Turkey, Elk and Black Bear**

Each guide offers transparent overlays and accompanying text specific to the respective species, for both firearm hunters and bowhunters. These guides are essential resources for hunting guides, hunter education instructors and informed hunters, ensuring ethical and precise shot placement for successful hunts. Part of the International Bowhunter Education Program Hunter Responsibility Series. Suggested retail price: \$12.50 each.



**Mini 3D Durable Deer Foam Model** Get hands-on with the Mini 3D Deer Foam Model, an ultra-realistic model molded from high-quality, durable foam and exclusively crafted for NBEF by Rinehart Targets. This model provides a tactile understanding of shot placement, with the reverse side revealing vital organs and major bones. A stick pin is included to demonstrate shot placement, making it an essential tool for refining your hunting skills. Suggested retail price: \$75.00. Sale price: \$65.00.

**The Mini 3D Durable Foam Bear Model** An excellent addition to hunter education classes and hunter certification courses, the Mini 3D Durable Foam Bear Model is molded from high-quality, durable foam and exclusively crafted for NBEF by Rinehart Targets. This realistic model features a cutaway design on the reverse side, exposing vital organs and major bones, while a stick pin is included for practical shot placement demonstrations. Measuring 12.5" in length and 8.25" in height, this model is a valuable educational tool. Suggested retail price: \$75.00. Sale price: \$65.00.

**The 3D Whitetail Deer Anatomy Sectional** Ideal for hunter education classes and hunter certification courses, the 3D Whitetail Deer Anatomy Sectional is a life-size, pre-drilled model that demonstrates arrow shot placement on white-tailed deer. This educational tool comes complete with a removable magnetic scapula and a display stand. Please allow for possible extended lead times when ordering this product. Suggested retail price: \$250.00.

Executive Director of NBEF Marilyn Bentz emphasizes the importance of using reference information and tools to ensure safer and more successful hunts. "As stewards of our sport, it's important to educate ourselves using the best learning tools available," shared Bentz.

NBEF helps bowhunters learn to be safe, successful and stewards of the sport. NBEF offers bowhunting instructional items, books, videos, 3-D models, apparel and more at [nbeef.org](http://nbeef.org).

# National Bowhunter Education Foundation Announces Photos From the Field Contest

RAPID CITY, SD (October 16, 2023) – The National Bowhunter Education Foundation (NBEF) is calling all bowhunters to participate in its *Photos from The Field* contest, a celebration of the passion and camaraderie within the bowhunting community. NBEF is dedicated to portraying bowhunting in a positive light and recognize bowhunters who are proud of their sport.

Whether you're a longtime friend of NBEF, a student, an instructor, or have been part of our journey in any capacity, we invite you to share your favorite bowhunting moments with us. Our contest is not about the size of your harvest or the score of your game; it's about the memories and experiences you've had in the great outdoors. Your photo could depict the anticipation of heading out, a heartwarming gathering to swap bowhunting tales, a delicious meal prepared from your harvest, meticulous setup or checking of trail cameras, maintenance of your equipment, or any other snapshot that encapsulates the essence of your time afield.

To participate, simply email your photo to [info@nbef.org](mailto:info@nbef.org) and include your name (we will use only your first name and last initial), your home state/country, and the location where your captivating photo was taken. Selected photos may find their way to our platforms at NBEF.org, Facebook, or Instagram.

For helpful tips on creating stunning hunting photos, visit this resource from the NRA Hunters Leadership Forum: [Best Practices for Hunting Photos from the NRA Hunters Leadership Forum](#).

NBEF Executive Director Marilyn Bentz explained, "NBEF's mission is to be the beacon of responsible bowhunting. Let's join forces to champion bowhunting together. We're thrilled to display your bowhunting snapshots and reward fortunate winners with NBEF trucker caps and merchandise."

Join us in commemorating the spirit of bowhunting through the lens of your camera. Share your story with NBEF today!

NBEF helps bowhunters be safe, successful and stewards of the sport. NBEF offers bowhunting instructional items, books, videos, 3-D models, apparel and more at [nbef.org](https://nbef.org).

## About NBEF

The National Bowhunter Education Foundation offers instructional content and tools for bowhunter education classes in the US. Helping bowhunters become safe and successful hunters and stewards of the sport are important NBEF missions. NBEF provides the bowhunter certification standards and class content that some states and certain circumstances require to bow hunt. 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. States may have additional requirements. Europe and other countries accept the NBEF (IBEP) certification and conduct 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](https://nbef.org).







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



<https://otistec.com>

# **NEW YORK STATE OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

## **Minutes of the Zoom Meeting of the Board of Directors Oct. 16, 2023**

In Attendance: President Chris Paparo, Vice Presidents Dan Ladd, David Figura and Tom Schlichter, Recording Secretary Glenn Sapir, Directors Deb Brosen, Jerrod Villa, Bob Henke and Chris Kenyon

Absent: Treasurer Leo Maloney, Membership Secretary Nate Kennedy, Directors Steve Piatt and Rich Redman, and Immediate Past President Charles Witek III

Chris Paparo called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Dan Ladd moved and Chris Kenyon seconded to table VP and many committee reports until the Annual Meeting scheduled on Zoom for Oct. 23.

First, Chris accepted the resignation of Director Bob Henke, whose term expires in 2024. Chris appointed Megan Postol to fill the remaining year of Bob's term, and the Board unanimously approved that selection. Megan will have to be elected by the membership with a majority vote of those present at the Annual Meeting next week.

Chairman of the Nominating Committee Dan Ladd presented the committee's proposed slate of officers and directors. The slate consisted of Chris Paparo for President, Dan Ladd, David Figura and Tom Schlichter for Regional Vice Presidents, Glenn Sapir for Recording Secretary, Stephen George for Treasurer and Nate Kennedy for Membership Secretary. These are all for one-year terms. Charles Witek III will remain as Immediate Past President. Deb Brosen has been nominated for another three-year term as a Director and Leo Maloney has been nominated for a three-year term as well.

Glenn Sapir moved and both Chris Kenyon and Tom Schlichter seconded that the Board endorse the proposed slate. The motion was carried unanimously.

Glenn presented information on the EIC and Photo Awards Program. Besides mentioning changes in the system, which included all EIC entries must be in digital format, that they will be sent to Chris, that the deadline will be Jan. 15 and that the entry fee has increased from \$5 to \$25, an important message was that we only had a commitment from one sponsor, Redding Reloading Equipment, for \$1,500. Both Ducks Unlimited and the Outdoor Sportsman Group have not renewed their sponsorship. Despite the loss in revenue, the Board voted to continue with the same prizes as in previous years and see how we fare financially. All Board members were encouraged to seek out sponsorship through personal contacts. Dan added that we should try to cover Joint transaction fees in the price we charge for various services.

Dan and Dave Figura reported that the Annual Conference will be held in Oswego County from Thursday, May 30, through Sunday, June 2. Dan further reported that the Safari will be held at Peck's Lake from Thursday, Sept. 12, through Sunday, Sept. 15.

Discussion ensued about trying to get discounts and other professional courtesies through our NYSOWA membership. Chris said he would pursue that with expert-voice.com.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Glenn Sapir, NYSOWA Recording Secretary*

**MINUTES**  
**NEW YORK STATE OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION**  
**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 23, 2023**

President Chris Paparo called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. 15 members, including President Paparo, were present.

Officers and directors present included Chris Paparo (President), David Figura (West/Central Vice President), Dan Ladd (Northern Vice President), Tom Schlichter (Southeastern Vice President), Leo Maloney (Treasurer), Jerrod Vila (Membership Secretary), Charles Witek (Past President), Deborah Brosen (Director), Steve Piatt (Director), Richard Redmond (Director)

A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes was adopted by consensus.

Dan Ladd, Chair of the Nominating Committee, moved the Committee slate of candidates for officers and directors for the upcoming year. The slate included Stephen George for Treasurer, Megan Postol and Deborah Brosen for Directors whose 3-year terms have expired, and Leo Maloney to serve the remaining year of Bob Henke's unexpired term as Director. All other officers were re-nominated for their existing positions. There being no nominations from the floor, Charles Witek, acting on behalf of the Recording Secretary, cast one vote approving the Committee slate.

The Vice Presidents then presented their regional reports.

David Figura, the Western/Central Vice President, briefly discussed the issues of native hunting and fishing rights, noting that Peter Rubin has been appointed as the Department of Environmental Conservation's Director of the new Office of Indian Nation Affairs; that a new state smallmouth bass record was set in 2023, by the same angler, possibly catching the same fish, that set the previous record in 2022; that Major League Fishing was allowed to hold a bass fishing tournament, requiring immediate measuring and release, one week before the bass season opened; that there was another cheating episode at a Lake Erie walleye tournament; that the Salmon River has enjoyed a good chinook and steelhead season so far this fall, although coho salmon catches were down; noted that the state's new ammunition purchase requirements were creating problems in the region; and that the pheasant season, threatened by avian influenza, will go on due to 30,000 birds purchased from private sources, but that the day-old chick rearing program was not maintained in 2023,

Tom Schlichter, the Southeastern Vice President, noted that the DEC was conducting a survey intended to determine anglers' attitudes toward a possible saltwater fishing license, and opined that opinion was running about 60/40 against the license on the North Fork, with those who target striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish largely in favor and those who target bottom fish largely opposed; that windfarms and the proposed 10-knot seasonal speed limit intended to protect Atlantic right whales remained issues; that there was good striped bass fishing on parts of the South Shore but that fishing was dismal on the North Shore; and that archers were having some success at the beginning of the deer season, but that activity seemed to be slow.

Dan Ladd, the Northern Vice President, noted that the deer season was off to a slow start, possibly because it remained warm and the cover remained thick; that flooding in the Long Lake area during July had given rise to disputes over who



should remediate flood damage; that it was legal to carry firearms on the Adirondack Rail Trail, although hunting from the trail is prohibited; asked Richard Redmond to describe dam removals on the Saranac River and the impact of such removals on landlocked salmon; and that Lake Champlain tributaries were treated with lampricides.

Deborah Brosen provided the EIC Committee report, noting that the Committee had recently met, when it decided to increase the entry fee for the EIC award programs to \$25 to cover the programs' costs, as two previous sponsors have been lost. The deadline for entries has been moved up to January 15. All written submissions will now be required to be in digital form, rather than hard copies. Further details will appear in the next newsletter.

Leo Maloney provided the Treasurer's report. As of September 30, the primary account held \$21,622, which is about \$4,000 less than it held last spring. However, \$1,000 for scholarships and \$1,504 from the National Shooting Sports Foundation has yet to be credited. The Scholarship Fund is down to about \$500, primarily due to a lack of fundraising efforts, most particularly the silent auction at the annual conference.

Chris Paparo discussed fundraising. He noted that Glenn Sapir, responsible for coordinating with the Supporting Members, was soliciting such members in that regard. Deborah Brosen mentioned that NYSOWA ought to be considering raffles, online auctions, and perhaps conducting events through organizations such as Bucci's Barbecue, which returns a portion of the receipts to sponsoring organizations. Dan Ladd mentioned that an ice fishing tournament, to be held at the end of January 2024, will donate a portion of the receipts to the Scholarship Fund. Chris Paparo also mentioned the possibility of holding a photo-based fishing contest.

David Figura gave the Scholarship Committee Report, in which he described the benefits of the scholarship program to both NYSOWA and the scholarship recipients.

Dan Ladd provided the report of the Conference Committee, noting that the next conference is going to be held in Oswego County May 30-June 2, and that the next Safari was scheduled for Peck's Lake on Sept. 12-15.

Chris Paparo gave the Recruitment Committee report, noting that because of demands on the Committee members, no actions have been taken, but that the Committee expects to meet and become more active soon.

There was no unfinished business.

With respect to new business, Chris Paparo noted that he was working with an organization that connects writers with manufacturers, and allows writers to obtain product at reduced prices. He expects to have the program in place soon. He also noted the need to draw closer to supporting members and try to arrange for similar arrangements, although it was noted that many supporting members are organizations, and no longer manufacturers or merchants.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Charles Witek, acting on behalf of 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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>