



# New York Outdoors

The Official Newsletter of the  
New York State Outdoor Writers Association

Winter 2024

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



**Lake George's south basin from Top-of-the-World resort. Very little ice fishing has taken place on Lake George and other New York waters this winter.**

*Photo by Dan Ladd*

## Inside:

- EIC, Photo Contest, Keesler and Pass it on Award Info
- Spring Conference Room Registration and Details

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## Calendar

May 30 - June 2, 2024  
**Spring Conference**  
Oswego, N.Y.

**Fall Safari**  
Pecks Lake Resort  
Fulton County  
Sept. 12-15



# Renewing Your NYSOWA Membership

## Renewals are now additionally online

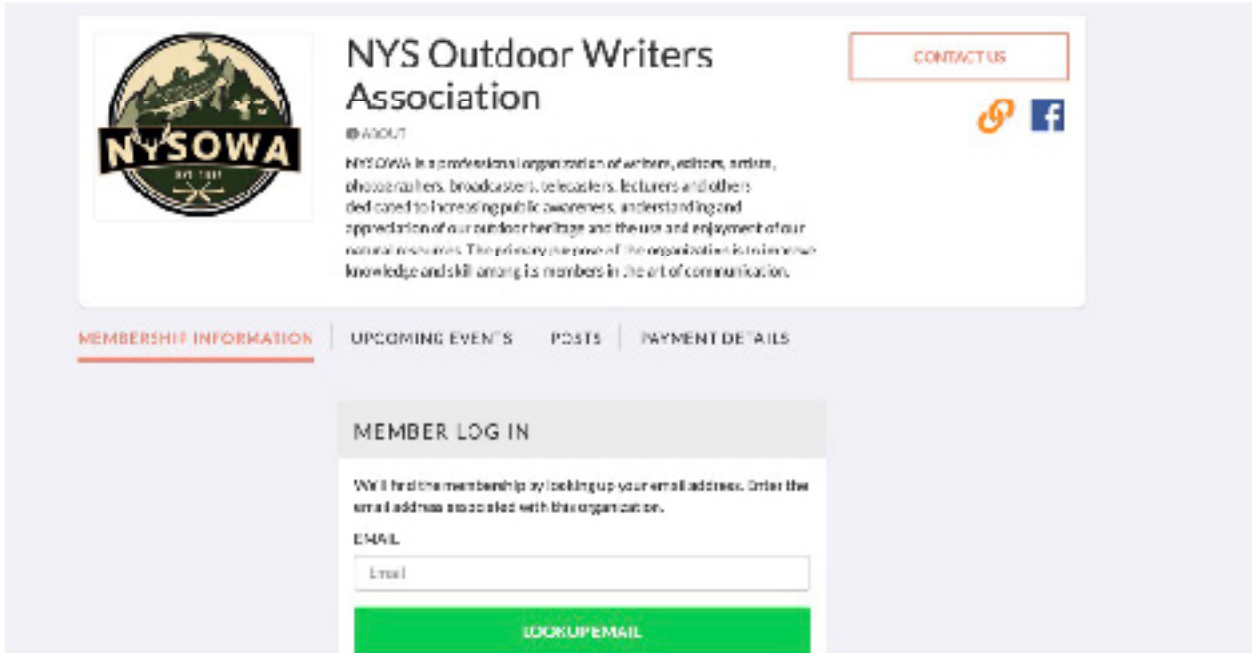
Using JointIt, NYSOWA's New Membership Software  
Feb. 2023

We will be using a new platform called JointIt, which will allow you to manage your membership settings and pay dues online. If you like, **you can still use the hard copy form that is available on the members area of our website or in any newsletter, and also pay by check.** But if possible, please use the new software by following the instructions below. If you need assistance, please be aware that we are considering some Zoom workshops where Nate Kennedy or Dan Ladd can help you. Hopefully you will find the instructions helpful and be able to move forward.

Here's the steps:

Click this link: <https://app.joinit.com/o/nysowa/members#>, which will eventually be the Membership Landing Page on our website.

You should see a screen (below) that welcomes you and asks for your email. Enter your email (the one that was used to send you this email) and, then click the green "Look up email" button below your email. This will generate a password setup email to. Got to your email account and follow the instructions in this email, which will help you establish your password and access your Membership Information in JointIt.

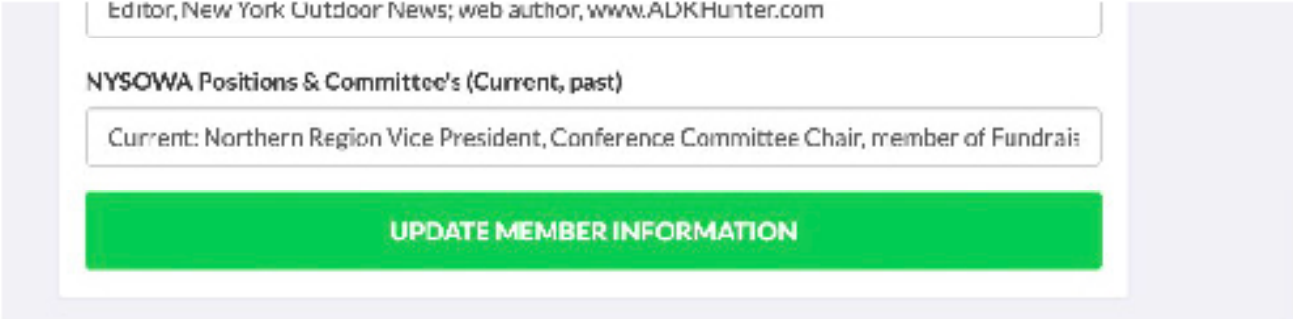


The screenshot shows the NYSOWA website interface. At the top left is the NYSOWA logo, which features a circular emblem with a mountain, trees, and a river, and the text "NYSOWA" below it. To the right of the logo is the text "NYS Outdoor Writers Association". Below this is a section titled "ABOUT" with a paragraph of text. To the right of the "ABOUT" section is a "CONTACT US" button and social media icons for LinkedIn and Facebook. Below the "ABOUT" section is a navigation bar with four links: "MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION", "UPCOMING EVENTS", "POSTS", and "PAYMENT DETAILS". The "MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION" link is highlighted with a red underline. Below the navigation bar is a "MEMBER LOG IN" section. This section contains a text box for "EMAIL" with the placeholder text "Email". Below the text box is a green button labeled "LOOKUP EMAIL".

REMEMBER - When you create this password it will be unique to your personal NYSOWA/JoinIt membership account. **It will NOT be the same universal password that we use for the members area of our website.** Please make note of this.

Once you have created your password, it should take you to a page where you can log into your Membership Information. Enter your email and password and you should gain access to your account and see your settings.

Now, look for a link that says Edit Membership Info at the bottom left of this screen, and click on it. Once you are in your account you can change the settings as you see fit, including information that is on the current hardcopy of membership renewal apps. Please update your address to be on the correct lines (sorry, our bulk import, which put the address on one line). Once you have changed all of your information, click on the green **Update Membership Information button** that looks like this.



Editor, New York Outdoor News; web author, www.ADKHunter.com

NYSOWA Positions & Committee's (Current, past)

Current: Northern Region Vice President, Conference Committee Chair, member of Fundrai

**UPDATE MEMBER INFORMATION**

### **Renewing Membership**

At the bottom of your Membership Info, you should see a Renew Membership option, which is where you can also change some ID settings and pay membership dues.

Thanks again for doing this and for being part of NYSOWA.

**Questions about membership?**  
**Please email Nate Kennedy**  
**at [natekennedy60@gmail.com](mailto:natekennedy60@gmail.com)**



# **NYSOWA Spring Conference 2024**

## **Oswego - Oswego County**

**May 30 - June 2, 2024**

**Headquarters: Clarion Hotel & Suites Riverfront Oswego**

**70 E 1st Street, Oswego, NY 13126, 313-343-1600**

**Visit Oswego: <https://visitoswegocounty.com>**

## **Book Rooms Now**

**Note: Members will be responsible to book their own rooms at a discounted rate of \$154/night **valid through April 17.****

**Book online at: <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/li82q5?checkInDate=2024-05-30&checkOutDate=2024-06-02&ratePlanCode=BTVYAA>**

**Separate conference registration & fees will apply.**

**Schedule and details coming soon.**

**'Hope to see you there!**

### ***Help Wanted/Needed***

**Unfortunately, due to job responsibilities, Nate Kennedy, NYSOWA's Membership Secretary, will need to step down from this position in 2024. We thank Nate for the effort's he's put into this and helping the organization merge into the digital JointIt software platform that has simplified the tasks involved with managing our membership. He's also willing to work directly with his replacement.**

**Anyone interested should contact Chris Paparo at: [chrispaparo@gmail.com](mailto:chrispaparo@gmail.com).**

## NYSOWA President Chris Paparo

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and you are now enjoying winter-time in the outdoors.

Over the last two months, we have held a couple Zoom sessions. The first was with long time member Leo Maloney. Leo shared with us some of his stories about past NYSOWA conferences, as well as some of his experiences as an outdoor writer. You can watch the video here

[https://youtu.be/ez29kyFV6Z0?si=YM-5V\\_8FJZ77KliB2](https://youtu.be/ez29kyFV6Z0?si=YM-5V_8FJZ77KliB2)



Our second Zoom was with Martin Gary, the DEC's new marine bureau director. We had a great discussion with Martin, who explained his professional background and his excitement for working for the great state of New York. This Zoom was recorded, and a link will be sent to the membership as a separate email. "Membership has its privileges" and meetings such as this are not shared with the public. This is one of the perks of being a NYSOWA member.

On Monday March 4 at 7:00 we will be hosting another members only Zoom, this time with Bill Brod. Bill is the owner of Outdoor Specialty Media Group (<https://outdoorspecialtymedia.com/>), which publishes North American Bow Hunter, North American Deer Hunter, North American Outdoorsman, and Crossbow Magazine. Check your email for the login info for this Zoom.

Speaking of membership perks, NYSOWA is now affiliated with ExpertVoice (<https://www.expertvoice.com>). ExpertVoice is a platform that gives industry professionals, sales associates, or influencers who people trust for advice, exclusive access to 100's of brands of outdoor gear at up to 60% off MSRP.

To enroll, go to ExpertVoice.com and click join now. When it asks for your affiliation, enter NYS Outdoor Writers Association, not NYSOWA. Once your application is approved, you will be all set to start shopping.

I have used this platform for several years now and have gotten some great deals on rifle scopes, footwear, sunglasses, fishing gear, and dog training equipment. Before making a purchase, you will be asked to watch a series of short videos about the product you are interested in, and then take a quiz. If you pass the quiz, you unlock the discounts for that brand. I hope you all take advantage of this great opportunity.

Lastly, it sounds like the planning of the spring conference in Oswego County is coming along nicely. The conference committee has been working hard to put on another great event and I really hope to see you all there!



## Northern Region VP *Dan Ladd*

### **Another Winter-less Winter**

The story in the North Country this winter is simply the lack of winter conditions, both cold and snow. The Adirondack region was hanging in there on the snow front for a while in January and even had some skiing and snowmobiling going on. But warmer temperatures and rain simply washed a lot of it away. My snowmobiling friends are cursing Mother Nature.

Although there is some ice, anglers are also disappointed this winter, for the second one in a row. All across the region ice fishing events have been cancelled. Among the casualties, also for the second straight year, was the Glen Lake ice fishing derby in Warren County. Had it gone off, proceeds would have supported NYSOWA's Bob McNitt Memorial Scholarship Fund. Also, one of the region's biggest events, the Northern Challenge, in Tupper Lake was also cancelled, as was the Sacandaga Fisheries Federation event. The fate of the March 3-4 Schroon Lake ice fishing derby has yet to be decided. It was canceled in 2023 for the first time, ever.

Bait and tackle shops that rely on a solid ice fishing season are hurting, as are the restaurants and entire communities that rely on winter recreation like ice fishing and snowmobiling. Many are starting to realize they may have to put their efforts elsewhere.

If there is a silver lining in all of this, it is the deer herd, especially in the backcountry. Coming into the winter, whitetails had it tough due to a very sporadic and limited mast crop last fall. So, a mild winter will surely benefit them.

Of course, it's not over yet. A possible winter storm is brewing at the time of this writing. And one only needs to recall early March of 2023 when three powerful storms dashed hopes of an early spring; just about the time we were ready for it.



### **Annual Lake Champlain Meeting**

The Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative -- a working group of fisheries professionals from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service -- will host a 'State of the Lake Fisheries' meeting at Whallonsburg Grange, 1610 NY-22, Essex, New York from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 23, for anglers and other individuals interested in the fisheries of Lake Champlain.

This meeting is an opportunity for agency staff and others to provide updates on the status and trends of the fisheries and to hear from anglers. Information will be provided on restoration, research, assessment, and other work that has been accomplished over the past year as well as work planned for the coming year. Species to be discussed include lake trout, landlocked Atlantic salmon, sea lamprey, muskellunge, walleye, and bass. Time will be allotted for questions from the public.

### **Lake George Creel Surveys**

As reported in New York Outdoor News, preliminary results of a recent angler creel survey on Lake George show that the lake's bass and lake trout populations are fishing well, but landlocked Atlantic salmon anglers continue to have lower success rates than

fisheries biologists would like to see.

DEC has wrapped up data collection from the open-water portion of its new creel survey, and the data show good catch rates for lake trout and black bass, similar trends to angler diary reports from past years. However the lake's Atlantic salmon fishery has struggled for decades despite heavy stocking and numerous changes to stocking practices to try to improve catch rates. There is no significant natural reproduction by salmon because of a lack of suitable tributaries.

That lack of notable improvement comes despite introduction of a new salmon strain, the Sebago strain, beginning in 2014. That strain was hoped to be better suited to Lake George, and a stocking change in which Warren County Fish Hatchery annually holds 3,000 salmon for stocking at a bigger size in the fall each year was hoped to be a boon as well.

But information from the creel survey did not show that salmon fishing was any better.

### **Out-of-State Ammo**

Gun owners who live along the Vermont border in Northern New York have turned to the Green Mountain State and beyond for their ammunition purchases. This has gone on since the passage of the Concealed Carry Improvement Act in the summer of 2022. That year, New York gun dealers began collecting information from ammo buyers. Of course, that was just the beginning as since Sept. 13, 2023, the NYS Police are now running full background checks on ammo purchases, as well as firearms purchases.

The out-of-state option is a good one for those who desire not to have the state collecting their personal information (which was jeopardized early on in the State Police process). And it's hurting New York, financially. In November, I was one of four hunters who travelled to Maine for a week-long deer hunt. Our group spent well over \$1,000 collectively at a Cabela's store near Portland on ammunition and reloading supplies. While we were there, we purchased other retail items that potentially could have taken place in New York.

Those who live near bordering states are taking day-trips there to purchase ammo, and while they are there they are eating at restaurants, visiting other retail outlets and buying gasoline. Again, New York is losing out on this revenue.

New York's solution? A potential law already deemed unconstitutional that if passed would allow New York's Attorney General to prosecute out-of-state gun and ammo dealers who sell to New Yorkers without going through the NY State Police. It's a one-house bill at press time and was also put forth in 2023. You can track it here: <https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?bn=A08443>. Meanwhile, visit the NYS Conservation Council website to track other legislation pertaining to firearms, fish and wildlife: <https://www.nyscc.com/>.

### **St. Lawrence Bass Meetings**

DEC is planning to hold a Lake Ontario Eastern Basin and St. Lawrence River Black Bass public meeting. The event was initially scheduled to be held on Wednesday, Jan. 17 in Alexandria Bay, Jefferson County, but it was cancelled due to bad weather. A new date has yet to be announced.

A hot topic here will obviously be the currently closed catch-and-release season in this region from Dec. 1 to June 14. There are strong feelings on each side of the issue. Ironically, DEC announced the Jan. 17 meeting less than a week before it was to take place. That gave us in the outdoor media little, if any, time to get the word out and certainly has the same impact on interested anglers and stakeholders in the region. Let's hope that word comes sooner for the rescheduled meeting.

For further information DEC Region 6 Fisheries Manager Jana Lantry at (315) 785-2263, or DEC Lake Ontario Unit Leader Chris Legard at (315) 654-2147.



## West/Central Region VP *David Figura*



I recently got back to Upstate NY after being away for more than five weeks. We visited my daughter, her husband and our granddaughter in New Orleans, followed by stopping by to see in-laws and friends in Charlotte, N.C.. From there, we had a five-day stay at a beach house on the North Carolina shore with four other couples before heading home.

Even though I was out of state, preparations continued for the NYSOWA Spring Conference set for May 30-June 2 in Oswego. Dan Ladd and myself have been in frequent contact (via Zoom) with Dan Breitweg of the Oswego Tourism Department.

We're working on tying up some loose ends, but I can promise folks that this will be a memorable event with a number of unique outdoor offerings for members and spouses alike. Stay tuned for more specifics in the coming weeks.

### **A Luke-Warm, Ice Fishing Season:**

It's been a mild winter so far, with warm weather putting a damper on the CNY and Western New York ice fishing scenes.

There were times in recent years that ice conditions were favorable in December and throughout January. Not so this year.

There's been one cold stretch in January that got ice anglers out for nearly a week. However, warmer weather and rainy weather followed, making ice conditions iffy or unsafe on many local waterways.

We'll see what the rest of February brings.

### **Outdoor Shows: Suffering from cabin fever?**

The CNY/Western NY areas offer a host of outdoors-related shows indoors that just might provide a temporary cure. I recently attended The Greater New York Sportsman's Expo at the NYS Fairgrounds in Syracuse and re-connected with a wide variety of outdoor sources and friends, along with purchasing several new items for my fishing tacklebox.

These shows are a great opportunity for outdoor communicators to get story ideas, updates on newsy items and to find out about outdoor trends. Many also offer cool/informative seminars on a variety of topics.

Shows scheduled in weeks ahead in the CNY/WNY/Adirondack region include:

- CNY Winter Boat Show, set for Feb. 15-18 at the NYS Fairgrounds in Syracuse. For more, see [CNYboatshow.com](http://CNYboatshow.com)

- The Greater Niagara Fishing Expo, set for Feb. 15-18 at the Niagara Falls Convention Center. The Greater Niagara Fishing Expo, set for Feb. 15-18 at the Niagara Falls Convention Center. (NYSOWA member Frank Campbell, who is outdoors program director for Niagara Falls USA, told me he would arrange for VIP tickets for any NYSOWA member interested in attending. Frank can be reached at [fcampbell@niagarafallsusa.com](mailto:fcampbell@niagarafallsusa.com). For more, see [niagarafishingexpo.com](http://niagarafishingexpo.com)

- The Adirondack Outdoors Show, set for Feb. 24-25 at the Johnstown Moose Lodge in Johnstown in Fulton County. For more, see [ADKShow.com](http://ADKShow.com)

- CNY Camping and RV Show, set for Feb. 29-March 3 at the NYS Fairgrounds. For more see [CNYrvshow.com](http://CNYrvshow.com)

The Western NY Sport and Travel Expo, set for March 8-10 at the Hamburg Fairgrounds in Hamburg in Erie County. For more, see [eriepromotions.com/wny-sport-show/](http://eriepromotions.com/wny-sport-show/)

- The Big East Camping & Outdoor Sports Show, set for March 23-24, which this year is moving from the Turning Stone Casino to nearby Whitesboro at the Accelerate Sports Complex in Whitesboro in Oneida County. For more see, [kesslerpromotions.com](http://kesslerpromotions.com).

- Syracuse Gun Show, set for April 14-15 at the NYS Fairgrounds put on by the NYS Arms Collectors Association. For more, email [marc@nysaassociation.com](mailto:marc@nysaassociation.com)

((In the past, NYSOWA has had a table at no cost at many of these shows staffed by NYSOWA members. It's been a great opportunity to promote NYSOWA, get new members, sell books authored by NYSOWA members -- and for writers to gather story ideas and make contacts. Interested in getting that practice going again. Interested in manning a table, selling your book(s), meeting the public, etc..? Contact Dan Ladd or myself.))

### **The State of Lake Ontario**

A December meeting of the Lake Ontario Trout and Salmon Association meeting in Tonawanda featured presentations on the state of the Lake Ontario fishery by state Department of Environmental Conservation lake managers and fisheries biologists. NYSOWA member Bill Hilts Jr. covered the meeting for New York Outdoor News. Among the notable points made at the meeting:

- The Chinook salmon catch rate was up overall on the lake during 2023;
- For the third year in a row, the DEC and Province of Ontario in 2024 will increase stocking numbers of Chinooks in the lake – the result of a favorable outlook on lake's forage base, particularly the alewife population, which is the top food source for the Chinooks.

- The DEC also announced plans to increase the number of stocked lake trout by 40,000 fish, but they won't happen until 2025.

- The lake's brown trout catches were down during 2023 in the lake's western half, but up in the Eastern half, raising questions about the status of the brown trout fishery. DEC staff announced plans for a new brown trout stocking program in the lake beginning in 2025. It will involve stocking a cross of domestic browns and wild strain from Oriskany Creek, Hilts reported. The result should "produce a more desirable fish for anglers to enjoy."

There will be additional meetings about the lake later this year in Monroe and Oswego counties.

### **Eagle-watching on Onondaga Lake**

'Tis the season to see large numbers of bald eagles gathering on Onondaga Lake in Syracuse – particularly at the lake's southeastern end.

Onondaga Lake is the largest wintering roost for bald eagles in New York State, according to the Montezuma Audubon Center. You'd have to go to Alaska to see so many bald eagles gathered in one place, wrote NYSOWA member Steve Featherstone in a story on [Syracuse.com](http://Syracuse.com).

In recent years, observers have counted as many as 103 eagles roosting in trees on the south shore of the lake, where the birds feast on gizzard shad in the open water near the Metro sewage treatment plant, Featherstone wrote. The plant is located on the west side of Onondaga Creek adjacent to Destiny USA mall.

You can see bald eagles from almost any trail around the lake, with some bird watching enthusiasts checking out the scene from their cars in the back parking lot of the mall. The best spot, however, is off the end of the Onondaga Creekwalk trail, accessible via a parking area off Harborside Drive.

### **Syracuse vies for World Series of Carp Fishing:**

Syracuse is a leading contender to host the 2027 Carp World Championship, according to a spokesman for the U.S. Angling Confederation.

Mike McNett, treasurer for the U.S. Angling Confederation, says he plans to submit a bid in April for Onondaga Lake as the site of the 2027 Carp World Championship at the next meeting of the International Federation of Freshwater Sport Fishing (FIPSeD), according to an article by Featherstone on [Syracuse.com](http://Syracuse.com).

"We'll put Syracuse's name in the hat," McNett said. "I think we would get it as long as we have everything in place."

FIPSeD is something like the International Olympic Committee. It sponsors about 20 premiere



freshwater fishing competitions around the world and selects where these events take place. No prize money is at stake.

To extend the analogy, U.S. Angling is comparable to the U.S. Olympic Committee, representing U.S. anglers in international competition.

If Syracuse wins the bid to host the 2027 tournament, it will be the first time the World Carp Championship, the 'Olympics' of carp fishing, is held in the U.S.

### **DEC Summer Camp candidate wanted**

Each year, NYSOWA sponsors two youngsters to attend DEC-run, week-long summer camps. We cover the \$350 fee, but it's up to the kid's parents or guardian to sign up.

Four different camps are being offered this year for youngsters 11-17 at locations throughout the state -- two in the Adirondack/Capital region, one in the Catskills and one in Western NY. For more on the camps, see <https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/summer-camps>

Registrations are being taken online by the DEC starting at 1 p.m. March 24.

As chairman of the NYSOWA Scholarship Committee, I've already committed to sponsoring a youngster from Roscoe. He was set to go last year, but ended up getting put on a waiting list and didn't get called.

That leaves one opening. 'Know a boy or girl who would benefit from such an experience? Shoot me an email at [davidfigura@gmail.com](mailto:davidfigura@gmail.com).

### **Observations About The Fall Turkey/Deer Hunting Seasons:**

Mike Joyner, NYSOWA member and past president, shared the following observations and thoughts about this fall's turkey and deer hunting seasons in the CNY and Southern Tier areas:

"Fall Season here in Cortland was a mixed bag of seeing whitetails and turkeys during September and getting the memo on the season openers from the NYSDEC come October. Turkey sightings were scarce in my favorite haunts and my travels throughout Cortland, Madison, and Tompkins Counties.

"Deer season was unusually warm, with very little snow, and often wet conditions throughout the late archery and firearms seasons. The first two weekends of the Southern Tier firearms deer season were unusually quiet, which normally has the makings of a small civil conflict in the number of shots heard which is a stark contrast to what can be heard throughout the Eastern Valley as one of Cortland's seven valleys. Post-season had the deer coming back in larger herds, however, sightings in early February reveal the turkey counts are still few and far between.

"With the mild weather we are having, it would be a welcomed reprieve for wildlife in general."

### **Chautauqua County Outdoor Communicator Contest:**

Once again, the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau is holding an Outdoor Communicator Contest with cash prizes being handed out to the top three entries. The winner will receive \$500; second place, \$250 and third, \$125.

The competition is open to outdoor communicators from every form of public communication including, daily, weekly and regional printed publications (newspapers, magazines, books), blogs, website stories, radio, TV and photography. The focus of the story must address or highlight outdoor fun and adventure in Chautauqua County. Eligible subjects include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, kayaking, boating and anything else regarding the Chautauqua outdoors, including the county's grape country – wine-tasting, hops, farming (microbreweries), Amish farms, etc.

Entries must have been published between Jan. 1, 2023 and Dec. 31, 2023. The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2024. There is no entry fee or limit of the number of entries one can submit. Email submissions as a PDF file or web link. The source of publication must be identified and included with your entries.

Entries should be emailed to the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, Attn: Andrew Nixon. Email: [nixon@tourtchautauqua.com](mailto:nixon@tourtchautauqua.com). Phone: 716-450-4569. Mailing address: Chautauqua Visitors Bureau, PO Box 1441, Main Gate, Chautauqua, NY, 14722.

Contest winners will be announced April 24.



## **Southeast Region VP Tom Schlichter**

It's been another warm fall in southeast New York, which has had advantages as well as disadvantages. On the plus side, of course, no one here has missed shoveling snow, warmer winters take a little of the bite out of heating bills, and deer hunting sits are a little more tolerable than when frigid temperatures dominate the forecast. While we did get an inch or two of the white stuff along the coast back in January, and a bit more up in Westchester and Putnam counties, that's really been about it.

At the other end of the scale, no ice means no hardwater fishing and little snow makes it harder to read the woods for deer late in the season

when both does and bucks are sharp as tacks having been pursued since the start of October. Interestingly, that first light coating was the first snow to stick to the ground on Long Island in over two years. It's been five years now since we had safe ice for some hard water prospecting.

With the big game season at an end, many are already looking forward to spring fishing. The sweetwater crew, specifically kayak anglers, have already been pursuing assorted panfish, pickerel and bass where allowed. With plenty of open water, the fish have been active enough to make many of these trips worth the effort. No monsters reported of late, but there does seem to be a decent enough pick of bass and pickerel on suspending jerk baits, small spinnerbaits and various slowly worked soft plastics.

On the saltwater front, anglers are anxiously awaiting the DEC's official announcement of updated regulations for striped bass, fluke, black sea bass and scup. The first two are of major concern, of course. For the stripers, the AFMSC voted to keep the current slot limit of 28 – 31 inches for all modes of recreational fishing. On the summer flounder, DEC presented a slate of six options that would meet the federal requirement to reduce the fluke take by at least 28% this year. Option five, which is to increase the season length by a whopping 55 days with a 1-inch increase in the minimum size limit to 19.5 inches, seems to be most popular with both anglers and for-hire captains.

Last year, summer flounder season started on May 4 in New York waters and closed October 9. The new proposal, if approved, would run from April 1 through October 31 and should theoretically result in a 37% reduction in fluke harvest for New York waters. The goal of the tightened regulations is, of course, to rebuild the fluke stock which has been dwindling while also shifting further up the coast off New England as a result of warming waters.

Anglers are generally seeing the above new regulations scenario as an acceptable move. True, a larger size limit can result in a higher mortality rate as anglers cull through shorts to get a flattie for the table, but with fewer keepers actually taken, overall harvest numbers should be reduced despite an extended season that would run for as long as fluke are a viable catch in our waters. A possible fly in the ointment: both New York and Connecticut must agree on the new measures before they can be instituted.

Last year, New York's minimum size for fluke was 18.5 inches, but it has been as high as 21 inches in the past.



# NYSOWA Membership News

## NYSOWA Bob McNitt Memorial Scholarship Program

### 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. New York State DEC recently announced that online registration for the 2024 Summer Camps program will open Sunday, March 24, 2024, at 1 p.m. Guardians can register youth for a week of camp, manage their account, and complete required forms and waivers through a link from the DEC Summer Camps webpage. Parents and guardians are encouraged to register early since many weeks fill up quickly and are advised to monitor the webpage for upcoming announcements on 2024 camp forms.

Now in its 77th year, the DEC Summer Camps program offers week-long adventures in conservation education for children ages 11-17. DEC operates four residential camps for kids: Camp Colby in Saranac Lake (Franklin County); Camp DeBruce in Livingston Manor (Sullivan County); Camp Rushford in Caneadea (Allegany County); and Camp Pack Forest in Warrensburg (Warren County). Opening of specific camps is dependent on staff availability.

Camp Rushford will offer three weeks of programming for children aged 14 to 17, including an Outdoor Adventure Week, and four weeks for 11 to 13-year-olds. Camp Colby will operate six weeks of camp for 11 to 13-year-olds, and one week for campers aged 14 to 17. Camp DeBruce will offer six weeks for kids ages 11 to 13. Camp Pack Forest will host children ages 11 to 13 for three weeks, and 14 to 17-year-olds for four weeks with one Outdoor Adventure Week. Individual campers will be limited to one week of camp registration. If there are still spots at camps available after May 24, campers will be allowed to sign-up for additional weeks. The complete schedule of camp weeks and ages is available on the [Summer Camps website](#)

At camp, kids will have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of outdoor adventures and are encouraged to try new things. Activities may include fishing, birding, fly-tying, archery, canoeing, hiking, camping, orienteering, and hunter safety education. One hunter education program of gun, bow, or trapping is offered at each camp during four of the camp weeks. Class size is limited for hunter education programs and campers must sign-up during registration and complete required homework in advance. Registered campers will receive booklets prior to their session at camp.

### Becoming an 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 wild-life 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."

## NYSOWA Seeks Nominations for 2023 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 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. The winner will be honored at the NYSOWA Spring Conference in Corning.

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

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

The 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 Corning in May.

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

Anyone may submit a nomination of 350 words or less and have it endorsed by an active member of NYSOWA. To review award criterion and the nominating process, visit [www.nysowa.org](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 be held in the spring this year. Get your nominations in early.

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

## To ALL of my fellow NYSOWA Friends, a Thank You!



As you will see below from a previous post, it's THAT time. At 76 years old, it's time for me to slow down (like I can ever do that), but I'm going try. I've come to terms with a Florida firm, Ferrell Outdoors.com to take on my Florida titles and activities. And, I'll continue with my NY titles and activities until I can come to terms with someone up here.

But as I 'wind down' I want to thank my NYSOWA friends for many years of fun, support and some great friends. Those current and those who have passed over the years. It has been a great run. Great group and great memories of those outings.

Please take a look at this previous post about my remaining NY assets. Please share my words with anyone from 'the next generation' that I can pass on all of my 25+ years of work to.

My original warning to all is as follows

### 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 offseason 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](http://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 their 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](http://www.RogerFulton.com) [Roger@RogerFulton.com](mailto:Roger@RogerFulton.com)



## Mike Canazon, Catskill Bamboo Rod Maker

by Richard Redman

The newspapers and television shows are now showing 2023 in review. They are listing the names and short stories about politicians, movie stars, musicians and rock stars who have passed away this past year. Normal ordinary people will never make their list, we are not famous.

In the Catskills Fly Fishing waters of New York though, Mike Canazon is famous. Mike Canazon passed away the day after Christmas with family and friends by his side. Cancer stole another soul from our world.

Mike was known for his fly fishing, guiding, but mostly his Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum (CFFCM) bamboo rod making. His expertise gave him the nickname "Bamboo Mike"!

If you ever fished the Willowemoc or Beaverkill Rivers you may have met Mike along the grassy banks of the river, I know I did. I met Mike when I was fishing a Terry Eckland bamboo rod on the Willow. Mike noticed the glint of bamboo grass in the sun and came down to me and introduced himself. I will never forget that day. He was a master at friendship too.

The Catskill Museum said it best, "Mike was inducted as a CFFCM Catskill Legend in 2022 and dedicated years of volunteer service at the Center as an educator, caretaker of the historic Garrison/Carmichael Rod Shop, and organizer of the annual Catskill Rod Makers Gathering. His commitment to the mission, people & spirit of the Catskill Fly Fishing Center was powerful, and he will be deeply missed." (CFFCM) Mike Canazon was committed to sharing his knowledge and friendship with everyone he met.

Tom Mason was very close (best of friends) to Mike and mentioned, "As well as conducting rod making classes at the CFFCM and caretaking their rod shop (all as a volunteer), Mike was an independent builder who sold his rods and actually gifted several to different organizations and to at least one friend that I know of (my wife, Martha), and possibly more. This speaks to his generosity. Martha and I are still in disbelief that he is gone!"

The NYS Outdoor Writers Association met Mike at the CFFCM a few years ago for our spring safari. The writers' group toured the museum and rod shop, where Mike gave us a rod building demonstration. Mike's life was nail knotted around the museum, friends and sharing.

A Celebration of Life will be held later this year, not to mourn, but to remember a man, the "Rod Star" that many Catskill fly fishers knew, or wish they knew. I was lucky, I met Mike on the river, with a bamboo rod in hand. A memory I will cherish.



## Redding Reloading Equipment Announces New Benchmark in Precision Handloading Dies

Redding Reloading Equipment announces the new benchmark in precision handloading. The revolutionary Z Series Die Family utilizes Larger, Stronger and more Robust 1" die bodies.

Redding engineering has proven that the modern high performance cartridge designs of today are severely taxing the capabilities of traditional 7/8" reloading dies. The 7/8" diameter became the industry standard in the post WWII era, but today's new cartridge designs provide numerous reasons to question that standard. In short, it is all about the strength of material, the stresses induced and the deformation that occurs in the die itself.



With the revolutionary "Z Series" Dies, the handloader can see, feel and measure the difference. Based on relative strength, the "Z Series" Dies are as much as 2X stronger than traditional 7/8" dies. Extensive lab testing has shown that this increased strength and rigidity provides significantly reduced sizing effort as well as more consistent and measurable sized case dimensions.

The initial "Z Series" offering will include single dies, die sets and bushing dies in (31) popular cartridges from 284 Win to 375 (9.5x77). The new "Z Series" Dies are readily adaptable to most reloading presses marketed today with a simple die bushing change. Redding is now also offering new "Z Series" Turret heads to increase the flexibility of the ever-popular Redding T-7 Press.

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.

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).

# Chautauqua County Outdoors

Below is the 2024 Chautauqua County Outdoor Event Planning Calendar that I put together for reference by the CCVB office folks and designated members of the outdoor media who may find this info useful.

Several new things are happening in our Chautauqua County Walleye Tournament events that we are keeping track of, and I wanted to share them with you all.

The new dates for Chautauqua County Outdoor Media Camps are noted on this calendar; a special press release will announce that in February to the entire NYSOWA membership, as well as AGLOW, POWA, and OWO (Ohio writers).

Lake Erie Walleye Competitions have been revised and updated with some changes. In 2024, the Lake Erie Walleye Series (LEWS) friendly fun trophy competition is out. It had been comprised of the WNY Walleye Classic in Barcelona LEWS1 with Josh Larsen, the Sunset Bay Walleye Shootout LEWS2 with Don Ruppert, and the Innovative Outdoors Walleye Challenge LEWS3 with Jim Steel. Jim and Diane Steel ran the 2021-2023 LEWS competition calculations. Jim says it may come back next year. All three of these tournaments were comprised of same-system weigh station rules that included Big Fish Friday, 6-fish box competition Saturday, and Blow Day Sunday.

For 2024 in place of the LEWS competition, the new Integrity Walleye Series (IWS-1 and IWS-2) has been born. Two tournaments comprise this new series effort. They are Barts Cove Walleye Duel-1 (IWS-1) run by Bobby Rustowicz, and Barts Cove Walleye Duel-2 (IWS-2) run by Mark Mohr. Both of these are Sat-Sun tournaments with no Big Fish Friday.

In addition, the WNY Walleye Classic (possible 3-day competition day fishing event with a Big Fish Friday, 6-fish box competition Saturday and Blow Day Sunday), which was previously run from Barcelona Harbor, has moved to Dunkirk Harbor and has been paired with the Dunkirk Walleye Festival 2024, which is a family Central Avenue pier fun market style event with live music from a Nashville star and other fun tent display gismos that will welcome fishing and non-fishing folks. This new event is run by Josh Larsen, as noted on the calendar.

The 20th Annual Con Club Walleye Tournament is still run by Zen Olow and will still be comprised of 3 fishing competition days, unique to all the other walleye competitions this year. Each weigh day is a 3-fish weigh box and a 9-fish total weigh tally for the grand prize winner.

After that one is the Jim and Diane Steel Innovative Outdoor Walleye Challenge 2024, with similar rules to last year. Final rules are not in yet for this one, but most anglers think it will include Big Fish Friday, 6-fish box competition Saturday, and Blow Day Sunday. This event has become a local favorite. Jim and Diane are in the Florida Keys for a few weeks.

Not to be missed, while the Southtowns Walleye Association is undergoing a leadership change, the 40th Annual Southtowns Walleye Derby event will run its usual 9-day competition from June 8-16, 2024; this one for the single largest fish caught and is planning to also provide multiple cash and gear prizes for smaller fish caught.

Lastly, I have been somehow wrangled (invited) into writing a regular-occasional outdoor column for the *Dunkirk Daily Observer* with occasional appearances in Jamestown Post. I accepted as a favor to honor the memorial grandeur of my late great friend, Gene Pauszek. He wrote one of the best outdoor columns from the passion of his outdoor heart at least once a week...for decades. So, I'm doing this remotely with sunglasses from the sandy confines of sunny Southwest Florida. No rest for the weary. Sunscreen, please.

PLEASE CALL if you have any thoughts, comments, or questions - or if you want a head-start to register for one of the two 2024 CCVB Fish Camps.

Don't forget that our Chautauqua County 2023 WRITING CONTEST submittal is due by March 15, 2024. \$500 first prize, 250 second prize, \$125 third prize....all CASH.

I hope all is well your way!

Tight lines & thanks,

Dave Barus O Cell: 716-597-4081

Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau Outdoor Media Promotions Associate



## 2024 Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau - Outdoor Event Planning Calendar - 01/12/2024

Send changes to [dbarus35@yahoo.com](mailto:dbarus35@yahoo.com)

# 2024



### DEFINITIONS

AGLOW	Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers
NCCC	Northern Chautauqua County Conservation Club
NYSOWA	NYS Outdoor Writers Association
OWAA	Outdoor Writers Association of America
OWO	Outdoor Writers of Ohio
POMA	Professional Outdoor Media of America
POWA	Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association

### NYS Fish-Hunt Season Event

**Chautauqua County Walleye Tourney**

1	Feb. 3-4	<b>Musky Expo 2024</b> , Chautauqua Suites - Westfield, NY; Katia Rivers 585-287-7578, <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/497322881051693/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/497322881051693/</a>
2	Feb. 15-18	<b>Niagara Outdoor Expo 2024</b> , Niagara Falls, NY; 716- 278-2100; <a href="https://niagarafishingexpo.com/">https://niagarafishingexpo.com/</a>
3	Mar. 8-10	<b>WNY Sport, Travel &amp; Outdoor Expo 2024</b> ; 814-790-5079; <a href="https://eriepromotions.com/wny-sport-show/">https://eriepromotions.com/wny-sport-show/</a>
4	Apr. 1	<b>NYS Inland Trout Opening Day</b>
5	Apr. 20	1-Day Perch Derby, L. Erie, \$35 entry, Southtowns Walleye, 716-796-5372
6	Apr. 20-21	<b>NYS Youth Turkey Hunt Weekend 2024</b> (1 bearded bird allowed)
7	Apr. 26-28	OWO Annual Conference 2024 (Shawnee State Park Lodge)
8	May 1-31	<b>NYS Spring Turkey Season</b> (2 bearded birds/season; 1/day)
9	May1-Mar15	<b>NYS Walleye Season</b> , L. Erie: 15" min, 6/day; Inland lakes: 15" min, 5/day.
10	May 16-19	POWA Annual Conference 2024 (Luzerne County, PA); 570-886-1609
11	May 30-Jun2	NYSOWA Annual Conf. 2024 (Oswego County, NY); 631-566-7858
12	Fri-Sun May 31-Jun2	<b>WNY Walleye Classic / Dunkirk Walleye Festival 2024</b> , New Tourney Location (moved from Barcelona), \$500 entry, Josh Larsen, 716-490-4226; <a href="https://www.primitivepatriotoutdoors.com/wny-walleye-classic">https://www.primitivepatriotoutdoors.com/wny-walleye-classic</a>
13	Jun 8-16	<b>40<sup>th</sup> Annual 9-Day Southtowns Walleye Tournament</b> , \$100 entry, \$100k prizes; Jim Skoczylas, 716-796-5372; <a href="https://www.southtownswalleye.com/">https://www.southtownswalleye.com/</a>
14	Jun15-Nov30	<b>NYS Black Bass Season</b> , L. Erie & Inland Lakes: 12"min, 5/day
15	Jun 28	<b>WNY Heroes Day (Dunkirk)</b> , Jim Steel; 716-481-5348; visit <a href="https://wnyheroes.org/">https://wnyheroes.org/</a> for sign up.
16	Sat-Sun Jun 29-30	<b>Bart's Cove Walleye Duel-1</b> , Integrity Walleye Series (IWT-1)), Dunkirk, <b>New Tourney</b> , \$500 entry; 3-fish bag/day - 2 days; Bob Rustowicz: 716-830-6394
17	Jun 29-Aug 11	<b>NY Walleye Derby 2024</b> , <b>New Dates</b> , Contact Capt. Jim Steel: 716-481-5348; <a href="http://www.newyorkwalleyederby.com">www.newyorkwalleyederby.com</a> .
18	Jul. 8-12	<b>CHAUTAUQUA Outdoor Media Camp #1</b> , Dave Barus, 716-597-4081 ( <b>New Date - moved from mid-Aug date</b> )
19	Jul. 19-20	<b>Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot-Out</b> , \$500 entry, \$500K prizes; 6-fish bag/day - 1 day; Don Ruppert; 716-435-4137, <a href="http://www.walleyeshootout.com/">www.walleyeshootout.com/</a> .
20	Sat-Sun Jul. 27-28	<b>Bart's Cove Walleye Duel-2</b> , Integrity Walleye Series (IWT-2)), Dunkirk, \$500 entry; 3-fish bag/day - 2 days; Mark Mohr: 716-998-9871;
21	Fri-Sun Aug. 2-4	<b>20<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Chautauqua Conservation Club Walleye Tourney</b> - Dunkirk Harbor; 3 fish bag/day - 3 days; Contact Zen Olow: 716-640-2776;
22	Aug. 7	<b>Exact Date TBD</b> , VIP Day (Dunkirk), ELECBA / CCVB event, Contact ELECBA President: Capt. Jim Steel at 716-481-5348
23	Aug 16-17	<b>Innovative Outdoors Walleye Challenge (Dunkirk)</b> , \$500 entry, Jim Steel, 716-481-5348; <a href="https://innovative-outdoors.com/">https://innovative-outdoors.com/</a>
24	Sep 21 or 28	1-Day Walleye Derby, L. Erie, \$35 fee, Southtowns Walleye, 716-796-5372
25	Sep. 9 - 22	<b>NYS Early Firearms Antlerless Deer Season 2024</b> (specific WMUs)
26	Sep. 20-22	OWAA Annual Conference 2024, El Paso, TX; 406-728-7434
27	Sep. 23-27	AGLOW Annual Conference 2024 (Kentucky Lake, KY)
28	Oct.1-Nov.15	<b>NYS Big Game Early Archery Season 2024 (Southern Zone)</b>
29	Oct. 1-4	<b>CHAUTAUQUA Outdoor Media Camp #2</b> , Dave Barus, 716-597-4081
30	Oct. 12-14	<b>NYS Youth Big Game Hunting Weekend 2024</b> (Columbus Day)
31	Sep. 12-15	NYSOWA Fall Safari 2024 (Pecks Lake, Fulton County)
32	Nov. 2-15	<b>NYS Big Game Crossbow Season 2024</b> (Southern Zone)
33	Nov16-Dec.8	<b>NYS Regular Firearm Big Game Season 2024</b> (Southern Zone)
34	Dec.1-Jun14	<b>NYS Winter Black Bass Season</b> : L. Erie: 20"min, 1/day; Inland Lakes: Catch/Release only, Artificial Lures Only
35	Dec. 9-17	<b>NYS Late Archery, Muzzleloader Big Game 2024</b> (Southern Zone)
36	Dec 26-Jan 1	<b>TBD Season/needs 2024 affirmation</b> ; <b>NYS Holiday Deer Season</b> for 2024-25



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



<https://otistec.com>



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# Otis Technology Celebrates 20 Year Partnership

**Lyons Falls, NY:** Otis Technology is celebrating a milestone partnership achievement with its longest standing manufacturer's representative agency. The celebration and honor occurred during the 2024 Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show.

Jeff Robles & Associates was honored for its 20-year anniversary representing Otis Technology and its portfolio of products. Principal, Jeff Robles, was presented with an Otis Elite Gun Cleaning System with a custom Jeff Robles branded patch. Jeff and each member of his team will receive a commemorative Elite Gun Cleaning System.



Jeff Robles & Associates, headquartered in Texas, covers the West Coast and Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma (TALO) sales regions for Otis Technology.

“Otis Technology and Jeff Robles & Associates are thrilled to celebrate their remarkable 20-year partnership anniversary, a milestone that is truly unparalleled in our industry,” remarked Kenda Campbell, Director of Commercial Sales. She continued, “Otis wholeheartedly values their unwavering commitment to our brands and their consistent ability to represent us at the utmost level across the Western region, as well as their recent expansion into TALO. We are grateful for their ongoing dedication and support.”

**About Jeff Robles & Associates:** Jeff Robles & Associates is a dual-season Manufacturer's Representative Agency currently operating in 18 states. As a company, they aim to be the most efficient and effective agency in their territory, continually pushing themselves to deliver the most complete job for the Manufacturers they represent. They represent brands in the shooting sports & hunting, outdoors, law enforcement and fishing industries.

**About Otis Technology:** Otis Technology is known for manufacturing the most advanced gun cleaning systems and accessories available. The superior Breech-to-Muzzle® design combined with unmatched quality has positioned Otis as the gun care system of choice with the US Military. Otis Technology is **SMART GUN CARE**.



# Sander's Fishing Guides, Inc.



presents

## Explore Wild New York ([www.explorewildnewyork.com](http://www.explorewildnewyork.com))

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contact you when the site goes live.



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# 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

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# 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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