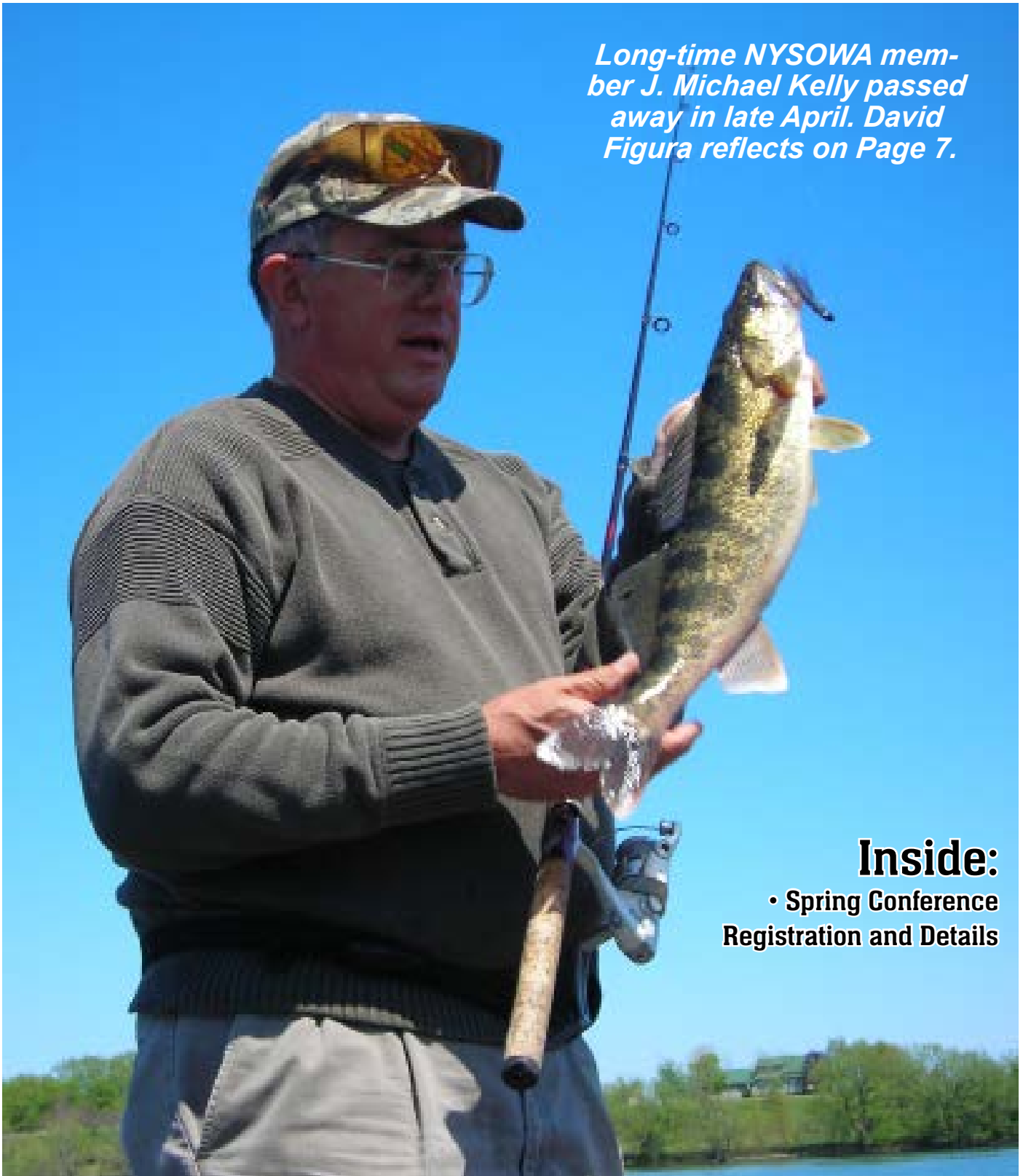


Long-time NYSOWA member J. Michael Kelly passed away in late April. David Figura reflects on Page 7.



Inside:
• Spring Conference
Registration and Details

NYSOWA Directory

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Contents

Conference Info: 3
President's Report: 6
Vice President Reports: 7-10
Bob McNitt Memorial Scholarship: 12
Membersio News 13
Supporting Member News: 18
Membership Applications: 19

Calendar

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

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

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, 315-343-1600
Visit Oswego: <https://visitoswegocounty.com>

Still, not too late to register. Call the hotel (above) to book your room, and see registration details below.

Thursday, May 30

6:30 p.m. - Meet-n-Greet at the Hotel
Sponsored by Oswego County Tourism
<https://visitoswegocounty.com/>

Friday, May 31

Morning Outings

12:30 p.m. - Lunch at the hotel
Sponsored by the New York Crossbow Coalition
<https://nycrossbowcoalition.com/>

1:30 p.m. - Craft Improvement - Native American Affairs
Hotel meeting room

3:30 p.m. - Oswego Lighthouse Tour & Marine Sanctuary

6:30 p.m. - Dinner - Press Box Restaurant - Downtown Oswego
Sponsored by Oneida Lake Association - Matt Snyder

Saturday, June 1

Morning Outings

12:30 p.m. - Lunch Leatherstocking Rod and Gun Club
NYSOWA Supporting Members are welcome to demonstrate
Sponsored by the Oswego County Sportsman's Federation
<http://www.oswegocountysportsmen.com/>

NYSOWA Supporting Members welcome to present following program.

6 p.m. - Annual NYSOWA Dinner Banquet and Awards Presentation - Hotel meeting room
Sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation

Sunday, June 2

7:30 a.m. - NYSOWA Membership Meeting - Hotel meeting room

Notes

Registration Form

\$35 per person (this is in addition to room rates and applies to the entire conference)

Name(s):

Address:

Phone/email:

Room No. (If applicable)_____ Roommate_____

Outings Preferences (both days)

Please list preferences 1-3

Friday May 31

- Oneida Lake Walleye Fishing 5:30am
- Lake Ontario brown trout and salmon fishing (bass in the rivers if windy)
- On Your Own Turkey hunting (Friday only, last day)
- On Your Own Activities (your choice, details coming on opportunities)

Saturday, June 1

- Oneida Lake Walleye Fishing 5:30am
- Lake Ontario brown trout and salmon fishing (bass in the rivers if windy)
- On Your Own Turkey hunting (Friday only, last day)
- On Your Own Activities (your choice, details coming on opportunities)

Please send payment and form to: David Figura 4080 Oneill Lane, Skaneateles, NY 13152.

Or, register and pay online at: <https://app.joinit.com/o/nysowa>

Registration fee:\$40

NYSOWA President Chris Paparo



Gobblers gobbling, songbirds singing, ramps emerging, wood duck eggs hatching, stripers and bluefish blitzing are all welcome signs of spring after a long, wet winter. Another sign of spring is the planning of our Spring Conference that will be held in Oswego County on May 30- June 2. Last year, we switched our annual conference to the spring to better accommodate everyone's schedule, and we decided to do the same this year as well. David Figura has been working hard to make sure there

is something for everyone, and you'll be able to read more about it later in this newsletter. If you have not attended a conference (or a Safari), you are really missing out on a great time. I was a NYSOWA member for several years before I went to my first conference, and I deeply regret not attending those first couple of conferences. Maybe you are unsure about going by yourself. If so, bring a fellow outdoor colleague. Those who are eligible for membership in NYSOWA will receive a free one-year membership when they register for the conference. Spouses and significant others are also welcomed and encouraged. I really hope you will consider joining us in Oswego.

In other news, Nate Kennedy had informed us a few months ago that due to work and family commitments he was no longer able to serve as our membership secretary. Nate took on the task of transferring our membership database to a fully digital platform, JointIt. This was no easy task, and I want to thank Nate for all that he did getting that system set up. While we searched for a new membership secretary, Dan Ladd stepped in the interim and continued to fine tune the new software, which has been a learning experience for all. Thanks Dan! And moving forward, Charles Witek has volunteered to be our new membership secretary. Thank you Charles!

And lastly, I want to remind everyone that NYSOWA is affiliated with ExpertVoice ([https:// www.expertvoice.com](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 outdoor gear. 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.

I really hope to see many of you in Oswego in a couple of weeks!

Northern Region VP

Dan Ladd

Turkey Fever

The spring gobbler season is off to a great start for many hunters, including this one. But the real story has been the success of several youth hunts in the region, including Fulton and Washington counties. The event around Fulton County saw 71 youth hunters participate, with about one-third connecting on toms. Those are both impressive figures. The Washington County event is a little smaller, but just as intense for those who took part. Kudos to all who helped out.



One factor for this year's gobbler season is early foliage. I'd say it's at least a week, perhaps more, ahead of normal. It's also been quite wet as of late. All of this will be taken into account by hunters during the second half of the season.

Trout & Bass

DEC has been busy meeting with folks this spring. It started with a pair of public meetings, and a virtual one, laying out preliminary proposal for an eventual Adirondack Brook Trout Management Plan. In a nutshell, DEC will manage the Adirondack brook trout population as a whole, rather than from region to region. The proposed creel limit is five fish of any size and they'd like to establish an angler task force to help provide data and feedback going forward.

But the real interesting component of this plan is a change that would prohibit the use of live baitfish within the entire Adirondack Park (the Blue line). Of course there would be exemptions such as lakes with various other species (pike, bass, salmonids, panfish), and those with easy public access. But this change, if realized would simplify things for the agency and anglers alike, and would also apply to all ponds smaller than 50 acres.

Stay tuned for future developments. Meanwhile, here is a [link to the press release](#).

Around the same time DEC also held a meeting in the St. Lawrence/1000 Islands region pertaining to the future of black bass management there, and around the state. One burning topic is the fact that a number North Country counties in the region do not have a catch-and-release bass season like other parts of the state. Another factor is the high number of tournaments. Like the brook trout topic, expect more on this down the road. DEC did, however, put forth a proposal to implement a fishing tournament permit and reporting system for black bass. Here is a [link to that press release](#).

Lake Champlain

In early April, DEC, Vermont F&W and the USFWS held a State of Lake Champlain meeting, which covered a number of topics. Most notable was the ongoing sea lamprey treatments, future plans for battling the invasive round goby and tracking the success of Atlantic salmon pen-rearing on the Saranac River. There's a lot happening on the big lake and an announcement should be coming soon from the Service about online/phone app angler diaries, which would provide useful data from anglers. More on that to come.

West/Central Region VP David Figura



The past few months I've been working closely with Dan Ladd to set up this year's NYSOWA Spring conference in Oswego. With less than a month to go, things are looking bright. I feel confident that this year's conference will provide a host of memorable outdoor experiences, networking opportunities, story ideas -- and yes, lots of fun.

That said, if you haven't registered yet, it's not too late. See this newsletter and recent emails from Ladd for more information.

Turkey time

The 2024 spring turkey season in NY, which runs from May 1-31, is looking to be a spotty one, according to Mike Joyner, NYSOWA member, veteran turkey hunter and author of several turkey hunting books.

"Anecdotally, folks from the Southern Tier are commenting on not seeing as many gobblers or none at all. There are pockets of decent numbers that are being disclosed on social media," Joyner said.

"Again, it is far from scientific and limited to the amount of traveling and scouting one might do. Green up has begun a bit early this year and we might expect the first lull to come earlier where birds go silent when adjusting to their ability to see through the woods.

Joyner added: "Success is more likely to come to those that wear out some boot leather and spend more time scouting. Having multiple target birds may be the key to adapting to less gobblers and or less gobbling. Being more methodical and more patient based on your well-earned intel will help you seal the deal on a dandy gobbler.

"Should you carry out a record book gobbler be sure to get a weight coupon over 22 lbs, and accurately measure beard and spurs with a witness," he said. "We have news on multiple record book entries from up in northern NY, and one from this most recent youth hunt, and we can sure do that in the southern tier as well.

"We have seen recent harvest data from the NYSDEC in several cycles. As it serves as a comparative trend line, current estimations are anecdotal for the time being."

Warm winter: More walleye, perch in Oneida Lake?

This year's warm winter resulted in extremely limited time for anglers to go ice fishing in CNY and WNY.

The result was a marked decrease in angler take of walleye and panfish (particularly perch) on such traditional ice fishing destinations as Oneida Lake.

Speaking about Oneida, which is the state's premier walleye fishery, experts at the Cornell Biological Field Station, the DEC hatchery at Constantia and fishing guides say the result is going to be more fish (particularly walleye and perch) in the lake this spring, along with earlier walleye spawning times.

Will this result in better fishing this coming season in the lake? NYSOWA members attending this year's spring conference in Oswego will have the option of finding out as guides have been secured to take members out on the lake.

This year's walleye fishing season opened May 1 and runs through March 15, 2025. May 1 was also opening day for northern pike, pickerel, and tiger muskie fishing.

Meanwhile, on the Big O

It appears Lake Ontario's trout and salmon populations are up this year and there is plenty of bait in the lake to keep them well-fed, according to Troy Creasy, of High Adventure Sportfishing.

Creasy will be one of the guides taking writers out on fishing excursion at this year's spring conference in Oswego. He noted the lake's temperatures appear warmer than usual, a situation

that could result in the thermocline setting up sooner than usual.

He noted the warmer temperatures should keep the bait fish (alewives, smelt) close to shore, which should result in good shoreline fishing for brown trout throughout the month, as well as keeping the Chinook salmon close by.

He said with "lots of guys targeting salmon" throughout the month, that's another factor that should keep the brown trout fishing good. That is, "unless strange winds" come into play and mix things up, he concluded.

Chautauqua County Fish Camp experience

The Chautauqua County Visitor's Bureau is once again offering two "Fish Camps" this year for bonafide outdoor communicators. NYSOWA members are welcome to apply.

These fish camps are "small group" events will up to 6 attendees in a comfortable overnight cottage with A/C and Wi-Fi. Includes food, lodging, beverages, gear and guides. More information on the two camps include:

*Camp 1: A 4-day Lake Erie Fish Camp Experience is set for July 9 – 12. The fish-catching menu is focused on Lake Erie for walleye, but can also include smallmouth bass, lake trout and yellow perch. The Fish Camp cottage location is in Dunkirk, NY, Additional details will be provided to accepted attendees. The daily walleye limit is 6 fish/person. Bring your freezer-stuffing cooler to chill your walleye fillets for the trip home

* Camp 2: A 4-day Chautauqua Lake Fish Camp Experience is set for Oct. 1 – 4. This is a fun fishing event with an option for early archery NYS deer hunting. Like Camp 1, this event is for up to 6 established, outdoor communicators. Outings will be focusing on Chautauqua Lake and the Steelhead Alley tributaries of Lake Erie in Chautauqua County, but can also include trips to Lake Erie for walleye. Located right on Chautauqua Lake, attendees will overnight in a comfortable Victorian style cottage meeting place. Includes food, lodging, beverages, gear and guides.

To apply: Drop an email to dbarus35@yahoo.com. Identify the option you wish to apply for. Cell: 716-597-4081. In the email, include your full name, cell phone number, email address, professional outdoor media organization affiliation (AGLOW, POWA, NYSOWA, OWO, etc.) and digital links or URLs of your recent work. Once approved, you will get a confirmation email.

Mike will be sorely missed

I was hired by The Post-Standard in 2008 as the paper's outdoors editor following the early retirement of my predecessor J. Michael Kelly, a long-time NYSOWA member, for health reasons. Soon after, Mike took me out to breakfast and shared a number of names and phone numbers from his source list, along with several bits of memorable advice.

During that breakfast he highly recommended that I join NYSOWA. He told me the contacts and story ideas generated by attending the organization's conferences and safaris would serve me well.

I attended my first NYSOWA conference back in 2008 in Old Forge and never looked back. Mike's advice was right on. The networking and sources I obtained through the organization served me well during my nearly 15 years as the newspaper's outdoors writer.

Mike, who had been battling the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease, passed away recently. His time with the Syracuse Herald Journal and Post-Standard newspapers included stints covering county politics and agriculture. And like myself, he ended his newspaper career as the outdoors writer.

He won 23 first-place awards (Donalds) in the NYSOWA's Excellence in Craft competitions, authored numerous freelance pieces for various outdoor publications and published several books as "Farewell, Old Girl" (a collection of his favorite newspaper columns that he wrote); "Fishing the Finger Lakes" and "Trout Streams of Central New York."

Whenever we spoke, he had good advice and words of encouragement for me as I negotiated CNY's outdoors scene during my 14 years as the newspaper's outdoors writer. And yes, we did get together for some memorable fishing experiences.

Mike had a huge impact on my career as an outdoors writer. He will be sorely missed.

*NYSOWA members Mike Joyner, Steve Featherstone and David Barus contributed to this column.



Southeast Region VP *Tom Schlichter*

I don't know about you, but I've certainly felt as if this spring has gotten off to a cool and damp start. Maybe I'm just getting a little older and more cranky, but with temperatures along the coast here in Southeast New York's coastal zone still struggling to break the 60-degree mark in the first week of May, and some weeks seeing several days of intermittent rainfall, it's little wonder that fishing has gotten off to a relatively slow start.

Indeed, the fresh waters in many lakes and ponds on Long Island and Westchester counties are at their highest levels in years – or even decades in some places. One of my favorite waters for bass and panfish lies just a few blocks from my home. The lake has a set of large boulders at one end that generally rise more than a foot above the water this time of year. Currently, the largest of those boulders

is nearly two feet below the surface. The back yards of homes along the lakeshore have been inundated with rising water in the low-lying areas, and the water has even reached the edge of a road that is usually some 30 or 40 feet from the bank.

On the bright side, with the water pushing well up into the phragmites and shoreline brush, perhaps that added depth will serve to increase potential spawning bottom and provide extra protection and hiding spots for juvenile fish that come off this spring's beds. It will also be interesting to see if all that freshwater flowing into our rivers, streams and creeks will draw more bait or less into our brackish tidal creeks and back-bay waters. I guess time will tell.

Generally speaking, most of the reports I've heard concerning sweetwater action during March, April and early May have been lackluster. Sharpies, of course have been picking bass, pickerel and stocked trout, but most trips for the average Joe have up to this point have seen only a fair pick of bass and panfish. Hopefully that action picks up as May advances.

On the saltwater side, by comparison, striped bass have been in good supply with many fish in the 30-inch class and larger taken on night tides along the ocean beaches and inlet edges, and some heavy-shouldered schoolies caught around the bridges and other bay or backwater structures. Less numerous than most springs, however, have been the smaller schoolies that provide so much tidal creeks and small inlet/harbor mouth action this time of year. While many anglers are thrilled with the bigger fish making a strong early-season showing, the lack of representation among smaller year-classes remains concerning.

Porgies are already biting along much of the New York coast as we went to press, along with some monster bluefish weighing well into the 'teens. Also, off to a great start, and hopefully a full repeat of last year's super action, are weakfish. While no true "tiderunners" have been decked to my knowledge at the time of this writing, 16- to 22-inch weaks are already in good supply.

New York State's 2024 saltwater fishing regulations have all been approved and posted on the DEC website at <https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/saltwater-fishing/recreational-fishing-regulations>. Of particular note are changes to the fluke and porgy regulations. For the summer flatties, there is a three-fish possession limit and a 19-inch size limit from May 4 through August 1. From August 2 through October 15 the possession limit remains at three but the size limit increases to 19.5 inches. That's 55 days more of fluke fishing opportunity compared to last year - but anglers on the West End of Long Island and those fishing mostly inside the bays may find it difficult to deal with slightly larger size limit compared to last year.

For scup, the season runs May 1 through December 31 with a 30-fish possession limit, vessel-based size limit of 11 inches, and 9.5 inches shore-based possession limit. Additionally, from September 1 through October 31, anglers fishing aboard licensed party/charter boats can creel 40 porgies each.

Of course, a lot of outdoors fans in this region like to spend some time in the turkey woods and the first few days of action have brought some good results with some pretty big birds – several weighing in excess of 20 pounds have already been reported. NYSOWA president Chris Paparo opted to begin his spring season on family property in Connecticut and was rewarded with a pair of big gobblers, including one that topped the 25-pound mark. Congratulations, Chris. Be sure to bring some photos of that magnificent bird to the Oswego Conference in June.

NYSOWA Membership News

NYSOWA Bob McNitt Memorial Scholarship Program

The following is an update on the Bob McNitt Memorial Scholarship Program. Members of the Scholarship Committee include David Figura (chair), Deb Brosen and David Taylor.

Each year, prior to, and during the conference, we hold raffles and other fund-raisers to raise money for NYSOWA's Scholarships that are handed out each year.

At this point, we've received \$1,500 worth of items to raffle off at the conference from Ducks Unlimited, thanks to Glenn Sapir's efforts. He's also soliciting other supporting members for additional items. Stay tuned.

And thanks to Dan Ladd's lobbying efforts, the recently dissolved Greenwich Fish & Game Club in Washington County, has sent NYSOWA a check for \$3,000 to be used for scholarship purposes. We've invited a spokesman from the club and his wife to attend our banquet at the spring conference and will be putting them up that evening at the hotel.

Scholarships Committee's mission: This committee strives each year to award three types of scholarships:

- 1). We send two deserving youngsters (ages 11-18) to week-long, DEC summer camps (Two \$350 scholarships, totaling \$700);
- 2). A \$1,000 academic scholarship that goes to a college student enrolled in a curriculum related to journalism, outdoors or the environment;
- 3). Since 2021, NYSOWA has sent a member, spouse or relative of a NYSOWA member to DEC's Becoming an Outdoors Woman Workshop. Cost is \$350, which NYSOWA covers. We also make a \$100 donation to the program to help sponsor attendees who need financial assistance.

At this point we've settled on one of the scholarships and am seeking candidates for the other two.

For two years in a row, the father of Robert Davis, 13, of Roscoe, N.Y. has attempted to get his son registered for a summer DEC camp (at NYSOWA expense) with no success. The big problem is that the DEC has initially proposed four camps, but has ended up only securing enough staff for two.

Since young Robert is our only candidate this coming summer, NYSOWA has reached an agreement for him to attend the prestigious Bill Canfield Fly Fishing Camp on the Upper Delaware River. The camp regularly costs \$1,725 for a week's stay. NYSOWA will be covering \$700 of the tab, and the camp board has agreed to give the remainder of the camp fee with a scholarship.

Meanwhile, the scholarship committee is still looking for candidates to sponsor for the other two scholarships. Know someone who would benefit from attending a BOW workshop or is in need for an academic scholarship?

Contact one of the Scholarship Committee members.

JANICE & PAUL KEESLER SCHOLARSHIP FUND IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2024

The Janice & Paul Keesler Scholarship Fund is proud to announce that it is now accepting applications from qualified students who wish to receive scholarship assistance. As a living memorial for two people who loved New York State and the outdoors, this fund assists students that wish to train in the field of wildlife management.

Janice and Paul were avid sports persons who wrote and lectured about the outdoors and founded and published the nationally recognized and respected New York Sportsman Magazine. A great loss to all those who appreciate the wonder of nature, Janice passed away suddenly in 1988 and Paul in 2005 after a battle with cancer. They are greatly missed.

This annual scholarship award is available to any New York State resident who has been accepted into an accredited institution of higher learning and is, or will be, working toward obtaining a degree in some facet of wildlife management. The twenty-ninth series of the Janice & Paul Keesler Scholarship Award will be distributed in the fall of 2024. To date, the fund has had the honor of distributing more than \$35,000 in grants to deserving Wildlife Management students.

An application may be obtained by going to www.keeslerscholarshipfund.org. The application can be printed from the website and sent through the mail or can be emailed. The completed application form must be returned to the committee no later than September 15, 2024. Mail to: Janice & Paul Keesler Scholarship Fund c/o Bridget Keesler PO Box 485 Newport, NY 13416 OR Email to Keeslerbridget@gmail.com Please add Janice & Paul Keesler Scholarship Application to Subject Area of your email to ensure your application is not overlooked.

Individuals or clubs wishing to make a contribution to the fund, may do so by sending a check or money order payable to: Janice & Paul Keesler Scholarship Fund. Mail to the above address. With the sincere gratitude of the Scholarship Committee, we thank you! This year and continuing on an annual basis, a wonderful couple who cared deeply about New York State's outdoor sports will be remembered in a meaningful way, thanks to the generous contributions of the outdoor sports women and men of New York State.

For additional information about the Keesler Scholarship Fund, please visit our website at: www.keeslerscholarshipfund.org or send inquiries to Keeslerbridget@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. 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 Roger@RogerFulton.com

NYSOWA Supporting Member News

2024 Summer Walleye Tournaments in Chautauqua, NY Lots of BIG FISH, Lots of BIG CASH!

Chautauqua, New York – May 8, 2024: Lake Erie is the premier walleye fishery of New York State. Anglers can catch walleye here using deep-water techniques, including trolling, drifting, or casting, but trolling is the predominantly accepted method of finding fish in this expansive walleye fishery. Just a few miles off the shoreline from Chautauqua County, millions of Lake Erie walleye reside during the summer months. The deep thermally stratified waters of Lake Erie are found here. Angler access to suspended walleye schools feeding on smelt and alewife forage is a short boat ride. Daily walleye bag limits are standard, with fish 20 to 28 inches long and weighing 3 to 8 pounds. Trophy fish exceeding 30 inches and 12 pounds are among occasional catches, too. There are 10 angler walleye tournaments set for 2024. Anglers can harvest 6 fish/day, 15 inch/minimum.



A typical Lake Erie walleye catch here is 4 - 8 pounds.

The 2024 Chautauqua County Walleye Fishing Contest Calendar:

1	Fri-Sun May 31- Jun 2	WNY Walleye Classic / Dunkirk Walleye Festival 2024 - New Tourney Location (moved from Barcelona), 1 day competition (Jun1), \$500 entry, Josh Larsen, 716-490-4226; https://www.primitivepatriotoutdoors.com/wny-walleye-classic
2	Sat-Sun Jun 8-18	40th Annual 9-Day Southtowns Walleye Tournament , 9-days competition, \$110 entry, over \$100k prizes, Jim Skoczylas, 716-798-5372, https://www.southtowns/walleye.com/
3	Jun 28	WNY Heroes Day (Dunkirk) , Jim Steel, 716-481-5348, visit https://wnyheroes.org/ for sign up
4	Sat-Sun Jun 29-30	Bart's Cove Walleye Duel-1, Integrity Walleye Series (IWT-1) , Dunkirk, New Tourney , \$500 entry; 3-fish bag/day - 2 days competition; Bob Rustowicz; 716-030-5394
5	Jun 29- Aug 11	NY Walleye Derby 2024, New Dates , 43 day tournament, \$35 entry, Contact Capt. Jim Steel: 716-481-5348; www.newyorkwalleyederby.com .
6	Fri-Sun Jul. 19-21	Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot-Out , \$500 entry, \$500K prizes, 6-fish bag/day - 1 day competition (Jul20); Don Ruppert; 716-435-4137, www.walleyeshootout.com/
7	Sat-Sun Jul. 27-28	Bart's Cove Walleye Duel-2, Integrity Walleye Series (IWT-2) , Dunkirk, \$500 entry; 3 fish bag/day - 2 days competition; Mark Mohr; 716-990-9871;
8	Fri-Sun Aug. 2-4	20th Annual Northern Chautauqua Conservation Club Walleye Tourney - Dunkirk Harbor, 3 fish bag/day - 3 days competition; Contact Zen Olow; 716-640-2776;
9	Aug 16-17	Innovative Outdoors Walleye Challenge (Dunkirk) , \$500 entry, Jim Steel, 716-481-5348; https://innovative-outdoors.com/
10	Sep 21 or 28	SWA 1-Day Walleye Derby , 1 Day, \$35 fee, Jim Skoczylas, 716-798-5372; https://www.southtowns/walleye.com/

Chautauqua County provides easy access to certified charter captains (see below) who offer daily trips from Barcelona, Dunkirk, and Sunset Bay. The summer walleye tournaments draw thousands of participants and onlookers, as prize package tallies are as high as \$500,000. The summer walleye population here includes local and western basin stocks that combine to create an incomparable world-class walleye fishery of plentiful, healthy fish. All from Chautauqua County, NY.

Learn about walleye fishing tactics here: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/120717.html>. There is lots of action on tap to signal walleye anglers to visit Lake Erie during the summer of 2024.

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

Send changes to dbarus35@yahoo.com

2024



DEFINITIONS

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

Firearm Industry Surpasses \$17 Billion in Pittman-Robertson Excise Tax Contributions for Conservation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — NSSF®, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, celebrates firearm and ammunition manufacturers topping \$17 billion in excise tax contributions to the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund since its inception in 1937. When adjusted for inflation, the total is more than \$27.38 billion. The latest Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax (FAET) Collection report released by the Department of the Treasury, covering the 4th Quarter Calendar Year 2023, indicates that firearm and ammunition manufacturers contributed more than \$222 million.

“The entire firearm and ammunition industry celebrates this milestone that demonstrates our commitment to wildlife conservation for all Americans,” said NSSF President and CEO Joe Bartozzi. “The firearm and ammunition industry knows the conservation of wildlife and the habitats in which they thrive are invaluable. They are critical to future generations taking part in hunting and the recreational shooting sports traditions and learning about their vital importance. This manufacturing industry, which produces firearms and ammunition for law-abiding citizens, also produces the funding upon which our wildlife depends and is vital for future generations to enjoy.”

The firearm and ammunition industry added \$1 billion in conservation tax contributions in just one year. NSSF announced Firearm and Ammunition Excise Tax (FAET) contributions have totaled more than \$1 billion annually for the past three years.

The Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund, commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson fund, is funded by excise taxes paid by firearm and ammunition manufacturers on their products, as well as archery equipment manufacturers. The excise tax is set at 11 percent of the wholesale price for long guns and ammunition and 10 percent of the wholesale price for handguns. The excise tax, paid by manufacturers and importers, applies to all firearms produced or imported for commercial sales, including recreational shooting, hunting or self-defense. The tax is administered by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) of the Department of the Treasury, which turns the funds over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

USFWS deposits the Pittman-Robertson revenues into a special account called the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund administered by the USFWS. These funds are made available to states and territories the year following their collection based on a statutory formula. Earlier this year, NSSF announced that USFWS apportioned over \$1.6 billion to the states for wildlife conservation projects, of which \$944 million was sourced from Pittman-Robertson excise taxes paid by firearm and ammunition manufacturers.

These 10 to 11 percent excise tax dollars collected since 1937 under the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act are specifically designated to be used by state wildlife agencies for conservation and related purposes. Collectively, purchasers of firearms and ammunition, hunters and the industry are the greatest source of wildlife conservation funding.

About NSSF

NSSF is the trade association for the firearm industry. Its mission is to promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. Formed in 1961, NSSF has over 10,000 members including manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, sportsmen’s organizations and publishers nationwide. For more information, visit nssf.org.

NSSF Media contact:
Mark Oliva
202-220-1340

NSSF[®]
The Firearm Industry
Trade Association





The latest Great Northeast Podcast will feature the May 1 NYSOWA Zoom Meeting with Bill Hollister, who talks wild turkey hunting!

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



<https://otistec.com>

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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

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. Hunting | <input type="checkbox"/> b. Firearms/Shooting | <input type="checkbox"/> c. Archery/Bowhunting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d. Freshwater fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> e. Saltwater Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> f. Flyfishing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> g. Boating | <input type="checkbox"/> h. Camping/Backpacking | <input type="checkbox"/> i. Wilderness Survival |
| <input type="checkbox"/> j. Trapping | <input type="checkbox"/> k. Outdoor Travel | <input type="checkbox"/> l. Outdoor Politics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> m. Nature | <input type="checkbox"/> n. Environmental Affairs | <input type="checkbox"/> o. Natural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> p. Water Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> q. Cooking | <input type="checkbox"/> r. Nature |

Areas of Expertise

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. Book Author | <input type="checkbox"/> B. Magazine Editor | <input type="checkbox"/> C. Newspaper Editor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> E. Television | <input type="checkbox"/> F. Electronic Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> G. Magazine Columnist | <input type="checkbox"/> H. Newspaper Columnist | <input type="checkbox"/> I. Freelance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> J. Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> K. Illustrator | <input type="checkbox"/> L. Lecturer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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>