



Grass Roots News

Advocating for Conservation and Sportsmen Since 1933

January / February 2018

Vol. 18 No. 1

2018 CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS- Deadline extended this year

This notice constitutes official call for resolutions for the NYSCC for 2018. All resolutions should be sent to the NYSCC Office by **March 1, 2018**. The Council office address is 8 East Main Street, Ilion, NY 13357-1899. It would be of great help to the Committee if resolutions were submitted early; any resolutions not in the proper form and received by the March 1 deadline will be rejected.

County and Associate members may submit two resolutions, and Affiliate groups may submit one. Each organization submitting a resolution should investigate its facts thoroughly. Be very specific as to what is being requested along with reference to any law, order, policy or regulation. In addition, the resolution should contain reference to who should perform the action requested and by what means (law change, Department order change, request for action, etc.).

Of statewide significance –

To benefit the sportsmen of New York State

By Stephen Wowelko, Chairman, NYSCC Resolution Committee

The resolution process for 2018 is in full swing. As the March 1 deadline approaches, here are some suggestions to help you along in the process.

All resolutions for consideration through NYSCC should be to establish or change a position or policy for the New York State Conservation Council on a matter concerning issues of state-wide significance.

The **title** of the resolution should clearly reflect the intent.

In formulating the resolution, the "**Whereas**" statements should provide the basic facts and reasons for the resolution. The information should be specific, and provide answers to such questions as: Why is the change necessary? What are the facts leading to the final request? It should provide or reference statistics and the effect of the issue. What is the rationale for the "resolved" course of action?

The "**Be It Resolved:**" should clearly spell out what it is you wish to achieve.

The primary purpose of a resolution is to delineate a position for the New York State Conservation Council on a matter not otherwise covered concerning policies, principles, or precedent of state-wide significance. Resolutions are policy declarations and are not meant to solve local problems unless all other avenues of remedy have been exhausted on the local level.

The final submitted resolution should be polished, well thought out and not a draft work in progress.

The resolutions are to be submitted by the organization's official councilman to the NYSCC. Resolutions coming from other individuals or directly from Federation clubs will not be accepted. The resolution should contain contact information for the councilman – name, address, phone number and email address. The councilman will be the primary contact for any questions the Resolution Committee may have about the resolution.

Resolutions are due at the NYSCC main office by **March 1, 2018**. It is preferred that they be sent electronically to nyscc@nyscc.com or if the councilman does not have email access it may be sent on paper through the US Post Office to the following address:

**NYSCC
8 East Main Street
Ilion, NY 13357-1899**

RESOLVE

VERB

Decide firmly on a course of action

NOUN

Firm determination to do something.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN – THE 2018 NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION HAS BEGUN

By Bill Gibson, NYSCC Legislative VP

The legislature was, at best, in maintenance mode with respect to issues of concern to us during the 2017 session. No major legislation made it to the governor's desk although several bills did get through one house. We hope to see some improvement during the 2018 session. A \$4 to \$5 billion deficit, polarized political factions and the impending elections of the governor and the entire legislature in November ensure that 2018 is going to be an interesting year, if nothing else.

The first hurdle will be the budget. With a major shortfall, the governor's office has given guidance to all departments to budget for the next year with no increase in appropriations. Since automatic wage and benefit increases are mandated under existing law and labor contracts, something is going to have to undergo major fiscal surgery.

The governor's budget is due by January 16th and must be enacted prior to April 1st. We will be closely watching any potential adverse impact on conservation and sportsmen's issues.

Our main legislative goals for this session are:

- Crossbow Hunting Enhancement - Allow the use of the crossbow on the same basis as the longbow. A479A/S1386A
- Age for Universal Hunting License – Reduce the age for hunting big game with firearms to twelve. A477/S3156
- Protection of the Conservation Fund – Prevent the erosion of the Conservation Fund through the issuance of free/reduced cost sporting licenses at the expense of the fund. There are currently 31 active bills that would do this in some form.

We will be actively involved in supporting or opposing legislation in several other areas where we have major interest but other groups are the primary advocates. These include ATV, snowmobile, firearms and knife legislation. We can often be more effective in expanding on our specific concerns with respect to broader legislation. We represent the Conservation Council and emphasize our expertise on issues with a specific impact on the sportsmen.

We currently track 195 bills and have issued over 40 position memorandums as well as a dozen short statements stating our position on these bills. More information can be found in the Council's website www.nyscc.com where current legislative reports and all of the Council's legislative memorandums can be found.

You can help by contacting your New York State legislators and making sure that they are aware of your position on conservation issues. If you don't know your legislator, now is a good time to get to know him or her. If you don't know their name or address, go to assembly.state.ny.gov or www.nysenate.gov.

Call, write, email or stop in today. We can't be an effective voice for New York State sportsmen without the active support of the individual New York sportsman and sportswoman. The most effective voice with any legislator is that of an informed voting constituent – particularly one with friends who vote! And don't forget to tell those friends!

Get active and get your fellow sportsmen active. I can assure you that the "other guys" are not trusting to luck.

CONGRESS LOOKS TO MODERNIZE PITTMAN ROBERTSON FUNDING

By Bill Conners

With so much being tinkered with in Washington these days it wouldn't be hard to overlook legislation that is of interest only to sportsmen and women. After all, it's not like \$1.13 billion in Washington dollars is a lot of money, especially when the 2017 budget was just over \$4 trillion dollars. The 2018 budget hasn't been passed yet. It's not likely to go down.

In 1937, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act – more commonly called the Pittman-Robertson Act – was born. The funding provided by the Act would provide federal aid to states for management and restoration of wildlife. Allocated funds would come from an 11% excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition which would be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior and apportioned to states on a formula basis for paying up to 75 percent of the cost of approved projects. Such project activities include acquisition and improvement of wildlife habitat, introduction of wildlife into suitable habitat, research into wildlife problems, surveys and inventories of wildlife problems, acquisition and development of access facilities for public use, and hunter education programs, including construction and operation of public target ranges.

Provisions were added in 1970 to provide for a 10% tax on pistols and revolvers, one-half of which may be used by the states for hunter safety programs. An additional amendment came along in 1972 that provided for the collection of an 11% excise tax on bows, arrows, and their parts and accessories, for use in wildlife projects or hunter safety programs.

New York State was allocated more than \$20 million under Pittman Robertson last year with an additional \$7.8 million coming from the Dingell-Johnson Act - the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act – which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance for state fish restoration and management plans and projects. Those funds come from anglers and boaters who pay excise taxes on fishing tackle such as rods and reels, line, hooks and sinkers, all types of artificial lures, electric motors, import duties on boats, sailboats and yachts, and a motorboat fuel tax on gasoline.

The number of sporting licenses sold in a state and the size of the state determines the allocations. New York's \$28 million combined allocation plays a major role in our fish and wildlife programs.

Two bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives that tinker with Pittman-Robertson. H.R. 2591 would amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to modernize the funding of conservation and other purposes. The second bill, H.R. 4647, amends Pittman-Robertson to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of "greatest conservation need" as determined by state fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes.

It's no secret that sporting license sales have been in decline for years now. There are many reasons that can be pointed to by way of explanation. America is growing older, kids today spend a lot less time outdoors than previous generations, and the availability of places to hunt and fish are but a few of the contributing factors. H.R. 2591 would try to reverse the trend by allocating funds to provide financial and technical assistance to the states for the promotion of hunting and recreational shooting. The bill also prescribes a formula for the allocation of funds apportioned to a state that may be used for any activity or project to recruit or retain hunters and recreational shooters.

In addition to other uses authorized under this bill, amounts apportioned to the states from any taxes on pistols, revolvers, bows, and arrows may be used for hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment. The funds apportioned to a state for wildlife restoration management may be used for related public relations.

Up to \$5 million of the revenues from any tax imposed for a fiscal year on the sale of certain bows, arrows, and archery equipment shall be available to the Department of the Interior exclusively for making hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment grants that promote a national hunting and shooting sports recruitment program.

It's hard to know if this approach will turn the tide. What we've been doing to date isn't working all that well. This certainly can't hurt.

I do think that whenever Congress starts tinkering with long-standing legislation it bears watching. Too many times what is added or removed just prior to a final vote can gut the original intent of a bill. This could be one of those times. Pittman-Robertson has been highly effective. It's long been said that hunters pay for conservation. P-R funds are one of the ways we do that. We should address the recruitment issue, but let's not break something else in the process of fixing that problem.

H.R. 4647 would create a subaccount in Pittman-Robertson to make funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by state fish and wildlife agencies. The targeted species would not necessarily have to be fish and wildlife that are of interest to hunters and anglers. Money would come from oil and gas leases and mining revenues and would be ear-marked to carry out, revise, or enhance existing wildlife conservation and restoration programs and to develop and implement new wildlife conservation and restoration programs to manage wildlife species of greatest conservation need, including species that are not hunted or fished, and their habitats as determined by the appropriate state fish and wildlife department.

New York's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) has allowed us to be eligible for federal funding through the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) Program which is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Since 2010, New York has received an average of \$2 million per year to conserve declining species. H.R. 4647 could make more funds available. Unfortunately, I don't think it has much chance of making through the House.

I think the recruitment problem is most important to the sporting community right now. H.R. 2591 addresses that issue. If I had to choose one problem to solve it would be our declining numbers.

REGION 8 MUSINGS

By Glen Adams, Region 8 NYSCC Director

As I am sitting here warm in my man cave and watching FORGED IN FIRE, I want to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year! Things to keep our eyes on this year within Region 8:

1. Caledonia Fish Hatchery: do the repairs to the building and the installation of functioning new raceways take place as promised by the NYS DEC? Do we get more regular updates from the Region 8 biologist on the status of Tonawanda and Oak Orchard WMAs' spring plans and late summer plans for the fall? Drawdowns are necessary and we want to know what is taking place, but as fall approaches we want to know how the refilling of these ponds is progressing for the duck season.
2. We need to keep in tune with Draft Unit Management Plans and how they affect us conservationists to make sure we maintain access for hunting and fishing.
3. Keep our eye on Finger Lakes reports and that of Lake Ontario. Mike Elam is helping to keep us informed.
4. Encourage youth in outdoor activities; archery in the schools and academic trap leagues are developing in the area. These need our support as precursors to future conservationists. We need to keep up the good work with youth fishing derbies -- and by all means, take a youth fishing.



Have the youngsters help stock fish now and take them fishing later. Photo courtesy of Jeannine Horton.

ARE THE SNOWYS COMING?

By Douglas H. Domedion

Four years ago there was a record migration of snowy owls down into our area from the Arctic tundra during the winter. This large white owl will migrate south during the winter about every four years or so due to the lack of food (lemmings - a mouse-like rodent with a short tail) in their Arctic breeding grounds. They like open type country like tundras, marshes, fields and plains and will often be spotted on telephone and light poles, piers along the waterways and buildings, but rarely in trees when hunting. When not hunting they often perch on the ground. Many of the owls we see here are juveniles that are not pure white like adult males but have black spotting covering their white bodies. Females are larger than males and always sport these black markings, often quite heavily on adults.

Little has really been known about this bird of the far north but with the record migration four years ago a group of dedicated folks have been trapping, banding and putting transmitters on them so they could study and track them when they move. This effort has been named Project SNOWstorm and they have been learning quite a bit about this mysterious owl of the far north. One of the things learned is that the area where most of the owls came from four years ago has had another great nesting season and they are expecting high numbers of them again this winter. In fact we are already getting reports of them at the waterfront on Lake Erie by Buffalo, along Lake Ontario above Lyndonville and around Olcott, Lakeside Park, Hamilton Beach State Park and the Braddock Bay area.

When that large migration happened four years ago I was lucky enough to accompany one of the banders on a number of occasions and thus get a close look at both the habits and beauty of these birds. Dave trapped over 60 snowy owls that year between Rochester and Buffalo.

While looking for the owls to photograph and to spot them for Dave I observed some disturbing things. These owls were juveniles, are quite docile and are not too fearful of people, at least originally, having had no experience with man. However, they drew crowds of birders and photographers that year and many over-stepped the boundaries of disturbing them. I remember one instance where Dave was having a lot of difficulty trapping a bird over on Ham Road in Alabama. Dave was getting pretty upset with this owl, which he named "Hambone", because he had put so much time into trying for him. One day we set up not too far from where the bird was perched on a telephone pole on Ham Road. He seemed very interested in the live pigeon that Dave was using for bait and our hopes were high that it would be the day. Then out of nowhere comes this jerk down the road, slamming on his brakes right next to the pole and jumping out with his camera. Of course Hambone took right off, and that ended our attempt at him for that day. The sad thing was that it spooked him to another area down the road that he wasn't familiar with, and he was later hit by a car.

It is not uncommon to have folks scaring or crowding these birds, causing them to leave the area. It not only ruins the opportunity for others to see this rare and beautiful bird but can also stress them or cause them move out of the area. In the case above it interfered with the gathering of scientific information that could have helped us better understand these birds. Making them fly not only makes them use energy they need but it puts them at the risk of being harassed by hawks and crows which in turn causes them to waste energy. When they are roosting on the ground putting them in the air can also force them into dangerous situations such as a collision with a vehicle.

There are also photographers who will do anything to get "the shot"; and that includes baiting, trespassing and even causing dangerous situations on the roadways. This along with the general flushing of the owls is teaching them that people are dangerous. I observed this "shyness" developing four years ago and believe it will only get worse which will make the birds less visible to us in the future.



MY HUNTING SEASON ADVENTURES

By Bob Brown

WEEK ONE: Every year my favorite hunting trip is a two-week vacation across the southern tier of New York State, hunting with friends. I leave the Adirondacks and head for the southwestern part of the state, having hunted there since the 1960's.

In the old days, the deer season started on Monday. We would arrive on the Saturday before and get settled in. Motels were full and the restaurants busy with hunters excited about Monday's opening. Sunday was a day when every fish and game club held a turkey shoot (with slug guns) and the local businesses and the clubs made money. There was no school on Monday because all the school bus drivers went hunting. Hunters had two days to get ready, and both the clubs and businesses did well financially. Eventually, NYSDEC moved the opener to a Saturday. The small town businesses and clubs take in less money, since now most traveling hunters arrive Sunday afternoon. The money that was spent in the past and the excitement among sportsmen gathering for a weekend is not what it was. I miss those days.

We also moved deer more back then, with deer drives. We didn't have ground blinds and tree stands, and that may be why I only heard seven or eight shots all day long on the opener. This year, I did see my hunting partner, Walt, take a doe soon after it passed his ground blind (hidden in some brush) on the edge of a hay field. The next day the weather was so bad, we decided not to hunt. Instead, we took the wives to breakfast and enjoyed a relaxing day telling stories.



On Wednesday I was up early and in my ground blind. It was a cold, windy morning, with snow blowing through little zippered openings designed so I could see outside the blind. All wildlife was hiding from the weather. Then I saw it; what appeared to be a red fox was running rapidly up the hill, stopping behind a large pine tree. I opened the blind and adjusted my binoculars to the uphill side at the base of the tree. Out it came! To my surprise, it turned out to be a small red paper balloon, the kind in which kids light a candle in the basket and watch it float up into the air and drift away. It was now time to pack my bags and head east on my southern tier deer quest.

WEEK TWO: I sit with my hunting partner, Ernie, in a deluxe deer stand (actually, an 8x10 foot shack), 20 feet high in the air, with stairs and a railing leading up to a room furnished with carpet, a table, chairs, a cloth bench seat out of the back of a car, stove, heater, and glass sliding windows. The stand sits on the edge of hardwoods to the left and a 50 yard mowed field to the right ending at a woodlot. In front there is a 200 yard meadow with an island of brush and two wild apple trees. The land rises, so at the far end of the meadow the wood line is eye level with the front window of the shack ... a commanding view!

Nine a.m. the first day, five does run out into the meadow from our left, traveling fast. They run behind the shack and into the woods on our right (someone must have scared them up). We then look out front and four bucks are traveling from left to right, 220 yards past the meadow and into the hardwoods. I lean on the window sill and line up my scope. The first one is a trophy buck! I had never seen one before. He must have been close to 200 pounds with a set of antlers 17-18" high and lots of points! He was moving fast. With numerous saplings in the way, I did not feel comfortable with the shot, so I chose not to shoot. Another large buck was running with him and they passed from our sight.

We were excited! At that point, I questioned myself. "Should I have taken the shot? I didn't want to wound it. Will he be back?" We hunted four more days and I passed up several bucks, some with a broken rack on one side, but a nice one on the other; crotch horns and spike horns. I passed up lots of does even though I had a doe tag (don't spook the big buck).

Then one sunny afternoon, 50 yards away, a large bobcat stepped into the meadow and crossed slowly in front of us. He was walking to his den with a squirrel hanging from his mouth. The cat never saw us. He looked proud and beautiful. Having never seen a bobcat in the wild, we were excited again! There was a hunting season on him, but we would not shoot.

As I loaded my four-wheeler onto my trailer for the trip home, the Polish farmer came out of his house to say goodbye. "Bob, you see big buck but don't shoot! You take no doe with tag and pass many bucks. I feel sorry for you. Why you no take something?" he asked. "I was waiting for the trophy buck to come back, but I am very happy just to see him. Oh, I saw a big bobcat today!" I replied. "You shoot him?" queried the farmer. "No, I have never seen one in the wild. He had caught his dinner and was heading to his den. He was proud and deserved his reward." The farmer put his hand on my shoulder and stated, "Bob, this is why you hunt here; come back any time. Maybe you come for turkeys in the spring?" So, you can see, I had a great hunting season. (I still have some venison in the freezer from last year!). Note: Ernie took the big buck that ran with the trophy buck three days later.



NEW MEMBERS

DEFENDER MEMBERS:

Guy Case, Boonville

North Shore Sportsmen Association, Bernhards Bay

Reuben Tompkins, Greenville

GUARDIAN MEMBERS:

Michael Fogarty, Flushing

Thomas Merrill, Baldwinsville

Kevin Peartree, Rochester

Dr. Keith Tidball, Seneca Falls

Jim Voigt, Penn Yan

LIFE MEMBERS:

Paul Annetts, Fishkill

Jake Reddout, Penn Yan

Michael Rosing, Dunkirk

**Affiliated Conservation Clubs
of Madison County**
Proud Member of NYSCC

Since 1939!

Sponsoring: Scholarships, Kids to
Camp, Regional Envirothon, NYS
Sportsmen's Education, Annual
Women's and Youth Event.

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FOUNDATION, INC.**

Charles O. Hancock, President

(585) 223-1850 Phone (585) 223-6855 Fax

chancock@rochester.rr.com Email

A charitable foundation concerned about conservation issues, with special interest in Genesee, Livingston, and Monroe Counties.



Buck A Member Contributors:

- Albion Fish & Game, Sandy Creek
- Barre Sportsmen's Club, Albion
- Ben Miller Hunting Club, Buffalo
- Dansville Fish & Game Protective Association, Dansville
- Elbridge Rod & Gun Club, Elbridge
- Elsmere Rod & Gun Club, Voorheesville
- Empire Rod & Gun Club, Schenectady
- Erie County Trappers, Lawtons
- Friends of Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery, Elbridge
- Great Lot Sportsman's Club Corp., Boonville
- Helderberg Rod & Gun Club, Altamont
- Lake Luzerne Conservation Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Lake Luzerne
- Millgrove Sportsmen's Club Inc., Corfu
- Neighbor's Gun Club, Rhinebeck
- Otisco Lake Rod & Gun Club, Marietta
- South Bristol Fish & Game Assn., Naples
- Springville Field & Stream Club, Inc., Springville
- Springwater Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Springwater
- The Cahoonzie Club, Inc., Sparrowbush
- Waterloo Rifle & Pistol Club, Waterloo
- Whitney Point Sportsmen's Association, Whitney Point
- Woodbury Field & Stream Club, Inc., Central Valley
- Woodlawn Sportsmen's Club, Schenectady
- Yates County Chapter of SCOPE, Penn Yan

General Donation Contributors, with special thanks to those who donated during our year end appeal.

- Bill Fox & Son Construction & Remodeling, Le Roy
- Delaware County Federation of Sportsmen, Walton
- Mike & Krys Elam, Albion
- Raymond Gawlas, Scotia
- William Gibson, Rochester
- Patrick McBrearty, Milford
- Saraspa Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Greenfield Center
- Louis & Jocelyn Sarro, Brewster
- Blake Smith, Rush
- Captain Richard Smith, Hamburg
- Three Rivers Coon Hunters, Sidney Center

HARD WATER FISHING -- NOT FOR THE FAINTHEARTED

By Bill Conners

Ice fishermen should rejoice. Right now you probably aren't going to have to travel north if you're looking for ice to punch holes in.

Even if temperatures moderate there might be enough ice for hard water anglers to venture out on our local lakes for the next few weeks. The Department of Environmental Conservation recommends that you have a minimum of four inches of clear ice under your feet before you venture out on a lake or pond. This cold snap is apparently going to take care of that.

You should keep in mind that ice thickness can vary from one waterbody to the next, and even within the same waterbody. Be particularly wary of areas of moving water and around boat docks and houses where bubblers may be installed to reduce ice buildup.

In a post-Christmas press release, DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos noted that "The rush to get out onto the ice can lead to tragedy unless anglers remain vigilant to the condition of the ice. Anglers should heed DEC's recommendation of at least four inches of solid clear ice before venturing out on the ice." The DEC's message is that you should not take your safety for granted. Far too many lives are claimed each winter because anglers don't make safety their number one concern.

Safety gear is every bit as important as your fishing gear. A small plastic sled can make hauling your gear out on the ice that much easier and provide the incentive for you to take items that will help keep you safe. Basic safety items should include:



County Fish Coordinator Ken Rose and his Grandson Kenny Horton dump a pail of 11-12 inch rainbow trout into Morgan Lake in Poughkeepsie. The Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs stocked more than 500 trout in Morgan Lake and Upton Lake in the Town of Stanford. Photo courtesy of Jeannine Horton.

Life jackets aren't just for summer use. Always bring a life jacket or personal flotation device with you when ice fishing. And wear it! **Ice cleats or creepers** attach to boots and consist of adjustable straps or rubber overshoes with metal teeth or spikes that provide additional traction on slippery ice and help to prevent falls.

Ice chisel and safety picks: use an ice chisel to punch a hole through the ice before you take a step to check the thickness. Hang two ice picks around your neck so that they are within quick reach. The ice picks can be stuck into the ice and then used to pull yourself back out if you happen to fall through. Make sure you have **a floating rescue rope** with you and keep it where it is easily accessible. If someone falls through, you may be able to assist by throwing the rope from a safe distance. If you should fall through, throw one end of the floating rope to a rescuer.

Wear a hat. A significant amount of body heat can be lost through the head. Wear a thick hat that covers your ears. Also,

wear mittens, not gloves. Mittens trap more body heat than gloves. Wear base layer gloves underneath your mittens, so that when you need to tie lines or take a fish off of a hook, you can just take your mittens off and still have your fingers free. **Hand warmers** are a good way to help keep your hands warm during ice fishing season. Buy a supply of hand warmers to put into the pockets of your jacket or inside of your gloves.

Wear good sunglasses. The reflection of the sun's rays off the snow and ice can be very hard on the eyes. Snow blindness can be agonizingly painful. **Carry a cell phone or radio** for emergencies and pack them in sealed, moisture-proof bags.

Baitfish reminder: The use of fish for bait is popular when ice fishing and bait fish may be used in most, but not all waters, open to ice fishing. Visit the DEC website for a list of special regulations by county to find out where bait fish can and cannot be used, and for other regulations that apply to baitfish at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/71546.html.

Anglers are reminded to make sure that they have a valid fishing license before heading out on the ice. Fishing licenses are valid for 365 days from the date of purchase.

DEC to conduct freshwater angler survey

The DEC has announced that anglers who purchased a freshwater fishing license between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2017, may be asked to participate in a survey designed to learn more about their angling behaviors, preferences, and opinions on fisheries management issues. The last survey was conducted in 2007.

Unlike past surveys that used questionnaires delivered through the U.S. Postal Service, this survey will primarily utilize emails sent to a sample of license buyers, directing the recipients to an online survey questionnaire. Survey questionnaires will also be mailed to a smaller group of anglers to allow for comparison of the two survey methods.

Emails inviting anglers to participate and mailed survey questionnaires will be distributed during January 2018, and anglers are strongly encouraged to participate in the survey. Results of the survey will be provided in spring 2019. For information on DEC's 2007 angler survey, visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/56020.html>.

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE...

The Great Lot Sportsman's Club will be hosting 5 guided snowshoeing trips this winter at its club located at 4277 Osceola Road in West Leyden. Those interested are asked to meet at 9:45 am at the entrance to the Great Lot Sportsman's Club. Snowshoers can follow the guide (20-year military veterans from Boonville) or take a map and explore the many snow-covered trails on their own. Afterward everyone will be treated to a hot lunch and refreshments at the clubhouse. Snowshoeing and lunch are FREE and open to all age groups! Limited snowshoes are available. For more information or to sign up please contact Guy @ (315) 378-7592. Snowshoeing dates: Jan 13, Feb 10 and 24, and Mar 20 and 24. Check us out at www.thegreatlot.com.



Spencer-VanEtten Sportsman's Club presents its Sportsman Day 2018 on February 3 (10 am-5pm) and 4 (9am-3pm) at Spencer-VanEtten High School, 16 Dartts Cross Road in Spencer. Free admission to exhibits, seminars and vendors, including turkey calling, wood carvers, falconry, hunting and fishing guides, taxidermy, fly casting, archery and more!

The Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs of Sullivan County announces its 11th annual coyote hunt February 9-11. Prizes will be awarded in various categories including a grand prize of \$2,000! For further information and application, click the 'event' tab at www.sportsmensfederation.com or call Kay or Jack Danchak at 845-482-4987.

Grass Roots News will now be published on a bi-monthly basis. Make sure you submit articles and information to be included in future editions. Content can be emailed to nyscc@nyscc.com or mailed to NYSCC, 8 E Main St., Ilion, NY 13357. Phone 315/894-3302.

If you would like to place an ad, please submit a pdf or jpeg file by email.

Business card size: \$30 per issue

Quarter page: \$40 per issue

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Full page: \$150 per issue

VOTE JOHN L. CUSHMAN FOR NRA BOARD

NRA's Nominating Committee reviewed many incredible Board candidates and determined that John L. Cushman has the expertise, experience and courage needed to help lead us at this crucial time.

John has been on the Board for just over 20 years and has what it takes to continue to be of value to firearms owners and sportsmen - a strong and knowledgeable advocate for our firearms rights.

A true grassroots activist leader...

Member: Military & Veterans Affairs, Grassroots Development, Outreach Committees and NRA Whittington Center.

An active fighter for the Second Amendment; current NRA Board member.

NRA Benefactor member.

Life member and Board member of New York State Rifle & Pistol Association; honored by NYSRPA as Man of the Year 2016.

Former US Marine.

Life member and former Board member of New York State Conservation Council for 25+ years; received NYSCC's Lifetime Achievement award in 2000.

Active with NRA/ILA.

Created Legal Defense Fund to fight handgun licensing abuses.

Organizes and runs largest yearly Second Amendment Firearms Civil Rights Conference in the Northeast, defending individual firearms civil rights and refuting anti-gunners such as Schumer and Clinton.

Defends individual firearms rights on radio, television and in print.

Inducted into NY State Outdoorsmen Hall of Fame in 1998.

Wrote authoritative policy statement used by outdoor writers and politicians nationwide defending semi-automatic firearms.



THE NRA HAS A TRACK RECORD OF WINNING! WE MUST KEEP THE SAME TEAM THAT LED US TO VICTORY BY ELECTING PRESIDENT TRUMP AND WITNESSING THE CONFIRMATION OF JUSTICE GORSUCH TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT. **John L. Cushman is part of that Winning Team!**

**CONDOLENCES – CHARLIE ALSHEIMER
May 1, 1947 – December 30, 2017**



Born in Bath, NY, and educated at Avoca Central School, Charlie served in the US Air Force in Vietnam and returned home to attend Corning Community College.

After a 7-year career in sales and marketing, Charlie left the corporate world in 1979 to chase his dream of a full-time career as a nature photographer and writer. He went on to achieve remarkable success, becoming one of the most widely published outdoor photographers of his era. His images were featured in thousands of magazines, books, and calendars and won countless awards.

Charlie's favorite subject, both as a photographer and writer, was the whitetail deer. He was a preeminent expert on deer behavior and collaborated on groundbreaking research on the moon's impact on whitetail breeding patterns. Charlie authored seven best-selling books and hundreds of magazine articles on the whitetail. He served as field editor of Deer & Deer Hunting magazine for nearly 38 years and as host of Deer & Deer Hunting TV, which aired on the Outdoor Channel.



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