



THE 2015 NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

By Bill Gibson, NYSCC Legislative VP

The Legislature essentially finished its 2015 session on June 24th with the only issues remaining to be settled in the traditional "Big Ugly" being New York City rent control and a couple of tax issues. With respect to our issues it was a quiet, if not particularly productive, session.

Bills were passed authorizing rifle hunting for big game in Genesee, Schenectady and Seneca Counties. Use of rifles for big game was made permanent in Ontario and Wayne Counties. Senators Amedore, Nozzolio (3) and Ranzenhofer carried the Senate bills with Assemblymen Hawley, Kolb (2), Oaks and Santabarbara in the Assembly.

After three tries a bill was finally passed to protect hunting dogs from being deemed to be running at large. Particular thanks to Senator Cathy Young and Assemblywomen Aileen Gunther and Donna Lupardo for sticking with this bill.

The regulation allowing fishing with three lines in fresh water was renewed for two years. An effort to make it permanent passed the Senate but was rejected by the Assembly EnCon Committee. Senator Tom Libous and Assemblyman Clifford Crouch carried the permanent bill, Senator Libous and Assemblywoman Addie Russell the renewal version.

The authority for a youth pheasant hunt on Long Island was renewed for two years. Senator Ken Lavalle and Assemblyman Steve Englebright carried this bill.

All of these bills were supported by the Council with memorandums to the appropriate committees. We will follow up with signing recommendations to the Governor.

On the not-so-good side, the infamous mute swan bill and mandatory deer management plan bills that were passed and vetoed in 2014 were passed again. We will again request that the Governor veto them.

Several bills passed the Senate but failed to get out of committee in the Assembly: elimination of back tags, ATV reform, SAFE Act reform, and cable restraint legalization.

This was an unusual session with the majority leadership in both houses being indicted. Inevitably, there was a period where little happened while new leaders were being selected and getting organized. In addition, the Environmental Conservation Committee chairs in both houses were new to their jobs.

The Legislature returns on January 6, 2016 and we will be there.

Action Alerts

Action Deadline July 17	→
Deadline August 1	→
Comment Deadline July 27	→
Return by August 14	→

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GOOD OLD BOYS FISHING DERBY

By Bob Brown



Some years ago the Saranac Lake Fish and Game Club members were sitting around the clubhouse looking for something to do. We had heard all about those big fishing tournaments around the country and decided that we might try to have our own just for fun. We decided that Moose Pond would be a good place to have our little tournament. It is a fairly small pond with easy access and has some decent fish in it. Off the beaten path, we would have it mostly to ourselves.

The following Saturday we gathered at the launch. As it turned out there were only ten of us, and we decided to each toss in a dollar so the jackpot for the winner was a whopping \$10.00! We would decide the winner by keeping the fish, and the heaviest fish would take the grand prize.

With winning thoughts we all loaded our canoes and prams and spread out across the pond. I had talked my wife, Pat, into being my partner and it was not long before she hooked into a nice largemouth bass. She was excited, fighting the fish for all she was worth; and I handled the net just right and landed her bass. It was difficult to tell her that bass season had not opened yet, but she petted the fish before she slipped it back into the water.

Boat No. 2 had Dick Mose and George Farrell in it, and they drifted into a reedy area of the pond. About 45 minutes later they came out with big smiles on their faces and as they passed by our boat, George held up a lake trout on their stringer! Boy, I can still see that fish when I shut my eyes and think about it. It was about a 7 pound fish, the biggest I had ever seen in that pond.

Boat No. 3 was manned by Joe Spadaro and Skip Green. Both fellows were experts at taking lake trout and had caught a nice 3-pound laker just as Mose and Farrell passed their boat and lifted their monster. Joe and Skip shook their heads and released the 3- pounder back into the water.

Boat No. 4 was handled by Charlie Post but I don't remember who his partner was; they had caught a few small sunfish that they were going to take home and toss in the frying pan.

Boat No. 5 could not catch anything, and its occupants were so inept they didn't want to be mentioned for fear of losing their reputation of being great fishermen.

At the end of the day, Pat and I came back to the landing, and everyone had already headed for home. I was in charge of the jackpot, so when we got back to our house, I had to call the other fishermen, find out the weights of each fish and determine who would get the first prize.



My first call was to Farrell, as I had seen the big laker and figured that it took the prize. Farrell started to laugh and said they did not win it. "Why?" I inquired; "Who got a bigger one than yours?" "Well Bob, you didn't ask who caught it and we didn't tell; however, we found it floating dead in the reeds and we wanted you to think we caught it!"

Next I phoned Joe Spadaro, only to find out that they threw their laker back and didn't officially weigh it when they saw George and Dick's 7-pounder. Spadaro said to me, "Pat, your wife, won it with her bass." "No she did not," I replied. "Bass season is not open yet." Joe replied, "DEC is trying to eliminate bass in that lake and you can catch and keep them all year, because of special regulations." "She can't," I replied; "I made her toss it back. She will kill me!"

I finally put the phone down, got in the car and went to Charlie Post's house, knocked on the door and said, "Here is your ten dollars, Charlie; your sunfish was the winner; everybody was disqualified!"

I made up a plaque for Charlie and we had a presentation later that year at a club meeting. Charlie left us a few years ago but lives on in my fishing memories, as we fished together a lot over the years. His widow dropped off the plaque to me, asking if I wanted it. I sure do!

DEC ANNOUNCES PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR WILDLIFE PLAN

DEADLINE: JULY 17, 2015

By Bill Conners

If you have an interest in how the state's fish and wildlife watchdog agency manages New York's inventory of finned, furred, feathered and smooth-skinned slimy things, then you have until July 17 to read your way through about five pounds of paper (or study 1900 pages of digital print) and then get your comments on the new 10-year State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) to the Department of Environmental Conservation in Albany.

When DEC Commissioner Joe Martens announced the public comment period early last month he said that the State Wildlife Action Plan will help guide DEC's work to protect and restore wildlife, ostensibly to conserve them for future generations.

The plan identifies 366 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in New York that require conservation actions to thrive. The list includes moose, least tern, northern diamond-backed terrapin, eastern spadefoot toad, lake sturgeon, barndoor skate, humpback whale, brook snaketail and barrens buckmoth. Of those 366, there are 167 species that are identified as high priority SGCN, including little brown bats, spruce grouse, Blanding's turtle, queen snake, American eel, sauger, winter flounder, horseshoe crab, dwarf wedgemussel and American bumblebee. An additional 113 species are seen as possibly needing conservation actions, including least weasel, mink frog, tiger shark, Scotia sallfly, and monarch butterfly. Surveys will help determine their current population status.

Few of the species identified are of interest to the average sportsman or sportswoman, but it is entirely possible that the management plan for any one of the species identified in the plan could have an impact of one sort or another on fish or wildlife that are of interest to the sporting community.

The work that was done to develop the draft plan was not limited to the 366 species identified as having the greatest conservation need. DEC staff and the "conservation partners" looked at 597 rare and declining species in New York. The assessment included the location and condition of habitats where the species live, threats to the populations and conservation actions to help maintain healthy populations. The most common threats to these species are loss of habitat, pollution, invasive species and climate change. Recommended conservation actions include protection and restoration of habitat, management of SGCN populations and monitoring to maintain current data on SGCN.

But just because a draft plan has been produced and will most likely get adopted, either as presented or amended, depending on the nature of the comments received during the published comment period, there will still be battles to be fought.

Threats such as loss of habitat for a particular species may be of little concern to a person who cannot bear to see a tree cut down. Mature forests provide very poor living conditions for many species; if too much of our forests are mature we lose a tremendous amount of diversity in our wildlife populations. I see that tug of war time and again as the Department attempts to manage for wildlife, even in a Wildlife Management Area; some folks all but come unglued when they see a tree being cut down to provide the opportunity for new growth.

Then there is the issue of invasive species. The Department is battling with interest groups that abhor the idea of eliminating the mute swan from our landscape. The mute swan was introduced to this country in the late 1800's as an ornamental bird. When the Department produced a management plan for this aggressive and destructive interloper you would think that they had announced that they were going to purge anything with feathers from the state. The Department acquiesced and pulled the plan back. They have since offered up an alternative management plan, but there are no guarantees that we will not see an expansion of the mute swan population across the state. After all, they do have wings.

(Continued on next page)

As you take actions to protect one species of concern it could cut off access to another that isn't even on the list. Here in southeast New York there is a limited population of the New England cottontail. A management plan designed to help that limited population survive could possibly drive changes in the management plan for the eastern cottontail. They both look alike when they rocket out from under a brush pile. One is fair game, the other is not.

The draft SWAP is available on the NYSDEC website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7179.html>. In sum, the draft plan itself is 99 pages but the supporting documents total about 1800 pages, should you be a cover-to-cover reader. Considering the enormity of the report I think we have been short-changed by a comment period that is far too short. The organizations with paid staff doing the review and producing the comments may not feel any pressure, but any organization with an all-volunteer army certainly will.

For more information related to the SWAP, contact Joe Racette at (518) 402-8933 or email joe.racette@dec.ny.gov. Comments should be sent to SWAPComments@dec.ny.gov or mailed to Joe Racette, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, 5th Floor, Albany, NY 12233. Again, the deadline for comment is Friday, July 17, 2015; and it is very important that the sporting community raise any concerns we may have.

THIS IS THE YEAR OF THE FUND RAISER(S)

By Chuck Parker

The Council's Board of Directors this year formed a Financial Services and Review Committee to study the Council and emphasize the need for fund raisers. While not a new concept, it is an important one in which every region and county needs to participate. Two things you can look at ...

- Buck a Member -- we all know about it. Has your club renewed its efforts this year? One federation matches dollar for dollar the contributions of its member clubs ... and holds a BAM support raffle as well. Some organizations contribute \$2 per member.
- Your annual regional or local fund raiser for the Council. Are you all set for this year? It does make a difference!

Here are some fund raisers in which we all can participate:

- The Region 7 Conservation League, spearheaded by Bruce McGowan, is sponsoring an 8-gun fund raiser with only 400 tickets being sold.
- Onondaga / Oswego County Federations are having a shotgun/pistol (choice) raffle. Contact is Dave Simmons.
- The Friends of NYS CC from Region 4 is doing a custom knife drawing. Contact is Kevin Busch.
- Oswego County Sportsmen's Foundation is conducting a drawing for an American made charcoal grill with rotisserie accessories valued at over \$400. Contact here is Chuck Parker. For anyone wishing to help with this raffle a display grill can be made available for your fair or sportsmen's show.

Dues, sponsoring memberships and sustaining contributions are a few other tools that are used to support our operations. How many events will you be attending where you can help the Council? If your group is holding a fund raiser let us know. Please do your part and help make this a record year for the Council as we build for the future.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR OUR 35th AWARDS PROGRAM

The New York State Conservation Council, Inc. (NYSCC) is asking for your help in identifying New York State's outstanding conservationists for our 35th Awards Program. This is an ideal opportunity to honor those who have worked long and hard for our natural environment and who may not have been recognized for their efforts.



Nomination Procedure:

- ✓ Nominations are open to residents or groups in New York State, both professional and volunteer.
- ✓ A nomination may be submitted by an individual, a club, or an organization.
- ✓ Affiliation with the NYSCC, Inc. is not necessary.
- ✓ Nominations must be for individuals or groups that have been active during the past year and have exhibited ongoing interest in conservation.
- ✓ Please furnish complete information about the nominee. *Make it informative and to the point. Give facts, dates and accomplishments which support that nomination. Documentation is helpful.*

Nomination Deadline: August 1, 2015

Mail applications to: NYSCC, 8 East Main Street, Ilion, NY 13357.

For categories and additional information see our website: www.nyscc.com.

BE A SHOWOFF – WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS OF THAT BIG BUCK, LONG BEARD, OR THE DOE THAT THE YOUNG HUNTER IN YOUR LIFE HARVESTED WITH YOU AT THEIR SIDE

In September this year the NYSCC will be holding its Annual Meeting at the OnCenter in Syracuse, at the same time as the Fall Classic hunting and fishing show. We hope to have an interesting and eye-catching professional display on the show floor that tells the NYSCC story.

To make this a successful venture we need to pull together a collection of good quality, well composed photos that show visitors to the show what we are all about. We need everyone to look at your digital photos, flip through your albums and rummage through that shoebox of pictures tucked away in the closet, and dig out a few of your favorites. Write your name, phone number and a one-liner about the photo on the back and mail them to the Council office at 8 East Main Street, Ilion, NY 13357. Your digital photos can be emailed to nyscc@nyscc.com.

Photos of that heavy-antlered buck you took, or an image of your son, daughter and grandkid with their first deer or turkey, or a scene of a habitat improvement or similar project done by your club would be appreciated. This is important -- and all it's going to cost you is a little time and maybe a postage stamp (or two).

Please, please don't let us down -- we need your support. If you're not sure of what we want or you have a photo that is questionable, pick up the phone and call the office at **315-894-3302** or drop us a note at nyscc@nyscc.com.



The Trade Show Display booth pictured above is about 8 feet wide and 8 feet tall and we'll need a good supply of photos and other material to make an interesting display. Pull a few of your favorites together and get them to us by July 30th.

THOUGHTS ON THE LEGISLATIVE END OF SESSION

By Chuck Parker, NYSCC President

Sentiments as stated by Assemblyman Kieran Michael Lalor below are well recognized by many within Albany as well as within the Council. The Big Ugly, pulling a Monty Hall and Let's Make a Deal are an accepted mode of operation for too many. There are many legislators like Assemblyman Lalor who present the same message of complaint, and we thank them for speaking out. The Governor, using his executive fiat, is attempting to work within a broken system. The only change that the public is seeing is when indictments are being handed out. While a few bandages have been applied, Albany continues to be broken. The majority of our legislators and the executive branch want to do what is right but are still willing -- or are being forced -- to work within this broken system. These efforts are not working. Those in Albany are calling for change as are we New Yorkers, and it needs to be made now. It starts with an attitude, a conviction, dedication, and action. The movement is out there calling for change, not just indictments of individuals. One of our Directors noted: "In regard to The Big Ugly, we elect these people so we can't blame them for us keeping them in there without consequences."

It's Called the "Big Ugly" for a Reason

Statement on the End-of-Session deal from Assemblyman Kieran Michael Lalor (R,C,I - East Fishkill)

"Albany is squeezing as many unrelated bad ideas as possible into this last-minute deal. Albany's big deals tend to be bad for taxpayers. Instead of carefully debating the merits of each issue, we get an unwieldy monstrosity that is the product of horse-trading, special-interest pressure and arm-twisting. Hence, the bill is known colloquially as the 'Big Ugly.'"

Message of Necessity

"There is a reason why New York's constitution delays the vote on legislation for three days after it has been submitted. Legislators, and the public, need the opportunity to review and debate legislation. But, Governor Cuomo and our legislative leaders have abused the message of necessity provision again and again to circumvent the constitution. There is no emergency that requires an immediate, late-night vote a few hours after the bill was made available to lawmakers and the public. The only emergency for Cuomo, new Republican Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan and Democrat Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie is the possibility that the public might get a good look at this bad bill. Even if the bill was the greatest piece of legislation in the history of New York, a no vote is still appropriate because the requisite three-day aging period has been bypassed, preventing legislators from doing their due diligence and getting input from constituents and experts."

Executive Orders

"The governor couldn't make a deal with the legislature to raise the age of criminal responsibility or on a special prosecutor for police-involved deaths. Now, he's just going to change the rules by executive fiat. That's not how our system is supposed to work. Checks and balances and the separation of powers are critical aspects of our system of government and protect our rights. These essential checks on power shouldn't be bypassed when the chief executive can't get his way."

JOHN L. CUSHMAN
Board of Directors
NYSCC Life Member since July 1990



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**GENESEE CONSERVATION
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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE...



Bass Pro in Auburn has offered the NYSCC a fund raising opportunity called Hot Dog Days on Saturday and Sunday, July 25 & 26 from 10 am – 4 pm. The store will be selling hot dogs and soda outdoors; if we help, we get the proceeds. We can sell raffle tickets and promote the Council; two to four volunteers should be able to handle it. If you can help, contact Chuck Parker at 315/963-8413 or aparker@twcny.rr.com.

The **Adirondack-Catskill Chapter of Safari Club International** is looking for a disabled hunter for its Youth Hunt 2015. Youth ages 11-17, male or female with a severe disability (wheel chair or similar) should apply. All expenses will be paid by SCI. For more information, contact Bill Mayer at 518/284-2953

June 15 the **Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs** passed a resolution to not shoot hen turkeys in the fall of 2015.

The Janice and Paul Keesler Scholarship Fund is seeking applicants for its annual awards, 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.

Applications are available at www.keeslerscholarshipfund.org and must be returned no later than September 1, 2015.

Livingston County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs has a new site for its National Hunting and Fishing Day celebration on September 26 and 27 – the Mumford Sportsmen's Club at 8667 Gulf Rd in Mumford. For further details, see www.livingstoncountyfederation.org.

This year's 2015-16 **Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest** winner is Jennifer Miller, a wildlife artist from Olean, NY. The Great Swamp Conservancy in Canastota will host Jennifer in a One Woman – Two Day Show, Saturday and Sunday, July 25 and 26, 10AM – 3PM daily. For more information contact the Great Swamp Conservancy, 8375 North Main St., Canastota, NY 13032; Phone: 315-697-2950 or visit www.greatswampconservancy.org.

The **Fourth Annual Clays for Heroes Fundraising Shoot** will take place on Saturday, August 1, beginning at 9 am at the Rochester Brooks International Skeet & Trap Club, 962 Honeoye Falls #6 Rd., Rush, NY. Raffles, games of chance, shooting games. For further details – contact Ashley Butcher 716-698-5892 or email claysforheroes@gmail.com.



New Members

DEFENDER MEMBER:
Iroquois Sportsman's Club, Norwich

GUARDIAN MEMBER:
Wayne Gentile, Schenectady
Green Haven Rod & Game, Poughkeepsie

FINGER LAKES CONSERVATION COUNCIL INC.
Representing County Federations and Affiliate Clubs
of New York State Region 8

Member Federations 2013

- Chemung Co Fed of Sportsman's Clubs
- Genesee Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs
- Livingston Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs
- Monroe Co. Conservation Council
- Ontario Co. Fed. Of Sportsmen's Clubs
- Orleans Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs
- Seneca Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs
- Steuben Co. Fed. of Conservation Clubs
- Wayne Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs
- Yates Co. Fed. Of Sportsmen's Clubs



President Mike Elam
Vice President Paul Griffen
Secretary Glen Adams
Treasurer Dennis Race

ESSEX CHAIN LAKES MANAGEMENT PLAN IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR PERUSAL – COMMENTS DUE JULY 27

By Bill Conners

The long awaited Essex Chain Lakes Management Complex Draft Plan finally emerged from the bowels of the Department of Environmental Conservation headquarters in in June. The document consumes 172 pages, so it will take a well-functioning alimentary canal to digest the entire report in time to provide your comments back to DEC by the published deadline which is July 27th.

I did note that the press release announcing the availability of the plan lacked the all important reminder that, "Under Governor Cuomo's NY Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative, the state is improving recreational activities for sportsmen and women and to boost tourism activities throughout the state." My first sweep of the document would suggest that it just isn't so insofar as what is being offered up to the sporting community in the Essex Chain Lakes. I have fished the lakes in years past, and last year I toured the former Finch Pruyn lands (now owned by the State of New York). With my tour guide and traveling companions we drove over 45 miles of former logging roads that have been used to pull timber off the property. Some of those roads date back more than 100 years, and I would estimate that there are more than 50 miles of roads that loop through the property.

When the press release showed up proclaiming that "DEC issues draft plan to improve access and expand recreational opportunities," I was momentarily hopeful. Alas, hopes were dashed on the rocks that will soon be popping up in those two-track logging roads because it is doubtful that they will be maintained to the extent that they have been.

I really fail to see the improved access touted as being in the plan for the sporting community. Yes, we did get a four car parking lot between Fourth and Fifth lakes that – to his credit – DEC Commissioner Joe Martens had to battle the forces of evil to keep in the plan. But access will be by permit only. The plan also provides about 2.5 miles of roads during the fall hunting season that may make it possible for hunters to get their deer out of the woods without suffering a major stroke or heart attack.

Your comments are due to DEC by July 27; make your voice heard:

http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/ecmlcplan.pdf



Buck A Member Contributors:

Blooming Grove Rod & Gun Club, Monroe * Conesus Lake Sportsmen's Club, Lakeville
 Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assn., Silver Creek * Fish House Fish & Game Club, Broadalbin
 Hudson Fish & Game Club, Hudson * Manchester Hunt Club, Poughkeepsie
 Otisville Sportsmen's Assn., Otisville * Otsego County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Otego
 Pompey Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Pompey * Wyo/Gen Chapter Pheasants Forever, Pavilion

\$2 PER MEMBER:

Canandaigua Lake Duck Hunters, Inc., Penn Yan

General Donation Contributors:

Niles Brown, Tully * Robert Crane, Otego

2015 NYSCC Annual Meeting

NEW FACE FOR THE FALL CONVENTION

By Bill Conners

The NYSCC's Annual Meeting will take on a new look this year when Council members hold their 82nd fall convention at the OnCenter in Syracuse from September 18 – 20. The Council will be teaming up with The Results Group of Syracuse, which will be holding its Fall Classic Hunting and Fishing Show the weekend of the Council's convention.

Council members will be provided free passes to the Fall Classic, so when you aren't attending to Council business you will be able to take advantage of the opportunity to see what's new in the world of hunting, fishing and trapping.

Promoter Tom Tarry estimates that as many as 150 vendors will be showing off their products or offering guided hunting and fishing trips. There will also be a line-up of notables from the world of hunting and fishing conducting seminars and sharing their collective experience; you could come away with that one piece of hunting gear or fishing lure that puts you on the trail of a record buck or rod busting bass or trout.

This is the year that Council members should make a special effort to attend the Fall Meeting. By being there in September you will be contributing to our effort to show that the NYSCC is on the front line in the battle to preserve and protect New York's sporting heritage.

The Council needs everyone to contribute to the effort to recruit more young people into our ranks, and to see that our elected officials and the fish and wildlife professionals at DEC know that we are serious about preserving important habitat and providing sportsmen and women with access to the state's fish and wildlife resources.

Come to the Annual Meeting and bring someone with you. Add your voice to the discussion as we ALL do our part to keep our rich traditions alive.

Check the Council website at www.nyscc.com for convention information and updates or call the Council office at 315-894-3302 for registration information. Lodging is being coordinated thru the Council office. Rooms will available at the Baymont Inn and Suites, just minutes from the OnCenter.

NYSCC FALL ELECTIONS

By Eric Bratt, NYSCC Nominating Committee Chair

It is that time of year when we start preparation for annual elections to be held at the fall convention, and we need your help. We are always looking for fresh new faces and ideas to keep the Council on a sustained path of prosperity, and you are the key.

Positions open for annual election are: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Legislative Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition there are three-year terms for one Director-at-Large as well as Regional Directors and Alternates from Regions 2, 7 and 9 that are also due to be elected.

To be eligible a candidate must meet one of the following criteria: 1) Be an active County representative or alternate; 2) Be a former officer or director; or 3) Be an Associate representative or alternate to the Council.

If anyone has an interest in being considered for a nomination or knows of someone who is please contact the Nominating Committee: Eric Bratt grizekb@aol.com

CALL TO CONVENTION

Join the New York State Conservation Council for its 82nd Annual Meeting at the OnCenter in Syracuse. Our convention lodging will be hosted by the Baymont Inn at Carrier Circle, 6605 Old Collamer Road, East Syracuse. Continental breakfast included in your room rate.

The NYSCC will begin its conference on Friday, September 18, with a Board of Directors meeting at 9 a.m. Lunch will follow, and the afternoon's general session will feature a short review of the past year, upgrades to Council features (including email list, input for Facebook and web site [featuring your club and its activities], Buck A Member and fundraising, more activity and involvement for committees), resolutions, reports of officers, elections, and a legislative update.

Friday evening will feature the Council's annual awards banquet as well as auctions and fundraisers.

Invited presentations for Saturday morning include the Adirondack Landowners Association, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and New York Audubon. After lunch the program will be devoted to DEC programs and annual reports.

In order to give attendees more free time we are eliminating the Saturday installation banquet, so dinner will be on your own. We'll be moving the Sunday Board of Directors meeting to the Baymont Inn – remember to bring your calendars to set up dates for 2016.

There will be free parking in the OnCenter garage, and registered conference attendees will enjoy free admission to the Fall Classic hunting and fishing show taking place in the exhibit hall.

Your reservation for room and meals will be made through the NYSCC office, but the hotel will ask for a credit card to cover incidental expenses when you check in.

We are looking to make this year's 82nd Anniversary events more enjoyable for our members and guests. We would like to offer better quality raffle items. Please bring a new or high quality like-new item for one of our raffles or auctions. Ask your local businesses to donate items for the men and the ladies. Popular items are guns, bows, knives, framed prints, local wines, craft items, gift baskets of various kinds, etc. Remember to bring your address labels for the Chinese auction. All proceeds benefit the NYSCC.

Reminder – NYSCC Refund Policy – Each person or organization seeking to cancel a reservation for an NYSCC event will notify the NYSCC Office at least ten (10) days prior to the start of that event. Any cancellation made after the 10 days prior will be charged the 1st night's lodging fee. All requests for a refund must be submitted in writing following cancellation notification. All cancellations will be charged a \$25 processing fee.

**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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GRASS ROOTS NEWS ADS
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Quarter Page Ads: \$40 per issue
Other Size Ads are available.

For more information, contact our office at
nyscc@nyscc.com or 315/894-3302, or write to
NYSCC at 8 East Main Street, Ilion, NY 13357.

**2015 ANNUAL MEETING
NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION COUNCIL, INC.**

Baymont Inn at Carrier Circle- Syracuse, NY

ALL reservations for the NYSCC annual meeting **MUST** be made through the NYSCC Office in Ilion no later than August 14, 2015. All reservations must be paid in full in advance by check.

PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS ENTIRE FORM BEFORE AUGUST 14 to:
NYSCC Annual Meeting, 8 East Main Street, Ilion, NY 13357-1899

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: _() _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Estimated Arrival Time: _____

Lodging: _____ Thursday _____ Friday _____ Saturday
 Single \$100/night Double \$120/night (\$60/night per person)

Check Preference: _____ 1 Bed _____ 2 Beds
(Baymont Inn is a smoke-free property; all rooms are non-smoking.)

Special requests (handicapped, sharing with, etc.) NOTE: If you are doubling up with another person for a lower room rate, you must list that person's name here:

Meals: _____ Fri Lunch _____ Fri Dinner
 \$20 each \$30 each

 _____ Sat Lunch
 \$20 each

Registration:

_____ All persons attending the general session meetings must include a \$60 registration fee with this reservation (spouses exempt).

