



New York State
Conservation Council, Inc.

Grass Roots News

May 2014 Vol. 14 No. 5

President's Corner- Chuck Parker

It has been a month since the last newsletter and much has happened. The Governor and legislators have produced another on-time budget. Through some compromises with the State Senate and Assembly that budget has given us recognition of the crossbow as a legal hunting implement along with some direction to where it can be used. Much needed allocations for hatchery improvements and money for access projects were also passed. A change in setback distances for shooting archery equipment was written in, different for crossbows from other bows but still a move forward. Can we now term a crossbow a classification of archery equipment like the longbow, recurve or compound? Sounds logical, but if you look at legislation you will see a distinction: "**a long bow within one hundred fifty feet, or a crossbow within two hundred fifty feet.**" Lost or cut from the budget was the Governor's initiative for landowner liability relief. This has been a long-fought topic with some relief offered back when Mike Zagata was DEC Commissioner, but it still is not where it ought to be. Let's give credit where it is due and say thanks to the Governor's office for introduction of the above conservation initiatives and what was finally passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor.

There is still one topic that we as sportsmen strongly oppose and continue to fight against. The SAFE Act it is just wrong on so many levels. The fight goes on for its repeal with legislation or to overturn it through the courts. The NYSCC stands firmly opposed to the NY SAFE Act and lets that fact be known wherever we can. Membership of the NYSCC stands opposed and also expresses its opposition through support of the NRA, SCOPE, NYSR&PA, North Country Friends of the 2nd Amendment, the Sportsmen's Association for Firearms Education, and other organizations.

Various NYSCC-involved meetings have been and are scheduled with Albany-based principals. By the end of June my records show more than 10 different meetings have been scheduled since the first of the year. Most are with DEC while some have included the Governor's office. While I attend most meetings, where I do not other NYSCC individuals participate as a Council representative. We are present and recognized as having the experience and knowledgeable personnel to be there. At the time this article was written there were five regional meetings held and one to still be scheduled (for Long Island) by DEC and a representative from the State Police. Beginning in March in Albany, NYSCC members were invited to attend all these meetings along with others from the sporting community. Topics included the budget, conservation issues and the SAFE Act. All reports I heard were that these meetings went well. Local issues were discussed in addition to the above topics, and the messages presented about the SAFE Act were unified in opposition.

If there is a summary here it is that we are at the table for discussion. We have seen some progress as a result of the 2014 state budget. We are having an impact and we need to stay involved. Let's take advantage of every opportunity.

Grass Roots News is available via email for those interested in reading the publication on their computers. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter via email, send a message to nyscc@nyscc.com with "email GRN" in the subject line. Please include your name, club name if applicable, and membership code (a 4-digit number) found on the mailing label of your envelope. Those who have changed to email service say they like it – you can see the photos and graphics in color! Why not give it a try?

OFF TO THE S.A.F.E. ACT RALLY

By Bob Brown, Executive Program Director

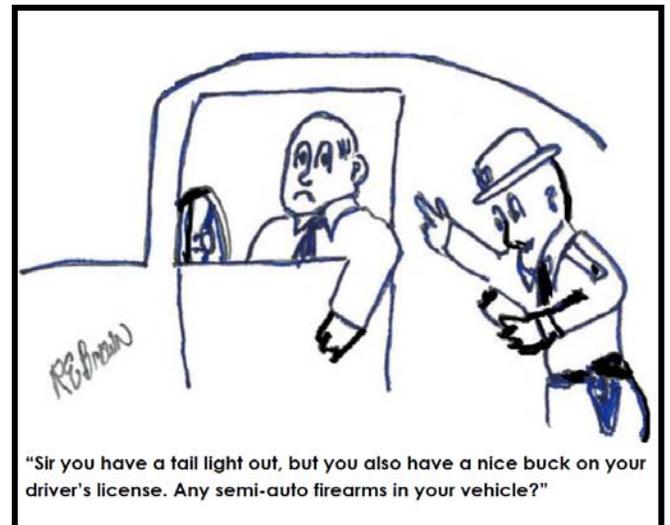
I picked Charlie up at 5:45 a.m. It's April 1, and we were off to the rally in Albany. It was a cold start at about 10° above zero. On most April firsts in the past I had opening of trout season on my mind, since I had a tradition of meeting two friends for several years; but one has left our earthly world and the other is working a job where he can't take the morning off. Several of those years we had to keep breaking ice out of the ferrules of our rods in order to cast on that Adirondack stream, but it was a tradition. It usually ended with a ham and egg breakfast.

This year it was a two-and-a-half hour drive to Albany to rally against the SAFE Act. As we worked our way through the Adirondack Mountains toward the Northway we thought of the many trips we made over the years to lobby down at the Capital. We recalled a photo of us on the steps with Nellie Staves back in the eighties. Charlie and I talked about the fact that since we started these trips almost every lawmaker has changed and every DEC administrator in our regional office and in Albany has retired or died ... and we are still going down to talk the talk and walk the walk. It was a strange realization, like we were the only two old buffalo left on the plains.

As we got closer to Albany I realized that we had not stopped the car in traffic once; I commented that it was strange. We drove right into the parking lot of the Legislative Office Building, and I didn't see a trooper; there were no lines and lots of places to park! After arriving at the cafeteria I found that the budget had been passed late the night before; the Senate had no meetings that day, and the Assembly only had two committee meetings scheduled. No lines at the security station! We headed up the elevator to see some legislators, but I expected empty offices. To my surprise, both my legislators, Assemblywoman Janet Duprey and Senator Betty Little, were in their offices. Although tired from little sleep the night before, they were there and knew we would probably be stopping by. Since they voted against the SAFE Act and we were in agreement, we spent a relaxed 45 minutes in each office undisturbed, discussing ways to improve access on state lands for hunters and fishermen. We then visited Assemblyman Dan Stec in a neighboring district with the same result. What initially appeared to be an unproductive day became a very productive day.

Now it was time for the rally. Leaving the quiet LOB and stepping outside, we started to walk toward the sound of music. As we climbed the steps to the concourse we could see the rally on the opposite side of the plaza. It was a great sight with a lot of people, music and banners. I felt proud. It was a large crowd, and they were active. Vendors were selling bumper stickers and t-shirts. Several creative signs added to the excitement as well as a variety of colorful flags flying in the breeze. The crowd was a mix of gender, economic background and age, all with the goal of not infringing on the rights granted by our constitution. We humbly prayed for a fallen policeman and shook the hands of people beside us. I met an elderly gentleman in a wheelchair from Rochester who had come by bus; and I learned he had owned a camp in the Adirondacks. As the last of the speakers were finishing their speeches, Charlie and I headed back across the plaza.

I looked back at the crowd in the distance and thought, "We still have some Americans who care about our rights." I was happy that the two of us are still doing our thing and said, "Hey, Charlie, let's stop and get a cigar on the way home. Life is good!"



CROSSBOW NOW IN NYS, THANKS TO COMMON-SENSE COMPROMISE A Region 9 Perspective

By Rich Davenport

The day many thought would never happen in NYS finally occurred; and now, thanks to a common-sense compromise, all hunters in NYS will now have an additional choice of implements to take afield -- the crossbow.

Some may be wondering where this compromise came from after years of seemingly intractable odds between those for and those against crossbow inclusion in NYS. Nearly to the letter, this compromise was actually floated from Region 9 in September 2005; but despite containing sensible and equitable trade-offs as they relate to early archery season crossbow inclusion, the proposed plan did not get much traction with supporters wanting to see full inclusion in early archery season. Apparently someone kept a draft copy of this idea in his files, and we sure are elated to see it was revisited, albeit nine years removed from the original proposal date.

Although not all sides got everything they wanted, this compromise makes too much sense, especially looking at the big picture of what was truly accomplished. For starters, NYS hunters will have the option of choosing a crossbow, regardless of age, gender, physical capabilities, etc., as their hunting implement without worry of a sunset clause, requiring legislative renewals and bringing fears of losing this choice due to political inaction. Once the regulatory details are sorted out, hunters will be able to use a crossbow in NYS to hunt wild turkey in spring and fall seasons (although not this spring season), other small game and furbearing animals, non-protected wildlife species, and big game species, without sunset to the initiative.

The compromise revolves around the "sensitive" early archery season use. Under the plan, southern zone hunters will be able to take the crossbow afield during the final two weeks of early archery season – right in the prime rut period leading into regular firearms season. Northern zone hunters will see the last 10 days of early archery up north permitting crossbow use, as well as use during early muzzleloader season.

Above all, what this means to our ranks is nothing short of gigantic. Many archers, like the rest of the hunting ranks, are aging; and father time does take a toll on physical capabilities. Coupled with the baby-boomer generation now hitting retirement age in large numbers, this addition will help keep these vital educators of our future hunters, our youth of today, afield right alongside their young and learning hunters. They'll be able to impart their knowledge and experience while hunting side-by-side with the younger generation. Too many hunters today can no longer draw their bows; but now, with this viable and sustainable choice made permanent in the 2014 budget, these very real concerns for our future hunters and losing experienced mentors will become a thing of the past.

The compromise language certainly isn't perfect. Tying crossbow use to the muzzleloader license for use during early archery season makes little sense, which is something to work on in the future. Lack of inclusion in the Long Island archery-only areas, too, seems like inequity to older downstate hunters; but this is also an opportunity for changes once we collect relative data to crossbow impacts in NYS. Age limitations removing this viable and sustainable choice from 12- and 13-year-old hunters, too, is a bit mystifying, as is the differing discharge distance between the newly-lowered to 150 feet limit for vertical bows, while crossbow is set at 250 feet. But these are minor points to work on as we learn more about the crossbow's impacts on our heritage.

Region 9 certainly welcomes this long-overdue addition to NYS hunting. Our only lamentation is this did not happen nine years earlier.

CROSSBOWS ARE IN PENDING NEW REGS

By Bill Conners

Pending DEC completing the regulations controlling their use, New York hunters will soon be allowed to use crossbows to hunt both small and large game. The hope had been that the legislature would simply make the crossbow a legal hunting implement and leave writing the necessary regulations for their use up to the Department. The new law went far beyond simply making the crossbow legal.



Because the process is not as straightforward as it could have been, hunters will not be able to use crossbows during the 2014 spring turkey season because the new regs will not be in place by the time the spring season rolls around. It is anticipated that the new regs will be in place in time for the fall hunting seasons.

The information below is tentative. DEC will include all crossbow updates in the 2014-2015 Guide to Hunting and Trapping Laws & Regulations, available when licenses go on sale in August 2014.

General

Crossbows may not be used in any season until DEC has adopted regulations specifying how and when they may be used.

Crossbows may not be used for hunting any wildlife in WMU 1C in Suffolk County or in WMU 3S in Westchester County.

Crossbows may be used only by licensees who are 14 years of age or older.

Crossbows may not be discharged within 250 feet of any occupied home, school, factory or church; any school building or playground; or any public structure without landowner permission.

A crossbow may not be carried or possessed in or on a motor vehicle unless it is un-cocked.

Lessons on crossbow safety will be incorporated in all Standard Hunter Education courses offered by DEC after April 1, 2014.

Anyone hunting with a crossbow must have:

- completed a Standard Hunter Education course offered by DEC on or after April 1, 2014; or
- completed a DEC-approved on-line or other training program (e.g., material provided on the annual hunting guide). Hunters must carry a signed self-certification in the field when hunting with a crossbow as proof of compliance.

Small Game

Wild turkey - crossbows may **not** be used to take wild turkey during the 2014 spring season, but DEC will adopt regulations allowing use of crossbows for hunting wild turkey by fall 2014 and all subsequent spring and fall seasons.

Crossbows may not be used to take waterfowl or other migratory game birds.

Crossbows may not be possessed afield in the Northern Zone when hunting small game (except coyotes) with the aid of a dog or when accompanied by a dog.

Crossbows may be used to take any other small game or upland game birds during their respective open seasons (once regulations are adopted), or to take unprotected wildlife (e.g., red squirrels and woodchucks) at anytime.

Big Game

Crossbows may not be used to take deer or bear in WMU 4J in Albany County, WMU 8C in Monroe County, or any part of Suffolk or Westchester counties.

For licenses, the new law treats crossbows as a "muzzleloader." Hunters must possess a muzzleloader hunting privilege to legally hunt big game with a crossbow during any muzzleloader season OR during open portions of the early bowhunting seasons. The muzzleloader privilege is not required when hunting with a crossbow during the early bear season or the regular firearms seasons (or for hunting small game and upland game birds).

Crossbows may be used to take bear during the early bear season, early muzzleloader season in the Northern Zone, regular firearms seasons in the Northern and Southern Zones, and the late muzzleloader season in the Southern Zone.

Crossbows may be used to take deer during:

- early and late muzzleloader season in the Northern Zone and late muzzleloader season in the Southern Zone using Bow/Muzz tags, DMPs, DMAP tags, or an unfilled Regular Big Game tag (late season only);
- regular firearms seasons using a Regular Big Game tag, DMPs, or DMAP tags.
- Crossbows may also be used to take deer or bear during limited portions of bowhunting seasons as follows, provided that the hunter possesses the muzzleloading privilege:
- During the last 14 days of the early bowhunting season in the Southern Zone (i.e., November 1 – November 14, 2014);
- During the last 10 days of the early bowhunting season in the Northern Zone (i.e., October 15 – October 24; this includes the 7-day early muzzleloader season in the Northern Zone);
- Only Bow/Muzz tags, DMPs or DMAPs may be use during these times.

Junior big game hunters (age 14-15) may not use a crossbow to take a deer during the Youth Deer Hunt weekend (October 11–13, 2014). Adult mentors who accompany a junior big game hunter on the Youth Deer Hunt weekend may not possess a crossbow (or firearm) while afield on those days.

Crossbow Specifications

A legal crossbow consists of a bow and string, either compound or recurve, that launches a minimum 14-inch arrow/bolt, not including point, mounted upon a stock with a trigger that holds the string and limbs under tension until released.

The trigger unit of such crossbow must have a working safety.

The minimum limb width of such crossbow shall be 17 inches (outer tip of limbs, uncocked), have a minimum peak draw weight of 100 pounds and a maximum peak draw weight of 200 pounds. The minimum overall length of such crossbow from butt-stock to front of limbs shall be 24 inches.

JOSEPH P. DEBERGALIS, JR.
Board of Directors



NRA
NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
P.O. Box 1096
WEST SENECA, NY 14224
Tel: (518) 389-8322
E-mail: firstfreedom@live.com

NYSCC Life Member

NEW MEMBERS!
LIFE MEMBERS:

John E. Booth, Deerfield
Zen Olow, Fredonia

Welcome

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HELP PRESERVE OUR FREEDOM? Part 2

By Larry Becker

In part one of "What Are You Doing To Help Preserve Our Freedom?" I discussed what I feel is our obligation to fight for the freedoms, beliefs and values our country was founded on. I also outlined some brief summary points on actions we must take in doing our part as responsible citizens. This article is intended to outline some tools and techniques to assist you as you take these actions. I will not cover every talking point from part one, only those I think need some further detail.

- **Educate yourself**

- Keep current on proposed bills and regulations that may impact your values either positively or negatively. One way to do this is to join trusted organizations that are geared toward keeping their members informed regarding the latest proposed legislation or regulation. In NYS one group that will keep you up to date on sportsmen's issues is the [NYS Conservation Council](#). Two organizations that will keep you up to date on 2nd amendment rights legislation related to guns and ammunition are [SCOPE](#) and the [NYS Rifle and Pistol Association](#). At the federal level the [US Sportsmen's Alliance](#) will keep you informed on general sportsmen-related issues and the [NRA](#) and [Gun Owners of America](#) on 2nd amendment rights legislation related to guns and ammunition. You can also subscribe to newsletters from your local legislators which will be somewhat partisan in nature but may give perspectives from both sides of the aisle.
- Keep current on other issues that have a direct or indirect impact related to your values and concerns. Note: be sure to understand the points on both sides of the issues. If you do not know the rationale behind the other side's position you cannot intelligently make a sound counter argument that will convince others.
- Use caution when getting all your information from only one source, especially the internet and any form of news media. People will distort facts and even tell outright lies to convince you on issues related to their ideology. With current technology and social media it is easy to make up documents and quotes and quickly spread them as truth to thousands if not millions of people. Trust but verify.
- Join organizations you can trust that have newsletters and websites that will keep you current on legislation and issues you need to take action on. You can also go on-line and scan newspapers in the following major areas to give you other perspectives: Albany, Utica, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo and Long Island.

- **Legislators**

- Know who your representatives are at every level of government, from your local town up to the federal level. Have a handy reference that identifies your voting district, the representatives' names and all their contact information. If you are not sure of your voting districts and who your legislators are, contact your local county Board of Elections office; they will be very happy to assist you.
- If at all practical, set up an appointment to visit your legislators' local offices. Let them know your values and the issues that are of major importance to you. Determine where they stand on these issues. If they know you are involved enough to take the time to meet them it may carry some extra weight when you call or write to them on a specific issue.
- Track the legislation they are proposing as well as their voting record. This is a part of 'trust but verify.' It is unfortunate, but many politicians will tell you what they think you want to hear and then do something very different. For example: A U.S. Senator from NYS is known for responding to letters regarding 2nd amendment. That legislator states full support of 2nd amendment rights and then turns around and sponsors legislation and votes to erode those rights.

-
- Every legislator has their individual web pages within the state sites. You can click on your legislator's names and access a significant amount of information about them, including a page that allows you to find them on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. You can also see their calendar for the month.
 - When your legislators are in alignment with you and sponsor bills you favor, or vote for or against legislation the way you would like them to, make sure you take the time to call or write and thank them for taking the position they took. If they continuously go in the opposite direction, make sure you let them know you disagree and that you will work hard to elect a representative who supports your values. Note: you may not always agree on every issue so you will need to weigh the relative importance of subjects you disagree on versus those you agree on.
 - Where you and your legislators may disagree, make sure you educate yourself on the issue and then do your best to advocate your position as to why they should change their point of view. Understand that it is a challenge for them to balance conflicting constituent demands. If you are armed with facts and solid opposing arguments you may change their opinion. It is not uncommon for a legislator to reach a conclusion based on misleading information and/or a very vocal minority. Give them solid information that can be substantiated.
 - **Influencing legislative outcome**

With the electronic tools that we have at our disposal today we have the opportunity to access a significant amount of information and keep current on what is happening legislatively.

 - Frequently (no less than once a week during legislative sessions) conduct a search on the State legislative website. For NYS the address is <http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/>. This is a very comprehensive site that allows you to search on a bill number (Assembly or Senate) or a key word. For example, suppose you want to see what bills have been filed related to education or hunting (any topic of interest); just check the "keyword" and type in the topic. Hit enter and you will get a comprehensive list of every filed bill with a brief title. If you see a bill of interest you can click on the bill number and it will bring up a summary of that bill. You then have the opportunity to get further information; you can check "Text" (full bill language), "Actions" (current status of the bill), "Votes" (if the bill has been voted on), "Memo" (any related memos).
 - Through the state website you can access committee calendars to see when they are meeting and what they are discussing. <http://www.nysenate.gov/committees>
<http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?sh=agen> Check these on a regular basis and contact the committee chair if you have input on an issue of concern.
 - Contact your legislators (email, call or write) whenever you want to express your views on a particular bill and how you would like them to vote. Speak from fact, not emotion.

This concludes part two; I hope you have found this useful. If you get nothing else out of what I have written to date, I hope you recognize that it is the responsibility of each and every one of us to preserve our freedom. If any one of us fails to do our part we are not living up to our responsibility to keep our country free for current and future generations.

With your further indulgence I intend to wrap up my thoughts in part three.

YOU CAN RECEIVE EMAIL UPDATES AND NEWS FROM NYSDEC

To sign up for updates on a wide variety of topics go to
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/NYSDEC/subscriber/new>

**REACH OUT TO YOUR SENATOR DURING THE EASTER RECESS
Urge Them to Co-Sponsor the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act**

Senators are on their way home for Easter recess and will be spending the next two weeks in their home states.

Now is the time for you and all other firearm owners, hunters, target shooters and sportsmen to attend public events with, **call or email your senators** and urge them to co-sponsor the **Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act (S.1996)**, the most important package of measures for the benefit of hunters, sportsmen and target shooters in a generation. If possible, find out the location of your senators' in-state offices from their websites and reach out to those offices during this recess. It will make an impression!



Among other things, this historic piece of legislation will prevent anti-hunting groups from restricting hunters' ammunition choices; provide state fish & game agencies with more flexibility to use Pittman-Robertson funds to build and maintain badly needed public shooting ranges; and help facilitate and provide for more access to Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service lands and waters for hunting, recreational fishing and target shooting.

We cannot let anti-hunting activists defeat S.1996! Act now and call your senators at 202-224-3121 and urge them to co-sponsor the *Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014!*

Find out if your senator has already co-sponsored this legislation, then call them and thank them for their leadership.

JOHN L. CUSHMAN
Board of Directors



NRA
NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
107 TRUBERG AVENUE
PATCHOGUE, NY 11772
Tel: (631) 475-8125
Fax: (631) 475-8125
E-mail: jcushman@juno.com

**SAVE THE HABITAT.
SAVE THE HUNT.**



NWTF's NYS Chapter is participating in a new 10 year initiative named **Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.**

Together, with your help, we can and will conserve 4 million acres of wildlife habitat, open 500,000 acres for public hunting access and encourage 1.5 million new hunters.

For more information on this new initiative please visit:
www.nwtf.org/Save-the-Habitat-Save-the-Hunt/

Yes, I would like to support the NWTF, a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of our hunting heritage.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please check membership option:
Annual Memberships: \$35
____NWTF ____ Women in the Outdoors ____ Wheelin' Sportsmen
Sponsor Member: ____ \$250
Life Sponsor: ____ Silver \$5,000 ____ Diamond \$10,000 ____ Patron \$25,000
____ JAKES Member \$10 ____ Xtreme JAKES Member \$10 Birth year _____

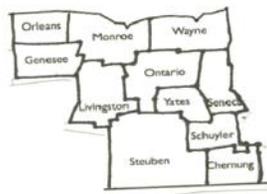
Make checks payable to NWTF and mail to
Deb Opferbeck, Treasurer; 3164 N. Nine Mile Rd., Allegany, NY 14706

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE...

Walker Valley Sportsmen's Association will host:

May 1-31: Gobbling Thunder Turkey Contest- \$20 (\$30 after April 19); cash prizes
Each turkey must be legally tagged by entrant and weighed in at Stagliano Taxidermy, Walker Valley between noon & 3 P.M. each day. Call first: 845/744-5363. Checks payable to WVSA- mail to Darren Karmolinski, PO Box 94, Walker Valley, NY 12588. Contact 845/744-6850.

"Shoot the unSAFE Act": May 3 – Dutchess Co. Pistol Assn., 47 St. Nicholas Rd., Wappingers Falls from 5-9 P.M. Dinner; guest speakers; open shooting time. Fundraiser for NYSR&PA Legal Defense Fund. \$45 registration. Contact Jackie Emslie 914/475-4901 or jslie@earthlink.net.



Hudson Valley Sportsmen's Association:

- May 10: Women on Target instructional rifle shooting clinic from 9 A.M.- 4 P.M. at 120 Daley Rd., Poughkeepsie. \$45 registration fee
- May 24 – Introduction to Rifle \$20 9am – 12 noon. Find out about responsible firearms ownership, or get back into the joy of shooting sports! \$20 registration includes rifle instruction, use of rifles, ammunition, targets, hearing protection, eye protection. Minimum age is 12 (persons under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). NO pistol license required. All experience levels welcome!

Contact Jackie Emslie 914/475-4901 or jslie@earthlink.net.

Whortlekill Rod & Gun Club, Route 376 in Hopewell Junction -- Steak and Lobster Bake on Sunday, June 1, beginning at 12 noon. For details call Roger 845-656-5013 or Tom 845-721-1203.

Camden Rod & Gun Club, 2655 Moran Post Rd., Camden will hold 1st Annual Sportsmen's Flea Market on Sunday May 4th from 10am – 4pm. Join us for a day full of fun! Bring your new or used items to sell or trade to other sportsmen! Space will be limited so call to reserve your spot early!! There will be a \$10 fee for each spot. This will be an outdoor event so dress for the weather. Rain or shine. Also, there will be a Chicken BBQ by our very own Camden Fire Department. Firearms welcome. There will be a FFL dealer onsite to do NICS checks. Sellers, Vendors, and Guides are all welcome. Call 315/447-7551 or email camdensportsmandays@yahoo.com to reserve your area. Everyone is welcome and it is FREE to attend!!!

Oswego County 4-H Shooting Sports Program – 2014: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oswego County is accepting registrations into its Shooting Sports Program. This program is open to all ages 12 to 19 who are interested in archery, rifle and muzzleloading rifle. The program will be conducted as a five-week course concluding with a field day. Each discipline meets once a week at an Oswego County sportsman club.

- Archery will be held on Tuesday nights, 6-8 pm, at Deerslayers Bowmen Association on Route 104 in southwest Oswego.
- Rifle will be held on Wednesdays, 6pm- 8pm at North Sportsmans Club in West Monroe.
- Muzzleloading rifle will be held on Wednesday nights from 6-8 pm at Lock Stock and Barrel Club in Volney.

Youth do not need to have previous experience or own firearms to participate. All firearms and necessary equipment provided. A program fee of \$30.00 will be charged. Partial scholarships are available. Registration is necessary and parental or guardian permission is mandatory.

Please note the Oswego County Shooting Sports program is not a hunter safety education program.

Contact Linda C. Brosch 4-H Team Coordinator at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oswego County for more details and enrollment forms, 315/963-7286 or email at lcr23@cornell.edu. Please contact the office if you have any special needs.

YOU CAN USE GRASS ROOTS NEWS TO PROMOTE OR HIGHLIGHT YOUR CLUB ACTIVITIES

Send an email to nyscc@nyscc.com telling about the who, what, when, where and why of your upcoming event. Include your name and phone number for people to contact you if they want more information. The deadline for submissions is the third Wednesday of each month.

If you want to feature an activity in greater depth, tell us in more detail about the who, what, when, where and why. Include photos of the people involved, preferably doing something associated with your event, i.e., kids tying flies or actively fishing or hunting as opposed to standing in a group holding prizes or trophies. When you take photos ask people to remove their hats so their face won't be in shadow. Identify people in the photos so we can put proper captions with any pictures we might use. And ask parent's permission to take and print their child's photo.

OBAMA ADMIN / USDA ANNOUNCES \$20M TO TARGET WILD HOGS

The Agriculture Department announced in early April a \$20 million effort to reduce the increasingly expensive damage caused by wild hogs in rural areas. Under the new program, which was first proposed in last year's budget request by the Obama administration, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will work directly with states to manage populations and test for diseases such as swine fever.



The invasive hogs, otherwise known as feral swine, have expanded from 17 states to 39 states over the last three decades, causing damage ranging from killed livestock to property destruction. In recent years, costs related to wild hogs have been in the range of \$1.5 billion a year.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, the invasive species is especially prolific. Females commonly produce two litters per year. Adults typically weigh 200 pounds but can exceed 400 pounds. Wild hogs are able to carry and transmit up to 30 diseases and 37 different parasites, USDA said in a statement. "Feral swine are one of the most destructive invaders a state can have," Undersecretary for Regulatory and Marking Programs Ed Avalos said. "It's critical that we act now to begin appropriate management of this costly problem."

APHIS's Wildlife Services division will administer the new program. Of the total cost, \$9.5 million will go toward state projects; initial funding will be based on the extent of feral swine damage in a state. Other funding will be divided between establishing procedures for disease monitoring and conducting research on control practices, among other activities.

Congress provided the \$20 million in funding for the program in fiscal 2014. The administration hopes to have the program fully operating within six months.

A pilot program in New Mexico in fiscal 2013 removed more than 640 hogs on 4.8 million acres throughout the state, APHIS Administrator Kevin Shea testified at a House hearing. APHIS estimates the program saved New Mexico residents \$360,000 in property damage, or an average of \$200 per pig per property. Through the national program, APHIS hopes to eliminate feral swine in 10 states within seven years, Shea said in written testimony.

ARE YOU FISHING FOR INSURANCE?

<p>To request an enrollment form or discuss coverage, call United Insurance Agency, Inc. at 1-800-728-4522, ext. 313 or email John Long, Jr. at: johnjr@uia.com</p>	<p>BENEFITS INCLUDE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive Rates • Superior Customer Service • Experienced Claims Handling • Knowledgeable Underwriters • Representing the Shooting Sports Industry Since 1980 • A+ Rated Carrier 	<p>COVERAGES INCLUDE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,000,000 Per Occurrence • \$2,000,000 Per Occurrence Option is also available • Defense Investigation and Related Cost in Addition to Limits of Liability • Additional Insured, Such as Landlords, Added at No Additional Charge • No General Aggregate
UNITED INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.		

DEC: GENESEE RIVER ANGLER DIARISTS WANTED
Your Observations Can Help Shape Future Fisheries Management Actions

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Region 9 Fisheries Office will begin an angler diary program on the Genesee River in Allegany and Wyoming Counties from March 1 through October 31, 2014. The diarist program aims to record dates for trout and bass fishing trips on the Genesee River from the Pennsylvania line downstream through Letchworth State Park.

"Angler participation in this program is greatly appreciated and will help us to evaluate the Genesee River's fishery quality," said Regional Director Abby Snyder. "This is a great opportunity for anglers to contribute observations and help shape future fishery management actions."

If you fish the Genesee River (even once) and would like to contribute your observations by keeping a fishing diary for DEC, please contact the Region 9 Fisheries Office at (716) 372-0645 or by e-mail at fwfish9@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

Thank you!

BUCK A MEMBER DONORS:

Black North Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Waterport * Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Association, Silver Creek
 Glenville Fish & Game, Scotia * Unadilla Rod & Gun Club, Unadilla
 Voorheesville Rod & Gun, Voorheesville

GENERAL DONATION CONTRIBUTORS:

Mike & Krys Elam, Albion

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS CONTRIBUTOR:

Captain Richard Smith, Hamburg

IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY A MEMBER, ENROLL TODAY AND RECEIVE YOUR OWN COPY OF THIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail (print *clearly*) _____

____ Enclosed is my check or money order, payable to NYSCC

Check one:

____ Guardian \$25

____ Defender \$60

____ Life \$350 (individuals only)

Send application to:
 Membership Program
 NYSCC
 8 East Main Street
 Ilion NY 13357.

PLACE YOUR AD HERE!
GRASS ROOTS NEWS ADS
Business Card Size: \$30 per issue
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.

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.



Grass Roots News

President's Corner	1
From The Desk of Bob Brown	2
Crossbow Now in NYS by Rich Davenport	3
Crossbows Are in Pending New Regs by Bill Connors	4 & 5
New Members	5
What Are You Doing to Help Preserve Our Freedom? Pt 2 by Larry Becker	6 & 7
You Can Receive Email Updates and News from NYSDEC	7
Reach Out to Your Senator During the Easter Recess	8
What's Happening Out There	9
Promote or Highlight Your Club Activities; Obama Admin / USDA Announces \$20M to Target Wild Hogs	10
DEC: Genesee River Angler Diarists Wanted; Thank You	11