



Grass Roots News

Advocating for Conservation and Sportsmen Since 1933

August/ September 2017

Vol. 17 No. 4

CONVENTION 2017 ON THE HORIZON

By Chuck Parker, NYSCC President

Each year at this time notice goes out about our upcoming convention. Reserve your place NOW by visiting www.nyscc.com and finding the link to the form on the home page.

Friday morning begins with a Board of Directors meeting followed by the opening of the general session at 1:00 pm. After the presentation of colors by DEC's Conservation Officers, Venetia Lannon, Deputy Secretary for the Environment from the Governor's Office, will be speaking. DEC's presentations will feature Jim Farquhar, the new Bureau Chief of Wildlife; Chuck Nieder, Bureau Chief of Habitat; and Steve Hurst in his new position as Bureau Chief of Fisheries. In addition, we may hear from the Director of Marine Resources as well as support staff. New people, new faces ... all interested in informing and knowing more about the Council. Here is our opportunity to make a good first impression.

On Saturday morning DEC's presentation will resume with Fish and Wildlife Director Tony Wilkinson briefly speaking and opening the floor for questions and discussions. That will be followed by Colleen DiNitto discussing the new apps DEC has out and what we can look forward to in the future. Chair of the Assembly Environmental Committee, Steven Englebright, has been invited to speak (no confirmation at this time). Fred Monroe from the Adirondack Local Town Review Board, Adirondacks Five Towns, and Access the Adirondacks will be speaking, possibly with Scott Remington. Their topic is the Relative Impact from Land Classification. Invasive species is also an expected topic. Catherine Sun, PhD student from Cornell University, is scheduled to speak as well. *Grass Roots News* featured an article by Ms. Sun about black bear monitoring and the iSeeMammals citizen scientist program in its Spring 2017 edition.

Council internal business is equally important and interesting. While at this time there is only one (possibly two) resolution to be voted on, all position statements older than five years are up for review as to whether they stay or go. Time limitations may determine if all statements are covered at this time. There could be some long term consequences when reviewing the older positions, so having good state wide representation and participation is important. Take time to review our statements prior to the annual meeting at http://www.nyscc.com/images/2015_Positions_final_post_convention.pdf.

Elections include all officers and two directors at large as well as a confirmation vote of Directors from Regions 1, 4 and 6. Regional reports and an open town hall meeting are also scheduled. Legislative VP Bill Gibson is being asked for a preview of what he sees for next year's legislative session.

I hope you all plan on attending. We need good state wide representation for the effective operation of our New York State Conservation Council.

Grass Roots News will be published on a bi-monthly basis beginning this summer. 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

Half page: \$75 per issue

Full page: \$150 per issue

IT'S ABOUT COMPETING WITH YOURSELF So says 17-year-old sporting clays champ

By Bill Conners

Disciplined, uncanny concentration and the ability to focus, coupled with a competitive spirit, all of which is bounded by a mental firewall that allows nothing through except the next target. Those would be the attributes I'd use were I asked to describe 17-year-old Anthony Regelski, Jr. of Pine Bush, New York.

Having already risen to the top of the heap in the world of sporting clays, this young man has racked up dozens of wins on the circuit as a member of the National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA), the governing body for the sport. There are approximately 600 NSCA member clubs in the US with more than 22,000 members, so it is not hard to imagine the number of competitors and the skill they bring to a sanctioned shoot.



Regelski's earliest forays into the shooting sports involved a BB gun, which eventually transitioned into the realm of shotguns and clay targets. The photo to the left has Regelski standing over the fruits of his labors from the last year, quite a showing for a relative short timer. He's been a member of the NSCA for only two years. Recently selected as NSCA all Region, and Briley All American Sub Gauge Team, he has moved up to 36th in the nation in NSCA Sub Jr. out of over 900 shooters. His ranking within the NSCA is Master Class, the top rung, which he achieved in just 18 months. He has competed in the U.S. Open and the National Championship as well as state and regional championships. But he does

allow himself the luxury of the momentary distraction ... he loves to hunt and fish, even making trips out west and north to Alaska with his dad.

As a young man, he has found that in spite of the competitive nature of the sport and the fact that there are many, many seasoned shooters involved, there is still a warm and friendly atmosphere during the competitions. "People will help you if they see there is something they can offer by way of advice." He finds it to be a friendly and supportive environment. Considering his other interests and the pressures of school and family, that is quite an achievement.

This fall he's a high school senior and maintains a grade point average any parent would be proud of. He's also in the throes of working through the requirements to reach scouting's highest rank -- Eagle Scout. As he prepares for college he would like to find one that has both the curriculum he wants AND a shooting team. He commented that, "So far I haven't found that combination, but I'm still looking and still hoping."

Tony Regelski, Sr., Anthony's dad, feels that, "The game [sporting clays] is probably 75—80% mental, the remaining 20% is, of course, physical -- the ability to handle the gun. In a competitive situation it is that mental focus that really gives you edge, that makes you able to compete." He said that mastering the mechanics of the sport isn't enough. To maintain that competitive edge, above all else, you have to be able to remain focused.

At just 17 years of age, this young man has shown that he has the focus, drive and resolve to be a national champion and more. It is the championship events that push him to maintain the attributes that will make him a force to be reckoned with. He realizes that while there are good, and certainly great shooters out there, his toughest competitor is: HIMSELF.



IF IT'S SUMMER IT'S ALSO TICK SEASON

The NYS Department of Health reminds the public to be aware of ticks when outdoors this summer. Deer ticks live in shady, moist areas at ground level. They will cling to tall grass, brush and shrubs, usually no more than 18-24 inches off the ground. They also live in lawns and gardens, especially at the edges of woods and around old stone walls.

Once a tick gets on the skin, it generally climbs upward until it reaches a protected area. In tick-infested areas, your best protection is to avoid contact with soil, leaf litter and vegetation. However, if you garden, hike, camp, hunt, work or otherwise spend time in the outdoors, you can still protect yourself by following the tick bullets (actual size) below:

- ✱ Wear light-colored clothing with a tight weave to spot ticks easily.
- ✱ Wear enclosed shoes, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Tuck pant legs into socks or boots and shirt into pants.
- ✱ Check clothes and any exposed skin frequently for ticks while outdoors.
- ✱ Consider using insect repellent.
- ✱ Stay on cleared, well-traveled trails. Walk in the center of trails. Avoid dense woods and bushy areas.
- ✱ Avoid sitting directly on the ground or on stone walls.
- ✱ Keep long hair tied back, especially when gardening.
- ✱ Check for ticks every two to three hours while outdoors, and brush off any ticks before they attach. Perform a full-body check multiple times during the day to ensure that no ticks are attached.
- ✱ Bathe or shower as soon as possible after going indoors (preferably within two hours) to wash off and more easily find ticks that may be on you.
- ✱ Do a final, full-body tick check at the end of the day (also check children and pets), and remove ticks promptly.
- ✱ If you need to remove a tick, pull the tick straight up with fine-tipped tweezers, as shown in the video at www.health.ny.gov/TickFree.
- ✱ Ignore advice to use dish soap, petroleum jelly, kerosene or a lit match to remove a tick. Yes, it will irritate the tick. But that might not encourage the tick to back out. Instead, it may salivate heavily and be more likely to infect you.

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE ...

Reelin For a Cure 2nd Annual Ladies Fishing Tournament August 18, 6 am – noon at Wilson and Olcott Harbors. Contact Stephanie Pierleoni 716-481-6388 or Reelinforacure@yahoo.com.

Women In Nature (WIN), an award winning program of the Onondaga County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs announces its 2017 Women's Skeet Clinic at the Camillus Sportsmen's Club on Sunday, August 27 – 9 am - ? pm. Contact Bob Dankiw at (315) 487-7892 or email bdankiw@verizon.net for details.

Great Lakes Beach Sweep September 16, 2017 – 10:00 am to noon; all age volunteers needed. Cleanup base site in Western New York is Woodlawn Beach located on Route 5 in Hamburg. For other sites in the area, check the American Littoral Society website at www.NYSbeachcleanup.org.

NYSDEC Environmental Conservation Officers, the Federated Sportsmen's Clubs of Oneida County and the Madison County NWTF will sponsor a youth and women's mentored goose hunt on September 23 & 24 in Oneida and Madison Counties. Participants must be 12 years of age and older and must have a valid NYS small game license. In addition, those age 16 and up must also have a valid Federal Duck Stamp. To register, go to www.cnymyhunts.org and click on *Event Registration* on the left side. For more information contact Scott Faulkner at 315-225-0192, ECO Steve Lakeman at 315-734-0648 or ECO Ric Grisolini at 315-240-6966.

**ONCE IN A LIFETIME AFRICAN SAFARI
offered at significant discount**

The New York State Outdoorsmen Hall of Fame has acquired one African Safari that they would like to offer for sale at a significant discount, first to a member New York State Conservation Council. This is a once in a lifetime package that is to be taken in 2018.

Provided by Hercules Safaris, the 7 day South African hunt is valued at over \$6500 and includes accommodations for one hunter and one accompanying observer. One of the most prestigious South African hunting agencies, Hercules Safaris specializes in bow hunting and also offers rifle hunts to persons from all corners of the world.

“Welcome to Hercules Safaris, where life is measured by breathtaking moments. Our hunting safaris are aimed at those who have the desire to experience Africa to the full. We have no intention of offering you your hunt on a silver platter; instead we want you to earn your prize. Our accommodation is of a very high standard and we try to get you as comfortable as possible, relaxed and enjoying the wild African nightlife.”

The 7 day safari package includes:

- Transfer to and from OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 1 hunter on one professional hunter
- 1 observer
- Trackers and skinners
- Cleaning staff
- Daily laundry
- Field preparation of trophies
- All food, drinks and alcohol
- 4x4 hunting vehicle
- All government taxes



Impala

Three trophy animals included in this hunt are 1 blue wildebeest, 1 impala and 1 blesbuck. Additional animals can be added.

The Hall of Fame will award this safari to the first member of the New York State Conservation Council to submit a payment of \$1,000. Send a note to Stephen Wowelko at wowelko@juno.com if you are interested. More information on Hercules Safaris can be found at: <http://herculesafaris.com/>



Buck A Member Contributors:

- Chemung County Rod & Gun Club, Breesport * Genesee Conservation Foundation, Inc., Fairport
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- Pleasant Valley Trout & Game Club, Pleasant Valley * Pompey Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Pompey
- York Sportsman’s Club, Piffard
- \$2 Per Member: Canandaigua Lake Duck Hunters, Inc., Penn Yan

General Donation Contributors:

- Brush Busters Hunting Club, Walton * Mike & Krys Elam, Albion
- Alfred Klycek, Byron * Monroe County Conservation Council, Penfield
- Orleans County Federation of Sportsman Club * Bill Peck, Rochester

DEC ANNOUNCES PLAN TO CORRAL CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

By Bill Conners

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos has announced the release of a draft New York State Interagency CWD Risk Minimization Plan to protect the state's deer and moose populations from exposure to Chronic Wasting Disease. Public comments on the multi-faceted plan will be accepted through September 1.

Regulatory changes and other actions by DEC and Ag & Markets will minimize risk of the disease entering or spreading in New York. The plan is designed to protect both wild white-tailed deer and moose, as well as captive cervids including deer and elk held at enclosed facilities. DEC biologists worked in cooperation with New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets veterinarians and wildlife health experts at Cornell University to craft a comprehensive plan touted as the most advanced CWD prevention strategy in the nation.

New York leads the way in protecting its deer and moose herds with an approach that is extremely conservative. Some people argue ... too conservative. Commenting on the plan, DEC Commissioner Seggos said, "Not only does this horrible disease kill animals slowly, but wild white-tailed deer hunting represents a \$1.5 billion industry in the state. Our CWD Risk Minimization Plan is in the best interest of all of us who care about wildlife and especially about the health of our wild white-tail deer herd."

Managing against the introduction and spread of CWD - a fatal neurological disease that affects members of the deer family - is very expensive. When it was discovered in the state of Wisconsin's free-ranging deer herd in 2002, state officials launched a program to eradicate it. Over the next five years, attempts to get the disease under control cost the state more than \$32 million. That was the expense to the multiple state agencies tasked with controlling the disease in wild and farm raised deer. It does not represent the impact to the state's economy through the loss of hunting related recreation. Wisconsin took a very aggressive approach that was more costly than other states experiencing similar problems. While their approach had been more expensive, it had not been effective in spite of killing off a large portion of the deer herd.

I think that New York's prevention efforts are the better approach and are probably the most cost effective. DEC staff, together with the State Department of Agriculture and Markets, is using cutting-edge science and common sense to fend off the re-introduction of the disease in the state's wild deer and moose and captive deer and elk herds.

I say "re-introduction" because there was a minor CWD outbreak in Oneida County in 2005. At that time DEC and Ag & Markets came together to cooperatively eliminate CWD from the New York landscape. State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said, "The Department's veterinarians and licensed veterinary technicians were responsible for the early detection of New York's only CWD incident and played critical roles in the response to the discovery of CWD in 2005. Our staff continues to work hard to control the risk of this serious disease and maintain our early detection system. This plan will further support these efforts to protect our wildlife."

The proposed plan would streamline operations between DEC and the State Department of Agriculture and strengthen the state's regulations to prevent introduction of CWD. Some of the proposed changes include:

Prohibit the importation of certain parts from any CWD-susceptible cervid taken outside of New York. Require that these animals be deboned or quartered and only the meat, raw hide or cape, and cleaned body parts, such as skull cap, antlers, jaws and teeth, or finished taxidermy mounts be allowed for import into the state.

Maintain and reinforce the prohibition on the feeding of wild deer and moose in New York State.

Provide DEC Division of Law Enforcement the necessary authority to enforce Department of Agriculture and Market's CWD regulations.

Explore possible penalties or charges to defray costs associated with the removal of escaped cervids from the environment or the response to disease outbreaks.

Require all taxidermists and deer processors (people who butcher deer for hire) to dispose of cervid waste and waste byproducts in compliance with 6 NYCRR Part 360, such as in a municipal landfill.

Promotion of improved fencing methods for captive cervids to further prevent contact with wild deer or moose.

Partner with the State Department of Agriculture and Markets to enhance captive cervid testing while continuing DEC's rigorous surveillance testing in hunter-harvested deer.

Improve record keeping and data sharing between departments through joint inspections of captive cervid facilities, electronic reporting, and animal marking.

Improve handling requirements, record keeping, and disease testing of wild white-tailed deer temporarily held in captivity for wildlife rehabilitation.

Develop a communication plan and strategy to re-engage stakeholders, including captive cervid owners and the public, in CWD risk minimization measures and updates on CWD research.

Deer hunters take heed: Included in the plan are regulations that will prohibit the retail sale, possession, use, and distribution of deer or elk urine and any products from CWD-susceptible animals that may contain prions, including glands, or other excreted material while allowing New York captive cervid facilities to continue to export deer urine outside of New York State.

I will probably anger more than a few hunters by saying that this is one of the most important steps being taken. I had been on the fence on the issue of urine based deer attractants until evidence started emerging that plants can absorb the CWD carrying prions that cause the disease. Once absorbed by vegetation, deer can become infected simply by ingesting the plants.

There are artificial attractants that can be effective. Using them is a small sacrifice to make to protect against a disease that is all but impossible to eradicate once it gets a toehold. We were lucky in 2005. DEC made some tough decisions then and I see no reason not to support this new, more comprehensive plan now.

The New York State Interagency CWD Risk Minimization Plan has had extensive outreach and vetting by sporting groups in the state to address the concerns of myriad stakeholders while maintaining the strength of purpose to protect the public and the environment. The plan updates reporting requirements, improves communication to stakeholders, and simplifies regulations to reduce confusion while protecting our natural resources.

The draft plan is available for public review on the DEC website:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7191.html>.)

Written comments on the draft plan will be accepted through September 1, 2017. Comments can be submitted by e-mail (wildlife@dec.ny.gov, subject: "CWD Plan") or by writing to NYSDEC, Bureau of Wildlife, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754.

**GENESEE CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION, INC.**

Charles O. Hancock, President

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

Important!! Appointment to NYSCC Committees is not automatic. If you have served on a committee in the past and wish to do so again, you *must* re-apply each year.

**NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION COUNCIL, INC.
COMMITTEE APPLICATION**

If you are interested in serving on a committee of the New York State Conservation Council, Inc., in order to advise the Council and its members of the best management procedures for natural resources, you should make your interest known by filling out the application below.

Please indicate which committee(s) you would be interested in serving on as an active member, complete the remainder of the application, and **submit it to the NYSCC Office**. Applications will be compiled; and a list will be sent to Regional Directors for review and recommendations before appointments are made.

It is a physical impossibility to appoint everyone who applies to the Committee of his or her choice, but every consideration will be given to those who do apply. Where advisable, some committees will have a representative from each Region; but for others it is not feasible to have regional representatives serve, as in the case of special interests or of area concerns. Where regional representation is customary, should an application from a Region not be received, that seat on the committee shall be filled by the President with the advice of the Vice Presidents.

By signing on as a committee member, you will be added to our lists for general mailings, Grass Roots News, and alerts. Providing us with your email address will enable us to contact you about important issues quickly.

Please see that your application is filled out completely and legibly to assist in compiling the Council committee list for publication. Your signature is also required at the end of the form. Please return your completed application immediately to: **NYS Conservation Council, 8 East Main Street, Ilion, NY 13357-1899**

NYSCC COMMITTEES

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Sportsmen Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Archery & Bowhunting |
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NAME _____ REGION # _____

PHONE (home) _____ (work) _____

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CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

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Are you interested in serving as Chair of one of the above committees?

Yes _____ (Specify) _____ No _____

Signature _____

Download and print additional applications at: http://www.nyscc.com/images/Committee_App.pdf



IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY A MEMBER, JOIN TODAY!

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- \$2,000,000 Per Occurrence Option is also available
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- Additional Insured, Such as Landlords, Added at No Additional Charge
- No General Aggregate

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