



**Federation of Dutchess County Fish & Game Clubs, Inc.**

**Post Office Box 3201**

**Poughkeepsie, New York 12603**

**Federation–March 2016- Board & General Membership Meetings**

**Legislative Report (Read at regular meeting & placed on Internet site & sent to member clubs & interested parties)**

**Major Bills of Interest (in part):**

**Access:**

- 1- A1846/S3101: Relates to the liability of landowners who permit recreational uses of their land. (Protects landowners)

**Administrative:**

- 1-A1006/S4706: Prohibits tethering, restraining, caging or penning of dogs or animals between the hours of 7pm to 6am.

2-A7033: Specifies what constitutes appropriate shelter for dogs restrained outdoors and maximum and minimum temperature range for exposure.

3-S167: Requires the micro-chipping of all dogs , excluding temporarily kept dogs; and creates a state registry to maintain contact information

4-S473: Requires all dogs and their owners to successfully complete obedience training.

### **Big Game:**

1-A 802 1/S5817: relates to crossbow hunting

### **Fishing:**

1-A2023/S1872: Prohibits the taking of striped bass during the period of January 1 to April 15. (Permits commercial fishermen to catch quota if impeded by weather.)

2-A4860/S1508: provides veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States access to all state parks and recreational facilities without charge of any admission.

### **Firearms:**

1-A53 A/S2291 A: relates to the safe storage of rifles, shotguns, or firearms; and repeal certain provisions of the penal law relating thereto.

2-A1809/S 4000: authorizes shooting preserves and shooting clubs to sell ammunition for exclusive use on the premises thereof without being deemed a seller of ammunition.

3-A 2651/S 1476: relates to repealing the New York SAFE ACT of 2013.

4-A 3943/S 1193: repeals chapter 1 of the laws of 2013, amending the criminal procedure Law and other laws relating to suspension and revocation of firearms licenses; private sale or disposal of firearms, rifles or shotguns.

5-A 5628/S 2611: relates to the private sale or disposal of firearms, rifles and shotguns.(Exempts transfers to pistol license holders and almost all relatives from background check)

6-A 5629A/S 2613 A: repeals provisions of law relating to sellers of ammunition.

7- A 5864: requires owners of firearms to obtain liability insurance.

8-A 6192A/S1113 A: requires semiautomatic pistols manufactured or delivered to any licensed dealer in this state to be capable of micro-stamping ammunition.

9-A 6486: requires proof of liability insurance prior to issuing a license to carry a firearm.

10-A8196/S5837: relates to firearms; repealer (repeals several sections of SAFE Act, transfers pistol license functions to the DCJS).

10-S 2683: requires owners of firearms to obtain liability insurance.

11-S 4227: relates to the definition of an assault weapon. (Eliminates prohibition of thumb hole stocks on semi-automatic rifles and shotguns).

12-S 4228: relates to the definition of an assault weapon (eliminates prohibition of pistol grips on semi-automatic rifles).

13-S3378: Relates to the filing of approved applications for licenses for the possession of firearms (Exempts pistol license records from FOIL)

14-A2040: Requires weapons and ammunition to be secured when being transported and imposes a fine of at least \$1000 for violation.

15-A2275: Relates to the revocation and suspension of licenses to carry, possess, repair and dispose of firearms. (Requires court review before suspension)

16-A8053/S3373: Authorizes the transfer of certain weapons from an estate to an immediate member of the decedent's family. (Permits transfer of "assault" weapon to family member of decedent).

17-S3375: Makes amendments to the SAFE Act. (Re: Ammunition sales, pistol license privacy and inheritance)

18-S3376: Repeals section 37 of Chapter 1 of the laws of 2013 relating to the definition of an assault weapon.

**Hunting:**

1-A38 55/S 2634: makes contests and competitions to take wildlife unlawful.

2-S3439: Includes game birds bred pursuant to a game bird license within the definition of “crops, livestock, and livestock products” for purposes of agricultural districts.

3-A5493/S6221: Provides that the open season for hunting coyotes shall be all year long.

4-A1657: Decreases the amount of alcohol in a person’s system necessary to be considered to be intoxicated while hunting. (Makes level (.8%) the same as DWI and BWI)

5-A802: Moratorium on the prohibition of feeding white-tailed deer in Sullivan County.

**Knives:**

1-A 4697/S 3455: prohibits the manufacture, transport, shipment or possession of an undetectable knife.

2-A4821/S3675: Relates to possession of a gravity knife for purposes of criminal possession of a weapon in the 4<sup>th</sup>. Degree.(Requires intent to use unlawfully for possession offense.)

### **Licensing:**

1-A 1918/S 2951: protect certain information on hunting, fishing and trapping license and permit applications from disclosure. (Currently DEC refuses FOIL requests and has not been challenged.)

2-A3937 A/S 92: eliminates the requirement that hunters wear back tags during hunting season in the state.

3-A 1807/S9 61: relates to allowing veterans to fish for free in state parks.

4-A73 96 eliminates sporting license fees for honorably discharged veterans.

5-A7082/S433: Relates to the cost of various hunting, fishing and trapping licenses (Reduces age for senior licenses to 65)

### **Snowmobile:**

1-A1427/S2652: Establishes a non-trail snowmobile registration for snowmobiles which shall be used solely for the purpose of gaining access to hunting, fishing, and trapping areas.

### **Tax (480A):**

1-A8 44/S820A: authorizes state reimbursement to municipal corporations for tax revenue lost and expenses incurred as a result of the reduced assessment of forest land.

2-A 2174/S 1559: exempts certain old-growth forests from taxation. (Would allow exemption for property not under management plan. Harvesting not required.

Contrary to purpose of exemption.)

3-A7150/S5096: relates to changes in taxation of forest land. (Prevents DEC from making changes by regulation – which they claim they can't in any case.)

4-S820A: authorizes state reimbursement to municipal corporations for tax revenue lost and expenses incurred as a result of the reduced assessment of forest land.

### **General Tax:**

1-A3674: Authorize the reduction of assessed value of land subject to a conservation easement conveyed to not for profit conservation organization.

2-A3920A/S1921A: makes technical corrections to the conservation easement tax credit.

3-A7234/S1991: grants a \$100,000 real property tax exemption to conservation clubs and rod and gun clubs owning certain land having an assessed value of \$500,000 or less.

### **State Information:**

#### **NY2A Org. reports:**

1-“We’ll start with the news that is rocking the New York State Second Amendment debate. Following the



untimely death of longtime Supreme Court Justice Anthony Scalia who was a pillar for constitutional freedoms for all Americans, causing a 4-4 split in the Supreme Court, NYSR&PA has **DROPPED** their lawsuit against the New York – SAFE Act..... Sadly, after months of battles and thousands of dollars in donations, and the support of the Atty. Gen.'s of 22 states, on February 25, New York State Rifle and Pistol Association has declared the case hopeless, stating” “.....at present, there is no chance of reversing the Second Circuit’s decision upholding New York’s gun ban. “

2-“ We would put this next piece into the comedy category if the New York City Democrats didn’t already have a track record for proposing such nonsensical gun-control laws. On February 23, Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon’s Ammo Restriction Bill is the latest such bill in the Assembly. The bill proposes a limit on how much ammunition you can buy if such ammo can be used for the dreaded “assault rifles” they fear. Apparently Simon doesn’t know 5.56 mm is a very popular round for hunting. Sidebar: A – 9340 would limit owners of registered “assault weapons” from purchasing more than two times the capacity of the firearm every 120 days. This bill appears to be attempting to accelerate the obsolescence of those firearms registered under the “SAFE Act”, which already are heavily restricted from

transfer and have no permitted inheritance. For the 23,344 people who register firearms, this bill only picks on the most compliant of all law-abiding gun owners (SCOPE).”

### **According to the Outdoor News:**

“Dover Plains, NY.-In an effort to save fast disappearing shrub lands from the eastern part of the country, the US Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing a new 10 area, six state national wildlife refuge that would include up to 1500 acres in Dutchess County.

The US FWS is now in the fourth phase – the public comment portion – of a nine step process that would add the acreage in the eastern half of the county to the proposed Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge. Other parcels in neighboring Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have also been identified as potential refuge areas.”

“This proposal was developed through extensive coordination with our conservation partners, and would enhance our ongoing commitment to conserve species like the New England cottontail, monarch butterfly, and American woodcock that rely on shrub lands and young forest, said Refuge Manager Michael Horne of the Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge in a press release. Stakeholder input will ensure we direct our

conservation efforts where they can make the most difference for wildlife and local communities.”

Shrub land and young forest are the targeted habitats for the new refuge. Each have been disappearing at an alarming rate and are home to many species, including the threatened bog turtle, the whippoorwill and blue winged warblers. The refuge would not only protect the habitat that is now there, but manage surrounding areas to encourage the growth of such habitats. As with all national wildlife refuges, visitors would be welcomed when possible in special consideration is given to hunting and fishing on the land. The public comment period on the plan (which can be found a or <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/refuges/planning/lpp/greathicketLPP.html>) ends March 14. If approved, US FWS will then begin working with landowners in the region to acquire the needed acreage through outright land purchases and conservation easements. According to the service, it works strictly with willing sellers and depends on funding available to make purchases. Lands within an acquisition boundary would not become part of the refuge unless their owners sell or donate them to the US FWS. Additionally, the boundary has no impact on property use or who an owner can choose to sell to.

One of the target species of the refuge would be New England's only native rabbit and its habitat.

A new federal wildlife refuge in Dutchess County is a welcome step to protect New York's New England cottontail habitat and conserve an important for us to area that is home to a variety of fauna and flora, said acting New York DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. In addition to DEC lands and state park properties, this refuge dedicated to providing wildlife habitat for this uncommon rabbit would help secure the future of the unique species. We look forward to working with our federal partners to manage more lands for New England cottontails and other wildlife species dependent on young, regenerating forest habitat and making these habitats assessable to the public.

Comments on the plan may be emailed to northeast [planning@fws.gov](mailto:planning@fws.gov) with Great Thicket LPP in the subject line. Regular mail can be sent to Beth Goldstein, National Resources Planner, US Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Dr., Hadley, MA. 01035-9589.

Comments will also be accepted by fax at 413-253-8480.”

**Sidebar:** According to the Poughkeepsie Journal – “Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro is calling on the US Fish and Wildlife Service to change the boundary of its proposed wildlife refuge in the towns of Dover, Armenia and Northeast. In a March 4 letter to the

agency, Molinaro cited grave concerns about lost property tax revenue and fumed that local governments were not consulted prior to the January 19 announcement of the proposal..... In his letter, Molinaro indicated the target area in Dutchess is made up of 2,269 individual parcels amounting to more than 50% of Dover's land area, 36% of Amenia's land and less than 1% in the Town of Northeast. That area includes 269 unprotected parcels of at least 5 acres and classified as vacant or nearly vacant. The full market value of those parcels is nearly \$40 million... Molinaro noted the target area includes three centers identified in a county plan for commercial and residential development. He said the Harlem Valley has been severely impacted economically by the closure of two state facilities, the Harlem Valley Psychiatric Center in Wingdale and the Taconic Developmental Disability Services Office in Wassaic. Molinaro is calling for an economic analysis of impacts on taxes and future development. The Fish and Wildlife Service said it would meet with Molinaro and other local leaders. We echo Mr. Molinaro's point regarding the importance of engaging the county and local municipalities, spokeswoman Megan Racey said in a statement Monday. As his letter demonstrates, these folks can provide valuable guidance and input and additional information to help us shape the draft focus

areas and land protection plan. Racey said the proposed focused areas were designed at a scale that would allow flexibility to local needs. In a sign similar concerns are being expressed elsewhere, the agency last week extended the comment period one month to April 3. Following the comment period, the agency will review comments, develop responses and make adjustments to the plan as needed before deciding whether to move forward.”

### **Federal Information:**

#### **Bill Tracking:**

##### **Tracking a State Bill: 518-455-7545**

##### **Note:**

Bills are tracked when Legislature is in session from January through June of each year. In the second year of the two-year session, New York State legislators are elected to a two-year term. On the first day of the new session, most of the previous year’s bills, which remain active at the end of the year, will automatically be carried into the new session, with some exceptions: bills not carried over will include (but are not limited to) those that were Chaptered, vetoed, had the enacting clause stricken, or the sponsor is no longer in the Legislature. A bill will retain its bill number assigned to it in the first year of the two-year session. If a bill only passed its own house last year, it must repass that house again in the new session, before it can advance to the other house. In general, all active bills will be referred to the original committee, with the exception of Assembly bills which passed only the Assembly last year; these bills will be reported to the Assembly’s third reading

calendar\*. \*Exception: if an Assembly bill had a “Home Rule Request”, that bill will be recommitted, even if it passed the Assembly.  
(Legislative Rules.)

**Key impact bills (Hotline=800-342-9860/Monday-Friday-9am-6pm.)**

**Legislative resources:**

**New York Senate: [www.nysenate.gov](http://www.nysenate.gov)**

**New York State Assembly:**

**[www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/](http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/)**

**New York Senator=Sue Serino-41<sup>st</sup>. District**

**[Serino@nysenate.gov](mailto:Serino@nysenate.gov)**

**LOB Room 617, Albany, N.Y. 12247**

**Assemblyman Kieran Lalor-105<sup>th</sup>. District-**

**[LaLork@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:LaLork@assembly.state.ny.us)**

**US Congressman Chris Gibson – 19<sup>th</sup> District – [Gibson.house.gov](http://Gibson.house.gov)**

**Assembly woman Didi Barrett – 106<sup>th</sup>. District – Barrett**

**[D@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:D@assembly.state.ny.us)**

**New York Senator – 40<sup>th</sup> District – Terrance Murphy –**

**[Murphy@NYSenate.gov](mailto:Murphy@NYSenate.gov)-LOB Room 817, Albany,N.Y.**

**12247 – 518-455 – 3111**

**US Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney – 18<sup>th</sup> District –**  
**Seanmaloney.house.gov**

**US Senator Kristen Gillibrand–**  
**[www.gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/](http://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/)**

**US Senator Charles Schumer –**  
**[www.Schumer.senate.gov/contact](http://www.Schumer.senate.gov/contact) Chuck.CFM**

**Gov. A. Cuomo – [www.governor.NY.gov](http://www.governor.NY.gov)**

**Important Contact Groups:**

**Shooters Committee on Political**  
**Action(SCOPE):[www.scopeny.org](http://www.scopeny.org)**  
**SCOPE legislative reports are available at this website**  
**SCOPE INC, Attention Legal Defense Fund Project (for**  
**donations)**  
**P.O. Box 12711**  
**Rochester, N.Y.14612**

**New York Firearms: [www.nyfirearms.com](http://www.nyfirearms.com)**

**Second Amendment Foundation: [www.saf.org](http://www.saf.org)**

**National Rifle Association: [www.homenra.org](http://www.homenra.org)**

**National Shooting Sports Foundation: [www.nssf.org](http://www.nssf.org)**



**National Association for Gun Rights:**

**[www.nationalgunrights.org](http://www.nationalgunrights.org)**

**Firearms Policy Coalition: [www.firearmspolicy.org](http://www.firearmspolicy.org)**

**Gun Owners of America: [www.gunownersofamerica.org](http://www.gunownersofamerica.org)**

**For Dutchess County Federation of Fish and Game Clubs  
monthly report go to: [www.dutchessfishandgame.org](http://www.dutchessfishandgame.org)**

**New York Safe Act: [www.governor.ny.gov/nysafeact/gun-reform](http://www.governor.ny.gov/nysafeact/gun-reform)**

**New York State police Field Guide to the New York State SAFE  
Act: [www.nypdcea.org/pdfs/nysp\\_safe\\_act\\_field\\_guide](http://www.nypdcea.org/pdfs/nysp_safe_act_field_guide)**

**New York State Rifle and Pistol Association (NRA Affiliate):**

**[www.nysrpa.org](http://www.nysrpa.org)**

**Note: NYSR&PA Legislative Report is available at this website which  
follows all important bills.**

**New York State Conservation Council – look up bills –[www.nyscc.com](http://www.nyscc.com)**

**Submitted by:**

**Paul W. Annetts-M.J.A. ([marineactual@gmail.com](mailto:marineactual@gmail.com))  
Whortlekill Rod & Gun Club's Legislative & Property  
Management Chairman/Board Member/Federation**

**Representative & Federation of Dutchess County Fish &  
Game Clubs, Inc. Legislative Vice-President/Board  
Member & Conservation Awareness Foundation, Inc.  
Board Member**

Cc: Secretary