



# Grass Roots News

*Advocating for Conservation and Sportsmen Since 1933*

November / December 2018

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## AUTUMN ADVENTURE

By Mike Elam, NYSCC Director at Large

Two of my favorite toys are my canoe and kayak ... no breakdowns. The only time they are down is when I'm out of service. My wife Krys and I have a 15-foot Sportspal canoe that we have dragged all over New York to enjoy many out-of-the-way places. I am blessed to have a wife who enjoys these adventures as much as I do. I generally fish on these trips and Krys takes photos.

Soon after I retired in 2006 Krys bought two Native Watercraft kayaks. They're open like a canoe and very stable, making them great for fishing and photography. While getting into these boats isn't too bad, getting out after a few hours can be a challenge; so getting in and out may look like an audition for 'America's Funniest Home Videos.'

The second week in October, the love of my life and I packed some fishing and camera gear and headed north for a week. Our first stop was Newton Falls Reservoir, one of my favorite waters to fish from a people-powered watercraft. Newton Falls has always given me some very good fishing – nice smallmouth bass, 2-3 pounds, 16"-19", and they like both spinnerbaits and jigs. I've caught walleyes 2-4 pounds and occasionally pike in the 6-10 pound range, topped off with some decent largemouth bass. Newton Falls didn't disappoint this year with some of all four of these fish.

Our next stop was Grasse River. We put in at Madrid Fishing Access and found no fish. My quest was to catch a muskie from a kayak. I had called fisheries at the Watertown DEC office to ask about muskies in the Grasse. I would encourage anyone fishing new waters to call the regional fisheries office for information; they have put me onto some great fishing over the years. I make it a practice of calling back to thank them and let them know how I made out.

While at Madrid I met a local who informed me that the Grasse near Canton might be a better chance for a muskie, so we ended up at an access site near Canton. Three EnCon officers there gave me some more good information on where to fish. I soon found the Grasse had a heavy frog population, so I fished a combination of spinner baits and surface frog lures. I had one small muskie chase the frog but was able to crank faster than he could swim ... no sense hooking and possibly injuring a small fish. My thrill of the day was a 21" smallmouth grabbing the frog on the surface. We'll put the muskie back on the bucket list for next year, Lord willing.

From the Grasse we went to Chateaugay. I hadn't fished there since 1982 when my late fishing partner and I caught some nice smallmouth, a couple in the 5-pound range and one that may have been six. Since then pike have invaded, and I had hopes of a large pike to substitute for the no-show muskie. No pike, but I got two decent largemouth and a 4-pound smallmouth along with a couple of 2-pounders.



The next day we went to Champlain; it was a bit windy and the lake a little too rough for a kayak. The kayaks do have some limitations, and no fish is worth your life. Back to Chateaugay for one more morning and a repeat with a couple of smallmouth and a fair largemouth.

If you haven't tried a canoe or kayak for fishing, photography or just exploring, give it a shot. You'll enjoy it. New York is blessed with many out-of-the-way hidden places to fish, canoe or kayak. And a bonus – the Native Watercraft is comfortable enough that you can take a nice nap when the fishing is slow.

*Photos courtesy of Krysl Elam*



**MANY THANKS – YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

We appreciate the numerous contributions you have made to the NYS Conservation Council – see the list of donors on page 11 of this publication. Let's not lose momentum as we near the end of 2018 and begin 2019. Your dollars are as vital as ever in our efforts to keep sportsmen's interests and concerns at the forefront. Remember – if not the NYS Conservation Council, then who? Send a tax-deductible contribution today to: NYSCC, 8 East Main Street, Ilion, NY 13357 – or visit [www.nyscc.com](http://www.nyscc.com) to make an online donation.

**COYOTE HUNT CONTEST**



**February 8, 9 & 10, 2019**  
**"Coyote Banquet" on the 10th**

- \$2,000 - Heaviest Entered**
- \$500 - 2nd Heaviest**
- \$250 - 3rd Heaviest**
- \$200 - Heaviest Each Day**
- \$100 - Heaviest - Junior Hunter**
- \$100 - Heaviest - Female Hunter**
- \$80 - For all other coyotes entered!**

*\$35 entry fee also includes a free dinner at the "Coyote Banquet" on the 10th & a free \$5 gun raffle ticket. New York State, PA Counties of Wayne, Pike, Susquehanna, Lackawanna & Monroe are included in the contest.*

**For applications call 845-482-4987**

**Sponsored by Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs of Sullivan County, NY**

**You can download coyote application on website: [www.SportsmensFederation.com](http://www.SportsmensFederation.com)**

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

**PASSING THE BUCK / THE BUCK STOPS HERE**

Most men in the early west carried a jack knife made by the Buck knife company. When playing poker, it was common to place one of these Buck knives in front of the dealer so that everyone knew who he was. When it was time for a new dealer the deck of cards and the knife were given to the new dealer. If this person didn't want to deal he would "pass the buck" to the next player. If that player accepted, then "the buck stopped there".

**IS IT TIME TO CONSOLIDATE NYSCC COMMITTEES? WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

By Pat McBrearty, NYSCC Legislative VP

At the NYSCC's 2017 annual meeting a By-Laws Review Committee was formed and was also tasked with looking at consolidation of NYSCC committees. Presently many members have applied to more than one committee which makes it impossible to attend their simultaneous meetings. Further, no committee has representation from all nine regions. By consolidation it is hoped that active members may participate in one committee that may cover several general areas of interest. In addition, with roughly 40 committee members and advisors overall at present, committee staffing may be less of a problem.

We do not mean to suggest that these proposals are the final form the committee system must have; rather they are hopefully a starting point for thought and discussion, with possible action in the Fall of 2018 or the Spring of 2019. Please feel free to express to us your thoughts and reactions.

Suggested consolidation 1:

**Article IX**

**COMMITTEES**

Section 1 Standing and special committees shall be appointed by the President with the advice of the Vice Presidents. All potential committee appointees shall be vetted through the respective Regional Director.

The standing committees with representatives from each region and up to four (4) representatives from Associate Members shall be:

1. Fish
2. Big Game (deer, bear and types of implements to be used)
3. Small Game (including Upland Game & Waterfowl)
4. Firearms & Ammunition (including Law Enforcement)
5. Habitat / Access (including Forest Preserve & Public Lands)
6. Conservation Education (including Environment, Hunter Education, Archery in Schools)

Section 1A Each Committee Chairman shall present to the Board a written report of the committee meeting by June 1 of the same year as the spring meeting.

Committees can submit one resolution as a result the Spring Committee meeting that has taken place. This resolution shall be presented to the Resolution Committee for consideration by June 1 of the same year and will then be posted on the NYSCC website by July 1 of the same year as presented. It will also be included in the earliest *Grassroots News* as available after submission.

Suggested consolidation 2: Article IX, Section 1, paragraph 2:

Recommend 5 standing committees:

1. Hunting – covering the work of the following existing committees: Big Game, Small Game, Bow Hunting, Upland Game, Waterfowl, Firearms and Ammunition.
2. Land Management – covering the work of the following committees: Access, Forest Preserve, Public Lands
3. Education – covering the work of the following committees: Hunter Education, Conservation Education, Law Enforcement, and Archery (as in the “Archery in the Schools” program)
4. Habitat – covering the work of the following committees: Habitat, Fish, Environment, and Marine Resources
5. Legislative/Resolution – would only deal with an issue from any committee on which a bill had been introduced in either house. For example, if a bill was introduced on back tags, the legislative committee would look first to existing NYSCC position papers then to the Hunting Committee for guidance. The President can appoint an Ad Hoc Resolutions Committee choosing either from the Legislative Committee or from members of other committees.

After looking over the list of NYSCC Positions distributed in 2017 and trying to come up with committees that would cover all the issues that the positions dealt with, the topics would flow thus:

- Access -- Land Management Committee
- Acid Rain -- Habitat Committee, but also Land Management might want to give input.
- Alternative Deer Harvest Strategy -- Hunting
- Archery -- Education, but also Hunting for review by bow hunting representatives.
- Back tags -- Hunting
- Baiting -- Hunting, but also Legislative as it would require a change in the law.
- Ballast Water Discharge -- Habitat and Legislative as would be required.

As you can see some issues don't fit one committee, but that might be an advantage.

We further suggest the elimination of the following committees: Anti-Sportsmen Activities, Energy & Natural Resources, Public Relations, Convention & Women's Programs.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration:

Pat McBrearty ( [pmcb@dmcom.net](mailto:pmcb@dmcom.net) ), 126 Smith Rd., Milford, NY 13807

**LAST CHANCE...**

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

**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.**

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                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy & Natural Resources                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment               | <input type="checkbox"/> Firearms & Ammunition                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Preserve & Public Lands            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fur Resources             | <input type="checkbox"/> Game (Big)                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Game (Small)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat/Access                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunter Education          | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation, Lobby Team & March on Albany |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement           | <input type="checkbox"/> Marine District                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations          | <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waterfowl                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Women, Youth & Families                   |

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ REGION # \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Are you interested in serving as

Chair of one of the above committees? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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## SARANAC LAKE - EARLY DAYS IN THE ADIRONDACKS

By Bob Brown



When the Declaration of Independence was being signed in 1776, the Saranac Lake area was part of a great wilderness. On Governor Pownall's map of the northern British colonies a statement was written across the region: "This vast track of land, which is the ancient Counchsachrage, one of the four Beaver hunting Countries of the Six Nations, is not yet surveyed."

Indians left their hunting grounds with great reluctance, and long after the Revolution made annual visits to the wilderness. These small bands of Indians encountered the white trapper and hunter at times.

The new government paid off Revolutionary War soldiers in land grants. Macomb's Purchase was the largest of the land grants made in Northern New York. It contained 3,934,899 acres and included this whole area. The purchase was made on January 10, 1792, at a price of 8 pence per acre.

In its early years this community was referred to as "the settlement at Saranac Lake." The derivation of the word "Saranac" is open to question. Some say that the name is of Indian origin. Old guide books claim that the Indian name of Upper Saranac Lake meant "the Lake of the Silver Sky" and the Lower Saranac Lake meant "the Lake of the Clustered Stars." It is now felt that these poetic names were invented for the pleasure of the tourist.

The name of the Saranac River on all the old French maps was written, "Sa-la-sa-nac." On other early maps of the region names "Salonak," "Salasanac," "Soveniac" and St. Aranack are indicated. Some say that the name derives from the word "Salonak" which means sumac buds, while still others contend that it comes from a word which meant "entrance for a river into a lake." So the exact name source of our town is not certain, but it is a name of which we are all proud.

Coming here in 1819, Jacob Smith Moody was true first settler of what is now "Our Town." Mr. Moody built a log cabin at the foot of a steep hill of pines where Payeville Road meets the railroad tracks. It was in this log cabin that the first baby was born in Saranac Lake; his name, Cortez Moody.

Our village in recent years has been branded "the green side of the Big Apple," "the little city in the Adirondacks," "the Capital of the Adirondacks" and most recently, "Decidedly Different." I have to admit we are very "different" in that our architecture is distinct from anywhere else in the Adirondacks, and the interconnected waterways allow citizens to paddle or motor about to within walking distance of downtown, giving everyone easy access to hunting, fishing, camping, boating, hiking -- and I call it home!

## VENISON "VEAL" CUTLETS

By pounding thin and brining venison for a few hours, the meat becomes incredibly tender. This technique can be used to make venison Parmesan, venison Marsala, or any recipe that is often made with veal cutlets.

### Ingredients

- 1 pound venison steak or chops
- 1/2 cup onion, sliced
- 1/2 cup fresh herbs such as parsley, rosemary, thyme or 2 tablespoons dried Italian seasoning
- 1 quart water
- 2-4 tablespoons salt
- 1 egg, stirred
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup seasoned bread crumbs
- 1-2 tablespoons olive oil



### Directions

1. Starting in the morning, cut the venison into pieces about the size of a deck of cards (chop size). Then pound the venison until they are about 1/4 inch thick, using a meat mallet (tenderizer).
2. In a glass bowl, add 1 qt. water and 1 Tbsp. kosher salt, stir to dissolve salt. Add the onion, herbs, and submerge the pounded veal pieces. Cover and place in the refrigerator. Drain and change the salted water at least every hour (every half hour for the first 2 hours is even better). The venison will start to lose its red color and become pale and tender like veal. It is best to have all day for this process, but it can be achieved in 2 hours (or even less if strapped for time).
3. Once the venison has transformed into veal-like qualities, you can cook it cutlet style...place milk in one bowl, the mixed egg in another, and the seasoned bread crumbs in a third bowl or plate (no need for more salt because of the salted water brine).
4. Heat 1-2 tablespoons of olive oil in a fry pan. Place each cutlet first in the milk, then egg, and then coat with bread crumbs. Fry in the olive oil 2-3 minutes per side until golden brown.

These are delicious hot out of the pan with just a squirt of lemon and parsley or you can proceed from here to make venison parmesan, etc. Venison meat tends to have far fewer calories and fat than veal. Enjoy!



Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size 3 oz. Servings Per Container 4	
Amount Per Serving	
Calories 110	Calories from Fat 35
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 4g	8%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 75mg	25%
Sodium 110mg	5%
Total Carbohydrate 3g	1%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Sugars 1g	
<b>Protein 15g</b>	
Vitamin A 2%	Vitamin C 0%
Calcium 4%	Iron 15%
*Percent Daily Values are based on a diet of 2,000 calories. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:	
	Calories: 2,000 2,500
Total Fat	Less than 65g 80g
Saturated Fat	Less than 20g 25g
Cholesterol	Less than 300mg 300mg
Sodium	Less than 2,400mg 2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate	300g 375g
Dietary Fiber	25g 30g
Calories per gram:	
Fat 9	Carbohydrate 4 Protein 4

The Wild Harvest Table started as a celebration of the culinary bounty represented by wild game and fish in the Finger Lakes region of New York State. Cornell Cooperative Extension Nutrition Educator, Moira Tidball, from Seneca County started the website in January of 2009 as a resource for game and fish recipes, nutrition information, and preparation techniques.

## YOUTH PHEASANT HUNTS... BUILDING A TRADITION

By Bill Conners, Region 3 NYSCC Director

In a column I wrote back on Aug. 16, 1995, announcing the Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs' first Junior Hunter Pheasant Hunt for hunters from 12 to 15 years of age, the hunt's committee chairman, David Wohlbach, told me that he was hopeful that it would be the first of many that would be held in the years to come. It was; this year's hunt was number 24. Although he passed away in 2014, David's vision into the future was spot on. The hunt was immediately renamed the David Wohlbach Memorial Hunt in his honor.



All 36 slots were filled at the Lafayetteville Multiple Use Area this year, and the format of the hunt has not changed. Prior to going afield the kids receive a safety briefing from a Department of Environmental Conservation Hunter Safety Instructor. They also hear comments about the state's game laws from an environmental conservation officer. The idea is to provide the kids with a learning experience while they have a good time afield.

This year I believe the kids harvested more birds than any hunt in the past, and I have attended nearly all of them. Typically they'll take 30 to 35 birds. Anthony Pittore, the current organizer, estimated that they may have taken as many as 70 birds this year.

Many of the kids we see these days are good wing shooters. Some have participated a couple of years in a row and several are getting some instruction, Maybe not a lot of instruction, but enough to make a difference and to give them confidence.

It won't be long before plans for the 2019 hunt start to gel. It takes a lot of planning and commitment to pull it all together and there may be added pressure next year because it will be the silver anniversary of the hunt.

By Glen Adams, NYSCC Region 8 Director

What an enjoyable way to spend National Hunting and Fishing Day in Genesee County ... at the second annual Joe Wolak Memorial Youth Hunt with the Finger Lakes Chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association. The young men and women were treated to some clay target practice, a guided hunt over dogs and individual attention.

This event put plenty of smiles on the faces of the youth and adults taking part in this event at the Burkhardt Kennel and Shooting Preserve in the Town of Byron.

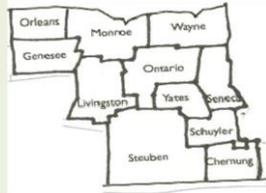


**Finger Lakes Conservation Council Inc.**

Representing County Federations and Affiliate Clubs of New York State Region 8

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- 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
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- National Bench Rest Shooters Assoc.**, Concord, VA
- Polaris Shooting Club**, Cheektowaga
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## DEER ANTLERS ARE VERY UNIQUE

By Douglas H. Domedion

Large deer antlers drive a lot of hunters. The quest for harvesting a trophy buck with large antlers sometimes gets so great that there are some individuals who have been known to participate in illegal activities to do so. Family relationships have also been known to get strained in a hunter's desire to collect a trophy buck.

Most hunters are just happy to be able to get an antlered deer but are always hoping for that "big one" to come by. In reality any deer, even a doe, is a trophy, especially if taken with a bow. So why do some bucks have larger antlers than others? A healthy environment that provides quality food for the deer is very important. Protein and minerals are first used by a deer's body to grow a strong skeleton, and then any left over is used to grow those antlers. If food is of poor quality or lacking in supply the antlers will just not reach their full potential.

Another important factor is good genes that help determine the number of points and the size and shape of the rack. Bucks with the best genes have bigger antlers and stronger bodies so become the top breeders, which means they pass those good genes on to the next generation. This, of course, leads to a stronger and healthier population.

The third and probably most important factor in a buck having a big rack is age. A buck usually doesn't get his best rack until he reaches 4 ½ years of age. Thus if he is harvested before this age he hasn't reached his full potential yet.

The highest per cent of bucks harvested each year are usually 1 ½ years old with 2 ½ year olds next. Three-and-a-half-year-old bucks are far and few between and 4 ½ and 5 ½ year olds are a rarity. These older bucks usually have larger racks but because they have survived to this age they are smartest at avoiding hunters, making them even more rare in the deer harvest every year. Many of these bucks become completely nocturnal and are almost impossible to hunt.

NYS's Big Buck Club considers a buck to be a trophy if his antlers score 140 or better Boone and Crockett points. Statistics show that less than one hunter in 33,000 will be lucky enough to bag such a trophy. Some of these trophy bucks are taken by dedicated hunters who think, sleep and devote all their spare time to learning the habits and haunts of big bucks. However most are gotten by just pure luck, something that keeps hunters in the woods searching and dreaming.

Antlers are amazing structures and when developing during the summer are some of the fastest growing tissues known to man. Growth starts from two pedicels on the buck's frontal skull plate. At 5 to 6 months of age these pedicels are about ¾ of an inch long and have raised the skin up above them. He is then known as a "button buck," a sub-teenager (but still a fawn). The next spring in late March or early April a hormone causes growth of blood vessels beneath the skin on the pedicels. Skin covering the growing antlers is called velvet because that is what it looks like. Antlers grow like a twig on a tree, adding new growth from the base. Blood vessels in the soft antler carry and deposit minerals throughout the antler. As blood flow diminishes back through the antler during the end of summer, the base begins to harden and cuts off the upward flow of blood, thus stopping the growth of the antler.

By the end of August or early September the velvet is shed from the hardened antlers, often by rubbing them on small resilient saplings and bushes. The buck is ready to breed at this time but the rutting season doesn't really start until the third or fourth week of October, peaking in the middle of



November. During this time antlers are used to show dominance and fight other bucks for breeding rights. After the mating season is over, usually around the second or third week of December, testosterone levels drop off. This causes a layer of special cells to form at the base of the antlers which weakens the connection on the pedicels, eventually causing the antlers to fall off.

The next spring the whole process starts over and each year, if food quality is good, the antler will grow larger and thicker and sometimes grow more points. By the age of 5 ½ he has generally reached the peak of his antler growth and his antlers will be similar to that for a few years; and then they will start to decline in size and mass.

Even though most bucks taken every season are younger animals, there is always the thought in the back of every hunter's mind that the old trophy buck with the big rack may walk by him. This is the "drive" that causes the deer hunter to eagerly wait for each deer season to begin.

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## NEW GROUP SEEKS RESTORATION OF NEW YORK'S WOODLANDS

By Chuck Parker, NYSCC President

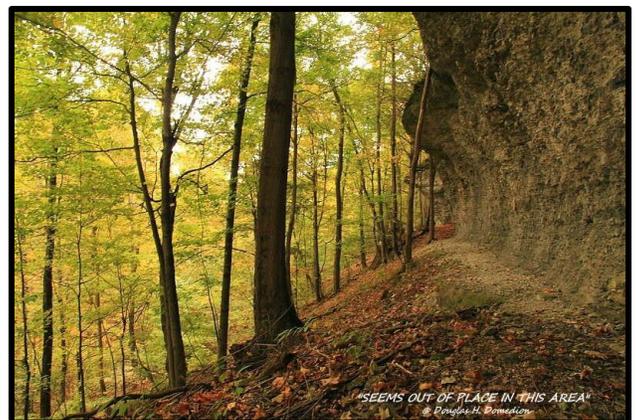
The Restore NY Woodlands Partnership is a group in its formative stage with concerns over the ability of today's forest lands to regenerate themselves. It has a major interest in the adverse impact deer are having on our forest resources. The Partnership has recruited a steering committee including: NY Forest Owners Association, The Nature Conservancy, Audubon NY, Society of American Foresters, the Empire State Forest Products Association, and the New York State Conservation Council. With additional partners there are around a dozen groups involved.



In a meeting lasting almost two hours on October 31<sup>st</sup>, eleven representatives from the above groups met with various personnel from NYSDEC's Fish and Wildlife and Lands and Forests divisions. Discussion centered around lack of forest regeneration, how it will only get worse, and the negative impact deer are having. DEC acknowledges there is an issue with forest regeneration and that deer population is one element of concern. Degree of impact varies in different regions within the state.

A list of 15 recommendations was offered for DEC consideration. While acknowledging that the Restore NY Woodlands group needs to better identify its objectives, its statements and position points will be based on the consensus of the membership, not unanimous opinion. As the primary hunting advocacy member of this group, the NYSCC may have different points of view, but they are no less important or valid than one of the strong forestry groups.

For more information on the plight of the northeastern forest go to [www.NYFOA.org](http://www.NYFOA.org) and select Restore New York Woodlands under the 'Initiatives' tab.



**Photos courtesy of Doug Domedian**

***Buck A Member Contributors:***

**Bison City Rod & Gun Club**, Buffalo  
**Central New York Wild Fowlers Association**, Bridgeport  
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**IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY A MEMBER, JOIN TODAY!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 (OR) Club Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email (print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

**Check One:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Guardian \$30  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Defender \$65  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Life \$350 \*  
 \* (individuals only)

Send application with check or money order payable to:

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

OR

go to [www.nyscc.com](http://www.nyscc.com) and join using the paypal© feature on our homepage.

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- \$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

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