

NYS Conservation Council Spring meeting held at Cobleskill college campus April 1, 2023 was attended by President Greg Wahams, VP Norm Ridley and Secretary Tom Grasek. It was an all-day event. There were 35 people in attendance and another 12 virtually. This is our report.

The NYSCC web site is being upgraded to Square space Linsey is the web manager. Casey is the NYSCC web manager, so things go thru Casey to Square Space. Goal is to increase visits by reorganizing the site to make it easier to know where to go to find what you are looking for. The Grass roots news will be on it. Casey will be able to make changes, update information. Payment will be easier. Easy to comment on legislation. Will also make it easy for Legislator to access information one click. Up and running by April 9. Please visit the site.

NYSDEC Wildlife Jim Farquar Avian flu The pheasant game farm is in a cleanup/quarantine stage for the next 120 days. All birds have been depopulated and properly disposed of. No birds on site. Nothing was in the hatchery or nursery. Youth pheasant program will get priority and the day-old chick program. When back up and running. Not sure how the flue got there may have been starlings which come in and eat the food, or goose or duck poop.

Venison donation. The DEC administers the region 8 and 9 program the rest of the state is done by Feed New York 20K

Hunter Ed trying to get back on track with in person learning. Online working pretty well. DEC has piolet programs with hands on scheduled this year seven throughout the state in archery, shotgun/rifle. There is instructor training available. There has been no increase is hunter related incidents.

The fisher population is growing. It is believed that it can sustain a higher harvest.

Bobcat management plan. They have expanded in central and western NY. Plan is to hair snare for DNA sampling. Camera setup take a lot of effort with not very good results.

89-pound Wolf. Yes, it was a wolf and it appeared to be eating wildlife, which is an indicator that it was not captive breed/escape. There have been 3 confirmed wolves in NY over the past 25 years. They are not federally listed.

It is illegal to use drones to find wounded deer as it is considered harassment of the deer in the area.

Otter plan which has been in the works since 2016 may come out this year.

WMA young forest started 6-10 years ago moving slowly 3,000 acres have been done so far. There are 7 species listed in the plan and it appears they are benefiting from the young forest. Well-funded. It takes a lot of man power. Most work being done by contractors removing low value trees. Some is offered to the public for fire wood.

Bad news for the DEC camps. Camp Rushford is only camp this year. 7 weeks 2 weeks 14–18-year-olds and 5 weeks for the 11–13-year-olds. Lack of staff no counselors, food prep, maintenance, not sure what can be done for next year.

BIG game: Bear damage complaints in region 5 Hudson valley way up this year already.

Holiday hunt had no impact on snow mobilers this year not much snow. Youth hunters are taking advantage of the Holiday hunt it may turn into a tradition for some families.

Hunter valves survey will be sent out this year.

Grouse are being affected by west Nile disease. High mortality in chicks. Habitat management will be the key to their survival.

West Nile Does not seem to affect turkeys. There will be a spring turkey season on long island.

A dove season could help the 3R. However, it is not going to happen.

Mallards a 22-state study shows some decline in population this past decade. The DEC has deployed 139 trackers.

DEC staffing getting better.

NYS endangered and threated species list has not been updated in 25 years. They will be starting with fish, then HERPS, birds and mammals.

DEC FISHERIES Steve Hurst

Scriber creek now has barriers placed Law enforcement will ticket violators.

Water chestnut in region 7 Montezuma and Seneca River now have 3 mechanical harvesters.

Trout stream access verification ongoing there are 952,000 parcels of land along stocked streams. 63% have no type of agreement. They have done 17,000 parcels the results are 21% said yes to continue to allow public access on their land for fishing the stream. 25% said NO 42% did not respond to three letters being sent which means no.

Brook trout plan has not been updated in 40 years. Where have we been and what have we learned. Acid rain climate change, invasives.

There are 180 know invasive in the great Lakes

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Financial report \$21,458 as compared to last year at \$15,012 set out letters to all county federation members for a buck a man donation it worked well. Raffle fund raiser also doing well. Plus, raffle of hats and donated maple syrup at this meeting.

Still need a President, 1st VP, Treasurer and Secretary would like it if each county came up with someone to fill the positions. The council has a CPA to help the treasurer. We are a C3 non for profit.

The council is going to advance the hunting and shooting sports. R3 program Recruit new people, Retain the existing sportsmen/women and reactivate those that are no longer active. People age out due to medical reasons and just not being as mobile as they were.

Conservation Education Committee had various suggestions for organizations to encourage R3

1. Work with your local ducks unlimited chapter hosting their monthly meetings and waterfowl hunter's party. Various duck box building and placement. This brings conservation awareness to people.
2. Partner with various organizations such as 4-H shooting sports, ducks unlimited to offer workshops for youth conservation and hunting. Encourage boy scouts to earn conservation, shooting, hunting merit badges thru use of your club facilities and membership knowledge.
3. Host a game dinner offering many tasty wild game and fish dishes, for the community to try and include a recipe book.

- 4 Schedule youth and women shooting events. With prizes and instructions.
5. Sponsor conservation scholarships for area high school seniors.
6. Check to see if anyone needs transportation to any of the events and provide it.

The council has insurance that can be used to cover your event.

Hunter education committee: low moral not easy to recruit new instructors.

Energy and natural resources committee: Watching wind and solar developments.

Conservation Fund Advisory board: there is 3 million dollars for habit improvement and access.

Big game committee: back tags, youth mentor program, hunting trespass can now be a felony charge based on the fact that a gun is involved. Deer takes report.

Trapping committee: Legislation from NYC to ban trapping. Fur market down. Trappers want an otter season. They met with 100 legislative aids to do research with and tell them how to vote based on science and good wildlife management practices.

Water fowl committee: there is a south and north zone task force. There are treaty rules already set with Canada and Mexico. The task force is really just lobbying for season changes. We should be managing for the days that the waterfowl are actually here.

Legislative committee: concealed carry. American Civil liberties Union does not always agree with gun legislation. Every sportsman's, conservation organization need to stay in touch with their local legislators. The council needs to set up a legislation day and visit Albany.

Fall Convention not sure when or where possible two days Delta Lake near Rome, NY or White Eagle center in Hamilton.

As required by our By-laws we submit this report and request that the Federation reimburse the \$35 registration fees, milage and tolls.