

NYS Conservation Council Fall Convention was held at Delta Lake Bible Conference Center, Rome, NY for two days September 6 and 7, 2024. SCFSC Secretary Tom Grasek attended the second day of the conference September 7th There were 32 people in attendance and another 2 virtually. This is his report and may not contain everything that was discussed or presented at the convention on September 7th.

There was a presentation by National Wild Turkey Foundation explaining how they are organized, from local chapter to National. How they are funded and what they spend those funds on. For more information go to their web site.

There was a presentation by the Native Fish Coalition right now here in New York they are focused on native brook trout. The modern-day challenges that affect them are warming climate, there are still many ponds that cannot support brook trout due to past acid rain, introduction of other fish species that make it difficult for them to thrive. Sometime in the future they will be looking into native lake trout. Right now, NYSDEC is accepting comments on the Brook Trout management plan it is on DEC's web site. Look it over and make comments if needed.

There was a presentation by "Wounded Warriors in Action" and the "Rivers of Recovery" which included an excellent u-tube video. Veterans that are prescribed, outdoor recreation activities such as hunting and fishing can heal trauma. Recommend that you take the time to view both videos.

The key note speaker Gordon Batchelor. "Horizon Scanning for Sportsmen and Agencies" covered many items. NYSDEC employees cannot introduce legislation, but sportsmen can thru the Council. We need to have contact with our elected officials. From town leaders to our Senators and Assemblymen. They need to be approached calmly and not angry. Individual hand written letters /notes have the most impact. We need to get to know our NYSDEC wildlife biologist, invite them to meetings Ask if they can attend professional conferences? If not see what we can do to change this. We need to reach out to the Congressional Sportsmen's caucus, and New York Sportsmen's Caucus. They have political contacts on both sides. Most of the time conservation issues are resolved in a bi partisan way. We need to approach these issues not as a political position but one based on science and sound management.

The council presented Mr. Batchlor with the 2024 Professional Conservationist of the year award.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

We received no resolutions. But of note the NYDEC has recognized the cross bow as a legal hunting implement for archery season.

The NYSCC new/upgraded web site is up and running. Recommend that everyone check it out.

Financial committee report: The council is in good shape. As of September 6 we have received 76% of our planned income and have covered 42% of our expenses. We have an enough in the bank to cover remaining expenses. Finance committee gives monthly account balance of the checking account.

Election was held: President Keith Tidball, 1st VP Chuck Parker, 2nd VP Zen Olow, Legislative VP Pat McBrearty, Secretary Brien Crosek, Treasurer Dianne Steel, and Director at Large Jim Steel. Region 8 director Greg Wadham, Alternate Mike Elam

As President Tidball's first act he presented Chuck parker with a hand carved full size duck decoy engraved on the bottom with Chucks name and 14 years that he was president. Thank you, Chuck, for your dedication.

2025 Spring meeting need dates and a place. Where ever it is we need to be able to use computer technology. Cornell university Arnot facility was brough up. President will investigate it. The meeting needs to have all the various committees attend.

2025 Fall convention need dates should be middle of September 2 days possible Delta Lake again. The Great Camp Sagamore has shown interest in hosting our convention. President has contacts and will follow-up on this.

What about doing a March on Albany,

Get back to doing meetings with elected officials in Albany.

Need to get information out quickly and reach the most people.

As required by our By-laws I submit this report and request that the Federation reimburse the mileage of 208 miles and \$8.00 for tolls.