

NYS CC MAKING STRIDES

It has been a year since our last convention, and what a year it has been!

Great Camp Sagamore serves as a fitting metaphor for our conservation world. Once in its heyday, it flourished with great promise before experiencing decline as support faded. Yet its history remains a foundation upon which to build. In the same way, the Council must honor its traditions while adapting to the realities of today. Our core values remain unchanged, but our methods and processes must evolve if we are to thrive. As with Camp Sagamore over the years, they have overcome adversity and built back to become a shining star in the Adirondacks. Over the past year, the Council has taken meaningful steps to ensure this progress and is looking to continue its build back as well.

Last year's convention elected a new President, Keith Tidball. He outlined his goals for the Council in his first *GrassRoots News* message. This year, he opened the annual meeting by reflecting on that platform, assessing what we have achieved and where we are still in progress.

[Click here to read President Tidball's full remarks](#)

Building Momentum

Over the past year, the Council has made important strides—not only in morale, organization, and visibility—but also in tangible accomplishments:

- A new President, the first in 12 years
- A nearly full Board of Directors—something not seen in more than a decade
- Restructured committees
- A strong financial base, as confirmed by the Treasurer's report
- Increased communication with members
- A new member management system to strengthen that communication
- Continued representation of members' interests with legislative leaders and the DEC

As is tradition, the Fall Convention also centered on reviewing, discussing, and voting on member-submitted resolutions. This year, nine were brought forward—the most in nearly a decade—with eight approved. [View the full list of resolutions and results here.](#)

Legislative Advocacy Success

One of the Council's most significant advancements has been the rapid development of its legislative advocacy platform. This system enables us to track legislation in Albany and Washington, while also equipping members to learn, engage, and advocate directly.

The passage of crossbow legislation was a prime example of its success. Members sent over 28,000 letters to their representatives, ensuring their voices were heard. The Council provided the tool, but it was *your* action that made the difference.

Elections

On the second day, elections were held. The Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers, which was unanimously approved by the membership:

Officers

- President: Keith Tidball
- 1st Vice President: Chuck Parker
- 2nd Vice President: Brian Krawczyk**
- Legislative VP: Patrick McBrearty
- Secretary: Anthony Pittore**
- Treasurer: Diane Steel

Directors

- Region 2: No qualifying membership
- Region 7 Director: Jay Barnes
- Region 7 Alternate: Jason Fleming**
- Region 9 Director: Dan Tone
- Region 9 Alternate: Zen Olow**
- Director at Large: George Gibbs

Nominating Committee (Regions 4, 5, 6): Guy Case

(**Denotes newly elected)

Informative Sessions

Members also benefited from a range of informative presentations:

- **Marine and Invasive Species:** Ed Skrupski reviewed invasive species threats, striped bass fisheries, and regulations.
- **Wildlife Conservation:** Jeremy Hurst discussed endangered species regulations, while Jim Farquhar covered hunting management.
- **Fisheries and Habitat Restoration:** Steve Hurst presented initiatives from the Bureau of Fisheries.
- **Youth Engagement:** Alexa Maille highlighted 4-H programs in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension, emphasizing their role in youth development and conservation.
- **Hunting Ammunition:** A field demonstration of modern non-lead ammunition options allowed attendees to see results firsthand and engage in discussion. Many agreed such changes are best embraced **voluntarily** rather than mandated, given current challenges of cost and availability.

Honoring Excellence

Saturday evening was reserved for the Annual Awards, where we recognized the dedication and leadership of individuals and organizations advancing conservation across New York.

2025 Award Recipients

- **President's Award** — *Rockdale Rod & Gun Club*
For outstanding achievement and steadfast support of the Council's future.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award** — *Zenon Olow*
For longtime service and contributions to conserving New York's natural resources.
- **Professional Conservationist Award** — *NYS DEC Bureau of Fisheries*
For leadership in fisheries conservation. Accepted by Bureau Chief Steve Hurst.
- **Conservation Educator of the Year Award** — *Linda Brosch*
For expertise, leadership, and dedication to educating future outdoor stewards. Accepted by 1st Vice President Chuck Parker.
- **Busy Beaver Award** — *Diane Steel, NYSCC Treasurer*
For tireless dedication to advancing the Council's mission.



“As New York’s oldest conservation organization, it is important for us to come together, recharge our collective energy, and honor those who have given so much to the cause of protecting our natural resources,” said NYSCC President Keith Tidball.

Photo Captions

1. Executive Director Bruce McGowan, Rockdale Rod & Gun Club President Jason Fleming, President Keith Tidball
2. Treasurer Diane Steel, 2nd VP Zenon Olow
3. Bureau of Fisheries Chief Steve Hurst with President Keith Tidball

Looking Ahead

Sunday concluded with a presentation on a recent safari to Mozambique, organized by *Beyond Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW)*, which highlighted opportunities for women in international hunting tourism. Katrina Talbot, head of DEC Hunter Education, discussed the R3 initiative to boost hunting participation. Finally, newly elected 2nd Vice President Brian Krawczyk spoke on committee reorganization and plans for the 2026 Spring Meeting in Livingston County.

The convention was a reminder of the value of stepping away from daily routines to connect with like-minded individuals. It recharged our Council with renewed energy and vision.

YOUR Council is reinvigorated and ready for the year ahead!