TRAP-LINES

New York State Trapper's Association Legislative Edition 2008

Credit: US Fish & Wildlife Service

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4th NTA NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONVENTION

Herkimer County Fairgrounds
Frankfort, New York
May 16-18, 2008

Directions to Fairgrounds

Exit #30 from the NY Thruway, (I-90). Take Rt. 28 south to 5S, then West about 4 miles to the Fairgrounds.
Camping and Several motels in the Herkimer and Utica area

For booth space information;
Jenny Hollars (812) 277-9670

Demos by:

Slim Pederson, Question & answers
Newt Sterling - snaring
Kyle Katz - Mixed Water Line
Kurt DeKalb - Beaver
Morgan Bennett - Speed Skinning Muskrats
Ed Bacon - Woodland K-9's
Johnny Thorpe & Andy Stoe - Questions & answers
Bob Hughes - Muskrats
Al West,- Running Pole Sets
Jerry LeBeau - Under Ice Beaver
Phil Brown - Foxes
Robert Colona - Set location
Dr Robert Chambers - Coyotes

DEMOS - DEALERS - TAILGATERS

NEW YORK STATE TRAPPER'S Association

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President's Report:

Survival

History is full of the fur trade. Trappers have been in the fore front of our history from the first voyage up the Hudson River. Henry Hudson's crew trapped beaver and not only did they pelt the animals, but the meat was used too. The earliest settlements were primarily fur trading posts.

Back then, there were no regulations or laws. They thought they were tapping into an endless resource, and fur was the number one commodity.

When it was seen there was a need for some control of the harvest, Laws and Regulations were developed. Today we enjoy record numbers of animals because of that recognition.

These laws and regulations determine the methods of taking of the animals. If it's a law, it is very difficult to change, it can only be done through the legislature. On the other hand, a regulation can be changed any time.

When it comes to the "220" Regulation, if NYSTA hadn't responded, we would have been looking at a LAW change. The regulations are working, and I want to thank every trapper who made the effort to work with this regulation.

Breaking news, as I'm writing this column, there is news that the state of Minnesota has lost their law suit with the Animal Protection Institute. They have lost the use of all traps in areas that have a population of Lynx or it is considered critical habitat. It isn't over yet. There is still an appeals process to keep fighting.

There were times when trappers have asked me, "What has NYSTA done for trapping"? I've researched just some of the history of our Association, and this is what I came up with:

1. Around the mid 1970's NYSTA strongly supported and worked towards removing the bounties on Foxes (red and gray), and giving them game species status, which protected them during the summer (pup rearing) months. This was also carried over to Coyotes, and Bobcats.

2. We strongly supported legislation to establish a mandatory trapper training program. New York was the first state to have a mandatory program and for many years other states (Agencies) used our manual and materials.

NYSTA trappers such as Past Presidents Peter Smith, and Gordie Berndt were on the initial development committee and actively involved with the development of the manual as were Ray Schedivy, Tom Fisher and Angie Berchielli. Many of our Regional Directors such as Pat Arnold and Bill Ballou were very involved at the Regional level.

3. NYSTA has had a paid legislative liaison in Albany since around 1978.

4.- NYSTA was an intervener in the first lawsuit in Rockland County, which we won. NYSTA was also involved in the Suffolk County suit and the second Rockland County suit.

5.- NYSTA sent significant support to the NTA to work against the European Economic Community ban against trapping. We contributed $15,000 toward two trips to Europe. NYSTA for many years was listed as the number one state contributing funds to this and other efforts to preserve trapping. These donations were not solicited by the NTA. These large donations were strictly from the heart because we believed in the NTA and what they were doing for us. When the NTA met in Syracuse for the first time, we gave them the entire amount of what we made at that convention as a donation.

6. A major working committee of NYSTA, the JTI committee was formed due to the ever increasing threat of padded traps only, being instituted (which was defeated). The JTI is celebrating it's 20th year of existence, fighting for all our rights. Over those many years the committee has compiled information that has assisted the Board of Directors of NYSTA with numerous significant trapping issues since that time.

7. We worked with New York State's budget process and obtained $40,000 for the river otter restoration effort, in Western New York.

8. We have worked closely with the NYS DEC in educational outreach programs such as: the Trapper Training Courses, The Advanced Trapper Training Seminars and the booklet "***Trapping in the 21st Century".***

9. We worked for about 10 years to initiate legislation giving the NYSDEC authority to regulate Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators. This was done at the request of the Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators and has helped New York's' NWCOs to attain a reputation as highly skilled professionals

10. Currently, again after many years NYSTA is making progress with the legislature to hopefully allow the use of cable restraints. After a very long "sale pitch" we have substantial support for this legislation

11. NYSTA has been a supporter and sponsor for important conferences, like the first Worldwide Furbearer Conference held in Maryland and The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Genetics Conference held on Long Island. NYSTA also offers scholarships for students.

12. NYSTA has been involved with the BMP process. Some of the research has been done in NY by our trappers working with our DEC professionals

13. But most important is this - The NYSTA Board of Directors and its committees, its Executive Director and its many volunteers have all worked very hard and conscientiously to achieve one goal for the trappers in this State - ***the ability to keep trapping***.

This isn't done by one person, or one ego, it is accomplished by a team effort. NYSTA has sought unity, worked with all political parties, and any organization to achieve that goal for the approximately 10,000 trappers in a State of approximately 19 million people. Most of whom live downstate, from Westchester County on South, and in the major upstate cities. You do the math, of how skewed the numbers are.

We greatly appreciate the efforts and help from our friends in the Sportsmen's community, especially the NYS Houndsmen Association. We thank all the legislators in ***both parties*** for their support. We also thank the folks at DEC from Commissioner Grannis on down to the biologist in the field.

It has at times been very hard, frustrating work, and sometimes we've had to bend a little, but folks the bottom line is that we still can trap!

We at NYSTA will continue to fight for our survival as trappers in New York and nation-wide. We will continue to do what ever it takes to complete our goal. That goal is to trap FUREVER.

Dave Leibig

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Executive Director's Report

Fundraising:

By now you have likely received a book of six raffle tickets in the mail. We have something on the order of nineteen hundred members which means that there are well over ten thousand tickets out. Just those tickets alone mean a potential of over twenty thousand dollars income to NYSTA if they all get sold.

And don't worry about running out; I have more, the printer can make more and I will be more than glad to send you more.

They should be an easy sell; take a look at the prizes:

Savage cal.243 rifle w/ scope and sling
and a NYSTA carving on the stock
14 ft Yankee canoe
8pt (king size) Hudson Bay Blanket
Traditions muzzle loader with sling
Light action spinning rod and reel
$300 cash

Later this spring or early fall we will be holding one and probably two fund raising banquets. One will be in Region 3 the other in Region 8 or 9. When the time comes we will need help from those regions. If we get the help that we need, banquets can be great money makers and and grow each year. I'm going to need to depend on all of you for help. They are a lot of work but I've done a couple in the past and will tell you that they can also be a lot of fun.

Legislative:

As I write this, April 14th, things have been pretty slow but the budget was passed late last week so for me life in Albany should get interesting real soon. The DEC bill package has several things in it for NY Sportsmen and women, two for trappers in particular.

Commissioner Grannis has fully supported the Department regulation of cable restraints and is supporting junior trapping mentoring. As of this writing the department bills have not been handed out to sponsors so I cannot give you much information about the "junior trapper mentoring" except that it would allow children under twelve to accompany and assist (meaning carry equipment, set traps, carry animals etc.) a licensed trapper while under that trappers immediate supervision.

I had sponsors for the cable restraints legislation before the Department bills came out so there are bills for cable restraints. They are Assembly bill # 9258 By Ms. Fields and Senate bill #7048 by Senator Volker.

Assemblyman Englebright's bill #7991 which would give counties the authority to set trapping regulations was reported out of committee last week. For the past several years it has gone to the Assembly floor but no further. I don't yet know what more will happen. While it is a dangerous bill my guess is that nothing too serious will come of it this year.

I also asked that legislation to allow the use of an ID number as an option to name and address on trap tags be introduced again and that has been done in the Assembly by Mr. Magee #10322 and in the Senate by Senator Seward #7290.

We should be most grateful to Commissioner Grannis for his support of trapping and hunting. Although he and I had certainly always been on opposite sides of the trapping issue while he was an Assemblyman, I had always found him to be a straight shooter and other than on trapping issues, a likeable guy. When he was first nominated for his position he assured me that he would get along OK with trappers. I had no reason not to believe him but I sure did not expect him to be as friendly as he has.

So far this administration has been more friendly toward sportsmen, particularly trappers, than any in many years and I for one am most thankful.

Dave Miller

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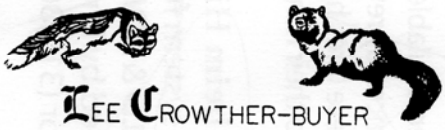

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To all NYSTA Members:
Pages 7-18, are the newly revised By-laws. We ask that each member read them over carefully. We need for each of you to decide to vote ***"yes"*** or ***"no"*** on these revised by-laws. Then please go to page 18 and follow the directions for filling out the ballot on page 19. Thank you.

New York State Trappers Association, Inc.
Constitution and By-Laws

ARTICLE I

Section 1: The name of this corporation shall be New York State Trappers Association, Inc. Thereinafter referred to as NYSTA

Purpose of change: To update language.

ARTICLE II

Section 1: ***Purposes:***

Purpose of change: Under ***Purposes*** To update and clarify language and structure

This Corporation is organized and shall be operated in the following manner:

A. To provide an organization within which people, through individual membership, with common interest in; being proactive in protecting the traditions, and values of trapping, the lawful rights of trappers, the conservation – the wise use of natural resources- of furbearing animals, other wildlife and wildlife habitat and the enjoyment of nature in all its aspects, may recognize their common interest, and have a means of expressing and furthering those interests, traditions and values.

B. To further the purposes of this corporation and the privilege to trap by means of Communication, education, lobbying, or other appropriate activity inform the general public about trapping and trapping laws in New York State to any audience.

C. To maintain an open dialog with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and other state and federal agencies, any other jurisdictions and any recognized outdoor organizations for the betterment of all. This dialog is intended to provide an avenue for two way communications and be a strong voice in support for trapping, the management and protection of fish and wildlife species, for the acquisition, access and for improvements in habitats for furbearers and other fish and wildlife species.

D. To encourage dialog throughout all levels of the organization, locally through the individual Chapters or more formal dialog through meetings with the Officers and the Board of Directors or as a whole, when deemed necessary, by the Officers and the Board of Directors, by a special mailing to all members in good standing. The purpose of this dialog is for the betterment of trapping conditions, and the protection of furbearing animals, plus other fish and wildlife.

E. NYSTA will work for cooperation and good will between landowners, other users of the resource and trappers.

F. To work with individuals, industry, agriculture and government to arrive at workable and logical solutions to furbearer and wildlife problems, and to actively participate in writing, sponsoring and supporting activities to achieve these solutions.

G. To work toward the continued protection and management of important habitats and land reserves including the remaining wetland habitat for furbearers and other wildlife species of our state.

H. In furtherance, but not in limitation of the foregoing purposes, the Corporation shall have the power and authority:

1. To receive and administer funds and contributions received by gift, deed, bequests, or devise, and otherwise to acquire money, securities, property rights, goods and services, of every kind and description, and to hold, invest, expend, contribute, use, sell, or otherwise dispose of any money, securities, property rights, goods or services so acquired for the purposes above.

2. To do all such other acts as are necessary or convenient to accomplish the objects and purposes herein set forth to the same extent and as fully as any natural person could or might do and are not forbidden by law or by the Certificate of Incorporation or the By-Laws of the Corporation.

3. To have all powers that might be conferred upon charitable corporations formed under the laws of the State of New York governing corporations without capital stock.

Section 2: Non-Profit, exclusion of Private Gain or Benefit, Dissolution of the Corporation:

Purpose of change: To give the NYSTA Board the clear ability to retain people as necessary.

A. The Corporation shall be and remain one of strictly non profit and all funds and contributions received shall be used to pay actual expenses, hire people as necessary, support wildlife research programs, trapper education programs, public information and related programs as outlined in Section 1 of Article 11 for the improvement of trapping.

B. No part of any receipts of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual. Upon any dissolution of the Corporation, no member shall be entitled to any distribution or division of its remaining property or its proceeds.

Purpose of change: Clarification of who votes if the organization is dissolved.

C. If for any reason it becomes necessary to dissolve this Corporation, any property remaining after payment of the just debts of the Corporation shall be transferred to such other corporation, association, trust fund or foundation of a like nature exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or similar provisions of any future applicable federal income tax law by a majority vote of the Officers and the Board of Directors shall determine, to be administered and used in such manner as will best accomplish the general purpose for which this Corporation is organized.

ARTICLE III

Section 1: MEMBERSHIP: Membership in this Corporation is open to all persons subscribing to its purposes. Membership shall run for one year from the month signed up or renewed, upon payment of the appropriate dues. A schedule of dues shall appear at least annually In the Trap-Lines Newsletter, and on dues notices and in membership brochures. Names of honorary members, (members who pay no dues) for an indefinite period may be put forward by the President or Executive Board, or both, and approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. All dues categories and any other requirements and benefits may be amended by the Board of Directors after seeking input from the Treasurer, and by a majority vote in favor by the Officers and Directors of NYSTA.

Purpose of change: Specifies that the Board may amend the dues structure as needed, the types of membership classes offered, including ***family memberships and whether a family membership is entitled to 2 votes.*** Defines membership, specifies where the schedule of dues will be posted.

Section 2: ANNUAL MEETINGS/CONVENTION/RENDEZVOUS:

A. The Annual Fall Convention/Rendezvous of the members of this Corporation shall be held on the designated dates as determined and designated by the Officers and Directors. Both

members and non members are encouraged to attend and participate in the activities being offered. The rendezvous will provide for vendor opportunities, highlight educational opportunities for all ages, and provide opportunities to interact with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and other professional agencies. A membership meeting will be held to to bring members up to date on NYSTA's activities and the current status of the organization. There will also be time set aside for NYSDEC or any other agency to address the group, with a question and answer period.

B. NYSTA may hold an Annual Members Conference to be held on a designated Saturday and/or Sunday in April.

Purpose of change: Distinguishes between the September Annual Convention/ Rendezvous and a newly created Annual Members Conference.

1. This conference is primarily for the benefit of and to encourage dialog within the Membership. All members of NYSTA will be invited and welcomed to attend.
2. During the conference the County Representatives may submit an oral and/or written report of their local chapters activities to the membership in attendance and the Officers and the Board of Directors. This is also their opportunity to propose ideas and concerns to the entire Board of Directors.
3. The location of this conference will rotate each year as determined by the Board of Directors to allow members throughout the State a better opportunity to attend. Once every four years (following gubernatorial elections), this conference will be held in Albany. With the exception of the Albany conference, conferences will not be held in the same area more than once in a five year period. The type of facility necessary to host this conference will be based on criteria developed by the Executive Director with input from others where necessary, and approved by the majority of the Board of Directors.
4. A budget for the Conference will be developed by the appropriate Regional Director, the Executive Director and the Executive Board. At a minimum the budget must be balanced.
5. At this conference the formal installation of new Officers or Directors and the administration of the oath of office will be performed by the Secretary.
6. The President will deliver an annual report on the status of NYSTA.
7. The Conference agendas, special guests, legislators and other speakers, fundraising events, and the general planning of the Conference events will be developed by a new Committee, the NYSTA Annual Members Conference Committee, chaired by the Executive Director.
8. Time will be set aside for a presentation by the NYSDEC Commissioner, Legislators and any other Agency or organizational leaders that are appropriate, to bring members up to date on trapping, and natural resource management in New York.
9. The Executive Director will give a formal legislative update on trapping and natural resources issues facing NYSTA.

Section 3: SPECIAL MEETINGS:

Purpose: Directs Board Involvement.

Special meetings of the members may be called at any time by the President with a majority vote in favor by the Board of Directors and shall be called upon the written request of at least ten percent (10%) of the membership.

Section 4: NOTICE OF MEETINGS:

Purpose: Updates methods of notification.

NYSTA shall make all reasonable efforts to notify the membership of both special and annual meetings, either through a special mailing, publications, e-mail, or telephone.

Section 5: VOTING:

Purpose: Defines voting privileges.

A. To have voting privileges a member must be in good standing, with dues paid in full and at least 16 years old.

B. Special mail votes of members with voting privileges shall be taken on matters deemed necessary by the Board of Director's.

Section 6: RULES OF ORDER:

This Constitution and these By Laws shall prevail; all other business and meetings shall be governed under Roberts Rules of Order, the current edition.

ARTICLE IV

EXECUTIVE BOARD AND MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1: NUMBER, ELECTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

Purpose: Changes "committee" to "Board," defines who is on the Executive Board and how chosen.

The Corporation shall be governed by an Executive Board consisting of 5 members; the President, Vice President, Treasurer, one Regional Director chosen by a vote among the Board of Directors, and the immediately preceding Past President (shall be one of the five, voted to be on the Board by the Board of Directors). In the event of any member of the Executive Board needing to recuse themselves because of a conflict of interest or in the event of an unexpected vacancy, the next ranking active past president shall fulfill that vacancy for the unexpired term.

Section 2: POWERS AND DUTIES:

A. The Executive Board shall have general power to manage and control the affairs and property of the Corporation, and the funds of the Corporation shall be expended or applied in accordance with the purposes of the Corporation only as may be directed by authorization of the Executive Board between meetings of the Board of Directors. The amount that may be expended between meetings must be approved annually by the Board of Directors at the first Board meeting of the year. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Executive Board shall have the following specific powers:

Purpose: Clarifies and adds to the powers of the Executive Board. Creates a timeline for developing a budget.

1. To call a meeting of the Corporation whenever they deem it necessary by giving notice thereof as required by the By Laws.

2. To carry out all the powers and duties of the Board of Directors in between the general meetings of the Corporation and Board of Directors.

3. To advise the Board of Directors to fix the compensation if any is deemed advisable, of the officers and employees.

4. The Executive Board, the Executive Director, the chairs of the Fundraising Committee(s), and anyone else they deem is important, shall annually develop a balanced budget.
   a. Timeline for developing the budget:
      By the early summer (June) Board of Director's meeting, the President provides the proposed budget to the Board of Director's for discussion,
   b. By the late August/September Board of Director's meeting, the budget is either adopted or modified.
   c. Fiscal Year starts November 1.

Section 3: ELECTION AND TERM:

Purpose: Clarifies and amends the election and terms of members of the Executive Board.

A. The term of the members of the Executive Board shall be for three years, or from election of officers to election of officers.

B. The Board of Directors shall elect one Regional Director to the Executive Board every three years. This member shall not succeed themselves, but is not limited to one term.

C. Any vacancy in the Executive Board that may occur by death, resignation, or otherwise, may be filled for the unexpired term by a vote of a majority of the Board of Directors at any meeting of the Corporation.

Section 4: AGENTS:

Purpose: Clarifies the role of the Executive Board and the Board of Directors in the supervision of the Executive Director.

A. The Executive Board may, at its discretion, recruit, hire, and terminate an Executive Director and any support staff, pending the approval of a majority vote of ¾ of the Board of Directors.

B. The Executive Director shall answer to the Executive Board through the President. The Executive Director will maintain excellent communications (both written and verbal) with the President. The Executive Director's salary will be determined by the Executive Board with input from the Treasurer, and approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. An annual performance review of the Executive Director will be conducted by the Executive Board with in thirty days of the anniversary of the hiring date.

Section 5: MEETINGS:

Purpose: Defines "executive session."

Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at any time at the call of the President. When Executive Session is called for by the Executive Board, only the voting members of the Board and/ or invited individuals may attend.

Section 6: QUORUM:

Three members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 7: PLACE OF MEETING:

Meetings of the Executive Board may be held at such places as may be designated in the notice of the meeting.

Section 8: NOTICE OF MEETING:

Notice of any meeting of the Executive Board may be done if served personally, if given by telephone, email, or fax, or if placed in the mail with postage prepaid, addressed to each member at their last known post office address at least seven days before the meeting. The Board member must respond prior to the meeting whether they will attend.

ARTICLE V

Section 1: DESIGNATION OF OFFICERS:

Purpose: States that Officers have a vote.

The officers of the Corporation shall consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Each officer shall have a vote during Board meetings, in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 2: ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE:

Purpose: Defines officers terms and how elected to office. Changes terms of office from two years to three years.

A. The officers of the Corporation except for the Treasurer, shall be elected by a mail ballot vote of the membership with voting privileges. Each eligible, fully paid membership is entitled to vote. All Officers, except the President, elected therein shall hold office for a three year term with out limitation on the number of terms they may serve. The President shall hold office for a three year term but shall not be elected more than two terms in succession. The Treasurer shall also serve a three year term, with no term limits, but will be elected from names submitted to the President, and then voted on by a majority vote of the remaining Officers and Board of Director's.

Purpose: Defines a "member in good standing", sets candidacy qualifications

B. All candidates for office in NYSTA shall have been a member in good standing, and have been actively involved in NYSTA or one of its chapters, (preferably in a leadership role) for at least 4 years, and must be 21 years of age. A member in good standing means; their membership dues are current, they have not been a member of any organization(s) considered subversive, or contrary to NYSTA beliefs and goals. Candidates shall also not have engaged in conduct deemed prejudicial to NYSTA. Candidates must have also held a trapping license, and they must meet any other criteria set by the nominating committee.

C. The Nominations/Elections committee shall consist of at least three and no more than or 5 people only one of whom may be a member of the Board of Directors, one may be a past president, and one a County Representative and none of the remaining members shall be Officers.

Purpose: Creates the Nominations/ Elections Committee and it's make-up, sets timeline and procedure for nominations and sets balloting procedure, and changes time of election.

D. Candidate nominations must be submitted to the Nominations/Elections Committee no later than June 30th of an election year.
   1. Nominations must be made in a written form, and must contain the name and address of the nominee, and a petition must be signed by five members in good standing, who shall also include their names and addresses.
   2. The Nominations/Elections Committee will compile all the names to be on the ballot.
   3. The Nominations/Elections Committee shall review the candidates qualifications to run for office, and determine their eligibility 30 days prior to the Fall Convention/Rendezvous, where the names will be announced.

E. Printed ballots shall be mailed to each voting member in good standing by first class mail or first class bulk mail, in an envelop that is clearly marked on the outside: OFFICIAL BALLOT. Voting member's signatures must be included with the ballot in the designated location in order to be considered valid and counted. Write-in candidates are ineligible for election and those ballots shall be voided and not counted. During uncontested elections, either the Board of Directors by majority vote may decide that the Trap-Lines Newsletter will contain the official ballot, with that page duly marked OFFICIAL BALLOT, or if all offices are uncontested the Board of Directors will direct the Secretary to cast one vote for the candidate. The cost of printing and mailing the ballots for the election of Officers will be the responsibility of NYSTA.

F. Ballots will be mailed to the membership by NYSTA in mid January and no less than a minimum of 30 days prior to the Annual Member's Conference. If there is no Annual Members Conference scheduled for that year, the Board of Director's will pick and announce the date the ballots must be returned by. Ballots must be returned to the election committee five (5) days prior to the Annual Member's Conference, or by the announced date, to the designated address. No ballots will be accepted at the Annual Member's Conference.

G. This will go into effect with the next election following the approval of these By-laws.

Section 3: POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT:

Purpose: Clarifies and outlines the President's duties.

A. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and shall create the agenda and preside over the Board of Directors meetings of the Corporation, and in general shall perform all duties incidental to the office of President and such duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

B. The President is NYSTA's official spokesperson, unless the President designates someone else.

C. With the approval of the Board of Directors, the President may appoint committees or committee members and may confer upon them or delegate to them such powers not inconsistent with law or the express provisions of these By Laws, as they may deem necessary or advisable, and shall have power to remove them as necessary.

D. The current standing Committees of the Corporation are: The Fall/Rendezvous/ Convention Committee, The Annual Member's Conference Committee, Scholarship Committee, Budget Committee, Nominations/Election committee, Fund Raising Committee and the Joint Trapping Initiative (JTI) Committee.

E. The President is the Chairperson of the Budget Committee, and shall see that a complete and balanced budget for the coming fiscal year is presented to the Board of Directors by November 1st and to the membership at the Annual Members Conference.

F. The President shall identify and recommend individuals to fill interim vacancies on the Board, with approval from the Board, until the next scheduled Regional election.

G. The President, Officers and members of the Board of Directors of NYSTA shall behave in a dignified and professional manner and not engage in conduct deemed prejudicial to NYSTA.

H. The President shall have a small "Sunshine Fund", the amount set by the Board of Directors annually, for the purchase of cards and flowers etc.

Section 4: POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENT:

Purpose: Outlines the duties of the Vice President.

A. The Vice President shall perform all duties of the President in the absence of the President and such duties as may be assigned by the President.
B. The Vice President shall assist the President in the discharge of duties and shall perform the duties of the President during any absence, incapacity, death, resignation or disqualification from office.
C. Chair the Fall Convention/Rendezvous committee and develops the itinerary of the Rendezvous.
D. Manages all of the educational/informational material for NYSTA.

Section 5: POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE TREASURER:

Purpose: Dropped "Secretary" and outlines the duties of the Treasurer.

A. The Treasurer shall keep a financial record of the Corporation, shall perform all duties incidental to the office prescribed by law or these By Laws .
   1. The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all the funds and securities of the Corporation and shall deposit the same in the name of the Corporation in such bank(s) or trust companies, as the Executive Board may from time to time designate.
   2. The Treasurer shall sign checks, drafts, notes, and as prescribed by the By-laws, shall execute in the name of the Corporation contracts and other instruments, unless the Executive Board shall otherwise determine; providing that any promissory note of the Corporation, or checks over a set amount determined annually by the Board of Directors, must be countersigned by the President.
   3. The Treasurer shall at the Annual Member's Conference and, at any meeting of the Corporation, or Executive Committee, present a full statement of the finances of the Corporation.
   4. The Treasurer shall collect the dues and the member's names, birth dates, and addresses. The Treasurer shall maintain the membership list, handle the mailing for the election of officers, and make available to Regional Directors that segment of the mailing list pertaining to their region, unless designated to some one else to maintain, by the Executive Board.
   5. The Treasurer may be assigned to perform other duties from time to time by the Executive Board.
   6. The Treasurer's compensation shall be reviewed and established annually by the Board of Directors.

B. The books of the Corporation shall remain open to inspection by members at any time. An internal audit of all of the books of the Corporation shall be performed every two (2) years.

Section 6: POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY:

Purpose: "Recording" is dropped and outlines the duties of the Secretary.

A. The Secretary shall keep and record all minutes of all meetings of the Corporation, shall perform all duties incidental to the office prescribed by law and these By-Laws.
   1. Minutes should reflect by a short synopsis of the action or discussion of all agenda items. Motions and votes should have a detailed account of discussion, pros and cons. A record of roll call votes should be kept.
   2. The Secretary should also keep a record of the tasks and deadlines the President assigns to other people.
   3. The Secretary should also accurately maintain the files and records of NYSTA's correspondence, positions, policies and history. These files may be kept as hard copies and/or as electronic files, one set kept by the Secretary, another by the President, one for the Executive Director, and one for the Treasurer.
B. The Secretary administers the Oath of Office, at the Annual Member's Conference, or no later than May 15th.
C. The Secretary's compensation will be reviewed and established annually by the Board of Directors.

Section 7: VACANCIES:

Any vacancy occurring among the Officers of the Corporation may be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors for the unexpired balance of any term in such office or position.

Section 8: FREQUENCY OF EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

No person shall hold more than one Executive office at a time.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1: BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Regional Directors) of NYSTA: Number, Election, Qualifications, And Terms of Office:

Purpose: Establishes the number of Directors

The Board of NYSTA shall consist of no less than 13 and no more than 16 Regional Directors, with additional Directors added with the addition of new Regions as the Board deems necessary. The Board shall have 4 Officers and no more than 5 past Presidents, including the immediate past president.

Section 2: ELECTION of REGIONAL DIRECTORS:

Purpose: Establishes the election procedure for Regional Directors.

A. The Regional Director shall be elected to the Board of NYSTA by a mail vote of all the current eligible voting members on NYSTA's membership list for that Region.

B. A Regional Director shall be elected for a term of three (3) years, and they may succeed themselves.

C. Each Region will have its own Nominations/Elections Committee, and qualifications to run for office which must at a minimum meet the standards set forth in these By-laws under Article V, Section 2B. The formal process of these elections will begin within 60 days of the passage of these By-laws.

D. The election ballot mailing will be conducted by the Treasurer of NYSTA, or their designee after receiving the list of qualified names. The cost of printing and mailing the ballots will be paid by NYSTA. The ballots shall be sent to the Regional Nominating committee, with the results forwarded to NYSTA.

E. In Regions with no organized local chapters, the President shall identify and with a majority vote of the Board of Directors appoint an interim Regional Director, who would act as the Regional Director for two years, with voting Privileges. Until the next scheduled election for that Region.

Purpose: Establishes the qualifications to become ***Director.***

Section 3: QUALIFICATIONS:

A. A Regional Director shall be at least 21 years of age.

B. All NYSTA Regional Directors shall be NYSTA members in good standing for the four previous years.

C. Candidates shall not have been a member of any organizations considered subversive, or contrary to NYSTA beliefs and goals. Candidates shall not have engaged in conduct deemed prejudicial to NYSTA.

Section 4: POWERS AND DUTIES:

Purpose: Updating the duties of the Director and adding the requirement that they must meet with their County Representatives.

A. The Board of Director's shall be the governing body for the purpose of managing the affairs, property and funds of the New York State Trappers Association. The funds of the Corporation shall be expended or applied in accordance with the purposes of the Corporation.

B. Among the duties of the Regional Director are; organizing, recruiting and maintaining the objectives of the corporation, educating and getting the views of trappers in their Region, communicating with the NYSDEC and others.

C. After each Board of Director's Meeting, the Director is required to meet with their County Representatives (within 30 days) to bring them up to date on NYSTA activities and to get input from them to bring back to the next Board meeting to discuss and compile the recommendations of the various regions or at special meetings called by the Executive Board.

D. The Board of Directors shall:

1. make rules and regulations not inconsistent with these By Laws for the guidance

of the Officers and management of the business and affairs of the Corporation

2. incur such indebtedness as they may deem necessary, not contrary to the laws of the State of New York. No member of the Corporation shall go into debt for the Corporation without previous approval by the Board of Directors.
3. fix the compensation, of any Officers and employees.
4. advise the Executive Board and to perform such other tasks as may be assigned to them by the President, and/or Executive Board.

Section 5: ***TERMS***

Purpose: Establishes terms and election sequence.

A. Directors shall have 3 year terms, they may succeed themselves.
B. The timetable for establishing this election cycle shall be determined by the Board of Directors, with in 60 days after approval of the by-laws.

Section 6: ***Past Presidents:***

Purpose: Sets procedure for elections of Past Presidents, establishes terms and number.

There shall be up to 5 (five) Past Presidents that shall be members of the Board of Directors, with the same rights and responsibilities. No vote is required for the immediate past president. The Board of Directors shall hold an election among themselves, at the first Board meeting of the year, if more than 4 (four) additional Past Presidents wish to remain as active voting members of the Board. The immediate Past President and the top 4 (four) names that received the most votes will be the Past Presidents. These past presidents shall have 3 year terms, and may run for re-election. Past Presidents may resubmit their names during the next election cycle, even if they were not elected the previous time or have not been inactive for a period of time, greater than 5 years.

ARTICLE VII

Section 1: ***MEETINGS AND REQUIREMENTS OF VOTING MEMBERS OF THE BOARD***

NYSTA Officers' and Directors' meetings, a simple majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 2: ***Voting members of the Board***:

Purpose: Establishes the voting members of the Board, sets the meeting requirements, and includes a conflict of interest clause.

A. The Officers, the Regional Directors, and the five standing Past Presidents, are the voting members of the Board of Directors, of NYSTA.
B. If a voting member of the board has 3 unexcused absences in a row they are automatically removed, 2 unexcused absences in one year and that individual is under review by the Board of Directors.
C. Excused absences (as defined by the President and the Executive Board, annually) must be given to the President either in written form, e- mail or by phone no later than 48 hours before the meeting, for purposes of determining whether a quorum will be present.
D. All voting members of the Board are required to fully disclose real, potential and perceived conflict of interests to the Board and recuse themselves when necessary.

ARTICLE VIII

Section 1: ***LOCAL CHAPTERS:***

A. There may be formed local chapters of the New York State Trappers Association, Inc., provided that at least ten (10) members in good standing of NYSTA shall meet and vote to form such a chapter. The purpose of the county groups shall be to promote the objectives of the Corporation, through closer alliance with the trappers on the local level.
B. In order to qualify as a NYSTA chapter, the Chapter must maintain at least a 50% membership in NYSTA. All Chapter members are encouraged to be NYSTA members also.

Purpose: Defines a "Chapter of NYSTA", their membership requirement, who may vote in Regional Director elections.

C. Only those Local Chapter members who are also members in good standing of NYSTA and on NYSTA's membership list shall have a vote in elections for Regional Director.

D. All local chapters presently existing as of the effective date of these By Laws shall be entitled to all of the rights and privileges of NYSTA local chapters, provided that 50% of members of said local chapters become Corporation members within thirty (30) days, of the adoption of these By Laws. Otherwise they will be only allowed affiliation, which will entitle them to information from the NYSTA. For those Chapter members to participate in the election for Regional Director they must also be NYSTA members in good standing.

Section 2: COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Purpose: Defines qualifications and duties of County Representatives.

A. The County Representative shall be at least 18 years of age.

B. They shall have 2 years of NYSTA membership in good standing.

C. They will be appointed by the President of NYSTA from names given by the appropriate Regional Director. If there is no Regional Director then the President may choose whom they want.

D. County Representatives shall work to organize trappers into local chapters throughout their Region. If the Regional Director cannot attend a local Chapter's meeting, the County Representative shall disseminate information they have receive in a written report from their Regional Director.

E. The County Representative shall also report in written form, information back to the Regional Director on issues of concern to local trappers.

F. They will meet with their Regional Director as needed to exchange information, but they shall meet with their Regional Director within 30 days after a NYSTA Board of Director's meeting to receive current updates.

G. County Representatives shall be central to the annual NYSTA Annual Members meeting held in April.

ARTICLE IX

Section 1: FINANCE

A. Requests for expenses, below a set amount, determined annually by the Board of Directors, incurred by the President shall be presented to the Treasurer. Such actions shall only take place in between meetings of the Board of Directors.

Purpose: Clarifies NTA and FTA Delegates expense procedure.

B. The Board of Directors of NYSTA shall appoint a Delegate and an alternate for a term of three years, with no term limits, to represent and carry NYSTA's voice and views at Fur Takers of America and National Trappers' Association Board meetings. Upon their return from an assigned function(s) they shall promptly give a full report to the Executive Board and/or the Board of Directors. Prior to attending FTA's or NTA's meetings an approved method of travel and the level of expenses that will be reimbursed by NYSTA will be determined by The Board of Directors in consultation with the Delegate. To be reimbursed for those expenses, actual receipts and a trip report must be submitted. A cash advance may be given in consultation with the Delegate and the Board of Directors with the final amount determined by the Board of Directors. Either the Delegate or the Alternate's expenses will be covered if both are in attendance, not both.

ARTICLE X

Section 1: CONTRACTS:

Purpose: Adds the Executive Director

The Board of Directors or Executive Board may authorize any Officers, the Executive Director or agents in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation, to enter into any contract or to execute under the Corporate Seal or otherwise and to deliver any instrument and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances; and unless so

authorized, no officer or agent or employee shall have the power to, or authority to bind the Corporation by any contract or engagement to any amount.

ARTICLE XI

Section 1: ***FISCAL YEAR:***

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall commence with the first day (l) of November and shall terminate with the thirty-first (31) day of October in each succeeding calendar.

ARTICLE XII

Section 1: ***BY LAWS: ALTER, AMEND OR RESCIND***

A. Any proposed amendment must be endorsed by 5 (five) Board members or fifty (50) NYSTA members in good standing.

Purpose: Clarifies the process for a by-laws change.

B. Once any amendment has been properly endorsed, it shall be submitted to the Board at the next Board of Director's meeting. A verbatim statement of the amendment, along with the justification for the change shall be included.

C. A quorum of the Board must ratify the amendment by a margin of at least two-thirds (2/3). A By-laws committee will be formed and shall cause the amendment to be included in ballot form in the next issue of the "Trap-Lines" or as a separate ballot for vote by the members of NYSTA in good standing.

D. If the majority of members voting approve the amendment, it shall immediately become part of the by-laws of NYSTA.

ARTICLE XIII

Section 1: ***GRIEVANCE or RECALL OF A NYSTA OFFICER, DIRECTOR, or COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE :***

A. If an Officer, Regional Director, or County Representative isn't meeting the responsibilities asked of them by the organization, and the members they represent, and previous attempts by local chapters cannot resolve the problem then a grievance may be filed to the Board of Director's of NYSTA. A written statement outlining the grievance must be signed by (5) five members in good standing. The Board of Directors will make the grievance known to the individual and then determine if the grievance is valid and determine an appropriate course of action.

B. If an Officer, Director, County Representative or any NYSTA member acts in a manner to bring discredit to our organization, or acts improperly and/ or engages in conduct prejudicial to NYSTA then he/she may be recalled by the following process:

1. The charges shall be made known to them by the Executive Board.
2. The Executive Board shall determine if the charges are valid.
3. If the charges are valid, then a special meeting of NYSTA Officers and Directors shall be called by the Executive Board to act on the recall and trial of accused.
4. Two (2) votes will be taken. The first by a ¾ vote of the voting members of NYSTA's Board present at trial, the accused may be discharged from office. The second vote of ¾ of the voting members of NYSTA's Board present at the trial will determine continued membership in NYSTA.
5. If the individual being recalled is an Officer or Board member they will have no vote in the proceedings.
6. Once re-called that individual may not hold office in NYSTA in the future.

Purpose: Establishes a grievance procedure and clarifies the recall procedure.

ARTICLE XIV

Section 1: Any person (including the heirs, executors and administrators of such person) who was or is party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative (including any action or suit be or in the right of the Corporation to procure judgment in the right of the Corporation to procure judgment in its favor) by reason of the fact that:

(a) he/she is or was a Director or Officer of the corporation, or,

(b) he/she is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a Director, Officer, or agent of the Corporation shall be indemnified by the Corporation, if, as and to the extent authorized by the laws of the State of New York, against all liabilities and expenses, including attorney's fees, judgments, fines and penalties and amounts paid settlement, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the defense or settlement of such action suit pending. The Corporation may indemnify any person (including the heirs, executors and administrators of such person), who is or was an employee or agent of the Corporation or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as Director, Officer, employee, or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise to the extent and under the circumstances provided by this Article XIII and by the foregoing sentence, and by the laws of the State of New York, shall not be deemed exclusive, insofar as permitted by, of any other rights to which any person indemnified may be entitled under any By Law, upon vote of the Executive Committee.

To all NYSTA members:

Thank you, to all of you that read through these by-laws. I know that this is not fun or easy reading, but it is important. These new by-laws reflect major changes, and hopefully clarify many of the day to day operations of the organization. The following highlight just some of those major revisions and changes. If you missed them you may wish to re-read the by-laws again. There are also many minor changes.

1. Updating and clarifying NYSTA's purpose statement,
2. The dues structure is no longer a part of the by-laws. In order to act in a more timely manner the Board of Directors would be given the authority to amend the dues structure as needed, the types of membership categories, family memberships and the voting privileges of those categories, and where this information must be posted.
3. Creates an Annual Members Conference, independent of the Fall Convention/ Rendezvous.
4. Updates methods of notification of meetings - removed telegraph and added e-mail.
5. The qualifications to have voting privileges.
6. Defines a timeline for developing a budget.
7. Clarifies who the Executive Director answers to.
8. Clarifies and updates Officers term of office, minimum age and other qualifications.
9. Changes the election timeline.
10. Directors - Establishes qualifications, terms, minimum age, number, and the election process.
11. Requires that Directors meet with their County Representatives.
12. Past Presidents - establishes procedure for elections, terms and number.
13. Defines Local Chapter of NYSTA
14. Defines qualifications and duties of County Representatives.
15. Clarifies the process for by-law changes.
16. Establishes a grievance procedure and clarifies the re-call procedure.

So now it is time to vote. It is important that you vote. Please follow the instructions on page 19. Just remove the page, it is meant as a "self mailer", or you may put the ballot in an envelope. Mark either "yes" or "no", and mail it to ***Dale Gamba, 12320 Pople Rd. Cato, New York 13033.*** The Ballot must be ***received no later than May 24th 2008.***

I would like to sum things up with a "Thank You" to committee members Tom DeLisle, Bill Ballou and especially Ed Hogan and Jim Greeley for all their input. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors for spending and entire, very long day going over the draft. ***"Thank You."***

Angie Berchielli - Chairperson By-laws Committee

NYSTA BY_LAWS BALLOT

☐ Yes, I approve these revised by-laws.
* A yes vote also means that the NYSTA Board of Directors may make ***minor*** changes that will not change the meaning or intent of your "yes" vote.

☐ No, I disapprove of these revised by-laws.

Ballot must be received no later than May 24, 2008

Fold Along This Line ***First***

Please add STAMP

NYSTA
Dale Gamba
12320 Pople Road
Cato, New York 13033

Fold along the above line, second, which will cover the first panel. When this is sealed all that should be showing is the middle panel with the address and this last panel empty. The panel with the ballot should be covered. ***Staple or tape shut***, or it will not be delivered.

12320 Pople Road
Cato, New York 13033

WANTED:
Wild Fur

Sales Dates

Last Receiving Date
March 31, 2008
June 2, 2008

Sale Date
May 22-27, 2008
Septmeber 22-23, 2008

For Fur Pick Up
Ernest Mosher
(315) 823-4270
Cell: (315) 868-6275

NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS

201 W. Water St., Cambridge, WI 53523
Tel: (608) 423-3216 Fax: (608) 423-4540