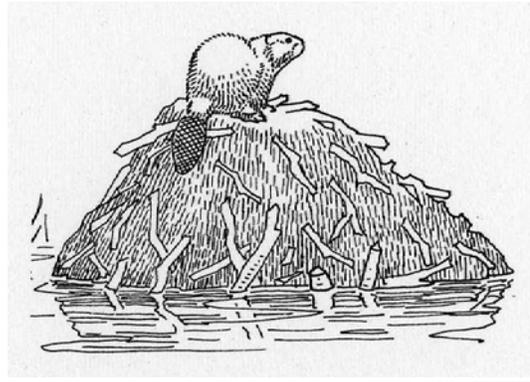


# TRAP-LINES

New York State  
Trapper's Association  
Spring Edition 2009  
[www.nystrappers.org](http://www.nystrappers.org)



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## Incoming President's Report

Greetings NYSTA Members,

I first want to thank all of you for your support and the trust that you have bestowed in not only myself, but in all of the Officers and Directors of the New York State Trappers Association. It is a great honor and privilege to be entrusted to serve as a leader of this organization that has so diligently represented and defended trapping in this state for so many, many years. With this honor and privilege comes a tremendous responsibility not to be taken lightly. We are dedicated to the protection and preservation of the privilege to trap in NY for not only now, but for future generations as well. Sometimes, as in the very recent past, we are forced to make decisions that are not always popular but are absolutely necessary to our survival as trappers. Without NYSTA and the support we get from the NYSDEC Furbearer Management Team I truly believe we would not be trapping in NY today.

Our first Annual Spring Membership Conference held at the Gander Mountain Lodge in Henrietta, NY was a huge success. I extend my sincere gratitude to our Executive Director, Dave Miller, for doing such a fine job of organizing this event. Thank you to all who attended and especially to the guest speakers for their valued and interesting presentations. There were lots of questions, comments, and dialog throughout the presentations as well as during the membership meeting itself. That is proof enough for me that this was a successful and informative event for all who attended. Next year's Conference will be held in a different Region of the state as NYSTA is striving to bring opportunity for involvement in your organization to it's members. A different Region will host this Conference every year. I believe we will see this event continue to grow. I hope all of our members will take the opportunity to attend as many of these as possible.

NYSTA's JTI Committee has been working closely with NYSDEC's Furbearer Management Team for about two years on some regulation changes that will benefit trapping and trappers. These are positive and helpful changes. Although we had high hopes of seeing the entire package of changes implemented for the upcoming 2009-2010 season, that just wasn't possible. We have been assured that some of the changes will be implemented this season with the balance to follow for 2010-2011. As I said, this has been a joint, cooperative effort. I applaud both the JTI Committee and the FMT for all of the hours of hard work that went into making these changes. I recently spoke with Andy MacDuff, co-chair of the FMT. We are both very pleased that NYSTA and DEC have been able to work together to bring about these changes. I assured Andy that we will continue to work closely with them on items of interest and concern to trappers. Several of the FMT members are trappers themselves, Andy included. It sure is reassuring and appreciated to be able to discuss trapping related issues with those within DEC who themselves trap.



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### ***Incoming President Continued...***

The New York State Trappers Association is YOUR organization. It belongs to NY's trapping membership. Wayne and I are determined to work with the Officers and members of NYSTA to achieve what we believe are some very important goals. Things such as increased membership, better representation within the organization, more effective communication, joint cooperation and support between NYSTA and other sportsman's groups, effective fund raising campaigns, proactive efforts to educate others about what we do and why trapping is necessary to properly manage furbearers populations, and the continued efforts of working jointly with the NYSDEC to improve trapping laws, regulations, and opportunities are just a few of those goals.

In order to realize any of these goals we first need to fill the many County Representative position vacancies so that trappers across all of NY are properly represented. At last count I believe there were nearly 30 vacant County Rep positions! That's 30 golden opportunities to get involved. We are currently looking for volunteers to fill these positions. We need people who will commit the time, energy, and resources necessary to promote both NYSTA's growth in their counties and develop two way communications between local trappers and the NYSTA Board of Directors. This is the only way to achieve full representation at the state level.

I will also be asking that ALL Regional Directors please try to attend ALL quarterly NYSTA BOD meetings unless an emergency arises as provided for in the new By Laws. The new By Laws also ask that any Director notify the President at least 24 hours in advance of any Board meeting you are unable to attend the meeting. This allows me to determine if there will be a quorum present so that NYSTA can legally and properly conduct the business of the Association at each of the quarterly Board of Director's meetings. The new By-laws also provide for the ability to replace a Regional Director if he/she is unable to fulfill their commitment and responsibility to attend those meetings as required. This is necessary to insure that trappers of all Regions are properly represented.

Although it is not required of them, I would like to encourage more County Reps to attend the Board of Director's meetings. Wayne is presently working on a NYSTA Calendar of Events. We will setting the Board

Of Director's meeting dates for two to three years in advance. We hope that this will help everyone to better schedule their time and avoid conflicts and hopefully reduce much of the absenteeism we have seen at some of the past Board meetings.

For many, it is a long drive and certainly a commitment of time to go to Frankfort to attend these meetings. It is disappointing, discouraging, and at times simply unproductive for those who do attend when we find out that we do not have a quorum and therefore cannot conduct any business that requires a vote. ***I only ask that all Directors please do their best to abide by the rules set forth in the By Laws.***

Wayne and I have issued a challenge to all members of NYSTA to sign up at least one new member. This is a very simple way to double our membership and our strength quickly. Currently less than 20% of the licensed trappers in NY are members of the only organization in this state solely dedicated to the preservation of trapping. While that is a good start, I sincerely believe that within that remaining 80% there are more trappers that would see the benefit of supporting our efforts.

Out of respect for our predecessors, the heritage they have left us and the legacy of true wildlife conservation we are committed to pave the way and secure the future for the generations of trappers yet to follow passionately in our footsteps enjoying the pursuit of our wild furbearers.

Your NYSTA is a very strong, committed and respected organization dedicated to the preservation of our trapping opportunities, and furbearer management. With your help we can make it even stronger, maintain the dedication and gain respect at all levels.

I respectfully invite all trappers to join with us in that endeavor.

Thank You !

***John Rockwood, President  
New York State Trappers Association  
315-415-4946 or Loggerjohnr@aol.com***

## **Vice President's Report**

I'd like to introduce myself to those that haven't met me before or maybe didn't even know there was an election held this year. My name is Wayne Jones and for the next 3 years, I'll be working for you and the rest of the trappers of New York as Vice President of the New York State Trappers Association. For those of you that don't know me, I'm very outspoken, hard working and will do what it takes to make this Association the best in the country, all I need is a little help and cooperation from the you, membership.

First on my agenda will be the fall convention (**September 3 thru September 5**) once again being held at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds in Frankfort, NY.

### **Important changes to note:**

1. The convention will start on **THURSDAY** September 3<sup>rd</sup> this year, not Friday as in years past.
2. The convention will open at 12PM on Thursday and run thru Saturday evening.
3. The buildings & grounds **WILL NOT** be open on Sunday, so please plan accordingly.

While the convention officially opens on Thursday at noon, we could certainly use some help with setting up the buildings & grounds starting at 9AM Wednesday morning.

It has come to my attention, that many NYSTA members may not realize that the Fairgrounds doesn't set up the tables, chairs, demo areas, tailgate spots, or many other behind the scenes things for the convention. This is accomplished, and has been for many years prior, almost entirely by a small core group of dedicated members with an average age of 50+ years old. These are the same volunteers that arrive on Wednesday morning and are usually the last ones to leave on Sunday afternoon, ***my hats off to them!***

I understand that not everyone can afford to come on Wednesday and stay 'till Sunday because of jobs and other obligations, but I do ask that you consider lending a hand this year in some small way. What can you do to help you may ask? I'm asking for each NYSTA member that attends the convention, to donate at least 1 hour of their time during the weekend in some way, shape or form.

Whether it be manning the NYSTA booth, selling raffle tickets, helping dealers & tailgaters load/unload, setting up or tearing down the buildings & grounds and the list goes on. If we all pitch in a little, it should make the convention a lot more enjoyable for everyone. If you'd like to help, please call or email me and let me know what days & times you'll be available so I can set-up a schedule.

While still on the convention, this year's looks to be as good, if not better than last year's convention. Already demo's by **Mark June/Nebraska, Mark Zagger/New York, Jeff Robinson/Ohio and Scott Painter/Virginia** to name a few are scheduled.

While the economy & fur market may be a little weak, the price of gas is down and both dealer buildings are completely booked in addition to over half of the tailgate spots already reserved. If you'd like to reserve a tailgate spot, please look on the **NYSTA homepage at: <http://www.nystrappers.org/conventions/nysta/index.html>** for available spaces or contact me directly.

If anyone has any suggestions and/or ideas on how to make the convention run smoother or maybe add something that's missing, please let me know. Just remember, the only missed opportunity is the one left unspoken.

This is your trappers association, not only do I work for you, I'll work with you. I won't ask anyone to do anything I wouldn't or haven't done before....let's build it up and make it bigger & better than before. There is strength in numbers and we could be much stronger.

I challenge each member to sign up one new member this summer before the convention and let's show the world that the New York State Trappers Association has a voice and it's a loud one.

**Wayne Jones, Vice President**  
**(315) 768-8115**  
**lluvny2@roadrunner.com**

## **Thought for Today:**

*"A Government big enough to give you everything you want, is big enough to take away everything you have."*

*Thomas Jefferson*

## Outgoing President's Report

It has been over 3 1/2 years since I became President of the New York State Trappers Association and it has been a sobering experience. I was asked to run for the position by a few members of the board. I thought about it and talked to a few more people. At the time I worked with the guy who got me into trapping, and I asked him what he thought. He said I was crazy and will ask me in a years time if I still enjoy it. It has been a part of my life I will never forget.

When I was first elected we had a very strained relationship with the DEC. JTI, other board members and myself, worked hard to restore better communication with the Department. We still have our differences but we are able to work together to achieve a common goal to keep trapping alive in New York.

Within my term we have worked hard to get more trapping opportunities for trappers in NY. We pushed hard to clean up the "gray areas" in the regulations that we have to adhere to as responsible trappers. We are very close to finalizing new regulations that will be in a two stage regulation proposal. The first is scheduled to happen for the 2009-2010 trapping season. The second part is planned for 2010-2011 season. The proposal isn't complete, so I can't give you the exact language at this time. We will keep you informed, as we learn the details.

I don't regret any decisions that I have made during my term. However when ever I made any decisions I first consulted many board and non board members. I always respected the knowledge and followed the direction of the members of the board. Some of these decisions at first I didn't agree with but after many conversations, and taking the time to think about things I realized that they were the correct action to take.

The issue of the 220 regulation was one of those very complex, heated issues, that needed cool heads to keep things focused on what needed to be done. It was a very difficult time for all, but because we stayed focused on the issue, we were able to work through it, with a good outcome. We can still use body-grippers on land.

I have formed many friend ships during my terms. These friendships I will cherish for many years. There are a few people I would like to thank, Bill Ballou, Angie Berchielli, Bill Smith, Gordy Berndt, Al West, Bob Hughes, Jim Carmody, Jerry Leggieri, Dave Miller, Pat Arnold, and John Rockwood. I apologize if I missed anyone. These people have helped me in many ways and taught me so much. Along with many trappers that I've had many conversations on different issues. I guess the biggest appreciation and respect I have for all these people is the fact that they always came to me when they had any issue with anything I was doing.

I feel very confident the association will be in good hands with John Rockwood as President. He has great ideas and has an open mind. He listens to the members and will work with the board to make the right decisions. Not everyone will agree with everything he does, but you can't please everyone. He will do what is best for all trappers in New York.

***Good Luck John and Wayne and best wishes.***

Thank you to all my supporters with all my heart.

Dave Leibig  
Past President, NYSTA

***Note from the Editor:***  
***Do you have Meetings, Fur Auctions, Dinners and other events to announce? Please send the information to:***

AngieBerchielli@MSN.com

***Next Newsletter Deadline:***  
***June 20, 2009***

Allow at least 6 weeks lead time for your event.

Thank you.

## ***Executive Director's Report***

Hello Trappers,

Here is the latest that I have to offer on legislation, fund raising and our first NYSTA Spring Conference.

### Spring Conference

The Spring Conference went so well that it seems like a good place to start. We met at the Lodge in the Rochester Gander Mountain Store on Saturday April



11 (the day before Easter... next time I'll look at the calendar first)! I chose that spot because it was easy to find, attracts outdoor folks and, best of all it was *free*. I had no idea whether we would have 10 or 110 attend so free seemed pretty sensible. As it turned out the room was nearly filled: at one point someone counted about 70 NYSTA members gathered for the day. Not bad at all I think for a first time.

The early part of the day featured four speakers. The first was Heather VanDenBerg. Heather is a graduate student at Cornell and has put together a survey sent to trappers and dog owners across several Southern Tier counties. She explained how the survey came about and what might be accomplished through the information gained. As one might imagine many, many questions were asked and I think that people came away from Heather's presentation feeling much more comfortable about what may at first have appeared a very questionable situation.

Next on the agenda was Dorothy Gerhardt. Dorothy came to us from the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge where she manages the visitor's center. She gave a wonderful power point presentation on the history of the refuge and about managing wildlife and the important part that hunting and trapping play in the

management of the refuge.

Lou and Angie Berchielli were there to give the up to date info on their work with body gripping traps and boxes, especially the work that they have done with 160s. Lou and Angie have put a tremendous amount of time and thought into using these tools and their success was evident in the slides that they had with them showing catches of fisher and some really big raccoons. Everyone always enjoys their presentations, much good stuff is learned from these folks.

Last but certainly not least on the agenda our long time friend Gordon Batcheller brought us up to date on the BMP process and on much of what is happening within the DEC.. Nobody has worked harder to help keep trapping alive in N.Y. nor, I think to benefit trappers over all, than Gordon and Gordon, if you happen to read this please know that we are all most grateful.



With the presenters done and after a short break out going President Dave Leibig called the general meeting to order. Dave thanked everyone for the help and support that they had shown over the past four years. This has been, he said, a wonderful experience, one not to be forgotten.

At this point Dave called for incoming President John Rockwood and Vice President Wayne Jones to step forward and officially congratulated them on their new positions. Secretary Ed Hogan conducted the swearing in ceremony for John and Wayne. Both John and Wayne spoke briefly on what they hope to accomplish over the next few years for NYSTA.

Old and new business was called for and the meeting was adjourned at about 4:30 PM.

All in all I felt that this first Spring Conference was a success and I'm all ready looking for places for 2010 and 2011. See you there. ➡➡➡



(Starting at the left: Wayne Jones - Vice President, John Rockwood, President, Ed Hogan - Secretary, Dave Leibig - Past president.)

## Executive Director's Report continued...

### **Fund Raising**

Treasurer Dale Gamba tells me that we are doing well with the 10-gun raffle, over \$7,000 has been taken in so far. I know everybody hates selling tickets but, though we seem to be doing ok, there still are something over 1,000 tickets out. Remember they need to be in before June 6, 2009.

I am getting items together for the convention raffle now and those tickets will start going out soon. Again I know. JEEZ more tickets! Hey, I have to sell them too ya know. But you'll like the prizes.

I would like to do a dinner auction or maybe a series of them and I for sure need help. Volunteers, anyone? But before you do let me remind you that it's a big, time consuming job. I'm open to any kind of other fund raising ideas any of you might have. Feel free to contact me.

### **Legislation**

At this time there are five bills that are to some degree unacceptable, they are as follows:

#### **A4777 Mr. Englebright**

Would allow counties to regulate trapping by local law. This is a very dangerous bill that would negate the DEC authority to regulate trapping. Mr Englebright tells me that he has no intention of moving this bill.

#### **A5381 Mr. Englebright**

Deals with the ability of municipalities to regulate trapping on property owned by the municipality ( they already can), calls for signage on publicly owned property where trapping is allowed except lands purchased specifically for hunting, trapping and fishing (WMAs), creates very strict penalty for trap tag violations. Again Mr Englebright has no intention of moving this bill

#### **A3400 Mr. Englebright**

Defines body gripping traps (as any trap that grips any part of an animals body), requires very deep set backs, requires signage on public property where trapping is allowed, carries very severe penalties for repeat violations. Not a good bill and one that I don't think we need be overly concerned with at this time.

#### **A3022 Mr. Benjamin and A6920 Mr. Kavanagh**

These bills are the same and prohibit raising or keeping fox, otter, muskrat and beaver and charging a fee to those who would trap them for sport. Apparently these folks think that we have trapping

preserves similar to shooting preserves (canned trapping?) Mr. Benjamin pulled this bill last year after I talked to him about it and I assume will do the same this year. I have not talked to Mr. Kavanagh yet, we'll see.

#### **One that is sort of neutral A2153 Mr. Englebright**

Would require signage at entry points to all publicly accessible municipally owned land where trapping is allowed. This bill is being amended to give DEC authority over signs. I expect that he will want to move this bill.

#### **And two that we want to support**

##### **A6089 Ms. DelMonte / S3542 Senator Aubertine**

Would allow the DEC to authorize, by regulation, the use of live cable restraints

##### **A5956 Mr. Magee / S2622 Senator Valesky**

Would allow the use of an identification number as an option to the trapper's name and address on trap tags.

That's it for now----- happy trout fishing turkey hunting and whatever other outdoor adventures you may enjoy.

Dave Miller, (607) 522-4707 or guarddn@empacc.net

### Two "Thank you's", from the Editor:

The first "thank you" is to all of you that took the time to respond to our survey in the last issue of the **TRAP-LINES**. Over 100 surveys were returned. I will be compiling the information in those surveys, and the information will be published in the next issue of the **TRAP-LINES** Newsletter.

My second "**Thank you**" and it is a big one goes to all the Fur buyers who tried very hard to keep our market alive to buy fur, with out going bankrupt themselves. And I hope they succeeded in that goal. I read in some places about trappers complaining that the buyers weren't being "fair", or giving them what the fur was worth. Well, while the fur has value, there is little market anywhere in the World right now. Unfortunately that's a fact.

I commend people like Tom Gebo, Lee Crowther, Mike Smith, John Rockwood, Craig King and many others that unfortunately I recognize by face and not their names at the auctions. I also commend **Fur Harvesters**, and **North American Furs** for their efforts to stabilize and again expand the markets. **THANK YOU!**

**We are living in challenging times, but they are times of opportunity too.** This year is a great one to try new techniques or equipment, so that we are ready when the market rebounds... which it will!

## Regional Director's news and elections

This year marks the first year that trappers in their respective regions will officially nominate and vote for their own Director to serve on NYSTA's Board. This became official with the passage of the new By-laws last year.

Following along DEC Regional Boundaries, the first set of Regions to hold nominations and elections this year are:

Region 1, Region 2, Region 3 and  
Region 4E, Region 4W

These first round of elections will be held this year for those set of Regions and Regional Directors of NYSTA. That process is already in progress.

***If there are multiple nominations, there will be ballots sent out by NYSTA, to all NYSTA members for their vote. If not, the position will be filled by the non-contested nominee.***

Certain qualifications must be met in order to be eligible to run for the position of Director of NYSTA. To learn about those qualifications, please talk to the contact person listed for your Region. (See below.)

**Remember, before nominating someone, make sure you have that persons approval. The deadline for nominations is June 1, 2009.**

### ***Region 3 NYSTA members:***

Region 3 includes, Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester Counties.

Any person that meets the criteria within these counties that is interested in running for the position for Director please contact Mark Chapentier at (845) 626-4794 or chappy@hvc.rr.com.

### ***Region 4 East members:***

This year Region 4E will be among the 5 regions that will have the opportunity to select their Director. The counties in Region 4E are; Albany, Schenectady, Greene, Columbia and Rensselaer. If you are in one of these counties and you might be interested in running for the position of Director, I have set up an Elections Committee within Rensselaer and Columbia Counties.

The four member committee includes Jerry Leggieri and Richard Leggett from Columbia County and Paul J. Hyde and Dave Gentner Sr. of Rensselaer County. ***Dave Gentner is the chairperson*** of the committee. All inquiries should be directed to him. His phone number is ***(518) 658-2070***.

Contact Dave if you would like to nominate someone, or if you have questions concerning eligibility. If no answer, please leave a message and he will get back to you.

Jim Greeley, Region 4 East Director

### ***Dear NYSTA Members in Region 4W.***

Region 4W, includes Schoharie, Otsego Montgomery, and Delaware counties. The three member elections committee includes ***Chairman Ken Hellijas (518) 234-3715***, Earl Van Wormer and Ray Barber Jr.

Any person that meets the criteria within these aforementioned counties that is interested in running for the position for Director please contact ***Ken Hellijas***, as he is the chairperson for the committee. If you are not sure what the criteria are please contact Ken, he will be able to get the answer for you.

Thank You,  
Kenneth L. Hellijas, Committee Chairperson

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### ***New Region 5S Interim Director:***

Hi, My name is Brandon Hemmerich and I'm the ***new NYSTA Region 5S Director***.

I'm 27 years old and have trapped in 5 different states. I truly enjoy all aspects of trapping, but really get a kick out of chasing fisher and 'cats. I'm a 4 term President of the Fulton-Montgomery Fur Harvesters. I'd like to thank Frank Farrar for doing a great job as Director for the past several years; as well as those who have preceded him in this position. Enjoy your retirement, Frank!

I'd like to also thank Dave Leibig for appointing me as interim director. I look forward to working with new President John Rockwood, new Vice President Wayne Jones, and the rest of the NYSTA Board.

In accordance with the new bylaws, the Region 5S Director's position will be up for election next year in 2010. I will put together an election committee at the appropriate time and will be seeking nominations.

One of my goals in the meantime is to try to get together an e-mail and phone number list of all trappers in Region 5S. In a region that is so large, it will be the most effective way to keep in touch with everyone. Below is my contact information, please get in touch with me if you'd like to be added to the list. We are also in need of a Hamilton County Representative. If any trapper is interested in this position, please contact me as well.

I'm a trapper to the core and look forward to keeping trapping alive and well here in the Empire State for decades to come. Feel free to call/e-mail me anytime with your input, ideas, etc. Thank you,  
Brandon Hemmerich,  
10 W State Street, Dolgeville, NY 13329  
atgs4you@hotmail.com or (518)774-7242

## ***Early Trappers and Fur Traders of New York Part Two:***

By Jerry Leggieri

Photos by Angie Berchielli

*(Throughout 2009 each edition of TRAP-LINES will high light an aspect of New York's early fur trade and trapping history.)*

### ***Dutch Fur Trade in New York***

Robert Juet, an officer aboard Hudson's ship, the Half Moon, kept a journal of the voyage up the Hudson River in 1609. When the ship anchored near what is now Castleton-on-Hudson, he recorded that the inhabitants came flocking aboard the ship, and in addition to some foodstuffs they brought for trade, ***"many brought us Bevers skinnes, and Otters skinnes, which wee bought for Beades, Knives, and hatchets."*** Consequently, the fur trade started that was to play a major role in the economy of New Netherland, and also a contributing factor in the later wars between France and Great Britain for control of North America.



Once the trade in pelts started, nothing except gold and precious stones was more valuable at that time. Settlements came into being for the sole purpose of trading with the Indians for beaver pelts, and the forts established as outposts in Indian Territory were primarily collection centers for the fur trade. The beaver was the premier animal, although other furbearers were also pursued. An indication of how important the beaver was to the development of New Netherland and later the English colony can be seen in its inclusion on the official shield of New York City and also on the state's flag. It's the official animal of New York as well. Beaver pelts were used as a monetary standard in the Dutch colony, equal to eight guilders. One cargo out of New Amsterdam sailed for Holland listing ***"7,246 beaver skins, 853 skins of lynx, muskrat, and mink, and loads of walnut and oak timbers..."***

In 1629 wealthy Dutch entrepreneurs were permitted to establish patroonships, or feudal estates, in New Netherland. These were hoped primarily to be successful farming enterprises, but unlike the merchants of the Dutch West India Company who didn't think the fur trade would be successful enough, the patrons did hope to profit from the fur trade as well. A patroonship was offered to any Dutchman who would transport 50 able-bodied persons to New Netherland. The tenant was required to till the soil, clear the land, and support the fur trade.

The Dutch and local Indian tribes, which included the Iroquois Confederacy, after some initial skirmishing,

worked out their differences to their mutual benefit. The Dutch in northern New Netherland and the Indians were economically dependent on each other. It was noted by one resident of Beverwijck that without help from Indians the colony would probably not have survived. But this relationship was a two-edged sword; on the one hand the Indians were a possible threat, on the other, a guardian angel, teaching them survival skills in the wilderness and offering protection from the French.

Long after the colony had gone from Dutch to English the Dutch residents of Albany continued to regulate the colony's Indian affairs until the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. And because of their good relations with the Iroquois, they were able to keep the 5 Nations from succumbing to inducements from the French in Canada to form an alliance with them. But because of increasing conflicts with the French, the English colonists became more concerned about security and as a result, began to criticize the Dutch traders for being more concerned about making a profit than worrying about possible threats from the French to the north.

### ***English and Fur Trade***

Once the English took over the Dutch Colony in 1664, they immediately began to push farther into interior New York. Whereas the Dutch were mostly content to have the Indians bring the furs to them at Ft. Orange, the English pushed up the Mohawk River and over the waterways of central New York and north up the Oswego River into Lake Ontario. There they ran into the French, who were attempting to establish their own footholds over the continent and fur trade by following the St. Lawrence River to Lake Ontario, and then heading west across the lake into the interior of the continent. Since both countries were in search of furs and trade opportunities, a competition soon developed that eventually led from an economic rivalry to wars for political control of North America. And in addition to competing for furs, England and France were also competing for the allegiance of the various Indian tribes that populated the continent, and those political friendships were dependent upon good economic relations that came out of the fur trade.

The fur trade was good to Albany (formerly Ft. Orange) and for the first hundred years of its existence, most of its wealth came from the exchange of furs with the Indians. The residents of Albany considered the trade in furs to be the most important factor in their lives and in fact, began to monopolize

and jealously guard it. At one point the town fathers passed an ordinance that prohibited anyone other than year-round residents from engaging in the fur trade.

Sir William Johnson rose to prominence as a fur trader on the Mohawk River and eventually became northern Superintendent of Indian Affairs. Johnson's arrival on the scene signaled a shift of the Indian trade to the west which also coincided with the development of Oswego on Lake Ontario. This gave New York an even greater geographical advantage over traders from other colonies, such as Pennsylvania. In fact, the only significant source of revenue England received from the New York Colony was provided either directly or indirectly from the fur trade.

By 1700, many in New York thought that the heyday of the fur trade was over. A big factor causing that belief was the disastrous effects King William's War (1689-1697) had on the trade in pelts. And that was soon to be followed by Queen Anne's War (1701-1714). These wars were a series of wars fought between England and France in Europe which spilled over to their North American colonies, culminating in the French and Indian War in 1754. Another cause leading to the decrease in beaver pelts being brought to New York for trade was that the beaver population had declined to such an extent in Iroquois country that they had to travel further west to find them, either to trap beaver themselves or to trade for pelts with other Indian nations.

### ***Articles of trade***

Of all the articles that passed between colonist and Indian in the fur trade with the Iroquois, and that included everything from basic utensils, to beaver hats, to lace coats, the three essential ones were gunpowder, woolen goods, and rum. Much of the gunpowder, though, was given to the Indians as presents by both the French and English, as well as guns. The only French-made article the Indians preferred was gunpowder. The English goods were always considered by the Indians to be of superior quality to the French.

The Dutch traders depended on fashions in Europe to create a demand for their furs, and ironically, their trade with both the Iroquois and other Indian tribes depended on what was in fashion with the Indians. For example, the Indians liked certain kinds of woolen garments which they would then accentuate with other textiles and ornaments. Pieces of coarse woolen cloth called "duffels", named after the place near Antwerp where they originated, were used by the Indians to make blankets. The English town of Stroud

produced "strouds", which was similar to duffels, but could be used in more variety of ways, such as leggings and women's skirts, so were preferred. Red and blue were the favorite colors of Indian shoppers and they were very particular in making a selection for purchase. They only wanted strouds that had a thick nap and dark shade; a dark blue, almost black.

The other commodity that the Iroquois desired as much as the woolens was rum. By the mid-1700s as many furs were traded for rum as for woolens. And besides being an important article of exchange in the fur trade, the trade in rum had other consequences as well. Because of their desire for rum, the hunters would put greater effort into their hunting and killed many more animals than they would have if they had only been interested in purchasing other trade implements and utensils, which they could obtain for far fewer skins than they needed when trading for rum. And the Iroquois and other Indians did try to practice conservation when hunting, but the ease in catching beaver plus the irrational desire for liquor led to the beaver being exterminated and the Iroquois culture being disrupted.

A second problem with rum was that when the Indians did trade they were likely to become intoxicated and as a result, didn't get full value for their pelts. The traders would take advantage of them.

Finally, it was difficult for good relations to be established between trader and Indian because of the effects of rum. The dignified character of the Indians was broken down by drunkenness caused by the alcohol, and consequently, the white traders looked down on them with contempt, which the Indians resented.

### ***Part 3: The French Explorers***



### ***Research on the Human Dimensions of preventing dog-wildlife trap accidents***

In recent years, there have been a few unfortunate accidents where domestic dogs have been caught in wildlife traps, where the dog was injured or killed. The number of dog-wildlife trap accidents each year is limited, and the likelihood of such accidents has been reduced further after the wildlife trapping regulations were revised in January 2008. However, the issue of preventing dog-wildlife trap accidents remains important when people share public lands for wildlife trapping and for recreation with dogs, especially when the dogs may be off-leash.

To that end, the Human Dimensions Research Unit in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University is collaborating with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) (Bureau of Wildlife) to conduct a study on communication networks and attitudes of wildlife stakeholders related to wildlife trapping and to recreating with dogs on public lands. Specifically, we are seeking to (1) identify interactions among wildlife stakeholders, (2) understand the experiences of wildlife trappers and dog-owners and their attitudes associated with wildlife trapping and recreation with dogs on public lands, (3) describe from where these stakeholders receive information about such activities, and (4) examine how and why people become involved individually and as groups in trying to influence public policies affecting wildlife trapping and recreation with dogs on public lands. Information from this study will help the DEC and its partners proactively develop management strategies to anticipate and reduce the likelihood of dog-wildlife trap accidents and to develop communication plans to be prepared if an accident of a dog caught in a wildlife trap occurs.

To complete this research, Cornell is (1) conducting semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders in Southampton (Suffolk County) and Queensbury (Warren County) where specific incidents involving trapping-related dog accidents have prompted policy discussions in recent years, and (2) sending mail-back questionnaires, and following up with a brief telephone survey, to scientifically-sampled wildlife stakeholders in potentially-affected areas of the state. Questionnaires were sent to 1,000 licensed wildlife trappers and 1,000 licensed dog-owners in the Southern Tier counties of Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, and Yates.

The Cornell University Institutional Review Board for Human Participants approved the methods used in this study (#08-09-060) on February 10, 2009. Information collected through these efforts will help identify management and communication needs related to public land use by these multiple stakeholders.

Some readers of this publication may have received one of these questionnaires, or participated in interviews. If you returned the completed questionnaire or answered questions on the phone, ***thank you for participating*** in this important study.

The Cornell research team presented information on this study at a recent NYSTA Board Meeting. If you have questions about the study, please contact:

***Heather (Cornell) at 607-255-8337 or hav5@cornell.edu, or***

***Gordon Batcheller (DEC) at 518-402-8885 or grbatche@gw.dec.state.ny.us.***

You are also welcome to contact your NYSTA Board of Directors to learn more about this study.

This article was submitted by Heather Van Den Berg, Graduate Research Assistant/Ph.D. Candidate, Human Dimensions Research Unit, Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University.





### *NYSTA 2009 Fur Handlers Awards*

13 years old and under - Muskrats, Weasels, Mink, Red Squirrels  
14 and up - Any Species

**\*\*\*No Entry Fee \*\*\***

Each Participant may enter one specimen per species  
All entries must be New York Furbearers

**All fur must be at the Fall Convention before 9 AM Saturday, September 5, 2009**

The owner of the fur is responsible to get his/her fur to the convention and back home following the convention. Your Regional Director, County Representative or Fur Buyer may be able to assist you if you can't get to the Convention by 9AM Saturday. Fur may also be donated to the NYSTA Legislative Fund.

Judging will be completed by 10 AM Saturday morning, so your fur MUST be entered on time or it will not be considered. Ribbons will be placed on the fur directly after the judging and may remain on display for public viewing during the remainder of the Convention or picked up anytime after the judging. Individual species ribbons/awards as well as the "**State Fur Handler of the Year**" trophy will be presented to the winners at the General Membership Meeting Saturday evening.

**\*\* Tips on preparation of your fur:**

- Freeze small animals such as mink, squirrels etc. whole. The week before the Convention thaw, skin and put up as usual. This will assure your fur is fresh when presented.
- For larger animals, skin, wrap and freeze when caught, then thaw and put a few days prior to the Convention so it is also fresh.

Contact **Pat Arnold** for additional information  
12374 Arnoldville Rd., Natural Bridge, NY 13665  
(315) 644-4643 or patriciaarno@gmail.com

**Sponsors of the NYSTA 2009 Fur Handlers Awards:**

New York State Trappers Association (NYSTA)  
Conservation Alliance of New York (CANY)  
North American Fur Auction - Ernie Moser (NAFA)  
Fur Harvesters Auction - Toby Edwards (FHA)

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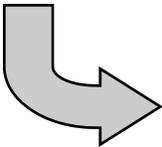


## Membership Application

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