

# TRAP-LINES

*New York State Trapper's Association  
Legislative Edition 2013  
www.nystrappers.org*



*75 Years of Service to New York's Trappers*

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## *President's Report*

Greetings NYSTA Members,

This year commemorates 75 years of NYSTA's service to New York's trappers. We've come a long way, grown significantly, learned and accomplished much, and worked hard to both defend and preserve the trapping way of life we know and love. It has not been an easy task; but it has been a labor of unparalleled devotion by NYSTA leadership and members since our very beginning.

We have a proud trapping heritage, alive and well, here in the Empire State. It has always been my belief that we continue to trap the way we are allowed to today only as a direct result of the NYSTA's involvement in trapping related issues on behalf of all of New York's trappers. My honest, heartfelt appreciation goes out to all those, both past and present, who have been a part of, or supporter of, NYSTA's efforts to protect and defend our heritage over the past 75 years.

As reported earlier, this is an election year for Directors in Regions 5, 6, and 7. Those Director positions in Regions 5N, 7N, and 7S were uncontested so there are no changes to report in those seats. Brandon Hemmerich decided not to continue as Region 5S Director and Frank Walter had been nominated by the organized NYSTA affiliates in that Region. The NYSTA Board unanimously approved Frank Walter as the Region 5S Director at our April 20, 2013 meeting. Welcome Frank, and thank you for stepping up to fill this position. The seat for Region 6 Director is a contested position this year so NYSTA will be holding an election for that position.

Treasurer Dale Gamba will be mailing ballots to all NYSTA members in Region 6 on June 1, 2013. Included with the ballots will be all necessary voting instructions along with bios of both candidates running for this position. Please exercise your right to vote to ensure that Region 6 will be represented on the NYSTA Board of Directors.

Returned ballots must be postmarked by June 30, 2013 and mailed to *Tim Strough, 3861*

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## ***President's Report***

**County Route 95, Lorraine, NY 13659.** Tim is the Chairman of the Nominations/Election Committee for Region 6.

After much discussion at the past two NYSTA Directors Meetings, we have decided to make a change to the Fur Handlers Competition, effective in 2014. In 2014 the competition will be held at the Spring Membership Conference instead of at the Annual Fall Convention as it has been in the past. This will be the last year the Fur Handlers Competition will be held at the Fall Convention.

This year's Spring Membership Conference was a tremendous success. "Thank you" Dave Miller, once again, for the wonderful selection of guest speakers. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Gordon Batcheller, Serge Larivierre, Ann Rothrock, and Ken Beginski for this year's presentations. Our appreciation is also extended to the good folks at the Collins Sportsman's Club for providing the venue and the lunch and to Chris "Hoot" Gerling for the wonderful display of fur items. I was certainly glad to see so many attendees, some of whom were new faces, and all of whom were very pleased with the day's program and events.

Ray Nolan, Region 7S Director, has been doing more than a little bit of research on website design, maintenance, and operation to help benefit NYSTA's ailing website. Admittedly, our website is not presently up to par and we really need to fix that. Ray is working hard to try and find a viable solution. If anyone has any ideas that would help, please let Ray know. He is also collecting information as to what we would really like to see on our website. Please feel free to share your ideas with Ray. You can contact him with your thoughts by email at [ragn@citlink.net](mailto:ragn@citlink.net)

As mentioned earlier, this is **NYSTA's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** and we will be offering some special commemorative items at this year's

Annual Fall Convention. Please be sure to stop by the NYSTA booth and check them out. Also, remember to renew your membership and bring along a friend to sign up, too. Last year we set a new record attendance and the way things are shaping up right now, it looks like this year promises to be even larger.

Have a safe summer and I'll see you all at the Fall Convention !

John Rockwood, President  
New York State Trappers Association  
Phone: 315-415-4946  
Email: [Loggerjohnr@aol.com](mailto:Loggerjohnr@aol.com)

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

### ***Fund raising:***

Everyone likely has received tickets from the Orange County Trappers Association (OCTA) by now. This is the second year that the Orange County Trappers have included NYSTA in this fund raiser and they do a great job.

OCTA handles all of the expenses, furnishes the prizes, prints and mails the tickets everything, and shares the profit with NYSTA. This is a very generous gesture on their part and I am very grateful for their help. Please sell or buy these tickets, NYSTA actually profits more from this than we do from many of our own raffles.

NYSTA will start another 30 day raffle soon that will run into fall. You will be hearing more about that shortly.

We are planning a dinner auction for the convention but, unfortunately, I don't have the final details worked out at this writing. Just be aware that this event is coming up and tickets will be available soon.

### ***Legislation:***

As I write this piece the legislature is down to the last three weeks for this year. So far it



appears that none of the anti- trap bills will be considered.

All of our pro trapping bills were passed by the Senate earlier in the year (cable restraints, 48 hour water sets in the southern zone, turtle traps), the only one however that has any life in the Assembly is Mr. Magee's bill #2490 that would allow the use of turtle traps. Mr. Magee's bill has passed the committee on Environmental Conservation but is being held up a bit in another committee (Codes). I have asked for a very minor amendment that I hope will keep things moving. Contact your Assembly member and ask for his/her support.

We did have one very major victory this year when the legislature tried to eliminate our individual trapping license as a part of the budget legislation. The idea was to include it as part of the general hunting license at no charge for trapping. We did not want to lose the recognition that an individual license gives us nor the bargaining power that comes with purchasing licenses so we immediately ask that that part of the budget bill be changed and those changes were made. This was an important win for trappers in New York.

This year I began asking Assembly members to add their names as co-sponsors on the cable restraint bill and have had surprising success. Many downstate legislators have signed on and more have agreed to, some names that I really would not have expected, but, people are really concerned about coyote and the threat that they may present to children and pets in heavily populated areas. We have been gaining momentum with this for the past couple of years. You can be an important help in this process. Ask your legislator if they have signed on and if not that you would appreciate their help by becoming a co-sponsor on Mr. Gabryzak's bill #4023. It is especially important to talk to down state Democrat Assembly members from Regions 1, 2 and 3.

On a last but important note remember

that this is NYSTA's 75th. Anniversary. This will be a very special year for many of us and will be a very special convention. I look forward to seeing you there.

David Miller, Executive Director  
New York State Trappers Association  
Phone: (607) 522-4707 Cell: (607) 664-7161  
Fax: (607) 522-3033  
Email [guarddn@empacc.net](mailto:guarddn@empacc.net)

### ***NYSDEC Requesting Assistance from Trappers Fisher Harvest Monitoring:***

Beginning this fall, the NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife will be collecting data on a voluntary basis from participating trappers with the objective of improving our monitoring of fisher populations and harvests in New York. Our study area includes the entire Northern Zone and the Catskill region of the Southern Zone (WMU 3A, 3C, 4G, 4H, 4P, 4R, 4W). Wildlife biologists and other staff from Region 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 will be coordinating the project.

In particular, we will be collecting data on trapper effort through a Fisher Trapping Log Book. In the Log Book, trappers will record the number of traps that are set and checked and their catch on a daily basis; these data are useful for monitoring trends in harvests. We are also requesting the submission of carcasses or lower jaws from any fishers that you catch (again, on a voluntary basis). We will be collecting biological data from these carcasses, including age, diet, and reproductive status.

If you would like to participate with this project, please contact Paul Jensen , to sign-up and receive additional details.

Paul Jensen  
(518) 623-1242 or [pgjensen@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:pgjensen@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

### ***Thank you. We appreciate your help!***

Kevin Clarke, Region 3. Mike Clark, Region 4  
Paul Jensen, Region 5, Andy MacDuff, Region 6  
Bill Schara, Region 7

***Regional, County and other news***

***Tioga Trappers Association 2013-2014 Schedule***

<i>August 29, 30, 31</i>	<i>N.Y.S.T.A Convention - Herkimer, NY</i>
<i>September 8</i>	<i>Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month)</i>
<i>September 28</i>	<i>Trapper Education at the Sportsmen's Club</i>
<i>October 6</i>	<i>Meeting</i>
<i>November 3</i>	<i>Meeting</i>
<i>December 1</i>	<i>Meeting - Election of Officers</i>
<i>January 5</i>	<i>Meeting</i>
<i>January 12</i>	<i>Fur Sale- 9AM to noon at Club</i>
<i>January 18</i>	<i>Annual "Dish to Pass" Dinner</i>
<i>February 9</i>	<i>Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month)</i>
<i>March 2</i>	<i>Meeting</i>
<i>April 6</i>	<i>Final Meeting of Season</i>

*All meetings start at 7:00PM at the Sportsmen's Club  
Carmichael Hill Rd., Owego, NY  
Questions: Call Bob at 607-687-2196 or Mark at 607-687-2986*

*Respectfully submitted by Bob Vergason, Secretary Tioga County Trappers*

***In memory:***

Dr. William S. Cooley - Remsen, New York

Dr. William S. Cooley passed away peacefully at home on March 30, 2013. Born on June 1, 1928 in Herkimer, New York, the oldest of four boys, he trapped at a very early age. He married an angel named Joan, while he was an intern in Troy, New York. While in the Air Force they settled in West Virginia where he trapped mink and many skunks. They moved to Remsen, New York and raised their six children, Carolyn, Bill, Dan, Laurel, Dawn, and Candace.

Dr. Cooley, known as "Doc" to his friends, trapped well into his eighties. He quietly accomplished unprecedented levels of success trapping fishers in the Adirondacks. The scope of his trapping activities spanned mink trapping in the Northwest Territories to otter trapping in Florida.

He will be missed by the trapping community!  
Submitted by Lee Crowther

*(Note: I vividly remember Doc, sitting on the porch of the Piseco Fish and Game Club with the likes of E.J. Dailey, O.L. Butcher, and Ray Duntley, in the earliest days of the New York State Trappers Association.) Lee*

## *NYSTA Board of Director's Meeting*

### *Minutes of the NYSTA Board of Director's Meeting* **January 19, 2013** **Herkimer County Fairgrounds**

#### *Call to Order*

The meeting was called to order by President Rockwood at (:10 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the October meeting were approved with the name correction of Brandon Conrad.

#### *Committee Reports*

**Scholarship** - No report

**Election**-No report

**Youth Trapper's Camp**-Pat Arnold has volunteered to continue to act as the contact person for these camps despite the fact that she will no longer chair them. The applications for the 2013 camps will be ready by early March, 2013. The patches that were not available when the camps finished are now done and we need a list of the participants so we can send them their patches.

**Fur Handler's Award**-There was discussion on what to do with this activity due to lack of participation; drop it, keep it the same or move the timing. It was decided to try it at the spring convention before we drop it all together.

**Convention**-It appears everyone renewed their building reservations for next year. The first two buildings are full and there are two people signed up for the third one.

**NTA**-2013 looks to be a challenging year with several issues on the agenda including guns, land use, fish & game laws, executive orders that will circumvent the legislative process. The NTA is always very active even though some directors may not relate all the efforts that are ongoing.

**FTA**-No report

**JTI**-JTI committee met on Friday January 11, 2013 in Syracuse. Al West resigned as Chairman of the committee and President Rockwood will now Chair the committee. The bobcat management plan has been revised and will be republished in the state register in February or March. Trappers need to send in comments of support! The state is working on the fisher management plan. The Adirondack fisher population seems to be down significantly but the animals are expanding their range in other areas.

Elaine Burns, graduate student from ESF is doing otter population study in western NY.

There will be a separate martin plan and due to their expansion the limit might be raised.

Might consider looking at defining what are an active beaver house, dam and feed pile so trap placement might be allowed if they are inactive.

Reviewing the regulation on baited 330s with the thought of modifying their use under the ice.

November 1<sup>st</sup> is a popular opening date amongst trappers in the Northern Zone responding to the NYSTA survey.

DEC is using trail cameras in regions 4, 7, 8 & 9 to estimate populations, plus they have radio collared one animal.

#### *County Information*

The assembly race in the 46<sup>th</sup> district has resulted in a change from republican to democrat.

John Milkes is in The Pines assisted living facility.

The Jefferson County Trapper's Association has a full slate of officers for the first time in many years.

Oneida County is working to develop a county chapter. They plan to meet at the Camden Rod & Gun Club.

#### *DEC Report*

The bobcat plan is done and is awaiting final executive sign off. When it is republished in the register, please send in comments. If it goes through the DEC hopes to have it published in next year's syllabus.

The fisher plan has been started. DEC would like to have a draft done by 3/2/13 but that might be ambitious. There is also a camera study going on. By the end of the study cameras will have been placed in over 300 locations. The final fisher harvest numbers are not in but the count should be okay. Martin set a new record for harvest with over 376. They seem to be expanding their range into towns that border traditional range.

The DEC will look at moving opening day to November 1<sup>st</sup> but that will not change the hunting date for 'coons and foxes.

The DEC will give a status report on the otter population in the reintroduction area at the fall convention.

There was a lot of discussion about the findings in the muskrat study. This is the last year and data over the study seems stable.

If you see a violation during business hours it is best to contact a regional/sub-regional office where someone will answer the phone and be able to dispatch someone. If you try and call an ECO, you may or may not reach the officer.

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

The raffle tickets for the next fundraiser are done and Dave will send them out to people that have bought tickets in the past and won.

The AMBIT energy program has the potential to raise a significant amount of money for NYSTA. Dave said he has seen his energy bill drop from about \$70/month to \$45/50. We need to promote this better. If anyone is interested in the program contact Dave Miller.

**Spring Conference** will be held on 4/27/13 at the Collins Sportsman's Club in North Collins. Ladies from the club will be making lunch for the attendees. Serge Lariviere will be the keynote speaker.

Legislative items of interest are; 1) trying to get a 48 hr check in the southern one, 2) modify the snapping turtle law to allow different harvest, and 3) the cable restraint bill. Legislation of concern include; 1) municipal authority bill- this has passed the Assembly but died in the Senate but there is no guarantee that will happen this year, 2) signage bill and NYC raccoon bill that requires release of nuisance animal.

Herm Flowers delivered a check from the NYS Houndsman for \$1,000 to go towards Dave's expenses.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Accidentally left at home. There is about \$7K in the checking account. Our investments have been earning \$800-\$1,000/month. We may be able to operate in the black until our fall convention when we recharge the treasury.

### **Old Business**

Ray Nolan gave a brief report on maintaining websites. He will continue to look into the issue and bring more information to the April meeting.

Fur auctions have been going well with strong prices.

There was discussion on whether the date of the January meeting should be moved. (There was no resolution).

**Motion:** *Donate \$250 to FBU for their gun raffle.*

**Made by:** *Dave Leibig*

**Seconded by:** *Bob Samuelson*

**Disposition:** *Carried unanimously*

### **New Business**

2013 is an election year for Regions 5, 6, & 7. Nominations need to be in to Bob Hughes by 4/15/2013.

We also received a letter from FBU asking us if we would like to host a fundraising banquet.

2012 hand engraved NYSTA gun of the year won

by Richard Comtois from Oswego County.

The 161K acres of Finch-Pruyn land was bought by the Nature Conservancy and they are turning over sections of it to NYS. Now there are big discussions on how to classify the land. If it is classified as Wilderness it will restrict access and activity on the land. Should NYSTA take a position in the classification debate.

Paul Loomis passed away and his family requested that donations be made in his name to NYSTA.

**Motion:** *NYSTA shall pay the annual dues to become a voting member of the NYS Conservation Council.*

**Made by:** *Ed Hogan*

**Seconded by:** *Dave Leibig*

**Disposition:** *Carried unanimously*

Angie announced that the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies will be meeting 4/9/13 in Saratoga. Dr. Steve DeMaris will be a featured speaker. Gordon Batcheller would like NYSTA to donate \$1,400 to cover Dr. DeMaris' expenses. NYSTA would get recognition in the meeting program. There was a lot of discussion regarding whether or not NYSTA could afford this. Some members were not sure there was much value in being recognized in the program with so many outside states. A compromise resolution for donating \$700 was brought to the floor and voted down. Angie spoke to the group after the vote and reminded the board how helpful it Gordon has been to the trappers and asked why we would refuse to support him. There was some additional discussion and another motion was made.

**Motion:** *Donate \$1,400 to cover Dr. DeMaris expenses to the Northeast Fish & Wildlife Agencies meeting.*

**Made by:** *Ray Nolan*

**Seconded by:** *Earl Van Wormer*

**Disposition:** *Carried yeas 11 nays 2*

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4PM. The next meeting is Saturday April 21, 2013 at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ed Hogan  
NYSTA Secretary

## ***Pat Arnold Youth Trapping Camps 2013***

Both camps are open for applications. The dates this year are ***October 11,12,13,14, 2013*** that is Friday dinner time through Monday lunch.

There is space for 26 new youth and 10 returnees in both camps. The western camp is at the DEC camp Rushford, Allegany County and the eastern camp at Rotary Boy scout Camp, near Troy.

Applications and information can be received by contacting Pat Arnold, [patriciaarno@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaarno@gmail.com) or by calling 315-644-4643.

Please remember the cost of camp (\$40.00) barely covers food, in fact it doesn't. All other program materials are available because of donations. We try to provide an exceptional experience for our young people and every year there is something new added, especially for the returnee-Jr. mentors.

We also need mentors at both camps. NYSTA membership is mandatory and NY DEC certified instructors will be given first consideration. We will consider others as well please call.

We have talked of moving the Fur Handlers contest to the spring conference held in April as we have heard it would be easier for contestants to have fresh fur and not have to hold it until the annual convention. We will continue the contest this fall at the convention but 2014 will be at the spring conference.

Pat Arnold  
315-644-4643  
[patriciaarno@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaarno@gmail.com)

## ***A Continued urgent request!***

***From:***

John Rockwood NYSTA President and  
Dave Miller, NYSTA's Executive Director  
and Legislative Liaison.

Since our first request, we have received about ***100*** e-mail addresses. Which is a great start.

***Thank you, to those of you that took the time to sign up!***

We would however, like to build on this list to be able to effectively reach more of you. The "norm" in today's world is a very short turn around time to issues or information to be useful.

These next few years are shaping up to be very difficult for all of us. Whether it is sending in comments regarding regulation changes, or action on legislation, comments and letters from as many of us as possible are imperative. We can let you know that ***"now is the time"*** to write your comments, but we need to be able to reach you. Legislators also need to hear from you, their constituents. They are certainly hearing from the other side. You all witnessed how quickly legislation can be passed ie. the NY Safe Act. On so many of these issues we need to be able reach those of you that want to be kept informed in an efficient and timely manner.

The printing and postage for mailings is very expensive. The postage alone for a first class letter to all of our members would be close to \$800, for ***each*** letter.

***But more importantly it takes too long!***

Fortunately technology could also be working for our advantage. The internet, for those of us that have access to it, can also work for us! But we need to develop this tool. It is by far the quickest, easiest and least expensive to use. It works at almost no cost to anyone, and it can be almost immediate in getting the word out.

Dave Miller has often said that, it is up to you to ***"support what you believe in"***. Now is the time to do that.

So those of you with internet access, please work with us to develop this effective tool for NYSTA. It is simple. Just send an e-mail to ***AngieBerchielli@MSN.com*** with ***"e-mail alerts"*** in the subject line. ***"Email alerts" must be in the subject line***, or the message will be deleted. She will develop an electronic mailing list with these addresses. The addresses will only be used for the purpose of sending you folks important, and urgent information.

***Thank you for considering this and helping us to develop this system.***



# NEW YORK STATE TRAPPER'S Association

12320 Pople Road  
Cato, New York 13033



## Membership Application

New

Renewal

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

**Why Not Give, a membership to a friend or youngster, in time for them to get ready for this Fall's Trapping Season?**

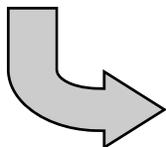
Street-RFD-Box \_\_\_\_\_

Town or City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Ph. No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (Required)



- Junior membership \$15.00/yr \_\_\_\_\_ Under 16 years of age, magazine included
- Basic membership \$15.00/yr \_\_\_\_\_ Over 16 years of age; **NO** magazine
- General membership \$25.00/yr \_\_\_\_\_ Over 16 years of age; Magazine included
- Family membership \$30.00/yr \_\_\_\_\_ two family members; one magazine included
- Lifetime membership \$750.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Extra Donation will Help preserve trapping in New York:**

Total \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail To:**

NYS Trappers Association  
12320 Pople Road.  
Cato, New York 13033

Make checks payable to: *NYS Trappers Association*  
*Credit Cards can now be accepted.*