

# TRAP-LINES

*New York State Trapper's Association  
Fall Edition 2014  
www.nystrappers.org*



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

## NYSTA President's Report

Greetings Fellow New York Trappers,

It is necessary for me to devote my message to you in this issue of *TRAPLINES* to our concerns regarding the NYSDEC Draft Management Plan for Fisher in New York State. This plan is slated to be published in the State Register for public comment in October or November of 2014. Although we are not privy to the exact content and language of the plan, meetings with the FMT and others from the Department have given us much insight as to what that content will most likely include.

We have been told this plan would include opening fisher trapping seasons in various WMUs where previously that opportunity has not existed. Conclusions presented from several years of fisher population density and distribution studies conducted across the Southern Zone of NY by the Furbearer Management Team supports the possibilities of these new trapping opportunities. We are very thankful that the Department has listened to our requests to open fisher trapping seasons in these WMUs.

What concerns NYSTA, and should be of great concern to all trappers, is how the harvest of fisher in these new areas will be controlled. The proper management of all furbearers, as directed by the findings of sound science, is of the utmost concern to this state's trappers, NYSTA, and the DEC.

NYSTA is in favor of utilizing the length and timing of the fisher trapping season as the methods to control the numbers harvested. However, the Department seemed to be heavily favoring implementation of bag limits. NYSTA stands adamantly opposed to bag limits on any furbearer in NY, except pine marten. If the studies concluded by the Department indicate a population of fisher high enough to sustain a harvest, an open season should be proposed and implemented. If there is a concern that too many fisher could be harvested from a newly opened WMU, a shorter season could be utilized and there would be no need for bag limits which are far too cumbersome and easily abused. If a shorter season is implemented, it should end at the same time as the present fisher trapping seasons in the Northern Zone and the Catskills. That

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## President's Report

would mean that the season would open a bit later in the new areas than the NZ and Catskill seasons. By closing the fisher trapping season, statewide, on the same date, a logistical nightmare in the sealing of the skins (and the legal issues involved) would be avoided. All fisher pelts harvested in the State of NY would have to be sealed by December 20.

There are many reasons why we feel that bag limits should not be implemented. Bag limits on furbearers work about as well as bounties, in most cases. Both are open to many forms of abuse. If you are allowed to harvest 5 fisher and you've already taken four and have ten days left in the season, how many traps would you leave set to catch number five? What would happen if you left two traps out and caught two more fisher, on the same day, before the season closed? Bag limits just won't work - period! However, one of the most important reasons for us to stand firmly against implementation of bag limits is this: At a meeting between the NYSTA JTI Committee and the NYSDEC Furbearer Management Team we were explicitly told that if the Department decided, in this plan, to utilize bag limits to "manage" the harvest of fisher here in New York, that they may decide to use that same "tool" to manage the harvest numbers of other furbearers as well. It is easy to see how dangerous a precedent this would set.

It is my opinion that the trapper survey mailed to many of you from Cornell this past spring posed a question designed to incidentally elicit a response from trappers that could possibly support the FMT's position on bag limits. Trappers living where there has never been an open fisher trapping season may believe that having a season with bag limits is their only hope of obtaining an open season, but that is simply not true. A shorter season will accomplish the same desired results and prevent a dangerous precedent from being set. The bobcat management plan, implemented a year ago, did not include limits. It utilized a shorter season. Acceptable numbers, very close to those predicted by the Department, were accomplished. The Department didn't see a "need" for bag limits on bobcats and we don't "need" bag limits set on fisher or any other furbearer in New York either.

Hopefully the FMT has listened to our concerns, respected our position, and not included bag limits in the plan. For that we would be eternally grateful and all this heart-burn many of us within NYSTA have endured for months will have been for naught. However, I feel we must be prepared for the worst.

I would ask that each and every one of you please send your comments on the new Fisher Management Plan to the Department when that plan is published in the State Register. Regular methods of informing our members through this newsletter and the *Trappers Post* will not reach you in time to inform you that the plan is published for comment so please check on the NYSTA website at [www.nystrappers.org](http://www.nystrappers.org) and on the New York Trappers Forum regularly as we will post important information on those sites as it becomes available. This would also be a great time to sign up with Angie Berchielli for the NYSTA Email Alerts so we can get this information out to you immediately. Stay in contact with your NYSTA County Representative and/or Regional Director, our Executive Director Dave Miller, one of your NYSTA Officers, or your local NYSTA affiliated organization. We will get information out to our members as quickly as we can.

For more detailed information and background on this issue, please contact me directly via email at [Loggerjohnr@aol.com](mailto:Loggerjohnr@aol.com) and I will forward that information to you. The trapping season is fast approaching here in New York.

I wish you all a safe and successful season.  
Thank you!

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

## Executive Director's Report

Hi folks,

it's a good day and a good time to be a trapper.

I would say that we had a pretty successful year in the legislature; we didn't lose anything and while we also didn't actually gain anything I was able to add several new names on the assembly cable restraint bill as co-sponsors. Most of those added names are Westchester county New York City and Long Island democrats and should be quite helpful as we continue to make progress with our bill.

In the Senate both our cable restraint bill and our 48 hr. check for traps set in water in the Southern Zone were passed with, as I remember, only one no vote. Those bills and the bill to allow the use of turtle traps will be reintroduced in January with new numbers.

Keep in mind however that some interesting changes are in the wind. Assemblyman Robert Sweeney, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation is retiring. Mr. Sweeney was a not bad guy, all things considered. He didn't do a lot for trappers, but, though he was always under pressure to push anti-trap legislation he did us no harm either. ***Thank you Mr. Sweeney.***

I do not know who the next chair will be and while there some names floating around no one will really know until sometime after mid January. There are several seats to be filled in both the Senate and the Assembly due to retirements and resignations and there are bound to be other changes after the November elections. There are some who predict that the Senate will go strongly Democratic. ***That would change all committee chairs in the Senate and could make things very shaky and difficult for us.***

And keep in mind we will be voting for a Governor. I can't and won't tell you how you should vote just remember the recent past, consider what I have written in my columns and read and listen to what the candidates have to say. Try to sift out the political garbage and for heavens sake ***GET***

***OUT AND VOTE***, and bring your friends. Your vote can make all the difference.

As to fund raising - our efforts are ongoing. Raffle tickets are being sold at this time for a November raffle, a ticket will be drawn every day for the month of November as we have done in the past. Ticket sales are going very well, better than ever before and looks like this will be a great success.

Many of you have asked about the calendars; unfortunately they are not available this year but we will have them again for 2016.

I want to thank Angie Berchielli for her donation of the framed bear photo that was raffled off at the NTSTA Convention. Angie made this donation asking that the proceeds go to help Maine trappers in their battle to maintain bear hunting and trapping. There was I believe about \$465 dollars taken in and sent to our friends in Maine. Thank you Angie.

I just want to add that I hope all of you who were at the convention had as great a time as I did. It is always such a great pleasure to see everyone and get to visit with so many long time (and new) friends. Also to my friend John Rockwood and to everyone else I say a most humble ***thank you*** that I was chosen to receive the Life Time Achievement Award for this year. I cannot begin to express how deeply moved I was and still am.

***Remember to get out and Vote!***

Thank you,

Dave Miller, Executive Director  
New York State Trapper's Association  
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Email: guarddn@empacc.net

***NYSTA 2014 Convention: Youth learning a conservation lesson by building bird houses***



***Convention photos submitted by Sandra Van Slyke, Thank you Sandra for sending them!***





***NYSTA 2014 Convention - Youth trap setting contest***



*Trap setting contest continued.*



**County News:**

**Fulton Montgomery Fur Harvesters Association  
2015 monthly meetings 7:00 P. M.  
Ephratah Rod & Gun Club - 372 State Highway 67**

<b>January 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>May 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>September 28<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>February 23<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>June 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>October 26<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>March 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>July 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>November 30<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>April 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>August 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>December TBA</b>

**2015 Fur Auctions**

**January 3<sup>d</sup>, 2015 - 4H Training Center, Ballston Spa  
February 7<sup>th</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - Herkimer VFW**

**President: Paul Johnson (315) 429-2969  
Vice President: Virginia VanShaick**

**Secretary: Douglas Lansburg  
Treasurer: Shelly Johnson**

**Tioga Trappers Association 2014-2015 Schedule**

**September 7.....Meeting**  
**September 27 .....Trapper Ed. At the Sportsmen's Club**  
**October 5 .....Meeting**  
**November 2 .....Meeting**  
**December 7 .....Meeting - Election of Officers**  
**January 4, 2015 .....Meeting**  
**January 11 .....Fur Sale - 9AM to Noon at Club**  
**January 17 .....Annual Dish to Pass Dinner**  
**February 8 .....Meeting (2nd Sunday of the Month)**  
**March 1 .....Meeting**  
**April 5 .....Final Meeting of Season**

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

**Genesee Valley Trappers  
Fur Auction Dates**

**December 14, 2014  
January 18, 2015**

**February 15, 2015  
March 15, 2015**

***Fur Check - in/sign ups begins at 7:00am and the fur auction begins at 10:00am***

***Address for Fur Auction house is:***

***Genesee Valley trappers  
4462 County Route 32  
Bristol, New York 14469***

***Web sites of interest to trappers:***

***National Furbearer Harvest Statistics Database***

***[http://jjcdev.com/~fishwild/?section=furbearer\\_management\\_resources](http://jjcdev.com/~fishwild/?section=furbearer_management_resources)***

***Furbearer Sighting Surveys NYS DEC***

***<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/30770.html>***

***Upcoming deadline for next TRAP-LINES Newsletter***

***Do you have meeting notices, fur auction dates or results, dinners or other events to announce? Please send that information to:***

***Angie Berchielli, 3861 SR 85, Westerlo, NY 12193***

***Or: [AngieBerchielli@MSN.com](mailto:AngieBerchielli@MSN.com)***

***Please be sure to give yourself enough lead time for your event.***

***Next Deadline:***

***December 1, to be delivered around the middle to end of January.***



Other County News:

**CORTLAND COUNTY TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION**

President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer
Bill Howe	John Slocum	Les Wedge	Art Manz

***Our meetings are currently held at the McGraw Sportsman's Club on Ridge Rd, McGraw at 5 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month. Directions to the club are as follows:***

***From the east: Take NY Rte. 41 to McGraw. Take the second left (South St.) go about 0.7 miles to Ridge Rd. (on the left) then go about 1.5 miles to the clubhouse.***

***From the west (or north or south): Take I-81, get off at the McGraw exit. Take NY Rte. 41 to McGraw village and take the first right (South St.) and follow the above directions.***

***Other important news about ticks***

There is a newly discovered viral disease (Powasson viral disease) carried by the deer tick. In New York, the disease is localized on the east side of the Hudson Valley (downstate) but it is expected to spread. See the article at <http://www.outdoorhub.com/news/deadly-new-deer-tick-virus-emerges-in-new-york/>

It was also recently discovered in Minnesota. This virus can infect within 15 minutes of the tick starting to feed, unlike Lyme disease which may take 24+ hours.

If that weren't enough bad news the August 2014 ***Deer and Deer Hunting Magazine*** contains an article about a tick caused allergy in humans to red meat. It is caused by the lone star tick whose range includes New York, It feeds readily on humans but favors deer. Currently it is found in the Southeast which is the hotspot, but it is also expected to spread. The magazine article also lists a number of tick-borne maladies and where they are found.

The best defense is tick repellent and the best one seems to be Permethrin, a synthetic form of pyrethrum, found in chrysanthemums. It is applied to clothing, tents, etc. and let dry. In that form it is odorless, harmless to humans and lethal to ticks. Sawyer makes it and it is available in a sprayer or aerosol form available at Walmart.

If you Google "tick repellents" you'll see a description of permethrin.

Trappers should be aware of these health dangers and relatively simple fixes as such as wearing proper clothing, repellents and checking yourselves for ticks. Ticks can be picked up by walking through vegetation, from the animals you catch ***and from your pets.***

***The varmints! Be careful out there!***

Submitted by Les wedge, Cortland County Trappers

**Minutes of New York State Trapper's  
Association  
Board of Director's Meeting**

**April 26, 2014**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Rockwood at 9:05. There was a quorum with 11 voting members present.

**Committee Reports**

**Scholarship** - No report

**Nominations**- No report

**Youth Trapper's camp**-Tim Strough made the report for Pat Arnold who is in the report as Pat Arnold is in the hospital. Organizers talked about a pre-camp mentor's meeting and perhaps have separate bank accounts for each camp. There was discussion about donations to the camp and how having a 501(c)-3 status would be a big help. Empire Wildlife (NYSTA branch) has paper work ready to go. BOD directed the treasurer to work with the Executive Director and file the paperwork to get the 501 (c)3 status.

**Convention**- There is a waiting list of 10 people looking for indoor space. All the buildings are full. This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> year we have been at the Herkimer County fairgrounds. To help celebrate the Fairgrounds is sponsoring a band Saturday night, JD & Rolling South.

NTA Convention will be held 7/30-8/2 at the Erie County Fairgrounds. NTA would like to have a NYSTA booth at this year's convention in Michigan to promote it. This is a great site and all dealers can be housed in one building.

**NTA**- Antis are starting to word ballot initiatives so they are against "fur trapping only". Trappers need to build partnerships with farmers and timber industry.

**County Reports**

**Columbia County**- 3/29/14 had their annual dinner at the Ghent VFW and served 160 meals and took in over \$5,000.

**Mid-Hudson Valley**-Presented at the Hoosick Falls CSD annual Outdoor Expo. They handed out about 30 applications to the youth trapper's camp. It was held at the armory and attended by 1400-1500 people. It was well received.

**Tioga County Trappers**-committed to provide camperships to 2 youths.

**Cortland County Trappers**- Participated in the Maple Fest. They sold out of all the fur they had.

**Empire Trappers**- have held 2 trapper ed classes and will be at the Camden Outdoor Sportsman Show on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Foothills & Montgomery Trappers**- had a dinner 4/12 and had a speaker on beekeeping.

**Franklinville Furbears**-have a rendezvous scheduled 6/27-6/28.

**Cattaraugus Trappers**- have a rendezvous schedule 8/8-8/9. The club has agreed to provide a campership to a needy youth.

**DEC Report- Mike Clark**

Fisher management plan is a top priority so he gave an overview of the fisher population study. In 2013, 300 site were monitored for 4 weeks. In 2014, 600 sites were monitored for 3 weeks between January 1 and April 1. Sites used beaver meat as bait. DEC collected hair samples for DNA analysis. In 2013, 65% showed fishers present while in 2014, 51% showed fishers. DEC hopes to have the plan available for public comment by the fall so new opportunities might be available for CNY & WNY for the fall of 2015.

Bobcat harvest report; 1719 permits were issued, 137 animals were

reported taken, 83% by trappers, 12% by hunters and 5% were road-kills. Region 4F had the most with 30 cats counted. Only 75% of the logs that are a required part of the permits were returned. The DEC wants to see improvement here. Incidental catches should be reported and turned in to the DEC.

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

There were not many legislative issues. The snapping turtle bill was held up in the Senate due to a lack of support. S548-the cable restraint bill, is coming into committee in early May. The HSUS & SPCA are creating havoc with the legislators. The annual Spring Conference was held at the Napanock Elks Club in Ulster County. Attendance was very light but the lunch was great. Gordon Batcheller, Scott Smith, and Russ Carmen were speakers. Gordon reportedly said the cable restraints and 48 hour check are on his bucket list before he retires.

A9137, cable restraint bill has a new sponsor in the Assembly, Tom Abinanti from Westchester County. He does not hunt, fish or trap but understand the need for wildlife management. He is also on the codes committee where many bills die quietly.

President Rockwood and Dave Miller met with the acting head of Law Enforcement (DEC). He said ECOs want to help at the trapper's camps wants to put together a trapping class for ECOs.

Dave is trying to get an appointment with Commissioner Martens regarding the cable restraints.

March fund raiser only netted between \$1,200 - \$1,300. He would like a fund raising committee. Angie Berchielli, Wayne Jones, Ray Nolan And John Rockwood volunteered to be on the committee.

### ***JTI***

Met the second week of April and fisher was the main topic. Some minor regulation changes were also discussed. They included:

- 1) Separate foothold and body-gripping size regulations,
- 2) allowing smaller traps with 15' of a beaver lodge,
- 3) setting larger traps within 15' of a lodge during open otter seasons,
- 4) reduce the size of traps that require the "offset" trigger during closed otter seasons,
- 5) addressing language of prior to opening day, 7AM, doesn't cover 12AM - 7AM well.

### ***Treasurer's Report***

Treasure's report was printed on a separate cover. It was approved after some explanations of budget items.

#### ***Old Business***

Membership approved the changes to the by-laws by a vote of 43 yeas to 8 nays. Angie will rewrite the changes into the by-laws.

The webpage has been upgraded and Stephen is getting items put on much faster.

#### ***New Business***

Mike Valenti is being considered as a replacement Regional Director. He does meet qualifications.

Minnesota has handed out nylon "ties" and printed pamphlets to show people how to use them to get dogs out of 220s if they are accidentally caught.

Washington County Rep has resigned so a new one is needed,

Newsletter deadline is 6/1/14.

### ***Adjournment***

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15. The next BOD meeting is scheduled for 7? 19/2014 at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds at 9AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ed Hogan  
NYSTA Secretary