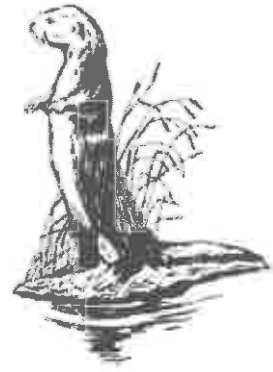


TRAP-LINES

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



75 Years of Service to New York's Trappers

Sixth Annual Spring Conference

Date: April 12, 2104

Place: This years Spring Conference will be held in Ulster County at the Elks lodge on Rte 55 in the village of Napanoch.

Registration is \$10.00, if received by April 7, 2014, \$15.00 at the door.

Starting time: Registration starts at 8:00AM, speakers start at 9:00AM and end around 5:00PM.

Featured Speakers are:

Gordon Batcheller, The Chief of the Bureau of Wildlife, N.Y. S. D.E.C.

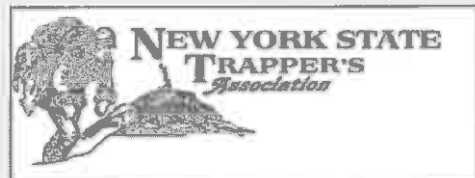
Russ Carmen - Famous trapper and lure maker

There will be other D.E.C. personnel, local legislators and we expect another guest speaker who has not yet confirmed.

Lunch will be furnished. Pre-registration is very important to ensure that we have adequate food. **People must pre-register with me, Dave Miller, by April 7th.** To pre-register please mail a check or money order to my address at: 10213 Muck Rd., Prattsburg, N.Y. 14873. After April 7th and at the door the fee will be \$15.00. **If there are any questions feel free to call Dave Miller at (607) 52204707. Please make check payable to NYSTA.**
Thank you and we hope to see you there.

Inside This Issue:

- Sixth Annual Spring Conference - Cover
- President's Report - page 2
- Call for Elections - page 3
- Executive Director's Report - page 4
- Pat Arnold Youth Trapping Camp - page 4
- Adirondack Report - Al West - page 5
- Other news - NWCO meeting, deadline for newsletter, www.nystrappers.org request - page 6
- NYSTA Board Minutes - page 7 & 8
- Proposed By-laws changes - page 9 & 10
- Ballot for proposed By-law changes - page 11



President's Report

Greetings Fellow Trappers,

I hope you have all enjoyed a safe and successful fur harvesting season thus far.

In order to better serve NYSTA's members we have found it necessary to make some changes to our By Laws. Please take a moment to review the proposed changes, located on page 9 and 10 in this issue of *TRAP-LINES*, and exercise your right to vote. Thank you.

This is a year for elections, starting with Regional Directors for Regions 8N, 8S, 9N, and 9S. ***Anyone wishing to submit their name for consideration for any of those Director position must do so in writing by June 30, 2014 to Elections Committee Chairman Bob Hughes, 10835 Isaman Road, Perkinsville, NY 14529.*** Applicants must meet all of the criteria set forth in the By Laws. (See the full requirements on page 3 of the *TRAP-LINES Newsletter*)

It is also time for NYSTA to begin the process of elections for President, Vice President, and Secretary. ***Any qualified NYSTA member wishing to run for the office of NYSTA President, Vice President, or Secretary must submit their name for consideration, in writing, to Bob Hughes, NYSTA Election Committee Chairman, 10835 Isaman Road, Perkinsville, NY 14529 on or before June 30, 2014.***

Submissions/nominations for these positions must be in written form, contain the name and address of the nominee, and a petition of support of the nominee which must be signed by five members in good standing who shall also include their names and addresses. All pertinent information relative to the election process and the qualification of nominees can be found in the NYSTA By Laws. (See the full requirements on page 3 of the *TRAP-LINES Newsletter*)

The NYSDEC is conducting another fisher population density study this winter. The results of the on-going study will, at least in part, help the Department make decisions regarding expanded fisher harvest opportunities in parts of New York where there has not previously been an open

season. We are hoping to hear the results of this study by the time of our next Director's Meeting in April.

The JTI recently lost an extremely dedicated, long standing member of the Committee. NYSTA Lifetime Member Ed Hamilton passed away last fall after a brief illness. Ed was an extremely valuable asset to the Committee and he will be sorely missed by us all. Our sincere condolences go out to Ed's family.

Walt Barker has become NYSTA's newest County Representative. Walt will be the Monroe County Rep. Trappers in that area can contact Walt by phone at 585-659-8070. His mailing address is Walt Barker, 2531 County Line Road, Holley, NY 14470.

Thank you Walt, and welcome!

Last, but by no means least:

Congratulations Gordy Berndt !!!

Last year, on behalf of NYSTA and all of us who know Gordy, I drafted a letter of nomination to the NTA Hall of Fame Committee asking that they please consider inducting Gordy Berndt into the NTA Hall of Fame. To even be nominated to the NTA Hall of Fame is a huge honor. To be chosen and inducted to that Hall of Fame is the honor of a lifetime. A fitting honor to Gordy for his lifetime of dedication to the promotion and preservation of trapping, his never ending support of trappers and the trapping lifestyle, his sharing of knowledge and education of trappers and non trappers alike, and for the leadership he has provided in so many capacities throughout his life. Gordy's official induction into the NTA Hall of Fame will take place at the Annual Awards Banquet during the NTA Convention to be held this year from July 24 through July 27 in Escanaba, Michigan. I hope many of you can make it to this event to share the moment with Gordy and his family. ***Please note: This will be a "bring your own tissues" event!***

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

Call for Elections For:
President, Vice President, And Secretary.

Information on qualifications and the process:

By-laws: Article V

Section 2: ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE:

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.

B. All candidates for office in NYSTA shall be at least 21 years of age. They shall also be a NYSTA member in good standing, and have been actively involved in NYSTA, (which may include an elected leadership role in one of NYSTA's affiliated Chapters) for at least 4 years. 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's 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.

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.

Call for Elections For:
**Regional Director's in Regions 8N, 8S,
 9N, and 9S.**

By-laws: Article VI

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

The Board of NYSTA shall consist of 13 Directors, 4 Officers, the immediate past President, the FTA and the NTA Director and up to 3 additional past Presidents.

Section 2: ELECTION of 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 Director's 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.

Section 3: QUALIFICATIONS:

A. All Regional Directors in NYSTA shall be at least 21 years of age, a NYSTA member in good standing and have been actively involved in NYSTA, (which may include one of its affiliated chapters and in an elected or leadership role) for at least 4 years.

B. 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 5: TERMS

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.

Executive Director's Report

Legislation-

There is one major change in trapping bills this year. Assemblyman Gabryszac, the sponsor of the cable restraint bill in the Assembly has resigned. A new bill has been introduced and but does not yet have a number. The new sponsor is Assemblyman Tom Abinanti, Democrat from Westchester County. We are gaining ground on the use of non-lethal cables. People, especially those in urban and suburban areas are increasingly concerned about their safety and that of their children and pets as they read more and more stories in newspapers and see more on television news about human/coyote conflicts. People in these areas want something done about coyotes and they are becoming more open to whatever steps need to be taken.

Bill #A1105/S3563 would allow traps set in water to be checked once in each 48 hour period through out the state. This has been in effect in the Northern Zone now and has been for many, many years and would make this a consistent requirement statewide

The snapping turtle bill did appear on a Senate Encon Committee agenda but was removed and so never voted on. There are some changes that need to be made to language that will take some time. It is not likely that anything will happen with that legislation this year.

I spoke with Mr. Gantt's (Chair of the Transportation Committee) staff about our Snow Mobile registration bill which would allow a reduced registration fee for snow-mobiles used to access trapping, hunting and fishing areas. These registrations would not be allowed on groomed trails. They said that they will get back to me soon. At the time we met, they did not seem to have any problem with the idea.

Bills #A1754; A1756/S1039; A2050; A524/S712 are all bills that restrict or prohibit trapping. I have been told at this time that none are a threat.

Dave Miller, Executive Director
Phone (607) 522-4707 Cell: (607) 664-7161
Fax: (607) 522-3033
E-mail: guarddn@empacc.net

The Pat Arnold Youth Trapping camps are ready for another year of action.

The dates are October 10 thru 13, 2014.

Place: At this time both camps are the same as last year.

More information will be included in future **"TRAP-LINES"** Newsletters.

As usual we would welcome more mentors in both camps, and additional kitchen help is always appreciated.

I will resume the registration duties this year. The checks and applications should be sent to me.

Please feel free to ask questions either by email or phone.

There are quite a few trapping groups that are willing to sponsor a youth to these camps. Don't hesitate to ask.

All of the other program costs are funded by NYSTA, trapping groups, and individuals who understand and support our camps.

To everyone who has committed time or other resources to these camps, we are very appreciative.

Thank you!

Pat Arnold
12374 Arnoldville Road
Natural Bridge, NY, 13665
315-644-4643
patriciaarno@gmail.com



Adirondack Report

The Adirondack Park Agency's full board of Directors met on December 11 - 13 to consider classification of the former Finch Pruyn forest lands in the central Adirondacks. The agency has come up with a "preferred alternative" to it's original proposals, and it was passed unanimously by the board. Governor Cuomo has promised to sign the bill.

These lands lie within the towns of Indian Lake, Minerva, and Newcomb. In the new alternative it calls for 17,274 acres Of the Hudson River Gorge to be reclassified from "Primitive" to "Wilderness", the most restrictive classification.

Most of the Essex Chain of Lakes would be classified as "Primitive" which allows recreational use, but prohibits boats with motors, and float planes on third lake. The northern portion of the Essex Chain tract would be classified as "Wild Forest", including a road to the south shore of fifth lake. This section will be added to the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild forest" unit. A narrow multi use Wild Forest buffer would be established as a "community connector trail" between Newcomb and Indian Lake. This trail would accommodate snowmobiles and mountain bikes. It is not known, but unlikely that it would accommodate ATV's and motor vehicles. Some of the radical environmental groups are very upset with this compromise. Also float planes would still be able to land on First Lake and Pine Lake.

The 923 acre Indian River section would be divided between "Wilderness" and "Wild Forest". 133 acres of the Blue Mountain Wild Forest will be reclassified as " Wilderness" and the remaining 2450 acres would be reclassified as

"Primitive". There is very little difference between the Primitive and Wilderness classifications.

The OK Slip area including 2,823 acres will be classified as wilderness.

It is the opinion of this author that as usual Sportsmen and Women got the short end of the stick in this matter. The all too powerful environmental groups are also politically connected. I am all for the protection of these wonderful lands from the hands of the developers, but to continue to classify more and more lands as wilderness or primitive that limits access to all but the most physically fit is wrong.

To say it is wilderness, it's over there, but you can't get to it is most unfair. I for one feel that it is dead wrong to close or destroy existing infra structure; roads such as the " Old Farm Road" near thirteenth lake, the burning of buildings at Foxx Lair at Oregon west of Bakers Mills and other locations, and now the log roads and culverts in the Essex Chain, the closing of Campgrounds at Piseco Lake and elsewhere, as well as the closing of rest areas along interstate highways all over the state.

Soon the APA will be considering the classification of the Boreas Ponds east of Newcomb. Want to bet which way that will go?

Al West
agwthird@hotmail.com

Web sites of interest to trappers:

National Furbearer Harvest Statistics Database

http://jjcdev.com/~fishwild/?section=furbearer_management_resources

Furbearer Sighting Surveys NYS DEC

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

**Minutes of New York State Trapper's
Association
Board of Director's Meeting
October 19, 2013**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Rockwood at 9:15am with the Pledge of Allegiance, The minutes of the July, 2013 meeting were approved as written.

Committee Reports

NYSTA Calendar sales are slower this year.

Fur Handler's Award will move to the Spring Conference

Trapper's Camp had another very successful year. There were 46 campers in the western camp. Five kids from year number one are in a junior mentor program. There were 10 returnees. The kitchen staff was outstanding working from 5:30am – 10pm. BMI donated 4 dozen traps to the kids. There were some problems as some of the mentor's traps were stolen. The fur catch was pretty good with 20 raccoons and 18 beavers taken.

The eastern camp had 10 campers and again the kitchen staff was great. Not a lot of fur was caught and the mentors would like a facility that is easier to work with. St. Lawrence County would like to host a camp in the future.

Convention was a huge success! Between 6,000-7,000 people came through the gate which is comparable to a national convention numbers. 100% of the vendors have booked for next year which means all three buildings are full. 60% of the tailgaters reserved spots for 2014. The net income was \$37,474 which the treasurer will report under a separate cover. 120 new members were signed up.

There was discussion about taking out an ad in the Trapper's Post to sell the 75th NYSTA Anniversary traps. There were also comments to check out if any of Herkimer County's bed tax would be available to NYSTA

to help promote convention. About 69% of the Bobcat Raffle tickets were sold earning about \$650.

NTA National Convention will be held at the Erie County Fairgrounds.

NTA

The 2013 national convention was held in Lyme, Ohio; about 4,723 people went through the gate. The 2014 budget was approved and will allow for publication of 6 issues of the American Trapper. NTA has decided to suspend regional leadership meetings. If New York wants to host a meeting at Ballston Spa, Pennsylvania will help pay for it. The NTA had a booth at the National Turkey Federation meeting.

The NTA has joined with Montana over the litigation regarding accidental capture of lynx. Next year's convention is in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

FTA is concentrating on wolf issues in various states.

JTI has not met recently

Regional Director & County Reports

7S Tioga County held a trapper education class that had 26 students, new lights were installed in their clubhouse.

Cortland County rendezvous was a success.

9S Cattaraugus County has a new trapping organization the Franklinville Furbearers voted to join NYSTA. Had a great rendezvous at Little valley.

R6N held a trapper's education class with 54 in attendance at Harrisville.

R4W held two trapper's education classes with over 120 students taught.

R5N Trapper training classes were held in Franklin County; they sent 3 kids to DEC camp and participated in the Wounded Warrior's program.

Oneida County's new trapping organization; Empire Trappers meets the 3rd Sunday of the month. They have donated 75 weasel boxes for kids with traps.

Executive Director's Report

There is no pending legislative business to report on. The cable restraint bill has acquired a few more sponsors. DEC is not totally on board with the snapping turtle bill. There was a lot of discussion in the Conservation Council regarding coyote hunting. The Council voted 22-19 to extend the coyote season. The 30 day December raffle tickets are available.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was presented on separate covers which included the convention report. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Old Business

Angie discussed some tentative proposals for term limits for county reps. The committee will finalize this by the next meeting. There was discussion if the Vice President should be responsible for the convention. Should there be a convention coordinator position that is separate from the office. If so should it be a paid position?

New Business

Election Year for Officers is 2014. The new officers will assume their responsibilities at the spring conference in 2015.

The Pennsylvania Trapper's Association donated a commemorative trap to our auction; we will reciprocate and send them a couple of our anniversary traps.

Rockland County's ad for the convention booklet was late for the second year and did not get published. They need to send in the ad earlier.

75th Anniversary traps #1 & #75 are going to be auctioned in *Antique Collector's Magazine*. Remaining unsold traps will be marketed.

SUNY ESF has had to change regulations that no hunting can be allowed on school property because the SAFE Act prohibits firearms on school property.

MOTION: NYSTA to donate \$500 to the NYS Rifle & Pistol Association to help Finance litigation cost associated with the SAFE Act.

**Made by: Ray Nolan
Seconded by: Dave Leibig**

Disposition: Carried unanimously

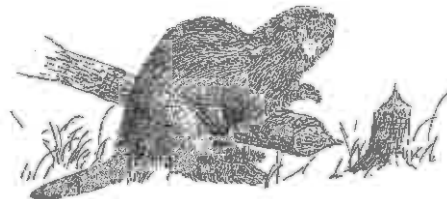
Executive Director's contract needs to be updated.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20pm. The next meeting is January 18, 2014 at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds starting at 9am.

Respectfully Submitted

Ed Hogan
NYSTA Secretary



2014 Proposed By-laws revisions.

New language is underlined and in **BOLD** type. Old Language to be removed is in [] and *italics*. Please take the time to read and review these changes and then mark your ballot on page 11.

Ballots must be received by April 21, 2014. Ballot is on page 11.

Article III

Section 2: A. Annual Meetings/Convention/Rendezvous

1. **An Event Coordinator's position may be created by the NYSTA Board of Director's. The purpose of this position is to assure a smooth working relationship (for the benefit of the membership) between NYSTA and the volunteers, vendors, and the facility where the event will be held for the Fall Convention/ Rendezvous, and any other events approved by the Board of Director's.**

This person will have the responsibilities of the planning, organizing and developing a complete event itinerary and anything else the Executive Board and the Executive Director may require to accomplish such event, in consultation with the Board of Director's.

This position may be filled by a NYSTA Officer or Director, or a volunteer, or staff person, who is a NYSTA member in good standing. Qualifications, guidelines and/ or job description will be developed by the Executive Board and the Executive Director and approved by the Board of Directors. The Executive Board may then, at its discretion, recruit, hire and terminate this person pending the approval of a majority vote of ¾ of the Board of Director's. A salary or compensation will be developed by the Executive Board and the individual and must be approved by the Board of Director's in compliance with State and Federal laws and Regulations.

This is a new addition to the by-laws. The Convention/ Rendezvous is such an important event to NYSTA's financial well-being that the Board would like to consider having the option of having an actual "events coordinator."

B. NYSTA may hold an Annual Members Conference to be held on a designated Saturday and/or Sunday **[in April] during the first half of the year.**

There is a greater need for flexibility to pick suitable dates for this conference.

Article V

Section 4 The Powers and Duties of the Vice-President

C. Chairing the Fall Convention/Rendezvous committee and developing the itinerary of the Rendezvous **defaults back to the Vice-President if there is no event coordinator.**

If there is no events coordinator, then the Vice-President would again have this responsibility.

ARTICLE VIII

Section 1: LOCAL CHAPTERS:

A. There may be formed, **affiliated** 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 **affiliated local [county groups] Chapters** 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 **an NYSTA affiliated** local chapter, the Chapter must maintain at least a 50% membership in NYSTA **within a year of being formed.** All Chapter members are encouraged to be NYSTA members also. The officers of **affiliated local** Chapters must be NYSTA members in good

Identifies local NYSTA Chapters as affiliated local Chapters.

standing **NYSTA shall annually send a renewal form to new and existing affiliated local Chapters by November 1. This renewal form, dues and any statements needed by NYSTA to be in compliance with State and Federal Laws and regulations and must be returned no later than December 31. Failure to do so forfeits the privileges granted by being an affiliated local Chapter.**

Addresses the renewal process for an affiliated local chapter, and the information NYSTA requires to be in compliance with State and Federal laws.

C. Only those **affiliated** 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.]

This section is redundant and will be removed.

Section 2 County Representatives

[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 whomever they want].

C. The County Representative shall serve a three year term that coincides with the term of the President. The term of office shall expire at the same time as the current President, providing the President is serving a complete term. They may serve multiple terms if they are reappointed by the President elect and confirmed by the Board of Director's. In order to be reappointed, the County Representative must submit a request in writing to their Regional Director asking to be considered to continue to serve in that position. Failure to forward a written request within 30 days following the NYSTA Presidential election will be interpreted that the County Representative is no longer interested in serving and a new appointment shall be made. All County Reps will be confirmed by the Board of Director's at the first meeting presided over by the President after the election. To become a county representative or to be reappointed, the individual must submit in writing to the respective Regional Director or the President, if the Regional Director's position is unfilled, the following items:

This section formalizes the process of appointing, reappointing, or removing a County Representative.

- 1. request to be appointed/reappointed**
- 2. If being reappointed a list of accomplishments during the last term of office, if requesting appointment a list of recent accomplishments in another club or organization.**
- 3. Their goals for the next three year term.**

If more than one person applies to be a County Representative, the requests go to the NYSTA Board of Director's and they vote for the best candidate. If there is an affiliated local Chapter, they can forward the name of the County Representative to the Regional Director.

D. **The** County Representatives shall, in their **area of responsibility**, work to organize trappers into **affiliated** local chapters **to further NYSTA's mission and goals [their Region]**. If the Regional Director cannot attend a local Chapter's meeting, the County Representative shall disseminate information they have received in a written report from their Regional Director.

The by-laws will more clearly state what the County representatives are to do, and whom they work for.

Everything that is in bold and underlined is new.
Things in [] and in italics is to be removed if approved.



NYSTA By-Laws Ballot

Yes, I approve these revised by-laws

No, I disapprove of these revised by-laws

Deadline:

This ballot must be received by April 21, 2014



Please mark your ballot and mail to:

Ed Hogan
1900 State Route 48
Fulton, New York 13069

Thank you!

