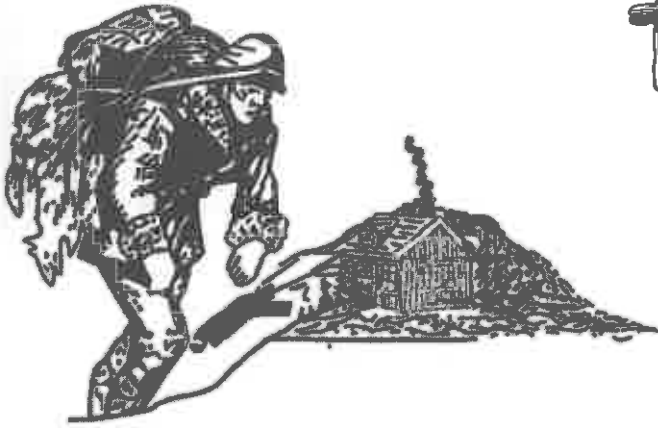


# TRAP-LINES

New York State Trappers Association

Summer edition 2015

[www.nystrappers.org](http://www.nystrappers.org)



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## President's Column

Hello Fellow NYSTA Members:

I hope everyone is enjoying the return to warmer weather and starting to have some summer fun. Since this is my first column as the new President of NYSTA I will use it to introduce myself and outline some of the important items I will be working on. First off I want to say thank you to John Rockwood for the excellent leadership he has provided NYSTA with over the past six years. Without his tireless efforts on behalf of all of the trappers in New York, trapping would not be in the excellent position that it is today. Fortunately John is not going away since his positions as the immediate past president and Chairman of the JTI will keep him fully engaged for quite a while. Thanks again John.

While we are all part of NYSTA because we love trapping and are committed to ensuring its' future, we naturally tend to concentrate our efforts to being better trappers in the field. However, for NYSTA to be a strong effective organization that promotes trapping it has to be run efficiently. Professionally I have been an administrator for over 30 years and hope to use my experience to improve NYSTA's overall operations. The four main areas that I plan on concentrating on are memberships, communications, finances and DEC relations.

In recent months it has come to the Board of Director's (BOD) attention that there has been a problem with memberships. Several new and renewing members

### Presidents Column continued...

have not received their magazines or seen it stop coming. This understandably has created some bad feelings that has resulted in people not wanting to join or renew their memberships. Rest assured that correcting the membership issues are a top priority and we will put a system in place that will assure that the membership process goes smoothly in the future.

Improving communication is also extremely important. While many trappers may wish they could live a "simpler" life we all have to face the reality that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is only going to develop more sophisticated electronics that will drive our lives faster. Whether we like it or not we will have to adapt or get left behind. The recent proposed fisher plan and the fisher regulations certainly point this out. NYSTA had to do a mass mailing to our members, which took a great deal of time and money, because we could only communicate electronically with less than 10% of our members. We do need to have an e-mail address for all our members to be able to send out communication alerts. We also need to revamp our web page so information can be posted "real time" instead of waiting two months for either the Trapper's Post or the Traplines newsletter to come out. Some interested people have volunteered to work on improving our electronic communications.

NYSTA also needs to strengthen our financial position. While we have managed not to run a deficit, our operations barely break even each year. If we should have a significant unexpected expense, NYSTA could experience a severe financial crisis.

While NYSTA does have some important issues to work on, not is all doom and gloom. We have a couple of great events to look forward to this summer. We are hosting the

National Trappers' Association Convention at the Erie County Fairgrounds at the end of July. This should be an exciting event and I would encourage anyone that can, to attend this event. The NTA Convention doesn't come to New York that very often so this is a great opportunity.

NYSTA will hold our annual convention the Thursday, Friday and Saturday of Labor Day Weekend at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds. This event keeps growing every year. This year the space in all three buildings has been filled up with vendors so this promises to be a great event too.

I hope everyone has a fun and safe summer. Feel free to stop and hello if you see me at any of the events this summer.

Ed Hogan  
 NYSTA President  
 1900 SR 48  
 Fulton, New York 13096  
 (315) 593-2196  
 trappereh@yahoo.com

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### TRAP-LINES Newsletter schedule:

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

Angie Berchielli, 3861 SR 85,  
 Westerlo, New York 12193 or

[AngieBerchielli@msn.com](mailto:AngieBerchielli@msn.com)

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

**Next deadline: August 1, 2015**

## Outgoing President's Message

Greetings Fellow Trappers,

It has been with great pride, pleasure, and privilege that I have served as your President of the New York State Trappers Association for the past six years. I feel very fortunate to have worked along side those I have often referred to as "THE most dedicated representatives of trappers and trapping in New York State". We are truly fortunate to have the quality of individuals we have as officers, directors, and county reps of NYSTA. These folks volunteer untold amounts of time, energy, and resources to the promotion, protection, and preservation of our trapping lifestyle, rights, privileges, and heritage. No words of thanks can adequately compensate them for all they do. It has been my great fortune to be a part of this group. I owe much appreciation to all of you for helping to make my job easier as well as for all you do for the trappers of New York. Thank You!

We have known all along that we need a more rapid way to get communications out to our members. We have a space in the *Trappers Post* magazine that is ideal for upcoming events, etc. - things that can be planned on well in advance. Any information placed in the *TP* magazine is likely to be two months old or more by the time anyone reads it. It is pretty much the same with our *Traplins* newsletter. Our website would be a great place to get info out to folks immediately. However, that doesn't seem to be working well as some submitted information does not seem to be making it to the website for some reason. Some good ideas were discussed prior to this meeting, mostly by members of the JTI Committee.

All of you should have received a first class mailing from NYSTA regarding the publication of a new draft Fisher Management Plan for New York on the NYSDEC website. That plan was published for public comment and we wanted to be sure trappers were aware of that fact.

We had hoped for an overwhelming response to the DEC in support of our official NYSTA position. However, we have learned that a total of fewer than 400 responses were received. That is extremely disappointing considering all that went into our efforts and the gravity of the effects on trappers if this plan is implemented as written. On May 13, 2015 new regulations regarding fisher trapping, as well as some other trapping regulations changes, were posted on the New York State Register for a 45 day public comment period. Trappers, we need to address these changes! Please take a moment to read the JTI Committee Report elsewhere in this newsletter and respond accordingly.

At the conclusion of our April 18, 2015 Director's Meeting, we installed the new NYSTA Officers. Ed Hogan has been installed as our new NYSTA President and Walt Barker has been installed as our new NYSTA Secretary. Dale Gamba was reinstated as our treasurer. Please join me in welcoming these folks to their new positions. I look forward to working with both Ed and Walt in the coming months and years.

I would again like to take a moment to say "Thank You!" to all those who have made my time as NYSTA President as pleasurable and successful as it has been. The Officers, our Executive Director, the Regional Directors, the NTA and FTA Directors, the past Presidents, the JTI Committee Members, the County Representatives, the NYSTA members, the entire crew at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds, the NYSDEC Furbearer Management Team and ENCON Officers, the various volunteers that chip in whenever asked, and so many others that support our efforts and work with us to promote and preserve trapping in New York - all of you have played an important part and for that I sincerely thank you all.

John Rockwood, Past President  
(315) 415-4946  
[loggerjohn@aol.com](mailto:loggerjohn@aol.com)

### Executive Director's Report:

Things have not moved very quickly in the legislature this year; I suppose in some ways that is not a bad thing. They can't seem to keep the leadership in either house out of trouble long enough to get much done. Just in the past couple of weeks the Senate went through a serious shake-up landing Long Island senator John Flannigan in the position of Senate leader (President Pro temp). He is one of the Senate republicans who voted for the much despised "Safe Act" and is not well thought of by sportsmen and gun owners in general. The other side of that is I have known Senator Flannigan for a long time. He has always been approachable and in the past has been helpful to me. I've always felt that we need to take a much broader view of voting records before we condemn someone to "traitor" status. Don't get me wrong, I find the Safe Act as despicable as anyone else but it was only one issue out of many, **and it was a huge issue with enormous political pressure behind it.** I personally am going to wait and see what happens next.

Two of our bills are active; **A927/S2953** that would authorize the D.E.C. to allow the use of cable restraints. In the Assembly no action so far but the senate the bill was passed by the full house on 4/22 and sent to the Assembly for consideration. The second is the legislation that would allow a 48 hour check on traps set in water. To this point no action has been taken on this issue. All of the usual restrictive stuff has been introduced; I do not expect any of it to move.

So far as fund raising is concerned we have nearly completed our May drawing. This one didn't look very good, at the start, but is turning out ok; it looks like we will make a couple thousand dollars which is about our usual profit.

For the moment that's about it. Convention season is about here and we have a

bunch of great ones coming up . Don't forget the N.T.A. at the end of July at the Erie County Fairgrounds just outside Buffalo , NY . Many volunteers are needed. I'm pretty sure Wayne Jones would be very happy to hear from you!

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

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### JTI Committee Report

Late in February the NYSDEC posted a new draft fisher management plan for public comment. The Department has long been aware of our thoughts that the fisher population is sufficient to allow a sustainable harvest in parts of Southern and Western NY where there presently is no open season. The good news is that the Furbearer Management Team, after several years of studies, agreed. They also stated that further studies would continue in the future to determine if other areas could be opened to trapping fisher. The not so good news is in the rest of the plan. The Department was adamant about imposing bag limits and opening the season way too early in the "expansion WMUs". Those WMUs are to receive a nine day season, starting October 25<sup>th</sup>, with an imposed bag limit of one fisher. There are other restrictions as well. Trappers in the Adirondack WMUs will have their fisher/marten season shortened by more than 50% and, again, the season will be opening October 25<sup>th</sup>. I will not go into further detail as all of you should have received the NYSTA Action Alert by first class mail. However, if you did not receive that for some reason, please send me an email and I will forward that Alert back to you via return email.

At the April 18, 2015 Director's Meeting we were told that our comments furnished during the 30 day NYSDEC comment period

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had no effect on the plan – nothing was going to be changed. We listened to some reasoning against our NYSTA position that, quite frankly, we cannot agree with. We were very disturbed and actually quite disgusted that none of our concerns held any merit in the formation of this plan by those DEC personnel involved. Presently a very large division exists between NYSTA and the DEC. This is unfortunate as we have always been able to jointly work through issues in the past and come to reasonable conclusions that were agreeable to both parties.

On May 13, 2015 the New York State Register posted the DEC's proposed new regulations affecting fisher trapping, seasons, and bag limits as well as other changes to the general trapping regulations for furbearers. No changes to their original plan have been made. That means bag limits, shorter seasons, and an early season that will allow harvesting, when many fisher skins will be of much less value than could be obtained with a later season, will be implemented. Fisher are not utilized like muskrats, beaver, foxes, etc. Fisher, being a luxury fur and a naturally occurring lower density species, should be harvested when at their best. I would urge all trappers to go to the New York State Register, read this proposed rule-making, and forward your comments on all aspects of the rulings. The NYSTA position stands firm and we would hope that you will all support us in this position. Please keep your comments considerate and on target. Be factual and courteous.

### ***Proposed Fisher Trapping and General Trapping Regulations***

Earlier this year, DEC released a Draft New York State Fisher Management Plan. Based on detailed information presented in the plan on fisher population status in various regions of the state, DEC is proposing the following changes to fisher trapping regulations: Reduce the fisher trapping season from 46 to 22 days in selected Adirondack Wildlife Management Units (WMUs)

where populations have declined in recent years;

- Establish a nine-day trapping season, with a one-fisher seasonal limit, in parts of Central/Western New York, where populations have expanded dramatically in recent years; and
- A special fisher trapping permit with a trapping activity report would be required for anyone trapping fisher in northern New York or in any areas where a new season is opened.

Public comments on the draft management plan were highly variable, ranging from strong support for the plan to concerns over the specific proposals for season timing and bag limits. DEC staff feels that the rationale for reducing fisher harvest in the Adirondacks and for opening a new trapping season in Central/Western New York remain valid, but additional public comment on the specific season dates and bag limits proposed at this time would be especially helpful. Public comments received on the proposed fisher regulations will further inform completion of the management plan. The draft plan is available on the DEC website at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9357.html>.

In addition to the proposed fisher trapping regulations, DEC is proposing to update and clarify several general trapping regulations. Minor revisions are needed to clarify the intent of the regulations and to make them easier for trappers to understand and law enforcement officers to enforce. Some of these proposed regulation changes include:

- Eliminate confusing language to clarify that body-gripping traps with a jaw spread of more than 7.5 inches (also known as "330" traps) may be set in water for beaver or otter;
- Allow for the setting of certain traps within 15 feet of beaver dens or houses for species other than beaver and otter; and

- Decrease the trap size (from >9 to >8.5 inches) that requires the use of an "off-set trigger" to minimize capture of otters when/where the otter season is closed. Currently, some manufacturers produce traps that are capable of catching a river otter and are just below the current 9-inch minimum size that requires an off-set trigger.

For more information or for instructions for submitting comments, go to the DEC website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/proregulations.html>. Comments on the proposed fisher trapping and general trapping regulations must be received by Monday, June 29.

Please forward your comments, by June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to: Michael Schiavone, NYSDEC, 625

Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754 or email them to [michael.schiavone@dec.ny.gov](mailto:michael.schiavone@dec.ny.gov)

Again, if anyone wishes to review the NYSTA Action Alert before commenting, or needs help locating the ruling in the State Register, please contact me and I'll make sure you have all the information. It is imperative that we make our position well known and give sound reasoning for that position. The future of trapping, as we know it now, is at stake and now more than ever before we need each of you to get involved to help preserve what we have. Remember, we only have until June 27, 2015 to respond. Thank you!

John Rockwood  
JTI Committee Chairman  
Phone: 315-415-4946  
Email: [loggerjohnr@aol.com](mailto:loggerjohnr@aol.com)

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## Federal legislative news that should be of interest to trappers:

Two bills currently in front of Congress would impact wildlife management and recreational opportunities in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

**H.R. 2016**, introduced by Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-New York) with 13 co-sponsors, including Congressman Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Natural Resources, and **S. 1081**, introduced by Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), would prohibit the use of certain traps on System lands.

Called the "Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act," the bills would bar the use of various management devices, including foothold, Conibear, and snare traps as well modified versions of these devices on System lands.

The **National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act**, which established the National Wildlife Refuge System in 1966, designates the Secretary of the Interior through the Fish and Wildlife Service as having authority over System lands to fulfill the mission of administering the conservation, management, and restoration of the fish, wildlife, and habitats within the United States. The Act directs the Secretary of the Interior to ensure opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation, including trapping, on System lands as well as recognize wildlife-dependent recreationists as the priority public users of the System.

The ban would impact recreational users and furbearer trappers as well as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Staff. While the Refuge Administration Act includes trapping and regulated take as management activities, the bill language does not currently make any exceptions for wildlife management implemented by Refuge staff. Foothold traps and snares are employed in wildlife research, while Conibear traps are used in removal of invasive species, such as nutria.

The bills have been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works for review.

The Wildlife Society's Standing Position on **Traps, Trapping, and Furbearer Management** is supportive of regulated trapping as a method of wildlife damage management, a technique in wildlife research, and as a recreational opportunity for sustainable harvest of some furbearer species.

**NYS D.E.C. News:  
1<sup>st</sup> Annual Northeast Wildlife Fur School**

In March of this year, DEC hosted the first Northeast Wildlife Fur School at the Adirondack Ecological Center in Newcomb. Modeled after fur schools offered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, this school gives a one-week crash course in topics related to trapping and furbearer management with a target audience of wildlife and law enforcement staff who are either new or unfamiliar with trapping. DEC has sent staff to the school in Wisconsin in the past but tighter travel restrictions have made this difficult in recent years. That difficulty coupled with a multi-state grant that provided funds specifically for furbearer management-related training led to the creation of the Northeast school.

A total of 18 participated in the school as students with some serving double duty as

presenters. The school was heavily represented by DEC staff, primarily from the Bureau of Wildlife but also from the Division of Law Enforcement and also included staff from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and members of the New York State Trappers Association. The lead instructor was biologist John Olson from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources who was gracious enough to travel to New York with a trailer full of equipment and a head full of knowledge to make the school a big success.

Topics covered included trapper education, state and federal laws and regulations, furbearer diseases, furbearer research and management, BMP's, trap identification and setting, skinning and fur handling, and communications. NYSTA members Jim Carmody, John Rockwood, and All West were of tremendous help in this endeavor providing a glimpse into the history of NYSTA as well as bringing a wealth of



*Figure 1. 2015 Northeast fur school attendees with the fruits of their labors*

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knowledge and skill on traps, trapping, and fur handling.

The fur handling session allowed DEC staff to make use of specimens collected over the previous few years. All of the animals used in the school were either vehicle-killed or incidental captures that trappers had surrendered to the DEC and included bobcat, fisher, and otter. In addition to skinning, fleshing and stretching the hides from each specimen, participants also extracted biological samples for archiving. After the school, DEC staff extracted a tooth from each specimen for age

determination. All of the hides will be tanned for use by DEC staff at outreach events and/or by Trapper Education Instructors in their classes.

DEC hopes this is the first of many fur schools for wildlife and law enforcement staff from New York and other northeast states and plans are already underway for 2016.

Questions on the fur school can be directed to Region 6 Wildlife Biologist Andy MacDuff at (315) 785-2534 or via e-mail at [andrew.macduff@dec.ny.gov](mailto:andrew.macduff@dec.ny.gov).

**Other Regional news:**

## New York Elite Trappers Seminar

**Napanoch, NY • Sept. 12th & 13th, 2015**

Two full days of in-depth instruction with 4 of New York's top producing trappers. This course is designed to build upon your current skill set, while giving you the insight necessary to produce large catches. You will experience first-hand the methods, planning, locations, and equipment these instructors use to pile up the fur. Nothing held back!

The weekend is spent on the edge of the Catskill Mountains. This diverse region provides rocky mountain streams, river bottom farms, woodlands, lakes and marshes. This is your classroom!

**Very Limited!!! Only 40 trappers allowed to attend. 20 Water Trappers / 20 Land Trappers**

This is to insure high quality instruction and personal attention. It is recommended that students have basic trapping knowledge and be older than 16 before enrolling. All students must be approved by instructors.

*"You too can be a One-Percenter!"*



**Cost - \$300.00**  
Includes 2 days instruction, 3 meals a day and refreshments. (\$150.00 non-refundable deposit required to register) All monies after expenses donated to UCT and NYSTA.  
For info and registration: (845) 389-8841 [catskillado@gmail.com](mailto:catskillado@gmail.com)

Van Straten - 200% of Fox and Cooper a season on a mixed bag line!



John Richmond - 1800's of Beaver and Otter!



Mark Charpentier - Blind Set Mink 150 in 40 days!



Mark Cooper - 1000's of Fox Coon, 1000's of Otter and 2-3 mixed line

**Filling fast! Only a few openings left!**





## Spotlight on Region 7N

Regional Director Charles Lamb represents the counties of Cayuga, Madison, Onondaga, and Oswego which make up NYSTA's Region 7 North. This region has provided NYSTA with the past and current presidents. The region also has two very active local chapters; the Independent Fur Harvesters of Central New York and the Oswego County Trapper's Association. Both of these local chapters are involved in several programs each year.

The Independent Fur Harvesters meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at a building they rent from Onondaga County at Pratt's Falls County Park. It is unique in the fact that they are the only group that uses that facility so it house their library, mounts and other displays. The group provides 5 or 6 trapper training courses each year as well as having a booth at the Central New York Sportsman Show each January at the New York State Fairgrounds. They also have an exhibit at the Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery weekend in September. They are also picking up the responsibility for hosting the trapper's rendezvous that has been put on by Wayne Jones at Nichols Pond in Madison County. The group sponsors two fur sales at the Pompey Rod and Gun club; one in December and the other one in late February or early March. They have also held a benefit coyote hunt which attracted a lot of media attention this year and cries to outlaw such events. The group did raise over \$2,500 for the charity despite the protests.

The Independent Fur Harvesters also have taught trapper training course for the students at SUNY ESF and SUNY Morrisville. The program at ESF is part of a 1 credit hour course that Dr. Friar offers to her students and lets them get NYS certified in hunter safety, bow hunting, trapping and waterfowl identification. The group also provides 2 scholarships totaling \$1,000/year for students that live in the Cazenovia, Lafayette, and Fabius-Pompey school districts.

The Oswego County Trapper's Association is also a very active club that participates in several programs. The group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Leatherstocking Rod and Gun club on State Route 104. The group has hosted a very large and successful fall rendezvous generally the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of September at Camp Zerbe on State Route 104 in Williamstown. This event has been attended by several hundred people each year and includes vendors, demonstrations and a trapper training course. The group often hosts one or two more trapper training courses. The group has adopted a section of State Route 104 and has a highway clean each April. The NYS DOT has erected signs that say the Oswego County Trappers have adopted that section of highway. Several of the members participate in the Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District's Conservation Field Days program that is held at Selkirk Shores State Park each September. The program brings hundreds of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to the park to learn about conservation and other outdoor activities. The group's members have explained the important role trapping plays in wildlife management for over 20 years.

Another important education program sponsored by the Soil and Water Conservation District that involves a member of the Oswego County Trapper's Association is the New York State Envirothon. This is a state wide high school competition based on environmental issues. The wildlife review and county wildlife exam is written by a member of the county trapper's association. This year's recently completed competition saw Oswego County take 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall at the state level. In addition the Oswego County Trappers participate annually in the US Sportsman's Trailblazer programs at Boy Scout Camporees.

The NYSTA members of Region 7N are very active in their communities. They provide hundreds of hours of education, and volunteer services to the four county area. If you live in the area and want to get involved please contact the Regional Director Charles Lamb at (315) 236-6046 and he will put you in contact with one of the clubs.

**Minutes of the NEW York State Trapper's  
Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 17, 2015**

**Call to Order**

President Rockwood called the meeting to order at 9:17 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendance:** President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Directors from Regions 3, 4E, 4W, 5S, 6N, 7N, 7S, 8N, 9S-quorum was present. Minutes were accepted as written.

**Committee Reports**

**Calendars-** Rockland County has agreed to take over management and publication of the lottery calendars for 2016. They need information on affiliates, who advertised financial information. Hope to have the calendar ready by the July BOD.

**Trapper's Camp-** Tim Strough gave a report on the three camps. Each camp has a chairman; Western-Steve Babcock, Northern-Steve Pierson, Eastern-Tom Delyle. He recognized the mentors present & affiliates that supported the camp. Gave a short presentation on the camp experience that the students get and what was taught. In total 70 kids attended the 3 camps, 29 trapper training certificates were issued, there were over 30 mentors and 30 volunteers. The camps are developing their own website with an interface with Facebook so students can stay in contact and continue to interact. Each camp cost about \$1,500 to operate. Tim is looking for expense money to buy traps & equipment. May purchase trap tags that read DEC youth trapping camp.

**Convention-**Planning for the NTA Convention at the Erie County Fairgrounds is progressing. Charlie Lamb volunteered to try and secure a band. Several volunteer chairmen are needed. Dates are 7/29/15 through 8/2/15 with set-up on 7/28/15.

NYSTA convention has rented out 100% of the space available in all three buildings. With the new contract with the fairgrounds, camping fees will be increasing. There will be a raffle for a NYSTA Lifetime membership at this year's convention, tickets will be \$2.

**NTA Report**

Maine sportsman won the vote on the bear hunt issue. Trapper Man had a very misleading pie chart on the NTA's expenses. The NTA spent over \$100,000 to support local affiliates.

**JTI**

No report, the committee is waiting on the fisher management plan.

**Director & County Reports**

7S- Ray Nolan Tioga County Trapper's have a new president. There was only one buyer at their December fur sale. They certified 10 new trappers at their class. Cortland County Trapper's are doing well and being very active. Chenago County trappers have started to ban together and are trying to start an affiliate.

Member's comments about the webpage are generally negative. It is not being updated. Trappers do not feel DEC makes very much of an effort to enforce trapping regs. They only seem to be incidental tickets issued when they are out checking hunters and come across something.

4E- Jim Greeley Noted the Hoosick Falls Outdoor Expo that is sponsored by the school district will be 3/20-3/21/15. 3/28 will be the Columbia County dinner in Ghent.

4W-Ken Hellijas noted Schoharie County has started an affiliate.

7N-Charlie Lamb Noted the Oswego County Trapper's Rendezvous will be 9/18-9/20/15 at Camp Zerbe on Route 104. They now have a Facebook page.

9S-Derwood Say- Noted the regions outdoor weekend will be the second weekend in August at the little Valley Fairgrounds.

**Executive Director's Report**

New legislation introduced this year includes:

- Engle's bill that requires signage and makes trapping violation a misdemeanor instead of a violation
- Senate bill to allow county to regulate trapping
- Cable restraint bill
- 

Senate EnCon Committee will be getting a new chair.

Orange County will try to push the 48 hour check bill in the southern zone.

The last raffle appears to have netted about \$3,000.

### DEC Report

New Members on the furbearer team are; Ed Reed & Ken Bagniski (sp?)

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the fisher cam study.

A Pennsylvania college is looking to collect otter spleens & tongues to check for a parasite.

There was a road killed marten in the city of Rome. A marten was also found in Oswego County.

Preliminary harvest numbers show a very strong **marten** harvest, might be a record year. Fisher harvest is lack luster, trapping effort was down.

NY will host "Fur School" 1<sup>st</sup> week of March, 2-6 at Newcomb. This school is for wildlife professionals & enforcement personnel. There will be 24 students, 16 from NY.

This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the new bobcat season. There were 1,053 permits issued. Take was 78 vs 145 in 2013.

DEC offered trapper training for the first time at their summer camps and the classes were a big success.

### FISHER MANAGEMENT PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Hopefully the plan will be out by the end of January. There will be different zones throughout the state. DEC wants to reduce the harvest in the northern zone particularly in the Adirondacks. It will do this by having a shorter season and altering the length in different years. They will try this for 5 years. All trappers will have to apply for a fisher permit and keep log books. There will be new harvest opportunities in the southern regions with a short season and a season bag limit of 1. They will try this for a minimum of three years and re-evaluate.

Other regulation changes deal with changing the size of 330s due to different manufacturers, changing the date that body gripping traps can be used, and allow smaller traps to be set next to beaver lodges.

### Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was published on a separate cover. It was accepted as written but did show a negative cash flow.

### Old Business

501c3 status has been filed in November awaiting response.

No word on the commemorative traps. Ken Hellijas to follow up.

We are out of "Trapping in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" booklets.

### New Business

Furbearers Unlimited requested a donation for their annual gun raffle.

**Motion: Donate \$200 to Furbearers Unlimited.**

<b>Made by:</b>	<b>Dave Leibig</b>
<b>Seconded by:</b>	<b>Jim Greeley</b>
<b>Disposition:</b>	<b>Carried unanimously</b>

Due to the passing of Patricia Arnold there is a vacancy for the Directorship of Region 6. There are two candidates, Steve Pierson and Doug Pelton. A vote of the BOD was taken by written ballot. Steve Pierson was elected to be the new Region 6 Director.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Since all candidates were running unopposed the Secretary was directed to cast one ballot for the candidates. The officers elected are; President -Ed Hogan, Vice President-*no candidate*, Secretary-Walter Barker, Treasurer-Dale Gamba. Regional directors up for election this year are Regions 1-4.

A "loophole" regarding trapper training was discussed. NYS reciprocates with other states and accepts their hunting and trapping certifications. However, some states offer an on-line course that is much different and easier to get than New York's and doesn't cover New York laws. This can be an issue. NYSTA should investigate this and formulate a position against out of state on-line courses.

### Newsletter

Angie has resigned as the newsletter editor due to lack of interest on people forwarding information. This generated a lot of discussion regarding the importance of communication and the lack of good communication on NYSTA's part.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2015 at 9:00 at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ed Hogan  
(Past) NYSTA Secretary