



NEW YORK STATE OUTDOOR GUIDES ASSOCIATION

GUIDELINES



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NEW YORK STATE OUTDOOR GUIDES ASSOCIATION

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President's Message

By Capt. Tim Hallock

During his two terms in office, outgoing President Jeff Whittemore has laid the foundation for a re-dedication to the NYSOGA goals and vision of being an "internationally recognized association of the world's best and most respected professional guides" while also expertly guiding us into the complex world of 21st century technology. It is with a great sense of honor and pride that I now accept the torch and with the benefit of the efforts of NYSOGA members past and present, look forward to attending to the tasks ahead.

Winter Rendezvous, hosted once again by Region 7 at the White Eagle Conference Center in Hamilton, was a huge success with full attendance at Water Safety For Guides, CPR, and First Aid training courses, a packed house for our Facebook Seminar, several new members and great fellowship. Hank Rope (almost) taught us some of his fishing secrets in a talk on trout fishing, and we were joined for our Saturday lunch by Rob Davies, of the DEC Division of Lands and Forests as our Guest Speaker.

The new committees of Social Media/Cyber Access and the Guide License Program Advisory Committee were formed to address these areas of concern and ideas were brought to the fore with regard to adding advanced skills and certifications for NYSOGA guides to further increase their level of professionalism.

NYSOGA is now on Facebook and encouraging interaction from

members while our virtual office committee has been consistently hard at work to bring us all up to speed with new ways of promoting, communicating, etc. on line and is working on tapping into various search engine capabilities as well. In addition, our line of products will soon be on line, opening the door to increased revenue possibilities there. We've also just entered the world of on line forums for our Board of Directors, and committee members.

Our new committee for partnerships with outdoor manufacturers and retailers has already yielded results in terms of pro discounts and other benefits.

Our Standards and Education Committee has a Wilderness First Aid 8 hour training course ready to go for September.

NYSOGA's sport show presence continued over the winter at venues in Edison, NJ, Springfield, Mass., Suffern, NY, and Saratoga, NY. The shows committee is looking into ways to connect potential clients with guides at the show booth via Internet access at the booth.

NYSOGA's trail maintenance crew has an April walk through planned, a trails day of work on the trail scheduled during Summer Rendezvous, and is looking into chain saw certification to handle the larger blow downs.

Yet, over these bright spots, hangs the specter of a troubled NYS Guide Licensing Program due to funding shortfalls, promoting NYSOGA to develop a plan to address the important issues at hand and come up with proposals to implement change

and, where possible, improvements to help save the program.

Now, more than ever, NYSOGA needs involvement by our members. We need participation in the dialogue ongoing by e-mail and forums regarding the Guide Licensing Program, participation at shows, interaction on Facebook, news and trip report bites for the new e-news letter and for Guidelines. The more involvement we have, the stronger and more capable we are as a team and the more we can get done. This includes the ability to aggressively promote and produce more guide work for those who are depending on the income of their guide service, a goal to which I am committed. For those who are semi-retired or not interested in volume, I would suggest setting up a reference list of guides who would gladly accept any overflow work. Inherent in our goal to create work for our guides is the notion that NYSOGA guides should be known for our ability to accommodate any guided outdoor endeavor. "If I cannot guide this trip, I know someone who can" should be our frame of mind.

Working together in this way, I believe great things are possible and we are already well on our way. There is a palpable "TEAM" spirit among the Board and the committees, and a high level of interaction and action that I know will continue. With your support and help, all NYSOGA members have a unique opportunity to be part of all that we stand for and to make a difference, not only for our membership, but for our clients and for others by the examples we set.

I'm, proud to serve, and my virtual door is always open - keep up the good work all!

Capt. Tim "Yeti" Hallock



Tim Hallock

NYSOGA's New President Has Impressive Background

Capt. Tim Hallock, NYSOGA's newly elected president from Orient, NY on the North Fork of Long Island, has a wealth of outdoor experience from winter solo climbing of the 46 high Adirondack peaks to a winter solo trip the length of the Northville- Lake Placid Trail with no resupply.

The operator of Marine in Orient, Capt. Tim is a 1983 graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point with a B.S. in nautical science and marine transportation. In 1988, he founded a yacht service company that is still in operation.

After founding his guiding company, Northeast Mt.

Guides, in 2004, Capt. Hallock joined NYSOGA in 2005 and has five years on the board, the last two as first vice president.

Spring and fall will find Capt. Tim cruising various types of boats to or from Florida for Long Island owners.

INSIDE GUIDELINES

| | |
|--|---|
| NYSOGA Kids to Camp Program, 2012..... | 2 |
| Kids to Camp Quilt | 2 |
| Around the Regions..... | 3 |
| NYSOGA Award Recipients..... | 3 |

Summer Rendezvous to Return To Wakely Dam at end of July

A preliminary announcement is made that the annual NYSOGA summer Rendezvous will be from July 26 to 29 and will return to the Wakely Dam on the Cedar River not far from Indian Lake, NY.

More informal than the winter Rendezvous, this is a camping gathering with a bunch of informal activities.

Interested members and their families are asked to reserve the weekend and look for more details in the summer issue of Guidelines.

GUIDELINES

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Quilt Raffle Profits to Send Saranac Girl to DEC Camp

NYSOGA has received confirmation that Samantha Mertz has been selected to attend DEC Environmental Education Summer camp this summer. Samantha lives in Saranac Lake and was nominated by Sheila Young for camp. She chose to attend Camp Colby in July.

In Samantha's letter to NYSOGA she is very excited and is looking forward to meeting fellow campers and learning more about the diverse environment in the Adirondacks.

Funding for Samantha's and all our DEC Summer Camp attendees come from the donations received for our Kids to Camp Quilt drawing held annually at Winter Rendezvous. For 2012 a T-Shirt Quilt featuring squares from all past NYSOGA Winter Rendezvous shirts, was won by a very happy NYSOGA member, Fran Gramlich of Speculator.



A delighted Fran Gramlich with his new quilt at his home in Speculator.

Elizabeth Lee Reports on Rendezvous For Plattsburgh Press Republican

For 30 years, members of the NYS Outdoor Guides Association (NYSOGA) have met at a gathering called Winter Rendezvous.

This year's Rendezvous was held at White Eagle Conference Center in Hamilton in March. Guides from all areas of the state come to light a warm fire, reunite with friends, conduct the association's annual business and swap tales of forest and stream-and sometimes ice walls, "haystacks" and wildflowers.

For many years, a guide's role was to act as porter, cook, maid, medic and mentor to men and occasionally woman who wanted to hunt or fish.

But guiding has expanded in scope. Outdoor guides are licensed by the New York State Forest Rangers and in addition to hunting and fishing, there are special categories for white-water paddling, river rafting and rock and ice climbing. Some guides lead hiking and camping trips as well as snowshoeing, photography and bird watching.

The 2012 Rendezvous highlighted the effects of absolutely unpredictable weather and temperatures on economic projections for guides. Most reported downturns in business and discussion was active about how to continue shaping this traditional line of work into a 21st-century occupation.

Guides with 30 years experience in the woods were taking about routers and Facebook pages and smartphones. As in other media professionals, business that once came by word of mouth now comes through social media, ad word placement and tourism promotion websites.

NYSOGA had done an outstanding job under outgoing president Jeff Whittmore utilizing strategic planning exercises to strengthen the profession of guiding. Thanks to several experienced North Country guides who have volunteered hours of time, NYSOGA has in place educational and professional opportunities, including a wide array of outdoor industry partnership programs. North Country



guides have also developed wilderness first-aid programs specifically for guides. In addition, NYSOGA has local guides joining economic development forums to increase commerce for all Adirondack businesses.

This year at Rendezvous, the keynote speaker was Rob Davies, director of the state Department of Environmental

Conservation's Division of Land and Forests. He spoke about the state's increased focus on local partnerships to repair damaged trails, bridges and dams and to assure that the public has continued access to all state lands. Other speakers included Connie Prickett, communications director of the ADK Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, speaking on the extensive and, in some places, spectacular Finch lands that will soon be open to the public; and Leslie Surprenant, DEC division director of invasive species, whose program "Defending the Places you Love" addressed the next wave of species that threaten our fisheries and forests.

To remind guides of their roots and reinforce the value of old-fashioned know-how, Rendezvous also included a great session on fly-fishing by veteran guide Hank Rope.

Hank talked about his granddaughter's fly rod and enumerated just how many brookies he's caught in his well-guarded secret spots. To give hope to the conservationists, Hank emphasized the satisfaction of catch and release fishing versus big tournament takes.

Elizabeth Lee is a licensed guide who lives in Westport. She leads recreational and educational programs focused in the Champlain Valley throughout the year. Contact her at lakeside5047@gmail.com (mailto:lakeside5047@gmail.com).

Ed. note: NYSOGA member Elizabeth Lee wrote this article for the Plattsburgh Press Republican following the recent Rendezvous. Guidelines appreciates receiving permission from the P.P.R. to reprint it here.



Hilary Appell of Rainbow Graphics was recently awarded the "Friends of NYSOGA" award for her web design and work with our website. Hilary has worked closely with the Virtual Office Committee for several years and has helped to create our web presence. She works tirelessly brainstorming with Lynn Malerba, Virtual Office Chairperson, designing, updating and optimizing our website to keep us in the forefront of cyberspace. Lynn considers Hilary to be an invaluable asset to NYSOGA and its member guides. NYSOGA, in presenting this award, would like to thank Hilary for her assistance and her dedication to our organization. In the photo, Hilary accepts her plaque from Lynn Malerba.

DEC Official Wants to Plan Before Land Acquisition in Rendezvous Talk

Article and photo by Norm Landis

The DEC wants a public document before the state purchases land outlining its intended uses to guide in classifying the land, instead of it letting it all become wilderness and then, when later planning its use, finding some plans don't fit in the classification.

That is according to Robert K. Davies, director of the Division of Lands and Forests for the state DEC. That was one of his comments before the NYS Outdoor Guides Association in a luncheon talk at the White Eagle, Hamilton, at NYSOGA's Winter Rendezvous March 24.



He described the five-year, five-phase plans for state use of the former Finch Pruyn & Company properties, which he called "the largest one acquisition" of state land "in 100 years." He said it includes 300 lakes and ponds, 90 mountains, 415 miles of rivers and streams and 12 percent of the upper Hudson watershed. He said there are already 90,000 acres of conservation easement and phase 2 is to have Forest Preserve later. In December, 2010, the state purchased an 89,000-acre working forest conservation easement, allowing better access for snowmobiles, hikers and anglers.

He also spoke about firewood and the Emerald Ash Borer. He said people from as far away as Texas had been bringing their firewood with them. However, he said that educational campaigns aimed at cutting down the spread of pests by banning the movement of firewood they might be hiding in over distances now has 80 percent of those interviewed agreeing that the 50-mile rule - using only firewood that was harvested within 50 miles of the site where it will be used - is a good idea.

He noted that the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer has slowed and mentioned a tip off of where the borers may be. He said "a lot of woodpecker activity" is a symptom that there may be borers present.

Damage to trails and bridges due to Irene, downgraded from hurricane to tropical storm by the time it entered New York, was discussed by members and Davies. He spoke about trying to get bridges replaced and members told him about some places where new bridges were not on the trail. He said some are being relocated to sites where they are more likely to last.

NYSOGA to Sponsor a Wilderness First Aid Class on September 15

NYSOGA's Standards and Education committee will embark on a new project by sponsoring a Wilderness First Aid class on Saturday, September 15, at the White Eagle Conference Center. To obtain information and/or register, interested participants are asked to contact instructors Sheila and Sonny Young at adkfoothill@yahoo.com. More details will be included in the summer issue of Guidelines.



REGION 1

By Capt. Tim Hallock

Hello all from the Island of Long. After a strange and mild winter, spring came early here, with lawns being mowed in March(!) and things are blooming, tree pollen counts are high but nights still see temps in the 30's. After spending most of the winter in the mountains, followed by a great and enjoyable Rendezvous in Hamilton, it's good to be home, with the warm breezes over the bays and the sounds already hinting of summer.

The venison bonanza of previous winter seasons has quieted down somewhat but there were still ample opportunities for those looking to stock their freezers. There have been some isolated wild turkey sightings, including a hen that has been a guest in my yard off and on since Thanksgiving Day two years ago. I'm out near Orient Pt. and surrounded by farm land, border scrub, marsh lands and some wooded areas. There also seems to be increasing evidence of fox sightings in Orient and elsewhere with chickens being killed along with a



Tim Hallock

decreasing rabbit population.

The ocean striped bass season was respectable from early last fall on but not much of note otherwise to report with the fishing.

I will be posting some hikes on my web site, northeastmountainguides.com, for outings here on the east end north and south forks of Long Island for anyone interested in seeing some of our water's edge and protected forest area hikes. We have about 6 or 7 to choose from, including a great short hike to Orient Point itself via a trail with open meadows on one side and Long Island Sound on the other with 360 degree views of the Sound, Connecticut, Plum Island, the "Coffee Pot" Lighthouse off the point, and the home waters of the famed "Plum Gut," known for bass, right at your feet! For some of these trails, I will again be organizing and sponsoring a spring clean-up day. Keep an eye out for NYSOGA news on our web site, and with our new e-news letter for details.

While at Rendezvous, I had the very great honor of being elected NYSOGA President, and since my return home, have been quite busy with issues before us. I look forward to working with the NYSOGA Board of Directors, the Committees, and all our membership to further NYSOGA goals (see President's Message), and for purposes of enabling me to fulfill my duties and to conform with NYSOGA guidelines regarding Regional Directorship. I appeal to those in Region 1 who may have an interest in serving as Region 1 director to contact me with this regard. I stand by to guide and assist in any way possible and to avoid any interested party being thrown into the fire with no support system.

Happy Trails everyone!

Mail to: hallocksmarine@yahoo.com.

REGION 3

District Director Charles H. Vezzetti

The winter of 2010-2011 saw some of the heaviest snow accumulations on record and the spring and summer saw record rainfalls, which included Hurricane Irene and ended with a freak snowstorm at the end of October.

This year we have seen the extreme opposite when it comes to both snow and temperature variations. Region 3 has experienced the lowest snowfalls in the past century and this winter has been the third warmest on record. Needless to state, this has had a beneficial effect on our wildlife in that the mild weather allowed deer and other creatures to forage without having to dig through ice and snow. Currently, our streams are at good levels, therefore, Opening Day should be exceptional if the mild weather continues.

I would like to point out that last summer Rockland County had an outbreak of epizootic hemorrhagic disease in the deer population centered within the Town of Clarkstown. DEC biologists estimated that over 100 deer died from this disease, which is transmitted by nose-seeums (biting midges). Fortunately, this is



Skip Vezzetti

not a common occurrence and this disease is not transmitted from deer to deer and is not contagious to humans. However, having what appeared to be perfectly healthy deer expire in residents backyards and on their front lawns caused quite a stir.

At this time, Rockland County has established a deer management committee, which will be working with the DEC, the local towns and sportsmen in developing a comprehensive deer management program which should include opening State, County and Town parks to hunting. Within the next month, NYS DEC will be conducting a pellet and browse impact survey to establish the current deer density level and we will work at reducing the current overpopulation of deer to sustainable levels. I have been appointed to this committee and will monitor its progress.

As I noted in one of my previous reports, the DEC has relisted the Sparkill Creek as one of those streams to be on its annual stocking list. In discussions with the Region 3 office in New Paltz, I was recently advised that although stocking levels will remain the same in most of the streams within Region 3, the Sparkill Creek has been increased to 800 fish.

Opening Day is April 1st and we all look forward to good weather and great fishing.

Skip Vezzetti NYSOGA Region 6 Rep.

REGION 4

By Bruce Fuller

The winter we never had is now officially over. I don't ever remember a winter like this one. It seems safe to predict that there was no winter kill of wildlife, although I believe you will see several winter killed businesses that had relied on winter sports for their livelihood. The crazy warm 3 week period we had really got people thinking about fishing and I stated getting inquiries from potential clients earlier than usual. This year the ice was off the local reservoirs well before the opening day of trout season and that is certainly another indicator of a very unusual year. I know some individuals casting lures from shore in the Pepacton Reservoir had hit some trout before the season, but the reports I received since the



Bruce Fuller

season opened were very poor for both the reservoirs and stream/river fishing. I am sure the return of the cooler weather and the low clear water in our rivers and streams were major contributors of the poor fishing reports. Turkey Season is also just around the corner and, although I consider myself a major player in that game, I have no idea just how all this warm weather will impact the birds. I believe the woods will leaf out early as the vegetation seems to be at least 3 weeks ahead of schedule in our area. I am also afraid of a serious loss from frost if we end up with a killing frost anytime in the near future.

It was great seeing many of you at Winter Rendezvous. I think everyone had a great time. Enjoy the beauty of the changes this time of year brings to us.. Best wishes to all of our members for a safe, enjoyable and prosperous season.

Ed. Note: Director Lenny Amberger also submitted some news relative to Region 4 which is included below.

REGION 6

By John Wainwright

It's been an early start to spring with March temperatures way above normal. We've already experienced good hatches of stonefly on area Region 6 streams. I even witnessed some Quill Gordon mayfly when fishing the Southern Tier three weeks ago. Bats and even mosquitoes were flying about in early March. Adirondack ponds are losing ice early as well. Turkeys have been displaying for a month now and things are looking good for turkey season although early leaf cover might add some sight issues for us hunters. Most streams are running at mid-May levels, so early trout fishing should be good as well with streams warming rather quickly.



John Wainwright

The Winter Rendezvous at White Eagle Conference Center was great. Scott Locorini and I did some fishing on Lake Moraine out of his fishing kayaks and caught several pickerel.

Temperatures were near 60 degrees. Two years ago at the same time, Lake Moraine had 4 inches of ice. I again was elected as your Region 6 rep., Jeff Whittemore, our outgoing president, and Alan Woodruff as a Directors at Large, and Scott Locorini as First VP. So Region 6 is well represented on the BOD.

I also want to congratulate Jeff Whittemore, my partner, for a great job in his two terms as president. Jeff has moved NYSOGA forward and our new president, Tim Hallock from Region 1, was an excellent choice to continue that trend.

I hope all of you have productive guiding in 2012 and please let me know if you have any issues that you'd like brought to the board's attention.

REGION 8

By Capt. Jim Morgan

Another successful and informative winter Rendezvous at White Eagle Resort. It's always enjoyable to hang out with fellow guides and swap stories, catch up on friendships and, of course, take care of business. This is one of the main reasons I joined NYSOGA.

I see in the NYS budget, \$800,000 was allotted to eradicate Hydrilla in Cayuga Lake Inlet, Ithaca, NY. This invasive plant from the southeastern states spreads fast and is very problematic. We have enough harassments already from invasive species.

Dale Lane, Eagle Eye Guide Service in Yates Co. and NYSOGA member, is participating again this year with the turkey youth hunt along with Yates Co. Sportsman Federation. Good job, Dale.

Lee Godin, his son Lee and father came



Jim Morgan

down to fish for Seneca Lake perch March 18th. The lake was rough and the perch were definitely not suicidal that day. After many hours of trying, we decided to try for trout. Lee's son caught a nice 31" lake trout. Lee and his dad caught some small browns and they threw some smaller ones back. At some point I'm going up to Oswego and fish with Lee. If anyone's interested in trading trips let me know. A great way to experience different outings and friendships. On April 18th, I will volunteer my time and boat to help stock lake trout in Seneca Lake. I have been doing this for for many years.

Bookings are coming in from the shows I did. That's a good sign for the year to come.

There are some NRA web sites for those who might not know them. For the latest news and the online legal newsletter, go to www.nra.org/legalupdates. For news about legislation and your NRA, visit www.nra.org, www.nranews.com and www.nra.org.

Everyone have a safe and successful year.

Additional Region 4 News from Director Lenny Amberger

No new infestations of "Didymo" found, but there is an area near me that is under surveillance by the DEC. It is at the confluence of the West Branch and the Little Delaware in Delhi. This area is relatively easy to access, and a popular local fishing spot. This helps to prove how "Didymo" is moved on wader felts and equipment that have not been properly cleaned. Time to get rid of those felts soles.

Two dates for trout stocking in area waters have been announced by the DEC: Monday, April 2 and Friday, April 13. Check the DEC web site for details as to locations.

An event that fly fishermen may want to make note of: There will be a "Fly Tyers Rendezvous", April 21 in Roscoe NY at the Rockland House, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event is free, fly tying demos by many well known fly tyers, and lunch will be available. Contact Leslie Wrixon @ 508-733-8535 or lesliewrixon@yahoo.com for details.

A recent survey known as the "Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Project", was conducted from 2007 thru 2011 in 17 eastern seaboard states. An objective for Region 4 was to update inventories of brook trout in the region's counties. As a result of this survey

545 streams in the region, including 191 in Delaware County and 132 in Otsego County, are being reclassified and upgraded from unprotected to protected status. There were 890 surveys done in Delaware County and 650 in Otsego County.

There are now 583 Delaware County streams that have been found to be homes to brookies, (I wonder how many have those secret spots that Hank Rope was talking about at the Rendezvous?) compared with 441 with brown trout and 119 with rainbow trout. The report goes on to state: "The reclassification of unprotected streams may be delayed until watershed reclassification hearings are scheduled. Such hearings are already many years overdue for the Region 4 watersheds. An interim registry is under consideration, but there is a legal question of whether this could be essentially regulating through policy, which may or may not be permissible. I would assume that more detailed info could be found on the DEC web site. We have been seeing large flocks of wild turkeys in my area, (I have counted 45 to 100 + birds in some) along with some very big lone bachelors wandering around, so spring turkey season should be productive.

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"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns
Or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses." - Abraham Lincoln

Letter to NYSOGA Membership From Life Member Lynn Malerba

I would like to share a heartfelt thank you with my fellow board members for the recognition I received during the awards presentation at the recent Winter Rendezvous. I was completely surprised to say the least. Becoming a NYSOGA Life Member had been one of those goals in the far reaches of my mind. One day in the distant future I hoped to join the ranks of those who contributed endless hours of service over the years for the betterment of guiding in New York State. I believe these are my early years in the association. You Life Members are the people I aspire to be like. I am grateful for the example you have given us, and for all the times you hung in there when it "wasn't pretty." I feel humbled, and honored at the same time.

I would also like to thank the devoted group of guides I have served with and currently serve with on the board. I feel much has been accomplished in the past two years because of your efforts and willingness to do what is necessary to get things done. The Vision of NYSOGA, as stated in the Mission Statement, remains our priority and focus. You are a team of people I am proud to work alongside of. In closing, I would like to assure you all that I will do my best to fulfill the inscription on the plaque I was given "for long and dedicated service to the guiding profession in New York State and to NYSOGA." Grateful I remain... God bless you all!

Fondly, Lynn Malerba



New NYSOGA life member Lynn Malerba receiving her plaque from awards chair Skip Vezzetti.



Kurt Schultz of High Falls is a new NYSOGA director-at-large.



Joe Vivencio of Altamont has rejoined the NYSOGA board after an absence of a couple years.



The newly-elected NYSOGA officers for 2012-13. L to R are first VP Scott Locorini, 2nd VP Sonny Young, treasurer Craig Tryon, president Tim Hallock, secretary Mary Hall and 3rd VP Bill Leslie.

In a Winter Rendezvous first, directors John Wainwright and Scott Locorini were able to launch kayaks and go fishing.



NYSOGA Director Roy Earley has submitted a DEC release on proposed deer hunting regulation changes. Those interested in accessing them can go to www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/propregulations.html or www.dox.state.ny.us/info/register/2012.html.



Jeff Whittemore accepts his past president's plaque from awards committee member Craig Tryon.



Scott Locorini was presented with the Camp Spoon plaque for his many contributions during the past year.