



Newsletter Issue Vol.20 No.1

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## Next Meeting:

Feb 8, 2013 -12:00pm  
at Ling Ling Restaurant,  
Syracuse.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO  
ATTEND, YOU MAY CALL IN  
VIA CONFERENCE  
CALL. PLEASE DIAL:

Welcome to our newsletter!

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## Meeting Minutes

The January meeting of the NYSWMA was held January 12, 2013 at the Ling Ling Restaurant in North Syracuse. It was attended by Members Cody Bacuiska, President, Dale Stockton, Vice President, Berton Mead, Secretary, Bob Meakin, Treasurer, and Directors Bill Berry and Price Morris. Also attending was Dave Miller, Executive Director of New York State Trappers.

### Information on Daves dicussion can be found in the legislative update

Sole Source contracting. Some government agencies has used "sole source contracting" with another government agency rather than allowing private NWCO's to bid on wildlife control work. Dave offered to look into the problem.

Calls to Pennsylvania NWCO's. Price Morris reported on his wife's call to 77 Pennsylvania NWCO's that lived within 100 miles of Owego to invite them to the 2013 Seminar. He reported the calls were generally well received.

Remote trap Monitoring. Cody reported that he had sent a request to DEC that NWCO's be allowed to use remote monitoring of traps in their business. He received a response that it was being looked into but that there were some serious issues to be resolved. The NYSWMA letter and the response will be published in a Newsletter.

The USDA Feral Hog Environmental Assessment. NYSWMA comments on the USDA Feral Hog EA have been sent to Martin Lowney, State Director NY USDA Wildlife Services. We emphasized the need to include licensed NWCO's in the planning and implementation of any Feral Hog Control Projects

Proposed 2013 Mini-Seminars. A Ring Bill Gull Seminar is planned for the spring, probably in the Syracuse area. The date and location are yet to be determined. There will likely also be goose control sessions similar to those that were well received last year with dates and locations to be determined.

Distribution of Meeting Minutes. The minutes of meetings will be published in the Newsletter. Cody will also submit the meeting minutes to WCT and ask that they be included in the State Association Partnership News

The 2013 Spring Seminar.

The Seminar is scheduled for two days February 22&23 with a full schedule both days. It was decided to start the Friday session at 8:30 AM and to slightly modify the schedule for the day to accommodate the later starting time. There is still ample time left for visits to exhibitors

Persons under 18 will not be charged for attending the Sessions but must pay for meals.

There was a discussion if February is the best time for the Seminar, primarily because of weather issues and possible conflicts with other seminars. A questionnaire will be sent to the members asking if a fall Seminar would be better.

The Seminar Document Bags will be sponsored by Eric Arnold, Editor of WCT Magazine and will include the WCT logo on the bags. He donated \$350 to the

[661-673-8600](tel:661-673-8600) IT WILL ASK  
FOR A PIN/CODE # 637595

## KEEP IN TOUCH:

Web: [www.NYSWMA.org](http://www.NYSWMA.org)



[Join us on Facebook](#)

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organization.

Speakers must book their own rooms so the NYSWMA will not be responsible if they do not appear.

Dale will put the Seminar Booklets together. The Seminar portfolios will be assembled by available members Thursday evening.

Other business. A motion was made by Bill and seconded by Dale to reimburse Bob for his monthly Internet cost. It was passed unanimously.

Next meeting. The next meeting will be Noon February 9 at the Ling Ling Restaurant. Members are encouraged to attend. The NYSWMA will pay for the member's lunch.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted  
Berton Mead, Secretary

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## In The News

Click on the Title to read the story:

[Nestor Ramos: Squirrel hunt reveals another divide](#)

### [Turkeys Gone Wild](#)

*by Chris Herhalt (via [The Record.com](http://TheRecord.com))*

When a wild turkey hen that had lurked around Jane Dando's neighbourhood for four years hatched nine babies, or poults, this past summer, Dando decided it was time for them to go.

"One was bad enough," she said. "I have a huge fear of birds so it's rather ironic that she chose my yard to hang out in the most."

Although the hen and her rather large offspring have never damaged Dando's east Kitchener property, they've developed a habit of using a tall tree which sits just outside her property as a nest, from which they bombard surrounding rooftops, sheds, gardens and lawns with a considerable amount of feces.

Dando has called the K-W Humane Society and the Ministry of Natural Resources, and they told her to make her yard less inviting for the turkeys.

So, she spent \$200 hiring someone to shear off the lower branches of the turkeys' favorite tree, but they still fly to its top. She also hung metal pie plates along her fence, hoping the clanging noises they make in the wind would scare them away, but that failed, too.

Ideally, she says wants the birds trapped.

"I don't know how you trap them but I think they should be relocated. This is the city." Because of the wild turkey's nomadic nature and its status as a game bird in Ontario, nobody will be coming to take the gobblers away any time soon.

"There's really no viable way to trap turkeys," says animal control specialist Keith Pothier.

It is unlikely that the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources would allow the turkeys to be moved or euthanized unless they damaged private property. Even then, the turkeys could only be taken one kilometre away from where they were found.

A document produced for the ministry in 2007 lists 15 different "techniques for

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mitigating turkey conflicts" with humans.

The techniques vary, from fencing or caging the property, wrapping reflective tape around sensitive areas in a backyard, employing a super high-frequency ultrasound device, putting up a scarecrow, or trapping the animals.

Pothier says the easiest solution is for Dando to purchase a laser pointer and aim it at the turkeys every time they approach her backyard.

But the ministry dissuades people from using high-power laser pointers as they can damage a turkey's eyes and "cause the feathers of a bird to ignite."

"You run into some crazy information (on the Ministry of Natural Resource's website)," Pothier said.

When the number of wild turkeys dwindled close to zero due to hunting in the early 1980s, the Ontario government undertook a program to re-introduce them into the wilds of southern Ontario. By 2007, the province's turkey population had grown to more than 70,000 birds.

As Dando's home is located only about 800 meters east of the Grand River, the hen may have stumbled into her neighborhood and decided to stay after being fed a few times by neighbors.

Fearing that the abundant turkey feces might give her small dog a parasite, Dando even confronted the hen with a broom.

"I just started banging it, but they were already on their way up the tree."

Wild turkeys often venture into suburbs, as they contain fewer predators and food sources — like bird feeders — can be found easily, according to Pothier.

He understands that some taxpayers feel they shouldn't have to contend with wild animals in their yard.

"But you have a property that backs onto the Grand River, which is a wildlife corridor, so what did you expect?"

## Legislative Update

The Cable Restraint Bill. (S548A) A Bill has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Grisanti that will allow the DEC adopt regulations on the use of Cable Restraints. He felt a Cable Restraint Bill had a good chance in the Senate but there would be problems in the Assembly. He is working with Assembly members to refine the language of a Bill to give it a better chance of being approved.

The NY City Raccoon Bill. (S453) A bill has been introduced that will require the NYC Health Department to remove any Raccoon causing a nuisance and release it humanely if possible. Dave explained that some areas of NYC have a serious raccoon nuisance problem. The cost to hire a private NWCO is not felt to be affordable for many citizens. We expressed the concern that if the bill passed and signed into law, the City might hire their own employees or contract with a government agency rather than consider private operators. Dave will set up a meeting to discuss the implications of the bill and invite the DEC.

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Do you want to take part in the regulations that effect our business? We are always looking for members that are interested in going to Albany to meet with State Assembly and Senator. If you are interested please email us;

[webmaster@NYSWMA.org](mailto:webmaster@NYSWMA.org)

## Summer Seminars

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We are also planning to hold a seminar next summer on Gull Management. Please let us know if you are interested in attending or would like us to investigate another topic.

## Northeast WM Seminar -Save the Date February 22 & 23 2013

This years seminar is on track to be our best one ever. Dale Stockton has been working tirelessly to line up some of the best experts in the field of wildlife Management.

The agenda will be posted on our website by Monday!

[Click Here to find out all of the details!](#)

## Update on the USDA WS Feral Hog Environmental Assessment

The assoc reviewed the EA and submitted the following response.

January 10, 2013

USDA Wildlife Services  
1930 Route 9  
Castleton NY 12033

Subject: USDA-Wildlife Services Draft EA on Management of New York's Feral Hogs

Dear Sir or Madam,

The New York State Wildlife Management Association (NYSWMA) represents private wildlife control operators (WCO) in the state of New York. We have concerns about the impact USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services (WS) will have on the problem of feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*) if their proposal (Alternative 3), contained in the recent environmental assessment (EA)<sup>[1]</sup> is continued.

Wildlife Services asserted that it should continue to be directly involved with feral hog control to protect the public health, environment, and property (p. ii). While NYSWMA fully agrees that feral hogs present a significant health, environmental, and property threat to New York and should be eliminated (pp. i-ii), we strongly disagree that WS should be the lead organization in that effort.

The NYSWMA contends that implementation of this EA should be reevaluated for the following reasons:

1. Our members are licensed by the NY DEC and should be given the opportunity to participate fully in the control of feral hogs. If the management of feral hogs requires a comprehensive and integrated approach, we are puzzled as to why licensed wildlife control operators were not included in discussions and management planning (pp. 19, 34, 44).

2. Our members have intimate knowledge of the areas they service. Small businesses know how to provide superior customer service as they are directly accountable to their clients. Federal workers are not.

3. Our members pay taxes and contribute to the well-being of the communities in which they live. Allowing WS to operate where we have members constitutes a dimensioned of their livelihoods. In this tight economy, government should not be competing with small businesses struggling to stay afloat.

4. We believe that allowing WS to use foot-snares, cable-restraints, and immobilization drugs constitutes an unfair and unjustifiable competitive advantage over private WCOs and may violate the values of NY citizens (pp. iii, 74, and Appendix B).

5. The EA did not give full consideration of the use of WCO's and discredited their participation based on false and misleading information. (pp.42)

We request that you reevaluate fully analyze the participation of private WCO's that are licensed by the NYSDEC.

Sincerely,  
Dale Stockton  
Vice-President

Here is a link to the EA. Please read it! it may effect you!

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/pdfs/nepa/NY\\_Feral\\_Swine\\_EA\\_website\\_DRAFT.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/pdfs/nepa/NY_Feral_Swine_EA_website_DRAFT.pdf)

## Species Fact Sheets

Bert Mead has prepared the following Species Fact Sheets. They are were developed to help our members learn more about specific species. We also encourage you to print them and share the information with you customers.

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### **Northern Flying Squirrels** *Glaucomys sabrinus*

Flying Squirrels are small animals, brown in color, with a mature body 10 to 11 inches long including a 4 1/2 inch tail and may weigh 3 to 4 ounces. They are common throughout the state and although they prefer softwood or areas of mixed conifer and hardwood trees, they may also be found in urban and suburban locations. Flying Squirrels do not actually fly, but have a skin flap between the front and back legs, which allow them to glide long distances. Like all squirrels, they are excellent climbers.

Flying squirrels naturally nest in tree cavities. They become a problem when they nest in occupied structures and annoy residents with noises or odors or chew wires, block vents or create other dangerous or nuisance conditions in buildings. They may also damage trees and shrubs, gardens or flower beds. They are more social than other squirrels and nests may contain 10 or more individuals. They tend to have communal toilet areas, which can be a serious problem in occupied structures.

Flying Squirrels, like other squirrels, are opportunistic feeders, but prefer fruits and nuts in the fall and winter, tree buds in the spring and fruits, berries and succulent plants when available. They will also eat insects, bird eggs, and carrion on occasion. Like all squirrels, they will supplement their diet with birdseed. They fed both night and day.

Flying Squirrels are polygamous and the females raise the young alone. They normally breed in the late winter and the young are born in April and May with a litter size of 2 to 7 young. The young become independent soon after weaning.

## Environmental Controls

- Remove artificial sources of food such as birdseed by using squirrel proof bird feeders, cleaning up spills etc
- Squirrel proof openings to buildings
- Cut back tree branches and shrubbery that allow easy access to building.
- Protect valuable plants
- Do not feed squirrels
- Place animal proof caps on chimneys and vents

## Population Control

A successful squirrel control program includes environmental controls to eliminate food and harbor-age and possibly a trapping program. Flying Squirrels are not a protected species in New York State and may be trapped at any time in any humane manner. However, it is best to delay exclusion and trapping of squirrels from a residence until the young are mobile. If the mother is excluded from the nest she will be desperate to reach the young and will often cause additional damage by creating a new entrance. If the mother is captured, the young will die and may create odor or other problems.

If trapping is used, the traps must be located to avoid catching domestic animals. Most small animal traps can be used and many specialized traps are available. New York State law requires that live trapped animals can only legally be moved off site by a NYS licensed Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator. Homeowners must either release trapped live animals on site or euthanize them in a humane manner.

General note. Wild animals tend to colonize areas that offer food and harborage. Environmental controls such as eliminating food sources and harborage to make the site undesirable are always a necessary part of a successful control program.

A Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) is available to assist you to resolve any wildlife problems if the problem is severe or if environmental controls are not adequate. They are State licensed professionals that have passed a test including knowledge of the laws and regulations, wildlife behavior and best practices for control of nuisance wildlife. Members of the **New York State Wildlife Management Association**, listed by County, and who have agreed to a code of ethics may be found at [WWW.NYSWMA.ORG](http://WWW.NYSWMA.ORG).

## Are you getting your Magazine?

Have have had several issues with people not getting their magazine this year, as well as some other registration issues. If you are not getting your magazine or other member benefits PLEASE let us know.

We apologize for any issue you may have experience this year and we will do what ever it takes to make things right!