

New Hampshire Wildlife

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE FEDERATION

The Mission of the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation is the preservation and protection of hunting, fishing, and trapping; and the conservation of and access to fish and wildlife habitats and resources.



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*Photo: Jack Zeller
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Fall 2016

**NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE
FEDERATION 2016/2017
MEETING DATES**

*All meetings are held at the Conservation Center, 54
Portsmouth St, Concord, NH, beginning promptly at 7 p.m.*

- November 28, 2016** – Board and Delegates Meeting
- December 19, 2016** – Christmas Social for Board and Delegates 6:30 p.m.
- January 21, 2017** – Annual meeting
- February 27, 2017** – Board Meeting
- March 27, 2017** – Board and Delegates Meeting
- April 24, 2017** – Board Meeting
- May 22, 2017** – Board and Delegates Meeting
- June 26, 2017** – Board Meeting
- September 25, 2017** – Board and Delegates Meeting
- October 23, 2017** – Board Meeting
- November 27, 2017** – Board and Delegates Meeting
- December 18, 2017** - 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. –
(Christmas Social)

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Jim Morse

**SHARE YOUR WILDLIFE &
HUNTING STORIES & PHOTOS!**

We want to hear about your hunting and fishing adventures. Be a reporter for the Northern or Southern areas and be published in our newsletter!

We LOVE photos of your outings, please send them in!!

Call the Editor at 603-224-5953 or email: ed@nhwf.org.

We truly welcome your comments, suggestions, and articles, and letters to the Editor. To be considered for our quarterly publication, please submit to ed@nhwf.org or contact Janice Boynton Exec. Director at 603-224-5953.

Submission deadlines: 1/15, 4/15, 7/15, 10/15.

Seeking Reporters: We are looking for a Northern and Southern Reporter for conditions and activities in your area. Short articles welcome—photos a plus!

Editor's policy: New Hampshire Wildlife is edited for the members of the NHWF. Publishing and editorial decisions are based on the editor's judgment of quality of writing, timeliness of the article, and potential interest to our readers. The views expressed in New Hampshire Wildlife are those of the authors and may not reflect the official policy of NHWF. No endorsement of those views should be inferred unless specifically identified.

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Charles Williams

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PLEASE HELP US PROTECT OUR HERITAGE



By James Morse

Recently I had the opportunity to visit some of our affiliated clubs and I wanted to thank the members and officials who allowed me to come speak with them. My goal was to discuss strengthening our relationships and preparing for the confrontation that looms on the horizon.

By now, most of us have heard some of the posturing a small, but vocal group of individuals has started relative to the NH Fish and Game Department (NHF&GD) and the role of the Commissioners. There are those that think the NHF&GD Commissioners are an antiquated body and do not speak on behalf of those interested in the welfare of wildlife in New Hampshire.

The Commissioners are nominated by county fish and game clubs and organizations like the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation to represent the interests of wildlife, wildlife habitat and hunters, fishers and trappers. In our opinion, the role of the Commissioner is instrumental in providing knowledgeable and local expertise to help guide the course of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

Strengthening our relationships will help us in several ways. Stronger bonds and more members mean more

influence with NH house and senate representatives. Members are our backbone and with most of the clubs in the state affiliated with NHWF and an increasing roster of individual members, we can keep our hunting fishing and outdoor traditions intact.

At a recent NHF&G meeting, as a show of solidarity, the Director representing the Department as a whole, voted to keep the Commission structured as it has been for more than 84 years.

The fight we now have at our doorstep is not new and many states across the country have faced or are facing similar issues. Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM) and Gun Owner's Alliance of Massachusetts (GOAL) have been fighting hard for the past few years to keep their sportsmen and women hunting and trapping different species. They have organized their sportspeople and have employed social media as a way to quicker and effectively communicate and organize. Facebook and Twitter seem to be ways in which messages can be quickly disseminated. We will continue to expand our presence in these media formats. Of course we will continue to employ more traditional forms of communication such as email and our newsletter, but facebook and twitter will be needed to communicate effectively.

Thank you for helping us and strengthening the NHWF and please don't forget we are a 501C3 and all donations are tax deductible.

Thank you.

Jim Morse, President NHWF

MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR

At our September meeting, the Board elected David Poole of Rumney, NH to fill the remainder of the term of Mike Normandin who had to resign.

Dave is a retired Firefighter/EMT currently self-employed as an electrical contractor in the winter months and a fishing guide in the summer months. He is a lifelong hunter and angler, fishing in the New England states, Montana and Idaho. He has been actively involved in the New Hampshire legislative process when it involves sportsmen and women's issues and will be serving on our Legislative Committee.



AFFILIATE CLUB EVENTS

Andover Fish & Game Club will have their annual turkey raffle on Friday, November 11th at 7pm. Spin of the wheel can win you turkey - ham - roaster chicken etc.

Fishing Down Under Ice Fishing Tournament

Date: Saturday, January 21, 2017

Time: 6:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Place: Kezar Lake in North Sutton, NH.

Info: The **Elkins Fish & Game Club** is holding our annual ice fishing tournament. The entry fee is \$12 for adults, \$8 for Veterans, and free to kids under 16. Prizes will be given to the first place winner for longest Perch, longest Pickerel, and longest "Other". Registration will be held at the First Free Will Baptist Church hall, across the road from Kezar Lake. All proceeds will go to aid a family in financial difficulty. Full information is listed on our web site:

http://elkinsfishandgame.net/elkins_icefishing.html

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE SEEKING NEW PROJECT PARTNERS

By Charles Williams, Chair
NHWF Conservation Committee

The NHWF conservation committee will be looking for potential project suggestions next Spring from individuals, affiliated clubs, and other conservation groups that might be interested in partnering with us. Wildlife habitat enhancement activities are one of our priorities. Let us know if you think of any projects that might be undertaken in your area. There are some financial grants that may be available, but we must have the details well in advance. Send your proposals to the NHWF office and they will be forwarded to the conservation committee for consideration.

NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE FEDERATION UPCOMING EVENTS

The 35th Annual Conservation Banquet will be held April 8, 2017 at the Grappone Center in Concord, NH. Cocktail hour begins at 4:00 p.m. and dinner is served promptly at 5:00 p.m. We are looking for new and appealing donations to use as prizes in our many raffles. We hope to have a different raffle for guns in place for this year. The traditional drawdown will be running as well as the Mailbox, Kayak, 50/50 raffle, Special Firearms Raffle, Sponsor Member raffle and many more.

If anyone would like to help us the night of the banquet or help get donations, your help is much needed. This is our largest fund-raiser of the year and we need your help to make it a success. Please contact Janice at the office if you can help.

NHWF ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

By Charles Williams, Chair
NHWF Scholarship Committee

The NHWF again anticipates awarding scholarships to qualified graduating high school seniors in 2017.

The purpose of these scholarships is to assist and encourage students in the area of wildlife conservation and management, including related areas of biological and environmental studies. Special consideration will be given to candidates from families of NHWF members and our affiliated clubs. Application forms are available from the NHWF office. The deadline for submission of these modest student financial aid applications to the NHWF office is February 1. They will then be referred to the scholarship committee for review, whose recommendations will then be presented to the board of directors for final approval. Donations to the scholarship fund can be made at any time and sent to the NHWF office.

Does your employer match charitable gifts?

Completing a matching gift form is the easiest way to return more to the resources that sustain your passion as a hunter and angler.

Simply contact your employer (or former employer, if you are retired), requesting a matching gift form, and mail, email, or fax it to New Hampshire Wildlife Federation. Forms need not accompany your gift to be eligible; you may send them to NHWF at any time, and even request that gifts you have already given be matched. By using your matching gifts programs, you may double or even triple your contribution to the promotion and protection of hunting, fishing and trapping as well as the conservation of, and access to, fish and wildlife habitats.

Email: ed@nhwf.org | Fax: 603-226-7147

LEGISLATIVE REPORT 2016

We are waiting for the pending elections to be decided within both the House and Senate and we can then expect to see legislation begin for the next session. There are currently 126 pending Legislative Service Requests (LSR) on file with just titles and no content yet. This will not change until after the elections are complete and these LSR's gain sponsors and become Bills, we will then see the language advising us of the intent of these Bills. We will keep everyone informed as we move through the process.

Get your 2017 Fish & Game Calendar from NHWF

New Hampshire Wildlife Federation is currently selling Fish & Game 2017 calendars. They are \$9.95 each and make a nice gift for outdoor sports enthusiasts. Order yours by emailing ed@nhwf.org or call the office at 603-224-5953.

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2016 Annual Appeal

We just mailed our Annual Appeal to all our members and outdoor sportspersons. If you have not received it already, it will be arriving soon.

I hope you will think about all that the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation does each year to protect your rights to hunt, fish and trap and keep lands open on which to pursue these sports. We fight for you at the Legislature and are on your side when the New Hampshire Fish and Game comes under attack. For over 80 years we have been fighting to make sure New Hampshire remains a great place to live. We also represent your interests in conservation and are looking for conservation projects.

This past year, in addition to co-sponsoring the Becoming An Outdoors Woman Program with New Hampshire Fish & Game Department and the Wild Game Culinary Adventure, which helps support Barry Conservation Camp, with NH Fish & Game Department and Belknap County Sportsmen's Association, NHWF has given 4 partial scholarships to youth to attend the

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summer Shooting Sports Program at Barry Camp and awarded two scholarships to graduating seniors who are pursuing a career in wildlife management and conservation related studies.

Being the voice of the sportsperson is what we do and we can't do it without your help. I am asking that you contribute what you can to our Annual Fund so that we can continue to fight for your rights at the State Legislature and represent your interests in conservation and help educate people on the importance of these issues.

I hope you all have a successful hunting season and catch that last big fish on one of these warm days. Please send me pictures and your stories and you may very well see them in a future newsletter.

My best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season and I hope to meet many of you at our 35th Annual Conservation Banquet on Saturday, April 8, 2017.

Janice C. Boynton

Culinary Corner

By Nancy P. Adams

Fall brings with it the special thrills of wing shooting for upland game and waterfowl. Wild birds are a completely natural food, low in fat and high in protein. If you've never cooked game birds, be sure to consult a local hunter or cookbook for proper care and handling methods.

Game Bird Pate - this is a tasty appetizer spread that uses several kinds of game birds. Feel free to use pheasant or other game birds in the pate as long as the proportions remain the same. Recipe makes 2 cups of pate—nice for a gathering.

Ingredients:

2 large shallots minced (or 1/2 a small onion)
3 tablespoons butter
5 boneless woodcock breasts chopped
5 boneless quail breasts chopped
3 tablespoons crabapple jelly (or substitute red currant jelly)
1 teaspoon minced fresh rosemary (or 1/4 teaspoon dried)
salt and freshly ground black pepper

In a fry pan over medium heat, cook shallots in butter until soft. Add coarsely chopped game birds and sauté 3-4 minutes. Soften jelly in a small dish in microwave or small pan over low heat on stove. Add jelly to game bird mixture, season with rosemary, salt and pepper, cover and cook over medium heat until done, about 10 minutes. Cool slightly; puree in a food processor or blender until smooth. Taste for seasoning; add more salt and pepper if needed. Put pate into a crock or bowl and chill at least 2 hours before serving. Pate keeps 1 week refrigerated. Serve with small toasts, baguette slices or plain crackers, along with small gherkin or dill pickles and pickled cocktail onions.

'Barbie' Duck Kebabs - these cubes of duck alternate on skewers with jarred jalapeños chiles for a little bite and a great taste of Oriental-based barbecue sauce.

Ingredients:

2 boneless skinless duck breasts cut into 1 to 1-1/2-inch cubes
1/3 cup soy sauce
1/3 cup sherry
1/4 cup sesame oil
2 tablespoons brown sugar
2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh ginger
1 clove garlic chopped or 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1 (16 oz.) jar jalapeño chiles drained
1/2 lb. bacon slices cut in half

Place duck cubes in a plastic sealable bag. Mix soy sauce, sherry, sesame oil, brown sugar, ginger and garlic in a bowl; pour over duck in bag. Seal bag tightly, turn to coat, and refrigerate all day. Drain and discard marinade when

ready to cook. Place one duck piece and one jalapeño slice on the end of each bacon slice half. Roll up and secure with wooden picks, putting on as many as comfortably fit on your skewers. Grill until bacon and duck are cooked through. (You can soak the wooden skewers in water for 20-30 minutes before using to help prevent them from burning). You may also substitute goose for the duck. Serves 10-12.

Pulled Goose - this recipe is shared by Phil Mathewson of Hancock. Phil says lately he's been adding some caramelized onions to the pulled pork shortly before he serves it up, and everyone seems to enjoy this tender way to prepare goose.

Directions:

Put a cleaned, deboned goose breast half into a crockpot. If the crockpot is large enough you can probably do both breasts and save some for the freezer. Cook goose on low, fully submerged in apple juice for seven hours. Remove breast(s) and rinse them off; also rinse out the pot and set aside. "Pull" the goose into shreds, using two forks. Return shredded pork to crockpot and add your barbecue sauce of choice. Add caramelized onions if desired. Stir to combine well and serve over bulky rolls or rice.

Grouse on Toast - sometimes a very simple recipe is the best way to prepare some game. Grouse has such a delicate and unique taste that my husband and I love this easy but special way to serve grouse. A simple salad completes the meal.

Ingredients:

2 grouse breasts skinned and boned
2 tablespoons melted butter, divided
salt and freshly ground black pepper
2 slices of artisan bread, toasted
juice of 1 small lemon combined with 1/2 glass white wine
chopped fresh parsley (optional)

Rub each bird with 1 tablespoon melted butter; season with salt and pepper. Place birds on a pan and broil for 10-20 minutes, depending on size; turn frequently so they don't burn. Dip each slice of toast in some of the lemon juice and white wine (you may not need all of it). Combine remaining butter with some salt and pepper and spread on the moistened toast. Slice grouse breasts into thin strips and place some on each piece of toast. Pour any extra lemon and wine with pan drippings and pour over birds; garnish with chopped parsley if desired.

Nancy P. Adams has been cooking and writing about food for over 40 years. A long-time resident of Hancock, she enjoys gardening at home, as well as hunting and fishing with her husband throughout New Hampshire. Nancy welcomes suggestions and recipes at: nancobb22@gmail.com

NHWF Partners in Barry Camp Culinary Adventure September 2016

The weekend of 23-25 September found 3 Fish & Game Department staff and about 10 volunteers at the Barry Conservation Camp in Milan, NH along with 34 adults of all ages for the 2016 Culinary Adventure.

This program sponsored jointly by New Hampshire Wildlife Federation and NH Fish & Game has become a much sought after weekend of learning about cutting, cooking and eating a variety of game meats. The profits from the weekend are added to the trust established by sportsmen for the long-term maintenance and improvement of Barry Camp.

For those who might not be as well informed about Barry Camp as you'd like, I encourage you to check out the camp by going to wildlife.state.nh.us/barrycamp. As you move through that site you will find photos of the campers AND of the Culinary Adventure in past years.

During the Friday evening registration, Culinary Adventure participants have the opportunity to snack on various dishes prepared by staff including beaver, venison, bear, salmon and sometimes moose depending upon what is available in staff freezers.

After an introduction there were demonstrations on knife sharpening and dressing a wild turkey to round out the evening.

Saturday morning has all participants learning from Rick Warbin the intricacies of skinning and cutting a deer which will be used for lunch and dinner. The afternoon may find a participant dressing a rabbit, squirrel or pheasant or continuing to cut and package the deer and smoking squirrel legs with Al Disiliva.

Throughout the weekend, raffle tickets are available under the sponsorship of NHWF to increase the excitement of the weekend and add to the funding of camp maintenance.

Saturday evening dinner is a festival of dishes prepared by the participants under the guidance of Chef Tom Brown.

After dinner, the raffle items are drawn and most adjourned to a campfire where this year we were thrilled to have 4-H Extension Educator, Larry Barker, share insights to camp life and comments received from parents after the children attend.

This weekend grew from the vision of one sportsman, Gary Sleeper who asked NHWF to partner with Fish and Game. The program continues to give new hunters some valuable tips on what to do after the harvest of their game.

Committee members have already started lists of what worked well and what needs modification in anticipation of the wrap-up meeting and starting plans for the 2017 Culinary Adventure.

Sharon Guaraldi, committee member



Good Reports about Banquet Donations

We always ask any of you who go on trips that you won at our banquet to send us a report and pictures about your outing. We continue to encourage you to send them in.

At our 34th Annual Banquet Debbie Howell was the high bidder on the 2-night stay at Paradise Cove Cottages in Errol, NH and gift certificates to “dine” at the Hawg Trawf Restaurant . They brought another couple with them and extended their stay to 3 nights. They enjoyed breakfast looking out across Lake Umbagog from Paradise Cottage and spent lots of time exploring the waterfalls of the area and scenic vistas. They recommend this facility if you just want to get away and enjoy nature or fish the Androscoggin River or hunt in the area.



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In July Janice & John Boynton, II went on a guided bass fishing trip with banquet donor Hope Eagleson. At their request they fished Highland Lake in Stoddard. Although the day was not very productive because of the hot temperatures and drought, they thoroughly enjoyed their day on the water. Hope will take you to the lake of your choice and is very patient with fumbling beginners. They highly recommend her for a fun experience.



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Southwest Region Report

By Jack Zeller

Read Jack's deer camp blog at: longridgedeercamp.blogspot.com



It has been an interesting fall here in the Southwest Region. After the hottest and driest summer in years, October has suddenly returned to normal fall patterns. All but the largest brooks and rivers are still dried up, but the fields and pastures are coming back in green, and food plots finally have a chance. The oaks which began to shed acorns in July because of the drought did retain enough that I would say will constitute a fair mast crop in this area. They are raining down here in mid-October, and the deer are on them. We do maintain seven food plots to help does and fawns gain fast weight, and these have been heavily browsed. It is clear from camera studies that this year's fawn group had the highest survival rating of any I have ever seen in twenty+ years of working plots and cameras. In addition, they have grown faster, and bigger, than any I have seen. I was concerned about browse because of the lack of rain, but apparently there is more than enough food. No apples at all this year, but an interesting thing happened to the wild apple trees. Starting in July, they began to lose their leaves from the bottom up, until only about a quarter of the tree would have leaves, all at the top. Then in mid-September, baby leaves began to sprout on the lower branches, and in the third week of September, apple blossoms appeared! They didn't last long, but I attribute this to the extreme stress these trees were under!

No decent bucks on cameras yet. Not one. I have several spikes and a four pointer. I am assuming that the big guys have gone low, where they can get moisture, and will be back any day. But with over 1100 photos of deer this summer and fall, not a big guy in sight. Which means there are probably more than last year. That is how deer season goes! As far as harvest numbers, we are running about 23% below last year's harvest as of September 25 (in this area) and I haven't had any calls about extraordinary deer being taken. I have not hunted in September due to the heat, but now that it is in the 50's and 60's, I am going out there. I finally achieved my goal of a four inch group at forty yards (it seems to get harder every year).

Turkey's. Everywhere in the SW Region. If you are an avid turkey hunter, and do not hunt SW NH, you are passing up a big opportunity. They are everywhere, in numbers, and some real good ones well over 20 pounds. Sometimes our fields look polka dotted with them!

Bear are plentiful also. As you know we had a sow with triplets this spring and she has revisited twice this summer. There is also a Mom with twins, and I was worried that perhaps a triplet had been lost, but after the twins passed through, the triplets showed again. Aside from these, I have two other different bears on camera. More than most years, so my thought is that with the drought, bears have had to cover more ground to find decent forage. In any case, my worries that taking 38 bears from the SW last season would effect the population appears to be unfounded.

Last, I have been talking to wardens, biologists, and others on why we have lost almost all of our Fishers in this region. It appears that the overriding opinion is that the growing Bobcat population is taking its toll on them. The mature Bobcats will attack and kill a female (smaller) Fisher. As this happens over time, the breeding population dwindles. No bobcat will take on a mature and male (larger) Fisher (who would?) but with a failing female population, they are just plain scarce now. This would account for the 500% increase in the porcupine roadkill statistics over the past five years...

As for the upcoming muzzle loader and firearms season, we have several camps planned. In mid- August one of our hunters helped me re-tighten the straps on all the 20 foot ladder stands (I loosen them at end of season so the trees can grow over the summer) and we had about four break as we tightened them. Not a big deal, but be sure to always check them each season, and add new ones when needed. I never trust a tree stand strap more than several years. I find that the original straps that come with new stands are the poorest in quality. Replace, (or add to them) after every season. Good ones are as cheap as \$17.95 for four in the Sportsmen's Guide.

Good luck to you all during this wonderful time of year! If you do not belong to a group or 'Deercamp' then start your own! You don't need a camp, or land, to do it. Check out my post on starting deer camps in my blog! Or contact me!

Jack Zeller is an avid hunter, a Benefactor member of NRA, a part time trapper, member of GONH, and a career police officer. Jack posts a deer camp blog at Longridgedeercamp.blogspot.com He hosts yearly deer camps in the Connecticut River Valley, and can be reached at jackzeller@myfairpoint.net Comments and questions are welcomed!



BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN

**Co-Sponsored by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
and The New Hampshire Wildlife Federation**

The Becoming An Outdoors Woman Program offers workshops throughout the year for females 18 years or older. Many of these workshops are designed to introduce women to outdoor skills, some of which are associated with hunting and fishing and some of which are useful for other outdoor pursuits. They offer a great opportunity to learn and share experiences with other like-minded women in a supportive environment.

This year's three-day annual program was held at Rockywold-Deephaven Camp on beautiful Squam Lake and it was once again a terrific success. The program received 165 applications for 140 slots. Women are housed in cozy lakeside cabins, most of which have multiple bedrooms, sleeping two or more per bedroom. Meals are served family style throughout the weekend and the cook staff has over the years, received the loudest of all the ovations at the end of the weekend! The weekend is full of activities which begin as soon as you check in on Friday morning. The days are filled with the educational sessions offered, such as fishing, shooting sport, hiking, hunting, map and compass, kayaking and archery to name a few. This year's evening program included the ever popular Night Walk and talks about the New Hampshire hawk migration and the history of Rockywold-Deephaven Camp. On Saturday night the attendees and instructors all gather together in one of the meal halls to



celebrate and award raffle prizes. The Squam Lake event has become so popular that it fills quickly once the application goes live on the website. If you or someone you know is interested in attending it's recommended that you check out the web site at <http://nhbow.com/> to get onto the BOW e-mail list. Additionally, the BOW Scholarship Committee awards scholarships to qualified applicants. Those who wish to apply for a scholarship are also invited to check the web site and sign up for e-mails announcing programs and deadlines.

BOW also offers several Beyond BOW workshops throughout the year. Some of the workshops offered in the past and planned for the future are fly tying, handling handguns, introduction to turkey hunting, introduction to trapping, saltwater deep sea fishing, introduction to bow hunting and wilderness survival. The Intermediate fly fishing and waterfowl hunting workshops are offered over the course of a week-end and the Winter BOW Workshop which is planned for February 25th, 2017 offers many opportunities to learn outdoor skills associated with that season.

BOW enjoys welcoming new attendees so watch for the upcoming programs and come out for some quality education and comradery that can't be beat.

By: Susan L. Chiarella, Instructor and BOW Committee member
Director, New Hampshire Wildlife Federation



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Return to: New Hampshire Wildlife Federation - 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301

Check us out on our website www.nhwf.org. You may also pay by PayPal on line.