



Rich Davenport, 2008 ECFSC Recording Secretary

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

September 2008 General Meeting Minutes

Meeting Time: 7:30 PM – 9/11/08

Location: Springville Field & Stream, Springville, NY

Meeting opened at: 7:38 PM

Pledge to Flag: Completed

A moment of silence to observe the victims of 9/11 on this 7th anniversary

Roll Call

Excused: Dave Barus, Don Davis, Joe Fischer, Tony Scime

In attendance: 7 Officers, 12 Directors, 31 Delegates, 5 Guests

Reading of the Minutes

Tom Fischer motion to approve

2nd Bob Fuller

Motion passed

Secretary's Report - Rich Davenport

Nothing to report

Membership Report - Mike Smith

Teen Shooting Academy applies for membership in the ECFSC, app and payment received

Motion to approve - Tom Fischer

End Frank Miskey, Sr

Motion carries

Treasurer's Report - Tony Scime (excused)

Read by Steve Aldstadt – we're still solvent!

ECFSC Fair Booth won 4th Place

Correspondence Report – Dave Barus (excused)

Given by Rich Davenport – correspondence as follows read into the minutes:

Letters Sent:

The letter below was sent by US Mail to the following: Honorable NYS Assemblywoman Francine DelMonte; Honorable NYS-DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis; Honorable NYS Governor David A. Paterson; Honorable NYS Senator Carl L. Marcellino, chairman, Environmental Conservation Committee; Honorable NYS Senator Dale Volker; Honorable NYS Assemblyman Robert K. Sweeney, chairman Assembly ENCON Committee;



Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Inc.
Member of the New York State Conservation Council
PO Box 560, East Aurora, NY 14052



Date: Aug. 4, 2008

Honorable Carl L. Marcellino, NY Senator - 5th District
Chairman, Environmental Conservation Committee
LOB Room 509
Albany, NY 12247

Re: NYS Mentored Youth Hunting Bill – Thank You!

Dear Senator Marcellino,

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your extended efforts and dedicated service in supporting legislation to create a mentored junior big game hunting license here in NYS. We are happy to join you in celebration on the formal passage of this key legislation.

The heritage of hunting will grow in a safe manner, thanks to you.

We feel passage of this bill was crucial toward developing a program that accommodates in-the-field hands-on use of firearms for our youth under the close supervision of a qualified big game hunting mentor. As such, this program reinforces the principles of hunting safety and brings youth - who are so careful of their target in the field – together with big game without compromising safety. Your bill will allow family members and friends to develop a special bonding experience that can only occur while taking part in the hunt. The program will help to further develop a keen interest in the outdoors and wildlife for our youth.

Again, we thank you and applaud you in this effort!

Best Regards,

David L. Barus
Corresponding Secretary

Background: The Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Inc., is a consortium of 56 organized conservation groups representing Erie County, the county with largest number of licensed sportsmen (100,000) in New York State. Our member associations represent anglers and hunters of all sorts, archery and crossbow, firearm ownership, legal use of firearms, trap and skeet shooting, licensed trappers, conservationists and other groups in support of the New York State Conservation Council. On behalf of all these, we seek to establish and maintain a relationship with your office on the many issues of conservation importance.

3 Letters Received:

#1 - August 2008, from recipient of Federation grant for Rushford DEC Camp

Dear East Aurora Fish and Game Club members and the Department of Environmental Conservation,

I wanted to thank you for having picked me for the opportunity to go to Camp Rushford on the DEC Scholarship. I really had a great time!

There were two things in particular that I really liked about Camp Rushford. They were both games and they were lots of fun.

First, there was "Predator Versus Prey." We would be broken up into different groups like flies, toads, snakes, and hawks. The flies would try to hide from all the predators because they couldn't attack any of them. The toads tried to get the flies but they could be trapped by the snakes. The snakes could be eaten by the hawks. You also had to find food, shelter, and water. Toads, snakes, and hawks had to get their food by attacking. When someone got caught, they went on the team that they got eaten by. I learned that animals need certain things to survive and that food was very important. I was picked to be a fly and believe it or not, I survived. I'm good at hiding. Mom says it comes from having two brothers. They can be annoying at times and survival means I hide a lot.

I also liked playing, "Oh Deer." The group was divided in half. One group was the "deer" group and the other group was the "resource" group. Both groups spread out and made a line. The deer would pick a resource that they wanted—either food, water, shelter or living space. Each person that was a resource got to pick which resource they wanted to be. The deer would run toward their resource and if they got the person, they got the resource. If the deer caught them, the resource became another deer. If the deer couldn't catch anything that it needed, it became a resource. I was a deer for the entire time. They recorded what happened: originally, we were equally split but over time, the deer population exploded and the resources started to disappear. Then the deer population got really small. The counselors then added in things like draughts and finally a virus. This was when the resources started charging us. They also added in hunters and trucks. I survived the entire game until the very end. I am sad to say, I got a virus and went belly up. Even death was fun, though!

Finally I was picked to be "Outstanding Camper of the Week" because they said I participated in everything and I was a good sport. They gave me a certificate that says I was enthusiastic, ready for discovery, willing to participate, I set a good example, and finally because they said I looked like I enjoyed myself. I really did and I would like to thank Mr. Barus and Mr. Schmidt for having picked me to represent the East Aurora Fish and Game Club for the DEC Scholarship. I would recommend this camp to everybody!

Thanks!

Peter Fowler
East Aurora, New York



ROBERT K. SWEENEY
Assemblyman 11th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIRMAN
Environmental Conservation

COMMITTEES
Education
Rules
Veterans Affairs

August 12, 2008

David L. Barus, Corresponding Secretary
Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Inc.
PO Box 560
East Aurora, New York 14052

Dear David:

Thanks so much for your recent letter with regard to the youth mentoring/hunting bill.

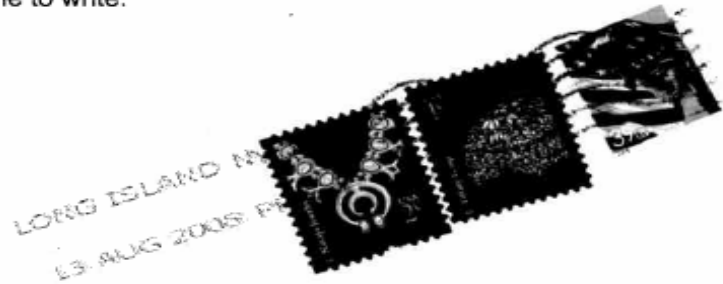
Fortunately, the bill had a great sponsor in the person of Assemblymember Francine DeMonte, and it was my pleasure to co-sponsor and support the bill. I'm glad we could get it done.

Thanks for taking the time to write.

Very truly yours,

Robert K. Sweeney
Member of Assembly

RKS:cl



LY
YORK

VEENEY
1st District
ST OFFICE
ellwood Avenue
NY 11757-3708

David L. Barus, Corresponding Secretary
Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Inc.
PO Box 560
Aurora, New York 14052





THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Agriculture
Economic Development
Job Creation, Commerce
and Industry
Racing and Wagering
Tourism, Arts and Sports
Development
Energy
Transportation

FRANCINE DELMONTE
Member of Assembly
138th District

July 23, 2008

Mr. David Barus
Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Inc.
PO Box 560
East Aurora, NY 14052

Dear Mr. Barus,

It is my pleasure to inform you that Governor Paterson today signed into law legislation that I sponsored which would create a junior big game license here in New York State. This bill will extend the privileges of the big game license to supervised youths, on the condition that they wear blaze orange and do not use a tree stand.

The final passage and signing into law of this legislation represents a major victory for sportsmen across the state as we look to ensure the future growth and prosperity of hunting here in New York.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your letters and phone calls on behalf of this legislation. I look forward to working together in the future as I continue to advocate on behalf of New York State sportsmen in Albany.

Sincerely,

Francine DelMonte
Member of Assembly

Chuck asks that if sponsoring clubs to the DEC camp could request that the kids chosen possibly write a thank you letter. Nothing against anyone, but if possible it's a good thing to teach.

President's Report – Steve Aldstadt

Steve send out a special thank you to Chuck Godfrey - the fair was the best run it has been. Nice job.

SCOPE meet the candidates night Sept 20

SCOPE Banquet on Oct 3, Federation has purchased a table
7 tickets remaining.

Will be heading to National Gun Rights Policy Conference in Arizona, may have a visit from McCain or Palin during that event!

Next Meetings

Date		BM Time		GM Time		Location
10/9/08	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Hawkeye Bowmen, Alden, NY
11/13/08	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Boston Valley Cons. Soc, 9624 Zimmerman Rd, Boston
12/11/08	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Bison City Rod & Gun, Ohio Street Buffalo, NY
1/22/09	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Elma Conservation Society, Elma, NY (needs confirmation)

Hawkeye Confirmed
Nov 13 Boston Valley CS
Dec 11 BCRG
Jan - traditionally Elma

Vote on change in the by-laws

Chuck Godfrey - Amendment read into record again
Board size is needing to be changed
Amendment to state a MAXIMUM of 16 Directors, rather than IS 15 to 16 directors

2nd Amendment to constitution
If number of directors is even number, one less than 50% (must be at least 5)
If number of directors is odd, divide number by 2, and round down. (must be at least 5)

In order to change ratify the constitutional amendments, a roll call vote of the clubs present at the meeting will decide the matter

All clubs are in favor of the amendments, Chuck will calculate votes based on the votes of the clubs

Special Guests

Steve Grant

Hosting event called operation whitetail with Charlie Alsheimer
Wed Oct 8, 6:00PM
Everyone is welcome
Raffling an 1187

Steve Grant will forward the flyer electronically for inclusion in the monthly minutes, found in the back.

Lt. Tom Scott NYS DEC ECO in attendance tonight

Law Enforcement – Dave Smyzcynski

Todd Scott provided a great chart at the fair, thank you
Also DEC ECO magnets passed out to everyone

Tom Scott - Mike Phelps back from active duty (Sept 2 return to work)

Working in Erie County again

When Academy graduates, transfers will be happening - Carlton Gill will transfer to Erie County - November

After a long, long wait, we will have 6 ECOs back on the roster in Erie County

Presently replacing patrol vehicles this year

Investigator Otto Turkenin is retiring in December. Specialized in hunter related shooting investigations. Works out of Allegany Office, but has worked throughout the region

Luncheon will be in October at the Old Library in Olean

Division of budget, acting on Governor's orders, overtime has been cut across law enforcement. All calls are still being answered, nothing is being missed, and overtime is still being granted, but the discretionary overtime is now cut.

This move has caused LE to streamline and tighten up quite a bit.

Lt Scott has empowered the officers to make judgment calls concerning attending hunter's ed classes when higher priorities exist and the time may be needed elsewhere.

Lt Scott stresses that the officers have come to realize the importance of getting the ECO message out to the public and these events are the way to do it, but some events will be missed.

Archery - Dave Reed

Nothing

Crossbow - Frank Miskey, Jr

July 15, made arrangements with Hoyt Crossbows, came to regional hunters training meeting, and presented a 25 minute fact session on crossbows, as compared to other implements

There was a belief that some instructors believed they had to teach crossbow safety, that is false, however, an instructor may decide to incorporate this. A booklet from Hoyt is available, will secure more.

Fish Committee - Dave Barus

Read into the minutes as follows:

Sep 2008 Fish Committee Report

Besides WNY Lake Erie and Inland Waterway fishing quality at the highest peak of the year, there is much other Fishing News!! Dave Barus

McKinley High Aquatic Ecology Program

At the July WNY Environmental Federation Meeting, Russ Liss talked about the McKinley High School Aquatic Ecology Program, a 4-year technical education program for high school grades 9-12. Sportsmens clubs need to be represented. Contact Russ at *Creekguy@hotmail.com*.

'Trophy Fish' discovered in Lake Erie

By Gene Pauszek, Dunkirk Observer,
September 8, 2008

OBSERVER Photo by Gene Pauszek
Pictured from left are Paul Stoos, Joe Jemiolo,
Bob DiCesare, Dave Feliciano, Carm
Catanese and Robert Reynolds display their
Saturday morning catch, while fishing with the
Eastern Lake Erie Charter Association.



Mother Nature may have saved her best weather for fishing for August. And it couldn't have arrived at a better time than Saturday morning, when two ambassadors of the Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Association met up with legislators and media from Erie and Chautauqua County to showcase the prime "trophy fish" waters of Lake Erie.

Captain Dan Dietzen and Captain Ron Bergler from Sea Cin Sportfishing hooked up with Captain Lance Ehrhardt and Captain Phil Swiatkowski aboard Sassafras Fishing Charters to take out their guests for a few hours of enjoyable fishing and hopefully a shore lunch.

The group which included Will Elliott and Bob DiCesare from Buffalo News, Paul Staas from the Erie County Sportsmen Federation, Robert Reynolds Erie County Legislature, Zen Olow, Chautauqua County Sport Fishery Advisory, Dave Feliciano our lucky charm, Carm Catanese representing Chautauqua County Executive Greg Edwards and Captain Joe Jemiolo, liaison between the two counties.

The guests met at the Chadwick Bay Marina where the two operating captains moor their boats. We then divided up into two groups and embarked on our trip. The purpose had another agenda, other than catch fish for lunch. They met to discuss ideas for showcasing "our" section of Lake Erie as well as the north end of the county, which often is overlooked, compared to the Chautauqua Lake Region. Capt. Swiatkowski, who is the President of the Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Association, discussed printing a "hot Spot" type map similar to the one in Erie and Niagara counties, but focusing on the waters from Cattaraugus Creek to Ripley.

This area yielded New York State Fish records for Small mouth bass and Lake Trout is the NYS water of choice for summertime off shore trophy walleye fishing, as well as some of the best steelhead trout fishing in the north east.

And for most of the world, it is a jewel undiscovered and underutilized. When you compare the walleye fishery/industry in Ohio to our state, we are missing out on millions of dollars in the tourist trade. It's not only the Charter Association that would benefit, but the entire area.

Think hotels and motels, eating establishments, marinas, boat launches, tackle shops, grocery stores, gas stations, our ever growing Lake Erie Wineries trail, gift shops and all the people and utilities these places employ.

You get the idea.

The plan is to get the area in the eyes of the public and how to reach them while getting the most exposure with limited funds. That is why it is so important to get our legislatures on board.

Well that is literally what the Captains did Saturday and they showed them a good time too.

Even Mother Nature co-operated with blue skies and little or no wind as the day progressed. The group fishing on Sassafras charters started off with Robert Reynolds landing the first walleye of the day taken on a dipsey diver rig towing a renosky chatter stick bait. Then it was Feliciano's turn to grab a dipsey rod on the opposite side with a similar set up. Carm Catanese, Feliciano's future Mother-in-law was handed a down-rigged rod with one of the biggest walleyes of the day.

The lure was a "Jeffrey special" copper hatchet blade with orange beads baited with a plastic Culprit worm (purple), when we found out the real worms liquified. Next up was the Dunkirk

outdoor columnist who held the big fish of the day title briefly, before we went through the rotation again. The final fish pulled the release off the planner board line with authority signaling a "good one."

Catanese representing the fairer sex powered into the fish and soon had a "hawg" walleye that would have made the Master Walleye Circuit fishermen envious. The Captain signaled it was time to pull in lines before the columnist had a chance to defend the big fish title, but we were all winners at the Point Gratiot shore lunch when Capt. Swiatowski worked his culinary magic with the deep fryer.

After today's success, I wonder how many "guests" will answer the call for a similar invite.

You can find out more about fishing with the Eastern Lake Erie Charter Association by e-mail: fish-easternbasin@hotmail.com or visit their Web site at great-lakes.org/ny/elecba.

You can also pick up brochures at most tackle shops like Bill's Hooks in Dunkirk (366-0268), Chadwick Bay Marina (366-1774), Millers Bait in Irving (934-2477) Weber's Bait and Tackle in Evans and by calling 934-7266, 713-6002 or 672-5868. Many of these charters operate well into September, weather permitting, and some of the best fishing of the season is just getting started.

Gene Pauszek is an outdoor columnist for the OBSERVER.

Pesticides could reduce pesky gobies in Great Lakes

By Dan Egan degan@journalssentinel.com *Posted: Sept. 7, 2008*

Federal researchers have announced that they have discovered certain pesticides can be used to control the voracious round gobies that have invaded the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basin.

The bad news is there probably isn't enough fish poison in the world to kill all the bulging-eyed little fish that have infested North American waters in the last two decades.

Gobies, a native of the Caspian Sea region, were first discovered in the Great Lakes in 1990 and have since spread into the Mississippi River basin. They likely arrived in the ballast of oceangoing freighters traveling up the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The speedy little fish feed on invasive zebra mussels and also the eggs of native fish species. They have been called pugnacious by some biologists because of their ferocious defense of their own spawning sites, and that has had the effect of further squeezing out native species.

Scientists now say two poisons have proved effective in targeting gobies if they are applied in a special formula that spreads across only the bottom 2 inches of a lake or riverbed, but they say their only practical use would be to control goby numbers in limited areas, or to slow their spread into new bodies of water.

The problem is the fish already have spread across the Great Lakes and into the Illinois River. The federal government hoped to halt their inexorable spread across the continent by building an electric fish barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, but the gobies made it past that artificial link between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River basin before the barrier was complete.

Work on the barrier continues. But it is now called an Asian carp barrier, because the hope is it will stop a different set of invaders from swimming the opposite direction — from the Mississippi and into the Great Lakes.

Theresa Schreier, a U.S. Geological Survey biologist and lead author of the research, said the goby poison could be applied in limited areas to protect local fishing.

"Inland lakes definitely would be a possibility," she said.

Perhaps equally important, Schreier said the research showed that targeting poisons in certain areas and in certain ways can be an effective means in controlling unwanted species while sparing many native fish.

“This work shows the value of understanding how an invasive species differs from native populations in the way it lives in an ecosystem and basing control measures on a unique vulnerability of the invader,” she said.

DEC FISHERIES NEWS and REPORTS

Niagara River Habitat Restoration: DEC Staff biologists Joe Galati and Mike Wilkinson developed plans and locations for the installation of the deep water habitat structures. These structures are to be installed by NYPA this fall as part of the negotiated Habitat Improvement Projects (HIPs) settlement.

Chautauqua Lake Water Quality Sampling

Region 9 DEC Fisheries biologist Jim Zanett collected general water chemistry data on the North and South Basins of Chautauqua Lake during the month of July.

Fish population sampling on Ischua Creek

In conjunction with a season-long angler survey, in August 2008, DEC Region 9 fish staff (Scott Cornett), assisted by angler volunteers sampled trout populations in the catch and release section of Ischua Creek. This section is located near Franklinville, in east-central Cattaraugus County. The 2.2 mile section of stream is characterized by good adult trout habitat with abundant, deep pools, log jams and some old cribbing structures. Summer water temperatures are ideal for wild brown trout, never exceeding 70 degrees. This section is stocked with yearling brown trout in three increments and two-year-old brown trout twice. This year the section also got a stocking of surplus yearling brook trout in June. The catch and release regulation went into effect on October 1, 2004 and this year's sampling was designed to duplicate a survey done in 2004, prior to the special regulation.



Ischua Creek 23.5" wild brown trout

In this year's sampling, we captured 47 adult wild brown trout, 26 hatchery brown trout and 20 hatchery brook trout. Sampling sites were 630, 800 and 960 feet in length. At the three sites, we found much lower numbers of adult wild brown trout than in the 2004 survey. For all the sites combined in 2008, we found an estimated 104 wild, adult brown trout per mile, compared with 424/mile in 2004. The estimated biomass of wild brown trout this year was 17 lbs/acre compared with 27 lbs/acre in 2004. Breaking the catch down by age classes, showed that in 2004, 91% of the catch was made up of one year olds (68%) and two year olds (23%), while in 2008, only 64% were one or two year olds. In 2004, 9% of the catch was age three and older fish, while this year 36% of the catch was made up of these older fish, three of which measured 19, 21.5 and 23.5 inches. In 2004, of the 192 wild brown trout captured, five fish were >16 inches (3%), while this year seven of the 47 fish captured were >16 inches (15%). This year's skewed ratio of older to younger fish accounts for the large drop in numbers of fish per mile from 2004 and the smaller decrease in the biomass, with so much of the catch this year made up of large individuals and few yearlings caught. There is little natural reproduction of trout in the main stream. Most of it is believed to occur in two small tributaries, one of which is sometimes inaccessible to spawning fish due to beaver dams on the tributary. It is likely that the small numbers of yearling and two year

old wild brown trout this year is due to poor spawning and/or rearing conditions in the tributaries in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Low numbers of hatchery brown trout were captured in this year's survey, with the estimated number being only 57/mile. They are stocked at the rate of 650/mile (yearlings and two-year-olds combined). In a catch and release section, this appears to be very low survival. An angler survey being conducted this season on the stream found very low catch rates for trout prior to the second increment stocking and it is likely that the first increment of brown trout (stocked March 17th) suffered very high natural mortality. In

2004, prior to the catch and release regulation, there were an estimated 115 hatchery brown trout per mile remaining at the time of the survey. We did encounter a number of the surplus yearling brook trout that were stocked in June. Most were at one site only a few hundred feet above a stocking point. It appears that Ischua Creek's wild and stocked trout populations have not been positively influenced by the catch and release regulation as was hoped when it was implemented. However, the lower numbers of wild brown trout are likely due to environmental factors affecting reproduction and rearing and the low numbers of stocked trout may be due to poor natural survival after stocking. Data from this survey combined with the angler survey which runs through October 15th, will be used in the future to determine whether to keep this regulation in effect.

Salmonid Pen-rearing Projects

Biologist Mike Wilkinson rendered considerable support for trout and salmon pen-rearing projects during spring. Activities included coordinating fish deliveries at three pen sites: Bison City Rod and Gun Club, Wilson Harbor, and Olcott Harbor, assisting with fish deliveries at the sites, monitoring dissolved oxygen and water temperature at the new Wilson Harbor pen site and assisting with growth monitoring activities at Olcott Harbor.

Cornell Cooperative Conservation Field Days

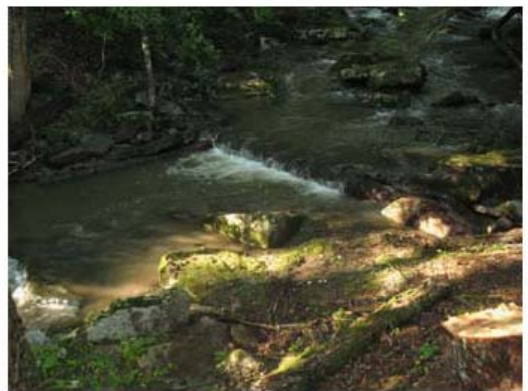
On May 28 and 29 this year, DEC biologist Mike Todd participated as an instructor at the 42nd annual Conservation Field Days at Long Point State Park on Chautauqua Lake. This event attracts between 1,000 and 1,500 fifth grade students from Chautauqua County schools.

Wild brook trout enhancement work in Allegany State Park

In July and August, DEC Fisheries (Scott Cornett) in cooperation with Allegany State Park, USFWS, Red House Brook and Western NY chapters of Trout Unlimited and SUNY Fredonia



Moving rocks on McIntosh Brook



Completed trout habitat structure

built log and rock structures at 17 sites along McIntosh Brook in Allegany State Park. This project was done to create much needed deep water, adult wild brook trout habitat in this picturesque stream. These were fairly simple structures and the work was done completely by hand and light, portable machinery. The structures were put in with only 11 work days involved, far faster than planned. This was completely due to the incredible turnout of volunteers from the two local trout unlimited chapters and others. In addition to the many work days from staff of several state and federal agencies, there were at least **80 man-days of volunteer effort** involved in building the structures. We now await high flows to dig the new pools below the structures and we will likely

need to do some minor additional work on the structures next spring. We will evaluate the how this project changes stream habitat and wild brook trout populations from 2009-2012. This project is being funded by a grant from the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture.

Walleye Stocked in the Lower Niagara River

DEC Biologist Wilkinson assisted Chautauqua Hatchery staff during stocking of walleye fingerlings in the Lower Niagara River during late June. Approximately 11,600 walleye fingerlings were planted in the River at a location near Stella Niagara. The young walleye were in excellent condition and dispersed quickly from the stocking site.

Contributions to the Buffalo River Remedial Action Plan

Fish Manager McKeown and Biologist Wilkinson worked on compiling a list of fish species that could potentially be found in the Buffalo River if environmental conditions were further improved.

DEC Fisheries Staff Attend Erie County Fair

Several Fisheries staff participated in staffing the NYSDEC booth at the Erie County Fair during mid-August. Many fair attendees stopped by the NYSDEC booth to discuss various fish and wildlife topics and request related information.

Buffalo Outer Harbor Greenway Press Conference

Biologist Wilkinson attended a press event announcing completion of the Buffalo Outer Harbor Greenway. Biologist Wilkinson provided technical assistance on ecological aspects of the project during design and construction.

Large Sturgeon Reported from Lake Erie and the Niagara River

DEC Fisheries (Paul McKeown) reported a large (68 in) and partially decomposed lake sturgeon was found along Snyder Beach on Lake Erie. A fin sample was collected from the specimen for subsequent aging by DEC fisheries staff. Lake sturgeon sightings have been steadily increasing in the New York waters of Lake Erie and the Niagara River. Lake sturgeon are a protected species in New York and must be released if captured by any methods. Biologist Wilkinson responded to a report of a dead lake sturgeon found along the Lake Ontario shoreline at Fort Niagara State Park. State Parks staff measured the length of the dead fish and collected a fin sample for potential genetic analysis. The length information, fin sample, and other pertinent data were transferred to NYSDEC.



Niagara River Habitat Improvements

DEC Biologist Joe Galati assisted NYPA staff and their consultants w/habitat surveys of Motor Island. The information will be used to develop a plan to stabilize the shoreline and placement of habitat structures. Biologist Galati worked with NYPA staff and their consultants on more extensive bottom surveys of the Niagara River at the proposed fish habitat/attractions structures to be installed this Fall. The work comprised of using SCUBA observations and underwater filming that could be observed on board.



DEC Open Space Conservation Plan

Region 9 Update submitted to Albany in late May suggested several changes in Regional Priority Categories. Genesee River Corridor added under Ecological Corridor Category. There is local government interest in the state park in Allegany County and Promotion of recreation associated with the river from the PA line to Letchworth State Park. Public hearings on the Open Space Plan will probably take place in November.

Prendergast Creek Bank Erosion

Habitat Biologist Joe Galati met with NYS-DOT to attempt to reduce bank erosion along Prendergast Creek adjacent to the NYS-DEC Chautauqua Hatchery property. The bank erosion may have been exasperated by work done to replace the RT 394 bridge.

Fish Disease Collections from the Barge Canal

DEC Biologists Mike Todd and Mike Wilkinson, Senior Fisheries Technician Zanett and Seasonal Fish and Wildlife Technician Stratton collected fish from the Barge Canal for viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) testing. Thirty smallmouth bass and sixty rock bass were submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Health Laboratory at Lamar, Pennsylvania for VHS testing. The fish were collected by electrofishing in the section of Barge Canal near Widewaters Marina in Lockport.

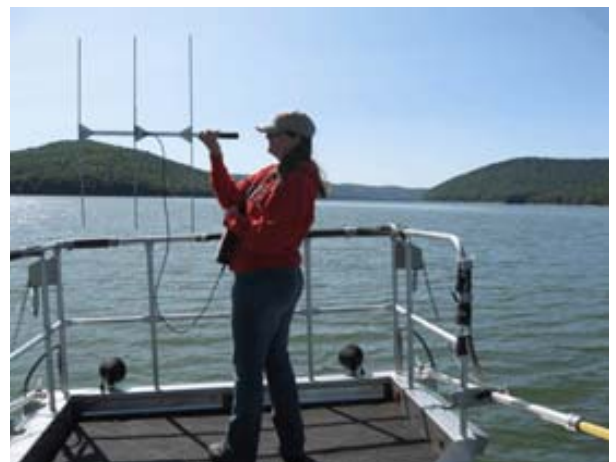
Upper Niagara River Young-Of-Year Muskellunge Seining



Region 9 Fisheries Unit members worked with students from S.U.N.Y College Environmental Science and Forestry during young-of-year muskellunge sampling activities in the Buffalo Harbor and Upper Niagara River. During the week-long effort, seine sampling yielded approximately 110 young-of-year muskellunge at 12 sites in the Upper Niagara River and Buffalo Harbor. Unfortunately, only 1 young muskellunge was collected in the Buffalo Harbor. However, a large number of young muskellunge were collected at a site near the mouth of Big Six Mile Creek in the Upper Niagara. This site had not been sampled previously, suggesting that another significant muskellunge nursery habitat has been documented. In addition, modest numbers of young-of-year muskellunge were collected in the 102nd Street embayment in the Upper Niagara. This is first time that young muskellunge have been collected in this embayment since sediments were remediated in the 1990's.

Restoration of Paddlefish to the Allegheny River System

With the transfer of SWG Biologist Meg Janis, Fisheries Biologist Mike Clancy has expended considerable effort directed the radiotracking of 17 adult and 20 juvenile paddlefish. Assistance has been provided from SUNY Fredonia, the Seneca Nation of Indians and Cattaraugus County. Intern Rebecca Segelhurst was particularly helpful and contributed many hours tracking paddlefish within the Allegheny Reservoir. Movements of adults and juveniles will help



biologists restore this once-extirpated species to New York State.

Fisheries Demonstrations at Rushford Conservation Camp

Principal Fisheries Technician Jim Zanett with the help of camp counselors did a stream electroshocking demonstration for some of the campers at the DEC Camp Rushford Environmental Camp. Rainbow Trout, White Sucker, Blacknose Dace, Longnose Dace, Mottled Sculpin and Fantail Darter were some of the species collected during the presentation.

Chestnut Ridge Family Fishing Clinic

Biologists Todd and Wilkinson participated in a Free Fishing Day family fishing clinic at Chestnut Ridge Park. The clinic was also sponsored by Erie County Fishery Advisory Board and Erie County Federation of Sportsmens Clubs.

Occidental Chemical/Natural Resource Damage Settlement Projects

Fish Manager Jim McKeown, Biologist Wilkinson and NYSDEC Lake Ontario Unit Staff met with representatives from Town of Newfane and Niagara Aquarium to discuss the process for presenting proposals for funding through the NRD settlement.

Site Visit with Access - Head of Fishing Access Sites

Manager McKeown, Biologist Scott Cornett and Principal Fisheries Technician Jim Zanett toured several of the Region 9 Fishing Access Sites and Boat Launch Sites with Public Use Section Head Ed Woltman from Central Office. Notes were taken at after discussions on how the DEC can make improvements at each site.

Robert Moses License Settlement Access Projects

DEC Biologists Joe Galati and Mike Wilkinson reviewed and made recommendations on proposed fishing access development/enhancements at the New York power Authority (NYPA) owned facilities. The three sites to be modified were part of the FERC license agreement to the operation of the Niagara Power Project.



Recreational Promotion – DEC Staff Contribute to Fishing Hotspot Maps

Biologist Wilkinson and Mike Clancy developed written material for use in a fishing hotspot map featuring the Niagara River and Chautauqua Lake.

Resource PR Analysis - Muskellunge Fishing Information Provided to Sportswriter

Biologist Mike Wilkinson responded to a sportswriter's request for written information about the muskellunge fishery in the Buffalo Harbor and Upper Niagara River.

Shoreline Access Site Investigated on Chautauqua Lake



DEC Habitat Biologist Joe Galati met with representative from NYS-DOT to inspect Chautauqua Lake lake-front property near the I86 bridge. DEC fisheries would like to see the DOT administered property made available for shore angling. Over 90% of the shoreline on Chautauqua Lake is developed and shore fishing opportunities are limited.

BASS Elite Series Tournament on Lake Erie

Regional staff assisted Albany staff in manning a "I Fish NY" booth at the weigh-in site at Small Boat on Lake Erie. Most of the state-record fish that reside in Lake Erie were displayed at the booth. Thousands of spectators attended the event and visited the DEC booth.

Syracuse Post-Standard.... 3 men arrested for illegal fish sales DEC charges two Syracuse brothers and a Rochester market owner.

Tuesday, August 19, 2008 **By David Figura, Outdoors editor**

Two Syracuse brothers and a Rochester fish market owner are facing thousands of dollars in fines and prison time for illegally selling and buying black crappies - fish that investigators say were caught on Oneida Lake.

A total of 1,185 fish were confiscated by state Department of Environmental Conservation officers: 86 were bluegills, 23 were pumpkinseeds and the balance, 1,076, were black crappies, which are commonly referred to as "strawberry bass" in the retail fish market. The total weight: 682 pounds.

Alex M. Doughty, 26, of Pleasantville Avenue, and his brother, Robert C. Doughty, of West Ostrander Avenue, both of Syracuse, and Sungkyo Choi, 46, of Rochester, were arraigned in Rochester City Court Monday.

They were each charged with illegal commercialization, a felony offense under the state Environmental Conservation Law, by engaging in the purchase and sale of game fish - the crappies - with a value exceeding \$1,500.

This offense carries a penalty of up to four years in prison and a \$5,000 fine, according to Assistant Attorney General Paul McCarthy from Buffalo, who's prosecuting the case.

All three men were also charged with possession of undersized fish, a violation with a potential total fine for the three of \$26,750.

"The sale of game fish has been outlawed for good reason: to protect New York fish," said DEC Region 8 Director Paul D. Amato from Avon. "Illegal buying and selling of fish, especially the marketing of undersized fish, harms the ecosystem chain in ways that take years to repair."

While the buying and selling of perch and other panfish (like bluegills and pumpkinseeds) is allowed, it is illegal to buy or sell crappies, which are also small fish. The minimum length to keep a crappie is 9 inches. Under state law, any fish that has a season or a size limit cannot be commercially sold.

DEC officials said on April 25 the Doughtys were observed by a Department of Environmental Conservation officer carrying tubs of fish into the Sun Fish Market, 526 West Main St., Rochester. The brothers and Choi discussed the weight, quantity and price for the fish and the officer watched Choi pay Alex Doughty \$1,392.20, officials said.

The fish were confiscated and taken to DEC's Region 8 headquarters in Avon, where they were weighed, measured and classified by species.

Officers found that 107 of the crappies measured less than the legal minimum of 9 inches. McCarthy said each of the undersized fish carry a penalty of up to \$250.

Choi later told investigators he intended to sell the fish between \$5 and \$6 per pound, which would have exceeded the \$1,500 mark, making it a felony, McCarthy said.

"It's our understanding that they were caught on Oneida Lake," said DEC Capt. Michael Van Durme from the Avon office.

Van Durme said the months-long investigation was a joint effort between the DEC's Region 8 and Region 7 offices. The Doughtys, currently free on their own recognizance, turned themselves in earlier this month at the DEC's Syracuse office on Erie Boulevard West, McCarthy said.

"Their whole intention was to catch these fish for later sale," said Capt. Woody Erickson of the DEC's Region 7 office in Syracuse. The arresting Environmental Conservation officers in the case were Matt Dorrett and Shaun Dussault, who are assigned to Oswego County, Erickson said.

David Figura can be reached at dfigura@syracuse.com or at 470-6066.

July 2008: Provisional NYS Angler Survey Results for Lake Erie

NYS DEC has conducted a survey of Lake Erie's boat fishery each year starting in 1988. After 2001 survey methods were modified, and now allow monthly summary of key statistics. The table below describes approximate effort, catch & harvest, and targeted catch rates for the three most sought species by boat anglers in New York's Lake Erie waters. Values for 2008 are preliminary while this survey is still underway and this information should not be cited without permission. Lake Erie boat fishing activity typically peaks during the month of July. Fishing effort slightly increased for July between 2007 and 2008, and was also slightly above average July measures of other recent years.

Statistic for July	5-yr ave. (2003-07)	2007	preliminary 2008
fishing effort (ang-hrs)			
Total hours by all anglers	87,041	71,401	89,284
Walleye hours	46,263	38,447	53,932
Bass hours	18,927	19,221	19,871
Yellow perch hours	13,285	2,987	5,722
All other targets	8,566	10,746	9,758
catch and harvest			
<i>Walleye</i>			
catch	10,080	8,525	12,739
harvest	8,433	7,102	11,699
<i>Smallmouth Bass</i>			
catch	15,136	15,005	10,776
harvest	1,685	1,165	1,805
<i>Yellow Perch</i>			
catch	19,189	1,601	4,981
harvest	14,986	1,108	3,459
targeted fish-per-hour			
<i>Walleye</i>			
catch/hr	0.21	0.20	0.19
harvest/hr	0.18	0.17	0.18
<i>Smallmouth Bass</i>			
catch/hr	0.57	0.58	0.54
harvest/hr	0.08	0.04	0.08
<i>Yellow Perch</i>			
catch/hr	0.98	0.39	0.51
harvest/hr	0.83	0.39	0.42

Whatever happened to . . . fish-killing disease in Lake Erie appears not to be spreading beyond Great Lakes watershed

Monday, September 01, 2008

What is the status of viral hemorrhagic septicemia, a fish-killing disease that wiped out thousands of Lake Erie yellow perch, drum and walleye in 2006?

The virus is still out there, although for now it appears not to have spread much beyond the Great Lakes watershed.

Viral hemorrhagic septicemia, or VHS, is a contagious illness that kills a variety of fresh- and saltwater fish.

As its name implies, the disease causes bleeding - in the eyes, skin, gills and at the base of fins.

Fortunately, VHS doesn't sicken people. The virus can't survive in warm-blooded animals. But it poses a big threat to the commercial and sport fishing industries.

European countries have struggled with VHS for years, but before 2003, the only North American fish known to be infected were ocean-dwelling fin fish.

Then, beginning in 2005, large fish-kills occurred in several areas of the lower Great Lakes, including Lake Erie. Tests showed the culprit was VHS, and that it had been present in Lake St. Clair - which lies between Lake Huron and Lake Erie - as long ago as 2003.

How VHS got into the Great Lakes is a mystery. An ocean-going ship could have dumped infected ballast water while traveling one of the lakes. Or it's possible the viral strain that had been killing saltwater fish mutated into a form that is deadly to native freshwater species.

Concerned about the possibility that VHS might spread to other parts of the country, federal officials in October 2006 banned the interstate transport of 37 species of live fish caught in the eight states bordering the Great Lakes. The restrictions have since been loosened somewhat, but the order remains in place.

State and federal officials recently tested more than 4,200 VHS-susceptible fish collected last fall, and this spring from 22 Ohio lakes, rivers and reservoirs. They found no evidence of the virus in any of the fish, but they aren't ready to celebrate.

"I think it's too early to be able to say" what the results mean, said Jill Rolland, assistant director of U.S. agriculture department's aquaculture, swine, equine and poultry programs. "I think we're in the early stages of trying to understand ecologically what's going on with this."

One possibility, according to Ohio Sea Grant fisheries biologist Eugene Braig, is that after a few seasons of large die-offs, wild fish populations gradually build up immunity to VHS and the virus "just becomes part of the background."

"You want to slow its spread as much as possible," Braig said, "and you especially don't want it to get into culture operations" such as fish farms, where the economic impact could be devastating. But the biologist said he is "skeptical regarding the long-term impact of VHS on large wild fish populations."

Rolland cautions, though, that eventual immunity to a virus isn't necessarily assured. "That's the best-case scenario," she said. "There are other cases where, with each successive generation, that immunity isn't passed along to the juveniles and you go through the whole process again of being exposed and becoming infected and experiencing die-offs." - John Mangels

BOTULISM AND THE BEACH

Rebecca Williams, September 1, 2008

A deadly toxin is spreading across the Great Lakes, killing fish and birds. Rebecca Williams reports scientists are trying to put the puzzle together as quickly as they can:

(sound of waves lapping the beach)

It's one of those perfect beach days. Not too hot, not too crowded. Everything's just right. Unless you don't like rotting fish and dead birds full of maggots.

Hunter Brower is hanging out at this Lake Michigan beach. He says he's seen a lot of dead gulls here in recent years. "It's disgusting. We're out here to enjoy our time and it's just not



right.” The birds and fish are being killed by Type E botulism. Basically – it’s food poisoning. For about a decade now, botulism has been killing huge numbers of birds in the Great Lakes.

We’re talking about more than 75,000 birds – and scientists think that’s probably a very conservative estimate. That’s because birds could be dying and not reaching the shore. And it’s very hard to know how many fish are getting killed. They’re harder to diagnose. “It’s really one of nature’s most potent toxins.”

Mark Brederland is with Michigan SeaGrant. He says some studies show the toxin can paralyze fish.

“They can actually lose their orientation and be bobbing up and down vertically and that’d be easy pickin’s if you’re a loon.” Loons and other birds eat those poisoned fish, or, even grosser, they’ll eat the maggots in dead birds on the beach, and get sick. The toxin can make birds lose control of their neck muscles. Their heads fall in the water and they drown.

Beaches full of dead fish and birds aren’t great for tourism. But scientists are more worried about what this means for endangered species - from the giant lake sturgeon to the tiny piping plover.

Mark Brederland says they’re also worried about the thousands of migratory birds that get killed on their way south in the fall. “They’re just driving down their migratory highway, pulling off at the rest stop to get something to eat and that’s their last and final resting spot.”

So scientists are trying to pin down what’s going on. There’s one main hypothesis. It involves some nasty little critters: invasive zebra mussels and their cousins, the quaggas. They got into the lakes in the ballast water of foreign ships. Both mussels suck in lake water and filter it. They’ve made the lakes a lot clearer than they used to be. The clearer water means more sunlight can reach the lake bottom, and that kickstarts algae growth. When the algae die... it sucks oxygen out of the water. And that’s perfect for a bacterium that produces the botulism toxin to go forth and multiply.

Okay, now, remember those pesky mussels? Scientists suspect they can take in the toxin but they’re not affected by it. But fish that eat the mussels get sick.. One fish in particular loves to eat mussels. It’s the invasive round goby. And there are lots and lots of gobies in the Lakes. That could mean lots of poisoned snacks for bigger fish and birds.

Researchers have a bad feeling about all this, and they’re trying to confirm their hunches. Brenda Moraska LaFrancois is headed out on Lake Michigan to investigate. She’s part of a team that’s collecting samples from the lake bottom. She says this is a tough mystery to unravel.

“These are really complicated systems and unfortunately they continue to change.”

As soon as scientists think they have a handle on what’s going on, some new invader gets in and messes everything up again. So it’s really hard to know what could be done to stop the outbreaks.

The experts say if you go to the beach it’s safe to swim. But you shouldn’t eat any fish or waterfowl that seem sick. Your local wildlife managers might tell you: don’t touch it, but get something to bury the dead animal down in the sand, so other birds won’t feed on it and spread the toxin.

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Paul Stoos adds the notice that changes have been adopted:

For Release: IMMEDIATE
Thursday, September 11, 2008

Contact: Maureen Wren
(518) 402-8000

DEC ADOPTS NEW FRESHWATER FISHING RULES FOR 2008-2010 SEASONS Changes to Become Effective October 1, 2008

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Pete Grannis today announced the finalization of changes to freshwater fishing regulations for the 2008-2010 seasons. These new regulations will become effective on October 1, 2008, and enhance fishing opportunities for anglers across New York.

"New York continues to provide some of the nation's best fishing opportunities, and these regulation changes are intended to enhance angler satisfaction, while also protecting New York's precious fishery resources," Commissioner Grannis said. "During our public comment period on the draft regulations, DEC received many helpful comments from anglers and other stakeholders, with some suggestions incorporated into the final changes announced today. We look forward to continuing together to protect our fisheries and improve fishing opportunities."

The new regulations are the result of a two-year process which included careful assessment by DEC staff, discussions with various angling interest groups, and a formal public review and input process. DEC proposed draft regulations in February 2008 and initiated a 45-day public comment period which ended in April.

Several of the recently adopted changes apply to all waters in New York, while others apply to specific waters.

Statewide Angling Regulations:

- Prohibit the act of chumming with fish eggs in order to reduce the harvest of female fish specifically for purposes of taking eggs and using them as a method to aggregate and concentrate fish.
- Define a "tip-up" as any device used for fishing through the ice that has a signaling device attached, except a bobber or other floating object on the water, that will visually or audibly signal a strike. This will provide clarity on what devices fall under the category of tip-ups for ice fishing
- Prohibit the sale of trout eggs in order to prevent the harvest of trout for the purposes of selling eggs in tributary fisheries by anglers.
- Establish a species-specific list of fish that may be used as bait fish to minimize potential adverse introductions of certain fish outside of their native ranges; clarify and define what bait fish are acceptable for use.

Trout and Salmon Fishing Regulations:

- Establish a three-fish daily creel limit with a 12-inch minimum

size limit for trout in Beardsley Lake in Montgomery and Herkimer counties, Kyser Lake in Fulton and Herkimer counties and Stillwater Reservoir in Herkimer County, to foster production and subsequent catch of larger size trout in waters capable of growing large fish while providing sufficient protection for these quality fisheries.

- Create a three-fish daily creel limit with a 12-inch minimum size limit for trout in the ponds contained within the Massawepie Conservation Easement Area in St. Lawrence County (Pine, Boottree, Town Line, Deer and Horseshoe) and Tamarack Pond in St. Lawrence County to provide for trophy brook fishing opportunities while protecting heritage-strain brook trout populations.

- Institute a five-trout creel limit, with no more than two trout longer than 12 inches on the Lansing Kill in Oneida County, to protect larger trout and maintain a quality trout fishery.

- Extend the catch-and-release section of West Canada Creek in Herkimer and Oneida counties in order to expand the area with this angling opportunity, increase the number of fish available to anglers and spread out anglers on West Canada Creek that seek catch-and-release fishing experiences.

- Extend the current Apr. 1 - Oct. 15 catch-and-release season on the West Branch St. Regis River in St. Lawrence County to all year, thereby increasing angling opportunity.

- Eliminate the special regulation requiring catch-and-release fishing for trout on Allen Pond in St. Lawrence County and replace it with a three-fish daily creel limit and 12-inch minimum size limit. This will provide sufficient protection to the quality trout fishery while allowing for limited harvest.

- Create a catch-and-release, artificial-lures-only regulation in Wheeler and Clear Ponds in the Town of Webb in Herkimer County to reduce harvest as part of an ongoing heritage-strain brook trout evaluation study.

- Establish a special regulation for kokanee salmon in Glass Lake in Rensselaer County with a three-fish daily creel limit and 12-inch minimum size limit in order to reduce harvest and protect the kokanee salmon population.

- Establish a special regulation for Ellicott Creek in Erie County in order to provide anglers the opportunity to harvest trout within Amherst State Park.

- Remove the special regulation for lake trout on Woodhull Lake in Herkimer County as surveys have indicated that the lake trout have no limitations on reaching larger sizes and a special regulation is not warranted.

Black Bass and other warm-water species:

- Extend the winter catch-and-release-only black bass season in Suffolk and Nassau counties to provide additional angling opportunity.

- Reduce the creel limit on walleye and sauger in Lake Champlain to "3 fish in combination" to better protect walleye and sauger stocks and provide continuity between New York and Vermont regulations.
- Modify the creel limit and size limit for muskellunge and tiger muskellunge in the border waters of the Delaware River and West Branch Delaware River, to provide a consistent regulation with the State of Pennsylvania.
- Remove American eel from the list of fish that can be spearfished in order to reduce fishing-related mortality for American eels.

Great Lakes and Tributary Regulations:

- Restrict the use of weight on the line, leader, swivels or artificial flies in the Salmon River fly fishing-only area in order to reduce snagging of trout and salmon.
- Refine the allowable fishing tackle that may be used in the special regulations fly fishing catch-and-release areas on the Salmon River in Oswego County in order to offer an unimpeded traditional fly fishing experience.

Bait Fish Regulations:

- Prohibit the use of bait fish in waters such as the Henderson Lake in the Town of Newcomb in Essex County, and in the Giant Mountain Wilderness Area in order to prevent more non-native fishes from becoming established which impairs the ability to restore native salmonids.
- Prohibit the use of bait fish in Wheeler and Clear Ponds in the Town of Webb in Herkimer County in order to protect these reclaimed brook trout waters from non-native fish introductions.
- Add the ponds and streams in the Raquette-Boreal Wilderness Area to the list of waters that restrict the use of bait fish in order to minimize the potential of introducing competing species to these sensitive brook trout ponds.

The complete list of fishing regulation changes can be viewed on the Department's website at www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/34113.html . Comments received from the public are categorized and reviewed for substance, and then staff responses to those comments are compiled. A summary of the "Assessment of Public Comment" is available on the DOS website at www.dos.state.ny.us/info/register.htm

Detailed changes including the tip up definition and acceptable bait fish species

Small Game - Dan Tone

Statewide State stocking 25,000 adult pheasants
2,997 in region 9 most will be roosters

For Release: IMMEDIATE
September 16, 2008

Contact: Maureen Wren
(518) 402-8000

DEC ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF PHEASANTS FOR 2008 HUNTING SEASON Pheasant Raising Programs Bolster Hunting Opportunities

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Pete Grannis today announced that approximately 25,000 adult pheasants will be released on lands open to public hunting for this fall=s pheasant hunting season. The pheasant hunting season begins on Oct. 1, 2008, in northern and eastern portions of New York; Oct. 18, 2008, in central and western portions; and Nov. 1, 2008, on Long Island.

For the second year, junior hunters (12-15 years old) will have the opportunity to hunt pheasants the weekend prior to the regular pheasant hunting season. In northern and eastern New York, where the season opens Oct. 1, the youth pheasant hunt weekend is Sept. 27-28. In western New York, where the season opens Oct. 18, the youth pheasant hunt weekend is Oct. 11-12.

Pheasants will be released at a number of select sites across the state to provide ample youth hunting opportunities. Please review the attached list to find a location or contact the nearest DEC regional wildlife office for more information. Hunters are reminded that all current pheasant rules and regulations remain in effect during the youth hunt.

"Youth pheasant hunt weekends provide our junior hunters with the opportunity to go afield during less-crowded conditions and under the supervision of an experienced hunter," said Commissioner Grannis. "DEC's pheasant programs enhance hunting opportunities across the state, and we are looking forward to another great year of pheasant hunting for youth and all sportsmen and sportswomen. And as always, pheasant hunters are strongly encouraged to review hunting regulations and safety guidelines before any hunting trip to ensure a safe and successful season."

Pheasants are raised at DEC's Reynolds Game Farm in Ithaca, NY. The majority of the birds will be released on state wildlife management areas and cooperative hunting areas prior to and during the fall hunting season. All release sites for pheasants provided by state-funded programs are open to public hunting. A list of statewide adult pheasant release sites and sites receiving birds for the youth pheasant hunt weekends can be found by visiting the Department=s website at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9349.html> .

Despite long-term changes in habitat conditions that favor forest birds such as wild turkey and ruffed grouse, pheasant hunting remains one of the most popular forms of small game hunting in New York. Approximately 50,000 people go afield to hunt pheasants every year.

DEC's pheasant propagation and release program helps sustain this activity since wild pheasant populations have declined dramatically with the loss of active agricultural lands.

Two popular cooperative pheasant rearing and release programs, the Day-old Pheasant Chick Program and the Young Pheasant Release Program, provide additional opportunities for pheasant hunters. Birds from these programs are released before the season opens and disperse widely, presenting a greater challenge for experienced hunters. Anyone interested in raising and releasing pheasants to expand next year's hunting opportunities should contact the Reynolds Game Farm at (607) 273-2768.

The Day-old Pheasant Chick Program, developed in the early 1900s, provides day-old pheasant chicks to cooperating 4-H groups and sportsmen and sportswomen organizations. The chicks are distributed to program participants in May and June, and cooperators incur all costs associated with rearing the birds, including feed, water, utilities and facility construction. This year, nearly 60,000 pheasant chicks were distributed statewide as part of this program.

The Young Pheasant Release Program was developed in 1992 with assistance from organized hunters. In this program, seven- to 10-week-old pheasants are distributed to cooperating groups and landowners for release at pre-approved sites from June through August. The cooperators provide a release pen and make food and water available for two weeks following the release of the pheasants, allowing the birds to become acclimated to their new surroundings. Approximately 15,000 young pheasants were released on more than 350 sites this year. A list of these sites is available from DEC regional wildlife offices.

Hunters who plan to use private lands should ask permission from the landowner. In addition, hunters are also encouraged to hunt with a trained bird dog to improve their chances of finding and locating downed game. For the enjoyment of everyone, please do not disturb pheasants released prior to the youth pheasant hunt weekends or the opening of the regular season. Training dogs and flushing pheasants at these release sites moves the birds off these sites and negatively impacts hunting opportunities.

Boundaries for pheasant hunting zones conform to Wildlife Management Units used for DEC's management of other upland wildlife. Wildlife Management Unit boundary descriptions can be found on DEC's website at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8302.html> . In addition to knowing these unit boundary descriptions, hunters should review the 2008-2009 New York Hunting & Trapping guide (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/37136.html>) for complete regulations and other important information before going afield.

The following is a list of sites stocked with DEC Pheasants for Youth Hunting Weekends:

Region	County	Township	Youth Hunt Site
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1	no sites	(no Youth Weekend on Long Island)	
3	Orange	New Windsor	Stewart State Forest
	Putnam	Patterson	Cranberry Mtn WMA
	Putnam	Patterson	Great Swamp WMA
	Dutchess	Red Hook	Trivoli Bays
	WMA		
4	Albany	Berne	Partridge Run WMA see
	maps at all informational kiosks		
	Albany	Knox	Margaret Burke WMA -west
	side of County Rt. 254		
	Delaware	Colchester	Bear Spring Mt.
	WMA, West Trout Brook Rd.		
	Greene	Jewett	State land near Colgate
	Lake		
	Rensselaer	Nassau	North and south
	of Jefferson Hill Rd. at the intersection with Middle Rd. Must ask		
	permission by calling (518) 766-4346 after 5PM		
5	Clinton	Beekmantown	Monty=s Bay WMA
	Essex	Westport	Near junction of
	Lake Shore Rd. and Clark Rd. on state land		
	Saratoga	Greenfield	Daketown State
	Forest		
	Washington	Greenwich	Carter=s Pond
	WMA		
	Washington	Jackson	Eldridge Swamp State
	Forest		
6	Jefferson	Brownville	Perch River WMA
	Oneida	Whitestown	Oriskany Flats
	WMA		
	St. Lawrence	Canton	Upper and Lower Lakes
	WMA		
7	Broome	Triangle	Whitney Point MUA
	Cayuga/ Tompkins	Ledyard, Genoa	Cayuga/Tompkins Co-op
	Hunting Area		
	Lansing		
	Chenango	Smithville	Long Pond State
	Forest		
	Onondaga	Lysander	Three Rivers
	WMA		
	Tioga	Richford	Michigan Hill
	State Forest		
	Oswego	Richland	Deer Creek Marsh WMA
8	Genesee	Alabama	Tonawanda WMA
	Monroe	Greece	Braddock Bay WMA
	Wayne	Wolcott	Lake Shores Marsh WMA
	Wayne	Savannah	Northern
	Montezuma WMA along Savannah Spring Lake Rd.		
9	Allegany	New Hudson	Hanging Bog WMA,
	along New Hudson Rd.		

MUA	Cattaraugus	Farmersville	Harwood Lake
	Cattaraugus	Red House	Allegany State
	Park, Wolf Run Road & Upper Bay State Rd. (Free permit necessary from Admin. Bldg.)		
	Chautauqua	Sherman	Alder Bottom WMA, off
	Idora Rd. and Rte. 76		
	Erie	Collins	Zoar Valley MUA,
	South Vail and Unger Road and Button Rd.		
	Niagara	Lewiston	Joseph Davis State Park
	Niagara	Somerset	Golden Hill State Park
	Wyoming	Middlebury	Carlton Hill MUA and
	Sulphur Springs FWMA Coop 5 miles north of Warsaw		

Dan requested information to find another area of acreage with 100 contiguous acres. We only have one site right now

Dan asks if Lt Scott could ask Capt Bennett for a patrol on opening day of pheasant season. Worked real well

Lt Scott said he would speak to the capt.

4-H Program - problems during the first part of the day due to losses in birds early. Released 596 birds, at \$3.00/ bird, \$1788.00 cost.

Chuck Godfrey - DEC is putting out an email newsletter (DEC Outdoors Discovery) that never mentions hunting and trapping, may not have mentioned fishing, either.

This week's feature was squirrels - would have been the ideal time to bring squirrel hunting and to introduce kids to hunting via small game. Nothing mentioned Chuck sent an email question to them concerning why this isn't in there?

What is funding this? Chuck is waiting for the answer from the DXEC before asking whether CF funds are used for this.

Big Game - Paul Stoos

2009 licenses are on sale - DMP applications must be in by Oct 1
Let's get the kids licenses after all the hard work

Allegany Bear Range expanded for 2008/ 2009 season:

DEC OPENS NEW AREAS TO BEAR HUNTING IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN NEW YORK
Changes Effective for Upcoming Season

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Pete Grannis today announced that the state has adopted regulations that open new areas to black bear hunting this fall. The new regulations expand bear hunting to 13 additional Wildlife

Management Units (WMUs), which include parts of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie, Wyoming, Genesee, Monroe, Livingston, Wayne, Ontario, Seneca, Yates, Steuben, Schuyler, Tompkins, Tioga, Cortland, Broome, Chenango, Madison, Onondaga, Oneida, and Otsego counties.

The regulations are in effect immediately and will allow hunters to pursue bears in these areas during the bowhunting, regular, and muzzleloading bear hunting seasons in the Southern Zone. An updated map of New York's bear hunting seasons is available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28602.html>. A map and boundary descriptions of DEC's Wildlife Management Unit locations can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8302.html>.

"In recent years, the bear population in central and western New York has grown in number and expanded in distribution," Commissioner Grannis said. "Hunting is an important component of a comprehensive bear-management program that also emphasizes safety and education efforts and responses to individual problem bears. Expanding the bear hunting area is a continuation of efforts to manage bear population growth and range expansion."

Black bears have been thriving in New York, with a current population of approximately 6,000-7,000 - a number that has grown significantly over the last decade. This conservative estimate includes about 4,000-5,000 bears in the Northern Bear Range, about 2,000 bears in the Southern Bear Range, plus several hundred bears outside the primary ranges. In recent years, bears have expanded their range considerably, which has led to a growing number of interactions between bears and people.

The specific changes for the Southern Bear Range include:

- Open WMUs 7M, 7R, 7S, 8H, 8J, 8M, 8N, 8P, 8R, 8S, 9G and 9H to black bear hunting for the bowhunting, regular and muzzleloading seasons. This would include parts of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie, Wyoming, Genesee, Monroe, Livingston, Wayne, Ontario, Seneca, Yates, Steuben, Schuyler, Tompkins, Tioga, Cortland, Broome, Chenango, Madison, Onondaga, and Oneida counties. Season dates for these units will be the same as those in place for adjacent units already open to bear hunting in the Allegany bear hunting area, with bowhunting season starting on Oct. 18, 2008, and regular bear season beginning Nov. 22, 2008.

- Open WMU 4N to black bear hunting for the bowhunting, regular and muzzleloading seasons. This includes parts of Chenango and Otsego counties. The season dates for this unit will be the same as adjacent areas to the east in the Catskill bear hunting area with bowhunting season starting on Oct. 18, 2008, and regular bear season beginning Nov. 15, 2008.

The commissioner reminded hunters that they must report the taking of a black bear to DEC. "Not only is the reporting of a bear by a hunter required by the Department's regulations, it is a vital component of our black bear management program," Grannis said.

Successful bear hunters must report the taking of a black bear and may do so by calling 1-866-GAMERPT (1-866-426-3778) or through DEC's new online reporting system (see <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html>).

While bear hunting is the most viable and cost-effective tool for managing bear populations, opening new areas to hunting will not eliminate bears or prevent all human/bear interactions. For this reason, DEC remains committed to continuing educational outreach to increase the public's awareness and inform the public on techniques to avoid conflicts with bears. The recently-produced "Living with New York Black Bears" DVD is available to the public for loan at local libraries and DEC wildlife offices, and is currently being distributed to school libraries throughout the state. A wealth of information about bears can also be found on DEC's website at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6960.html.

Trapping – Patti Wattengel

New set design demonstrated

Restrictions at opening and the trap is set back farther in the bucket

Still impressing more on kids that where you set these traps makes a big difference, as a dog can still get caught in these if the location of the set is poor.

Waterfowl

Rich relays the early goose season is open, tons of geese.

Rich relays the Hollani story as follows in email thread to Fred Neff:

Dated August 22, 2008

Hey Fred,

Thought I would make your weekend by relaying a little story that happened Tuesday (I forgot to tell you this sooner).

Picked up my new 2008/ 2009 sporting licenses and H/A Stamp, nice pukey brownish color this year.... Anyhow, bought it at Gander Mountain on Young St. in Tonawanda. There was a small line, as I guess the servers were overwhelmed for a period of time on the 18th. As I was waiting in line, the gal operating the license computer is selling licenses to a young fellow, and when she got done, I politely asked why she didn't suggest to the last person to buy the Habitat Access stamp for \$5.00? Her name is Hollani. Real nice gal. She told me she never heard of it, so I explained the program, the costs, etc, and asked why she didn't suggest it again. She said her managers never, ever told her about this, and she knew NOTHING about it. However, she then thanked me, wrote a note down to suggest the stamp for the rest of the license apps she will get throughout the season.

Same problems. Hopefully I solved the one at Gander. Judging from her sincere interest, I'd bet that store will be the #1 seller of H/A stamps in Erie County.

Thought you'd enjoy that.....

Rich Davenport
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Follow up email:
Dated September 3, 2008

Hi Fred,
Well, I really hadn't planned on a follow-up story to the Habitat/ Access saga, but, last night I stopped into Gander Mountain on Young Street to pick up some last-minute tackle for a night musky run on the Upper Niagara.

We picked up our goods and got in the checkout line, and there is Hollani, working on a display. She turns around and sees me in the checkout line, comes up to me and says.....

"Hey, I've been selling a lot of H/A Stamps since you told me about it! In fact, I am suggesting it to everyone I sell a license to, and I am selling a stamp to one out of every four people I ask!"

She further let me know that some did indeed know about the stamp and only needed a little reminding/ prodding to buy it, while others were completely unaware and after she explained what the program is, they happily bought one. Some also mentioned to her an article on the H/A Stamp by Will Elliott (great job, Will!) that was in the Buffalo News on August 17, and ok'd the purchase.

She will make Gander the #1 seller of these stamps in Erie County, perhaps even the State, if she spreads the word and enthusiasm.

This also does prove the power of suggestion, and despite all the whatnot, all a clerk has to do to sell these is to ask if they would like to buy one! Hollani is getting 25% sales success, just by asking. Using Will's numbers of 1.1 million sporting license holders in NYS, if we just got what Hollani has proven get-able, the H/A fund would annually generate \$1,375,000.00 - a sight better than the \$50,000 or so we are doing today, and that's only 25% of the folks voluntarily making the purchase.

I wish we had more Hollani's out there!!

Rich Davenport
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Hamburg - McKinley Walmart advised one of our members that you don't want the stamp - waste of money

How many people would be interested in attending WNYEF if Fred Neff comes in to speak to H/A program

NYSCC

Annual meeting upcoming

Bill Brookover from SCOPE - President of NY ML

Contact Harold to know when the amended resolutions need to be introduced

Youth hunting - NYSCC newsletter stating under 12 no need for course, yet kids can hunt??

Environment & Pollution

Japanese knotweed invasive all over the place, beavers are eating it.

Some substance in the roots is an organic pesticide, and it is being used for this, maybe a commercial market for it

Legislation – John Susz

SCOPE Newsletters are now available

2nd Amendment is individual, but some restrictions ok.

Will be a battle to restore the rights fully, get ready for lots more battles

WNYEF - Dan Tone

Covered - Meeting Sunday at Hoak's 1PM - get there early for lunch

Resolutions – Bob Fuller

Ballots are in - vote is in - results as follows:

BALLOT FOR 2008 NYSCC RESOLUTIONS

_____ All resolutions ask the NYSCC to work with the DEC and/or the Legislature to accomplish what is being asked for in the resolution.

YES NO

14 FAIL 30 8-1 Catt. Cty. Make legal the use of a single shot black powder cartridge firearm with an all lead bullet during muzzleloader seasons.

8 FAIL 37 08-2 Del. Cty. Open up a flintlock only muzzleloader season in the Southern Zone during the second week of the early bow season.

- 23 PASS 22 083 Erie Cty Implement an early muzzleloader season in the Southern Zone running to start on the 4th Sat. of Oct., and run for 7 days. Antlerless only, DMP's permitted. Single barrel long gun with flintlock, percussion, or inline, 44 cal. or larger; scope permitted.
- 32 PASS 13 08-4 Del. Cty. Oppose any antler restrictions in any area of NYS
- 38 PASS 3 08-5 Onon. Cty Support legislation banning use of chemical contraceptives in whitetail deer herds.
- 38 PASS 7 08-6 Allow hunters who qualify for a senior or disabled big game license to qualify for a senior or disabled big game license which would allow use of a bow with a mechanical device to draw and hold at full draw, or to use a crossbow. Also to set up a special season before the regular archery season, or allow those hunters to hunt during the archery season. – Otsego Cty
- 35 PASS 6 08-7 Yates Cty. Support use of a crossbow as a legal hunting instrument in all big game seasons, for hunters aged 60 and older, and for any hunter who possesses a handicapped certificate authorized by a doctor and issued by a town clerk.
- 11 FAIL 30 08-8 Yates Cty. Support mandatory blaze orange of 250 sq. inches worn by hunters during regular big game season and recommend voluntary use during other hunting season, and by nonhunters afield during hunting seasons.
- 24 PASS 17 08-9 Liv. Cty Change fee structure for State Parks so that fishermen with a valid NYS fishing license be allowed to use boat launches, when fishing, with no other fee attached.

YES NO

- 32 PASS 11 08-10 Otsego Cty. Set a definition for “cartop boat”, ensure that all cartop boat launch sites allow a small boat trailer to be backed near to, but not into, the water, and have parking areas for at least 10 cars, or 5 cars with small trailers.
- 24 PASS 21 08-11 (8-13 on the sheet, but no doubt should be 08-11)
Schoh Cty Insist that NYS support the cost of constructing a hard-surfaced handicapped accessible boat launch at or near TEA-21 Walking Path Project. Also that all navigable waterways in NYS be afforded such boat launches.

- 26 PASS 19 08-12 Schoh. Cty Same as 08-11 for Glimmerglass St. Park
- 35 PASS 4 08-13 Colum. Cty Change law so that comm. to approve Hab./Acc Grants would be made up of one rep. from each of the following: NYSCC, CFAB, FWMB, and DEC. Also that each of these 4 Organizations must sign off on all Hab./Acc. Grants that are approved.
- 21 PASS 13 08-14 Liv. Cty. Eliminate the “intended use” distinction between hand lines and tip-ups in ice fishing.
- 10 FAIL 35 08-15 Nass. Cty Oppose any and all attempts to create a saltwater fishing license or fee.
- 25 PASS 18 08-16 Sarat. Cty. Reopen the otter trapping season in WMU’s 5R and 6R.
- 40 PASS 4 08-17 Mid-Hudson Valley Fur Harvesters Assoc. Require all NYS trappers to check water sets and remove furbearers at least once every 48 hours while maintaining the current def. of water set.
- 42 PASS 3 08-18 S.C.O.P.E. Allow use of centerfire rifles for hunting coyotes during the entire season, where rifles are otherwise allowed for hunting during coyote season.
- 36 PASS 9 08-19 Onon. Cty. DEC to survey NY’s sportsmen to ascertain support for establishment of a mourning dove season.
- 41 PASS 4 08-20 NY Houndsmen Increase the fines for hunting, fishing, or trapping without a license.

Tony Gonnello asked whether we have written any resolutions yet?
 When does the amended resolution need to be submitted? 19th or 20th?
 Contact H Palmer for details on this. - Present at the Council Meeting
 Rich mentioned informal fair survey and the results
 Rich also mentions the electronic survey - scientific
 Will send to directors for testing and feedback, presented to the membership in Oct

Education – Frank Miskey, Sr.

Classes are winding down, very well attended

Nominations – Mike Smith

None - this month

Mike Smith - next month will be nominating officers and directors start thinking about the candidates

Director Terms that are up, Al Bauer, Tom Fischer, Dave S and Dan Tone
All Officers as well

Awards – Frank Miskey, Sr.

Not this month, but next month

Banquet – Dan Tone

Will continue to handle

Will discuss at next meeting

Educational Opportunities – Chuck Godfrey

Applications for scholarships now available

The application is found in the back of the minutes, and will continue to be in the minutes through the end of the year.

CFAB

Dale Dunkenberger is now officially ratified as the CFAB rep, he will be at WNYEF meetings

Fund Raising - Need a chair

Calendar orders need to be in at the latest by October meeting, please order and have money by Oct meeting, orders may be placed tonight after meeting

FWMB

State Board is meeting in October or November, (maybe 16 and 17 of Oct) in Dunkirk
Open meeting - Cut from 3 to 2

Fair Report – Chuck Godfrey

Thanks everyone

REPORT ON ERIE COUNTY FAIR

Thanks to everyone who helped out at the Erie County Fair in August. We had a great response to the request for volunteers, with 5 clubs taking entire days, making my job of getting the booth manned much easier. Deerssearch, Elk's Head, WNY Turkey Federation, Lake Shore Exempt, and West Falls were the clubs that stepped up and took entire days. Thanks very much guys. The following people all took at least one shift, so that the booth was manned at all times:

J&C Fischer, M. Smith, M. Pikula, K. Miskey, N. Cronin, J. Satola, B. Fuller, S. Schofield, A. Sagool, B. Lerner, C. Dale, D&J Shoemaker, C. Curtis, B. DeLeo, G&K Huber, J. DiRosa, E. Vail, G. Katta, C. Lemke, J. Williams, A. Zaccardi, A&J Gretch, N. Fulle, J. Amrhein, D. Dzanowicz, C. Hammer, T. Rambach, J. Susz, W. Sieber, P. Kurzdorfer, A. Guy, D. Schul, B. Gorski, T. Upson, J. Wahl, C. Beyer, T. Fischer, R. Stoberl, J. Young, R. Paaf, F. Tucker, B. Avery, P. Keefe, F. Thompson, B. Hixon, M. Ventre, G. Szeffel, N. Antonik, D&P Wharton

I hope I've listed everyone. Thanks again.
Chuck Godfrey

Chuck mentions that he would prefer not to be shows chairman next year, if anyone could please help out

Informal Survey of sportsman's desires at fair had results as follows:

ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS SURVEY

- 1) Presently N.Y. State law prohibits children 12 years of age and under from shooting BB guns. Would you support changing the law so that children 12 years of age and under could legally shoot BB guns with adult supervision?

Yes__485__ No__147__

- 2) Would you support making the crossbow a legal hunting implement?

Yes__482__ No__142__

- 3) Would you support having an early muzzleloading season for deer in the Southern Zone to run the last 7 days of September?

Yes__486__ No__129__

Please note that this survey was non-scientific, and used simply to gauge interest in potential upcoming changes/ resolutions.

We need to have more to sell to raise funds, need to order more hats,

Whistles, hooks, etc, are all way up in price.

George Rockey and others are investigating what we can use as fund-raising vehicles

Frank Miskey - thought the DEC put on a heck of a display, with cinnamon bears, big bucks, etc. Moving the right direction

Motion to write Grannis to thank him for his efforts at the fair

Copy Russ Biss and Meghan Goldwitzer

Thank Lt Tom Scott, Capt Dave Bennett for his efforts on getting the mounts and also Meghan Goldwitzer for her efforts also. Were to have a new display, but did not get the funding.

2nd Chuck Godfrey

Motion carries

National Hunting and Fishing Day

Patti W. said she is supposed to go.

We had contacted Wood & Brook multiple times, Sept 27.

Has anyone heard from them at Hawkeye? Nope, last year yes, but nothing this year

It's a good setup, but the lack of communication is terrible

Mike Smith - Let's go with Niagara County event!

Tony Gonnello why not Dick's Sporting Goods in Galleria Mall

Motion to Pay Bills - Tom Fischer

2nd Chuck Godfrey

PAY THE BILLS

Website – Paul Stoos

None

Old Business

In the past, NFTA small boat harbor does not officially open before 1st Saturday in May, and in fall they close down before traditional bass and musky seasons close.

Chuck Godfrey motions to send letter to NFTA to request harbor opens with Spring Walleye and bass, remaining open through close of musky, and open the side lot for ice anglers

Send also to Chris Collins

Dan Tone 2nd

FWMB property owner rep, pushing for use, get him with us.

If anglers contact the NFTA Small Boat Harbor 30 days in advance (when harbor isn't open officially) they will assure you can launch, but it must be 30 days

Official count on by-laws change was 56-0

Last month IBHA Shoot in Ellicottville, dates were wrong in the News

Next yr 8/13-16 in Ellicottville, and crossbows allowed as well (and for last 15 years)

New Business

George Rockey thanks Federation members for supporting green wing day Ducks Unlimited.

Thanks much for participating with the kids

West Falls have replaced their range targets and they have old targets available - Eagle Scouts replaced the outdoor range. Any clubs needing targets, please contact West Falls.

Good & Welfare

None

50/ 50

Winner is Springville Field & Stream

SCOPE Raffle tickets available, \$25.00/ ticket for drawing every day in November

Thank you Springville Field & Stream

Rich D motion to adjourn

2nd Dave S.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM

ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS INC.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

As part of the Erie county Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs efforts to enhance our environment and wildlife appreciation, we award up to five \$200 college scholarships yearly.

To qualify for a scholarship you must be a high school senior enrolled in an accredited college, or attending an accredited college with your major in any one of these areas: environmental conservation, law enforcement, or environmental pollution **and must be a resident of Erie County.**

Scholarships are awarded based upon need and the area of study. To be considered for one of these scholarships complete the form below and return with a short essay telling of need, any projects you have **engineered or participated in**, your future goals, and proof of enrollment (i.e., course enrollment, course schedule, report card, etc.) to the address below prior to **December 15.**

**SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN
29 YVETTE DRIVE
CHEEKTOWAGA, NY 14227**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ COUNTY: _____ NY ZIP: _____

HOME TELEPHONE: _____ OTHER: _____

COLLEGE: _____

GRADE LEVEL: _____ MAJOR: _____

THE ULTIMATE DEER HUNTING SEMINAR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, 2008 @ 6:00 P.M.

New Creation Fellowship

3325 Genesee Street Cheektowaga, NY 14225
(1 mile west of Buffalo - Niagara Int'l Airport)

\$10 Donation

DRAWINGS!! PRIZES!!

Venison Chili Dinner

6:00-6:45 p.m.



Call 716.631.8595 to register and for details on how to win a Remington Model 11-87 12-gauge shotgun.



Charles Alsheimer is a nationally recognized author and photographer who uses his "Ultimate Deer Hunting Seminar" to share his expert insights on deer behavior and the latest hunting tactics. As host of Deer & Deer Hunting TV, and field editor of Deer & Deer Hunting Magazine, Alsheimer has built a national reputation as a gifted public speaker, acclaimed photographer and leader in the world of white-tailed deer.