



Rich Davenport, 2009 ECFSC Recording Secretary

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

March 2009 General Meeting Minutes

Meeting Time: 7:30 PM – 3/26/09

Location: West Falls Conservation Society, West Falls, NY

Meeting opened at: 7:35

Pledge to flag: completed

Quorum of Clubs: Yes

Roll Call and Attendance:

Tony Scime, Dave S, Joe Fischer, Mike Smith, Dan Tone are excused
In attendance 5 Officers, 11 directors, 32 delegates and 4 guests.

Region 9 Big Game Biologist Tim Spierto is in attendance tonight

Reading of the Minutes

Did everyone get his or her minutes?

Yes

Dave Wharton to accept minutes

Tom Fischer 2nd

Motion carries

Secretary's Report – Rich Davenport

Chuck Godfrey and Mike Smith to get list of email failures

Links will be sent you will click on the link and it will take you to the minutes on the website

Dave Wharton - Why not web pages?

Because you have to format each from PDF to HTML, not good for webmaster

Roster is out - in excel for those who have excel to help correct. Once the correction are done, it will be "prettied up" and converted to PDF

Same for Clubs listing - Dave Barus will send starting point from database to Rich - same process

Treasury Report - Tony Scime - excused

Steve Aldstadt presented report, detailed

We're still solvent!

Banquet expenses are also covered raised a lot of money

Question - we had heard the fee for Chestnut Ridge was going to be "donated/ covered".
And we sent a check, what is with this?

Had to send check to reserve it, waiting on clearance
Concerns about precedence for orgs, and are concerned about losing money, because
county is broke. We will tread lightly.

Gabby - asks why we are paying rental fee, Dave Barus says you should talk to them,
Gabby would love to - NO

History of commissioners cabin was outlined.
Chuck Godfrey - asks Gabby - please do not call.

Correspondence Report - Dave Barus

4 Letters Mailed (27 CC's),

10 Letters Rcvd. Content below:

LY Wrote letter to P Rex concerning hatcheries.
P Rex copied us on a letter concerning Rome facility.

Letter from Gordon Batcheller

Letter written to Joe Fischer from NYB

Read into the minutes
NYB - they're against it (early ML Season in S. Zone).

Chuck Godfrey - motion to write letter - never officially stated NYB was supportive
If they provide the contact info, they would get the minutes and the dates of the meetings
2nd Frank Miskey, Sr

Motion carries

Copies of letters sent below:



Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Inc.

Member of the New York State Conservation Council

PO Box 560, East Aurora, NY 14052



Date: Mar. 27, 2009

Commissioner Pete Grannis - NYSDEC

625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1011

Subject: Lack of NYS Hunter Education Materials for New Sportsmen Students

Dear Commissioner,

Because Erie County has the largest number of licensed sportsmen in New York State, our hunting education instructors were surprised to find out that official materials for the firearm, waterfowl, trapping and archery courses are no longer in ready supply for use in 2009 spring, summer and fall courses.

We respectfully ask that your staff please address this serious shortage immediately.

Best Regards!

Dave Barus

Corresponding Secretary, Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Inc.

Member of Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA), syndicated since 1983

Cornerstone member Professional Outdoor Media Association (POMA)

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 organizations represent anglers and hunters of all sorts, archery, crossbow, muzzleloader, 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.*

CC: T. Spierto, D. Volker, A. Thompson, F. DelMonte, A. Snyder, R. Biss, P. Riexinger, John Major, Wally John, H. Palmer, J. Enck



Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Inc.

Member of the New York State Conservation Council

PO Box 560, East Aurora, NY 14052



Date: Mar. 27, 2009

New York Bowhunters, Inc.
Attn: Martin Seely, Vice-President
PO Box 619
LaFayette, NY 13084

Subject: NYB Position OPPOSING Early Muzzleloader Proposal

Dear Mr. Seely,

Thank you for correspondence addressed to the attention of Mr. Joe Fischer. As requested, your letter was read publicly at the March meeting, announcing the NYB position to OPPOSE any suggestion for a NYS early muzzleloader season.

Several NYB members were present at the Erie Federation March meeting, but no one in attendance could recall that any verbal mention was made at any meetings in the last 12 months where NYB was mentioned in favor of the early muzzleloader resolution. A check showed there is no recorded mention in our minutes, as well. Upon discussion, our recording secretary, Rich Davenport, who is also Region 9 Rep for the big game committee for NYSCC, mentioned that he did recall that one NYB member at the spring NYSCC meeting did participate in the amending process, and upon vote being unanimous, had thought NYB voted to support the resolution.

Obviously, this NYB member unofficial position was not the official NYB position. We have gone further, duly noting the official position for NYB as in OPPOSITION, and is on record with the Erie Federation.

The official position of the Erie County Federation is to support the early season muzzleloader idea because we believe it would result in an increase in the number of NYS big game hunters, a common goal for diminishing sportsmen's groups of NYS.

With regard to your request for information, please note that all of our minutes are posted on the Erie Federation website (<http://www.eriectyfsc.org/index.htm>) and are publicly available for everyone. Our meeting schedules are also posted, complete with locations, in the publicly available minutes.

Our position in FAVOR is supported from a survey of several hundred sportsmen sampled in the Conservation Building at Erie County America's Fair in 2008. Some of these were elderly hunters nearing their own expectation of "hanging up their hunting stuff" that expressed simple cold weather health concerns. Of additional information, asked if they would prefer a crossbow season, many of them answered yes.

We hope that you agree to help us identify a way to keep "exiting era" hunters (who cannot draw a regular bow of some sort), interested in some combination of affordable big game hunting ideas during warm weather.

We ask for your help in this regard and look forward to future correspondence with your organization.
Best Regards to all at NYB!!

Dave Barus
Corresponding Secretary, Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Inc.
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CC: T. Spierto, R. Biss



Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Inc.

Member of the New York State Conservation Council

PO Box 560, East Aurora, NY 14052



Date: Mar. 27, 2009

Senator Bill Stachowski

625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1011

Subject: Senate Bill S3162

Dear Senator Stachowski,

We oppose the "Fireworks Bill" S3162 because of the reference to the ban on "handgun ammo".

Best Regards!

Dave Barus

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CC: D. Volker, A. Thompson, F. DelMonte, H. Palmer



Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Inc.

Member of the New York State Conservation Council

PO Box 560 East Aurora, NY 14052



Date: Apr. 13, 2009

Commissioner Pete Grannis - NYSDEC

625 Broadway

Albany, NY 12233-1011

Subject: Baitfish regulations for Lake Erie Counties

Dear Commissioner,

Current minnow/baitfish regulations are hurting Lake Erie fishery participation by anglers. In NYS, personally harvested bait fish can only be used in the same body of water from which they were caught and **cannot be transported overland by a motorized vehicle**. This last part kills the everyday angler. Some refuse to renew their fishing license. Uncertified bait fish purchased from a bait dealer can only be used in the same body of water from which they were caught (like from the Niagara River and used in Lake Erie at, say, Sturgeon Point, cannot be transported overland by a motorized vehicle. **This is killing our bait dealers!**

Let's rationalize the infected minnow issue. The idea is to keep the disease-free areas as far as possible from those areas that are positive and to place a buffer area in between. In Michigan, they have a positive management area, a buffer area, and a free area. They use receipts for which area you can use the baitfish. You CAN collect your own bait and only use it in waters classified as "disease waters". You are allowed to transport minnows that you have caught yourself over land in a motorized vehicle. THIS IS KEY. Ohio is similar, Pennsylvania is similar, the province of Ontario, Canada is similar. They recognize "regulation zones".

All of these states border on the same Great Lake! Both have internal lake and waterway resources away from Lake Erie that need to be protected. We should all have the same policy!

We respectfully ask that your NYS staff please consider a new regulation that allows overland transportation and use of uncertified bait or angler-caught minnow bait between the Niagara River and other NYS portions of Lake Erie (same water body) west of Route 90/190 to Lake Erie and from the Erie County-Niagara County line (Buffalo) to the Pennsylvania state line ONLY. Our Erie County bait dealers cannot afford to stay in business without this common sense regulation!

We seek your support.

Best Regards!

David L. Barus

Corresponding Secretary, Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Inc.

Member of Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA), syndicated since 1983

Cornerstone member USA Professional Outdoor Media Association (POMA)

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CC: T. Spierto, D. Volker, A. Thompson, F. DelMonte, A. Snyder, R. Biss, P. Riexinger, John Major, Wally John, H. Palmer, J. Enck

Letters received

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

270 Michigan Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14203-2915

Phone: (716) 851-7000 • FAX: (716) 851-7005

Website: www.dec.ny.gov



Alexander B. Grannis
Commissioner

March 11, 2009

Mr. Stephen Aldstadt
Erie County Sportsmens Federation
S. 8316 Irish Road
Colden, New York 14033

Dear Mr. Aldstadt:

PUBLIC SERVANT OF THE YEAR AWARD

I want to express my sincere thanks for the award the Federation presented to me Saturday, March 7, 2009. Mr. Frank Miskey and his committee, did a phenomenal job in keeping the secret until the banquet. I was invited to the banquet to present an award to a fellow co-worker and instead, was so shocked that I, in fact, was getting the honor.

I have been working at the DEC since 1985. I have been assigned to many units within the DEC, but the Law Enforcement and Natural Resources Division is "home" to me. I interact with the officers on a daily basis, but my true love is the interaction with the public, especially the sportsmen in our community. It was so surprising to get the award and it was great to be honored for something I truly enjoy doing.

Again, thank you so much!

Sincerely,



Joanne Middagh

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources, Region 9**

182 E. Union, Suite 3, Allegany, New York 14706-1328

Phone: (716) 372-0645 • Fax: (716) 372-2113

Website: www.dec.ny.gov



Alexander B. Grannis
Commissioner

March 5, 2009

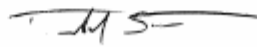
Citizen's Task Force Meetings for Deer

Dear Mr. President:

I'm looking at conducting Citizen's Task Force Meetings for WMUs 9G, 9S and 9H this spring. Your federation represents organized sporting groups in one or more of these units. I'm looking for a couple candidates who hunt deer in these units and are willing to represent the hunting stake. I'd like to come to an upcoming Federation meeting to make a pitch for candidates. If you are willing to give me a few minutes, I'd be happy to stick around and answer questions your members might have.

Could you get back to me as to when & where your next general meeting will be held so I could make arrangements to attend.

Sincerely,



Timothy Spierto
Senior Wildlife Biologist



FRANCINE DELMONTE
Member of Assembly
138th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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

March 18, 2009

To: Local Sportsmen- **FEDERATION**
PO Box 560, EAST AURORA, NY 14052

From: Assemblywoman DelMonte, New York State Assembly Sportsmen's Caucus

Re: Wednesday April 29th, 2009
Sportsmen's Caucus Breakfast

The New York State Legislators Sportsmen's Caucus invites you to the **2nd Annual Sportsmen's Breakfast** hosted by the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses and the Wild Turkey Foundation.

The Breakfast will be held in the Albany Room in the Concourse of the Empire State Plaza on April 29, 2009 at 8:30am.

Please RSVP to Nick Melson in my district office at 282-6062 by April 10th so that we can add you to the guest list. We look forward to seeing you on April 29th.

RCVD 4.1.09
FROM
JOAD -
WEST FALLS CONS.

Harry Staebell Memorial Shoot
West Falls Conservation Society
55 Bridge Street
West Falls, New York
April 25, 2009



Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
E-mail Address _____
Phone Number _____
YOUTH ONLY Date of Birth _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO YOUR SHOOTING CLASSIFICATION:

Adults

Male
 Female
 Senior
 Masters 50+
 Olympic Recurve Bow
 Compound Bow Unlimited
 Compound Bow Limited

Youth (18 & Under)

Male
 Female
 Junior
 Cadet
 Cub
 Bowman
 Yeoman
 Olympic
 Compound Bow

Shooting Times:

Saturday April 25, 2009

9AM 12PM 3PM 6PM

PLEASE MARK 1ST & 2ND CHOICE SHOOTING TIMES AS SPACE IS LIMITED TO 16 SHOOTERS PER TIME

Adult Entry Fee: \$15.00 _____

Youth Entry Fee: \$12.00 _____

Mail applications to & make checks payable to: Leo's JOAD
Bob Pfeil
9659 South Hill Road
Boston, New York 14025
716-941-9393
BEPfeil@AOL.COM

WEST FALLS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

3D ARCHERY SHOOTS

*AUG. 6TH
THRU
OCT. 8TH
EVERY THURSDAY*

YES

IT'S HERE AGAIN !

THURSDAY NIGHT SPAGHETTI SHOOT



**WELL, YOU DON'T ACTUALLY SHOOT SPAGHETTI
BUT YOU GET TO EAT IT...WEATHER YOU SHOOT OR NOT**

15 STATIONS (SEVERAL MULTI-TARGET STATIONS)

DOORS OPEN AT 4PM.....TILL DARK

THURSDAYS FROM AUGUST 6TH TO OCTOBER 8TH

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

CLUBHOUSE PHONE - 652-4650

MIKE CUMMINGS 432.6035

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Natural Resources Supervisor, Region 9**

182 E. Union, Suite 3, Allegany, New York 14706-1328

Phone: (716) 372-0645 • Fax: (716) 372-2113

Website: www.dec.ny.gov



Alexander B. Grannis
Commissioner

March 9, 2009

Mr. Stephen Aldstadt
Erie County Sportsmen Federation
South 8316 Irish Road
Colden, New York 14033

Steve
Mr. Aldstadt:

I am writing to thank the members of the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen Clubs for the recognition I received at your awards banquet on Saturday, March 7, 2009. Since I first came to Region 9 in 1984 as the Sportsman Education Coordinator and continuing on to the position and responsibilities I have today, it has been a pleasure to work with and for the sportsmen and women of Erie County that are represented by your organization.

The communication of information back and forth between the DEC staff representing the Natural Resources Programs and the sportsmen organizations in Region 9 is critical in order for us to achieve our goals by having the public support we need.

The Public Relations Award, which you honored me with, is an indication that we are working well together in Erie County and I look forward to continuing that relationship.

Sincerely,
Russell D. Biss
Russell D. Biss
Natural Resources Supervisor
Region 9

RDB:jg



COUNTY OF ERIE

CHRIS COLLINS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry

James E. Hornung Sr., Commissioner


Event Permit

Organization: E.C Fed Sportsmens Club Inc **Permit #** 939-09
Director: Dave L. Barus **Date:** 3/1/09
Address: 2246 Center St **Phone:** 687-4757
Location (Park): Chestnut Ridge Park **City/Zip:** E. Aurora 14052 1597-4001
Area in the Park: Commissioner's Cabin # 10822
Date: June 27, 2009
Day(s): SATURDAY
Hours: ALL DAY
Notes: KIDS FISHING DAY

This permit may be revoked by this Department upon written notice for:

1. Inadequate personal injury insurance coverage by Organization.
2. Not using facilities on days or times specified on permit.
3. Using improperly prepared facilities.
4. Removing or destroying any property of the County of Erie, Parks and Recreation. Offenders will be prosecuted.
5. Failure to obey posted rules and regulations.
6. **Failure to police and clean area used when done**
7. Failure to observe the ban of all alcoholic beverages in County Parks and play areas. Glass containers are prohibited.
8. Illegally parking cars or vehicles on controlled play or picnic areas.
9. Any acts of misconduct or rowdiness on the part of the permit holder's organization or group forfeit any future requests for permits.
10. Carrying or the discharge of any type of firearms.
11. Use of any drug or controlled substance.
12. Question, please contact the Parks Department @ 858-8355/858-7037
 - **This Permit is not transferable. The County of Erie is absolved from responsibility when Parks Personnel are not in supervision on area covered by this permit.**
 - **Each Group granted a permit for Park use is directly responsible for clean-up immediately following their event. Groups not complying with clean-up will not be issued future permits.**

In accepting this permit it is understood and agreed that in consideration for being granted access to and the use of the equipment, property, and facilities, of the County of Erie, permittee(s) assume any and all risk with respect to such access and use, and hereby release said County of Erie and the City of Buffalo, its representatives, agents, servants, and employees from liability for any injuries sustained or damage incurred in the course if such access and use resulting from any cause whatsoever which may be sustained.


 JAMES E. HORNUNG SR., COMMISSIONER

RATH BUILDING • 95 FRANKLIN STREET • BUFFALO, N.Y. • 14202 • (716) 858-6000 • WWW.ERIE.GOV 1/09

West Falls Conservation Society

presents

"Lake Erie Walleye Fishing"

HOW-TO, HANDS-ON, Fish-Catching Seminar



Ted Malota & Forrest Fisher

April 18, 2009

WHERE: West Falls Conservation Society, 55 Bridge St., West Falls, NY

WHO: All anglers, young & old, are invited

HOW: Rod/Reel demonstrations, Free Door Prizes, Free How-To Brochures, Free area maps-where to fish for everyone, Slide Show, Latest INFO

COST: \$5 adult donation for youth education, kids under 12 are FREE

TIME: 1 – 4 PM

DRAWINGS: RAFFLES for Rod/Reel outfits

What Will Be Covered: HOW TO RIG!!!

How To Fish Lake Erie – 3 Deadly Methods & 3 Deadly Tricks

The Tackle – Rods/Reels/Lines

The Tackle – Lure Selection, Line Weights, Diving Planes

The Tackle – Scent-Use, Bait-Use, Lure-Use

Instant Help – Maps, GPS, VHF Radio, Cell Phones, DEC

The Goal: Reading Walleye Water – Where to Focus

The Follow-Up: Pattern After the First Fish, "The Program"

The Fishing Trip – Plan it and Go

SPECIAL EVENT: Learning how to use "Malota Trolling Magic" with your own tackle – a special presentation. Catching Fish Your Way!!

Call 627-3763 for More Info

BE THERE!!

WEST FALLS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**HUNT THE HILLS
ANNUAL RAFFLE SHOOT
\$9.00**



**20 STATIONS
30 TARGETS**

**SEPTEMBER 27TH
7AM TO 2PM**

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH



CLUBHOUSE: 652-4650

CALL MIKE CUMMINGS WITH QUESTIONS @ 432-6035

DEER CREEK JEFFERY GRIFFIN & GEORGE CAVARISE

Bison City Rod & Gun Club

presents



“TEACH ME TO FISH”

w/Forrest Fisher

For Kids & Parents



Questions - call 652-2256 or 855-1139



FREE



Sunday, Apr. 26, 2009



WHERE: Bison City Rod & Gun Club, 511 Ohio St., Buffalo, NY
WHO: All kids, young & old, are invited to Learn About Fishing
HOW: Rod/Reel demonstrations, Free Handouts, Free How-To Brochures, Free area fish maps for everyone, Free Sahlen's Hot Dogs!!
TIME: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **OPEN TO PUBLIC**
DRAWING PRIZES: Fishing Hats, Power Bait, Lucky Fish Hooks, 50 Rod/Reel outfits given away **FREE...& More**
SPECIAL EVENT: 4 Learning Stations, Kids Feed The Fish!!

All Kids will join the staff of the Bison City Rod & Gun Club to feed 10,000 steelhead fingerlings being raised in our floating pens at Buffalo River dockside.

Litter-Free Waterways - It's the Right Way to FISH!



TEBCO
EAGLE CLAW



TEBCO
EAGLE CLAW



President's Report – Steve Aldstadt

Steve Aldstadt - read letter from Joanne Middagh - thank you letter

Read Letter from Russell Biss

Read US Sportsmen's alliance into record

Fund-raising opportunity Trailblazer Adventure Program

Rich D. suggests we table the USSA opportunity until we can find out more about the program, the books, how it works, etc. Cynical about the "win-win" opportunity statement with "no risk"

Rich D. will check out the program and make recommendations

Dave Barus offers a list of addresses - important destinations for interested folks, letter writing

Also, Bruce Wager - please write a letter to adjust VHS regs, for lawful transport in vehicle, collection of minnows - UNR to Barcelona, can transport collected minnows in vehicle, west of 190/90

Paul Stoos motions to write letter to our regional director, NR person, Grannis, P Rex, Doug Stang, Jeremy Hurst, Paul McKeown, Bill Culligan, Don Einhouse, that minnows dipped in region 9 from Lwr Niagara mouth through the river, transport in vehicles N to Niagara Falls, S to PA Line, from I-190/90 and westerly. Called a buffer zone.
2nd Rich Davenport

Discussion - Bob Church - why would we encourage this?

Not stopping the lawbreakers now, gives the lawful an opportunity

Motion carries unanimously

Paul Stoos, can we copy legislature?

Chuck Godfrey - Wait until we get a negative letter from DEC, then hit them.

Ok.

Next Meetings

Date		BM Time		GM Time		Location
4/23/09	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Evans Rod & Gun, Evans, NY
5/28/09	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Erie County Conservation Society, Chaffee, NY
6/25/09	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Alden Rod & Gun Club, Alden, NY
7/23/09	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Glen Coe Conservation, Glenwood, NY
9/10/09	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Springville Fish & Game, Springville, NY
10/8/09	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Lakeshore Exempt, Lakeshore Firehall, Lakeshore, NY
11/12/09	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Boston Valley Conservation Society, Boston, NY
12/10/2009	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Bison City Rod & Gun - Tentative

Special Guests

Tim Spierito, Sr Wildlife Biologist R9 in the house

Background: Replaced Tom Gerzak and Jim Snyder when both retired
Became Big Game (Deer and bear) biologist

High profile work is bear activity, deer is behind the scenes, due to bear visibility
Concerned about some comments regarding his time being spent on bear, not deer,
cleared.

Citizen Task Force

Way behind on the CTF, meetings.

Difficulties getting facilitators from Cornell who selects the CTF

DEC does not select, as to avoid bad appearances

May not have a choice this year, as Cornell is short of resources themselves and the
pressure is on to hold these meetings

CTF made up of affiliated sportsmen, unaffiliated sportsmen, and others, like Law
Enforcement.

Must be a unanimous decision, or no change.

9S, 9H, 9G meetings this coming spring

Get apps for interested participants

Looking for hunters that hunt the units.

If you wish to apply for other, upcoming unit CTFs, also apply

Bob Church, asks Q concerning ASP bear. Yes, lots of them there, had 7 hit in that
corridor this past year.

Please return the apps ASAP. Get these to Rich, and Rich will scan and email, unless turn in tonight

Deer harvest in R9 was down 10% on bucks. Bad weather kept hunters away first few days, and never made this up
Increase in male roadkills this year, which is different - compensatory mortality, like compensatory breeding, similar principles.

Bear numbers have doubled in our area over the last 10 years
Bar had to be destroyed on March 10 in Lyndonville, Catt. County, broke into home, trashed freezer, took food and such. Trapped a few days later, and had to be destroyed.

CTF Q - App will be brought back to club for S. Erie.
How do we find out about other CTFs - press releases announce

Paul Stoos - send to Paul, he is Big Game committee - will copy folks, and post to website and post in minutes

Law Enforcement Dave Smyczynski

For Release: Thursday, March 19, 2009

Black Market Animal Trade Busted

DEC's In-Depth Undercover Investigation Nets 18 Arrests

An extensive undercover investigation by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation into the poaching, smuggling and illegal sale of protected reptiles and amphibians has led to charges against 18 individuals for 14 felonies, 11 misdemeanors and dozens of violations, DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis announced today.



Commissioner Grannis describes the collaborative investigation

The investigation, dubbed "Operation Shellshock," uncovered a lucrative, international black market for poaching and selling native, protected New York species - turtles, rattlesnakes and salamanders - through the Internet and at herpetological shows, Commissioner Grannis said. Investigators found thousands of New York turtles being laundered through "middlemen" in other states, then getting shipped overseas for meat and other uses. More than 2,400 individual turtles, snakes and salamanders were involved in the documented crimes, with DEC currently holding nearly 400 live animals in evidence.

The undercover investigation began in 2007, coordinated through DEC's Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigation (BECI). Investigators spent hundreds of hours afield and at shows with reptile poachers and illegal collectors. They built cases from the ground up through initial contact with violators online, at shows, and in the field.

Through the investigation, New York DEC investigators worked closely with officials from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Florida, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Service, the New York State Attorney General's Office, Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Some of these agencies have filed separate but related charges (details below).

"Our investigators began this operation with a simple question: Is there a commercial threat to our critical wildlife species? What they found was alarming," Commissioner Pete Grannis said. "A very lucrative illegal market for these creatures does exist, fostered by a strong, clandestine culture of people who want to exploit wildlife for illegal profit. I'm proud of the success of our officers. Their work sends a strong message that the buying and selling of New York's native species will not be tolerated."

"Operation Shellshock is one of the largest, most extensive undercover operations DEC has ever undertaken," said Henry Hamilton, DEC Assistant Commissioner for Public Protection. "It stands out for its magnitude and impact, and it hopefully will be a springboard for positive change on all fronts involving ecologically significant species."



"Illegal trafficking of turtles, snakes and other animals is a serious matter precisely because such activities can produce long-term, detrimental effects to the eco-system. No one wants to see populations of vital

species put at risk for short-term profits," said Kathleen M. Mehlretter, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York. "Operation Shellshock should serve not only as a deterrent but also should raise public awareness about the need to protect wildlife."

"Environment Canada believes in ensuring that companies and individuals comply with the conservation goals of environmental and wildlife protection acts and regulations," said Albin Tremblay, Chief Enforcement Officer with Environment Canada. "The department carries out its enforcement work in cooperation with other federal, provincial and territorial governments and with international organizations. Operation Shellshock is a good example of how working together can produce positive results."

"Reptiles and amphibians are important environmental indicators that tell us much about the health of the planet. As such, they must be protected -- not exploited," said David Critchlow, Provincial Enforcement Specialist of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. "Through the cooperative work of Canadian and American agencies, we hopefully have not only put a dent in the black market for these animals but also sent a strong message to legitimate collectors and the general public."

The Investigation



Investigators found New York's timber rattlesnakes and wood turtles being shipped out of state and out of the country to support high-end collectors. They found thousands of snapping turtles laundered through a Louisiana turtle farm, then shipped illegally to China. They found poachers stealing turtle eggs as soon as they were laid. And they successfully traded with a smuggler from Canada to recover a population of endangered Massasauga rattlesnakes - nabbing him in a Niagara Falls parking lot with a van stuffed with 33 rattlesnakes in hidden compartments.

Other snakes confiscated during the operation were timber rattlesnakes, copperheads and eastern hognose snakes. The types of turtles confiscated included snapping turtles, Blandings turtles, box turtles, North American wood turtles and two Yellow Spotted Amazon River turtles, which are federally protected as an endangered species.

Charges Beyond New York

In addition, as a result of Operation Shellshock, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of New York are pursuing Federal Lacey Act charges against a Maryland meat processor for the knowing purchase of illegally trapped New York State snapping turtles, and against a Louisiana turtle farm operator for the knowing purchase of illegally taken New York State snapping turtle hatchlings and the export of such hatchlings to China.

Pennsylvania authorities have charged six individuals and are continuing their investigation. Canadian officials so far have charged one individual.

New York prohibits the illegal commercialization of wildlife; a law enacted in 2006 gives protection to all reptiles and amphibians. The state also bans unlawful possession of protected species. A list of individuals cited and the charges filed by New York officials is available.

Commissioner Grannis re-constituted BECI in 2007. The investigation was led by Capt. Michael Van Durme, Lt. Richard Thomas and Investigator Daniel Sullivan. DEC reptile and amphibian specialist Alvin Breisch and wildlife educator Tom Hudak of Livingston County provided valuable support in numerous phases of the operation, as did DEC Environmental Conservation Officers throughout the state.

Anyone suspecting illegal activities regarding reptiles and amphibians is encouraged to contact the [DEC TIPP line](#) to make an anonymous report.

Note: High resolution images are available on DEC's FTP website at <ftp://ftp.dec.ny.gov/dpae/press/OperationShellShock/>

Archery - Dave Reed

NASP booth at the Expo - Lady from DEC ran the booth - as far as NASP in Erie County Schools?

Need to get this moving forward

Asked other clubs in the past concerning shoots

Hawkeye Bowmen, Alaskan Shoot and more. Please get events

NYB Fireworks - Gary Huber upset at the comments

Rich explains why, and I stand by my statements - isolationistic, seem to only fight the allies, not the enemies, misleading, twisting, using DEC letter addressing one thing and misrepresenting the other

Archery Camp - Educational

Yes, ECFSC will indeed be supporting the Archery Camp this year

NYB explained concerning some of archery hunting -

Excellent summary provided from a member's unofficial perspective from Jack B.,

Crossbow – Frank Miskey, Jr.

PA, MI and some others

Only 2 do not allow it

Fish - Dave Barus

March 2009 – Fish Committee Report, Dave Barus

Fish Committee and Stocking Team Notes for 2009:

There are a few new rules to complicate the simple system we have enjoyed for years, but they are all considered necessary in these modern times of understang more about everything. The good news, there is no fee increase or decrease for these changes!! Please read the 2009 RULES: Dump it - Don't Dip It (below) for all fish stocking volunteers. In addition, there is sign-up sheet/release form (attached below) that will be with the DEC truck at the stocking site (impossible to do any other way). Please don't forget to sign it when you get there. It will require our name, address, contact info and who to call in case of an accident. In the following Fish Stocking notices, the name at the top of the list is the coordinator for the site. You may meet the DEC at the site unannounced, simply sign the volunteer sheet when you get there! Thank you to all, Dave Barus, Chairman, ECFS Fish Committee.

Summary of Erie County Sites to be stocked in March (more in April):

Inland Trout Fishing in Western New York

NYSDEC report: A total of 57 streams and 24 lakes/ponds in Region 9 are stocked with thousands of yearling brown, brook or rainbow trout each spring. In addition to the yearling trout stocked, many waters receive hundreds of two-year-old brown trout (12-15 inches) or are salted with an occasional "surplus" breeder trout that would be a trophy in anyone's creel. The most popular and heavily stocked streams in the region are the Genesee River, Cattaraugus, Ischua, East Koy and Goose Creeks. When stream conditions are unfavorable due to high or turbid water, anglers may fish the seven inland trout lakes. Allen, Case, Harwood, New Albion, Rushford, Quaker and Red House Lakes all receive substantial stockings (after the ice thaws) and provide good access for shore and boat angling. Stocked waters in the Buffalo/Niagara metropolitan area include: East Branch Cazenovia Creek (towns of Holland and Wales), Little Buffalo Creek (towns of Lancaster and Elma), Ellicott Creek (Amherst), Sprague Brook Park Ponds (Concord), Oppenheim Park Pond (Wheatfield) and Hyde Park Lake (Niagara Falls). Brochures discussing management and stocking of western New York streams with maps showing areas with public fishing rights easements are available at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/31596.html, while management information and contour maps for the inland lakes can be found at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/31595.html .

A number of Region 9 streams support high-quality wild trout populations. Wiscoy Creek is considered the region's premier wild brown trout stream, with an average of more than 1,400 adult brown trout per mile of stream. Clear Creek (Ellington) is another good bet

for wild brown trout. Lime Lake Outlet, Elton Creek, McKinstry Creek, Mansfield Creek and Clear Creek (Arcade) have excellent populations of wild brown and rainbow trout. Brochures discussing management for these streams and maps showing areas with public fishing rights easements can be found at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/29286.html, while information on fish population surveys in Region 9 can be found at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27272.html.

WNY Great Lakes Tribs

Great Lakes waters and their tributary streams are open year-round for trout and salmon. Late March through early April is prime time for Great Lakes-run steelhead. Western New York steelhead opportunities are exceptional, especially in Lake Erie tributaries. Recent angler surveys indicated very high success rates for steelhead on Canadaway Creek, Chautauqua Creek, Cattaraugus Creek, Eighteen Mile Creek (Erie Co.), Cazenovia Creek, and the Buffalo River. Popular Lake Ontario tributaries such as Twelve Mile Creek, Keg Creek, Eighteen Mile Creek, and the Lower Niagara River in Niagara County also provide excellent fishing for steelhead. Brown trout, rainbow trout, lake trout and coho salmon are typically found in shallow, nearshore waters of Lake Ontario, its tributaries and embayments during April. Brochures discussing management for these steelhead streams and maps showing areas with public fishing rights easements are available at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/32426.html.

Year 'Round Fishing

A number of fishing regulations have been enacted to expand trout fishing opportunities in western New York. Year-round trout fishing is now available on Cattaraugus Creek (upstream of Springville Dam), Elton Creek, Mansfield Creek, Elm Creek, East Koy Creek, Wiscoy Creek, Clear Creek (Arcade), Hosmer Brook, Lime Lake Outlet and McKinstry Creek. These streams can now be fished during the normally closed trout season (October 16 through March 31) on a catch-and-release basis, artificial lures only. During the regular season, the stream's normal regulations apply. Goose Creek in Chautauqua County is now open for fishing with the normal regulations applying all year (no minimum size, five trout/day, with only two trout greater than 12 inches allowed; no bait restrictions).

New Fishing Maps of PFR streams for Region 9

NYSDEC has done extensive work with updating and improving website/on-line PFR maps for all 30 streams in Region 9 that have public fishing rights easements (PFR). The new maps have the same design as that being used by all other regions in the state. DEC currently has about half the maps completed (all the maps for steelhead streams are completed and should be on the website by early February) and we expect to have all the maps done and on the website prior to the April first trout opener. In addition to the PFR maps, a description of the fishery and regulation information for the streams will be listed. Credits to Region 9 Scott Cornett and Mike Todd (716-372-0645).

Fisheries Reports for DEC Website

Four new Region 9 fisheries reports have been posted to the DEC website under the “Freshwater Fisheries Research” section (www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27272.html). The report summaries were provided by biologist Cornett and provides online reports that include 2008 trout population surveys (Elm, Ischua and Mansfield Creeks) and the 2008 McIntosh Creek habitat improvement project. With the addition of these reports, Region 9 fisheries continues to provide timely, pertinent information for New York anglers. For more info, call DEC Biologist Mike Todd at 716-851-7010.

Lake Sturgeon Research Discussed

Biologist Mike Wilkinson and New York’s rare fish biologist, Doug Carlson, conducted a meeting to encourage and coordinate lake sturgeon research on the Niagara River. The meeting was attended by Regional Fisheries Manager Paul McKeown and Biologists Clancy and Galati, as well as representatives from several Federal fish and wildlife management agencies and academia. The purpose of the meeting was to identify lake sturgeon research and information needs and to prioritize those needs for future projects on the Niagara River.

Fisheries Issues Prioritized by DEC for Niagara Corridor

Regional Fisheries Manager McKeown, Biologists Galati and Wilkinson, and members of the Lake Erie Fisheries Unit met to discuss fisheries research needs for the Niagara River corridor. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a list of fisheries research needs to guide researchers who apply for grant funding. The list will provide a framework for future grant applications to the Habitat Enhancement/Restoration Fund (HERF) created through the Niagara Power Project relicensing and the Greenway Fund.

DEC Partners with DOT to Protect Genesee River Banks

Biologist Clancy met with DOT and Allegany County to discuss actions to control erosion along the Genesee River that threatened to eliminate sections of the popular WAG recreational trail. A permit will be issued to the County Highway a to place stone at the toe of the slope and up the bank to protect the trail.

Other Updates

\$1 million in upgrades planned for Boat Harbor by Sharon Linstedt... Buffalo News Boaters who use the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority’s Boat Harbor will see \$1 million in improvements when the marina opens in mid-May.

At the top of the list of fix-ups at the Fuhrmann Boulevard marina is the overhaul of three steel docks that sustained damage during a severe wind storm last fall. The docks were pulled from their moorings and twisted out of shape last September when heavy winds and waves buffeted the harbor.

NFTA General Counsel David Gregory, who is overseeing the marina property upgrade, said the storm repairs dovetailed well with the need to correct rusting problems with all of the harbor’s metal docks.

“They’ve been sandblasted, repaired and new paint coatings,” Gregory said. “They look brand new.”

The NFTA will have completed repairs and resurfacing of docks servicing a total of 328 slip holders in time for the marina’s opening on May 15. Work on the remaining docks, which have slip space for another 231 boaters, will be complete in spring 2010.

The refurbished docks are expected to have an additional life span of 10 years. The total cost of the dock upgrade project is \$544,000.

Steel docks account for more than one-half of the public marina’s 1,019 slips.

Gregory said 419 boaters have renewed their contracts for the upcoming boating season, ahead of totals through March 2008. The NFTA has now opened slip applications to the general public.

Interested boats can find more information about the harbor and download an application at www.nfta.com, or phone the harbor office at 828-0027. Slip rates for the 2009 boating season range from \$668 for watercraft up to 20 feet, to \$1,807 for boats as large as 40 feet in length.

This season’s NFTA Boat Harbor work will also include electrification of the “L” dock, which accommodates 66 boaters. A new marina fuel tank will also be installed at a cost of \$300,000.

The NFTA had worked out a deal for New York State to take over ownership and operation of the public marina and nearby Gallagher Beach, but that agreement was never finalized. The NFTA would have received \$4 million, paid out over 10 years, for transfer of the Outer Harbor assets.

“We are committed to maintaining this public asset for as long as necessary,” said NFTA Executive Director Lawrence Meckler.

The NFTA, which currently loses \$450,000 a year to marina operations, might find some relief through the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation, which is interested in a long-term lease of some 120-acres of authority-controlled waterfront land.

The two agencies are in discussions about a five-year lease that would see the harbor agency spend some \$3 million to green up the Outer Harbor site while it begins long-term planning for its development.

To reach writer, email: slinstedt@buffnews.com

Fewer walleye allocated for Ohio fishermen

Wednesday, March 25, 2009 D'Arcy Egan Plain Dealer Columnist

Ohio sport anglers and Ontario commercial fishermen were allocated about 30 percent fewer walleye for 2009 by the international Lake Erie Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission at its annual meeting Tuesday.

The lakewide allowable yellow perch harvest was increased by almost 20 percent.

Fisheries officials around Lake Erie, including the Ohio Division of Wildlife, have been studying the spawning woes of walleye for decades. They're still looking for answers.

Ohio manages the vast walleye spawning grounds of Western Lake Erie, including reefs along the Ohio shoreline and the Maumee and Sandusky rivers, the major spawning rivers of the spring season.

Ohio will have to examine reducing the walleye bag limit on Lake Erie to stay within the LEC guidelines. Ohio has a Lake Erie limit of six walleye per day, with a reduced spring

limit of four walleye from March 1 to April 30. The 2009 walleye fishing regulations are in place and printed in the DOW digest.

Citing poor walleye reproduction over the past five years, the LEC cut the lakewide allowable walleye catch for 2009 to 2.45 million fish, down from 3.6 million walleye in 2008.

Fishermen harvested an estimated 2.9 million walleye last year, about 77 percent of the LEC allocation.

The walleye population in Lake Erie, estimated at 100 million fish about 20 years ago, was put at 18.4 million walleye for 2009 by the LEC. It is expected to decline to 15.7 million walleye in 2010. There was a record-setting Lake Erie walleye hatch in 2003 that buoyed the fishery. However, the 2002, 2004 and 2006 hatches were listed as weak, 2005 and 2008 were below average and 2007 was considered moderate.

Ohio sports anglers are allocated 1.25 million walleye for 2009. Ontario, which gives its quota to its commercial fishery, gets 1.06 million walleye and Michigan 143,000.

The LEC estimated an increase in yellow perch numbers, boosting the recommended harvest from 10.2 million pounds in 2008 to 12 million pounds this year. While walleye are managed by numbers of fish, yellow perch management figures are presented in pounds of fish.

Ohio officials decreased the sport and commercial yellow perch harvest in the Western Basin of Lake Erie in 2008 to protect perch populations. The DOW halted Ohio commercial fishing for yellow perch around Western Lake Erie, and trimmed the daily sport bag limit from 30 to 25 perch west of Huron.

The estimated perch harvest in 2008 was 8.33 million pounds, or 82 percent of the total allowable catch.

To reach this Plain Dealer reporter: degan@plaind.com, 216-999-5158

State of Lake Ontario - Gabby Cronin mentions the meeting addressed the fact they talked about the fisheries, but nothing on pollution, invasives, ballast, etc.

Allotment of millions of dollars for GL cleanups, but nothing been released. Why Not?

Coast Guard ships - always in the GL. Why can we not place these boats

Rich mentions the article sent by Paul McKeown will be in the minutes

Will Elliott clarified the Ontario meeting was fisheries

Small Game - Dan Tone

Pheasant plan (10-year) is being crafted as current one is now expiring

Big Game – Paul Stoos

www.sportsmenslink.org

A comment from the floor concerning DMAP - that's FREE

Rich explains the nightmare he has concerning antlerless management and expansion of agriculture in the scheme of management strategies.

Food bank and venison meat being disposed of

Dave Wharton - last meeting it was brought up, Clem Eckert - Ann Julian Agency Services Mgr WNY Food Bank.

She was surprised about this statement, as they haven't thrown any out, they're need more.

716-852-1305 - if anyone is interested, give them a call. You can see the facility for themselves.

Chuck asks about the processing fees

Chuck Hancock from CFAB stated the processing fee is \$2.00

Trapping – Patti Wattengel

2 fur bearer biologists attended last Trappers meeting from DEC

Otter restoration program - what is going on with the project? Other states have opened limited trapping seasons on otters with quotas, etc. Could be good idea for NY in the future.

Only going by tracks and sightings. Questionable biology. Suggestions were well taken for a limited season

No dogs killed in conabear traps this year. Good news

Beaver season is small right now. Giving out more nuisance permits, upside down. Will be seeing a more normal season starting next year

Also asked concerning cable restraints (snare) for coyote. Used in states around us. Need help in getting this done.

Other Q 48 hr check on water sets, vs 24. Nothing seems to happen.

DEC came out of meeting with more information than they had prior.

Waterfowl – Paul P

April is nesting month, and also CTF for waterfowl getting together to set next season Coming up. Similar process to deer CTF

Should be similar - no significant changes expected from LY. Past few years December part of season has been good, should remain with similar timing (1st season end).

Paul Stoos read an article concerning Cleveland goose problem. Average goose defecates 10 times an hour. Pollution issues. May need to be concerned about this for us.

NYSCC – Dan Tone

Nothing

Environment & Pollution – Tom marks

Chuck - last several years Buffalo River Keepers working to get the last stretch cleaned up. Working plan is now in place, but must be reviewed by the board and approved before it becomes public. Money available from Federal to clean it up, remediation progress is happening

Legislation – John Susz

S3162 - sponsor Bill Stachowski

Bill dealing primarily with fireworks. Part of the bill has a provision against selling ammo for handguns - no such thing. Paul Stoos

Chuck Godfrey motions we contact via letter Stachowski to clarify the provisions concerning ammo. Part needs to be taken out
2nd Paul Stoos

Motion carries

A6187 - Schimminger

Prohibit local judges from adding restrictions on pistol permits not specified by state law.

In the past, they've had a GOP Senator, this year S3478 is brought by Stachowski

Chuck Godfrey motions to send letter to Schimminger and Stachowski to support this bill
2nd Paul Stoos

Motion carries

Last time this came around, Tom King fought and killed the bill. Send letter to King, too?

SCOPE, SCA, NYSRPA and more are going to be holding March on Albany on April 29 - this is the Assembly's Gun Day. This is also the day the anti's have at the capital, counter demo, get at least 1000 from around the state to get our attention.

SCI - one bus

SCOPE - one bus

See Steve concerning the committee to coordinate the Albany March

One day, long day

Need people to coordinate and communicate to get bodies to go.

Objectives

Get people to go

Get people to help organize and contact

Get people to donate to defray cost of trip.

Board seeks approval to underwrite the trip
Tom Fischer motions to do this
2nd Dave Wharton

Discussion

Paul Stoos - Should have a minimum of people on a bus before we get the bus
Dave Reed - Perhaps we combine to fill a bus with SCI?
Chuck Godfrey - should also extend to other county federations in region 9 to also help out

Rich - adds his name on the committee

Dave Reed - move this forward, doing committee work now

Motion carries

Resolutions – Bob Fuller

Spring Meeting April 25

Sportsmen's Education

Erie County snuck through for the spring on hunter's ed certificates. Just enough. When the certs are printed, they will mail them

Printing trappers books for Erie only, going to cost another \$600.00
This is a money-maker, what are they doing?

Dave Barus, that's the goal, to make it harder and less successful to get new hunters into the sports - ditto for trappers.

More are taught here than any other county, yet we are the last to get anything. Constant battle. State implemented new registration form this year. All been changed to be computerized. New forms each student is already entered into the database, via scanner.

Special Committees

Awards Frank Miskey, Sr.

Made things different this year. Managed to trick all the nominees so they were surprised.

Volunteerism by everybody for everybody.

History is now databased for awards, so we have continuous records moving forward.

Dave Barus asks if we should write a letter.

Mike Mitchell and Jeff Little are the key players. Have been in contact with them.

Paul Stoos Motions to write letters to Antoine Thompson, Sweeney, Grannis, P Rex concerning license sales and certificates. Copy Abbey Snyder
2nd Dave W

Motion carries

Educational Opportunities – Chuck Godfrey

All 5 DEC camp participants are in

Apps for scholarships coming in, need some additional information.

CFAB

Covered

Fund-raising

Need a chair

FWMB

Ken Brown was here as a guest, but had to leave, Erie County landowner rep. Had to leave - will probably attend an upcoming meeting
Discussion concerning operating budget cuts.

Chuck motions that we reimburse Paul for traveling and expenses to the meetings
2nd by Dave Wharton

Paul Stoos says meal only, mileage is better through expenses, meal isn't a big deal

Chuck withdraws motion

Shows & Expos

Expo report detailed. Good sales of lucky hooks.

Names for thanks for working the Expo to be sent to Rich for inclusion in the minutes
(next month)

Need a shows chair, soon, please?

Raffles are great for the kids at the fair, but we need to find a better, workable solution.
Troubles with prize distribution

Brought booklets and gun locks and they disappeared when they should have been there
the whole show.

Frank said these were for getting people to the booth and buying raffle tickets
Chuck apologized for confusion, but that wasn't communicated.

Web Site – Dave Smyczynski

Some updates have been put up on the site:

News items

NEWS
NEWS ITEM
<u>Firearms Industry Applauds Introduction of Firearms Fairness and Affordability Act in U.S. Senate</u>
<u>NYS BLACK MARKET ANIMAL TRADE BUSTED</u>
<u>Sportsmen should pull together on crossbow proposal</u>
Erie County 2009 Hunter and Trapper Training <u>Firearms</u> <u>Archery, Trapping, and Waterfowl</u>
<u>Club and Special Events</u>
<u>DEC Releases 2008 Season Harvests</u>

Articles and Reports

2009 Articles and Reports
<u>License Fee Increase</u>
<u>Fish Report from Rich Davenport - 3/22/2009</u>

Events:

If your club/organization has an event that you would like to have posted on the site please send the event information to Dave Smyczynski – brador7@hotmail.com
Include the event name, location, date and time, registration and contact information.
Also if you have a flyer for the event in electronic format, attach that to the email as well.

Photos:

If you have any Federation photos or other candid outdoor shots please send them to Dave Smyczynski – brador7@hotmail.com . You can include any information about the photo as well.

Old Business

Nothing

Thanks to the Federation for helping with the battle over the rails to trails battle, so please hopefully we can continue.

New Business

Ted Molata and Dave Barus will perform a walleye seminar April 18 at West Falls.
\$5.00 proceeds go to youth programs

Good & Welfare

Jack B. - Recently have lost West Falls members, too many as of late -
having benefit Chicken BBQ July 18.

Flyers available

Rich asks for the flyer electronically to put in back of the Federation

50/50 Winner

GlenCoe

Motion to Adjourn

Dave Wharton

2nd Paula Wharton

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 PM