



Studying Steelhead

DEC recently discovered a thiamine (vitamin B) deficiency in adult steelhead returning from Lake Ontario to the Salmon River in Oswego County. In mid-November 2014, DEC staff first began receiving reports of erratic behavior and dead and dying fish. Steelhead samples sent to the Cornell University Aquatic Animal Health Program and the U.S. Geological Survey's Northern Appalachian Research Laboratory indicated a severe thiamine deficiency, which can impact egg quality, survival of eggs and newly hatched fish, and survival of adult fish in extreme cases. DEC is taking steps to meet its spring 2015 steelhead egg-take targets. Staff from DEC's Rome Fish Disease Control Unit and Salmon River Hatchery are preemptively injecting adult steelhead returning to the hatchery with thiamine. Treated fish will be held in outdoor raceways and fed a diet fortified with vitamin B. Staff will continue to monitor the fish and work with experts to further understand last year's steelhead mortality.

Beach Makeover

DEC announced a \$6.3 million Lake George Beach Improvement Project to help improve water quality and increase recreation. A boat launch and a parking area for 26 trailers will be built on the east side of Lake George Beach, providing needed distance from the bathing area and local residences. A repaved



parking lot will be made with porous asphalt, which will protect water quality along the shoreline. Additional improvements include safer walkways, a new multiuse path for bikers and walkers, and easier and safer access for people with disabilities. The beach and boat launch are expected to open by Memorial Day.

purple loosestrife



John D. Byrd

Help Fight Invasives

Become part of New York’s invasive species early detection network by learning how to use iMapInvasives, an online mapping system shared by citizen scientists, educators and natural resource professionals. Anyone interested is encouraged to help keep the map up-to-date and accurate by reporting invasive species locations and control efforts. Training is required to enter data, and the NY Natural Heritage Program will offer free, beginner and advanced level sessions throughout the state this spring. Visit www.nyimainvasives.org for schedule details and registration, and contact imapinvasives@nynhp.org with general questions.



Take a Hike

DEC’s Hiking and Trail Information webpages contain valuable information on Adirondack and Catskill trails to benefit both novice and experienced hikers. Regularly updated, the pages include trail closures and other notices, as well as helpful tips and reminders. Some trail information is general; an area’s local forest ranger is the best source for current and specific updates. Visit the “Hiking” page on DEC’s website and then click the corresponding Adirondack or Catskill trail information webpage. By signing up through GovDelivery, you can receive email bulletins of trail conditions. Visit DEC’s Email and Social Media Accounts web page (search “GovDelivery”) for more details.



Homage to DuPont

The *Conservationist* family was saddened to hear that the magazine’s longest-serving editor, John DuPont, passed away in January at age 84. Remembered by friends and colleagues as a scrupulous grammarian and softspoken wordsmith, John became Assistant Editor in late 1974 and served as Editor from 1977-1992.

Born and raised in Wisconsin, John’s English degrees served him well, as an English teacher at Columbia High School (Rensselaer County), exhibit writer at the State Museum, and an editor at DEC. Ever humble, in his departing essay, John credited the *Conservationist*’s “... family of readers whose continuing interest, intelligence, knowledge and dedication to the environment are the main reasons for the magazine’s continuing success.”

Perhaps the best appraisal of John DuPont’s work can be found within the pages of the magazine published under his leadership.

—The Editor