





Dear New Yorker,

If you've ever taken a hike on New York's vast network of trails and experienced our state's wilderness areas, you'll agree that we are fortunate to have some of the most spectacular outdoor spaces in the world.

Maintaining New York's beautiful and unique trail system is a full-time job. The Department of Environmental Conservation administers more than 3,500 miles of non-motorized trails—the largest system in the nation—in state forests, wildlife management areas, forest preserves, and multiple use areas.

Now there's a new program that allows you to support our wonderful public trails. By purchasing a New York State Trails Supporter Patch, you can do your part to strengthen trail maintenance projects across the state and encourage public stewardship of our valuable and beautiful natural resources.

The patch is available for \$5 at any outlet where sporting licenses are sold and on DEC's website ([www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)). All proceeds are deposited in the Conservation Fund for use on maintenance and enhancement of non-motorized trails throughout New York State.

I'm a trail supporter. If you enjoy New York's outdoors, I encourage you to become one too.

Governor Eliot Spitzer



Dear New Yorker,

The Great New York State Fair begins on August 23 this year and DEC employees have been hard at work preparing our environmental exhibits, educational materials and booths for thousands of visitors.

Whether you stop by the DEC Aquarium building or Log Cabin, there will be a range of things to see, do and learn about. While you're there, you can also purchase a subscription to DEC's award-winning *Conservationist* magazine, get a hunting, fishing or trapping license, or buy a Habitat Access Stamp, which supports healthy fish

and wildlife populations. More information about this important DEC initiative can be found on the inside back cover of this magazine.

Of course, admission to all DEC buildings and exhibits is free. So take a trip to the Fair—you may discover something you didn't know, or even better, you may open a child's eyes to the outdoors and spark a lifetime interest in our environment. No matter what, I'm sure you and your family will have a good time.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you at the New York State Fair!

Commissioner Pete Grannis

NEW YORK STATE  
**CONSERVATIONIST**  
Volume 62, Number 1  
August 2007



Eliot Spitzer, Governor of New York State

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Pete Grannis, *Commissioner*  
Stuart Gruskin, *Executive Deputy Commissioner*  
Basil Anastassiou, *Director of Communications*  
Jack McKeon, *Asst. Commissioner for Administration*  
Laurel K. Remus, *Director Public Affairs & Education*  
Neil Satterly, *Assistant Director Information Services*

THE CONSERVATIONIST STAFF

David H. Nelson, *Editor*  
Alex Hyatt, *Assistant Editor*  
Eileen C. Stegemann, *Contributing Editor*  
Megan Ciotti, *Business Manager*  
Nicole Novak, *Staff Assistant*  
Paul Fusco-Gessick, *Intern*

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & EDUCATION

Robert deVilleneuve, *Production/Design Director*  
Frank Herec, *Artist/Designer*  
Jennifer Olmstead, *Artist/Designer*  
Brian W. Swinn, *Contributing Editor*  
Bernadette LaManna, *Contributing Editor*  
John Razzano, *Contributing Editor*  
Roni Cetnar, *Secretarial Support*  
Ellen Bidell, *Book Review Support*

EDITORIAL OFFICES

The *Conservationist* (ISSN0010-650X), © 2007 by NYSDEC, is an official publication of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation published bimonthly at 625 Broadway, 2nd Floor, Albany, NY 12233-4502. Telephone: (518) 402-8047

Manuscripts, photographs and artwork will be accepted if accompanied by SASE. Please write to the above address with an author's query or to request a Contributor's Guide. The publisher assumes no responsibility for loss or damage of unsolicited materials.

TO SUBSCRIBE:

\$12 per year, \$22 for two years, \$30 for three years. Outside the U.S., add \$27 per year with a check drawn on a U.S. bank. All orders must be prepaid.

Please allow 6 to 8 weeks for new subscriptions or changes of address. Periodical postage paid at Albany, NY, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

*Conservationist*,  
P.O. Box 1500  
Latham, NY 12110

Send check or money order  
(sorry, no credit card orders)  
payable to:

Conservationist  
NYSDEC  
P.O. Box 1500  
Latham, NY 12110  
or call: **1-800-678-6399**

Visit the Department's website at:  
**[www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, disability, age, or gender.

♻️ Printed on recycled paper. Please recycle this copy.