



New Record Brookie

Don Germain of Forestport, Oneida County, recently broke the state record for brook trout. On June 15, Don caught a five-pound, eight-ounce brookie while fishing on South Lake in the southwest corner of the Adirondack Park. Mr. Germain sent details of his 22-inch fish to DEC's Angler Achievement Awards Program, which allows anglers to receive special recognition for impressive catches. Visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7727.html to learn more about the program, see past winners, and to find out how to apply with your own luncker.

Deer Season Forecasts

Now that big game hunting seasons are right around the corner, we thought it would be a good time to look back on last year—and forward to this fall. In 2010, hunters took a total of 230,000 deer: 123,000 antlerless and 107,000 adult bucks, up slightly from the past few years. More than 16,000 junior hunters contributed to the harvest by taking approximately 4,900 deer. This fall, hunters should expect the statewide deer take to increase slightly again. Also, DEC tested 1,780 hunter-harvested deer

for Chronic Wasting Disease last year, and found no infected deer. For complete 2010 harvest details, visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/42232.html, and check out www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/37304.html for 2011 season forecasts.

Bowhunter Sighting Log

Many bowhunters participate in DEC's Bowhunter Sighting Log by keeping a diary of their bowhunting activity and the number of animals they see. This data helps DEC keep track of deer and other wildlife populations. DEC needs more bowhunter participation in many northern, eastern and southeastern counties, and in Westchester and Suffolk Counties. If you'd like to participate, please send an e-mail to fwwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us and provide your name, address, hunter ID (back tag number), a list of the counties where you hunt, and whether or not you have previously participated in New York's bowhunter log.

Junior Bowhunting

Recent legislation allows 12- and 13-year-olds to hunt big game with a Junior Bowhunting license. See the Junior Hunter Mentoring Program (www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html) for detailed information on youth hunting requirements.



DEC photo

Crossbows

Hunters may now use crossbows to hunt deer and bear in parts of New York. However, crossbows are not legal in bowhunting-only areas of the state. When using a crossbow, hunters must carry a certificate stating they have reviewed the legal requirements and safety information regarding crossbow use. For information on legal hunting areas and seasons, and to find a Certificate of Qualification, see www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/68802.html.

More Bear Hunting

DEC recently opened several areas east of the Hudson River to black bear hunting and changed bear hunting season dates in the Southern Zone. The



Bill Banaszewski

regular black bear season will now open earlier in parts of central and western New York. For more details about bear hunting, see www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28605.html#Black, and visit www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6960.html to learn more about black bears.

Did You Know?

DEC publishes a periodic electronic newsletter about deer and bear management and hunting opportunities in New York called *NYBigGame*. To subscribe, visit: <http://lists.dec.state.ny.us/mailman/listinfo/nybiggame>.





Susan L. Shafer

Forest Photos

In honor of the United Nations' designation of 2011 as International Year of Forests, DEC is holding a "Forest Photo Contest." People may submit forest-oriented photographs in several different categories, including "enjoying the forests" and "forest products." All submissions should be sent by November 1st, and will be reviewed by DEC. Winners will be announced on December 1st. For specific details, including a list of submission categories and where to send your photos, visit www.dec.ny.gov/lands/75396.html.

Reducing Fish Kills

Every day, industrial facilities in New York use more than 16 billion gallons of water for cooling purposes. In turn, more than 17 billion fish of all life stages (egg, fry, juvenile, adult) are killed during these processes. To reduce this impact, all industrial facilities will soon be required to use the best technology available for their cooling systems. One such technology is a closed-cycle cooling system, which has a significantly reduced impact on fish. Visit DEC's "Aquatic

Habitat Protection" page at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/32847.html for more information.

Marine License Refunds

On August 5, Governor Cuomo directed DEC to refund all license fees paid by individuals and charter operators for marine recreational fishing for the 2011 season. All payments are expected to be mailed by the end of summer. In place of the marine license, the NYS Legislature established a no-fee recreational marine fishing registry. The registry will allow fisheries biologists to gather data to help better manage marine resources. See www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html for more information on the marine recreational fishing registry.

Year of the Turtle

Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation and various other conservation groups designated 2011 as Year of the Turtle to help raise awareness of the threats to turtle populations. Many turtle species are in danger of extinction due to habitat loss, pet trade, and exploitation for human use. Visit www.yearoftheturtle.org to learn more and to find ways to join turtle conservation efforts.



Donna Kalled

Three Fishing Lines Legal

New York freshwater anglers may now use up to three fishing lines, with or without a rod. Before this new law went into effect, only two lines were permitted. This amended law does not change fishing season dates, size limits, or daily limits.



Cougar Traveled Through NY

Recent DNA testing confirmed that a mountain lion spotted in December 2010 in Lake George, NY, was the same animal that was killed by a motor vehicle in Milford, CT in June this year. A necropsy conducted by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection revealed that the lean, 140-pound young male most likely had never been in captivity. Genetic testing linked this mountain lion to a breeding population in the Black Hills of South Dakota, indicating he traveled about 1,800 miles—the longest distance ever recorded for a mountain lion. Further details on this mountain lion are available at www.dec.ny.gov/about/74534.html.