

New York State FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



**Minutes-NYS Fish and Wildlife Management Board
98th Session, March 30, 31 and April 1, 2006
Clarion Hotel, Albany, New York**

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm by Chairman Banks
Invocation was given by John Tusch.

Roll Call (Present at all or part of meeting)

Board Members

Region	Landowner	Sportsman	Legislator
3		Bill Gaudette (Alternate)	
4	Homer Casler	Michael Zeh	Jim Bertram
5	William Pike		Robert Banks
6	Judy Aldrich	Patricia Arnold	Tom Grow
7	Eugene Blumer	Harry Woodfield	Barbara Brown
8	Gary Evans	Rick Page	Emory Green Glenn Larison (Alternate)
9	Chuck Couture	Walt Hallbauer	

Advisors

NYSDEC- Gerald Barnhart, Jack Cooper
 NYS Farm Bureau- Judy Aldrich
 Izaak Walton League of America- John Tusch
 NYS Conservation Council- Tim Noga
 NYS Forest Practice Board- Richard Fox
 Conservation Fund Advisory Board- Bud Woodfield
 NYS Dept of Ag&Markets /SWCD- John Schumacher
 Cornell University- Tom Brown
 SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry- John Farrell

Guests

Jeff Williams-NYS Farm Bureau
Gerald Andritz-NYS DEC, Lands and Forests
Peter Innis-NYS DEC, Natural Resources Supervisor, Region 4
Steven Schassler-NYS DEC, Regional Director, Region 4
John Stouffer- Sierra Club, New York
Mark Bergin, Physically Challenged Bowhunters of America
Dave Miller, Audubon, New York
Denise Sheheen- Commissioner, NYS DEC
Jeff Mapes-NYS DEC, Lands and Forests
Alan Mapes-NYS DEC, Public Affairs
Laurel Remis- NYS DEC, Public Affairs
Karl Parker-NYS DEC, Bureau of Wildlife, Region 4
Paul Jensen, NYS DEC, Bureau of Wildlife, Region 5
Wayne Jones, NYS DEC, Sportsman Education
David McLean, Region 4 Fish and Wildlife Management Board Chairman

Approval of Previous Minutes, Fall 2005

A motion was duly made by Walt Hallbauer and seconded by Judy Aldrich to accept the minutes from the Fall 2005 meeting, the motion was unanimously approved.

Welcome to the Spring meeting and Region 4 from Steven Schassler, Director, Region 4.

Director Schassler introduced Pete Innis, the Region 4 Natural Resources Supervisor, also present for the day's meeting. Director Schassler indicated that this will be Governor Pataki's last year in office. The Governor is planning on continuing his effort to protect and enhance the environment. The Governor is proud of the many milestones accomplished:

- 945,000 acres acquired or easements since 1995
- Preserved land from development to insure open space
- Help provide access to new land
- Budget has 30 million dollars for open space acquisition and stewardship
- CWD effort is the most aggressive in US right here in NY, two deer found in the wild
- DEC staff have worked hard to make this happen
- DEC continues to work hard with NYC to open watershed land to hunting and fishing
- DEC has been working with NYC on Gilboa Dam to make sure it is safe
- DEC working with local legislators to help get NYC lands open for recreational use
- Hunting interests need to work on recruiting younger people to help fill in the ranks
- Battles still going on between active and passive recreational use
- Groups need to learn to work together
- Nuisance wildlife problems continues to be a local problem
- Stripper fishing will begin soon in the Hudson River

Regional Reports

Region 3 - Pre-filed report

Regional Board 2006 officers: Chairman Bill Conners, Vice-chairman - Gregg Wunner, State Board Delegates: sportsman- Joe Molinaro, Jr, sportsman alternate- Ray Merlotto, Landowner- Bob Underhill.

Board wants to expand antler restriction currently in WMU 3C and 3J to WMU 3A, 3H and 3K. Board has asked DEC to allow access for hunting at the Stony Kill Environmental Education Center. The Board continues to work on getting NYC watershed lands opened up for small game hunting and to monitor hunting, fishing and trapping activities on DEC public use areas. The Region 3 Board advocated for increased access to trails and additional trails for ATV use and for continued free public access to state owned boat launches on the Hudson River in the city of Newburgh.

Region 4- Pre-filed report

Regional FWMB meeting on 11/16/05

Allegheny Hatchery (Federal) Pancreatic Necrosis outbreak, all lake trout stocks destroyed. As a result, only lake trout stocking in NY in 2006 will be on Great Lakes. White River Hatchery in NH lost all landlock salmon stocking for Otsego Lake in 2006.

DEC will interview candidates for a biologist position to replace Al Martel and Joe Sicluna over the next two weeks.

Dick Henry: DMP issuance done, 380,000 issued statewide. Concerns with liberal issuance of DMP's in 4J (Albany Co. archery only) address by reducing the first come/first served application period. Big increase in numbers issued did not lead to increase harvest. Probable illegal use in other units.

License sales: down approximately \$2 million in revenue from this date in 2004. Reason could be CWD, lower DMP numbers, aging hunter population. A hope for last minute rush of license buyers could occur. Dave McLean noted that a particular license-selling agent was unaware of the Habitat Stamp and its purpose.

Chronic Wasting Disease: Testing ongoing, no new cases since original testing in containment area this spring. Will keep deer population low in containment area (and any new areas if CWD is discovered there) through increased antlerless harvest for a few years.

Black Bear: Statewide archery take is 470 so far, 135 in Catskill range. Not a record, but is a high take. Expect good take during firearm season due to large amounts of mast, which should delay denning.

Green Co. ECO's did good work and arrested a subject for taking a bear before season opened, and other violations. Subject was convicted and paid nearly \$1500 in fines. Nuisance bear trapped in Hunter, radio collared and released in Bear Spring Mountain WMA. Was harvested by a bowhunter several miles from release site. It had shed the collar before its death.

Moose: A young bull has spent the last month in the Worchester area. Another was killed by a truck on the NY Thruway near Kingston. A third was captured by Wildlife staff in Scotia and released in the Adirondacks.

Bobcat trapping in Otsego County: DEC aware of relatively high numbers of bobcats being trapped in closed area of Otsego and western Delaware Counties. DEC is moving towards opening that area to bobcat harvest, but needs to do more population modeling first. Work on model is ongoing.

Mountain Lions: Dave McLean mentions several sightings in Otsego County. DEC Stated that these Cats are readily obtainable in several states, and illegal imports could be source of escaped/released captive animals. Many confirmed cases of mistaken identity. Many years of sightings, but only one recovery (Saratoga Co.) and that was confirmed to be a prior captive. No other documented physical evidence to suggest they are in the area. We have more sightings than Colorado, where they do exist. Hoaxes have occurred, notably on the Internet.

Region 4 FWMB meeting on 02/22/06.

Dick Henry gave the deer harvest numbers for the 2005 season. Buck take for region 4 was 11,392 and the doe take was 9,420. The harvest numbers are the lowest for bucks since the year 1978 and for does since the

year 1979. Total harvest for the state was 180,200 down 14 % from last year. The antlerless pilot program in DMU areas 3C & 3J seem to be successful. About 70% of the yearling bucks were protected.

Mike Zeh has picked up 500 signs (Hunting with Written Permission Only), paid for by Habitat Stamp sales. These will be made available at the next FWMB meeting. These signs are to be used to foster cooperation between landowners and sportsmen/sportswomen. These access "poster" signs do constitute a legal posted sign. At the Executive Board meeting the Conservation Law (Section 11-0501) Fish and Wildlife Management practices cooperative program was discussed. A copy of this law will be included in the minutes of the meeting of 02/22/06. A copy will be sent to Pete Innes, Regional Supervisor for Region 4. Discussed the shortage of FWMB Funds (cut meeting from 6 to 5 for the year. The spring meeting will be held in Albany on March 30, 31 & April 1st.

**Respectfully submitted by Michael Zeh
FWMB Region 4 Sportsman Representative**

Region 5 - Pre-Filed Report

The regional Board met in December 2005 and February 2006.

1. Access: Mossy Point boat launch on Lake George to be paved, paving was completed on Willsboro boat launch on Lake Champlain. Ice on Lake George has delayed the creel survey, staff have been used to post PFR signs. The Draft Open Space Plan for Region 5 was released.

2. Species Management: The Board opposes the year round catch and release bass fishing proposal. The egg take continued for the endangered round whitefish at Constantia Fish Hatchery. For 2006 eggs may be collected from fish from Little Green Pond near the Adirondack Fish Hatchery. Sea Lamprey attacks continue to be high on Lake Champlain. Alewives have been confirmed in Lake Champlain. The Brook Trout Program continues in the Adirondacks. Impacts of water releases on the fishery below Indian Lake is being studied. Nuisance black bear study continues to be funded by State Wildlife Grant. Use of bear proof food containers is required and enforced. The DEC is conducting a turkey banding project with trap sites in region 5. The American Marten distribution study continues in the Adirondacks, radio collars are being put on some animals.

3) NYS acquired 512 acres along the Battenkill and the Commissioner will be there announcing this acquisition and will be fishing on the Battenkill.

Region 6 Pre-filed Report

Bear take in the Adirondack region was 454, and 495 in the Catskills. There are plans to include DMU 3H and 3K in the QDM next year. During 2005 big game season accidents were down 70% with no new accidents resulting in the new rifle zones.

Rome Hatchery will have 1.6 million in improvements done. Region 6 opposes Assembly bill A1841A as currently written, as does Assemblywoman Dede Scozzafava. As written the bill is unenforceable and should not be passed.

DOT replaced the Chestnut Street bridge near the Mohawk River resulting in a loss of parking. A portion of County land may be used to allow parking. The region 6 Director suggested a meeting between the DOT, Regional staff and the Board to discuss access issues.

46 Corners Management Unit UMP needs to consider small game as an entity when drafting the UMP. Early and intermediate stage forestry should also be of consideration. The Statewide Board will be asked to support this issue. The International Paper acquisition took place in December 2005, 40,000 acres

included in Franklin and Hamilton Counties. The Moose River UMP is open for comments at this time.

Fort Drum wants to use Jadwin State Forest for military training. Fort Drum is doing an environmental assessment. This will result in loss of access to state lands during training. This state land is supported by sportsmen and women's funds and tax dollars. Use of this land for military training could result in potential damage to habitat and wildlife. The Region 6 board will request the State Board make their members aware of this issue. Over 200 residents attended a public hearing.

There is concern that several roads will be closed because of lack of funds for maintenance. These could include South Lake Road, Herkimer Landing Road and Aldrich pond road.

Deer damage nuisance permits are of concern. The number of damage permits issued outside of the season continues to decline as there is a shift toward the use of DMAP to control populations. Last year there were 27,000 DMAP permits given and only 1450 damage nuisance permits issued. The DMAP take was 6% of the total take, nuisance permits made up 2.5%.

Some canal lands are being offered to the DEC and Parks and Recreations. Delta Lake is one of the areas the Board has asked to see if it is available for access during waterfowl season.

The Region 6 Board recommends that all regional boards make their meeting minutes available to all other regional boards.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Aldrich
Vice Chair, Region 6

Region 7 - Pre-filed report

The Region 7 Board elected officers at the February meeting. The Board reviewed maps showing the location of surplus Canal Lands that could be available to the DEC and Parks and Recreation. The Board also discussed State Wildlife Management Areas and Draft Unit Management Plans. There is concern that conflicts in recreational use be resolved in favor of sportsmen and women.

The Board conducted a detailed discussion on a 50 acre development for extensive public use and access to a state wildlife management area in Nichols Township, Madison County. The Board prepared a letter for presentation at the public hearing.

Submitted by Ronald J. Anderson, Region 7 FWMB Chairman

Region 8 - Pre-filed report

Region 8 has two Habitat/Access Stamp Projects currently under construction; the "Burger Parcel" in the Town of Greece, Monroe County, which provides access to Buttonwood Creek and a grassland habitat development project at the Montezuma Complex in the Town of Savannah, Wayne county. These projects should be completed sometime this spring.

In February, the Board heard a presentation by Seneca White Deer, Inc. highlighting the unique natural resources associated with the Seneca Army Depot. The Area is home to a wide variety of wildlife including osprey, coyotes, beaver, migratory birds, as well as the white deer. The area contains several hundred acres of grassland, mature forests and over 500 acres of wetlands.

Two representatives from the Region 6 Board attended the February meeting of the Region 8 Board. Judy Aldrich and Pat Arnold provided information on current issues in Region 6 and on legislative initiatives

involving wetlands and the sale of certain fish species in New York.

Once again, empire Farm Days and National Hunting and Fishing days will be “high profile” public events during 2006. Empire Farm Days will be held in August and National Hunting and Fishing Days will be held in September.

Elections were held during February:

Chairman- Glen Larison, Vice Chairman- Wayne Housemen, Secretary- Randy Nemecek, State Board rep-Emory green, Gary Evans, Rick Page, Alternate reps- Glen Larison, Royce Kilmer, John Andrews.

Submitted by,
Glenn Larison
Gary Evans
Emory Green

Region 9 Pre-Filed Report

The region 9 Board heard a presentation from Denis Money of Seneca White Deer, Inc., outlining the groups goals. A video of the existing wildlife and habitat was presented. A letter from the Board supporting the preservation of the remaining 7500 acres as a conservation area and saving the white deer herd was sent. State Senator Michael Nozzolio supports this position.

The Region 9 Board drafted a resolution supporting a personal tax deduction for private landowners who allow public access for hunting and fishing was passed and will be presented by the Region 9 State Board representatives at the Spring State Board meeting.

Board members met with an outdoor writer in Buffalo to get publicity about the Habitat/Access stamp. An article appeared in The Buffalo News Environment Column by Will Elliott, “Anglers should buy into state’s stamp act”.

The Regional DEC office is working on access acquisitions on Chautauqua Lake and Lake Erie. Regional Law Enforcement has indicated that trespassing for coyote hunting is becoming a problem with landowners.

Submitted by, Jim Agle, Chairman, Region 9

Advisory Members Reports

Farm Bureau- Judy Aldrich

New York Farm Bureau 2006 Policies for Consideration
by the NYS Fish and Wildlife Management Board at the spring 2006 meeting

1. We Support the change in classification of timber from real property to personal property (the same as other crops) in the Real Property Tax Law.
2. We recommend the following changes to the General Obligations Law:
 - a. That the landowner not be held liable for any damage to vehicles, equipment, or the personal injury of trespassers;
 - b. The addition of all forms of outdoor recreation to the general Obligations Law, section 9-103; and
 - c. The ability of landowner to charge fees for legitimate outdoor activities without incurring liability.

3. We recommend that the age limit for a big game license be reduced from 16 to 14 years of age with a licensed parent or legal guardian supervision until that person reaches 16 years of age.
4. We support the use of crossbows for deer hunting
5. We oppose DEC implementing Quality Deer Management on private land.
6. We support continued use of the steel jaw foothold and body traps
7. We support hunting in State parks to control wildlife
8. Sportsman and Landowner relations should be emphasized in hunter safety courses and license applications.
9. We support voluntary management plans to develop wildlife areas on private owned lands.
10. Within the Adirondack Park, we recommend that state lands be harvested according to prudent forest management practices. This process could allow some income from publically owned forest land, produce an ecological environment (feed) for the dwindling deer and bear population in te deep aging forest areas.

New York Grange- No Report

Izaak Walton League Report-Written report provided

The IWLA has been very active during this past and present fuel shortage crisis, working on alternative fuels that are replaceable, as well as developing fuel saving engines. We continue to strongly support the increased use of windmills, and the manufacture of ethanol from corn. This would have the two-fold effect of reducing the need for petroleum while reducing the toxic emissions into the atmosphere.

We continue to ask all parties involved to protect and preserve our unique white deer herd.

In addition to the various State Divisions and the IWLA Chapters that presently offer scholarships to students whose vocations are in the Conservation-Environmental field, the National office now offers two more. These are for two \$2,500.00 awards for juniors or seniors, and the students must be working for a degree in this field. The deadline for the applications is April 1.

Our Central New York State Chapter (Syracuse area) has been monitoring many streams under our Save Our Streams (SOS) program. This examination is done by count and types of macro-organisms present, and is considered quite reliable. These findings are sent to the SUNY School of Forestry and recorded. This Chapter has just received a \$15,000.00 matching grant to continue and improve this program.

Our State President, Matt Webber, has been asked to speak on “Great Lakes Issues” at an “All Conservation Group” in March striving to get all conservation groups to work together. Matt also urged support for the wetland bill that would protect wetlands down to one acre in size.

The National ILWA conference will be in Springfield, MO, July 12-15, 2006.

John A. Tusch, National Director

New York State Conservation Council

Provided a package of information to the Board “Actions Needed.” This included a proposed bill S-1536 and A1815A to allow 14 and 15 year olds to hunt big game with a firearm; and Bill #S120 and A1537 to allow 12 and 13 year olds to hunt big game with a bow. The NYSCC recommends that sportsmen and women write letters to their legislators and members of the ENCON committees to support this legislation. The actions needed packet also contains a list of other legislative bills that the NYSCC supports and/or opposes.

The NYSCC is doing a Deer Management Survey to solicit sportsmen and women's input on how deer should be managed.

An informational meeting sponsored by the Onondaga County Federation, Cayuga County Federation and CNY Whitetails on "CNY Deer Management - A New Approach" for DMU Units 7F, 7J and 7H.

NYSCC continues to lobby downstate legislators to help educate them on hunting and fishing activities. Working on Habitat/Access stamp program to simplify the process. Trying to open Green Lakes State Park for archery hunting this fall. The NYSCC wants to make sure each Regional FWM Board has a NYSCC representative. Concerned about wildlife management and access on federal lands including Ft. Drum and Seneca Army Depot. Working on Aldo Leopold Education Project.

The Republican hunting and fishing taskforce meetings are being held during the weekday which makes it difficult for working sportsmen and women to attend. The NYSCC would like to see these meetings held when working people could attend. Recommends that the Board do a resolution to ask that the meetings be held at a more convenient time.

Submitted by Tim Noga

Conservation Fund Advisory Board - Bud Woodfield

Board has lost a long time member John "Big John" Matuszewicz passed away just before the first of the year. Currently the Advisory board is not pleased with the state of the Conservation Fund. The board has explored many ways of increasing money to the fund. The board is concerned at the make-up of the board after the upcoming elections as 3 members are appointed by the Governor. The CFAB provided a summary of license sales from April 1, 2005 through March 31, 2005. Total licenses sold were 1,758,054 for a total of \$35,518,247.55, this was 2,072,274.95 less than 2004. The DEC has not paid any fringe benefits (for the last couple of months) for state employees which normally comes out of the CF.

The "Habitat Fund" of the CF has only gotten around \$34,137.32 for 2005. There is a new legislative proposal to require a habitat stamp for non-resident license buyers to support access on private lands.

Some types of license sales are down from last year; resident fishing is down 30 %, non-resident fishing is down 55 %, resident big game is down 11 % and non-resident big game is down 13 %, and non-resident bow is down 11 %.

There was a suggestion that the monthly minutes be sent to the regional fish and wildlife management boards. It was noted that the monthly minutes are placed on the DEC Website.

A motion was duly made by Judy Aldrich and seconded by Emory Green that the Statewide Fish and Wildlife Management Board request a copy of the monthly minutes from the CFAB be sent to each regional FWM Board and that the Regional CFAB representative attend the Regional FWM Board meetings if possible. It was suggested that a letter be sent to CFAB requesting this information and that the minutes be sent to the Regional Board secretary. The motion was unanimously approved.

New York State Forest Practice Board- Richard Fox

A meeting was held and new officers were elected. There was discussion on a bill that would change the name of the Forest Practice Board to the Forestry Council with members chosen by directors of the Regions (12) and (one) members appointed by counties. The Council would advise private landowners as well as the State on state forest lands. This proposal was opposed by the FPB, and the bill died. Last

year a new organization was formed containing 5 landowner groups; the Empire Forest Products Association, Timber Producers Association, Farm Bureau, among others, with 4 major items for their lobbying agenda. One of those items include the timber tax, which has been in the news lately. A bill (Bill #A6638/S6818) was introduced to change law that defines timber as real property. There is a push to get private lands out of the tax requirement for forests. Last year these bills died in committee. It is the FPB position that these bills have considerable problems. There was discussion about how forest lands are assessed.

Soil and Water Board and Ag and Markets by John Schumacher

Report from the New York State Dept of Ag and Markets provided. New commissioner is Patrick H. Brennan from Oneida County, who announced a \$5.3 million grant for 31 projects to help farmers protect the State's soil and water resources from Ag runoff. The DEC has a non-agricultural portion of the Environmental Protection Fund for stream repair, salt storage and other types of non-Ag land use.

The City of New York is opening up approximately 400 acres of land in Central New York watershed areas for recreational use through "leases." These would be 5 year leases.

SWDC and Ag and Markets will have about \$10 million in Ag grants coming out this year.

There was a question about SWCD staff attending Regional FWM Board meetings. It was indicated that if they are invited they will usually come. Regional Boards should invite SWCD staff to attend. Some Regions actually appoint an SWCD representative to the Regional Board.

Cornell University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences - Pre-filed Report provided by Tommy Brown

The 2005 Annual Report of the Human Dimensions Research Unit is out and available online at <http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/hdru/>. This report was assembled through February and therefore is still fairly current. Thus, this report will just touch briefly on some current work.

CWD Studies

Last Fall, we reported on a survey of hunters and the general public and their perceptions of the efforts of DEC and others to minimize the adverse impacts of the discovery of CWD in Oneida County and to inform the public about the situation. That report is now available on the HDRU website. We are currently completing a study in which the DEC and other agency staff, Incident Responders, provided feedback about how the effort went from their perspective. A number of staff were able to offer suggestions about how this process could be improved, should it ever be needed again, but the vast majority of comments about the effort were positive. We are also completing an assessment of landowners in Oneida County who have land near the area of the discovery of CWD. Many of these owners allowed shooters onto their land to kill deer for testing purposes.

Assessment of Deer Hunting in Regions 3C and 3J

At the urging of many Ulster County sportsmen, DEC initiated a pilot program for deer management in Units 3C and 3J in 2005. This program is aimed at enhancing the age structure of adult bucks. To help accomplish this, special regulations in these units prohibit the taking of bucks that do not have at least one antler with three points that are at least one inch long. (Hunters under age 17 are exempt from this requirement). In February, we implemented a survey of Ulster County hunters to determine their satisfaction with the regulations. Data entry from these returned questionnaires is currently taking place, and a report will be prepared later this Spring.

Black Bear Management Research

Human Dimensions Research Unit (HDRU) graduate student, Meredith Gore, has been analyzing her data from surveys of residents in the towns of Woodstock (Ulster County) and Warwick (Orange County), where a NeighBEARhood Watch Program was implemented last Fall, including a great deal of publicity about how to avoid problems with black bears. No great changes were detected in people's behavior related to black bears, but the number of bear-related complaints to DEC did decrease from the previous year.

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry by Dr. John Farrell

Major developments at ESF include hiring of a new Provost, Dr. Bruce Bongarten, who earned a bachelor of science in forest biology at ESF in 1973 and his doctorate in forestry and genetics from Michigan State University. Bruce specializes in forest tree genetics and the physiology of tree growth. He was previously employed with the University of Georgia since 1978 and served as professor and associate dean for academic affairs at the Daniel B. Warnell School of Forest Resources. He also served as a visiting scientist at Weyerhaeuser Company, as a graduate research assistant at Michigan State University, as a research assistant at the USDA Forest Service's Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, and as a forester with St. Regis Paper Company.

Dr. Neil Ringler, Distinguished Teaching Professor, was appointed Interim Dean of Research at ESF by President Neil Murphy. Dr. Ringler will continue to be active in fisheries ecology research and management.

Within the Department of Environmental and Forest Biology (EFB), Dr. Don Leopold, Distinguished Teaching Professor, was appointed as Chair. Don specializes in forest and wetlands ecology and has served at ESF for over 20 years. He began his new assignment in July and will complete a three-year term.

Five new faculty positions are currently being sought at EFB including Assistant/Associate Professorships in Forest Pathology, Plant Ecology, and Forest Entomology. These hires will increase the EFB faculty from 29 full time positions to 34. Within ESF Forest Engineering two new positions of interest include Ecological Engineer and Forest Hydrologist.

Teaching

Undergraduates at EFB represent 550 of 1735 total undergraduate enrollment at ESF. The new undergraduate majors enrollments are up for Fall 2005 with Aquatic and Fisheries Science (24 students), Wildlife Science (119 students), and Conservation Biology (46 students) and Environmental Biology (305 students), other majors (84 students) and numbers of applications down slightly for EFB from 2005 (534 students) to numbers so far for 2006 (518 as of 3/21/06).

Graduate student enrollment of EFB currently is 134 students of the 606 students enrolled at ESF. EFB has processed 84 new applications for 2006 as of 3/18/06 and the number of applicants is up from last year.

A new graduate course in Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration and Enhancement will be offered through EFB. The course will focus on the guiding principles for ecological restoration of freshwater aquatic ecosystems on effects of nutrient loading, sedimentation, flow alteration, and habitat loss. Factors leading to loss of aquatic resources and the effectiveness of techniques to restore habitat and fauna are analyzed.

Some EFB Research Highlights

Chronic Wasting Disease

SUNY-ESF is actively researching Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in white-tailed deer. Dr. William F. Porter and his graduate students are involved in a large, multi-regional radio-telemetry study to examine proximal landscape factors that might contribute to disease amplification in New York State. Dr. H. Brian Underwood is developing a decision-support tool for evaluating potential management actions should CWD show up on or near Department of Interior (DOI) lands. The costs and benefits of management actions (including inaction), and their implications to policy are specifically addressed.

Waterfowl Ecology

Dr. Guy Baldesarre, ESF Distinguished Teaching Professor, with Eric G. Bolen, Dean of the Graduate School, University of North Carolina-Wilmington, has published the second edition of *Waterfowl Management and Ecology* (Kreiger Publishing 580 pages). This book is considered to be the seminal work on waterfowl with over 2,800 references in 11 chapters.

Water Level Management of the St. Lawrence River

Dr. John Farrell, working with several graduate students, developed two environmental performance indicators for use by the International Joint Commission in the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River water levels study. The indicators, one for muskrat house density (with MS student Jason Toner) and one for northern pike reproductive success (with PhD students Jerry Mead and Brent Murray), were based on extensive field study and modeling efforts. Results indicate that water level stabilization resulted in significant negative effects on these important species and the pre-project regulation plan has the greatest benefit.

Fisheries

ESF Graduate student Len Machut completed his MS under Dr. Karin Limburg looking at eel use of Hudson River tributaries. Len won the best paper award at the NYS American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting. Barriers are a major influence limiting migration, and there are some adverse effects of riparian urbanization evident as well. Nevertheless, the densities we found are the highest reported. They have also documented the progress of a non-indigenous, parasitic nematode in these populations that affects the swim bladders, and have a side project looking at PCB contamination too.

Karin continues research using fish as bioindicators to explore the use of fish community metrics and what they can tell us. They have been looking at fish indices of biotic integrity (IBIs) over time in the Hudson Valley, and now she is beginning to test the IBI method in Onondaga Creek. She also continues studies of Blueback herring, investigating their role in the Mohawk River.

Current research in salmonid ecology and management continues as a focus of Dr. Donald Stewart. Don recently published work on predatory demand of chinook salmon that represents a significant advance and will be important to management decisions. He has also given presentations on changes in fish assemblages in a stream of the Susquehanna drainage of New York that has important implications for DEC stocking policies. Dr. Neil Ringler continues important work with his graduate students on Onondaga Lake and Salmon River fisheries ecology and management. Monitoring has shown impressive improvements in summer fish communities of Onondaga Lake associated with water quality improvements; much progress is also being made in understanding salmon reproduction processes on Salmon River.

Dr. John Farrell is beginning a new walleye study that extends from Eastern Lake Ontario to Lake St. Lawrence. Genetics work will attempt to determine population structure in this region. He is partnering with the DEC Cape Vincent Fishery Station and the Lake Ontario Fisheries Coalition in determining success of walleye being stocked as part of a restoration effort. One additional goal of the work is to

develop habitat restoration efforts. His studies on northern pike and muskellunge also continue under new Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration funding administered by DEC.

Dr. Kim Schulz, an ESF limnologist, has recently completed a graduate study with her student, Adam Storch, on effects of invasive zooplankton in the Great Lakes. *Cercopagis pengoi*, the fishhook flea, was shown to have significant effects on alewife condition in experiments due to its poor quality as a prey item. Changes in condition are associated with die-offs of alewife, the principal prey item supporting the Lake Ontario salmonid fishery.

Conservation Biology

Dr. James Gibbs has initiated new DEC sponsored MS research on softshell turtles at Sodus Bay this summer (basic movement, populations, habitat). He is also working on DEC sponsored PhD research on bog turtles in Hudson Valley at Tenmile Wetland Complex on dispersal and MS research on bog turtles in Hudson Valley at Bog Brook looking at interactions with invasive species. James will continue NYS DOT research on effects of roads on amphibians and reptiles and ways to mitigate for road mortality. Other studies include finishing up a PhD study looking at effects of road salt on larval amphibians and supporting an MS student doing DEC sponsored research on spruce grouse in the Adirondacks. His new book, "Amphibians and Reptiles of New York State: Identification, Natural History and Conservation" (Oxford, late 2006) represents a major wildlife outreach effort to the citizens of NYS.

Forest stewardship Program, Gerald J. Andritz, Division of Lands and Forests, DEC

Forest Stewardship Program

Authority - Established by 1990 Farm Bill

Amended Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978

ECL Title 7 - Cooperative Forest Management

USDA Forest Service – Forest Stewardship Program National Standards and Guidelines

<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/>

National Standards & Guidelines, September 2005

Establish program purpose

State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee

State Forest Stewardship Program Plan

Landowner Eligibility

Program Outreach

LO Management Plan Standards

National Standards & Guidelines

Continuing Education for Stewardship

Forest Stewardship Recognition

Monitoring FS Plan Implementation

Accomplishment Reporting

Funding Guidelines and Management

FSP Purposes

Encourage long term stewardship of NIPF lands

Assist owners to more actively manage forest and related resources

Provide technical forestry assistance from State, Federal and Private sources

Implementation of FSP

Secretary of Agriculture to provide financial, technical, educational and related assistance to
State Forester
Annual Appropriation
State / Federal Cooperative Program
State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee - SFSCC
Five Year FS Program Plan

State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee

FSP – Recommendations for Program Plan to State Forester
FLEP – State Priority Plan development with State Forester
Forest Legacy – Recommendations of tracts for acquisition to the Secretary of Agriculture

SFSCC Constituency

USFS
NRCS
FSA
State Extension
Local government
Consulting Foresters
Forest Landowners
Land trusts
Conservation groups
State F&W agency
Forest industry
Environmental groups

New York's FS Program

Forest Stewardship Program Plan
Landowner Eligibility
NYS DEC
Private Natural Resource Professionals
State Extension Forester – CCE
Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/df/>

Forest Stewardship Program Plan

Mission statement –” To protect and enhance forest values through planned management on private forest land in NY.”
Stewardship Goals – heighten landowner awareness of stewardship ethic and influence landowner behavior

Landowner Eligibility

Voluntary program
Non-industrial private forest owner (NIPF)
Rural lands with tree cover or suitable to grow trees - in NY 5 acres
Agree to manage according to FSP
Understand they may be asked to participate in outcome monitoring activity

NYS DEC

Secure USFS grants for FSP

Service Foresters – Provide technical assistance

Assist landowners in preparation of Forest Stewardship Plans

Participate in educational events

Compile and report accomplishments

Natural Resource Professional, Private Foresters

Provide technical assistance

Assist landowners in preparation of Forest Stewardship Plans

Assist landowners in FS plan implementation

Report accomplishments to DEC

State Extension Forester

Landowner educational events

Web based educational material www.forestconnect.info

Publications

Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan

Landowner, property and preparer identification

Landowner goals

Property description / history

Description of resources related to LO goals

Stand information – cover type, resource info, mgt. objective, recommended actions

Location and stand maps

Work schedule

Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan – Optional Elements

Stand characteristics – Inventory

Interaction of surrounding properties

Long range silvicultural objectives

Management Unit Analysis

TIME narrative

Forest Land Enhancement Program

Complementary Program to encourage implementation of Forest Stewardship Plans

FLEP

State Priority Plan - SFSCC

Technical Assistance

Educational Assistance

Financial Assistance – Cost share

Eligibility Financial Assistance

NIPF Landowner 5 acres or more

Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan

Maintain Practice for 10 years

50 acres or less and \$5,000 or less annually

Sustainable Practices

- * Forest Stewardship Plan
- Afforestation / reforestation
- Forest stand improvement
- Water quality improvement & protection
- Fish & Wildlife habitat
- Forest health & protection
- Invasive species control
- Catastrophic event rehabilitation

Sierra Club, John Stouffer, Legislative Office

(A handout was provide to the Board on the 2006 Legislative Priorities of the Sierra Club)

Founded by John Mur in 1894 to help save the Yosemite Valley from a dam proposed on the river.

The Atlantic Chapter was founded some time in the 1960s. There is now eleven local groups in NY.

Goal is to protect NY's natural resources.

Development of the environment has lead the Sierra Club to develop policies that are being pushed legislatively:

- Wetlands: Expanding NYS wetland protection law (to compensate changes in federal protection).
 - Wants to protect isolated wetlands at the one acre size range.
- Solid Waste/Recycling: Better bottle bill to include water bottles.
- Environmental funding: issues such as EPF for land acquisition, NPS projects, aquatic habitat restoration.
- Energy/Global Climate change: is of concern to Sierra Club members. This last winter brought this issue home.
- Other programs the Sierra Club are involved in include the "Cool Cities Program" and greenhouse gas initiatives.
- Open Space and sprawl: issues are of concern.
- Industrial Development:
- Population:

There were questions about the Sierra Club's position of preservation of timber and their anti-cutting position. This is a position held by the membership and has been transferred into a policy. It was suggested by the Board that the Sierra Club review this policy. This policy does not relate to State Reforestation Areas. There was also concern that the Sierra Club's anti-cutting policy is also impacting the entire ecosystem of the forest community.

Old business:

Responses to last fail meeting's resolutions:

Resolution 2005-02-02 Training and Incident Command Center - Response from DEC Law Enforcement Director Lewis thanking the Board for their support and indicating the this is one of his highest priorities and has the support of Commissioner Sheehan.

Resolution 2005-02-01 to increase Regional Board budgets- Response from Director Barnhart indicating that the DEC will consider funding when planning for the new budget. The DEC will need some additional information on need and impact on the Boards ability to get their job done.

The Region 6 members indicated that they were told that the region would not pay to reimburse their milage. Region 4 had to reduce their number of meetings by one per year. There was concern that cost of fuel is increasing and the travel for individual members may be more in some regions that other regions because of travel distances.

Chairmans Report - Robert Banks

Noted that there were quite a few members absent from the meeting. Committee meetings will be held tonight at 7 PM.

Committee Members:

The following is the assignments as of 10/28/04

Executive:	Joe Molinaro	Region 3	Absent for Spring meeting
	Michael Zeh	Region 4	
	Bob Banks	Region 5	
	Pat Arnold	Region 6	
	Bud Woodfield	Region 7	
	Emory Green	Region 8	
	Walt Hallbauer	Region 9	
	Jack Cooper	Secretary	
Habitat:	Gary Evans	Chairman	
	Richard Fox		
	John Tusch		
	Emory Green		
	Ray Merlatto		Absent for Spring meeting
Access:	Bill Pike	Chairman	
	Pat Arnold		
	Barlow Rhodes		Absent for Spring meeting
	Tom Grow		
Resolutions:	Glenn Larison	Chairman	
	Barbara Brown		
	Judy Aldrich		
	Walt Hallbauer		
Legislative:	Bud Woodfield		
	Joe Molinaro		Absent for Spring meeting

Farm Days: Emory Green
Joe Molinaro Absent for Spring meeting
Bud Woodfield
Pat Arnold
Gary Evans

Nominating: Walt Hallbauer
Joe Molinaro Absent for Spring meeting
Bill Pike

Friday October 28, 2005

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

The fall 2006 meeting of the Statewide Board will be held October 26, 27 and 28, 2006 in Region 8. The Executive Committee fall meeting will be held August 30 from 11:00 AM till 2:00 PM at Herkimer, Lands and Forests Office. It was suggested that the meeting be held in Canandaigua or Geneva area. Meetings or a field trip might be held at Montezuma Management Area or Seneca Army Depot. We will check in to possibility of having the Thursday meeting at the Seneca Army Depot, followed by a field trip to see the area.

Other possible meeting topics include: Greg Gessman of SWCD to give a talk on stream habitat restoration, Regional Director to welcome to Region 8, Dave Odell to talk about Montezuma wetlands, Dennis Money to talk on white deer herd, CANY, Bill Hilts possible banquet speaker, someone from CCFL to talk about fisheries- JohnViNeil, oil and gas program or mined land reclamation, pipeline projects, deer management in Irondequoit, Aldo Leopold Education Project by NYSCC, river otter project.

There was discussion about last spring's resolution to request more money for Regional FWM Board budgets. In some regions the Natural Resources Supervisor is limiting the number of meetings because of a lack of money and perhaps staff, Region 4 and 6. In other regions there does not seem to be a problem, Region 5 and 8.

Habitat Committee

Discussed the use of habitat/access stamps in other states, there is questions about whether they are required for non-residents and residents. The discussion continued about a new proposal in NYS to increase the cost of the habitat/access stamp for non-residents to \$10 and make it mandatory. The money would be used to pay landowners to allow access on private lands. The Committee would like to see that money given to the regions to distribute to landowners. The committee is recommending a resolution to support a \$5 required habitat/access stamp for non-residents. The proceeds would then be distributed to each region to be awarded to landowners.

Access Committee

South Bay Pier is being restored with a handicapped fishing access. Half of the project is located in the Adirondack Park which adds more paperwork to the project.

The DEC hired staff to conduct a icefishing creel survey on Lake George, however due to lack of ice those people were used to erect PFR signs on the Battenkill.

There is a problem with a landowner preventing access to PFR on the Battenkill.

It was reported that there were discussions with Director Barnhart about paying landowners to allow access, no feedback has occurred from the DEC.

There is problems with the disabilities act that needs to be resolved, the DEC is working on it.

There was discussion about a situation in Sullivan County, Town of Highland Lake where the DEC owns a lake that is surrounded by private lands. There was a question on how to effect public access to this lake that was acquired through back taxes. There was a suggestion about looking at the requirement of a law to prevent "landlocked" properties. The DEC would need to look into this option. The Region needs to initiate this effort.

There was a follow-up on the Statewide Fish and Wildlife Management Board's access/posted sign. This sign is a legal posting sign, and meets the requirements as defined in the State Posting Law.

Resolutions Committee

- The Board will provide a letter in support of the Farm Bureau Policies provided at the Spring 2006 meeting.
- Resolution 2006-01-01 Title: Resolution in Support of a Bill designed to provide a personal tax deduction to private landowners for allowing access to the public.
- Resolution 2006-01-02 Title: Resolution in Support of the Department of Environmental Conservation making repairs to roads and seeking funding to prevent their closure.
- Resolution 2006-01-03 Title: Resolution in Support of a mandatory Habitat/Access Stamp for non-resident hunting and fishing license buyers and that monies collected from the sale of this mandatory stamp be divided equally between the nine DEC Regions to be used for habitat and access projects selected a by joint DEC, Regional Fish and Wildlife Management Board partnership.
- Resolution 2006-06-04 Title: Resolution in Support of the adoption of regulations to permit the use of specific modified devices to allow for hunting, fishing and trapping by physically challenged persons and allow for the opening the Seneca Army Depot to the physically challenged and the general public for the purposed of hunting, fishing, trapping and other recreational uses.

The Board discussed whether the Board should support policy number 5. There was suggestion that the Board's letter of support delete number 5. This will be voted on Saturday morning during the resolution vote.

Guest Speakers

Physically Challenged Bowhunters of America - Mark Bergin

The PCBA is a non-profit organization founded to assist physically disabled persons with actively participating in bowhunting and archery sports. A major emphasis is placed on reaching people with disabilities who have never been exposed to the greatest recreational therapy in the world - bowhunting and archery.

The PCBA provides newly injured and inexperienced sportspersons with disabilities critical information and services on techniques, opportunities and adaptive equipment to help them participate in the sport. This information is provided at no charge to the disabled sportsperson. According to the PCBA there are over 20 million U.S. citizens suffering from long term physical impairments that could adversely affect their ability to participate in hunting activities. In addition, with this counties involvement in armed conflicts around the world, thousands of soldier are returning with injuries that could preclude them from these activities.

The PCBA promotes the use of specially modified archery equipment, including the crossbow, for persons with certain permanent physical disabilities.

Mark showed the Board a video of a recent PCBA pronghorn hunt in Wyoming. He also described a PCBA hunt in Ohio for whitetailed deer. Mark followed this with a demonstration of his own archery equipment using a specially constructed bow with a draw lock.

Mark is hoping to sponsor a turkey hunt here in NY State in the near future.

The PCBA has an annual organizational meeting each year, this year it will be at the Bass Pro Shop in Springfield, Missouri. PCBA has a newsletter and a website (www.pcba-inc.org).

IT WAS OUR HERITAGE, AND IT IS AGAIN!



New York Audubon - David Miller, Director

The National Audubon is celebrating it's 100th year, here in New York, Audubon has 50,000 members and 30 local chapters with various committees and centers including the staff at the Cornell Ornithology Lab.

Audubon mission was and still is to provide education and protection of natural resources (birds other wildlife and their habitats through sound science). New York was one of the first states in the U.S. to ban certain bird plumage and was the home of many of the early leaders in the conservation movement, including Teddy Roosevelt. Many of the original Audubon wardens were killed while protecting resources. Roger Troy Peterson was hired by Audubon in 1934 to head up the education effort.

The important bird areas program is an important effort here in New York- identifies important bird habitats through science.

The bird conservation area program was legislation to require management plans for state lands to protect birds.

Other important issues here in NY:

- wetlands protection
- funding for environmental programs
- hunting and fishing license fees
- ecosystem management for bird protection and environmental protection.
- public access
- coastal zone areas
- working with the Adirondacks and Catskills
- sustainable forestry on state and private lands
- Great Lakes
- education - over ½ of Audubon's resources go for education.

NY Audubon is excited about the new Montezuma Audubon Bird Center in Savannah, Wayne County which will provide an educational resource for many inter-city children among others.

Audubon has a strong relationship with sportsmen and women's organizations. Audubon supports hunting and fishing activities and access as long as the species can support it.

Audubon is working on a plan and fact sheet on Avian Flu. Domestic birds are the most significant threat to humans. Wild birds do not present a significant risk.

Canal Lands Acquisition - Jeff Mapes, Division of Lands and Forests

- Creation of Erie Canal Greenway (one of two others: Hudson Valley and Niagara River)
- Report on the future of the NYS Canals recommends: encourage public use, eliminate user fees, complete greenway trail, transfer control of certain areas to other State Agencies
- Disposition of Canal Lands: lands will either be "retained" or "Uncategorized"
- DEC or OPRHP are reviewing uncategorized lands for possible new ownership
- Lands will be transferred to DEC or OPRHP
- Regional staff reviewing lands, determining if valuable wildlife habitat
- Sports people are encouraged to contact the Regional NR Supervisor with input
- New Legislation to create a Erie Canal Greenway Council
- The DEC has county maps that show canal lands being considered for divestment.

Ecology and Distribution of American Marten in New York State by Paul G. Jensen, Region 5 Bureau of Wildlife

- ◆ Why Study: limited distribution in NY, geographical isolation of population in NY, our knowledge of distribution, habitat use and limiting factors is lacking, Martins are indicators of forest health
- ◆ Martin were originally found throughout the Adirondacks and Catskills, declined in 30's, trapping season closed in 1936, limited trapping season reopened in 1978.
- ◆ Trapping data important for determining current distribution and range in Adirondacks
- ◆ Data Gaps exist in areas where trapping is not permitted
- ◆ Martin Inventory designed to eliminate data gaps

- ◆ Survey to include: tracking counts and cameras
- ◆ Objectives to determine: home range, habitat selection, juvenile dispersal and mortality factors
- ◆ Animals were trapped, tagged and some were radio collared.
- ◆ It has been determined that a males home ranges is approximately 4.7 square kilometers and a female's is 2.6 square kilometers. Males home ranges do not overlap with other males however they do with female home ranges.
- ◆ This work is being paid for via Conservation Fund and Federal Aid.

Winter Turkey Survey and Banding Study by Karl Parker, Region 4 Bureau of Wildlife

- ◆ Objectives: assess feasibility of a standardized winter turkey survey, develop standardized procedures, compile information on size and locations of flocks during winter, monitor trends in relative abundance
- ◆ Survey approach: identify 3-5 flocks per county during 2006-08, record flocks observed, conduct long term monitoring
- ◆ 200 reports from 46 counties
- ◆ Next steps: compile result from this year, modify survey methods as needed, select sampling locations, begin long term monitoring in 2009, use minimum staff and time to do survey
- ◆ Banding Study: cooperation with PA Game and Fish, Ohio Game and Fish, New York Fish and Wildlife, National Wild Turkey Federation, Penn State
- ◆ Purpose: first major assessment of turkey survival since 1970's, investigate trends in harvest and productivity, learn relationship with landscape features, decision making tool
- ◆ Plan: band 300 gobblers statewide between January and March using a "Rocket Net", funnel trap or other methods.
- ◆ Hens were also banded if captured
- ◆ 295 gobblers, 328 hens were captured in 24 counties
- ◆ Birds were captured in NY, PA and Ohio, NY caught the most (287), PA (219) and Ohio (170)

NYSDEC Sportsman Education by Wayne Jones, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources

1940s Voluntary Courses

1949 Law: Required new hunters under 17

1951: under 21

1960: All ages

1975: Federal Aid \$ for Sportsman Ed (Pittman-Robertson Amended)

1977: Bowhunter Ed required for NEW bowhunters.

1980: Bowhunter Ed required for ALL bowhunters.

1980: Trapper Ed Required for new trappers

Recent Developments

QUALITY: International Hunter Ed Standards

AVAILABILITY:

Partial Home Study

Workbooks

Computer Based

News from the survey:

Over 80% of instructors can do live fire or simulated live fire now.

NOTE that even with the new, less demanding IHEA learning standards, live fire or simulated live fire is still required for all students.

This brings up two questions...

QUESTION 1: Can and should NY make live fire or simulated live fire mandatory?

ANSWERS: Yes and Yes

QUESTION 2: IF there is any problem accomplishing this, WHAT WOULD IT TAKE?

ANSWER: About 20% of gun courses need: more time; or more instructors; or bigger or better facilities; more equipment; etc.

New Policy on IHEA Standards

Required by Jan. 31, 2008

80% of courses can do it now.

The other 20% have two years to prepare and work with DEC to solve problems.

Policy provides for temporary exemptions (due to physical or legal limits – not time or class size) after 1/31/08 to solve problems.

Our Hunter Ed team had to turn

down 40 people,

Students do as well as in traditional course

Students spend MORE TIME studying

Students spend MORE TIME doing HANDS-ON exercises in class/range/field

EASIER TO DO? NO

EASIER TO GET? YES

New Hunting Safety Record

29 injuries

15 big game

14 small game

4 fatal (3 while deer hunting)

19 per 100,000 in 1960s

6.5 per 100,000 since 2000

Junior Hunters

SUPERVISED: Safest of an age group

UNSUPERVISED: Most likely to cause a hunting-related shooting incident.

85% of incidents caused by Jr. Hunters are caused by those illegally hunting unsupervised.

CHALLENGES

Quality needed for safe & responsible hunting

More courses in more locations needed for convenience of busy people

More instructors needed!

Join the Team!

Instructor Applications

Call toll-free: 1-888-HUNT-ED2

www.dec.state.ny.us

DEC Youth Camps by Alan Mapes, Division of Public Affairs

Gave the Board an overview of the DEC camps: Camp Colby is full and Camp DeBruce is on its way. The cost remain the same this year as in the past. The DEC is trying to attract a more diverse mix of youth. Hunting and fishing activities remain an important part of the camp experience. Youth are given the opportunity to attend sportsman's education. Many campers are taking advantage of this opportunity. At Pack Forest, shooting sports is offered each week of the camp. This program is very popular with campers. The camp use volunteer instructors to teach the sportsman's education classes. Bowhunter training is offered for the "return" week at camp. Fishing and fly tying is very popular.

Staffing at the camps remain strong with directors and assistant directors, many of who were campers themselves. Many new regulations from the Health Department to protect students.

Camps are normally full, applicants are offered other camps if camps fill up. Local legislators are offered free slots for deserving kids at no cost. The DEC camps are constantly be updated and upgraded.

DEC Environmental Education Camps by Laurel Remis, Director Division of Public affairs

Diversity Initiative 2005
DEC Summer Youth Camps

"We were enthusiastic about giving these campers some new experiences and activities and trying to make sure that they enjoyed them."

2005 Camp Counselor

Staff members of color integrated into the camp program

Capital District Campers participate in
Martin Luther King Parade - January, 2005

Connecting Urban Youth with the
Natural Environment

Crew planted 60 trees in 60 minutes as part of a national effort to set a new world record for most trees planted in one hour.

Capital District and Urban Park Ranger camp recruits meet at *The Gates* after a youth development day at Inwood Hills Nature Center

"It has been wonderful for the staff to see the urban-based campers come to enjoy an experience so different from that of their daily lives."

2005 Camp Counselor

"It is our expectation that some of these youth will one day seek higher education and careers in environmental fields".

2005 Camp Director

Pack Forest Alumnae Sailed the Hudson for Three Days, with Young Women at the Helm-
On board the *Clearwater* sloop

State of the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources By Commissioner Denise Sheehan, NYS DEC

The Commissioner thanked the Board for inviting her back to speak with the Board.

The Budget is being passed as we speak. The Governor included \$180 million for the EFP Fund, the legislature may propose an additional \$20 million to the EPF. There are some great things included in the EPF including: openspace, stewardship funding, invasive species control, new initiatives for oceans and the great lakes.

The new budget would include \$5 million for hatchery modernization. The legislature has tabled portions that would include additional staff for wetlands and stewardship.

Additional funding for CWD monitoring.

The Department's Legislative Agenda: statutory protection for personal privacy (DECALS data base), lower the age for deer hunting with gun and bow, habitat access reserve incentive bill to promote access to private lands and habitat improvement on private lands.

Habitat/Access reserve incentive: would help create more access and habitat for fish and wildlife, landowners must have lands recognized as important fish and wildlife habitat and must enroll a minimum of 25 acres for a minimum of 10 years. Landowners would need to manage lands consistent with a management plan development with the DEC and could receive up to 50 dollars per acre depending on the amount of public access allowed. The program would be funded from the Habitat Account of the Conservation Fund. To create an annual fund to pay for the program a mandatory non-resident habitat/access stamp fee of up to \$10 is proposed. Additional funds could come from the "Open Fields" Legislation at the Federal level.

Open Space, 946,000 acres protected through, public fishing rights, acquisition of lands, easements. The Open Space Plan draft comment period has just ended and will be finalized this year.

Waterway access is an important issue: Freemans Bridge Boat Launch, Hudson River in, on Long Island at Peterson Marina, other sites.

Air and Water Quality programs are important areas, acid rain, Clean Air Interstate Rule from EPA, Ozone reduction, greenhouse gas vehicle standards, reduction of greenhouse gases in the NE, reduction of nitrogen discharges to Long Island Sound by NYC STPs.

Invasive Species Task Force report issued last year. Report includes many recommendations, the legislature provided a million dollars for control of invasive species. Grant program is underway and the Department is accepting proposals. The DEC wants to include more research and education in the funding proposal.

The Commissioner provided information on the 2005 deer take, the take was down 14% from 2004. This was an anticipated decrease because of the reduction in DMU permits, doe harvest was down from 2004, however the buck take was the same as for 2004 in most areas. The population seems to be stabilizing and the mild winter should add to that. No new cases of CWD has been found from the original cases. Sampling will continue through next fall. All groups

involved have been working well together; DEC, USDA, Ag and Markets and hunters. The bear take was a record in Allegheny and Catskill due to expanding bear population. The Adirondack take was down.

Regulatory changes, antler restrictions in some areas was a success, proposing to expand in some other areas. DMU permit issuance is being looked at the make issuance more equitable for landowners and hunters and meeting the needs of managers.

Youth hunting is an important initiative and the DEC supports expansion of the program. The 2005 license year was the safest year for hunting accidents to date.

The state began a turkey study this year along with the states of PA, Ohio, Penn State and National Wild Turkey Federation.

A strong year class of Walleye was noted for New York State and especially Lake Erie. Smallmouth bass catch rate remains strong. The tributaries to Lake Erie and Ontario are producing an excellent fishery. Lake Ontario supports a record catch of trout and salmon. The Department is proposing regulations to allow for catch and release for black bass during the currently closed season. Also a catch and release season for trout and salmon in lake tributaries in Western New York. Other changes to angling regulations are being proposed.

Hatchery repair and upgrading is being proposed at South Otselic Hatchery, Rome Hatchery and Fish Disease Lab, Randolph Hatchery and Salmon River Hatchery.

State Wildlife Grants Program is an important activity to protect species in greatest need. We will be working with the Federal Government, partners and others.

The DEC will be hosting the annual meeting of the American Fishery Society in Lake Placid.

Other important DEC programs include: I Fish NY program, Empire State Outdoors Program, Montezuma Audubon Center.

Saturday October 29, 2005

Resolutions

1) Resolution 2006-01-01 Title: Resolution in Support of a Bill designed to provide a personal tax deduction to private landowners for allowing access to the public. **A motion was duly made by Bill Pike and seconded by Judy Aldrich to support resolution 2006-01-01. The motion was unanimously approved.**

2) Resolution 2006-01-02 Title: Resolution in Support of the Department of Environmental Conservation to make repairs to roads and seek funding to prevent their closure. **A motion was duly made by Bud Woodfield and seconded by Judy Aldrich to support resolution 2006-01-02. A motion was duly made by Judy Aldrich and seconded by Barbara Brown to amend the resolution by adding, "WHEREAS, the closing of these roads would have a negative impact on fire and emergency rescue operations," The motion was unanimously approved. The original motion, as amended was unanimously approved.**

3) Resolution 2006-01-03 Title: Resolution in Support of a mandatory Habitat/Access Stamp for non-resident hunting and fishing license buyers and that monies collected from the sale of this mandatory stamp be divided equally between the nine DEC Regions to be used for habitat and access projects selected a by joint DEC, Regional Fish and Wildlife Management Board partnership.

A motion was duly made by Chuck Couture and seconded by Emory Green to support resolution 2006-01-03. The motion was unanimously approved.

4) Resolution 2006-06-04 Title: Resolution in Support of the adoption of regulations to permit the use of specific modified devices to allow for hunting, fishing and trapping by physically challenged persons and allow for the opening the Seneca Army Depot to the physically challenged and the general public for the purposed of hunting, fishing, trapping and other recreational uses. **A motion was duly made by Walt Hallbauer and seconded by Emory Green to support resolution 2006-01-04.**

A motion was duly made Emory Green and seconded by Rick Page to table resolution 2006-06-04 to allow for further research. The motion failed, discussion continued.

There was a feeling the that the resolution was poorly worded and has an additional issue tacked onto the end of the resolution. There was a suggestion that the Board come back to the Fall meeting with a better worded resolution. It was suggested that the Board secretary find out what the current restrictions are on handicapped hunting implements and bring it back to the Fall meeting. There was a suggested that someone come to the Fall meeting to describe the requirement of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

A motion was made by Bob Banks and seconded by Emory Green to table Resolution 2006-01-04 pending more research on the subject. The motion was unanimously approved. Resolution 2006-01-04 is tabled.

A motion was duly made by Emory Green and seconded by Barbara Brown to send a letter in support of the Farm Bureau Policies provided at the Spring 2006 meeting. A motion was duly made by Bob Banks and seconded by Bud Woodfield to delete item 5 from the letter of support. The vote on the new motion to delete item 5 was by show of hands, the motion passed. Item 5 will be deleted. A vote on the original motion of sending a letter of support for the Farm Bureau Policies (less item 5) was unanimously approved.

Fish and Wildlife Management Board Elections

Walt Hallbauer, chairman, nominating committee presided.

The nominating committee was made up of: Walt Hallbauer, Bill Pike, Gary Evans

Walt reviewed the By-Laws pertaining to nominating candidates for the entire Board. There are 17 voting members voting present.

The nominating committee made the following recommendations:

Candidate for Chairman: Bob Banks

Pat Arnold
no nominations from the floor

Pat Arnold elected Board Chairman at 2006 Annual meeting (Spring 2006)

Vice-Chair: Bill Pike

Executive Committee: Joe Molinaro
Gary Evans
Walt Hallbauer

Secretary: Jack Cooper

Fish and Wildlife Management Board Rep to CFAB: Bud Woodfield

A motion was duly made by Emory Green and seconded by Judy Aldrich to have the secretary cast one ballot for the remaining slate of candidates. The motion was unanimously approved.

There was no additional nominations from the floor.

A motion was duly made by Gary Evans and seconded by Bud Woodfield that the nominations be closed and the secretary cast one vote for the remaining candidates. The motion was unanimously approved.

The new slate of officers were elected by a single vote cast by the secretary. The new officers for the Statewide Fish and Wildlife Management Board are as follows:

Chairperson:	Pat Arnold
Vice-Chair:	Bill Pike
Executive Committee:	Joe Molinaro, Gary Evans, Walt Hallbauer
FWMB rep on CFAB:	Bud Woodfield
Secretary:	Jack Cooper

The Board thanked Bob Banks for his 3 years as Board chair and welcomed Pat Arnold as the new Board chairperson.

There was a suggestion that each Regional Board send their minutes to the other Regional Boards. It was suggested that each Regional Board secretary send copies of minutes to the other Regional Board secretaries.

Pat Arnold indicated that she would like a list of the dates of the Regional Board meeting so that she could plan on attending if possible. She would also like to have a list of youth events in the respective regions.

John Tusch offered a prayer for everyone's safe journey home.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jack G. Cooper
Biologist 3 (Ecology)
Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources

Statewide Fish and Wildlife Management Board Secretary

Members: Representatives of County Boards of Supervisors/County Legislators, Landowners and Sportsman

Advisory Members: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, New York State Conservation Council Inc., Farm Bureau of New York, New York State Grange, New York State Forest Practice Board, Izaak Walton League of America; New York State Division, New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, New York State College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University, New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University.

REGION 9 NYS F&W MGT. BOARD

Resolution

Resolution 2006-01-01 Title: Resolution in Support of a Bill designed to provide a personal tax deduction to private landowners for allowing access to the public.

WHEREAS, Outdoor opportunities are becoming more limited on private land for Sportsmen, and access to this land is a trespass and liability issue; concerning the importance of the continuation of our Conservation Ethic and Outdoor Heritage in the Empire State, and

WHEREAS, the NYS F&W Management Board is established with the direct responsibilities of increasing Public Access on land and water along with Wildlife Habitat establishment, improvement and awareness, and

WHEREAS, the NYS F&W Management Board is dedicated to promote ACCESS; to help reduce private property posting acreage increases in New York State,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Legislation is entered and passed by the NYS Assembly and the NYS Senate, and approved by the Governor; a Bill designed to provide a personal tax deduction off of the New York State Income Tax to private landowners allowing Access to the Public. The State will have the right to limit the deduction amount per acre and the right of a “not to exceed” total dollar amount per landowner on the deed(s) and a property acre minimum; established by the approved Legislation.

NYSFWMB Resolution 2006-2 Presented by the FWMB Resolutions Committee

Resolution 2006-01-02 Title: Resolution in Support of the Department of Environmental Conservation make to repairs to roads and seek funding to prevent their closure.

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the NYSFWMB that several roads within lands managed by NYSDEC are in a state of disrepair,

And, WHEREAS, the NYSDEC does not have monies appropriated for the repair of said roads,

And, WHEREAS, these roads will have to be closed at the end of this year due to the lack of repairs, and such closings will negatively impact access to the areas currently served by these roads,

WHEREAS, the closing of these roads would have a negative impact on fire and emergency rescue operations,

And, WHEREAS, many groups would block the re-opening of the roads once closed,

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the NYSFWMB respectfully requests that NYSDEC make the repairs of these roads a high priority and seek adequate funding to prevent closure.

NYSFWMB Resolution 2006-3 Presented by the Habitat Committee

Resolution 2006-01-03 Title: Resolution in Support of a mandatory Habitat/Access Stamp for non-resident hunting and fishing license buyers and that monies collected from the sale of this mandatory stamp be divided equally between the nine DEC Regions to be used for habitat and access projects selected a by joint DEC, Regional Fish and Wildlife Management Board partnership.

WHEREAS, non-resident sportsmen are not required to purchase a Habitat Access Stamp currently,

and WHEREAS, the programs that create access and habitat are currently funded by the efforts of taxpayers of New York State and sportsmen and sportswomen of New York State,

THEREFORE, the NYSFWMB Habitat Committee recommends that:

- A) that a Habitat Access Stamp be mandatory for all non-resident hunting and fishing licenses sold,
- B) that the Habitat Access Stamp will remain voluntary for all residents of New York State,
- C) that annually, monies collected from the Habitat Access Stamp sales be released and equally divided between all nine regions, and
- D) in partnership with regional NYSDEC and the Regional FWMB, projects will be selected and funded based on pre-established and approved criteria.