

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Charlie Ames**

Here it is Labor Day weekend and the summer is officially over. Where did it go? However we still have a lot of great fishing left. The Lake Ontario fishing has been spotty. The numbers are down but the size has been excellent. Jerry Lougnot and I went out with Roy Hunsberger on Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> and had a fun day. We caught 2 nice salmon and one brown. Jerry had a chunky 28+ pounder. The day before Roy and Mike Roche had 2 and Mike caught his biggest fish ever, a nice king 34 lbs. From what we could gather, talking with people and listening to the radio we did better than most.

The fishing on Oneida is still good but you have to work for them. Bill Thomas and I have been trolling at the east end with some success but you have to put in a long day to get the limit. Jerry Lougnot and Rick Paninski are still doing good in the weeds but the location changes on a daily basis. Jerry and Rick have started to pick up some perch in the deep water so that should be peaking soon. I have heard some reports that perch are hitting at Henderson Harbor.

The volunteer cormorant harassment program started this week with many of our members participating. This will be extremely important for the remainder of the month since this is when the birds migrate south and will stop at Oneida unless they are harassed.

Brian Garrett gave an excellent presentation at our August meeting. We all picked up a number of useful rigging tips which will put more fish in the box. We were happy to see Dan Bishop and Fran Verdalisa at the meeting. They brought us up to date on a number of issues. They will be able to be at our final meeting of the year at the hatchery on October 20<sup>th</sup> so pencil that in.

**Be sure to attend our September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting at Gander Mountain** when Greg Hackett will give a presentation on panfishing. We'll see you there at 7:00 PM.

### **PICNIC/DERBY CONTRIBUTOR**

Thanks to Screwy Louie's Sport Shop, Main St., Fair Haven, and W. First St., Oswego, for their contribution to our picnic raffle. We apologize that they were left off the list in the last newsletter. Please be sure to patronize all of our contributors!

### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

The deadline for the next newsletter will be October 1. All information should be sent to Libby Lougnot, 8205 Yukon Dr., Cicero, NY 13039 e-mail: [LibbyL@tweny.rr.com](mailto:LibbyL@tweny.rr.com)

### **FAIR HAVEN CHALLENGE**

Congratulations to ELOSTA member Greg Dale of Team Trouble Shooter. Greg received a check for \$250 from ELOSTA for his 30.90 lb King Salmon caught in the Fair Haven Challenge on August 28.

**MINUTES**  
**General membership meeting**  
**August 18, 2010**

The August meeting was held at the Gander Mountain in Cicero on the 18th. Treasurer, Tom Lott indicated that we spent \$1169.35 on door prizes etc. for the picnic and we made a profit of \$1328.65 after all was said & done. It was an average profit considering that we bought more prizes than usual due to many of our donors cutting back.

As an aside...we forgot to mention one of our biggest donors in the last newsletter...Screwie Louie's in Fair Haven & Oswego always gives us many gifts and has been doing so for many years beginning when Louie & Sandy owned the store. Please patronize all of our donors.

A surprise guest showed up at the meeting....Dan Bishop, Regional Fisheries Manager from Reg. 7 escaped the office in Cortland to let us in on the latest goings-on with DEC. Reg.'s 6 & 7 are getting together to start the hazing of cormorants on Oneida Lake with help from The Oneida Lake Association and volunteers. They are NOT getting any help from Albany due to budget restraints. The Feds didn't allocate anything for this year or next year so they have to do it on their own. Cormorants eat a pound of fish a day and they have been responsible for the decline of perch & walleye in Oneida. There might be a large hatch of gizzard shad this year so that may take some of the heat off perch & walleye. Regional director, Ken Lynch will work with the OLA to coordinate the hazing.

The fall migration usually shows up at the end of Aug. DEC may also do some culling.

There will also be a fall creel survey done by four staff which will be funded by the Feds. Dan also said that they have found many young of the year kings & coho in the Salmon River as well as natural reproduction.

Fran Verdoliva said that there are lots of Atlantic Salmon in the river as well. One recent evening he and two others landed 17 in 3 hrs. of fishing. These are very aggressive fish and Fran indicated that they may have to put some restrictions on the flyfishing... such as restricting the anglers to use only floating flies and line. One of our members, Ken Esser, brought a picture of an atlantic that he caught recently in the fly - only section. Very pretty.

Fran reminded us that National Hunting and Fishing Day will be Sept.25 and the hatchery will be open with many displays. We will again be manning a booth. He also needs help this Fall to donate time to help him host the public as he gets many visitors, sometimes up to 500 school kids at a time. Call Fran at the Hatchery if you'd like to help out.

Our guest speaker was Capt. Brian Garrett who operates normally out of Mexico Point after he fishes the western basin in April & May. Brian had many ideas that he shared with us on some of his techniques.

- he uses OR 19 clips with 6-7 ft cheaters above attractors, mag spoons for kings.
- on spin-docs he pinches the clip in front so kings won't open it up
- he ties all flies 23"
- puts a loop on the back of the attractor instead of a snap swivel
- he by-passes the swivel -- leaves it on to act as a noisemaker
- green-glo attractor with a green fly is his basic attractor
- he uses tri-beads on his flies to give off bubbles
- most attractors are put 12 to 15 ft. behind the ball
- on occasion he runs a spin-docs 3 ft behind the ball
- this year he uses all mag. spoons for kings
- he says that big kings are laying on bottom in 80 -150 feet of water now
- kings will be out of temp at any time...dont be afraid to put a lure in 65 degree water
- he likes to find 55 degree water on bottom
- in front of 9-mile troll N-S as the current is very strong
- fish against the current

That is some of Brian's ideas and we're very happy that he was willing to share some of his tactics with us. Our association was organized for fishermen to share ideas and tactics. We feel that there is enough fish in that lake for everybody. Our thanks again to Brian for doing a great job.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Thomas, Sec.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Doug Fuegel

The St. Lawrence River has turned out to be quite a fishery this year in fact it was not too bad last year. Why the rather sudden turn around? It was only a few years ago anglers were complaining of few northerns, spotty perch fishing and small ones at that, few anglers limiting out on bass and a musky fishery that almost collapsed due to the VHS virus. I remember well the doomsayers predicting our entire ale Ontario fishery would crash with the discovery of round goby's a few years ago. The prediction was they would attack and devour the spawn and young of our game fish, maybe they did to some extent but they also have in my opinion provided a whole new banquet table for our targeted fish. In the last couple of years I have never seen or caught fat round perch that consistently ran ten inches or better, northern pike fishing has been phenomenal this season and the bass fishing has been good but you had to locate them. We know the musky fishing has improved as evidence by the great presentation Bob Walters gave at our July meeting. For now the goby seems to be a welcome blessing as a food source however by their sheer numbers they will thieve a fair share of your bait. For now I will enjoy the great fishing and leave what the future holds concerning the goby to the biologists.

I am not sure how many of our members fish the big river as I do but the use of bait minnows continues to be a nagging problem concerning cross border fishing even though we fish contaminated waters our bait must be certified VHS free to fish New York waters. However this same certified bait is illegal in Canadian waters. Canada does not have certified bait but you must buy and use their bait in their waters of the St. Lawrence River which of course is illegal to use on our side of the border. I am not sure the river water is contaminated but using uncertified bait seems to be a train wreck waiting to happen. In a nutshell the Canadians are forcing us to buy their uncertified bait to fish their water and we are doing the same by forcing them to buy certified bait to fish our side of the river. The problem is that we have no bait shops at dock side for their anglers and they have none for our anglers. It is a crazy situation that would seem to be so easy to solve if they would do as we do - have nothing but certified clean bait and allow both their anglers and ours to fish anywhere on the river. Below is the text of a couple emails I received from John Cooper of the OMNR.

Hi Doug – the information on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website regarding VHS and bait fish is up-to-date. Our advice to anglers regarding bait fish can be found on our VHS fact sheet for anglers. Specifically, we advise anglers to:

- to not move bait voluntarily outside the VHS management zone
- use bait fish that have been harvested locally
- use roe as bait only when fishing in the same waterbody where the roe was collected
- not discard roe or bait fish in lakes or rivers. Place unused bait in the garbage
- not to move live fish from one location to another

US residents should note that it is illegal to bring any live fish, leeches, salamanders or crayfish into Ontario for use as bait, even if it has been certified by their State as disease -free.

Bait caught by Ontario licensed bait harvesters in the infected zone, which we call the VHS management zone, can only be sold within the VHS management zone.

We do not require bait harvested and sold in Ontario to be certified VHS free.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

John N. Cooper

Fish and Wildlife Services

Peterborough, ON

K9J 8M5

705-755-5476

## **DEC RETIREMENTS ANNOUNCED**

### **Mac MacKenzie**

On September 24, 2010, after 38 years with the Bureau of Fisheries, William (Bill) Culligan will be officially retired from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Hopefully, Bill's current position as Great Lakes Section Head responsible for supervising fishery research and management on the Great Lakes will be filled in a timely manner with a person of comparable dedication and capability. Bill also served in the DFW as Lake Erie Unit Leader (Dunkirk), District Supervisor of Fish Culture (Albany), Region 7 Biologist (Cortland), and as a Technician at the Bath Fish Hatchery. Bill claims he plans to spend more time relaxing and, what's this, fishing????

Unfortunately, Bill is not the only seasoned DFW staff member who will no longer be putting up with the likes of us and other Monday morning quarterbacks. The list of those also leaving on the 24<sup>th</sup> also includes: Terri Adriance, Peter Brue, Henry Buell, Jack Cooper, Scott Covert, Beverly Grant, Ed Grant, Bill Hastback, Al Hicks, Bruce Hubbard, Mike Kane, Rodney Klesa, John Major, Dave Mayack, John Mellon, Terry Morseman, Art Newell, Peter Nye, Tim Preddice, Doug Sheppard, Larry Skinner, Ward Stone, Alice Weber, Gerry Andritz, Dave Forness, John Keating, Mike Murphy, Dennis Perham, Tim Reynolds, Dan Rourke, Kurt Swartz, Steve Sanford.

ELOSTA wishes you all the very best retirement has to offer – you will be missed.

## **GREAT LAKES MENACE**

### **Mac MacKenzie**

As the summer season winds down we are left with a very vivid image of being attacked by an aggressive and extremely voracious (anyone lose a cat?) eating machine that is about to, in a single gulp, devour the entire Great Lakes ecosystem. There is no question that the Asian species of carp perched on the Illinois River doorstep would significantly change this vast system of very diverse and unique habitats. All those thousands of miles of rivers, satellite lakes, and lesser tributaries in the US and Canada are nothing more than an open invitation to a free buffet.

Five States have challenged the Corps of Engineers and Chicago Water District in an attempt to spur them into the implementation of some form of effective preventative measures. Plugging the Mississippi's River's connections to the Lake Michigan is the foremost thought. Apparently New York State does not agree with this solution or any other immediate action for that matter. To date, NY State's Attorney General, Andrew Cuomo, and his office has shown no indication to participate in this proceeding. Perhaps the fish will wait until after the November election before making their final move.

There has been a great deal of lip service with little supporting data or examples concerning the gravity of the damage that would result. What does appear to be obvious is the fact that these fish are likely to eat themselves out of house and home in a big hurry; thereby, establishing a new system of environmental stability? In a marine environment...if you don't eat it...it eats you. That result might not be acceptable to most salmonid anglers.

What about our attempts to stop these critters. We will probably end up spending millions on the development and installation of useless tactical hardware while some well meaning recreationists, commercial opportunists, and appeasers of Mother Nature conduct their own stocking programs. After all, how do these things happen in the first place?