

## **ELOSTA Monthly Membership meeting**

Wednesday April 19, 2006

### **Minutes**

(Also available on [www.elosta.org](http://www.elosta.org))

- At 7:05 PM President Charlie Ames, fresh from a winter's sojourn in Florida, called the second monthly meeting to order in the Gander Mountain Lodge, Cicero. Thirty five persons were in attendance at the start of meeting including four board members and three officers. Mac MacKenzie acted in his capacity as Secretary.
- A motion by President Ames to dispense with the reading of the October 2005 and March 15, 2006 meeting minutes was seconded and carried. It was noted that we still have tickets available for the Lowrance sonar/GPS unit and that the drawing will take place at next months meeting at Gander on May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Tom Lott read the Treasurer's Report for the period March 10 – April 19, 2006. Deposits received from annual dues, Newsletter Ads, the raffle, and a DEC refund totaled \$1,484. Checks written for Elosta's liability insurance, postage, Newsletter editing, Encompass Printing, and pumps for the net-pens totaled \$1,519.07. Elosta's current balance is \$9,315.27. The ongoing net-pen account, less the \$285.63 spent for the sump pumps is \$1,566.25. The motion to accept the report as presented was seconded and granted. Copies were also available for those who were interested.
- Mac MacKenzie spoke briefly on the development of the website [www.elosta.org](http://www.elosta.org). The site is maintained daily and there are links that will ultimately connect the inquisitive to just about all the fishing sites out there. Eastern Basin anglers are encouraged to participate with ideas and input. Photographs, favorite baits and tackle tricks, current hot spots, and any other fishing suggestions are welcomed. Just send them along to the Webmaster's email address.
- Vice President Doug Fuegel spoke briefly about the Assembly Republican Hunting and Fishing Task Force forum to be held at the Altmar Hatchery on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Local sportsmen's groups, other outdoor interests, and related businesses were invited to present their concerns and recommendations. Their various contributions will be considered By the State in it's deliberations regarding the future of our outdoor resources and the economy. The next session of the forum will be held in Cayuga County on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Doug also noted that the five million dollars initially earmarked in the budget for hatchery improvements has been pared down to three million by the Governor. The budget hasn't been passed yet and it is likely that the amount finally granted will be much less.

Elosta is currently paying dues as a member of the Oswego and Onondaga Sportsmen's Federations. Onondaga meetings are held at different clubs on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. Oswego's meetings are at the Leather Stocking Club on Rt. 104 in Scriba. Anyone who would like to attend these meetings in behalf of Elosta should contact Charlie Ames.
- At this point in the meeting Charlie turned the floor over to Capt. Mitch Franz of Mit-She Charters in Henderson Harbor. Mitch is a reputable walleye fisherman and he treated the group to a timely and informative presentation on how it is done. Mitch prefers to use stick baits and he

has hundreds of them. He said “you never know when you will need one of them”. He reached into a box - grabbed one - and pulled out a tangled mass of hooks and colors. We could relate to that because we all have a box in our boat with that same lure in it.

Mitch covered the finer points on preferred colors, seasonal haunts, presentation techniques, speed, and tackle. In general he takes fish at a ratio of 10 to 1 on in-line planer boards. As a wrap up he mentioned that the Coalition has placed walleye 700,000 fry in nine ponds at Cape Vincent. These will ultimately be stocked in the lake and some major tributaries.

- Dan Bishop had some good news. DEC has filled some of its vacant hatchery positions with two new individuals at Salmon River, one at Rome, one at Chateaugay, and one at Bath. The SR hatchery raceways are filled with salmon and, they took all the steelhead eggs they needed during March. The net-pens are in at Oswego with 40K Chinook and 20K Steelhead. Due to a revised docking plan at the marina the pens are no longer exposed to ideal currents in the river. As a precaution two recirculating pumps were purchased by Gerry Bressadola to ensure sufficient aeration.

The 2006 boat survey will start in April.

DEC is currently involved with National Grid in a land acquisition deal along the SR.

Dan has seen the lake trout that will be provided by the State’s Bath Hatchery. They are much larger and in better condition than those generally obtained from the Allegany Hatchery. All 110K will be stocked at Olcott to improve survivability.

Dan expressed his appreciation for those who participated in the Owego Walleye Diary Program. Dedicated walleye anglers are needed for the 06 program He cautioned that this is a full season effort. You can’t leave the book at home or just enter the good days. Anyone who is interested in helping out should give Dan a call.

- Dave Mac Neill advised the membership present that 33 outside “Experts” examined the trawling techniques of the USGS in Oswego. In general they received good marks all around with some room for improvement. A workshop is currently being considered to evaluate current trawling methods and opportunities for enhancement.

- Captain Ted Dobs of Oneida Lake was adamant in his position that Oneida Lake is far from dead. He expressed his concern over recent publicity hyping the “dead zone”. He said the final proof is in the number and size of the walleye that have been taken in the last two years and, emphasized the need for more anglers to keep accurate diaries. He produced several brochures and diary booklets for the members; and, suggested we “fish the lake, enjoy it, and have fun”. Ted is an Elostia member and he operates a walleye charter service on Oneida Lake.

- At 8:55 PM, Gander’s closing time, Charlie noted that our next meeting is on may 17<sup>th</sup>. His motion to dismiss the meeting was seconded and carried. *Mac MacKenzie*