

Elosta Monthly Membership Meeting

Wednesday August 20, 2008

Minutes

(Also available at www.elosta.org)

President Charlie Ames called the sixth monthly meeting of the 2008 summer season to order at 7:08 PM in the Lodge Room at Gander Mountain's Cicero store. Nineteen members/guests, not out fishing or on vacation, attended the meeting. Mac MacKenzie acted in his capacity as Secretary.

Charlie motioned to accept the minutes of the July 16th meeting as presented in the Newsletter. His motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Treasurer Tom Lott read a lengthy Financial Report for the period July 13 – Aug. 2008. Tom's report included normal monthly transactions and a detailed analysis of ELOSTA's August 2nd picnic. The picnic, in spite of threatening weather, was well attended. In fact it was considered to be one of the best outings we have had in years. Above all it was a financial success which is essential to ELOSTA's continued viability. A motion to accept Tom's report as presented was seconded and carried. Copies of the report were made available to the officers and members present.

At this point a number of questions were raised from the floor regarding various programs and other fishery and environmental targets for these funds. All member recommendations will be considered. ELOSTA will also continue to provide the opportunity for children to attend DEC's Conservation Camps. In addition, one dollar per member will be donated to the Conservation Council; and, \$300 will be applied toward two new net-pens at Newfane. The Western Basin pens will contribute to the survivability and imprinting of salmon and steelhead stocked in the 18 mile Creek area.

Charlie Ames reported that our picnic was a success in spite of a few noisy off-the-lake thunderstorms. Many out of state and out of area members who seldom have the opportunity to attend a monthly meeting went all out to show their support and appreciation. It was a little slow out on the lake for the fun derby but, enough fish were entered to show that they are still there. Prizes were awarded to the picnic winners and to the winners of ELOSTA's annual contest. Those results can be viewed at www.elosta.org.

Charlie Ames and Tom Lott then gave a brief presentation on deep water fishing for summer walleye in Oneida Lake. They noted that the fish tend to seek shelter in heavy weeds during the summer months. These areas are next to un-fishable which can quickly lead to a considerable level of aggravation. But, not all is lost, many fish also head for deeper haunts (40-50 feet) that can be fished with various trolling methods. They prefer long-lining or in-line boards with spoon and stickbaits combined with a three way swivel. The new "Dive Bomb" in-line weights are great for getting the line to a preferred depth (35-40 feet) within a much more manageable distance behind the boat.

Fishing deep in Oneida Lake also raised a number of questions regarding the summer "Dead Zone". Dead zones are commonly created in shallower lakes when a thermocline forms a

stratifying temperature barrier that interrupts surface to substrate circulation. Organic materials from the surface drift down through the “Cline”, decompose and deplete the oxygen in the quiet heavier water below. Fish simply cannot survive in this zone. However, experience has shown that walleye and many of the larger panfish will readily suspend over this area and can be taken with baits presented just above the cline. Normal conditions are restored by seasonally cooler waters sinking to the bottom “Roll -Over”. On the upside, the nutrients that collected in the dead zone are now returned to the system.

Dan Bishop briefly summed up DEC’s netting operations on various Finger Lakes. Fishing continues to be good. However, an attempt to obtain Ciscoes for relocation purposes from Skaneateles Lake was not encouraging. There has been a major decline in that population. Dan noted that competitive mussels could be contributing to the problem. In general there are plenty of smallmouth and walleye ... depending on the lake in question.

DEC is continuing in effort to obtain access to Sandy Pond. It appears that the vendors are in disagreement about the sale. DEC will appraise the parcel and make an offer.

A discussion followed regarding the big lake and in general, where did all the fish go?? Things have slowed a bit out there and there is no question about it – this has been a frustrating season. Trolling within a group of boats and watching one individual take all the fish has been the norm. Same rig, same speed, same colors, same everything – one or two boats get all the action. Enthusiasm is high and the action is expected to pick up as the derby continues.

Roy Hunsberger and yours truly have entered a 15lb -11oz brown which is currently in second place on the LOC big board. We will keep our fingers crossed and hope it holds up.

Charlie Ames entered a motion to close the meeting at 8:25 PM. That motion was seconded and carried. ***Mac MacKenzie***