

Elosta Monthly Membership Meeting

Wednesday July 18, 2007

Minutes

(Also available at www.elosta.org)

- President Charlie Ames called the fifth monthly meeting of 2007 to order at 7:05 PM in the Lodge Room at Gander Mountain's Cicero store. Thirty six members/guests were present and Mac MacKenzie acted in his capacity as Secretary.
- Charlie motioned to accept the minutes of the April 17th 2007 meeting as they appeared in the Newsletter. His motion was seconded and unanimously carried.
- Treasurer Tom Lott read the Financial Report for the period June 21st 2007 – July 18th 2007. Checking deposits for the period totaled \$526.50. Checks written to Libby Loughnot (editing), Encompass Printing (Newsletter), Lake Ontario Fisheries Coalition, Greater Oswego/Fulton COC (Pro-Am), Onondaga Federation Dinners (Elosta delegates), and Post Master (stamps) totaled \$711.20. The Oswego net-pen account remains unchanged (no activity) at \$1566.25. The Pro-Am Net Pen Account is unchanged at \$1000. Elosta's current balance in the checking and savings accounts is \$11,601.97. The combined accounts total \$14,168.22. The motion to accept Tom's report as read was seconded and approved. Copies of the report were made available to the officers.
- Charlie noted an ongoing plea for funds to support the NYS Conservation Council. Further discussion on the subject was tabled pending the results of an Elosta Board meeting scheduled for July 21st.
- Gerry Loughnot emphasized the need for contributors to get their Newsletter material to Libby on time by the end of the month or it's not going to be included.
- At 7:20 Charlie turned the meeting over to Eric Ames who gave an in depth presentation on the state of the art methods currently employed in the sport of angling for carp on the Seneca River and other similar inland waterways. Eric displayed his 10 – 11 foot free spool spinning rods and terminal tackle which have come a long way from a bamboo pole and a forked stick. In fact, this is a dead serious endeavor and catching 300 – 400 pounds of these abundant fish in an outing is not uncommon. Over 28,000 pounds of fish were caught, weighed and released in a recent area tournament. Eric returned the meeting to Charlie at 7:55.
- Dan Bishop, in response to a follow-up question concerning VHS and carp, explained the species apparently does not get away unscathed. To date, one carp, ascertained to be killed by VHS, was found with a massive kill of gizzard shad in the Dunkirk Harbor area. In addition, Koi Herpes, another virus disease, kills tens of thousands of carp in a single instance.
Dan then updated the members on the current spread of VHS. VHS has previously been documented as present in Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Niagara River, St Lawrence River, Skaneateles Lake, and Conesus Lake. More recently, the disease has been found in a rainbow trout taken from the Little Salmon River and, in sunfish taken from the Seneca/Cayuga Canal. Sunfish and koi taken from a small farm pond in western NY near Ransomville also tested

positive. The introduction of the infection was believed to be caused by an intentional (fish rescue operation) transfer of fish from nearby 12 Mile Creek.

Dan also advised the group that a water bottling company is in the process of addressing the requisite regulatory and environmental requirements to enable the withdrawal (pumping) of 1.4 million gallons per day (MGD) from the ground water table in the Orwell area. This water table is the source of the cold springs that supply the many trout streams in the area. The significance of the impact on trout habitat and lake run spawning activities is not known. Apparently the review process rests with the Chairman of the Tug Hill Commission.

- The Board members present, when called upon, agreed that the hot bite we have been experiencing all season has slowed a bit. The fishing is still good but water temperatures vary all over the place out there and it takes some looking to find a hotspot. Spoons were still productive but, some were more inclined to go with flashers and flies. In general they noted the seasonal influence and concurred that it pays to experiment out there.
- Charlie's motion to adjourn was seconded and carried. Our next meeting will be at Gander Mountain at 7PM on August 15th ... walk-ins are welcomed. *Mac MacKenzie*

What's a bloody Boilie ?

Well Guv-nah, according to Eric Ames, it's a carp confection consisting of a mixture of semolina, ground rice, and Soya flour with a bit of coloring and a dash of sweetener. You combine this concoction with a few eggs and boil it until it reaches a consistency that compliments your particular angling tastes. In other words it's a "dough ball" and, if you wish to avoid the mess in the kitchen they can be purchased in any imaginable color and flavor under numerous domestic and imported labels.

Carp are the most prevalent fish in the canalized system and specimens of interest generally weigh between 20 and 40 pounds. Eric says, "It is not unusual to land 4-6 hundred pounds in a single outing". However, you are not going to accomplish this feat while fishing in a defined channel with a conventional "crick bank" rod and reel. Eric recommends the 11 – 13 foot long European style spinning rods that reflect years of design input from experienced international competitors. These relatively soft rods have a strong spine that can handle the biggest of fish when coupled with adequate "bait runner reels".

Free spool is the operative word. Carp are wary and keen eyed, and as far as comparative intelligence goes, they are the crow of the fish world. The bait has to be presented in a manner that allows them to gently pick it up and move off without any perceivable resistance. However, casting and managing two or more 14 foot rods in confined area of river bank can present a control problem. Eric had the answer in one of his many bags of equipment ... a "RodPod".

The RodPod is a step up from a forked piece of willow. It is essentially an adjustable takedown metal frame with side by side front and rear rod holders. The need for this type of help

in rigging these long rods on a narrow river bank is obvious. But, the RodPod, which can be equipped with bite alarms, also keeps the rods out of the mud and horizontal to the water's surface. A desirable feature when the line must flow effortlessly and freely through rod guides and a sliding sinker. Bait Runner Reels are equipped with a secondary drag system that enables the line to free spool with the bail in a closed position. Simply turning the handle returns you to the “**oh – man**” seat ... a lot like cruise control.

Terminal rigs can vary a great deal. I was impressed with the hair rig. This is short strand of line that extends below the J-bend of the hook. When threaded onto this bit of line (hair) our chewable boilie can be picked up and swallowed before the hook reaches the carp's mouth ... a nice feature that results in clean easily removed lip hook-ups. Did I mention that these fish are treated with care and all are returned to the water?

Carp entrepreneurs are a selective lot when looking for spot to setup. River points or channels that tend to funnel fish through a pre-baited or chummed area are the most desirable locations. Just about every throwing device known to man, except a medieval catapult, is used to toss partially boiled whole kernel corn, or whatever the bait of the day is, as far into the river as possible. How does a wayward carp find a particular baited rig in this bonanza? It's simple ... a whole handful of goodies wrapped in a PVA (polyvinyl alcohol) bag can be tossed out with the hook and sinker. The water soluble bag quickly dissolves leaving a sizable meal along with your meager offering for the carp to find.

Think about using 20 pound or greater test line. These big fellows have a tail like and oar and they will attempt to clean up every weed in the crick before they come to the net. Oh! ... for the record, the net is also customized to prevent injury to the fish. I personally dislike the hackneyed reference to “World class fishery”. But, I guess it's safe to say our Seneca River and related tributaries are well on their way to establishing an enviable measure of international significance ... *Mac Mackenzie*