

## **Elosta Monthly Membership Meeting**

**Wednesday May 16, 2007**

### **Minutes**

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

- President Charlie Ames called the third monthly meeting of 2007 to order at 7:10 PM in the Lodge Room at Gander Mountain's Cicero store. Twenty seven members/guests were present and Mac MacKenzie acted in his capacity as Secretary.
- Charlie motioned to accept the minutes of the April 17<sup>th</sup> 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 April 19<sup>th</sup> 2007 – May 16<sup>th</sup> 2007. There were no deposits for the period. Checks written to Libby Lougnot (editing the Newsletter and Encompass Printing (Newsletter) totaled \$462.52. The Oswego net-pen account remains unchanged (no activity) at \$1566.25. The new Pro-Am Net Pen Account is \$1000. Motion to accept – seconded – carried. Elosta's current balance in the checking and savings accounts is \$11,402.69. The combined accounts total \$13,968.94. The motion to accept Tom's report as read was seconded and approved.
- Charlie made a last minute offer to purchase tickets for the Lowrance GPS/Sonar drawing and the barrel was given one more final but thorough spin. This year's lucky winner is Lyle Lucier, 42 South Merrimack Road, Hollis, NH. Best wishes for a great season on the lake to you and your family Lyle
- At this point the meeting was turned over to member John Palmer of SRE Guide Service. John, probably better known as "Bad Habit" out on the lake, gave a brief but informative talk on some of the tricks that result in a successful late spring turkey hunt.

Contrary to what many hunters would think, John recommended a more concentrated effort on open fields. This is a must tactic after it rains. The birds will be out in the open foraging for insect hatches and worms in the new grass. John uses a burlap blind and a comfortable folding chair that is easily transported and set-up on open ground. He places a few decoys and relies on his calling ability to coax the toms in. He suggested that moving decoys not be used on windy days. The less than natural wild flopping and spinning usually puts the birds on high alert.

John recommended that hunters become somewhat proficient with the various types of calls. He keeps two diaphragm calls in his mouth at all times when he is in the field. He also carries the slate, bone, and box calls etc. for variation – each has its use, place, and time. He demonstrated the method of alternating between the two diaphragms which most members envisioned deep in their windpipes. He also suggested that quickly opening and closing an old umbrella imitates a turkey shaking or dusting it's feathers.

Like all alert hunters, John pointed out the need to exercise extreme caution while hunting in an environment full of camouflaged turkey imitators. He enthusiastically referred to the many historical relics (arrow points) etc. he brought for display as additional perks of the overall hunting experience.

- Bill Lefancheck, reported that the Oswego Federation's efforts are primarily being directed toward the development and implementation of youth involvement in hunting and fishing programs. They are looking for volunteers to speak at schools and to help with hands on events such as the pellet rifle shooting event at the County Fair. These are fun activities that can provide a sense of accomplishment and a great deal of satisfaction.
- Doug Fuegel mentioned there are several bills before the legislature regarding provisions to allow youth hunting (under the age of 16) in New York State. NYS is currently the only State in the country that does not allow the youngsters to actively participate in hands on hunting activities with a parent or guardian. Doug recommended contacting our representatives with a request to approve the legislation.
- Charlie Ames and Tom Lott reported that the fishing has cooled off after the hot 3-4 day opener of the walleye season (statewide) on Oneida Lake. According to them a lot of fillets made their way to the skillet during that week.

- Neal Duell (Old Hickory) reported that he helped DEC in their annual spring stocking rounds of inland Oswego County trout streams. These fish are brought in from hatcheries that are isolated from potential infection by VHS, at least at this point in time. Neal pointed out he is no longer permitted to use the five gallon buckets he carries in his truck for this purpose. DEC, brings the equipment and is implementing numerous precautions to eliminate direct or indirect contact with Lake Ontario waters and its tributaries. As anglers and boaters we should keep these same precautions in mind when we move about from one resource to another. All it could take is a few trailing weeds or a lower unit full of water to spread these critters around.

- Gerry Bresadola reported on the progress of the Pro-Am and gave a glowing report on the spring brown trout fishing in the big lake. The fish are cooperating and are generally being taken in relatively shallow water on spoons and stickbaits.

- Roy Hunsberger landed a sizeable steelhead while fishing from his dock on the Little Salmon River. Upon examining the fish he noticed it was covered with red blotches – a symptom of VHS. Roy kept the fish cool and gave it to DEC for examination by Cornell pathologists. That was several weeks ago. Dan Bishop was not at the meeting so to date we have received no feed back as to the cause of the fish's appearance. With this in mind, Tom Lott mentioned the bugging eyes of some Oneida Lake walleye are caused by a parasite and do not affect the quality of the fish.

- As most members know the Oswego net pen fund was established several years ago with a \$10,000 fine levied against the Niagara Mohawk Power Corp for a hydro related fish kill on the Oswego River. To date Elostas has maintained ongoing accountability to DEC for the specific allocation of these monies to the Oswego project. Mac MacKenzie suggested that, under the circumstances, the newly created Pro Am net pen account and the Oswego account cannot be combined. Mac further suggested that perhaps the Pro Am account could be then directed to an increase in the Little Salmon River Skamania effort. An example would be the construction and operation of a second pen.

Charlie said that Elostas has not become involved in the politics concerning the validity of expenditures. We simply provide the money when a need is identified. Other members present pointed out that a successful return of Skamania from the Little Salmon project has not been established or verified. It appears that very few fish have been caught. Other members cautioned that DEC has allocated a certain number of fish and species across the State for net pen purposes. Any attempt at a diversion from another project our use in the Eastern Basin would be met with strong opposition. A situation Elostas would not promote or support.

It was generally concluded that the allocation of the Pro Am funds should be used for maintenance and supplemental Oswego net pen purposes only. The potential funding of proposed project expansions would depend entirely on the long term availability of the required additional fish from DEC.

- Doug Fuegel played an entertaining but sobering video tape featuring a Bill Dance show on one of the lower Mississippi River oxbow lakes. Bill wasn't falling into the water or bumping into hitch balls for a change. He was accompanying DNR people on one of their electro fishing boats. Bill said he had waited all his life to just snap his fingers and have the fish jump into the boat. With that said the power was turned on and the air was filled with Silver Carp. In another sequence it showed these large fish dangerously flying through the air over fast moving boats. At the present time the only barrier between this invasive species and the great lakes is an electrically charged weir on the upper Mississippi. Unfortunately, congress has not allocated enough money to maintain or operate it. Perhaps we should be looking for some new recipes.

- Charlie's motion to close the meeting at 8:15PM was seconded and carried. The next monthly meeting will be at Gander Mountain at 7PM on June 20th.