

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Charlie Ames

Our final meeting of the year was held at the Salmon River hatchery on Oct. 21st. The current slate of officers with the exception of Mac Mackenzie, who resigned as secretary, was reelected for another one year term. Since the meeting Bill Thomas has agreed to be the secretary for the coming year. I again pointed out we are in dire need of new blood in running our organization. Hopefully, we will have some younger members step forward this coming year.

Andy Grulic gave an excellent presentation on hatchery operations. In general things are going well. The egg take met quotas and there were no unexpected problems.

Dan Bishop, Scott Prindle and Fran Verdalisa brought us up to date on a number of current activities including the purchase of property for the Sandy Pond access site and the purchase of the Leto property on the Oswego River.

The tributary fishing on both the Salmon River and the Oswego River has been so-so again due to low water. The shore fishing on Oneida has been hot and cold. They're on one night and gone the next.

You will be receiving your renewal package after the 1st of the year. You will note that in spite of rising costs we are keeping our dues at the current level. We are able to do this by having our annual raffle and by raffling off prizes at our picnic/derby in August. Our raffle prize for 2010 is a Lowrance HDS 7 w/ Insight mapping. This is a color GPS/Sonar unit with a dual frequency transducer. This unit has a value of \$1200. We will be enclosing 10 raffle tickets in the renewal package for you to purchase or sell to your fishing buddies. As in the past, if you renew by Feb. 1st you will get 5 tickets for \$4.00 or 10 tickets for \$8.00. Please renew early as we need your support.

Libby Loughnot is setting up a yahoo group which will allow all members to be in touch on a real time basis. Libby will explain this in the newsletter. Also, we intend to become actively involved in the 4 one-day tournaments that take place in our area next year. We will be offering a \$250 prize for the largest fish taken by an ELOSTA member. Our intent is to attract new and hopefully younger members.

The sport show will be Jan. 22 thru Jan.24. We will need volunteers to man our booth. Please contact Jerry Loughnot at 699-0112 or Tom Lott at 699-4797.

Be sure to keep up to date with what is going on in the fishing world by logging on to our website at www.elosta.org. Mac Mackenzie has designed our website which I believe is truly outstanding. Unlike other organizational websites, Mac keeps ours up to date. Mac would like all members to send in photos of their fishing adventures which he will post on the website. I will again remind everyone to do this in the spring. Also, we need more input from our members to keep our newsletter interesting. You don't have to be a professional writer to contribute. Our editor, Libby Loughnot, will clean up any grammatical errors. Make a pledge to send in an occasional article next year.

Have a great holiday season and remember, spring is just around the corner.

ELOSTA Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday October 21, 2009
(Also available at www.elosta.org)

President Charlie Ames called the eighth and last monthly meeting of the 2009 summer season to order at 7:10 PM on October 21 in the meeting room at DEC's Altmar Fish Hatchery. This combined meeting with DEC Staff is primarily dedicated to the discussion of current and future hatchery programs. Only 18 members/guests attended the meeting. However, we were later advised that the front door was locked and several people had left. Mac MacKenzie acted in his capacity as Secretary.

Charlie motioned that the minutes of the September 16th meeting at Gander Mountain be accepted as they appeared in the Newsletter. His motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Tom Lott gave a detailed summary of payments and account transfers as they appeared in his Financial Report for the period September 17 to October 21, 2009. Checks, totaling \$992.44 were written for G.L.F.C. dues, Conservation Council, Post Office box fee, Encompass Printing, and Newsletter editing.

A deposit in the amount of \$271.00 was obtained from dues and the sale of shirts and hats. The Net Pen Account remained at \$2971.17 through the period. Elostas's checking and savings accounts currently total \$16,552.24 including the Net Pen fund. Copies of Tom's Report were provided to the officers and board members present.

A motion to accept the report as presented was seconded and carried.

President Ames turned the meeting over to DEC's Altmar Fish Hatchery Manager Andy Gruelich. Andy opened his discussion with good news. The river was literally full of fish this season and the target levels of 1.8 million Coho eggs and 3.3 million Chinook eggs have been met. According to Andy "there were too many fish ... they have shut the gates and hope the leftovers drift out."

One of the big questions is – what did DEC do with the 7000 fish they processed this fall? Andy explained that the spent fish are composted on site, away from river drainage, with a cover of wood chips. Organic reduction to a desirable product is complete without odor. However, the amount of woodchips required is not available from one vendor and it is difficult to obtain timely approvals for multiple expenditures of this type pursuant to State purchasing processes.

Andy reported that hatchery staff has been shy one person for the last two years and a replacement at this time is questionable. Jerry Lougnot noted that he had made several weekend visits to the hatchery and there was no one around to answer questions concerning DEC's operations. In view of Staff's priorities and long hours at this time of the year Jerry suggested that knowledgeable volunteers, perhaps from ELOSTA, could perform this task.

Several members expressed concern regarding the widespread publication of "**Lake Ontario Sportfishing: Trends, Analysis, and Outlook**" by Cornell University's Human Dimensions Research Unit (HDRU) in their Department of Natural Resources. In general the document uses questionable correlations and variables to substantiate a bleak outlook regarding long term management policies, fishing potential, angler effort, and, among others, the impact of invasive species. Andy pointed out that Cornell's conclusions were based on their research. DEC's sole contribution to the effort was the publicly available creel census.

Andy concluded with a brief summary of various maintenance highlights that occurred throughout the season. Pumps were in need of repair or replacement, several

well source capacities were activated or upgraded, an electric fish transfer pump was installed, and the hatchery has a new truck.

President Ames returned the meeting to new business from the floor. Jerry Lougnot took the opportunity to express his concern regarding ELOSTA's future. He reminded those present of the need for new officers to replace those who are, or intend, to step down. He pointed out that the demise of ELOSTA would result in the loss of a significant informational bridge between on-the-water anglers, other stakeholders, and DEC. Dan Bishop acknowledged that the general discussions were useful to him. Jerry suggested, as options, fewer Newsletters and monthly meetings. These items will be on the agenda at ELOSTA's board meeting in November.

Dan Bishop, in response to a very redundant question from the floor, reported that nothing new has taken place regarding the purchase of the Sandy Pond access property.

Doug Fuegel suggested that ELOSTA respond to DEC's proposed regulation changes by the end of the public comment period on 2 November. Specifically, He wants justification for DEC's decision to omit Jefferson County from the proposed 50 fish perch limit applicable to all the other lake side counties. DEC has given no substantive basis for this omission. After a somewhat heated discussion, the motion to respond to the public comment notice was seconded and carried.

President Ames conducted the annual October election of officers. Charlie Ames, Doug Fuegel, and Tom Lott, after nomination from the floor, will continue as President, Vice President, and Treasurer respectively. No interest was shown in the Secretaries position vacated by Mac MacKenzie. Mac will continue with his involvement as Captain of the website and membership database.

Mac MacKenzie was asked to provide a summary of ELOSTA's membership origin. Acknowledged.

President Ames thanked all those who attended and the meeting was adjourned. Our next meeting will be in March 2010 with DEC at a place to be designated. Have a great holiday season . *Mac MacKenzie*

Membership – States of Origin

New York State	245
Pennsylvania	29
New Jersey	16
Connecticut	8
Massachusetts	8
Vermont	6
New Hampshire	3

For information only - the numbers shown here should not be taken as an indication of the overall out of State angler interest in the Lake Ontario resource... *Mac*

It is interesting to note that 191 of our current 2009 members have a 13*** zip code. It would seem that at least a couple of these individuals would be interested in taking a more active role in the organization. **NUFF SAID.**

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Doug Fuegel

Sadly this will be our last newsletter of not only 2009 but also the first four months of 2010. Your next newsletter will be dated April 2010. That does not mean ELOSTA will go into hibernation. Much will be going on with your organization during these winter months. Very shortly, Mac MacKenzie and I will be preparing your membership renewal notices. A couple good items concerning renewals: first, your dues remain the same as in the past, no increases; hey maybe our government leaders could take a lesson from us; and secondly, we will include in your renewal package raffle tickets for a fantastic prize. This year we are offering the next generation of Lowrance combo depth and GPS instruments, the HDS-7. A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of playing with an HDS 7 in the Watertown Gander Mountain Store; I must say I was totally blown away at the ease of operation, the size and clarity of the screen and the detail information concerning both GPS and fish finding capabilities. This unit has built-in USA mapping, no additional mapping card is required. In toying around with this unit, I was able to navigate my entire favorite fishing sites around the islands of the St. Lawrence River and then I effortlessly navigated to locations Jeff and I had fished Oneida Lake. This is truly a next generation unit. I know I would like to win this unit that retails for about \$1200.00 but sure hope each of you will think likewise and purchase the ten tickets in your packet. This raffle is one of the main reasons your board has been able to hold dues at the present level. We have not seen an increase in more than 20 years due to your support of these fund raisers.

Renewal notices will be mailed shortly after the Christmas Holiday and as always if you return your paid membership before February 1st you have the option of ten raffle tickets for the price of eight. To help me and Mac with our aging eyes I would ask each member to print clearly on your renewal notice; if we can't read your writing the database gets wrong information and you do not receive newsletters. Also, one check to cover dues and raffle tickets is okay - you do not need to send separate checks.

As I stated ELOSTA will not be hibernating this winter. Once again ELOSTA will have our full display booth at the Great Northeast Sports Show at the New York State Fair Grounds January 22, 23 and 24th. This effort requires many members to be a complete success. Chairman Jerry Lougnot (699-0112) will schedule four-hour work details that should not place a burden or hardship on any member wishing to help. Actually this is not a work detail but a fun detail where members get the opportunity to promote our organization, give fishing advice to other anglers, recruit new members and, of course, promote our fund raising raffle.

On December 9th Gerry Bresadola and I will be attending the Lake Ontario Stake Holders meeting at the Audubon Educational Center located at the Montezuma National Wildlife Area. We will be representing ELOSTA at this meeting. Any member with a concern or comment concerning the Lake Ontario fishery can contact Gerry or me.

No date has yet been set for the DEC's annual Lake Ontario State of the Lake meeting which traditionally takes place in mid March at the Mexico BOCES. Members are urged to visit our web site, www.elosta.org and/or watch local newspapers for firm details.

I hope to see many of our members at the NE Sports Show and at the State of the Lake meeting. In the meantime, I hope each gets their deer trophy and enjoys a safe ice fishing season; don't take chances, and have a safe winter.

TROPHY FISH CONTEST

The trophy fish contest for Chinook salmon, Coho Salmon and Lake Trout concluded on Sept. 30, 2009 The winners are:

CHINOOK SALMON.....Joe Satkowski, Hampton, NJ.....31lbs. 14oz.
COHO SALMON.....Debbie Hunsberger, Mexico, NY.....30lbs. 1oz.
ATLANTIC SALMON.....Bill Castle. Averill Park, NY.....12lbs. 2oz.

We have never had an Atlantic Salmon Division but I thought it was a good time to start one with Bill's catch.

There were no entries for Lake Trout
CONGRATULATIONS to all.

Remember the contest continues for the following species.

Bass (Minimum Wt. 3lbs.) Closes Nov. 30, 2009

Walleye (Minimum Wt. 10lbs.) Closes Mar. 15, 2010

Steelhead (Minimum Wt. 12lbs.) Closes Mar. 31, 2010

Brown Trout (Minimum Wt. 12lbs.) Closes Mar. 31, 2010

In addition, we have a "stream caught" contest for Brown Trout and Steelhead that starts Oct. 1st and ends March 31st. Fish caught from a drift boat are considered "lake caught" for contest purposes.

A QUIET WALK Mac MacKenzie

With the onset of November the lake winds and waves are usually anything but hospitable to the curious and persistent lot who like to nose around the stones and remnants of weathered stumps along the water's edge. But, like the weather everywhere, it is also complete with calm sunny opportunities to take advantage of seasonally lowered water levels and treasures that are generally strewn everywhere.

Plastic baggies rank near the top of the list of rare items to be found. Then there are the shapeless but colorful plastic party balloons with tales to tell. From where did they come and how high did they fly? My personal interest focuses more on finding a couple of the lures and flashers that those tackle busting salmon made off with this past season.

But, there is no hardware to be found. In addition the usual collection of boney skeletons that were once loons, gulls, bass, carp, gobies, and salmon (whole or filleted) is noticeable absent. The best of scavengers have no doubt found the cobblestone beaches, with the exception of some moss and drifts of brown leaves, to be barren wastelands? At least that is how it appears along my favorite reaches.

A good sign – perhaps??

HEY MEMBERS – NEED SOME HELP HERE

Due to a somewhat clumsy effort at computer maintenance I crashed the hard drive on my machine. As a result **I lost the entire membership listing in our database.** Using a dated backup copy and our current list of Newsletter labels we were able to reestablish the entire 2009 listing. **However, a very few of you signed up for the year 2010 after August first 09 and at the picnic.** I would appreciate it if you email or drop me a line if you are one of these people. **In addition**, any of you who did not receive your Newsletters during the 2009 season should let us know – any corrections made in response to seasonal complaints were also lost.

Thanks a lot Mac MacKenzie ... wobblers@disposable.com

KEEP IN TOUCH – NEW E-MAIL GROUP

This will be the last newsletter of the year, and your next newsletter won't arrive until April. Even though the newsletter won't be published, you can still keep in touch with all your fellow members. We have created a "Yahoo Group" so our members will have an easy way to share information with one another. The group name is ELOSTA@yahoogroups.com.

For those of you who already participate in other yahoo groups, it's as easy as doing a search on the groups webpage (groups.yahoo.com) – search for elosta - and request to join.

If you have never participated in a yahoo group (or any internet community before), I'll give you some instructions. If you have any problems, please e-mail me, and we'll get you in. First you should know the purpose of an e-mail group is to make it easy to send messages to many people at once. Once you join, you can just send an e-mail to the list and everyone gets it. In addition, they have options to post photos, documents, and calendars. Have a question and need an answer fast – the group can help.

The easiest way to join is to send me an e-mail (LibbyL@twcny.rr.com) and tell me you want to join. I will send you an invitation. You click on the link, and it will ask you to create a "Yahoo ID" and password. You then set up your ID and select how you want to receive your messages – individual message, digest (you get one message a day with all of the days e-mails in it), or no e-mails (you can go to the group webpage to read the messages at your convenience).

Another option is to send an e-mail to ELOSTA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. After I get the e-mail, I approve your membership and you will be on the list.

And for those of you who haven't ever belonged to a group before, here's a little "net-etiquette" to help you out:

1. After you join a group, it's helpful if you post a message introducing yourself to the group.
2. Always sign your posts – even though your e-mail address will appear, many people don't know who you are.
3. Pay attention to the "to" of your e-mail so you don't send messages to the group that you want to go to someone privately.
4. Post often – tell us what you are thinking and doing. It keeps the list active and makes others feel more comfortable about posting.

Hope to hear from all of you !

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: 2005 Polaris Edge Touring XL – 2 Up – Long Track; 550 fan cooled/electric start and reverse; cargo rack with removable storage pack; new extra belt; 1 gallon of Polaris oil; trailering cover; 1268 miles – like new condition; 2005 Triton XL Aluminum Trailer, single sled 10 ft. long, new spare tire. Excellent sled for ice fishing or trail riding. \$5000.00. Contact Jerry Loughnot, 315 -699-0112 (home) or 315-727-7902 (cell)