

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jerry Lougnot

This is the last newsletter for 2010 and if you want to keep receiving your copy, please renew your membership when the renewal letter arrives early in 2011. We will be raffling a Lowrance HDS7 Insight USA GPS Chartplotter/Fishfinder. Please help support your club. This and the annual picnic are the only fundraisers that we have.

We will sponsor two kids for DEC camp for 2011. This is for ELOSTA members' family only (children, grandchildren, etc). It is a great experience for the kids as you can see by the thank you's from last year's participants included at the end of this newsletter. To be eligible, the child must be between 12 and 17 years old by Dec. 1, 2011. All applications must be returned no later than Jan. 15, 2011, to:

Jerry Lougnot
8205 Yukon Dr.
Cicero, NY 13039

For more information, visit www.dec.ny.gov – Click on “Education – Environmental Education Camps”. I can be reached at 315-699-0112, or by e-mail at fishless@twcny.rr.com

We have a busy year scheduled for 2011 starting with the Northeast Sports Show held at the New York State Fairgrounds Center of Progress Building. The dates for this show are Jan 21 to Jan 23, 2011. For those of you who signed up at the last meeting, please contact me as the sign up sheet was lost. If you are interested in working the booth, contact me at 315-699-0112 or at fishless@twcny.rr.com

Our first meeting of the year will be held in March. We will co-host the State of Lake Ontario meeting with the DEC. Time and location will be announced.

Gander Mtn in Cicero is starting a complete remodel of the store and the lodge is no longer available to us for meetings. We have made arrangements to use The Lake Forest Sportsmen's Clubhouse in Brewerton. Directions:

From the north: Rt. 81 to Brewerton exit. Turn right on Bartell Rd. Go to Rt. 11 and turn left. At the next light (Mud Mill Rd.) turn right. Take the next right onto Bear Springs Rd. Club is on the left (approx. ¼ mile) – it sits back from the road.

From the south: Rt. 81 to Cicero exit. Turn left on Rt. 31, then right on Rt. 11. Go approx. 3 miles and turn left at the light (Mud Mill Rd.). Take the next right onto Bear Springs Rd. Club is on the left (approx. ¼ mile) – it sits back from the road.

If using a GPS, the club is next to 9407 Bear Springs Rd, Brewerton. We will have a sign out front.

The schedule of meetings for the year is as follows:

April 20 – Lake Forest Sportsmen's Club
May 18 - Lake Forest Sportsmen's Club
June 15 - Lake Forest Sportsmen's Club
July 20 – VFW Pavilion, Mexico (same location as our annual derby/picnic)
August 19 – note – this is a Friday – VFW Pavilion, Mexico
Sept. 21 - Lake Forest Sportsmen's Club
Oct. 19 – Salmon River Hatchery in Altmar

The board of directors felt that by utilizing different locations some of our out-of-town members that are visiting the Lake Ontario area in the summer might have the opportunity to attend the meetings.

I would like to welcome Brian Garrett, Rick Nau, and Marlene Petrucci to the board of directors. While Charlie Ames and Doug Fuegel will no longer be serving as President/Vice President, they will remain on the board. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Charlie and Doug for their time and effort over the years working to keep ELOSTA as a voice for Lake Ontario fishermen.

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season.

Good Fishin'
Jerry Lougnot

MEETING MINUTES

Sept 15, 2010

The September meeting was held at the Gander Mountain in Cicero on the 15th. Treasurer Tom Lott indicated a balance of \$13,367.82 in the treasury. Also we are holding \$3,023.67 in the Net Pen Fund.

Tom wrote 17 checks as well as making 5 deposits during a very busy month. Much of that was related to the Picnic & Derby.

Jerry Lougnot gave a report on the cormorant hazing going on on Oneida Lake which is being done by the Oneida Lake Association & DEC involving 47 individual volunteers. ELOSTA has 8 volunteers who are members of OLA. All are covered by workers comp. etc. even though they aren't getting paid. Jerry and Rick Paninski one morning harassed 157 birds during a 4 1/2 hr. shift. They chased 12 birds off buoy 125 alone. OLA wouldn't let ELOSTA donate \$1000 because they didn't want us to get any credit for it if it was successful. If you are out on

Oneida and see a boat going like a bat outta hell with a flag on it you will know what they are doing. By the way cormorants are very smart. When they see a boat coming after them after one encounter they usually take off fast. They hope to chase them off the lake. Also Congress neglected to appropriate any money for this year and also 2011. Rep. Dan Maffei, whose district this is in refused to attend this spring's OLA meeting and didn't reply to requests to include this in next year's budget. The OLA and ELOSTA want to remind all to remember this at the Election in November.

Our speaker for the evening was Ex-Capt. Greg Hackett who is a panfish pro who fishes all over central New York for LARGE crappie, perch, sunfish/bluegill etc. Greg usually fishes in spring for crappie near wood...either downed trees boat slips. He uses big bait for big fish except on Oneida. Toad Harbor is his favorite for crappie as it has a 3/8 mi. long pier. He says to get there at least 1 hr. before daylight as there are only about 4 or 5 trees that hold big fish. Crappie love pink and I can attest to that as Charlie Ames & I use pink a lot in Florida during the winter. Grey/olive and olive/silver power bait tube jigs work well also. He loves to fish corner where people dug into boat slips where banks are sharp.

Greg uses long cheap 8-9ft. rods with \$9.98 reels spooled with 8# gold Stren because he says that he can't see too good in his old age. Makes sense to me. He likes #2 aberdeen gold hooks.

For perch Greg drifts fast and keeps the line straight down with fathead minnows hooked in the tail because they stay alive better than buckeyes. He quits fishing for perch by Dec. 1st as the females are full of eggs then.

The following tidbits are offered also:

- * for crappie..a chartreuse jig & minnow near trees or brush...
- * Cayuga Lake is also a favorite
- * 1000 islands was good for perch this year with white jigs
- * In summer big bluegills and sunnies like structure from shallow to 25' dropoff
- * 13' seems to be the best depth for crappie in Winter & Spring
- * fish trees and within 10' of trees for BIG crappie
- * brown is a good color in dirty water
- * sunnies are on edge of weeds..not in them

We'd like to thank Greg for his very informative and interesting presentation. An aside to Greg, if I didn't get this as you said it's not that I didn't try. I don't take shorthand & I wrote as fast as I could for an old guy.

MEETING MINUTES

Oct. 20, 2010

The October meeting was held at the Salmon River Hatchery on the 20th. Outgoing president, Charlie Ames thanked all the active members who were involved in keeping the Club afloat. Outgoing V.P. Doug Fuegel dittoed Charlie's comments. Doug & Charlie will both stay on as board members.

We had an election of officers, which included NO nominations from the floor so the officers for 2011 are as follows:

Pres. Jerry Lougnot
Vice Pres. Dan Zanelli
Secretary. yours truly
Treasurer. Tom Lott

Mac MacKenzie will continue to be our webmaster, which is probably the most important job after Jerry's.

Speaking of the website...If you want to access the members' page, the password is "reelscreamer". That has all the members with their boat handles.

Andy Greulich, Manager of the hatchery was the primary speaker as always. He indicated that the salmon egg take was over. They took 1.4 million coho eggs and 6.2 chinook eggs. They should be eyed up by 10/25. The ladder is still full of fish as well as the part of Beaver Dam Brook ABOVE the barrier as the flood raised the water level well above the height of the barrier. There also are lots of dead fish littering the brook.

He also indicated that 1900 jack kings showed up, which was very impressive, which may indicate a good recruitment class for next year.

The hatchery personnel handled 3500 kings, 3600 coho, 72 skamania steelhead, 32 browns, and 119 steelhead. All except the salmon were returned to the river. As you probably know the salmon are composted. The fish ladder is closed so the fish still in it will go the way as the rest in the river. The egg -take only lasted 9 days. The big females averaged 5000 eggs per fish.

This year the kings were noticeably larger than last year's fish. They had 3 over 30# which meant that they were close to 40# in the lake.

Fran Verdoliva added that the fishermen & women took roughly 60,000 fish in the river this year which equalled the complete lake harvest.

Last spring the 4-day steelhead egg take consisted of 2.6 million eggs plus a surplus.

They lost quite a few fish last winter due to a thiamine deficiency. They put in 5000 ppm as compared to 1000ppm which they had been putting in the water, which seemed to help. They changed fish food suppliers to get high protein/fat diet.

Dan Bishop & his side-kick Scott Prindle left a big 2-day meeting in Western N.Y. just to come visit with us. Maybe we're more important than a retirement party. Scott & Dan said that 98% of the jacks that returned were fin-clipped. They also noted that after the flood there were 200 cars in the parking lot on Trout Brook, as most of the action was in the tribs. 1/3 of the cars were from N.Y., 1/3 were from N.J. & PA. and the rest were from all over the country, including Canada & Australia.

Board member Mitch Franz gave Dan 85 Walleye heads from the Henderson area for examination and aging. Many were older fish.

That's about I can remember from the meeting so I'll sign off. 'Till next year have a great winter. I'll see y'all in the Spring.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Thomas, Sec.

CHARLIE'S CHATTER

Charlie Ames

Christmas is just around the corner, most of the boats are in storage and another season is about over. I think most people would say in general the fishing was tougher than last year but still OK.

After 8 years I am no longer president of ELOSTA. I certainly enjoyed it and I appreciate all of the help I received particularly from Doug Fuegel, Jerry Lougnot, Mac McKenzie, Tom Lott and all of the board of directors.

It was time for a change and Jerry Lougnot has stepped up to take over. I might point out that this is the second time for him as it was for me.

We have a great organization and we will be facing many challenges in the coming months and maybe years. The fiscal crisis at all levels of government is certain to affect the fisheries. It is extremely important that we remain a strong and united organization in order to have some meaningful input to the decisions that will be forthcoming.

Be sure to renew your membership and try to recruit your fishing buddy. We need your support more than ever.

NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the next newsletter will be April 1. All information should be sent to Libby Lougnot, 8205 Yukon Dr., Cicero, NY 13039 e-mail: LibbyL@twcny.rr.com

Classified ads are free for club members and will run for one month – you may renew the ad by notifying Libby before the deadline for the next newsletter.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

2010 EASTERN LAKE ONTARIO WALLEYE AGE ANALYSIS REPORT

Mac MacKenzie

Dan Bishop, DEC Region 7 Fisheries Manager thanked all the folks in the Henderson Harbor area for their participation in the preparation of the 2010 Eastern Lake Ontario Walleye Age Analysis Report. He gave special mention to Henchen's Marina and Mitch Frantz. DEC biologists Jana Lantry and Scott Prindle were credited with extracting the otoliths (ear bones) and doing the age Interpretations. Dan noted that a great deal of information was accumulated at a minimal cost.

A graph and table provided in the report indicate that “the 2003 year class which contributed heavily to the fishery as age 3 fish in 2006, age 4 fish in 2007 etc. appears to have declined markedly between the ages of 4 and 7. There was only one age 7 fish from the 2003 year class in the 2010 sample. The overall survival of fish into the older age classes, however, suggests that exploitation remains low. The average age of the 2010 sample was a record high 14.75 years which suggests that there are not a lot of younger fish coming into the population. If we have any problem here, it is recruitment of young fish into the population and not angler exploitation.”

The two page report in its entirety will be included as a PDF on the “Member Only” page of ELOSTA'S website at www.elosta.org/MembersOnlypage.html

GOOD COP – BAD COP

Mac MacKenzie

In early November DEC issued a synopsis of Governor Paterson's proposals for DEC (etal) staffing cuts and or adjustments. In general the consensus of opinion is "DEC took the brunt of this action on the chin". All of this by a lame duck governor who was asked by his own party to step -down. One would get the impression that, at the time that this "Bad Cop" was in the way.

DEC's Staff Reduction Plan which had not been finalized at the time was submitted to the Department of Budget DOB on or about November 11. Layoff is primarily based upon an employee's seniority status, and horizontal or vertical bumping eligibility. The Union had been made aware of this plan and over the past two years all employees had been actively involved in the establishment of individual seniority.

On December 10th DEC will issue three letters to the 450 employees affected by the elimination of the 150 targeted positions. According to an individual's seniority, each will have the option, if available, to bump or run. Recent staff losses due to retirements were addressed in an earlier issue of the Newsletter.

The question now is – will the incoming Governor "Good Cop" ride in on his brilliant white steed and replay the game to flatter his and the current party's image???

RUMORS – JUST RUMORS

Mac MacKenzie

A few months ago Mike D'Alonzo literally disappeared from the marina scene for about six weeks. Actually, under Beth's close scrutiny, he was at his home on the hill recuperating from a relatively invasive procedure to remove an aggressive malignant cyst from his tongue. Naturally, rumors of dire concern tend to fly at times like this and, the answer is **No!** Mike is still with us and he will be here for a long time. His Dr's have given him a clean bill of health and no further treatment appears to be necessary. With that good thought in mind we would like to wish Mike, Beth, and family a peaceful holiday and, our sincerest best wishes for fishing seasons to come.

TROPHY FISH CONTEST

The trophy fish contest for Chinook salmon, Coho Salmon and Lake Trout concluded on September 30, 2010 The winners are:

CHINOOK SALMON.....Mike Roche, Solvay, NY..... 34lb
COHO SALMON.....Marlene Petrucci, Cortland, NY...15lb 6oz.
LAKE TROUT.....Brian Garrett, Cortland, NY.....16lb 4oz

Other entries that earned a Trophy Patch are:

CHINOOK SALMON.....Jerry Lougnot, Cicero, NY.....28lb 6oz.

Mike and Jerry's fish were both taken while fishing with Roy Hunsberger aboard the "ONTARIO FISHERMAN"

Remember the contest continues for the following species.

Bass (Minimum Wt. 3lbs.) Closes Nov. 30, 2010

Walleye (Minimum Wt. 10lbs.) Closes Mar. 15, 2011

Steelhead (Minimum Wt. 12lbs.) Closes Mar. 31, 2011

Brown Trout (Minimum Wt. 12lbs.) Closes Mar. 31, 2011

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.

REPORT BY CHARLIE HANCOCK

CFAB director from DEC Region 8

Three Senate races have not been resolved to date. We sportsmen have some problems as we lost some key supporters of our causes in the Senate and assemblies. NYSCC will need to develop some new advocates in the houses for the sportsmen and women of the state. Encon committee members of both parties Senate and Assembly are populated by environmentalist and preservationist, but do not support the sportsmen conservation positions.

Early Retirement has hit the hatcheries extremely hard, so severely that one of the hatcheries does not have a manager. Spring Stocking will be switched to fall to reduce cost of raising fish over the winter and thereby reducing feed and other costs. The probability of the survival rate of these stockings is very questionable. The NYS Hatchery system is in trouble, both facilities and especially staffing. Capital improvements take 5 years in our government system to occur. This takes a 2 million dollar project and spreads it over 5 years that in turn increases the final cost of the project to 4 or 5 million dollars by the time of completion. The State process is frustrating improvements and cost additional dollars for those projects that are done. Right now the staffing problem is critical and the fishing community will be disappointed with the Hatchery results and actions.

CFAB has a particular interpretation of what DEC should be about, with Theodor Roosevelt's North American Conservation model as a guide. Under that model Fish and Game belong to all, not individuals. Our license approach is based on that model. Originally the legislation talked about Fish and Game, but when the DEC was established the legislation was changed to Fish and wildlife. Wildlife is a broad term. The Conservation Fund is from the sales of Hunting, fishing licenses and fines from the breaking of fish and game laws. The Finance law still states Fish and Game, CFAB looks at the Fish and Game Expenditures the DEC look at Fish and wildlife. The DEC funding comes from the following; Conservation Fund, General Fund, and Federal Fund. With CFAB looking at the 1800 different pay codes and 186 different programs in the DEC, the CFAB found that 80% of the expenditures that come from the CF they agree with are for fish and game. The other 20% - the CFAB feel that 10% should not use the CF monies and 10% are a mixed bag where although not directly fish and game, fish and game do benefit.

Within the DEC budget, \$2 million dollars are within operations and this was cut last year by 25%. Operation money is spent on materials. Without these materials work cannot take place. To maintain access roads need materials to use in the repair process. 25% cut means that 25% of repairs do not get done. If a road is dangerous, and there are no materials for repairs, the road gets closed. Over the years the DEC has acquired more and more land with a dwindling budget to maintain that which they have acquired. Many road closings have occurred in regions 5 and 9 due to lack of repairs.

To date the budget cuts have not as severely affected law enforcement. They were not offered the early retirements. Law enforcement has 20 openings and the academy will be held at the earliest in 2011 but more likely in 2012. At that time there could be as many as 50 openings.

October 26 the CFAB got the annual financial numbers from the DEC. (Late again). Due to the delay the annual report from the CFAB will be delayed until December.

With the Cuomo administration some serious change may occur. Cuomo is talking about the reduction in size of state government. This could mean a merger of DEC and the Parks and recreation department. This may or may not bode well for the sportsmen and women of NY State if the environmentalists take control. Currently there appears we have no champions in Albany. It will be a tough year in Albany for sportsmen and women. Invite legislators to your Federation meetings.

E-licensing may impact the DEC DECALS system that was developed for NY and cost \$3 million per year. We do not own the software code for this program and thereby are at the mercy of a contract with Verizon. This contract has a 3% escalation clause. The state has an E-licensing initiative that may replace DECALS and could be spread amount all licenses sold in NY State. This could be a good thing or it could be a bad program. The details are to be watched.

Dennis Race brought up a point about license fee increase; we had one in 2002 and had a 15% reduction in sales that we never recovered from. The license increase in 2009 had caused another drop of 10 to 12% of sales. Lifetime licenses went up by a factor of 10. These will impact annual license sales and we may see another increase in five to six years. Some of what is happening is people are putting together their preferences and buying just a fishing license or just a big game, rather than a sportsman or other type of combination license. CFAB wanted gradual increases according to cost of living rather than the types of jumps that have occurred.

In 2008-09 the DEC had a 25% cut in budget and the total budget was \$108 million. The CF fund in 2010 was a total of \$112 million. In 2010 a lot of top positions within DEC got large pay increases. The Commissioner had a 25% increase. Funding sources for the DEC are Federal Reimbursement \$22.6 million, CF fund, General fund. The Pittman Robertson has increased substantially due to firearm and ammunition sales. The Federal Reimbursement has kept a lot of state people on the job. Marine license sales go into a Marine account within the CF. CFAB has suggested that the monitoring of shell fish be moved to the health department. Let the DEC manage fish as the shell fish is monitored for health reasons.

DOUG FUEGEL'S REPORT

As a fishing organization we should be a bit worried as state budget cuts in Albany are hitting the DEC's Fish and Wildlife Division hard. If you attended our last meeting at the Salmon Hatchery in October you may remember Dan Bishop our Region 7 Fishery manager listing the key people we have already lost in both fisheries and wildlife; example, Bill Culligan our Lake Ontario Unit Leader. The list of those like Culligan who have opted for early retirement is long and disheartening and according to Bishop these positions will only be filled from within which means key people may move to higher positions but then the knowledge they have and the good job they have been doing goes with them. Case in point, Dan Bishop announced he has put in for the vacated Director of Natural Resources position and I just learned he is now provisional Director of Natural Resources.

Due to early retirements and transfers the DEC has lost more than 850 positions since 2008 and just recently more than 140 receive pink slips effective January 1, 2011.

We just bit the bullet for an enormous increase in both fishing and hunting licenses fees, fishing went from \$19.00 to \$29.00 this past year along with the promise DEC programs would stay at their present level. We now know that once again the DEC has broken its promise to sustain programs. This time it may not be their fault but never the less it's the sportsmen who once again take it on the chin. Already one DEC hatchery is operating without a manager and at our Adirondack hatchery no lake trout eggs were taken, landlocked salmon egg take was cut 50 percent and some spring stock fish species are being stocked this fall in an effort to save feed purchases funds.

Right now the Conservation Fund which is really a small total of the entire DEC budget (approximately \$1.2 billion) operating at approximately \$112 million for 2009 -2010 budget has a \$17 million surplus largely due to increased lifetime sales prior to the 2010 fee increases and the increased funds from the Federal Pittman -Robertson fund due to the federal excise tax on guns and ammunition which saw a tremendous increase in sales the last two years.

Below is a quote by Eric Kriss, Governor Patterson's budget director, that appeared in an Associated Press column; it clearly states the mindset of the Albany crowd concerning sportsmen's issues and our overall importance in this state. In my opinion we likely will not see any improvements in the fish and wildlife picture under the new leadership. "While sportsmen's groups contend that the Conservation Fund is a "locked box" required by law to be used only for fish and wildlife programs, Kriss said that's not the case. "We would not have to change environmental conservation law to use Conservation Fund money for purposes other than what they're used for now," Kriss said. However, he said it's too early to say whether fish stocking or other programs will be reduced".

ELOSTA members and all sportsmen and women should keep a keen ear and eye concerning our future and the future well being of our fisheries and wildlife programs; we and all sportsmen's organizations should invite as many area legislators to our meetings as possible to keep them informed.

The HDS-7 Lowrance Chart Plotter and Depth Finder has been purchased for this year's annual raffle that will accompany your membership renewal packet. This raffle and the annual picnic are totally responsible for our dues not increasing for the past twenty years. I sincerely hope even under these harsh times every member will support and purchase the ten tickets in your packet.

Ice fishing season lies just ahead. Anglers should not be too anxious - make sure there is safe ice before venturing out.

Wishing everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Dear Eastern Lake Ontario Salmon and Trout Association,

Belleville Henderson Central School District is forever grateful that you all choose to sponsor our students to go to DEC Camp.

The students in this area of the North Country already have a great appreciation for the outdoors, wilderness and environment. This educational experience definitely adds to their journey and gives them an understanding of their environment in a whole new way as well as an opportunity to network with new friends with the same passion.

Throughout the past years, our students who have had this experience come back to school with so many great stories. They also pass on their respect for the camps to their peers.

Again, words can express enough how much this is appreciated, especially in these economic times.

Sincerely,



Mary Case (Mauro)

Dear Eastern Ontario Salmon and Trout Association,

My name is Samantha Furman and I was selected from Belleville Henderson School to attend the D.E.C. Camp DeBruce this summer. The camp had a stunning view that could only be found in the Catskills. The staff was a lot of fun while knowledgeable. We had discovery groups where we would just go out in the woods and be taught about our surroundings. I spent one afternoon learning to fly fish, an opportunity I wouldn't have had outside of camp. We camped one night away from the cabins sleeping under the stars and eating from a fire. They scheduled a night hike, where the counselors taught us about biolumination, or how living organisms such as fireflies, light up. They even proved the Legend of Sleepy Hollow false: if you focus on an object for too long, such as a head, it will appear as if it isn't there. I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to attend this camp. I had a lot of fun, made some good friends, and learned some interesting facts about nature.

Gratefully,

Samantha Furman

Dear Eastern Lake Ontario
Salmon and Trout Association,

My name is Phillip Fargo from Belleville Henderson Central School and I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to go to Pack Forest, DEC camp. While I was there I learned many things that range from environmental issues to renewable energy. I also learned the importance of conservation as well as took the bow hunter's safety course. I love to go into the woods to hunt and even just to go out. I learned special ways to protect and manage fish populations as well, this way I could help ensure that there is a healthier fish population for the next generation. I would also like you to know that they asked me to come back next year and be a volunteer for their program. This experience offered a lot to me, so once again I wish to extend my thanks to the Eastern Lake Ontario Salmon and Trout Association.

Sincerely,

Phillip Fargo
Junior at Belleville Henderson
Central School