

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Charlie Ames**

I just got back from FL on April 29<sup>th</sup>. It sure seems great to be back in NYS.

The fishing in Lake Ontario for Browns has been fair to excellent. Ken Esser has been having some great days fishing out of Oswego and Barry Stevens and Mike Roche have had some good days. Bill Thomas caught a 15lb and an 11lb brown in the first 20 minutes of fishing

The Walleye opener on Oneida was spotty. The weather was great but the fish were finicky. Limit catches were taken by Jerry Loughnot and Otis Hill. Also Tom Lott, Rick Ellison, and Dave Perogue and some friends from Watertown did well. From what I could gather the fishing at the west end was a lot better than the east end. I'm sure this fishing will improve.

The Baldwinsville Carp tournament will take place May 13-15. 45 two man teams from all over the world will be competing and I'm sure there will be some great catches. Stop by and watch some of the anglers and I'm sure you will leave with an appreciation of Carp fishing. To get to the action follow Rt. 48 south of Baldwinsville and look for the signs directing you the fishing locations.

**Be sure to attend our May 19th meeting at Gander Mountain**. Eric Ames and Steve Ware will give a presentation on carp fishing. These guys finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in last year's tournament. Last, but not least, we will have the drawing for the Lowrance GPS/Sonar. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM. We'll see you then.

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

The deadline for the next newsletter will be June 1. All information should be sent to Libby Loughnot, 8205 Yukon Dr., Cicero, NY 13039 e-mail: [LibbyL@twcny.rr.com](mailto:LibbyL@twcny.rr.com)

## **YAHOO GROUP**

Join the Elostata Yahoo group and share your fishing stories and secrets with other members. To join, go to [www.groups.yahoo.com](http://www.groups.yahoo.com) and search for ELOSTA, or send an e-mail to [LibbyL@twcny.rr.com](mailto:LibbyL@twcny.rr.com) and I'll send you an invitation.

**ELOSTA Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday March 9, 2010**  
**(Also available at [www.elosta.org](http://www.elosta.org))**  
**Mac MacKenzie**

Vice President Doug Fuegel called ELOSTA's first monthly meeting of the 2010 season to order at 7PM on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Mexico BOCES Center on County Rte 64. Over 65 people attended to hear and participate in this Annual State of the Lake Presentation which was organized and conducted in its entirety by DEC Staff.

Doug briefly described ELOSTA's purpose and introduced the officers and board members in attendance. He reported on the status of President Ames's surgery in Florida who hopefully, he will be back in time for the Walleye opener. The reading of ELOSTA's minutes from the October 2009 meeting at the Altmar Hatchery, the Treasurer's Report, and other pending ELOSTA business, was postponed until the April 21st meeting to be held at Gander Mountain in Cicero. At that point Doug turned the meeting over to Dan Bishop.

Dan introduced DEC Staff and the various Agency speakers for the evening and then opened the evening's presentation with a bombshell.

About 200,000 salmon were lost from the hatchery stocking program over the winter as a result of Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS). EMS effects, which range from delayed growth to death, are the result of a vitamin B deficiency that is caused by the enzyme thiaminase found in the gut of alewives. Fish that prey heavily on alewife are subject to EMS. Chinook eggs/fry are treated with thiamine (Vitamin B) to cope with EMS. However, for currently unexplained reasons these treatments have recently become less effective.

No further losses are expected and the remaining fish in the hatchery are being reared at lower densities on a high protein/fat diet. The current stocking target is 1.76 million Chinook a nd the State is working with the Province of Ontario to secure any surplus fish they can provide. The total stocking effort will be reduced by roughly 12% (a worst case scenario). Some site specific stocking adjustments will be required to accommodate statewide pen rearing activities. It is anticipated that the survivability of the more robust fish being stocked will offset the loss in year class numbers.

Other Agency members participating in the program included: Web Pearsall, Mike Connerton, Bill Culligan, Jana Lantry, Maureen Walsh, Chris Balk, Matt Sanderson, and Steve Lapan. The evenings agenda also addressed Resource Marketing, Regulation Development, Angler Surveys, Forage Fish Stocks, Lake Trout Status, Sea Lamprey Treatment, Natural Resources Damages Fund (NRDF) Update, Fish Marking Program, Deepwater Cisco Re - Introduction, and Warm Water Fisheries summaries. In general these program objectives and findings are consistent with previous seasons. More detailed summaries prepared and provided by DEC Staff can be viewed on ELOSTA's website at: [www.elosta.org/AgencyReviews.html](http://www.elosta.org/AgencyReviews.html)

Doug Fuegel thanked all those who attended and the meeting was adjourned at 10PM.

## **ELOSTA Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday April 21, 2010**

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

**Bill Thomas**

The April meeting opened @ 7:00 on the 21st. by Vice President Doug Fuegel. Tom Lott gave the treasurer's report indicating a balance of \$13,861.61 as of today which, coincidentally, is \$20.00 different than the report a year ago.

The net pen total is \$3023.67 of which Bob Wilbur donated \$52.50, which was very thoughtful of Bob.

Jerry Loungnot introduced our speaker of the evening, Jason Nobile. Jason gave a great talk on walleye fishing. Jason started fishing with a 14 ft. boat from his home on the salmon River and now is a Pro walleye fisherman doing many tournaments throughout the east and mid-west. One of his ideas that he passed on to those who didn't realize it is to NEVER pump a walleye in. Always reel it in smoothly or chances are that you'll lose it.

Gerry Bresadola indicated that the net pens are in and the chinooks are very "puny" as DEC bought cheap food that didn't drop to the bottom slowly so the little fish couldn't get enough before it hit bottom. However, the steelhead are in good shape. There is a concern as the water temperature is in the 50's so they will have to release them sooner than expected.

Dan Bishop couldn't make the meeting as DEC put a travel ban out to help save money.

ELOSTA will be very involved with 4 derbies this year. They will be in Fair Haven, Oswego, Little Salmon River, and Mexico Bay. The entry fees will be \$50 per boat except Oswego where it will be \$60. ELOSTA will give \$250 to the member who brings in the biggest fish, not necessarily the derby winner. So it is very important to be a member if you are in the derby. They are 1-day affairs. All in charge of each derby will have memberships available wherever the tickets are sold. We feel it will be a good way to get new members also. John Lutz at Johns Little Salmon River sport shop will be sponsoring the 1st derby. Dates & times will be published later.

### **LOW WATER LEVELS**

**Mac MacKenzie**

A word of caution - precipitation across the entire Great Lakes Basin was below the norm over the last 12 months. As a result, Lake Ontario water levels are generally averaging about 8 - 10 inches below the long term average curve for this date. This places the Big "O's" level in a range of 18 - 20 inches below the higher than average levels experienced on this same date last year. Navigation on the Little Salmon River and other still water off-lake ports, such as Sandy Pond, can be potentially hazardous. Agencies anticipate (a probability at best) that the level will slowly rise from a seasonal low in mid-March to near average in late August or early September. Concerned boaters, have unofficially, placed a series of red alert markers at the four foot contour in the upper reach of the Little Salmon River extending from Blunt's to Mike's marinas. Keep to the left of these markers "RED RIGHT RETURNING" while underway upstream. As always, operator vigilance is a priority.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Doug Fuegel**

I have just heard that board members Jake and June Howell have had a rather tough winter health wise; on behalf of the entire ELOSTA family we wish them well and hope to see them back in New York to enjoy the great fishing.

I have already had one delicious meal of St. Lawrence River bullheads and hope for a few more this spring. Now is the time of the year when these tasty critters hit shorelines, creeks and streams along the eastern basin and Oneida Lake water and its tributaries. If you like them as I do the next few weeks should be great. Of course by the time you read this walleye season will be open plus the browns are hitting along the Oswego shoreline, tough choices as they all provide great eating and great fishing.

Looking back I guess the winter went pretty fast and all in all it was a decent ice fishing season lots of perch from Sandy Pond and it seemed at times more anglers than usual perhaps due to the dismal employment picture in our region. The old saying "nothing ever changes" also appeared to apply to this past ice fishing season as it has with all previous seasons, each outing revealed ice littered with empty propane bottles, food wrappers, beer cans and unwanted small perch plus other assorted trash. We should never wonder why "no parking" signs go up or favorite access sites are blocked.

For those of you that wintered in the freezing south or may have been out of the loop, the wind turbine war was raging this past winter along the eastern basin and Golden Crescent region. Several county legislatures including Oswego and Jefferson passed resolutions stating they did not favor offshore wind turbines in Lake Ontario. The Town of Henderson has filed a lawsuit against the Town of Hounsfield (Sackets Harbor area) hoping to block or delay the 80 plus wind mills slated for Galloo Island. The lawsuit charges the Hounsfield Planning Board acted improperly in the site plan review process. Additionally it was just learned that Canada is allowing an energy company to move forward with plans to erect up to 300 turbines along the north shore of Wolfe Island and its mainland in some of the best walleye, perch and musky water in the entire St. Lawrence River system and the destruction of one of the most scenic regions of the entire river.

I firmly believe since these wind turbines could influence our great fishery in a detrimental way that ELOSTA should keep as informed as possible on any wind farms that could affect the well being of our fishery and take action as necessary.

**Don't forget our May meeting will be at its usual time slot, Wednesday May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Cicero Gander Mountain Store** and as usual each May I will bring with me the ticket holding drum that Joe MacFadden made several years ago. It will hold the winning ticket for the HD7 Lowrance unit. Lots of tickets still available and the winning ticket may be in that unsold lot; bring a friend.

## MEMBERSHIP STATUS

**Mac MacKenzie**

Elosta has recorded nearly 400 members over the past four years. For various reasons, some return and others do not. Currently, the membership listing stands at 240 including 20 advertisers and 16 complementary. These numbers will increase slightly as the season progresses. The rate of attrition might be related to the status of the economy, price of fuel, or even someone who didn't get Newsletter etc. It can't be the fishery – that continues to be great. Current members hail from: NY-189, PA-19, NJ-13, MA-9, CT-7, VT-3, and NH-3.

## SALT WATER LICENSE

### Mac MacKenzie

Anglers (16 years of age and older) are reminded that the recreational marine fishing license initiated in October 2009 is required when fishing for “migratory fish species in and along the waters of the Hudson River, Delaware River, or Mohawk River and their tributaries (exemptions can be found on the DEC website).

The following license requirements apply to resources of immediate interest, including the Mohawk River. Please note that your current “Lifetime License” does not cover both activities.

- “If you are fishing downstream from the Tappan Zee Bridge, you are considered fishing in the marine and coastal district and will need to have a recreational marine fishing license - regardless of species of fish you are fishing for.
- If you are fishing upstream from the Tappan Zee Bridge and are fishing for non-migratory fish (such as largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, catfish, carp, walleye, and perch) only, you need to have a freshwater fishing license.
- If you are fishing upstream from the Tappan Zee Bridge and are fishing for "migratory fish from the sea" (such as striped bass, hickory shad, blueback herring, or alewife) only, you need to have a recreational marine fishing license.
- If you are fishing upstream from the Tappan Zee Bridge and are fishing for migratory fish from the sea and non-migratory fish, you need both a recreational marine fishing license and a freshwater fishing license.”

Over the past 40 years the DEC has been mandating both upstream and downstream fish passage at hydroelectric facilities and locks on the Mohawk River. The sea run blueback herring and alewife are continuing to expand their range. **Is Oneida Lake the next stop?????**

## ETHANOL IN MARINE FUEL

### Mac MacKenzie

Eastern Basin anglers getting the jump on the spring 2010 season have already joined the majority of US boaters who no longer have a choice concerning the use of marine fuels containing a 10% concentration of ethanol (E-10). Newer equipment is being designed to accommodate the product. But, potential damage to older engines, tubing, filters, and fiberglass equipment is still questionable. In addition the EPA is expected to announce its decision regarding a proposal to increase the level of this additive to 15% (E-15) sometime this summer. Naturally, the ethanol producers (now in a slump) have asked the Feds to waive environmental and economic studies designed to evaluate the impacts of this decision upon the boating industry. That request is also being considered – now there’s a real eyebrow raiser!!!!

Essentially, ethanol combines with water that enters marine tanks through the air vent (overflow tube) during heating and cooling cycles. It can form a gel and other good stuff that will clog filters, affect carburetion, and erode fiberglass and rubber, among other things. There are available additives to stabilize this mixture. “Startron” from StarBrite ranging in price from \$12 - \$15 for a 130 gallon fix is among the leaders and it is available at most marinas and boating supply stores.

Mike’s Marina is currently treating their bulk tanks with Startron until their patrons have had a **short term** opportunity to utilize the over winter non-ethanol fuel remaining in onboard tanks. Once that fuel has been used it will be much easier for the user to mix the additive at the specified ratio. Most fuel experts recommend that boat owners/operators keep their tanks topped out to avoid empty space which contributes to the inhalation of moisture through the tank’s vent.

# **MEXICO BAY BROWN TROUT DERBY**

**May 22, 2010  
(blow off May 23, 2010)**

**Hosted by Jon's Little Salmon Bait & Tackle  
5:00 am to 3:00 pm weigh-in**

**\$50 per boat entry fee  
Prize structure – 100% payout**

**50-50 raffle to benefit local fishery**

**Entry forms available at:  
Jon's Little Salmon Bait & Tackle  
221 St. Rt. 104B  
Mexico, NY 13114**

**For more info call 315-963-7800  
Or e-mail [Jon@LittleSalmonTackle.com](mailto:Jon@LittleSalmonTackle.com)**

## **CLASSIFIEDS**

**Wanted:** I have a request; perhaps you can help. I'm looking for a used 9-weight, 2-piece, 9-foot, fast-action fly rod. I thought that since you guys go after heavy fish, someone might have a 9-weight he's looking to get rid of! I make my own big bass bugs, using size 1 and 1/0 hooks, and they require a 9-weight rod to really fling them out there! If you know anyone who's looking to sell that kind of rod, please let me know! Thank You, Tom Maguire, 315-492-3916