

SARATOGA COUNTY COUNCIL OF FISH AND GAME CLUBS, INC.

**Member: New York State Conservation Council . Adirondack Conservation Council .
Great Sacandaga Lake Fisheries Federation . Fish and Wildlife Management Board**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 21 October – at Kayaderosseras
Fish and Game Club, - corner Stone Church and Geysers
Roads, Ballston Spa

(My apologies for the lateness of these minutes – preparation for an art show that I put off until the last minutes put several assignments on hold)

- Previous Minutes Approved.
- **Minutes – 16 September, 2008**

One of the young ladies we sponsored to the *Becoming An Outdoor Woman* program – Karen Szelest, read from a letter of appreciation we will keep on our file. Our second sponsored lady Jami Kenison and Karen shared the ride to Silver Bay / Lake George. Karen cited the enjoyment they both shared and the variety of sporting/ recreational instruction open to them. She took Kayaking, Field Dressing Game, Beginning Shotgun Class and Bow-Hunting. As a result of her training, she is taking the Bow Hunting Safety Course to join her husband during deer season. She has purchased a shotgun – and he is looking forward to having her join him for her first turkey hunt. (I understand he intends to have her apply her field dressing knowledge as well). Both Karen and Jami are members of the Kayaderosseras Fish and Game Club, and if the enthusiasm shown at our meeting is representative – they are active – contributing members of that Club. We all appreciated her attendance and presentation at our meeting. It demonstrated the worthiness of the investment of this Council in DEC Camps and BOW activities.

Saratoga County Fair: The Conservation Building was the “highlight of the fair”. Chuck Corson was cited as a tireless worker who contributed considerable time and energy to the reconstruction of the interior, along with Mick Elliott, Bob Hodorowski, Ron Rybicki and others who assisted Bill Schwerd in the project.

- One signage problem was noted – the “back approach’ to the building is not identified. Next year – an identification sign for the building will be in place.

No CFAB minutes since April.

FWMB: Sage letters were cited – DEC Commissioner notified that they do not represent the FWMB board.

- Paul Jenson (Bur. Wildlife) reported on white nosed bat syndrome – ongoing study.
- Apparently no reason otter trapping can’t be in place in Region 5.
- Fisheries – working with Warren County stocking Lake Luzerne – possibly too much being stocked, causing stunted growth.
- Mgt. Plan ready – Moose River Plains
- Some dams will be allowed to deteriorate due to lack of funding for repair
- Perkins clearing – Recreational Plan underway
- Jason Kemper noted budget cuts –impacting on personnel replacement, some line items gone, fish purchases for stocking will be cut. Twenty-two officers graduated, eight vacancies will be filled.

- Pheasants will be stocked / youth hunts will be held.
- Handicapped ramp – boat launch – Town of Day.
- Jean Raymond, (Supervisor of Town of Edinburgh), will deal with Nature Conservancy/ Snowmobile Trails/ handicapped ramps.

DEC: Sampling Indian Lake to check on VHS and Toxic substances.

- 3800 landlocked salmon for Lake George
- Cormorant eggs oiled – Crown Point
- Emily Zollweig – (Bur. Of Fisheries) – gave a presentation on Lake George.
- New freshwater fishing rules include prohibit chumming with fish eggs, establish species list permitted for bait fishing, creel limit (trout) to be set statewide, reduction size – Muskie, prohibit bait fish – Henderson Lake, ECO's must respond to burning barrel complaints – prior to responding to fish and game incidents.

Grass Roots News: DEC verified presence of northern snakehead in Orange County – working to kill them off. NOTE: if anglers catch a fish unknown to them – DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE WATER. Keep it alive in a bucket and call DEC fisheries or ECO. Northern Snakehead and other invasive species can destroy a fishery of desirable species by depleting food source, and preying on eggs or young of the preferred or native species.

Patricia Riexinger, (Dir., DEC Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources), would like FWMB to put together a work plan for each region – a one-year plan up to a five year plan – for Habitat Access projects that sportsmen and women can be involved in. Examples include stream-shore stabilization , launch sites, habitat improvement ; airing easements for hunting, fishing and trapping. These efforts could be done on private land, with landowner permission, or on state or federal lands, with proper permits.

- Photos and stories of these efforts can be sent to NYSCC for use in Grass Roots or DEC publications. Habitat/Access stamp monies may be applied for , to fund these Projects.
- Buck a Member reminder -- when you are renewing your club's annual dues. The Buck a Member project helps to fund the Albany NYSCC legislative lobbying office.
- Deer Search, Inc. - the 30th Anniversary. A Non-profit volunteer organization whose primary mission is to promote the humane recovery of wounded/dead big game for hunters. Their Success Rate is approximately 33 %.
- Dogs are trained and licensed by DEC for a “Leashed Tracking Dog License”.

Outdoor News: cited the Farm Bureau opposition (along with many others) regarding the NYS proposed outdoor burning ban. Low fines are issued by judges – given latitude of from \$10.00 to \$250.00 for most infractions. Few are fined the maximum – so fines are not a successful deterrent to law breaking.

Mick Elliott announced that Bill Schwerd will receive the Conservation Educator of the Year Award, and Russ Lehr will receive the Outdoor Education Program of the Year Award for the NYS Shooting Sports Program – at the up-coming NYSCC Annual Conference.

- Both men deserve the awards – and thanks from sportsmen , women and families touched and influenced by their tireless efforts.

Present: BOW sponsored participant, Ind. Members, Sara-Spa, Fish House, Whitetails Unltd., Kayaderosseras, Clifton Park, Galway , Foothills Trappers, Gansevoort.

Herb Kopper, Secretary