

NYSDEC Region 8 Fish & Wildlife Management Board meeting was held on September 12, 2024. Seneca County Sportsman Delegate Tom Grasek, Land Delegate Frank Sinicropi and Sportsman Alternate Delegate Bill Ryan attended the meeting. There were 24 people in attendance. Representing 9 Counties. This is the minutes as recorded by the Board Secretary.

Chemung County: No county representatives in attendance.

Genesee County: Godfrey Pond National Hunting and Fishing Day Event will be held on September 21-22.

Livingston County: Davis reports witnessing two eagles fighting and loser was grounded and taken by a coyote. There is desire for a Wanton Waste Law to require hunters to utilize their harvests. Also needs to be a law or regulation dealing with hunters who never bother retrieving their processed deer or bear from processors, leaving the processor out the processing fee and stuck with the packaged products they cannot legally sell. They can donate, but are still out the cost. There was a DEC sponsored wanton waste law in the budget bill in the past but it got pulled out before the budget passed that year.

Monroe County: No report.

Ontario County: Federation sent seven campers to DEC camps this year. Kids liked the food at camps. Canandaigua Trout Derby did well this year and was able to send checks of \$6,500 to each Camp Good Days, Mercy Flight, and Hospeace House.

Orleans County: Log cabin at Fairgrounds had a good display and was successful in connecting sportsmen with the public during the fair. New Sportsman rep and alternate appointed to the board (Mark Gregoire, Jeff Atwell) and they were in attendance and introduced. Federation is hosting a Trapper Education course this weekend and will be helping with Pat Arnold youth trapping camp at Camp Rushford over Columbus Day weekend. In-person Hunter Ed course being held at Holley Sportsmen Club.

Schuyler County: Question if DEC could/will go after the clumps of Phragmites that are present out in the marsh at Catherine Creek WMA. Answer was that DEC has done some control efforts there and may need to pursue herbicide contracts to truly try to address the issue across the entire WMA if it is beyond the capacity

of staff to control. Canada has been experimenting with bio-controls so eventually there may be a natural control option.

A full-packed Hunter Ed course was held at Millport Club-kids really wanted the hands-on experience offered by in-person course. Bow course coming up in Odessa.

Seneca County: Federation will be holding their annual banquet on Sept 17. This is only the 2nd one since COVID. Encouraged others to review the draft Seneca Meadows Landfill Environmental Impact Statement for the future expansion which has been submitted to DEC. <https://senecameadows.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/SMI-Valley-Infill-DEIS-FINAL.072924.pdf>

Steuben County: Savona Club has a filled Hunter Ed course scheduled.

Wayne County: Federation Youth Fishing Derby had 73 kids participate. Lot of nice bass caught. Quite a few young kids got awards for catching multiple species. Youth Pheasant Hunt is open for kids to sign up and has 23 openings left.

Yates County: No county representatives in attendance.

Advisory Organization Reports

Izaak Walton League – No representative present

NYSCC – Mike Elam emailed report.

NYSCC had a successful 2024 Fall convention, Sept. 6 & 7 at Delta Lake Bible Conference Center, Rome, NY. It has a full slate of officers with Dr. Keith Tidball - President, Past President Chuck Parker - 1st Vice Pres. Presentations from DEC by Jacqueline Lendrum - Director, Fish & Wildlife, Jim Farquhar - Wildlife, Steve Hurst - Fisheries, Jeremy Hurst - Big Game, and Major Todd Richards - Law Enforcement. Guest speakers from Hudson River Estuary Management Council, National Deer Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, Native Fish Coalition, Wounded Warrior in Action. Featured speaker on Saturday was Gordon Batchelor, retired Chief Wildlife Biologist for NYS, now Executive Secretary for The Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. Gordon gave a very informative 90 minute presentation.

FLCC – no report

Cornell Cooperative Extension – No CCE representative currently on the Board.

CFAB: No representative present

Farm Bureau: No representative present

SWCD – No report.

Agency Reports NYSDEC

Natural Resources: Bureau of Environmental Health new biologist started this week. Public Comment Period still open on the proposed wetland regulations until September 19, 2024. Link to regulations and comment info:

<https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/regulations/proposed-emergency-recently-adopted-regulations/fish-wildlife-revisions>

Question on Hemlock Woolly Adelgid biocontrols and whether DEC is releasing them. Answer is DEC is not directly releasing them yet, but we are cooperating with the researchers that are trialing these and we are allowing them to be released on some of the DEC lands.

Wildlife:

Statewide availability of rebates for non-lead ammo. Website also helps you locate retailers. <https://huntersforeagleconservation.org/new-york/>

<https://huntersforeagleconservation.org/new-york/rebate/>

All Region 8 Counties have re-upped their laws to opt-in for the 12-23 year-olds to be able hunt deer with a gun.

Waterfowl Information Meeting being held on WebEx at 7pm on September 23. Will have information on waterfowl populations and upcoming season and details on management and habitat conditions at the Montezuma and Iroquois NWRs and the neighboring WMAs.

<https://meetny.webex.com/weblink/register/rc245c74be0d9c4cd13ab4042997d8779>

September 28 there will be two Fish and Wildlife Day volunteer stewardship events held in the region. One will be a native seed collection held at the Seneca Meadows Wetlands Preserve, the other will be with the Naples Trail Coalition and

working on habitat management along a trail at High Tor WMA.

<https://dec.ny.gov/get-involved/events/2024/9/fish-and-wildlife-day>

September 28-29 is also the Youth Waterfowl Hunt here in the Western Zone.

October 12-13 is the Youth Pheasant Hunt Weekend. Several Sponsored youth hunts have openings on the 12th. [Upcoming Events - HuntFishNY \(register-ed.com\)](#)

Questions-

Does Colvin Marsh at Northern Montezuma require a permit for trapping? No, there were restrictions on duck hunting there associated with the Tim Noga Accessible Blind, but the marsh is open to trapping. The Noga blind has been removed and an alternate location with better conditions is being sought to replace this accessible feature.

Why is the West Central Goose Zone season only overlap with duck season on the last two days of duck season? The Western Zone Task Force likely felt that with the goose bag limit back up to three birds it made it worthwhile to go out for just geese and minimizing season overlap maximizes the total number of days someone could waterfowl hunt in that area.

How many complaints about fisher? Answer is more reports of sightings than complaints. Relatively few damage complaints.

When will otter season be opened? Answer- Otter Plan is almost ready for public review. Not likely to open a season in Region 8.

Fisheries:

Bass Tournament Permitting system is now up and running. Tournaments held after January 1 will require a permit. The tournament permit is required regardless of launch site and a separate permit may be needed for using specific launch ramps to hold tournaments. DEC ramps require a TRP.

Trout Stream Access Verification. Working on the mail survey for Ontario County streams now, mostly Canandaigua Outlet. Getting good response. The follow-up progress meeting for the counties already surveyed is delayed.

Will be conducting second stage of lamprey control on Seneca Lake with treatments in the Catherine Creek barge canal and Keuka Outlet delta occurring in October.

Question about perch in Conesus Lake. Answer-Recent surveys showed signs of population increase.

Law Enforcement:

Von Strahn recently died. Von was an influential instructor and recruited a lot of hunters and trappers.

ECO Academy is down to 28 recruits. New officers will not be in region until March.

Question- How illegal is Tannerite? Answer is that it is legal, but there may be restrictions on using large quantities of it.

NYS Parks(OPRHP) - No representative present

Old Business –

- A. Trout Stream Access Verification**—Livingston County having trouble making contact with landowners. Ontario County may not need much follow-up work as mail response rate may be enough. Southern Tier needs more effort. Mike Warren has had one positive response from a landowner.

New Business

- A. Nominating Committee**--Next meeting we will need to form Nominating Committee

Motion to adjourn passed.

Next meeting is December 5 at 530pm.