

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 Association

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 17 March, 7:3 p.m., at
The Kayaderosseras Fish and Game Club, corner
Stone Church and Geyser Roads, Ballston Spa

Previous Minutes Approved.

Minutes – 17 February, 2009

Mike Miller, (Regional Coordinator for N.Y.S. Assembly Minority Leader / U.S. Congressional Candidate – 20th District/ Jim Tedisco)

- Fielded questions and cited accomplishments of the candidate during his tour in the New York State Assembly.
 - . Support for Second Amendment issues were important.
 - . A pledge for continued “on the ground action” for district localities was assured after his election to Congress.
 - . It was proposed / motion made and seconded to join the Sportsmen’s Federations of Columbia and Rensselaer Counties in endorsing Jim Tedisco for Congress . (A letter has been sent confirming this Council’s Endorsement.)

Presentation by the Patrick Henry Chapter of the Friends of the NRA to the Kayaderosseras Fish and Game Club, of a grant valued at \$2673.52 supporting youth and hunter education , range development , firearms training , etc.

The next area fundraiser/banquet will be held on Friday – 5:30 p.m., 24 April, at the Great Escape Lodge and Indoor Waterpark .

- Tickets are \$35 each (none sold at door).
- Contact David Johnson / PO Box 132/ Stony Creek, NY 12878 or call 518-696-7075 for tickets and further information.
- Two rare and commemorative rifles will be raffled – in addition – a \$200 gift certificate for Zack’s Sports.
- Half of the funds raised stay in upstate New York, to be awarded to benefit sportsmen (as was done with the Kayaderosseras Club). Applications are well screened – 68 of 75 applications were funded.

Melissa Neely (Biologist, DEC) – DEC has application forms : “Cooperative Day-old Pheasant Chick Program’, and “Cooperative Young Pheasant Release Program “ – must be received by DEC by 15 March.

- Habitat mgmt- grouse and woodcock .
- Wilton Wildlife Mgmt . area – Meetings to be held in March.
- Interested in Lake George Diary Program – contact Emily Zollweig, DEC , call: 623- 1264.
- Improved results in Lake Champlain lamprey control program – due to closer cooperation from Vermont.
- Turkey activity completed in Saratoga County – more to be done in Clinton, Franklin, Fulton and Essex Counties.
- New Wildlife Manager – Lance Duffrey.
- Trappers expressed a need to hear from DEC’s Paul Jensen on resumption of Otter Trapping in 5-R (there has been no follow up with trappers – as promised – since DEC stopped otter trapping five years ago.)
- Raquette River fishing access site – “shovel ready”.
- Alewives in Lake Champlain may account for decline in smelt and yellow perch.

CFAB: Jason Kemper: noted proposals for license fee increase coupled with bills for trout and salmon Stamps and saltwater license.

- Conservation Fund no longer able to run in the red.
- CFAB disagrees with the trout stamp because of the stocking efforts of sportsmen and GSLFF.
 - It would “mandate” the purchase of a trout stamp to fish the Great Sacandaga Lake.
 - 80 percent of the Conservation Fund covers staff salaries and benefits – benefits are 52 percent of salary.
 - There’s a need for Long-Term solution
 - Outdoors Writer Survey : - 61 percent of respondents feel DEC does not support sportsmen.

Steve Shaw/ ECO DEC – noted current ice fishing patrols – citing out of season taking of bass and walleye, too many tipups, etc.

- Responding to a call –poacher cited for taking deer at bait pile – resulting in a \$2000 fine. (Ed Noonan/Daily Gazette Outdoor Editor – inquired about a source to get information – such as the fine levied the arrested poacher, since results of arrests are important, but difficult to come by.)
- Defensive driving training underway.
- Snowmobile patrol, focusing on registration stickers.
- Special season for Snow Geese – 11 March through 15 April. Apparently the numbers have exploded – prompting the action.

TO UPDATE YOUR MEMBER LISTING : Wilton Rod and Gun Club contact is; William murray of 32 Jumel Place, Saratoga Springs, 12866. (I will have an updated roster soon – I’m waiting for one additional club to register before I put it together).

We sponsored four campers to Colby from : Saratoga Springs, Galway and Gansevoort. Please remember to contact me with the name of a potential camper anytime. I will put them on a list for the 2010 season. (882-9884) . They must be from Saratoga County, and be between the ages of 12 and 17. Girls are always undersubscribed. Any girl who wishes to attend is pretty much assured of placement in her week of choice.

- I will announce the need to respond with camper’s names again – when the applications arrive (usually in December – with a cut-off date , so I can meet the required mailing schedule).

Additional Item from Jack Hammond *: Controversial late muzzle loader season (noted in earlier minutes); DEC hearing on 26 Feb. on WMU 5J yielded to comment by DEC spokesman “There are some concerns about over-harvesting when they are in the yards.” The area of concern is the Northville area of Fulton County and Southern Hamilton County. To quote a clipping sent by Jack : “ The timing of the season from Dec 8 through Dec. 14 last fall has allowed some less-than-scrupulous hunters to target whitetails in those (deer) yards, making for easy pickings”.

- Comments on this, and the proposal to lower size limit on Lake Trout caught in Lake George from 23 inches to the statewide 21 inches, can be directed to NYSDEC Reg. 5 Wildlife (or Fisheries) P.O. Box 296, RayBrook, NY 12977, or e-mail: r5info@gw.dec.state.ny.us.
- DEC is encouraging comments on these subjects in the coming weeks.

**Don Lehman / Post Star / “:On the Outdoors- commentary”*

Present: Gansevoort / Kayaderosseras / Patrick Henry FNRA / Press / Sara Spa / 4-H Shooting Sports Galway / Individual Members / Foothills Trappers / Whitetails Unltd./ CFAB / ECODEC / Biologist DEC / Sar. Co. 4-H Shooting Sports / M-A Jim Tedisco.

Herb Kopper , Secretary