

## SARATOGA COUNTY COUNCIL OF FISH AND GAME CLUBS, INC.

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

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 20 October, 7:30 p.m.  
At Kayaderosseras Fish and Game Club, corner Geyser and  
Stone Church Roads, Ballston Spa.

**Note:** Jason Kemper (Saratoga County / CFAB ) and Dennis Flynn (WSWHE – BOCES) Presented a modified request of the initial proposal (cited in previous minutes ) to close the Perry and Calabus woodlots to hunters from the hours of 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the school year on those days when school is in session. Both areas would be open all day for hunting on weekends, holidays, etc., - when schools are not in session.

- During the school year BOCES students are afield taking on conservation projects and forestry work – along with wildlife identification, etc.
- As cited in our previous minutes, it was noted students will wear blaze orange helmets and vests. However – it was noted – vests are not worn during chain saw operation for safety reasons.
- Those sportsmen present felt the proposal was an acceptable tradeoff: - generating a motion to support the proposal. The motion was seconded – Members voted to approve.

**CFAB:** report cited increased lifetime license sales – that unfortunately will not have immediate positive impact on the Conservation Fund – due to the conditions peculiar to the lifetime license fund distribution .

- Saltwater License: Some comments regarding the calendar year to conform with federal requirements were made (as compared with other state-issued license dates )
- Generally sportsmen understood the need for the license fee increases, but felt some were excessive – especially when FWMB delegates cited DEC personnel and program cuts coming on the heels of increased license fees. A tough sell to sportsmen.

**FWMB:** Governor wants to ban “Advisory Boards” as a cost-saving measure. Ron Rybicki (Council President ), cited that unlike the majority of state “Advisory Boards” , fueled by highly paid appointees that may meet only once a year, the FWMB is staffed by sportsmen and others who, for the most part, volunteer their time at little or no cost – meet several times a year and tackle issues of continuing concern dealing with fish and wildlife management, habitat improvement and access, recreational and tourism opportunities or restrictions to name a few. His feeling was – it is not warranted – to equate the FWMB , which is a dedicated “working” advisory board, with others.

- Regional boards have to come up with a yearly plan – habitat and access, etc. Ron Rybicki, Bob Hoderowski and Mick Elliott will work on this.
- Bob Monaccio cited fecal coliform from the Cayadutta Creek is flowing into the Great Sacandaga Lake.
- Clinton County cited concerns over bass tournaments on Lake Champlain. Several hundred dead fish result from tournament. Question how long will the fishery last at this rate? Impact of year-round season is also a concern.
- In answer to the question, do tournament anglers (out of state – etc. ) need or have NYS Fishing licenses “ the answer was “yes – they must hold the appropriate license to participate .
- Letter from Saratoga County Fair Director – citing the contributions from this Council’s members for their volunteer efforts to make the Conservation Building and affiliated exhibits an outstanding success – making that exhibit area the highlight of the fair for another season. Members who were noted included Elliott, Corson, Lehr and Hodorowski ,
- Pheasants to be stocked in Daketown Forest.

**DEC:** Fisheries surveys underway.

- Lake Champlain – 5 major bass tournaments.
- Saratoga Lake : several bass tournaments – (some cited there were multiple bass tournaments held per week!)
- Lamprey control in bad shape – lack of funding from Vt. And NY.
- Wildlife – beaver cable restraint trapping – for nuisance beaver.
- Bear nuisance complaints up.
- **Reg. 5 deer herd meeting – Thursday 8 October – 6:30 p.m. – at Co-op extension Building – 50 West High Street, Ballston Spa.**
- Rabies prevention drops for Raccoon in Clinton and Essex Counties.

**NYS CC: “Grass Roots”** – President Palmer met with NYS Senator Schneiderman (Chair of the Codes Committee ) from Manhattan , who has been dealing with gun issues from an urban perspective. Palmer cited legislation he had proposed would hurt sportsmen and gun owners statewide. Senator Schneiderman said he would hold off pushing the gun bills until he had a chance to get more facts.

- On 10 August Senator Valesky held a field trip for Sen. Schneiderman in his district. Pres. Palmer participated in a tour with the Senators and their staff to an archery/gun shop (A.J.’s Archery in Cazenovia). Questions dealing with handgun licensing and sales were answered. The Senator was concerned – how handguns are purchased and end up in the hands of criminals and gang members. He was told – law abiding gun owners are not going to sell or give their licensed guns to criminals or gang members. Discussed lowering age to hunt big game with a bow to 12 years old. The Senator was surprised to learn that NYS has a minimum draw weight for bows to hunt big game with – so anyone not able to pull and shoot with a 35 pound draw cannot hunt big game. (He said he wished he had known that in 2008 when he opposed the bill. )
- At the Oneida Sportsman’s Club and Range they saw demonstrations of muzzleloaders, handguns, rifles and shotguns – and discussed issues with concerned sportsmen. Senator Schneiderman also had the opportunity to shoot both 50 and .54 caliber muzzleloaders.
- The Senator seemed receptive to the comments made by those in attendance – that clearly demonstrated the difference in issues affecting rural and urban communities. It is hoped that he will become an ally to stop anti-gun legislation that hurts only law-abiding gunowners.
- CFAB member Charlie Pace was instrumental in setting up the visit to the sportsmen’s club and the gun/archery shop – and supplied his own guns for demonstration as well. **This is an example of organized sportsmen working with key members of the NYS Legislature in a positive way.**

**Resolutions:** (It was noted that thanks to Ed Angell’s efforts – each member and club received copies to study and vote on prior to this Council’s review at the September meeting – cutting down on our discussion and voting times considerably)

09 -1 : **Yes**; 09-2 : **No** ; 09-3 : **No**; 09-4: **No.**, 09-5:**No**; 09-6:**No**; 09-7:**Yes**; 09 -8: **No**; 09-9: **withdrawn**; 09-10: **No**; 09-11: **No**; 09-12: **No**; 09-13: **Yes**, 09-14: **No**, 09-15: **No**; 09-16:**No**.

Present: Galway, Kayaderosseras, Ind. Members, Saratoga County 4-H Shooting Sports, Foothills Trappers, WSWHE BOCES, Sara. County CFAB, Fish House.

*I apologize for the lateness of these minutes – computer problems complicated matters.*  
Herb Kopper, Secretary