

## **Saratoga County Council Meeting Minutes (April 2024):**

**Clubs in attendance:** Galway, Kayaderosseras, 4H, White Tails, Fish House and Foothills Trappers, and Clifton Park.

John Jones (Kayaderosseras Member) put 2 dumps of 1700 Browns in the Kayaderosseras Creek so far with only one more scheduled bringing the total to 5100 for 2024. There were supposed to be 4 dumps for a total of 6800 fish. Don't know what happened to the last dump.

Fish and Wildlife Management Board: Stream access verification started in Washington County and here in Saratoga County on the Kayaderosseras by Bob Hodoroski. Bab says he is having difficulty with accessing maps for landowners at the county. Example: Can't find Cynerjics Company that owns several parcels. Probably why they never answered the DEC letter for access permission.

Moose Survey: Spotted 110 moose by air, but only confirmed 55 over Clinton and Franklin Counties. The DEC is looking for them in active timber harvesting locations. Of course moose and deer know where the food is. Not in over mature forests like most of the Adirondacks.

Bobcat survey in progress in Mohawk Valley at 72 sites using cameras.

Otter season in 5R still in Albany being reviewed. A resolution was put in 15 years ago on the topic. Apparently very political because people like to see the animals. A season is not expected soon.

Saratoga Lake survey for big pan fish. Crappies to go from 9" to 10" for harvesting. Not in effect yet.

Sacandaga Lake open water creel survey this summer.

Conservation Fund Advisory Board (February Minutes):

- DEC Academy to start June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Out of 2100 candidates, only 45 passed tests and will start.
- Proposal by DEC to allow license issuing agent to charge \$1 for using their own printers for new paper licenses or if you have a computer, you can get them to send it to you via e-mail and you can print out your own license. Can go to Hunt and Fish NY to pull up your license.
- Proposal by DEC to start a permit system for black bass tournaments which will allow them to respond to issues such as user conflicts, overuse of bass relating to concerns about fish populations as being reported by many sportsmen. Supposed to be returning bass to where caught and not doing.
- Bear take for 2023: Northern zone 485 (458 reg, season, 15 bow, and 12 muzzleloader) and Southern zone 871 (104 early season, 444 reg. season, 303 bow, and 20 muzzleloader) for a total of 1356 bears..
- Trout regulations for 2024: You need to know where a stream ends and a lake starts because for brookies in a lake or pond you will be allowed 5 of any size. For Browns and

Rainbows you are allowed 5 total with 2 being 12" or longer. In a stream for brookie, Browns and Rainbows the 5 with only 2 over 12" applies.

- Watch the pond, lake, or stream where you fish in the forest preserve (within the blue line of the ADK Park) because there are no bait fish allowed.
- Bill out to allow 10 year olds to big game hunt without a license or education certificate with a mentor within arm's reach. Our instructors were very concerned over this. What if the mentor is not within arm's reach or paying attention?

Next Meeting on May 21, 2024.

### **Correspondence:**

Summer camps: Have funding for 6 kids. At least 3 applying so far through the County Council. Have funding for 6 campers. Per DEC Delivers, DEC is reopening Camp Colby. Accepting registrations starting May 22<sup>nd</sup>. There are limited openings still available for female campers aged 14-17 at Camp Pack Forest and Rushford.

New York Farm Bureau (NYFB) members have a concern about large deer herds across the state causing extensive crop damage, destroying forest undergrowth, and spreading Lyme disease. A webinar was held on May 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss what DEC is doing to access and address the deer population in NY State.

A newly proposed bill in NY State that is being presented under the guise of an environmental law that would place heavy restrictions on the locations and size of shooting ranges due to the proximity to wetlands and open water sources. Known as the Sporting Range Good Neighbor Act. Could limit where shooting ranges can be and how large they have to be, in particular trap and skeet fields. If enacted skeet field tracts would have to be at least 600 by 300 yards.

DEC Delivers: Spring Turkey season is open till May 31<sup>st</sup>. Important details regarding the season regulations. Hunt Safe and Hunt Smart. Spring Turkey season safety for Hunters and non-hunters.

NYS Firearms Association: Help stop S.3589/HR.6981. Title of bill is "Preventing Private Paramilitary Activity Act of 2024". Bill would criminalize groups of 3 or more people training with an AR-15 or any other firearm that holds over 10 rounds of ammo. Criminalize going out of state to receive firearms training. Criminalize training with magazines that hold over 10 rounds of ammunition.