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# About Fish and Game



By M. PAUL KEESLER

I attended the New York State Conservation Council Convention that was held recently in Ithaca, and I learned a bunch of stuff.

I was impressed an amazed that so much was said and done in what appeared to be a series of fast paced, sometimes chaotic sessions, that may well decide the future of conservation and outdoor sports in New York State.

I was disappointed to see only one representative from Oneida County. Dave Pierce, as always, did an excellent job of representing the Oneida County Sportsmen, but no man can be in two or three places at once. In contrast, Herkimer County had at least four of its sportsmen at the convention.

Only a delegate or an alternate can vote on council resolutions, etc, but any sportsmen who is a member of a county federation can seek a position on a committee. Oneida County will always be shortchanged if it has only one representative involved in council meetings, conferences, conventions, etc.

Among the many items discussed at the convention was the increased activity in fish and game management circles as a result of the monies to be derived from the increase in license fees. On a regular basis, DEC has to report to the council on its progress in implementing policies and programs that are financed by the license fee increases. Here are a few of the goodies in the works.

The Department is going back into the pheasant business with expansion of at least two pheasant rearing facilities and a comprehenkive study into a changing pheasant habitat, possible trap and transfer of wild birds and increased field work to re-evaluate the pheasant program. All efforts are directed at increasing pheasant populations in the state.

The already successful turkey trap and transfer program will continue. Turkey populations have been established in primary turkey ranges in southern counties. Stocking of secondary turkey ranges will take place this winter. DEC biologists noted that secondary ranges may not produce turkeys in huntable numbers. Their is already a turkey flock in southern Oneida County.

The department appears to be making a turn around with its plans to trap and transfer whitetail deer to increase deer populations in the Peripheral Adirondack areas. DEC biologists have long pointed at the high cost of this kind of program and the futility of putting deer in an area that has a low deer population as a result of excessive poaching. From a public relations standpoint, this program will prove beneficial. After all, if thousands of dollars of license fees are spent to put deer in the foothills of the Adirondacks, perhaps more hunters will consider the deer poacher to be a thief.

PCB's are holding up the Salmon Hatchery near Pulaski. Salmon taken from Lake Ontario have been found to contain considerable amounts of this polutant that can be harmful if consumed in sufficient quantities. As soon as it is determined that the PCB's found in these salmon did not come from the waters of the Salmon River, which appears unlikely, plans will move forward.

DEC will develop 42 fishing and parking areas and 10 fishing access sites with some of the license fee loot. Four cooperative hunting areas will be established within 30 minutes drive of major population centers such as Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and New York.

Stream improvement programs will once again become a part of DEC activities, and an extensive warm water fisheries program is in the works.

Twenty three Adirondack ponds will be limed to reduce acidity to levels hospitable for fish. A number of previously productive lakes and ponds in the Adirondacks are completely devoid of fish due to increase acid levels apparently caused by acid pollutants that enter the atmosphere in industrial areas west of the Adirondacks and then return to earth via rainfall.

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