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Outdoors



Top guns

By C. Scott Sampson

The MacDougall Sportsmen's Club hosted the awards banquet for the Summer Trap League at the Varick Fire Hall this week. The Interlaken Sportsmen's Club team, consisting of Howard Westervelt, Herb Farr, Jack Hilley, Harry Farr, Web Rankin, Tom Bessack, James Haviland, Bob Stevens, Pete Rapalee and Ron Denman, captured the top honors.

Top individual guns were Haviland who shot 323 out of 350; Bill Brewer, 322, and Harry Farr, 319. Brewer was the only shooter to run a perfect 50 and was awarded his Winchester "50" patch.

Shooters who were awarded patches for registering 25 straight targets were Bob Sherman, Web Rankin, Frank Minner, Tom Karlsen, Eldon Larsen and Dallas Gable.

In addition to trophies the top guns were awarded checks for $50, $30 and $20 respectively.

Al Morehouse of Seneca Falls takes the angler's award of the week for a ten pound pike taken on a fly rod from Cayuga Lake. Morehouse was fishing for bass when he connected with the trophy.

Steve Henstreet, formerly of Waterloo caught a loon while fishing for bass on Cayuga Lake. The loon dove and took the minnow bait. After several tense minutes the loon was released.

MONS 030868

Bass and perch are becoming more active in both Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. The shore lines appear to be the best bet and crabs the best bait.

Seneca Lake pike fishing is picking up. Al Olis of Rochester picked up 9 pike, the largest being 14 pounds, in Glass Factory Bay. Other good areas are Kashong and High Banks.

Lake trout anglers are picking up limits at Sampson using thermocline rigs and fishing at 90 - 100 feet.

Salmon are just starting to migrate up the Salmon River. Anglers should work the tributaries to Lake Ontario at the mouths and the shorelines near the streams.

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) will hold an open house from 4 to 8 tonight at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. The open house will include guided tours of the work sites and slides of the summer projects. High school students between the ages of 15 - 18 participated and came from the districts of Auburn, Port Byron, Union Springs, Clyde-Savannah and Waterloo.

The federally funded program employes 24 students.

The Seneca Lake Waterways Association will hold an open meeting on water quality on Aug. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Jordan Hall, Geneva. Paul Schmeid, director of water quality for Region 8 will be on hand to help coordinate the efforts of the water quality monitoring system to be started by the association.

In an interview with Region 8, Association President Richard Morse was told that the Finger Lakes has had no water quality program in the past nor were there any in the future plans. The Seneca Lake Waterways Association will start the only monitoring program this fall.

Sportsmen will find higher price tags on hunting, fishing and trapping licenses this fall. The money goes directly into the conservation fund which can only be used for the care, management, protection and enlargement of the State's fish and game resources.

Governor Carey praised the N.Y. Conservation Council and the sportsmen for their support. "This willingness on the part of hunters and

MONS 030869

fishermen to assume an additional financial burden to support programs they love is a tradition in this country and particularly in New York State," the Governor stated.

License fees for the year 1975-76 are as follows: Hunting, $6.25; fishing, $6.25; combination hunting and fishing, $11.25; big game, $5.25; trapping, $6.25 bow hunting stamp, $4.25; turkey permit, $2; special muskelunge license, $1.

Non-resident fees are: Hunting, $32.50; fishing $17.25; seven day fishing, $10.25; big game, $52.50.

The license increases will assist EnCon with meeting the cost of inflation as well as to continue to advance its programs. It is the first increase since 1971 and also brings the fee schedule more in line with neighboring states.

License applications for deer party permits are now available at license issuing agents. Party permits need to be returned to the state not later than Sept. 8. Applications post marked after the Sept. 8 deadline will be returned. If you are selected by computer then you will have to send in a money order or certified check for $5.

In the Finger Lakes area the Deer Management Unit (DMU) 77 will require two hunters for the land-owner permit and two hunters for the regular permit; DMU 80 requires 2 and 3; DMU 83 requires 3 and 4; DMU 85, 3 and 4; and DMU 89 requires 2 and 4 hunters.

Big game hunters will enjoy another early bear season in the Adirondacks this fall. This is the ninth early bear season in the past 12 years and will be held from Sept. 13 through Oct. 10 in all or portions of 12 Adirondack counties.

Descriptions of the areas open to hunting are found on the New York Big Game Guide available at license issuing agents.

Hunters planning to participate in the season must obtain an early bear season permit application from license issuing agent and mail the completed application with a $2 money order, cashier's check or certified check no earlier then Aug. 26 and before Sept. 3 to assure the return of the permit by Sept. 13. Applications should be sent to: Early Season Bear Permit, EnCon, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12233.

Hunters are reminded that to hunt from Sept. 13-30 they must be in possession of their 1974-75 big game license.

Successful bear hunters are required to report by toll-free telephone (1-800-342-9832) their kill within 48 hours. Hunters are allowed one bear during early season and one during the regular season.

EnCon has issued a warning concerning the consumption offish from the Hudson River, particularly long-lived fish such as striped bass and largemouth bass.

Sampling and testing of fish from this area show high concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) in excess of 5 parts per million (ppm) set by the Federal Food and Drug Administration as acceptable for human consumption.

Concentration of PCB's ranging from 11-14 ppm have been found in largemouth bass at Cornwall and up to 37 ppm in striped bass at the Tappan Zee Bridge area. A concentration of 350 ppm was found in a rock bass in the area of Fort Edward and Hudson Falls.

Industrial pollution appears to be the major source of the PCB's. General Electric Corporation has been identified as a source and Monsanto Chemical of St. Louis, the sole manufacturer of PCB's in the United States, has been asked to identify all users of the chemical in New York for possible pollution discharge.

PCB's are also used in the manufacture of auto tires and are released to the air as the tire wears.

Good news for waterfowl hunters, early reports from Canada indicate that duck populations are up from 8 to 50 per cent depending on the species. In the Finger Lakes, Sam Walstein of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge estimates an increase of 20 per cent over last year for local breeding.

MONS 030870