

Fwd: Watershed Recreation News Updates

Pete K <pkraay@aol.com>

Fri 3/31/2017 6:21 AM

To: CrumElbow@gmail.com <CrumElbow@gmail.com>;

-----Original Message-----

From: New York City DEP Recreation <watershedevents@dep.nyc.gov>

To: pkraay <pkraay@aol.com>

Sent: Thu, Mar 30, 2017 3:13 pm

Subject: Watershed Recreation News Updates



Bureau of Water Supply
Natural Resources Division

Trout Season Opening Day

Another trout season is upon us here in New York, including for many of the reservoirs and lakes that comprise the NYC water supply system. The April 1 trout opener falls on Saturday this year so, in many cases, it won't be necessary to take an extra day off work or skip school! This is also my last opportunity to contribute to DEP's recreational newsletters as I am retiring this month after 25 years as the DEP fisheries biologist. It's been a great pleasure meeting and knowing many of you throughout the years!

I want to remind anglers that waters throughout New York, including the City's water supply reservoirs, are being threatened by harmful invasive species that are knocking on our door. Invasive species are often spread accidentally by humans. It is all our responsibility to be conscientious stewards of the environment by taking the right steps to prevent the spread of these invasive plants, animals and microorganisms! Take the extra time necessary to thoroughly clean your gear, including boots, waders, nets and other items that enter and leave the water. Clean, drain, dry and disinfect them when



Tom Baudanza

you are finished. More information can be found [here](#).

[The New York Freshwater Fishing Guide for 2017-2018](#) is out. The only regulation change affecting our reservoirs is for Titicus Reservoir. An 18-inch minimum size limit and daily creel limit of three has been established for walleye in Titicus Reservoir (Westchester County). These fish have been growing extremely well, and this new regulation will ensure more fish contribute to the natural recruitment of this fishery.

Best wishes and good luck fishing!

Tom B.

BIG NIGHTS: Amphibian Migrations Begin!

When spring rains arrive and snow melts away to expose the floor of the forest, life begins to move amongst the dead leaves and rotting logs. They are the frogs and salamanders that have been dormant underground and beneath the leaf litter for several months of cold. As warmer air thaws the soil, and steady rain softens the once icy land, amphibians awaken from their dormancy and set out to fulfill an important part of their life cycle. Read more about this great natural spectacle in our watershed by clicking the link below.

Read the full article

[Click Here](#)



An adult male wood frog (*Lithobates sylvaticus*) in Olive, NY near the Ashokan Reservoir.



Left: An adult spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*) crossing a road surface in Woodstock, NY. (2015)



Right: A Jefferson salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum* x *laterale*) crossing the road in Woodstock, NY. (2015) Jefferson salamanders are a NYS species of special concern. Notice the parasitic Platyhelminthes on the crease of the forelimb and hind limb.

Upcoming Events

Welcome SPRING! The arrival of warmer weather also marks the start of DEP's free Family Fishing Days and Boater Safety events. What better way to spend the day outside? You waited all winter for it.



FAMILY FISHING DAY

Experts from DEP, and co-sponsor NYS DEC, will teach kids and adults how to fish. Bait and fishing poles will be provided. Bring your own if you have them. The requirement to have a state fishing license is waived for this event. Please note the change of venue for our fishing event in April. It will now be held at Lake Gleneida, not at Kensico Reservoir.

[Click here to register for
Lake Gleneida
Saturday, April 29](#)





BOAT SAFETY CLASS

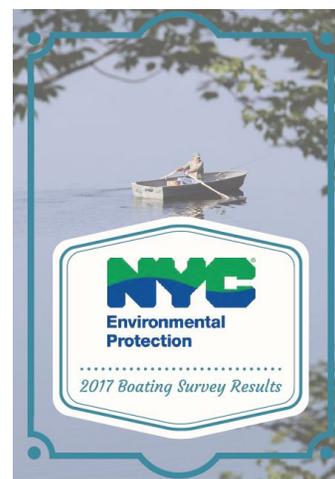
Thousands of people enjoy fishing from boats and recreational boating on NYC reservoirs each year. When boaters are out on the water, severe weather, equipment malfunctions and other factors can lead to unexpected hazards. To promote boater safety, the DEP Police will host two workshops in May. We encourage all anglers, kayakers and other boaters to join us and learn some tips for staying safe on the water.

Click here to register for
Boat Safety Class
Saturday, May 6
at Pepacton Reservoir

Click here to register for
Boat Safety Class
Saturday, May 13
at New Croton Reservoir

Boating Survey Results

Thousands of people each year launch their rowboats onto water supply reservoirs for fishing, making it one of the most popular recreational activities in the watershed. Nearly 9,500 people have over 13,000 boats stored on DEP reservoirs at 264 boat storage areas. Managing this program while ensuring the protection of the water is an important goal of the City. This past winter, DEP solicited the feedback of boaters through an online [survey](#). The survey aimed to identify areas of potential improvement for the boating program so that it remains a safe and enjoyable activity.



[Click above for survey.](#)

In addition to protecting watershed lands and waterbodies, DEP is also exploring ways to provide increased access to the boating community. Many of the City reservoirs east of the Hudson are at or near capacity for boats. Long waiting lists are common, proving that demand is exceeding capacity. This survey asked questions related to boat rental and boat share programs, initiatives that we are currently exploring as solutions to overcrowding. The survey also looked at the existing conditions of boat storage areas. DEP is interested in working with the boating community to improve these areas.

DEP emailed the survey to over 5,400 boaters, resulting in nearly 1,500 people completing the survey. This feedback will help to guide the changes and improvements that are being considered by DEP. We would like to thank all of the boaters who took the time to complete the survey. You can see a summary of the survey responses [here](#).

Looking Back



DEP attended the 40th Annual World Fishing and Outdoor Exposition at Rockland Community College in March. With more than 133,000 acres of water supply property open for recreation, the public asked great questions about fishing, boating, hunting and more. DEP issued and renewed more than 130 access permits through our mobile permit center.

[DEP Website](#) [Watershed Protection](#) [Watershed Recreation](#) [Natural Resources](#) [Email Us](#)

For recreation questions call 1-800-575-LAND (5263)
email: recreation@dep.nyc.gov

For dangerous or suspicious activity call 1-888-H2O-SHED (426-7433)



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