

Statewide trout season is underway

Despite the fact that trout fishing on Saratoga County's Kayaderosseras Creek is open



By
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year-round, scores of anglers visited the Rock City Falls area of the watercourse last Sunday, April 1, to usher in the opening day of the statewide trout season. However, most of them

left en masse around 2 p.m. when light showers moved in as predicted. I guess hitting that creek on the opening day is as much of a ritual for others as it is for me, but I also left shortly after the showers started. I wasn't dressed for a steady rain, and that's what it appeared to be, so I headed for home too. In any event, I didn't score on any trout, including any stockies that may have been put in the creek, so the arrival of the rain was fortuitous. However, I did have a few bait-stealers visit my garden worms but those might have just been chubs, shiners or other small species so my personal score for the day was zip. Come to think of it, I didn't see any other anglers catching any trout either - at least not while I was in the area.

TURKEY STATS

With the opening of the 2012 spring gobbler season a tad over three weeks away, let's review some of the stats relating to last year's spring season.

The Department of Environmental Conservation estimates the take that season at about 18,700 birds, well below the 10-year average of about 32,800. That take of 18,700 is also a decrease of about 27% from the spring 2010 figure and is attributed to a poor nesting season during the summer of 2009.

Some spring 2011 county takes were: Albany 261; Delaware 546; Fulton 144; Greene 289; Montgomery 263; Saratoga 336; Schenectady 62; and Schoharie 280.

Last spring the top five counties in turkey take were: Chautauqua (965), Steuben (787), Cattaraugus (707), Oneida (659) and Jefferson (601).

CROSSBOWS COMING?

Crossbows have been legal big game hunting implements for about a year now, but only during the rifle/shotgun seasons. Now it appears a move may be underway to expand their eligibility in other seasons as well. Legislation introduced in the New York State Senate would expand the use of crossbows but would leave it to the Department of Environmental Conservation rather than legislators.

The DEC is definitely in favor of expanded crossbow use and would probably allow their use by senior citizens and physically challenged hunters, perhaps even during the regular archery season. According to DEC, 491 deer were reported taken by crossbow hunters last year but their limited use kept that number down. Approval of their use by seniors and handicapped hunters would most certainly result in an increase in that number and could even lead to a further expansion a few years down

SPORTSMAN'S CALENDAR

APRIL

9, 13 & 14 — Bowhunter Educ. Course, Fish House F & G Club, Call 883-8691 for more info or to pre-register.

10, 12 & 14 — Three-part Hunter Education Course at the Galway Fish & Game Club. Call Charles Saul at 887-5729 to pre-register.

15 — Final day of late snow goose season.

21 — Hunter Education Course at the Pine Tree Rifle Club. Call 725-1927 for more information.

21 — Youth Turkey Hunt sponsored by Mohawk Valley Sharp Spurs. Call Mike Auriemma, 843-2432 for more info.

21 & 22 — Syracuse Gun Show, NY State Fairgrounds.

24 — Tribes Hill F & G Club monthly mtg., Tribes Hill VFD.

the road. I'll have more on this issue as it continues to evolve.

LAND LEASING

Leasing of former Champion lands in Herkimer, Franklin, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties will be allowed in the Deer River corridor following an agreement reached recently between the state and Heartwood Forestland Fund. Under the terms of this agreement, Heartwood will retain the right to permanently lease no more than 220 camp sites located on the 110,000 acres of forest lands on which the state acquired a working forest easement in 1999.

In return, the company will transfer 2,797 acres to land to the state in two parcels adjacent to the state's existing Deer River holdings. A 2,146 acre parcel within the Adirondack Park will be added to the State Forest Preserve as part of the recently classified Deer River Primitive Area and a 651 acre parcel outside the Park will become a new State Forest.

Under the terms of the 1999 agreement with Champion, the leased camps on the easement property acquired by Heartwood were to be removed by 2014. However, DEC and Heartwood worked with many other stakeholders to explore options to keep the tradition of camp leasing viable in this area. This new agreement will provide Heartwood with the discretion to permit the camps to remain on one-acre parcels after 2014.

CLEAN-UP DAY

Members of the Tribes Hill Fish and Game Club are reminded that the annual spring clean-up day at the club range will take place on Saturday, April 14 beginning at 7 a.m., rain or shine. Members attending the activities should bring gloves, rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, saws and any other fix-it tools they can think of.

For additional information, members can call club president Ken Somers at 843-1614; vice president Joe Inglesse at 842-4987, secretary Alfred Pettit, Jr. at 725-0403, treasurer Stephen Halliday at 853-6074, or Range Officer Marcus F. Kruger at 842-0415.

SYRACUSE GUN SHOW

In the event you weren't aware of it, the popular Syracuse Gun Show will take place in just two



Photo submitted

Some the pelts taken right here in Montgomery County by Tom Georgia and Josh White, both of Tribes Hill, during last winter's trapping season.

weeks, on Saturday and Sunday, April 21 and 22. The event will again be held at the New York State Fairgrounds and the hours on April 21 will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on April 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Tom Georgia and Josh White, both of Tribes Hill, on a very successful trapping season, with virtually all their animals taken right here in Montgomery County.

Their tally was 310 muskrats, 67 beaver, 21 mink, 15 raccoons, eight coyotes, eight fox, 12 weasels and one otter. Only the otter was taken in Fulton County. Not bad for some part-time trapping.

SUCCESSFUL HOG HUNT

Paul Orzolek of Esperance recently returned from a trip to Greeneville, Tennessee to visit friends. While he was there he opted for a day of hog hunting at Croy's Cabins and Game Preserve, a nearby game hunting facility. The day was productive and Paul took a 244-pound sow with his Savage .308. Following the hunt, the staff at Croy's Cabins butchered his hog then vacuum sealed and froze the meat for his trip home. Hogs of that size provide some excellent table fare and I'm certain Paul will enjoy a number of excellent meals from the critter.

Croy's Cabins offers both one-day and three-day hunts for hogs, deer, turkeys and other critters and if you'd like additional information you can call them at 423-272-2895.

TICKS AND LYME DISEASE

We haven't yet been bothered by an abundance of skeeters or blackflies (our unofficial state bird) so this might be a good time to issue our annual warning on Lyme Disease. According to the NYS Health Department, Lyme disease is caused by bacteria transmitted by the deer tick. It can affect people of any age and persons who spend time in grassy and wooded environments. Young deer ticks are generally most active from mid-May to mid-August and adult ticks are most active from March to mid-May and again from mid-August to November.



Ron Kolodziej/For the Recorder

Some hardy anglers braved sporadic showers to fish Kayaderosseras Creek Sunday on the opening day of the statewide trout season.

Turkey hunters are particularly susceptible because of the nature of their pursuit which normally involves sitting on the ground for extended periods.

Examine your clothing carefully after every hunting jaunt and brush off any ticks you find, before they can attach themselves to any skin they come in contact with. In most cases tick attachment takes a period of 36 hours or more so you have plenty of time to take preventive action before the tick begins its work. If one or more do embed themselves, the first symptom you'll likely see is a rash resembling a bulls-eye or solid patch about two inches in diameter around or near the site of the bite.

Early symptoms normally occur within three to 30 days after the bite of an infected tick. As it progresses, the early stage of Lyme Disease includes symptoms such as chills and fever, headache, fatigue, stiff neck muscles and/or joint pain, and swollen glands. If not detected and treated in these early stages, the above symptoms can worsen and more severe symptoms can manifest themselves as well. Lyme disease treatments have become more effective but if undetected or allowed to progress the disease can cause severe and long-lasting effects.

If you discover a tick that has embedded itself, your best bet is to seek medical attention as soon

as possible. Early treatment with antibiotics almost always results in a full cure though the chances for a full cure decrease as symptoms increase and treatment is delayed. As an added protection, you might also consider getting a Lyme disease shot. I understand they do work.

Insect repellents can be effective deterrents against tick bites and those containing DEET or permethrin are particularly effective. The DEET acts as a repellent while permethrin actually kills the ticks and other insects that come in contact with it. However, some people may be sensitive to one or both of these products so care should be taken before using them. If you do use a chemical repellent, apply it sparingly but thoroughly around your boot tops, trouser and shirt cuffs and perhaps around your collar as well.

Other simple tactics that can help minimize the possibility of tick bites involve tucking your trouser cuffs into your socks and being certain your shirt is tucked into your trousers.

While hunters and hikers are particularly susceptible to tick attacks, even the benign chore of taking your pet for a walk can put both you and your pet at risk. Examine your pets after every outdoor jaunt to ensure no tick has attached itself to them. Not all deer ticks are infected with the disease but why take a chance?