

1st Quarter Environment

1/4/2021

WHERE ARE THE BEARS? THAT'S A QUESTION THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION WANTS HELP ANSWERING. THEY'RE ASKING HIKERS, HUNTERS, AND SNOWMOBILERS TO HELP LOCATE BEAR DENS SO THEY CAN TRACK THE STATE'S BRUIN POPULATION. ANYONE WHO COMES ACROSS ONE IS BEING ASKED TO CONTACT D-E-C WITH THE G-P-S COORDINATES OF THE DEN SO THEY CAN MONITOR THE ANIMALS OVER AN ENTIRE HIBERNATION CYCLE. MORE DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT D-E-C-DOT-N-Y-DOT-GOV.

1/14/2021

26 BILLION DOLLARS. THAT'S HOW MUCH GOVERNOR CUOMO WANTS TO INVEST IN GREEN ENERGY. HE CONTINUED HIS STATE OF THE STATE ROLLOUT YESTERDAY, LAYING OUT AN AGGRESSIVE PLAN FOR INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SOLAR AND WIND INSTALLATIONS AND UPGRADING THE STATE'S POWER INFRASTRUCTURE. THAT PLAN INCLUDES AT LEAST TWO NEW SOLAR FARMS IN ONEIDA COUNTY AND A MAJOR UPGRADE TO THE POWER LINES RUNNING FROM MARCY TO NEW YORK CITY. WHAT THE PLAN DIDN'T INCLUDE IS HOW HE PLANS TO PAY FOR IT ALL.

1/15/2021

THE STATE IS ONCE AGAIN GIVING AWAY FREE PHEASANTS. THEY'RE PART OF A CONSERVATION PROGRAM THAT'S BEEN RUNNING FOR OVER A CENTURY. THE STATE PROVIDES FREE PHEASANT CHICKS AND REARING INSTRUCTIONS TO ANY RESIDENT THAT HAS THE PROPER FACILITIES FOR RAISING THE BIRDS AND AN APPROPRIATE GRASSLAND OR WOODED AREA TO RELEASE THEM IN. APPLICATIONS FOR THE PROGRAM ARE AVAILABLE AT N-Y-DOT-D-E-C-DOT-GOV, AND THE CHICKS ARE DELIVERED STARTING IN APRIL.

1/29/2021

LOCAL OFFICIALS ARE WARNING RESIDENTS TO BE WARY OF COYOTES. THEY'VE BEEN PRESENT IN THE AREA FOR YEARS, BUT OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN MORE REPORTS OF ENCOUNTERS WITH THE ANIMALS. IN AT LEAST ONE CASE THAT INCLUDED A REPORTED ATTACK ON A CAT. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICIALS SAY RESIDENTS SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT COYOTES BEING DRAWN INTO URBAN AREAS. KEEP THEIR PETS INSIDE IN THE EARLY MORNING AND LATE EVENING AND ELIMINATE ANY POTENTIAL FOOD SOURCES.

2/9/2021

YOU'VE HEARD PLENTY OF STORIES OF RABID RACCOONS, DOGS, AND EVEN BATS, BUT A HORSE? THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH INVESTIGATORS ARE REPORTING. A HORSE FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED FARM IN TRENTON WAS

EUTHANIZED AFTER OFFICIALS DETERMINED IT HAD BEEN INFECTED WITH THE DISEASE. EIGHT PEOPLE WHO WERE IN CONTACT WITH THE ANIMAL ARE NOW RECEIVING TREATMENT FOR RABIES EXPOSURE. OFFICIALS SAY IT'S LIKELY THE HORSE WAS INFECTED WITH THE VIRUS BY CONTACT WITH A WILD ANIMAL.

2/10/2021

NEW YORKERS WILL BE VOTING THIS FALL TO MAKE CLEAN AIR AND WATER A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT. BOTH THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY HAVE APPROVED A SO-CALLED ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS THAT WOULD AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION. SUPPORTERS SAY THE MOVE IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT RESIDENTS FROM HARMFUL POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS. OPPONENTS CONTEND IT WILL OPEN THE DOOR TO BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN LAWSUITS AGAINST COMPANIES AND MUNICIPALITIES.

2/12/2021

WHAT BETTER WAY TO SPEND A FRIGID FEBRUARY DAY THAN DOING A LITTLE FISHING? THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION HAS ANNOUNCED SATURDAY AND SUNDAY ARE A FREE FISHING WEEKEND ACROSS THE STATE. THAT MEANS ANYONE CAN TAKE TO NEW YORK'S WATERWAYS IN SEARCH OF THE BIG ONE WITHOUT A FISHING LICENSE. A FULL LISTING OF WHAT SPECIES ARE IN SEASON, BEGINNER GUIDES FOR ICE FISHING, AND MAPS OF THE STATE'S LAKES AND WATERWAYS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE D-E-C-DOT-N-Y-DOT-GOV WEBSITE.

2/22/2021

IT'S TOO MUCH TO BEAR. OR TOO MANY BEARS, AS THE CASE MAY BE. THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SAYS THE STATE'S BLACK BEAR POPULATION HAS GROWN TOO LARGE, AND THAT MEANS MORE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN HUMANS AND BEARS THAT USUALLY DON'T TURN OUT WELL. D-E-C IS PROPOSING SOME NEW MEASURES TO GET IT BACK UNDER CONTROL. THAT INCLUDES MORE HUNTING LICENSES, AS WELL AS MORE CONTROVERSIAL MEASURES LIKE ALLOWING THE USE OF BAIT AND TRAPS TO CAPTURE BRUINS.

3/2/2021

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IS ON THE HUNT FOR BLACK BEARS. SPECIFICALLY, THEY WANT THE PUBLIC'S HELP IN LOCATING THE DENS WHERE BLACK BEARS ARE SPENDING THE WINTER. THE ANIMALS GIVE BIRTH IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, SO YOU MAY BE ABLE TO HEAR THE SQUEALS OF CUBS FROM NEARBY. OFFICIALS ARE ASKING RESIDENTS TO TAKE NOTE OF ANY BEAR DENS AND SAVE THE G-P-S COORDINATES. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD RESIDENTS DISTURB THE ANIMALS, SOMETHING THAT COULD END BADLY FOR EVERYONE.

3/8/2021

IT'S TIME TO KEEP FOREIGN INVADERS OUT OF THE ADIRONDACKS. THAT'S THE MESSAGE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS AND STATE OFFICIALS. THEY'RE MOVING FORWARD WITH A PLAN TO ESTABLISH MORE VOLUNTARY INSPECTION AND CLEANING STATIONS AT BOAT LAUNCHES. THEY'LL ALLOW OWNERS TO THOROUGHLY SANITIZE THEIR BOATS AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS IN THE LAKES AND WATERWAYS OF THE ADIRONDACKS. THOSE ATTRACTIONS GENERATE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN TOURISM REVENUE FOR HERKIMER AND ONEIDA COUNTIES.

3/29/2021

DON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU SEE BLACK BEARS IN THE SUBURBS. STATE OFFICIALS SAY THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING IS LIKELY TO PRODUCE A WAVE OF BEAR SIGHTINGS IN SETTLED AREAS. MOST OF THE BRUINS ARE SIMPLY TRAVELING THROUGH ON THEIR WAY TO TRACTS OF WILDERNESS. BUT ON THE WAY THEY CAN CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH BOTH HUMANS AND PETS AS THEY SEARCH FOR FOOD. THAT CAN INCLUDE RAIDING OUTDOOR BIRD FEEDERS AND GARBAGE CANS FOR A QUICK SNACK. BEARS IN URBAN AREAS SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE STATE D-E-C.