

3rd Quarter Environment

7/1/2021

YOUR POOL FILTER MIGHT BE THE KEY TO STOPPING AN ALIEN INVASION. THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION IS ASKING POOL OWNERS TO KEEP AN EYE OPEN FOR THE ASIAN LONG HORNED BEETLE. THE INVASIVE PEST BECOMES ACTIVE THIS TIME OF YEAR, AND FREQUENTLY SHOWS UP IN POOL FILTERS AFTER IT FALLS INTO THE WATER. IT'S A HEFTY BUG, AND AN INFESTATION CAN DESTROY HARDWOODS LIKE MAPLE, BIRCH, AND ELM. OFFICIALS HAVE POSTED A VISUAL IDENTIFICATION GUIDE TO THE BEETLE AT D-E-C-DOT-N-Y-DOT-GOV.

7/2/2021

THE BALD EAGLE HAS MADE A MAJOR COMEBACK IN NEW YORK. BACK IN 1970 THERE WAS JUST ONE NESTING PAIR OF THE BIRDS IN THE ENTIRE STATE, THANKS TO THE LOSS OF SHORELINE HABITAT AND THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE PESTICIDE D-D-T. NOW THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SAYS THERE ARE OVER 320 BREEDING PAIRS, A NEW RECORD. EXPERTS SAY THEY EXPECT THOSE NUMBERS TO CONTINUE TO CLIMB AS NEW FLEDGLINGS RETURN TO AREAS WHERE THE EAGLES HAVEN'T BEEN SEEN FOR YEARS.

7/5/2021

AN ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP WANTS TO REINTRODUCE WOLVES AND COUGARS TO THE ADIRONDACKS. BOTH SPECIES ONCE ROAMED THE WOODS OF THE NORTH COUNTRY, BUT WERE EFFECTIVELY WIPED OUT BY THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY. NOW ACTIVISTS WITH PROTECT THE ADIRONDACKS ARE ASKING THE D-E-C TO CONSIDER BRINGING THE LARGE CARNIVORES BACK, USING TRANSPLANTED ANIMALS FROM CANADA AND THE GREAT LAKES AREA. THE MOVE WOULD NOT ONLY HELP RESTORE A PIECE OF HISTORY, BUT PROVIDE A NATURAL CONTROL FOR NEW YORK'S EXPLODING DEER POPULATION.

7/6/2021

THE STATE IS SEEING A BUMPER CROP OF ACORNS, AND THAT COULD LEAD TO MORE CASES OF LYME DISEASE. OAK TREES ACROSS NEW YORK NORMALLY PRODUCE A HEAVIER THAN NORMAL CROP EVERY THREE TO FOUR YEARS. ALL THAT EXTRA FOOD IS GOOD NEWS FOR RODENTS LIKE SQUIRRELS AND CHIPMUNKS, WHO SEE A POPULATION EXPLOSION. AND THAT, IN TURN, LEADS TO AN EXPLOSION IN THE NUMBER OF BLACK LEGGED TICKS INFECTED WITH LYME DISEASE. SCIENTISTS FIRST SPOTTED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TICKS AND ACORNS ACROSS THE STATE BACK IN THE NINETIES.

7/9/2021

THIS YEAR'S WET WEATHER COULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON NEW YORK'S FALL FOLIAGE. SOME MAPLE TREES ARE ALREADY DROPPING THEIR LEAVES, AND INSTEAD OF TURNING YELLOW AND ORANGE THEIR FOLIAGE GOES FROM GREEN TO BROWN. THE CULPRIT IS THE BLACK TAR FUNGUS, A DISFIGURING INFECTION THAT THRIVES IN MOIST CONDITIONS. EXPERTS SAY IT'S LIKELY TO CUT DOWN ON THE BRILLIANT COLORS TOURISTS LOVE THIS SEASON. ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, IT'S RELATIVELY HARMLESS AND DOESN'T CAUSE ANY PERMANENT DAMAGE TO TREES.

7/14/2021

AN INTERNATIONAL TRAVELER HAS ARRIVED IN NEW YORK. OFFICIALS WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAY THE LONGHORNED TICK, A NATIVE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, IS NOW IN THE EMPIRE STATE. SO FAR THE BLOODSUCKERS ARE LIMITED TO WESTCHESTER COUNTY, BUT THEY'RE EXPECTED TO STEADILY SPREAD TO THE REST OF NEW YORK. THE TICK HASN'T BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A CARRIER FOR ANY NEW DISEASES, BUT OFFICIALS SAY IT'S LIKELY TO CARRY THE SAME DISEASES AS OUR NATIVE TICKS.

7/27/2021

IT'S TURKEY TIME. THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO TAKE PART IN NEW YORK'S ANNUAL WILD TURKEY SURVEY. PARTICIPANTS JUST HAVE TO FILL OUT A SIMPLE FORM MARKING THE AGE AND SEX OF ANY TURKEYS THEY MAY ENCOUNTER. AND IF YOU'RE NOT SURE HOW TO DO THAT THEY HAVE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS. WILD TURKEYS WERE ALMOST WIPED OUT IN NEW YORK BEFORE THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, BUT WERE SUCCESSFULLY REINTRODUCED BACK IN THE 1950S.

8/10/2021

LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS ARE WARNING RESIDENTS TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST RABIES. THE DISEASE IS ENDEMIC ACROSS CENTRAL NEW YORK THANKS TO THE LARGE POPULATION OF WILD ANIMALS. PET OWNERS SHOULD MAKE SURE ALL OF THEIR ANIMALS HAVE BEEN VACCINATED AGAINST THE VIRUS, AND RESIDENTS SHOULD AVOID CONTACT WITH ANY ANIMALS ACTING STRANGELY. MORE INFORMATION ON PREVENTIVE MEASURES, INCLUDING PET VACCINATION CLINICS, IS AVAILABLE FROM YOUR COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

8/13/2021

AN ALIEN INVADER IS THRIVING IN THE WATERS OF DELTA LAKE IN ROME. THAT'S ACCORDING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION. THEY SAY ZEBRA MUSSELS HAVE INFILTRATED THE RESERVOIR. THE PROLIFIC, FAST GROWING MOLLUSCS ARE NATIVE TO RUSSIA AND FIRST ARRIVED IN NEW

YORK IN THE BALLAST OF OCEAN GOING SHIPS BACK IN THE EIGHTIES. SINCE THEN THEY'VE BEEN WREAKING HAVOC ON THE STATE'S AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS, DRIVING OUT NATIVE SPECIES AND DISRUPTING THE FOOD SUPPLY OF FISH.

8/18/2021

WATCH OUT FOR FLOODING. THAT'S THE WARNING FROM BOTH FORECASTERS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS. THE AREA IS EXPECTED TO SEE SEVERAL INCHES OF RAIN AS THE REMAINS OF TROPICAL STORM FRED MOVE ACROSS THE REGION. THAT INCLUDES THE POTENTIAL FOR SEVERE DOWNPOURS. WITH THE GROUND ALREADY SATURATED FROM LAST WEEK'S SHOWERS THAT SUDDEN INFLUX OF RAIN COULD TRIGGER FLOODING. IN PREPARATION, OFFICIALS ARE ASKING RESIDENTS TO MAKE SURE STORM DRAINS IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD ARE CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS.

8/20/2021

NOW ALL EYES ARE ON DELTA DAM. WATERS THERE CRESTED OVER EIGHT FEET ABOVE FLOOD STAGE YESTERDAY, TAKING DELTA LAKE TO A RECORD HIGH LEVEL. THAT EXCESS WATER IS NOW BEING DRAINED AND IT COULD TRIGGER A NEW ROUND OF FLOODING ALONG THE MOHAWK RIVER. IN RESPONSE, OFFICIALS IN UTICA HAVE PREPARED FOR POTENTIAL FLOODING ALONG NORTH GENESEE STREET AND LELAND AND WURZ AVENUES. THOSE AREAS ALONG THE NORTH BANK OF THE MOHAWK HAVE REPEATEDLY FLOODED IN THE PAST.

8/31/2021

A NEW PROPOSAL IN ALBANY WOULD MAKE BOAT INSPECTIONS MANDATORY IN THE ADIRONDACK PARK. THE MEASURE IS DESIGNED TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES LIKE ZEBRA MUSSELS, WATER FLEAS, AND MILFOIL THAT CAN CLING TO THE HULL AND INTERNAL SPACES OF BOATS. THOSE CREATURES CAN WREAK HAVOC ON THE EXISTING ECOSYSTEM. WATERCRAFT WOULD HAVE TO BE CERTIFIED AS BEING PEST FREE BEFORE OWNERS ARE ALLOWED TO PUT THEM IN THE WATER. A VOLUNTARY SYSTEM IS CURRENTLY IN PLACE TO SANITIZE BOATS ENTERING THE PARK.

9/1/2021

A BAT HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR RABIES IN ONEIDA COUNTY. HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY THE INFECTED ANIMAL WAS FOUND IN ONEIDA CASTLE, AND THREE PEOPLE WERE EXPOSED TO THE VIRUS. THEY'RE CURRENTLY UNDERGOING TREATMENT. OFFICIALS ARE WARNING RESIDENTS TO TAKE THE POTENTIAL FOR RABIES SERIOUSLY. THAT INCLUDES MAKING SURE ALL PETS HAVE BEEN VACCINATED AGAINST THE DISEASE. AS TEMPERATURES FALL INFECTED BATS MAY MAKE THEIR WAY INTO HOMES IN ORDER TO FIND A PLACE TO HIBERNATE FOR THE WINTER.

9/9/2021

THE FALL FOLIAGE SEASON IS OFFICIALLY UNDERWAY. THE STATE HAS RELAUNCHED ITS SEASONAL FOLIAGE REPORTS FOR THE YEAR AT THE I LOVE N-Y DOT COM WEBSITE. WEEKLY UPDATES WILL TRACK THE DEVELOPMENT OF FALL COLORS ACROSS NEW YORK. LEAF PEEPING HAS BECOME A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR BUSINESS, WITH HORDES OF TOURISTS VISITING AREAS OF PEAK COLOR. THAT HELPS DRIVE BUSINESS AT RESTAURANTS AND MOTELS DURING ONE OF TRADITIONALLY SLOW PERIODS OF THE YEAR. THE FOLIAGE REPORTS WILL BE UPDATED EVERY WEDNESDAY THROUGH EARLY NOVEMBER.

9/22/2021

WARM TEMPERATURES COULD MEAN A LONG AND COLORFUL FALL FOLIAGE SEASON. THE STATE'S FOLIAGE REPORT HAS TREES ACROSS NEW YORK SHOWING THE FIRST SIGNS OF CHANGING, WITH A FEW SPOTS IN THE ADIRONDACKS ALREADY APPROACHING THEIR MIDPOINT. BUT IF TEMPERATURES CONTINUE TO HOVER IN THE UPPER SEVENTIES AND EIGHTIES THOSE COLORS COULD BE HANGING AROUND FOR A WHILE. THE FULL FOLIAGE REPORT IS AVAILABLE AT THE I LOVE N-Y DOT COM WEBSITE.

9/23/2021

BEWARE THE BEAR. THAT'S THE MESSAGE FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION. OVER THE PAST WEEK THERE HAVE BEEN MULTIPLE BEARS WANDERING THROUGH THE AREA, INCLUDING SIGHTINGS IN CLINTON, WHITESBORO, AND ROME. OFFICIALS SAY THE ANIMALS ARE FORAGING FOR FOOD AND ARE GENERALLY HARMLESS. THEY'LL USUALLY TARGET UNSEALED GARBAGE CANS, DOG AND CAT BOWLS, OR BIRD FEEDERS FILLED WITH SEED. ANYONE SIGHTING ONE IN SETTLED AREAS SHOULD AVOID CONTACT AND NOTIFY THEIR LOCAL POLICE.