

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Environment

4/2/2021

PARTS OF NEW YORK STILL HAVEN'T THAWED OUT FROM WINTER. THE STATE D-E-C IS WARNING RESIDENTS TO BE CAREFUL IF THEY PLAN ON CAMPING OR HIKING IN THE NORTH COUNTRY. SPRING CONDITIONS MEAN MOST TRAILS ARE STILL MUDDY, BUT AT HIGHER ELEVATIONS YOU'LL STILL FIND MELTING ICE BUILT UP OVER THE WINTER. THAT COMBINATION OF ICE AND MUD CAN BE EXTREMELY SLIPPERY, ESPECIALLY ON STEEP MOUNTAIN TRAILS. IT'S NOT UNUSUAL TO FIND ISOLATED PATCHES OF SNOW AND ICE IN THE ADIRONDACKS WELL INTO JUNE.

4/6/2021

LOCAL FIRE OFFICIALS AND THE STATE D-E-C ARE REMINDING PEOPLE THERE'S AN OPEN BURN BAN IN EFFECT UNTIL NEXT MONTH. THAT COMES AFTER WHITESBORO FIREFIGHTERS WERE CALLED OUT TO A BLAZE IN THE WOODS NEAR CEDARBROOK CRESCENT YESTERDAY. THE OPEN FIRE RESTRICTION IS IN PLACE TO STOP A STRAY EMBER FROM IGNITING DRY GRASS AND BRUSH EXPOSED BY MELTING SNOW. THE BAN DOESN'T APPLY TO CONTAINED BARBECUE GRILLS AND FIREPLACES USING CHARCOAL OR NATURAL WOOD. ALL OTHER OPEN FIRES ARE RESTRICTED UNTIL MAY FIFTEENTH.

4/12/2021

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IS GETTING IT'S OWN AIR FORCE. IT'S NOW USING A SQUADRON OF 22 DRONES DEPLOYED ACROSS THE STATE. OFFICIALS SAY THE REMOTELY PILOTED VEHICLES WILL HELP WORKERS TRACK WILDLIFE AND MONITOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS. IT'S ALSO EXPECTED TO SIGNIFICANTLY EXPAND THE D-E-C'S SEARCH AND RESCUE CAPABILITIES. A SINGLE DRONE EQUIPPED WITH A CHEAP NIGHT VISION CAMERA CAN SCAN A HUGE SWATH OF FOREST FOR MISSING HIKERS AND CAMPERS.

4/30/2021

NEW YORK'S PARKS ARE DUE FOR A THOROUGH SPRING CLEANING THIS WEEKEND. THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS ACROSS THE STATE WILL BE TAKING PART IN THE ANNUAL I LOVE MY PARK DAY, INCLUDING GROUPS AT FORT STANWIX, DELTA LAKE , AND GLIMMERGLASS STATE PARK. THEY'LL BE PICKING UP TRASH, CLEANING UP GREEN WASTE, AND WORKING ON FACILITY REPAIRS TO GET PUBLIC PARKS IN SHAPE FOR THE SUMMER SEASON. ANYONE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING CAN FIND A LIST OF PARK LOCATIONS AT P-T-N-Y-DOT-ORG.

5/3/2021

NEW YORK IS GOING TO WAR AGAINST AN ALIEN INVADER. IN THIS CASE, IT'S THE GIANT HOGWEED. THE INVASIVE PLANT HAS A TOXIC SAP THAT CAN CAUSE BURNS

AND, IF IT GETS INTO THE EYES, BLINDNESS. IT'S BEEN SPREADING ACROSS THE STATE FOR OVER A CENTURY, AND HAS BECOME ESTABLISHED IN SEVERAL STANDS ACROSS ONEIDA AND HERKIMER COUNTIES. NOW CREWS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ARE LAUNCHING AN ERADICATION PROGRAM AND SAY RESIDENTS SHOULD CONTACT THE D-E-C IF THEY SPOT ANY CLUSTERS OF THE PLANT.

HOLD OFF ON HITTING THE TRAILS JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER. THAT'S THE MESSAGE TO MOUNTAIN BIKERS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION. THE NORTH COUNTRY'S EXTENSIVE TRAIL SYSTEM IS A DRAW FOR CYCLISTS LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGE, BUT THE TRAILS ARE EXTREMELY VULNERABLE AT THIS TIME OF YEAR. THE GROUND IS SATURATED WITH WATER AND EVEN LIGHT TRAFFIC CAN TURN A TRAIL INTO A MUD THAT WILL QUICKLY ERODE AS MORE VISITORS USE IT. YOU CAN GET COMPLETE TRAIL CONDITION REPORTS AT [BETATRAILS-DOT-ORG](http://BETATRAILS-DOT-ORG).

5/6/2021

NEW YORK IS ESCALATING ITS BATTLE AGAINST TICKS. THE SMALL, BLOOD SUCKING PARASITES HAVE BECOME AN INCREASING PROBLEM AS MORE TEST POSITIVE FOR LYME DISEASE AND OTHER INFECTIONS. IN RESPONSE NEW YORK PLANS TO EXPAND PROGRAMS TO CONTROL THE POPULATION, INCLUDING "TICKICIDE" STATIONS THAT TREAT WILD DEER AND RODENTS WITH CHEMICALS TO KILL THE PESTS. THE STATE WILL ALSO LAUNCH A CAMPAIGN TO WARN HIGH RISK POPULATIONS LIKE HUNTERS AND HIKERS OF THE POTENTIAL DANGERS FROM TICKS AND HOW TO PREVENT EXPOSURE.

5/27/2021

CLEAN BOATS MEAN CLEAN WATERS. THAT'S THE MESSAGE BEHIND THE STATE'S NEW PROGRAM OF BOAT INSPECTIONS IN THE ADIRONDACKS, WHICH WILL HAVE ITS FIRST MAJOR TEST OVER THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND. THE VOLUNTARY INSPECTIONS ARE DESIGNED TO KEEP INVASIVE SPECIES FROM SPREADING TO LAKES AND STREAMS. BOATERS ARE BEING ASKED TO MAKE SURE THEIR HULLS ARE THOROUGHLY CLEANED BEFORE SLIPPING THEIR BOATS INTO THE WATER. FLUSHING THEM WITH HOT WATER AND ALLOWING THE BOATS TO DRY IS ENOUGH TO PREVENT HITCHHIKERS FROM SPREADING.

5/28/2021

AFTER BEING SHUT DOWN FOR MOST OF THE LAST YEAR THE STATE'S CAMPGROUNDS ARE UP AND RUNNING. THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SAYS ALL 52 OF THE STATE'S FACILITIES ARE NOW OPEN, JUST IN TIME FOR THE LONG MEMORIALDAY WEEKEND. THAT INCLUDES LAKE DELTA STATE PARK AND JUST OUTSIDE OF ROME AND VERONA BEACH STATE PARK IN VERONA. THE BEACH AT BOTH LOCATIONS WILL BE OPEN FROM 11 TO 7 OVER

THE WEEKEND. A FULL LIST OF CAMPGROUNDS IS AVAILABLE AT D-E-C DOT N-Y DOT GOV.

6/2/20

HOLD OFF ON HITTING THE TRAILS JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER. THAT'S THE MESSAGE TO MOUNTAIN BIKERS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION. THE NORTH COUNTRY'S EXTENSIVE TRAIL SYSTEM IS A DRAW FOR CYCLISTS LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGE, BUT THE TRAILS ARE EXTREMELY VULNERABLE AT THIS TIME OF YEAR. THE GROUND IS SATURATED WITH WATER AND EVEN LIGHT TRAFFIC CAN TURN A TRAIL INTO A MUD THAT WILL QUICKLY ERODE AS MORE VISITORS USE IT. YOU CAN GET COMPLETE TRAIL CONDITION REPORTS AT [BETATRAILS-DOT-ORG21](http://BETATRAILS-DOT-ORG21)

6/4/2021

NEW YORK IS SEEING AN EXPLOSION IN THE NUMBER OF TICKS. EXPERTS SAY IT'S A RESULT OF A GENERALLY WARM WINTER WITH NO SIGNIFICANT SNOWFALL AT THE END OF THE SEASON. PRELIMINARY SURVEYS HAVE FOUND HUGE POPULATIONS OF THE BLOODSUCKING PARASITES IN THE DAMP, DARK UNDERBRUSH THEY FAVOR. ANYONE SPENDING TIME IN THE OUTDOORS SHOULD TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE PARASITES, INCLUDING WEARING LONG SLEEVES AND PANTS. PET OWNERS SHOULD REGULARLY CHECK THEIR ANIMALS FOR ANY HITCHHIKERS.

6/21/2021

WHAT NEW YORK'S RAINBOW TROUT REALLY NEED ARE...THEIR B VITAMINS. A NEW STUDY SHOWS THEY'RE SUFFERING FROM A SHORTAGE OF NIACIN, CAUSED BY A DISRUPTION IN THE NATURAL CHAIN. THE REMEDY? INJECTING THE FISH WITH VITAMIN B, AND USING VITAMIN ENRICHED MEALS TO FERTILIZE TROUT-RICH WATERS. AND IT'S MORE THAN A CASE OF HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT- SPORT FISHING FOR RAINBOW TROUT IS ONE OF THE NORTH COUNTRY'S ENDURING RECREATIONAL DRAWS.