

5/7/18-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.

5/8/19-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.

5/10/18-LOCAL FARMERS COULD BE TRADING IN THEIR COWS FOR SOLAR PANELS. MULTIPLE SOLAR COMPANIES HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN APPROACHING FARMERS ABOUT LEASING THEIR ACREAGE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF COMMERCIAL SOLAR GRIDS. THE MOVE COMES AS THE PRICE OF MILK HAS ONCE AGAIN PLUNGED, LEAVING CONVENTIONAL DAIRY FARMERS STRUGGLING TO STAY ALIVE. THE SOLAR DEVELOPERS ARE LOOKING FOR PROPERTY WITHIN A MILE OF A POWER LINE OR SUBSTATION WITH AT LEAST TWENTY AVAILABLE ACRES OF OPEN SPACE

5/11/18-IYOU'LL SOON BE ABLE TO DRIVE ACROSS NEW YORK STATE WITHOUT BURNING A DROP OF GASOLINE. THE CUOMO ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT IT WOULD BE INSTALLING ADDITIONAL CHARGING STATIONS FOR ELECTRIC CARS AT EVERY THRUWAY PLAZA. THE MOVE WILL ALLOW OWNERS OF ELECTRICS AND HYBRID VEHICLES TO RECHARGE THEIR VEHICLES WHILE GRABBING A BITE TO EAT. MOST OF THE CHARGERS WILL ALLOW DRIVERS TO TOP OFF THEIR BATTERY BANKS IN THIRTY MINUTES, BUT A FEW ARE LOWER VOLTAGE MODELS THAT TAKE EIGHT HOURS TO RECHARGE.

5/14/18-A BUNDLE OF BOBCAT BABIES CAUSED PROBLEMS FOR A COOPERSTOWN BUSINESS OVER THE WEEKEND. ON FRIDAY THE OWNERS OF THE BARNYARD SWING FAMILY FUN CENTER DISCOVERED FOUR BOBCAT KITTENS IN A SHED. OFFICIALS WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION WARNED THAT THE LITTER SHOULDN'T BE DISTURBED, SINCE AN ANGRY MOTHER BOBCAT COULD CAUSE SOME SERIOUS PROBLEMS. BUT WITH NO SIGN OF THE MOTHER BY SUNDAY D-E-C REMOVED THE KITTENS TO AN ANIMAL REHABILITATION FACILITY.

5/15/18-AN ALIEN INVADER IS TARGETING NEW YORK, AND THE STATE D-E-C WANTS YOUR HELP STOPPING IT. OFFICIALS ARE ASKING THE PUBLIC TO ASSIST IN TRACKING THE SPREAD OF THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY. THE BRIGHTLY COLORED ASIAN INSECT CAN CAUSE SERIOUS DAMAGE TO CROPS LIKE APPLES, GRAPES, AND HOPS. IT'S BECOME ENDEMIC IN PENNSYLVANIA AND WAS FIRST SPOTTED IN NEW YORK LAST YEAR. PICTURES OF THE LANTERNFLY, AND A FORM FOR REPORTING SIGHTINGS, ARE AVAILABLE AT D-E-C-DOT-N-Y-DOT-ORG.

5/17/18-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.

5/22/18-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. A FULL LIST OF CAMPGROUNDS IS AVAILABLE AT D-E-C DOT N-Y DOT GOV, AND YOU CAN ACTUALLY MAKE RESERVATIONS THROUGH THE RESERVE AMERICA DOT COM WEBSITE. THE STATE'S FORMAL CAMPGROUNDS ARE IN ADDITION TO THE PRIMITIVE CAMPING AREAS THAT DON'T REQUIRE A FEE SCATTERED ACROSS THE ADIRONDACK PARK.

5/29/18-THE ARRIVAL OF SUMMER MEANS LOCAL BEACHES AND LAKES WILL BE SEEING A HORDE OF VISITORS, AND NOT ALL OF THEM ARE WELCOME. THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IS LAUNCHING A NEW EDUCATION EFFORT ABOUT ALGAL BLOOMS. THEY'RE CAUSED WHEN HIGH LEVELS OF NUTRIENTS IN THE WATER CAUSE AN EXPLOSION OF BLUE GREEN ALGAE THAT PRODUCE A TOXIC RESIDUE. BLOOMS HAVE BEEN A MAJOR ISSUE AT SYLVAN BEACH AND VERONA BEACH STATE PARK OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS.