

OCT 18, 2019

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.

NOV 4, 2019

NEW YORK IS LOSING THE BATTLE AGAINST THE EMERALD ASH BORER, BUT WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT UNTIL THE BITTER END. THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION IS HOLDING FORUMS ACROSS THE STATE TO HELP PROPERTY OWNERS MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CUTTING DOWN THEIR ASH TREES. REMOVING TREES THAT ARE ALREADY INFESTED OR CLOSE TO OUTBREAKS CAN HELP SLOW DOWN THE SPREAD OF THE INSECT. OFFICIALS SAY ANYONE WITH AN ASH TREE ON THEIR LAND SHOULD CONTACT THEIR LOCAL D-E-C OFFICE

NOV 7, 2019

ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS, BUT BE PREPARED. THAT'S THE MESSAGE FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AS THE FIRST SERIOUS SNOW OF THE SEASON HEADS OUR WAY. OFFICIALS SAY HIKERS AND HUNTERS SHOULD HAVE PROPER COLD WEATHER CLOTHING WHEN THEY HEAD INTO THE WOODS THIS TIME OF YEAR AND ALWAYS NOTIFY SOMEONE OF WHERE THEY'LL BE AND WHEN THEY'LL RETURN. THEIR ALSO WARNING ABOUT DAMAGE FROM LAST WEEK'S STORMS THAT COULD MAKE BACK COUNTRY TRAILS HAZARDOUS.

NOV 14, 2019

DEER HUNTING SEASON IN NEW YORK'S SOUTHERN ZONE GETS UNDERWAY THIS WEEKEND, AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IS ASKING FOR HELP FROM HUNTERS. THEY'RE TRYING TO TRACK ANY LINGERING CASES OF CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE, AN AFFLICTION THAT ATTACKS THE BRAINS AND NERVOUS SYSTEMS OF DEER. AFTER A MAJOR OUTBREAK NEARLY A DECADE AGO IT APPEARS THE DISEASE HAS VANISHED, BUT D-E-C IS ASKING HUNTERS TO REPORT ANY DEER ACTING STRANGELY OR BEHAVING ABNORMALLY TO GAME WARDENS.

DEC 12, 2019

ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS, BUT BE PREPARED. THAT'S THE MESSAGE FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AFTER FOREST RANGERS HAD TO RESCUE MULTIPLE PEOPLE IN THE PAST WEEK. THAT INCLUDED A

CANADIAN HIKER LOST IN THE ADIRONDACKS. OFFICIALS SAY ANYONE HEADING OUT INTO THE BACK COUNTRY SHOULD BE DRESSED FOR FRIGID TEMPERATURES, HAVE A CELL PHONE OR PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON, AND ALWAYS NOTIFY SOMEONE WHERE THEY'LL BE AND WHEN THEY'LL RETURN.

DEC 16, 2019

THEY SOUND LIKE CREATURES FROM A HARRY POTTER STORY. THE EBONY BOG HAUNTER, THE DEVIL CRAWFISH, THE WABASH PIG TOE. BUT THEY'RE ACTUALLY ANIMALS IN NEED OF PROTECTION, ACCORDING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION. THEY'VE RELEASED THEIR ANNUAL LIST OF SPECIES AT RISK IN NEW YORK. THAT INCLUDES NEARLY FOUR HUNDRED ANIMALS THAT ARE EXPECTED TO DECLINE OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS. THE D-E-C IS TASKED WITH PLANNING WAYS TO PROTECT THOSE ANIMALS, FROM PLACING THEIR HABITATS OFF LIMITS TO ESTABLISHING BREEDING PROGRAMS.

DEC 30, 2019

YOU CAN START THE NEW YEAR OFF WITH A VISIT TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IS OFFERING FREE FIRST DAY HIKES AT FACILITIES ACROSS NEW YORK, INCLUDING DELTA LAKE STATE PARK AND THE UTICA MARSH. VOLUNTEERS WILL HELP GUIDE THE EXCURSIONS, WHICH ARE DESIGNED AS FREE, FAMILY FRIENDLY INTRODUCTIONS TO THE STATE'S PARK SYSTEMS. MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE AT [PARKS-DOT-N-Y-DOT-GOV](http://PARKS-DOT-N-Y-DOT-GOV).