

Meet Our Summer Intern - Eric Renfer -



Hello everyone! My name is Eric Renfer. I am a student at Morrisville State College and I am in my junior year of the Renewable Resources Bachelor of Technology. This summer, I am interning at the GSC and gaining a lot of valuable experience. So far, I've completed a full color trail map using aerial photos, created a visitor satisfaction survey for the trail system, and assisted in teaching local school students. Putting up permanent wetland boundary markers, finishing the Woodcock trail, and enlarging the food plot are some of my other goals this summer. It's been a lot of fun so far and I've enjoyed working with everyone here. If you see me around, please stop by and introduce yourself!



Directions to the Great Swamp Conservancy

To get to the GSC Nature Center, take interstate 90 to exit 34 in Canastota, NY. Then, go left on Route 13 South (100 yards), turn right on Maple Street, go right on North Main Street (about 3 miles) and you will see our office/Nature Center Complex on the corner of North Main and Pine Ridge Road. If you are coming from the east or west on Route 31, turn south onto North Main Street and go about 3 miles to Pine Ridge Road.



8375 North Main Street
Canastota, NY 13037
(315) 697-2950
www.gscincny.org

MARSHLANDER

Official Publication for the Friends of the Great Swamp Conservancy

"Madison County's Only Nature Center" – Summer 2011

The Russians Were Coming, The Russians Were Coming **And We Welcomed Them With Open Arms!**

The GSC was honored to host a group from the International Center of Syracuse on June 22nd, who brought with them six dignitaries from Russia, to discuss environmental issues and how we work with both the public and the government. This was a very diverse group of educators, government representatives, the national news media (Pravda), and a linguist as an interpreter. They were very interested in how we have achieved success in educating the public about different environmental issues. We discussed how and why we promoted the WRP and our positive end results. We discussed some of the things that we are doing with the Wildlife Habitat Management Group, especially the creation of a directory of programs that are available to the public and how to go about getting people involved. We discussed that the education of the public takes a very long time and basically has to start with the children and hope they educate the adults, or at least don't make the same mistakes when they grow up. We emphasized that environmental conservation is global.

The Russians are just beginning to be aware of environmental conservation and are very interested in finding out how to go about it. Their system of land ownership is much different than ours with the government owning the land, but giving out 40 year leases. I hope they keep in touch with us because it is neat to have international relations and to see how they compare with us.

We must thank GSC members Peter and Nancy Cann, who arranged for them to visit us. Thanks for the wonderful experience!



Pictured: Oksana Alekseyeva, Public chamber advisor Nigina Beroyeva, Special Correspondent for "Komsomolskaya Pravda" newspaper Viktoriya Labzukova, Specialist for Voronezh regional environmental policy Natalya Uvarova, Associate professor at Derzhavin Tambov State University Tatyana Utkina, Assistant professor at Chelyabinsk Teacher Development and Retraining Institute, Natalya Bayrak, International Center "Linguist" Irina Jesionowski, Professional Interpreter. Also in picture are Eric Renfer - GSC Intern, Jack Cotten - GSC board member, and Mike and Rusty Patane.

From the Director . . .

How to Make A Lot of Friends Fast

The other afternoon it was hot and dry with the temperature in the 80's. We haven't seen rain for quite some time now and we are down about 2 inches compared to what we normally have time of year they say. I often wondered just who "they" were. In this case it is the National Weather Bureau. All of this droughty weather hasn't hurt how the grasses are growing, especially in the trails and fields that we want to keep short for insect eating birds. So I decided to get on the tractor and mow one of the Tree Swallow and Bluebird Management Areas that I had already mowed once this year and was back to at least 16-18" of height in about a months time. The Great Blue Herons that have a rookery in the swamp behind my house were making quite a ruckus. Their young must be getting old enough to leave the nest and the adults are trying desperately to get them to leave.

Hot and sweaty, I climb on the tractor, set the brush hog to the right level, and start mowing the field. As the front tires go through the tall grass, bugs of all sort start coming out of the field and just make themselves pests by flying around my head and face. Luckily, the exhaust from the diesel tractor keeps most of them away from the operator.

The phenomenon starts to happen right in front of your eyes. One by one they appear, coming in at blazing speeds, swooping up and down, to and fro, and doing what they do best; fly and eat. Eat bugs that is. As the tractor and the brush hog continue to disturb the grasses, the bugs fly up and out of

them and my new found friends descend to the feast. Some species can eat up to twice their body weight in bugs a day, the same as bats do at night. I'm sure glad that they aren't bats because I'm not very fond of being in a group of them, or even one, if you want to know the truth.

My aviary saviors have arrived to save me from the bites and stings of my enemy, the bugs. With the air hot and still over the field, it's very obvious to see and even feel movement around you all of a sudden. They come in like stealthy little miniature jets; one, then five, then ten, then twenty, and, well you get the idea, but you don't understand the feeling. The feeling of being on that tractor with as many as a hundred of these fighters helping the cause. Then you remember that these stealthy little fighters have a very sharp beak and you have a lot of skin exposed. It's especially unnerving

when they are showing off for you and are doing their aerial display over the hood of the tractor and, at times, just inches from your face. They have never hit me and, even more amazing, is that I have never seen them run into one another no matter how many are flying over the field at once.

The bugs stopped bothering me, I got used to the close flying aviators, and I finally got the field mowed. As I pulled away from the field my new friends, the Tree Swallows, were full, fat, and happy that I stirred up so much food at once for them. Who knows, they may have equalled a whole night's worth of feeding. They were still zig zagging and criss crossing the field savoring the last morsels before moving on with the group to find a new area to feed in, and maybe, just maybe a new friend on a tractor, who knows?

Michael J. Patane

Foundation Appreciation Day

The GSC hosted a luncheon on June 21 as an appreciation to the Gorman Foundation and its Board. They have always been interested in us and have supported us through critical times. This has been an annual event for a number of years now. However, this year, with the Gorman's permission, we expanded the luncheon to include the Gifford Foundation and the Central New York Community Foundation, both of Syracuse. This has now become Foundation Appreciation Day, which I hope more of our board members can attend next year. Unfortunately, Lindsey from the Gifford Foundation was unable to attend. However, Danielle from the Community Foundation did. It was a great time, starting with the

wonderful picnic style luncheon and a barbeque on the grill. It was nice to be able to talk to the individual Gorman board members and Danielle in a relaxed, informal atmosphere, as well as giving them the opportunity to get to know our board members better. We discussed our improvements and our needs. The solar panel donation was discussed with the value of \$20,000. The foundations were asked if they could match this donation and create a building development fund. No answers were given and none were expected at this time. Other issues and funding were discussed. All in all it was a great time and a great meal. I look forward to next year!

Great Swamp Conservancy's Mission

The GSC's purpose is to foster environmental education, to preserve biological diversity and to conserve and manage natural resources in the Oneida Lake and Lake Ontario Watersheds. The primary focus area of the GSC includes approximately 36,000 acres on the south eastern shore of Oneida Lake in the towns of Lenox and Sullivan. This area is home to what the Iroquois called the Great Swamp, a remnant of Lake Iroquois.

The Great Swamp was drained for agriculture from late 1800's to the mid 1900's creating rich black muck soils. The GSC's driving force has been to return a portion of these wetlands back to their original state through partnerships with landowners, and local, state, and federal governmental agencies.

Board of Directors

Michael J. Patane	<i>Director/Pres.</i>
Tom Lenweaver	<i>Vice President</i>
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Tiffany Nicole White	<i>Recording Secretary</i>

Joan Widmann-Blaisdell, Ron Blaisdell
Kevin Bliss, Julie Valesky, Lisa Eklund,
Jack Cotten

Marshlander Editor - Tom Lenweaver
E-mail - info@birdart.com

GSC Nest Box Monitoring

By Don and Anne Mayville

We have been monitoring nest boxes at the GSC since April after we became certified to do so through Cornell University. Monitoring consists of opening each box weekly and recording the condition of the nest, whether it is partial or complete and how many eggs or young the nest contains, what species the nest belongs to and whether or not any adults were observed.

Way before we started monitoring, the nest boxes needed to be cleaned of last year's nest. Then the boxes condition was examined and repairs, if needed, were done. The ten boxes that were put up last year, had to be rebuilt. They had no way of being opened, which made it impossible to monitor.

We usually start out at the Over-look area in the afternoon, after egg laying for the day was finished and checked the 14 boxes there. Then it was on to the Nature Center grounds 18 boxes there and then on to the trail across the road and around the dam which together add up to 60 boxes total.

This is the breakdown as to what breeds we found had claimed a box for themselves.

Tree Swallows: 37; Eastern Bluebirds: 4; House Wrens: 2; European House Sparrow: 0; hurray! We did have a few boxes where House Sparrows began building nest but we kept destroying the nests and after a while they left to build their nest somewhere else. And we were happy about that success. The remainder of the boxes are not occupied at this time.

All information was recorded on Cornell Lab of Ornithology's on line NestWatch Program. This information

will be used in their research. The NestWatch program is a citizen-science project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Bird watchers across North America monitor breeding birds and share their observation with scientist. This information helps researchers understand how birds respond to changing landscape and climate.

Monitoring these nest boxes gave us a chance to be out in nature, observe native species at the GSC and see some special birds like the Woodcock and Spotted Sandpiper. It was also a thrill to watch bird families and witness the amazing cycle of life.

Dragonfly Biology 101

The "toothed ones", "flying jewels", "winged dragons" are emerging from the Great Swamp wetlands!! Dragonflies, of the order Odonata consume thousands of mosquitoes and other insects. 193 species have been found in New York State, the highest richness of any state behind Texas. New York's huge expanse and numerous wetland types contribute to this wealth of species (1). The Great Swamp Conservancy invites you to a very information program about these flying machines July 19th at 11am by Naturalist/Director, Jim D'Angelo of Sterling Nature Center. There will be a power point presentation and walk for dragonfly observation/ID. Until then, come out to the GSC and take a walk around the wetlands and the boardwalk on a nice sunny day to view these spectacular specimens. Come learn, observe, discover nature all around you!!



(1) June 2011 Conservationist Magazine - Flying Jewels of NY.



— Membership —

Along with the satisfaction of fostering local and regional environmental education, providing a place for nature-oriented recreation, and helping preserve biodiversity in the Oneida Lake and Lake Ontario watersheds, GSC members will receive our newsletter, "Marshlander," which documents our events and accomplishments, and provides articles of interest to all.

*Now - Join Online,
It's Very Easy - Use Your
Credit or Debit Card!*

See the website for details

Membership Levels:

- Students and Seniors \$10.00
- Individual \$15.00
- Family \$20.00
- Conservation \$100.00
- Corporate \$200.00

Donations are tax deductible. GSC membership is open to any and all persons who love and enjoy nature. Return this form to: Great Swamp Conservancy, 8735 North Main Street, Canastota, NY 13037

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Seen Out On Our Trails

Combined list of findings from guided bird walks from the Kirkland Bird Club (4/30, 5/8) and Spring Migration Festival (5/7):

Great Blue Heron	Eastern Bluebird	Brown-headed Cowbird	Black-throated Green Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Veery	House Finch	Common Yellowthroat
Canada Goose	Wood Thrush	American Goldfinch	Chipping Sparrow
Mallard	American Robin	House Sparrow	White-crowned Sparrow
Osprey	European Starling	Green-winged Teal	Bobolink
Northern Harrier	Nashville Warbler	Ring-necked Pheasant	Baltimore Oriole
Red-tailed Hawk	Yellow Warbler	Killdeer	Common Crow
Mourning Dove	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Rock Dove	Kingbird
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Black-and-white Warbler	Belted Kingfisher	Black Vulture
Downy Woodpecker	Ovenbird	N. Rough-winged Swallow	English Sparrow
Northern Flicker	Field Sparrow	Barn Swallow	Wild Turkey
Eastern Phoebe	Song Sparrow	Tufted Titmouse	Woodcock
Great Crested Flycatcher	White-throated Sparrow	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-shouldered Hawk
Blue Jay	Darkeyed Junco	House Wren	Green Heron
American Crow	Northern Cardinal	Gray Catbird	Spotted Sandpiper
Tree Swallow	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Cedar Waxwing	
Black-capped Chickadee	Red-winged Blackbird	Blue-winged Warbler	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Common Grackle	Black-throated Blue Warbler	

The birds are really enjoying our wetlands this year!

Great Swamp Conservancy-East Side Trail System Improvements

My name is Jacob Wimmer, I am 15 years old and will be an 11th grader in the fall at Canastota High School. I am working on my Eagle Scout service project and have decided to improve the East Side Trail System at the Great Swamp Conservancy. My project mentor is my Assistant Scout Master, Mike Rose.

For several years Canastota Troop 43 has exhibited at the Great Swamp Conservancy's Spring and Fall Migration Festivals. Seeing the importance of this preserve for a wildlife habitat, education and natural resources, I have designed my Eagle Scout Project around the new East Side trail system.

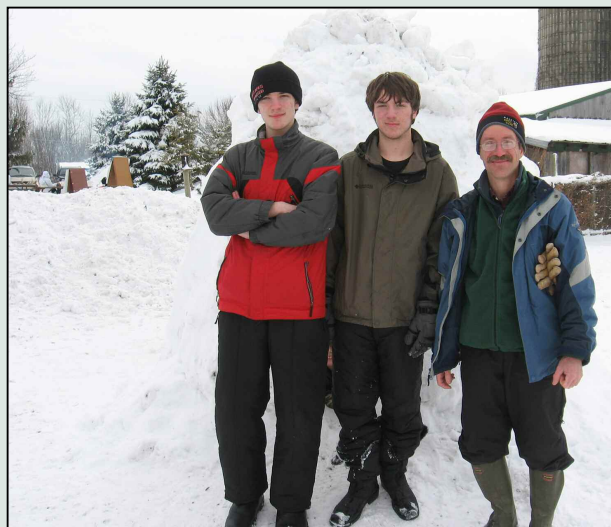
My project will include: building 6 resting benches, 6 signposts for educational signs, 12 bluebird houses, and lining an 8'x10' section of the spillway with one foot of stone. Improving the spillway will reduce erosion and allow the lawnmower to pass over to help maintain more of the trail system for pedestrian traffic. Estimated cost of my project is approximately \$700.

As part of this Eagle Scout project I am responsible for raising the money needed to fund the project. Setting up a display table

at the Spring Migration Festival in May is one way I have begun to collect donations. I am also approaching a few area businesses for help.

Donations are greatly appreciated and you can contact me at 697-7359 or you could contact Rusty at the GSC. Donations can also be sent to: Jacob Wimmer, 8493 Oneida Valley Road, Canastota, NY 13032. Please make checks payable to me.

Teaching families the importance of the Wetlands and their place in our eco-system is important. I like knowing my project will help be part of that. In the future, I hope more families will take advantage of the hiking trails, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, bird and wildlife watching the Great Swamp Conservancy offers.



Standing in front of an igloo that they built at the Winter Hibernation Festival are Jacob (middle) with younger brother Caleb, and their Dad Tim, who is Scoutmaster.

Welcome to the Great Swamp Conservancy
"Madison County's Only Nature Center"

Great Halloween Fun Day!
at the Great Swamp Conservancy
October 24th, 2010 - 11am - 4pm
Click here for information

A Non-Scary Day of Fun for the Children & Parents!
Halloween Displays • Games • Crafts • FUN !!!

The GSC's Purpose
The Great Swamp Conservancy Inc. (GSC) is a non-profit, tax exempt corporation under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi). Donations are Tax Deductible.

The GSC's purpose is to foster environmental education, to preserve biological diversity and to conserve and manage natural resources in the Onondaga Lake and Lake Ontario Watersheds. The primary focus areas of the GSC includes approximately 30,000 acres on the south eastern shore of Onondaga Lake in the towns of Lenox and Sullivan. This area is home to what the Ingonis called the Great Swamp, a remnant of Lake Iroquois.

The Great Swamp was drained for agriculture from late 1800's to the mid 1900's creating rich black musk soils. The GSC's driving force has been to return a portion of these wetlands back to their original state through partnerships with landowners, local, state, and federal governmental agencies.

Our Board of Directors
Kevin Blak, Martha "Buck" Patane, Michael J. Patane, Joan Blaisdell, Ron Blaisdell, Fred Zalko, Sylvia Warner, Julie Valachi, Yara Lomuscio

Officials
Michael Patane — Executive Director/President
Tom Koenig — Vice President
Fred Zalko — Treasurer
Betsy Patane — Secretary

Help us with our *Bobwhite Quail* recovery projects!
Adopt A Quail and help us feed the fine of its first restoration effort!
Our Quail have recovered and have been shot in the state of Carolina, Nevada, Chittanooga, and Illinois.

Great Swamp Conservancy
3000 Onondaga Lake Road
Lenox, NY 13360
www.gscincny.org

Don't forget to check out our New Website!

Newly redesigned, much more user friendly and updated regularly – make sure to add a bookmark to your favorites: www.gscincny.org

"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land"

— Aldo Leopold

Volunteers Needed

The Great Swamp Conservancy is an all-volunteer organization. We need volunteers of every shape and size. Whether it be around the grounds or to help with one of our many fundraising events, we'd love to have your help.

Call or e-mail GSC please!

Contributions

The following individuals and institutions have expressed their appreciation in a number of ways. Their contributions are acknowledged here.

**In Memory of
Thomas Lenweaver Jr.
Mary Rochester - Sherrill, NY
Chittanooga Rotary Club**

Ideal Cut Glass Raffle Winner



The Ideal Canastota Cut Glass Vase winner was Sue Murray of Chittanooga. Presenting her with her raffle prize is Mike Patane, GSC Director at the Spring Migration event in May.

Don't forget about our ongoing raffle!

A beautiful hand-made Fly Rod donated by Carl Kapfer of Mad River Fly Rod Co., Inc. tickets are \$2 each or 3/\$5. Raffle drawing will be held during our Christmas Tree Sale December 4th, 2011 at 3pm. Need not be present to win. This will make someone a nice Christmas gift valued at \$300. All proceeds to benefit the Great Swamp Conservancy, Inc..

Many thanks to our sponsor Carl Kapfer!

— Our Summer Wish List —

Postage stamps, wheelbarrow, duct, masking, scotch tapes-all sizes, paper towels, toilet paper, windex, stones to make stone walls, old one-room schoolhouse desks and any old schoolhouse items for our schoolhouse museum

Donations and memberships can now be made through our website!

Our re-designed and improved website, featuring a PayPal link now allows you to make donations, a contributions in memory of a loved one or to become a member or renew your existing membership online. We're now able to process credit and debit card payments through PayPal, and you do not need a PayPal account to do so, plus it's safe, secure and very easy.

Swamp Snappers



The purpose of this GSC club is to enjoy nature while learning about photography, to further the understanding of nature through photography, and to promote the ethical practice of nature photography. The club meets at 1PM on the 2nd Saturday of every month except December, weather permitting. All are welcome!

E-Mail is the Way to Go!

The Marshlander is trying to become more "green" in its delivery method.

We would like to email the Marshlander to any member who has the capability. This would help us all by saving paper and mailing costs. It also has the advantage of all color photographs!

If you would like your newsletter sent to you by email, please call the GSC at (315) 697-2950 or send an email to us at our new address: gscincny@centralny.twcbc.com.



Update: Woodcock Initiative

On May 24th at 12:00 noon the GSC was host to the 2nd organizational meeting of the Central New York Wildlife Habitat Management Group 1. This meeting was well attended and represented all of the partners now in our group. We welcomed new members: retired professor Robert Chambers from SUNY-ESF, Jillian Liner from Audubon NY, Jim Petreszyn representing both the Madison County Planning Department and the NYS Fish and Wildlife Management Board, and Mike Fournier of the USDA-NRCS. The addition of these members rounded out our group so that many interest areas can be covered and so that our plans come out as sound and beneficial as possible. Our "Focus Area" was again defined as the lake plain area from the Mohawk Valley west to just west of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.

The purpose and goals of the group were discussed, with Professor Chambers and Mike Patane offering to work on a formal proposal to be made to the group at the next meeting. The next meeting now looks like it will be at the beginning of September.

A report was made that 8 male Woodcock were observed doing their courtship ritual on the GSC property, 7 across from the office and 1 on the office side of N. Main St. The habitat improvements for the demonstration areas will focus on the areas where the birds were not heard singing.

Two individual bird surveys were done on GSC property on 4/30 and 5/8 by the Kirkland Bird Club and the results were 40 and 53 species, respectively. It is important to know what is here now in order to plan to use the best management practice to attract more species while maintaining what we already have.

Mike Fournier of the USDA-NRCS explained the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) to the group and discussed ways to work within its structure to achieve our goals. He was very informative and will be a key player in how our

group develops policy.

Mike Patane, as the GSC representative, suggested that we be the lead agent of the project and the official meeting place of the group. We would also be the first demonstration area where along our trail system there would be examples of best management habitat practices according to state and federal government, and Wildlife Management Institute manuals. This would allow each agency to bring people here to educate them on these management practices and we would also have the same opportunity. They would also be able to have seminars here

during the summer and when our barn is weatherized and heated we will be able to accommodate seminars year-round. The group unanimously agreed to have the GSC as the lead agent. We then discussed the responsibilities of each of the partners, which are published at the GSC office and available to anyone, however too numerous for this article.

With this group agreeing that we are the lead agency gives us a good reason to go to different foundations to help fund the development of our barn into a year-round useable building. The main reason the GSC is a great representative for this group is our location and the easy public access to our trails and the example demonstration areas.

Gardening to Help Local Butterfly Life Cycles; or Growing Turtlehead and Baltimore Checkerspots

Effie and Mike Smith, once natives of our area but now Florida residents, visit the Great Swamp once a year and do not leave a leaf unturned. They volunteer in Florida at an Audubon center teaching the public about birds, insects, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. They are also busy monitoring about 60 Bluebird boxes. So, while walking the GSC trails they have documented a very important butterfly species that is disappearing at an alarming rate because of a lack of food supply; the Turtlehead plant. With their sharp observation skills they photographed a Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly near the boardwalk. It is a breathtaking butterfly - its brilliant orange, white, and black colors and startling contrast between its dominant black dorsal and brightly colored ventral wing patterns make it unforgettable. The average adult life span for Baltimore Checkerspot butterflies is only 10 days!

The Baltimore's primary food source is the Turtlehead plant,

which can also be found around our wetlands. Milkweed, Arrowwood Viburnum, Hairy Beardstongue, Wild Rose, and False Foxglove are also food sources for the checkerspot.

We can take action and provide these food sources by planting them in early spring by adjacent wetlands. The GSC plans on doing this for 2012. Plants can be ordered from this nature plant supplier: www.prairiemoon.com. If you really are a butterfly nut there is a wonderful Butterfly Gardener magazine that has a wealth of information published quarterly by:

The North American Butterfly Association, Inc.
Membership Service
4 Delaware Rd.
Morristown, NJ 07960

Thanks Effie and Mike Smith for all your care and love of nature and sharing your knowledge with everyone!

— DEC RELEASES DRAFT DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN —

The Plan Will Guide Deer Management for the Next Five Years

In an effort to provide a deer management program that balances diverse public interests and values with the biological needs of deer, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recently announced the availability of a proposed five-year deer management plan. The plan is available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7211.html>. The DEC will accept public comment on the draft through Thursday, July 28.

The draft plan describes six primary goals that encompass the current priorities for deer management in light of public values and issues as expressed through various hunter surveys and at 20 public meetings held on the subject across the state in 2009:

- Manage deer populations at levels that are appropriate for human and ecological concerns;
- Promote and enhance deer hunting as an important recreational activity, tradition, and population management tool in New York;
- Reduce negative impacts caused by deer;
- Foster public understanding and communication about deer ecology, deer management, economic aspects and recreational opportunities;
- Manage deer to promote healthy and sustainable forests and enhance habitat conservation efforts to benefit deer and other species; and

- Ensure that the necessary resources are available to support sound management of white-tailed deer in New York.

The plan includes a number of specific management proposals that have been under discussion with the public for several years. The following are among the recommendations included in the plan:

- Establish deer management focus areas with liberalized antlerless harvest rules in areas with overabundant deer;
- Establish a special youth deer hunting weekend in early October for junior hunters to aid in the recruitment of new deer hunters;
- Open the bowhunting season in the Southern Zone on October 1, rather than the current opening in mid-October;
- Include an index of deer impact on forests when setting deer population objectives; and
- Continue the mandatory antler restriction program in wildlife management units (WMUs) 3C, 3H, 3J, and 3K, and expand antler restrictions to seven additional wildlife management units (WMUs 3A, 4G, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4S, and 4W) in southeastern New York.

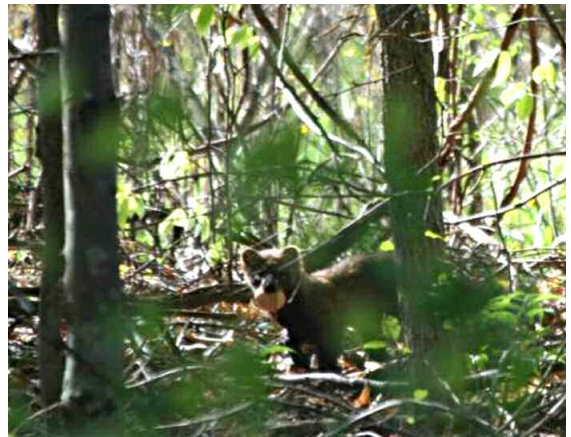
Comments may be submitted in writing to DEC Deer Management Plan, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754 or by email to deerplan@gw.dec.state.ny.us using "Deer plan" in the subject line.

Thank you to supporters of the GSC!!!

With great appreciation to all the volunteers that helped make the Spring Migration Nature Art, Craft and Children's Festival a big success!!! Girl Scout Troop 331 and Leader, Boy Scout Troop 43 and Leaders, our sponsors, Diane Sexton, Deb Bowe, Susan Koorey, the Cortez family, Caroline, Kayleigh, and Eric for teaching.

Anne and Don Mayville for repairing, setting up new bluebird boxes and monitoring 60 bb boxes once a week throughout the spring and 2nd nesting. Anne Mayville and Cheri Sassman for leading our 1st guided bird walks for Spring Migration (with great results). Kirkland Bird Club and Chittenango Rotary Foundation for their generous donations. Effie and Mike Smith for their endless guidance, inspiration and knowledge. Peter Shay - donations for museum, Peter and Nancy Cann for organizing the Russian visit, John and Joe Patane - donations of shovels and rakes, Rick Klunder for installing a new toilet, to all that donated garage sale items, our famous bakers - Estelle Patane, Anne DeFrancisco, Diane and all our members that believe in our mission. Charlotte, Bill and Brenda Stuy. As you can see, we can do so much together!!! If we missed anyone, please know that we are truly thankful for your goodness.

— Out on the Trails —



This strange animal is a fisher cat. Although, it is not a cat it is a member of the weasel family. A medium size mammal native to North America, it is a forest loving creature that forages where there is a lot of fallen dead wood. They are climber but prefer to spend much of their time on the forest floor. They eat small animals, fruit, mushrooms and as you see here, goose eggs. Rarely seen, this fisher was photographed by *Anne Mayville* on the new nature trail across from the Nature Center during the guided bird walk on Saturday, May 7th.