



# Notes from the Streams

## Seeing is believing

While on patrol on Lake Henry on the opening day of bass season, I was standing on a dock surrounded by lily pads. I was speaking with bass fisherman Kevin Park of Lake Ariel. He was fishing just on the edge of the lily pads. He was catching fish on what seemed like every cast—mostly bass and pickerel. While we were speaking, I heard a loud splash in the water near where the dock and shoreline meet. When I turned around to see what was causing this commotion, I was amazed. I witnessed something I probably wouldn't believe if I didn't actually see it myself. An impressive largemouth bass was chasing a small chain pickerel. This only went on for a few seconds. When it was all said and done, the bass disappeared into the lake and the pickerel, while making a hasty retreat, wound up sitting on the gravel shoreline. I watched it for a few seconds, then returned the frightened fish to the water.—*WCO Dave Kaneski, Northern Wayne County.*

## Rough year for boat patrol

It's been a rough year for boat patrol in the S. Montgomery County District. On the Saturday before Memorial Day the engine blew on one of my patrol boats and DWCO Bob Lohoefer and I narrowly missed having to call the Game Commission to tow us in. Little did I know I wouldn't see that patrol boat again until August. On Fourth of July weekend Regional Manager Jeff Bridi and I nearly got heatstroke while patrolling the Norristown pool off the Schuylkill River in my other boat. Shortly thereafter the summer drought dropped the river level so low that my (only) patrol boat was stuck at the dock in Port Indiana for a month. We've also had to contend with dead batteries, fuel problems, flat trailer tires and last month when DWCO Roger Lauderback and I took one of the boats for a final patrol we hit some debris left from Hurricane Floyd and destroyed a brand new propeller. If anyone wants to see proof of Murphy's Law, just come on boat patrol with me!—*WCO Rob Croll, Montgomery County.*

## Raccoon Lake

This past summer the Fish & Boat Commission in cooperation with DCNR put 25 fish habitat structures in Raccoon Lake. Russ Mauer from DCNR supplied the

materials and helped in the construction. Dave Houser and Ryan Koch from Habitat Management brought the know-how and the tools. The labor to build and move the structures was performed by individuals who were in the Beaver County juvenile probation program. This is a continuing project that will last another four years.—*WCO Raymond J. Borkowski, Northern Washington/Southern Beaver Counties.*

## Interesting service

I have served many warrants in many different places. At defendants' homes, hotels, jails, places of employment and courts, just to name a few. This past summer Deputy Waterways Conservation Officer Brad Killian and I went to a defendant's home in Tunkhannock with a warrant. No one was home, but someone had left a note, "Went to the market (name was given), meet me there." We found the defendant in front of the meat case.—*WCO Larry L. Bundy Jr., Eastern Sullivan/Wyoming Counties.*

## Lebanon Youth Field Days

Kudos to the organizers of the Lebanon Youth Field Days. They do an excellent job organizing this event. These types of events are important in helping get the youth of today involved in fishing, hunting, boating, archery, etc. If you do not have an event like this where you live, do something about it. By investing time getting a child interested in the great outdoors today, you may be preventing them from spending time in the great indoors (prison) tomorrow.—*WCO Thomas Stuckey, Lebanon/Southern Dauphin Counties.*

## Pickerel possibilities

I was on patrol along the Susquehanna River on Route 7 near Hallstead during a period of high-flowing river ice. At the New York state border, I turned around in a pull-off when something caught my eye at the edge of the lot. On closer inspection, I discovered seven dead pickerel lying in the weeds. There are several possibilities of what this may have meant:

- I will no longer be able to make fun of the Pennsylvania Game Commission officers in the area by responding to their bemoaning that they have to pick up road-killed deer by saying "I'll get the road-killed fish."
- New York state has embarked on a secret program raising species that are capable of overland travel.
- If the last assumption is true, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation needs personnel to teach the fish (in schools?) to look both ways before crossing the road.

• I may need to adjust my law enforcement efforts so that I can apprehend individuals using motor vehicles to take fish.—*WCO Bryan C. Bendock, Susquehanna County.*