



Hudson River - Black River Regulating District

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

Mark M. Finkle, Chairman

Robert J. Smullen, Executive Director

Executive Director's Corner

Greetings from the Sacandaga Field Office! The Regulating District welcomes you to the second edition of our newsletter, which contains important information on timely topics for the six million acres of land in eleven counties which comprise the Hudson and Black River watersheds.

The Regulating District is a long term stakeholder in the Great Sacandaga Lake Advisory Council (GSLAC), and is providing historical documents for the GSLAC project to produce a documentary on the creation of our beautiful lake. The GSLAC has engaged Pepe Productions of Glens Falls, who is working under the direction of the Saratoga County Historian, Lauren Roberts, to complete the film this summer. We look forward to seeing the production debut later this year.



We are also excited to support the 'New' New York Leaders Internship program, and will welcome three interns to the Regulating District this summer. They were chosen from a group of over 100 applicants, and are highly qualified and motivated to become Great Sacandaga Lake Stewards for the summer. Congratulations to those who were chosen!

Yours in service,
Robert J. Smullen
Colonel, USMC (Ret.)

P.S. What's in a name? We are having a contest to name this newsletter, which used to be called "Waterline". Please submit your recommended names to our Sacandaga Field Office at sacfo@hrbrdd.com. The top 3 names will be sent out for a survey vote.

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Scheduled Board Meetings

The next meeting of the Regulating District Board is at 10:00 am on May 9, 2017 at the Inlet Town Offices, 160 State Route 28, Inlet, NY.

What is River Regulation?

By its most simple definition, river regulation is an intentional, planned, change in the flow in a river. As defined by an engineer, or by those whose job it is to control the flow of rivers, river regulation is: the management and control of the flow of a river through the systematic storage and release of water for the purpose of minimizing the occurrence of naturally high or extreme flow conditions to produce a more equalized, regular, dependable, flow throughout the year.



Stillwater Reservoir provides an average of 2.78 billion cubic feet of storage capacity annually

Management and control of a river is accomplished by use of a structure which impedes the natural flow of a river, provides some amount of retention of the natural flow of a river, and allows release of the retained water. The Regulating District uses the Conklingville Dam at Great Sacandaga Lake and Stillwater Dam at Stillwater Reservoir, and three other dams and reservoirs, to manage and control the flow of rivers in the Hudson and Black River watersheds. The process of impeding, retaining, and releasing, also known as the systematic storage and release of water, is the fundamental component of river regulation.

Systematic storage and release of water is the holding back of water of excess flow (most often in the spring months) which is available during times of natural high flows and releasing the water in a more regular fashion during the dry season (most often during the summer months), or times of low natural flow. The outcome of storage and release produces river flows which are equalized, regular, and more dependable than those which would occur naturally.

Equalized, regular, and dependable, river flow is the primary objective of river regulation. Meeting the objective produces numerous benefits including, most notably, flood protection and augmentation; both being the purpose for which the Regulating District was formed and reservoirs were built. Storage of water during times of natural high flow reduces the flow of water in a river and can reduce or eliminate the occurrence of flooding. At the same time, storage of water provides the possibility of future release. Release of stored water during times of natural low flow increases, or augments, the flow of water in a river allowing sustained or increased water quality, recreational use, consumption, transportation, assimilative capacity, and power production.

Springtime Conservation

<http://www.gslff.com/>

Members of the Great Sacandaga Lake Fisheries Federation stock rainbow trout on 28 April 2017.



Safety Corner

Boater Safety on The Great Sacandaga Lake

By Peter M. Byron, President, Great Sacandaga Lake Association (GSLA)

There is nothing more attractive for children of all ages than a beautiful lake in the foothills of the Adirondacks. But ... before you decide to take the plunge, The Great Sacandaga Lake Association (GSLA) wants everyone to 'check out' a few boater safety regulations. We prepared a few questions to start you on your way! The answers are taken from the **New York State Safe Boater's Guide!**

Question 1: What is a boating safety certificate and who is required to have one?

Motorboat Operation

- *"Operators born on or after May 1, 1996 must have a boating safety certificate and be at least 10 years of age.*
- *Operators who are younger than 18 years of age must be accompanied by a person who is at least 18 years of age or older and is the holder of a boating safety certificate or not required by law to hold a certificate."*

Personal Watercraft Operation

"In order to operate a personal watercraft within New York the operator must be a minimum of 14 years of age and hold an approved boating safety certificate or is accompanied by a person over 18 years of age who is the holder of a boating safety certificate."

Question 2: A 'personal flotation device' is a 'wearable life jacket'. How many do we need on our vessel?

"Every vessel including canoes, kayaks and row boats operated in NYS must have on board one USCG approved wearable life jacket for each person aboard. In addition, vessels 16 feet and greater in length except canoes and kayaks are required to have a USCG approved type IV throwable flotation aid."

Question 3: Who has to wear a 'personal flotation device'?

"Children under the age of 12 aboard pleasure vessels less than 65 feet in length, canoes, kayaks or rowboats unless in a totally enclosed cabin

- *Everyone being towed (wakeboarding, water skiing, tubing, etc.)*
- *Everyone aboard pleasure vessels less than 21 feet in length, including rowboats, canoes, and kayaks, while underway between November 1st and May 1st*
- *Everyone aboard a PWC"*

Question 4: What is the speed limit on the lake?

"In New York State, vessel speed is generally limited to 5 mph when within 100 feet of the shore, a dock, pier, raft, float, or anchored boat ... Local ordinances may further regulate the speed of boats operated within specific areas, check with authorities regarding local regulations." (The Town of Day has specific speed restrictions.)

Question 5: What are my responsibilities as a vessel operator?

"Basically the rules require that every operator conduct his/her vessel in a prudent manner, at a safe speed, while constantly maintaining a proper lookout by all means available."

Question 6: What are the restrictions on 'drinking and boating'?

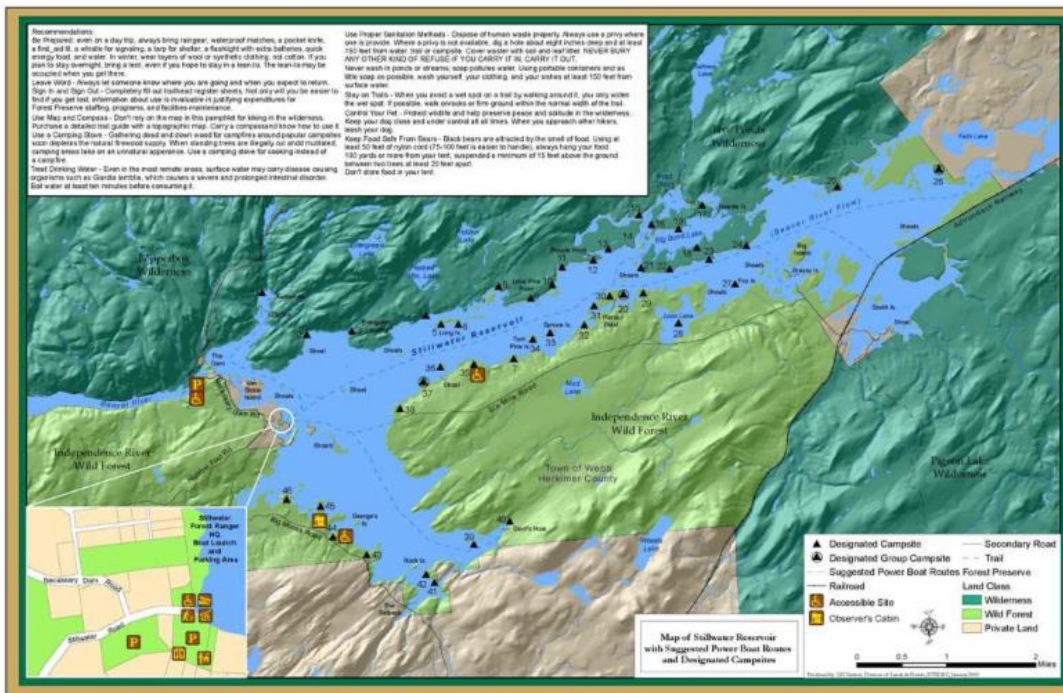
"No one may operate a vessel on the waters of NYS while impaired or intoxicated either through the consumption of alcohol or drugs. An operator with a blood alcohol level of 0.08 or higher is considered legally intoxicated."

Our short series of questions were meant to alert you to some of the issues of boater safety. **There is MUCH MORE!** Please enroll in a course whether in a classroom setting or online and earn your boater safety certificate! Further information (including the Boater's Guide) and classes are posted on the New York State Parks and Recreation website

(<https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/>) The GSLA offers **FREE** courses to GSLA members. **FREE** courses are offered by the Fulton County Sheriff's Department. Please note that other providers may charge a course fee. For additional information about the Great Sacandaga Lake Association, see www.gsla.org

Historical Spotlight

In 1919, the Black River Regulating District was formed. The Stillwater Reservoir on the Beaver River was enlarged by raising an existing dam to increase capacity and control in 1924. See the Stillwater Map below, courtesy of New York State DEC:



The geography of the Regulating District encompasses nearly six million acres in the Hudson and Black River watersheds.



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