

FISH AND GAME CLUBS LED THE WAY IN CONSERVATION

July 29, 2003

I have expounded on several occasions over the years about conservation and its true meaning and significance to mankind. In my formative years and the early part of my life it was a key word, a word that enjoyed a much more prominent part of our vocabulary than it does today.

It has been supplanted by environmental, a word that in my humble opinion, like paint, covers a multitude of sins.

Conservation, or true, wise use of our natural resources, in a very minimal way threatens the environment, a process whose greatest sin is offending the finer sensibilities of the present ruling elite. To make a long story short, the only permanent damage is one of perceived aesthetics when viewing the initial effects of utilizing natural resources.

Having said all that, I admit experiencing twinges of pain when viewing them myself. The only time in ire is aroused is when common sense and accepted, proven methods are abandoned in the process.

Log on to my website www.martallen.com to see a classic example of what I am talking about. When the work is done properly, I tell myself its analogous to the old saw, "You cannot make an omelet without breaking a few eggs."

One need look no further than our own Department of Environmental Conservation to prove my assertion. When I began work for the State in 1958, it was known simply as the Conservation Department. Its biggest supporters were the multitude of Conservation clubs that were simply referred to as Fish and Game Clubs. Every municipality in the nation, regardless of size, boasted of at least one.

They were made up of concerned common everyday citizens who promoted conservation ethics. They did more for wildlife conservation and propagation than any of the so-called environmental groups prevalent today. Like many of our country's traditions built on common sense and the common good, blind ideology and special interest groups have overwhelmed them.

Some notable conservation minded groups that were offshoots of the original fish and game clubs still exist on the national and state level. They have made notable strides in improving their stated goals. The most prominent that come to mind are Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

The Adirondack conservation Council is an area group that still carries on the traditions of all sportsmen and outdoor recreationists. To that end they are sponsoring a "Sportsman's Rally," on Saturday, August 16. It will be held at the Schroon Lake, Essex County Fish and Game Club on Hoffman Road in Schroon Lake, New York.

If you are interested in any of the following it will behoove one and all to attend and support their efforts.

"In support of reopening and keeping open the roads and waters of the State lands in the Adirondacks. Funds raised at this event will be used to assist the Town of Horicon and others involved in legal action against New York State for their violations of state constitution, laws, etc. and their illegal closing of these roads. The Adirondacks belong to every citizen and taxpayer of New York, and all should be allowed equal access to and use of all these lands.

All types of recreation should be allowed including but not limited to, horseback riding, mountain biking, snowmobiling, ATV riding, fishing, hunting, trapping, motor boat use, seaplane use, and motorized use by the elderly, disabled or handicapped.”

For more information call any one of the following telephone numbers, all are within the 518 area code; 499-0623; 356-0929; 623-3482; 585-7520.

In conclusion and as an aside, I wish to thank Gregory Feszyk for very eloquently rebutting both Ms. Janice Clark Bittmer’s and Mr. Denis Clifford’s views on the Iraq war with logic, and facts, sans personal comments not germane to the issue.