

2025 Spring Newsletter, Orange Lake Fish and Game Club

Winter seems to have finally released it's grip on the lake and spring has sprung. For the first time in 3 years there was enough ice cover to make winter sporting activities on the lake possible again. Ice fishing, ice boating, skating and even some cross country skiing took place. While the fishing never got to the levels of some previous years, it was nice to get out and give it a shot. I know a young angler fishing with me by the first hump got a 25 ½" pickerel, that he was able to turn into a DEC angler Achievement award and should also result in an In-Fisherman Master Angler Certificate. Way to go Nate.

The lot seems to have held up during the winter. It was the first time in 2 years that we actually had to have it plowed for access to ice. There is a small buildup of gravel at the water line but other than that everything looks good. We plan to put in the docks on Saturday April 19 at 9 AM. The more people we get the easier it goes. It should only take an hour or an hour and a half. We need some young blood as the docks are heavy and many of us are getting older.

There is a new Vice-president/Tournament Director this year, Mike Crawley. With Rich's help he has laid out the tournament schedule for this year, which can be found on the club website orangelakefishandgame.com. For the first time in years it looks like we will have a tournament on Greenwood Lake in June. Fine the schedule and consider giving a tournament a try.

On June 29 we will hold our annual husband/wife fishing tournament. Cost is \$20 per couple. We fish for about 5 hours, have a weigh-in and lunch before giving out the cash prizes. We choose this weekend for the tournament because it is DEC's free fishing weekend. No license is required to fish that day. The husband can catch up to 4 of the 5 fish being weighed in. If the wife/girlfriend catches 5 big one all five of hers could be weighed in. It's a fun time and one of the few days each year I actually get my wife to fish.

Sunday July 27th is our annual family day. We have a kids tournament from 10 to noon. Then food and prizes afterward. The kids go for panfish and we have a tournament style weigh-in. EVERYONE gets a prize or 2. In fact I just purchased 6 rod and reel combos, a net and some tackle bags at the Thruway Sports annual sale. We will add to that before the event. Kids can be your children, grandkids, nieces or nephews and there is no cost for entry. Some kids fish right off the docks but those in a boat with adults stand a better chance.

This year I have initiated a King of Orange Lake Contest that will run from February until the docks come out in the fall. There are 10 or 11 categories of fish, Largemouth, sunny, white and yellow perch, etc. You record your longest fish in each category and then add them all together for a final length. Longest length will be crowned king. I'm adding the entry form to the club website along with this newsletter. All fish must have been caught in Orange Lake.

The club added a new facebook site for members. Unlike the original site members will be able to post and join in chats etc on the new site. There is a couple question activity that needs to be answered to join. We hope to keep out unwanted people. The page is [orangelakefishandgameinc](#) on facebook. The older site will still be retained for now and that is [orangelakefishandgame](#).

I got out in my kayak on the 29th when the weather hit the 70's. It was fairly calm to start, but the wind picked up the the point I felt it wise to head in. I caught 3 bass, the largest of which was about 3 ½ lbs. Panfish should be starting to make their journeys into shallow a=water to spawn any time now. I have caught a number of small panfish in the pool next to the parking lot. That is usually a good indicator that it's time to start fishing.

Even without the docks it would be possible to launch a boat, you would just have to beach it on the gravel ramp to get in and out. Kayaks, canoes and small boats would not present a problem.

A couple reminders. EVERYONE who operates a boat with any kind of motor must have a taken a boater safety class. Classes are available on line if you haven't already taken one. Life vests must be worn at ALL TIMES until May first. That is state law.

Hope to see you all on the lake soon. Pete K.

KING OF ORANGE LAKE

Largemouth Bass	_____ in.	Date _____
Smallmouth Bass	_____ in.	Date _____
Pickereel	_____ in.	Date _____
Yellow Perch	_____ in.	Date _____
White Perch	_____ in.	Date _____
Crappie	_____ in.	Date _____
Pumpkinseed	_____ in.	Date _____
Bluegill	_____ in.	Date _____
Catfish	_____ in.	Date _____
Carp	_____ in.	Date _____
Golden Shiner/Roach	_____ in.	Date _____
TOTAL INCHES	_____ Inches	

Name: _____ Phone _____

RULES

Measure fish in inches to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, mouth open or closed, tail spread or closed, max length. One entry for each category, all fish MUST be caught in Orange Lake. Fish must be fairly caught, ie. Hook in the mouth, except Carp. Carp may be taken by bow, snagging with a lure or normal means. Taking Carp by bow is legal May 15 to Sept. 30 . Add up the total inches for the number of species you have entered, highest total is KING.

Contest will run from February 1 to October 31st. Completed forms must be received by Pete Kosloski, 521 Washington Avenue, Newburgh NY 12550 by November 15th.