

Friends of Connetquot
PO Box 472
Oakdale, NY 11769

November 21, 2008

NYSDEC Commissioner Pete Grannis
625 Broadway
14th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-1011

Dr. Commissioner Grannis,

My name is Keith Snedecor and my family has been here in New York State since 1638. My ancestor, Jan Snedecor, was a magistrate to Dutch Governor Peter Stuyvesant and was one of the earliest tavern owners in the new world. My great great great grandfather Eliphalet Snedecor opened a tavern/inn along the Connetquot River in Oakdale back in 1820 which later became the Southside Sportsmen Club and today the Connetquot River State Park Preserve. I currently sit on the board of Friends of Connetquot which is dedicated to the preservation and conservation of the Park.

I am writing to ask that you please consider keeping the Connetquot Fish Hatchery open in some capacity for the sake of historical preservation and continuity. The Connetquot is truly an historic gem which is situated in the heart of one of the most densely populated areas in the country. There is no other park like it in the world and closing the hatchery will have a devastating impact on this historic landmark.

The IPN virus, unlike mosquitoes and ticks, poses no health threat to humans and should not be the driving factor for closing an historic 19th century fish hatchery in operation for over 144 years.

Sincerely,

Keith J. Snedecor