

Spicer Creek Wildlife Management Area
Universal Access Blind Dedication



NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
cordially invites you to join us for the
Dedication of a Universal Access Blind

at

Spicer Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA)

on

East River Road

in the

Town of Grand Island

on

Thursday, October 15, 2009

at

11:00 AM

Waterfowl hunting and waterbird observation have enjoyed a long and rich history on the Niagara River. The new Universal Access Blind recently constructed at this location will help to provide current and future generations with improved access to this area's valuable natural resources.

Partial funding for this project was donated by the Oakawanda Wildlife Foundation in memory of John Daniels an avid local waterfowl hunter and conservationist.

We hope that you will be able to join us for this event. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact **Ken Roblee at 851-7010**.

Please note: Parking at this area is limited. Additional parking is available at the River Oaks Marina on East River Road, adjacent to the Whitehaven Cemetery.



NEWS

REGION 9, Abby Snyder, Regional Director
Niagara, Erie, Wyoming, Chautauqua,
Cattaraugus and Allegany counties



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

David A. Paterson, Governor
Alexander B. Grannis, Commissioner

www.dec.ny.gov

270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203-2915

For Release: IMMEDIATE

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2009

Contact: Megan Gollwitzer

(716) 851-7201

**DEC AND OAKAWANDA WILDLIFE FOUNDATION HONOR LOCAL SPORTSMAN
AT SPICER CREEK AT ACCESS BLIND DEDICATION
Newly Constructed Blind Improves Public Access and is Universally Accessible**

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Regional Director Abby Snyder today joined Dr. Thoma of the Oakwanda Wildlife Foundation to dedicate a new waterfowl hunting blind and observation deck in memory of John Daniels, an avid local sportsman and conservationist. The new hunting blind and observation deck is located along the shoreline of the Niagara River at Spicer Creek Wildlife Management area in the Town of Grand Island and is designed to be universally accessible.

"We hope that this universal access blind will help current and future generations to enjoy the Niagara River's tremendous natural resources," said Regional Director Abby Snyder. We are very pleased to dedicate this structure in memory of John Daniels - a strong supporter of local efforts to protect and improve the Niagara River, and a tremendous contributor to waterfowl studies in this area. With this dedication, we celebrate his legacy and achievements."

Funded in part by the Oakawanda Wildlife Foundation through a donation in memory of John Daniels, the newly constructed universal access blind improves public access to the Niagara River for waterfowl hunting and observation.

"This structure's universally accessible design improves opportunities for people with physical limitations to enjoy Spicer Creek Wildlife Management Area and experience firsthand the Niagara River's rich waterfowl history," said Snyder. "DEC is committed to providing an ever-increasing range of accessible opportunities that make outdoor recreation available to everyone."

Spicer Creek Wildlife Management area is located along East River Road in the Town of Grand Island and encompasses approximately 35 acres. The universal access blind is located at the end of the gravel path that begins in the parking area and leads to the Niagara River shoreline. Acquired by New York State in 2004, Spicer Creek Wildlife Management area is located in a Class 1 regulated Wetland. The area is environmentally significant for the unique wetland habitat that it supports, the public recreational access it provides to the Niagara River waterfront, and the open space that it protects.

(MORE)

During his lifetime, John Daniels banded hundreds of diving ducks on the Niagara River, providing valuable information on the life histories and migration of Niagara River waterfowl. The banding information that he collected has been a tremendous asset to the database for the North American Bird Banding Program. He also served on committees that worked to further natural resource protection on the Niagara River, including the Buckhorn Marsh Restoration Advisory Committee and the Niagara River Remedial Action Committee.

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