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# FISHING and HUNTING in GREENE COUNTY

• [www.GreeneTourism.com](http://www.GreeneTourism.com) •





## Welcome to Greene County

the legendary land of Rip Van Winkle, and to the fabulous hunting and fishing that has become as much a part of Greene County's lore as Rip's twenty-year nap.

But before introducing you to our woods and waters, we would like you to know, that at a time when access to prime hunting land and pristine lakes and streams is becoming a scarcity nationwide, Greene County not only prides itself in opening its borders to hunters and fishers, it has over the years, worked with state officials and private landowners in providing sportsmen and sportswomen with greater access to our mountains, rivers and streams, all of which have an abundance of fish and game.

There are few places left that can provide you with the kind of experience you're seeking. Greene County is one of those few places. We are sure that once you have experienced the recreational opportunities we have to offer, you will return time and time again.

So, take a few minutes to browse through and see how easy it is to find information on fishing access sites, as well as where to hunt big and small game.

All we ask is that while here, you respect our lands and waters, be ethical and safe in what you do, and obey all state environmental laws and regulations.

Best wishes from the Greene County Tourism Promotion Department

## Getting hooked on Greene

Whether you are a seasoned angler or new to the sport; prefer lake fishing to river or streams, favor fly-fishing to conventional outfits, casting nymphs and streamers over worms and artificial lures, or catching bass over trout and other species, this brochure will provide you with angling information on dozens of fishable waters open for public angling, all of which doesn't receive the elevated publicity that attracts hordes of anglers to other locations.

It has been written that "...Greene County is rapidly becoming known as a destination spot for anglers, with unparalleled fishing for species such as bass and trout. Along with fantastic fishing, Greene County offers a quiet solitude reminiscent of an earlier era, and where the only company you may encounter are the critters that inhabit the land." The one exception to that observation would be the Hudson River, which has gained world-wide recognition, not only for its highly acclaimed black bass and striped bass fishery, but for its public access as well.

Home to 76 species of fish including: sturgeon, herring, catfish, white and yellow perch, American shad and striped, largemouth and smallmouth bass to name a few, the majestic Hudson River provides anglers with a variety of sportfishing opportunities throughout much of the year.

**SHAD** arrive in our section of the river in mid-April, and while the spawning run is short -- lasting only five or six weeks -- before these feisty fish return to the sea, they are fun to catch on light or ultra-light fishing tackle, using small jigs, commonly referred to as shad darts.

While shad can be caught from shore (they prefer the main channel, gravitating to the edge of drop-offs) the best fishing is from a boat.

(Note: Due to emergency regulations enacted by the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) earlier this year, recreational shad fishermen are limited to "catch and release" only.)





**STRIPED BASS** are next to arrive, with the first of these fish taken from our section of the river during the second week in April, with the heaviest concentration arriving two weeks later. Striped bass can be caught trolling lures such as Magnum Bombers and DJ-30s, or drift fishing bait, such as cut or live herring, eels or worms.

There are ten public access sites to the Hudson River in Greene County, several of which (Catskill, Athens, and Coxsackie) have boat launching and parking facilities.

Other access sites include: Hannacroix Creek, Cohotate Park, Four Mile, Cornell, Kiwanis, Athens and the Ramshorn Livingston Sanctuary.

### **Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass**

When you talk about quality bass fishing, you're talking about Greene County. Along with dozens of lakes, ponds and reservoirs, Greene County has often been described as the gateway to the Hudson River. The character of this fishery has resulted in our hosting bass fishing tournaments at a state, regional or national level, almost every weekend between the third Saturday in June and mid November since the mid 1980's, including ESPN's Bass Anglers Sportsman's Society (B.A.S.S.) Pro Tournament Trail and FLW's \$10 million Stren Pro Series.

Both largemouth and smallmouth bass can be caught on a variety of lures and baits including spinnerbaits, buzzbaits, crankbaits and rubber worms. Largemouth bass preferred habitat consist of weedbeds and structure such as lily pads, hyacinth, overhanging trees, stumps, brush, bridge pilings and boat docks; and while smallmouth bass prefer rock strewn, gravelly, hard bottoms, each can be found in both.

On the other hand not all bass fishermen enjoy competitive fishing. Some prefer fishing for peace of mind and filet of sole, and for those, Greene County has its share of serene lakes.

All of our lakes have some form of public parking, and some offer cartop and/or trailer boat launch access -- a few offer ice fishing opportunities. Among those open to public angling are: Colgate Lake in Jewett, Dolan's Lake in Hunter; Greens Lake in Leeds; Rip Van Winkle Lake in Tannersville); NorthSouth Lake in Haines Falls (DEC Campground); Notch Lake in Edgewood (near Devil's Tombstone Campsite), Potic Reservoir in Earlton (fishing permit required by Catskill Village Clerk) and Batavia Pond in Larry Lane Park in Maplecrest. (See map for locations).

Anglers are reminded that a serious fish disease known as **Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)** has been detected in New York. As a result, the DEC has placed restrictions on the use of baitfish and transportation of live fish. With some specific exceptions, all live baitfish sold for use on New York State waters must be certified to be free of VHS and a number of other potentially serious fish diseases. Personal collection and use of baitfish is permitted, but live baitfish may only be used on the water from which they were collected and may not be transported off the body of water. VHS is not harmful to humans, and has not been detected in Greene County.



While several of these lakes are stocked with trout, (see stocking chart) it is the streams that bring most of the anglers to our banks. And, with more than 50 wild trout streams, consisting of more than 221 miles of accessible water, and seven stocked streams that annually receive more than 40,000 trout, including more than 2,000 two-year olds (12 inches or larger) you can understand why people get hooked on Greene County. (See map for stream locations).

In addition, there are 51 equivalent miles of trout streams accessible to the public via Public Fishing Right Easements according to the provisions of the New York State Public Fishing Right (PFR) easement program along 7 different streams in Greene County - the Catskill Creek, Ten Mile Creek, Schoharie Creek, Batavia Kill, West Kill, East Kill and Cook Brook. There are also some 15 designated public parking areas (see GIS map) available to fishermen with many locations offering roadside parking in cooperation with local highway departments. Several footpaths also exist to provide angler access from roadways to the water.

Public Fishing Rights Easements are strips of land - typically 33' wide bordering the streams or rivers that have been purchased from landowners by the DEC as Public Fishing Rights Easements. These are permanent easements, which will remain open to anglers even if the land is subsequently sold or subdivided. More information on public fishing rights is available from the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) website at:

## Trout

Whether you prefer the feistiness of a brook trout, the aerobatics of a hooked rainbow or matching wits with a wary brown, you'll find plenty of action along all of the streams that flow through and around Greene County.

Even before the late and legendary angler Art Flick (a resident of West Kill), penned his "Streamside Guide" in 1947, these three species of fish were being sought out by anglers, many

of whom learned that Greene County streams provided unequalled opportunities for success.

Those same opportunities can be found today along many of the same streams Flick cast his line, and in fact there is a monument dedicated to his memory along the Schoharie Creek (Route 23A) 3 miles west of the Town of Lexington. Flick was responsible for having that very spot designated as the first "Fish for Fun" location (catch and release) in New York State.

Other highly regarded Schoharie Creek locations include: Hunter Mountain Bridge Pool, Deming's Bridge Pool, Carr's Bridge Pool, East Kill Junction Pool, Lexington Bridge Pool and West Kill Junction Pool.

In addition the Greene County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs annually stocks Greens Lake with 200 two-year old brown trout. (Note: The summer of 2008, the DEC stocked North Lake is with Tiger Muskies - a sterile hybrid between a Northern Pike and a Muskellunge. These fish should reach the legal 30" size limit by 2011.)

## **License Issuing Agents (Municipalities)**

A license is required for anyone aged 16 and older and is available at many sporting goods stores, village and town clerks' offices. A license is not needed in the Hudson River, pending Federal and State regulations.

(Unless noted area code is 518)

### **Town Clerks:**

**Ashland**, 12094 Rte. 23, Ashland, 734-3636

**Athens**, 2 First St., Athens, 945-1042

**Cairo**, 512 Main St., Cairo, 622-3120

**Catskill**, 439 Main St., Catskill, 943-2141

**Coxsackie**, 16 Reed St., Coxsackie, 731-2727

**Durham**, 7309 State Route 81, East Durham,  
239-6122

**Greenville**, 73 Ida Smith Lane, Greenville,  
966-8276

**Halcott**, 234 Rte. 3, Halcott Center,  
845-254-6899

**Hunter**, Rte. 23A, Tannersville, 589-6150

**Jewett**, 3547 Cty. Rte. 23C, Jewett, 263-4392

**Lexington**, 3542 Rte. 42, Lexington, 989-6476



**New Baltimore**, 3809 Cty. Rte. 51, Hannacroix,  
756-6671

**Prattsville**, 31 Creamery Lane, Prattsville,  
299-3181

**Windham**, 371 State Rte. 296, Hensonville,  
734-4170

## **Annual DEC Stocking List**

Basic Creek - 1,220  
Batavia Kill - 6,160  
Batavia Pond - 1,100  
Catskill Creek - 6,060  
Colgate Lake -- 680  
East Kill-- 2,270  
Greens Lake -- 180  
Kaaterskill Creek -- 2,060  
Schoharie Creek -- 22,060

## **Hunting and Fishing Suppliers and Licensers:**

**Arthur J. Young & Son**, 101 Washington St.,  
Prattsville, 299-3426

**Frank Schnare Gun Shop**, 1418 Cty. Rte. 51,  
Hannacroix, 207-1394

**Hunter Mountain Expeditions/Orvis**,  
518-263-4666 [www.huntermountain.com](http://www.huntermountain.com)

**N & J Market**, 670 Rte. 145, Cairo, 622-8565

**River Basin Sports Shop**, 66 W. Bridge St.,  
Catskill, 943-2111

**Wal-Mart Supercenter**, 265 West Bridge St.,  
Catskill, 943-9423

## **Greene County Hudson River Fishing Guides and Boat Rental Services**

**Capt. Chuck Graham**, Angler Charters,  
518-965-3718, [www.angcharters.com](http://www.angcharters.com)

**Capt. Richard Booth**, Reel Happy Charters,  
518-622-8670  
[www.reelhappylfishingcharters.com](http://www.reelhappylfishingcharters.com)



**Capt. Bob Lewis, Fins and Grins Charters,**  
518-943-3407  
**Riverview Marine, 103 Main St., Catskill,**  
518-943-5342  
[www.riverviewmarineservices.com](http://www.riverviewmarineservices.com)

## **NYS Licensed Fly Fishing Guides and Instructors**

**Judd Weisberg, 518-989-6583**  
[www.fishwithjudd.com](http://www.fishwithjudd.com)  
**Hunter Mountain Expeditions/Orvis,**  
518-263-4666 [www.huntermountain.com](http://www.huntermountain.com)  
**Bob Berzal, 518-522-3495**  
[www.fish307.com/lgf1yschool/](http://www.fish307.com/lgf1yschool/)

## **Greene County Sporting Organizations**

### **Greene County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs**

Bob Monteleone, President 518-589-9946  
Walt Bennett, Trustee, 518-239-6569

### **Columbia-Greene Rip Van Winkle Chapter of Trout Unlimited**

Joe Reina, President, 518-701-3640  
[www.cgtu.org](http://www.cgtu.org)

### **Greene County Bassmasters**

Steve Daley, President, 518-678-9565,  
E-mail [rivergent@aol.com](mailto:rivergent@aol.com)

### **Rip VanWinkle Bassmasters**

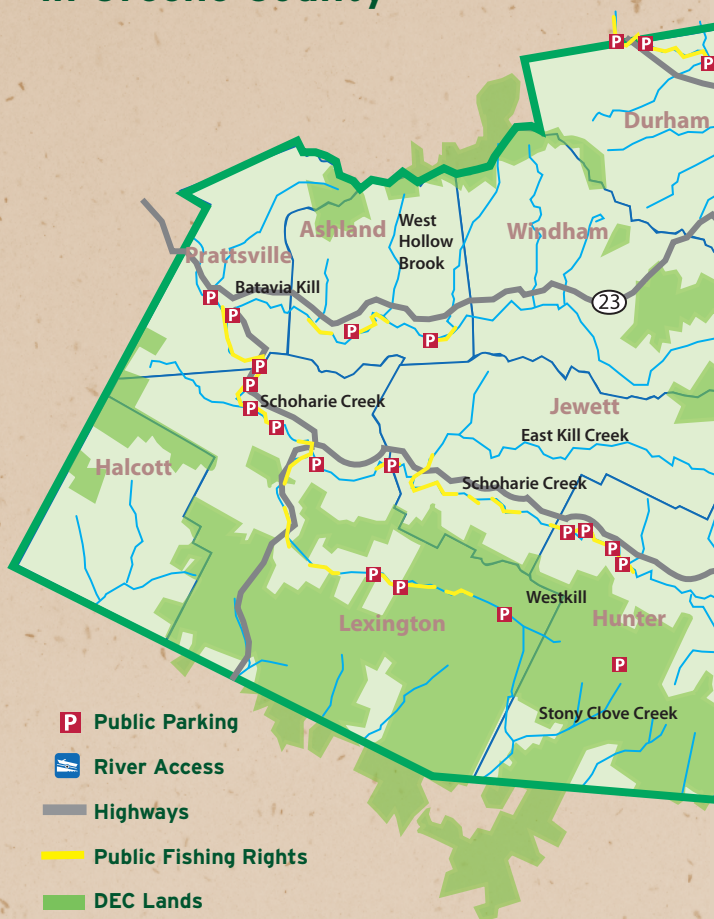
Tim Morrison, President, 518-281-6179,  
E-mail: [treasureI@nybassfed.com](mailto:treasureI@nybassfed.com)

### **Greene County Trappers Association**

Tim Jones, President, 518-943-7112  
Harry Feineis, Treasurer, 518-989-6466



# Public Fishing Access in Greene County



## Youth Fishing Contests

### First Saturday in June

Rip Van Winkle Lake, South Main St.,  
Tannersville  
Contact Jim Volker, 518-589-6580.

### Last Saturday in June

Bavarian Manor Lake, Mountain Road,  
Round Top  
Contact Walt Bennett at 518-239-6569.  
Contests are open to youngsters age 16 and under.

## Free Fishing Days

Last full weekend in June.  
No fishing license required





Before you go fishing on any Greene County waters, you should always check the state fishing regulations guide for additional important information.



## Species

## Open Season

### Trout

*brook, brown and rainbow trout and hybrids of these species; and splake*

April 1 through October 15

### Black Bass

*largemouth/smallmouth*

3rd Saturday in June through November 30

December 1 - Friday preceding the 3rd Saturday in June

### Northern Pike

1st Saturday in May through March 15

### Pickeral

1st Saturday in May through March 15

### Tiger Muskellunge

1st Saturday in May through March 15

### Walleye

1st Saturday in May through March 15

### Crappie

All year

### Atlantic, Shortnose & Lake Sturgeon

Closed

### Striped Bass

*in the Hudson River and tributaries north of George Washington Bridge*

March 16 through November 30

### American Shad

All year

### Yellow Perch

All year

### Sunfish

*bluegill, pumpkinseed and redbreast sunfish*

All year

### American Eel - all waters except Hudson River

*American Eel - Hudson River from the Battery to Troy and all the tributaries upstream to the first barrier*

All year

### All other species

*except endangered and threatened species*

All year



Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Any size	5
15" Hudson River 12" all other waters	5
Catch and release only	Artificial lures only
18"	5
15"	5
30"	1
15"	5
9"	25
Possession Prohibited	
18"	1
Catch and release only	
Any size	50
Any size	50
Eels 6-14" only may be possessed in any number for bait. No eels greater than 14" may be possessed. No eels may be possessed for food	
Any size	Any number



## Hunting the Greener Side

It's hard to say who first coined the phrase "the grass is greener on the other side," but there's a good chance it was someone standing atop a cliff looking across Greene County, because when it comes to hunting, the grass is indeed greener on our side of the mountain.

Of course the meaning of that expression conveys the message of things being better elsewhere than where they are, so it's understandable that those who have spent time pursuing game within our borders never look back.

Located in the Northern Catskill's only 2-1/2 hours North of New York City, much of Greene County lies within the Catskill Forest Preserve -- an area of more than 250,000 acres of state land, 64,000 of which borders on Greene County.

If the abundance of state land isn't enough, there are thousands of acres of privately owned property, and nowhere will you find a friendlier attitude towards hunters than here.

So whether you plan to chase cottontail rabbits



through an open field, scan the sky for ducks and geese, work your dog on upland birds, search the treetops for squirrels, sit with your back to a tree calling turkeys, or stalk white-tailed deer through a woodlot, you won't find a greener pasture to hunt big and/or small game than Greene County.

Actually, small game hunters couldn't ask for more diversity. Upland bird hunters will find an abundance of pheasant and grouse within fields and forest—particularly pheasant since our lands are stocked by both the DEC and county sportsmen's federation.

Greene County has always had a large population of grey and red squirrel and both the cottontail and snowshoe rabbit are as abundant as ever.

Wild turkey is another species that has seen a population explosion in recent years, although Greene County turkey hunters have always had something to gobble about. According to DEC statistics, the five-year spring harvest average is 400 birds, while the fall average is 200.

According to DEC turkey specialist Mike Schiavone, spring turkey hunters gobbled in 429 birds in 2007, while fall turkey hunters bagged 150.

Waterfowl hunters have enjoyed many superb seasons as well. Many of Greene County lakes, ponds, rivers and fields are on a direct line with the Atlantic Flyway, and those that escape the flack of inland gunners, are usually greeted with a barrage of gunfire coming off the Hudson River - which, by the way is home to thousands of resident ducks and geese. (Waterfowl hunting dates won't be available until September).

But not everyone comes here for small game. Many come to hunt deer and bear and in that regard we pride ourselves in having a large population of both. While harvest numbers vary within each of the four DEC Wildlife Management Units (48, 4R and parts of 3C and 3J) big game hunters have consistently taken more than 2,500 deer annually.

DEC places the buck per square mile ratio at 2.1.

## Bearing down

Black bear hunters have also done well. With its vast mountain range, accessible public lands and excellent bear habitat, it's easy to understand why Greene County bear hunters have been so consistent over the years. In 2007 bear hunters dragged 47 bruins out of the woods -- 17 of which were taken by bowhunters.

The town of Hunter led the way with a total of 12, followed by Lexington with 8, Catskill with 6, Durham and Jewett each had 4, Prattsville had 3, Ashland and Greenville had 2, and Athens, Cairo, Coxsackie, Halcott, New Baltimore and Windham each registering 1.

## Turkey Hunting Safety Tips

- Sit while calling turkeys. The majority of turkey hunting accidents occur when one or both hunters are moving.
- Always sit with your back against a tree that is wider than your shoulders. The tree must be large enough to screen your entire body and all movements.
- Much of one's turkey hunting success will come from knowing from which direction the







birds will come from. Study your birds ahead of time, know where they travel and when, and never shoot at a turkey in heavy brush.

- Never use a gobble call. It can attract other hunters who are out of sight, and he may stalk the area of the call. Any movement could cause a hunter to shoot in the direction of the call.
- Decoy use is very common and hunters have shot at another person's decoys. Place decoys where it is impossible for anyone to sneak close enough for a shot without being seen. Place turkey decoys 20-25 yards away, and never position your body in a direct line with the decoys when hunting wooded areas where visibility is reduced.
- Limit your shots to less than 30 yards. Most accidents occur when a hunter shoots at distances in excess of 30 yards. Many of today's magnum shotguns can kill a gobbler at 50 yards, but many birds also are wounded to die a lingering death.
- Three colors must never be worn while turkey hunting. Never wear any visible clothing of red, white or blue, because these are the colors of a gobbler's head during the breeding season.

- Never stalk the hen turkey call of either a real hen or the hen call of another hunter.
- Last, and perhaps most important, verbally warn any approaching hunter of your presence.

All first time hunters are required to take a 10-hour Hunter Education Course. For information and/or dates for courses held in Greene County contact County Coordinator Bill Burger at 518-622-3795, or log on to DEC website at: [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9191.htm1#Hunter](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9191.htm1#Hunter)

## Accommodations

Whether you prefer pitching a tent or returning from the woods to a good meal, hot shower and warm bed, there are dozens of hotels, motels and family-owned resorts that can accommodate your needs, many of which still cater to the hunter.

For a Greene County Travel Guide and a complete list of lodging facilities call 800-355-2287 or visit [www.GreeneTourism.com](http://www.GreeneTourism.com)







## Game Preserves

### **Hull-O Farms Game Preserve**

10 Cochrane Rd., Durham, NY 12422

518-239-6950. [www.hunthull-o.com](http://www.hunthull-o.com).

Hull-O Farms Game Preserve offers both walk-up and Continental Towers Shoots. The appeal of our highflying flight conditioned birds, wide variety of terrain and cover, and professional, courteous guides have hunters returning year after year. We invite you to ... Experience the Exceptional. In season deer and turkey hunting with accommodations also available.

## Gunsmiths

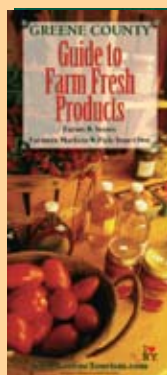
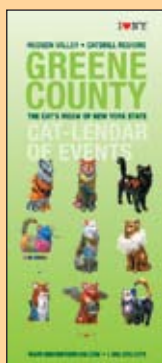
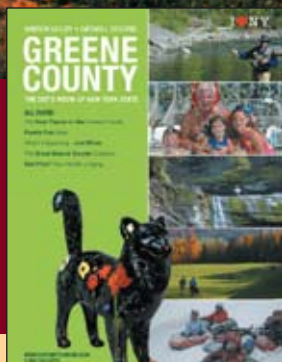
**Mark Brady**, 16 Brady Road, Round Top,  
518-622-8722

**Frank Schnare**, 1418 County Rte. 51,  
Hannacroix, 518-207-1394

\*Some information in this brochure was provided by S. Wells, NYSDEC, Region 4 suboffice in Stamford.







**Call us to find out more about lodging and attractions or to request other Greene County brochures.  
800-355-2287**

**Or visit us at [www.GreeneTourism.com](http://www.GreeneTourism.com)  
Email: [tourism@discovergreene.com](mailto:tourism@discovergreene.com)**

**Greene County Tourism Department  
PO Box 527  
Catskill, NY 12414**