



NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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BAILEY MT. FISH & GAME CLUB

Hunting and Fishing—in our early history these activities were necessities and not sports as they are today. The Native Americans had to hunt and fish in order to survive. Likewise, the Defreests, Van Alstynes and Vandenburgs used the rod and gun to provide for their families as North Greenbush was settled.

By the mid 20th century, development began to encroach on the land in our town where sportsmen could hunt and fish. In 1950 a group of men and women in North Greenbush and surrounding towns got together and formed the Bailey Mountain Fish & Game Club. The first officers were Gordon Roberts, Fred Blackburn, Connie Belkevich and Ken Schubert. At first they met at the Journey's End, the West Sand Lake Fire Department and the Excelsior House at Snyders Lake. But they really wanted a permanent place with some land to call home.

At Glass Lake, there was the Bailey Mountain Trading Post at the foot of the mountain. It was owned by a big (6'6") man named Bailey, for whom the mountain was named. The members were going to buy property there for starting up the club. However the deal fell through and eventually they bought about 34 acres in near Snyders Lake from a Mr. Mihalko. They liked the name Bailey Mountain, so the club kept the name even though it isn't near Bailey Mountain. I wonder what Mr. Bailey thought about that?

The club's first building was an army surplus Quonset hut which served as a club house until a more permanent building was erected. They have a rifle and pistol range, bow ranges and a one station trap range. I must admit that at first I thought these were the sole activities of the club. However, this is only part of its mission. As stated in their bylaws, support for the conservation of resources is one of the club's primary goals. Members plant trees, stock streams, sponsor hunter training courses, hold an annual ice fishing contest and work with other clubs as part of the Rensselaer County Conservation Alliance. Since 1981, the club has sponsored a wilderness survival school in the Adirondacks. In recent years, the clubhouse has served as a polling place for the Town.

So as the open spaces of North Greenbush continue to shrink and hunting and fishing areas turn into housing developments, it is refreshing to know there is still an organization such as the Bailey Mountain Fish & Game Club which keeps the sporting life alive. I think their forefathers, the Defreests, Van Alstynes and Vandenburgs would have approved. Heck, they probably would be members.

I've been asking people where they used to hunt in North Greenbush. Folks tell me about areas around the Bayly Farm in North Greenbush; fields in what is now the Tech. Park and areas in Wynantskill before the housing developments. Please share the locations of other areas with me - 283-6384.