

06-24-61 New York- Benning De La Mater – Boat Patrol Accident

Benning De La Mater 6-24-61 NY Boat Accident

<http://www.odmp.org/officer/3928-game-protector-benning-de-la-mater?printview=1>

Game Protector Benning De La Mater

**New York State Environmental Conservation Police
New York**

End of Watch: Saturday, June 24, 1961

Cause: Drowned

Biographical Info

Age: Not available

Tour of Duty: 12 years

Badge Number: Not available



Game Protector De La Mater drowned when his boat capsized while patrolling the Hudson River near Federal Dam in Albany County.

Game Protector De La Mater had been with the agency for 12 years.



Officer Benning W. DeLaMater

<http://www.pbanys.org/pba/officer-memorial-detail/encon-conservation-officer-b.-delamater/>



State Conservation Officer - Assigned to Albany County,
Appointed July 1, 1949

Died in the line of duty June 24, 1961

Conservation Officer DeLaMater served in Albany County for twelve years. On June 24, 1961, while patrolling the Hudson River near the Federal Dam at Troy, his boat capsized and he drowned. The 1961 Annual Report to the Legislature states; ". . . he was a loyal and faithful public servant. 'Benny', as he was known to most people, was a rugged individualist in his every endeavor; however, he was also a warm hearted sentimentalist and a good friend to have. His enthusiasm was contagious."

NJ Fisherman dies down in the Catskills

http://www.myfishfinder.com/fishing_forum/index.php?topic=11282.10;wap2

Chainsaw:

Belt your waders and know your waters. A PFD, though inconvenient, (As opposed to 'Looking' natural in a coffin), is the ONLY way to go. Even if you ain't fishing you can drown, (duh?), like the two 20+ year old guy/girl team wading in the pools of a creek that runs into Keuka Lake this past week.

Taking a break from the heat and not thinking about the upstream storms that filled the gorge in a matter of minutes, these kids were local and in great physical condition. Few things are more heartrending than reading about how healthy a young person is when reading their autopsy report. I know firsthand.

I spent a lot of time and took some risks in teaching my children about hydraulic conditions in and on the upper Hudson River, in open canoes, tubes, ropes and lines, and with and without PFDs under controlled conditions. To this day my daughter will not wear waders when Salmon fishing, and even her hip boots are tied off at the tops to prevent water entry.

My Mother and Father almost got lost in the gorge at Blenheim many years ago while flyfishing the upper stretches, on a bright sunny day with no rain, when someone upstream opened a Beaver dam to clear flooded lands. She is ALWAYS warning me, to this day, about safety on the creeks, and is always reminding me of the ride I took for a quarter mile downstream when trapping one year, under the ice, WOW.

No matter the horror stories we've all heard about, some of which we've survived on our own, the next time you hear of an incident like this you can bet the victims have heard 'em too, and still didn't pay heed. It's Nature's way of thinning the herd and limiting stupidity. Darwin said that first.

One of my best friends and Mentors was a Game Warden named Benning DeLamater who drowned at the Troy Dam trying to save two other guys who also drowned many years ago. They both grabbed him like a life preserver and killed him too. Just plain be carefull and heed the warnings out there, your drowning in my creek can ruin my fishing.