



## SCCA Newsletter – Meeting held at Curtis Mott Building at SUNY College Cobleskill, N.Y. on January 26, 2023

Greg Warner, President of Schoharie County Conservation Association called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance with 14 in attendance. Clubs represented were NWTF - Schoharie County Schoharie Ridge Runners, Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club, West Fulton Rod & Gun Club, Cave Country Riders, Middleburgh Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club, Richmondville Fish & Game Club, Long Path North Hiking Club, and several students from SUNY Cobleskill. Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved by Mark Hotaling and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Haslun. The Treasurer's report was read and approved by Dave Hendrick and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Handy. The membership voted and approved both reports. The next SCCA meeting will be held at SUNY Cobleskill, in the Curtis Mott Build. in Cobleskill on February 23, 2023 @7PM. SCCA has placed an order for more bags which are used as handouts for the Fair event. SCCA was planning another Youth Ice fishing Event on February 4, 2023 on Franklin Vlie Pond south of Middleburgh which was cancelled because of extreme cold weather. It was neg 25 below and with the wind chill factor it was even colder. SCCA will consider sponsoring 8 members for the National wild Turkey Banquet which will be held in April at Chieftains in Cobleskill. SCCA will sponsor the Spring meeting for the New York Conservation Council which will be on April 1, 2023 @ SUNY Cobleskill College. You must preregister by March 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Benefit Raffle for the council and anyone who has a donation which could be used as a prize contact website <https://nyscc.com/about/>. SCCA will sponsor youth for NYS DEC Camp again this summer. Parents must preregister their child and show proof to SCCA and we will reimburse the parent 50% when child is registered and the other 50% after proof of attendance. Call Mike Zeh for more information - 518-265-4961.

**Venison Donation Program:** Schoharie County Whitetails Unlimited did donate a 50 Caliper Black Powder Rifle to encourage Deer Hunters to donate a whole deer to the program. We had close to 30 deer donated this past season, which totaled 788 pounds. One-to-two-pound packages of venison were donated to the 12 local food pantries. We had the drawing at our January SCCA meeting from all the names who donated a whole deer. The winner this year is Lewis Bushey from Merville Lake area. SCCA would like to thank Bleu's Deer Processing (518-702-5026) between Schoharie and Berne on Rte. 443 and Marlow's Meat Cutting in Howe Cave (518-296-8978) for their help processing the meat again this year. NYS is only authorizing the use of funds donated through the Venison Donation Program where Sportsmen & Sportswomen purchase \$5 Stamps at license sales offices to be used in only Region 8 & Region 9. With this decision SCCA will have to pay for the meat processing done at Blues in Galupville. In the past this venison stamp program paid for all venison processing statewide. Schoharie County Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited will split the cost with SCCA, \$788.00 each for a total of \$1576.00.

**Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License:** SCCA has once again voted to sponsor a Lifetime Hunting/Fishing license for the fourth year. This drawing is open to all members' children and grandchildren, great grandchildren below the age of twelve as of December 31, 2023. It can be an Association Club member or an Individual Club member's relative. We had 44 applications to draw from this year. The drawing was held at the November 2022 SCCA meeting. The winner of this year's drawing is Caleb Miller, great Grandson of Harold Guest, a lifetime member of the Long Path North Hiking Club. Caleb is eleven years old from Huntersland. This is the fourth youth that SCCA has sponsor a lifetime hunting & fishing license. This license also includes the spring and fall turkey permits.

**Region 4 - New York Fish & Wildlife Management Board:** The FWMB meeting was held at the NYS DEC Office in Rotterdam on January 25th at 6:30 pm. Long time member Carl Stefanik has retired from the Board. He has been the Sportsmen representative for many, many years. He is currently being cared for at the Kingsway Nursing Home 523 Kings Rd. Schenectady, New York. His room number is 420. If you would like to send Carl a message his mailing address is Post Office Box 427 Schoharie, New York.

Jeff Almy will be taking Carl's position as Schoharie County Sportsman Representative on the board starting in January 2023 along side of Mike Zeh and Dave Wood who both have been on the Board for many years. These representatives are appointed by the Schohaire County Board of Supervisors.

Joe Viva, Representing the New York State Council reviewed some of the activity the NYSCC is involved with and how we as sportsmen & sportswomen can work together. We need to communicate more.

Please check out their website: <https://nyscc.com/about/> this is a list of what we do, a list of some of our accomplishments, some of our successes, and recommendations we support. The sporting community is seeing a shrinking of those supporting sporting issues, across the board not just with New York State Conservation Council. This is happening even with recent increase in license sales. NYSCC does not believe it is intentional or deliberate. It is more the case of we are being a little lethargic as a group, while others that are against us are seeing the opportunity to step up their game. Solution: we need to have the resolve to move forward and change, in the pursuit of protecting the sporting community is needed now. Don't look back and what we have done look forward to what we need to do.

Sean Reynolds, Region 4 Natural Resource Manager, reviewed some of the highlights of the proposed NYS Budget including the 260 positions within the DEC Budget for replacing retirees and those promoted to other departments.

Chris VanMaaren, Region 4 Fisheries Manager, reviewed some of the activities being inspected across the region. Canadatego Lake was checked and found large amounts of Ely which can have a big impact on fish reproduction. Osego Lake waters were checked for diet analyses for lake whitefish feeding on other fish. Such as young walleye. Secquanna River waters were inspected and found most fish are coming up from Pennsylvania and a large population of eels were detected. Two outreach programs are being held at Glimmerglass State Park on Osego Lake and a Youth Ice fishing event at Mariaville Lake. The state is also checking on Public access for fishing along the Canojoharie Creek and the Elisakill stream which are stocked with state raised fish. From surveys sent out to land owners a 30% loss of public access was generated. Parking areas conflicts are also a problem for the public when accessing streams. Each stocked fish cost the state about \$4 each to raise. Bear Gulch Lake near Summit, NY has a high bacteria from last year's algae impact. NYS DEC recommends to Catch & Release while fishing Bear Gulch Lake.

Mike Clark, Region 4 Wildlife Manager, reviewed the staff shortages of his office. He needs to fill positions for a biologist and a technician in his department. For the Young Forest Initiative they have marked 38 areas including over 100 acres near the Partridge Run Plantation along with 10 acres for fruit & nut. New signs have been created for Keyas showing new regulations. The harvest report is out for 2022 showing a 7% increase in the southern zone for deer, but the bear report shows a lower take than the prior years. Check DEC website for more details.

Next FWMB meeting will be held on April 26th at the Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club @ 6:30 PM.

**SCOPE:** Next meeting will be held at the Carlisle town Hall on Feb 16th @ 7PM. Joe Kopac, Chairman says we need to stay dedicated to preserving the 2nd Amendment rights for you and all of us. Please come and bring a friend. Thank you everyone for keeping S.C.O.P.E. active. I would encourage all sports men and women (all gun owners) to join the Schoharie County S.C.O.P.E. Joe encourages sportsmen & women to send letters to their legislators. They need to hear from us about our feelings on our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. All gun owners need to vote in our elections. "S.C.O.P.E. Shooters Committee On Political Education" [admin@scopeny2a.org](mailto:admin@scopeny2a.org)

**Fancher Pond:** Nick Wierman and Greg Warner have completed the new Kayas for information on Fancher Pond. The new Kayas is 36" X 42". It was installed at the pond during the month of November. This shows the location of the habitat structures for fish to allow for growth and reproduction.

**Cave Country Riders Inc.:** Meetings are held at Terri Bradt home located @ 341 Hill Rd Cobleskill, NY, and the 2nd Tuesday of every month @ 7:00 pm. Last meeting was held on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Kids Safety course – December 3<sup>rd</sup>, January 14<sup>th</sup>, and February 4<sup>th</sup>. The date for the land owner's dinner has not been set yet. @ 7 PM. Meeting agenda – Trail work – have to put in a few days' worth of work with the trail Coordinators to receive free membership. Watch for e-mails or mail if you are getting a free one. Memberships are available now; just get a hold of Terri Bradt and she can get you one. Kid's safety Course – We will be doing 3 this year, dates to come soon. Landowner's Dinner – Will most likely be in February 2023. Meetings are held from Oct. – Mar. POC: Terri Bradt 518-234-7331 Doug Handy 518 – 231-0970.

**Jeep Club:** Meetings are 7:30pm on the second Thursday of every month, summer meetings at the Club property, and winter meeting locations to be announced at a later time. There are 48 members in the club to date. New POC: Bill Hensell 518-234-4964. E-mail [whensel3@gmail.com](mailto:whensel3@gmail.com)

**Middleburgh Ridge Runner's Snowmobile Club:** Meetings are held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday from Oct – April. @ Pasta Grill in Middleburgh. For more information call 518-285-6473 or 518-295-8554.

**Summit Sno Riders:** Meetings are 6:30 pm first Monday of the month (September thru April) at the Summit Conservation Club at Bear Gulch Rd. (109 Club Road) in Summit. See [www.summitsnoriders.com](http://www.summitsnoriders.com). 518-287-1961.

**Coby Fish & Game Club:** The next club meeting will be scheduled and advertised in the SCCA newsletter. The club did stock \$600 worth of tiger trout; about 200 each 10" in the Cobleskill Holding Pond on May 17, 2022 this spring. Over the years Joe Moore (retired Cobleskill barber) worked very hard selling raffle tickets and \$10 stocking buttons to raise funding so the club could continue to do this for years.

**Conesville Rod & Gun Club:** Meetings are held at the Conesville Fire house. POC - President Karl Fancher. Contact information 607-588-6232 or e-mail [Sothunter059@aol.com](mailto:Sothunter059@aol.com).

**SUNY Cobleskill College:** College students removed a beaver dam on Mud Creek, a tributary of Canadarago Lake which lower the lake by 2 inches this past month. SCCA is still offering the \$400.00 Dorwin Hamm Scholarship to student in the Fisheries and Wildlife programs. SCCA has received an application from a Wildlife Management student last fall. Her project involves monitoring the Redtail Hawk migrating over the winter. SCCA did approve this scholarship. She will give her presentation during the spring semester at an SCCA meeting. POC is Roger Masse 518-255-5292.

**Clearwater Chapter of Trout Unlimited:** The SUNY college club is meeting on the second Monday of each month in the new building, Center for Agricultural Resource, room 002. The Official Publication of the Clearwater Chapter of Trout Unlimited - America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation Organization Promoting Habitat for Wild Trout and Salmon. Clearwater Chapter of TU PO Box 9686 Schenectady, NY 12309. Clearwater Chapter of Trout Unlimited mission is to conserve, protect and restore the Capital Region's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. Over the last ten years Clearwater TU contributed over \$112,000 to habitat improvement projects. Clearwater Chapter meetings held 3rd Monday of each month at the Zaloga American Legion Post 1520, 4 Everett Rd. Colonie, NY 12205. POC Ray Lamberton 518-421-2500.

**Schoharie Valley Trappers:** NYS Trappers offers a \$1500 scholarship. Check state website. POC- Kenny Hellijas: [klhellijas@hotmail.com](mailto:klhellijas@hotmail.com) 518-234-3715 for questions. Trapper Education Classes are available. Check NYS DEC website. Remember that you must register through the NYS DEC Website. This past year the New York State Trappers sponsored three student \$1500.00 scholarships.

**Long Path North Hiking Club:** Next meeting will be held in March of 2023. at 6 pm @ the Middleburgh Community Center. Total membership is now 182 with 43 Life Members. Cole Hill S.F. Bridge which is the DEC Bridge on the west side of the Willie Road was very near collapsing. As a key stream crossing, we could not let this happen because of the high cost for a replacement. Steve and Leslie Siegard came up with a plan to save it by jacking up the center and building a rock/wood pier. In just a few work days, they were able to complete the project. Thank you, Steve & Leslie. Another project being considered is a Lean-to in Mine Kill State Park. When Mark Traver and Mike Zeh attended the Wildlife Management Taskforce Meeting at the Blenheim/Gilboa Visitor's Center, we asked the NYS Power Authority/Mike Kill State Park to consider a lean-to on their property. After this meeting Managers from the Power Authority gave the green light to Mine Kill to support this project. On December 17<sup>th</sup> Mark met with Chris Kenyon, Park Manager, to look at possible sites. Four possible sites were chosen for review, all with a great view of the Reservoir. Chris is investigating to make sure there is no restrictions and pick a final site. He will then work on the plans for the lean-to and building material. This lean-to will be on the trail of the Long Path. Hopefully work will begin this summer. Contact Mark Traver 518-944-7734 for additional information. List of Hikes coming up: Mark Traver-President, Clarence Putman-Vice President, Cherie Clapper-Treasurer, and Carol Traver-Secretary are the current officers. Hiking leaders are as followed: Carol & Mark Traver 518-944-7734, Clarence Putman 607-538-9569, Marilyn Miles 518-768-2870, Betsey Bouchard 518-410-3863, Steve Babbitt 518-295-8535, and Don Allard 518-577-7741. Membership info, contact Cherie Clapper at 518-827-4386, P.O. Box 200, West Fulton, NY 12194 or [ccheries@midtel.net](mailto:ccheries@midtel.net).

**NWTF Schoharie County Ridge Runners:** The Schoharie Co. National Wild Turkey Federations donated a wildlife print to the West Fulton Rod & Gun Club auction. Contact Dave Hendrick 518-657-1787 for more information.

**Richmondville Fish & Game Club:** Monthly meetings are the first Wednesday of each month at the club property located on High View Rd. Club plans on holding hunter safety courses this year if possible. **The club had to cancel the ice fishing derby on Feb 18<sup>th</sup> at the Summit Conservation Club on Bear Gulch Lake.** [www.richmondvillefishgameclub.org](http://www.richmondvillefishgameclub.org).

**Whitetails Unlimited:** The Whitetails Unlimited meetings have been cancelled at Earl Berg's house on Cripplebush Rd. between Central Bridge and Sloansville off Route 30A. **I was contacted in November by Kelly Tassoul, Field Operational Coordinator that remaining chapter business be finalized. This includes closing the chapter bank accounts. The National has assigned a Field Director to take charge of the Schoharie County Chapter accounts by January 1, 2023.** His name is Bill Bailey. Kelly assured me that they would still continue the Schoharie County Chapter and need our help setting up banquets. Our chapter would still receive 50 % of all profit proceeds but it would be controlled from the National Headquarters. This year our chapter did donate a Black powder Rifle to the Schoharie County

Venison Donation Program, will sponsor the Middleburgh Rod & Gun Youth Archery Program and with supporting the Archery program run by the Field Of Grace Christian Bow Hunters. Any questions please contact me. 518-265-4961 or [mzeh4@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mzeh4@nycap.rr.com) As an officer of this Chapter I will still try to sponsor scholarships and support the venison donation program along with the SCCA.

**Summit Conservation Club:** Club meetings are held on the second Monday @ 6 PM of each month. The stuffed pizza & pancake breakfasts (Stuffed Pizza – Sat. Noon – 7PM & Sun. Noon – 4PM) Feb. 18 & 19, Mar. 18 & 19 And Apr. 15 & 16) (Pancakes Breakfast 8 AM – 11AM Sun. Feb 5, Mar. 5, Apr. 2) The club is always looking for new members. POC is Stacey Betts - Phone 518-287-1710, 109 Club Dive Summit, N.Y. 12175.

**Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club:** Last meeting had 32 in attendance. Check out the club's website. **Middleburgh r&g club.com.** Indoor pistol leagues are running and new signs are up. No jacket bullets allowed in downstairs range, only lead bullets. There will be several pistol shoots during the next few months. The club had 44 youth shooters for the 22 shoot. The college students are still shooting archery on Friday nights. Check the club's website for more information. Jeannette Hall is the Raffle POC again this year. Her phone number is 518-928-6301 and her e-mail address is [phally1@gmail.com](mailto:phally1@gmail.com). The club is replacing all the window in the main club house to help cut the cost of heating. The club is running the youth archery program starting January 7<sup>th</sup>. Ten new archery bows have been purchased. The club supplies all the equipment, targets, and instructors free (No charge to the public or members. There are about 125 kids showing up each week.

**West Fulton Rod & Gun Club:** At the Jan & Feb meeting there weren't enough member present for a quarm. We did plan a youth ice fishing derby for Feb 11 on Franklin Vlie from 8am to 2pm. We had four members show up at the derby along with five SUNY Cobleskill student to check fish. There was only about five kids showing up and only two fish caught. One pickerel and one perch. There are 66 paid members to date. The planting of a Red Oak tree in memory of Gerald Hamm was postponed due to some family members couldn't make it. We will reschedule the event... The club's address is PO Box 99, Fultonham, NY 12071. e-mail [westfultonrodandgunclub@gmail.com](mailto:westfultonrodandgunclub@gmail.com) A new Vice President was elected at the November meeting, Kenny Klingebiel from Sawyer Hollow Rd. The other officers stayed on Jeff Almy – President, Ryan Hamm – Secretary, and Eric Hamm as treasury. The club will host a youth ice fishing derby on February 11<sup>th</sup> and it will be located at Franklin Vlaie Pond, from 8 AM to 2 PM. Contact Ryan Hamm if you have any questions. 518-528-4568

SCCA website address is <http://www.schoharie-conservation.org/> Anyone with information for the SCCA newsletter can send it to my e-mail address. [mzeh4@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mzeh4@nycap.rr.com). The SCCA (Schoharie County Conservation Association) meeting will be held at the Curtis Mott Building @ SUNY Cobleskill on February 23 @ 7PM.

**Application for Lifetime Hunting & Fishing License Drawing:** Schoharie Co. Conservation Association P.O. Box 325 Central Bridge, New York 12035. We strive to preserve and protect our natural resources and promote hiking, fishing, snowmobiling, trapping, hunting, both small game & big game with in Schoharie County. Drawing date 11/16/2023. President Greg Warner\* Vice President Doug Handy\* Treasurer Liz Reinhart\* Secretary Mike Zeh\*

N.Y.S. Dept. of Conservation – 2023 Youth Lifetime Sporting License Awards. Our not-for-profit organization is continuing a program to promote hunting and fishing in hopes of inspiring our youth to hunt and fish within New York State. Drawing will be held at the November SCCA meeting. Rules and Requirements: Applicant (child) must be under the age of 12 as of December 31, 2023 of this calendar year and be a full time resident of New York State. Also applicant must be a child, grandchild, or great grandchild of a member, in good standing, from a Schoharie County Conservation Association (SCCA) or a member of one of its affiliated clubs and be in good standing with that club. Incomplete, ineligible or duplicate applications will not be considered. Applications must be mailed to SCCA P.O. Box 325 Central Bridge, N.Y. 12035, Attention Lifetime Sporting License. Parents of the winner will be required to bring child's Social Security card and another form of ID which includes their place of residence. Also, the club you're a member of. Lifetime Sporting License will be purchased by the SCCA and will be paid directly to the Licensing Agent on behalf of the youth. No cash value or substitutions. Winner will be drawn using a random lottery system based on the number of entries.

Winner will be notified by the information supplied on the application.

**\*\*Print\*\*** Application for Drawing a NYS DEC Lifetime Sporting License

Full Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Full Name of Parents \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ NY Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Grand Parent completing Application \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Member's Organization \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Parent** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_