



SCCA Newsletter – Meeting held at Curtis Mott Building at SUNY College Cobleskill, N.Y. on March 30, 2023



Doug Handy, Vice President of Schoharie County Conservation Association called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance with 13 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, Fields Of Grace, and two sportsmen from Woodlawn Sportsmen Club. Also in attendance was Melissa Burgess our Schoharie County NYS DEC ECO. Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved by Dave Wood and 2nd by Mark Hotaling. The Treasurer's report was read and approved by Kris Hofeller and 2nd by Dave Hendrick. The membership voted and approved both reports. The next SCCA meeting will be held at SUNY Cobleskill, in the Curtis Mott Building in Cobleskill on April 27, 2023 @ 7PM. SCCA has picked up the bags which are used as handouts for the Fair event at a cost of \$1,982.08 and another \$125.87 for crayons which we give to kids with a coloring book. SCCA is planning another Youth Fishing Event on June 24, 2023 at the Cobleskill Reservoir in conjunction with New York State's Free Fishing Day (no license required) and will be for kids only. SCCA membership approved sponsoring up to eight members for the National Wild Turkey Banquet which will be held on April 29th at Chieftains in Cobleskill. There were questions concerning having the NWTf shooting booth at the Cobleskill Sunshine Fair. Because of the new laws passed this past year, we checked with the Fair Board and they approved to have BB guns at the fairgrounds. BB guns are not considered a firearm because of the speed of the bb (muzzle viscosity) being less than that needed. SCCA did sponsor the Spring meeting for the New York Conservation Council which was held on April 1, 2023 @ SUNY Cobleskill College with close to 50 sportsmen and sportswomen. SCCA paid for the SCCA members to attend this event. There was a Benefit Raffle for the council. SCCA will sponsor youths for NYS DEC Camp again this summer. Registration opens on April 2, 2023 at 1 PM. 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. So far, we have one youth signed up who is on a waiting list. There is only one camp, Camp Rushford, located near Caneadea, N.Y, open this year because of staff shortages.

SCCA has received an application for the \$400.00 Dorwin Hamm Scholarship from Jessie Magno, a SUNY Cobleskill student who's major is Wildlife Management. Her project involves the study of Fishers and the changes to their environment and habitat in Schoharie County. The membership approved this scholarship and she will be doing her Presentation at the April 27th SCCA meeting.

SCCA does plan on having a booth at the SUNY Cobleskill Wildlife Festival on April 29th 2023. We will need volunteers to help setup at 9AM, sell raffle tickets and takedown displays at 4 PM. The festival will be in the Cobleskill Veteran's Park in the middle of town by the movie theater.

Kris Hofeller wanted me to let everyone know about a bald eagle released Sunday, March 26th. About a month ago, a 13 pound, 3-year-old female bald eagle was rescued by the Schoharie County Snow plow crew. It had been hit by a motor vehicle. It is now healthy and was released into the wild. The eagle had an injured wing and was also partial blind because of lead poison from eating infected fish or dead animals. The release was witnessed by about 50 people with lots of pictures taken at 2:00PM at 182 Mace Rd. in Gilboa, NY.

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 last year. The drawing was held at the November 2022 SCCA meeting. The winner of last year's drawing was 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.

NYS DEC: Volunteers are needed, meet the fish stocking crew/truck at the Gilboa Post Office at 10 AM. The Westkill stream in Blenheim will receive 558 (9-10) inch Brown trout and 62 (12-15) inch Brown trout. The Mallet Pond, town of

Fulton, will receive 191 eight-inch, Brown trout and 225 eight-inch, Rainbow trout. The Cobleskill Holding Pond, town of Cobleskill will receive 200, eight-inch, Rainbow trout, 225, (12-15) inch Brown trout and 170 eight-inch Brown trout. For questions call Mike Zeh 518-265-4961. Total stocking fish for Schoharie County is 1,632 trout.

NYS DEC Pheasant: Due to an outbreak of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus at the NYS DEC Reynolds Game Farm located in Ithaca, over 6000 pheasants had to be euthanized this spring. DEC Is looking at purchasing some birds for this fall stocking but the Day-old Chick Program will not take place this spring.

Region 4 - New York Fish & Wildlife Management Board: 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 Robinson Senior Living Center located in Stanford, New York. His room number is 309 and his phone number is 607-652-2165. 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. **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 Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club on April 20th at 7 PM. SCOPE does plan on having a booth in Progressland during the Sunshine Fair week. We will need volunteers to help sell raffle tickets with the winnig ticket draw on the last day of the fair. Donna Dunston our chapter secretary's email address in schoharietcountyscope1@gmail.com. March 20th is the date a three-judge panel of United States Second Circuit Court of Appeals which is based in New York City will hear on previous injunctions and temporary restraining order rulings on not one but five cases challenging new gun laws passed in New York State in 2022. There are several law suits pending. 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 2nd Amendment. All gun owners need to vote in our elections. "S.C.O.P.E. Shooters Committee On Political Education" 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 allows the location of the habitat statures for fish to allow for growth and reproduction. Dan Crandell, a licensed Engineer is looking at the Dam to see if there are any improvements SCCA needs to do.

Cave Country Riders Inc.: Meetings are held at Terri Bradt home located @ 341Hill Rd Cobleskill, NY, and the 2nd Tuesday of every month @ 7:00 pm. Last meeting was held in March. Kids Safety courses were held on December 3rd, January 14th, and February 4th. The date for the land owner's diner was held in late February. Meeting agenda – Trail work – have to put in a few days' worth of work with taking down trail signs. 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

Middleburgh Ridge Runner's Snowmobile Club: Meetings are held on 2nd 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. 518-287-1961.

Coby Fish & Game Club: The next club meeting will be scheduled and advertised in the SCCA newsletter. The club will stock \$600 worth of tiger trout; about 200 each 10" in the Cobleskill Holding Pond 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 .

SUNY Cobleskill College: Kaylee Kilmer is still collecting data for the project on Red-Tailed Hawks. She is planning on doing her presentation to SCCA in September. SCCA is still offering the \$400.00 Dorwin Hamm Scholarship to student in the Fisheries and Wildlife programs. POC is Roger Masse 518-255-5292. The SUNY Student Chapter of Ducks Unlimited are selling tickets for a Mystery Yeti Raffle. Tickets are 1 for \$5, 3 for \$10, or 8 for \$20. Winner will receive a YETI Tundra 65 Cooler w/Ducks Unlimited Logo along with all prizes inside. Contact Taryn Burgess, e-mail burgest789@cobleskill.edu for tickets. Drawing will be held on April 29th at the Festival.

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. Battenkill Tree Planting planned for April 22, 9:30 AM East Greenbush. 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. Trout season opens on April 1st. Good idea to look over the new regulations on fishing.

Schoharie Valley Trappers: NYS Trappers offers a \$1500 scholarship. Check state website. POC- Kenny Hellijas: 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 17th 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: April 8 – Trail Work Day on the 1-mile Giffords Trail, bring your clippers, Call Don, our maintainer; May 10 – Wednesday Highway Clean-Up on Route 30 by Vroman's Nose, help needed, please contact Harold Guest to register; May 27 – Hike the eastern trails in Thacher Park, 3 + miles, leader is Don; June 10 – LP Section 32, Cannady Hill Rd. to Treadlemire Rd, 4 miles, call Steve 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, Harold Guest Jr. 518-827-5995, 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.

NWTF Schoharie County Ridge Runners: The Schoharie Co. National Wild Turkey Federations will have a Hunting Heritage Banquet on April 29,2023. Doors open at 4:30, diner served at 5:30. Single tickets -\$35, Couple tickets \$60. 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 postpone the ice fishing derby on Feb 18th at the Summit Conservation Club on Bear Gulch Lake.** 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 As an officer of this Chapter I will still try to sponsor scholarships and support the venison donation program along with the SCCA. I sent the necessary paper work in at the end of February showing the bank accounts were closed. I am waiting on the National Headquarters to contact me again about a new banquet this fall.

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) Apr. 15 & 16) (Pancakes Breakfast 8 AM – 11AM Sun. 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 over 50 in attendance. Four new members voted in with 5 more read for next month. 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 shoots. The college students are still shooting archery on Friday nights. Check the club's website for more information. The membership voted to donate \$400 to the Marathon For A Better Living. Trap is again running on Friday nights starting around 5:30 PM. Youth Archery is done for the year. There were close to 160 shooters with an average of 125 shooting each week. Over 200 attended the banquet where trophies and Tee Shirts were handed out. There were 16 sponsors donating at least \$100 toward the cost of the program. Jeannette Hall is the December Raffle POC again this year. Her phone number is 518-928-6301 and her e-mail address is phallzy1@gmail.com. The club is replacing all the window in the main club house to help cut the cost of heating. Ten new archery bows have been purchased for the Youth Archery Program. The club supplies all the equipment, targets, and instructors free (No charge to the public or members.)

West Fulton Rod & Gun Club: At the April meeting the decision was made to hold the Spring party at Pee Wee's hunting camp on Route 30. The club will pay for drinks and meat (Chicken & Pork). Members were asked to bring a dish to pass. The date will be May 13 starting around 1PM. 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 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. 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. The SCCA (Schoharie County Conservation Association) meeting will be held at the Curtis Mott Building @ SUNY Cobleskill on April 27th @ 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** _____