



SCCA Newsletter – Meeting held at Curtis Mott Building at SUNY College Cobleskill, N.Y. on May 24, 2023

Greg Warner, President of Schoharie County Conservation Association called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance with 9 in attendance. Clubs represented were NWTf - Schoharie County Schoharie Ridge Runners, Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club, West Fulton Rod & Gun Club, Richmondville Fish & Game Club, Long Path North Hiking Club. Also in attendance was Kris Hofeller, our Schoharie County Veteran's area representative. Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved by Dave Wood and 2nd by Doug Handy. The Treasurer's report was read and approved by Mark Hotaling and 2nd by Eric Haslun. The membership voted and approved both reports. The next SCCA meeting will be held at Field's of Grace Learning Center on Rte 145 across from Snyder's Road near the Jehovah Witnesses Kingdom Hall in East Cobleskill on June 22 at 7 PM. 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. Local 157 Labor's Union in Schenectady donated \$300 toward the cost of prizes for this event. The event starts at 8am for Registration, fish from 8am to 11 and 11 to 2PM. Worms will be provided along with ice cream for all the kids from Stuart's. 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 has asked the NWTf if we can purchase one of the BB Gun booths from them. NWTf is considering modifying the booths into Archery Shooting booths. They have three of these booths. Dave Henrick is looking into this for SCCA. 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 did receive 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. She completed a power point presentation at the April SCCA meeting. The membership approved this scholarship and she was awarded a \$400 check. Fields Of Grace did sponsor this scholarship. Thank you, Fields, Of Grace.

SCCA did have a booth at the SUNY Cobleskill Wildlife Festival on April 29th 2023. Larry Bradt, Greg Warner, John Nesel, and Mike Zeh helped setup at 9AM, sold over \$800 in raffle tickets and then takedown displays at 4 PM. The festival was held in the Cobleskill Veteran's Park in the middle of town by the movie theater. SCCA handed out 125 tree seedlings (Tamerac) which was donated by NYS DEC Saratoga Tree Nursery. Thank you John Nesel for picking these tree seedlings up.

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. This was the fourth youth that SCCA has sponsor a lifetime hunting & fishing license.

NYS DEC: We had six youth volunteers helping with the spring trout stocking done by NYS DEC. Lauryn & Jacob Work, Michael Skowfoe, Deborah Skowfoe Work, Camryn, Caleb and Grace Deloet, and Amber Deloet all help stock trout for about 4 to 5 hours. Volunteers were needed to meet the fish stocking crew/truck at the Gilboa Post Office at 10 AM. The Westkill stream in Blenheim did receive 558 (9-10) inch Brown trout and 62 (12-15) inch Brown trout. The Mallet Pond, town of Fulton, did receive 191 eight-inch, Brown trout and 225 eight-inch, Rainbow trout. The Cobleskill Holding Pond, town of Cobleskill did receive 200, eight-inch, Rainbow trout, 225, (12-15) inch Brown trout and 170 eight-inch Brown trout. Total stocking fish for Schoharie County is 1,632 trout. This stocking was completed on May 4th with Michael Zeh and DEC staff Rebecca Terry and Joshua Foust, along with all the volunteers.

NYS DEC: DEC releases 2022 whitetail harvest figures. Statewide harvest up 10%, youth hunt jumps 38%. New York's estimated statewide deer harvest of 231,961 whitetails during 2022-2023 hunting seasons which reflects a 10% increase from 2021-2022 season. That number included 116,425 antlered bucks and 115,536 antlerless deer. Bass season opens June 15th.

Region 4 - New York Fish & Wildlife Management Board: Meeting was held April 26 at the Middleburgh Rod & Gun

Club with 19 in attendance. Larry Didonato, Chairman of the Board reviewed the new policy of NYS DEC cutting Access to Trout Streams called Stream Access Verification Plan. This new plan includes that landowners along stocked streams are sent notifications asking for permission to post signs allowing public fishing access on private lands along with adding their properties to the NYS DEC Website (DEC Mobile App) for all to access. If the letters sent did not get a response then that area was dropped from the fish stocking program. The state has only just started this program in certain counties. In Schoharie County in 2018, 780 trout were stocked but because of the low number of responses from landowners only 525 were stocked in 2023 because of landowners who declined to allow public fishing access. Some other areas have seen an 80% reduction in the number of trout stocked because of this program. At the last FWMB meeting it was decided that our Chairman of the board draft a letter to our Governor. Here is a copy of the draft letter.

We, the New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board of Region 4, would like to bring an adverse DEC fisheries policy to your attention. The primary focus of Regional Fish and Wildlife Boards is to secure and enhance public access and habitat for recreational purposes. Board members include legislative, landowner, and sportsman representatives designated by legislatures from the nine counties in and around the Capitol District and Northern Catskills. I'm writing to express serious concerns with New York State DEC's Stream Access Verification Plan. This new fisheries policy is doing irreparable damage to long established public access for NY fishermen to harvest trout on private property. At our spring quarterly meeting, the board voted to call for a halt to DEC's Stream Access Verification Plan before it results in further elimination of access to streams across the state. In counties where it has been implemented, the plan has caused loss of nearly 70 percent of access to privately owned trout streams with at least a 30 percent reduction in numbers of trout stocked. This at a time when voters just approved the \$2.2 billion Environmental Bond Act with \$75 million earmarked for DEC trout hatcheries. Fishermen's license dollars contribute greatly to the nearly \$40 million per year collected for the NYS Conservation Fund. The fund which pays for fish stocking and the salaries of those at DEC who now have chosen to decimate their own stocking program. It is a matter of to have, and have-not. The severe reduction in access and numbers of trout stocked, disproportionately impact lower and middle-income NY residents. One stream accessible by bus from the cities of both Albany and Schenectady, just lost trout stocking due to this ill-advised new program. These residents can't afford to buy or lease properties with trout streams or go on expensive guided trout fishing excursions. DEC's longstanding stocking program complete with hard-fought access to private streams allows folks to harvest and consume trout that provide nutritious meals. Taking food off their tables given this difficult economic period is unnecessary and ill advised. This is not the time for DEC to be cutting services to marginalized citizens.

We at the Region 4 Fish and Wildlife Management Board have resolved, and seek your support to discontinue DEC's Stream Access Verification Program. Your attention to this time sensitive issue will be greatly appreciated by the board as we strive to fulfill our legislative mandate in service to the citizens of New York State. Sincerely, Lawrence DiDonato, Chairman, Region 4 Fish and Wildlife Management Board.

Chris VanMaaren, Region 4 Fish Manager: Started some sampling of tailwaters of Delaware River, Pan Fish Trapping in Goodyear Lake, some sampling of Mohawk River.

Mike Clark, Region 4 Wildlife Manager: Staffing report – Promotion for Seth Liddle, Tech II. Tash Forest Management Coding- will reevaluate in 2024, Installed transmitters on woodcocks, Grouse studies, Mosquito Trap – checking for West Nile disease affecting all types of birds. Pheasant day old program – not happening this year – letters going out to day old chick operators to allow them to purchase their own eggs to raise and release. Furbearers – over 10,000 in NY State. Hunter Education Program – numbers are climbing with classroom vs online programs.

Law Enforcement: Lower number of people taking exam for onco officers, 283 – below budget of 335, another class will start soon if NYS Budget is approved.

Next FWMB meeting will be held on July 12 at the NYS DEC Office in Rotterdam @ 6:30 PM.

SCOPE: Next meeting will be held at the Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club on Jun 15 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 winning ticket drawn on the last day of the fair. Donna Dunston our chapter secretary's email address in schohariescopescope1@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

Cave Country Riders Inc.: Meetings are held at Terri Bradt home, 341 Hill Rd Cobleskill, NY, and the 2nd Tuesday of every month @ 7:00 pm. Meetings 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. The trout stocking was completed on April 18th. 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. SCCA did donate \$600 toward the travel expenses for this fall trip to Nashville in November.

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.

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.

Long Path North Hiking Club: Next meeting will be held in July 19th at 6 pm @ the Met. Church on Main St. in Schoharie. Total membership is now 174 with 44 Life Members. Long Path lost access across Nickerson Park because of new owners. A work around is in progress. 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: June 21 Summer Solstice is on Wednesday, a short hike TBD on the longest day of the year, call Harold for details; July 22 Mine Kill State Park, about 5 miles on LP Section 29, call Mark for info; Aug 19 Wolf Creek Falls Preserve hike, about 3-4 miles, Mark will be the leader. 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 did have a Hunting Heritage Banquet on April 29, 2023. There about 165 in attendance and they raised \$31,000 for the National Chapter. The Chapter is planning a Golf Tournament on August 19th in Canajoharie. \$55 team, Tee off 1:30 Contact Dave Hendrick 518-657-1787 for info.

Richmondville Fish & Game Club: Monthly meetings are the first Wednesday of each month at the club property located on 811 High View Rd. Club plans on holding hunter safety courses this year if possible. Look us up on face book! Contact Greg Warner, club President @ 518-265-8647. New targets to shoot at! Will be sponsoring a Youth School Trap in the fall.

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. Any questions please contact me. 518-265-4961 or mzeh4@nycap.rr.com As an officer of this Chapter, we will still try to sponsor scholarships and support the venison donation program along with the SCCA. 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 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 1 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 membership voted to donate \$400 to the Marathon For A Better Living. Trap is again running on Friday nights starting around 5:30 PM. Jeannette Hall is the December Raffle POC again this year. Her phone number is 518-928-6301 and her e-mail address is phallzyl@gmail.com. The club has replaced all the window in the main club house to help cut the cost of heating. Youth fishing derby on June 10th, Registration starts at 9AM and fish from 11 AM to 1 PM All participants get a prize. Postponed until June 17th because of air quality.

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. The work party at Looking Glass Pond on May 13 had to be cancelled because of state application hold up. 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 Fields Of Grace Learning Center on Rte 145, across from Snyders Rd and the Jehovah Kingdom Hall, East Cobleskill, NY on June 22 @ 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 _____