



SCCA Newsletter – Meeting held at Fields of Grace Educational Center On Rte. 145 East Cobleskill, N.Y. on June 22.

Greg Warner, President of Schoharie County Conservation Association called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance with 10 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, Middleburgh Ridge Runners Snowmobile Riders, Summit Sno Riders. 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 Liz Reinhart. The Treasurer's report was read and approved by Kris Hofeller and 2nd by Eric Haslun. The membership voted and approved both reports. The next SCCA meeting will be held at SCCA Fair Booth 6 PM on July 27th. This will give us time to work on the booth getting it ready for Fair week. SCCA about did hold a 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 was for kids only. Local 157 Labor's Union in Schenectady donated \$300 toward the cost of prizes for this event. There were close to twenty kids fishing and close to 25 fish were caught/ The largest fish was a perch. The event started at 8am for Registration, fish from 8am to 11 and 11 to 2PM. Worms were donated by Off the Beaten Path in Central Bridge. We had to cut the day short because of a heavy down pour so we did not dish out the ice-cream donated by Stuart's. We called it quits about 11:30. Prizes and Trophies were handed out. Then all the kids left because it was raining so hard. Doug Handy did most of the leg work for the fish derby.

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. SCCA has asked the NWTF if we can purchase one of the BB Gun booths from them. They said no, to our offer. The NWTF is considering modifying the booths into Archery Shooting booths. They have three of these booths. The SCCA membership approved to purchase a shooting booth from Daisy Shooting Sports for a cost of \$3000. The Schoharie County Vets Association is considering to pay for 50% of the booth. This has to be approved by their Board. The Booth has been ordered and delivery is expected before the fair. This means we need volunteers to help sell Kayak tickets and supervise the youths in the BB Gun Booth. Please sign up by calling Liz Reinhart (518-339-2464) We run 6-hour shifts from 10AM to 4 PM and 4PM to 10PM. We need three people on each shift so we need a total of 36 volunteers. A fair pass will be given to each volunteer for the day.

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: The State is getting closer to stopping hunters from using lead bullets on NYS Lands. There will be a \$60 rebate this fall for hunters who purchase lead free ammo for hunting in certain WMU Regions 4F,4G, 4H, 4O, 4B, 4R, 4W. This program will be for the next two years. This program is to help lower the number of Eagles and other wild life from getting lead poisoning. Check the DEC website for more information.

Region 4 - New York Fish & Wildlife Management Board: Meeting was held July 12th at the NYSDEC office in Rotterdam with 16 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 Seneca 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. DEC is changing its policy on trout stocking. They are trying secure verified public access on trout streams the traverse private lands. (Stocked Trout Stream Access Verification) DEC is sending out letters to land owners who own lands next to streams where NYS has stocked trout for years. DEC wants to put up signs which tells the public where public fishing is allowed. They also want to advertise the landowners' names and GPS locations on the DEC internet so any person would have access to this information. The landowners need to reply back to DEC agreeing with this request. If DEC doesn't get a reply from the land owner than no more trout will be stocked at that location. DEC is losing between 60% to 80% of the sites. Different counties have seen a big reduction in the number of trout which have been stocked for years. This policy is part of the 2020 Trout Stream Management Plan who need to provide accurate, up-to-date information to anglers regarding how stream segments are managed, what they can expect when they visit those streams, and where those streams are publicly accessible to better meet angler needs. This information is found on the Interactive Trout Stream Fishing Map & Tackle Box Module of the HuntFishNY app on NYS DEC webpage. More info available (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/111015.html>) This is some information we received in response to our letter.

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. Fish Health netting is being done in several lakes and streams.

Mike Clark, Region 4 Willife Manager: Staffing report – Tash Forest Management Coding- will reevaluate in 2024, Installed transmitters on woodcocks, Grouse studys, 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. The state will be stocking pheasants this fall. Furbearers – over 10,000 in NY State. Hunter Education Program – numbers are climbing with classroom vs online programs.

Law Enforcement: Lower number of pepople taking exam for encon officers, 283 – below budget of 335, another class will start soon after NYS Budget is approved. Overtime is being cut from ECO's usage.

FranklinVly will get an additional 70 Acres once approved for purchase. Looking Glass pond is currently refilling.

Next FWMB meeting will be held on September 27 at the Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club in Middleburgh@ 6:30 PM.

SCOPE: Next meeting will be held at the Carlisle Town Hall on July 20 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 drawm on the last day of the fair. Members who need tickets to sell call 518-944-1172. Donna Dunston our chapter secretary's email address in schohariecountyscope1@gmail.com. Five cases challenging new gun laws passsed in New York State in 2022. There are several law suits pending. Joe Kopac, Chairman sayes 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. 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 on Sept 16th at 10 AM @ NYPA in Blenheim. Total membership is now 180 with 46 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/Mine 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: 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 ccherries@midtel.net

NWTF Schoharie County Ridge Runners: The Chapter is planning a Golf Tournament on August 19th in Canajoharie. \$55 each player, 2-man teams. Tee off 1:30 Contact Dave Hendrick 518-657-1787 for info. On May 10th a new record for NYS. 28 lbs, 1.75-inch spurs with a 10.5-inch beard scoring (NWTF scoring system) 84,000 points, elevating his bird by two points, NYS record shot by Christopher Tellone on State land. His first turkey!!!! NYS Assembly commends NWTF for steadfast commitment to conservation 50th Anniversary.

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. The Schoharie County Veterans Association held a trap event for disable Vets on June 24th at Richmondville F&G.

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 35 in attendance. One new member voted in with 3 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 purchase new target stops for the Youth Archery program at a cost of \$9000. Fields of Grace has donated \$5000 to help with the cost. 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 phallzy1@gmail.com. The club has replaced all the windows in the main club house to help cut the cost of heating. Youth fishing derby on June 17th, was a big success with over 42 kids with close to 35 fish caught including a 19" Bass weighting over 3lbs. All participants got a prize. Boy Scouts will be using club for a Camping weekend on Aug 1-3.

West Fulton Rod & Gun Club: At the July 11th special meeting the decision was made to hold the work party off until the 2nd weekend in September in the apple orchard by Looking Glass Pond. 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. The club's email address is westfultonrodandgunclub@gmail.com. Ryan Hamm and Eric Hamm will be added to the checking account along with Rachel Hamm, who is the trustee of the Tim Murphy account. 518-528-4568 for questions.

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 next SCCA (Schoharie County Conservation Association) meeting will be held at the Cobleskill Fair grounds, SCCA Booth on July 27 @ 6 PM. Bring your lawn chair.

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 _____