



## SCCA Newsletter – Meeting held at SCCA Fair Booth in Cobleskill on July 27<sup>th</sup> at 6PM.

Greg Warner, President of Schoharie County Conservation Association called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance with 15 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 Liz Reinhart and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denis Handy. The Treasurer's report was read and approved by Mark Hotaling and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Wood. The membership voted and approved both reports. The next SCCA meeting will be held at SCCA Fair Booth 6 PM on Aug 7<sup>th</sup> to setup BB Gun Booth, set up signs on building and finish getting ready for Fair week. Started sign up sheets for volunteers working fair week. There will be 2 each, 6 - hour shifts, 10 AM to 4 PM and 4PM to 10 PM. Need 36 volunteers. We did setup the BB Gun booth to check for defects and do a trial run with the blower and the six BB gun which came with the booth. The total cost was \$2953.79. SCCA uses the booth for teaching Gun Safety during the fair week to the youth and adults. The SCCA membership approved to purchase the 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. The next SCCA meeting will be held at the Fields of Grace Educational Center on Rte 145, Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> 7 PM. The New York State DEC will be stocking Pheasants this fall. Gerard Seyboth will be our representative to help.

The fair booth was a big success. We sold more kayak tickets than last year. The BB Gun Booth was a big hit thanks to Kristian Hofeller who worked 10 AM to 10 PM all six days teaching gun safety to the kids which also help sell kayak tickets. We did not charge the kids or adults any money for shooting the BB guns. Thank you Kris! Other volunteers who helped during the fair week were: Liz Reinhart, Don Reinhart, Larry Bradt, Al Zwick, Jerry Weiner, Mike Zeh, Jerry Seyboth, Kayla Kosier, John Nesel, Joyce Sheridan, Dan Sheridan, Bub Beilby, Ryan Hamm, Andrew Hamm. Greg Warner, Gabe Warner, Mark Hotaling, Doug Handy, John Hornauer, Jeff Almy, Tom Malette, Phil Skowfoe III, Dawn Skowfoe, Jeannette Hall, Pat Hall, Violetta Hofeller, Emmett bush, Melissa Burgess, Fern and Ilda from the Richmondville Rod & Gun club. The winners of the raffle were: 1<sup>st</sup> prize - Peter Iglia from Cobleskill (Took the Kayaks), 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Nina Knapp (50 cal Black powder rifle from Westford) donated By Whitetails Unlimited, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize – Gertie Fassett from Springfield (NWTF - Turkey Print) 4<sup>th</sup> Prize Justin Caldwell from Schoharie (\$100) donated by Christopher Tague, 5<sup>th</sup> prize Greg Warner from Richmondville (\$50) donated by Bank of Richmondville and 6<sup>th</sup> prize Mary Rode from Richmondville (\$50) donated by NBT Bank of Cobleskill, which she donated back to SCCA. The winning tickets were drawn by Liam Haugen, age 7 and was videoed by Liz Barr from the Mountain Eagle newspaper. Melissa Burgess, NYS DEC Encon officer for Schoharie County was also available all-day Sunday at our booth to answer questions from the Public. Thank you, Mike Terrel for your support.

**Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License:** SCCA has once again voted to sponsor a Lifetime Hunting/Fishing license for the fifth 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.

**Federal Law Jeopardizes School shooting programs:** President Biden Administration misinterpreting intent on new 2022 law. President Biden and Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardonia intends to remove federal funding for hunter education and archery shooting programs in Public Schools. Stopping hunter education courses that teach safety and responsible firearms handling makes communities less, not more, safe and diminishes our ability of pass on to the next generation our nation's cherished hunting and shooting sports heritage. 1.3 million students, nearly 9,000 schools across 49 states take part in this group's program in the National Archery in schools.

**Region 4 - New York Fish & Wildlife Management Board:** Meeting was held July 12<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

Chris VanMaaren, Region 4 Fish Manager:

**Access Verification** Manager's meeting was positive, trying to reduce "no's" for Access verification plan. Lots of push back on properties being put on the map may change to less parcel specific reaches with mixture of signage both allowing and prohibiting access. Was asked why people would go for incentive less access when the state could give them money for PFR. PFR is a permanent land Easement that transfers with ownership on the property. Much harder to sell. Access Verification agreements can be revoked by the landowner at any time. Anglers can be own worst enemy by leaving trash on stream bank. Process of Access Verification starts with a first round of letters being sent out. When a property approves the access, a letter gets sent to the neighboring properties and so on to accumulate larger reaches. 300 letters were sent to Montgomery and Schoharie counties in 2022 and roughly 1500 letters are expected to go out in 2023 to Rensselaer, Columbia, and Otsego counties. 2<sup>nd</sup> round of letters includes going around and knocking on doors with a script for non-responders. Responses can be altered as the landowner changes their mind. DEC should send Thank you letters to people that approve access. Larry: This is a failed program that is losing access. The Federation is being blamed but when they were asked to knock on doors regarding access the covid pandemic begun and ceased all activity. Program should be disbanded at least until access loss rate is significantly reduced. Program should look to add signage but not advertise the parcels on the app. Most landowners are not the ones that made the initial agreements and are unaware of the situation. We lost access to Kaaterskill Falls this year due to excess garbage and partying. We need activity at access sites to be better monitored and policed. Conservation officers are understaffed and act on complaints. Chris agreed to cease Access Verification in Region 4 until a resolution is met. Frank- Stocking policies and metrics should be revisited. Loss of access is congregating people to fewer sites thus upping the pressure. Reducing stocking policies is not helping with the over pressure of a few sites. Low-income reaches are losing access. Loss of opportunity. 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 Wildlife Manager: Staffing report – 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. 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 people taking exam for enforcement 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 @ 5:30 PM for dinner, meeting starting at 6PM.**

**SCOPE:** Next meeting will be held at the Carlisle Town Hall on August 17th at 7 PM. SCOPE did have a booth in Progressland during the Sunshine Fair week. Raffle tickets were sold and the drawing was held on the last day of the fair. Winners in next months newsletter. call 518-944-1172. The members elected a new Chairperson at the July meeting, Katherine Olsen. Joe Kopez has stepped down. Donna Dunston our chapter secretary's email address in [schohariecountyscope1@gmail.com](mailto:schohariecountyscope1@gmail.com). Five cases challenging new gun laws passed in New York State in 2022. There are several law suits pending. We need to stay dedicated to preserving the 2nd Amendment rights for you and all of us. Please come and bring a friend. Governor Hochul strikes again, Starting on September 13th is the projected date for the NY State's background check system which includes fees of \$9.00 for firearms and \$2.50 for Ammo. 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)

**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 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 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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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. Joe passed away this past week. He was 98 years young. He will be remembered through the fish stocking program that he started at Cobleskill holding pond.

**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:** 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](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.

**Long Path North Hiking Club:** Next meeting will be held on Sept 16<sup>th</sup> 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 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: 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](mailto:ccheries@midtel.net)

**NWTF Schoharie County Ridge Runners:** The Chapter is planning a Golf Tournament on August 19<sup>th</sup> in Canajoharie. \$55 each player, 2-man teams. Tee off 1:30 Contact Dave Hendrick 518-657-1787 for info. On May 10<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 11<sup>th</sup> special meeting the decision was made to hold the work party off until the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:mzeh4@nycap.rr.com). The next SCCA (Schoharie County Conservation Association) meeting will be held at the Fields Of Grace Educational Center on Rte 145 near East Cobleskill on August 24<sup>th</sup> @ 7 PM.

**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** \_\_\_\_\_