



## SCCA Newsletter – Meeting held at Fields of Grace Educational Center on Rte. 145 on August 24, 2023.

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 Doug Handy and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry Seyboth. The Treasurer's report was read and approved by Mark Hotaling and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Violet Hofeller. The membership voted and approved both reports. The membership voted on holding another Kayak raffle next year. A motion was approved to purchase two new kayaks. Another motion was made to purchase a new 12 X 12 quick setup canopy for use at the Wildlife Festivals. Both motions were voted on and approved. The next SCCA meeting will be held in the Curtis Mott building @ SUNY Cobleskill college on August 28th at 7PM in Room 106. SCCA will be attending the Wildlife Festival at the New York Power Authority in Blenheim on September 23rd from 10 AM to 4 PM. Doug Handy and Mark Hotaling will help with the setup and Mike Zeh, Kristain & Violet Hofeller along with Liz Reinhart will be on hand to answer questions during the day. Last year there were over 4,000 visitors at the event.

**Educational Gun & Bow classes are being offered at the Richmondville Fish & Game Club.** POC is Stephen Kosier – 518-231-3176 The Bow Safety Course will be held on September 23 and the Gun Safety Course will be held on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The fair booth was a big success. We sold more kayak raffle tickets this year 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 Idla from the Richmondville Rod & Gun club. Also, Dennis Handy helped both Saturday and Sunday volunteering with selling tickets and helping out with the BB gun booth. The winners of the raffle were: 1<sup>st</sup> prize - Peter Iglie 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.

**New requirement from our Governor:** Starting September 13<sup>th</sup> all gun and ammo purchases require an On-Line check with the New York State Police. There will be a \$9.00 charge for each gun purchase and a \$2.50 charge for all Ammo purchases. This is a part of the gun control law that Kathy Hochul signed into law last year, and it mandates that you submit to a State of New York background check every time we buy ammo! So, if you walk into the Runnings and buy a box of 50 .22LR shells, you'll pay a tax of almost 50%!

**Region 4 - New York Fish & Wildlife Management Board:** 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. Gerald Seyboth will be the Schoharie County Representative for working with DEC during the Pheasant stocking release this fall. **The next FWMB meeting will be held on September 27 at the Middleburgh Rod & Gun**

**Club in Middleburgh @ 5:30 PM for diner, meeting starting at 6PM.**

**SCOPE:** There 15 members attending August meeting. Next meeting will be held at the Carlisle Town Hall on Sept. 2st 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. 1st prize went to Andy, owner of Outlanders Survival Supplyin Duanesburg, 2nd prize Sarah Palmer from Connecticut, and third prize went to Kathine Hayes from Rexford, NY. For more information call 518-944-1172. The members elected a new Chairperson at the July meeting, Katherine Olsen Goodrich. Joe Kopecz 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](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 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 recently. 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 January 2024. During the same meeting the students who are attending the conference in Nashville this fall will be doing a Power Point Presentation on their trip @ the SCCA meeting in January 2024 too. 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 or Marc Cornwell 518-337-7044. 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 November 15th @ 6 PM in the Methodist Church on Main St. Schoharie. 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: Sept. 30th Explore Gates Hill State Forest for roads and trails – 3 mile, contact Steve for details; October 29, Hike Petersburg Stae Forest on unmarked trails in the afternoon, 3 miles loop, call Russell, our leader; Nov 1st – Fall Highway Clean-Up on RTE 30 by Vorman’s Nose, please call Harold Guest @ 518-827-5995 or Mark to register; Dec 9th Leader’s choice, for information on where we will go , call Don; Dec 30th Snowshoe or winter hike at Minekill State Park, 2 miles, Steve will be our leader; January 13th, The Vroman’s Nose loop. 1 mile easy hike, or maybe harder snowshoe, Call Mark for details; Feb 3rd – LP Section 30, Sawyer Hollow to Looking Glass to view the frozen waterfalls in the afternoon, one steep mile, possible snowshoes, call Russell to register. 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, LPNHC P.O. Box 855 Schoharie, NY 12157.

**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 fall, Sept 23 & Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. 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/winter.

**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. SUNY Cobleskill College student are back and shooting archery on Friday nights.

**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.

**New Club joining SCCA as an Association Member:** Schoharie County Veterans Service – Peer to Peer Advocate, Kristain Hofeller POC 518-929-2832. During the months of September and October there will be several breakfasts and lunches offered at various places in the county. The Cobleskill Diner, The Cobleskill Gathering Place to name a couple. They will sponsor a Veterans Shoot at Richmondville Fish & Game Club. Call Kristain for more information.

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 SUNY Cobleskill College, Curtis Mott Building RM 106 on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 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 \_\_\_\_\_