



## SCCA Newsletter – Meeting held at SUNY held at the Middleburgh Rod & Gun on December 28, 2023.

Doug Handy, Vice President of Schoharie County Conservation Association called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance with 14 in attendance. Clubs represented were NWTf - Schoharie County Veterans Advocate, Schoharie Ridge Runners Snowmobile Riders, Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club, West Fulton Rod & Gun Club, Cave Country Riders, Summit Sno Riders, Schoharie County Whitetails Unlimited. Also in attendance was our Schoharie County NYS DEC ENCO Melissa Burgess. The minutes were read and approved with a motion from Dave Wood, second Liz Reinhart. The treasurer's report was read and approved with a motion from Dave Hendrick, second by John Nesel. The members approved both reports. The next SCCA meeting will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM @ SUNY Cobleskill – Curtis Mott Bldg. Rm 204 .SCCA will be sponsoring a Youth Ice Fishing derby on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8 AM – 2 PM on Franklin Vly Pond in the Town of Broome. SCCA received a \$50 donation from Bill & Kathy Slater to honor Kathy's brother Tom Livingston in lieu of Christmas gifts. Thank you, Bill & Kathy. SCCA will use this donation to help with prizes for our Youth Ice Fishing Event in February.

**SCCA: All annual dues are due January 1<sup>st</sup>.** A dues notice was sent in the last SCCA newsletter along with forms to fill out for members. I have received about half of the Associations and quite a few Individual members for 2024. Association dues are \$30 annually. Each club officer and delegate receive a SCCA Newsletter monthly by mail or e-mail. Individual dues are \$10 annually. For 2023 we had 14 Associate clubs pay \$30 dues and 40 Individual members pay \$10 dues. We lost several members hopefully due to the cancellation of the Cobleskill Fair in 2020 and all the clubs who had to cancel their monthly meetings because of the COVID-19 virus. If you forgot to pay the annual dues, please send them in. Normally we have around twenty clubs paying \$30 Annual Dues. Two years ago, we had close to 50 members, last year we only had about 35 paying members. Please send in your dues. SCCA P.O. Box 325 Central Bridge, N.Y. 12035. If all past dues were caught up it would be close to \$1000.00.

**Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License:** SCCA has once again voted to sponsor a Lifetime Hunting/Fishing license for the sixth year. This drawing is open to all members' children and grandchildren, great grandchildren below the age of seventeen as of December 31, 2024. Yes, the SCCA members raised the age limit at the last meeting again. It can be an Association Club member or an Individual Club member's relative. We had 46 applications to draw from this year. **The winner this year is Talon Hotaling who is the grandson of Associates Member Mark Hotaling.** This was the fifth youth that SCCA has sponsor a lifetime hunting & fishing license. The drawing was held at the SCCA meeting, November 16, 2023. The winner of the drawing for next year will be held in November of 2024.

**Venison Donation Program:** Schoharie County Whitetails Unlimited will donate a 50 Caliber Black Powder Rifle to encourage Deer Hunters to donate a whole deer to the program. So far, we have about 550 pounds of venison donated this year, about 23 deer. This will be donated to the eight local food pantries. We had 30 deer donated last year, with 788 one-to-two-pound packages of venison. We will have a drawing from all the names who donated a whole deer at the January 2024 SCCA meeting. Lewis Bushy from Mariaville Lake was the lucky winner last year. Bleau's Deer Processing (518-702-5026) between Schoharie and Berne on Rte. 443 and Marlow's Meat Cutting in Howe Cave (518-296-8978) will do the processing of venison for the Schoharie Venison Donation Program again this year. NYS is only authorizing the use of funds donated through the Venison Donation Program where Sportsmen & Sportswomen purchase \$5 Stamps at license sales offices to be used in only Region 8 & Region 9. With this decision SCCA will have to pay for the meat processing done at Blues in Galupville. In the past this venison stamp program paid for all venison processing statewide. SCCA has chosen to do pay the price so we can decide where the venison is given out and to whom receives it (food pantries).

**Region 4 - New York Fish & Wildlife Management Board:** DEC is currently working with three contract trappers to catch bobcats in Montgomery County for the state. Not just anyone can live trap in that area and get paid for it. Also, the \$700 is for adult bobcats trapped, and \$200 is for juvenile bobcats trapped. These cats are not being relocated, they are being released at the same trap site where they were caught. Adults will be equipped with GPS collars and released, juveniles will not be equipped with GPS collars. The FWMB was held on December 6, 2023 at the Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club @ 5:30 PM with 25 in attendance. Discussions were held on the Stream Access Verification

process for Trout stocking. A review of the FWMB delegates going door to door, speaking with land owners whom DEC contacted and got replies from choosing not to continue to allow public access which has stopped the state from trout stocking in streams, which have been stocked for years by DEC. After much conversation it was decided by Chairman Larry DiDonato to bring this proposal to the NYS Fish Wildlife Management State Board which was meeting the following day near Herimer, NY. Mike Clark reviewed the Pheasant stocking program. Stocking Pheasants are no longer paid for from Conservation Fund, they are paid for with Pitman-Robinson funding so a more detailed operations must be maintained. The state started stocking the end of September just before the Youth Pheasant Hunt and again two more times in October. There were three stocking sites in Schoharie County with each site receiving 37 birds each time. Across the state 30,000 birds were released. This could be increased to 50,000 next year depending on funding and Sportsman interest. DEC is currently tagging the Black duck and Mallard duck population again this year. Mallards has a 4 bag limit with only two hens. Geese has a three bag limit. The Legislation bill outlawing hunting contest (excluding deer / bear / turkey / fishing/dog trials) passed both houses and is still on Governor Hochul's desk, if she signs it. TBD. Need to call your Senate Legislators, there is a Bill waiting for approval opposing the sale of lead bullets. Bill number is S4976A. The bill has already passed the House of the Assembly. If it gets through the Senate then it goes to the Governor for her signature. There is already a \$60 Rebate program in Region 4 for the proof of purchasing non-lead bullets in certain WMU's. WMU's 3H,4F, 4G,4H, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4W, and 6G. This program is to help with the study of Bald Eagles and if the non-lead bullets use help with the lead poisoning of birds. Deer harvest reports are 7 percent higher than last year while bear number are down compared to last year. There were 46 gun, in-person hunter education held this last fall and 3 trappers classes along with some Archery education classes too. DEC is gearing up for another survey on the Eastern Cottontail this coming year. NYS is reactivating the Open Space Plan. It has selected 16 committee members with one from each County. Larry DiDonato our Chairman of the FWMB will also be on this Board. New York's Open Space Conservation Plan serves as the blueprint for the State's land conservation efforts. The Open Space Plan is revised periodically. New York's Open Space Conservation Plan provides four overarching objectives to direct our priorities, policies, and actions: Promote outdoor recreation, Address climate change, Ensure clean water, air and land for a healthy public and vibrant economy. Protect, use and conserve our natural resources and cultural heritage; The Plan provides actions that we can take in pursuit of each objective and a listing of associated programs and policies. The Plan also contains a statewide list of priority conservation projects that are eligible for funding through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

Chris Van Maauen: Region 4 Fish Manager reported the stocking of 10,000 Tiger Muskies into Canadarago Lake in August. He reviewed a fish count event on the Hudson River and Sampling of the West Branch of the Delaware River using surveys from Anglers. He reported that DEC has continued several electric fishing sites in Region 4. He reported that DEC was checking fish pressures from surveys from anglers. Trout Stocking letters has had little success by Landowners returns so stocking procedures have been placed on hold until end of October. The stocking location requirement with landowners property location on DEC internet is being eliminated to see if this will increase letter stocking returns in Montgomery & Schenectady Counties. Chris reported that DEC is teaming up with SUNY Cobleskill's Walleye stocking of the Upper Reservoir of the NYPA. Survey on Mohawk River asking what species of fish were targeted. A new handicapped boat launch on Otsego Lake/Glimmerglass Park will be built next year using funds from NYS Parks budget.

Mike Terrel, our local Lueteninant ECO reported that a new Academy of 52 candidates from a pool of 3000 will start on March 12, 2024. The department is looking for 45 ECOs to fill the number of vacancies. The NYS Holiday hunt dates are 12/26 – 12/31. A high number of hunter violations have been noted this fall. **The next FWMB meeting will be held on March 27th 2024 @ 5:30 PM at the DeC office located in Rotterdam for diner; meeting starting at 6PM.**

**SCOPE:** January SCOPE meeting was held at the Carlisle Town Hall at 7 PM on January 18. 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. 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 Kopecz encourages all 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 . A new NY Assembly Bill has been introduced. Bill # A03314 – Requirement of Liability Insurance for all gun owners.

One of the newest laws passed on January 1st is a whistle must be carried on all vessels, rowboats, canoes, kayaks, also a fire extinguisher and an engine cutoff switches on certain vessels.

**Wildlife Task Force for the New York Power Authority:** The next meeting will be held on February 26 from 12 PM to 1:30 PM with a tour of the Power Plant. Meeting held at the Blenheim-Gilboa Visitor Center. For more

information call Jessica Kirby 518-275-8330.

**NYS DEC Educational Youth Camps:** The membership will have to discuss this at our next meeting.

**Cave Country Riders Inc.:** Meetings are held at Terri Bradt home, 278 Pine 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. The drawing for the raffle will be held on January 9<sup>th</sup>. 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$300 Cash, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize \$200 Cash, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize \$100 Cash. There will be a Kids safety class in January, Look for dates on club's Face Book page.

**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. The Ducks Unlimited Student Chapter did host the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Outdoorsman's Night Out on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6PM in the Bouck Hall on campus. \$20 for Students and \$50 for non-students. Includes a membership in Ducks Unlimited. There were raffles, games, silent auction and more. If you wore cameo or blaze orange to the event your name was entered in a special raffle for a gun. SCCA did sponsor 8 tickets for the event. There were over 200 in attendance, good showing for the students. There were at least 10 guns raffled off.

**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 Clifton Park – Halfmoon Library – 475 Moe Road Clifton Park, NY 12065. POC: Ray Lamberton 518-421-2500. Meeting will be held on January 22 @ 7 PM.

**Long Path North Hiking Club:** Next meeting will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6 PM in the Methodist Church on Main St. Schoharie. At the November meeting a new Treasurer was elected replacing Cherie Clapper who had been treasurer for over thirty years. The new Treasurer is Jean Mammato from Cobleskill, NY. Her e-mail address is [Jean.lpnhc@gmail.com](mailto:Jean.lpnhc@gmail.com) There are now 180 members with 46 Life Members. Long Path lost access across Nickerson Park because of new owners. A work around is in progress. Contact Mark Traver 518-944-7734 for additional information. List of Hikes coming up: 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 Mark Traver at 518-944-7734, LPNHC P.O. Box 855 Schoharie, NY 12157.

**NWTF Schoharie County Ridge Runners:** The Chapter did have a Golf Tournament in August in Canajoharie. The Chapter had a profit of \$512.00 which stayed in the clubs checking account to help with expenses. Contact Dave Hendrick 518-657-1787 for info. 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. The Club is looking at starting a youth trap shooting night at the club range. We have to do some modifying to our existing range to meet the requirements of the league. 12- to 18-year-old. Richmondville Fish & Game has purchased a new trap machine with raffle proceeds which will be used for the club and Youth Trap shooting league if approved by the school boards of Richmondville & Cobleskill. The Club will sponsor a Youth Ice fishing derby on February 17<sup>th</sup> 8 AM to 2 PM @ Fancher Pond off Rte. 10 on Fancher Road. 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 in December at Richmondville F&G. SCCA did purchase \$200 worth of raffle tickets to help cover the range cost & trap machine. The winners of the raffle were 1<sup>st</sup> prize, Henry Golden Big Boy 44 Mag. – James Cooney from Summit; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, Hunting Blind – Jared Belfance from Howes Cave and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize, Gun Rack – Joe Miner from Sharon Springs.

**Summit Conservation Club:** Club meetings held on the second Monday @ 6 PM of each month. Pancake Breakfast Sundays 1/7, 2/4, 3/3, 4/7; 8 AM to 11 AM. Stuffed Pizza Saturday Noon – 7 PM & Sunday Noon – 4 PM Jan 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup>; Feb 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>; Mar 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>; Apr. 20 & 21<sup>st</sup> POC is Stacey Betts - Phone 518-287-1710, 109 Club Dive Summit, N.Y. 12175.

**Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club:** Last meeting had 38 in attendance. Four new members voted in. 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 done until after hunting season. 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). All December raffle tickets were sold and turned in. The club has replaced all the windows in the main club house to help cut the cost of heating. SUNY Cobleskill College student is back and shooting archery on Friday nights. The club is planning an Auction on December 9<sup>th</sup> for Fields Of Grace and a Christmas party on December 16<sup>th</sup>. The club donated \$500.00 to the Leatherstocking Flight plus another \$500.00 from Club members. The membership did approve to allow the New State Conservation Council the use of the club house for the Spring Meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>. This is a state wide meeting held twice each year (Spring & Fall). Black Powder Shoot on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 11 AM. Youth Archery starts on January 6<sup>th</sup> 9 AM. There were over 100 youths shooting archery the past two Saturdays. The winners of the December Raffle are 12/1 David Della Veneri; 12/2 Rick Thayer; 12/3 Kathy Smith; 12/4 Joe Quickenton; 12/5 Jim Banahan; 12/6 Marc Van Wormer; 12/7 Ken Drozdowski; 12/8 Brad Decker; 12/9 Jeremiah Borst; 12/10 Dave Gode; 12/11 Jeremy Dupont; 12/12 Carol & Mike Passanttino; 12/13 Tim Steele; 12/14 Charlie Barnes; 12/15 Robert Kirschenheiter; 12/16 Dick Burhaup; 12/17 Jacob Cafariella; 12/18 Denise Kopacz; 12/19 John LeVee; 12/20 Christian Hyrny; 12 21 Tim Banahan; 12/22 Charles Quinn; 12/23 Nick Bronson; 12/24 Wayne Skowfoe; 12/25 Derek Bradley; 12/26 Christopher Marks; 12/27 John Shephard; 12/28 Tim Kessler; 12/29 Joseph Vecchione; 12/30 Brad Mitchell; 12/31 Fred Perrotti. On January 4<sup>th</sup> at the Club meeting a Bonus drawing for two rifles, a Henry Golden Boy .22 Cal and a Henry Golden Big Boy Classic .44 Mag was won by Erin Smith, ticket number 563 sold by Phil Skowfoe 11. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you for your support.

**West Fulton Rod & Gun Club:** At the November meeting the membership voted to raise Annual dues to \$20 with 12 members attending. Because of the cost of liability insurance and the cost of printing & postage, an increase of dues was necessary. This is the first time in over 25 years. There are 55 paid members to date. The planting of a Red Oak tree in memory of Gerald Hamm was postponed due to 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). The club did have their end of the year party at the W. Fulton Firehouse on Dec.9<sup>th</sup> starting at 4 PM, diners will be \$25 and 2024 dues will be \$20. Diners @ 5 PM. /5- drawings which raised another There was a silent action from donated items which raised over \$735 and three 50/50 drawings raising another \$840. There were over 50 in attendance. The club voted to sponsor \$100 to the Youth Archery Program @ Middleburgh R& G Club which starts in January 2024. 518-528-4568 for questions. The club also voted to help support a youth trap shooting league at Middleburgh R&G. Election of Officers was held – Jeff Almy as President, Larry Hamm as V. President, Ryan Hamm as Secretary, and Treasurer position is filled. See below. Need to elect a treasurer in December by the club's by-laws. The membership also voted to reviewed the club's by-laws soon. There will be a work party in January on 1/13 along with a Youth Ice Fishing event on Franklin Vlie Pond the second Saturday in February. The new treasurer was elected – Scott Elethrope. Thank you, Scott. A moment of silence was held in memory of Pete Beilby who died this month. A \$100 was approved to donate to Marathon For A Better Life. Another motion to donate \$200 to the West Fulton Firehouse for the use of the building, Annual December party. There was a work party on January 13<sup>th</sup> to clear brush and small trees around the Apple Trees up near Looking Glass Pond. There 5 five members who worked creating habitat for rabbits and grouse. Bigger project than expected. Needs more work.

**Schoharie County Veterans Service** – Peer to Peer Advocate, Kristain Hofeller, POC 518-929-2832. During the months of January and February 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 SUNY Cobleskill in the Curtis Mott Bldg. on January 25<sup>th</sup> 7 PM in Rm 204.

**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\* call for an application 518-265-4961 or e-mail [mzeh4@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mzeh4@nycap.rr.com)