



## SCCA Newsletter – Meeting held at SUNY held at the Cobleskill College, Curtis Mott Bldg. Room 206 on January 25, 2024.

Greg Warner, President of Schoharie County Conservation Association called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance with 18 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, Long Path North Hiking Club, Schoharie County Whitetails Unlimited. Also in attendance were four representing Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, American Fisheries and TWS (Wildlife Students). The minutes were read and approved with a motion from Mark Hotaling and second by Dave Wood. The treasurer's report was read and approved with a motion from Eric Haslun, second by Doug Handy. The members approved both reports. The next SCCA meeting will be held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 PM @ SUNY Cobleskill – Curtis Mott Bldg. Rm 206. SCCA had to cancel the Youth Ice Fishing derby on February 3<sup>rd</sup> because of safety concerns, warm temperatures & poor ice conditions on Franklin Vly Pond in the Town of Broome. The two power-point presentations that were suppose to be presented last month are rescheduled for the February SCCA meeting. One of these presentations is the trip to Nashville, Tenn. where 8 college students attended a Nation Convention, doing presentations. and the second power-point presentation on the Red Tail Hawk migrating south for the winter at Franklin Mountain near Oneonta in Delawares County.

SCCA would like to say thank you to Fields Of Grace Outreach for their generous donation of the 30 X 50 building on 7.6 acres of land. This property is located In the Town of Cobleskill on Route 145. The address is 3673 St. Rte. 145 Cobleskill, New York 12043. Along with the property they donated a portable generator, a 2012 trailer, three 10 X 10 sheds and all the contents in the main building. With this donation Fields Of Grace also paid for the transfer of the deed to SCCA and gave us a check for \$5.000 to help maintain the property in the future. Thank you Pastor Pete & Karen DeBartolo for all your help in the past and present, from all the members of SCCA.

**SCCA: All annual dues are due January 1<sup>st</sup>.** A dues notice was sent in the Dec/Jan 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 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. To date we have received 24 individual member dues (\$10) and 11 Association dues (\$30) along with a few checks for donations.

SCCA members have again voted to run another raffle at the Cobleskill Fair this summer. This is the only benefit we have to raise funds to support our scholarship program, Youth summer camp sponsors, Dorwin Hamm Scholarships, Youth Life time license drawings and donations we make to the varies organizations in our Associations. There are six different clubs at SUNY Cobleskill who are affiliated with SCCA. Our kayak raffle will have about seven different prizes including two each Kayaks or \$500 cash as 1<sup>st</sup> prize, a 50 caliber Black Powder Rifle donated by Schoharie County Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited, a Wildlife Framed Print which SCCA purchased at the silent auction of the Ducks Unlimited event last fall, two \$100 gift cards donated by our local Assemblyman and Senator and two \$50 gift cards from NBT (Cobleskill) and the Bank of Richmondville (Schoharie). The Sponsor of our raffle tickets has been Shaul's Roofing (Fultonham) for the last ten years at least. Each year our tickets sales have been great, all we have to do is ask our local fair attendees and they support our programs.

SCCA members have voted to sponsor two youths for DEC Summer Camp. Summer seems like it just ended but we're in the process of planning for the 2024 season! Now more than ever in our history, children need the fun, unplugged outdoor learning experiences that can only happen at camp! SCCA will reimburse parents for camp cost. Each youth must register on their own. **Online camp registration will be available to families on Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 1:00PM. NYS DEC is planning for all four Camp locations to open.** However, the actual number of camps opened will depend on staff availability. Once the youth is registered SCCA will reimburse 50% of the cost which is \$350. Once the youth show proof of attendance SCCA will reimburse the second half of the cost.

**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 December meeting again. It can be an Association Club member or an Individual Club member's relative. We had 46 applications to draw from last year. **The passed November 2023 winner was Talon Hotaling who is the grandson of Associates Member Mark Hotaling from Schoharie. He received a Lifetime license for Hunting and Fishing along with Spring & Fall Turkey permits.** This is 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 has donated a 50 Caliper Black Powder Rifle to encourage Deer Hunters to donate a whole deer to the program. We have about 550 pounds of venison donated this year, about 23 deer. This venison will be ground into packages of 1 to 2 lbs. and will be donated to the eight local food pantries in Schoharie County. We had a drawing from all the names who donated a whole deer at the January 2024 SCCA meeting. Joseph Rack from Schoharie was the lucky winner this year. Bleu's Deer Processing (518-702-5026) between Galupville and Berne on Rte. 443 and Marlow's Meat Cutting in Howe Cave (518-296-8978) did the processing of venison for the Schoharie Venison Donation program again this year. SCCA paid for the meat processing done at Blues in Galupville. It cost SCCA \$1006.00 this year. 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:** At the December FWMB meeting SCCA sponsored the cost of the pizza & wings and soda & Water. Larry DeDidonato reported: Meeting had 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- Regional Wildlife Manager reported - Habitat Conservation and Access Account Project Solicitation. Projects are due to Albany on 12/8/23, none were submitted to wildlife. Please work on these in advance for next year. Migratory Game Bird: Black Duck and Mallard trapping will occur again this winter. Region 4 will be getting 8 transmitters and 10 geolocators to deploy on female Mallards and 5 transmitters to deploy on female Black Ducks. Upland Game Bird: Pheasant stocking went well seemed to be no issues. Currently evaluating stocking practices to see how they fit in with the R3 initiative. Moved to a federal grant for the pheasant program which has the potential to increase stocking numbers. Please let Joe Nelson from the Stamford Wildlife office know if you have any new stocking sites. Furbearer: Bobcat research trapping started in late October in the study area (Region Four's is in Montgomery County). Across the state no bobcats have been caught yet. Hopeful to get 2 collars out in each study area. Young Forest Initiative (YFI) and Land Management – YFI staff marked approximately 40 acres for the Albany Pine Bush Commission. Access project at Coeymans Creek WMA (Albany County) off of State Route 144 is officially complete, now open to the public. Timber harvest at Partridge Run WMA is ongoing, approx. 5 acres of 62 cut so far, anticipate completion this year. Timber harvest at Louise E Keir WMA, approximately half done about 8 acres remaining, anticipate completion this year. There will be three active timber harvests at Bear Spring Mountain WMA beginning soon. McCoy Hill - 39 ac. hardwood clearcut; West Trout Brook/Beers Brook 23 ac. - softwood clearcut; and State Hill - 61 ac. hardwood clearcut. Capital District WMA- Game Refuge Rd - 41 ac. seed tree cut is possible this winter, waiting for contract from CO. Also, the 68 acre Shelterwood/Clearcut at Jiggs Hwy will likely be cut this winter. Doodletown WMA Habitat Management Plan (HMP) amendment- approved, waiting to be posted to the new website. Wolf Hollow WMA HMP submitted to Albany for approvals. Big Game: Deer harvest- reported take for the Southern zone +1.68%, northern zone +1.31% . Bear harvest- reported take for the Southern zone -6.14%, northern zone - 0.29% . CWD sampling- all counties have met sampling quotas except Rens Co.- need 1.5 pts (so very close). Holiday muzzleloader/crossbow/longbow hunt is a go for everywhere in the Southern Zone. No ability to 'opt out'. Hunter Education Program (HEP): As the HEP program closes out 2023, we were able to increase the number of in-person classes that were given in Region 4 and were able to introduce folks to hunter education through a myriad of additional outreach events that garnered over 1,885 public interactions with our instructors through manning booths, school outreach events, assisting scouts, and shooting sports events. All told, 46 in-person hunter education classes were given in Region 4, with 504 students, 7 bowhunter education classes with 71 students and 3 trapper education classes with 11 students, all becoming certified. We realize these numbers are lower than pre-Covid years, but our certification of students went up almost 200% from last year, this means we have nearly doubled in-person course success in just one year. There were 4 successful Next-Step courses offered, 2 shotgun, 1 rifle and 1 crossbow. This is the first real year of allowing instructors to offer these courses, and the roll out has been slow. Due to the nature of these courses, they require a bit more advertising and promoting because they aren't a required course, and the public is still learning about the availability of them. We hope to go over them again going forward and plan an instructor leadership meeting this spring that would allow instructors to try all the equipment for themselves and do a sample

run thru of a course. Some highlights for the Region 4 HEP program this year: Taught a Hunter Safety Class at SUNY Cobleskill that introduced 41 students to hunting as a wildlife management tool. 21 of those students elected to take the exam and receive their hunter certificate. Instructors participated in the Historic Helderbergs Day at Thacher State Park, manning an archery booth for visitors to try, tying archery into the history of the area through highlighting how early settlers utilized hunting to augment their diet. Worked with Hunter Ed instructors to do public outreach at 4 local fairs, the Otsego County Fair, a standalone booth at the Altamont Fair, and sharing space at fair booths with the Columbia County Sportsman Federation at the Columbia County Fair and the Rensselaer County Conservation Association at the Schaghticoke Fair. Instructors provided information, handouts, booklets, and shared hunter orange items to spread the word about wearing hunter orange during big game season. Wildlife Diversity: We're just gearing up for winter raptor surveys to start this week in Montgomery and Greene Counties, New England cottontail surveys to start toward the end of the month, and bat hibernacula surveys starting in January. We assisted with pulling out the in-stream PIT tag readers and conducting final scans for hellbenders earlier in November. Busy with updating Species Status assessments for the new State Wildlife Action Plan and creating/updating/prioritizing State Wildlife Grant proposals for next grant cycle. We assisted Virginia Tech researchers with little brown bat captures at fall swarming event at Haile's Cave and with multi-state white-nose research project. Since September we've completed 5 mammal distribution survey sites and we are doing one more site this month to wrap up our season.

Sean Reynolds- Natural Resources Supervisor reported: Update on staffing. Working on filling Real property department. Understaffed and getting many projects. Open Space Conservation Plan joint effort with Parks department. The objective of this is to protect open spaces.

Chris VanMaaren – Regional Fisheries Manager reported: Fisheries has 2 new staff. Josh Choquette was hired as an Environmental Program Specialist 1 and will act as access coordinator; Josh was a technician for Region 4 wildlife for 15 years and had been a main contact for nuisance bears in the region. Sam Carey was hired as an Aquatic Biologist and will manage public waterbodies in Rensselaer and Columbia counties along with Otsego Lake, Sam did her graduate research on Lake Whitefish reintroduction to Otsego Lake and was previously the fisheries technician for SUNY Cobleskill. NYDEP had a shutdown of the Cannonsville reservoir water release to do maintenance on valves, timing shutdowns with rain events to protect trout eggs in the substrate. Canadarago Lake walleye stocking occurred this fall. Walleye are doing well.

Sampled Potic reservoir to assess eel passage from Potic Creek. Anglers can fish shoreline of reservoir with permit from village of Catskill. Annual forage (Alewife) netting in Canadarago Lake occurred in November. Mohawk River creel survey will be conducted starting in April. Project area is between Waterford and Rome. Survey being sent out to get an idea of what the anglers are looking for in their fishing experience on the Mohawk. 2 Ice fishing clinics scheduled for 2024. 2/21 Glimmerglass State Park ice fishing clinic 2/24 Lawson Lake Ice fishing clinic. 3/1 Glimmerglass rain date with location change to Canadarago Lake, 3/9 Rain date: Lawson Lake clinic. 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 Terrell our local Lueteninant DEC ENCON officer 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. Next academy is slated for March 12th, 2024. Have been having issues with recruiting. Only law enforcement branch that requires bachelor's degree. 2nd year doing aerial flights to locate violations. Number of hunting related violations was high this year. 15 baited sites located in Schoharie County. Fines for violations are miniscule compared to out west. Need to get these busts in the press. Was some public push back regarding deer poacher in Lexington but deer was under the porch of the house. Poachers have been combative, not your typical person trying to provide for their family. Drug abusers bartering meat for drugs and services. Minutes of the FWMB meeting were reported by Joshua Foust – Recording Secretary, NYS DEC Fisheries Technician. **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.**

**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 Karen Santulli - 518-275-8330. Dave Wood, Doug Handy and Mike Zeh will attend this meeting.

**SCOPE:** February SCOPE meeting was held at the Carlisle Town Hall at 7 PM on 2/15/24. For more information call 518-944-1172. The members elected a new Chairperson at the July meeting, Katherine Olsen Goodrich. 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 vessals, rowboats, canoes, kayaks, also a fire extinguisher and a engine cutoff swithes on certain vessals.

**Cave Country Riders Inc.:** Meetings are held at Terri Bradt home, 178 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 February 2024. During the same meeting the students who are attending the conference in Nashville this last fall will be doing a Power Point Presentation on their trip @ the SCCA meeting in February 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. The students are selling raffle tickets again this year. 1<sup>st</sup> prize - RTIC Ultra-Light 52 Quart Cooler with \$100 Cabela's Gift Card (\$255) value. 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – Vortex Crossfire HD 8x42 Binoculars with \$50 Gift Card. 3<sup>rd</sup> prize – 11x14 Canvas Wall Hanging with \$50 Visa Gift Card. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 each for \$20. Drawing to be held at the Spring Fisheries & Wildlife Festival in April.

**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 Cherrie 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: March 23 – Hike the new LP Section in Northern Thacher State Park, 4.5 miles led by our leader Steve; April 27 – Huyck Preserve trails, 3-4 miles - Call or email our new leader. Pat at [patfrik@gmail.com](mailto:patfrik@gmail.com); May 9 – Thursday, Highway Clean-up on Rte. 30 by Vroman's; Nose, HELP NEEDED – Call Harold for info; May 11 – Catskill High Peaks, Bearpen & Vly Mt, 11 miles & 3000' ft elevation gain, call Russ a week ahead to register for this one; May 25 – LP Section 33 in Eastern Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area, 2.5-3 miles, leader in Marilyn; June 8 – Hike some of the trails at North- South Lake State Park, miles determined by our leader, call Don; July 13 – LP in Cole Hill State Forest, about 3 miles on LP Section 34, Call Mark for info; Aug 3 – Bald Mountain, near Stamford, 4-5 miles – Russell will be leader; Aug 24 – New LP re-route in Partridge Run, 3.5 miles, contact Mark; (two additional hikes added) March 19 – Vernal Equinox and June 20 - Summer Solstice Hike (Harold Guest for details - POC for these two hikes. Mark Traver - President, Clarence Putman-Vice President, Jean Mammato - 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 40 in attendance. One new member voted in; four applications were read. 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 donated another \$1500.00 to the Leatherstocking Honor Flight held in April. 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 Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 11 AM. Youth Archery started on January 6<sup>th</sup> 9 AM. There is an average of 88 youths shooting archery the past six Saturdays. Last shoot will be Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9 weeks of archery, Tournament will be held on Mar 8 & 9. There were 11 sponsors totaling \$1500 for youth archery this year. 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 Hynny; 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. The club is sponsoring 2 each \$250 Scholarships for member's student graduating from Middleburgh School in June.

**West Fulton Rod & Gun Club:** The ice fishing derby that was scheduled for Saturday 2/10/24 has been cancelled due to poor and unsafe conditions, it will not be rescheduled. We have scheduled another work day for the Apple Tree release work on Rossman Hill for Saturday 2/17/24 at 10AM. Same parking location and same PPE requirements as the last work day. The Club and the Tim Murphy Committee was able to distribute some donations from the funds that have been raised from the 10k over the years. We donated \$1,000 to the Schoharie Central School Environmental Steward's Club. The advisor for that club, Rylie Smith, stopped in to our meeting on Tuesday and told us about the mission statement of the club, "To promote respect, love and appreciation for the natural world". She also discussed some of the activities that her club is planning. She's expecting to have 42 members by the end of the school year and was grateful for the donation that will get the group off to a strong start. There is another \$1,000 that will be donated to the Schoharie River Center. These funds will be specifically earmarked for the Middleburgh Advantage Program. This is a free after school program that gives 80 local youths a place to go after school to take part in experiential learning on outdoor/environmental topics. Finally, there was a motion made and carried to sponsor a youth age 11-13 that would wish to attend DEC camp at Camp Colby this summer. The sponsored youth would preferably be a child or grandchild of a club member, so please reach out if you have anyone in mind. Next meeting. We are going to review and potentially amend the current club by-

laws. Per the current by-laws, it is necessary for us to notify all paid members prior to doing so at a regular or special meeting. Next meeting is Tuesday, March 5, 7PM at the West Fulton Firehouse. 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. Elected 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 in Pete's memory. 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 February 22<sup>nd</sup> 7 PM in Rm 206.

**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 11/21/2024. 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) N.Y.S. Dept. of Conservation – 2024 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 17 as of December 31, 2024 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 \_\_\_\_\_