



## SCCA Newsletter – Meeting held at SUNY held at the Cobleskill College, Curtis Mott Bldg. Room 206 on February 22, 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, Richmondville Fish & Game Club, Schoharie County Whitetails Unlimited. Also in attendance were eight representing Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, American Fisheries and TWS (Wildlife Students) along with their advisor Roger Masse. The minutes were read and approved with a motion from Doug Handy and second by Eric Haslun. The treasurer's report was read and approved with a motion from John Nesel, second by Al Zwick. The members approved both reports. The next SCCA meeting will be held on March 28<sup>th</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 presented, one of these presentations is the trip to Louisville, Kentucky where 10 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. The membership voted to allow the Schoharie County Veterans the use of the clubhouse for Arts & Crafts on Tuesdays and their once a month meetings.

**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 thirteen from the clubs for Associations Dues 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 15 Associate clubs pay \$30 dues and 40 Individual members pay \$10 dues. 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 38 individual member dues (\$10) and 13 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. **Update on camps, only two camps are running this summer, Camp Rushmore & Pack Forest for seven weeks due to staff shortages.**

**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. 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 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 this year will be held in November.

**Venison Donation Program:** The 553 pounds of venison have been delivered. Schoharie County Whitetails Unlimited did donate a 50 Caliber Black Powder Rifle to encourage Deer Hunters to donate a whole deer to the program. This venison was ground into packages of 1 to 2 lbs. and was 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. It cost SCCA \$1006.00 for the meat processing 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. Meeting had 25 in attendance. Still no information available on harvest numbers for last fall deer/bear kill by NYS DEC. 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 meeting was 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. Dave Wood, Doug Handy, Mark Traver and Mike Zeh attended. Brian Saez gave an overview of NYPA & Operations. He stated that the electrical load is shifting across the state with Solar & Wind Power backbone/upgrades. Jessica Kirby stated there were close to 25,000 visitors last year. 3500 attended the Wildlife Festival last fall. There will be a car show on July 14th. Eight counties involved with Environmental Competition. Anthony Uvino reported on recreational use. 54 hunting permits issued in 2023 compared to 63 in 2022. 107 boat permits issued down from 2022. Fish stocking will be continued this year with 3,000 trout (tiger, brook, brown) split between the two reservoirs. Reported a 10-pound bass caught in upper reservoir. Three rattlesnakes were found in a 2023 survey. Tara Groom reported the new Boat launch is still being designed and scheduled for completion in 2025. Over twenty Bald Eagles reported over the winter. Chris Kenyon reported there will be a I Love My NY Parks Event on May 4th and a Summer fest on July 20th. For more info contact Jessica Kirby – 518-287-6391.

**SCOPE:** March SCOPE meeting was held at the Carlisle Town Hall at 7 PM on 3/21/24. 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 13, 2023 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 Kopacz 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 switch on certain vessels.

**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 9th. 1st prize \$300 Cash, 2nd prize \$200 Cash, and 3rd prize \$100 Cash. There was a Kids safety class in January, Look for dates on club's Face Book page.

**SUNY Cobleskill College:** Kaylee Kilmer received the \$400 Dorwin Hamm Scholarship at the February SCCA meeting for her project on Red-Tailed Hawks. During the same meeting the 10 students who attended the conference in Louisville, Kentucky this past November did a Power Point Presentation on their trip too. The conclusion of Kaylee's presentation showed there are fewer Red-Tailed Hawks migrating south due to warmer climate (global weather). 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 past fall trip to Kentucky in November 2023. 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 of which SCCA will be setting up an information booth along with our soft pellet BB Gun booth to promote gun safety to our youth.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at the Clifton Park – Halfmoon Library – 475 Moe Road Clifton Park, NY 12065. POC: Ray Lambertson 518-421-2500. Annual Sportsman's Flea Market on Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 9 AM Zaloga Legion Post, Albany, NY. Meeting was held on March 18, 2024.

**Long Path North Hiking Club:** Next meeting will be held on May 15<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 is holding a Hunting Heritage Banquet on April 19<sup>th</sup> @ Chieftains Restaurant in Cobleskill, doors open 4:30, diner @ 5:30. Single \$50, Couples \$80, Early Bird - \$175, Early Bird Couple - \$200, Sponsor - \$425, Sponsor Couple - \$450, Jake - \$25, Gobblers Table \$800. POC - Dave Hendrick 518-657-1787 E-mail - [hendrickrd@gmail.com](mailto:hendrickrd@gmail.com) for info.

**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 cancelled a Youth Ice fishing derby in February @ Fancher Pond off Rte. 10 on Fancher Road due to thin ice. 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 at Richmondville F&G. SCCA did purchase \$200 worth of raffle tickets to help cover the trap machine. The winners of the raffle were 1<sup>st</sup> prize, Henry Golden Big Boy 44 Mag. – James Cooney - Summit; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, Hunting Blind – Jared Belfance - Howes Cave and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize, Gun Rack – Joe Miner - Sharon Springs.

**Summit Conservation Club:** Club meetings held on the second Monday @ 6 PM of each month. Pancake Breakfast Sunday 4/7; 8 AM to 11 AM. Stuffed Pizza Saturday Noon – 7 PM & Sunday Noon – 4 PM - April. 20 & 21. The members are running another raffle benefiting the building fund. Tickets are \$10 each. 1<sup>st</sup> prize is a Milwaukee M18 Battery operated Trim Kit valued at \$376 and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is a Custom Corn Hole Boards valued at \$225. Drawing date is April 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 50 in attendance. One four members 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. There will be several pistol shoots during the next few months. The Youth Archery banquet will be held on March 23. Trophies and tee shirts will be handed out. Trap is starting up soon. 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 April 7<sup>th</sup> @11 AM. There was an average of 88 youths shooting archery the past eight 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 club is sponsoring 2 each \$250 Scholarships for member's student graduating from Middleburgh School in June.

**West Fulton Rod & Gun Club:** At the March meeting there were only 7 members present, one shy of the required 8 for a quorum. The by/laws were reviewed and all changes tables till April's meeting. No club meeting in July and August. The ice fishing derby that was scheduled for 2/10/24 was cancelled due to poor and unsafe conditions, it will not be rescheduled. We have scheduled another work day for the Apple Tree clearing work on Rossman Hill for Saturday 5/11/24 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. The club's address is PO Box 99, Fultonham, NY 12071. E-mail address is [westfultonrodandgunclub@gmail.com](mailto:westfultonrodandgunclub@gmail.com).

**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 Co. Cons. Assoc.) meeting will be held at SUNY Cobleskill in the Curtis Mott Bldg. on March 28<sup>th</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 Cons. – 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 \_\_\_\_\_