



SCCA Newsletter – Meeting at the SCCA Building on Rte. 145 East Cobleskill, NY 12043 on May 23, 2024.

Greg Warner, President of Schoharie County Conservation Association called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance with 13 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. The minutes were read and approved with a motion from Dave Wood and second by Eric Haslun. The treasurer's report was read and approved with a motion from Doug Handy, second by Al Zwick. The members approved both reports. The next SCCA meeting will be held on June 27th at 7 PM @ the new SCCA club house – 3673 St. Rte. 145 Cobleskill, New York. SCCA did attend the Wildlife Festival on April 27th in the Veterans Park in Cobleskill, setting up an information booth, selling Kayak raffle tickets and the other 5 prizes. We sold \$1085 worth of raffle tickets. Drawing will take place the last night of the Cobleskill Fair @ 8PM. We had an excellent crowd with the beautiful sunny day. Volunteers who helped were Doug Handy, Greg Warner, Mike Zeh, John Nesel, Larry Bradt and Jerry Seyboth. John Nesel did pick up Tree Seedlings from DEC and handed them out to the youth attending the event to take home to plant.

Elections of officers were done at April's meeting. President – Greg Warner, Vice President - Doug Handy, Secretary – Mike Zeh, and Treasurer – Mike Zeh. It was discussed to transfer the funds from the Ameri-Pride Account to the Fam Funds Account. Both these accounts are used to fund Scholarships for SUNY Cobleskill students, sponsor youth summer campers and help with transportation expenses for annual Educational Conventions of which the college promotes for Conservation and Fisheries.

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 has applied for a Real Property Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organization with the Town of Cobleskill. The membership voted to allow the Schoharie County Veterans the use of the clubhouse for Arts & Crafts on Tuesdays and their meetings. SCCA received notice from Schoharie County that our 17-page Application was approved and we are exempt from paying School Taxes and land taxes on the new Club house/land donated by Fields Of Grace. **Work party at the new club house on June 8th from 9AM to 3PM.** The property was brush hogged and trash was removed to clean up the area. Dennis Handy brought his own mower up to mow the grass around the club house. Carl Stefanik donated a lawn mower to SCCA to help keep the property mowed. We will have to setup a mowing schedule with volunteers. Call Greg Warner 518-265-8947 or Doug Handy 518-231-0970.

SCCA sponsoring a Youth Fish Derby on June 22nd at the Cobleskill Holding Pond from 9 AM to 1 PM. Lots of prizes. Local 157 Labor's Union from Schenectady donated \$300 toward prizes along with many other local businesses. Carl Stefanik donated several fishing poles & reels to be given out to youths during the fish derby.

SCCA received the funding from the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors budget request. Most of this money is used to pay for the mailing and printing of the SCCA newsletters. We had some requests for sponsoring youths for NYS DEC Camps but only one young girl was selected. Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club sponsored Lauren Work for this camp. Some of the boys were put on a waiting list. Jacob Work was selected to attend the summer camp on May 24, 2024 so SCCA sponsored the \$350 to cover the expense @ Camp Coby This summer. Motion was made by Eric Haslun and second by Dave Wood. NYS DEC is only running two camps this year because of the lack of workers. I guess DEC will have to offer more money per hour to get staff to apply. This was change from operating 2 camps to three camps to include Camp Coby Summer camp in May.

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 six different prizes including two each

Kayaks or \$500 cash as 1st prize, a 50 caliber Black Powder Rifle donated by Schoharie County Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited – 2nd prize, a Wildlife Framed Print which SCCA purchased at the silent auction of the Ducks Unlimited event last fall – 3rd prize, one \$100 gift card donated by our local Assemblyman, Chris Tague – 4th prize and two \$50 gift cards from NBT (Cobleskill) and the Bank of Richmondville (Schoharie) – 5th & 6th prizes. The Sponsor of our raffle ticket printing has been Shaul's Roofing (Fultonham) for the last ten years at least. Each ticket is \$5 or 5 each for \$20. If any members want to purchase a ticket, please sent me a check and I will fill them out for you and mail you the ticket stubs or if you are interested in helping us sell tickets let me know. (518-265-4961) Each year our tickets sales have been great, all we have to do is ask our local fair attendees and they support our programs.

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.

Dec announces new Bobcat Management Plan: 2023 – 2033, old plan expired in 2014; New plan based on harvest trends and population indices. DEC did run a Trap Procal this winter from October 15th thru the end of March. Trap requirement – three swivel, w/shock spring. DEC paid \$700 for each cat. Recommended live traps to be wrapped, \$100 for each Log Sheet filled out and turned in. Region 4 area mainly 4A. 75 trail cameras, 18 cats detected. Letters were sent out to local trappers and property owners. Trappers mandated to keep logs of different sites, checked sites daily. Records captures and misses. Males easier to trap than Females. Females more cautious, \$1000 paid for last female caught. Cats hunt by sight, not scent. Used cubby & walk thru sets, some dirt hole sets. Each cat was examined, weighted and DNA taken while sedated. DEC will plan another survey in WMU's 6,7,8,9 next season. Information provided by Joe Reinhart from Schoharie.

Youth Turkey Hunt: Ramblin Outdoors – Another big success, Lots of prizes. The hunt was on April 24th. 71 youths signed up; 27 turkeys were harvested. 1st prize – Mike Auriemma – 24lbs., 2nd prize – Dick Andrew – 22.5 lbs. Weight in at 197 Truex Rd. Amsterdam, N.Y. Plans to hold another event next year. SCCA donated a 20g. double barrel shotgun which was won by SCCA at the Turkey Feast diner in Cobleskill valued at \$400 for next year's event. Motion made by Al Zwick and second by Mark Hotaling.

Venison Donation Program: The 553 pounds of venison have been delivered. Schoharie County Whitetails Unlimited did donate a 50 Caliper 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: Next FWMB meeting will be June 26th @ Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club. Dave Wood reported that the land deal (about 40 acres) which NYS DEC was trying to add to the Vlie Pond acres did not go through. They need to made another higher offer.

DEC reports: 2023 hunting season 2nd safest on record with reported tree stand falls decrease. 2023 Deer Harvest down 10% with Antlerless take being the biggest drop. Training for forest rangers and ECOs starting up May 19th & June 2nd at the State University of NY College of Environmental Science and Forestry & Pulaski Academy. Black Bass season opens June 15th.

Schoharie County trout stocking was done on May 2nd. Meet @ Gilboa Post Office at 10:30 AM. West Kill was stocked with 560 ea. 9" SY Brown & 70 ea. 2-year-old Brown; Mallet Pond was stocked with 200 ea. SY Brown and 240 ea. SY Rainbow; Cobleskill Holding Pond was stocked with 180 ea. SY Brown, 210 ea. SY Rainbow and 240 ea. 2-year-old Brown. We had close to twenty kids helping to carry buckets of trout to the West Kill stream and the two reservoirs. NYPA will be stocking Trout purchased from SUNNY Cobleskill during the months of May. Close to 3,000 trout (brown & rainbow) will be stocked 50/50 between the upper reservoir and the lower reservoir.

Cobleskill Fish and Game club will stock \$600 worth of tiger trout on May 15 into the Cobleskill Holding Pond.

SCOPE: May SCOPE meeting will be held on June 27th @ Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club @7pm. For more information call 518-944-1172. Elections held at the April meeting. President – Katerine Olson, Secretary- Jodi Olson, Treasurer – Jerry

Olsen. Vice Chair – Paul Steves. There are 20 Chapters in New York State. Schoharie SCOPE members voted to donate \$340 to State Chapter to help cover advertisement cost in the New York Outdoors Sports to promote VOTE/VOTE/VOTE. Schoharie County SCOPE is having a raffle to raise funds for the organization. 500 tickets at \$5 each, drawing will be in July at the Carlisle SCOPE meeting. 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. 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. **We need to get the Gun Owners to vote!**

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. Look for dates on club’s Face Book page. The club sponsored a dinner for landowners on March 2nd at the Elks, Cobleskill.

SUNY Cobleskill College: 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. The students are selling raffle tickets again this year. 1st prize - RTIC Ultra-Light 52 Quart Cooler with \$100 Cabela’s Gift Card (\$255) value. 2nd prize – Vortex Crossfire HD 8x42 Binoculars with \$50 Gift Card. 3rd prize – 11x14 Canvas Wall Hanging with \$50 Visa Gift Card. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 each for \$20. Drawing was held at the Spring Fisheries & Wildlife Festival in April of which SCCA did set up an information booth. SCCA members voted to donate \$600 to help with travel expenses for a trip to Nashville, Tenn this summer. A \$600 check was given at the April SCCA meeting.

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 Lambertson 518-421-2500. 2024 Conservation Raffle - 1st Prize Hornbeck “Twelve Classic” Canoe; 2nd prize - Douglas Fly Rod Outfit; 3rd prize Framed Robert Abbett Print.

Long Path North Hiking Club: Next meeting will be held on July 17th @ 6 PM in the Methodist Church on Main St. Schoharie. The new Treasurer is Jean Mammato from Cobleskill, NY. Her e-mail address is Jean.lpnhc@gmail.com There are now 165 members with (3 new life members) 49 Life Members. List of Hikes coming up: 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; (one additional hike added) June 20 - Summer Solstice Hike (Harold Guest for details - POC for this hike). 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 hold a Hunting Heritage Banquet on April 19th @ Chieftains Restaurant in Cobleskill. There were close people to 250 people in attendance. POC - Dave Hendrick 518-657-1787 E-mail - hendrickrd@gmail.com for info. Gross sales were over \$8,000.

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. 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.

Summit Conservation Club: Club meetings held on the second Monday @ 6 PM of each month. POC is Stacey Betts - Phone 518-287-1710, 109 Club Dive Summit, N.Y. 12175.

Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club: Last meeting had 27 in attendance. One member voted in; six application was read. Check out the club's website. **Middleburgh r&g club.com.** Indoor pistol leagues are running and new signs are up. The club is sponsoring 2 each \$250 Scholarships for member's student graduating from Middleburgh School in June. The club sponsored one youth to NYS DEC camp for \$350 (Lauren Work) The members voted to purchase 2 bicycles for 2 needy families for a cost of \$200. The members voted to donate \$500 to troop #58 to help send scouts to summer camp. Had 14 shooters participate in a 22 shoot with another 3 shoots scheduled in June, July and September, 3-5 PM with Fields Of Grace. Fish Derby will be held on June 15. McDonalds is offering a percentage of sales on May 16. 4-7 PM as a donation toward fish derby. High School Trap meeting on May 8th and second Wednesday shooting starting in June, practice with regular shoots after that thru this summer. Club is planning on working on residing the club house with metal siding plus insulation. Check club's website for dates. Good chance for new members to finish work hour requirement. The club bylaws changes were read at the May meeting and the second & third readings will be done on June & July meetings. Dues were due on January 1st with \$25 late fee after March meeting. Non paying members are dropped after the June meeting on 6/6/24.

West Fulton Rod & Gun Club: At the June meeting there were 9 members present. The by/laws changes were reviewed and a few changes were looked at. The members voted to have another raffle this summer/fall. 1000 tickets printed, 1st prize a 44 magnum Big Boy Henry rifle, 2nd prize – 22caliber Henry Golden Boy rifle, 3rd prize - \$250 Cash. Tickets will be \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Drawing at the annual Diner in December. Call Ryan Hamm for tickets. No club meeting in July. Next meeting, August 6th. We have scheduled another work day for the Apple Tree clearing work on Rossman Hill for Aug or September. Same parking location and same PPE requirements as the last work day. The club's address is PO Box 99, Fultonham, NY 12071. The Spring Party was held on May 11th at Pee Wee's house on Bears Ladder Rd. 11 AM with 32 members & guest. It was a little windy but not too cold. Pee Wee did an excellent job of cooking Chicken & Pork on the pit fire. Aaron Hamm won the 50/50 worth over \$100 with the club getting the other half. E-mail address is westfultonrodandgunclub@gmail.com. Pee Wee is building another Hunting Camp behind his garage.

Schoharie County Veterans Service – Peer to Peer Advocate, Kristain Hofeller, POC 518-929-2832. During the months of April and May 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. Veterans Parade in Schoharie on May 23rd. Call Kristain for more information - 528-929-2832.

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. The next SCCA (Schoharie Co. Cons. Assoc.) meeting will be held on June 27th at 7 PM @ the new SCCA club house – 3673 St. Rte. 145 Cobleskill, New York.

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 _____