



### **SCCA Newsletter – Meeting at the SCCA Building on Rte. 145 East Cobleskill, NY 12043 on June 27, 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 Eric Haslun and second by Dave Wood. The treasurer's report was read and approved with a motion from Doug Handy, second by Jerry Seyboth. The members approved both reports. The next SCCA meeting will be held on July 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM @ the SCCA Fair Booth. Bring your lawn chair.

Elections of officers were done at April's meeting. President – Greg Warner, Vice President - Doug Handy, Secretary – Mike Zeh, and Treasurer – Mike Zeh. The transfer of 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. We setup a lawn mower schedule for mowing around the building. We had the rest of the area brush hogged in May and just this week had it cut again. Doug Handy and John Nesel are in charge of land scaping the property. We replaced the floor joists on one of the sheds. We did a general clean up and delivered it to Mosa. We will look into adding stones to the driveway at a later date. Still need to set up a new account with a propane company for heating main building. 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 which was approved. 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. Carl Stefanik donated a lawn mower to SCCA to help keep the property mowed.

SCCA sponsoring a Youth Fish Derby on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Cobleskill Holding Pond from 9 AM to 1 PM. Thirty-one youths showed up and caught lots of fish. Some bass, perch, blue gills, sun fish, one trout and one 17" bullhead. 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. Off the Beaten Path donated the bait. Thank you, Jeff, for your many years of support. Stewarts in Cobleskill donated the ice cream for the event. McDonalds donated coupons for sodas, Hamburg and fries.

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. Jacob did go to camp last week and will create a poster for displaying at the SCCA fair booth.

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 1<sup>st</sup> prize, a 50 caliber Black Powder Rifle donated by Schoharie County Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited – 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, a Wildlife Framed Print which SCCA purchased at the silent auction of the Ducks Unlimited event last fall – 3<sup>rd</sup>

prize, one \$100 gift card donated by our local Assemblyman, Chris Tague – 4<sup>th</sup> prize and two \$50 gift cards from NBT (Cobleskill) and the Bank of Richmondville (Schoharie) – 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Region 4 - New York Fish & Wildlife Management Board:** Minutes from March 27<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Larry Didonato called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes from December 2023 meeting were approved by Mike Zeh, 2nd by Dave Wood. All in favor so moved. Larry Didonato- Board Chair Board went around the room and introduced themselves. State board approved MOA to do door knocking campaign for Stream Access Verification. Rensselaer and Otsego counties are under way. Was able to make it so properties didn't have to be listed on the map but took a lot of pressure on central office to get the door knocking campaign. Want every county to put in at least 1 submission for the Habitat grant this coming year. Details and deadlines will be attached with these minutes. Some ideas were generated. Mike Terrell- DEC DLE reported: ECO Academy is set to begin the first week of June. Have 60 candidates for 45 slots which is good to have 15 in reserve. Forest Rangers filled 12 of their 15 slots for an academy. Chris VanMaaren – Regional Fisheries Manager Introduced New Environmental Program Specialist Josh Choquette. Josh started in Fisheries in 2004 as a technician for a year and a half before switching to wildlife, handling much of the nuisance wildlife conflicts until accepting this position in fall 2023. He will oversee Access in Region 4. Julia coordinates with the fish chairs from each county for trout stocking volunteers and dates. All Grafton Waters will be surveyed this year, biannual Canadarago gillnetting, Delaware tailwaters study (finalizing Delaware management plan), Pepacton reservoir, Goodyear and Canadarago Big panfish trap netting. Onesquethaw Creek, Elk creek, and Cherry Valley creek will be surveyed this year. Elk creek and Cherry Valley creek will be assessed for rare or lesser-known species this year. Region 7 will be conducting a creel survey on the Susquehanna River. Regions 4 & 6 will be conducting a creel survey on the Mohawk River. Creel agent conducting interviews starting May 1st on Mohawk River from Cohoes to Region 4 boundary, Region 7 agent conducting interviews from boundary to Utica. E-survey was sent out to assess angler opinion of the water. Otsego Lake adding rock to create spawning reef for Lake trout and whitefish with SUNY Cobleskill. Access Verification Program in Albany, Delaware, Columbia this year. Josh has already started reaching out to municipalities. Door knocking campaign for Rensselaer and Otsego counties no responders, Chis will sit down with anyone working on that. Preemptively contacting properties near existing stocking sites prior to letters being sent out has been helping retain access locations. Josh Choquette- Environmental Program Specialist/ Access Coordinator reported: Henry Hudson Park will be getting new docks this fall. Germantown Boat Launch Site will be getting new docks, the parking lot will be improved and extended this year. Lock E10 will be redesigned so it is a loop. Moordener Kill PFR package is in the works. This will take time, 1st PFR on that water. Working on a potential boat launch site on the Delaware River in Fish's Eddy. Been meeting with many sportsmen and landowners regarding Stream Access Verification program. Mike Clark- Regional Wildlife Manager reported: Upland Game Birds: Cooperative Day-old pheasant chick program applications must be submitted by April 1st. For questions about this form or the program, please contact the Richard E. Reynolds Game Farm (607-273-2768) or the DEC website: Pheasant Hunting. Applications are required to have adequate brooding facilities, outdoor rearing pens, and a release site at the time of application. Total number of pheasants for stocking will be up this year to around 50,000 statewide. Distribution of extra birds is still being worked on. Could mean that more birds are released each stocking or additional stocking events later into the season may occur. Upcoming work includes the ruffed grouse automated recording units (ARU) study in partnership with ESF, and annual woodcock surveys. Migratory Game Birds: Duck banding has been successful this year with around 90 total birds banded. 10 mallards GPS units, 10 Mallard Geo-locators, and 9 Black Duck GPS units have been deployed. All on hens. The Southeast Zone task force met on February 24th and duck and goose seasons have been set for this upcoming fall. Upcoming work includes wrapping up duck banding and starting annual breeding waterfowl surveys. Furbearer and Small Game: In Region 4 with cooperation from local trappers and Cornell, we collared a total of 8 bobcats (4 Otsego County, 4 Schoharie County). 6 males and 2 females. Statewide there have been 15 bobcats collared. We will gather movement data from these bobcats throughout the summer and early fall. The summer bobcat camera study is occurring again this year in Montgomery County (and all around the state) starting June 1st. Nuisance beaver permits are moving to an online process carried out by landowner

requesting the permit. This new process should start in the next few weeks. Folks who need help or have no internet can always still call your regional wildlife office. Young Forest Initiative (YFI): -Next year will be the last year for some of our first habitat management plans (HMPs) written. Team is beginning discussions on how updated plans will look and how to incorporate access plans into the overall management plan. - Forest Health will be conducting beech leaf disease treatments (timber harvests) at two of our regional WMA's; Capital District WMA (Rensselaer Co) and Bear Spring Mountain WMA (Delaware Co). -Wildlife monitoring surveys on our WMAs with active cuts will start this month and continue into June/July. -HMP for Wolf Hollow WMA (Delaware Co) has been approved and posted on the public website. - HMP amendment for Doodletown WMA (Columbia Co) has been approved and posted. -YFI timber harvest at Partridge Run WMA- 62 acres total, approximately 17-20 acres of clearcut either completed or on the ground. -YFI timber sale at Louis E. Kier WMA- still "in progress", 6-8 acres left to fell, contract expires in June. YFI scrub oak release at Louis E Kier WMA- Staff cut competing overstory trees (unwanted species) that were shading an approximately 8 acres stand to allow for increased vigor of health/ scrub oak community. Still working on the sale contract for 120-acre timber sale at P. Run WMA. -YFI timber sales on going at Bear Spring MT WMA and Capital District WMA. At CDWMA-Jiggs Hwy is temporarily closed due to very muddy conditions. Archery Range Update: Region 4 Wildlife and operations are exploring the installation of a couple of unmanned archery ranges in the region, hopefully we'll have one built in the next year or 2! Stay tuned...Big Game: -Final 2023 bear harvest report has been released -871 bear harvested in the Southern Zone, up from last year's harvest of 860 but lower than the five- and ten-year averages. -2023 deer harvest report has not yet been released yet. -Nuisance bear complaints have started to come in (garbage, bird feeder, etc.) across the region. Paper hunting license and tags will be in place for the fall hunting season. DEC will start posting information videos soon on how to use the tags and the best ways to use/protect them. Q and A document available on our website for more information soon. -Region 4 purchased a new aluminum potable bear trap. -EHD- 0 deer tested positive in 2023 (antibodies were found in deer, showing they are starting to survive and show immunity) -SARS Covid-2- In 2022, 0.1% of deer tested were positive, down from 20% in 2021. Deer don't seem to sustain virus. Males 3x as likely to have. Hunter Education Program: So far, the first 4 classes for 2024 were listed this month (March) in Region 4, of those, three have already been completed, one classes had 28 students in Albany County, and another class had 16 students in a more rural location in Rensselaer County, and one that just occurred this weekend included 2 days of instruction (during a winter storm) had 10 attendees. All attendees completed hat course despite the weather. The fourth course will go off this coming weekend at Norton Hill Wildlife Club in Greene County (folks can still enroll). Instructors are seeing higher in person enrollment statewide than seen since Covid. Statewide from 202 to 2023 we saw a 27% increase for in-person certified students, and we hope the trend continues. Last year (2023) we had 4,539 students at in- person classes (gun and bow combined) across the state. Refreshers for hunter ed instructors in now ongoing, and we are covering some important topics: Instructors will need to teach students enrolling in classes about the new move to paper/print your own licenses that will be released in August. We are covering how instructors should cover this in classes, and how the self-printing process will work (will also be available to be printed on paper by license issuing agents). We also cover how carcass tags should be handled, including keeping them clean in the elements, placed in a sealable plastic bag, reporting with the QR code and with the app. Other topics being covered are the reimbursement for using copper ammunition in WMU's 3H, 4F, 4G, 4H, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4W, and 6G, and the new, easier application process for folks with disabilities to obtain a reasonable accommodation that allows them to use crossbow all of bow season with proper documentation from a doctor. Permanent disabilities receive a 5-yr license, temporary disabilities receive a 1-yr permit. Mentored hunts will now be listed on Event Manager, similar to how our hunting courses are advertised. This helps get the word out to the public about sponsored pheasant hunts as well as turkey hunts and deer hunts. For pheasant hunts, when you host an event, you can receive 2 birds/hunter for sponsored pheasant hunts on public land. Anyone interested in hosting a mentored hunt should email [hunter@dec.ny.gov](mailto:hunter@dec.ny.gov) And finally, after a statewide review, Region4's nomination of an instructor was selected for the statewide Wayne Jones Award of Excellence; so, congratulations to Anthony (Tony) Ferraioli of Albany County for being this year's recipient. Tony spent all of 2023, just being involved in any type of outreach for the HEP program, holding classes at many new locations that are extremely well received, such as libraries, schools, and community centers, as well as organizing and feeding instructors during the Altamont fair. (Again, these more community locations tend to generate a lot of interest compared to traditional rod and gun club locations, so we continue to urge instructors to seek out these types of locations). Next FWMB meeting will be October 23<sup>rd</sup> @ Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club @5:30. Minutes reported by Joshua Foust - Recording Secretary NYS DEC Fishery.

**SCOPE:** Next SCOPE meeting will be held on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 7PM @ Carlisle Town Hall. For more information call 518-944-1172. The drawing for the youth raffle was held at the July SCOPE meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> prize – was won by Peter DeBartolo; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize was won by Joe Kopacz; and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize was won by Jessie Carlary. Thanks to all ticket buyers. 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. We need to stay dedicated to preserving the 2nd

Amendment rights for you and all of us. 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.

**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. SCCA members voted to donate \$600 to help with travel expenses for a trip to Nashville, Tenn this summer. A \$600 check was given 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.

**Long Path North Hiking Club:** Next meeting will be held on September 21 @ 6 PM in the SCCA club house 3673 St. Rte. 145 Cobleskill, New York. 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 165 members with (3 new life members) 49 Life Members. List of Hikes coming up: 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; 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:** POC - Dave Hendrick 518-657-1787 E-mail - [hendrickrd@gmail.com](mailto:hendrickrd@gmail.com).

**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. The youth's teams are shooting every Tuesday night at 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 30 in attendance. One member voted in; three applications were 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). 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 was held on June 15 with 48 kids. Lots of fish caught. McDonalds is offering a percentage of sales on May 16. 4-7 PM as a donation toward fish derby. High School Trap meeting in May and second Wednesday shooting starting in June, practice with regular shoots after that thru this summer. Check 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.

**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, 1<sup>st</sup> prize a 44 magnum Big Boy Henry rifle, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – 22caliber Henry Golden Boy rifle, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>. The club's address is PO Box 99, Fultonham, NY 12071. E-mail address is [westfultonrodandgunclub@gmail.com](mailto: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. They will sponsor a Veterans Shoot at Richmondville Fish & Game Club. 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](mailto:mzeh4@nycap.rr.com). The next SCCA (Schoharie Co. Cons. Assoc.) meeting will be held on July 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM @ the SCCA fair booth. Bring your lawn chairs. We will have a sign-up sheet for volunteers for the fair booth. 10AM to 4PM and 4PM to 10PM shifts.