



SCCA Newsletter – Meeting at the SCCA Club House – 3673 St. Rte. 145 Cobleskill NY 12043 on December 18, 2025.

Greg Warner, President of Schoharie County Conservation Association called the meetings to order with the pledge of allegiance with 17 members in attendance. Clubs represented were NWTF, Middleburgh 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, and several SCCA Associates along with one student from SUNY Cobleskill TWS. The SCCA minutes were approved by a motion from Jerry Seyboth, second by Dave Wood. The SCCA Treasurer report and a motion was made to accept by Al Zwick, second by Harold Guest. The treasurer report included November and December. The membership voted and approved the both motions for the minutes & treasurer reports. The next SCCA meeting will be held at the Club house – 3673 St. Rte. 145 Cobleskill, NY 12043 @ 7PM - on January 22. Elections will be held in April, nominations in March. Greg Warner has resigned as President, Doug Handy is filling in until then.

The membership also approved to purchase a new computer for the Treasurer & Secretary to use. The purchase of a new computer is on hold because of the amount of funds spent on Scholarships, Lifetime Youth license and the venison processing fees. They approved \$1200.00 for the computer and software needed. SCCA sponsored Katelyn Collins for a RSO Course (Range Safety Officer) Class was held on December 7th @ SCCA Building 8 am – 5 pm. \$25 fee for NRA and \$50 fee for training officer. Katelyn is a student at SUNY Cobleskill. Deborah Work is looking for people interested in Volunteering for Hunter Safety Class Instructors. She is handing out applications to see if there is enough interest for holding training at the SCCA building. SCCA did receive a donation from Kathy & Bill Slater who instead of exchanging gift for Christmas donate in Tom Livingston name to SCCA. Thank you Kathy & Bill. **The New York Power Authority will host a meeting on March 10th for the Wildlife Task Force Meeting.**

The SCCA membership also donated another \$600 to SUNY Cobleskill Wildlife Society Students this past fall, to help with travel expenses for a trip to Alberta, Canada on October 5th to the 9th, To meet & greet other students. These trips give the students information for helping them decide where jobs can be found. Introductions to companies looking for skilled employees in various fields. The students gave a power point presentation at the November meeting on their trip. Fields of Grace donated \$500 to help SCCA sponsor the five each Dorwin Hamm Scholarships approved this summer. All five students gave their power point presentations at the November meeting and each student received \$400 each. Thank you, Pete and Karen DeBartolo for their continued support. The Lifetime License drawing was also drawn at the November SCCA meeting. The winner of the Lifetime Hunting & Fishing NYS License is Annalynn Elizarose Boss. Her father Mike from Cobleskill, is a member of the National Wildlife Turkey Federation. Because the Schoharie Chapter of NWTF is a paying member to SCCA then all members in good standing are eligible to enter their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren in the drawing for the lifetime license. Mike Zeh met with Mike Boss with Annalynn at Wal-Mart on Dec. 22 and sent a picture to the Times Journal. SCCA will sponsor a Youth Ice Fishing Derby on February 7th @ Franklin Vlie Pond south of Middleburgh from 8am to 2pm. POC is Dave Wood – 518-944-8926. Youths who catch the biggest fish will receive a prize or Trophy during the three different time slots for Pickerel, crappie, and also the biggest fish of the day.

The SCCA members also voted to purchase a VIP table at the Ducks Unlimited Banquet. In attendance at the banquet were Deborah Work, Michael Zeh, John Nesel, Jeffrey Almy, Dave Wood, Douglas Handy, Greg Warner and Kristan Hofeller. The cost of the Table was \$1500 with a choice of Seven guns or a Crossbow w/scope mounted. We chose the crossbow because we plan on using it for the second Prize in our Kayak Raffle @ the Cobleskill Fair. **DEC camp registration day is March 22th. If interested contact Mike Zeh 518-265-4961**

Venison Donation Program: In 2024 1020 pounds of venison was donated. This venison was delivered to eight different food pantries locations throughout the county. Schoharie County Whitetails Unlimited did donate another 50 Caliber CVA Black Powder Rifle to encourage Deer Hunters to donate a whole deer to the program. This venison is ground into packages of 1 to 2 lbs. We did have a drawing from all the names who donated a whole deer at the January 2025 SCCA meeting. Joe Mallozzi was the lucky winner. It cost SCCA \$2,270 for the meat processing. 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). Marlow Meat processing in Howes Cave and Blues Meat Processing in Berne do the meat processing. Eric Haslun is POC – 518-231-1744. In 2026 Amber Blu said she would charge SCCA \$3.50 per pound because that is what Albany County is paying. So SCCA did pay Amber \$3,645.35. She processed over 1000 pounds. SCCA will hold another drawing from the list of names who donate a whole deer to the program in 2025. So far, SCCA has received 20 deer donated during Archer season this fall and another 24 plus deer during the gun season of 2025. Hopefully we will exceed the 2024 season. This drawing will be done at the close of the deer hunting season at our January 2026 SCCA meeting from the list of hunters who have donated a whole deer again this year. Blue's Meat Processing has asked each donator for a \$50 fee to help offset the increased cost of processing the meat. Marlow Meat Processing is still donating the cost of processing the meat. To make things more expensive the NYS Dept. of Health has asked the food pantries to hand out a brochure about the venison may be contaminated with lead. These pamphlets needed to be in color which made them more expensive to print. Senator Oberactor and Assemblyman Tague have agreed to pay for printing of these brochures. The Department of Health dropped the eight ball on the delivery so we needed to get them printed so we could hand out the venison through the food pantries.

Region 4 State Board Meeting (Fish & Wildlife Management Board) The Board met on December 3 at the SCCA building. The two Habitat/Access projects that were submitted last December for Schoharie County have finally been approved by NYS DEC. They had to wait for the NYS Budget to be approved before funding could be released. The project involved an access bridge across Cole Hollow creek on the Long Path North Hiking Trail for \$2000.00 and a raised trail through a wet area around Looking Glass Pond located on the Long Path Trail on Roseman Hill. The second project got rejected by DEC even though the funding was approved.

Larry DiDonato, Chairman of the Region 4 FWMB reported that a new Manual Handbook will be handed out at the next FWMB Meeting. The budget for this coming year is \$500 to help pay for travel expenses for County Representatives coming to the meetings for the year. Many years ago, the Budget was \$400 for each County, there are nine counties in Region 4 so we used to get \$3600 for the Region 4 Board to be used for reimbursement of travel. However DEC has cut the budget. We will be investigating this and go through the proper channels. Larry has asked each County members to go back to their County Board of Supervisors and update the appointments for the Board. Each county has a Legislative Representative, a Landowner Representative, and a Sportsman Representative. Each representative has a backup alternate, so there could be nine representatives for each county and times nine counties would make 36 members for each meeting.

Sean Reynolds and Mike Clark reported that a critical fill process in progress to fill the new Region Director position – Sean Mahal. They reported that Schenevus Creek project completed at Tauzel Farm: boulder cluster and large wood addition in a PFR reach. Intent is to provide better holding water for larger fish that can contribute to better future spawning/recruitment success. Schenevus Creek new habitat project development partnering with DOT, Otsego County, Upper Susquehanna Coalition and TU to develop improvements in a reach near Worcester. Funding will be sought to do bank erosion control, and large wood additions. Stream Access Verification Program Update: Staff has begun posting the stream access signs in Greene and Schoharie Counties and finishing the posting of the End PFR signs on all bodies of water that didn't get done. Stocking for the 2026 spring trout season will be increased 1.6% from last year's numbers. A total of 1,551 new trout will be added Regionally. Schoharie County – 55.5 % increase (273 fish).

Mike Clark – Region 4 Wildlife Manager, reported on several new land purchases are in the works. He reported that the timber cut/sale on Partridge Run WMA is almost complete. WMU on Crumb Horn Mtn is still on hold. The parcel in Delaware is still 2-3 years out. DEC is revisiting the purchase near Franklin Vly. DEC is increasing the parking area and creating a larger water flow going North. NWF has some grants available for landowners to apply for creating habitat.

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Chris VanMaaren – Region 4 Fish Manager, reported that DEC is creating habitat in Green County for Westkill & Schenevus Creeks along with Elk creek working with Trout Unlimited doing some rock clusters and stream bed improvements. Start & Stop signs be put so the public can see with PFRs are located on Westkill creek in Schoharie County. Purchasing 13.2

acres on Delaware River (below Reservoir, above village of Deposit. Boat Launch near Germantown going in soon. Henry Hudson site will get new docks next spring. New Boat Launch at Minekill State Park is on schedule.

Josh Choquette – Region 4 Access Coordinator, reported that he has gained permission for public use for fishing along the Batavian Kill near Windam. On Schoharie Creek in Green County DEC will be posting signage for PFR from Greenville to Red kill Bridge increasing access from 173 landowners and 243 parcels. Working on a 5-year plan. Objective is to increase stocking as well as access. **The next meeting will be held at the NYS DEC office in Rotterdam/Schenectady on March 25th @ 5:30 PM. Pizza will be provided.**

NYS DEC: Joshua Johnson and Adebajo Ayotunde are two Dam Safety Inspectors employed by NYSDEC. They came out to Fancher Pond which SCCA owns. SCCA officers met with them on October 29 when they did the inspection. They gave us a heads up on what we needed done at the Pond. We need to remove some brush and a couple of trees growing on the dam. They will follow up with a written report. The SCCA members already completed the work suggested. Still waiting on the written report from Inspectors. We hope for a classification change so we won't have the need for State inspectors so often.

SCOPE: The next SCOPE meeting will be held on January 20th @ 7PM, at the Carlisle Town Hall. Next meeting, bring a friend or neighbor to join. "S.C.O.P.E. Shooters Committee on Political Education" admin@scopeny2a.org. SCOPE – SHOOTERS COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION – Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month @ 7PM. SCOPE is running a 100 square raffle. Prize is \$500 worth of fuel (Fuel Oil or Propane Gas or Electrical or Firewood) \$10 a square. SCOPE gets \$500 and Winner gets \$500 worth of fuel. Drawing will be at January meeting. SCOPE will get \$500 and the winner gets \$500 worth of fuel or his choice.

Cave Country Riders Inc.: Meetings are held at Bob Strong's home, 5227 ST. Rte. 145 Cobleskill, NY 12043 on the 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7:00 pm. Meetings held Oct.–Mar. POC: 518-234-7331. The snowmobile clubs have created a parking area for trailers for use during the winter snowmobile season at the SCCA Club House. **There will be a Snowmobile Safety Training Class at the SCCA building on Feb. 21 from 8AM to 5PM. POC is Doug Handy 518-231-0970.**

Middleburgh Ridge Runner Snowmobile Club donated \$1000 toward the cost of construction of a Privy being built on Cotton Hill located near the Long Path North Hiking Trail. They also help pay for the driveway expansion which will be used as a parking area for trailers & vehicles this winter along the side of the driveway leading to the SCCA club house. The snowmobile trail cuts across the property of the SCCA club house driveway. Long Path North Hiking Club would like to thank Bill Simons and Dave Toberg for all their help with the building the Privy up in Huntersland along the Long Path North Hiking Trail. They used their Trail side-by-side to move all the material up to the site, helped with the building of the Privy (outhouse) and then they delivered the gravel needed for the ramp for access. Thank you, Bill & Dave for all your help and support.

SUNY Cobleskill College: SCCA is still offering the \$400.00 Dorwin Hamm Scholarship to students in the Fisheries and Wildlife programs. POC is Roger Masse 518-255-5292, Charles Cotton 518-255-5877 or Marc Cornwell 518-337-7044. **SCCA has received 5 Dorwin Hamm Scholarship applications this past semester.** These have been reviewed by the membership and were all approved. Thank you, Charles Cotton (CHIP), one of the college professors who got the students to apply. The five applications are on all invasive species. Green Sun Fish, Black Crappie Fish, Round Goby fish, Mussel Clams, and Rusty Cray Fish. The names of the students getting the Scholarships are Will Seamans, John Travis, Lucas Reiter, Charles Farrell and Eoghan Donnelly. These presentations were done at the November SCCA meeting which was at the college. Each Student received a check for \$400. SCCA did award \$600 to the students going to Edmonton, Canada in October for travel expenses. SCCA did an Eagle Sponsor (\$300) for the college students supporting the Wildlife Festival. SUNY Cobleskill Chapter Ducks Unlimited did host their 11th Annual Outdoorsman's Night Out on November 6th, 2025 @ Bouck Hall at Suny Cobleskill 106 Suffolk Circle Cobleskill, New York 12043. There were raffles, games, silent Auction. SCCA membership did vote on purchasing a VIP table for this event at our October SCCA meeting. All ticket holders must be a member in good standing. The college students did sell raffle tickets for a Limited-Edition Wetlands Yeti 65 Cooler for \$10 each.

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. Clearwater Chapter meetings held 3rd Monday. American Legion Zaloga Post, 4 Everett Rd, Albany, NY 12205, Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post #1520. 4 Everett Rd. Albany, N.Y. 12205 POC: Roy Lamberton 518-421-2500. As another season comes to a close, we can't help but look back with pride at what our small but dedicated core of volunteers has accomplished this year: planting trees, securing essential grants, running chapter events, drawing up plans for future in-stream habitat projects, and educating the next generation.

Long Path North Hiking Club: Next meeting will be held on March 11th @ 6 PM in the SCCA club house 3673 State Rte. 145 Cobleskill, New York. There are now 172 members with 55 lifetime members. List of Hikes coming up: Jan. 17th – LP Section 33, Beaver Rd.to Ravine Road, C.R. 6, about 3 miles, leader is Mark; Feb. 7th – Snowshoe the Looking Glass Loop

Trail with Jean, about one mile. Hiking leaders are as followed: Carol & Mark Traver 518-944-7734, Clarence Putman 607--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. The Privy on Cotton Hill has been completed for the Dutch Settlement State Forest lean-to.

NWTF Schoharie County Ridge Runners: NWTF did have a banquet last spring @ Chieftain's in Cobleskill POC - Dave Hendrick 518-657-1787 E-mail - hendrickrd@gmail.com. \$20,000 raised. After expenses the NWTF had almost \$10,000.00. Great Job done by Dave Hendrick. Food was great. Lots of fun by all. **Planning a NWTF Banquet on April 18th @ the Quality Inn located by Dunkin Donuts on RTE 30 A in Schoharie, NY 12157 POC is Dave Hendrick. 518-657-1787**

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 hosts an open trap shoot to the public each Tuesday night at 5PM. The club has been sponsoring a Youth School Trap league, CRCS students in grades 7-12. They shoot twice a week in the spring and fall leagues. Questions call Greg Warner @ 518-265-8647. SCCA members voted to donate another \$500 to the Richmondville club to help with the expenses for the trap range. If anyone needs the Trap shooter's schedule, please call Greg. The club is filling for a 501-c-3 status with the Federal Government. They are also applying for an NRA Grant to help with the Youth Trap Shooting team. The shooting range needs some improvements and maybe some improvements to the club house. Any and all donations are appreciated. The club is holding a raffle to support the shooting team. \$20 per ticket, 5 prizes - 1st prize - Ruger American .308 w/scope - winner Brett Smith; 2nd Prize - Mossberg 500 12 ga. Pump - winner Maecy Keppler; 3rd Prize - \$500 Gift Certificate for Bass Pro Shop - winner Mark Mann; 4th prize - Johnny Moris Carbon Lite Baitcast - winner Wayne Scoffa; and 5th prize - one year membership to Richmondville F&G Club - winner Jeremiah Haslun. Drawing date was Nov 5th at the club house.

Summit Conservation Club: Next meeting will be on January 12th @ 6 PM - Club meetings held on the second Monday @ 6 PM of each month. Starting in January Stuffed Pizza on Saturday Noon to 7PM & Sundays Noon to 4PM. Jan. 17th & 18th; Feb. 21st & 22nd; Mar. 14th & 15th; April 18th & 19th. Pancake Breakfast Sundays 8Am -11AM: Jan. 4th, Feb. 1st, Mar. 1st, No breakfast in April. POC is Stacey Betts - Phone 518-287-1710, 109 Club Dive Summit, N.Y. 12175.

Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club: Last meeting was cancelled because of bad weather. More info available on website **Middleburgh R&G Club.com**. Women Pistol league is getting bigger all the time. Wayne Skowfoe did an excellent job of running the December Raffle. All tickets were sold. Winners will announce in the month's newsletter. The Youth Trap League attended the State Tournament held in Bridgeport, and came in 8th place as a team with over 2000 youths shooting. The winners of the December Raffle were: 12/1 - Janet Kahrs; 12/2 - Brian Crawford; 12/3 - Curtis Whitehall; 12/4 - Mike Ceroalo; 12/5 - Joe Perrotti; 12/6 - Bill Magrino; 12/7 - Kathi Hensel; 12/8 - Nate Edwards; 12/9 - Mike Harrigan; 12/10 - Scott Elethrop; 12/11 - Aurora Cornell; 12/12 - Aaron Smith; 12/13 - Mitchell Smith; 12/14 - John Wingfield; 12/15 - Tom Mellette; 12/16 - Peter Perino; 12/17 - Chuck Parker; 12/18 - Chuck Wainwright; 12/19 - Ron Hunt; 12/20 - John Porter; 12/21 - Bob Adam; 12/22 - Dean Bartholomew; 12/23 - Tim Brumaghim; 12/24 - Dustin Monk; 12/25 - John Warner Jr.; 12/26 Charles Cornwell; 12/27 - Edward Springer; 12/28 - Cody Evans; 12/29 - Katelyn Collins; 12/30 - Vic Johnston; 12/31 - Scott Elliott. The winner of the two Henry rifles drawn at the January meeting was William Bryon. All the even days the prize was \$250 and the odd days were the prize listed on the tickets. We would like to thank everyone for their donations. Youth archery program starts up on the first Saturday in January. This is free to all shooters, the club pays for all the equipment, targets, provides instructors and donuts every Saturday morning. Elections of Club Officers will be held during the January meeting.

West Rod & Gun Club: The membership voted to donate \$2000 to the Schoharie Central School Environmental Stuart-ship Club from the Tim Murphy account. The next club meet will be held on January 6th @ 7PM. The Tim Murphy run was a big success again this year with 190 registered -runners/walkers. There was a member diner at the West Fulton Firehouse on December 6th @ 5PM with 45 in attendance. Diners were \$25. Ham and Roast Beef with potatoes, string beans and salad was served. The winner of the 50/50 was won by Jeff Almy who will donate it to the Middleburgh Rod & Gun Youth Trap Team. The club's address is PO Box 99, Fultonham, NY 12071. Club's E-mail address is westfultonrodandgunclub@gmail.com. The members voted to donate \$2000 to the Schoharie Central School Environmental Stuart ship Club from the Tim Murphy Account. **West Fulton Rod & Gun Club will host a Youth Ice Fishing Derby on Feb 14th at the Franklin Vlaie Pond from 8AM to 2PM. Lots of prizes and trophies for winners of each time frame and biggest fish caught. POC will be Jeff Almy 206-550-9933.**

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 meeting will be held at the SCCA Club House @ 3683 St. Rte. 145 Cobleskill, N. Y. 12043 on January 22th @ 7PM. **There will be no newsletter next month. (Vacation) Next month's meeting will be held on Feb. 26th @ SCCA Club house.**