



SCCA Newsletter – Meeting at the SCCA Club House – 3673 St. Rte. 145 Cobleskill NY 12043 on February 26, 2026.

Doug Handy, Vice President of Schoharie County Conservation Association called the meetings to order with the pledge of allegiance with 23 members in attendance at 7:10. Clubs represented were NWTF, Middleburgh Ridge Runners Snowmobile Riders, Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club, West Fulton Rod & Gun Club, Cave Country Riders, Summit Sno Riders, DU (SUNY Cobleskill, Schoharie Valley Trapping, and several SCCA Associates along with several students from SUNY Cobleskill TWS. There were no SCCA minutes (No newsletter in January). The SCCA Treasurer report and a motion was made to accept by Andy Work, second by Dave Wood. The membership voted and approved the motion for the treasurer report. The next SCCA meeting will be held at the Curtis Mott Building - RM 106, SUNY Cobleskill Club @ 7PM - on March 26. 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 at the November SCCA meeting. 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. Debroah Work is looking for people held 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

The SCCA membership voted to attend the Wildlife Festival in Cobleskill on April 25th from 10 am to 4 pm. They voted to run the Kayak Raffle during the Cobleskill Fair Week in August (approved). The membership approved the Youth Lifetime Hunting & Fishing license drawing in November of 2026. The SCCA did receive a donation from the Local 157 Labor's Union in Schenectady to help with the cost of trophies and prizes for the Youth fishing derby held in June. The Youth Ice Fishing derby held in February was cancelled because of weather. (too cold – negative 20 degrees).

The SCCA members also voted to sponsor a table at the NWTF Event on April 18th at Schoharie Quality Inn near Dun-kin Donuts by I-88 Park & Ride. Drawing at March meeting for 8 members to attend. **DEC camp registration day is March 22th. If interested contact Mike Zeh 518-265-4961**

Venison Donation Program: In 2025 over 1000 pounds of venison was donated (45 deer). This venison was delivered to eight different food pantries locations throughout the county. Schoharie County Whitetails Unlimited did donate another 50 Caliper 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 2026 SCCA meeting. Gregory Hoffman from Delanson was the lucky winner. It cost SCCA \$3,645.35 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 donates his services and Blues Meat Processing in Berne do the meat processing. Eric Haslun is POC – 518-231-1744. SCCA will hold drawing from the list of names who donate a whole deer to the program in 2025. SCCA has received 20 deer donated during Archer season this past fall and another 24 plus deer during the gun season of 2025. Hopefully we will exceed the 2024 season. This drawing was 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. **SCCA did receive a donation from Fenimore Asset Management Group in Cobleskill to help the venison meat processing cost.**

Region 4 State Board Meeting (Fish & Wildlife Management Board) Met on December 3rd at SCCA Building.

Sean Mahar- Region 4 Regional Director - New Regional Director. Former executive deputy commissioner and interim commissioner for DEC. 10 years with the agency. Comes from natural resources background, 14 years from Audubon Society doing government and communications. Fostered better collaboration between environmental groups and the sporting community including work with the wildlife coalition to preserve the environment and create better conservation ethics within the state.

Larry Didonato - Statewide board meeting: 1st Statewide FWMB Meeting in over 2 years. Lots of topics covered. Discussed attendance at statewide meetings and having partners along with advisory members come to these meetings. New Statewide Vice President Alvin Montana, Region 6 chairman was elected. DEC reported that MOU with FWMB’ door knock campaign for stream access verification has been discontinued. Region 4 did very well in this campaign. Region 5 FWMB is not active currently. Next meeting will be in person; this one was a teleconference.

Grants:

Greene County Projects- Fall construction season was missed unfortunately, working on getting permits together for project in Lexington.

Schoharie County Project- NYNJ trail conference project at a standstill due to communication issues. Sean will inquire with the trail conference on it. Mark will continue to communicate with Zach Cole on project.

Rensselaer County Project- RCCA had rescinded their habitat improvement project.

Projects can be rolled into next year.

Roster:-

\$500/year budget for food. Official and regional board members can request travel reimbursements. Must be an official county appointed representative to be eligible. Figure out appointment dates, provide appointment letters, update roster. Need to centralize the appointment documents to Larry.

Mike Clark- Region 4 Wildlife Manager -Black Creek Marsh WMA - Archery Range work continues, slated to be open summer of 2026. Timber sale ongoing at Partridge Run WMA, approx. 8 acres to be felled and skidded this winter to complete the sale. Binnen Kill WMA acquisition final, not publicizing until the spring until after we install parking areas and boundary signage. Marking future timber sales at Partridge Run WMA, Doodletown WMA, Capital District WMA, Wolf Hollow WMA and Bear Spring Mt WMA; all slated to be put out to bid in 2026. For east of the river, we’ve been working on Federal Land Certifications, which are done for Stockport WMA, Brickyard WMA, Rogers Island WMA, and Doodletown WMA. Still finishing up Capital District WMA. Wildlife Technicians have also been doing boundary line maintenance at Stockport and Capital District WMA. Finally, invasive treatments for phragmites were completed by contract at both Stockport and Capital District WMA. Purchasing a new 75HP JD 4wd tractor with a side flail mower, walk behind brush mower, new trailer for hauling our UTV/ATV w/ tow behind brush.

Starting our WMA work-planning for 2026-27... HCCA grants – due to Albany end of January, so get them to me (wildlife), Chris (fisheries) by mid-January.

Sean Reynolds- Natural Resources Supervisor: Habitat - Schenevus Creek Restoration Project at Tauzel farm is completed. Boulder clusters and large wood additions to create better holding water for larger fish spawning and recruitment. New habitat project is developing having DEC partner with DOT, Upper Susquehanna Coalition and Trout Unlimited for further habitat improvement on Schenevus Creek near Worcester through bank erosion control and large wood additions. Access: Staff have been posting access verification signs in Greene and Schoharie counties and finishing the posting of “End of PFR” signs in the region. Trout Stocked for the 2026 season will increase by 1.6% from last year. 1,551 trout will be added regionally. County Breakdown of change in trout being stocked for 2026

<u>County</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Fish Differential</u>
Albany		No Change
Columbia:	-2.2%	-278
Delaware	1.8%	+546
Greene	2.0%	+597
Montgomery		No Change
Otsego	4.0%	+413
Rensselaer		No Change
Schenectady		No Change
Schoharie	55.5%	+273

DEC is currently in the process of purchasing a PFR easement on the Schenevus Creek along with purchasing 13 acres of riverfront on the East Branch Delaware River.

Germantown Boat Launch site is set to have new docks installed Spring 2026. Phase 2 will start soon after.

Henry Hudson Boat launch will also have new docks installed in spring 2026. Once these docks are installed there will be no more work needed at this site.

Mohawk Lock 10E site paving was completed this past fall.

Sydney fishing access site (FAS) steps have been poured, and site will be completed in the spring.

Buskirk FAS will be evaluated in the future to improve access for kayakers and anglers.

Normanskill hand launch, working on design phase of site.

Airport Rd BLS improving parking lot for access to the West Branch Delaware River, set to begin in the spring.

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. SCCA has engineering staff reviewing the report from the inspectors. He stated that we need to cut down a large willow tree growing on the dam/spillway. This is a very large tree and may need a professional.

The New York Power Authority did host a meeting on March 10th for the Wildlife Task Force Meeting.

Dave Wood, Doug Handy, Mark Traver, Mike Zeh attended. A review of this past year was reported by Tim Rich, Operations Manager, including the Wildlife Festival held last September (over 4,000 in attendance) the Car Show held last summer/fall (over 4,000 in attendance) the upgrade on the Visitor Center which is currently closed, review of the Hunting permits, boating permits, fish stocking (2,500 brown trout stocked some Walleye fingerlings and some Tiger Trout, and tour of the on-going boat launch (about 90% complete). There were about twenty in attendance along with reps from Minekill State Park. The kiddie pool has been completed and new Kayak building complete. The Forest Management Plan has been improved, involving habitat and trail safety. A new Eagle Nest has been identified.

SCOPE: The next SCOPE meeting will be held on April 21 @ 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. A drawing was done at the February meeting and Marc Van Wormer was the winner. SCOPE gets \$500 and Winner gets \$500 worth of fuel. New York State Senate Bill 362 [A03233/S00362](#) establishes a ten (10) day waiting period from receiving a "proceed" from the New York State National Instant Background Check System (NYS NICS) before a firearm, shotgun or rifle may be delivered to a person. This bill is one of SCOPE's Top Ten Most Egregious Firearms legislation This bill is pending in the Senate and then on to the Assembly before it can be sent to the Governor.

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.** SCCA did donate \$600 for 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 for 2025. We have received three new scholarship applications this past month along with another request for sponsorship to the 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. 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. Our annual raffle is coming soon, Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The annual raffle supports our vital cold-water conservation work right here in the Capital Region including 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 175 members with 55 lifetime members and 7 new senior members, List of Hikes coming up: Apr. 18th – LP from Altamont's Brozenkill Park to Thacher S.P., 6-7 miles, Call Steve; Apr. 25 Huntersfield Mt & Lean-to-hike, several routes depending on group preference, 3-5 miles, contact Russ; May 5th – Tuesday, Highway Clean-up on Rte. 30 by Vroman's Nose, Help needed; please contact Mark. Mark & Carol Traver 518-944-7734, Betsey Bouchard 518-410-3863, Steve Babbitt 518-231-4126, Russell Hanford 518-728-6775 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, Thanks to Jean, we are a registered 501-c3 non-profit corporation and can now receive tax deductible donations. Long time life member – past BOD, Howard Hart passed away - 12/6/29 - 10/20/25

NWTF Schoharie County Ridge Runners: hendrickrd@gmail.com. **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 improvements and maybe some improvements to the club house. Any and all donations are appreciated.

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. April 18th & 19th. 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](http://MiddleburghR&GClub.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. Trap League attended the State Tournament held in Bridgeport, and came in 8th place as a team with over 2000 youths shooting. Youth archery program ends in March, around the third Saturday with the banquet being held for all shooters, this is free to all shooters, the club pays for all food and desserts, and drinks. Elections of Club Officers were held during the January meeting. President elected is Dave Gode, vice president – Nick Ingham, Secretary – Christopher Marks, Treasurer – Rick Poquette. There was meeting cancellations for the February and March because of weather.

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 April 7 @ 7PM. 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 did host a Youth Ice Fishing Derby on Feb 14th at the Franklin Vlaie Pond from 8AM to 2PM. There were only 10 adults and the prize money was split between two winners. POC was Jeff Almy 206-550-9933.**

Schoharie County Jeep Club: The club has 42 members with meeting held on the second Thursday of the month. They have just celebrated their 50 years anniversary this past winter. POC: Bill Hansel – email address whensel3@g-mail.com or Nino Stella – email ninostella213@gmail.com or 518-795-4919

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 Curtis Mott Building Rm 106 - Cobleskill, N. Y. 12043 on March 26th @ 7PM.