



SCCA Newsletter – Meeting at the SUNY COBLESKILL-Curtis Mott Building Rm 205 145 Cobleskill NY 12043 on April 23, 2026.

Doug Handy, Vice President of Schoharie County Conservation Association called the meetings to order with the pledge of allegiance with 14 members in attendance at 7:00. Clubs represented were NWTf, Middleburgh Ridge Runners Snowmobile Riders, Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club, West Fulton Rod & Gun Club, Cave Country Riders, Summit Sno Riders, Richmondville Fish & Game Club, several SCCA Associates along with four students from SUNY Cobleskill TWS/AFS. The SCCA minutes were reviewed and the membership voted to approved with a motion from Eric Haslin, second by Greg Warner. The SCCA Treasurer report and a motion was made to accept by Dave Wood, second by Jeff Almy. The membership voted and approved both motions. The next SCCA meeting will be held at the SCCA Club house – 3673 ST. Route 145 Cobleskill, New York 12043 @ 7PM - on May 28. Elections were held at the April meeting. Greg Warner did resign as President, Doug Handy filled in during the intern. Andrew Work was elected President, Gabe Warner elected as Vic President and Michael Zeh was re-elected as Treasurer/Secretary. The membership also approved to purchase a new computer for the Treasurer & Secretary to use at the November SCCA - 2025 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. During the time frame from November 2025-april 2026 SCCA has given out 8 Dorwin Hamm Scholarships (\$3,200.00) plus Life time Hunting/Fishing License and the cost of the Venison Meat processing for the local Food Pantries (\$3,645.35). Andrew Work is looking for people interested in Volunteering for Hunter Safety Class Instructors. He 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. The members voted to do the Bald Eagle Sponsor (\$300) to help support the cost of the festival. Doug Handy, Liz Reinhart, John Nesel, Andrew Work, Greg Warner, Don Reinhart, Gabe Warner were there to answer questions and sell Kayak Raffle tickets. They did extremely well, selling \$870.00 worth of tickets.

SCCA voted to hold the Kayak Raffle during the Cobleskill Fair Week in August (approved). 1st prize will be \$500 or the two Kayaks. 2nd prize will be the crossbow w/scope. 3rd prize will be a Wildlife Print, 4th prize will be a \$100 certificate donated by Assemblyman Chris Tague, 5th prize will be a \$100 certificate donated by The Bank of Richmondville in Cobleskill and the 6th prize will be \$100 certificate donated by NBT Bank in Cobleskill. Drawing will take place on the last day of the fair @ 8PM. If you need tickets to sell contact Mike Zeh 518-265-4961. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The membership approved the Youth Lifetime Hunting & Fishing license drawing held in November @ SCCA meeting of 2026. The SCCA did receive a donation of \$400 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 fishing derby will be held at the Cobleskill Holding Pond, on Dow Street off Mineral Spring Rd near Cobleskill, on June 27th from 8 AM to 2 PM. There will be prizes for all and trophies for the largest fish caught, largest Trout caught, largest sunfish/pumpkin-head caught and largest Bass caught. There will free ice cream donated by Stewarts.

The SCCA members did attend 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. Members attending are Dave wood, Greg Warner, Michael Zeh, Doug Handy, Eric Haslun, John Nesel, Kristain Hofeller, and Dennis Handy. **DEC camp registration day was March 22th. If interested contact Mike Zeh 518-265-4961 If any youths got a registration approved SCCA will refund their cost. Jacob Work won the 6.5 Creedmoor Rifle which was donated by SCCA for the Youth Turkey Hunt near Amsterdam. There were over 60 youths entered with almost 40 birds shot.**

SCCA: All annual dues are due January 1st. A dues registration form will be included in your SCCA newsletter to fill out if you haven't paid your SCCA Dues for 2026. Please send in your dues. I have received association dues from twelve clubs so far this year and about twenty-two Individual Members who have paid. 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 2025 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 40 paying members. Please send in your dues. SCCA P.O. Box 325 Central Bridge, N.Y. 12035. **IRS Taxes for 2025 have been filed for SCCA.** They are due by May 15th but I did them early.

NYS DEC: Fish stocking for Schoharie County will be done on April 27th. Meet at 10:30 @ Gilboa Post Office. Call Dave Wood for more information – 518-944-8926. The fish stocking was a big success with several volunteers and Terry Mitton who had several kids from Schoharie School who helped carry buckets of fish.

Region 4 State Board Meeting (Fish & Wildlife Management Board) did meet on March 25th at NYS DEC Office in Schenectady. 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 & the sporting community including work with the wildlife coalition to preserve environment, create better conservation ethics within the state.

Larry Didonato – Reviewing FWMB representatives who are appointed by each County Board of Supervisors. There are nine regions in NYS. We are in Region 4 with nine counties of which each County can appoint six representatives. There is a Land Owner Representative (Dave Wood & Andy Work), a Legislative Representative (Phil Skowfoe Jr & Benjamin Oevering) and a Sportsman representative (Michael Zeh & Jeff Almy). The Board of Supervisors also appoints an Alternate Representative for each. DEC reported that MOU with FWMB' door knock campaign for stream access verification was very successful. Region 4 did very well in this campaign. The next Statewide FWMB meeting will be in person.

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 Traver will continue to communicate with Zaon Cole on project.

Rensselaer County Project- RCCA had rescinded their habitat improvement project. Projects can be rolled in 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. An update is being done. 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 in Albany the end of January, so get them to me (wildlife), Chris (fisheries) by mid-January. In Schoharie County a project has been submitted on Panther Creek (two digger holes creating deep pools to increase habitat during low water flows and cooler water temperatures).

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. Schoharie County did receive an extra 170 fish with 60 extra two-year olds stocked in the Cobleskill Holding Pond. Total fish stocked in Schoharie County was 1,890 fish with 360 two-year olds stocked.

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 needed 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 wouldn'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. SCCA does not own the property where the Dam is located. SCCA only owns the land under the water, Fancher Pond. Schoharie County Board Of Supervisors pass a new resolution approving Philip Skowfoe and Benjamin Oevering as Legislative Representatives, Jeff Almy and Michael Zeh as Sportsman Representatives and Dave Wood and Andrew Work as Land Owner Representatives of the FWMB for Schoharie Co. on April 16th for the next two years.

SCOPE: The next SCOPE meeting will be held on June 16th @ 7PM, at the Middleburgh R & G Club. 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. Elections were held at the May Meeting. Chairman Kathy Olsen, Vice Chairman Paul Steves and Jodi Olsen were all re-elected, the Treasurer position is still open. SCOPE will participate at the Sunshine Fair again this year. 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. It is part of the 2026 NYS Budget.

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.

Middleburgh Ridge Runner Snowmobile Club: Long Path North Hiking Club would like to thank Bill Simons and Dave Toberg for all their help with the building of 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. The club would like to show their appreciation by hosting an invitation to all the land owners who allow the snowmobile trail to extend across their properties giving snowmobilers permission to cross and providing a free buffet at the Galupville Fire Department on Saturday May 30, RSVP by May 20th. Bill Simmons 518-526-0882 or simmins872@aol.com.

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 7 Dorwin Hamm Scholarship applications this semester.** SCCA did an Eagle Sponsor (\$300) for the college students supporting the Wildlife Festival for 2026. Joseph Simonds did his presentation 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 P.O. 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.

Long Path North Hiking Club: Next meeting will be held on July 15th @ 6 PM in the SCCA club house 3673 State Rte. 145 Cobleskill, New York. There are now 162 members with 55 lifetime members and 7 new senior lifetime members, List of Hikes coming up: 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. Thanks to Jean, we are a registered 501-c3 non-profit corporation and can now receive tax deductible donations. The total length of the Long Path is 358 ½ miles. 11 members attended the May meeting.

NWTF Schoharie County Ridge Runners: hendrickrd@gmail.com. NWTF Banquet was held April 18th @ 4pm, 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. 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 a few improvements and maybe some improvements to the club house.

Summit Conservation Club: Next meeting will be on June 8th @ 6 PM - 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: The next meeting is on June 4th @ 7PM. More info available on website **Middleburgh R&G Club.com**. Women Pistol league is getting bigger all the time. Youth archery program ended in March, 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. Five Saturdays with over 100 shooters. Over 250 in attendance at Archery Banquet, trophies & t-shirts were handed out. The Youth Archery Program had close to twenty \$100 sponsors. Schoharie County Conservation Association, Arron Electric, Duanesburg Outlanders Survival Supply, Gallupville Evangelical Lutheran Church, J & L Sweeps, Fields Of Grace Outreach, Clear Choice Tree Service, Phil Skowfoe Water Wells, Otsego/Schoharie S.C.O.P.E, Schoharie County Whitetails Unlimited, R. Skowfoe Rolloffs, Middleburgh Archery Connection Pro Shop, Christian BowHunters of America, West Fulton Rod & Gun Club and Cobleskill Fraternal Order of Eagles. The Middleburgh Trap Youth shoots on Sunday & Monday nights.

West Rod & Gun Club: The membership voted to donate \$500 to a Senior from Middleburgh Central School for Environmental Award and \$500 for a Senior from Schoharie Central School for an Environmental Award from the Tim Murphy account. The club sponsored Ethan Heiser \$350 NYS DEC Camp Coby. The members also donated \$500 toward the Panther Creek Project through Fish Wildlife Management Board – Habitat/Access Funding.

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 Building @ 3673 St. Rte. 145 Cobleskill, N.Y. 12043 on May 28th, @ 7PM.

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, 2026 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** _____
