

SCCA Newsletter

Established in 1906

Schoharie County Conservation Association



SCCA Newsletter – Meeting at the SCCA Fair Booth @ Cobleskill Fair Grounds, Cobleskill, NY 12043 on July 23rd @ 7PM.



Andy Work, President of Schoharie County Conservation Association called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance with 17 members in attendance at 6:00. Clubs represented were NWTF, Middleburgh Ridge Runners Snowmobile Riders, Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club, West Fulton Rod & Gun Club, Cave Country Riders, Summit Sno Riders, Sch. Co. Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited, Schoharie Valley Trappers, Richmondville Fish & Game Club and Homeward Bound Adirondacks LLC. Heather Skinner from the Times Journal attended the meeting to interview club members for the Cobleskill Times Journal. The SCCA minutes were reviewed and the membership voted to approved with a motion from Dave Wood, second by Doug Handy. The SCCA Treasurer report and a motion was made to accept by Al Zwick, second by Eric Haslun. The membership voted and approved both motions. **The next SCCA meeting will be held at the SCCA Club House 3673 St. Route 145 Cobleskill, NY 12043 on August 27, 2026 @ 7PM.** Members signed up to work the fair booth. The club had pizza and wings @ the July meeting. The members voted to purchase three new Air Soft Rifle for a total of \$750.00 to be used for the BB gun Booth, Youth Gun Safety Training during the Cobleskill Fair week. We scheduled a work party at the fair booth for 7/28/26 to clean up the booth, blow up the BB Gun Booth and check everything out getting ready for fair week. The New York State Conservation Council will have their Fall Convention on Aug. 28th, 29, 30th. Al Zwick made a motion to send a member to the NYSCC Convention, second by Greg Warner. Andrew Work will be representing SCCA along with Lauren Work. The Convention will be held at the Hancock House Hotel & Catskill Fly Fishing Museum in Hancock, N.Y. & Livingston Manor, N.Y. He will be voting on the Resolutions read earlier this spring at the SCCA, May meeting.

The September SCCA meeting will be held at the Cobleskill College @ Curtis Mott Bldg. rm 105 on September 24th @ 7 PM. Dave Wood volunteered to repair the screen door at the Club House and manufacture a new SCCA Sign for the fence decoration in front of the club house.

The NYPA has reached out to SCCA about attending the Wildlife Festival on September 26th from 10AM to 4PM. We have to provide a Waiver of Liability from our Insurance for this event. I will send a new W-9 form along with proof of liability insurance.

SCCA voted to hold the Kayak Raffle during the Cobleskill Fair Week in August (approved). 1st prize was won by John Velanis and he chose the two kayaks. 2nd prize, a crossbow w/scope and bolts was won by Lewis Hotaling. 3rd prize was a wildlife print purchased at the National Wildlife Turkey Federation banquet and won by Pat Smith from Cobleskill. 4th prize, a \$100 certificate donated by Assemblyman Chris Tague was won by Michael Weinberg from Cobleskill. 5th prize, a \$100 certificate donated by The Bank of Richmondville in Cobleskill was won by Bradley Dietz from Beene, N.Y. and the 6th prize, a \$100 certificate donated by NBT Bank in Cobleskill was won by Dave Hendrick from Esperance. Drawing was done on the last day of the fair @ 8 PM. Winners were drawn by some young adults who were witnessing the drawing. Shaul's Roofing from Middleburgh did sponsor the cost of ticket printing again this year, Thank you Dick Shaul and Mike Shaul. They have been doing this for several years. The list of volunteers working the fair booth were Ronald Beilby, Dan Sheridan, Joyce Sheridan, Kristian Hofeller, Jeff Hatlee, Greg Warner, Michael Zeh, Al Zwick, Jerry Seyboth, Gabriel Warner, Caroline Warner, Andrew Work, Heather Van Volkenburg, Dean Van Volkenburg, Jacob Work, Larry Bradt, Mark Hotaling, Doug Handy, Dave Hendrick, Tom Conto, Dave Wood, Ken Nichols, Lauren Work and Travis Cornell. Without the volunteers we would not have sold the many tickets which raise funding for our scholarships, our lifetime licenses drawing, the venison donation processing fees and club house expenses.

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 was held at the Cobleskill Holding Pond, on Dow Street off Mineral Spring Rd near Cobleskill, on June 27th from 8 AM to 12 PM. There were prizes for all and trophies for the largest fish caught, largest Trout caught, largest sunfish/pumpkin-head caught and largest Bass caught. There will be free ice cream donated by Stewarts. There were over 50 kids registered and over 75 fish caught and released. The biggest fish caught was a bullhead which weighed over two pounds and the longest fish caught was a black large-mouth bass over 16.5 inches.

At the June SCCA meeting it was reviewed that we reduce the monthly SCCA Newsletter to six times a year, instead of every month. The cost of postage did increase to 82 cents a stamp, 78 cents in July. SCCA mails out over 125 letters each month. If you receive the newsletter by mail and have a current e-mail address, please send your email address to mzeh4@nycap.rr.com so we can update our email list. This will help cut down on our mailing expense. Between the cost of postage, printing, labels and envelopes each month, it cost SCCA close to \$200 each month. When SCCA moved into the club house there was a cast iron stove left by Fields Of Grace under the pavilion, Peter DeBartolo has given SCCA permission to sell the stove and use the money toward our Dorwin Hamm Scholarship fund. We are trying to get \$500 for this stove. Contact Michael Zeh 518-265-4961 for more information.

NYS DEC: Fish stocking for Schoharie County was done on April 27th. Everyone met at 10:30 @ the Gilboa Post Office. 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. A total of 2500 fish were stocked with Brook, Rainbow and Brown trout. There was a 55% increase in number of two-year old trout for Schoharie County from last year.

SCCA members have been working on the Fancher Pond problems. Doug Handy, Greg Warner, Jeff Almy, Dennis Handy, Eric Haslun has cleaned up the brush and mowed around the dam and schedule Bruce Clapper to remove the big Willow Tree which is growing on the dam near the edge of water. Bruce did come and cut/remove the tree, taking the branches and all the wood from the site. Thank you, Bruce Clapper. Membership voted to pay Bruce \$1000 to help cover the cost for his labor and machine expense, you save SCCA a big expense. Eric Haslun made a motion and Greg Warner second the motion to pay Bruce. A check was sent. Mike Zeh contacted Phil Davis to come and brush hog the land around the club House. Thanks to several members the lawn at the club house has been mowed and looks outstanding. Thanks to Eric Haslun who did it last. Mark Hotaing, Doug Handy, Dennis Handy and Greg Warner have been taking turns mowing. It is with heavy heart that the passing of Dennis Handy this week. Dennis was very involved with the Fancher Pond as well as the Schoharie County Conservation Association.

NYSCC: SCCA members approved to send Andrew Work, our representative to the fall meeting on August 28th -30th in Hancock, NY. It costs SCCA about \$500 for registration, room and food for the three-day event.

Region 4 State Board Meeting (Fish & Wildlife Management Board) did meet on June 24th @ SCCA Club House at 3673 STATE RTE 145 COBLESKILL, NY 12043 Some changes to the board are being considered as to DEC Staff Participation. They're will be continued support for the four scheduled regional FWMB meetings. DEC will continue to provide meeting space for two of the meetings. At least one management-level DEC Region 4 Natural Resources staff member will be present at each regional meeting. DEC will continue to supply the current Secretary or alternate for each of the four meetings. Travel Reimbursement forms were handed out with filing instructions.

Access signage has been completed in all nine Counties. Checking new owners/old signatures on contracts for updates. DEC did purchase 13 acres to increase public access for the Beaver Kill area. Posted 911 addresses for safety issues, Cost of paving is a lot higher than expected for new Boat Launch. Crumhorn Mtn. has improved access for Schenectady Creek. DEC will check on Minekill boat launch for capability of places to tie off boats during launching. Eel passage near Oneonta for spawning this season has been completed.

Chris VanMaaren – Regional Fish Manager reported that the Schenectady stream project is on-going with partnering Trout Unlimited. Panther Creek's digger holes project in Schoharie County is on schedule for this late summer. The new bridge which crosses the Cole Hollow stream has been completed using Habitat/Access funding. This bridge is located on the Long Path North Hiking Trail. **The next Region 4 FWMB meeting will be held on September 23 at the DEC office in Rotterdam @ 5:30 for pizza, meeting starting at 6PM.**

SCOPE: The next SCOPE meeting will be held at the Carlisle Town Hall at 7 PM. 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 elected, the Treasurer position is still open. SCOPE did participate at the Sunshine Fair again this year. Signs were offered @ \$10 each at the fair. **(Gun Owners – Protect your 2A Rights – Vote – It matters)**

Many gun owners don't vote because, "They're not coming after my gun." Well, NY State just hit them with a two-by-four to convince these non-voters that Kathy Hochul and the NYS legislature ARE coming after their gun...and sooner rather than later. They are banning one of the most popular pistols in America, the Glock. Governor Hochul has signed the FY 2027 NY State budget. Included in this bill is a new legal category called a "convertible pistol." Which is defined as a semi-automatic pistol with a cruciform trigger bar* and that pistol can be readily altered by hand or common household tools to accept a pistol converter and function as a machine gun. That's a Glock pistol and so this is known as a 'Glock Ban. After May 28, 2027, NYS dealers and gunsmiths cannot sell, transfer, dispose of, transport, or ship a Glock.

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. Jeff Hatley with Off the Beaten Path participated in a Trapping Training Class for 17 students on March 21, 2026. **SCCA has given 7 Dorwin Hamm Scholarship applications this past semester.** SCCA did an Eagle Sponsor (\$300) for the college students supporting the Wildlife Festival for 2026. SCCA would like to thank Gabriel Riley who helped with the measuring of the fish caught at our fish derby on June 26th @ Cobleskill Holding Pond.

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. As you get out and fish this year, you will be seeing more of these types of signs with a QR code on them at fishing access points. This one is from a Delaware River access point, but they will be posted on many rivers and lakes. The signs for the Adirondack Brook Trout Ponds are colored brown but still have the QR code. Please use the QR code to report the results of your fishing, even when you don't catch anything. Time spent, number, and size of the fish caught are all useful information to the management of our 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. Trout Unlimited along with NYS DEC Habitat/Access Funding, doing a stream project on the Schenectady creek.

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: July 18 LP Section 33, Partridge Run Road to Gifford Holl Road, about 4 miles, call Mark; Aug 22 New LP extension, Old Stage Road to Altamont's Orsini Park, 3.5-4 miles, contact Mark. Info for leaders: 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. Bridge over the Cole Hollow stream has been completed.

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 Sept. 20th - Club meetings held on the third Sunday @ 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**. Youth fishing derby this Saturday (6/20/26) prizes for all registered. Starts at 9AM 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, Galupville 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 Bow-Hunters of America, West Fulton Rod & Gun Club and Cobleskill Fraternal Order of Eagles. Youth Trap: Youth trap won their conference. Congratulations! The team will be going to States on June 5th. They will be going to nationals on July 8th through the 12th. Carl requested June 20th after the fishing derby to hold a fundraiser shoot and to remain on the Calander until July 8th for their practices for nationals. All dates voted on and approved. Adult Archery: Still working on getting together for the adult class. Lancaster donated a banner and 4 \$25 gift cards towards the building of the outdoor archery range. A work party will eventually be set up to help move the backstops to the new area. Women's Pistol Club: Women's pistol is taking new members. It is open to club members only and must have a valid pistol permit to join. If interested contact Nichole at Haughnicolee@gmail.com The sign-up deadline is the end of June. 22 Invitational Shoot: First shoot is June 7th 11am-3pm Also discussed a possible poker shoot and how to get that going. The Middleburgh Trap Youth shoots on Sunday & Monday nights. Membership Dues were discussed and a \$10 increase was approved. Single membership will now be \$75.00 for 2027 and Family Membership will be \$105.00. NYS DEC will be using the facility on September 15 from 3PM to 10 PM for Firearm Training. No members allowed on site.

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. Congratulations to Elizebeth Echtner and Collin Layton for winning the Timothy 10K Environmental Stewardship Awards as MCS underclassmen this year. Each student received \$250. The Tim Murphy 10 K committee takes pride in supporting the ongoing promotion of local youth's committee to environmental education and action!

Schoharie County Trappers: There will be a trapper's training class offered at the SCCA Club house on September 26, from 8AM to 4PM. POC is Jeff Hatlee – 518-257-2792. Earl Van Wormer will help with the class.

SCCA is looking for the County Board of Supervisors to appoint a representative to the NYS Open Space Committee. This a NYS Board approved by the NYS Legislation. Carl Stefanik was the County representative for years. When he retired and passed away the County Board did appoint Malinda McTaggart to the Open Space Committee Board. I believe she has moved out of the area. SCCA would like to make a motion that a replacement be appointed. Mark Traver and Dave Wood, who did attend some of the Open Space Committee meetings with Carl Stefanik would be a good place to start for information. His phone number is 518-944-5212 & 518-944-8926 or you could call me for more information, Michael Zeh 518-265-4961.

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 club house 3673 St. Rte. 145 Cobleskill, N.Y. 12043 on August 27, @ 7 PM.**

N.Y.S. Dept. of Conservation – 2026 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** _____
