



SCCA Newsletter – Meeting held at SUNY Cobleskill in the Curtis Mott Building Rm 106 on September 28, 2023.

Greg Warner, President of Schoharie County Conservation Association called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance with 15 in attendance. Clubs represented were NWTF - Schoharie County Schoharie Ridge Runners, Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club, West Fulton Rod & Gun Club, Richmondville Fish & Game Club, Long Path North Hiking Club, Middleburgh Ridge Runners Snowmobile Riders, Summit Sno Riders. Also in attendance was special guest, John Pitt who gave a presentation on responsible Caving in NYS. Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved by Mark Hotaling and 2nd by Doug Handy. The Treasurer's report was read and approved by Dave Wood and 2nd by Eric Haslun. The membership voted and approved both reports. The membership voted on holding another Kayak raffle next year. A motion was approved to purchase two new kayaks for next year's fair raffle. Two new Kayaks were purchased at Dick's Sporting Store in Oneonta with paddles for less than \$700. Another motion was made to purchase a new 12 X 12 quick setup canopy for use at the Wildlife Festivals. Both motions were voted on and approved. Two new motions were made. Motion to pay for pizza and wings for the next FWMB members up to \$225.00 and a motion was made and to sponsor a table at the next Ducks Unlimited Banquet held on November 2 at a cost of \$400.00, both motions were approved.

Kristain Hofeller, our Schoharie County Veteran's area representative invited John Pit, a speleologicalist to provide a guide of responsible caving. John reviewed the tools, clothing, safety equipment needed and rules to follow when caving. Special uniforms, knee pads a must along with elbow pads and at least three sources of light along with a good helmet. The rule of thumb is to leave no trace, you bring it in, you take it out! Pictures only, three people a must with close contact for safety. Caves closed from October 1st through April 15th for winter to protect Bats. No bears in Caves, only porcupines, and raccoons. NYS has the record of having the deepest cave (92 feet) in the Northeast, the longest cave in the area, Bed Rock not limestone. Two waterfalls inside caves and the temp average of 50 to 60 F. degrees. No smoking inside caves because it is bad for the bats. Good idea to bring something to eat such as candy or apples.

The next SCCA meeting will be held in the Curtis Mott building @ SUNY Cobleskill college on October 26th at 7PM in Room 106. SCCA did attend the Wildlife Festival at the New York Power Authority in Blenheim on September 23rd from 10 AM to 4 PM. Doug Handy and Mark Hotaling will help with the setup and Mike Zeh, Kristain Hofeller, Emmett Bush along with Liz Reinhart were on hand to answer questions during the day. Last year there were over 4,000 visitors at the event. This year because of the weather conditions I would guess only about 1500 showed up.

Educational Gun & Bow classes were offered at the Richmondville Fish & Game Club near the end of September. POC was Stephen Kosier – 518-231-3176 The Bow Safety Course which was held on September 23 with 17 certificates earned and the Gun Safety Course which was held on September 30th with 24 certificates earned. Good job, Richmondville Fish & Game.

Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License: SCCA has once again voted to sponsor a Lifetime Hunting/Fishing license for the fifth year. This drawing is open to all members' children and grandchildren, great grandchildren below the age of twelve as of December 31, 2023. It can be an Association Club member or an Individual Club member's relative. We had 44 applications to draw from last year. This will be the fifth youth that SCCA has sponsor a lifetime hunting & fishing license. The drawing will be held at the November SCCA meeting.

Venison Donation Program: Schoharie County Whitetails Unlimited will donate a 50 Caliber Black Powder Rifle to encourage Deer Hunters to donate a whole deer to the program. We had 30 deer donated last year, which over 788 one to two pound packages of venison were donated to the local food pantries. We will have a drawing from all the names who donated a whole deer at the January 2023 SCCA meeting. Lewis Bushy from Mariaville Lake was the lucky winner last year. Bleau's Deer Processing (518-702-5026) between Schoharie and Berne on Rte. 443 and Marlow's Meat Cutting in Howe Cave (518-296-8978) will do the processing of venison for the Schoharie Venison Donation Program again this year. NYS is only authorizing the use of funds donated through the Venison Donation Program where Sportsmen & Sportswomen purchase \$5 Stamps at license sales offices to be used in only Region 8 & Region 9. With this decision SCCA will have to pay for the meat processing done at Blues in Galupville. In the past this venison stamp program paid for all venison processing statewide.

Region 4 - New York Fish & Wildlife Management Board: FWMB meeting was held on September 27 at the Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club @ 5:30 PM with 22 in attendance. Discussions were held on the Trout stocking changes of the metrics for water area to help increase number of fish stocked for a given stock site. Chairman Larry DiDonato, has asked Schoharie County Representative to come to the next meeting with proposal projects by end of 2023. Mike Clark reviewed the Pheasant stocking program. Stocking Pheasants are no longer paid for from Conservation Fund, paid for with Pitman-Robinson funding so a more detailed operations must be maintained. The state started stocking the end of September just before the Youth Pheasant Hunt and again two more times in October. There were three stocking sites in Schoharie County with each site receiving 37 birds each time. Across the state 30,000 birds will be released. This could be increased to 50,000 next year depending on funding and Sportsman interest. Gerald Seyboth our Schoharie County Representative for working with DEC during the Pheasant stocking release this fall did follow the stocking truck to assist DEC. DEC is currently checking Grouse for West Nile Disease. The NYS DEC Hunting & Trapping Guide has the wrong dates for this fall's Turkey hunting dates. It will be from October 21 to November 3 in the Southern Zone. Mallards has a 4 bag limit with only two hens. Geese has a three bag limit. DEC is offering a \$700 reward for Male bobcats and \$200 reward for Female bobcats. These bobcats have to be caught in a live trap so they can be used to relocate. They also have to be caught in Montgomery County. Big Game Cross Bow gaining interest for Handicapped hunters. Special permits which must be signed by a doctor are available. One year for temporary handicapped and five year for permanent handicapped permits. Process can take 45 days for approval. Need to call your Senate Legislators, there is a Bill waiting for approval opposing the sale of lead bullets. Bill number is S4976A. The bill has already passed the House of the Assembly. If it gets through the Senate then it goes to the Governor for her signature. There is already a \$60 Rebate program in Region 4 for the proof of purchasing non-lead bullets in certain WMU's. WMU's 3H,4F, 4G,4H, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4W, And 6G. This program is to help with the study of Bald Eagles and if the non-lead bullets use help with the lead poisoning of birds.

NYS is reactivating the Open Space Plan. It has selected 16 committee members with one from each County. Larry DiDonato our Chairman of the FWMB will also be on this Board. New York's Open Space Conservation Plan serves as the blueprint for the State's land conservation efforts. The Open Space Plan is revised periodically. New York's Open Space Conservation Plan provides four overarching objectives to direct our priorities, policies, and actions: Promote outdoor recreation, Address climate change, Ensure clean water, air and land for a healthy public and vibrant economy. Protect, use and conserve our natural resources and cultural heritage; The Plan provides actions that we can take in pursuit of each objective and a listing of associated programs and policies. The Plan also contains a statewide list of priority conservation projects that are eligible for funding through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

Chris Van Maanen: Region 4 Fish Manager reported the stocking of 10,000 Tiger Muskies into Canadarago Lake in August. He reviewed a fish count event on the Hudson River and Sampling of the West Branch of the Delaware River using surveys from Anglers. He reported that DEC has continued several electric fishing sites in Region 4. He reported that DEC was checking fish pressures from surveys from anglers. Trout Stocking letters has had little success by Landowners returns so stocking procedures have been placed on hold until end of October. The stocking location requirement with landowners property location on DEC internet is being eliminated to see if this will increase letter stocking returns in Montgomery & Schenectady Counties. Chris reported that DEC is teaming up with SUNY Cobleskill's Walleye stocking of the Upper Reservoir of the NYPA.

The next FWMB meeting will be held on December 6, 2023 @ 5:30 PM at the Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club for dinner; meeting starting at 6PM.

SCOPE: There 15 members attending August meeting. November meeting will be held at the Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club at 7 PM. @ 11/16/23. SCOPE did have a booth in Progressland during the Sunshine Fair week. Raffle tickets were sold and the drawing was held on the last day of the fair. 1st prize went to Andy, owner of Outlanders Survival Supply in Duaneburg, 2nd prize Sarah Palmer from Connecticut, and third prize went to Kathine Hayes from Rexford, NY. For more information call 518-944-1172. The members elected a new Chairperson at the July meeting, Katherine Olsen Goodrich. Joe Kopeck has stepped down. Donna Dunston our chapter secretary's email address in schohariecountyscope1@gmail.com. Five cases challenging new gun laws passed in New York State in 2022. There are several law suits pending. We need to stay dedicated to preserving the 2nd Amendment rights for you and all of us. Please come and bring a friend. Governor Hochul strikes again, Starting on September 13th is the projected date for the NY State's background check system which includes fees of \$9.00 for firearms and \$2.50 for Ammo. Thank you everyone for keeping S.C.O.P.E. active. I would encourage all sportsmen and women (all gun owners) to join the Schoharie County S.C.O.P.E. Joe encourages sportsmen & women to send letters to their legislators. They need to hear from us about our feelings on our 2nd Amendment. All gun owners need to vote in our elections. "S.C.O.P.E. Shooters Committee On Political Education" admin@scopeny2a.org

Cave Country Riders Inc.: Meetings are held at Terri Bradt home, 341 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 Doug Handy 518 – 231-0970.

SUNY Cobleskill College: Kaylee Kilmer is still collecting data for the project on Red-Tailed Hawks. She is planning on doing her presentation to SCCA in January 2024. During the same meeting the students who are attending the conference in Nashville this fall will be doing a Power Point Presentation on their trip @ the SCCA meeting in January 2024 too. 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 did donate \$600 toward the travel expenses for this fall trip to Nashville in November. The Ducks Unlimited Student Chapter will be hosting the 9th Annual Outdoorsman's Night Out on November 2nd at 6PM in the Bouck Hall on campus. \$20 for Students and \$50 for non-students. Includes a membership in Ducks Unlimited. There will be raffles, games, silent auction and more. If you wear cameo or blaze orange to the event your name will be entered in a special raffle.

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 Zaloga American Legion Post 1520, 4 Everett Rd. Colonie, NY 12205. POC Ray Lamberton 518-421-2500.

Long Path North Hiking Club: Next meeting will be held on November 15th @ 6 PM in the Methodist Church on Main St. Schoharie. Total membership is now 180 with 46 Life Members. Long Path lost access across Nickerson Park because of new owners. A work around is in progress. Another project being considered is a Lean-to in Mine Kill State Park. When Mark Traver and Mike Zeh attended the Wildlife Management Taskforce Meeting at the Blenheim/Gilboa Visitor's Center, we asked the NYS Power Authority/Mine kill State Park to consider a lean-to on their property. After this meeting Managers from the Power Authority gave the green light to Mine Kill to support this project. On December 17th Mark met with Chris Kenyon, Park Manager, to look at possible sites. Four possible sites were chosen for review, all with a great view of the Reservoir. Chris is investigating to make sure there is no restrictions and pick a final site. He will then work on the plans for the lean-to and building material. This lean-to will be on the trail of the Long Path. Hopefully work will begin this summer. Contact Mark Traver 518-944-7734 for additional information. List of Hikes coming up: Sept. 30th Explore Gates Hill State Forest for roads and trails – 3 mile, contact Steve for details; October 29, Hike Petersburg State Forest on unmarked trails in the afternoon, 3 miles loop, call Russell, our leader; Nov 1st – Fall Highway Clean-Up on RTE 30 by Vorman's Nose, please call Harold Guest @ 518-827-5995 or Mark to register; Dec 9th Leader's choice, for information on where we will go, call Don; Dec 30th Snowshoe or winter hike at Minekill State Park, 2 miles, Steve will be our leader; January 13th, The Vroman's Nose loop. 1 mile easy hike, or maybe harder snowshoe, Call Mark for details; Feb 3rd – LP Section 30, Sawyer Hollow to Looking Glass to view the frozen waterfalls in the afternoon, one steep mile, possible snowshoes, call Russell to register. Mark Traver - President, Clarence Putman-Vice President, Cherie Clapper-Treasurer, and Carol Traver-Secretary are the current officers. 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 Cherie Clapper at 518-827-4386, LPNHC P.O. Box 855 Schoharie, NY 12157.

NWTF Schoharie County Ridge Runners: The Chapter did have a Golf Tournament on August 19th in Canajoharie. The Chapter had a profit of \$512.00 which stayed in the clubs checking account to help with annual expenses. Contact Dave Hendrick 518-657-1787 for info. On May 10th a new record for NYS. 28 lbs, 1.75-inch spurs with a 10.5-inch beard scoring (NWTF scoring system) 84.000 points, elevating his bird by two points, NYS record shot by Christopher Tellone on State land. His first turkey!!!! NYS Assembly commends NWTF for steadfast commitment to conservation 50th Anniversary.

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 did hold hunter safety programs the last two Saturdays in September. There were 17 Bow Hunter Safety certificates earned and 23 Gun Hunter Safety Certificates earned. Look us up on face book! 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 on October at Richmondville F&G. This a cameo very active club who are looking for new members.

Summit Conservation Club: Club meetings are held on the second Monday @ 6 PM of each month. The club is always looking for new members. POC is Stacey Betts - Phone 518-287-1710, 109 Club Dive Summit, N.Y. 12175.

Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club: Last meeting had 33 in attendance. Three new members voted in. Check out the club's website. **Middleburgh r&g club.com.** Indoor pistol leagues are running and new signs are up. No jacket bullets allowed in downstairs range, only lead bullets. There will be several pistol shoots during the next few months. The membership voted to purchase new target stops for the Youth Archery program at a cost of \$9000. Fields of Grace has donated \$5000 to help with the cost. Trap is done until after hunting season. Jeannette Hall is the December Raffle POC again this year. Her phone number is 518-928-6301 and her e-mail address is phallzy1@gmail.com. The club has replaced all the windows in the main club house to help cut the cost of heating. SUNY Cobleskill College student is back and shooting archery on Friday nights. The club is planning an Auction on December 9th for Fields Of Grace and a Christmas party on December 16th. Fields of Grace had a Youth 22 shoot in September with 40 shooters. The club donated \$500.00 to the Leatherstocking Flight plus another \$500.00 from Club members. The membership did approve to allow the New State Conservation Council the use of the club house for the Spring Meeting on April 6th. This is a state wide meeting held twice each year (Spring & Fall).

West Fulton Rod & Gun Club: At the September meeting the membership voted to have a Fall picnic at Larry Hamm's farm. There were close to thirty members and guest enjoying the event. There are 66 paid members to date. The planting of a Red Oak tree in memory of Gerald Hamm was postponed due to some family members couldn't make it. We will reschedule the event. The club's address is PO Box 99, Fultonham, NY 12071. The club's email address is westfultonrodandgunclub@gmail.com. Ryan Hamm and Eric Hamm will be added to the checking account along with Rachel Hamm, who is the trustee of the Tim Murphy account. The club did host the Tim Murphy Run with over 75 runners even thou it rained very hard and everyone got soaked. Thank you for all the volunteers who acted as road patrol and safety personnel. 518-528-4568 for questions.

New Club joining SCCA as an Association Member: Schoharie County Veterans Service – Peer to Peer Advocate, Kristain Hofeller POC 518-929-2832. During the months of September and October there will be several breakfasts and lunches offered at various places in the county. The Cobleskill Diner, The Cobleskill Gathering Place to name a couple. They will sponsor a Veterans Shoot at Richmondville Fish & Game Club. Call Kristain for more information.

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 (Schoharie County Conservation Association) meeting will be held at the SUNY Cobleskill College, Curtis Mott Building RM 106 on October 26th at 7 PM.

Application for Lifetime Hunting & Fishing License Drawing: Schoharie Co. Conservation Association P.O. Box 325 Central Bridge, New York 12035. We strive to preserve and protect our natural resources and promote hiking, fishing, snowmobiling, trapping, hunting, both small game & big game with in Schoharie County. Drawing date 11/16/2023. President Greg Warner* Vice President Doug Handy* Treasurer Liz Reinhart* Secretary Mike Zeh*

N.Y.S. Dept. of Conservation – 2023 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 12 as of December 31, 2023 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 _____