



SCCA Newsletter – Meeting held at SUNY held at the Cobleskill College, Curtis Mott Bldg. Room 106 on March 28, 2024.

Greg Warner, President of Schoharie County Conservation Association called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance with 18 in attendance. Clubs represented were NWTF, Schoharie County Veterans Advocate, Schoharie 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. Also in attendance were six students representing the student's Ducks Unlimited Chapter, American Fisheries and TWS (Wildlife Students). The minutes were read and approved with a motion from Eric Haslun and second by Dave Wood. The treasurer's report was read and approved with a motion from Al Zwick, second by Jerry Seyboth. The members approved both reports. The next SCCA meeting will be held on April 25th at 7 PM @ SUNY Cobleskill – Curtis Mott Bldg. Rm 106. SCCA will be attending and setting up a display booth at the Wildlife Festival on April 27th in the Veterans Park in Cobleskill.

SCCA would like to say thank you to Fields Of Grace Outreach for their generous donation of the 30 X 50 building on 7.6 acres of land. This property is located In the Town of Cobleskill on Route 145. The address is 3673 St. Rte. 145 Cobleskill, New York 12043. Along with the property they donated a portable generator, a 2012 trailer, three 10 X 10 sheds and all the contents in the main building. With this donation Fields Of Grace also paid for the transfer of the deed to SCCA and gave us a check for \$5,000 to help maintain the property in the future. Thank you, Pastor Pete & Karen DeBartolo, for all your help in the past and present, from all the members of SCCA. SCCA has applied for a Real Property Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organization with the Town of Cobleskill. The membership voted to allow the Schoharie County Veterans the use of the clubhouse for Arts & Crafts on Tuesdays and their meetings.

SCCA received the funding from the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors budget request. Most of this money is used to pay for the mailing and printing of the SCCA newsletters. We had some requests for sponsoring youths for NYS DEC Camps but only one young girl was selected. Some of the boys were put on a waiting list. NYS DEC is only running two camps this year because of the lack of workers. I guess DEC will have to offer more money per hour.

The membership voted to pay for the seven members (\$35) to attend the New York State Conservation Council Spring meeting being held at the Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club on April 6th. Dave Wood, Doug Handy, Al Zwick, Mike Zeh, Dave Hendrick, Greg Warner and Kenny Hellijas attended the 6 - hour meeting. There were several representatives from NYS DEC who reviewed some Management plans for Brook Trout – In the Adirondack Park - 4000 ponds with 398 known trout confirmed and 250 ponds stocked within the Blue Line Area. 2022 online survey with 1902 responses – 35,593 Fish days in April 1st through October 15th. NYS is also promoting catch & release with a 5 day limit any size & with a 2 fish limit over 12". Only NYS And Maine have this Trout management program. Bobcat management plan this summer. Pheasant Release Plan - 30,000 to 50,000 @ \$15 per bird from out of state purchases. **Discuss Legislative # 8461-S which will have a big impact on almost all Shooting Ranges in NYS. With restrictions for lead abatement and boundary limits mandating 1800 x 900 feet of shooting areas with berms. This bill will have a big impact on the NYS School Conservation Trap shooting teams across NYS.** The law which allows 12- & 13-year-old-hunters to hunt Big Game is expiring the 5-year time frame allowance and will require all Counties must extend this Legislative Act. Discuss the Habitat/Access program and how NYS DEC needs to promote it more. DEC reviewed the Paperless Hunting Licenses which goes into effect this fall. The council reviewed the Conservation Fund Advisory Board which consults with Fish & Wildlife interests and renders annual reports to the Commissioner of DEC on fiscal needs and make recommendations on how such needs shall be met. As of this date there are several Regions Board member vacancies which 3 of are appointed by the Governor. There are 11 members on this Board, with 9 Regions in the State.

Shannon Ryan from the Director of the Federated Sportsmen Clubs of Ulster County Gave an overview of how the State is using the Visitor Use Management Plan and funds from the I LOVE NY Program, Department of Environmental Conservation and the NYS Department of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation to increase Tourism promoting usage of the NYS Lands in the Catskill Park. This intern causes over usage and restricts Fishing Sportsmen, Hunters and Trappers of areas which were used for years by these Sportsmen & Women.

SCCA: All annual dues are due January 1st. Dues are slowly coming in. Please send them in because it cost SCCA almost \$100 a month now for the 140 newsletters we send out by mail. I have received fourteen from the clubs for

Associations Dues and close to 40 Individual members for 2024. 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. Please send in your dues. SCCA P.O. Box 325 Central Bridge, N.Y. 12035. To date we have received 38 individual member dues (\$10) and 13 Association dues (\$30) along with a few checks for donations.

SCCA members have again voted to run another raffle at the Cobleskill Fair this summer. This is the only benefit we have to raise funds to support our scholarship program, Youth summer camp sponsors, Dorwin Hamm Scholarships, Youth Life time license drawings and donations we make to the various organizations in our Associations. There are six different clubs at SUNY Cobleskill who are affiliated with SCCA. Our kayak raffle will have about six different prizes including two each Kayaks or \$500 cash as 1st prize, a 50 caliber Black Powder Rifle donated by Schoharie County Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited – 2nd prize, a Wildlife Framed Print which SCCA purchased at the silent auction of the Ducks Unlimited event last fall – 3rd prize, one \$100 gift card donated by our local Assemblyman, Chris Tague – 4th prize and two \$50 gift cards from NBT (Cobleskill) and the Bank of Richmondville (Schoharie) – 5th & 6th prizes. The Sponsor of our raffle ticket printing has been Shaul's Roofing (Fultonham) for the last ten years at least. Each year our tickets sales have been great, all we have to do is ask our local fair attendees and they support our programs.

SCCA members have voted to sponsor two youths for DEC Summer Camp but we are having a problem getting any youths registered with NYS DEC Camps. Now more than ever in our history, children need the fun, plugged outdoor learning experiences that can only happen at camp! SCCA will reimburse parents for camp cost. Each youth must register on their own. **Online camp registration will be available to families on Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 1:00PM. NYS DEC is planning for all four Camp locations to open.** However, the actual number of camps opened will depend on staff availability. Once the youth is registered SCCA will reimburse 50% of the cost which is \$350. Once the youth show proof of attendance SCCA will reimburse the second half of the cost. **Update on camps, only two camps are running this summer, Camp Rushmore & Pack Forest for seven weeks due to staff shortages.**

Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License: SCCA has once again voted to sponsor a Lifetime Hunting/Fishing license for the sixth year. This drawing is open to all members' children and grandchildren, great grandchildren below the age of seventeen as of December 31, 2024. It can be an Association Club member or an Individual Club member's relative. We had 46 applications to draw from last year. **The passed November 2023 winner was Talon Hotaling who is the grandson of Associates Member Mark Hotaling from Schoharie. He received a Lifetime license for Hunting and Fishing along with Spring & Fall Turkey permits.** This was the fifth youth that SCCA has sponsor a lifetime hunting & fishing license. The drawing was held at the SCCA meeting, November 16, 2023. The winner of the drawing for this year will be held in November.

Venison Donation Program: The 553 pounds of venison have been delivered. Schoharie County Whitetails Unlimited did donate a 50 Caliper Black Powder Rifle to encourage Deer Hunters to donate a whole deer to the program. This venison was ground into packages of 1 to 2 lbs. and was donated to the eight local food pantries in Schoharie County. We had a drawing from all the names who donated a whole deer at the January 2024 SCCA meeting. Joseph Rack from Schoharie was the lucky winner this year. It cost SCCA \$1006.00 for the meat processing this year. 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).

Region 4 - New York Fish & Wildlife Management Board: At the March FWMB meeting Albany County Sportsmen sponsored the pizza and soda. Meeting had 23 in attendance. The next FWMB meeting will be held on June 26, 2024 @ 5:30 PM at the Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club for diner; meeting starting at 6PM. Discussion reviewed were the Senate Legislative Bill # 8461S concerning shooting ranges/Trap Shooting ranges, Lead Abatement and range buffers – 1800 ft x 900 ft requirements. Chairman Larry DiDonato reviewed the Stream Trout Stocking MWOA agreement (Door Knocking) campaigning by FWMB members to help encourage land owners to allow public access. FWMB is looking for Habitat/Access projects for this coming year so Grant Funding applications can be granted. NYS DEC is looking for Pheasant Stocking sites – Needs 20-25 acres with no close buildings, must be open to public hunting – contact Bob Benson 607-652-7367. Mike Clark – Region 4 Wildlife Manager reviewed the Game Farm handling of the day -old chick program. Duck goose seasons have been set for this fall. 8 bobcats from Region 4 were collared (6 males & 2 females) in Otsego and Schoharie Counties. Big Game – 871 bears harvested in the Southern Zone, up from last year 860. Deer harvest numbers not released yet. EHD – Zero deer test positive in 2023. Hunter Education Classes are slowly coming back in Region 4. Check DEC Website. Lt. Mike Terrel ECO reported that the Academy for 45 NCO's and 12 Forest Rangers is scheduled 1st week in June. Reviewed new procedures for reporting time for kill of deer & carouse tags. New Legislative Bill for an increase of 10% to 15% of Civil Penalties going into Conservation Fund. Region 4 Fish Manager Chris VanMaaren reported Regulation change on Striped Bass – 23" to 28" for Hudson River. State hired Josh Roceck back to Fish Department. New docks being installed at Henry Hudson site, Germantown Site with parking lot improvements. #5 NY work sites on Delaware River, No movement on Otsego Lake (Glimmerglass State Park) boat launch. 40 sites will be surveyed to monitor on Mohawk River to ask anglers what is being caught and what they are fishing for. DEC is looking for Walleye sites. Albany, Columbia, Delaware Counties stocking Trout surveys being done. Next FWMB

meeting will be June 26th @ Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club. Trout fish stocking started this week. **Schoharie County trout stocking will be done on May 2nd. Meet @ Gilboa Post Office at 10:30 AM. West Kill will be stocked with 560 ea. 9" SY Brown & 70 ea. 2-year-old Brown; Mallet Pond will receive 200 ea. SY Brown and 240 ea. SY Rainbow; Cobleskill Holding Pond will receive 180 ea. SY Brown, 210 ea. SY Rainbow and 240 ea. 2-year-old Brown.**

Wildlife Task Force for the New York Power Authority: The meeting was held on February 26 from 12 PM to 1:30 PM with a tour of the Power Plant. Meeting held at the Blenheim-Gilboa Visitor Center. Dave Wood, Doug Handy, Mark Traver and Mike Zeh attended. Brian Saez gave an overview of NYPA & Operations. He stated that the electrical load is shifting across the state with Solar & Wind Power backbone/upgrades. Jessica Kirby stated there were close to 25,000 visitors last year. 3500 attended the Wildlife Festival last fall. There will be a car show on July 14th. Eight counties involved with Environmental Competition. Anthony Uvino reported on recreational use. 54 hunting permits issued in 2023 compared to 63 in 2022. 107 boat permits issued down from 2022. Fish stocking will be continued this year with 3,000 trout (tiger, brook, brown) split between the two reservoirs. Reported a 10-pound bass caught in upper reservoir. Three rattlesnakes were found in a 2023 survey. Tara Groom reported the new Boat launch is still being designed and scheduled for completion in 2025. Over twenty Bald Eagles reported over the winter. Chris Kenyon reported there will be a I Love My NY Parks Event on May 4th and a Summer fest on July 20th. For more info contact Jessica Kirby – 518-287-6391.

SCOPE: April SCOPE meeting will be held on April 18th @ Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club @ 7pm. For more information call 518-944-1172. The members elected a new Chairperson at the July meeting, Katherine Olsen Goodrich. Donna Dunston our chapter secretary has resigned. Elections this month. A vote will be taken to move the meeting night from Thursdays to Tuesdays staying on 3rd week of the month. 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 13, 2023 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 sports men and women (all gun owners) to join the Schoharie County S.C.O.P.E. Joe Kopacz encourages all 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. According to Chris Tague our local Assemblyman, there are over 6 million Gun Owners in New York State. At the last election we lost three seats in the Assembly and two in the Senate by less than 2,000 votes. This tells me that there are a lot of Gun Owners not voting. **We need to get the Gun Owners to vote!** A new NY Assembly Bill has been introduced. Bill # A03314 – Requirement of Liability Insurance for all gun owners. One of the newest laws passed on January 1st is a whistle must be carried on all vessels, rowboats, canoes, kayaks, also a fire extinguisher and an engine cutoff switch on certain vessels.

Cave Country Riders Inc.: Meetings are held at Terri Bradt home, 178 Pine 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. The drawing for the raffle will be held on January 9th. 1st prize \$300 Cash, 2nd prize \$200 Cash, and 3rd prize \$100 Cash. There was a Kids safety class in January, Look for dates on club's Face Book page.

SUNY Cobleskill College: 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. The students are selling raffle tickets again this year. 1st prize - RTIC Ultra-Light 52 Quart Cooler with \$100 Cabela's Gift Card (\$255) value. 2nd prize – Vortex Crossfire HD 8x42 Binoculars with \$50 Gift Card. 3rd prize – 11x14 Canvas Wall Hanging with \$50 Visa Gift Card. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 each for \$20. Drawing to be held at the Spring Fisheries & Wildlife Festival in April of which SCCA will be setting up an information booth along with our soft pellet BB Gun booth to promote gun safety to our youth. SCCA members voted to donate \$600 to help with travel expenses for a trip to Memphis, Tenn this fall.

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 Clifton Park – Halfmoon Library – 475 Moe Road Clifton Park, NY 12065. POC: Ray Lambertson 518-421-2500. 2024 Conservation Raffle - 1st Prize Hornbeck "Twelve Classic" Canoe; 2nd prize - Douglas Fly Rod Outfit; 3rd prize Framed Robert Abnett Print.

Long Path North Hiking Club: Next meeting will be held on May 15th @ 6 PM in the Methodist Church on Main St. Schoharie. At the November meeting a new Treasurer was elected replacing Cherrie Clapper who had been treasurer for over thirty years. The new Treasurer is Jean Mammato from Cobleskill, NY. Her e-mail address is

Jean.lpnhc@gmail.com There are now 180 members with 46 Life Members. Long Path lost access across Nickerson Park because of new owners. A work around is in progress. Contact Mark Traver 518-944-7734 for additional information. List of Hikes coming up: April 27 – Huyck Preserve trails, 3-4 miles - Call or email our new leader. Pat at patfrik@gmail.com; May 9 – Thursday, Highway Clean-up on Rte. 30 by Vroman’s; Nose, HELP NEEDED – Call Harold for info; May 11 – Catskill High Peaks, Bearpen & Vly Mt, 11 miles & 3000’ ft elevation gain, call Russ a week ahead to register for this one; May 25 – LP Section 33 in Eastern Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area, 2.5-3 miles, leader in Marilyn; June 8 – Hike some of the trails at North- South Lake State Park, miles determined by our leader, call Don; July 13 – LP in Cole Hill State Forest, about 3 miles on LP Section 34, Call Mark for info; Aug 3 – Bald Mountain, near Stamford, 4-5 miles – Russell will be leader; Aug 24 – New LP re-route in Partridge Run, 3.5 miles, contact Mark; (two additional hikes added) March 19 – Vernal Equinox and June 20 - Summer Solstice Hike (Harold Guest for details - POC for these two hikes. Mark Traver - President, Clarence Putman-Vice President, Jean Mammato - 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 Mark Traver at 518-944-7734, LPNHC P.O. Box 855 Schoharie, NY 12157.

NWTF Schoharie County Ridge Runners: The Chapter is holding a Hunting Heritage Banquet on April 19th @ Chieftains Restaurant in Cobleskill, doors open 4:30, diner @ 5:30. Single \$50, Couples \$80, Early Bird - \$175, Early Bird Couple - \$200, Sponsor - \$425, Sponsor Couple - \$450, Jake - \$25, Gobblers Table \$800. POC - Dave Hendrick 518-657-1787 E-mail - hendrickrd@gmail.com for info. SCCA purchased a Gobbler’s table for 8 members to attend.

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 is looking at starting a youth trap shooting night at the club range. We have to do some modifying to our existing range to meet the requirements of the league. 12- to 18-year-old. Richmondville Fish & Game has purchased a new trap machine with raffle proceeds which will be used for the club and Youth Trap shooting league if approved by the school boards of Richmondville & Cobleskill. 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 at Richmondville F&G. SCCA did purchase \$200 worth of raffle tickets to help cover the trap machine.

Summit Conservation Club: Club meetings held on the second Monday @ 6 PM of each month. Stuffed Pizza Saturday Noon – 7 PM & Sunday Noon – 4 PM - April. 20 & 21. The members are running another raffle benefiting the building fund. Tickets are \$10 each. 1st prize is a Milwaukee M18 Battery operated Trim Kit valued at \$376 and 2nd prize is a Custom Corn Hole Boards valued at \$225. Drawing date is April 21st. POC is Stacey Betts - Phone 518-287-1710, 109 Club Dive Summit, N.Y. 12175.

Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club: Last meeting had 37 in attendance. Four members voted in; one application was read. Check out the club’s website. **Middleburgh r&g club.com**. Indoor pistol leagues are running and new signs are up. The Youth Archery banquet was held on March 23 with 150 attending. 101 trophies and 70 tee shirts were handed out. Trap starts 4/19 @ 5:30. The club donated \$500.00 to Troop 58. 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). There were 32 in attendance. Black Powder Shoot on April 7th @ 11 AM. There was an average of 88 youths shooting archery the past eight Saturdays. Last shoot will be Mar 2nd, 9 weeks of archery, Tournament will be held on Mar 8 & 9. There were 11 sponsors totaling \$1500 for youth archery this year. The club is sponsoring 2 each \$250 Scholarships for member’s student graduating from Middleburgh School in June. The club sponsored one youth to NYS DEC camp for \$350 (Lauren Work) The members voted to purchase 2 bicycles for 2 needy families for a cost of \$200.

West Fulton Rod & Gun Club: At the March and again at the April meetings there were only 7 members present, one shy of the required 8 for a quorum. The by/laws were reviewed and all changes tabled till May’s meeting. No club meeting in July and August. We have scheduled another work day for the Apple Tree clearing work on Rossman Hill for Saturday 5/11/24 at 10AM. Same parking location and same PPE requirements as the last work day. The club's address is PO Box 99, Fultonham, NY 12071. The Spring Party will be held on May 11th at Pee Wee’s house on Bears Ladder Rd. 11 AM. E-mail address is westfultonrodandgunclub@gmail.com.

Schoharie County Veterans Service – Peer to Peer Advocate, Kristain Hofeller, POC 518-929-2832. During the months of April and May 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 Co. Cons. Assoc.) meeting will be held at SUNY Cobleskill in the Curtis Mott Bldg. on April 25th 7 PM in Rm 106.