



SCCA Newsletter – Meeting at the Curtis Mott Bldg. SUNY Cobleskill College Room #106, Cobleskill on January 23, 2025.

Greg Warner, President of Schoharie County Conservation Association called the meetings to order with the pledge of allegiance with 21 members in attendance. Clubs represented were NWTF, Middleburgh 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 and several SCCA Associates along with 6 students from SUNY Cobleskill. The November minutes were read and approved with a motion from Dave Wood and second by Dave Hendrick. The December treasurer's report was read and approved with a motion from Mark Hotaling, second by Al Zwick. The members approved both reports. **The next SCCA meeting will be held on SUNY Cobleskill, Curtis Mott Bld. Rm 106 on February 27th @ 7PM.** The SCCA members voted to donate \$500 to the College students for travel expenses, who are attending a presentation in Nashville, Tenn. for the Ducks Unlimited Convention. The students will receive a trophy for having over \$50,000 in sales at the Ducks Unlimited this past November, third in the Country.

SCCA members created a list of things they would like to do at the club house. Install an LED Light for our SCCA Sign down near the driveway entrance. Finish painting the gable end of the club house, and maybe install some plastic fencing around the club house base and around the bottom of the siding on the fair booth. Also gutters on club house and fair booth, we need to repair the ramp leading up to the Cobleskill Fair Booth. Need to plan an open house to promote SCCA new building. SCCA is looking for donations of deer mounts and other animals for hanging in new club house. NYSDEC announced registration for Summer Camp opens in March. Check DEC Website.

SCCA did have a youth Ice fishing derby on February 1 at Franklinton Vlaie Pond, south of Middleburgh on Route 145 from 8AM to 1PM. Dave Wood and Doug Handy will be the POC. Trophies for the youth for largest fish of the day plus each 2.5 - hour shifts. There were 33 youths and 22 adults. For the morning shift Nate Roberts caught a 10 5/8" Perch and Robert Troidl caught a 22" Pickerel. for Trophies. There were 3 perch and 11 pickerels caught in the AM shift. In the afternoon shift there were no perch caught and 11 pickerel caught. Frank Robert caught a 21 15/16"; 2lbs 12oz taking the trophy for the largest for youth class. Adults caught 1 perch and 12 pickerels; Bradon Brown caught s 28.5mm - 11oz perch and Adam Lawyer caught 25" 3 lbs. 14 oz pickerel for CASH Prizes. It was a great day for the kids. The college students did the fish weighting and measuring. Nice cold day and lots of thick ice for safe fishing. Jeff Hatlee, from Off the Beaten Path. 518-257-2792. Donated the minnows.

NYPA: New York Power Authority is scheduling a Wildlife Task Force meeting in February or March @ Visitor Center in Blenheim. There is usually 12 to 15 members of representatives from DEC, SCCA, NYPA, SUNY COBLESKILL, DEP, MINEKILL PARK, to mention a few. Last year the NYPA gave us a tour of the Power House.

The Scouts from Fultonham and Cobleskill area (boys & girls) have asked permission to use the SCCA building for the club meetings twice a month. SCCA members approved this at the November meeting. Deborah Work is POC.

SCCA: All annual dues are due January 1st. A dues registration form will be included in your SCCA newsletter to fill out. Please send in your dues. I have received about three so far from clubs and about ten Individual members who are paid ahead. 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 2024 we had 17 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.

Venison Donation Program: This year 1020 pounds of venison was donated. This venison is 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 2025 SCCA meeting. Joe Mallozzi is the lucky winner this year. It cost SCCA \$2,270 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). Marlow Meat processing in Howes Cave and Blues Meat Processing in Berne did the meat processing again this year. Eric Haslun is POC – 518-231-1744. Amber Blu said she would cut our price to \$2.50 per pound. So SCCA will give Amber \$2,270. She processed 908 pounds. We had 5 deer

donated from DEC and 2 deer from USDA Saratoga airport. The two from the airport were funded by another source. Thank you – Amber.

Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License: SCCA had the drawing for the NYS Lifetime Hunting/Fishing license for the sixth year. **The winner was Rowan Hale, from Howes Cave who is Doug Handy's grandson.** He is only five years old so it only cost us \$535. The younger age the cheaper the license. This license also includes a Spring & Fall Turkey permit. The drawing is open to all members' children and grandchildren, great grandchildren below the age of seventeen as of December 31. It can be an Association Club member or an Individual Club member's relative. This year we had 58 applications to draw from. **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.**

Region 4 - New York Fish & Wildlife Management Board: Here are the minutes from the January 22 meeting held in Rotterdam NYSDEC Region 4 headquarters. There were 24 in attendance. Larry DiDonato- Board Chair introduced Board, went around the room and introduced themselves. Working on updating FWMB roster. Roster sheet was passed around, please help us fill out the information for each county. Habitat and access grants have been received and funding will be available after April 1st. for those approved. John Weidman has been selected as the new Regional Director for Region 4. His phone number is 518-357-2068.

NYCDEP- Tom Davidock reported - Staffing changes have the permits office behind schedule. Aquaduct shutdown has been delayed another year because of New York City low water levels. Drawdown of Pepacton and Cannonsville reservoirs was in beginning of October, but was cancelled. Real time reservoir levels can be found on NYCDEP website. This project is expected to finish around May 2026. Land acquisition program is being modified. Won't be purchasing as many sizeable properties. Focus is shifting towards streamside access for fishing. DMAP permits were handed out but only 14 % filled.

Chris VanMaaren Regional Fisheries Manager reported – DEC, in partnership with the State University of New York (SUNY) at Cobleskill and the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station, constructed the artificial reefs to create new, clean spawning habitat for lake whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*), a native cold-water species once abundant in Otsego Lake. Three rock piles constructed by hand, working with Cobleskill and Oneonta. Hopeful to have Whitefish and lake trout spawning activity on the new reefs. Letters going out for stocking fish concerning stream access as well as cutting fish number stocking. More PFR signs are being posted. New docks being installed near Germantown, Black Bass tournaments now require a special permit if more than 10 anglers with a 45-day notation date before tournament date. DEC can take 30 days for approval.

Mike Clark- Regional Wildlife Manager reported – many burn areas are being done along with many seed plots are under way. Some timber sales are complete, Timber Hill area 75% complete. NYS DEC is interested in finding more sires for releasing Pheasants on private lands. They are increasing the number of birds to 50,000 next year. DEC is purchasing these birds from of state because it is cheaper than the state raising them.

Sean Reynolds- Natural Resources Supervisor reported - Real property is fully staffed and will have an acquisition wing. Certified general appraiser hired. Primed for statewide initiative. Got out with region 4 fisheries for Biannual Canadarago Lake gill netting.

NYCDEP- Tom Davidock reported - Staffing changes have the permits office behind schedule. Aquaduct shutdown is underway. Drawdown of Pepacton and Cannonsville reservoirs was in beginning of October. Real time reservoir levels can be found on NYCDEP website. This project is expected to finish around May 2025. DMAP tags came early this year. Over 500 have been distributed so far. Have expanded sections for hunting. 50 tags remain for west settlement and Manorkill sections. Recreation boating season is wrapping up. Land acquisition program is being modified. Won't be purchasing as many sizeable properties. Focus is shifting towards streamside access for fishing. **Next FWMB meeting will be April 23 @ 5:30 meeting at the SCCA Club House, 3673 St. Rte. 145 Cobleskill, NY**

SCOPE: The next SCOPE meeting, February 18th @ 7PM, Carlisle Town Hall, 1 Crommie Rd. in Carlisle, NY Our guest speaker will be SCOPE President John Elwood. New law being introduced. Sale of Child Operated Firearms. To date, there have been five proposed bills introduced in the New York legislature having to do with age restrictions for firearms. One of those is especially bad! New York State Senate bill S1358 was introduced by four Democrat Senators in January and referred to the Codes Committee. It's summarized as "Sale of child operated firearms" Does that bill refer to selling firearms meant only for children? (That would not be a problem since no one manufactures firearms for children.) Nope. Under that harmless sounding name lies a more sinister purpose. If passed, one year after being passed, in New York State, you will not be able to buy a newly manufactured firearm that has not been "childproofed" against a 5-year-old. Basically, firearms that are widely available almost everywhere else in the United States would be illegal to sell in NYS. The bill actually says: "No person, firm, limited liability company or corporation engaged in the retail business of selling rifles, shotguns or firearms shall sell, deliver or transfer any child operated firearm to another person." What is a child operated firearm? "Child operated firearm means a pistol or revolver manufactured twelve months or more after the effective date of this section which does not contain a childproofing device or mechanism incorporated into the design of such pistol or revolver to effectively preclude an average five years old

child from operating the pistol or revolver.” How does one child proof a firearm to comply with this law? “Such devices or mechanisms shall include, but not be limited to: the capacity to adjust the trigger resistance to at least a ten-pound pull; the capacity to alter the firing mechanism so that an average five-year-old child's hands are too small to operate the pistol or revolver; the capacity to require a series of multiple motions in order to fire the pistol or revolver.” The way the bill is written, a firearm must have all three of the above, not just any one of the three. Does this technology even exist? (Remember, the lack of an effective technology did not stop multiple states from requiring “microstamping.”) Would it make the firearm almost unusable by an adult? What’s the penalty for selling, a non-child proofed firearm? “Any person, firm or corporation who violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.” The bill only addresses selling these guns. Could one buy a non-child proofed firearm in another state? Answer: the gun grabbers in New York would certainly try to stop this with a future bill! The already tried this in another case. On February 9th, SCOPE sent an email** explaining proposed bill A00929 which would violate the “Interstate Commerce” clause of the United States Constitution in order to allow NY Attorney General to prosecute New Yorkers and gun sellers who buy guns or ammo in another state without “without contacting the New York state police for authorization.” Has lack of technology or violation of the United States Constitution ever stopped Kathy Hochul and the New York Legislature? You might consider dropping your state Senator or Assemblyperson a line and tell them how much you dislike this bill. - Assembly Bill A00929. Our meetings are open to the public. As SCOPE reported on January 16th, NY Congresswoman Elise Stefanik is President Trump’s nomination to be his Ambassador to the U N.** Once confirmed and Stefanik resigns, under the current law, Governor Hochul will have 10 days to schedule a special election in the following 70 to 80 days. So, Stefanik’s 21st congressional district will have up to three months without a Representative. Did I mention that the 21st is a solid Republican district? With Republican control of the House of Representatives so close, a vacant Republican seat would make their majority ultra-thin, but only last for about three months. Thus, cometh NY Senate bill S4588*** which would move the election to replace Stefanik to November, keeping the House Republican majority ultra-thin for an added six months. Here is the rational, directly from the bill: “New York's current system of filling federal and state elected office vacancies places undue financial and operational burdens on local boards of elections and exacerbates voter confusion and fatigue by asking voters to frequently participate in elections throughout the year.” (Where was all this concern about fiscal issues and voter confusion and exhaustion in 2022 when the Democrats were overturning a redistricting commission that they established?) With such a “noble” rationale behind the bill, one would think that Governor Hochul would leap to defend it. Not so! Hochul tried to distance herself from the plan to hobble President Trump’s agenda. She claimed she had nothing to do with the plan even as the state Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins contradicted Hochul’s stance and said: “It began with her.” Apparently, House Minority Leader and Brooklyn Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) was also involved in the effort but, somehow, Hochul claims knew nothing about it. That the people of Stefanik’s district will not have any representation in Congress until November is just collateral damage to Hochul’s pursuit of political power. . Bring a friend or neighbor. "S.C.O.P.E. Shooters Committee on Political Education" admin@scopeny2a.org.

Cave Country Riders Inc.: Meetings are held at Terri Bradt home, 178 Pine Hill Rd. Cobleskill, NY 12043 and the 2nd Tuesday of every month @ 7:00 pm. Meetings held from Oct.–Mar. POC: Terri Bradt 518-234-7331.

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. SCCA handed out four applications for the scholarship at the Ducks Unlimited Banquet hoping to increase interest. SCCA does plan on setting up a booth at the Wildlife Festival April 26 in the Park.

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. Next meeting February 24th @ 7pm. With guest Scott Meyer. Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post #1520. 4 Everett Rd. Albany, N.Y. 12205 POC: Roy Lamberton 518-421-2500.

Long Path North Hiking Club: Next meeting will be held on March 19th @ 6 PM in the SCCA club house 3673 St. Rte. 145 Cobleskill, New York. The new Treasurer is Jean Mammato from Cobleskill, NY. Her e-mail address is Jean.lpnhc@gmail.com There are now 168 members with (2 new life members) 52 Life Members. List of Hikes coming up: Apr 27 Sunday, Cole Hill SF loop, about 5 miles, our leader will be Pat at patfrik@gmail.com May 3 Bozenkill Preserve’s new trail, about 3 miles, call Marilyn; May 6 Tuesday, Highway Clean-up on Rte. 30 by Vroman’s Nose, HELP NEEDED; please contact Mark; May 10 LP Sect. 32, Treadlemire Rd. to downtown Middleburgh, 5.5 miles with great views of Valley, Leader: Steve; June 8 Cole Hollow Bridge Replacement which will take several trips, HELP! (see related story) contact Mark for details; June 14 Newly opened Bromley Mt. Fire Tower near Delhi, 3.5-mile loop, leader: Steve;

July 12 Settle Mt. Nature Preserve by Cobleskill, owned by the Schoharie Co. Land Trust, two loops totaling 5 miles, Call Mark.; July 26 Gifford/Plotterkill Trail workday, 2 miles, bring your gloves and clippers, led by our maintainer, Don; Aug 2 Bald Mountain near Stamford, we were rained out last year, 4-5 miles, call Russell to try this again; Mar 19 Board of Directors meeting 6:00 at the SCCA Clubhouse, 3673 Rte. 145, Cobleskill. Any member is welcomed.

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: NWTF will have a banquet on April 18th @ Chieftain's in Cobleskill POC - Dave Hendrick 518-657-1787 Doors open at 4PM. E-mail - hendrickrd@gmail.com.

Richmondville Fish & Game Club: Monthly meetings are the first Wednesday of each month at the club property located on 811 High View Rd. The youth's teams are shooting every Tuesday night at 5PM. 12- to 18-year-old. Youth Trap shooting league. Contact Greg Warner, club President @ 518-265-8647. New targets to shoot at! The club has been sponsoring a Youth School Trap league this past fall. The Schoharie County Veterans Association held a trap event for disable Vets at Richmondville F&G. The club is running a special raffle to support the cost of ammo for the youth shooting team. The members are holding an Ice Fishing Derby on February 15th, 8AM to 1PM on Fancher Pond just off NYS Rt. 10. There were 40 to 50 in attendance. All kinds of prizes to give out, No Perch or Pickerel caught, just Black Bass which are out of season. Questions – call Greg. If anyone needs the Trap shooter's schedule please email me.

Summit Conservation Club: Next meeting will be in March 9th @ 6PM - 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. 2025 schedule for pizza and breakfast: Saturdays 12 noon to 7PM & Sundays Noon to 4PM; January 18th & 19th, February 15th & 16th, March 15th & 16th, April 26th & 27th. Also, Pancake Breakfast 8AM -11AM: Jan.5th, Feb. 2nd, March 2nd, April 6th. The club donated \$500 to the Richmondville/Cobleskill Trap Shooters.

Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club: Last meeting had close to 50 in attendance. Four applications were voted on, one was read. Check out the club's website. **Middleburgh r&g club.com**. College students are shooting archery again on Friday nights. Women Pistol league is looking closer (45 interested) to happening. Had 20 shooters on Sunday for Pistol Outdoor shoot. Fields of Grace will hold a Holiday Silent Auction on December 14th and will have our annual youth drive-thru Christmas Pary on December 21st from 1PM to 3PM. All children are invited. Officers' elections were held. Joe Kopacz stepped down as President. He was elected as one of the Board of Directors. Jennette Hall is our new President, Dave Gode will stay as Vice President, Rick Poquette as Treasurer and our new Secretary is Nicole Thompson from Howes Cave. The winners of the December Raffles were Dec.1-Anthony Pottinelli, Dec.2 – Earl Cromie, Dec 3 – Number 646, Dec 4 – Larry Hubbard III, Dec 5 – Jerry Werner, Dec 6 – Wayne Mehard, Dec – 7 Kathy Hensel, Dec – 8 Steve Cassella, Dec 9 –Noxon, Dec 10 – Dave Hendrick, Dec 11 – Steve Chaisson, Dec 12 – Marc Newsome, Dec 13 – Tony Oppelt, Dec 14 – Scott Clapper, Dec 15 – Willie Karlau, Dec 16 – Doug Handy, Dec 17 – Justin Kopacz, Dec 18 – Mike Bertram, Dec 19 – Rafael Perez, Dec 20 – Emmett Bush, Dec 21 – Chad Benjamin, Dec 22 – Denise Kopacz, - Dec 23 – Gary Cooper, Dec 24 – Evan Ceroalo, Dec 25 – Branden Scherer, Dec 26 – Mike Zeh, Dec 27 – Chris Bensen, Dec 28 – Jason Houck, Dec 29 – Sal Schiavo, Dec 30 – Tom D'Asaro, Dec 31 – Philip Nikolaus and on January 2 Andrew Smith won the two Henry Rifles which was drawn at the January Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club meeting. (Congratulation)

West Rod & Gun Club: The membership voted to donate \$1000 to the Youth Trap shooters, shooting at the Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club. Annual Dues of \$20 are due at the diner. Next meeting will be held on March 4th. The club did have an ice fishing derby for our youth on February 8th from 8AM to 1PM. 10 adults and 9 youths, The Kids caught 16 fish and adults caught 9. Pickerel – 22.2" / 2lbs 11ozs by Carson; Perch – Gabe 10" / 11ozs; (kids) AM Pickerel Bentley 21" 2lbs. PM Kids – Pickerel – Landon 19.7 " 12 ozs & Perch – Andrew 10.5 " 9ozs. The club's address is PO Box 99, Fultonham, NY 12071. Club's E-mail address is westfultonrodandgunclub@gmail.com.

Schoharie County Veterans Service – Peer to Peer Advocate, Kristain Hofeller, POC 518-929-2832.Cobleskill's Equine program will start back up on Feb. 6 starting @ 2PM.

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 on February 27 at 7 PM @ SUNY Cobleskill in the Curtis Mott Bld. Rm106.