

Niagara County Federation August 2006 Minutes

Pledge to the Flag: Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs August 2006 Meeting held on the 28th. Called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President John Butcher at the 4-H Bldg., Lockport, New York with the Pledge to the Flag.

Guest Speakers: None

Minutes: There were no minutes from 07/24/2006. That was our annual picnic at The LaSalle Sportsmen's Club.

Roll Call of Clubs and Directors: Sheets were passed around and signed by the delegates.

Financial Report: Gordon Botting Motion to accept the financial report presented by Gordon Bolting Sr. was made by Chris Schotz, 2nd by Donald Clark, carried.

Communications Bills and Notices:

Information: Chris Schotz passed around an article by Patrick O'Malley that appearing in the August 2006 issue of the Safari Times. In the article Patrick O'Malley tells about an organization called the American Hunters and Shooters Association (AHSA) that appeared at the annual conference of the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA), held June 17-20 in Lake Charles, LA. They announced their existence and answered questions about their goals. The author states in no uncertain terms the AHSA is a thinly disguised anti-gun organization promoting itself as pro-gun and pro-hunting in order to confuse the rank and file outdoor community, and the press.

Sick Call: Everyone was glad to have Gordon Botting back and healthy.

Committee Reports: President John Butcher reminded all delegates to fill out an NCFCC COMMITTEE AND CLUB REPORT FORM and give it to Secretary William Mudge in the interest of having accurate information in the minutes. (see insert)

Finance and Audit: John Butcher submitted a set of financials for the officers and delegates to review for the time period 1/01/06 - 06/30/06. John also reported that he filled out a Schedule A and has mailed it to the IRS to comply with the June 21, 2006 deadline.

Fund Raising:

Paul Jackson volunteered to contact (CWM) Chemical Waste management for a donation.

T-Shirts: John Butcher reported that he was unable to get the T-Shirts ordered and printed for the Niagara County Fair; he will contact the vendor and have them printed for the Wild Life Festival.

Grants: John Butcher

1. The final payment for the DEC - Maziarz grant was mailed to Chris Schotz, Chris has forwarded the check to Treasurer Gordon Booting SR. The DEC - DelMonte Grant has been submitted and we should be receiving the first payment shortly.

2. John has submitted a grant for \$2800.00 to the NRA Foundation to support youth shooting sports in Niagara County. If the grant is approved the money will go for range fees and ammunition so we can teach juniors 12-17 years of age shot gun shooting.

Patches:

1. Gordon Bolting has some 2006 Porcupine patch left and they are \$3.50 each. If you want one contact Gordon at 716-434-1563.

2. John Butcher reminded everyone we need to pick an animal and order the 2007 patches at our September meeting.

Knives: Chris Schotz I. Chris Schotz has the Case Sheath Knives for 2007. He was able to purchase 15 Case Sheath Knives at a price of \$35.00 each

2. We still have a 2005 and some 2006 knives available. If anyone needs a knife for a gun raffle or events at their club contact Gordon Bolting at 434-1563.

Newsletters: John Butcher

I. John Butcher reported that we have 3 new ads for our newsletter:

A. All Strings Attached, sold by John Butcher.

B. DLC Construction sold by Jim McComber.

C. Jay Watts Custom Landscape sold by Jim McComher.

2. John reported that he has reviewed the renewal dates for all sponsors that have purchased advertising in our newsletter. John will meet with treasurer Gordon Botting Sr and they will send out invoices to all advertisers that are up for renewal.

Rosters: John Butcher reminded all delegates to get your updated rosters turned in so that new officers are getting the minutes. Also include delegates, hunter Education Instructors and youth leaders.

Small Game:

I. John Butcher reported Mark Kandel asked him to reminder everyone had pheasants released on their property last year and wants to get them again this year they must contact him fill out an application.

Mark Kandel - Regional Wildlife Manager - NYSDEC - Region 9
182 East Union Street
ALLEGHANY, NY 14706
Phone (716) 372-0645 FAX (716)372-2113
mxkandel@gw.dec.state.ny.us

2. Chris Schotz reminded everyone: you have to have over 100 acres, have suitable pheasant habitat, and the land has to be open to public hunting.

Big Game: Dale Dunkelberger Dale reported License sales are out.

Trapping: Keith Hetricks - No Report Waterfowl: Don Bronson - No Report

Hunter Safety: Gary Lowe Gary reported they held a hunter safety instructor's course August 23rd and August 24th here at the here at the 4-H Bldg.

Habitat: Chris Schotz

1. Chris purchased grass seeds from Pheasants Forever and will be doing fall planting after October 1 51ho
2. Chris reported he was told at the Maziarz Picnic 12 million dollars available for conservation projects in Niagara County and is not being used.
3. Paul Jackson reported this money was part of a settlement with Occidental Petroleum Corporation to repair damage to the fisheries. Francine DelMonte reported at the last Niagara River Anglers meeting she is going to set up a series of meetings on how to spend this money. There are two proposals one to spend money on the hatcheries and the other to create access for the sportsmen to fishing areas.
4. The DEC needs 3-4 volunteers to help release pheasants at Joseph Davis State Park. They have some birds available for a third stocking. This would take place on the morning of November 2nd. The birds will be delivered to the Park, help is needed in transporting the birds to a release location and letting the birds out. This should only take a little time. If you can help or know of someone who can, please contact Connie Adams at 851-7010.

Region Nine Fish and Wildlife Board: Greg Tessmann: No report

NYS Conservation Council: Gerald Bennett

1. Gerry reminded everyone to buy a Habitat Stamp when they purchase their licenses. You must ask for the stamp when you get your license.
2. Gerry Bennett held the elections on the six 2006 New York State Conservation Council Resolutions.
 - A. YES 06-1 Livingston County - Any fisherman or women with a valid NYS fishing license, boater or non boater, be allowed to utilize the State Park launch site areas with no fee attached.
 - B. YES 06-2 Livingston County - Eliminate the distinction between hand lines and tip-up and allow each individual to have a maximum of seven lines in service at any one time.
 - C. Abs 06-3 Yates County - Prohibit the sale of all freshwater fish and fish parts caught while using a recreational 'license, except for baitfish.
 - D. No 06-4 Sullivan County - The NYSDEC develop a simple reporting questionnaire on the NYSDEC website which could be filled in by a licensee to report taking certain game species by every licensee at the end of each season. We oppose mandatory reporting.
 - E. YES 06-5 Steuben County - Provide qualified non-ambulatory persons with hunting, fishing and trapping licenses at a reduced fee of \$5.00. Good idea to keep fee at \$5.00 so we get money from Pittman Roberts bill.
 - F. NO 06-6 Madison County - Change DEC regulations that would deny bow/muzzle loader harvest of antlerless deer in DMUs where there are no DMPs issued.

S.C.O.P.E.: Bill Mudge

1. Bill reported he has received many emails from Bill Hilts Sr. and others about the (AHSA) American Hunters and Shooters Association. As he recalled this organization was discussed at our

August 2005 meeting. As is often the case this organization builds a nice website and claims to be a friend of hunters when the reality is they are nothing more than the enemy in camouflage. The new group calls itself the American Hunters and Shooters Association, a friendly sounding name designed to part unsuspecting hunters and shooters from their hard earned dollars. They claim to be a "rational" voice in the hunting and gun rights policy debate, implying that groups like NRA are irrational.

2. Bill passed around a copy of SCOPE's 2006 Legislative Report. There are more than 14 pages of bills we are reviewing. The highlighted bills need to be watched or are on the move. New information is in red. If a bill comes out of a committee we oppose and goes to the floor we send out alerts to members.

3. If you go to our website www.SCOPEny.org you can download a PDF file of bills we are reviewing. The site is updated weekly. Go to web page: [http://scopeny.org/ARCHJVES/SCOPE Legislative Report.pdf](http://scopeny.org/ARCHJVES/SCOPE%20Legislative%20Report.pdf)

4. Bill passed around a Copy of the June/July Issue of the Firing Lines. Under the Niagara County Chapter Report Bill discussed the meeting with Judge Peter Broderick on the safe storage of firearms. The meeting went very well, we did not get everything we wanted but we opened the door for future negotiations. A safe is no longer required for storage of your pistols.

5. Bill requested all delegates to hand him a list of changes or concerns about the pistol permit system in Niagara County to discuss at future meetings with Judge Broderick.

Shooting Sports:

1. John Butcher reported that the youth program at North Forest Rod & Gun Club sent a team to the New York State Sporting Clays Scholastic Championships held at the Rochester Brooks Gun Club. Their team won 1st place in the novice division. Doug Thompson of Wilson New York coached it.

2. Dale Shank reported the 3F Club youth Rifle team is starting up in September the first Monday after school starts. They will shoot every Monday night after school opens. It will cost the kids 10 dollars for the first year to join the club, after that is 5 dollars a year. This program is open to everyone.

Pheasant Program: Bob Glidden

John Butcher reported he received a phone call from Bob Glidden, Bob reported that the 4H Pheasant program has 25 sites in operations and has received 2000 day old chicks. They have built 6 new sites this year. John reviewed the donations we received in 2005 and found that the Sunrise Optimist Club donated \$500.00 and Hartland conservation club donated \$400.00 that is to be used for this program. Bob will see if they need any more funds to cover 2006 expenses, and provide the NCFCC with an up to date financial report on the pheasant-rearing program.

Niagara County Fair: Gordon Botting

1. Gordon reported that all the figures are not in, but according to the records he had with him tonight, we made over 900 dollars at the fair.

2. Gordon reported that it is too long a day for him at the shooting trailer and he needs more help. If you are interested in helping out contact Gordon at 434-1563.

3. A motion was made by Chris Schotz and seconded by Malt Zarnosky to spend no more than 200 dollars to purchase a tent for shade at the shooting trailer.

Wildlife Festival: John Butcher reported that he has been working closely with Lori Presti from the NYS State Power Authority over the last few weeks.

1. Gander Mtn. has donated \$250.00 worth of merchandise, and John used it to purchase 12 fishing poles that will be used to have a Top Gun shooting contest at the Air Rifle Range.

2. The Buffalo Gun Center has donated two guns that we can use to run raffles the proceeds will go to fund youth shooting sports.

3. The New York State Power Authority has offered to donate \$1000.00 to the NCFCC if we let the kids shoot for free at our Air Rifle Range.

4. Many commercial vendors are participating at the Wild Life Festival free of charge; John felt that we should ask for a donation to the NCFCC. \$100.00 for Non NCFCC affiliates, and \$50.00 for those that are participating in our newsletter.

5. Also we need to let the New York Power Authority as a member of the NCFCC so that they are covered under the NCFCC Insurance Policy.

Environmental Field Days: John Butcher reported that we have not donated any funds to the Environmental Field Days; our 2005 contribution was \$ 275.00 dollars. Gordon Bolting SR volunteered to contact Darcy Tone and ask how much money they need to cover expenses.

DEC Youth Camp: Paul Jackson

1. Paul Jackson reported he has already received a letter from one of the 12-year-old kids that went to camp. He enjoyed himself and wants to go next year.

2. Dale Shank reported he hasn't sent out acknowledge letters yet, but the two kids he sent to camp enjoyed themselves.

Shooting Trailer: John Butcher

The Air Rifle Range will be at the Wild Life Festival September 23rd and 24th, and at North Forest Rod & Gun Club, on October 7, 2006.

Annual Picnic: Walter Kanouff

1. Around of applause was given to Walter and the LaSalle Sportsmen Club for the fine job of hosting our annual picnic August 28, 2006.

2. All the figures are not in yet, but it looks like we cleared about 120 dollars on the picnic.

Awards Banquet:

1. Walter Kanouff reported the LaSalle Sportsmen Club would like to host the 2007 Awards Banquet. Walter will bring an estimated cost per head for the dinner to our next meeting. A tentative date of April 7, 2007 in order not to compete with any other major events in the area. If anyone knows of any conflicts please let us know.

2. Chris Schotz will get a cost for framing and framing a print and bring it to our next meeting. This will be added to our inventory of prizes.

Application for Membership: None

Old Business:

Dale Shank requested we send a thank you card to Mr. Steve Skrilin for the paint job on the trailer.

Skirling Coating & Blasting
2901 Lockport Road Niagara Falls, NY 14305

New Business: None

For the Good of the Federation:

3F Club: Dale Shank Dale reported the 3F Gun Raffle will be September 23, 2006.

Niagara Frontier FNRA: William Mudge Contact Bill at 716-772-2261 if you need a grant application for your club.

Hartland Conservationist: Matt Zarnosky Matt reported Hartland Conservation is going to be hosting a cowboy action shoot September 10, 2006 from 1:00pm to 3:00 pm. at the club.

Iroquois Arms Collectors: William Mudge The IACA next meeting is on September 13, 2006 at AM VETS Post 26 on 600 Ward Road in North Tonawanda at 8:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Tim Miller, Niagara County Field Representative of Reynolds for Congress.

LaSalle Sportsmen's Club: Walter Kanotiff Walter announced LaSalle is having a gun raffle on September 16, 2006. Tickets are Twenty dollars each.

Niagara County Gobblers Chapter NWTF: Gordon Botting

1. Gordon reported their chapter banquet is coming September 9, 2006 at the Holiday Inn in Lockport, NY.
2. Gordon reported the second annual Buckeye Scents Calling Contest will be September 23, 2006 at the Buckeye Scents Farm 4202 Willow Rd., Wilson.

North Forest Rod and Gun Club: Dale Dunkelberger

North Forest is having their Annual Shoot Until You Drop Saturday October 7, 2006, 9:00am to 3:00pm. Price flat fee \$35.00 per shooter unlimited shooting trap, skeet, and sporting clays. (see insert)

Pheasants Forever of Western New York: Dave Whitt

They have set their 2007 Banquet for March 31, 2007.

Pioneers Sportsmen Club: Don Clark

The pioneers will be setup at the Wildlife Festival September 23, 2006.

SCOPE: William Mudge

1. Bill reported their next meeting is September 20, 2006 at the American Legion Post 410, 42 Niagara Street in Lockport at 7:00 p.m. everyone is welcome to attend as his guest.
2. Bill reported SCOPE is having their Annual Banquet October 14, 2006 at the Diplomat Banquet Center in Rochester. If you want to be part of a table of ten from Niagara County for a reduced rate call Bill at 716-772-2261.

Wilson Conservation Club: Chris Schotz

- I. Wilson is having some archery shoots in September and October. (See insert)
2. Wilson is having another crossbow raffle. See Chris Schotz for tickets

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn, Chris Schotz, 2nd Gary Lowe, carried. Respectfully submitted,

William A. Mudge
Secretary, NCFCC

For information about the NCFCC including minutes, and upcoming events check us out at: www.outdoorsniagara.com