

# Meeting minutes of the Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs June 26 2006

**Pledge to the Flag:** Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs June 2006 Meeting held on the 26th. 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:**

The Pheasants Forever Banquet is set for Saturday March 31, 2007. A motion was made by Don Clark to accept the minutes as corrected, 2nd by Ed Belbas, carried.

**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 Botting Sr. was made by Paul Jackson, 2nd by Michael Denny, carried.

**Communications Bills and Notices: None**

**Sick Call:** None

**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**

Treasurer Gordon Botting SR has received a letter from the IRS dated June 21, 2006 asking for additional information on our 990EZ. Apparently we were also supposed to send in a schedule A with our 990 EZ tax form. John Butcher will download the form from the Internet and fill out the paper work with-in the 30-day deadline.

**Fund Raising:**

Patches: The new Porcupine patches are in and are \$3.50 each. If you want a patch contact Gordon Botting at 716-434-1563.

**Knives:** John Butcher

1. John Butcher reported that he has printed 300 tickets for a knife drawing. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Drawing will be held at the annual picnic July 24th, 2006 at LaSalle Sportsmen Club

2. If you need a knife for an event at your club contact Gordon Botting at 716-434-1563.

**T-Shirts**

John Butcher would like to print T-Shirts with the NCFCC logo on them so we can sell them at the Fair, and Wild Life Festival. He received an estimate for printing 144 shirts. Motion to purchase 144

T-Shirts for the Niagara County Fair was made by Gordon Botting Sr., 2nd by William Mudge, carried.

**Annual Shoot: John Butcher** - No Report.

**Grants:**

1. John Butcher reported that he spoke with Bill Preston from the NYS DEC regarding the final payment on the Maziarz Grant Contract No: TM05038. We just need to prove that we finished the project and that we complied with the terms of the grant by spending the money as it was requested. Since we asked the DEC to fund the trailer all we need to do is send them the receipt and a copy of the canceled check as proof of purchase and they will release the final payment of \$1250.00. John has contacted treasure Gordon Butting Sr; he will get copies of the receipts and canceled checks.

2. John also reported that on June 21 he received a second grant request from the DEC, which is the DelMonte, grant transferred from the OCFS. We will have to fill out some more paper work and resubmit the grant, but this should provide us with the funding to complete phase 3. Gun cabinets, shooting benches, workbenches, and miscellaneous supplies.

**County Funds:** John Butcher — No Report.

**Newsletters:**

If anyone knows anybody that wants to buy an advertisement have, them contact Gordon Botting at 716-434-1563.

**Public Relations:** Bill Hilts Jr. — No Report.

**Rosters:** John Butcher

John 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:** Chris Schotz — No Report

**Big Game:** Dale Dunkelberger — No Report

**Trapping:** Keith Hetricks — No Report

**Waterfowl:** Don Bronson — No Report

**Hunter Safety:** Don Bronson

1. Don reported the hunter safety instructor's course scheduled for June 20th and June 21st here at the here at the 4-H Bldg. was rescheduled. There were only four candidates, no one showed up from the state and there were no manuals from the DEC. The new dates are August 23rd and August 24th. The new hunter safety instructor's course will be August 23rd and August 24~ here at the here at the 4-H Bldg., at 6:00 PM. Contact Gary Lowe at 236-0397 for further information.
2. There is a hiring freeze at the DEC. Dave Kiel NYSDEC Regional Coordinator of Sportsmen Education is retired. As of now no replacement has been announced. Don requested we write another letter to Regional Director in Buffalo to have Dave's position filled.

**Sports Fishing:** Paul Jackson - Report

**Habitat:** Chris Schotz — No Report

**CFAB:** Bill Hilts Sr. — No Report

**Firearms Legislation:** William Mudge

1. The meeting with Judge Broderick went very well. We did not get everything we wanted but we opened the door for future negotiations.
2. According to Judge Broderick, the “Acknowledgement Form” was put out by his judicial advocate Steve Sherling and is only an advisory. Steve Sherling is in the process of revising it and removing any wording referring to a safe or keeping your guns in a safe. I don’t have the exact wording but “Secure Storage Area” will replace it
3. Steve Sherling explained rather than revoking an offender’s permit Judge Broderick gives them three chances, so that person’s permit will be returned with restrictions very similar to restrictions placed on your drivers license. Level One, Level Two, or Level Three offenders may be require to have a safe.
4. Steve Sherling gave me his email & phone number and offered to come around to the clubs and give a talk. Most delegates thought it would be a good idea to invite Steve Shierling and Bill Ingham to the July picnic and have them introduce themselves. After the “Acknowledgement Sheet” is updated we will invite them to a future meeting to review

**Region Nine Fish and Wildlife Board:** John Butcher read an Email from Greg Tessmann to keep us posted about his activities:

1. Greg was reappointed by the County to the Board for another two years.
2. Greg reported they passed his resolution at the F&W State meeting on public assess/NYS Tax Benefit. (Allows landowners a reduction in taxes if they allow selective access to their property.)
3. Greg is working with the DEC and the County on the Tonawanda Creek access at Rapids Bridge. but there has been no movement on that to date.

**NYS Conservation Council:** Gerald Bennett

1. Gerald reported John Richards passed away. John was our delegate to the council for many years. A card will be mailed to the family.
2. Gerry passed out copies of the 2006 Resolutions from the New York State Conservation Council. Please take them back to your clubs and return them to Gerald at the August meeting.

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

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.

If you go to our website [www.SCOPEny.org](http://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/ARCHIVES/SCOPELegislativeReport.pdf>

1. All 8641S2742A DelMonte/Volker Provides that the exemption provided for possession and use of a pistol or revolver at a pistol range shall extend to persons at least fourteen years of age. This bill has passed both the Assembly and Senate. This only allows 14-20 to handle handguns at a range under supervision; the removal of the upper age limit will be worked on next year depending on what happens in the elections.

2. SCOPE supports A10063/S7014, which provides that, outside of a city with a population of one million or more, gun-licensing officer in excess of statutory requirements may impose no additional restrictions. Basically, this bill would remove the discretionary powers of the licensing officer to restrict or deny a proper application for a concealed carry license.

Shooting Sports: John Butcher

North Forest is taking a group of kids to Rochester Brooks Gun Club for sporting clays and State and National Tournament next month.

**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.

**Conservation Education:** No Report

**Niagara County Fair:** John Butcher

John Butcher reported that he spoke with Paul Westfall from Cornell Cooperative Extension and that he has reserved us a spot at the Niagara County Fair for the shooting trailer. We will need volunteers to man the Mobile Air Rifle Range from Wednesday August 2nd until Sunday August 6th. We would like to have a minimum of two people at the tent at all times: at least one of the volunteers must be certified by the DEC and or NRA. Please put your name on the list if you would like to volunteer. Those interested in helping should Contact Gordon Butting Sr, 716-434-1563.

**Wildlife Festival:** John Butcher

John Butcher reported that he has received a letter from Lori Presti from the New York State Power Authority. The Wild Life Festival will be held Saturday September 23 and Sunday September 24th. Lori also sent a copy of the EXHIBITOR INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE for those interested in attending. (See Insert)

**Environmental Field Days:** No Report.

John Butcher will contact Darcy Tone about the Environmental Field Days in June.

DEC Youth Camp: Paul Jackson reported the letter goes out this week.

Town of Wheatfield Picnic: No Report.

**Shooting Trailer:**

1. Dale Shank has a painter that has volunteered to sandblast and paint the metal framing and rails with industrial paint.
2. The inside tubes and tracks will have to be painted in place. Contact Gordon Botting at 716-434-1563 with the times you are available to help on the work party.

**Convention:**

Annual Picnic — John Butcher

John Butcher reported that he mailed out invitations to the Annual picnic. Everyone that is on our mailing list should have gotten one. This is always a great event so please try to get the officers and some of your club members to attend. Also delegates are encouraged to bring a dish to pass. The picnic will be held at LaSalle Sportsmen Club, 2445 Tuscarora Rd, Niagara Falls, New York. We are also hoping to have the Shooting Trailer set up and running so that delegates, elected leaders, and DEC Officials will have a chance to see it.

**Awards Banquet** - Gordon Botting, John Butcher, Matt Zarnosky

Gordon Botting was given a round of applause for his work as co-chairman.

**Application for Membership:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**For the Good of the Federation:**

WNY Friends of the NRA: William Mudge

Contact Bill at 716-772-2261 if you need a grant application for your club.

Iroquois Arms Collectors: William Mudge

The IACA next meeting is on June 8, 2006 at AM VETS Post 26 on 600 Ward Road in North Tonawanda at 8:00 p.m.

LaSalle Sportsmen's Club: Walter Kanouff

Walter announced LaSalle is having a raffle on July 29, 2006.

Niagara County Gobblers Chapter NWTF: Herb and Pan Leaderhouse

1. Pam reported their regular meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday July 12, 2006 at her house.
2. Their chapter banquet is coming up September 9, 2006 at the Holiday Inn in Lockport, NY.

3. Three different local chapters are putting the First Annual Western NY Federation Turkey Picnic together. They are The Niagara Frontier Chapter, The Thundering Toms, and the Niagara County Gobblers. There is a \$20.00 donation. It will be at the Alma Conservation club on August 6, 2006.

4. The second annual Buckeye Scents Calling Contest will be September 23, 2006 at the Buckeye Scents Farm 4202 Willow Rd., Wilson.

5. If you are looking for seed give Herb a call. He knows of someone going out of the seed business and they are selling off their inventory at bargain prices.

Contact Herb or Pam Leaderhouse at 716-791-3151 for more information.

Niagara River Anglers Association: Paul Jackson

1. The anglers had two successful pen rearing projects this year and released 20,000 steelheads.  
2. The anglers are releasing their walleye fry right now.

3. The anglers had two successful kids fishing contests:

a. The Wildlife Festival at Hyde Park on June 3, 2006. There were over 250 kids in attendance.  
b. The youth fishing derby at the Wilderness Preserve on June 11, 2006 for member's kids and guests. They had 50 kids showed up.

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 are having their summer picnic on July 5, 2005 at the Wilson Conservation Club.

SCOPE: William Mudge

Bill reported their next meeting is July 21, 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.

Tonawanda Sportsmen Club: Ed Belbas

1. The club on July 2, 2006 is having a championship shoot.

2. Their Pheasants Forever Program meets on the 13th•

3. The club is open for dinners on Friday from 4:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

Wolcottsville Sportsmen Club: Jim McComber

The club is having their gun raffle on August 13, 2006. Give Jim a call at 716-434-0444 for tickets.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn, Gordon Botting, 2nd Jim McComber, carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
William A. Mudge  
Secretary, NCFCC

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

<http://www.outdoorsniagara.com>