

Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs Meeting Minutes for June 25 2007

The next meeting will be Monday July 23rd, 2007 at the Wilson Conservation Club, Wilson, New York.

1. Pledge to the Flag

Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs June 2007 Meeting held on the 25th. Called to order at 7:00p.m. by President John Butcher at the 4-H Bldg., Lockport, New York with the Pledge to the Flag.

2. Reception of Guest: No Guests

3. Minutes:

A motion was made by Gordon Botting to accept the minutes, 2nd by Gerry Bennett, carried.

4. Roll call of clubs and directors:

Sheets were passed around and signed by the delegates.

5. Financial Report: *Gordon Rotting Sr.*

Motion to accept the financial report presented by Gordon Botting Sr. was made by Larry Koch, 2nd by Dale Shank, carried.

6. Communications:

A. **Bills:** None

B. **Notices:** No report

C. **Sick Call:** No report

7. Committee Reports:

A. **Finance and Audit:** *John Butcher* .No report

B. Fundraising:

1) Patches: *Gordon Bolting Sr*

John Bucher will bring the list of the available animals to the August meeting and we will pick one for next year's patch.

2) Knives: *Chris Schotz, Gordon Rotting Sr.*

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

3) **Grants:** *John Butcher*

John reported that he has completed the final report for the Del Monte DEC grant TM5090 and has mailed the report to Bill Preston of the NYS DEC Grants Division in Albany.

4) Don Bronson Memorial Fund: *Larry Koch, Greg Tessmann*

- a) Larry passed a drawing around of the memorial. The project completion date has been moved ahead and the dedication will now be in August.
- b) A motion was made by Gary Lowe to spend \$350 for a deposit on a marble base for the award on the wall, and by Chris Schotz, earned
- c) If you have any experience laying bricks for the walkway contact Larry Koch. Names of sportsmen that have passed engraved on the bricks.
- d) Larry is putting a committee together to pick the names going on the wall and the bricks. If you want to be part of the committee to set up the criteria contact Larry.

5) Ads - Newsletter: *John Butcher*

- a) John reported that he received a phone call by from a Hunter Education Instructor that works at West Herr Automotive Group as a Sales Representative and that he would like to purchase an ad in our newsletter.
- b) John also reminded us that any new ads sold will be on a yearly basis and that they will run from January . December. This way we can send out invoice just once per year. Treasure Gordon Botting should review those ads that payments are due mid year and make arrangements with the customers to adjust their bills in accordance with the new system.

C. Public Relations: *Bill Hilts Jr*

John Butcher reported that he exchanged e-mails with Bill Hilts Jr. about doing more positive PR for NCFCC Youth events. Bill said that he needs approximately one to two months lead time for a story. John said that he would put a list together of events and let Bill decide which ones he thought would be news worthy. We are running the same events each year and they are all usually held in the same month. If Bill has the list of events he can pick the ones he would like to cover in advance so that he has adequate time to prepare.

D. Rosters: *John Butcher*

- 1) If your club had elections please get the updated rosters to John ASAP so that the new officers and directors receive the minutes.

E. Small Game: *Chris Schotz*

- 1) Chris has received reports of a high die off of chicks in the 4H pheasant program. His recommendation is to get a hold of the DEC.
- 2) Chris reported he received an email from Dan Tone about Bulletin 929, an Urban Coyote Study in Cook County Illinois. It is about how coyotes react in an urban area. The author is Stanley D. Gehrt School of Environment and Natural Resources if anyone wants to look it up.

F. Big Game: *Dale Dunkelberger*

Chris Schotz reported the NYS Assembly just passed bill A-6064A, expanding rifle hunting in Chemung, Steuben and Yates counties. It passed 102-0.

G. Water Fowl: *Kenneth R. Zolnowski*

- 1) John Butcher reported he received an e-mail from Dan Tone which contained an attachment on what is happening in waterfowl. (See Insert)
- 2) Paul Jackson mentioned in an operation dubbed "Cast and Blast" the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agents documented hundreds of migratory bird hunting violations by 11 area fishing guides who have pleaded guilty and paid fines totaling \$14,450

H. Hunter Safety: *Gary Lowe, Dave Lavery, Dale Dunkelberger. Larry Koch*

- 1) Malt Zarnosky was given a round of applause as one of our new hunter safety instructors.
- 2) Walter Kanouff reported that LaSalle Sportsman Club would be holding Hunter Education Classes on the following dates:

Firearm Hunter Education:

Aug. 1St	Part I & reg.	6:30 pm sharp
Aug. 8th	Part II	6:30 - 10: 30 pm
Aug. 15th	Part III	6:30 - 10:30 pm
Aug. 22nd	Part IV	6:30 - 10:30 pm

1. Sport Fishing: *Paul Jackson, Joe Wilczewski*

- 1) Bill Hilts Jr. spoke on upcoming fishing derby (see insert)

J. Habitat: *Chris Schotz & David Whitt* .No report

K. C.F.A.B.: *John Long Sr., Bill Hilts Sr*

The last meeting was cancelled and they sent everybody home at noon, due to a lack of information on the sale of fishing licenses.

L. Region 9 Fish and Wild Life Board: *Greg Tessmann*

Bill Hilts reported pursuant to working out the legal parameters to purchase 4500 acres of the former Seneca Army Depot's designated Conservation/Green Energy Area from the Seneca County Industrial Development Agency for construction of an ethanol plant, Empire Green Biofuels, Inc. (Empire) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Seneca White Deer, Inc. (SWD) to conduct public wildlife tours on the premises.

M. NYS Conservation Council: *Dale Dunkelberger~ Gerry Bennett*

Gerry Bennett requested that all delegates review the 2007 resolutions with their respected clubs. Gerry reported that the 2007 resolutions are available and copies were distributed to all delegates. Those not present at the May meeting had the resolutions mailed to them. Gerry requested that all delegates take the resolutions back to their respected clubs and review them with their membership and call for a vote. Each delegate will then vote his clubs position on each issue at the August meeting.

N. S.C.O.P.E.: *William Mudge*

- 1) Bill passed around a copy of SCOPE's 2007 Legislative Report. 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.
- 2) 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/ARCHIVES/SCOPE Legislative Report.pdf](http://scopeny.org/ARCHIVES/SCOPE%20Legislative%20Report.pdf)

- 3) Bill will be sending out an email to setup a meeting with the Firearms Legislative Committee consisting of Bill Mudge, Budd Schroeder, Bill Hilts and John Long to set a date for our yearly meeting and keep a dialogue open with Judge Broderick. Since everyone will be at the July picnic this would be a good time to discuss the meeting.

0. Youth Programs:

- 1) Mobile Air Rifle Range: *Gordon Botting Sr*

John will send a letter to all Niagara County NYS DEC Instructors and invited them to our July Picnic to see if we can get some more people involved in using the trailer.

- 2) **Youth Mentor Clays League:** *Bryan Meahl, Doug Thompson, John Butcher*
 - a) John Butcher reported the committee is still working out the details for this event. They are looking at Saturdays and Sundays in August or early September. The committee will create a flyer with all the details for this event once they are finalized.
 - b) They need a committee chairman to oversee the trailer for the Niagara County Fair; primary duties will include contacting and organizing the volunteers needed to man the trailer.
 - c) Students from throughout the state will compete Sunday in the 2007 Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) at K&K Clays, 3580 Lockport-Olcott Road. \$360 dollars paid for the range fees for 12 kids from Niagara County.

3) Pheasant Program: *Bob Glidden*

John Butcher totaled up the 2007 donations that have been made to this program since January 07 they are: Pheasants Forever \$200.00, Hartland Conservationist \$300.00, North Forest Rod & Gun Club \$200.00 and the Optimist Club \$500.00. Also several Federation Clubs gave directly. Thanks to all that have supported this program.

P. Conservation Education

1) **Niagara County Youth Board** .No report.

2) **Niagara County Fair** –*No current committee chair* Fair dates will be August 1st -5th, 2007.

3) **Wildlife Festival:** *John Butcher*

John Butcher contacted Lori Presti from the NYS Power Authority. The meeting basically covered some insurance issues, eligibility to be in the Federation tent and promotion they are going to do.

We will no-longer advertise the Federation as a co-sponsor of the Wildlife Festival because we can be held liable for other activities. The Power Authority will make every participant issue them a certificate of insurance. Our insurance only covers us for liability under the tent but does not cover special activities such as archery or wildlife (such as birds of prey). The Niagara River Anglers Fishing Pond, NCFCC Air Rifle Range and the NYS Cross Bow Hunters Archery Range all provide proof of insurance to the Power Authority Those eligible for booths under the tent are affiliated clubs and those government agencies that assist us such as the US Department of Agriculture and ECO's. Private Business will no-longer be eligible under the NCFCC Tent

4) **5th & 6th Grade Environmental Field Days:** *Bob Kerns, Greg Tessmann*

- a) Bob reported the Field Days were held on Tuesday and Wednesday June 5th & 6th.
- b) Bob read a letter from Darcy Tone thanking us for our commitment to the youth of Niagara County.
- c) Gordon Botting will contact Darcy to get an amount for the volunteers lunches so that the NCFCC can reimburse Niagara County Soil and Water.

5) **DEC Youth Camp:** *Paul Jackson* .No report

Q. Convention: *Walter Kanouff & Matt Zarnosky*

John Butcher reported on the 2007 Annual Awards Banquet wrap-up. We took in \$3309 and our expenses totaled \$2752 for a gain of \$557.

R. Annual Picnic: *Tammy Thrush & Chris Schotz*

- 1) The annual picnic will be at the Wilson Conservation Club on July 23rd, 2007.
- 2) Chris reported that John Major Head of the Bureau of Wildlife will be our guest speaker.
- 3) John Butcher reminded everyone that traditionally the Federation pays for the rolls, hot dogs, hamburgers and the condiments. The club pays for the pop and beer.
- 4) Tammy and the Ladies Auxiliary will purchase and prepare food. Please bring a dish to pass if you plan on attending.

8. **Application for Membership:** No report

9. Old Business: None

10. New Business

Chris Schotz reported Captain Gary L. Bobseine, Chief Environmental Conservation Officer Region 9 DEC is retiring. There will be a party on July 14, 2007 at 5pm in Ellicottville, NY. If you are interested in attending see insert or contact Joanne Middagh at 716-851-7003.

11. For the Good of the Federation

A. 3FCIub: *Dale Shank*

The **3F Club** will be hosting the Kelly For Kids Foundation "SHOOT FOR CHARITY" on August 25th, 2007. This is an exciting and fun Archery and Trap & Skeet Course Event to Help Local Charities. Pre-Register by August 11th and receive a \$5.00 discount! Please check the PDF flyer on this website for ALL the details:

<http://outdoorsniagara.com/3fclub.htm>

B. Niagara Frontier Friends of the NRA: *John Butcher & Bill Mudge*

Bill reported he is still working on getting some grants approved by the new lawyer at NRAHQ. The checks are in the mail to the 3F Club and the Hartland Conservation Club.

C. Iroquois Arms Collectors: *William Mudge*

The IACA next meeting will be July 11, 2007 at the AM VETS Post 26 on 600 Ward Road in North Tonawanda at 8:00 p.m.

D. LaSalle Sportsmen Club: *Walter Kanouff*

They are having a raffle on July 21, 2007 for a \$5.00 dollar ticket.

E. Niagara River Anglers Association: *Paul Jackson*

- 1) They held their Kids Fishing Contest on June 22, 2007 at Hyde Park. Two hundred kids signed up.
- 2) The Kids Fishing Pond will be out July 14—15, 2007 for Olde Sanborn Days.
- 3) The Town of Niagara will be holding its first ever Kids Fishing Day on July 14, 2007.

F. Niagara County Gobblers Chapter NWTF: *Herb Leaderhouse*

- 1) Their next meeting will be on July 11, 2007 at 7:30 pm at the Buckeye Scents Farm 4202 Willow Rd., Wilson.
- 2) The NWTF banquet is September 15, 2007 at the Holiday Inn in Lockport, NY.
- 3) The Third Annual Turkey Calling Contest will be on September 29, 2007 at the Buckeye Scents Farm 4202 Willow Rd., Wilson.

4) The NYSDEC is holding workshops on September 21-23, 2007 on "Becoming An Outdoors —Woman". Outdoors-Woman workshops are designed primarily for women who have little or no experience with outdoor activities. These are three-day workshops that offer many different classes over the course of a weekend. If you need more information go to their website:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/68.html>

G. Niagara County Sportsmen: *Gerry Bennett*

Niagara County Sportsmen's Association is hosting a "Women Taking Aim" Shooting Clinic Saturday June 23 2007. Sign in at 8:30AM Cost: \$10.00 per person.

H. SCOPE: *William Mudge*

Bill reported their next meeting is July 11, 2007 at the American Legion Post 410, 42 Niagara Street in Lockport at 7:00 p.m.; everyone is welcome to attend as his guest.

I. Tonawanda Sportsmen: *Ed Belbas*

- 1) They will have an ATA shoot Sunday July 1, 2007 at their club.
- 2) They will have a Winova Shoot on July 15 & 22, 2007.
- 3) They will have a IPC shoot on July 29, 2007.

J. Wilson Conservation Club:

The Wilson Conservation Club had their derby on June 1, 2007, the opening day of the bass season. There were 89 kids and 89 prizes handed out.

12. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn, Gordon Botting, 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