

Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs May 2005 Minutes

Pledge to the Flag: Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs May 2005 Meeting held on the 23th. Called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President John Butcher at the 4-I-I Bldg., Lockport. New York with the Pledge to the Flag.

Minutes: Motion made from the floor by Mark Richardson to accept minutes with Correct spelling of Bill Hilts and Dave Jacobs names, 2nd by Jim McComher, carried. The corrections to the letterhead will be addressed under new business.

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

Financial Report: Motion to accept the financial report presented by Gordon Bolting Sr., with spelling corrections was made by Chris Schotz and 2nd by Jerry Bennet, carried.

Communications Bills and Notices: 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 and Gordon Botting Sr., have started keyboarding information into a spreadsheet so we can see what we are spending per month. They will meet with the executive committee and try to standardize the chart, so it corresponds to real accounting figures in case we were ever audited. It turned out to be a little more complicated than they thought, but should be available next month.

Fund Raising:

Patches: Patches are still available cost \$3.50 each. See Gordon Bolting Sr.

Knives: President John Butcher reported we ordered 15 knives for 2005 and five are reserved. If anyone needs one for their club functions or events contact John. They will be at his shop, Summit Print and Mail

Chris Schotz, reported he received the 2nd. set of knives. The first set is the ones with the fish that we had engraved for 2005; the second set has the camo handles. The executive committee decided to keep the 2nd set and get a jump on 2006. This year we did not get the knives for 2005 until April. We will offer these knives for 2006 starting this December.

Spring Shoot at North Forest: John Butcher will give a final report next month after all bills are paid.

Grants: Secretary Bill Mudge reported he made out the final grant report of OIUNY45 and Treasurer Gordon Bolting Sr. should be getting our check for \$3000 from the NRA Foundation within a couple of weeks.

Newsletters: John Butcher sold an advertisement to K S Roth Insurance Agency and Gordon Botting Sr. sold an advertisement to Niagara Implement. The one space left was given to the Buffalo Gun Center for their support for the NCFCC Fundshoot April 23, 2005 at North Forest.

Public Relations: Bill Hilts Jr. - None

Rosters: John Butcher reminded delegates to fill out the roster for their club and return it ASAP. We need the rosters to updating our mailing list.

Small Game: Chris Schotz - No Report

Big Game: Jim McComber reported at the NYSCC annual Spring Meeting held April 30, 2005, the group formed a CWD Education Committee. That committee has adopted an action plan that will result in providing education to sportsmen and women, butchers, taxidermists, the general public etc. The committee will be providing seminars on CWD. These seminars will address questions concerning CWD impact on your hunting traditions. The first seminar is scheduled for the Utica area on June 27th. Others will be held throughout the State following that date. There are several ways that you can send your questions by email nyscc@nyscc.com, by Mail NYSCC 8 East Main Street, Ilion, NY 13357, by fax 315-894-2893 or by phone at 315-894-3302.

Water Fowl: Don Bronson reported again this year we are having a split season. Check the DEC webpage: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/guide/miggb.html#ducks>

Hunter Safety: Don Bronson reported three hunter training classes were cancelled that were set up before turkey season. It's a growing problem where we have to complete with baseball, soccer and other school activities. Don has encountered many school supervisors that are opposed to firearms or teaching hunter safety on school property. Many of the kids in his classes come from single parent families and the mother does not hunt. Who is going to take the kid hunting? There was a program called "Take a Kid Hunting" but nothing ever came of it because of liability issues. We are paying someone thousands upon thousands of dollars to come up with these programs on ethics and morality. That money would be better spent on coming up with an initiative to involve kids in the shooting sports.

Sports Fishing: Paul Jackson. Paul reported all the pen projects in the Niagara River and at Olcott are well underway. The right temperature and water condition this year were super and the fish grew at twice their normal rate. They will be released at least a week earlier this year.

There is also a movement under way to get a cold water hatchery at this end of Lake Ontario.

The Lewiston Smelt Festival at the Lewiston Waterfront on May 6, 2005, was a tremendous success, with over 2000 people in attendance. The NRAA sold 240 pounds of fried smelt. Everything went right this year.

Habitat:

Grain Drill - Chris Schotz reported the drill is ready for use. We have seed from the Safari Club, Pheasants Forever and the Wild Turkey Federation to plant. A small fee per acre is being charged for its use to cover repairs. If you have a piece of property that you would like to have planted in contact Mark Sider at Niagara County Soil Water at 716-434-4949.

Open Space Conservation Plan Committee - Chris Schotz reported the Seneca Army Depot located in Romulus, NY has the largest white deer herd known to this day. Seneca

White Deer Inc. has a plan that would preserve the deer and other wildlife of the Seneca Army Depot by placing it high on the list of priority projects of the Region 8 Open Space Plan. Log onto their website and give them your support. <http://www.senecawhitedeer.org>

Chris Schotz is the representative from the Niagara County Federation to the NYSDEC Open Conservation Plan. If you know of any land that you don't want to go to developers contact Chris and get it on a list. To review the Open Space Conservation Plan check the DEC website for more Information:
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/opensp/index.html>

Dave Whitt reported a model airplane club is disturbing the birds nesting from April to August at the 30-acre Lewiston Plateau Recreation and Wildlife Management Area. This is against a habitat management plan that was prepared for the Village of Lewiston. A motion was made from the floor by Chris Schotz to write a letter to the Mayor of the Village of Lewiston to oppose the Model Airplane Club from using the park during the nesting season time of birds. 2nd by Pam Leaderhouse, carried. If the Village of Lewiston doesn't take a course of action, Dave will ask us to draft the letter.

C.F.A.B.: Bill Hilts Sr. The meetings have been about CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) and there is nothing more to add. Check the DEC website for more Information:
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/cfab>

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Acting Commissioner Denise M. Sheehan, announced that the new "Conserve Habitat" custom license plates are now available for purchase from the State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The revenue from the sale of these license plates will be used to improve habitat and increase habitat access throughout the State. Bill reminded everyone that this resolution started right here at this federation, and we wrote that resolution.

Region nine Fish and Wildlife Board: - Greg Tessman - No report.

NYS Conservation Council: Gerry Bennett and Dale Dunkleberger went down to the committee meeting at Herkimer. There is nothing new to report.

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

Bill passed around a copy of SCOPE's 2005 Legislative Report for this week. There are more than 121 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.

The latest alert Bill forwarded to the Executive Committee was that on Tuesday, May 24, 2005, the NY State Assembly Ways and Means committee takes up the matter of bill A447 1, legislation to ban .50 caliber rifles. This legislation seeks to ban big-game hunting as all .50 caliber rifles are banned, not JUST the .50 BMG and Match Wildcat Calibers. Presumably, the .505 Gibbs, 500 Jeffrey, .50 Alaskan, 500 Express, and even the 50 Sharps (circa 1870). Contact your legislators, and respectfully request that this bill be voted down. You can contact members of the Assembly Ways and Means committee, to tell them how you feel about this proposal, by visiting this website:

<http://assernbly.state.ny.us>

To find out who your own legislator is and to contact him/her, visit this website:

<http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem>

If you go to our website www.SCOPEny.org you can download a PDF file of more than 121 bills we are reviewing. The site is updated weekly. Go to webpage:

[http://scopeny.org/ARCHIVES/SCOPE LegislativeReport.pdf](http://scopeny.org/ARCHIVES/SCOPE%20LegislativeReport.pdf)

Bill invited everyone to attend the next Scope Meeting on June 15, 2005. Meeting will be held at the American Legion Post 410, 26 Niagara St, Lockport NY at 7:00PM.

Gordon Bolting reported he called Assemblywomen Francine DelMonte's office and she had a very large number of calls against this bill. Remember they are going to vote on this bill tomorrow so it is imperative you make your position known now.

4H:

Shooting Sports - A motion was made by Mark Richardson for the Federation to support Pheasants Forever to run a 50 kid event. The Federation will cover up to 25 birds, including purchasing them if necessary, for up to 400 dollars. 2nd by Don Bronson, carried.

Pheasant Program - No Report.

Shooting Trailer - The committee will meet June 14, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. at Summit Print and Mail.

Convention: John Butcher asked for a round of applause for our 2005 committee chairman, Gordon Botting Sr., this year we made a profit. We now are looking for a volunteer to chair the 2006 **banquet** committee.

Niagara County Fair:

John Butcher reported if the committee gets the shooting trailer together by August, we will participate in the Niagara County Fair.

Mark Richardson recommended we need to set up a schedule, find out who is working when and have some backup capacity.

Wildlife Festival - John Butcher reported the Wildlife Festival will be September 24th and 25th this year.

Fifth and Sixth Grade Environmental Field Days - Bob Kerns reported it is scheduled for the 7th. and 8th. of June 2005

DEC Youth Camp - Paul Jackson reported we have a total of three kids going to camp from the Federation and one kid from Senator George Maziarz. The kids are signed up and the dates locked in, and they are all set.

Town of Wheatfield Picnic - Don Bronson & Larry Koch - No Report

Annual Picnic - Scheduled for July 25th at the North Forest Rod and Gun Club. We need to setup a committee and appoint a chairperson.

Old Business:

Mark Richardson made a motion we accept the revisions to our bylaws as outlined in what is known as Attachment C. 2'~" by Don Bronson, carried.

Chris Schotz made a motion we will review the constitution again this fall for proposed changes and correct missing words, punctuation, abbreviations, and spelling. 2 by Gordon Botting SR. Carried.

New Business:

Chris Schotz volunteered to update the Federation Statement - WHO WE ARE, WHY DO WE EXIST AND WHAT DO WE DO for handouts at the Niagara County Fair and Wildlife Festival. If anyone has sue~estions contact Chris. A copy is available on our website at:

<http://outdoorsniagara.com/niagaracountyfederation.htm>

Dave Jacobs brought up corrections to the letterhead. We need to update the Affiliated Clubs Listing to include the Niagara Falls Thundering Toms Chapter of the NWTF, Twin City Shooting Club and change Wolcottsville Rod & Gun Club to Wolcottsville Sportsman Club. Also, we need to update the patches on the newsletter. John Butcher announced he has an intern from Bryant & Stratton working for him before he graduates from college. He could give the job to him and it would not cost him any money. Please get back to John if your club is not on the letterhead or is on there wrong. Also get back to John with any changes you would like to see.

For the Good of the Federation:

3F Club: Dale Shank will have details at the next meeting about the skeet shoot the club is sponsoring in July.

Hartland Conservation Club: They are going to have their chicken barbecue on July 17, 2005.

Iroquois Arms Collectors: William Mudge reported their next meeting is June 8, 2005. at AM VETS Post 26 on 600 Ward Road in North Tonawanda at 8:00 p.m. Doug Walck is going to be our guest speaker. Doug will give a talk and bring in the type of equipment he is going to use at Camp Perry on July 21, 2005.

LaSalle Sportsmen Club: Dave Jacobs reported they have been busy repairing the winter damage to their turkey and pheasant pens. They are getting 300 day old pheasant chicks from the DEC on June 7, 2005. They will raise and release them.

Niagara County Gobblers Chapter NWTF: Pam leaderhouse announced they are having their banquet September 10, 2005 at the Holiday Inn.

Niagara Orleans Friends of the NRA: William Mudge announced he has the 2006 Friends of the NRA Grant applications. Give Bill a call at 716-772-2261 if you are interested in making out an application for your club.

Niagara River Anglers Association: Paul Jackson. On June 11, 2005 they are having their Annual Kids Fishing Contest at the Wilderness Preserve on Balmer Road. There will be prizes for the kids that attend consisting of fishing rods and tackle boxes.

On June 25, 2005 they will be at the Fish and Wildlife Festival at Gander Mountain and the Kids Fishing Derby at Hyde Park.

North Forest Rod and Gun Club: Brian Meahl has tickets for a gun raffle.

Pheasants Forever of Western New **York**: Dave Whitt announced they will be having their Youth Mentor Hunt on September 17, 2005. (See Insert)

Pioneers Sportsmen Club: Bob Kerns announced their June 8, 2005 meeting will be held at Fitchlee Park

SCOPE: William Mudge reported their next meeting is June 15, 2005 at the American Legion Post 410, 42 Niagara Street in Lockport at 7:00 p.m.. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Twin City Sportsmen: Mark Richardson they will be having their first gun show October 2 and 3 at their club.

UAW Pistol League: Gordon Botting Sr. announced they had their Banquet Saturday, May 21, 2005. They had prime rib and chicken cordon blue for supper. Everyone had a great time and they elected the same slate of officers as last year.

Wheatfield Firearms Committee: Don Bronson announced The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will hold their Fish and Wildlife Festival at Gander Mountain, 880 Young Street in Tonawanda, NY on Saturday, June 25, 2005 from 11am - **5pm**, rain or shine. Celebrate fish and wildlife in Western New York! Learn about what the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does to help conserve and protect fish and wildlife and meet some of their partners in conservation. Food and drinks available. Free Event! Website Link: <http://lowergreatlakes.fws.gov>

Wilson Conservation Club: Chris Schotz announced the Kids Fishing Derby sponsored by the Wilson Conservation Club will be June 18, 2005.

Wolcottsville Sportsmen Club: They are having a gun raffle August 7, 2005.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn, Chris Schotz, 2nd Pam Leaderhouse, 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