

NCFCC

Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs October 2006 Minutes

Pledge to the Flag

Niagara County Federation of Conservation Club October 2006 Meeting held on the 23rd. 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.

Guest Speakers: LT. Matt Pestinger, ECO R.J. Peinkofer, ECO D.C. DiPasquale, ECO R. Thompson and ECO J.R. Schultz

1. The Division of Law Enforcement is responsible for enforcing all of New York's Environmental Conservation Laws. As the uniformed law enforcement representative, the ECO is the person in the field, responsible for the enforcement of the environmental laws and regulations of New York and for the detection and investigation of suspected violations.

2. There is an issue in Albany. They have finally got a two-year contract, but with that it turns out that Robert T. Lucas director of law enforcement in Albany is paid less than the Captains. The staff in Albany decided they are not going to work for less. The director has given the commissioner and the deputy commissioner a date he will no longer be director. He requested we write a letter for the Director of Law Enforcement.

3. If you want any presentations on ATV's, snowmobiles and boats, anything law enforcement related and sportsmen education call Lt. Matthew Pestinger at (716) 765-2659.

4. To report a violation you can do it by email or talk directly to their dispatcher at 1-877-457-5680. They are more familiar with conservation violations than the State Police.

5. Many questions were asked of the delegates and some of the answers were:

A. Although advertised on television any baiting of deer is illegal. These substances are legal to buy such as salt licks but are illegal to use.

B. All wild white-tailed deer taken within the Region 6 CWD containment area of Oneida and Madison Counties during any open hunting season must be submitted for examination by a DEC biologist before you can bring it back to Niagara County.

C. If you buy a lifetime license for your children they must take a hunter safety course before they can obtain the license.

D. The computerized license system is a useful good system. The ECO can mail call and find out what area they have preference for by using Nextel. If you do not have a license with you they can call in immediately to find out if you have one. The paper system is a piece of garbage. The ink rubs off the license and all hunting licenses are green in color. For instance if they went to a visible

fishing licenses you could not tell the year from any distance, since licenses are no longer color coded.

E. The reason you see NYSDEC vehicles at CWM is that beside their fish & game duties they are responsible for solid waste pollution control duties include inspecting landfill operations to ensure compliance with regulations.

F. Diesel trucks are only allowed to idle for five minutes or the operator is subject to a fine. This does not apply to farm equipment, only to trucks.

G. Niagara County judges are good at fining and sentencing violators.

H. You can carry your handgun exposed all times while hunting. Carrying concealed has nothing to do with the conservation law and only applies to the penal law.

I. It is perfectly legal to walk down the road with a loaded gun. You can't shoot from highway but can cross highway with loaded gun. It is not legal to fire across the road.

J. You cannot shoot crippled ducks while your boat is under power. Your gun must be unloaded while the motor is running.

K. The Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Law Enforcement offers an environmental awareness out-reach program entitled Environmental Awareness Gives Life to the Eco-System (EAGLES). The Program is developed for sixth and seventh grades and is administered by the Environmental Conservation Officers (ECO's). To see about how you can get this program started in your school, contact the regional DEC office in your area and speak to the ECO in charge.

For an ECO Roster of Region 9 Environmental Conservation Officers for Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara and Wyoming Counties Go to the DEC website:

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dle/r9roster.html>

Minutes: A motion was made by Chris Schotz to accept the minutes, 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 Dale Dunkelberger, 2nd by Mike Denny, carried.

Communications Bills and Notices: John Butcher

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

John reported that he has the bank statements and treasurer's reports from Gordon Botting Sr for the period of August 1 through September 31, 2006. John has scheduled an appointment with our bookkeeper so she can prepare a 3rd quarter financial statement. The financial statement will be available for all officers and delegates to review at the November meeting.

Fund Raising:**Grants:** John Butcher

John reported that he received a payment voucher from Bill Preston New York State DEC. John filled the voucher out and returned it to Bill. Hopefully we will receive our first payment on the DelMonte Grant soon.

Patches:

1. Gordon Botting Sr reported that he and Larry Koch made a list of animals that have not been used for patches yet, they include: Wood Duck, Canadian Geese, Red Tail Hawk, White Tail Deer (Fawn) Swift Bird, Purple Martin, Red Fox, Redheaded Wood Pecker, and the Downing Wood Pecker.

2. John Butcher reported that Gordon Botting SR dropped off one of ever patch the NCFCC has ever created and John entered them into a spread sheet so we can keep track of the patches by year and animal.

3. A motion to have a wood duck for the 2007 patch was made by Chris Schotz, 2nd by Gary Lowe, carried.

Knives:

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

2. John reported that he has found a photo of a deer that has a really cool rack, he is going to have a graphic designer scan the photo into the computer and convert it vector art so we can have the 2007 knives engraved.

County Funds: John Butcher — No report.

Raffles: John Butcher

1. John reported that we still have a muzzle-loading Rifle in inventory that was donated to us by the Buffalo Gun Center; John would like to run a holiday raffle during November and December. We will just print 100 tickets at \$5.00 each the drawing will be held at the NCFCC Holiday Party in December.

2. A motion to have a three prize raffle consisting of a muzzle loading Rifle, a federation knife, and a Beretta shooting jacket for the holiday raffle, limited to 100 tickets at \$5.00, each was made by Paul Jackson, 2nd by Walter Kanouff, carried.

Newsletters: John Butcher

Still have openings for ads in the NCFCC newsletter, any ad helps offset the cost of printing and postage, if you know anyone that would like to place an ad please refer them to Gordon Botting Sr.

Public Relations: Bill Hilts Jr. — No report.

Rosters: John Butcher

1. John reported that there are a few clubs that hold elections in August and September; please turn in updated rosters to John so that all new officers receive the minutes.

Small Game: Chris Schotz — No report.

Big Game: Dale Dunkelberger

Dale reminded everyone archery is opened up and the second draw for permits is on the 1st of November.

Waterfowl: Don Bronson — No report.

Hunter Safety: No report.

Trapping: Keith Hetricks — No report.

Sports Fishing: Paul Jackson

1. The United States Coast Guard plans to locate M-240B machine gun training ranges called "Safety Zones" on all the Great Lakes. They have designated 34 areas in the Great Lakes as permanent target ranges for practice with live ammunition. They are strung around the perimeter of all five Great Lakes (Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, and Lake Huron). Concerns with the plan have been raised by Sportsmen who are dubious of the Coast Guard's claims that dumping lead bullets into the lakes each year will have no adverse impact on fish, birds, mammals, plants, or humans. The Ninth Coast Guard District is holding public meetings about its plans. The next public meeting is October 30, 2006 at the Rochester Fast Ferry Terminal, 1000 N. River Street, Rochester, NY. 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - Open house. The public can receive information on the proposed zones and ask Coast Guard officials' questions.

5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Public meetings. After a brief statement by Coast Guard officials, the public can comment. Comments from citizens at the public meeting on the proposed rule will be limited to 2 minutes each to ensure that there is time to receive as many comments as possible. Comments will be recorded and entered into the docket for this rulemaking.

For further information about Safety Zones go to the Coast Guard Website

- <http://www.uscg9safetyzones.com/go/site/1295>

For further information about more Meetings go to the Coast Guard Website

- <http://www.uscg9safetyzones.com/go/page/1295/17589/>

2. Paul reported NYDEC Commissioner Denise M. Sheehan announced that New York State has reached a settlement with Occidental Chemical Corporation. They have agreed to pay the State \$12 million in five equal payments over four years. The monies will be used to support projects to improve the area's recreational fishing. Francine Del-Monte 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.

3. Paul announced he is getting a load of Coho's at the sand docks October 24, 2006.

Habitat: Chris Schotz

Chris reported the pheasants were released in Niagara County. He is concerned many of the birds may get hypothermia and not survive in this wet weather.

CFAB: Bill Hilts Sr.

Bill reminded everyone that animal rights groups are suing to end trapping. They contend trapping is destroying endangered species — lynx, bald eagles and wolves.

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

NYS Conservation Council: Dale Dunkelberger - No report.

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

I. 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.

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 reported he attended SCOPE's 41st Annual Awards Banquet in Rochester on Saturday, October 14, 2006. The banquet this year was dedicated to the memory of a great friend of New York gun owners, Assemblywoman Sandra Lee Wirth, who passed away earlier this year. The special after dinner speakers were Alan Korwin author of "Gun Laws of America" and other books and NRA Second Vice President Ron Schmeits. Also many politicians were in attendance including John Faso who is a candidate for Governor.

4. Bill reminded everyone to vote on Tuesday November 7, 2006 for the candidates that support hunting, fishing, conservation and the Second Amendment.

Shooting Sports: — No report.

Pheasant Program: - Bob Glidden — No report.

Conservation Education: — No report.

Niagara County Fair: — Gordon Botting — No report.

Wildlife Festival: — John Butcher

John Butcher reported that he received a certificate of appreciation from the New York Power Authority in recognition of our participation in the 2006 event.

Environmental Field Days: — Gordon Botting

Gordon reported Darcy Tone hasn't got back to him with how much money they need to cover expenses.

DEC Youth Camp: — Paul Jackson — No report.

Town of Wheatfield Picnic: - No report.

Shooting Trailer: — John Butcher

John reported he and Gordon Botting had the Shooting Trailer at the North Forest Rod and Gun Club Annual Shoot Until You Drop Saturday October 7, 2006. They took in \$72.00 from the adults and let the kids shoot free.

Convention:

Annual Picnic — No report.

Awards Banquet — Walter Kanouff

1. Walter reported April 7 & 14 were open at the LaSalle Sportsmen Club to host the 2007 Awards Banquet.

2. A motion to have the 2007 Annual Awards Banquet at the LaSalle Sportsmen Club on April 14, 2007 and allow the people that set on the committee to pick the menu and do what they need to do was made by Gordon Bolting, 2nd by Dale Dunkelberger, carried.

3. John has a list of names and would like to have a collection of photographs of the people the awards were actually named after. When we present the award we have a screen and projector there with the photograph and a description of why the award was named after them. We only have 30% of the photographs

Application for Membership: None

Old Business:

1. President John Butcher appointed Chris Schotz, Ed Belbas and Matt Zarnosky to the nomination committee as per the by-laws.
2. If any club member or delegate wants to run for office submit your name to the nomination committee.
3. President John Butcher wrote a letter requesting a donation from the Home Depot for a toolbox and tools for the shooting trailer. Gordon Botting was not able to make contact with Tammy Thrush and will talk with her at the next meeting about the donation.

New Business:

1. John Butcher reported that William Mudge devotes a lot of time and energy to see to it that the minutes have accurate and detailed information. Mudge currently spends about 8 to 12 hours a month preparing the minutes and doing club correspondence for the NCFCC. Like many volunteers it's easy to get burned out, let's give Mudge a hand if you are serving on or run a committee please fills out the committee reports and bring them to the monthly meeting. Let's make Mudge's job as simple as possible. I would hate to lose this valuable volunteer.
2. John Butcher reported that he has been in contact with John Long Jr regarding the Directors & Officers Insurance and that he would like to purchase the policy for our organization. John will invite him to the December so we can ask him questions and go into detail.
3. A motion to address the ECO issue in Albany that Robert T. Lucas director of law enforcement in Albany is paid less than the Captains was made by Matt Zarnosky, 2nd by Bill Hilts, carried. President John Butcher will write a letter to the Governor, and send copies to the NYSDEC Commissioner, Senator George Maziarz and Assemblywoman Francine DelMonte.

For the Good of the Federation:

Iroquois Arms Collectors: William Mudge

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

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

Bill reported their next meeting is November 15, 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

Ed reported he just came back from a goose hunt in Canada. If you ride Air Canada they have just enacted a policy to charge a one-way handling fee of \$50CAD/\$50USD for firearms on domestic itineraries (Intra Canada).

For more information go to the Air Canada website:

<http://www.aircanada.com/en/travelinfo/airport/baggage/dangerous.htm>

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn, Gary Lowe, 2nd Chris Schotz, 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