

NIAGARA COUNTY FEDERATION MINUTES APRIL 2005

Pledge to tile Flag: Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs April 2005 Meeting held on the 25th. 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.

Minutes: Motion made from the floor by Chris Schotz to accept minutes as corrected, 2nd by Dave Jacobs. The correction was the insert for the Pheasants Forever Youth Mentor Hunt on September 17, 2005 was omitted.

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 Botting Sr. was made by Mark Richardson and seconded by 2nd by Jerry Bennet, carried.

Communications Bills and Notices:

Committee Reports: President John Butcher reminded all delegates to fill out an NCFCC COMM 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 - No Report.

Fund Raising

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

Knives: Chris Schotz - Passed around one of the 15 American made self opening knives purchased from Kershaw. The knives are the latest technology and have a life time warranty. These are a brand-new series for 2005 and are just coming out in the stores. They cost \$35.00 each. President John Butcher arranged to have the blades etched. If anyone needs one for their club contact Chris. Most of the knives will be used for our events. At our May meeting we will discuss purchasing the knives for 2006.

Spring Shoot at North Forest:

Bryan Meahl: Figures are not in for the Fundraising Shoot. We had 100 shooters. The Beretta Victory representatives were well received and the shooters were pleased to see and use the new 2005 shotguns they had there. These guns ranged in price from a thousand to several thousand dollars. This was a unique experience for all. Despite the rain we through more than 10,000 targets and more than 40% of the shooters had a new experience in one or more of the disciplines. The food was good and the fellowship was great In Brian's opinion the event was a success because many people inquired if there was a chance we could do this again in the summer.

John Butcher: The Beretta 391 was won by David Taylor of Lockport with ticket 226. Donald Clark sold the ticket. John notified his wife and David can pick up the shotgun at the Cabin Range. The success of the Fundraising shoot was due to the support we got from North Forest and Brian Meahl. Brian sold half of the tickets and the members of North Forest including the trap boys who got the facilities, shooting range, the club house parking lot in first class condition. A rough guess on the financials is we made \$1000. We are going to have a wrap up meeting to seek ways of improving the next fund shoot.

Grants: Secretary Bill Mudge reported he obtained a copy of grant O1UNY45 and Treasurer Gordon Botting found copies of checks where we spent the money in 2002. With this supporting material we should be able to complete the final grant

report and get our check for \$3000 from the NRA Foundation.

Newsletters:

John Butcher reported we sold one more advertisement for inside the front cover.

Paul Jackson suggested we see who is advertising in each others newsletters and approach them for advertising in the Federation Newsletter.

Public Relations: Bill Hilts Jr.

John Butcher thanked Bill Hilts Jr. Even though he wasn't here tonight for the newspaper article and fine job he did as master of ceremonies at the Federation Awards Banquet.

Brian Meahl reported the Buffalo Niagara Section did a nice job on the shooting sports at North Forest. It's great when we sportsmen get good press. Brian also pointed out the young guy in the article was our president John Butcher.

Rosters:

John Butcher reminded delegates to fill out the rosters for their clubs and return it ASAP. We will be updating our mailing list and club rosters for 2005 soon. Many clubs have not paid their 2005 membership dues. Mark Richardson has passed out notices to clubs delegates to give to their treasurer.

Small Game: Chris Schotz : No Report

Big Game: Dale Dunkleberger

The NYS Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Agriculture and Markets (DAM), and Health (DOH), together with the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) are cooperating to develop a comprehensive statewide response to the threat of CWD. Currently there is no evidence that CWD poses a risk for humans or domestic animals. However, CWD poses a significant threat to the deer and elk of North America and, if unchecked, could dramatically alter the future management of wild deer and elk. For more information check the DEC website: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/deer/currentcwd.html>

There is still an Open Comment Period until May 23rd on the public's view of changes to deer hunting in New York. To send written comments on the proposals, email fwwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us or mail to: Big Game Season Changes, NYSDEC, Bureau of Wildlife, 625 Broadway, and Albany, NY 12233-4754. To review changes check the DEC website:

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/guide/200Sprop.html>

Water Fowl: Don Bronson

Reported he went to Waterfowl Task Force Meeting. Again this year we are having a split season. Check the DEC webpage: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/guidelmiggb.html#ducks>

Hunter Safety:

Don Bronson reminded everyone to get their kids in the hunter safety classes before the last minute. In September the

classes are always full and sometimes we have to turn people away.

There is a class for new instructors scheduled in June here at the 4-H Bldg., Lockport, New York See Don Bronson for an application.

John Butcher asked for a round of applause for the Hartland Conservation Club for hosting the Region 9 Sportsman Education Instructors Refresher Classes on Tuesday, April 19, 2005, 7:00 **p.m.** - 10:00 p.m.

Gordon Botting and Larry Koch taught a firearms safety course on behalf of the NCFCC for local farmers at the Ford Farm Equipment dealers.

Sports Fishing: Paul Jackson

Paul reported with all the stocking programs the trucks are running daily. The pens are in the Niagara River and at Olcott

Habitat:

Pheasant Habitat Dave Whit reported they are working on converting 60 acres of brush South of Medina into meadows and grassland.

To review the Open Space Open Space Conservation Plan check the DEC website for more Information: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/opensp/index.html>

C.F.A.B.: Bill Hilts Sr.

At the meeting on April 12th. and 13th. there was an excellent presentation on power point about CVD (Chronic Wasting Disease). They have tested more than 700 wild deer from various sources such as road kills and nuisance deer and have not come up with anything yet. There is still a faction pushing for visible fishing licenses. There is another faction that wants to do away with the back tag. Check DEC website for more Information: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/cfab/>

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

NYS Conservation Council: Gerry Bennett

Gerry read a letter from Ken Zolnowski (NYSCC – R9) to respond to the resolution of Chautauqua County to ban the use of Spinning-winged decoys (SWD's)

Gerry reported last Monday he went to Albany to and talked with Wally Johns Legislative Vice President of the NYSCC and nine legislators on A1815/A1536/S2742 which provides for the issuance of junior big game licenses to persons between the age of 14 and 20. Also, they talked about A1990/S698 crossbow Legalization.

In response to several questions about the NYSCC position on many bills, Dale Dunkleberger explained the NYSCC is not telling us how to vote on these bills. A lot of resolutions from the NYS Federation of Conservation Clubs were submitted to the council several years ago and are just coming out in a bill. Many bills go to a committee and die there. After the first of the year the bill has to be resubmitted under another bill number and goes through the whole process again. For instance the crossbow bill has been passed as a resolution by the majority of clubs in the Federation. It has gone back to a committee and been changed many times and has never made it out of an Assembly Committee onto the floor.

Don Jacobs reminded everyone; some bills are put in by an Assemblyman or Senator and bypass the NYSCC. The NYSCC is taking a position on these bills without consulting us. Many times he is opposed to these bills.

Gerry and Dale Dunkleberger are going to Herkimer Friday for a committee meeting.

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

Bill thanked Dale Dunkleberger and Dave Jacobs for explaining how bills bypass the NYSCC. 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. If an alert comes out, I will forward it to President John Butcher and anyone that gives me their email address.

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

Bill invited everyone to attend the next Scope Meeting on May 18, 2005. Meeting will be held at the American Legion Post 410, 26 Niagara St, Lockport NY at 7:00PM.

4-H:

Shooting Sports

Mark Richardson reported slingers are out. The 4H Shooting Sports of New York State will be offering Instructor workshops in Bristol Hills and Canadagua New York on the 13th. and 15th. Workshops will be held at Camp Mertz in Mayville, New York on May 20th, 21st and 22nd. They are offering all the traditional disciplines. Anyone interested in training as a 4-H Instructor and would like more information should contact Mark Richardson, John Butcher or Greg Tessman,

John Butcher mentioned the Boy Scouts run their own firearm's instruction, and 4-H does the same. If you are certified by the NRA, they are universally recognized by everyone. If anyone is interested, take it back to your clubs and I will arrange for another NRA Course for NCFCC members.

Mark Richardson mentioned the NRA cross-certifies instructors. For a small fee of about \$10 they will upgrade your 4-H Rifle to NRA Rifle.

Pheasant Program - Greg Tessman

Greg reminded everyone to buy a habitat stamp and then watch where the money is being spent. Remember only the sportsmen are buying the stamp, so the money should go only to sportsmen oriented habitat not into preservation projects.

Greg reported they had their meeting tonight and that is why he was late. They are going to be doing things different this year. There are about 2000 birds. The feed is being paid for by the Safari Club. They are going to have a display at the Fair this year. The field walk will be Tuesday August 9. We would like Federation kids to come out on the lot with the 4-H kids. The habitat sights for Pheasants Forever will be the release sites for the kids. Last year we lost 17% of the birds. This year the feed will be medicated. Contact Greg for more information.

Conservation Education - No Report:

Niagara County Fair - No Report.

Wildlife Festival - John Butcher

The Wildlife Festival will be September 24 and 25th this year. Dale Dunkelberger reported he has submitted an application to the DEC for the Dart Machine.

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

DEC Youth Camp - Paul Jackson has the name of three kids to send to camp. One kid will be paid for by Senator George Maziarz. The kid has to make out the form and send it to Senator Maziarz and his aid will handle everything.

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

Convention:

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

Awards Banquet - Gordon Botting Sr., Mark Richardson, and Joseph Wilskowski. _ - The banquet was held Saturday, April 2, 2005. It looks like we cleared \$800. Gordon will make a report at the next meeting when all the bills are in. John Butcher asked for a round of applause for the committee. Well run event and this year we made a profit.

Old Business:

Mark Richardson reviewed the proposed Constitutional changes. Please take these back to your clubs we will be voting to ratify the changes at our next meeting. If you need another copy of the proposed change's contact Mark.

New Business:

Paul Jackson suggested we go back to our clubs and ask if anyone knows of a deceased conservation female. We could have a memorial award in her name to give to a deserving female.

Paul Jackson suggested we make a resolution to the NYSCC this year to extend the bottle bill to include juice, ice tea and water bottles.

John Butcher announced rather than storing merchandise we can turn the \$25 gift certificates into cash by using them at our 50/50 raffle. We keep all the money from the raffle and give the winner a certificate.

John Butcher put together a committee to oversee the Shooting Trailer. Volunteers were Paul Jackson, Chris Schotz, Brian Meahl and Gordon Botting.

For the Good of the Federation:

3F Club: Dale Shank reminded everyone they are having their Spring Super Gun Raffle on Saturday, th April 30 . From 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Donations is \$20. Free food and beer is available. Federation knife number three

will be raffled off.

Hartland Conservation Club: Has rescheduled their Gun Show to April 30 and May 1 of 2005

Iroquois Arms Collectors: William Mudge reported their next meeting is May 11, 2005 at AM VETS Post 26 on 600 Ward Road in North Tonawanda at 8:00 p.m.

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 reported May 6 will be their annual Smeltfest

North Forest Rod and Gun Club: Brian Meahl has tickets for their gun raffle which will be held Saturday June 12

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

SCOPE: William Mudge reported their next meeting is May 18, 2005 at the American Legion Post 410. 42 Nia~zara Street in Lockport at 7:00 p.m.

UAW Pistol League: Gordon Botting announced they are having their Banquet May 21K

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn, Dale Shank, 2nd. Mark Richardson, 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