

# Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs

## March 2007 Meeting Minutes

The next meeting will be Monday April 23, 2007 at the 4-H Bldg., Lockport,

### 1. Pledge to the Flag

- A. Niagara County Federation of Conservation Club February 2007 Meeting held on the 26th. 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:

- A. Jim Scalzo — Thundering Toms.
- B. Doug Walck — Alternate from 3F Club
- C. Dick Heschke — Hartland Conservationist

### 3. Minutes:

- A. A motion was made by Dale Dunkelberger to accept the minutes as corrected, 2nd by Pam Leaderhouse, carried.
  - 1) Jerry Bennett not Chris Schotz is the alternate to the NYS Conservation Council.
  - 2) The new hunter safety instructor's class is on June 1<sup>9</sup>~ & 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

### 4. Roll call of clubs and directors:

Sheets were passed around and signed by the delegates.

### 5. Financial Report - *Gordon Botting Sr*

Motion to accept the financial report presented by Gordon Botting Sr. was made by Walter Kanouff, 2nd by Bob Kerns, carried.

### 6. Communications

#### A. Bills:

- 1) **Bill from Gordon** Botting, Treasurer for \$12.21 for returned postage on our minutes.

#### B. Notices: Letter from:

- 1) Paul Snell - Don Bronson Memorial Fund.
- 2) Matt Zarnosky - Banquet.
- 3) Greg Tessmann - Don Bronson Fund
- 4) David Leathers - DEC Youth Camp
- 5) Colleen Jackson - United Insurance, application for renewal of general liability insurance

**C. Sick Call:**

A card was passed around for everyone to sign for Malt Zarnosky who is out for back surgery.

**7. Committee Reports**

**A. Finance and Audit - John Butcher**

John announced the second quarter financial statement would be ready sometime in April.

**B. Fundraising:**

**1) Patches:** - *Gordon Botting Sr* 2007 Patches are available and are for sale at a price of \$3.50.

**2) Knives:** - *Chris Schotz, Gordon Botting Sr*

a) Gordy received \$171.00 from LaSalle for sale of knives.

b) 2007 Case knives are available. Any club that would like a knife for an upcoming fundraising event should contact Treasurer Gordon Bolting Sr.

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

John reported once we get a final cost of the cabinetry that is being fabricated into the shooting trailer, he could submit the cost to the DEC and get the balance of our funds.

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

a)

Greg reported because of a concern about vandalism and insurance considerations at Victor Fitchlee Park, he thought it would be more appropriate to put the wall in the walk area where we come into the 4-H Bldg., here in Lockport, New York. This is where Don Bronson did most of his teaching. Paul Westfall thought there would be no problem and we would not need any insurance here.

b) It will be a poured wall of rebar and concrete 4 feet by 8 feet by 18 inches, with tile on top and plaques on the front.

c) John Butcher will check to see if he can convert the photo of Don Bronson into vector art. It maybe possible that the company that does our laser engraving (for our knives) could laser engrave the photo onto the plaques.

**5) Ads Newsletter:** *John Butcher* — No report.

**C. Public Relations:** *Bill Hilts Jr*

John Butcher talked with Bill Hilts Jr. and he is going to see if we can get some public relations on some of our events. He would like Bill to write an article on the 4H Pheasant Program. There is a possibility he could write on other events

like: the Bronson memorial wall, sending kids to DEC camp and the shooting trailer.

**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.
- 2) Gordon Bolting has mailed invoices to affiliated clubs reminding them their Federation dues were payable by March 31 st.

E. Small Game: *Chris Schotz* — No report.

F. Big Game: *Dale Dunkelberger*

- 1) Dale announced the results for the 2006 black bear hunting seasons. Big Game hunter's harvested 318 bears in the Adirondack bear range, 113 bears in the Allegany bear range, and 365 bears in the Catskill bear range.
- 2) Dale announced during the 2006-07 big game hunting seasons, hunters harvested slightly more than 189,108 total deer. Out of that 96,569 were adult males and 92,539 were antlerless deer. Of these 60,101 were adult Females. There were 396,500 DMP permits issued and 63,293 regular DMP tags filled. Muzzleloader took 15,749 deer and Archers took 29,454 deer. Despite testing almost 8,000 deer in 2006, no new cases of Chronic Wasting Disease have been detected.

**G. Water Fowl:**

John Butcher reported that he spoke with Dan Tone regarding the water fowl delegate position that was left open by the passing Don Bronson. The position was filled by Bill Howell from Wyoming County.

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

- 1) John Butcher reported the hunter safety training posters are printed and Dave Lavery picked them up. Dave turned in what he needed to the DEC. Larry Koch picked up what was left from Dave and brought them here. If anyone wants any to hang up at their club or local sports shops pick them up.
- 2) Dale Dunkelberger reported April 17, 2007 there is a hunter refresher-training course at the Tonawanda Sportsmen Club at 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Dale has applications for new instructors. Contact Dale if you are interested.
- 3) The new hunter safety instructor's class is on June 1<sup>9</sup>th & 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

**I. Sport Fishing:** *Paul Jackson, Joe Wilczewski* — No report.

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

John Butcher is writing a letter to the appropriate legislators to support the Genesee County Federation of Sportsmen Clubs stand against converting the John White Game Farm into a National Cemetery.

**K. C.F.A.B.:** *John Long Sr., Bill Hilts Sr* - No report.

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

- 1) Greg will give a report on the Region 9 minutes for our next meeting.
- 2) John Butcher requested the delegates who represent us on: WNY Environmental Federation, Region 9 Fish and Wildlife Management Board, CFAB and the NYS Conservation Council submit a report on the organizational structure of the committee. He would like to know whether the representative is appointed or elected. We need to know how each committee operates and who reports to whom, in case we have a problem as we did with this waterfowl delegate.
- 3) A motion was made by Dave Whitt, 2nd Dale Shank, carried to have John Butcher write a letter to Dan Tone to say we were disappointed we were not given adequate time to select a new waterfowl delegate to replace Don Bronson. Since a new delegate was appointed we would expect him to represent the Niagara County Federation, attend our meetings, keep us posted and have a line of communication with our officers.

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

- 1) Dale and Gerry attended the spring legislative meeting March ~ 11th & 12th ending with the Sportsmen's March on Albany on the 13th. Both Francine DelMonte and Dale Volker received awards.
- 2) The New York State Conservation Council is supporting Pete Grannis for DEC Commissioner. The vote was 22 for, 20 against and 4 abstained. Dale said he sat down and had a personal talk with Pete Grannis for 20 minutes. Despite all the emails saying what he is against, he is no different than any of our representatives. He votes with his voting constituents and that is how he got his record. If he is approved as DEC Commissioner he will be representing the whole state and will have to vote accordingly.
- 3) Dale received a release from Governor Eliot Spitzer's representative on his plans for his outdoor agenda. He is planning on using the money from the expanded bottle bill for the environmental protection fund. The millions from the unclaimed deposits will be used for new fishing sites, boat launches, hiking trails, full support of the landowner liability legislation, respect for outdoor traditions, consultation with gun owners before any new gun laws are proposed, working with hunting and fishing groups to revise the trend of declining hunting and fishing license sales, upgrading existing DEC fish hatcheries, for environmental stewardship by adding 109 new staff to the DEC to better enforce environmental laws on air and water, for as upstate focus on I Love New York outdoors activities such as hunting, fishing and skiing, upgrade the DEC camp grounds and summer camps.

**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.

A new bill we support is *A6900/S857*, sponsored by DelMonte/Volker to create a junior big game hunting license for people between the ages of 14 and 16 years to hunt wild deer and bear during the hunting season. It was referred to the codes committee on 03/23/2007.

- 2) 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/SCOPE\\_Legislative\\_Report.pdf](http://scopeny.org/ARCHIVES/SCOPE_Legislative_Report.pdf)

## **0. Youth Programs**

### **1) Mobile Air Rifle Range: *Gordon Botting Sr.***

- a) The trailer will be setup at the Summit Park Mall this weekend March 31, 2007 and April 1, 2007 from 10:00AM to 6:00 PM Saturday and 10:00AM to 5:00 PM Sunday. We could use some volunteers.
- b) Paul Jackson and Gordon Boning will set the trailer up Friday night and take it down Sunday night.
- c) We will need someone there at all times certified by the DEC or the NRA along with the volunteers.
- d) Paul Jackson announced they will be handing out flyers at the mall for any groups that would like to be a participant in a two-day outdoor related show next year. If you are interested in setting up contact Paul for information.

**2) Youth Mentor Clays League: *Bryan Meahl, Doug Thompson - John*** Butcher talked with Mike Rexford who runs the youth program and is past president of the North Tonawanda Sportsmen Club and he recommended planning something for this fall. We hope to have a meeting with all the youth leaders that want to serve on this committee and plan the event. John will try to set up a meeting in April with all the volunteers. Anyone that would like to help should contact John at 716-434-7176.

### **3) Pheasant Program: *Bob Glidden, Greg Tessmann***

- a) John Butcher reported Bob Glidden could not be here tonight for a photo shoot and to give him a check for a press release for the Pheasant Program. This has been rescheduled to the April 23, 2007 meeting.
- b) John Butcher requested all delegates ask their clubs to donate to the pheasant program. North Forest donated \$200.00.
- c) Greg Tessmann offered to draft a letter to send out to the clubs.

**P. Conservation Education**

- 1) Niagara County Youth Board — Greg Tessmann was elected to the Niagara County Youth Board. Greg will be a great asset that organization, hopefully the NCFCC and youth bureau will be able to collaborate on some projects.
- 2) Niagara County Fair: *Open*
- 3) Wild Life Festival: *Larry Koch* - No report
- 4) 5th & 6th Grade Environmental Field Days: *Bob Kerns, Greg Tessmann*

Bob reported the Field Days are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday June ~ & 6th

- 5) DEC Youth Camp: *Paul Jackson*
  - a) Paul has 10 kids lined up for Rushford and one set aside for Senator George Maziarz to send. They decide in May what kids will be accepted at camp.
  - b) John Butcher read a letter from David Leathers thanking us for sending him to camp last summer.
    - 6) Bob Drury is working for the Iroquois Trail Council, Bob would like to work with NCFCC to establish Boy Scout venture groups for shooting sports. Bob will attend our April meeting next month to explain how he thinks the Boy Scouts and the NCFCC can partner for the benefit of our local youth.

**Q. Convention:** *Walter Kanouff & Matt Zarnosky*

- 1) Walter reported the 2007 Annual Awards Banquet would be at the LaSall Sportsmen Club on April 14, 2007. So far he has 30 RSVP's.
- 2) Walter reported they have received some donations, but are still requested each club to donate a basket to raffle.
- 3) John reported that he met with Bill Hilts Jr. and Sr. and the awards are final. Dave Lavery donated the wood for the plaques and John will have them engraved for the banquet.

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

The annual picnic will be in July this year at Wilson Conservation Club.

**8. Application for Membership**

- A. A motion was made by Dale Dunkelberger to elect the North American Bear Foundation as a member, 2nd by Walter Kanouff, carried.
- B. A motion was made by Paul Jackson to elect the Thundering Toms as a member of the Niagara County Federation, and by Dale Dunkelberger, carried.

9. **Old Business** —No report.

**10. New Business**

- A. Bill Hilts reported the current proposal to build an ethanol plant and piece meal the Seneca Army Depot will destroy the habitat of the white deer. For more information, contact Dennis Money at 585-328-3960 (work hours) or 585-394-1287 (evenings and weekends) or by email at [wolfoftheriver@hotmail.com](mailto:wolfoftheriver@hotmail.com)
- B. Dale Dunkleberger reported you can help fund this effort by going to their website at: <http://www.senecawhitedeer.org>

**11. For the Good of the Federation**

A. **3F Club:** *Dale Shank*

- 1) The 3F Club is having their Gun Raffle on April 21, 2007.
- 2) Dale Shank and Doug Walck are putting on a pistol permit course on April 24, 2007 from 6:00 Pm to 10:00 PM for the Wheatfield Firearms Committee at the Wheatfield Community Center.

B. **WNY Friends of the NRA:** *John Butcher*

John reported they had another successful banquet March 24 2007 at Samuels Grand Manor. Attendance was over 365, final figures are not in yet but we feel our profits will be about the same as last year. John extends his thanks to all clubs that attended and to those that volunteered to help man a table or game.

C. **Hartland Conservationist:** *Dick Heckske*

They are just finishing up their Winter Blizzard League.

D. **Iroquois Arms Collectors:** *William Mudge*

The IACA next meeting will be April 14, 2007 at the AM VETS Post 26 on 600 Ward Road in North Tonawanda at 8:00 p.m.

E. **LaSalle Sportsmen Club:** — *Walter Kanouff*

They had their Spring Gun Raffle March 24, 2007. They gave away 22 guns this year,

F. **Niagara County Gobblers:** *Pam Leaderho use*

- G. They are having their quarterly meeting at 7:30 PM on Wednesday April 11, 2007 at the Buckeye Scents Farm 4202 Willow Rd., Wilson.

H. **Niagara River Anglers Association:** *Paul Jackson*

The anglers will have a Game dinner and raffle on April 14th from noon to 5:00pm. The tickets are \$20 each. This will be before the 2007 Annual Awards Banquet.

I. **North Forest:** Dale Dunkleburger

- 1) They are running their annual gun raffle for June 10, 2007. See Dale for tickets.

- 2) Two groups of kids from their youth program have won first and third place in New York State Shooting. They will be sending them this year to San Antonio Texas for the Nationals.
- 3) They are holding a scholastic youth clay target league benefit dinner here at the 4-H Bldg on April 22, 2007. Tickets are \$20.00 per person. The door open at 3:00 PM and dinner is at 4:00 PM. There will be raffles and silent auctions. See Dale for tickets.
- 4) Beginning on April 12, 2007 their sporting clays fields will be open on Thursday afternoons.

**J. Pheasants Forever of Western New York:** *Dave Whitt*

They are donating \$200.00 to the pheasant program.

**K. Pioneer Sportsmen Club:** *Bob Kerns*

The pioneers are sending one child to camp.

**L. SCOPE:** *William Mudge*

Bill reported their next meeting is April 18, 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.

**M. Wilson Auxiliary:** *Thmmy Thrush*

They will be having their Annual Theme Basket Raffle on May 5, 2007 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

**N. Wolcottsville Sportsmen Club:** *Larry Childs* April 22, 2007 - Spring Raffle.

**12. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn, Pam Leaderhouse, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Doug Walck, 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](http://www.outdoorsniagara.com)