

NIAGARA COUNTY FEDERATION OF CONSERVATION CLUBS

JUNE 25 2005 MEETING MINUTES

Pledge to the Flag: Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs June 2005 Meeting held on the 27th. 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.

Guest Speaker: Gary Huber of Deer Search of WNY. Deer Search Inc. is an organization of volunteers who seek to reduce the number of deer and bear wounded and left in the woods to die during hunting season. They operate under NYS legislation which authorizes the use of leashed tracking dogs to find wounded big game (deer and bear) provided that the handler has the necessary license. Their special trained tracking dogs find wounded big game that are impossible to track by eye. The majority are members of one of the two New York chapters of Deer Search. Their dispatching systems put hunters who have a problem in touch with dog handlers who can assist them. Handlers track wounded big game for hunters on a volunteer basis. No personal fees are charged, but hunters may make contributions to Deer Search Inc., a tax exempt, non-for-profit corporation. If you are interested in actively participating in the program or becoming a member please call:

Deer Search of WNY
P.O. Box 45
Gainesville, NY 14067
Dispatch Tracking Services (716) 648-4355
www.deersearch.org

Minutes: Motion made from the floor by Chris Schotz to accept, 2nd by Dale Dunkleberger. **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 Chris Schotz and 2nd by Bob Kerns, carried.

Communications Bills and Notices:

John Butcher read a letter from Sandy Elkin of the Friends of the NRA stating that they received the final grant report for O1UNY45 and they enclosed a check for \$3000 for the mobile air rifle shooting trailer.

John Butcher read a letter From Assemblywomen Francine DelMonte that she was able to secure five thousand in assembly local initiative funding for our mobile air rifle range.

Bob Kerns read a letter from Darcy Tone thanking us for the continued commitment to the youth of our county. They had a total of 1288 students at the Environmental Field Days on June 7 and 8 The evaluation sheets coming in have a very positive comments and that is credit to your knowledge and professionalism.

Chris Schotz read a letter from Michael Wilkinson of the NYSDEC from the Buffalo Office. They are looking to hire three people for the summer for a raccoon rabies study. For more information call or write:

NYSDEC
Mr. Michael Wilkinson
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203-2915
716) 851-7010

Larry Koch gave a report on Don Bronson. Don is out of Mount St Mary's Hospital and staying with his daughter. He is only able to be up a short time. If you call or visit him limit your time to 15 to 20 minutes. A card, with a message to get well soon from your friends at the Niagara County Federation, was passed around for everyone to sign.

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.

Finance and Audit: John Butcher and Gordon Botting Sr., have talked with the executive committee and it turned out to be more complicated than they thought to keyboard our financials into a spreadsheet so we can see what we are spending per month. John needed professional help to have accurate financial data, so they agreed with him to asked his book keeper to keyboard deposits, checks and signed information into an accounting software package. John's major concern was that we are now taking in more money from grants and fund raisers and we are not the same organization we were two years ago. For one hundred fifty to two hundred dollars to get the system up and running is money well spent.

Fund Raising:

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

Knives: President John Butcher reported if anyone needs a knife for gun raffle or events at their club contact him. They will be at his shop, Summit Print and Mail.

Spring Shoot at North Forest: John Butcher report that after all bills were paid, we made \$722 at the shoot.

Grants: Secretary Bill Mudge reported the check from the NRA Foundation for \$3000 is here and Treasurer Gordon Botting Sr. has deposited in our checking account.

Newsletters: None Public Relations:

John reported he has traded some emails with Bill Hilts Jr. He asked Bill to contact the people at the paper and correct our meeting times from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. as noticed by Dave Jacobs. Bill is going to get our annual picnic date of July 25th at the North Forest Rod and Gun Club in the paper. John also gave Bill some information for an article to be put in the paper about our Federation Fund Shoot, how many people attended, how much money we raised and why we did it.

John Butcher was contacted by Bryan Meahl; the reporter of an article that wrote the article about Shooting Sports at North Forest would like to do an article on the NCFCC. John has arranged to have Paul Jackson and Brian Meahl get together with him and schedule an interview. The article will be about the kids we are sending to The DEC Youth Camp.

Rosters: John Butcher passed out the new rosters of our membership. They are arranged alphabetically by club instead of last name, because many people belong to multiple organizations.

Small Game: Chris Schotz made a motion we donate to the Safari Club of Western New York, Central New York Chapter \$ 125.00 dollars towards their pheasant program, 2nd by Dale Dunkleberger and carried.

Big Game:

Dale Dunkleberger reported the Saturday opener is a done deal.

Dale Dunkleberger requested everyone to contact Governor Pataki, at (518)474-8390, and ask him to sign

A4853A/S9 1 8A into law. This legislation will allow hunters to use a rifle during open season for deer and bear in the counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chenango, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Oswego, Otsego, Schoharie and Tioga, as well as certain rural towns in Broome County in those areas east of the Susquehanna River.

Dale Shank volunteered to write a letter to the appointed leaders of New York State Parks on permitting Sunday hunting.

Water Fowl: Don Bronson - No Report.

Hunter Safety: Gordon Botting SR. reported he just completed a hunter safety course after five were cancelled due to poor attendance. Please notify everyone to get their kids into classes before the last minute in September and October.

Sports Fishing: Paul Jackson - No report

Habitat:

Grain Drill: Dale Dunkleburger reported he used the drill and it worked super on five acres of cold and warm grasses around his waterfowl marshes. If you want to use the drill there is a \$15.00 an acre rental fee and a delivery charge. The rental fee covers insurance, maintenance and repairs. Dale took some twenty pictures of the drill on site to give to Bill Hilts Jr., for publicity. 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.

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>

C.F.A.B.: Bill Hilts Sr. - No Report

[http://www .dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/cfab/](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/cfab/)

Region 9 Fish and Wildlife Board: Greg Tessman - No report.

NYS Conservation Council:

Gerry Bennett passed out copies of the 13 resolutions from the New York State Conservation Council. Take them to your clubs. We will be voting on them on the 22nd of August.

Chris Schotz reported the council is looking forward to holding classes or seminars on Chronic Wasting Disease in this area. If anyone is interested in having a seminar contact Gerry Bennett.

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 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.

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 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 July 20, 2005. Meeting will be held at the American Legion Post 410, 26 Niagara St. Lockport NY at 7:00PM.

4H:

Shooting Trailer: The committee meet June 14, 2005 at Summit print and Mail. After talking to the people at Crossman Arms in East Bloomfield, NY they are going to see what they have available. If we put Crossman on the trailer there is a possibility they will give us 100% of the merchandise we need for free. With the grant monies we have, \$3000 from the NRA Foundation, \$5000 from Assemblywomen Francine DelMonte and \$5000 from Senator George Maziarz the committee is going to have to meet again to come up with a new budget. The good news is that we can and add back all the items we had to cut from the budget.

Pheasant Program: No Report

Conservation Education:

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

Wildlife Festival: John Butcher reported the Wildlife Festival in recognition of National Hunting and Fishing Days will be September 24 and 25 this year. John passed out Exhibitor Information Questionnaires from Lori Presti the event coordinator, for delegates to take back to their clubs. He is a meeting with Lori Presti in July to go over the event. If anyone is interested in serving on the committee contact John.

Dale Dunkleberger volunteered will tow the trailer with the dart machine from Erie County to the Wildlife Festival. We need volunteers to man the dart machine.

Environmental Field Days: A motion to write a thank you letter to Darcy Tone for all the work and effort she has made to make this event successful was made by Chris Schotz and 2nd by Dale Dunkleberger, carried.

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: Larry Koch announced on Sunday, July 17th the 29th annual Wheatfield Family Picnic will be held at Fairmount Park. For more information go to website:

<http://wheatfield.ny.us/>

Convention:

Annual Picnic: Scheduled for July 25th at the North Forest Rod and Gun Club. Please bring a dish to pass.

Awards Banquet: A motion to make Gordon Botting Sr. Chairman of the Awards Banquet was made by Chris Schotz and 2nd by Mark Richardson, carried.

Application for Membership: - None.

Old Business:

Chris Schotz reported he contacted John Long about our application for Directors and Officers Liability Insurance. The application was lost and we will have to submit a new application with the names of our new officers and directors.

John Butcher reported that he has been in contact with Dave Whitt and several calls have been made to elected officials about the model airplane club disturbing the birds nesting at the 30-acre Lewiston Plateau Recreation and Wildlife Management Area. The model air plane club is now back on power authority property in their old spot by the reservoir.

New Business: - None

For the Good of the Federation:

3F Club: Dale Shank reported they are holding Hunter Safety Classes at the 3F Club August 23 and 30 and September 6

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

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

LaSalle Sportsmen Club: Dave Jacobs reported they have they have an exceptional number of turkeys and pheasants they generated on their own and 300 chicks from the DEC. They have birds in pens all over the place at different ages.

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. Applications must be returned to Bill by August 15th.

North Forest Rod and Gun Club: Dale Dunkleberger reminded everyone our Annual Picnic is scheduled for July 25th at the North Forest Rod and Gun Club.

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

Pioneers Sportsmen Club: Bob Kerns announced they are having a picnic July 6, 2005 at 11:00 AM at the Wilson Conservation Club. Bring a dish to pass.

SCOPE: William Mudge reported their next meeting is July 20, 2005 at the American Legion Post 410, 42 Niagara Street in Lockport at 7:00 p.m.. Everyone is welcome to attend. We will be reviewing political questionnaires that we will send out to candidates in local races. The results will be put in the Election Issue of the Firing Lines that comes out before election day.

Twin City Sportsmen: Mark Richardson announced they have cancelled their plans for a gun show on October 2 and 3 . They have replaced that with a raffle in December. Mark will have tickets at our Annual Picnic July 25

UAW Pistol League: Gordon Botting Sr. announced they held a hunter safety class last Monday, Tuesday and Thursday with eight students.

Wheatfield Firearms Committee: Larry Koch reminded everyone on Sunday, July 17th the 29th annual Wheatfield Family Picnic will be held at Fairmount Park.

Wilson Conservation Club: Chris Schotz announced the Kids Fishing Derby was a huge success. Prizes were given out to the 109 kids in attendance on June 18, 2005.

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

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn, Chris Schotz, 2nd Gordon Botting, 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

