

Pledge to the Flag: Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs **September 2005**

Meeting held on the 26th. 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: Tiffany Clark gave a presentation on her stay at the NYSDEC Camp at Rushford. Tiffany made up a fantastic display of pictures taken at the camp.

Minutes: Motion made from the floor by Pam Leaderhouse to accept, 2nd by Bob Kerns, carried.

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 Wayne Snell and 2nd by Herb Leaderhouse, carried.

Communications Bills and Notices:

John Butcher read a letter from Lori Presti of the New York State Power Authority thanking us for participation in the 2005 Wildlife Festival. They estimated more than 23,000 people attended this year's event. The shooting trailer was a great attraction to young and old alike.

John Butcher read a letter from Bill D'Ambrosio of the Twin City Shooting Club to Lori Presti. In the letter he praised the number and quality of the demonstrators and exhibits.

Sick Call: A card was passed around for everyone to sign for Ken Mottorn. Ken is the President of the Iroquois Arms Collectors and a past federation delegate. Ken is having surgery in Newfane hospital and Secretary Bill Mudge will drop the card off to Ken when he is out of intensive care.

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 will prepare a set of financials for the 3rd quarter and will present them to NCFCC Officers and delegates at the October 24, 2005 meeting.

Fund Raising:

Patches: Patches for this year are still available. They are \$3.50 each. Some patches from past years are still available. They can be obtained by contacting Gordon Botting at 434-1563.

A motion was made from the floor by Dale Shank to have a porcupine on our patch next year, 2nd by Bill Mudge, carried.

Knives: President John Butcher reported if anyone needs a knife for a gun raffle or club event they can be obtained by contacting Gordon Botting at 434-1563.

Annual Shoot: John Butcher is looking for a club that wants to host the 2006 shoot. He will send out a letter this fall to clubs in the Federation. If your club wants to host the shoot contact Fundraising Shoot Committee chairmen John Butcher at 716-434-7176

Grants:

Mark Richardson's reported on our grant to the New York State Office of Family and Child Services. There is an Appendix D which compels us to swear none of the members of our organization or board of directors are contractors to our organization or members of any other organization which is a contractor to this organization. This can be as minor as paying the Masons for feeding us dinner at our banquet, paying Mark Richardson's Company ACS for generating the paper work, or Summit Print & Mail to mail our newsletter. Mark consulted with Senator Francine DelMonte and she suggested he contact the award manager at the New York State Office of Family and Child Services and see if they would grant us a written waiver from that particular requirement.

John Butcher reported the grant from Senator George Maziarz through the DEC has been filled out and processed. No problems are expected.

County Funds: John will check on the availability of funds from Niagara County Legislature.

Newsletters: Gordon Botting SR sold an advertisement to the Medicine Shoppe.

Gordon requested to be reimbursed for his expenses. A motion was made by Mark Richardson that we will reimburse for mileage at the current IRS rate for any member of this body that has the prior approval of the board of directors to be reimbursed for their mileage, 2nd by Larry Koch, carried.

Public Relations: John Butcher reported Bill Hilts jr. promised he will get us some publicity on the shooting trailer. There were several photographers that took pictures of the shooting trailer. These should be in the paper on the Wildlife festival.

Rosters: John Butcher requested if your club is holding elections please give us updated rosters as soon as possible.

Small Game: Chris Schotz - No Report.

Big Game: Dale Dunkleberger

Dale reported A4853A1S918A was signed by Governor Pataki. This legislation will allow hunters to use a center rifle for deer and bear in certain southern tier counties. There was no caliber was specified in the bill. This does not pertain to state parks. You still have to use a shotgun inside the park. Also, there is no Sunday hunting in the state parks.
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/guide/legalimp.html>

Dale mentioned the DEC Chronic Wasting Disease seminar held September 19, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Niagara County Cooperative Extension, 4H Center was poorly attended. The DEC has established a CWD Containment Area. No person shall remove from the CWD containment area the brain, eyes, spinal cord, tonsils, intestinal tract, spleen, or retro pharyngeal lymph nodes, or any portion of such parts, of wild, captive, or captive-bred animals of the Genus Cervus or the Genus Odocoileus obtained from or taken within the CWD containment area. So far the only persons paying the bill are the sportsmen and it has come of the Conservation Fund. They have spent over 1,200,000.

Dale reported the Seneca County IDA has taken over the Seneca Army Depot located in Romulus, NY. They have set aside 7500 acres for thee white deer herd. <http://www.senecawhitedeer.org>

Dale reported as of July 15, 2005 the ban has been lifted on moose and caribou. You can now bring the whole animal back to the USA.

Water Fowl:

Dave Whitt reported duck blind drawings for Fort Niagara, Joseph Davis Wilson-Tuscarora and Golden Hill State Parks will be held at the Fort Niagara State Park Maintenance Building from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the following dates: Oct 20, Oct 27, Nov 3, Nov 7, Nov 10, Nov 14, Nov 17, Nov 21. Nov 25, Nov 28, Dec 1, Dec 22, Dec 26, Dec 29, Jan 2, Jan 5. To be eligible to participate in the lottery drawings hunters must have a current New York State Small Game Hunting License, a Federal Migratory Bird Stamp, A Harvest Information Program (HIP) Number and must have successfully completed the New York State Waterfowl Identification Course. A dog or boat for retrievals is also required.

Dave Whitt announced he is forming a Niagara Falls DU (Ducks Unlimited) Chapter. The next meeting is at the Wilson House 7:00 p.m. on October 19, 2005. If anyone wants to work on the committee show up and get your name on the list.

Hunter Safety: Dale Shank reported many people that took their hunter safety course in the 1970's at the 3F Club wanted a copy of their hunter safety certificates. For the past month he has been trying to locate all people that taught the course at the 3F Club and their records. Some records could not be located and the people had to take the course again. Dale would like to remind everyone, store your hunter safety certificate with your other important papers so it don't get lost or you may have to take the course again

Sports Fishing: Paul Jackson - No report

Habitat: No Report.

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

A motion was made from the floor by Dale Dunkleberger to draft a letter to any assembly or senate person that represents Niagara County to stating our opposition to giving out personal information on hunting licenses, 2nd by Paul Jackson, carried. President John Butcher will draft the letter.

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

NYS Conservation Council: Gerry Benntt passed out pamphlets on chronic wasting disease to the delegates to take back to their clubs. Gerry also mentioned there is an article in the September 2005 NYSCC Grass Roots News Letter about CWD.

Gerry reminded everyone to spend the \$5.00 to buy a Habitat Stamp when they purchase their licenses.

Gerry passed out the results on 2005 New York State Conservation Council Resolutions.

Resolution	Subject	Passed
05-01	Winged Duck Decoys [Withdrawnj	XXX
05-02	Eliminate Back Tags	Yes
05-03	Lift Ban on Feeding White Tail Deer	No
05-04	Impose Deer Antler Harvest Restrictions	Yes *
05-05	Create A Junior Muzzleloader License	Yes
05-06	Restore Direct Access To ECO	Yes
05-07	Rescind Assault Weapon Ban	Yes
05-08	Repeal Ballistic Fingerprinting	Yes
05-09	Define What Is A Primitive Firearm	Yes *
05-10	Fund Update & Repair Hatcheries	Yes

05-11 Allocate Habitat/Access Stamp Revenue	Yes
05-12 Terminate Young Pheasant Release Program	Yes *
05-13 Fund Hunter Apprentice Program	Yes
05-14 Bass season	Yes
05-15 Waterfowl	Yes

* The Niagara County Federation voted NO on resolutions 05-4, 05-9, and 05-12 at our August 26 2005 Meeting.

A motion was made by Dale Shank that we donate \$100.00 to the NYSCC, 2nd by Pam Leaderhouse, carried.

S.C.O.P.E.: Bill Mudge 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 you can download a PDF file of bills we are reviewing. The site is updated weekly.

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

Bill reported he went to the SCOPE Pig Roast Sunday September 25, 2005 at the Brockport Elks Club, 4400 Sweden Walker Rd, Brockport, NY. If you only attend one pig roast a year this is the one to attend. Senator George Maziarz was one of the guest speakers. Bill invited everyone to attend the next Scope Meeting on October 24, 2005. Meeting will be held at the American Legion Post 410, 26 Niagara St, Lockport NY at 7:00PM

4-H

Shooting Sports: No Report.

Pheasant Program: No Report.

Conservation Education:

Niagara County Fair: No Report

Wildlife Festival: John Butcher reported The Wild Life Festival was a huge success, great weather, great turn out and great support from the Federations affiliated clubs. Special thanks to all those NCFCC Clubs that had booths: Niagara River Anglers, NYS State Cross Bow Hunters, Middleport Rod & Gun Club, Twin City Shooting, Niagara County Gobblers (NWTF), Pheasants Forever, Niagara Musky Association, Niagara County Trappers, Niagara County Sportsmen, and Pioneer Conservation Sportsman's Society of Niagara County.

I received great feed back from the Management at the New York State Power Authority on how well run the NCFCC booths were. They were also extremely pleased with the comments they received from the public that attended this years event, most attendees and participants felt it was the best ever in the 20 year history of the festival. What else can I say but great job, and thanks to all the volunteers who gave of their time.

Also showing up to help out were our friends from: Niagara County Soil & Water, our local

ECO's, and Deer Search of WNY. We also had many of the local merchants that support sportsmen: Wisor's Polaris, Pheasant Ridge Hunting Preserve, and our Raffle Sponsor Gander Mtn.

Our Raffle winners were: 1st Prize Joe Wilczewski, 2nd Prize James Groig, Connie Adams Meesig, Mike Greaser, Sarah Collar, Wayne Snell, Chet Hyca. A photo of our first place winners was emailed to Gander Mtn they will put it on their website.

Lori Presti from the New York State Power Authority emailed me this morning and they have estimated that over 23,000 people attended this year's event. The Wildlife Festival has been listed as a nominee for "What is Your Favorite Festival" in the Western New York Newspapers. If you agree that the Wildlife Festival deserves this honor, please take a to cast your vote (and tell your friends to do the same-the more the better) their website is www.wnypapers.com

Environmental Field Days: No Report.

DEC Youth Camp: John Butcher reported he spoke with Bryan Meahl. Bryan is trying to arrange a meeting with a contact from the Buffalo News to do a story on the kids we sent to DEC youth Camp. If club sent a kid to camp that they would like to get in the newspaper article please contact Bryan Meahl by phone at 716-778-8163.

Town of Wheatfield Picnic: No Report.

Shooting Trailer: John Butcher reported The NCFCC Shooting Trailer that was purchased and fabricated with the NRA Grant Money we received along with the funds provided by State Senator George Maziarz, and Assemblywomen Francine Delmonte. In addition Grossman Air Rifle Corporation donated many of the supplies: Air Guns, Pellets, Speed Loaders, and Air Hoses.

We finished the trailer Friday night just in time to have it up and running for the Wild Life Festival which was held in Lewiston New York, September 24th and 25th, 2005. The trailer was fabricated by Terry Baldwin who came up with a really ingenious design that makes set up easy and quick. Two guys can have it set up and running in 30 minutes or less.

Bill Hilts Jr donated some fishing rods to The NCFCC and sponsored a youth shooting contest. Top gun awards were given to the fastest times each day with two division's boys and girls (15 years old and under). Saturdays' award winners were: Nathan Nowak, and Ashley Butcher. Sundays' winners were: Tim Ryan and Amanda Plotner.

Everyone that stopped by to shoot or to just take a look was impressed with the Mobile Air Rifle Range. Our guest included Senator Maziarz, Assemblywomen Francine DeLmonte, and Niagara Frontier FNRA President Dave McDonald. Special thanks to Gordon Botting SR and Matt Zornosky for volunteering their time to man the Mobile Air Rifle Range at the Wildlife Festival.

We have already received numerous requests for the trailer: Gander Mtn. would like us to stop by the week of October 7th, 8th, 9th and set it up for one of their store promotions; many youth leaders from Boy Scout troops and Conservation Clubs asked if we could bring the trailer to their events. One little kid that shot for the first time said "This is cool Mr. do you guys do birthday parties".

One other thing the local media was at the event from the two major papers, I was amazed at how many photos they took. I think we will also get some good PR out of this activity.

Now that the Trailer is functional we need to have a meeting to discuss its operation: who is eligible to use it, fees, and safety, maintenance and insurance issues.

Convention: Gordon Botting Chairman of the Awards Banquet is still looking for clubs that wants to host the banquet next year. So far we have two choices the Masonic Hall in Lockport, NY or here at the 4H Cooperative Center. We will be voting on proposals at the next meeting.

John passed out some Award Nomination forms and requested all delegates to take them back to their clubs. Ask your presidents and officers to start thinking who did a great job at your club or community and let's get some nominations for awards next year.

Application for Membership: None.

Old Business:

Nominating Committee: President John Butcher appointed Jerry Bennett, John Chilcott and Dave Whitt to a nomination committee for officers. The committee will make recommendations at our next meeting.

Dave Whitt made a reported on the mismanagement of the Plateau Recreation and Wildlife Management Area at Artpark by the town of Lewiston.

- 1) A buffer zone and sign age for the original project was never completed.
- 2) Maintenance programs were ignored. This is detrimental to the water features, grass planting, oak trees.
- 3) Model airplanes and dump site for construction materials have negatively impacted the sites.
- 4) Cannot figure out where "Environmental" monies have gone nor where monies from Niagara County Environmental Fund were employed.

New Business: Gordon Botting SR reported that NCFCC Delegate Don Bronson has been nominated by the Masonic Lodge Niagara #375 for a youth service award. Don was selected in recognition for his service to local youths in Hunter Education. Any federation Delegate that would like to attend the dinner should contact Gordon at 716-434-1563. The Masonic Awards Night Dinner we be held November 9th, 2005 from 6:00PM until ? Dinners are \$10.00 per person.

For the Good of the Federation:

Iroquois Arms Collectors: William Mudge reported their next meeting is September 14, 2005 at AM VETS Post 26 on 600 Ward Road in North Tonawanda at 8:00 p.m.

Niagara County Gobblers Chapter NWTf: Pam Leaderhouse reported the Buckeye Scents Dick's Sporting Goods Calling Contest is a sanctioned Turkey Calling contest. It will be held Saturday October 1, 2005 at Buckeye Scents Farm 4202 Willow Rd, off Rt. 425 in Wilson NY. Registration is from noon to 2:00 p.m., calling is at 3:00 p.m. Contact Pam at 716-791-3151 or Email: plederhous@aol.com

Herb Leaderhouse reported the Turkey Federation will pay for 80 more kids to sign up for LAKES. If you know anyone with kids that are interested have them contact Herb.

Niagara Orleans Friends of the NRA: William Mudge announced the 2006 Friends of the NRA Banquet will be March 25, 2006.

Pheasants Forever of Western New York: Dave Whitt reported the Pheasants Forever Youth Day September 17, 2005 at the 3F Club was a success. They had 46 participants. They already have 17 places signed up for next year.

Dave Whitt reported Pheasants Forever filled out a grant application with Wildlife Forever, a habitat organization in Minnesota. In June of 2005 Wildlife Forever offered a matching fund challenge grant to their chapter, in an amount up to \$5,000.00. In order to receive the matching amount, they have until October 31, 2005 to raise the funds. The habitat project they have in mind for these funds is located in the southwest corner of the Tonawanda complex off Owen Bartell Road. They are working with the DEC and NRCS to obtain funds through the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) for grassland work and the Wetlands Restoration Program (WRP) to improve the wetlands in this area. These programs require a 25% cost share so their \$10,000.00 would enable them to do a \$40,000.00 project. So far they have raised \$1,700.00 and Dave requested the Federation donate \$300.00 dollars.

President John Butcher reported the Federation supports habitat projects, but we don't want to take money away from the organization we don't have yet. The Federation will consider the request after the 3rd quarter report of the Finance and Audit Committee at our next meeting on October 24, 2005.

Dave Whitt reported Pheasants Forever has purchased a 6 foot no till grain drill. They can put the drill and tractor on a trailer and tow it to your site. Contact Dave for more information.

SCOPE: William Mudge reported their next meeting is October 19, 2005 at the American Legion Post 410, 42 Niagara Street in Lockport at 7:00 p.m... Everyone is welcome to attend.

Bill reported the 40th Annual SCOPE Awards Banquet was Friday, September 9, 2005 at the Millennium Hotel (formerly Four Points Sheraton). Speakers were Alan Gottlieb, founder of the Second Amendment Foundation and John Sigler, First Vice President of the NRA. Our special guest was Ed Cox who is running for the Senate against Hillary Clinton.

Assemblywomen Francine DelMonte received an award for sponsoring A04853 in the New York Assembly to amend the environmental conservation law allow hunters to use a center fire rifle during open season for deer and bear in certain counties.

Twin City Sportsmen: Mark Richardson announced they are having a gun raffle December 11, 2005. See Mark for tickets.

Wilson Conservation Club: Chris Schotz announced they are having their gun raffle September 17, 2005. See Chris for tickets.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn, Mark Richardson, 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**](http://www.outdoorsniagara.com)