

NIAGARA COUNTY FEDERATION OF CONSERVATION CLUBS

FEBRUARY 2005 Minutes Posted March 24 2005

Pledge to the Flag: Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs February 2005 Meeting held on the 28th. 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, 2nd by Dale Dunkelberger, 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 Gerry Bennett and seconded by 2nd by Keith Hetrick, carded.

Communications bills and notices:

Dale Dunkelberger reported the 7 CLAN BOWMAN CLUB has been dissolved.

Chris Schotz reported on those out sick. John Chilcott was not here tonight because he is having an operation tomorrow. John Long Sr. is home from the hospital and in good spirits but not well enough to receive phone calls or visitors. Bill Hilts's wife Sylvia has been sick for two weeks and is feeling better.

Cards were passed around for delegates to sign for John Chilcott and John Long Sr.

Committee Reports: President John Butcher reminded all delegates to fill out a 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 and Gordon Botting Sr will keyboard expenses and check all income and expenses by month. They will do a quarterly financial statement to do better budgeting and cash flow.

Fund Raising:

Patches: The patches are here from Promotional Solutions. Please sign your name on the list and the amount you are taking. They are \$3.50 each.

- Wolcottsville Rod & Gun Club

- Knives: Chris Schotz reported that he went to the SHOT (Shooting Hunting and Outdoor Travels) Show in Las Vegas. He ordered a couple of different Kershaw camouflage pattern knives. They are wide-blade, brand-new series for 2005 and not in the stores yet. The knives cost just less than \$35.00 each. They should be in by the beginning of March. Chris bought back more catalogs with him for future fund-raising events. They covered everything from binoculars to art prints.

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- Spring Shoot at North Forest: Bryan Meahl President of North Forest Rod and Gun passed around a poster for the spring shoot. The proceeds will benefit the Niagara County Federation Youth Program, Shooting Sports and DEC Camp. The location will be at North Forest. The venue is 100 birds, 50 sporting clays, 25 trap and 25

skeet. Break a target and get a ticket. For each ticket you get they have a Chinese auction. Drop your ticket in the bird bucket. Each person that gets involved in the shoot will get 25 tickets. This event is family oriented. Children from 12 to 17 are welcome to shoot for \$15.00 dollars as opposed for \$25.00 for an adult. The juniors will be sponsored with free shells. It will be on Saturday, April 23, 2005. Shooting will be from 9:00 a.m. to dusk. Breakfast is 8:00 a.m.. It will consist of biscuits, sausage, gravy and coffee for \$3.00. Lunch will consist of hotdogs, hamburgs, picnic salad and soda for \$5.00. Games of chance will be a 50-50 split, Chinese Auction and a gun raffle at \$5.00 a ticket. One of the sponsors will be Beretta with their new 2005 offerings. Speak with their factory representatives. If you are interested, you will have a chance to test fire their trap, skeet and sporting clays shotguns on the various fields North Forest has to offer. They will take your drivers license and require that you only shoot factory ammo. Beretta is also sponsoring the gun raffle of the day with a Beretta Model 391. All the shells you need will be for sale at the best price. Bring along your friends and family even if they don't want to shoot. North Forest is a pretty little place just to walk around and enjoy the outdoors in a less than formal atmosphere.

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- Mark Richardson requested support from our member clubs. It would be a big success if each club would send a squad of four to six shooters. We are hopping to get: baskets prizes up to \$50.00 in value, help in selling tickets for the Beretta 391 being raffled, and that you consider sponsoring one of the shooting stations.

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- A motion was made by Paul Jackson and seconded by Tom Schultz to move forward with the spring shoot at North Forest Rod and Gun Club.

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- Grants: John Butcher reminded everyone we got a FNRA grant for \$3000 and hopefully we will have our check by the time of the banquet on March 12, 2005 at Antonio's Banquet & Conference Center in Niagara Falls. (See Insert). The only thing is that we wrote the grant for \$5000 and we were only funded \$3000. Mark Richardson reformatted the grant. John reported he gave a copy to Senator George Maziarz and Gordon Botting gave a copy to Assemblywomen Francine DelMonte and those both may be able to go to bat and cover the balance of our funding.

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- Newsletters: John Butcher is monitoring the advertisements with Gordon Botting as to when they expire. They are trying to do a better job. At the present we have three opening ads if anyone is interested. We need advertisers from North Tonawanda and Niagara Falls.

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- Public Relations: Bill Hilts Jr is going to do some publicity for us.

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- Rosters:

- John Butcher reminded delegates to fill out rosters and return ASAP so we can update mailing list for 2005 so the right people get the minutes. Club attendance ranged from 46 to 83 percent last year.

- Remember you can have two delegates from each club. So if it is too difficult to attend each meeting split the work.

- Small Game: Chris Schotz -no report

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- Big Game: Dale Dunkleberger reported he attended both February NYSDEC Meetings in Region 9 to seek the public's view of changes to deer hunting in New York. There was standing room only at both meetings. There were pros and cons on both sides of issues. The general census of all sportsmen is that we leave the seasons alone.

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- 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, Albany NY 12233-4754. The DEC will review the input provided from these meetings and from other comments, make changes to the proposals if necessary, and initiate a formal rulemaking with a 45-day comment period following publication in the New York State

Register.

- Water Fowl: Don Bronson - no report.
- Hunter Safety:

- This year a note will be added to the posters stating these are the courses available at the time of publication. New courses may be added. Contact Niagara County coordinator Dave Lavery at 7 16-735-3343 or visit the DEC web page.

- John Butcher brought in a sample poster. Many changes were suggested such as to the placement of notes and how to make the poster easier to read.

- John Butcher called Dave Kiel and got the latest data on hunter safety courses. The 2004 data has not been compiled yet.

- Type of Course Year # Classes # Students
- Gun 2003 23 666
- Bow 2003 15 330
- Trapping 2003 2 35
- Waterfowl ID 2003 2 28

- Sports Fishing: Paul Jackson

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- Paul Jackson reported that there will be a Lake Ontario "State of the Lake" meeting on Monday, March 14, 2005, 7 - 10:00 p.m. at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building, 4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport, New York.

- Paul Jackson read a resolution from Erie County:

- Whereas sport fishing is a two billion-dollar business in New York State;

- Whereas the majority of these diverse world class sports fisheries are dependent on the New York State fish hatchery stocking program;

- Whereas the annual stocking requirements are one million pounds of fish for the waters of New York State;

- Whereas the New York State fish stocking programs derive at least a five to one return on money invested;

- Whereas many of the 12 existing hatcheries are in dire need of repairs and updating if New York State is to maintain the present fish stocking levels;

- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Governor and the State Legislature dedicate no less than 22 million dollars from the state general fund for the necessary updates and repairs on the aforementioned hatcheries.

- Habitat: - Chris Schotz reminded everyone the grain drill is available if you want to get something planted on your property.

- C.F.A.B.:

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

- NYS Conservation Council: Gerry Bennett reported that he will be going to Albany on the 13th 14th and

- 15th (See the NYSCC letter).

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

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- Bill reminded everyone that to take advantage of the service they are offering to sportsmen on firearms related issues. Ken Mathison is working for them full-time as their lobbyist in Albany. If you go to their website www.SCOPEny.org you can download a PDF file of 42 bills they are reviewing. Bill passed around a copy of this 12-page report.

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- Bill reported he contacted Scope President Ken Mathison and NRA Director Budd Schroeder about the Niagara County Pistol Permit holder who was burglarized and had his pistol stolen and permit suspended for six months by a recent court decision of Niagara County Court Judge Peter L. Broderick, Sr. Both men are against any law requiring mandatory storage of firearms. Ken Mathison thought this gentleman should have been more careful where and how he stored his firearms. Budd Schroeder mentioned that under New York State Laws a pistol permit is a privilege and requiring this gentleman to have a safe to store his guns in could fall under judicial discretion.

- Bill invited everyone to attend the next Scope Meeting on March 16, 2005. Meeting will be held at the American Legion Post 410, 26 Niagara St, Lockport NY at 7:00PM.

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- **4 H:**

- Shooting Sports - Mark Richardson - No Report

- Pheasant Program - Greg Tessmann - No Report

Conservation Education:

- Niagara County Fair - A motion was made by Mark Richardson and seconded by Tom Schultz and carried, with the possible exception of a stand alone shooting trailer the Federation chooses not to participate in the Niagara County Fair.

- Wildlife Festival - Larry Koch

- The wildlife Festival will be September 24th and 25th of this year. This year will be the 20th Anniversary and it has grown to be one of the largest events in New York State. More than 20,000 people go through the Power Authority Gates last year.

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- The Wildlife Festival in recognition of Hunting & Fishing Days is drifting into an art & craft show. The Power Authority's position is that they like to see the non profits raise money and get publicity. I-loweever, many groups make money and take advantage of our event. So this year the conservation tent will be for our group only.

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- In light of there not being a big event at the Niagara County Fair this year with the exception of a shooting trailer, we try to have a little better participation at the Wildlife Festival.

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- Fourth & Fifth Grade Environmental Field Days - Bob Kerns

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- Scheduled for the 7th, 8th of June 2005

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- DEC Youth Camp - Paul Jackson & Dale Shank

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- We need to send two kids to camp.
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- Town of Wheatfield Picnic - Don Bronson & Larry Koch - No Report
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- **Convention:**
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- Annual Picnic - Scheduled for July 25th at the North Forest Rod and Gun Club. We need to setup a committee and appoint a chairperson.
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- Awards Banquet - Gordon Botting Sr., Mark Richardson, and Joseph Wilczewski
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- All other delegates and club members are welcome to help. Don't forget to start thinking about nominations. The banquet date is Saturday, April 2, 2005. Tentative location is the Masonic Hall, Lockport, New York. The dinner menu will be stuffed pork chops and no alcoholic beverages will be served. If alcoholic beverages are served, we need a \$500 insurance rider.
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- A motion was made by Chris Schotz and seconded by Joseph Wilczewski to have the dinner at the LaSalle Sportsmen club on April 2, 2005. Dave Jacobs will get a quote with food and alcoholic beverages and a quote with food and a cash bar. If the price is comparable, we will book the hail. Other wise we will go with the Masonic Hall program with a \$500 insurance rider.
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- Joe Wilczewski is making up a letter of request for donations to put in the newsletter.
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- Note: The Awards banquet committee met after the February NCFCC meeting and all banquet issues have been resolved. The banquet will be held Saturday, April 2, 2005 at the Masonic Lodge in Lockport. Table wine and beer will be provided. Invitations were mailed out. (See Insert)
- Old Business
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- John Butcher has tickets for the Erie county Banquet.
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- Mark Richardson passed out copies of which is considered to be our proper and legal constitution at this time. On March 22, 2005, at Summit Print and Mail, 6042 Old Beattie Rd the Finance and Audit Committee are meeting to discuss suggestions that have been made. These proposed changes will be announced at our April 25, 2005 meeting.
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- **New Business:**
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- Dale Dunkelberger requested everyone to write letters opposing Animal Cruelty Bills S2138 and A1850.
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- Dale Dunkleberger requested we take copies of a petition supporting a big game license for 14-15 year old youths in New York State back to our clubs and get them signed. Bring them back to our next meeting for Dale on March 28, 2005 for Dale.
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- **For the Good of the Federation:**
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- Scope: William Mudge reported their next meeting is March 16, 2005 at the American Legion Post 410, 42 Niagara Street in Lockport at 7:00 p.m.. We will be reviewing the Political Questionnaires that are being sent out to politicians this fall. Everyone is welcome to attend.
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- Niagara Orleans Friends of the NRA: John Butcher reported that the Banquet is March 12, 2005. This year's gun of the year is a Kimber 45 ACP Eclipse Pistol. Those purchasing tickets that would prefer an alternative have the option of substituting the pistol for a Kimber .22-250 Varmint Rifle.
- Niagara River Anglers Association: Paul Jackson
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- The Niagara River Anglers had their Steelhead Contest last Saturday, February 26, 2005. The event was a huge success.
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- Twin City Shooting Club: Mark Richardson
- Twin City will be having a youth shoot on March 26, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.. If anyone is interested call Bill
- D'Ambrosio at 716-835-1204.
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- Adjournment: Motion to adjourn, Gordon Botting, 2nd Dale Shank, carried.
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- Respectfully submitted,
William A. Mudge Secretary, NCFCC
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- For information about the NCFCC including minutes, and upcoming events check us out at
- www.outdoorsniagara.com