

**Pledge to the Flag:** Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs February 2006 Meeting held on the 27th. Called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-President Paul Jackson at the 4-H Bldg., Lockport, New York with the Pledge to the Flag.

**Guest Speakers:**

Connie Adams, a biologist from the NYSDEC working out of the Buffalo Office spoke on a turkey banding program to band turkeys on site as part of a study to obtain better harvest data. Connie showed a video of how they bait turkeys and capture them in a 50x70 net. Presently they have only a 30% reporting rate on turkeys. To encourage a 100% phone in rate they have a "Reward Band Program" sponsored by the NWTF, which pays for most of the program. Turkey hunters in three northeast states, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio could receive a bonus if they harvest a gobbler with an appropriate metal leg band during the next season. This will help them in each state to determine annual turkey survival rates, non-hunting mortality of turkeys and hunter reporting rates of harvested birds. This will help state wildlife agencies provide more hunting opportunities without concern of depleting the resource. For more information about the NWTF, the banding project or any other NWTF research project, call (800) THE-NWTF.

Sandra Keppner, Exotic Species Coordinator/Fishery Biologist of The Lower Great Lakes Fishery Resource Office came to our meeting to draw attention to their Annual Fish and Wildlife Festival being held at Hyde Park in Niagara Falls on June 3, 2006. The Festival runs from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This is an educational outdoors event aimed at all members of the family. There will be non profit as well as government agencies there with displays. Sandra invited the Federation to come and set up our mobile shooting trailer. Also our member organizations are invited to participate.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Dale Dunkelberger to accept the minutes, 2nd by Gordon Botting, 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 Dale Dunkelberger, 2nd by Chris Schotz, carried.

**Communications, Bills, Notices & Sick Call:** None

**Committee Reports:** Vice-President Paul Jackson 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:** None

**Fund Raising:**

Patches: Vice-President Paul Jackson reported changes to the art work have been approved and we hope to have them by the awards dinner.

Knives: Gordon Botting reported we have three knives left. The 2006 knives are in and in process of being engraved.

Annual Shoot: John Butcher reported a date has not been set. We may move the event to this October. If you want to be on the committee contact John.

Grants: Paul Jackson reported we received part of the NYS Dec (Maziarz Grant). More paper work has to be done on the grant from the NYS Office of Children & Family Services (DelMonte Grant).

County Funds: Paul Jackson reported the funds from Niagara County are in.

Newsletters: Paul Jackson reported Jim McComber sold a newsletter advertisement to Cutting Edge Tree Service, if anyone knows anybody that wants to buy an advertisement have them contact Gordon Botting at 716-434-1563.

**Public Relations:** No Report

**Rosters:** Paul Jackson reminded all delegates to get your updated rosters turned in so that new officers are getting the minutes. Also include delegates, hunter Education Instructors and youth leaders.

**Small Game:** No Report

**Big Game:** Dale Dunkelberger, During the 2005 season, hunters harvested slightly more than 180,200 total deer, including 89,000 bucks and approximately 91,200 antlerless deer. The total deer harvest for 2005 represents a 14 % reduction from the 208,000 deer taken in 2004 and is the lowest total deer take since 1994. Declines in 2005 were expected following an intentional 35% reduction in Deer Management Permit (DMP) availability, an action intended to rebuild and stabilize the deer population in many areas of the state.

The late archery and muzzleloading seasons were extended to nine days in length from the previous season lengths of 5 and 7 days respectively. Hunters appeared to take advantage of the increased season length, and the total deer take in the Southern Zone muzzleloading season increased from 6,618 deer in 2004 to 8,645 deer in 2005.

In Niagara County during the 2005 season, hunters harvested slightly more than 2,101 total deer, including 918 bucks and approximately 1,183 antlerless deer.

**Waterfowl:** Don Bronson. Don is attending the Waterfowl Task Force meeting on April 17, 2005. There are a lot of new people on the task force. If you want input into the seasons contact Don at 716-778-5914 and leave a message on his answering machine.

**Hunter Safety:** Dale Dunkelberger, Reports of hunting related shooting incidents received by DEC indicate that 2005 was the safest year in hunting in New York. During 2005 hunting seasons in New York, there were 29 hunting related shooting incidents and there were four fatalities, three of which occurred during the big game season and one during spring turkey season. No rifle injury was reported in the new area, and only 15 of New York's 29 incidents occurred in big game season.

There is a refresher course for hunter instructors April 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the North Forest Rod and Gun Club. For any instructors in Niagara County, you want to mail in your requests for material to Dave Lavery, no later than April 11, 2006 so he can have all of your requests ordered, boxed and at the refresher course for you.

Dave Lavery  
9854 Mountain Road  
Middleport NY 14105-9648  
716-735-3343

The Sportsmen Education Instructors dinner is May 20, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lake Erie Italian Club, South Blvd., in Lackawanna \$8.00 per person. Call Dave Kiel at 716-372-0645 for information.

For those with classes scheduled, get them in to Dave Lavery so we can get them printed for this year.

**Sports Fishing:** Paul Jackson, Paul attended the State of Lake Ontario meeting Tuesday, February 21, 2006 here at the

Cornell Cooperative Extension Building. At the meetings, they went over how many fish were caught and the status of bait fish. Also they discussed how much stocking will be done. This year looks to be the best ever.

They are hoping the stocking and fin-clipping program will show some leads on where the fish are going. This will be the first year we will get some steelheads back from the lower Niagara River that are tagged. Look for a fish that has an adipose fin clipped, it has a microscopic tag in the nose to tell them where this fish was stocked, either in the Niagara River Anglers pens or direct stocked in the Lower Niagara River.

**Habitat:** Chris Schotz, Chris reported to the new delegates we have a no-till grain drill for plating warm season grasses and it is ready for use. If you want to use the drill there is a \$15.00 an acre rental fee and a \$50.00 delivery charge. The rental fee covers insurance, maintenance and repairs. if you have a piece of property that you would like to have planted, contact Mark Sider at Niagara County Soil Water at 716-434-4949.

**CFAB:** No Report

**Firearms Legislation:** Secretary Bill Mudge reported he and President John Butcher represented the Niagara County Federation of Sportsmen at a meeting in the Hyatt on January 26, 2006 to meet with Eliot Spitzer's staff. We attended out of respect for Francine DelMonte because she has been good to us by getting a \$5000.00 grant for the FNRA Trailer.

Bill reported he stated at the meeting he was only interested in 2nd Amendment, hunting, fishing and conservation issues. Bill passed around a thank you letter from Paul Francis, Policy Director to Eliot Spitzer. In the letter Paul Francis stated: "Eliot shares your priorities on the major issues that we discussed at the meeting. He's committed to respecting the outdoors tradition by assisting with promotion and sponsorship of events; honoring the Second Amendment; consulting with sportsmen's groups on all new gun laws or modifications of existing laws; enhancing stewardship of the environment; and establishing greater access to property for hunting and marine environments for fishing". Several delegates doubted the sincerity of the letter because of Eliot's Spitzer's previous record.

*Bill replied to everyone when he goes to vote he goes on a candidate's past voting record on Second Amendment, hunting, fishing and conservation issues. He advised all the delegated and sportsmen to do the same. Bill feels that no matter what party you belong to, you should try to get your party to support Second Amendment, hunting, fishing and conservation issues.*

**Region Nine Fish and Wildlife Board:** No Report

**NYS Conservation Council:** Dale Dunkelberger Dale reported two bills going before the Environmental Conservation Committee tomorrow February 28, 2006.

S 120: Reduces the required minimum age for obtaining a junior archery license from 14 years to 12 years of age.

S 1536: Creates 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.

Dale will be attending the 2006 Legislative Meeting of the New York State Conservation Council on March 12-13, 2006 and the annual March on Albany March 14. He will give a full report at our next meeting.

**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 web page: [http://lscopeny.org/ARCHIVES/SCOPE Legislative Report.pdf](http://lscopeny.org/ARCHIVES/SCOPE%20Legislative%20Report.pdf)

#### 4H:

Shooting Sports — No Report.

Pheasant Program — Chris Schotz reported Bob Glidden, 4H Pheasant Program Committee Chairman is looking for volunteers to be mentors again this year.

Conservation Education - No Report.

Niagara County Fair — Vice-President Paul Jackson reported our participation at the Fair will be with the Shooting Trailer.

Wildlife Festival - No Report.

Environmental Field Days - No Report.

DEC Youth Camp — Paul Jackson reported he has three kids names. Start thinking of some names of kids to submit that would be interested.

Town of Wheatfield Picnic - No Report.

Shooting Trailer — No Report

Awards Banquet - Gordon Botting, John Butcher, Matt Zornosky

The date of the Awards Banquet is Saturday April 1, 2006 at the Holiday Inn (Formally The Best Western) in Lockport. Matt Zornosky has sent out invitations. R.S.V.P. Matt by March 24th — 772-5150. Make check payable to: NCFCC and please get your money in as soon as possible.

Gordon Botting has Award Nomination forms available. He requested all delegates to take them back to their clubs and get some nominations for awards next year. Botting requested all delegates ask their clubs to donate a door prize.

A motion was made by Larry Childs for Gordon Botting to purchase a blackpowder gun for no more than \$200.00 for a major prize, 2nd by Matt Zornosky, carried.

**Application for Membership: None**

**Old Business: None**

**New Business: None**

**For the Good of the Federation:**

3F Club: Dale Shank, March 16, 2006 the 3F Club is having a pistol Permit class. If you are interest contact Dale at 791-3808 for more information.

Hartland Conservation Club: Matt Zornosky reported they are having their Winter Silhouette Shoot on Saturdays and their Blizzard Trap League on Sundays. See flyer insert.

Iroquois Arms Collectors: William Mudge reported their next meeting is March 8, 2006 at AMVETS Post 26 on 600 Ward Road in North Tonawanda at 8:00 p.m.

LaSalle Snortsmen's Club: The club is having a Dinner and Show March 11, 2006 for \$15.00 per person at 6:30 p.m. There will be a cash bar. The Club is having their Spring Gun Raffle April 29, 2006. Tickets are \$20.00 each.

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

Samuel's Grande Manor. Tickets are \$30.00 per person. The NRA Gun of the Year is a limited edition Weatherby Vanguard SS .270 WSM w/Leupold 3-9x Scope and hard case. Tickets are \$5.00 each, 3 for \$10.00 or 7 for \$20.00. if you are interested, call Bill at 716-772-2261.

Niagara River Anglers Association: Paul Jackson, The Anglers had their steelhead contest 2/18/2006 at the sand docks. It was the worst weather they have ever seen. This was really a bust, only five fish were caught. The Anglers are going to have a Spring Raffle at the 3F Club Pavilion in May. Paul will have more information at the April meeting and a flyer for the newsletter.

North Forest Rod and Gun Club: Bryan Meahl, North Forest is having a trap singles night beginning Thursday night for 20 weeks, it will be a money league. if you are interested contact Bryan at 778-8163 for more information.

The first Federation meeting Bryan attended, a gentleman had a burglary in his home and had his guns stolen. His pistol permit was suspended because his pistols were not in a safe. Bryan thought that was incredible. Now it has happened again to a gentlemen that lives in his neighborhood. He had his home burglarized and two handguns stolen. This afternoon William R. Ingham, the Niagara County Pistol Permit Investigator, took all his handguns and his permit because they were not stored in a safe. They were stored in a wooden cabinet. The Kimber was secured by a cable lock supplied by the manufacturer and the Ruger Security Six was secured with a trigger lock not of recognized manufacture. Bryan feels he is a victim twice over. He was burglarized and now is a victim of the law enforcement agency. Bryan doesn't know what we have to do, but it is time we get involved. He has spoken with Francine DelMonte and she was aghast at the problem. George Maziarz was also upset. Both of them said the same thing: follow the procedure and we will do what we can for you. In the meantime he has no guns and broke no laws. He is a victim of a confiscatory act of an illegal fashion.

Gordon Botting is putting together a committee to talk with Judge David Broderick as we did with Judge Amy Francano. If anyone is interested contact Gordon.

Pheasants Forever of Western New York: Dave Whitt, The Pheasants Forever Banquet is at Father Justine's on March 25,

SCOPE: William Mudge, Bill reported their next meeting is March 15, 2006 at the American Legion Post 410, 42 Niagara Street in Lockport at 7:00 p.m. everyone is welcome to attend as his guest.

Tonawanda Sportsmen Club: Edward I. Belbas, On March 5, 2006 they are having their Annual Gun Raffle tickets are \$20.00 per person, roast beef is on the menu. 12 guns will be raffled off plus a lot of side raffles. On March 11, 2006 they are having a Frostbite Open Shoot from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For \$20.00 you can either shoot a hundred traps or a hundred skeet targets. For \$40.00 you can shoot two hundred. On March 19, 2006 they also have a Saint Patrick's Day Shoot from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is open to the public.

Wilson Conservation Club: Chris Schotz, On June 8, 2006 they are raffling off a crossbow at their meeting. If anyone is interest in tickets contact Chris Schotz at 731-1641.

Wolcottville Sportsmen's Club: Larry Childs, On April 23, 2006 they are having their spring raffle.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn, Gordon Botting, 2nd William Mudge, carried.

Respectfully submitted, **William A. Mudge** Secretary, NCFCC

For information about the NCFCC, including minutes and upcoming events, check us out at:

[www.outdoorsniarara.com](http://www.outdoorsniarara.com)