

# NCFCC

NIAGARA COUNTY FEDERATION OF CONSERVATION CLUBS INC.

## NOTICE

The next meeting will be Monday February 25th, 2007 at the 4-H Bldg., Lockport, New York.

### 1. Pledge to the Flag:

Niagara County Federation of Conservation Club January 2008 Meeting held on the 28th. 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. A moment of silence was held for a former delegate, Carl Springer who recently passed away.

### 2. Reception of Guest: *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, not-for-profit corporation. If you are interested in actively participating in the program or becoming a member please call:

Deer Search Inc.  
Western New York Chapter  
PO Box 251  
Lancaster, New York 14086  
(716) 648-4355  
Dispatch Tracking Services (716) 648-4355  
[www.deersearch.org](http://www.deersearch.org)

Gary Huber asked the Federation to purchase raffle tickets to support Deer Search. A motion was made by Paul Jackson, 2nd by Gordon Botting, carried to purchase 5 tickets at 20 dollars a piece for a total of 100 dollars on their gun raffle. If we win the proceeds will go back to the Federation for a future raffle.

If you want Deer Search to put on a demonstration for your club contact Gary Huber.

## AFFILIATED CLUBS

Fin-Feather-Fur Conservation Society - Hartland Conservation Club - Iroquois Arms Collectors Association - Lake Ontario Trout & Salmon Association - LaSalle Sportsman's Club - Lockport Conservation Club - Middleport Rod & Gun Club - N.Y.S. Crossbow Hunter's Association - Niagara County Chapter of SCOPE - Niagara County Gobblers Chapter NWTF - Niagara County Sportsmen's Association - Niagara County Trappers Association - Niagara Musky Association - Niagara Frontier Friends of the NRA - Niagara River Anglers Association - North American Bear Foundation - North Forest Rod & Gun Club - Pheasants Forever of WNY #29 - Pioneer Conservation Sportsmen's of Niagara County - Rapids Rod & Gun Club - Somerset Conservation Club - Tonawanda Sportsmen's Club - Wheatfield Firearms Safety & Education Committee - Wilson Conservation Club Auxiliary - Wilson Conservation Club - Wolcottsville Rod & Gun Club

### 3. Minutes:

There were no minutes to approve from 12/19/2007; this was our annual Christmas Party.

### 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 Larry Childs, 2nd by Walter Kanouff, carried.

### 6. Communications:

**A. Bills:** No report

**B. Correspondence:** No report

**C. Notices:** No report

#### **D. Sick Call:**

A get-well card was passed around for all delegates to sign for Gary Lowe who is in St. Mary's Hospital with pneumonia.

### 7. Committee Reports:

#### **A. Finance and Audit: *John Butcher***

- 1) John Butcher reported that he has given the treasurer reports for November and December to our bookkeeper and that she has entered them into QuickBooks. He will review them with treasurer Gordon Botting Sr to make sure that everything is classified correctly. John expects to have a set of draft financials for 2007 at the February meeting for the officers and delegates.
- 2) If anybody has any Federation inventory items please let Gordon or John know so that they can add them to our inventory list for year-end reporting for 2007.
- 3) Treasurer Gordon Botting Sr reported that he has hired Janice Server from Server Accounting to do our 2007 taxes. She has also made contact with the IRS on our behalf and they have sent us a copy of our determination letter. She is also looking into whether we need to register with the NYS Attorney Generals office as a non-profit.

#### **B. Fundraising:**

##### **1) Patches: *Gordon Botting Sr.***

Gordon Botting Sr reported that the artwork for the 2008 patches has been approved and the patches have been ordered, should be available for distribution at the February meeting.

##### **2) Knives: *Chris Schotz, Gordon Botting Sr.***

- a) Gordon Botting Sr reported that the Federation still has knives available from the 2007 series. If any affiliated club could use a 2007 knife please let Gordon know. The 2008 knives will be using the same artwork as the 2008 patches; they will be taken to Custom Laser for engraving and should also be ready by the February meeting.
- b) John Butcher raised the question as to what should be done with the left over 2007 knives if they are not taken soon. After group discussion possible uses were:
  - (1) Use them as door prizes or auction items at the awards dinner.
  - (2) Use them as additional prizes on future raffles.
  - (3) Sell them to the highest bidder.

c) Will bring up the issue after the awards dinner, (April meeting when we see what we have left in inventory).

**3) Grants:** *John Butcher* – No report

**4) Don Bronson Memorial Fund:** *Larry Koch, Greg Tessmann, Gordon Botting, Gary Lowe*

GUIDELINES FOR TILE DON BRONSON WALL OF FAME

- (1) Must be volunteer
- (2) Application made to NCFCC
- (3) Cut off date: 01 Feb each year
- (4) Volunteer of conservation or conservation education
- (5) Volunteer to establish and/or maintain habitat
- (6) Hunter education
- (7) Bow education
- (8) Waterfowl education
- (9) Trapping education
- (10) Fishing education
- (11) Sportsmen/sportswomen contribute to conservation and/or education
- (12) Youth education on any of above
- (13) Works restricted and submit for Niagara County and area (nearby counties)
- (14) Must be individuals not organization, clubs, or agencies
- (15) Do not need to be deceased for honoree
- (16) Any club or organization or individual may submit application
- (17) No limit on application
- (18) Unanimous vote by committee

*Contact person:* Larry Koch  
2416 Hess Rd.  
Appleton, NY 14008  
Phone: (716) 778-9935

**5) Ads Newsletter:** *John Butcher*

Gordon Botting Sr and John Butcher have been selling ads for the 2008 newsletter, most of our advertisers renewed their ads and a couple have upgraded; we also have one new sponsor, Fort Hyde Kennels. Unfortunately we lost a couple of our old sponsors. If any would like to sell our purchase advertisements in the NCFCC newsletter please contact Gordon Botting Sr @ 434-1563 or John Butcher @ 434-7176.

**6) T-Shirts:** *John Butcher* – No report

**C. Public Relations:** *Bill Hilts Jr.* – No report

**D. Rosters:** *John Butcher*

If your club had elections please get the updated rosters to John ASAP so that the new officers and directors receive the minutes.

**E. Small Game:** *Chris Schotz*

Gander Mountain is presenting an Upland & Wetland Bird Habitat Education & Appreciation Day Sunday, February 10th starting at 10:00 am. Seminars are:

- 1) Waterfowl & Wetland Habitat Management Seminar  
By Former Ducks Unlimited Biologist Shanna Shaw @ 10 am.
- 2) Natural Resources Conservation Service Seminar  
By NRCS Biologist Shanna Shaw @ 11:30 am.
- 3) Pheasant & Upland Habitat Management Seminar  
By Pheasants Forever Biologist Shon Robbins @ 12 pm.
- 4) Introduction to DEC Grasslands for Wildlife Seminar  
By DEC Biologist Mike Murphy @ 1:30 pm.
- 5) Ruffed Grouse & Upland Habitat Management Seminar  
By Ruffed Grouse Society Biologist Paul Karczmarczyk @ 2 pm.
- 6) Introduction to the Audubon Society Seminar  
By the Buffalo Audubon Society @ 3:30 pm.
- 7) Turkey & Upland Habitat Management Seminar  
By NWTf Biologist Doug Little @ 4 pm.
- 8) Introduction to the Master Forest Owners Seminar  
By Master Forest Owner Barbara Wenke @ 5:30 pm.

**F. Big Game:** *Dale Dunkelberger*

- 1) On Tuesday 2/5/08 there is a Black Bear Public Information Meeting about the range, habits and current status of black bears in the Western New York Area. DEC Wildlife staff will present safety tips on preventing negative encounters with bears, as well as accept public input on future local black bear management strategies. This is a free event and anyone interested is welcome and encouraged to attend. It starts at 7:00 PM at Wales Center Volunteer Fire Company Hall, 12300 Big Tree Road, Wales Center, NY 14169. Call 716-372-0645, or 716-851-7201 for Tim Spierto or Megan Gollwitzer for information.
- 2) Deer season is over but the DEC has not published the numbers, but they should be a little higher than last year.
- 3) About 2,000 deer were run through the check station this year and 1,020 have been tested so far by the DEC and they have found no cases of CWD.
- 4) The DEC has found three deer that tested positive with Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in Niagara County.
- 5) The DEC reported there were 59 bears harvested in region 9 this year. There were 21 road kill bears in 2007 and 1 in 2008. It is estimated there are over 1,000 bears in the southern range and they had to destroy only one nuisance near Allegheny Park that was breaking into cabins.
- 6) Dale reminded everyone to read their game syllabus where it states it is illegal to take a bear sow with cubs. The last few winters it has not been cold enough for the sow to den up, so if you see two or more bears in a group, you can't shoot at them.
- 7) There were 273 tickets issued this year for fish and wildlife violations.

**G. Water Fowl:** *Kenneth R. Zolnowski, Dale Dunkelberger reported*

- 1) Dale reported ducks were up 14%, but local water draw down seemed to reduce numbers at the Iroquois, Tonawanda and Oak Orchard wildlife preserves because of overfls.
- 2) Inland lakes remained open and held ducks and geese into early January.

- 3) There is a new ten-day goose hunt in the southern zone. It will run from March 1st to March 10th with a 5-bird limit in 2008.

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

- 1) Larry reported there is a refresher course for hunter instructors April 29, 2008 at the Harland Conservation Club.
- 2) A motion was made by Larry Koch and 2nd by Chris Schotz to pay the Hartland Conservation Club \$125 for the refreshments at hunter safety instructors course.
- 3) Dale reported there was 38 hunting related shooting incidences in 2007. This is three more than in 2006.
- 4) Dale reported the new ruling on handling the electronic ignition muzzleloaders is the same as all muzzleloaders, except you have to pull the batteries when you put it in your car.
- 5) Dale reported archery would not be added to the firearms hunter safety course in New York State because other states will not honor a combined certificate. Archery and firearms safety courses must be kept separate.
- 6) Dale reported as of January 31st all hunter safety courses must have live fire or simulated fire to make the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) standards.

**I. Sport Fishing:** *Paul Jackson*

- 1) Paul reported he attended a DEC meetings on setting the stocking levels of salmon in Lake Ontario. The DEC Fish Hatchery was low on eggs last year and had to adjust the stocking levels all across the state. There are only a million stock able salmon for the lake this year. They had to adjust the stocking levels all across the state. They are going to give the pen projects priority, but the way salmon are raised by the hatchery they may not get as many as they need. For instance the salmon raised in well water are faster growing, than those raised in river water.
- 2) Paul attended another meeting on the revitalization plan being funded with money from the 2006 settlement (\$12 million) of the state's natural resources damages lawsuit against Occidental Chemical Corp. dealing with pollution that devastated sport fishing in the Niagara River, Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River. The DEC, as trustee of New York's natural resources, developed the restoration plan with public input. The plan will fund 42 projects along Lake Ontario from the base of Niagara Falls to St. Lawrence counties that will enhance fish habitat and research, promote angler outreach and improve public fishing access. Locally, the spending plan will fund upgrades for improvements to numerous boat launch and access sites. A new automated fish-marking trailer will be delivered in May that will be used to mark Chinook salmon, Steelhead, Lake Trout, and other species.

**J. Habitat:** *Chris Schotz & David Whitt*

Chris reported he is working with Dave Whitt on the project to do some grasslands at the Sanborn Historical Society grounds on route 31. They have some seed lined up.

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

Bill attended the DEC meeting last week with Paul Jackson. Bill thought a fish hatchery, which would release fish into the Niagara River and Lake Ontario, could be a perfect fit for Joseph Davis State Park. Building a fishery could be a significant boost to the area's already healthy fishing industry, be a tourism magnet and fix current difficulties with stocking the lake. The county fisheries board had commissioned a study, obtained through a grant from CWM Chemical Services, on whether Joseph Davis Park would make sense for a fishery. The study indicated the operation could cost around \$10 million.

Paul Jackson mentioned Frank Campbell, chairman of the fisheries board and others are volunteers and have spent a lot of time on this project.

**L. Region 9 Fish and Wild Life Board:** *Greg Tessmann* – No report

**M. NYS Conservation Council:** *Dale Dunkelberger* – No report

**N. S.C.O.P.E.:** *William Mudge*

- 1) Bill passed around a copy of SCOPE's 2008 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.
- 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)

**O. Youth Programs:**

**1) Mobile Air Rifle Range:** *John Butcher, Gordon Botting Sr.*

- a) John Butcher reported that the habitat Shooting Trailer is usually idle this time of year with the exception of the boat show at the Summit Park Mall in January. The NCFCC missed the opportunity to be there:
  - (1) Mall management never contacted us; it's my understanding that they have had a change in personnel.
  - (2) Even though I knew the show was coming up I just didn't have the time to organize the volunteers or contact the mall myself. Hopefully we can get back in next year.

**2) Youth Mentor Clays League:** *John Butcher, Bryan Meahl*

- a) John Butcher reported that Bryan Meahl is running a winter youth mentor sporting clays league at North Forest Rod & Gun Club. It is open to any affiliated federation club member and their family. Registration fee is \$25.00 for adults and youths. Range fees: Adults \$10<sup>00</sup> a round. Youth range fees and ammo free (fees made possible by a grant from the NRA Foundation). League started Jan. 19th, last chance to sign up was Feb. 3rd.
- b) Youth must live in Niagara County, be between the ages of 12 & 17 years of age and should have some experience shooting sporting clays, skeet or trap.
- c) League will run for 10 weeks starting January 19th. Shooting is Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 am -3:00pm. John noted that since he wrote the grant ammunition has increased considerably and that to help offset the cost of shooting he is holding a gun raffle. We have a Remington 11-87 20 gauge shotgun: Synthetic stock – 28" Vent Rib. Donation amount is \$ 5<sup>00</sup>. Only 250 tickets sold. Drawing will be held April 6th, 2008 at the league awards banquet. Anyone interested in selling or purchasing tickets to support youth shooting sports should call John at 434-7176.

**3) Pheasant Program:** *Bob Glidden* – No report

**P. Conservation Education:**

**1) Niagara County Youth Board:** *Greg Tessmann* – No report

**2) Niagara County Fair:** – No report

**3) Wild Life Festival:** John Butcher: – No report

**4) 5th & 6th Grade Environmental Field Days:** *Bob Kerns, Greg Tessmann* – No report

**5) DEC Youth Camp:** *Paul Jackson, John Butcher*

John Butcher reported that the federation is going to partner with the Youth Bureau and Niagara County

Legislator Tony Nemi in order to get kids to DEC Youth Camp. Federation President John Butcher and Legislator Tony Nemi will be holding an informational seminar and answer question about NYS DEC Camp Rushford to Niagara County residents on January 30th at 7:00 pm at the Youth Bureau, Willow Street Lockport, NY.

**6) Convention:** *Walter Kanouff & Matt Zarnosky*

- a) Walter reported the date chosen for the awards banquet will be Saturday, March 29th, 2008, at the Tonawanda Sportsmen Club.
- b) John Butcher has Award Nomination forms available. He requested all delegates to take them back to their clubs and get some nominations for awards. If there is someone at your club that has done something outstanding in the community, it is your responsibility to nominate them. These forms are to be forwarded to Bill Hilts Jr.

**Q. Annual Picnic:**

Larry Koch reported the date chosen for the annual picnic will be July 21st, 2008, at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 4487 Lake Ave., Lockport, NY.

**8. Application for Membership:**

Gordon Botting reminded the delegates to have their clubs pay their dues for this year.

**9. Old Business:**

- A. A motion to appoint Bill Mudge as Alternate Delegate to the New York State Conservation Council was made by Chris Schotz, 2nd by Gordon Botting Sr., carried.
- B. Chris Schotz reported that Chapter 29 of Pheasants Forever is on hold. The president has stepped down and secretary Dave Whitt resigned. They need new officers, if you are interested contact Chris Schotz.

**10. New Business:**

John Butcher reported that Denny Murphy of Fort Hyde Kennels contacted him; they are holding a seminar for sportsmen that are interested in learning about Sporting Dog Education. Event will be Saturday March 1st, 10:00am until 3:00pm. Location Fort Hyde Kennels.

For additional information contact Denny Murphy @ 772-2356 (See Insert).

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

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

Dale reported their ponds are overgrown with weeds and cattails. He would like some information on what type of herbicides to use from any pond experts we have at the federation. If you have any information contact Dale.

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

- 1) The IACA next meeting will be February 13, 2008 at the AMVETS Post 26 on 600 Ward Road in North Tonawanda at 8:00 p.m.
- 2) The IACA will be holding a gun show March 15th and 16th at the AMVETS, starting at 9:00 am.

**C. Niagara County Gobblers Chapter NWTF:** *Pam Leaderhouse*

There next meeting will be on April 9, 2008 at 7:30PM at the Buckeye Scents Farm 4202 Willow Rd., Wilson. The next two meetings will be July 9, 2008 and October 8, 2008.

**D. Niagara Frontier Friends of the NRA:** *John Butcher & Bill Mudge*

Bill reported their 2008 Banquet will be Saturday April 5th, 2008. See Bill Mudge or John Butcher for banquet and raffle tickets.

**E. Niagara River Anglers:** *Paul Jackson*

- 1) They had their 25th Silver Anniversary Celebration January 19, 2008 at Antonio's Restaurant and Banquet Center.
- 2) They are having a Steelhead Contest February 26, 2008.
- 3) At their last meeting they had people from AES Summerset come in and give a presentation on the new peer in front of their plant. It is 3200 feet long and they are going to bring in lake freighters to unload coal in case there is an interruption in supply by railroad.

**F. North Forest:** *Dale Dunkelberger*

Dale reported they had elections and have a new slate of officers.

**G. Pioneer Sportsmen Club:** *Don Clark*

Don reported they are still looking for new members. They meet every other month. Their next meeting will be 9:30 am, Wednesday March 5, 2008 at the Wilson Conservation Club.

**H. SCOPE:** *William Mudge*

Bill reported their next meeting is February 20, 2008 at the American Legion Post 410, 42 Niagara Street in Lockport at 7:00 p.m.; everyone is welcome to attend as his guest.

**I. Tonawanda Sportsmen Club:** *Ed Belbas*

Their annual gun raffle will be on March 9, 2008. It starts at 1:00 pm and tickets are \$20. See Ed for tickets.

**J. Wilson Conservation Club:** *Chris Schotz*

See Chris to get tickets for the Wilson Conservation Club sportsman raffle.

**K. Wolcottsville Conservation Club:** *Larry Childs*

See Larry to get tickets for their spring raffle April 27, 2008.

**12. Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn, Chris Schotz, 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)