

# Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs Minutes

## April 23rd. 2007

### NOTICE

The next meeting will be Monday May 28, 2007 at the 4-H Bldg., Lockport, New York.

#### 1. Pledge to the Flag

Niagara County Federation of Conservation Club April 2007 Meeting held on the 23rd. 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.

#### 2. Reception of Guest: Iroquois Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of America would like us to partner with them in getting shooting sports going back in Niagara County again.

##### A. Robert K. Drury - Paid professional & District Executive

- 1) Bob has been involved in the shooting sports and archery all his life. He is a retired police captain of Niagara County Sheriff's Department, director of law enforcement training, and certified FBI instructor.
- 2) One out of every four kids in this area is involved in scouting.
- 3) The venture crew is available for boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 21. Venture crews are a focus group, they compete in Batavia and Warsaw with archery, shotgun and 22 caliber.
- 4) When they become a venture crewmember it cost 13 dollars to become a member of the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts put on competition for the youth to travel to. This fee covers a 10 million insurance policy to cover them while traveling and 3 dollars goes toward a million dollar insurance policy to cover them locally.
- 5) They recognize NRA certified instructors. If those instructors want to get cross-trained, they can be instructors for the Boy Scouts.
- 6) For more information call Bob at 1-800-592-0242 or email: [rdrury@hotmail.org](mailto:rdrury@hotmail.org)

##### B. Curtis Hall — Highest-ranking volunteer & District Commissioner

Curt also has been involved in the shooting sports and archery all his life. He became involved in scouting when his boys got into it. Now that his boys are older he moved up in the district to be liaison between the district and any units that might be starting. In short he is the guy that will help you get started.

#### 3. Minutes:

A motion was made by Bob Kerns to accept the minutes, 2nd by Walter Kanouff, carried.

#### 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 Chris Schotz, 2nd by Pam Leaderhouse, carried.

**6. Communications:**

**A. Bills:**

- 1) Bill from LaSalle Sportsmen Club for \$1824.00 for 135 people at \$10.95 each. John Butcher will request Treasurer Gordon Botting to pay the bill less sales tax, because we are exempt.
- 2) Bills from Ed Belbas for \$76.57 and \$42.80 for a total of \$119.39.

B. Notices: No report

C. **Sick Call:** A card was passed around for everyone to sign for Joe Fiori.

**7. Committee Reports**

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

Will Collins from Collin's Accounting has prepared our 2006 taxes. We had to file with New York State and The Federal Government because we had over \$25,000 in income. John Butcher and Treasurer Gordon Botting SR have signed the forms and mailed them.

**B. Fundraising:**

- 1) **Patches:** *Gordon Botting Sr* 2007 Patches are available and are for sale at a price of \$3.50.
- 2) **Knives:** *Chris Schotz, Gordon Botting Sr*
  - a) Dale Shank reported he sold \$450.00 worth of tickets on the knife at the 3F Club raffle on Saturday, April 21, 2007. The reason he made so much money was he had three ladies helping him, by walking through the club. The mother of the past and present camp attendees, the mother of a future camp attendee, the aunt of a camp attendee.
  - b) Chris Schotz brought a knife catalog to the meeting. If anyone wants to sit on the committee with Chris and go through the process of picking a knife for next year see Chris after the meeting. The parameters are:
    - (1) An amount not to exceed 15 knives.
    - (2) Maximum price to be kept at \$35.00 per knife.
    - (3) Knives must be made in USA.
    - (4) Knives may be pocket folders or sheath.

- c) A motion was made by Dale Shank to raise the maximum price to \$40.00 per knife, 2nd by Dick Heschke, carried.
- d) If you need a knife for an event at your club contact Gordon Botting at 716-434-1563.
- 3) **Grants:** *John Butcher:* John reported once he gets an invoice from Treasurer Gordon Botting for the final cost of the cabinetry for the shooting trailer he would submit it to the DEC and get the balance of our funds.
- 4) **Don Bronson Memorial Fund:** *Larry Koch, Greg Tessmann* — John Butcher reported that the \$188.00 raised on the 50/50 split at the awards banquet will go to the Bronson memorial fund.
- 5) **Ads Newsletter:** *John Butcher*
  - a) There is still space available.
  - b) John gave Collins Accounting & Collins Construction ads in our newsletter for our income tax preparation.

### C. Public Relations: *Bill Hilts Jr*

The Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs Award Banquet of April 14, 2007 appeared in the Tuesday Niagara Falls Gazette. Special Thanks to Bill Hilts Jr for writing the article and for volunteering to MC the banquet.

### D. Rosters: *John Butcher*

- 1) If your club had elections please get the updated rosters to John ASAP so that the new officers and directors receive the minutes.
- 2) Gordon Botting has mailed out invoices to the clubs to remind them their dues to the Federation are due.

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

- 1) The Spring Youth Turkey Weekend was April 21 - 22, 2007.
  - a) Pam Leaderhouse reported a 12 year old girl from the Niagara County Gobblers shot her first Turkey.
  - b) John Butcher reported his daughter shot her first turkey.
- 2) Regular Turkey season opens from May 1 - 31, 2007.

### F. Big Game: *Dale Dunkelberger* — No report

### G. Water Fowl: *Kenneth R. Zolnowski* - Region 9 Representative - NYSCC Waterfowl Committee

- 1) Summary of Water fowl-Related Items:
  - a) WF Season & Bag
    - (1) Likely season framework: 60 days! 4 birds (down from 6).
    - (2) Bag reduction opposed by waterfowl groups - many species populations above Long Term Average.
    - (3) Season Dates for 2007: 23 Oct. —6 Dec. (45 days) & 29 Dec. — 12 Jan. (15 days).
  - b) TWMA Permit System
    - (1) 2 reservation dates in CY2006: 21 & 22 October.
    - (2) Access to birds impacted by October Storm.
    - c) Iroquois NWR. Poor Duck season: closed for first week (storm damage).

d) **FL&WNYWA Nest Project**

PA/MI/So. ON have adopted similar projects — over 1000 structures fielded in 2006/7

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

- 1) Dale Dunkelberger reported on April 17, 2007 he held a hunter refresher-training course at the Tonawanda Sportsmen Club from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM.
- 2) The new hunter safety instructor's class is on June 19 & 20, 2007.

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

- 1) Paul reported stream stocking is under way. Wilson was stocked Wednesday with steelhead. River stocking has yet to happen, they are waiting for the ice to clear out.
- 2) Paul reported Olcott and Wilson pen projects are under way.
- 3) Paul reported recent fish stocking was done at Oppenheim Park and Hyde Park Lake by the DEC and the NRAA.

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

- 1) Chris applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a grassland grant and was accepted under a medium priority.
- 2) Chris feels the Federation should take a more active role in improving habitat. Essentially what it would cost is a little over \$300.00 an acre. He would like to get a committee together for sight selection. See Chris to sign up.
- 3) John Butcher is still drafting a letter to the appropriate legislators to support the Genesee County Federation of Sportsmen Clubs stand against converting the John White Game Farm into a National Cemetery.

**K. C.F.A.B.:** *John Long Sr., Bill Hilts Sr* - No report

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

**M. NYS Conservation Council:** *Dale Dunkelberger~ Gerry Bennett*

- 1) Dale reported the NYS Conservation Council committee meeting is this Saturday, April 28, 2007.
- 2) Dale gave a report on the WNY Environmental Federation, held Sunday, April 22, 2007 at Hoaks Restaurant, Hamburg, NY at 1:00 p.m.
  - a) They are sending a letter to Gerald A. Barnhart opposing the grant from the Habitat Access Stamp monies to the New York City Audubon Society. They got \$10,700 for an eco-cruise in the New York harbor for New York City Youth, which does not fall under habitat access.
  - b) Region 9 is getting:
    - [1] A fish biologist
    - (2) Wetlands biologist
    - (3) A new ECO for Erie County
  - c) We are losing an ECO from Niagara County.
  - d) They still have not replaced Robert T. Lucas director of law enforcement in Albany.

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

1) The Assembly will be voting on the gun bill package on Wednesday, April 25, 2007. The bills to be voted on include the following:

- a) **A76** — Weisberg - Enacts the “children’s weapon accident prevention act”; creates crimes of failure to store a weapon safely in the first and second degrees, aggravated failure to store a weapon, and criminally negligent storage of a weapon in the first and second degrees; provides affirmative defenses; directs the commissioner of education to develop a weapons safety program.
- b) **A829** — Englebright - Proscribes persons, firms or corporations engaged in retail business of selling firearms from selling, delivering or transferring child operated firearms.
- c) **A2772** — Eddington - Bans the sale, use or possession of 50-caliber weapons
- d) **A3447** — Koon- Includes possession of armor piercing, frangible or devastator ammunition as criminal possession of a weapon
- e) **A3451** — Koon - Provides for the submission of expended projectiles and shell casings and guns to the state police pistol and revolver ballistic identification electronic databank
- f) **A6525** — Paulin - Requires the creation and imposition of restrictive commercial practices and stringent record keeping and reporting to prevent gun sales to criminals.
- g) **A7331** — Titone - Relates to banning the possession, sale or manufacture of assault weapons

**Contact your Assembly representatives and urge them to vote NO on all of these bills.**

- 2) Bill passed around a copy of SCOPE’s 2007 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.
- 3) 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 LegislativeReport.pdf](http://scopeny.org/ARCHIVES/SCOPE%20LegislativeReport.pdf)

- 4) Bill will be meeting with the Firearms Legislative Committee consisting of Bill Mudge, Budd Schroeder, Bill Hilts SR and John Long to set a date for our yearly meeting and keep a dialogue open with Judge Broderick.

#### **O. Youth Programs:**

##### **1) Mobile Air Rifle Range: *Gordon Botting Sr***

- a) John reported the trailer was setup at the Summit Park Mall March 31, 2007 and April 1, 2007. We had a good turn out and thanks to all the volunteers.
- b) John mentioned David Whitt told him the Boy Scouts will be at Fort Niagara May 19, 2007. If we set the trailer up we will need volunteers and someone there at all times certified by the DEC or the NRA.

##### **2) Youth Mentor Clays League: *Bryan Meahl, Doug Thompson***

John Butcher talked with Mike Rexford who runs the youth program and they are planning a September or October date. John will contact Mike and try to set up a meeting with those interested.

##### **3) Pheasant Program: *Bob Glidden***

- a) Bob made a 2006 4H Pheasant Raising Program report.

- (1) They had 23 sites this year of which 5 were new, with 32 youth participants.
  - (2) They started out in June with 2005 day-old chicks & in Aug.-Sept. we released 1315 birds to the wilds of Niagara County.
  - (3) The average success rate for the program was 66%.
  - (4) They had 20 people attend the August Field Trip, bird release & Picnic at the Glidden's Tree Farm in Somerset.
  - (5) The Most Successful Raiser Award was presented to Bobby & Josh Groff.
- b) President John Butcher presented Bob Glidden with a check for \$1000.00 for the 4H Pheasant Raising Program.

**P. Conservation Education:**

- 1) **Niagara County Youth Board:** - No report.
- 2) **Niagara County Fair:** (Open)
- 3) **Wild Life Festival:** *Larry Koch* - No report
- 4) **5th & 6th Grade Environmental Field Days:** *Bob Kems, Greg Tessmann*
  - a) Bob reported the Field Days are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday June 5th & 6th.
  - b) We received a letter from Darcy Tone about donating meals for the volunteers again.
- 5) **DEC Youth Camp:** *Paul Jackson*  
Paul has 10 kids lined up for Rushford and has received their letters back and they have been accepted.

**Q. Convention:** *Walter Kanouff & Matt Zarnosky*

- 1) Walter thanked all the clubs that made donations to the 2007 Annual Awards Banquet at the LaSalle Sportsmen Club on April 14, 2007.
- 2) A round of applause was given to Walter & Matt for a job well done.

**R. Annual Picnic:** *Tammy Thrush & Chris Schotz*

The annual picnic will be at the Wilson Conservation Club in July this year.

**8. Application for Membership** —No report

**9. Old Business**

- A. Paul Jackson reported Bill Hilts told him the Fishery Advisory Board was given the funding they needed to look into the new hatchery from CWM monies.
- B. John Butcher reported he got a letter and we are covered by the United Insurance Agency for Directors and Officers Insurance.

**10. New Business** - No report

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

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

Dale Shank and Doug Walck are putting on a pistol permit course on April 24, 2007 from 6:00 PM to

10:00 PM for the Wheatfield Firearms Committee at the Wheatfield Community Center.

**B. WNY Friends of the NRA:** *John Butcher & Bill Mudge*

Bill reported he is still working on getting some grants approved by the new lawyer at NRAHQ.

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

The IACA next meeting will be May 19, 2007 at the AM VETS Post 26 on 600 Ward Road in North Tonawanda at 8:00 p.m.

**D. LaSalle Sportsmen Club:** *Walter Kanouff*

They are having a raffle on July 21, 2007 for a \$5.00 ticket.

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

The annual Smelt Fest will be held May 4th at the Lewiston Landing at 6:00 pm.

**F. Niagara County Sportsmen:** *Gerry Bennett*

Niagara County Sportsmen's Association is hosting a "Women Taking Aim" Shooting Clinic Saturday, June 23, 2007. Sign in at 8:30 AM Cost: \$10.00 per person.

**G. North Forest:** *Dale Dunkelberger*

- 1) They are running their annual gun raffle for June 10, 2007. See Dale for tickets.
- 2) Two groups of kids from their youth program that won first and third place in the 2006 New York State Scholastic Clay Target Shooting will be traveling to San Antonio Texas for the Nationals this July.

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

Bill reported their next meeting is May 16, 2007 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:** *Ed Belbas*

- 1) ATA Western Zone shoot will be May 12 & 13, 2007 at their club.
- 2) Their summer trap and skeet will start on May 30, 2007.
- 3) Their clubhouse has been renovated and they will be open for dinners Fridays at 4:30 PM starting May 4, 2007.

**J. Wilson Auxiliary:** *Tammy Thrush*

They will be having their Annual Theme Basket Raffle on May 5, 2007 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

**12. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn, Pam Leaderhouse, 2nd Bob Kerns, 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)