

NIAGARA COUNTY FEDERATION OF CONSERVATION CLUBS INC. FEBRUARY 26th 2007 MINUTES

NOTICE

The next meeting will be Monday March 26, 2007 at the 4-H Bldg., Lockport, New York.

1. Pledge to the Flag

Niagara County Federation of Conservation Club February 2007 Meeting held on the 26th. 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.

2. Reception of Guest: *ECO Roger Thompson*

- A. In response to questions from delegates about coyotes attacking your dogs, ECO Roger Thompson reported you could shoot them. Dogs are property and you can defend your property. However, you may be questioned why you are carrying a firearm.
- B. To prevent the spread of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) in New York and to protect New York's fish resources several new rules are now being put in place, that are changing day by day.
 - a) Bait fish must be purchased from certified dealers such as Gander Mountain. They will issue you a certificate good for seven days.
 - b) If you dip baitfish you cannot transport them by motor vehicle or use them except in the area they were caught.
- C. Roger thought it would be a good idea to have visible fishing licenses, because it would make his job a lot easier and he would not have to disturb fishermen for a license check.

3. Minutes:

A motion was made by Dale Dunkelberger 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.* - No report.

6. Communications:

A. Bills:

Bill from Gordon Botting, Treasurer for \$49.31 for expenses.

B. Notices: Letter from:

- 1) Greg Tessmann - Niagara County Soil & Water letter, on the Don Bronson memorial walk at Victor Fitchlee Park.

- 2) Don Tone — ECFCC, on routing Erie County Banquet tickets.
- 3) Greg Tessmann - Region 9 Fish and Wild Life Board, minutes.
- 4) 2007 refresher education schedule for Region 9 Sportsmen Instructors.
- 5) John Long Jr. - United Insurance Agency, Directors and Officers Insurance.
- 6) Dave Whitt on bear mount going into Fort Niagara Nature Center.

C. **Sick Call:** - No report.

7. **Committee Reports:**

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

- a) John passed out a draft of the 2006 financial statements for the officers.
- b) John reported we have good news and bad news. The good news is we took in \$26,546 and have an \$11,495 surplus. The bad news is if we take in over \$25,000 we have to file income tax.
- c) Since we have to file a tax return because we made over \$26,000, the Finance Committee will get 3 quotes from local Accounting firms.
- d) John is going to call a meeting of the finance and audit committee. They will check the \$11,495 surplus for restricted funds and non-restricted funds, and draft a budget for 2007.

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) 2007 Case knives are available any club that would like a knife for an upcoming fundraising event should contact Treasurer Gordon Botting Sr.
- b) A motion was made by Dale Shank that a 100% of the money we make on knives goes to send kids to DEC Camp and we makeup the rest from general funds, 2nd by Larry Childs, carried.

3) **Grants:** *John Butcher*

- a) John reported we received a grant check of \$1800.00 from the NRA Foundation for the shooting sports.
- b) Gorton Botting received a check for \$5000.00 from Niagara County.
- c) John reported we have a balance of \$1250 coming from the DelMonte grant which can not be released until the cabinetry is finished and the follow report is completed and submitted to the DEC.

4) **Don Bronson Memorial Fund:** *Larry Koch, Greg Tessmann*

- a) Lany Koch reported whoever maintains the Victor Fitchlee Park in Gasport, New York is concerned about vandalism to a wall and would like to see a walk instead. Both Greg Tessmann and Larry Koch would like to see a wall.
- b) A motion was made by Gordon Botting that the Federation donate \$100.00 toward the Don Bronson Memorial Fund, 2nd by Dale Dunkelberger, carried.

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

We still have openings and need ads to fill the monthly newsletter, ads help offset the cost of our printing. The more ads we sell the less money that comes out of NCFCC general fund. Thus more funds will be available for youth and habitat projects.

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

John Butcher would like to submit a press release to the media. When we give Bob Glidden a check at the March meeting, we should take a picture and submit to the paper that the Niagara County Federation of Sportsmen Clubs donates \$1000.00 to the 4H Pheasant program.

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 is going to send out invoices to the clubs to remind Federation dues are payable by March 31st 2007.

E. Small Game: *Chris Schotz*

Dale Dunkelberger reported he received a letter from the **DEC**, that they are doing a study in Lockport and Eastern Royalton on the short-eared owl. The owls are equipped with transmitters. They are studying their movements and habitat, since they are an endangered species.

F. Big Game: *Dale Dunkelberger*

No report, we are waiting for reports from the DEC.

G. Water Fowl: A motion was made by Larry Koch that we nominate Keith Schultz as region 9 waterfowl delegate to replace Don Bronson, 2nd by Gordon Botting.

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

- 1) Gary Lowe reported if you are interested in becoming a hunter safety instructor contact him at 716-236-0397.
 - a) On March 10, 2007 there is going to be a master instructor's class.
 - b) On March 19&20, 2007 there will be a class for new instructors.
- 2) Ed Belbas thanked the Niagara County Federation for picking up the cost of the lunches for the hunter safety instructor's refresher course at the Tonawanda Sportsmen Club.
- 3) A round of applause was given to Larry Koch for being the new master hunter safety instructor.
- 4) Dave Lavery should have the hunter safety training posters done by the next meeting in April.

I. Sport Fishing: *Paul Jackson, Joe Wilczewski*

- 1) Paul Jackson announced the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is having a "State of Lake Ontario" public meeting on Thursday, March 1, 2007: 7 - 10p.m. here at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building to discuss Lake Ontario fisheries.
- 2) Paul Jackson attended a meeting of pen co-coordinators from all over New York State. It is working so they are increasing the number of fish being allowed to be penned. Most of the clubs are increasing the number of pens.

J. Habitat: *Chris Schotz & David Whitt*

- 1) Ed Belbas announced Quaker Boy Seeds would give a special price to the Federation. Dale Dunkelberger and Gordon Botting advised against buying large quantities of seed. Storage is difficult and seed is subject to rot.
- 2) No-till grain drill
 - a) Dale Dunkelberger will give a report at the next meeting of what money has been collected for the use of the no-till grain drill for the oversight committee. This information is needed for the NWTF and Pheasants forever for follow up reports to their national organizations.
 - b) John Butcher feels we are not getting the use out of the drill we had hoped for and should advertise that it is available for habitat use. John will contact Bill Hilts jr. and ask him to write an article about the drill in his column.

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

L. Region 9 Fish and Wild Life Board: *Greg Tessmann*

- 1) Greg reported on early successional habitat work for woodcock as part of the USDA program and the WHIP program. Greg completed some wetland and grassland projects this year. Good reports of pheasant broods. Approximately 2000 pheasants stocked by 4H group this year.
- 2) Wildlife staff was very busy collecting samples for CWD at the John White Game Farm. Approximately 1000 samples were taken.
- 3) Deer check stations - Deer numbers were slightly down at the check stations Route 219 Springville checked 161 deer over two days compared to 200 deer checked last year. Route 16 Holland check station checked 202 deer over two days compared to 183 deer checked last year.
- 4) Black bear - There has been a reported take of 58 bears in the region during the archery and gun season (as of 12/7/06).
- 5) Applications for Habitat Access Stamp Funding program must be in by February 5, 2007.
- 6) The board named Chuck Couture and Bob Church as part of the application review committee. Dennis Sibley will be contacted to see if he is interested in being a member of the committee.

M. NYS Conservation Council: *Dale Dunkelberger Chris Schotz*

- 1) The spring legislative meeting will be March 11th & 12th ending with the Sportsmen's March on Albany on the 13th.
- 2) The New York State Conservation Council is looking for support to get legislation passed that will allow our junior hunters to hunt big game. We need sportsmen and youth to meet with their Assemblyman and Senator and voice their support for the following Assembly and Senate bills. Please phone, send emails or write letters to your Assemblyman and Senator asking them to support this legislation.
 - a) A04623 -Junior Archery (allow 12 & 13 year olds to hunt big game with a bow.)
 - b) S00 113 -Junior Archery (allow 12 & 13 year olds to hunt big game with a bow.)
 - c) A03878 -Junior Big Game (allow 14 & 15 year olds to hunt big game with a gun.)
 - d) S00857 -Junior Big Game (allow 14 & 15 year olds to hunt big game with a gun.)
- 3) Gerry Bennett reported he attended the Western New York Environmental Federation Meeting on Sunday January 28, 2007 in Hamburg, NY.
 - a) The ECO's have put in for all the time they were looking for Ralph "Bucky" Phillips.
 - b) Injuries are down deer hunting, making it the fourth safest on record.
 - c) There is a new ECQ in Erie County.
 - d) There were 2352 deer checks and 113 bear checks.
 - e) The new hunting license colors will be green, yellow and light gray.
 - 1) They suggested we put in our newsletter Conservation Club Insurance Programs.
 - g) They wanted an answer from all the clubs on a visible fishing license. (The Niagara County Federation has already stated their opposition to visible fishing licenses to the NYSCC.)

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

- 1) 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.
 - a) Two new bills we support:
 - (1) A5869/S2636 - Reduces the minimum age for possession and use of a rifle or shotgun at a shooting range from 12 to 8 years of age, provided the young person is under the immediate supervision, guidance and instruction of a qualified adult.

- (2) 16064/S3219 — Allows hunters to use a rifle during open season for deer and bear in the counties of Chemung, Steuben and Yates.
- 2) 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. Go to web page:
http://scopeny.org/ARCHIVES/SCOPF_Legislative_Report.pdf

0. Youth Programs:

1) Mobile Air Rifle Range: *Gordon Bolting Sr*

Gordon reported the trailer is still at the cabinetmaker. The weather has been too inclement to have the cabinets fabricated in the trailer. Gordon will check with the cabinetmaker and try to get the work done by March 31st SO the trailer will be ready for the Outdoor Show at the Summit Mall.

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

John Butcher is still trying to get a committee together to help run a youth league for shotgun shooting. The league will be funded by the \$1800 NRA grant. Anyone that would like to volunteer to help with this committee should contact John Butcher at 434-7176.

3) Pheasant Program: *Bob Glidden, Greg Tessmann*

- a) John Butcher reported the pheasant program is in need of support. The Niagara County Federation has earmarked \$1000.00 for them, but they still need additional funds. Please donate what your club can afford.
- b) John Butcher will contact Bob Glidden and ask him to submit expenses reports for to the Federation.

P. Conservation Education:

1) Niagara County Fair (Open)

2) Wild Life Festival *Larry Koch & John Butcher*

3) 5th. & 6th. Grade Environmental Field Days *Bob Kerns, Greg Tessmann*

Bob reported the Field Days are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday June 5th & 6th.

4) DEC Youth Camp *Paul Jackson*

Paul has 10 kids lined up for Rushford and one set aside for Senator George Maziarz to send. They decide in May what kids will be accepted at camp.

Q. Convention: *Walter Kanouff & Matt Zarnosky*

1) Walter reported the 2007 Annual Awards Banquet will be at the LaSalle Sportsmen Club on April 14, 2007. He is looking for volunteer to help on the

Committee or just help with things on the day of the banquet.

2) John Butcher has the invitations corrected and will mail them out this week.

3) Matt reported they have received some donations, but are still requested each club to donate a gift for the bucket raffle.

4) John Butcher requested all delegates to go back to their clubs and get some nominations for awards. Each delegate should be looking for someone that is doing a great job in his/her club and/or community.

R. Annual Picnic: *Tammy Thrush & Chris Schotz* - No report.

8. Application for Membership: - None

9. Old Business:

A. John Butcher gave the invoice for \$900.00 for the D & O Insurance Policy from United Insurance to Treasurer Gordon Botting.

B. Dave Whitt reported he checked with the Fort Niagara Nature Center and they will take the bear mount we have in storage on loan. That way we can get it back if we want to use it for the Niagara County Fair. A

motion was made by Gordon Dotting that we loan the bear mount to the Fort Niagara interpretive center, 2nd by Dave Whitt, carried.

- C. A motion was made Dave Whitt that we write 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, 2nd by Gordon Botting, carried.
- D. John Butcher recommended we have a theme each year. As long as we have a patch animal each year, we should put it on the knives, tee shirts, invitations, etc.

10. New Business:

John Butcher announced he has two tickets to the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen Clubs Awards Banquet Saturday March 3, 2007. Secretary Bill Mudge will go with John Butcher to represent the Niagara County Federation.

11. For the Good of the Federation: - John Butcher announced we are going to take events out of the club reports and list them in a calendar form by month and roll them over. That way we will not compete with each other on events. Also information on events is available to everyone, if they want to attend.

A. WNY Friends of the NRA: *John Butcher*

John reported they are going to have their banquet March 24, 2007 at Samuels Grand Manor. We are having Mr. Ron Sehmeits NRA 2nd Vice President as a guest speaker. It is turning into another record banquet. We are returning \$19000 in grant money for the 2006 Grant year. We are asking people that attend the banquet to donate a half hour in time to run a game.

B. Hartland Conservationist: *Matt Zarnosky*

- 1) April 30, 2007 — Hunter Education at 6:00 pm.
- 2) May 2, 2007 - Hunter Education at 6:00 pm.
- 3) May 4, 2007 - Hunter Education at 6:00 pm.

C. Iroquois Arms Collectors: *William Mudge*

The IACA next meeting will be March 14, 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 their Spring Gun Raffle March 24, 2007. Tickets are \$20.00 and are available at the bar.

E. Niagara River Anglers Association: *Paul Jackson*

The anglers will have a Game dinner and raffle on April 14th from noon to 5:00pm. The tickets are \$20 each. This will be before the 2007 Annual Awards Banquet.

F. North American Bear Foundation:

Dale Dunkelberger announced the 2nd Annual Wild Game Dinner put on by The North American Bear Foundation will be tomorrow night Tuesday February 27, 2007 at 6:00pm at The Conference Center in Niagara Falls. Tickets are \$30.00. Contact Bill Hilts @ 731-9984.

G. Pheasants Forever of Western New York: *Dave Whitt*

They are having their 2007 Banquet March 31, 2007.

H. SCOPE: *William Mudge*

Bill reported their next meeting is March 21, 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 Club: *Ed Belbas*

- 1) March 11, 2007 - Frostbite Trap and Skeet Shoot.
- 2) March 17, 2007 - St. Patty's Day Sporting Clay Shoot on.
- 3) March 25, 2007 — Registered ATA Shoot.
- 4) April 15, 2007 - Gun Raffle.

J. Wolcottsville Sportsmen Club: *Larry Childs*

- 1) March 10 & 24, 2007 - Two weeks of trap open to anyone.
- 2) April 22, 2007 - Spring Raffle.

12. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn, Larry Koch, 2nd Gordon Botting, 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