

NIAGARA COUNTY FEDERATION OF CONSERVATION CLUBS

MINUTES MARCH 2005

Pledge to the Flag: Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs March 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 Larry Koch to accept minutes, 2nd by Bob Kerns, 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 Dunkleberger and seconded by 2nd by Dave Jacobs, carried.

Communications Bills and Notices:

Committee Reports: President John Butcher 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. (See Insert)
Finance and Audit: John Butcher and Gordon Botting Sr - No Report.

Fund Raising:

Patches: Patches are still available. They are \$3.50 each. See Gordon Botting.

Knives: Chris Schotz - No Report.

Spring Shoot at North Forest:

Bryan Meahl: Ticket sales for both the Gun Raffle and Fundraising Shoot are brisk. There were only 150 tickets printed and they are going fast. There is much enthusiasm both locally and from as far away as Rochester and Jamestown for the Fundraising Shoot. The gun raffle tickets seem to fit a good spot at \$5.00 and shoot tickets are priced right to fit the stretched budgets of people with Jr. Shooters NFRG has invested much in order to show themselves as good hosts. The club grounds are being spruced up and there is both time and energy and the very necessary ingredient - Money being spent to make this day as special as possible.

John Butcher: The Beretta 391 has arrived at the Cabin Range and is on display. Doug will help us sell tickets. We have received some Donations. Businesses have responded well to the Donor Forms. Both Bryan Meahl and John Butcher will work Business Sponsors between now and shoot. Any club that would like to donate a prize for the bird basket raffle should contact John Butcher. The less we purchase the better we will do. We still have tickets for the Beretta 391. Ticket sales are going well. Please turn in ASAP if you are not going to sell them. Any one that would like to volunteer time to work the shoot should contact Meahl or Butcher. Call Bryan Meahl at 716 778-8163 or John Butcher (716)434-7176 before they are sold out.

Mark Richardson: Mark gave us an early financial report on the fund raising shoot. There were only 300 tickets for the Beretta 391 being raffled. They are \$5.00 each. So far we have sold \$605 worth and are at almost the break even point. We are asking clubs and businesses to underwrite the baskets of prizes up to \$50.00 in value for the Bird Basket Raffle and Chinese Auction..

Grants: John Butcher reported our treasurer Gordon Bolting received a letter from the NRA Foundation stating they cannot process our grant application for \$3,000 until we make a final report of grant 01 UNY45- DEC Youth Camp & 4H Youth Shooter Programs for \$500.00 due 02/28/2002. Secretary Bill Mudge will contact the NRA Foundation and obtain a copy of the original grant so we can complete the Final Report.

Newsletters: John Butcher reported we have an opening for one advertisement inside the front cover. John contacted the new representative from Gander Mountain and will submit a letter of application as requested.. He reported we still have room to start a back page, but still have no advertisements from North Tonawanda and Niagara Falls. A motion to add the Iroquois Trail Council Tent Fund Flyer to our newsletter at no cost was made by Paul Jackson and 211(1 by Dale Dunkleberger, carried (See Insert).

Public Relations: Bill Hilts Jr.- No Report.

Rosters:

John Butcher reminded delegates to fill out the rosters for their clubs and return it ASAP. We will be updating our mailing list and club rosters for 2005 in April. Many clubs have not paid their 2005 membership dues. Mark Richardson passed out notices to clubs delegates to give to their treasurer.

Small Game: Chris Schotz - No Report

Big Game: Dale Dunkleberger reported there is still an Open Comment Period on the public's view of changes to deer hunting in New York. To send written comments on the proposals, email lwwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us or mail to: Big Game Season Changes, NYSDEC, Bureau of Wildlife, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754.

Water Fowl: Don Bronson

The DEC has created a special web page for waterfowl hunters to submit recommendations for the dates of the Fall 2005 waterfowl hunting seasons. A new page on the DEC webpage -<http://www.v.dec.state.ny.us/website/clfwmr/wildlife/guide/miggbinputt.html>

Hunter Safety:

Dale Dunkleberger requested everyone return the Petition - Supporting a Big Game License for 14 & 15 Youths in New York State to him ASAP.

Don Bronson suggested everyone to look at the new International Hunter Education Safety manuals. He feels the program is inferior to the New York State Hunter Safety Education program because there is no way to test the **students**.

Sports Fishing: Paul Jackson

Paul attended a meeting on behalf of his club for the Overall View of the Pen Projects across New York State on March 1, 2005. Olcott is coming on line this year and the Bison City Rod and Gun Club is coming on line with a Pen Project in the Buffalo River.

Attended the State of The Lake Meeting on March 14, 2005 at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building, 4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport, New York. The meeting was lightly attended and there were no controversial issues on the board. They gave a report on the status of the forage fish, exotics such as zebra mussels and Gobi Fish. Also they covered the new fishing regulations and asked for comments. One item discussed was the opening of walleye season in the lower

Niagara River with an 18 inch length and one fish daily. The other item discussed was opening bass season all year around with artificial lures.

Habitat: - Dave Whitt.

The seed distribution is April 30, 2005 at John White on April 30, 2005. The form was in the last minutes. It will consist of corn, sorghum, buckwheat and soybeans Contact Dave and tell him what you want.

C.F.A.13.: - No Report.

Region nine Fish and Wildlife Board: - No report.

NYS Conservation Council: Gerry Bennett - No Reported.

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

Bill passed around a copy of the 2005 Legislative Report. The new item this week we support is *A6608/S 3353* sponsored by Fields/Volker. It relates to the applicability of local noise ordinances to certain sport shooting ranges, exempts certain ranges from local noise ordinances where such shooting ranges were in compliance with the noise ordinances in effect at the time such shooting ranges were initially approved. If you go to our website, www.SCOPEny.org you can download a PDF file of over 42 bills we are reviewing. The site is updated weekly and we sent out alerts.

Bill invited everyone to attend the next Scope Meeting on April 20, 2005. Meeting \Will be held at the American Legion Post 410, 26 Niagara St, Lockport NY at 7:00PM.

4H:

John Butcher reported in 2005 his role as president is to reestablish the youth programs. The \$300C) grant from the FNRA is a start along with the money we make at the NCFCC Fundraising Shoot at North Forest.

Shooting Sports: Mark Richardson - No Report

Pheasant Program - Greg Tessman - No Report

Conservation Education:

Niagara County Fair - No Report.

Wildlife Festival - John Butcher contacted Lori Presti and we are going to have our own tent this year. The Festival will be September 24 and 25th this year.

Fifth and Sixth Grade Environmental Field Days - A motion was made by Dale Dunkleberger to donate \$275.00 to Environmental Field Days for Niagara County 5th and 6th grade 2nd. by Bob Kerns, carried, it is scheduled for the 7th. & 8th. of June 2005.

DEC Youth Camp - Paul Jackson has the name of one kid to send to camp. Kids must be between 12 to 14 years old. Cannot be 15 years old before August 15, 2005. If you know of any other kids contact Paul Jackson or Dale Shank.

Town of Wheatfield Picnic - Don Bronson & Larry Koch - No Report

Convention:

Annual Picnic - Scheduled for July 25th at the North Forest Rod and Gun Club. We need to setup a committee and appoint a chairperson.

Awards Banquet - Gordon Botting Sr., Mark Richardson, and Joseph Wilskowski

The banquet date is Saturday, April 2, 2005. Location is the Masonic Hall, Lockport, New York. The dinner menu will be stuffed pork chops. Table wine, beer, pop and coffee will be provided. Invitations were mailed out and we have 120 RSVP's. We still need volunteers, door prizes. We are making up some Chinese auctions, 50—50 raffle, and a gun raffle of a Henry lever action 22 rifle. Bill Hilts Jr. Will be our master of ceremonies. Awards have been ordered. If anyone has any history about the persons the awards were named after contact John Butcher with pictures and a write up.

Old Business

Mark Richardson passed out a draft copy of the proposed Constitutional changes. Please take these back to your clubs we will be voting on the changes at our next meeting.

New Business: - None

For the Good of the Federation:

Hartland Conservation Club: Has rescheduled their Gun Show to April 30~ and May 1st, ~ 2005. They are going to host the Region 9 Sportsman Education Instructors Refresher Classes on Tuesday April 19, 2005, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Iroquois Arms Collectors: William Mudge reported their next meeting is April 13, 2005 at AM VETS Post 26 on 600 Ward Road in North Tonawanda at 8:00 p.m.

Niagara Orleans Friends of the NRA: William Mudge announced he has the 2006 Friends of the NRA Grant applications. Give Bill a call at 716—772—2261 if you are interested in making out an application for your club.

Niagara River Anglers Association: Paul Jackson reported on April 6, 2005 at 10:30 am. Oppenheimer Park will be getting a stock of fish if anyone wants to be there.

North Forest Rod and Gun Club: Brian Meahl reminded everyone he will see them at the Fundraising Shoot Saturday April 23, 2005

Pheasants Forever of Western New York: Dave Whitt announced will be having their Youth Mentor Hunt on September 17, 2005.

Scope: William Mudge reported their next meeting is April 20, 2005 at the American Legion Post 410, 42 Niagara Street in Lockport at 7:00 p.m...

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'Anibrosio at 716-835-1204.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn, Gordon Botting, 2nd Dale Shank, 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**