

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's clubs, Inc.
Fred D Langdon, Recording Secretary
311 Downing St.
Buffalo, NY 14220

ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUB'S, INC.

Member of New York state conservation council
Monthly newsletter and minutes
January 24, 2003

Federation Meeting Agenda 1/24/03

Call to order - 7:30 Elma Conservation Club

Pledge to flag - President Kruse

Lt. Ken Didion of the DEC swore in the new Officers for the year 2003.

Roll call -- Officers and Directors

Excused: Bob Fuller, Bob Church

Absent: Joe Fischer, Al Comerford

Quorum of member clubs -- Present: West Falls Cons. Soc., East Aurora F& G, NWTurkey Fed, SCOPE, Bison City R&G, Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc., Alden R&G, WNY Trout Unlmted, Niagara River Station, Hawkeye Bowmen, Safari Club, Blasdell R&G, Depew R&G, JR R&G,

Niagara Musky Assoc., NYSCC, Allied Sportsmen, New York Bowhunters, Simon Girty LR, Elma Cons. Club, Hamburg R&G, Lackawanna Cons., Lake Shore Exmpt's, Buffalo R&G, Deer Search, Erie County Trappers. 26 Total

Approval of previous month's minutes

Motion to approve- Nelson Cronin 2nd Pat Schlicht Carried

Secretary's report -- Fred Langdon

No Report

Membership report -- Mike Smith

Mike has sent each club a questioner to up date the club's information Please fill out asap and return it to Mike. These questioners are important as they contain the most updated information about your club and are used thru out the year to contact the right people when needed.

Treasurer's report -- Tony Scime

Balance December 12, 2002 - \$11,029.74 Receipts - \$857.32, Expenses - \$1,680.98

Balance January 23, 2003 - \$10,206.08

Motion to approve - Tom Fischer 2nd Don Davis Carried

Correspondence report -- Will Elliott

Will said that he contacted Sam Concilla Re: the Hamburg Show and that has been straightened out as per president Kruse E-mail to Sam. Will also reported that he was forwarded a letter sent to the DEC by the president of Pheasants Forever responding to the Safari Clubs request to change the restrictions on hunting hens in WMU's, where restricted. Pheasants forever are opposed to the lifting of these restrictions and a return letter was sent to them on behalf of John Majors Chief of the Bureau wild life, explaining the procedure used to initiate the present restrictions.

Dan Tone passed the sign up sheet so that those interested could reserve the time that they wanted to volunteer for the Show, on March 6-9 at the Hamburg Fair Grounds.

Next meetings and locations:

2/27/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - George Washington F & H, 2805 Niagara St. Bflo, NY

3/27/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Lake Shore Fire Co. Exempts, 4591 Lake Shore Rd. Hamburg, NY. Take Rt. 5 and just past Hamburg Town Park, corner of Rogers Rd. is the Firehouse.

4/24/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Hawkeye Bowmen, 13300 Clinton St. Alden, NY

Guest Speakers:

None

Standing Committee Reports:

Archery & Bowhunting--Dave Reed

Archery Shoot Dates - Hawkeye Bowmen - March, 22&23 - Alaskan Shoot, April 13 - Wild Animal Shoot,

August, 15&16 - Traditional Shoot, Sept., 1 - Labor Day Safari Shoot.

Collins Conservation - Feb. 16 - 15 Targets, March, 16 - 15 Targets, April 13 -

Annual Spring fun shoot 30, targets, June 7&8 - I.B.O. qualifier

July 27 - 30 Targets, August 31 - Trophy Fun shoot, 30 Targets,

October 5 - Final tune-up, 30 Targets

West Falls Conservation Society in house archery every Friday night. Call Mike Cummings for info (716) 655-5030

IBO Takes Lead in Defense of Sportsmen's Rights

(Columbus) - The International Bowhunting Organization (IBO), a longtime supporter of conservation issues and sportsmen's rights has contributed \$10,000 to the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance as it works to defeat the anti-hunting movement.

The IBO's generous contribution will help fund efforts by the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance to facilitate the introduction of two important model bills in state legislatures. One bill contains proposed language to limit birth control projects for wildlife, while the other was created to protect those who are targeted by animal rights terrorists. The first bill is designed to limit the unrestricted use of birth control on wildlife. The use of birth control drugs on deer is promoted and funded by animal rights groups that seek to eliminate hunting as a means of controlling wildlife populations. Legislators in Ohio and West Virginia are poised to introduce it in 2003.

The second bill, The Animal and Ecological Terrorism Act, will protect individuals and companies engaging in legitimate medical, biomedical, agricultural and research activities and aid in the arrest and punishment of those supporting and carrying out animal rights or eco-terror acts. "Both of these bills would be of great benefit to bowhunters, and all sportsmen," said Ken Watkins, IBO president. "Anti-hunting groups continue to mislead the public and the media with unsubstantiated claims about deer birth control. It's time states put the brakes on this unregulated, so-called science."

Since 1990, the IBO has contributed in excess of \$180,000 to the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance to defend bowhunting, further pro-hunting legislation and preserve hunter's rights. This year's contribution was made possible by the IBO Bowhunter Defense Fund, which is generated through the efforts of IBO affiliate clubs, special donations, and the shooting participation of members at IBO Bowhunter Defense ranges during IBO Triple Crown and World Championship 3-D tournaments. The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance protects the rights of hunters, anglers and trappers nationally in the courts, legislatures, at the ballot, in Congress and through public education programs. For more information about the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance and its work, call (614) 888-4868 or visit its website, at www.ussportsmen.org.

Crossbow - Tony Gonnello

UPDATE N.Y.:

A bill is currently being drafted/formulated. It will be short and be to legalize the crossbow as a hunting implement in N.Y.S. It will let The D.E.C. set the seasons for the crossbow whenever and wherever the department feels it will benefit the sportsmen and sportswomen.

It appears the Commissioner and Governor is pro-crossbow. When the bill numbers and the sponsors are announced, it will be communicated through the Federation.

ACF

The American Crossbow Federation has a new website: <HorizontalBowHunter.Com>. If you have Internet access, please visit the site and share your feelings about what ACF is doing.

Will Elliott referred to an e-mail warning from New York Bowhunters, (NYB), VP Kevin Armstrong admonishing Will for a column he wrote a few weeks ago. He printed a letter from a local sportsman expressing his difficulty understanding the opposition of the Crossbow by the New York Bowhunters, Will did not comment just printed the letter. The e-mail accused Will of breaching his membership (life member) in that organization, and he also got a phone call from a founder of the NYB accusing him of being on the staff of Horton Bow Co. Will stated that he belongs to four writers organizations and that is not ethical and he vehemently denies that he would jeopardize his integrity by accepting any product that has anything to do with fishing, hunting or trapping. Will sent a registered letter to the President of the NYB requesting to meet with their board of directors, and he will. Will said that his only position is that he wants to see more and more people involved in the sport of fishing, hunting and trapping that is what he is all about. He said if the Crossbow will get more people to enjoy the outdoors he is for it, it's as simple as that.

Fish - Dave Barus

BUFFALO RIVER WALLEYE STOCKING

who would have ever thought that we might see the day when walleye and the Buffalo River would be used in the same sentence? Amidst confusing press and negative views on Lake Erie and contamination to be found in Lake Erie sediment, source reports on other toxins, dead zones, deeper algae growth, and new exotic species in the Lake, there is also good news. The fish are cleaner now than ever before, and the water is clearer and cleaner too. All things have a comparative baseline and the press recently circulated in public forum looked at only one side, the negative side. There is a positive side. The Buffalo River is cleaning up, albeit, there is baseline data to measure and review. In an case, there is much good news in that the Erie County Fish Advisory Board working to coordinate with the Erie County

Federation of Sportsmen fish committee, the Southtowns Walleye Association, the New York Walleye Association, and management conjunction with the Department of Environmental Conservation, have been meeting in joint forum to develop plans for walleye stocking the Buffalo River (Lake Erie source walleyes). The first official stocking could take place as early as 2004, in the meantime, a study is planned and data is being collected to evaluate the current walleye status in the Buffalo River. If the program is successful, it could lead to an annual walleye-spawning run in the Buffalo River and tributaries, and a locally enhanced population of eastern basin walleye. The initial program calls for annual stocking of several thousand pond-raised walleye fingerlings into the Buffalo River, and for this activity to recur for a period of 5 to 7 years. At that time, the activity will be reassessed and determined if a naturally sustaining

walleye population has established.

If anyone has confirmed knowledge of walleye being harvested in the Buffalo River or trib's in the early part of the 1900's or since then, on hook and line, please call Dave Barus at 687-4757.

Chuck Godfrey reported that Trout Unlimited will be working with Jim Marcum from the lake Erie fisheries unit looking into a way to bi-pass some of the obstacles on Buffalo creek and Cazenovia creek that keep steelhead from going further up the creeks. Chuck said that they are going to stock thousands of steelhead in Caz. Creek.

Kent gave the tentative dates for the 2003 fish days, Chestnut ridge is June 28 and that corresponds with the State's free fishing dates. Tiff fishing day will be June 14th this year, please mark your calendar because we need all the help we can get. The fishing poles have to be set up for the fish days and right after the Banquet Kent will set a day to work on the fishing poles.

Small game -- Dan Tone

Dan said that the 4H pheasant program didn't get the donations like they did in previous years and the federation contribution sponsor almost the whole program. The kids and the number of people involved in the program increase every year, the number of birds increase every year. We are doing great, we brought this program back as it was 6 or 8 years ago, it's an excellent program so any clubs that have donated in the past or who would like to donate get a check to Dan and he will forward it and they would appreciate it. Dan said the latest band they got back was stocked in Erie County and ended up the other side of Lockport. Dan urged all dog owners to keep their pets locked up in this weather because the wildlife has enough problems just surviving let alone being chased by dogs.

Big game - Paul Stoos

DEC ANNOUNCES STATEWIDE MEETINGS ON CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

CWD is a neurological disease found in deer and elk that causes the animals to become emaciated and display abnormal behavior, and invariably results in the death of the infected animal. Since the method of transmission of CWD is not fully understood, New York and other states have enacted various surveillance and preventative measures to minimize the risk of the disease affecting deer herds. Regulations to Prevent Introduction of CWD in Effect New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Erin M. Crotty today announced a series of statewide public meetings to inform the public of measures being taken by the State to prevent the introduction of chronic wasting disease (CWD) into New York. The meetings will aid in DEC's development of permanent regulations for CWD. DEC has enacted temporary regulations to reduce the likelihood of chronic wasting disease occurring in New York, along with other measures to reduce possible methods of transmission of CWD and other communicable deer diseases. DEC is in the process of developing permanent regulations, based on the best scientific information available. "Although extensive sampling has not detected chronic wasting disease in New York State, we have taken precautionary steps to safeguard our white-tailed deer population from the threat of this disease," Commissioner Crotty said. "The meetings will present the most current information available on CWD and provide an opportunity for hunters, outdoor enthusiasts and other members of the public to share their views and concerns about our efforts to keep the disease out of New York." On January 9, 2003, DEC issued a temporary regulation to protect the health and welfare of the State's wild, white-tailed deer herd.

This is the fourth temporary regulation issued by DEC on CWD, replacing a previous temporary regulation that had expired. The regulation includes a ban on the importation and release of live

deer and elk; restrictions on the handling of carcasses and parts of deer and elk taken in other states or Canadian provinces where the disease has been detected; and a prohibition on many traditional wild deer feeding practices. The new regulation was amended from the previous version to include the State of Illinois under provisions that ban the import of the brain, eyes, spinal cord, lymph nodes, tonsils or spleen from wild deer or elk taken in states or Canadian provinces where CWD has been found. CWD was reported in Illinois on November 1, 2002.

The current prohibition on the import of carcasses and parts of deer and elk applies to a list of states with known occurrences of CWD and to all captive or captive-bred deer and elk. However, the prohibition on import may be applied more widely in the proposed permanent regulation.

This issue is important because it could change the common practices of hunters returning to New York with carcasses, heads, or field-dressed animals from neighboring states such as Pennsylvania.

The full text of the regulation can be found on DEC's website at:
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/regs/part189.htm>

Region 8

Tuesday, January 28, 2003, 7p.m. - 10 p.m. at Corning-Painted Post West High School, 35 Victory Highway on the north edge of the Village of Painted Post, Steuben County.

Wednesday, January 29, 2003, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. at the Ontario County Safety and Training Facility, 2914 County Road No. 48, in Canandaigua, Ontario County.

Region 9

Wednesday, February 5, 2003, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. at Randolph Central High School, Main Street, Randolph, Cattaraugus County.

Thursday, February 6, 2003, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. at Big Tree Elementary School, S-4460 Bayview Rd., Hamburg, Erie County.

Trapping -- Patti Wattengel

Erie County Trappers Association will host a "Fur Handling Seminar" Date: Saturday March 1st, 2003 Time: 10 am, Location: Eden 39ers Club, Sturgeon Point Rd. (near Rt. 20), Eden. For more information: Patti Wattengel 337-2556, Join us to learn better techniques for preparing "pelts". Learn about Pelting, Fleshing, Stretching, Drying, & Sizing Beaver, Muskrat, Raccoon, Fox, & Coyote. Refreshments & food available, *Please note the "new" location.

Waterfowl - Paul Pietraszewski

No Report

Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

Derwood Say, Region 9 Director reported that Bob Keicher of the Western and Central NY Safari Club would be receiving two awards at the Safari Club International Convention in Reno Nevada. He will receive the Presidents award, selected from a field of 42,000 members in 100 countries around the World, secondly he will receive, for the third straight year the top Membership Award, he recruited 96 new members last year. The Big Game Small Game Informational meeting posters are available Derwood said that Bob Church organized this whole thing, and praised Bob for his take charge attitude. Date is Sat. March 29th 9am till 3pm, American Legion, 3740 N Buffalo Rd, Orchard Park NY

March 17th will be the Legislative meeting in Albany and he hopes that every County sends

people to this, there are some very important Bills to be considered and one of the things we are going to push real hard for this year is the 14 and 15 year olds to be able to hunt deer. The march on Albany is the next day, there is no bus going from the WNY Organization however some individuals are going to drive there. The spring meeting is April 26, a one-day meeting in Herkimer, NY this is for committees. The day that Region 9 was assigned to go to Albany is April 8th you have to be a Safari Club member and they're hoping for 55 people to fill the bus, leaving the KLM parking lot at 4am. They will be pushing for the right to hunt legislation and the right to use a rifle in the southern tier, to legalize the use of the crossbow and other council recommended legislation. March 15th is the reservation deadline.

Derwood said that the council's finances are still shaky and they are increasing the County dues to two hundred dollars. He also talked about the internet service program, and we should have some dialog re: the visible fishing license.

Law Enforcement

LT. Ken Didion who supervises Conservation Offices in Wyoming County and Southern Erie County introduced CO Mark Mazurkiewicz of Holland who patrols Southern Erie County and Ron Bosella of Clarence Center who patrols Northern Erie County. Ken thanked Kent who invited him to swear in this years Officers and Directors. Ken touched on the new license system DECALS, there are a few glitches but in the long run this will be a very beneficial system to the sportsmen. There are a lot of things to be ironed out and there are a lot of changes in the works right now, you as sportsmen are making recommendation and we as CO's are making recommendations. He said Albany is very interested and they are calling back to ask questions so that this program will work for us. There was a lot of talk about the size of the print and he thinks that will be improved in the future. No figures on the deer kill for the 2002 season, it started out slow because of the fowl weather but it picked up and the Biologists think the total kill will be close to what it was in 2001. Region 9 had over 20 shooting incidences this year and region 8 had about the same number, Ken said that he was shocked at the number being from the Adirondack region where there are few of these incidences. Ken said that for years the NYS Conservation Officers Assoc. were opposed to Crossbows and recently they voted to change their position form Against to Neutral.

Dave Barus asked about the use of mechanical deer in enforcement, Ken said they used the deer in Wyoming County and there were 34 charges laid during the course of the details when the mechanical deer were used. Ken told of some of the various charges that were brought against some of the violators.

CO Ron Bosella reported on the problem at Tiffit Farm with the deer herd this year, dogs, poachers etc. He also spoke to the problem of Stieglmire Park and the people feeding deer and the new law that prohibits this.

CO Mark Mazurkiewicz talked of the problem with the new fishing licenses and the fact that they won't be able to see them from a boat, this is the rational behind visible fishing licenses.

Legislation - John Susz

To keep in touch what's going on with firearm legislation in New York, check out SCOPE's web site at - www.scopeny.org

Assemblyman Dick Smith has introduced A11232 Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and Assembly proposing an amendment to the NYS Constitution in relation to the right to hunt, trap, and fish. The senate version of the bill is S7088. Dick Smith is asking sportsmen to write letters in support of this legislation to the respective chairmen of the legislatures. It is vital to show public support in order to

get this passed into law. At the 11/14 Federation meeting it was pointed out that this bill would most likely not pass in this legislative session and would have to be reintroduced in 2003. I contacted the assemblyman's office on 11/15 and asked if our efforts would be better spent on the 2003 session when the bill was assigned a new number. Their response was no, we need to start compiling letters of support for this measure and even if a new bill number is assigned after the new year the letters of support will still be applicable. PLEASE WRITE IN SUPPORT OF THIS LEGISLATION

Send letters to: Hon. Thomas P. DiNapoli Hon. Carl L. Marcellino

Chairman, Environmental Conservation Committee Chairman, Environmental Conservation Committee

New York State Assembly New York State Senate

837 Legislative Office Bldg. 812 Legislative Office Bldg.

Albany NY 12248 Albany, NY 12248

Received from Gun Owners of America: Nov.12

The US House of Representatives has passed HR4757 Our Lady of Peace Act sponsored by NY-D Carolyn McCarthy. Chuck Schumer NY-D is sponsoring the senate version S2826. G.O.A. says that the McCarthy-Schumer bill will keep millions of decent, peaceful citizens will be prohibited from owning a firearm because of some minor offence in their past. They urge you to contact your Senators and demand this bill be stopped.

To identify your Senators, as well as to send the message via e-mail, see the Legislative Action Center at <http://www.gunowners.org/activism.htm> on the GOA website.

----- Pre-written message -----

Dear Senator:

I am shocked that the Senate has before it a bill (S. 2826) that would prohibit millions of Americans from owning a gun for self-defense. Those who would be banned present no greater risk of committing violent crimes than does the rest of the population. Are all the rest of us next? Please vote against this monstrosity (also known as the Our Lady of Peace bill) if it comes to the floor of the Senate for a vote. Gun Owners of America will be using this vote for their rating of Congress.

I would like to hear from you about whether you support this massive increase in gun control.

From SCOPE

Marathon USA is a discount long distance phone service. You will find rates favorably competitive with the major carriers such as AT&T, MCI, and Sprint. While some of these companies give money to politicians who oppose your right to keep and bear arms, **Marathon USA actually donates a portion of your phone bill (up to %15) to the gun rights organization of your choice.** SCOPE has recently signed a contract with Marathon USA and you can now donate to SCOPE every time you make a long distance call. To sign up with Marathon USA just call **1-800-894-4081**. Marathon USA is also an Internet service provider.

From 2002 Gun Rights Policy Conference Report

When Doctors And Eggheads Attack

The American Medical Association has been encouraging Doctors and Pediatricians to ask their

patients questions about gun ownership and storage. "Is there a gun in your house? Do your parents have guns? Do you know where they are kept? Do you know where the ammunition is stored?"

These questions are a clear ethical violation. They are not health related. They are an attempt to push a political agenda in the doctors office. There are a number of ways to respond to this but it was suggested that we give a common response and fight back against this unethical practice.

1. The offending physician should be informed that unless he is certified by the NRA as a firearms instructor or safety officer, then he is not qualified to offer advice on firearms handling or storage.
2. The doctor should be informed that he has committed an unethical boundary violation. That is it beyond his scope of practice. Furthermore, the doctor should be told that the violation will be reported to the State Medical Board.
3. Follow this through. To report professional misconduct, call 1-800-442-8106, or e-mail conduct@mail.nysed.gov. Or call the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (State Department of Health) at 1-800-663-6114.

You can also contact your regional office. **Buffalo**, 3530 Union Road Cheektowaga, NY 14225
716-685-0102 (phone), 716-685-1906 (fax)

Legislative Report - Compiled by **S.C.O.P.E.**

Assembly Bill A485 Sponsored by Morelle

Prohibits the discharge of a firearm or long bow within 1000 feet of a school or school playground; increases the distance which hunters may hunt near schools from 500 feet to 1000 feet.

This bill has no merit. It is simply an attempt to incrementally chip away at your rights by an Anti-hunting, Anti-gun politician. Current law prohibits firing in the direction of or anywhere within 500 feet of any residence or building unless it is your own house or you have specific permission from the owner.

Please contact your assemblyman and urge them to reject this bill.

Senate Bill S39 Sponsored by Dale Volker R 59th District

Relates to fireworks, dangerous fireworks and novelty devices; establishes the crime of criminal possession or sale of fireworks in the second degree, criminal sale of fireworks in the first degree, unlawful possession of fireworks, aggravated sale of fireworks and unlawful sale of ammunition.

This bill would make it a crime to sell ammunition that is made for handguns to anyone who does not possess a pistol permit. As anyone knows there are few if any cartridges made for handguns

that are not also used in long guns, rifles, or carbines. As such any such law would be unenforceable, unnecessary, and an undo burden on sportsmen and commerce.

Please contact Senator Volker's office @ (518) 455-3471 and urge him to strike this language from the bill. While you are talking to them, express your support for Senate Bill S608, which will permit our young adults, ages 14-20, to apply for a JUNIOR PISTOL LICENCE. This will permit them to compete and train for the Olympics, NYS Empire Games, SASS, etc. The Assembly version of the bill (A1530) is sponsored by Richard Smith D 146th District. His number is (518) 455-5197

For current information on pending legislation in New York visit the SCOPE website www.scopeny.org.

To have a speaker from SCOPE visit your club or event call (716) 941-6056 or send e-mail to scope@2ndamendment.net.

Resolutions -- Bob Fuller

Two resolutions were filed as emergency resolutions and will be voted on tonight, the first was a resolution to have the NYS Conservation Council pursue legislation to eliminate the Combined Ballistic Identification System (COBIS), and be it further resolved that this legislation instructs the State Police to destroy all data and cartridge cases gathered from law abiding citizens under the COBIS system. Proposed By S.C.O.P.E., INC. Erie County Chapter Motion by Chuck Godfrey 2nd Dave Barus Voted in Favor - Unanimously

Second, that the NYS Conservation Council pursues legislation to allow the taking of two (2) bearded turkeys on the same day during the spring season. Proposed By Lackawanna Conservation Club, Inc.

Motion by Don Davis 2nd Pat Schlicht, Roll Call vote 4 in opposition, Lakeshore, Simon Girty, Depew and Buffalo R&G 2 abstentions, Turkey Federation, and Niagara Musky

Membership Outreach -- Kent Kruse

The membership secretary would like all club presidents to consider attending at least one Regular Federation meeting a year. This might not only prove to be a learning experience, But may also provide a better insight as to the importance of having representation on behalf of their clubs.

Sportsman Education -- Frank Miskey Sr.

Frank reported that the posters are going pretty good right now we have 29 gun classes scheduled, 27 bow classes scheduled, 4 trapper but the interest in waterfowl has dropped off we only have one class.

New Instructor training class, Feb. 22 and 23 at Elma Conservation Club, Master Instructor meeting in Chafee on March 8th, refresher classes for the instructors March 12 at Wood & Brook from 7 to 10pm, March 29th Elma Cons. Club, 9am to noon. Region 9 Bowhunter Youth Camp, applications will be at the next meeting, dates Aug. 15, 16, 17 Frank Miskey Jr. Chairman. Frank told us about Project Home Safe a program he learned about at the State fair last year

and thought it would be good for the Encon Bldg., at the fair. They set up at the fair and everyone coming in just for the asking will receive a Gun Lock. Frank had a sample of the gun lock to show us, and said he would be in contact with the people in charge of this project and secure them for this years fair. Last year at the State fair they gave away 60,000 of these gun locks.

Special Committee Reports:

Awards -- Will Elliott

Will said that the awards are all set!

Banquet --

Anyone who needs tickets for our March 1st banquet, contact Dan Tone - 655-0975. All clubs should have received them by now.

Organizational meeting at Elma Conservation - Feb. 18th, 7PM, volunteers please attend.

Tony Gonnello talked about the Presidents Raffle for the Banquet and asked all members to do the best they can selling these because they are a great moneymaker.

Dan Tone said that the tickets have been going very well and the adds are going well also if your club is interested in an add contact Dan.

Educational Opportunities --Chuck Godfrey

Chuck reported that he received thank you letters and cards from Erin Beiter, Niel Crouthamel, and Kevin Strubel for the scholarship money they received.

CFAB -- Don Kill

No Report

Fund Raising -- Tony Gonnello

Tony reminded us that next year if you want calendars please order them when asked every year members fail to order and after they are delivered want to get some.

FWMB -- Bob Church

Shows --

Kent said that we are going to do the Spring Show this year and the sign up sheet is being passed around this evening we need help to set up the booth and man it. Contact Chuck Godfrey if you can help set up on Wednesday before the show and Sunday after the show is over.

National Hunting and Fishing Day -- Mike Simkins

Budget and Finance --Tony Scime (Motion to pay Bills)

Motion to approve - Dick Zawacki 2nd-Paul Stoos

Tony gave the members present a run down of the Federation's fiscal situation and the income and expenses for the previous year. He also gave us the estimated proposed budget for 2003.

Old Business

Ron Zielin of the W&CNY Safari Club said that they have a cork shoot at the Sports show in Hamburg and said they are willing to donate the proceeds from this shoot to the Excalibur

Leisure Skills Boat Project if we could supply the manpower at the booth. They usually generate between \$500 and \$ 1500 at this booth.

New Business - WANTED TO RENT! A 100 Yard High Power Rifle Range, 10 or more Shooting Positions preferred. One Sunday per Month for five (5) Months, May, June, July, August and September, for CMP Matches. Contact Pat Schlicht at 949-7511 or E-mail at ncgm13@yahoo.com

To all Federation affiliated Clubs: Diana Racich of SCOPE is spearheading a Youth Development Committee,

That will be working with the Erie County 4-H club to assist Bob Church, Coordinator of the 4-H shooting sports program. Second, to work other NRA affiliated groups to get the "Eddie Eagle Program" into areas it has never been before. The 4-H Shooting Sports program is very well designed and will enhance the existing 4-H programs. Kids will see that it is a cool program and will hopefully learn much and get interested. As always help is needed to make this happen and we ask that you consider becoming a member of this worthwhile endeavor. You do not need to be an NRA instructor or a great marksman to become a 4-H instructor. You do need to like working with young people. Most meetings will be by phone, mail, or yet to be determined location. Please contact Diana Racich, 26 Barbara Pl. Cheektowaga, NY 14225 or 893-6520 EPA, Shooting Sports Industry and Izaak Walton League Sign Agreement on Lead Management at Shooting Ranges

The Conservation Council has requested an updated list of Federation clubs with names and addresses of contact people. It has been the Federation's policy not to give out this list to any other organizations for privacy considerations.

Clubs wishing to receive the Council's "Grass Roots News" monthly publication, which gives updated information on state legislation and conservation issues, should contact the Council at 315-894-3302 and ask for Linda Coffin. You can also e-mail them at - nyscc@nyscc.com with the information. Clubs can also send their "club's news" for publication to - NYSCC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357 or e-mail them by the second Monday of the month.

The Council also has the policy of not arbitrarily giving or selling private club information.

TSA Policy on Checking Firearms

While air travelers are now generally encouraged to leave checked luggage unlocked, sportsmen should note that the Transportation Security Administration Web site says:

"Firearms carried as checked baggage must be unloaded, packed in a locked hard-sided case, and declared to the airline at check-in. Only you, the passenger, may have the key or combination. Ammunition may be packed in the same locked container as the firearm, so long as it is not loaded in the firearm."

SCI advises traveling hunters to contact their commercial airline carriers to determine if airline policy allows firearms to be checked luggage. Also, print out and bring a copy of the TSA firearm regulations for any questions that may arise during check-in. For more, go to www.tsa.gov or call at 202-366-9900.

50/50 Raffle

Winner - Frank Miskey Sr. \$35.50

Motion for Adjournment

Motion to adjourn - Nelson Cronin 2nd- Steve Aldstadt

Thanks to Host Club

Elma Conservation Club

**ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS
ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET RAFFLE**

**1ST PRIZE 4-DAY FISHING TRIP FOR 2 WITH 1 FLY IN AT
GOGOMA LODGE, NORTHERN ONTARIO
Owner – DICK HARLOCK**

**2ND PRIZE FISHING CHARTER FOR 4 - FULL DAY
BOAT – SEACIN
CAPTAIN – DAN DIETZEN**

**3rd PRIZE WHITE WATER TRIP FOR 2 PEOPLE
ZOAR VALLEY RIVER ADVENTURES**

**4th PRIZE 100.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE
AL DURRETT'S TAXIDERMY
Owner – AL DURRETT**

**5th PRIZE \$50.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE
FRAME DESIGNS**

**DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT THE BANQUET
SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2003**

**WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT DONATION \$1.00 PER
TICKET**

**GET YOUR TICKETS AT THE FEDERATION MEETINGS OR CALL
VAL OR TONY GONNELLO AT 652-4728.**

**THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RAFFLE TO SUPPORT YOUR
FEDERATION.**

**PLEASE PURCHASE/SELL AS MANY AS YOU CAN. SUPPORT FROM
MEMBER CLUBS IS APPRECIATED. THANK YOU.**

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's clubs, Inc.
Fred D Langdon, Recording Secretary
311 Downing St.
Buffalo, NY 14220

ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUB'S, INC.

Member of New York state conservation council
Monthly newsletter and minutes
February 28, 2003

Federation Meeting Agenda 2/28/03

Call to order - 7:30 George Washington Fishing and Camping Club

-

Pledge to flag - President Kruse

Roll call -- Officers and Directors

Excused: Dave Reed, Joe Fischer, Dave Barus

Absent: Bill Fulton, Patricia Holmes, Dick Zawacki

Quorum of member clubs -- Present: West Falls Cons. Soc., East Aurora F&G, NWTurkey Fed, SCOPE, Bison City R&G, Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc., Alden R&G, WNY Trout Unlmt'd, Niagara River Station, Hawkeye Bowmen, Safari Club, Alden JR R&G, Niagara Musky Assoc., Allied Sportsmen, Elma Cons. Club, Hamburg R&G, Lackawanna Cons., Lake Shore

Exmpt's, Erie County Trappers, Mohawk R&P, Springville F&S, Glen-coe Cons., Erie County Cons., NRA, Leo's Archery, Wood & Brook, Collins Cons., George Washington, Evans R&G, Buffalo Bowhunters, 27 Total

Approval of previous month's minutes

Motion to approve- Frank Miskey

2nd Al Commerford Carried

Secretary's report -- Fred Langdon

No Report

Membership report -- Mike Smith

Mike has sent each club a questioner to up date the club's information Please fill out ASAP and return it to Mike. These questioners are important as they contain the most updated information about your club and are used thru out the year to contact the right people when needed. Only 4 clubs are not paid to date.

Treasurer's report -- Tony Scime

Balance January 23, 2003 - \$10,206.08 Receipts - \$3,552.25, Expenses - \$450.92

Balance February 27, 2003 - \$13,307.41

Motion to approve - Paul Stoos

2nd Pat Schlicht Carried

Correspondence report -- Will Elliott

Will didn't have anything and Steve Aldstadt read a letter from Assemblyman Dick Smith thanking him for his letter in support of his bill to amend the NYS Constitution in relation to the right to Hunt, trap, and fish. Noting the bill has a new number for this session A-1531, Dick urged him and us to write the Chairmen of the Assembly and Senate Environmental Conservation Committee's. Names and addresses in last two months minutes.

Kent told delegates present that brochures are on the head table for the Erie County Conservation Tree, Shrub and seedling program. He also noted that there would be a Muzzle Loader Woodchuck Tournament May 31 & June 1, Franklinville Conservation Club. Must register by May 28. For details, call (866) 733-9805 9am-4:30 Tuesday-Saturday.

Next meetings and locations:

3/27/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Lake Shore Fire Co. Exempts, 4591 Lake Shore Rd. Hamburg, NY. Take Rt. 5 and just past Hamburg Town Park, corner of Rogers Rd. is the Firehouse.

4/24/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Hawkeye Bowmen, 13300 Clinton St. Alden, NY

5/22/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Erie County Conservation, 13319 Miller Ave. Protection, NY

Guest Speakers:

Mike Wilkinson Senior DEC Biologist spoke about the 2003 spring stocking program and the new additions to that program. Trout stocking in Erie County's new State Park on Ellicott Creek will feature public fishing and the DEC will stock 750 Brown trout this year. Sprague Brook Park will receive 600 Rainbow Trout and in Niagara County Oppenheim Park will get 600 Rainbow Trout in its small lake. Mike will be notifying Dave Barus our Fish Chairman when this program will be getting underway so volunteers can be recruited for these projects. Mike also gave us a rundown on the DEC proposals for changes in the local fishery, Mike stated that these are just proposals at this time and if implemented won't go into effect until October 1st 2004. If anyone has any comment on these proposals, pro or con send correspondence to the DEC Fisheries Manager. Statewide Proposal #1: To change the General Angling Regulation creel limit on trout to 5 trout with no more than 2 fish greater

than 12 inches in length. The Objective of this change is to better distribute harvest opportunity for two-year-old hatchery brown trout, to emphasize the value of larger brown trout.

Great Lakes Proposal, GL-1: To shorten the walleye season in the Lower Niagara River from the current statewide season (1st Saturday in May through March 15th) to 1st Saturday in May to December 31st. The object of this change is with a closed walleye season in January, February and March, anglers will not target and creel the mature walleye (large females with eggs) and thus protect this spawning stock to deposit eggs prior to the May season opener.

Great Lakes Proposal GL-3: To establish a 1 fish per day creel limit for rainbow trout and steelhead in the Great Lakes tributaries, Lakes Ontario and Erie. The objective of this proposal is the greater distribution of catch opportunity, enhancement of the status of steelhead as a "trophy" fish.

Great Lakes Proposal GL-4: To extend the end of the open season for muskellunge from November 30 to December 15 for the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, and the Lower Niagara River. The objective of this proposal is that the angler success rates for muskellunge increase in late fall. This proposal will expand trophy muskellunge angling opportunities.

Region 9 Proposal R9-9: Create a 3.7-mile long no-kill trout fishing section on Ischua Creek in the area of Franklinville, Cattaraugus County. The season would be open year-round with only artificial lures allowed. The object of this proposal is to spread the fishing pressure thru out the year. For a complete list of Proposals contact Dave Barus of the fish committee.

Standing Committee Reports:

-

Archery & Bowhunting--Dave Reed

Archery Shoot Dates - Hawkeye Bowmen - March, 22&23 - Alaskan Shoot, April 13 - Wild Animal Shoot,

August, 15&16 - Traditional Shoot, Sept., 1 - Labor Day Safari Shoot.

Collins Conservation - March 16 - 15 Targets, April 13 - Annual Spring fun shoot, 30 Targets, June 7&8 - I.B.O. qualifier

July 27 - 30 Targets, August 31 - Trophy Fun shoot, 30 Targets, October 5 - Final tune-up, 30 Targets

West Falls Conservation Society in house archery every Friday night. Call Mike Cummings for info (716) 655-5030

Frank Miskey Jr. announced that the 9th Annual Youth Archery Camp will be held at Elma Conservation Club on August 15, 16 & 17 this year, He has applications for those interested. Clubs interested in donating to this worthy cause please contact Frank at 681-5690 also volunteers are needed for this program.

Crossbow - Tony Gonnello

Tony mentioned the negativism regarding the Crossbow bill filed in the Assembly and said that a companion bill has been filed in the Senate and those interested should contact their representatives and tell them how they feel about the Crossbow. Bob Church told us the number on the Crossbow bills and they are A-5011 and S-1333 an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law to authorize person to hunt with a Crossbow.

Fish - Dave Barus

Kent gave the tentative dates for the 2003 fish days, Chestnut ridge is June 28 and that corresponds with the State's free fishing dates. Tiff fishing day will be June 14th this year, please mark your calendar because we need all the help we can get. The fishing poles have to be set up for the fish days and right after the Banquet Kent will set a day to work

on the fishing poles.

Bob Church brought up the proposals from the DEC of fish regulation changes regarding creel limits of trout, 5 trout with no more than 2 fish greater than 12 inches in length, Also the Visible fishing License proposal.

Small game -- Dan Tone

Dan said that there would be an Informational meeting for 4-H members re: the 4-H Pheasant Rearing Program on Tuesday, March 25th, 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the 4-H office. Anyone interested in the program or any questions call Mark Wittmeyer at 652-5400 ext 126.

Big game - Paul Stoos

Paul said that he attended the DEC meeting on CWD and said it was well attended and a lot of issues were discussed, Jim Snider senior wildlife biologist along with Richard Henry big-game biologist from DEC's Bureau of Wildlife in Albany presided.

Will Elliott brought up the fact that sportsmen and women generally accept proposed prohibitions under section 189.3—except for the importation of deer and elk from areas not known for or affected by CWD. DEC officials would like to have public input before March 31, Write to Pat Martin, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany NY 12233-4751 or the special web site: www.fwcwd@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

Steve Aldstadt noted that DEC wants to make permanent the ban on importing live deer or elk into the state, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is looking for an exemption to this rule.

Bob Church announced that the Regional Big and Small Game Informational Meeting will be held March 29, 2003 at the Orchard Park American Legion, 3740 N. Buffalo Rd. Orchard Park NY. Time is 9am to 3pm with a lunch break, Public invited, a raffle to support the 4-H program will be held. Information contact Bob Church at 716 592-7211, or Derwood Say at 585 968-1285

- KILLING WITH KINDNESS?

Stop feeding the ducks! Your kindness could kill your feathered friends.

This long, cold winter has caused ice to form over much of the water bodies of western New York State. A nice situation if you like to ice skate or ice fish, but not a good situation if you are a member of a group of birds called Waterfowl. Thousands of ducks and geese spend their winter in the Finger Lakes Region. The more frozen these waters become the more the birds are concentrated in the remaining open-water areas. On the surface this scenario seems to indicate that feeding should be done, but this is not the case. Why? Let's look at the reasons.

1) Artificial feeding further concentrates the birds and curtails their normal daily dispersal as they fly off in search of natural food. Natural foods are widely scattered. Ducks and geese are able to find these foods and eat them in relative seclusion. At artificial feeding sites, competition for each scrap or kernel is high. Some ducks and geese (usually the youngest) are unable to compete for handouts.

2) Inappropriate food can weaken the birds rather than keep them healthy. Waterfowl at artificial feeding sites are often found to suffer from poor nutrition. In natural settings, waterfowl seek and feed on a variety of nutritious foods such as aquatic plants, natural grains, and invertebrates. Many of the items commonly used to feed waterfowl (bread, corn, popcorn, etc.) are low in protein and are very poor substitutes for natural foods.

3) Birds under stress (which is natural under present weather conditions) are more susceptible to diseases such as avian botulism, avian cholera and duck plague. Ten years ago, under similar weather conditions as experienced now, 2,000 mallards and black ducks were killed in an outbreak of Duck Virus Enteritis in Central New York. If you encounter any sick and/or dying waterfowl, report the sighting immediately to the Department of

Environmental Conservation. It is important that dead birds be collected as soon as possible for diagnosis of what killed it and to prevent spread of disease.

4) The concentration of the birds leads to a build up in the amount of droppings deposited. This in turn provides good conditions for a bacterial build up in the wastes. When ducks and geese feed on scattered corn or bread, they eat in the same place where they defecate. Not healthy. In addition, large concentrations of waterfowl would facilitate the spread of disease. Also, not healthy. Diseases generally not transmissible in a wild setting find overcrowded and unsanitary conditions very favorable.

5) Birds develop an unnatural dependency on people. Waterfowl can rapidly become conditioned to, and dependent on, handouts. Fed ducks and geese behave differently. They become more aggressive and eventually lose their wariness of humans. Some will not survive because they can't compete. Many will lose the quality, which endears them to most New Yorkers, their wildness.

6) Birds become a nuisance to people in vicinity of feeding location. Feeding attracts birds in unnatural numbers, beyond natural food and water supplies, and frequently in numbers beyond what people will tolerate. Over-grazed and badly eroded lawns, golf courses, and school playing fields are often the result of overcrowding. Grassy areas such as ball fields and golf courses can become unsanitary and unusable. Also, excess nutrients in ponds caused by unnatural numbers of waterfowl droppings can result in water-quality problems such as summer algal blooms. And where waterfowl congregate to feed, E-coli counts can swell to levels that make the water unsuitable for swimming.

New Yorkers Love Waterfowl!

A birdwatcher searches wetlands for hidden sightings and travels cross-country to see different species.

A farmer pauses from his chores to gaze skyward and take in the sights and sounds of a V of geese.

A hunter pats the head of his trusted hunting dog for quickly returning a bird to the blind. Parents take their children to see ducks at the town park or wildlife refuge.

Yes, New Yorkers love waterfowl and care about their well-being! Please consider the effects of feeding waterfowl, and do what is right. Stop feeding the ducks!

For Release: IMMEDIATE Contact: Peter Constantakes
Monday February 24, 2003 (518) 402-8000

STATE ANNOUNCES \$250,000 IN GRANTS FOR OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION
NYS Conservation Partnership Program, Administered by Land Trust Alliance, Funds 24
Programs

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Erin M. Crotty today announced \$250,000 in grants and technical assistance to 24 land trust organizations across New York State as part of the New York State Conservation Partnership Program, an effort initiated last year to enhance local open space conservation programs. The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) is administering the program, funded through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

"The protection of open space is an important investment in our environment and our future, ensuring that our natural resources are preserved and people have an opportunity to enjoy our State's magnificent lands and waters," Commissioner Crotty said. "Governor Pataki's commitment to open space conservation has allowed us to preserve more than 400,000 acres

of land in the past eight years. These grants will create additional opportunities for individual land trusts to work with local officials and interested stakeholders to protect critical lands in communities across the State, building upon New York's rich environmental heritage."

Senator Carl L. Marcellino, chair of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, said, "The Land Trust Alliance, the Department of Environmental Conservation and I share a common goal to preserve open space in New York State. By providing this \$250,000 grant, I am confident that the Partnership Program will continue to pursue Governor Pataki's million acre goal and build on our State's recent success in open space preservation and conservation."

Assemblyman Thomas P. DiNapoli, chairman of the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee, said, "Land trusts have been invaluable allies to state and local governments by protecting lands that would have otherwise been lost to development. This program will enable the Land Trust Alliance to leverage additional public funds to preserve our farmlands, open spaces, and historic properties today and safeguard them for the generations of tomorrow."

Land Trust Alliance Northeast Program Director Ezra Milchman said, "After three years of work to create the New York Conservation Partnership Program, The Land Trust Alliance is thrilled to see the immediate environmental benefits that come from investing in land trusts. The grants announced today will provide New Yorkers with approximately 644 acres of new conservation land in 13 locations across the State, and lay the foundation to conserve much more. It is indeed a great day for New York's environment and we are grateful to Governor Pataki, Assemblyman DiNapoli, and Senator Marcellino for making this program possible."

The 2002 EPF designated \$250,000 to the Land Trust Alliance to administer the competitive matching grants program for local land trusts to improve efforts to identify, acquire and protect open space resources. The grants are offered in various categories:

- * organizational development grants, which will assist land trusts with planning, community outreach, fundraising and other program areas;
- * transaction grants, which will help to cover costs associated with purchasing property, or accepting a land donation or conservation easement protecting private property; and
- * staffing grants, which are targeted for volunteer land trusts and smaller land trusts to help them add professional staff to more effectively protect and manage open space.

All grant recipients must have adopted the Land Trust Alliance's Land Trust Standards and Practices to ensure professional standards of operation are met.

In his 2003-04 Executive Budget, Governor Pataki has proposed awarding an additional \$200,000 in EPF funding to the New York State Conservation Partnership Program. If enacted as proposed, this additional grant would bring the total State contribution to the Conservation Partnership Program to \$450,000.

Since 1995, the State has invested more than \$378 million to conserve more than 400,000 acres. Governor Pataki also has promoted the Quality Communities initiative, which focuses on revitalizing community centers, protecting open space, and improving high-speed communications and use of technology. The program is designed to provide incentives and

enhance opportunities for innovative planning and community development techniques that link environmental protection, economic prosperity and community well-being.

The Land Trust Alliance is a non-profit, membership-supported organization dedicated to increasing the pace and quality of land conservation across America. Founded in 1982, LTA works directly with more than 1,200 land trusts nationwide, including 72 in New York State with more than 36,000 individual members representing local communities. Working with state and local governments, LTA and the land trust community have helped to protect approximately 430,000 acres of land in New York State and more than 6 million acres nationwide.

For additional information on the Land Trust Alliance New York grant program, visit LTA's website at www.LTA.org or contact the organization at (518) 587-0774.

Trapping -- Patti Wattengel

BEAVER SEASON EXTENDED IN Western New York

The NYS DEC announced that the beaver-trapping season would be extended from March 3 to March 30, 2003, in eleven WNY Wildlife management Units (WMUs). Units affected are 9J, 9K, 9M, 9N, 9P, 9R, 9S, 9T, 9W, 9X, 9Y, which include parts of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Livingston, Steuben, and Wyoming counties.

During the special extended beaver seasons, all pertinent trapping regulations still apply.

Trappers must report their take on pelt possession cards before the 10th day after the close of the season. Trappers are reminded that the otter season remains closed in all units reopened to beaver trapping, and that no traps shall be set on or within 15 feet of beaver dams or lodges.

Waterfowl - Paul Pietraszewski

No Report

Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

March 17th will be the Legislative meeting in Albany and he hopes that every County sends people to this, there are some very important Bills to be considered and one of the things we are going to push real hard for this year is the 14 and 15 year olds to be able to hunt deer.

The march on Albany is the next day, there is no bus going from the WNY Organization however some individuals are going to drive there. The spring meeting is April 26, a one-day meeting in Herkimer, NY this is for committees. The day that Region 9 was assigned to go to Albany is April 8th you have to be a Safari Club member and they're hoping for 55 people to fill the bus, leaving the KLM parking lot at 4am. They will be pushing for the right to hunt legislation and the right to use a rifle in the southern tier, to legalize the use of the crossbow and other council recommended legislation. March 15th is the reservation deadline. Bob Fuller reported that the Conservation Education Workshops will be July 13-19 and 20-26, 2003, \$350 per person. Deadline June 1st to be held at Racquet Lake NY.

Law Enforcement

Legislation - John Susz

To keep in touch what's going on with firearm legislation in New York, check out SCOPE's web site at - www.scopeny.org

Canada Firearms Registry: Canada has approximately one-tenth the population of the United States, several years ago their Minister of Justice pushed thru a National Firearms Registration law, which has become a nightmare for Canadians.

The Canadian firearms Registry has cost the Canadian Taxpayers \$1 BILLION to date and has done nothing to prevent crime. An independent study authorized by the Justice Ministry found that it would require another \$500 MILLION over the next 10 years to fix the system. The original cost of the Registry was estimated at \$20 MILLION.

Many Canadians that refused to register their firearms became instant criminals. Two Provinces are refusing to enforce the registration Law, but the RCMP said that they would. Fines, possible jail sentences, and confiscation of unregistered firearms will punish violators. Steve Aldstadt has letters for any one interested in supporting Assembly bill A-1530, and Senate bill S-608 the 90-day issue requirement for hand gun licenses, the prevention of issuing agents from adding additional requirements for a permit and provides for a Jr. License for our young people ages 14-20 years old to lawfully possess a pistol while under the supervision of a parent or a certified Individual.

Nelson Cronin brought up the fact that the State has cut the funding for High School Shooting Sports, Steve Aldstadt said that the State is canceling the shooting sports in the Empire State Games; the reason they give is the expense, \$350 per Shooter because they have to secure Ranges and Transportation for the matches. Will Elliott said that this is not a decision of the Budget people but comes from the Dept. of parks and recreation, Jeff Smith director of Shooting Sports or Bernadette Castro, his Supervisor should be contacted and Will expects to have this covered in next weeks News Article. Write to these individuals at One Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12247

From SCOPE

Marathon USA is a discount long distance phone service. You will find rates favorably competitive with the major carriers such as AT&T, MCI, and Sprint. While some of these companies give money to politicians who oppose your right to keep and bear arms, **Marathon USA actually donates a portion of your phone bill (up to %15) to the gun rights organization of your choice.** SCOPE has recently signed a contract with Marathon USA and you can now donate to SCOPE every time you make a long distance call. To sign up with Marathon USA just call **1-800-894-4081**. Marathon USA is also an Internet service provider.

Resolutions -- Bob Fuller

Bob told us that there is 18 Resolutions and they should be out to the Counties by the middle of April.

Membership Outreach -- Kent Kruse

The membership secretary would like all club presidents to consider attending at least one Regular Federation meeting a year. This might not only prove to be a learning experience, But may also provide a better insight as to the importance of having representation on behalf of their clubs.

-

Sportsman Education -- Frank Miskey Sr.

Frank said the Posters for the training courses are out; 37 Bow Classes, 39 Gun Classes and 4 Trapper Classes; Frank would like to locate the Federation Logo if any one has the Negative he would like to have it to redo the poster background. He said that the Dart System is back from the State; they worked two days on it to get it back in order. System has been upgraded and will be used at several functions this spring and summer. Regarding project Home Safe, the program he spoke about last month, Frank received a commitment letter for the Fair and he figures that somewhere between 10 and 20 thousand gun locks will be distributed then.

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Special Committee Reports:

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Awards -- Will Elliott

The following awards were presented by the Federation at the March 1st banquet: Stanley Spisiak Conservationist of the year - John & Estelle Greene, Club of the year - Bison City R & G, Legislator of the year - Senator Dale Volker, Sportswoman of the year - Pat Battaglia, Sportsman of the year - Tony Scime, Dedicated Service - Nelson Cronin, Volunteer/Lifetime Achievement - Ken Skinner, Public Relations - Spencer Schofield, Youth of the year - Justin Hoelzle, President's Award - Bob Miechowicz, Special Lifetime Achievement Award - Harry Probst, 100th Anniversary Club Award - George Washington Fishing & Camping Club and Appreciation Award - Kent Kruse

-

Banquet --

Our banquet was well attended (approx. 240) and special thanks to Dan Tone for selling banquet tickets and doing the program. Also, preliminary figures show that we raised a good amount of money to support our programs throughout the year. Hats off to all the volunteers who were there to help: Dan Tone, Paul Stoos, Chuck & Debbie Godfrey, Don & Edna Davis, Dave Reed & Barb Koenig, Fred & Dorothy Langdon, Tony & Val Gonnello, Will & Jean Elliott, Rick & Patti Wattengal, Pat Battaglia and anyone else I might have missed. Kent sends a special thanks to Dan Tone for making this years Banquet a success!

Educational Opportunities --Chuck Godfrey

Kent reported that the successful applicants for the Dec Camp drawing have been sent in last week and everybody should get their first choices. Five kids were sponsored this year.

CFAB -- Don Kill

No Report

-

Fund Raising -- Tony Gonnello

Tony Scime' said that the Niagara Musky Club has an application for a grant from Wal-Mart for \$1,000 that they give for environmental Conservation maybe we should look into this for the Federation. Tony is going to look into this program and report on it when he has more info.

FWMB -- Bob Church

Bob said that their next meeting is march 11, the Habit Access Stamp was available when purchasing you license this past October 1st, many of the clerks failed to ask if you were interested in the \$5.00 donation for this program, consequently only \$45,000 was collected State wide. The FWMB is slated for some money this year but Bob doesn't know how much, and if you have any suggestions regarding Habitat or Access in our area particularly in Erie County let Bob know and he will put the word in.

Shows --

Dan passed around the work sheet for the Hamburg Show please sign in and remember the times that you volunteer for this show.

National Hunting and Fishing Day -- Mike Simkins

Mike thanked all who helped on the NH&Fday last year they had another excellent year the kids had a great time the adults had a great time, the weather cooperated, we had a couple new exhibitors join the program. He said he is in the planning stages for this year's program and feels that the enthusiasm is rising and hopes this year's program will be better than ever. Mike has some information regarding the Fair and reported on the happenings of last year and would like to chairman this year's Fair Program. He has some ideas that will improve the quality of our exhibit and would like to keep the money that was raised last year for this year's show. Mike made a motion to use the \$345.00 raised at 2002 fair for improving our exhibit for 2003, 2nd by Dan Tone Carried.

Budget and Finance -- Tony Scime (Motion to pay Bills)

Motion to approve - Pat Schlicht 2nd-Paul Stoos

Old Business

Tony Scime' gave us an update on the new bridge proposals which include the Tonawanda site which is gaining support by various groups and politicians. Tony has been very active on the opposition to this site and wants the sports community to support this opposition. He is planning a demonstration of sportsmen's organizations for later this month at the Sheridan launch site and hope to have a good turn out. They want to make the public more aware of the fact that this could happen and also that the Town Board is made aware of the opposition to this site.

George Gleave who is representing the Erie County Friend's of the NRA, there Banquet is coming up on May 17, they need help with donations for door prizes, merchandise to be raffled off, ect. Ticket are \$25.00 each doors open at 5:30 pm, dinner at Holland willows, Tickets or information call George at 716 881-3054.

New Business -

The Conservation Council has requested an updated list of Federation clubs with names and addresses of contact people. It has been the Federation's policy not to give out this list to any other organizations for privacy considerations.

Clubs wishing to receive the Council's "Grass Roots News" monthly publication, which gives updated information on state legislation and conservation issues, should contact the Council at 315-894-3302 and ask for Linda Coffin. You can also e-mail them at - nyscc@nyscc.com with the information. Clubs can also send their "club's news" for publication to - NYSCC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357 or e-mail them by the second Monday of the month.

The Council also has the policy of not arbitrarily giving or selling private club information. Bob Church reported that Niagara County Federation has a new president his name is Greg Tessmann, being a delegate from the Safari Club, the Safari Club asked him to present to the president a Thompson in-line muzzleloader to raffle at the Federation Banquet. Kent thanked Bob and the Safari Club for their generous support of the Federation.

Kent congratulated Joe Rice of the George Washington Club for their 100 years of operation and their commitment to the federation for the use of their club facilities every year. Thanks Joe from all the members of the Federation.

50/50 Raffle

Winner - Paul Kurzdorfer \$45.50

Motion for Adjournment

Motion to adjourn - Nelson Cronin 2nd- Steve Aldstadt

Thanks to Host Club

George Washington Club

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.
Fred D Langdon, Recording Secretary
311 Downing St.
Buffalo, NY 14220

ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUB'S, INC.

Member of New York state conservation council
Monthly newsletter and minutes
March 27, 2003

Federation Meeting Agenda 03/27/03

Call to order - 7:30 Lake Shore Fire Co. Exmpt's Sportsmen

-
Pledge to flag by President Kruse, Followed by a moment of silence for Frank Schiralli,
President of Alden R&G Club and Jake Krypel member of Lake Shore Fire Co.

-
Roll call -- Officers and Directors

Excused:

Absent: Dave Barus, Dave Reed, Patricia Holmes, and Dick Zawacki

Quorum of member clubs -- Present: West Falls Cons. Soc., East Aurora F&G, Springville F&S,
NWTurkey Fed, Hamburg R&G, SCOPE, Erie County Cons. Soc., Bison City R&G, Lackawanna
Cons., Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc., Elma Cons., Alden R&G, Lake Shore VF, WNY
Trout Unlmted., Niagara River Station, Hawkeye Bowmen, Safari Club, Southtowns Walleye, Erie
County Trappers, Blasdell R&G, Mohawk R&P, Alden JR., Allied Sportsmen, Crows Nest Fishing,
Niagara Musky Assoc., Depew R&G, Wood & Brook, Evans R&G, Glen Coe Cons. - 29 Total

Approval of previous month's minutes

Motion to approve- Bill Fulton 2nd Pat Schlicht Carried

Kent said that our Web site is up and running thanks to Paul Stoos and Joe McAdam, if you have any thing to announce contact Kent or Paul and they will see that it is added to the site. If your club has a web site and would like to have a link on the Federation's or has a announcement contact same.

Secretary's report -- Fred Langdon

No Report

-

Membership report -- Mike Smith

Mike reminded the members present that the questioners should be returned ASAP and that only 3 clubs have not sent their dues in yet.

-

Treasurer's report -- Tony Scime

Balance February 27, 2003 - \$13,242.41 Receipts - \$9,783.50, Expenses - \$10,157.52

Balance March 27, 2003 - \$12,868.39

Tony gave a break down of the Banquet income and expenses.

Motion to approve- Dan Tone 2nd Tom Fischer Carried

Correspondence report -- Will Elliott

Will received three letters from Lake Shore Fire Co. Exempts Sportsmen's Club, each accompanied with a check. A check for \$120.00 for 4 tickets to the Banquet as they didn't have anyone to attend, the second check for \$50.00 donation to the 2003 Youth Archery Camp, this donation is in the memory of one of our recently deceased members, Jake Krypel who was only 20 years old. The last letter contained 2 checks both in the amount of \$50.00 and these checks are donations to the Pheasant Programs, all of these letters were signed by President Michael J. Gates. Thank You to the President and all the Members of the Lake Shore Fire Exempts Sportsmen's.

Will read a letter that several members received From Senator Carl L. Marcellino in return for their support of the Crossbow Legislation that is before the Legislature. He said that his mail has been overly opposed to the Crossbow issue, and those letters have some strong arguments against this proposal. Will urged all members in favor of this legislation contact Sen. Marcellino at Room 812, LOB, Albany, N.Y. 12247. Will also told us that the following day would be the last day of service for Region 9 Fisheries Head Steve Merridian and said that the Sportsmen and women of Region 9 will really miss Steve. There is no report on his replacement as of this date; Will is going to notify the Fed. Members if there is a retirement party for Steve. Region 8 has lost five principle executives thru retirement and don't know if they will be replaced.

Dan Tone read a letter from Hamburg R&G Club, thanking the Federation for allowing them to use our booth at the Sportsmen's Show to sell their tickets for the lifetime License and gun raffle and a \$50.00 donation was included.

Mike Gates President of Lake Shore welcomed the Federation to their facilities and noted their appreciation for the work the Federation does for the Sports people of Erie County.

Kent read a letter of appreciation from his wife Patricia who received "The Sportswomen of the Year" award at the Banquet.

Next meetings and locations:

04/24/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Hawkeye Bowmen, 13300 Clinton St. Alden NY

05/22/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Erie County Conservation, 13319 Miller Ave. Protection, NY

06/26/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Glen Coe Conservation Club, Foote Rd., Glenwood, NY

Guest Speakers:Standing Committee Reports:

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Archery & Bowhunting--Dave Reed

No Report

-

Crossbow - Tony Gonnello

Tony reported that things are heating up as there is another bill being submitted by the DEC to allow disabled and seniors to hunt with a crossbow during the regular archery season, as per Erin Crotty the Commissioner of ENCON.

Fish - Dave Barus

Joe Fischer said that he talked to the Biologist from Chautauqua Lake and they are going to stock Walleye in the lake for the first time ever. He said that since 1996 there has been almost no spawning in the lake. So they are going to put 75,000 fingerlings in this spring, Joe says that he thinks there might be a regular stocking program on the lake. They are not sure what the problem is but might be the White Perch they don't really know at this point. Joe also reported that a regulation change is being proposed by the DEC to reduce the creel limit of steelhead from three (3) to one (1) from the tributaries of Lakes Erie And Ontario. The DEC Stocking program is underway and they will be stocking the Buffalo River, Small Boat Harbor and others if you have some time to donate contact Joe.

Tony Scime' said that the County is going to put up information signs along the Waterfront at four locations

Isle view Park, Ontario St., Sturgeon Pt. and Scoby Hill. The signs are going to be large 8 FT. and are going to encourage the Clubs in the County to provide information for the signs. This will be a locked sign covered with Plexiglas and brochures and other info is going to be welcome. Bob Church brought to the attention of the members present the Bill that is being introduced in the Senate and Assembly requiring vessels operating one mile or more from shore on the Great Lakes or the Atlantic Ocean and participating in fishing tournaments be equipped with an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB). Bob said that these Radio Beacons are very expensive (approximately \$1,500) and unnecessary on the Great Lakes and a boat could be fishing right alongside you that isn't in the tournament and they would not have to have this equipment. He adamantly urges us to oppose this legislation by writing your representatives in Albany. Bill Numbers are Senate Bill A635 and Assembly A0361. All the members of the federation should be burning up the writing paper on this.

Small game -- Dan Tone

Dan reported on the 4H Pheasant meeting that he attended and said that they will be raising about the same amount this year as last. The habitat stamp only raised \$30,000 last year, however this year they are going to really promote the stamp with signage and at the State Fair and County Fairs throughout the State.

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Big game - Paul Stoos

Paul announced that the State of the Lake Meeting would again be held at Big Tree Fire Hall on South Park Ave. on Sat., April 5th from 9 to 12 and He sent the following Stats to include in the minutes.

DEC Announces Deer Take for 2002 Season

Bob Church brought up several of the bills that are affecting the Hunters and Fishermen in a negative way, like the Senate in Illinois trying to ban the Shotgun, and the banning of shooting sports in the Empire State Games and while the anti's are trying to do a job on us we are shooting ourselves in the foot with the crossbow controversy. We got the compound Bow passed, we got the Muzzleloader bill passed and here we are fighting against the Crossbow that will allow that many more people to enjoy the out doors.

Will Elliott said that Mike levy was going to address the ban of shooting sports in the Empire State games in his article this Sunday, and what a great article it is. Please take the time to find your March 30 paper and look it up if you missed it. Will also brought up the proposed regulations regarding CWD and the fact that Penna. Has tested hunter killed deer last year and hasn't found one case, there were some discussion on CWD that followed.

Diane Racich referring to the Empire State Games said that we have the attention of the Legislators now and we can't let them get away with the elimination of Shooting Sports this year. We must let them know that they have to reinstate the Shooting Sports, the Games were not designed to make \$\$\$ if they get away with this there will be no more shooting in NYS.

Bob Church made motion that the federation sends a letter to all our area Legislators notifying them that we want the Shooting Sports reinstated in the Empire State Games. 2nd by Al Commerford Carried

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Trapping -- Patti Wattengel

No Report

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Waterfowl - Paul Pietraszewski

Will Elliott said that this years season dates should be posted shortly, the nesting box program will be at Iroquois Wildlife this year. Ken Zolonowski is the Region nine representative for waterfowl.

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Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

The Federation has decided to promote the voluntary " Buck A Member Program" proposed by the Council. This, if successful, will insure a reliable source of income to meet the future needs for our only "conservation rights" lobbying organization in our state.

For those clubs who feel this is a worthwhile cause, please make checks payable to - "New York State Conservation Council" and send to - NYS CC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357.

The following clubs have contributed to the BAM program for 2002 so far. They are: Alden R&G, Bison City R&G, Boston Valley Cons. Society, Crows Nest Fishing Club, Depew R&G, Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc., Elma Conservation Club, Erie County Conservation Society, Erie County Trappers, George Washington Fishing & Camping Club, Hamburg R&G, Hawkeye Bowmen, Lackawanna Conservation Club, Lake Shore VFC Exempts Sportsmen's Club, Millgrove Sportsmen's Club, New York Walleye, Niagara Musky Assoc., Springville Field & Stream, West Falls Conservation Society.

That's 19 out of 53 member clubs currently in the Federation.

Joe Fischer reported that there is a membership drive on for 2003 and he has the forms available if any one is interested, the Conservation council does need members so that they can do their legislative lobbying for the Sportspersons of the State, REMEMBER that they are the sole lobbying organization for us. The only way that we are going to keep our heads above waters is paying the Price, GET INVOLVED. Joe attended the Legislative meeting and there is a packet of bills to be voted on, a couple stand out and are the Fishing Tournament Requirement for a (EPIRB), the Saturday Opener for Deer season, The Crossbow, Sale of Pan fish. There are many more bills that affect us and Joe said that he has copies if you are interested. These bills show the Conservation Council's position on each of them.

Bob Church asked about the financial stability of the Cons. Council and Dan Tone stated that the BAM program kept them afloat last year and We have to stress to the clubs in our federation that this is a YEARLY PROGRAM and the council needs this money to get the job done. Like our President has said many times at our meetings, a glass of Beer cost more than a buck so lets get our members behind this program.

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Law Enforcement

DEC Officer Mark Mazerkowicz attended our meeting and said that the Department is going through some changes, the memorandum of understanding between the State and the Conservation Officers expired yesterday and he doesn't know how all this is going to play out. They could use some more help in the field, there has been a lot of retirements, shift changes and every one is in a wait and see mode. Mark commented on some assignment changes for various personnel in Region 9, and some boundary changes for their patrol areas. Kent thanked Mark for attending and for the report that he gave.

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Legislation - John Susz

To keep in touch what's going on with firearm legislation in New York, check out SCOPE's web site at - www.scopeny.org

John reported that Gun Banners are seeking to outlaw Smith & Wesson's new .50 Caliber revolver, upon announcement of the new firearm, Anti-gun groups, Legislators, and newspapers jumped on the bandwagon to ban this gun. A gun that has never, ever used in a crime but isn't even available yet!

The gun ban crowd is working hard to demonize and disarm peaceable Americans who own and shoot .50 caliber rifles. These rifles are large and expensive and are used primarily for long range target shooting.

There is absolutely no proof that a .50 caliber rifle has ever been used anywhere in the commission of any crime. If gun banners get the .50 calibers banned, they will undoubtedly target similar types of guns next. To learn more, check out the web site of the fifty caliber shooters' policy institute at www.fcspi.org.

Steve Aldstadt brought up the fact that Assemblyman Dick Smith has his name on many of the bills that the Conservation Council supports and he is one of our best friends in the Assembly

and is being named as Legislator of the Year by the NYS Rifle and Pistol Assoc. Steve also had praise for Senator Dale Volker who is Chairman of the Codes Committee and he is the one man in State Gov. that keeps a lot of these anti gun bills from becoming law. If there is any one who deserves our support it is these two Legislators.

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Resolutions -- Bob Fuller

Bob said that there were 15 resolutions and they should be out in April, by the next meeting.

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Membership Outreach -- Kent Kruse

The membership secretary would like all club presidents to consider attending at least one regular Federation meeting a year. This might not only prove to be a learning experience, but may also provide a better insight as to the importance of having representation on behalf of their clubs.

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Sportsman Education -- Frank Miskey Sr.

Frank reported that there would be a refresher class next Saturday April 29, at Elma Conservation Club; they are still looking for instructors. He still has application for the Youth Archery Camp, they have had a lot of calls and a lot of applications.

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Special Committee Reports:

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Awards -- Will Elliott

Will said that because they could not present Harry Probst with his special award because of his sickness, He and Joe Fischer will give it to him at the Chautauqua County Dinner in April.

-
Banquet --

Kent thanked all those that worked to make this years banquet a huge success; he said that it was the best banquet we ever had. Kent gave a special thanks to Steve Aldstadt for supplying the music for the night. Kent reminded Dan to reserve the hall for 2004.

-
Educational Opportunities --Chuck Godfrey

Kent asked if any one knew of any teacher or person involved with youth that would be interested in the teacher's workshop, the Federation usually sponsors four or five each year, the money is allocated for this purpose. Candidates must live in Erie County.

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CFAB -- Don Kill

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Fund Raising -- Tony Gonnello

Presidents Raffle

BANQUET

March 1, 2003

Total Receipts-----\$1,133.00
Total Cost (printing of tickets) - 98.28

Net Proceeds-----\$1,034.72

Winners:

1st Prize 4 Day Fishing Trip at Gogama Lodge
Niagara Musky

2nd Prize Fishing Charter with Dan Dietzen
Greg Ham

3rd Prize White Water Trip for 2 - Zoar Valley River Adventure
Kathy Kumro

4th Prize \$100.00 Gift Certificate - Al Durrett's
Taxidermy
Dave Smith

5th Prize \$50.00 Gift Certificate - Frame Designs
Rick Moffett

Thank you to all our Donors!!! And Thank you to all who
Purchased tickets for this raffle-it was a big success!!!

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FWMB -- Bob Church

Bob said that we are going to see a lot of changes at DEC headquarters, the regular staff is 449 and now they have 406. Peg Sauer who lead the DECALS program has retired and is replaced by John Opecio, a Senior Wildlife Biologist and took over April 1st. They said that they have a lot of problems with the DECALS System but many are because of the provider who is in bankruptcy court any they can't make any changes until it goes through the Court. August 19th is the day set for renewing your license this year.

Bob said that there was money in Region 9 for restoration, and he didn't get any requests from anyone in Erie County so the money that will come will go to Cannaway Waterway in Chautauqua County for restoration of canoeing and fishing.

Shows --

Kent said that we got a free booth for the spring show and he thought it was a pretty good success, and Bob Church said that the Safari Club Mountain attracted a lot of attention and that it will be in the main bldg. next year.

National Hunting and Fishing Day -- Mike Simkins

No Report

Budget and Finance --Tony Scime (Motion to pay Bills)

Motion to approve - Bill Fulton

2nd- Al Commerford

Carried

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Old Business

The Erie County Parks master plan is still being developed. To date, only 200 plus surveys have been returned. This is our opportunity to voice opinions as to what direction we would like the County to take for future parks and public land policies. To download a copy of the survey, go to www.erie.gov and click on the "Erie County Master Plan". If you don't have Internet access, give Kent Kruse a call at 655-4056 and one will be sent to you.

Tony Scime' said that new developments in the Tonawanda Bridge caused Joel Giambra and the Town Board to come out against the building site. The momentum is shifting however it isn't dead yet until they take it off the table.

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New Business

The Conservation Council has requested an updated list of Federation clubs with names and addresses of contact people. It has been the Federation's policy not to give out this list to any other organizations for privacy considerations.

Clubs wishing to receive the Council's "Grass Roots News" monthly publication, which gives updated information on state legislation and conservation issues, should contact the Council at 315-894-3302 and ask for Linda Coffin. You can also e-mail them at - nyscc@nyscc.com with the information. Clubs can also send their "club's news" for publication to - NYSCC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357 or e-mail them by the second Monday of the month.

The Council also has the policy of not arbitrarily giving or selling private club information.

Dan Tone said that Danny Carrol who Will said is retiring; you just don't replace people like this. Dan ran into him and he wanted Dan to thank the Federation for all the support and cooperation he received from us over the years, he wrote this thank you in a newsletter and gave it to Dan to bring tonight. However Dan forgot the newsletter and what you see is what you get.

Tony Scime' said that Gander Mountain is opening a new store in the Town of Tonawanda and they requested a list of the Directors of the Clubs in the Federation to have Club Grand Opening. They said that they would make it a fund raiser and anything that the club members purchased they would give back to that club 10% of the purchase price. We do not give club names or officers of the clubs to any one, however any club that would be interested contact Gander Mountain and give them your Name.

Bob Church brought up the Erie County 4H Shooting Sports Program that is looking for instructors. There is a workshop coming up on the 16,17&18 of April to qualify as a certified 4H instructor for insurance purposes. To add to that the kids are from all over the County and we are looking for some clubs to donate their facilities to have the kids come there for the program. If you feel that your club could do this please contact Bob at 592-7211 and they would be glad to come and talk to your board and explain the whole program. Bob said that you can't do these things in Schools, Halls or Churches anymore but Sports Clubs are Acceptable.

Diane Racich explained how the Shooting Sports Program works and the requirements for the 4H. There was a lot of discussion about certification of the 4H and the NYS Instructors.

Don Davis asked to see an Outline of what is required for the 4H certification, so that the NRA and DEC Instructors could evaluate it. There was much discussion of this subject.

Dan Tone next meeting be prepared for the Youth Pheasant Hunt if your Club is interested will draw next month. Also next meeting we will vote on extending the fall season for turkeys in the northern zone of this Region.

50/50 Raffle

Winner - Tony Scime' \$43.50

Motion for Adjournment

Motion to adjourn - Nelson Cronin

2nd- Al Commerford

Carried

Thanks to Host Club

Lake Shore Fire Co. Exempts Sportsmen Club

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's clubs, Inc.
Fred D Langdon, Recording Secretary
311 Downing St.
Buffalo, NY 14220

ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUB'S, INC.

Member of New York state conservation council
Monthly newsletter and minutes
April 24, 2003

Federation Meeting Agenda 4/24/03

Call to order - 7:30 - Hawkeye Bowmen Inc.

-
Pledge to flag - VP Joe Fischer

Roll call -- Officers and Directors

Excused:

Absent:

Quorum of member clubs -- Present: West Falls Cons. Soc., East Aurora F&G, NWTurkey Fed,

SCOPE, Bison City R&G, Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc., Alden R&G, WNY Trout Unltd, Hawkeye Bowmen, Safari Club, Alden JR R&G, Niagara Musky Assoc., Allied Sportsmen, Elma Cons. Club, Hamburg R&G, Lackawanna Cons., Lake Shore Exmpt's, Mohawk R&P, Springville F&S, Glen-Coe Cons., Erie County Cons., Leo's Archery, Crows Nest, Simon Girty Long Rifles, Depew R&G, Pheasants Forever, Southtowns, Niagara River Anglers, Buffalo R&G, Deer Search. 28 Total

Approval of previous month's minutes

Motion to approve- Pat Schlicht 2nd Al Commerford Carried

Secretary's report -- Fred Langdon

At the request of Delegate Hal Lawrence of the Niagara River Station Fishing Club Fred asked the members present if they were interested in purchasing a raffle ticket to benefit the Niagara Station parking lot construction project. There were no takers !

Membership report -- Mike Smith

Mike has sent each club a questioner to up date the club's information Please fill out ASAP and return it to Mike. These questioners are important as they contain the most updated information about your club and are used thru out the year to contact the right people when needed. Only 1 club is not paid to date.

Treasurer's report -- Tony Scime

Balance March 27, 2003 - \$12,868.39 Receipts - \$649.78, Expenses - \$811.92

Balance April 24, 2003 - \$12,706.25

Motion to approve - Dave Barus 2nd Al Commerford Carried

Correspondence report -- Will Elliott

Will reported that at the request of the membership he sent individually addressed letters to Senators, Maziarz, Rath, Stachowski and Volker and to Assembly persons Higgins, Hoyt, Peoples, Schimminger and Smith. This letter was in response to a vote at the March meeting to restore the Shooting Sports in the Empire State Games.

Next meetings and locations:

5/22/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Erie County Conservation, 13319 Miller Ave. Protection, NY

6/26/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Glen Coe Conservation Club, Foote Rd., Glenwood, NY

7/24/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Open

Guest Speakers:

Standing Committee Reports:

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Archery & Bowhunting--Dave Reed

Dave mentioned that there were new restrictions on archery equipment for hunting in the State of South Dakota; the reason for these restrictions is to maintain archery hunting as a "primitive" sport in view of the increasing expansion of archery equipment technology. For more Info, zwire.com/images/spacer.gif

Dave stated that he would like all the clubs involved with Archery post their shoots on the web site

so that they could avoid any conflicts. The site address is erictyfsc.org
Archery Shoot Dates - Hawkeye Bowmen - August, 15&16 - Traditional Shoot, Sept., 1 - Labor Day Safari

Shoot.

Collins Conservation - July 27 - 30 Targets, August 31 - Trophy Fun shoot, 30 Targets
October 5 - Final tune-up, 30 Targets

West Falls Conservation Society in house archery every Friday night. Call Mike Cummings for info (716) 655-5030

Don't forget the 9th Annual Youth Archery Camp will be held at Elma Conservation Club on August 15, 16 & 17 this year, He has applications for those interested. Clubs interested in donating to this worthy cause please contact Frank Miskey Jr. at 681-5690 also volunteers are needed for this program.

Crossbow - Tony Gonnello

Tony said that the Penna. Game News had an interesting article on the Cross bow; if any one is interested he has a copy.

Dan Tone reported that Mike Simkins is now the Region 9 Archery and Bow hunting Rep. For the NYS Conservation Council.

Fish - Dave Barus

Dave said that most of the stocking is done for this year except for next Monday April 28, where steelhead will be stocked in Cayuga Creek, Buffalo, and Cazenovia Creeks. Dave mentioned the fact that there are four other clubs besides East Aurora F&G that are having Wal-Mart Fishing Derby's. He also said that he was on the Where to Fish Website hosted by Sanders fishing guide and it is a fantastic fishing site. The Where to Fish site is on the WGRZ.com home page, look for the site on the left hand column, you won't be sorry.

The dates for the 2003 fish days, Chestnut ridge is June 28 and that corresponds with the State's free fishing dates. Tiffy fishing day will be June 14th this year, please mark your calendar because we need all the help we can get. The fishing poles have to be set up for the fish days, Kent will set a day to work on the fishing poles.

Dave mentioned that the plans to stock walleyes in the Buffalo River are going well the "Eye guys" met the other day at Bison City, the shocking team was there for the last time this year and there have been no Walleye shocked this year. It will be interesting to see what this shocking program will come up with 5 years from now. This study is on going and Dave will give a full report down the road. Chuck Godfrey said that they are going to be planting about 1500 bare root seedlings along the banks of Scooner Brook just above Rt. 39 in the first week in May. This is a long term project to get some shade over to Brook, will take about 15 to 20 years to come to fruition.

Joe Fischer commented on the new Hot Spot Maps they have been distributed to the various sporting goods stores and the response is amazing, and it seems that every one that sees it is impressed. They are going very fast.

It was brought up that the Bass Masters are having a Bass tournament on May 17 to benefit the Make a Wish Foundation, watch the papers for more information.

Small game -- Dan Tone

Dan said that Niagara County Federation is looking for input on how you feel about hunting in State Parks, if you recall they wanted to shut down the Pheasant hunting in these parks last year. Sent your comments to NYS-CHA, Post Office box 235, Sanborn, NY 14132

Dan remarked on the Big and Small Game meeting held in March was a terrific meeting with great speakers, there was a small crowd and he hopes that next year it will be better attended.

The NYS Conservation Council committee meeting will be held this Saturday, April 26 in Herkimer, NY. Any one interested in going the Federation will pay for your expenses, contact me ASAP.

Last meeting it was announced that we would vote on the proposed change in the turkey season so the upper area of the western part of the State with the southern area of the western part of the State. This is to make them the same thing. Dan Made a motion that we vote in favor of this change 2nd Al Commerford , this would affect WMU,9-A,C&F and 8-A,C,F,G,H,J&K. Motion Carried

Big game - Paul Stoos

Paul attended the Big and Small Game meeting and gave us the highlights of the Speakers that were featured at the meeting the context of which can be found on the Federation website. Many of the speakers were adamant about the fact that WE HAVE TO CONTACT OUR AREA LEGISLATORS TO LET THEM KNOW HOW WE FEEL ABOUT THE LEGISLATION THAT AFFECT US AND OUR PASSIONS.

John Susz added that the Safari Club provided the hall and the refreshments and we thank them for this. The meeting was not well attended and there were no youth or women in the audience. John pointed out that the Exposed Fishing license was discussed, and it looks like the license will be the same color every year, this will be difficult for the Conservation Officers to check licenses.

Trapping -- Patti Wattengel

Steve Cipolla reported that Assemblyman Grannis introduced a bill, A-480, which is to allow individual Counties to Ban Trapping in their respective County. The Senate companion Bill is S-2901

Waterfowl - Paul Pietraszewski

John Daniels said that the Task Force met and would like the dates for this waterfowl season to be October 24 to December 2nd and December 26 to the 8th or 9th of January, 2004. John thinks that the Federation should have a delegate on this board because we have more duck hunters in the Buffalo area than the Finger Lakes. John said that 6 States in the Atlantic flyway have a Teal Season in September, and we cannot get a Teal season because we have 5 Zones. They also have a three way split and we can have this either because we have to many Zones. Many of the birds are all gone thru by the end of October and we miss them. As long as they let Duck hunters make the seasons we will be shut out, many of the diving ducks are in trouble, no canvas back season last year, redheads are low in population and blue bills have been decreasing for the last ten years. John thinks that we have been getting the short end of the stick for years and we set back and let it happen. He wants to put something in writing and publicize what is happening with the waterfowl season in this State. There was a discussion about why we don't have a delegate on the Task Force, and the consensus was that no one is that interested.

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Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

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Law Enforcement

Bob Church said that the whole department is in a turmoil and there are a lot of transfers and shift changes.

Legislation - John Susz

To keep in touch what's going on with firearm legislation in New York, check out SCOPE's web site at - www.scopeny.org

John announced the following Federal Legislation that will affect the Sporting Community:

On Wednesday, April 9, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1036 the reckless lawsuit

Pre-emption Legislation by an overwhelming Bipartisan 285-140 vote. H.R. 1036 seeks to end the abuse of our judicial system by the Gun-Ban Lobby, Anti-gun big City Mayors, and greedy Trial Lawyers, by prohibiting their coordinated strategy of filing endless predatory lawsuits designed to bankrupt law-abiding Gun Manufacturers.

The Senate Version, S-659 was introduced by Senators Larry Craig and Max Bacus and currently has 52 Co-Sponsors. Anti-gun extremists, clearly in the minority on this issue, are threatening to filibuster this critical reform. Contact your U.S. Senators and tell them that you expect them to do the right thing and support this important Bill.

The "Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2003" would exempt current and former Law Enforcement Officers from State Laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed firearms in most public places. The Bill has broad Law Enforcement support. It would effectively place thousands of armed Law Enforcement Officers on the streets at no cost to the States or Cities.

Senator Edward Kennedy wants to derail the Bill through an amendment that would ban the sale of virtually all center fire rifle ammunition and some conventional handgun ammunition to private citizens, Kennedy's amendment has virtually no chance of being approved. Its main achievement is to show how anti-gun and anti- Police viewpoints can go hand and hand. CONTACT your U.S. Senators and ask them to vote for this Bill. The Bill # is S-253

State Legislation - Ask your Assemblyman to support Dick Smith's Bill #A-1531 to guarantee the right to hunt, Fish and trap in New York State. This will require a constitutional Amendment and letters of support are very IMPORTANT.

Special Note - President Bush is apparently planning to support a renewal of the assault weapons ban, according to a Knight-Ridder news story on April 13. A Bush spokesman said He (Bush) supports renewal of the current Law, which is scheduled to expire just before the Presidential Election. Bush the Elder was responsible for the initial ban, and slick Willy Clinton gladly added to the ban when He was President. These Firearms have proven to be the Firearms least likely to be used in Crimes. Steve Aldstadt had letters for the members to send to President Bush in regard to the ban on the Assault Weapon and other letters to various Legislators regarding bills that affect us.

Joe Fischer said that we need a session on letter writing for the members of the Federation and he will talk to Kent regarding this.

Bob Church reported on the Safari Club bus trip to Albany and said that everyone attending thought it was a successful trip. Bob also remarked that some of the Legislator commented on the lack of letters from sportsmen.

The subject of writing letters to our Representatives was discussed at length.

NYSCC Legislative Alert 05/02/03

Several bills of interest have found there way to the assembly environmental conservation and codes committee for Tuesday May 6. As well as one for the Senate codes committee. Please take the time to make your concerns heard.

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT NOW...

Assembly Encon Committee Agenda May 6, 2003 Chair Assemblyman DiNapoli

Bill 1 A6466 - NYSCC Supports

A 6466 Parment Same as [S 2984](#) MCGEE Prohibits the use of artificial lights in conjunction with the taking of deer or bear between the hours of midnight and the following sunrise
(Bill Text)

Section 1. Paragraph e of subdivision 4 of section 11-0901 of the environmental conservation law, as amended by chapter 600 of the laws of 1993, is amended to read as follows: e. (1) No person shall use a jacklight, spotlight, or **any** other type of artificial light ~~[upon lands inhabited by]~~ **to spotlight, jacklight, illuminate or identify** deer or bear **between**

midnight and the following sunrise or within five hundred feet from a dwelling house, farm building or farm structure actually occupied or used, for the purpose of locating, spotting, harrying, worrying or otherwise disturbing deer or bear.²) The prohibition contained in subparagraph one of this paragraph shall not apply to (i) the owner ~~[or lessee of the dwelling house, or members of his immediate family residing therein, or a person in his employ, or the guest of the owner or lessee of the dwelling house acting with the consent of said owner or lessee, provided however, that nothing herein shall be deemed to authorize such persons to use a jacklight, spotlight or other type of artificial light within five hundred feet from any other dwelling house, farm building or farm structure actually occupied or used, for the purpose of locating, spotting, harrying, worrying or otherwise disturbing deer or bear or~~ (ii) the authorized use of a spotlight or other artificial light regularly operated and maintained by a police department or other law enforcement agency or by any local or state department or agency duly authorized to render services for the protection of life and property], lessee, or invitee of the property owner upon which the light is being used; (ii) trappers engaged in lawful trapping activities; (iii) law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties; or (iv) those who are lawfully hunting small game.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law. EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL: The purpose of this legislation is to place additional restrictions on the practice of "spotlighting" game in order to decrease the illegal taking of deer and bear, and to decrease the disturbance of landowners.

Bill 2 - A6412 - NYSCC Opposes

A6412 DiNapoli ..Lowers the level of intoxication required to be considered to be hunting while intoxicated from .10 to .08

Sponsor's Justification: It's common sense that guns and alcohol don't mix well. But beyond common sense, many studies suggest that amounts of alcohol above 0.08 Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) can cause significant impairment of one's perception and motor skills. Research has shown that lowering the legal Blood Alcohol Content from 0.10 to 0.08 can actually reduce fatalities. Just as the legal BAC level has been lowered for the operation of motor vehicles from .10 to .08, the same policy should be implemented for hunting.

Assembly Codes Committee Agenda May 6, 2003

Bill 1- A4609 - Canned Shoots - NYSCC Opposes Chair Assemblyman Lentol

A 4609 Stringer Same as S 2735 PADAVAN Provides that all animals, rather than only non-native big game mammals, shall be subject to the prohibition on canned shoots

PLEASE MAKE THE CALLS ON THIS ONE Tell them we are willing to sit down and discuss this now.

Bill 2 - A 8024 - Unclaimed rifles - NYSCC Opposes

A 8024 Rules Same as [S 3507](#) VOLKER Departmental Bill # 7 Division of State Police (Internal # 6 - 2003) Penal Law ..Relates to designating unclaimed rifles or shotguns as nuisance weapons

Amends Penal Law section 400.05 to extend the existing firearm destruction scheme to rifles, shotguns, and other weapons

Senate Codes Committee Agenda May 6, 2003 Committee Chair - Senator Dale Volker

Bill 1- S1111- NYSCC Supports

S 1111 VOLKER Same as [A 2397](#) Smith (MS) Amd S400.00, Pen L Establishes a presumption (rebuttable) that an applicant for a pistol or revolver license (including to have and carry concealed such a firearm) has proper cause for issuance thereof unless the prior moral, mental or criminal record of the person indicates that good cause exists to believe that any benefit accruing to the person would be outweighed by potential dangers to public safety that would be engendered by issuance of such license.

Department Bills have been entered. More information on these will be sent Monday.

Of interest: **S4931 MARCELLINO No Same as Governor Program Bill # 24**

Provides for a junior small and big game license, and defines privileges granted to such licensee

04/30/03 REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

S4940 WRIGHT No Same as Departmental Bill # 226 Department of Environmental Conservation (Internal # 19 - 2003) .Continues the authority of the department of environmental conservation to adopt regulations for hunting in the northern zone

04/30/03 REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Resolutions -- Bob Fuller

Bob said that he hasn't heard any thing from to office yet.

Membership Outreach -- Kent Kruse

The membership secretary would like all club presidents to consider attending at least one regular Federation meeting a year. This might not only prove to be a learning experience, But may also provide a better insight as to the importance of having representation on behalf of their clubs.

Sportsman Education -- Frank Miskey Sr.

Special Committee Reports:

Awards -- Will Elliott

No Report

Banquet --

Dan tone said that next years banquet would be February 28th 2004, and the following year (2005),

the first week in March.

Educational Opportunities --Chuck Godfrey

Chuck reported on the Outdoor Educational Workshop, that there are Scholarships available from the Federation. Information and Applications can be obtained on line at www.NYSCC.com, click on "site map" then click on "Outdoor Educational Workshop" under "Educational Opportunities". Send completed application to Chuck Godfrey or Kent Kruse.

CFAB -- Don Kill

No Report

-

Fund Raising -- Tony Gonnello

Tony said that he will be collecting for the 2004, Remington calendars as soon as he hears from them.

FWMB -- Bob Church

No Report

Shows --

Fred Kokot reported that there would be a meeting on May 6th, at 7:30, in the Fair office, for the Chairmen of the Booths. He has contacted some of the clubs that are involved with an exhibit; any other clubs involved are welcome. The people from the fair will be there to explain the procedure for the exhibitors. If your organization has a booth it is very important to have the booth manned at all times.

National Hunting and Fishing Day -- Mike Simkins

Budget and Finance --Tony Scime (Motion to pay Bills)

Tony said that he has received a request for funds from Glen Coe Conservation Club for their Youth Fishing Derby in the amount of \$250.00

Motion to approve - Paul Stoos

2nd- Mike Smith

Carried

Old Business - Our Webmaster Paul Stoos reported that the web site is up and running and any one that would like to post club activates contact Paul at 822-1353 or at our website, eriectyfsc.org.

Paul encouraged the members present to use the site, as there is much information on it. Paul has done a great job organizing the site and it will only get better with the input of our membership.

-

New Business -Aug.2 Annual East Aurora Fish & Game Club - NRA Youth Outdoor Sportsfest, At East Aurora Fish & Game Club, 1016 Luther Rd, East Aurora; 9am-5pm, free lunch. Youth participants aged 12-17, Introduction to safe handling of firearms, outdoor lore, archery, crossbow, demonstration of shooting sports in a safe, positive and educational environment. Pre-registration - Phone Dr. Conrad Boyle, (716) 652-0229.

Aug. 16 Annual East Aurora Fish & Game Club - Wal-Mart Kids Fishing Derby held from 10am - 3pm at East Aurora Fish & Game Club: Open to ages 1 to 15. Prize categories will be organized by age as follows: under 4, 5-8, 9-12, and 13-15. There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for each age group. FREE. Parents, join us to learn how to fish. Dave Barus, Derby Chairman. Call 652-2256 for more Info. Tony Gonnello brought information regarding the NABF, (North American Bear Foundation), their goals and ambitions are basically the same as the Federation. They believe in education as well, to

work together for our hunting heritage. Their headquarters are in Fort Ripley, Minnesota, and have a Chapter in Niagara County, Tony will probably be named a Field Director and is working on a Chapter for Erie County. If anyone has any questions contact Tony and he will fill you in on the NABF and their objectives.

Dick McMurray said that he has applications for the Youth Pheasant hunt sponsored by Pheasants Forever, Dates are September 20 and October 4, \$25.00 per youth and requires Club sponsorship or sponsorship by a PF Member.

Turkey Fed. Jakes Day will be June 14th at Elma Conservation Club 9am to 1pm, with lunch.

Southtowns Gun Raffle September 20th, donation \$15.00 includes Raffle and refreshments.

Dan Tone had drawing for youth Pheasant hunt; all clubs present are eligible for the drawing. Clubs drawn are the Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc., Niagara Musky Assoc., Elma Conservation, Depew R&G, Safari Club, Alden R&G. All names have to be in by next meeting, contact Dan with the name your club has picked to participate in this hunt.

50/50 Raffle

Winner - Dennis Cronin \$38.50

Motion for Adjournment

Motion to adjourn - Nelson Cronin

2nd- Steve Aldstadt

Thanks to Host Club

Hawkeye Bowman Inc.

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's clubs, Inc.
Fred D Langdon, Recording Secretary
311 Downing St.
Buffalo, NY 14220

ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUB'S, INC.

Member of New York state conservation council
Monthly newsletter and minutes
May 22, 2003

Federation Meeting Agenda 5/22/03

Call to order - 7:30 Erie County Conservation Society

-

Pledge to flag - President Kruse

Roll call -- Officers and Directors

Excused: Joe Fischer, Tony Scime, Don Davis, Paul Stoos

Absent: Dave Reed, Bill Fulton, Patricia Holmes, Dave Barus

Quorum of member clubs -- Present: West Falls, Safari Club, NW Turkey Fed., Mohawk R&P, Alden R&G, Springville F&S, Elma Cons., Lackawanna Cons., Bison City R&G, Crows Nest, Depew R&G, Lake Shore Fire Exempt, Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc., Scope, Hawkeye Bowmen, Wood & Brook, Hamburg R&G, East Aurora F&G, Millgrove Sportsmen, WNY Trout Unlmted. (20 total)

-

August 31 - Trophy Fun shoot, 30 Targets

West Falls Conservation Society in house archery every Friday night. Call Mike Cummings for info (716) 655-5030

West Falls Conservation Society Announces their 2003, 3D Archery Shoots, Sunday, July 6, Thursday night 3D Shoots start July 10 thru September 25, 15 Target Shoot, Spaghetti Dinners Available. Sunday September 28, 30 Target Shoot, Contact Mike

The 9th Annual Youth Archery Camp will be held at Elma Conservation Club on August 15, 16 & 17 this year, He has applications for those interested. Clubs interested in donating to this worthy cause please contact Frank at 681-5690 also volunteers are needed for this program.

Crossbow - Tony Gonnello

Update: Maryland

Maryland has authorized crossbows across the state during all firearm and all muzzleloader deer hunting seasons and in the bow season from October 1 to 15th and January 15 to 31st.

Update: New Hampshire

New Hampshire is to allow the use of crossbows for all hunters during the regular rifle season. Crossbows would also be allowed in towns that prohibit rifle hunting.

Update: New York

The legislature is receiving a lot of anti-crossbow letters. Many of you are aware that there is a segment of the sportsman fraternity that feels strongly that crossbows are not legitimate archery tools. However, it is fact that the Organized sportsman of New York via the New York State Conservation Council and the Conservation Fund Advisory Board support the crossbow As does the ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS, INC. If you want to see the crossbow recognized in New York State, as in many other states, you must write in-----NOW.

Will Elliott said that he received an E-Mail from the President-elect of The New York Bowhunters, Kevin Armstrong, Bringing him up on charges for breaching the rules and regulations of the Organization and has been asked to speak at a hearing to defend his position. Will read some figures that he will present at the hearing that supports his position if they allow him enough time. Will said that many members have left the ranks of New York Bowhunters because of their stand on the Crossbow, and for that matter some 21 outdoor writers across the State have written articles in favor of the Crossbow. He has been accused of being on the payroll of Horton Crossbow Co. because of his stand in favor of the Crossbow. Will has many questions to ask the hearing officers when he appears and wants to know if the Board members were aware of or approved the letters sent out by the President-elect in opposition of the upcoming Bill in the legislature. Will has asked for 45 minutes to present his rebuttal and has not heard from Mr. Armstrong, if he does present his case he will give this federation, and the NYS Conservation Council a report on the hearing and the ultimate outcome of same.

Fish - Dave Barus

Bob Church reported that Gov. Jim Douglas of Vermont signed into law a long awaited bill that will allow anglers with Vermont fishing licenses to fish in New York Waters and anglers with New York Licenses to fish in Vermont Waters. This will take effect on January 1, 2004.

Nelson Cronin thanked all that helped with the stocking of the Steelheads this spring, there were 42,000 fish stocked in area waterways.

Will Elliott said that the Buffalo River Walleye Restoration Program had a meeting this morning and had the privilege of having newly retired Biologist Rip Collasanti and fisheries manager drive all the

way here to meet with the local DEC Lake Erie Unit people and with us, went to inspect two local prospective Walleye rearing ponds. Rip stayed and talked at the Bison R&G Club for over an hour and a half and he said that he would come back if they needed help. Rip had many suggestions on the best way to get the fish from the ponds to the river and one of the sites lent itself to a somewhat ideal situation. This will be a seven-year program that Spencer Schofield has developed for this walleye restoration. Will told the members present some of the methods that they would use to raise the fish once a proper site is found and the program starts.

Chuck Godfrey brought up the proposed changes in the Steelhead creel limits that the States wants comments from the various clubs and individuals, so they have an idea of the feelings of the sports fishing public. The proposed change would be to reduce the limit from 3 fish to 1 in the tributaries of Lakes Ontario and Erie. Dan Tone made a motion to OPPOSE the recommendation and 2nd by Bob Church, Carried the Federation goes on record in opposition to this Proposal. On proposal SW1, no more than two of the 5 fish be over 12 inches, Dan Tone made a motion to OPPOSE, 2nd Al Commerford. There was a lot of discussion on this proposal, Dan said that the fish were stocked for the purpose of giving the public something to catch and the regulations are confusing enough now. DEC Officer Lt. Scott said that the fish are vulnerable but he can see both side of the discussion, he said that we would have to make our own decision regarding this issue. Vote was taken and the members voted to oppose, Federation goes on record in opposition. There was some discussion regarding the proposal to create a 3.7-mile long No Kill trout-fishing zone on the Ishuwa creek, Area Franklinville, Cattaraugus County. Season would be open year round using artificial bait only. Motion made to OPPOSE by Bob Church, 2nd Dan Tone, motion carried and the Federation goes on record to oppose this change in the Regulations. Will Elliott reported that there is a proposal to change the Walleye season on the Lower Niagara, this change would close the season on December 31, there was a lot of discussion regarding this proposed change and it was tabled until we could get further information. Will said that Paul McQuen was also considering a regulation change in Chautauqua Lake to change the creel limit from 5 to 3 and the length from 15" to 18" this is Chautauqua Lake only, his reasoning is the low rate of reproduction. This action was also tabled due to lack of information. Kent reminded us of the Federation fishing days coming up on June 14 and 28 and said there will be a organization meeting at Bison City R&G on May 27, at 7pm it will be a short but necessary meeting please attend. Kent and Paul need help to R&R the fishing poles for these events, Contact Kent or Paul.

Small game -- Dan Tone

Dan noted that three of our Conservation friends have passed away and should be recognized, a long time active member of the Cattaraugus County Federation Bob Ratzel, and Franklin "Dutch" Volk who served on the Gun Committee for the NYS Conservation Council for many years, Doug Kerr who was only 49 years of age, Doug was an Officer of the DEC and Lt. Tom Scott remarked that Doug put his heart and soul into the job and was instrumental in the formation of the NY Conservation Officers Assoc. The Members present stood for a moment of Silence in remembrance of these three very active Gentlemen

Dan reminded the members that the names were to be handed in tonight for the Youth Pheasant hunt, so far Dan has two out of six those other clubs that won the draw please get the applications to Dan. Dan reported on the 4H Pheasant program birds, they will be coming the first week in June and he will confirm the date with his committee. This year they are getting 1245 chicks.

Dan reported on the NYS Conservation Council Committee meeting in Herkimer NY that He and Fred Langdon attended, Dan said that in DEC Wildlife Div. There are 449 People and with the License fee increase we will be cut to 406, this includes the 51 retirees, the concern was that some of the jobs that were funded out of the General fund would be paid with Conservation Fund dollars. We were afraid of that and now it's going to happen. There is a new plan for Wild Turkey, they are doing a lot of things with turkeys and they are going to handle them Differently. There is going to be a study conducted this year on the damage done by wild turkeys to dairy farmers operations. The farmers claim that the turkeys do damage the hay bails and other areas; Dan said it is a good thing that they

will look into their claims to see just how and if there is damage. NYS DEC is looking into a Youth hunt for next year and it will be two days prior to the regular season, and at our next meeting we will take a vote on this proposal.

At the game farm the birds of prey are doing a lot of damage thru the winter getting at the Pheasants, they are going to try something new like covering the cages this summer. The Habitat Stamp so far garnered \$31,657.50; they are going to work much harder to get this figure up next year.

They reported that there were 10,000 licensed trappers last year and it was a big surprise, this is the most we had in ages. Under Waterfowl the DEC will be ending the voluntary duck stamp program, they will be developing a plan for waterfowl feeding and they think that the problem with the Snow Geese is that they appear after the season is over. At the general meeting in the afternoon there was a kind of confusing message regarding the Council's financial condition, one person said that they need \$10,000 to pay the bills and another said that there was more money coming in at this time than in the past, and we are in good shape. One of the things that everyone stressed and you hear this at whatever meeting you go to is that you have to send letters, the ANTI'S are doing it and if you want others to dictate our sport just sit back and don't write letters. The council is really pushing for new heritage members this year, its \$25.00 per year to become a member, and Dan will take it in for you.

Big game - Paul Stoos

Al Commerford reported that He attended the Spring Committee meeting of the NYS Conservation Council and said the Deer take in 2002 was 308,200, a 10% increase, had a few problems with the DECALS system with hunters trying to use the phone call in system. Fred put the DECALS Game Harvest Reporting Cheat sheet in last month's minutes. There were 771,000 DMP permits handed out and 148,172 filled, Muzzleloader take was 13,840, a 50% increase, and 33,255 taken in archery season the highest ever.

The 2002 Black bear count was Allegany 84, a new record 14 more than last year, Catskill 278 and Adirondack 550. A new bear management plan will be completed this spring.

Bob Church told us that Russ Biss is leaving his job as Wildlife Manager and will appointed Region 9 Director of Natural Resources. This will be next month and a replacement has not been announced at this time. Mike Simkins said that he was asked to attend the NYSCC Spring meeting as Archery representative and had a very enjoyable experience. _

Trapping -- Patti Wattengel

Waterfowl - Paul Pietraszewski

No Report

-

Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

The Federation has decided to promote the voluntary " Buck A Member Program" proposed by the Council. This, if successful, will insure a reliable source of income to meet the future needs for our only "conservation rights" lobbying organization in our state.

For those clubs who feel this is a worthwhile cause, please make checks payable to - "New York State Conservation Council" and send to - NYSCC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357.

To those clubs who donated last year, we hope that your commitment will carry on. Please don't wait until the Council solicits for your help. They need the resources now to fund the year's budget needs. Also, to those clubs who chose not to participate, please consider what the Council is asking for: "a dollar a member." A buck doesn't buy that much these days, not a beer at a bar, not a pack of cigarettes or a good cigar, not a decent fishing lure or even a couple dozen worms for that matter! Perhaps it's time we sportsmen and women consider putting this all in perspective!

NYSCC 2003 ANNUAL FISH COMMITTEE MEETING

Attendance: E. Zamjohn-Reg.4, R. Brown-Reg.5, W. Girvan-Reg.6, C. Crosby-Reg.7, J. Strickland-Reg.8, J.Fischer-Reg.9, Guests- D.Stang(NYSDEC), W.Bennett, J.Bennett, J.Young, G.Sergio.

The annual meeting of the NYSCC fish committee was held on April 26th, 2003 at Herkimer County Community College. The meeting was called to order at 9:05AM. The minutes of this meeting are as follows.

DEC FISCAL SITUATION

D. Stang, chief of fisheries for the NYSDEC, stated that there were only 4 retirements in the fish hatchery system. The bad news was that the DEC employment will drop from approx. 449 people to 406. The retirements dropped the employment level to 398, which would allow for 8 new hires to bring the level to the desired 406. Fish and wildlife Regional Directors positions are vacant in Reg.4, 6,7,8 and 9. Some of these positions might be backfilled but this again leaves no replacements for the people moving up. The committee was very upset and felt that Governor Patacki has betrayed the sportsmen. The sportsmen supported the license fee increase to solidify the conservation fund and now the excess money in the fund is "frozen" once again, because of politics! The Conservation fund is healthy and there is no reason to not replace the retired personnel.

FISH HATCHERIES

D. Stang reported that the hatcheries are all operating efficiently with over 150,000,000 walleye eggs gathered at the Oneida Lake hatchery in 1 day! Doug went on to say that there were 18 big tank trucks available for fish stocking. A new water pipeline is under construction for the South Otselic hatchery. The annual musky netting at Chautauqua Lake is under way with over 200 muskies being captured. The committee expressed their pleasure in the ability of the DEC to continue the important stocking programs in trying times.

CORMORANTS The committee was informed by D. Stang that the federal government is giving the states more authority to control the cormorant problem providing they can prove that a severe problem exists. This is easy for New York State as they have conducted many studies and have accumulated a great deal of data to justify the need for a tougher cormorant management program. The NYSDEC will, for now, continue to oil eggs, check the cormorant consumption of fish and conduct an eastern basin (Lake Ontario) survey. Oneida Lake, has also obtained \$500,000 from New York State for cormorant control.

NYSCC RESOLUTION_2003

The only new 2003 NYSCC resolution (03-4 Chautauqua County) that pertained to fishing was discussed. This resolution requested that the DEC do a full review of commercial bait fishing operations and the effect of bait transportation between watersheds. The fish committee felt that the need for this has been long overdue and voted in favor of it.

PROPOSED FISHING REGULATIONS-NYSDEC

The proposed new fishing regulations were reviewed; many went without committee comment. The ones that received positive or negative comments are as follows:

The proposed new inland trout regulation that would allow only 2 trout over 12" in the daily creel limit of 5 trout received a mixed review from the committee and the guests. Regions 4 and 5 are strongly opposed to this new proposal with all the federations in region 5 voting in opposition along with local politicians. Region 8 and region 6 however, was totally supportive of this regulation so in effect the committee agreed to disagree! D. Stang explained that the proposal was aimed at increasing the opportunity of anglers to catch some of the very popular 2-year-old stocked brown trout.

The proposal to change the steelhead creel limit on great lakes streams from 3 to 1 appears to be supported by most Lake Ontario anglers but is opposed by many Lake Erie steelhead anglers including

the Erie County fish advisory board.

"I FISH NEW YORK PROGRAM"

The lack of progress on the newly proposed "I Fish New York" program was also questioned by the committee. It appears that this program is on hold as there is presently none available to run the program. The program initially called for 3 dedicated people.

REGIONAL CONCERNS

Region 4 commented on the good stocking program run by SUNY on Otisco Lake. They also reiterated their opposition to the trout regulation, which allows only 2 fish over 12" in a daily creel limit of 5 fish.

Region 6 commented on the need for ethic education for some fishermen who tend to cause problems on the stream with their fishing tactics (float boats stopping in front of stream fishermen, etc.) All fishermen need to learn how to fish in a safe and sportsmen like manner. Oneida Lake still needs help. Fishing continues to go down hill and the sale of panfish does not help. Sportsmen need to call, write, and fax etc. their representative to pass a bill to prohibit this practice as people who do sell fish are organized and are calling their representatives.

Region 7 is very pleased with the walleye stocking in Owasco Lake and thanked Mr. Stang for his help. They hope however, that in the future the DEC would consider increasing the stocking to approx. 60,000 fingerlings from the present 30,000.

Region 9 also had concerns on the proposed daily creel limit change for walleye on Chautauqua Lake. Three fish per day seemed acceptable but the 18" size limit might be too big as the vast majority of the present Chautauqua walleyes run from 15-18". Walleyes also seem to grow at a very slow rate on this lake as it took a prolific 1993 class year about 7 years to attain a legal size of 15"!

Overall I was very pleased with the meeting as all members and guests conducted themselves in a considerate manner under trying statewide fiscal problems. A special thanks to D.Stang, for without his prolific input the meeting would not have been a success. I hope everyone got their "air time" and all-important issues were covered adequately. Have a safe and healthy summer. Good fishing to all...

J.Fischer

Law Enforcement

Lt. Tom Scott and Officer Mike Phelps of the DEC attended and Lt. Scott gave us his e-mail address, tdscott@gw.dec.state.ny.us any one is welcome to contact Lt. Scott especially the Sportsmen Education Instructors, as he is a real believer of Sportsmen Ed. And will try to have Officers at all these classes. Lt. Scott said that he has recently assigned back to Erie County, there have been a lot of changes in the Department, Erie County used to be two zones and now they have made it one zone of management. Now because of a transfer there is only 4 Officers covering the whole of Erie County and the officers are doing one hell of a job. He said that they want to be frequent attendees at our meetings; he wants to keep us updated on various changes and happenings around the County. To date there have been two unrelated shootings of turkey hunters and he went over the details with those in attendance. Officer Mike Phelps is assigned to one of the two boats in Erie County one boat will be at the Small Boat Harbor and the other is at Sturgeon Pt. Marina. All of the Officers will be working shifts as of April so they will be out around the clock. Lt. Scott commented on the difference in the relationship their Dept. has in the Courts compared to Catt. and Allegany Counties our Judges don't consider violations of the Conservation laws as a priority. He said that it is discouraging to see the amount of dismissals in the Buffalo Courts. Lt. Scott did commend two judges for their record and they are Judge Manz and Chief Judge Amadeo and he recommended that our organization send them letters to recognize their efforts. Lt. Scott answered some questions from the members.

Legislation - John Susz

To keep in touch what's going on with firearm legislation in New York, check out SCOPE's web site at - www.scopeny.org

Our fight now moves to the U.S. Senate, where companion legislation, S. 659, by Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID) and Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT), has attracted not only 52 co-sponsors but also vituperation from anti-gun extremists.

Despite attempts by the media elite to deliberately mischaracterize it, S. 659 is a straightforward effort to restore the rule of law. The bill provides that lawsuits may not be brought against manufacturers and sellers of firearms or ammunition if the suits are based on the criminal or unlawful use of the product by a third party. Suits based on violations of federal or state law are not forbidden, nor are suits based on breach of contract or on product liability claims involving injuries caused by an improperly functioning firearm.

S. 659 also expressly allows suits for negligent entrustment, defined as "the supplying of a qualified product by a seller for use by another person when the seller knows or should know the person to whom the product has been supplied is likely to use the product, and in fact does use the product, in a manner involving unreasonable risk of physical injury to himself and others."

Prior to passage of H.R. 1036, the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, chaired by Rep. Chris Cannon (R-UT), heard testimony about these junk lawsuits.

Walter Olson, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, told committee members that "the suits demonstrate how a pressure group can employ litigation to attempt an end run around democracy, in search of victories in court that it has been unable to obtain at the ballot box.

"Organizers of this campaign intend to use litigation as leverage to obtain sweeping nationwide changes in the manufacture and distribution of guns, including the de facto banning of some models, compulsory changes in gun design, and major new paperwork burdens and privacy sacrifices for gun owners and dealers."

Olson said anti-gun litigators were seeking out activist judges willing "to invent new law out of whole cloth," and that they realize that "even if defendants can fend off 98 percent of the cases, somebody somewhere is likely to break through, to the ruin of a given defendant or the entire industry."

Following Olson, Lawrence G. Keane, representing the National Shooting Sports Foundation, called upon Congress "to stop reckless lawsuits that seek to destroy and bankrupt a responsible American industry by blaming firearm manufacturers for the actions of criminals.

"The plaintiffs in these cases," he said, "do not allege that members of the firearms industry have broken any of our nation's over 20,000 firearm laws. Instead, they allege that the sale of a legal product in accordance with an extensive regulatory system somehow causes crime and that the industry is subverting the law to funnel firearms to the so-called criminal market. These allegations are both highly offensive and patently false."

Keane gave Congress a "conservative estimate" of industry legal costs to date to defend itself--in excess of \$100 million. "This has resulted," he said, "in large, across-the-board price increases for consumers."

Representing Colt's Manufacturing Company, Carlton S. Chen told the committee: "These lawsuits are dangerous not only to us but also to manufacturers of lawful products in other industries. Where will it end? Should General Motors be liable for an aggressive driver who crashes into another car? If the theory of these cases is widely applied, it could result in the bankruptcies of countless companies and the displacement of American workers."

New York - Assembly To Consider Several Anti-Gun Bills

The Assembly Codes Committee has sent a number of bills that would impact law-abiding gun owners, hunters, and sportsmen to the full Assembly for consideration. They include A 3311, which would prohibit the sale of any pistol or revolver not containing a "child proofing" device; A 7039 (same as S 4453) which bans the sale, use, and possession of .50-caliber firearms; and A 8285, which would prohibit the purchase of more than one pistol or revolver in a 30-day period. Two bills being pushed by New Yorkers Against Gun Violence (NYAGV) are A 8542, which would expand the current ballistic "identification" program to include rifles and shotguns and A 8456, which would place many new onerous restrictions and requirements on firearm dealers. A 8542 was just introduced on May 14 and referred to the Codes Committee. A 8456 was referred by the Codes Committee to the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. *Please contact your Assembly member and urge him to OPPOSE the proposals listed above.*

Also, the Senate Codes Committee has sent S 1111 (same as A 2397), which would establish the presumption that handgun license applicants have "proper cause" for issuance, and S 1244 (same as A 2730), which would limit a licensing officer's discretion in imposing additional restrictions on a licensee not otherwise provided for in law, to the full Senate for consideration. *Please contact your State Senator and encourage his SUPPORT for these critical reform measures.*

Steve Aldstadt said that the Jr. pistol license bill has gone to the floor in the Senate but while in committee there were provisions in the bill that prohibit localities from adding restrictions to the pistol permits that has been a problem in many Counties in the State. If the bill passes then this section of the bill would be eliminated. Steve received a message from Tom King of the NYS R&P Assoc. that the Canned Hunt bill is coming to a floor vote in both houses and will effectively end Preserve Hunting in NY. Assembly Bill is A-4609 and the Senate bill is S-2735 and he urged all members to contact our Legislators and ask them to vote against this bill.

H. R. 648

To protect the right to obtain firearms for security, and to use firearms in defense of self, family, or home, and to provide for the enforcement of such right.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 5, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To protect the right to obtain firearms for security, and to use firearms in defense of self, family, or home, and to provide for the enforcement of such right.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the `Citizens' Self-Defense Act of 2003'.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Police cannot protect, and are not legally liable for failing to protect, individual citizens, as evidenced by the following:

(A) The courts have consistently ruled that the police do not have an obligation to protect individuals, only the public in general. For example, in *Warren v. District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department*, 444 A.2d 1 (D.C. App. 1981), the court stated: `[C]ourts have without exception concluded that when a municipality or other governmental entity undertakes to furnish police services, it assumes a duty only to the public at large and not to individual members of the community.'

(B) Former Florida Attorney General Jim Smith told Florida legislators that police responded to only 200,000 of 700,000 calls for help to Dade County authorities.

(C) The United States Department of Justice found that, in 1989, there were 168,881 crimes of violence for which police had not responded within 1 hour.

(2) Citizens frequently must use firearms to defend themselves, as evidenced by the following:

(A) Every year, more than 2,400,000 people in the United States use a gun to defend themselves against criminals--or more than 6,500 people a day. This means that, each year, firearms are used 60 times more often to protect the lives of honest citizens than to take lives.

(B) Of the 2,400,000 self-defense cases, more than 192,000 are by women defending themselves against sexual abuse.

(C) Of the 2,400,000 times citizens use their guns to defend themselves every year, 92 percent merely brandish their gun or fire a warning shot to scare off their attackers. Less than 8 percent of the time, does a citizen kill or wound his or her attacker.

(3) Law-abiding citizens, seeking only to provide for their families' defense, are routinely prosecuted for brandishing or using a firearm in self- defense. For example:

(A) In 1986, Don Bennett of Oak Park, Illinois, was shot at by 2 men who had just stolen \$1,200 in cash and jewelry from his suburban Chicago service station. The police arrested Bennett for violating Oak Park's handgun ban. The police never caught the actual criminals.

(B) Ronald Biggs, a resident of Goldsboro, North Carolina, was arrested for shooting an intruder in 1990. Four men broke into Biggs' residence one night, ransacked the home and then assaulted him with a baseball bat. When Biggs attempted to escape through the back door, the group chased him and Biggs turned and shot one of the assailants in the stomach. Biggs was arrested and charged with assault with a deadly weapon--a felony. His assailants were charged with misdemeanors.

(C) Don Campbell of Port Huron, Michigan, was arrested, jailed, and criminally charged after he shot a criminal assailant in 1991. The thief had broken into Campbell's store and attacked him. The prosecutor plea-bargained with the assailant and planned to use him to testify against Campbell for felonious use of a firearm. Only after intense community pressure did the prosecutor finally drop the charges.

(4) The courts have granted immunity from prosecution to police officers who use firearms in the line of duty. Similarly, law-abiding citizens who use firearms to protect themselves, their families, and their homes against violent felons should not be subject to lawsuits by the violent felons who sought to victimize them.

SEC. 3. RIGHT TO OBTAIN FIREARMS FOR SECURITY, AND TO USE FIREARMS IN DEFENSE OF SELF, FAMILY, OR HOME; ENFORCEMENT.

(a) REAFFIRMATION OF RIGHT- A person not prohibited from receiving a firearm by Section 922

- (g) of title 18, United States Code, shall have the right to obtain firearms for security, and to use firearms--
- (1) in defense of self or family against a reasonably perceived threat of imminent and unlawful infliction of serious bodily injury;
 - (2) in defense of self or family in the course of the commission by another person of a violent felony against the person or a member of the person's family; and
 - (3) in defense of the person's home in the course of the commission of a felony by another person.
- (b) FIREARM DEFINED- As used in subsection (a), the term `firearm' means--
- (1) a shotgun (as defined in section 921(a)(5) of title 18, United States Code);
 - (2) a rifle (as defined in section 921(a)(7) of title 18, United States Code); or
 - (3) a handgun (as defined in section 10 of Public Law 99-408).
- (c) ENFORCEMENT OF RIGHT-
- (1) IN GENERAL- A person whose right under subsection (a) is violated in any manner may bring an action in any United States district court against the United States, any State, or any person for damages, injunctive relief, and such other relief as the court deems appropriate.
 - (2) AUTHORITY TO AWARD A REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEE- In an action brought under paragraph (1), the court, in its discretion, may allow the prevailing plaintiff a reasonable attorney's fee as part of the costs.
 - (3) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS- An action may not be brought under paragraph (1) after the 5-year period that begins with the date the violation described in paragraph (1) is discovered.

-

Resolutions -- Bob Fuller

Resolutions are out and on the front table please take a copy and **for those not present if you are interested in obtaining a copy of the Resolutions contact Kent and he will send you one.** At the June meeting there will be a question and answer period for the resolutions and Kent will have ballots for your club vote on it. Ballots will have to be turned in at the July meeting.

Membership Outreach -- Kent Kruse

The membership secretary would like all club presidents to consider attending at least one Regular Federation meeting a year. This might not only prove to be a learning experience, But may also provide a better insight as to the importance of having representation on behalf of their clubs.

-

Sportsman Education -- Frank Miskey Sr. Frank said that the DART system will be up and running by next week, Frank commented on the upcoming Erie County Fair and if he does not have enough passes for 66 people that they can't operate the DART system at the Fair. Kent said that with Fred Kokot we would work it out.

Special Committee Reports:

-

Awards -- Will Elliott Will told us of the State Wide 4H award presented to Bob Church and he was duly acknowledged by the Membership.

Banquet --

Educational Opportunities --Chuck Godfrey

-

CFAB -- Don Kill

No Report

-

Fund Raising -- Tony GonnelloFWMB -- Bob ChurchShows --

Mike said at the fair board meeting he learned that they would cut the access tickets by 25% this year. Mike said that no one was happy about this cut but he is going to work things out so we will be covered. Has schedule made out if your club is interested in taking a day contact Mike.

National Hunting and Fishing Day -- Mike Simkins

Mike said that he has started the planning of the program, if anyone is interested in participating this year let Mike know. Date Sept. 27, Saturday from 9am until 4pm

Budget and Finance -- Tony Scime (Motion to pay Bills)

Motion to approve - 2nd-

Old BusinessNew Business

The Conservation Council has requested an updated list of Federation clubs with names and addresses of contact people. It has been the Federation's policy not to give out this list to any other organizations for privacy considerations.

Clubs wishing to receive the Council's "Grass Roots News" monthly publication, which gives updated information on state legislation and conservation issues, should contact the Council at 315-894-3302 and ask for Linda Coffin. You can also e-mail them at - nyscc@nyscc.com with the information. Clubs can also send their "club's news" for publication to - NYSCC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357 or e-mail them by the second Monday of the month.

The Council also has the policy of not arbitrarily giving or selling private club information.

50/50 Raffle

Winner - John Susz \$20.00

Motion for Adjournment

Motion to adjourn - John Susz 2nd- Tom Fischer

Thanks to Host Club

Erie County Conservation Society, President Charlie Metz

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's clubs, Inc.
 Fred D Langdon, Recording Secretary
 311 Downing St.
 Buffalo, NY 14220

ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUB'S, INC.

Member of New York state conservation council
 Monthly newsletter and minutes
 June 26, 2003

Federation Meeting Agenda 06/26/03

Call to order - 7:30 Glen Coe Conservation Club

- Pledge to flag by President Kruse

- Roll call -- Officers and Directors

Excused: Tony Scime, Fred Langdon

Absent: Dave Reed, Patricia Holmes, and Dick Zawacki

Quorum of member clubs -- Present: West Falls Cons., Bison City R&G, Niagara River Station, NW Turkey Fed., SCOPE, Blasdel R&G, Lackawanna Cons., Springville F&S, Hawkeye Bowmen, Buffalo Bowhunters, Safari Club, Mohawk R&P, Glen Coe Cons., Elma Cons., Alden R&G, East Aurora F&S, WNY Sportsmen, FL&WNY Waterfowl Assoc., Depew R&G, Niagara River Anglers, Wood & Brook Sportsmen (21 Total)

Approval of previous month's minutes

Motion to approve- Dave Barus 2nd Al Commerford Carried

Secretary's report -- Fred Langdon

Not Present

- Membership report -- Mike Smith

No Report

Treasurer's report -- Tony Scime

Not Present

- Correspondence report -- Will Elliott

Will read a letter from Assemblyman Robin Schmminger in answer to his letter informing him of the Federations opposition to the elimination of Shooting sports in the Empire State Games. Mr. Schmminger said that his staff has been in contact with representatives of the Games and they stand firm in their decision due to lack of registrations for these events. They have indicated that they have had dialog with sporting groups especially shooters about increasing participation next year, although Western and Central NY State have strong shooting clubs other areas in the State do not. Shooting is an Olympic Sport and should be included in our States Games. Be assured that I will continue to monitor these talks to be sure that all Sports are represented in the 2004 games.

Bob Church said that he received e-mail today that has some good news and bad news, the good news is that thanks to the board members of the NYS Pistol Assoc. and to Assemblyman Dan Hooker it appears that the Shooting Sports will be reinstated this year on a limited demonstration type basis with full restoration next year. The bad news is that they can't get all the Teams in this year because of the logistical problems

Kent read a thank you letter from Estelle Green for the financial support received from the Federation for the Women in the Outdoors Program.

Next meetings and locations:

07/24/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Niagara River Station, 355 East River Rd., G.I. NY

09/11/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Springville Field and Stream (tentative)

10/09/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Alden Rod & Gun Club

Guest Speakers: Jim Snyder Big Game Director, DEC big game gave a rundown on the 2003 deer harvest, a record 308,000 deer were taken up from 281,000. There were 128,00 bucks taken, 25,000 in WNY even with the bad weather the first week the total WNY take was 71,500 the highest ever, killing more deer in our Region than in the entire State in 1970.

Jim said that we should expect to see fewer deer taken this fall for two reasons, the good success that the DEC had last fall with the DMP, the DECALS system provided

45,000 left over permits to be issued in 5 days and these accounted for an extra 8 or 9 thousand deer to be taken, a major factor in the total deer harvest. An example is Area 9H will have 70% less permits this fall, they have done well reducing antlerless deer in this unit over the past two seasons, with population at or below the DEC management goal, other units, 9J, 9K, 9R, 9S, and 9X won't be getting a large number of permits either. Fawn mortality is another reason for the reduction of DMU permits, due to the severe winter in the WNY Region.

A new person is in charge of the DECALS program, John Opecio, will handle the coordination of the system this year. Jim said he would make it a much better system. Jim updated us on CWD, the good news is that CWD has not been detected in the State, DEC has ongoing testing and their goal is 237 deer for this Region collected before or during hunting season. This should give them a 99% assurance that CWD is not present in NY State. There is no permanent regulation in place to date.

There is a ban on the importation of any cattle or wild ruminants from any province in Canada, due to the finding of mad cow disease. Hunters cannot transport their Deer, Caribou, or Moose into the United States.

Venison donations last year topped 102,000 lbs. And this years goal is 150,000 lbs., food banks will take every Lb. We can get to them.

There have been personnel changes within the Dept. Steve Moridian has retired and Paul McKeown, will be the new Regional Fisheries Manager, Paul will do a great job, and Steve will be missed. Russ Biss is promoted to Natural Resource Supervisor, there has been no replacement for his position to date.

CFAB annual field trip will be Aug. 3-5, Contact Patti Nelson in the Buffalo Office of the DEC, 851-7000 or 851-7010.

The Blaze orange bill has passed the legislature and is waiting the Governor's signature, a min. of 500 Sq. In. of orange will be required and will also impact the Archery only areas during regular Big Game season. Jim answered various questions on his presentation.

Standing Committee Reports:

- Archery & Bowhunting--Dave Reed

No Report

-

Crossbow - Tony Gonnello

Tony reported that they gave a demonstration of the Cross bow at Allied Sportsmen due to their Regulation that bans Crossbows on premises. The Chairman of the Archery Committee put them thru a rigorous demonstration and they were pleased with the results. Any Club that is interested Tony will be glade to come to your club and put on a similar demonstration.

Fish - Dave Barus

Small game -- Dan Tone

Dan asked the members to reaffirm their support of two issues that were vote on several years ago one was the Cat Bill, where cats have to be licensed at the age of 9 months. This was seconded by Tony Gonnello and carried, and the second issue is the Youth turkey-hunting Bill proposed by the Niagara Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, this proposal would allow youths 12-16 to hunt Spring turkey the weekend before the Regular season. 2nd Pat Schlicht, Carried

- Big game - Paul Stoos

Paul did not give a report as Jim Snyder covered the Big Game situation.

- Trapping -- Patti Wattengel

No Report

-

- Waterfowl - Paul Pietraszewski

Paul said that the cold and wet spring has been good for waterfowl as the water levels in the creeks are up and can only help this springs young. Paul received e-mail containing an article from the Wall Street journal that told the story of Resident Geese and why they do not migrate, a wildlife historian claims that they come from domestic geese used as decoys, and released, as far back as the 1930's when this practice was legal. These birds never migrated and they showed a graph of the population explosion between 1990 and 2000, in 1990 they estimate 200,000 resident geese and ten years later increased to 800,000 this has affected the entire Eastern Seaboard and the Canadian Provinces. They are looking at liberalizing the Federal Regulations to deal with this major problem.

John Daniels commented on the rainy Spring Weather and reports from a Ducks Unlimited survey that predicts a good hunting season this year. John suggested that the Federation submit a Resolution to the NYS Conservation Council to have the NYSDEC investigate the possibility of revising the Waterfowl Regulations to permit a three way split in the seasons. Having an early teal season, lengthen the regular season to have an overall longer waterfowl season. He said that they do this down south, with a 10 day Teal season and a 69-day regular season giving them 79 hunting days. Kent told John that it is late to submit a proposal for 2003 but he should get together with Bob Fuller and put this proposal together and be a little more specific and have it ready for 2004.

Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

The Federation has decided to promote the voluntary " Buck A Member Program" proposed by the Council. This, if successful, will insure a reliable source of income to meet the future needs for our only "conservation rights" lobbying organization in our state.

For those clubs who feel this is a worthwhile cause, please make checks payable to - "New York State Conservation Council" and send to - NYSCC, 8 East Main St., Iliion, NY 13357.

To those clubs who donated last year, we hope that your commitment will carry on. Please don't wait until the Council solicits for your help. They need the resources now to fund the year's budget needs.

Also, to those clubs who chose not to participate, please consider what the Council is asking for; "a dollar a member." A buck doesn't buy that much these days, not a beer at a bar, not a pack of cigarettes or a good cigar, not a decent fishing lure or even a couple dozen worms for that matter! Perhaps it's time we sportsmen and women consider putting this all in perspective!

Nelson Cronin said that the Alden Rod and Gun Club has passed a resolution to support the BAM on a yearly basis and encourages all other clubs in the fed. to do likewise.

Law Enforcement

Lt. Tom Scott remarked on last month's minutes and said that the Secretary misunderstood him when he explained the present shifts within his Dept. the Officers won't be working around the clock that they have two distinct times to bid their 8 hour shifts, Between 6:00am and 6:00pm and the 10:00am and 10:00pm. Generally we operate between 8:00am till 10:00pm, by no means is this a 24 - 7 operation. Lt. Scott has to adjust and change schedules as workload and activities require, a difficult system to work under from a Supervisor standpoint.

My comments in last months minutes were taken out of context, I was actually applauding a couple of Judges in City Court, in no way was I trying to reference that Erie County Judges are not as good as they are in Cattaraugus or Allegany Counties. We have many fine Judges and I did not want to offend any Judge in the County by saying that. The Lt. Said that he still stands by what he said about Judge Manz and Judge Amadeo, two very fine Judges in City Court that are sportsmen and reflected that belief in accordance in what we do in Conservation Law Enforcement has been reflected in their imposed fines in City Court. These Judges have a track record of support and should be recognized for this support. Lt. Introduced Officer Scott Marshall to the members and said that he intends to be a regular attendee of our meetings because he feels that it is important to have a hand on the pulse of the sports community.

- Legislation - John Susz

To keep in touch what's going on with firearm legislation in New York, check out SCOPE's web site at - www.scopeny.org

NYSCC Legislative Information : 06-20-03 # 2

The following bill has seen some recent action:

S 1977-A KUHL Same as [A 8784-A](#) Rules (DiNapoli) Requires every person hunting for or assisting to hunt for deer to wear a minimum total of five hundred square inches of solid or patterned fluorescent orange

Last Actions: 6/18/03-ORDERED TO THIRD READING CAL.1501 06/18/03-PASSED SENATE 06/18/03-DELIVERED TO ASSEMBLY 06/18/03-referred to codes 06/19/03-substituted for a8784a 06/19/03-ordered to third reading rules cal.708 06/19/03-passed assembly 06/19/03-returned to senate

Bill Text

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to requiring certain persons hunting for deer to wear fluorescent orange outer garments

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

- 1 Section 1. Section 11-0901 of the environmental conservation law is
- 2 amended by adding a new subdivision 17 to read as follows:
- 3 17. Every person hunting during the regular big game season shall wear
- 4 a hat or cap of solid or patterned fluorescent orange colored material
- 5 and/or an outer garment above the waist of a minimum total of five
- 6 hundred square inches of such material. The material shall be worn so
- 7 it is visible in a three hundred sixty degree arc. The department shall
- 8 provide notice of such requirement in the state hunting and trapping
- 9 regulations guide.
- 10 § 2. Section 71-0925 of the environmental conservation law is amended
- 11 by adding a new subdivision 15 to read as follows:
- 12 15. If the violation was a violation of subdivision seventeen of
- 13 section 11-0901, relating to wearing fluorescent materials while hunting
- 14 big game, a civil penalty of not less than ten nor more than fifty
- 15 dollars.
- 16 § 3. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-
- 17 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD06444-05-3

NYSCC Legislative Information 6-20-03: # 1

The following bill has seen action as follows:

S2735A PADAVAN same as A4609A Stringer - Relates to the prohibition on taking nonnative big game mammals by means of a canned shoot... LAST ACTION:

06/19/03-COMMITTEE DISCHARGED AND COMMITTED TO RULES
06/19/03-ORDERED TO THIRD READING CAL.1618
06/19/03-PASSED SENATE
06/19/03-DELIVERED TO ASSEMBLY
06/19/03-referred to environmental conservation
06/20/03-substituted for a4609a
06/20/03-ordered to third reading rules cal.93
06/20/03-passed assembly
06/20/03-returned to senate

Bill Text

Section 1. Subparagraphs 3 and 4 of paragraph a of subdivision 1 of section 11-1904 of the environmental conservation law, as added by chapter 208 of the laws of 1999, are o
§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of November next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets[-] is old law to be omitted.

John noted that the Scope meet the candidate's night and Pig Roast is September 27th this year, members will be admitted free, and if you are not a member of scope John suggests that the best time to join is at the Fair. A free hat with the Scope logo will be given with membership and admission to the pig roast, that's a good deal. Steve Aldstadt reported that the suit against the Gun Industry was dismissed in NY State Court, appealed and went to the State Supreme Court and dismissed as well. Alaska has change it's pistol carry law to include all states that have the concealed carry Law, also Oklahoma will recognize all state licenses. Bob Church said that the Legislature is on recess now and the general consensus is that only 10% of all the Bills involving Conservation issues either reached the floor or moved upon. Not a good year for sportsmen. We have a lot of work to do and talk to our politicians,

One of NRA-ILA's top legislative priorities in Congress continues to be the passage of a federal law to block reckless lawsuits against the firearms industry. The clock is ticking as debate over S. 659—the Senate version of reckless lawsuit preemption—continues. At this critical time, it is more important than ever that you contact your U.S. Senators in support of [S. 659](#) and ask them to do everything in their power to ensure that this common sense bill is approved. *Please take action, and then forward this information to your family, friends, and fellow firearm owners and ensure that they do the same. You can call your U.S. Senators at (202) 224-3121, or you can use our "Write Your Representatives" tool at www.NRAILA.org to find contact information. For a list of Senate cosponsors of S. 659, you can go to the Library of Congress website, at <http://thomas.loc.gov>.*

NRA-ILA is thankful for you, for your steadfast support and commitment to freedom. We ask you to please continue your support and commitment at this critical time. Contact your lawmakers in opposition to re-authorizing and extending the Clinton gun ban ([S. 1034/H.R. 2038](#)), and urge your Senators to support legislation to end reckless lawsuits against the gun industry (S. 659). Attend Town Hall meetings to make your views known on these issues. Talk to your family, friends, fellow firearm owners, and co-workers. In short, stay involved and stay engaged. Your support of our mission—the preservation of freedom and the Second Amendment—brings honor to the memory and sacrifice of all the Patriots throughout our nation's history. As together we celebrate our 227th anniversary of independence, we wish you all the very best. May God bless you and yours, and may God bless the United States of America!

Resolutions -- Bob Fuller

Kent said that copies of the 2003 Resolutions are available for those that haven't picked there's up yet, and he also has ballots that you can take back to your clubs. Floor was opened for questions, Bob Church said that the facts were wrong on resolution # 03-5, he said that the General Fund is supporting the Venison Donation program. They are donating \$100,000 and whoever wrote this did not check the facts.

Bob also brought up Res. # 03-09 Blaze Orange, which is on the Governors desk, there was much discussion on this resolution but all agree that education is the best way to deal with these matters.

There was some discussion and clarification of Resolutions 03-11 and 03-12 regarding the Habitat Stamp.

Kent said to take the ballots back to your clubs make sure that he gets them by the next regular meeting if you can't be there mail them to him.

Membership Outreach -- Kent Kruse

The membership secretary would like all club presidents to consider attending at least one regular Federation meeting a year. This might not only prove to be a learning experience, but may also provide a better insight as to the importance of having representation on behalf of their clubs.

-

Sportsman Education -- Frank Miskey Sr.

-

Special Committee Reports:

-

Awards -- Will Elliott:

-

Banquet --

Kent said that the Banquet date is February 28, 2004, the closest we could get to the first Saturday in March.

Educational Opportunities --Chuck Godfrey

-

CFAB -- Don Kill

-

Fund Raising -- Tony Gonnello

The Federation will be purchasing the Remington Wildlife Art Calendars this falls. These are great calendars and the Federation will make about \$1.00 per calendar. All clubs and interested persons please plan now. The last date to place your order will be at the July regular meeting - 7/24. They can be ordered earlier at the June regular meeting - 6/26.

Multiply \$3.00 times the number of calendars ordered and have check or cash at the time of order. No orders without pre-payment. Calendars will be distributed at the first regular Federation meeting after received. Please make arrangements to pick them up at that meeting or at Tony Gonnello's residence.

FWMB -- Bob ChurchShows - Mike Simkins

Mike needs volunteers to staff the Federation booth at the Fair in August, 7th thru the 17th the preview night will be the 6th, booth has to be manned from 10am till 10pm. Contact Mike at 633-7973 or E-mail him at bowhunterms@yahoo.com. Tickets/passes to be handed out at the July meeting, August 6 is preview night, and if you intend to display a mount or other item deadline for entries is July 25th.

Dan Tone said that one man that really put a lot of time and effort in the fair and other projects is Frank Miskey and he wanted him to be recognized.

National Hunting and Fishing Day -- Mike Simkins

Exhibitors needed for any/all outdoor topics. Please consider having your group host an activity or exhibit. Event date is Saturday September 27, 2003. Call Mike for more information or to participate.

Budget and Finance --Tony Scime (Motion to pay Bills)

Motion to approve - 2nd-

-

Old Business

Nelson Cronin is concerned with the proposal to deepen the lakes shipping channels, and also the proposed dam to be built at the head of the river.

Kent told Gabby that both of these proposals are not viable any more, nothing happened on these proposals.

Dart system all set for fair!

New Business

The Conservation Council has requested an updated list of Federation clubs with names and addresses of contact people. It has been the Federation's policy not to give out this list to any other organizations for privacy considerations.

Clubs wishing to receive the Council's "Grass Roots News" monthly publication, which gives updated information on state legislation and conservation issues, should contact the Council at 315-894-3302 and ask for Linda Coffin. You can also e-mail them at - nyscc@nyscc.com with the information. Clubs can also send their "club's news" for publication to - NYSCC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357 or e-mail them by the second Monday of the month.

The Council also has the policy of not arbitrarily giving or selling private club information.

Dan Tone said that he had dialog with Gander Mtn. Manager and he told Mike Simkins to contact him, we are going to get something from them by the next meeting.

50/50 Raffle

Winner - Pat Schlicht \$28.00

Motion for Adjournment

Motion to adjourn - Bob Fuller 2nd- Dave Barus Carried

Thanks to Host Club

Glen Coe Conservation Club

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's clubs, Inc.
Fred D Langdon, Recording Secretary
311 Downing St.
Buffalo, NY 14220

ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUB'S, INC.

Member of New York state conservation council
Monthly newsletter and minutes
July 24, 2003

Federation Meeting Agenda 07/24/03

Call to order - 7:30 Niagara River Station Fishing Club

-
Pledge to flag by President Kruse

-
Roll call -- Officers and Directors
Excused: Tony Gonnello, Mike Smith

Absent: Dave Barus, Dave Reed

Quorum of member clubs -- Present: West Falls Cons., Bison City R&G, Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc., Niagara Musky Assoc., WNY Trout Unlimited, Hamburg R&G, Southtowns Walleye,

Millgrove Sportsmen, Allied Sportsmen, Depew R&G, Deer Search, New York Walleye, Niagara River Station, NW Turkey Fed., SCOPE, Blasdell R&G, Lackawanna Cons., Springville F&S, Hawkeye Bowmen, Safari Club, Mohawk R&P, Alden R&G, East Aurora F&S, FL&WNY Waterfowl Assoc., Niagara River Anglers, Wood & Brook Sportsmen, (25 Total)

Approval of previous month's minutes

Motion to approve- Don Davis 2nd Paul Stoos Carried

Secretary's report -- Fred Langdon

Fred explained how he lost last months Fish report in cyberspace!

-
Membership report -- Mike Smith

No Report

Treasurer's report -- Tony Scime

Balance May 22, 2003 - \$15,199.84 - Receipts - \$52.44, Expenses - \$1,792.50

Balance July 24, 2003 - \$13,459.78

Motion to approve- Bob Fuller 2nd Al Commerford Carried

-
Correspondence report -- Will Elliott

Kent said that he received a letter of resignation from board member Dick Zawacki, due to health reasons; if any one is interested in filling this vacancy for the duration of his term please contact Kent. Kent also had a letter from Jillian from the East Aurora Boys & Girls Clubs, thanking us for a great day at Chestnut Ridge. She also mentioned that there was a lot of positive input from the Parents that participated that day, and they look forward to doing this on a yearly basis. Kent mentioned the success of the two fishing days we sponsored and the support from the City of Buffalo and Hillcrest Fire Company for the First Aid Coverage that they provided.

Next meetings and locations:

09/11/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Springville Field and Stream, Chase Rd. Springville, NY

10/09/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Alden Rod & Gun Club, 12 County Line Rd. Alden, NY

11/13/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - East Aurora Fish and Game Club, 1016 Luther Rd. E.A.

Guest Speakers:

Standing Committee Reports:

-
Archery & Bowhunting--Dave Reed

Traditional Archery Shoot, held at Hawkeye Bowmen Archery Club, August 15,16,17. There will be limited on site camping starting at 12 noon on August 14, Breakfast, lunch and Dinner served daily. Saturday eve. Campfire with music, Contact Dave Reed (Shoot Chiarman) or President Phil Fleck @ (716) 685-1814

Kent said that if the committee members have events coming that they could post them on the web site, there is a place designated for Coming Events. Lets use the web site to its capacity.

Crossbow - Tony Gonnello

No Report

Fish - Dave Barus

Joe Fischer told us about the Bass-Eye Tournament that was held last week, sponsored by Bob Rich, Joe worked the Weigh station at the Small Boat Harbor. The tournament raised \$110,000 for Cystic Fibroses, and Joe mentioned some of the Celebrities that were part of the Tournament, it was \$1,500 a boat and was a fun event to work and he will do it again next year.

Joe talked about the Walleye ponds that have been discussed for raising walleye thru the Fish Advisory Bd., the Erie County Federation and the DEC. The cost of the liner for these one-acre ponds is \$.56 per sq ft for this Polyethylene material, which adds up to a lot of money, however Tom Marks President of the Southtowns Walleye Club works at Dunlop and can get a discount down to \$.25 per sq ft. We should have a clear estimate of the cost of this project in the next month or two. Joe said that they did some shocking on Buffalo River along with Chuck Godfrey and came up with a lot of fish. Joe doesn't remember how many species of fish that they shocked, the flow of water was good and Chuck said that they didn't come up with many fish that would be predators for the walleye. Chuck told us that there weren't many bass and the water conditions were just fine for the walleye, the site is on Cayuga creek near William and Union and looks like it would be a good place to put them in.

Joe reported that the proposition to reduce the creel limit of Steel head from three to one on the Lake Erie Tributaries is not going to happen, it will take place on Lake Ontario but they are not going to touch Lake Erie at this point. Chuck said that the DEC changed the proposal because of the opposition at this end of the State. The proposal will stay the same for Lake Ontario. The 18 inch three per day Walleye proposal for Lake Chautauqua is still controversial but will probably happen it is a conservation measure and will probably happen next year. The DEC stocked 75,000 fingerlings this year and will do it again next year. Joe said that at the Western New York meeting on Sunday Paul McQuen said that Region 9 is in the worst shape of all the Regions so far as Fisheries Biologist, one fellow left for a promotion in another Region, we have two inland people now, Joe Evans and Scott Coronet, that's it for all of Region 9. There were questions from the members about the Walleye ponds proposed for the walleye-stocking program in the Buffalo River.

Chuck said that there is another fisheries proposal, there are 5 inland trout streams in Region 9 that are managed as wild fish and have healthy populations, and no stocking has been done in them, in the case of Wiscoy creek for 20 years. There is a proposal to extend the season on Wiscoy, Hosmer Brook, Clear Creek in Arcade, and Lime Lake Outlet, April 1st to October 15th, five a day with a nine inch minimum size limit, open season from October 16th to March 31st catch and release only. Chuck thinks it would be a good idea to increase angling opportunities, DEC people are not worried about having a negative effect on the fishery, because they feel that there won't be that many people take advantage of it. Chuck made a motion that the Federation support this Proposal, 2nd by Hal Lawrence, motion carried. Will Elliott brought up a motion that was voted on a couple of months ago because of a change in the boundaries on Ishua Creek, the federation voted to oppose the creation of a no kill zone on a 3.7 mile section of Ishua Creek in the Franklinville area. This has been reduced to 1.7-mile section the southern most portion of the Creek, this would be an artificial only, no kill (Catch and Release), year round fishing zone. Chuck said that the State took a temp. survey on the Creek and because this lower section is spring fed it is cooler than the upper section. Chuck made a motion that we support the revised proposal for the Ishua Creek, 2nd by Al Commerford and there was much discussion on this motion re: signs, stocking and no kill. A vote was taken and there were 10 in favor and 12 opposed, motion was defeated. Federation goes on record

to Oppose the revised proposal on Ishua Creek.

Joe Fischer brought up the possibility of a change in the Bass season and reduction of creel limits of Walleye in the State of Ohio. Will Elliott said that the Walleye limit would go from 4 to 2 during the Spawn and from 6 to 4 the rest of the year, the Bass are getting hammered so they are looking to close the season during the month of June. Joe commented on the fact that during catch and release when the bass is on their spawning bed and are taken off the Gobies are attacking the fry, Joe said they have films of this happening. Dan Tone asked Joe to comment on the reason behind the proposal to the change in the regulations in Chautauqua Lake re: the Walleye limit and length. Joe said the reason is because the Walleye's are not reproducing on the lake, they haven't had a good spawn year since 1996, and they are not seeing any young Walleye and what is left is being diminished gradually. This year is the first time that they have ever stocked Chautauqua Lake, one of the reasons is that the White Perch are causing the problem and the recommendation is to keep the White Perch you catch and don't release them back into the system.

Small game -- Dan Tone

Dan reported that they started stocking pheasants today and they stocked 102 and that is just a start, we will be very busy for the next week or so stocking pheasants. Dan thinks that we should address the fact that it is getting harder and harder to stock pheasants in Erie County, the development and finding areas where you can hunt is very difficult. Dan thinks that we should expand the area because most of the hunters are from Erie County anyway. Dan wanted to make a motion that we stock pheasants in other than Erie County, Kent asked Dan if the adjoining Counties have a similar program or not. Kent suggested that Dan should investigate this and report on the findings next meeting; it's too late for this year anyway.

Dan said that the Canned Hunt Bill is on the Governor's desk and the Conservation Council is urging us to contact him and time is so short that E-mail is the only way to get him on time.

Big game - Paul Stoos

August 18th is the date that the new licenses will be available.

Trapping -- Patti Wattengel

No Report

Waterfowl - Paul Pietraszewski

John Daniels recommended that Ron Rezabek be nominated by the Erie County Federation as a delegate

To the Waterfowl Task Force, Kent said that he didn't think that this would be filled until winter or spring and told John to remind us because we have a designated time to make recommendations.

John had a letter for those who are looking for something different in Waterfowling, a suggestion for the Hunters to give up their 5 Zones and go to 2 or 3 Zones in the State. The feelings of the DEC and the Feds., for a three way split for their season, a special Teal season of 10 days in September and possibly more days, a precedent exists for this and John feels there is no reason we should not get it. Any one that is interested John brought information sheets for your Clubs take one back with you. Bob Church said that he thinks it would be appropriate to invite Ron Rezabek to one of our meetings before we make any recommendations, so we could hear his programs and ideas. Kent said that if we want to get involved in this Waterfowl issue it will be an education process, there are a lot of variables that have to be recognized before you can make an opinion on a lot of this information.

Duck Hunting Permits Needed for Opening Weekend at Oak Orchard and Tona. Wildlife Areas.
Tentative Opening Weekend Dates for Duck Hunting are October 18 and 19, 2003
Permits by random lottery. Four options, Oak Orchard and Tona. Saturday, Oak Orchard and Tona.
Sunday,
100 Permits at Tona. And 50 Permits at Oak Orchard available. Hunter must send in post card
w/name, address and their first three choices, in order of preference, clearly indicated. Applicants
must also have completed a Waterfowl ID Course, and their course certificate # must be indicated
on the postcard. Applications accepted through Sept. 15, 2003 and must be mailed to the New York
State Bureau of Wildlife, P.O. Box 422, Basom, New York 14013. Each permittee will be allowed to
bring one companion over the age of 18 and an additional companion 18 years old or Younger.

Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

The Federation has decided to promote the voluntary " Buck A Member Program" proposed by the
Council. This, if successful, will insure a reliable source of income to meet the future needs for our
only "conservation rights" lobbying organization in our state.

For those clubs who feel this is a worthwhile cause, please make checks payable to - "New York
State Conservation Council" and send to - NYS CC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357.

To those clubs who donated last year, we hope that your commitment will carry on. Please don't wait
until the Council solicits for your help. They need the resources now to fund the year's budget
needs.

Also, to those clubs who chose not to participate, please consider what the Council is asking for; "a
dollar a member." A buck doesn't buy that much these days, not a beer at a bar, not a pack of
cigarettes or a good cigar, not a decent fishing lure or even a couple dozen worms for that matter!
Perhaps it's time we sportsmen and women consider putting this all in perspective!

Joe Fischer reported on a meeting of the Bd. of Directors held last Saturday, a lot of financial
problems came out of the meeting. Dan Tone who attended the meeting said the main thing is
MONEY, and now it's to a point that they can't pay the Bills. This is always a bad time of the year
for the Council; if they can get by this time of the year then they have a chance. Dan said that they
do have some existing programs to keep the council going; the Membership Program, and Dan gave
some benefits of Council Membership. The Club Insurance Program where your club could probably
get Insurance a lot cheaper than elsewhere. Dan passed out information on these two programs to
the members present. Both of these programs are what are supporting the Council and what is in
place now, they discussed new ideas for the Council to generate new revenues. Letters will be sent
to certain user groups that are related to the Council for donations. They are considering a handout
with fishing and hunting articles and ask for advertisers for the handout, in the meantime to keep
the Council running they are asking for outright donations. Last week at the WNY Environmental
Federation they donated \$500.00 to keep the Council Going, Chautauqua County is going to donate
\$500.00. Dan made a motion that the Erie County Federation donate \$200.00 with an attached
letter telling them that this is a one shot deal and we expect them to be self staining like they have
been for the last 50 years, and they have to follow up on the new programs proposed. Motion 2nd by
Chuck Godfrey, on the question, Ray said that every year it's the same story what are the
other Regions doing? There was a lot of discussion about the fact that Region 9 has done more than
enough for the Council and the BAM Program was also brought up. Bob Church wanted the Motion
rephrased to read that the \$200.00 is to be used for operating expenses only. Dan agreed and
Motion now reads " Erie County Federation to donate \$200.00 to the Conservation Council to be
used for operating expenses only", motion voted on and Carried. Pete Quaglana said that his club
changed their by-laws to include a dollar per member from their dues, and suggested that the other
clubs in the Federation do the same. Pat Schlicht said his club took half of the 50/50 drawing for

six months and got more than their total membership.

Law Enforcement

Joe Fischer commented on the new class for the DEC Officers starting in September but there is a problem, after their training they are susceptible to the higher paying Police Departments in the State. The disparity in compensation has grown over the years where to CEO doesn't compare with other States or Local Police Departments. Ten years ago there were some 4000 applicants for the CEO position this year there were 700 Statewide.

Legislation - John Susz

To keep in touch what's going on with firearm legislation in New York, check out SCOPE's web site at - www.scopeny.org

John said that they are still trying to get sponsors for the Senate bill to ban the Law suit of Gun Manufactures they have 53 now and want to get 60 to avoid a filibuster. This bill has already passed the house. Carolyn McCarthy and John Conyers have introduced HR 2038 to expand the 1994 Clinton Gun Ban it would ban the Colt AR15, M1-A Rifle, the M1-Garan, the Ruger Ranch Rifle, the Mini-14, and other Rifles designed specifically to conform to the 1994 ban. Manufactures specifically asked the BADF " what do we have to do to make our guns legal "? The BADF told them so they changed the guns, now they want to ban those also, because they are the other guns with only cosmetic changes. The BIG Deal is they want to ban all semi-automatic shotguns, NOW it's starting to hit the sportsmen all of the sudden "WAKE UP HERE IT IS ". The other bill they introduced is S-1034 from Diane Finstien it's a less restrictive ban which the Anti's hope will be more acceptable to the public at large. It's not as bad so why would you disagree with this, that's the way they think. We have to watch both of these bills!

Steve Aldstadt told us that Assemblyman Jacob Gunther passed away, he was a Pro-gun Democrat and sponsored several important gun related bills and served on the Encon. Committee.

S.C.O.P.E.

MEET THE CANDIDATES PIG ROAST

Elma conservation Club Inc,
Creek Rd. Elma, NY 655-4665

Saturday September 27th

FREE for SCOPE MEMBERS, \$15 INCLUDES MEMBERSHIP

BEER FROM FLYING BISON BREWERY & FOOD 5PM

FOOD BY "THE BEST BARBEQUE IN TOWN"

MUSIC - RAFFLES - DOOR PRIZES - FUN

Bob Church mentioned Bill #HR-1472 classified as " DON'T FEED THE BEARS " died in committee and was a victory for the sportsmen.

Nelson Cronin thanked everyone who wrote letters, made phone calls or contacted their representatives or other wise helped to get the funding restored for the " Shooting Sports " for the Empire State Games. Steve Aldstadt said we could thank Senator Dale Volker and Assemblymen Dick Smith and especially Dan Hooker. Will Elliott gave a rundown on the Shooting Sports competitions.

-
Resolutions -- Bob Fuller

Kent reminded us that tonight is the last night to turn in ballots, if you forgot your ballot or those

that are not here drop it in the mail to Kent once he tabulates them he won't accept any more. Results will be tabulated and distributed at the September meeting.

Membership Outreach -- Kent Kruse

The membership secretary would like all club presidents to consider attending at least one regular Federation meeting a year. This might not only prove to be a learning experience, but may also provide a better insight as to the importance of having representation on behalf of their clubs.

-

Sportsman Education -- Frank Miskey Sr.

-

-

Special Committee Reports:

-

Awards -- Will Elliott:

-

Banquet --

Kent said that the Banquet date is February 28, 2004, the closest we could get to the first Saturday in March. Dan Tone will order the Tickets.

Educational Opportunities --Chuck Godfrey

No report

CFAB -- Don Kill

Meeting will be held in Ellicottville August 3-5 as announced in last month's minutes.

Dan Tone said that Don Kill asked him to tell the members to write letters to the Comm. of DEC and the Governor about the loss of people in the Department, we just got a license fee increase and they are not replacing the personnel to carry out all their programs.

Fund Raising -- Tony Gonnello

FWMB -- Bob Church

No Report

Shows - Mike Simkins

Mike has some date to fill to get the fair booth covered, he read the dates that needed bodies and Kent said to contact him after the meeting to volunteer. Mike didn't get the tickets yet and will get them to the volunteers before the fair starts. Eagle claw will supply the hooks to sell, Mike purchased some material for the Theme of the booth, " A Slice of America ". There will be a free Rod & Reel give away and Kent will have that ready.

National Hunting and Fishing Day -- Mike Simkins

Exhibitors needed for any/all outdoor topics. Please consider having your group host an activity or exhibit. Event date is Saturday September 27, 2003. Call Mike for more information or to participate. Mike said that he is behind on this and will get it done after the Fair.

Budget and Finance --Tony Scime (Motion to pay Bills)

Motion to approve - Pat Schlicht

2nd- Al CommerfordOld Business

A special thanks to all those volunteers who participated in the two fish clinics that were held this year. We were quite lucky in that the weather as well as the fish cooperated! As in years past, all comments by the participants were very positive. These two "hands-on" events are things this organization can be proud of and hopefully will continue into the future.

Paul Stoos made a plea for the members to use the Web Site for announcements or special events, that is what the site is for, if we don't use it, it is a waste of funds. Kent said that maybe Will could get it in the paper every once in a while.

New Business

The Conservation Council has requested an updated list of Federation clubs with names and addresses of contact people. It has been the Federation's policy not to give out this list to any other organizations for privacy considerations.

Clubs wishing to receive the Council's "Grass Roots News" monthly publication, which gives updated information on state legislation and conservation issues, should contact the Council at 315-894-3302 and ask for Linda Coffin. You can also e-mail them at - nyscc@nyscc.com with the information. Clubs can also send their "club's news" for publication to - NYSCC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357 or e-mail them by the second Monday of the month.

The Council also has the policy of not arbitrarily giving or selling private club information.

Bob Church told us that Dan Tone has been elected as Director of Region 9, WNY Environmental Federation and Will Elliott elected the Secretary with Bob Fuller Alternate! Here, Here !

John Susz reported some Interesting Events that are coming up, Aug. 8,9,10, Cattaraugus County Sportsmen's Show, at the fair grounds in Little Valley call 557-2523. Aug. 9,10th The Taste of Ellicottville, 349-9099. Gun Shows, SCOPE will be there, Sept 6&7, Clarence at the WNY Event Center, Oct 18&19, Gun Show at the Agri. Center at the Fair Grounds.

50/50 Raffle

Winner John Susz Jr.

\$33.50

Motion for Adjournment

Motion to adjourn - Mike Simkins

2nd Chuck Godfrey

Carried

Thanks to Host Club

Niagara River Station and to Hal Lawrence who donated refreshments

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's clubs, Inc.
Fred D Langdon, Recording Secretary
311 Downing St.
Buffalo, NY 14220

ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUB'S, INC.

Member of New York state conservation council
Monthly newsletter and minutes
September 11, 2003
WEB ADDRESS - erictyfsc.org

Federation Meeting Agenda 09/11/03

Call to order - 7:30 Springville Field & Stream

-
Pledge to flag by President Kruse

-
Roll call -- Officers and Directors

Excused:

Absent:

Quorum of member clubs -- Present: West Falls Cons. Soc., East Aurora F&G, Springville F&S,

NW Turkey Fed, Hamburg R&G, SCOPE, Bison City R&G, Lackawanna Cons., Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc., Elma Cons., Alden R&G, Lake Shore VF, WNY Trout Unltd., Niagara River Station, Hawkeye Bowmen, Safari Club, Erie County Trappers, Niagara Musky Assoc., Simon Girty Long Rifles, Leo's Archery, Millgrove Sportsmen, NY Walleye - 22 Total

Approval of previous month's minutes

Motion to approve- Frank Miskey Sr. 2nd Tom Fischer Carried

Dave Reed had requested that the Federation Web Site Address be put in the minutes and it wasn't in last month's minutes. It is (erictyfsc.org), please use this site for club announcements and upcoming functions.

Secretary's report -- Fred Langdon

No Report

Membership report -- Mike Smith

Treasurer's report -- Tony Scime

Balance July 24, 2003 - \$13,459.78 Receipts - \$70.32, Expenses - \$4,461.93

Balance September 11, 2003 - \$9,068.17

Motion to approve- Dave Reed 2nd Steve Aldstadt Carried

Correspondence report -- Will Elliott

Bob Church read a letter to the Federation from the Erie County 4-H Shooting Sports Participants: They Say thanks to the ECFSC for the financial support the Air Rifles, Bows, Arrows, Cross Bows and other equipment was well appreciated. The program was a great success this year, about 100 kids participated and they all had a great learning experience and let us know it. The 4-H slogan is "Learn by Doing" and they did.

Bob Church also introduced Bob Keicher who is the Safari Club Northeast Regional Director. Fred Langdon announced that the Excalibur Boating program for the Handicapped is sponsoring a drawing to raise funds for their new boat. 1st prize is Season Dock Slip at the Small Boat harbor, 2nd prize, Season Launch Pass and 3rd prize is a Boat Harbor Hat, Tee Shirt and Sweat Shirt. TICKETS \$5.00, please Support.

Kent read a thank you from Jim Catalano of the Excalibur Leisure Skills Center, for their space at the fair where they raised almost \$1900.00 towards their new wheelchair accessible vessel.

Received a News Release from the National Wildlife Refuge System re: reservations for opening day of Waterfowl season October 18. Applications had to be in by Sept. 15, for a permit to hunt Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge.

Dan Tone received a letter from the head Coordinator of the 4-H Pheasant Program thanking the Federation and the Small Game Committee for their cooperation and funding of the 4-H Pheasant program. It's a very important part of the kids raising the birds and their development in this program.

Next meetings and locations:

10/09/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Alden Rod & Gun Club, 12 County Line Rd. Alden, NY
11/13/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - East Aurora Fish & Game, 1016 Luther Rd. E. A. NY.

12/11/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Bison City R&G, 511 Ohio St Buffalo, NY

Guest Speakers: Capt. Gary Bobsiene, Officer Mark Mazerkowitz and Officer Scott Marshal from the DEC and Spencer Schofield of the Fish Advisory Bd., Jim Snider Senior Wildlife Biologist, Mike Wilkinson, Region 9 fisheries all present and will give the members present the latest information regarding their departments. Capt. Gary Bobsiene told us about the Hunter Orange Bill that the Governor Vetoed yesterday, he mentioned some of the problems with the bill and said that he is a proponent of wearing Orange but is not sure if Legislation is the way to do it. The Capt. Read an E-Mail that was forwarded to him, It said that We continue to promote the Voluntary use of Hunter Orange, in recent years we have received letters from relatives of hunting related shooting incident victims complaining that their loved ones would not have been crippled, disfigured or killed if Hunter Orange were mandatory in New York State. All we can do to answer such letters is to point out that even though Hunter Orange is not required, wearing it is a very obvious way to protect yourself from mistakes of other hunters and there is absolutely nothing to prevent any person from wearing it. (No law requires people to wear warm cloths outside in the winter, there is no one complaining that legislation is needed that you have to wear warm cloths in the winter). Capt Bobsiene reported on a few things from the FWMA board meeting, they have a new boat that is of a safe boat design, with the flotation tube wrapped around it like the Coast guard boat. The boat is 31'

W/twin 225, Honda four stroke engines. There were four boats purchased Statewide and one will be in Lake Erie to be shared with Region 8 in Central Lake Ontario Basin. The boat is docked at Coast Guard Buffalo Station and they have had it about two weeks, and they are looking forward to being on the waters a lot now. The Dept. have been trying to make all the hunter education courses in the county, they think it is important that a DEC Officer is present at all the classes. The Capt. Said that there is currently a vacancy in Erie County there should be 5 Officers assigned to the County, one of the Officers transferred over to Niagara County. Right now they have authority to fill a vacancy in Wyoming County where there is only one Officer working now. There has been no bids for this vacancy from around the State, this may have to be filled out of the Academy, which should start some time in October although there hasn't been budget approval but all indications look like there will be a class in October. It is the first time in the Captain's memory that they had a recruiting problem for ENCON. Officers. Capt. Bobsiene told of the difference of recruitment when he came on the job as to today's situation. One of the big stumbling blocks is the salary compared to other Law Enforcement entities, and this year there is a four-year degree requirement. The Capt. was asked about the condition of Officer Doug Case and he said that he worked here for almost twenty years and has a heart condition that will probably keep him from coming back to duty.

Jim Snider took the floor and said that Russ Biss had planned to attend this meeting and at the last minute had to work tonight to work on one of their program plans, and that brings up one of the problems in wildlife Russ was promoted to the job that Larry Nelson had (Regional Natural Resource Supervisor), that leaves the Wildlife Manager's position unfilled. Everyone is trying to fill the vacancy and they are expected to live with it until March. Jim said that they had a fairly quiet summer; the DECAL license program is obviously working a lot better. He has not taken a single call at the office except for people that applied for the wrong unit, and he doesn't think that they are able to help these people because they should have known better. People finally realized that you didn't have to buy your license the first day the licenses went on sale to get the deer management permits. One thing that was not available was the opportunity to purchase your license over the Internet that was not ready this fall as they are still working on it. The DEC has cut the deer management permits in our Region by 50,000; they are still going to issue 150,000, which is up from 60 to 70,000 a few years ago. The deer harvest was good last fall, the ability to issue the left over

permits on the second drawing helped them, they managed to get 45,000 left over permit out in 5 days thru the DECALS system something that they never could have done with the Paper system. There will be some beginning November 1st, but there won't be as many as last year, some people got turned down and it is a shock to them because they are used to getting two permits. One of the pluses of DECALS is that more people applied for permits last year; there was 17% more applications than the previous year. DECALS did some of the things that we were hoping it would do, actually a lot of people that were going to apply for permits and didn't do get the permits when getting their license. Our DMAP, which is basically additional antlerless permits, site specific, primarily for agriculture damage, we issued about 340 last year and expect about 350 this year. There are not a lot of new people applying hopefully we have reached the majority of the farmers experiencing deer damage, with all the DMP's and DMAP's that are issued there are some farmers saying that they had more deer damage this year than last year. Jim doesn't know if it's the weather or there are more deer but he is surprised that the farmers applying put on the application that they had more damage. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) the good news is we still don't have it in NY, hopefully we won't have it for the next 20 or 30 years, we are already sampling across the State. Instead of waiting for the hunting season to start collecting we are going to collect about half of the samples prior to the season. The other half will be collected during the hunting season from the processor and the hunter will be notified that his deer was tested and the results given to him. There is an affirmative regulation for CWD, no feeding of deer, no importation of live deer, the key thing for out of State Deer hunters is that West of a line going from Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky and Mississippi you have to bone out your meat before bringing it into New York. Any deer taken East of these States and Canada you can bring back whole. Jim said that the ban on bringing game over the border from Canada has been lifted however you have to get veterinarian services special permit and is basically can get it from a web site, www.usda.com, it will be a form that you have to fill out and basically says that you have a valid hunting license. You cannot bring back a whole head of an animal, can bring cape, antlers and meat but not whole heads. Gary touched on the Blaze Orange Bill veto by the Governor, also the veto of the Canned Hunt Bill, he said that he suspects that both bills will be back next year with revisions to them. He gave a run down of some of the Governors arguments against the Bills. The Bill to allow 14 year olds to hunt big game with a gun that never got out of committee, another Bill to allow 12 year olds to hunt with a bow during big game season passed the Senate but not the Assembly, the anti's are still beating down these bills. Jim reported on the Turkey survey taken in August, that there were fewer poults this year, 3.5 per hen seen instead of 5 as in other years. This is probably due to the wet spring; some of the poults are small due to 2nd and 3rd nesting. The same results were noted in all the Counties surveyed. Jim gave the highlights of the Waterfowl hunting seasons and regs. Brochure that he had, season opens October 18th to December 2nd again on Dec 27 to Jan. 9th 2004. Youth days Oct 4 & 5, Goose season is open now and they increased the bag limit to 8 per day. Jim says that most people are not killing as many geese as in the last few years. Jim talked about Pheasant stocking and that it looks like region 9 will get about three thousand birds this year, Erie County will receive about 504 of these the same as last year. One of the things that they are looking to change next fall is requiring a half-day permit on two of our areas, Zoar Valley multiple use Area and Harwood Lake and probably will be a drawing like they have at the State Parks in Niagara County. They have to do something about these sites because everybody knows that birds are stocked there and it is a dangerous situation. It will only be two days, opening day and the first Saturday, two sessions Legal shooting to noon and noon to legal sunset. The floor was opened for questions, and Jim answered questions on Coyotes, Pheasant stocking Bobcats etc. Jim brought up the proposed Saturday opener for Big game season and the strong support for it across the State. He thinks that this proposal will fly in the near future. He said the Sat. opener would benefit the

youth that have to go to school on the normal opening day. The Habitat/Access Stamp was discussed and the trouble that there is with vendors asking or knowing anything about the stamp. Spence Schofield of the Erie County Fish Advisory Bd. brought the future activities map and the South Park Lake Habitat restoration and Dredging Project brought up in the year 2000. South Park Lake is a 24-acre lake and is located in an Olmstead Park; the County owns 11 acres of the Park and the City the rest. The Park was designed in 1894 and the lake was 17 ft deep, and after many mistakes and the silt of over 100 years you can almost walk across it. A preliminary restoration plan was developed in Nov. 2001; the Corps of Engineers are very thorough and take a lot time to move, from Nov. 2001 till just this past week a consultant has finally been selected. Black and Beech has been selected to prepare a feasibility study, this study will take about 18 months, followed by an Environmental assessment that will take about 3 months, and that is followed by a 9-month final design process. Maybe by 2006 or 2007 there might be a shovel in the ground, Spence coordinates the County's capital budget and identified \$100,000 and was approved to be the County's contribution for two years. The total cost is about 3-5 million in that range, the consultant and feasibility studies will be about \$285,000, and he has had to continually bump the available money to the year 2006 or 7 when it will be actually needed to pay the consultant. Once this project is done it will last 100 years and they are looking to dig down about 20 feet and have a cold water/warm water fishery there. It will be open for stocking and open for kids again and in the interim we will see what to do with the Golf course, it was originally designed to have a meadow around the lake. This is one thing the Fish Advisory Bd. has been working on, and you have heard about the ponds to enhance the Walleye fishery in the Buffalo River. The DEC has had some real positive results in the stocking of Cattaraugus Creek with Walleye fry and wanted to try the same or similar program in the Buffalo River. Erie County sewer dist #1 own an overflow retention facility in Cayuga Creek, the County owns 60 acres of land as a buffer to the overflow retention facility, and is a natural for the ponds and thanks to the DEC they found no red flags in Cayuga Creek for the release of the fingerlings from the ponds to the Creek. The Board toured the facility at Chautauqua and Rip Colasanti who retired gave them his final design drawings which save them the design process, they will be two one acre ponds tied together and will release into Cayuga Creek. The cost of this project is a little excessive, the liners for the ponds are \$24,000 each and they are trying to cut these cost down, and there is some fencing needed to keep the kids and animals out of the area. The ponds will only be used for 60 - 70 days and will be left dry and this is a perfect area for this project. Spence mentioned some of the Access areas they have been working on, there have been improvements in the launch at Cattaraugus Creek and now the State is taking over the Small Boat Harbor next year, the State will have excellent facilities and will improve them. Spence was involved with the ECAFB in the Citco Bass Pro/Am tournament where Erie County came up with \$30,000 to help promote the tournament and had 177 professionals and 177 amateurs competing for about \$227,000 in prize money. This brings a lot of money into the County and is great exposure for the WNY. The County is going to put display booths in several Fishing Access areas through out the County and they will display the hot spot map and other material pertinent to the fishery and area clubs. These displays will cost some \$4,000 apiece the County will absorb the cost of these displays. Spencer opened the floor for questions and answered several questions regarding his report.

Mike Wilkenson talked about staffing in the Fisheries Division, Steve Maridien has retired and Paul McQuen has filled his position, a technician has transferred and since the 1980's when they had 8 people in the division now there is four, that's four people stretched over six Counties in Region 9. Just keep in mind that they will not be able to do all that they have in the past and will get the most important items first. Mike brought up the regulation proposals that were distributed in the spring; the ones that he gives us now will go on statewide public review and will be posted on the Internet. Proposal GL-1: To shorten the walleye season in the Lower Niagara River to run from the

1st Saturday in May to December 31st. GL - 3: changed to read: Establish a 1 fish per day creel limit for rainbow trout and steelhead in all Lake Ontario tributaries. GL - 4: To extend the end of the open season for Muskellunge from Nov. 30 to Dec. 15 for the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario and the Lower Niagara River. (Lake Erie and the Upper Niagara River Removed from proposal). The proposal to change the length of the walleye regulations in Lake Chautauqua from 15" and 5 per day to 18" and 3 per day is still alive. Proposal SW - 1 to change the general Angling Regulations of 5 fish per day with no fish greater than 12 inches in length. Mike again reminded us that these proposals are not final the DEC is looking for public comments, check the DEC web site and you can comment on these proposals. For the steelhead fishermen, you may encounter creel survey agents on Lake Erie tributaries. This survey will be ongoing in the fall and next spring to try and get more information on that fishery, how many anglers are using it, what the harvest rates are, what anglers are preferring in terms of regulations, what we are doing with the Lake Erie tributaries and asking the anglers what they would like to see. Mike explained what they were doing in the Lower Niagara River in conjunction with the Niagara River Anglers Assoc. They are checking the fin clippings of various stocked fish to determine what hatchery they came from, so you may see them checking the fishermen in the Lower Niagara. Mike fielded questions from the members present. He explained the problem in Lake Chautauqua regarding walleye stacking and weed problems. Gabby asked about the Federal Gov treating the lakes for lamprey and if they are still doing it. Mike said that they are and he wasn't sure of their schedule.

Standing Committee Reports:

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Archery & Bowhunting--Dave Reed

Dave said that there were three shoots this weekend and he would like to get with Paul Stoos and give him the information on the upcoming shoots and activities of his club. Dave also urged other clubs to check the web site and arrange their shoots to avoid conflict. Web Site address eriectyfsc.org.

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Crossbow - Tony Gonnello

No Report

Fish - Dave Barus

No Report

Small game -- Dan Tone

Dan asked the members if any one knows any area where they can stock these adult birds, even though it may not be this year in Erie County it is hard to find good places to stock so let Dan or any one on the small game committee know. The 4-H program went real well birds are getting hit by cars and he is getting notified about them. Dan brought up the problem with the Habitat/Access Stamp, the bottom line is a break down in communication, and the State was to have printed material at the State Fair and the Erie County Fair and there was nothing. Dan said that the Stamp is good for New York and the Sportsmen want it and he wishes the DEC would get on board. Bob Church reported on the Safari Club Pheasant program and said that all is fine, the mortality rate was down, the birds are getting fat and there are more than 6000 Pheasants if you want to know more about it see Bob Kiecher after the meeting.

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Big game - Paul Stoos

Paul said that Jim Snider's report covered his committee very well.

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Trapping -- Patti Wattengel

Patti said that if any one was still interested in taking any trapping classes there are only four classes and two of them are going to be this weekend. Next one is in early October in Akron watch the paper for registration. Bob Church brought up Senate Bill # 1068-A that provides that traps set for the taking of wildlife may bear the assigned identification number of the operator, rather than the operators name and residence address. Bob said that the Gov. vetoed the Bill.

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Waterfowl - Paul Pietraszewski

Kent brought up the proposal that John Daniels submitted last meeting that our Federation submit to the State council changing the season that is in place for next years waterfowl season. The following information refers to the current process in place to determine the setting of waterfowl seasons for the Western Zone of New York.

Ken Zolnowski, Region 9 Waterfowl Rep., or a Waterfowl Task Force Rep. will be present at the November meeting to answer questions regarding the current process. Possible changes to the current system may also be discussed.

New York is presently comprised of 5 Waterfowl Zones. The Western Zone is made up of DEC Regions 7,8, and 9. The Western Waterfowl Zone Task Force, following a framework set by the USFWS, makes recommendations to the DEC for the upcoming season. The DEC usually follows the recommendations of the Task Force. The Western Waterfowl Zone Task Force is comprised of a Regional Waterfowl Rep. from each of Regions 7,8,and9, a Rep. from each of 4 major waterfowl clubs, and 4 at-large members with no club allegiances. The at-large members are appointed by the DEC upon recommendations from various county federations.

The Task Force is clearly a give-and-take proposition - no one gets everything they want. In general, the Task Force has done a superb job in promoting dialogue, sportsmanship, and fairness.

-
Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

The Federation has decided to promote the voluntary " Buck A Member Program" proposed by the Council. This, if successful, will insure a reliable source of income to meet the future needs for our only "conservation rights" lobbying organization in our state.

For those clubs who feel this is a worthwhile cause, please make checks payable to - "New York State Conservation Council" and send to - NYS CC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357.

Dan Tone had raffle tickets for the WNY Environmental Federation, which we are apart of, there are some real nice prizes from Gander Mountain. Tickets \$1.00 apiece or 3 for \$2.00. Dan said that Howard Cushing President of the Conservation Council wants all sportsmen in the State to write to their representative and to The Gov, Comm. Crotty, Sen. Bruno, and Assemblyman Silver and ask why after we fought for a raise in the license fees that there has to be all the cut backs in the DEC, and tell them that we oppose these cut backs, and tell them to fill the positions that are vacant and those that become vacant in the future. Dan then made a ***motion*** to have our corresponding secretary write the above named politicians a letter reflecting our feeling about this mess. Chuck Godfrey ***seconded*** that motion, the above motion carried.

Law Enforcement

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Legislation - John Susz

To keep in touch what's going on with firearm legislation in New York, check out SCOPE's web site at - www.scopeny.org

John told us on Sept. 12 the NY City council held hearings at least 6 gun bills that they are pushing because of the death of City Councilman James Davis on July 23, 2003. The Councilman was shot by an opponent that he lead around the buildings metal detectors, the person was shot and killed by police in the building. Now there is a sense of urgency and want to move quickly on these bills, they are talking about liability Ins. for gun owners, holding manufactures, distributors and retailers liable for the miss-use of firearms that they sold and restricting the sale of firearms to one every three months. The City usually introduces these laws and then tries to push them Statewide.

Sheldon Silver said that he thinks that it would be good if the City did pass these Laws and show the State the way, so look forward to see a lot more anti gun legislation in the State.

Steve Aldstadt brought the new SCOPE news letter and attached a flyer for Meet the Candidates Night, at Elma Conservation club, Sat. Sept. 27th 5pm Lets get out and meet the people that are going to be voting on the issues that we live for "THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS". Steve stressed the need to be there and meet these candidates that will be seeking your vote in this years election.

Resolutions -- Bob Fuller2003 Resolution Ballot

	yes
no	
03-1 Cattaraugus County – Early 5 day, doe only, muzzleloader season in October in the Southern Zone_____	<u>35</u>
<u>24</u>	
03-2 Erie County – Allow taking of 2 bearded turkeys the same day of the spring season_____	<u>26</u>
<u>29</u>	
03-3 Chenango County – Extended late muzzleloader season in December	<u>52</u>
<u>7</u>	
03-4 Chautauqua County – DEC review of commercial bait fishing, effects of bait transportation between watersheds, status of bait fish, stop transportation of bait until reviews are made, require bait dealers to make monthly reports and adjust fees for commercial bait dealers_____	<u>32</u>
<u>21</u>	
03-5 Chenango County – Fund Venison Donation Program from the General Fund_____	<u>49</u>
<u>4</u>	

03-6 Delaware County – Legalize hunting and trapping of bobcats in WMO – 4O, 4N, and 4F _____ <u>9</u>	<u>44</u>
03-7 Onondaga County – DEC determine cost to increase production at Reynolds game farm to 50,000 birds by January 2004 _____ <u>0</u>	<u>55</u>
03-8 Erie County – Eliminate the Combined Ballistic Identification System (COBIS) and destroy all data under present system _____ <u>0</u>	<u>55</u>
03-9 Greene County – Require 200 sq. ins. of blaze orange during regular big game, archery, and turkey hunting seasons _____ <u>45</u>	<u>12</u>
03-10 Yates County – Require 250 sq. ins. of blaze orange during regular big game season, archery only areas exempt _____ <u>43</u>	<u>14</u>
03-11 Madison County – Make “habitat stamp” mandatory to purchase license to hunt, fish, and trap _____ <u>40</u>	<u>19</u>
03-12 Onondaga County – Make “habitat stamp” mandatory to purchase license to hunt, fish, trap and reduce cost to \$3 _____ <u>45</u>	<u>14</u>
03-13 Yates County – Allow dog training on raccoon, fox, coyote, and bobcat all year _____ <u>40</u>	<u>15</u>
03-14 New York Houndsmen – Exclude \$3 unspayed and unneutered fee for dogs licensed under purebred kennel license _____ <u>19</u>	<u>34</u>

Membership Outreach -- Kent Kruse

The membership secretary would like all club presidents to consider attending at least one regular Federation meeting a year. This might not only prove to be a learning experience, but may also provide a better insight as to the importance of having representation on behalf of their clubs.

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Sportsman Education -- Frank Miskey Sr.

Frank said that they had a new instructor training class August 16th at Elma Cons. Club, and processed 10 new instructors, 8 were from Erie County. There are two new Laser Shooting Systems, which are similar to the DART System but a lot simpler, they were set up at the State Fair this year and He went there and tried out the new system. They are a lot easier to run and can be run in a room with the lights on, they are more portable and you don't need a big trailer to haul it

around. They cost between \$7,500 to \$8,500 for the System, He doesn't know if the State is going to get more at this point. Frank thanked all the ECO's for all their time and effort that they have been putting in this year at the hunter education classes, he has received many calls from the instructors that they are very happy with their presents there. We hoped to have the Project Home Safe, which is a gunlock distribution at the Fair, because of the State funding being held back it didn't come out until Sept. 1st. Project Home Safe is now being called Project Child Safe, and talking with a company rep. Was told they will be in WNY on two occasions this year, Sept. 21st all the Police agency's in the area will be receiving 200 gun locks each to be distributed. Frank will be getting a large number of these locks to be used in conjunction with hunter safety classes and other projects that we come up with.

The Bow hunter youth camp at the Elma Cons. Club held this year ran from August 15-17, there were 23 students there, the camp went very well and had a large assortment of instructors present and any one here I would like to thank them for their help. Frank Jr. will be at the October meeting to give us the highlights of this Program and will have a complete financial report at that time. The Dart System was set up at the Erie County Fair and was a great success and Frank thanked all who volunteered their time, they ran thru 6,713 people that they accounted for, it attracts a lot of people and out of it we got two candidates for Instructors. In Erie County this year there are 46 gun classes, 35 bow classes, 4 trapping classes, and 4 waterfowl classes, it up from last year and its still early in the season. Frank said that there doesn't seem to be a shortage of people taking these classes. Will has been doing a real good job getting it into the papers and so far it looks like everything is going well this year.

Special Committee Reports:

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Awards -- Will Elliott

Kent announced that Nelson Cronin will be awarded the Conservationist of the Year by the New York State Conservation Council this Year. Nelson was congratulated by the members present, Nelson as usual had a brief comment.

Banquet --

February 28, 2004 will be the date for the banquet.

Educational Opportunities --Chuck Godfrey

CFAB -- Don Kill

No Report

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Fund Raising -- Tony Gonnello

No Report

FWMB -- Bob Church

No Report

Shows --

No Report

National Hunting and Fishing Day -- Mike Simkins

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's clubs, Inc.
Fred D Langdon, Recording Secretary
311 Downing St.
Buffalo, NY 14220

ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUB'S, INC.

Member of New York state conservation council
Monthly newsletter and minutes
October 09, 2003
Eriectyfsc.org

Federation Meeting Agenda 10/09/03

Call to order - 7:55 Alden Rod & Gun Club

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Pledge to flag by President Kruse

-

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Roll call -- Officers and Directors

Excused: Dan Tone

Absent: Don Davis, Patricia Holmes, Dave Barus

Quorum of member clubs -- Present: West Falls Cons. Soc., Springville F&S, Hamburg R&G, SCOPE, Bison City R&G, Lackawanna Cons., Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc., Elma Cons., Alden R&G, Lake Shore VF, WNY Trout Unlmted., Niagara River Station, Hawkeye Bowmen, Safari Club, Southtowns Walleye, Erie County Trappers, FL&WNY Waterfowl Assoc., Glen-Coe Cons., Depew R&G, Millgrove Sportsmen's Club, Deer Search, New York Walleye, Niagara Musky Assoc., Niagara River Anglers, Simon Girty Long Rifles, Mohawk R&P, - 24 Total

Approval of previous month's minutes

Motion to approve- Tom Fischer 2nd - Al Commerford

Secretary's report -- Fred Langdon

No Report

-

-

Membership report -- Mike Smith

No Report

-

Treasurer's report -- Tony Scime

Balance September 11, 2003 - \$9,068.17 - Receipts - \$65.54, Expenses - \$929.07

Balance October 8, 2003 - \$8,204.64

Motion to approve- Nelson Cronin 2nd - Hal Lawrence Carried

Correspondence report -- Will Elliott

Will read a letter that he wrote to Paul McQuen, Fisheries Supervisor, regarding the two items that were voted on at the July meeting. This is in regard to the extending the season on the five creeks and the change of the NO Kill zone in Ishua creek. There was no formal response but Paul thanked Will for the federation's input on these matters. Will sent communications to the City and County Government officials Regarding Bass Pro Shops voted on last meeting, and to the State Officials regarding the increase in license fees and the reduction in services also voted on last month.

Kent said that he received a letter from Paul McQuen thanking us for the input on the proposed regulation changes dated September 3rd. The DEC is doing a Management Plan for Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area and will have two public meetings the first will be Tuesday, October 21, 2003 at 7:00pm at the American Legion Post 409, 100 Legion Dr. Gowanda. A second session will be held on Thursday, October 23, 2003, at 7:00pm in the Bellvue Fire Hall, 511 Como Park Blvd. Cheektowaga. Purpose: to give to public an opportunity to provide input to DEC regarding the future management of the Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area. Will Elliott said that all the Greeners are trying to make inroads into the areas where we hunt and fish. PLEASE make every effort to attend one of these meetings the meeting will be well attended by persons that want to use these areas for hiking

trails, bird watching and tree hugging. They are trying this all over the State remember Joe Davis Park in Niagara County, they want every thing but Hunting and Fishing activities.

Next meetings and locations:

11/13/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - East Aurora F&G, 1016 Luther Rd., East Aurora

12/11/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Bison City Rod & Gun, 511 Ohio St. Buffalo, NY

1/22/04 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Elma Conservation, Creek Rd. Elma, NY

Guest Speakers:

Standing Committee Reports:

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Archery & Bowhunting--Dave Reed

Dave reminded us that Oct. 15 is opening of Archery season, he wished all success, hunt safe be sure of your target and don't forget your safety harness if using a tree stand. Dave told us about the Youth program that the Hawkeye bowmen have started and they will offer the Archery Merit Badge to the Boy Scout troops in the area. We will be working with Mike Kaempf who is involved with scouting. Scouts can take advantage of this program in the spring of 2004 and will get the flyers thru the BSA with registration information. Dave said that this is just a start and hopefully will be able to offer the program to the Girl Scouts and others as they progress.

Frank Miskey Jr. gave a brief explanation of where the funds went for the Youth Archery Camp, held at Elma this summer. Several clubs sent donations for the program, they started out with approx. \$1600 and had just about \$3000 to work with, and they spent a lot of money buying different things for the kids. Food, each participant received a first aid pak, and compasses. At the end of the course they spent about \$350 on a chicken BBQ for the Instructors, Participants and parents. They had 23 Students and a lot of great help for which Frank thanked for their time and effort. Frank said that when they get every thing finalized he would send the Federation a final report on the Youth Camp.

Mike Smith brought a check from Bison City R&G Club as a donation for next years Youth Camp at Hawkeye Bowmen, August 6,7,8, 2004. The members gave Mike a round of applause to take back to his Club.

Crossbow - Tony Gonnello

Much has happened over the summer that will eventually create additional crossbow hunting opportunities across the country.

A group of physically challenged sportsmen has filed federal suits in many states and are preparing similar suits in other states. The group is basically going after every state that does not permit those physically unable to draw, hold and shoot a vertical bow to use a crossbow. The group has filed a formal suit against the State of New York. If the state is found in violation, the penalty could be the loss of Federal Aid until corrected. It seems indeed unfortunate that the state has put itself in this situation.

There has been very recent action in many states to authorize the CrossBow in some shape or form. Those states are; Tennessee, New Hampshire, Maryland and Rhode Island. Michigan should, as this report is written, take action to permit seniors to utilize CrossBows in that states archery season.

Currently, those

Meeting a standard of physical limitations of upper limbs as stated by a doctor and a physical therapist qualify to hunt in Michigan's archery season with a crossbow.

Also, the Archery Trade Association has added CrossBows to each and every promotional archery shoot it sponsors.

Bob Church received an E-mail from Ken Didion who is with the NYS Conservation Officers Assoc. and said they changed their position to Neutral regarding the Crossbow, also he noted that the NYS Bowhunters have been notified that they changed their position but have failed to change their message on the Web site.

Fish - Dave Barus

Chuck Godfrey told us they had Jim Markam of the DEC who is in Charge of Lake Erie Tributaries at the last Trout Unlimited meeting, Jim said there was a fish and wildlife meeting on Sept. 4th and Russ Biss gave a report that the DEC has requested a feasibility Study for a fish ladder to permit steelhead to get past the Skoby Hill Dam. At a meeting with the USFW, Corps of Engineers, DEC and the Manager of the Skoby Hill Park the USFW said that they did use the Skoby Hill Dam to catch lamprey when power was being generated and water was flowing thru the dam. They monitored the lamprey population and the health of the lamprey by putting traps where the flow was coming thru the dam. In 1997 or 1998 they stopped generating power there, with no flow thru the dam there was no attraction for the lamprey. The USFW wants to monitor the lamprey so they requested a meeting with the Corps, DEC and the manager to try to figure a way to have flow at the dam; there is no other place in Cattaraugus creek where they can monitor the Lamprey. The Corps and USFW apparently have money to do a feasibility study at the dam, at this time Jim Markam requested that they do a feasibility study on a possible fish ladder. Jim said that there are not any plans to have a fish ladder there soon but the DEC will not have the money to do a feasibility study for it and as long as the Corps and the USFW did that they would ask for it. They said that they could do it, Jim said that there were no plans for the ladder but as long as they could get it done with out using DEC funds they would go for the Study, and he would keep them apprised of what was going on. Trout Unlimited has never taken any position on that partly because there has been no study of the affects of the steelhead getting above the dam in the wild areas of the creeks and according to Jim they are not looking to do anything there any time in the near future.

Bob Church said that New York Sea Grant has come out with a real good report on Strategies for hooking More Anglers, for more information contact Diane Kuehn at dmekuehn@esf.edu. Or 315-470-6561

Also in the Great Lakes basin Report the EPA will not regulate Ship Ballast water in the Great Lakes and gives the US Coast Guard the authority to police this problem. As was mentioned before at our meetings this is an International matter and as it stands Shippers can voluntarily change their ballast before entering the Greats Lakes however no one can force them to.

Bob has composed a letter regarding the proposed feasibility study for the construction of a fish ladder at the Skoby Hill Dam. Bob is opposing the possibility of any one putting a fish ladder at the dam, the reasons being that this site was listed on the National Register of Historical sites in 1996; The Village of Springville sold the site to the Erie County Parks Dept. for one dollar on April 18,2001 and that there is to be no change in the site according to the National Historical agreement. And Bob also said that the area fisherpersons do not want to see steelhead, Lake Erie exotic species, Lamprey or anything else traveling up to the upper part of Cattaraugus Creek. After Bob read his letter he made a motion that the Federation endorse this letter and was 2nd by Al Commerford, under question Tony Scime asked if we had enough information to make an informed decision on this matter. Chuck restated that the reason Trout Unlimited didn't take a position on this is that they could not find any studies that would show the effects of steelhead getting past the dam, and he thinks Tony is right that we do not have enough information on this subject. There was much discussion on this motion on the pros and cons of any feasibility study of this project. A

vote was taken and the members present voted not to endorse the letter that Bob wrote.

Will Elliott told of the excellent fishing in the Lower Niagara and said it was like the old days, if you want to fish you better get there early as the cars and trailers are lined up for a mile. He said that the Pen Rearing program that the Niagara River Anglers have been working on for the last four years has come home to roost. The technician Tony Mang has been checking fish as they come in and said the return on the pen-reared fish is fantastic out of 108 fish more than one third of them came from the NRAA pen project. Will suggested that we should try to get down there to get some great fishing in, but get there early.

Chuck reminded us that we voted to oppose the proposed no kill zone in Ishua Creek, 3.7 mile section below Franklinville, the DEC got a lot of heat on this however they are going to recommend to Albany to do the bottom 2.2 miles of this proposed zone. If any one is in favor or against this get on the DEC web site and make your feelings known, bring this back to your clubs, this will be on the site for 45 days for the public to comment.

Joe Fischer said that approx. 10 years ago we had 80 million walleyes in Lake Erie, today they estimate here are 20 million Joe thinks this might mean some more regulation changes. In Ohio there are some proposed changes but they are being fought by the Charter people we will keep an eye on the situation. On the positive side every thing that Joe hears is that there was an excellent spawn this year for Walleye and Perch. Joe said that they would be stocking 50,000 walleye in the Buffalo River this year he hasn't heard of any changes in the plans so he is optimistic that it will happen.

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Small game -- Dan Tone

Dan attended the Joseph Davis State Park meeting on Sept. 24, '03. Comments were on the Park's Master plan through the review process. The Park is proposing an adventure trail system, bird conservation area, and nature center for birds of prey. In the mean time we're trying to keep the park open to small game hunting and pheasant stocking. A couple groups wanted to stop hunting in the park, however many people favored hunting. The spokesperson for the park said the meeting was not scheduled to discuss hunting and there are no plans to stop hunting in the park.

If anyone would like to help stocking pheasants in the town of Evans give Dan a call at 655-0975. Anyone who has Western New York Environmental raffle tickets to turn in, give Dan a call.

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Big game - Paul Stoos

Paul said that all the DMP permits have been issued the deadline was October 1st, with the reduction in permits this year some were not issued permits. The unsold permits will go on sale on Nov. 1st on a first come first served basis. Paul mentioned the new - New York Deer Awards Program that puts deer hunters in touch with techniques, approaches and news about programs affecting hunting in WNY. A \$10.00 membership fee will bring you a Quarterly News letter and entry into a big buck contest, to join NYDAP, call (585) 544-2563 or see the Web site: www.nydap.com.

Nelson Cronin brought up a problem he had in Lechtworth State Park while deer hunting, hikers and others no hunting walking around during the Big Game season. It was mentioned that some parks have restricted areas but in any case we cannot tell these people to stay out, in the same breath tell them that we want equal access.

Joe Fischer said at the Conservation Council Convention Jerry Barnhardt spoke regarding the issuance of Nuisance permits for deer issued by the State, there were 7 - 10 thousand issued last year and only about seven turned down. To save money the DEC will not send inspector out to check

on these applications, and this may make it very easy to get that nuisance permit.

Bernie Fix brought some brochures for the Venison Donation Coalition, said that there are 5 meat packers in Erie County, 3 in Cattaraugus and 6 in Chautauqua, For a complete list of available donation sites call 1-866-862-DEER or Web site: www.VenisonDonation.com.

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Trapping -- Patti Wattengel

Nothing

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Waterfowl - Paul Pietraszewski

Paul said that the Early Goose season again saw a lot of action with good numbers of geese around, Paul said that his Club FL&WNY Waterfowl Assoc. got wind that Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge was not going to have a early goose season at the Refuge, a letter was written to Iroquois and because of the good working relationship they have with each other, they change their minds and continued the hunt this year. The regular duck season opens soon and as far as numbers and population estimates that Ken Zolnowski of their club put together and presented at the last meeting see Paul. The mallard counts in the research area are the best numbers since 1996; it should be a decent season.

John Daniels said that talking to hunters, they had one of the best years that they ever had, over 300 birds averaging 4 birds per person. John again stressed that we should do something about an early Teal season; he said that he feels that there are a lot of changes needed in the waterfowl season, 90% of the Wood Ducks are shot in the southern states.

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Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

The Federation has decided to promote the voluntary " Buck A Member Program" proposed by the Council. This, if successful, will insure a reliable source of income to meet the future needs for our only "conservation rights" lobbying organization in our state.

For those clubs who feel this is a worthwhile cause, please make checks payable to - "New York State Conservation Council" and send to - NYS CC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357.

To those clubs who donated last year, we hope that your commitment will carry on. Please don't wait until the Council solicits for your help. They need the resources now to fund the year's budget needs.

Also, to those clubs who chose not to participate, please consider what the Council is asking for; "a dollar a member." A buck doesn't buy that much these days, not a beer at a bar, not a pack of cigarettes or a good cigar, not a decent fishing lure or even a couple dozen worms for that matter! Perhaps it's time we sportsmen and women consider putting this all in perspective!

The Conservation Council has requested an updated list of Federation clubs with names and addresses of contact people. It has been the Federation's policy not to give out this list to any other organizations for privacy considerations.

Clubs wishing to receive the Council's "Grass Roots News" monthly publication, which gives updated information on state legislation and conservation issues, should contact the Council at 315-894-3302 and ask for Linda Coffin. You can also e-mail them at - nyscc@nyscc.com with the information. Clubs can also send their "club's news" for publication to - NYS CC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357 or e-mail them by the second Monday of the month.

**NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION COUNCIL, INC., 8 East Main Street Ilion, NY
13357**

315/894-3302

FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION:

SUBJECT: The Propelled Vessels and Aircraft in the Forest Preserve
NYCRRS196.4

This concerns allowing DEC Fisheries to continue to do fly-ins into the forest preserve areas of the Adirondacks for the purposes of study, promoting natural propagation, and maintaining species of fish, especially in Forever Wild areas. As it stands now with the new "draft" proposals recommended in NYCRR S196.4, management of our fisheries would be more than hampered - a complete breakdown would occur.

Part of the original foundation of the NYSCC is to promote, enhance and support the very basics of fisheries management. We will continue to support that philosophy even in the Forever Wild areas. Fly-ins is necessary to fulfill this obligation. Since the written public time period is over, we need you to contact by whatever means possible the person listed below and request, as provided by law, a public hearing on the issue.

Howard O. Cushing, Jr.
President

Contact: Robert Messenger NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Forest Preserve Management 625 Broadway Albany, NY 12233-4254
Phone 518/473-9518 Email rwmissen@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Joe Fischer told us of the Award that Nelson "Gabby" Cronin received from the Conservation Council at their annual Convention and said that Nelson gave a SHORT thank You speech. Nelson thanked all those that helped him over the years and said that we should all take a look at the Beautiful cast Eagle that is in the front room of the Club.

Joe also gave us some figures that represent the money spent by Hunters, Fisherpersons and Wildlife enthusiasts in New York State. They spent approx. 2.45 Billion on their activities and equates to about 19 or 20 thousand Jobs, and the DEC has about 62 million in their fund that is a 60 to 1 return. Joe said that is a remarkable number and can be used to defend our sport and justify the States investment in it. The DEC has approx. 62 million in their fund and 29 million of that comes from our money, that is Conservation fund money, License money etc. 21 million from the Federal Gov. different Bills that have money attached, and 2 million that has no source attached. There are 397 people work for the DEC Statewide, that is down from 6 or 7 hundred people, The Officials there said that they are at the point now that they can't take any more cuts, programs will have to stop. There was a motion made at the Convention to send letters to the Gov. and all the others pertinent State Leaders urging them not to cut any more from the DEC, that we are at a critical juncture now. Joe also said that we should do the same and Will did just that as per last meeting.

Joe said that the resolutions the Erie County sent down to the Convention, the Federation voted against on of there own resolutions, to take two bearded turkeys on the same day. There was some discussion on this resolution. The vote from the convention on the resolutions are number 1,3,5, 6,7,8,13,14 have been approved, 2,4,10,11,12, disapproved, #9 withdrawn.

Law Enforcement

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Legislation - John Susz

To keep in touch what's going on with firearm legislation in New York, check out SCOPE's web site at - www.scopeny.org

John asked us to support HR-648 the Citizens self-defense bill, also S-659 The Reckless Lawsuit Pre-Emption Bill, John said that it passed in the House and the Democrats are signing on to the bill now, Sen. T. Daschle has signed on as a sponsor recently. SUPPORT

HR-2038 and S-1034, Bill to Re-enact and expand the Clinton gun ban, which is due to expire in Sept. 2004. The bill bans ALL semi-automatic Shotguns, ALL detachable magazine semi-automatic Rifles, and M-1 Garand Rifles. OPPOSE

S-253 and HR- 218 allows off-duty and Retired Law Enforcement Personnel to carry their handguns throughout the Country. This would have the effect of adding over One Million armed Officers to the national security force at no cost to the Taxpayer.

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Resolutions -- Bob Fuller

December 1st is the cut-off for submittal of proposed resolutions on the county level. Any questions in regards to proper format get in touch with Bob Fuller for help.

Membership Outreach -- Kent Kruse

The membership secretary would like all club presidents to consider attending at least one regular Federation meeting a year. This might not only prove to be a learning experience, but may also provide a better insight as to the importance of having representation on behalf of their clubs.

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Sportsman Education -- Frank Miskey Sr.

Frank reported that to date the hunter education classes topped last year, in Erie County they conducted 48 gun classes, Bow classes 36, there were 5 Trapper classes, and 5 Waterfowl classes. Frank brought us up to date on Project Child Safe, last year was called Project Home Safe, and the locks have changed from last years. Frank was able to get some Gunlocks and said the locks were distributed to all Police Agencies in the State; every Agency is getting a minimum of 200 Locks. If the public wants one of these locks all they have to do is visit their police station and the locks will be available. Frank has an excess of locks that he has been distributing to different clubs and organizations and to the Federation. Frank said he talked to them about the Spring Sportsmen's show and it looks like we will have locks for there. Frank will handle them in conjunction with the Dart System. These locks are improved over last year's locks and meet California standards with a cable going down thru the center and wrapped with a steel cable and again wrapped with a plastic. Frank said that he understands that the wrapped steel will twist if attempt is made to cut with bolt cutters and may break the cutter.

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Special Committee Reports:

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Awards -- Will Elliott

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's clubs, Inc.
Fred D Langdon, Recording Secretary
88 Ashley Dr.
West Seneca, NY 14224

ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUB'S, INC.

Member of New York state conservation council
Monthly newsletter and minutes
November 13, 2003
Web Address - erietyfsc.org

Federation Meeting Agenda 11/13/03

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Pledge to flag - President Kruse

Roll call -- Officers and Directors

Excused: Tony Gonnello, Don Davis, Dave Barus, Tony Scime, Nelson Cronin

Absent: Mike Smith, Robert Church, Al Comerford, Dave Reed, Patricia Holmes, Paul Stoos, Hal Lawrence

Quorum of member clubs -- Present: West Falls, NW Turkey Fed., Mohawk R&P, Alden R&G, Lackawanna Cons., Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc., Scope, Hawkeye Bowmen, Southtowns Walleye, Blasdell R&G, East Aurora F&G, WNY Trout Unlmted. (12 total)

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Approval of previous month's minutes

Motion to approve- Bob Fuller 2nd Pat Schlicht Carried

Secretary's report -- Fred Langdon

No Report

Membership report -- Mike Smith

No Report

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Treasurer's report -- Tony Scime

No Report

Correspondence report -- Will Elliott

Will read the responses he recieved from the letters he sent regarding our support of the Bass Pro Shops coming to Buffalo. The first was from Tony Massiello Mayor of the City of Buffalo, Thanking us for our input and support. At the bottom of the letter handwritten was a note , Please write or E-Mail John Morris owner of Bass Pro and encourage Him to put his next store in Buffalo. A thank you also from Joel Giambra for our support of the Bass pro Shop.

On the DEC issue that Will sent letters of our concern over the cuts in the Department in spite of the License fee increase Will received a letter from Gerald Barnhardt and Dan Tone gave him Two letters from area Legislators. From Dale Volker to Dan Tone, Thanking him for his letter on this subject and said that he was concerned as well and said that he knows that while DEC staff has been stretched thin they are making every effort to maintain if not improve programs and services of interest to sportsmen and women who as you state in your letter continue to buy licenses and contribute to the economy. He said that he will make sure that this year that cuts in the DEC will be minimized if not eliminated. And a similar letter from Assemblyman Dick Smith, thanking him for the letter and that he shares our concerns, the NYS Assembly is seeking to resolve the matter and is requesting that the vacancies be filled. He will continue to follow the situation and thank you for contacting Him.

Gerald Barnhardt director of fish and wildlife replied that NYS is faced with extremely difficult fiscal times, and the budget proposed by the Gov. And passed by the Legislature included reduced spending in State Agencies, and a reduction in the State work force in the State fiscal year 2003 - 2004. The enacted budget for this period includes funding for 3,301 full time positions, which represents a 6.6% decrease from the prior year level of 3,535. The Dept. has undertaken a thorough review of all Dept. activities, and programs are being restructured to insure that Dept. Staff are equipped to fulfill our mission. The Dept. Is focused on increasing our efficiency, directing our responses to our high environmental practices and insuring environment and public health are fully protected. It is unfortunate that this difficult fiscal time occurred at the same time as the Hunting License Fee Increase, I assure you that advantage was not taken of the Conservation fund all offices within the Dept. And all other State Agencies have had to share in addressing this Challenge. Although the Dept. Staffing levels have been reduced, our Staff is capable and dedicated to providing a diversity of hunting and fishing opportunities and to effectively protecting New York's

Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resource Habitat. If You have any question please do not hesitate to call. Will said that you can reach Him by dialing (518) 402-8924, the best time is between 10:00 and 11:30 in the morning.

Will noted that the Safari Club International will honor Senator Dale Volker with a International Legislators Award at their annual convention in Reno, He and His Wife will be flown out to the convention to receive this Award. Our local Chapter will be receiving an award for it recruitment over the last ten years.

Kent said that there is a couple requests from Boston Valley Conservation Society, to support the 4-H shooting program and the other to support the Women in the Outdoors, Kent will forward to Tony Scime for consideration in our budget next year.

Kent received a letter from Jennifer Kester, who we sent to camp last year, thanking the Federation for sponsoring her to Camp Rushford.

Next meetings and locations:

12/11/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Bison City R&G Club, 511 Ohio St. Buffalo

1/22/04 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Elma Conservation Club, Creek Rd. Elma,
NY

2/26/04 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - OPEN

Guest Speakers:

Standing Committee Reports:

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Archery & Bowhunting--Dave Reed

No Report

Crossbow - Tony Gonnello

No Report

Fish - Dave Barus

Joe Fischer reported that at the Fish Advisory meeting Don Einhouse of the DEC said that the results of their fall trawling this year indicate that we will have an excellent walleye fishery next year. This is because they got 65 walleye this year and compared to other years where they would get 1-3, and some years 0 walleye's in their nets. Joe said that the same results are true in Ohio also with the young of the year fish. He said that Bass look stable and a lot of big lake trout were caught last year with a State record being caught. There was some discussion regarding the change in the size and limits on Lake Chautauqua, and there still has to be a 60 day notice period.

Joe mentioned the cutbacks in the DEC and of an article in the "Grass Roots" the said the DEC normally stock 100,000 brown trout in the spring of the year approximately 8" long, with severe staff shortages in the hatchery's they are looking at stocking IN THE FALL 50,000 fish from each hatchery for a total of 100,000, 5" fish. Chuck Godfrey said that if you put 5' fish out in the fall you might as well through them in the sand, they will not survive. He said that these are hatchery fish and are bred to be released in the spring for sport and 0% will make it thru the winter in the streams.

Joe had some fishing "How To" handbooks for distribution to those present, these are basic fishing books with a lot of information for the novice fisherman.

John Susz brought up the discussion we had last month regarding Skobe Hill fish ladder and what a waste of money it would be if this was a National Historic Site.

Small game -- Dan Tone

Dan said that he is getting more bands back from the 4-H Pheasant program than he ever got, there were 30 bands returned and a couple were 2 years old. Dan said he gets some real nice letters along with the bands and answers every letter, and explains what the program is all about. Dan will compile all of these letters for the small game committee or any one interested in reading them. The people that actually harvested the birds raved about them. Dan is trying to work something out with the Safari Club to use some of their birds to stock areas that are more accessible to area hunters, like Darien Lake State Park and the Tona. Game Management area and places like that, he said these are huge areas and draw a lot of hunters and unfortunately there are very few release birds in these areas. Dan is trying to work things out even though some of these areas are in Region 8, He has already talked to Bob Keicher and maybe next year some of those 5000 birds will be made available for these areas. Dan said that hopefully with everyone's cooperation they can get something done. Dan said that the DEC acquired 860 acres at the South end of Honeye Lake.

Big game - Paul StoosTrapping -- Patti Wattengel

No Report

Waterfowl - Paul Pietraszewski

Ken Zolnowski Region 9 Waterfowl task force Rep. Came to the meeting to update the members on how the Task force is set up and how the season setting process works. Kent said that what prompted Ken's invite tonight was the resolution of John Daniels regarding Waterfowl Season Changes, and wants the Delegates to be more informed when voting on this resolution. The Resolutions will be discussed at the December meeting and voted on at the January meeting.

Ken explained how the waterfowl season has been set up in the State for the last five years, since the Citizens task force was formed. The reason for the task force was because there was so much disagreement on how the seasons were set, it was like a ballot stuffing game whoever wrote the most letters got their way. The DEC setup a process where there are 11 task force members in the Western Zone, there are 5 waterfowl zones in the State. Each of these zones has its own dates, New York State has the best season setting options of any other State with the exception of California, that have as many zones as we do and as many opening days as we do. Why is that important? Opening days give the hunters the maximum opportunity to harvest the resource, within biological limitations. The Fish and Wildlife Service no longer allows 5 zones, if you were a State that wanted zoning you would get 2 and 2, you would get 2 zones and a split in each zone, or 4 opening days, we have 5 zones a split in each zone or 10 opening days. That is why we have the best set up in the State. The make up of the task force is the Region 9 Rep. (Ken), Regions 7 & 8 Reps. There are four major waterfowl clubs that are represented, Canandaqua Lake Duck Hunters, FL&WNY Waterfowl Assoc., Lake Plains Waterfowl Assoc., Central NY Water fowlers, each have 1 Rep. Then there are 4 at large members appointed by County Federations to fill in the geographic voids of these other areas. These 11 people get together in April every year and come up with an agreeable set of days that every one there can live with. The process is fair and goes fairly quickly, the DEC publishes the members addresses and they get correspondences from water fowlers with their preferences and desires to take into consideration for the meeting. Ken has taken upon himself to do mail survey for two years 1999 and 2000 where he surveyed Water fowlers randomly, where he got lists of names from various organizations and sent them a list of questions about how they would like

to see the Water fowl Season set, got the data back reduced it and figured out what they wanted and factored that into what position he would take as the Region 9 Water fowl Rep. Ken said that the recommendations that he made fairly represent the feelings of those surveyed. At the end of this process every year dates are given to the DEC and the Fish and Wildlife Service, and unless they have a major change these dates become the Water fowl season for this zone. There are two other task forces that he knows of and one is in the Southeast Zone and one in the Northeast Zone that operate similar to theirs. Ken said that he would be glad to respond to any question from the members present, Ken asked if he had anything to do with bag limits and Ken said that bag limits are controlled by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Ken was asked about the concerns of John Daniels regarding an early teal season, he said that this has been brought up to every Water fowl group in Western NY and has been dismissed by most of them, Why? The number one duck in all of New York State is the Mallard by far, 50% of the harvest is Mallard ducks, and the Green Wing Teal is number two in the Iroquois NWR, so what are we trying to maximize it is already # 2. Ken then talked about Wood Ducks, and the State harvest of them, Wood ducks have been number 2 for as long as he has been water fowling. He said that it is hard for him to understand where there is a need to expand hunting opportunities for Wood ducks and Green Wing Teal when already they represent # 2 or # 3 in the harvest depending what kind of data you are looking at. Ken stresses the point that there are two distinct species of Teal, Green Wing and Blue Wing, he already told us of the Green Wing and said that the Blue Wing Teal is primarily produced in the Prairie Pot Hole Region of US and Canada the migratory corridors of this bird do not transect this State. The Fish and Wildlife service will not allow a special Teal season in New York State, this is a season over and above the regular duck season, where you can just hunt Teal. The reason is you have to meet two requirements to have this season, 1st the majority of the Teal have to come from the prairies because that's where the big populations come from. And none of the North Eastern States have very many of these prairie Blue Wing Teal. Ken said that if we met the requirements for this special season the water fowlers of this State would have asked for it a long time ago. The question was asked about the weight of the Task force and if there is equal representation for the Regions. Ken said the County Federations control 7 of the 11 positions on the task force, therefore we decide who to send the DEC doesn't care it's the federations and what has happened over the years some people are sent that are not fully informed and maybe aren't really serious dedicated Water Fowlers they show up at the meetings and are overwhelmed by it all and vote for something that's not good for their Region. Ken said that the Federations have the option to go to the DEC and request a replacement if we do not think they are representing our interests. Ken told us of some of the actions that are taken at the meetings and the process of the voting. Ken also explained the reason for not going for a three way split in the seasons, because the State would lose the five zones they now enjoy. Ken then read a couple of Quotes from the Atlantic Flyway Rep. (New York State cannot qualify for a special Teal season for two reasons, 1. New York State is a Teal production State, we produce Teal those States cannot have a special Teal season. 2. New York State does not have significant Blue Wing Teal migratory components from the Prairie Pot Hole Region of North America.) The second quote was that most States would kill to have the zoning structure we have in the State of New York because its so liberal.

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Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

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The Federation has decided to promote the voluntary _ Buck A Member Program_ proposed by the Council. This, if successful, will insure a reliable source of income to meet the future needs for our only _conservation rights_ lobbying organization in our state.

For those clubs who feel this is a worthwhile cause, please make checks payable to - _New York

State Conservation Council_ and send to - NYS CC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357.

To those clubs who donated last year, we hope that your commitment will carry on. Please don't wait until the Council solicits for your help. They need the resources now to fund the year's budget needs. Also, to those clubs who chose not to participate, please consider what the Council is asking for; "a dollar a member." A buck doesn't buy that much these days, not a beer at a bar, not a pack of cigarettes or a good cigar, not a decent fishing lure or even a couple dozen worms for that matter. Perhaps it's time we sportsmen and women consider putting this all in perspective. Dan Tone reporter on the fund raising for the Western NY Environmental Federation, they met last Sunday and had the drawing, Dan said the money will sponsor a trip to Albany by the Western NY group to lobby for Hunting, Fishing and trapping, and if the Council gets in trouble again we will give them another donation.

Law Enforcement

ECO Ron Bosela spoke briefly on the up coming Big Game season and gave us his # 1-877-457-5680 feel free to call him if you need to. Will Elliott said that Capt. Gary Bobseine asks us to be careful in filling out our harvest tags and watch where you are in relation to trespassing on posted property. He also said that the TIPP Hotline is still a viable # (800) 847-7332, this is also a central number for Deer Search if you have a deer wounded and can't find it. Will told us of the membership drive that Tom Callahan is doing for the Whitetails Unlimited Hunting Club, for details ,call 655-3347. Be careful with the use of tree stands and use your safety harness. Officer Bosela noted that they are short handed with investigators and they are scheduled to have a Training Class starting December 1st. at the Academy at Oswego NY, also in the past investigators did all the hunter related accidents and now the Officers are doing this and it is possible that on opening day that all the Officers working could be investigating an accident.

Legislation - John Susz

To keep in touch what's going on with firearm legislation in New York, check out SCOPE's web site at - www.scopeny.org

John said that Bud Schroder talked to Dale Volker recently, and he feels that it is very possible the Cross Bow Legislation would be passed, and when asked about the Junior Pistol License Bill he said the problem was with the NY City Legislators and he will resubmit the bill and exempt NYC and thinks this will help the Bill pass. John said that on the Federal level there are a couple of (BAD) bills, S-22 would create a National Gun Registration System by requiring ballistic fingerprinting, another one is S-969 which under the guise of fighting Terrorism would create a National Gun Registry and would also let the Government suspend NICS Checks, which are the background checks before you buy a gun, so if they suspend these checks it is basically gun prohibition. This allows the sitting Attorney General if he was anti gun that prohibition could stay in place for a long time, saying that the Terrorists are going to be buying guns. He brought up HR-221 which limits the number of hand guns that you can purchase, to accomplish this there would have to be a Federal Registration of firearms purchases. John said that all these things are feel good legislation and will do nothing to fight crime, they look good on paper but in reality all they do is restrict our 2nd Amendment rights to purchase and own firearms. Bud Schroder who is a Director with the NRA and a State wide leader in SCOPE said that only 36% of the eligible voters went to the polls in this last election and all it took was 19% of the eligible votes to put a person into office, which is a sad situation. He said that if the Sports men and women voted in a block (special interest as the News media would say) WE COULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT VOTING BLOCK, but the problem in NYS is we can't stick together. All you have to do is look at the Cross Bow controversy in the State.

Steve Aldstadt reported on the Anti-Gun Bills in the House of Representatives and that Tom

Reynolds said that it doesn't look like any of these Bills will make it thru the Congress this year. Steve talked about the United Nation's trying to ban gun ownership all over the world, and Congressman Paul's bill to insure that we abide by the 2nd Amendment. The Bill to renew the ban on plastic firearms was passed by 30 votes in a roll call vote, Sen. Kennedy will be pushing a similar bill thru the Senate S-1774 will be a permanent ban. Bill # S-659 the Reckless Lawsuit Preemption Bill looks like it may have a chance to pass this year, with Sen. Daschle signing on. The Bill is still being threatened by the likes of Chuck Schummer and Ted Kennedy to Filibuster and will have difficulty when the voting starts.

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Resolutions -- Bob Fuller

Kent said that resolutions will be submitted and reviewed at the December meeting and voted on at the January meeting. One resolution will be submitted by John Daniels and another by Dan Tone. John Susz brought up an article From the New York Game & Fish Magazine regarding the resolution that was submitted by our the Erie County Fed. Last year. This is the bill that our own body voted against regarding changing the reg. So a hunter could take 2 turkeys on the same day. In the Article Mike Joyner Pres. Of the State chapter of the Nat. Wild Turkey Fed. Said the Bd. Of Directors are "satisfied, overall, with existing bag limits and hunting opportunities". However the DEC is in the midst of revising and updating its statewide Wild Turkey Management Plan. The last Management strategy was mapped in 1985 during an era when the state's turkey flocks were still expanding following an aggressive reintroduction program in the previous two decades. Comments and suggestions can be sent to The Wild Turkey Management Plan, Bureau of Wildlife, 625 Broadway, 5th Floor, Albany NY 12233-4754

Membership Outreach -- Kent Kruse

The membership secretary would like all club presidents to consider attending at least one Regular Federation meeting a year. This might not only prove to be a learning experience, But may also provide a better insight as to the importance of having representation on behalf of their clubs.

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Sportsman Education -- Frank Miskey Sr.

John Susz told us of the passing of Brad Eisenhart Sr., he was with the Dec for a very long time and helped with the Sportsman Ed. Program, Bowhunting program and others.

Special Committee Reports:

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Awards -- Will Elliott

Banquet --

Kent said that Tony Gonnello has been running the Presidents raffle and is putting together the Prize list and said he wasn't sure that the Gogama Lodge was going to donate this year. They have been the first prize for the last 18 years and hopefully they will continue. Banquet will be Feb. 28 and tickets will be available next meeting. Dan Tone will be taking Adds for The Banquet Book and the cost will be \$50.00 for ½ Page and \$100.00 for a Full Page, please check with your respective clubs about taking an Add. The Banquet has been a very good fund raiser for the Federation and this is how we continue operate. Any one that can donate prizes for the Chinese Raffle give Pat Kruse a call at 655-4056 and also any volunteers to help at the Raffle contact Pat.

Educational Opportunities --Chuck Godfrey

Chuck said that they have given out 3 or 4 hundred application form Scholarships for the Kids who are majoring in Biological Science or Law enforcement and only have one return so far, They were to be in by Oct. 15 but last month we agreed to move the deadline to Jan. Or Feb. The structure was originally to give 5 \$200.00 Scholarships but in recent years there haven't been 5 applications submitted so we have been dividing the \$1,000 between applicants submitted. Chuck encourage the members present to talk to the Parents in their clubs and get some interest for these Scholarships.

CFAB -- Don Kill

No Report

Fund Raising -- Tony Gonnello

Dan was passing out the Calendars for Tony and will have them next meeting for those that couldn't make tonight's meeting.

FWMB -- Bob ChurchShows --National Hunting and Fishing Day -- Mike SimkinsBudget and Finance --Tony Scime (Motion to pay Bills)

Motion to approve - 2nd-

Old Business

New Business The Conservation Council has requested an updated list of Federation clubs with names and addresses of contact people. It has been the Federation's policy not to give out this list to any other organizations for privacy considerations.

Clubs wishing to receive the Council's "Grass Roots News" monthly publication, which gives updated information on state legislation and conservation issues, should contact the Council at 315-894-3302 and ask for Linda Coffin. You can also e-mail them at - nyscc@nyscc.com with the information. Clubs can also send their "club's news" for publication to - NYSCC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357 or e-mail them by the second Monday of the month.

The Council also has the policy of not arbitrarily giving or selling private club information.

Kent related the policy for the cancellation of meetings that was discussed during the board mtg. The procedure will be that the meeting will be cancelled by 1:00pm the day of the meeting and will be posted on WBEN Radio. There will be two numbers that can be called for information, The President of the Federation and Dan Tone has volunteered to be the second number that you can call. This will be

The Officers and Directors Christmas Party will be held on December 13, at the Elma Conservation Club at 6pm. RSVP Tony or Val Gonnello @ 652-4728.

Kent ran thru the Nominations for the second time, President, Chuck Godfrey, accepted, No other nominations. 1st VP Joe Fischer, accepted, no other nominations. 2nd VP Tony Gonnello, accepted, no other nominations. Treasure, Tony Scime, accepted, no other nominations, Recording Secretary, NO NOMINATIONS, Corresponding Secretary, Will Elliott, accepted, no other nominations. Membership Secretary, Mike Smith, accepted, no other nominations. Sargent at Arms, Don Davis, accepted, no

other nominations. Directors 5 to be nominated the following were nominated and accepted, Bob Fuller, Pat Schlicht, John Susz, Dave Barus, Fred Langdon, no other nominations. Conservation Council, Joe Fischer, accepted, no other nominations. Alternate to the Cons. Council, Bob Fuller, accepted, no other nominations. Motion to close nominations by Pat Schlicht 2nd by Chuck Godfrey, Carried

Kent said that we will be short a Recording Secretary for January, the Board of Directors will be addressing this problem, he said that there are a couple of options we have, Pay someone or do it all electronically. If any one knows anyone who would be interested please come forward and contact one of the board members or the president.

50/50 Raffle

Winner - Steve Aldstadt \$18.00

Motion for Adjournment

Motion to adjourn - Pat Schlicht 2nd- Dan Tone Carried

Thanks to Host Club

East Aurora Fish & Game

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's clubs, Inc.
Fred D Langdon, Recording Secretary
88 Ashley Dr.
West Seneca, NY 14224

ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUB'S, INC.

Member of New York state conservation council
Monthly newsletter and minutes
December 11, 2003
Web Address - eriectyfsc.org

ATTENTION:ECFSC IS IN DIRE NEED OF A RECORDING SECRETARY!

Federation Meeting Agenda 12/11/03

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Pledge to flag - President Kruse

Roll call -- Officers and Directors
Excused: Don Davis, Dave Barus

Absent: Steve Aldstadt, Al Comerford, Patricia Holmes

Quorum of member clubs -- Present:

West Falls Conservation Soc., Elma Conservation, Lackawanna Conservation, Alden R&G, WNY Trout Unlimited, Hamburg R&G, Blasdell R&G, Simon Girty Long Rifles, NY Bowhunters, Hawkeye Bowmen, NW Turkey Federation, Bison City R&G, Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc., Niagara River Station, Safari Club, Mohawk R&P, Niagara Musky Assoc., Niagara River Anglers Assoc., SCOPE, Southtowns Walleye, Depew R&G, Lake Shore Fire Exempt's, Boston Valley Conservation Soc., NY Walleye, FL&WNY Waterfowl Assoc., Leo's Archery, Erie County Trappers, 27 Total

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Approval of previous month's minutes

Motion to approve- Tom Fischer 2nd Bill Fulton Carried

Secretary's report -- Fred Langdon

No Report

Membership report -- Mike Smith

Mike reminded those present to return their Questioners, and that 18 clubs have paid the 2004 Dues and there are 40 more clubs to send their dues in.

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Treasurer's report -- Tony Scime

Balance October 8, 2003 - \$8204.64 Receipts - \$648.75, Expenses - \$637.51

Balance December 11, 2003 - \$8,212.88

Motion to Approve Bill Fulton 2nd Tom Fischer Carried

Correspondence report -- Will Elliott

Will said that there were no more responses to the Letters sent to local Legislators regarding our support for Pro Bass to locate in Buffalo.

Will said that he wrote the Commissioner of the DEC on behalf of the Outdoor Writers of New York State of an apparent new policy of the DEC toward Communication Reduction. Will quoted from Dave Barus's Column "don't let your guard down, New York is not far from New Jersey, and related that New Jersey is in a war with anti-hunters, who have made a concerted effort to eliminate their equivalent of our DEC. He received a response to his letter from Daniel J. Gilbert, Commissioner of Media Relations, DEC, Albany, Will said that he has been at the News for 18 years and have been writing for forty, and he never heard of this man. Mr Gilbert wrote that no new policy is in effect this arrangement is no different from Government Agencies and Private firms throughout the State. You are seeing less and less news about the DEC because you have to talk to a media press Office before you can even ask how many deer have been harvested. Will said he tried to put an article together about Geese and couldn't talk to the person in the know until he contacted the Press office, there is a severe change in procedure. Will said that this is happening throughout the State. Kent said that the whole issue requires some digging and if anyone wants to do it feel free to and give us a report next month. Chuck Godfrey made a motion that we contact our local State Legislators inquiring about this procdure as far as media access. The second was by Bob Church, the motion was carried.

Next meetings and locations:

1/22/04 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Elma Conservation Club, Creek Rd. Elma,

NY 2/26/04 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - George Washington F&H Club,
2805 Niagara St. Tona.
3/25/04 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - OPEN

Guest Speakers:

Standing Committee Reports:

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Archery & Bowhunting--Dave Reed

Dave said that he isn't aware of any Archery accidents during the season, Bob Church said that they set a record in the Southern tier harvesting 17 bear during the archery season. Dave also reiterated his request that any Club that is going to have a shoot to contact him or Paul Stoos so he can put it on the Web site and avoid any duplication of dates.

Crossbow - Tony Gonnello

Tony said the last update was in October, and mentioned Will's article in last Sunday's paper of all the news and updates of things going on and some of the things that you can expect to see.

Fish - Dave Barus

Kent said that he received a note from Tom Marks President of Southtowns Walleye, Tom has taken it upon himself to try to address the problem of the Exotic Species that are entering the Great Lakes on in the Freighters. As we are aware there is no system in place that requires the treatment of ballast water in ships entering the Great Lakes. Tom is taking this challenge upon himself and Kent said that if any individuals or Clubs are interested in helping him, please contact him, 947-9350 Bob Church asked if Sea Grant has done anything about the problem, Kent said that he understands that it is strictly voluntary for the ship's to declare their ballast water. There is no current program in place that the Coast Guard or any other agency will inspect every boat entering the G. L.

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Small game -- Dan Tone

Dan said that there is a 4-H Pheasant meeting for new people to learn how to raise Pheasants and to sign up for the Pheasants, Monday March 31, 2004, at 21 So. Grove St. In East Aurora, the Cooperative Extension, 652-5400 for any questions.

Big game - Paul Stoos Paul said that the shotgun season is over and the muzzle loader and archery season is going on now and he hasn't received any figures on the deer take yet. Dan Tone said that he checked with Bonds and they normally process 1200 deer in a season and this year so far they were down 30%, he also checked with a processor in Catt. County and they were down 30%. Dan talked to a lot of hunters and the consensus is that the population is down, he suggests that we all talk to the members of our clubs and see how the overall picture looks, maybe we could comment on this next meeting.

Trapping -- Patti Wattengel

Patti told us that their annual Fur Auction and Fur handling seminar will be on Sunday January 11, 2004 at S&S Taxidermy, Rt. 219 Springville NY. CHECK-IN: 8AM; OPEN BID AUCTION BEGINS AT 10AM
CONTACT: Patti Wattengel @ 716-337-2556

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Waterfowl - Paul Pietraszewski

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Paul said that the first part of the season is over and the second part will start after Christmas, he hasn't had contact with anyone so he really doesn't know what is going on, his season wasn't all that great. John Daniels introduced Ron Rezavek who John would like the Federation to sponsor him for the Task Force, and Kent suggested that he come in and introduce himself. Ron said that he has been hunting Waterfowl for 30 years and would be interested in aiding waterfowl supporters in any way he could. Kent asked when are names submitted to the DEC for consideration, Ken Zolnowski suggested that we get in touch with Tom Jurczak and find out the proper time to submit names. John Daniels made it clear that the proposal that he is submitting in not to find fault with the task force that we have, he just feels that there is room for improvement and Kent said that this will be brought up under resolutions

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Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

The Federation has decided to promote the voluntary _ Buck A Member Program_ proposed by the Council. This, if successful, will insure a reliable source of income to meet the future needs for our only _conservation rights_ lobbying organization in our state.

For those clubs who feel this is a worthwhile cause, please make checks payable to - _New York State Conservation Council and send to - NYS CC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357.

To those clubs who donated last year, we hope that your commitment will carry on. Please don't wait until the Council solicits for your help. They need the resources now to fund the year's budget needs.

Also, to those clubs who chose not to participate, please consider what the Council is asking for; "a dollar a member." A buck doesn't buy that much these days, not a beer at a bar, not a pack of cigarettes or a good cigar, not a decent fishing lure or even a couple dozen worms for that matter Perhaps it's time we sportsmen and women consider putting this all in perspective

Dan Tone reporter on the fund raising for the Western NY Environmental Federation, they met last Sunday and had the drawing, Dan said the money will sponsor a trip to Albany by the Western NY group to lobby for Hunting, Fishing and trapping, and if the Council gets in trouble again we will give them another donation. Dan passed around information relative to the make up of the Conservation Council and the mission of this body. it explains all the memberships and what they do and what the dues are. He said that he thinks that this will be interesting and they really need our support, the other sheet explains all the Committees, the Regions and who represents them and you will see that we are well represented on the Committees in the Council. If you are not on a committee and are interested in doing so make sur that the Council has your name.

Law Enforcement

Lt. Tom Scott reported that Law Enforcement was effected by this change in procedure with the media and said that questions can be faxed to their department by using #851-7005. He said that there was a relatively low frequency of hunter related shootings this deer season which is good news, there were 4 hunter related shootings that he was aware of in regions 8&9. A couple were serious and at least 3 house shootings, with no injuries, just property damage. A big issue has been the deer feedings in stigmeier Park with one women arrested three times, we will see what the public thinks of Chronic Wasting Disease when she goes to trial in January. Lt. Scott told us that Officer Mark Mazerkowitz has been selected by his peers to be Region 9 nominee for Officer of the Year consideration. He said it was his first nomination and a very deserved nomination, he said Officer Mazerkowitz is extremely dedicated and hard working Officer. He is fortunate to have him with me in Erie County. The class finally started in the Academy with 33 recruits there, trying to get thru the whole process. Lt. Scott fielded a few questions on his comments and Hal Lawrence made a motion that the Federation send a letter to Lt. Scott congratulating Officer Mazerkowitz on his

nomination and concurring with the Officers that nominated him. 2nd by Frank Miskey the motion was Carried.

Legislation - John Susz

To keep in touch what's going on with firearm legislation in New York, check out SCOPE's web site at - www.scopeny.org

John said that the McCain - Finegold campaign finance reform bill is being challenged in Court by the NRA and about ten other Organizations it is still in effect and could have serious consequences in the next election, the 2004 Presidential Election. The Center for Disease Control and prevention of the US Public Health Service has spent three years and Millions of Dollars reviewing 51 different studies on 8 different types of Gun Laws. The results were inconclusive but they want to do more studies and spend more money. John said that we should demand that they spend there time and money studying Aids or other diseases rather than Guns, they are not a disease. The next SCOPE meeting will be Tuesday Jan. 20th 2004, at 7:30pm at Elma Conservation Club everyone is welcome to come and at the next Fed. Meeting we will have the SCOPE news letter.

Bob Church told of the New Jersey Law suit regarding the Anti's trying to stop the Bear hunting, season opened Monday and 250 Bears were harvested.

Resolutions -- Bob Fuller

Kent said that tonight being the cut off for submitting Resolutions, and there are two Resolutions that where submitted. These resolutions have to be approved by this Federation to be submitted to the Conservation Council on behalf of Erie County. Resolutions will be read tonight and there will be open question and answer period and will be put in the minutes so you can get them back to your clubs and we will have a roll call vote on them at the January meeting.

1st. Resolution by Dan Tone

WHEREAS there are far to many regulations regarding hunting and fishing and can make an enjoyable day in the outdoors not so enjoyable.

WHEREAS many of these regulations tend to be far outdated or serve no practical purpose.

WHEREAS one of those regulations, it is unlawful to possess a firearm of any description accompanying a person bowhunting during special archery seasons.

WHEREAS this puts a burden on other people wanting to small game hunt with a firearm out of the same camp, etc. while the archery hunter is in the field.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC encourage the NYSDEC to change the Conservation Law to read; it is unlawful to possess a firearm of any description when bowhunting during special archery seasons.

Dan answered some questions regarding his proposal.

2nd Resolution by John Daniels

WHEREAS waterfowl populations migration timing are such that very early seasons could be utilized.

WHEREAS hunter numbers would be improved by an early season when most hunters use the resource Recruitment of new hunters could result.

WHEREAS the development of new marsh and pond habitat provide new opportunity for early season hunting.

WHEREAS the upstate season could end December 31, - (not Long Island). Very few hunt after this date.

WHEREAS a three way split could be used to facilitate needs of most hunters for early and Christmas week season.

WHEREAS we could seek a September Teal season. Precedent exists in Six Atlantic Flyway States. Blue wing teal are shot predominantly in southern states, (94% in 2001/2002), Mexico, and South America.

WHEREAS a review of Zone and Region boundaries be made to assure equal representation based on hunter numbers. In 2003 one Region had representation on three Zones Task Forces. A revision of zone boundaries may be needed.

WHEREAS wood duck are the second most numerous duck banded in New York State in summer. They migrate early. 66% are harvested in southern states.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New York State Conservation Council request the DEC to conduct a study to determine that the Waterfowl (Duck) Season is to the best interest of the resource and the hunter and report findings back to the N.Y.S.C.C. prior to making any recommendations.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR STUDY.----- RE. NYS WATERFOWL SEASONS

ZONES -

We are told we have too many zones for consideration for a three way split. (i e. An early, middle, and late season.)

Should Long Island not be held as a NYS zone. It is much different as a demographic entity, has different migration and weather patterns.

It is larger than Delaware and Maryland.

Should Upstate be denied a count as three zones to enable Lake Champlain to have a special privileged situation to match Vermont's Season. In actuality, the Lake Champlain season is a special spot season and does not coordinate with Vermont or New York. If a small number of hunters have a special zone should they be considered as a New York State zone.

Should Region 7 be allowed to be in two zones, (the Western and Southeast). This allows region to have voting members on two Task Forces and have more votes than Regions 8 or 9. In 2002/2003 meetings residents of Region 7 had voting members in three upstate task force groups.

Would hunters be better served if the eastern boundary of Region 7 coordinated with the Zone boundary?

Should consideration be given to changing the zone boundary for the southeast zone to include the area north of Route 5 (Or the Thruway) and including the Western end of the state west of route 390? It could even include the area south of Route 17! A request was made in the mid 80's for having the south shore of Lake Ontario added to the Northeast Zone.

Iroquis, Tonawanda and Montezuma WM Areas have added over 15,000 acres of wetlands. Ducks Unlimited states over 27,000 acres restored or protected in N.Y. State.

SEASON TIMING

In 1990 a report by the Finger Lake & Western New York Waterfowl Assoc. stated an alternation scheme to swap a week in late December for a week in early October would better serve the needs of the majority of Western Zone Waterfowlers. Steve Browne made a similar statement many years earlier.

Mallards, wood ducks ,teal, and gadwall have increased in numbers. Diver ducks are in trouble.

Migration peaks for some of our most numerous waterfowl occur in September (blue wings) and early October

The recruitment of new hunters should be improved with more days in the early season. It has been stated that 60% of hunters do not hunt the late split and 90 % hunt early

Coinciding duck and deer seasons was not done for many years. It has now been tried with no apparent problems. The end of November and early December are prime times for some areas. Jack Lloyd an outdoor writer at Jamestown tried for years to promote this timing for Chautauqua Lake. The time dedicated to January duck hunting could be a prime time and used by more hunters if allocated to December.

A three way split is worth considering and precedent exists in many states. A week starting Oct.1, November with late October and/or early December, and a week ending December 31 would be possible.

Alternation.-- with the first week in October and a late season starting Nov.1 continuing through to late December one year. The following year could start in late October, run through November into early December and have 10 days ending December 31.

The present method with citizen Task Force groups has much merit and can serve the interests of Waterfowlers. The present situation merits review. Task force members are charged with a responsibility to serve the charge to get a season timing for their organization as decided by what may a few people. A decision to the interest of a majority of hunters, the best utilization of the resource can be overlooked. A potential exists for manipulation of seasons in adjacent zones to the advantage of a few and not to the general good.

Weather

A major factor affecting migration is a most important consideration. Blue wing teal are a late migrant to the breeding ground and extremely early late summer to their wintering ground. They are a major population and hunted as early as Sept 6 in Delaware. Wood ducks and gadwall also with good populations are early migrants. An early cool spell can blow these species through before or in the first days of season.

A lack of cold weather in breeding or marshalling areas can predicate a late flight.

Low temperatures in late December are a disaster for much of New York State. The only area with open water may be the Finger Lake region. A review of weather for 1980 to 1998 indicated over 44% of seasons suffered a major loss on Lake Erie and Niagara River.

There was much discussion regarding John's Resolution, Ken Zolnowski again explained the benefits of the present 5 zone system as it stands. Kent encouraged the members to call John Daniels a call if there are questions regarding this resolution. Also Ken Zolnowski and Paul Pietraszewski wil gladly answer any questions you have on waterfowl.

-

Membership Outreach -- Kent Kruse

The membership secretary would like all club presidents to consider attending at least one Regular Federation meeting a year. This might not only prove to be a learning experience, But may also provide a better insight as to the importance of having representation on behalf of their clubs.

-

Sportsman Education -- Frank Miskey Sr.

Frank said he was busy getting ready for the new year and setting dates for his programs.

Special Committee Reports:

Awards -- Will Elliott Will said that we will have between 8 and 9 awards counting the Presidents award, Will asked all members to let him know of any outstanding sports person or club that you feel should be nominated for recognition at the Banquet. The following awards will be given at the Banquet, Outstanding Club, Sportsman, Sportswoman, Youth, Volunteer, Conservationist, Stan Speziak Cons. Award, Lifetime Achievement, Presidents.

Dan has tickets for the Banquet and did pass some out tonight if any one needs more or your club delegate wasn't at this meeting please contact Dan for tickets. 716 655-0975. Dan said last year we had a record number of attendees (205) and lets do better this year, the Banquet is FEBRUARY 28, Tickets are \$35.00 each or \$60.00 a Couple, includes 4 hrs. open bar and a great meal. Knights of Columbus on Union Rd. Cheek. Adds for Banquet book are the same as last year \$50.00 for $\frac{1}{2}$ page or \$100.00 for a full page, Dan has the Logo from your club if you had an add in last year or would appreciate adds from businesses in the County.

Educational Opportunities --Chuck Godfrey Chuck said that he has still not received any applications for scholarships even though we extended the time frame, there is \$1000.00 available that can be split up for up to 5 individual scholarship of \$200.00 each or if there are only 2 applicants, \$500.00 each. Call Chuck if you have any candidates for these scholarships. Kent held the annual drawing for the Youth Camp to be held in 2004 all clubs present were supplied with a raffle ticket and the following 5 clubs were drawn, West Falls, Lake Shore Fire, Hawkeye Bowmen, NY Walleye and Southtowns Walleye. The three alternates are, Niagara Musky, Elma Conservation, and Leo's Archery. The age groups are 12-14 and 15-17, Kent will have the applications at the January meeting.

CFAB -- Don Kill No Report

Fund Raising -- Tony Gonnello

ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET RAFFLE

1ST PRIZE 4 DAY FISHING TRIP FOR 2 PEOPLE
GOGOMA LODGE, NORTHERN ONTARIO
Owner - DICK HARLOCK

2ND PRIZE GUIDED WILD BOAR HUNTw/MOUNT
CREEKSIDE WHITETAIL RANCH

OWNERS - PETE & TANIA SMITH

3RD PRIZE FISHING CHARTER FOR 4 - FULL DAY
BOAT - SEACIN
CAPTAIN - DAN DIETZEN

4th PRIZE WHITE WATER TRIP FOR 2 PEOPLE
ZOAR VALLEY RIVER ADVENTURES
OWNER - JIM REDLINE

5th PRIZE 100.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE
 AL DURRETT'S TAXIDERMY
 Owner - AL DURRETT

6th PRIZE \$50.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE
 FRAME DESIGNS

DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT THE BANQUET SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2004

WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT DONATION \$1.00 PER TICKET

GET YOUR TICKETS AT THE FEDERATION MEETINGS OR CALL VAL OR TONY GONNELLO AT 652-4728.

WE'VE ADDED SOME EXCITEMENT TO THE RAFFLE THIS YEAR!!!

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RAFFLE TO SUPPORT YOUR FEDERATION. PLEASE PURCHASE/SELL AS MANY AS YOU CAN. SUPPORT FROM MEMBER CLUBS IS APPRECIATED. THANK YOU.

-
FWMB -- Bob Church

Shows --

National Hunting and Fishing Day -- Mike Simkins

Budget and Finance -- Tony Scime (Motion to pay Bills)

Motion to approve - Pat Schlicht 2nd-Tom Fischer Carried

Old Business

Dan Tone brought up the fishing clinics that Bob Church handles at Sprague Brook Park every summer and said that the turn out is usually not great, an Dan suggested that maybe the Federation Fish Committee could get involved to help Bob and try to get more kids involved. Bob concurred that it is a great idea and would appreciate some help. Kent welcomed all members so inclined to get involved and give Bob a hand. THE KIDS ARE OUR FUTURE!

-
New Business The Conservation Council has requested an updated list of Federation clubs with names and addresses of contact people. It has been the Federation's policy not to give out this list to any other organizations for privacy considerations.

Clubs wishing to receive the Council's "Grass Roots News" monthly publication, which gives updated information on state legislation and conservation issues, should contact the Council at 315-894-3302 and ask for Linda Coffin. You can also e-mail them at - nyscc@nyscc.com with the information. Clubs can also send their "club's news" for publication to - NYSCC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357 or e-mail them by the second Monday of the month.

The Council also has the policy of not arbitrarily giving or selling private club information.

Mike Smith read the results of this years elections, Pres. Chuck Godfrey, 1st vice Joe Fischer, 2nd Vice Tony Gonnello, Treasurer Tony Scime, Membership Mike Smith, Corresponding Secretary Will Elliott, Directors, Bob Fuller, Dave Barus, Fred Langdon, Pat Schlicht, and John Susz. Conservation Council, Joe Fischer, and Alternate, Bob Fuller. **RECORDING SECRETARY IS OPEN AND WE NEED A VOLUNTEER TO FILL THIS POSITION!** A motion was made for the recording secretary to cast one vote for the above candidates, By Paul Stoos and 2nd by Pat Schlicht Motion Carried.

Kent made a plea to the members present for a volunteer to fill the Recording Sec. Position!

(Added by Webmaster to the minutes) Please "All" clubs ask your membership if there is someone that would be willing to help out our Federation, we need to get a recording secretary: Tape recorder available and directors are willing to help train an individual and help during meeting to become familiar with the protocol of the meeting and format of the minutes. Format can be provided, or develop your own.

Thank you, Paul J Stoos, webmaster

50/50 Raffle

Winner -Dianne Racich \$95.00

Motion for Adjournment

Motion to adjourn - Pat Schlicht 2nd- Earl Hochdanner Carried

Thanks to Host Club

Bison City Rod & Gun Club