

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      2<sup>nd</sup> - Al Commerford

Secretary's report -- Fred Langdon

No Report

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Membership report -- Mike Smith

No Report

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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      2<sup>nd</sup> - 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 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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. 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>, with the reduction in permits this year some were not issued permits. The unsold permits will go on sale on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> 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



