

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

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Pledge to flag by President Kruse

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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 (eriectyfsc.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.

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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.

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

