

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

Thomas Marks, Recording Secretary
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ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUB'S, INC.

Member of New York State Conservation Council

Monthly newsletter and minutes

June 24, 2004 – Alden R&G

Call to order - 7:30

Pledge to flag lead by President Chuck Godfrey.

Roll call -- Officers and Directors

Excused: Tony Gonnello, Dave Barus, Dave Reed

Next meetings and locations:

7/22/04 – Bd. Mtg. – 6:30, Reg. Mtg. – 7:30 – Niagara River Station, 355 East River Rd., Grand Island NY

Quorum of member clubs -- Present: Alden Rod & Gun Club, Bison City Rod & Gun Club, Blasdell Rod & Gun Club, Deer Search, Inc., Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc., Hamburg Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Hawkeye Bowmen, Inc., Lackawanna Conservation Club, Lake Shore Fire Co. Exempts Sportsmen's Club, Niagara Musky Association, Inc., Niagara River Station Fishing Club, NWTf-Niagara Chapter, NY Walleye Association, SCOPE - WNY Chapter, Southtown's Walleye Association, Inc., Springville Field & Stream, West Falls Conservation Society, Inc., WNY Trout Unlimited, FWMB, ECFS

9/9/04
– Bd.
Mtg. –
6:30,
Reg.
Mtg. –
7:30 –
Springville
Field

and Stream, Springville NY

We need locations for October and November if your club would like to host a meeting contact Chuck Godfrey
12/9/04 – Bd. Mtg. – 6:30, Reg. Mtg. – 7:30 – Bison City Rod and Gun Club

Pres. Godfrey noted 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 that 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 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. 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 this list out to any other organization 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 send their “club's news” for publication to - NYSCC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357 - or e-mail the by the 2nd Monday of the month. The Council also has a policy of not arbitrarily giving or selling private club information. Finally, there is an ongoing new member/renewal drive for individual Council memberships, with prizes available. Contact the Council or visit their website for details.

Membership Outreach – 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. If any club would like a visit from a Federation spokesman, please contact president Chuck Godfrey at 675-0057 or steelheader@cheekcentfcu.net. The president will also try to visit one club or so per month.

Treasures report: - Tony Scime

A complete report was presented by a motion was made to accept by Fred Langdon and seconded by Bob Fulton the motion was carried.

Received a donation from Bill Colton for the kids fishing events.

Received a letter from Bob Church recapping the Erie County 4H clubs Kids fishing event wanted to thank ECFS for donations of rods and reels.

Received a Thank you letter from Estelle Green thanking ECFS for our donation of \$200 to National Wild Turkey Federation for the 2004 Woman in the Outdoors Event.

Correspondence report -- Will Elliott

A letter was sent to Allegany State Park to the attention to George Wyman, Assistant regional Manager for Allegany State Park, for his comment in reference to our unanimous support for opening a bear hunting season in the park. After receiving our letter George Wyman called Commissioner Castro for her, opinion on the bear hunt in the park and her response was positive and that the bear hunt in her opinion was fine.

It was our letter that triggered actions, which may result in a bear hunt in Allegany State Park.

In previous contacts with George Wyman by people interested in establishing trapping in the Park his (Mr. Wyman's) remarks again were favorable to introduce trapping to the Park. A letter has been sent; if trapping is denied then perhaps the support of the ECFS is needed and the Federation can send a letter.

Letter to Buffalo News

Mr. Smith,

I am writing as the president of the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, an umbrella group of 54 hunting, fishing, trapping, and conservation groups, representing over 8000 members in Erie County. We are very unhappy with some of the things that have been done recently involving the editing and use of the new printing presses at The News. Specifically, the size of the print in the Fishing Line column by Will Elliott, carried on Thursdays, has been reduced to such a small size that it is very hard to read. Also, the same can be said for the listing of events of interest to sportsmen/women and other conservationists on Sundays. Additionally, it does not seem as if anything has been done to "upgrade" the outdoors section in ways that things have changed in other sections of Sports and the paper in general. We also feel that there has been a reduction in the number of pictures that are printed covering the outdoor sports. We feel this does a grave disservice to your readers.

Sincerely,

Chuck Godfrey
President

Bob Church commented on the print size and the limited content for outdoor news in the sports section of the Buffalo News. A letter from our Federation President was sent as follows:

It would also be helpful if all our members write the News as well with a similar complaint on an individual basis.

President Report – Chuck Godfrey

The Army Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg Mississippi has started to try to get a movement to construct a trail for fishing, and wildlife observation. The army engineer initiating this project grew up in Western New York. There may not be a lot of potential for any more fishing we already have a lot of opportunity. However, birding opportunities in our area are excellent since we are well situated on a major migration route. Bird Watching is the largest outdoor activity for participation in this country. Eco-tourism is recognized as an area for opportunity to bring people to our region to benefit our local economy.

The Niagara Power Authority is going through a relicensing process. Part of the license agreement is to fund projects that would restore fish and wildlife habitat along the Niagara River watershed. This includes the Buffalo River, Buffalo Harbor, and Lake Erie near the mouth of the river, lower Niagara River, and tributaries. There are meetings going on every Tuesday night Quality Inn on Niagara Falls Blvd, Niagara Falls, at 5:00 PM

In 1957, Congress passed the Niagara Redevelopment Act directing the Federal Power Commission to issue the Power Authority a 50-year license to build and operate what was then the largest hydropower facility in the Western world. Construction began the following year, and in 1961, the Niagara Power Project produced its first electricity. Since that time, the Niagara project has provided reliable supplies of low-cost hydropower to businesses and residents in Western New York.

The Power Authority's license to operate the Niagara project will expire in 2007; NYPA must file an application for a new license by 2005. As part of the relicensing process, which began in December 2002 with organizational meetings, NYPA has solicited the participation of a wide range of interested groups and individuals, known as stakeholders. These include state and federal regulatory bodies, local municipalities, area businesses and labor unions, environmental groups and academic institutions.

In March of 2002, NYPA filed a formal request with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) seeking permission for an alternative approach that would allow the public to participate in the Niagara relicensing process from the beginning. In contrast, the traditional relicensing format restricts public participation until much later in the process, which often takes several years to complete. Representatives from several federal, state and local community and governmental organizations have endorsed NYPA's request to

FERC. This request was approved by FERC on July 15, 2002. A facilitator to help with the relicensing process was selected on October 2002.

There will be over \$100 million dollars available for projects. Special interest groups, municipalities, and stakeholders have been meeting to determine which projects are worthy of funding. There needs to be more participation from fishing orientated organizations and people. There is a lot at stake; it is a once in a life opportunity. For more information got to: <http://niagara.nypa.gov/> and visit <http://www.wnyrelicensing.com/>

Membership Report – Mike Smith
No Report

Standing Committee Reports:

Law Enforcement
No Report

Archery & Bowhunting— Mike Kaempf

For the Youth Camp there are 38 applicants everything is in place. Letters have gone out thanking everyone for their donations.

Crossbow Report-
No Report

Fish – Hal Lawrence

Kent Kruse - Fish Clinic at Chestnut Ridge at this time we have 70 kids and adults signed up however we expect a lot more. The facilities up there have all been remodeled everyone should be impressed. The park staff is very excited about our event at the “new facilities”. Hillcrest Vol. Fire Dept is the emergency crew on hand.

Tiff Nature Preserve had about an average turnout. The new staff there was very impressed with our event.

Dan Tone - reported that large mouth bass and fathead minnows are now available through Erie County Soil and Water call 652-5400 extension 160

Joe Fischer – Today (June 24, 2004) the Wall-I-Guys stocked 28,000 walleye fingerling into the Buffalo River. Great media coverage and we had a lot of good help. This is the first time walleye have been stocked into the Buffalo River. You will hear a lot about in the future this project.

Chuck Godfrey has been re-instated to the Fisheries Advisory Board.

Chuck Godfrey reported that Trout Unlimited and the DEC with “technical” support from the Army Corps of Engineers will try experimental plantings of several different tree species on Spooner Brook.

Mike Hanley with the Nature Conservancy conducted a workshop on stream “fixing”. He is impressed with the project on Spooner Brook. Mike Hanley is involved in projects for stream rehabilitation in the lower 48 states.

The Lamprey barrier on the Catt near Springville has been repaired to keep the lamprey from getting passed.

Concerning access to the Catt in that region, it is up to the private landowners. Currently it is all posted as a result of problems they experienced with people making a mess. It is not the majority of fishermen; it a few who cause the problem and the majority have to suffer.



Small game -- Dan Tone

Looking for participating clubs for adult pheasant stocking – we have had more clubs in the past but we are now down to only one participating. It is hard to get areas to stock birds, if your club might be interested we need 100 contiguous acres for the birds, contact Dan Tone.

Viburnum leaf beetle

Gary Huber reported on the viburnum leaf beetle. The viburnum leaf beetle, is an invasive, non-native beetle that first appeared in New York along Lake Ontario in 1996, and has steadily spread. It is a voracious eater that can defoliate viburnum shrubs entirely. Plants may die after two or three years of heavy infestation. This beetle could alter the habitat and making it difficult for turkey and grouse as well as other animals to survive. Large areas have been affected. The only way to effectively eradicate this beetle is with the insecticide seven.

Big game – Paul Stoos

Legislative updates: Blaze orange passed the legislature now on the Governor’s desk. If you are opposed to this legislation, you need to make a call to the Governor stating your position and ask that he veto the bill.

STATE OF NEW YORK
 10052--A R. R. 774 IN A S S E M B L Y March 2, 2004 _____ Introduced by M. of A. DiNAPOLI, JOHN, EDDINGTON, ORTLOFF, STRINGER -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. CLARK, COLTON, COOK, R. DIAZ, GORDON, GOTTFRIED, GRANNIS, GRODENCHIK, LAFAYETTE, MAYERSOHN, McENENY, PHEFFER, ROBINSON, SEDDIO, SEMINERIO, SIDIKMAN, WEINSTEIN, WEISENBERG -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation -- reported and referred to the Committee on Rules -- passed by Assembly and delivered to the Senate, recalled from the Senate, vote reconsidered, bill amended, ordered reprinted, retaining its place on the special order of third reading AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to requiring certain persons hunting for big game 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 FOR BIG GAME WITH A RIFLE, SHOTGUN, PISTOL OR
 4 REVOLVER SHALL WEAR A MINIMUM OF FOUR HUNDRED SQUARE INCHES OF SOLID OR
 5 PATTERNED FLUORESCENT ORANGE MATERIAL ABOVE THE WAIST OR A HAT OR CAP OF
 6 SUCH MATERIAL. THE MATERIAL SHALL BE WORN SO IT IS VISIBLE AT ALL TIMES
 7 IN A THREE HUNDRED SIXTY DEGREE ARC. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE
 8 OF SUCH REQUIREMENT IN THE STATE HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS GUIDE.
 9 S 2. Section 71-0923 of the environmental conservation law is amended
 10 by adding a new subdivision 12 to read as follows:
 11 12. A VIOLATION OF SUBDIVISION SEVENTEEN OF SECTION 11-0901 OF THIS
 12 CHAPTER, RELATING TO WEARING FLUORESCENT MATERIALS WHILE HUNTING BIG
 13 GAME, SHALL BE PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN TEN NOR MORE THAN
 14 FIFTY DOLLARS.
 15 S 3. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding
 16 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. LBD16268-06-4 .SO DOC A 10052A *END* BTXT 2003

Similar legislation (A.8784-A) was passed by both houses in 2003, but was vetoed by the Governor. The Governor’s veto message cited technical concerns involving the amount of blaze orange material per garment required; the inadvertent applicability of the requirement to long bow and muzzle-loading special seasons; the unintentional applicability of an additional criminal penalty; and the lack of inclusion of the special shotgun season in Suffolk County. All of these concerns are addressed in this bill. PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY : Similar to A.8784-A of 2003: Passed Assembly and Senate, Vetoed by the Governor (Veto Message No. 137)

There was some discussion about the bill that it requires 400 square inches of blaze orange. It was also thought that there was a last minute change to add the phrase OR A BLAZE ORANGE HAT The text of the bill above is from the NYS Assembly website. It may not be what finally made it to the Governor’s desk. Will Elliot pointed out that the

400 square inch requirement is a very large area. The standard in Canada and some nearby states is 250 square inches. Will has seen people given a summons for removing a hat thus failing to have enough blaze orange. The NYSCC recommends we oppose this bill and to call the Governor. Local legislators vote on the bill: Volker –yes, Massiello – no, Parment – no, Smith – no, Weinstein – yes, Tokasz – yes, Stackowski – no, Magee – no, Rath – yes,

The Governor’s phone number 518-474-8390 Fax 518-474-1513 e-mail www.state.ny.us/governor/

A motion was made by Dan Tone that we send a letter to the governor stating our position and ask for his veto on the bill, Seconded by Paul Stoos, the motion was carried.

The Volker Bill passed the Senate and is now in the Assembly, the bill allows the use of rifles in parts of the southern zone. The bill is in the rules committee for review.

Trapping -- Patti Wattengel

The trapping bill passed the NYSCC supports this bill. It requires a name or ID number on the trap.

Waterfowl – No Report

Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

Our representatives to the Council made a trip to Albany to meet our local legislators, making our position none on pending legislative.

Environment and Pollution --

Tom Marks - Gobies have been discovered in Grand Traverse Bay by students with the Inland Seas Education Association. Gobies were first discovered in Lake St. Clair in 1990 and have spread throughout Lake Erie. It was thought that they could not survive in the colder waters of the western Great Lakes. Gobies are an invasive species that compete with and displace native species. We need to write our legislators to keep pressure on them to enact meaningful legislation to protect our Lake from more invasive species coming in. Invasive species are usually introduced through ship ballast water. The National Aquatic Invasive Species Act contains language that will reduce the invasion but it needs to be passed and made into law.

Tom Mayher relayed to us through an e-mail concern about air pollution caused by power plants in the Midwest. Power plants burning coal release pollutants that environmentalist say kills more people in Ohio as car crashes and murders. It is estimated yearly 1700 people die prematurely in Ohio due to dirty air. In Pennsylvania it is estimated that over 1800 die prematurely due to air pollution. New York leads the nation in deaths due to air pollution, much of it comes from the Midwest power plants carried on the prevailing westerly winds.

Avian Botulism

Eric Obert, Associate and Extension Director, for Pennsylvania, has sent out a notice that there have been signs of another out break of Type E (Avian) Botulism this summer. Dead and dying sea gulls have been found on Presque Isle in Pennsylvania. The dying birds displayed the classic symptoms of botulism poisoning.

Botulism is a neuro toxin, which causes a paralysis of the mussels. The bacterium, clostridium botulinum, which produces the toxin, is a naturally occurring in the ecosystem. Birds afflicted by the toxin can not fly and have difficulty holding their heads up. Often the case with water birds they are on the water and drown as a result. The birds found on the beach typically have washed ashore. Laboratory tests conducted at Guelph University in Ontario have shown 100% mortality in walleye, trout and gobies that have been injected with botulism toxin, usually they die within 24 hours. Perch seem to have more resistance and live for several days and mortality is only about 40%. Usually animals those have been dead for any length of time can test positive for botulism however, it does not mean that was the cause or contributing factor for death. In order to confirm any outbreak of botulism it is important to collect a dying animal to test immediately.

Type E Botulism outbreaks have occurred on the Eastern Basin of Lake Erie every year since 1999. Over the course of these years tens of thousands of migrating ducks, gulls and other water birds have died. The Common Loon which is not very common here has died by the thousands after stopping here on their annual migration south. In the fall of 2003 which was considered to be a mild year for bird deaths an estimated 3000, loons died in the New York waters of Lake Erie. Scientists have been trying to understand what triggers these outbreaks. Theories range from a quagga/zebra mussel and goby interaction, weather-related events, and the possibility that this is a new strain of botulism was brought into the lake by ship ballast water discharge however, the mechanism for the outbreaks has not been identified yet. Outbreaks of the type we have seen since 1999 are rare; therefore, the annual occurrence is of great concern. Since these outbreaks have been identified, we have seen it spread to the mouth of the lower Niagara River and Lake Ontario in the last year. Last year several sturgeons washed up on the shore of Lake Ontario most likely as a result of botulism poison.

Anyone finding a diseased or dead fish or bird should call a fish or wildlife management agency. For the Lake Erie area, call the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in Buffalo: 716-581-7010; or Dunkirk: 716-366-0228; or contact the Erie County Health Department: 716-858-6089 or the Chautauqua County Health Department: 716-366-8831.

Joe Fischer added that there was a fish and bird kill along Hoover Beach and that the DEC was investigating this to see if it is related to a botulism outbreak.

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

Elections are coming up on Nov. 2nd this election is critical because of the legislators retiring and the appointments at stake. Bush, Cheney and Ashcroft are on record supporting the right to bear arms as an individual right. Kerry voted anti-gun 51 of 55 times. Scope has voter registration forms available for anyone who needs to register.

Visit the following websites for information on gun issues and candidates

www.nranews.com
www.clintongunban.com
www.nfcshows.com

Oct 2, 2004 "Meet the Candidate Night" at Elma Conservation Club. Your chance to hear how they stand on issues and your chance to let them know your position.

Scope Aug 1, 2004 Scope Picnic at Chestnut Ridge Park ... 28A
 Cattaraugus Fair Aug 2-8 (call for details 938-9146)
 Taste of Ellicottville Aug 14 & 15 (call for details 699-5636)

Resolutions -- Bob Fuller

Everyone should have a copy Chuck review the proposals... our member clubs should support our proposal.

Sportsman Education – Fran Miskey

There will be 2000 gun locks available for distribution at the Fair Federation Booth however the dart system will not be there due to problems with parking and fair pass availability.

Special Committee Reports:**Awards -- Will Elliott**

Calvin Arthur received an award from the Southtowns Walleye Association for his lifetime of work and donations to the youth program of hand tied flies used at the trout pond. Calvin is very ill and said when he received the award that he wished he could still tie some flies.... Calvin passed away a few days after the meeting he will be missed.

For Calvin Arthur

I believe that when we get near the last bend in the road we look back to see where we have been, before we make the final turn for home. Was the journey as we planned? I hardly think so. Life throws us a lot of twists and turns and the journey is never easy. Each person's journey is unique. For some, the road is too long and hard and for some, it is just too short. We can not measure the distance another has traveled, for each the journey is very personal. All I can say is that we are blessed when we get to know another traveler. One fine traveler, Calvin Arthur blessed all who knew him. His family is a fine example of his wonderful character. On his journey, he sacrificed his time to help our community through the Trout Unlimited. Calvin is the president of this great organization.

Calvin loves to fish, and knows the magic of a fish caught on a fly. He likes to tie his own flies and I believe he puts some magic into them as well. The members of the Southtowns Walleye Association probably know Calvin best for the thousands of flies he tied and donated for our Trout Pond. His magic was shared with thousands of special people who will never know Calvin however, for these special people the magic of Calvin's flies will never be forgotten. Despite his difficulties today, Calvin still wanted to make us some more flies for the pond.

Our president, Woody, gave Calvin a special recognition plaque as a small token of our appreciation. When Woody spoke of Calvin's donations and his difficulties, I believe I saw a tear in his eye. We all felt a lump in our throats. Long after Calvin reaches his final destination, he will be remembered. Each time we see a trout take a fly, it will bring thoughts of Calvin to mind.

The road that Calvin has traveled has been far too short and hard. We can not lighten his burden or ease his pain, however our prayers will be with you friend. We will pray for your family and the people you have touched. Calvin when you look back you should have no regrets you have made an impact that will never be forgotten. When it is our turn to make that last bend in the road and head for home, promise Calvin, we share a few magic moments on that eternal stream.

Calvin Arthur passed away on June 27, 2004

Banquet --

No Report

Educational --Chuck Godfrey**CFAB – Fred Langdon**

Fred Langdon has been formally appointed to the Conservation Fund Advisory Board for Region 9.

Fund Raising – No Report**FWMB- Bob Church**

Money in the Habitat Stamp account has been frozen. They are working to determine how to allocate the money to the various region projects.

Erie County legislator Steve McCarville has been appointed to the board.

Shows— Fred Langdon

We have the Erie County Fair coming in August (11-22). There will be three shifts per day to cover the booth. We will need lots of help clubs usually step up and volunteer for a day. Only two clubs have had volunteers step forward we need some more people or clubs to step up. Contact Fred to volunteer.

National Hunting and Fishing Days September 25 and 26, 2004**Website- Paul Stoos**

Paul needs three e-mail addresses from each club where we can send the minutes. Please forward this information ASAP so we can get the minutes out to all the clubs.

Old Business:

Kent Kruse asked for a show of hands for on the proposal for the electronic distribution (e-mail) of the minutes. It was approved.

Article VI Section 10 The Recording Secretary (Proposed)

The Recording Secretary shall give notice of all regular meetings of the organization and the Board of Directors and shall keep minutes of such meetings. Such Officer shall prepare the minutes of all such meetings and cause a copy of the regular meeting minutes to be received by the designated web site manager. The regular meeting minutes shall be posted in a timely manner on the Federation's web site and sent directly by e-mail to each member clubs' delegates or designated recipients. It shall be the responsibility of each member club to provide current, up to date e-mail addresses to facilitate this process.

The minutes of the Board of Directors meetings shall be made available to the Officers and Directors upon request.

A roll call vote on the amendment will take place at the July meeting.

New Business

Dan Tone made a motion to add the name of Harold Hensler to the plaque that has the names of people who have donated a lot to the Federation and to the Conservation Building at the fair. Joe Fischer seconded the motion, it was carried.

Cattaraugus Sportsman's Show on the Cattaraugus County Fair Grounds August 13, 14 and 15, 2004

50/50 Raffle

Winner- Dennis Davis

Thank you to the Host Club – Alden rod and Gun Club

Motion for Adjournment at 10:15 PM by Tom Fischer seconded by Dan Tone