

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

Thomas Marks, Recording Secretary
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Derby, NY 14047
716-947-9350

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

Member of New York State Conservation Council

Monthly newsletter and minutes

10/14/04 - Hawkeye Bowmen

Call to order - 7:30

Pledge to flag lead by President Chuck Godfrey.

Roll call -- Officers and Directors

Excused: Dave Reed, Joe Fischer, Tony Scime, Hal Lawrence, Don Davis, Dave Barus

Next meetings and locations:

11/11/04 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Erie Country Conservation Society, Miller Ave. Protection NY

12/9/04 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Bison City Rod & Gun

1/27/05 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Elma Conservation Club

2/24/05 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - George Washington Club

Quorum of member clubs -- Present: Alden Rod & Gun Club, Boston Valley Conservation Society, Deer Search, Inc., Depew Rod & Gun Club, East Aurora Fish & Game Club, Inc., Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc., Elma Conservation Club, Inc., Erie County Trapper's, Hamburg Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Hawkeye Bowmen, Inc., Lackawanna Conservation Club, Lake Shore Fire Co. Exempt's Sportsmen's Club, Leo's Archery, Niagara Musky Association, Inc., Niagara River Station Fishing Club, NWTf-Niagara Chapter, SCOPE - WNY Chapter, Southtown's Walleye Association, Inc., Springville Field & Stream, WNY Trout Unlimited, Wood & Brook Sportsman's Club, Inc, Environmental Conservation Officer, Independent,

If your club would like to host a meeting contact President Chuck Godfrey

by phone at 675-0057, or e-mail - steelheader@cheekcentfcu.net

Approval of September Minutes: Motion to accept by Tom Fischer and seconded by Frank Miskey, the motion was carried.

Secretary's Report - Tom Marks

Any one who would like to be added to the e-mail list for the minutes submit your name, e-mail address, and affiliation to steelheader@cheekcentfcu.net or tommarks@verizon.net and request the minutes.

Membership Report - Mike Smith

The annual questionnaire and dues request is being sent out, make sure your club responds and please fills it out so we know that our information about your club is current. Do not just state "the same as last year", we want to make sure our records are accurate. Please note on the questionnaire there is a place to include an e-mail address for your club or an officer or director who will get the Federation Minutes or special communications.

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

No Report

Corresponding Secretary Report- Will Elliot

Will Elliot Sent the following letter to Erin Crotty on behalf of the Fish Committee, a copy was also sent the NYSCC.

September 30, 2004

Erin Crotty, Commissioner
 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
 625 Broadway
 Albany, NY 12233

Dear Commissioner Crotty:

The Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs strongly supports efforts to improve DEC hatchery systems that serve Western New York and waters statewide.

Area anglers depend on an inland stream fishery each spring that provides enjoyment for participants of all ages. Stream access — Extensive in this region — offers the average fishermen an opportunity to fish without the need for a boat and expensive gear to get in on the fun of fishing.

Great Lakes anglers can experience a variety of open-water and feeder-stream options unmatched anywhere in the northeast: Lake Ontario trout and salmon runs; Lake Erie rainbow/steelhead fishing virtually year round.

Studies have generated statistics showing hatcheries return six to seven dollars for each dollar spent on their projects. In all, recreational fishing activities create a two billion-dollar "industry" in our state each year.

These hatchery—produced fish help in prompting anglers to buy fishing licenses, interest youths in angling, and head out to favorite hotspots each season.

We urge you to do all that is possible to increase funds for maintaining and upgrading all hatchery facilities in this state.

Respectfully,

Will Elliott,
 Corresponding Secretary

President Report – Chuck Godfrey

There is a informational meeting about the Niagara Power Authority relicensing, Mon. Nov. 8 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Niagara Falls at the Earl W. Brydges Building 1425 Main, for info contact Alma Williams at 438-0205, Friends of Buffalo and Niagara River. Future meeting dates scheduled: **Monday November 8; Tuesday November 23; Tuesday December 7; Tuesday January 4; and Tuesday January 18** the meetings are open to all interested stakeholders.

Friends of the Buffalo River is leading the consortium of interested stakeholders and representing their interests in the relicensing of the Niagara Power Project.

REMINDER: The Officer's & Director's Christmas Party is at Elma Conservation Club on Saturday, December 11th @ 6:00 PM. Please call and let Val or Tony know if you are coming and if it's one (1) or (2) people attending. Call 652-4728 and let us know or leave a message if we are not in. THANKS Tony & Val Gonnello

Standing Committee Reports:

Law Enforcement- No Report

Archery & Bowhunting— Dave Reed

When hunting in a tree stand STRAP IN, and everyone have a successful and safe season.

There is a youth archery clinic going on now at Gander Mountain and there will be another in January. If any archery club would like to help with the clinic call Tony Gonnello at Gander Mountain.

Crossbow Report- Tony Gonnello

It is very quiet currently concerning any legislative activity on crossbows due to the elections coming up.

Fish – Hal Lawrence

Chuck Godfrey reported about the restorations on the Cattaraugus Creek where Savage Road crosses the creek. There is a little improvement being done on the Erie County side however a lot is being done on the Cattaraugus side. The Army Corps of Engineers and Nature Conservancy have been involved with the project. They are following some very environmental friendly procedures to restore the stream, not just "channelizing" it. A lot of plants have been strategically planted to protect the bank.

Small game -- Dan Tone

With the 4H stocking, all the birds are out. Only about half the birds were banded. We are looking for donations for the program again this year. Thanks to Eric Zawacki for the netting donation.

There was a plan by the NYSCC to double the production of the pheasant stocking. The only problem the DEC said there is not

enough locations identified to stock birds. The NYSCC is looking for places that they can stock birds Dan Tone has application forms for stocking site applications. Get them to landowners, if they want to participate they need to inform the NYSCC.

When the state consolidated all the pheasant game farms to only one location, they were warned that it could be a problem. There was production problem this year due to rains this year so we will fall short of the stocking plan for this year. Also, there are rumors of another problem, there was an issue of disease causing a reduction in productivity at the states only game farm, although there has not been any confirmation of this by the DEC.

For the Spring Youth Turkey Hunt there is not location on the tag for the April weekend for reporting the harvest of a turkey. Just write in the date on the tag for the report if a bird is taken.



On the DEC website there is information about a Grouse Study. Starting with the 2004-05 hunting season, the Department is looking for ruffed grouse hunters to cooperate in a long-term study aimed at monitoring ruffed grouse populations.

The ruffed grouse is one of New York's most popular native game birds. Annually, approximately 75,000 grouse hunters harvest 225,000 grouse. The ruffed grouse is a forest species widely distributed across New York State. While some grouse are found in more mature forests, the greatest population densities are in younger-aged forests. These preferred habitats are declining as most of New York State's forests grow older, thus resulting in a decline in grouse numbers since the 1960s. The information recorded by grouse hunters in this survey will provide insight into statewide population distributions and trends for this popular game species as habitats change both locally and on a landscape scale.

The new survey asks hunters to record their daily grouse hunting activities on a Cooperator Ruffed Grouse Hunting Log ([download or print form \(35k pdf\) here](#)). The hunting log requests information such as the number of grouse flushed, the number of hours hunted, the number of grouse killed, and if a dog was used to hunt grouse. The primary purpose of the log is to monitor the number of birds flushed per hour. Changes in the flushing rate illustrate trends in the grouse population when viewed over a long period of time. New York will cooperate with other States by evaluating flushing rates and determining if there are regional differences in the relative abundance of ruffed grouse.

If you are interested in participating, you can request forms and a postage paid return envelope from

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

81 Game Farm Road

Ithaca, New York 14850

Phone: (607) 273-2768

e-mail at fwwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us Please type the words "Grouse Log" in the subject line.

You can also download the necessary forms via the links at the top of this page. After you have completed your hunting log, you can contact the Department for a postage-paid envelope to send in your data sheet(s) from the above addresses.

After data have been analyzed, your hunting log will be returned to you along with a report of this survey. In subsequent years, you will receive a grouse-hunting log in the mail just prior to the hunting season. The personal information you provide (e.g., name, address, phone) will be kept confidential. Thanks and good luck this season!

Copies of the forms are at the end of the newsletter.

Tony Gonnello states that there are two initiatives by the NYSCC, one about trapping there have been a lot of changes over the past few years. Traps are much more humane the NYSCC is going to push trapping to the forefront to save this outdoor activity.

The second initiative is to get people back into hunting small game, rabbits squirrel etc for example. It was a great way introduce kids to hunting. Tony suggests using Gander Mountain for a venue to have a workshop to get people interested in the outdoor sport. Also, we could use Gander Mnt. to promote trapping. The whole idea is to get our youth involved. Get your club involved with an activity contact Chuck Godfrey or Dan Tone with help to put on an activity/event.

One item of note in the Grassroots publication of the NYSCC it was noted that we now have a Sportsman's Hall of Fame for those who have contributed to the outdoor traditions we believe in. It is at the Utica Store and it is open when the store is open, admission is free.

Big game – Paul Stoos

Dan Tone concerning the expansion of the bear hunting in the southern zone maybe we should comment to include Allegany State Park. The Park is included in the expansion however; it is up to the park manager to allow hunting in the park.

Fred Langdon made a motion that we send a letter to Commissioner, Erin Crotty, and a copy to Tom Jurczak NYSDEC Region 9, stating that we support the expanded range in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties for bear hunting. Tom Fischer seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

John Susz made a motion to send a letter to the Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro with copies to Tom Jurczak, NYSDEC Region 9 and George Wyman the Allegany State Park Manager favoring the DEC proposal to allow bear hunting in the park. The motion was seconded by Tom Fischer, the motion was carried.

Nelson Cronin brought up the issue of access to Letchworth State Park for deer hunting. On the east side of the park in Livingston County, the gate is often not open to allow access.

Trapping -- Patti Wattengel

We had a discussion on trapping; the leg hold trap of the past has changed significantly. In fact the otter reintroduction program is of trapped and transferred otters. The otters are captured in leg hold traps without any injury to be later released. Fran Miskey said that in Erie County there are currently 100 people trapping. In the Firearm safety course trapping is discussed, there is a lot of interest because trapping does take place during the same season as hunting.

Waterfowl – Paul Pietraszewski

Kenny Swamp the DEC has built and repaired some dams in Allegany County to rejuvenate the marsh. The reports are that the work has made a positive impact.

Waterfowl take is down 15% this year over last year. We still have a liberal harvest at six birds a day and a sixty-day season. There is a group of duck hunters on the Mississippi fly way called the Concerned Duck Hunters; they are taking action to see what can be done not to have such liberal seasons when the ducks population is declining. Arkansas did not accept the liberal harvest. In New York the harvest is not based on science, it is political and societal reasons for the duck harvest. Canadians are looking at alternate land use to save grasslands and wetlands, which are vital to ducks.

There are concerns over some new legislation, which would allow municipalities the authority to curb duck hunting with in 1500 feet of their shorelines. This would close duck hunting on Chautauqua Lake. It could close duck hunting on the Niagara River.

Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

Our resolution passed the NYSCC “which would allow a person with a gun hunting accompany a bow hunter”. Dick Smith will write the Assembly Bill and hopefully Volker will write the Senate Bill. Dick Smith said he saw no reason why it should not go through.

Of special note Bob Fuller received an award, Life Time Achievement Award at the New York State Conservation Council Fall Meeting.

If you have club news or announcements you would like to have reported in the NYSCC Grassroots newsletter send it in and they will publish it. The NYSCC represents over 300,000 outdoor sportsmen in NYS, they need your support.

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.

Environment and Pollution – Tom Marks

There have been botulism outbreaks on Lakes Huron and Ontario. Reports of dead loons washing ashore on Lake Huron started to come in on October 6 to Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources offices along Lake Huron. They are reported from the area just south of Kincardine to Point Clark. Reports seem to indicate less than 20 loons and some cormorants (less than 5) and fish. Also, a few red-necked grebes reported from this area. The apparent outbreak of type E botulism in the Burlington and Hamilton beach area of Lake Ontario has killed over 500 waterfowl (mostly long-tailed ducks) Observed on Scotch Bonnet Island (1 September 2004): Dead/dying birds: cormorants: 246; herring gulls: 19; ring billed gulls: 7; great black backed gulls: 4.

The cause of the botulism outbreaks is yet to be determined however there are theories that it is a combination of weather factors and invasive species that get the toxin up into the food chain.

In Chicago the Sanitary Ship Canal which connects the Great Lakes with the Mississippi watershed the plans for a second electric barrier to prevent the asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes are still going ahead. Funding last spring was pulled due to the war in Iraq. Due to a tremendous outcry from Great Lakes Stakeholders and Environmentalists, the funding was reinstated but it wasn’t enough. The funding was based on Great Lakes States kicking in some money. The project stalled until this fall when addition funding from the federal government was secured. The barrier was redesigned because the original sixty-foot barrier was determined not large enough. The new design calls for an electric barrier to be 400 feet wide. The barrier is only an electric field; barges and ships can pass.

The problem is barrier will not stop the carp. First, prop thrust can still push carp past the barrier. The prop thrust from a tug pushing a “chain” of ten barges can be measured one half mile behind the tug. The second problem is barges carry different weight loads. Each

barge in order to be pushed has to be at the same level as other barges in the "chain". This is accomplished with what is referred to as leveling water... Ballast Water... young of the year carp or carp fry can easily be sucked into a ballast tank and transported above the electric barrier and later dumped. We have to find some way to stop leveling water from being dumped above the barrier or in the Great Lakes. The original purpose of the Sanitary Ship Canal was to flush the raw sewage that was dumped into Lake Michigan from Chicago to drain down the Mississippi; shipping was an after thought. However, the canal has become very important for shipping.

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

John reported at length on the assault on gun ownership in the US and NYS. The restructuring of the pistol permit system was dropped this year however, we are already hearing that it will be brought up again next year. Laws are being passed in other states that ban particular guns, we have to be vigilant here that we do not loose our rights the bare arms.

NEWS RELEASE

CCRKBA HAILS END OF SEMI-AUTO BAN, SAYS LAW WAS 'TEN YEARS OF DECEPTION'

"Ten years of deception is finally over," declared Alan M. Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (CCRKBA) this morning, as the decade-old ban on production of certain semi-automatic firearms has come to an end.

Passed in 1994, the law did not ban possession of so-called "assault rifles," but merely prevented the continued production of such firearms, based solely on cosmetic features, not caliber or function. Ownership of pre-ban firearms continued, and production of new guns without such features as bayonet lugs, collapsible stocks or flash suppressors has flourished.

"The ban, in a nutshell, was one of the greatest hoaxes perpetrated by anti-gunners on the American public in the history of this nation," Gottlieb stated. "Studies by the Centers for Disease and Control, and for the National Institute of Justice, strongly suggest the ban had a negligible effect, if any, on crime. Ultimately, this ban - passed in the heyday of the Clinton Administration -was proven to be nothing more than symbolic in nature. America has matured in the post-9/11 world, and we expect substance over symbolism, not only in the interest of national security, but also in our efforts to guarantee public safety.

"The absurdity of supporters for this failed abomination against our firearm civil rights has become evident in recent months," Gottlieb continued. "Proponents of the ban have been spreading fear and hysteria, insisting for example that perpetuation of this fraud is now necessary to keep guns from falling into the hands of terrorists.

"Sadly," Gottlieb reflected, "enforcement of this ban has distracted law enforcement from far more important responsibilities. And there's something else. This law, like many gun control laws, focused on firearms and their appearance instead of focusing on criminals and their crimes. The American public has wised up, and has turned its back on the bankrupt 'blame the gun' mentality. It is only the die-hard extremists who cling to the past. It is time for the nation to move forward.

"America now understands that the problem is not what a common criminal or terrorist lunatic has in his hands, but in his heart," Gottlieb concluded. "If this ban proved anything, it's that legislating against the rights of law-abiding citizens never stopped a single criminal from breaking the law."

The following is the Veto Message from Gov. Pataki concerning the blaze orange bill.

TO THE SENATE:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, the following bill:

Senate Bill Number 6878-B, entitled:

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

NOT APPROVED

This bill would amend the Environmental Conservation Law to require every person hunting for big game (deer and bears) with a rifle, shot-gun, pistol or revolver to wear a minimum of 400 square inches of Fluorescent orange material above the waist or a hat or cap of such material. The bill would establish a civil penalty of not less than \$10 nor more than \$50 for violation of the requirement. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) would be required to provide notice of the requirement in the State Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide that is provided to hunters when they receive their hunting licenses. The bill would take effect on January 1, 2005.

Although the sponsors' objective of promoting hunting safety is laudable, I have not been persuaded that the bill would achieve that objective. While I fully support and encourage DEC's continuing efforts to educate hunters and promote the voluntary wearing of blaze orange, the key to hunting safety is for hunters to know their target and what lies beyond. A wide variety of non-hunters, such as hikers, birders, campers, loggers, horseback riders and Environmental Conservation Officers, share our State's natural environment with

hunters and generally do not wear blaze orange. Thus, while it is inappropriate and dangerous for hunters to assume that they are clear to shoot in the absence of seeing blaze orange, I am concerned that the bill's statutory mandate could unfortunately lead less careful hunters to make that erroneous assumption. Moreover, based on the empirical data presented on hunting safety in our neighboring Northeast states -- some of which mandate the wearing of blaze orange and others of which encourage it --it does not appear that mandating blaze orange will, by itself; increase hunting safety. Based on the foregoing, I am constrained to disapprove the bill.

This bill is disapproved (signed) George E. Pataki

Resolutions -- Bob Fuller - Resolutions are need to be Bob Fullers possession by the December General meeting for next years consideration.

2004 NYSCC RESOLUTIONS RESULTS FROM ECFSC

<u>RES #</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>PASSED</u>
1	8	36	NO
2	30	10	YES
3	48	0	YES
4	7	37	NO
5	4	40	NO
6	4	40	NO
7	36	8	YES
8	26	18	YES
9	21	23	NO
10	44	0	YES
11	37	7	YES
12	44	4	YES
13	39	5	YES
14	18	26	NO

Sportsman Education – Fran Miskey

No Report ...

Frank Miskey asked that if the federation if they wanted to have a demo on trapping, it has been several years since we had one.

Awards - Will Elliot

Will asked that clubs make recommendations for possible award recipients. There are a lot of people who are very deserving we just need their names a brief outline of their accomplishments and contributions. Chuck asks that an award list be published in a future newsletter.

A recommendation came from the floor that we consider a possible award to a Judge who has through his or her judicial activity has supported Environmental Conservation Law Enforcement. We should also recognize the efforts and contribution of an ECO at our banquet. Law enforcement is very important for our outdoor sporting traditions.

Special Committee Reports:

Banquet – Kent Kruse made a motion for the authority to spend up to \$800 for the purchase of three guns for a raffle at the annual banquet. Bob Fuller seconded the motion it was carried.

Educational --Chuck Godfrey

We already have two applications for the scholarship this year, which is ahead of where we usually are at this time of year. Deadline is December 15 to get the application in. Scholarship applications will be printed and put on the website to facilitate the application process; there is a scholarship application at the end of the minutes.

CFAB – Fred Langdon

Fred attended a meeting in Albany Oct 3rd one of the highlights of the meeting was that the DEC put on a Power Point presentation on the decline of license sales state wide and the reduction of funds because of that. Then they had brainstorming session on what we should do to increase the license sales. The issue of crossbows was brought up as well; all of these issues will be discussed further at future meetings.

Fund Raising – Tony Gonnello... All the calendars were shipped Oct 14. Tony will arrange to get them to everyone asap.

FWMB- Bob Church

No Report

Shows— Fred Langdon

No Report

National Hunting and Fishing Day

A comment from the floor was that it was very disappointing by the outdoor club participation. The planning appeared to be late in requesting clubs to help with the event. There was very little representation from outdoor clubs at the event.

Wood and Brook, the club that held the event, did note that it was difficult to get commitments or make contact with clubs for help. The suggestion was that planning needs to take place much earlier.

Budget and Finance

No bills to pay.

Website- Paul Stoos

Paul Stoos would like to setup a committee to manage the website so all the work would not fall onto just one person. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Chuck Godfrey or Paul Stoos.

Old Business:

Last month the following at our General Meeting we reported that in the Grass Roots (and applauded by the NYSCC Pres. Cushing) Senator Schumer had signed on as a co-sponsor to the "Open Fields" bill. The Open Fields Bill is supported by the NYSCC. However, Senator Schumer has not been traditionally a supporter of the outdoor sports and second amendment rights. Depew Rod and Gun responded with a letter to the Federations voicing their position.

Depew Rod & Gun Club
President Eric Zawacki
October 14, 2004

To: President Chuck Godfrey
Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

Mr. President, members of the board, and all affiliated clubs, the Depew Rod & Gun Club would like to go on record as being strongly opposed to the actions of the NYSCC president Howard Cushing at a recent press event for Chuck Schumer. Although Mr. Cushing's motives may have been honorable and the cause may have been beneficial for NY sportsmen, we feel that any alignment by the NYSCC with Sen. Schumer is detrimental to our goal of keeping our rights and protecting our beliefs as a whole. Sen. Schumer has never voted for or supported any pro-gun, pro-shooting, pro-hunting, pro-sportsmen legislation of any kind. In fact, he has voted against any legislation that sportsmen could benefit from in any way, shape or form.

We feel that for Mr. Cushing to be seen in the camp of Sen. Schumer is, in the eyes of the public, lending the support of every sportsmen's club, organization and individual to the senator that could very well be our largest and most outspoken opponent in the battle over the 2nd amendment! The perceived support of the sportsmen of NY may be just the endorsement this state may need to elect him our next governor. This is not the message we at Depew Rod & Gun wish to convey to anyone.

While we stand behind Mr. Cushing and applaud him for his efforts and hard work, we must voice our strong and vehement opposition to any hint of support of Sen. Schumer or any other political figure who has gone on record as opposing our rights as gun owners. We would also urge all other clubs who are members of this federation to bring this matter to the attention of its membership and draft similar letters for public record.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

Eric Zawacki President

The Board of Directors

The Membership Body of the Depew Rod & Gun Club

There was quite a bit of discussion about Cushing's appearance with Schumer when he signed on the bill as a co-sponsor. It was stated that in order to accomplish anything in the government we have to work with all parties. The NYSCC supports the bill and will take whatever help it can to see it passed. In the event that Schumer should become Governor of NY, we will have no option but to work with him.

New Business:

Bait and Shoot to control deer herds in areas closed to hunting has started. Over the last four years 14,000 pounds of venison has been given to the food bank from this program.

Nominations for officers, Directors, NYSCC Council Persons

Nominations for election of Officers and Directors for 2005

2005 Officers:

President -Chuck Godfrey

1st Vice President –

2nd Vice President - Tony Gonnello

Treasurer - Tony Scime

Recording Secretary - Tom Marks

Corresponding Secretary - Will Elliott

Membership Secretary - Mike Smith

Nominations for Directors (3 yr. term)

Steve Aldstadt

Nelson Cronin

Nominations for NYSCC -Council persons

1st Council Person Joe Fischer

2nd Council Person Bob Fuller

Nominations are closed; they will be opened at the November meeting.

Final New Business, Tom Marks has been elected to the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council as the Director from New York State.

50/50 Raffle –

Winner- Paul Kurzdorfer

Thank you to the Host Club – Hawkeye Bowmen

Motion for Adjournment at 9:36 PM by Fred Langdon seconded by Tom Fischer, the motion was carried

**ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION
OF SPORTSMEN’S CLUBS INC.**

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

As part of the Erie county Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs efforts to enhance our environment and wildlife appreciation, we award up to five \$200 college scholarships yearly.

To qualify for a scholarship you must be a high school senior enrolled in an accredited college, or attending an accredited college with your major in any one of these areas: environmental conservation, law enforcement, or environmental pollution **and must be a resident of Erie County.**

Scholarships are awarded based upon need and the area of study. To be considered for one of these scholarships complete the form below and return with a short essay telling of need, any projects you have **engineered or participated in**, your future goals, and proof of enrollment (i.e., course enrollment, course schedule, report card, etc.) to the address below prior to **December 15.**

**SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN
29 YVETTE DRIVE
CHEEKTOWAGA, NY 14227**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ COUNTY: _____ NY ZIP: _____

HOME TELEPHONE: _____ OTHER: _____

COLLEGE: _____

GRADE LEVEL: _____ MAJOR: _____