



Rich Davenport, 2008 ECFSC Recording Secretary

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

January 2008 General Meeting Minutes

Meeting opened at 7:45 PM – 1/24/2008

Location: Elma Conservation Club, Elma, NY

Call to order – 7:45 PM

Pledge to Flag: Completed

Roll call – Officers and Directors:

Excused: T. Scime, Joe Fischer, Gabby Cronin (has been appt by board for director)

List is up at table showing committee members and chairs. List is being passed along. Check phone and email for accuracy. Need some chairmen, too...

Expo is coming up in March (6-9) need volunteers to work the booth. Some slots are filled, need a few more (10 shifts to cover) Information will be provided upon request (is not here at the moment)

Need folks to take down booth Sunday!!

Need a Chairman for Crossbow and Fund-Raising Committee

Installation of Officers and Directors:

Lt. Tom Scott of the NYS DEC performs installation ceremony, with all officers elect taking the oath of office.

Installation completed - 2008 Officers Elect are now the 2008 Officers...

Chuck Godfrey again thanks the Federation for all the support in the past!

Passes gavel to Steve Aldstadt

Steve thanks Chuck for his years of service.

Quorum of member clubs – Present: Yes

Approval of previous month's minutes

Motion to approve – Chuck Godfrey - 2nd Frank Miskey Sr.

Motion approved

Secretary's report – Rich Davenport

Updating email distributions list

Tom Fischer Motion to accept
Norby - 2nd

Motion to accept carries

Membership report – Mike Smith

About 16 clubs need to pay dues. Need the right information!

Treasurer's report – Tony Scime

Information concerning balance at start and end of period provided

Motion to approve - Tom Fischer 2nd Paul Stoos

Motion carries Unanimously

Correspondence report – Dave Barus

Letters for some issues needed clarification as follows:

Letter to oppose the Black Powder proposal - Received info from Rich.

Letter for trapping trail width - need more clarification

NYSCC March on Albany (new name coming) - March 12, but it looks like Tuesday is the 11th, as follows:

Message From NYSCC Office on 2008 Sportsmen March to Albany

Date: 1/23/2008

----- Original Message -----

From: [David Barus](mailto:David.Barus@nyscc.com)

To: Sandy@nyscc.com

Cc: nysccpresident@yahoo.com

Sent: Friday, January 18, 2008 12:27 PM

Subject: 2008 Sportsmen's March On Albany?

Mr. Barus,

We will meet with legislators on Tuesday, March 12th. We plan to change the name from "March on Albany" to something new.

Please excuse my late reply to your email. I've had frustrating computer problems here all week which have required much extra time to get things done for Grass Roots News, so I'm a bit behind in things.

Thanks.

Sandy.

Letters also sent to ECFAB for rod & reel donations for Tifft and Chestnut events, and an additional letter requesting 16 rod & reels to support the upcoming events.

President's Report – Steve Aldstadt

Thank you for your confidence to be your President for the next year.
Fund raising chairman's name on tickets is being crossed out. Steve needs someone to assume the Fund Raising Chair, as he cannot do it while serving as President.

President's raffle tickets are ready and can be picked up tonight.

Steve will be in Albany on Tuesday - what concerns do we have that he can bring up.

Next meetings and locations:

Date		BM Time		GM Time		Location
2/28/08	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Geo Washington Club, Niagara St., Buffalo??
3/27/08	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	TBD
4/24/08	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	TBD
5/22/08	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Erie Cty Cons Society, 13319 Miller Rd, Chaffee
6/26/08	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	TBD
7/24/08	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	TBD
9/11/08	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Springville F&S, 8900 Chaise Rd, Springville, NY
10/9/08	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	TBD
11/13/08	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Boston Valley Cons. Soc, 9624 Zimmerman Rd, Boston

GUESTS: Lt Tom Scott and ECO Chuck Wilson in attendance tonight

Chuck Wilson started in Erie County - started in August here, transferred from Region 3!
That region was sad to see him go.

Tom says Chuck Wilson has something in common with Dave and Rich – Loves Fishing!

Very happy to be serving in Erie County - loves winter steelhead fishing

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Law enforcement – Dave Smyczynski

Tom presents the following

Every officer in the State of NY was issued a Verizon Air Card for their computers!!
Can interface with servers direct from patrol cars. Entering the details of any investigation of complaints was a major time consumer. Now with ability to update immediately in the field to the server, more time can be spent in the field.

Issuing all officers very soon cell phones. These will eventually replace hard line phones installed in officer's home. Phone goes with ECO position. Reduces costs and reduces headaches.

Q - DEC announced use of green ammo on ranges, what feelings of this potentially rolling into field.

A - yes it is true, no indication that this will be rolled to field work.

Q - Chuck Godfrey - how will this affect shooting practice? Does it hit in same sport?

A - We received the ballistic sheets and they are different. We are all confident in our firearms - but, it is slightly different but should have little affect on other training exercises.

Q - Fishing license sales, what is happening with this? Is a decrease being seen in license violations? Decline was 945,000 to just over 500,000

A - Well, we are writing less tickets, which seems to indicate lower violators!

Unknown what the reason may be. We do see a potential reduction in abuse of non-resident getting resident licenses. This could be part of the issue

Sworn in Officers and directors - need to appoint a Sgt At Arms.

Don Davis is re-appointed Sgt at Arms

Archery & Bowhunting – Dave Reed

Feb 16 & 17, NYSAA Championships will be held at Gander Mountain, Ages 17-70, with many categories.

Frank Miskey, Sr. - A Q that has come up this year - Rage 2 and Rage 3 Broad heads are new on the market. Both are mechanicals. Rage 2 is legal to use, Rage 3 is not. Rage 2 (2 blade) will retract when pulled, making it barb-less. The Rage 3 (3 blade) locks and essentially becomes barbed. These are illegal in NYS.

Depew Rod & Gun Club sent us a letter concerning their Archery Camp - for 25-30 youths ages 12-15. 14th year. They do a great job. August 1, 2, 3 are the dates (not included in letter) Looking for donations - Check with Tony to see what we donated last year.

Chuck Godfrey - Motion to donate \$100.00

2nd Tom Fischer

Motion carries

Crossbow – OPEN

Nothing - Need a Chairman

Fish – Dave Barus

WNY Open Water Fishing:

Steelhead fishing in all Lake Erie tributaries has been incredible. World class fishing. Choice of rigs to use: spinning rods w/bobber rigs and jig/minnow, single egg, sac or mousey grub, or fly rods using streamers, wooly buggers, egg patterns. DEC reports show anglers catching perch and steelhead off Ontario St. on Upper Niagara River. Use caution wherever you fish moving streams during January and February. Icy rocks, slippery walks, semi-dangerous conditions. DEC advises fishing with a buddy.

WNY Hard Water Fishing:

Case Lake, Cuba Lake, Silver Lake all have ice cover, but ECO Jim Hunt reports that ice may not be well frozen (1/23/08). With cold weather in forecast, safe ice should not be far away. Good catches of perch and walleye have come from Cuba and Silver Lake earlier in January when ice was 4 inches minimum. Case Lake will host annual Ice Fishing derby event on Feb. 9. Sponsored by Franklinville Chamber of Commerce, entrance fee is \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids under 12. Fishing from 8 AM – 3 PM, prizes and drawings for free gear at 4:30 PM. Hot food concessions. For more info, call Tim Nash at 716-676-3692.

Report Says Decrease in Great Lakes Fishing:

According to Southwick Associates: “Since 1991, the number of anglers in the U.S. has been on a gradual decline. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports angler numbers nationally have decreased approximately 15 percent, or about 1 percent annually. However, the drop in the Great Lakes has been severe, with a 44 percent decline in anglers since 1991. In December 2007, Angler Survey conducted a survey of 1724 anglers to find why people are fishing less in the Great Lakes. Of those surveyed, 355 Great Lakes anglers were identified. Of those who do not fish as often in the Great Lakes as often as they used to, they were asked why. The major reason for people not fishing in the Great Lakes was preference for fishing in other locations. Forty-two percent of the anglers cited this reason. Other areas may offer better fishing or other areas are more convenient, etc. Anglers were not asked to specify why they prefer fishing outside of the Great Lakes or where they now fish. Only 4 percent of Respondents reported not having time to fish, while less than 1 percent reported health warnings on consuming fish was a reason for fishing less. “This poll starts to give us insights into why Great Lakes fishing is declining. Were sure there are many complex trends all combining to impact fishing. We now have a starting point towards “learning why” said Rob Southwick, President of Southwick Associates, the operators of Angler Survey.com. “By learning why fishing is declining, efforts can be made to help reverse the trend. Anglers contribute \$1.2 billion each year via fishing licenses and excise taxes on fishing tackle. These funds are legally dedicated to conservation. Maintaining fishing is critical to protecting the environment.”

Lake Erie Committee to Meet Here in Niagara Falls, On.

The Great Lakes Commission’s Lake Erie Committee will meet in Niagara Falls, Ontario, on March 17-18. The 2008 walleye and yellow perch total allowable catch (TAC)

regarding future action for Lake Erie sport and commercial fishermen will be announced at this meeting. Related information, Joe Fisher of the Erie County Fish Advisory Board reported that one Canadian commercial fishing association is challenging the inter-agency quota (TAC) setting process through a lawsuit in Ontario courts. If this lawsuit succeeds, it could have far reaching consequences to what's recently been a highly successful cooperative fish management effort by Lake Erie jurisdictions.

DEC Lake Erie Data Summary for 2007:

Don Einhouse, DEC fisheries chief at the Dunkirk station, recently presented information to the Erie County Fish Advisory Board regarding the status of Lake Erie warm water fisheries. The data was based on the creel surveys, DEC fall trawling, other netting activities taken in 2007:

1. The walleye recreational fishing effort and corresponding harvest decreased in 2007, compared to 2006, in the New York sector off the Lake Erie Eastern Basin. The fishing quality was very good, supported by the excellent 2003 walleye class year. The future looks excellent as well, with 2005 and 2006 year class walleye populations also well above average. Fall trawling efforts verified unusually high offshore walleye class for the 2006 class year.
2. The yellow perch effort and harvest also decreased for 2007, compared to 2006, but the quality of perch fishery was rated as excellent with YOY perch from 2005 and 2006 with above average class years. It is suspected that minnow bait restrictions imposed by VHS played a major role in the reduced fishing effort.
3. The bass fishing effort decreased also, but fishing quality was excellent with an estimated catch of over 100,000 bass in 2007. Estimates are that only 6% were harvested by anglers, the rest were catch and release.
4. DEC sampling gill net results indicated good walleye class years in 2003, 2005 and 2006. The bass fishery followed suit, with excellent 2002, 2003 and 2005 class years for bass (smallmouth).
5. There is a tributary angler survey in progress, started in fall 2007, will end May 2008.

Many thanks for ECFAB Chairman, Joe Fisher, for compiling the above DEC notes.

CRAPPIE USA Heads Away from Buffalo for 2008

Outdoor Promotions, Inc., that runs 55 tournaments a year for Crappie USA, Speckled Trout USA and Cabelas King Cat, will not return to the Buffalo area in 2008 because the Buffalo CVB was unable to raise the \$5K hosting fee! Unfortunate, because the economic impact of the visit in 2006 dollars would have been a conservative \$50K!! The last time this event was here in 2004, 83 boats participated with 2 anglers per boat plus families, with much public interest. Penny wise, dollar foolish?! They should have asked the control board!!

Grants Available for Sportfish Habitat Restoration

FishAmerica Foundation expects to award more than \$800,000 in 2008

January 22, 2008 - Alexandria, VA - The FishAmerica Foundation has grant monies available for marine and anadromous sportfish habitat restoration projects across the coastal United States and the Great Lakes basin. These grants will be awarded to

community-based, on-the-ground projects to restore marine, estuarine and riparian habitats, including salt marshes, mangrove forests and freshwater habitats important to anadromous fish species such as salmon and striped bass that spawn in freshwater and migrate to the sea.

The FishAmerica Foundation will accept grant proposals through February 11, 2008. Grants of up to \$50,000 each will be awarded in June 2008. Eligible applicants include community-based nonprofit organizations, such as local sporting clubs and conservation associations, as well as state and local agencies. Applicants are encouraged to partner with NOAA staff in order to strengthen the development and implementation of sound restoration projects. The announcement and full grant package are available at www.fishamerica.org.

This year, FishAmerica and the NOAA Restoration Center is celebrating 10 years of partnering for fisheries habitat restoration. Since 1998, the partnership has awarded more than \$5 million in grants in 25 states and has leveraged an additional \$6.4 million in funds matched by local communities for a total of more than \$11 million in restored fisheries habitat that is critical for marine and anadromous sportfish.

Successful projects funded through the 10-year partnership include: Restoration of fish passage and fisheries habitat in the Lower Klamath watershed in California; Restoration of mangrove fisheries habitat devastated by Hurricane Charley in 2004, in the Charlotte Harbor Estuary of Southwest Florida; Removal of the Ralph Stover Dam in the Delaware River Basin to restore fish passage.

The FishAmerica Foundation is the conservation and research foundation of the American Sportfishing Association. FishAmerica unites the sportfishing industry with conservation groups, government agencies, fishing tournaments, corporations and charitable foundations, investing in fisheries conservation and research across the country. FishAmerica provides matching grants that empower citizen conservationists in their own communities. Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2008, FishAmerica has provided more than \$10 million for nearly 1,000 fisheries conservation and research projects nationwide. Visit www.fishamerica.org for more information.

FishAmerica Foundation , Executive Director, Johanna Laderman, x245,
jladerman@asafishing.org

Commissioner to WNY

Finalizing a long-running lawsuit over Love Canal pollution, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Pete Grannis will unveil Western New York projects funded by the \$12 million settlement due to natural resource damages to the fisheries of Lake Ontario and major tributaries. The event will take place: Friday, January 25, 10:30 a.m.; New York Power Authority Vista (Niagara Power Project)

5777 Lewiston Road, Lewiston, NY; DEC Contact: Yancey Roy, 518-402-8000. (Phone at site: 716-286-6651)

Records Show Niagara River Musky in Demise

During a recent meeting, Tony Scime provided personal observations and comments based on data collections regarding the serious decline in the Musky fishing success in the Niagara River and Buffalo harbor. With data that identified Musky catch rates from

1994 – 2007, derived by the Niagara Musky Association member diaries, there is objective proof. As an example, 475 muskies were caught in 1996 by approximately 50 members, whereas 150+ members only caught 71 muskies in 2007. It is suspected that many of the larger fish have disappeared due to VHS. Scime said, “the harbor has almost no fish whereas the upper river is on life support”. Scime plans to write a letter to the County Executive advising him of the economic loss that will be experienced with the demise of this once world class musky fishery. A musky stocking program might be needed in the near future if we are serious about saving this fishery. This would require DEC support and approval first.

No .	WNY Fishing Tourney Events Feb – June 2008	Sorted by Date	Organization, Details	Contact / Info
1	Case Lake Ice Fishing Derby	2/9/08	YOUTH & FAMILY EVENT; Franklinville. Fishing 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Hot Food concessions. Contest prizes, raffles, cash & door prizes at 4:30 PM. \$15 per adult, \$10 per child under 12.	Info, Tim Dash: 716-676-3692
2	Roger Tobey Memorial Niagara River Anglers Steelhead Contest	2/16/08	The Niagara River Anglers Association. Entry fee set at \$10 for member; \$25 for non-members - but that includes your yearly membership. Loads of fun.	For information check out their website at www.niagarariveranglers.com .
3	Silver Lake Ice Fishing Kids Day and Fishing Tournament	2/23-2/24/08	YOUTH & FAMILY EVENT; Silver Lake State Park, W.Lake Rd, Silver Springs, NY; Saturday, Feb. 23: Children’s Ice Fishing clinic; Sunday, Feb. 24: Ice fishing tournament. NOTE: The entire Super Ice Trap Attack circuit cancelled for 2008 (www.trapattack.com) and the event posted now as North American Ice Fishing Championship Tournament. Cash purse.	For more information or weather, call 585-493-3636 (Letchworth State Park) or at the lake, 585-237-5185 (Silver Lake Marine).

4	Bison City "Teach-Me-To-Fish"	4/27/08	YOUTH & FAMILY EVENT; Buffalo River - 2 hr program, 2 - 4 pm, includes free Sahlens hot dog lunch/ice cream, free use of rods/reels, free bait, lots of free rod/reel prizes, features learning stations, fishing, feeding yearling steelhead in Buffalo River pens, Open to Public, no registration required	Dave Barus, 716-597-4081
5	Southtowns Perch Tournament	May 08 -Tbd	Lake Erie & Upper Niagara River, 5 largest perch One day. Cash Prizes, must be member of SWA	Call (716) 649-8202 or Fax: (716) 649-8237
6	Lake Ontario Counties (LOC) Spring Trout and Salmon Derby	5/2– 5/11/08	\$10,000 Grand Prize for largest trout or salmon caught overall, also over \$30,000 in cash and prizes overall. Cost is \$25 for adults; \$12 for kids. Sign up for season pass for both spring and fall events \$45. Weigh stations: The Boat Doctors and The Slippery Sinker, both in Olcott; the Gristmill in Youngstown; and Gas Shack in Wilson Boat Yard.	For more information, call (888) REEL-2-IN or visit their website at www.loc.org
7	East Aurora Fish & Game Youth Spring Fish Derby	6/7/08	YOUTH & FAMILY EVENT; Fishing Derby, 10 am - 12 noon, - pond, includes free Sahlens hot dog lunch, fishing, free use of rods/reels, free bait, lots of free prizes, Open to Public,	Dave Barus, 716-597-4081
8	Erie Federation/NYS -DEC Youth Fishing Clinic; Tifft Farms	6/14/08	YOUTH & FAMILY EVENT: 9:30 am - 1 pm, Tifft Nature Preserve - Lake Kirsty, Route 5/Fuhrmann Blvd - Buffalo; 2 hr program, includes free Sahlens hot dog lunch, free use of rods/reels, free bait, lots of free prizes, fishing; Open to Public.	Call 716-851-7010 to register, Info: Dave Barus, 716-597-4081
9	Southtowns Walleye Tournament	6/7– 6/15/08	Lake Erie, Walleye only. \$55 registration fee includes club membership, tournament fee and cash bonus pool (walleye wallet); non-residents +\$15 extra	Info, Bob Witulski, 716-691-3787 or 716-435-4070 cell, or rwitulski@verizon.com email

10	Erie Federation/NYS -DEC Youth Fishing Clinic, Chestnut Ridge Park Lake	6/28/08	YOUTH & FAMILY EVENT: 9:30 am - 1 p.m., , Route 240-Orchard Park, 2 hr program, includes free Sahlens hot dog lunch, free use of rods/reels, free bait, lots of free prizes, fishing, Open to Public. No license required by anyone, 2 days, resident or non-resident.	Call 716-652-4180 to register. Info: Dave Barus, 716-597-4081
11	New York's Free Fishing Days 2008	6/28-6/29/08	Also weekend that Town of Newfane sponsors a kids fishing derby at the Town of Newfane Marina in Olcott from 8 a.m. to noon. No license required by anyone for these two days, resident or non-resident.	For more information, call (716) 778-8531.

World's Greatest Fishing Show, Airs Saturdays, January through March, at 8:30

a.m. on ESPN2. Mark Zona admits he is not the world's greatest angler — or even the world's greatest host — and that is exactly why ESPN asked him to do the "World's Greatest Fishing Show." All Mark wants to do is fish — and show everyone he meets, and everyone who watches — why his life has been consumed by fishing. The Z Man knows there is no better way to get people excited about fishing than showing them how fun and exciting fishing can be. As the name suggests, the show will never take itself too seriously. But Mark will take his fishing seriously. See Story that follows from ESPN2:

In the Zona

By Steve Bowman, ESPNOutdoors.com
Lake Erie, monster smallmouth and Mark Zona prove why his show is the "World's Greatest"

DUNKIRK, N.Y. — Mark Zona hit the deck like a sack of potatoes. Mark Zona loves big smallmouth. He says he's addicted to them, which made this episode of the World's Greatest Fishing Show that much greater in his eyes.

In redneck vernacular, that's with a big plop and a thud only a big ol' boy about two biscuits over 200 pounds can make when he goes from over 6 feet tall to floundering in the bottom of a boat. In Yankee terms, it was just a clumsy fall.

The timing was impeccable. I'm no twinkle-toes, having some intimate knowledge in making the sound of plopping potatoes. So I should have been a little sympathetic. But I was busy at the time, latched into the business end of a 5-pound smallmouth, which at that



Courtesy World's Greatest Fishing Show

moment was the largest smallmouth I had ever had some semblance of control over with a rod and reel.

There's a certain amount of glee that comes with catching a fish like that. Add to that an equal amount of unsympathetic delight at hearing potatoes hit the deck. While one fish over 5 pounds was jumping and plunging across the surface of Lake Erie, the other at two biscuits over 200 pounds was thudding at my feet.

It's hard to say which was more satisfying.

"Dude, I was just getting out of your way," Zona said. "I got snared, trapped on purpose by the camera cable."

From my vantage point it was pretty comical stuff. It was my official welcome to the World's Greatest Fishing Show. I didn't need an introduction to Zona. We work too closely together on too many projects. The idea of him eating the deck has on occasion



crossed my mind, just not in that scenario.

Zona and I were on Lake Erie shooting an episode of his popular television show that airs Saturdays at 7:30 a.m. on ESPN2. The trip had two purposes: One was to catch a 6-pound plus smallmouth, the type that are about as common

as a 12-pound largemouth; the other was to observe as an ESPNOutdoors.com reporter the trials and travails of a day of producing a television show for ESPN2.

One of those worked. The other didn't.

As viewers of outdoor television we really never get to see all of the things that go into a day of shooting. We get the 22-minute version of the Mark Zonas of outdoor television making great catches. Within that small timeframe, the final product is the Cliff's Notes of a day on the water or in the woods, never mind that the shoot might have taken days. At ESPNOutdoors.com, we've decided to tag along on a few of these shoots to get the real story. In this case, Zona had spent a week in Hawaii — ah, the hardships of a television celebrity — and flown in a few hours before he was scheduled to meet me in Dunkirk, N.Y. At least TV celebs still pull their own boats from Michigan to New York, and on little sleep.

Our scheduled shoot was for three days. Anyone who has spent around Erie knows that three days gives you a shot at getting on the water for one. Even a little wind and Erie rolls like the water around a fat kid in a shallow bathtub.

The two best smallmouth of the day were judged to be in the 6-pound class. Fish like that don't come around often. When they do they make the taping of a show much easier. Three days for 20-plus minutes of footage, if the weather will allow. To top it off, the fish have to bite. Now you see why some producers carry Pepto-Bismol in their hip pockets. "All outdoorsmen have those special trips and places," Zona said. "There is a window that you can hit. But when you are doing a show that window becomes much smaller. We have to do it now. We have to do it here and hope all the elements will allow us to pull it off."

None of that bothered me. Reporters crave a little bit of disaster, and I was there for the story (and, yes, the fishing). After a full day of travel — haggling with airlines to get equipment through security, securing a rental car, following Zona's directions from Buffalo to Dunkirk, messing with hotels, and eating dinner late, all in a steady drizzle — the outlook for an easy shoot was grim. But a story on how tough it was to create an episode of the World's Greatest Fishing Show was looking decent.

By morning the rain had stopped, replaced by a moderate wind and 30-degree temperatures. Perfect duck hunting weather. Lake Erie was rocking just enough to keep you stumbling a bit on the deck, but it wasn't unbearable.

Zona was ecstatic and worried at the same time when we pulled up to the boat ramp. It was empty.

"The first thing you think is, 'Dude, we ain't going to catch them,'" he said.

If it was any good, surely someone would be on the water taking advantage of what Lake Erie has to offer.

"It's awkward because there is nobody around," he said. "But then again, if we're lucky and hit that window, we've got it all to ourselves. How cool would that be?"

Pretty cool, once the day started.



Mark Zona admires one of the above average smallmouth caught on Lake Erie recently during the taping of the World's Greatest Fishing Show. By 8 a.m., we were on the water. The only question that remained was whether the fish would cooperate on this three-day shoot. By 8:15, the first 3-pounder was in the boat. By 8:30, the first 5-pounder was jumping and Zona was doing his impersonation of a sack of spuds.

"Holy crap, man," Zona said. "We couldn't have hit the bull's-eye any better. Do you see why I'm addicted to this?"

It was easy to see. I had given up a duck hunt. Zona had given up a deer hunt to spend a potentially miserable three days on Lake Erie. But everything was going like clockwork. By 9:30, that 5-pound fish was joined by a couple more in the same range and was followed by a double where a 6-pound and 6 ½-pound smallmouth were boated. By 9:35,

with more than 40 smallmouth on tape, the shoot was over. The expected hardships of a day of shooting the World's Greatest Fishing Show never materialized.

"I can't believe it," Zona would say. "There are certainly days as a fisherman that you will never forget. This was one of those days."

I had to agree with him.

If I weren't in the business, I would have had my doubts about tough shoots. Who wouldn't, with a three-day shoot boiled down to two hours of awesome fishing? Maybe there is something to this World's Greatest thing.

Zona had his show. I didn't have my disaster story. But I did catch a 6 ½-pounder, which is sort of a story. But this wasn't about me.

By noon, producers/ shooters Randy White and Greg Underdahl were rescheduling the next two days. I was relegated to coming back home, unable to follow them into parts unknown in pursuit of two more shows.

By the time I got home the next day, Zona had called to inform that the day's weather had gone to pot. The wind on some little fishing hole between Dunkirk and Detroit was so bad they didn't get much of anything done. And by day three, snow had started falling and the shooting and fishing were worse.

The end result was, like any show on the air, you don't pick your moments — they pick you. When things fall into place for a few minutes of the World's Greatest fishing, you just hope the camera is rolling, even when a sack of potatoes hit the deck.

Q - NRAA - Norby -on Sunday Feb 24 - Flea Market 10-4p 40 tables every one unloading fishing gear.

Wild Game feast and Outdoorsman Raffle - 12 different Prizes and food - Fund raiser. This will be 3rd year. April 26...

Bison City - Flea Market April 26.

Scan stuff for minutes insertion at back, as usual.

Small Game – Dan Tone

Meeting Feb 27 on 4-H pheasant rearing program on South Grove - East Aurora Coop Extension. NRA Banquet coming up, the NFFNRA provides much of the funds for the pheasant 4-H program. We received \$1200.00 for the 4-H program

Coyote study would be good to conduct on impact of habitat and deer/ other wildlife. Coyote Study leader - will attend ECFSC meeting to discuss

Big Game – Paul Stoos

Hunting license sales showed slight increase

DEC will have Black Bear Info

Wales Center Vol Fire Hall Learn about bears in WNY!

Trapping – Patti Wattengel

Fur Demonstration - Also fur auction coming up!

Erie County Trappers Association

Fur Handling Seminar

Saturday February 23 2008

9am-noon

Collins Conservation Club

Conger Rd. Collins NY, 14034

(716) 532-3520

(between Jennings Rd. & Baghdad Rd.)

**Join us to learn better techniques for
Preparing Pelts**

**Learn about Pelting, Fleshing, Stretching,
Drying and Sizing**

BEAVER*MUSKRAT*MINK*RACCOON

FOX and COYOTE

Patti (716) 337-2556

Hoot (716) 532-2457

Waterfowl – Paul Pietraszewski

Not much but thousands of birds on the river this year.

Canvasback limit this year was 2 bird, first time this high in over 20 years.

Other divers are declining and so are their limits. Canvasback limit amazing!

Spring hunt for Canada Geese in S Zone NYS. Q - March 1-10 season, 5/ day.

John Susz, will this spring season affect the migrators? Rich - was a study conducted several years ago that determined in our area no migration of significance.

Was a hunting accident during 2nd Season?

Lt Scott - Yes, LNR Mouth. 2nd Season. Retrieved a cripple, had in issue, hunter was attempting to take bird, slipped on ice, shot his partner in back with 3" BB Steel. Took full load. Victim expected to recover fully! Very lucky.

Loaded firearm exemption in a motor vehicle (boat) only applies when motion has ceased and engine is off. Must unload firearm when under power! Designed to prevent accidents.

Kids' Fishing Clinics – Dave Barus

Covered

Conservation Council - Joe Fischer

None

Environment & Pollution – Tom Marks

None

Legislation – John Susz

No Report

Assembly session began today, had 648 bills on docket, including all the anti-gun legislation. Looks again none of this will make it through Senate. Watch the power balance!

Resolutions – Bob Fuller -

Resolution submitted

RESOLUTION – “Early Muzzleloader Season in Southern Tier”

Whereas no opportunity for increased hunter participation in the southern zone for an early muzzleloader season for deer exists in NYS.

Whereas 7 out of 10 eastern states do offer that opportunity.

Whereas NYS does have an early muzzleloader season in the northern zone.

Therefore be it resolved that the NYSCC work with the NYSDEC to pursue a regulation change implementing an early muzzleloader season in the Southern Zone of NYS. To start on the fourth Saturday of October and run for 7 days. Anterless deer only. Use of DMPs permitted. Further that any single barrel muzzleloader long gun with flintlock, percussion or in-line ignition, 44calibre or larger be allowed. Scope sights permitted.

Resolution is in the hands of the NYSCC. Process must be to vote here on it first. Elma is a member of NYSCC and does not require a vote of the Federation to submit to NYSCC.

Process clarification (Chuck Godfrey) - In Jan/ Feb, we vote to submit the resolution on behalf of the club to the NYSCC. Then in July we vote on the merits of the club.

Paul Stoos motions for a roll call vote, as to whether the Federation will submit this on Elma's behalf. Submitted in writing for roll call vote.

*As A Delegate of Alden
Rod + Gun Club I Request
a Roll Call Vote on Elma's
Resolution of an Early
Muzzleloader Season*

Paul Stoos 1/24/08

Chuck Godfrey - Since the Federation voted to support this, it would be detrimental to the Federation to not submit the resolution.

Steve Aldstadt - Looks like the paragraph allows one man to trump the opinion of the Federation. Asks Paul to pull the request. Denied by Paul Stoos.

Dave Barus - many points have been made for the benefit.

Paul Stoos - Looking for extended in an area that we do not have... Not adding another season on top of existing seasons.

Tony Gonnello - does not believe this is correct for one person to hold the Federation hostage.

Rich Davenport- Procedurally this is correct, as a delegate can call for a roll call vote.

The resolution was submitted into the minutes, but no vote has been taken.

Need to clarify the resolution process and the mechanics of same. Contact Gary Chave to have this one clarified!!

This was the right of the member to do, he has demanded the role call. Although we do not like it, the role call vote has been called, and it stands. Vote next meeting.

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 Chuck Godfrey at 675-0057 or steelheader@cheekcentfcu.net .

IF ANYONE KNOWS OF AN ERIE COUNTY CLUB WHICH IS NOT A MEMBER, PLEASE LET THE PRESIDENT KNOW SO HE CAN CONTACT THEM ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

Sportsman/woman Education – Frank Miskey Sr.

Classes are slated. Posting classes at Elma for instructors training! Getting 2 more women on board. 2 refresher classes - Elma 3/29 9-12p and Hamburg Rod & Gun 4/3, 7p-10p.

Education coordinator at DEC is thinking of retiring.

Posters will be ready by next meeting, and will be ready for March show.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominations – Mike Smith

None

Awards – Frank Miskey Sr.

5 nominations

Need more. Forms are available at front table. No email submissions, fill out form and MAIL it.

Feb 1 is deadline for Nominations (next week)

Categories needing nominees....

Banquet – Dan Tone

Same people are filling the jobs, everything looks good. If a meeting is needed to finalize anything, let Dan know. Still seeking donations, hand outs to help are available. Tickets are available for sale, but must be in for head count. Information on Banquet books need

to get out. For an AD call Dan or Joe McAdams. 716-570-3436 for ad placement.
Deadline for Ads. 2 weeks before banquet!

Q - Dave S - Donations, if we get some, do we just bring to banquet? Dan - contact him to let him know, and bring to banquet.

Election year coming up, are we soliciting Ads from any of them? Volker and Quinn have taken Ads. Contact several other as well.

County Executive Chris Collins will be there. Also many others, time will be tight!

Educational Opportunities – Chuck Godfrey

Requests received to delay deadline for DEC camp submission. We will grant the extension, as we know the clubs who asked have someone, but need to select one. On 2/23, we can submit and will submit.

Scholarship applications received 3 from kids already in college, have 2 more, but have to get to the kids - one doesn't qualify, the other needs to write an essay. We have waited before for college acceptance before we write a check. This youth is still in HS.

TSA - Receiving award from County (Chris Collins) on Jan 31.

TSA also gets some funding from Friends of the NRA. Please support them so they can continue to support TSA.

CFAB – Fred Langdon

Fred has resigned (wouldn't run again)

Stayed on until replaced, but he has yet to be replaced. Deficit for CF is between \$21-\$21 MIL. Spitzer Admin has no intention of covering the bennies for state employees from Gen Fund. Will continue out of CF. License fee increase will not happen for 3 years, and that will only dent it, not correct it. Summit meetings may produce some results, but so far nothing.

Need to keep the influence in the County. Job is time-consuming, can be costly, with ??? Rewards. DEC sees CFAB as thorn in their side. The current administration is one tough nut.

Fund Raising – Steve Aldstadt.

Need a new chairman, Steve handling through Banquet, Need someone to run raffle at March Expo. Need a chairman.

FWMB – Bob Church, Paul Stoos

Enforcement of 6-year rule for term limits. Now they will enforce the term limits. Most on will be gone when enforcing the term limit. No one could be there moving forward! Not good. Next meeting is in March

Chuck - have you heard from County on Appt yet? No.

Shows – Mike Bartoshevich

Sign-up for March show at the Ag. Center at the Fairgrounds - sheet is working its way around

National Hunting and Fishing day – Alan Stanton

None

WNY Environmental Federation - Joe Fischer

Meeting is Sunday at Hoak's at 2PM. Good program planned on bear and deer. Tim Spierito will be there to discuss some of the information. Get there early for great lunch! Jim Eggle Chairman of FWMB, looks like he is stepping down. They will begin enforcing the term limits!

Teacher at Cuba Rushford Schools. Deer Search held assembly at school, Great program - set up a wildlife research center for kids. We should have something like that here. Will be at WNYEF

Budget and Finance – Tony Scime – (motion to pay bills)

Motion to approve - Frank Miskey Jr. 2nd- Rich Davenport

Motion passes

Website – Paul Stoos - eriectyfc.org

Officers and directors are updated on the site, including new email addresses

Old Business:

None

New Business - any new delegates present?

Deer Search asked for a donation from Federation. Thank you for helping us get through the season! Held fund raising, 30-gun raffle... Month of April. Ticket sales going very well. Basing on NY Lottery - Paul Stoos, be careful, NYS could come after you for some money if they find out NYS Lottery numbers are used to determine winners, has happened before.

May use PA Lottery instead, will decide.

Frank Miskey, Jr Motions Federation buys 5 tickets for Deer Search Raffle
2nd Dave Barus

If we win, what do we do? A - donate for use at Banquet or donate back to Deer Search?

Motion amended to reflect if Fed wins, board decides what to do with prize.

Motion carries - We need to get Tony to get a check to Gary/ Deer Search.

Frank Miskey, Jr - Niagara Thundering Toms raffle to benefit Hunt of a Lifetime Foundation. Over \$12,000.00 in donated prizes! \$20.00/ ticket

Good and Welfare of the Organization:

Reminder - see Steve to get the President's Raffle Tickets!! We need to raise the money.

Paul Stoos withdrawals role call vote motion, and hopes to form a committee to

George Rockey Motion to support resolution
Tom Fischer 2nds

Discussion....

Motion passes 18 to 5

Rich Davenport mentions that it is disappointing that Erie County - the largest county in sales of licenses in NYS cannot come up with ONE resolution on time!

Bob Fuller stated he starts his requests in September, and he does!! Shame on us. We need to push this one sooner, as to support our resolution committee.

Motion by Paul Stoos to write a letter to DEC supporting a change in VHS regulations to line up with Fish Advisory Board recommendations to streamline regs based on our region (9) and watershed. FAB has written to Collins for his support!

2nd Dave Barus

Discussion - none

22 approve, 1 - Chuck Godfrey of TU opposed...

Al Bauer - Hope we enjoyed the second game dinner, and tomorrow at Elma is a fish fry!!

50/50 Raffle

Winner - NRAA

Motion for Adjournment

Motion to adjourn - Tim Fischer 2nd – Frank Miskey Sr

Meeting adjourned.

Thanks to Host Club

Elma Conservation

Erie County Federation of Sportsman's Clubs Inc. Donation Request Letter

Again this year the federation will be holding their annual awards banquet to honor people that help promote conservation in Erie County and Western New York. These people promote conservation to benefit thousands in our community and New York State.

The banquet also helps us to raise funds for many of the activities the Erie County Federation of Sportsman's Clubs is or has been involved with over the years. The federation provides conservation scholarships to youth that partake in classes related to the conservation field. We sponsor a 4-H Pheasant Raising Program with many youths involved. Kids Fishing Clinics are held every year, the list goes on and on and we need funding.

What we are looking for from your business, company or organization is a donation of a prize or prizes that will enhance our banquet. We have many raffles, games and a silent auction for the banquet goes to participate in. You may or may not have donated before to the banquet and if you did we certainly appreciated it.

The banquet will be held at Father Justin Knights of Columbus Hall, 2735 Union Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14225.
Saturday, March 1, 2008 at 6:00PM

Chairman Contact: Dan Tone (716) 655-0975
1829 Davis Road, West Falls, NY 14170
jbgoodboy1@yahoo.com

**Erie County Federation of Sportsmen
Thank You!**



ICE FISHING CLINIC for KIDS

 Saturday, February 23, 2008

 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.

 Dress Warm with Boots

 Silver Lake Marina
4213 West Lake Road

 All Ages Welcome!!
Children must be accompanied by an adult.

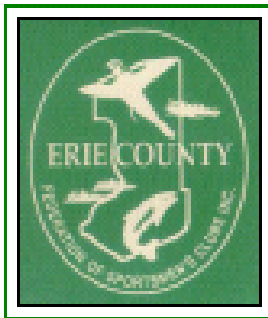
 FREE

 For More Info
and Weather
Permitting:

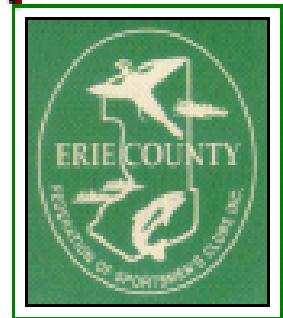
Check with
Letchworth State Park
at 585.493.3636 or
Silver Lake Marina
at 585.237.5185



Erie County Federation of Sportsmen



Annual Banquet & Awards Dinner



Date: Saturday, March 1, 2008

6:00 PM - Social Hour (**Open Bar All Night**)

7:00 PM - Sit Down Dinner



Father Justin Knights of Columbus Hall

2735 Union Rd.

Cheektowaga, NY 14225

\$40 Per Ticket - \$70 Per Couple

Send checks to:

Please make checks payable to:
Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Inc.

Dan Tone, 1829 Davis Rd.

West Falls, NY 14170

Phone: (716) 655-0975



Great Food, Great Door Raffles,

Great Silent Auction, Great Prizes!!

Please join us to promote Conservation Youth Scholarships, 4-H Pheasant Raising Programs, Kids Fishing Clinics, Outdoors Conservation, and to Honor Individuals for Work in Conservation.

[Enjoy the Open Bar All Night](#)

*Banquet Program Ads, contact Joe McAdams at joe.mcadams@eriefcfs.org
Add your club into Erie Federation history!*

Annual

CASE LAKE ICE FISHING DERBY

Franklinville, New York

Saturday, February 9, 2008

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Registration Opens 6 a.m.

\$15.00 Fee per Entrant Over 12 Years Old

\$10.00 Fee per Child 12 & Under

Questions or Event Information

Call Chairman Tim Dash: 716-676-3692

Raffles, Cash & Door-Prizes Awarded 4:30 p.m.

at the Lake!

Hot Food Concessions

will be available!!!

Event Sponsored By:

Franklinville Area Chamber of Commerce

More Info & Registration Forms Available On-Line

Chamber.FranklinvilleNY.org

WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER
TROUT UNLIMITED
ANNUAL FUND RAISING BANQUET

SATURDAY MARCH 15, 2008

*RIPAS RESTAURANT
4218 WALDEN AVENUE
LANCASTER, NY*

TICKETS COST \$30.00/PERSON
8 OR MORE TICKETS RESERVES A TABLE

- 4:00 PM TO 6:00PM FREE FLY TYING DEMO
 - 6:00 PM CASH BAR/COCKTAIL HOUR
 - 7:00 PM FAMILY STYLE DINNER

- DOOR PRIZES
- SILENT AUCTION
- BUCKET RAFFLES
- OTHER SPECIAL RAFFLES

FOR TICKET INFO CONTACT:

LEN BIGAJ
58 BALEN DRIVE
LACKAWANNA, NY 14218
(716)-826-4178

JASON CZORA
81 SARGENT DRIVE
SNYDER, NY 14226
(716)-839-1975

***ALSO AT BUFFALO OUTFITTERS, OAK ORCHARD FLY SHOP, AND
BUFFALO ORVIS SHOP AT EASTERN HILLS MALL***



VOLUNTEER FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE

Announcing the 13th Annual Niagara Frontier Friends of NRA Fund-Raising Banquet Featuring Special Guest Speaker: To Be Announced

Choose from these Ticket Options
Liberty Pkg \$275 ***
• Theodore Roosevelt Sculpture
• Sponsor Multi-Tool & Hat
• "Traditions" Subscription
• Special Invitations & Purchasing Opportunities
• 1 Sponsor Only Gun Draw Ticket*
• 2 Banquet Tickets
• \$100 Bucket Raffle Package
*NOTE: SPONSORS ONLY GUN DRAW WILL BE A RARE WINCHESTER 94 TEDDY ROOSEVELT COMMEMORATIVE RIFLE
Big Shooters Package, \$110
• 1 banquet ticket
• \$100' Bucket Raffle Package
• 1 FNRA Hat
Single Banquet Ticket \$30
• 1 Banquet Ticket (choice of Prime rib or Cordon Bleu dinner)



DATE: Saturday, April 5, 2008
PLACE: Salvatore's Italian Gardens
6461 Transit Road, Depew, New York, 14043
TIME: 5:00-6:30pm---cash bar, games and silent auction
6:30pm---dinner--Prime rib or Cordon Bleu
Live auction follows dinner
Banquet activities will feature door prizes, special drawings, and auctions for firearms, sporting goods (hunting and fishing), artwork, ladies items, and many other unique items specially crafted for the FNRA.

Proceeds to benefit: Youth Development, Firearms Education & Training, Range Development & Improvements, and Wildlife Conservation Projects through Grants to Qualified Projects

2008 Gun of the Year Drawing



You need not be present to win!

Weatherby Athena D'Italia O/U 12GA Shotgun Embellished with NRA Logo, "Friends of NRA 2008 Gun of the Year" limited edition of only 1,150 - sequentially numbered
Tickets: 1 for \$5, 3 for \$10 or 7 for \$20

Banquet Dinner Tickets are \$30.00 per person and are available by mail or phone.
No Banquet Tickets will be sold at the door. Please reserve your seat today by returning the ticket order form below.
Early Registration (by Mar 15, 2008) of Tables of 10 or more will receive a special Gun Draw ticket for each person registered.
***Additional Sponsors Pkgs are available---Call for details

BANQUET TICKET ORDER FORM
Please send me:
___ Liberty Sponsors Package at \$275 ea.
___ Big Shooters Package at \$110 ea.
___ FNRA Banquet tickets at \$30.00 ea.
___ Gun of the Year tickets for \$ ____
You may pay with check or credit card:
MC ___ Visa ___ AMEX ___ Disc ___
Card# ___
Signature ___ Exp. Date ___
Please Note: Your sponsor Package and/or Banquet tickets Will be waiting for you at the Banquet.
Gun of the Year tickets, if ordered, will be mailed to you Prior to the Banquet
Please mail your completed order form with payment to:
Mike Bartoshevich
8248 Sheridan Drive
Williamsville, New York, 14221
Phone: (716) 949-4669
e-mail: mtabart@yahoo.com
Please indicate Dinner Choices for each ticket:
Prime Rib or Cordon Bleu (Default is Cordon Bleu)

Third Annual

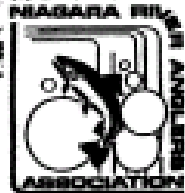
OUTDOORSMAN RAFFLE and Wild Game Feast



IN HONOR OF JOHN LONG SR.



Saturday April 26 2008
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm



At Niagara Active Hose Co.

6010 Lockport Rd. Town Of Niagara

\$20.00 pp advance ~ \$25.00 pp at door

Door Prizes
50/50 Splits



Venison

Chinese
Auction!

GREAT RAFFLE
PRIZES

PRIZE LIST ☺

1. \$1,000.00
2. 8 MP Digital Camera
3. Artic Armor Rainsuit
4. Portable GPS Auto Navigation System
5. Rod & Reel
6. \$500.00
7. Vacuum Sealer
8. Grill
9. Smoker
10. Binoculars
11. Rod & Reel
12. Turkey Fryer

Tickets
282-8099
870-6668

LOTS OF
WILD GAME
SERVED!



BEER

For more information phone Mike Henderson at 282-8099
or check our website: www.NiagaraRiverAnglers.com

Presented by the Niagara River Anglers Association Inc. P.O. Box 203 LaSalle Station, Niagara Falls NY 14304

RAFFLE: TO BENEFIT HUNT OF A LIFETIME

SPONSORED BY: NIAGARA FALLS THUNDERING TOMS



_____ is a nonprofit organization that grants hunting and fishing adventures to children who have been diagnosed with life threatening illnesses. Our goal is to raise enough money for a Childs dream come true.

Friends and Donors of The Thundering Toms have donated 23 fantastic prizes to help make this happen. For TICKETS contact: Frank Miskey 984-0610, Claudia & Jim Scalzo 628-0514, Dave Young 297-9148, Debbie Frain 297-8430, Jim Mackenzie 297-2810

DRAWING DATE: APRIL 2, 2008 \$20.00/TICKET

(Winners are responsible for license & travel)

PRIZES AND DONORS

1. One Air Conditioning System Installed up to 2 ½ Tons --- GRAY FURNACE
2. Cow Elk Hunt, Maybell, Colorado-----WS OUTRITTERS
3. One Person, Three Day Fully Guided Turkey Hunt in Missouri---TRUE TROPHY OUTRITTERS
4. Hoyt Triton Bow-----NIAGARA OUTDOORS
5. Water Heater Installation-----STEVES HEATING & AC
6. 2 Day Videotaped Turkey Hunt w/ 3X State Calling Champion---FOREVER WILD OUTDOORS
7. Jim Kelly Autographed Football
8. 5 Bird Pheasant Hunt-----FIN FEATHER & FUR CONSERVATION SOCIETY
9. Deer Head Mount-----TROPHY ROOM TAXIDERMY
10. Fishing Charter-----CPT ERNIE CALANDRELLI
11. Fishing Charter-----MARK RICHERT CHARTERS
12. 4 Hour Fishing Charter-----MERRY WATERS CHARTERS
13. 6 Hour Fishing Charter-----WET NET CHARTER
14. 4 Hour Fishing Charter-----AMEIL FISHER
15. \$300.00 CASH-----KEN YOUNG PAVING
16. Mossberg 22 LR-----HUTCH ENTERPRISES
17. \$200.00 CASH-----ROBERT MACVEIGH
18. 2 Person 4 Hour Fishing Charter-----NIAGARA RIVER GUIDES
19. 2 Person 4 Hour Fishing Charter-----PHILS GUIDES
20. \$100.00 CASH-----LJ. GIUGLIANO
21. \$100.00 CASH-----J&T AUTO SALVAGE & RECYCLING
22. Hat, Quiver & Stabilizer-----MARTIN ARCHERY
23. \$50.00 Gift Certificate-----TRUPE'S WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT