

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

Thomas Marks, Recording Secretary
7004 Waring Circle
Derby, NY 14047

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

Member of New York state conservation council

Monthly newsletter and minutes

April 22, 2004

Call to order - 7:30 Erie County Conservation Society
Pledge to flag lead by President Chuck Godfrey.

Roll call -- Officers and Directors

Excused: Mike Smith, Tony Scime, Joe Fischer, Dave Barus, and Dave Reed

Absent:

Quorum of member clubs -- Present: Southtowns Walleye, Springville F&S, Bison City R&G, Hamburg R&G, Alden R&G, Lackawanna Cons., Alden Jr., West Falls Cons. Soc., Elma Cons., Blasdell R&G, Mohawk R&G, Hawkeye Bowmen, Lake Shore VF, NW Turkey Fed, Glen Coe Cons. WNY Trout Unlmted, Friends and Neighbors, Scope, Erie County Bassmasters, Deer Search, East Aurora F&G, 21 - Total

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.

Membership Report – Mike Smith

No Report

Treasures report: - Tony Scime

No report

Secretary's report - no report

Correspondence report -- Will Elliott

Reported that he had sent 17 letters to WNY State legislators, and has received nine responses so far. For example Dale Volker, Marylou Rath and Paul Tokas all support our position and want the language concerning pistol-licensing fees removed from the budget bill.

Letters were sent to the local broadcast television news program directors thanking them for their coverage of anglers participating in the April 1st trout opener.

Next meetings and locations:

05/27/04 – Bd. Mtg. – 6:30, Reg. Mtg. – 7:30 – Friends and Neighbors Rod and Gun Club, VFW Post Lancaster, 3741 Walden Ave Lancaster, N.Y.

06/24/04 – Bd. Mtg. – 6:30, Reg. Mtg. – 7:30 – Alden R&G

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

Jim Snyder, NYS DEC Sr. Wildlife Biologist gave an extensive report on the 2003 big game harvest, management goals, legislative proposals and management perspectives. The following is a brief summary of his presentation: The total statewide deer harvest was down approximately 50,000, the buck take was down approx. 20,000 in Western New York region 9 the buck harvest was down about 17% and the total was down 23%. It was not unexpected to see a drop in the harvest. The DEC tried to bring the population to the management goals but the drop was slightly more than planned and that could be attributed to last winter mortality and the warm opener. There probably was more winter mortality than calculated.

The fall of 2004 there will be a decrease in the number of Management Permits because in most management units we are near our population density goals. Two years ago there were about 200,000 management permits issued. 2004 will be the second year for a decrease in permits as we get near our population goals. We can expect about 80,000 to 100,000 permits to be issued in 2004.

Winter mortality was not excessive this winter was the snow did not last late into March as it did in 2002. Two places we did see winter mortality were Tiff Nature Preserve and the south end of Letchworth State Park. Poor habitat, over browsed left nothing to eat. The Letchworth deer need to be harvested to prevent habitat damage, if left unmanaged there will be more starvation and no new forest growth.

Urban deer damage permits 389 in Amherst and 176 in Clarence, which yielded 17,000 pounds of venison for the food bank. (68,000 protein portions for needy people) 550 deer car collisions last year in Amherst.

The bear harvest in NY was a record of almost 2000. Bear are becoming a nuisance in the Allegany State Park. So far, the park does not allow hunting bear but they will trap problem bears to move them. If they persist at being a problem, they are killed. NY DEC recommends that a bear hunting be allowed in the park to manage the population. The Park administrators have not adopted the recommendation.

There is a proposal to allow a special Youth Deer Hunt this fall probably Nov. 13/14 for 16 to 17 year

old hunters to shoot one deer and one bear either sex. The total people that could hunt under this proposal if everyone went out would be 18,000 statewide. This is very low and it is why the youth hunt is suggested to get young people interested and involved in hunting. The legislation to allow 14 and 15 year olds to hunt big game has not passed if it should before this proposed youth big game hunt they would be included.

There is consideration for a Saturday opener for Big Game. The intent is to get more youth involved in hunting so that they do not have to take a day off from school to hunt the opener.

Crossbow language is in the new Big Game regulation book in an anticipation of the law passing. There has been a lawsuit filed by handicap groups that if successful will allow the use of the crossbow.

Fred Langdon made a motion that we write a letter to the Allegheny Park Commissioner to allow bear hunting in the park. Bob Fuller 2nd the motion and it was carried.

Standing Committee Reports:

Law Enforcement: DEC Officer Lt. Tom Scott The DEC is looking for digital pictures for the State Syllabus, it would be great to see some with youth involved in hunting especially in the youth turkey hunt.

The Orchard Park Buck case has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion. The investigation brought together many agencies including the FBI forensics laboratory, the National Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Oregon, NY Conservation Police, Orchard Park Police and the Erie County DA's Office. The Buck was taken illegally and the hunter, Michael Riker of Blakely Road, East Aurora in Orchard Park Court plead guilty to taking over the legal limit of antlered deer. In the plea agreement, he was fined \$500 the maximum allowed and forfeited the deer to the state of New York.

The buck will be mounted and used for educational purposes. The Erie County Conservation Society donated \$100 towards the mounting. The Federation will also be funding the mounting the details to be worked out.

In this day and age where we are in a heightened alert for the possibility of terrorism, the front line officer has to be alert for the unusual. Recently two officers observed two individuals in downtown Buffalo photographing city hall. When they were approached, they tried to flee. They were apprehended and found to be foreign nationals here illegally. It has not been determined if they were terrorists but they are now in Genesee county jail awaiting deportation. We all need to be aware and report anything that is out of the ordinary.

Albany is implementing a program to implement Conservation Law enforcement 24/7 through restructuring the use of manpower.

Often people are quick to complain however our Conservation Law Enforcement Officers work hard and if you have a positive experience with an interaction take a minute and send a letter or e-mail commenting on the good job the officer has done.

NRA Grant Process

Friends and Neighbors Hunting & Fishing Club is a facilitator for the NRA grant application process. They encourage any club needing funding for a project, apply to the NRA. Friends and Neighbors will help with filling out the application; the money is for youth programs. Last year in New York State the NRA awarded \$1.4 million and in Erie County \$30,000. With 54 organizations in the Federation, we should be able to come up with some worthwhile programs for grants.

Archery & Bowhunting—Mike Kemp

Hawkeye Bowman is opposed to the Youth Hunt Deer Hunt during the Archery season. They feel

there is a safety issue with camouflaged hunters in the woods at the same time youth will be using shotguns.

Crossbow Report- Tony Gonnello

The DEC will be submitting their own bill for the crossbow. (As reported above there has been a lawsuit filed to force the legalization of crossbow use.)

Washington State will allow the use of crossbows for disabled.

Pennsylvania will now allow the crossbow in all firearms seasons for elk, bear, and deer. There will also be special areas during the archery season where the crossbow will be allowed. The crossbow will also be allowed during the early muzzleloader season, which is during the archery season, plus the flintlock season, this is a real breakthrough in the east.

Rhode Island has passed legislation to allow the crossbow. **New York is one of only four** states in the United States that **does not** allow the use of crossbows.

Fish –

Will Elliot reported for Joe Fischer that at the up coming NYSCC meeting in Herkimer NY two topics will may be discussed, is the big controversy brewing over the striper fishery in the Hudson, which will become a national issue. Also, the proposal to make it a requirement to make the fishing license visible at all times when fishing (similar to Pa.). The Niagara County Federation has already come out in opposition to this regulation change.

Dan Tone made a motion that the Erie County Federation should oppose the proposed visible fishing license regulation. The motion was 2nd by Gene Sander and it was unanimously carried.

June 26 and 27 will be a free fishing weekend. No license will be required this is a good time to introduce someone to fishing.

June 5, the East Aurora Fish and Game Club will have its Kids Fishing Day contact Dave Barrus for details.

Pres. Godfrey updated everyone that the DEC has stocked the Buffalo River with 10,000 Steelhead, Buffalo Creek with 20,000, Cayuga Creek in Lancaster with 15,000, and 10,000 in Cazenovia Creek in East Aurora. The state raises a strain of rainbow trout called “urban rainbows” and Region is the only region in the state to get them. 1400 went into the Small Boat harbor, 500 went into Lake Kirsty at Tiff nature Preserve, and 500 went into Buffalo Creek near Indian Church Rd and Mineral Springs Rd,

Spencer Schofield updated everyone on the walleye restoration program for the Buffalo River. The DEC and volunteers were out sampling Smokes and the Cattaraugus Creeks. No walleye were found at Smokes Creek only gizzard shad and suckers, the water may have been too cold. At the Catt, several walleye were collected and eggs were harvested from the only ripe female for the program. Don Einhouse’s original plan was not to harvest eggs from Cattaraugus Creek but due to the uncertainty of getting walleye from Smokes creek a last minute decision was made to collect eggs from walleye in the Catt this year.

Will Elliot mentioned that the Friends of the Buffalo Niagara River who are very supportive to the walleye restoration project will be conducting a Buffalo River from April 22, to May first. They are also working to increase fishermen access to the river and waterfront.

Kids Fishing Clinic Kent Kruse - First clinic will be at Tiffit Nature Preserve, June 12th and two weeks later, June 26th at Chestnut ridge Park. Kent has been organizing these events and would like to get a handle on the number of volunteers that will step up and help. If we want this type of event to continue in to the future, we need people. Contact Kent and sign up for this event.

Small game -- Dan Tone

The youth turkey hunt will be this weekend (April 24-25) the one person who worked behind the scene and was very instrumental in getting this hunt was Al Guy he should be recognized for his efforts.

4H pheasants only 1365 chicks, perhaps this would be a program that could use an NRA grant funding to support raising pheasants.

Pheasants Forever Chapter 29 conducted a survey on March 6th, north of route 104 in Porter NY. In three hours they counted 11 birds (6 hens/ 5 roosters) which equates to one for every 20 acres last year the survey showed one for every 15 acres. They saw many tracks and signs of many more birds. They were satisfied with the result.

For the Youth Pheasant Hunt, Dan tone got two replies back from the winning clubs we need to hear from Evans R&G, and East Aurora F&G.

Big game – Paul Stoos

No Report

Trapping -- Patti Wattengel

No Report

Waterfowl – Paul Pietraszewski

The waterfowl season has been set for the fall. The Iroquois Wildlife Refuge due to a lack of interest will no longer hold an early nuisance season.

Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

No Report

Resolutions -- Bob Fuller

We know there are 14 resolutions as soon as copies of them become available we will see that they get out to everyone who needs them.

Environment and Pollution –

No Reports

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

There is a plethora of bills being introduced in the state legislature to change the distance from a building you may discharge a firearm. The current regulation is 500 feet from an occupied building. New proposals are from 1000 feet to as much as a mile. This could prove to be a hindrance for hunting by removing a lot of area for hunting.

On the Federal level, the Protection of Lawful Commerce Act was killed. Senators John Kerry and John Edwards came off the campaign trail to vote against your right to gun ownership. Assault weapon and gun show bans were added to the bill, which essentially killed the legislation.

Presidential candidate John Kerry over the past twenty years has voted 51 out of 55 times against your rights as gun owners. John Kerry represents a return to the anti gun rhetoric and campaigns of the Clinton administration.

As we approach the election, this fall there will be campaign regulations in place that will prevent the NRA from publishing information about the candidates. There will be a website www.nranews.com that will have information. It will be available daily 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

The State Budget is late again. There have been emergency appropriations passed, which contain the pistol permit wording. We need to keep calling our Representatives about this issue. **For a complete listing of current gun legislation, visit the Scope Website**

Sportsman Education --

John Susz noted that there were 32 accidents in 2003 with two fatalities. The five-year average has been 56 accidents per year, while one is too many the accident rate is declining. This shows that the Hunter Safety Education is working very well. Most accidents involve carelessness.

Special Committee Reports:

Awards -- Will Elliott
No Report

Banquet --

Educational Opportunities --Chuck Godfrey Only one qualifying application for the scholarship, we will award it to Kevin Slade of Blasdell NY he is a student at Cortland University studying Environmental Science.

Fund Raising --

Tony Gonnello explained that we will be offering the Remington Calendars for sale, to support our Youth programs. He would like each representative to ask their club how many calendars they would like to sell. Contact Tony for all the details.

Shows—

May 18th there is a meeting for the Erie County Fair for all the Exhibitors
May 15 and 16 Gun show at Springville Rod and Gun.

National Hunting and Fishing days September 25 and 26, 2004

Old Business

The Federation will be an NRA recruiter the number will be on our website. We encourage all members to join to help support your organization and right for gun ownership.

Website- Paul Stoos

Needs clubs to contact him with the correct and current e-mail addresses so we can get the mailings

minutes out.

New Business

Niagara Frontier Chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation will host a Jakes Day on June 12th at the Elma Conservation Club for kids 17 and under. The event is free and runs from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM There will be seminars and various activities for the kids. Pro Staff from Knight and Hale will be on hand for a seminar and demonstrations. Kids will get to fish Elma Conservation Club will supply poles and bait. Lunch will also be provided.

50/50 Raffle

Winner Spencer Schofield

Thanks to Host Club

Erie County Conservation Society

Motion for Adjournment at 10:40

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

Thomas Marks, Recording Secretary
7004 Waring Circle
Derby, NY 14047
Tommarks@verizon.net

ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUB'S, INC.**Member of New York state conservation council**

Monthly newsletter and minutes

March 25, 2004

Call to order - 7:50 Evan's Rod and Gun Club
Pledge to flag lead by President Chuck Godfrey.

Roll call -- Officers and Directors
All Present.

Quorum of member clubs -- Present: Southtowns Walleye, Springville F&S, Bison City R&G, East Aurora F& G, Hamburg R&G, Depew R&G, Alden R&G, Lackawanna Cons., Alden JR., West Falls Cons. Soc., Elma Cons. Blasdell R&G, Mohawk R&P, New York Bowhunters, Hawkeye Bowmen, Lake Shore VF, NWTurkey Fed, Boston Valley, Glen Coe Cons. WNY Trout Unlmted Friends and Neighbors, Scope, Wood & Brook, Niagara River Station, 25 -Total

Pres. Godfrey noted that the Federation has been lacking a Recording sec. Tom Marks has volunteered to fill the vacancy.

A motion was made by Fred Langdon to appoint Tom Marks to the position of Rec. Sec. it was seconded by Al Comerford the motion carried.

Pres. Godfrey noted the organization is short two directors, He appointed two Al Bauer, from Hamburg R&G and Tom Flecher, from Lake Shore Fire Exempt

The board approved the appointments.

Membership Report – Mike Smith

New application from Friends and Neighbors Rod and Gun Club approved by the investigation committee need motion

A motion to accept the application for membership to the Federation by Friends and Neighbors Rod & Gun was made by Al Comerford and 2nd by Dave Barus, the motion was carried.

Treasures report: was read by Tony Scime. A full report of expenses and income was provided to the membership.

Secretary's report – no report

Correspondence report -- Will Elliott

Will sent letters to all the western New York Representatives on the Gun license issue. The first two letters responding to the from our elected officials regarding the pistol permit and fees came in very quick from Assemblyman Brian Higgins who was the first to respond supporting our position. Senator Maziarz responded by saying that the issue is dead. Paul Tokasz response came in much later on March 17. All responding Western New York elected officials strongly opposed the pistol fees and licensing language in the Governors proposed budget.

In another correspondence Will, wrote to Bass Pro Shop to encourage their continued interest in Western New York for their next expansion.

Will commented on the excellent letter our President Chuck Godfrey wrote in the News regarding a their recent editorial on the gun issue was not factual and misleading.

Next meetings and locations:

04/22/04 – Bd. Mtg. – 6:30, Reg. Mtg. – 7:30 – Erie County Conservation, 13319 Miller Ave. Sardinia,
NY

Turn on Miller Road and go about ½ mile. Club is on the right.



05/27/04 – Bd. Mtg. – 6:30, Reg. Mtg. – 7:30 – Friends and Neighbors Rod and Gun Club, VFW
Post Lancaster, 3741 Walden Ave Lancaster, N.Y.

06/25/04 – Bd. Mtg. – 6:30, Reg. Mtg. – 7:30 – Yet to be determined

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

Standing Committee Reports:

Law Enforcement: Joe Fisher stated that at the Legislative meeting that Commissioner Erin Crotty a new class of E. Con Officers will be graduating. There is a push to raise their pay grade. The issue is that after they are trained same as a state trooper plus conservation law however, they are paid less. There is a high attrition rate because higher salaries in other police agencies and jurisdictions attract these officers. The better pay grade will help keep them as E. Con. Officers in NYS.

Archery & Bowhunting--Dave Reed and Hawkeye Bowman thanked Will Elliott for his very good article in the News about youth archery.

Youth Camp, Hawkeye Bowman Inc. Aug 6, 7, 8, 2004. Free event for the youth. Hawkeye Bowman is looking for donations from all clubs to support this event for the kids and to keep it free. Call Dave Reed for applications or to donate.

Bob Church pointed out that the bill (S 930 A sponsored by George Maziarz) to reduce the minimum age requirement from 14 years old to 12 years old has passed the Senate. The Assembly version A 1099 A sponsored by Dick Smith has yet to be voted on. We need to write letters to get this bill the support it needs.

Fish – Dave Barus

All the scheduled trout stockings planned for region 9 will take place by Mach 17.

The walleye stocking, Buffalo River Walleye Restoration Project is still on track. Temperature recorders are in place on the Buffalo River, and Cattaraugus Creek. The plan is to capture females and males close to the Buffalo River, from Smokes Creek if possible. If it is not possible to capture walleye at Smokes Creek, there are several suitable backup locations available. The eggs will be retrieved, fertilized and reared at the Chautauqua Hatchery. Then raised until the young walleye are about two inches (end of June) when they will be released in the Buffalo River system. Bill Culligan and Don Einhouse from the Lake Erie Unit of the NYS DEC are overseeing this project with many volunteers from local clubs.

Wal-Mart Kids Fishing Derbies has supported many clubs in the area with kids fishing events. This is a fun and good way to introduce kids to fishing. Clubs participating in 2004 include East Aurora Fish and game, Southtowns Walleye, Elks Club Anglers in Lancaster, East Aurora Legion Post 362 Orchard park lions and others.

Other Tournaments in the area:

5/15/04 Make A Wish Bass Tournament 716-674-7288

5/22/04 Southtowns Waleye Perch Tournament 716-825-7619

5/15/04 Crappie USA Tournament 731-644-3793

6/12-20/04 Southtowns Walleye Tournament 716-825-7619

6/21-26 Bassmaster Pro Am Tournament 716-312-0418

7/10-11/04 Ameri-Can Walleye classic 716-897-1522/716-874-2522
7/14-14/04 BassEye Cystic Fibrosis Tournament 716-312-0418
8/22-27/04 FLW Pro Am Tournament 270-252-1000

The DEC has a new print of 18-mile Creek and the Catt on their website <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/fish/pfr/index.html> as well as other maps good location for information on public access and parking as well as the roads to get there. These are very informative in addition to the maps there is a brief narrative about the stream and fish.

Paul Stoos, Thanked the Federation for sending Nelson Cronin and him to the Trout Unlimited Banquet, also Paul congratulated Chuck Godfrey on the award he received. He received the Steve Moridian Award from the DEC; this is the third time they made this award.

Chuck Godfrey announced that the State of the Lake is April 17 at the Big Tree Fire Hall 9:00AM to Noon.

Joe Fisher reported from the legislative meeting that Erin Crotty stated that there will be over 4 million fish stocked this year over 500,000 of these will be walleye fingerlings. They (DEC) also filled nine vacancies in the hatchery system. Joe noted that public comment on any of the proposed regulation changes must be made to the DEC by April 12. The bill to ban the sale of recreation caught fish by Dick Smith in the Assembly has no sponsor for the Senate. A bill with no sponsor is as good as dead. There is opposition in the Adirondack and Champlain region to this bill because fishermen up there sell pan fish as a small business.

Small game -- Dan Tone

New this year will be the Youth Turkey Hunt April 24 and 25, 2004 for licensed youth hunters with a turkey permit, under the age sixteen (12 to 15) and accompanied by an adult will be able to hunt this special "turkey season."

There will be a 4H-informational meeting March 31 on raising pheasants. Clayton Hopper is the local expert he has raised many thousands of pheasants and is and on equal to the State Biologists when it comes to pheasant rearing.

Dan Tone made a motion to send four youth to the Youth Pheasant hunt at \$25 each. The names of all the member clubs will be put in a hat to draw the four clubs and an alternate to select the youth to go. Paul Stoos seconded the motion, and it was carried.

Drawing results for the Youth Pheasant Hunt Trout Unlimited, East Aurora Rod and Gun, Alden Rod and Gun, Evans Rod and Gun, and the alternate is Friends and Neighbors Rod and Gun Club.

Big Game – Paul Stoos

Stats for the 2003 Big Game season will be available on our website through a link. Paul gave a

summary of the statewide deer harvest and highlights of the management plan and results.

John Susz noted that the top four counties in New York State for deer take were in Western New York, Stuben, Cattaraugus, Allegany, and Chautauqua counties.

The NYS DEC now recognizes that wolves are present in New York State a wolf was taken in the lower Adirondack region last fall.

Next Month's Guest Speaker will be noted deer expert Jim Snyder from the NYS DEC.

Trapping – Rick Wattengel

There are some proposed changes to the way a nuisance trapper license will be issued. Currently you are interviewed at the DEC office and issued a license at no cost. If approved in the future there will be a \$50 fee, also there is an examination you must pass. The thought is that in urban areas this will insure that nuisance trappers will be more professional. The proposed changes are favored by the DEC and the NYS Trappers Association. However it is not very popular with trappers who feel the \$50 fee is a little excessive.

There are proposed changes to the regulations for beaver trapping, since the re-introduction of otters in parts of NY State there has been some otters accidentally trapped. This can be avoided by modifications in the trap. Most trappers modify the trigger to avoid trapping otters but the new traps will be modified at the manufacturer. The new regulations will require eight-inches of gap in the conibar trap so an otter can pass through it without setting off the trigger. However there are a lot of smaller traps used which, if these are banned by the new regulations it could be very costly for the serious beaver trapper. One trap can cost \$20 a piece, a serious trapper can have as many as one hundred traps.

Waterfowl – Paul Pietraszewski

No Report

Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

Voted on 34 pending bills see the website for the complete list.
<http://www.eriectyfsc.org/index.htm>

Dan Tone... The Conservation Council received a grant for \$6250, which will go a long way to help in their financial woes. In an unfortunate matter there is another Sport organization on a state level that was recently formed, The Conservation Alliance of NY. The issue here is that there is only so much money available and the presence of another organization will increase funding problems.

Our Conservation council has over the years developed a working relationship with the DEC and political leaders it would be foolish to jeopardize this for a new organization. If this causes a division in the Sportsmen's organizations it could weaken our position fighting for our cause. The Council has defended our rights to hunt, fish and trap for 73 years.

Environment & Pollution

No Report

Legislation – John Susz

The NYS Senate has rejected Gov. Pataki's proposed pistol permit changes. Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno expressed dislike for the proposal from the outset because it single out the 1.2 million licensed law abiding pistol owners.

In e-mail received from the Conservation Council we have been alerted that the "Canned Hunt" bill (A1088, S6446) which was vetoed by the Governor is back. The Conservation Council voted to oppose the bill as it is currently written. Last year this bill was passed by both houses, we need to write letters and make calls to let our Representatives know we do not support these bills.

The Blaze orange bill, which the Governor vetoed, has also been reintroduced with some minor changes this to is being opposed by the Council as it is currently written.

There is proposed law that all guns have locks and be locked. This is an anti-gun legislation, which would render guns for personal protection useless.

There is a proposal to ban all 50 caliber guns. The intent is to make 50 cal machineguns illegal. These guns are too expensive at over \$7000 for the average criminal.

There was a provision passed by the Assembly and passed to the Senate to add shotguns and rifles to the "COBAS" system for ballistic identification. \$12 million have already been spent on this system in NY and not one criminal has been caught. NY and Maryland are the only states continuing with this system which has been proven worthless.

Resolutions -- Bob Fuller**Sportsman Education -- Frank Miskey Sr.**

No report.

Special Committee Reports:

Awards -- Will Elliott

All complete and awarded.

Banquet –

Pres. Chuck Godfrey thanked everyone that helped out at the banquet, outstanding job done by all.

Tony Scime gave a preliminary report, we had total receipts of \$11,043, and expenses totaled \$7498

Educational Opportunities --Chuck Godfrey

We have two applications for the Teachers Workshop, if you know of anyone who is in education and that might be interested to contact Chuck Godfrey. The workshop cost \$350 to attend. It is an incredible experience.

Three scholarship applications have been receive, two are from kids from Wyoming County who are not eligible Chuck will contact them to advise them of the situation.

Kid's Day-- Kent Kruse

We will be holding an organizational meeting about a month before the event. Right now we are looking for volunteers and donations. We need snacks, food, and soft drinks. We have rods and reels donated by the Erie County Fish Advisory Board. The events will take place June 12th at Tiff Nature Preserve and June 26th at Chestnut Ridge Park.

CFAB

Don Kill resigned his position on the CFAB Dick Smith will forward Fred Langdon's name as the Region 9 to the State Assembly for approval.

Fund Raising -- Tony Gonnello

Fred Langdon talked with Reps from the NRA at the show they said we could be a recruiter for the NRA, with a portion of the new membership or renewal going to the Federation. Fred said that we should have a representative of each club encourage signups for the NRA go through the Federation.

FWMB -- Bob Church

Appointed to head a committee to build and rehabilitate parking areas on state lands. Four each have been targeted for Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties. This will improve access to the state lands for hunting and hiking.

Habitat Restoration Projects; turned in for our region Niagara Sportsmen's Federation ... Grassland Establishment; Niagara River Musky Assoc., habitat restoration in the river for muskys, Niagara River Angler's pen rearing project; Chautauqua Anglers, to improve Canadaway Creek. Any organization that has habitat restoration projects see that Bob Church gets the information so that it is on record and can possibly get some funding.

Shows --

Fred Langdon made a motion that we send a letter of thanks to Sam Concilla for the free booth the Federation got at this year's Expo. John Susz 2nd the motion ... carried.

Get ready for the Erie County Fair! We will have a booth there and will need volunteers to man it during the run of the fair, and to get the booth ready.

National Hunting and Fishing Day-- Tom McCormick will chair the committee for Wood and Brook Sportsman's Club's National Hunting and Fishing Day on Sept. 4, 2004 he will be notifying clubs for their help with this day. If any club or person is interested in helping with the day's activities contact Tom.

Budget and Finance --Tony Scime, no new bills to pay.

Website—Paul Stoos

We will stay with our current webserver provider and investigate possible change for the future. Paul needs a list of e-mail addresses from at least three members from each member clubs so we can send minutes or and important legislation information to each of the clubs.

Old Business

Friends and Neighbor's banquet in May, tickets are on sale. Contact Friends and Neighbors Rod and Gun Club for tickets and details.

New Business

Should we send out minutes only via electronic means? Will put issue under consideration, there will be substantial savings, last year we spent over \$1350 to mail out the minutes. As the access to the internet grows it is becoming feasible to do this and save the organization money. It may require a by-law change. A committee will be formed to investigate feasibility.,Paul Stoos, Kent Kruse and Will Elliot

Dan Tone--- April 18th there will be a meeting of the WNY Environmental Federation at Dick's Sporting Goods (McKinley Mall Store) at 1:00PM all are invited.

50/50 Raffle

Motion for Adjournment

Motion to adjourn - Nelson Cronin 2nd- Al Commerford Carried

Thanks to Host Club

Evans Rod and Gun Club

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

Thomas Marks, Recording Secretary
7004 Waring Circle
Derby, NY 14047

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

Member of New York state conservation council

Monthly newsletter and minutes

April 22, 2004

Call to order - 7:30 Erie County Conservation Society
Pledge to flag lead by President Chuck Godfrey.

Roll call -- Officers and Directors

Excused: Mike Smith, Tony Scime, Joe Fischer, Dave Barus, and Dave Reed

Absent:

Quorum of member clubs -- Present: Southtowns Walleye, Springville F&S, Bison City R&G, Hamburg R&G, Alden R&G, Lackawanna Cons., Alden Jr., West Falls Cons. Soc., Elma Cons., Blasdell R&G, Mohawk R&G, Hawkeye Bowmen, Lake Shore VF, NW Turkey Fed, Glen Coe Cons. WNY Trout Unlmted, Friends and Neighbors, Scope, Erie County Bassmasters, Deer Search, East Aurora F&G, 21 - Total

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.

Membership Report – Mike Smith

No Report

Treasures report: - Tony Scime

No report

Secretary's report - no report

Correspondence report -- Will Elliott

Reported that he had sent 17 letters to WNY State legislators, and has received nine responses so far. For example Dale Volker, Marylou Rath and Paul Tokas all support our position and want the language concerning pistol-licensing fees removed from the budget bill.

Letters were sent to the local broadcast television news program directors thanking them for their coverage of anglers participating in the April 1st trout opener.

Next meetings and locations:

05/27/04 – Bd. Mtg. – 6:30, Reg. Mtg. – 7:30 – Friends and Neighbors Rod and Gun Club, VFW Post Lancaster, 3741 Walden Ave Lancaster, N.Y.

06/24/04 – Bd. Mtg. – 6:30, Reg. Mtg. – 7:30 – Alden R&G

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

Jim Snyder, NYS DEC Sr. Wildlife Biologist gave an extensive report on the 2003 big game harvest, management goals, legislative proposals and management perspectives. The following is a brief summary of his presentation: The total statewide deer harvest was down approximately 50,000, the buck take was down approx. 20,000 in Western New York region 9 the buck harvest was down about 17% and the total was down 23%. It was not unexpected to see a drop in the harvest. The DEC tried to bring the population to the management goals but the drop was slightly more than planned and that could be attributed to last winter mortality and the warm opener. There probably was more winter mortality than calculated.

The fall of 2004 there will be a decrease in the number of Management Permits because in most management units we are near our population density goals. Two years ago there were about 200,000 management permits issued. 2004 will be the second year for a decrease in permits as we get near our population goals. We can expect about 80,000 to 100,000 permits to be issued in 2004.

Winter mortality was not excessive this winter was the snow did not last late into March as it did in 2002. Two places we did see winter mortality were Tiff Nature Preserve and the south end of Letchworth State Park. Poor habitat, over browsed left nothing to eat. The Letchworth deer need to be harvested to prevent habitat damage, if left unmanaged there will be more starvation and no new forest growth.

Urban deer damage permits 389 in Amherst and 176 in Clarence, which yielded 17,000 pounds of venison for the food bank. (68,000 protein portions for needy people) 550 deer car collisions last year in Amherst.

The bear harvest in NY was a record of almost 2000. Bear are becoming a nuisance in the Allegany State Park. So far, the park does not allow hunting bear but they will trap problem bears to move them. If they persist at being a problem, they are killed. NY DEC recommends that a bear hunting be allowed in the park to manage the population. The Park administrators have not adopted the recommendation.

There is a proposal to allow a special Youth Deer Hunt this fall probably Nov. 13/14 for 16 to 17 year

old hunters to shoot one deer and one bear either sex. The total people that could hunt under this proposal if everyone went out would be 18,000 statewide. This is very low and it is why the youth hunt is suggested to get young people interested and involved in hunting. The legislation to allow 14 and 15 year olds to hunt big game has not passed if it should before this proposed youth big game hunt they would be included.

There is consideration for a Saturday opener for Big Game. The intent is to get more youth involved in hunting so that they do not have to take a day off from school to hunt the opener.

Crossbow language is in the new Big Game regulation book in an anticipation of the law passing. There has been a lawsuit filed by handicap groups that if successful will allow the use of the crossbow.

Fred Langdon made a motion that we write a letter to the Allegheny Park Commissioner to allow bear hunting in the park. Bob Fuller 2nd the motion and it was carried.

Standing Committee Reports:

Law Enforcement: DEC Officer Lt. Tom Scott The DEC is looking for digital pictures for the State Syllabus, it would be great to see some with youth involved in hunting especially in the youth turkey hunt.

The Orchard Park Buck case has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion. The investigation brought together many agencies including the FBI forensics laboratory, the National Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Oregon, NY Conservation Police, Orchard Park Police and the Erie County DA's Office. The Buck was taken illegally and the hunter, Michael Riker of Blakely Road, East Aurora in Orchard Park Court plead guilty to taking over the legal limit of antlered deer. In the plea agreement, he was fined \$500 the maximum allowed and forfeited the deer to the state of New York.

The buck will be mounted and used for educational purposes. The Erie County Conservation Society donated \$100 towards the mounting. The Federation will also be funding the mounting the details to be worked out.

In this day and age where we are in a heightened alert for the possibility of terrorism, the front line officer has to be alert for the unusual. Recently two officers observed two individuals in downtown Buffalo photographing city hall. When they were approached, they tried to flee. They were apprehended and found to be foreign nationals here illegally. It has not been determined if they were terrorists but they are now in Genesee county jail awaiting deportation. We all need to be aware and report anything that is out of the ordinary.

Albany is implementing a program to implement Conservation Law enforcement 24/7 through restructuring the use of manpower.

Often people are quick to complain however our Conservation Law Enforcement Officers work hard and if you have a positive experience with an interaction take a minute and send a letter or e-mail commenting on the good job the officer has done.

NRA Grant Process

Friends and Neighbors Hunting & Fishing Club is a facilitator for the NRA grant application process. They encourage any club needing funding for a project, apply to the NRA. Friends and Neighbors will help with filling out the application; the money is for youth programs. Last year in New York State the NRA awarded \$1.4 million and in Erie County \$30,000. With 54 organizations in the Federation, we should be able to come up with some worthwhile programs for grants.

Archery & Bowhunting—Mike Kemp

Hawkeye Bowman is opposed to the Youth Hunt Deer Hunt during the Archery season. They feel

there is a safety issue with camouflaged hunters in the woods at the same time youth will be using shotguns.

Crossbow Report- Tony Gonnello

The DEC will be submitting their own bill for the crossbow. (As reported above there has been a lawsuit filed to force the legalization of crossbow use.)

Washington State will allow the use of crossbows for disabled.

Pennsylvania will now allow the crossbow in all firearms seasons for elk, bear, and deer. There will also be special areas during the archery season where the crossbow will be allowed. The crossbow will also be allowed during the early muzzleloader season, which is during the archery season, plus the flintlock season, this is a real breakthrough in the east.

Rhode Island has passed legislation to allow the crossbow. **New York is one of only four** states in the United States that **does not** allow the use of crossbows.

Fish –

Will Elliot reported for Joe Fischer that at the up coming NYSCC meeting in Herkimer NY two topics will may be discussed, is the big controversy brewing over the striper fishery in the Hudson, which will become a national issue. Also, the proposal to make it a requirement to make the fishing license visible at all times when fishing (similar to Pa.). The Niagara County Federation has already come out in opposition to this regulation change.

Dan Tone made a motion that the Erie County Federation should oppose the proposed visible fishing license regulation. The motion was 2nd by Gene Sander and it was unanimously carried.

June 26 and 27 will be a free fishing weekend. No license will be required this is a good time to introduce someone to fishing.

June 5, the East Aurora Fish and Game Club will have its Kids Fishing Day contact Dave Barrus for details.

Pres. Godfrey updated everyone that the DEC has stocked the Buffalo River with 10,000 Steelhead, Buffalo Creek with 20,000, Cayuga Creek in Lancaster with 15,000, and 10,000 in Cazenovia Creek in East Aurora. The state raises a strain of rainbow trout called “urban rainbows” and Region is the only region in the state to get them. 1400 went into the Small Boat harbor, 500 went into Lake Kirsty at Tiff nature Preserve, and 500 went into Buffalo Creek near Indian Church Rd and Mineral Springs Rd,

Spencer Schofield updated everyone on the walleye restoration program for the Buffalo River. The DEC and volunteers were out sampling Smokes and the Cattaraugus Creeks. No walleye were found at Smokes Creek only gizzard shad and suckers, the water may have been too cold. At the Catt, several walleye were collected and eggs were harvested from the only ripe female for the program. Don Einhouse’s original plan was not to harvest eggs from Cattaraugus Creek but due to the uncertainty of getting walleye from Smokes creek a last minute decision was made to collect eggs from walleye in the Catt this year.

Will Elliot mentioned that the Friends of the Buffalo Niagara River who are very supportive to the walleye restoration project will be conducting a Buffalo River from April 22, to May first. They are also working to increase fishermen access to the river and waterfront.

Kids Fishing Clinic Kent Kruse - First clinic will be at Tiffit Nature Preserve, June 12th and two weeks later, June 26th at Chestnut ridge Park. Kent has been organizing these events and would like to get a handle on the number of volunteers that will step up and help. If we want this type of event to continue in to the future, we need people. Contact Kent and sign up for this event.

Small game -- Dan Tone

The youth turkey hunt will be this weekend (April 24-25) the one person who worked behind the scene and was very instrumental in getting this hunt was Al Guy he should be recognized for his efforts.

4H pheasants only 1365 chicks, perhaps this would be a program that could use an NRA grant funding to support raising pheasants.

Pheasants Forever Chapter 29 conducted a survey on March 6th, north of route 104 in Porter NY. In three hours they counted 11 birds (6 hens/ 5 roosters) which equates to one for every 20 acres last year the survey showed one for every 15 acres. They saw many tracks and signs of many more birds. They were satisfied with the result.

For the Youth Pheasant Hunt, Dan tone got two replies back from the winning clubs we need to hear from Evans R&G, and East Aurora F&G.

Big game – Paul Stoos

No Report

Trapping -- Patti Wattengel

No Report

Waterfowl – Paul Pietraszewski

The waterfowl season has been set for the fall. The Iroquois Wildlife Refuge due to a lack of interest will no longer hold an early nuisance season.

Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

No Report

Resolutions -- Bob Fuller

We know there are 14 resolutions as soon as copies of them become available we will see that they get out to everyone who needs them.

Environment and Pollution –

No Reports

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

There is a plethora of bills being introduced in the state legislature to change the distance from a building you may discharge a firearm. The current regulation is 500 feet from an occupied building. New proposals are from 1000 feet to as much as a mile. This could prove to be a hindrance for hunting by removing a lot of area for hunting.

On the Federal level, the Protection of Lawful Commerce Act was killed. Senators John Kerry and John Edwards came off the campaign trail to vote against your right to gun ownership. Assault weapon and gun show bans were added to the bill, which essentially killed the legislation.

Presidential candidate John Kerry over the past twenty years has voted 51 out of 55 times against your rights as gun owners. John Kerry represents a return to the anti gun rhetoric and campaigns of the Clinton administration.

As we approach the election, this fall there will be campaign regulations in place that will prevent the NRA from publishing information about the candidates. There will be a website www.nranews.com that will have information. It will be available daily 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

The State Budget is late again. There have been emergency appropriations passed, which contain the pistol permit wording. We need to keep calling our Representatives about this issue. **For a complete listing of current gun legislation, visit the Scope Website**

Sportsman Education --

John Susz noted that there were 32 accidents in 2003 with two fatalities. The five-year average has been 56 accidents per year, while one is too many the accident rate is declining. This shows that the Hunter Safety Education is working very well. Most accidents involve carelessness.

Special Committee Reports:

Awards -- Will Elliott
No Report

Banquet --

Educational Opportunities --Chuck Godfrey Only one qualifying application for the scholarship, we will award it to Kevin Slade of Blasdell NY he is a student at Cortland University studying Environmental Science.

Fund Raising --

Tony Gonnello explained that we will be offering the Remington Calendars for sale, to support our Youth programs. He would like each representative to ask their club how many calendars they would like to sell. Contact Tony for all the details.

Shows—

May 18th there is a meeting for the Erie County Fair for all the Exhibitors
May 15 and 16 Gun show at Springville Rod and Gun.

National Hunting and Fishing days September 25 and 26, 2004

Old Business

The Federation will be an NRA recruiter the number will be on our website. We encourage all members to join to help support your organization and right for gun ownership.

Website- Paul Stoos

Needs clubs to contact him with the correct and current e-mail addresses so we can get the mailings

minutes out.

New Business

Niagara Frontier Chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation will host a Jakes Day on June 12th at the Elma Conservation Club for kids 17 and under. The event is free and runs from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM There will be seminars and various activities for the kids. Pro Staff from Knight and Hale will be on hand for a seminar and demonstrations. Kids will get to fish Elma Conservation Club will supply poles and bait. Lunch will also be provided.

50/50 Raffle

Winner Spencer Schofield

Thanks to Host Club

Erie County Conservation Society

Motion for Adjournment at 10:40

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

Thomas Marks, Recording Secretary
7004 Waring Circle
Derby, NY 14047

ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS, INC.**Member of New York state conservation council****Monthly newsletter and minutes**

May 27, 2004

Call to order - 7:30 Friends and Neighbors Hunting & Fishing Club

Pledge to flag lead by President Chuck Godfrey.

Roll call -- Officers and Directors

Excused: Tony Gonnello

Next meetings and locations:

06/24/04 – Bd. Mtg. – 6:30, Reg. Mtg. – 7:30 – Alden R&G

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, Depew Rod & Gun Club, East Aurora Fish & Game Inc., Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc., Elma Conservation Club, Inc., Friends & Neighbors Rod & Gun Club, Hawkeye Bowmen, Inc., Lake Conservation Club, Lake Shore Fire Co. Exempts Sportsmen's Club, Niagara Musky Association, Inc., Niagara River Angler's Association, Niagara Station Fishing Club, NWTf-Niagara Chapter, SCOPE - WNY Chapter, Southtown's Walleye Association, Inc., West Falls Conservation Society, WNY Trout Unlimited, Wood & Brook Sportsman's Club, Inc,

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.

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Treasures report: - Tony Scime

A complete report was presented by a motion was made to accept by Dave Barus and seconded by Mike Smith the motion was carried.

Correspondence report -- Will Elliott

A letter was sent to Allegany State Park to the attention to George Wymann, 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.

Concerning outdoor writer Mike Levy, he was involved in a serious accident. He was hit by a car while riding his bike send get well cards to Mike at 5949 Broadway Ave. Lancaster NY 14086.

Will reported that the new format for the Buffalo News has reduced space for outdoors news by 18%. The Thursday coverage will be limited to only where fish are biting due to the reduction of 200 to 300 words of the space. The News Editor has stated they will not over meetings or DEC notices important to outdoor sportsmen and sportswomen. Will said if you are not satisfied with the coverage of our outdoor news to send letters to the Opinion and Editorial page (letters to the editor) voicing their displeasure with the reduced coverage.

President Report – Chuck Godfrey

Proposed By-Law change concerning the mailing of the minutes from using the postal mail to e-mail. The Club could save over \$1300 per year in postage and printing costs. (See proposed By-Law changes below.)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS OF THE
ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS, INC.
May, 2004**

Article 11 Section 4. Associate Members (Current)

Associate Members shall be those persons to whom membership shall be granted from time to time, pursuant to authorization by the board of directors, by reason of their

interest in the goals of the corporation or their desire to join in its activities. The board of directors may provide for different categories of Associate Members, such as honorary members or junior members.

Associate members shall during the month of October of each year pay into the treasury of the Federation the sum of \$20.00, for its financial support. (Associate members will receive Federation minutes). No associate member shall hold office nor have any vote in the affairs of the Federation, but shall be entitled to the privileges of the floor at Federation meetings. Associate members need not reside in Erie County.

Article II Section 4 Associate Members (Proposed)

Associate Members shall be those persons to whom membership shall be granted from time to time, pursuant to authorization by the board of directors, by reason of their interest in the goals of the corporation or their desire to join in its activities. The board of directors may provide for different categories of Associate Members, such as honorary members or junior members.

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Article VI Section 10 The Recording Secretary (Current)

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 mailed to every Director and Officer of this organization, to all member clubs, and to such other individual and organizations deemed to have interest in the ideals and work of the Federation (such as associate members, etc., as in Article H, Section 4 of these By-laws). Each member club, in addition to any copies mailed to a Director or Officer of this organization, shall receive two copies of the regular meeting minutes, which will be mailed to their designated individuals. The minutes of the Board of Directors meetings shall be delivered or mailed to the Board of Directors so that they are received no later than the next board meeting.

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.

Membership Report – Mike Smith

We lost Alden Jr. as a member club due to internal problems the club has had.

Standing Committee Reports:

Archery & Bowhunting—Dave Reed, reported that 38 kids applied to Bow Camp Hawkeye Bowman planned participation was 30 kids. They will try to work out the logistics to accommodate everyone and make sure the event remains beneficial.

The letter below is a submission by NY Bowhunters on their position regarding the Youth Hunt for November 2004.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) has proposed a firearms Big Game "Youth" Hunt for November 13 and 14, 2004. Yes, you read it right firearms in archery season!

This proposal will allow 16 and 17 year olds to use firearms to take deer and bear during one of the best southern zone bowhunting periods. This proposal would ruin the last week and both of the last two weekends of the southern zone archery hunting seasons. The NYS DEC will decide by May 1, 2004 whether or not to hold this hunt. If the hunt is held this year, you can expect it to continue in future years. Your prompt attention is vital.

The NYS DEC, by its own license system, defines youth as those hunters 15 years old and younger. 16 and 17 year olds are young adults. By the age of 16 young people are well indoctrinated in their chosen fields of interest. Enactment of this proposal will not help recruit youth into the shooting sports.

Juniors 14 years of age and older can already hunt big game with bow and arrow through out the big game seasons.

The DEC understands the negative impact this will have on deer hunting. When NYB members asked them why November 13 & 14 instead of the last weekend before gun season they replied that "the deer need a week to calm down before firearms season opens". The DEC is willing to have deer spooked during bow season but they want them calmed down for the firearms season. Go figure

The safety concerns are obvious; firearms hunters, using firearms tactics like deer drives at the same time, in the same places where camouflaged bowhunters are trying to remain undetected...

The disruption to the bowhunting season and the whitetail rut cycle are obvious. Once the gunfire begins all bets on deer movement are off...

The law enforcement concerns are obvious.

All in all, this is one of the most foolish ideas that has ever come out of NYS DEC Headquarters.

What New Yorker's need to be doing is pushing for passage of A1 099 which would lower junior archery age from 14 to 12 years of age, and A6752 which will lower junior big game (firearms) from 16 to 14 years of age.

Contact the NYS DEC at the following address;
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Attn: John Major, Bureau of Wildlife
625 Broadway Ave., 5th Floor
Albany, New York 12233-4754
fwwildf@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Tell Mr. Major that this proposal is unacceptable. Firearms do not belong in archery big game seasons; it does not matter who is using the firearms. Tell him that if adopted this proposal will ruin the archery seasons that we cherish, the seasons we have worked so long and hard to establish and to protect. Tell him that young adults should not be entitled to 'special rights' by virtue of age. Tell him that this proposal calls the NYS DEC's judgment into question and that it will be difficult for sportsmen to trust DEC judgment if they continue on this course.

To weigh in on A6752, and A1099 send your letters to your district assembly representative and to

The Honorable Thomas P. DiNapoli
NYS Assembly
Room 625 LOB
Albany, NY 12248
dinapot@assembly.state.ny.com

Crossbow Report-

Reported by Will Elliot that the state of Alabama has unanimously voted to approve for the legal use of crossbows during the entire archery season. This now makes states that allow the use of crossbows during the archery season the majority.

Fish – Dave Barus

June 12 and June 26 are the Kids Fishing Days

June 5 East Aurora has their Kids Fishing Days

June 26 and 27 will be a free fishing weekend. No license will be required this is a good time to introduce someone to fishing.

June 12 Elma Conservation Club will allow fishing on their lake.

June 12 Erie Conservation Club will have their Woman in the Outdoors Program. This program has "caught on" with more women every year becoming involved in the outdoors.

Crappie USA held their first tournament in Western New York in May. The fishing was reported as "fantastic". The largest crappie was 1.58 pounds the winning weight for ten fish was over 10 pounds. The tournament allowed fishing in the Niagara River from the Buffalo River system to Tonawanda Creek system. The winning team fished the Buffalo River near the Bailey Avenue overpass. The second place fisherman also fished the Buffalo River and caught four walleye.

Southtowns Walleye Association had their first Annual Perch Tournament; teams from Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Erie Counties competed in the tournament. The winning catch weighed in at five pounds six ounces and was caught by Jim Kopra from Bison City Rod and Gun Club.

Kent Kruse, Chairman for the Federation's Kids Fishing Days June 12 and June 26 looking for people to help with the events. He needs everyone that signed up to follow through and work the event. He still needs someone with a van or truck to deliver all the rod and reels at each event. Don Kill will take care of the food for the event. Bait will be supplied by Weekly's Bait.

It is important to help at events like this many parents are not teaching their kids how to fish. It is becoming more important for clubs like us to take on this role. We have found however, that even the adults who have not fished before find these events a lot of fun and informative.

Wal-Mart is a big supporter of Kids Fishing events there are seven Wal-Mart sponsored cliques in the area this summer. Southtowns Walleye will hold two of these one June 19 at the Buffalo River Fest and the other July 24 the 12th Annual Kids Catch and Release Derby at Tiff Nature Preserve.

Dave Barus announced that he will be on special assignment with his job and it will take him out of town for the better part of eight to nine months. He asked that an interim Fish Committee Chairman be appointed. Chuck Godfrey appointed Hal Lawrence to fill the post in Dave's absence.

Dan Tone brought up for discussion the Sprague Brook Park Kid's fishing clinic he thought it was sponsored in part by the Safari Club. The pond is stocked with approximately 600 trout from the state hatchery in Randolph. This event is lightly attended and could use the support of the Federation.

Dan Tone made a motion to donate \$150 for the event at Sprague Park; Tom Fischer seconded the motion. The money would be used for food or supplies. We also should volunteer to help with the activities. We also need to get the word out to have more kids participate. The motion was carried.

It was brought up by Fred Langdon that it would be advantageous for all clubs to announce their kids' events in January or as early as possible to avoid conflicts with other events and to better promote the events.

Small game -- Dan Tone

There still are two clubs that need to respond for the Youth Pheasant Hunt, East Aurora and Evans Rod and Gun, If we do not have a response by the June meeting the alternate, Friends and Neighbors, will have the opportunity to send a youth.

Wednesday June 2nd the day old pheasant chicks were distributed. Dan mentioned that he applied for a grant (\$3900) from the NRA to pay for netting and fences for the pheasant chick program. Currently the volunteers who raise the chicks pay for this equipment themselves.

At the April NYSCC, meeting the council discussed the resolution to double the production to 1.4 million birds at the Reynolds Game Farm. If any person or group would like to visit and tour the facility, they can by contacting Mike Murphy at 607-273-2763. The tour is very interesting and educational.

At the April meeting the a resolution that making it mandatory for all non-resident hunters purchase a \$5 Habitat Stamp it will be voted on at the fall meeting.

Dan reviewed many of the resolutions that the club delegates will bring to their respective organizations to discuss and vote on. One in particular is the Erie County Federation's resolution regarding the regulation of the possession of a firearm of any type by a person who is accompanying a bowhunter during the archery season. The resolution would make it unlawful for a bowhunter to possess a firearm but would not prohibit anyone in the same camp, etc to hunt small game while the archer is afield.

Big game – Paul Stoos

Bears in the neighborhood! We have to realize we have infringed on their territory not them in ours.

The issue of the Saturday Gun Opener for Big Game was recently reported again in the News. There was an understanding that the issue was dead. A recent survey indicated that about 50% of sportsmen support the Saturday opener. It will benefit kids who are in school, but many businesses feel it would hurt them. It appears this will be an annual issue to get the opener changed.

Trapping -- Patti Wattengel

No Report

Waterfowl – Paul Pietraszewski reviewed the Niagara County resolution in the NYSCC. It is important the waterfowl zones maintain equal representation so one area can not dominate the decision process. Zone boundaries may need revision to keep representation equal.

Early waterfowl seasons should be studied. The wood duck which is more plentiful than the mallard has already migrated through the area by the time the season opens. An early season could be utilized for wiser use of the resource and to recruit new hunters. The Niagara County resolution asks that the DEC conduct a study to determine that the waterfowl season be to the best interest of the resource, and the hunter.

Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

The hatchery report from the NYSCC meeting in Herkimer revealed that the State hatcheries are in various states of need for repair. State vehicles that support the hatcheries are in need of replacement as well. Four hatcheries are in very good condition, four are okay however, four are in bad shape. It is estimated it will take \$20 million to make the repairs.

Paul Stoos made a motion we write a letter to the DEC supporting the funding of the needed repairs the motion was seconded by Dave Barus and the motion carried.

Fishing season proposals for bass on the St Lawrence and musky on the seemed to be acceptable but at the last minute, resistance has appeared. The purpose of the proposals was to make the dates common with Ontario regulations and to avoid confusion on border waters.

Charter boat captains on Lake Ontario have reported the sea lamprey wounds on trout and salmon appeared to have increased. Sea lampreys are an invasive species, which is controlled through the use of a lampricide (TFM) on streams where sea lamprey spawn.

Reports from the Oneida Lake that walleye have done well. Creel and size restrictions have yielded a healthy class of walleye that exceed ten pounds.

The bass pro shop in Auburn NY is scheduled to open June 10th.

There are discussions to expand a bass catch and release season statewide. The reason is currently bass are caught out of season and released however fishermen are restricted from targeting them. The accidental catch of bass "out of season" has had no impact on the fishery. The new regulation would allow fishermen to target bass and open new fishing opportunities with little impact on the fishery. It will also offer opportunities to bring in new fishermen (kids).

Environment and Pollution –

Tom Marks made a report on the invasive shrimp, *Dikerogammarus Villosus* (killer shrimp) that is spreading rapidly across Europe and to England. It is feared that this could be the next invasive species to reach the Great Lakes. The killer shrimp has out competed native shrimp and disrupted the food web. It also feeds on small fish and attacks larger fish biting and opening wounds that could cause infection killing the fish. We need to support the NYS Ballast Bill A05659 and S02567. The Federal legislation is the Invasive Species Act of 2003, which we should support.

Cormorants sometimes referred to as the black plague of the Great Lakes, in abundance here. Mark Kandel, biologist for NYS DEC made a presentation recently to the Erie County Fish Advisory Board. He explained that there are approximately 700 nests on the upper Niagara River and Eastern Basin of Lake Erie. The nests are primarily at the mouth of the river; the Reef Lighthouse has 250 nests on it. The DEC is "managing the population, Mark Kandel said the NY DEC currently is managing the cormorant population to protect sensitive nesting sites, protect vegetation on Strawberry Island to maintain the island restoration project. The management plan calls for monitoring all nesting activity in the region, and removal of cormorants from Strawberry and Motor Islands as well. Cormorant nests on these islands will be destroyed. The local population is to be studied, color banding of Buffalo Harbor adult cormorants to determine their movements. Eggs in nests on the Sand Reef Lighthouse will be oiled to control the population. Chicks in nests on Goat Island will be leg banded. The goal for the management is not to reduce cormorant numbers stressed Kandel, but to monitor the population, and protect nesting sites for threatened birds. The methods used to control the cormorant ranges from oiling eggs, tearing down nests, harassing birds, and shooting some.

The cormorant has been shown to negatively impact the fishery on Oneida Lake so more aggressive management plans are in effect there. Currently there is no data for the Eastern Basin of Lake Erie of the impact these birds have. We need to have the DEC conduct these studies to see if we need to have a plan to reduce the cormorant numbers. A rough estimate of the numbers of cormorants in our area is in the neighborhood of 5000 birds. It is estimated that a cormorant eats four to five pounds of fish a day. If sport fishermen want to change the DEC's management plan goals we would need to lobby, the DEC Division of Fish and Wildlife, Jerry Barnhart, Commissioner Erin Crotty, and the US Fish and Wildlife in Amherst. We need to write letters to support this.

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

Assault Weapons Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act of 2003'. Bills S1431 and HR2083, SCOPE is opposed to this bill and advises us to oppose because more provisions have been added including semiautomatic shotguns, which the Attorney General will determine if they are assault type or sporting shotguns. The ban of assault weapons has not done anything the solve crimes people will use what ever weapon is available guns are used less than knives, or hands in the commission of a crime.

The CoBIS (Combined Ballistic Identification System) is still an issue:

In an attempt to justify the continuance of the ballistic database system known as CoBIS, the Pataki administration is trying to get around federal law that prevents the sharing of the data from the system with federal authorities.

The Combined Ballistic Identification System (CoBIS) was established in 2001 and requires all new handguns sold in New York be supplied with a fired shell casing which is to be entered into a central database for the purposes of tracing crime guns. It must be noted that in New York to legally possess a handgun you must have a state pistol license that requires extensive state and federal background checks. Handgun owners in New York are the most law-abiding of the state's citizens and the least likely to commit gun crimes.

It should also be noted that this database of new non-crime handguns can only trace the gun to the first legal owner. If a particular traced handgun should have changed hands numerous times through legal sales or have been stolen, tracing it to its original legal owner is of no value to law enforcement. It has been determined this expensive system will not solve any crimes and has been dropped by every state except NY. Maryland is going to dismantle their system. Visit the scope website for more information.

A dangerous new bill has been introduced in Albany, A02240 proposing an amendment to the constitution, in relation to providing the electors with the power of initiative and referendum. This legislation would amend the New York State Constitution to reserve for the people of the State the powers of initiative and referendum. The problem is that it undermines the legislature, and any law could be put to a public vote.

Another new bill to watch is A6820 (Order of protection) which could infringe upon gun ownership. Current law provides for the mandatory and permissive revocation or suspension of firearms licenses and ineligibility for such licenses upon issuance of temporary orders of protection or orders of protection. However, it does not require the court to actually inquire as to the existence and location of any firearms owned or possessed by the defendant or respondent, so this bill will mandate that this inquiry be made prior to the issuance of these orders or upon willful failure to obey previous orders, thus ensuring that the court has, as a matter of record, full disclosure regarding the existence and location of any and all firearms owned or possessed by a defendant or respondent in these matters.

Dan Tone asked for comments on four other bills. Blaze orange, the "1000 feet no discharge of firearms from buildings or schools" Canned Hunt Bill, and the Hooker Farmland Bill. The "1000 feet from building bill has passed the Assembly, it is now up to the senate, (bill # S5656) Scope is opposed to this bill. If you oppose this bill, you need to write to the senate. The Canned Hunt Bill is essentially the same as the last bill that attempted this, one footnote as a part of the bill there is a provision to ban any contest that has the "largest take" as the winner, for example woodchuck or crow contests.

The Hooker Farmland Bill (A07376) will allow farmers to take deer year round. Currently a farmer needs a permit the new legislation would eliminate any permit requirement. Dan Tone made a motion that we write a letter to Assemblyman Daniel L. Hooker stating our opposition to this bill. Tom Fischer seconded the motion and it was carried.

Resolutions -- Bob Fuller

Resolution sheets are available to the delegates to take back to their respective clubs for review.

Sportsman Education – Fran Miskey

So far this year there are 52 gun classes scheduled in Erie County, this is the most ever. 37 bow classes are scheduled. This year you may be required to have photo identification and a birth certificate for the proof of identity at the class. There will be changes in the Trappers exams this fall. We will have new books for bow book and gun book. Their intent is to make them more specific to New York State. They will also be made from higher quality paper and covers; the graphics as well are much improved.

The training classes are going to have laser guns because there are kids eleven years old taking the course and legally they can not handle a firearm. These guns are effective in training and there is less chance of an accident and no worry for ricochet.

Gun Safe program was halted in May due to the funding running out.

John Green after 36 years as a gun hunter safety instructor has stepped down. John said that he would still be available to help if needed. John will be missed. A motion to write a letter of thanks to John green for all his years of dedicated service was made by Joe Fischer, seconded by Ray Gwier, the motion was carried.

Special Committee Reports:

Awards -- Will Elliott

No Report

Banquet --

No Report

Educational Opportunities --Chuck Godfrey

The scholarship check for Kevin Slade of Blasdell is ready to be sent out. The non-county applicants will be informed that they need to be residents of Erie County to be eligible for the scholarship.

The Wal-Mart on Niagara Falls Blvd gave us a \$500 grant for youth and environmental education.

CFAB - No Report

Fund Raising --

Shows— Fred Langdon

We have the Erie County Fair coming in August (12-22). 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. Contact Fred to volunteer. We are allotted 55 tickets we will need a total of 66 so the club will have to buy some more.

Dan Tone made a motion to pay for Fred Kokot and "Gabby" Erie County Agricultural Society Memberships. The purpose is so they can fill-in in a moments notice if someone does not show up to man the booth..

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

New 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.

50/50 Raffle

Winner- Kent Kruse

Thanks to Host Club - Friends and Neighbors Rod and Gun Club

Motion for Adjournment at 10:00 PM by Frank Miskey seconded by Paul Stoos

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

Thomas Marks, Recording Secretary
7004 Waring Circle
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

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 environmentalists 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 outbreak 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

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

Thomas Marks, Recording Secretary
7004 Waring Circle
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

July 22, 2004 –Niagara River Station

Call to order - 7:30

Pledge to flag lead by President Chuck Godfrey.

Roll call -- Officers and Directors

Excused: Dave Barus, Tony Scime, Dave Reed, and Joe Fischer

Next meetings and locations:

9/9/04 – Bd. Mtg. – 6:30, Reg. Mtg. – 7:30 – Springville Field and Stream, White Street, Springville NY

We need locations for the October and November meetings if your club would like to host a meeting contact President Chuck Godfrey at phone 675-0057, e-mail - steelheader@cheekcentfcu.net

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. Exempt's Sportsmen's Club, Niagara Musky Association, Inc., Niagara River Station Fishing Club, NWTF-Niagara Chapter, NY Walleye Association,

12/9/04

– Bd. Mtg. – 6:30, Reg. Mtg. – 7:30 – Bison City Rod and Gun Club

Approval of June Minutes: Motion to accept as unread by Hal Lawrence seconded by Tom Fischer, the motion was carried.

Secretary's Report – Tom Marks

No Report

Membership Report – Mike Smith

No Report

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 Chuck Godfrey for Tony Scime a motion was made to accept by Don Davis seconded by Tom Fischer the motion was carried.

Fund Raiser - Tony Gonnello - for the Federation and your clubs. Each year we offer to the member clubs Remington Calendars to sell as fundraisers. Again, we will make this offer to our member clubs and individuals, this is an excellent way to raise money because the calendars sell very easily. We need club participation if we are to continue this in the future.

REMINGTON WILDLIFE ART CALENDARS

The Federation will be purchasing the Remington Wildlife Art Calendars this fall. These are great calendars and the Federation will make about \$1.00 per calendar. All clubs and interested persons please plan now. **The last date to place your order will be at the September regular meeting – 9/9/04.** Multiply \$3.00 times the number of calendars ordered and have check or cash at the time of order. No orders will be accepted without pre-payment. Make checks payable to Tony Gonnello. Calendars will be distributed at the first regular Federation meeting after received. Please make arrangements to pick them up at that meeting or at Tony Gonnello's residence. Thank you.

Correspondence report -- Will Elliott

The following is a letter that Will Elliott sent to Gov. Pataki concerning our position on the Blaze Orange Bill:

July 1, 2004
Honorable George E. Pataki, Governor
Executive Chamber
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12244

Dear Governor Pataki:

Affiliate members attending the July meeting of the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs voted unanimously in opposition to pending legislation that would require hunters to wear 400 square inches of orange clothing while hunting in New York State.

Passed as Assembly bill 10052, this bill would mandate an exorbitant amount of bright orange worn by hunters, while other outdoors participants (hikers, birdwatchers, campers, anglers, etc.) would not be required to wear distinctive clothing during open hunting seasons in this state.

While hunters in general do not oppose wearing bright, visible clothing as a matter of safety, this bill — as currently written — far exceeds hunter-orange requirements in nearby states and Canadian provinces. For example, in both the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the province of Quebec, hunters must wear 250 square inches of orange during designated times of gun hunting seasons.

As was the case last year when this bill was first passed in the legislature, senate and assembly members did not consult with hunting—related groups to establish a fair, equitable and practical bill that would be acceptable to hunters across this state.

Your veto of this bill last year was a wise decision — given a lack of consideration for certain types of hunting that would not require orange clothing and little consideration of the amount of orange clothing required when legislators submitted and passed this legislation.

ECFS members and hunters throughout the Western New York area urge you to exercise your veto powers again this year. In doing so, we respectfully request that you suggest to legislators that they connect with hunting groups (NYSCC, CFAB, etc.) and frame a more practical, applicable bill that would be obeyed by all hunters and would help in furthering safe hunting conditions that now exist in New York State.

Respectfully,
Will Elliott, ECFS Corresponding Secretary

Fred Langdon made a motion we send a letter to Hillcrest Vol. Fire Dept for their generous help with providing emergency services for the Fish Clinic at Chestnut Ridge Park. Tom Fischer seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Nelson Cronin encouraged everyone to go back to their respective clubs and continue to write letters and to make phone calls to the Governor voicing their opposition to the hand gun legislation that is in the budget bill. We need to keep the Governor well aware that sportsmen and gun owners do not support the proposed legislation and we do not want it kept in the budget as part of some compromise.

Kent Kruse announced that we got our first letter of appreciation from one of the six kids we sent to Camp Rushford, Shawn Burgess. Shawn expressed his thanks and stated what a great experience it was.

President Report – Chuck Godfrey

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.

The following is the letter sent out to the Scholarship recipient, Kevin Slade of Blasdell NY, he is a student at Cortland University studying Environmental Science.



**Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.
Member of NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION COUNCIL**

July 2, 2004

Dear Kevin,

It is my very great pleasure to inform you that you are the recipient of a scholarship from the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. This one-time award of \$200 is in recognition of your enrollment and accomplishments. Young people like you are our hope for the future. We hope that you will be able to put this award to good use, and that you will be successful in pursuing your studies and a career in your chosen field. Once again, congratulations on a job well done.

Sincerely,
Chuck Godfrey
President – ECFSC

Pres. Chuck Godfrey wrote a letter to the News stating our displeasure with the content and type size the Buffalo News has adopted for the outdoor sport news. It does not appear that the News has increased reporting and content. The letters size is difficult to read and the column inches have decreased. It does not appear that the Buffalo News upgraded its reporting of outdoor news as it has for other sports.

If sportsmen want the News to increase content and improve the letter size it needs to be communicated to Margaret M. Sullivan, Editor and Vice President for the Buffalo News. It has to be demonstrated through letters that sportsmen read the paper and are interested in seeing it improved.

A letter was also sent to Lt. Tom Scott thanking him for the two Conservation Officers that were present at the two Fishing Cliques we held.

**Membership Report – Mike Smith
No Report**

Standing Committee Reports:

Law Enforcement

Opening day and the first Saturday of Pheasant hunting at Zoar Valley and Harwood will be by permit only first come first served for the first day only.

There is a new DEC officer in Erie County, Chuck Lohr. He is a former Evans police officer, his appointment give Erie County five officers.

Dick Lang, a Niagara County DEC officer has retired there will be a party in his honor on Sept 19, 2004

Niagara County has three DEC officers, one of which is an Army Reservist on duty in Iraq.

The following is a summary of Fishing Regulation changes for 2004 to 2006:

- daily creel limit for trout in the Erie County to 5 per day, with no more than 2 longer than 12".
- extend the open season for muskellunge from November 30 to December 15 for the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, and the Lower Niagara River.
- 1 fish per day creel limit for rainbow trout and steelhead in all Lake Ontario tributaries.
- shorten the walleye season in the Lower Niagara River from the current statewide season (1st Saturday in May through March 15th) to 1st Saturday in May to December 31st.
- correct regulations for Atlantic salmon so that only one fish 25 inches can be harvested.
- Reduce the minimum length for walleye from 18" to 15" in Oneida Lake and it's tributaries up to the first barrier.
- manage Clear Creek with the existing nine inch minimum size limit, five trout per day regulation for the April 1-October 15 period and to keep the stream open for fishing the remainder of the year under catch and release regulations with artificial lures only. Also to apply the only 2 fish greater than 12 inch rule to this stream. (Cattaraugus County)
- manage Clear Creek with the existing nine inch minimum size limit, five trout per day regulation for the April 1-October 15 period and to keep the stream open for fishing the remainder of the year under catch and release regulations with no special gear restrictions. -Also to apply the only 2 fish greater than 12 inch rule to this stream. Wyoming County

- Manage the Wyoming County portion of Wiscoy Creek with the existing regulations, but to add the October 16 - March 31 period as open for fishing but with a no-kill regulation and artificial lures only.
- manage Lime Lake Outlet with the existing nine inch minimum size limit, five trout per day regulation for the April 1-October 15 period and to keep the stream open for fishing the remainder of the year under catch and release regulations with artificial lures only. Also to apply the only 2 fish greater than 12 inch rule to this stream.
- manage McKinstry Creek with the existing nine inch minimum size limit, five trout per day regulation for the April 1-October 15 period (taking effect in the 2002-2004 guide) and to keep the stream open for fishing the remainder of the year under catch and release regulations with artificial lures only. Also to apply the only 2 fish greater than 12 inch rule to this stream.
- Create a 2.2 mile long catch and release trout fishing section on Ischua Creek in the area of Franklinville. The season would be open year-round with only artificial lures allowed.
- the walleye regulation in Chautauqua Lake from 15 in/five per day to 18 in/three per day.

Regulations are established for two years and posted on the even years. Proposals are already being considered for the 2006 to 2008 period. Sportsmen need to keep up on the regulation proposals to voice either their support or opposition before they become effective. Will Elliott mentioned that after the lower River changes were requested and supported that there was a reversal of support by a couple charter captains. Sportsmen have to stay united on issues. The purpose of the Walleye regulation is to protect this fishery. The Niagara River Anglers have worked hard for years to develop the walleye fishery here.

Dan Tone commented on the inland trout regulations, he believes they are established to reduce the need for stocking. The regulations will be very complex for young anglers who will have to measure every fish. The catch and release, and artificials only zones may be confusing as well. Making regulations that are difficult to understand will not encourage potential new anglers to take up or continue with the sport.

Dan Tone suggested that on Eighteen Mile Creek that we support the construction of a fish ladder on the Hamburg Branch at a small waterfall that is passable by steelhead only when there is high water conditions. This will open a large section of the stream for fishing. Chuck Godfrey has talked to various people to gain support for this project.

Ken Kruse thanked all the volunteers who helped with the fish cliques. The new facility at Chestnut Ridge was real nice. We handed out 66 rods and reels at Tiff nature Preserve clique, 15 at Sprague Brook Park, and 93 at Chestnut Ridge Park. We are looking forward to doing it again next year.

Rich Kozak reported to the group that Evans is looking to have a fish cleaning station built at Eighteen Mile Creek at Old Lakeshore Road. The town is looking for help on this project.

Archery & Bowhunting— No Report

Crossbow Report- Tony Gonnello
No Report

Fish – Hal Lawrence

Small game -- Dan Tone

Dan restated the permit requirement for pheasant hunting in Zoar Valley on the opening day and first Saturday, this is just to control the crowd.

ATTENTION
Small Game Hunters!
STARTING 2004
A permit will be required to hunt small game at:
Zoar Valley MUA north of Cattaraugus Creek
Harwood Lake

ON:
OPENING DAY OF PHEASANT SEASON
FIRST SATURDAY OF PHEASANT SEASON

To apply in 2004, mail one standard size post card to:

NYSDEC Region 9 - Bureau of Wildlife
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203

Post cards **MUST** include: Applicant's name, address, telephone number, 2004-05 hunting license back tag number, hunt dates & times **IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE!**

Hunting times will be broken up into blocks: 1) sunrise to noon opening day, 2) noon to sunset opening day, 3) sunrise to noon Saturday and 4) noon to sunset Saturday.

All post cards **MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 1, 2004**. Hunters awarded a permit will have the option of naming one additional hunter on their permit.

For more in formation, contact NYSDEC at: (716) 851-7010

The Safari Club applied for 6,000 pheasant chicks and only received 5,000. The 4H program is already started, 200 birds were stocked in mid July the remaining will be stocked in the coming weeks. Ray Gworik asked that everyone go to their clubs and ask if there is anyone interested in participating in the pheasant program. This is how we get the birds we hunt. Greater participation means more birds in the fall.

Big game – Paul Stoos

Trapping -- Patti Wattengel
 No Report

Waterfowl

John Daniels was disturbed how his resolution was stated as not supported by the NYSCC, when it was sent back to him for a re-write. John had copies of a report he prepared and sent to the DEC for consideration on waterfowl season changes and offered the to members for them to read.

Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

Environment and Pollution –

Tom Marks reported on the Hudson River PCB clean up. In 2002, the EPA ordered General Electric (GE) to clean up the PCB contamination. GE had dumped 1.3 million pounds of PCB's over the years into the Hudson River and on its industrial sites. GE has done a lot to clean up their sites however the Hudson River remains heavily contaminated. GE has resisted the river cleanup because it will cost millions of their dollars, the stakeholders that support the cleanup and those that oppose it for fear of causing more harm to the environment.

GE has done a good job of avoiding its responsibility to the state and environment, it has manipulated the state legislature to keep from being forced to clean up the river. As result of not getting, GE to clean up the Hudson NY has gotten a poor record on environmental issues. If we want this site and others around the state cleaned up, we have to get on our legislators. We need to write our legislators to address serious issues like these to keep them on the agenda.

Chuck Godfrey reported that the Great Lakes Governors and the Premier of Ontario have met to find ways to prevent the diversion and sale of Great Lakes water. The issue of having enough water is going to be very important in the next ten to twenty years. Water is a commodity that is a necessity of life and it can not be hoarded. NAFTA has provisions for the diversion and sale of Great Lakes water. We need to stay on top of this issue to protect the Great Lakes.

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.

John Susz stated that we have been in opposition to any pistol fee increase. In New York City they has passed a fee increase, it now costs \$340 for a three year pistol permit, and \$140 for a shotgun! This type of legislation if passed here would make gun ownership more difficult.

HR Bill 3831 (the Clinton Gun Ban) is back in the legislative process. Scope urges everyone to write, e-mail, and call Jack Quinn to have him remove his name as a co-sponsor from this bill. Scope, says we need Jack Quinn working on legislation that will remove violent criminals from the streets not make gun ownership for law abiding citizens more difficult.

Resolutions -- Bob Fuller - Turn in your resolutions tonight! They will be counted and forwarded to the council.

Sportsman Education – Fran Miskey

Frank Miskey was supposed to get 2,000 gunlocks but he got 5,000, which will be available to be distributed at the Federation Booth at the fair.

Special Committee Reports:

Awards -- Will Elliott

Accolades to the Southtowns Walleye Association for the award to Calvin Arthur. Will asked that we look around at people you have seen who have been working hard for sportsmen causes, who might be deserving of an award or recognition. Let Will Elliott know who and what they have done so they may be recognized.

Dan Tone made a motion that Calvin Arthur's name be added to the "honor" plaque in the Conservation building. Fred Langdon seconded the motion it was carried.

Dan Tone also made a motion that a letter be sent to Calvin's wife letting her know that Calvin's name will be added to the plaque. Don Davis seconded it and the motion was carried.

Banquet --
No Report

Educational --Chuck Godfrey

The 4H Shooting Sport Program will have an organizational meeting on Sept 27 at the East Aurora office of the 4H 7-9 PM. Call 652-5400 extension 131 ... Deadline for Reservations is Sept 13.

New Scholarship applications will be printed and put on the website to facilitate the application process.

CFAB – Fred Langdon

The Chairman of the CFAB sent a letter to Gov. Pataki stating our appreciation for the restoration of nine valuable positions in the Division of Fish and Wildlife, and Natural Resources. He also sent a letter to the Governor in opposition to the blaze orange bill.

Fred also reported that the total sport license (fish and hunting, etc) sales in New York State for the period of 4-1-03 to 3-31-04 was **\$39,965,682.13**

FWMB- Bob Church
No Report

Shows— Fred Langdon

Fred was getting down to the wire for filling all the slots for the booth at the fair. Need to get support from all the clubs to keep the

tradition alive and to get our message out. A notice will be e-mailed out to all the clubs for help.

National Hunting and Fishing Days September 25 and 26, 2004

Motions were made to pay our bills, by Paul Mersdorf and seconded by Fred Langdon for a two-wheel cart \$13.99 and \$100 for film and processing for the fishing cliques. The motions were carried.

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:

The vote was taken on the By-law changes:

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.

The Change was approved.

New Business

Dave Kiel, Sportsmen's Education Coordinator for Region 9, on Oct 30 at Scout Haven, in Freedom NY the Boy Scouts of the Greater Niagara Council, DEC, and National Sportsmen's' Alliance, is looking for instructors for the outdoor sports, archery, gun, bow, fishing, hiking, etc. They are looking for people who are knowledgeable to help with the various educational programs, on Oct 30 from 8-5 and lunch will be provided. Contact Dave Kiel at 372-0645 or call the Buffalo office of the DEC at 851-7000 and ask to speak to Dave Kiel for more information.

Fred Langdon made a motion that we participate and have a booth at the Outdoor Expo, March 10 to the 15, 2005 at the Hamburg Agri-center, Dan Tone seconded it the motion was carried.

Dan Tone made a motion that this year we order more tickets for the Federation Booth workers for the show. Tom Fischer seconded the motion and it was carried.

Gander Mountain Events

Tony Gonnello is the new Events Coordinator at the Gander Mountain store in Tonawanda. If your organization would like to hold a seminar or special event at Gander Mountain contact Tony at 743-2300

50/50 Raffle –

Winner- Don Nickerson

Thank you to the Host Club – Niagara River Station

Motion for Adjournment at 10:00 PM by Nelson Cronin seconded by Ray Gworek motion was carried.

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

Thomas Marks, Recording Secretary
7004 Waring Circle
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

Sept 9, 2004 –Springville Field and Stream

Call to order - 7:30

Pledge to flag lead by President Chuck Godfrey.

Roll call -- Officers and Directors

Excused: Don Davis, Dave Barus, Nelson Cronin, Mike Smith, Paul Stoos, and Will Elliott

Next meetings and locations:

10/14/04 – Bd. Mtg. – 6:30, Reg. Mtg. – 7:30 – Hawkeye Bowmen, 13300 Clinton St. Alden N.Y.

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

Approval of July Minutes: Motion to accept by Tom Fischer and seconded by Fred Langdon, 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

No Report

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 Tony Scime a motion was made to accept by Fred Langdon seconded by Hal Lawrence the motion was carried.

Guest Speakers

First Speaker...Republican Candidate for the State Assembly the 146th District, Jack Quinn Jr. stated his support of outdoor issues including gun ownership rights. If he gets to Albany, Quinn promises to be an

advocate for hunter and fisherman issues. Quinn answered questions regarding his position on various topics.

Second Speakers... NYS ECO Capt. Gary Bobsceine, and Lt. Tom Scott

Lt. Scott spoke about the Region 9 ECO goal to attend all the hunter training classes Lt. Scott admitted that it is a difficult goal but since March he and fellow officers have attended over forty hunter training classes reaching over one thousand new hunters. For many of the students, it was their first contact with an ECO and they got a chance to find out what they do for the resources of NYS and public safety.

Capt. Bobsceine spoke on the manning issues current he stated that 20 of the 21 positions are filled. Present at the meeting with Lt. Scott and Capt. Bobsceine were ECOs Lohr, and Mazurkiewicz. One ECO from Niagara County, in the reserves, was activated which will leave them short. Capt. Bobsceine spoke on how difficult it is to recruit qualified candidates for the ECO job. Years ago thousands would take the test now only a few hundred apply to take the civil service test. There will be a test given in the first week of December if anyone is interested. Difficulties in recruiting are due in part to the strict educational requirements, and competition from other law enforcement agencies.

ECO Jim Hunt in Wyoming County is in training with K-9 patrol dog now for Region 9. The first part of the training will be completed in October, and additional training later in the spring.

Third Speaker... Jim Snyder, Sr. Wildlife Biologist NYS DEC

Jim reported on the health of the deer herd, there is no signs of Chronic Wasting Disease in NYS. The DEC is still collecting samples from deer to monitor their health.

Deer management objectives have been met in most management units. This will result in fewer extra deer permits being issued for the 2004 season.

Deer hunting will be allowed at the West Valley Nuclear Services Property, for all of the archery season and for selected days of the gun season. You need to get an application from West Valley.

For the 2004 big game hunting season, it has been proposed to expand the legal bear hunting area to include all of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany Counties. The reason for this is that the harvest has been on a steady increase in the small area along the Pennsylvania boarder where bear hunting is now allowed. In 1994 17 bears harvested in 2003 54 bears were harvested. Complaints about bear damage to property have also been on the increase for the past few years. In 1994 16 complaints were logged, so far in 2004 107 complaints have been filed and these were damage to bird feeders, gardens, etc. Bear encounters have steadily moved northward into more populated areas. Bear sightings have become a media circus; there is the potential for someone getting hurt as they try and chase a bear for a picture. There is an increase for injury due to bears getting hit by a vehicle, so far this year there have been 9 bears killed by vehicles on the road. For more information contact the DEC Olean office at (716) 372-0645.

Hunting at the Harwood Lake and Zoar Valley MUA on opening day and the first Saturday of pheasant season will be determined by a drawing, applications have to be in by Oct. 1st. Call the DEC office if there are any questions.

The state is way behind on printing pamphlets due to the late budget.

There is a draft of the Wild Turkey Statewide management plan on the DEC website. Comments on the plan will be accepted until Oct 15th either my mail at NYSDEC, Wild Turkey Management Plan, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754 or e-mail comments to fwwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us and the subject line Turkey Plan.

Click on the picture to the left to take you to the website for the Wild Turkey Management Plan or the link <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/turkey/draftplan.pdf>

Jim Snyder took questions of a range of topics concerning deer and deer management. In Particular he noted that the special herd reduction that is being done in Clarence approximately 300 deer were taken. Between the two no hunting areas over 17,000 pounds of venison were harvested and donated to the food bank. The city of North Tonawanda is a no hunting area and is about to become involved in the program to reduce its deer herd size.

A question came up if Clarence is considering legalizing bowhunting to control the deer population. The NYS Legislature set the area closed to deer hunting the town supports a bow season however. In 1941 when The State Legislature set the current boundaries for deer hunting, the closed areas probably did not have very many deer at that time. Several times, there have been attempts to open these areas for hunting without success. The closed areas are stipulated in conservation laws so they need legislative action to be changed.

The Spring Youth Turkey Hunt was a big success however there is too much resistance for a Youth Big Game Hunt. The Saturday opener for Big Game Gun Season is another issue that seems to be dead. The main reason for these proposals is to involve more youth in hunting.

The legislation to allow rifles for big game hunting in the southern zone did not get voted on in the last legislative session. The Bill for blaze orange during the regular big game season did pass and it is on the Governors desk to be signed. The law will require at least 400 square inches (a vest) or a blaze orange hat visible for 360 degrees.

Final Speaker Mike Wilkenson

**PROPOSED NYSDEC ANGLING REGULATION CHANGE HIGHLIGHTS
EFFECTIVE OCT 1, 2006**

**Lake Ontario & St. Lawrence River
Open Lake Waters**

Species	Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Brown Trout Rainbow Trout (including steelhead) Coho Salmon Chinook Salmon Pink Salmon Atlantic Salmon Lake Trout	All year, except lake trout which is January 1 through September 30	15 in.	5 in any combination, not to include more than: 2-rainbow trout OR (steelhead) 1 atlantic salmon OR 2-lake trout (only one of which may be greater than 25 in. and less than 30 in.)
Lower Niagara River			
Species	Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Walleye	1st Saturday in May through March 15	18 in.	3 per day with only 1 greater than 25 in.

Mike showed a slide presentation first highlighted was the Buffalo River Walleye Restoration Project. Historically the Buffalo River probably had a spawning population of walleye. The strategy was to use a Lake Erie, river-spawning stock. Fortunately, we had the Cattaraugus Creek walleye stock to collect eggs

from and to use for this project. Don Einhouse and his crew should be lauded for their efforts to collect the walleye eggs for this project. The eggs were raised to fingerling stage at the Chautauqua Hatchery. The first stocking of fry was in May, and then the 25,000 fingerlings were stocked in June. The plan is to do this for the next five to seven years. Mike stated that he is optimistic that the project will succeed. He thanked the Wall-I-Guys, Bison City Rod and Gun Club and everyone for their help in the project.

Mike said he was pleased to be a part of the Kids Fishing Clinics sponsored by the federation. He said these were great events and praised the great fishing at the Commissioner's Lake at Chestnut Ridge Park.

Mike mentioned the "health" of our fish in particular contaminate level. The data that is available is ten years old and this year new samples were taken in the spring from fish in the Niagara and Buffalo Rivers. Unfortunately, it takes the health department a long time to do the testing. There has been a tremendous amount of money spent on cleaning up our rivers and lake. Mike said he would expect to see that the contaminate level to be improved. A question was asked concerning mercury contamination, which has been in the news lately. The fish in our area do not have high levels of mercury that seems to be a bigger problem in the Adirondacks; here we see more PCB and pesticides. Another question came up concerning botulism outbreaks in Lake Ontario. Mike said that so far this year we have not seen much here. A couple sturgeon have washed up on the Lower Niagara River and a few other fish nothing like the scope of what they are seeing in Lake Ontario.

Mike talked about the angler access project on Eighteen-Mile Creek in Evans. We have another access site on the creek at the Route 20 overpass. The DOT bought a ten-acre piece of property for the DOT to work on the bridge. The DOT worked with the DEC to make this an access point they paved the shoulder of the road for parking along Shadagee Road by the cemetery.

Mike mentioned the Niagara Power Project Relicensing and what it will mean to Western New York. There will be money set aside for mitigating environmental damage due to the power project. 10 projects have been identified. One is the Beaver Island Wetland project where the park golf course is located, fill from the original power project construction was dumped on the wetland; the project is to remove the fill and restore the wetland. Strawberry Island Stabilization, the original project was larger but funding ran out. This project will be part of the habitat restoration. Sister Island in the Upper Niagara River was lost to erosion will be restored. Motor Island will have habitat restoration on the pier bulkheads around the island to improve fish habitat. These projects will cost about \$10 million NiaMo will do all the work. \$4 million more for future projects will be set aside and another \$10 million will be for habitat research of the Entire River. Reservoir will have more access point developed. The fishing platform on the Lower River will have enhancements for parking on a level lower and closer to the platform.

DEC Website has all sorts of maps available that show public access sites at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/fish/pfr> the maps show details such as parking sites, trails etc.

New State record for steelhead trout 31-lbs. 3 oz. (39 inches long) caught out of Olcott in Lake Ontario. It crushed the previous record, 26-lbs. 15-oz.; Mike said the fish was probably seven years old.

The question was asked of Mike what is being done about cormorant control. He responded that there is some efforts to control the birds, some have been shot, harassed off the islands, eggs have been oiled, and nests destroyed however it may not be enough. The question lead to a discussion of cormorants the consensus was that to gain support for more control, that we need to point out the habitat and ecological damage being done on the islands.

Spencer Schofield Fish Advisory Board reported on the walleye ponds that Erie County is planning to construct. USFW is reviewing an application submitted for the project funding. Once funding is in place, the construction will begin.

The South Park Lake Project is on hold due to funding problems. The Army Corps of Engineers are busy with projects associated with the war in Iraq. Federal money that was promised is going towards the efforts in Iraq. South Park Lake was constructed in 1896 as part of the Olmstead Park system. When first

constructed it was 17 feet deep. Over the years it has filled in with silt, the goal is to restore the lake to its original depth.

President Report – Chuck Godfrey

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.

Corresponding Secretary Report

Will Elliot excused

Chuck Godfrey reported for will that letters were sent out. There was a thank you sent to Hawkeye Bowmen for their help and support of the Youth Archery Camp.

Membership Report – Mike Smith

No Report

Standing Committee Reports:

Law Enforcement

Opening day and the first Saturday of Pheasant hunting at Zoar Valley and Harwood will be by permit only first come first served for the first day only.

Archery & Bowhunting—

Mike Kemp reported that 30 kids attended the Archery Camp 23 boys and seven girls. 45 volunteers helped with the camp. Mike thanked all the businesses and clubs that helped with the camp. All the kids took the archery test and they all passed. Cost of the camp was \$60.80 per youth and it was all covered by donations. Next year the camp will be at the Depew Rod and Gun Club.

Crossbow Report- Tony Gonnello

No Report

Fish – Hal Lawrence

No Report

Small game -- Dan Tone

We stocked 1003 4H pheasants this year at a cost to the Federation of \$2006.00. We received a real nice letter from the Erie County Cooperative Extension for the support the federation has given to the program and thanks to Small Game Committee for their efforts. Adult pheasant stocking was done in North Collins, still looking for other areas we can stock adult birds.

Big game – Paul Stoos excused.

No report

Trapping -- Patti Wattengel

No Report

Waterfowl - John Daniels

No Report

Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

The NYSCC Annual Meeting in Sept will be attended by Joe Fischer, Bob Fuller and Dan Tone.

Senator Schumer has signed on as a co-sponsor to the “Open Fields” bill. The "Open Fields" incentive bill is meant to benefit hunters, fishermen and hikers by giving them more places to go, as well as the farmers whose corn, alfalfa and grapes are foraged by hungry deer and other animals. The legislation calls for the Agriculture Department to devote \$50 million to fund state programs that offer a modest per-acre payment to landowners, such as farmers and ranchers, who volunteer to make their lands accessible for outdoor recreational uses. Many states already have "walk-in" programs, but those are poorly funded and offer little incentive. The landowners will still have the final say who can have access to their property. The Open Fields Bill is supported by the NYSCC.

The results for the Resolutions are in and will be presented at the Oct. Federation Meeting.

Environment and Pollution –

Tom Marks discussed the cormorant issue some more. He sent two letters out one to Mark Kandel Wildlife Biologist for the DEC and DEC Commissioner, Erin Crotty, asking for a study of the cormorant impact on the fishery and habitat in the Niagara River. The damage to the trees on Strawberry Island seemed to happen very quickly however; it was a summer long process. The Large trees are covered with droppings from nesting and roosting cormorants.

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

Primary day is Sept 14 and 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, and he embraces the UN gun control agenda. SCOPE has voter registration forms available for anyone who needs to register.

Election Finance Law prevents the NRA and other Organizations from doing any advertising sixty days before the election. You will not see anything pro-gun coming out of the press.

The assault weapon ban is set to expire Sept 11. Hopefully nothing gets passed to keep the ban.

The Handgun Licensing in NY was left out of the budget. Undoubtedly it will be back in next year's budget and it will become an annual battle to keep the gun bill from being passed. Long guns were also considered to for part of this licensing bill.

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.

Resolutions -- Bob Fuller - There are a couple of Resolutions that people have attempted to add amendments. Bob Fuller made a motion to give Joe Fischer the authority to vote on the Resolution as read at the NYSCC meeting. Seconded by Tom Fischer, motion was carried.

Sportsman Education – Fran Miskey

Hunter training classes are going strong. Also, the Dart System will be at the Wood and Brook for hunting and Fishing Day.

Special Committee Reports:

Banquet –Dan Tone

We are looking for more participation in the advertising booklet. The Booklet helps finance the event. If you know of anyone interested in advertising in the book have them contact Dan Tone.

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

Attended his first meeting, which was a field trip to Region 8. There is a resolution on free sporting licenses for servicemen and veterans in the Assembly. If this goes through it will decimate the conservation fund unless other funding is found.

Fund Raising – Tony Gonnello

He will be taking orders at this meeting for the Remington Calendars, if your club would like to use them for a fund raiser place your order with Tony.

FWMB- Bob Church

Bear season territory may be extended to the entire counties of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany.

Access/Habitat Stamp — Members are encouraging all sportsmen to purchase a habitat stamp. It is only \$5.

Access/Habitat applications: There are new procedures for the following organizations that apply for a grant, namely not-for-profit organizations or municipalities. The amount of money that is available ranges from \$1500 to \$15,000. Each region of the NYSDEC can receive at least two project grants —one for access, one for habitat or a combination of both. Each application is to be sent to the Albany DEC office. Then it will be returned to the proper regional office for review. It is based on a scoring level similar to the old application procedure.

Bud Woodward, long standing member from Chautauqua County, is retiring.

Shows— Fred Langdon

Thanks to everyone who donated his or her time to man the booth, especially Friends and Neighbors who covered some vacancies at the last minute. We need to discuss at the next meeting what we need in

the way of hats etc. for the next show. Chuck Godfrey thanked Fred Langdon for his efforts to put together our booth and coordinate all the volunteers. Frank Miskey pointed out that 3700 gunlocks were given away at the fair this year.

Budget and Finance

A motion was made by Tony Scime to pay all our bills it was seconded by Steve Alstadt, the motion was carried.

If you have a youth program in which you are requesting funding support from the Federation please submit the request in the form of a letter with a description of the program as well as the amount needed. Get the request in early so we can get it budgeted for the year. When the program is completed, a summary of the event activities should be sent to the Federation.

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:

The monthly minutes are now being sent out by e-mail to clubs and individuals. If you know of someone who should be on the e-mail list, send their e-mail address to Tom Marks or Chuck Godfrey. This will save the club over \$1300 per year in postage. The minutes are available on our website. If you need access to a computer, any public Library can help you get online.

New Business:

A committee is being formed for the Federation Plaque at the fair. The Plaque lists the names of the deceased individuals who had been very involved in outdoor organizations, the Federation, and worked in the conservation building at the fair. Dan Tone and Roy Henzler are the nucleus for this committee. Roy is very knowledgeable and with Dan Tone will come up with the qualifications and names for many individuals who should be listed on the plaque. If anyone would like to be on the committee please contact Roy or Dan.

Pat Schlicht, Director, has submitted a letter of resignation to Pres. Chuck Godfrey. Pat will be doing a lot of traveling therefore not able to spend the time on Federation activities. Chuck has asked if someone is interested in filling the remainder of Pat's term to contact Chuck or any of the Board Members and the position will be filled according to the By-Laws. It is important to keep the Board filled it keeps the level of expertise at a maximum.

Niagara Environmental Coalition

Tony Scime discussed the Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition. It is coalition of an unincorporated group of nonprofit and community environmental stakeholders in the Niagara Power Project Relicensing, related through memorandums of agreement.

The Coalition's collective negotiating power is dependent upon a large, cohesive, formalized coalition. Represented by the Friends of the Buffalo Niagara Rivers, the Coalition will negotiate with the NY Power Authority a settlement agreement that both mitigates the impacts of the Niagara Power Project on the Niagara Eco-region over the 50-year life of the license. Ideally, mitigation measures will be designed in a manner that allows the region to leverage additional funding from state and federal entities for environmental restoration.

General coalition negotiating goals:

- Direct mitigation of environmental and recreational damage caused by Power Project operations including, but not limited to, groundwater infiltration, flow fluctuations, access road construction, creek channelization and ice boom climate influences.

- Long term funding to mitigate continuing degradation from project operations over the 50-year license
- Management of shoreline open spaces to protect critical environmental areas and enhance ecological integrity while accommodating recreation and tourist uses.

Official NREC Negotiation Partners 1. Adirondack Mountain Club 2. Buffalo Audubon Society 3. Buffalo Museum of Science/Tifft Nature Preserve 4. Buffalo Ornithological Society 5. Cattaraugus Creek Watershed Task Force 6. Citizens Campaign for the Environment 7. Citizens Environmental Coalition 8. Citizens Regional Transportation Committee 9. Erie County Federation of Sportsmen Clubs 10. Friends of the Buffalo Niagara Rivers 11. Great Lakes United 12. Green Gold Development 13. Lake Plains Conservation and Development Council 14. League of Women Voters – Buffalo/Niagara 15. Missouri Botanical Gardens (staff experts in Niagara Botany) 16. Nature Conservancy WNY Chapter 17. New York Audubon 18. Niagara County Environmental Management Council 19. Niagara Frontier Wildlife Heritage Council 20. Niagara Heritage Partnership 21. Niagara Musky Association 22. Niagara River Anglers 23. Niagara Waterfront Revitalization Task Force 24. Quality Quest Grand Island 25. Sierra Club (Richard Lippes of Sierra WNY is currently seeking approval) 26. Western New York Land Conservancy 27. Wind Action Group

Tony Scime made a motion that we ratify the agreement and remain part of the Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition allowing the Friends of the Buffalo River to act as our agent in negotiating with the Niagara Power Project. Bob Fuller seconded the motion and it was carried.

50/50 Raffle –
Winner- Tom Reynolds

Thank you to the Host Club – Springville Field and Stream

Motion for Adjournment at 10:00 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: _____

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

Thomas Marks, Recording Secretary
7004 Waring Circle
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: _____

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

Thomas Marks, Recording Secretary
7004 Waring Circle
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

11/11/04 - Erie Country Conservation Society

Call to order - 7:40

Pledge to flag lead by President Chuck Godfrey.

Roll call -- Officers and Directors

Excused: Dave Reed, Tony Scime, Hal Lawrence, Dave Barus, and Nelson Cronin

Next meetings and locations:

12/9/04 – Bd. Mtg. – 6:30, Reg. Mtg. – 7:30 – Bison City Rod & Gun, Ohio St, Buffalo

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

3/24/05 – Bd. Mtg. – 6:30, Reg. Mtg. – 7:30 – need location

If your club would like to host a meeting contact President Chuck Godfrey by phone at 675-0057, or e-mail - steelheader@cheekcentfcu.net

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,

Approval

of October Minutes: Motion to accept by Tom Fischer and seconded by Bob Fuller, the motion was carried.

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

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 invoices are 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 letters to Commissioners, Erin Crotty and Bernadette Castro on behalf of the Big Game Committee regarding proposed expansion of bear hunting areas in the Allegany Region.

The first letter:

October 20, 2004

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

Dear Commissioner Crotty:

During the October meeting of the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, affiliate members voted unanimously in favor of the proposed expansion of bear hunting areas in the Western New York area known as the Southern Tier in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Allegany area (NYSDEC Regions 8 and 9).

Bear sightings and encounters with people and property damage have increased markedly in recent years, particularly in the proposed areas of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties.

The ECFS requests that you consider expanding bear hunting opportunities in these areas. Your response to this proposal would be most appreciated.

Respectfully,

Will Elliott

CC: T. Jurczak
G. Wyman

The second letter:

October 20, 2004

Commissioner Bernadette Castro
Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1; 20th Floor
Albany, NY 12238

Dear Commissioner Castro:

During the October meeting of the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, affiliates voted unanimously in favor of a recommendation to open a bear-hunting season in Allegany State Park.

Reports in recent years of increased bear populations - and instances of bear damage involving park camping areas - has prompted hunters in Erie County and Western New York to request that officials consider opening park areas with excessive bear numbers for archery and gun hunting.

ECFS requests that you research and consider implementing a state-managed bear season in the open hunting areas of Allegany State Park. Your response to this proposal would be most appreciated.

Respectfully,

Will Elliott

CC: T. Jurczak
G. Wyman

A letter was sent to the Federation from Fisheries Chief, Doug Stang, concerning the condition of the hatchery system in New York State. Summarized, he said operations and maintenance is very dependent upon funding and finances.

Last spring Mr. Stang said at the NYSCC meeting, budget restraints have resulted in slight decreases in stocking however, only \$800,000 is budgeted for maintenance. Our hatcheries are in need of repair and truck breakdowns have added to the problems. The hatchery system needs about \$20 million dollars to make all the repairs that are needed.

There are two letters that were read concerning Senator Schumer's addition as a co-sponsor to the "Open Fields" bill, S-1840. These are reprinted under Old Business. The letters are between the Yates County Federation and the NYSCC as well as a letter by Senator Schumer to Pres. Cushing and the NYSCC.

President Report – Chuck Godfrey

The DEC has received a complaint about litter on the Buffalo Creek from one of the property owners on the creek in the Blossom Dam area. The property owners are considering posting. We have a very unique situation on the Buffalo Creek. Property owners have been very gracious and allow anyone access from Harlem Road to Blossom Dam. We do not want to jeopardize our access because a few fishermen leave litter. Pres. Chuck Godfrey will contact the DEC or property owners as a Representative from Trout Unlimited to find out the exact situation. He recommends that possibly a cleanup detail from Trout Unlimited and or others clubs visit the creek and rectify the situation.

Standing Committee Reports:

Law Enforcement - Mark Mazurkiewicz

No changes to report this month. Larry Johnson has retired no word on appointments or replacement at this time.

The comment period for the expanded bear hunting range is over, there should be a decision soon any announcement will be made as soon as possible. Doug Case has officially retired; he is regarded as one of the finest officers we had in the region.

There will be another Academy starting Dec. 6, 2004, which will run six months.

Jim Hunt is back in Wyoming County and is already working with his K-9 dog. He has been involved in two cases already and is working out fabulously. There has been another incident with feeding deer in Cheektowaga; a man was arrested. The judge in the Cheektowaga court dismissed the case. The regulations against feeding deer are in place to try and stop the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease.

What is Chronic Wasting Disease? Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a contagious neurological disease affecting deer and elk. It causes a characteristic spongy degeneration of the brains of infected animals resulting in emaciation, abnormal behavior, loss of bodily functions, and death.

CWD belongs to a group of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). Within this family of diseases, there are several other variants that affect domestic animals: scrapie, which has been identified in domestic sheep and goats for more than 200 years, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle (also known as "mad cow disease"), and transmissible mink encephalopathy in farmed mink.

Several rare human diseases are also TSEs. Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) occurs naturally in about one out of every one million people worldwide. Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (v-CJD) has been associated with the large-scale outbreak of BSE in cattle herds in Great Britain.

Only three species of the deer family are known to be naturally susceptible to CWD: elk, mule deer and white-tailed deer. Susceptibility of other members of the deer family (cervids) and other wildlife species is not known, although ongoing research is further exploring this question.

It is not known exactly how CWD is transmitted. The infectious agent may be passed in feces, urine or saliva. Transmission is thought to be lateral (from animal to animal). Although maternal transmission (from mother to fetus) may occur, it appears to be relatively unimportant in maintaining epidemics. The minimal incubation period between infection and development of clinical disease appears to be approximately 16 months. The maximal incubation period is unknown, as is the point at which shedding of the CWD agent begins during the prolonged course of infection.

Because CWD infectious agents are extremely resistant in the environment, transmission may be both direct and indirect. Concentrating deer and elk in captivity or by artificial feeding probably increases the likelihood of both direct and indirect transmission between individuals. Contaminated pastures appear to have served as sources of infection in some CWD epidemics. The apparent persistence of the infectious agents in contaminated environments represents a significant obstacle to eradication of CWD from either captive or free-ranging cervid populations.

The movement of live animals is one of the greatest risk factors in spreading the disease into new areas. Natural movements of wild deer and elk contribute to the spread of the disease, and human-aided transportation of both captive and wild animals greatly exacerbates this risk factor. The apparent spread of CWD between captive and wild cervids is a matter of hot debate. Although strong circumstantial evidence suggests that CWD has spread from positive captive elk to wild cervids in some instances, it may never be proven which group of animals represents the source of infection. It is likely that the disease has been passed in both directions (from captive to wild animals, and from wild to captive animals).

Cases of CWD occur most commonly in adult animals, but also in yearlings. The disease is progressive and always fatal.

The most obvious and consistent clinical sign is weight loss over time. CWD affected animals continue to eat but amounts of feed consumed are reduced, leading to gradual loss of body condition. Excessive drinking and urination are common in the terminal stages.

Behavioral changes also occur in the majority of cases, including decreased interactions with other animals, listlessness, lowering of the head, blank facial expression and repetitive walking in set patterns. In elk, behavioral changes may also include hyper-excitability and nervousness. Excessive salivation, drooling and grinding of the teeth also are observed.

For more information on CWD, visit www.cwd-info.org on the Internet.

Archery & Bowhunting— Dave Reed

No Report

Crossbow Report- Tony Gonnello

No Report

Fish – Hal Lawrence

Tom Marks mentioned that reports on the 2003 walleye spawn success has been spectacular and this year the young walleye from the 2003 spawn are at record numbers, which looks good for the future of the walleye fishery. Unfortunately, the 2004 spawn has been very disappointing. We had ideal conditions this past spring, late ice and calm weather. There are reports from the Central and Western basins' of Lake Erie that this may be the fourth worst walleye spawn on record. Marks made a call to Bill Culligan, at the Lake Erie Unit of the DEC; his comment on this year's spawn in the Eastern Basin was that it was very poor.

Tom Marks made a motion that the Federation write a letter to Bill Culligan asking that when he meets with the other members of the Lake Erie Committee that he recommend that the current TAC (Total Allowable Catch) for walleye be maintained until we have successive years of good walleye spawning and recruitment. Joe Fischer seconded the motion. Comment on the motion by Joe Fischer was that there would be a multitude of walleye in the 15 to 20 inch range next year which is considered the ideal commercial size. This is why we should protect this year class. The motion was carried.

Officer Mark Mazurkiewicz reported that Type E botulism is back with a vengeance on Lakes Erie and Ontario. Over 90 dead diver ducks and loons have been picked up on Hamburg Beach. The timing of the outbreak could not be at a worse time, this year it coincides with the fall migration of tens of thousands of ducks.

Small game -- Dan Tone

Dan Tone announced that after Tony Gonnello's suggestion last month for a "youth day for small game hunting" to get kids interested in hunting. Dan has put together a program sponsored by the Federation, New York State Conservation Council and Gander Mountain. The Youth Program will feature instruction on squirrel, rabbit, pheasant and turkey hunting. Each seminar would last about 45 minutes; there will be drawings and prizes for the kids. The tentative date is December 18 from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

There will be a new Wildlife Manager for Region 9, the person who filling this position will be announced in January.

Pheasant stocking has gone well, there was a shortage of birds. Unfortunately, there were problems at the game farm. We had warned the state not to "put all their eggs in one basket" because bad things can happen and they did. Not all the birds were banded. The birds we did release in the Southern tier however were banded. Many of the bands we get back are from road kills! Banding is valuable because we do get good information on what does happen to the birds. Farms are more efficient in harvesting corn and that maybe why we do not see the carryover from year to year. Few hedgerows are left and the cornfields are cut down to the ground. Years ago the corn when picked was the stalks left were at least knee to waist high affording some cover and food from missed ears of corn.

The fall turkey season is going well with reports of some big gobblers taken. Dan reported that he is seeing lots of adults but no young birds. He is wondering if other hunters have encountered the same thing. Was it a hard spring and summer with few young hatched?

Big game – Paul Stoos

Will Elliot spoke to Jim Snyder and Jim reported that there have been some big bucks seen, however not many deer. Due to the wet summer, there was a poor mast crop this year. Jim predicts a lot of big racks this year...but that remains to be seen.

Trapping -- Patti Wattengel

We are going to have the Fur Auction and Seminars this January 2, 2006. All the information is in a flyer attached to this newsletter.

Waterfowl – Paul Pietraszewski

No Report

Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

The Federation has decided to promote the voluntary "Buck A Member Program" proposed by the Council. This, if successful, will insure a reliable source of income to meet the future needs for our only "conservation rights" lobbying organization in our state. For those clubs who feel this is a worthwhile cause, please make checks payable to - "New York State Conservation Council" and send to - 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 them 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.

If you have a Resolution for the NYSCC you need to get it in by the Dec meeting.

January 30, 2006, at 12:30 PM there will be a NYSCC meeting in Western New York at Gander Mountain. All Sporting Club Presidents are invited to attend. Howard Cushing will be there.

Environment and Pollution – Tom Marks

Oak-killing disease found on a tree in New York State (could be the latest in invasive species to hit)

The discovery of a red oak tree in New York State infected with the killer disease known as "sudden oak death" could force changes in a nationwide quarantine of California nurseries as scientists re-evaluate the spread of the mysterious microbe. The infected tree was found earlier this month inside the Tiffany Creek Preserve, a 192-acre nature park in Nassau County, and nowhere near any nurseries that might have received diseased flora from California.

Forestry experts are at a loss to explain how the pathogen got to the preserve or how long it has been there. Sudden oak death has killed tens of thousands of oaks in the so-called "zone of infestation," the 13 counties in California and in southern Oregon where its presence has been confirmed.

A nationwide quarantine of California nursery plants was started after the discovery in March that Monrovia Growers, California's largest nursery, was infested with the tree-killing disease. Some 600,000 plants in that nursery alone had to be destroyed, and the California nursery industry estimates it has lost \$50 million in revenue.

The New York oak tree's lack of any apparent connection to California is particularly troubling to regulators and puzzling to scientists. David Rizzo, the UC Davis plant pathologist who helped discover the pathogen, said it's still possible that the area was contaminated, maybe even by hikers who flew into nearby John F. Kennedy Airport from California and then drove to the area.

The Emerald Ash Borer

The emerald ash borer, a tiny, bright-green insect native to Asia, is a newly discovered threat to North America's trees and forests. The insect was first identified in June 2002, as the culprit in a large die-off of ash trees in southeast Michigan. Canadian authorities then found that the borer was also killing ash trees in the Windsor area of southwestern Ontario.

The beetle spends part of its life beneath the bark of the ash tree, chewing a serpentine pattern of channels between the bark and the

sapwood. This causes the tree to die, often within one or two growing seasons. Like many other invasive insect species, the emerald ash borer is thought to have arrived in North America in packing material from Asia.

The emerald ash borer in northwest Ohio has struck the Toledo area again. The larvae, which will typically kill an adult ash tree in three to five years, were found on three trees in Point Place on city property near 288th and 108th streets, and on two trees on private property on Pickle Road in Oregon, along Otter Creek just east of State Rt. 51.

Ohio Department of Agriculture officials said they will mark a half-mile radius around all infested trees this week and cut down every ash tree in that area. They aren't sure how many trees will need to be cut. They also will survey every ash tree in an additional mile radius beyond the area to be cut. Each additional infested tree will be treated as a separate infestation and would be the center of another half-mile radius of ash trees to be cut down.

Agriculture department officials admit that existing infestations are pressing their time and budgetary restraints. They hope to cut around every infested site by mid-May - when the new generation of adult beetles will emerge, fly, and feed - but say it is not certain, given the number of sites, whether they will be able to do that.



These two exotic invasive species have had a devastating impact on our forests and the wildlife that inhabit them. Invasive species are a form of biological pollution; the threat to the ecosystem is a reduction in the biodiversity of our ecosystem. Two trees that have become extinct in North America in our lifetime due to invasive species are the American Chestnut and Elm trees and now the Ash tree and Red Oak are threatened. Today we have fewer species of native trees in our forests, in one hundred years how many will we have left, and what of the wildlife that depends on these trees?

The emerald ash borer has already caused an estimated \$11.6 million in landscape industry and wood lot losses, and approximately \$2 million in lost nursery stock sales. The replacement value of the ash trees in the affected regions is estimated to be at least \$11.7 billion; this figure excludes their aesthetic, oxygen-producing, and habitat-providing values. Assuming that the emerald ash borer is capable of spreading through all urban areas of the lower 48 states and destroying all urban ash trees, the United States could suffer a national undiscounted loss of \$20 to \$60 billion.

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

The Assault Weapon Ban (S1431) has been reintroduced with some additions, including any weapon that has been used by the military which could include shotguns and many pistols.

There were some positive election results, Tom Daschel was voted out he was a supporter for gun control legislation. Jack Quinn Jr. was elected to replace Assemblyman Dick Smith. Young Quinn ran on the Republican and the Sportsman's ticket and has stated he is a supporter of 2nd amendment rights. On the down side Brian Higgins was elected, he was rated a D minus by Scope on his support for 2nd Amendment rights.

Louisiana has passed the constitutional amendment to guarantee the right to hunt, fish and trap by a margin of 81 to 19 percent.

The bill in New York has languished in committee and stands little chance for action at this time. With Dick Smith retiring, we have lost the bills sponsor.

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

Sportsman Education – Frank Miskey
No Report ...

Awards - Will Elliot

If you have recommendations for awards let Will Elliot know. The following are the award categories and some of the past recipients. Sometimes there are special recognition awards as they are merited.

Stanley Spisiak Conservationist of the Year Memorial Award Mike Koestler, Dan Tone; **Public Servant of the Year** Fred Langdon
Volunteer of the Year Jerry King, Irv Thompson; **Sportsman of the Year** David Reed; **Sportswoman of the Year** Valerie Gonnello, Julie Adrian; **Club of the Year** Elma Conservation Club, East Aurora Fish & Game Club; **Youth of the Year** Jacob Kwapiszeski; **Media/Public Relations Award** Gary Sheffield, Triple S; **Lifetime Achievement Award** Robert Fuller, Ben Lewandowski; **President's Award** Paul Stoos, Don Davis; **Dedicated Service Award** Ray Gwarek, Chuck Godfrey.

Special Committee Reports:

Banquet –

There will be a meeting on Dec 20 at 7:00 P.M. at Elma Conservation Club. Anyone who would like to help should try to attend this meeting.

We are selling ads to cover the cost of printing for the Banquet booklet. We have sold enough ads to cover the cost the last two years. This year we would like to ask everyone to try and sell an ad or two if possible. There is an ad rate sheet at the end of this newsletter you can print it out to use as an aid for selling ads.

Educational --Chuck Godfrey

We already have three 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.

FWMB- Bob Church
No Report

Shows— Fred Langdon
No Report

National Hunting and Fishing Day
No Report

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.

Fund Raising – Tony Gonnello...

Old Business:

We have been discussing the past couple months Senator Schumer's co-sponsorship of Senate bill S-1840. An article in the NYSCC newsletter, The Grass Roots, precipitated this. It was reported 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 (S-1840). 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. Last month we printed a letter stating the position of Depew Rod and Gun club on this issue. This month we have a copy of a letter from Senator Schumer to Howard Cushing, Pres. of the NYSCC, which should explain how it was that Senator Schumer signed onto this bill.

July 21, 2004

Mr. Howie Cushing
President
NYS Conservation Council, Inc.
8S East Main Street
Illion, NY 13357

Dear Mr. Cushing:

Thank you and Mr. Wally John for meeting with my staff in Albany on July 7, to discuss S-1840 and the effort to open up more space for recreational use.

As a result of this meeting my legislative staff has reviewed the bill, and I have decided to add my name as a co-sponsor. I am hopeful that it will provide incentive for private landowners to voluntarily provide access for sportsmen and women. With so much of the private land restricted from use, we need to find a way to broaden access for outdoor activities, like hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling. I think it can be a real win-win situation, because it can be a helpful source of income to the landowners as well.

I appreciate your bringing this issue to my attention and please let me know if I can be of further assistance to you and the thousands of sportsmen and women of our state.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Schumer
US, Senator

The following letter is again concerning the same issue and it expresses the opinion of the Yates Federation. The Yates County Federation sent the following letter to the NYSCC. This was voted unanimously by the delegates of the ten member clubs.

Yates County Federation of Conservation Clubs

November 9, 2004

New York State Conservation Council 8 East Main Street Ilion, NY 13357

Officers of the Council,

The Yates County Federation of Conservation Clubs and its 1300 members wishes to express our concern and disagreement with the action of Council President Howard Cushing in appearing at a recent press conference with Senator Chuck Schumer. While this action may have been taken with the best interest of NY sports people in mind, we feel most strongly that any action lending support to Senator Schumer is totally at odds with the true interests of these same sports people.

Senator Schumer has never voted in favor of any legislation that would benefit those of us interested in hunting, fishing or the shooting sports. In fact, he has worked aggressively to subvert our Second Amendment rights. For the Senator to propose something that ostensibly benefits sports people, it is done purely for the purpose of pandering votes from the outdoors community and creating a photo opportunity. For the Council to stand with him, regardless of the issue, lends him support and credibility that is undeserved and clearly not in our long term best interests.

We appreciate Mr. Cushing's efforts on behalf of the Council and its' members. However, please accept our strong statement of discontent and disagreement with any action that supports a political opponent of our Second Amendment rights.

Sincerely,

N. Keith Kappel
Secretary, Yates County Federation of Conservation Clubs

Distribution:

Howard Cushing, President NYSCC
W. R. Conners, 1st Vice President
F. Neff, 2nd Vice President
W. John, Legislative Vice President
C. Coffin Sr., Secretary
J. Pasco, Treasurer

Nominations for officers, Directors, NYSCC Council Persons

Nominations for election of Officers and Directors for 2005

2005 Officers:

Nominations so far

President -Chuck Godfrey
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 at this meeting.

1st Vice President – Joe Fischer

Nominations for Directors (3 yr. term)

Spencer Schoefield

Nominations are closed; there will be a vote by the Rec. Secretary at the December to make it official.

New Business:

CFAB – Fred Langdon

At the Nov. Meeting for the CFAB, the DEC handed out the proposal for the restructuring of the Big Game Season in the Southern Zone.

Specific goals for 2005 include:

- Addressing a need for increased opportunities for young hunters by establishing weekend opening day opportunities.
- Addressing a need to create new and innovative opportunities for special implement hunters, specifically muzzleloader hunters who can currently purchase season-specific muzzleloader hunting privileges, however these licenses are currently limited to a one-week late season in the Southern Zone.
- Target additional antlerless harvest by expanding opportunities for DMP use, along with greater use of DMP and Either Sex and Antlerless Only Bow/Muzz 3/2 tags.
- Adopt a season structure in the Southern Zone with opportunities similar to those that are available in the Northern Zone.

-Establish clear, simple opening day rule structure for better hunter understanding and future planning.

Deer Mgt. Team Southern Zone Season Recommendation Package for 2005 and thereafter:

Early Archery Season - First Saturday In October running for 14 days. For 2005: October 1 thru October 14.

Early Special Muzzleloader Season (Antlerless Only) - Third Saturday in October running for 7 days.

For 2005: October 15 thru October 21.

- Certain WMUs excluded, based upon need to restrict antlerless harvest.

- Archery season closed.

Early Archery Season - Fourth Saturday in October running until the day before the regular season.

For 2005: October 22 thru November 18

Regular Season - Third Saturday in November running for 23 days.

For 2005: November 19 - December 11 (includes four weekends)

Late Archery and Muzzleloader Seasons: First day after the close of the regular. Season running for seven days.

For 2005: December 12 thru - December 18. (Any leftover tags are valid)

This restructuring utilizes the "Saturday Opener" concept as the standard opening day conventions: the 1st Saturday in Oct. for the Special archery, the 3rd Saturday in Oct for the special muzzleloader season, 4th Saturday in October for second half early archery and the 3rd Saturday in November for the regular season.

Proposed Schedule:

December 1, 2004 Rulemaking Initiation Memorandum submitted to Executive staff.

January 15, 2005 Approved Rulemaking Package submitted to Dept of State.

February 1, 2005 Rulemaking notice appears in the NYS Register,

Public comment period begins.

State of the Deer Herd 2005 outreach begins.

Mid- March, 2005 Public Comment period concludes.

Notice of adoption submitted to Dept of State for publication in the NYS Register

April 1, 2005 Revised regulation package adopted.

Season structure change announced in a News Release and DEC website.

July/August, 2005 Season structure appears in 2005-06 Hunting and Trapping Guide and hunter mailings.

Dan Tone asks that we take this information to our clubs and that we have a good discussion at the December and January meetings. We should have enough information and feedback so we can have a vote on whether to support or not to support the proposals.

Dan Tone there is \$76,000 for habitat and another \$600,000 in the conservation fund for gas and oil drilling, Dan asks that we vote on trying to get this money put into the habitat fund. The state is trying to sell licenses; they have done very little for habitat. Much of the habitat restoration done years ago has become mature woods offering little for wildlife. The old CC forests and orchards need to be cut back so low foliage can grow. Dan made a resolution that this federation supports returning the money to habitat and that Fred Langdon take our position back to CFAB. Bob Fuller seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

50/50 Raffle –

Winner- Dan Tone

Thank you to the Host Club – Erie Country Conservation Society

Motion for Adjournment at 10:15 PM

New York State Region 9 Erie County Trappers Association

FUR AUCTION Sunday, January 2, 2005

**S&S Taxidermy & Archery Pro Shop
Route 219 Springville, N. Y. 1 mile from Route 39**

Just south of Wal-Mart

**Check-in: 8:00 AM
Open Bid Raw Fur Auction
Begins at 10:00 AM**

Also: Free Fur Handling Seminar!
(Will start shortly afterwards)

Join us to learn better techniques for preparing pelts.

Learn About Pelting, Fleshing, Stretching, Drying & Sizing

*** Beaver * Muskrat * Raccoon * Mink * Fox * Coyote**

Contact Patti Wattengel (716) 337-2556
or Andic at S&S (716) 592-2404

COME AND ENJOY THE DAY !



Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.
Member of NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION COUNCIL



ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM BANQUET ADS

Full Page Ad
5" X 7"

-- Organization, Business or Individual Name
-- Desired Information

\$100.00

Banquet Date: *March 5, 2005*
Place: *Father Justin 's Knights of Columbus*
2735 Union Road
Cheektowaga, NY

Half Page Ad
5" X3.5"

-- Organization, Business or Individual Name
-- Desired Information

\$50.00

Payment and Paper Ads

send to: *Dan Tone*
1829 Davis Rd.
West Falls, NY 14170
 (716) 655-0975

Electronic Ads send to: fedprezk@yahoo.com

Kent Kruse
 (716) 655-4056

Ads & Payment *must be received no later than* February 1, 2005
Please make checks payable to: Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc

All proceeds from Advertisement sales will benefit Federation programs such as DEC Conservation Youth Camps, Youth Archery Programs, Pheasant Stocking Programs, Environmental Scholarships, Kids Fishing Clinics, Hunter's Education Programs and Women's Outdoor Education Programs.

The following is informational material and not part of the minutes and is only the opinion of the writers. It was from an e-mail I received and ended up as an article.

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

From: Schofield, Spencer

Sent: Monday, November 29, 2004 9:42 AM

Subject: BASS PRO VOTE GO TO WBEN.COM AND VOTE ON BRINGING BASS PRO TO TOWN!!!!

Good Morning,

Go to wben.com and vote on bringing BassPro to town ... The vote is running negative???

Spencer.

REPLY FROM Tom Marks

Spencer,

It was not all that long ago on WBEN they had a call in show where almost 100% of the callers supported the Bass Pro Shop coming to Buffalo... even with the city and county funding... because at the time they tried to make it look like our elected officials couldn't get the job done ... That caller support for their position was a "statement" on how inept our elected officials were...

Now the deal has gone through so now for ratings and to continue to slam our local officials these shows turn it around and ask why should we pay... trying to inflame and rile up a some listeners... that is how they get callers. It is too bad these guys are **promoters of negativism**.... that is how they make controversy and get callers and of course ratings. They are worse than bad weather I do not listen to them. Look what the blizzard of '77 did for our reputation... WBEN just keeps trying to capitalize on negatives even whether they are true or not.

I was at the Bass Pro announcement and it was great ...it was the most positive thing I have seen... only great things will come from it!

Tom Marks

The WBEN SURVEY vote was at last check 73% against Bass Pro and 27% for Bass Pro

Outdoor Scene

By Tom Marks

The past was an exciting week for outdoor enthusiasts. The announcement of Bass Pro Shops opening a huge store in downtown Buffalo is something to get excited about. What really is amazing is that our outdoor heritage and culture is about to help give our local economy a catalyst to start the revitalization of a declining city. It took almost two years of hard negotiations to convince Bass Pro Shops that Buffalo and Western New York was worth their investment of over \$55 million to build the store. This is old news now you have read about it the news and saw the announcement on TV and you have heard the radio talk show host try to make a controversy about some of the public money for the project.

Let me shed a little light the public money. It is going to be spent on infrastructure for the downtown access and transportation hub and renovations to the Aud so we can rent it to any tenant. Whether Bass Pro was coming or not the improvements to the city were needed and will benefit everyone including business already there and any future businesses. No matter what the future if we want new business and people to come downtown especially tourists we needed to make the investment. I was trying to figure out what kind of economic benefit Bass Pro may bring. I do not think it will be negative for the small Bait and Tackle Shops in the area. If I want to shop Bass Pro I just use the mail order catalog now. The Bass Pro may hurt Gander Mountain, they compete for some of the same customers. However for Bass Pro to succeed they will need to draw a lot of customers from outside Western New York, and that is what Bass Pro is good at. Their mega-

stores draw people from hundreds of miles it is this customer base that they count on. Bass Pro averages between 3 and 5 million visitors per store per year. If the Buffalo store lures in just four million visitors a year, the economic impact will be great. It is hard to spend just \$10 in a Bass Pro Shop, a hat, or a shirt or a few lures and your bill is over \$10. The store here will be gigantic and will take a few hours to see so that means a lunch or dinner. Using a standard formula for economic impact, that store will generate over \$10 million in tax revenue a year for Erie County. That is just one business and if it becomes a catalyst for more development along the waterfront, it will have been a very good investment indeed. Our region has a lot to offer we have some of the best fishing in the country, beautiful scenery, parks, hiking trails, and I could go on. The secret is out and the world will be coming just get ready.

I was at the announcement ceremonies and had the opportunity to talk to Johnny Morris, owner of Bass Pro Shops. We talked about the great fishing and hunting here, and he is excited to be coming to Buffalo. Johnny Morris has not fished for our local waters for smallmouth bass but when Jim Hanley explained that records were broken for a total tournament weight (over 8000 pounds weighed in at the Everstart here last summer) I could see John's eyes light up. He kept looking at the lake wishing he had time to sample our great fishery. We promised he can go fishing with us any time, and I am sure he will.

Do not forget to stop at Gander Mountain on December 14 at 6:30 PM. Guys send your wives I will be helping them with Christmas gift ideas, and if you do not know what to get the lady in your life I will have Julie Adrian helping me with that. January 25, 2005 at Gander Mountain I will be presenting a seminar on Invasive Species in the Great Lakes. I will be at the Rochester Sportsmen's Show March 5th speaking about the Great Lakes Invaders. If you need a speaker for a meeting or function, I am available with a range of topics from environmental to the outdoors. I am waiting for some good hunting stories if you got one contact me and maybe we can get it published. If you have, any comments or questions e-mail me at Tommarks@verizon.net



NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



2004-05 Cooperator Ruffed Grouse Hunting Log

Instructions:

Dear Cooperator:

Thank you for choosing to participate in the annual survey of grouse hunters! The information you provide is used to monitor long-term trends in ruffed grouse populations. Please adhere to the following guidelines:

- ✓ Record all of your grouse hunting trips, successful or unsuccessful.
- ✓ Only record hunts that take place in New York State.
- ✓ Only record your individual totals, not those of your hunting partner(s).
- ✓ Record whether or not you hunted on public land (e.g., Wildlife Mgmt. Areas, State Forests, etc.).
- ✓ Round the number of hours you hunted to the nearest whole hour.
- ✓ Record the information neatly in the boxes so it is legible.
- ✓ Keep the log in your vehicle and complete it after each hunt!
- ✓ **DO NOT** count grouse that you know are re-flushes or flushed by other hunters in your group.

Example Cooperator Ruffed Grouse Hunting Log

Did you hunt ruffed grouse during the 2004-05 season?

Yes No If No, stop here. If Yes, continue below.

Date (Month/Day)	County (First 4 letters)	WMU *	Public Land?	# Hours Hunted	# Grouse Flushed	# Grouse Killed	Hunted w/ Dog?
10 / 15	TOMP	7R	<input type="radio"/> Y <input checked="" type="radio"/> N	2	02	1	<input type="radio"/> Y <input checked="" type="radio"/> N
10 / 15	MADI	7M	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	4	05	2	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N
12 / 07	SCHO	4F	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	6	06	2	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N

* Wildlife Management Unit (from Hunting & Trapping Regulations Guide)

At the close of the grouse hunting season, please return the completed log in the postage-paid envelope provided or mail it to:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources
81 Game Farm Road
Ithaca, New York 14850
Phone: (607) 273-2768

If you downloaded these forms from the DEC website, please contact us at the number above and we will provide you with a postage-paid envelope.

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 again and good luck this season!



NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



2004-05 Cooperator Ruffed Grouse Hunting Log

Identification # (from hunting license)
 - -

Name:
 Address:
 Phone/e-mail:

Please PRINT in blue or black ink only.

Correct Incorrect

A A

Did you hunt ruffed grouse during the 2004-05 season?
 Yes No If No, stop here. If Yes, continue below.

Date (Month/Day)	County (First 4 letters)	WMU *	Public Land?	# Hours Hunted	# Grouse Flushed	# Grouse Killed	Hunted w/ Dog?
<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	OYON	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	OYON
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* Wildlife Management Unit (from Hunting & Trapping Regulations Guide)

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