



Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs, Inc.

P.O. Box 3201, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603
www.dutchessfishandgame.org

The Voice of the Sportsman since 1932

February 9, 2023 Regular Delegates Meeting

Short Hills Restaurant, Washington Hollow, NY

The meeting was opened at 7:40 PM by President Anthony Pittore

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Anthony Pittore.

A moment of silence was observed for armed services personnel, first responders, and past Federation members.

Roll Call: 25 people were in attendance, representing 16 clubs.

Guests

Deo Reed, DEC ECO, spoke on the following:

- A person was bitten by a coyote in the Marist College, Culinary Institute area of Hyde Park. The animal has not yet been located.
- ECO Davey of Columbia County has retired.
- There has been some Striped Bass poaching in the Hudson River near Peekskill. The Stripers are already running up the river.

Anthony introduced a new delegate from East Hook Sportsmens Assn.: Frank Zaccaro.

Bill Conners introduced John Lobotsky from Rhinebeck, who is 97 years old, a longtime sportsman, a member of multiple Federation member clubs, and owner of Wonderland Nursery in Rhinebeck. Mr. Lobotsky spoke about the initiative to restore American Chestnut trees in Ulster and Dutchess County forests (and elsewhere), and his involvement with that initiative. A professor from Ithaca College, Alan Nichols, is a leader in this movement and has chestnuts available to those who wish to help. He can be reached at 607-263-5105. Mr. Lobotsky encouraged folks to get involved if interested in restoring these trees in our forests. For more information, he can be reached at 845-876-3875.

Minutes/Reports

The Treasurer's Report was accepted upon a motion by Ken Rose and a second by Skip North. All-in-favor (AIF).

The minutes of the previous delegates meeting on January 12, 2023 were approved upon a motion by Ken Foster and a second by John Lucas. AIF

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on January 23, 2023 were approved upon a motion by Tom Fiumarello and a second by Jim Guyette. AIF

Committee Reports

Hunters Helping the Hungry

Anthony Pittore reported that a deer cull is in progress in Westchester County and we have gotten some deer from it, with more expected to come. He thanked all who have been helping with the processing.

Fish

Anthony Pittore stated that the annual Family Fishing Day event is planned for Sunday April 23rd at Overlook Park in Lagrange. The event will be from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The town is doing some tree and brush clearing from around the pond to make it more accessible for anglers.

Anthony also announced that we will be helping Trout Unlimited with a Veterans Fishing Day at the same location the day before on Saturday the 22nd. Same time 9:00 – 1:00. The pond will be stocked several days before the events.

Jr. Hunter Pheasant Hunt

Anthony Pittore stated that the hunt is planned for September 23rd. He is working on obtaining the legal ability to buy and supply ammo for this event and for the Youth Trap League.

Conservation Education

Pete Kraayenbrink reported that we have sent the funds for the DEC camp sponsorships. Based on the latest information, we think we have applications for 12 kids. April 2nd is the opening date for registrations. Contact Scott at 914-475-1135 if you have more applications to submit or for more information.

Fundraising

Ken Foster reported the official results of the annual 50/50 fundraiser. Receipts were \$6,520.

The \$3,260 1st prize was won by Richard Brown (ticket 0041). The \$300 2nd prize went to Mike Humbert (0384), and 3rd prize of \$200 went to John Harkin (0046). Net income was \$2,760.

Anthony Pittore thanked Ken for his efforts.

Tom Fiumarello stated that the Board of Directors approved moving forward with a Federation sponsored sporting clays shoot at Mid-Hudson Sporting Clays in New Paltz. Member clubs, private clubs, and first responders, will be invited to send teams to compete for “Best of the Hudson Valley” trophies. The shoot is intended to be primarily a great day of shooting and good food and comradery, and secondarily a fundraiser, which could potentially eliminate the need for an annual raffle. The shoot is planned for Saturday July 15th. He encouraged all clubs to send teams to make this event a great success. More information will be made available at the next regular meeting.

Tom also mentioned that he will again be organizing a sporting clays shoot for Canine Cancer Research this year. The Conservation Awareness Foundation (CAF) will be co-sponsoring the event. It will be held on June 17th. There will be a lot of prizes and raffles. Previous years’ events have been very well received and have raised a lot of money for this cause.

Legislation (and other conservation news)

Bill Connors spoke on the following topics:

- The state CFAB board still does not have a representative from Region 3, even though candidates have been presented to state legislature to appoint. Bill asked for a motion to send a resolution to the NYS Assembly majority leader to fill the seat. Ken Rose made the motion with a 2nd by Skip North. AIF.
- Under the heading of incredulous bills introduced by apparently clueless legislators, a Wildlife Crossing Act is a bill in the state Senate. How to convince wildlife to cross at the designated places is still TDB. (Bill# S4198).

- NYS Senate bill# S1725 would add more protections for class C waters, like the small Fallkill Creek. It is saying there will be no fiscal implications, which is not possible.
- Bill provided copies of the 2023 Legislative Guide which lists all the legislative representatives relative to Dutchess County, at all levels and their contact information. He will email out a PDF version of the guide.
- The NY courts have bundled all of the lawsuits against the Concealed Carry Improvement Act (CCIA), so that all the arguments can be heard at the same time, which will be in March. It will likely go to the US Supreme Court.
- More states are enacting similar laws as the CCIA.
- NY is also placing much more stringent regulations on FFL gun dealers, making it very difficult for small dealers to stay in business, and therefore making it harder to buy guns and ammo. The state is basically suffocating gun ownership via multiple ways.
- Bill believes that the various groups behind the lawsuits are putting up a good fight, especially Gun Owners of America (GOA). But it is very costly. So gun owners and organizations will have to step up to financially support these groups.

Bill asked for a motion to ask the Board of Directors to consider a donation to GOA for an amount to be determined by the Board. Pete Kraayenbrink made the motion and a 2nd by Ken Foster.

A lot of discussion ensued about the role of the Federation to support the gun rights effort and how much. John O'Donnell, 110 Rod & Gun Club delegate, specifically asked what the Federation is doing for member clubs to support gun rights, so that he can report that back to 110. John was non-committal when asked what 110 is doing beyond his sharing of information on the laws and lawsuits amongst its members.

Bill Connors stated that he believes that shifting the Federation's lobbying efforts from fish and wildlife and conservation issues to gun rights issues, will only reduce our effectiveness with the conservation issues. There are many other groups better equipped to fight for gun rights. And that was the reason he asked for the motion to consider a donation; to stay within our mission but to give some support.

Bill encouraged clubs and their members to donate, as able, to the groups directly, but to let us know so that we can document the total that Dutchess County clubs have donated.
(Ulster County has donated over \$30K so far.)

Anthony Pittore recited the Federation's Objective (aka mission statement) from the ByLaws. See attached.

The motion on the floor was finally voted on and carried.

New York State Conservation Council

No report.

Communications

None reported.

Unfinished (Old) Business

None reported.

New Business

Anthony Pittore spoke with Bernie Walker, who was appointed as Federation Director-at-Large. He hopes to get Bernie here to meetings as he is able.

Announcements

Tom Fiumarello, speaking for Brian Mihans, announced a Mid-Hudson Valley Ruffed Grouse Society Wild Game Dinner in Mount Kisco on March 25th. There is also a gun raffle.

For information, contact Brian Mihans at 914-548-0476 or bmihans@yahoo.com

Bob Haan stated that he received a call from an NRA person asking about staffing a booth at the upcoming Northeast Sports Show at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds on May 20th & 21st. He will get more information as to what the NRA is seeking.

Tom Gannon stated that Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club is making a lot of changes at their DC Fair exhibit. Also, the club is holding their annual fishing derby on April 16th.

50/50 raffle winner – John Lobotsky.

Next regular meeting date: March 9, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Holsopple,
Secretary

Attachment - Bylaws excerpt:

ARTICLE II OBJECTIVES

- Section 1*** The objectives of the Federation shall be to unite the sportsmen's clubs of Dutchess County in the endeavor to create closer cooperation among themselves, with landowners, with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and with all others interested in conserving the wildlife and all other natural resources; to assist in the propagation and distribution of fish and game; to foster desirable conservation legislation; to improve game protection and reduce game law violations to the end that good fellowship between legislators, landowners, sportsmen's clubs and sportsmen generally, may be promoted. Organization promotes the economic value of hunting, fishing, trappings, and recreational shooting in New York State.
- Section 2*** The Federation shall be an annual member of the NYSCC Inc.
- Section 3*** The Federation at the discretion of the Board of Directors shall be an annual member of The NRA Inc.