



Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs, Inc.  
*"Dutchess County's Voice of the Sporting Community"*

P.O. Box 3201, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603

[www.dutchessfishandgame.org](http://www.dutchessfishandgame.org)

**Delegates' Meeting  
May 11, 2023  
Short Hills Restaurant**

**Call to order:** President called meeting to order at 7:50 PM – twenty (20) minutes behind schedule.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The President led the Pledge, followed by a moment of silence for our military, police, first responders and deceased Federation leaders and members.

**Roll Call:** 26 members representing 17 clubs, in attendance.

**Guests:** **Andrew Pelletier, Guest of** Hank Eichenhofer introduced Andrew Pelletier, from Chestnut Ridge Rod & Gun Club, was a first-time attendee,. Andrew has a background in Biologic Ecology and has worked in that field in a number of states. He is active with Chestnut Ridge and was interested in becoming familiar with the Federation.

At the request of a new member, introductions were offered by everyone in attendance to put names with the faces in the room (for our more recent members).

**Committee Chairman change:** Scott Emslie (and wife Jackie) will be retiring to Florida near the end of 2023. It is important that his position as Chair of the Conservation Education Committee not remain vacant. To that end, the President (Anthony Pittore) appointed Dave Morrison of Trout Unlimited to fill a seat as Director and he will replace Emslie upon his departure. Dave has already been very active with the hunters Helping the Hungry Program. Dave's appointment was unanimously confirmed by the Delegates.

**Treasurer's Report:** Approved as presented on a motion by Scott Emslie.

**April Minutes:** On a motion by Scott Emslie, accepted by unanimous vote.

**April BoD Minutes:** On a motion by Scott Emslie, accepted by unanimous vote.

**Communications:** N/A

## **Committee Reports:**

**Hunters Helping the Hungry:** Pittore informed everyone that the Walk-in Cooler is empty right now and probably will remain so for a while. He will be asking for help to give the cooler and thorough cleaning. Watch for an email on that subject and please volunteer is at all possible.

DEC Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) contacted Anthony Pittore to offer to HHH a black bear that had been illegally shot in Dover Plains. The bear was more than 600# [closer to 625], but because it had been shot at midnight, not field dressed, and did not arrive at Wappingers until 2 PM, after closer examination it was determined that we could not be certain that it was still safe for human consumption. The head and paws were removed, handed off to DLE and the carcass was composted.

**Fish Committee/stocking:** Ken Rose Reported that the City of Pok PBA informed him that they are going to hold a "Get Hooked on Fishing" event. Ken inquired as to whether or not we were going to stock Morgan Lake in anticipation of the event. Ken will check with the PBA and the Catskill Hatchery to determine how we should proceed. Ken will check back with the board. Ken was authorized to spend up to \$1200 for trout if necessary.

**Veterans Fishing Event:** The event was organized by Trout Unlimited. Our guest veterans, by all accounts, had a good time. Approximately 18 vets participated along with reps from the County Office of Veterans Affairs, TU and Federation members. Chili, hotdogs, hamburgers, snacks, and drinks were provided. Rods and reels were available for anyone needing them. They did more visiting and eating than fishing. A few vets did catch trout. Next year the focus may shift to a BBQ.

**Family Fishing Day:** In spite of the soggy weather, about 100 kids attended with their parents. A few parents brought portable canopies and set them up lakeside to keep the kids out of the weather. Not many trout were caught, but the kids had a good time. We cooked about 250 hotdogs for the kids, parents, and workers.

**Youth Pheasant Hunt:** The lower road and parking lot and staging area at Lafayetteville have been repaired by DEC's Division of Operations. Ken Rose mentioned that there may be a problem with the entrance to the upper fields. Pittore will visit Lafayetteville to see if there is an issue.

Via Tom Fiumarello, Mid-Hudson Sporting Clays in New Paltz, has offered a free round of sporting clays for kids who are registered for the hunt (up to 20 kids). Anyone who registers a child for the hunt should contact Tom at 845-625-3151 to make arrangements for the sporting clays offer.

DEC has not announced any progress on providing birds for the special hunts (or any other pheasant programs as of this date).

**Conservation Education:** DEC now has staffing for the Pack Forest Camp. Signup begins Monday, May 15. Anyone who does not make it to camp this year is eligible next year (but eligibility will have to be confirmed at that time).

**Youth Trap Program:** 3 kids turned for last session. Tom Gannon said they continue to look for more shooters for the Youth Trap Shooting Program. There is also a need for more clubs to offer to host the kids program.

**[Fundraising] Federation Sporting Clays Shoot:** Flyers are available for posting in your clubs. Please promote the event, it has the potential to replace the funds raised by the annual Club 36 raffle. That will not happen if Delegates do not go back to their clubs and [strongly] encourage participation of members AND non-members alike. The registration form will be on the website soon.

**Canine Cancer Shoot:** Scheduled for June 17. Fiumarello believes there approx. 80 shooters registered for the event at Mid-Hudson Sporting Clays in New Paltz. He thinks the number of shooters may double by game day. Donations are tax deductible to the limit of IRS Law.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Lawsuits** – 110 Rod and Gun will hold a Sporting Clays Shoot June 25<sup>th</sup>. Single starting time. Registration is from 8 AM – 8:30 AM. Shooting starts at 9:00 AM. Proceeds will be used to support 2nd Amendment Lawsuits via state level gun rights organization.

**Legislation/Conservation, NYSCC, etc.:**

### **Legislative Chairman Report May Delegates' Meeting**

#### **Youth Deer Hunting:**

The Youth Big Game Hunting bill that has allowed 12 -15-year-olds to hunt deer with a firearm since 2021, will be sunseting on 12-31-23. The Governor's 2023 Budget Bill extended the Youth Deer Hunting Bill until 12-31-2025. However, counties that opted-in to the original bill, but included the sunset clause, will now have to pass a new Local Law to extend the opt-in until 12-31-25.

#### **Lead Ammo:**

The State Assembly passed a bill that would ban lead ammunition from all state lands, all Department of Environmental Protection (NYC) lands, and Private Lands that provide surface water to the NYC Reservoir System. The Senate has not moved the "same as" bill from committee. A call to your State Senator and members of the Senate EnCon Committee would be advisable.

#### **Gun law "Sensitive Areas":**

The state's most onerous gun law, the "Concealed Carry Improvement Act (CCIA)," created a massive list of "Sensitive Areas" across the state where firearms cannot be carried, even by permit holders. In their zeal to "make everyone safe," the Legislature banned firearms from all state and municipal parks [and other places too numerous to mention here]. The list included the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve (Parks). That meant that the nearly 6.6 million acres of both private and public lands in the Adirondacks and Catskills were off limits for firearms, meaning even licensed gun owners could no longer carry any firearm within the Blue Line (Boundary) of either Park.

The Governor's 2023 Budget bill repealed the Blue Line provision of the CCIA. Other provisions of the CCAI are being contested in the Federal Court system, including SCOTUS.

There is still a need for additional contributions to advocacy organizations to provide the finances necessary to carry the court challenges through to their conclusion.

### Bills Currently Active:

**DayBreak Report: 2023 Daily Active Bills Report**

**Run Date: 05/09/23  
00:10 AM**

<a href="#">A6787</a>	<b>Rosenthal L</b> -- Prohibits the purchase of more than 1 firearm during any period of 30 days Same as S 544 GIANARIS <b>Last Act:</b> 05/08/23 referred to codes <b>Pos:</b> No Position		
<a href="#">A6815</a>	<b>Woerner</b> -- Relates to hunting deer with a crossbow Same as S 5802 MANNION <b>Last Act:</b> 05/08/23 referred to environmental conservation <b>Pos:</b> Support <b>GROUP:</b> CROSSBOW		
<a href="#">A6822</a>	<b>Stirpe</b> -- Authorizes big game hunting for deer and bear for the county of Onondaga Same as S 6125 MANNION <b>Last Act:</b> 05/08/23 referred to environmental conservation <b>Pos:</b> Support <b>GROUP:</b> BIG GAME		
<a href="#">A6891</a>	<b>Buttenschon</b> -- Relates to the regulation of live restraint cable devices to take wildlife Same as S 785 ORTT <b>Last Act:</b> 05/08/23 referred to environmental conservation <b>Pos:</b> Support <b>ACTION:</b> 2020 MEMO <b>GROUP:</b> TRAPPING		

### Pheasant Farm:

Because the entire brood flock of pheasants at the DEC's Reynolds Game Farm was killed by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza [HPAI], DEC is in the final throes of mapping a way forward that will hopefully provide pheasants for the fall hunting season here in New York. The Game Farm remains out of production and cannot come back on-line in time to support any output

that would provide birds for any part or program of the 2023 season. We expect to discuss the farm at the June Conservation Fund Advisory Board CFAB meeting.

### **The 2022 Deer Harvest Report is now available:**

The DEC estimates 231,961 deer were harvested during the 2022 season. The deer team reports that 64% of the adult buck harvest was 2.5 years or older statewide, up from 45 percent a decade ago, and 30 percent in the 1990s. They also report that only 46.4% of successful deer hunters reported their harvest as required by ECL. This is below the five-year average of 49.3 percent.

Dutchess County has seen its deer harvest slide in recent years. The 2022 harvest came in at 1,859; looking back to 2013, it was 3,974. The last three seasons have been impacted by EHD.

The full report is on the web: [www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife\\_pdf/2022deerrpt.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/2022deerrpt.pdf)

### **EHDV / Bluetongue Virus / CWD Status:**

Testing by the Cornell University Wildlife Lab indicates that >30% of Dutchess County deer have had EHD exposure and are carrying antibodies. While EHD killed fewer deer last year, there is no way to predict what the impact will be this season.

No solid information on the exact species of flies that are causing EHD in New York's whitetail deer, but it is likely that *Culicoides* sp. is the culprit.

In September, Bluetongue Disease was reported by DEC in three deer in Southampton, Suffolk Count. Bluetongue is closely related to the Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) virus and is transmitted in the same way. This is the first time the bluetongue (BT) virus was detected in New York deer. It was detected in several other mid-Atlantic coast states this year 2022).

New York continues to be CWD free. Last year almost 3,000 deer were tested in the state, and none showed a positive result.

**NYSCC:** the Legislative Committee is attempting to provide more timely info on bills introduced in the State legislature. There is not a lot of movement right now, and there will be until the state budget has been passed.

**[Fundraising] Federation Field Dog Training Event:** A "tune up and training event" was discussed at some depth and will be shelved for this year because of an already crowded calendar. However, this is an opportunity for club involvement and Jim Guyette will be looking at developing a plan, WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE CLUBS. A venue and format will have to be determined.

**[Fundraising]** There was a discussion of a "Chili Cook-off as a means of creating some club involvement and hopefully, use as a fundraiser. Again, it would need a venue and some organization. Dave Compton and Bruce Hotaling directed the discussion. This needs to be

fleshed out, and again, it is not likely there is enough time to organize such and even for this year. Dave Compton will give this some focus.

**The Federation had a presence at two(2) Earth Day events:**

**Pleasant Valley** – a one day event where Bill Conners provided soft bait fishing kits to kids and conservation / environmental information to parents. It was a good opportunity to let a broader audience know who/what we are.

**Lagrange** – a “Muddy Hands” event at Freedom Park where we teamed up with T.U. to talk to people about sporting issues and again provide materials in conservation and environmental issues, i.e., invasive species, etc. an effort will be made to create a display for future events at the community level. We learned that the pavilion at Freedom Park is available to the Federation at reasonable cost. Maybe an opportunity for the Chili Cook-off.

**Old Business:** N/A

**New Business:** Whittenburg Sportsmen’s Club Woodstock, NY had an event on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Announcements:** Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun, steel plate shoot on June 4<sup>th</sup> and a Woods Walk June 18<sup>th</sup>. Visit their website at: [www.ndrgc.com](http://www.ndrgc.com)

Pleasant Valley trout and Game is scheduling two Concealed Carry Classes in May and June. Flyers were circulated at the meeting. Questions call Ken Foster at 845-452-8968.

Hudson Valley Sportsmen’s Assoc will be doing a Hunter Ed Class on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Information is on the club’s website at: [www.hvsa.org/events](http://www.hvsa.org/events)

**Adjournment:** After Bruce Hotaling won and then donated his winnings from the 50/50 raffle back to the Federation, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM.