



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

April 11, 2024 Regular Delegates Meeting
JB's Bar & Grill, James Baird State Park, Pleasant Valley, NY

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Anthony Pittore.

The Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence in memory of the Military, First Responders, was led by Anthony Pittore.

Roll Call: 26 members/guests representing 18 clubs

Guests: ECO Kevin Wamsley

ECO Kevin Wamsley reported that trout streams are being “hit hard” by DLE to make sure regulations are being honored and DLE has written violations for crappie [the panfish] cases because the size limit is now 10 inches, it is no longer nine inches. He reminded the membership that the daily limit for panfish is 25 fish [10 inches or more].

The Hudson River is warming up and stripers are becoming active in Westchester County. He reminded the members that he is available for questions when necessary.

There was a question regarding how DEC handles black bear complaints. Wamsley said the dept. does not typically trap & transfer nuisance bears unless their behavior becomes a danger to the public.

If a bear is going after livestock the owner may take action, but make sure it was necessary.

He did say that beekeepers may destroy a bear if it is damaging bee hives. [Editorial comment: be prepared to demonstrate the damage].

Treasurer's Report: accepted as presented. Comment from the Treasurer; Whortlekill Rod & Gun has not paid their dues. The privilege to vote was suspended April 1st as per the By Laws.

Minutes of March Delegates Meeting: approved with no corrections

Minutes of March BoD Meeting: approved with no corrections

Committee Reports:

Annual Dinner: BoD is still exploring BBQ or ,,,, will be further discussions of trying an October event at the next BoD meeting.

Hunters Helping the Hungry: as reported by Anthony Pittore, the cooler is currently empty and has been cleaned, and the freezers in the Processing Room are empty. No deer or bears on hand to be processed. Pittore is hopeful that deer taken on Nuisance Permits will become available soon.

Fish Stocking: First and Second Round of stocking have been done. Overlook Park will be done next week [Thursday] in anticipation of the Veterans and Family Fishing Days scheduled for April 20 & 21. The third stocking of Wappingers Creek will also be done that day, after which the final stocking of the Wappingers is scheduled for May 1st.

Allocations of trout for Dutchess County have been reduced by 20K trout because of changing regulation, and access issues.

One member questioned where the trout were stocked in the Wappingers. He was assured that the fish would go in the water. Pittore then mentioned a number of drop points from Greenvale Park, to Pleasant Valley, to Salt Point.

A member questioned why the Family Fishing Day is being held during the Youth Turkey Hunt Weekend. There are several issues which make scheduling difficult:

- Delivery of trout to Overlook Park has to be coordinated with a routine stocking run from the Catskill Hatchery because bringing JUST the trout needed at Overlook Park would be cost prohibitive.
- Per DEC rules the youth turkey hunt has to be held at least three days prior to the opening of the regular spring turkey season.
- Stocking Overlook Park Pond a full week before the fishing events would require heavy monitoring of the pond which would require committed resources for the week.
- We will look at the schedules for next year to determine if the fishing event can be moved away from the Youth Hunt Weekend. The hatchery schedule will likely present the biggest problem.

Jr Pheasant Hunt (JrPH): JrPH applications are available for distribution. Pittore encouraged each club to recruit one youth hunter. We can handle 36 to 40 hunters. The hunt is scheduled for September 28th at Lafayetteville.

Conservation Camps: Dave Morrison reported that only 5 of the 17 youngsters being sponsored by the Federation were able to register for camps. DEC currently plans to open only two camps unless they are able to hire the staff necessary to open more. Camp DeBruce will likely not open this year. Support staff, not counselors, are the problem.

One member suggested that the DEC should use a lottery system to award slots in the camps. Several members had concerns about doing that.

Dave Morrison reported that alternatives to the DEC camps are being explored, including the T.U. Fly Fishing Camp.

Communications: The DEC has copies of *Conservationist for Kids* magazine available. We hope to have them available for use at the Dutchess County Fair at the Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club exhibit. They would also be useful for distribution at other Federation and club events where kids will be attending such as the Family Fishing Day.

Members of the Federation BoD have been working with Paradox Consulting to see if we can produce a brief video that can be used for a public outreach effort. Tom Willimas owner of Paradox has been in the marking business for years and he is a dedicated sportsman and passionate supporter of the Second Amendment. We are going to be meeting again to start determining what the content of public service type messaging should be. Photos and other materials are being collected to develop content. Hopefully the finished product can be provided to our member clubs to be used to educate their members, landowners and the public in general about the value the sporting community brings to their community.

One member commented about an article in the latest edition of New York Outdoor News written by Dan Ladd [Editor] about the need for the sporting community to be more active and involved in delivering the message.

The suggestion was for members of the BoD to visit clubs to discuss the Federation and the programs we are currently sponsoring.

Obviously each club should appoint an ACTIVE delegate, that delegate should be EXPECTED to provide a Federation report at each club meeting, as per the Federation bylaws (see Article III below).

The member's view is that we need to improve our communication effort.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

(B) Applicants shall submit a copy of their By-laws, a list of officers and one year's dues and/or fees. They must also agree that, upon acceptance, their order of business will include the Federation Delegate report.

This above discussion took place later in the meeting, but was reported here for context [communications].

Legislation: Copies of the Legislative Guide have been distributed, along with a copy of NYS Senate Bill S8461B [dubbed the "sporting range good neighbor act"]. If that bill becomes law it will severely impact shooting ranges across the state, in particular, trap and skeet ranges. The bill has not been introduced in the Assembly, but it is very likely that it will. Everyone should call his or her Senator and Assemblyperson to inform that of the impact that the bill will have on the shooting sports.

There was an extended discussion regarding the legislation and the need to let the EnCon committees know that it will severely damage the shooting sports here in New York.

New York State Conservation Council: the NYSCC Spring Meeting was held in Schoharie County on Saturday, April 6th. The new Executive Director [Bruce McGowen] and Treasurer [Diane Steele] were introduced. McGowen was formerly the NRA's New York State Friends of NRA Representative. The NRA has trimmed staff. Diane Stelle is from Region 8 [Genessee County] and is an accountant.

The meeting was greatly improved from the typical meeting of late. Content was relevant and the material was well-presented. Diane Steele did a great job handling the Power Point presentations for the presenters.

The Council's financials have improved and the hope is that McGowen's expertise in that regard will help keep things going in the right direction.

Visit the Council's redesigned website at www.nyscc.com for information about the organization.

Gun Raffle: Tom Gannon still has tickets available. The proceeds will be used to offset the cost of erecting a pavilion at Overlook Park in Lagrange. We use the park for our Veterans and Family Fishing Day events. The town will construct a 20 x 30 concrete pad for the pavilion. This is a good community outreach project. Buy tickets, sell tickets, let your club members know about the project.

Youth Trap Shooting: Tom Gannon reports that things are going well. A Friends of NRA Grant was applied for and granted, for ammunition for the program. Tom also reports that he now has five additional youth shooters who may be joining the program. He is hopeful that the program will grow this year. (flyer attached)

Federation Sporting Clays event: Event is on Score Chaser. Go to scorechaser.com and click on "find tournaments" then on search line type Mid Hudson. It will be on the list as "Federation of DC Fish & Game Clubs: Best of the Valley Sporting Clays Fundraiser. It is scheduled for July 27th at Mid-Hudson Sporting Clays in Highland. Tom Gannon is handling the bucket raffles [he is partnering with Mrs. Gannon. We encourage you to encourage your clubs to donate items. Contact Gannon for details and suggestions for items. Tom can be reached at: 845-233-8824 or acmobileoil@live.com. _Your \$140 registration fee pays for 100 targets, continental breakfast, BBQ lunch. Tons of fun, including, buckets raffles, door prizes, auction items and more. Call Anthony Pittore at 914-755-9667 or Tom Fiumarello at 845-625-3151 if you need help.

Veterans Fishing Day: April 20th Overlook Park. Will be held from 9 AM til 12 Noon. Drop by, help out, nice was to thank the Vets for their sacrifice and service.

Family Fishing Day: April 21st also at Overlook Park, Overlook Rd, Lagrange. No fishing license required. Hotdogs, soda, snacks are all free, as is participation. Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbor's kids, and yourself. Loaner rods & reels and bait available.

Canine Cancer Sporting Clays: Event is on Score Chaser. Go to scorechaser.com (search K9) to register for the Canine Cancer Shoot that will be held on June 15th at Mid-Hudson Sporting Clays, 411 N Ohioville Rd, New

Paltz, NY 12561. Registration fee is \$185, includes breakfast, BBQ, great bucket raffles, auction items. Volunteers needed. Contact Tom Fiumarello at: 845-625-3151 or tseaswir1@aol.com.

Fishing Access: A small team has been assembled to work with the Regional Fish and Wildlife Management Board (Region 3) to approach property owners onstream corridors to get WRITTEN permission to stock section of stream that border their properties. The Stream Access Verification Program (SAVP) was developed to provide more formal permission to access by anglers. The access agreements do not have to be contractual, but they must be in writing, whether by letter or email. Anthony Pittore, Mike Butts, Dave Morrison, and Bruce Hotaling will be providing the names and contact information of landowners they have approaching and who have said they might cooperate by allowing stoking and access for anglers. Once the process gets launched in earnest and the team becomes familiar with it, we will likely recruit additional people.

Dutchess County's allocation of trout has been reduced by approx. 20K trout over the last decade due to changes in our trout stream management plan, introduction of two-year-old, and loss of access. The SAVP effort can help restore allocations by recovering lost access and arranging new access opportunities. Receptive landowners will be given contact info for the Bureau of Fisheries This effort is in progress across the state.

Old Business: the BoD will address the action to be taken for a club that has not paid its dues by the April 1st deadline. Dues are billed and payable by January 1st. The grace period closes on April 1st. If a club has a problem that may contact the Treasurer and he can bring it to the BoD for resolution. We do not want to lose any club, but the other member clubs should have to cover another club's dues. The BoD will report back to the delegates in the May meeting.

New Business: a question was asked regarding insurance coverage for clubs hosting the youth trap shooting program. The Federation does not provide insurance. If a club hosts shooting activities, the club should make sure proper insurance coverage is in effect.

Announcements:

- **Northern Dutchess R & G: .22 Cal Woods Walk Shoot on Sunday, June 9th**
- **Viola Rod & Gun Club: Women on Target June 8th**
- **Viola Rod & Gun Club: 18 Hour Handgun Course classes for April and May. June class(s) to be announced**
- **Green Haven Rod & Gun: Game Dinner at the clubhouse April 27th.**
- **At Hudson Valley Sportsmen's Assoc. Trapping Class April 27, Hunter Safety Class (gun) May 25th, upcoming Archery Class in June (date to be announced).**
- **110 Rod & Gun Club: Sporting Clays shoot April 28th.**

To contact a club about and event use your Federation Directory or the Federation website at; www.dutchessfishandgame.org. From the club list open the club's website.

50/50 won by Bill Conners – "I plan to retire because of this unexpected windfall."

Respectfully,

Bill Conners
Secretary pro tem

Next Meeting May 9th JB's at Baird Park