



## Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs, Inc.

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

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

*The Voice of the Sportsman since 1932*

### **April 13, 2023 Regular Delegates Meeting**

Short Hills Restaurant, Washington Hollow, NY

The meeting was opened at 7:35 PM by President Anthony Pittore

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

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

Roll Call: 30 people were in attendance, representing 21 clubs.

#### **Guests**

None present.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted upon a motion by John Lucas and a second by Tom Gannon. All-in-favor (AIF).

Treasurer Pete Kraayenbrink noted that Whortlekill Rod & Gun Club have not yet paid their 2023 dues, so as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, they became a non-voting member.

The minutes of the previous delegates meeting on March 9, 2023 were approved upon a motion by John Lucas and a second by Skip North. AIF

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on March 27, 2023 were approved upon a motion by John Lucas and a second by Hank Eichenhofer. AIF

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Hunters Helping the Hungry**

Anthony Pittore stated that there are no deer to be processed now, but the cooler is on and running. The program is seeking nuisance permit deer. Anthony is planning an upcoming processing facility cleanup.

##### **Fish**

Ken Rose reported that all county streams have been stocked, with multiple releases in the Wappingers Creek ongoing. Ken noted that there seems to be less people out fishing than usual. Sylvan Lake is to be stocked on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Bill Connors handed out a nicely produced Dutchess County stream classification and regulations flyer.

Anthony Pittore reminded the assembly of the Federation's Family Fishing Day on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Overlook Park in Lagrange from 9:00-1:00. Help is needed. The DEC is bringing fishing rods and bait.

Anthony also reminded everyone of the Veterans Fishing Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Overlook Park, sponsored by Trout Unlimited. So far, there are 12-15 veterans signed up. We will be providing some food at the event.

#### Jr. Hunter Pheasant Hunt

The date for the hunt is September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The weekend before, the youth participants will be offered a free round of 25 sporting clays at Mid-Hudson Sporting Clays Club in New Paltz.

#### Conservation Education

DEC Camp DeBruce is officially closed this season. The Rushford camp in western NY will be open. At this time, only 1 kid took a Rushford slot. (He was a kid from last year who did not get to attend and was sponsored by Whortlekill Rod & Gun Club.) We are awaiting the DEC's decision on the other camps. The reason for the closure is due to lack of staffing.

Mike Butts reported that Trout Unlimited is sponsoring 4 kids to the Fishing Camp in Roscoe NY. If the kid attends, TU pays half of the fee.

#### Youth Trap Shooting

Tom Gannon reported that shoots have been held the last 3 weeks, with 7 kids attending the last shoot. Next week's event will be held at Southern Dutchess and Putnam Sportsmen Club.

#### Legislation (and other conservation news)

Bill Conners reported:

- About 440 bills have been introduced in NY related to firearms and shooting. Most are one house bills, so will not move forward through the legislative process. But some probably will and are very important to the gun rights community. More details forthcoming after we see what comes out of the budget bill.
- The budget has not yet been finalized. But continuing to allow 12-13 year olds to hunt big game with firearms is still in the current bill. State Senator Hinchey, who represents part of the county (and surprisingly a Democrat) has been pushing for it.
- Another lawsuit was introduced against all the new rules and restrictions on gun dealers in the state.
- Earth Day is this weekend. Bill will be representing the Federation at the Pleasant Valley event. Bill handed out flyers about invasive species and rules against moving firewood to prevent the spread.
- Various reports of feral hogs in the state.
- All of the pheasants were lost or destroyed at the Reynolds Game Farm due to avian flu, despite all of the efforts to shield the farm from it. Discussions are underway to try to buy 32,500 birds for special hunts, such as the youth and women hunts.

Regarding the lawsuits against the NY CCIA law, the litigant group Gun Owners of America has a very good lawyer representing them: Paloma Capana.

#### New York State Conservation Council

Bill Conners stated that the Council held its spring meeting with about 60 attendees. Bill could not attend, but had reports that it was a very good meeting.

#### Communications

A flyer was received from West Mountain LLC about an upcoming 18-hour NYS Concealed Carry course in Highland Falls on June 29-30. [www.westmountain.info](http://www.westmountain.info)

## **Unfinished (Old) Business**

Tom Fiumarello stated that some clubs have expressed interest in the proposed Federation Sporting Clays shoot planned for Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup> at Mid-Hudson Sporting Clays range in New Paltz. We already have several guns for the raffles. It will be a non-competitive, fun shoot for folks to enjoy breaking some clays, some good food, raffles, and the comradery of fellow sportsmen and sportswomen. Any funds raised will be for the benefit of Federation and CAF programs. We will need volunteers for the committee.

A motion was made by Pete Kraayenbrink and seconded by Chris Villa to move forward with the shoot. AIF

Tom also reminded the delegates of the upcoming Canine Cancer Research benefit sporting clays shoot on June 17<sup>th</sup> at Mid-Hudson Sporting Clays. There will be a lot of good food, raffles, and guns for doors prizes. The cost is \$180 per shooter. Last year's event generated over \$70,000 for the cancer research program at Cornell. Information and registration can be found on the NAVHDA web site events page:

[hvnvhda.org/events/](http://hvnvhda.org/events/)

## **New Business**

Jim Guyette spoke about the Federation possibly holding a "tune-up and training" day for hunting dogs, as has been successful in other states. We could maybe use the Lafayetteville MUA property or maybe the East Mountain club, which would have the necessary facilities. This could also serve as a fundraising event, from event fees and providing food, and also vendors. It would provide different levels of training experiences for hunters who might otherwise not have the opportunity. Tom Holsopple suggested that delegates take this back to their clubs to gauge the level of interest, and that Jim explore the possibilities to sketch out more details to come up with a proposal.

## **Announcements**

110 Rod & Gun Club will be holding a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment gun rights sporting clays shoot on June 25<sup>th</sup>. \$60 per shooter with start times at 9:00 AM and Noon. The proceeds will be donated to New York State Rifle & Pistol Association.

Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club will be holding their annual trout derby on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Northern Dutchess is also holding a raffle for a Quattros gift certificate.

There is a Walleye fishing festival at Oneida Lake on May 5,6,7.

50/50 raffle winner – Brian Mihans.

Next regular meeting date: May 11, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Holsopple,  
Secretary