

# Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs

Meeting of October 8, 2015

Mtg called to order by Tom Holsopple – President

Minutes of September Delegates and September Board meetings and Monthly Treasurer's Report meeting all adopted.

**Communications:** Tom Holsopple reported that he received notification that DEC will be conducting briefing and public input sessions of the (Forestry) 480A Program which reduces taxes for landowners who have their property in the forest set aside program. The meetings are for stakeholders and it would be in the best interest of clubs already in the program to attend at least one of the sessions. No date or location as yet, but one will probably be held in Region 3. The Federation will try to notify the clubs when more info is available.

**Conservation Education:** Scott Emslie distributed Conservation Camp applications which should be back to him no later than the December mtg. Each club is allowed to nominate one boy and one girl for both Camp DeBruce and Pack Forest (four children per club). For applications and details contact Scott at 845-485-2051.

**Annual Dinner:** Penny Hickman reported that Scott and Jackie Emslie will be available either January 23 or 30. They will be doing their traditional bucket and other fund-raising raffles at the dinner (more later). Penny Hickman will check with Villa Borghese as to the availability of the facility for those dates.

**Junior Pheasant Hunt:** Penny Hickman reported that the hunt attracted 32 boys and girls this year. It was again supported by an army of enthusiastic volunteers. There were plenty of dogs and handles, plenty of birds (some from DEC and some purchased). We also had great support from DEC Law Enforcement (EDO Beverly Whalen). The Milan Fire Department provided water for the on-site cooling pools for the dogs. David Compton provided photography services and we have a fantastic finest collection of hunt photos as a result of his effort.

Penny Hickman will pull together a post-hunt review (date TBD).

Hunt "T" shirts are available for \$10. Call Penny at 845-635-3641.

**Annual Dinner Raffles:** Scott and Jackie Emslie will need support from the clubs for items for the raffles at the dinner. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the Nov/DEC meetings. If you want more info call Scott or Jackie at 845-485-2051.

**County Fair Edition of the Outdoor Journal:** Bill Conners reported that the Journal was well received and the 8,000 copies are now fully distributed. Conners is starting work on the Spring 2016 Edition and is soliciting stories and ideas, AS WELL AS ADS for this next issue.

**New York State Conservation Council** – Bill Conners reported that NYSCC is suffering from very low revenue and the leadership seems reluctant adopt the changes that it will take to turn the organization around.

**Conservation Fund Advisory Board:** Revenues from Sporting License sales are off 4% from last year. A number of problems are causing the drop in revenue including the unbundling of the licenses. People are buying only those licenses that they feel they will actually use.

DEC Law Enforcement will be holding an academy late in the fall or in early winter there will be 37 ECOs and 17 Forest Rangers in the session.

An observation was made that more people are attending Hunter Ed classes, why are sales down? Bill Conners stated that the increased attendance is not translating to increased sales. People taking the classes may buy a license or two but they fall off the grid rather rapidly.

**Legislation:** Paul Annetts reported that the Land and Water Conservation Fund legislation has been allowed to sunset. The Federal program uses oil and gas royalties to fund land acquisition and habitat work. Annetts has sent a letter to Sen. Schumer asking that he support legislation to continue the program.

**Club 36:** sales are off from last year. The drawings are done in Oct/Nov/Dec.

**Budget:** Tom Holsopple asked for a volunteer for the Budget Committee. The committee will meet to pull together the 2016 budget. It is a one, maybe two meeting assignment. If you want to get involved call Tom at 845-876-4598.

**Bob Janks (sic) of the 4H Shooting Sports Program** is asking for help. There now are 60 kids in his shooting program (40 young ladies) and he needs guns, bows and ammo. Contact Bill Conners at 845-635-1606 for contact info for Janks.

#### **Announcements:**

**Friends of NRA Winter Blast:** December 6<sup>th</sup>. Free if you attended the April Dinner, \$30 if you did not. Call Scott Emslie for ticket info at 845-486-2051.

**Pleasant Valley Trout and Game:** Annual Hahn's Farm Raffle. Top prize is \$500 in goods from the farm (including top grade beef). Second prize is a Christmas Tree and Third is a turkey.

**Northern Dutchess Rod and Gun:** the club will host a Steel Plate Shoot on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Registration starts at 8 AM. For info call Judy coons at 845-758-6772.

Respectfully,

Bill Conners