

PENNSYLVANIA Spring 2007
TURKEY TALK

Publication of the PA State Chapter of the NWTF



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PENNSYLVANIA TURKEY TALK SPRING 2007

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Volume 32 Number 3



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PENNSYLVANIA TURKEY TALK

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THE PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

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The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue of Turkey Talk is June 2.

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From the President

Gene Alwine

I know at the State Chapter level, we've been seeing a lot in the way of changes already this year. We shifted executive positions on this election year and now have four new board members who are showing they are ready and willing to jump in with both feet and take care of business with their veteran peers. This has been exciting for us, providing a freshness that is very welcomed and necessary as we forge ahead for another year.

I have received numerous comments and compliments pertaining to the August Presidents' (Leadership) Meeting and the Annual Rendezvous and Awards Banquet. Most of the credit for these events goes to our PA NWTF staff. They have a way of doing a real bang-up job whenever the situation calls for it. On behalf of the board, I know we're thankful to them for providing our members with all the tips and information relayed during these two special weekends. There's no denying how much is taken back to the local chapters and put to good use.

Another National Convention in Nashville is now also in the history books. I hope everyone who attended had a great time. Next year, it's to be in Atlanta, for those of you who like to plan far sooner than I ever care to. I'll just stick to the short-term plans and goals that we've set to accomplish over the next several months, all for the betterment (and management) of enjoying the steady growth of the wild turkey population throughout our state. It becomes difficult to concentrate on the business end of it when my thoughts drift to the spring season, and suddenly I'm hunkered against a huge age-old oak, with the sun providing its morning ritual, warming, lighting, and bringing the woods to life for another day.

I'll bring myself back for the moment, however. Be sure to check out our Web site from time to time. The address is always found within the pages of this publication. We have a new board member, Joe Drolet, and a committee who been working at updating the content and have been making it very user-friendly. This is another way we like to keep everyone updated and in the loop. We have also updated our chapter contact assignments, whereby each board member has three or four chapters to keep in periodic contact with to answer questions, aid, and support as needed. Remember to get the most of your membership and attend or help at the outreach program events in your area.

Finally, remember to take a kid hunting as part of the new Mentored Youth Hunting Program. This will also get you to the woods a week earlier to shake off the staleness. Be safe – no pressure. This is a time to relax and enjoy. Go through your aging inventory and break out that ol' faithful friction call that you last used back in...well, it's been a while. I assure

you it'll still work and probably even sound better than you remember. The years have a way of doing that to wood. Good hunting and please submit your stories so that I can see what's going on with you.

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and not to the editorial office in Altoona.

Rendezvous 2007

SUBMITTED BY GENE
ALWINE, PRESIDENT PA
NWTF

In preparation for this year's Awards Banquet of all our local chapters, we discovered through reservations that this was going to be the biggest bash, yet. As folks made their way to the registration desk, the PA Chapter personnel were kept pleasantly busy. We are grateful to all whom decided to spend the festivities with us. Your terrific attendance made the efforts very worthwhile.

To start things off, Scott Bashore led in a presentation to introduce and educate us in the usage of turkey-hunting dogs. Rookie board member, Bob Schmid, gave some good advice on food plots, and Tammy Mowry hosted the WITO Event Coordinators in her annual presentation of the core package and new raffle ideas. If you ask me, this group of "ladies" always seems to be having too much fun. Thank you, Scott, Bob, and Tammy.

The awards dinner included raffles, guns, the 2007 banquet package, a silent auction of quality items, and a very nice live auction with single-edition custom calls, hard-to-find prints, and the JAKES Hunt. Thank you to everyone who contributed items to the banquet. You are truly one-of-a-kind to us.

The PA NWTF JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime winner was Lynda Ruby of Robertsdale. After winning the 50/50 drawing, Ron Osselborn, of Butler, purchased the remaining spot of the JAKES Hunt for his daughter, Tiffany. This will be her third year to hunt with us. She won it two years ago, and Ron purchased it last year. This also marks the third straight year that this hunt is occupied by our female JAKES membership. Then, Tom Grice of Clearfield won the PA NWTF Sponsor

Hunt but due to his busy work schedule forfeited this hunt and requested it be used by a youth hunter.

Individual Awards

The David Wanless Award,



given for service to the PA Chapter above and beyond the call of duty, went to our Treasurer, Jim Panaro.

The Roger Latham Award,



given to the outstanding director of the year who has exhibited exemplary leadership and contributions above and beyond his responsibility, went to Greg Caldwell.

The James Wilhelm Memorial Award, which is a conservation award for an individual who contributes to the



wise management and conservation of the wild turkey through habitat work, land acquisition, fundraising, legislation, or public relations, went to Tom Hindman and Katrina Skrapits.

The Frank Piper Hunting



Safety Award, awarded for outstanding contributions in the promotion of turkey hunting safety, education, and ethics, went to Gene Alwine and Don O'Brien.

The Corporate Conservation Award, given to a corporation, group, or agency that has displayed outstanding effort or support of the wise management and conservation of the wild turkey, went to Otter Creek Taxidermy.

The Hall of Fame Award, given to an outstanding turkey hunter, conservationist, and ethical sportsman who through-



out his life has worked for the betterment of the wild turkey in Pennsylvania, went to Rick Stutzman, Bob Eriksen, and Rodney Jones.

The Past President's Award went to Dave Burdge. He was also presented the Chairman's gavel by Gary Beatty.

Chapter Awards

Ron Sandrus Local Chapter Awards:

1st Place- Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter, 120,691 points.

2nd Place- Northwest Thunderin' Toms, 116,509 points.

3rd Place- Susquehanna Chapter, 116,289 points.

Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Award (Most Improved Chapter):

Northwest Thunderin' Toms, up 55,269 points.

Highest Net to Gross:

Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter, 84%.

Best New Banquet:

Mahoopany Creek Chapter

Best Wheelin' Sportsmen Event:

Terrace Mountain Chapter

Most JAKES:

Lower Bucks Longbeards, 702 JAKES

Slam Awards

Grand Slam – chapters improving their personal best in 4 of the 7 membership and revenue categories:

Steel City Spurs, Honey Hole

A Time to Celebrate

Longbeards, The Laurels Longbeards, Lake Region

Longbeards, Sun Area, Allegheny Mountain, and Shade Mountain Chapters.

Royal Slam – improvement in 5 of the 7 categories:

Mon Valley Longbeards and Philadelphia County Fightin' Spurs.

World Slam – improvement in 6 of the 7 categories:

Northern County Full Fans, Lower Bucks Longbeards, and Terrace Mountain.

5 Star Chapters

Allegheny Valley, Moraine Chapter, Michaux Yellow Breeches, Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards, Jerry Zimmerman Memorial, Delaware County Longbeards, Susquehanna Chapter, Northwest Thunderin' Toms, Wilhelm Chapter, Mason Dixon, and Muncy Creek Chapters.

80% Golden Gobbler

Juniata Gobblers, Red Rock Chapter and Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter.

70% Golden Gobbler

Allegheny Plateau, Michaux Yellow Breeches, Honey Hole Longbeards, Lake Region Longbeards, Stony Valley, Lykens Valley, Lower Bucks Longbeards, Northwest Thunderin' Toms, and Terrace Mountain.

60% Golden Gobbler

Kit-Han-Ne, Lake Marburg, Moraine, Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards, Wolfcreek Longbeards, Northern County Full Fans, Mason Dixon, Pocono Mountains, Endless Mountains, Lakeland Longbeards, Millcreek, Susquehanna, and Shade Mountain Chapters.



Women in the Outdoors Update

SUBMITTED BY TAMMY MOWRY,
NATIONAL COORDINATOR

At the January Awards Banquet, I had the pleasure of announcing the 2006 Pennsylvania Women in the Outdoors award winners. They are as follows:

Top Contributing Event – Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter and Walking Purchase Chapter

Best Overall New Event – Kinzua Allegheny Women in the Outdoors

Best Overall Repeat Event – Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter and Walking Purchase Chapter

Most Memberships Recruited at an Event – Mt. Pisgah Women in the Outdoors

Most Improved Event – Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards Chapter

Most Sponsors Recruited at an Event – Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards Chapter and Sherman's Valley Strutters Chapter

Golden Hen Events:

Kinzua Allegheny Women in the Outdoors
Mason Dixon Chapter
Moraine Chapter
Jerry Zimmerman Memorial and Walking Purchase Chapters
Muncy Creek Chapter
Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards Chapter

Congratulations to all of our winners. I look forward to another great year of events in Pennsylvania. If your chapter is interested in hosting an event, please don't hesitate to contact me at

724-284-9201 or

tammynwtf@zoominternet.net.



Rhonda Henry –
Whitehorse Mountain
Longbeards Chapter

Wild Turkey Management Committee Report

BY DON HECKMAN, CHAIRMAN

During the PA NWTF Board meeting held in State College on January 7, 2007, the Wild Turkey Management Committee presented issues and topics for 2007-2008 that will focus on turkey management, legislative action, and other actions. The Wild Turkey Management Committee has been tracking several of these issues and topics, and I have published articles in previous issues of *Pennsylvania Turkey Talk* describing them.

PA NWTF is a resource-first wildlife conservation organization, established in June 1975. We provide input into the regulatory process through our recommendations at the Board of Game Commissioner meetings. PA NWTF supports science-based wildlife management decisions, and for the Chapter and our members, we strongly support the Pennsylvania Game Commission Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania.

At the Board of Game Commissioners meeting held on January 21, 2007, PA NWTF recommended: extending spring gobbler season to May 31; expanding hunting hours for the special youth spring turkey season to all day hunting; support elimination of mandatory use of 100 square inches of orange while moving in spring gobbler season. Other recommendations included: reducing the fall hunting season to two weeks in WMUs 2A, 2F, and 2G based on Pennsylvania Game Commission wild turkey management data; expansion of the Mentored Youth Hunting Program to include antlered deer and fall turkey hunting.

Accomplishments in turkey management during 2006 included: a statewide four-year gobbler banding research project, which successful banded 246 gobblers; and for the first time since the start of spring gobbler hunting in Pennsylvania in 1968, hunters were permitted to purchase a special second spring gobbler tag – 8,041 tags were sold and an estimated 1,496 gobblers were harvested. In 2007, the first Mentored Youth Hunting opportunity for spring gobbler season will take place.

Here are some of the issues and topics that the PA NWTF Wild Turkey Management Committee is currently working on.

The following changes to wild turkey management require Pennsylvania Game Commission staff and commissioner overview:

Getting the revised Pennsylvania Game Commission Wild Turkey Management Plan, 2006-2015, operational and fully funded for 10 years.

Implementing the Northeast Wild Turkey Population Model in wild turkey manage-

ment plan. PA NWTF has \$15,000 invested in development; model data and modeling results are requirements for future wild turkey management decisions.

Recommendation to extending spring gobbler season to May 31. Commissioners have approved May 26, 2008 with final rulemaking set for April 17, 2007.

Recommendation to expanding youth spring gobbler hunting to all day.

Recommendation to expanding youth spring gobbler to more than one day.

Recommendation to expanding regular spring gobbler season to all day after the completion of the current four-year gobbler banding project.

Recommendation for Mentored Youth Hunting to include fall turkey hunting season.

Continued recommendations to reduce or to increase fall season lengths for specific wildlife Management Units when turkey management data supports decision making.

Continue to review and recommend additional changes as needed regarding the second spring gobbler regulation.

Submit proposal for the next turkey research project in 2008, requesting funding for statewide hen telemetry study for four years.

Legislation changes that would require the Governor's signature:

Hunting license increase legislation – supporting need for additional revenue to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and supporting alternative funding options.

Turkey hunting license – continue with our position statement, articles and news release supporting need for combined spring and fall turkey hunting license; support fully funded wild turkey management plan to complete yearly objectives and strategies.

Turkey dogs for fall hunting season – providing support material and reference documents to Pennsylvania Turkey Dogs Association, legislation change required.

Sunday hunting as regulated by

Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Other PA NWTF Board and Wild Turkey Management Committee actions requiring Pennsylvania Game Commission Staff and Commissioner overview:

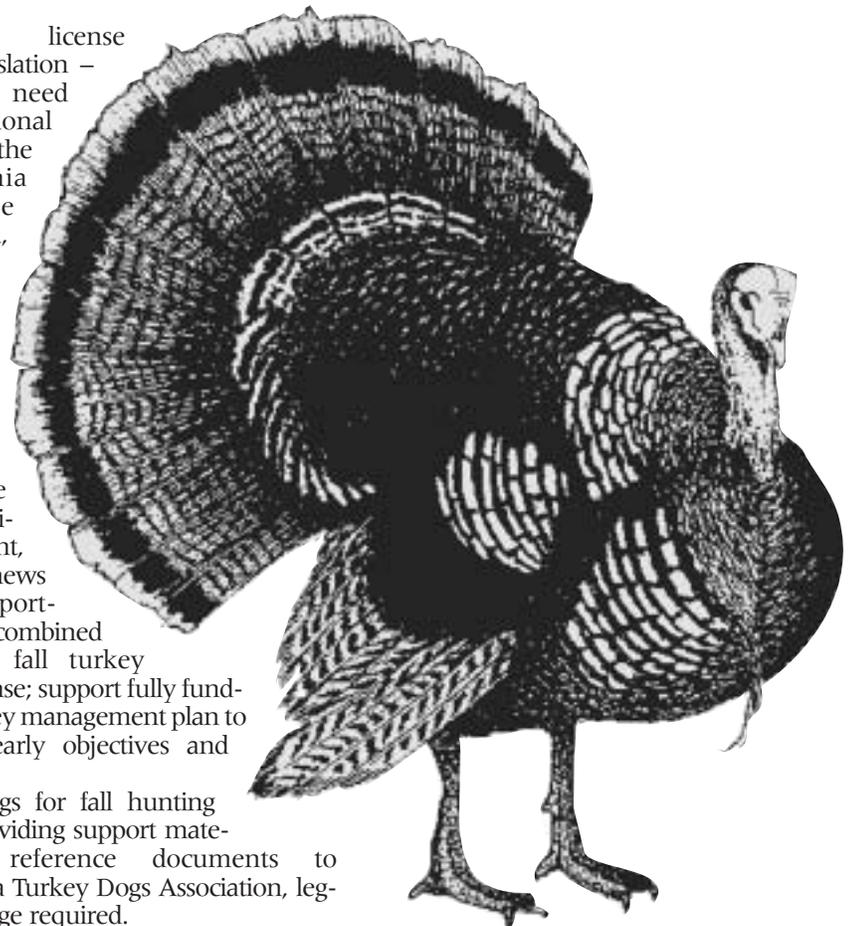
Recommendation, regarding spring gobbler season orange regulation, to remove wording "must be worn at all times" and replace with "voluntary."

Comprehensive Pennsylvania Game Commission wild turkey hunter safety module – NWTF Turkey Hunter Safety DVD, and helping Pennsylvania Game Commission reach out to 310,000 turkey hunters with additional hunter safety and ethics information and material.

Turkey hunter safety and ethics – five-year trends indicate that hunting accidents are declining; continue to work with hunters and the Pennsylvania Game Commission to promote safe hunting.

NWTF turkey management outreach programs - Wild Turkey Woodlands, fund HHSF Habitat, Safety Education, Land Acquisition, Habitat programs, Conservation seed programs, Project HELP, Operation Appleseed, and Get In The Game.

We will provide future *Turkey Talk* updates to this list as actions, issues and topics, have been updated, or completed.



Game Commission posts turkey management plan on Web site

After reviewing public comments and making revisions, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has posted the updated wild turkey management plan for 2006-2015 on its Web site (www.pgc.state.pa.us). The 71-page report can be viewed on the agency's Web site by selecting "Hunting" in the left-hand navigation column on the homepage, then clicking on the photograph of the wild turkey and choosing "Wild Turkey Management Plan."

"Our first turkey management plan, written in 1999, helped us focus on critical wild turkey issues and needs at that time, and helped build partnerships with other groups, agencies and organizations," said Mary Jo Casalena, Game Commission wild turkey biologist and author of the management plan. "This management plan identifies the strategic goal, objectives and strategies for guiding wild turkey management and research decisions through 2015."

"Now that wild turkey population restoration is completed, the focus of wild turkey management for the next 10 years centers on acquiring more detailed harvest data and research on harvest and survival rates for population modeling and directing harvest strategies, determining habitat and social carrying capacities, minimizing and abating human-turkey conflicts, quantifying, enhancing, and acquiring turkey habitat throughout the Commonwealth, assisting and educating land owners regarding turkey habitat management, and improving hunter safety through increased educational opportunities and law enforcement."

Casalena noted that the report opens by highlighting 15 of the major accomplishments of the previous plan, and then outlines the agency's vision for wild turkey management through 2015, at which time a new plan will be developed.

"The strategic goal of the new plan is to provide optimum wild turkey populations in suitable habitats throughout Pennsylvania for hunting and viewing recreation by current and future generations," Casalena said. "This goal is to be achieved by completing strategies under six objectives."

The objectives are: (1) population management - sustain or enhance healthy wild turkey populations in each Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) at or below social carrying capacity; (2) habitat - improve quality of existing, and minimize loss of, wild turkey habitat throughout the state; (3) information and education - assess and improve the public's knowledge, awareness and understanding of the wild turkey resource and its management; (4) hunting heritage/hunter safety - promote and improve the knowledge, safety, and participation of wild turkey hunters; (5) wild turkey protection - improve hunter compliance with laws and regulations regarding wild turkey management; and (6) cooperative partnerships - maintain and enhance partnerships in all aspects of wild turkey management.

"A list of strategies accompanies each objective," Casalena said. "Some strategies are to be accomplished within this 10-year span, while others are ongoing. This plan ties in directly with the agency's Strategic Plan, which calls for species management plans to guide management decisions, and is the foundation for program, project, and budget development."

"Implementing the 47 strategies in this plan will require per-



Bob Eriksen photo

sonnel and budget commitments, yet resources are always limited. Additional revenue and resources will be needed for scheduled completion of management plan objectives and strategies."

To assist with implementation preparations, the plan includes information that sums up suggested target dates. The plan also summarized public comments received on the previous draft of this document, and an outline of the history of wild turkey management in Pennsylvania from 1954 to 2006.

"Turkey hunting is among the most challenging and rewarding types of outdoor recreation available," Casalena said. "We endeavor to emphasize the experiences and challenges gained in turkey hunting, not the harvest. Many non-hunters and hunters alike know about wild turkeys and value their presence even if they seldom see turkeys."

"As turkey populations continue to expand into more human-populated portions of Pennsylvania, the public's knowledge of their presence and appreciation for their attributes will continue to grow, and possibly change. Through this planning tool, we strive to maintain the wild turkey as a treasured natural resource."

On Oct. 14, 2005, the Game Commission began accepting public comment on a draft revised wild turkey management plan. After reviewing the public comments, modifications were made to the plan, and public comment again was sought beginning Oct. 24, 2006. After considering the second round of public comments, the plan was finalized and approved by Carl G. Roe, Game Commission Executive Director.

"I want to thank the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation for its support in this process, as well as its contributions on an annual basis to the management of wild turkeys," Roe said. "All Pennsylvanians, and especially hunters, are indebted to the dedication NWTf members have demonstrated to this important natural resource."

Pa. wins big at NWTFF National Convention

SUBMITTED BY JON D. PRIES,
PA NWTFF VICE PRESIDENT

From beginning to end, this year's NWTFF National Convention held in Nashville, Tennessee, was a star-studded event, with many Pennsylvania members receiving national awards and recognition.

During the Leadership meeting and luncheon, the Pennsylvania State Chapter

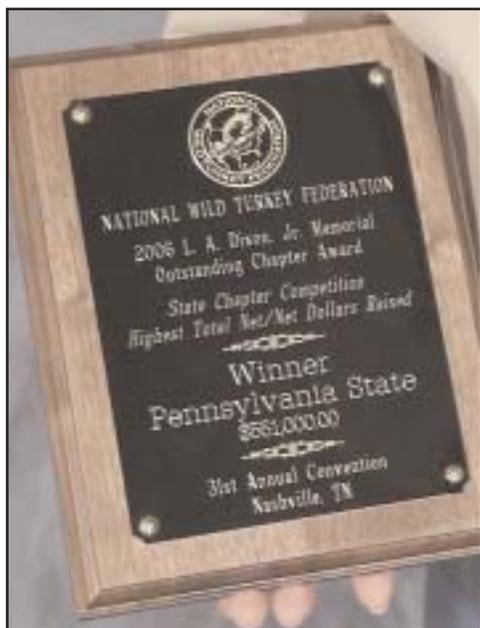
was presented the L. A. Dixon award and recognized for having attained the highest state net-net dollars for a total of \$551,000 dollars raised. Other 2006 L. A. Dixon Memorial Outstanding Chapter award winners were the Moraine Chapter for joining the One Half Million Dollar Club, and the Laurel Highlands Chapter for being the first in NWTFF history to raise over \$2 million!

At the Federal breakfast on Friday, the keynote speaker was the first Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and former Pennsylvania Governor, Tom Ridge. Immediately following the breakfast, several PA NWTFF staff and board members met with representatives of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, including executive director, Carl Roe. During the meeting, Roe announced that the Wild Turkey Management Plan for 2006-2015 had been approved and would be posted to the PGC Web site.

During the Winchester breakfast, PA NWTFF Chariman of the Board, Dave Burdge, was presented with the prestigious Roger M. Latham Sportsman's Service Award, which is based upon years of dedication, service, and contributions on the local and state level. At the Awards Banquet

that same evening, the L. A. Dixon Memorial Outstanding Chapter Award was presented to the Pennsylvania state chapter for reaching 2nd place in the category of "over 10,000 members." This is a huge accomplishment for PA NWTFF, having leaped from seventh place just the year before.

Meanwhile, in the Wild Turkey Bourbon/NWTFF Grand National Calling Contest, Dakota Clouser of Danville took top honors by winning a first place in the Junior Division. Cory Hoone of Smithfield



Dave Burdge - Roger M. Latham Sportsman's Service Award



placed third in the same category. Matt Van Cise from Grand Valley was the runner-up in the Senior Division, and Harrisburg resident Matt Morrett placed fourth in the Friction Calling Contest. The Team Challenge Championships went to Doug

Benefield of Newnan, Ga., and Daymon Davis of Danville, Pa. Daymon said, "I enjoy the team challenge competition because we're able to throw in some subtle calling and play out the scenes as if you're in the turkey woods."

In the 2007 Turkey Call Makers Competition, Pat Strawser of Millersburg received the D.D. Adams Award for the



best-sounding friction call. But it was Scott Basehore of Denver, Pa., who walked away



with top honors. Scott received the Gibson Award for the best-sounding box call, the Champion of Champions/Neil Cost Award for the best-sounding box call by a previous Gibson Award winner, and the coveted 2007 Grand National Champion Hunting Turkey Call Maker of the Year Award.

Scott humbly related that he felt very fortunate for having won the Gibson Award three times, saying "The contest makes you strive for perfection," and acknowledging it has made him a better call maker. He felt that if he ever won the award a third time, he would retire from the competition, and that is just what he announced during the convention.

At the Remington breakfast, the Red Rock Chapter was given an award for the "Best JAKES Event" for the category of 151-250 attendees. Red Rock Chapter member Chastity King flew to Nashville to accept the award, which was only fitting since she has been so instrumental in building their JAKES event to that level.

Overall, it was a very special convention, especially for the Pennsylvania call makers and the Pennsylvanians who competed in the calling contests as well, as all the PA NWTF members who have worked so diligently to make their local chapters and, as a result, the State Chapter such a great winner in 2006. Dare we dream even bigger for 2007?

Spring 2007



ORANGE FACTS

A goal of the PA Chapter NWTF is to have the regulation requiring hunters to wear an orange hat in the spring changed. We would like to see the use of orange in the spring be voluntary rather than mandatory.

FACT: Nationwide spring turkey hunting incident rates were 8.1 in the early 1990's to a low of less than 3 incidents per 100,000 participants today.

FACT : Nationwide there is NO ORANGE REQUIREMENT during spring turkey hunting season except for Pennsylvania. In most of the other states their shooting incidents are lower than Pennsylvania.

FACT : Spring incident rates in New York (180,000 turkey hunters) averaged 3.5 per 100,000 participants between 1993 and 2003. Here in Pennsylvania the average for those years was 4.6. Orange is not required in New York.

FACT : Spring incident rates in other major turkey hunting states remain fairly low without the use of mandatory orange. Rates in Missouri (125,000 spring hunters) averaged 4.67 per 100,000 hunters between 1995 and 2006. In Wisconsin (168,000 spring hunters) the average incident rate was 2.75 between 1993 and 2003. Michigan's average rate of incidents (98,300 hunters) was 1.0 between 1993 and 2003. In West Virginia, where there are 140,000 spring hunters, the average incident rate was 1.2 between 2003 and 2005.

FACT : Hunter acceptance and compliance is a major consideration. Generally, turkey hunters resist using hunter-orange clothing.

FACT : Hunters must always assume full responsibility to clearly identify their target. Even if all hunters complied with hunter-orange regulations, there would still be many people in turkey hunting areas that don't wear it.

FACT : A combination of public awareness, turkey hunting information, training, and education strategies have been implemented since the 1992 task force, leading to a nationwide drop in the injury-incident rate by nearly half.

FACT : Scientific field research shows that the use of fluorescent-orange clothing reduces a hunter's chances of harvesting a turkey by a factor of two to three times.

FACT : Spring incident rates in Pennsylvania have changed very little since the introduction of mandatory use of fluorescent orange in 1992, while other states have seen a significant decrease in incident rates without the use of orange.

FACT : Orange is too closely related to red in the color spectrum and can be mistaken for the red of a gobblers head.

RECOMMENDATION: We believe that education and increased awareness are the keys to reducing spring gobbler hunting incident rates. The PA Chapter NWTF will support the PA Game Commission by providing information needed for Turkey Hunter Safety that can be used at the Hunter Education courses. If a turkey hunting license was initiated, NWTF would provide a safety pamphlet to all hunters buying the license. We are dedicated to outreach on this issue through the media, advertising, and magazine articles stressing safety prior to every turkey hunting season. In addition, the Game Commission has purchased copies of an interactive CD/DVD developed by the NWTF Turkey Hunter Safety Task Force for use in Hunter Education classes.

E-mail your comments to the PGC Commissioners at: PGCCOMMENTS@state.pa.us

If you place a commissioner's name on the e-mail subject line and in comments text, the e-mail should be forwarded to that commissioner.

ATTENTION TURKEY HUNTERS

It's time to change the regulations regarding the use of orange in the spring turkey season!

The current orange requirements have been in effect for 15 years and there is NO indication that they have reduced safety incidents.

Pennsylvania is the only state with orange requirements for spring turkey hunting and while the number of incidents nationwide has reduced, Pennsylvania's rate has seen little change.

READ THE FACTS!

Then write or e-mail the Pennsylvania Game Commissioners at PGCCOMMENTS@state.pa.us and tell them that you want orange to be VOLUNTARY not mandatory.

If you place a Commissioner's name on the email Subject line and in comments text, the e-mail should be forwarded to that Commissioner.

PA Game Commissioners

Thomas Boop President
Roxane Palone Vice-President
Gregory Isabella Secretary
Russell Schleiden. Commissioner
H. Daniel Hill III. Commissioner
David Schreffler. Commissioner

Or write your Commissioner at:

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2001 Elmerton Avenue

Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

717-787-4250

TURKEY HUNTER SAFETY EDUCATION IS THE ANSWER

Second year of Gobbler Leg Band Study *in full swing*



BY PHIL FERRARE, JR.,
PA NWTF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The second year of gobbler leg band study being conducted in Ohio, New York, and Pennsylvania is underway. PA NWTF has contributed money to the Pennsylvania Game Commission from our Hunting Heritage Fund for to help underwrite this four-year study. Each of the three participating states is attempting to capture, band, and release 300 gobblers a year. Pennsylvania has been divided into six zones: northwest, northcentral, northeast, southwest, southcentral, and southeast. The goal in Pennsylvania is to capture 50 gobblers in each of the six zones per year.



In February, Jerry Bish of the Pennsylvania Game Commission invited me to help with a trapping effort. When I arrived at Pymatuning State Park at 6:45 a.m. on the designated day, I was greeted by Wildlife Conservation Officer Don "Doc" Daugherty, Deputy WCO Dave Pusher, and WCO John McKellop. Although I had never met any of these men before that morning, they all welcomed me and instantly made me feel part of their team.

Doc was the teacher. He went out of his way to show me the ropes of turkey trapping and gave me a crash course on the rockets that propel the net over the feeding turkeys. Doc was even gracious enough to allow me to detonate the rockets when the turkeys came into the trap site. By 8:53 a.m., turkeys started marching right into the site just as Jerry had predicted the evening before, and by 8:56 a.m., I was lucky enough to detonate the rockets successfully to trap 14 turkeys. Of those birds, twelve were hens and two were gobblers. In this study, only gobblers are banded. However, researchers are also taking breast feathers from the hens to record DNA samples.

Once we had the turkeys in the net, we took extreme caution in handling the birds in order to minimize the stress to them. Doc, Dave, and John are great professional turkey trappers. Both gobblers received one band on each leg. Their beards and spurs were measured, and breast feathers were taken for DNA samples. Then each bird was released back to the wild, possibly for some grateful hunter to harvest and report.

The NWTF and the Pennsylvania Game Commission are hoping to gain vital information about our turkey flock through the gobbler study. We turkey hunters may even be able to draw some new hunting strategies to help our efforts at harvesting these great birds. If you are fortunate enough to harvest a banded gobbler, be sure to report it – the toll free number is marked on the band. Some special bands are even worth \$100 to hunters who report it.



OPERATION OAK

comes to the Keystone State

BY BOB ERIKSEN,
NWTF REGIONAL BIOLOGIST

Many members in this part of the country are familiar with one of the most popular regional habitat programs sponsored by NWTF. Operation Appleseed was established a number of years ago and has become an important method of establishing winter food sources for a variety of birds in the Northeast, including the wild turkey. Crabapple seedlings are offered annually to each chapter for planting on public or private lands. Local chapter presidents are notified about the availability of seedlings and are requested to order them if their chapter members have an interest in conducting a habitat project. Operation Appleseed is a good example of where some of the dollars raised by our volunteers are invested.

Each region of the country has a unique regional habitat program designed to provide an important habitat component for wild turkeys and other species in the region. Recently there has been much discussion about the lack of oak regeneration in forests in the Northeast, Middle Atlantic, and the Midwest. There are many reasons for the changes that are taking place in the composition of our forests, but oak seedlings are having difficulty establishing themselves. Of course, oak is a major component of the forests in the eastern and midwestern United States, and oaks are extremely important sources of food for wildlife.

Operation Oak has been a regional habitat program in the Southeast for a number of years. In late 2006, a grant enabled NWTF to

expand the program into a couple of additional states. Pennsylvania was one of those states. Through the grant, 10,000 oak and persimmon trees were made available to chapter members in the Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, due to the late date of the grant, limited publicity was possible. Twenty seven chapter members learned about the program online or by word of mouth and requested seedlings.

Four types of seedlings were offered to Pennsylvania Chapter members. Applicants could request southern white oak, northern red oak, swamp chestnut oak, or persimmon seedlings. Northern red oaks were the most requested tree and comprised the bulk of the trees available to Pennsylvania residents. A total of 2,000 white oak, 6,000 red oak, 1,000 chestnut oak, and 1,000 persimmons were distributed in the 2007 program. In early March, the tree seedlings were delivered to three locations by a trucking company out of Alabama, and recipients picked up trees in Armstrong, Centre, and Wyoming Counties.

These seedlings were raised at a nursery operated by the Georgia Forestry Commission. The nursery operators have been working on growing superior seedlings with fast growth rates and the potential to produce acorns early. The seedlings are culled by examining the root structure, and only the ones that meet certain requirements are grown. Because of this culling process, two-year-old red oaks are five feet tall, and their white and chestnut oak counterparts are about three feet tall. Shipping occurred early in March because it was necessary to get the seedlings out of the ground before they began to

“green up.” Recipients will plant the seedlings as soon as the snow cover and frozen ground permit.

Watch for announcements about Operation Oak next fall. As successful as the program was in 2007, it will surely be even more popular in 2008. NWTF is working for the wild turkey by providing members with plant materials to improve wild turkey habitat.

VOLUNTEER WANTED

PA NWTF is searching for an interested person or couple to handle the various promotional items offered for sale by the state chapter. This is a volunteer position. You would need to handle sales of our items on the PA NWTF Web site and be sure to present these items for sale at the annual Leadership Workshop (first weekend of August in State College) and at the annual Rendezvous and Awards Banquet (first weekend of January in State College). You would be part of a committee that would assist you in the decisions of what items to have and what quantities to maintain, while rotating in new items to keep the inventory fresh, appealing, and moving. An inventory and financial report would be required for each of the board meetings, which could be forwarded to a committee member to present, although you would be invited to attend any or all of the meetings to present the report and have any issues handled yourself. You would also be permitted to have the inventory available for sale at any other appropriate function to represent the PA NWTF. If interested, contact Gene Alwine at genopanwtf@yahoo.com or 814-442-7959.

Safe is Always the Right Choice

BY BOB ERIKSEN,
NWTf REGIONAL BIOLOGIST

Three longbeards had spent the winter together and had remained as a trio into the early spring. I had seen them several times when the snow was on, listened to them gobbling on a few scouting trips, and was pretty confident that I could find them when the season opened. While I was hunting out of state during the first week of the season, they up and disappeared. So much for predictability.

Two mornings were spent on the ridge they had been frequenting, listening, walking, and calling. The trio had been located on a large tract of public land so there was lots of room to roam without crossing fences or property lines. On Thursday of the third week of the spring season, I spotted the trio in the evening on a field edge at least a mile from their former haunts. They were identifiable because one of the birds had a double beard. Though I had other things to do, I decided to watch and listen until dark. No one else was around, and no vehicles passed by the entire time I watched the birds. At dusk, they entered the woods and gobbled a few times when they flew up to roost.

Friday was supposed to be a perfect day, with little wind, clear skies, and temperatures in the sixties. I was both excited and confident as I entered the woods at least thirty minutes before the first hint of daylight. The trio had no hens with them, no one else was around, and it was a weekday. I anticipated a good hunt with no interference from anyone else. My truck was parked near a curve in the road some four or five hundred yards from where I set up as daylight began to appear in the eastern sky. I had entered the woods uphill from the trio's roost site and had moved to within 100 yards or so of their roost.

A cardinal sang, a crow cawed, and the trio gobbled in unison. My heart rate accelerated and anticipation overtook me as I planned my strategy. The trio answered my tree call, and I sat back confidently to let them worry a little about the whereabouts of the hen. Just then, I heard a vehicle approaching on the road where I had parked. The vehicle slowed to a stop and pulled off the road. Though I was too far away to see the road, it sounded like the vehicle had pulled in right next to mine! The trio gobbled when gravel crunched as the vehicle parked. A door opened and a box call fell onto the ground, making an awful noise. I knew my setup was about to be ruined.

Sure enough, the person from that vehicle picked up the box call and stroked out a few miserable yelps. There was no answer

from the trio. Next came a crow call, and again there was no answer. A short time later, when I was beginning to think this person might just drive away, a real crow cawed, and the trio gobbled. Ten minutes later, I could hear him coming down the hill crunching loudly in the dry leaves. He walked within a hundred yards of my setup. I used my binoculars to get a good look at the thoughtless hunter who ruined my perfect setup, turned away, and walked back up the hill to my truck. Sure enough, this hunter had parked within twenty feet of my truck.

After checking several other spots and setting up at another location, I returned to the area around 10:30 in the morning. The other vehicle was gone, so I parked and made some plans. Knowing that the other hunter had probably busted the trio out of their roost, I decided to climb the steep ridge on the opposite side of the road from where they roosted. Forty minutes later, I was set up on a bench high above the road. After I caught my breath, I clucked and purred on a slate call. I was rewarded with a response, and it sounded like multiple birds – the trio was back in action!

It didn't take long for the trio to make their way toward me. A few calls and several gobbles later I could see three fanned tails through a patch of sumac about sixty yards away. They skirted a field edge and were picking their way through the sumac when I eased my gun up and began to choose my target. They stopped at about forty-five yards, and all their heads periscoped up. There was one alarm putt, and the trio took to the air. They allowed me no opportunity for a shot, and I sat there in disbelief wondering what I had done wrong. A minute or two later I realized that the cause for alarm wasn't me. Sneaking through the woods to my left was the same hunter who had messed up my early morning setup!

I called out to him saying, "Hey, I'm over here." Then I stood up and walked over to have a conference with the man who had put my hunts and my safety in jeopardy twice in one morning. He had not roosted the birds the evening before. He saw my truck and figured if I was there that early I must know where a gobbler was. Instead of avoiding the spot, he had decided to compete with me for the gobbler he heard when he was getting his camo on! Later in the morning, he heard the trio gobbling to my calls and had decided to try and sneak up close to them hoping for a shot. Twice in one morning he had broken the rules, and twice he had interfered with my hunts. After our discussion (I was able to keep my temper – just barely), I hoped he is less inclined to take chances and hunt unsafely.

Fall turkey hunting related shooting inci-

idents (HRSIs) have declined markedly in Pennsylvania in the past four years. Reasons for the decline are not clear. Hunter numbers, turkey population levels, and intense safety message efforts are all likely part of the equation. The bottom line is that with no change in orange requirements in the fall the number of fall turkey hunting related shooting incidents fell from 15 in 2002 down to 2 in 2003, 5 in 2004, 3 in 2005 and 2 in 2006! We believe that outreach and educational efforts have been important in this decline.

Spring turkey hunting HRSIs averaged more than a dozen a year between 1995 and 2000. Since 2001, the average has been a little lower (a little over 8 incidents per year) through 2005. The number of spring turkey HRSIs in 2006 dropped to 4, a great improvement from previous years. The Pennsylvania Chapter is very pleased to see that decline, though it is unclear why the number of incidents dropped. We all need to work at making sure the upcoming spring season is the safest ever. Making that happen depends on each and every one of us.

The Pennsylvania Chapter is dedicated to making turkey hunting a safer sport. The chapter has increased its educational efforts by preparing news releases about safety, putting up billboards, conducting seminars, and publishing articles. These efforts will continue and will increase. As you take to the woods this spring, remember the following safe hunting tactics:

Treat every firearm as though it were loaded.

Never point a firearm at anything you do not intend to kill.

Keep your finger off the trigger and the safety on until you are certain of a safe shot.

Firearm safeties are not safe.

Be sure of your target and what is beyond.

Select a large stump or tree wider than your shoulders and higher than your head to place your back against.

Never wear or carry anything that is black, red, white, or blue while turkey hunting.

Select a calling spot that is in the open and from which you have good visibility.

Avoid using a gobble call in the spring woods.

Keep your eyes and ears open – when you hear alarm cries from jays, crows, or other birds, pay careful attention.

Never move or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter of your presence. Call out to the other hunter in a loud, clear voice.

Carry decoys in a bag or carefully concealed in your vest.

Hunt safely this spring and don't let peer pressure or excitement cloud your judgment. Good luck and good hunting!

Youth Mentors, Let's Play It Safe

SUBMITTED BY GREG "DOC"

CALDWELL, PA NWTF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The gobbler answered my calling as our midmorning walkabout successfully elicited a response. Phillip and I slowly walked down the wooded side hill while looking into the expansive field ahead of us. Sure enough, there he was, strutting all alone 400 yards away. I managed to slip a decoy into the field along the woods edge without being detected. I then placed the young hunter at my right side.

"Are you comfortable?" I asked.

"Yes sir," was Phillip's polite response.

I made certain his legs were up with his 20-gauge shotgun resting on his knee.

"Scoot down just a bit. Are you still comfortable?"

"Yes sir," was his response once again.

It is so critically important to be in as perfect a position as possible when setting up on a turkey, especially for a newcomer to the sport and, in particular, a youngster. Positioning is one of the most important ingredients to a successful turkey hunt. This first-time turkey hunter was now set up in a safe location with his back against a large tree, his head close to his sight plane, opposite shooting shoulder facing the tom, and his gun positioned where very little movement would be needed when the bird entered the red zone.

A yelp and cut not only got the big boy to gobble but also got him heading our way. He angled towards the woods and field edge, out of our sight. His incisive gobbling, however, gave away his location as he continued closing the distance. My hunter's heavy breathing and shaky gun indicated he was extremely excited.

"Phillip, do you have a girl friend?"

"Not right now. I used to," he answered.

I was trying to get his mind off his turkey fever. "Are you thinking of getting another girlfriend?"

"I'd really rather not talk about it," Phillip answered.

Reality struck. What are we doing talking about girlfriends when a turkey is heading towards us? There is a bird not more than 70 yards away, heading our direction. I'm sure this is what entered this boy's mind. However, he was calmed down. With the turkey about 50 yards out, I told Phillip to take his safety off. I wasn't sure how much he'd move or how difficult sliding the safety would be once the turkey came into view so I wanted this done before the bird was in range.

"No sir" Phillip responded.

This young hunter was mentored and taught well. He was trained by his father not to take the safety off until he is ready to pull



the trigger. I slowly put my arm around Phillip just in case he needed help with the quarry when the quarry came into view.

"There he is Phillip!" I whispered.

The safety came off. When the turkey was 25 yards away, the Remington cracked, and the bird flew off. Phillip had missed. Although disappointed, what a great experience this young man had. He learned about turkey hunting positioning, patience, calling, camaraderie, and above all else, safety. A lesson on persistence soon followed. Another turkey's gobble directed our attention away from the previous miss. We positioned ourselves to another setup and tried a new calling tactic. This time, when the gun resounded, a jake lay on the ground in front of an excited youth hunter and his mentor.

This hunt occurred two years ago when our hunter was 11 years old. He spent the remainder of the year watching turkey-hunting videos, listening to turkey-calling tapes, and practicing his own calling, as he got ready for spring 2006. Phillip won the Minnesota youth turkey-calling contest and called in his own bird this past season. And, I almost forgot, Phillip is autistic, and the contest he won was done with his own natural voice.

While Phillip Yeah was successfully harvesting his 2006 spring bird, two other hunters, Tyler Nunnenkamp and Justin Fernburg were also taking large, mature gobblers. Both these boys were hunting out of ground blinds while being mentored and coached by their fathers. They practiced before season on how to hold their shotguns and how to squeeze the triggers. They enjoyed the fun of patterning their guns. The anticipation of the upcoming season was enhanced as these boys scouted for turkey signs and listened to gobbling action during the predawn hours. Just as much fun as it is to watch family home videos of football, soccer, or baseball practice, videos of shooting, calling, and scouting for turkeys can be just as rewarding. Those early years of competitive school sports have lead many to successful college careers or just the

enjoyment these kids had growing up participating in these sports. I'm certain the mentored youth hunts early in their careers will lead many of our kids into very successful years of hunting during their later stages of life. Tyler and Justin were both 5 years old, with Justin suffering from juvenile diabetes.

All three of these boys had success because their parents were able to take them to another state that allowed younger children to hunt. Now, Pennsylvania kids whose parents feel they are mentally and physically ready can hunt groundhogs, squirrels, and spring turkeys. Can you imagine what it would be like if you weren't allowed to actually play football, baseball, basketball, soccer, hockey, wrestling, or golf until you reached the age of 12? That's what it has always been for kids wanting to hunt. Sure you could go out and learn and enjoy all about hunting without actually participating, but how much fun would there be year after year without having an opportunity to take a shot at a squirrel, groundhog, turkey, or deer? About like going to the golf course for 11 years without being allowed to actually hit the ball. How about carrying a bat without swinging or not permitted to throw, catch, or kick a football until you're "old enough"?

Some might say, "But hunting with guns is so much more dangerous." Baloney! According to a comprehensive study of sports injuries in the United States published by American Sports Data, Inc., hunting in general is safer than the above-mentioned sports. And according to the International Hunter Education Association, supervised youth hunting is safer yet.

Not only is the mentored youth hunting program going to have youngsters develop into safer and more responsible adult hunters, but it should also teach the mentors or your adults to become more responsible. By teaching kids, the mentors will automatically be safer just by the sheer responsibility of protecting the youngster with the one-on-one hands-on training.



Reminder to JAKES

All youths up to and including 17 years of age who shoot their first turkey can receive a certificate and first-bird patch by sending proof of the kill and their JAKES membership number to:

Dennis Strawbridge
709 Franlyn Drive
Dallastown, PA 17313

JAKES guns availability and scheduling

Are you interested in offering live shooting at your JAKES or Xtreme JAKES event?

If so, the PA NWTF has a large offering of bows and guns for your use that many people don't know about.

The inventory consists of:

- 5 regular-sized Genesis bows
- 1 mini-Genesis bow
- 6 Cricket .22s with Red Dot scopes
- 3 Remington single-shot .410s with Red Dot scopes
- 3 Remington single-shot .410s with open sights

Want to get on the schedule?

As part of our effort to modernize communications, we have created a Web site where you can view the schedule for the guns and fill out a request to be put on the schedule. Go to www.masondixonpanwtf.org/viewjguns and take a look.

If you have a problem using the web site call Joe Drolet at 717-940-9310.

Profiles in habitat: Washington hawthorn

SUBMITTED BY JOE KRUG

Having more than 25 years of experience in the process of enhancing wildlife habitat has enabled me to observe the growth and survivability characteristics of numerous species of trees and shrubs. Domestic apple, for example, will require considerable attention for at least five or six years in order to have a reasonable shot at survival. Species such as hawthorn and crabapple are far less labor-intensive and easier to establish and maintain.

There is a fairly long list of trees, shrubs, and vines that can successfully be used to improve wildlife habitat. All have their strong and weak points. If I were forced to pick just one species to work with for wild turkey management, however, it would be Washington hawthorn. Hawthorn is one tough and durable little tree. It thrives in soil types that range from heavy and wet, to dry and acidic. I have observed hawthorn exhibiting reasonable vigor on the sterile soil of a reclaimed strip mine. Hawthorn also has good resistance to chewing insects. With the exception of severe insect infestations, it seldom requires pesticide applications. Trunk borers, which can wreak havoc on apple trees, rarely ever kill hawthorn. If insect control ever becomes an issue, the only insecticide I recommend is Liquid Seven. Most other pesticides will scorch the leaves severely, and several applications will probably kill the tree.

Like most trees, hawthorn prefers total sunlight for maximum vigor. It will tolerate a reasonable amount of shade and, at times, be found growing as an understory species.

Washington hawthorn blooms very late – late June to early July – thereby avoiding frost damage to its blossoms. I cannot ever remember a year when hawthorns did not produce fruit. All of these wonderful characteristics have made Washington hawthorn a real favorite of professional landscapers. It has been heavily used in plantings around government buildings, office complexes, and interstate highway interchanges.

Washington hawthorn is not native to Pennsylvania, but its natural range extends into the northernmost parts of Virginia, making it a next-door neighbor. Growth characteristics of the Washington hawthorn are almost indistinguishable from our native Pennsylvania species of hawthorn. A quick glance at the fruit, however, will render it quickly identifiable. Native hawthorn produces dime-sized fruits that are purged from the tree in early October. The fruits of Washington hawthorn are only pea-sized but hang in large clusters. In contrast to the native hawthorn, Washington hawthorn berries cling to the twigs until the following spring before the tree purges them. This special quality makes this species an excellent choice as a winter-survival food source for wild turkeys. Although turkeys consume the fruits of our native hawthorn, it is a tree that is perhaps better suited for deer management, because the native trees purge their fruits throughout October.



Do you want to do something positive for wildlife? Plant a couple of hawthorn trees around your hunting camp or on the "back forty." Their radiant display of brilliant red fruit on a cold winter day will warm your heart and please the eye. As always, provide your new tree with a good trunk protector to ward off issues with mice and rabbits. A good wire cylinder, fashioned from seven feet of linear cattle fencing, will keep the deer away. Do not be naïve and think you can avoid either of these steps! Twenty-five years of experience has taught me this: Do it right the first time, or you will do it again. May all of your efforts be thoughtful and bear fruit.

Wheelin' With the Terrace Mountain Chapter

BY BOB ERIKSEN,
NWTF REGIONAL
BIOLOGIST

Cooperation between the Terrace Mountain Chapter in Huntingdon County and the Army Corps of Engineers at Raystown Lake encompasses more than the many habitat improvement projects the chapter has sponsored over the years. These partners have accomplished much on the ground enhancing wildlife habitat, but the Terrace Mountain Chapter members have a special interest in outreach programs as well.

Chapter members have worked together for the past few years to plan and carry out one of the largest Wheelin' Sportsmen events in Pennsylvania. Initiated in 2001 by chapter member Chris Bowser who was a part time wildlife technician at the Army Corps facility, the event has provided opportunity to many disabled hunters over the years. Scores of volunteers gather each year along with staff members from the Raystown Lake Army Corps facility to restore hunting opportunity to hunters with disabilities. The annual hunting seasons and the recreational opportunity they provide are often taken for granted by those of us fortunate enough to live without disabilities. Many people who are disabled through accident, injury, or illness do not have the chance to enjoy deer season unless someone makes a special effort to include them. This group of volunteers does just that.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers natural resources staff helps to make this special event possible by using Deer Management Assistance Program tags issued to persons with disabilities. On the last day of deer season, disabled hunters are allowed to hunt with the assistance of volunteers from the Terrace Mountain Chapter on three sites that are otherwise closed to hunting except for that

special day. Volunteers come out of the woodwork on this day, giving up their own hunting opportunity to help out with the hunt. In 2006, 110 chapter volunteers assisted in the hunt. A light breakfast and coffee start out the day, and the hunters and volunteers share a hot lunch at midday.

This Terrace Mountain Chapter tradition celebrated its fifth season in December when 23 hunters came in from the far corners of the state. Thirteen of the participants in the 2006 hunt used wheelchairs to get around. Some of the participants came from as far as Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Williamsport to spend a day in the deer woods. The hunters enjoy a day of deer hunting and the fellowship of sharing time and swapping stories with fellow hunters, both disabled and non-disabled. Through the generosity of sponsors and volunteers, each hunter receives an embroidered orange vest and hat along with a delicious and eagerly anticipated hot lunch. Chapter volunteers get an orange hat, lunch, and an unforgettable day in the woods helping another hunter. There is no greater reward for the volunteers than the enjoyment they receive from sharing the day helping another hunter to fulfill the dream of being able to deer hunt again. Memories are made and friendships are forged.

According to Frank Lane, the chair of the 2006 event, "The Wheelin' Sportsmen event is all about helping those a little less fortunate, while at the same time working toward the Corp's goal to reduce deer populations in areas traditionally closed to hunting." On December 9, 2006, twenty-three disabled hunters took to the woods and fields with their volunteer sponsors. Twenty-one deer were harvested at the Raystown Dam, Seven Points Recreation Area, and Juniata College Field Station. Disabled hunters have taken 61 deer on the site since the annual hunt was initiated. It was a year of firsts for the hunt.



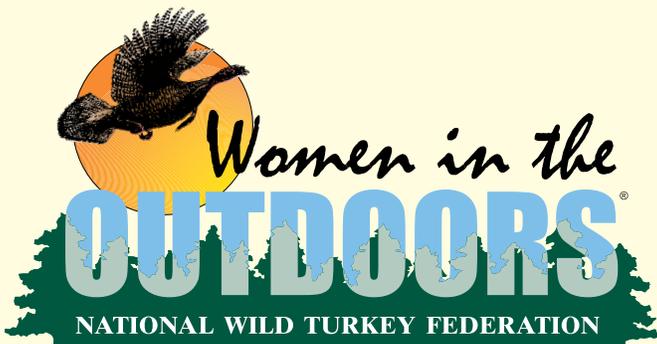
Terrace Mountain Chapter members Jackie Couch, Pete Bowser, and Ed Couch accept the award for the Most Outstanding Wheelin' Sportsman event in Pennsylvania in 2006.



Disabled hunters were allowed to harvest bucks in 2006, and three were taken. The Juniata College Field Station Area was open for hunting for the first time too, thanks to the cooperation of Chuck Yohn. Juniata College students, under the direction of Uma Ramakrishnan, checked in the deer, noting the age, sex, and condition of each animal. Each successful hunter was presented with a large custom framed portrait with his or her deer donated by Debra Lane of Lane Prints. Every volunteer went home with a feeling of satisfaction derived from their outreach aimed at preserving our hunting tradition and enabling less fortunate fellow hunters to experience one more day in the

woods.

The work of the Terrace Mountain Chapter is far from complete. They are already planning and seeking sponsors for the 2007 Wheelin' Hunt. Potential hunters, sponsors, and volunteers may contact Frank Lane at 814-658-3405, extension 2501. The Terrace Mountain Chapter is fighting the good fight. Congratulations to the chapter for establishing and maintaining this outreach tradition and we owe a debt of gratitude to the folks at Raystown Lake for their willingness to help. Thanks to all the sponsors who provided donations and to the dedicated volunteers who make this event work. Keep up the good work Terrace Mountain!



2007 Pennsylvania Events

Do you enjoy activities in the out of doors? Would you like to learn outdoor skills or brush up on old ones, and network with other women who enjoy the same outdoor activities as you enjoy?

Then come and participate in a National Wild Turkey Federation's Women in the Outdoors event! You will learn outdoor skills in a non-competitive environment. Skills that you can take home and share with family and friends. Make new friends and maybe take up a new hobby.

Come and join the fun!

March 17, 2007

Moraine Chapter
Handgun and Self Protection Event
Tammy Mowry: 724-284-9201, tammynwtf@zoominternet.net
Butler City Hunting & Fishing Club, East Butler (Butler County)

March 23-25, 2007

Pennsylvania State Chapter
Rhonda Henry: 814-443-6241, rhondapa@hotmail.com
Tammy Mowry: 724-284-9201, tammynwtf@zoominternet.net
Frank T. Soles YMCA Camp, Rockwood (Somerset County)

May 12, 2007

Penns' Woods Spurs Chapter
Debbie Wirth: 724-523-3164, debbieuw@yaho.com
Danielle Straley: 412-798-2965, dstraley2@comcast.net
Trafford Sportsmen's Club, Trafford (Westmoreland County)

June 2, 2007

Kinzua Allegheny Chapter
Jessica Arnold: 814-436-1048, duckdog@outdrs.net
Chapman State Park, Clarendon (Warren County)

June 2, 2007

Allegheny Valley Chapter
Heather Wells: 724-265-4883, HeatherWells531@msn.com
Bullcreek Sportsmen's Club, Tarentum (Allegheny County)

June 16, 2007

Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter and Walking Purchase Chapter
Katrina Skrapits: 610-760-1689, kskrap@ptd.net
Ontelaunee Rod & Gun Club, New Tripoli (Lehigh County)

June 16, 2007

Nittany Valley Longbeards Chapter
Margie Ross: 814-349-5041
Lisa Luse: 814-349-7292, lml-jal44@aol.com
Spring Mills Fish and Game, Spring Mills (Centre County)

June 16, 2007

Sherman's Valley Strutters Chapter
Brenda Beal: 717-582-3281, bealtree@pa.net
Duncannon Sportsmen's Association, Duncannon (Perry County)

June 23, 2007

Wilhelm Chapter
Annette (Sis) Tobin: 814-734-1691, lattobin@peoplepc.com
Meg LeSuer: 814-734-5029
Lake Edinboro Sportsman League, Edinboro (Crawford County)

June 23 and 24, 2007

Michaux Yellow Breeches Chapter and Bass Pro Shop
Shyla Rakers: 717-448-3517, shylaspm@pa.net
Brenda Gossard: 717-791-0835, bgossard2@hotmail.com
Carol DaCosta: 717-657-8906
Bass Pro Shop and Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's

Club, Harrisburg & Mechanicsburg (Dauphin/Cumberland County)

June 23, 2007

Keystone Sportsmen's Club
Women in the Outdoors
Tammy Parks: 724-354-3595, tspjat@icubed.com
Keystone Sportsmen's Club, Creekside (Armstrong County)

June 23, 2007 (Tentative)

Lykens Valley Longbeards Chapter
Pam Hood: 570-758-4016, hood_pamela@hotmail.com
Facility Pending

June 30, 2007

Southeast Silver Spurs Chapter
Julianne Schieffer: 215-541-9111, jxs51@psu.edu
Cathy Probeck: cprobeck@comcast.net
Donna Curley: 215-541-4159, gracia051096@aol.com
Branch Valley Fish & Game Forestry Association, Perkasio (Bucks County)

July 14, 2007

Moraine Chapter
Tammy Mowry: 724-284-9201, tammynwtf@zoominternet.net
Butler City Hunting & Fishing Club, East Butler (Butler County)

August 3 and 4, 2007

Muncy Creek Chapter
Clare McWilliams: 570-323-7947, macclare@uplink.net
Nancy Craft: 570-482-4364, rockrun@chilitech.net
North Mountain Sportsman Club, Muncy Valley (Sullivan County)

August 4, 2007

Allegheny Mountain, Terrace Mountain, and Tussey Mountain Chapters
Jackie Couch: 814-667-2308, couchj@jostens.com
Amy Wertz: 814-943-2123, apwertz@cs.com
Bonnie Wertz: 814-766-3769, jacinc@cove.net
Canoë Creek State Park, Hollidaysburg (Blair County)

August 11, 2007

Mt. Pisgah State Park
Nicole Carman: 570-297-2734, nicolecarman@yahoo.com
Mt. Pisgah State Park, Troy (Bradford County)

August 11, 2007

Ten Mile Valley Chapter
Roxane Palone: 724-324-2753, roxane@greenepa.net
Roscoe Sportsman's Association, Roscoe (Washington County)

August 18, 2007

Shippensburg Strutters
Janelle Hippensteel: 717-776-4055, jahippenst@state.pa.us
Shippensburg Fish and Game Association, Shippensburg (Cumberland County)

August 24-26, 2007

Adams County Longbeards Chapter and Carlisle YMCA
Tammy Mowry: 724-284-9201, tammynwtf@zoominternet.net
Bonnie Berk: 717-243-2525, ext. 222, bonnieberk@comcast.net
Camp Thompson YMCA Camp, Gardners, PA (Adams County)

August 25, 2007

Bald Eagle Longbeards Chapter
Mary Probst: 570-748-3339
Tiadaghton Sportsmen's Association, Haneyville (Clinton County)

September 14 & 15, 2007

Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards Chapter
Rhonda Henry: 814-443-6241, rhondapa@hotmail.com
Frank T. Soles YMCA Camp, Rockwood (Somerset County)

Events will continue to be scheduled throughout the year, be sure to check back often to see what events have been added.

Registration fee for each event includes: Your choice of classes, equipment, literature, 1-year subscription to the Women in the Outdoors Magazine, complimentary 1-year membership to the National Wild Turkey Federation (or extension of current membership), meals, door prizes.

For a current list of events or more information, contact: Tammy Mowry, National Coordinator at 724-284-9201 or by e-mail at tammynwtf@zoominternet.net. Visit the NWTF Web site at www.nwtf.org, www.womenintheoutdoors.org, or the Pennsylvania Web site at www.panwtf.com or www.pawito.com

PA NWTF featured at the Pennsylvania Outdoor Times Hunting & Fishing Show at Altoona in February



JOIN THE NWTF — THE RESOURCE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

YES I'd like to join the National Wild Turkey Federation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of the hunting tradition. This membership also enrolls me in my state and local chapters.

Sign me up as: *(check one)*

- Regular Member - \$30 Women in the Outdoors Member - \$25
 Sponsor Member - \$225 JAKES Member \$5
 Wheelin' Sportsmen Member - \$25

Charge my: Master Card; Visa

Credit Card Number: _____

Exp. Date _____

Name: *(please print)* _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

(Make checks payable to the NWTF)

Send completed application to:

Tammy Mowry, 288 Crisswell Road, Butler, PA 16002



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