

PENNSYLVANIA *Summer 2007*  
**TURKEY TALK**

Publication of the PA State Chapter of the NWTF



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# PENNSYLVANIA TURKEY TALK SUMMER 2007

Publication of the PA State Chapter of the NWTF

Volume 32 Number 4



Photo Credit: Henry Zeman/NWTF

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## PENNSYLVANIA TURKEY TALK

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

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# From the President

Gene Alwine

**W**hat ever happened to the phrase, "lazy days of summer"? Our lives don't seem capable of slowing down anymore. The neighborhood kids always have something going on, so the hangouts aren't nearly as occupied as when I was a teen. The adults become professional jugglers, quickly maneuvering from work, to a soccer practice, to the grocery store, and finally catching the last two innings of a Little League game. These are the same families who enjoy spending a day at a JAKES event, sharpening rifle skills, catching some fish, hitting the bull's-eye with an arrow, and learning some new things about the critters that inhabit their surroundings. So, remember to be watching for a JAKES, WITO or Wheelin' Sportsmen event in your area. Even offer to help out. It'll be appreciated, for sure.

I must take some time to backtrack, now. You may recall the Rendezvous article in the last issue. I failed to note an award that deserves better than the neglect it received of being included. This is our Silver Spurs Award, given to an individual who has served on the State Board of Directors for ten years. Last year, Bill Mackereth completed his tenth year with us, serving the last seven of those as our recording secretary and more than a couple of years as the JAKES committee chairman, and our YHEC representative. Congratulations, Bill!

This spring, I had the pleasure of attending the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association conference that was held throughout the Butler and Moraine area. It was quite an experience to finally place faces with some of their names. I enjoyed the conversations and getting to know these folks better. I'm also pleased to hear their concerns and realize their level of interest for our Federation. Let's do our best to keep their pens and recorders in motion.

By now, it's become common knowledge that our state's scholarship recipient, Ashley Blough, has not been awarded the National Scholarship. (See the article on Ashley Bough on page 14 of this issue) I have to say we were well represented, and the decision could not have been easy. Ashley, we wish you the very best and remember to submit your stories to us as the years pass by and you take on your role in our outdoor world. The same goes for any of our past recipients. What's going on with you, now? We're interested in hearing from you.

I'm hoping everyone had an enjoyable spring season. I was informed of a gobbler with a reward leg band being taken in my neck of the woods. I'll be talking to this successful hunter after he receives all the data that Penn State will present him with. It'll be interesting to see what takes place after the banding and the bird is taken. This study is one of many things we get involved with to update and enhance what we know about our big game bird. See Bob Eriksen's latest update on the tri-state gobbler study on page 16 of this issue.

Remember to plan for the leadership meeting in State College the first weekend of August. It

has been well-attended and we appreciate that. Our staff will have some interesting things on the agenda, once again. Full details on the meeting are on page 14 of this issue.

Until I see or write to you, again...keep lookin' up.

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and not to the editorial office in Altoona.

# Letter to the Editor

## Dear Editor:

We want to share a story of inspiration with your readers. We are a small, family-owned game call business, and we were approached to do an adapted hunt during the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Mentor Program. Of course, we were extremely excited.

Chaz Finkenbinder and Shawn Frick knew that Steve Shaffer and his son Daniel would love to have the opportunity to go on a turkey hunt. Daniel was born with multiple birth defects, one being Charge Syndrome, and he loved to be with his father when we went outdoors. Chaz contacted us to help them and Daniel's mother, Sue, surprised Daniel and his father, Steve, at Christmas with a turkey hunt. After Christmas, we met Daniel and his family, and we knew that it was going to be a challenge, but we were up for the adventure.

Early that Saturday morning, Daniel, Steve, and Sue arrived at our home in Carlisle, and we headed off for the hunt. Daniel was so excited you could hear his feet kicking in the truck when he arrived at the hunting location. Daniel would giggle and laugh when Dan would call. But then it happened – four jakes come into view, and Dan told Daniel to get the one strutting, and to our amazement, he did. Down the turkey went at 20 yards. It could not been a more perfect day; it is an experience we will not soon forget.

Special thanks to Big Spring Fish & Game for donating an engraved gun, engraved by Putt Rohm of D & A Private Labels; Chaz Finkenbinder of Country Butcher Shop; and Shawn Frick of Carlisle.

Dan and I have always been about kids. Our company is called Grand C Calls, which means Grand Children. All our mouth calls are named after our eight grandchildren. If you want to enrich your lives, spend a day with a child in the outdoors and you will never regret it. Our motto is: Inspired by the past, encouraging the future.

We hope your readers will enjoy this as much as we did.

**Dan and Donna Thumma**  
**Grand C Calls**  
**Carlisle, Pa.**

## Pictures of successful mentored youth hunters wanted

To celebrate the mentored youth hunting opportunity in Pennsylvania, we would like to present photos of successful young hunters in upcoming issues of Pennsylvania Turkey Talk. Be sure to include the name, age, and hometown of the young hunter, the general area or county where the hunt took place, and the names of any other persons in the photo.

Submissions can be commercially produced photographic prints or original digital files on CD or via e-mail. Do not send prints made on a home computer printer.

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# Somerset County JAKES member has a great year

SUBMITTED BY RHONDA HENRY,  
PA NWTF SECRETARY  
(AND PROUD AUNT)

**M**y niece Brianna Trent 12-years old and the daughter of my brother Brian and his wife Lori. Her family lives on a farm in rural Somerset County. Brianna is an amazing young lady and an avid hunter. She comes from a family of hunters, in which her dad, mom, grandfathers, aunts, and cousins all hunt. Brianna started by going deer hunting during the 2006 fall deer season here in Pennsylvania. Her maternal grandfather, Bob Swank, gave her a 20-gauge shotgun, which was a JAKES Gun of the Year. He won this gun at the Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards first Super Fund Banquet in 1998 and felt this gun was appropriate for Brianna to take on her first deer hunt.

Brianna, her dad, mom, brother, and

**Anyone who has been around Brianna realizes this young lady has a wonderful future ahead of her. She is an inspiration to everyone, young or old, who knows her.**

great-uncle, Rick Stutzman, who is also President of our local NWTF Chapter, went deer hunting together on the family property during the 2006 youth deer season. Brianna and her dad sat by a tree and waited. When the day was over, Brianna had shot her first deer, a doe, at about 20 yards with the gun her grandfather had given her.

Brianna then decided she wanted to go for spring turkey, so with her dad and great-uncle Rick, she was off to the woods for the 2007 Youth turkey season last spring. Brianna got her first turkey, a longbeard that weighed 18 pounds, had a 10-inch beard and 7/8-inch spurs. An amazing part of this story is that Brianna got both her deer and her turkey at the exact same spot on the family property using the same special NWTF gun.

Brianna attends Eagleview Elementary School where she is an "A" student in the sixth grade. She plays AYSO and West Penn Soccer, as well as basketball. She also likes to pull farm tractors at the local tractor pulls. Brianna uses a 1958 John Deere 530 restored by her paternal grandfather, Ronald Trent, and has won numerous rib-



bons at these pulls.

Brianna is also very active in the National Wild Turkey Federation. She is a member of the JAKES program with our local chapter

and attends our yearly JAKES Youth Field Day. Brianna is also a member of our chapter's Women in the Outdoors Program. Our Women in the Outdoors Event always has an amateur Turkey Calling Contest on Friday night of the event when we crown our "Queen Cluck" for that year. Brianna entered the contest last year and won the "2006 Queen Cluck" title.

Anyone who has been around Brianna realizes this young lady has a wonderful future ahead of her. She is an inspiration to everyone, young or old, who knows her. She



shows that you can be a hunter, active in sports, or do whatever you want to do and still be a young lady. All the members of Brianna's extended family are very proud of her and look forward to see where she goes from here. She tells us her future plans are for college and to become a veterinarian, to which I'm sure she will give 100 percent.

# JAKES

Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics & Sportsmanship

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION



## 2007 Hunt

BY JIM PANARO,  
PA NWTF TREASURER

The 2007 Jakes Hunt-of-a-Lifetime was another huge success. Five youngsters ranging from 11 to 14 years old were in camp this year, and two of the happy young ladies tied their tags to big central Pennsylvania longbeards and caught some lunker trout as well. The young hunters and chaperones included Tiffany Osselborn of Evans and her father Ron, who purchased the hunt at the State Chapter Rendezvous auction in January. Lynda Ruby of Robertsdale, who was drawn as winner from all the local chapter banquet JAKES Raffles throughout the state, was accompanied by her grandfather Dan Reese. Also joining in on the hunt were Haley and Skip Motts of Stroudsburg, Jeff and Mike Hogan of Northern Cambria, and Julien and Jim Panaro of Ebensburg.

This year's event was sponsored by Woodhaven Custom Calls of Heflin, Alabama, and Keystone Country Store of Ft. Loudon and was hosted by Sam McCartney and the other members of Sam's camp near Centre Hall on April 20 to 22. The camp members did one heck of a job of locating birds during the two weeks leading up to the event and had locations for more than 20 gobblers pinned down within 10 miles of camp. They also outdid themselves with making sure everyone felt welcome and

well-fed in a very clean and comfortable camp. Camp members, cooks, and scouts included Sam, Buzz, Tom, and Bud McCartney, DJ and Nate James, Gary Witmer, Bernie Bernhard, Jim Walker, and Kevin Martz.

Most of the hunting crew arrived Friday evening and went out to roost some birds after checking gear and having a nice home-cooked dinner. To say expectations for the next day were high was an understatement because every group that went out that evening either heard birds flying up or gobbling on the roost. Tiffany and Lynda each received a complete camo package from Keystone Country Store; a call package, t-shirt, and hat from Woodhaven Custom Calls; and new 20-gauge 870 Remington youth model shotguns provided by PA NWTF. While the youngsters were having a restless night, our Woodhaven camera crew and "ace in the hole" were driving in from Ohio and western Pennsylvania, and they arrived just in time for breakfast on Saturday morning. Brett Berry did the four-hour drive from Ohio and picked up the other cameraman Sam Huff and champion caller Matt Van Cise somewhere along the way. We all reviewed the plans on where everyone was hunting, had a safety review, and split into four groups of hunters to head out for the morning.

The first to score was Haley Motts with on a gobbler with 17-



Tiffany Osselborn in the front row and going clockwise is her father Ron Osselborn, Jimmy Walker (guide) and Matt Van Cise (caller).

pound bird with an 8 1/2-inch beard and 3/4-inch spurs at 6:15. She was hunting with Bernie Bernhard as her guide and her father Skip, who is a fellow PA NWTF board member. They were able to get on the bird right off the roost and with Bernie's help from knowing the lay of the land were in the perfect spot to bring the longbeard into gun range. It put on a great show for the hunters when it strutted down a fallen log just before Haley made a clean, one-shot kill. This was Haley's

See JAKES HUNT on page 7

### 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

# Carrying on the Hunting Heritage

BY AUDREY ZIMMERMAN

It was one of those beautiful spring days when you love being in the woods. Colleen Manjarrez, my oldest granddaughter, and I were hunting in Pike County near The Bear's Den Camp. My husband, Jerry, loved The Bear's Den as did the rest of our family. He helped clear areas in which to put food plots, and it was a place where our grandchildren saw their first wild turkeys and other wildlife as well. Jerry's hope and dream was that one of his grandchildren would share his love for conservation and his hunting heritage.

Colleen turned twelve in November 2006. She said she wanted to take the hunter's safety course and hunt turkeys in the spring. I think you can imagine my joy and pride.

The beautiful day I mentioned above was Saturday, May 5. It is also a day that Colleen and I will always remember because at 8 a.m. she shot her first turkey, a gobbler, in that same field her grandfather, Pop-Pop Zimmerman, introduced her to her first turkeys when she was about six years old. Colleen made an awesome shot at 41 yards. Her turkey weighed 18 pounds, 6 ounces with an 8 1/4-inch beard. I don't know which one of us was more excited as

we hugged and high-fived. Somehow, I think Jerry was looking down on us, smiling and beaming with pride.

Jerry's legacy lives on. This is what sharing our hunting heritage with our children, grandchildren, and all future generations is all about. Colleen and I would like to extend a special "thank you" to Dave Mitchell and Bob Ehle for all their encouragement, support and help in making this day possible.

**Editor's note:** Colleen is a sixth-grade student at Springhouse Middle School. She is a straight-A student, plays bass in the orchestra, is a cross-country runner, and is an NWTJ JAKES member.

The field that Audrey called in the turkey for Colleen is the same place that Jerry introduced Audrey to spring gobbler hunting in 2005 – only a few weeks before his death. On that outing, they heard gobbling, but as is often the case, hearing and getting are two different things! Those of us who knew Jerry know that he was with Audrey and Colleen and is proud of both of them.



Audrey is not one to boast, so we'll do it for her. In the spring of 2006, she harvested a Merriam and an eastern wild turkey. Her goal is to complete her Grand Slam. She is a woman of great faith and is a true inspiration to all who know her. Audrey, thanks for all you do for the NWTJ, wildlife conservation, and the hunting tradition.

## JAKES HUNT

second gobbler in as many years.

Tiffany also had a great morning despite a bit of a rough start by flushing some gobblers off the roost before daylight that her guide Jim Walker had put to bed the previous evening. She was hunting with her father and cameraman Sam Huff, but she had the advantage of having Matt Van Cise calling for her. After spooking the birds early, they had to fall back to a "walk and call" mode to try to locate another bird, and it sure helped having a world champion turkey caller along. They struck a bird about a half mile from their starting spot, but it was on some adjacent state prison ground that was off limits. Matt was able to bring the bird in after almost an hour of hen talk, and Tiffany made a great shot on the bird after it strutted into a log landing at 8:30. Tiffany's gobbler weighed 18 pounds and had a 10-inch beard and 3/4-inch spurs. The shot and celebration were all captured on video so Ron and Tiffany will get to relive the event forever. This was also Tiffany's second gobbler as she had taken a jake on the 2006 JAKES hunt, but this was her first longbeard.

Lynda Ruby and her grandfather went out with Sam McCartney as a guide and Brett Berry as cameraman to a spot where Sam

roosted some birds the night before. They were in the midst of quite a few turkeys and heard a lot of gobblers, but unfortunately they ran into a lot of hens as well and weren't able to bring a bird into range. The same was true for Julien and Jeff.

After a filling lunch and more pictures, some of our crew pulled up stakes and headed to Ohio for youth season, and the girls were off for the second part of their weekend adventure. Sam had made arrangements with Pennsylvania Game Commissioner Russ Schleiden to allow the girls to do some trout fishing on his property at Penn's Cave. The girls did as well at fishing as they did with turkey hunting, and they managed to catch and release quite a few fish, including a very large brown trout that Lynda landed on a fly rod. After fishing it was back to camp for another home-cooked dinner, and everyone turned in pretty early after an exhausting day.

I'd again like to thank Sam and his crew for all their hard work and hospitality in hosting the event and Woodhaven and Keystone Country Store for donating hunting equipment for the girls. I think it will truly be an event everyone involved will remember and cherish for many years to come.



Haley and Skip Motts

# Just Say Thanks

SUBMITTED BY MEL  
BURTON

**W**hile talking with our friends Kerry and Lori Richards one day, the subject of spring gobbler season came up. I always ask Kerry if I can hunt and trap on his property and he always allows me. What a great privilege. I asked him if anyone was taking his youngest son, Seth, out on the youth hunt for spring gobbler. Kerry said maybe, but if it didn't pan out, I could go along with Seth and him. A couple of days later Kerry called me to give me the good news. They would like me to go with them.

One morning on the week before the youth hunt, Kerry and I met and went listening for birds in the area where we would be hunting. To our best estimate, we figured we heard minimum of nine different birds.

The evening before the youth day, I met Kerry and Seth on the property to roost a bird. We got lucky and heard one gobble about six times before dark. We went back to the house and talked about our plans for the next morning. Kerry has taught his two sons, Cody and Seth, about safe gun handling and has done a lot of supervised shooting with both boys, and they have learned very well.

That night when I went to bed, I was lying there thinking about the next morning's hunt, and I began my prayer, "Lord, thank you for all the blessings you have given my family and for keeping us all safe. Lord, tomorrow is the youth hunt, and I would ask you to be with us and keep us safe, and Lord, there are a lot of turkeys out there, so would you please put Seth's name on one for us. Amen."

The next morning we went to the one we roosted, but he was on the property next to us, and someone else was working him. All the time, we were hearing another bird gobbling well on the other side of the property, so Seth and I decided to go and try to sweet talk him.

The bird was running along a ridge and was headed toward a pine knob. Kerry and I talked it over and decided to go around the backside of the pine patch and let the bird come to us. We didn't quite make it to where we needed to be when he gobbled and was to close for us to move anymore. We had to hit the dirt to see what happened.

Kerry was sitting about 30 yards behind Seth and I. I was lying on my belly, working a slate call while purring, clucking, and yelping softly on a mouth call at the same time. Seth was sitting right next to me with his gun on his knee. There was a slight rise in the forest floor, and we were slightly looking uphill. The trouble was we were in a very open pine patch. I told Seth to be ready because if the turkey came over the rise he would spot us at once. On the last call I made, the bird blasted us with a double gobble, and I could hear his chest rattle. I knew he was going to be in front of us soon. Then, I heard him drumming. At the same time, I saw his tail feathers coming over the rise and his big blue and white head tucked in tight as he came over the rise spitting and drumming.

Seth said, "I see him."  
I said, "If you're on him, take your shot when he's in the open."

At 42 paces, Seth took a fine bead on his head and fired. The old boy collapsed right where he was standing. I got the shotgun from him and checked the safety, which was on, and told Seth to go stand on the turkey's neck until I got there.

After I got to him, we high-fived, hugged, and shook hands. I said to him, "You passed the gun to me with the safe on. Your patience, your composure, and your shot placement were all perfect." I thanked Kerry, for letting me be a part of Seth's big day: A wide 9 3/4-inch beard with 7/8-inch spurs. We got the bird back to the house and talked awhile. Kerry decided to get the bird mounted for Seth.

I was on my way home, and all of the day's events were going through my mind. I



remembered the prayer to God the night before when I got tears in my eyes and I said, "Thank you, Lord, for a safe hunt, a beautiful morning, good friends, and for guiding us to a bird with Seth's name on him. Thank you for letting Seth harvest him. Thanks for letting me be a part of it. Amen."

Sometimes when the hunting isn't so good and you get disgusted, it's time to give it a break for a while. While you're on that break, think about all the military people who are fighting for our country and our privileges. They would really love to be home, to go to the woods or to go fishing or just to be in the outdoors. Think about how hard the NRA has to fight for us to keep these privileges. Think about the property owners who plant



things for the wildlife and allow you to hunt, fish or trap on their land. There are so many reasons to be grateful. Think about all these things the Creator has made and gives us the privilege to use what he has provided for us, and don't forget to say, "Thank you very much!"



# Profiles in Habitat: Fruit Tree Care



BY JOE KRUG

**P**lanting fruit trees to benefit wildlife can be a very rewarding experience, provided one has basic knowledge of the problems involved. Unfortunately, for the ill-prepared, it often winds up being a frustrating and sometimes expensive educational experience.

In the early years of a fruit tree's life, there are many pests that can destroy the young tree if given the opportunity. Mice are the most common problem, but they are easy to control. A good rodent guard, placed around the tree, along with some effort to eliminate grasses and vegetation around the tree's base, will effectively eliminate rodent problems. And then, there are deer. Add some protective fencing, and you have solved this problem as well.

The most frustrating and difficult pest to control is trunk borers. Adult borers are insects that are wasp-like in appearance, and they do their dirty work by laying their eggs near the base of the trunk on young fruit trees. When the eggs hatch, the young insect bores a tunnel into the bark of the tree and begins to feed on the inner cambium layer. Trees larger than five or six inches in diameter usually survive. On smaller

diameter tree trunks, borer damage is almost always fatal to the tree. If you are planting trees in an area that is surrounded by large, mature forest, you may be lucky enough to avoid problems with this troublesome pest. If however, tree plantings are in locations where there are saplings and tree regeneration, expect problems.

When the trunks of your trees approach size of a shovel handle, start looking for signs of damage around their bases. Chaff-like sawdust (digested bark) around the base of the tree trunks is a sure sign of a borer's presence. Look for the entrance hole (about the size of a BB) to the borer's tunnel, and begin to probe its path with the point of your pocket knife or a sharp object. A piece of stiff copper wire can also be helpful for probing. The idea is to puncture the grub, putting him out of the tree-killing business.

If your habitat-improvement project involves high numbers of trees, manual trunk borer control measures may not be feasible, and it may be necessary to revert to chemical control methods. To the best of my knowledge, all pesticides that effectively control borers are on the restricted-use list. If you must take the chemical approach, it will be necessary to work with somebody

who has a pesticide applicator's license. Perhaps a farmer friend can be drafted to assist you in performing this work. The pesticide Lorsban will effectively control this troublesome insect, as will most pesticides developed to kill corn borers.

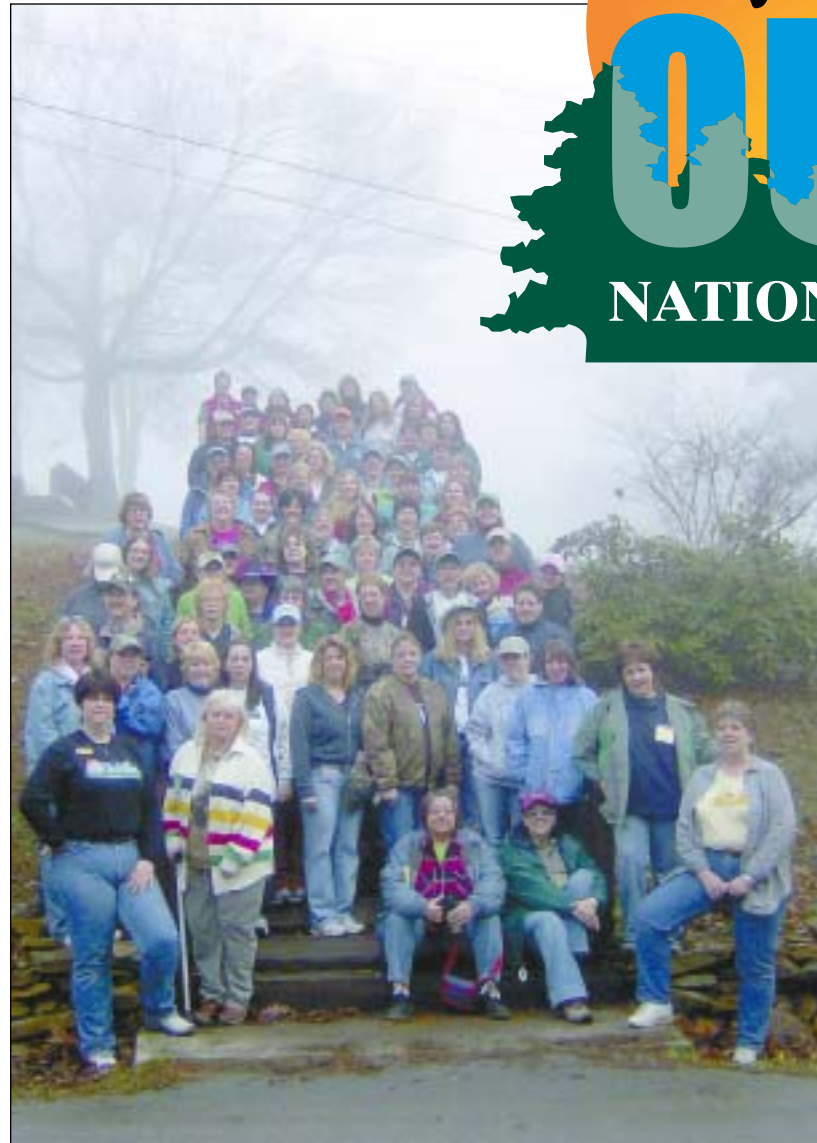
Peak borer infestations usually begin around the end of May, and taper off throughout the summer. The first spray application will be the most important. Additional sprayings will further insure the safety of your trees. Sprayings should be at about 10-day intervals. Spray the entire tree trunk, and if you have a little extra spray, hit the base of the major scaffold limbs as well. Apple, pear, and mountain ash are the species that are most susceptible to borer damage. Asiatic crabapple is less susceptible, and Washington hawthorne is the least vulnerable species. I have never observed borer damage on mulberry.

Before you plant any fruit trees, consider how much time you are willing to dedicate to providing for their survival and well-being. If time and effort are a major issue, you would be wise to consider planting species that are highly or moderately resistant to this troublesome pest.

May all of your efforts bear fruit!

# Women in the **OUTDOORS**<sup>®</sup>

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION



## 2007 PA State Women in the Outdoors Event a Huge Success

STORY BY TAMMY MOWRY  
PHOTOS BY ELSA ZUMSTEIN

**I**t's hard to believe it's already summer, but just a couple of months ago, we held our 9th Annual PA State Women in the Outdoors event in Rockwood.

We had a great group of women attend. It's amazing how each year gets better and better. Our theme this year was Mardi Gras. We asked the participants to get creative and make a mask and enter it into our mask contest. We had about 20 participants take the challenge and made masks for the contest. All of the masks were wonderful.

We held our annual turkey-calling contest Saturday evening. The ladies started with a lesson on how to use a diaphragm mouth call. Then when they felt they had mastered the call, we invited the ladies to join us in the calling contest. This is always a highlight of

the event. Some of the ladies begin practicing months before so their calling will be sweet.

To all of our instructors and donors, thank you so much. Without you we couldn't provide the quality event that we do.

Thank you American Dreams Sporting, Andy Smith – Custom Turkey Calls, Bushnell, Chef's Choice, Federal Cartridge, Foxy Huntress, Gander Mountain, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Heater Meals, High Maintenance Camo, Jacob Ash Holdings, Inc., Juniata River Adventures, Lodge Manufacturing, Lowe's (Butler), Nemacon Woodlands Shooting Academy, Oregon Freeze Dry, Inc., Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Game Commission, PA NWTF, Ramada Inn (State College), Skidmores Beeswax Products, Sportsman's Warehouse, Stackpole Books, Trail's Best Snacks, Turkey Duster Calls, Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards, and Wrangler.

Mark your calendar for next year's event. It will take place on March 28-30, 2008.



## Northern Counties Full Fan Chapter provides chainsaw to PGC land managers

In keeping with the mission statement of the National Wild Turkey Federation to improve habitat for the wild turkey and all wildlife, the Northern Counties Full Fan Chapter of the NWTF recently purchased and presented a gasoline-powered pruning chainsaw to the Northeast Region of the Pennsylvania Game Commission Land Management Group. This tool will be used by Game



**Left to right: Ron Shuman, PGC; Kevin Urian, President Northern Counties Full Fan Chapter; Dave Brundage, PGC; Alan Anke, PGC Land Maintenance Supervisor; and Donna Salko, Secretary Northern Counties Full Fan Chapter.**

Commission staff on their ongoing habitat improvement projects in game lands located in Wayne, Lackawanna and Susquehanna counties. There are board members in the Northern Counties Full Fan Chapter representing each of these counties. The chapter, along with John Shutkufsky, Land Management Group Supervisor and Alan Anke, Game Lands Maintenance Supervisor, have been working on food plot and wildlife improvement projects for the last four years in various game lands located in this tri-county area. These projects are funded mainly through the state chapter of the NWTF. The purchase of the chainsaw was a local effort by the Northern Counties Full Fan Chapter and was accomplished with our local fundraising dollars.

"We have an excellent relationship with the Land Management Group representing our area," said chapter Secretary Donna Salko, "and we wanted to show our appreciation for all that they do for wildlife and for us."

## Delaware County Longbeards Habitat Projects

BY BOB ERIKSEN, NWTF REGIONAL BIOLOGIST

More than eighty chapters have participated in habitat enhancement projects around Pennsylvania in recent years. Some chapters are located in areas blessed with lots of open spaces in the form of state game lands, state forests, and other public lands. In the more urban areas like the Philadelphia metro area, finding a place near home to initiate a habitat project can be a challenge. The Delaware County Longbeards have countered this obstacle at times by partnering with other chapters on game lands projects some distance from home. This active chapter has also searched for wild turkey habitat management opportunities closer to their home base. A couple of years ago using Super Fund dollars they supplied a chisel plow to Evansberg State Park in Montgomery County for use in developing food plots. The park staff is far away from other DCNR lands and transporting equipment from another area was problematic. This year, the chapter provided crabapple trees through Operation Applesed to the Chester County Water Authority. The watershed staff planted trees on 200 acres of their lands that are open to public hunting. Future generations of wild turkeys in Chester County will benefit from the crabapples as they mature and produce fruit. The Longbeards are a great example of a chapter that works both near home and in other parts of the state.

## Millcreek Chapter partners with Wal-Mart and PGC on Jefferson County habitat project



A prominent landscape feature within Jefferson County is the reclaimed surface mine. Once a surface or "strip" mine is depleted of coal, the site is recontoured, seeded with a herbaceous seed mix, and planted with trees, usually locust trees or some conifer species. Any additional tree and shrub species that grow on the disturbed land are primarily a result of Mother Nature. Non-native species such as autumn olive, tartarian honeysuckle, and multiflora rose are often the first species to take root on the reclaimed land, as these plants can tolerate the poor soil conditions. These areas usually do not provide a great diversity of tree and shrub species that benefit wildlife.

On April 14, 2007, members of the Millcreek Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, along with approximately 35 employees from the Punxsutawney, DuBois, and Clarion Wal-Mart stores, volunteered their time to participate in a wildlife habitat enhancement project on a reclaimed surface mine located on State Game Lands 244 in Knox Township, Jefferson County.

In roughly three hours, this group of volunteers planted 405 trees and shrubs on three one-acre enclosures including; Sargent crabapple, Washington hawthorne, winterberry holly, high-bush cranberry viburnum, American mountain ash, arrowwood viburnum, hazelnut, elderberry, and four species of apple trees, Nova Spy, Liberty, Northern Spy, and Winesap. The project participants placed wooden stakes and tree tubes on every tree or shrub that was planted in order to protect from girdling by rodents, applied 10-10-10 fertilizer to the area, and erected fencing around each one-acre plot to deter deer from browsing on the trees and shrubs.

This project was made possible by the PA NWTF Super Fund, a generous donation of manpower and money from the three Wal-Mart stores, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission, whose Food and Cover crew based in Emerickville supplied the fencing, man-gates, and wooden posts and had all of the wooden posts pounded into the ground before the project took place. Wal-Mart store managers provided coffee and doughnuts for breakfast and hoagies, chips, and soda for lunch.

A second phase to this project is planned for mid to late summer in order to reinforce the fencing to the wooden posts, place NWTF habitat signs at each of the three enclosures, and remove some of the competing vegetation (tartarian honeysuckle, multiflora rose, black birch, etc.) within the fences.

The Millcreek Chapter of NWTF hopes to continue conducting habitat enhancement projects each year, as this project was a huge success. Without the assistance from Wal-Mart and the Pennsylvania Game Commission, this project would not have been possible and the Chapter hopes to continue working with both of these partners for the benefit of the wild turkey and all wildlife species.

## Montour Preserve Landowner Field Day

BY BOB ERIKSEN, NWTF REGIONAL BIOLOGIST



**Dr. Ben Jones of the PGC explains forest management practices to part of the landowner group.**

Pennsylvania Power and Light (PP&L) operates a nature center and manages wildlife habitat on a large piece of property near Danville in Montour County. The power company graciously agreed to allow the use of the facility for a landowner field day on March 31 of this year. The initiation of the field day was the brainchild of Keith Sanford, Land Management Officer with the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Keith discussed his idea for a field day with members of the Col-Mont Gobblers local chapter and me late last summer. The field day became a cooperative effort between the Game Commission, Bureau of Forestry, the Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF, Pheasants Forever, the Montour County Conservation District, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and PP&L.

Though the appointed day was a bit on the cold side, the promised rain held off and allowed all participants to have a great day. The field day started with coffee and doughnuts and a chance to get to know one another. Then Keith Sanford introduced the speakers for the indoor morning session and things got rolling. Shon Robbins, a biologist for Pheasants Forever, spoke on establishing warm-season grasses as cover for a variety of species. Dr. Ben Jones of the Pennsylvania Game Commission spoke on getting the most out of your food plots by allowing them to mature and maintaining them with lime and fertilizer. I spoke on managing your land for wild turkeys, and Paul Yankovich of NRCS spoke on Farm Bill wildlife conservation programs available to landowners.

Following a great box lunch prepared by the Station House Restaurant in Montgomery, the attendees boarded a charter bus and headed to State Game Lands 126 for the field session. The group was split in two and toured food plots, timber management projects and warm-season grass stands. In the field, the speakers, including Keith and Robert "Marty" Martynowych of the Bureau of Forestry, talked about handling invasive, non-native shrubs, managing woodlots, timber stand improvement, and establishing food plots. After the field session, the group headed back to the Montour Preserve and went home with new ideas and renewed enthusiasm for working on their land to improve wildlife habitat.

This field day was a great cooperative effort and a wonderful learning experience for all involved. The Pennsylvania Chapter sponsored lunch and provided each of the seventy attendees with a membership to the NWTF Hunting Heritage Club.

## Allegheny Mountain Chapter active and involved in 2007

On Saturday, April 21, members of the Allegheny Mountain Chapter held one of several habitat enhancement projects. Chapter members planted over 60 hawthorne trees on three different areas of State Game Lands 26 in Bedford County. Most of the trees planted by this chapter are grafted and grown by two current chapter members, Greg Dick and Joe Krug. The chapter met again during the first part of May and assisted in the clearing of three one-acre plots of land on State Game Lands 198 in Blair County. Lime and fertilizer were then applied to these areas, and a mixture of clover and trefoil was planted.

The Allegheny Mountain Chapter is the second-oldest chapter in the state and has been involved in habitat growth and enhancement since the early 1970s. In addition to habitat work, the chapter will be involved with several other events this year as well.

On July 21, Allegheny Mountain will partner with the Tussey Mountain Strutters to host a JAKES event at the Henrietta Sportsman building in Martinsburg. For more information or to register for that event, contact Mike Culp at 814-695-0464 or Tim or Bonnie Wentz at 814-766-3769,

On August 4, Allegheny Mountain will again partner with the Tussey Mountain Strutters as well as the Terrace Mountain Chapter to host a Women in the Outdoors event at Canoe Creek State Park in Blair County. For more information on this event contact Jackie Couch at 814-667-2308 or jkkcouch@aol.com; Amy Wertz at 814-943-2123 or apwertz@cs.com; or Bonnie Wentz at 814-766-3769 or bonniewentz86@hotmail.com.

And to finish off the summer, the chapter will hold its annual Hunting Heritage Banquet on August 24 at the Bavarian Hall in Altoona. For more information or tickets to this event, contact Mike Culp at 814-695-0464 or Amy Wertz at 814-943-2123.

## And the winners are...!

The drawing for the annual PA NWTF 5-Gun Raffle was held at the Board of Director's meeting on June 2. Following is the list of guns and the winners.

**First prize:** Tim McGinnis, Latrobe – Browning BPS 12-gauge, 2007 NWTF Gun of the Year, walnut stock, gold-enhanced turkey and tail fan on blued receiver.

**Second prize:** S. R. Stout, Mifflinville – Remington 700, .270 WSM, 2006 NWTF Gun of the Year, curly maple stock, gold-enhanced engraving on the floor plate. Includes a custom presentation case with the NWTF logo.

**Third prize:** Jan Pasdon, Sugarloaf – Browning Gold 12-gauge, 3-inch magnum, semi-automatic shotgun, black synthetic stock, 26-inch blued barrel.

**Fourth prize:** Jay Hoy, Carlisle – Remington 700 Varmint, .22-250, laminate stock, 26-inch heavy barrel.

**Fifth prize:** Randy Barr, Hegins – Franchi I-12, 12-gauge, 3-inch magnum, 24-inch barrel, Timber HD Camo, 5 choke tubes, and soft case.

*Congratulations to each of the lucky winners, and a sincere thank you to each of you who purchased tickets for the drawing. The funds generated from this raffle will help support the work that your State Chapter does on behalf of you and the wild turkey. Thanks also to Bob's Army & Navy in Clearfield for their handling of the guns.*

# CHAPTER NEWS

## 2007 State JAKES Scholarship Award Winner

BY GENE ALWINE



This year's state scholarship recipient came from the Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards Chapter in Somerset County. Ashley Blough submitted quite a packet, making it clear that she has been a JAKES member for years, studies hard, involves herself in her school and community, and has such an interest in the outdoors that her college major in Environmental Sciences will keep her in touch with this passion. The Conemaugh Township Area High School in Davidsville will have a void to fill in replacing this class officer, athlete, and giving volunteer as she will attend the University of Pittsburgh in Johnstown this fall.

As the reviews were completed, the question was asked of the panel, "What number do you have as your highest scorer?" "Number" in this case referring to the packet, as the submissions are kept confidential. The entire panel had number 20 as their high scorer. I can't remember another time this has occurred, a unanimous vote! Ashley received a \$500 local scholarship because the Whitehorse Chapter kicks in \$250 of their own. Then, she was awarded the \$1,000.00 from the state level.

Thanks goes out to all the chapters that participate in the Scholarship Program. If your chapter does not as yet, I ask you at this time to consider this 5-Star Project in the future. Contact your Regional Director or anyone on the State Chapter Board for the answers to any questions that may be holding you back. This is truly a rewarding experience.

## Annual President's Leadership Workshop to be held August 5

SUBMITTED BY LARRY HOLJENCIN,  
SR. REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR

Each of the 85 local chapter presidents in Pennsylvania has been sent an invitation to attend the 2007 Chapter President's Leadership Workshop. The workshop will be held this year on Sunday, August 5 at the Ramada Inn in State College. This is an annual meeting that provides an opportunity for chapter leaders to be brought up to date on NWTF happenings, new programs, and current issues, plus an opportunity to exchange ideas with other chapter leaders. Two members from each local chapter are permitted to attend. The meeting runs from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

In addition to Sunday's meeting, there will also be a barbecue and trap shoot on Saturday, August 4 at 3 p.m. at the Tyrone

Sportsmen's Club in Blair County. The NWTF and the PA NWTF will cover all expenses for Saturday and Sunday except for travel costs and the cost of the clay birds and shells for the trap shoot.

It is hoped all chapters will be represented at the workshop. Last year we had over 100 attendees. Chapter presidents who cannot attend should contact an alternate who can attend. Reservations should be made to Carl Mowry at 724-283-5708 or [cmpanwtf@zoominternet.net](mailto:cmpanwtf@zoominternet.net). Reservation forms were included with the invitation letters sent to chapter presidents.

## Wheelin' Sportsmen host fishing event in Allegheny County



Where does three hours of baiting hooks, untangling monofilament line, and unhooking fish go so fast it seems like only 30 minutes? Where can you help teach kids how to fish and get to eat fresh cooked trout all in the same evening? At a Wheelin' Sportsmen fishing event of course!

On Monday, May 21, members of the North Boros Double Beards Chapter, Wheelin' Sportsmen coordinator Jim O'Brien, and NWTF Regional Director Carl Mowry participated in a fishing outing for the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf at North Park Lake in Allegheny County. The event was attended by 23 kids from WPSD along with chaperones and mentors from the school. Numerous bluegills, crappies, and two nice rainbow trout were caught. Most of the fish were released, but the trout were cleaned and grilled on the spot for the kids to sample. A good time was had by all, and several spectators came by and congratulated the NWTF for all the good work that we do.

# Pennsylvania Wild Turkey Management

## Accomplishments and Turkey Hunting Regulations, 1958–2007

BY DON HECKMAN, PA NWTF  
WILD TURKEY MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

### 1950s and 1960s

- PGC begins full-scale wild turkey trap and transfer to expand and repopulate wild turkeys throughout Pennsylvania in suitable but unoccupied wild turkey habitat.
- PGC stopped winter feeding of wildlife due to research results on lack of benefits.
- PGC wild turkey biologists Jerry Wunz and Arnie Hayden conduct several wild turkey population, habitat, and regional research projects.
- One-week spring gobbler season started in 1968.

### 1970s and 1980s

- Spring gobbler season start date moved to later in April because of management data recommendations.
- Spring gobbler season is expanded to two weeks in 1972, three weeks in 1975, and four weeks in 1984.
- Pennsylvania State Chapter of NWTF formed in June 1975 in State College.
- Trap and transfer of wild turkeys escalated and improved both instate and out-of-state.
- PGC production of game-farm turkeys phased out in 1980-1981.
- Turkey management areas (TMAs) established in 1985 to manage wild turkey populations more effectively at more local levels.
- NWTF and PA Chapter begin state Super Fund in 1985 to support habitat management, safety and education, land acquisition, other wild turkey management requests, state and local chapter wild turkey projects.
- Last regional wild turkey research project completed by Arnie Hayden in 1988.

### 1990s

- Expanded or reduced fall season lengths since 1990 to manage and improve wild turkey populations due to bad recruitment, bad spring hatch, or bad winters.
- New mandatory PGC turkey-hunting fluorescent-orange regulation changes begin in 1992-1993, without PANWTF support.
- Reduced mandatory PGC fluorescent-orange regulation changes in 1995, with PA NWTF support.
- PGC wild turkey biologist Bill Drake completes first 5-year Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania, which is

adopted in April 1999.

- TMA 7B Wild Turkey Task Force formed in 1996 to determine dramatic decline of wild turkey population on Michaux State Forest. PGC and DCNR staff participated in task force meetings, with PA NWTF coordinating and facilitating the task force.
- TMA 7B wild turkey radio-telemetry study in 1999-2001 on Michaux State Forest to determine causes of a suppressed wild turkey population, partially funded by \$82,000 contribution from PA NWTF.

### 2000s

- PGC signed MOU with NWTF to partially fund the NWTF Regional Biologist to assist the agency with all forms of wild turkey management and research.
- PGC creates wild turkey Web page on Web site to provide accurate public information and education on wild turkey management and research in 2000.
- Wild turkey trap and transfer used in southeast Pennsylvania to expand population into suitable habitat in 2000-2003. This completed the agency's wild turkey restoration program with more than 3,500 wild turkeys transferred within Pennsylvania and to eight other states.
- Fall turkey hunting seasons closed in TMA 9A (now WMU 5A) in 2001 and TMA 9B (now WMU 5B) in 2003.
- Record number of wild turkeys in Pennsylvania in 2001 as statewide wild turkey population estimated to be 410,000.
- Prescribed burn policy approved for use as habitat management tool on state game lands in 2001.
- PGC completes turkey-hunter survey to determine hunter attitudes, characteristics, and satisfaction in 2001.
- Improved turkey-hunting safety portion of hunter-education course, adding turkey-hunting safety section and questions to course test in 2001.
- Northeastern states commissioned development of regional wild turkey population model in 2001, partial funding by \$15,000 PA NWTF contribution.
- Use of manmade blinds to hunt turkeys made legal with legislation signed in 2002 and regulation completed for 2003 hunting season.
- PANWTF, NWTF, and other state conservation organizations oppose proposed regulation to increase mandatory fluorescent orange for fall hunting seasons, proposed regulation was not adopted.
- PGC permit required prior to releasing

pen-raised turkeys to help eliminate release of game-farm turkeys.

- Wild turkey management now accomplished using 22 Wildlife Management Units established in 2003.
- WMU 5A (old TMA 7B) closed to fall turkey hunting in 2003 – recommendation from TMA 7B Wild Turkey Task Force.
- Research continued on Michaux State Forest (WMU 5A) to determine turkey usage of herbaceous openings.
- Game Commission establishes six regional wildlife management supervisors to provide direct technical assistance to private landowners and agency staff.
- Special youth spring gobbler hunting day established one week before regular spring gobbler season.
- NWTF wild turkey biologist Bob Eriksen and PGC wild turkey biologist Mary Jo Casalena begin series of informational, educational articles for PGC Hunting and Trapping Digest, Pennsylvania Game News, and Pennsylvania Turkey Talk.
- PGC wild turkey biologist Mary Jo Casalena presents TMA 7B wild turkey study project research paper as part of NWTF's 9th Wild Turkey Symposium and Status in North America in December 2005.
- Fall turkey hunting seasons are reduced in several WMUs between 2004 and 2007 based on management data and guidelines.
- Total expenditures from Hunting Heritage Super Fund for wild turkey projects in Pennsylvania exceed \$4,000,000 in 2006.
- Special wild turkey license for a second spring gobbler established for the 2006 season; 8,040 licenses were sold.
- Four-year gobbler leg-band study started in 2006 in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York to determine gobbler harvest rates and annual survival rates. Study being partially funded in Pennsylvania by NWTF and PA NWTF.
- Mentored Youth Hunting Program initiated in 2006 for spring gobbler, squirrels, and groundhogs. Turkey hunting started in 2007 the spring gobbler season.
- PGC wild turkey biologist Mary Jo Casalena completed revisions to Pennsylvania's wild turkey management plan in February 2007.
- Spring gobbler season expanded to include Memorial Day 2008 based on turkey management data and PA NWTF support. PA NWTF will continue recommendation for season to be lengthened to May 31.

# TRI-STATE GOBBLER BANDING PROJECT UPDATE

BY BOB ERIKSEN,  
NWTF REGIONAL BIOLOGIST

In the spring issue of Pennsylvania Turkey Talk, PANWTF Board Member Phil Ferrare shared his excitement about participating in the winter trapping effort during the second year of this major study. Volunteers like Phil in the northwest region and Ed Tanczos and Ken Walter in the southeast region spent considerable time assisting in banding operations last winter. Other volunteers helped trapping crews in those regions and in other places around the state too. Game Commission trapping crews consisting of wildlife conservation officers, land managers, wildlife technicians, and wildlife biologists enthusiastically approached the 2007 trapping season determined to make the goal of capturing and banding 300 gobblers. Weather conditions were much better for successful turkey trapping this year than in 2006.

The Tri-State Gobbler Banding Initiative, now in its second year, is a cooperative effort between the Pennsylvania Game Commission, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Ohio Wildlife Division, Penn State University, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Pennsylvania Chapter. The objectives are to determine spring gobbler harvest rates in each state, examine gobbler survival, look at hunter reporting rates, ascertain retention rates for standard bands, and get a handle on distances traveled by gobblers. Those objectives are a tall order, but with a good sample of banded gobblers, the researchers involved in the study should be able to make some definitive statements about all those issues. This is the largest study of its kind ever undertaken, and the success so far is outstanding.

During the 2006 winter trapping season, 708 gobblers were banded in the three participating states. New York banded 295, Pennsylvania 246, and Ohio 167, in spite of mild weather and a lack of snow. This year, snow helped trappers in all three states to be even more effective. By the end of March, New York reported banding 382 gobblers, Pennsylvania 334, and Ohio 279, for a total of 995 birds!

Here in Pennsylvania the Game Commission operates six regional offices. For consistency, each region had a trapping quota of 50 gobblers to reach the goal of 300 statewide. Every region was successful at approaching that goal or exceeding it. Banded gobbler totals by region were: Northwest, 50; Southwest, 55; North cen-

tral, 49; Southcentral, 55; Northeast, 63; and Southeast, 62.

In two short seasons, 1703 gobblers have been captured and banded in the three states working on the study. More than a thousand hens have been caught in addition to the gobblers, but hens are not a part of this research. For the purposes of the study both jakes and adult gobblers are banded. An effort is made to distribute the capture attempts around the state so that all areas are covered during the course of the work. Trapping crews move around the regions to obtain samples of banded gobblers from as many locations as possible. Approximately half of the captured gobblers are marked with reward bands and the others are banded with non-reward bands. Each bird receives two bands, one rivet band (reward or non-reward) and one standard "butt-end" band. The reward bands are worth \$100 to the hunter who takes a reward-banded gobbler. Beard and spur lengths are recorded, and the birds are released on site, usually within an hour or so of capture. Exact capture locations are recorded with GPS units so that researchers are better able to judge distances moved by harvested gobblers.

A toll-free number for reporting is etched into all the rivet bands. The Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Penn State maintains the toll-free line and answers calls from successful hunters and other people who report harvesting or finding a banded gobbler. Data from the 2007 spring gobbler season was not complete at press time, but a number of banded gobblers had been reported. Here in Pennsylvania 108 banded gobblers were reported this spring. Eight of those birds were found dead by hunters and others, and 100 were taken during the spring season. Fifty-four of the 108 birds reported had reward bands. Now that the study has been active for two years, gobblers banded in either year are likely to enter the harvest. Of the 100 gobblers reportedly harvested by spring hunters as of May 23, 30 were banded in 2006, and 70 were captured and banded in 2007. Some birds in the study are known to have moved up to ten miles from the capture site to where they were killed.

The New York season had more than a week left when the last report was generated. As of May 23, 105 banded gobblers had been reported, of which 8 were found dead and 97 were taken by hunters. Thirty-four of the harvested gobblers were captured in 2006, and 63 were banded this year. Forty-nine of the birds had reward bands.

In Ohio, hunters reported taking 99 leg-banded gobblers in 2007, and 2 banded gob-



Bob Eriksen photo

**Pennsylvania Game Commission turkey trappers get ready to place a second band on a gobbler.**

blers were found dead. Of the 101 gobblers reported this year, 59 were reward-banded. Eighteen of the birds were banded in 2006, and 83 were captured in 2007. Ohio researchers placed radio transmitters on 70 of the gobblers banded in 2007. Twenty-four of the radio-tagged gobblers were harvested during the 2007 spring season.

There are two more years left in this ambitious study. A tremendous effort has been made by personnel from all three agencies to assure that the research will be successful and that the objectives will be met. Everyone involved in planning and carrying out the field work deserves much credit for a job well done. Trapping turkeys, especially when the trappers must target only gobblers, is extremely time-consuming. It is hard, cold work, with long hours required. We have much to learn from this cooperative endeavor.

As a chapter, PA NWTF has been instrumental in making this work a success. Your banquet system has pumped dollars into the Hunting Heritage Super Fund that can be used to supply equipment for research projects like this. The National Projects dollars generated by your banquets go to the NWTF Grant-in-Aid Research Program that funds the work Penn State is doing for this study. Whether you have been a field volunteer, an active chapter member, or a banquet ticket purchaser, you have contributed to the success enjoyed so far. Congratulations!

## Where are your Super Fund Dollars Being Used?



BY BOB ERIKSEN,  
NWTF REGIONAL BIOLOGIST

**T**he Pennsylvania Chapter has a long-standing reputation of spending Super Fund dollars on worthwhile projects. Much of the Super Fund annually goes to habitat enhancement projects on public lands and on private lands open to hunting. In early 2007, the Super Fund Habitat Committee reviewed proposals for 86 habitat improvement projects with requests for more than \$177,000. The choices the committee had to make were tough ones based on the 2007 budget. Committee members asked chapters to prioritize their proposals if they submitted more than one and that made the task of choosing which projects were funded a little easier. When the meeting was over, more than \$80,000 was allocated to 2007 habitat projects, \$10,000 each were allocated to the Conservation Seed and Seed Subsidy Programs. In all, the chapter will spend more than \$106,000 on habitat improvement work this year.

Habitat enhancement projects will be completed in 45 counties on about 50 state game lands, seven state forests, and private

lands open to hunting. A total of more than 1,058 acres of habitat work will be done. That's a pretty impressive total for what would be classified as a "lean" year for expenditures. We can accomplish this kind of impact because of the dollars you raise and the good relationship we have with the many experienced and knowledgeable land managers and foresters in the Game Commission and Bureau of Forestry.

The accomplishments of the Pennsylvania Chapter Super Fund do not end with the habitat projects. For 2007, Super Fund dollars were used to purchase a second DART system to be used in training young hunters. One new DART system was purchased last year and was operational late in the year. Now the chapter has two systems available to local chapters for JAKES and other events. These useful computer based systems cost more than \$11,000 apiece, but they are a great investment for the future of our hunting heritage. Your chapter also supports our hunting tradition by using Super Fund dollars to provide scholarships to deserving high school seniors from all around the state, purchasing JAKES Education Boxes for schoolteachers, and sponsoring JAKES,

Women in the Outdoors, and Wheelin' Sportsmen events. Every chapter is eligible to participate in these outreach programs, and the state chapter budgets about \$50,000 annually for them.

For the second year, the Pennsylvania Chapter provided funding for the purchase of equipment and supplies to be used in turkey trapping operations. The Chapter Board of Directors made a commitment to the Game Commission in 2005 to provide support for the gobbler banding study. We invested nearly \$8,000 in the project in 2007.

Your fundraising efforts have resulted in so many outstanding projects that it would take many pages to list them. Suffice it to say that once again the Pennsylvania Chapter has accomplished great things for the wild turkey and our hunting tradition. It could not be done without each one of you. Whether you simply go to banquets, serve on a banquet committee, work at outreach events, or renew your membership every year, you contribute to the goal. We can all do more. Thanks for your support in the past. Please get out and support your local chapter. Find a niche and volunteer!



# Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania, 2006 – 2015

BY MARY JO CASALENA, WILD TURKEY BIOLOGIST, PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

**I**ncourage everyone to read our revised management plan for wild turkeys, found on the Pennsylvania Game Commission Web site ([www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us)). Select "Hunting" in the left-hand navigation column on the homepage, click the photograph of the wild turkey, then choose "Wild Turkey Management Plan". Our first turkey management plan, written in 1999, helped us focus on the critical wild turkey issues and needs at that time, and helped build partnerships with other groups, agencies, and organizations. This 71-page 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 ten 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.

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 this plan is to provide optimum wild turkey populations in suitable habitats throughout Pennsylvania for hunting and viewing recreation by current and future generations. 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 compli-

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**The strategic goal of this plan is to provide optimum wild turkey populations in suitable habitats throughout Pennsylvania for hunting and viewing recreation by current and future generations.**

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ance with laws and regulations regarding wild turkey management; and (6) cooperative partnerships – maintain and enhance partnerships in all aspects of wild turkey management. The list of strategies accompanies each objective. 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 personnel 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 planning, the plan includes an appendix with suggested target dates. There also is a summary of 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.

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

Commission Executive Director.

The plan specifies our primary form of population management is maintaining a conservative fall either-sex harvest, because harvesting more than 10 percent of the fall population can lead to a decrease in future turkey populations. Currently we do not know fall harvest rates in Pennsylvania. An important strategy listed in the plan is to conduct studies to provide this important missing piece of information. We also do not open fall seasons on a day that coincides with the opening of other small game hunting seasons to minimize opportunistic taking of turkeys. An important addition to this plan is specific guidelines for recommending fall turkey-hunting seasons. We maintain a statewide spring bearded-bird only hunting season to open after the average peak of nest incubation because the harvest of males, after hens have been bred, has minimal effect on breeding populations.

The plan also provides valuable information on the biology of wild turkeys; their history of population decline and recovery; their habitat requirements; and population status, trends, and management in Pennsylvania. Additional details presented include their recreational significance and public interest, including their economic benefits and potential future recreational opportunities. Relevant information and data, both historic and current, are included throughout the plan, with extensive references listed. Additionally, many tables and figures are used to present information from over 80 years of wild turkey research and management.

Turkey hunting is among the most challenging and rewarding types of outdoor recreation available. 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.

We thank the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation for its support in this process, as well as its many and varied contributions to the management of wild turkeys and the hunting heritage. All Pennsylvanians are indebted to the dedication NWTf members have demonstrated to this important natural resource.



## 2007 Pennsylvania Events

**D**o 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!*

### July 14, 2007

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

### July 21, 2007

Mason Dixon Chapter  
Missy Rohrbaugh:  
717-225-3549  
Izzak Walton League,  
Dallastown (York County)

### August 3 and 4, 2007

Muncy Creek Chapter  
Clare McWilliams: 570-323-7947,  
hurwitzbatteriescqm@

verizon.net  
Nancy Craft: 570-482-4364, rock-  
run@dishmail.net  
Theresa Sheets: 814-625-2413,  
tsheets329@chilitech.net  
North Mountain Sportsman  
Club, Muncy Valley (Sullivan Co)  
**August 4, 2007**  
Lower Bucks Longbeards  
Chapter  
Dawn Secrest: 267-253-9002,  
girlshunt2@comcast.net  
Langhorne Rod & Gun Club,  
Southampton (Bucks County)

### August 4, 2007

Allegheny Mountain, Terrace  
Mountain, and Tussey  
Mountain Chapters  
Jackie Couch: 814-667-2308,  
jkkcouch@aol.com  
Amy Wertz: 814-943-2123,  
apwertz@cs.com  
Bonnie Wentz: 814-766-3769,  
bonniewentz86@hotmail.com  
Canoe Creek State Park,  
Holidaysburg (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 18, 2007

Ten Mile Valley Chapter  
Roxane Palone: 724-324-2753,  
roxane@greenepa.net  
Michelle Benedict: 724-938-

7233, michbndct@yahoo.com  
Roscoe Sportsman's  
Association, Roscoe  
(Washington County)

### August 25, 2007

Shippensburg Strutters  
Chapter  
Janelle Hippensteel: 717-776-  
4055, hippnellie@aol.com  
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@com-  
cast.net  
Camp Thompson YMCA  
Camp, Gardners, PA (Adams  
County)

### August 25, 2007

Bald Eagle Longbeards  
Chapter  
Mary Probst: 570-748-3339  
Western Clinton Sportsmen's  
Association, Hyner (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)

### March 28-30, 2008

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)

*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, com-  
plimentary 1-year member-  
ship to the National Wild  
Turkey Federation (or exten-  
sion 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  
t. Visit the NWTF Web site at  
www.nwtf.org, www.wom-  
enintheoutdoors.org, or the  
Pennsylvania Web site at  
www.panwtf.com or  
www.pawito.com*

# 2007 Hunting Heritage Banquets

## July through September

Date	Chapter	City	Contact
July 12	Reading Ridge Runners	Reading	Ray Smith
July 15	Bucks County Double Beards	Plumsteadville	Ray Smith
July 21	Beaver Valley Longbeards	Monaca	Carl Mowry
July 28	Susquehanna Longbeards	Williamsport	Larry Holjencin
August 10	Bald Eagle Longbeards	Flemington	Larry Holjencin
August 10	Lenni Lenape Chapter	Matamoras	Ray Smith
August 11	Lykens Valley Longbeards	Lykens	Ray Smith
August 18	Ben Stimaker Memorial	West Galetton	Larry Holjencin
August 18	Walking Purchase Chapter	Cherryville	Ray Smith
August 24	Mehoopany Creek	Tunkannock	Ray Smith
August 24	Allegheny Mountain	Altoona	Larry Holjencin
August 25	SUN Area	Middleburg	Larry Holjencin
August 25	East Coast Thunderin' Toms	Bethlehem	Ray Smith
September 8	Adams Co. Longbeards	Biglerville	Carl Mowry
September 8	Kinzua Allegheny Longbeards	Sheffield	Larry Holjencin
September 22	Michaux Yellow Breeches	Harrisburg	Carl Mowry
September 26	Philadelphia Co. Fightin' Spurs	Philadelphia	Ray Smith
September 27	Lakeland Longbeards	Greenville	Larry Holjencin

### Contact information:

**Larry Holjencin** - 814-834-6492 or timberline@alltel.net  
**Carl Mowry** - 724-283-5708 or cmpanwtf@zoominternet.net  
**Ray Smith** - 570-398-0721 or rsmithnwtf@suscom.net

### 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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