

Regional Biologist Report
Bob Eriksen, NWTF Regional Biologist
June 1 through October 3, 2009

Meetings, Presentations and Banquets

- Assisted Edgefield staff with a Diamond Life dinner in Harrisburg along with other NWTF staff from Pennsylvania
- Attended the August Pennsylvania Chapter board meeting and leadership workshop
- Met with a representative of Chesapeake Energy to visit well sites and discuss cooperative efforts with chapters in the Marcellus Shale play
- Assisted in working on the Lenni Lenape Chapter banquet in Dingman's Ferry
- Served as emcee and arranged for judges and tabulators for the North Jersey Open Calling Contest
- Attended the annual meeting of the Northeast Upland Game Bird Technical Committee held in Virginia representing NWTF and made presentations on grape depredation by wild turkeys and the current status of NWTF
- Staffed an NWTF exhibit for National Hunting and Fishing Day at Phillipsburg Mall in New Jersey
- Attended the September meeting of the New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland State Chapter boards
- Attended the September meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance
- Presented three sessions on careers in the wildlife field at the Bradford County (PA) Green Careers Day At Mt. Pisgah State Park near Towanda
- Presented a session on the work wildlife biologists do at the 100th Anniversary Jamboree of the Patriot's Path Council of the Boy Scouts of America in New Jersey
- Interviewed three outstanding candidates for the new regional biologist position in New Hampshire
- Met with biologists from the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife to discuss the evaluation of vineyard damage allegedly caused by wild turkeys
- Attended a fund-raising dinner for the Lancaster County Conservancy in Pennsylvania
- Attended a meeting of the NWTF regional staff in western New York

Writing

- Prepared two articles for the Maryland Chapter newsletter
- Wrote an article on early successional habitat needs for American Woodcock for "Turkey Country"
- Prepared articles on partnerships, Conservation Seed, fall hunting safety and turkey hunting ethics for "Pennsylvania Turkey Talk"
- Completed a synopsis for each state chapter wild turkey strategic plan within the North American Wild Turkey Management Plan

- Began work with PGC Wild Turkey Research Project Leader Mary Jo Casalena on updating a white paper on increasing recreational opportunity for turkey hunters
- Prepared answers for questions on fall turkey hunting for the NWTF on-line chat for October (49 questions)
- Drafted spring season forecasts for Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia
- Prepared the October northeast region report for the NWTF Board of Directors

Grants and Cooperative Agreements

- A new cooperative agreement was prepared and is being processed for renewal of the long-standing support of the regional biologist position by the Pennsylvania Game Commission
- A cooperative agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game was finalized and signed paving the way for placing a biologist in that region
- Funds were transferred to NWTF in fulfillment of two grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. One grant was acquired by the Honey Hole Longbeards Chapter in Luzerne County and the other was provided by the Department to the Mon Valley and Peters Creek Trail Chapters in Allegheny County. The grants will fund habitat work and outreach events in 2009 and 2010.
- Conducted telephone interviews with 7 biologist position applicants and traveled to Edgefield to participate in final interviews for biologist candidates
- Prepared an application for a South Mountain Mini-grant to cover rodent bait station placement and assisted with the preparation of a second application to help cover the cost of habitat management projects on Michaux State Forest

Agency Assistance

- Conducted a mast survey on State Game Lands 35 in Susquehanna County, PA
- Conducted annual summer brood surveys for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

Habitat Projects

- Made arrangements for the annual brush-hogging operation on the Thunder Mountain habitat project on the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in New Jersey

Super Fund

- Hunting Heritage Super Fund request forms were processed from Pennsylvania (43), Delaware (5), Maryland (1) and New Jersey (8).

Information Requests

- Forty requests for information on wild turkey behavior, ecology, habitat management and the 2009 hatch were handled and information provided.