



PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and
Preservation of the Turkey Hunting Tradition

Pa. Chapter NWTF home page www.panwtf.com E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

Attention N.W.T.F. Members:

The Executive Committee will meet on Friday, January 10, 2003 at the Ramada Inn State College, PA at 8:00 p.m.

The Annual Rendezvous and Awards Banquet will be held at the Ramada Inn State College, PA. Activities begin at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, January 11, 2003. Banquet begins at 5:30 p.m.

The PA Chapter Board Meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn State College PA on Sunday January 12, 2003 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

**PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NWTF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AT THE MOSHANNON STATE FOREST FIELD OFFICE
OCTOBER 5, 2002**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, *Don O'Brien* at 9:18 a.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance *Don* reviewed the ground rules and moved on to:

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT REPORT - by *Carl Mowry* presented a written report of his activities. Reported on the Elk Expo.

SECRETARY REPORT - by *Bill Mackereth*. Some corrections were made. A motion to accept the secretary's report with corrections was made by *Dwight Kuntz* and seconded by *Jim Panaro*. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT - by *Jim Panaro* presented a written report. Starting balance from August 1 - September 30, 2002 \$18,881.08, Income \$8,013.89, Expenses \$12,858.33, Ending Balance \$13,922.64, Net Loss \$4,844.44. The net income from the Ruger 77 raffle conducted at the 2002 Elk Expo was \$1,155.85. Moved by *Bill Mackereth* to accept the corrected treasurer's report with a second from *Dwight Kuntz*. Motion carried. After a quorum was present it was moved by *Bill Mackereth* to accept the proposed budget for 2002 -2003 and seconded by *Skip Sanderson*. Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT - *Greg Caldwell* presented a written report of his activities.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - by *Don O'Brien* presented a written report of his activities. We need to move 2 new members to the Executive Board. Anyone interested, was asked to let *Don* know. The deadline has passed.

NWTF REPORTS

SENIOR REGIONAL SUPERVISION - *Jerry Zimmerman* was not present.

REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - *Larry Holjencin* presented a written report.
SUPER FUND

Deposits - \$320,159

Expenditures - \$312,815

Current Balance - (\$14,313) loss

(check for \$15,000 from DCNR on land acquisition - will put us in the black)

National Board of Directors and Staff received a letter from Shannon Tollison in regards to the 2003 Convention Entertainment - February 13-16 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. It is the 27th Annual NWTF Convention & Sport Show. Thursday night's entertainment will be Lt. Gen. "Buck" Bedard. After dinner comedian T. Bubba Bechtol will provide entertainment. The Oak Ridge Boys concert will be sponsored by BASF Forestry. Saturday night's Awards Banquet will conclude with a private concert by Alison Krauss and Union Station. Sunday morning The Crabb Family will lead our worship service. Booths in the exhibit hall are still available! Rooms are going fast, please encourage your volunteers and friends to make their hotel reservations at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel. The number to call is 615-883-2211. Discussed reserved seating, deadline is December 15th.

2003 Core Package Booklet are in. A lot of merchandise available.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR - *Bob Farkasovsky* presented a written report.

Pennsylvania NWTF Membership Totals

August/September

Adults -	11,942
Jakes -	7,660
WITO -	1,957
<u>Wheelin Sportsman -</u>	<u>484</u>

Total - 22,043 Ranks us 4th in the country

Discussion followed on the membership numbers.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - *Tammy Mowry* presented a written report.

This past weekend was the 1st National Women in the Outdoors Reunion. We provided 16 women from my territory with the opportunity to participate in outdoor activities, we entertained them with special guests and they had a chance to meet other women from across the country and Canada. We were entertained by Kevin Blake Weldon, and T. Bubba Bechtol. We had National Board Members (Suzie Brewster and Peggy Vallery) in attendance. Nancy Johnson, one of our spokespersons, attended. Cabela's provided us with a fashion show of their line of women's outdoor clothing. The ladies were able to visit the turkey museum and go shopping at the Turkey Shoppe. We had 36 states and Canada represented. This was a really powerful event. We had instructors from the hunting and outdoors industry (such as the 4-H, Mathews, Bombardier, Tom Stuckey, Lodge, Bass Pro, Perception Kayaks, Taurus & Rossi, International Paper, Knight Rifles, Brunton, Remington, HS Strut, Cabelas, SC DNR, GA DNR). We had over 300 women present - celebrating Our Wild Side.

Events in PA are wrapping up for the season. Juniata Gobblers will be holding their event next Sunday, October 13.

2002 Stats

354 events are scheduled for this year

Goal for 2003 is 480 events - 30 per WRC

Our goal for each event is to have at least 50 participants

Top 4 states for event memberships:

- 1) Ohio: 838
- 2) Pennsylvania: 695
- 3) South Carolina: 674
- 4) Minnesota: 644

Top WITO membership states:

- 1) Illinois: 2,593
- 2) Minnesota: 2,727
- 6) Pennsylvania: #6 with 1,957

Something exciting - we're going to have a Women in the Outdoors gun available next year. The gun will be limited to 500. It's going to be a Remington 1100 20 g. semiautomatic, with rolled engraving.

For 2003, each WRC is required to hold 30 events. This number hasn't increased this year. For this year, we want to work on building quality events, obtaining some sponsor members, and fundraising. We want to make our repeat events stronger.

State WITO event is scheduled for March 28-30, 2003. Work has begun on the event. We are still looking for a hiking/backpacking and outdoor survival skills instructor. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please see me.

Presently working on scheduling events for 2003. If your chapter is planning to host an event and it's not ticketed please let me know. Some discussion followed.

NORTH EAST REGIONAL BIOLOGIST - *Bob Eriksen* presented a written report.

Habitat Projects - Planned wild turkey habitat improvement projects on the White Lake, Flatbrook, Walpack, Whittingham and Wildcat Ridge Wildlife Management Areas in New Jersey with wildlife managers from NJ Fish and Wildlife. Developed habitat improvement plans for *Margaret Burke* and Carter's Pond Wildlife Management Areas in Albany County, New York along with NYDEC biologist, foresters and chapter members. Met with private landowners in eastern Maryland and western New York to begin the development of wildlife management plans for their properties. Working on planning of wildlife habitat improvement plantings on a 150 mile oil transmission pipeline being run by Marathon-Ashland Petroleum Company in Ohio.

Project Reviews - Visited State Game Lands 217 in Lehigh County and 302 in Washington County to check progress of Super Fund projects and photograph food plots for articles in Pennsylvania Turkey Talk. Reviewed and visited Super Fund project sites on the White Lake and Whittingham Wildlife Management Areas in Sussex County, New Jersey with the director of NJ Fish and Wildlife.

Writing Projects - Completed a "Working for the Wild Turkey" article for the September-October issue of Turkey Call. This article was on work done in New Jersey. Wrote two articles for the fall issue of Pennsylvania Turkey Talk and edited an article on pen-raised turkeys for Pennsylvania Game News. Developed an article on odd-colored wild turkey beards for the PA Chapter website and provided information on this phenomenon to a writer for Game News. Assisted in the writing of an article for the January-February issue of Turkey Call. This "Working for the Wild Turkey" segment will focus on Super Fund support of wildlife law enforcement efforts. Recently wrote an article for the next Turkey Call on managing spring seeps for wild turkeys. This article will appear in the "Habitat Notebook" section of the magazine. Some discussion followed.

Research Projects - Participated along with other NWTf Conservation Department biologists in the planning of a study on wild turkey damage to vineyards in California. The project is using remote cameras to document what animals are damaging grapes. Worked with New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife wild turkey biologist Tony McBride to develop a proposal for New Jersey to join the mid-Atlantic Wild Turkey Population Modeling Project, a research effort out of Virginia Tech University. Some discussion followed.

US Forest Service - Wrote letters in support of projects to maintain wildlife openings on the Sugar Run area of Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania and Finger Lakes National Forest in New York.

Meetings - Attended meetings of the PGC Deer Management Working Group, the New York State Chapter and the Ohio State Chapter. Participated in the annual meeting between the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania State Chapter on the PA Wild Turkey Management Plan. Participated in the chapter president's leadership training sessions in PA, NY and OH. Attended the Northeast Wild Turkey Technical Committee meeting in New Hampshire and the Northeast Wildlife Habitat Management Committee in West Virginia. Met with biologists from NYDEC to discuss wild turkey damage to vineyards in western New York and damage to "ag bags" in eastern New York.

Programs - Lectured on wild turkey ecology and management at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Presented sessions on wild turkey biology at the PA Chapter JAKES event in Clearfield. Made a presentation on managing habitat for wild turkeys for the Cornell University Master Forest Owners Program in New York.

NWTf TECHNICAL COMMITTEE - *Mary Jo Casalena* was not present but submitted a written report.

Harvest Management - Preliminary spring 2002 harvest figures from report cards show an approximate harvest of 44,500 bearded turkeys. Final harvest figures will be available next fall. If this estimate holds true, 2002 will be the third consecutive year Pennsylvania has harvested over 40,000 spring birds. This comes as no surprise because the statewide turkey population is very healthy and has increased from a low of 3,000 birds in the early 1900's to over 320,000 today. Spring harvests have been increasing from an estimated 1,636 gobblers in 1968, our first statewide spring season.

As a reminder the following changes were made at the April 2002 PGC Commission meeting for the fall 2002 turkey season: Season length in Turkey Management Areas 1A, 2, and 7A are expanded from two weeks to three weeks (Nov. 2-23), and season length in Turkey Management Area 7B is decreased by one day and runs Monday - Saturday (Nov. 4-9). Some discussion followed.

Wild Turkey Research in TMA 7B - During the TMA 7B Wild Turkey Task Force meeting on Oct. 1, graduate student, *Mark Lowles*, and *Mary Jo Casalena* presented a draft final report and recommendations from the turkey research project. Mark's analyses show the wild turkey population is stable and that the poor survival of poults and sub-adults may be limiting the population. Nesting habitat appears to be fine, and nest success is similar to other turkey populations. One factor that we can control, which affects sub-adult survival, is fall harvest. The PGC decreased the fall season length this year in TMA 7B by removing the first Saturday in order to decrease the overall fall harvest. Additional fall hunting restrictions may be recommended in January. A factor that may be limiting poult survival may be brood habitat, but additional analyses are needed. A final report with harvest and habitat management recommendations will be presented at the January Commission meeting. (Note: predation is related to habitat. With better habitat, predation generally decreases). Some discussion followed. Moved by *Don Heckman* that management units (new wildlife management units) 5A, 5B and 5C to be closed to fall hunting when the plan is put in effect with a second by *Dennis Strawbridge*. Motion carried.

Michaux State Forest Summer Sighting Surveys - The 5th year of Summer Sighting Surveys on the Michaux State Forest was conducted to provide an index to turkey population trends in addition to our harvest and hunting success trend data for TMA 7B. Six routes (approx. 30 miles each) were conducted. NWTf volunteers *Spencer Miller* and *Garnet Zinn* each conduct a weekly survey route. Their assistance is very helpful and greatly appreciated.

Observers saw 14.7 turkeys per 1,000 miles driven on six routes. This represents a 9% increase from last year, a 35% decrease from 2000, a 64% decrease from 1999 and a 21% decrease from 1998. Recruitment in 1999, during the beginning of the study appeared to be very good from our observations and this survey. Recruitment since then has decreased, but showed SLIGHT improvement this year. Recruitment is a critical aspect of this population's improvement.

Wildlife Management Units - The PGC is developing a new, habitat/human demographics-based, management unit system to incorporate all forest wildlife species (and possibly some other species) into one system which will simplify our management unit structure for hunters. Current turkey management areas will be incorporated as well as possible into this new system. A draft will be presented to the Board of Commissioners at next week's Commission meeting. Implementation could be as early as fall 2003.

Hunting Incident Statistics - During my August report the question of incident rates was raised. The following information regarding hunting incident rates is from a report entitled "Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents in Pennsylvania, 1987-99" by Joseph L. Smith, MD, G. C. Wood, and E. J. Lengerich VMD. Incident rates were calculated by the number of victims per 100,000 species-specific hunters, and were age-adjusted. The 12-year (1987-99) incident rates were highest for fall turkey's (7.5), lowest for grouse (1.9), 5.5 for spring turkey and 3.5 for deer. Turkey hunters also had the highest injury rates, were older, had more years of hunting experience, but less of turkey specific hunting experience. Fewer were hunter education trained. Judgment errors were the single leading cause of these incidents for all ages. The report recommended enhanced efforts to give more training to younger hunters (20 yrs. old) to decrease judgment errors, with a mandatory turkey hunting-specific training program for all turkey hunters. With current PGC budget restrictions, there are no immediate plans for PGC-based training programs. Some discussion followed.

Habitat Super Fund - PGC Game Land Planning and Development Division Chief, *Clay VanBuskirk*, and Technical Representative, *Mary Jo Casalena*, request the PA NWTf to consider assisting the PGC with a new initiative on State Game Lands where we are losing our sharecroppers who historically have planted many of our farm fields. Much of the decline has been the result of the inability to reconcile modern agricultural practices with wildlife habitat management (we restrict the use of certain crops and leave a percentage standing for wildlife). We are considering "contracting" with a few local farmers (or retired farmers) to plant crops on some SGLS where we have lost our sharecroppers. We request the PA NWTf to partner with the PGC in funding some of these contracts (through superfund monies), in areas where turkeys would be expected to benefit from the investment. We anticipate only a few projects because farmer availability is expected to be low. We have tried working with local clubs, etc., for some of this habitat work, but it invariably fizzled out. The PGC would identify the fields and do the planning as a 2-year commitment (allows the PGC and contractor to plan ahead). Implementation probably would begin in 2004. Super Fund monies would be used only on fields with habitats beneficial to turkeys and upland wildlife. Projects would be approved on a per-project basis. Some discussion followed.

Miscellaneous - Technical Committee Representative, *Mary Jo Casalena*, attended the semi-annual Northeast Wild Turkey Technical Committee meeting in Troy, NH from September 24-27. Technical representatives from most the northeastern states and provinces were in attendance. Topics discussed included state-provincial turkey status reports, harvest strategies, youth hunts, research projects and turkey management plans.

Beginning in December *Mary Jo Casalena* will be on maternity leave. I plan to return in April part-time for 4 months, after which I will be back full-time. During maternity leave I will attend as many NWTF meetings as possible such as the habitat committee and board meetings. My e-mail address will remain active. Some discussion followed.

NWTF BOARD OF DIRECTOR - *Ron Fretts* was not present.

EDITOR of "TURKEY TALK" - *Jeff Mulhollem* presented a written report.
 "Turning Pennsylvania Turkey Talk into an Honest-to-God Magazine..."

(1) Newsstand route or 2) Special Issue route)

- 1) Must be handled by a magazine distributor. (Good news - Don't think we need a glossy cover...)
- 2) To be handled by a magazine distributor, the publication must be 32 pages quarterly.
- 3) 12 and 16 pages quarterly now -- larger book will greatly increase const -- however newsstand sales will create a revenue stream that may eventually cover most of the added costs.
- 4) Proposed newsstand sales price \$2.99 per copy. Proposed initial statewide newsstand distribution - 10,000 copies. (Don't get excited...if we do well, we may sell 50 percent of those, and our cut may be only 40 percent, or $(5,000 \times \$2.99 = \$14,950... \$14,950 \times 0.40 = \$5,980...$ We might earn \$5,980 per issue from newsstand sales).
- 5) Other Costs
 - Now paying me \$900 to produce a 16-page issue for members. My work would more than double, and my fee might rise to \$2,000 per issue.
 - \$500 for turkey-hunting stories and photos from freelance contributors to fill the added 16 pages and make issues worth buying on newsstands.
 - Postage costs could rise \$840 an issue from added pages and weight (but there is a way to beat this one - more work for me).
 - Shipping 10,000 copies to magazine distributor -- perhaps \$100 an issue.
- 6) The Bottom Line (per issue):
 - Costs would be \$7,575 more an issue (without added postage costs)
 - Newsstand sales revenue could be \$5,980
 - \$7,575 in added costs - \$5,980 in likely revenue = \$1,595 more
 - 4 (quarterly issues) times \$1,595 = \$6,380 annual investment in attracting new members - but no guarantees!
- 7) We get no money from memberships

Some discussion followed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JAKES/NWTF Fund - *Bill Mackereth* had a written treasurer's report. (10/3/02)

Checkbook Balance 8/1/02 \$11,812.73

Income:

Sales of Raffle Tickets	\$1,120.00
Reimbursement for Jakes Event	112.35
Balance	\$13,045.08

Expenses:

N. W. Thunderin' Toms	62 Jakes	310.00
Susquehanna	28 Jakes	140.00
McLaughlin Photography (Reim.)		21.35
Blue Mountain	43 Jakes	215.00
State Jakes Event	95 Jakes	475.00

(50 Susquehanna)		
(25 Nittany Valley)		
(20 Moraine)		
JG Food Warehouse (Reim.)		91.00
(Jakes Event Food Supplies)		
Nittany Valley L. B.'s	48 Jakes	240.00
Lenni Lenape	32 Jakes	160.00
Bill Mackereth - Postage		<u>20.77</u>
Total Expenses		\$1,673.12

Checkbook Balance 10/3/02 \$11,371.96

PA NWTf CHAPTERS

Chapters With Unused Jake Memberships From 2000 - 2001 as of 10/3/02

		2002
Adams County Long Beards	4	NO
Allegheny Plateau	54	YES
Allegheny Sultans	1	NO
Allegheny Valley	41	YES
Anthracite Longspurs	9	YES
Blue Mountain	3	NO
Chesquehanna	26	YES
Delaware Co. Long Beards	1	YES
Endless Mountain	100	NO
Foothill Spurs	76	NO
James Wilhelm	112	YES
Kit-Han-Ne	105	YES
Lykens Valley	81	YES
Mill Creek	15	YES
S. E. Silver Spurs	2	NO
Shade Mountain	57	YES
Sherman Valley Strutters	52	NO
Stoney Valley	64	YES
Tamarack Turkey Talkers	58	YES
Ten Mile Valley	40	YES
Terrace Mountain	47	YES
Wapiti Roost	85	YES
White Horse Mountain	54	YES
Warrior Trail Gobblers	60	NO
Wilson F. Moore	10	YES
Beaver Valley	100	NO

Some discussion followed.

Promotional Committee - Skip Sanderson had a written report.

PROMOTIONS

No sales activity to report.

The front license plates have been ordered. The vendor will require a 50% deposit once the final price is set.

LICENSE PLATES

The first batch of license plates has been distributed. As far as I know, there are no issues with the applicants. I have received 19 requests for signed applications. The applications have been mailed. There were approximately 20 late registrants that received a signed application and a note directing them to rewrite their check to PennDot. If everyone forwarded their applications to Penn Dot, there should be close to 500 plates on vehicles. Some discussion followed.

PA Chapter NWTf Habitat Committee Report - Reed Johnson presented a written report.
September 5, 2002

The habitat committee will meet following the board meeting on Saturday.

The Conservation Seed Program this past spring and summer went fairly well with (most) chapters getting what seed they wanted. There were some problems with chapters that got more and that got less, but most were happy with the program. What can I say? National had its usual problems with getting the seed to us, the trucking company sent seed to the wrong location or dropped off more seed than they were supposed to. For the most part they got it right. I got blamed for spending too much, then not spending enough. All in all the entire program still did fairly well. There has been some discussion with a few local chapters that they might be able to get storage nearer to their location where they could get a whole truck load of seed and share it with other locals. This is a great idea if we can get the logistic worked out, and these chapters can distribute the seed with no problems.

For some of the chapters that got short changed, I was able to get a late shipment of seed in for fall planting. I contacted those people and they have picked up that seed. I sure hope I didn't miss anyone, but I probably did and I'm sure I'll hear about it down the road. When you're dealing with this much volume of seed you're bound to make some mistakes. (Sissy) at National knows that all too well. (Right Larry?). We were also able to keep the program within the set budget.

The only other thing that I have to say about the Conservation Seed Program is that the only help the locals got from the State agencies was mostly from the DCNR. The PGC really left a number of locals down by not giving assistance in picking up seed for them. What really disturbs me about this is that many of these chapters are doing projects with those local PGC land managers or game protectors and when they are getting funding for their projects everything is all right. But when the chapter asked for some help in getting the PGC personnel to send a truck to pick up seed for that chapter, they were told that it was not possible for every excuse under the sun. There where chapters in certain regions, got all the help they asked for, and it was for the most part, it depended on which of the 6 regions you were from (and not based on some PGC policy) whether you got any help.

The N. E. region was the worst in getting any help from the Regional Office. Those chapters got some help from D.C.N.R. but had to pretty much make their own arrangements to get the seed delivered. It is in those areas that we need to try to get a local delivery point. The S.W., S.C., & N.C. P.G.C. along with D.C.N.R. gave the most help to the locals that requested it, and are to be commended for their help.

We will be looking at what improvements the committee can make in all the programs it is involved with for next year at the committee meeting this weekend, and possibly at a later meeting in late Oct. or early Nov. that could also involve a grouse hunt.

PA Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation Annual Rendezvous and Awards Banquet - Dennis Strawbridge presented a written report.

Saturday, January 11, 2003 at the Ramada Inn in State College - 814-238-3700.

Rooms \$62/night; please call for reservations and mention NWTf for a special rate

Activities begin at 9:00 a.m.

Seminar by NWTf Regional Biologist, *Bob Eriksen*

JAKES Hunt of a lifetime on live auction
 Prime Rib & Turkey Buffet Dinner
 Seminar by NWTF WITO Regional Coordinator, *Tammy Mowry*
 Silent auction, live auction, guns, prints and raffles
 Featured Seminar Speaker, *Alex Rutledge* --H.S. Strut at 12:30 p.m.
 Featuring the 24th Annual *Wilson F. Moore* Memorial Calling Contest, Sponsored by: Gander Mountain
 Drawings for Sponsor and JAKES hunt of a lifetime
 Awards Banquet with the premiere introduction of the 2003 banquet package along with Chapter and Individual awards at 5:30 p.m.
 Early Bird Core Package Raffle - \$300 worth of tickets for \$100 - Deadline is December 15th
 Custom One - of - a - Kind Turkey Calls from *Bill Zearing, Scott Basehore, Dale Rohm, Dennis Strawbridge* and others, plus other items on the live auction

Make checks payable to: PA CHAPTER NWTF

Mail to: *Greg Caldwell*, 2605 S. Mountain Road, Port Matilda, PA 16870 (814) 692-4707

Day Pass (17 and under free)	\$5.00
Buffet Banquet Meal only	\$25.00
Day Pass/Banquet	\$30.00
Early Bird Raffle Package	\$100.00

(tickets will be at the door)

OLD BUSINESS - *Greg Caldwell* reported on the I-99 controversy that is going on in Centre County. There is a section between Bald Eagle and Port Matilda that has not had all the permits issued. DEP is the third party in the issuance of the permits and they haven't signed yet. There are environmentalists that are trying to prevent the highway from going through. Initially there were two proposals. It is being held up because they feel that the ridge alignment will cause too many problems with the wet lands. There was an individual who spoke at one of the public hearings and he spoke as if he were representing the National Wildlife Turkey Federation. No one knows who it was. It sounds as though the majority of the people on the State College side are opposed to the ridge alignment. Those in Bald Eagle side are opposed to the valley alignment. All the environmental impact studies conclude that there is more negative impact in the valley. Part of the reason is because the woods on the mountain ridge have been clear-cut. There is less impact to the habitat because of the wildlife is already in the valley. Penn Dot feels that they won't stop the issue of the permit but they can delay it for quite sometime. Some discussion followed.

Dwight Kuntz reported on JF Graphics. Patches was done and will be shipped out. Was not satisfied with the patches, with the way the machine stitched the shadows. They were sent back. They are being produced in Pennsylvania somewhere. JF Graphics guarantees that if we do not have the patches by the end of the month they will refund our money. From order date to ship date will be 3 months on future orders. They say they will be well worth the wait.

NEW BUSINESS - *Gary Beatty* discussed the NWTF Building Fund. He received a letter from *Carl Brown* from Nationals requesting funding from all the State Chapters and individual members for the expansion on the NWTF building. State Chapters may consider using their Super Fund to help. They suggested \$10,000(\$2,500 per year) over 4 years. Your name will be listed on the building, plus an annual report plus a gun of the year to be used for a raffle. Some discussion followed. Moved by *Gary Beatty* that the PA Chapter give \$10,000 (\$2,500 for a year) over 4 years to the NWTF Building Fund so a conference room in the new building can be called "The Pennsylvania Conference Room, seconded by *Skip Sanderson*. Motion carried.

Banner for the Dart Trailer is needed at an estimated cost of \$75 and for the State Booth at E.S.O.S. Motion made by *Dennis Strawbridge* to purchase a banner for the Dart Trailer and for the State Booth at E.S.O.S. at an estimated cost of \$75, seconded by *Dwight Kuntz*. Motion carried.

Nomination for *Roger Latham*. Asked if we were going to nominate anyone this year. No nominations were given. Nominations were closed.

Garry Beatty presented New Promotion Items. Promo item sales are up some. Possibly adding a Money Clip, Pocketknife are a couple of ideas. The Front License Plate is another Promo item. The Promo Committee was asked to discuss new promo ideas and bring back to the next meeting.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Carl Mowry discussed the Annual Rendezvous. We are mailing 5 tickets to each chapter. One ticket is a free ticket. The other tickets, we are asking the chapters to sell. Order forms were made available. Discussed all the seminars that will be made available. Would like all chapters to participate. Awards were also discussed. Some discussion followed.

Carl Mowry discussed helping the miners. Discussed giving something towards their building fund. The NWTF contributed a 2002 Gun of the Year to the Sipesville, PA Fire Company. Talked about donating a second gun. Decided to not donate the second gun.

Moved by *Dwight Kuntz* to adjourn at 2:45 p.m., seconded by *Bill Mackereth*. Motion carried.

Submitted by,



Bill Mackereth, Secretary
PA Chapter NWTF



PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and
Preservation of the Turkey Hunting Tradition

Pa. Chapter NWTF home page www.go2pa.com/panwtf E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

1

An important reminder:

The PA Chapter NWTF Executive Board Meeting will be held at *Dwight Kuntz's* camp off of the Quehanna Highway on Friday, October 4, 2002 at 8:00 p.m. Contact *Dwight* for directions.

The PA Chapter NWTF Board Meeting will be held Saturday, October 5, 2002 at the Moshannon State Forest Field Office off the Quehanna Highway. The office is located on the left hand side of the road going from Quehanna to Medix Run.

**PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NWTF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
RAMADA INN, STATE COLLEGE, PA
AUGUST 3, 2002**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, *Don O'Brien* at 9:05 a.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance and the ground rules for the meeting we moved into the Officer reports.

Officer Reports:

President *Carl Mowry* presented a written report of his activities.

Chapter President/District Director Report

- 6-8-02 Attended Moraine Chapter WITO Event, Butler, PA
- 6-13-02 Attended Moraine Chapter Meeting, Butler, PA
- 6-14/15-02 Attended Tri State Sport Show, Waynesburg, PA
- 7-11-02 Attended Moraine Chapter Meeting, Butler, PA
- 7-23-02 Attended Local #1 Sponsor Dinner, Mt. Pleasant, PA
- 7-27-02 Attended Wheelin' Sportsman Event, New Castle, PA
- 7-28-02 Attended PGC Meeting in Huntingdon, PA

Secretary's Report by *Bill Mackereth*. A motion to accept the secretary's report as corrected was made by *Dwight Kuntz* and seconded by *Dennis Strawbridge*. Motion carried.

Treasurer *Jim Panaro* presented a written summary for the period of June 1 through July 31, 2002. Reporting a starting balance of \$21,959.78, income of \$18,810.33, expenses of \$21,933.51, leaving an ending balance of \$18,836.60 showing a net loss of \$3,123.18. Explained the treasurer's report and the CPA report that was included. Hidden Valley issue is still not resolved. Finance Committee meeting tentatively set for August 17, 2002 which may need to be changed. After some questions and discussion a motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by *Don Heckman*, seconded by *Clyde Gouker* and motion carried.

Vice President *Greg Caldwell* had a written report of his activities.

Vice President *Greg Caldwell's* First Written Report for Year 2002

- Jan. 5 Emcee for Wilson F. Moore Invitational Masters Turkey Calling Contest at the Ramada Inn, Altoona, PA
- Jan. 5 Attended PANWTF Annual Rendezvous/Awards Banquet, Altoona, PA
- Jan. 6 Attended PANWTF Board of Directors Meeting, Altoona, PA
- Jan. 7 Attended Nittany Valley Long beards Chapter meeting, Bellefonte, PA
- Jan. 21 Attended NVLB meeting Votech, Bellefonte, PA
- Jan. 30 Attended NVLB executive meeting at Duffy's Tavern, Boalsburg, PA
- Feb. 4 Attended Harrisburg Sports Show, Harrisburg, PA
- Feb. 10 Attended PANTWF Habitat committee meeting, Elliott Park, Clearfield, PA
- Feb. 11 Attended NVLB meeting, Legion, Pleasant Gap, PA
- Feb. 17 Attended and spoke at annual Turkey Chit Chat in Medix Run, PA
- Feb. 23 Set up and conducted display table on behalf of the NWTF and NVLB at Charlie Alsheimer Seminar, Bellefonte, PA
- Feb. 25 Attended NVLB meeting at Ken Barto's, State College, PA
- Mar. 1 Attended Shade Mountain Chapter Superfund Banquet, Port Royal, PA
- Mar. 2 Attended Terrace Mountain Chapter Superfund Banquet, Huntingdon, PA
- Mar. 3 Helped with NVLB Habitat Project, Fence Installation on SCL 103 in Runville, PA
- Mar. 4 Attended NVLB meeting, Pleasant Gap, PA
- Mar. 8 Meeting in Cresson, PA with Sam Barrett owner and videographer for future TV show "The Trill of the Hunt" to discuss plans for filming the NVLB's Jakes Hunt in Kansas.

- Mar. 9 Emceed NVLB's Turkey Hunting skit for the Gobbler's Knob Chapter and the Rochester Mills Sportman's Club in Punxsutawney, PA
- Mar. 10 Attended PANWTF meeting: Brush Mt. Sportsman's, Pinecroft, PA
- Mar. 11 Attended NVLB meeting at Ken Barto's, State College, PA
- Mar. 16 Attended our own NVLB Superfund Banquet, Bellefonte, PA
- Mar. 24 Represented NWTF with an information table at Dick's Sporting Good's open house, State College, PA
- Apr. 19 Guided NVLB's Jakes Winner/Guest on videoed hunt, Altoona, KS
- Apr. 20 Guided NVLB's Jakes Winner/Guest on videoed hunt, Altoona, KS
- May 13 Conducted NVLB seminar/meeting with Jody Hugill of Outland Sports, Port Matilda, PA
- May 23 Guided State Representative Lynn Herman on his 1st spring turkey hunt, in Pennsylvania
- June 5 Attended NVBL meeting Marrara's Mountain Lodge, Port Matilda, PA
- June 17 Conducted NVBL seminar/meeting with Bob Hart of Hart's Custom Guns at Bald Eagle Sportsman's, Bald Eagle, PA
- June 22 Presented a turkey hunting safety seminar for PGC at the Bald Eagle Sportsman's Club, Bald Eagle, PA
- July 8 Attended NVLB meeting at my home, Port Matilda, PA
- July 20 Attended Susquehanna Chapter Superfund Banquet at Pennsdale, PA
- July 21 Co-ordinated Jakes & WITO event at Marrara's Mountain Lodge, Port Matilda, PA
- July 28 Attended PGC meeting, Huntingdon, PA

Chairman *Don O'Brien* had a written report of his activities.

Chairman/District Director Report

- May 31 Attended PA State Chapter Executive Meeting, Clearfield, PA
- June 4 Attended PA State Chapter Board Meeting, Clearfield, PA
- June 4 Presented Susquehanna Long beards 5-Star Scholarship to Senior from Montoursville High School, Montoursville, PA
- June 10-11 Attended PGC meeting, Harrisburg, PA
- June 12 Attended Susquehanna Long beards Banquet Meeting, Linden, PA
- June 14 Conducted HTE Classes, Muncy, PA
- June 17 Attended PGC & State Chapter Meeting, Harrisburg, PA
- July 2 Attended PGC Game Land Tour North Central Region, Jersey Shore, PA

July 10. Attended Susquehanna Long beards Banquet Meeting, Linden, PA
 July 12-13 Conducted HTE Classes, Muncy, PA
 July 17 Attended Susquehanna Long beards Banquet Meeting, Linden, PA
 July 20. Attended Susquehanna Long beards Banquet, Pennsdale, PA
 July 24. Attended WITO Planning Meeting, Williamsport, PA

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE - *Mary Jo Casalena* had a written report.

Final 2001 Wild Turkey Harvests

The 2001 hunting year was the second consecutive year of a record turkey harvest with a total harvest of 97,194, according to our Game-Take Survey results. Spring 2001 harvest was 49,186 bearded turkeys, another new record. Fall 2001 was 48,008 birds, the second highest fall harvest, and only the fourth time we have harvested over 40,000 fall turkeys. The record was set in 1995 with over 49,700 turkeys.

Approximately 20% of the turkey hunters harvested turkeys statewide during each season. Year 2001 turkey hunter participation was 230,115 (spring) and 228,564 (fall). The estimated number of individual turkey hunters (those that hunted spring only, fall only, and both spring and fall) was 293,772. This is slightly lower than 2000 (1.5%) and is almost 7% below 1999 (315,505).

Spring 2002 Wild Turkey Harvest

Turkey harvest report cards for spring 2002 gobbler season currently are being tabulated. Preliminary harvest results will be available in late summer/early fall.

Spring 2002 Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents

As a preliminary summary, there were 7 non-fatal incidents and one fatal incident during the spring 2002 turkey-hunting season. The victim of the fatal incident was shot in mistake for game, as were 6 of the 7 non-fatal victims. The other non-fatal victim had a self-inflicted incident due to the sporting arm being in a dangerous position. All 8 victims had over 10 years of hunting experience, as well as 7 of 8 offenders. The other offender had 6-10 years of experience. Additionally, 5 offenders had over 10 years experience hunting wild turkeys; the other 3 had 10 years or less of turkey-hunting experience. (Summary table attached). Some discussion followed.

Wild Turkey Research in TMA 7B

We are continuing data analyses from the radio-telemetry study in TMA 7B to determine factors impacting the low turkey population. Analysis of turkey hen reproductive and survival data is complete. Reproductive rate estimates for this population were consistent with those of similar studies. Poults survival rate estimates from this population were less than poults survival rate estimates from other studies. A population model indicated that low poults survival might be a limiting factor for this population. Analysis of nesting habitat, using GIS, indicated nesting success was not associated with the habitat variables we selected for analysis. Thesis work for PSU graduate student, *Mark Lowles*, is nearing completion. Some discussion followed.

Michaux State Forest Summer Sighting Surveys

The fifth year of Summer Sighting Surveys on the Michaux State Forest are underway to provide an index to its turkey population trends in addition to our harvest and hunting success trend data for TMA 7B. Surveys run through the end of August. Results will be presented at the October Board Meeting.

Wild Turkey Restoration Activities

Wild turkey restoration efforts on TMA 9A in southeast PA will continue this winter in Southern Berks, Chester, Southern Lancaster, and York counties. Wild turkeys will be trapped within Pennsylvania in areas where turkey populations are very dense, hunting is prohibited and from lands where landowners agree to have turkeys trapped. A goal of 140-160 transferred turkeys at a sex ratio of 3 hens to 1 male will complete the restoration efforts. Population monitoring continues.

Spring turkey hunters harvested 2 leg-banded gobblers from the winter releases. Both turkeys were adult gobblers that had been released on SGL 52 in Berks County. One gobbler was harvested on private land and one was harvested on SGL 52. Spring gobbler season opens after turkey breeding occurs so the PA Game Commission maintains an open spring season in turkey restoration areas. The fall season in TMA 9A remains closed. Some discussion followed.

PANWTF/PGC Joint Meetings

Our annual cooperative meeting was held June 17, 2002 at the PGC Headquarters to discuss all aspects of wild turkey management in Pennsylvania. This was a productive meeting and several "To Do" items were identified for both the PGC and NWTF staff and volunteers.

The annual meeting between the PA Chapter and PGC to discuss annual progress on implementation of the strategies and objectives of the "Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania" was held on August 1, 2002. The meeting was held at PGC headquarters in Harrisburg, with dinner hosted by the PA Chapter NWTF. A report was provided by the PGC on progress that has been made with the plan. Some discussion followed.

SENIOR REGIONAL SUPERVISOR *Jerry Zimmerman* had a written report.

MAY/JUNE

Membership Totals:

Adults -	12,344
Jakes -	7,317
WITO -	1,819
Wh SP -	99
	<u>21,579</u> ranks us 4th in the country

Super Fund Balance as of July 31st - \$44,004.86 (in the red) we try to carry a balance from one year to the next. We were told we had so much in our Super Fund from 2001 to 2002 and we did not. We went into the year \$36,240.00 behind, we didn't know we were behind. \$292,930 has been deposited so far this year. \$71,000 to deposit yet from the banquets for 2002. \$300,695 Expenses. Some discussion followed.

Announced a new partnership with the Miller Brewing Company. It is a three-year deal. Distributors will have up to \$250 in product or merchandise for your banquets. There will be banners to put up. It is in effect as of now. You are not required to deal with Miller Brewing Company. No literature is available yet, but the distributors do know about it. It is called "The Friends of the Field Program". A couple of other smaller organizations are involved.

Had a meeting with new chapter from Chester County. They will be coming on board. Follow-up meeting on August 21, 2002. No chapter name yet. About 18 people attended the meeting. It will be another southeastern chapter.

Some discussion about Diamond Cut Jeans.

PA Rendezvous - *Alex Rutledge* will be the speaker. Seminars planned. A full and busy day planned. Encouraged all chapters to come to the banquet.

REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR *Larry Holjencin* had a written report.

1) Building Expansion Updated (Edgefield) from *Ron Fretts*, whom says hello. He is busy planning the building expansion plans to attend another board meeting in the future.

Building will be 30,000 square feet - 3 stories - office space and will be built behind the museum.

Ground floor - finance/accounting

Main floor - operations department

Top floor - conservation program

Timing - bids in September

- Break ground October National Board Meeting

- Actual start end of 2002 beginning 2003

Currently securing grants, in-kind donations for materials letter will be sent for chapter support as we've done in the past. Some discussion followed.

2) National Convention

September - mailing to people who called in the past attendees

The end of October - mailing to president, Banquet Chairmen and District Directors. Registration will go up a little bit, \$200 for a single, \$400 for a couple.

We still have rooms at Opryland Hotel \$140 up to 4 people.

The agenda - Thursday 10:00 a.m. chapter president's meeting-Thursday entertainment not confirmed yet.

Saturday p.m. - awards dinner night, not going to Opryland but do have Allyson Krause and Union Station booked for Saturday night.

Reservations are due by December 15, 2002. It will be sent together. Some discussion followed.

3) Jakes Raffle - tickets printed

- Distribution tomorrow

- Chapter president to be contacted whether they want or not

- *Bill & Edie Mackereth* keeping track of winners and contacting them

21,500 members at this time. Try to get the Jakes signed up outside the banquet. We would like to have someone on every committee be a Jakes chairman and have that person go out to Sportsmen's Clubs and ask them for their support. We would have them sponsor kids. They can get their own names or we can provide. We can have different levels. Certificates can be generated. It can be customized with your Chapter name and have it signed and present it to that club. They get something back for or some recognition for their support. Right now we are averaging 70 Jakes per banquet, we should average 200 Jakes per banquet. That will give us another 9,000 members, which would put us over 30,000 members. Some discussion followed.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL COORDINATOR Tammy Mowry reported they are getting ready for the National Women in the Outdoors Event that will be held the end of September in Edgefield. We have over 100 women who will be participating. They will have a selection of 20 classes to go through. We have 11 women from Pennsylvania participating. If you happen to know of anyone who might be interested in attending, she has registration forms and can explain classes. The industry out there is conducting all the classes. Trying to get as many women as they can to attend.

Also reported they are in the beginning stages of planning for our own state event to be held in Somerset County next spring, March 28. We are looking into classes and instructors. We want to see more participation from all the chapters. We have 71 chapters and we only have a few chapters represented.

Nationally, we have over 42,000 members. In Pennsylvania we have over 1,800 members right now. We have 22 events scheduled throughout this calendar year. Some discussion followed.

REGIONAL BIOLOGIST *Bob Eriksen* had a written report.

June 1 through August 1, 2002

Goal - visit at least 2 projects a month

Project Site Visits

The regional biologist met with *Tom Folkers*, a biologist-ranger with the US Army Corps of Engineers Tioga-Hammond Lake Project in Tioga County, Pennsylvania. We reviewed the property and adjacent lands to determine the best methods of enhancing the area for Wild turkeys. The project site is adjacent to SGL 37. Improving winter and summer brood habitat on the Corps property could help to improve wild turkey survival and productivity on the game lands. *Ranger Folkers* will contact the local chapter to discuss Super Fund projects.

Super Fund projects on the Raystown Lake Army Corps property were visited and photographed for a future article highlighting the work done on this area. The Terrace Mountain Chapter has been heavily involved on the site and major habitat improvements have taken place.

A Super Fund project site on State Game Land 217 in Lehigh County was photographed as bulldozer work was in progress. The Pennsylvania State Chapter Super Fund is being used very effectively by PGC Land Manager *Dave Mitchell* and PGC Forester *Dave Henry*. The goal for this area is to create openings and establish higher quality brood range.

The regional biologist met with the wild turkey biologist from NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife to show him several Super Fund projects in the southern part of the state. The projects improved brood habitat on two wildlife management areas (Bevans and Peaslee) using planting and controlled burning. Photographs of the habitat improvements were taken. While checking the areas, we observed six different turkey broods using fields improved with the Super Fund. These projects are featured in an upcoming "Turkey Call" article.

Eight fields on the White Lake Wildlife Management Area in northern New Jersey were visited along with *Bob McDowell*, Director of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. The objective was to highlight the work being done with the Super Fund on that area. A refuge manager from the US Fish and Wildlife Service accompanied us on the tour. The fields were planted with Strut and Rut (5 fields); chufa (2 fields) and a pasture mix (1 field).

Meetings, Shows and Presentations

A slide show entitled "Wild Turkey 101" was presented to the spring banquet of the Mason-Dixon Chapter. The annual picnic of the Terrace Mountain local chapter was attended and photos of the group were taken at project sites.

The regional biologist attended the Board of Directors meetings of the New York and New Jersey Chapters. The Super Fund committee meetings in both states were also attended. A presentation on Seed Subsidy and Conservation Seed was made at the New York Local Chapter Presidents meeting.

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Habitat Alliance was attended. The topic of discussion was deer management in Pennsylvania.

The regional biologist attended the Pennsylvania Game Commission June meeting and facilitated the annual meeting between commission staff and the Pennsylvania Chapter. The annual meeting on the Pennsylvania Wild Turkey Management Plan was attended at the PGC headquarters in Harrisburg.

The Game Commission Deer Management Team held a special meeting to encourage stakeholder participation in preparing the deer management plan for Pennsylvania. The regional biologist represented the chapter at this meeting. The other stakeholders included PFSC, UBP, USP, DCNR, QDMA, PA Audobon and others. The group developed a mission statement for the plan and listed objectives and goals for deer management in the commonwealth.

Along with RD *Bob Farkasovsky* and Chapter President *Carl Mowry*, a booth at the Green County Outdoors Show was staffed for the weekend show.

The summer meeting of the NWTf staff was attended in Augusta Georgia.

In New York a meeting was held with the NYDEC wild turkey biologist and two regional biologists to discuss the issue of crop damage by wild turkeys. We will be investigating and documenting damage to vineyards and silage bags in two regions of New York. The goal is to determine if there is actual damage and to develop ways to alleviate damage if it is found to be a problem

Met with the Capitol Area Chapter outside of Albany, New York to discuss Super Fund project planning. Two NYDEC biologists brought project proposals for review. This is the first time projects will take place in either of the regions represented by the two biologists. Some discussion followed.

Writing Projects

An article was completed for "Turkey Call" along with photographs covering projects in southern New Jersey. Articles were prepared for "The Caller" covering the record spring harvest and the first youth spring gobbler hunt in New Jersey. Some discussion followed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Jakes & Jake Raffle - Bill Mackereth reported:****PA CHAPTER NWTF/JAKES****Treasurer's Report**Checkbook Balance 5/30/02 \$14,243.90

Income:

Sales of Raffle tickets 740.00Balance \$14,983.90

Expenses:

Lykens Valley L. B.'s 44 Jakes \$220.00

Movaine Chapter 82 " 410.00

Mason Dixon 62 " 310.00

Ben Stimaker 112 " 560.00

Kit-Han-Ne 11 " 55.00

Yellow Creek 68 " 340.00

Lakeland L. B.'s 91 " 455.00

Nittany Valley L. B.'s 16 " 80.00

Allegheny Sultans 18 " 90.00

Best Printing 439.80

Postmaster (envelopes, stamps, postage) 51.37

Susquehanna L. B.'s 32 Jakes 160.00Total Expenses \$3,171.17Checkbook Balance 8/1/02 \$11,812.73**PA NWTF CHAPTERS WITH UNUSED JAKE MEMBERSHIPS
FROM 2000 - 2001 8/1/02**

Adams Co. L.B.'s 4

Allegheny Plateno 54

Allegheny Sultons 1

Allegheny Valley 41

Anthracite Longspurs 9

Blue Mountain 46

Chesquehanna 26

Del. Co. L. B.'s 1

Endlers Mountain 100

Foothill Spurs 76

James Wilhelm 112

Kit-Han-Ne 105

Lenni Lenape	32
Lykens Valley	81
Mill Creek	15
Nittany Valley L. B.	48
Northwest Thund. Toms	62
S. E. Silver Spurs	2
Shade Mountain	57
Sherman Valley Strut.	52
Stoney Valley	64
Tamarack Turk. Talk.	58
Ten Mile Valley	40
Terrace Mountain	47
Wapiti Roost	85
White Horse Mt.	54
Warrior Trail Gobblers	60
Wilson F. Moore	10
Beaver Valley	100

Jakes event next Saturday, to be held at Elliotte Park. All are welcome to come and help. 55 are signed up. We accept walk-ins. Jakes memberships were discussed. Some discussion followed.

Wheelin Sportsman - Gary Huff reported last Saturday the first Wheelin Sportsman was held in Lawrence County. Five local chapters kicked in there together. We start the morning out with fishing and ended up with shot gunning. Broke for lunch. In the afternoon we did 22 rifles, archery and we ended up with golf. We had 1 sixteen-year-old girl and 4 other guys. They were all basically sportsmen before they had their injuries. All the participants received Wheelin Sportsman hats and shirts also some door prizes. Pictures were taken and available to view. Some discussion followed.

License Plates - Skip Sanderson reported he spoke to Penn Dot, they said all but about a dozen had been mailed out. Some have not received their license plates yet. It is a Penn Dot issue at this point. Have been receiving angry mail. Our part has been done. The procedure is to get the application filled out and sent to Skip. He then forwards the applications to Penn Dot. Some discussion followed.

Dart System - Dwight Kuntz reported graphics were omitted. He has the new discs; he received them on Wednesday. He will hold the discs until he has the unit at his place so he can check the system to see if it works. When they work, they will have it up and running and will use it as a teaching tool. We were only supposed to get one set, but we received two sets. We now have a back-up disc. According to the invoice they are \$200 a piece plus \$40 shipping and handling. We also received our youth rifle (\$750). It is extremely light sensitive. Some discussion followed.

Finance Committee Meeting - Jim Panaro reported it would be held on August 17, 2002

At the Bald Eagle Sportsman Club at 1:00 p.m.

Communications - Carl Mowry reported that the members were to look at the communications posted in the rear of the meeting room.

OLD BUSINESS

Don Heckman reported that the Wild Turkey Task Force meeting would be held on October 1, 2002. **Mary Jo** and the Bureau of Wild Life Management are going to come to the Task Force with the recommendations for the Wild Turkey population decline that we have down there. The Task Force will review those recommendations. The Game Commission meeting is October 7th and 8th. **Don** will go to the October board meeting with some questions and some answers as far as what this board wants to do with those recommendations. Be prepared for some discussion on Wild Turkey management on TMA 7B.

Chronic Wastings Disease - Bob Eriksen reported that the CWD situation might have killed this bill. The bill in the legislature that would limit the PA Game Commissions involvement in regulating captive deer. Why it doesn't affect us directly, **Bob Boyd** and others in the Game Commission were looking for various sportsman groups to express opposition to the SB 11 58 to ask if we would draft a letter and send it to **Carl** and a bunch of other folks to comment on. At this point we need to make a decision of whether we want to bother with the letter or not. The CWD issue may kill that bill, it also looks like the Game Commission and the Department of Agriculture are working together on CWD. They just closed the borders of Pennsylvania to the import of captive deer, elk, etc. The bill will turn over all authority for regulating captive deer and elk service to the Department of Agriculture and take any regulating power away from the Game Commission. The concern was that the captive raising of deer and elk could have impact on Wild population so the Game Commission wanted to maintain that ability. Do we want to be involved or not? Some discussion followed. **Skip Sanderson** moved that the PA NWTF send a letter to **Michael Waugh**, and carbon copies to the Governor **Bob Boyd** and **Carl Mowry** supporting the PGC's stand on Cervid Management, seconded by **Don Heckman**. The motion carried.

J. F. Graphics - Dwight Kuntz reported that since the last board meeting when he was asked to contact J. F. Graphics, he immediately began to make calls about once a week and got no response. He then started to call every day and finally got in touch with him. He has made some changes in his procedures. He said they were putting the finishing touches on and getting ready for shipment. In two to three weeks everyone will have their patches, by the third week of August. Some discussion followed.

Elk Expo - *Carl Mowry* reported that the Elk Expo would be held at St. Mary's Airport on September 26, 2002. Set-up is Thursday, September 26, 2002. *Dwight* has volunteered to set-up the Dart System. The show is Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Help was requested. Information about the Chapter will be there, we will raffle off a gun, sell tickets at \$2.00 a chance along with our Jakes Raffle. Some discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Panaro received our renewal for Western PA Conservancy & Central PA Conservancy each is \$100. *Don Heckman* moved to continue our membership in the Western PA Conservancy & the Central PA Conservancy at \$100, seconded by *Gary Beatty*. Motion carried. Information on Hunters Share the Harvest was presented. They would like NWTF to provide \$500 to be a partner with them. The money would be used to process the deer meat. The first year it would be general fund. Some discussion followed. *Don Heckman* moved that we contribute \$500 to "Hunters Sharing the Harvest" for 2002, seconded by *Greg Caldwell*. Motion carried.

"Turkey Talk Magazine"- *Dwight Kuntz* discussed the need to get the magazine into the hands of all hunters instead of just members. It needs to be put on the magazine racks around Pennsylvania. The cost to produce "Turkey Talk Magazine" is 51 cents an issue. We will need to get *Jeff Mulhollem* to our next meeting to explain the ins and outs to get the magazine to the general public. Some discussion followed.

Reward Money - reported on Lycoming County Pochers - 2 arrests made by *Ray Smith*.

Long Range Program - *Greg Beatty* mentioned the Long Range Program update. Next meeting set for June after the board meeting.

Outdoor Times Request - *Don Heckman* reported on receiving a request for 50 or 60 names from the chapter to do a mailing of "Outdoor Times". Four issues, it wouldn't cost anything to the recipients and at the end of four issues "Outdoor Times" would send a survey to those people requesting feed back on the publication. It was noted that the PA NWTF couldn't give out their mailing list.

PA Sportsman Coalition Membership - *Don Heckman* discussed why it was important to continue membership of the PA Sportsman Coalition Membership. Other discussion followed. Moved by *Don Heckman* that the PA Chapter NWTF maintain membership in the PA Sportsman Coalition and pay the membership fee of \$100, seconded by *Gary Beatty*. Motion carried.

The Governor's Sportsman Advisory Council - Don Heckman is a member of the Governor's Sportsman Advisory Council along with many other organizations. It doesn't cost us anything. The PA Habitat Alliance is a group of Conservation, Sportsmen and Environmental Organizations, 31 all together, that meet and talk about Air, Soil & Water. When the issues come to the table we are a small part of the big wheel of the voice of the sportsman community. It has been working well. We work together to achieve those issues concerning hunting, trapping and fishing.

Spring Gobblers - Jerry Zimmerman reported on the possibility of discussion on longer hours for spring gobblers. When that comes up we will be asked on our stance on all day hunting. Wanted to let the board know so if it does come up, we will be prepared to discuss it. The biologists have said it would not impact nesting hens all that much. Asked to think about it. Some discussion followed.

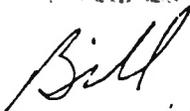
FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Rick Stutzman and Rhonda Henry reported on the mining tragedy and would like to do something for the community. Maybe donate to the Sipesville Volunteer Fire Department (building renovation). Would like to see something given back to the community that they lived in. What can we do? Funds are available. Some discussion followed. We could solicit local chapters and let them know what the funds were for. Maybe donate a specific piece of equipment, something that could be labeled, donated by the PA NWTF Chapter. A NWTF member was trapped. If we do donate, it needs to be earmarked.

Bill Mackereth asked the presidents to pick up their Raffle Tickets after the meeting.

Dwight Kuntz moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by **Tom Bunty**. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Submitted by



Bill Mackereth, Secretary
PA Chapter NWTF



PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and
Preservation of the Turkey Hunting Tradition

Pa. Chapter NWTF home page www.go2pa.com/panwtf E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

An important reminder to all interested persons:

THE PA CHAPTER NWTF EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL MEET FRIDAY,
AUGUST 2, 2002 AT THE RAMADA INN IN STATE COLLEGE AT 8:00 PM

THE PA CHAPTER NWTF BOARD MEETING WILL MEET SATURDAY,
AUGUST 3, 2002 AT THE RAMADA INN IN STATE COLLEGE AT 9:00 AM

THE CHAPTER PRESIDENTS MEETING WILL BE HELD SUNDAY,
AUGUST 4, 2002 AT THE RAMADA INN IN STATE COLLEGE AT 9:00 AM

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NWTF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
S. B. ELLIOTT STATE PARK MOSHANNON STATE FOREST DISTRICT 9
JUNE 1, 2002

The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, *Don O'Brien* at 9:20 a.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance *Don* reviewed the ground rules and moved on to:

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT REPORT - by *Carl Mowry* presented a written report of his activities.

- March 14 - Attended Moraine Meeting, Butler, PA
- March 17 - Attended PA Chapter Scholarship Meeting, Butler, PA
- March 23 - Conducted Millcreek Banquet, Shipperville, PA
- April 5 - Attended 4-H Training, Camp Lutherlyn, Butler, PA

April 6 - Conducted Foothill Spurs Banquet, East Brady, PA
 April 7 - Attended Wheelin Sportsmen Meeting, Grove City, Pa
 April 8 & 9 - Attended PGC Meeting, Harrisburg, PA
 April 11 - Attended Moraine Meeting, Butler, PA
 April 20 & 21 - Attended PA Chapter WITO Event, Somerset, PA
 May 15 - Attended Wheelin Sportsmen Meeting, New Castle, PA
 May 16 - Attended Moraine Meeting, Butler, PA
 May 17 & 18 - Attended POWA Conference, West Middlesex, PA
 May 19 - Attended Whitehorse Mountain Long beards Sporting Clays WITO Event, Berlin, PA
 May 28 - Attended Moraine WITO Meeting, Butler, PA
 May 31 - Attended PA Chapter Executive Meeting, Clearfield, PA
 June 1 - Attended PA Chapter Board Meeting, Clearfield, PA

SECRETARY REPORT - by *Bill Mackereth*. There were spelling corrections. A motion to accept the secretary's report with corrections was made by *Dwight Kuntz* and seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT - by *Jim Panaro* explained his written treasurer's report. Starting balance from March 1 - May 31, 2002 \$8,393.87, Income \$32,019.02, Expenses \$18,463.48, Ending Balance \$21,949.41, Net Gain \$13,555.54. Moved by *Dennis Strawbridge* to accept the treasurer's report with a second from *Rick Stutzman*. Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT - *Greg Caldwell* not present.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - by *Don O'Brien* had a written report.

March 9 - 31, 2002

March 9 - Attended PA State Chapter Executive Meeting, State College, PA
 March 10 - Attended PA State Chapter Board Meeting, Pine Cross, PA
 March 12 - Attended Susquehanna Long beards Meeting, Linden, PA
 March 16 - Conducted Nittany Valley Long beards Banquet, Bellefonte, PA
 March 23 - Attended RMEF Banquet, Pennsdale, PA
 March 27 - Attended North Central PA Conservancy Thomspson Tract Dedication,
 Montoursville, PA
 April 8 & 9 - Attended PGC Meetings, Harrisburg, PA
 April 10 - Attended Susquehanna Long beards Meeting, Linden, PA
 April 12 & 13 - Conducted Hunters Education Classes, Muncy, PA
 April 17 - Attended HTE Instructions Dinner, Williamsport, PA
 April 17 - Attended WITO Meeting, Montoursville, PA
 April 19 & 20 - Worked Turkey Seminar & Show at Gander Mountain, Muncy, PA
 May 15 & 16 - Conducted Turkey Biology Program 4-H Environmental Days, Ives Run, PA
 May 17 - Conducted Turkey Biology Program PA Wildlife Day, Williamsport, PA
 May 30 & 31 - Conducted Turkey Biology Program 6th Grade Days, Picture Rocks, PA

NWTF REPORTS

SENIOR REGIONAL SUPERVISION - *Jerry Zimmerman* was not present.

REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - Larry Holjencin had a written report.**National Memberships:**

JAKES - 174,000
 Wheelin Sportsman - 1,900
 Women (WITO)- 42,000
 Regular Adult - 232,100
 TOTAL - 450,000

Letter from Joel Pedersen:

Hunting Heritage	\$5,000
USSA (WLFA)	\$10,000
NSSF	\$10,000
4-H Shooting	\$5,000
National JAKES	\$700
Wheelin' Sportsman	<u>\$5,000</u>
	\$35,700

Also, we have not submitted the following SF requests to accounting (for various reasons), therefore they are not reflected in the report even though the chapter has committed to them.

Lenny Lenape Chapter	\$5,775 (Don't have info on where to send the check)
NWTF	\$300 (for ed boxes Ron Fretts picked up)
NWTF	\$20,622 (conservation seed)
NWTF	\$499 (JAKES order and insurance)
PA Chapter	<u>\$1,000</u> (JAKES Event)
	\$28,196

\$35,700

28,196

\$63,896

Deposits	\$220,097
Expenditures	<u>216,538</u>
Balance	3,559
Commitments (from above)	<u>63,896</u>
	60,337

Anticipated income from remaining

2002 banquets 106,383

Projected balance \$46,046

He also reported, Sunday, August 4, 2002 there will be a "Leadership Workshop" at the Ramada Inn in State College. They will go over some ideas on JAKES recruitment.

The JAKES Raffle will be done again, with the same type of guns, around November 1 - December 10, 2002. It will be put in this issue of Turkey Talk. Notices will be mailed out.

Nesmuk Chapter in Tioga County has been renamed the *Army Haden* Memorial Chapter. They had a special dedication at there banquet in April.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR - *Bob Farkasovsky* was not present.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL COORDINATOR - *Rhonda Henry* had a written report.

WITO Volunteer Coordinator Report

The Pennsylvania State WITO Event was held on April 19 - 21, 2002 at Camp Soles, Rockwood, Somerset County.

We had 38 women attend this weekend event. We had women from different parts of Pennsylvania, such as Edinboro, White Oak, Johnstown, Somerset County (different parts), Punxsutawney, Walston, Mill Hall, Collingdale, Indiana, North East, Comeautville, New Castle, Erie, Elwood City, Harrisburg, Butler, and North Carolina.

Prior to the State WITO event, *Dr. Greg Caldwell* generously donated a turkey hunt, which we sold raffle tickets on. The lucky lady was picked at the WITO event on April 21st. The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank *Dr. Caldwell* for his generous donation.

We had another generous donation of a 2-day float trip on the Androscoggin River fly-fishing, which was donated by *Mr. Sandy MacGregor* of Mountain Ranger Guide Service in Rumford, Maine. We verbally auctioned this trip off.

We held a silent auction and a couple of different raffles, such as a dice game and a 50/50.

The date for the 2003 WITO event is the weekend of March 28 - 30, 2003.

NORTH EAST REGIONAL BIOLOGIST - *Bob Eriksen* had a written report.

Super Fund - A large number of Super Fund requests from PA, NY, NJ, OH and DE were reviewed, coded and sent to Edgefield. The new form requires some additional coding but this extra effort should make it easier for the folks in Edgefield to provide us with accurate information on projects.

Mary Jo Casalena, *Phil Varndell* (DCNR) and I visited several Super Fund Project sites on Michaux State Forest. Those sites are permanent herbaceous openings in need of maintenance.

(If anyone has a Super Fund project that they would like to visit with *Bob*, call him. Or if there is a project that you think needs followed up on, contact him. He wants to make sure that the money is being used in the proper way. He would also like to take pictures and write up some articles for "Turkey Talk" and "Turkey Call" magazines. Only 3 articles a year are allowed for "Turkey Call". Can put more articles in "Turkey Talk").

Habitat Projects - Planned two habitat projects for Washington and Columbia County in New York. A cost-share agreement was written for a project on Finger Lakes National Forest in the lake area of New York. The regional biologist met with foresters and a wildlife technician from NYDEC to plan habitat improvement work on Relay State Forest in Delaware County. The foresters could not believe that a conservation organization (NWTF) would send someone out in the field with them and offer to provide money for habitat improvement.

The regional biologist met with landowners in Eastern Maryland to discuss wild turkey habitat improvement projects. Two days were spent with land managers from NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife to plan habitat improvement projects on the Hatbrook, Walpack, Whittingham and White Lake Wildlife Management Areas.

Education - Articles were written for "On Target", "Pennsylvania Turkey Talk" and "The Caller". A seminar on wild turkey habitat improvement techniques was presented to landowners in Cortland County, New York. The regional biologist also presented a seminar on wild turkey behavior and management entitled "Wild Turkey 101" at the New York State Chapter Convention. At the request of an ecology professor, a lecture on wild turkey restoration was given at Union College, Union County, and New Jersey.

A large number of e-mail requests for information come from hunters and others interested in wild turkeys. These requests provide a unique educational opportunity.

Research - The regional biologist prepared a formal paper on wild turkey survival and productivity in southeastern New Jersey for the Northeast Wildlife Conference. A meeting of the northeast wild turkey population modeling project committee was attended in Green County.

Wild Turkey Woodlands - Met the NRCS district conservationist in Madison County, New York to look over habitat improvement projects on his farm. He is interested in sponsoring a Wild Turkey Woodlands workshop with a local chapter.

Public Relations - Accompanied a youth hunter on the first Spring Gobbler Youth Hunting Day in New Jersey. Crews from Halley Callers, of Doylestown, PA filmed two hunts. Both JAKES harvested gobblers. Four days were spent filming hunts for Turkey Call Television. The hunts took place in New Jersey. Participation in Partner Hunts in Virginia and New York.

Meetings - The April meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the spring meeting of the TMA TB Task Force were attended.

Miscellaneous - Assisted the new regional director, *Chris Karinja* with a banquet in New Jersey.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE - *Mary Jo Casalena* had a written report.

NWTF Technical Committee Representatives' Report - PA Chapter of the
NWTF's Board of Directors Meeting

Final 2002 - 2003 Wild Turkey Seasons

Fall 2002 Wild Turkey

Area 1 A (Shotgun/Archery only)	19 days	Nov. 2-23 increase one week
Area 2	19 days	Nov. 2-23 increase one week
Area 1 B (Shotgun/Archery only)	14 days	Nov. 2-16 no change
Areas 3,4,5,6 and 8	19 days	Nov. 2-23 no change
Area 7A	19 days	Nov. 2-23 increase one week
Area 7B	6 days	Nov. 4-9 begin on Monday
Area 9A	CLOSED	no change
Area 9B (Shotgun/Archery only)	7 days	Nov. 2-9 no change

Spring 2003 Wild Turkey

Statewide Apr. 26 - May 24, 2003 beginning one week

early to provide the standard 4-week and 5 Saturday spring season that ends Memorial Day weekend. When the season runs into Memorial Day weekend, then it will begin one week earlier. The Turkey Management Plan will be revised to reflect this change. (Some discussion followed).

Spring 2002 Wild Turkey Harvest

Turkey harvest report cards for spring 2002 gobbler season are beginning to come in to the Bureau of Automated Services. Current report card totals are approximately the same as this time last year. Preliminary harvest results will be available in late summer/early fall.

2001 Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents

During the calendar year 2001, there were 62 HRSIs. This again marks the lowest number of total incidents ever reported for Pennsylvania since recording began in 1915. 32% percent of the incidents were turkey-related, 40% occurred during the small game season, 23% involved deer hunters and 2% were during bear season. There were 7 non-fatal incidents during the spring turkey season. All 7 incidents were inflicted by others, and 6 of the offenders had 6 or more year's experience hunting turkeys. Four of the causes were "victim in line of fire" and 3 were victim "shot for game". During the fall season there were 13 non-fatal incidents, others inflicted 12 of which. In 9 cases the offender had 6 or more years experience hunting turkeys, and in 2 cases the experience was not reported. Causes of the incidents were; sporting arm in dangerous position (1), victim in line of fire (3), and victim shot for game (9). In 2 incidents the victim shot for game was wearing fluorescent orange, and in the other 7 incidents the victim was wearing camouflage. For the complete 2001 Hunting-Related Shooting Report, go to

http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/PGC/hte/huntereduc.htm, and click on Incident Statistics.

(Some discussion followed).

Wild Turkey Research in TMA 7B

We are continuing the habitat and turkey habitat use analyses for the 2.5-year-radio-telemetry study in TMA 7B to determine how the habitat conditions may be impacting the turkey population. Currently PSU graduate student, *Mark Lowles*, is analyzing the habitat data to determine if habitat use differs between hens that raised poults and those that did not. This will allow us to determine if the quantity/quality of brood habitat is sufficient in the study area. *Mark* also developed the stochastic population models (i.e., incorporating variability in survival and reproductive rates into the population projections), which I used for determining the fall turkey season recommendation for TMA 7B. The last remaining turkey Biologist Aide, *Doug Little*, completed his work with the project in April, and is now employed full-time by the New York Department of Conservation as an urban deer biologist.

The turkey study journal on the PGC web page will continue to be updated periodically with our research findings. The last entry from our Biologist Aide, *Doug Little*, was recently posted. (Some discussion followed).

Wild Turkey Restoration Activities

Wild turkey restoration efforts on TMA 9A in southeast PA continues in southern Berks, Chester, southern Lancaster and York counties. We released 120 turkeys (56 males, 64 females) on 8 release sites. Our goal of transferring 260 turkeys at a sex ratio of 3 hens to one male was not accomplished due to the arm winter, lack of snow, and presence of many gobbler flocks. Forty-two turkeys were released onto 2 sites in York County. Lancaster County received 55 turkeys onto 2 sites. Chester County received 13 turkeys on one site. In Berks County we released 10 turkeys on one site. Eight sites did not receive any turkeys this year due to the difficulty in trapping. We may continue next winter to complete our turkey restoration efforts. (Some discussion followed).

Regional Wild Turkey Population Model

Technical Committee members of the Northeast Wild Technical Committee met in Pennsylvania during May to discuss a turkey population model for the northeast that researchers from Virginia Tech and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries are developing. The PA Game Commission and the PA Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation are supporting this initiative via personnel time and money, respectively. The outcome will be a working turkey population model for state agencies to use for calculating turkey populations. Our current population estimates are very simplistic. This project will provide us with more accurate, updated information and is in accordance with our Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania.

NWTF BOARD OF DIRECTOR - *Ron Fretts* was not present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JAKES Patch - *Dennis Strawbridge* reported that *Greg Caldwell* to be the primary Co-Chairman of the JAKES First Bird Patch. Discussed putting in a deadline.

Seed Program - *Reed Johnson* reported that the 2002 Habitat Seed Program was progressing. 6 chapters have not picked up their seed. They ran short on Sunflower. (Some discussion followed).

Dart System Update - *Dwight Kuntz* reported on the dart system. Introduction of the safety CD. Concern on what we are presently using. The new DVD/CD has not arrived yet. Working on answers. Ordered a youth 22 rifle for the youth to use. It has been paid for and we have not received it. The vendor that pressed the DVD/CD failed to include the brackets. Hoping to have them by the middle of June.

Communications - *Bill Mackereth* read thank you letters received from PA Sportsmen's Advisory Council and the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy. Thank you letters were posted for members to read.

JAKES/NWTF Fund - *Bill Mackereth* had a written report.

Checkbook Balance 3/7/02 \$17,338.90

Income:

Michaux Yellow Breeches	\$80.00
Allegheny Sultan (voided)	\$95.00
Balance	\$17,513.90

Expenses:

Chesquehanna Spurs	43 Jakes	215.00
Del. Co. Longbeards	29 Jakes	145.00
Susquehanna	171 Jakes	855.00
Lehigh Valley L. B. s	57 Jakes	285.00
Peters Creek Trail	70 Jakes	350.00
Wolf Creek L. B. s	50 Jakes	250.00
Cascade Thundering Toms	62 Jakes	310.00
Allegheny Sultans (19 voided)		95.00
Michaux Yellow Breeches	153 Jakes	<u>765.00</u>
Total Expenses		\$3,270.00

Checkbook Balance 5/30/02 \$14,243.90

Chapters With Unused Jake Memberships From 2000 - 2001

Adams County Long Beards	4	Allegheny Plateau	54
Allegheny Sultans	19	Allegheny Valley	41
Anthracite Longspurs	9	Ben Stimaker	112
Blue Mountain	46	Chesquehanna	26
Delaware Co. Long Beards	1	Endless Mountain	100
Foothill Spurs	76	James Wilhelm	112
Kit-Han-Ne	116	Lakeland Long Beards	91
Lenni Lenape	32	Lykens Valley	125
Mason Dixon	62	Mill Creek	15
Moraine	82	Nittany Valley LongBeards	64
Northwest Thunderin' Toms	62	S. E. Silver Spurs	2
Shade Mountain	57	Sherman Valley Strutters	52
Stoney Valley	64	Susquehanna LongBeards	32
Tamarack Turkey Talkers	58	Ten Mile Valley	40
Terrace Mountain	47	White Horse Mountain	54
Warrior Trail Gobblers	60	Wilson F. Moore	10
Yellow Creek	68	Beaver Valley	100

(Some discussion followed).

Promotions Committee - Skip Sanderson had a written report.

PROMOTIONS

No promotional activity to report. The license plate applications during turkey season were quite enough.

The short sleeve Director's shirts have been ordered. If anyone wants theirs before the next meeting, send a check to me to include shipping and I will forward the shirt to him or her.

LICENSE PLATES

The initial response to the ad in Turkey Talk generated approximately 452 applications. The applicant's information is included in an Excel database in case of problems with Penn Dot. I will need a check from the Treasurer for approximately \$9040.00 to send to Penn Dot with the first batch of applicants. There will not be anymore reserved numbers. Numbers 1 - 55 are pretty much reserved.

In the future, I have asked that anyone who wants a license plate send a letter including his or her membership number to me with a self-addressed stamped envelope. I will sign the application and return it to the applicant for completion. The applicant will mail the application to Penn Dot with a check for \$20.00 application fee. This process may relieve the Chapter of the responsibility for mishandled or problem applications.

Wheelin Sportsmen Committee - Gary Huff was not present.

July 27, 2002

Western PA Wheelin' Sportsmen's Event

Location: Lawrence County Sportsmen's Association
Harbor-Pulaski Road
New Castle, PA 16101

Events: Fishing, Shot gunning including 5 Stand & Skeet, 22 Rifle & Pellet Guns, Archery,
Golfing-Longest Drive & Putting

Local Chapters

Moraine-Butler County

Cascade Thunderin' Toms - Lawrence County

Lakeland Longbeards, Shanango Valley Beards & Spurs,

Wolf creek Long beards - Mercer County

For Information Contact

PA State Chairman - Gary Huff (724) 946-2350

PA State President - Carl Mowry (724) 285-5124

Upper Gun Raffle Update - Carl Mowry reported Gross \$21,295.00 (most ever taken in)

Net \$12,700.00

Timing seems to be well. Out of the 12,199 mailed out we had 780 responses back. (Some discussion followed).

Safety & Education Committee - Don O'Brien reported a new website - www.panwtf.com.

OLD BUSINESS - *Carl Mowry* reported on the Bombardier ATV Raffle- we need to sell more tickets.

The essay winner was *Lindsey Stauffer*.

The Hunting Digest Ad is the same as last year.

JF Graphics

Don Heckman reported on the PA Chapter NWTF spring turkey hunting license statement.

"At this time and after careful consideration the PA Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) has determined to discontinue support for the spring turkey hunting license legislation, HB 1979, as it is currently written. If there is Legislative support to continue the process Representatives on the House Game and Fisheries Committee should work through the staff of the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) to move the legislation.

With the current wording, support for a spring turkey-hunting license varies among PA Chapter NWTF Local Chapters. The spring turkey-hunting license does not have overwhelming support among Pennsylvania turkey hunters at this time and the Pennsylvania Game Commission remains neutral in supporting the spring turkey hunting license legislation."

Moved by *Jim Panaro* to approve the current PA Chapter Stance on the spring turkey license, seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried.

Roger Rorabaugh received the Scholarship. He is from the Harmony School District.

NEW BUSINESS - *Gary Beatty* introduced *Ben Moyer's* book entitled "Outback" "Reflections from the Appalachian Outdoors", artwork by *Bob Sopchich*. Discussed the possibility of using as a fundraiser.

Moved by *Gary Beatty* - that the State Chapter purchase a Dale Rohm Call for each guide (there were 10 or 11 guides), seconded by *Skip Sanderson*. Motion carried.

Moved by *Gary Beatty* to sell the chapter computer and printer to *Kay Robison* for 3 payments of \$300, seconded by *Dennis Strawbridge*. Motion carried.

Don O'Brien discussed the extra doe license to be used not only on private ground but should be on public ground also.

Mary Jo Casalena discussed chronic wasting disease - "Pennsylvania faces a growing threat to our wild elk and deer and we are requesting your help. Seven states and two Canadian providences have animals that have tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) of deer and elk. To date, this disease has been found only in cervids (members of the deer family) in North America. First recognized as a clinical "wasting" syndrome in 1967 in mule deer at a wildlife research facility in northern Colorado, it was identified as a TSE in 1978. CWD is typified by chronic weight loss, and it is always fatal. There is no known cure or vaccine. A particularly difficult challenge is that there is no practical live animal test.

In January 2002, PDA issued a temporary international/interstate importation ban of all cervids from states that have a history of CWD. This is a first step in prevention. Additional steps need to be taken. If CWD is found in Pennsylvania, PDA and the Game Commission will have to depopulate or slaughter the infected herds much like Colorado and Wisconsin. Colorado is working on killing at least 4,500 wild-free roaming animals in areas adjacent to infected herds. Hopefully you have been following the news from Wisconsin, where 3 hunter-killed deer tested positive for CWD this past fall. This is a significant event, because for the first time we are seeing evidence of the disease east of the Mississippi River in the east's high-density site-tailed deer population. More than 500 additional deer were shot during this past winter, and 11 additional positives were detected. Wisconsin's Governor has called an emergency session of the state's legislature to find \$4 million in emergency funds to depopulate and test all deer (15,000 animals) in a 287 square-mile outbreak zone in an effort to eradicate the disease.

Moved by Don Heckman to support the PGC's stand on chronic wasting disease, seconded by Tom Buntz. Motion carried.

Don Heckman - reported that the PA Federation of Sportsman is questioning the PA Game Commissions request for orange to be worn by coyote hunters. Also fur taker license VS no fur takers license.

The need for a long-range plan was discussed. Suggest by *Gary Beatty* that we change long range plan to a strategic plan. **Moved by Don Heckman that we form a committee to review the long range plan and form a strategic plan or action plan to carry out the revised long range plan, seconded by Gary Beatty. Motion carried.**

Don Heckman reported on the tipping fees regarding out of state garbage and funds used by PGC, PFC and DCNR, etc. **Moved by Don Heckman that we support the concept of the tipping fee legislation for additional funding of PGC, PFC and DCNR, seconded by Dwight Kuntz. Motion carried.**

**For the good of the order - Carl Mowry - Tri-State Outdoor Show
Elk Expo - last week of September**

Dwight Kuntz's camp might be available during the Elk Expo for overnight stay of the directors.

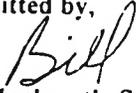
Carl also demonstrated the new table display purchased by the chapter.

Upper Gun Drawing Raffle -

- 1-Winchester Model 70 Super Grade - Ron Davis
- 2-BPS Gun of the year - Albert Singer
- 3-Bretta 390 - Ken May all
- 4-Ruger 77 - Lawarance Sheaffer
- 5-Winchester Super x II - Greg Sites

Moved by Rhonda Henry to adjourn at 3:00 p.m., seconded by Reed Johnson. Motion carried.

Submitted by,


Bill Mackereth, Secretary
PA Chapter NWTF



PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

**Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and
Preservation of the Turkey Hunting Tradition**

Pa. Chapter NWTF home page www.go2pa.com/panwtf E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

An important reminder to all interested persons:

The Executive Meeting will be held Friday, May 31st starting at 8:00 a.m. at the Greenwood Lodge located on Ridge Avenue, out of Curwensville, PA or off 322 between Rockton and Clearfield on Greenwood Road.

The Board Meeting will be held Saturday, June 1st at 9:00 a.m. at Moshannon State Forest Office at Elliot Park.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NWTF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING BRUSH MOUNTAIN SPORTSMAN ASSOCIATION

March 10, 2002

The March 10, 2002 Board Meeting was called to order at 9:35 by **Board Chairman Don O'Brien**. After the Pledge of Allegiance and review of the ground rules *Don* asked for Officer Reports.

OFFICER REPORTS

Carl Mowery had a written report, New Committee Lists, Director Lists and New Green Sheets.

SECRETARY REPORT - *Bill Mackereth* - Moved by *Jim Panaro* and a second from *Rhonda Henry* to accept the secretary's report as corrected - Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* explained his written treasurer's report. Starting balance \$9,874.63, Income \$30,914.81, Expenses \$25,505.77, Ending Balance \$8,394.00. Moved by *Bill Mackereth* to accept the treasurer's report as corrected with a second from *Greg Caldwell*. Motion carried. The next issue of Turkey Talk, two raffles.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - *Don O'Brien* had a written report. Nominating Committee later on will elect our officers for next year.

January 5 - Attended PA State Chapter Executive and Board Meeting, Altoona, PA

January 5 - Attended PA State Chapter Awards Dinner, Altoona, PA

January 6 - Attended PA State Chapter Board of Directors Meeting, Altoona, PA

February 12 - Attended Susquehanna Long beards meeting, Linden, PA

February 16 - Attended Col-Mont Banquet

February 26 - Attended PGC Deer Presentation by Dr. Alt, Montoursville, PA

March 4 - Attended Nittany Long beards Banquet planning meeting, Pleasant Gap, PA

NWTF REPORTS

SENIOR REGIONAL SUPERVISION - *Jerry Zimmerman* reported our membership numbers since the last meeting has dropped a little which is normal. The membership will start coming back up again with the banquets coming up. We stand at 20,368 members. We are second place in the country standing behind Illinois with 32,453.

Super Fund - Balance is a negative balance of \$20,886.82. Some of the very early banquets have been recorded. We have most of February and March banquets that will be added to the total. We received about \$80,000 worth of projects.

For the Bombardier Raffle we need to decide where we will have the 4 wheeler shipped to, Edgefield needs an address. All of the Bombardier Dealers know about the partnership with NWTF. Those of you who are in the market for a 4 wheeler, if you go into a Bombardier Dealer and show them your NWTF Membership card, you will get \$1,000 off of the price of the 4 wheeler.

An outdoor writer by the name of Jim Salinsky who wrote a column which appeared in 8 or 9 newspapers and there was a fairly damaging article about the NWTF that we are trying to impose a southern style management philosophy on the Game Commission, we want to eliminate hunting for fall turkeys and ultimately we want to close fall turkey season in Pennsylvania. Jerry wrote a rebuttal to the article and hopefully the papers will print the rebuttal. Edgefield is e-mailing Jim's letter and Jerry's letter and also an article that James Earl wrote for "Turkey Call" that talks about using fall turkey hunting. We are not trying to close fall turkey season or eliminate rifles. Copies of the article are available from Jerry. The article was discussed.

National Convention in Charlotte was very good, attendance was down, a lot of great things happened. Next years convention will be held in Opry Land Hotel in Nashville. The last issue of "Turkey Call" had a phone number on where to call for reservations at the hotel.

There were questions and answers following Jerry's report.

REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - *Larry Holjencin* reported a new chapter to report. The "Chennago Valley Beards & Spurs" on April 2, 2002. A couple of meetings are scheduled in Emporium, April 9, 2002 to see if the group wants to get something started and a meeting in Cambria County as well.

Banquets are up. The economy is flat, we are at war. Thank you for all your hard work.

Wheelin and Sportsmen - We have 21 Wheelin Sportsmen memberships. Our goal is 10 per banquet. The magazines first issue was put out this month (March). Wheelin and Sportsmen memberships include 4 issues of Wheelin and Sportsmen and Pennsylvania Turkey Talk, the turkey caller is not included and it is \$25 per membership. Different articles in the magazine were described.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL COORDINATOR - *Tammy Mowry* reported have had some pretty exciting news since our last board meeting. Review of the WITO at the National Convention: 1) The PA Game Commission signed a partnership with the Women in the Outdoors program at the National Convention in Charlotte. 2) The Allegheny Valley Chapter received a National award for their 2001 WITO event. They received the Highest Net to Gross Event. 3) WITO Leadership Meeting at the Convention noted in the presentation that the top 3 event states for 2001 were Wisconsin with 24, Ohio with 19 and Pennsylvania with 18. 4) The top states for net dollars raised in 2001 were: South Carolina with \$68,614, Ohio with \$53,088 and Pennsylvania with \$32,532. 5) Our membership has grown to over 35,000. 6) 2001 Demographics average age is 38, 61% are married, 72% were NOT members prior to the event, 70% of the family were NOT NWTF members, 88% are registered voters, 70% have a firearm in their home, shotgunning, fly fishing, and archery were the top 3 activities that were tried for the first time at an event. 7) Nationals reviewed the banquet and membership crossover (women who attended banquets and then attended an event). They found that there was less than a 3% crossover.

PA has 21 events currently scheduled for this year.

Reminder: The Regional Event Coordinator's Meeting will be held March 15-17. Event Coordinators from 2001 and current Coordinators were invited. If your chapter will be hosting an event, let Tammy know and she can make arrangements for a representative to attend this weekend workshop.

The State event will take place April 19-21. Rhonda will give an update on this.

Reminder: The National WITO Reunion - celebrating our Wild Side will be held September 26 - 20. 2 days of activities are planned, pro staff instructors, guest speakers, music, and fireworks. It's important that all of our WITO leaders are represented. The early bird registration fee is \$250 and includes transportation to and from the airport, hotel, lunches, and dinners. If you know anyone who is interested, Tammy has registration forms.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL BIOLOGIST - *Bob Eriksen* had a written report.

Land Management - There have been a number of contacts from private landowners interested in habitat management. Landowners from New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and Ohio have e-mailed requests for advice and habitat recommendations. In addition many e-mail requests have been received for information on wild turkey management, behavior and biology. Bob visited three state-owned wildlife management areas in southern New Jersey and provided advice on planting, site preparation and prescribed burning.

Habitat management meetings and site visits were also done at Fort Washington State Park, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, property owned by Glatfelter Paper Company in Adams County and with Columbia Gas Transmission Company in Washington County. A Super Fund Project was developed with PGC land managers in the Southwest Region for SGL - 302.

Turkey Trapping - The Delaware Chapter contacted the regional biologist to discuss the acquisition of wild turkeys for the northern part of the state. Delaware Fish and Wildlife does not have the time or personnel to conduct trap and transfer operations. Therefore, arrangements were made through the Making Tracks Program to capture turkeys in South Carolina for transfer to Delaware. Reimbursement for personnel time and mileage were made to South Carolina through the Delaware Super Fund. Twenty-six wild turkeys were transferred to Delaware. A drop net was borrowed from the Pennsylvania Game Commission was used to capture 18 wild turkeys in New Jersey. The Game Commission purchased the net several years ago but had never made a capture using it. The regional biologist also captured 16 hen turkeys in New Jersey using a rocket net. Twenty-nine of the captured birds were transferred to new locations. Five gobblers were released at the capture site after being banded and fitted with radio-transmitters.

Writing Projects - Two articles were prepared for the spring issue of "Turkey Talk". One article was on improving wild turkey winter habitat and the other was on hunting safety in the spring season. An article was written for "On Target" (the PFSC publication) to encourage new hunters to try turkey hunting. One article was prepared for "The Caller" on a Super Fund purchase of a six-wheel ATV and mower for use on Finger Lakes National Forest.

Meetings -

- New Jersey and Ohio Awards Dinners
- PA Game Commission meeting
- Ohio Chapter Board meeting, Super Fund Committee meeting and budget meeting
- PA Habitat Committee and Super Fund Committee meeting
- NY State Chapter meeting
- Adams County orchard owners meeting
- US Sportsmen's Alliance Meeting re: legislative bills in NJ

Bob discussed some of these meetings.

Public Relations - 1) "Inside the Great Outdoors" radio show on WKNR in Cincinnati, a two hour show on interactions between grouse and wild turkeys. 2) slide presentation at Southern Tier Chapter (NY) Convention.

Energy for Wildlife - This is a new program in NWTF. The program is designed to encourage energy companies to partner with NWTF. NWTF biologists will provide habitat management advice for power and gas transmission right-of-ways. Partnerships will help the companies to improve their "green image" with the public. Jay Jordan, a biologist from Georgia was recently hired to work exclusively on this new program.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE - *Bob Boyd* had the following report.

Preliminary 2002 - 2003 Wild Turkey Seasons to be voted on at the April Commission Meeting

Fall 2002 Wild Turkey

Area 1A (Shotgun/Archery only)	19 days	Nov. 2 - 23	increase one week
Area 2	19 days	Nov. 2 - 23	increase one week
Area 1B (Shotgun/Archery only)	14 days	Nov. 2 - 16	no change
Areas 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8	19 days	Nov. 2 - 23	no change
Area 7A	19 days	Nov. 2 - 23	increase one week
Area 7B	6 days	Nov. 4 - 9	Begin on Monday
Area 9A	CLOSED		no change
Area 9B (Shotgun/Archery only)	7 days	Nov. 2 - 9	no change

Spring 2003 Wild Turkey

Statewide Apr. 26 - May 24, 2003 Beginning one week early to provide the standard 4 - week and 5 Saturday spring season that ends Memorial Day weekend. When the season runs into Memorial Day weekend, then it will begin one week earlier. The Turkey Management Plan will be revised to reflect this change.

Wild Turkey Research in TMA 7B

We are analyzing the data from the 2.5 year radio-telemetry study and provide the following update since the last report. Annual hen survival for year 1 was 47% for adults and 13% for juveniles, and for year 2 was 64% for adults and 28% for juveniles. The greatest mortality during year one occurred in winter while the spring/summer-nesting season showed the greatest mortalities during year two. Average annual survival for eastern wild turkeys ranges from 45 - 70% and survival of juveniles typically is lower than that of adults. Survival of poults (young) to four weeks of age was 10% during year one, and 15% during year two. Poult survival typically ranges from 24 - 47%. Lower than average reproductive success and annual juvenile survival appear to be keeping the turkey population from increasing. The question now remains as to why they are low. We are analyzing habitat and habitat use to determine how the habitat conditions may be impacting the turkey population. Because survival is one mortality factor we can control somewhat through hunting season length, we are recommending shortening the fall turkey-hunting season from 7 days to 6 days in order to decrease this added mortality factor. We are assessing other possible hunting season lengths to determine if a more restrictive season is necessary.

The turkey study journal on the PGC web page will continue to be updated periodically with our research findings. The last entry from our Biologist Aides in the field was recently posted.

Wild Turkey Restoration Activities

Wild turkey restoration efforts on TMA 9A in southeast PA continue in southern Berks, Chester, southern Lancaster, and York counties. So far this winter we have released slightly more than 100 turkeys on 7 release sites, despite the warm winter and lack of snow. Our goal of transferring 260 turkeys this winter may not be met, but efforts continue.

Spring Turkey Hunting License Initiative

The PA State House of Representatives' Game and Fish Committee introduced HB 1979 last fall, for a \$5.00 spring turkey-hunting license. This bill has been somewhat controversial within the sporting community. The PA Game Commission has remained neutral. During a meeting between the PA Game Commission, National Wild Turkey Federation, and the PA Chapter NWTF at the Annual NWTF Convention and Sports Show, it was generally agreed that the timing is not right for this spring turkey-hunting license. The group agreed that before a spring turkey-hunting license is introduced, turkey hunters must be informed of the benefits of restrictive fall harvests to help increase turkey populations and hunting opportunities in the spring. The PGC and NWTF will work cooperatively to develop an information and education strategy to effectively inform sportsmen and the general public on the general biology of turkeys and opportunities for additional spring hunting with conservative fall hunting.

Regional Wild Turkey Population Model

The objective of the multi-state project, which the PA Chapter NWTF is partially funding, is to develop a computerized wild turkey population model for the Mid-Atlantic States. Technical Committee members from the cooperating states and VA Tech will meet May 21 - 22 in Pennsylvania to discuss project details.

26th Annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show, Charlotte, NC

Thanks to the donation of registrations by the PA Chapter NWTF eight PGC representatives attended this educational and worthwhile event. PGC attendees were Commissioners *Sam Dunkle* and *Roxanne Palone*, Executive Director *Vern Ross*, Bureau of Law Enforcement Director, *Dave Overcash*, Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year award recipient, *Bill Lerner*, Land Management Officer of the Year award recipient, *Dave Mitchell*, and PGC-NWTF Technical Committee Representatives *Robert Boyd* and *Mary Jo Casalena*. Not only were the Technical Committee meetings on Thursday and Friday informative, but we also had the opportunity to meet with the NWTF Conservation Department and PA Chapter NWTF to discuss turkey management items specific to Pennsylvania such as HB 1979.

A Special Thank You

(*Mary Jo Casalena*) I sincerely thank the Michaux-Yellow Breeches Chapter and Pennsylvania State Chapter NWTF for honoring my field crew and I with the Donald C. Heckman Conservation Award at the Michaux-Yellow Breeches Chapter NWTF annual awards banquet on March 2nd. As I reflect on the circumstances that led to this award, it was the dedication of the NWTF volunteers, TMA 7B Wild Turkey Task Force Committee, Penn State, and Bureau of Forestry, and the team work we shared that made this project a success. My crew and I thank each of you for making the research study possible, successful and fun! This is one small example of how important partnerships are for protecting and enhancing our wildlife resources and hunting heritage. Thanks also for presenting me with a personalized Dale Rohm turkey box call. I will cherish it!

EDITOR OF "TURKEY TALK" - Jeff Mulhollem was available for questions or comments on "Turkey Talk".

COMMITTEE REPORTS

7

HABITAT COMMITTEE - *Reed Johnson* had a written report. 97 total projects are utilizing the Super Fund. Grand total funded \$177,804.30. Seed has been a little slow getting here. If any chapters are waiting, most all chapters will be called to pick up seeds. Seeds available are Sunflower, Soy Bean and Field Corn. Most everyone will get 90 day corn this year. 800 bags went to Bedford County. There is a possibility of us getting three tractor trailer loads of winter wheat in June. We don't have near the amount of seed that we had last year.

The Super Fund is over \$20,000 in the hole as a result of last years over expenditure. This past week James Earl and Carl Brown got together and decided we need to prioritize the Super Fund projects, not weed out projects, because as banquets go well we will have the money to do it all. Many of the projects come in with the check date due immediately, and some of them may not be as immediate as others. They will be prioritized by date. We will go over some of those projects, contact the project originators and find out when the date is so we don't have to pay them all out at once. Questions and answers followed.

ORDERING OF THE SEEDS - *Ray Smith* had a written report which was read to the board by President *Carl Mowery*.

Dear *Carl* and State Board,

I am sorry I was unable to attend the board meeting this weekend. I have a sport show this weekend in Williamsport. I have enclosed a copy of the final seed order counts and all the participating chapters. I have stayed in close touch with all those involved in the habitat committee and they also have the final results. Everything appeared to go ok on my end. I would suggest that next year we extended the deadline for orders. I had several chapters say they did not have a winter meeting and could not gather the info quick enough. I also had chapters that did not respond until a month after the deadline. I had one chapter go as far as to change the deadline date of the seed order from Jan. 30th to Feb. 29th. I have met several chapters at sport shows this year had found out a couple of them do not participate or know a thing about the seed program. I would assume that a breakdown in communication has acured and we need to address this at the presidents meeting. All in all things went well on my end.

I do not have anything to report on the art committee. I do not have an inventory as of yet. I have talked with Reed and told him that I will be in Clearfield with an enclosed trailer the weekend of there sports show and at that I was able to take the artwork home with me at that time. I would assume when that happens an inventory can be taken at that time. Will the inventory I receive be all that we have or is there some on loan to people or other organizations? If anybody has questions or information, please call me. *Ray Smith*

PROMO COMMITTEE - *Skip Sanderson* had a written report.

Promotions - We had many calls about the box calls and 25th Anniversary Calls after the ad ran again in "Turkey Talk". Unfortunately, as I reported at the last meeting, both were sold out before Christmas. We sold one additional belt buckle because of the ad.

I was unable to find the original vendor who made our directors shirts at the Charlotte Convention. I will need to seek out another vendor.

License Plates - We are now waiting for the WR 00000, first metal license plate, to be completed for our approval. It should be coming in the next four weeks. I have already prepared an article for "Turkey Talk". *Jeff* is working on the layout that, hopefully, will include the application and a picture of the license plate. I expect to be submitting the first 300 or so plate applications to PennDot by the first of May.

We had a discussion of the license plate holder for the PA Turkey vehicle license plate. **Motion by *Gary Beatty* to take the license plate holder out of the article in "Turkey Talk", seconded by *Greg Caldwell* - motion carried.**

JAKES FUND - *Bill Mackereth* had a written report.
Checkbook Balance 12/31/01

\$36,328.90

Income:

None

Expenses:

PA Chapter NWTF	\$15,000.00
Col-Mont Gobblers (62 Jakes)	310.00
Lower Bucks Longbeards (312 Jakes)	1,560.00
Red Rock (69 Jakes)	345.00
Wapiti Roost (138 Jakes)	690.00
Lake Marbug (64 Jakes)	320.00
Del. Co. Longbeards (113 Jakes)	565.00
Ten Mile Valley (40 Jakes)	<u>200.00</u>

Total Expenses \$18,990.00

Checkbook Balance 03/7/02

\$17,338.90

Rhonda Henry - had an update. State event April 19 - 21, 2002 24 women coming to the event, Friday - Sunday. All instructors are lined up, donations, shot gun instructor and it is all falling into place. Board members wives are invited. Fee - Fri., Sat. & Sun. is \$125, Sat & Sun. is \$100. We would like to have 50. The deadline is as soon as possible.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS WAS POSTED ON THE BOARD TO BE VIEWED.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT - *Gary Beatty* had a written report.

The following individuals have been nominated for offices in the PA Chapter NWTF

President	<i>Carl Mowry</i>
Vice - President	<i>Greg Caldwell</i>
Secretary	<i>William Mackereth</i>
Treasurer	<i>James Panaro</i>
Chairman of Board	<i>Donald O'Brien</i>

Directors to serve until 2005

Dr. Greg Caldwell
Donald Heckman
Gary Huff
Donald O'Brien
James Panaro
Richard Stutzman

Don opened the nominations for president, stated that *Carl Mowry* has been selected by the nominating committee. ***William Mackereth*** moved that the nominations be closed with a second by ***Gary Beatty***. Motion carried.

Gary Beatty moved that the secretary cast a unanimous ballott for the nominations, seconded by Rhonda Henry. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - Carl Mowry discussed the need of a display board with a light carrying case at the cost of \$995.00. Moved by Jim Panaro to purchase one 6' table topper display board, seconded by Skip Sanderson. Motion carried. Questions and answers followed.

PA Hunter Digest ad - Carl Mowry showed new draft of the advertisement for the PA Hunting Digest. We have decide to do a one page advertisement over the two page ad we had last year. Moved by Don Heckman to have a one page advertisement at a cost of \$4,919.50, seconded by Gary Beatty. Motion carried. Comments followed.

Moved by Rhonda Henry that the PA State Chapter underwrite the WITO Core Package for 2002, which is \$350.00, seconded by Gary Beatty. Motion carried.

Moved by Don Heckman we donate two framed prints from inventory and \$1,000.00 to the Jr. & Sr. winners of the PA YHEC, seconded by Rick Stutzman. Motion carried.

Moved by Don Heckman that the PA Chapter be represented with up to five members at the PA Sportsmen Leadership Weekend, April 19, 20 & 21st in Mifflinburg, seconded by Skip Sanderson. Motion carried.

Vacancy on the Board, one year appointment, Tom Bunty was interested in coming on the Board. Moved by Don Heckman that we nominate Tom Bunty to fill the vacancy, seconded by Skip Sanderson. Motion carried. Tom Bunty 2050 Park Street, Dover, PA 17315. Phone # 717-292-9444, e-mail tom.bunty@creo.com. Tom spoke a little about himself following the motion. He was welcomed aboard.

Discussed donating supply prints to the PGC for youth field days. There are a lot of chapters receiving funding for field days. They are receiving more than the Jakes. They already receive \$500. Moved by Gary Beatty that the PA Chapter no longer supply prints to the PGC for youth field days in light of the fact that most of the youth field days are sponsored by local chapters with \$500, seconded by Skip Sanderson. Motion carried. Questions and answers followed.

Discussed Land Manager Awards. Moved by Don Heckman that the PA Chapter sponsor a (Land) Habitat Manager Award selected from Pennsylvania Game Commission, PA DCNR, U.S. Forest Service & U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers, seconded by Tom Bunty. Motion carried. Questions and answers followed.

Moved by Don Heckman we pay registration of the JR Youth Essay award winner to national convention, seconded by Rhonda Henry. Motion carried.

Bombardier ATV Raffle - Carl Mowery reported 250 tickets printed, all tickets need to be sold, requested everyone take tickets before they leave, drawing at the Chapter Presidents Meeting.

Upper Gun Raffle - Carl Mowery reported five guns and the drawing at the June 1st Board Meeting. Will be in the mail end of this week beginning of next week.

Youth Essay Contest Winners - *Carl Mowery* JR Division 1st place was Meredith Ann Odate of Landisburg, PA she received all expense paid trip to the National Jakes Field Day at Edgefield, S.C. SR Division 1st place winner was Lindsey Stauffer of Lititz, PA she will attend a one week Conservation School at P.S.U.

Outdoor Heritage at Huntingdon May 2, 3 & 4, 2002 - Volunteers are needed. Need two or three board members to be there.

Pennsylvania Outdoor Writer Association May 16 -19, 2002 - *Gary* reported we need ten to twelve guys to be guides. Don is picking up the information packetes and sending them with Ray. Ray Smith is going to be there, I will be there, Carl is going to help me and a couple other people to help with the break out on Saturday.

Wheelin Sportsman Events July 27, 2002 - *Carl Mowery* reported to be held at the Lawrence Co. Sportsman Club. Several chapters going together. Will get together with *Gary* and see what needs to be taken care of. It will be the first one in Pennsylvania. Questions and answers followed. Discussed liability problems. Discussed disabled permits.

Tri State Outdoor Show June 14 - 16, 2002 - to be held in Waynesburg, PA. Would be a good place to display the Bombardier ATV that we are raffling off there will be a lot of vendors there.

2003 Rendevous Event the second weekend in Jan., 2003 - to be held in State College, PA. Invite the chapter president, send tickets to each president, pay for his meal, and we will get more of our money back. Attendance needs to be brought up.

Discussed the next meeting on May 31 & June 1, 2002 next meeting at the Greenwood Lodge or Elliotte Park Friday & Saturday.

H. B. 2339 - A youth turkey hunt right after Bear Season. The Chapter is opposed to H. B. 2339 due to the fact that the Game Commission is the agency that sets hunting regulations and bag limits Not the legislature. H. B. 2339 was discussed. **Moved by *Jim Panaro* that the PA Chapter Board of Directors are opposed to H. B. 2339, seconded by *Greg Caldwell*. Motion carried.**

Turkey License update - *Rhonda Henry* moved that the State Chapter withdraw the support of a turkey hunting license as it now stands, seconded by *Bill Mackereth*. Comments were made. **Motion defeated.** Discussion followed.

***Greg Caldwell* moved that at this time, and after careful consideration, that the PA Chapter of NWTF has determined to discontinue support for H. B. 1979 as it is written, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion carried.** Chairman *Don O'Brien* appointed a committee of *Don Heckman*, *Jim Panaro*, *Larry Holjencin*, *Jerry Zimmerman* and *Carl Mowry* who will meet immediately following this meeting and come up with a statement to be released to the general public.

Chairman *Don O'Brien* informed the board of the L. A. Dixon JR Memorial Award that the State Chapter won at the National Convention PA Chapter was 3rd place. Congratulations!

Land Manager/Law Enforcement gifts - **Moved by *Tom Bundy* that we allocate \$150 to purchase two awards, seconded by *Skip Sanderson*. Motlon carried.** Will be presented at the April 1st meeting.

Good of the order - *Don Heckman* asked if the length of the Turkey Hunting Management Areas 1A, 2 and 7A we are going to reiterate our opposition. The reasons, for the length of seasons, were explained by PGC biologist, Bob Boyd. ***Don Heckman* moved we restate our position on the length of seasons that was stated at the January PA Game Commission meeting, seconded by *Skip Sanderson*. Motion carried.** Discussion followed.

Discussed the rules proposal for state game land usage. ***Don Heckman* moved that the chapter also support the rule making proposal for state game land usage, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion passed.**

Gary Beatty is looking into the possibility of purchasing gifts for the board retirees. **Moved by *Skip Sanderson* that we give appropriated gifts to members who have retired from the state board. They will be invited to the January Rendevous to receive their awards, seconded by *Reed Johnson*. Motion carried.**

Discussion about the reward posters being sold at the booths in Harrisburg.

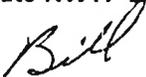
Plot Master - it is a seeder for behind an ATV. It was donated to Michaux Yellow Beeches Chapter and is available to chapters to use on a first come, first serve basis.

Discussed the PR Representative.

Moved by *Skip Sanderson* that the chapter buy one ticket each from each Regional Director present for a Chevrolet Truck, seconded by *Reed Johnson*. Motion passed.

The State Board of NWTF adjourned at 2:58 PM. **Moved by *Rhonda Henry* to adjourn, seconded by *Gary Beatty*. Motion carried.**

Bill Mackereth
State NWTF Board Secretary



Reminder to all Committee Chairman, please have a written report for the secretary if your Committee is reporting at the regular meeting. Thank You!



PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

**Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and
Preservation of the Turkey Hunting Tradition**

Pa. Chapter NWTf home page www.go2pa.com/panwtf E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

The executive board meeting of the PANWTF to be held Saturday, March 9th will take place at Greg Dreibelbis' Camp. The next days board of directors meeting will be held at Brush Mountain Association Sportsmen's Club.

Directions to the club: I-99, Pinecroft Exit 39 mid-way between Bald Eagle and Altoona. Going North I-99, Exit 39 then turn right, go several hundred yards, gate entrance will be on your right. Going South I-99 Exit 39 then turn left, travel to gate entrance on right.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NWTf BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING RAMADA INN in ALTOONA, PA

January 5, 2002

The January 5, 2002 Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Don O'Brien, at 9:15 a.m. after the Pledge of Allegiance. Don asked for NWTf Reports due to the bad weather and members having to leave early.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR Bob Farkasovsky thanked everyone for welcoming him. Reported he has had a chance to meet with all the chapters in his area. So far, all is going well. If any questions, please ask him. Bob was let go early because of bad weather.

SENIOR REGIONAL SUPERVISOR Jerry Zimmerman reported on membership, still number 2 in the country, behind Illinois. Membership stands at 21,369. We have 11,514 regular members and 8,296 Jakes, 1,559 in the Women in the Outdoors. Illinois still has a large membership in Jakes, which pushed their membership up very high, they have 18,000

Jakes members. They are up around 36,000 total membership, over half their memberships are Jakes. We still have a very good balance and still continue to stay number 2.

Super Fund - Super Fund forms are in front of you. You can see exactly where we are. Going into the new year we are right around 32,000 - 34,000 in the red. Once again, so everyone understands what happens with that is every year we try to go into the new year with a surplus, from the previous year and last year when we went from 2000 - 2001 the reports received for Edgefield was 7,200 - 7,500 surplus. In reality, we did not have that. We condensed our entire accounting procedure, our accounting departments is handling the Super Fund totally now. Reports, from now on, that we get from Edgefield will be exactly how much money is in the account. A print out like this is supplied at the beginning of the year so you can see what we have done for the entire year. Anyone, who wants to break it down into Habitat, Safety and Education, now has the information available to do that. The question was asked if they can sort on the program. The answer came back "not yet", they are working on the program now. In the future they will be able to sort by category. Also, we will be ready by National Convention to provide a new Super Fund form. It will be a lot more detailed than the existing form. It's a total revamping of the Super Fund form. You'll see copies around Convention time. When they are ready, just throw away all of your old forms because we will get you new forms. This whole process is so we can sort things differently. It will be sorted by specific categories. The look will be totally different. No questions on the Super Fund.

Ned Smith Nature of Arts Center - anyone who has the muzzle loader tickets that were handed out, if you haven't sold them yet, get the tickets back to Jerry. The drawing is in July, by June we will have another meeting. Please get the sold or unsold tickets back to Jerry so they can be accounted for. We have formed two new partnerships as an organization.

1) Bombardier Company the maker of Skidoo Snowmobiles, Wave Runners and Airplane engines. They are a company that has been around for a long time. An engineering company that are in the 4 wheelin market now. They will be coming out with a 4 wheeler, a NWTF 4 wheeler - 500 cc called the "Quest 4x4" - it will have some NWTF markings on it, our LOGO will be in between the handlebars and NWTF on the fenders. That whole program takes effect at the RV or 4 wheeler show this month sometime. There will be discounts for NWTF members. Not sure if the dealers know about this thing yet. Please don't go to the Bombardier dealers and ask about the NWTF program because I think the kick-off will be at this show, sometime in January. We can look forward to that. If you are interested in a 4 wheeler, Bombardier is a cadillac machine. It's a very well engineered machine. There's a lot of good things about it. It's an opportunity to have a real good partnership with NWTF and Bombardier. At the same time what they have done is offered to state chapters, for fund-raising purposes for March, a substantial reduced cost so they can be raffled off, or do what every we want to do with one. One thing that will need to be done is to move the machine around from state to state so it gets exposure. Contact

your dealers if you have an outdoor show coming up and have that dealer bring one of the machines to your booth or to your area so we can show off the machine and talk about the

program. Unfortunately for us, the timing is not good. Our big shows are Harrisburg, Port Washington, Allentown, Pittsburgh and Bloomsburg. We are not sure we can get a machine with camo on by the time those shows are happening. We have to call Edgefield on Friday to get some more information.

2) We also signed a partnership with a jean company, Diamond Cut Jeans. Any Diamond Cut Jeans sold, we will get a royalty from. So if you are looking for jeans, you may want to try some Diamond Cuts. They explained to us what makes them different.

Those are the two new partnerships that we have formed. Look forward to more information coming out on those.

We need to get more people to come out to these award banquets. We are scheduled for next year in State College, which we are trying to keep it in the middle of the state so everyone has equal distance to drive to get there. We try to get the best rates for motel rooms for one night. It's a fun evening. We are looking for suggestions to make it better. We try to be as entertaining as we can. We keep things rolling as quickly as we can so it doesn't get bogged down. Talk to your surrounding chapters and try to get them to come out. we would like to have more representation, that way we can do more things, have more raffles.

No questions.

REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR Larry Holjencin reported Wheelin and Sportsmen will get their own magazine and will have four issues a year. Our goal is 10 memberships per event per each banquet. Please do your best to recruit those 10 members. He reported on habitat - in November letters announcing the deadlines were sent out and basically told the budget numbers. Ray Smith is going to take the orders for the conservation seat, this will take a little bit of the load off of Reed. Bill will give the update on the Jakes Raffle. Question - Where is the conservation seed going to be distributed? Same place. Ray will be the contact person.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL COORDINATOR Tammy Mowry reported beginning of April she will be hosting an Event Coordinators Meeting. This was held last year, Carlene Stevens and Tammy found that the event coordinators who came to the event had a bigger and more successful event. They brain storm, give ideas, share ideas and have some fun. Letters were sent out to all the current even coordinators for this year and last year. We are still having our state event in April, so if you know anybody who wants to attend, mailers will be sent out. Raffle tickets are still being sold. Nationwide 279 events were held last year. Our goal is 450 for this year. One other goal is 50 participant at each event, one sponsor and \$1,000 net. We have 1,559 members which puts us in seventh place throughout

the nation for just Women in the Outdoors Memberships. We will be having a National Women in the Outdoors event in September. There was an add in the current Turkey Call magazine if anyone is interested in attending, the cost is \$250 which includes your hotel room and meals. More information on that is to come. if you are interested let me know.

EAST REGIONAL BIOLOGIST Bob Eriksen reported on the back table there are reports on the survey which we ran in Turkey Call. If you haven't picked those up, please do so. Read the percent of respondents. We had 45 return on them. 3.7% return on the number of copies. 487 responses for 13,000 copies. 66 non-members, 421 members responded. 67% were in favor of the turkey license. 28 - 30% were opposed to the turkey license. Major negatives - how the monies were to be used. Read over it, if you have any questions about it, feel free to contact Bob. Bob had to be in New York today.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE Mary Jo Casalena had a written report which is as follows:

Harvest Management - Current report cards received from the fall 2001 turkey season are approximately the same number as the same time last year. Therefore, the preliminary 2001 fall harvest is 40,000 - 45,000 turkeys. Final report card figures will be available in March. If the preliminary harvest holds, 2001 will be the third consecutive year of fall harvests exceeding 40,000. Statewide, fall wild turkey harvests continue to be well above the previous 10-year average of 34,583.

Preliminary spring 2001 wild turkey harvests from report cards show a harvest of at least 39,472 bearded turkeys. Final results will be available next summer.

Since 1995 our statewide turkey harvests have been very substantial and summer turkey sightings have been increasing, indicating a continuing increase in the statewide turkey population. However, Turkey Management Area (TMA) 7B in south-central Pennsylvania and TMA 9A in southeast Pennsylvania, continue to show low harvest densities and low summer turkey sightings.

Recommendations which will be presented to the commissioners for the 2002-2003 Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons

Fall 2002 Wild Turkey

Areas 1A (Shotgun/ Archery only) &2	19 days	increase one week
Area 1B (Shotgun/ Archery only)	14 days	no change
Areas 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8	19 days	no change
Area 7A	14 days	no change
Area 7B	6 days	Begin on Monday
Area 9A	CLOSED	no change
Area 9B (Shotgun/ Archery only)	7 days	no change

Spring 2003 Wild Turkey

Statewide

April 26 - May 24, 2003

Wild Turkey Research in TMA 7B - Fieldwork for the 2.5-year radio-telemetry study ended in December. We are analyzing the data and will provide a final report by June 30, 2002. During the study we radio-tagged 164 female turkeys to monitor survival, causes of mortality, reproduction and poult survival. Annual hen survival was 27% for adults and 22% for sub-adults during the first year, and 57% for adults and 35% for sub-adults during year two. The greatest mortality during year one occurred in winter while the spring/summer-nesting season showed the greatest mortalities during year two. Sixty-eight percent (n=44) of hens attempted to nest during year one and 88% (n=65) nested during year two. Nest success for both age classes were 71% during year one and 45% for year two. The percentage of hens to have one or more poults alive 4 weeks after hatch during year one was 33% (n=21) and 45% (n=24) during year two. Lower than average annual survival and reproductive success appear to be keeping the turkey population from expanding. We also are analyzing habitat use to determine if and how habitat quality may additionally be impacting the population. Because survival is one problem on TMA 7B, we are recommending shortening the fall turkey-hunting season in order to decrease this added mortality factor.

During the fall 2001 turkey hunting season we distributed updated brochures to the public in TMA 7B, entitled "Where are the South Mountain Turkeys" to explain our efforts and research in determining the cause of this low turkey population. The following organizations provided funding and assistance for the study: the PA Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation (\$67,410), the Safari Club International, Lehigh Valley Chapter and Sables of the Lehigh Chapter (\$3,400), PSU, CDNR Bureau of Forestry, and NWTF. **New Turkey Research Studies** - In accordance with the Wild Turkey Management Plan objective to obtain reliable indices and estimates of Pennsylvania's wild turkey populations, we proposed two additional research studies to begin Fall 2002. Due to budget constraints, neither project was funded. These projects were 1) The statewide leg-band study, entitled Harvest and survival rates of eastern wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*) in Pennsylvania, would determine turkey harvest rates and survival rates by sex, age and region in Pennsylvania. 2) We additionally proposed a 3.5-year radio-telemetry study to determine if and how turkey harvest, survival, reproductive and recruitment rates differ among areas with high, medium, and low turkey harvest densities.

Wild Turkey Restoration Activities - Wild turkey restoration efforts will continue this winter on TMA 9A in southeast Pennsylvania. Last winter the agency transferred 230 wild turkeys (168 females, 62 males) to 10 release sites in Berks, Chester, Lancaster, and York counties. We identified up to 13 release sites for this winter in TMA 9A. All turkeys will be transferred from in-state trappings. The closed fall season in TMA 9A will benefit this restoration effort.

2001 Wild Turkey Hunter Survey - In accordance with the Wild Turkey Management Plan, the Bureau of Wildlife Management, with assistance from the Bureau of Automated Technologies Services and Bureau of Administrative Services, completed a survey to better understand Pennsylvania turkey hunter's knowledge, characteristics, and attitudes regarding current status and future direction of Pennsylvania's turkey management program. We

selected Turkey Hunter Survey participants from the 1999 Game Take Survey, sending surveys to 4,571 hunters, including 4,071 turkey hunters and 500 non-respondents of the Game Take Survey. Our response rate was 75%.

Final results of this survey will be presented to the PGC Board of Commissioners and the public at the Board of commissioners meeting next week.

Spring Turkey Hunting License Initiative - The PA State House of Representatives' Game and Fish Committee recently introduced HB 1979, for a \$5.00 spring turkey-hunting license. Currently the agency has a neutral position on this possible legislation. The first of several public hearings was held in St. Michael's, PA on November 15, 2001.

Regional Wild Turkey Population Model - Thank you for funding this multi-state level project. Professor James Berkson, Ph.D. from Virginia Polytechnical Institute (VA Tech), and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries are conducting a 4-year project to develop a computerized wild turkey population model for the mid-Atlantic northeast states. The PA Wild Turkey Management Plan identifies this as strategy D in the population objective (page 32).

Dr. Berkson hired graduated student Jay McGhee, at VA Tech to conduct the research. Jay has requested the states to begin submitting our turkey data to him so he can begin the project. In May, the Northeast Wild Turkey Technical Committee will meet with the researchers to discuss the project in more detail.

26th Annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show, Charlotte, NC - This year we will have exceptional representation from the PGC at the Convention. PGC attendees will be Commissioners, Sam Dunkle and Roxanne Palone, Executive Director Vern Ross, Bureau of Law Enforcement Director, Dave Overcash, South-central Regional Director, Willis Sneath, Wildlife conservation Officer of the Year award recipient, Rick Larned and wife, Land Management Officer of the Year award recipient, Dave Mitchell, and PGC-NWTF Technical Committee Representatives Robert Boyd and Mary Jo Casalena. We greatly appreciate the support from the Chapter, which makes our attendance there possible.

During Mary Jo Casalen's report many questions and concerns were raised by PA NWTF Board of Directors. Some of which were:

- 1) a question about the length of the hunting season in various regions of the state.
- 2) the fact that the PA Game Commission is taking a neutral status on a PA Turkey License.
- 3) the fact that the last two studies of the PA Turkey Management plan were not funded by the Game Commission due to insufficient funds.
- 4) the fact that these studies need to be done so there is a statistical basis to study turkey populations state wide.

This is just but four of the concerns that came up in the meeting plus there are many more. For example: this following statement was made "The Game Commission is not supporting a license, their asking for our support an cooperation and they are now asking for

our money to support a program like this, but then they wont support the Turkey Management Study pushing that issue."

OFFICER REPORTS - Carl Mowry had a written report.

2001 Upper Gun Raffle report - Total Gross Income \$20,015.00. Total Expenses \$7,336.64. Net Profit \$12,678.36.

SECRETARIES REPORT - Bill Mackereth - after several corrections it was moved by Gary Beatty to accept corrections and seconded by Dennis Strawbridge to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT - Jim Panaro presented a written summary for the period of October 1 to December 31, 2001. Income \$21,071.90. Expenses \$22,998.65. Ending

Balance \$9,872.02. Net Loss \$1,926.75. Moved by Rhonda Henry to accept, seconded by Clyde Gouker, Jr. Motion carried.

Don Shawkey is resigning from the position of Vice President and as an active board member for personal reasons. The Vice President position is open and we will need a board member in his place.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROMO COMMITTEE REPORT - Skip Sanderson had a written report. License plate contract with Penn Dot. Do the board of directors want an officer to sign the contract or have Skip sign it? The plate will cost \$35. Also working on a front of the vehicle plate and a frame. First 100 can be reserved. Skip has the original list. Moved by Don Heckman to persue the license, seconded by Dwight Kuntz. Motion carried.

JAKES FUND - Bill Mackereth had a written financial report. Checkbook balance as of 10-5-2001 \$8,913.93. Income \$40,210.39. Expenses \$12,795.42. Checkbook balance as of 12-31-2001 \$36,328.90. Summary of 2001 NWTF/Jakes Raffle Income \$40,940.00. Expenses \$12,992.36. Profit \$12,947.64. In regards to the 36 Chapters and Number of Raffle Tickets sold for 2001 report - $1.25 \times$ number of tickets sold plus the number from last year. Ex. Allegheny Valley $28 \times 1.25 = 35.00 + 6$ last year = 41. After multiplying, if the number is .5 or less we will round down (example $10.45 = 10$), if the number is .6 or more we will round up (example $10.6 = 11$).

DART SYSTEM - Dwight Kuntz - It has taken about 11 months of work, 168 pages of hard copy documentation to file. He is working with facts down in Swanee, Georgia and headquarters in South Carolina. We went through a change of command in headquarters, in the fact that Bran Gumb left and the main spear head down there now is Tom Hughes. They now seem to be aggressively pursuing the Dart Program. It has taken a lot of communication and documentation but as we speak our system has had the inners pulled out of it, the LBD player, the computer, and appropriate equipment with the exception of a big screen T.V. and it is in Swanee, Georgia as we speak. The DVD has become a reality and is being installed this week. It is supposed to be back in my hands for reinstallation into the system into the unit by the end of the week. Initially the DVD discs will not have the shoot don't shoot scenarios, Tom Hughes from headquarters will be at Atlanta on the 7th. He will review the shoot don't shoot scenarios and setting up the scoring on the scenarios. We have had a lot of discussions on how this going to be set up. If any of you are familiar with the old system that we used to use at the sports show where you can que up and give a scenario based on the age or the experience factor given per participant or student, given today's technology and the way C.D.'s work, we are trying to get it in a que up factor where you can que in a scenario. Due to budget restrictions at headquarters this year, they had hoped to shoot some additional footage in order to completely fill the disc, but due to budget constraints they would not be able to devote the funds in time and give them time to shoot additional footage. Dwight assumes that the way Tom talked they are going to use some of the existing footage that we now have and just mix it in with the shoot don't shoot scenarios. Evidently this is of no cost to us, it is all done from contract before when it was initially set up. Additional C.D.'s have been requested, also requested that we get two discs as soon as they are available.

HABITAT COMMITTEE - Ray Smith only received 1 seed order form - the deadline is January 31st. He encourages everyone to have chapter presidents give them to him as soon as they can. Did not receive any blank copies, but chapter presidents have received them.

UPPER GUN RAFFLE - Carl Mowry reported a profit of \$12,678 on the raffle. Read is going to resign as being chairman of the art committee Ray Smith has volunteered to take over the chairman. Read is going to stay on the committee and help.

COMMUNICATIONS - received a thank you letter from the Red Cross for the recent donation.

OLD BUSINESS - Don Heckman brought up the PGC state game lands usage recommendations, we voted on those 10 recommendations in June or August. The Game Commission has since added an 11th recommendation to the further define their interpretation of the usage on state game lands. This has come full circle, the commissioners will be voting on at the January meeting, will be voting on the recommendations as presented by PA Game Commission executive office, which any of us who received a copy

of that agenda, in the agenda there is detailed information on what they are going to be voting on. They will be voting on the 11 recommendations that we all have seen so far. No deviations from those 11 recommendations as developed by the SGL advisory committee. Clay and whoever else is on that committee. That is now moving forward from the PA Game Commissions perspective. As all votes taken at the January meeting will have to be voted on again at the April meeting for final approval. In lieu of that, there is a house bill that has come up. Called house bill 2181 most of you have a copy of that information, it was sent by e-mail, hopefully other information on 2181 was received also. 2181 is a bill that will gut the PA Game Commission ability to manage state game lands under title 34. We should oppose as an organization, that bill. We should not support any wording, any change, any amendment. We should support that bill totally being defeated. Moved by Don Heckman for the PA chapter not to support house bill 2181 as written period. Seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried. With that consent, PA sportsmen coalition will meet January 10th, we will be meeting as an organization and discussing many legislative bills. Another bill that we are going to be reviewing is senate bill 1243. It is important for us to look at senate bill 1243, it is a bill that combines the special funds that are documented from your license sales, \$1.25 fund, \$3.00 fund, and \$2.00 fund. Senator Halfrey has proposed senate bill 1243 which will combine those three separate funds into one fund for administration by the Game Commission. Remember this is ear-marked funds we are talking about. This bill is to move those three separate funds into one fund that has to be managed by the Game Commission under the heading of ear-marked funds. Motion by Don Heckman to support the senate bill 1243, seconded by Greg Caldwell. Motion carried.

There a couple of other bills out there, one authorizing the usage of a portable radios and cell phones while hunting. House bill 2028. House bill 2125 authorization baiting by the Game Commission in certain areas.

Website - we will be changing the gotopa.com.panwtf, it will be replaced with www.panwtf.com. That's what should come up. Any committees should change the website and the e-mail address. Both of those are changing. The e-mail address is panwtf@panwtf.com. Should be finalized in the next six months.

Spring turkey hunting license - the communications component, I sent the article on the value of benefits and the article that Bob Eriksen created on his presentation. Those two articles have been sent to the federation of sportsmen clubs, to the county delegates (54 of them), the federation agreed to let the state chapter mail the county delegates that information. Those two articles, Bob's article on why to support a spring turkey hunting license, his article on what is the spring turkey hunting license and a 4x6 card. 4x6 cards explaining the need to pass the house bill 1979. This information was also sent to the Game Commissioners, it was also sent to seven staff people, it was also sent to the sportsmen advisory council, to the PA sportsmen coalition and to about half a dozen other conservation leaders in the state of PA. The process of a communication of why to support the concept is being distributed. We are going to contribute information to support the concept. Sportsmen coalition meeting on January 10th in which the information will be

presented as a concept. The governors advisory council will meet on January 28th and it will be presented there as a concept. The PA habitat alliance will meet sometime in February and it will be presented there. I've heard from capital hill, PA federation of sportsmen club is going to control if this bill goes forward out of committee. These county delegates have two and a half months, they will meet on March 16th and 17th and they will vote on Sunday under there game committee. That game committee vote will have an over ridding influence. If the federation votes no, I'm hearing Bruce Bitt will not move it out of committee. We have a decision. We let the federation vote no based on not talking to them, except for the communication we sent. Or we as an PA chapter who vote to support a turkey hunting license and go out and start talking to your county delegates and explain the real purpose of a turkey hunting license is and get them to vote in favor of house bill 1979. The federation will control if this bill moves forward. Supporting the concept of a turkey hunting license and letting the language fall where it falls. We have zero control of this bill, yet we are the prime mover. With much discussion it was moved by Gary Beatty that the PA Chapter of NWTF support the concept of a turkey hunting license in order to raise the funds for Turkey Management. Seconded by Jim Panaro. Motion carried.

Don Heckman moved we rescind the motion that the PA Chapter of NWTF support a turkey hunting stamp that was moved and passed on the June 2nd meeting. Seconded by Skip Sanderson. The motion carried. The June 2nd meeting motion was rescinded.

Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS - Don Heckman our PR Representative, John Frawley has resigned. We need a new representative. Needs looked at the next meeting. Executive Committee is working on this.

Don Heckman moved we support PA Taxidermy Association with a \$25 wild turkey award at E.S.O.S. Seconded by Gary Beatty. Motion carried.

Super fund has a deficit-before our next board meeting habitat committee will be looking at proposals to approve for the coming year. Because of budget deficit - motion to concentrate our spending on our programs which we currently do which is Women in the Outdoors, Jakes events and so on and that we do our projects submitted by local chapters and for at least the coming year we do not do any equipment purchases for the Game Commission or any Game Commission projects until we get things straightened out. Motion withdrawn.

Moved by Gary Beatty that we donated \$1,000 to PA Federal of Sportsmen Club for annual safety message on turkey hunting. Seconded by Greg Caldwell. Motion carried.

Due to the snow and members having to leave there was no longer a quorum so the meeting was adjourned.

Motion to adjourn by Gary Beatty, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Next meeting March 10, 2002

Bill Mackereth
Board Secretary

Bill

