



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

1

Attention Board Members:

RAMADA INN STATE COLLEGE, PA

Friday, Jan. 6, 2006 Executive Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 7, 2006 Rendezvous/Awards Banquet

Sunday, Jan. 8, 2006 State Board meeting 9:00 a.m.

*Pennsylvania Chapter NWTf
Board of Directors Meeting
State Forestry Building - S.B. Elliott Park, PA
October 8, 2005*

Directors Present: *G. Alwine, G. Beatty, T. Bunty, D. Burdge, G. Caldwell,
R. Henry, G. Huff, R. Johnson, B. Mackereth, S. Motts, J. Panaro, J. Pries,
D. Strawbridge and R. Stutzman*

Directors absent: *D. Butler, D. Heckman, D. Kuntz, D. O'Brien and S. Sanderson,*

The October 8, 2005 Board meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by Chairman of the Board *Gary Beatty*. After the welcome, call-to-order, Pledge of Allegiance, opening prayer and reviewing the ground rules, Chairman *Gary Beatty* called for:

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT REPORT - *Dave Burdge* had a written report.

VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT - *Gene Alwine* had a written report.

SECRETARY REPORT - *Bill Mackereth* had a written report. *Gene Alwine* moved to accept the secretary's minutes as printed, seconded by *Rick Stutzman*. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* had a written report. Report for period August 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005. Starting Balance \$46,222.52. Income \$13,093.87. Expenses \$27,753.80. Ending Balance \$31,562.39. Net Gain (Loss) (\$14,659.93). Moved by *Rhonda Henry* and seconded by *Skip Motts* to approve the Treasurer's report as printed. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - *Gary Beatty* no report due to first meeting as the Chairman.

NWTF REPORTS

SENIOR REGIONAL SUPERVISOR - *Larry Holjencin* had a written report. Thanked *Gary Beatty* for accepting to be the Chairman of the Board again. Staff: New Hires - *Carl Mowry* & *Ray Smith* hired as new RD's for PA giving us 3. Went over, PA shows how we split the state by RD's.

Wheelin' Sportsman Regional Event Coordinator: we are looking to hire for PA. This person will cover 11 states total. If anyone here is interested in this position or knows someone who is please contact *Illana Burkhart* at NWTF. See page 32 of the fall 2005 "The Caller".

Banquet Meetings: 2006 core books and supplemental books are in and the RD's have been meeting with chapters to plan for their banquets. Please have your date, location, meal price etc., ready for your RD so he can ticket your banquet.

New Chapters: Please help your RD find leads for new chapters, as we need to start 8 new ones this year.

Senior Regional Director - *Carl Mowry* had a verbal report.

20,041 Adult members, 11,133 Ad, 1,861 Women in the Outdoors, 364 Wheelin', 6,611 JAKES, 22 Huntin Heritage.

2006 Rendezvous/Awards Banquet

Saturday, January 7, 2006

Dr. James Earl Kennamar: Sen. Vice President for Cons. programs seminar @ 2:30

Bob Eriksen: seminar @ 1:00 p.m.

Tammy Mowry: WITO Regional Meeting

Calls by: *Dale Rohm, Dennis Strawbridge, Scott Basehore, Mike Lapp, Ralph Premar,* and others

Rhonda Henry collecting ticket money

Dave Burdge will be mailing tickets to all chapter presidents, 1 free 4 to sell.

Fri, Jan. 6 Exec. meeting, Sat. Jan. 7th set-up seminars Awards Banquet

Sun, Jan. 8 Board meeting.

Regional Director - Ray Smith had a written report

National Convention Update:

Date: Feb. 23 thru the 26th

Location: Nashville, TN, Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center

Reservations: Rooms are \$150 per night plus tax. Plenty of rooms left. Call 1-615-889-1000

Entertainment: *John Michael* has been cut. Too much sweet home Alabama!

Aaron Tippon will stop by for one song. No other bookings at this time.

Those that have attended last year or are higher up on the food chain will receive a brochure in late October.

For more info go to www.nwtf.org

Sponsor Hunt:

As some of you may have heard the state sponsor hunt will be held in Altoona, Kansas with *Mike & Kurt Nunnenkamp* of "Paradise Adventures". The hunt will be for one person, 2 birds, food, guides, lodging and infield transportation. The hunter should fly into Tulsa, Wichita or Kansas City. The winner will be responsible for the ride to the lodge. The trip is around two hours from the airports listed. Space will also be available for additional hunters at the full price of \$900 per person.

Many well known people hunt there on a regular basis *Ted Nugget, Ray Howell, HS Strut, Ray Smith* and *Will Primos*. Both *Greg Caldwell* and myself have guided both whitetail and turkeys for Kurt over the last several years. Kurt contributes to the NWTF Nationally, State and Locally on a yearly basis. It does not get any better than this.

Coaster Project:

I have asked *Greg* to give me a total of what is left over. When we have this number it will give us a better idea what to do with the leftovers. *Larry* and I thought that we might offer them to the chapters at full price. However maybe *Greg* would take less.

Women's Regional Field Supervisor - Tammy Mowry had a written report.

- Our membership is currently at 1,861 WITO members in the state.
- We have 26 events scheduled in the state this year. 2006 is starting off really well for getting events scheduled. At the present time, there are 17 events scheduled. I anticipate 25-30 events being scheduled.
- We had over 1,200 women attend WITO events in Pennsylvania.
- Any help you can give me to identify chapters, facilities, or businesses that would be willing to host an event would be greatly appreciated. Or, if you know of anyone who would be interested in instructing at an event, please let me know. We are always looking for ideas for new classes and instructors.
- Next year's State event in Somerset County will take place March 24-26. We will be looking at classes and instructors in the near future.
- We will be hosting several events at Cabela's throughout the year.

1

Northeast Regional Biologist - Bob Eriksen had a written report.
Super Fund Balance \$56,264.54.

Writing Projects

Three articles were prepared for the fall issue of "PA Turkey Talk" and one was written for the fall issue of the "Jersey Gobbler".

Three white papers were completed for the New Jersey Outdoor Congress, a coalition of outdoor enthusiasts including hunting groups and fishing groups. The white papers issued to the two candidates running for governor covered the effectiveness of contraceptives for managing mammal populations, chronic wasting disease in white-tailed deer and the need for outside funding to cover costs of wildlife agency programs that do not benefit hunters and anglers.

The regional biologist prepared the fall 2005 wild turkey summary for the Pennsylvania Game Commission meeting and the annual wild turkey summary for "Game News".

Super Fund Projects

Eight Super Fund requests were processed for Pennsylvania and 7 for New Jersey. One day was spent touring and photographing projects on state game lands for future articles.

Wild Turkey Woodlands

Two Woodland field days were held in the latter part of the summer. One event was held on the Sorber Property in Little Meadows, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania and the second was held on the Bennett Farm near Howard, Steuben County, New York. More than forty landowners attended each event and local chapters assisted in cooking and set-up.

Meetings

The regional biologist attended the annual meeting of the Northeast Wild Turkey Technical Committee along with wild turkey biologists from fifteen northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States.

A meeting of the New Jersey Chapter Board of Directors and Super Fund Committee was attended.

The October meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission was attended and the regional biologist participated in the first meeting of the 2007 Farm Bill coalition.

Special Projects

The regional biologist assisted the Indiana Department of Natural Resources by presenting three seminars on fall hunting prior to the opening of their first fall turkey season. Seminars featured information on why fall hunting would have little impact on turkey populations, safety and hunting techniques.

A special Thanksgiving media release of wild turkeys will take place in Pennsylvania on November 17. The event will be held on SGL 196 in Bucks County. Three planning meetings for the event were attended and information for press releases was prepared. Trapping sites were evaluated and chosen.

Fall brood surveys and mast availability surveys were completed for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Vineyard damage evaluation continued with the deployment of remote cameras in a vineyard in southwestern Virginia.

The regional biologist served as the emcee for the North Jersey Open Calling Contest at the Sussex County Fair in New Jersey.

Fieldwork continued on the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant improving habitat on gas lines rights-of-way in Washington County. Discussions were held with researchers at Virginia Tech and the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife regarding a grant proposal to complete the analysis of data collected in a five-year study of grouse survival in New Jersey.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NWTF JAKES fund - *Bill Mackereth* had a written report.

PA Chapter NWTF/JAKES Fund Report

Checkbook Balance	6/3/05	\$14,344.04
Income	\$4,420	(221)
Expenses		
	Southeast Silver Spurs	(2) 10.00
	Mill Creek	(26) 130.00
	Moraine	(109) 545.00
	Postmaster (100 Stamps)	37.00
	Ben Stimaker Memor	(90) 450.00
	Adams Co. L.B.	(23) 115.00
	Lykens Valley L.B.	(70) 350.00
	Honey Hole L.B.	(12) 60.00
	Malone Printing (R. Tickets)	257.90
	Blve. Mtn.	(60) 300.00
	Bill Mackereth Postage	20.19
	Susquehanna Local	(80) 400.00
	Bill Mackereth Postage (Stamps)	31.47
	Lower Bucks L.B.	(337) 1685.00
	Sherman Valley Strutters	(17) 85.00

Total Expenses \$4,476.56

Checkbook Balance 10/7/05 \$14,287.48

Calling Contest - *Greg Caldwell* submitted a letter.

Dear Potential Sponsor:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, I am asking you to consider sponsoring the Wilson F. Moore Memorial

Masters Turkey Calling Contest. The Masters is one of the most prestigious calling contests in the United States. It will be held for the first time as a part of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Times Hunting and Fishing Show, to be held February 17-19, 2006, at the Blair County Convention Center, Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Due to the location, quality of judges, and advertising, this has the potential of being the number one calling contest in the country. The Pennsylvania Outdoor Times will be promoting the Masters as their feature event.

Past contests had been held in conjunction with the NWTF's state convention, which limited its audience and advertising. By moving the Hunting and Fishing Show, the Masters and its sponsors will be exposed to thousands of people. The five judges include past Masters winners, world champions, call company owners, and outdoor television and video celebrities.

Your sponsorship cost for the 2006 event is \$500. For this investment, you will receive the following:

- Cable and regional television advertising one month prior to the contest up until the event
- Company name listed as sponsor in five newspapers
- Company name listed on banner in exhibitor area of the convention center
- Sponsor name listed in a promotional article that will be published in the Pennsylvania Outdoor Times, December, January, and February issues
- Article about the contest, including your name, will be published in the Winter issue of "Turkey Talk" magazine
- Motel room discount if attending the show
- Free passes to the show
- Contest will be announced on the state and national NWTF web site
- Contest will be announced in the "National Wild Turkey Federation Caller" Magazine
- Contest will be announced in the "Pennsylvania Outdoor Writer's Association" magazine
- Contest information will be placed on POWA website

The magnitude of this contest, coupled with all the other features the Blair County Convention Center has to offer, should attract many big names in the turkey calling fraternity.

The convention center contains 49,000 square feet of space, including a 24,000 square-foot main exhibitor space that can accommodate 120 booths

Outdoor hunting and fishing seminars will be presented throughout the show, except during the contest. At that time, the calling contest will be shown live on overhead televisions scattered throughout the convention center.

The calling room seats 200 people. An overflow room with a 200 seating capacity will show the contest on television. In addition, plasma screens throughout the hallways will view the callers.

Please respond by November 15, 2005. Confirmation can be made by mail, email, or by phone at:

PA NWTF MASTERS

c/o Dr. Greg L. Caldwell

2604 South Mountain Road

Port Matilda, PA 16870

(814) 692-4707 or cell (814) 404-2244

email: greg@rivervalleygamecalls.com

Thank you for your consideration, Greg "Doc" Caldwell

1st Annual NE Regional Rendezvous - Jon Pries submitted a letter.**Pocono Manor Golf Resort & Spas - August 4, 5 & 6, 2006 (Friday, Saturday & Sunday)**

Friday evening - welcome dinner and get acquainted party

Saturday - buffet breakfast in the main dining room, meetings and presentations,

lunch in the main dining room, meetings and presentations, evening dinner banquet

Sunday - buffet breakfast in the main dining room, a day of fun activities with lunch

included, sporting clays, trap and still target shoots -- standard rounds and fun

competitions, two 18-hole golf courses, indoor & outdoor tennis, horseback riding,

fishing, spa, outdoor pool and fine dining. Educational!!! Motivational!!!!

Downright Inspirational!!!!

This will be a combination of a National Convention, National Leadership and our own PA State Chapter President's Workshop.

1. The Pocono Manor is a fine facility on the National Historic Register, and can accommodate all of our needs, including the ability to expand to more than double our initial six as we grow. They can handle all room reservations through their personnel and 800 # and credit card systems.
2. *Tammy Sapp* will be happy to advise us as to speakers, logistics, and scheduling of activities.
3. I will be happy to contact *Judy Story & Steve Cole* for their further input.
4. The Committee needs to decide, and present to the Board for their approval at the January meeting the following:
 - a. actual schedule of events - times, subjects, speakers
 - b. contact and schedule speakers
 - c. finalize meals - times and locations
 - d. plan a variety of sporting clays & trap events
 - e. research any other questions or suggestions
 - f. review the present contract for approval by the board
5. Formal list of committee members
6. We need to submit a \$750 deposit by November 1, 2005 to hold this reservation and contract. It can be cancelled up to 180 days prior to the event (February 5, 2006).

***Tim Bunty* moved that the PA Board pay the \$750 deposit for the NE Reg. Rendezvous. Seconded by *Jim Panaro*. Motion carried.**

Committees - update changes and input into all the committees. We may need to restructure the committees.

Communications - None reported.

OLD BUSINESS

Jim Panaro - Turkey Hunting License; what is our plan of action? Discussion followed.

Jon Pries - spoke about the Mentor Youth Program - things are moving along well.

Larry Holjencin - brought up J & F Graphics regarding a refund to persons who made purchases at the 2001 Annual Convention at Hidden Valley.

Jim Panaro - reminded strategic planning review after March meeting on the 4th & 5th.

NEW BUSINESS

Gary Huff has replaced *Clyde Gouker* on the board. Also, there were 2 vacancies due to *Carl Mowry* & *Ray Smith* becoming NWTf Regional Directors. *Hugh Shields* & *Philip Ferrare, Jr.*, have expressed an interest to be on the State Board of Directors. *Hugh Shields* would be fulfilling *Ray Smith's* term, which expires 2006. *Philip Ferrare, Jr.* would be fulfilling *Carl Mowry's* term, which expires in 2007.

Moved by *Jim Panaro* to appoint *Hugh Shields* & *Philip Ferrare, Jr.* to the State Board of Directors. Seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion carried.

Moved by *Greg Caldwell* to donate \$2,500 for 4 years to Ned Smith Center. In turn we get 1 print for each banquet for 4 years. Seconded by *Dennis Strawbridge*. Motion carried.

Moved by *Rick Stutzman* to have *Audrey Zimmerman* and one guest come to the January Rendezvous and to pay her expenses. Seconded by *Gary Huff*. Motion carried.

Moved by *Jon Pries* to purchase a new P. A. system for *Tammy Mowery* and a new microphone for *Carl Mowery* for up to \$1,000. Seconded by *Jim Panaro*. Motion carried.

Moved by *Gary Huff* to purchase 2 trailers and reimburse *Larry Holjencin* for the trailer he purchased on his own. The cost up to \$2,500 each. Seconded by *Jon Pries*. Motion carried.

Dart System is out dated. The Board charges the Dart System Committee to investigate new systems and bring information to the January Rendezvous.

At the last meeting we nominated *Dale Rohm* for the Roger Latham Award. Moved by *Tom Buntly* to remove *Dale Rohm's* name as a nominee. Seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion carried.

Moved by *Dennis Strawbridge* to donate a 30th Anniversary Print & Box Call to retiring *Vern Ross*. Seconded by *Jon Pries*. Motion carried.

Moved by *Skip Motts* that all promotional items sold be run through the chapter. Seconded by *Jon Pries*. Motion carried.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Habitat Committee to meet after the meeting is adjourned.

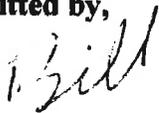
The 3 R.D.'s have new goals for the state and will need the board's help.

Two openings on the Governor's Advising Council on Hunting, Fishing & Conservation.

The .410 shotguns & bows have been purchased for the JAKES and are housed at the Mackereth's residence.

Greg Caldwell moved that we adjourn, seconded by *Jim Panaro*. Motion carried. The October Board meeting adjourned at 2:30 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.panwtf.com E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

Attention Board Members:

Friday, October 7, 2005 - Executive Board Meeting at Bill Mackereth's
Camp beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 8, 2005 State Board Meeting at the State Office
Building of DCNR at Elliott Park beginning at 9:00 a.m.

*Pennsylvania Chapter NWTf
Board of Directors Meeting
Ramada Inn - State College, PA
August 6, 2005*

Directors Present: *G. Alwine, G. Beatty, T. Bunty, D. Burdge, D. Butler, Sr.,
G. Caldwell, D. Heckman, R. Henry, R. Johnson, D. Kuntz, B. Mackereth, C. Mowry,
D. O'Brien, J. Panaro, J. Pries, R. Smith, D. Strawbridge and R. Stutzman.*

Directors absent: *C. Gouker, Jr., S. Motts, and S. Sanderson*
Guests *Chris Karanja* RD from N.J. & *Dave Trubin* from W.VA.

The August 6, 2005 Board meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Chairman of the Board *Carl Mowry*. After the welcome, call-to-order, Pledge of Allegiance, opening prayer and reviewing the ground rules, Chairman *Carl Mowry* called for:

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT REPORT - *Dave Burdge* had a written report.

SECRETARY REPORT - *Bill Mackereth* had a written report. *Tom Bunty* moved to accept the secretary's minutes as corrected, seconded by *Rick Stutzman*. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* had a written report. Report for period June 1, 2005 through July 31, 2005. Starting Balance \$33,945.62. Income \$16,693.36. Expenses \$6,916.46. Ending Balance \$43,722.52. Net Gain (Loss) \$9,776.90.

Moved by *Bill Mackereth* and seconded by *Don O'Brien* to approve the Treasurer's report as printed. Motion carried. Moved by *Gary Beatty* to approve 2005-2006 budget, seconded by *Don O'Brien*. Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT - *Gene Alwine* had a written report.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - *Carl Mowry* had a written report.

NWTF REPORTS

SENIOR REGIONAL SUPERVISOR - *Larry Holjencin* had a written report.

Memorials for Jerry

Local level: Jerry's home chapter the Lehigh Valley LB's have renamed themselves the *Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter*. There is also talk of a calling contest being renamed in Jerry's honor.

State level: An award in *Jerry's* name will be given each year at the state awards dinner. The criteria will be most improved banquet.

Land Purchase/Dedication: The Dahr tract near Harrisburg. Have *Don Heckman* give an update. 30 acres which will adjoin SGL. Four miles from where *Jerry* grew up - *Jerry* and his dad hunted this mountain.

National level: The management staff at headquarters feels so strongly about honoring *Jerry* that they have decided to dedicate Old Thunder in his name. Old Thunder is the bronze turkey sculpture by *Cody Houston*. It is the most prominent spot at NWTF. Everyone that enters the WT Center walks by Old Thunder. A plaque with *Jerry's* likeness along with some verb age will be placed at the base of the sculpture.

RD Staff Expansion

In the interim until we hire, *Chris Karinja*, *Carl Mowry* and I are covering the banquets and WS Benefits in eastern PA. *Chris* is covering 5 banquets and 2 WS Benefits, I am covering 5 banquets and *Carl* is covering 2.

I would like to thank *Chris* and *Carl* for volunteering to cover these events. It's important to continue to give our chapters good service and I feel we are doing a good job of that.

The job opening has been posted on the NWTF website for two weeks and each chapter president and district director has been sent a letter informing them of the opening.

We have two scenarios for hiring RD's here in PA

#1 - Hire two RD's and have *Farky* bump down to cover all of WV. This will give us 3 RD's exclusively for PA. This was the last order of business *Jerry* and I discussed. In fact we discussed it the day he died. Our national board will make the decision on whether this happens next week when they review and hopefully approve the 2006 fiscal budget.

3 RD's will allow us to give better service to our chapters and to have more time to work the targeted areas left in the state. We have to start 8 new banquets next year if we go to 3 RD's. We ask that you help us out with any leads that may result in new banquets. Eastern PA especially the SE corner is where most of the opportunity exists but there are remaining pockets throughout the state that could hold another banquet.

#2 - If the national board does not approve the hiring of the additional RD, then we will hire one RD who will cover eastern PA.

If anyone here is interested in submitting a resume go to our website and follow the instructions. *Kim Saxon* is the person who works on this.

JAKES Raffle

Tickets have been given to *Bill Mackereth* and are ready to distribute. Most will be picked up tomorrow at the Leadership Workshop.

Same deal as the last five years - \$20 ticket/40 guns. Chapters earn credits toward free JAKES memberships based on number of tickets sold. Each chapter president was mailed a letter an application to request tickets.

Senior Regional Director - *Bob Farkasovsky* had a verbal report.

10,331 regular members, out of that 1,029 are sponsors, 1,861 are Women in the Outdoors, 354 Wheelin', 6,611 JAKES, 81 Hunting Heritage member. Nationally total memberships 521,000, out of that 180,000 JAKES, 37,000 Women in the Outdoors, Wheelin' 18,500, 50,500 Hunting Heritage, 202,00 Regular memberships, Sponsored 33,000 with 2,200 Chapters nationwide. Total PA memberships 20,267 (including JAKES)

30th Anniversary NWTf Convention Feb. 23-26, 2006 Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. Call 888-777-6779 to make a reservation. White horse Mountain Longbeards Chapter will be taking a bus (\$110 to \$115), if interested see *Rhonda* by December 15, 2005.

Women's Regional Field Supervisor - *Tammy Mowry* was absent but submitted a written report.

- Our membership is currently at 2,036.
- We have 26 events scheduled in the state this year. Any help you can give me to identify chapters, facilities, or businesses that would be willing to host an event would be greatly appreciated. Or, if you know of anyone who would be interested in instructing at an event, please let me know. We are always looking for ideas for new classes and instructors.
- Next year's State event in Somerset County will take place March 24-26. We will be looking at classes and instructors in the near future.
- I've been informed that the Game Commission will not be renewing our partnership at this time due to financial constraints.

Northeast Regional Biologist - Bob Eriksen had a written report.

Writing Projects

Planned and held two events in July, one in Woodland, Clearfield County, Pennsylvania and the other in Georgetown, Madison County, New York. Both events were highly successful. Sixty-two people attended the event in Woodland and 76 attended the event in New York.

Planned and scheduled two additional events in August and September. The August event will be in Howard, Steuben County, and New York. The September will take place in Little Meadows, Susquehanna County, and Pennsylvania.

Meetings and Presentations

Two weeks were spent in Edgefield, South Carolina in the month of June attending the NWTf strategic planning meeting and the summer regional biologist meeting.

The June meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission was attended in Harrisburg.

A meeting was held with biologists from the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife to discuss analysis of Gobbler survival data. The regional biologist also attended a meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Congress and the New Jersey Habitat Initiative Team (similar to the Pennsylvania Habitat Alliance).

Presented a lecture on wild turkey ecology and management and the use of telemetry equipment at Keystone College in Wyoming County.

Super Fund Projects

Visited projects on state game lands in the southeast region with land manager *Rich Skubish* and "Game News" writer *Lori Richardson*. Photographs were taken for an article in the fall issue of "PA Turkey Talk."

Processed 20 Super Fund request forms from Pennsylvania, 30 from Maryland, 6 from Delaware and 1 from New Jersey.

Special Projects

Met with officials from several agencies in New Jersey to help arrange for the purchase of a tract of land (852 acres) adjacent to a wildlife management area. The total cost of the property was \$12.5 million. The property purchase was completed on July 29.

Information Requests

Handled 5 requests for information on wild turkey habitat and biologist from Pennsylvania, 3 from New York, 2 from New Jersey, 1 from Delaware and 1 from Maryland.

NWTf Technical Committee - Mary Jo Casalena was absent.

NWTf Board Member - Ron Fretts was absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Don Heckman reported on Growing Greener II, was passed, drafted Growing Greener II as part of the State Budget was passed. Game Commission will get \$20,000,000 for infrastructure purposes over 6 years. Fish and Boat will get \$27,000,000 and DC&R will get \$220,000,000. Signed with the budget and are in the process of making this happen.

Back Tag - movement to take the back tag off, put in pocket and carry with you without it being visibly seen. Has to go through legislation.

Hunting License increase - will be discussed in Old Business.

License Proposals - *Don Heckman* had a written report. This is how the board voted on the PFSC Convention Resolutions.

- To allow carrying of small game arrows in deer archery season ~20 Yes, 3 No
- To allow stump shooting on State Game Lands ~ 11 Yes, 12 No
- To allow archery stump shooting in all except 3 day bear and 2 week regular deer seasons ~ 11 Yes, 12 No
- To expand Sunday Hunting opportunities ~ 5 Yes, 16 No
- Deer & Forest Habitat Management ~ 7 Yes, 16 No
- Either sex pheasant hunting in 6 southeast counties ~ 0 Yes, 22 No
- Spotlighting Wildlife ~ 8 Yes, 13 No
- That the PFSC encourages the PGC to not "Reinvent the wheel" and to require NRA certification for "Live Fire" in H.T.E. classes ~ 0 Yes, 23 No
- P.F.S.C. to lobby the PA Game Commission in separating the 2-week antlered and antler less season for safety reasons ~ 1 Yes, 22 No
- Permitted Handgun Concealed Carry in Pennsylvania State Parks ~ 23 Yes, 0 No
- Establishment of the Greater Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge ~ 22 Yes, 1 No

Master Turkey Calling Contest - *Greg Caldwell* - move the Master Turkey Calling Contest to the Blair Co. Convention Center, Bass Pro Shop? Convention Center will donate the booth space. "Outdoor Times" will advertise this contest and the Altoona Mirror and their four sister papers in Lewistown, Warren, Lock Haven and Williamsport. No information on Bass Pro Shop as of yet.

Ray Smith spoke about the "Triple Crown Award" for winning the major turkey calling contests in PA. Proposal is "if" the same individual wins all 3 or 4 contests that individual would receive a \$15,000 credit to the Bass Pro Shop.

Awards Chairman - *Tom Bunty* had a letter (2 page report). Letters went out to all Chapter Presidents last week.

Award Nominations ~ Once again we find it time to consider nominees for this years State Chapter awards. This year our Awards Banquet will be held on January 7, 2006. Therefore, nominations will need to be finalized at the October Board meeting.

I will need to have your nominations, including a short statement of the qualifications of the candidate, by October 1st. This will allow time for me to follow-up on the candidates prior to the Board meeting if there are any questions. Be sure to include a phone number where your candidate can be reached. It is necessary to determine the recipients at the October board meeting to allow time for the completion of the awards. Therefore it is necessary that you complete your considerations for nomination and return them to me by October 1st. A copy of the awards with the past recipients is included for your reference.

Remember, not all awards need to be given every year. Be sure to consider candidates carefully so that only those who are worthy and most deserving are considered. Nominate only persons that you feel strongly about for awards. You do not need to nominate someone for every award.

If you have any questions, contact any board member.

Please send all nominations to:

Thomas Bunty
2050 Park St.
Dover, PA 17315
E-mail - tom.bunty@creo.com
Phone: 717-292-9444

Thank you,
Thomas Bunty
Awards Committee Chairman

Press Releases - *Bob Kasun* had a written report.

January 27, 2005 - PA Chapter of NWTF marks 30th Anniversary.

February 28, 2005 - PANWTF touts 2004 Super Fund projects.

March 21, 2005 - *Don O'Brien* wins prestigious Roger Latham Award.

April 4, 2005 - PA Chapter of NWTF touts safety first for spring turkey hunting season.

May 2, 2005 - Commentary: Turkey management is not deer management.

May 15, 2005 - NWTF Launches New National Magazine.

Summary: We have solid response to our press releases. The PANWTF 30th Anniversary received great coverage across the state. On the average, I receive about two to four media requests for more information when I send out a press release. The majority of the requests are from print media, but we have received radio interview requests, too.

Planning ahead: We have plans for fall hunting season safety message. I'm also keeping an eye on "Turkey Talk" to see if there are any stories that can be expanded into press releases. We need a few more idea for press releases.

Improvements: To improve our press releases, I would suggest that we send out a stock photo of turkey hunting that papers can use at no charge once or twice a year.

I have an e-mail group set up for state media and POWA. If you need something distributed, e-mail it to me and I can send out to statewide audience. For example, applications for PANWTF scholarships information and deadlines. Send it to bobkasun@winbeam.com

PA Chapter NWTf Promotional Committee Report - Skip Sanderson was not present but submitted a written report.

I apologize for missing the meeting. A new business with a busy day required that I be at the business. I hope to attend a portion of the leadership meeting to offer promotional items to the local chapter leaders.

Sales of promotional items continue to be slow. To the best of my knowledge all orders have been filled and funds are turned over to the treasurer.

License plate registrations continue to trickle in. My best estimate is about seven hundred plates on the road.

Each One Reach One has gone no where. I have not received a single name since the last board meeting. I need to get the calls from River Valley Game Calls to fulfill our offer to the few applicants that I have received. *Greg and Ray* can you help me out?

Communications - Were posted on the display board.

OLD BUSINESS

Don Heckman - License Proposals WTMP

Recommendation to the commissioners to support WMU 2F & 2G from 3 to 2 weeks of turkey hunting.

Spring turkey hunting extra tag - Chapter would want the tag for the last 2 weeks of the season.

Greg Caldwell moved to hold the **Wilson F. Moore Memorial Masters Turkey Calling Contest** at the "Blair County Convention Center Outdoor Hunting & Fishing Expo", seconded by *Jim Panaro*. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Jon Pries - Welcome Kit for new members - would like to put something together for new board members - permission granted.

Would like to propose a Northeast Regional Training Workshop and be able to form a committee to put something together to present to the board - permission granted.

Don Heckman - members should help nominate persons that would make good commissioners in the southeast region for those retiring.

Jerry Zimmerman tribute - Dahr Tract of Land to donate to the PA Game Commission - *Jim Panaro* moved we pay off the balance on the Dahr Tract of Land to the PA Conservancy seconded by *Tom Buntz*. Motion carried. This land will be a memorial to *Jerry Zimmerman*, and would be part of Game Land 211.

Ray Smith - Box Calls for 30th Anniversary print, and the ad in "Turkey Call" magazine for *Melissa Ball's* prints.

Greg Caldwell - 410 Shotguns & Bows for JAKES 10 and under. *Greg Caldwell* moved that the PA Chapter purchases 6 Rem. Spartan 410 Shotguns and 6 Genesis Bows or comparable to be used by JAKES Events and the necessary cases for the guns and bows, seconded by *Ray Smith*. Motion carried.

Gene Alwine - JAKES and other outreach programs. Extreme JAKES covers 13 - 17. This age group likes to hang out by themselves. We need to be supportive of all the outreach programs across the board. Would like to have an Extreme JAKES Event in the near future.

Carl Mowry - 4 page tribute in "Turkey Talk" for *Jerry Zimmerman*. Send articles to *Carl* or *Tammy*.

Don O'Brien moved we pay the \$150 renewal to POWA, seconded by *Tom Buntz*. Motion carried.

Carl Mowry - Roger Latham Award at Nationals - *Don Heckman* nominated *Stip Sanderson*, *Jim Panaro* nominated *Joe Krug* and *Greg Caldwell* nominated *Dale Rohm*.

The Board selected *Dale Rohm* to be the nominee.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Directions for the cook out and shotgun shooting at the Tyrone Sportsman's by *Larry Holjencin*.

Rick Stutzman moved that we adjourn, seconded by *Don O'Brien*. Motion carried. The August Board meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Bill

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.panwtf.com E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

1

*The next meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn in St. College,
Friday, August 5, 2005-Executive Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 6, 2005-Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.
Sunday, August 7, 2005-Presidents meeting at 9:00 a.m.*

*Pennsylvania Chapter NWTf
Board of Directors Meeting
Harrisburg Bass Pro Shops-Outdoor World
Harrisburg, PA
June 4, 2005*

The June 4, 2005 Board meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chairman of the Board Carl Mowry. After the welcome, call-to-order, Pledge of Allegiance, praying and reviewing the ground rules, Chairman Carl Mowry had the secretary Bill Mackereth call the roll of officers and directors. Officer and Directors present were:

Directors Present: *G. Alwine, G. Beatty, T. Bunty, D. Burdge, D. Butler, Sr., D. Heckman, R. Henry, R. Johnson, D. Kuntz, B. Mackereth, S. Motts, C. Mowry, D. O'Brien, J. Panaro, J. Pries, D. Sanderson, R. Smith, and R. Stutzman.*

Directors absent: *G. Caldwell, C. Gouker, Jr., Ray Smith and D. Strawbridge*
Guests *Kendra Stauffer USDA & Cal DuBrock PGC*

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT REPORT - *Dave Burdge* had a written report.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT - *Gene Alwine* had a written report.

SECRETARY REPORT - *Bill Mackereth* had a written report. At the March meeting there was confusion over a vote for a motion that was actually defeated 8 - 10. The motion dealt with setting aside funds to build up the Superfund account to \$250,000.

GUEST SPEAKERS - *Kendra Stauffer*, USDA - reviewed the history of CWD and the actions taken by the USDA. Chronic Wasting Disease belongs to a group of fatal diseases of animals known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in the same family as "Mad Cow Disease". CWD has been around since 1967. She presented the committee with a report on controlling Chronic Wasting Disease and The Public Health Impact of Prion Diseases. Species susceptible to this disease are Mule Deer, Elk, White Tail, and Black Tail. Don't know what triggers it. Causes cells to die. If you see a deer with its head down, drooling, drinking a lot of water and urinate a lot, wasting away to nothing, they probably have CWD.

Cal DuBrock, PA GC - explained what the PGC is doing regarding CWD. Ag department is trying to get the funding to support the CWD program. If you are hunting out west the animal must be tested before brought back into the state.

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* had a written report. Report for period March 1, 2005 through May 31, 2005. Starting Balance \$40,639.39. Income \$17,357.00. Expenses \$24,050.84. Ending Balance \$33,945.62. Net Gain (Loss) (\$6,693.77). **Moved by *Bill Mackereth* and seconded by *Dave Burdge* to approve the Treasurer's report as printed. Motion carried.**

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - *Carl Mowry* had a written report.

NWTF REPORTS

SENIOR REGIONAL SUPERVISOR - *Jerry Zimmerman* presented a vocal and written report.

- Youth Mentored Hunt - attended the Thursday meeting - moving along - plan is for legislation by end of Fall session
- NASP - update
- PA Sportsman Caucus Tour on June 15th
- Mentor must be a licensed hunter
- PA has the 2nd highest hunting economy \$2.28 billion, 1st is Texas
- National Archery in the schools - 30 schools currently enrolled - 86 other schools have expressed interest
- June 15 Tour of Game lands projects sponsored by NWTF in Lykens

REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - *Larry Holjencin* was absent but had a written report.

Please excuse my absence. The Steel City Spurs are having their first banquet today. I would love to be with you all at Bass Pro but hopefully we'll put some more money into Super Fund today.

- 1) JAKES Hunt: The hunt occurred on the youth day of April 23. Location

was near Eldred in McKean County. Hosts were *Bob Friedl* and *Skip Motts*. Both of our young ladies killed jakes as did another girl who hunted out of *Skip Mott's* camp. Guides and calls for the hunters were provided by Mountain Hollow Gamecalls, plus our very own *Gary Beatty* guided the third girl. *Skip Motts* and *Bob Friedl* did an outstanding job with all of the details. Food was excellent as were accommodations - just a great hunt. Cam was donated by Keystone Country Store.

I have submitted an article and photos to *Walt Young* for the next issue of "PA Turkey Talk". Thank you letters have been sent to donors and photo CD's sent to participants/guides/host. Thank you PA Chapter for donating the guns. We were able to get two of the 2005 JAKES Guns of the Year (Mossberg 500 20 gauges) which the girls really like. (*Gary Beatty* and *Skip Motts* may want to elaborate on the hunt)

2) The Millcreek Chapter has agreed to host the hunt auction I have held in Monroeville the past two years. It will be a Wheelin' Sportsmen Benefit and not a Hunting Heritage Banquet. The date is Saturday, August 27 - location is Hazen, PA. Cost is \$20 which includes meal and drinks. Any help in referring reputable outfitters would be appreciated. Please relay this info to *Dave Burdge* this weekend or to me after the board meeting. Thank you.

Senior Regional Director - *Bob Farkasovsky* was absent.

Women's Regional Field Supervisor - *Tammy Mowry* was absent but submitted a written report.

- Our membership is currently at 2,036.
- We have 27 events scheduled in the state this year. Any help you can give me to identify chapters, facilities, or businesses that would be willing to host an event would be greatly appreciated. Or, if you know of anyone who would be interested in instructing at an event, please let me know. We are always looking for ideas for new classes and instructors.
- The state WITO website continues to be updated as necessary. Registration forms for events are located for easy accessibility for people who visit the site. The Game Commission is also making our registration forms available on their website.
- This year's State event on April 1-3 was again a big success. We had 136 women attend the weekend event. Thanks to *Gene Alwine*, *Gary Beatty*, *Rhonda Henry*, *Gary Huff*, *Carl Mowry*, and *Rick Stutzman* for instructing at the event.
- Next year's State event in Somerset County will take place March 24-26. We will be looking at classes and instructors in the near future.
- Our Women in the Outdoors partnership with the Game Commission will be renewed in the very near future.
- We are also doing several events with Cabelo's. The next event will take place August 6 and then also October 1.

Northeast Regional Biologist - Bob Eriksen had a written report.

Writing Projects

- Prepared an article on the potential impacts of an increased spring gobbler bag limit in Pennsylvania for the Pennsylvania Game Law Digest
- Co-authored an article on tame and aggressive behavior in wild turkeys for "Turkey Call"
- Drafted a letter in support of increased CWD testing for the PA Chapter
- Completed two articles for the summer issue of "PA Turkey Talk"

Meetings and Presentations

- Attended the March meetings of the PA Chapter Executive Committee and Board of Directors
- Attended the organizational meeting of the Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council
- Attended the New York Chapter Convention and Board meeting in March
- Attended the April meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Participated in a state chapter meeting on revisions for The Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania and a similar meeting with Game Commission personnel
- Met with participants in a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation habitat enhancement grant in Washington County, Pennsylvania
- Presented a Power Point on wild turkey habitat management techniques and local projects to a meeting of the West Virginia Vegetation Managers Association
- Met with New York State Natural Resource Conservation Service personnel to discuss ways in which NWTF biologists could be of assistance to their programs
- Lectured on wild turkey ecology and management to a wildlife ecology class at Stockton College in New Jersey
- Attended Wild Turkey Woodlands Field Day planning meetings in Woodland, PA on July 23 and Georgetown and Howard, New York
- Presented a Power Point on managing for equitable distribution of the spring harvest and trophy gobblers to the Merrill Creek Sportsmen's Club in New Jersey
- Met with a contractor interested in continuing the maintenance of the Thunder Mountain Habitat Project in New Jersey
- Attended the Lehigh Valley Chapter banquet in Pennsylvania

Hunting Heritage Super Fund

- Reviewed and edited Super Fund request forms for 124 projects in Pennsylvania, 10 projects in Maryland, 2 projects in New Jersey and 2 projects in Ohio

Special Projects

- Reviewed a manuscript on wild turkey hen survival and the impacts of all hunting in Virginia for the Wildlife Society Bulletin
- Spent four days filming habitat management suggestions for landowners in the northeast for "Get in the Game"
- Assisted New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife Turkey Project biologists

with radio telemetry locations and check station delivery and data retrieval

- Reviewed and provided comments on a Trauma Journal article involving turkey hunting related shooting incidents

Information Requests

- Provided information on wild turkey biology and behavior, spring hunting techniques, population management and habitat management to members and non-members from Pennsylvania (17), New Jersey (10), Maryland (5), Delaware (3), New York (2), Connecticut, Colorado, California and Virginia (1 each)

NWTF Technical Committee - *Mary Jo Casalena* had a written report.

Harvest Management

The statewide Fall 2004 turkey harvest was approximately 25,868 turkeys (Table 1). This was 6% below the preliminary fall 2003 harvest (27,413), and 21% below the previous 10-year average (32,560). The highest harvests were in WMUs 2D (2,246), 2G (1,933), and 2C (1,767), comprising 8.7%, 7.5%, and 6.8% of the statewide harvest, respectively (Figure 1). The smallest harvests occurred in WMUs 5D (19), WMU 5C (417), and 3D (884). The fall season was closed in WMUs 5A and 5B. The average statewide harvest density was 0.57 turkeys harvested per square mile. Harvest densities were highest in WMUs 2D (0.90), 4B A(0.90) and 4E (0.87), and lowest in WMUs 5C (0.02), 5D (0.19), and 3D (0.40). We do not have estimates of hunter effort or success rates. Table 1 also contains the final spring 2004 turkey harvests.

The current tally of spring 2005 turkey season report cards received to date in Harrisburg is approximately 16% below last year's tally for the same time period. Final figures will be available during the next reporting cycle.

Fall 2006-Spring 2007 Wild Turkey Season/Bag Limits

Beginning this October, hunting seasons and bag limits will be proposed during the October Board of Commissioners meeting, instead of during the January meeting.

Wild Turkey Management Plan Revision

The plan has been reviewed within the PGC, and was distributed to the PANWTF board of directors for comments. The PANWTF board provided comments to the PGC regarding the draft revision, and met with the Bureau of Wildlife Management on May 31 to discuss these comments. After another revision and review by the PGC Executive Office, the plan will be made available on the PGC website for a 60-day review process, after which final revisions will be made prior to signing the 10-year plan by the Executive Director, possibly in October 2005.

2004 Turkey Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents.

There were 5 nonfatal HRSIs during the fall 2004 turkey hunting season. Causes of the incidents were, 1 victim was shot in the line of fire, and 4 victims were shot for game. See attached report, and on our website: www.pgc.state.pa.us, click on Information and Education Link.

Request for Funding (for equipment) for Tri-State Gobbler Leg-Band Study

The PGC, along with New York DEC and Ohio Division of Wildlife submitted a 4-year turkey research study proposal to the NWTf entitled "Wild turkey spring harvest rates and annual survival rates". The main objectives of the study for Pennsylvania are to estimate gobbler harvest rates and survival rates to be used for our population model. The funding decision will be made in August. If funded, the study will begin January 2006. If funded, the PGC will seek financial assistance from the PANWTF to purchase additional turkey trapping equipment and bait, possibly up to \$10-\$12,000 total, based on prices from a few years ago: trapping equipment (e.g., rockets, rocket boxes, charges, wire - up to \$10,000 - 11,000) and bait (\$800 - 900).

Update on Progress of TMA 7B (WMU 5A) Research Study's 8 Management Recommendations -

1. Close the fall turkey-hunting season until spring harvest density reaches 1 turkey per square mile, preferably for three consecutive years to help increase hen survival into the breeding season, which may in turn, help increase the overall population.

2004 was the 3rd consecutive year of fall season closure. Average spring harvest density currently is approximately 0.4 turkeys/square mile.

2. Do not transfer turkeys into the WMU to augment the population. Improving survival by restricting fall hunting and improving habitat (see Recommendations #4 & 8) will have farther reaching and longer term results.
3. Continue the cooperative project with the PA National Wild Turkey Federation chapters and local orchard owners to help prevent poisoning of turkeys by placing rodenticides in enclosed bait stations rather than broadcasting it in the orchards.

NWTF Regional Biologist, *Bob Eriksen*, is coordinating this effort.

- 4 & 5. Try to improve turkey poult survival (one factor that the study showed may be limiting the population), by maintaining and/or improving brood habitat.

We are in our 3rd year of a 5-year study to monitor turkey brood use of the permanent herbaceous openings within the Michaux State Forest, to determine whether or not turkeys and broods are using these habitats, and whether improving the habitat will increase poult survival. Monitoring is being done by local NWTF chapter members, who conduct the bi-weekly surveys of turkey use during the summer, at 10 of the 40 openings.

6. Maintain road closures on the Michaux State Forest during the spring gobbler season and throughout the turkey-nesting season to decrease disturbance to nesting hens.
7. Continue the long-term monitoring of turkey sightings on the Michaux State Forest to evaluate the impacts of these management strategies on the population.

2005 is the 8th consecutive year of surveys. This long-term data set is a valuable tool for monitoring the turkey population trend.

8. Improve overall wild turkey habitat within the Michaux State Forest by:
 - a. Conducting timber stand thinning in 15- to 20- year intervals to improve survival and growth of oaks, and remove less desirable species, such as red

maple and birch, and

b. Removing shrubs such as laurel, blueberry and huckleberry in areas where they are too extensive, to encourage growth of other shrubs and plants that are more beneficial to turkey nesting and brood habitat.

Beginning this year, the Michaux State Forest will conduct timber stand improvements to encourage growth of the more desirable mast producing oak species. Also, the Michaux State Forest plans to conduct some controlled burns in timber harvest areas to decrease the dense understory where it is too thick to promote species more desirable to wild turkeys.

Cal DuBrook spoke on cost cutting maneuvers instituted by the PGC.

NWTF Board Member - *Ron Fretts* was absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Promotional Committee Report - *Skip Sanderson* had a written report.

Not much activity over the past months. We may have received about 20 new license plate applications.

Promo sales have been slow despite ads in "Turkey Talk." About \$400 was turned over to the treasurer.

Each One Reach One is a great disappointment. We have barely had 30 members recruited, much less than the 300 we hoped for to give the gun away.

NWTF JAKES Fund Treasurer's Report- *Bill Mackereth* presented a written report.

Treasurer's Report 6/3/05

Checkbook Balance 3/6/05

\$18,749.04

Income:

NONE

Expenses:

Terrace Mt.	21	105.00
Mill Creek	20	100.00
Chesquehanna	60	300.00
Mason Dixon	56	280.00
Lakeland L.B.'s	60	300.00
Anthracite L.S.'s	84	420.00
Col-Mont Gob's	72	360.00
Muncy Creek	44	220.00
Susquehanna Loc.	50	250.00
Foothill Spurs	56	280.00
Michaux Y.B.'s	140	700.00
Lower Bucks	214	1070.00
Kit-tan-Ne	4	20.00

Total Expenses

\$4405.00

Checkbook Balance 6/3/05

\$14,344.04

Public Relations - Don Heckman had a written report

April 6th - I will be attending and representing the PA Chapter NWTF at the first of several PA Coalition meetings to address the PGC Hunting License Increase Package options. *Jerry Zimmerman* and *Bob Eriksen* are alternates. You all have the latest emails. I will present the turkey hunting license as an option for consideration for the Coalition. Meeting will be held at the PFSC office in Harrisburg. **PGC hunting license increase proposal - options have been given to PGC and House G&F Committee, we need to act on their request for status of membership support. Executive Committee and Board of Director's action. Turkey hunting license Benefits statement is being finalized, so far it's still part of hunting license increase package options.**

2. Revised PGC Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania - still revised Plan to review and provide state chapter Board member comments, no date as to when the revised plan will be available for that purpose, or when PA Chapter NWTF will be meeting with PGC to review the revised Plan prior to PGC signature. No date when the revised Plan will be signed. *Don Heckman's* 21 recommendations have been presented to *Mary Jo Caselana* and we have talked through these considerations and recommendations. I reviewed these 21 recommendations at the March Board meeting for your consideration. **Meeting held on Tuesday, May 31st, I'll report my findings at the Board meeting, following Mary Jo Caselanas Technical Committee report. Executive Committee review, Board meeting update.**

3. Second spring gobbler tag recommendations, we approved our support statements at the March Board meeting to make our recommendations for new regulations to start the second spring gobbler tag in spring 2006. Since this is a brand new hunting tag, season and bag limit regulation, category for the PGC, we need to stay on top of the proposed regulations the Commissioner's will be voting during their April 26th meeting. **Board of Commissioner's approved directing Staff to administer the second special spring tag stating Spring 2006. No further Commissioner regulation was adopted. Staff now will write and approve what ever regulations they deem necessary to support the special additional tag. They must complete in time for printing tags and getting information into the Hunting Digest. Our recommendations have been submitted as part of the April Commissioner meeting public comment, and inserting in our recommendations for the revised wild turkey management plan. Executive Committee review, Board meeting update.**

4. PA Chapter NWTF news releases - completing our winter/spring release agenda, preparing our fall release agenda. *Bob Kasun* is doing a fantastic job sticking to my news release schedule, he has even established some new releases on his own, he is doing a great job as PR Representative. He is on schedule and is always looking for news and information to be released. What has Board Members, Committee Members, NWTF Staff given *Bob* for PANWTF news releases so far this year, your input and ideas are important. There is only so

much information Bob can take from the PANWTF web site or Turkey Talk or NWTF news releases, you have to help provide him the rest of the story from the field. Executive Committee review, Board meeting update.

5. *Bob Kasun* - Where we need to improve?

- Promoting our press releases in our own Turkey Talk publication. That should be corrected.
- We need to get more people involved. We rely on two to three people for comments in these press releases. We need to double that number.
- We need to utilize the group e-mail that I have developed with media contacts.

I'm more than willing to send out notices or stories at the state chapter level or work with local chapter to try to drum up more publicity. If you're holding a big JAKES event and you want me to send out a notice of the event to the state media, I can do it in five minutes and there is no charge to anybody.

Needs input and feed back for remaining new releases for the rest of the year.

Habitat Report - *Reed Johnson* had a written report.

The conservation seed program is nearly completed, most all chapters have picked up their seed that they ordered. Several Chapters who did order seed, did not pick up at this time. There is extra seed that was left over and if anyone knows of a chapter that has a place to store it, please call and make arrangements to pick up the extra. Please note that I would like to have the paper work back as to who and where the seed was given.

State agencies that received seed were PA Game Commission, D.C. N. R, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Allegheny National Forest and State and Local Municipality the had Local Chapter project done on their lands.

Also, thanks to the PA Game Commission Land managers and the D.C.N.R. District Foresters & Raystown Lake, who offer their assistance in transporting seed to local chapters.

Finance Committee - *Jim Panaro* presented a vocal report. Typically our timing is meeting through the summer and bringing our preliminary budget for next year to our next board meeting. If you think you need more money, please look over the budget and let me know.

Dart System - *Dwight Kuntz* presented a vocal report. Reported that 3 guns are not working.

***Rick Stutzman* moved to have the 3 guns repaired, seconded by *Reed Johnson*. Motion carried.**

Calling Contest Committee - *Greg Caldwell* had a vocal report. Still undecided - the contest will be at BASS Pro in Harrisburg or the Altoona Convention Center.

Safety Education Committee - did a radio interview message that aired at the end of the April 40 various stations across the state. Reserved the Tyrone Sportsman Club for the August meeting. Sent two samples of turkey tissue. Youth hunters - 7 out of 8 of the youth killed a turkey.

Communications - Were passed around to the Directors.

OLD BUSINESS

Don Heckman - 30th Anniversary articles.

Don Heckman discussed the Turkey Hunting License Proposal Benefits.

Why should Turkey Hunters support a Turkey Hunting License?

- Turkey populations peaked in 2001 above 400,000, now it is around 340,000, which is still around 344,000 state-wide average from 1998-2003.
- When it comes to turkey hunting, we are in the “good ole days” - but those times may not always be here.
- With over 290,000 estimated turkey hunters and relatively little work dedicated specially to research and management of the wild turkey resource and turkey hunters, these “good ole days” could quickly become a thing of the past.
- We need to act NOW to assure that turkey numbers remain high for the future.
- A steady source of funding for the management plan will allow the Game Commission to manage wild turkeys and turkey hunting more efficiently and effectively.
- PGC Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania, which specifies how the Game Commission is to manage wild turkeys through the year 2005, has not been fully implemented because of a lack of adequate funding. The revised management plan, which will be approved in 2005, will be a 10 year plan, 2005 - 2015.

How will a Turkey Hunting License help?

- Improved and more detailed information on wild turkey harvest will become available.
- Better research data to provide the information Biologists need to make management decisions.
- Leg banding and radio telemetry studies will provide better research data and information to the Game Commission for their needs to make management decisions.
- Leg banding and radio telemetry studies will provide better research data and information to the Game Commission for their needs to make management decisions.
- More habitat enhancement projects on state lands will attract turkeys and provide better hunting opportunities
- Turkey hunter safety material will be provided directly to turkey hunters. Turkey hunting safety could be improved.
- Better Law Enforcement aimed specifically at wild turkey violations.
- Turkey hunter opinions and satisfaction levels will be acquired more efficiently because PGC will be able to contact turkey hunters directly.
- PGC Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania will be more fully funded and more successful.

How will the average Turkey Hunter benefit?

- This license will help ensure the future of the hunting you enjoy.
- Funds will provide turkey hunters with specific turkey hunting and turkey biology information, turkey hunting safety and ethics material.
- Turkey hunter surveys will give you the ability to express your concerns and opinions about turkey management in the Commonwealth.
- Additional funds could be used for purchasing more game lands, providing additional public lands to hunt.
- Improved habitat may provide additional hunting prospects.
- Better research data and hunting information about our turkey populations could result in expanding hunting opportunities in the future.

Our wild turkey resource is a valuable asset to Pennsylvania. We have managed the resource for nearly a century using the very basic information available to biologists. In the 21st century it is time to manage wild turkeys with the best available in the field, on the ground, information. A turkey hunting license would be able to fund additional wild turkey research, improve methods to provide better wild turkey management data, provide turkey hunter information, and ensure a bright future for these great birds in Pennsylvania.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by *Dave Burdge* and seconded by *Tom Bunty* to revisit the setting aside of funds for the Superfund account. Motion carried.

***Don O'Brien* moved to table the discussion on the set-aside of funds for the Superfund, seconded by *Gary Beatty*. The motion to talk failed.**

After additional discussion, *Reed Johnson* moved we take the monies left over in the Superfund account each calendar year and set it aside to build up the Superfund account to a cap of \$250,000, seconded by *Jon Pries*. Motion carried. *Dave Burdge* moved to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by *Don O'Brien*. Motion carried.

Don Heckman spoke on House Bill 904 + H.B. 927 regarding Sunday hunting. Considering that two major hearings on Sunday hunting will be taking place in June, we are being asked to give testimony at Rep. Smith's June 9th committee meeting. We should consider these two: 1) House Bill 904 (HB904) (meeting scheduled for June 9th) That would do away with our current Blue Law, allow the PGC to determine hunting seasons seven days a week and let them consider Sunday hunting on a case by case, species by species basis, but only after their usual 90 day public comment period and public meeting. OR 2) House Resolution 927 (HB927) (report scheduled for June 15th) A study of the potential economic, social and other impacts of expanding Sunday hunting Pennsylvania. (Comments might include some of the costs that probably won't be discussed such as taking a day's vacation to get a two day weekend, overcrowding caused by jamming all weekend hunters into one day

and the resultant potential for increased conflicts (effects on recruitment, etc.)

Haven't heard of any statewide sportsmen's groups opposing HB 904 that would let the PGC handle the issue...but the PFSC does seem undecided and recently requested members voice their opinions so they could decide if they wanted to speak out for or against game management by our professional game managers.

The NRA's been vocal on the issue and recently issue a Fact sheet entitled The Truth About Sunday Hunting: Why Hunters Shouldn't Be Treated as Second-Class Citizens where among other things, they state: Quote: This opposition to Sunday hunting is in act opposition to the future of hunting itself. **Gary Beatty moved that the board support H.B. 904, seconded by Dwight Kuntz. Motion carried.**

Jerry Zimmerman reminded the board regarding the Leadership Conference and Workshop, August 7, 2005 at the Ramada Inn, State College, PA.

Regarding the "Youth Mentored Hunting Program", Don O'Brien moved we support the program with \$7,500 from the general fund and \$2,500 out of the Superfund to bring the PA Chapter's donation to the "Youth Mentored Hunting Program" to \$10,000, seconded by Jon Pries. Motion Carried.

Drawing for the "Upper Level Gun Raffle." Winners were:

- 1) *Sam Popovich*
- 2) *John Flasher*
- 3) *Mike Pruss*
- 4) *Jeff Taylor*
- 5) *Ed Eisenhouer*

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Jerry Zimmerman brought up the health condition of *Culver Dunkleberger*. Secretary to send a "Get Well" card.

Carl Mowry mentioned that a soldier from Butler was killed in Iraq. He asked that we remember the soldiers, *Carl Morgan* family for their loss.

Dwight Kuntz moved that we adjourn, seconded by Rhonda Henry. Motion carried. The June Board meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Submitted by,

Bill

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.panwtf.com E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

1

*Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF
Annual Meeting
DCNR Office Building, Elliott Park
Clearfield, PA
March 6, 2005*

The Annual meeting was called to order at 9:16 a.m. by Chairman of the Board *Carl Mowry*. After the welcome, call to order, Pledge of Allegiance, and reviewing the meeting ground rules, Chairman *Carl Mowry* had the secretary *Bill Mackereth* call the roll of officers and directors. Officer and Directors present were:

Directors Present: *G. Alwine, G. Beatty, T. Buntz, D. Burdge, D. Butler, Sr., G. Caldwell, D. Heckman, R. Henry, G. Huff, R. Johnson, B. Mackereth, S. Motts, C. Mowry, D. O'Brien, J. Panaro, D. Sanderson, R. Smith, D. Strawbridge and R. Stutzman.*

Directors absent: *C. Gouker, Jr. and D. Kuntz.*

NO OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers:

Dave Burdge was nominated President. *Don O'Brien* moved nominations be closed, seconded by *Don Heckman*. Motion carried.

Gene Alwine Burdge was nominated Vice President. *Rick Stutzman* moved nominations be closed, seconded by *Gary Huff*. Motion carried.

Bill Mackereth Burdge was nominated secretary. *Don O'Brien* moved nominations be closed, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion carried.

Jim Panaro Burdge was nominated treasurer. *Reed Johnson* moved nominations be closed, seconded by *Rick Stutzman*. Motion carried.

Carl Mowry Burdge was nominated Chairman of the Board. *Gary Beatty* moved nominations be closed, seconded by *Jim Panaro*. Motion carried. Directors until 2008.

Bill Mackereth moved to accept the seven directors as elected to the board by the membership, seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried.

The seven directors are:

Don Heckman, Jim Panaro, Skip Motts, Rick Stutzman, Greg Caldwell, Don O'Brien and *Jon Pries*

Moved by *Dave Burdge* to adjourn the annual meeting, at 9:26 a.m., seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried.

Pennsylvania Chapter NWTf
Board of Directors Meeting
DCNR Office Building, Elliott Park
Clearfield, PA
March 6, 2005

The regular Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Board Chairman *Carl Mowry* at 9:28 a.m. Chairman *Carl Mowry* moved into:

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT REPORT - *Carl Mowry* had a written report.

SECRETARY REPORT - *Bill Mackereth* had a written report. *Rick Stutzman* moved to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* had a written report. Report for period January 1, 2005 through February 28, 2005. Starting Balance \$47,078.82. Income \$34,638.49. Expenses \$41,077.92. Ending Balance \$40,639.39. Net Gain (Loss) (\$6,439.43). Moved by *Don O'Brien* and

seconded by *Gene Alwine* to approve the Treasurer's report as printed.
Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT - *Dave Burdge* had a written report.

NWTF REPORTS

SENIOR REGIONAL SUPERVISOR - *Jerry Zimmerman* presented a vocal report.

Membership: 18,763 as of February
Super Fund Balance: \$ 79,744.11

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

National Convention: Nashville, Tennessee
40,208 in attendance--400 booths--many celebrities
Entertainment was outstanding--ran smooth, best ever
Calling contests--120 entries in the 6 calling contests
Matt VonCise, Grand Valley, PA--winner of Senior Division

Dakota Clouse, Danville, PA--won the Junior Division for the 3rd time @ age 13

PA won national award for highest net/net \$ in county with \$648,787

PA also took 6th place in the over 10,000 members category in the LA Dixon Outstanding Chapter Award

New Chapter - 5W Allegheny County - Steel City Spurs - first banquet June 4, 2005
- had 2 meetings so far 16 people in attendance and good mix of young and old, men and women and business backgrounds

JAKES Hunt 05 - plans progressing well with *Skip Motts/ Bob Eriksen*
- guns have been bought and picked up by the girls who are on the hunt
- I have received their clothing sizes for their camo suits
- Mountain Hollow Game?? to provide guides and turkey calls for girls

Senior Regional Director - *Bob Farkasovsky* was absent.

Women's Regional Field Supervisor - *Tammy Mowry* was absent but submitted a written report.

Pennsylvania Update:

- The Women in the Outdoors membership in Pennsylvania is currently at 2,036.
- We currently have 20 events scheduled and numerous others that are pending. I am hoping that we will be able to reach my goal of 25 events in the state. Any

help you can give me to identify chapters, facilities, or businesses that would be willing to host an event would be greatly appreciated. Or, if you know of anyone who would be interested in instructing at an event, please let me know. We are always looking for ideas for new classes and instructors.

- The State event will be taking place April 1 -3 at Camp Soles in Somerset County. We would appreciate any help that the Board would be willing to give this weekend. We currently have approximately 70 women registered for the event.
- Thank you to the State Chapter for purchasing kayak paddles and life vests that can be used with the kayaks that were donated by Gander Mountain last fall. With the help of Bass Pro's discount we were able to get the paddles and life jackets for \$234.46. Thank you again!
- Congratulations to these events that received an award or recognition at the National Convention:

Muncy Creek Chapter

1st Place Runner Up - \$4,855 Net Dollars

Best Overall New Event - Highest Net Dollars

Muncy Creek Chapter

Honorable Mention

Best Overall - First Time event

Wilhelm Chapter

Honorable Mention, 107 participants

Best Overall Membership Achievement

PA State Chapter

Honorable Mention, 145 participants

Best Overall Membership Achievement

Wind Ridge Sportsmen's Club and Greene County Tourist Promotion Agency

Winner

Highest Net to Gross Percentage Between \$2,000 and \$2,999

Southeast Silver Spurs

Winner

Highest Net to Gross Percentage Over \$3,000

PA State Chapter

Honorable Mention

Best Overall State Event

Northeast Regional Biologist - *Bob Eriksen* had a written report.

Writing Projects

- Prepared two news tips for the NWTF Communications Department on projects in Maryland and Ohio
- Drafted two articles for the spring issue of "PA Turkey Talk"
- Wrote one article for the New Jersey Chapter newsletter and one article for the New York Chapter newsletter

Meetings and Presentations

- Attended the Turkey Hunter Safety Task Force meeting in Edgefield, SC and made presentations on issues affecting safety
- Met with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Bureau of Wildlife Management on the draft wild turkey management plan
- Presented a power point on crop damage to a meeting of NYDEC and the New York Farm Bureau
- Attended the January Pennsylvania Game Commission meeting
- Planned and participated in Habitat Pro Staff training for pro-staffers from Pennsylvania and New York
- Attended a meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter Habitat Super Fund Committee.
- Attended the National Wild Turkey Technical Committee meeting and served as moderator for a session on crop depredation and other problems associated with abundant wild turkeys
- Presented a power point summarizing the Turkey Hunter Safety Task Force meeting at the Law Enforcement session during the NWTF Convention
- Provided a slide presentation on wild turkey hunting and management at a sportsmen's night meeting in Shippensburg, PA
- Attended a "kick-off" meeting for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation/Nisource Habitat Management Grant project to be done on State Game Lands in southwestern Pennsylvania
- Presented a lecture on wild turkey ecology and management to a wildlife management class at Richard Stockton College in New Jersey
- Attended an Energy for Wildlife meeting with representatives of Consul Energy
- Attended a Super Fund banquet hosted by the Kit-Nan-Ne Gobblers local chapter in New Jersey
- Attended the NWTF Research Grant Committee meeting in Nashville

Super Fund Projects

Processed 28 Super Fund project requests for Maryland, 32 requests for Pennsylvania, 3 requests for Ohio and 1 request for New Jersey.

Special Projects

- Reviewed the Pennsylvania Deer Management Report
- Reviewed Grant - in = Aid Project Proposals

NWTF Technical Committee - *Mary Jo Casalena* was absent. Written report was presented by *Don Heckman*.

Harvest Management

Final fall turkey season report card figures currently are being tallied in Harrisburg and will be sent to me within the week for analysis.

Fall 2005 Wild Turkey Season Recommendations

At this time, the season recommendations that were presented at the January Commission meeting will remain the same. Fall 2004 turkey harvest data are not yet available, however these data are not used for season recommendations because factors that affect fall harvests are related more to fall mast production and weather during the hunting season than the actual population size. Also, winter 2004 -05 conditions have not been severe, and these current late winter snow conditions do not pose a threat to winter survival. At the statewide level, wild turkeys are expected to enter the spring breeding season in good physical condition, which is an important factor in the turkeys' ability to breed.

Recommended Change in Spring Season Limit to Two Bearded Birds

Currently no mandatory, reporting process will be pursued. However, this information would be helpful in determining exact increase in harvest due to the additional tag.

The Bureau of Wildlife Management recommended the increased bag limit for the entire season. *Don Heckman* inquired about the possibility of limiting it to the last two weeks of the season. Below is information taken directly from the Spring Turkey Hunting Options paper prepared for the PGC Board of Commissioners by *Bob Eriksen* and I, Dec. 2003.

"Current hunter support for a two-bird spring bag limit is not strong. The 2001 Turkey Hunter Survey showed 54 percent disagreed with a two-bird spring bag limit, 30 percent agreed and 15 percent were undecided. The option of harvesting the second bird during the second half of the spring season received the least hunter support during the 2001 Turkey Hunter Survey, with only 19 percent agreeing, 58 percent disagreeing, and 23 percent undecided. When New York State instituted a second bird spring bag limit in 1982, they restricted harvesting the second bird until the second two weeks (but not two during the second half) to spread the harvest among hunters. In 1988 they changed to allow one bird anytime during the season and the second bird during the second two weeks. In 1991 it was determined that the size of the turkey population (250,000) and spring harvest levels (35,000-39,000) provided ample hunting opportunities throughout the season, and the season was opened to two birds throughout the season, one turkey per day. Current hunter success rates in New York (20 - 30 percent) are only slightly higher than Pennsylvania (20 percent).

If the increase in Pennsylvania's bag limit to two birds (one per day) is restricted to the second half of the season, the total harvest with this option would be slightly less than having the entire season open to harvesting a second bird, hunter pressure would be dispersed throughout the season, and hunters would lose interest in hunting toward the end of the season. With the majority of the hen population incubating by this time, hen disturbance would be low. The main difference would

be that the harvest during the second half of the season would have less impact on hens than during the first half of the season.”

The paper was prepared prior to enactment, or consideration, of HB 2042. In our executive summary, *Bob Ericksen* and I made the following recommendations: “The authors recommend either extending hunting hours during these second half of the spring season, a two-bird spring bag limit during the second half of the season, or allowing a two-bird spring bag limit if the hunter forgoes a fall turkey. These options have low potential for adverse biological impacts. Support for any of the options presented in this report is currently not widespread. Hunters tend to be conservative in approaching changes in seasons and bag limits. Therefore it is recommended that an educational outreach program be developed to inform hunters of the benefits and impacts of any change.” *Bob Ericksen* and I made those recommendations based on the fact that PA turkey hunters tend to approach change conservatively. However, a 2-bird bag limit for the entire season is fine for the turkey population, AS LONG AS THE SEASON OPENS AROUND THE PEAK OF NEST INCUBATION, AS IT CURRENTLY DOES, which limits hen nesting disturbance and illegal/mistaken hen mortality. A look at New York’s history with introducing a multiple bird bag limit shows that the turkey population can support a two-bird bag limit throughout the entire season. Therefore, instead of making all those same unnecessary changes in bag limits, the Bureau of Wildlife Management recommended to keep it simple and begin with a two-bird limit for the entire season.

Wild Turkey Management Plan

The revision of the 1999 plan is progressing and the document is almost ready for public review/input (hopefully by the end of March). The PANWTF and NWTF Regional Biologist, *Bob Eriksen*, along with other stakeholders will be involved with the meeting on the revision, which will be scheduled approximately 30 days after the document is sent out for review.

Note: The NWTF is drafting a North American Wild Turkey Management Plan. During their 2004 survey they determined that 45% of states and provinces had no formal wild turkey management plan, and over 50% had not included habitat management, habitat protection and land acquisition elements into their wild turkey planning efforts. These elements are listed in our plan.

NWTF Turkey Hunting Task Force

The Pennsylvania Game Commission Executive Director, *Vern Ross*, participated in this meeting that was held at NWTF Headquarters in January.

PANWTF Habitat Superfund Committee

Pennsylvania Game Commission technical committee member, *Mary Jo Casalena*, and Chief of Game Lands Planning and Development Division, *Brad Myers*, are members of this committee. During the February 13, 2005 meeting, the committee approved funding for 66 projects plus the seed subsidy program for a total of \$164,393.50 for wild turkey habitat throughout Pennsylvania. Of these projects, the Pennsylvania Game Commission will receive funding of \$83,971.10 for 46 projects on State Game Lands and cooperator lands, for 2005. In light of the Game Commission’s current budget shortfall, when dollars for planning and

implementation of wild life habitat work are so critical, it is through cooperators such as the PANWTF, that the Game Commission is able to continue its mission.

Wild Turkey Habitat Management Information

The Pennsylvania Game Commission adapted information from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation website regarding information and recommendations on how to manage habitat for turkey nesting, brood rearing, late summer, fall, and winter habitat. This is practical information for landowners, and will be posted soon on the Pennsylvania Game Commission website, under the wild turkey section.

29th Annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show, Nashville, TN

Thanks to the support from the State Chapter, the Game Commission once again had excellent representation at the Convention. PGC attendees were Commissioners *Russ Schleiden*, and *John Riley*, Executive Director *Vern Ross*, Bureau of Information and Education Marketing Specialist *Bob Wesoloskie*, Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year award recipient *Bill Williams*, Land Management Officer of the Year award recipient *Dale Hockenberry*, and PGC-NWTF Technical Committee Representative *Mary Jo Casalena*.

NWTF Board Member - *Ron Fretts* was absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PA CHAPTER NWTF/JAKES Fund - *Bill Mackereth* presented a written report.

Treasurer's Report 3/5/05

Checkbook Balance 1/7/05	\$35,034.04
Income:	NONE

Expenses:	PA Chapter Payment		\$15,000.00
	Northwest T. T	23	115.00
	Del. Co. L.B's	91	455.00
	Nittany Valley L.B."	30	150.00
	Lake Region L.B.s	12	60.00
	Yellow Creek	90	450.00
	Nittany Valley L.B."	11	<u>55.00</u>

Total Expenses:	\$16,285.00
-----------------	-------------

Checkbook Balance 3/5/05	\$18,749.04
--------------------------	-------------

Habitat Report - March 2005 - *Reed Johnson* had a written report.

66 projects were approved at the February 13, 2005 meeting.

Total dollars: ~~\$164,393.50~~ for habitat.

Seed program: seed is starting to arrive.

Due to the cost of seed this year, there has been a decrease in the amount needed so there will be less seed ordered this year.

At this time, most of the seed is coming within the state and this should cut the cost on shipping.

Promotional Committee Report - March 6, 2005 - *Skip Sanderson* had a written report.

Promotions - Another great sales period since the convention, Thanks to new items, "Turkey Talk" and the website. We had over \$1,200 in sales promotional items since the Rendezvous. I believe, sales at the Rendezvous topped \$1,500. This is despite delays in delivering of several items, especially the money clips. We still have a lot of work to do to move the remainder of the high priced items. I have had to reorder hats and t-shirts. The promo ad will run again in the next "Turkey Talk". I would encourage Board Members to purchase and display the new merchandise at their local chapter meetings so members can see them first hand. That might improve sales. I have a good supply of everything with me this weekend.

License Plate - We have 46 new license plates on the road so far this year. Do you have yours? I can still assign some low numbered plates.

Each One Reach One - I have received about eighty new members for the Each One Reach One program. Far short of what I had hoped. One chapter asked about upgrading from a regular member to a sponsor member. *Carl Mowry* and I thought it would be worthwhile to include the upgrade as a new membership and include the recruiter in the drawing as a new sponsor. I was really hoping to have three hundred new members by now so we could include the winner of a gun in this upcoming "Turkey Talk".

Reserved Numbers - The letters to reserved number holders have been mailed (except board members will be hand delivered this weekend). April 6th should be the deadline for people to continue to reserve their number if they so desire. Unfortunately, I had now are to update any addresses. It will be interesting to see how many come back undeliverable.

I sent a copy of the list to *Melissa Ball*. I have not heard anything from her.

PA Chapter Legislative Committee Report - 3/6/2005 - *Don Heckman* had a written report.

1. PFSC overview of 2005 legislative bills impacting hunters, anglers, trappers, has been distributed.
2. PGC Hunting License Increase in 2005 - 2006 - update and considerations.
3. PGC Commissioner seat vacancies - Senate appointments update.
4. *Gary Haluska* turkey hunting license legislation - status
5. Growing Greener II initiative.
6. Other questions.

PFSC Convention Question Results Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Club Committee -

1. Do you support PGC Deer Management Program. 15 yes - 8 no
2. Do you support antler restrictions. 17 yes - 4 no

- 3.
4. Do you support bringing the deer herd in balance with its habitat. 20 yes - 0 no
5. Should doe license allocations be reduced state-wide. 14 yes - 6 no
6. How much - 10% - 8 agreed
30% - 8 agreed
6. Would you support doe license allocations by WMU 19 abstain - 0 no
7. Would you support a PGC hunting license increase. 12 yes - 6 no
8. How much should the increase be if legislated. \$5 - 9 agreed -- \$10 - 7 agreed
9. Do you support increasing the various tags and stamps (separate from the hunting license). 7 yes - 12 no

Opinions of the PA Chapter NWTB Board of Directors and not representative of our members.

Do not volunteer these answers until we find out where they are going with these answers.

Ray Smith moved that we abstain on all voting on the Deer Management Issue, but we support Scientific Based Management for all wildlife species, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.

Public Relations Update - Greg Caldwell

Communications - Carl Mowery had a written report.

29th Annual National Wild Turkey Federation Convention and Sports Show in Nashville, Tennessee, February 17-20, 2005 was rewarding for PA Chapter.

Don O'Brien received the prestigious Roger Latham Sportsman's Service Award, *Don O'Brien* is on the PA Board of Directors and is the past President and Chairman of the Board. He is also a District Director for the State Chapter. *Don O'Brien* is also a member of the Susquehanna Long Beards Chapter. He has helped with turkey hunting safety classes, JAKES Day, Women in the Outdoor Events, Chapter Banquets and other functions. Congratulations *Don O'Brien*.

The PA Chapter received 1st place in the 2004 L.A. Dixon JR. Memorial Outstanding Award for the highest total net/net dollars raised.

The PA Chapter received 6th place in the 2004 L.A. Dixon JR. Memorial Award in the over 10,000 membership class.

The Blue Mountain Chapter received the One Half Million Dollar Club Award for moneys raised date their banquets.

The ~~Shermans Valley Strutters~~ Chapter received an award for 2nd runner-up for the best Net to Gross percentage in the country with a Net to Gross of 127%

The Muncy Creek Chapter received 1st runner up for the best overall new event in the Women in the Outdoors category.

The Wind Ridge Sportsman's Club and the Green County Tourist Promotion Agency won 1st place for the Women in the Outdoors event with 147% net to gross. In the \$2,000.00 to \$2,999.00 category.

The Southeast Silver Spurs Chapter's Women in the Outdoors event received first place with 112% net to gross in the 3,000.00 and greater category.

The ~~Wilhelm~~ Chapter received honorable mention for 107 members at their Women in the Outdoors Event.

The Pennsylvania State Chapter received honorable mention for 145

members at there Women in the Outdoors Event.

The NWTF Grand National Calling Contest winner in the Junior Class was *Dakota Clouser* of Danville, PA.

The Wild Turkey Bourbon/NWTF Grand National Calling Championship Senior Division winner was *Matthew Van Cise* of Grand Valley, PA.

Congratulations to all of our winners!!!

OLD BUSINESS

Don Heckman - *Tom Fagley's* Book, he thanks us for his support.

***Don Heckman* moved that the PA State Chapter NWTF will run *Tom Fagley's* Book ad for the second time in the Fall issue of "Turkey Talk" 2005, seconded by *Jim Panaro*. Motion carried.**

30th anniversary "Turkey Talk" article, ready to go with the history of PA Wild Turkey management. Center section for this article. RE printed update of a great article that *Bob* and *Mary Jo* put together and published in *Game News* October 2003 entitle PA Wild Turkey Management.

Carl and *Dave* will do a write up following the NWTF article that was in the fall issue. Article on the how the PA Chapter has been supporting NWTF for 40 years, *Jerry* and staff have worked and wrote an article down to their level in the state and local chapter level. The third article is the Turkey Management article that *Bob* and *Mary Jo* are doing. the Fourth article will be the summer issue, deadline of June 1st, *Carl* and *Dave* will write with consultation from *Larry* and *Jerry*, drill it down to the local chapter and the volunteers. October fall issue 2005 asked for a PGC article on how the PA Game Commission is appreciative of the support of the PA Chapter NWTF for 30 years. Not sure if this article will be written. *Bob* is working on the NWTF Convention Award, run a news release on the State Chapters accomplishments and successes at the National Convention. Spring Gobbler message, spring hunting news release which needs to be out the 1st of April. *Jerry* and I have talked about Turkey Management is not Deer Management and the reasons why, working on an article for the summer issue.

Carl Mowry congratulated *Don O'Brien* on receiving the Roger Latham Sportsman's Service Award. *Carl Mowry* reviewed all the PA Awards.

NEW BUSINESS

George Conz is having health problems and declined the board of directors position.

***Gary Beatty* nominated *Skip Motts*. *Don O'Brien* moved nominations be closed, seconded by *Dave Burdge*. Motion carried. *Skip Motts* will replace *George Conz* on the State Board.**

Don O'Brien moved we donate a print to PA Northcentral Conservancy, seconded by **Jim Panaro**. Motion carried.

Greg Caldwell moved to move the Master Calling Contest to Bass Pro Shop in Harrisburg or to Altoona Outdoor Times Hunting And Fishing Show, seconded by **Jim Panaro**. Motion carried.

It's called the "Wilson F. Moore Memorial Invitational Master's Calling Contest".

Don O'Brien - amendment - moved we remove the word "Invitational" from the title of the contest to read "Wilson F. Moore Memorial Masters Calling Contest, seconded by **Skip Motts**. Amendment carried.

The motion now reads "to move the Wilson F. Moore Memorial Masters Calling Contest to Bass Pro Shops in Harrisburg or to the Altoona Outdoor Time Hunting & Fishing Show. Motion carried with **Don Heckman** abstaining.

Jerry Zimmerman - at the Rendezvous **Scott Bashore** paid for his own room.

Dennis Strawbridge moved that the board reimburse **Scott Bashore** for the cost of his room at the January Rendezvous, seconded by **Rick Stutzman**. Motion carried.

Don Heckman moved that PA Chapter allow the 30 anniversary print by **Melissa Ball** to be used in the GiClee process to be submitted for the core package at nationals, seconded by **Reed Johnson**. Motion carried.

Jim Panaro moved that the finance Committee target only a 15% reserve in the State Chapter's treasury, seconded by **Gary Beatty**. Motion carried.

Greg Caldwell moved that the State Board pledge \$2,500 for the promotion and expense of the Youth Mentoring Program, seconded by **Skip Sanderson**. Motion carried.

The main motion is amended, the motion from "donation to "pledge seconded by **Tom Bunty**. Amendment carried.

Bill Mackereth moved the State Board give their annual donation of \$1,000 for YHEC Board for expenses and two prints for the Jr. and Sr. winners of the YHEC contest, seconded by **Jim Panaro**. Motion carried.

Carl Mowry discussed the Dart system being in down.

Don Heckman talked about the Laser System. Dwight wants to fix the old system.

Carl Mowry discussed the budget and the Superfund. Need to cut \$23,000 to maintain where we are at to be safe. The executive committee will recommend all projects, Safety Education and Land Acquisitions be put on hold until the June board meeting, by then we will have more banquets in. All five star projects will continue.

***Gene Alwine* moved we set aside \$50,000 a year for a five year period to build up the Super Fund account to \$250,000, seconded by *Jim Panaro*. 8 yes to 6 no and 4 abstained. (According to Robert's Rules of Order, abstained votes count as no votes. This motion did not pass and must be revisited).**

***Tom Bunty* moved that the State Chapter pay the PGC Digest Ad of \$5,400, seconded by *Rick Stutzman*. Motion carried.**

The State Scholarship winner is *Amanda Call* from the Mill Creek Chapter. She won \$1,000.

Moved by *Don O'Brien* to donate \$500 to Hunters Sharing the Harvest, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion carried.

***Carl Mowry* reviewed the survey from "Turkey Talk". There were 316 surveys returned to date. The results will be published in "Turkey Talk".**

***Don Heckman* moved we recommend the 6 bullets to PGC Commissioners in April, seconded by *Rick Stutzman*. Motion carried.**

***Don Heckman* moved to recommend the 12 bullets to the PFSC, seconded by *Reed Johnson*. Motion carried.**

Revised the Wild Turkey Management Plan recommendations as per Don Heckman Wild Turkey Management Committee Chairman and the PA Board of Directors.

Don Heckman commented on the Turkey Hunting License being included with Hunting License increase package.

Jim Panaro is to ask *Rep. Haluska* to take his HB 2325 as supported by the PANWTF Board of Directors to *Rep. Bruce Smith* to gain bipartisan support to make a turkey hunting license part of the 2006 license fee increase package. The State Board concurred.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Don O'Brien thanked *Dave Burdge* and *Gene Alwine* for answering the call. Thanked *Don Heckman* for keeping us informed and our feet to the fire. *Don Heckman* thanked *Carl Mowry* for his dedication to the State Board for the past four years and President and Chairman of the Board.

For the 3rd highest state in net dollars in the county *Jerry Zimmerman* and *Larry Holjencin* presented *Carl Mowry* Chapter President a framed print.

***Rick Stutzman* moved that we adjourn, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion carried. The Board meeting adjourned at 5:05 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.panwtf.com E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

1

Directors are to review the PA Chapter's Long Range Plan and bring the LRP with you to the March meeting. The LRP will be reviewed during the meeting.

Saturday, March 5, 2005-Scholarship Committee meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 5, 2005-Executive Board meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Both meetings are at *Bill Mackereth's* camp.

Sunday, March 6, 2005-State Board meeting at the State Office Building of DCNR at Elliott Park at 9:00 a.m.

*Pennsylvania Chapter NWTf
Board of Director Meeting
Ramada Inn
State College, PA
January 9, 2005*

Directors Present: G. Alwine, G. Beatty, T. Bunty, D. Burdge, D. Butler, Sr., D. Heckman, R. Henry, G. Huff, D. Kuntz, B. Mackereth, S. Motts, C. Mowry, J. Panaro, D. Sanderson, D. Strawbridge and R. Stutzman.

Directors absent: G. Caldwell, C. Gouker, Jr., R. Johnson, D. O'Brien and R. Smith.

The January 9, 2005, PA NWTf Board meeting was called to order by *Carl Mowry*, State Chapter President and Chairman of the Board, at 9:10 a.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, introduction of guests, and reviewing the ground rules, Board Chairman *Carl Mowry* moved into:

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT REPORT - *Carl Mowry* had a written report.

SECRETARY REPORT - *Bill Mackereth* had a written report. *Don Heckman* moved and *Dave Burdge* seconded the motion to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* had a written report. Report for period October 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004. Starting Balance \$44,580.37. Income \$15,871.41. Expenses \$13,381.73. Ending Balance \$47,070.05 . Net Gain (Loss) \$2,489.68. Moved by *Bill Mackereth* and seconded by *Dwight Kuntz* to approve the Treasurer's report as printed. Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT - *Dave Burdge* had a written report.

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Michell Richards from Big Brothers Big Sisters reported on the "Pass It On" program. Looking to find mentors to take kids hunting and fishing. "Pass It On" is a National program and began in Kansas. Kansas Wildlife Department had a concern for youth involvement in the outdoors. Mentoring encourages long term commitment for youths to be involved in the outdoors. Kansas Wildlife Department became a partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Pennsylvania is the second state to be asked to get involved. Trying to raise funds to get this started in Pennsylvania. Looking for sponsors. Looking for people to get involved with the kids on a long term basis. Thousands of kids without mentors, these kids are at risk or disadvantage kids; that is why they need mentors. The kids are excited that they can get into the outdoors with a mentor, and that an adult takes an interest in them. They want to fish, hunt and hike. There are thousands of waiting lists. There is a lot of potential in PA to match kids with mentors. Discussed the turkey youth hunt event. Equipment, time, mentors and sponsorship of different events are needed. Asked to pass around a sign-up sheet.

NWTF Board Member Ron Fretts discussed the PA Youth Mentored Hunting program. This program is only in the planning phase.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, we stand at the brink..."

At the brink, that is, of one of the greatest opportunities we may ever have as legislators to:

- 1) Make a dramatic and positive influence on the future of the PA Game Commission.

- 2) Pay a great respect to the senior hunters of our Commonwealth.
- 3) Enable our youths - the true future of hunting as we know it in Pennsylvania - to learn the needed outdoor skills, ethics, responsibility, and sportsmanship from our greatest cadre of mature and learned hunters ever living.

We have before us, a grand "window of opportunity" - to join the majority of states throughout our nation that currently either has no minimum age restriction to hunting, or who have enacted some form of youth mentored hunting.

Over the past several months, a committee of twelve individuals representing various sporting organizations and interest from throughout the Commonwealth, have met to draft a legislative proposal of Youth Mentored Hunting that encompasses the following items:

- 1) So as to create a one-on one hunting experience, Youth Mentored Hunting should consist of one adult, one youth, and one hunting device.
- 2) We should have a mentoring adult permit and fee.
- 3) The age of 6 should be the age at which to begin Youth Mentored Hunting.
- 4) A youth in the Youth Mentored Hunting Program between the ages of 6 - 11 should not have to take the HTE exam.
- 5) The age of the mentor should be 21 years of age minimum.
- 6) All mentors must provide proof of having passed the HTE, and be properly licensed.
- 7) A mentored youth must be within arm's length of the mentor at all times while hunting.
- 8) Seasons and bag limits should be set by the Commissioners and initial species to be considered would be deer, turkeys, squirrel, and groundhogs - with other species to be considered where and when appropriate.
- 9) The one lawful hunting device must be carried by the Mentor while in transit.
- 10) The Pennsylvania Game Commission should create 2 videos regarding Youth Mentored Hunting - one for public service and one for use by the mentors.

These above items should make up the heart of any legislation that creates a Youth Mentored Hunting Program in the state of Pennsylvania.

Please keep in mind that the purpose of this legislation is to allow new and younger hunters to enter the realm of outdoor experiences under the direct supervision of an adult that are available throughout our state, thus providing

them with a heretofore never available option. The "quality time" that can thus be shared between a youth and a mentor is immeasurable. There simply is no better way to introduce a youth to the safe aspects and responsibilities of hunting than with the close supervision of an adult mentor that this program would enable.

Traditions would be preserved, memories of a lifetime would be created, and values that will carry throughout life will be learned.

In a world in which we all seem to have less and less time, and we never seem to place the proper value on the truly important things, there can be no greater way to instill values, provide the ideal time and place to teach conservation, respect, and the responsibility we all have as caretakers of our streams and forests, than by adopting a Youth Mentored Hunting Program in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

It would provide, after all, a valid and valuable alternative to time spent by youths that say they have "nothing to do", or say that they are "bored" or, worst of all, fall into the wrong routines that lead to misconduct, lack of self respect, and sometimes the eventual experimentation with alcohol and drugs.

NWTF REPORTS

SENIOR REGIONAL SUPERVISOR - *Jerry Zimmerman* presented a vocal report.

Membership:	19,841	Adults:	10,487
		JAKES:	6,907
		WITO:	2,019
		WS:	428

Super Funds Available: \$390,984.83

Banquets Generated: 375,897.06

Expenditures: 326,076.25

Super Fund Balance: \$ 64,908.58

Shawn Rypka is no longer with NWTF. Wheelin' Sportsman's new coordinator is *Mark Belthouse* -cell phone #616-366-1506, Holland, Michigan.

National Archery in the Schools - Coordinator is *Denise Raum* - 1-800-829-7408, ext. 205. 20 schools signed up in Pennsylvania. Training course for the trainers in Feb. 5 & 6 at the Game Commission headquarters in Harrisburg. On Feb. 7 trainers will hold training schools for the teachers in the Eastern part of Pennsylvania. Feb. 8 training session for the teachers in the Western part of Pennsylvania.

REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - Larry Holjencin had a written report.

National Convention: Still have rooms - in Opryland (no other hotels contracted with us)

Booth space: sold out with waiting list

Thursday PM: *Aaron Tippon*
Fiddler Foresters

Tracy Byrd

Chuck Lavelle - Rolling Stones - piano

Saturday: *Allyson Krause Union Station*

PA has 4 tables reserved - we still have 3 spots on Thursday - 4 spots on Friday - 3 on Saturday to sit with our group

30th Anniversary Gun: bought Remington 870 - Special Edition with laminated stock

- Putt Rohm laser etched the stock and Belco Tool in

Meadville laser etched the receiver

- talked about doing a raffle thru our local chapters where the

local chapter would get to keep a percentage of the money from ticket sales and state chapter would get a percentage - low cost ticket \$1/chance or 6/\$5

- great opportunity to provide revenue to the state and local

chapters. From the local chapters perspective its nice because they have no investment in the gun, but get to keep 1/2 the money

Senior Regional Director - Bob Farkasovsky presented a vocal report. Net \$8,000 last year on the gun raffle. May 22 Women's Sportsmen Benefit shoot in Green County. Changing format to a fund shoot and a target shoot.

Women's Regional Field Supervisor - Tammy Mowry had a written report.

Pennsylvania Update:

- Our membership stands at 1,978.
- We currently have 18 events scheduled for this year. I am hoping that we will be able to reach my goal of 25 events in the state. Any help you can give me to identify chapters, facilities, or businesses that would be willing to host an event would be greatly appreciated. Or, if you know of anyone who would be interested in instructing at an event, please let me know. We are always looking for ideas for new classes and instructors.
- My annual Leadership Workshop was held yesterday for those who are interested in learning about the WITO program and coordinating an event or who are currently coordinating WITO events.
- Awards were presented last night at the annual banquet.
- I designed a new website for PA WITO, the address is www.pawito.com. The website is also linked to the Ste Chapter's website.
- The State event will be taking place April 1 - 3 at Camp Soles in Somerset County. We would appreciate any help that the Board would be willing to give

- this weekend. We're anticipating reaching if not exceeding the number of participants we had last year.

National Update:

Interviews took place earlier this week for our National Coordinator position and the various Regional Coordinator positions that are open. Decisions will be made in the near future.

- Headquarters made a change in the way events are charged for insurance. In the past each event was charged \$150. Beginning January 1, the events will not be charged this fee.

Northeast Regional Biologist - Bob Eriksen had a written report.

Writing Projects

- Three articles were prepared for the winter edition of "Pennsylvania Turkey Talk" covering Super Fund habitat projects and the potential impact of increasing the spring gobbler season bag limit.
- Articles on the reasons for declining spring harvests and lack of gobbling in 2004 were written for the New York and Ohio Chapters newsletters.
- Two articles on Pennsylvania projects and one on a New York project were written for "The Caller".
- Prepared articles on fall turkey hunting techniques and safety considerations for "On Target", a publication of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and "Pennsylvania Outdoor Times".
- Wrote the first draft of an article on all day spring gobbler hunting for "Pennsylvania Game News".
- Prepared a letter to the governor for the New Jersey Chapter concerning black bear hunting and the integrity of the Fish and Game Council.

Super Fund Projects

- Processed 10 Pennsylvania Super Fund Project request forms.

Meetings and Presentations

- Attended the October board meetings of the Pennsylvania and New York State Chapters.
- Attended the All Bird Conservation Workshop sponsored by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.
- Presented a power point show on wild turkey habitat management at a "Women in the Outdoors" dinner sponsored by the Cortland Limbhangers and the Central New York Chapters.
- Participated in an "Energy for Wildlife" partners meeting in New Jersey.
- Conducted interviews for the northeast regional biologist position.

Information Requests

Handled nine information requests from Pennsylvania, five from New York, two from New Jersey and one from Ohio. Requests ranged from questions about wild turkey behavior to harvest strategies and nuisance complaints.

Special Projects

- Worked with New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and Virginia Tech University on a grant proposal for the analysis of data for a gobbler survival study that is nearly completed in the Garden State. This radio-telemetry study was initiated five years ago and will be complete in March of 2005.
- Completed the placement and removal of remote cameras in five vineyards in New York and Connecticut and completed the preliminary analysis of the data collected over the last two fall seasons. This information will be further analyzed, pooled with the data collected in California and will be presented in a scientific paper in the next year.
- Provided input and advice on the planning and preparation of a grant proposal for funding of a tri-state (Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio) gobbler banding study. This research will be aimed at determining harvest rates and examining gobbler survival under three different harvest regimes.
- Completed the final draft of a peer-reviewed paper on the incidence of wild turkey damage to agricultural crops in the United States and Canada for the Wildlife Society Bulletin.
- Participated in the Thanksgiving Media Release of wild turkeys in northern Virginia with Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries personnel and NWTF staff.

NWTF Technical Committee - *Mary Jo Casalena* had a written report.

Harvest Management

Current report cards received from the fall 2004 wild turkey season are up 3% from the same time last year, but down 22% from 2002. Final report card figures will be available in March.

PRELIMINARY 2004 Turkey Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents

The preliminary Spring 2004 Turkey HRSIs were nine (9), with no fatalities. The other two incidents were not turkey related. All victims were shot for game. All victims and hunters were hunting.

A preliminary result for the Fall 2004 turkey season was one (1) incident, which was not fatal. The victim was shot for game, and both the hunter and victim were hunting. Summaries for spring and fall seasons are provided at the end of this report.

Wild Turkey Productivity

The statewide index of turkeys seen by Wildlife Conservation Officers for 2004 (15.4 turkeys seen/1,000 km) was slightly greater than those seen in 2003 (11.9 turkeys seen/1,000 km), but less than those seen 2002 (19.3 turkeys seen/1,000 km). Sightings increased from last year due to much better weather conditions for reproductive success. Even though there was above average rainfall during the first hatching peak, (late May - early June), most rain events were late afternoon showers accompanied by warm temperatures, which did not seem to affect poult survival. Compared to the baseline year of 1995 with an index of 14.4 turkeys seen, the 2004 index was 7 percent higher. The highest index year was 2002 with 19.3 turkeys

seen/1,000 km, when spring weather conditions were not very favorable, but the population of adult hens was very high and they came into the spring breeding season in good condition due to a mild winter with abundant food supply. In contrast the winter of 2003 was very cold with above average snowfall and below average mast supply causing turkeys to come into this spring in lower physical condition. Even so, poult production appeared to be slightly above the previous 5-year average given the good sighting index.

Wild Turkey Season Recommendations

The following recommendations will be presented to the Commissioners for the 2005-2006 Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons:

Fall 2005:

WMU	Sporting Arm	Dates	Daily and Season
2A & 2B	Shotgun/Archery	Oct. 29 - Nov. 19	Limit - 1
1A & 1B	Shotgun/Archery	Oct. 29 - Nov. 12	
2C, 2E, 4A, 4B, & 4D	Rifle/Shotgun/Archery	Oct. 29 - Nov. 12	
2D, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C & 4E	Rifle/Shotgun/Archery	Oct. 29 - Nov. 19	
5A & 5B	Closed		
5C & 5D	Shotgun/Archery	Oct. 29 - Nov. 4	

Changes from 2004 -Decrease WMU 1A from 3 weeks to 2 weeks, and decrease WMUs 5C & 5D from one week to 6 days by removing the last Saturday and end the season on Friday.

Spring 2006 Season Recommendation

Statewide Youth Hunt April 22, 2006 Daily Limit = 1
 Spring Gobbler Statewide April 29-May 27, 2006 Daily Limit =1

Recommended Change in Spring Season Limit - As per recent state legislation (HB 2042), we are recommending an increase to one (1) additional bearded bird with appropriate additional license during the spring season, statewide, one bearded bird per day. Recommending that licenses be sold PRIOR to the spring season, administered through Harrisburg office. Season limit will be two (2) bearded birds, with appropriate license. Turkey hunters are still eligible to harvest one (1) bearded bird with the general hunting license, without purchasing the additional license.

Wild Turkey Management Plan

The first revision of the 1999 plan is progressing. Public review should begin later this winter. The PANWTF and NWTF Regional Biologist, *Bob Eriksen*, along with other stakeholders will be involved with the revision.

Turkey Genetics Study

Sampling materials for collecting tissue samples of harvested turkeys during the fall 2004 season were distributed to board members as well as Game Commission WCOs throughout the south central PGC region. This was the final sampling season of the study being conducted by Utah State University.

30th Annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show, Nashville, TN

Thanks to the support from the State Chapter, the Game Commission will again have excellent representation at the Convention. PGC attendees will be Commissioners *Russ Schleiden* and *John Riley*, Executive Director *Vern Ross*,

Bureau of Administrative Services Director *Carl Roe*, Bureau of Information and Education Director *Carl Graybill*, Bureau of Information and Education Marketing Specialist *Bob Wesoloskie*, Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year award recipient *Bill Williams*, Land Management Officer of the Year award recipient *Dale Hockenberry*, and PGC-NWTF Technical Committee Representative *Mary Jo Casalena*.

Population dynamics of a declining wild turkey population in southcentral Pennsylvania (TMA 7B turkey study)

A manuscript on the results of this radio-telemetry study was submitted to the peer-reviewed proceedings for the 9th National Wild Turkey Symposium, December 2005, Grand Rapids, MI. If the manuscript is accepted, I also will present the paper at the symposium.

Gary Haluska - Representative Dem. Chair of Sportsman Caucus in House of Representative spoke on legislative processes and the license increase and a second Turkey Tag. PA General Assembly has had a Sportsman Caucus, has not been real effective, not able to get everyone to meet. The Senate and the House have been included. Hard to schedule meetings. Out of the 203 members probably 10% are hunters and/or anglers. We are trying to get those people interested in the sportsmen's issues. Fish Code and the Game Code and fee increases have to go through the House and the Senate. We meet with the Game Commission once a year to get updated and to ask questions. The Fish Commission got their license increase and registration increase. Should carry them for the next six - eight years. Commissioners wanted to shut the hatcheries down, but didn't. Growing Greener needs funds. Would like to see the hatcheries fixed by public tax dollars. Bill to add an extra tag for turkey, will let it up to the discretion of the Game Commission, will it be a Spring tag or a Fall tag? \$10 dollar for in state, \$20.40 for out of state. I tried to amend it; any monies raised would go to the turkey management plan; it would be a Spring tag only, I added four or five amendments to it. Game Commission will get in line for a license increase. Last increase was in 1998. Legislation is in place to add the second tag, but that will be at the discretion of the Game Commission. Trying to cut down on the paper work for people who sell the hunting license. Get what you want in order so when the Game Commission comes to you and they want your endorsement, you can present them with what you want. I will help you get it into legislative form. Game Commission will come after this price increase soon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NWTF/JAKES Fund - Bill Mackereth presented a written report.

Treasurer's Report 1/7/05

Checkbook Balance 10/8/04	\$12,451.04
Income: 1945 Raffle Tickets	<u>38,900.00</u>
Total	\$51,351.04

	10	
Expenses:	Bob's Army & Navy (1st Payment)	\$10,000.00
	Lehigh Valley 103	515.00
	James Wilhelm 89	445.00
	Lower Bucks L.B.'s 105	525.00
	Susquehanna Local 6	30.00
	Bob's Army & Navy (Final Payment)	<u>4,802.00</u>
Total Expenses:		\$16,317.00

Checkbook Balance 1/7/05 \$35,034.04

RAFFLE SUMMARY

Total Deposits (2155 @ \$20) =		\$43,100.00
Expenses:	Sporting Arms \$14,802.00	
	Malone Printing 257.90	
	Postage <u>26.07</u>	
Total Expenses:	\$15,085.97	
Total Profit:		\$28,014.03
	Payment to State Chapter	<u>15,000.00</u>
	Available for JAKES	\$13,014.03

$$13014 \div 5 = 2603 \div 2155 = 1.2$$

Promotional Committee - *Skip Sanderson* presented a written report.

The response to the Promotional Committee ads in the last edition of "Turkey Talk" generated a phenomenal response. I have sold nearly \$700.00 in merchandise and sent about 30 applications for license plates. I think the timing in conjunction with Christmas was excellent.

I worked with *Walt Young* to have a 30th Anniversary promotional item page placed in the next edition of "Turkey Talk". Long sleeve T-shirts hats, knives and money clips were ordered. All except the money clips are ready. The money clips will not be ready until February 25, 2005. Zippo will not have any money clips to engrave until then.

The 30th Anniversary, "Each One Reach One" Membership Drive is underway. Eight letters to potential corporate sponsors were mailed. Except for Bass Pro Shop, I haven't heard of any follow-up contact with the other potential sponsors. The final plan is to raffle a gun for every three hundred new members with extra chances given for banquet, sponsor and banquet sponsor members; a turkey call from River Valley Game Calls for each member who recruits new members (only one call no matter how many members); and \$20.00 Gift Card to Bass Pro Shop if any member recruits twenty or more members.

I prepared a letter for our reserved number collectors. I have not been able to complete the database and mail the letters.

Website Update - *Don Heckman* had a written report.

PA Chapter web site has seen significant changes in the last 3 months. Log on to www.panwtf.com and see and read the updates.

Latest News updates are timely and provide the reader with current information.

New PA Chapter WITO link has been established, *Tammy Mowry* has developed her own web site, *Joe Kuhn* just links to it. Now to get the PA Chapter JAKES site link established and then a PA Chapter Wheelin' Sportsman site link...

Merchandise/Promotional items site link has been established - *Skip* now has his very own inventory, sales, promotional, link.

"Turkey Talk" improvements - *Walt* and *Lance* - have created the opportunity to create site links that can be added to the PA Chapter web site.

"Turkey Talk" link is absolutely incredible - the newsletter is better than ever, and the link *Lance* sends to *Joe* to upload is fantastic.

Turkey Management - developing a what is happening in PA section, thanks to *Bob Eriksen* and *Mary Jo Casalena* for the informational articles.

News Releases from *Bob Kasun* are being posted.

Articles - informational, educational, articles being added to the site links for your use when you need material to cover the issues.

Add the Membership Drive information

Add 30th Anniversary merchandise promotional item link

Still looking to add a Local Chapter site link to upload Local Chapter events and happenings - similar to "Turkey Talk" listing *Walt* was referring

Need to update some of the older site links, habitat, safety and hunting, PANWTF at a glance - PANWTFhistory - PANWTF super fund (update with new name) - to update and present current information and material

New ideas are needed...

We are finally able to promote a web site worthy of our Chapter's and our volunteers efforts and accomplishments. Changes continue to improve the web site and as always our input is vital, more information on what this organization is doing and accomplishing is needed - describe it - document it - download it. At last count there was over 200 pages on the web site. Pretty neat stuff when one looks at the yearly calendar of events and state and local chapter accomplishments...

Together we've come a long way since I first proposed the home page idea to the Board of Directors several years ago, built the early prototype material, and our webmaster got it up and running, your job is to help keep it current and continue to TELL THE STORY!!!

Legislative Report - *Don Heckman* had a written report.

Title 34 - Game Law Bills signed by the Governor.

HB 331 - (PN 377) Amends Title 34 (Games) to issue a lifetime permit to hunt with a crossbow to an individual who presents a doctor's certificate showing that the individual is unable to hunt with a traditional bow and arrow. Additionally, a temporary crossbow permit valid for one license year would be issued to an individual who presents doctor certification that he/she is unable to hunt with a bow and arrow due to temporary disability.

6-17-03 G Approved by the Governor (Act:6)

HB 514 - (PN 1792) Amends Title 34 (Game) to exempt spent rifle and shotgun shell casings from the prohibition against littering. Additionally, "normal hunting activities" is redefined to exclude circumstances when a person has fired more than six rounds from a stationary position. (Prior Printer's Numbers: 608)

3-24-04 G Approved by the Governor (Act:20)

HB 565 - (PN 3985) Amends Title 34 (Game) by changing the term "archery deer hunters" to the broader term "persons hunting with bow and arrow or crossbow." This would be effective for the hunting license year commencing July 1, 2004 (changed from July 1, 2003). (Prior Printer's number: 667)

6-23-04 G Approved by the Governor (Act:43)

HB 659 - (PN 4057) Amends Title 34 (Game) further providing for lawful cooperation or assistance by unlicensed persons. Under this legislation, an individual may participate in hunting or trapping activities without a license provided that he/she accompanies a licensed hunter, does not possess any firearm, has proper protective materials, is listed on any applicable roster, complies with regulations and the ratio of licensed hunters to non-licensed hunters does not exceed 1:1. The unlicensed person must always be in sight and close enough to a licensed hunter who is at least 18 years old to clearly hear and understand instructions through normal conversation. (Prior Printer's Numbers: 765, 3594)

6-28-04 G Approved by the Governor (Act:48)

HB 1972 - (PN 2571) Amends Title 34 (Game) by defining the offense of resisting or interfering with an officer and failure to produce identification. If an individual fails to produce identification to an officer he/she would be guilty of a summary offense of the fifth degree. If an individual produces false identification, he/she would be guilty of a summary offense of the second degree.

6-23-04 G Approved by the Governor (Act:42)

HB 2042 - (PN 4058) Amends Title 34 (Game) creating a special wild turkey hunting license to be used to harvest excess turkeys in the state. The special wild turkey hunting license would cost \$20 for a PA resident and \$40 for a nonresident. (Prior Printer's Numbers: 2692)

7-2-04 G Approved by the Governor (Act:53)

HB 2326 - (PN 4713) Amends Title 34 (Game) by adding that within ten days of a big game kill, the individual must report the kill in the manner prescribed by commission regulations. Currently, the individual is required to mail in a "report card" that is supplied with the hunting license. The legislation also increases the antlerless deer license fee to \$7 for residents and \$27 for nonresidents. (Prior Printer Number:3247)

11-29-04 G Approved by Governor (Act:162)

SB 586 - (PN 1203) Amends Title 34 (Game) by adding a \$1 Resident military personnel hunting license. The reduced fees are available to state residents who are on active and full time duty, are assigned to a non-Commonwealth facility, and who are on temporary leave in the state. Additionally, it changes the effective date of the legislation to July 1, 2004. Provides for denial or revocation of hunting

licenses. (Prior Printer's Numbers: 648,896)
12-30-03 G Approved by the Governor (Act:63)

Title 30 - Fish and Boat Law Bills signed by the Governor

HB 2155 - (PN 4688) Amends Title 30 (Fish) providing for auditing and reporting; and further providing for classes of fishing licenses, permits related to fishing, fishing license fees and boat registration fees. The legislation requires a performance audit of the commission for the concluding fiscal year to be conducted by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee. The audit would be submitted to the Game and Fisheries Committee and the Appropriations Committee of the Senate and House by July 1, 2007 and every three years thereafter. The legislation also increases license and permit fees and creates a one-day fishing license. (Prior Printer's Number: 2927, 468811-29-04 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 159)
Misc Bills Signed by Governor

HB 657 - (PN 4772) Amends the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act providing for the definitions of "agritainment," "county commissioners" and "recreational activity"; and further providing for the definition of "forest reserve", for land devoted to agricultural use, agricultural reserve and/or forest reserve, for responsibilities of county assessor and for roll-back taxes and special circumstances. The legislation states that a tract of land enrolled in either the agricultural use or forest reserve land use category and otherwise eligible for preferential assessment would not be deemed ineligible because the owner or the tract of land permits or authorizes, or has permitted or authorized, a recreational activity on the tract. Additionally, the legislation authorizes the County Commissioners to adopt an ordinance to include farmstead land in the total use value for land in agricultural reserve and in the total use value of land in forest reserve. Farmstead land located within an area enrolled as agricultural use would be assessed at agricultural use value and) farmstead land located within and are enrolled as agricultural reserve or forest reserve would be assessed at agricultural use value if a majority of land in the application for preferential assessment is enrolled as agricultural use land or in the circumstance that noncontiguous tracts of land are enrolled under one application, a majority of land on the tract where the farmstead land is located is enrolled as agricultural use land. (Prior Printer Number: 0763 2747 4458)

12-8-04 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 235)

Communication- displayed on the board - board members can read at their leisure.

OLD BUSINESS

Skip Sanderson - membership drive

-election of Board Members - get ballots in

NEW BUSINESS

Don Heckman moved that PA Board renew the dues of \$1,500 fo PFSC,

seconded by *Skip Sanderson*. Motion carried.

Don Heckman moved that the PA Board pay the POWA dues of \$100 = \$8 book, seconded by *Gary Beatty*. Motion carried.

Gary Beatty moved that we pay the Ned Smith Center dues of \$100, seconded by *Dennis Strawbridge*. Motion carried.

Gary Beatty moved that we donate a Gerald Putt print to the DCNR Building at Elliott Park, seconded by *Skip Sanderson*. Motion carried.

Tom Bunty moved that *Jerry Zimmerman* pick up items for the WCO & LM Awards, seconded by *Rick Stutzman*. Motion carried.

Gary Beatty moved that the chapter purchase 5 paddles and 10 safety vests to use with the WITO Kayaks, to be superfunded up to \$350, seconded by *Skip Motts*. Motion carried.

Don Heckman moved that the State Chapter pay for 2 youths - 1 room, 2 nights for \$150, seconded by *Dwight Kuntz*. The youth will be from the Governor's Youth Sportsman Council. Motion carried.

Rick Stutzman moved that the PA Chapter raffle off the Limited Edition Remi Model 870 - the shotgun is a #1 of only 1, seconded by *Gary Huff*. Motion carried.

Don Heckman moved that the PA Chapter NWTF donate \$25 to the PA Taxidermist Association for use of ESOS, seconded by *Gary Beatty*. Motion carried.

The future of the Chapters Calling Contest was discussed. The Calling Committee will meet to discuss and make a recommendation.

Gary Huff moved to adjourn at 4:14 p.m., seconded by *Rick Stutzman*. Motion carried.

Submitted by,



Bill Mackereth, Secretary
PA Chapter NWTF