



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: The Executive Board will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, January 5, 2007.

The Annual Rendezvous and Banquet will be held Saturday, January 6, 2007 starting at 5:30 p.m.

The Annual Meeting and regular State Board of Directors Meeting will be held Sunday beginning at 9:00 a.m.

All meetings will be held at the Ramada Inn in State College.

1

*Pennsylvania Chapter NWTf
Board of Directors Meeting
Elliott Park, PA
October 7, 2006*

Directors Present: *G. Alwine, G. Beatty, T. Bunty, D. Burdge, Sr., D. Butler, G. Caldwell, P. Ferrare, D. Heckman, R. Henry, G. Huff, R. Johnson, D. Kuntz, B. Mackereth, S. Motts, D. O'Brien, J. Panaro, J. Pries, D. Sanderson & H. Shields.*

Directors absent: *D. Strawbridge & R. Stutzman*

The October 6, 2006 Board meeting was called to order at 9:14 a.m. by Chairman of the Board *Gary Beatty*. After the welcome, call-to-order, Pledge of Allegiance, introduction of guests, opening prayer and reviewing the ground rules, Chairman *Gary Beatty* called for:

*Guests:

OFFICER REPORTS

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

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

SECRETARY REPORT - *Bill Mackereth* had a written report. *Don O'Brien* moved to accept the secretary's minutes as printed, seconded by *Jon Pries*. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* had a written report. Report for period August 1, 2006 through September 30, 2006.

Starting Balance \$47,118.16. Income \$15,993.27. Expenses \$13,923.77. Ending Balance \$49,187.66. Net Gain (Loss) \$2,069.50. **Moved by Bill Mackereth to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Jon Pries. Motion carried.**

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - *Gary Beatty* had a vocal report.

NWTF REPORTS

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

LA Dixon Criteria - at August board meeting I went over the criteria for this award. *Don Heckman* mentioned the points awarded for Super Fund dollars spent should be higher. I agreed and asked *Carl Brown* to consider changing it, which he has done. The new criteria gives one point for every net dollar raised and one point for every dollar spent through the Super Fund.

Benelli Super Black Eagle Raffle - Chapters can participate in a non-banquet raffle in 2007. Regional directors have the details and will be discussing it with chapters that they feel may be able to participate in this raffle.

PGC - We had a productive meeting with them to discuss three important issues, which *Dave Burdge* will cover.

Habitat Letter - went out announcing conservation seed, seed subsidy, habitat projects and operation Apple seed Easter, PA will have there own distribution center. *Tom Bunty* will take seed orders and *Reed Johnson* and *Dale Butler* will handle storage and distribution.

Banquets RD's have begun meeting with chapters to plan for 2007 banquets. We ask that you help us get the information needed to ticket each of your banquets such as date, price, "ship to" person, FFL dealer, etc.

Ned Smith - *Jerry Regan* of the NSCNA has agreed to increase the number of prints to 90 next year to allow us to have a print for each banquet. They gave us 80 in 2006 and we had 82 banquets.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR - *Carl Mowry* had a written report.

PA Membership Numbers:

Adult =	9,844
WITO =	2,210
JAKES =	11,415
HH =	869
WS =	<u>720</u>
TOTAL =	25,058

New Chapter Start Up Meeting in Shippensburg, PA.

Looking for a couple more areas for chapters in my region.

New District Director - *Gary Huff*.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR - *Ray Smith* had a written report.

National Convention - Convention will be held Feb 23-26, 2007 Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center. Rooms are \$155 per night. The number is 888-777-6779. If you are interested in sitting with the Pennsylvania people. Apply by mail with the registration form in "Turkey Talk" and send them to *Dave Burdge*. Those chapter Presidents that get there Wed., a special Presidents Breakfast will be held at 8:30 AM. Leadership meeting at 10:30 AM. Thursday night entertainment as follows, *Arron Tippon, Rhett Akein, Craig Morgan, T-Bubba*. Friday night - Auction and Gobbling Contest, Saturday Speaker Governor of Arkansas *Mike Huckabee*. Entertainment to be announce.

PA State Awards Banquet - The awards dinner will be held January 6, 2007 at the Ramada Inn at State College. Speaker on tap *Bob Eriksen* on Black Bears and *Scott Bashore* on Turkey Dogs.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - *Tammy Mowry* had a written report. Our membership is currently at 2,210 WITO members in the state. Nationally, we have almost 44,000 members.

Plans are underway for the March 2007 State event. We are looking for classes and instructors. If you know someone who would make a great instructor, please let me know. Or, if you have a new idea for a class, I'd like to hear about that also.

I am still in the process of scheduling events for 2007 and am always on the lookout for new areas that events can be held. If you have any suggestions that can help me identify individuals, 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.

PGC Partnership will be signed and finalized.

"Turkey Talk" articles - please copy me so we don't miss out on articles.

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

- Completed articles on the recent membership survey, fall hunting safety and Super Fund habitat enhancement projects for the fall issue of "PA Turkey Talk"
- Completed articles on the tri-state gobbler banding project for the New Jersey and Maryland Chapter newsletters
- Wrote a comment letter for the chapter to submit to the Game Commission at their October meeting
- Submitted a draft and final report to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation concerning the Rights-of Way Habitat Enhancement Project the organization funded on State Game Lands 232 and 302 in Washington County
- Reviewed WHIP Program proposals for New Jersey NRCS and WHIP Program practice for the Vermont and Pennsylvania NRCS

Woodland Landowner Events

- Planned and conducted landowner field days on the Glatfelter Tree Farm Number One in Adams County and the Abranovic Farm in Armstrong County. Both events were highly successful though attendance was less than anticipated. Participants rated both programs highly.
- Participated as a session speaker in a landowner field day in Jefferson County sponsored by Penn State Forestry Extension

Meetings and Presentations

- Attended the quarterly board meetings of the Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey Chapters and the Pennsylvania Chapter Leadership Workshop
- Met with Maryland Department of Natural Resources and New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife wild turkey biologists to work in the North American Wild Turkey Management Plan information for those states
- Attended a meeting with Delaware State Chapter members of the Delaware Department of Forestry to discuss habitat projects and landowner field days
- Met with members of the Red Rock Chapter and Game Commission land managers to review projects and discuss new projects
- Assisted New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife with the planning of the Northeast Wild Turkey Technical Committee meeting scheduled for this month
- Served as a judge and presented a short summary of wild turkey status in the mid-Atlantic region at the South Jersey Open Calling Contest held at the South Jersey Sportsmen's Jamboree

Super Fund

- Reviewed eleven Super Fund Project requests from Pennsylvania, four from New Jersey, one from Delaware and one from Maryland
- Prepared a summary of Super Fund expenditures for 2006 for the Pennsylvania Chapter for use in budget planning

Information Requests

- Handled seven information requests from Pennsylvania, one from New York, three from New Jersey and one from Kansas

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

Harvest Management -

The preliminary spring 2006 harvest, calculated from report cards, was approximately 44,148, which includes 42,652 (first turkey) + 1,334 (second turkey reports) + 162 (estimated additional second turkey harvests from nonrespondents). Of the 8,041 second licenses sold, 1,334 reported a kill, 3,231 reported no kill, and 3,476 failed to report after a reminder letter was mailed to 1,000 non-respondents. From the reminder mailing, 911 responded. Of those, 42 (5%) harvested a second turkey, and 869 (95%) did not. We used this 5% harvest rate to calculate the harvest of the remaining 3,532 nonrespondents (162). Second license holders are required to mail their report card regardless of whether they harvested a turkey, which is

similar to DMAP.

Spring harvest data and summer sighting data currently are being analyzed to develop season and bag limit recommendations for the 2007-08 turkey seasons, to be proposed at the January Board of Commission meeting.

During the 2005 youth spring turkey season 21% of 101,913 junior license holders participated, i.e., 21,402 youth.

Results of 2006 Michaux State Forest Summer Sighting Surveys -

Thanks to a well-established cooperative effort among the PGC, DCNR Bureau of Forestry, and volunteers from the National Wild Turkey Federation, the 9th year of weekly Summer Sighting Surveys on the Michaux State Forest was completed in 2006 to provide an additional index to turkey population trends besides our harvest and hunting success trend data for WMU 5A. This is the area of the turkey radio-telemetry study where we investigated the causes of the suppressed wild turkey population, and closed the fall season in 2003 to aid in population recovery. Six routes (approx. 30 miles each) were conducted.

Turkey sightings in 2006 were the fourth highest since we began the survey in 1998, with 30.7 turkeys seen per 1,000 miles driven. However, turkey sightings decreased 25% from 2005, which was the second highest sighting (40.9), and 56% from the record sightings of 71.3 in 2004. Turkey productivity (poults per hen) in 2006 (3.0 poults per hen) was the lowest since data have been collected, according to data collected by BOF staff. Productivity normally varies from year to year. Fall turkey hunting in WMU 5A is closed for the fourth consecutive year. The closed season coupled with above average sightings, and a moderate to heavy fall mast crop in the Michaux State Forest provide favorable conditions for over-wintering turkeys and for entering the next breeding season in good condition.

Wild Turkey Management Plan Revision -

An extensive revision was completed and currently is being reviewed by the Executive Director, and is scheduled to be posted on the PGC website next week for a 30-day external review before final adoption.

Wild Turkey Spring Harvest Rates and Annual Survival Rates Study -

During the summer 2 leg banded gobblers were reported dead in New York. Cause of death is unknown, but there is no evidence of anything suspicious about the recoveries.

We are preparing for this winter's trapping efforts, and have received the shipment of 180 rocket charges, as well as additional non-reward bands so we do not have to limit the number of non-reward bands to 150 per state.

Wheelin' Sportsman Coordinator - Jim O'Brien presented a written report.

September 3rd Fishing Event partnering with Autismlink Eighty-Four, PA (Washington County) 37 Children with Autism and families. Just shy of 100 people total.

September 8th - 10th Harrisburg Bass Pro Fall Classic with MYB guys.

Had three Fun and Learn day events (Sept. 16th, 23rd, 30th) at the Spina Bifida Association in Wexford, PA. This could turn into a lot of events at the same facility with different groups.

Attended a banquet in Kittanning with Carl.

October 19th - 21st early Antlerless for Disabled folks who have a hunt from vehicle permit or meet the other restrictions for the season. WMU 2A Greene County Private 400 acre farm I have access to.

Nov. 28th - Dec. 2nd Deer hunts planned in Greene County. If anyone wants to help do drives, etc. let me know (bring your gun as well, got reports this week from the landowner of some nice bucks this year one being a large non-typical). I also got the ok to use the landowners Polaris Ranger as needed to transport hunters.

December 9th Raystown Lake Deer Hunt with the Terrace Mountain Chapter.

Still working on a Continental/driven Pheasant Hunt for January/February. I have been checking various locations to compare prices etc.

April 1, 2007 Cabin Fever Sporting Clays Steak and Shoot. This will be open to all interested shooters. There will be raffles, silent auction, DJ/MC (donated for the event).

I am going to be doing a few other events in other states so if you know anyone disabled who is interested in out of state hunts let me know.

I will be attending a trade show next month (the weekend before Thanksgiving) in Philly with Teftec Inc. Teftec makes the Omega Trac power Wheelchair and they are giving each Coordinator one to use at events. I will be getting the "demo" model when this show is over. Suggested retail on this chair is \$32,800.00.

2007 - 3 fishing events in PA with Grant from Fish Commission \$3,390.00.

NWTF Board Member - *Ron Fretts* not present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

PA Chapter NWTF/JAKES Fund Report			
Checkbook Balance	8/4/06	\$6,991.86	
Income	JAKES tickets	6,040.00	
	Lost Ck. Tuscoma	90.00	
Expenses	Tuscarora L.B. (2nd)	(18)	90.00
	Allegheny Mt.	(45)	225.00
	Mill Creek from LBLB	(200)	1000.00
	Allegheny NH	(17)	85.00

Pocono Mt.	(88)	440.00
<u>Lower Bucks L.B.'s</u>	<u>(100)</u>	<u>500.00</u>

Total Expenses		\$2,340.00
Checkbook Balance	10/6/06	\$10,781.86
Discussed use of bows and firearms - <i>Greg Caldwell</i> .		
Discussed the need for a .22 rifle.		

WITO - *Rhonda Henry* had a vocal report. The PA WITO has opened their own checking account.

"Outdoor Times" - *Greg Caldwell* talked about the Ads for "Outdoor Times".

Masters Calling Contest - *Greg Caldwell* discussed this event.

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

I apologize for missing the last two meetings. BUsiness responsibilities on a Saturday are demanding during the summer months.

Sales of promotional items continue to be slow. I had to order hats and T-shirts. A couple of member of the Board requested T-shirts and they are now available. There are but a few 30th Anniversary T-shirts, too many 30th Anniversary caps, a few 30th Anniversary presentation knives, more of the field grade knives, and too many money clips. There are still a few 25th Anniversary belt buckles. Regular T-shirts and hats are almost gone. Dress shirts remain a problem due to too many shirts in the wrong sizes but there are not a large number remaining. Decals are gone. Patches are limited. There are few other miscellaneous items left over, but again, not many.

An updated complete inventory is now available. I no longer have space to safely store promotional items. I brought the complete inventory with me to the meeting. If I have to take them with me, I cannot guarantee their safety. I think someone who sells on ebay might be able to move some of our pricier stuff at a profit. A PayPal account or a credit card account would be helpful. I researched a credit card account, but they thought it should go through the bank where we do business regularly.

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

I informed the president in January that I would not seek another term on the Board. Juniata River Adventures, Inc. requires too much of my time during the summer months to allow me to attend the meetings and be in touch with what is going on. However, reading Don's emails does give me a feel for what is happening. Therefore, a new chairperson needs to be appointed. I will be glad to assist the new chairperson through my 2007 term. It is a good time to transition, while inventories are low and activities are relatively quiet.

Legislative & Turkey Management Committee - *Don Heckman* reported.

Current Status - waiting on Results, Improving, Planning:

- R1) Revised Wild Turkey management Plan - date
- R2) PGC hunting license increase legislation, PA Sportsmen's Coalition - date
- R3) Turkey Hunting License - position statement, news release, House game and Fisheries Committee presentation, PA Sportsmen's Coalition
- R4) Northeast Wild Turkey Population Model - \$15,000 invested - no results yet - implemented in wild turkey management plan - date
- R5) Second spring gobbler tag results - first year data
- R6) State-wide Gobbler leg band research - first ever state-wide wild turkey research project - no chaos, no crisis, loss of 17 year worth of on the ground growth data
- R7) Wild Turkey Biologist's White Paper to Board of Commissioner's and PGC Staff
- I8) Turkey hunter safety and ethics - HRSI are on the decline - what are we doing to promote additional hunter safety programs - what to work on to keep prevention in the continued decline - what about spring season orange.
- I9) Wild turkey population growth - review chart in revised WTMP - fluxations but no dramatic declines - future goal
- I10) NWTF turkey management outreach programs - Wild Turkey Woodlands, fund HHSF Habitat, Safety Education, Land Acquisition, Habitat programs - seed programs, Johnny Apple seed, Get In the Game
- P11) October 2-3 Commissioner meeting - PA Chapter comments - 2007-fall season lengths - 2nd gobbler tag recommendations -extend spring season to May 31
- P12) WMU 5A WTTF meeting on October 17 - I am hosting follow-up meeting to 1996 (1999-2001) 2006 - dramatic population decline, research project, closed fall season, PGC Executive Summary
- P13) Funding on-going PGC/PANWTF wild turkey management programs during the next 10 years
- P14) Comprehensive PGC wild turkey hunter safety program - NWTF Turkey Hunter Safety DVD
- P15) Continued PGC turkey management research projects, either state-wide or regional hot spot issue

Nominating Committee - *Gary Beatty, Skip Sanderson* - not running for another term. *Rick Stutzman* resigned. *Dennis Strawbridge* not running for another term. *Dwight Kuntz* - resigned. *Edward Couch* has applied and will receive a 3-year term.

Presentation by *Sally Corrigan* from the Lake Region L.B.'s Chapter. She spoke on the rapid growth of Pike County and trying to balance economic growth with wise land use, and attempting to protect the excellent wildlife, habitat, and water of the county.

Dart System - *Tom Bunty* reported on information he has received on the new "Dart System".

Moved by *Jon Pries* to purchase 2 new dart systems and split the cost over 2 years, seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried.

Move by *Jon Pries* to have *Tom Bunty* sell the old dart system, the trailer, and the tent, seconded by *Bill Mackereth*. Motion carried.

By Laws Committee - *Gary Beatty* had the new By Laws for the directors.

Superfund Committee - *Bob Eriksen* reported \$33,363.04 available at the present.

Communications - communications were placed on the information table for Directors to read.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by *Don Heckman* that the PA Chapter support "turkey dogs" for fall season hunting, seconded by *Dale Butler*, as per the amendment to title 34. Motion carried.

Don Heckman -

- Vern Ross's for National Board. Reviewed the process for *Vern's* nomination.
- hunting license increase/turkey - hunting license HB 2601. *Don* spoke to the political process and new Harrisburg operatives.

Ray Smith - regarding the 30th Anniversary Print from *Melissa Ball*. *Ray* read a letter from *Melissa Ball* regarding the prints that are available.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim O'Brien spoke to the board as to his need for a trailer in his job as "Wheelin' Sportsman" coordinator.

Moved by *Jon Pries* that the State Board donate the dart system trailer to the "Wheelin Sportsman" coordinator and pay for the installation of an electric brake control, seconded by *Jim Panaro*. Motion carried.

Moved by *Jim Panaro* that *Jim O'Brien* solicit funds from other states to pay for trailer transfer; registration, and replacement guns for the new dart system, seconded by *Jim Pries*. Motion carried.

Dave Burdge related to the State Board the items discussed the PA Game

Commissioners. Items discussed were: Orange for spring hunting, all day hunting, and extend spring hunting through the Memorial Day holiday to the 31st.

Larry Holjencin spoke to the orange issue and the job each member has to spread the news why orange is not needed for spring turkey hunting. Related a plan to speak to the commissioners of the PGC.

Moved by *Greg Caldwell* that the State Board purchase 6 cricket .22 rifles with red dot scopes and purchase red dot scopes for 3 existing .410 shotguns. Purchase will be made in 2007, seconded by *Jon Pries*. Motion carried.

Carl Mowry read the guidelines for the Roger Latham Award. *Don O'Brien* was nominated by *Dave Burdge*.

Carl Mowry spoke about the One Team/One Voice National Conference.

Moved by *Tom Bunty* that the State Board pay the registration fee for the persons invited to the conference, seconded by *Hugh Shields*. Motion carried.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Larry Holjencin reported that 2 RD's from the Provincial Board of Canada will attend the Board meeting in January.

***Jon Pries* moved we adjourn the October meeting, seconded by *Don Heckman*. Motion carried.**

The October meeting adjourned at 3:50 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:

Executive Board will meet at Bill Mackereth's Camp at 7:00 p.m. on
Friday, October 6, 2006.

The Regular Meeting of the PA Board of Directors will be at Elliott Park
in the State Forestry Building on Saturday, October 7, 2006, beginning at
9:00 a.m.

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*Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF
Board of Directors Meeting
Ramada Inn, State College, PA
August 5, 2006*

Directors Present: *G. Alwine, G. Beatty, D. Burdge, Sr., D. Butler, G. Caldwell,
P. Ferrare, D. Heckman, R. Henry, G. Huff, B. Mackereth, S. Motts, D. O'Brien,
J. Panaro, J. Pries, H. Shields & D. Strawbridge*

Directors absent: *T. Bunty, R. Johnson, D. Kuntz, D. Sanderson & R. Stutzman*

The August 5, 2006 Board meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman of the
Board *Gary Beatty*. After the welcome, call-to-order, Pledge of Allegiance, introduction
of guests, opening prayer and reviewing the ground rules, Chairman *Gary Beatty* called
for:

*Guests: *Brian Palotas, Pete Howey, Dick Arnold & Joe Drolet.*

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. *Don O'Brien*
moved to accept the secretary's minutes as printed, seconded by *Jon Pries*. Motion
carried.

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* had a written report. Report for period June
1 2006 through August 31, 2006.

Starting Balance \$36,623.78. Income \$18,321.49. Expenses \$7,827.11. Ending Balance

\$47,118.16. Net Gain (Loss) \$10,494.38. General Updates ~ Chapter President meeting and "Turkey Talk" are last major expenses. Banding Study expenditures at \$6,425. Zimmerman Memorial Fund is at \$3,733 balance. Upper Level Gun Raffle net income was \$6,074 versus budget of \$8,000. **Moved by Bill Mackereth to accept the Treasurer's Report and 2006-2007 Budget, seconded by Don O'Brien. Motion carried.**

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - *Gary Beatty* had a vocal report. Worked on the Chapter By-Laws.

NWTF REPORTS

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

Jakes Raffle - Guns have been chosen. Tickets have been printed and delivered to *Bill Mackereth*. Will be distributed tomorrow at the Leadership Workshop.

Leadership Workshop - 50 Chapters attending - most ever. 9 different speakers covering a wide variety of topics. 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Ramada Inn in State College.

Chapter Development - PA ended the fiscal year with 82 chapters for a gain of 8. PA is #9 in number of Chapters with 82 Chapters. Of the top 15 states PA has second highest population, second only to Florida. Of the top 15 states PA has most hunters with over 1 million. Ironically Wisconsin has 700,000 hunters but 45 more Chapters than PA and Illinois has 1/3 the hunters of PA and has 35 more Chapters so to summarize PA has a lot of untapped growth potential. Your help is needed in finding Chapter leads.

LA Dixon - State Chapter Scoring System on the table as a handout.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR - *Carl Mowry* had a written report.

New Chapter development in my region:

I am looking into starting a chapter in the Newville/Shippensburg area. I have a meeting planned for September to try to recruit members.

Wheelin' Sportsmen Benefits scheduled include:

August 20th Silent Auction at the Hardy Classic at Nemaquin Woodlands,

August 26th Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards will host a Fundraiser at Hillside Lodge in Berlin. We will have gun raffles and a silent auction.

September 23rd Moraine Chapter is hosting a "Wing Night" at the Butler City Hunting and Fishing Club. We will have raffles and a silent auction.

September 24th Silent Auction at the Wild Turkey Bourbon Shoot at Nemaquin Woodlands. October date not set yet, Juniata Gobblers will host a Wing

Night in Bedford. I still have 5 banquets remaining for 2006.

PA Membership #'s

Adult =	9,844
WITO =	2,210
JAKES =	11,415
HH =	869
WS =	<u>794</u>
TOTAL =	25,132

REGIONAL DIRECTOR - *Ray Smith* had a written report.

Chapter Development - Four new chapters in the region bring us to 25 in the East:

Mehoopany Creek
 East Coast Thunderin' Toms
 Reading Ridge Runners
 Brush Valley

If you would like to attend some of the events we could use the support. Currently I do not have any solid leads for new chapters if anyone knows of some interested in starting a chapter in my target areas please see me and we will review my map.

Wheelin' Benefits - Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter will host a Gun Bash on September 7th at the Unami Rod and Gun Club.

National Convention 2007 - The National Convention will again be held in Nashville, Tennessee, February 23-26, 2007 at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center. Room prices start at \$155 per night. For reservations call 1-888-777-6779. Check the NWTF Websites for more details and remember when sending in your applications if you want to sit with the PA contingent you must send them in the State of PA.

PA State Awards Banquet - The awards dinner will be held on Saturday, January 6, 2007. It will be held here in State College at the Ramada Inn.

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

It's hard to believe it's already August and the majority of this year's Women in the Outdoors events are history.

Our membership is currently at 2,210 WITO members in the state.

I am in the process of scheduling events for 2007 and I am always on the lookout for new areas that events can be held. I would like to try adding a few Women in the Outdoors hunts to my lineup of events. These would be specialized events. If you know of any outfitter that you think may be interested in helping me out, please let me know.

We still have a lot of areas/chapters in the state that don't currently hold events; I'd like to see that change next year. Wouldn't it be great if Pennsylvania could lead the way with the number of 5 Chapters.

If you have any suggestions that can help me identify individuals, 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.

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

Writing Projects

- Prepared a news release on the Pennsylvania Chapter reaching the \$4 million mark in the Hunting Heritage Super Fund.
- Wrote a new release on the progress made in the tri-state gobbler banding work.
- Wrote a press release on the 2006 spring gobbler harvest in New Jersey.
- Prepared a letter of support for the Pennsylvania Chapter regarding the acquisition of land in the upper Lehigh watershed to protect this sensitive area from development.
- Completed an article on oddly colored wild turkeys for "Pennsylvania Turkey Talk" and "Turkey Droppings", the Maryland Chapter newsletter.
- Prepared articles on the gobbler banding effort and the four million dollar milestone for "Pennsylvania Turkey Talk".
- Drafted a member survey for the summer issue of "Pennsylvania Turkey Talk".

Meetings and Presentations

- Attended the June Pennsylvania Game Commission meeting, a meeting of the Delaware Chapter Board of Directors, the Pennsylvania NRCS Technical Committee meeting and the regional biologist summer meeting in Edgefield.
- Presented a power point called "Wild Turkeys 101" to an audience at the Lacawac Sanctuary in Wayne County.
- Met with members of the Red Rock Chapter to look over habitat projects on SGL 57 and photograph their chapter work day.
- Met with the PGC Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management personnel and Col-Mont Chapter members to review projects in the Columbia County area.
- Reviewed progress on the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Columbia Gas Grant Habitat Enhancement Project on SGLs 232 and 302 in Washington County with Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management Land Managers.

Woodland Field Day Planning

- Planned field days on the Glatfelter Tree Farm Number One in Adams County (August 26th) and the Abanovic Farm in Armstrong County (September 23rd).

Special Projects

- Prepared a statement for the Pennsylvania Chapter to present at a House Game and Fish Committee hearing on the license increase and presented the statement and answered legislators' questions.
- Reviewed technical papers on non-lethal methods of deer population control and ginseng damage abatement methods of The Wildlife Society.

Super Fund Projects

- Processed 32 Pennsylvania Super Fund requests, 16 Maryland requests, 3 from New Jersey and 1 from Delaware.
- \$29,199.36 Balance in the Super Fund
- \$291,227.99 spent from the Super Fund

Information Requests

- Answered questions on wild turkey behavior, habitat management, ecology and hunting from 17 Pennsylvania residents, 4 people from New York, 1 from New Jersey and 1 from Delaware.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE - *Mary Jo Casalena* was absent. *Bob Eriksen* presented her written report.

Harvest Management - The final spring 2005 harvest, from the annual Game-Take Survey, was 32,593, which was 16% below the preliminary estimate of 38,820 bearded turkeys. The final figure is down 24% from 2003 (42,876), and 27% from the previous 3-year average (44,403, average from 2001-2003). There are no final estimates for 2004 because the Game-Take Survey was not conducted in 2004. A decrease in harvest was expected because of the lower summer recruitment of 2003 and 2004 than the previous four years, which provided fewer 2-year old gobblers and jakes in the spring 2005 population. These age groups typically comprise the majority of spring harvests. Also, adverse weather throughout the spring 2005 season may have negatively affected the overall harvest.

Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) with the largest harvests were: 2A (3,130), 2D (2,854), and 4C (2,209), see Table 1. Harvest density (turkeys harvested per square mile) also were highest in these WMUs, and ranged from a high of 1.73 turkeys harvested per square mile in WMU 2A to only 0.17 in WMU 5B (excluding WMU 5D where only 92 spring turkeys were harvested). Statewide results show an average of 0.72 turkeys harvested per square mile for the spring 2005, as compared to 0.95 in 2003, and 0.98 for the previous three-year average (2001-2003).

There were 247,304 spring hunters, the most since 1983 (255,982). The previous 3-year average was 231,956 spring hunters. Statewide hunter success dropped to 13.2% the lowest since 1994 (12.7%). The previous 3-year average spring hunter success was 19%. Total number of days hunted during spring 2005 (1,038,280) was similar to 2004 and the previous 3-year average. Hunter success ranged from a low of 8% in WMUs 2E and 2G, to 24% in WMUs 2A and 5B.

While the number of spring turkey hunters was increased, the number of fall turkey hunters has decreased, with only 203,982 fall hunters in 2005, the lowest since records have been kept (1983). Statewide hunter success was 12.3%, the lowest since 1992 (10.1%). Fall hunter success was 31% lower than the previous 3-year average (17.7%). Fall turkey hunters hunted less days in 2005 (684,865), than any year since we have kept records (1990) and was 10% less than the previous 3-year average (776,105). Fall turkey hunters and days hunted have been decreasing

since the mid 1990s. Some of this decrease may be an accumulation of shorter fall season lengths during the past few years, as well as a shift in hunter preferences to other concurrent hunting seasons (growth in the number of archery deer hunters), as observed in an independent survey conducted by Responsive Management in 2004.

Not surprisingly the final fall 2005 harvest of 25,173 was 19% lower than 2003 (31,100) and 35% lower than the previous 3-year average (38,818). Other northeastern states reported lower than average fall harvests due to the abundant fall food supply of soft and hard mast (cherries, acorns, etc.), which disperses turkeys making them more difficult for hunters to locate and pattern, which also was the case for Pennsylvania.

The largest fall harvests occurred in two of the more traditional fall turkey hunting areas where there are 3-week seasons, WMUs 2G (2,517) and 2D (2,331). However, a look at harvests per square mile reveals that the highest harvest densities occurred in WMUs 4B (1.00 turkey harvested per square mile), WMU 2E (0.96), and WMU 2D (0.94). Statewide results show an average of 0.56 turkeys harvested per square mile, as compared to 0.62 in 2003, and 0.86 for the previous three-year average.

Wild Turkey Management Plan Revision - The revision is nearing completion and should be posted on the PGC website by the end of this month for a 30-day public review. Sections added were an executive summary, a discussion on fall turkey dogs, the mentored youth hunt, and an appendix showing the time schedule for implementing each strategy. The Goal/Objectives/Strategies Section was expanded, and all tables and figures were updated to include 2005 data. These changes have not altered the focus of the plan, but simply provide better structure and more clarity to the document.

Wild Turkey Spring Harvest Rates and Annual Survival Rates Study -

Collection of data on reported harvests is ongoing. The following preliminary information was provide by Penn State. Thus far a total of \$11,600 has been paid in rewards (\$100/reward).

State	Banded total	Reward	Non-Reward	Harvested total	Reward	Non-Reward	Two were taken in PA
NY	296	156	143	One reward is a hen 79	48	31	
OH	167	97	70	43	27	16	Plus one road kill
PA	246	135	111	74	41	32	One taken in NY, one found dead

Also, the banded gobblers in PA consisted of 139 adults, and 107 juveniles; 190 were banded on private lands, 56 on public lands. From the PA harvests-15 were harvested on public lands, 2 were harvested during the spring youth day hunt, 3 were harvested by youth hunters during the regular season (was the first bird ever for

two), and one youth harvested a reward banded bird and his dad got a non-reward bird 2 weeks later.

Regional Turkey Population Model Study - We received a copy of Dr. Jay McGhee's doctoral dissertation titled, "Non-linear density dependence in a stochastic wild turkey harvest model", which he completed and successfully defended in January in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences and Virginia Tech. Virginia Tech soon will be sending a copy of the computer program that Dr. McGhee developed. We will be able to use the program to test various harvest management strategies.

Wheelin' Sportsman Coordinator - *Jim O'Brien* presented a written report.

PA is starting to pick up and now I need more individuals/chapters to help out with events in their areas or to schedule new events in their areas. I have participants across the state looking for events near them, so I need some help to find places to host the events as well as volunteers to help make the events happen.

Currently the following PA events are either scheduled or just waiting for final details to get them scheduled complete.

September 3rd Fishing Event partnering with Autismlink Eighty Four, PA (Washington County).

September 23rd Day at the Range Castlewood Gun Club New Castle, PA.

October 19-21st early Antlerless for Disabled folks who have a hunt from vehicle permit or meet the other restrictions for the season. WMU 2A Greene County Private 400 acre farm I have access to.

December 9th Raystown Lake Deer hunt with the Terrace Mountain Chapter.

Fall/Winter '06 Ultimate Team Up Goose Hunt with Lancaster DU Chapter.

January '07 Pheasant Hunt Warriors Mark Shooting Grounds, working on final details.

I will also be taking guys during the first week of regular rifle season to the farm I hunt. If anyone has room for a participant or two in your area please let me know and I will do my best to find you someone nearby that you can take and make an event out of it.

I have been in contact with various Gun Clubs throughout the state about doing events at their locations, quite a few have expressed an interest. We are just trying to get everything figured out for the locations. If you belong to a club, or other group that you think may be interested in hosting an event, get me the contact info and I will contact them to discuss it.

My travel schedule is filling up fast over the next few months. I will have other events happening in CT, NY, MD, DE, as well as all the board meetings throughout these states.

NWTF Board Member - *Ron Fretts* not present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

PA Chapter NWTF/JAKES Fund Report			
Checkbook Balance	8/4/06	\$9,682.48	
Income	None		
Expenses	Mason Dixon Chapter	(42)	210.00
	Susquehanna L.B.	(35)	175.00
	Red Rock	(94)	470.00
	Ben Stimaker Memorial	(160)	800.00
	Susquehanna Local	(63)	315.00
	Lykens Valley	(90)	450.00
	<u>Malone Printing</u>		<u>270.62</u>
Total Expenses			\$2,690.62
Checkbook Balance	8/4/06		\$6,991.86

Legislative Committee - *Don Heckman* had a written report. Discussed:

HB 1528 Amends Title 34 re-taxidermist licenses and fees/Wilt.

Bills passed the House: HB 1695 Gergely amends Title 34 re elk hunting.

HB 2650 Smith, B amends Title 34 re PA Game Commission.

New Bills introduced: HB 2877 by Gannon.

HB 2231 The Castle Doctrin Protection Legislation.

Legislation Directed to firearms legislation (5 bills) supported by Cease Fire,

PA.

Wild Turkey Management Committee - *Don Heckman* had a written report.

Waiting for results:

R1) Revised Wild Turkey Management Plan - date

R2) PGC hunting license increase legislation, PA Sportsmen's Coalition - date

R3) Turkey Hunting License - position statement, news release, House Game and Fisheries Committee presentation, PA Sportsmen's Coalition.

R4) Northeast Wild Turkey Population Model - \$15,000 invested - no results yet - implemented in wild turkey management plan - date

R5) Second spring gobbler tag results - first year data

R6) State-wide Gobbler leg band research - first ever state-wide wild turkey research project - no chaos, no crisis, loss of 17 years worth of on the ground growth data

R7) Wild Turkey Biologist's White Paper to Board of Commissioner's and PGC Staff

Improving:

- I8) Turkey hunter safety and ethics - HRSI are on the decline - what are we doing to promote additional hunter safety programs - what to work on to keep prevention in the continued decline - what about spring season orange
- I9) Wild turkey population growth - review chart in revised WTMP - fluxations but no dramatic declines - future goal
- I10) NWTF turkey management outreach programs - Wild Turkey Woodlands, fund HHSF Habitat, Safety Education, Land Acquisition, Habitat programs - seed programs, Johnny Appleseed, Get In The Game

Planning:

- P12) WMU 5A Wttf meeting on October 17 - I am hosting follow-up meeting to 1996 (1999-2001) 2006 - dramatic population decline, research project, closed fall season, PGC Executive Summary
- P13) Funding on-going PGC/PANWTF wild turkey management programs during the next 10 years
- P14) Comprehensive PGC wild turkey hunter safety program - NWTF Turkey Hunter Safety DVD
- P15) Continued PGC turkey management research projects, either state-wide or regional hot spot issue

Communications - communications were on the display board and on the information and hand-out table.

OLD BUSINESS

Review of the Amended By-Laws - *Gary Beatty* reviewed the changes in the current By-Laws.

Moved by *Don O'Brien* that we approve the changes to the By-Laws as presented by Chairman *Gary Beatty*, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion carried unanimously.

Don Heckman - spoke to the appointee by the Governor to the PA Game Commission Board

- Vern Ross's name has been received in Edgefield for a seat on the NWTF Board.
- the hunting license increase
- Turkey Dog Tracking Bill - chapter remains neutral
- 30th Anniversary print and box call (what is the status?)
- Jerry Zimmerman Fund Balance \$3,773, plans for the use on a habitat project on the 35 memorial acres or on nearby acres
- the Unified Sportsman Law suit verses the PA Game Commission over the deer situation. Judge ruled they have a right to sue.

NEW BUSINESS

The board need a volunteer for taking over the DART System Program. Do we need the DART System or a similar system?

Moved by *Don Heckman* that the PA Chapter NWTF instruct the Dart System Committee to investigate and report back to the Board on a new interactive safety education system, seconded by *Jon Pries*. Motion carried.

Moved by *Jim Panaro* the president appoint a new chairman of the Dart System Committee, seconded by *Skip Motts*. Motion carried.

Larry Holjencin reported the Wheelin' Sportsman Fundraising Hunts the advertising would be in the "Turkey Talk" the PA Chapter would receive 15% of the net money generated. The Board thought this was a great program to try.

The By-Law changes have changed the terms of office for Board members.

Therefore:

Moved by *Don O'Brien* we send the standing president and the newly elected president to the 2007 National Convention, seconded by *Jon Pries*. Motion carried.

Comments for the October meeting of the PGC.

Topics for the Board of Commissioners of the PGC. The topics would be very similar to the topics for the PGC. The topics would be for information only. No business would take place.

Dennis Strawbridge reminded the board members regarding the award nominations are to be in by October 1 to *Tom Bunty*.

Moved by *Don Heckman* State Chapter NWTF attend PGC National Hunting and Fishing Day on September 26th and display a booth, seconded by *Dennis Strawbridge*. Motion defeated.

Don Heckman informed the board regarding the Blue Mountain Coalition - purpose is to purchase additional land to be used as Game Lands. There will be an Eastern Region and a Western Region.

Larry Holjencin - new award the Wildlife Resource Stewardship Award based on the Joe Kurz Award.

Doc Caldwell will take charge of the Master Calling Contest.

Dale Butler will be the Seed Program Coordinator of the eastern part of Pennsylvania.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Larry Holjencin is inviting two Regional Directors from Ontario to sit in on our next board meeting. The purpose is for them to see our board in action.

Dave Burdge moved that we adjourn, seconded by *Bill Mackereth*. Motion carried. The Board meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "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

**Attention: Executive Board Members; State Board Members; and
Chapter Presidents. The following meetings and times will be held at the
Ramada Inn, State College, PA.**

Friday, August 4th @ 7:00 p.m. will be the Executive Board meeting.

Saturday, August 5th @ 9:00 a.m. will be the State Board meeting.

Sunday, August 6th @ 9:00 a.m. will be the Chapter Presidents meeting.

1

*Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF
Board of Directors Meeting
"BASS PRO SHOP" Harrisburg, PA*

June 3, 2006

¹³
Directors Present: *G. Alwine, G. Beatty, D. Burdge, D. Butler, G. Caldwell,
D. Heckman, R. Johnson, D. Kuntz, B. Mackereth, D. O'Brien, J. Pries, H. Shields &
D. Strawbridge*

⁸
Directors absent: *T. Bunty, F. Ferrare, R. Henry, G. Huff, S. Motts, J. Panaro,
D. Sanderson & R. Stutzman*

The June 3, 2006 Board meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Chairman of the Board *Gary Beatty*. After the welcome, call-to-order, Pledge of Allegiance, introduction of guests, opening prayer and reviewing the ground rules, Chairman *Gary Beatty* called for:

*Guests: *Larry Becker*, President of New York State Chapter, *Vern Ross*, retired Executive Director of PGC & *Bob Boyd*, Assistant Director Bureau of Wildlife Management 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. *Dwight Kuntz* moved to accept the secretary's minutes as corrected, seconded by *Greg Caldwell*. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* was absent but had a written report. Report was presented by *Don Heckman*. Report for period March 1, 2006 through May 31, 2006. Starting Balance \$29,204.49. Income \$18,208.31. Expenses \$20,142.75. Ending Balance \$27,270.05. Net Gain (Loss) (\$1,934.44). General Updates ~ Banding Study expenditures at \$6,424...Blair Count Show \$1,032 budget hit Upper Level Gun Raffle income at \$10,427 below budget coming into the weekend. Moved by *Dave Burdge* to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by *Bill Mackereth*. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - *Gary Beatty* had a written report.

NWTF REPORTS

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

Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus - habitat tour with legislators cancelled on May 26 - will reschedule at a later date. *Bob Eriksen, Scott Bills & myself* are involved with this.

Montana Hunt - Thank PA Chapter for covering *Audrey Zimmerman's* airfare for the Montana Hunt. She had a great time and killed her first turkey - a big Merriam's. She also got a Jake here in PA.

Jakes Raffle - I have a list of guns from Bob's Army & Navy and will pick them out next week and get tickets printed.

Millcreek Guns & Hunts Dinner - "Wheelin Sportsmen" Benefit, Saturday, June 17, Hazen, PA (Hazen Fire Hall) - guns, fishing and hunting trips - see me or *Dave Burdge* for information and tickets.

Leadership Workshop - Saturday, August 5 trap shoot and barbeque at Tyrone Sportsmen's Association 5:00 p.m.

Leadership Workshop - Sunday, August 6 at State College Ramada 9:00 a.m. Responsibilities - *Larry* - hotel (Ramada), AV needs, agenda, speakers for the program

Carl - room and Saturday meal reservations

Ray - Saturday caterer, Sportsmen's Club

REGIONAL DIRECTOR - *Carl Mowry* had a written report.

- PA new numbers will be out in June
- 2 "new" chapter banquets upcoming
- 2 Wheelin' benefits
 - 1 Sunday, June 25 shoot @ Nemacolin Woodlands
 - 2 Whitehorse Mountain Benefit Banquet, Saturday, August 26
- PA JAKES Hunt - thank PA Chapter for having the hunt
 - Stacy Reeve* - 1st turkey
 - Tiffany Osellburn* - no turkey but had a good time both ladies received camo from Keystone Country Store. Both also elected money for gun from chapter.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR - *Ray Smith* had a written report.

New Banquets and Events - A new chapter has been started in Reading, PA. The name of the chapter is the "Reading Ridge Runners". It is a spin off of the Blue Mountain Chapter. The chapter Presidents name is *Mike Wahl*. His e-mail is *Mike.Wahl@RockyBrands.com*. The Banquet will be held Thursday, July 13. Please Welcome *Mike* and his chapter.

Blue Mountain Chapter will have a Wheelin Benefit Gun Bash on July 20

Jerry Zimmerman Chapter will host an event on September 7

I am also working on a benefit to talk about a new chapter in Mahoopany, PA
Chevy Tahoe and Chopper Tickets - In past years the State Chapter has purchased trick tickets from the RD's. At this time we again ask for your support and purchase a Tahoe ticket from *Carl*, *Larry* or myself.

In addition to the Tahoe tickets we also have NWTF Chopper Tickets for sale and would also like to give you the opportunity to purchase some of these as well.

Both the Tahoe and the Chopper will be given away at the NWTF Turkey Shoot on August 20, 2006.

National Convention 2007 - The convention will be held again in Nashville for @ the Opryland Hotel and Resort February 22 - 25. Call now for your room reservations @ 1-888-777-6779.

Keep your eye on the NWTF web site for more details.

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

- Our membership is currently at 1,861 WITO members in the state. The State event was held on March 24-26. WE had a great participation from across the state and also from surrounding states. We had almost 100 women in attendance. The ladies had a great time and we had exceptional instructors. We appreciate all the help that the state chapter has given to our annual event. Next

year's event date is scheduled for March 23-25, 2007. If you have any suggestions for classes or instructors, please don't hesitate to let me know.

We're always looking for new and exciting classes.

- 2006 is going really well; we have 24 events scheduled.

Any help you can give me to identify chapters, facilities, or businesses that would be willing to host an event, please let me know. We are always looking for ideas for new classes and instructors.

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

Meetings and Presentations

- Attended the March meetings of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey State Chapters
- Attended local chapter banquets for the Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter in Pennsylvania and the Kittatinny Gobblers Chapter in New Jersey
- Presented power point talks on wild turkey biology and hunting at the Clearfield County Conservation District Annual Banquet and at a "sharing the Harvest" fundraiser in Bangor, PA
- Attended the March meeting of the Pennsylvania Natural Resource Conservation Service Wildlife Technical Committee in Harrisburg
- Attended a work party and sign dedication for the New Jersey Chapter Thunder Mountain Brood Habitat project on the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
- Met with a potential contractor to plan a habitat project in Sussex County, New Jersey

Special Projects

- Assisted the Southeast Region of the PA Game Commission with trapping turkeys for the tri-state gobbler banding effort. The team captured 44 gobblers and 40 hens
- Processed a large number of bills for turkey trapping equipment and supplies related to the banding effort
- Conducted interviews on the tri-state gobbler banding study with two outdoor writers
- Conducted one interview about the spring gobbler season with a New Jersey outdoor writer
- Continued work on the Columbia Energy/Nation Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant for improving wildlife habitat on Rights of Way in Washington County, PA

Writing Projects

- Prepared an article on turkey hunting safety for the New Jersey Chapter newsletter (*The Jersey Gobbler*)
- Prepared articles for the Maryland Chapter newsletter (*Turkey Droppings*) and PA Turkey Talk

- Wrote an article on black bear population management for NWTf publications

Super Fund Activities

- Processed 146 Super Fund requests for Pennsylvania, 9 for New Jersey, 5 for Delaware and 2 for Maryland

Woodland Field Day Planning

- Met with a landowner in Armstrong County to begin planning a September landowner workshop in that PA County
- Met with Clatfelter Paper Company representatives to begin planning a field day for their Adams County Tree Farm

Information Requests

- Responded via e-mail and telephone to 29 requests for information on wild turkey behavior, habitat management and hunting

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

Harvest Management - By the close of the 2006 spring gobbler season harvest report card returns were approximately 16% above returns from the same time period last year, and 4.5% below the previous 3-year average. The increase from last year may be due to the excellent weather this season versus last season. We also received 400 cards from the 8,040 second turkey license holders.

Preliminary spring 2005 harvest figures from report cards show an approximate harvest of 38,820 bearded turkeys. Final harvest figures will be available this summer. This is down 5% from 2004 (41,017), and 12% from the preliminary previous 10-year average (44,158). However, our highest harvest occurred from 1999-2004, with the record final harvest estimate of 49,186 in 2001. Spring harvests have increased from an estimated 1,636 gobblers in 1968, our first statewide spring season since the early 1900s.

Preliminary fall 2005 harvest figures from report cards show an approximate statewide harvest of 23,321 turkeys. Final harvest figures, from the annual game-take survey, will be available this summer, and most likely will be slightly higher. This preliminary estimate is 10% below the preliminary fall 2004-turkey harvest (25,868), and 27% below the previous preliminary 10-year average (31,942). This drop was expected because we have been decreasing fall season lengths in many WMUs during the past three years, plus the abundant fall food supply of soft and hard mast (cherries, acorns, etc.) last fall typically spreads out turkeys making them more difficult for hunters to locate and pattern.

The largest fall harvests occurred in two of the more traditional fall turkey hunting areas where there are 3-week seasons, WMUs 2G (2,257) and 2D (1,952). However, a look at harvests per square mile (harvest density) reveals that the most successful WMUs were WMU 4E (0.84) turkeys per square mile, WMU 2D (0.79), and WMU 4C (0.79). Preliminary statewide results show an average of 0.5 turkeys harvested per square mile for the fall 2005 season, as compared to the previous five-year average of 0.8.

Results of 2005 Michaux State Forest Summer Sighting Surveys - Thanks to a well-established cooperative effort among the PGC, DCNR Bureau of Forestry, and volunteers from the National Wild Turkey Federation, the eighth year of weekly Summer Sighting Surveys on the Michaux State Forest was completed in 2005 to provide an additional index to turkey population trends besides our harvest and hunting success trend data for WMU 5A. This is the area of the turkey radio-telemetry study where we investigated the causes of the suppressed wild turkey population, and closed the fall season in 2003 to aid in population recovery. Six routes (approx. 30 miles each) were conducted. The 2006 surveys begin in June.

Sightings in 2005 were the second highest since we began the survey in 1998, with 40.9 turkeys seen per 1,000 miles driven. Turkey sightings decreased 31.7% from 2004 when we recorded the highest number of sightings, 71.3 turkeys per 1,000 miles driven. The previous record was in 1999 (38 turkeys per 1,000 miles driven), the first year of the radio-telemetry study. Sightings in 2005 were 7.6% higher than 1999. Incidentally, the fall turkey harvest rate on the study area in 1999 was the highest during the three years we monitored fall turkey harvests, most likely because of the excellent reproduction and visibility of so many flocks from the extensive road network within the State Forest. Fall turkey hunting in SWUM 5A was closed for the third consecutive year in 2005. The closed season coupled with the warm, dry summer weather with abundant insects for growing poults, and a moderate to heavy fall mast crop provided favorable conditions for turkey winter survival and for entering the 2006 breeding season in good condition.

Even though sightings were high, turkey productivity (poults per hen) in 2005 (3.6 poults per hen) was the third lowest since data have been collected, according to data collected by BOF staff. Productivity varies from year to year, due to weather, but a continued closed fall season will allow a higher number of hens to enter the nesting season. The hot, dry weather may have kept hens with poults deeper in wooded areas so sight ability may have been down, especially because staff did report seeing more poults in September, after completion of the survey period. Also, overall turkey sightings per 1,000 miles driven by staff were the second highest since data have been collected (2002), with 14.1 turkeys seen per 1,000 miles driven, which was more than three times the numbers seen in 2002 (4.2) and 2003 (4.6). The record for staff sightings was in 2004 with 27.8 turkeys seen per 1,000 miles driven.

Wild Turkey Management Plan Revision - The eleventh revision has been completed and reviewed within the Game Commission. An Executive Summary is being added, and the Goal/Objectives/Strategies Section will be placed at the beginning of the document (following the Executive Summary) instead of the end, because this section is the core of the plan. Substantial edits/clarifications will be made to this section. These changes will not alter the focus of the plan, but simply provide better structure and more clarity to the document. We anticipate a completed revised plan to be signed by September.

Wild Turkey Spring Harvest Rates and Annual Survival Rates Study - Pennsylvania banded 246 gobblers (139 adults, 107 juveniles). As of May 30th,

there have been 72 gobbler leg band returns (49 adults, 22 juveniles), one of which was harvested in New York's Chautauqua County (reward band). One gobbler was not harvested, but found dead (reward band). Additionally, one NY gobbler was harvested in Potter County, Oswayo Township (non-reward band) approximately 2.5 miles from the state border.

Jerry Zimmerman Memorial - The Bureau of Wildlife Management was honored to be present for the dedication of the Jerry Zimmerman Memorial and signage on the CPC Dahr Tract, which will become part of SGL 211 in Dauphin County.

Wheelin' Sportsman Coordinator - *Jim O'Brien* was absent but presented a written report.

Sorry I am not able to attend the meeting I will be taking part in a Walk for Autism Research at Heinz Field today. I will also have a Wheelin' Sportsmen Booth there to spread the word about the program and try to pick up some last minute participants for my event tomorrow at Paradise Lakes in Cardale, PA. They are expecting well over 5,000 walkers.

Since the last meeting I have started to fill my schedule and have made many new contacts throughout PA and my other states.

I have attended and assisted Carl with four banquets in his region as well as having attended a Wheelin' Benefit shoot at Hunting Hills held by Bob Farkasovsky.

I have a lot of events in the works throughout PA, NY, CT, and MD. I am still working on the other states and trying to get things started there as well.

I am waiting to hear from the PA Fish Commission as to whether we will be approved for a grant through them, which would allow for three events of 40 disabled youth throughout PA on Fish Commission waters. If this goes through I will need to know if any Chapters are interested in having this type of event in their area. (the decision is supposed to be made in the beginning of June with checks cut in early July)

I have been visiting various assisted living facilities along with VA Centers etc trying to help fill the anonymous WS memberships that have been sent in from PA. I hope to fill quite a few of these at the walk mentioned above.

June 11th I will be setting up a table at the 3rd Annual Sportsmen Fair Hosted by State Rep. Tom Tangretti. The event will be held at Police Rod and Gun Club in Slickville, PA.

If any chapters are interested in doing an event please have them contact me and we can get things moving in the right direction.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NWTF JAKES FUND & YHEC - *Bill Mackereth* had a written report.

PA Chapter NWTF/JAKES Fund Report

Checkbook Balance	3/3/06	\$17,557.48	
Income	None		
Expenses	Chesquehanna Spurs	(40)	200.00

Michaux Yellow Breeches	(119)	595.00
Jerry Zimmerman Memo	(159)	795.00
James Wilhelm	(81)	405.00
Lakefront Gobblers	(25)	125.00
Moshannon	(37)	185.00
Shade Mtn.	(112)	560.00
Wapiti Roost	(92)	460.00
Mill Creek	(8)	40.00
Nittany Valley L.B.	(31)	155.00
Tamarack T.T.	(7)	35.00
Kinzua Valley L.B.	(33)	165.00
Northwest T.T.	(66)	330.00
Local #1	(110)	550.00
Cascade T.T.	(18)	90.00
Allegheny Valley	(12)	60.00
Blue Mtn.	(47)	235.00
Walking Purchase	(57)	255.00
Lower Bucks	(77)	385.00
Kinzua Valley L.B.	(22)	110.00
Michaux Yellow Breeches	(155)	775.00
Lower Bucks L.B.	(100)	500.00
Kit Han Ne	(40)	200.00
Adams Co. L.B.	(20)	100.00
Moraine	(56)	280.00
Tuscarora L.B.	(18)	90.00
Sherman Valley St.	(39)	<u>195.00</u>
Total Expenses		\$7,785.00
Checkbook Balance	6/2/06	\$9,682.48

Habitat Committee report - *Reed Johnson* had a vocal report. Corn is all planted by now. Has some short season corn he would like to get moved out. Half the chapters have picked their seed up. Need to find a place to store it. Sunflower and corn there are some new ethanol plants moving in. Sunflower went for making gasoline and the same thing may happen with corn. If any of the chapters have storage space please let me know. Winter wheat and alfalfa will be available in August.

Director's Handbook - *Jon Pries* had a vocal report. August meeting he will have copies of the handbook for the board to review and edit. He will e-mail the rough draft to the committee.

Upper Gun Raffle - *Gene Alwine* had a vocal report. \$15,263 income. A little down from last year, \$16,900. The board needs to decide if they want participate in the Elk Expo September 22 - 23rd. **Moved by *Dwight Kuntz* that we do not participate in the 2006 Elk Expo and consider again in 2007, seconded by *Bill Mackereth*. Motion carried.**

Outdoor Times - *Greg Caldwell* had a vocal report. Trying to resolve the unfortunate address in the ad which has *Jerry Zimmerman's* address printed on it. Spoke to them about the safety messages and asked them that to take out *Jerry Zimmerman's* address and add *Larry Holjencin*. Called *Walt Young* to have him change the address. Still in the May issue. *Walt* asked someone to take care of it and they didn't. Asked *Walt* to delegate the authority and to change the address.

1st Bird Patch - *Dennis Strawbridge* had a vocal report.

Masters Calling Contest - *Greg Caldwell* had a vocal report. Will work on it. Contacted some future judges, and have tentative approval. Some concern on how well the show would be attended. Trying to make improvements. Trying to promote it better and differently. In the past the floor space was terrible. There was space that was not utilized. Major financial problem was the manning of the State Chapter booth including the Dart System because they were separate. The space is free because of holding the Calling Contest there. It was a mistake to have the booths separate. The booths need to be combined.

Don Heckman introduced *Chris O'Harn*, Promotion Manager of Harrisburg "Bass Pro Shops". Thanks for coming to "Bass Pro Shop", thanks for choosing them to have again. "Bass Pro Shops" donated \$25 gift cards to all the board members present. They appreciate the partnership that they have with the NWTf Chapter.

Blessing was asked before lunch.

Don Heckman introduced *Vern Ross*, retired Executive Director of PGC who is interested in sitting on the National Board and looking for the boards support.

Dart System - *Dwight Kuntz* had a vocal report. Sent copies of the proposal from the new Dart people to the board. Lazer Shot sent a proposal, don't think it's the system we want. Had two or three instances in the last 3 years having a problem where someone did not have the capabilities to tow the trailer. The current Dart System is up and running fine. Boards decision to decide if you want to purchase the system. Would like to have two portable units. Do we sell the old one? How much do we get out of the old one? The guns can still be used. Will check on what kind of financing is available.

Communications - *Dave Burdge* received correspondences and shared them with the board.

OLD BUSINESS

"Extreme Jakes Event" - *Gene Alwine* - let me know if your local chapter would like to have an Extreme Event.

Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Dahr Tract & Sign dedication - *Don Heckman* - Friday morning at the PGC building. Also, future habitat projects on the tract of land.

Moved by *Bill Mackereth* that the state chapter board give *Don Heckman* the latitude to work with the coalition of sportsmen to get the adequate funding, up to \$30,000,000 for the PGC Don will bring back to the board the results of the coalition meeting for board approval, seconded by *Jon Pries*. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by *Don Heckman* that the PA Chapter recommends and supports *Vern Ross* for the NWTF National Board of Directors, seconded by *Greg Caldwell*. Motion carried.

Don Heckman talked about hunting related incidents regarding Turkey Hunting and how the incidents have been down the last three years but we still need to continue to work.

Moved by *Don O'Brien* that the PA Chapter purchase 3 Tahoe and 5 Chopper tickets from the PA National Staff, seconded by *Dave Burdge*. Motion carried.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Dave Burdge thanked *Larry Becker* from the State Board of New York for coming to our board meeting. He enjoyed seeing how our state board operates.

Gary Beatty reviewed with the members of the board, who did not attend the meeting with the PGC Staff and the various items that were discussed.

Upper Gun Raffle winners were:

1. John Hoover
2. Robert & Luan Morris
3. Ron Wagner
4. Lykens Valley Longbeards
5. Tom Logue

Dwight Kuntz moved that we adjourn, seconded by *Greg Caldwell*. Motion carried. The June State Board meeting adjourned at 3:20 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 Directors: Executive Board meeting will be held in the Best Western Motel off of Progress Ave., Harrisburg Exit I-81, Friday, June 2, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.

The State Board meeting will be held at the Harrisburg "Bass Pro Shop" on Saturday, June 3, 2006 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Directions are enclosed.

1

PA Chapter NWTF Annual Meeting District DCNR Office ~-Elliott Park, PA 3-5-06

The Annual Meeting of the PA Chapter NWTF was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Chairman of the Board *Gary Beatty*. *Gary Beatty* asked everyone to rise and introduce themselves.

Secretary's Report ~- None

Electing of Officers: ~- Nomination Committee:

***Don Heckman* moved that all nominations be closed, seconded by *Rick Stutzman*. Motion carried.**

***Don O'Brien* moved that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the directors retained by the Nominating Committee. Motion carried.**

New Business:

Don Heckman recognized new members and others who had position changes and also recognized the passing of *Jerry Zimmerman*.

***Jon Pries* moved that we move the Annual Meeting to the January Board Meeting, seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried.**

***Don Heckman* moved that we adjourn the Annual Meeting, seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried. Adjourned at 9:35 a.m.**

Submitted by,

**Bill Mackereth
Chapter Secretary**



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1

*Pennsylvania Chapter NWTf
Board of Directors Meeting
DCNR Forestry Building Elliott Park, PA
March 5, 2006*

Directors Present: *G. Alwine, G. Beatty, T. Bunty, D. Burdge, G. Caldwell, P. Ferrare, D. Heckman, R. Henry, R. Johnson, B. Mackereth, S. Motts, D. O'Brien, J. Panaro, J. Pries, S. Sanderson, H. Shields, D. Strawbridge and R. Stutzman*

Directors absent: *D. Butler, G. Huff & D. Kuntz*

The March 5, 2006 Board meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Chairman of the Board *Gary Beatty*. After the welcome, call-to-order, Pledge of Allegiance, introduction of guests, 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. *Don O'Brien* moved to accept the secretary's minutes as corrected, seconded by *Don Heckman*. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* had a written report. Report for period January 1, 2006 through February 28, 2006. Starting Balance \$44,676.93. Income \$48,288.70. Expenses \$53,815.12. Ending Balance \$37,150.51. Net Gain (Loss) (\$5,526.52). General Updates ~ Zimmerman Memorial Fund stands at \$16,496.88. Banding Study expenditures at \$2,862.04. Rendezvous Summary ~ Income \$25,461, Expenses \$18,989.41, Net Income \$6,471.59. Moved by *Bill Mackereth* to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by *Gene Alwine*. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - *Gary Beatty* had a written report.

NWTF REPORTS

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

National Convention

37,000 attendance

500 + vendors

PA took 7th place for State Chapters over 10,000 members

PA took 1st place in country for highest net/net \$584,914

Sherman's Valley Strutters 128% net to gross #1 for banquets
over \$10,000 net

4 Chapters joined 1/2 million dollar gross club

Mason ~~ Dixon

Millcreek

Stony Valley

Wapiti Roost

PA Competition Callers fared well

Matt Van Cise ~~ 1st place Senior Division

Daymon Davis of Danville teamed up with *Doug Benefield* of
Georgia to win Team Challenge

Junior Division: 2nd place *Jimmy Pollard*, Knoxville, PA

3rd place *Cory Home*, Smithfield

4th place *Dakota Clouser*, Danville

Friction:

2nd place *Matt Morrett*

3rd place *Pat Strawser*

Callmaking:

Scott Basehore won Champion of Champions

Mike Lopp won numerous awards

There was a memorial presentation for *Jerry Zimmerman* at the Chapter Presidents Meeting. *Carl Brown* presented *Audrey Zimmerman* an "Old Thunder" bronze. The bronze plaque of *Jerry's* likeness has been made and is in place at headquarters next to the full size of "Old Thunder".

PA Chapters ~~ we now have 78 chapters

Carl Mowry has started 3 new ones in his region.

Sportsmen's Legislative Caucus Meeting~~I attended a Sportsman's Legislative Caucus Meeting on 2/7/06 in Harrisburg. About a dozen legislators were there as was *Aaron Dobbs* of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. We discussed best ways to use our \$5,000 contribution such as introducing non-shooting lawmakers to firearms, luncheons and field trips. We will host a habitat tour on SGL211 near Harrisburg on May 25 for the caucus.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR - *Carl Mowry* had a written report. *Ray Smith* was absent.

PA Welcomes New Chapter's in Southwest/South Central PA

The North Boros Double Beards Chapter was started up in the North Hills Area of Pittsburgh. They will be hosting their first Hunting Heritage Banquet on Thursday, June 8, 2006 at the Hampton Banquet Hall in Gibsonia. This chapter will host a calling contest with the Sportsman's Warehouse Store on April 8, 2006. The chapter is also planning a JAKES Day and a Women in the Outdoors event for this summer. Anyone wanting more information on upcoming events or meetings can contact Chapter President, *Bob Schmid* at 412-766-7687, Banquet Chairman, *Michael Berger* at 412-657-8595, Vice President, *Jack Weber* at 412-867-1851, Treasurer, *Paul Klein* at 412-366-9828, JAKES Chairman, *Jaret Siegfried* at 412-741-4783.

The Penn's Woods Spurs Chapter from the Delmont area will be hosting their first Hunting Heritage Banquet on Saturday, May 20, 2006 at the Italian American Club in Export PA. For more information on the banquet or chapter meetings please call Chapter President, *Jason Straley* at 412-798-2965, Banquet Chairman, *Andrew Hixson* at 724-832-6735, Vice President, *Ray Zucco* at 724-468-4064 or Treasurer, *Debbie Wirth* at 724-523-3164.

The Tussey Mountain Strutters Chapter from the Martinsburg area will be hosting their first Hunting Heritage Banquet on Saturday, June 10, 2006 at Morrison's Cove Park Banquet Hall in Martinsburg. For more information please call Chapter President, *Tim Wentz* at 814-793-7027, Banquet Chairman, *Tim Long* at 814-793-7027, Vice President *David Feathers* at 814-793-9711, Treasurer, *Kevin Albright* at 814-793-2851 or Secretary, *Chris McNally* at 814-224-5555.

PA Chapter Membership as of 3/1/06

Adults	11,133
JAKES	6,611
Women in the Outdoors	1,861
Wheelin' Sportsman	354
Hunting Heritage	85
TOTAL	20,041

WOMEN'S NATIONAL COORDINATOR - *Tammy Mowry* had a written report.

- Our membership is currently at 1,861 WITO members in the state.
- 2006 is starting off really well for getting events scheduled. At the present time, there are 23 events scheduled. I anticipate 25-30 events being scheduled.
- 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.

- Our State event in Somerset County will take place March 24-26. The registration forms have been sent, it's listed on our state website, and are available from *Rhonda Henry* or myself. We currently have over 80 women registered for the event. This is sure to be another fun and successful event.
- At the January Awards Banquet I had the pleasure of announcing the 2005 Women in the Outdoors award winners:
 - Top Contributing Event ~ SE Silver Spurs Chapter
 - Best Overall New Event ~ Sherman's Valley Strutters Chapter
 - Best Overall Repeat Event ~ SE Silver Spurs Chapter
 - Most Memberships Recruited at an Event ~ Wilhelm Chapter
 - Most Improved Event ~ *Jerry Zimmerman Memorial and Walking Purchase* Chapters
 - Most Sponsors Recruited at an Event ~ SE Silver Spurs Chapter

Golden Hen Events;

Jerry Zimmerman Memorial and Walking Purchase Chapters
 NW Thunderin Toms Chapter
 SE Silver Spurs Chapter
 Mason Dixon and Lake Marburg Chapters
 Wilhelm Chapter
 Muncy Creek Chapter

At the recent National Convention in Nashville, several Pennsylvania events were recognized for their top events. They are:

- SE Silver Spurs Chapters was awarded the Best Overall Sponsor Membership Achievement Award ~ 103 sponsor members
- SE Silvers Spurs Chapter was awarded the Best Overall Highest Net Dollars Raised Award ~ \$29,361
- SE Silver Spurs Chapter was awarded the Best Overall Event Award ~ 105 members, 7 JAKES, 103 sponsors, 111% net to gross, \$29,361
- Mt. Pisgah State Park was awarded the Best New Event Membership Award ~ 122 members
- SE Silver Spurs was recognized for having over 100 participants at their event ~ 105 members
- Mt. Pisgah State Park was recognized for having over 100 participants at their event ~ 122 members
- Wilhelm Chapter was recognized for having over 100 participants at their event ~ 150 members
- PA State Chapter was recognized for having over 100 participants at their event ~ 136 members

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

Special Projects

- Processed bills for purchases of bait and equipment for the Pennsylvania Game Commission grouse banding study.
- Worked with a turkey trapping team baiting trap sites, setting up rocket nets and making captures in the southeast region. Total captures were 50 wild turkeys in four counties (30 gobblers and 20 hens). All birds were banded and released.
- Continued to coordinate grouse survival data analysis work for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.
- Conducted a survey of states and provinces on the use of turkey dogs for fall hunting and presented a summary of the survey to the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Super Fund Projects

- Processed 25 Pennsylvania Super Fund requests, 38 Maryland requests, 3 Delaware requests and 2 New Jersey requests.

Meetings and Presentations

- Attended State Chapter Board of Directors or Executive Committee meetings in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware.
- Attended a meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Congress By-Laws Committee.
- Spent three days at the Pennsylvania Game Commission meeting.
- Presented power point presentations on NWTf research grant projects at the Pennsylvania and Delaware Chapter meetings.
- Attended NWTf 30th annual convention in Nashville and NWTf Technical Committee meeting as well as subcommittee meetings.
- Participated in the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter Super Fund Habitat Committee.
- Presented a power point on wild turkey habitat management and research methods to a meeting of the Wayne-Lackawanna Forest Owners Association.
- Presented a slide show on spring hunting techniques for the Maryland State Chapter Turkey Hunting Expo.

Hunting Heritage Field Days

- Began planning for three field days in Adams, Armstrong and Jefferson Counties for the summer of 2006.

Information Requests

- .Handled 16 information requests via telephone and e-mail.

Super Fund Balance ~ \$48,927.19

NWTf TECHNICAL COMMITTEE - *Mary Jo Casalena* was absent but had *Bob Eriksen* present her written report.

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.

Wild Turkey Season Recommendations- After review of wild turkey data, we revised our fall season length recommendations that were submitted in October. The following recommendations were presented at the January PAC Board of Commissioners meeting for the 2006-2007 Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons:

Recommended changes:

Fall season reduction of 1 week for:

WMU 1B, 2F, 2G & 3B.

No fall season length change needed for:

WMUs 2A, 2B & 2D - closely monitor population indices.

WMUs 1A, 2C, 2E, 4A, 4D, 5C & 5D-fall season already reduced in 04 - 05.

WMUs 3A, 3C, 3D, 4C & 4E - no apparent decline.

WMUs 5A & 5B - fall season closed, populations still low.

Second Spring Wild Turkey Tag - As of Friday, March 3, 2006, the PGC has issued 3,251 second spring turkey tags for hunters to harvest a second spring turkey. Additionally, hunters can now apply for the additional tag at any PGC regional office and the Harrisburg headquarters. Applications are still centrally processed and mailed to hunters.

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 5, 2006 meeting, the committee approved funding for 53 projects plus the seed subsidy program for a total of \$164,414.85 for wild turkey habitat throughout Pennsylvania. Of these projects, the Pennsylvania Game Commission will receive funding of \$95,137.35 for 46 projects on State Game Lands and cooperator lands, for 2006. In light of the Game Commissions' current budget shortfall, when dollars for planning and implementation of wildlife 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 Management Plan Revision - Due to heavy turkey trapping workload for the new gobbler leg-banding study, no further progress has been made since we received the comments for the PGC website. We anticipate a completed revised plan to be signed late this winter.

Wild Turkey Spring Harvest Rates and Annual Survival Rates Study - Our first year of this study with New York and Ohio is underway. Each state is to leg band 300 gobblers each winter. To date Pennsylvania has banded 155 gobblers, Ohio has banded 125 and New York has banded 199. Although we all got off to a slow start due to warm weather, trapping conditions have been improving due to this current cold weather. Leg banding will continue through the end of March, or until turkey flocks disperse for the spring season.

Annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show, Nashville, TN - The Game Commission sincerely thanks the Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF for hosting the Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year award recipient, *Barry Seth*, and Land

Management Officer of the Year award recipient, *Doug Dunkereley*, at the 2006 NWTF National Convention and Sports Show at the Grande Old Opry.

They enjoyed this unique opportunity and learned a great deal more regarding all that the NWTF does for our wild turkey resource and hunting heritage.

NWTF Board Member - *Ron Fretts* was absent.

Wheelin' Sportsman Coordinator - *Jim O'Brien* had a vocal report.

Territory concentrating on Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland and New Jersey to start. His territory actually covers all the way up into Maine. Responsible for 11 States. Not a lot going on. Has a lot of contacts given to him, which he is trying to get in touch with. Has a list of past events. Working on new events. Working on getting some things together.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

PA Chapter NWTF/JAKES Fund Report

Checkbook Balance	1/7/06	\$19,682.48	
Income	None		
Expenses	Nittany Valley L.B.	(1)	5.00
	Del. Co. L.B.	(103)	515.00
	Col-Mont Gobblers	(94)	470.00
	Beaver Valley	(35)	175.00
	Yellow Creek	(75)	375.00
	Lower Berks L.B.	(12)	60.00
	Col-Mont Gobblers	(80)	400.00
	Muncy Creek	(25)	125.00
Total Expenses		\$2,125.00	
Checkbook Balance	3/3/06	\$17,557.48	

PFSC Chairman - *Don Heckman* had a vocal report. Convention for the federation is next weekend in State College, March 10-12 at the Ramada Inn. Saturday is a good day to attend; Game Committee Firearms Committee meets and will take most of the afternoon to go through. Environmental, Fish and Boat Committee, Game Commission gives a report. All invited to attend. Sunday is the delegate voting session. Don votes the wishes of the PA Chapter. Paid dues for 2006 (\$1,500) first state wide conversation club to belong to the Federation of Sportsman Club, privilege for him to sit for 2 1/2 days to vote your wishes.

Upper Gun Raffle - *Gene Alwine* had a vocal report. Upper Gun Raffle is under way; the sporting goods dealer in his area has the guns. Tickets will go out third week of March. At the printers right now.

Habitat Committee Report - *Reed Johnson* had a written report. Habitat Committee met at Moshannon State Forest District Office. Reviewed 85 projects with Pennsylvania Game Commission, DCNR, US Army Corp. of Engineers and Private Land Owners.

Total Amount Approved: \$154,414.85

Grand Total: \$164,414.85

Conservation Seed Program - Seed has been ordered, no arrival date at this time.

Advertising & Calling Contest - *Greg Caldwell* had a vocal report. He is working on an article for the April issue of the Outdoor Times on safety. "Start Young Finish Safe" is the title. Calling contest - very successful. Estimated 160 to 170 people in attendance. Lunches were served. Ended up being a negative total, a lot of the expenses were covered due to the booths. 24 callers were signed up; there were only 19 callers in attendance. If we would have one more sponsor we would have broken even. Need to send out notices earlier next year. Landscaper will help again next year.

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

Sales of promotional items continue to be slow. A completed inventory of promotional items have been given to the executive committee. If anyone else needs a copy, let me know. We are currently sitting on approximately \$4,868 of merchandise.

License plate registrations continue to trickle in. My best estimate is still about 710 plates on the road.

I hope a new chairman can be appointed soon. The website needs to be updated and I think it would be best to have the new contact information done when the site is changed. Likewise, "Turkey Talk" contact information needs to be changed.

Hunting Heritage Budget - *Don Heckman* had a vocal report. Asked for a copy of what we approved for 2005 (percentage break down). When should we be going over that for 2007? January 2007 board meeting we need to go over the Hunting Heritage Budget. Discussed the need for a timetable for the business of the state chapters. Need to discuss deadlines and set them up at the January 2007 board meeting.

All Committees - *Dave Burdge*, have our by-laws committee, review the by-laws. Last time they were amended was June 5, 1999. A lot will happen in looking over the by-laws and recognize where we need to make some changes. Currently we have 13 standing committees. We have a total, when we add in all the special committees, of 31. Are going to be coming back to the board with recommendations of possibly reducing our standing committees to 13, and the other committees down

to 16. Some can be eliminated. Will bring that information back to the board in Harrisburg with some recommendations, are changing a couple of the committee names. Our goal, once we determine our committees, will be to take it a step or two past the committees. Each board member will be a chairman of a committee and will be asked to give a report. A lot of responsibility to call on just a few people. We have a lot of committees and very few reports. Will scan the by-laws on to a computer and work on them. Looks like there will be quite a few changes. Will send out copies of the updated by-laws to you before the June meeting so you can review them.

Communications - *Dave Burdge* received a letter from *Governor Randell*. Read the letter to the board. 3 communications.

OLD BUSINESS

Turkey Management - *Don Heckman* - section 3 - Turkey Management Plan - 5 bullets. Brief update with *Bob Eriksen, Bob Boyd, Dave Burdge* and *Don Heckman* met with *Carl Road* to discuss the Turkey Management Plan, where it is at, what we are doing and possibility of getting it signed this winter. Two management areas pushing for 2F and 2G to reduce all season by one week. This board helped to write the words that we gave to *Mary Jo* on what we wanted to do on how the Game Commission manages their fall season length. *Mary Jo* created 5 bullets that are out on the website, hopefully you have seen them. Section 3 under Turkey Management 5WMU decision making criteria in setting fall turkey hunting season. 5 bullets one of our 17 or 18 recommendations that were made to the Game Commissioners. We asked for 2F and 2G to be reduced one week because of population issues. *Mary Jo* added 1A and 3B. Possible Game commission executive office and the regional directors not supporting 1A 2F and 2G and 3B. Various reasons were presented. Game commission is in such a deer crisis that they don't want to change season lengths in a crisis situation. This is the year that they are going to go for a license increase and the deer management is consuming all of the Game Commissions time and they don't want to open the door to other issues that they don't want to deal with right now. The Game Commissioners are also concerned with the Hunting License Increase. The Game Commissioners may not support the reduction. Am asking all of you to find out who your commissioner is and talk to them about this situation.

Hunting License Increase - *Don Heckman* - wait and see vote. Nothing is going to move on a hunting license increase. Coalitions \$29 plan which will give the Game Commission around \$19 million in new revenues. Budgets are coming up and will consume the general assembly during the months of April, May and June. will not move one inch until the deer management solutions are made formal and are given to the general public April 19th. This is an election year. The general assembly will take a summer recess. Within that \$29 plan is a \$5 Turkey Hunting License with our request is for revenues to be used for to fund this current years Wild Turkey

Management Plan with the excess funds to stay in the general fund; that is our recommendation. \$5 license is the starting point. We will have to wait to see what happens. *Don* will report more as the information comes in.

PA Game Commission Commissioner Vacancy in District 6 - *Don Heckman* the gentleman that we supported did not make it. *Bob Park* would have listened to the PA NWTF chapter. Concerned about who fills this position. Two guys in the running for this place. The governor is interviewing the candidates, will be nominated by the governor, then go to the PA Senate, then it will go through a 3 - 4 month process to be approved. *Don* is not sure when position will be filled.

Don Heckman discussed the Central PA Conservancy Dahr Tract in memory of *Jerry Zimmerman*.

Don Heckman discussed the Sunday Hunting - HB 904 will come up next weekend at the Federation Sportmans Club for another vote, it gives the Game Commission the right to regulate Sunday hunting. It is down to a 50/50 vote. Will keep pushing Sunday hunting. May take another 2 years. We as a board voted to support HB 904 and is the message he will take back to the Federation Sportsmans Club. We are not supporting Sunday hunting. We are supporting the right for the Game Commission to regulate Sunday hunting.

Don Heckman discussed the Wildlife Forever Grant. Lykens Valley Chapter has a \$5,000 grant that they have obtained.

PGC Digest Ad - *Larry Holjencin, Carl Mowry, Don Heckman & Greg Caldwell* - 1/4 Safety & Education, 1/4 Membership, 1/2 PA Chapter Story. Needs to be finished in two weeks.

Director's Handbook - *Jon Pries* presented a written report on the contents of the handbook. Would contain Welcome letter, PA Chapter Board Members, officers and PA NWTF staff with contact information, NWTF National Board Members and various, NWTF National Staff, committee descriptions their members and who chairs the committee, Missions Statements, current year's meetings (date, times locations), maps, website information, PA Chapter Awards and requirements, NWTF National Awards and requirements, requirements for 5-star chapter status and a copy of the PA Chapter By-Laws.

Jon Pries & Greg Caldwell discussed the Mentored Youth Hunting Program.

National Archery in the School Program - *Gary Beatty* - shared letter from *Denise Raum*, PA NASP State Coordinator discussing the National Archery in the Schools Program. 40 schools participating, 25 schools waiting, 125 schools want information.

Gary Caldwell moved to make a \$5,000 Super Fund (Hunting Heritage) contribution to Archery in the School program. Part of the funds to be used for the Teacher Training Kit, seconded by *Jon Pries*. Motion carried.

Gary Beatty discussed the Dart System and Laser Shot - *Dwight* sent out information on the new dart system. The new portable system still comes in at \$13,000 per unit. Multiple units are \$11,700 each. The Laser Modified Fire Arms are \$1,200 each. A 50% deposit due with balance due prior to shipping. The equipment include is a dart specific computer, keyboard, mouse, LCD projector, sensing system, custom travel case, portable project screen and all the wiring and cabling, programming is a DVD disc #1 and #2 comprising approximately 1000 wildlife scenarios and the NWTF program, warranty of 6 months from delivery on all components, some specific components may have manufacture warranty which spread beyond this. The board had discussed buying 2 so we had one on each side of the state. Executive Committee hoped to have a calendar of how much this has been used. Another system, Laser Shot is less money. \$6,395 a piece. Their programming is different. Shoot scenarios, won't tell you that was a bad shot. Doesn't have the shoot, don't shoot scenario, has a general training course. They feel they could create something, and will get back to us in a week or two. More of a video program. Board will continue to gather information on both systems.

Howard Myers discussed the Turkey Hunting Dog. Presentation given by Ron Shower. Scott Backer gave a presentation at the Game Commission. PGC is accepting comments on this proposal, pros and cons. May write to the Game Commission before the meeting giving them your thoughts. Will keep the board up to date. The board position is that we never surveyed our membership stands on the issue of dogs in the field. We will not issue an official statement at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Outreach Program Proposal - *Gene Alwine* presented a written report. The goal is to see our outreach programs be represented equally at the state level, so that the idea catches on for the local chapters to follow suit. To accomplish this, it is necessary to add the X-treme JAKES program to the agenda.

We could divide the state into 6 geographical regions (by distance and not chapter concentration). This would, of course be NW, NC, NE, SW, SC and SE.

The state event would be held at an already established local chapter's event and rotate around each year for the 6 years it would take to complete the rotation. Then, when it's ready to start over in the first region, a different local chapter can claim it and so on.

Whoever wants to host the state event has the responsibility for the preparations, just as any other time that they're planning their own event, with the

exceptions that the state chapter kicks in with additional funding, unique station(s) and manpower to make this a special day for the host chapter.

We would hold our start-up state events in different regions and rotate them in such a way that any one region never has two of the state events in the same year. For example, JAKES could start in the NW, the Wheelin' event in the NC, X-treme JAKES in the SE, etc. I realize that the WITO event is established in the SW and would probably stay there, but the option is there for it to rotate also. Should it remain there, this would create the only exception of two events ever being in the same region.

To make this work (raise local chapter awareness), we would have an article in "Turkey Talk" explaining the details. Then, on a yearly basis (for several times, yearly), inform the readers which region each event is to be held in for that year, so a chapter can contact us if they wish to host it. This would operate on a first come/first served basis. Then, when that particular program comes back to that region, another chapter gets their turn, and so on.

If this idea is appealing to the board, we need to establish state level funding amounts for the events. We need ACTIVE committee members on these outreach programs, although any board member can take part even though he/she is not on that particular committee. Let's set this in motion. These programs are a big part WHO WE ARE as members of the NWTF.

I believe this sort of thing would generate further interest in having events as fresh ideas are learned and implemented throughout the state. With this, I'm hoping to see increases in memberships across the board. And with the start-up of X-treme JAKES, hold the kids' attention a bit longer in their busy lives.

Any input would be greatly appreciated, as this needs to be OUR thing, not MINE.

Don Heckman 125 JAKES needed. *Don O'Brien* moved we give MYB Chapter \$625 from the JAKE Fund for 125 additional JAKES, seconded by *Jon Pries*. Motion carried.

Rick Stutzman moved that chapters who do not use their JAKES funds within 2 years, their JAKE membership will revert to a pool to be used by any chapter starting in 2007, seconded by *Dennis Strawbridge*. Motion carried.

Dave Burdge moved that the state chapter would not give any other chapter JAKES memberships from the excess until a pool program is established in 2007, seconded by *Greg Caldwell*. Motion carried.

Greg Caldwell discussed the idea of a portrait of *Jerry Zimmerman*. Like a legacy print, the original given to *Audrey Zimmerman* and a print to each chapter to auction off.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Howard discussed the need to inform the public that any handicapped person can join Wheelin' Sportsman. Recognized *Tammy Mowery* for her being the National Coordinator for WITO and to *Greg Caldwell* for a job well done.

Carl Mowry spoke regarding the June meeting at Bass Pro Shop in Harrisburg. There are rooms reserved for the Executive Committee.

The Statewide Scholarship winner was Jacqueline Armstrong. Her application was sent in by Lakeland Longbeards Chapter.

***Don Heckman* moved that we adjourn, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion carried. The October Board meeting adjourned at 4:05 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.go2pa.com/panwtf E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

1

Attention Board Members and Others to Whom it May Concern:
Saturday, March 4th, Bill Mackereth's Camp at 9:00 a.m. the Scholarship
Committee meets, following the Scholarship meeting the Executive Board will meet.
Sunday, March 5th at 9:00 a.m. the PA Chapter Board meeting at DCNR District
Office, Elliott Park, PA.

*Pennsylvania Chapter NWTf
Board of Directors Meeting
Ramada Inn, State College, PA
January 8, 2006*

Directors Present: *G. Alwine, G. Beatty, T. Bunty, D. Butler, D. Burdge,
Phil Ferrare, D. Heckman, R. Henry, G. Huff, D. Kuntz, B. Mackereth, S. Motts,
D. O'Brien, J. Panaro, J. Pries, S. Sanderson, H. Shields, D. Strawbridge and
R. Stutzman*

Directors absent: *R. Johnson and G. Caldwell*

The January 8, 2006 Board meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chairman of the Board *Gary Beatty*. After the welcome, call-to-order, Pledge of Allegiance, introduction of guests, 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. *Don Heckman* moved to accept the secretary's minutes with one correction, seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* had a written report. Report for period October 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005. Starting Balance \$21,616.57. Income \$41,576.95. Expenses \$28,487.51. Ending Balance \$34,706.01. Net Gain (Loss) \$13,089.44 Moved by *Bill Mackereth* and seconded by *Don O'Brien* to approve the Treasurer's report as printed. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - *Gary Beatty* had a vocal report. Information on the internet helps to get business done in advance, commend the Executive Committee on the long hours they have put into the meetings a day or two before this meeting to weed out issues so meeting can be more efficient.

NWTF REPORTS

James Earl Kennamer had a vocal report. This group does a lot for NWTF. Edgefield Staff want to commend this group for what you do. Thanks for taking the time and for the things you have done; you are the heart and soul of NWTF. If we can help, don't hesitate to give us a call.

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

Print presentation - 2005 Stamp Print presented to *Dave Burdge*. #3 of 52 based on PA's net dollars.

2006 - poised for a good year

great core package and guns

chapters are on board to put a real push on to help the second part of our mission statement.

"Preservation of the Hunting Tradition". I fully expect that the majority of our chapters will double/triple the number of JAKES they have.

Thanks again for a great year in 2005 looking forward to 2006.

Phil Ferrare & Fuzzy Shields new board members from my part of the state. Both are outstanding volunteers who will do a great job on the board.

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

PA Chapter Memberships 12/27/05

SPONSOR 1029

ADULT 11,133 (this includes sponsors)

WITO 1,861

WHEELIN' 354

JAKES 6,611
HUNTING HERITAGE 82

TOTAL 20,041
OVER 500,000 MEMBERS NATIONWIDE

New Chapter Development in my area:

1. meeting in the Allison Park area
2. working on a meeting in Martinsburg area and Delmont area
3. anyone knows of someone wanting to start up a new chapter in the area, please let us know
4. "Wheelin' Sportsman" Benefit sheet

Sunday, June 25th - Memicolin Woodlands

Regional Director - Ray Smith had a written report.

1. New Chapter developed in Shamokin, PA - "Brush Valley Chapter"
2. Currently I'm developing leads in Reading for a new chapter
3. Ticket two Wheelin' benefits as of today. One to be held in Jersey Shore on Jan. 19th. The other to be held in June with the Schuylkill Spurs in Schuylkill.

National Convention -

1. PA tables are filled
2. Rooms still available
3. Nashville entertainment - *Joe Diffie*, Diamond Rio
4. Breakfast now cost \$5.00 for invited persons and \$20.00 for guests.

Women's Regional Field Supervisor - Tammy Mowry had a written report and a power point presentation.

- Our membership is currently at 1,861 WITO members in the state.
- 2006 is starting off really well for getting events scheduled. At the present time, there are 20 events scheduled. I anticipate 25-30 events being scheduled.
- We had over 1,200 women attend WITO events in Pennsylvania in 2005.
- 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.
- Our State event in Somerset County will take place March 24-26. The registration forms have been sent, it's listed on our state website, and are available from Rhonda Henry or myself.
- Women in the Outdoors Program Survey Results. In 2005 a study was conducted to learn information about women's participation in hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities, barriers that may affect participation, and levels of satisfaction with the program. The study consisted of six focus study groups and 1,200 telephone surveys. The interviews were with women in the general population and members of the Women in the Outdoors program. The study was

conducted by Responsive Management, commissioned by the NWTF, and funded by a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The findings found that both the Women in the Outdoors members (99%) and the general population (95%) believe it's ok for women to hunt and fish. Members are more likely to have tried hunting (65%). Most women have at least tried fishing (current members 94% and 85% general population).

Research showed that the Internet and newspapers were the vehicles of choice for informing women of upcoming Women in the Outdoors programs.

Women in the Outdoors participants were more interested in fishing, hunting, camping, shooting a shotgun, bird watching, maintaining plantings around the house for wildlife. Whereas the general population favored camping, hiking & backpacking, maintaining plantings for wildlife, fishing, bird-watching, and outdoor photography.

Nearly half of the women in the general population were very (11%) or somewhat (37%) interested in the Women in the Outdoors program.

Of those who have attended an event, nearly all would do it again (94%).

The Women in the Outdoors program is right on target offering a big variety of courses to satisfy every outdoor interest.

Spending time with family and friends is a big factor in motivating women to enjoy the outdoors.

The three main factors important to women who are thinking about attending an event are quality instruction, a variety of courses, and spending time with family.

Women in the Outdoors participants gave the program two thumbs up.

When asked how they would rate the event, 80% said excellent, 18% said good, 1% said fair, 1% said don't know.

When asked what did you like best about the Women in the Outdoors event you attended, they said: learning new outdoor activities, meeting new people, good instructors, spending time with friends, number of courses/activities to choose from, practicing/improving current skills, and participating in other outdoor activities.

Almost half of the Women in the Outdoors members brought sporting equipment. When asked what type of equipment they had purchased as a result of their participation in a Women in the Outdoors event, they said: shotgun, bow/crossbow, camp stove/Dutch oven, handgun, rifle, other hunting gear, arrows, other fishing gear, fishing rod, tent.

And they weren't afraid to spend money on their new hobbies. Fifteen percent of current members spent more than \$1,000. Their median expenditure was \$500 while their mean was \$1,026.

Women are definitely interested in the outdoors. And there's still an untapped market for us to reach.

The Women in the Outdoors program is designed to satisfy the different needs and desires of women across the country.

Let's work together to get the word out...for the future of our outdoor heritage.

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

Writing Projects

- Three articles were prepared for the "PA Turkey Talk" covering the upcoming tri-state gobbler banding study, the Thanksgiving media event on SGL 196 and a Wild Turkey Woodlands Field Day held on the Sorber property in Susquehanna County.
- A press release was written on the initiation of the gobbler banding work in Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York.
- The regional biologist contributed an article on turkey hunter safety to "On Target" a magazine distributed to Hunter Education students by the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

Super Fund Projects

- Fifteen Pennsylvania Super Fund request forms were processed and the regional biologist met with members of the Walking Purchase Chapter to assist them in planning a habitat project in Northampton County.

Special Projects

- Manuscripts covering research on wild turkeys were reviewed for "The Journal of Wildlife Management" and the Ninth National Wild Turkey Symposium. The regional biologist served as a session moderator at the Symposium in Michigan.
- Acorn collection in Pennsylvania was coordinated for the University of Tennessee seedling project
- The regional biologist participated in the planning of the Thanksgiving media event on SGL 196 in Bucks County and assisted the Game Commission in acquiring trapping equipment and capturing turkeys for the event.
- Assisted in a rocket-net training session for Game Commission personnel at the Scotia Range.
- Provided advice and served as a consultant for Pennsylvania Game Commission, Ohio Division of Wildlife, New York Department of Environmental Conservation and Penn State on the design and methods for the tri-state gobbler banding study.
- Helped to develop and complete a survey on the use of prescribed fire in Pennsylvania with other members of the Prescribed Fire Council.
- Continued to coordinate a plan for analysis of gobbler survival and cause specific mortality data for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.
- Participated in correspondence regarding the issue of the use of dogs for fall turkey hunting in Pennsylvania and developed a survey of NWTf Technical Committee Biologists to help examine the issue.
- Reviewed resumes for applicants seeking employment as NWTf biologists.

Meetings

- Attended the Delaware State Chapter meeting and a former board member dinner in New Jersey.
- Attended the October meeting of the Pennsylvania Habitat Alliance.
- Attended meetings of the New Jersey Habitat Incentive Team and the New

Jersey Outdoor Congress.

- Participated in the dedication of the Culvermere Property, and 852 acre addition to the Bear Swamp Wildlife Management area in New Jersey.
- Traveled to Delaware to attend the Northeast Wild Turkey Technical Committee meeting and to Michigan to attend the Ninth National Wild Turkey Symposium.

Information Requests

- Responded to fifteen requests for information on wild turkey harvest and habitat management, behavior and biology, nuisance issues, radio telemetry and turkey hunting.

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

Harvest Management - Current report cards received from the fall 2005 wild turkey season are down 6.5% from the same time last year. Fall harvests in other northeastern states also are down, possibly due to good mast crops, which tend to spread out flocks and make them more difficult to locate and call, as well as a trend toward less participation during the fall season. Final report card figures will be available in March.

Wild Turkey Productivity - Preliminary results of the turkey summer sighting surveys show that 2005 (12.7 turkeys seen/1,000 km) was 17.5% lower than those seen in 2004 (15.4 turkeys seen/1,000 km), but was 6.7% greater than those seen in 2003 (11.9 turkeys seen/1,000 km). Final results will be reported at the next board meeting. Sighting may have decreased from 2004 due to hot dry weather that may have forced turkeys into more wooded areas, making sight ability lower, as evidenced from increased sightings by field officers during September, after the survey period. Therefore, recruitment may have been higher than surveys indicated. Compared to the baseline year of 1995 with an index of 14.4 turkeys seen, the 2005 index was 11.8% lower. The sighting index was 30,0% lower than the previous 5-year average, which includes the highest index on record. The highest index year was 2002 with 19.3 turkeys seen/1,000 km, when weather conditions were not very favorable, but the population of adult hens was very high and the birds came into the spring breeding season in good condition due to mild winter with abundant food supply.

Wild Turkey Season Recommendations - The fall season length recommendations were submitted during the October PGC Board of Commissioners meeting. Season length recommendation were presented to the Commissioners for the 2006 - 2007 Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons:

Fall 2006:

WMU	Sporting Arm	Dates	Length	Daily & Season
2A & 2B	Shotgun/archery	Oct. 28-Nov. 19	3 weeks	Limit =1
1A & 1B	Shotgun/archery	Oct. 28-Nov. 11	2 weeks	
2C, 2E, 4A, 4B & 4D	Rifle/shotgun/archery	Oct. 28-Nov. 11	2 weeks	
2D, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, & 4E	Rifle/shotgun/archery	Oct. 28-Nov. 11	3 weeks	
5A & 5B	Closed		0	
5C, 5D	Shotgun/archery	Oct. 28-Nov. 3	6 days	

Spring 2007 Season Recommendation

Statewide Youth Hunt April 21, 2006 Daily Limit =1
 Spring Gobbler Statewide April 28 - May 26, 2006 Daily Limit =1

Season limit two (2) bearded birds. Second spring gobbler may only be taken by persons who possess a valid special wild turkey license. Turkey hunters are still eligible to harvest one (1) bearded bird with the general hunting license, without purchasing the additional license. Licenses for the additional bearded turkey are being sold PRIOR to the spring season, directly by the PGC.

PRELIMINARY 2005 Turkey Hunting - Related Shooting Incidents - The preliminary spring 2005 Turkey HRSIs were 8, with no fatalities. Seven victims were shot for game, and the other incident was the result of a ricochet. All victims and hunters were hunting.

A preliminary result for the fall 2005-turkey season were 2 nonfatal incidents. Both victims were shot for game, and both the hunters and victims were hunting. Summaries for spring and fall seasons are provided at the end of this report.

Wild Turkey Management Plan Revision - We received 108 comments from the PGC website. However, many were general comments that did not pertain directly to the management plan revision. Eighteen comments regarding the use of turkey dogs for fall hunting. This issue is not addressed in the plan, but will be incorporated into the final version. The bureau of Wildlife Management will incorporate other appropriate comments into the plan and anticipates a completed revised plan to be signed late this winter.

Wild Turkey Spring Harvest Rates and Annual Survival Rates Study - This 4-year study with New York and Ohio is being cooperatively funded by the NWTF, PGC, PANWTF, PSU, and the USGS Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Leg banding of gobblers will begin mid-January and continue through March. Fifty gobblers will be banded per region (total of 300 statewide) each winter, with half of the bands being \$100 rewards and the other being standard bands. All bands have a toll-free phone number for reporting, which is being administered by PSU.

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. Attendees will include Commissioners, the new Executive Director *Carl Roe*, Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year Award

recipient *Barry Seth*, Land Management Officer of the Year Award recipient *Doug Dunkerley* and PGC-NWTF Technical Committee Representative *Bob Boyd*.

Population dynamics of a declining wild turkey population in south-central Pennsylvania, (TMA 7B turkey study - Mary Jo Casalena presented this paper on the results of this radio-telemetry study at the 9th National Wild Turkey Symposium, last December, in Grand Rapids, MI. The manuscript is being published in the peer-reviewed proceedings.

NWTF Board Member - Ron Fretts gave a vocal report. Thanks for PA NWTF support for the Mentored Youth Program.

Jon Pries - gift was presented to *Ron Fretts* for his work and outstanding leadership.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NWTF JAKES fund - Bill Mackereth had a written report.

PA Chapter NWTF/JAKES Fund Report		
Checkbook Balance	10/7/05	\$14,287.48
Income	\$33,360 (1668)	
Balance		\$47,647.48
Expenses	Lenni Lenape (19)	95.00
	Bob's Army & Navy 1st payment	10,000.00
	Susquehanna Local (30)	150.00
	Michaux Yellow B. (33)	165.00
	Bob's Army & Navy Final pay.	2,555.00
	PA Chapter NWTF	15,000.00
Total Expenses		\$27,965.00
Checkbook Balance	1/7/06	\$19,682.48

Don Heckman moved to take \$1,000 from general fund for YHEC and donate 2 framed prints, seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried.

Dart System - Dwight Kuntz reported disappointed in not getting the information he needed to bring to the meeting. "Hall Interactive Solutions" he asked for a proposal to be given a portable system (maybe 2 systems); our guns will work with the portable system. Buy one more youth 22 if we decide on 2 systems. Cost has come down substantially but no figures have been given yet. Asked them to come to the meeting, they were busy and could not be here.

Communications - Thank you note received from *Audrey Zimmerman*.

Promotional Committee - Skip Sanderson presented a written report.

Sales of promotional items continue to be slow. I had a few Christmas orders. Inventories are low. I have no plans to order anything new for 2006. There are but a few 30th Anniversary T-Shirts, too many 30th Anniversary caps, a few 30th Anniversary presentation knives, more of the field grade knives, and too many money clips. There is still a few 25th Anniversary belt buckles. Regular T-shirts and hats are almost gone. Dress shirts are problems due to too many shirts in the wrong sizes but there are not a large number remaining. Decals are gone. Patches are limited. There are few other miscellaneous items left over, but again, not many. I will try to have a complete inventory for the March meeting. I think someone who sells on E-bay might be able to move some of our pricier stuff at a profit. A PayPal account or a credit card account would be helpful. I researched a credit card account, but they thought it should go through the bank where we do business regularly.

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

Each One Reach One has gone nowhere. We have not reached 300 new members. Therefore, I guess we do not give away any guns. With the Board's approval, I will send a letter from the president thanking the members who participated and include a River Valley Game Call turkey call.

I informed the president that I will not seek another term on the Board. Therefore, a new chairperson needs to be appointed. I will be glad to assist the new chairperson through my 2007 term. It is a good time to transition, while inventories are low and activities are relatively quiet.

OLD BUSINESS

Jon Pries - NE Regional Rendezvous - couldn't come up with ways to fund it.

Don O'Brien moved we cancel the NE Regional Rendezvous and have the deposit returned to PA NWTF, seconded by *Rick Stutzman*. Motion carried.

Dennis Strawbridge moved to send the last payment of \$2,500 to the NWTF Building Fund, seconded by *Don Heckman*. Motion carried.

DARR Tract - memorial to *Jerry Zimmerman* update by *Don Heckman*. Ceremony in April 2006.

Update on Hunting License increase - *Don Heckman* - \$10 license increase includes a \$5/\$10 Turkey Hunting License / \$10/\$20 Pheasant Hunting License.

Moved by *O'Brien* that we buy into a Diamond Life Sponsorship, seconded by *Jon Pries*. Discussion followed. *Carl Mowry* - we already have been credited as a Diamond Life Sponsor to Edgefield for our contributions to national programs. Motion was withdrawn.

Ron Shealer - Turkey Dog Presentation.

WHO - The interested party in favor of seeing turkey dog use permitted in Pennsylvania is primarily comprised of resident hunters who either own a turkey dog now and hunt other states or those who would like to have the option to hunt with a turkey dog in PA in the future.

GOAL - To gain support from the PANWTF to repeal the now antiquated prohibitive wording in the Game and Wildlife code (Title 34) which prohibits dog use for fall turkey hunting. The current Title 34 is highly discriminatory against those few hunters who have or would like to hunt with trained turkey dogs in the fall season.

THE DOG ROLE - The role of the specially trained and bred turkey dog is to merely scent and scatter turkeys. After the scatter their role in the hunt is 100% over and they are kept confined by the handler. Following the dog's scenting and locating of turkeys, it returns to the handler and is confined to a large bag kept right in the hunter's lap. Conventional hunting and calling tactics then take over. There has been substantial documentation of this turkey hunting technique via numerous national and local outdoor TV shows, newspaper and magazine articles that very accurately portray the enjoyment of hunting with a turkey dog. - John Plowman

"The mission statement of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation clearly defines its purpose: The conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of the turkey hunting tradition." - PANWTF Website

From a traditional standpoint turkey dogs have been in use for well over 100 years. *Simon Everett* and *Charles Jordon* were using dogs in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

"I do not believe there is any safer way of bringing a turkey to bag than by the judicious employment of a good turkey dog, and by that I mean a dog trained especially to hunt turkeys." Chas L. Jordan

"after scattering the flocks with trained dogs, the hunters would hide themselves, and by skillful use of the yelp, soon call up the confused and unsuspecting birds within range of the guns." - P. A. Bruce, 1907

Bullet point reasons for legalization of turkey dogs.

1. Time honored tradition of fall turkey hunting at its best.
2. Dog is available to find wounded game that otherwise would be lost.
3. Allows sportsmen to extend leisure time throughout the year with their turkey dogs, in training and companionship.
4. Great way to introduce young hunters to the sport of fall turkey.
5. Great way to introduce old hunters to the sport of fall turkey hunting.
6. Much safer than running through the woods yelling and shooting a shotgun when busting turkeys on foot. Think about all the things that we teach our young

hunters about gun safety and then describe to them the proper method of fall turkey busting. They would be confused by the contradictions in our thought process.

7. Allows older or disabled hunters to participate in fall turkey hunting, those no longer able to run and yell and shoot a gun at the same time.
8. Pennsylvania is surrounded by states where it is legal to use dogs for fall turkeys - OH, NY, VA, WV, MD and NJ.
9. Allows additional sporting opportunities to offset hunter decline.
10. Keep revenues in the state and increase opportunities for new revenues.

Provided by D. Marlin Watkins

IMPACT - "I have responses from about 30 states. No responding state that allows the use of turkey dogs has any concern about the impact of the regulation on turkey populations. In general the portion of fall hunters that own, train and use turkey dogs is very small. It is estimated at less than 5% in most states and less than 10% in all responding states where dogs are used." - Bob Erikson NWTf Regional Biologist

The extent of actual real-time turkey dog use and exposure to wildlife resources or competition with conventional fall turkey hunters will be very minimal. The season at most is three weeks in Pennsylvania. Turkey dogs are permitted in CA, CO, HI, IA, ID, KS, KY, MD, MI, MT, NC, ND, NE, NJ, NY, OH, OR, TN, TX, VT, VA, WV, WY.

THE NEXT STEP - Present the upcoming Pennsylvania Game Commission January Meeting requesting their support.

Begin a legislative initiative and dialogue with the House and Senate Game & Fisheries Committee to consider the issue as part of changes pending to other Title 34 bills affecting sporting dogs.

For more information:

Ron Shealer

paturkeydogs@yahoo.com

American Wild Turkey Hunting Dog Association
<http://trkyhntr.home.att.net/>

NEW BUSINESS

Dennis Strawbridge moved that the mileage reimbursement of 34 cents/mile be increased to 40 cents/mile, seconded by **Don Heckman**. Motion carried.

By-Law update discussed.

Moved by **Don Heckman** for the PA NWTf Chapter to send a check in the amount of \$50 to the PA Taxidermist Association for the Eastern Sports Show Awards Program, seconded by **Rhonda Henry**. Motion carried.

Discussion on Wildlife Forever Application for financial support.

Moved by *Don Heckman* that the PA Chapter NWTF pay \$1,500 for our 3rd year membership dues to the PFSC, seconded by *Jon Pries*. Motion carried.

Don Heckman discussed the commissioner vacancies that will exist. Discussed the Archery in the schools program.

Don Heckman addressed the NWTF Families A Field Program ideas;

- A. Sunday hunting
- B. Adult hunter recruitment & retention
- C. Financial independent for the P.G.C.
- D. Coalition of Sportsmen & Sportswomen voice
- E. Right to hunt legislation

Jim Panaro discussed the upcoming Game Commission meeting - we should ask to extend the Youth Day Turkey Hunt from 1/2 - to full day.

Dale Butler discussed the Habitat Improvement Funding in regards to turkey populations.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

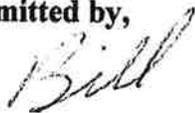
Award Day 2007 - Jan 5,6 & 7

Thank you letter to Mr. & Mrs. Nyce.

***Don O'Brien* moved that the PA Chapter NWTF will pay Mrs. Zimmerman airfare for a Montana Turkey Hunt, seconded by *Gary Huff*. Motion carried.**

***Rick Stutzman* moved that we adjourn, seconded by *Jon Pries*. Motion carried. The October Board meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.**

Submitted by,



Bill Mackereth, Secretary
PA Chapter NWTF