



# 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.org](http://www.panwtf.org) E-mail: [panwtfrep@panwtf.org](mailto:panwtfrep@panwtf.org)

## **ATTENTION BOARD MEMBERS**

The Executive Board meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn at State College, Pennsylvania on Friday, January 4, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

The PA State Chapter Rendezvous and Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 5, 2008 at the Ramada Inn in State College, Pennsylvania. The seminars will start at 12:00 p.m. and the doors will open at 5:00 p.m. for the Banquet. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m.

The regular State Board of Directors meeting will be held on Sunday, January 6, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the Ramada Inn at State College, Pennsylvania.

### ***Pennsylvania State Chapter NWTf Board of Directors Meeting Ramada Inn, State College October 6, 2007***

**Director's Present:** *R. Henry, D. Burdge, G. Alwine, R. Johnson, F. Shields, D. Butler, G. Beatty, B. Schmid, J. Drolet, T. Bunty, D. Heckman, and J. Panaro*

**Director's Absent:** *G. Huff, G. Caldwell, E. Couch, K. Fernburg, B. Mackereth, J. Pries, S. Motts, D. O'Brien*

**Guests:** None

The October 6, 2007 Board Meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chairman of the Board, Dave Burdge. After the Welcome, Call to Order, Prayer, and Pledge of Allegiance, and reviewing the ground rules. Chairman Burdge asked for the Officer Reports.

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

**President:** Gene Alwine had a written report. His report was for the time period of August – September 2007.

- **August 6:** Attended the Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards local chapter meeting in Berlin.
- **August 24:** Set-up for Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards Chapter JAKES Day at Hillside Lodge in Berlin.
- **August 25:** Coordinated the Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards Chapter JAKES Day at Hillside Lodge, Berlin.
- **September 8:** Attended a Wild Turkey Woodlands Field Day at Schmid's Camp.
- **September 15:** Assisted at the Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards Chapter WITO Event at Camp Soles as a Turkey Hunting and Archery Instructor.
- **October 1:** Presented the PA NWTF Public Comments at the PGC Meetings in Harrisburg.

**Vice – President:** Jon Pries had a written report.

### **TRAVEL**

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- **September 6 – 9, 2007:** Traveled to Erie to attend several meetings/functions with PA Audubon Society, accompanied by Phil Ferrare. Met with John Oliver, former head of DCNR. Met with Dan Hill, PGC Commissioner.
- **September 18, 2007:** Traveled to Harrisburg to attend National Hunting and Fishing Lobby Day at the State Capitol. Met with Commissioner Dan Hill, Commissioner Jay Delaney, Commissioner Greg Isabella and Commissioner Russ Schleiden. Met with PGC Executive Director Carl Roe. Later, met with Senator Roger Madigan.
- **September 23 – 25, 2007:** Traveled to Erie to meet with PGC Commissioner Dan Hill. Also met with new Regional Director Phil Ferrare.
- **September 26, 2007:** Traveled to Philadelphia to help with setup and conducting of the Philadelphia County Fightin' Spurs local chapter banquet. Met with PGC Commissioner Greg Isabella.
- **September 29, 2007:** Traveled to a hunting camp in Clearfield to meet with 10 non-resident hunters to discuss various turkey related issues.
- **October 1, 2007:** Traveled to Harrisburg to attend the October PGC Commissioner's Meeting.

### **ACTIVITY**

- I have begun initial inquiries into the DCNR / PA Wilds Program. After a recent series of meetings in Williamsport, PA of the DCNR that were related to the PA Wilds Program, it becomes evident that PA NWTF must become involved in this

Program as an equal member/partner of any coalition that is to oversee and be involved in the future of this program. Currently hunting is not really promoted as a facet of the program, and this must change.

- I will present a formal report to the PA NWTF Board at the January meeting, and at that time will seek to establish a stand alone committee labeled “DCNR / PA Wilds”.

**Secretary’s Report:** Rhonda Henry had a written report. There was one correction to the last meeting minutes. It is as follows:

- **On page 2:** Top of the page, the proper spelling of Earl’s last name is Mickel.
- **On page 20:** Tom Bunty’s name was spelled wrong.

**Motion made by Fuzzy Shields to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Tom Bunty. Motion carried.**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Jim Panaro had a written report.

<b>Starting Balance:</b>	<b>\$49,691.10</b>
<b>Income:</b>	<u>\$23,444.07</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$73,135.17</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	<u>\$18,785.44</u>
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$54,349.73</b>

**Motion made by Don Heckman to accept the treasurer’s report, seconded by Dale Butler. Motion carried.**

**Chairman of the Board:** Dave Burdge had a written report.

- August 13, 2007: Attended Millcreek Chapter Meeting.
- August 25, 2007: Attended Schmid’s Food Plot Seminar.
- September 10, 2007: Attended Millcreek Chapter Meeting.
- September 22, 2007: Spoke at Whitetail Deer Dinner – Hazen Firehall.
- October 5 – 6, 2007: Executive Meeting – Reed’s Camp  
PA State Chapter Meeting (DCNR Building)

## **NWTF REPORTS**

**Regional Director:** Phil Ferrare had a verbal report.

Phil started on September 24, 2007 and attended his first banquet, which was the Lakelong Longbeards Banquet. This was also the last banquet for Larry.

**Regional Director:** Carl Mowry had a written report. Carl welcomed Phil to the NWTF Staff.

**Dale Rohm:** Dale Rohm was working on a feeder on Saturday, September 22 and fell off of a ladder. He was taken to the hospital and he had to have immediate surgery. He has both of his wrists broken.

**Chapter Name Change:** The Beaver Valley Longbeards Chapter just changed their name. Their name is now the Second Chance Tom's.

### **October is Bass Pro Month**

Local Chapters / Michaux Yellow Beeches Wheelin Hunt October 20.

**2008 Rendezvous:** The information for the Rendezvous is in the "PA Turkey Talk".

**32<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Convention and Sports Show:** The National Convention will be held on February 20 – 24, 2008 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, George.

### **Hotel Information is as follows:**

The Omni Hotel at CNN Center  
Headquarter Center: (800) 524-0500  
800.THE.OMNI  
Rate: \$166 per night (plus tax and parking)  
Group Code: National Wild Turkey

Hyatt Regency Atlanta  
(404) 577-1234  
(800) 233-1234  
Rate: \$150 per night (plus tax and parking)  
Group Code: NWTF  
[www.atlantaregency.hyatt.com](http://www.atlantaregency.hyatt.com)

Thursday night, nothing is confirmed – Tracy Lawrence is being considered and it may end up being several singers.

Lorrie Morgan will perform on Saturday night awards Banquet. Chuck Leavell, former Rolling Stones member, will be the keynote speaker and will also play few numbers on the piano.

The Clark Atlanta University Choir is singing at the Worship Services 9they are from the same college as the drummers we had this summer. Miss Georgia will sing the patriotic songs Friday morning.

One change for 2008 will be the cost of the breakfasts for everyone who wants to attend the Convention. This year everyone will pay \$20.00 for breakfast at the Convention.

The leadership meeting on Thursday morning will be at 10:30 a.m.

State Presidents will have the breakfast on Thursday morning.

Tammy and Patty are planning a Ladies Leadership meeting on Friday morning from 10:30 a.m. until noon for the Women in the Outdoor Event Coordinators.

Registration forms are online and will be mailed out soon.

**PA Seating Deadline for December 15<sup>th</sup> not in Turkey Talk this year, please let everyone know.**

**Registration for Convention:** Anyone who wants to go to the Convention and wants to sit with the people from Pennsylvania, please send your registration forms to Gene Alwine, by December 15, 2007.

**Regional Director:** Ray Smith had a written report Ray also welcomed Phil to the family.

**Minor Changes in Chapters:** With a new Regional Director on board we have adjusted the chapters only by two. Ray will assume Muncy Creek Chapter and Carl will assume Yellow Creek.

**National Wide Insurance:** Nationwide Insurance has partnered with the NWTF and has offered a discount to all NWTF Members.

**Donated JAKE Memberships:** National Board has decided that if donated memberships for JAKES aren't used, as of January 1, 2008 they will disappear. This will happen every year, so make sure you fill your memberships before the end of the year.

**National Women in the Outdoors Coordinator:** Tammy Mowry had a written report.

**WITO Events:** The last of this year's Women in the Outdoors Events concluded in September. I'm in the process of getting our 2008 event schedule put together. Will have a comprehensive listing of events for the next meeting.

**WITO Website:** I'm in the process of up-dating the PA Women in the Outdoors website. Joe Drolet is working with me and he will now be the webmaster for the Women in the Outdoors website.

**National Convention:** I'm working on the National Convention and am trying to get some women's seminars arranged. We will also have our annual Women in the Outdoors leadership meeting during the weekend.

**10<sup>th</sup> Year National WITO Event:** I am in the investigative stage of looking at the possibility of our having a 10 year National WITO Event next fall, possibly the last part of September. As more information becomes available, I will forward.

**WITO Membership:** Our current membership is 2,145.

**New Events:** If you know of any chapter or facility that would be interested in hosting an event, please let me know.

We are doing a great job of teaching women about the outdoors, conservation, and hunting, but we have a lot of work that still can and needs to be done to ensure we always have our freedom to hunt and spend time in the great outdoors.

**Territory Change:** My territories were Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, New Jersey, and Delaware. The territory has been revamped and I am now going to have just Pennsylvania and West Virginia. I will still continue my National position.

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

**Meetings and Presentations:**

- Met with wild turkey research project leader for New Jersey Fish and Wildlife to edit gobbler survival data and arrange for analysis of information from a 5 year telemetry study.
- Met with Director Chanda of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.
- Attended the annual meeting of the Northeast Upland Game Bird Technical Committee in Rhode Island.
- Attended the Pennsylvania Game Commission October meeting in Harrisburg.
- Attended the Pennsylvania Chapter August Board meeting and Leadership Workshop.

- Presented a power point on the gobbler banding project in Pennsylvania at the leadership workshop.
- Presented a power point on gobbler banding and Super Fund projects to the Honey Hole Longbeards Chapter near Hazelton, Pennsylvania.
- Attended a fundraising event at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in Greenwich, Connecticut.
- Met with Pennsylvania Game Commission Northeast Region Forester to plan mast survey.
- Attended an “Adopt-A-Food-Plot” meeting in Towanda, Pennsylvania arranged by the Endless Mountain R,C &D.
- Attended the September meeting of the Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey Chapter.
- Attended the South Mountain Partnership meeting in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. This coalition is interested in preserving open spaces and managing habitat in the vicinity of Michaux State Forest.
- Testified at public hearing on New Jersey Black Bear Management Policy.
- Served as Emcee for North Jersey Open Calling Contest and arranged for judges for the contest.
- Attended New Jersey Chapter Gun Bash and East Coast Thunderin’ Toms (PA) Super Fund Banquet.
- Participated in two interviews for NRA radio on black bear management in New Jersey.

### **Writing Projects:**

- Prepared articles on wild turkey oddities, wild turkey populations Q & A’s, fall safety, and the Lyken’s Valley Chapter Luke’s Trail Project for the fall issue of “PA Turkey Talk”.
- Wrote articles on wild turkey oddities and Hunter and Angler Impacts on the Economy for the fall issue of “Maryland Turkey Droppings”.
- Prepared an article on fall turkey hunting safety for “Pennsylvania Outdoor Times”.
- Continued to work on draft North American Wild Turkey Management Plan for Pennsylvania, receiving comments from Edgefield, Pennsylvania Chapter members, and PA Game Commission personnel.
- Drafted additional “FAQs” for the PA Game Commission website.
- Developed a grant proposal for brood habitat improvement on the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in New Jersey.
- Prepared letters for the PA Chapter in opposition to legislative changes to the baiting laws and in support of The Narrows Project, a conservation easement being pursued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service near South Mountain.
- Prepared a letter for the New Jersey Chapter commenting on proposed changes to the Black Bear Management Policy.
- Prepared comment letter for the Pennsylvania Chapter to present at the October Game Commission Meeting.

- Prepared hunting destination summaries for places to hunt on public lands in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware for future issues of “Turkey Call”.

### **Hunting Heritage Super Fund:**

- Reviewed and edited 4 PA Super Fund requests and 1 New Jersey request form.

### **Information Request:**

- Responded to 11 information requests from Pennsylvania and 1 from New Jersey.

### **Special Projects:**

- Held a Wild Turkey Woodlands Landowner Field Day at the Schmid 80 Acre Camp in Jefferson County on September 8, 2007.
- Conducted a mast survey on State Game Lands 35 in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania at the request of the PA Game Commission.

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

## **Harvest Management**

The final spring 2006 harvest was  $39,297 \pm 3,686$  (37,843 first harvest + 1,454 second harvest). Comparing the first harvest with previous years, 2006 was 16% greater than 2005 (32,593), 14% below 2003 (42,876) and 4% below the previous 3-year average (38,872; Table 1, Figure 1).

The final fall 2006 harvest was  $24,482 \pm 3,057$ , 3% lower than 2005 (25,173), 21% lower than 2003 (31,100), and 22% lower than the previous 3-year average (31,206; Table 1, Figure 1). Harvest density was the lowest in recent history and the third consecutive year with an average below 0.60 turkeys harvested per square mile. Fall harvest densities have been decreasing since the peak in 2001. Fall season lengths were shortened in some WMU's in 2004 and 2005, hunter participation has been decreasing and the mast crop has been abundant during the last two falls, all probably contributing to lower harvests.

There were  $245,023 \pm 8,834$  total spring hunters, similar to 2005 (247,304), and the second highest since 1983 (255,982). Statewide hunter success was 15.4% (13.2% in 2005), and was 6% below the previous 3-year average. Total number of days hunted during spring 2006 for the first turkey ( $937,021 \pm 48,446$ ) decreased 10% from 2005 (1,038,280), possibly due to higher success rates.

The number of fall turkey hunters has been decreasing, with only  $182,233 \pm 8,160$  fall hunters in 2006, a decrease of 11% from 2005 (203,982), and the second consecutive year of lowest number of hunters since records have been kept (1978). Statewide hunter



success had risen to 21% in 2001, a year with excellent recruitment, but had fallen to a low of 12.3% in 2005 and has risen slightly to 13.4% in 2006. Hunter success in 2006 was 10% lower than the previous 3-year average. Number of days hunted in 2006 (534,139  $\pm$  32,369) decreased 22% from 2005 (684,865), and also was the second consecutive year of least number of days hunted since records have been kept (1990). 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, as observed in an independent survey conducted by Responsive Management in 2004.

The preliminary spring 2007 harvest updated since the August PA NWTF board meeting, calculated from report cards, was approximately 41,046 (39,539 first harvest + 1,507 second harvest; Figure 1). The first harvests were 3% above the preliminary 2006 harvest (38,483), similar to the preliminary 2005 estimate (39,993) as well as to the previous 3-year average preliminary harvest (39,831). Even though spring harvests are down from the record 49,186 in year 2001, Pennsylvania hunters have consistently maintained spring harvests above 30,000. Spring harvest density, from first harvests, was 0.77 turkeys harvested per square mile, compared to 0.72 for 2005, and 0.86 for the previous 3-year average. In 2007, 7,585 second spring turkey licenses were sold (success rate = 20%), compared to 8,041 in 2006 (18% success rate).

### **Wild Turkey Spring Harvest Rates and Annual Survival Rates Study**

The band retention rate component of the study to date shows retention rates of standard aluminum and stainless steel butt-end bands are unsatisfactory and that loss rates are greater for adults. Of birds banded in 2006 and harvested in 2007, more than half the butt-end bands were lost. Stainless steel bands had greater retention rates than aluminum bands but they are still unsatisfactory. Butt-end bands for male turkeys, if used in a mark-recapture analysis would result in substantial negative bias in survival and harvest rates. No rivet bands have been reported missing from harvested birds to date. This information was presented to and well received by the Northeast Upland Gamebird Technical Committee in September.

### **Michaux State Forest Turkey Summer Sighting Surveys**

Thanks to a well-established cooperative effort among the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Bureau of Forestry, and volunteers from the National Wild Turkey Federation, the tenth year of six weekly Summer Sighting Survey routes on the Michaux State Forest were completed in 2007 to provide an additional index to turkey population trends besides our harvest data for WMU 5A.

Turkey sightings in 2007 were the second highest since we began the survey in 1998, 67.5 turkeys seen per 1,000 miles driven and were more than twice the previous average of 29.3 (Figure 2). The record of 71.3 was during 2004. Turkey productivity (poults per hen) in 2007 (4.3 poults per hen) increased from the record low last year (3.0 poults per hen), but was slightly below the previous 10-year average of 4.5 poults per hen,

according to data collected by BOF staff (Figure 3). Productivity normally varies from year to year. Fall turkey hunting in WMU 5A has been closed since 2003 to assist with population recovery. BOF staff turkey sightings per 1,000 miles driven also were the second highest recorded this year (15.0) and were 20% higher than the previous average (12.5). Sightings have been substantially higher, on average, since 2004 due to a combination of a closed fall turkey season, record reproduction in 2004, average to above average fall mast crops, and relatively mild winters. Results from the radio-telemetry study showed that juvenile survival (recruitment and annual sub-adult survival) was limiting the population. The closed fall season has allowed higher survival not only during years of poor recruitment (2006), but also during the excellent recruitment year (2004), helping this low population to rebuild itself relatively quickly. The closed season coupled with above average sightings this summer, and a moderate mast crop this fall provide favorable conditions for over-wintering turkeys and for entering the next breeding season in good condition if winter weather is not severe.

### **Eastern Mast Survey**

Based on a recommendation by the Northeast Wild Turkey Technical Committee in 2004, state agencies from the eastern states have encouraged the adoption of a standardized oak and beech mast survey for the region to provide a standardized means of collaborating data collection and comparing/sharing results among states. The Eastern Mast Survey was started in 2006. Pennsylvania joined the effort this year with three survey areas, representing three ecoregions within the state (Appalachian Plateau Glaciated High/Low Section, Appalachian Plateau Allegheny Mountain Section and Ridge and Valley Provinces). Bob Eriksen is assisting with this effort.

### **PGC Seedlings Sale for 2008 Planting**

The PGC Howard Nursery provides FREE seedlings to the PANWTF when planted on public land or land open to hunting. Otherwise seedling costs are:  $\geq 300 = 15$  cents each,  $< 300 = 25$  cents each, all in packs of 50 seedlings per species. Chapters can use the 2007 seedling order form on the PGC website; the 2008 form will be posted by January 1 ([www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us), Forms and Programs, Howard Nursery). We project approximately 2.7 million seedlings available for distribution spring 2008. There are 21 species with "sufficient quantities" to make available to all cooperators. In addition, there are 17 species available in smaller quantities for use on SGL's and cooperator habitat projects. There are unusually high quantities of both large-tooth (40,000) and trembling aspen (55,000). We put extra effort in producing these seedlings; please make use of them to the best of your abilities. We have a good number of 3-year old American Mountain Ash (3-5 foot) and 3-year old crabapples (30-36 inch). For more information please contact Cliff Guindon, Superintendent of the PGC Howard Nursery. With habitat superfund proposals due by the end of the year, it is time to consider seedling orders for next spring planting.

Please encourage Chapters to consider a JAKES planting project on a SGL in their area or on a large cooperator property. JAKES planting projects dwindled down several years

ago due to a nationwide outbreak of Sporotrichosis, which is a naturally occurring spore found in the soil. Normal, safe handling (wearing gloves) of plants and washing of hands prevents outbreaks.

### Northeast Upland Game Bird Technical Committee Meeting

The Northeast Wild Turkey Technical Committee was reorganized into this committee, which now covers wild turkeys, ruffed grouse, American woodcock and Northern bobwhite quail. Mary Jo Casalena is the Pennsylvania representative for wild turkeys at this annual meeting. State/provincial upland gamebird biologists from all northeast states and Canadian provinces, and technical representatives from the National Wild Turkey Federation, attend the 3-day meeting.

The committee works on specific charges provided by the Northeast Wildlife Administrators Association, specifically to identify and resolve population management issues associated with these various upland game bird species, as well as identify habitat needs and priorities to provide to the Northeast Upland Habitat Committee. The committee is also important for facilitating exchange of information and to establish coordination and collaboration on projects. The committee's list of priorities for turkey research to the NWTF 2008 Grant-in-Aid research funding included studying hen harvest/survival rates, which fits in well with the PGC's Turkey Management Plan. NWTF considers priority lists from all Turkey Technical Committees when finalizing the national priority list.

Table 1. Final 2006 Pennsylvania spring and fall wild turkey harvests by Wildlife Management Unit (WMU). Spring second harvest is from hunters who purchased a Special Turkey License to harvest a second spring gobbler, one per day.

WMU	Spring			Fall		
	First Harvest	Harvest per Square Mile	Second Harvest	Harvest	Harvest per Square Mile	Percent State Harvest
1A	1,598	0.87	73	1,015	0.55	4.1%
1B	2,196	1.17	111	1,626	0.77	6.6%
2A	2,596	1.12	86	1,321	0.73	5.4%
2B	1,798	1.18	53	1,117	0.82	4.6%
2C	2,296	0.60	64	915	0.30	3.7%
2D	2,696	1.07	121	2,641	1.06	10.8%
2E	1,099	0.62	34	609	0.48	2.5%
2F	1,598	0.44	50	1,219	0.51	5.0%
2G	2,296	0.47	87	2,539	0.62	10.4%
3A	1,997	0.86	65	1,117	0.74	4.6%
3B	2,196	0.77	69	711	0.32	2.9%
3C	2,296	0.95	95	1,524	0.71	6.2%

3D	2,096	0.87	77	711	0.33	2.9%
4A	1,897	0.74	69	1,828	1.05	7.5%
4B	1,997	0.97	68	1,321	0.83	5.4%
4C	2,396	1.26	81	1,015	0.56	4.1%
4D	1,398	0.63	62	1,524	0.55	6.2%
4E	1,798	1.26	97	1,321	0.76	5.4%
5A	400	0.36	12	-	0.00	0.0%
5B	300	0.26	21	-	0.00	0.0%
5C	848	0.61	46	387	0.18	1.6%
5D	51	0.06	1	19	0.02	0.1%
Unknown	-	-	12	-	-	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37,843</b>	<b>0.77</b>	<b>1,454</b>	<b>24,482</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Figure 1. Fall and spring wild turkey harvests in Pennsylvania, 1975 – 2007. Spring 2007 data are preliminary.

**Wheelin' Sportsman:** Carl gave an up-date on this issue.

Right now the program is operating the same as a JAKES Day. National's is in the process of hiring a National Coordinator. Nothing has been decided about hiring any other Wheelin' staff at this point. .

The program hasn't changed, will continued to operate as in the past.

**NWTF Board Member:** Ron Fretts did not attend the meeting and had no report.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**YHEC Report:** No report.

**JAKES/EXTREMEAKES/JAKES GUN RAFFLE:** Bill Mackereth had a written report

### PA Chapter NWTF/JAKES Fund Report

**Checkbook Balance (8/4/2007) \$7,308.26**

**Income:** None

Figure 1. Fall and spring wild turkey harvests in Pennsylvania, 1975 – 2007. Spring 2007 data are preliminary.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**YHEC Report:** No report.

**JAKES/EXTREMEAKES/JAKES GUN RAFFLE:** Bill Mackereth had a written report

### PA Chapter NWTF/JAKES Fund Report

**Checkbook Balance (8/4/2007) \$7,308.26**

**Income:** None  
**Expenses:**

Pocono Mountain (28)	\$ 140.00
Red Rock (50)	\$ 250.00
Honey Hole (7)	\$ 35.00
Del. Co. Longbeards (81)	\$ 405.00
Red Rose (24)	\$ 120.00
Blue Mountain (50)	\$ 250.00
Laurels Longbeards (51)	\$ 255.00
Lower Bucks L.B.'s (586)	\$2,930.00
Susquehanna Local (18)	\$ 90.00
Allegheny Mountain (22)	\$ 110.00
Muncy Creek (10)	<u>\$ 50.00</u>

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$4,635.00 \$4,635.00**

**Checkbook Balance (9/25/07) \$2,673.26**

**Art/Promotion Committee:** Dave Burdge gave a verbal report.

**Awards Committee/ Nominating Committee:** Tom Bunty gave a verbal report. The committee will be meeting at the end of today's meeting.

**By-Laws Committee:** No report.

**Dart Systems Committee:** Tom Bunty had a verbal report

Tom was able to fix the laser on one of the guns. Tom is picking up one system tomorrow and the other at the end of the week. He will check out both systems and then store them for the winter.

There are reservations already on the website for January 2008.

**Directors Handbook:** No report.

**Finance Committee:** At the last meeting Jim Panaro gave us the estimated budget. It has not been finalized.

**Motion made by Don Heckman to adopt the budget as it stands at today's meeting**  
**Seconded by Gary Beatty. Motion carried.**

**Expos/Shows/Conferences/Calling Contest Committee:** No report.

**Habitat Committee/Seed Committee:** Reed gave a verbal report.

There was a problem with mice at the DCNR Building, which came from the Doebler Seed Company. The tags were all removed from the seed bags. The total for clean-up was \$58,000.00, which DCNR has paid.

National's is going to go back to Doebler Seed or the broker and see if they will pay for the clean-up. National's doesn't feel this should be picked-up by the PA State Chapter, they want the people responsible for this problem to pay for the expenses.

arise from the seed program, such as the rodent problem, however, National's is going after the seed company and the broker.

The board is going to continue the seed program and letter will be going out to the PA Chapter Presidents.

Hopefully in January Reed will have more information on what is happening. Reed did find out there is no insurance to cover any unforeseen circumstances that might

**Homepage/Internet Committee:** Joe Drolet had a written report.

- Created the NWTF People database.
- Changed all (pertinent) pages on the Board & State websites to use the new NWTF People database.
- Created a Find People Web page on the Board website to help locate people's information and create mail and email lists.
- Created Chapter & RD databases.
- Changed all (pertinent) pages on the Board & State websites to use the new Chapter and RD databases.
- Modified the Find People web page on the Board website to use the new Chapter and RD databases.
- Moved the PA WITO website to my web server and initiated the transfer of authority over it to me. This should be done any time now.
- Added and changed a number of pages on the Board and State websites.

**Information/Education Seminars:** No report.

**JAKES 1<sup>st</sup> Bird Awards:** No report.

**Legislative Committee:** Don Heckman gave a verbal and written report.

**Legislation changes requires Governor signature:**

1. PGC hunting license increase legislation – supporting need for PGC additional revenue and supporting alternative funding option requirements.
2. Turkey hunting License – Continue with our position statement, articles and news release supporting need for combined spring and fall turkey hunting license, (old HB 2601); support fully funded wild turkey management plan to complete yearly objectives and strategies;
3. Turkey dogs for fall hunting season, providing support material to PA Turkey Dogs Association, SB 580 signed – Complete
4. Support Sunday hunting as regulated by PGC (HB 779), required legislation to change Title 34 Game Law;
5. Do not support legislation (Title 34 Game Code) through legislative wording that changes PGC seasons and bag limits. Seasons and bag limits are PCG Regulation (Title 58 Regulation Code).

**Orange Committee:** Gary Beatty gave a verbal report.

Gary had 3 different fact sheets for us to make copies of and to pass out at banquets, sportsman's clubs, etc., regarding the orange.

**Paper Supplies:** No report.

**POWA Contact:** No report

**Publications/"Turkey Talk" Committee:** No report.

**Public Relations Committee:** No report.

**Rendezvous Committee:** No Report.

**Safety and Education Committee:** No report.

**Super Fund Budget:** No Report.

**Federation of Sportsmen's Club:** No Report

**Turkey Management Plan Committee:** Don Heckman gave a verbal report.

**Wild Turkey Management changes requires PGC Staff and Commissioner overview:**

1. Revised PGC Wild Turkey Management Plan – final adoption February 21, 2007 by PGC Executive Staff. – **COMPLETE**
2. Getting the revised PGC Wild Turkey Management Plan, 2006 – 2015, operational, measuring strategies as outlined, and the plan fully funded for 10 years;
3. Northeast Wild Turkey Populations Model – implement in wild turkey management plan – PA NWTF has \$15,000 invested in development; model data and modeling results are requirements for future wild turkey management decisions;
4. Recommendation to extending spring gobbler season to May 31 – Commissioner's approved May 26, 2008 for final rule making on April 18, 2007 Commissioner meeting.
5. Recommendation for Mentored Youth Hunting to included fall turkey hunting season in regulation;



6. Recommendation to expanding youth spring gobbler hunting to all day;
7. Recommendation to expanding youth spring gobbler to more than one day;
8. Recommendation to expanding regular spring gobbler season to all day after 4-year gobbler leg band research project is completed;
9. Continue recommendations to reduce WMU fall season lengths as management plan setting fall season guidelines are determined; 2007 recommendation WMU 2A, 2F, 2G be reduced to 2 weeks based on current field data, harvest densities information, population densities and hunter densities, as charted measurements outlined in the wild turkey management plan; to increase fall season lengths when management data supports regulation change; Commissioner's approved 2A, 2F for 2 week fall season, 2G remains 3 weeks due to social and political issues, 4D increased to 3 weeks as final rule making at April 18, 2007 Commissioner meeting.
10. Additional spring gobbler regulation – continue review and recommend additional changes as needed;
11. State wide gobbler leg-band research – first year 2006 completed, second year 2007 completed, third year for project Winter 2008; first two years funding from NWTF and PANWTF is \$100, 100 from NWTF Grant In-Aid and PA Chapter NWTF Hunting Heritage Super Fund for research project materials and equipment. PGC funded administrative, staff, and transportation requirement;
12. Four year state-wide gobbler leg band study will be completed in 2009 – results compiled in 20 10; submit next research proposal in 2008 and request funding for state wide hen telemetry study for 4-years.

**Other PA NWTF Board Committee actions requiring PGC Staff and Commissioner Overview:**

1. Spring gobbler season Orange regulation, recommendation to remove wording “must be worn at all times while moving”, replace with hunter choice wording; agenda item for October 2, 2007 PGC Commissioner meeting;
2. Comprehensive PGC wild turkey hunter safety module – NWTF Turkey Hunter Safety DVD provided to PGC HTE classes and availability to general hunting public, helping PGC reach out to 310,000+ turkey hunters with additional turnkey hunter safety and ethics information and material; Turkey Hunter Safety Education tri-fold pamphlet; NWTF Turkey Hunter Safety Task Force material; Turkey Hunter safety and ethics – HRSI 5-year trends are declining, work with turkey hunters and PGC to continue HRSI trending – PGC Staff report due at June 2007 Commissioner meeting.

3. NWTF Turkey management outreach programs – Wild Turkey Woodlands, Fund HHSF Habitat, Safety Education, Land Acquisition, Habitat Programs, Conservation Seed Programs, Project HELP, Operation Appleseed, Operation Oak, Get In The Game – Hunting Heritage Club; continue with PANWTF articles and news releases to Tell the Story.

### **NWTF Pennsylvania Comprehensive Wild Turkey Management Plan:**

- NWTF Wild Turkey Management Plan – support management plan objectives and recommendations, provide for full funded management plan criteria as directed by NWTF Wild Turkey Biologist and NWTF Conservation Programs.

### **As of January 5, 2007 previous wild turkey management accomplishments and successes in Pennsylvania since 1958:**

- PA NWTF supports a fully funded PGC Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania and partners with PGC to accomplish these 47 strategies in the revised management plan. As of January 5, 2007 these are key wild turkey management accomplishments and turkey hunting regulations made since 1958. These 45 accomplishments, current regulation recommendations, and revised wild turkey management plan objectives and strategies will drive PA Chapter NWTF's wild turkey management and turkey hunting recommendations for future decades.

## **Communications**

We received numerous communications which are posted.

## **Old Business**

**News Releases:** Don is working a on a news release.

We also have 2 other available documents to use for news releases one from “PA Turkey Talk” and one out from “The Outdoor Times”. Bob Eriksen will pick one of them and send it to Bob Kasen also.

**Federation of Sportsman’s Club:** The Conference was held on September 7 – 9, 2007.

**The report is as follows:**

1. Thirty-Five (35) counties and 5 NPO’s were represented at the delegate session on Sunday morning. Pheasant’s Forever was the latest NOP to join our Federation.

2. The PFSC is offering to help Divisions purchase PFSC display boards by a 50% grant. This may also be extended to counties in the near future. (NWT Division will be getting one but we may also want to purchase one locally for our shows and programs.)
3. The PWF is encouraging each county to get the Game News back into the schools.
4. The NWF addressed the delegate session on some of the history of the PFSC and the NWF relationship. The resolution was voted on about dropping affiliation with the NWF. The resolution failed by a vote of 13 yea, 23 nay, and 4 abstentions – Mercer voted yea as directed by club delegates. The PFBC gave a presentation about VHS and its upcoming effects on the fisheries in PA. Currently it is limited to Lake Erie but transport of infected fish and water from the lake may spread the virus much like Zebra Mussels.
5. A Straw Poll of delegates was taken by voice vote as to support for the Junior Fishing License concept and the dedicated funding aspect of that. The vote was strongly in favor of the concept to both ideas.
6. The Game and Trapping Committee reminded us to keep the pressure on as regards to the proposed Department of Agriculture Kennel regulations.
7. The resolution about allowing the harvest of all pheasants in all WMU's fangled by 6 yea, 30 nay, and 1 abstention – Mercer County voted nay.
8. The resolution to prohibit spotlighting the week before traditional deer season passed after several recounts by 18 yea, 17 nay, and 2 abstentions – Mercer County voted nay.
9. Environmental Committee asks us to voice our support for the US House version of the Farm Bill and to direct this towards our US Senators, especially Bob Casey.
10. Firearms committee had a lot to review but the main thrust is for us to all remain vigilant on all these bills coming out of Philadelphia.
11. The poster contest information is out and was included with the August minutes. More information is available for those wishing to help us promote it to the Mercer County Schools.
12. The Membership Committee is asking for each club and county to discuss and possibly take action on several items;
  - First is discussion about changing the name of this organization to more closely align with our Mission Statement. The thought to be discussed is to change it to the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen.

- Second is to look at your dues structure and see if we all can move away from the per member type dues to a set fee per club type set up. It's also directing the Divisions to take the steps necessary to move to per club or per county type dues structure.
- Third is sending ALL Dues and Credential Sheets Only to the County Delegate and it is Their Responsibility to see that ALL clubs in their county both affiliated and non-affiliated get the information and paperwork before the end of January and that all dues are collected and paid prior to the Spring Convention. It's asking that if the County Delegate is unable or unwilling to complete their responsibility and duty then please elect or replace them with someone who is willing to step up and be responsible to represent you and the PFSC to all clubs in your county. This committee is seeking a new chairman if you are able to help please let Melody know ASAP.

13. Election of Officer was held and the present officers were re-elected to office for the up-coming year.

*For a more detailed summary of the various committees please go to the PFSC Website to read and download these.*

**Hunting License Increase:** Don gave a verbal report. The Sportsman Coalition is working on a proposal which includes a turkey hunting licenses at this time.

**Alternative Funding:** They are talking about raising the state sales tax to 9% from the 6%. There are also other ideas floating around out there

**They are going to look at 4 different directions:**

- The first direction is to put a line item in the budget.
- The second direction is to take a state sales tax increase and directing 1/8 of 1% of a sales tax go to the PGC and Fish and Boat Commission. That would be approximately .116 % going to PGC and .058% going to Fish and Boat Commission.
- The third direction is taking what the Federal Government does with the federal tax on equipment.
- There is a 4<sup>th</sup> option which is REP, it has been passed, but not sure if it was signed. REP provides for grant money that can be used at somebody's discretion, however, we are not sure who that somebody would be at this time.

Nothing has been finalized at this time.

**Strategic Plan:** Decision to review the plan and see what we are doing and where we are going to do

## **New Business**

**PA Wilds:** They had a meeting up in Williamsport. There were 200 people who attended, different agencies, etc. There was also some agencies who were not invited. There is nothing about hunting in their articles. Jon and Ray are working on trying to get involved with these people.

Jon will have a more formal report at the January meeting.

**JAKES Scholarship Program:** The Deadline dates have changed. The date will be moving up, so we can get them to National's on time.

**JAKES Events:** There is a new registration form to be used at the events. Also please get the Super Fund requests in before the event, due to making sure the events have their insurance.

**Extra Turkey Talks:** Gene receives the extra copies. He didn't received any extra this time, however, after speaking with printer's they said it was due to increase in membership. Gene is going to look further into this issue.

**COPA:** Gene received a request from the Conservation Officer's of Pennsylvania. This Conference will be the North American Conference. In 2010 they will be holding the Conference in Butler. They would like to have a donation from the PA State Chapter.

**Motion made by Don Heckman that the PA State Chapter to donate 3 prints and \$500 to the 2010 COPA North American Conference. Seconded by Reed Johnson. Motion defeated.**

**Motion made by Dale Butler to donate 3 matted and framed prints to the 2010 COPA North American Conference. Seconded by Jim Panaro. Motion carried.**

**2008 Outdoor Times Show:** The show will be held on February 15 – 17, 2008 at the Blair Convention Center. Gene had the dart system there last year. Gene will check into whether or not we are going to get a free booth and who is going to help at this event.

**Vacant Board Seat:** Dave Burdge has 2 applications for this seat, they are Chuck Mathues of the Delaware County Longbeards Chapter and Harold A. Daub of the Lykens alley Longbeards Chapter

**The nominating committee met and they recommended Chuck Mathues fill the vacant seat of Phil Ferrare and finish out his term.**

There are 2 people going off the board in January. We have 1 person already for January.

**Executive Officer:** Need to fill the vacant seat.

**Motion made by Don Heckman that Dale Butler will fill the vacant seat on the Executive Committee. Seconded by Jim Panaro. Motion carried.**

**National Roger Latham Award:** Is there any nominations for this award from the PA State Board. There are no nominees this year.

**Seats for PA National Convention:** Gene will be getting a letter out to the people who attended last year, so they know that registration and payment needs to be to Gene by December 20, 2007.

**PA Hunt Auction:** The applications are in the "PA Turkey Talk".

**Conservation Award:** We can give more than one award if the committee choices to do so.

**JAKES Hunt:** There is a problem with the JAKES hunt next year, as the person who was going to host the event is unable to do it now. Gene will be getting in contact with Greg Caldwell and try and work this out.

## **For the Good of the Order**

Howard Meyers would like to thank the board for the assistance they gave to get the turkey dogs bill through.

**Motion made by Gary Beatty for the PA NWTF State Board of Directors meeting to adjourn. Tom Bunty seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Henry  
PA State Chapter Secretary