



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 E-mail: panwtfrep@panwtf.org

ATTENTION BOARD MEMBERS

The Executive Board meeting will be held at Sam McCartney's Camp near Bellefonte, Pennsylvania on Friday, March 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

The regular State Board of Directors meeting will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the Glenn O. Hawbaker office at Pleasant Gap, Pennsylvania.

***Pennsylvania State Chapter NWTF
Board of Directors Meeting
Ramada Inn, State College
January 6, 2008***

Director's Present: D. Burdge, R. Johnson, F. Shields, D. Butler, G. Beatty, B. Schmid, J. Drolet, T. Bunty, D. Heckman, J. Panaro, G. Huff, E. Couch, K. Fernburg, B. Mackereth, J. Pries, S. Motts, D. O'Brien, Greg Caldwell.

Director's Absent: None

Guests: Carl Brown

The January 6, 2008 Board Meeting was called to order at 9:00 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, the prior meetings minutes were reviewed.

The October, 2007 minutes were approved.

Officers' Reports:

Chairman's Report:

- 10/08/07 Attended Millcreek Chapter Meeting
- 10/22/07 Spoke at Sigel Sportsmen Meeting (Orange Option 2008)
- 11/10-11/16/07 Hunted Whitetails with Ken Fernberg in Ohio
- 12/10/07 Attended Millcreek Chapter Meeting
- 12/03/07 Kemp's Country Gallery- Matting and framing prints for PA NWTF
- 12/28/07 donations and Rendezvous

- 12/01-12/30/07 Communicated with Gene Alwine, Jon Pries, Rhonda Henry and other Board members about Board seats and Resignations.
- 12/28/07 Completed 2008 Super Fund Budget
- 01/04-/06/08 Attended Executive, Annual and January Board Meetings in State College

Submitted by: David Burdge

President's & Vice- President's Report:

VICE PRESIDENT / PRESIDENT REPORT

January 2008

VICE PRESIDENT

December 12, 2007 – Met with WCO Rick Macklem re. PA Wilds Program
Met with WCO Denny Dusza re. Rendezvous

December 14, 2007 – Attended PA Habitat Alliance Meeting, PA F&B Comm., Harrisburg, PA.
Met with Meredith Hill, Director, PA Wilds.

December 14, 2007 – Dinner meeting with Biologist Bob Ericksen

December 15, 2007 – Met with Exec. Officer Don Heckman, Camp Hill, PA

December 19, 2007 – Met with RD Phil Ferrare, Lock Haven, PA

December 21, 2007 – As per By-laws, assumed duties of President, PA State Chapter NWTF

PRESIDENT

December 21 – Present – Phone calls, lots of phone calls!

Submitted by: Jon Pries

Treasurer's Report:

PA NWTF TREASURER'S REPORT

TO: PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHAPTER NWTF

FROM: JIM PANARO

SUBJECT: REPORT FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2007 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2007

DATE: 1/2/07

Starting Balance \$54,349.73

Income \$12,166.91

Rendezvous		\$9,585
Green sheets (Seed return, Outdoor Times safety ad)		\$1,143
Local Chapter Presidents' meeting		\$1,741
Banquet Rebates		\$1,239
Expenses	\$18,344.85	
Turkey Talk		\$7,563
Zimmerman Memorial Fund (food plot)		\$3,208
Green sheet transfers (Ned Smith, On Target, & gobbler banding)		\$4,974
Rendezvous		\$600
Ending Balance	\$48,180.73	
Net Gain (Loss)	(\$6,169.00)	

General Updates Fiscal year 2007-08 year-to date reports are attached.

Our CPA's Year End Compilation report is also submitted for review.

Need to reconcile some greensheets on Ned Smith & On Target ad.

Also need to determine the amount and deposit from Jakes Raffle.

Submitted by: Jim Panaro

In conjunction with Jim's report, a motion was made to move \$15,000 from the General Fund into the Habitat Super Fund which was tabled to New Business.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

NWTF Reports

Carl Mowry:

- Thanks to everyone who helped at Rendezvous
- Highest attendance meal-wise: 248 Meals at the banquet (232 last year)
- 20,717 member of PA NWTF
- Randy Rakers is working on Wounded Warriors. NWTF is working with Veterans Admin. to add events.
- PA Booth at the National Convention
- Tammy and Carl are looking into a Diamond Life Dinner
- Asked that Chapters reserve next year's banquet site right after this year's banquet.

Ray Smith:

- Each Chapter is getting a vehicle donated by Chevrolet
- New program to allow a local, Chevy dealership to sponsor a table at a banquet.
- Wheelin' Sportsmen program is thriving. National is looking for a Wheelin' Rep from the State Board.
- DAV is assisting in finding a home for Wheelin' memberships
- Thanks to District Directors

Phil Ferrare:

- Spoke about National Convention details
- Need to advertise who the District Directors are.
- District Director need to be getting Meeting Minutes

Tammy Mowry

- PA WITO is under PA Chapter NWTF control
- Many 2008 events scheduled
- National Banquet in September. Will board Sponsor participants @ \$300/each?
- 2248 WITO members in PA.

Bob Eriksen:

- New Regional Biologists positions coming onboard before summer across the nation.
- A supplier of tires may have been found.
- The PA WMTP has become the model plan for the National Wild Turkey Management Plan. Each state will have their own action plan.
- Discovered cause of hay being eaten.

Committee Reports

Joe Drolet for the Internet Committee:

Internet Committee Report

January, 2008

1. Moved www.panwtf.org, board.panwtf.org, and pawito.com to a new server at InMotionHosting.com. Hopefully nobody noticed anything different.
2. This change should result in better uptime and additional opportunities for the board such as Blogs, Discussion Boards, and even Electronic Commerce.
3. The cost of the new service is \$9.95/mo for all domains which I will cover for the time being.

Gary Huff for the Orange Committee:

- Has documents related to the Orange Effort.
- Orange Documents are on websites.

A motion was made to establish a budget of \$1650 to print safety brochures. It was seconded and passed.

Tom Bunty for the DART Committee:

- Repaired lasers
- Picking up both units for winter storage.
- 2008 reservations are being accepted.
- Using units outside is a problem.
- Changes recommended for the DART website.

Tom Bunty for the Conservation Seed Committee:

- 27 requests, 5 from one chapter. 1/3 after deadline

Reed Johnson discussed the seed storage situation.

Bill Mackereth:

- It was moved, seconded, and approved that we give 2 framed prints and \$2000 for Jakes

Fuzzy Shields:

- A lot of promotional materials are outdated.
- Presented a plan to purchase shirts

Don Heckman:

PA Chapter - National Wild Turkey Federation Supports Wild Turkey Management

by Don Heckman, PA Chapter NWTF - Executive Officer, Wild Turkey Management Committee Chairman

PA Chapter NWTF position statements supporting wild turkey management, turkey hunting and calling, and turkey hunter safety and ethics, August 21, 2007.

As part of the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania, PA Chapter NWTF supports:

- 1) PGC "Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania".
- 2) funding the PGC "Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania".
- 3) turkey hunting license/stamp for a fee.
- 4) 2nd bird spring tag with a license/tag for a fee - complete.

The Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF Board of Director's supports these additional wild turkey management and turkey hunting positions.

- 1) wild turkey management regulations and decision making based on facts, in the field, in the ground/on the ground data, as defined and outlined in the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania. We support wildlife management regulations based on scientific wildlife management principles determined by PGC wildlife biologists and land managers and NWTF wild turkey biologist.

- 2) purchasing the additional 2nd spring gobbler tag prior to the start of the season. We support mandatory 2nd bird tag harvest reporting with appropriate data.
- 3) PGC yearly funding of the Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania. We continue to support wild turkey research to collect better data on the wild turkey resource and their habitat, and turkey hunters.
- 4) consideration to include a turkey hunting license in the PGC hunting license increase package if recommended by PGC and Legislators. We support funding the yearly budget of the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania as part of the PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management budget with revenues generated from a turkey hunting license, with excess revenue dollars being available for use in the PGC General Fund.
- 5) delaying any additional hunting opportunities for all day adult spring gobbler hunting for a minimum of 3 years, until state-wide gobbler leg band research project is completed and final report is presented in 2010.
- 6) PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania guidelines for setting current dates for spring gobbler season and fall turkey hunting season.
- 7) continued monitoring of relevant data provided by PGC Wild Turkey Biologist's to review fall season lengths across WMU's. We support reducing season lengths or closing certain WMU's where data validates populations are declining.
- 8) 22 WMU's and their current boundaries for state-wide wild turkey management as outlined in the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania.
- 9) further research into Fall turkey hunting seasons where in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 turkey hunting incidents have dramatically decreased. Identify key components that turkey hunters have done right these last 5 fall turkey hunting seasons to impact and help decrease turkey hunting incidents.
- 10) based on recommendations from the NWTf Turkey Hunter Task Force, PA Chapter NWTf supports removing mandatory spring turkey hunter orange regulation.
- 11) Mentored Youth Hunting Program, we support antlered hunting and fall turkey hunting season for mentored youth.
- 12) Legislative Resolution to research and study Sunday hunting, and support Legislation to allow PGC to set Sunday hunting regulations.

PA Chapter NWTf Position Paper
3/16/2007 @ 9:35 AM Page 1 of 2 PA Chapter NWTf
PA Chapter NWTf Supports Wild Turkey Management
by Don Heckman
PA Chapter NWTf - Executive Officer
Wild Turkey Management Committee Chairman
As part of the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania, PA Chapter NWTf supports:

- 1) PGC "Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania".
- 2) Funding the PGC "Management Plan for Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania".
- 3) Turkey hunting license/stamp for a fee.
- 4) 2nd bird spring tag with a license/tag for a fee - complete.

The Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF Board of Director's supports these additional wild turkey management and turkey hunting positions.

- 1) Wild turkey management regulations and decision making based on facts, in the field, in the ground/on the ground data, as defined and outlined in the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania. We support wildlife management regulations based on scientific wildlife management principles determined by PGC wildlife biologists and land managers and NWTF wild turkey biologist.
- 2) Purchasing the additional 2nd spring gobbler tag prior to the start of the season. We support mandatory 2nd bird tag harvest reporting with appropriate data.
- 3) Delaying any additional hunting opportunities for all day adult spring gobbler hunting until the state-wide gobbler leg band research project is completed.
- 4) Continued monitoring of relevant data provided by PGC Wild Turkey Biologist's to review fall season lengths across WMU's. We support reducing season lengths or closing certain WMU's where data validates populations are declining.
- 5) 22 WMU's and their current boundaries for state-wide wild turkey management as outlined in the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania.
- 6) PGC yearly funding of the Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania. We continue to support wild turkey research to collect better data on the wild turkey resource and their habitat, and turkey hunters.
- 7) PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania guidelines for setting current dates for spring gobbler season and fall turkey hunting season.
- 8) Further research on fall turkey hunting seasons where in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 turkey hunting incidents have dramatically decreased. What have turkey hunters done right these last 5 fall turkey hunting seasons to impact and help decrease turkey hunting incidents?

PA Chapter NWTF Position Paper

3/16/2007 @ 9:35 AM Page 2 of 2 PA Chapter NWTF

- 9) Based recommendations from the NWTF Turkey Hunter Task Force, PA Chapter NWTF supports removing mandatory spring turkey hunter orange regulation.
- 10) Consideration to include a turkey hunting license in the PGC hunting license increase package if recommended by PGC and Legislators. We support funding the yearly budget of the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania as part of the PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management budget with revenues generated from a turkey hunting license, with excess revenue dollars being available for use in the PGC General Fund.
- 11) Mentored Youth Hunting game species, we support antlered hunting and fall turkey hunting season by mentored youth.
- 12) Legislative Resolution to research and study Sunday hunting, and support

Legislation to allow PGC to set Sunday hunting regulations.

Turkey Hunting License Benefits

By Don Heckman, PA Chapter NWTF Executive Officer

Wild Turkey Management Committee Chairman, August 21, 2007

PA Chapter NWTf supports the need for a turkey hunting license. We continue to inform our members and all turkey hunters of the benefits of supporting a turkey hunting license, and how revenue generated from the sale of a turkey hunting license could be used to benefit turkey hunters and the wild turkey resource. In the PGC "Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania" 6 objectives and 47 strategies are defined for managing the resource. The management plan needs to be fully funded to effectively complete the 47 management strategies outlined in the plan.

Why Should Turkey Hunters Support a Turkey Hunting License?

- Wild turkey population peaked above 400,000 in 2001; spring 2007 population is 329,500, above the previous 10 year average of 314,900.
- When it comes to turkey hunting, we are in the "good old days" — but those times may not always be here.
- With more than 310,000 estimated turkey hunter's additional state-wide wild turkey research needs to be completed, obtaining better data on state-wide population and harvest densities, hunter densities, and improved turkey hunter safety education and informational material needs to be developed.
- We need to act now to assure that turkey numbers remain high for the future.
- A steady source of funding for the management plan will allow the Game Commission to manage wild turkeys and turkey hunting more efficiently and effectively.
- PGC current wild turkey management plan, which specifies how the Game Commission is to manage wild turkeys through the year 2015, was signed on February 21, 2007. Management plan objectives and strategies including the wild turkey population model needs to be fully funded to support wild turkey management.

How Will a Turkey Hunting License Help?

- Improved and more detailed information on wild turkey harvest densities will become available.
- As state-wide populations increase better research data will provide additional information biologists need to make future management decisions.
- Leg banding and radio telemetry studies will provide better research data and information to the Game Commission for their needs to make more informed management decisions.
- More habitat improvement projects helping to increase turkey populations and improve all wildlife habitats.
- Turkey hunter safety material will be provided directly to turkey hunters. Turkey hunting safety could be improved.
- Better law enforcement aimed specifically at wild turkey violations.
- Determine how many turkey hunters there are in Pennsylvania, allowing biologists to make turkey management decision recommendations based on actual turkey hunter density numbers, not on estimates.
- Turkey hunter opinions and satisfaction levels will be acquired more efficiently because the Game Commission will be able to contact turkey hunters directly.
- The Game Commission's wild turkey management plan will be more fully funded and more successful.

How Will the Turkey Hunter Benefit?

- This license will help ensure the future of the hunting you enjoy.
- Funds will provide turkey hunters with specific turkey hunting and turkey biology information, turkey hunting safety and ethics material.
- Turkey hunter surveys will give you the ability to express your concerns and opinions about turkey management in Pennsylvania.
- Additional funds could be used for purchasing more game lands, providing additional public lands to hunt.
- Habitat enhancement projects on state and federal lands will attract turkeys to these lands, providing additional hunting opportunities.
- Better research data and hunting information about our turkey populations could result in expanded

hunting opportunities in the future.

Our wild turkey resource is a valuable asset to Pennsylvania. During the past 20 years Pennsylvania Game Commission has completed wild turkey restoration throughout the Commonwealth. Wild turkey management is now shifting focus to acquiring additional turkey population and turkey hunter management data while helping Pennsylvania remain a leading wild turkey research and resource management state. A turkey hunting license would be able to fund additional wild turkey research, improve methods to provide better wild turkey management data, provide turkey hunter information and safety material, support increased habitat management programs, and ensure a bright future for these great birds in Pennsylvania.

For further information on wild turkey management look on: www.panwtf.org

A motion was made, seconded, and approved that the PA Chapter pay their last and final commitment of \$2500 for the year 2008 for the mentored youth hunting committee

Mary Jo Casalena for the Technical Committee:

**NWTF Technical Committee Representatives' Report - PA Chapter NWTF
Board of Directors Meeting, January 7, 2008**

**Submitted by: Mary Jo Casalena, Wildlife Biologist II, and Robert C. Boyd, Assistant
Director, Bureau of Wildlife Management, PA Game Commission**

Harvest Management

Current harvest report cards received from the fall 2007 wild turkey season are up approximately 5% from the same time last year, but down 10% from the same time in 2005. Final report card figures will be available in March.

Wild Turkey Season Recommendations

Fall season recommendations are based on trends in 2 independent population indices; spring harvest densities (harvest per square mile), and summer WCO turkey sightings (number of turkeys seen per 1,000 mi driven). We recommend maintaining season length changes for at least 3 consecutive years to track any changes in population trends. With this in mind, PGC staff recommended no changes for the fall 2008/spring 2009 turkey seasons to the Board of Commissioners.

Specifically, Fall 2008:

WMU 1A - maintain 2 weeks – Spring harvest densities still below the level when we made the last season extension to 3 weeks in 2002.

1B – maintain 2 weeks - Spring harvest densities are similar to the long-term average, but summer sightings are still down slightly and substantially below levels when we made the last season extension to 2 weeks in 1999.

2A – maintain 2 weeks - The season was shortened in 2007, so we need at least 3 years of data.

2B - maintain 3 weeks – Due to limited hunting access in this WMU it is unlikely that fall season length impacts the population on a WMU basis.

2C – maintain 2 weeks – Although spring harvest densities are increasing, they are below the level when we made the last season extension to 3 weeks in 2000. It appears that this population is responding well to the shortened season as summer sightings have been steadily increasing since the season was shortened in 2004.

2D – maintain 3 weeks - However, as recommended last year, monitor closely because spring harvest densities are below average, when we made the last season extension to 3 weeks (2002), and summer sighting indices have trended downward since its peak prior to the 3-week season.

2E – maintain 2 weeks – Although spring harvest densities and summer sightings are increasing, spring harvest densities are below the level when we made the last season extension to 3 weeks in 2002. The 2-week season coupled with record high summer sightings this year may very well assist this population to rebound.

2F - maintain 2 weeks - The season was shortened in 2007, so we need at least 3 years of data.

2G - maintain 3 weeks – Although population indices are below levels from 2000-2003, the 2007 values are similar to the long-term trend. A 2-week fall season may allow the population to increase, but currently we lack fall harvest rate data to verify this. A 3-week season is traditional in this WMU and hunters seem to be satisfied with the low harvest densities.

3A, 3B, 3C & 4E - maintain 3 weeks – Spring harvest densities are stable and summer sightings are above record levels.

3D, 4C & 4D - maintain 3 weeks - Spring harvest densities and summer sightings are slightly above long-term trends.

4A - maintain 2 weeks for at least two more years – Population indices are showing increasing trends but the previous 3 years of indices are not yet above the population index values when the season length was reduced, as recommended in our turkey management plan. This WMU demonstrates a repeated pattern of adverse effects from a longer season.

4B - maintain 2 weeks – The last 3 years of spring harvest density indices have been above the values when the season length was reduced, but summer sighting indices are still well below these values, plus, this WMU demonstrates a repeated pattern of adverse effects from a longer season.

5A – maintain closed. Population trend indices from the Michaux State Forest are showing increasing trends, but the population is still quite low. If and when the fall season opens, I recommend a limited hunt (perhaps 3-days, mid-week) due to the hunting pressure this isolated population receives.

5B – maintain closed - Population indices are low, populations could be vulnerable to overharvest in this fragmented habitat, and the closed season will maximize the success of the population restoration efforts of wild turkey transfers (2001-2003) into the area.

5C – maintain 6-day season - However, continue to monitor closely because spring harvest densities continue to show a declining trend since decreasing the season by 1 day in 2005. Turkey populations may be vulnerable to overharvest in this WMU due to fragmented habitat.

5D - maintain 6-day season – Dataset is limited. Due to the high human population in this area this population level may be acceptable.

Spring 2009:

Spring Youth – statewide (bearded birds) – maintain ½ day, noon closure, April 18, 2009.

Spring – statewide (bearded birds) – maintain 26 days, noon closure, April 25-May 25, 2009.

PRELIMINARY 2007 Turkey Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents

The preliminary results for Spring 2007 Turkey HRSIs show 5 non fatal incidents. One was self-inflicted (unintentional discharge) and the other 4 victims were mistaken for game. All victims were hunting; 2 victims were standing, one was walking/running and two were sitting.

Preliminary results for the Fall 2007 turkey season show one incident (nonfatal), the lowest number of incidents ever recorded. The previous record was 2 incidents in both 2003 and 2005 (4 incidents in 2006). The one incident, from Sullivan County, involved a centerfire rifle at a distance of 151 – 300 ft. and the victim, who was wearing fluorescent orange and standing, was

mistaken for game and was hunting. Summaries for spring and fall seasons are provided at the end of this report.

Wild Turkey Spring Harvest Rates and Annual Survival Rates Study

The third field season of this four-year study will begin in January. Thanks to the continued support of the PANWTF, most equipment has been purchased and legbands are being distributed for this winter's trapping efforts, except the bait and hay. At the end of November, all three states had closed their hunting seasons. Seven fall harvests were reported in New York. Ohio reported four birds, one of those was a spring harvest. Pennsylvania had nine fall harvests reported. One report was only a band located by a young man walking through the woods (Bedford City), and another was a bird banded as an adult in New York in 2006 and was harvested in Potter County.

Annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show, Atlanta, GA

Thanks to the generous support from the Pennsylvania State Chapter, the Game Commission will again have excellent representation at the National Convention. Attendees will include Commissioners, Executive Director Carl Roe, Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year award recipient Beth Fife (Allegheny County), Joe Kurz award recipient Shayne Hoachlander (Land Manager, NW Region), and PGC-NWTF Technical Committee Representative Bob Boyd.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved that the PA Chapter NWTF renew its membership in the PFSC for \$1500.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to make Joe Drolet the Secretary of the PA NWTF Chapter.

Communications

Nothing

Old Business

Dale Butler made a motion, Joe Drolet seconded, and it was passed the Bob Schmid be appointed an Executive member.

Don Heckman spoke on new legislation and the PGC openings.

New Business

Jim Panaro presented the Super Fund Budget.

The motion (from earlier) was made to move \$15,000 from the General Fund into the Habitat Super Fund was carried.

The Super Fund Budget was formally approved.

A motion to extend the plan for a year to keep back \$50,000 again to spend only realized funds.

Two targets for National Archery in the Schools Program will be funded at \$50/each.

Please be prepared for the March, Long Range Planning Meeting.

For the Good of the Order

**Motion made for the PA NWTF State Board of Directors meeting to adjourn.
Seconded. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Drolet
PA State Chapter Secretary for the Day