



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's Camp near Bellefonte, Pennsylvania on Friday, June 6, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

The regular State Board of Directors meeting will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the Glenn O. Hawbaker office at Pleasant Gap, Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania State Chapter NWTf Board of Directors Meeting Glenn O. Hawbaker, Pleasant Gap March 2, 2008

Director's Present: *D. Burdge, R. Johnson, F. Shields, D. Butler, G. Beatty, B. Schmid, T. Bunty, D. Heckman, J. Panaro, E. Couch, G. Huff, J. Pries, D. O'Brien, H. Daub, J. Straley, and J. Nyce*

Directors Absent: *K. Fernburg, B. Mackereth, S. Motts, J. Drolet, and C. Mathues*

Guests: H. Myers and S. Sanderson

The March 2, 2008 Board Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman of the Board, Dave Burdge. After the Welcome, Call to Order, Prayer, and Pledge of Allegiance, reviewing the ground rules, and introduction of new Board Members, Chairman Burdge asked for the Officer Reports.

OFFICER REPORTS

President: Jon Pries had a written report:

January:

4, 5 & 6: Attend Annual Rendezvous. Met with PGC Exec. Director Carl Roe.

12, 13 & 14: Attend Governor's Advisory Council Meetings. Made initial plans for meeting with DCNR/PA Wilds.

15 & 16: Met with RD Phil Ferrare. Attend Susquehanna Longbeards Banquet planning meeting.

18, 19 & 20: Attend Second Annual Ontario Provincial Rendezvous. Attended habitat and board meetings.

22: Completed and e-mailed Board Committee Assignments for 2008.

26: Attended Muncy Creek Chapter Banquet.

27 & 28: Testified at PGC meetings. Met with Joe Neville regarding ad pages in PGC Hunting & Trapping Digest. Met with PA Sportsmen's Coalition. Met with new Board member Jim Nyce. Met with Chris O'Hara of BassPro in Harrisburg.

31: Fly to Las Vegas.

February:

1 – 4: Attend SHOT Show. Met with Rob Keck. Met with Tammy Sapp. Met with Carl Brown.

9: Drove to Lancaster – met with Joe Drolet to discuss website, secretarial duties, organizational ideas and Turkey Talk issues.

Met with Don Heckman – discussed Turkey Talk issues.

Attended Lykens Valley Longbeards Banquet.

10: Attended annual Hunting Heritage Super Fund meeting.

Completed annual Scholarship selection process.

15: Attended meeting with DCNR/PA Wilds personnel in Harrisburg, PA.

20 – 25: Attend NWTF Convention, Atlanta, GA.

Meetings with Ron Fretts, Carl Brown, Vern Ross, Roxanne Palone.

Accepted numerous awards on behalf of state and local chapters.

Attended President's Breakfast and Leadership meetings.

PA DCNR WILDS initial Meeting Feb 15

Vice – President: Don Heckman had a written report.

January:

4, 5 & 6: Attend Annual Rendezvous.

12: Attend PFSC Board Meeting

18: Attend PGC Meeting at office

19 : Attend ESOS Dinner Meeting

27-29 : Attend PGC Meetings

February:

2-10 : ESOS Calling contest, Dart system, Membership Booth

15 : Attend DCNR PA Wilds meeting

29 : Attend PFSC Southern Division Meeting

March

1 : Attend PA chapter Executive meeting

Secretary's Report: none

Treasurer's Report: Jim Panaro had a written report.

Starting Balance:	\$48,180.73
Income:	<u>\$45,850.21</u>
Total:	\$94,030.94
Expenses:	<u>\$65,715.83</u>
Ending Balance:	\$30,323.43

Motion made by Gary Huff to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Gary Beatty. Motion carried

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

March 2008

01/07/08	Attended Millcreek Chapter Meeting
01/20/08	Attended PGC comment Meeting in Harrisburg
01/21/08	Attended Millcreek Chapter Meeting
02/04/08	Attended Millcreek Chapter Meeting

02/09/08 Visited Paluh Art Gallery (Tionesta, PA) and Dick's (Erie, PA)

02/10/08 Attended PANWTF Habitat Meeting (Bellefonte, PA)

02/11/08 Attended Millcreek Chapter Meeting

02/16/08 Visited Sportsmen's Warehouse (Pittsburgh, PA)

02/18/08 Attended Millcreek Chapter Meeting

02/25/08 Attended Millcreek Chapter Meeting

03/01/08 Attended Executive Meeting (Bellefonte, PA)

03/02/08 Attended PANWTF March Board Meeting (Bellefonte, PA)

As Millcreek Chapter President and Banquet Chairman I have been dedicating most of my spare time preparing for the Millcreek Chapter Hunting Heritage Banquet March 15th, 2008.

NWTF REPORTS

Senior Regional Director: Carl Mowry had a written report.

2008 NWTF National Convention in Atlanta Feb 21-24

PA had a good representation from local chapters and volunteers attend.

The two PGC award winners Beth Fife WCO winner from the PA Chapter and Shane Hocklander the Joe Kurz PA award winner were both in attendance and both wanted to thank the chapter for allowing them to attend the National Convention.

The PA Chapter was recognized at the Leadership Meeting on Thursday for the #1 chapter for net/net dollars raised at \$ 489,706 with Missouri 2nd at \$455,467 and Georgia 3rd at \$407,287.

Also at the Thursday Meeting we had the Southeast Silver Spurs Chapter win the number one chapter for Sponsor Membership Achievement with 141 sponsor members and the Wapiti Roost Chapter the #9 place award for 103 Sponsors.

Saturday night at the awards banquet the PA Chapter received 4th place for the L.A.Dixon Awards for Net Dollars raised.

The WITO received awards and Tammy will cover those

On Sunday at the JAKES Breakfast the Red Rock Chapter received an award for Best Event for 151 – 250 JAKES.

PA Call Makers also won many awards:

Scott Basehore won Neil Cost Champion of Champions

Mike Lapp won Best of Show & Gibson Award

Pat Strawser won D.D.Adams award & Best sounding Friction Call.

NWTF National Junior Turkey Calling Championship saw Corry Hoone of Smithville PA place 2nd & Dakota Chamberlin of Claysburg place 5th.

NWTF National Intermediate Calling Championship saw Dakota Clouser of Danville place 1st.

NWTF Friction Calling Championship saw Matt Van Cise of Brookville PA Place 1st & Matt Morrett of Harrisburg place 4th.

NWTF Grand National Champion was Billy Yargus of Ewing MO. with Matt Van Cise 4th place

NWTF Champion of Champions contest Damon Davis of Danville placed 4th.

In the Youth Art Contest in the age group 12-14 Hallie Gregor from Brookville PA won 3rd place.

2009 National Convention will be in Nashville TN from February 19 - 22. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending next year's convention.

2008 Banquet Season is well under way and this year looks to be close to or up from last year. Memberships are up across the state at our banquets and the 2008 banquet product has been received well by those in attendance.

Tammy and I are still in the planning stages for a Diamond Life dinner in the Pittsburgh area for late spring / early summer.

Once again we have the 2008 Truck Raffle Tickets available. This year the prize is a 2009 Chevy Tahoe, Mossberg 835, H&R Pardner Pump, Knight 50 cal. inline, Remington 22 rifle and a turkey fryer kit. The winners will be drawn at the Turkey Shoot in Forsyth GA on August 17, 2008.

PA Chapter Upper Gun Raffle at printers and will be in the mail by March 25th.

NWTF Listed to receive Elk Permit on Bill 747 printers # 874.

Regional Directors: Ray Smith and Phil Ferrare had Verbal reports.

Ray and Phil are also busy with many banquets this time of year.

Ray noted that Lykens Valley went from 145 to 280 people at their Banquet this year.

Phil informed everyone that we now have our 87th Chapter Whitdeer Jakes in Lewisburg area.

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

National Convention: The national convention was this past weekend. I believe a great time was had by all.

I had the opportunity to present the Women in the Outdoors awards for the top events in the country. This occurred at the Friday breakfast that was sponsored by Federal.

The strength in any organization or program is found in the number and quality of its membership. The following events are to be commended for having 100 or more members at their events. These events were recognized at their seats.

The Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter and Walking Purchase Chapter event with 100 members. Katrina Skrapits is the event coordinator for this event.

The Wilhelm Chapter event with 106 members. Annette Tobin and Meg LeSuer are event co-coordinators for this event.

The first runner-up for **Best Overall Membership Achievement** with 182 Members is the Mount Pisgah Women in the Outdoors Event. Nicole Carman is the event coordinator. Jon Pries, PA State Chapter President accepted this award in Nicole's absence.

Thank you to each of these top events for proving that a women's event can be huge!

For Best Overall Highest Net Dollars: 1st Runner Up - with a total of \$10,259 net dollars is the Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter & Walking Purchase Chapter event, Katrina Skrapits accepted this award.

The Annie Oakley Award is presented each year to outstanding volunteers for their commitment in helping us build the Women in the Outdoors program.

This year's first recipient is an avid outdoors woman. She enjoys sharing the hunting experience with her children. She's been an Event Coordinator since 2005. Her 2007 event had 100 members. Her events have received numerous awards on the State chapter level. This person is very active in two local chapters. Both of these chapters have benefited tremendously with her talents. She works as a graphic artist and is

always ready and willing to assist the local chapters and the State chapter. This year's first Annie Oakley Women in the Outdoors Volunteer Award goes to Pennsylvania's own, Katrina Skrapits. Katrina was accompanied to the convention with her husband, Steve and their son, Josh. This also Katrina's first time to attend the national convention

National Women in the Outdoors Event: Now that the national convention is over, we will be moving full steam ahead with our National Women in the Outdoors 10th anniversary event. Registration forms are available from me, or on the National Women in the Outdoors website or the PA Women in the Outdoors website.

PA State Women in the Outdoors Event: Our 10th anniversary PA State Women in the Outdoors event will take place March 28-30 in Somerset County. Registration forms are still available.

Events Currently Scheduled for 2008: There are currently 21 events scheduled. There are several events that will be scheduled.

**Regional Biologist Activity Report
January and February 2008
Bob Eriksen, NWTF Regional Biologist**

Agency Assistance

- Consulted with Pennsylvania Game Commission and Vermont Fish and Wildlife biologists on the NE wild turkey population model and participated in a conference call with the model designer
- Consulted with Pennsylvania Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit on banding procedures for gobblers
- Participated in gobbler capture and banding for the Pennsylvania Game Commission Southeast Region (29 gobblers and 10 hens captured so far)
- Processed 16 bills for trapping equipment and supplies for the Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Provided advice and suggestions on wild turkey harvest management to the New Jersey Fish and Game Council at the request of the agency director

Writing Projects

- Produced articles on wild turkey oddities and the Zimmerman family visit to SGL 211 for "Pennsylvania Turkey Talk"
- Completed a final report for the Wildlife Forever grant that assisted with purchases for the gobbler banding project
- Wrote copy and edited the first and second versions of the Turkey Hunting Success and Safety brochure
- Prepared letters for the Pennsylvania Chapter in support of the acquisition of the Glatfelter Tree Farm Number One. Letters were sent to Senators Casey and Spector and Representative Platt.
- Drafted a letter for the New Jersey Chapter in support of management alternative "B" for the Walkkill National Wildlife Refuge, an alternative that allowed for land purchase and opened more area to hunting

Meetings and Presentations

- Attended January executive committee and board meetings for the Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey Chapters
- Attended the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Chapter Awards Dinners in January
- Participated in the January meeting of the New Jersey NRCS Technical Committee
- Attended the January meetings of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the New Jersey Fish and Game Council
- Participated in the annual Pennsylvania Chapter Habitat Committee meeting
- Presented power points on “Wild Turkeys 101” and “Black Bear Management” at the New Jersey Vegetable Growers Association meeting and the Pennsylvania Chapter Rendezvous
- Attended the NWTF Technical Committee meeting and provided three power point presentations

Woodland Owners Field Days

- Participated in a landowner field day in Cambridge, Maryland at which 70 people attended
- Began preparation for a landowner field day in Georgetown, Delaware scheduled for April

Hunting Heritage Super Fund

- Processed 25 Maryland Super Fund requests, 9 Pennsylvania requests, 4 Delaware requests and 2 New Jersey requests.

Information Requests

- Provided information via email, letter or telephone to 23 individuals from 9 states. Information requests ranged from habitat management advice to questions about differentiating between subspecies.

Bob also noted that Current Superfund Balance is \$88,123.23.

NWTF Technical Committee: Mary Jo Caselena had a written report.

NWTF Technical Committee Representatives' Report - PA Chapter NWTF Board of Directors Meeting, March 2, 2008

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

PANWTF Habitat Superfund Committee

Pennsylvania Game Commission technical committee member, Mary Jo Casalena, and Chief of Game Lands Planning and Development Division, Ben Jones, are members of this committee. Despite the smaller habitat budget again this year in order to set aside monies to be used as annual funding, the committee approved funding for 63 of the 83 proposals for a total of \$100,375.72 for wild turkey habitat throughout

Pennsylvania plus \$10,000 for the seed subsidy program. Of these, 40 projects were funded in cooperation with the PA Game Commission for a total of \$68,784.77. Many proposals were funded at a lower level than requested because there simply were not enough funds available to fully fund every proposal. I sent memos to all regions informing them which proposals were funded and which were not and why. The committee has made several technological advances for project review, which made the review process more streamlined. The new electronic proposal form, created by the PGC, worked seamlessly this year as all PGC proposals were submitted electronically. In light of the Game Commission's 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 Spring Harvest Rates and Annual Survival Rates Study

The third field season of this four-year study has been underway since January. PGC staff, often with volunteer assistance, has legbanded 230 male turkeys from January to present, which is about 77% of the total needed (300). Trapping continues in all regions, and with recent snows and cold temperatures, which help attract turkeys to bait sites for trapping, we feel confident we will achieve our goal.

Regional Totals are: NW: 59, SW: 39, NC: 37, SC: 38, NE: 15, SE: 42.

Annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show, Atlanta, GA

The Game Commission sincerely thanks the Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF for hosting the Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year award recipient (WCO Beth Fife, Allegheny County), Joe Kurz award recipient Shayne Hoachlander (Land Manager, NW Region), and PGC-NWTF Technical Committee Representative Bob Boyd to the 2008 NWTF National Convention and Sports Show. 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.

As part of the NE Wild Turkey Technical Committee Mary Jo Casalena reviewed and provided comments on 18 NWTF Grant-in-aid research proposals for wild turkey research, which were reviewed and rated during the National Technical Committee meeting in Atlanta. Our tri-state grouse study is funded through this as well.

Bureau of Wildlife Conference

For the first time in 5 years, the PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management held a 3-day conference for all Bureau employees as an opportunity to learn what each other is involved with. During the past 5 years the Bureau has increased over 3 times in size to the point where many Bureau employees do not know each other. Bureau employees are stationed throughout the state and often don't interact, so this Conference was an excellent and enlightening experience for all to not only meet each other, but also to be updated on many new programs administered through Harrisburg. All research biologists had an opportunity to provide a powerpoint presentation regarding their current research and management topics. There were 87 attendees, including two commissioners, all executive and bureau directors and four region directors.

Update: 240 birds banded so far this year.

40 of the 63 habitat projects approved this year were Game comm. Projects Grant in Aid for Hen Telemetry study in 2010.

Question on NE Habitat study- on hold till trap/banding is done.

Review of Turkey Management Objectives at June Meeting.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JAKES: Bill Mackereth was unable to attend but had a written report.

PA Chapter NWTF/JAKES Fund Report

Checkbook Balance (1/5/2008) **\$25,990.64**

Income: None **Balance** **\$25,990.64**

Expenses: 28 Chapters received their checks thru their RD

Total Expenses **\$23,800.00**

Checkbook Balance (2/29/2008) **\$ 2,190.64**

Motion made by Don O'Brien to accept the Jakes Treasurers Report. Seconded by Tom Bunty. Motion carried.

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

1. Converted the entire PA WITO website to PHP, updated content, and added the 2008 events.
2. Added a Banquets database and web pages to the Public website.
3. Added a Mass Email capability to the Admin website.
4. Changed to look of the DART Schedule on both the Board and Public websites.
5. Redesigned the RD and Chapter databases.
6. Made numerous content modifications to both the Board and Public websites.

AWARDS: Tom Bunty had a verbal report.

The six Turkey statues were received and stored. I've also received the two Nameplates for the WCO and LMO of the year.

Harold Daub will present the turkey statues at either the April or June PGC meeting.

Turkey Talk Publication: Bob Schmid had a verbal report.

Reminder about his new email address: bschmid@panwtf.org

Discussion of issues with past publications of turkey talk.

Submit items to Committee Chair/ Bob Schmid by Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1, Nov 1.

Publisher needs Hi Res JPEG photos. Chapter News –Events

Contact list of Chapters and location of chapters.

Discussion of list of additional copies to whom and how many.

Discussion of adult membership classifications

Overruns to Bob Schmid/ turkey Talk Committee Chair.

Land Acquisition committee: Don Heckman reported that we are looking at two projects, Waggoner's Gap \$2000 and Glatfelter Property \$8000 near Michaux.

Don Heckman made a motion to fund \$2000 for Waggoner's gap project and it was seconded by Don O'Brien. Motion passed.

Wild Turkey MGNT Committee: Don Heckman had updates for the Wild Turkey MGNT plan.

Page 2 # 1 under "other NWTF" – Hunter choice for orange in spring-Complete

Await status of Pa Bulletin inclusion so it will be in effect for this spring.

Bottom of page 4 add #46 Hunter's choice for spring

1958-1999 We had 19 changes in turkey regulations and management applications.

2000-2008 We had 26 changes in turkey regulations and management applications.

Priorities have been: # 1 Wild Turkey Management Plan

2 Getting Orange to be voluntary in Spring

Jim Panero also reported under this committee report:

Wild Turkey CO-OP –Do turkey surveys with the same people year to year. Daily Observations before, during, and after seasons. Based on West Virginia setup where they've been doing the surveys for 20 years.

Legislative: Don Heckman also reports for this committee.

HB 1214- Kathy Davis email- Non Support of Short Game Commissioner terms.

Contact Senator and email back to Don- who and what district you contacted.

Discussion on way to effectively contact senators and Representatives.

HB2205 – Fines and Penalties changes—update later

Promo Committee: Gary Huff and Fuzzy Shields reported for this committee.

Looking into more items- has 5 items to look at here today. Looking into more BOD shirts- has different logo- our current one would have to be digitized at cost of \$77.

Gary Beatty motioned to have the current logo digitized for \$77. Reed Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Conservation Seed: Jim Panero reported that 1 truckload of Corn seed has been ordered for each of the East and the West distribution areas. Reminder that People are Responsible for filling out forms and payment to State Chapter for shipping.

Communications

Email from Logan Stinger requesting help paying for 14 day conservation summit –no motion

Request for National Archery in Schools in Bucks/Montgomery county donation- no motion

Ned Smith Center- building outdoor Amphitheater- Currently support annually –get print for each banquet-no motion.

OLD Business: none

NEW Business:

Monday June 9, 2008 PANWTF will meet with PA Game commission. Attendees will meet early at Peachtree Restaurant at 11:15, have lunch together.

Safety & Ed Poster and Pamphlet- how to get it distributed. Moved to Committee.

PFSC Spring convention –Don Heckman has requested prepayment.

4 Resolutions: Were emailed to everyone to look over.

#1 Delaware River Shad Restoration Approved

#2 Dedicated income from sales tax to PGC/PFBC Approved

#3 PFSC terminate relationship with NWF Approved

#4 Change Junior hunter to age 18 Approved

Hunting License Increase: PA Sportsman Coalition Meeting on Sunday March 9th.

License fee increase only or with turkey license discussion.

Final wording included the PANWTF highly recommends fee increase with turkey license, but will support fee increase only, if that happens.

Ray Smith talked about the "Bring a Friend" Banquet program. Presented an idea that State Board spends \$10,000 on Turkey hunts, as many as it buys, then Banquet Committee members get one chance for every new member under BAF. Long discussion on how to implement. Referred to committee.

Question on any news about the Hunting/Fishing museum.

State Chapter Scholarship for 2008 was awarded to Robert T. Caccese of Weatherly (the Honey Hole Longbeards local chapter.

A little over 3000 second bird tags sold so far.

Gary Beatty made a motion for the State Chapter to purchase 1 truck ticket from each RD. Seconded by Gary Huff. Motion passed

For the Good of the Order

Motion made by Don O'Brien for the PA NWTF State Board of Directors meeting to adjourn. Second by Don Heckman. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Bunty
PA State Chapter Secretary for the Day

