



**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 next Executive Board meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn in State College, Pennsylvania on Friday, January 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

The PA State Chapter Rendezvous and Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2009 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 11, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Ramada Inn at State College, Pennsylvania.

*Pennsylvania State Chapter NWTF
Board of Directors Meeting
Glenn O. Hawbaker Office, Pleasant Gap, PA
October 4, 2008*

Director's Present: G. Beatty, T. Bunty, H. Daub, J. Drolet, K. Fernburg, D. Heckman, R. Johnson, B. Mackereth, C. Mathues, S. Motts, J. Nyce, J. Panaro, J. Pries, J. Straley.

Director's Absent and sorely missed: Dave Burdge

Director's Absent: D. Butler, G. Huff, D. O'Brien, H. Shields

NWTF Staff Present: B. Eriksen, P. Garvin, C. Mowry, T. Mowry, R. Smith

Guests: Mary Jo Casalena, H. Meyers, D. Smith (Top Flight Media), D. Zimmerman.

The Board Meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Acting Vice-President, Don Heckman.

Don welcomed the Board members, called the meeting to order, led the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, and ran through the ground rules. Don is substituting for President Jon Pries who will arrive later.

Officers' Reports:

Vice- President's Report: Reports are a bit out of order because of Jon's delayed arrival. Don Heckman, PANWTF Vice President's Report – August 1 – October 2, 2008

Report of vice-president activities, action items, decisions, ideas, completed items. I will have one copy of my report on Saturday for our Secretary.

August 1-3 – attend August Executive Committee and Board meeting, and Local Chapter Presidents meeting

August 6-7 – emailed and spoke with Darren Smith to set up Radio PA/Top Flight Media meeting on Sept. 9th

August 8 – attended PGC meeting on Marcellus Shell Natural Gas Reserves on state game lands; Reviewed PGC comments on hunting license increase with PGC and PFSC staff

August 11 – attended Michaux-Yellow Breeches board and banquet meeting

August 12 – worked on 2007-2008 state chapter accomplishments list for President Pries; Distributed PGC news release on comments for hunting license increase fee

August 14-15 – more hunting pa.com forum replies on hunting license increase and turkey hunting license

August 15 – researching and writing article for Turkey Talk fall issue

August 18-19 – PGC BOC District 2 and 3 nominations have been sent to the Governor

August 20-21 – researching and writing legislative email for PGC Hunting License increase legislative support

August 21 – forwarded article for Turkey Talk Fall issue to Jason; recommended NWTF Mission Statement be added to Turkey Talk banner on second page

August 22 - bye – Sept. 8 - back

Sept. 8-9 – forwarded emails received the past 2 weeks to the board and other distributions

September 8 – worked with Tom Bunty on updating PANWTF Officers list since 1975

September 9 – meeting with WITF, Top Flight Media, Radio PA, and PGC to review radio advertising opportunity

September 9 – develop recommendations for Communications, Advertising, PR Committee for board of director's review

September 10 – sent awards nominations to Tom Bunty

September 11 – started to update three WTM Committee reports for October board meeting

September 11 – Fall Legislative Session starts September 15 with legislator's back in session, sent 3 emails on legislative bills impacting sportsmen, especially HB 2205 – increase in fines and penalties

September 12 – started coordinating NHFD event in East Wing Rotunda Capitol Hill on Tuesday, September 23. Sent email requesting help and copies of PANWTF literature be brought to event rally

September 15-16 – worked on final updates to Wild Turkey Management Committee reports; added PANWTF 2007-2008 Accomplishments document to final report listing; reviewed reports with WTM Chairman Jim Panaro

September 17 – met with President Jon

September 18 – worked on final updates to Legislative Committee report; added new bills, added current Votes status

September 22 – sent email to Senate Appropriations Committee asking for HB 1214 not be voted out of committee
Emailed various legislative bill reports

September 23 – attend National Hunting and Fishing day Rally representing PANWTF on Capitol Hill

September 24 – sent Joe D and the Board Wild Turkey Management Reports for the October Board meeting
Emailed various legislative bill reports

September 25 – sent 2007-2008 accomplishments article to PR Bob Kasun for PANWTF news release
Sent 2007-2008 accomplishments to Linda Steiner, editor PFSC ON TARGET for next issue

September 26 – sent Bob Kasun quotes for 2007-2008 accomplishments news release

September 29 – sent Legislative Committee Report to Joe D and the Board

October 1 – reviewed and gave Bob Kasun okay to distribute PA Chapter NWTF 2007-2008 Accomplishments news release, Bob will be sending to PA newspapers and outdoor writers today

October 1 – sent Executive Committee agenda for Friday nights meeting

October 1 – sent Vice President's Report to Joe D and the Board

Tell The Story – Pass It On.
Think Safety – Hunt Safely.
Don...

Secretary's Report:

Mary Jo Casalena needs to be included in the email distribution of the meeting minutes.

Bill Mackereth made the following corrections to the August minutes:

- Page 25 – A check has not been issued by Bill Mackereth to Jim Panaro for the balance in the Jakes account.

- Page 28 – The motion was made by Don Heckman and seconded by Bill Mackereth.
- Page 29 – HB779 motion was made by Jim Panaro and Don Heckman and seconded by Reed Johnson.

Secretary's Note: Previous minutes have been corrected.

Bill Mackereth made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Tom Bunty seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

PA NWTF TREASURER'S REPORT

TO: PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHAPTER NWTF
FROM: JIM PANARO
SUBJECT: REPORT FOR PERIOD AUGUST 1, 2008 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2008
DATE: 9/30/08

Starting Balance \$28,797.17

Income \$29,428.49

Chapter Membership Rebate	\$11,868
Fundraising (Trip of a Lifetime)	\$8,350
Local Chapter Presidents' Meeting	\$3,457
Local Chapter Banquet Rebates	\$2,890
Green sheets (Seed return)	\$1,345
Local Chapter Startup Loans returned	\$1,300
Fundraising (Jakes Raffle)	\$1,280

Expenses \$ 13,674.62

Turkey Talk Summer Issue	\$5,847
Local Chapter Presidents' Meeting	\$5,327
Awards & Gifts (300 first bird patches)	\$876
August Board Meeting	\$790

Ending Balance \$44,557.95

Net Gain (Loss) \$15,760.78

General Updates Fiscal year 2007-08 year-ending and 2008 -2009 YTD reports are attached.

Gary Beatty corrected the Budget Heading in the 2008-2009 Budget Report.

Joe Drolet made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Skip Motts seconded and the motion carried.

President's Report: Note – Jon arrived and his report was given and a discussion ensued.

PA STATE CHAPTER NWTF

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

October 4, 2008

AUGUST –

1 – Attended Executive Committee meeting.

2 - Attended State Chapter Board meeting, trap shooting with local chapter presidents.

3 – Attended Leadership meeting for local chapter presidents.

7 & 8 – Hamburg, PA - Met with Rep. Ed Staback and 10 other Legislators, discussed Sunday hunting and other issues.

8 & 9 – DuBois, PA – Attend meeting of PA Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing & Conservation.

12 – Attend Susquehanna Longbeard Chapter meeting.

17 – Wampum, PA - Attended Western PA Regional chapter Shoot & Inaugural Banquet.

SEPTEMBER –

4 -8 – Little Rock, AR - Attended induction of National NWTF Board member Gene Denton into the Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame. Met with NWTF CEO George Thornton – discussed PA State Chapter and his attendance at our Rendezvous.

10 – Drove to Brookville to visit with Dave Burdge.

12 – Harrisburg, PA – met with Don Heckman.

13 & 14 – Attended meetings of PA Governor’s Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing & Conservation.

16 – Harrisburg, PA – Attended meeting with DCNR and numerous conservation organizations to discuss hunter involvement with DCNR.

30 – Fly to Reno, NV to attend White House Conference on North American Wildlife Policy.

OCTOBER -

1 – 3 – Attended White House Conference on North American Wildlife Policy meetings and receptions. Met with Dr. James Earl Kennamer, NWTF National Board members and other state chapter Presidents. Met with Aaron Hobbs, representing “Sportsmen for John McCain”.

Eight core topics of discussion:

Funding for Wildlife Conservation; Management of Wildlife Habitat; Maintaining Access to Public and Private Land; Education, Recruitment and Retention; the North American Model; Federal, State and Tribal Coordination; Climate Change Impacts; and Energy Development.

Discussion:

- Jon attended the White House Conference on North American Wildlife Policy Review in Nevada.
- Jon will talk to Dave Burdge’s wife Carol and find out if Dave is ready for drop-in visitors and will notify the Board.

NWTF Reports

Carl Mowry:



October 4, 2008 Report

PA Chapter 2009 JAKES Hunt will take place at Timber Doodle Farms in McKean Co. with Bob Friedl and Skip Motts, Talkin’ Stick Game Calls will be donating turkey calls to the youth and Keystone Country Store will donate the camo clothing.

PA Chapter 2010 JAKES Hunt will take place at Pine Lodge with Tommy Calkins and the Armenia Mountain Spurs Chapter in the Bradford Co area.

PA Chapter 2011 JAKES Hunt will take place with Shawn Mowen, Dan Akers and the Tuscarora Longbeards Chapter in Fulton/Franklin Co. area.

PA Chapter 2009 Sponsor Hunt will take place in San Angelo TX. Hunt cost is \$950 which includes pick up at airport, meals and lodging, 2 bird limits. PA Chapter will pay for travel and license for winner. PA Chapter to pay for this hunt in September 2008.

PA Chapter 2010 Sponsor Hunt will take place in Wyoming for 1 Merriam's Turkey which will include airport pick up, meals and lodging for two hunters. Hunt total cost will be in the \$1500/\$1600 with payment made to outfitter in September 2009. Hunters will be responsible for transportation to and from Wyoming and hunting license (currently\$86).

**2009 NWTF Convention
Nashville TN February 19-22,2009
Room reservations 888-777-6779 \$160 / night**

Registration Forms are now on line nwtf.org under convention

Wednesday, Feb. 18th:

- **Early Bird Social (Light hors d'oeuvres served) - 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Thursday, Feb. 19th:

- **State Presidents' and Provincial Leaders' Breakfast with NWTF National Board of Directors - 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**
- **Leadership Meeting and Lunch - 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
 - **Presentation of Roger Latham and L.A. Dixon chapter performance awards**
- **Welcome Party, Dinner and entertainment by Blake Shelton - 5:45 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

Friday, Feb. 20th:

- **Federal Breakfast* - 7:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**
 - **Highlighting great achievements in wildlife conservation and recognizing NWTF Wheelin'Sportsmen, Women in the Outdoors and JAKES volunteers and their outstanding events. Awards will be presented.**
- **Registration - 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
- **Wild Turkey Bourbon NWTF Calling Preliminaries (Senior Division) - 9:00 a.m. - Noon**
- **Exhibit Hall - 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
- **Seminars - 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
- **Hunt Luncheon/Auction - 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
- **Calling Contest - Intermediate Division - 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
- **Wild Turkey Bourbon Bash - 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
- **NWTF Grand National Auction and Dinner - 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

Saturday, Feb. 21st:

- **Winchester Breakfast * - 7:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**

- A time to honor veterans and active military, who through great sacrifice, maintain the freedom we all enjoy.
- 6th Annual Custom Call Reception & Auction - 9:00 a.m. - Noon
- Ladies Luncheon/Auction - 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- The Open Auction-General Admission Required - 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Wild Turkey Bourbon/NWTF Sr. Finals & Rare Breed Champion of Champions - 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Awards Banquet - 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
 - Dinner, entertainment by comedian Paul Harris; music by Daryle Singletary, Rhett Akins and Andy Griggs
 - Awards presented: Kansas Gov. Hunt Essay Winner, Corporate Achievement, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Henry Mosby Award, C.B. McLeod, Lynn Boykin Hunting Heritage Award
 - LA Dixon awards will be presented at the Leadership Meeting on Thursday.

Sunday, Feb. 22nd:

- Remington Arms Breakfast* - 7:10 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
 - A time to gather for worship, honor our creator and encourage our spirits.
 - Music led by Gary Morris.
- Exhibit Hall - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Seminars - 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Wild Turkey Bourbon/NWTF Grand National Gobbling, Owl Hooting, and Team Challenge Calling Championships - 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Show Ends - 4:00 p.m.

***All breakfast tickets are \$20 per person. Everyone welcome!**

Ray Smith:

Ray Smith-
NWTF Regional Field Supervisor
Board Report
10-4-08

Cost of membership change- See attached memo from George Thornton

Trip of a Lifetime Raffle- An Estimated 191 Tickets for the Trip of a lifetime Raffle have been sold. Several more are expected to come in at the board meeting. The Drawing will be held in front of the board lunchtime Saturday. Winners will be contacted that day. Names will be turned into NWTF Headquarters. I will oversee communications with the hunt broker and winners. Thanks to those that participated.

RD Assignments and duties- As most know WRC's have been reassigned to RD's. All RD's will now be overseeing all aspects of fundraising and outreach events. This does not mean we will be attending all events. I had thought that our areas of responsibilities would be ironed out by today. However in light of some most recent changes I am unable to give a complete outline of Chapters and the RD that will be handling that event. We will have it hammered out in the next few weeks. When we are complete with the realignment we will e-mail the board. I would

like to report that Pennsylvania has reached 85% of repeat banquets ticketed as well as several WITO Events and Wheelin' Benefits for 2009.

George Thornton's letter:

All,

I want to update you on our progress over the last 90 days in improving NWTF operations and outline several organization and operational changes. These changes are driven by three key elements: a significant decline in our adult membership beginning in 2005, the current U.S. economic situation and a need for reinvigorating the tools we use to further our mission.

We have reviewed and evaluated the equitability of our membership dues and benefits across the membership spectrum. It is clear that membership fees are not in line with the gender of the recipients nor the ages of JAKES members. It is also apparent that we need to consider the demographics of our membership and the benefits associated with each membership category. In addition, it was determined that we have not had a dues increase in more than four years, while the cost of providing membership services has increased. Therefore, it is necessary to increase dues in several areas and adjust some member benefits, specifically JAKES.

Effective September 1, 2008, dues will be increased as outlined below. Banquets ticketed for fall 2008 will be grandfathered under the current membership dues structure. All other memberships recruited will be at the new dues rate.

- * JAKES (ages 0-12) will increase to \$7
- * Xtreme JAKES (ages 13-17) will increase to \$10. As an added benefit, they will receive their own password protected online magazine plus two issues of Get in the Game magazine OR two issues of Women In The Outdoors OR two issues of Wheelin? Sportsmen.
- * Wheelin? Sportsmen and Women in the Outdoors will increase to \$30
- * Sponsors (all categories) will increase \$10 to \$235
- * Hunting Heritage Club will increase to \$10

Women in the Outdoors: This program will be redefined by integrating Women in the Outdoors coordinators into the regional director structure. Going forward, job duties for all regional directors will expand to include conducting Hunting Heritage Banquets, as well as Women in the Outdoors, JAKES and Wheelin? Sportsmen events and benefits. All field staff will transition into this dual role as regional directors and outreach event coordinators while still taking into account the needs of our volunteers and outreach programs. The Women in the Outdoors program is extremely important to the NWTF, therefore our efforts to sustain and grow the program will continue.

Donated memberships: We recognize that many of the chapters have

conducted separate fund raising activities and solicited donations to support their desires to donate memberships for Wheelin, Women and JAKES. In many cases, these memberships were done in an effort to bank donated memberships for future use and to increase incentive guns for their banquets or outreach events. Effective November 1, 2008, the only donated membership type that will be accepted/allowed will be JAKES and Xtreme JAKES. All other donated membership types will be counted for incentives but not be tracked in the membership numbers.

Funds from donated memberships will be handled by one of the two methods outlined below. We will create two separate "Outreach Funds." "National Outreach Funds" will be used to support our national outreach efforts, and the "State Outreach Fund" will be managed the same as the current State Super Fund.

1. All funds from donated JAKES and Xtreme JAKES will be split on a 50/50 ratio and deposited into the two outreach funds. Names sent in at a later date will be accompanied by a state outreach fund form. In addition, the state outreach fund only will be charged 50 percent of the new JAKES and/or Xtreme JAKES membership fees for each name provided.
2. Funds for adult donated memberships intentionally recorded on the banquet financial reports or reported in error will be used to support the organization's mission. Adult donated funds will, however, be included in the calculations for incentive guns.

Wheelin? Sportsmen Benefits: The requirement for each regional director to raise \$15,000 through Wheelin? Sportsmen benefits will remain in effect. The funds will continue to be split as established in the 2003 board memo. The amount currently being deposited into the Wheelin? Sportsmen Fund will be split on a 50/50 ratio with 50 percent going into the State Outreach Fund to support state outreach efforts. The other 50 percent will go into the National Outreach Fund for national outreach activities.

Lastly, I can report that our national Board of Directors has approved our financial plan for fiscal 2009. I believe that the '09 revenue plan is aggressive but achievable based on the plans and changes we have made, and more importantly because of the dedication and commitment I feel from our membership every day.

Management has put forth an expense plan that is responsible and conservative but recognizes rising energy and health care costs and the need to increase salaries commensurate with merit and inflation. We also have planned for a significant investment in employee training and development to ensure a strong future for the NWTF.

The benefits of the approved plan are anticipated to be:

- * A return to 2006 levels of conservation and mission development spending and a positive contribution to our end year fund balance,

which will allow us to recover from fund balance erosion in 2007 and 2008.

This is an exciting time for the NWTF as we develop new ways to achieve our mission while providing more service and better experiences for the conservation world's greatest volunteers. Please know how much we appreciate everything you're doing on behalf of the NWTF, the wild turkey and our hunting heritage.

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Joe Drolet will chair the Dave Burdge benefit at Rendezvous.

The 2009 Banquet information from the RDs to the Secretary will include the appropriate local contact when possible.

Tammy Mowry:



October 4, 2008
Pennsylvania Board Meeting

Tammy Mowry

PA Women in the Outdoors

The event season has come to a close in the state, but plans are in the works to get the events scheduled for 2009.

Changes in PA

As you may know, we've made some changes to the way events will be handled in the future.

With the new management at Headquarters, George Thornton wants all field staff members to be well rounded in the regions they cover. All Women's Regional Coordinators have been integrated and they are now Regional Directors.

Here in Pennsylvania, we have a staff member, Priscilla Page-Garvin who will be assisting with 2 events in the southeast corner of the state as well as working with the local chapters in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Carl Mowry, Ray Smith and Phil Ferrare will assist with 2 events in their local areas also.

I will continue with the majority of the events, but will also be involved with numerous banquets in the region.

National Women in the Outdoors Event Full of Surprises for More Than 300 Women

The National Wild Turkey Federation's three-day event celebrating the NWTF's 10-year anniversary of its Women in the Outdoors outreach program proved to be full of surprises for more than 300 women in attendance.

Women from across the country as well as Canada gathered at the Wild Turkey Center in Edgefield, S.C., Sept. 25 to Sept. 28, 2008, to Learn, Laugh and Lighten Up - the theme of this year's national event.

Unexpectedly, participants received a special message from Alaskan Gov. Sarah Palin during the event's opening festivities. NWTF CEO George Thornton, read a letter from Palin, an avid hunter, angler and outdoorswoman, addressing the women who attended the event.

The women in attendance also enjoyed a surprise appearance and speech by the NWTF's newly-named spokeswoman, Brenda Valentine. Known as the outdoor industry's "First Lady of Hunting™," Valentine made her debut as the NWTF's official spokeswoman Friday, Sept. 26. Valentine's wide-ranging talents include that of an accomplished author, photographer, videographer and radio personality, and she is the first female inducted into the Legends of the Outdoors Hall of Fame.

Valentine makes regular appearances on the new "Bass Pro Shops' King of Bucks" program on Outdoor Channel, and is also a host of the "Bass Pro Shops' Real Hunting" show that airs weekly on the Versus Network. As spokeswoman, Valentine will make appearances on the NWTF's television shows and contribute to the NWTF's Women In The Outdoors magazine.

"I am honored and excited to have been invited to serve as the first official spokeswoman for the NWTF," said Valentine. "I have been a friend and supporter of the NWTF for many years and am now looking forward to a more active role in helping all staff and members to further enhance the future of the wild turkey and our hunting heritage."

In addition to hearing from Palin and Valentine, who have brought positive attention to the outdoor industry, participants were treated to speeches by the NWTF's second woman president, Peggy Anne Vallery and acclaimed author, photographer and speaker, Laurie Lee Dovey.

Participants also had opportunities to enjoy more than 30 hands-on classes including fly fishing, kayaking, camping, Dutch oven cooking, outdoor photography, archery, shotgunning, ATV safety, turkey calling and much more in a beginner-friendly, stress-free environment.

Bob Eriksen:

**Regional Biologist Report
August 1-September 30, 2008
Bob Eriksen, NWTF Regional Biologist**

Writing Projects

- PA Chapter Super Fund update article for PA Turkey Talk fall issue
- Gobbler banding study report for PA Turkey Talk fall issue
- Article on fall turkey hunting safety for PA Turkey Talk fall issue
- Article on fall turkey hunting safety for PA Outdoor Times
- Review of Journal of Wildlife Management manuscript on use of aversive conditioning for handling black bear related problems

Wildlife and Forestry Agency Consultation

- Discussed prescribed fire application and social limitations preventing its use in New Jersey Pinelands with NJ Forest Service foresters
- Provided information on band loss by wild turkeys to researchers at Penn State
- Discussed gobbler mortality study data analysis with New Jersey Fish and Wildlife tech rep and Virginia Game Department tech rep
- Discussed banding and radio telemetry harvest rate data collection methodologies with Virginia Game Department tech rep
- Conducted annual oak mast survey on State Game Lands 35 for Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Met with Pennsylvania Game Commission and Penn State researchers to work on plans and a study design for initiating a fall turkey harvest rate study
- Met with researchers from the University of Delaware and biologists from the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife to plan a wild turkey hen survival and nesting ecology study to be initiated in January 2009

Access Projects

- Worked with New Jersey Chapter member drafting letters to USFWS personnel and legislators regarding opening of Cape May National Wildlife Refuge for turkey hunting
- Met with USFWS personnel and a contractor on two occasions to plan disabled hunter access improvement on Wallkill National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey
- Completed an application and received a Wheelin' Sportsmen Grant to supplement the Super Fund investment in disabled hunter access improvements at Wallkill Refuge
- Met with USFS personnel to tour disabled hunter access areas on Allegheny National Forest, determine needs for road improvements and discuss possible funding options
- Consulted with Pennsylvania Game Commission Bureau of Habitat Management personnel regarding their needs for access improvements on important state game lands

Meetings and Presentations

- Attended the annual meeting of the Northeast Upland Game Bird Technical Committee in Connecticut
- Attended the September meetings of the Delaware and New Jersey Chapters and sent a written report to the Maryland Chapter due to a conflict in meeting dates
- Attended the August meeting and leadership workshop of the Pennsylvania Chapter
- Served as emcee and provided judges and tabulators for the North Jersey Open Calling Contest
- Met with members of The Campfire Club and New York DEC regarding a planned media event prior to Thanksgiving

- Attended the August and September meetings of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, group focused on issues facing hunters and anglers
- Provided a black bear management seminar at a Women in the Outdoors event in New Jersey
- Attended Hunting Heritage Super Fund banquets held by the Walking Purchase and East Coast Toms Chapters in Pennsylvania to assist the RD

North American Wild Turkey Management Plan

- Maryland Chapter endorsement letter was received. All four state chapters in the region have endorsed their respective state chapter plans
- Completed first draft of Bird Conservation Region 14 Strategic Plan

Super Fund

- Completed 10 Pennsylvania Super Fund requests and 2 New Jersey requests.
- Performed a site visit and took photographs of the Hoda Farm Project at Nescopeck State Park, a cooperative project between DCNR, PGC, the Honey Hole Longbeards Chapter, Pheasants Forever, the Ruffed Grouse Society and NRCS
- Met with representatives of the Lancaster County Conservancy, PGC and the American Chestnut Foundation to plan Phase 2 of a habitat project and chestnut nursery at House Rock Preserve

Landowner Field Days

- Participated in a landowner field day at the Bonnice Farm in Fairdale, Susquehanna County. The event was a joint effort of the Northern Counties full Fans Chapter, the Susquehanna Branch of QDMA and the Wilson Moore Chapter. A JAKES event was held in conjunction with the field day. Fifty-five adults and 22 children were in attendance

Information Requests

- Provided information via letter, telephone and email to 17 people, both members and non-members looking for information on wild turkey behavior, nesting, food habits and other aspects of their natural history

Mary Jo Casalena:

NWTF Technical Committee Representatives' Report - PA Chapter NWTF Board of Directors Meeting, October 4, 2008

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

Harvest Management

Preliminary spring 2008 harvest, calculated from report cards, was approximately 40,522 (38,568 first harvest + 1,954 second harvest, Table 1). Harvest from mentored youth will not be available until next year. The first harvest is 9% above the previous 3-year preliminary average (35,378). Even though spring harvests are down from the record 49,186 in year 2001, Pennsylvania hunters have consistently maintained spring harvests above 30,000 since 1995.

Spring 2008 turkey hunters purchased 8,795 special turkey licenses (7,585 in 2007, 8,041 in 2006). We mailed reminder letters to 1,000 randomly selected non-reporters, of which 92% did not harvest a second turkey. The estimated harvest was 1,954 (1,507 in 2007, 1,454 in 2006) with a success rate of 22 % (compared to 20% in 2007, 18% in 2006).

The final spring 2007 harvest was 41,376 (36,373 first harvest + 1,507 second harvest + 3,496 mentored youth harvest, Table 1, Figure 2). The first harvest was 4% less than spring 2006 (37,843). From 2000-2003 we experienced record harvests of over 40,000 bearded birds.

The final fall 2007 harvest was 25,369, 4% higher than 2006 (24,482), but 6% lower than the previous 3-year average (26,918; Table 1, Figure 2). This trend of lower harvests is due to a combination of shorter seasons in almost half of the WMUs since 2004, average to below average spring reproduction, fewer fall turkey hunters, and abundant fall mast crops, which tend to disperse turkey flocks making them more difficult for hunters to locate.

There were 223,808 hunters for the spring 2007 season, which is slightly below the 10-year average of 232,014. Statewide hunter success was 16%, similar to the previous 10-year average. Spring hunter success has been as high as 21% (2001, along with the record harvest), and as low as 3% (1978). Total number of days hunted during spring 2007 for the first turkey (894,393) decreased 5% from 2006 (937,021) and 11% from the previous 10-year average (1,005,778).

During the 2007 youth season 5,911 juniors hunted harvesting 1,650 birds (28% success rate). 2007 was the second year mentored youth could participate in the spring turkey season. Of the estimated 58,883 total mentored youth for all mentor species, 52,032 days were spent pursuing wild turkey with 3,496 spring gobblers harvested, approximately 8.4% of the total spring harvest.

The number of fall turkey hunters has been decreasing, with only 162,323 fall hunters in 2007, 27% below the previous 10-year average (221,125) and the second consecutive year of lowest number of hunters since records have been kept (1978). Even though participation has been decreasing, statewide fall hunter success increased in 2007 to 16% (13% in 2006), and was 15% higher than the previous 3-year average. Hunter success has been as high as 21% (2001, a year with excellent recruitment), and as low as 4% (1979). Total number of days hunted during fall 2007 (522,911) was similar to 2006 (534,139), but decreased 21% from the previous 10-year average (752,802), and 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.

Wild Turkey Spring Harvest Rates and Annual Survival Rates Study

A manuscript on leg-band retention rate is in preparation. The results from these analyses (based on <570 days between release and recovery) indicate substantial band loss and are strong enough that a final year of data are not going to change the conclusion that butt-end band loss (of both standard aluminum and stainless steel butt-end bands) is unacceptable and loss rates are greater for adults.

Eastern Mast Survey

Three hard mast surveys were conducted in cooperation with the Eastern Region Oak Mast Survey being coordinated by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The surveys represent 3 ecoregions within the state (Appalachian Plateau Glaciated High/Low Section, Appalachian Plateau Allegheny Mountain Section and Ridge and Valley Provinces). Bob Eriksen assists with this effort.

Northeast Upland Gamebird Technical Committee Meeting

Mary Jo Casalena is the Pennsylvania representative for wild turkeys at this annual meeting, which now also covers ruffed grouse, American woodcock, Northern bobwhite quail and ring necked pheasant. State/provincial upland gamebird biologists from all northeast states and Canadian provinces, and technical representatives from the National Wild Turkey Federation, attended the 3-day meeting, which was held in Connecticut. 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 2009 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.

Regional Wild Turkey Population Model

Poult production data were collected this year with the statewide WCO turkey summer sighting surveys. During the next few months these data, that are required for the model, will be summarized, analyzed and then used in the model.

Joe Kurz Award Recipient

The Game Commission thanks the PA NWTF Board for selecting Scott Bills, PGC Land Manager for Dauphin and Lebanon Counties. We wish him luck, as his nomination will be included in the national selection during the 2009 NWTF Convention. Thank you also for your continued support for assisting with PGC travel expenses to this Convention. However, the Commonwealth is operating under an out-of-state travel freeze, which will probably affect Convention attendance by PGC staff.

Turkey Webpage

We corrected hyperlinks to the Turkey FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) and the turkey management plan and updated harvest maps for the agency website.

WMU 5A Wild Turkey Task Force

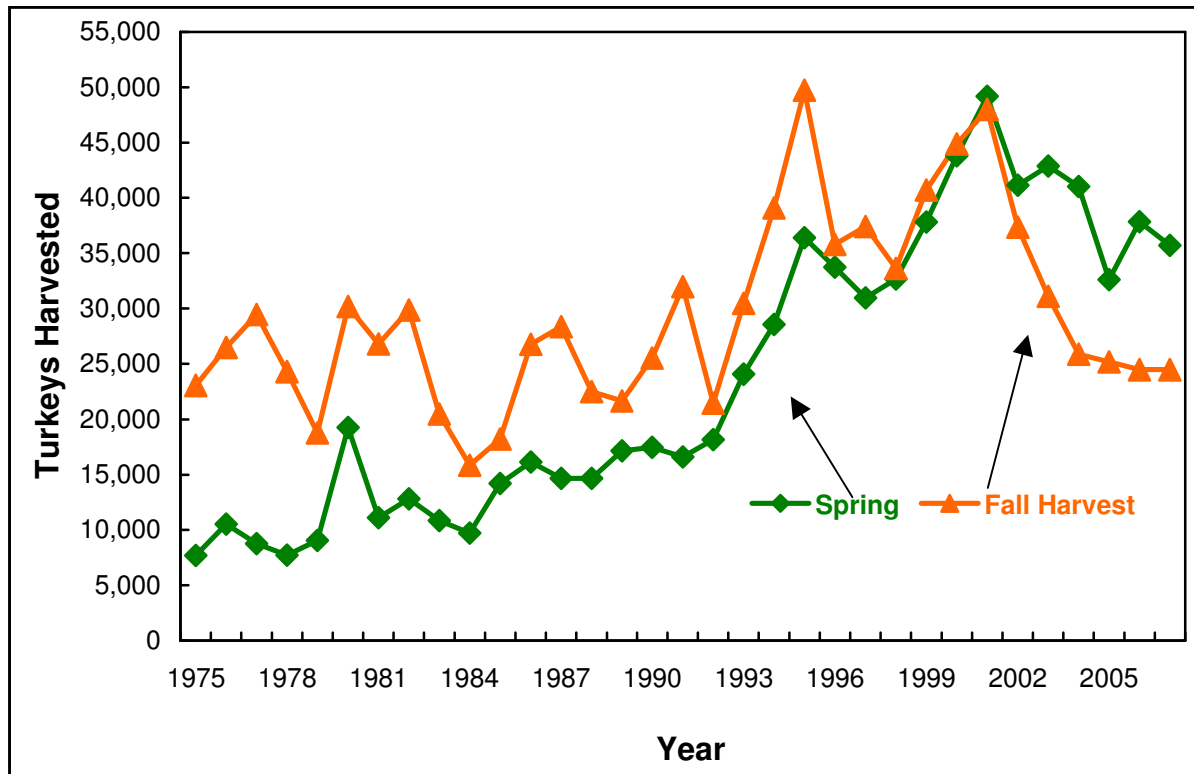
This task force, formed in 1997, is comprised of staff from PGC, DCNR-BOF, NWTF, PANWTF and Local NWTF Chapters NWTF, meeting once annually to review progress of the existing turkey management recommendations for WMU 5A and determine what work is needed to increase this turkey population and how it can be accomplished through this cooperative task force. This year’s meeting will be October 7, 2008.

Table 1. Pennsylvania 2007 and spring 2008 wild turkey harvests. First harvests are from general license sales and do not include harvests from the Special Spring Turkey License. Those harvests are shown in the Second Harvest column.

WMU	Spring 2008		Spring 2007		Fall 2007
	First Harvest	Second Harvest	First Harvest	Second Harvest	
1A	2,065	96	2,096	83	805

1B	2,765	159	3,048	126	1,006
2A	2,094	78	1,620	67	1,208
2B	1,385	53	1,334	48	805
2C	1,993	76	2,286	66	1,309
2D	2,900	144	2,382	101	1,611
2E	888	55	286	46	1,006
2F	1,255	53	1,620	55	805
2G	2,504	141	2,191	103	2,315
3A	1,337	86	1,143	64	1,510
3B	2,384	116	2,096	74	1,409
3C	2,519	156	1,905	114	2,617
3D	2,128	93	2,382	79	704
4A	1,462	67	1,429	72	2,315
4B	1,592	90	1,334	59	1,006
4C	2,408	126	2,572	107	603
4D	1,949	112	2,096	78	2,315
4E	2,456	144	2,477	78	1,811
5A	516	24	762	11	-
5B	738	22	476	14	-
5C	1,173	33	762	33	201
5D	58	2	-	2	8
Unknown	72	28	-	27	-
TOTAL	38,568	1,954	36,296	1,507	25,369

Figure 2. Fall and spring wild turkey harvests in Pennsylvania, 1975 – 2008. Spring 2008 data are preliminary.



Mary Jo asked who is attending the PGC meeting on the 23rd and 24th. Jason and/or Gary may be able to attend.

Special Report

At this point Darren Smith (Top Flight Media) gave a presentation on Radio advertising. After the presentation there was considerable discussion on advertising for the PA NWTF. Don Heckman strongly recommended the reinstatement of the Communications Committee to deal with all advertising and requested that Jon Pries appoint 6 (or so) Board members to the committee. Bob Eriksen, Carl Mowry, Jason Straley, and Joe Drolet volunteered. Specific budget and responsibilities were to be determined.

Special Business

Harold Daub made a motion for the State Chapter to raffle off a Hunt of a Lifetime ticket (if we win) at Rendezvous for the benefit of Dave Burdge. Tom Bunty seconded and the motion carried.

Harold also volunteered to run a high-low auction of the ticket (again, if we win).

Committee Reports

Awards Committee – Tom Bunty

- The Awards Committee will meet immediately after the Regular Board meeting..
- Some addresses on the Board Website's people database were inaccurate.
- It was Officially requested that the RDs audit banquet tickets against the database and notify the Secretary of any changes.

DART Committee – Tom Bunty

- Tom is interested in a “maintenance-type” policy for the DART units and doesn't feel accident insurance is valuable.
- By a show of hands it was decided to NOT pursue insurance for the DART units.
- Skip will get back to the insurance agent concerning a “maintenance-type” policy.

WTM – Don Heckman

PA Chapter NWTF Wild Turkey Management Report – August 21, 2008

Wild Turkey Management changes require PGC Staff and Commissioner overview.

- 1) Support revised PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania, 2006-2015, operational with 47 strategies documented, measuring strategies as outlined, and the plan fully funded for 10 years;
- 2) Northeast Wild Turkey Population 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;
- 3) Recommendation to extend last day of spring gobbler season to May 31 --- Commissioner's approved Memorial Day, May 26, 2008 as last day of 2008 spring gobbler season under final rule making on April 18, 2007 Commissioner meeting; Commissioner's approved Memorial Day, May 25, 2009 as last day of 2009 spring gobbler season;
- 4) Recommendation for Mentored Youth Hunting to including fall turkey hunting season in regulation;
- 5) Recommendation to expanding youth spring gobbler season and regular spring gobbler season to all day hunting starting 2011, after 4 year gobbler leg band research project is completed in 2009 and project evaluation is completed by 2010;
- 6) Recommendation to expanding youth spring gobbler to more than one day;
- 7) Continue recommendations to reduce WMU fall season lengths as management plan setting fall season guidelines are determined; using management data based on current field data, harvest densities information, population densities and hunter densities, as charted measurements outlined in the wild turkey management plan; and to increase fall season lengths when management data supports regulation change;
- 8) Additional second spring gobbler regulation – continue review and recommend additional changes if/as needed;
- 9) State-wide gobbler leg band research – first year 2006 completed, second year 2007 completed, third year 2008 completed, fourth year for project Winter 2009; first three years of research project funding support from NWTF and PANWTF is \$145,870 from NWTF Grant In Aid and PA Chapter NWTF Hunting Heritage Super Fund for research project equipment and materials; PGC funded administrative, staff and transportation requirements, other agency project expenses; [\[on-going - on schedule\]](#)

10) Four year state-wide gobbler leg band study will be completed in 2009 – final project results and recommendations will be compiled by 2010; submit next wild turkey research proposal in 2008/2009 and request funding for state-wide hen telemetry study for 4 years – 2010-2013. [telemetry is Wild Turkey Management Committee and PANWTF Board recommendation]

Legislation changes require Governor signature.

1) PGC hunting license increase legislation – supporting need for PGC additional revenue, and supporting alternative funding option recommendations. Turkey Hunting License – continue with our position statement, articles and news release supporting need for combined spring and fall turkey hunting license, support fully funded wild turkey management plan to complete yearly objectives and strategies;

2) Support Sunday hunting as regulated by PGC, required legislation to change Title 34 Game Law;

3) Do not support legislation [Title 34 Game Code] through legislative wording that changes PGC seasons and bag limits; seasons and bag limits are PGC Regulation [Title 58 Regulation Code].

- Dale Butler was recognized by a State Senator for his positive leadership at the local level .

Legislative Committee – Don Heckman

PA General Assembly 2007-2008 session days left: The House and Senate will both be in session October 6th, 7th and 8th. They will then be adjourning until after the November election. The Senate has stated that they will not hold any voting session days following the election. The House has stated that they will be returning for a 7 day *sine die* session in November, however it remains to be seen whether that will take place.

Legislative Committee – will be reviewed at October Board meeting, legislation being watched and letters/emails being written:

HR 642 – Deer Audit by 3rd party, audit being funded by General Assembly

HB 251 [HB 1862] – legalize hunting outside 150 yard perimeter around bait anywhere in commonwealth during any hunting season

HB 641 – Castle Doctrine – amends Title 18 providing for further increased property owner protection

HB 747 – Elk license lottery; 5-21-07 House Final passage [Vote Y: 196 / N: 1]; Senate amendment made to bill to remove PGC Deputy WCO's; legislation re-referred to Appropriations; Sen. Armstrong amendment being pulled; amendment to change proceeds to 20%-80%;

HB 779 – legalize Sunday Hunting through Game Law Title 34 [not by Regulation Title 54]

HB 863 – extend spring gobbler season to all day

HB 1214 – PGC Commissioner term limit, management by social and other recreational values; notified legislation will not come out of Committee as being passed over

HB 1676 – State Sales Tax revenue going to PGC and PFBC; 1/8 of 1%, with appx \$10 M going to PGC and \$5 M going to PFBC;
Rereferred to Appropriations Committee

HB 1845 – Amend Titles 18 and 42, further provide tougher laws to penalize people who commit various gun related crimes, further protecting law-abiding gun owners; 4-07-08 House Final passage [Vote Y: 200 / N: 0]; currently in Senate Appropriations Committee

HB 1862 [HB 251] – legalize hunting over shelled or ear corn anywhere in Pennsylvania during any hunting season

HB 2205 – Wildlife poacher(s) fines and penalties increases

HB 2364 – Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact law – add Pennsylvania to list of states

HB 2381 – PGC should be guided and support by verifiable data with equal regard for social, economic, and recreational impacts; No longer permit current and former employees or DWCO to serve on Board of Commissioners; Rereferred to Appropriations Committee

HB 2525 – Amends dog law, including kennels and sporting dogs; on Version 3 in July. 9-16-08 House Final Passage (Vote Y: 187 / N: 17)
Over 50 amendments voted on between Committee and House on this legislation, only a handful was passed.

HB 2575 – Amends Title 34 (Game) providing for deterrent fences for deer, bear, & elk & the payment of claims for damages by certain elk; imposing duties on Dept. of Agriculture; establishment of the Elk Damage Fund. 9-15-08 House Final Passage (Vote Y: 199/ N: 1)

HB 2653 – bow definition change, legalize crossbow for all hunting seasons

SB 151- HB 1543 – legislation to ban pigeon shooting

SB 740 -- Spring Creek Canyon land title to Penn State University and Brenner Township rather than PGC for game lands;
5-08-07 Senate Final Passage (Vote Y: 48/ N: 0); 6-18-08 House Final Passage with amendments (Vote Y: 185/ N: 13);
Referred to Senate Rules Committee; notified legislation will not come out of committee as being passed over

SB 1527 – Senate Legislative bill to increase hunting license back tag and antlerless deer tags 3 times over next 7 years

- PA Chapter NWTF is neutral about the use of crossbows.
- PA Chapter NWTF still does not support legislation amending Title 34.

Legislative Committee – Harold Daub

- A process has been started for board members to contact Senators and Representatives when the PA Chapter NWTF wants to convey a position on a bill.
- Harold will send Joe Drolet electronic versions of the form and procedure and they will be put on the Board Website

Seed – Jim Panaro

- No fall seed because of a budget shortfall in the spring
- 2009 seed forms are on the Board Website

Jakes – Jim Panaro

- Ken Fernburg (not present) hasn't contacted anyone about handling the Jakes Raffle winners' guns. Skip Motts will step up and contact Bob's Guns.
- The increase in the cost of Jakes membership is negatively impacting the profitability of the Jakes Raffle. Ray Smith will approach Edgefield with a "grandfather" request on the cost of membership and get back with the Board.

Safety & Education – Chuck Mathues

- Chuck requested that the Chapter Presidents be asked to print the Safety Brochure and distribute it at their banquets.
- The new brochure is available on both the Board and State Chapter Websites
- Comment: Putting the brochure in the PA Hunting Digest reaches more people
- Jon will talk to Carl Roe about printing the new brochure

Communications

- Gene Denton, Larry Becker from NY, and Dave Maussey have asked for our support.

Old Business

- Don O'Brien requested a print from Dave Burdge's inventory for the new DCNR building. Jon will talk to Dave's wife Carol.
- It was agreed to do any framing of the picture that was necessary
- Jim Panaro needs letters of recommendation by 10/31 for the Roger M Latham Award.

New Business

- The Corporate Conservation Award is used for the DCNR group.
- Harold Daub presented an idea for having a drawing for new members and the person that brought them in.
- Harold Daub requested that there not be a Board meeting scheduled on the first day of hunting in October. He will bring this up in January.
- Don Heckman made a motion that in the January 2009, PFSC, On Target Hunter Education issue we sponsor a full-page ad for \$1000. Tom Bunty seconded and the motion carried.
- Harold Daub suggested adding a coupon in the ad for a Free Jakes membership. That will allow us to measure the success of the ad and use up our surplus Jakes memberships. Carl Mowry will work on the proposal.
- Don Heckman made a motion that the PA Chapter NWTF pay the annual PFSC membership dues of \$1500. Harold Daub seconded and the motion carried.
- Jon Pries announced that the most junior Executive Board member will become the parliamentarian for the Board. Skip Motts graciously accepted the rules book as the new parliamentarian.
- Gary Beatty was asked if he will be on the Board next year. He said he will get back with Jon after discussing it with his wife.
- It was announced that this was the last Board Meeting for Don Heckman and Bill Mackereth who received a standing ovation for all their work and dedication.

For the Good of the Order

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM .

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Drolet
PA State Chapter Secretary