PENNSYLVANIA State Chapter

Since 1975

Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and the Preservation of Our Hunting Heritage

ATTENTION BOARD MEMBERS

The next Executive Board meeting will be held at Sam McCartney's Camp near Bellefonte, Pennsylvania on Saturday, March 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

The regular State Board of Directors meeting will be held on Sunday, March 8, 2009 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, PA January 11, 2008

Director's Present: T. Bunty, D. Butler, H. Daub, J. Drolet, K. Fernburg, D. Frazier, J. Groff, G. Huff, R. Johnson, C. Mathues, S. McCartney, S. Motts, J. Nyce, D. O'Brien, J. Panaro, J. Pries, S. Richards, K. Skrapits, H. Shields, J. Straley, D. Zimmerman.

Director's Absent: None

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

Guests: Mary Jo Casalena, H. Meyers, J. Post, J. Thomas, K. Titus.

The Board Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman of the Board, Don O'Brien.

The call to order, prayer, and Pledge of Allegiance were dispensed with since they had been done as part of the Annual Meeting.

Don covered the following ground rules:

- Directors should raise their hand and be recognized by the Chairman before speaking.
- Change will occur, that you can count on.

Gary Beatty made a Point of Order asking when old board members actually leave the Board. Jon Pries and Don O'Brien's interpretation of the by-laws was that they left at the end of the Annual Meeting. That was accepted by the Board.

Officers' Reports:

President's Report:

PA STATE CHAPTER NWTF

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Jon D. Pries

OCTOBER -

- 1-3 Attended White House Conference on North American Wildlife Policy, held in Reno, NV. Met with Dr. James Earl Kennamer, NWTF National Board members and other state chapter Presidents. Met with Aaron Hobbs, representing "Sportsmen for John McCain".
- 4 Attended PA NWTF Board of Directors Meeting, State College, PA.
- 18 20 Met with Tom Howe (Ontario Provincial Chapter President) and several of his committee members and discussed NWTF items of mutual interest.

It being hunting season, there were no other meetings scheduled that I might have attended. Numerous phone calls and e-mails (too numerous to itemize) were made regarding various subjects concerning PA NWTF business.

NOVEMBER -

It being hunting season, there were no meetings scheduled that I was able to attend. Numerous phone calls and e-mails (too numerous to itemize) were made regarding various subjects concerning PA NWTF business.

DECEMBER -

16 & 17 - Met with several TX State Chapter Board members and discussed NWTF items of mutual interest.

It being hunting season, there were no meetings scheduled that I was able to attend. Numerous phone calls and e-mails (too numerous to itemize) were made regarding various subjects concerning PA NWTF business.

Vice- President's Report:

<u>Don Heckman, PA Chapter NWTF Vice President's Report – October 5, 2008 – January 5, 2009 Report of vice-president activities, action items, ideas, completed items. I will have one copy of my report on Sunday for our Secretary.</u>

October 3, 4 - attend October Executive Committee and Board meetings

October 5 – posted on huntingpa.com message board PA Chapter NWTF Forum our PA Chapter NWTF 2007-2008 Accomplishments news release

October 6, 7, 8, 9 – emailed POWA Linda Steiner and Bob Lollo for follow-up on receiving POWA email distribution list for Bob Kasun and myself, waiting return reply

Emailed Joe and the Board my written PFSC report for the October Board meeting

Emailed all PA Senators requesting their consideration for support HB 1845 – pro firearms legislation

Emailed PA Senators on Senator Appropriations Committee for their consideration to not support HB 1214 – PGC Commissioner term limits, this is the fourth email on this bill

Emailed PGC Legislative Liaison Steve Smith and PFSC Executive Director Melody Zullinger for further information on pending legislation from my Legislative Committee report

Spoke to several Coalition Sportsmen leaders about Capitol Hill issues of the day, awaiting further information and direction as agency and legislative leaders meet behind closed doors

Emailed and spoke to Melody Zullinger concerning our support for PFSC ON TARGET THE 2009 issue, and renewing 2009 state-wide conservation membership dues; and an opportunity to use the updated NWTF – PA Edition Turkey Hunting Success and Safety .pdf brochure

Heard back from Harold Daub and Jon Pries on their support letters for HB 1214 and HB 1845 legislative issues

October 10 – working on details for NWTF Diamond Life/Upper Level Membership Dinner with Ray, Carl, and Bill Pierce

Received confirmation email from Bob Lollo on status of POWA email distribution list for Bob K

October 13, 14 - coordinated PFSC On Target HTE Jan/Feb issue ad and safety article dates

October 20 – organizational meeting with Carl, Bill Pierce, Keith Sealover on the NWTF Diamond Life/Upper Level Membership Dinner being planned for May 2009

October 21 – provided Bob E. feed back on PGC comments to include paragraph on our turkey hunting safety program

Sent the Board one of my I'm Guilty as charged again emails outlining my comments on huntingpa.com message board Gun Control Forum on the state of second amendment rights, supreme court justices, hunter and hunting rights

Posted on huntingpa.com message board PA Chapter NWTF Forum our Fall Hunting Season – Think Safety – Hunt Safely new release

October 22 – email reply back to Darren Smith and let him know no action has been taken on Communication/PR/Advertising committee or Top Flight Media/RadioPA proposal since the October Board meeting

October 23-24 – attended PGC Commissioner's meeting in Washington, PA, met with coalition sportsmen's and Commissioners Thursday night for dinner and planning session

October 27 – posted on huntingpa.com message board PA Chapter NWTF Forum our PGC Board of Commissioner's October 23 meeting public comments

November 7 – received updated PA Edition NWTF Turkey Hunting Success and Safety brochure – high resolution CD

December 3 – sent several Legislators and Conservation sportsmen information on PANWTF support for hunting license increase, support for a turkey hunting license, and the need to have the license increase in place by April 2009

December 13 through December 27 –

- 1) Getting in place grass roots turkey hunter's membership categories.
- 2) Communications, articles, public awareness public relations, press releases directly targeting all these grass roots turkey hunters across Pennsylvania.
- 3) Recruitment of grass roots turkey hunters.

- 4) Promoting PA Chapter NWTF for how we are, what we have accomplished, why we are the PA Chapter NWTF, how we operate, a PA Chapter NWTF AT A GLANCE documents and informational material. And this includes all legislators, outdoor writers, newspapers, agencies, POWA, and all the Coalition of Sportsmen organizations and representatives.
- ACCOMPLISH, ACCOMPLISH, ACCOMPLISH, PROMOTE, PROMOTE, PROMOTE, SELL, SELL, MARKETING, MARKETING, MARKETING is what recruitment of new memberships and renewal of memberships basically broil down to.
- 5) Membership renewals program significant enough to renew 75% yearly memberships. I bet we have no idea today what our renewal rate is, I did 20-25 years ago 3and I informed the Board in my Membership Secretary Report.
- 6) Turkey Hunting License/stamp standalone legislation or part of the PGC hunting license fee package.
- 7) 450,000-500,000 state-wide, 3 year stable, wild turkey population with a 4 bird limit, with a wild turkey management plan designed to handle population, hunter, harvest densities by WMU, while having crisis, chaos, panic, critical decision making criteria in place and ready to function at 6 months notice, AND NOT at 2 or 3 years notice.
- 8) and maybe not quite last on my list for now, our current list of wild turkey management and turkey hunting recommendations.

Dec 15-Jan 3 - working with York County WCO for 2 potential gobbler banding sites

Dec 28 – forwarded numerous communications to state chapter Board, Michaux-Yellow Breeches Board, and PA Chapter contacts.

Jan 5 – distributed Vice President's Report, working on PFSC, Legislative, Wild Turkey Management Committee Reports.

<u>Tell The Story – Pass It On.</u> <u>Think Safety – Hunt Safely.</u> <u>Don...</u>

Secretary's Report:

The secretary asked if there any corrections to the previous minutes. There were none.

Dale Butler made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Gary Huff seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Jim reported that the donations in memory of Doc Caldwell had reached \$1180.

PA NWTF TREASURER'S REPORT

TO: PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHAPTER NWTF

FROM: JIM PANARO

SUBJECT: REPORT FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2008 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2008

DATE: 1/11/09

Starting Balance \$44,557.95

Income \$50,774.35

Fundraising (Jakes Raffle)

\$37,572

Rendezvous	\$10,830
Fundraising (Trip of a Lifetime)	\$1,450

Jakes Raffle \$13,294

Turkey Talk Fall Issue \$7,010

Rendezvous guns & misc \$2,004

Sponsor Member Hunt \$950

Outdoor Times Safety message \$750

Ending Balance \$69,771.55

Net Gain (Loss) \$25,207.47

General Updates Fiscal year 2008 -2009 YTD reports are attached.

Skip Motts made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. Harold Daub seconded and the motion carried.

NWTF Reports

Ray Smith:

No Report.

Carl Mowry:

Thanks to Katrina Skrapits for her work on the Brochure.

33rd annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show! Feb. 19-22, 2009 Gaylord Opryland Hotel * Nashville, Tennessee

1-888-777-6779 \$160.00 night

Room block is coming off January 19th, 1,500 rooms reserved as of last week. I have registration forms here if you need.

Wednesday, Feb. 18th:

Registration - 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm Early Bird Social (Light hors d'oeuvres served) - 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Thursday, Feb. 19th:

Registration - 7:30 am - 6:00 pm

State Presidents' Breakfast with NWTF National Board of Directors - 7:30 am - 9:00 am Leadership Meeting and Lunch - 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Presentation of Roger Latham and L.A. Dixon chapter performance awards

JAKES Children's Program - 10:00 am - Noon

Technical Committee Lunch - Noon - 1:30 pm

Wild Turkey Bourbon/NWTF Grand National Friction Calling Contest - 3:00 pm. - 5:00 pm Welcome Party, Dinner and entertainment by Blake Shelton - 5:45 pm - 10:00 pm

Friday, Feb. 20th:

Federal Breakfast*

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.

Wild Turkey Bourbon NWTF Calling Preliminaries

Exhibit Hall - 9:00 am. - 7:00 pm

Seminars

Hunt Luncheon/Auction

Calling Contest - Intermediate Division

JAKES, Women in the Outdoors and Wheelin' Sportsmen Joint Leadership Meeting

Wild Turkev Bourbon Bash

NWTF Grand National Auction and Dinner

Saturday, Feb. 21st:

Winchester Breakfast *

A time to honor veterans and active military, who through great sacrifice, maintain the freedom we all enjoy

Exhibit Hall & Seminars

Calling Contest - Junior Division

6th Annual Custom Call Reception & Auction

Ladies Luncheon/Auction - 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The Open Auction

Wild Turkey Bourbon/NWTF Sr. Finals & Rare Breed Champion of Champions 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

Sunday, Feb. 22nd:

Remington Arms Breakfast* -

A time to gather for worship, honor our creator and encourage our spirits. Music led by Gary Morris.

Exhibit Hall

Seminars

Wild Turkey Bourbon/NWTF Grand National Gobbling, Owl Hooting, and Team Challenge Calling Championships

Check out our web site for times and other activates

Phil Ferrare:

No report

Tammy Mowry:

January 11, 2009 Pennsylvania Board Meeting

Tammy Mowry



PA Women in the Outdoors

The year is starting off great for events in the state. There are currently 14 events scheduled.

The state event will take place March 27-29 at Camp Soles in Somerset County once again. If anyone is willing to assist, please let me know. We have a lot of great classes and instructors, but could use some more assistance. I have some copies of the registration forms if anyone is interested.

Priscilla Garvin:

Not present

Bob Eriksen:

Regional Biologist Report Bob Eriksen, NWTF Regional Biologist September-December 31, 2008

Meetings and Presentations

- New Jersey Chapter September Board meeting was attended and reports provided
- The annual Northeast Upland Game Bird Technical Committee meeting was attended and reports presented
- Attended the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance October meeting in Clarksburg
- Met with Lancaster Conservancy, PA Game Commission and American Chestnut Foundation regarding a habitat improvement project
- Met with University of Delaware researchers and biologists from Delaware Fish and Wildlife regarding the planning and initiation of a nesting ecology study
- PA Prescribed Fire Council Steering Committee meeting was attended in Harrisburg
- PA Chapter October Board and Executive Committee meetings were attended
- Attended the September and December meetings of the Delaware Chapter Board of Directors
- Attended the December meeting of the Maryland Chapter board and Super Fund Committee
- Facilitated the annual meeting of the WMU 5A Task Force in Adams County, Pennsylvania
- Attended the October and November meetings of the New Jersey Fish and Game Council
- Met with personnel from the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife Bureau of Land Management and toured areas where ruffed grouse were trapped in the 1980's to provide the agency with management suggestions
- Attended the October meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission in Washington, PA
- Presented a power point entitled "Wild Turkeys 101" at a meeting of the Laurels Longbeards Chapter in southeastern PA
- Provided a power point presentation on black bears to the fall fund-raising dinner of the Susquehanna Local Chapter in Clearfield, PA
- Traveled to Baltimore to attend the annual symposium of the Wildlife Habitat council and presented the Wild Turkey Management Award to the Hatch Nuclear Facility, a Southern States facility
- Attended a strategy session on possible conservation projects within the Economic Stimulus Package held by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in Washington, DC
- Attended and photographed the sixth annual Wheelin' Sportsmen Waterfowl Hunt on Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge. The event is sponsored by the Delaware Chapter Board of Directors

Writing Projects and News Tips

- Prepared an article on the Maryland Super Fund for "Maryland Turkey Droppings"
- Wrote an article on fall turkey hunting safety for "On Target" a magazine produced by the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
- Prepared two articles for the winter issue of "PA Turkey Talk"
- Took photographs of Redden State Forest in Delaware for "Turkey Call"

Agency Assistance

- Delivered and picked up fall turkey check station materials for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
- Spent one day assisting on a bear live-trapping line
- Provided advice on equipment and scheduled a capture and handling training seminar for Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife regarding a nesting ecology and hen survival study originally scheduled to commence in 2009. The project is on hold because of internal budget and insurance issues.

Wild Turkey Woodlands

• Conducted a landowner field day and JAKES event in Fairdale, PA with the Susquehanna Branch of the Quality Deer Management Association, Northern Counties Full Fans Chapter, the Wilson Moore Chapter and the Natural Resource Conservation Service

Hunting Heritage Super Fund

- Processed 11 Super Fund requests from Pennsylvania, 42 from Maryland and 3 from Delaware
- Spent one day photographing and meeting with volunteers on the Hoda Farm Invasive Plant Species Control project near Hazelton, PA

Information Requests

 Responded to 31 requests for information on wild turkey habitat, behavior, ecology and hunting from four states

Secretary's Note: The 2008 Super Fund Spending Report is on the Board website in the January, 2009 meeting link.

Mary Jo Casalena:

- The PA NWTF Safety & Success Brochure will be printed and included in the 2nd turkey license information.
- Bob Boyd has been requested to attend the National Convention as past of the National Technical Committee. Jim Panaro said the funds for that would be coming out of the Safety & Education Budget. Don Heckman recommended that a motion be made under New Business to send 1 person for \$600 as the Tech Rep. Dean Zimmerman offered to transport the Tech Rep to National.

NWTF Technical Committee Representatives' Report - PA Chapter NWTF Board of Directors Meeting, January 11, 2009

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

Harvest Management

Preliminary fall 2008 harvest was approximately 22,850 as calculated from report cards and expanded by reporting rate. This represents an increase of 4% from the fall 2007 and 2006 harvests and is similar the 2005 fall harvest. Final harvest estimates will be available this summer after completion of our annual game-take survey.

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 will recommend to the Board of Commissioners season length changes to 3 WMUs for the fall 2009 turkey seasons. These are: decrease the fall season in WMU 2D from 3 weeks to 2 weeks and decrease the fall season in WMUs 5C and 5D from 6 days to 4 days. Summer sighting indices and spring harvest densities in WMU 2D have consistently been below the average values from 1995-2003 and the spring harvest density remains below the value prior to the season extension. The surrounding WMUs (except for WMU 2B) have 2-week seasons. Wild turkey spring harvest densities in WMU 5C continue to show a declining trend even after decreasing the season by 1 day in 2005. Although the dataset is limited for WMU 5D, the spring harvest density has decreased approximately 78% since the fall season has been open. Turkey populations are particularly vulnerable to overharvest in these WMUs due to highly fragmented forested habitats.

Regarding the spring 2010 season, we do not recommend adding days to the youth day as this season occurs prior to the average peak of turkey nest incubation.

Beginning 2008, the spring turkey season now closes on Memorial Day. We have recommended in years past to extend the season to May 31 (in accordance with Strategy 4.5 in the turkey management plan to extend spring season length); this is easily accommodated in 2010 since Memorial Day falls on May 31. We do not recommend an earlier start date. As stated in the turkey management plan, the spring season is timed to begin during the approximate peak of nest incubation to decrease the probability of illegal and accidental hen mortality, as well as nest abandonment by the hens that are in the process of laying their clutch. Hens in the egg-laying stage are more susceptible to nest abandonment than hens that have begun incubating (incubation begins after a full clutch is laid). Research has shown that incubating hens are much less susceptible to being harvested because they are not easily disturbed off their nest. If the season would open earlier, fewer hens would be incubating, and accidental/incidental hen mortality likely would increase.

Recommended 2009/2010 turkey seasons:

WMU	Sporting Arm	Dates	Length	Daily & Season
1A, 1B & 2A	Shotgun/archery	Oct. 31 – Nov. 14	2 weeks	Limit = 1
2B	Shotgun/archery	Oct. 31 – Nov. 21	3 weeks	
2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 4A	Rifle/	Oct. 31 – Nov. 14	2 weeks	
& 4B	Shotgun/archery			
2G, 3A, 3B, 3C,	Rifle/	Oct. 31 – Nov. 21	3 weeks	
3D, 4C, 4D & 4E	Shotgun/archery			
5A & 5B	Closed		0	
5C & 5D	Shotgun/archery	Oct. 31 – Nov. 4	<mark>4 days</mark>	
Spring – Youth	Shotgun/archery	April 24, 2010	½ day,	
(statewide;bearded)			noon	
			closure	
Spring – Statewide	Shotgun/archery	May 1- May 31,	26 days,	Daily Limit 1,
(bearded birds)		2010	noon	Season Limit 2
			closure	with
				appropriate
				license

Summer Turkey Sighting Surveys

The statewide summer turkey sighting surveys were completed by all Wildlife Conservation Officers, as well as the WMU 5A weekly turkey sighting surveys in the Michaux State Forest. These data, along with spring harvest data, are used in determining turkey hunting season recommendations. This year's statewide sighting index was 5% below 2007, but 12% above the previous two years, indicating average recruitment this year. The WMU 5A surveys produced positive results with 2008 being the highest index since we began the survey in 1998, more than twice the previous average. Since we closed the fall season in 2003, the summer sighting index has shown an increasing trend.

PANWTF Turkey Hunting Success and Safety Brochure

Thanks to PANWTF and NWTF for creating this brochure and providing it to the PGC as another example of our conservation partnership. As suggested, we will include the brochure in the mailings of the special spring turkey licenses for all purchasers of the license. The agency will absorb this cost.

PRELIMINARY 2008 Turkey Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents

Final results for spring 2008 turkey HRSIs show 8 non fatal incidents, up from 5 during spring 2007. One was self-inflicted (unintentional discharge), in one the victim was in the line of fire, and the other 6 victims were mistaken for game. All victims were hunting; 2 victims were standing, one was walking/running, 4 were sitting and the other was other/unknown. One offender had less than 2 years experience, the others had over 10 years.

Preliminary results for the fall 2008 turkey season show 2 non fatal incidents, up from 1 during fall 2007 which was the lowest number of incidents ever recorded. The previous record was 2 incidents in both 2003 and 2005 (4 incidents in 2006). Both incidents involved shotguns and victims were mistaken for game. One victim was sitting and wearing fluorescent orange and other was standing and wearing camouflage clothing. 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 fourth and final field season of this study began in January. Thanks to the continued support of the PANWTF, most equipment has been purchased and distributed, including bait and hay. At the end of November, all three states had closed their hunting seasons. Ohio reported one turkey found dead and one harvested by a hunter (non-reward). New York reported 6 reward and 5 non-reward bands, one of which was found dead and one road-killed. Pennsylvanians reported 6 reward and 5 non-reward bands. Additionally, one hunter harvested a banded bird during the spring 2008 season and saw a second banded bird at the time he harvested his fall gobbler.

Preliminary analyses from the first 3 years show that harvest rates are higher for adult gobblers than for jakes in all 3 states and harvest rates differ among years. On average, harvest rates were 38% for adults in all 3 states, but varied for jakes: 15% in NY, 17% in OH and 22% in PA. Again, these are just preliminary analyses.

One additional benefit of the research study was to test retention rates of different types of leg bands. Our manuscript on leg-band retention rates was accepted and finalized for publication in the scientific, peer-reviewed Journal of Wildlife Management.

<u>Update on Implementation Schedule of Turkey Management Plan for Pennsylvania, 2006-2015</u>

The second year's implementation of the revised 10-year wild turkey management plan was very successful with one of the 47 strategies completed (Appendix 1). Of the remaining 46 strategies, 34 strategies are in progress, 29 of which are ongoing and one began ahead of schedule. Four strategies are to begin in the future, 3 were postponed due to delay in Point-of-Sale licensing and 5 are behind schedule (beyond personnel time commitments and low priorities). Only 4 of the 34 strategies that are in progress are behind schedule (due to being beyond personnel time commitments). Partnerships (monetary and personnel) become more important each year to assist with accomplishing the plan on schedule and we appreciate the support from PANWTF and NWTF.

Annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show, Atlanta, GA

Thanks to the generous support from the Pennsylvania State Chapter, the Game Commission is able to send the Joe Kurz award recipient (Scott Bills, Land Management Officer in Dauphin & Lebanon Counties, SE Region) and the Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year award recipient (Rodney Burns, Greene County, SW Region) to the National Convention. Due to out-of-state travel restrictions we are unable to send other representatives (Commissioners, Executive Office, or a Technical Committee Representative). We request the State Chapter consider assisting with sending one Technical Committee Representative, Bob Boyd. PGC representation at the National Technical Committee meetings is important to advocate for our hen harvest rate research study. We submitted the proposal for possible NWTF national research funding. The agency cannot presently afford this study without NWTF support.

Tidbit

The report of a PA wild turkey hen incubating a clutch of eggs on October 9, 2008, in an alfalfa field, on a farm in New Hope, Bucks County, was the latest known incubation of a wild turkey in Pennsylvania. The hen abandoned the nest several days later.

Committee Reports

Jon Pries:

- There are 8 current, standing committees and 14 current, special committees.
- All committee chairmen should send their committee reports to Joe Drolet via email no later than one week prior to the board meeting even if that email says "No Report".
- Joe Drolet will send out a reminder to staff and committee chairmen 2 weeks ahead of time reminding them that there is one week to submit the report.

Secretary's Note: It was not determined who will remind Joe to send out the reminder. ©

Awards Committee – Tom Bunty

- There will be a meeting on Feb. 8th at Hawbaker's to determine the scholarship winner(s).
- Thanks to the RDs for all their work at Rendezvous.

By-Laws Committee - Don O'Brien & Gary Huff

• Nothing to report.

Finance Committee - Jim Panaro

- Jim made the point that every board member is a member of the Rendezvous Committee and that the work doesn't end after the banquet. We all need to remember to stay and help clean up.
- Tom Bunty recommended that a sub-committee of the Rendezvous Committee be formed to take care of specific Rendezvous issues. No action taken.
- Jim Panaro said that the Finance Committee would provide preliminary, post-Rendezvous, financial results

Hunting Heritage – Jon Pries

 Jon said there would be simultaneous Habitat and Awards Committee meetings on Feb. 8th @ 10:00 at Hawbaker's.

Internet Committee Report - January, 2009

- Set up the January, 2009 Meeting page on the board website.
- Worked on the Motions Project
- Added the 2009 Events to the WITO website.
- · Added 2009 banquets to the state website
- Added a large number of DART reservations to the schedule
- Responded to a number of PANWTF Rep emails.

Legislative - Harold Daub

- Daubber thanked Don Heckman for his report.
- Daubber also said that a new list of Chapter Representatives would be coming out soon.

Legislative - Don Heckman

- HB 747 (Elk Tag Bill) was signed without amendments.
- Don said that there was a correction to his report: the 2009 2010 Legislative Session started Jan.6, 2009.
- Don reported that the Game & Fisheries Committees will be changing. Don will send a list of new members to Harold Daub.

<u>Legislative Committee Report – January 11, 2009 PA Chapter NWTF Board meeting</u>

PA General Assembly 2007-2008 closed on November 30, 2008. All bills not passed and sent to the Governor will be removed and will need to be resubmitted in 2009-2010 legislative session for a new bill number if they are to be introduced. In this past legislative session PFSC was tracking 557 bills.

Of these bills the Governor signed into law 3 Firearms bills, 6 Game and Trapping bills, 5 Fish and Boating bills, 5 Environmental bills, 6 Energy bills, and 3 Other bills, akaamended Dog Law. House or Senate resolutions are not be reported.

These firearms and game and wildlife code bills were monitored by this Legislative Committee. Underlines were commented on by Legislative Committee. Only one Game and Wildlife Code legislative bill signed by the Governor directly impacted wild turkey management. One unsigned bill was directly related to wild turkey management.

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, all amendments removed; Signed by the Governor

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 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

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; Signed by the Governor

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

HB 2525 - Amends dog law, including kennels and sporting dogs; Signed by the Governor

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

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

SB 151- HB 1543 – legislation to ban pigeon shooting

<u>SB 740 – Spring Creek Canyon land title to Penn State University and Brenner Township rather than PGC for game lands</u>

SB 580 – Allowing for use of a dog to pursue, chase, scatter and track wild turkey during fall wild turkey season; Signed by the Governor

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

2009-2010 Legislative Session started January 13, 2009.

<u>List of all House and Senate Committee leaders and members is being developed, should have final list within a week.</u>

Next Legislative Rally Day will be held in March or April, possibly sooner, depending on the Senate legislative calendar.

Publications/Turkey Talk - Jason Straley

- Jason is still waiting for the Winter 2009 proof.
- March 2nd is the deadline for the spring issue.
- Ray Smith suggested advertising opportunities for Turkey Talk.
- Jon asked for a committee report on advertising at the March board meeting.

Publications/Turkey Talk Committee Report January 2009

- November 23rd sent an email to the PANWTF Board of Directors and Regional Directors reminding of the upcoming December 12 deadline of Turkey Talk for articles and photos.
- November 27th through December 12th proof-read and submitted sixteen articles and related photos to Walt Young for the winter issue
- December 5th Sent second email reminder/request to Board and Regional Directors for articles.
- December 12th emailed Walt Young final articles for Turkey Talk and requested the total number of issues for the current and future issues of Turkey Talk be the total of membership labels plus 1000 extra copies.
- January 7th still awaiting reply from Walt Young on status of the winter issue.

Articles for the Winter 2009 edition of Turkey Talk

- Presidents Column
- 2009 Hunting Heritage Banquet Dates
- 2009 Women in the Outdoors events
- 2009 Seed letter and order form
- Luaus, Lava Rocks & Longbeards 6 photos
- PANWTF 1975-2008 33 years of moving forward
- Peters Creek Trail Chapter 200 Turkey Donation 1 photo
- Southern End Strutters Wheelin event 1 photo

- The Turkey Dog Experience 1 photo
- Flashback fever 1 photo
- Bonnice Farm Landowner Field Day 4 photos
- Habitat Corner-What should I plant? 1 photo
- Old Hooda Farm Habitat Environment Project 8 photos
- PANWTF Addresses the PGC
- Penn's Woods Spurs Chapter Committed to Youth Involvement 3 photos
- Plotting for success 4 photos
- The Don Heckman Legacy 1 photo

Wild Turkey Management - Jim Panaro/Skip Motts

• In an effort to reach our non-board chapter members a survey is being formulated.

Wild Turkey Management – Don Heckman

Wild Turkey Management Committee Report – January 11, 2009 PA Chapter NWTF Board Meeting

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, permanently --Commissioner's approved Memorial Day, Monday, 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, Monday, May 25, 2009 as last day of 2009 spring gobbler season; recommend Commissioner's
 approve Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2010, and keep May 31 as last day for future spring gobbler
 seasons.
- 4) Recommendation for Mentored Youth Hunting to including fall turkey hunting season in regulation starting in 2009;
- 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; could be moved out to 2013 if all day spring gobbler season is adopted in 2010.
- 6) Recommendation to expand 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 and indices, harvest densities, 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) State-wide gobbler leg band research first year 2006, second year 2007, third year 2008 completed, fourth year for project Winter 2009 underway; 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 trapping materials; PGC funded administrative, staff and transportation requirements, other agency project expenses; [on-going on schedule]
- 9) Four year state-wide gobbler leg band study will be completed in March 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 PANWTF Wild Turkey Management Committee and 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 Code;
- 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].

Other Committee actions requiring PA Chapter NWTF Board participation and overview.

PANWTF Turkey Hunter Cooperative Program [Turkey Talk 2008 issue]

PANWTF Wild Turkey Management Report Card [Turkey Talk 2007 issue]

Other Committee actions requiring PGC Staff and Commissioner participation and overview.

- 1) Turkey hunter safety and ethics Comprehensive PGC wild turkey hunter safety NWTF Turkey Hunter Safety DVD provided to PGC HTE classes and availability to general hunting public; helping PGC reach out to 300,000+- turkey hunters with additional turkey hunter safety and ethics information and material; PA Edition NWTF Turkey Hunting Success and Safety brochure; NWTF Turkey Hunter Safety Task Force material;
- 2) Annually review of meeting minutes from PGC Executive Staff and PA NWTF June meeting as provided by PGC Wild Turkey Biologist Mary Jo Casalena; 2008 meeting minutes have been forwarded for final review and update; copy of meeting minutes for PA NWTF Board of Directors and NWTF Staff are available; important wild turkey management criteria and decision making foundations have been accomplished since these joint partnership yearly meetings started back in the mid 1980's. Requested PGC wild turkey biologist to update PA Chapter NWTF Board at the January and June board meetings on status of Objectives and Strategies as outlined in the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania.
- 3) NWTF wild turkey management outreach programs Wild Turkey Woodlands, fund HHSF Habitat, Safety Education, Land Acquisition, Habitat programs, Conservation seed programs, Project HELP, Operation Appleseed, Operation Oak, Get In The Game Hunting Heritage Club, other budgeted NWTF outreach programs and HHSF Super Fund expenditures, support funding for NWTF's Pennsylvania Comprehensive Wild Turkey Management Plan, continue with PANWTF articles and news releases to Tell The Story.

NWTF North American Wild Turkey Management Plan.

1) Pennsylvania Comprehensive Wild Turkey Management Plan - support management plan objectives and recommendations, provide for fully funded management plan criteria as directed by NWTF Wild Turkey Biologist and NWTF Conservation Programs.

Hunting License Benefits - Don Heckman

Turkey Hunting License Benefits

By Don Heckman, PA Chapter NWTF Executive Officer
Wild Turkey Management Committee Chairman, August 21, 2008

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.

How Will a Turkey Hunting License Help?

- Improved and more detailed information on wild turkey harvest densities will be available.
- As state-wide wild turkey 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?

• 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.

Why Should Turkey Hunters Support a Turkey Hunting License?

- Wild turkey populations peaked above 400,000 in 2001; spring 2007 population is 329,500, above the previous 10 year average of 314,900.
- 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.
- 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.

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 the wild turkey in Pennsylvania.

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

PGC web site link wild turkey management plan:

http://www.pgc.state.pa.us/pgc/lib/pgc/wildturkey/turkey_plan.pdf

LUNCH

Jon Pries thanked Don O'Brien for rejoining the Board as Chairman.

Art/Promotion – Jon Pries

- Carol Budge would like the Art inventory removed from their home.
- Ken Fernburg agreed to go get the inventory and store it.
- The Art/Promotional Committee will need to develop a plan to eliminate the current inventory.
- George Thornton committed to getting the #1 prints in inventory framed and hung in the Pennsylvania Room at national.
- Tammy suggested that a plaque be hung to indicate which prints (at national) are on loan from the PA NWTF.
- Jim Panaro requested that in the future, all donated prints be taken from inventory rather than purchased.

Jakes - Jon Pries

• Ken Fernburg will get the Cricket .22s, inventory them, and pass along the information to Joe Drolet for the records.

- The committee will report on the Jakes Guns Inventory at the March board meeting.
- Skip Motts suggested that the current, web-based, Jakes guns schedule include more detail when available.

Return Labels – Jon Pries/Katrina Skrapits

• A vote approved all of the labels Katrina designed for use by the board.

WTM Position Statement - Don Heckman

Wild Turkey Management, Turkey Hunting, and Turkey Hunting Safety Position Statements as part of the WTM Committee Report for January 2009 Board meeting.

PA Chapter NWTF Supports Wild Turkey Management updated by Don Heckman, member Wild Turkey Management Committee

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

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) fully funded PGC "Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania".
- 3) turkey hunting license/stamp for a fee.

The Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF Board of Director's supports these additional wild turkey management and turkey hunting position statements:

- 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, data, and indices determined by PGC wildlife biologists, land managers, and NWTF wild turkey biologist.
- 2) delaying any additional hunting opportunities for all day youth and adult spring gobbler hunting until 2010 when state-wide gobbler leg band research project is completed. Could go out to 2013 if spring gobbler season ending May 31 each year is adopted as part of spring season regulations.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 23 WMU's and their current boundaries for state-wide wild turkey management as outlined in the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania.
- 5) 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.
- 6) PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania guidelines for setting current dates for spring gobbler season and fall turkey hunting season.

- 7) further research on Fall turkey hunting seasons where as 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 turkey hunting incidents have been decreased. What have turkey hunters done right these last 7 fall turkey hunting seasons to impact and help decrease turkey hunting incidents?
- 8) continued improvement in reducing all turkey hunting season HRSI's; continued improving NWTF and PA Chapter turkey hunter safety and ethics information and education material and brochures; continued support for "Turkey Hunter's Choice" no mandatory orange while moving for spring gobbler season; review of mandatory orange for fall turkey hunting options.
- 9) recommendation to include a turkey hunting license in any future 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.
- 10) Mentored Youth Hunting Program, we support including fall turkey hunting season regulation in mentored youth hunting.
- 11) Legislative resolution to research and study Sunday hunting, and support Legislation to allow PGC to set Sunday hunting regulations.

PFSC - Don Heckman

Pennsylvania Federation Sportsmen's Clubs Report

Don Heckman, PA Chapter NWTF Delegate to PFSC

For PA Chapter NWTF Board meeting, January 11, 2009

Prepared handout on wild turkey management and turkey hunting recommendations for PA Chapter Board and PFSC Board meetings, and PGC Staff and Commissioner's.

PFSC "On Target" January-February 2009 HTE issue has been distributed. PANWTF safety article and JAKES membership form included with turkey hunting safety article.

PFSC Board meeting on January 24, 2009 in State College, as part of my report to the Board will be the Wild Turkey Management Committee recommendations.

PFSC Spring Convention is March 20-22, 2009 in Meadville, PA. PANWTF reports for PFSC Board meeting, Game and Trapping Committee, and Delegates voting session will be presented.

2009 issues PFSC will be working:

License Increase for the PGC.

Stable Funding for Both Agencies.

Increased Penalties for Wildlife Violators.

Participation in the Wildlife Violators Compact.

Commissioner slots filled with qualified individuals, not political favors.

Continued protection of our 2nd Amendment Rights.... supporting Castle Doctrine legislation being signed; accountability for the mayors and city councils that are breaking the law by enacting illegal firearm ordinances.

Increasing revenues to support state-wide organization events and programs, and legislative issues and events on Capitol Hill.

Increased individual memberships, sportsmen's clubs, and state-wide conservation organization memberships.

Increased outreach and education programs.

Work to bring sportsmen together in a more cohesive working relationship to protect our Outdoor Heritage for future generations.

Safety & Education – Chuck Mathues

• Chuck thanked everyone involved for the excellent brochure

Old Business

- Strategic Plan
 - Joe Drolet suggested that a committee be formed with a chairman to develop measurables to gauge the progress towards achieving the goals in the Strategic Plan.
 - o Jon Pries agreed to do that.
 - George Thornton indicated his strong agreement with the PA NWTF Strategic Plan.

New Business

- Membership
 - Dale Butler expressed his concern over the decrease in habitat dollars caused by the decrease in membership and recommended taking money from habitat to increase the membership.
 - o Jon and Dale will create a small committee to develop a motion/recommendation on this for the June meeting.
- Joe Drolet asked if an Event Calendar for board members, accessible from the board website, would be of interest. There was a lot of positive response and Joe agrees to do it.
- Skip Motts made a motion that all Safety and Education Green Sheets, with the exception of Education, come out of the General Fund. Dale Butler seconded and the motion was passed.
- Tom Bunty made a motion to continue the Upper Gun Raffle. Hugh Shields seconded and the motion was passed.
- Skip Motts made a motion for the PA Chapter NWTF to fund an additional \$600.00 towards sending a PGC Technical Committee Representative to the 2009 NWTF Convention. Jim Panaro seconded and the motion passed.
- Carl Mowry mentioned that the June 2nd Turkey Talk deadline must be met on Jakes Gun Raffle gun selection.
- Sam McCartney made a motion to write a check to Carol Burdge for \$3,350 in revenues generated from the benefit conducted at the 2009 Rendezvous. Dale Butler seconded and the motion passed.

- Harold Daub made a motion to accept the logos designed by Katrina Skrapits for use by the PA Chapter NWTF. Dean Zimmerman seconded and the motion passed.
- Jim Panaro made a motion to nominate Don Heckman, Bill Mackereth, and Gary Beatty as PANTF Honorary Board Members. Dale Butler seconded but the motion failed without the required 75% majority.
- Joe Drolet made a motion to table the previous motion until the March board meeting. Harold Daub seconded and the motion carried.
- The 2009 meeting schedule was established and will available on the board website's event calendar. The meetings will also be indicated on board meeting minutes.
- There will be coincidental Habitat and Awards Scholarship meetings at Hawbaker's on Feb. 8th.
- Harold Daub made a motion to amend our mission statement to read: We are dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and the Preservation of our Hunting Heritage. Skip Motts seconded and the motion carried.
- An email will be sent out to the whole board to remind them to schedule their time to stay for the entire board meeting.
- Jim Panaro presented the 2009 Hunting Heritage Fund recommendation from the Executive Committed.
- Tom Bunty made a motion to accept the 2009 Hunting Heritage Fund budget as presented. Dale Butler seconded and the motion carried.
- Distribution of Education Boxes will be on an on-request basis from local chapters.

For the Good of the Order

- Ken needs 3 people to help with the items donated for the benefit of Dave Burdge. These items will be split among several chapters so they can conduct their own Burdge benefits.
- Don Heckman made a special point to convey the following message to the board: I want
 to express my appreciation to the PA Chapter NWTF Board of Directors for allowing me
 to serve the NWTF and State Chapter for 33 years on the Chapter Board of Directors. I
 thank you for this opportunity to serve on the board and I thank you for your commitment
 and dedication to the PA Chapter NWTF.

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