

**NWTF Technical Committee Representatives' Report - PA Chapter NWTF
Board of Directors Meeting, March 8, 2009**

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

Wild Turkey Season Recommendations

During the January PGC Board of Commissioners meeting, Commissioners accepted staff recommendations to: 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, pending public comment with final approval during the April Commission meeting. However, the Board also voted, preliminarily, to increase the fall season in WMU 2F from 2 to 3 weeks, prior to acquiring and analyzing the 3 to 5-year trends of spring harvest and summer turkey sighting data as recommended in the turkey management plan.

Wild Turkey Spring Harvest Rates and Annual Survival Rates Study

Bob Boyd presented preliminary results to the National Wild Turkey Technical Committee during the annual National Technical Committee meeting at the NWTF National Convention. Results were well-received.

The majority of Mary Jo Casalena's time this reporting cycle has been spent trapping and banding turkeys in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Franklin and Fulton Counties. As of Feb. 27, teams have banded 288 male turkeys. Regional totals are: NW (27), SW (43), NC (60), SC (45), NE (48), SE (65). While the regional banding quota is 50 males, the NC and SE regions graciously continued trapping after reaching their quotas to assist with reaching the statewide total of 300 males banded.

PANWTF Habitat Superfund Projects

The PA Chapter NWTF was able to fund 62 of the 78 proposals submitted plus their seed subsidy program for a total of \$94,885 (\$84,885 superfund + \$10,000 seed subsidy) for wild turkey habitat throughout Pennsylvania. Of these, 38 projects were funded in cooperation with the PA Game Commission for a total of \$50,188. Due to the volume of proposals received, most were funded at a lower level than requested.

Annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show, Nashville, TN

Thanks to the generous support from the Pennsylvania State Chapter, the Game Commission sent the Joe Kurz award recipient (Scott Bills, Land Management Officer in Dauphin & Lebanon Counties, SE Region), the Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year award recipient (Rodney Burns, Greene County, SW Region), and Technical Committee representative, Bob Boyd, to the National Convention. B. Boyd's attendance at the National Technical Committee meeting was important, not only for providing the oral presentation regarding the gobbler harvest rate study, but also to advocate for our hen harvest rate research study. The Tech. Committee agreed with the importance of the study, but found the amount requested in the 1st year was unacceptable (\$139,567). The Bureau of Wildlife Management is considering additional project cost reductions, funding enhancement, and ultimately how much PGC funds can be provided in the FY 2009 budget to keep this project alive.

Information and Education

MJ Casalena provided two presentations on the life history and management of wild turkey to a game dinner (audience of 55+) and a Lions Club annual dinner (audience of 35+) and a presentation on fishers, coyotes and bobcats at another game dinner (audience of 200+).