

2010 NWTF Convention, February 17-21, 2020 Opryland Convention Center, Nashville TN

NWTF Convention interactions were fantastic, convention expectations fulfilled, turkey hunters are in good hands with NWTF. Now to increase new members, grow renewal memberships, improve banquets, add new opportunities to an already busy and sometimes hectic PA Chapter agenda, and on to the 35th Annual Convention in Nashville, Opryland Convention Center, February 17-20, 2011.

At Friday awards presentations, Jerry Zimmerman Local Chapter was presented the JAKES Award for category 200 Jakes.

At the Saturday night Awards Banquet PA Chapter NWTF received two awards for 2009 L.A. Dixon Jr. Memorial Outstanding State Chapter Award Highest Total NET/NET Dollars Raised Third Place and Membership Category over 20,000 Third Place Pennsylvania State Chapter 34th Annual Convention Nashville, TN

At Thursday mornings Presentation to Board and State and Provincial President's, CEO George Thornton spoke on improving NWTF balance sheet, fiscal year budget, and several budget cuts that helped 2008-2009 be more successful. 2009-2010 fiscal is looking brighter, and expects great opportunities for staff and chapters leaders. He stated 2009 was a very, very difficult year, and a very very busy year. Spoke to 2009 Challenges and how they were met. Several actions noted below were reviewed.

New staff appointments for Director of Field Operations, Northeast is Bob Fountain. Bob Eriksen is Northeast Director of Conservation Operations.

New Outreach manual is being developed and will be distributed in 2010. Look on nwtf.org Outreach site link.

Several new banquet automation tools are being used, RD's have told us about the changes coming forth, will be used in all 2010 banquets.

New NWTF logo for Conserve.Hunt.Share

NWTF is now on Pursuit Channel, new television channel outdoors partner with Mossy Oak.

New flagship magazine Turkey Country in distribution and has been well received.

New retail store NWTF "Turkey Shop On Main" is in place.

TOM – Target Our Members – is up and running.

New NWTF Training Department and new DCO's [Director of Conservation Operations] and DFO's [Director of Field Operations] are in place and operational.

2010 Goals – Strengthen our fund balance, increase Mission spending, Better communicate our Mission and accomplishments, Stop the slide in Membership number, WHY? Membership Growth, Project Tom. These goals all directly hit home base in Pennsylvania.

New Social Networking opportunities, Facebook, Twitter, CamoSpace, and You Tube to present our Mission and messages to a younger audience.

Chevy only has two conservation organizations they support, NWTF being one of them.

Memberships, new and renewal was discussed, targeting all potential member categories.

Upland Habitat Initiative – early secessionist habitat was the topic.

New NWTF Foundation was presented, 501 [c] 3 organization for providing permanent funding.

NWTF Activism – politics and legislative issues was reviewed.

NWTF has partnered with USSA to provide state legislative alerts, check the web site.

NWTF has press releases formats available for you to fill in the blanks, have them reviewed, and send to your local area outdoor writers and newspaper contacts. Template is also available on how to do communications, all on the NWTF web site.

Constitution and By-Laws review is on-going in 2010, PA Chapter needs to participate and will be asked to forward latest updated copy to Edgefield.

NWTF is going to participate and partner with the Boy Scouts on a new Conservation Challenge Patch in 2010.

State chapter can participate with NWTF to host a customized web site for \$400 per year. This has already been presented, I do not have any of the details available, possibly the RD's can help, or point the Executive Committee to the correct contact person if this is something chapter is interested. Joe has a very large bucket full of information on panwtf.org, not sure just how much the NWTF customized web site for \$400 will host.

CEO George Thornton recommends a 3 person team in each state, State Chapter President, Director of Field Operations, Director of Conservation Operations meet as need be to talk through questions and answers, issues, ideas, and other communications impacting NWTF and state chapters.

In closing George left us with this positive comment: We could not have had this result without each of you. Thank You for your hard work and commitment to the NWTF Mission.

I remain hopefully presentations will be available for seminars, presentations, and discussion groups and they will be made available to chapters. I have 2 CDs and a couple paper copies of the new NWTF Director list, a draft of index model state constitution and by-laws, Super Fund Task Force Survey Results, CEO George Thornton presentation at Board and Chapter Presidents presentation on NWTF current status.

That's what I have to share with you, hopefully my typing and spell check are working today. And I also thank all of you for your commitment and dedication to NWTF, PA Chapter NWTF, our 87 local chapters, and to all NWTF members in Pennsylvania, and to all those that have yet to do their renewal membership, or complete their new membership with NWTF. THANK YOU.
Don...

Now for a short overview from my perspective... NWTF news releases are being released, read them as you can, check the NWTF web site for lots of Convention news, awards, presentations, comment, and the good things that happened during convention week. Other chapter attendees can add their comments or send put their own comments.

I know one thing I was tired Sunday night when I finally got home around 9:30. I was delayed in Nashville going back through Chicago, and delayed in Chicago with the snow storm. I never before witnessed a plane being deiced as I did the moments before the plane took off. On two occasions I have spent a night in an airport waiting to get my rescheduled flight the next day to

head home with many many of my 24-25 visits to NWTF Conventions over the years were just normal driving or flying trips.

If any of you ever get the opportunity to attend one or several NWTF Conventions please do not let the opportunities get lost or delayed, the Convention is one terrific opportunity to see how, when, where, why, and how much NWTF functions. Although it is not as good as a personal trip to Edgefield Headquarters, it provides many opportunities to meet new friends, renew old acquaintances, participate in NWTF dialogue meetings, listen and watch professional turkey callers in that intense highly charged environment, and that exhibit hall, just incredible, and just let your hair down, if you have any haha, and be yourself among family and friends.

That being said, I attended the Wednesday evening early bird reception after getting my badges, registering for the Convention, and checking into the room. Opryland Convention Center is huge, after a few trips around the complex you will finally get the hang of it.

Thursday I represented the PA Chapter at the NWTF Board of Directors and State Chapter, and Provincial President's breakfast and meeting presentations. I participated in the question and answer session and took lots of notes [above]. There will be a copy of presentations available at the March Board meeting. After the Conservation Awards luncheon with Tech Committee attended the Leadership Interactive seminar and presentations, and then attended the Welcome Party and Dinner Thursday night.

Friday after the Federal Breakfast attended the Arming Sportsmen to Protect Their Hunting Tights with USSA Evan Heusinkveld, USSA/NWTF Sentry Program. Dale Butler, Jim Panaro and I met with Evan back in January to review Sentry Program pilot presentation. Presentation notebooks will be available from that meeting and from future kick-off meetings with USSA/NWTF.

After the Conservation Awards luncheon and presentations, attended Tech Committee wild turkey research presentations during the afternoon and talked with several biologists. Duane Diefenbach representing PGC presented his overview of the 4 year gobbler leg band study, along with several other research study presentators. I did miss the NWTF simplifying the banquet processing and reporting system seminar and presentation. Friday night attended the Wild Turkey Bourbon Bash and Grand National Fair and Auction Friday night.

Saturday attended the Winchester Breakfast, followed by a 2 ½ hour meeting with Commissioner Jay Delaney. You can guess the topics, or just read the last Wild Turkey Management Committee Report. Amazing what some Commissioner's do know and how much they do not know about NWTF-PANWTF-and local chapters.

Attending a Rendezvous, a chapter presidents meeting, reading Turkey Talk certainly helps, hearing PANWTF comments at Commissioner's meetings, talking to PANWTF representatives also help, but the missing gaps are huge, IMHO.

Met with Denny Fredericks on Consol Energy program, PFSC opportunities, and opportunities for NWT Board member.

Missed the Tech Committee Research Grant In Aid meeting, and that was a must do on my priority list. Bob Boyd presented the PGC Hen Harvest Rate Study research funding proposal.

Attended the NWTF Outreach Team presentation and overview .ppt of the Outreach Fund. Since this is not my forte I took plenty of notes and I'm sure one of the RD's will be present at the Board meeting to review the Outreach Fund opportunity. Bob Eriksen has excellent knowledge and information on this new pilot proposal. Presentation will be made available, if I get my copy before the March Board meeting I will forward. Maybe Bob can forward if I do not receive one by March 4th.

Attended the Diamond Life Sponsor Reception, and then attended the NWTF 34th Annual Awards Banquet. PA Chapter NWTF received two awards.

Sunday attended the Federal Breakfast and finally had some time to get to the Exhibit Hall before starting home.

Please any of you that attended update my upper portion log with your comments and perspectives.