

Outreach Report
Leslie Smith
NWTF PA Outreach Coordinator
July 2013

Women in the Outdoors

- The Allegheny Valley WITO was held on June 1st with 23 ladies in attendance. Good event, thank you for the Chapter's continued Support of Outreach. This WITO event has been going on since the year 2000
- Meet with the WITO Committees for events this remainder of the year.
- Submitted schedules to Turkey Talk
- The Jerry Zimmerman/Walking Purchase WITO event was held on June 8th with 215 ladies in attendance. These Chapters have been hosting this event for 10 years and continue to grow their outreach efforts
- The TriChapter WITO event in Danville was held on June 8th with 11 ladies in attendance. This is the third year for this annual event, the committee stays strong.
- Attended Leadership Conference June 10th thru 16th which was held in Edgefield, SC
- Attended PGC Meeting in Harrisburg and presented update on Outreach for the PA NWTF.
- Attended Reading Ridge Runners Pitch A tent Event at Pheasant Valley Farm on July 20 & 21. 12 new ladies were introduced to shooting sports.
- Attendance at these events is dropping, which means we need to change them up a bit.
- Focus for the upcoming year will be to add Family in the Outdoors Day. Similar to a WITO structure but allow the parents and children attend together.
- Setting up some hunts for Women is an option; we could use the Turkey 101 hunting strategy that the Outreach team in Edgefield has established.
- Updated facebook with WITO Schedule & Banquet Schedules

JAKES & PA LL Bean Learn to Hunt Program

- 4 PA LL Bean Learn to Hunt events are to be scheduled by May 2013 for this program
- The Whitehorse Mountain Chapter will be hosting a Pheasant Hunt on September 28, 2013 at Buffer Creek.
- The Honey Hole Chapter and the Endless Mountain Chapter are hosting a Pheasant Hunt event at Ringneck Ridge in Laceyville on October 20, 2013.
- The Susquehanna Chapter will be hosting a Pheasant Hunt on September 7, 2013 at Warriors Mark in Ginter, PA
- One more event is to be established, I am currently working with Lake Region Longbeards to establish a Turkey Hunt.
- The PA Learn to Hunt is a program that we would like to see grow and continue here in PA. Some Chapters already host hunts and have done so for many years. This is an opportunity for other Chapters to participate in "Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt" initiative in a stronger way.
- Attended the Michaux Yellow Breeches JAKES Day on June 21, 2013.
- Attended the Reading Ridge Runners JAKES Day on June 29, 2013.

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- JAKES events are abundant across the State of Pennsylvania. We hold many events and touch many youths. It will be a goal to have each and every one of those youths become members of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Options are
 - Fundraising to pay for the memberships at the event
 - Obtain sponsors for each youth at a \$10 Sponsor option (would be like going to a gun club and buying a paper fish to stock the pond for opening day, we could offer paper turkeys to individuals to sponsor a child).
 - Ask for a donation of \$10 at the event but do not indicate that the \$10 must be paid to attend.

Wheelin

- Wheelin fundraisers are increasing across Pennsylvania.
- Wheelin memberships are lacking in Pennsylvania. We need to come up with ideas to increase membership.
 - Fundraising to pay for the membership at the event
 - Look for donations to sponsor a Wheelin individual to attend events
- Attended Kinzua Allegheny's meeting for the Wheelin Vet Hunt that is scheduled for November.

Overview:

Outreach is strong in Pennsylvania, however if we do not try new things, outreach will dwindle. Increasing memberships to outreach is very important. We are a membership based organization. Our members are our backbone of support.

With the new initiative of "Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt", Outreach is at the forefront in the initiative. The more individuals we can reach and maintain, the better our chances of creating new hunters for our future. Men, Women and Children of all walks of life need to be educated on our Conservation efforts. Hunters are the biggest group of conservationist. Funding for state wildlife agencies comes from hunters. It comes through our hunting licenses and tag purchases and through a self-imposed tax on the purchase of hunting-related items. Funds raised by the Pittman-Robertson Act can only be used by state wildlife agencies to purchase public land, improve essential habitat and create additional outdoor opportunities. These opportunities benefit anyone who enjoys the outdoors, not just hunters. We want to pass on our hunting heritage to the next generation; we put our money and efforts where our heart is.