

## **PA Chapter and Local Chapters of the NWTF 2007-2008 Accomplishments**

By Don Heckman, Vice President, and Jim Panaro, Treasurer

### **NWTF Mission statement: Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and Preservation of our Hunting Heritage.**

NWTF Pennsylvania Chapter Hunting Heritage Super Fund expenditures, \$292,000 spent on super fund projects and events in calendar year 2008; \$4.6 million raised and spent on super fund projects and events since 1985.

Pennsylvania Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation with volunteers support and help from our 88 local chapters has achieved these major accomplishments during the past year.

#### **Wild Turkey Management:**

Annually meet with Pennsylvania Game Commission Executive Staff to review and update PGC "Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania – 2006-2015" 6 Objectives and 47 Strategies.

On-going annual financial and man time support for state and federal wildlife agencies for wild turkey habitat improvement projects across Pennsylvania - 64 projects funded for \$107,000; over 27 years \$2.3 million has been spent on habitat improvement improving over 273,000 acres.

Continued support for PGC Wild Turkey Biologist on 4 year state-wide gobbler leg banding research project, winter 2008 – 3<sup>rd</sup> year - \$10,000 spent on PGC research project; \$34,800 spent thus far for 4 year project.

Local chapter volunteers are working with PGC staff to trap, band and release wild turkeys for this research project.

Continued support for PGC Wild Turkey Biologist on TMA 7B [WMU 5A] Wild Turkey Task Force Recommendations for summer sightings and wild turkey habitat improvements on Michaux State Forest .

Supporting NWTF and Northeast Agency Wild Turkey Biologists with \$15,000 invested in the Wild Turkey Population Model data project.

#### **Hunting Safety and Education:**

Promote turkey hunting safety by distributing 2000 Identify Your Target posters through our PGC – Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF information education program.

Pennsylvania Edition - NWTF Turkey Hunting Success and Safety Brochure completed, available on the Pennsylvania Chapter web site [www.panwtf.org](http://www.panwtf.org) , distributed to local chapters to be used to inform and educate turkey hunters.

Turkey hunting safety articles and news releases published for spring and fall turkey hunting seasons, publications include "Turkey Talk", "PA Outdoor Times", PGC 2008-2009 Hunting and Trapping Digest, PFSC "On Target".

Worked with PGC Commissioners and Executive Staff to remove hunting regulation for mandatory orange while moving during 2008 spring gobbler season.

Maintain two DART interactive instruction systems for teaching and instructing youth about turkey hunting safety and safe shooting practices.

### Turkey Hunting:

Worked to pass legislation for Mentored Youth Hunting Program with PFSC, PGC, and other statewide conservation and sportsmen's organizations.

Added spring gobbler season to Mentored Youth Hunting regulation; working to get fall turkey hunting season added for Mentored Youth Hunting regulation.

In recent years have worked with PGC Commissioner's and Executive Staff to recommend and regulate a youth spring gobbler season, adding a regulation for using dogs for turkey hunting during fall hunting season, adding additional days – hunting opportunities – for spring gobbler season, and supporting fall season lengths as regulated through wild turkey management plan wildlife principles.

Working on extending adult spring gobbler season to May 31, all day youth and adult spring gobbler season hunting, expanding youth spring gobbler hunting to more than one day, and supporting legislation to lawfully regulate Sunday Hunting with other state-wide conservation and sportsmen's organizations.

### NWTF Pennsylvania Wild Turkey Management Strategic Plan:

Completed NWTF strategic plan for Pennsylvania .

### NWTF Outreach Programs and Financial Support:

Held 88 Hunting Heritage Super Fund Banquets throughout Pennsylvania with local chapters.

Held 34 JAKES [Juniors Acquiring Knowledge Ethics and Sportsmanship] events throughout Pennsylvania with local chapters.

Held 24 WITO [Women In The Outdoors] events throughout Pennsylvania with local chapters.

Held 5 Wheelin' Sportsmen's events throughout Pennsylvania with local chapters.

Held 1 Land Owner Field Day in Pennsylvania with local chapters.

Sponsored 27 scholarships to high school seniors throughout Pennsylvania with local chapter support.

Provided 88 NWTF Education boxes to schools throughout Pennsylvania with local chapters.

### Financial Support:

\$10,000 contribution to support land acquisition project team for 2,500 acre Glatfelter Tree Farm Number One land purchase for additional state forest land for DCNR – Bureau of Forestry – Michaux State Forest.

On-going funding and distribution program for NWTF Conservation Seed and Seed Subsidy programs.

On-going funding and support for Pennsylvania 's YHEC youth shooting program.

On-going \$1000 contribution to Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation – US Congress.

On going \$1000 contribution to US Sportsmen's Alliance.

On-going \$1000 contribution to 4-H Shooting Sports program.

On-going \$2500 contribution to Ned Smith Center for Art and Nature.

Communications, Public Relations, and Participation:

Publish Pennsylvania "Turkey Talk" newsletter quarterly to our Pennsylvania NWTF members.

Maintain Internet web site: [www.panwtf.org](http://www.panwtf.org) for telling the story of the Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF.

Link to NWTF internet web site: [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org) for telling the story of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

State Chapter news releases published to Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers and newspapers.

State and local chapter volunteers attend sports shows, participate in hunting related events, and hold turkey hunting and safety seminars.

State Chapter participates on Governor's Sportsmen's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation.

State Chapter participates on Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs Board of Directors and attends their semi-annual Federation Conventions.

State Chapter participates on PA Coalition of Sportsmen with other state-wide conservation and sportsmen's organizations on legislative and wildlife and land management projects and issues.

State Chapter participates on Habitat Alliance with other vested interest conservation and sportsmen's organizations reviewing habitat management, wildlife management, and environmental projects and issues.

PA Chapter holds annual Local Chapter Presidents meeting in August.

PA Chapter holds annual Rendezvous weekend in January.

PA Chapter attends annual NWTF Convention in February.

Updated our PA Chapter NWTF Strategic Plan for 2008.

State General Assembly:

Active in supporting state legislation protecting our conservation, wildlife management, hunting, trapping, and pro gun rights, meeting with state legislator's, providing written and spoken communications to legislator's, legislative committee's, and state agencies. Continue to be active participants in providing information educational material to state-wide leaders in support of our NWTF Mission Statement, wildlife and land management, and support for second amendment rights being a pro hunting, pro gun, pro natural and renewable resources management wildlife conservation organization.

Active in not supporting state legislation that would take away or negatively impact our wildlife conservation, hunting and trapping, and firearms ownership privileges and lawful rights through written and spoken communications with legislator's, legislative committee's, and state agencies.

NWTF:

L.A. Dixon Award for Hunting Heritage Super Fund Banquets highest total net dollars raised in a state - \$489,706.

Dr. Roger M. Latham Sportsmen's Service Award presented to PA Chapter nominee Dave Burdge at NWTF Convention in 2007. Dave is one of 17 PA Chapter volunteer members to receive this prestigious NWTF award since started in 1983.