

PENNSYLVANIA SPRING 2005  
**TURKEY TALK**

Publication of the PA State Chapter of the NWTF



## Thirty Years of Wild Turkey Management



- National Convention
- PA Chapter Banquet
- Wheelin' at Raystown
- WITO Events
- Turkey Hunting Safety

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*Two Birds  
in the  
Spring?*

# PENNSYLVANIA SPRING 2005 TURKEY TALK

Publication of the PA State Chapter of the NWTF

Volume 30 Number 3



Photo Credit: Henry Zeman/NWTF

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### THE PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

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**The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue of Turkey Talk is June 2.**

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by PETE D'URSO

National Wild Turkey Federation

*From the President*

Dave Burdge



# Working for You

One of my first duties as President is to thank Carl Mowry for all of his efforts over the years, especially these past four years as President of the Pennsylvania State Chapter. Carl has unselfishly given his time and direction to meet the goals of our State Chapter, and he went the extra mile to combat the "Orange Issue." It is my desire and ambition to continue working on the wild turkey management plan that is in place and to see the wild turkey continue to flourish in the Keystone State. With the help of our excellent men and women serving on the Board, along with the state biologists, we will make it happen.

My wife, Carol, and I have just returned from another exciting NWTF National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. As expected, the program had excellent speakers, seminars, entertainment, vendors, auctions, and contests; anything that had to do with turkeys, hunting, and conservation, was there. Pennsylvania, once again came through again with flying colors. Don O'Brien from Trout Run was one of six recipients of the Roger Latham Award. Don has held leadership roles as NWTF Pennsylvania Chapter director, district director, past state chapter president, and chairman of the board, elevating each to new levels of commitment and opportunity. Don has also developed or coordinated JAKES,

Youth Hunter Education Challenge, and Outdoors for Youth events to provide outdoor activities for local youth. Ron Fretts from Scottsdale was reelected to the NWTF Board of Directors. Matt Van Cise of Grand Valley finished first in the Wild Turkey Bourbon Senior Division, defeating three-time champion Jim Pollard from Alabama. For the third year, Dakota Clouser of Danville won the NWTF Junior Division Championship (15 years old and younger). The Pennsylvania State Chapter also won an award for the Best State Chapter with more than 10,000 members, coming in sixth place. The NWTF recognized chapters that set a standard of excellence for conservation fundraising, wise use of funds to make a difference on the ground, and sharing our hunting heritage in 2004 through the L.A. Dixon award program.

As we all know, spring and the Pennsylvania gobbler season is just around the corner. We have a very healthy population of birds, and it looks as if this will be another successful season; for some it means the kill, for others, shooting the magnificent turkey with a camera. Whatever your choice, the important issue are be safe, identify the target, obey the law, and have fun. God has blessed us with the wild turkey, and we need to manage it the best way possible.

## Take A Number!



The Pennsylvania Chapter WT registration license plates are still available. Promoting the Pennsylvania Chapter and the National Wild Turkey Federation with our license plates is a great way to show your support and love of the wild turkey.

Send a self-addressed stamped envelope with your membership number and phone number to Skip Sanderson, 6063 Glatfelters Station Road, Seven Valleys, PA 17360-8416. A signed application will be returned to you. Complete the application and send it with a check for \$20.00 to PennDot. Your plate should arrive in two to three weeks.

# Two Birds in the Spring?

## The Possibilities and Questions Concerning HB 2042



Photo by Tom Evans/National Wild Turkey Federation

By BOB ERIKSEN,  
NWTF REGIONAL BIOLOGIST

*Editor's note: Due to a computer glitch, only the opening paragraphs of this article were published in the previous issue of Turkey Talk. We regret that oversight and are pleased to present Bob Ericksen's worthwhile and timely essay in its entirety.*

**Y**ou may have heard or read articles about House Bill 2042 passing the legislature and being signed by Governor Rendell in the past few months. The legislation was drafted nearly a year ago creating the option of an additional tag for Pennsylvania turkey hunters. Wording of the bill was such that it did not require the Pennsylvania Game Commission to make additional turkey tags available every year. The bill also left the decisions on the use of the tags up to the Game Commission. In other words, the Game Commission would be responsible for deciding whether the additional tags could be used in the spring or fall season, whether the tag would be valid for the whole season or just a certain portion of the season, and whether the tags would be valid throughout the state or only in certain areas. What the legislation did was give the Game Commission the authority to sell an extra turkey tag to hunters.

When the legislation was signed, electronic message boards literally came alive with folks discussing the pros and cons of the additional tag legislation. Some hunters were elated about the news. Others predicted dire consequences for the turkey population. Both sides had valid argu-

ments, and both sides were equally concerned about the potential impacts on turkey flocks in the Pennsylvania. Our Pennsylvania Chapter Board of Directors has discussed this issue with Game Commission personnel and with the commissioners. The Bureau of Wildlife Management and the commissioners have some definite ideas about how this change might be implemented, and they shared their thoughts with board members at meetings in June and October last year.

At this time, the plan is to make additional tags available only for spring gobbler hunters. There is nothing definite about the timeline, but it is likely that over-the-counter tag sales could begin in the spring of 2006. The legislation created additional tag fees and set the fees at \$20 for resident hunters and \$40 for nonresident hunters. When additional tag sales begin, sales will probably be limited to before the spring season starts. Turkey hunters will have to decide before the season starts whether or not to purchase an extra tag giving them the privilege of taking more than one gobbler. Additional tags will probably only be available through the Harrisburg office of the Game Commission, and no hunter will be able to buy more than one additional tag.

That's the details of the plan for additional tags as it stands right now. Understanding the process may give you a little more comfort about the new tags, but many concerns have been expressed by turkey hunters — NWTF members and nonmembers alike. Some of the more common questions include? How will an additional tag affect the spring harvest of gobblers? What impact will this change have on turkey populations? Will the addi-

tional tag increase hunting pressure because hunters who are successful early in the season will still be able to hunt? Will more jakes be harvested, reducing the number of toms in the future, or will too many old toms be taken? To get at the answers to these questions, we have to look at the experiences of other states.

Forty-nine states and three Canadian provinces have spring gobbler seasons. Thirty-two states and the province of Ontario have spring bag limits of two or more gobblers. Seventeen states and two provinces limit the spring bag to one gobbler. Many of the states that limit the harvest to one gobbler per hunter have small turkey populations or hunting permit quotas that don't allow everyone to hunt. Some examples are Delaware, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, and Arizona.

Success rates for spring hunters taking one gobbler average 15 to 20 percent in most states. New York reported a first gobbler success rate of 18 percent in 2003. New Jersey consistently reports first gobbler success rates to be 17 to 18 percent. The figure is similar in Ohio, Maryland, and here in Pennsylvania. Some of the Midwestern states report higher success rates, but Pennsylvania is typical of the Northeast and mid-Atlantic regions. States that allow more than one bird to be taken in the spring report second-gobbler success rates to be between 8 and 40 percent. In other words, successful hunters who take one gobbler have an 8- to 40-percent chance of taking a second bird depending on the state and the year. Maryland

**See Two Birds on page 17**

# NWTF National Convention rewarding for PA Chapter

The 29th Annual National Wild Turkey Federation Convention and Sports Show was held in Nashville, Tennessee, on February 17–20, 2005. Many PA chapters and PA chapter members received awards and special recognition during this event. Congratulations to all of our winners!

- The PA Chapter received 1st place in the 2004 L.A. Dixon Jr. Memorial Outstanding Award for the highest total net/net dollars raised.
- The PA Chapter received 6th place in the 2004 L.A. Dixon Jr. Memorial Award in the over 10,000 membership class.
- The Blue Mountain Chapter received the One Half Million Dollar Club Award for moneys raised at their banquets.
- The Shermans Valley Strutters Chapter received an award for 2nd runner-up for the best Net to Gross percentage in the country with a Net to Gross of 127%.

## Calling contest winners



The NWTF Grand National Calling Contest winner in the Junior Class was Dakota Clouser of Danville, Pa.



The Wild Turkey Bourbon/NWTF Grand National Calling Championship Senior Division winner was Matthew Van Cise of Grand Valley, Pa.

## O'Brien wins prestigious Roger Latham Award

Donald W. O'Brien of Trout Run received the prestigious Roger Latham Service Award at the 29th Annual NWTF National Convention. The Latham awards are given to NWTF members who are not employed as professional wildlife managers, but have made significant contributions to wild turkey conservation.

O'Brien has served on the state chapter's Board of Directors along with being a past President, Chairman of the Board, and chairman of various committees. He is also a NWTF district director for north-central Pennsylvania. He has helped with turkey hunting safety classes, JAKES Days, Women in the Outdoor events, and chapter banquets.

"Just to be nominated for this award was incredible — to get that recognition by your peers," said O'Brien, who has served as president of his local chapter along with JAKES and scholarship chairman of the Susquehanna Long Beards Chapter. "When my name was called out [for winning the award], I just thought, 'Who me?' I was really surprised and overwhelmed. To be one of five award winners out of 500,000 [NWTF members] is an incredible feeling."

O'Brien was humbled by the award and shared the accomplishment with local and state chapter NWTF members.

"The award was not necessary. I didn't work for an award. I just enjoy being a part of an organization. They care so much about wild turkeys and our environment," O'Brien said.

O'Brien has also won awards on the state level, including the David Wandless and the Irven Buttray Service awards. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Turkey Hunters Hall of Fame and recently completed the "Royal Slam" by harvesting five species of wild turkeys in the United States and Mexico.

O'Brien's honor marks the second consecutive year that a PA NWTF member has captured the Roger Latham Award. Carl Mowry, PANWTF Chairman of the Board, won the Roger Latham Award last year.

Mowry said, "Don O'Brien has always been very active in the Pennsylvania Chapter. He has been vice president, president, chairman of the board and held many different committee positions for the chapter. Don has always been very helpful in whatever has needed to be done."

"The PA Chapter in general has always been active — from our banquets, Women in the Outdoors events, JAKES day, habitat work — just to name a few things that our great volunteers do. We owe everything to our volunteers."

## Pennsylvania WITO events receive awards at the National Convention



Janet Nyce from the Southeast Silver Spurs Chapter accepts the award for Highest Net to Gross Percentage Over \$3,000 with 112% net to gross.



Bill Williams accepting on behalf of the Muncy Creek Chapter the award for 1st Place Runner Up – Best Overall New Event – Highest Net Dollars.

## Other Pennsylvania WITO events receiving recognition included:

- **Wind Ridge Sportsmen's Club and Greene County Tourist Promotion Agency** — 1st place – Highest Net to Gross Percentage between \$2,000 and \$2,999 for a 147% net to gross.
- **Muncy Creek Chapter**  
Honorable Mention  
Best Overall First-time Event
- **Wilhelm Chapter**  
Honorable Mention  
Best Overall Membership Achievement for 107 members at their event
- **PA State Chapter**  
Honorable Mention, 145 participants  
Best Overall Membership Achievement for 145 members at their event and Honorable Mention Best Overall State Event

# PA Chapter Celebrates 30 Years with Rendezvous and Awards Banquet

**O**n January 8, the PA Chapter held the annual Rendezvous and Awards Banquet in State College. Events throughout the day featured seminars by Scott Basehore and Bob Eriksen, a Women in the Outdoor Leadership meeting by Tammy Mowry, and the Wilson F. Moore Memorial Turkey Calling Contest, followed by the gala awards banquet Saturday evening.



The State Chapter would like to thank NWTF CEO Rob Keck for attending the banquet as our featured speaker. It's always great to have you back in your home state!

## Calling Contest Winners

This year's turkey calling contest winners were:

- 1st place – Pat Strawser
- 2nd place – Larry Scartozzi
- 3rd place – Daymon Davis
- 4th place – Matt Van Cise

## Individual awards



The David Wanless Award went to Bob Eriksen for work done above and beyond the call of duty.



The Roger Latham Award went to Dave Burdge for an outstanding director who has exhibited exemplary leadership.



The James Wilhelm Memorial Award went to Dale Rohm for all he has done to contribute to the wise management and conservation of the wild turkey through habitat work, fundraising, and public relations.

The Frank Piper Hunting Safety Award went to Mark Davis and Greg Caldwell for outstanding contributions in the promotion of turkey hunting safety.

The Hall of Fame Award went to Bill Mackereth, Dale Butler, Hugh "Fuzzy" Shields, Mike Horst, and Jack Penny for all they have done through out their life for the benefit of the wild turkey.

The Loyal Order of the Golden Spurs were awarded to Reed Johnson and Dennis Strawbridge.



The Corporate Conservation Award went to Ray Smith, president of River Vallet Game Calls for outstanding support of the management of the wild turkey.

## Chapter Awards and Achievements

The Chapter with the most JAKES was the Susquehanna Chapter with 209.

The Chapter with the Highest Net to Gross Percentage was the Sherman's Valley Strutters with 127%.

The Most Improved Chapter award went to the Wilson F. Moore Chapter.

The Best New Banquet award went to the Northern Counties Full Fan Chapter.

The Best Wheelin' Sportsmen Event award went to the Terrace Mountain Chapter for their annual deer hunt.

### The Ron Sandrus Local Chapter Awards went to:

**1st place** – Laurel Highlands Committee of Local #1

**2nd place** – Susquehanna Chapter

**3rd place** – Northwest Thunderin' Toms Chapter

**We had 30 of our chapters reach Golden Gobbler status at their banquet last year.**

The Sherman's Valley Strutters Chapter reached an amazing 127% Golden Gobbler Status!

The Juniata Gobblers Chapter reached the 80% category.

**Our chapters to reach 70% were:**

- Lake Marburg
- Northwest Thunderin Toms
- Lake Region Longbeards
- Red Rock
- Lehigh Valley Longbeards
- Stony Valley
- Lykens Valley Longbeards
- Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards

**The 60% chapters are:**

- Adams County Longbeards
- Lower Lackawanna Spurs
- Allegheny Plateau
- Michaux Yellow Breeches
- Armenia Mountain Spurs
- Millcreek

- Bald Eagle Longbeards
- Moraine
- Blue Mountain
- Nittany Valley Longbeards
- Chesquehanna Spurs
- Peters Creek Trail
- Endless Mountains
- Pocono Mountain
- Kit-Han-Ne
- Shade Mountain
- Lakeland Longbeards
- Susquehanna
- Lower Bucks Longbeards
- Terrace Mountain

**Winners of Grand Slam Awards for chapters improving in four or more categories are:**

- Chesquehanna Spurs
- Schuykill Spurs
- Lehigh Valley Longbeards
- Sherman's Valley Strutters
- Lower Lackawanna Longspurs
- The Laurels Longbeards

**The Royal Slam winners are:**

- Lake Marburg
- Mon Valley

**The World Slam winner was:**

- Terrace Mountain Chapter

We had 10 chapters earn the Five Star Award for going the extra mile and conducting a JAKES Day, Women in the Outdoors Event, Scholarship to a local student, providing a School Education Box in a local school, and donating \$100 to the Hunting Heritage Fund.

**Those chapters are:**

- The Laurels Longbeards
- Yellow Creek
- Lykens Valley
- Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards
- Mason Dixon
- Northwest Thunderin Toms
- Moraine
- Chesquehanna Spurs
- Susquehanna
- Delaware County Longbeards

**See Banquet on page 15**

# Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF

## Wheelin' Sportsmen hold third-annual deer hunt at Raystown Lake



PHOTOS BY FRANK LANE

**T**hrough the combined efforts of the Terrace Mountain Chapter of NWTF, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and a multitude of sponsors and volunteers, the third-annual Wheelin' Sportsman Hunt was held at the Raystown Lake project in Huntingdon County. Designed to provide hunting opportunities and enjoyment of the great outdoors to disabled hunters, the event was another tremendous success. This year more than 75 volunteers gathered to assist the 26 hunters participating in the hunt, which was held on the last day of the regular deer season. The majority of the volunteers were hunters themselves who generously donated their time and, in some cases, gave up what may have been their last opportunity of the season to harvest a deer in order to help others. The volunteers fulfilled a variety of tasks. Some assisted hunters at their blinds, and some helped to drive the deer, while others prepared a delicious lunch for all to enjoy. The reward for their efforts came with the smiles and many thanks from the grateful

hunters. At the end of the day, only seven deer were harvested, but 20 of the 26 hunters had shooting opportunities, and all enjoyed plenty of fellowship with their guides and other volunteers.

The Wheelin' Sportsman hunt also serves an important role in the deer management plan for the Raystown Lake complex. Because it is conducted in the Seven Points Recreation Area, which is traditionally off limits to hunting for visitor safety the rest of the year, the hunt helps bring the overabundant deer population there under control and reduce further damage to native vegetation. The Raystown project is enrolled in the Game Commission's Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP), and all participating hunters received a DMAP antlerless deer permit.

The Terrace Mountain Chapter of the NWTF recently received recognition for conducting the largest Wheelin' Sportsman Event in Pennsylvania. Terrace Mountain was also the only chapter in Pennsylvania to receive the World Slam Award for beating their personal best in six of seven categories. The



president of the Terrace Mountain Chapter is Pete Bowser, and the Wheelin' Sportsman Committee for the Chapter includes Vickie Parks, Chris Bowser, and Jeff Krause. Plans for a Wheelin' Sportsman hunt next year are already in progress. Further information regarding the Wheelin' Sportsman can be obtained from the National Wild Turkey Federation or the staff of Raystown Lake.



A photograph of a hunter in full camouflage gear, including a hat and jacket, holding a shotgun. The hunter is positioned in a field of tall grass and trees, looking towards the right. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the natural setting.

# A Commitment to Safety

By BOB ERIKSEN,  
NWTF REGIONAL BIOLOGIST

**T**om sat down and began to work the gobbler he had heard sounding off in the distance. Before setting up, he worked his way closer to the bird in an effort to get within a 150 yards of the gobbler. There was no sense in setting up too far away and having the gobbling bird “hang up.” Before he heard this bird, Tom had been thinking that it was going to be another quiet morning in the spring woods. The season was two weeks old, and he was hunting public land. He wasn’t surprised that he heard no gobbling at dawn. Now things were looking up. Tom had a good setup uphill from the gobbler, and his back was against a big oak. The oak would break up Tom’s outline and he would rely on his camo for concealment as the bird approached.

With his first call, Tom became confident that this hunt would end well. The bird cut off the first series of yelps and gobbled again before Tom even thought about making another call. He clucked and purred on his mouth call and had an instant response. This time the gobbler was substantially closer. Tom’s heart was pounding as he put his shotgun up on his knee. He listened intently for the sound of drumming or another

gobble with which he could keep track of the bird’s progress. Tom let loose with a series of quiet yelps, and the gobbler roared back at him from just out of sight. Tom’s ears strained to hear the sound of drumming or footsteps in the leaves. A few minutes passed, and he was sure he heard the bird approaching. But something was wrong. The bird was slightly to his left and a little behind him.

Tom had hunted spring gobblers long enough to know that they often circle the caller. He slowly swiveled his head to the left and caught movement out of the corner of his eye. Instead of a gobbler, Tom saw two camouflaged hunters about 40 yards away. One of them pointed, and Tom waved to alert them to his presence. Surely they had seen him, and now he hoped they would retreat and allow him to continue working the gobbler. He turned back toward where he had last heard the gobbler and searched the woods. For some reason, he glanced back to where the hunters had been. As he did, one of the hunters raised his gun and pointed it right at Tom. Tom had a split second to react, and he rolled to the right just as the hunter fired a load of 12-gauge magnum four shot. Tom’s reaction saved him from worse injury, but he still took a number of shot in his shoulder, arm, and back.

The oak tree against which Tom had set up

helped limit the injuries by absorbing most of the load. But Tom was still hurt and plenty angry. He confronted the shooter and found that the hunter and his girlfriend had heard the bird gobble and were trying to sneak closer to it when they saw movement. When Tom waved, the young woman told her boyfriend that she saw a turkey wing. The shooter saw the movement too and fired without a clear picture of his intended target. As Tom and the other two walked back toward the road, Tom found that the shooter had parked his car near the spot where Tom’s pickup was parked.

Tom knows he made a mistake by waving and not shouting at the shooter, but this turkey-hunting-related shooting incident was definitely not Tom’s fault. The shooter made two major mistakes that led to this incident. First, he did not have the courtesy to find another spot to hunt when he clearly knew another hunter had already begun to hunt there. Second, he committed the cardinal sin of shooting safety — he did not properly identify his target. The responsibility for this and most other turkey-hunting-related shooting incidents lies squarely with the shooter. More than 60 percent of these incidents are the result of a shooter failing to properly identify his target. There is no

**See Safety on page 13**



# *In Memory of Bill Laird*

SUBMITTED BY DENNY STRAWBRIDGE

During the week of the National Convention this year, the National Wild Turkey Federation lost a great friend and leader. William (Bill) Laird from the Mason-Dixon Local Chapter and a past Director for the Pennsylvania Chapter board passed on from this earth.

Bill was a mentor for many of the leaders in Pennsylvania. From Local Chapters to the PA State Chapter of NWTf and even to state legislators, Bill was a guy that everyone listened to. The quality of his input was always immeasurable and highly valued by all. Bill had a way to get the point across on many topics relating to sportsmen and wildlife, and he was a true steward of the Pennsylvania wild turkey. It was through his efforts that the Pennsylvania Game Commission began the restocking here in York and the surrounding counties in the southeast. He was active in many local sportsmen's groups, including the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen. Whenever a sportsmen's event was happening, Bill was there.

During his years as a leader and president, the Mason-Dixon Local Chapter was at its peak for membership and Super Fund activities. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Lake Marburg Chapter here in York County by implementing the first Super Fund Banquets there under direction of Mason-Dixon.

At the state level, Bill served as a Director, Secretary, and a District Director while being honored with many of the prestigious PA State Chapter awards. He represented us well among state legislators and attended many PGC meetings to represent the PA State Chapter.

Everyone who knew Bill knew him as a hunter, especially a turkey hunter, and his success was well known around his favorite haunts in his beloved Perry County.

Bill will be missed by many people across the state and nation as he left his mark with many leaders and friends of NWTf. Even in death, he represented his dedication to NWTf as he was dressed in a Pennsylvania Chapter sweat-shirt at his viewing.

Bill leaves his loving wife Roxann, another dedicated person to NWTf who he cherished greatly, and his son, Brian, who will carry on his hunting traditions for many years.

May the Lord bless him and lead him to the happy hunting ground where the call of the wild turkey will gobble in his honor each and every day.

## CHAPTER NEWS AND EVENTS

### Steel City Spurs becomes PA's 75th Chapter

SUBMITTED BY LARRY HOLJENCIN,  
REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR

Southwest Allegheny County is an area where we have wanted a local chapter for many years. It's a region with a large population base and many turkey hunters. Many NWTf members who live there continue to renew their memberships but are not traveling outside their area to functions hosted by surrounding chapters.

Thanks to a group of dedicated sportsmen and women, southwest Allegheny County is now the home of Pennsylvania's seventy-fifth chapter — the Steel City Spurs. The effort was spearheaded by Tom Coulter who did a great job of planning for the formation of the chapter.

Chapter officers are: Tom Coulter, president and banquet chairman; Matt Romenosky, vice president; Brian Adair, treasurer; and Judy Skrenta, secretary.

The Steel City Spurs invite all members from the area to attend their meetings and upcoming banquet. The chapter's first-annual Hunting Heritage Banquet will be on Saturday, June 4 at the Castle Shannon Firemen's Club in Castle Shannon. For information on upcoming meetings or the banquet, call Tom Coulter at 412-303-3015.

### 2005 PA Local Chapter Presidents Leadership Workshop

SUBMITTED BY JERRY ZIMMERMAN,  
REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR

Mark your calendar now for the 2005 PA Local Chapter Presidents Leadership Workshop to be held August 6 and 7 at the Ramada Inn on S. Atherton Street in State College. This is a very informative workshop where you will be brought up to date on NWTf happenings, any new programs, and current issues, along with having the opportunity to exchange ideas with other local chapter leaders. If you need overnight lodging, the PA State Chapter will provide lodging for you at the Ramada Inn.

For those who enjoying trapshooting, our plan at press time is to shoot trap on Saturday evening near Port Matilda, with a cookout to follow at the trap range. You will be responsible for paying for your rounds of trap and for bringing your own guns and ammo. The trapshoot will provide you with an opportunity to meet and enjoy the camaraderie with other chapter leaders from across the state.

If you can only be with us for the Sunday workshop, it will start on Sunday morning at 9 o'clock at Ramada Inn and will conclude around 3 p.m. Sunday breakfast is on your own, but lunch will be provided. The only costs you will incur are your costs of traveling to State College, plus the trapshooting if you plan to participate on Saturday.

Please plan on attending this workshop. If the chapter president cannot attend, please have someone attend in his or her place to represent your chapter. We can accommodate two persons per chapter. A letter will be mailed to each local chapter president sometime around the beginning of June with details about this important and informative workshop. Those interested in attending should contact Jerry Zimmerman at 610-395-7467 or panwtfsrfsjz@prodigy.net.

### Special shoot

A benefit sporting clays shoot and still-target shoot for Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTf will be held Sunday, May 22, 2005, at Hunting Hills in Dillner, Pa. Price is \$70 for 100 rounds and a steak lunch catered by Backbay. Still targets will be \$5 a shot. This will be a fun sporting clay shoot with four-man teams selected by a blind draw system. Plaques and prizes will be awarded. For more information please contact Bob Farkasovsky at 304-842-5515.

# Thirty Years of Wild Turkey Management

By BOB ERIKSEN,  
NWTF REGIONAL BIOLOGIST  
AND MARY JO CASALENA,  
PGC WILD TURKEY BIOLOGIST

Thirty years ago, a group of dedicated turkey hunters organized the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. The National Wild Turkey Federation was just two years old at the time and just getting off the ground itself. Spring gobbler hunting in Pennsylvania had started only seven years earlier in 1968, and many turkey hunters had yet to try their hand at spring hunting. Two great names in wild turkey management, Jerry Wunz and Arnie Hayden, were conducting field studies and writing articles designed to help turkey hunters better understand wild turkey behavior and population dynamics.

The research that Wunz and Hayden conducted helped to build our library of knowledge concerning the Eastern wild turkey. Jerry experimented with food plots and herbaceous openings and placed turkeys in areas of marginal habitat to determine how they would fare. Arnie developed summer turkey surveys and winter track counts to determine turkey population trends and conducted the first telemetry studies of wild turkey habitat use in Pennsylvania. These two researchers studied winter survival among turkeys, evaluated the success of releases of game-farm turkeys, and looked at the issue of winter feeding. Jerry developed innovative rocket-netting techniques that enabled the Game Commission to begin live-trapping and transfer on a bigger scale. Arnie was a pioneer in designing radio transmitters and harness materials to place the equipment on turkeys.

Based on the findings of research conducted in the 1970s and the urging of the fledgling Pennsylvania Chapter, the Game Commission made the historic decision to phase out the practice of releasing pen-raised turkeys in 1980. For more than 20 years after that, the Game Commission actively trapped and transferred wild turkeys, successfully restoring turkey flocks throughout the state. The state chapter helped by providing cardboard transport boxes for the safe shipment of turkeys across the state and by donating needed money for creating and improving turkey habitat. The result of this work is the healthy, widespread turkey population we enjoy today.

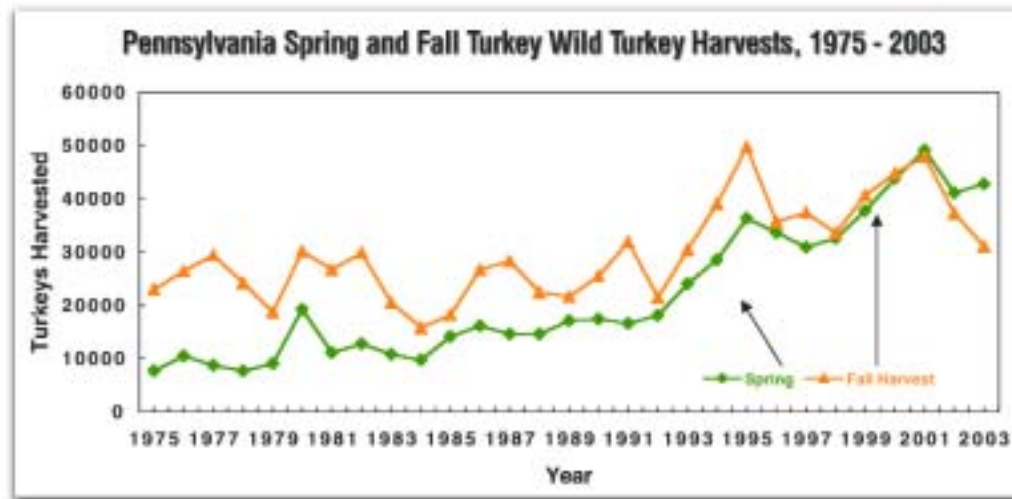
During the past 30 years, trap and transfers and a series of outstanding hatches helped the statewide turkey population to increase dramatically by the year 2000. Literally hun-

dreds of habitat improvement projects financed through the PA NWTF Wild Turkey Super Fund and planned by PGC Land Managers have provided better turkey habitat on thousands of acres of state game lands. Pennsylvania turkey hunters have been fortunate to have highly motivated and professional biologists at the helm of wild turkey management for more than 50 years. There are always challenges ahead, but we are definitely living in some of the golden years of turkey hunting.

Turkey hunting in the Keystone State is steeped in tradition. While other Northeastern states lost their turkey populations in the 1800s, a few thousand Pennsylvania wild turkeys managed to hang on in the rugged forested ridges of the central part of the state. Hunters in other states lost the opportunity to hunt turkeys in the early 1900s, but fall turkey hunting was available to Pennsylvania turkey hunters throughout the twentieth century. The Game Commission closed the turkey season in 1913, 1914, and 1926, but for the remainder of the century, fall hunting was allowed. Fall hunting remains a strong tradition here, and Pennsylvania typically has more fall turkey hunters than any other state. In 2003, 211,965 fall hunters took to the woods.

In 1923, believe it or not, calling turkeys was illegal! Back in those days, the statewide fall turkey seasons started on November 1. In the 1940s, the most common method of fall turkey hunting was by chance — selecting a place where turkeys might be expected to feed and then waiting the birds out. According to a report by Edward L. Kozicky, a famous wildlife biologist who studied turkeys as a graduate student in Pennsylvania in the 1940s, few hunters back then used the popular fall hunting technique of scattering a flock and calling the birds back. Hunting strategies sure have changed. Calling turkeys has become the accepted practice for successful and safe turkey hunting.

Today, fall turkey hunting seasons still open around November 1, but the season length varies according to turkey population densities from one unit to another. Fall harvests are controlled by regulating the season length in wildlife management units (WMUs). Fall seasons vary from a closed season in WMUs 5A and 5B to three weeks in some other WMUs. The daily and season limit for fall hunting remains one bird. In many years, the Pennsylvania fall turkey harvest exceeds 40,000 birds, with more than 225,000 hunters participating. Extensive analysis of harvest figures in Pennsylvania and around the country have shown that fall harvest can impact turkey



numbers. Biologists generally agree that fall either-sex turkey seasons can affect population growth, that turkey populations naturally fluctuate on an annual basis, and that the vulnerability of wild turkeys to fall hunting increases in years of poor mast production. Most also believe that fall hunting mortality occurs in addition to natural mortality, not instead of natural mortality. Therefore, adjusting fall seasons is the best way to manage turkey populations. At times, it may be necessary to reduce fall seasons to allow populations to grow. In the worst-case scenario, fall seasons occasionally may be closed. But in good times, fall hunting opportunities are expanded.

The current goal of wild turkey management in Pennsylvania is to maintain and improve wild turkey populations. In many wildlife management units, that can be accomplished with a fall season in place. Longer fall seasons and more liberal fall bag limits may not be achievable with the current hunter numbers and the high interest in fall turkey hunting in the Pennsylvania. Keystone State turkey hunters are currently enjoying "the good old days."

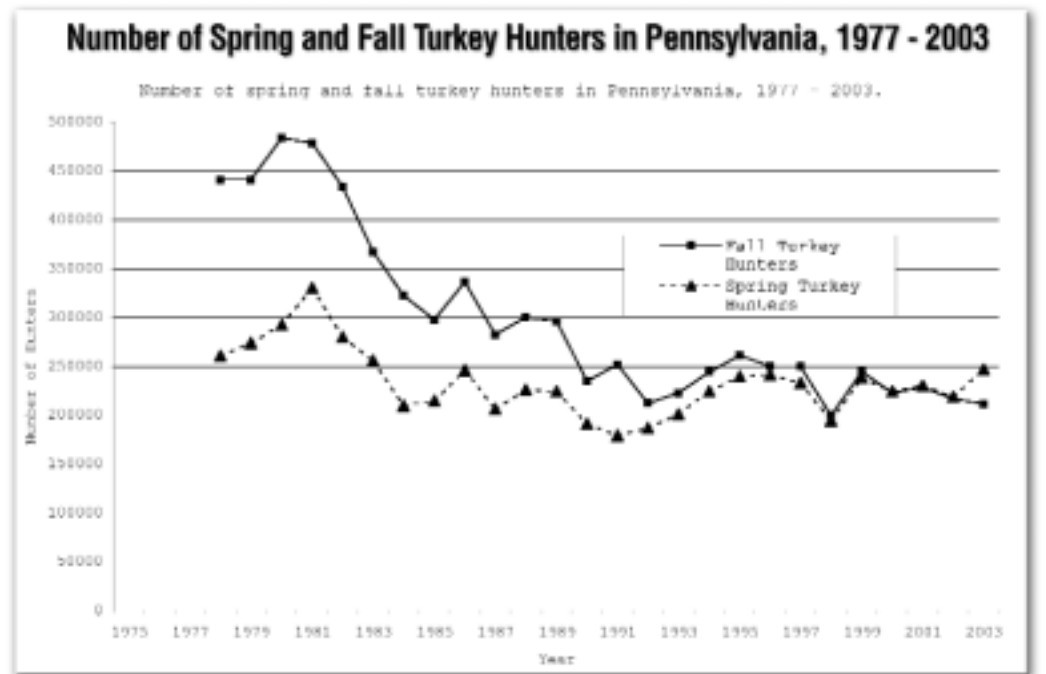
As the turkey population and our understanding of the birds grew, traditions began to change. Spring turkey hunting was reinstated in 1968 after being closed since 1873. Unlike the earlier seasons, however, the modern spring season protected hens by restricting the harvest to bearded birds only. Timing the spring season to open after the peak of breeding has allowed gobblers to be harvested annually without affecting the hatch. Modern research has shown that spring gobbler hunting can provide maximum recreational opportunity to hunters with little impact on the turkey population, as long as the season opens after the peak of turkey breeding, which it does in Pennsylvania. Spring hunting hours have

been increased from a 10 o'clock closure to 11 o'clock to the current noon closing time. From a short season structure early in the history of modern spring hunting, the season length has been four weeks since 1984. Right now, regulation changes are being considered to increase the spring bag limit from one to two gobblers. This change would align Pennsylvania more closely with harvest regulations in adjacent states where

multiple gobbler limits are the norm. With the increased interest in the gobbler season and the ability for hunters to harvest gobblers without impacting overall population levels, this additional hunting opportunity is being praised by many turkey hunters.

Traditions continue to change. More people are discovering the joys of spring gobbler hunting. Since 2000, the number of spring turkey hunters (246,821 in 2003)

has exceeded that of fall turkey hunters in Pennsylvania (211,965 in 2003). According to NWTF estimates, this is not only the result of fall hunters switching to spring hunting, but also an influx of new hunters who hunt only in the spring. With more spring gobbler hunters than any other state and a harvest of more than 40,000 gobblers, Pennsylvania definitely remains a keystone turkey state.



## PA NWTF supports wild turkey management

By DON HECKMAN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Over the last several years, PA NWTF position statements supporting wild turkey management, turkey hunting and calling, and turkey hunter safety and ethics have been presented to our members.

As part of the wild turkey management plan, the Pennsylvania Chapter of NWTF supports:

- PGC "Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania"
- Funding the PGC wild turkey management plan
- Second-bird spring tag with a license/tag for a fee
- Turkey hunting license/stamp for a fee

The Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF Board of Directors is adding these support statements to our wild turkey management overview:

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 and decision making based on scientific wildlife-management principles as determined by PGC wildlife biologists and land managers.

2. Purchasing the additional second spring gobbler tag prior to the start of the season. We recommend the special additional tag be issued for the last two weeks of the spring gobbler season for the first three years of the regulation. We support mandatory second-bird tag harvest reporting with appropriate data.

3. Delaying any additional hunting opportunities for all-day spring gobbler hunting for a minimum of three years, or until data are available to support all day hunting.

4. Continued monitoring of relevant data provided by PGC wild turkey biologists to review fall season lengths across WMUs. We support reducing season lengths or closing certain WMUs where the data

validate wild turkey populations are declining.

5. The 22 WMUs and their current boundaries for statewide wild turkey management as outlined in the PGC "Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania," objectives and strategies.

6. 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.

7. PGC "Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania" recommendations for setting the current dates for the spring gobbler season.

8. Further research on fall turkey hunting seasons where in 2003 and 2004 turkey hunting incidents have dramatically decreased. What have turkey hunters done right these last two fall turkey hunting seasons to impact or help decrease turkey hunting incidents?

9. Archery in the Schools program and have contributed two packages to further this important school activity. We support the work being done to research and recommend the youth mentored hunting program.

10. Based on the recent recommendations from the NWTF Turkey Hunter Task Force held in January, we support reducing spring and fall turkey hunter orange requirements.

11. Consideration to include a turkey-hunting license in the 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 with revenues generated from a turkey-hunting license, with excess revenue dollars available being used in the PGC General Fund.

12. The legislative resolution to research and study Sunday Hunting.

# EACH ONE REACH ONE

## 30th Anniversary Membership Drive Your chance to win Guns, Guns, Guns

In the last issue of turkey Talk, we announced an incentive program designed to help double our membership to 30,000 adult members during our 30th Anniversary year. Each One Reach One, as the program is called, is based on the idea that if each of our 15,000 members would recruit just one new adult member during the upcoming year, our membership would double. Like every great endeavor the PA Chapter has undertaken, we will depend upon a grassroots effort to achieve our goal. This grassroots effort needs to include every member of the PA Chapter.

Every new member will receive the normal NWTF membership items. The PA Chapter Board of Directors also wants to reward our faithful members who participate in the Each One Reach One Program.

Guns! Guns! Guns! To reward our members who recruit new members, the Board of Directors has initiated a special gun raffle. A gun will be given away to one of our members every time 300 new members are recruited during our 30th Anniversary year. Our goal is to

give away as many as 50 guns. There is no limit as to how many times your name could be entered. The more new members recruited, the more times your name will be entered. Recruit one new member and your name will be entered once. Recruit a sponsor member and your name will be entered ten times. Remember, every time 300 new members are recruited, a gun will be given away and a new drawing initiated.

Bass Pro Shops will also be helping the PA Chapter with this membership drive by donating a \$100 gift certificate for a second place drawing for every 300 new members signed up. Every member who signs up 20 new members will receive a \$20 Bass Pro Shops gift certificate, and each member who participates in the Each One Reach One 30th Anniversary Membership Drive will receive one free mouth call, courtesy of the PA Chapter NWTF and River Valley Game Calls.

The Board of Directors recognizes the importance of our banquet members and sponsor members. Therefore, special incentives are being offered for new members and sponsor members who

attend a Hunting Heritage Banquet during the 2005 banquet season. Bring your new member to a banquet and double your chance on a gun. Bring a sponsor member to a banquet and receive 20 chances on a gun.

The Each One Reach Program will run throughout the 30th Anniversary year. If your banquet isn't until December, you will still have the opportunity to participate in this program. Depending upon your participation, guns may be given away monthly, weekly, or even daily throughout the year.

A new member is someone who has not been a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation in the 18 months prior to the new membership application. A new member includes Regular Membership, Sponsor Membership, Women in the Outdoors Membership and Wheelin' Sportsmen Membership. New member status and banquet attendance will be confirmed by the NWTF before the recruiters name will be entered into the gun raffle.

**To qualify for the drawings or the free mouth call you must send your memberships to Skip Sanderson using the form provided in the Winter 2005 issue of Turkey Talk. The form may be photocopied. For questions about the program or to obtain a registration form, contact**

**Skip Sanderson  
6063 Glatfelters Station Road, Seven Valleys, PA 17360-8416;  
or dsanpa325@aol.com**

excuse for such incidents. They simply should not happen.

The National Turkey Hunter Safety Task Force gathered recently for its third meeting in Edgefield, South Carolina. The task force consists of chapter members, wildlife agency directors, hunter-education specialists, hunting industry leaders, and wildlife biologists. The first task force convened in 1992 to examine the issue of turkey-hunting-related shooting incidents and develop methods of reducing incident numbers. When the first meeting took place, the national average for turkey-hunting-related shooting incidents was 8.95 per 100,000 hunters. The task force recommended additional focus on safety education for turkey hunters, limiting legal shot sizes for turkey hunting to reduce the severity of injuries when incidents occurred, and public relations campaigns to emphasize safety to turkey hunters. The now familiar defensive turkey-hunting tactics were developed at that time as were pocket-sized versions of the safety tips and "hunt safe" stickers.

In 1997, the task force reconvened and re-examined the issues around turkey-hunting safety. Things had improved somewhat by the time of the second meeting. In the five years between meetings, the nationwide incident rate among turkey hunters had decreased in spite of increasing hunter numbers. The task force looked at some factors affecting incident rates and made some recommendations on methods to reduce the number of incidents further. Once again, the recommendations were primarily for additional educational and public relations efforts. The use of decoys had increased by the time of the second meeting so the task force developed recommendations for safer placement of decoys while hunting. Based on experience with the use of hunter-orange for turkey hunting, the task force recommended against the mandatory requirement of orange clothing or materials for turkey hunting. Orange affected hunter success and did not appear to have a permanent impact on reducing incident numbers.

More good news came out of the 2005 meeting of the task force. Turkey-hunting-related shooting incidents have continued to decline. The current level is less than 3 incidents per 100,000 hunters. Biologists working on the task force examined a number of issues that affect the number of incidents and the severity of incidents. Some of the issues studied for the task force were the affect of youth hunting initiatives; the affect of hunter densities (number of hunters per square mile) on incident rates; the impact of the use of more realistic and lifelike decoys; increasingly powerful turkey loads; new and larger shot sizes; the use of rifles for turkey hunting; and the use of orange clothing or materials to promote safer turkey hunting.

Recent studies of youth hunting indicate

that young hunters accompanied and supervised by an adult hunter are the safest hunters in the woods. The task force recommended that states continue to provide additional opportunity for young hunters to encourage recruitment of hunters. Incident data suggests that the density of hunters in the woods affects incident rates. Therefore, the task force encouraged state agencies to work at providing longer seasons and longer hunting hours as a method of distributing hunting pressure. There is little evidence to suggest that decoy use contributes to increased incident numbers. However, the task force developed additional guidelines for the safe placement and transport of decoys by turkey hunters.

Continued development of longer range,

**We can all advance the cause of safer turkey hunting by remembering three basic rules. First: Every gun is always loaded. If we treat every gun as a loaded firearm, we will all be more mindful of the lethal potential of that instrument. Second: Always be absolutely sure of your target. There should never be any failure to properly identify a target. Third: Never let the muzzle of your firearm point at anything you are not willing to destroy.**

more powerful turkey loads is a concern because of the potential for severe injuries when a shooting incident occurs. The task force repeated its 1997 recommendation that the safest and most effective method of killing turkeys is to use number four or smaller shot aimed at the head and neck of the bird at distances of less than 40 yards. The tradition of rifle hunting for wild turkeys remains strong, especially in fall seasons in some parts of the country. Thirteen states allow rifles to be used for turkey hunting, though most of those states indicate that more than 80 percent of turkey hunters prefer to use shotguns. The task force examined the number of incidents involving rifles and found the total number to be small. This was expected

because of the limited use of rifles. The severity of injury in incidents involving rifles is significant. The task force issued a statement that the fatality rate and risk of severe and debilitating injury is significantly higher in incidents involving rifles.

Based on more than a decade of data collection on the mandatory use of orange clothing or equipment by turkey hunters, the task force concluded that orange does not seem to permanently reduce incident rates. Orange is unpopular among turkey hunters; the presence of orange diminishes hunter success; and the use of orange has not had the desired effect on incident rates. Therefore, the task force restated its 1997 recommendation against the mandatory use of orange for turkey hunting.

The recommendations and statements issued by the task force were voted upon by task force members before they were enacted. All of the statements and recommendations with the exception of those on the use of rifles and the mandatory use of orange passed unanimously. There was one abstention on the rifle issue and two negative votes on the orange issue. This group will meet again in 2010. In the meantime, the goal for the next five years is to reduce the turkey-hunting incident rate by half. A turkey hunter safety education curriculum for use in regular and advanced hunter-education classes is being developed by the NWTFF with the help of task force members.

Turkey hunting is a safe activity. A renewed commitment to safety is the responsibility of every turkey hunter. We can all advance the cause of safer turkey hunting by remembering three basic rules. First: Every gun is always loaded. If we treat every gun as a loaded firearm, we will all be more mindful of the lethal potential of that instrument. Second: Always be absolutely sure of your target. There should never be any failure to properly identify a target. Third: Never let the muzzle of your firearm point at anything you are not willing to destroy.

Spring is rapidly approaching. Successful turkey hunters are meticulous about their preseason scouting. Successful turkey hunters check and recheck their camo and practice with their firearm or bow so they know exactly how it performs. Successful turkey hunters spend time observing wild turkeys and learning their habits and preferences. Safe turkey hunters never park near other hunters or move in on another hunter who is working a bird. Safe turkey hunters are careful about decoy placement, always set up with a large tree, a stump, or rock large enough to break up their outline at their backs. Safe turkey hunters follow all regulations in the states where they are hunting. Safe turkey hunters are ethical. They never let peer pressure or the desire for success cloud their judgment. Safe turkey hunters are successful turkey hunters.

Make a commitment to safety this spring and every spring. Hunt smart and hunt safe!



# 2005 Pennsylvania Events

**D**o you enjoy activities in the outdoors? Would you like to learn outdoor skills or brush up on old ones, and network with other women who enjoy the same outdoor activities as you enjoy?

Then come and participate in a National Wild Turkey Federation's Women in the Outdoors event! You will learn outdoor skills in a non-competitive environment. Skills that you can take home and share with family and friends. Make new friends and maybe take up a new hobby.

*Come and join the fun!*

## May 14, 2005

Susquehanna Local Chapter  
Beverly Butler 814-857-7728,  
bevab@pennswoods.net

Sandy Ridge Sportsmen's Club, Sandy Ridge (Centre County)

Archery, shotgunning, .22s, outdoor survival, self-defense, animal and plant identification, gun safety, rifle marksmanship, and more.

## June 4, 2005

Allegheny Valley Chapter  
Lori Lojak 724-224-4182, myethan@belatlantic.net

Bullcreek Sportsmen's Club, Tarentum (Allegheny County)  
Classes Pending

## June 11, 2005

Lehigh Valley Longbeards Chapter and Walking Purchase Chapter  
Katrina Skrapits 610-760-1689,  
kskrap@ptd.net  
Sabrina Pendleton 610-298-2185,

Sabrina7188@yahoo.com

Ontelaunee Rod & Gun Club, New Tripoli (Lehigh County)

Archery, bird-watching, fishing, fly-fishing, nature walk, outdoor photography, shotgunning/sporting clays, rifle marksmanship, turkeys and turkey hunting, frontier skills, self-defense, muzzleloading, first aid, deer hunting, canoeing/boat safety, and basic auto maintenance.

## June 18, 2005

Lakeland Longbeards Chapter  
Cheryl Pearce (724)253-3777  
Facility pending

Gun safety, gun care and cleaning, archery hunting, outdoor survival, pioneer women skills, shotgun, rifles, canoeing, archery, handguns, turkey hunting and calling, self protection, leathercrafts, camping, and fishing.

## June 18, 2005

Lykens Valley Longbeards Chapter  
Pam Hood 570-758-4016,  
hood\_pamela@hotmail.com

Martz's Game Farm, Dalmatica (Northumberland County)  
Classes Pending

## June 25, 2005

Southeast Silver Spurs Chapter  
Janet Nyce 215-234-0330,  
huntressjdn@verizon.net

Branch Valley Fish & Game Forestry Association, Perkasie (Bucks County)  
Rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader, archery, turkey hunting basics, survival skills, orienteering, basic auto maintenance, Dutch oven cooking, fly-fishing (basics), self-

defense basics, first aid, and more.

## June 25, 2005

Wilhelm Chapter  
Annette (Sis) Tobin 814-734-1691, lattobin@peoplepc.com

Meg LeSuer 814-734-5029  
Lake Edinboro Sportsman League, Edinboro (Crawford County)

Archery, outdoor cooking, ATV handling, shotgunning, kayaking, trail biking, yoga/relaxation, trick, track & trail, camping, nature walk/birdwatching, canoeing, muzzleloading, fly-fishing, rifle and handgun marksmanship, talkin' turkey, zip line, horseback riding, outdoor water gardening, and basic car care

## June 25, 2005

Tuscarora Longbeards Chapter and Fort Chambers Chapter

Bobbie Kuhns (717) 267-2514,  
nbkuhns@blazenet.net

Greencastle Sportsman Association, Greencastle (Franklin County)

Archery, basic bicycle repair, orienteering, basic car care, kayaking, photography, birding, outdoor cooking, emergency first aid, shotgunning, .22 rifles and handguns, fly-fishing/fly tying, talkin' turkey, and more.

## July 16, 2005

Sherman's Valley Strutters Chapter and Duncannon Sportsmen's Association

Brenda Beal (717) 582-3281,  
bealtree@pa.net

Duncannon Sportsmen's Association, Duncannon (Perry County)

Archery, map and compass, Dutch oven cooking, shotgunning, feather crafts, black

# 2005 WITO Pennsylvania Events continued

powder/muzzleloading, outdoor survival skills, plant and tree identification, handguns, and talkin' turkey.

## July 23, 2005

Moraine Chapter  
Tammy Mowry 724-284-9201, tammynwtf@zoominternet.net

Butler City Hunting & Fishing Club, East Butler (Butler County)  
Classes Pending

## July 23, 2005

Mason Dixon Chapter and Lake Marburg Chapter  
Missy Rohrbaugh (717) 225-3549, m.rohrbaugh@att.net  
Izaak Walton League, Dallastown (York County)  
Classes Pending

## July 30, 2005

Yellow Creek Chapter and Chesequehanna Spurs Chapter  
Jodi Roser 724-479-0779, jrrosier@indianaconnect.com  
Shelocta Sportsman Club, Shelocta (Indiana County)  
Classes Pending

## August 6, 2005

Muncy Creek Chapter  
Lois Richmond 570-924-3428, blrich@chilitech.net  
Angie Richmond, richmond-hill@chilitech.net  
North Mountain Sportsman Club, Muncy Valley (Sullivan County)  
Classes Pending

## August 6, 2005

Northwest Thunderin Toms Chapter  
Jill Dunlap 814-398-4714, dunlap@surferie.net  
Black Ash Sportsmen Club, Guys Mills (Crawford County)  
Classes Pending

## August 13, 2005

Mt. Pisgah State Park  
Nicole Carman 570-297-2734, nicolecarman@yahoo.com

Mt. Pisgah State Park, Troy (Bradford County)  
Classes Pending

## August 20, 2005

Greene County Women in the Outdoors and Greene County Tourist Promotion Agency  
Lindsay Blair 724-986-5027, ldbrowntrout@yahoo.com  
Melody Longstreth 724-627-5926 (day), 724-627-9533 (evenings), wbgchamb@greenepa.net  
Hunting Hills Kennels, Dilliner (Greene County)  
Classes Pending

## September 16 & 17, 2005

Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards Chapter  
Rhonda Henry 814-443-6241, rhondapa@hotmail.com  
Frank T. Soles YMCA Camp, Rockwood (Somerset County)  
Classes Pending

**Events will continue to be scheduled throughout the year, be sure to check back often to see what events have been added.**

Registration fee for each event includes: Your choice of classes, equipment, literature, one-year subscription to the Women in the Outdoors Magazine, complimentary one-year membership to the National Wild Turkey Federation (or extension of current membership), Women in the Outdoors gift, meals, door prizes.

**Courses offered are subject to change without notice.**

For a current list of events or more information, contact: Tammy Mowry, Women's Regional Field Supervisor at 724-284-9201 or by email at tammynwtf@zoominternet.net. Visit the NWTF Web site at [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org), [www.womenintheoutdoors.org](http://www.womenintheoutdoors.org) or the Pennsylvania Web site at [www.pawito.com](http://www.pawito.com).

## Banquet

from page 15

### WITO Awards

The Women in the Outdoors Best Overall New Event award went to the Muncy Creek Chapter.

The Women in the Outdoors Best Overall Repeat Event award went to the Mason Dixon and Lake Marburg Chapters.

The Women in the Outdoors Most Members Recruited Event award went to the Wilhelm Chapter.

The Women in the Outdoors Top Contributing Event award went to the Mason Dixon and Lake Marburg Chapters.

The Women in the Outdoors Most Improved Event award went to the Southeast Silver

Spurs Chapter.

**The chapters to reach Golden Hen at their Women in the Outdoor Events were:**

Ligonier Valley and Local #1 Chapter  
Muncy Creek Chapter  
Mason Dixon and Lake Marburg Chapters  
Southeast Silver Spurs Chapter  
Moraine Chapter

**Congratulations to all our Award Winners!**

Next year's Rendezvous and Awards Banquet will be in State College on January 7, 2006. Watch for more information in the fall issue of *Turkey Talk*.

## PA State Championship Turkey

### Calling Contest winners

The PA State Championship Turkey Calling Contest was held at the Early Bird Sports Expo in Bloomsburg. The event was sponsored by Gander Mountain and was hosted by the Col-Mont Gobblers Chapter.

**The Contest Winners were, from right to left:**



#### Bottom Row

- 1st place – Matt VanCise – Grand Valley, Pa. – \$500
- 2nd place – Adam O'Dell – Enterprise, W. Va. – \$250
- 3rd place – Daymon Davis – Danville, Pa. – \$125
- 4th place – Dennis Wagner – Sunbury, Pa. – \$ 75
- 5th place – Shawn Hays – Atlantic, Pa. – \$ 50

#### Back Row

- Scott Letterman – Gander Mtn. representative
- Don Jacobs – Outdoor Life – Emcee of contest

# PA Chapter Builds 30th Anniversary Commemorative Gun

SUBMITTED BY LARRY HOLJENCIN,  
REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR

The 30th Anniversary celebration of PA NWTF will feature a special raffle on the first gun ever produced exclusively for the state chapter. The gun is called a "Turkey Hunter Classic" and is number 1 of 1. It has some extraordinary laser embellishments, but in keeping true to its name of "Turkey Hunter Classic", the gun has a matte finish and laminated camo stock, making it an ideal hunting gun if the future owner chooses to use it as such.

Specs include: Remington 870, 12-gauge, 3-inch chamber, 28-inch barrel, laminated stock laser-etched with NWTF logo, both sides of receiver laser engraved recognizing it as 1 of 1 for the 30th Anniversary and also featuring the 30th Anniversary artwork by Melissa Ball.

The PA Chapter would like to thank John Brunot of Belco Tool & Manufacturing in Meadville (814-337-3403) for his generous donation of laser-engraving the receiver and Putt Rohm of D&A Private Label (717-789-3034) in Loysville for laser-etching the stock. Both of these men are longtime supporters of the NWTF and through their expertise have helped us create a truly one-of-a-kind collectible gun.

The gun will be raffled off by our local chapters. All chapters have been mailed tickets and photos of the gun. If they

choose to sell the tickets, they keep half the revenue for their local chapter treasuries. Tickets are priced to sell at \$1 each, 6 for \$5, or 15 for \$10. If you aren't able to buy the tickets from your local chapter, please fill out the order form below and mail to

the address supplied there.

The drawing for the "Turkey Hunter Classic" 30th anniversary commemorative gun will take place on August 7, 2005, at the annual Leadership Workshop in State College.



## Ticket Request for PA Chapter "Turkey Hunter Classic" Gun

Price: 1 for \$1 — 6 for \$5 — 15 for \$10

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets. Enclosed is a check for \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this request and check to:

**Jim Panaro, 224 Buck Road, Ebensburg, PA 15931**

## A Great Deal on Club Cars

If you're looking for a top-quality electric utility vehicle, here's your chance to get a great deal on a Lynx by Club Car. Thanks to NWTF's partnership with Club Car, we have four Lynx models for sale at the discounted price of \$3,500 plus \$400 shipping. Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Vehicles will be shipped to your closest Club Car dealer. Don't delay; they won't last long!

These are great vehicles for farm, home, camp, or recreational use. The Lynx will take you to your deer stand or ridgetop vantage point quickly and quietly thanks to its powerful whisper-quiet electric motor.

### Following are the specs for these vehicles.

- Gold Standard Factory remanufactured Whisper quiet drivetrain that produces no fumes
- 30-mile range on a single charge
- 550-lb. vehicle capacity
- Two-wheel drive
- Drive Motor: Shunt-wound, 3.2 constant

hp/10.0 peak hp,

- Electrical system: 48-volt DC
- Instrumentation: battery warning light
- Brakes: 2-wheel drum, foot-operated, multi-lock parking brake
- Dry weight, less batteries: 605 pounds
- Size: 91.5 inches long by 50.5 inches wide by 54.0 inches high
- Wheelbase: 66.4 inches
- Forward speed: 15-17 mph
- Outside clearance circle: 19.4 feet
- Ground clearance: 6.1 inches (under differential)
- Steering: Self-adjusting, rack and pinion
- Impact-resistant ArmorFlex body with UV protective coating
- Color: Black
- Brush guard with black powder coat
- Rugged 6-ply (22x11-10) all-terrain tires
- Corrosion-resistant, aircraft aluminum chassis
- Independent front suspension
- Six Trojan T-875 8 volt batteries with PowerDrive Charger



- Aluminum cargo box
- Headlights
- Dual beverage/radio holders
- One year limited warranty (includes parts and labor)

To order please contact Jerry Zimmerman at 610-395-7467/panwtfsrfsjz@prodigy.net or Larry Holjencin 814-834-6492/timberline@alltel.net.

biologists reported that 13.9 percent of successful hunters harvested a second gobbler in 2003 and 13.8 percent took a second bird in 2004. New Jersey success rates were similar. Ohio estimates second-gobbler success rates to be in the 15- to 20-percent range. New York has the highest reported success rate on second gobblers, reporting that 18 to 40 percent of their successful hunters take a second bird.

So what does all that mean in terms of the turkey population? The first thing the reader needs to consider is that, in general, spring gobbler seasons are designed and timed to have limited effect on reproductive potential. While a portion of the gobbler population is harvested each year, usually no impact on the turkey population is discernable from this type of hunting season. In Maryland, New Jersey, and Ohio, allowing the take of additional gobblers seems to increase the harvest by 13 to 20 percent. In New York, the range is greater, 18 to 40 percent. Reporting methods differ between the states. New Jersey, Ohio, and Maryland operate check stations, while New York estimates their harvest through a mail survey. This may account for the difference in reported success rates. The gobbler harvest increases when states issue extra tags to hunters. However, in no case has allowing a second bird increased the harvest to the point where populations were affected.

It is hard to say how many turkey hunters would take advantage of the additional tag. The fact that hunters will be required to purchase the tag through the mail before the season may limit sales. The purchase price of \$20 or \$40 is also a factor in determining the number of tags that will be sold. The Game Commission estimates that 10,000 to 20,000 additional tags may be sold to spring gobbler hunters. Using the higher figure of 20,000, we can look at a possible scenario for estimating the increase in harvest. These figures are for use as examples; they are not an attempt to actually estimate the potential increase in harvest if tags are made available in the future. If 20,000 extra tags were sold, 20 percent of the purchasers might take a gobbler, making them eligible for taking a second gobbler. Twenty percent of 20,000 equates to 4,000 hunters, so in this example, 4,000 hunters might have the opportunity to take another gobbler in the spring. If 35 percent of those hunters did take a second gobbler, an additional 1400 gobblers would be harvested in the spring. The spring harvest in Pennsylvania has averaged around 40,000 birds. An increase of even a few thousand gobblers would be unlikely to have any noticeable impact on turkey numbers.

How about the harvest of jakes? Will

hunters be more prone to shoot a jake if they know that they have another tag? Or will they take too many longbeards, leaving only jakes after a period of time? A look at data from a number of states will help to answer those concerns. The ratio of juvenile to adult gobblers in the harvest is similar in states with single-gobbler bag

## **Allowing the harvest of more gobblers in the spring has not hurt turkey populations anywhere in this country or Canada. No state or province has reported any negative change in hunting pressure or hunter satisfaction attributable to increasing the spring bag limit.**

limits and those with multiple bird bag limits. The percentage of jakes verses adult gobblers in the 2003 season in a number of states appears below. The number in parentheses is the spring bag limit.

- Connecticut – 32%:68% (3)
- New Jersey – 35%:65% (3+)
- New York – (unknown) (2)
- Ontario – 57%:43% (2)
- Maryland – 31%:69% (2)
- Massachusetts – 35%:65% (2)
- New Hampshire – 36%:64% (1)
- Rhode Island – 20%:80% (1)
- Ohio – 27%:73% (2)
- Virginia – 39%:61% (3)
- West Virginia – 40%:60% (2)
- Wisconsin – 32%:68% (2)
- Missouri – 35%:65% (2)
- Pennsylvania – (unknown) (1)

The fact is that multiple gobbler limits in the spring do not appear to affect the ages of the birds taken. Rather it is more likely the reproductive success in previous years that affects the number of jakes and adult toms in the harvest. The percentage of jakes to adults in the harvest does not seem to change much whether or not the state has a large land area or according to the

size of the turkey harvest. The states listed have annual spring harvests ranging from a few hundred (Rhode Island) to more than 50,000 (Wisconsin and Missouri). Some hunters will elect to take a jake early in the season and hold out for a longbeard with the additional tag, but that does not appear to be affecting the availability of old gobblers in other states.

House Bill 2042 created the opportunity for the Pennsylvania Game Commission to make additional tags available to turkey hunters. Issuing extra tags to spring hunters will definitely increase the spring harvest, but the change will likely not be too great. Providing additional tags only for the spring season will not affect hen survival or nesting significantly. The additional tag will provide more recreational opportunity to successful hunters. There is evidence from other states that allowing additional gobblers to be taken may increase the incentive for hunters to report their first gobbler. Finally, the second tag will provide much needed revenue for the Game Commission. Some of that money will be used for wild turkey research and management.

Allowing the harvest of more gobblers in the spring has not hurt turkey populations anywhere in this country or Canada. No state or province has reported any negative change in hunting pressure or hunter satisfaction attributable to increasing the spring bag limit. There is no evidence that allowing multiple gobblers in the spring has affected the age structure of the gobbler population in any state. Multiple gobbler limits have increased reporting of turkey harvests and has increased both revenue available and expenditures made on turkeys in other wildlife agencies. There is no reason to believe that things would be any different here in Pennsylvania.

When the commissioners consider options for increasing the spring bag limit, there will be a time for public comment. Your chapter will be looking for your input on this issue as we have on other issues affecting wild turkey management. Regulation change proposals require a public comment period. As hunters, we have both the privilege and the responsibility to carefully consider proposals for change and make our opinions known to the commission. We hunters tend to be very conservative, and we are often apprehensive about changes to seasons and bag limits. Any proposal that comes from this legislation will be carefully planned by Bureau of Wildlife Management biologists. Your opinion is important and will be considered by the commissioners when it comes to making a decision, so give this issue some thought.





## Great Gift Idea for Father's Day — All New for 2005 Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF 30th Anniversary Merchandise

**Long Sleeve T-shirts** feature the 2005 30th Anniversary Logo and turkey tracks on the sleeves. These special T-shirts come in three colors: Red, Green, and Blue.  
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**Winter and Summer Caps** with the 2005 30th Anniversary Logo. Made in the USA and printed in Pennsylvania.  
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**ATTENTION COLLECTORS**  
**A numbered, Limited Edition of 30 laser-engraved bone handle knives featuring the 30th Anniversary Logo were produced in Pennsylvania by Queen Cutlery and carry a lifetime warranty. Each knife will be displayed in an American Black Walnut box featuring the 2005 30th Anniversary Logo. Collector's Knife with Display Box – \$100.00 + Pa. Sales Tax.**

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**A matched set of the Collector's and Field Grade knives** will be offered for 45 days at a special price of \$125.00 + Pa. Sales Tax. Reserved numbers will be honored. After February 28, 2005, the remaining knives will be sold separately. Order now to reserve your Limited Edition, PA Chapter NWTF Merchandise.

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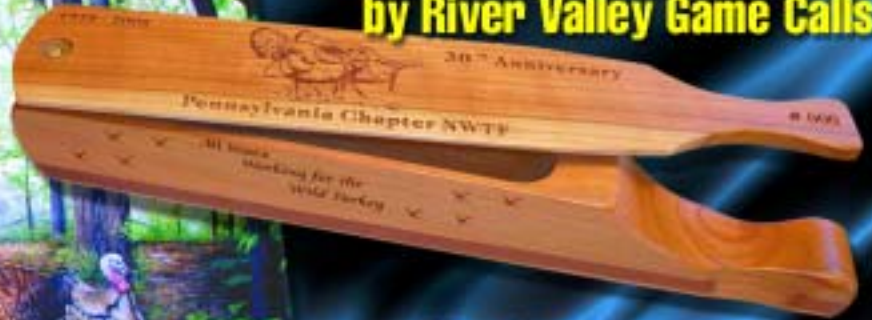
# Where do those Super Fund dollars go?

In 2004, the PA Chapter NWTf Hunting Heritage Super Fund supported this impressive list of local chapter and partnership habitat projects throughout the state. Local chapters submitted requests for habitat projects for their area, and these projects were funded and completed in 2004. These habitat projects are now producing wild turkey and wildlife habitat throughout the Pennsylvania. Local chapters raise the money at their Hunting Heritage Super Fund Banquets, and collectively they spend our allotment of habitat money on projects improving wild turkey habitat. To get involved with local chapter banquets and habitat projects, contact the local chapters in your area, any state chapter officer or director, or our NWTf regional directors.

2004 PA Chapter NWTf State Wild Turkey Super Fund Projects				
Chapter	Project Location	County	Acres	Description
Adams County Longbeards	Michaux SF	Adams	2	Lime, fertilize, herbicide, seed PHO
Allegheny Mountain	SGL 118	Blair	2	Fence sawtooth oak nursery
Allegheny Sultans	Local farmers	Venango	50	Lime, seed, fertilize. Local farms
Allegheny Valley	Butt Creek Rod & Gun	Allegheny	12	Lime, seed, fertilize existing PHOs
Armenia Mountain Spurs	Mt. Pisgah SF	Bradford	16	Rehab. PHO & Create pond
Arnie Hayden	SGL 268, 37, 208	Tioga	41	Spray, disc, lime, seed, fertilize PHOs
Bald Eagle	SGL 88, 295	Clinton	5	Lime, seed, fertilize. Roadways
Ben Stimaker	SGL 64, 59, 204	Potter	26	Spray, disc, lime, seed, fertilize PHOs
Ben Stimaker	Susquehanna SF	Potter	25	Lime, fertilize. PHOs
Blue Mountain	SGL 52	Berks	3	Create PHOs
Cascade Thundering Toms	SGL 95, 154, 304, 151, 216, 406	Lawrence, Butler	40	Lime, fertilize grassy roadways
Chesquehanna Spurs	SGL 120, 108, 158	Cambria, Clearfield	98	Create PHOs, lime, seed, fertilize PHOs
Col-Mont Gobblers		Montour	2	Dozer Rental-balance from '03
Col-Mont Gobblers	SGL & PPL	Columbia, Montour		Purchase 180 apples & crabs
Col-Mont Gobblers	SGL 55, 58, 84, 115, 226	Montour, Columbia, Northumberland		Purchase 50 apple & 100 crabapple trees
Col-Mont/Anthracite	Equip. Purchase	Montour, Columbia, Northumberland		Purchase fertilizer spreader
Del Co.LB, Red Rose	SGL 156	Lancaster	6	Create PHOs
Endless Mountains	SGL 36	Bradford	35	Lime, fertilize. PHOs
Fort Chambers	Michaux SF	Franklin	1	Create Perennial Herbaceous Opening (PHO)
Gobblers Knob	several SGL	Clarion, Jefferson	50	Lime PHOs
Honey Hole Longbeards	Equip. Purchase, tree tubes	Luzerne		Purchase 8-line disc, tree tubes
Juniata Gobblers	SGL 53	Fulton	18	Crop tree release
Juniata Allegheny LB	SGL 24	Forest	6	Lime, seed, fertilize existing PHOs
Juniata Valley		McKean	6	Lime, fertilize existing PHO
Juniata Valley	Allegheny NF	Warren	112	Rehab. PHOs/Create switchgrass fields
Lake Marburg	Equip. Purchase	York	1275	Purchase Hydraulic Grapple Rake
Lake Region Longbeards	Equip. Purchase	Pike, Monroe	28	Purchase tractor & sickle bar
Lake Region Longbeards	SGL 318, 183, 180	Pike, Wayne, Lackawana	13	Lime, seed, fertilize. PHOs
Lakefront Gobblers	SGL 101	Crawford, Erie	20	Purchase JD Gator, lime, seed, fertilize
Lehigh Valley LB	SGL 217	Carbon	8	Spray, lime, seed, fertilize PHOs
Lenni Lanape	Equip. Purchase	Pike, Monroe	26	Purchase tractor & sickle bar
Local #1	SGL 51	Fayette	50	Lime, seed, fertilize PHOs; plow 15 ac.
Mason-Dixon	SGL 242	York	8	Create PHOs
Michaux-Yellow Breeches	Michaux SF	Cumberland, Franklin		Purchase 5 nozzle boom kit for ATV
Moraine	SGL 85	Butler	2	Create Perennial Herbaceous Opening (PHO)
Nittany Valley LB	SGL 33	Centre	6	Lime, seed, fertilize, seed & fence trees
NW Thunderin Toms	Local farmer	Crawford	14	Lime, seed, fertilize existing PHOs
Peters Creek Trail	SGL 111	Somerset	60	Lime, seed, fertilize existing PHOs
Pocono Mountain	SGL 186	Monroe	2	Create Perennial Herbaceous Opening (PHO)
Red Rock	SGL 66	Sullivan	3	Create Perennial Herbaceous Opening (PHO)
Shade Mountain	SGL 107	Juniata	8	Lime, seed, fertilize PHOs, plant trees
Shermans Valley	SGL 88	Perry	4	Lime, fertilize PHO, plant seedlings
Stony Valley	SGL 158	Lebanon	2	Create Perennial Herbaceous Opening (PHO)
Susquehanna Chapter	Greenwood Club	Clearfield	6	Lime, fertilize existing PHO
Susquehanna Chapter	Black Moshannon SF	Elk, Cameron, Clearfield		Lime, fertilize. PHOs
Susquehanna Longbeards	Tiedaghton SF, SGL 134	Lycoming	58	Lime, seed, fertilize. Existing PHOs
Susquehanna Longbeards	SGL 75	Lycoming	52	Lime, fertilize existing PHOs
Susquehanna Longbeards	SGL 298	Lycoming	5	Lime, fertilize. PHOs
Susquehanna/Nittany Valley	Black Moshannon SF	Centre	27	Lime, fertilize, seed PHOs
Tamarack Turkey	Equip. Purchase	Warren		Purchase rotary mower
Ten Mile Valley	SGL 232	Washington	14	Plant spruce, herbicide, create PHO
Ten Mile Valley	Washington County Park	Washington	8	Plant spruce, plant PHO & switchgrass
Terrace Mountain	Raystown Lake	Huntingdon	5	Prescribe burn, plant conifers, fertilize
Wapiti Post	SGL 25	Elk	70	Lime, fertilize PHOs
Whitehorse Mountain	Forbes SF	Somerset	2	Lime, fertilize existing PHO
Wilson Moore	SGL 35, 140	Susquehanna	45	Lime, fertilize PHOs
Yellow Creek	SGL 79, 262, 185	Indiana	98	Create new & rehab existing PHOs
PA State Chapter	Conservation Seed Program	(\$25,000 from Habitat, \$10,000 from other committees)		
PA State Chapter	Conservation Seed Program	Sullivan		Rental of equip. for cons. seed program
PA State Chapter	Seed Subsidy Program			
<b>Grand Total Funded in 2004 by PA State Chapter on 60 different Projects</b>			<b>\$178,758.78</b>	
<b>Grand Total Funded in 2004 by PGC on 38 Partner Projects</b>			<b>\$88,509.99</b>	

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**YES** I'd like to join the National Wild Turkey Federation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of the hunting tradition. This membership also enrolls me in my state and local chapters.

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