

PENNSYLVANIA

SUMMER 2006

TURKEY TALK

Publication of the *Journal* of the NWTF



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PENNSYLVANIA TURKEY TALK SUMMER 2006

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

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SUPPORTING MEMBER

From the President

Dave Burdge



I would like to congratulate all of you successful turkey hunters that harvested a spring gobbler. I was blessed to call in a large gobbler for my granddaughter to harvest during the youth spring gobbler hunt. I think I was more excited than she was. It will be interesting to see the numbers of young hunters that were successful. I have heard of many reports in our local WMU 2F.

I was also fortunate to call in some birds on the last day of the season. A nice longbeard was harvested at 7:00 a.m. by my camp neighbor and President of the newly formed North Boros Long Beard Chapter, Bob Schmid. I harvested a bird at 11:15 a.m., just prior to the close of the season this spring. It was a very exciting last day of the 2006 spring season.

Your State Board of Directors has been very

busy this past quarter. Most recently, there have been several meetings with the Pennsylvania Game Commission in Harrisburg, and our last quarterly meeting was held at the Bass Pro Shops Store in Harrisburg during the same weekend. There were many Hunting Heritage Banquets held throughout Pennsylvania during the spring, and I would like to thank those of you who attended and supported them. Monies that are raised support many projects such as the Seed Program, habitat, JAKES Events, WITO Events, scholarships, and hunting safety and education projects. A special thank you goes to the banquet committees that spend countless hours and dedication to put on the banquets. My hat goes off to all of you!

About the cover



JAKES member Elizabeth Chesnutt, 12, harvested the large gobbler on April 22 in Forest County. The bird weighed 21 lbs. 3 oz and had a 9.5-inch beard, and 1.25-inch spurs. This was Elizabeth's first spring gobbler hunt, and she was guided by her grandfather, PA NWTF president Dave Burdge.

Recalling the experience, Dave said, "Elizabeth was calm, cool, and collected. You would have thought she had done this for years. I think the hunt was more exciting for me than for her. I now have another hunting buddy for life."

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Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Land Dedication

BY DON HECKMAN, PA
NWTF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On Friday, June 2, representatives of the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, Pennsylvania Game Commission, National Wild Turkey Federation, PA NWTF, Michaux-Yellow Breeches Chapter, Blue Mountain Chapter, and Safari Club International joined at the Game Commission headquarters in Harrisburg to celebrate the dedication of the Dahr Tract, 35 acres of land to be added to State Game Lands 211.

Now known as the Jerry Zimmerman Memorial tract, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and PA NWTF presented a sign that will be displayed on Route 443 side of Second Mountain in honor of Jerry Zimmerman, Senior Regional Field Supervisor of the NWTF.

After the untimely death of Jerry Zimmerman in June 2005, the National Wild Turkey Federation dedicated a staff award in Jerry's name, named a bronze sculpture at national headquarters in Jerry's name, and received memorial contributions in their Legacy Program.

PA NWTF was instrumental in setting up a memorial fund in Jerry's name. The Central Pennsylvania Conservancy was in the process of purchasing the 35-acre parcel of mountain land to be added to SGL 211. PA NWTF requested the opportunity to help purchase this property and add a sign on the state game lands in Jerry's memory.

After the details were completed, PA NWTF started fundraising activities with our local chapters. PA NWTF pledged \$12,000 to the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy in the fall of 2005 towards the



Jerry Zimmerman 1950 - 2005

\$30,000 purchase price of the Dahr Tract. In January 2006, we completed our fundraising efforts at our state chapter rendezvous in State College with a custom turkey call auction. Many thanks go out to our local chapters, Jerry's family, and friends for their financial support and their words of encouragement toward our state chapter fundraising efforts as we worked together towards our goal for the land purchase.

The Jerry Zimmerman Memorial land tract is now part of SGL 211, and the memorial sign will be placed at the state game lands parking area. An additional local chapter wildlife habitat project will be funded in Jerry's name on this 35-acre tract in cooperation with Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Jerry Zimmerman was looking down on us that Friday morning at the dedication cere-

mony, smiling and giving us all one of his bear hugs. He was proud of his family, his NWTF family, and friends, and most of all, Jerry would want us to continue doing our best for NWTF, our hunting heritage, our turkey hunting traditions, and conservation and management of the wild turkey. Let each and every one of us that knew Jerry, and those that did not know Jerry, work to continue Jerry Zimmerman's legacy.

The following local chapters, state chapters, individuals, contributed to the PA NWTF Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Fund. I apologize if I missed any donation made to the Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Fund, and I sincerely want to thank each and every one of you that made a donation through the Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF and through the NWTF Legacy Program in Jerry's name.

Allegheny Sultans
Lake Region Longbeards
Local Chapter #1
Michaux-Yellow Breeches
Ben Stimaker Memorial
Northwest Thunderin Toms
Honeyhole Longbeards
Yellow Creek
Allegheny Valley
Lakeland Longbeards
Colmont Gobblers
Susquehanna
Mon Valley Longbeards
Lower Bucks Longbeards
Philadelphia County Fightin'
Spurs
Moraine
Millcreek
Allegheny Mountain
Nittinay Valley Longbeards
Whitehorse Mountain
Longbeards
Chesquehanna Spurs
Pocono Mountain
Red Rock
Lower Lackawanna Long Spurs
Blue Mountain
Southeast Silver Spurs
Arnie Hayden Memorial
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PA NWTF Rendezvous Custom Turkey Call Auction, Call makers and Call buyers

Dale Rohm
Denny Strawbridge
Mike Lapp
Andy Snair
Jon Pries
Scott Basehore
George Sabol, Jr.
Buddy Stang
Julie Holjencin
Don Heckman



Remarks by Larry Holjencin at the Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Land Dedication

I first met Jerry Zimmerman 14 years ago when I was a volunteer with NWTF's Wapiti Roost Local Chapter. I don't remember a whole lot about the first meeting itself, but I do remember, after the meeting, someone asking Jerry what chapter he belonged to. His reply was, "I am not involved with any NWTF chapter, I was state chairman for Ducks Unlimited."

The next question fired at the new guy was, "How long have you hunted turkeys?"

"Well, I'm not really a turkey hunter, but it looks like I'm going to become one."

We all chuckled, but deep down inside, we wondered why NWTF would hire a man who knew very little about the Turkey Federation and absolutely nothing about hunting turkeys?

It didn't take long to see that his lack of background with NWTF and wild turkeys would be of any consequence at all. Jerry had many qualities that would enable him to excel in his job, but the two most noteworthy were his ability to communicate and his dedication.

Zimmy had the ability to make people feel at ease while at the same time earning their respect. He could meet with a group of Harrisburg lawmakers in the morning and on the drive out of the city, off would come the coat and tie, and in would go a dip of tobacco. That same night he would drive to a sportsmen's club in the middle of nowhere to meet with a bunch of camo-clad turkey hunters to discuss ways to raise money for the wild turkey. No matter the situation or circumstance, he was always confident and in control.

Jerry was a salesman through and through. I realize that to some folks salesmen are not looked upon in high regard, but to Jerry there was no better job than selling. He knew a big part of his job was selling NWTF's plan and vision, and he prided himself in doing that well. I can remember one time as we prepared for an important meeting, he told me his plan to sell an idea. I smirked a bit and told him he sounded like a used-car salesman, to which he replied, "I've sold used cars before; what's wrong with that?"

See Holjencin on page 7

Remarks by Bob Eriksen at the Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Land Dedication

As we are gathered here this morning to dedicate another tract of land for the Game Commission, we can look to the north at the forest covering that mountain range. Some of us might look at that forest as an oak-hickory complex. Others might think of it as an area for recreation.

When Jerry Zimmerman looked at that forest, he saw it simply as habitat, and habitat in capital letters. Though he wasn't trained as a wildlife professional, Jerry was an avid hunter who knew the value of preserving open spaces for wildlife habitat. But he was also acutely aware of the importance of maintaining a diversity of habitats on managed public lands.

Jerry knew the value of habitat enhancement projects to wildlife species. At the same time he was cognizant of the importance placed on habitat management by the hunters of Pennsylvania. So when Jerry went to work in the business of fundraising, he saw habitat management projects as a wise use of the monies raised by NWTF volunteers. In fact, he and early chapter leaders decided that it would be best to focus the energies of the chapter on wildlife habitat improvement.

Pennsylvania stands as an example of what a strong corps of volunteers can accomplish. Since the inception of the Hunting Heritage Super Fund Program in the mid-1980s local Pennsylvania NWTF chapters have dedicated more than \$2 million to habitat improvement projects on state game lands, state forests, and federal lands in the Commonwealth. These projects have only been possible because of the interest the Game Commission has shown and continues to show in planning wildlife habitat improvement work.

Our chapters work closely with land managers and food-and-cover crews in their areas to plan and develop projects that benefit a suite of wildlife species. Among the projects completed in the past 14 years under Jerry's leadership and legacy are the creation of turkey brood habitat, annual and perennial food plots, tree and shrub planting, and timber stand improvements affecting nearly 9,000 acres of wildlife openings.

See Eriksen on page 10

TRI-STATE GOBBLER BANDING PROJECT UPDATE

BY BOB ERIKSEN,
NWTF REGIONAL BIOLOGIST

The winter of 2005-2006 was not exactly a classic winter for live-trapping wild turkeys. Warmer-than-normal temperatures, abundant natural food, and a lack of snow cover made attracting the birds to bait much more difficult than usual. The tri-state gobbler banding effort got off to a slow start because of the mild weather, but the trapping teams finished well. Game Commission turkey trappers put a valiant effort together during the weeks in the middle of March and ended up with a total capture of 246 gobblers statewide. This was in spite of tough trapping conditions. The project goal was the capture of 300 gobblers each winter for this year and the next three. It was an ambitious goal, and one that could not be met this year. However, study participants came pretty close to the objective.

The other states involved in the tri-state gobbler banding study also had difficulty reaching their goals. New York had the advantage of snow cover in parts of the state for much of February, and their trapping crews did well. New York Department of Environmental Conservation trappers captured and banded 295 gobblers. Ohio experienced a winter even more mild than that of Pennsylvania, and Ohio Division of Wildlife turkey trappers finished the winter with 167 gobblers. The total capture for last winter was an impressive 708 gobblers in three states. Although the researchers fell short of the 900-bird objective, this is perhaps the largest sample of gobblers ever banded in one area of the country.

Falling short of the desired sample will not profoundly affect the study. Penn State and tri-state wildlife agency researchers have three more years in which to get closer to their goals. What the shortfall means for this year is that the ability to use the data collected on a regional level within each individual state is reduced. Inferences made from the data on a statewide level will remain viable. Biologists plan studies lasting three to five years as a hedge against just this type of possibility. Longer studies also reduce the potential for annual variations in weather, hunting pressure, and other factors to affect the results.

Here in Pennsylvania, the trapping effort was evenly divided among the six Game Commission regions. The goal for each region was the capture of 50 gobblers. Efforts were made to distribute the captures around the region rather than concentrat-

ing them in one or two locations. When the smoke from rocket-nets cleared, the Southeast Region had captured their sample of 50 gobblers and assisted the Northeast Region with their captures by trapping an additional 13 birds. The Northeast Region finished with a total of 53 gobblers (with the assistance of the Southeast Region). Trappers in the Southcentral Region caught 42 gobblers, and Northcentral Region trappers banded 43 gobblers. In the Northwest 33 gobblers were banded, and Southwest Region personnel banded 27 birds.

Of the 246 gobblers captured in Pennsylvania last winter, 139 were adult toms (56.5%) and 107 (43.5%) were juvenile gobblers. Gobblers were trapped on both private and public lands. Many gobblers that spend their springs on state game lands and state forest lands pass the winter months on private agricultural lands. Game Commission trapping teams rocket-netted 190 gobblers on private land (77.2%) and 56 on public lands (22.8%).

Our 2006 spring gobbler hunting season is now history. Final figures will not be available for some time yet, but there is some preliminary information available about the banded birds reported as of May 30. Remember this information is early and not yet final. It also would pay to remember that this banding project is a four-year study, and the data from one spring may not be representative of what happens every year. This spring, turkey hunters reported taking 71 banded gobblers banded in Pennsylvania. Seventy banded birds were harvested in Pennsylvania, and one was killed in New York. Of the 71 banded gobblers reported by hunters this spring, 49 were adult gobblers (69.0%) and 22 were jakes (31%). Banded gobblers were reported from at least 22 counties. Approximately 84 percent of the banded birds reported this spring were taken on private land, and 16 percent were



Bob Eriksen photo

Pennsylvania Game Commission turkey trappers get ready to place a second band on a gobbler with impressive spurs.

harvested on public land.

During the 2006 spring gobbler season, the statewide harvest rate based on band returns received as of May 30 was 28.45 percent. This figure is comparable with data collected using radio telemetry in the past two years in Virginia. In 2005, 28 percent of radio-marked gobblers were harvested in one region of Virginia, and 29 percent were killed in the other study area. During the 2006 season, preliminary figures showed a harvest rate of 32 percent in one region and 16 percent in the other. In a five-year-long telemetry study in New Jersey, spring gobbler harvest rates averaged about 27 percent. While we have only one year of data for Pennsylvania, the harvest rate for 2006 appears to be comparable to that observed in nearby states. Harvest rates will vary by region depending on hunting pressure, turkey populations, land ownership, and habitat factors. Additional years of data collection will provide good information on variability between regions in Pennsylvania.

It will be very interesting to see the figures for the other two states involved in the study. This study is the largest effort of its kind ever undertaken, and Pennsylvania Chapter members should be proud of the role their chapter is playing in the work. In lean economic times for the Game Commission, your chapter has helped to make this work possible by funding equipment and trapping supply purchases. Once again, the Pennsylvania Chapter has come through to assist the Game Commission with a significant research project.

2006 PA NWTF Scholarship Winner

Jacqueline Armstrong of Mercer County was recently selected as the winner of the PA NWTF Scholarship. Jacqueline is a graduate of Lakeview High School in Stoneboro and plans to attend Grove city college in the fall to major in biology and elementary education.

An outstanding student, Jacqueline has been on the National Honor Roll, received a Leadership Award, and has been named to Who's Who Among American High School Students since the ninth grade. She was inducted into the National Honor Society during her junior year. In addition to her academic awards, Jacqueline was named Most Dedicated Athlete while in ninth grade.

Jacqueline has been a member of the track and field team, basketball team, and Bible Club since the ninth grade. She participated in cross-country during her freshman and sophomore year. During her senior year, she served as class treasurer and was a member of the Hunting and Fishing Club.

Outside of school activities, Jacqueline is employed at Baer's Country club, has done volunteer work in the stables at fairs, has been part of the Wesleyan Youth Group and Jackson Volunteer Fire company, and has helped in coaching grade-school basketball programs. Her hobbies include horseback riding, reading, four-wheeling, hunting, and NASCAR.

Following is an excerpt from Jacqueline's essay on hunting:

Hunting has its own importance in my life. To me, hunting is a time where I can sit back and enjoy the beauty of an early-morning sunrise, the innocence of the deer that try to sneak across the field that I sit

guarding, the softness heard from the flapping of the geese who loom overhead; it is the place where time literally stands still, and it allows me to sort out the stresses and struggles that sometimes overwhelm my life. It is a sport that actually allows me to cut off all my strings to development, and it lets me see the true, authentic beauty found only in nature itself. It teaches me to accept defeat, but it also allows me to rejoice in the chance of opportunity. It teaches me to have patience, and it allows people with perseverance and dedication to succeed. Hunting provides me with complete satisfaction even if I do not get a deer, turkey, or goose because I have slowly progressed through the years and have plenty of priceless memories from it that do not even involve the "so-called" success of the hunt. Being able to spend time with people I love in one of the places I love most is something that does not happen very often. There is sort of an unspoken relationship between all hunters that sort of bonds us all together; we are able to relate to each other in some shape or form. Even though the sport is mostly dominated by men, I find no biasness with this fact and find it as a challenge to become an exceptional woman hunter. Hunting has also become a tradition to me and is something that I will continue on doing for the rest of my life. Hunting has so many life lessons to offer to those who decide to embark on its ship. I am personally glad that I have become involved in this sport, and it is something that I will pass down to my children and grandchildren whenever the time arises.



Jacqueline Armstrong of Mercer County was recently selected as the winner of the PA NWTF Scholarship.

Congratulations to Jacqueline Armstrong

Holjencin

We laughed – he stuck to his plan, and he sold it the next day.

He was very proud of the accomplishments of the Pennsylvania local chapters and the Pennsylvania State Chapter. He was a master fundraiser but wasn't one to let the revenue sit in the bank. He believed we raised money so we could spend it. During his time with NWTF, Pennsylvania was always number 1 in the country for raising and, more importantly, spending Super Fund money on habitat improvement, safety and education, and land acquisition. He would be proud to know that just last week Pennsylvania went over the \$4-million mark on money spent in our state.

Jerry was also extremely dedicated to his job. To him it was more of a lifestyle than a job. Other than Audrey, his wife, very few

know the hours he put in. He did what he had to do to get the job done, and he didn't complain about it. He knew there were a lot of volunteers across the state counting on him, and he never let them down.

Thinking back to Jerry's funeral, we can remember Carl Brown, NWTF's Chief Operating Officer, saying, "We will never forget Jerry Zimmerman."

He was right; we never will. So far, we have the following named in his memory: a local chapter; a turkey-calling contest, an annual award for a Pennsylvania local chapter, a staff award for Team Player of the Year, a bronze sculpture at our national headquarters, and now a piece of ground on a mountain only miles from where he grew up and a spot he and his dad hunted.

Many people will see this sign bearing Jerry

from page 5

Zimmerman's name. Those who didn't know him will probably think he must have been special to be recognized like this. He was more than special; he was a true one in a million.

When we think of Jerry, let us not grieve because he is no longer with us but let us be thankful we had the opportunity to know him as a mentor, leader, and friend. He not only made a lasting impression on those who knew him but also on the natural resources he so dearly loved. Oh, and by the way, he did become a turkey hunter and as you might have guessed, a good one at that.

On behalf of NWTF, I would like to thank all the individuals, local chapters, PA NWTF, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and Central Pennsylvania Conservancy for making this land purchase and dedication possible.

Pennsylvania Chapter Passes \$4 Million Milestone

BY BOB ERIKSEN, NWTf REGIONAL BIOLOGIST

Just a couple of years ago, the Pennsylvania Chapter made history by passing the three million dollar milestone of Hunting Heritage Super Fund spending. That milestone was a level of spending that few states have achieved. In May of this year, our chapter made history once again by surpassing the \$4 million level of Super Fund spending. As of May 31, 2006, the Pennsylvania State Chapter spent \$4,097,920. Since the inception of the Hunting Heritage Super Fund, Pennsylvania local chapters have raised well over \$4 million at Super Fund banquets around the state.

There is no sense in raising money to benefit wild turkeys if that money isn't returned to programs that benefit wild turkey conservation and our hunting heritage. Pennsylvania local chapters have excelled not only at raising dollars, but also at planning projects to use those dollars. Habitat improvement projects have been the first love of our chapter system since the early years of the chapter. Just this year, our Super Fund Habitat Committee reviewed more than 80 proposals for habitat enhancement projects on lands throughout the state. At the annual meeting in early February, the committee approved 70 habitat enhancement projects ranging from \$600 to \$6,000. The total amount approved for funding in 2006 was \$161,411.60. Add to that amount the \$10,000 allocated for Seed Subsidy and the \$20,000 set aside for Conservation Seed purchases and our chapter spent more than \$191,000 on habitat improvement around the state. That, my friends, is a pretty impressive figure.

For the record, the Pennsylvania Chapter has devoted more than \$2 million to habitat improvement projects since 1985. Among the projects were maintenance and development of wild turkey brood habitat, creation of wildlife openings, and tree planting projects. The chapter has provided funding toward the purchase of equipment for the Game Commission and the Bureau of Forestry including eight grain drills, three tractors, four sprayers, three planters, three lime spreaders, one mower, and two disk harrows. The equipment and Super Fund dollars have been used to improve more than 268,344 acres of wildlife habitat around the

state. Most of the affected acres are on state game lands, state forests, state parks, Allegheny National Forest and other public lands.

But the Pennsylvania Chapter Super Fund doesn't stop there. More than \$209,000 has been spent on educational programs such as 4-H Shooting Program, teacher workshops, scholarships, and education boxes for local schools. Our chapter is serious about hunter safety and has spent more than \$209,000 on safety initiatives, partnering with the Game Commission to make our sport safer. Outreach programs such as Women in the Outdoors, Wheelin' Sportsmen, and JAKES have received more than \$300,000 in support funding. Our members know that the future of hunting depends on our ability to attract and retain new groups of hunters.

Our hunting heritage and tradition are important to the chapter too. More than \$190,000 in contributions has gone to organizations that work hard to promote and maintain the integrity of hunting such as the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance and the National Shooting Sports Foundation. The future of hunting also rests on adequate places to hunt. Your dollars, raised at banquets across the state, have gone to help with purchases of land to add to the state game lands system. More than \$306,000 dollars have been invested in partnering with other conservation groups to make land purchases adding more than 25,000 acres to the land base open to public hunting for future generations. The future of turkey hunting

depends on having good information on which to manage the wild turkey resource. Along those lines, more than \$81,000 has been spent to help support wild turkey research projects in Pennsylvania. Our Super Fund has paid the freight for chapter workshops and some of the travel expenses for chapter leaders and Game Commission personnel to attend important meetings and the NWTf annual convention. It should be noted that the Super Fund does not cover all the travel expenses for these folks, only a portion approved by the state chapter board of directors.

There is always more work to do for the conservation of our wild turkey resource and promotion of our precious hunting tradition. Every chapter member who attends a banquet is contributing to these important goals of our chapter. Invite your turkey hunting friends to become part of our chapter network so we can all work together for the wild turkey. Great job, Pennsylvania Chapter!!



2006 PA NWTF Member Survey

A number of important issues are looming on the horizon for turkey hunters in Pennsylvania. Some will affect our hunting opportunities, and others will affect our wallets. It is essential for the PA NWTF Board of Directors to know your feelings as a chapter member on issues affecting turkey hunters and on programs that are already in place. Among the things we are interested in learning include the opinions of members on orange regulations in the spring season, the issue of establishing all-day spring gobbler hunting, Sunday hunting, and youth hunting opportunities. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey by circling your choices and return it to the address listed below. Answer all the questions and return the survey whether you are in favor or are opposed to some of the issues in question. Please return your completed survey form by August 31, 2006. We will try to present the results in the fall issue of Pennsylvania Turkey Talk if enough responses have been received by the deadline for that issue. Survey form may be photocopied.

1: Currently Sunday hunting is prohibited by law except for certain instances. A change in the statute would give the Game Commission the discretion to decide what type of hunting might take place on Sundays. How do you feel about the possibility of legislation allowing the Game Commission to make decisions on the availability of Sunday hunting?

- I strongly favor allowing the Game Commission to regulate Sunday hunting
 I somewhat favor allowing the Game Commission to regulate Sunday hunting
 I have no opinion of this issue
 I somewhat oppose allowing the Game Commission to regulate Sunday hunting
 I strongly oppose allowing the Game Commission to regulate Sunday hunting

2: If the Game Commission were able to make decisions on Sunday hunting, would you support establishing a second youth spring gobbler hunting day on Sunday the week before the regular season opener?

- Yes No No opinion

3: Do you support the Pennsylvania Chapter's efforts to eliminate the regulation requiring spring hunters to wear an orange hat while moving during the spring gobbler season? No discernable change in spring turkey hunting related shooting incident rates has occurred since orange was required (the number of annual incidents did not change). If the regulation were changed, hunters could still wear an orange hat if they care to.

- Yes No No opinion

4: Did you purchase a second tag for the 2006 spring gobbler season in Pennsylvania?

- Yes No

5: If yes, did you harvest a second gobbler in Pennsylvania?

- Yes No

6: Extending the spring hunting season through May 31 would provide turkey hunters with three or four more days of spring gobbler hunting in most years. Adding days to the end of the season would not have a negative affect on turkey populations. Do you favor extending the season?

- Yes No No opinion

7: The Pennsylvania legislature recently passed a bill establishing a Mentored Youth Hunting Program (MYHP) in Pennsylvania. Such programs are thought to generate more interest in hunting among young persons by intro-

ducing them to the sport at an earlier age. The Game Commission will allow mentors to take youth hunters under the age of 12 spring gobbler hunting starting with the 2007 special youth spring gobbler hunting season. When participating in the Mentored Youth Hunting Program, mentors will take a youngster out but the pair will take only one firearm. This will allow the mentor to give full attention to safety and instruction of the young hunter. Do you plan to participate in this program by taking a young hunter out?

- Yes No

8: Did you participate in the 2006 spring youth hunt?

- Yes, as a youth hunter Yes as an adult mentor
 No

9: Many states allow spring gobbler hunters to hunt all day. This provides more hunting opportunity to hunters with a tough work schedule and to young hunters who need to be in school early in the morning. Do you favor all-day hunting during the special youth spring gobbler hunting day as a means of giving young hunters more time?

- Yes No No opinion

10: Are you in favor of establishing all day hunting for the entire spring gobbler season?

- Yes No No opinion

11: The Game Commission is experiencing some difficult financial times. A coalition of hunting organizations has developed recommendations for increasing funding for the Game Commission that includes an increase in license fees. There are at least two bills in the legislature that would increase the cost of hunting licenses and require some additional stamps for certain hunters. Do you support a general hunting license increase to provide funding for commission programs?

- Yes No No opinion

12: Two of the hunting license increase bills currently in the legislature would create a turkey-hunting stamp costing resident hunters \$5. The stamp would be required of all spring and fall hunters, and some of the funds generated by the stamp sales would be used to fund important projects presented in the Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania. Do you support the establishment of a turkey-hunting stamp?

- Yes No No opinion

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. We are very interested in the opinions of our members. Please mail the completed survey to:

Carl Mowry
NWTF Regional Director
288 Criswell Road, Butler, PA 16002

CHAPTER NEWS

Reminders to Chapter Members!!!

If you had a second tag for the spring gobbler hunting season, please remember that you are required to return the report card whether you took a second gobbler or not. Do it now while you are thinking of it!

Did you send in your report card if you harvested a gobbler this spring? It's easy to forget, so do it now!

If your chapter completes a habitat project this year and you find that it cost you less than was anticipated, please return any unused funds to the State Chapter so we can return them to the Super Fund!

To all chapters that obtained Conservation Seed: Remember that you are supposed to pay the chapter back for shipping and bagging costs on the seed. Please forward your check today!

Board seeks nominations for directors

The Pennsylvania State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation is currently seeking nominations for directors to serve a three-year term. Local chapters may submit in writing to the nomination committee the name of one candi-

date for the nomination to the board.

This written nomination must include a copy of the candidate's current membership card and the signature of 15 members of the local chapter and should include the resume of the nominee's background, qualifications, and contributions to the wild turkey on the state and local level. The candidate must be 18 years of age and agree to remain a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation during the entire three-year term. Nominations must be received on or before August 25, 2006.

Additional duties for a director include: Promote the NWTF goals, programs, and policies; serve a three-year term; be a point of contact for local chapters for support or information; bring new ideas to and attend the annual awards meeting and three of the five scheduled chapter board meetings every year.

Nominations should be sent to: Gary Beatty, Chairman of the Board, 65 Donation Road, Greenville, PA 16125.

2006 Chapter President's Leadership Workshop

Each Pennsylvania local chapter president has been sent an

invitation to the 2006 Chapter President's Leadership Workshop. The workshop will be held on Sunday, August 6, 2006, at the Ramada Inn, State College. This is an annual meeting that provides an opportunity for chapter leaders to be brought up to date on NWTF happenings, new programs, and current issues, plus an opportunity to exchange ideas with other chapter leaders. Two members from each local chapter are permitted to attend. The meeting runs from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

In addition to Sunday's meeting, there will also be a barbecue and trap shoot on Saturday, August 5, at 5:00 p.m. at the Tyrone Sportsmen's Club. The NWTF and the PA Chapter, NWTF will cover all expenses for Saturday and Sunday except for travel costs to and from the meeting and the cost of the clay birds for the trap shoot.

It is hoped that all 79 chapters will be represented at the workshop. If your chapter president cannot attend, he or she should contact an alternate who can attend. Reservations should be made by contacting Carl Mowry at 724-283-5708 or cmpanwtf@zoominternet.net. Reservation forms were included with the invitation letters sent to chapter presidents.

2006 PA NWTF Gun Raffle winners

1st Place—John Hoover, Chambersburg Remington 700, .270 WSM, 2006 Gun of the Year

2nd Place—Robert and Luan Morris, Worthington Browning BPS 12 ga., 2005 Gun of the Year

3rd Place—Ron Wagner, Hunker Winchester 94-10 2003 Gun of the Year

4th Place—Lykens Valley Longbeards Chapter Remington 1100 20 ga., WITO Gun

5th Place—Tom Logue, Lock Haven Winchester 94-22, 2001 JAKES Gun of the Year

Congratulations to all our winners. Thanks to American Dreams Sporting in Berlin for handling the firearms for us. Thanks to all for supporting this raffle time and again. This raffle provides us with much needed funds to continue our efforts in representing 79 chapters across this great state.

Eriksen

As I travel around the state checking on projects funded in the past and working with land managers to plan new projects, I am impressed with the knowledge of Game Commission personnel and their dedication to making the public land base as attractive to wildlife as possible. NWTF dollars help them to maintain and enhance projects that their regular budget might not permit. Our members sincerely appreciate the efforts of the land management crews, and a number have related their experiences hunting on areas where their hard-earned dollars have been well spent on wildlife openings.

Jerry's commitment to putting Super Fund dollars "on the ground" gave our local chapters something close to home that they could take pride in. When chapter members

spoke with pride about the projects funded on this game lands and that game lands, others began to notice. The other hunters, in turn, began to come to our fundraising banquets and contribute toward the goal.

The importance of giving members projects in the dirt close to home was not lost on Jerry, and the Game Commission has been more than cooperative in helping us do just that. Their good work record has helped us to grow our membership and provide more opportunity to back land managers.

Pennsylvania has been a frontrunner in the acquisition of public hunting lands. The Game Commission owns and manages more land than any other wildlife agency in this part of the country. The foresight of the early managers of the commission in begin-

ning to assemble a large land base is commendable and cannot be overstated.

Our chapter has helped in every way possible to make additional acquisitions happen. Though we have focused primarily on habitat management, our members have contributed more than \$320,000 toward the purchase of more than 25,000 acres of land for the commission. Of course, in each purchase there have been many other partners like the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, and we are indebted to them.

Our members would, with one loud voice, encourage the Game Commission to keep up the good work. Keep acquiring land for future hunters to enjoy and keep managing the lands you hold in trust to produce an abundance of wildlife.

from page 5

Wheelin' SPORTSMEN NWTF

A Day At Paradise

BY HARVEY J. BAUER

On Sunday, June 4, 2006, I had the great pleasure of attending my first NWTF Wheelin' Sportsman event, held at Paradise Lakes in Cardale, Pa. According to the lake's owners Ham and Jim Erjavec, there are catfish swimming in the five lakes on the property that can weigh up to 60 pounds.

This event was hosted by Jim O'Brien, Wheelin' Sportsmen Northeastern Regional Coordinator, and Paradise Lakes, thanks to their efforts and the assistance of 36 volunteers. Several area children and adults with disabilities and their families were treated to a day in the outdoors and a chance to reel in a monster catfish.

Chuck Mason from www.1papernewspaper.com donated a picnic lunch, including grilled burgers and hot dogs for all who attended. The only stipulation Chuck put on his donation was that he be allowed to also cook the meal. Chuck and his wife appeared at the affair in their motor home with their grill and did a fantastic job of feeding the attendees. A big thank you goes out to the Masons for their time and generosity.

The night before the event, we unfortunately experienced a major rainstorm in the area, and out of the expected 30 disabled participants, only 13 were able to attend, but those who did had a great time and caught some nice catfish.

Raffles on an array of donated items were

held at the end of the event, and as usual, the NWTF team came together to help in any way they could. Representatives attending included NWTF Regional Director Carl Mowry and WITO National Coordinator Tammy Mowry along with other volunteers from the PA NWTF and members of the Uniontown Chapter.

This is one of many events for the disabled that Jim O'Brien will be doing in Pennsylvania and the Northeastern states, and I now look forward to attending as many as I can to lend a hand in any way possible. Jim recently received approval for a grant from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to conduct a series of fishing events for disabled youth in Pennsylvania called "I Can Fish 2." He plans to hold one of these events in each of the regions served by the three NWTF Regional Directors in the state. Any chapters or individuals interested in hosting or volunteering at these events should contact Jim O'Brien, 17 O'Hara Street, Greensburg, PA 15601; 724-216-5476, office: 724-216-5477, fax: 724-875-4140, cell.



Wheelin' Sportsmen Benefit

The Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards Chapter of the NWTF will be hosting a Wheelin' Sportsmen Benefit on Saturday, August 26, 2006, at Hillside Lodge in Berlin, Pa. Ticket price for the Benefit is \$20. This will include your meal and a door-prize ticket. The meal will be catered by The Chuck Wagon. We will have raffles and a silent auction going on during the evening, which will include limited edition art work and guns. All proceeds from the event will go to the NWTF Wheelin' Sportsmen outreach program. Doors will open at 4:00 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Chapter President Rick Stutzman at 814-445-7892 or Regional Director Carl Mowry at 724-283-5708.



2006 PA NWTF JAKES Hunt

Another Girl's Day Out

BY GENE ALWINE

April is an exciting month for all the hard-working folks involved with the NWTF. This is a time to slow down, take avacation, and enjoy the bird that brought us together in the first place. There are many rewarding aspects to being an active member of this great organization, but few compare to introducing our youth to turkey hunting.

This year, the Pennsylvania youth turkey season was set for Saturday April 22. Plans were in place for a group to meet Friday afternoon in the Skytop area near State College, then drive to a hunting camp a few miles away in Unionville. This group included the two JAKES members who would be hunting in the PANWTF JAKES Hunt of 2006. For the second consecutive year, the hunters were both young ladies. Stacy Reeve of Gettysburg was the lucky winner drawn from all the entries throughout the local chapter banquet system. Stacy was accompanied by her father, Pat. Tiffany Osselborn of Evans City, who was one of the three participants from last year's hunt, brought her father, Ron, and his friend, Brian Talik. Ron purchased Tiffany's hunt during the live auction at the State Chapter Rendezvous in January. The remainder of the Friday arrivals consisted of Jody Hugill and Ron Chronister, who served as guides for the hunt; Mike Evangelista, owner of Mountain View Productions in Hamburg, was invited to do the videography for this hunt; and Carl Mowry, one of our three PA NWTF Regional Directors, was also on hand.

The camp, nestled along a quiet, rural hillside, is owned by Tony Marrara, of Port Matilda. Upon arrival, this anxious bunch met Tony's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Marrara. They made sure all were settled in properly, served as camp cooks, and restocked any supplies as needed.



With the completion of orientation, it was time to scout and possibly roost some turkeys. Plans were discussed as hopes ran high.

The guides knew where they'd begin the morning's hunt with alternate locations in mind. All was going well. Now, it was time to see if anyone could actually sleep until then.

The alarm clock finally indicated that it was "go time," although a look through any window would suggest otherwise. Everyone suited up, and a group consisting of Stacy, Pat, and Jody headed one direction, and the group of Tiffany, Mike, and both Rons headed another. No doubt, it was going to rain on them as an added feature. Carl would hold down the fort and be ready to assist should anyone return for any reason. At daylight, he stepped outside in time to enjoy his own little fly down and assembly show. A gobbler was even accommodating enough to strut between the vehicles in the driveway!

Tiffany's crew set up just inside the woods along a field. Ron Chronister set a decoy out and began the calling sequence. They had heard roosted birds and hoped this would bring them in. After spending

enough time there, Ron decided to retrieve his decoy, and they would move on. He glanced in the field as he approached the decoy and saw a farm dog working an area nearby. The question of why this setup failed was now answered. They returned to camp, and Carl showed them the direction the gobbler took after leaving the driveway. On foot, they climbed the hillside to swing around the small flock and hopefully get ahead of them.

I arrived at the camp shortly thereafter. While Carl and I waited for any new developments, Stacy's party returned to dry out and warm themselves. Her bird was riding in the back! Jody was excited for Stacy and informed us that she took a "Super Jake" that had a 4-inch beard and well-started spurs, but possessed that distinctive tail of a jake. After sharing a few congratulatory moments, we allowed them to unpack. As we moved about the cabin, Jody and Pat relayed the story to us. Stacy smiled and listened quietly. I could see her recalling

the details as they spoke.

Carl asked her if she got excited. She replied, "Yeah, but I think my dad was really excited, more than me."

We all know how typical that is. I then asked her if this was her first turkey. She reported, "This was my first anything. I never got anything before this."

Her hunt went something like this. Jody made some locating calls. They got responses from several directions, deciding to move towards one of the roosts. As they attempted to close in, the rains came and hearing was now much tougher. A flock of at least one mature bird and some jakes was now on the ground and moving away, out over the mountaintop and along a ridge on the other side. Jody decided to pursue them. Not knowing what they might encounter, the hunters made frequent stops to survey the surroundings and keep track of the seemingly bachelor flock. During one stop, they were deciding whether or not to set up when Stacy said, "Cows!" They were standing near a herd of bedded cows and realized the need to move on so as not to stir the cows and spook the turkeys.

The hunters soon located the turkeys again, and Jody knew it was time to set up there. The birds were approaching silently, and Jody questioned whether or not Stacy saw them. He was situated about ten yards away from her, and Pat was immediately behind her. Jody wanted to make them gobble, which they did, and one jake was really putting on a show. The mature gobbler sounded off well below the jakes as he moved away. The younger birds had driven him off.

Now, there were just three jakes to contend with. Stacy didn't have the best angle, so Pat scooted closer and told her to lean back into him so she could turn enough and be steady for a shot. The trio was about to pass through an opening about 15 yards out, and Pat had a clear view. Stacy's view was not quite as good, but sufficient. The first bird got through, and Stacy missed the opportunity for a shot. The second bird hit the opening, and Pat told her to let him pass. He was a bit smaller than the others and looked a little beaten up. The third and most dominant of the three took his time. Pat repeated, "Shoot!" each time with more volume and urgency until the gun fired. The jake folded, and Pat leaned backward, flat on his back, and let out a "Whoohoo!" that carried through the valley below.

Now, Stacy and Jody were treated to a show. The turkey was on a steep slope and it's flopping carried it downhill at a fast rate. Pat fumbled along trying to recover it but wasn't attentive enough to all the thickets and other obstacles he would encounter along the way. Stacy was amused, as I'm sure Jody supplied some play-by-play commentary.

After that, we waited for the others to



Tiffany Osselborn left and Stacy Reever with bird.

return. Jody hoped they would have time for one more set up if this second effort was unsuccessful. They returned without a bird and accepted the offer for one more try. It was nearing 11 o'clock, and Jody's plan was to "raise the roof" with calling scenarios, hoping there'd be one that wouldn't be able to stand it and come in for a look. This effort, too, was unsuccessful, and they were back inside by 12:30. Tiffany and her dad were thankful for all the help. Ron mentioned that Tiffany doesn't know what it's like to hunt turkeys in nice weather, as it was raining hard last year too. She suddenly called for her dad from upstairs, saying there was a turkey in the yard. We were treated to the sighting of a bearded hen as it made its way into the thickets below the cabin.

As everyone was working at getting warm and dry, Lou arrived with some lunch and made plans for bringing us some Clem's Barbecue for the evening. Carl needed to leave. I would be leaving also, only now not until after supper. Ray Smith, our Eastern PA NWTF Regional Director would be arriving soon, so we made sure he was on the meal order. We lounged and enjoyed each other's conversation throughout the rest of the afternoon.

As evening approached, I gently coaxed

everyone from the comforts of the warm cabin to go outside and pose for photos. The rain stopped just long enough for us to get this done. We finished, and I left to meet Ray in Bald Eagle and bring him to the camp. When we returned, Lou and his wife were there with the Clem's spread. What a treat! Ray was welcomed and introduced as he would be spending the final night with all our guests. If possible, they would spend some time shooting clay birds the next morning, but I was told that the rain would continue, and everyone decided to pack and get an early start for home.

We enjoy putting these events together and greatly appreciate everyone who contributes in any way. I wish to say thank you to the Keystone Country Store in Fort Loudon for providing the girls with full sets of camo for this hunt; River Valley Game Calls for the time and effort to put on this hunt; Tony Marrara for the use of his excellent hunting camp; Mr. and Mrs. Lou Marrara for the food, supplies, and constant care of the guests; Mike Evangelista for his efforts in making a video of this weekend; Ron and Jody for guiding the girls; Carl and Ray for being there for us; and finally, our guests for being great sports and participating in our annual efforts to supply a youth hunt of a lifetime.



The New Recruit

BY GENE ALWINE

Wintertime in Pennsylvania provides time to reflect on the past fall season and to plan for the upcoming spring season. This year, there was an unexpected addition to my plans, which didn't take long for me to work into my vacation schedule. I was manning the registration counter at the State Chapter Rendezvous, and some folks approached me about taking a trip to Texas with them for Rios. They had three confirmed spots with room for a fourth, should I accept – the three being Bob Yoder, his son Bob, Jr. (Bobby) and Bobby's son Noah. This immediately aroused my interest because Noah was 8 years old and would be on his first turkey hunt.

The day of departure arrived, and we were on our way to Albany to hunt with our guides Steve and Sue Ford, the owners of Big Game Management. Bob and Bobby had hunted there at least two previous spring seasons, so they felt confident about starting Noah's turkey hunting career with a Rio Grande gobbler.

Bob and I hunted solo, while Bobby and Noah would form a father-son tag team inside their Doghouse Blind, where a little fidgeting wouldn't be detected so easily. Our outings were never dull as there's an abundance of wildlife and livestock in this part of Texas. I always had a list of new encounters to share with the group on our returns to the guesthouse.

On our final morning, I recall listening to many turkeys and imagined how memorable it would be for the three generations to take birds during the same outing. This would make for quite a photo session. I heard a shot from the direction of the blind. Some time passed, and another shot came from that location. I had a good feeling that there were two gobblers culled from the flock.

Sue arrived to pick me up at about 10:30. I didn't mind because it was already "Texas toasty." We hopped into the pickup and headed for the Doghouse. As we approached, the first things I noticed were the smiles wide enough to perform dental exams. My thoughts turned into reality. They had two nice gobblers tucked behind the blind.

Sue decided to leave us there while she retrieved Bob. I allowed Noah time to tell me a his turkey hunting story while we waited. After I completed the interview and my questions were answered by our young "graduate," Bobby had something to add. He said, while giggling proudly, that when Noah realized that he had a bird, he looked at his dad and said, "I don't know if I got cold or what, but I was shaking!"

We laughed, and I told Noah that since he just saw turkeys and fired a shot, he surely wasn't cold! If this is any indication of how the Mentored Youth Hunting Program can work, I can't wait for it to get started here in Pennsylvania.

The truck returned with Sue and Bob, and there was a gobbler in the bed. The Yoders had a triple that morning, and the cameras were working overtime. When we were finished with this, we drove into town, first to the taxidermy studio, then to the local diner for lunch. Noah was already figuring some plans for next



Bob Yoder, Sr., Bobby Yoder and Noah Yoder.
Gene Alwine in back.

year. Bobby reminded him that it would be his brother's turn. Noah's brother, Abraham, would be turning 8 next year, just in time for the Texas hunt. Apparently, the plan was set during a family meeting at which I was not in attendance. One could see by Noah's face that he remembered, yet he simply replied, "Yeah, he can come too."

Blair County Chapters to host JAKES event

The Tussey Mountain Strutters and the Allegheny Mountain Chapter of the NWTF will host a JAKES field day event full of outdoor activities on Saturday, July 29, 2006, at the Henrietta Sportsman Building in Henrietta, Pa.

The field day will provide youths the opportunity to experience the outdoors through hands-on events, education, fellowship and family fun. Participants will learn about hunting, camping, fishing and many other conservation-related topics.

The event is part of the NWTF's JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship) program. Developed in 1981, the JAKES program is dedicated to informing, educating, and involving youth in wildlife conservation and the wise stewardship of our natural resources.

Each JAKES event focuses on conservation and outdoor recreation, with expert instructors teaching important lessons in wildlife management tied into a strong family-values theme. With an emphasis on fun, the events keep kids interested while learning.

For more information, contact Tim Wentz at 814-766-3769.



Take a Chance and Help our JAKES

BY LARRY HOLJENCIN, SR. REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR

It's that time of year again when the PA NWTF and our local chapters team up for the annual JAKES Fund Gun Raffle. The raffle gives you a chance to win any of 40 great guns for only \$20. Revenue from the raffle supports programs at the state level and provides money to our local chapters so they can sign up JAKES members in their area. Each JAKES member will receive the award-winning JAKES magazine four times a year.

Here's how it works:

Each ticket has four, four-digit numbers, which means you have four chances to win each night during the raffle. The winning number is based on the Daily Big Four drawing at 7 p.m. from November 1 through December 10, 2006. Each ticket costs \$20 and is good for all 40 top-quality guns. That equates to only 50 cents per day – plus you get four chances each day.

No mailing will be done to members. Selling will be done by local chapters. If you would like tickets and have not been contacted by a local chapter, please call or write to State JAKES Chairman, Bill Mackereth, 2335 Shiloh Rd., Woodland, PA 16881; or phone 814-857-7762.

Local chapters will get credit for the tickets they sell, which allows them to sign up JAKES in their area free of charge. Chapters typically give the memberships to kids at JAKES events, Youth Field Days, Hunter Ed classes or to scout troops. The important thing is to reach kids who do not have a current connection to NWTF so they can get the magazine and learn what the great outdoors has to offer.

PA NWTF and all our local chapters would like to thank you for your past and continued support of the JAKES Fund Gun Raffle. Over 17,000 kids have been made JAKES members due to your support of this raffle!

2006 PA NWTF / JAKES Fund Raffle 40 Guns!!!! Only \$20 a Chance !!!!

November 1 – Browning A-Bolt Hunter .300 WSM
 November 2 – Remington 11-87 Sportsmen 12 Gauge 3 Inch
 November 3 – Tikka T3 Lite SS Synthetic 7mm-08
 November 4 – Winchester Model 70 Black Shadow .30-06
 November 5 – Remington 870 Super Mag Skyline Camo 12 Ga. 3 1/2 In.
 November 6 – Thompson Center Omega .50 Cal. Muzzleloader
 November 7 – Remington 700 SPS Synthetic .270 WSM
 November 8 – Benelli Nova Synthetic 12 Gauge 3 _ Inch
 November 9 – Weatherby Van. Blue Barrel Synthetic 7mm Rem Mag
 November 10 – Smith & Wesson 637 Chief's Special Airweight .38 Sp.
 November 11 – Browning A-Bolt Hunter .204 Ruger

November 12 – Remington 870 Super Mag Skyline Camo 12 Ga. 3 In
 November 13 – Winchester Model 70 Black Shadow .30-06
 November 14 – Tikka T3 Lite SS Synthetic .243 Win.
 November 15 – Browning BPS Stalker Syn. 12 gauge 3 Inch or 3 1/2 Inch
 November 16 – Weatherby Van. Blue Barrel Synthetic .300 WSM
 November 17 – Remington 11-87 Sportsmen 12 gauge 3 Inch
 November 18 – Franchi 612 12 gauge 3 Inch Walnut
 November 19 – Benelli Nova Synthetic 12 Gauge 3 _ Inch
 November 20 – Remington 700 SPS Synthetic 7mm-08
 November 21 – Rem. 870 Super Mag Skyline Camo 12 Ga. 3 1/2 In
 November 22 – Tikka T3 Lite SS Synthetic .300 WSM
 November 23 – Smith & Wesson 637 Chief's Special Airweight .38 Sp.
 November 24 – Weatherby Van. Blue Barrel Synthetic 7mm Rem Mag
 November 25 – Remington 11-87 Sportsmen 12 Gauge 3 Inch
 November 26 – Browning A-Bolt Hunter .204 Ruger
 November 27 – Remington 700 SPS Synthetic .308 Win
 November 28 – Browning A-Bolt Hunter .270 Win
 November 29 – Benelli Nova Synthetic 12 Gauge 3 _ Inch
 November 30 – Thompson Center Encore .50 Cal. Muzzleloader
 December 1 – Winchester Model 70 Black Shadow .30-06
 December 2 – Browning BPS Stalker Syn. 12 gauge 3 Inch or 3 1/2 In.
 December 3 – Weatherby Van. Blue Barrel Synthetic .300 WSM
 December 4 – Thompson Center Omega .50 Cal. Muzzleloader
 December 5 – Remington 700 SPS Synthetic .22-.250
 December 6 – Rem. 870 Super Mag Skyline Camo 12 Ga. 3 1/2 Inch
 December 7 – Tikka T3 Lite SS Synthetic .270 WSM
 December 8 – Remington 11-87 Sportsmen 12 gauge 3 Inch
 December 9 – Franchi 612 12 gauge 3 Inch Synthetic
 December 10 – Remington 700 CDL (Classic Deluxe) .30-06

*Make checks payable to PA Chapter, NWTF
 Guns subject to availability.*

Winning numbers based on Pennsylvania Lottery Big 4 Number (7:00 p.m. drawing) – four numbers per ticket.

Winners will be notified by mail or phone.

Guns are available at Bob's Army & Navy, 229 Market St., Clearfield, PA 16830, 814-765-4652.

Winners must pass background check to receive gun. Winners failing the background check will be given credit at Bob's A&N equal to the cost of the gun. Cost of background check to be paid by gun winner.

Ticket stub and payment must be received by Bill Mackereth by 10-31-06. Tickets received after 10-31-06 or not returned by 10-31-06 will not be eligible to win.



2006 Pennsylvania Events

Do 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!

July 15, 2006

Moraine Chapter
 Tammy Mowry 724-284-9201, tam-mynwtf@zoominternet.net
 Butler City Hunting & Fishing Club, East Butler (Butler County)

July 15, 2006

Sherman's Valley Strutters Chapter
 Brenda Beal 717-582-3281, bealtree@pa.net
 Duncannon Sportsmen's Association, Duncannon (Perry County)

July 23, 2006

Yellow Creek Chapter and Chesequehanna Spurs Chapter
 Dawn Lowmaster 724-349-9472, bombshell11@hotmail.com
 Shelocta Sportsman Club, Shelocta (Indiana County)

July 29, 2006

PA State Chapter and Cabela's

Tammy Mowry 724-284-9201, tam-mynwtf@zoominternet.net
 Phil O'Boyle 610-929-7000, Poboyle@cabelas.com
 Cabela's, Hamburg (Berks County)

July 29, 2006

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

August 5, 2006

Northwest Thunderin Toms Chapter
 Jill Dunlap 717-398-4714, dunlap@surferie.net
 Black Ash Sportsmen Club, Guys Mills (Crawford County)

August 4 and 5, 2006

Muncy Creek Chapter
 Clare McWilliams 570-323-7947, macclare@uplink.net
 Nancy Craft 570-482-4364, rockrun@chilitech.net
 Lois Richmond 570-924-3428
 North Mountain Sportsman Club (Sullivan County)

August 12, 2006

Mt. Pisgah State Park
 Nicole Carman 570-297-2734, nicolecarman@yahoo.com
 Mt. Pisgah State Park, Troy (Bradford County)

August 12, 2006

Lower Bucks Longbeards Chapter
 Dawn Secrest 267-253-9002,

girlshunt2@comcast.net
 Langhorne Rod & Gun Club, Southhampton (Bucks County)

August 26, 2006

Keystone Sportsmen's Club Women in the Outdoors
 Tammy Parks 724-354-3595, tspjat@icubed.com
 Keystone Sportsmen's Club, Creekside (Armstrong County)

September 15 & 16, 2006

Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards Chapter
 Rhonda Henry 717-443-6241, rhondapa@hotmail.com
 Frank T. Soles YMCA Camp, Rockwood (Somerset County)

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, National Coordinator at 724-284-9201 or by email at tammywtf@zoominternet.net. Visit the NWTF Web site at www.nwtf.org, www.womenintheoutdoors.org or the Pennsylvania Web site at www.pawito.com.



PA State Chapter Women in the Outdoors Event

SUBMITTED BY TAMMY MOWRY, NATIONAL COORDINATOR

This year's PA NWTF WITO state event was held March 24–26 at the Frank T. Soles YMCA Camp in Rockwood, Somerset County. The event was once again a big hit with all those attending.

The theme of the event was a “Who-Done-It” Mystery Weekend Getaway. Friday evening, the ladies had the opportunity to participate in a “who-done-it” mystery party. A summary of the mystery goes like this. The weather service predicted a record snowfall and, for once they were right. Thirty-six inches of snow has fallen in the last 24 hours, and it is still snowing. To make matters worse two separate avalanches have wiped out the eastern and western arms bridges. The only sign of civilization between the two bridges is the historic Dunmore Lodge, once a grand old lodge catering to the elite of society; it is now little more than a glorified bed and breakfast. But now, this Lodge has suddenly become the difference between life and death for anyone trapped between the two bridges. One by one, the newly stranded begin arriving at the Dunmore and snatching up the wealth of available rooms. The most famous of the stranded guests is Senator Alexander Khun, who was on his way to Washington, DC, to announce his intention to run for President. But the following morning, Senator Khun is found with a knife in his chest, very much dead. Two realizations come very quickly to the minds of the remaining guests: the murderer must be someone at the hotel, and thanks to the ongoing storm and impassible bridges, they are all trapped there with him...or is it her?

The ladies had a great time trying to find out who did it. Thanks to all the ladies that participated in the mystery.

On Saturday and Sunday, the ladies had the opportunity to participate in classes such as archery, fishing, making stepping stones, camping, making sticks to staffs, self protection, Dutch oven cooking, basic car care, attracting wildlife to your backyard, pistols and .22 rifles, first aid, talkin’ turkey, cowboy action shooting, outdoor photography, stampin’ and scrappin’, shotgunning, yoga, trailer handling, pioneer outdoor skills, preparing venison and wild game, American Indian archery, hunting with dogs, and more.

I would like to thank everyone who helped make this event such a success. To the instructors, thank you so much; without you we wouldn't have had the great classes.

To our donors: American Dreams Sporting, Camp Chef, Decot Hy-Wyd, Dick's Sporting Goods, Dunkin' Donuts, Federal Cartridge, Gander Mountain, Glock, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Lodge, Inco Beverages/Coors, Jacob Ash Holdings, Inc., LVE Hunting Decals, Pa. Fish and Boat Commission, Pa. Game

Commission, PA State Chapter NWTF, Pepsi Cola, S&T Totes, Snyder's of Berlin, Sporting Clays Magazine, Sportsman's Warehouse, Turkey Duster Turkey Calls, and Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards Chapter, thank you so much for your generosity.

To all the wonderful ladies who attended the event. I look forward to seeing you at other events throughout the year and again at the 2007 State event.

If you've haven't attended an event yet, please mark down March 23–25, 2007, for next year's state event weekend. Also, look for events in your local area. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 724-284-9201 or tammynwtf@zoominternet.net.



Lori Smith and husband Ray Smith, PA NWTF Eastern Regional Director, with Lori's first Pennsylvania longbeard. The bird weighed 20 pounds and had 1-inch spurs and a 10-inch beard.

PGC personnel Seth and Dunkerley recognized by NWTf for outstanding work



Armstrong County WCO Barry J. Seth recently was presented with the National Wild Turkey Federation Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year Award. Presenting the award are, from left to right: Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe; Dave Burdge, NWTf Pennsylvania State Chapter President; WCO Seth; and Board of Game Commissioners President Thomas E. Boop.

Barry J. Seth, Pennsylvania Game Commission Wildlife Conservation Officer in Armstrong County, recently was presented with the National Wild Turkey Federation Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year Award.

Seth is the WCO for the western portion of Armstrong County, where he enforces the game and wildlife laws; completes wildlife studies and reports; visits local school districts, civic organizations and sportsmen's clubs to conduct educational programs about the state's wildlife and the role of hunting and trapping in wildlife management; and assists with wildlife nuisance complaints.

"During his tenure, WCO Seth has done a commendable job as a representative of the Game Commission," said Matt Hough, Game Commission Southwest Region Director. "Regardless of the task at hand, WCO Seth always maintains a positive attitude toward the public and the agency. He treats everyone fairly, which has earned him a great deal of respect from those in his district.

In addition to the work he does with Hunter-Trapper Education programs in the district, Seth also is involved in many education programs designed for youth. He has been instrumental in the development of three Youth Field Days in Armstrong County, which provide youth in the area a day of hands-on outdoors programs, such as firearm safety, archery shooting, learning to fish and other outdoor-related activities. Last year, more than 170 individuals participated in these programs.

Seth works closely with the sportsmen of Armstrong County. He teamed with the Armstrong County League of Sportsmen to create a fund to provide scholarships to local students pursuing careers in a conservation-related field.

Seth began his affiliation with the Game Commission as a Deputy Game Protector in Butler County in 1973. In 1975, he was selected as a member of the Game Commission's 16th Class of the Ross Leffler School of Conservation. After graduating from RLSC, Seth was assigned a district in Greene County in 1976. He accepted a transfer to be the WCO for western Armstrong County in 1978.

A native of Butler, Seth currently resides in Worthington. He graduated from Butler High School and served in the United States Navy. Seth and his wife, Linda, have four children and five grandchildren.



LMGS Douglas Dunkerley recently was presented with the National Wild Turkey Federation's Outstanding Land Manager of the Year Award. Presenting the award are, from left to right: Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe; Dave Burdge, NWTf Pennsylvania State Chapter President; LMGS Dunkerley; and Board of Game Commissioners President Thomas E. Boop.

Douglas Dunkerley, a Pennsylvania Game Commission Southwest Region Land Management Group Supervisor (LMGS), recently was presented with the National Wild Turkey Federation's Outstanding Land Manager of the Year Award.

"LMGS Dunkerley does a very professional job in all phases of his duties," said Matt Hough, Game Commission Southwest Region Director. "He works effectively with other agencies, corporations and organizations, and readily provides the public with help and information. He is an excellent steward of the land and is respected by his fellow officers, co-workers and work crews, cooperators, sportsmen, and the public, and can be counted upon to complete any and all assigned duties."

Dunkerley most recently coordinated the first NWTf Energy for Wildlife program in the region, partnering NWTf, NiSource Inc. and the Game Commission in an \$80,000, 18-month project enhancing habitat on 93 acres of existing gas line right-of-ways on state game lands. He currently is working on a similar arrangement with the NWTf and CONSOL Energy to reclaim mined property.

As a LMGS, Dunkerley plans, oversees and assists in habitat improvement projects on State Game Lands and privately-owned lands enrolled in the agency's public access programs in Beaver, Allegheny, Washington, and Greene counties.

Dunkerley also recently arranged for a donation of two very important pieces of equipment for his land management group. This equipment will enable habitat to be created and maintained for many years to come.

In 1993, Dunkerley was selected to attend the 22nd Class of the Ross Leffler School of Conservation. Upon graduation in 1994, he was assigned to the northern district of Washington County, where he had an active law enforcement program as well as a highly effective information and education program. In 2001, Dunkerley took on his current assignment as a LMGS.

Prior to entering the PGC training school, Dunkerley obtained a BS degree in Biology from University of Pittsburgh and upon completion of Aviation Officer Candidate School, served as a Naval Aviator for 12 years on active duty and retired from the Naval Reserves as a Commander with 23 years total service in 2005.

2006 Hunting Heritage Banquets

July through October

Date	Chapter	City	Contact
July 13	Reading Ridge Runners	Reading	Smith
July 29	Susquehanna Longbeards	Williamsport	Holjencin
August 11	Bald Eagle Longbeards	Flemington	Holjencin
August 11	Lenni Lenape	Matamoras	Smith
August 12	Lykens Valley	Lykens	Smith
August 19	Ben Stimaker Memorial	Coudersport	Holjencin
August 19	Walking Purchase	Cherryville	Smith
August 25	Allegheny Mountain	Altoona	Holjencin
August 26	Whitehorse Mountain Wheelin' Benefit	Berlin	Mowry
August 26	SUN Area	Selinsgrove	Holjencin
August 26	Brush Valley	Shamokin	Smith
August 26	Central PA Limbhangers	Houtzdale	Holjencin
September 7	Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Wheelin Benefit	Emmaus	Smith
September 9	Adams Co. Longbeards	Fairfield	Mowry
September 9	Kinzua Allegheny Longbeards	Warren	Holjencin
September 15	Michaux Yellow Breeches	Carlisle	Mowry
September 16	Tuscarora Longbeards	Chambersburg	Mowry
September 19	Kit-Han-Ne	Kittanning	Mowry
September 27	Philadelphia County fighting Spurs	Philadelphia	Smith
September 28	Lakeland Longbeards	Greenville	Holjencin
October 11	Allegheny Plateau	Johnstown	Mowry

Contact information:

Larry Holjencin - 814-834-6492 or timberline@alltel.net
Carl Mowry - 724-283-5708 or cmpanwtf@zoominternet.net
Ray Smith - 570-398-0721 or rsmithnwtf@suscom.net

PA NWTf welcomes new chapters

Penn's Woods Spurs Chapter receives Wal-Mart grant



SUBMITTED BY CARL MOWRY, REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The Penn's Woods Spurs Chapter received a grant from the Delmont Wal-Mart. They presented the check to Ray Zucco Vice President of the chapter at their 1st Hunting Heritage Banquet on May 20 2006. The chapter will be using the grant to help with the JAKES program, Scholarships and school boxes. Thanks to Wal-Mart the chapter will be able to reach out to many youth in the area .

Our family is growing!

SUBMITTED BY RAY SMITH, REGIONAL DIRECTOR
 I am proud to announce that we have another new chapter: On Thursday, July 13 the Reading Ridge Runners will host their very first banquet in Reading. The new chapter welcomes everyone to come and help celebrate their first Hunting Heritage Banquet. The event will be held at the Reading Liederkrantz. For more information, please contact Jason Coyle, Banquet Chair, at 610-777-5251, or Chapter President, Mike Wahl, at 610-334-0546.

Central PA Limbhangers answer the call

SUBMITTED BY LARRY HOLJENCIN, SR. REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR
 The Central PA Limbhangers have answered the call to become the state's newest chapter. They are located in western Centre County and extreme eastern Clearfield County from Morann to Winburne. The group has held several meetings in June to form the chapter and to decide what projects they would like to do. Their first project will be a Hunting Heritage Banquet on Saturday, August 26, 2006, at the Houtzdale Fire Hall. They have also decided to do a habitat project on local state game lands next spring and a JAKES event in June.
 Chapter officers are: Ken Fernberg, President, 814-342-3934; Rich Myers, Vice President, 814-339-6557; Joan Myers, Treasurer, 814-339-6557; Marty Moyer, Secretary, 814-342-0413; Len Martin, Jr., Banquet Chairman, 814-342-0177.
 To become involved with the chapter or to purchase banquet tickets, please call one of the officers above.

PA NWTF CAMO HAT

See the complete list
of PA NWTF logo
items and ordering
information
on page 7



Show your support for our Pennsylvania Chapter
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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.

Sign me up as: *(check one)*

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 Sponsor Member - \$225 JAKES Member \$5
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