

PENNSYLVANIA
TURKEY TALK

Fall 2008

Publication of the PA State Chapter of the NWTf



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PENNSYLVANIA TURKEY TALK FALL 2008

Publication of the PA State Chapter of the NWTF

Volume 34 Number 1



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PENNSYLVANIA TURKEY TALK

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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 November 30

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

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Cover Photo by
BOB ERIKSEN

From the President

Jon Pries

Cool crisp morning air and blue skies dominate the weather trends as fall and the approaching turkey season fill our thoughts. With a season's worth of firewood cut, split, and stacked and the lawn mowed for the last time of the year (perhaps), we now wait for opening day. This is a great time to do a quick gear check and replace or repair anything that is missing or broken – before we head to the woods in search of a fall turkey. This is a wonderful time of the year to be in the woods, and you might seriously consider sharing the experience, whether with a youth that you would like to mentor (no, fall turkey are not currently a species that are legal under the mentoring program, but hopefully may be added soon) or with an adult who has not yet killed his or her first turkey. It is a rewarding feeling to help either of these types of hunters and to see the joy on their faces when you have helped them achieve success in the turkey woods. Remember to constantly keep in mind “Positively identify your target – and beyond!”

On the state chapter front, I am pleased to confirm that George Thornton, NWTF CEO, will definitely attend our upcoming Rendezvous in State College on Saturday, January 10, 2009. Registration and reservation information for this event I provided on page 8 of this issue, so do not hesitate as this event will fill up early and we will run out of space. All of the Past Presidents our state chapter have expressed a desire to attend this very special evening, and this should prove to be a nice chance for all of us to visit with some old friends. Additionally, some very interesting seminars that you won't want to miss will be presented throughout the day on Saturday, and all day long there will be time to swap hunting stories and meet fellow turkey hunters. Rumor has it that even Dale Rohm will be there!

A good deal of habitat work has been completed across the state, Hunting Heritage Banquets are still underway, and there is a renewed interest in dedicating time and energy in growing our membership numbers in all categories. After all, the number of people who make up our ranks is directly proportional to

the work that we can do in all facets of the things that we want to accomplish, such as habitat work, safety and education, outreach programs, communication and promotion, and so on. Build our numbers and we strengthen our base. Strengthen our base and we can accomplish so much more. Your state board is working diligently to create ways to grow our numbers, but we need your help. Any suggestions from you would be greatly appreciated – after all, you are the grassroots members and your ideas are frequently just what we need to put together a plan such as membership growth. Please communicate your thoughts either to your Regional Directors or directly to me, preferably via e-mail.

Finally, on a personal note, I need to apologize to a good friend, Ralph Permar. Ralph is one of the country's top call makers who just happens to live here in Pennsylvania. In a previous article, I overlooked Ralph as an award winner at the NWTF National Convention this past spring in Atlanta. He won the 2008 Tom Turpin Award and Best of Class III, Air Operated Call with his entries. Congratulations Ralph!

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cmpanwtf@zoominternet.net –
and not to the editorial office in Altoona.

August 4, 2008

NWTF Pennsylvania Board of Directors Statement of Support

The Pennsylvania State Chapter NWTF has, since its inception in the early 1970s, been a strong and forward-thinking proponent of our national NWTF. Working with Pennsylvania grassroots natives Rob Keck and Carl Brown, our focus was always on what we could do to be a better state chapter and how we could help our national organization grow and prosper.

Today, we find ourselves under the guidance of new leadership, and we welcome the challenges that we face together as we move on to a refocused effort to grow and expand our sphere of influence within the conservation world. The rewards can be great, and we eagerly accept our role in aiding our new CEO, George Thornton, our competent and loyal NWTF National Board members, and our proven NWTF staff as we all move toward growth and prosperity in this new era.

Our Pennsylvania State Chapter Board, as well as our members throughout the Commonwealth that we represent, stand at the ready to "raise the bar" as we move forward. Let us all work hand-in-hand as we "kick it up a notch" and point out to all who look up to us that we are still the foremost conservation organization on the planet – period!

Respectfully submitted,

Jon D. Pries
President
PA State Chapter, NWTF

WANTED

Turkey Hunting Cooperators

SUBMITTED BY JIM PANARO

The Wild Turkey Management Committee of PA NWTF is looking for your help! The committee is interested in setting up a Pennsylvania Turkey Hunter Cooperator program to gather in-the-field information from throughout the state from die-hard turkey hunters who are interested in participating in an ongoing data collection network. This program will be modeled after very successful programs that have been in place for many years for wild turkeys in West Virginia and Virginia, as well as for ruffed grouse here in Pennsylvania.

Initially, we are planning to choose 20 NWTF members from each of the six regions of the state – northwest, southwest, northcentral, southcentral, northeast, and southeast – similar to the current gobbler banding study. We will only take hunters with e-mail capability because our intention is to do all this via e-mail to save time and expense for the WTM committee for sending and receiving information. We are also

only looking for members who are willing to participate in this for the long haul because we are looking for consistent and meaningful information. West Virginia DNR, for example, just finished their twenty-sixth year of such a program, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission has been doing the same kind of program for grouse for over 40 years. Both state agencies have gained a wealth of knowledge on both species over that time.

We are starting from scratch, and the program will surely change and improve over time, but here are some of our initial plans. Our starting focus will be on the 2009 spring season and will cover scouting time through the end of June. This will be a two-part survey with information received through a daily log that hunters will keep as well as a questionnaire that cooperators will fill out after the season has ended and poults are hatching. All information will be e-mailed to volunteer participants in late February asking for their input from personal observations during their time afield. Questions will focus on field observations about such

things as gobbling activity, brood sightings, hunting pressure, hatch timing, predation, and so on. We have not finalized the Pennsylvania program yet, but you can see an example of Virginia's questionnaire and daily log at www.dgif.state.va.us/hunting/va_game_wildlife/SGS_2004_form.pdf.

The information collected will be tabulated and tracked over a period of years to look at positive or negative trends and to use as additional management input to go along with information that we are currently receiving from the PGC. The hope is the information collected will complement the PGC data but even conflicting data could be helpful if it identifies something that may be occurring in a particular region versus another.

If you have a serious interest in being involved in this exciting new program, or if you would just like get more information, please send an e-mail to Jim Panaro at jpanaro@panwtf.org. I will take the first 20 members that respond from each of the six region based on their home addresses.

Banded Gobblers

Year Three

BY BOB ERIKSEN,
NWTF REGIONAL BIOLOGIST

For the third winter in a row, Pennsylvania Game Commission trapping teams assisted by volunteers from NWTF have braved the elements to capture and band gobblers for the largest study of gobbler harvest rates ever undertaken. In like manner, biologists and technicians in New York and Ohio have spent many cold days in blinds waiting (sometimes in vain) for gobblers to come to bait. One more winter of trapping efforts awaits the teams that have contributed so much time to this project. The study, funded by the three state agencies and the National Wild Turkey Federation, is designed to last four years, though band returns are likely to come in for a few years after the study is completed in the late spring of 2009.

The winter of 2007-2008 was another successful trapping season for all three states. In Pennsylvania, the northern part of the state had good snow cover. The southern half of the state had hardly any snow through much of the winter. Trapping conditions were less than ideal, but the crews persevered and ultimately most reached their goals. As has been the case for each year of the tri-state gobbler banding initiative, each state had a goal of capturing and banding 300 gobblers. In the Keystone State, the duty was evenly divided among the six regions with each responsible for 50 captures. Trapping was initiated in mid-January in Pennsylvania, in mid-December in New York, and in early January in Ohio.

Once again, Pennsylvania trapping crews exceeded their 2008 goal of 300 banded gobblers, finishing the trapping season with 332 captures. Crews from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation captured and banded 350 gobblers, and the Ohio Division of Wildlife crews caught 250 gobblers. The Northwest Region led the state in Pennsylvania with 79 banded gobblers, followed by the Southcentral Region with 55, the Northcentral and Southeast Regions with 55 each, the Southwest Region with 51, and the Northeast Region with 39. In three years of difficult field work, Pennsylvania Game Commission trapping crews have banded 897 gobblers. Crews in

New York and Ohio have captured and banded 1,013 and 661 respectively. The Tri-State Gobbler Banding Study has resulted in an incredible 2,571 banded gobblers, by far the largest sample of marked wild turkey gobblers ever recorded for one study.

During the 2008 trapping season, 149 adult gobblers (44.9%) and 183 jakes (55.1%) were banded in Pennsylvania. Seventy-seven percent of the captures took place on private land and 23 percent occurred on public lands. It should be noted that many private land captures occur in agricultural valleys adjacent to large public land areas. Wintering turkey flocks move back up onto the ridges as spring approaches, making many of the gobblers accessible to public land hunters. The ratio of adult to juvenile gobblers captured in the three years of trapping changes slightly from year to year based on the success of the hatch the previous spring. Jakes were abundant in 2008.

This study is designed primarily to estimate the rate at which gobblers of various ages enter the spring harvest. While that is the major goal of the work, the study will also provide biologists with the ability to estimate annual survival for adult and juvenile gobblers, hunter reporting rates, nonhunting mortality rates, and the reliability of different types of bands used on wild turkeys. The study design uses reward and nonreward bands to derive estimates on the parameters mentioned above. So far, after three years, harvest rates for adult gobblers in the study have averaged about 37 percent in all three states. The harvest rate for jakes appears to be lower, averaging about 17 percent or half the harvest rate of adult toms. These averages are well within the range of harvest rates reported for previous studies in other states. Annual survival estimates for adult gobblers in these three states appear to be similar to those observed in other studies too.

In order to test the reliability of leg-band designs, each gobbler is fitted with two bands. On one leg, turkey trappers place a rivet band. A standard butt-end band is placed on the other leg. Biologists have reported that some band loss occurs in all varieties of birds, but wild turkeys seem to be particularly prone to losing bands. This may be because their long legs provide leverage to open the band and allow it to be lost, or it may be that their strength plays a



key role in band loss. Biologists have never before fully analyzed the loss of bands by wild turkeys, and this study will provide the opportunity to do that. Loss of the butt-end bands has been substantial. Juvenile gobblers seem to be less prone to losing bands, but both jakes and adults have lost the standard-style bands.

Researchers at Penn State handled more than 400 calls from successful turkey hunters reporting the taking of a banded gobbler in 2008. After another year of data gathering, we will be in a much better position to draw conclusions about how spring hunting may affect turkey populations. The support of the NWTF chapters in Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio has been essential to the success of this work. Here in Pennsylvania, our state chapter has assisted in the work by providing funds for the purchase of bait, trapping materials, and equipment. In addition, a number of Game Commission trapping crews have enlisted the aid of PA NWTF volunteers to help with baiting and trapping operations. Our compliments go to all of those involved in this important study. The Pennsylvania Game Commission has devoted literally hundreds of personnel hours and vehicle miles to this work. We salute their dedication to the study and to wild turkey research and management in the Keystone State!

PA NWTF Accomplishments

COMPILED BY DON HECKMAN

–VICE PRESIDENT AND
JIM PANARO–TREASURER

PA NWTF spent \$292,000 on Hunting Heritage Super Fund projects and events in calendar year 2008. A total of \$4.6 million has been raised and spent on Super Fund projects and events in Pennsylvania since 1985. With volunteer support and help from our 88 local chapters, PA NWTF has achieved the following major accomplishments during the past year.

Wild Turkey Management

- Met with Pennsylvania Game Commission executive staff to review and update the agency's "Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania – 2006-2015."
- Provided ongoing financial support and manpower to state and federal wildlife agencies for wild turkey habitat improvement projects across Pennsylvania – 64 projects funded for \$107,000; over 27 years, \$2.3 million has been spent on habitat improvement affecting more than 273,000 acres.
- Continued financial support to the Pennsylvania Game Commission with an expenditure of \$10,000 during the third year of the four-year gobbler leg-banding research project for a total of \$34,800 spent on the project to date.
- Provided local chapter volunteers to assist Game Commission staff with trapping, banding turkeys for the gobbler research project.
- Continued support for TMA 7B (WMU 5A) Wild Turkey Task Force Recommendations for summer sightings and wild turkey habitat improvements on Michaux State Forest.

- Supported NWTF and Northeast Agency Wild Turkey Biologists with a \$15,000 investment in the Wild Turkey Population Model data project.

Hunting Safety and Education

- Promoted turkey-hunting safety by distributing 2000 Identify Your Target posters through our Pennsylvania Game Commission and PA NWTF information/education program.
- Produced the Pennsylvania Edition of the NWTF Turkey Hunting Success and Safety Brochure (also available on the PA NWTF Web site, www.panwtf.org) and distributed it to local chapters to be used to inform and educate turkey hunters.
- Produced turkey-hunting safety articles and news releases that were published for spring and fall turkey hunting seasons in various publications, including Pennsylvania Turkey Talk, Pennsylvania Outdoor Times, 2008-2009 Hunting and Trapping Digest, and On Target (Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen Clubs).
- Worked with game commissioners and Game Commission executive staff to remove the regulation requiring the wearing of orange while hunting in the spring gobbler season.
- Maintained two DART interactive shooting systems for teaching and instructing youth about turkey-hunting safety and safe shooting practices.

Turkey Hunting

- Worked with NWTF, Pennsylvania Game Commission, and other statewide conservation and sportsmen's organizations to pass legislation to create the first Mentored Youth Hunting Program in the nation.

- Worked to add spring gobbler hunting to Mentored Youth Hunting opportunities; continued efforts to have fall turkey hunting added for Mentored Youth Hunting opportunities.
- Worked with game commissioners and Game Commission executive staff to recommend and regulate a youth spring gobbler season; to add a regulation for using dogs for turkey hunting during fall hunting season; to add more days to the spring gobbler season; and to support fall season lengths as outlined in wild turkey management plan.
- Continued to work for extending spring gobbler season to May 31; for allowing all-day hunting during the spring gobbler season; for expanding youth spring gobbler hunting to more than one day; and for supporting legislation, along with other statewide conservation and sportsmen's organizations, to lawfully regulate Sunday hunting.

NWTF Pennsylvania Wild Turkey Management Strategic Plan

- Completed NWTF strategic plan for Pennsylvania.
- NWTF Outreach Programs and Financial Support
- Held 88 Hunting Heritage Super Fund Banquets throughout Pennsylvania with local chapters.
- Held 34 JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics, and Sportsmanship) events throughout Pennsylvania with local chapters.
- Held 24 Women in the Outdoors events throughout Pennsylvania with local chapters

for 2007-2008

- Held 5 Wheelin' Sportsmen's events throughout Pennsylvania with local chapters.
- Held one Land Owner Field Day in Pennsylvania with local chapters.
- Sponsored 27 scholarships to high school seniors throughout Pennsylvania with local chapter support.
- Provided 88 NWTF Education boxes to schools throughout Pennsylvania with local chapters.

Financial Support:

- Contributed \$10,000 to support the purchase of 2,500 acres of Glatfelter Tree Farm Number One land as property for Michaux State Forest.
- Provided ongoing funding and distribution for NWTF Conservation Seed and Seed Subsidy programs.
- Provided ongoing funding and support for Pennsylvania's YHEC youth shooting program.
- Provided an ongoing \$1000 contribution to Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation of the U.S. Congress.
- Provided an ongoing \$1000 contribution to U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance.
- Provided an ongoing \$1000 contribution to 4-H Shooting Sports program.
- Provided an ongoing \$2500 contribution to Ned Smith Center for Art and Nature.

Communications, Public Relations, and Participation

- Updated our PA NWTF Strategic Plan for 2008.
- Published quarterly newsletter, Pennsylvania Turkey Talk, for PA NWTF members.
- Maintained Internet Web site, www.panwtf.org, for telling the story of PA NWTF.
- Linked PA NWTF Web site to NWTF Web site, www.nwtf.org, for telling the story of the National Wild Turkey Federation.
- Distributed PA NWTF news releases published to Pennsylvania outdoor writers.
- Represented NWTF at attend sports shows by state and local chapter volunteers.
- Participated on the Governor's Sportsmen's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation.
- Participated on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, including attending the Federation's semi-annual conventions.
- Participated on the Pennsylvania Coalition of Sportsmen with other statewide conservation and sportsmen's organizations on legislative, wildlife, and land management projects and issues.
- Participated on Habitat Alliance with other conservation and sportsmen's organizations by reviewing habitat management, wildlife management, and environmental projects and issues.
- PA NWTF Board of Directors meets five times a year to review and promote NWTF

and PA NWTF agenda.

- PA NWTF holds annual Local Chapter Presidents meeting in August.
- PA NWTF holds annual Rendezvous weekend in January.
- PA NWTF attends annual NWTF Convention in February.

State General Assembly:

- Active in supporting state legislation protecting our conservation, wildlife management, hunting, trapping, and pro gun rights, meeting with state legislator's, providing written and spoken communications to legislator's, legislative committee's, and state agencies. Continued active participation for providing information education to these leaders.
- Active in not supporting state legislation that would take away or negatively impact our conservation, hunting and trapping, and firearms ownership privileges and lawful rights through written and spoken with legislator's, legislative committee's, and state agencies. Continue being an active participant and providing information education to these legislative and state agency leaders.

National Awards

- L.A. Dixon Award for Hunting Heritage Super Fund Banquets for the highest total net dollars raised in a state – \$489,706.
- Dr. Roger M. Latham Sportsmen's Service Award presented to PA NWTF member Dave Burdge at NWTF Convention in 2007. Dave is one of 17 PA NWTF volunteer members to receive this prestigious NWTF award since it was started in 1983.



**34th Anniversary
 Pennsylvania Chapter
 National Wild Turkey Federation
 Annual Rendezvous and Awards Banquet**

**Saturday, January 10, 2009
 Ramada Inn - State College -- 814-238-3001
 (rooms \$68/night; please call for reservations
 and mention NWTF for special rate)**

**Seminars Beginning 12:00
 (see schedule on adjacent page)**

**JAKES Hunt of A
 Lifetime on Live
 Auction**

**Prime Rib &
 Stuffed
 Chicken
 Dinner**

**Guest Speaker
 George Thornton
 NWTF Chief Executive Officer**

**Drawings for Sponsor
 and JAKES Hunt of a
 Lifetime**

Awards Banquet with the Premiere
 Introduction of the 2009 Banquet Package
 Along with Chapter and Individual Awards
 5:30 p.m.

**Silent Auction,
 Live Auction,
 Guns, Prints,
 Raffles**

****Early Bird Core Package Raffle**
 \$300 worth of tickets for \$100 Deadline December 15**

Custom One-of-A-Kind Turkey Calls From Scott Basehore, Dale Rohm,
 Mike Lapp, Dennis Strawbridge, Roger Parks, and others
 plus other One of a Kind Items on the Live Auction

**Make Checks Payable to: PA CHAPTER NWTF
 Mail to: Jim Panaro, 224 Buck Road, Ebensburg, PA 15931**

<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Banquet Meal Ticket	\$ 30.00	TOTAL	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Banquet Meal Ticket (10 & under)	\$ 15.00		\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Bird Raffle Package	\$100.00		\$ _____
		GRAND TOTALS	\$ _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Email: _____

(Names of all people attending): _____

***** Tickets Will Be Held At The Door *****

RENDEZVOUS SEMINARS—January 10, 2009

12:00 p.m. — PA Wild Turkeys

by NWTf Regional Biologist, Bob Eriksen

When do wild turkeys begin to fly? What is the earliest age at which gobblers begin to strut? NWTf Regional Biologist Bob Eriksen will speak about the natural history, ecology and behavior of our favorite subject, the wild turkey. After working with and studying wild turkeys for thirty years, Bob says he still learns new things about the birds all the time. Even if you have hunted wild turkeys for most of your life, you will benefit from following the wild turkey through a typical year. Bob will discuss current research on these amazing birds and cover their status in the Commonwealth.



1:30 p.m. — Pennsylvania Fishers

by Mat Lavallo, Pennsylvania Game Commission



Matt Lavallo will present a seminar on the reintroduction of fishers into Pennsylvania and their future management. Dr. Lavallo is the Furbearer Research Biologist for the Pennsylvania Game Commission. He has worked extensively with bobcats, fisher, coyotes, other furbearing animals as well as trapping issues. Matt will provide an interesting look into the everyday lives of these relatives of weasels, martins, mink and otters. You will find the fisher to be a fascinating subject.

3:30 p.m. — How to Video Your Hunts

by Mike Evangelista, Mountain View Productions

Mike has had years of experience filming various hunts. He will explain how to set up and how to best capture your hunt on video so you have memories that will last forever.



The Pennsylvania Chapter Does It All!

BY BOB ERIKSEN,
NWTF REGIONAL BIOLOGIST

Every state chapter has a mission. Each one has a special area on which they focus their efforts. For some state chapters, the objective is land acquisition to provide more public hunting opportunity. For others, the objective in the past few years was wild turkey restoration or wild turkey research. The major goal of the Pennsylvania State Chapter has always been wildlife habitat improvement projects on public lands. That mission has not changed, but the Pennsylvania Chapter and our 88 local chapters do so much more!

In 2008, we surpassed the \$4.5-million mark for Hunting Heritage Super Fund expenditures in the Pennsylvania. As of June of this year, your chapter has used more than \$4,617,789 on a host of great projects that benefit not only the wild turkey, but also your communities and other hunters. No other state can match the work this chapter has accomplished in the realm of wildlife habitat enhancement. Since 1985 when the Hunting Heritage Super Fund was initiated, the PA NWTF has used \$2,391,434 for habitat improvement work affecting more than 273,068 acres. In addition, PA NWTF has partnered with other organizations such as local conservancies, the Game Commission, and DCNR, putting \$316,150 into cooperative purchases of more land for public hunting. We have had a part in the purchase of 27,594 acres of land in Pennsylvania. These acres were added to state game lands and state forests around the state. Through our productive partnerships and your generosity with your time, energy, and dollars, we have greatly improved hunting access and wildlife populations.

If those accomplishments were not enough, your chapter outreach programs have helped to introduce women, young people, and disabled individuals to outdoor activities including hunting, shooting, archery, and fishing. Our local chapters have sponsored 358 JAKES events, 238 Women in the Outdoors workshops, and nearly 20 Wheelin' Sportsmen events. The dollars invested in these activities total \$286,405 for JAKES, \$103,399 for Women in the Outdoors, and \$15,750 for Wheelin' Sportsmen. Some of the people who attend our outreach programs will never take up



hunting. But the experience they have at the events they attend and their interactions with you – the volunteers who hunt – will very likely make them supporters of the things we all love to do.

Hunter safety has always been an important focus area for the Pennsylvania Chapter. Few other state chapters have their own Safety and Education Committee at the state-chapter level. The PA NWTF has many members who devote their time to hunter education and safety as volunteer instructors for the Game Commission. In addition, this chapter has invested \$254,599 into safety and educational materials in support of hunter-education initiative and into public-service announcements such as billboards and posters on hunting safety. Specifically the chapter has made “Positively Identify Your Target” one of its mottoes.

PA NWTF educational efforts do not stop with hunter education. Working within their own communities, local chapters in Pennsylvania have provided JAKES education boxes to schools, placed NWTF publications in schools, and best of all, provided 255 scholarships to students heading off to college. Your chapter has spent more than \$400,000 on educational efforts for students, teachers, and others in the communities where you all live.

There is always more to learn about wild turkeys. Wildlife agencies seldom have fat budgets, and one reason for conservation organizations like NWTF is to assist the agencies whenever possible. Research projects designed to provide more data on wild turkey populations, annual harvest, and hunter opinions are essential to proper management of our valuable wildlife resources. To that end, PA NWTF has invested more than \$112,000 in wild turkey

research and management projects working closely with Game Commission biologists. The willingness of our chapter to make that investment has helped to leverage additional funds to make the research projects viable.

The dollars you help to raise through local Hunting Heritage Super Fund banquets are put to great use in Pennsylvania. For 2008, PA NWTF provided nearly \$100,000 for wildlife habitat improvement projects. A large number of outreach events have taken place and more are scheduled for the next couple of months. As the holidays approach, many local chapters will be working to help those less fortunate in their communities through the Turkey Hunters Care Program. Every one of our local chapters plays a vital role in the overall mission of the PA NWTF. Whether your chapter sponsors a small dinner or a large one, the contribution made by the volunteers on your committee carries us closer to our goal of “doing it all.” Every hour you volunteer counts. Every dinner you attend, every new member you invite, every new hunter you mentor, and all the time you spend planting trees and shrubs moves PA NWTF in the direction of being the premier state chapter in the National Wild Turkey Federation. What fantastic work you all do!



ATTENTION TURKEY HUNTERS!

Don't miss the 33rd annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show! Feb. 19-22 at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee

Every year the NWTF gathers to celebrate the amazing comeback story of the wild turkey. This year's Turkey Party includes calling, call making, and taxidermy contests, great speakers, entertainers and the NWTF honoring the volunteers and partners who make us the best conservation organization. Fun for the entire family – all under one roof! For more information on the 33rd annual convention, please visit www.nwtf.org.

Call 888-777-6779 to reserve a hotel room. Room rates are \$160 (includes resort fee of \$10) with free parking for overnight guests. Ask for a garden view room, which is the same rate as a traditional room. To find out more about the Gaylord Opryland hotel, please visit www.gaylordhotels.com/gaylordopryland. If you plan on attending this years convention and would like to join other Pennsylvania members at meals and events, please forward your registration to Jon Preis 612 Harman Road, Trout Run, PA 17771 by December 15, 2008.

PA NWTF 2007 Hunt of a Life Time Winner

SUBMITTED BY DONALD COX

In August of 2007, I was a sponsor member at the banquet of the Walking Purchase Chapter in Northampton County. At that event, I was picked as one of the finalists for the 2007 PA NWTF Hunt of a Lifetime, and at the PA NWTF Awards Banquet at State College in January, I was selected as the winner of that hunt.

The hunt took place at Paradise Adventures in Altoona, Kansas, and was fantastic. I saw many longbeards, even some with two beards. The first day we saw longbeards at a distance, but they would not come in. We hunted until lunch, ate back at the lodge, and out again we went. We found some wild morel mushrooms on the second hunt, and we set up not far from there. We called in a jake first and passed on him. Soon after, we called in two longbeards at the same time. I shot one and missed the second tom. After we collected and tagged my longbeard.– 10.5-inch beard; 7/8-inch spurs; 20 pounds –we stopped and gathered around 30 mushrooms that every body ate back at the lodge.

The second day was better than the first. We saw about 12 longbeards in a flock. I could not get a good shot on any one bird because they kept lining up on each other in a group. After about an hour of different setups on the birds, they moved off. We went back for lunch and regrouped for a second hunt. This time we had a tom come in by himself, which I shot.

Paradise Adventures is a fantastic place to hunt. The lodge is great. The guides are wonderful. They do almost anything to help you to get a longbeard.

I'm glad that I am a member of the NWTF. They have done so much over the years for the wild turkey. I have been turkey hunting since 1964 and an NWTF member since 1973. The turkey population has increased by leaps and bounds.

Just by becoming a sponsor member at a banquet, you too could have a Hunt of a Lifetime.



Habitat Corner

Do I Really Need to Plant Another Food Plot?

BY BOB SCHMID – NWTF HABITAT PRO STAFF

In the last 20 years, the food-plot industry has become a multimillion-dollar business. Seed companies and equipment manufacturers have created a multitude of products designed to attract all types of wildlife and make creating food plots a breeze with gadgets that can be pulled behind an ATV. But with the cost of fuel and fertilizer skyrocketing this year, I've had several people ask me at my food plot seminars, "Do I really need to plant another food plot?"

As with many things in life the short answer is, "It depends." Let's explore some reasons to plant food plots and provide some ideas for alternatives to food plots as well.

Determine what's missing

All the wildlife that we want to attract to our properties for hunting or observation have three basic needs: food, water, and cover. When it comes to cover, turkeys need different types, such as nesting cover, escape cover, and roosting habitat. Often we want to plant food plots to provide food as an attractant for wildlife but we need to stop and think about which of the basic three needs of wildlife might be in short supply in our immediate area. If you have other property owners that are already planting food plots, it may be in your best interest to provide some type of cover to attract more wildlife to your property. Local farmers may also be providing sufficient food for the wildlife in your area. By understanding what surrounding property owners are providing for wildlife you can determine what might be missing, and you may be able to provide one of those key elements without having to turn any soil or plant any seed. But if in your analysis there is a short supply of food for wildlife, especially at certain times of the year, then planting another food plot might be your best answer. However, if your neighbors have food plots planted, another one may only be providing an excess of food for wildlife. Maybe you should consider providing some type of cover habitat instead.

Creating cover

One of the easiest ways to provide cover for a variety of wildlife is to cut stands of mature timber or even pole stage timber. With just a chain saw and some safety equipment, you can create pockets of habitat. If you have mature timber, you should solicit the help of a professional forester and tell him your objectives for the property. A professional forester can advise you on the value of the timber and can manage the cutting project so that you get maximum gains from the value of your timber. Tell your forester that you would like to create some pockets of habitat for wildlife, and he can create a plan for your property that achieves your goals. We have gone into select areas of our property after a timber sale and cut most of the remaining trees to create a clear-cut affect. We leave several desirable seed trees such as cherry and oak but take most of the rest. We set aside a couple of acres for this technique and the resulting regeneration provides an unbelievable amount of cover in a short period.

Another way to create cover is to do a planting of warm-season



grasses. Although this requires turning the soil and spending money on seed, fuel, and fertilizer, it can be a longer-term proposition than planting food plots every year. A good outlet for warm-season grasses is Ernst Seed Company in Meadville, Pa. They also have mixes that can create a meadow-like habitat that provides several layers of vegetation. Some of the taller varieties of warm-season grasses can provide good escape cover for poult as they try to hide from avian predators. By not planting the cover plot too thick, you will provide plenty of habitat for young poult to search for bugs while being safe from predators from above.

Warm-season grass plots also provide nesting habitat and places for young fawns to hide. Once the warm-season grass plot is established, it will also provide winter cover for wildlife. Warm-season grasses often take two years to fully establish, so don't get discouraged after the first year if you only see limited success. Once these plots are established they will provide escape and nesting cover for many years.

If you absolutely must play in the dirt and planting corn is something that you just have to do every year, consider this technique. Allow a portion of your corn to stand an additional year before you turn it under and replant. Standing corn allows for good cover for young poult from avian predators as they work the old rows searching for bugs and leftover corn. During those years of excellent acorn crops, we have found that the local wildlife may not consume all the corn we have planted. Rather than plow bushels of corn back into the ground and have to deal with controlling volunteer corn the next year, we allow that corn to stand one more season. In addition to providing escape cover, the leftover corn also provides food for the local dove population as they continue to work over the field.

Conclusion

You may not need to plant another food plot on your property after all. Using these techniques – establishing escape cover and nesting habitat – you may be able to reduce the cost of your habitat enhancement projects and establish an edge over neighboring properties when it comes to attracting wildlife to your property. Certainly food plots have become the big thing recently but they need not be the only thing you do for wildlife on your property.

For more information on creating food plots and other habitat management techniques, log on to www.panwtf.org/habitat.php

Fall Turkey Hunting Safety – We’re All Counting on You!

BY BOB ERIKSEN,
NWTF REGIONAL BIOLOGIST

Though I was running a bit later than planned, I wasn’t upset. It was opening day of the fall turkey season, and the weather was perfect. There was very little wind, and the leaf fall was well underway, making for good visibility in the woods. At just a little before nine in the morning, I parked my truck, adjusted my camo, checked my calls, and pulled my shotgun out of its case. Before leaving my truck, I put on my obligatory orange vest and cap, meeting the legal requirement for 250 square inches of orange. After crossing my brother’s hayfield, I eased into the woods via a logging road we had seeded down in the spring. Soon after entering the woods, I saw scratchings and estimated them to be as recent as the afternoon before. There weren’t too many scratchings, indicating a flock comprising fewer than a dozen birds. The scratchings weren’t steaming hot, but I was pleased to find them.

I walked slowly down a slight hill toward a flat bench, listening carefully and watching ahead of me. When I reached the bench, I paused to listen for a few minutes. At that point, I almost settled down to call for a few minutes but decided to cross a stonewall before setting up. I walked along the wall to a place where there was a bar-way and crossed over. As soon as I crossed the wall, I heard a loud “Putt!” and several turkeys took to the air about 50 yards ahead of me. I yelled at the birds to try and scatter them, and two or three more birds flushed from among the grape tangles even closer to me. I got a good look at the late flushers, and they were adult toms! The scatter was not perfect, but the flock was split, and I was in business for a challenging old gobbler hunt.

The flock comprised perhaps seven adult gobblers. Whether they were old woods-wise toms or two-year-olds, I wasn’t sure, but I couldn’t believe my luck just 30 minutes into the hunt. There was plenty of time to plan before the gobblers were likely to start looking to regroup. I carefully selected a good tree near the flush site. It offered good visibility, and the birds would be in range almost as soon as I saw them if they came directly back up the hill. I placed my orange cap on a branch about five feet off the ground to one side and slightly behind my spot and removed my orange vest. The waiting game was about to begin.

Relaxing against the big maple tree, I breathed deeply of the fall air and began to listen to the sounds of the woods around me. Within a few minutes, squirrels were scurrying about, checking the leaves for grapes and beechnuts. Nuthatches worked the branches above my head, and chickadees called to each other nearby. After 30

minutes, I sanded my trusty slate call and made two deep, slow yelps. There was no response, and I settled in for the long haul.

Sometimes it can be a challenge to stay alert when you are waiting for a response from wild turkeys. I knew I had a pretty good break. I also knew that if I got up to move or relocate the flock I would definitely blow my opportunity. So I scanned the woods with my binoculars watching the songbirds and listening hard. Shortly after making my second call, my cell phone vibrated, indicating an incoming call. Bad timing. I checked the face of the phone and saw it was my youngest daughter. I knew she wouldn’t be calling unless there was a problem or issue so I answered the phone. She needed advice on new tires for her Cherokee. I spoke to her in a low voice giving her the best fatherly wisdom I could on the need for good quality tires. An hour and a half had passed since the gobblers flushed. As we talked, I heard a far off cluck. Gracefully(?), I bowed out of the advice-giving mode, hung up the phone, and began to concentrate on the important matter at hand. After listening for a few more minutes, I produced two coarse yelps on the slate. I received a cluck in response.

Twenty minutes or so passed before I heard three slow, raspy yelps downhill from my location at 2 o’clock. I adjusted my facemask and waited. A few minutes later, I heard a cluck off to my left at 10 o’clock. Now I had a dilemma. Which way should I point my gun? Both birds seemed to be about the same distance away. I chose to point my shotgun toward the bird to the left. After a few minutes, I clucked twice on my mouth call. The bird to the left yelped twice in response but was no closer. This was going to take time, but I did have an apple and a granola bar for lunch! I took a few sips from my water bottle and settled down for a long wait.

It was nearly 1 p.m. when I noticed movement 90 degrees to my right. A long-beard was walking slowly in my direction about 60 yards away. His neck was stretched, and he was acting wary. I had not moved but supposed he might have noticed the orange hat near my location. The gobbler had me pinned down with my gun pointing away from him. Now I was in trouble. He stopped more than 50 yards away and clucked. His partner to my left yelped back at him. I still had a chance.

Gobbler number two appeared making his way toward me. He was lined up well with my shotgun barrel. All I had to do was wait until he closed the distance and ease my gun to my shoulder. It wasn’t to be. He was inside of 40 yards when for no reason he flushed, causing his partner to follow suit. I knew I was breathing erratically, and my heart was racing, but I also knew that I had not caused the flush. I had not moved and there was no way either bird had “made

me”. Disgusted, I let out a long breath and leaned back against the tree. Two other turkeys flushed from the next bench down the hill, and I knew I had company.

Ten minutes later, three hunters in full camo and wearing no orange walked toward my location. I shouted to let them know I was there. When they acknowledged me, I pulled my orange vest out and put it on. We talked for a few minutes. I knew one of the hunters, but the other two were strangers. I asked them if they had any orange clothing? They replied that they preferred to hunt in camo. I told them that I did too, but the fall hunting regulations required hunters to wear or display orange. Then I advised them that they would not be welcome to hunt our properties if they did not follow the regulations. They had seen only one turkey fly and were working their way across the hillside toward the next road.

The three hunters in my brother’s woods that day were in no danger from me. I am very careful to properly identify my target. They did foul up my hunt, but that can happen anytime. They were unaware that I was hunting there because they came in from another road. However, they were taking a chance on being written up for not complying with the orange regulation governing fall turkey hunting. When you are in the woods this fall, be particularly careful. Since 2003, fall turkey-hunting-related shooting incident numbers have been very low. No one knows the reason for this trend but everyone who is concerned about hunting safety is pleased with it. Some factors involved may be declining fall turkey hunter numbers or increased awareness of safety. Make sure you hunt safely and ethically this fall.

The recent change in orange regulations applied only to the spring season so be sure to know what orange regulation affects your hunting area. Remember to set up with a tree or other object behind you to break up your outline. Assume that the turkey you hear is another hunter until you positively ascertain otherwise. Properly identify your target. Know your target and what is beyond. Never shoot at movement or sound. Never wear red, white, blue or black clothing while turkey hunting. Always point your firearm in a safe direction and remember that safeties are not safe. Never allow the muzzle of your gun to pass across anything you do not want to destroy. You are the only one in control of your hunting situation. Good luck this fall. Think Safety - Hunt Safely.

Attention Fall Turkey Hunters: The regulation change making the wearing of orange optional in the spring gobbler season does not apply to fall hunting. Make sure you wear and display orange this fall. Obey the law. Think Safety-Hunt Safely.

Memories

from Timberdoodle Farms

SUBMITTED BY MIKE HAINES,
MEMBER OF THE WAPITI ROOST
LOCAL CHAPTER

Last spring, my daughter Rachel was fortunate to go be able to hunt with Bob Friedl on his property at Timberdoodle Farms near Eldred, Pa. While there last year, Rachel killed a turkey of lifetime. Last winter, I had kept in contact with Bob as to how things were going, and through our conversation, he indicated that as of then he had not yet committed to sponsoring a youth spring turkey hunt. In the past, Bob has sponsored the Pennsylvania JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime, and in the first year of that hunt, all three girls participating in that hunt scored on jakes. The second year, Bob also had a youth hunter score on a jake as well. As the weeks went on and we got near the youth season, Bob called me and asked if Rachel would again want to come as his guest and try to score on a spring gobbler. He indicated that he had two other groups of youth hunters coming. One group was from Ohio and the other was from Pennsylvania. The guides for the upcoming youth hunts were friends of mine from St. Marys, and I was sure that it would add excitement to the upcoming hunt.

When I told Rachel the news, the date was set. She had asked if she could bring her Uncle Joe along to enjoy the experience, and Bob agreed. We all arrived the night before the hunt, everyone filled with excitement. Bob indicated that over the past few days of scouting he had heard lots of turkeys and had set up hunting blinds in a few key locations. His words were, "The hill behind the camp is full of turkeys, and we should have no problem in a least hearing some birds tomorrow."

The next morning finally arrived and found Rachel, Bob, Joe, and I tucked into a camo blind with a string of decoys in a field in front of us, waiting for the action to begin. At first light, off in the distance, a crow called and that set things in motion. First a single gobbler called, then another. Soon about nine gobblers opened up. The hill was alive with gobbling. As the action increased, I



Left to right: Mike Haines, Rachel Haines and Joe Hillebrand

could tell Rachel was getting overcome with excitement. With the gobblers still on the roost, a hen walked by and headed up to the noise. When she got to the location, we could see a few birds hit the ground, and they all just headed directly away from our location.

Soon, we agreed it was time to move. After a few different setups, we finally got close enough to the birds to start the action. At the final set up, we were on the right side of a field that sloped down to our left with the turkeys being just over the rise of the field. Once we were set, we made a few calls, and the woods lit up with gobbling. I was behind Rachel with Bob and Joe in a wooded area above us and the field. As in most hunts, the bird did not come directly to us the way we wanted and was closer to Bob and Joe's location. When the bird did come in, he was 25 yards above us, with Rachel and I facing the wrong direction. I can still hear Bob say "There he is Rachel take him when you can."

As the bird was walking away, Rachel was able to make her move and got on the bird.

The sound of the gun going off was music to our ears. As in the previous year, Rachel had scored on a gobbler. It was a jake, but it didn't matter to us, for now there was much to celebrate. When we got back to camp and all the other groups reported on their morning actions, we found that the one group had a miss and had two other different birds into gun range. The third group had all kinds of birds going but could not close the deal.

Bob Friedl does his homework to help make your hunt at Timberdoodle Farms a success. The property is absolutely great for this type of hunt. The property comprises areas of thick cover, fields, and plenty of great roosting sites. When you go there, you will not be unhappy with your experience. In a recent conversation with Bob, he indicated that in the spring of 2009 he has agreed to host the Pennsylvania JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime. Given the chance to go there and spend a hunt with Bob and his pals should prove to be a true Hunt of a Lifetime. Just ask my daughter Rachel.

Lykens Valley Longbeards participate in Youth Day



Lykens Valley President Jeff Bordner is shown assisting a visitor to the Lykens Valley NWTF booth at the 2008 Youth Field Day.

SUBMITTED BY HAROLD DAUB,
LYKENS VALLEY LONGBEARDS

The Lykens Valley Longbeards Chapter hosted 110 enthusiastic youths at their NWTF Turkey Hunting Station during the Martz's Gap View Hunting Preserve Youth Field Day, organized by Martz's employee and NWTF member Bob Whitsel. The Lykens Valley Turkey Hunting Station featured a presentation by Lykens Valley JAKES Coordinator, Dean Zimmerman, which included a history of the NWTF, the PA NWTF, wild turkey biology and subspecies distribution, and NWTF habitat restoration projects in the Lykens Valley area.

Each youth "hunter" was then "guided" on an individual "hunt" for an elusive wild turkey. Using a walking-turkey target designed and built by Dennis Paul, Lykens Valley Chapter "guides" Harold Daub and Jeff Bordner coached each child through a live fire exercise using either a .410 or 20-gauge NWTF youth-model shotgun. The turkey hunt simulation stressed turkey-hunting safety, including never stalking turkeys and positively identifying your target. Each hunter confirmed the "turkey" had a visible beard before it was considered a safe and legal target. As chap-

ter member Pat Ciesnolevicz allowed the turkey target to "walk" into the hunter's safe zone of fire, the "hunter" had to display patience as he or she waited for the turkey to clear brush and a hen turkey, which obstructed the shot.

The day was a huge success, highlighted by the many youths who indicated they had never participated in any shotgun shooting activities prior to visiting the Lykens Valley station, and the smiles being displayed by both the children and their parents following their successful "hunt". As one family was departing at day's end, the father shared the following with the Lykens Valley Chapter: When his youngest son's name was pulled very early in the prize drawing, the child chose a turkey hunting DVD, saying, "I want to learn how to hunt turkeys, Dad!"

I can't think of a better way to hear someone say, "Job well done!"



Fare Thee Well: A Turkey Tale

SUBMITTED BY DON SHORT,
PRESIDENT, 2ND CHANCE TOMS

**The war is over and
The bird has won.
With this Season ended,
It was so much fun.**

**The days were wet
And way too short.
Just one small reason
Why I love this sport.**

**Many battles were fought
On your hallowed ground,
Yet still, I can't find
A better sport around.**

**I'll lick my wounds and
File the memories away,
Because for me and you,
There will be another day.**

**So to you I say
A job very well done,
And tip my hat
To a tom on the run.**

**I'll see you again
On your field of play
To settle the score.
How I long for that day.**

Wheelin' SPORTSMEN[®] NWTF

Reelin' Athletes

BY GENE ALWINE

Whenever an opportunity knocks to share outdoor knowledge and experience with others who rarely participate in our favorite activities, we need to answer with an enthusiasm that ensures a great outing no matter how "successful" we may or may not be. This was the case for me earlier this summer when I was asked to take about 150 Special Olympians on a fishing trip.

First, locating a place with enough shoreline, equipped with picnic tables, pavilions, fire pits and enough space for additional activities (games) was not as difficult a task as I thought it may be, but how cooperative would the fish be?

I made an appointment with Robyn Adams and Robyn Cummings to meet me at the Quemahoning Recreational Area in late June to look over and evaluate this location to be sure a quality outing would be possible at a portion of the reservoir there. Robyn Adams is the Pennsylvania Special Olympics Training Director and works out of Camp Hill. Robyn Cummings is a volunteer assistant for a Special Olympics Training Camp held annually at Antiochian Village in Ligonier during the second week of August. There are many variables to consider while planning activities for our state's Special Olympians, and these women came prepared to make sure this could be a safe haven for the large group.

They gave me the "thumbs up," and now it was time to use

the resources available through the Wheelin' Sportsmen Program. For the second time, the state chapter has received grants from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and a portion of that money was used to purchase 150 rods and reels to be used throughout Pennsylvania for outreach programs sponsored by the NWTF. This equipment was a welcome sight for me, although I only used 54 outfits during the event. I calculated how much bait would be required and put an in early order to ensure that I wouldn't run the local bait shop short for that week. The next hurdle was to consider the date of the outing, which turned out to be on August 11. As the final details settled into place, I recruited the help of some folks from my church to help with baiting hooks, untangling lines, and unhooking fish and return them to the water no worse for wear.

We couldn't have asked for better conditions on the day of the event. A sunny afternoon suddenly became breezy and ushered in a quick shower, only to return to a sunny, calm late afternoon and evening. This stirred the fish and apparently made them hungry. The crew I invited was kept busy, and we were able to provide quite an enjoyable fishing experience for the Special Olympics Athletes of Pennsylvania! I stopped keeping track of how many times we heard an extremely ecstatic angler exclaim, "This is my first fish, ever!" It was difficult to get as many pictures as we would have liked. The campers and their coaches snapped pictures for themselves, which would



give them a great opportunity to tell many fish stories at home, and that's really what the purpose was, anyhow – lasting memories.

I had some fun with these folks, telling them to kiss their first fish to ensure they could catch more. No problem, they were all willing to give this a try. Fortunately, they would catch more. I don't know how I would've explained no more fish after kissing the icebreaker!

It was a little difficult to pry all those folks away from the water at quitting time, and my crew also felt a reluctance to leave. Many "good-byes" and "thank yous" were shared. We probably received a year's supply of those from this grateful group! I informed my crew that this would be quite a rewarding

experience, and they weren't disappointed. We all had some stories to share as we disassembled the tackle and gathered our supplies. They told me that they would do something like this again if I needed their help.

As the week passed and dust cleared, I received a phone call from Robyn Cummings. Before I had a chance to ask about their evaluation of the fishing trip, she asked if it would be possible to do this again next year. As it turns out, the athletes couldn't stop talking about the fish they caught and the "nice coaches" they had helping them. I believe that a morale and confidence boost like this provided for a more productive week of Olympic training. Yes, I think we'll do this again.

Flashback Fever

BY WALTER BINGAMAN

The old Ted Nugent song, "Cat Scratch Fever," inspired the name of this idea, but I think it was the magic number of my last birthday along with my daughter's heading off to college that causes me to look back and think of days gone by. What is flashback fever? I consider it a challenge to everyone who loves and enjoys the outdoors. The first part of the challenge is a mental one. You will have to recall where your old hunting pictures are hiding – in a closet, in a shoebox, in a desk drawer? Or maybe in a hunting photo album.

Once the photos are located, you will have to decide on a modern, electronic flashback or the true, most heart-warming old-fashioned flashback. This first stage of the flashback is to find a photo from years gone by that causes a big smile to come across your face and warm your heart.

Once the selection process is completed, you'll need to get the treasured photo copied, which is easily done nowadays. You

can ask the kids how to work the new scanner you have in the house. (Now you know why they talked you into buying that model!) Or simply stop at a photo-processing center, and for less than 50 cents, they can make a copy of your photo. You may want to customize the photo while you're at it (again if you don't know how, ask the kids or a tech at the photo processing center). Adding text or a frame will turn your flashback into an awesome flashback. That completes step number 2.

Step three is from the heart. You need to come up with a few words that will cause a smile and a flashback. This is where you will realize the power of this event. You will find your self smiling and reliving the original moment all over again.

Step 4 is the delivery. You can take a road trip and deliver it in person or give the mailman something good to deliver or just click "send" on an e-mail if you are doing the modern version. The modern version is faster, but it makes the flashback harder to share since you can't put your computer in your pocket. The good old letter can be put

into a backpack for school, a lunchbox, or briefcase. I am sure it will make its rounds with the recipient.

So now you know what flashback fever is. I challenge you to get busy and get started. Make sure to explain to your flashback recipient that they should get digging and come up with their own flashback to keep it going. We may even make a spot in Turkey Talk to share some special turkey-hunting flashbacks with all the readers. How wonderful would it be to have a fellow NWTF member see that photo from the past published with a few special words from an old friend?

Editor's note: If you are interested in submitting flashback photos to Turkey Talk, please save the photo in a high-resolution format and e-mail the photo with a brief description that includes the names of the persons in the photograph and where they are from, along with when and where it was taken, to turkeytalk@panwtf.org. The best photos and those showing proper firearm handling will be published in future issues of Turkey Talk.

Sherman's Valley Strutters Women in the Outdoors Event

Another successful Woman in the Outdoors event was held May 31, 2008, at the Duncannon Sportsmen's Association. Carl Fox and a multitude of club members helped to host the Sherman's Valley Strutters local chapter Women in the Outdoors event that day. Lots of food and merriment was had by many central Pennsylvania women as they were taught outdoor skills by expert instructors. Our hope is that these women, young and old will pass on their outdoor experiences. The Sherman's Valley Strutters would like to send a special "thank you" to all of the volunteers who helped organize, instruct, and serve for the day.

For more information on the Sherman's Valley Strutters local chapter, contact Chapter President Dave Bitting at 717-319-4684. For on chapter Women in the Outdoors events, contact Events Coordinator Judy Bitting at 717-834-5908.



Women in the Outdoors Event at Mt. Pisgah State Park

Do you know how hard it is to gather 211 ladies for a group picture? We managed to do just that on Saturday, August 9, 2008, when 211 women gathered at Mt. Pisgah State Park for the 8th Annual Women in the Outdoors Event. From shooting arrows at 3-D archery targets and learning the art of soapstone carving, to tying trout flies to use for fly-fishing or fashioning artistic dreamcatchers out of natural materials, these ladies took advantage of the different hands-on opportunities offered, enjoying their time spent in the outdoors. Women practiced their marksmanship on the rifle range, paddled through Stephen Foster Lake, painted our native brook trout, and discovered mouthwatering recipes to use for Dutch oven cooking.

Two special announcements were made at the Hilltop Pavilion of Mt. Pisgah State Park under beautiful blue skies. This day was dedicated in memory of Carole Ferguson, who was truly a woman of the outdoors. She lost her battle with cancer this past summer. Carole truly loved shooting sports and the outdoors, so the committee was happy to dedicate this day to her. We will be planting a tree in Carole's memory at the Mt. Pisgah State Park office. Tammy Mowry, National Coordinator for Women in the Outdoors, presented the Mt. Pisgah Chapter with a plaque for 1st Runner Up for Most Memberships Recruited in the Nation in 2007!

The women that participated were able to choose four classes from the following list of classes taught by expert instructors: Archery by Dan Bogart and Rich Kutt; Canoeing by Warren and Terry Knapp; Composting by Claire Borits and Guy Abell; Container Gardening by Penny Wezel; Cooking with Herbs by JoAnn Chappell; Dreamcatchers by Charlene Bird Lady Miller; Dutch Oven Cooking by Michelle Campbell and Pat Gobeau; Fly-fishing by Warren Singer and Sheila Harris; Fly Tying by Pete Lawrence; GPS by Towanda Coast Guard Auxiliary; Horseback Riding by Vivian Hall; Natural Bug Repellent by Paula Phy; Painting a Native Brook Trout by Steve Shaner; Shotgunning by Charlie Fox; Black Powder by Gerald Chandler, Roger Kingsley and Mary Robinson-Slabey; .22 Shooting by Bill Bower; Soap Making by Sylvia Ellis; Soapstone Carving by Inga Wells; Stepping Stones by Beverly Hunter; and Survival by Pat Beebe and Loren Vandermark. Most women had trouble deciding what class to take!

The special demonstration tents had dif-

ferent interests for the outdoor enthusiast. Mary Lou Stroud and Deb Schemery hosted 10-minute massages to raise money for the Mt. Pisgah event. Mike Jenkins of Jenkins Versatile Gun Shop demonstrated how to clean your sporting arms properly. Women could also learn more about Women Build, a program through Habitat for Humanity with the Lycoming County Chapter. Sandy Swick of Towanda Memorial Hospital had an informational tent on Breast Cancer Awareness.

As always, the women enjoyed a fantastic breakfast and lunch with Chuck and Bob Bastion sponsoring the pig roast. This year, the women also were given insulated Women in the Outdoors backpacks filled with goodies. At the end of the day, each woman got to choose a door prize ranging from art donated by local artists to gift certificates from local vendors.

A special thank you to the Jackson Family Farm, for the use of their field as a shooting range and to the Mt. Pisgah State Park maintenance crew for all of the extra work they contributed. The event photography was provided by Ron Kingsley.

Don't miss the 9th annual Women in the Outdoors Event scheduled for Saturday, August 8, 2009, at Mt. Pisgah State Park. For more information, please contact Event Coordinator Nicole Carman Harris at nicole-carman@yahoo.com or call Mt. Pisgah State Park at 570-297-2734.

Event Committee

Nicole Carman Harris, Event Coordinator, would like to thank the following members of her committee, who spent many hours organizing and collecting donations and door prizes. The success of this event is largely due to the committee!

Marti Abell
Neva Allen
Patricia Benish
Kim Carpenter
Peggy Crawley
Francesca Duval
Renee Francisco
Sandi Gamber
Shirley Gamber
Beverly Hunter
Bobbe Hunter-Stein
Susan and Katurah Klein
Kristen Krimmel
Paula Phy
Forest Reynolds
LuAnn Sakers
Toni Schrader
Beverly Sherman
Beverly Smith
Laura Smith
Mary Lou Stroud
Inga Wells
Jean Young

JOIN THE NWTF — THE RESOURCE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

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)

- Regular Member - \$30 Women in the Outdoors Member - \$30
 Sponsor Member - \$235 Wheelin' Sportsmen Member - \$30
 JAKES Member - Ages 12 & under - \$7; Ages 13-17 - \$10

Charge my: Master Card; Visa



Credit Card Number: _____

Exp. Date _____

Name: (please print) _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

(Make checks payable to the NWTF)

Send completed application to:

Tammy Mowry, 288 Crisswell Road, Butler, PA 16002

Thank you to the following local businesses and individuals for contributing to door prizes, equipment, auction items, and food donations for Mt. Pisgah Women in the Outdoors event:

911 Earth	Sentinel	Dance	Monro Muffler and Brake	SL Klein Hairdresser
A Touch of Tranquility	Che-Hanna Rock and Mineral Club	Hampson Agway Farm and Garden	Moore's Auto and RV	Smith's Fine Wood Products
Advance Auto Parts	Charlene Bird Lady and George Miller	Henry Repeating Arms	Moose's Munchies	SRAC Museum
Agway – Athens	Charles and Neva Allen	High Maintenance	Morning Times	Steve Shaner
AIF's Distributing	Chuck and Bob Bastion	Camo	Nancy Hetrick	Stull's Flowers
Allen Farms	Cole and Burd	Hoover Hardware	Nancy and Sarah Frock	Sturzens Furniture
Amzac	Automotive	Hurley's Great Valu	New Life Bookstore	Subway
Anthony's Bar and Grill	Connie Chandler	Illusions	Northridge Minerals	Sue Killian
Auto Zone	Cooke's Pharmacy	In His Service Catering	Orcutt's Gun Shop	Sullivan Trading Post
Backwoods Home Magazine	Corrin Rockwell	Jamie Lou's	Ortin Black	Sylvania Lions' Club
Barnstead Pantry	Creature Comforts	Jenkins Versatile Shop	Oscar's Flooring Outlet	Tesa Belly Dance
Bass Pro – Harrisburg	Creekside Archery	Jill Fluck	Oswald Cycle Works	The Hidden Artist
Beech Ridge Outfitters	Cross Roads Equipment	Jim's Sporting Goods	Otis Technology	Thompson Center Arms
Beeman's Restaurant	Curves for Women	Jolly Farmer	Pa. Artisans	Timco Industries
Beverly Hawkes	DandH Market	Judge's Secondhand Store	Pa. Bureau of Forestry	Towanda Country Club
Beverly Sherman	Direct TV – RC Smith	Judson's Feed Mill	Pa. Fish and Boat Commission	Town and Country Cleaners
Beyond Goldsmithing	Doc's Irish Inn	Kandi Kellogg	Pam Owens Beauty Salon	Traditions, Inc.
Big Pond Lions' Club	Dog's Gone Wild	Kathy Temple	Peoples' State Bank	Troxell's Sporting Goods
Birchwood Laboratories	Dr. Marcia Kesten	Keystone Theater	Peterson's Collectibles	Troy Rotary Club
Bittner's Sporting Goods	Dr. Mark D. Hannan	KFC	Pizza Hut – Mansfield	Troy Vets Club
Black Lab Flies and Supplies	Draper's Super Bee Apiaries	Kim Carpenter	Plaza Pharmacy	Villa Sena
Blueberry Mountain Farm	Dry Goods Plus, Inc.	Kisner's Gems	Pure Fishing	Waldman's Fruit Stand
Bob and Beverly Hunter	East Smithfield Hardware	Knight and Hale	Redneck Calls	Wal-Mart
Bowman's Creek Watershed	Eleanor Gilmore	Landing Strip	Red Rose Diner	Warner Tractor
Bradford County Sanitation – Christ Palmer	Elmira Jackals	LaVonna Clark	Renee Francisco	Warren and Terry Knapp
Bradford County Trophy	Endless Mountains Outfitters	Leona Meat Plant	Rep. Matt Baker	Warrior Lounge
Deer and Bear Club	Famous Footwear	Leroy's Restaurant	Rep. Tina Pickett	Weigh Station Café
Brenda Houck	First Bank of Canton	Linda's Seafood Delight	River Stone Inn	Wendy's
Brown's Pharmacy	Fran's Fabrics	Liz Dincher	Roger Kingsley	Wilcox Jewelers
Burger King	Fulmer's Sporting Goods	Lodge Manufacturing Co.	Ruger	Windy Acres Farm Market.
CandN Bank	Gander Mountain	Lucia's	Sandi Gamber	
Cabela's	Grand View Media Group	Lyons Camping Supply	Sara Kenneally	
Canton Antiques and Such	Gamma's Kitchen	Maria Urick	Schmeck's Farms	
Canton Building Supply	Guy Abell	Mary Lou Stroud	Schmeck's Farms Settlement House	
Canton Independent	H.R. Rockwell Feed Mill	Mathews Archery	Shaffer's Feed Service	
	Haifa – Tribal Belly	Mepp's	Sheldon Inc.	
		Midway Truckstop	SHE Safari	
		Milky Way Farms	Shotgun Sports	
		Monika Slater	Shores Sisters	

Please remember to support these fine local businesses who support worthwhile programs like Women in the Outdoors!

Wheelin' Sportsmen helps open a mile of wheelchair access in Crawford County

With financial assistance from the National Wild Turkey Federation's Wheelin' Sportsmen program, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Army Corps of Engineers, and NWTF local chapter Northwest Thundering Toms were able to make a one-mile abandoned paved road accessible to disabled hunters and wildlife enthusiasts at Woodcock Lake Dam in Crawford County. When the dam was created, Route 198 had to be relocated leaving old Route 198 as an abandoned paved trail. Through a cooperative agreement, the Pennsylvania Game Commission currently manages the area with food plots, fruit tree releases, waterfowl nesting structures, pheasant stockings, bluebird boxes, seedling plantings, and other improvements. Although the old road is suitable for wheelchair use, wheelchair-bound persons could not access the road. NWTF funding provided for the development of a parking area and a 520-foot access trail suitable for wheelchair use. Now wheelchair-bound persons can access the one-mile roadway, which passes through a highly managed and productive wildlife area.



Left to right - Back Row: Rod Koivisto, Larry Price, Kirk Johnson, Shayne Hoachlander, Ed Schwindt. Front Row: Bob Morgan, Glenn Sharpe.

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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.



2009 Pennsylvania Events

Do you enjoy activities in the out of doors? 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.

March 7

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

May 16

PA NWTF and Black Moshannon State Park
Michelle McCloskey, 814-342-5960, black-moshannonsp@state.pa.us
Tammy Mowry, 724-284-9201, tam-mynwtf@zoominternet.net
Black Moshannon State Park, Philipsburg (Centre County)

May 30

Kinzua Allegheny Chapter
Jessica Arnold, 814-436-1048, duckdog@outdrs.net
Chapman State Park, Clarendon (Warren County)

May 30

Sherman's Valley Strutters Chapter
Judy Bitting, 717-834-5908, judybitting@hotmail.com
Duncannon Sportsmen's Association, Duncannon (Perry County)

June 26-28

PA State Chapter and Sinnemahoning State Park
Jackie Flynn, 814-647-8401, jafflynn@state.pa.us
Sinnemahoning State Park, Austin (Cameron County)

July 18

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

August 8

Mt. Pisgah State Park
Nicole Carman Harris, 570-297-2734, nicolecarman@yahoo.com
Mt. Pisgah State Park, Troy (Bradford 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, 1-year subscription to the Women in the Outdoors Magazine, complimentary 1-year membership to the National Wild Turkey Federation (or extension of current membership), meals, door prizes.

For a current list of events or more information, contact: Tammy Mowry, National Coordinator at 724-284-9201

or by e-mail at tammynwtf@zoominternet.net. Visit the NWTF Web site at www.nwtf.org, www.womenintheoutdoors.org, or the Pennsylvania Web site at www.panwtf.org or www.pawito.com