

PENNSYLVANIA

Turkey

TALK

Pennsylvania's

Celebration
5 Million
and our Grand Slammin'
Membership Drive! | Page 4



2010 Spring Edition
Volume 35 Number 3

A Publication of the PA State Chapter of the NWTF

The banquet program is the greatest source of funding throughout the state.



Dale Butler, PANWTF President

Greetings,

As the new PA Chapter president let me introduce myself. My name is Dale Butler. I'm an avid turkey hunter and conservationist. I reside in Noxen, Wyoming County with my wife of 37 years, Donna. We have two sons; both are very active in hunting and outdoor sports, and three grandchildren. I founded my local chapter in 1994

and have been on the PA board of directors since 2001. I have been turkey hunting for nearly 30 years, have worked as a turkey hunting guide for many years, and dabbled in turkey call making for most of my turkey hunting life. Over the years I fell in love with the National Wild Turkey Federation and the way it does business. I feel like everyone I have met since becoming involved with this organization has somehow helped me make better decisions - not just in the outdoors - but in my everyday life. I hope I can make a difference for you.

I am writing this just after the major storm that has left over 14 inches of snow in the Northeast. It is near March 1st and this is the time of the year we are thinking a lot about spring gobbler season. As spring approaches, hens are looking for nesting sites and gobblers are starting to strut and gobble as we are waiting in anticipation. This is a good time of the year to get your turkey hunting stuff in order. Make sure you have all the calls you need, ammo, camo, hunting license, map, compass, GPS, gun, and anything else you might use when going into the turkey woods.

This is also a good time to find a local NWTF banquet to attend. Many times at banquets we meet new people with the same interests. Sometimes banquets have produced great friendships that become very long lasting. Please take advantage of the many banquets across the state and talk to a friend about attending one with you. The banquet program is the greatest source of funding throughout the state.

This funding is used to create habitat, educate youth, help disabled persons, Women in the Outdoors programs, and many other programs that will directly/indirectly provide benefits to wildlife in the great state of Pennsylvania.

This spring please take advantage of the Turkey Hunters Cooperator Survey. This survey has the potential to have a direct impact on the way turkeys are managed. Just sign up as a cooperator and follow a few simple directions and it may make turkey hunting even better in the future. If you would like to assist with the Turkey Hunters Cooperator Survey check out the PA state website www.panwtf.org for more information.

Please remember when hunting always be safe; assume the turkey sound you hear is another hunter. Always sit in a location that will enable you to alert another hunter. Stay away from the colors red, white and blue on your clothing or accessories when hunting, and above all, positively identify your target before shooting. **Remember, when you pull the trigger on your firearm it is a final decision. Your projectile will hit where you placed the shot, and there is no way to take that shot back. You are the only one that can make the decision to shoot when a firearm is in your hands. You are responsible to make sure when you fire, you are shooting at a legal target.**

Please have a safe and successful hunting season.

Dale C. Butler

In this issue



- 4 | Celebration 5 Million Membership Drive!
- 6 | PA Super Fund Projects
- 7 | 35 Annual Rendezvous Awards Banquet
- 8 | Danville Youth Wins Calling Championship LV Chapter Wins National Award
- 9 | Eastern Sports & Outdoors Show Winners

- 10 | Wild Turkey Study and Bear Proposals
- 11 | PA NWTF Addresses the PA Game Commission
- 12 | A Turkey for Heather Thank You, Mr. Leidy!
- 14 | Hunting Legend Passes JAKES Strut Zone
- 16 | Etiquette & Safety
- 17 | How to Build a Better Banquet Girls Gone Fishing
- 18 | Reach Out!
- 19 | Hunting Heritage Banquets



NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION MISSION STATEMENT:
Dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and preservation of our hunting heritage.

PANWTF.ORG

Turkey TALK

Editor/Chairman
Jason Straley

Art Director/Layout
Katrina Skrapits

Questions or comments?
Email PA NWTF at:
panwtfrep@panwtf.org

Copyright 2010
The Pennsylvania Chapter
of the National Wild Turkey Federation

Pennsylvania Turkey Talk is published quarterly by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Information in this publication is provided "as is" and without warranties of any kind, whether express or implied. The Pennsylvania Chapter of the NWTF makes no guarantees as to accuracy, currency, quality or fitness of any information presented in this publication. The Pennsylvania Chapter of the NWTF assumes no legal liability or responsibility for any incorrect, misleading, outdated or missing information. The views and opinions expressed in Turkey Talk are those of the writers, who are responsible for the accuracy of content. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the NWTF. The acceptance of advertising by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the NWTF does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised. The publisher assumes no responsibility or liability for the publication of copy submitted by advertisers. The Pennsylvania Chapter of the NWTF reserves the right to cancel or reject articles or advertising deemed inappropriate or unsuitable for Turkey Talk. Anyone using any information from this publication does so at their own risk, and shall be deemed to indemnify the Pennsylvania Chapter of the NWTF. The publisher shall not be responsible or liable for any damage or injury resulting from such use. National Wild Turkey Federation Inc. PO Box 530, Edgefield, SC 29824-0530



Pennsylvania State Staff Directory

Ray Smith • 570-220-1535 • rsmith@nwtf.net
6391 Rt.654 Hwy, Williamsport, PA 17702

Phil Ferrare • 814-796-6983 • pferrare@nwtf.net
2924 Haskins Road, Waterford, PA 16441

Carl Mowry • 724-283-5708 • cmowry@nwtf.net
288 Crisswell Road, Butler, PA 16002

Regional Wildlife Biologist

Bob Eriksen • 908-454-1882 • beriksen@nwtf.net
27 Canterbury Road, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

Pennsylvania State Officers



President

Dale Butler
Box 167 Stonetown Road
Noxen, PA 18636
570-298-2438
dcbutler@epix.net

Vice President

Skip Motts
10 Anglemire Drive
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
570-619-8880
mottspur@ptd.net

Secretary

Joe Drolet
124 Pine Bridge Lane
Lancaster, PA 17603
717-940-9310
jdrolet@panwtf.org

Treasurer

Jim Panaro
224 Buck Road
Ebensburg, PA 15931
814-344-6632
jpanaro@panwtf.org

Executive Officers

Don Heckman
14 Slate Hill Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011
717-761-5925
dheckman@comcast.net

Sam McCartney

155 Greens Valley Road
Center Hall, PA 16828
814-359-2338
svm@goh-inc.com

Chairman Of The Board

Tom Bunty
2050 Park Street
Dover, PA 17315
717-292-9444
tbunty@hotmail.com

Send us your articles and high resolution photo submissions to:
turkeytalk@panwtf.org

For sending digital photos, follow these guidelines:

- Digital images **must be 5x7 inches at 200 dpi** for use in Turkey Talk.
 - Always try to identify the person(s) in the photo.
- Photos taken from a cell phone are not print quality and may not be accepted.

**Deadline for submitting articles for the
2010 Summer Issue of Turkey Talk is MAY 18**





**THE PA STATE CHAPTER
OF THE NWTf PRESENTS:**



Celebration \$5 Million and the “Grand Slam” Membership Drive

This year, the NWTf will reach a monumental goal in Pennsylvania. Since 1985, The NWTf has raised and proudly spent \$5 million on land acquisitions, habitat improvement projects and the development of its outreach programs (JAKES, WITO & Wheelin’ Sportsmen) in the state of Pennsylvania. This is a tremendous and unprecedented accomplishment. Help us spread the word and invite others to join in the celebration by participating in the **“GRAND SLAM” MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.**

It is simple, for every new member (regular, WITO, Wheelin’) you bring to the NWTf family, you earn a chance to win one of the turkey hunts listed.

For every new Sponsor member, you will receive 3 chances. There is no limit to the amount of chances you may earn.

1st PRIZE

Florida - Osceola Turkey Hunt

3 day hunt/1 bird

Donated by Mark Mann

Osceola Gobblers

www.osceolagobblers.com

2nd PRIZE

**Wyoming - Merriam’s
Turkey Hunt**

3 day hunt/1 bird

Donated by Mike Watkins

Trophies Plus Outfitters

www.trophiesplusoutfitters.com

3rd PRIZE

Ohio - Eastern Turkey Hunt

3 day hunt/2 birds

Donated by Ken Fernburg

Triple “B” Outfitters

www.TripleBOutfittersofohio.com

4th PRIZE

**Kansas - Rio/Eastern/Hybrid
Turkey Hunt**

3 day hunt/2 birds

Donated by Uwe Haendler

Broken Arrow Outfitters

www.brokenarrowhunts.com

ADDITIONAL PRIZES!

- The member who recruits the most new members will win a Remington model 700 in .270 win topped with a 3 x 9 scope.
- The chapter that recruits the most new members will win a Weatherby Vanguard in 7mm to be used at their next chapter fundraiser.



**LET’S INVITE OTHERS TO SHARE IN OUR SUCCESS
AND BECOME PART OF OUR WINNING TEAM!!**

\$5 MILLION IN CONSERVATION "GRAND SLAM" Membership Drive and Raffle Form

Referring Member: (please print) _____

NWTF Member # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Chapter: _____

____ Yes, I would like to renew/extend my membership

____ Regular \$30 ____ WITO \$30 ____ Wheelin' Sportsman \$30 ____ Sponsor \$235

Payment Type: (circle one) Visa Master Card Check (made payable to NWTF)

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____

New Member Information:

Name: (please print) _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

____ Regular \$30 ____ WITO \$30 ____ Wheelin' Sportsman \$30 ____ Sponsor \$235

Payment Type: (circle one) Visa Master Card Check (made payable to NWTF)

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____

Send complete applications to: Tom Bunty • 2050 Park Street • Dover, PA 17315

**This form may be duplicated*

***This form, including the promotion details may also be downloaded at www.panwtf.org*

rules and restrictions:

- you must be a member of the NWTF to be eligible for the drawing and prizes.
 - there is no limit to the amount of chances you may earn.
- payment must accompany the new member application to: Tom Bunty, 2050 Park Street, Dover, PA 17315
 - there is no geographical limitation. (new members from NJ, NY, WV etc. count)
- cannot be combined with other new member/banquet related incentives. (ie: "Bring a Friend"/"Chapter Challenge")
 - Must be received by 12/20/10 to count for the drawings.
- winners will be drawn at the Pennsylvania Chapter's 36th Annual Rendezvous & Awards Banquet, January 8, 2011.
 - (need not be present to win)

Pennsylvania State NWTF Wild Turkey Super Fund Projects

Since 1985, more than \$4,882,413 has been raised and spent by Pennsylvania chapters on projects within the state.

Habitat Enhancement

Spent \$2,680,995 on habitat improvement projects.

- maintenance and development of brood habitat
- wildlife openings
- tree planting
- control of invasive plant species
- support for seed subsidy and conservation seed programs

Habitat enhancement projects have impacted more than 275,068 acres within the state. Projects were completed on Allegheny National Forest, PA Game Lands, DCNR State Forests and Parks, and other public hunting grounds

Hunter Safety

Spent \$258,705 to support hunter safety classes and initiatives within the state. Purchased hunter safety materials and equipment, including interactive shooting systems.

Mentored Youth Hunting Program

The Pennsylvania State Chapter has long supported initiatives to attract more young hunters and preserve the tradition of turkey hunting. We helped to create the special youth spring gobbler hunting season and our members are dedicated to "taking a kid hunting". The NWTF has been a major player in the Families Afield Program, a coalition of organizations encouraging states to become more "hunter friendly". Families Afield legislation was passed in 2006 creating a Mentored Youth Hunting Program in the Commonwealth so that youngsters below the age of 12 can hunt under the close direction of a mentor. Members of our chapter served on the committee that helped to assure the success of that legislation. Now our local chapters are expanding their participation in youth hunting initiatives by encouraging members to become mentors and supporting regulations to make sure spring gobbler hunting was included as a mentored youth hunting activity.

Land Purchase

Spent \$318,150 to purchase 27,594 acres of land to preserve wildlife habitat and provide additional hunting areas.



Education

Spent \$369,544 on educational programs and literature including scholarships, education boxes, 4-H and teacher workshops.

- Awarded 285 scholarships
- Spent \$85,545 on educational projects for volunteers and professionals including:
 - Volunteer leadership workshops
 - Wild Turkey Woodlands field days
 - State newsletter: Pennsylvania Turkey Talk
 - State website: www.panwtf.org

JAKES

Spent \$333,954 to introduce youth to outdoor activities, conservation and hunting. Sponsored 412 JAKES Conservation Field Days.

Women in the Outdoors

Spent \$110,499 on programs, materials and equipment to introduce women to the outdoors, hunting and conservation. Conducted 255 Women in the Outdoors events.

Wheelin' Sportsmen

Spent \$21,750 to provide opportunities for the disabled to participate in outdoor activities and learn about wildlife conservation.

Hunting Heritage

Spent \$228,390 to protect and promote the hunting tradition including contributions to the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance and the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Research

Spent \$98,474 on wild turkey research. Purchased equipment related to research such as radio telemetry equipment.

- supported the current statewide gobbler banding project, designed to provide more reliable data on gobbler harvest rates and survival
- purchased turkey bait, trapping supplies, rocket nets and rocket charges for the Game Commission trapping teams to use

Management

Spent \$23,960 on wild turkey management.

- hunter success and satisfaction surveys
- completion of wild turkey management plans
- support of law enforcement activities

Rewards

Spent \$9,587 to protect wild turkeys and other wildlife through support of state sponsored reward programs, the printing of reward signs and reward payments.

INVEST IN OUR FUTURE Conserve. Hunt. Share. 

35 Annual Rendezvous and Awards Banquet

Congratulations to the following individuals and chapters who received awards at this January's awards banquet in State College, PA.

Hall of Fame Award:

Awarded to an outstanding turkey hunter, conservationist, and ethical sportsman who, throughout their life, has worked for the betterment of the Wild Turkey in Pennsylvania.

Winners: *Dave Blakely* and *Jim Panaro*

Frank Piper Hunting Safety Award:

Awarded for outstanding contributions in the promotion of turkey hunting safety, education and ethics.

Winners: *Ralph Martone* and *Jason Straley*

James Wilhelm Memorial Award:

Conservation award for an individual who contributes to the wise management and conservation of the Wild Turkey through habitat work, land acquisition, fundraising, legislation, or public relations.

Winner: *Walter "Bucky" Shimp*

Roger Latham Award:

Awarded to the outstanding director of the year who has exhibited exemplary leadership and contributions above and beyond their responsibility.

Winner: *Skip Motts*

Irven Buttray Award:

Awarded to an individual for outstanding service in their first year of service as a Director or Officer.

Winners: *Dean Zimmerman*, *Katrina Skrapits* and *Sam McCartney*

David Wanless Award:

Given for service to the Pa. Chapter above and beyond the call of duty.

Winner: *Dale Butler*

Corporate Conservation Award:

Awarded to a corporation, group, or agency that has displayed outstanding effort or support of the wise management and conservation of the Wild Turkey.

Winners: *Pennsylvania Game Commission Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management*, and *H.R Bierly Garage*

Honorary Board Members:

Don Heckman and *Gary Beatty*

Certificate of Appreciation:

Scott Wojton

Golden Gobbler Awards:

Awarded to Local Chapters obtaining 60% or better net to gross at their Hunting Heritage Banquets.

60% Golden Gobbler Winners:

- *Blue Mountain Chapter*
- *Endless Mountain Chapter*
- *Lake Marburg Chapter*
- *Milcreek Chapter*
- *Moraine Chapter*
- *Peters Creek Trail Chapter*
- *Red Rock Chapter*
- *Southern End Strutters Chapter*
- *Wolfcreek Longbeards Chapter*

70% Golden Gobbler Winners:

- *Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter*
- *Lykens Valley Chapter*

80% Golden Gobbler Winners:

- *Juniata Gobblers Chapter*

Highest Net/Gross Banquet:

- *Juniata Gobblers 81%*

Jerry Zimmerman

Chapter Achievement Awards:

Awarded to Local Chapters that had the highest numbers in three areas. Net-Total, Memberships and Net to Gross.

100 & Under Attendees

- 1st Place: *Ben Stimaker Memorial*
- 2nd Place: *Bald Eagle Longbeards*
- 3rd Place: *Philadelphia County Fightin Spurs*

101 – 200 Attendees

- 1st Place: *Juniata Gobblers*
- 2nd Place: *Red Rock*
- 3rd Place: *Peters Creek Trail*

200 and Over Attendees

- 1st Place: *Lykens Valley Longbeards*
- 2nd Place: *Jerry Zimmerman Memorial*
- 3rd place: *Laurel Highlands Committee*

Most JAKES Raffle Tickets Sold:

647 - Lower Bucks Longbeards Chapter

Most JAKES Memberships Sold:

428 - Lower Bucks Longbeards Chapter

Women in the Outdoors

Golden Hen Chapters:

Awarded to Local Chapters that raised over \$1,500, more than 50 women in attendance, and event paperwork turned in to headquarters within 30 days of event.

- *Jerry Zimmerman Memorial and Walking Purchase Chapters*
- *Sherman's Valley Strutters Chapter*
- *Black Moshannon State Park and PA State Chapter*
- *Moraine Chapter*

Women in the Outdoors

Chapter Achievement Award:

Awarded to events that had the highest numbers in three areas. Net-Total, Memberships and Net to Gross.

- 1st Place: *Jerry Zimmerman Memorial and Walking Purchase Chapters*
- 2nd Place: *Mount Pisgah Chapter*
- 3rd Place: *Kinzua Allegheny Chapter*



Danville Youth Wins NWTF's Intermediate Turkey Calling Championship

By NWTF Edgefield, S.C.



**Intermediate Division Champion,
Dakota Clouser**

Dakota Clouser's focus, talent and practice paid off on when he won the Intermediate Division at the National Wild Turkey Federation's Grand National Turkey Calling Championships in Nashville, Tenn.

After winning the Junior Division four times before age 16, Clouser, from Danville, Pa., won the 2010 Mossy Oak Brand Camo and OI' Tom Intermediate Contest for his third straight victory in the NWTF's division for callers between the ages of 16 and 20.

"This win feels just as good as the first one," said Clouser. "I get nervous every time I call but once I hit the first note in my calling sequence, I calm down."

Every February, callers from all over the nation flock to the NWTF's Convention and Sport Show to compete in the championships. This year's convention, sponsored by MidwayUSA, took place Feb. 18 to Feb. 21,

and had more than \$25,000 in cash and prizes going to the top callers in nine divisions. Seats filled up with onlookers anxious to see and hear the terrific turkey talkers.

In the Intermediate Division callers are asked to perform a series of calls that imitate a single wild turkey hen. Some of these calls include the yelp, cluck and purr, kee kee run, and tree call. A panel of seven expert judges score each call and the slightest mistake can virtually eliminate a caller from contention.

"The atmosphere in the room during the Grand National Turkey Calling Championships is electric, especially during the youth divisions," said George Thornton, NWTF CEO. The young people who compete here show incredible poise and talent, and could likely out-call many adults. These are future competitors in the senior calling divisions, and it's a joy to watch as they hone their skills."

Lehigh Valley NWTF Chapter Wins National Award for Educating Youth

Courtesy of Michael Turbyfill at NWTF

Volunteers with the Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation are dedicated to preserving North America's outdoor traditions by providing opportunities for youth to learn outdoor activities like hunting, fishing, shooting and more.

For doing an exceptional job of introducing young people to the great outdoors, the Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter received the Best Xtreme JAKES Event Award during the Federation's 34th annual National Convention and Sport Show. The convention, sponsored by MidwayUSA, was held in Nashville, Feb. 18 to Feb. 21.

"I feel honored to be here accepting this award," said Kevin German, chairman of the JAKES event. "It's a tribute to the volunteers and instructors with our chapter back in Pennsylvania. Being able to take the award home and show it to the young people who participate in our event will be special."

The Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter hosted an Xtreme JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship) event that was one of the best out of more than 1,000 events hosted by NWTF chapters nationwide.

"Hunting, fishing, shooting and other outdoor activities are safe, enjoyable and educational for youth," said Mandy Harling, JAKES program coordinator. "The Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter has taken the lead in their



**Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter JAKES event
co chairman, Bob Schwalm and chairman, Kevin German**

area for ensuring that young people understand how important conservation and being good stewards of land and wildlife are to our hunting heritage."

The NWTF's JAKES program is dedicated to teaching the principles of wildlife management and passing along the traditions of safe, ethical and responsible hunting to youth up to age 12.

The Xtreme JAKES program was developed for teens between the ages of 13 and 17.

The program provides advanced outdoor opportunities and challenges more in line with older JAKES abilities and experiences.

Combined, JAKES and Xtreme JAKES events held throughout North America attracted more than 75,000 youth in 2009. The JAKES program is growing steadily, and earning a JAKES award has become increasingly competitive. Any local NWTF chapter that hosts a JAKES event can apply for the JAKES awards.

Pennsylvania Call Makers Win Top Awards at the NWTF Convention



L to R: Dave Constantine, Ed Terefencko, Mike Lapp, Scott Basehore, and Don Clark

The following Pennsylvania call makers won awards at the 2010 34 annual NWTF Convention in Nashville.

Great showing by a fine bunch of quality call makers we have in Pennsylvania. Congratulations to them all!

2010 National Champion - **Ed Terefencko**
Best of Class Gibson Award - **Ed Terefencko**
Don Chancey Award - **Scott Basehore**
Champion of Champions Neil Cost Award - **Scott Basehore**

2010 Grand National Hunting Calls

Category 1 - Short Box

1. **Ed Terefencko** Pottsville, PA

Category 2 - Long Box

2. **Ed Terefencko**

Category 3 - One Sider Box

1. **Michael Lapp** Honey Brook, PA
6. **Lee Smith** Chambersburg, PA

Category 11 - Push Pin Call

1. **Michael Lapp**

Category 13 - Champion of Champions Box Call

1. **Scott Basehore** Denver, PA
2. **Michael Lapp**

Category 14 - Box Call Sets

1. **Scott Basehore**
2. **Michael Lapp**

2010 Grand National Decorative Calls

Category 7 - Box Call: Inlaid only

3. **Gregg Guthridge** Saint Marys, PA

Category 12 - Air Operated Calls: Turned Barrel Trumpet Style-
no carving and/or painting

1. **Ralph Permar** Old Zionsville, PA

Category 24 - Air Operated Calls: Locator Call

2. **Gregg Guthridge**

Category 19 - Friction Calls: Trough Style Call slate, glass or other

1. **Gregg Guthridge**

CONGRATULATIONS

to this year's winners of the NWTF sanctioned turkey calling contest held at the

35th Annual Eastern Sports & Outdoors Show

in Harrisburg on February 7, 2010

Youth

Hunter Wallis
Greenfield, PA

Amateur

Clay Erb
Fleetwood, PA

Pro Open

Shane Hendershot
Zanesville, OH

Pro Friction

Pat Strawser
Millersburg, PA

Owl Hooting

Ralph Zorn
Carlisle, PA

Want an easy way to reach thousands of wild turkey and outdoor enthusiasts?

Advertise in
**PENNSYLVANIA
TURKEY
TALK**

Contact Tina Heimbach at 610 841 2303 or tina.heimbach@tribune.com for more information!

Wild Turkey Study and Bear Proposals

By Bob Eriksen, NWTF Regional Biologist

At the January Commission meeting in Harrisburg, Bureau of Wildlife Management biologists gave outstanding presentations on deer management black bear management, bobcat season changes and wild turkey research and management. The presentations on Monday included some recommendations from the Bureau on seasons and bag limits. The proposals from the Bureau were supported by the comments provided for the PANWTF by chapter president Dale Butler.

On Tuesday, the commissioners discussed and voted on proposed changes to seasons and bag limits. During that meeting Commissioner Thomas Boop submitted a proposal to change the opening day of the firearm black bear season from its traditional opener on the Monday before Thanksgiving to the Saturday before Thanksgiving. The rationale for the change was to provide more opportunity to hunters who cannot take weekdays off and perhaps to attract more young hunters to bear hunting. Many young hunters are not inclined to take off from school for bear hunting because deer season is so close and they want to spend time deer hunting. Under this proposal, extended black bear hunting seasons currently held during the firearm deer season would be closed. In addition turkey hunters would lose the last Saturday in areas where fall turkey season is three weeks in length.

While the proposal may make sense from a hunter recruitment point of view, there are some major concerns connected with such a change. Those concerns range from issues surrounding black bear management to the potential impact on turkey hunting opportunity. In the midst of the concerns is the potential for significant effects on the wild turkey hen survival and fall harvest rate study. That study is just getting underway and any change in the black bear season at this point may affect the validity of data collection on the traditional three week fall turkey hunting season.

Game Commission biologists first proposed a study to look at fall harvest rates in 1999 in the original Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania. Knowledge of harvest rates gives biologists a better foundation on which to base season and bag limits recommendations. A component of a good base of knowledge is being certain of hen survival rates from the winter through the fall season. The new study outlined in our last issue is designed to get at this vital information. In addition the study is designed to test the impact of the two and three week fall turkey season structure including three and four Saturdays respectively. That approach to fall turkey hunting season structure has been in place since 1981, a period of 29 years.

The assumption has been that the two week season has less impact on wild turkey survival than a three week fall season. Some Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) appear to be able to handle

a three week fall season without a corresponding decline in turkey numbers. Other WMUs show a decline in spring harvest whenever a three week fall season occurs. Whether the ability of a WMU to handle a three week fall season is related to reproductive success, weather, habitat quality or land ownership is not known. One objective of the study will be to look at those factors.

Currently in Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) open for the three week season between 20 and 33 percent of the harvest occurs in the last week with roughly half of that taking place on the last Saturday. Hunters take advantage of that last week, especially that last Saturday. The close proximity of the last Saturday to the opener of the traditional black bear season gives hunters with bear camps an opportunity to turkey hunt without

missing any more work and scout for bears while they are out after turkeys.

There are a number of questions. How will a Saturday opener affect black bear harvest and subsequent

populations? Will this change actually recruit new bear hunters, especially among our youth? Do turkey hunters want to lose an important Saturday for hunting? Will more hunters be affected by one of these changes or the other? How will the change affect the new fall turkey harvest and hen survival study? How will this change impact the ability of researchers to determine the effect of changes in fall turkey hunting season length? All these questions and likely others need to be asked and answered prior to any decision on the proposal.

From a bear management standpoint a Saturday opener could have unexpected results. Bear hunter numbers are currently around 140,000. The attraction of a Saturday opening day could entice more hunters to buy bear licenses and subsequently cause an increase in the harvest. Bad weather on the opening day might have a more substantial impact on the harvest than a weekday opener if many hunters planned to hunt only on that one day and did not schedule vacation days for the following Monday and Tuesday.

The proposal could result in a loss of recreational opportunity in WMUs that currently have extended bear seasons that coincide with deer season. In addition, a few WMUs are close to producing as large a bear harvest as possible without going overboard. Those WMUs might see an overharvest if the number of bear hunters increases dramatically. Some of the WMUs involved in the hen survival and fall harvest rate study are at the tipping point for bear harvest. They simply do not need additional numbers of bear taken. Recent surveys of Pennsylvania residents indicate that most people are satisfied with bear numbers at present. Finally there may be

disagreement on whether a Saturday opening day for black bear hunting will be attractive to youngsters. Bear hunting is a rugged sport with relatively low hunter success. As such, bear hunting may not attract a large number of youth hunters.

What about the loss of a day of fall turkey hunting opportunity? There are about 183,000 fall turkey hunters in the Commonwealth. The final Saturday of either the two or three week season is a popular turkey hunting day. Fall turkey hunters may not be happy about losing a day of hunting opportunity. Keeping turkey season open on the same Saturday as bear hunters take to the woods could create some conflicts. First, there has not been a coincidental bear and fall turkey hunting season in Pennsylvania since 1966. One of the goals of the Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania is to avoid the incidental take of wild turkeys by hunters not specifically hunting turkeys. There would likely be an increase in incidental harvest if the seasons overlapped. Another wrinkle would be a necessary change in requirements for wearing and displaying orange.

When considering the new study, there are concerns about the integrity of the data collected if season lengths are changed and the last Saturday is eliminated. If those changes occur, the 2010 season will not be the same as the previous 29 seasons. About 1/8th (9-14%) of the fall turkey harvest in WMUs with the three week season occurs on the last day. It is likely that this dynamic would change greatly if the last day were a Friday. The hypothesis for the study was that there is a difference in harvest rates and wild turkey survival between WMUs open for the two and three week seasons. The study is designed to test and examine the impact of the traditional two verses three weeks seasons. A three week season with only three Saturdays is a far cry from the season as thousands of fall turkey hunters now know it.

It's up to you as a turkey and/or bear hunter to look at the facts, think the matter over and decide which way you think the decision should go. This is not simply a matter of recreational opportunity. There are scientific and biological ramifications involved. It is your responsibility as a hunter/conservationist to let the commissioners know where you stand on the issue. The PANWTF Board of Directors made a decision on the proposals after much discussion at the March Board meeting. The board, speaking on behalf of the chapter has gone on record in support of no change if the traditional three week fall turkey season closing on Saturday.

A letter written to the Pennsylvania Game Commission Bureau of Wildlife Management outlining the concerns of the board appears in this issue of "Turkey Talk". As a hunter/conservationist, we recommend that you voice your opinions on this proposal to the commissioners no matter which option you support.

"While the proposal may make sense from a hunter recruitment point of view, there are some major concerns connected with such a change. Those concerns range from issues surrounding black bear management to the potential impact on turkey hunting opportunity."

Pennsylvania NWTF Addresses the Pennsylvania Game Commission

Submitted by Dale Butler, PA NWTF President



PENNSYLVANIA State Chapter

Since 1975

*Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey
and the Preservation of Our Hunting Heritage*

PO Box 4
Noxen, PA 18636
March 14, 2010

Mr. Calvin DuBrock
Pennsylvania Game Commission
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-9797

Dear Cal:

Our Pennsylvania Chapter Board of Directors was taken by surprise by the proposal to change the opening day of the firearm black bear season and eliminate the final Saturday of the three week fall turkey season. Our Board in comments presented at the January Commission meeting supported seasons and bag limits on wild turkeys as proposed by the Bureau of Wildlife Management in order to accommodate the study of fall harvest rates and hen turkey survival. We have had time to discuss the new proposal and various potential options including one submitted to the chapter by Commissioner Martone at a recent meeting. Coincidentally the chapter had scheduled Dr. Duane Diefenbach to speak on the gobbler harvest rate study at the same meeting. While Dr. Diefenbach was at our meeting we discussed our concerns about the proposal and asked for some input from him as a researcher. Following our discussions the board voted on a position regarding the proposal.

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation supports the Saturday closing day of fall turkey seasons in all Wildlife Management Units with three week fall seasons to protect the integrity of the Hen Harvest Rate Study and the Crossover Design. For clarity, the chapter listed the WMUs affected for the 2010 and 2011 seasons as 2B, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C and 4E and the closing dates of 11/20/2010 and 11/19/2011. Following the changes in season length required by the study design, the board supports a three week season with Saturday closing dates for 2012 and 2013 in WMUs 2B, 2C, 2E, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E with closing dates of 11/24/12 and 11/23/13.

Some of the most important reasons for the decision on the chapter position to maintain Saturday as the closing day for WMUs with three week seasons were:

- The impact of the loss of an important day of hunting opportunity for a large number of turkey hunters (183,000 hunters, of whom a number hunt that last day)
- Our belief that fall turkey hunting may have a greater potential to recruit and maintain young hunters than bear hunting
- The recent initiation of the fall harvest rate and hen survival study, a study called for in the Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania since 1999
- From 9-14% of the fall harvest occurs on the last Saturday in three week WMUs so eliminating the last Saturday could change the harvest substantially
- 20 to 33% of the total fall harvest in three week WMUs occurs in the final week with nearly half of that harvest taking place on Saturday. Eliminating the Saturday could impact the last week harvest reducing the ability of the study design to detect differences in harvest rates between the two types of seasons
- The potential for the elimination of Saturday to compromise the objectives of the \$3 million study of fall harvest rates and hen survival (the study is designed to evaluate the role of season length in affecting survival and harvest rates)
- The reduced ability to accurately assess the impact of fall season length on fall harvest rates (sample sizes for the study were designed specifically to examine harvest rates in traditional seasons structured as they have been since 1981 with season lengths of 13 or 19 days)
- Should the study design be compromised, the ability of the Game Commission to provide additional fall turkey hunting opportunity could be impacted affecting hunter recruitment and retention potential in the future

Please share our concerns with the commissioners as Bureau personnel and the commissioners review season and bag limits proposals. Thank you for the chance to provide input and share our thoughts on wild turkey management.

Kindest Regards,

Dale C. Butler
President, Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF

www.panwtf.org

panwtfrep@panwtf.org



A turkey for Heather

By Wes Mendez, Quarryville, PA

"Hunting has more meanings to someone
than just the harvesting of an animal"

It's the third Saturday morning of 2004 Pennsylvania's spring gobbler season. At a typical hunting camp, hunters are scrambling to get dressed and make sure they have more than they need for the upcoming day in the woods. However, this year at our camp things are moving at a much slower pace. In fact, the air was filled with a sadness that I hope to never feel again. Let me step back and explain what created these circumstances.

Turkey season was rapidly approaching and my plans for opening day were in place. As in years before, I was taking a couple of extra days off work and would again be hunting with my "Second Dad" Jim Wise. Jim is an outstanding caller and a very experienced turkey hunter. He always took on

the role of mentor and guide. My passion is archery hunting and I never really put 100% effort into spring gobbler hunting.

A week and a half before opening day, I had all of my hunting stuff packed and sitting in the garage. Then came a phone call very early Sunday morning, April 24, 2004. It was Jim. I assumed it was out of excitement and we would have another conversation on how we were going to fool that old tom this year. I could not have predicted the news that I was about to receive. There had been a vehicle accident the night before and Jim's only child was no longer with us. Heather Wise was 24 years old and a mother of single son, Kyle Wise.

Thank You, Mr. Leidy!

Every year my fourth grade students are privileged to learn about a very important animal in the state of Pennsylvania. The National Wild Turkey Federation has provided the opportunity for my students to learn all about the habitat and life of the wild turkey. My students had little knowledge of the wild turkey before our presentation by Terry Leidy, member of the Southeast Silver Spurs chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, better known by my students as "The Turkey Man." The classroom visitation program created by NWTf benefits education by teaching students about the preservation and habitat of the wild turkey. My students were completely fascinated by the facts they learned during the program. It is a great way to teach students about wildlife that is native to their area.



A person driving under the influence took Heather's life. Hurt and anger raced through me. I couldn't even imagine the anguish that my friend was feeling. The next weeks were filled with formalities and grief. Spring gobbler season was no longer important. In fact the whole season just really didn't matter.

I checked with Jim many times to see if there was anything that I could do. The answer was the same, "Thanks and I will call when I need something. Finally a call came in. "Think you can get a couple of days off work?", he asked. "I need to get away and try to clear my head." I told him that it was no problem and I would do whatever he needed.

It is now going into third weekend of the season. The drive up to our cabin in Potter County was quiet. I really didn't know what to say, so I just listened. That hurt never left his eyes, and I could see the pain on his face. In all my life I never saw Jim like this. He is usually filled with laughter and stories that grow every year. The next morning I decided to break the silence. "Why don't we just take a long walk. Who knows maybe we will just bump into a bird." Jim's brother Charlie Wise, who joined us for the weekend, agreed. So that was our game plan. As the three of us started out across the cut cornfield, Jim said, "What about that old Tom that makes a fool out of us every year? I'll bet he's in those pine trees again." Charlie and I laughed and a plan was formed. This gobbler

has been playing games with us for 3 years. We decided we would just sit around that pine grove and not call. Maybe, just maybe, he would walk into us.

Just as we got to the edge of the pines we stopped to let each other know where we would sit and for how long. I had yet to harvest a spring gobbler and Jim was always putting me in the prime spots and doing all of the calling for me. On this day, I refused. If somebody was to get lucky today, it could only be Jim. Just as we said our good lucks, turkeys started busting from the trees right above us. We had been directly under them and didn't even know it. We quickly split up and sat down, kicking them out of their roost was not part of the plan. Jim sat about 100 yards below me and I could see his fluorescent orange band around a tree not more than 10 yards from him. Suddenly, the "big boy" sounded off. He was not happy about being pushed from his roost and even unhappier that he was no longer right next to his hens. Jim called back to him and he responded every time. However, he was the boss of that area and refused to budge from where he was. Jim let out a gobble, I never heard him do this in the woods before. Jim can make a gobble without a call. I've only ever heard him do this at camp when we were clowning around. He has said numerous times that it's too dangerous to do in the woods. At this point the game had changed. This old tom was furious thinking another tom was moving in on his turf and hens. He

started running towards Jim from inside the pine trees. I had a front row seat to the whole show from where I was sitting. He would gobble, then run, stop, gobble, and run again. The whole show took only about 10 minutes, and I was shaking uncontrollably the whole time.

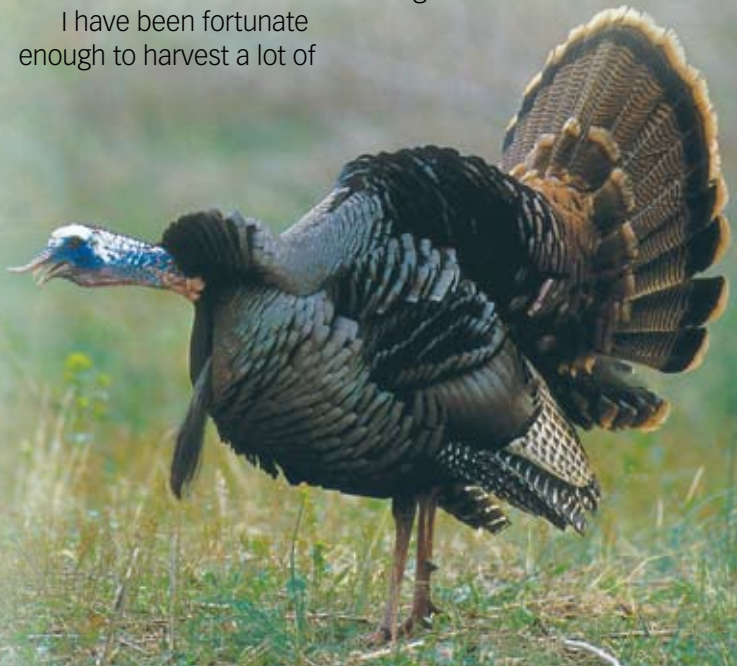
A single gunshot rang out and it was all over. I jumped up, leaving my gun and backpack at the tree I was sitting at, and ran as fast as I could to Jim. Jim had stood up and saw me coming. I jumped to hug him so hard that we both went to the ground. Then we looked at each other and both of us had tears streaming down our faces. No words were spoken. It only took seconds for Charlie to get there, too. Jim broke the silence, "This one is for Heather." The harder all three of us smiled, the more tears there were. After we got back to camp, Jim said, "Wes, let's head back out and try to find you a bird." My reply was simple. "It can't get any better than this. Let's just go fishing or hang out here."

I have been fortunate enough to harvest a lot of

game in my life, but never has a hunt with someone ever impacted the future of my hunting like this one. Harvesting that turkey didn't fill the hole in Jim's heart from losing his daughter, but for that moment in time, I do believe that Heather was looking after him from above. Since that day, I have learned to treasure every moment in the woods with family and friends. Jim is now getting ready to pass on his hunting knowledge to his grandson Kyle, whom he and his wife Linda have been raising since Heather's passing.

I don't know why I waited so long to write this story on paper. I have told it hundreds of times. I guess as we grow as fathers and sportsmen, we learn to understand that the woods can offer more than just a trophy animal. It also offers bonding, laughter, stories, and most of all peace within you.

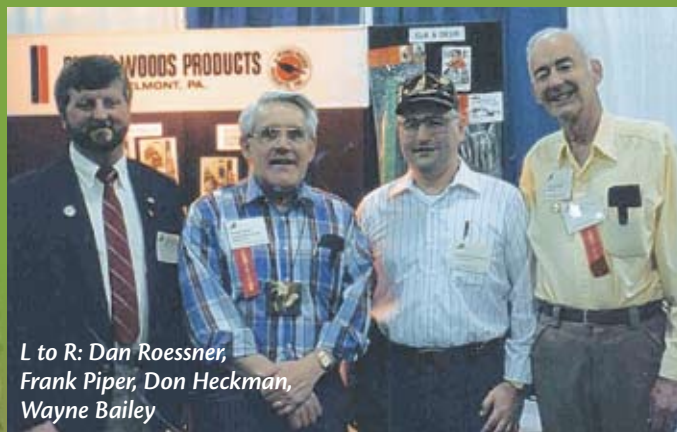
This story is in loving memory of Heather Wise. May she always watch over Jim and her son Kyle on all of their adventures together.



Frank Piper,

PA Chapter NWTF Founder and close friend. I first met Mr. Piper in June 1975 when a bunch of grassroots turkey hunters got together in State College to start and energize the Pennsylvania State Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation. Frank was an inspiration to many of us younger guys and gals. While he was never an officer or director, he was our mentor, providing leadership, direction, and our guiding light. We often met at the NWTF Convention at the Penns Woods Products booth with Tink Smith and Wayne Bailey to reminisce. People like Roger Latham and Frank Piper only come along a few times each decade. Both were important to the NWTF and that fledgling conservation organization the Pennsylvania State Chapter NWTF back in those early years.

Don Heckman, PA Chapter NWTF Executive Officer



*L to R: Dan Roessner,
Frank Piper, Don Heckman,
Wayne Bailey*

Hunting Legend Passes

By Charlie Burchfield

It's interesting how a group of individuals or even one person can touch one's life. Sometimes the exposure is low key but to the point. On the other hand, even the simplest of actions can span generations. That was the case of Frank Piper.

A number of us lived during a time when Frank provided a pathway of understanding that taught many of us a greater appreciation of the outdoors and guided us to be better turkey hunters at the same time. It was back in the late 1950's when Roger Latham, who was at onetime a wildlife biologist for the PA Game Commission and later the Outdoor Writer for the Pittsburgh Press, purchased the rights to the Tom Turpin Yelper. That was the beginning of Penns Woods turkey calls. Then in 1965 Latham sold the company to Frank and George Piper and their brother-in-law Merle Neuman, all of Delmont, PA.

This was a time when calls fashioned from wood happened to be the popular call of the day. At the same time diaphragm calls were being hand made and were quickly becoming popular. The boys at Penns Woods Products were quick to pick up on the trend and began manufacturing the hands free call. Only Penns Woods would take their manufacture a step further.

Article used with permission from Charlie Burchfield, Pennsylvania Outdoor Writer, Gateway Outdoors. Charlie is a past PA Chapter NWTF Officer and Board member.



15 year old Wade Weber of Beaumont, PA drew a bobcat tag this year and on the last day of the season he took this 20 lb. bobcat while hunting in Bradford County. Wade is the son of Donny & Judy Weber of the Mehoopany Creek Chapter.



NWTF member Bill Shrader of Mechanicsburg, PA and his family took a vacation to Alabama where his daughter, Julie Vaccaro, 16 years old bagged her first ever whitetail, a beautiful 10 pointer. They were hunting in Reform, Alabama.



As Frank told me one time, "The diaphragm call was not new, but we devised a way to manufacture the call with mass production methods in mind." And they did right down to the packaging and means to display the products they made when they hit the sporting goods stores. But it wasn't simply turkey calls that moved the business forward. In a word it was innovation.

In addition to producing calls that truly mimicked wild turkey calls, the company branched out into other areas of turkey hunting.

Today turkey hunters often employ the use of decoys. And who brought the idea to the marketplace? You guessed it, Penns Woods. The concept was simple; the decoy was a flat, two sided image of a turkey. A pink peg with a spreading device was used to open the decoy up and set it in the ground. The decoy even came with a two sided camo bag, one side green and the other brown. I still have one of these historic gems in my collection of turkey hunting stuff.

Then there were the 45 rpm records with live turkey sounds. Later a cassette tape titled "A Turkey Hunt with Rob Keck" hit the market. Also there was a new call or two coming on the market

on a regular basis to keep sales moving and providing a growing number of turkey hunters something new to lure in wary fall birds or gobblers in the spring.

There were those who were ahead of their time. That was a hallmark of Penns Woods Products. To spur interest in the sport, Penns Woods had the Circle of the Gobbler. In this venture hunters were invited to share their turkey hunting stories, in this case calling in a gobbler. When the story was submitted to Penns Woods along with \$2.50 you would receive a certificate of induction into the Circle of the Gobbler along with a shoulder patch and membership pin. The concept was one that Penns Woods was good at and that was to keep in touch and interact with the hunters that would purchase turkey calls. And it worked.

Another hunting concept ahead of its time was Turkey Mountain Lodge. The idea had been in the works for some time and finally kicked off in the early 1980's. In a saved news release from the time Frank said, "Many hunters simply do not have the big chunks of time to invest in the learning process, and after a few seasons without even so much as seeing a wild bird, they row discouraged and leave the

sport. I had been struggling with that problem for years."

That was one of the ways in which the idea of conducting a school for turkey hunters was developed. Turkey Mountain Lodge was a great facility set on 176 acres in Somerset Co. PA. As Piper noted, "It was a big and important move on our part. Because that purchase opened up a whole new and exiting challenge to us, converting a resort type of facility from a strictly rest and relaxation to one whose major focus would be on education." But they did it, and with a core of instructors that included Wayne Bailey, Sam Nenno, and Tom Stuckey, just to name a few. The school had a bright future.

All of this was developing when hunters were eager to learn the "secrets" of turkey hunting. The outdoor media featured more and more about turkey hunting, and at the same time the PA Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation had been launched. Again it was Penns Woods Products that was at the forefront offering help, support, and even Frank conducting turkey hunting seminars at conferences.

In a 1983 brochure you could find in one place all the turkey calls you'd ever need.

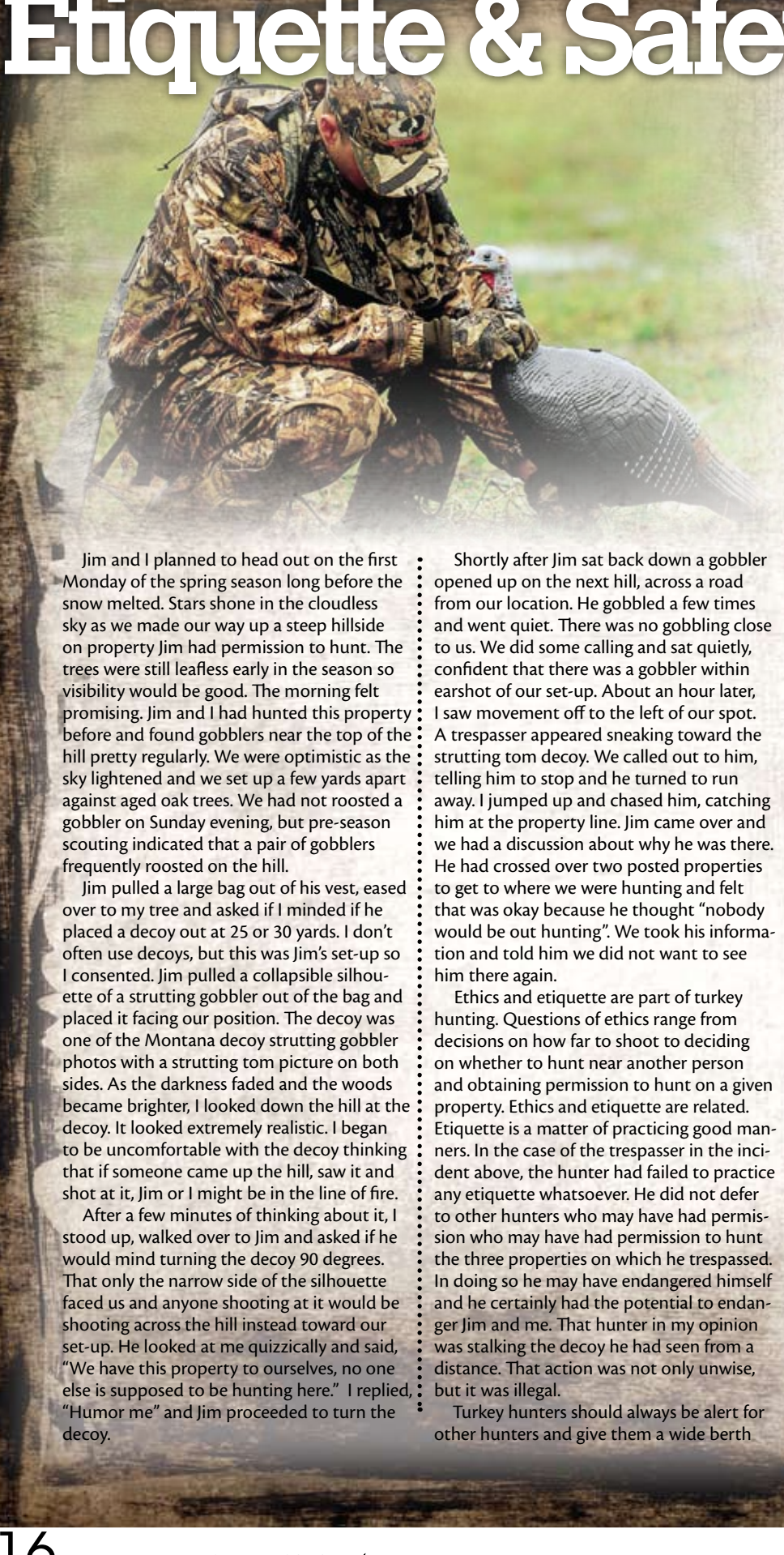
There were diaphragm calls complete with a "Raspy Spacer" model, not to mention seven additional diaphragm calls to choose from. Also there was the gobble call, one of the first to offer a reed type call that when shook offered the perfect gobble on the same sound frequency as the wild turkey. Then there were friction calls, camo accessories, and never forgetting his roots, the Roger Latham Slate Call.

To say Frank Piper enjoyed turkey hunting and turkey hunters would be an understatement. To call him a legend of the outdoors would be the truth. They just don't make them like that any more.

On December 12, 2009, Frank Piper passed away at the age of 76. For those of us who knew him, he will be missed. However his legacy lives on because many of the turkey calls used today were innovations that Frank and Penns Woods Products brought to the marketplace and we use even to this day.

Etiquette & Safety

By Bob Eriksen,
NWTF Regional Biologist



Jim and I planned to head out on the first Monday of the spring season long before the snow melted. Stars shone in the cloudless sky as we made our way up a steep hillside on property Jim had permission to hunt. The trees were still leafless early in the season so visibility would be good. The morning felt promising. Jim and I had hunted this property before and found gobblers near the top of the hill pretty regularly. We were optimistic as the sky lightened and we set up a few yards apart against aged oak trees. We had not roosted a gobbler on Sunday evening, but pre-season scouting indicated that a pair of gobblers frequently roosted on the hill.

Jim pulled a large bag out of his vest, eased over to my tree and asked if I minded if he placed a decoy out at 25 or 30 yards. I don't often use decoys, but this was Jim's set-up so I consented. Jim pulled a collapsible silhouette of a strutting gobbler out of the bag and placed it facing our position. The decoy was one of the Montana decoy strutting gobbler photos with a strutting tom picture on both sides. As the darkness faded and the woods became brighter, I looked down the hill at the decoy. It looked extremely realistic. I began to be uncomfortable with the decoy thinking that if someone came up the hill, saw it and shot at it, Jim or I might be in the line of fire.

After a few minutes of thinking about it, I stood up, walked over to Jim and asked if he would mind turning the decoy 90 degrees. That only the narrow side of the silhouette faced us and anyone shooting at it would be shooting across the hill instead toward our set-up. He looked at me quizzically and said, "We have this property to ourselves, no one else is supposed to be hunting here." I replied, "Humor me" and Jim proceeded to turn the decoy.

Shortly after Jim sat back down a gobbler opened up on the next hill, across a road from our location. He gobbled a few times and went quiet. There was no gobbling close to us. We did some calling and sat quietly, confident that there was a gobbler within earshot of our set-up. About an hour later, I saw movement off to the left of our spot. A trespasser appeared sneaking toward the strutting tom decoy. We called out to him, telling him to stop and he turned to run away. I jumped up and chased him, catching him at the property line. Jim came over and we had a discussion about why he was there. He had crossed over two posted properties to get to where we were hunting and felt that was okay because he thought "nobody would be out hunting". We took his information and told him we did not want to see him there again.

Ethics and etiquette are part of turkey hunting. Questions of ethics range from decisions on how far to shoot to deciding on whether to hunt near another person and obtaining permission to hunt on a given property. Ethics and etiquette are related. Etiquette is a matter of practicing good manners. In the case of the trespasser in the incident above, the hunter had failed to practice any etiquette whatsoever. He did not defer to other hunters who may have had permission who may have had permission to hunt the three properties on which he trespassed. In doing so he may have endangered himself and he certainly had the potential to endanger Jim and me. That hunter in my opinion was stalking the decoy he had seen from a distance. That action was not only unwise, but it was illegal.

Turkey hunters should always be alert for other hunters and give them a wide berth

if they see them. Common turkey hunting etiquette dictates that when hunting public land it is usually wise to avoid parking and hunting near another hunter because you have no real idea of where that person might be hunting. When hunting on private land always know where your hunting partners are and give them plenty of room.

A few years ago I was hunting with a friend and we moved in on a tom gobbling long and loud on the roost. We were hunting land on which there were no posters and on which I had permission. The permission I had was not exclusive but there were no other vehicles parked on the stretch of road on which we traveled to access the spot. My hunting partner and I climbed a steep hill working our way toward the roosting gobbler. The bird was ready judging by his incessant gobbling. After a long climb we were just about where we wanted to be. As we began to look for some good trees to sit near I heard a low whistle. I glanced in the direction of the whistle and saw another hunter already in good position to work the gobbler. I whistled back and my friend and I quickly and quietly left the scene to find another gobbler. Ours was a decision based on etiquette and ethics, but it was also the safest thing to do.

Safety, ethics and etiquette are related. As spring approaches make sure you are thinking about ethics, etiquette and safety. The safety record among spring gobbler hunters in Pennsylvania has improved greatly over the last twenty years. Back in the 1980's spring hunting related shooting incidents (HRSIs) averaged more than a dozen annually. The average number for the past decade has averaged less than eight. In the 2009 spring gobbler season there were 5 HRSIs in Pennsylvania. As the 2010 season approaches, let's make a conscious effort to practice safety, etiquette and ethics as you hunt. Let's try to have the safest spring season on record. Think Safety; Hunt Safely!

SHARE THE TURKEY HUNTER'S
CODE OF CONDUCT WITH OTHERS AS
A FRIENDLY REMINDER OF ETHICAL AND
SAFE HUNTING PRACTICES. POST IT AT
YOUR HUNTING CAMP, GUN CLUB OR
ON THE BULLETIN BOARD OF YOUR
LOCAL SPORTING GOODS STORE.

DOWNLOAD A PRINTABLE PDF AT
WWW.TURKEYCOUNTRYMAGAZINE.COM

HOW TO BUILD A BETTER BANQUET



At this years Rendezvous and Awards weekend, Scott Wojton of the Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter, conducted a seminar on building a better banquet for your chapter. Below, is a compilation of the ideas shared during the seminar. We hope you find this information useful and use it to improve your local chapter banquets.

Banquet Goals

Meet budget, Drive membership, Raise money, Community awareness - promote NWTF, its local successes and outreach programs, Promote the hunting heritage, Networking with others, Fellowship - fun and family time.

It was discussed that the two most important goals/functions of our banquets is first; to raise money and second; to build membership. Banquets are the very engines that drive everything else we do. Without money raised at our banquets, there would be no superfund (no land acquisitions, no habitat projects, no funding for our outreach programs). It is also the only requirement we have as local chapters, so it is in our best interest to do the best that we can raise as much as we can while keeping expenses to a minimum.

Keys to raising money:

Controlling Expenses

Work within budget. Budgets will be provided by RD's in the future. Speak to your RD prior to purchasing anything not included in the budget.

Increasing Attendance

It is important to not rely on the mailer. Word of mouth and referral advertising work best especially when combined with incentives (Bring a Friend & Chapter Challenge). Following up the mailer with a personalized phone call may be much more effective. Roadside signs and other forms of print media have been tried with very limited results. Don't be afraid to try new things but be price conscious (work within the budget). Promote your banquet at your outreach programs. Ask outdoor writers/personalities in your local area to promote for you thru press releases in their media or post on their electronic bulletin boards. A noticed trend from the RD's is that larger, stronger committees have larger banquets (ie; word of mouth, personal invites). FYI - the average banquet is 125 attendees.

Tips to Raise Money/Earn Golden Gobbler

Staying within budget and getting people to the banquet are important to raising money. Just as important is have as many of the expenses paid for thru Underwriting and Donations before the doors open. RD's agree. If you get your core package underwritten, you will make Golden Gobbler. The toughest part about getting underwrites is simply getting past the fear of asking for them. Don't limit yourself to hunting related businesses. You'll be surprised on how many business owners will donate to the cause if you would just ask. Start with the businesses that you already do business with personally. Most will donate something. If not cash then perhaps a gift certificate for their business or perhaps a product of value from their business that can be used for a door prize, the auction or the sportsmen raffle. This is also an excellent way to spread community awareness and tell the NWTF story. Perhaps they will even attend the banquet and bring others. Maybe they may even be interested in attending one of our outreach programs. Even better yet, perhaps they will be interested in volunteering and serving on your committee. You never know where your next committee member will come from.

On September 12, 2009 the fishing instructors at the Southeast Silver Spurs Women in the Outdoors event taught the ladies how to bait the big one!

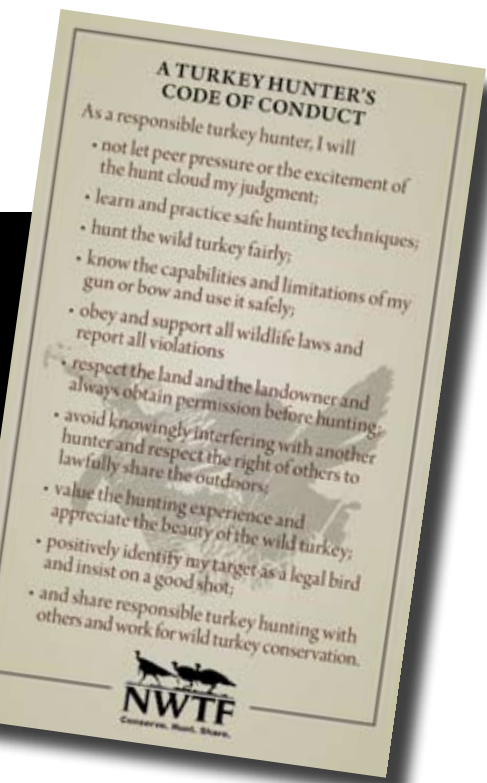


Building a Larger, Stronger Committee

Think back to the first time you attended an organized committee meeting. Chances are that you were probably invited by a friend or acquaintance. That process hasn't changed. Ask people to become involved. One on one works best but don't be afraid to ask during a speech at a banquet or an outreach event. You are bound to find a few volunteers in a larger group of people. Many will help if they knew you needed it. When new volunteers come to a meeting for the first time; make sure you introduce and welcome them, thank them for attending, don't negative during the meeting, be organized have a pledge of allegiance, don't over overwhelm them and give them a chance to get comfortable and acquainted.

Other Tips, Ideas, Suggestions

Remember that we are all just one big team. All the money goes to the same place (56% stays in the PA Chapter Superfund). Although there is recognition for a job well done, this is not a competition. Therefore, do not get discouraged regarding your banquet results. The RD's will not let you fail. Keep it fun!! Do not treat it like a second job. Things will get easier with Project TOM. Information that you used to have to get from your RD and/or National will now be at your finger tips.



REACH OUT!

Research shows that individuals with a connection to the outdoors are more likely to be conservation-minded than people who have no outdoors experience. The NWTF's outreach programs provide this connection.

While mainstream media and programs teaching about the outdoors often ignore the association between hunting and conservation, our programs tell this part of the story!

The wild turkey...our story...is a great wildlife conservation success story and a vehicle for teaching wildlife management principles and the role of hunting.

Our events contain the key components that make outreach effective. They are fun, experiential, relevant, and they take place outside!

These outreach programs help us share our love of the outdoors with new audiences and fulfill the NWTF mission: **The NWTF is dedicated to conservation of the wild turkey and preservation of our hunting heritage.**



Get Involved!

Hosting an outreach event is one of the best ways to teach others about the outdoors and conservation. You will find it to be a very rewarding experience!

The spirit of conservation and the hunting tradition have been passed from one generation to another in this country for centuries. NWTF outreach events keep this legacy alive. By making a commitment you will bring families closer together by giving them the opportunity to participate in activities that benefit them as well as our natural resources.

There is no limit to what a person can do. With help from others in your community, you can put on an event that will be fun, exciting and educational for everyone involved!



25 women gathered for the Sherman's Valley Strutters Women in the Outdoors Event in May 2009 in Duncannon, PA. They had a great time in the field taking part in a variety of classes. This picture includes the ladies with the black bear the PA Game Commission brought along to show the tagging, tattooing and weighing/record keeping process of the bruin before he was transferred to another area of the state.

On Saturday, December 12th the Michaux Yellow Breeches Chapter held a Wheelin' Sportsmen Deer Hunt with the AW2 Program of the Wounded Warriors at the Letterkenny Army Depot.



On Saturday, October 10, 2009 Southeast Silver Spurs and Delaware County Longbeards Chapters sponsored the Montgomery County Youth Field Day at Camp Kweebec, in Schwenksville, PA. 197 girls and boys ages 9 to 15 turned out for the event. Each attendee was given a t-shirt followed by a full day of archery, fishing, boating, trapping, black powder, shotgun and .22 rifle shooting. During the lunch break at our booth, a total of 98 free "Jakes" memberships were signed up by both chapters. Camouflage face painting of both young and old was enjoyed by all. Free tickets for boys and girls guns were given out. The girls winner of a pink .22 cricket rifle was Tiffany Whittaker of Pennsburg, PA. The boys winner of a black .22 cricket rifle was Tyler Charles of Douglassville, PA.



2010 Women in the Outdoors Events in Pennsylvania

June 12 • Jerry Zimmerman Memorial
Katrina Skrapits 610-760-1689
Ontelaunee Rod & Gun,
New Tripoli (Lehigh County)

June 15 • Kinzua Allegheny Longbeards
Jessica Arnold 814-436-1048
Chapman Dam State Park,
Clarendon (Warren County)

TBA July/August • Muncy Creek

June 19 • Lakefront Gobblers
Brandie Wade 814-756-3669
Presque Isle State Park,
Erie (Erie County)

Aug 7 • Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards
Tammy Wiseman 814-662-4321
Meyersdale Rod & Gun Club,
Meyersdale (Somerset Co.)

TBA August • Armenia Mountain Spurs

Aug 21 • Southern End Strutters
Stacy Padlionie 717-419-7127
Southern Lancaster Farmer-Sportsmen
Assoc. (Lancaster County)

Sept 11 • South East Silver Spurs
Kathy Michener 215-249-9367
Branch Valley Fish, Game & Forestry Asso.
Perkasie (Bucks County)

Visit our website throughout the year at:
www.panwtf.org for updates and additions

PENNSYLVANIA HUNTING HERITAGE MAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER

- May 1 • Juniata Gobblers**
Breezewood Fire Hall, Breezewood
Jamie Spade 814-735-2026
- May 22 • Cameron County Longbeards**
Emporium VFW, Emporium
Ryan Magaro 814-486-2471
- May 29 • Northern County Full Fans**
Heart Lake Lodge, Jermyn
Kevin Urian 570-488-5131
- June 11 • Yellow Creek**
Rustic Lodge, Indiana
Rick Roser 724-422-7161
- June 12 • Mason Dixon**
Emigsville Fire Hall, Emigsville
Tom Bunty 717-292-9444
- June 12 • Central PA Limbhangers**
Houtzdale Fire Hall, Houtzdale
Joan Myers 814-339-6557
- June 27 • Western PA Regional Chapter Shoot**
Lawrence Co. Sportsman's Asso., Wampum
Gary Huff 724-946-2350
- July 10 • Southern End Strutters**
Fireside Tavern, Strasburg
John Groff 717-786-3774
- July 10 • White Deer Jakes**
Warrior Run Social Hall, Allenwood
Bob Izer 570-742-4959
- August 7 • Kit-Han-Ne**
Kittanning Twp Fire Hall, Kittanning
Don Smail 724-545-9585
- August 7 • Lenni Lanape**
Dingman Township Fire Hall, Milford
Carol Welsh 570-296-2691
- August 14 • Sun Area**
Grace Covenant Community Church, Middleburg
Glenn Dressler 570-374-1059
- August 14 • Walking Purchase**
Lehigh Twp Country Garden, Cherryville
Katrina Skrapits 610-760-1689
- August 20 • Mehoopany Creek**
Dotti-Lou Grove, Tunkannock
Don Ogin 570-833-0795
- August 21 • East Coast Thunderin' Toms**
Comfort Suites, Bethlehem
Kelly Cameron 610-515-1041



- August 21 • Allegheny Mountain**
Bavarian Hall, Altoona
Kevin Kunsman 814-317-7535
- Sept 11 • Adams Co. Longbeards**
Biglerville Fire Hall, Biglerville
Pat Reever 717-677-9529
- Sept 11 • Ben Stimaker Memorial**
Pine Creek Inn, Galeton
Tim Holtz 814-647-5429
- Sept 18 • Michaux Yellow Breeches**
Holly Inn, Mt Holly Springs
Mike Henry 717-226-2949
- Sept 26 • Lykens Valley Fall Hunting Classic**
Erdman Sportsmen's Assoc., Lykens
Jeff Bordner 717-453-7313
- Sept 29 • Philadelphia County Fightin' Spurs**
Canstatter's, Philadelphia
Larry Derosé 215-336-1710
- Sept 29 • Lakeland Longbeards**
Hempfield Fire Hall • Greenville
Dave McConnell 814-382-5679

2010 WHEELIN' SPORTSMEN BENEFITS

- Blue Mountain Chapter's
Wheelin' Sportsmen Gun Bash**
July 15, 2010
Kuffman's BBQ Restaurant, Bethel
Mike Hartman 717-866-7539
- Moriane Chapter's 5th Annual Wing Night**
August 21, 2010
Butler City Hunting & Fishing Club, East Butler
Brandon Mowry 724-496-1849

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NWTF IN PENNSYLVANIA? LOG ON TO: WWW.PANWTF.ORG

Non-Profit Org
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lehigh Valley, PA
PERMIT # 159

INVEST *OUR* FUTURE Hunt. Conserve. Share.



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.

Member Benefits

Join the NWTF and enjoy exclusive membership benefits, including:

- Subscriptions to the NWTF's magazines
- Networking opportunities with hunting and conservation-minded people at NWTF banquets.
- Exclusive merchandise opportunities
- Access to articles and helpful hunting and conservation tips.
- Members-only message board access.
- Outreach programs for youth, women and people with disabilities.
- Exclusive online deals.
- Scholarships for students.
- Free or discounted seed through Project HELP and the Conservation Seed Program. (in participating states)
- Discounted land enhancement materials including tree seedlings, grass seeds, oat hay, netting and more through the NWTF's regional and national habitat programs. (in participating states)
- Land management advice from certified biologists.
- Habitat field days and workshops.
- Turkey records registration.
- The opportunity to vote in Board of Directors elections.
- NWTF decal.

- Regular Member: \$30
- Sponsor Member: \$235
- Women in the Outdoors: \$30
- JAKES Member (ages 12 & under): \$10
- Extreme JAKES Member (ages 13 - 17): \$10
- Wheelin' Sportsmen Member: \$30

Name: *(please print)* _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Master Card Visa

Credit Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____

(Make checks payable to NWTF)

Send complete application to:

Carl Mowry • 288 Crisswell Rd • Butler, PA 16002

www.panwtf.org