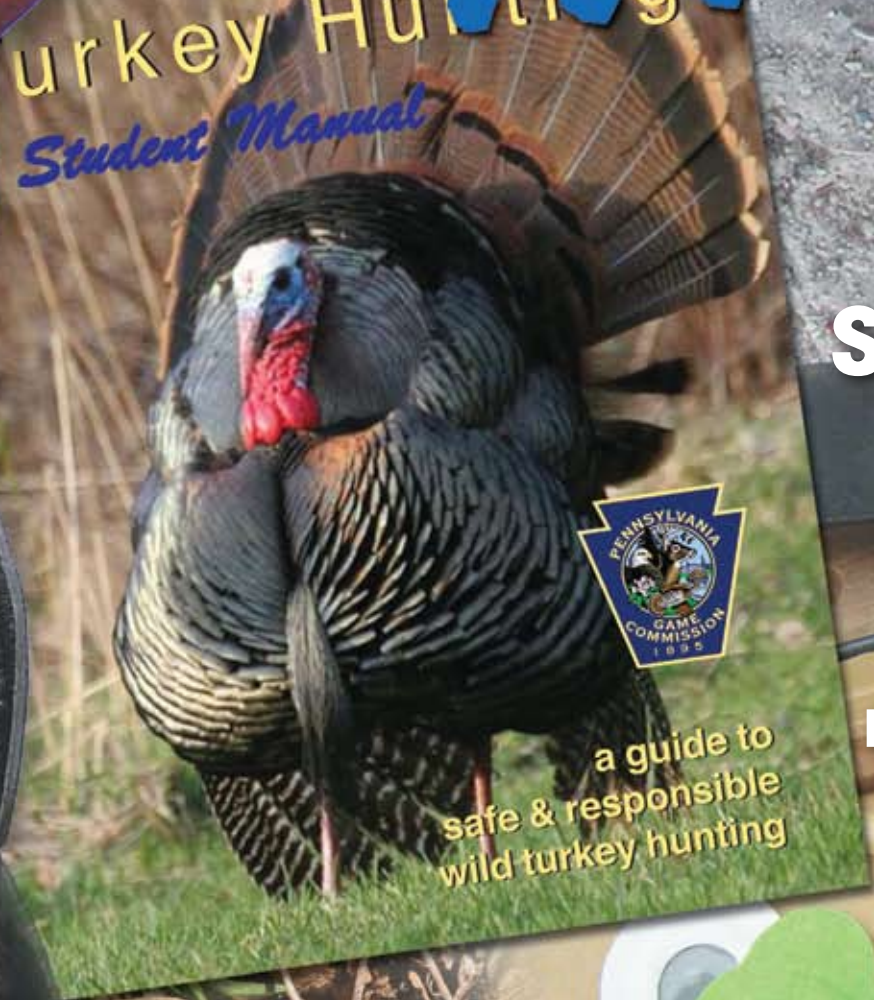


Turkey

TALK

Successful
Turkey Hunting
Student Manual



Successful Turkey Hunting

Advanced Hunter
Education Program
in Pennsylvania

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Message From The President



Dale Butler, PANWTF President

If a person has to purchase a turkey license, that person might be more aware of the ramifications of a mistake.

First I would like to thank all who attended the Annual Leadership Meeting. It was a very educational and fun weekend. I really enjoyed talking to everyone that I have met and not seen in a while, and meeting some of new members that were present. I would like to thank the NWTF staff that worked hard to put the meeting together. They do a great job of getting the newest information to us and keeping us informed about what is happening at the National level.

I would encourage anyone that has not attended one of these meeting to make it a point for next year to try to be there.

The PA State Board Meeting was the day before the Leadership Meeting and as usual we had a lot on the table to discuss. One of the topics we discussed was the need for a Spring Turkey Hunting License. I do think the time is far past due for a Spring Turkey Hunting License.

We polled the attendees at the Leadership Meeting on Sunday. When we asked how many would oppose a Spring Turkey Hunting License. There was not 1 person

opposed to the idea. There were many in favor of a license. I am open to hear from anyone that would like to discuss the possibility of a license. I also will discuss with anyone that is opposed to having one.

I do not have any facts to support a claim that turkey hunting would be a safer sport if we have a license, however it would make sense to me that if a person has to purchase a turkey license, that person might be more aware of the ramifications of a mistake. Another excellent reason for a license is to actually know how many turkey hunters there are in the state. This would really help with decisions when it comes to season dates and bag limits.

On a final note, the Pennsylvania State Chapter Rendezvous will be January 8, 2011 please mark your calendar and look for the details in this issue of Turkey Talk.

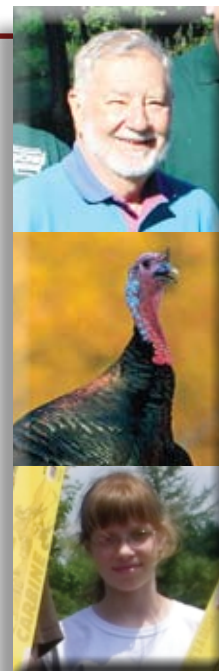
Dale C. Butler

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

PANWTF.ORG

Turkey TALK

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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 Winter Issue of Turkey Talk is NOVEMBER 15**



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Don't miss the 35th Annual NWTF Convention & Sport Show! Feb. 17-20, 2011 at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee



The National Wild Turkey Federation's 35th Annual National Convention and Sport Show was a huge success! The NWTF will return to Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tenn., for 35th Annual Convention Feb. 17 to Feb. 20, 2011, and hope you will make plans to attend. To make a hotel reservation, call the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center at 888-777-6779. The room rate for the 2011 NWTF convention is \$160 plus taxes and resort fee. Parking at the hotel is free for Opryland guests. To find out more about the convention activities and events please visit www.nwtf.org.

The deadline for PA members that would like to be seated together at the National Convention will be **OCTOBER 31, 2010**. Please not this date has been later in the past. Send completed registration forms to **Dale Butler, Box 167 Stonetown Road, Noxen, PA 18636**. Registration forms and information on the 2011 National Convention can be found at www.nwtf.org.

All it Takes is ONE

Submitted by Scott Wojton

We have reason to celebrate, be proud, walk tall. Since 1985 PANWTF has raised and proudly spent \$5,012,307.69 on habitat improvement projects, land acquisitions, hunter safety programs, education, research and our very own outreach programs.

Pennsylvania is only the second state to accomplish this monumental goal. Second only to Texas, a state that has twice our population and 6 times our land area. Imagine if we had those resources. None the less, all NWTF members/volunteers past and present have reason to be extremely proud, energized and excited here in Pennsylvania.

We have done great work here over the past 35 years but our job isn't finished yet. Not even close. We have much more to do and we cannot do it alone. We need more help and financial resources.

Earlier this year we created the \$5 Million Celebration and "Grand Slam" Membership Drive in anticipation of reaching this monumental goal. The reason is twofold. First was to communicate this tremendous accomplishment to all of our members. Second was to provide a non-banquet related incentive for our members to bring others to the NWTF family. We have great news

to share, a story to tell, energy is high, spread the word. There is no better time to recruit a new member than right now.

There are many benefits/incentives besides those listed in the promotion to increasing our membership. More members means more future volunteers, more future chapter committee members, higher future banquet attendance, more superfund monies raised and more green sheet requests approved and funded. You can also improve your 2010 banquet results by adding new members thru this incentive. Example: if you had 87 memberships generated at your banquet, there is an added incentive from National NWTF if you hit 100. Can your chapter find 13 more people to purchase a membership? I bet you can. Ask your RD for specific details regarding your chapter's banquet results.

We have a goal we would like to reach with this incentive and we need your help to achieve it. The goal is 1,000 new members. All we ask is that you recruit one (1) new member. If every current member could recruit just one friend, family member or acquaintance to become a member of NWTF, we will easily surpass this goal. Just one new member each will get it done.

Don't miss out on your opportunity to win one of these great hunts!



Recruit a new member today!

Celebration \$5 Million and the "Grand Slam" Membership Drive

That doesn't sound so hard does it? Recruiting one new member can make a world of difference. This promotion is also posted on-line at the State Chapter website: www.panwtf.org.

We have also sent several email blasts promoting the incentive as well. We now need to act and start spreading the word of what a great organization the NWTF is here in Pennsylvania and abroad and why they (others) should become part of it.

Think back to the time you first became a member and/or became involved with the NWTF. I would bet that many of us were asked or recruited by a current member at that time. Let's give others the same opportunity we were given. All it takes is "one". One from everyone and we will achieve this goal.

We thank you in advance for your participation in this incentive and appreciate the time, effort and financial support you provide the NWTF during the course of the year(s). We all make a great TEAM—Together – Everyone – Achieves – More. Let's make our team just a little bit stronger. All it takes is "one".

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.

PRESENTED BY THE PA STATE CHAPTER OF THE NWTF



\$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)

2010 JAKES GUN RAFFLE

It's that time of year for the 11th Annual Pennsylvania JAKES Fund Raffle.

This year's raffle will feature 30 great guns for \$20. This raffle is a real winner for the state chapter and our local chapters, but most of all for the thousands of Pennsylvania youngsters who receive a complimentary JAKES membership.

From your local chapter's perspective, this raffle is a great opportunity to raise money.

This year for every ticket sold, your local chapter will be given a 5.00 dollar credit towards any of your outreach programs.

For ticket information please contact:

**Ken Fernburg @ 570 807-0716
fernburg@peoplepc.com**

**Or Jim Panaro @ 814 446-7600
jimpanaro@resfuel.com**

Winning #'s based on Pennsylvania Lottery Big 4 Number (7:00 PM Drawing) – four numbers per ticket. Winners will be notified by mail or phone. Winners must pass background check to receive gun. Winners failing the background check will be given credit at Bob's A&N equal to the cost of the gun.

Cost of background check to be paid by gun winner.

Ticket stub and payment must be received by

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

by 10-31-10. Tickets received after 10-31-10 or not returned by 10-31-10, will not be eligible to win.

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

**All guns must be picked up by
January 1, 2011**

Nov. 1.....	Weatherby Vanguard Syn. 308
Nov. 2.....	Remington Express Comb 3 ½
Nov. 3.....	Remington 770 300wm 3x9 Scope
Nov. 4.....	Savage 17 Hmra Synthetic Stock
Nov. 5.....	Mossberg 835 Camo Pump Shotgun
Nov. 6.....	Thompson Center Firestorm Flintlock
Nov. 7.....	Stoeger O/U Condor
Nov. 8.....	Benelli Nova 12 Gauge Black Syn
Nov. 9.....	Savage 30.06 With Scope
Nov. 10.....	Marlin 336 30-30 With 3-9 Scope
Nov. 11.....	Thompson Center Omega 50 Cal Muzzleloader
Nov. 12.....	Remington 11/87 Black Syn Stock
Nov. 13.....	Mossberg 930 12 Gauge Semi Automatic
Nov. 14.....	Henry Golden Boy 17 Hmr
Nov. 15.....	Thompson Center Omega In Line 50 Cal
Nov. 16.....	Bennelli Nova Camo Syn
Nov. 17.....	Marlin 336-C Walnut Lever 35 Cal
Nov. 18.....	Remington 870 Express 12 Gauge Laminated Stk
Nov. 19.....	Mossberg Silver Reserve Over/Under 12 Gauge
Nov. 20.....	Remington 700 Sps 270 Black Synthetic
Nov. 21.....	Mossberg 243 Black Syn Bolt Action W/3-9 Scope
Nov. 22.....	Remington 770 7mm-Rm W/ 3-9 Scope
Nov. 23.....	Weatherby Syn Stock Standard Caliber
Nov. 24.....	Remington Express 12 Gauge 3 ½ Camo
Nov. 25.....	Stoeger Uplander 12 Gauge Side Y Side
Nov. 26.....	Thompson Center Omega 50 Cal
Nov. 27.....	Traditions 50 Cal Flintlock Redi Package
Nov. 28.....	Mossberg 535 Camo Pump
Nov. 29.....	Reminton Pump Std. Cal Black Syn
Nov. 30.....	Remington 11/87 12 Gauge Black Syn

FRIENDS, FAMILY & FUN!

36th Anniversary Pennsylvania Chapter
National Wild Turkey Federation's

Annual Rendezvous & Awards Banquet

Saturday, January 8, 2011

Ramada Inn - State College - 814.238.3001

(Rooms \$69/Night; please call reservations and mention NWTF for special rate)

Awards Banquet with the Premiere Introduction of the 2011 Banquet Package along with Chapter and Individual Awards 5:30 pm

- Prime Rib & Stuffed Chicken Dinner
- JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime on Live Auction
- Drawings for Sponsor, JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime, WITO Wyoming Hunt Raffle & GRAND SLAM 5 Million Membership Drive
- Silent Auction, Live Auction, Ladies Table, Guns, Prints, Raffles
- Custom One-Of-A-Kind Turkey Calls From Various Call Makers Plus Other One-Of-A-Kind Items On The Live Auction

Early Bird Core Package Raffle
\$300 WORTH OF TICKETS FOR \$100

Early Bird Deadline December 17

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Banquet Meal Ticket	\$30	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Banquet Meal Ticket (10 & Under)	\$15	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Bird Raffle Package	\$100	\$ _____
GRAND TOTAL		\$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

(Names of all people attending): _____

** Tickets Will Be Held At The Door*

Eastern Coyote Seminar \ 1 PM *By NWTF Regional Biologist, Bob Eriksen*

Where did they come from? How did they get here? These questions have been asked by hunters and others time and time again. Rumors about the origin of eastern coyotes abound ranging from blaming wildlife agencies for releasing the animals to tall tales about truckloads of coyotes being driven to Pennsylvania. Bob Eriksen will discuss the origins, natural history, behavior and management of eastern coyotes in a seminar. If you have hunted coyotes, had your chickens killed by coyotes or never seen one in the wild you will not want to miss this session.

Gobbler Banding Study Findings \ 2:30 PM *By Dr. Duane Diefenbach*

Dr. Duane Diefenbach a researcher from Penn State who works closely with the Game Commission on a number of projects will present a seminar on the results of the four year gobbler banding study. Duane is an adjunct professor of wildlife ecology and the leader of the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Duane and Wendy Vreeland of Penn State maintained the data called in by hunters along with the banding data produced by 40 turkey trapping teams in three states as they captured and banded more than 3200 gobblers in four years. Duane will cover the results of the study including information on how far wild turkeys moved, the annual harvest rates and what the results mean to the future of wild turkey management in Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio. He will also provide an update on the current study of hen survival and fall harvest rates. Duane is an avid hunter, a statistician and researcher who has worked on projects ranging from wild turkeys to waterfowl and deer.

PANWTF Board of Directors Roundtable \ 3:30 PM

This is an excellent opportunity to learn how the board works and makes the decisions it does regarding turkeys and hunting here in Pennsylvania. Meet the current Board of Directors and get all of your questions answered.

Tussey Mt. Strutters JAKES DAY

This past June the Tussey Mt. Strutters hosted their FIFTH annual youth field day at the Henrietta Sportsman Club. The event was free for youth and their parents to learn more about the great outdoors. Approximately 22 kids, ages 3 to 17, participated in various outdoors events. The children visited six stations: station #1 was a Trapping and Fur topic run by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, station #2 was Archery, all supplies were donated by Freedom Archery, here the kids got learned proper archery skills and shot at 3-D target on loan from the Henrietta Sportsman's Club, station #3 Trout Unlimited fly fishing and fly tying, at station #4 Rich Hanlon from The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy taught the youth about different larva and items that live in streams and how to keep our streams healthy station #5 was Koby Kunsman teaching turkey calling techniques, hunting safety and proper hunting techniques, and station #6, where Dave Feathers talked about gun safety.

After lunch, door prizes were handed out to those in attendance. We would like to thank the following for donating the door prizes: Martinsburg Pizza, Leidy's Home

Furnishings, and East Coast Gun sales. The five top prizes were: a Red Ryder BB gun won by Bethany Wentz of Osterburg. A cricket .22 rifle won by Jake Bowser of New Paris. A fishing pole and tackle kit won by Henry Wentz of Osterburg. A Red Ryder BB gun won by Koby Kinsman of Hollidaysburg, and a large bean bag chair won by Alan Harding of Williamburg. We would like to thank everyone who volunteered and participated in the day. Thank you. Anyone who would like to know more about the event or put on the mailing for next year's event please contact Tim Wentz, P.O. Box 18, Woodbury, PA 16695



Jerry Zimmerman Memorial JAKES/JAKES Extremes Day

Dave Butz former Washington Redskin who played 16 years as a defensive tackle with 3 Super Bowl victories and 196 consecutive games played, 3 pro bowls and numerous accolades and is currently serving on the NRA Board of Directors stopped by "The Jerry Zimmerman JAKES/JAKES EXTREMES event that was held on Saturday August 7th, 2010. Dave shared some motivational words, signed autographs and then visited all 10 stations for the JAKES and 9 for the JAKES EXTREMES. Dave was very pleased to mix it up with the kids all 203 of them, boys and girls ages 8 -16 years old, as they learned about safety and having fun in the outdoors, in such events ranging from shooting 22's, shotgun and blackpowder to Turkey hunting, tree stand safety and archery just to name a few. This was "The Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter's 8 th annual event and after receiving the recognition from the NWTF at the National Convention in Nashville this past February as the "Best EXTREMES EVENT in the country for 2009, the entire group of Volunteers proudly delivered once again, yet another outstanding JAKES/JAKES EXTREMES day at Ontelaunee Gun Club in New Tripoli PA.



Wild Turkey Management By The Book, Part 2

By Don Heckman



Wild turkey management is working quite well state-wide these past 50+ years thanks to the PGC and NWTF biologists, PGC Commissioners and Executive Staff, and those NWTF-PANWTF volunteers committed to resource first wildlife management.

Notwithstanding recent PGC Board Of Commissioner's adopted spring and fall turkey hunting season regulation changes for 2010-2011, I will continue my series of wild turkey management articles that has brought wild turkey management, turkey hunting, PGC and PA Chapter NWTF into the second decade of the 21st Century. Additional comments will be forthcoming as I get more information and more understanding on the issues and decisions made by the PGC Board of Commissioners on April 20th, 2010. Since the early 1900's when the estimated wild turkey population was 3,000-5,000, mostly in south central forests, and with the development of wild turkey management principles being documented and followed, our estimated state-wide wild turkey population has increased to today's 335,000-360,000.

In these past 100+ years, and more so in the past 50+ years, many new wildlife management principles and the PGC "Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania" have been developed, new turkey hunting opportunities have been regulated, and wild turkey resource first directives and attitudes rule decision maker's agenda.

These past 50+ years of accomplishments and achievements have been documented in my PANWTF articles and press releases, and have been published in "Turkey Talk". Wild Turkey Management Plan Goal and Objectives are on track for increased future turkey hunting opportunities given the successful management criteria these past 35+ years.

Much factual wild turkey management data is still missing. While wild turkey management estimates, survey data, field data, and indices are great bridges and have served PGC well these past 50+ years, there is still work to be accomplished. PGC 4 year, state-wide, Gobbler Leg Band Research project was completed during Winter 2009 with results pending distribution. The new 4 year PGC Hen Harvest Rate Research project is underway starting in

Winter 2010. Much needed factual data will be collected, documented, and used for future wild turkey management decision making from these research projects. Additional factual data on turkey hunter numbers and suitable habitat densities are also needed.

In this 2010-2019 decade, more and better factual turkey management and field data needs to be collected and used in the wild turkey population model to reach future wild turkey management criteria, objectives and strategies, and future turkey hunting opportunity decision making. In the past 50 years there has not been one wild turkey management decision or turkey hunting regulation change that has caused a problem with the state-wide population. That successful track record must be followed for the next 50 years.

I have introduced and documented several future turkey hunting ideas in my articles published in "Turkey Talk", listed on the PANWTF web site, and in PANWTF news releases. Getting from 3,000-5,000 to

Continued on page 15

NWTF Energy for Wildlife Program and Energy Development in Pennsylvania

By Bob Eriksen, NWTF Regional Biologist

Development of the Marcellus Shale natural gas deposits is unfolding rapidly in the Commonwealth. The NWTF has partnerships with a number of energy companies involved in the Marcellus Shale Play here in Pennsylvania and with companies working in other parts of the country through our Energy for Wildlife Program. A number of companies including Anadarko Petroleum and Consol Energy have indicated a desire to do the best they can to limit or mitigate environmental impacts of their operations.

NWTF certifies the wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement work

that these companies do when they are EFW members. That does not mean that NWTF endorses every action the companies might take or every plan they have. Most of the companies are very aware of the risks and controversy surrounding their drilling activities and want to maintain a good reputation in the communities in which they work. All the activities of the energy companies are monitored by the Department of Environmental Protection and Office of Surface Mining as well as the federal EPA. Many are going out of their way to minimize environmental impacts with new drilling techniques that allow several well sources

to be developed from one wellhead and with plans to recycle and treat water used in the "fracking" process.

There is no question with the issues of energy dependence, cleaner energy demands and national security in play that these energy sources will be developed in Pennsylvania. The NWTF goal is to work with companies that are dedicated to limiting problems and improving wildlife habitat in the process of energy exploration. NWTF will give credit to the companies for the good things they do but will not partner with companies that do not have environmental stewardship concerns that align with ours.

Anadarko Petroleum

partners with the

Pennsylvania Chapter

By Bob Eriksen,
NWTF Regional Biologist



There are many energy companies working in Pennsylvania these days. The Marcellus Shale Gas Natural Gas Play has attracted the attention of companies from throughout the United States. Anadarko Petroleum which operates out of Houston, Texas is one of a number of large companies involved in natural gas exploration in the Commonwealth. The company also has interests in Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. In Pennsylvania their operations are based in Williamsport, Lycoming County.

Several months ago officials with Anadarko contacted the Pennsylvania Chapter with an offer to partner on wildlife habitat enhancement projects in Lycoming and Clinton Counties. Specifically the company representatives were interested to know if the chapter was planning any projects in Loyalsock, Sproul and Tiadaghton State Forests. When habitat project proposals came in to the Habitat Super Fund Committee there were proposals for both the Loyalsock and Tiadaghton State Forests. A telephone call to the foresters on the Sproul prompted the development of a project there designed to rejuvenate forest openings to serve as wild turkey brood habitat.

The three habitat enhancement projects proposed for the state forests would effectively improve more than 89 acres of wild turkey brood habitat. The total cost of the projects was \$19,668.96. If the Pennsylvania Chapter covered the costs for lime, fertilizer and seed the Department of Conservation and Natu-



ral Resources and Pennsylvania Game Commission would provide labor and equipment to get the work done. The value of the labor and equipment provided by the agencies was \$9,670.

Pennsylvania Chapter representatives met with employees of Anadarko Petroleum at their Williamsport office in January of this year to discuss the potential for Anadarko to assist with funding projects. Subsequent to that meeting the details of the projects were provided to the company and Anadarko generously offered to fund the purchase of lime seed and fertilizer for all three projects for a total of \$9,998.96, just under ten thousand dollars!

In early June we arranged a check presentation ceremony. On a beautiful clear, cool morning representatives of the Bureau of Forestry, Anadarko Petroleum, the Pennsylvania State Chapter, Susquehanna Longbeards and Bald Eagle Longbeards gathered at Hamilton Bottom for the presentation. Brad Milliken, Jackie Pender and Mary Wolf of Anadarko Petroleum presented both a facsimile and a real check to the Pennsylvania Chapter. Rich Glinski, Jason Stellfox and Eric Fritzinger of the Bureau of Forestry attended the presen-

tation and will be heavily involved in putting the dollars to work on the ground. Jim Russo of the Bald Eagle Longbeards and Don O'Brien and Jon Pries of the Susquehanna Longbeards proudly represented their local chapters. Regional Directors Ray Smith and Phil Ferrare attended the presentation ceremony as well.

This generous donation by Anadarko Petroleum will help to stretch the dollars your Pennsylvania Chapter has dedicated for habitat work in 2010 and increase the number of acres we can affect. The donation is very much appreciated. This cooperative endeavor is a great example of the way private industry, state agencies and conservation organizations can work together to complete projects. It is also a signal that Anadarko Petroleum is serious about working with local groups and is taking their environmental responsibility seriously. The company will be drilling and establishing natural gas wells in parts of Pennsylvania but it is their intent to do the best they can to have a positive impact on wildlife habitat and the community. We are grateful for their willingness to share their resources in this habitat enhancement endeavor.

Conditions of Acceptance Form Conservation Seed Program

**THIS IS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR
THE ACCEPTANCE, USE AND
DISPOSAL OF SEED FOR
CONSERVATION USE ONLY**

I understand that the seed I receive is intended for wildlife plantings only. I agree that I have no intent of acquiring genetic material and that acceptance of this seed does not give any rights to use the genetics contained within the seed or grain or any plant or plant parts, pollen or seed produced therefrom for breeding, research or seed production purposes or for any other purpose whatsoever, other than use in wildlife plantings.

I understand that misuse of this seed may subject me to legal action under U.S. Patent Laws and/or the Plant Variety Protection Act. This seed will not be used for commercial harvest. I also agree to leave the grain crop standing for wildlife food.

I understand that the seed I receive may be slightly below standard in germination and that I will hold no claims through the use of the product.

If I am unable to plant all of the seed, I agree to make the surplus available to other landowners who have this same agreement for the purpose of wildlife food plots or to dispose of the seed in an acceptable, safe manner. I understand that this seed has been chemically treated and under no conditions will this seed be used for direct food for livestock or wildlife.

Distribution Point:
H R Bierly's
Garage & Auto,
585 N Pennsylvania Ave,
Centre Hall, PA 16828

I also understand that a violation of this agreement may result in this organization and/or all organizations in this state permanently losing the right to distribute seed under this program.

CAUTION: The seed is a biological product. Improper storage can result in damage to the seed. Try to avoid high temperatures and moisture. In meeting pesticide standards, seed should not be stored near any food products.

Distribution Coordinator:
Sam McCartney
Preferably by email at:
svm@goh-inc.com
814.359.2338
or cell 814.571.4287
for Bierly's Garage near Center Hall

Chapters will be notified when the seed arrives and will be responsible for picking up their seed. **An important change this year is Chapters will be responsible for paying the \$6 per bag transportation fee AT THE TIME THE CORN IS PICKED UP!!!** Chapters can receive their own tractor trailer loads as long as they have a forklift and a suitable storage building. Individual members can order directly but they are encouraged to work through a local chapter to consolidate with their order. Find chapters in your area on **PANWTF.org**.

Several chapters may consolidate orders to obtain a full load. Different types of seed cannot be combined to achieve a full load. Chapters receiving their own loads must still order through Tom Bunty. The coordination of the receipt, unloading and distribution will be the responsibility of the chapters involved.

2011 Conservation Seed Order Form

Note: In the past, orders have been missed due to some chapters emailing or leaving phone messages. For this reason, only orders placed on this form and returned by US Mail will be accepted. Thank you for your cooperation.

Chapter: _____	<u>Seed Desired:</u>	<u># of Bags</u>
<u>Chapter Contact Info:</u>	Corn	_____
Name: _____	Alfalfa	_____
Address: _____	Sorghum	_____
_____	Sunflower	_____
Phone #: _____	Winter Wheat	_____
Email: _____		

Send this form to: **Tom Bunty, 2050 Park St., Dover, PA 17315**
Deadline for orders is 11-1-2011. Please make a copy for your records.

Complete this form prior to picking up seed.

Are you planting all the seed you are picking up? Yes No

If no, then you understand you are to take copies of this form with you to have anyone you distribute seed to, sign form agreeing to the proper use of seed. You will be responsible for returning documentation to the chapter contact person. Should you not be able to produce documentation showing where you have distributed seed, you will be held responsible for any seed you picked up.

Use separate form for each person that receives and plants seed.

Print clearly the information of person **planting seed**:

Name: _____	<u>Indicate number of bags:</u>
Address: _____	Corn _____
_____	Alfalfa _____
Daytime Phone #: _____	Sorghum _____
Email: _____	Sunflower _____
	Winter Wheat _____

Name of person **picking up seed**. PRINT CLEARLY

Signature of person **picking up seed**. Date: _____

Signature of person **planting seed**. Date: _____

Please note: corn, sorghum, winter wheat and alfalfa come in 50 lb. bags and sunflower comes in 25 lb. bags. A full trailer load of corn, sorghum, winter wheat and alfalfa consists of 858 fifty-lb. bags. A full load of sunflower consists of 1716 twenty-five lb. bags. To curtail misuse of the seed there is a 3 bag limit per seed type per person.





Successful Turkey Hunting

A new advanced hunter education program in Pennsylvania

By Keith Snyder
PGC Hunter-Trapper
Education Division

You too, can pass it on by joining the PGC's Successful Turkey Hunting team. Call or write today!

Are you an experienced turkey hunter or just beginning?

How long have you been hunting? How long did it take to learn what you know now?

Imagine having all of this knowledge as a beginner?

Well now you can!

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is launching a new advanced hunter education course, Successful Turkey Hunting. Similar to the agency's other advanced courses, this new training program is designed to provide students with the skills and ability they need to be successful early in their turkey hunting careers, if not right away! Hunter participation, satisfaction and retention are much higher for those hunters who have tasted success compared to those who are struggling through years of trial and error.

Like the agency's other advanced training programs, Successful Turkey Hunting is delivered in two parts – an independent study component completed by the students at home before the course followed by a one-day, eight-hour classroom/field component. Independent study can be completed online or with use of a printed study guide. Either method takes about 6 to 8 hours to complete. Independent study topics include:

- **The wild turkey in Pennsylvania and beyond**
- **Gearing up for the hunt**
- **Firearms, muzzleloaders and bows**
- **Turkey hunting basics, including scouting techniques**
- **Safe turkey hunting**
- **Field care and preparation**
- **Turkey recipes**

At the class, students will experience engaging classroom exercises and hands-on field training. The one-day class will feature lessons on:

- **Turkey hunting laws and regulations**
- **Safe and effective shot selection**
- **Map and compass basics**
- **Distance estimation**
- **Turkey calls and calling**
- **Turkey hunting methods and techniques**
- **Shotgun pattern testing**

What do students say about this class?

"I wish I took this course 30 years ago!"

"I thought I knew a lot about turkey hunting, but I learned even more!"

"This class helped me bag my first bird!"

"I passed on a questionable shot that I would have taken in the past. Now I know better!"

Equipment purchases and lesson plan refinements are being completed now. During the months ahead, volunteer instructors will be recruited and trained. The program is set to launch in 2011, but help is needed to make all of this happen. The Game Commission invites you to become a volunteer instructor. They'll provide you with all of the tools and training you need to teach this fun and rewarding class.

To learn more about becoming an instructor and to request an application packet, visit the agency's website at www.pgc.state.pa.us. Click on the "Education" link then select "Hunter Education", then the "Become an Instructor" link. Or, you can call the PGC's Hunter-Trapper Education Division at 717-787-7015; M-F; 8A-4P to request an application.

100,000-125,000 estimated state-wide population in 60 years was a monumental wild turkey management achievement given the tools PGC wild turkey biologists and executive staff had in those days.

Getting from 100,000-125,000 to 325,000-350,000 estimated state-wide population in the next 30 years was incredible achievement for wild turkey management given the number of changes in wild turkey management, habitat management improvements, and new or improved turkey hunting regulations.

Actually achieving 400,000 estimated state-wide wild turkey populations once in the past 10 years has been a rewarding achievement for those having the responsibility to achieve management goal, objectives, and strategies of the PGC "Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania", and those NWTF-PAN-WTF volunteers that work for wild turkey management, habitat improvement, and turkey hunting safety.

My latest article in "Turkey Talk", Fall 2009 edition, I continued a dialogue with an article titled "Wild Turkey Management By The Book, Part 1". That article followed the "Turkey Talk", Winter 2009 issue, "PA NWTF – 1975-2008: 33 years moving forward", that followed the "Turkey Talk", Summer 2008 issue, "Reasons to Support a Turkey Hunting License in 2008", that followed the "Turkey Talk", Spring 2008 issue, "Think Safety, Hunt Safely – meeting our commitment to improving turkey hunting safety", that followed the "Turkey Talk", Summer 2007 issue, "Accomplishments and Turkey Hunting Regulations 1958-2007" where I began a series of articles on wild turkey management and turkey hunting regulations.

In that same Summer 2007 issue PGC Wild Turkey Biologist Mary Jo Casalena published an article on "Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania, 2006-2015", all leading back to the incredible "Turkey Talk",

Fall 2006 issue, with articles by Bob Eriksen on "Survey Says... A report on the 2006 PA Chapter Member Survey", Bob Eriksen's "Eriksen speaks to House Game and Fisheries Committee", Don Heckman's "Reasons to Support Hunting License Increase Legislation", Bob Eriksen's "Safety: Is it on the Top of Your Agenda this Fall", Bob Eriksen's "Pennsylvania Super Fund Enhances Habitat State-wide", and his article on "Color Phases of the Wild Turkey".

What a short history collection of what PA Chapter NWTF has achieved over 35 years and continues to accomplish in partnership with PGC for wild turkey management, habitat improvement, turkey hunting opportunities, turkey hunter safety information education, NWTF Hunting Heritage Super Fund banquets, NWTF outreach programs, and the roadmap for future wild turkey management challenges and turkey hunting opportunities.

Since day one PA Chapter NWTF has supported, been committed and involved in wildlife habitat improvement, resource first management decision making, doing our part for turkey hunting safety information and educating turkey hunters on safe and successful turkey hunting, while supporting PGC's efforts to increase state-wide wild turkey populations.

PA Chapter NWTF Board of Director's worked for a number of years on orange reduction and elimination during spring gobbler season, helping NWTF develop and distribute Turkey Hunting Success and Safety brochure, and funding much of what we have accomplished through various NWTF outreach programs, banquets, and other fund raising opportunities.

Granted in June 1975 when the PA Chapter NWTF was formed the Board stepped forward and supported closing the PGC turkey game farm, recommended and supported turkey management area proposal, recommended and continued to support wild turkey trap and transfer throughout unoccupied range in Pennsylvania.

The Board recommended, supported, and lead the charge for eliminating orange requirement for spring gobbler season with criteria and factual data supporting that spring hunting season decision, supported the development of WMUs (Wildlife Management Units), supported youth spring gobbler hunt and mentored youth hunting regulations, supported the special second spring gobbler tag, and several additional turkey management and hunting achievements as documented in previous articles.

With all that being said, the next 15-50 years will present addition opportunities and challenges resulting from the past 100+ years of successful wild turkey management. However the time span for data collection and decision making will be a much shorter period of time than decades past. Future WMU higher population densities, state-wide wild turkey population model, and habitat sustainable populations will become increasing popular.

If it took 100 years to move from 3,000-5,000 regional population to state-wide 325,000-350,000 population, how long will it take to reach a state-wide, stable 3 year population number of 425,000-450,000, with either a 4 bird yearly bag limit or fall option tag for a 3rd spring gobbler? Can Pennsylvania increase future turkey hunting opportunities with a one week earlier for fall hunting season for shotgun, inline muzzleloader shotgun, archery and crossbow? Will Pennsylvania turkey hunters finally support and call for a turkey hunting license for adult resident and non-resident turkey hunters?

Can that be done? That's basically the same type questions PGC wild turkey biologist Jerry Wunz and I discussed many times in the 1980's when we were talking about reaching 200,000 - 225,000 state-wide wild turkey population goal or beyond, and how that would be accomplished. I remember talking about future turkey hunting opportunities that might be considered someday.

Back then continued trap and transfer wild turkeys into unoccupied land capable of supporting flocks of wild turkeys, Turkey Management Areas, and continued conservative fall turkey hunting season lengths and bag limit were the answers that needed to be researched and documented. That work was done successfully. Wild turkey restoration throughout Pennsylvania was well on its way and was to become one of the most successful wildlife programs PGC would undertake on behalf of the wild turkey resource and turkey hunters. One of the results of that field work and data collection was the first PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania in 1999.

I believe PGC, Jerry Wunz and Arnie Hayden helped answer those questions quite well during the 1980's-1990's. With continued education from Roger Latham, Harvey Roberts, Jerry Wunz, Arnie Hayden, Bill Drake, and with continued field research, in the ground/on the ground data gathering, and educational support from current PGC wild turkey biologist Mary Jo Casalena and NWTF wild turkey biologist Bob Eriksen, those questions will get answered by the end of the 2010 decade.

Now the opportunity exists to double the 1980's population objective to 425,000-450,000 state-wide population and have incredible turkey hunting opportunities, done the right way, by the right people, by the right wild turkey management funding opportunities [by creating turkey hunting license/stamp], and always with resource first wild turkey management as the key goal for future turkey hunting opportunities and wild turkey management challenges.

Think Safety Hunt Safely/Resource First Wild Turkey Management



Lime is the key

By Bob Schmid
NWTF Habitat Pro Staff

What

do you think is wrong with my soybean planting?" my friend asked me this past summer. I'd been watching the lack of soybean germination in his 2 acre field for a couple of weeks prior to his question. We'd been delayed in planting this spring by two weeks because of the wet weather but I wasn't convinced that was the problem. Nor was I convinced that additional rain had a negative impact on germination as suspected. We'd planted 5 fields in soybeans on the same day in late May using the same technique as used in previous years. Certainly the topography of each field is slightly different and pooling rain could have drowned out some young plants but this 2 acre field was almost an entire loss. I offered him a soil sample kit and suggested that he send a sample to Penn State. The results were shocking.

soil sample

When the soil sample report came back the pH of the failing field was 5.2. Penn State recommends that soybeans have a minimum pH of 6.5 to have good germination. My friend and I share much of the planting, fertilizing, and weeding activities on our adjacent properties so I knew that he had limed this field in previous years. I went back to our fertilizer records to see how much. In the past four years he'd only put a total of about 1,000 lbs of lime on this particular 2 acre field. He had failed to take soil samples though to confirm the pH, as well as the levels of phosphorus, potassium and magnesium. The current recommendation

was for 4,000 pounds of lime per acre while the other soil amendments were within normal ranges.

benefits of lime

As we asked the experts from Penn State what may have happened, we were told that the inoculants we had used on the soybeans were ineffective at such a low pH. Beneficial organisms within the soil tend to be more active as the pH increases to near neutral (pH of 7.0). This certainly explained the low germination rate and the poor establishment of the soybean stand in question. It also explained why the other fields we

- planted with the same amount of inoculants and fertilizer had good germination.
- **Improves soil's physical, chemical and biological properties**
- **Improves availability of nutrients to plants**
- **Increases root proliferation and above ground growth**
- **Improves effectiveness of some herbicides**

As we asked the experts from Penn State what may have happened, we were told that the inoculants we had used on the soybeans were ineffective at such a low pH. Beneficial organisms within the soil tend to be more active as the pH increases to near neutral (pH of 7.0). This certainly explained the low germination rate and the poor establishment of the soybean stand in question. It also explained why the other fields we

planted with the same amount of inoculants and fertilizer had good germination.

- Agricultural studies have shown that properly limed fields improve fertilizer efficiency by as much as 50 percent or more.
- The studies show that lime increases root development, improving water and nutrient uptake, leading to stronger plants that are more disease resistant.

lime application

- So when is the best time to apply lime? Fall is a good time to take soil samples and have lime spread on your fields. Fields that may not have been planted previously and are requiring a large amount of lime to get the pH raised to adequate levels are especially good targets for liming now. Lime takes a little time to incorporate into the soil so having it spread in the fall prepares the field for a spring planting. Spreading lime on clover plots in the fall gives those plots a jump start come next spring. Add a shot of fertilizer in the spring and you'll be amazed at the results in an existing clover plot.

conclusion

- Although adding lime sometimes appears to be an unnecessary expense, the benefits far exceed the costs. The cost of seed, fertilizer and herbicides have increased dramatically not to mention the time you invest to plant your food plots. What is the cost of losing an entire field of soybeans in terms of money, time and forage available to wildlife? We salvaged that failed soybean plot by adding lime and planting a late season brassica. It cost us more money in the long run and we learned a valuable lesson; lime is key!

The perfect holiday gift for the turkey lover!

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1925-1988

Using centuries old techniques of European metal smiths, Wendell August pioneered the creation of hand hammered metal giftware beginning in 1923. This unique American-made giftware is still created one-at-a-time using hammers and anvils. Like snowflakes, no two pieces are exactly the same. The legacy of heritage and reputation for quality craftsmanship is represented today in Exton/Grove City, Pennsylvania and Berlin, Ohio stores. By owning and giving Wendell August creations you are making a statement of elegance.



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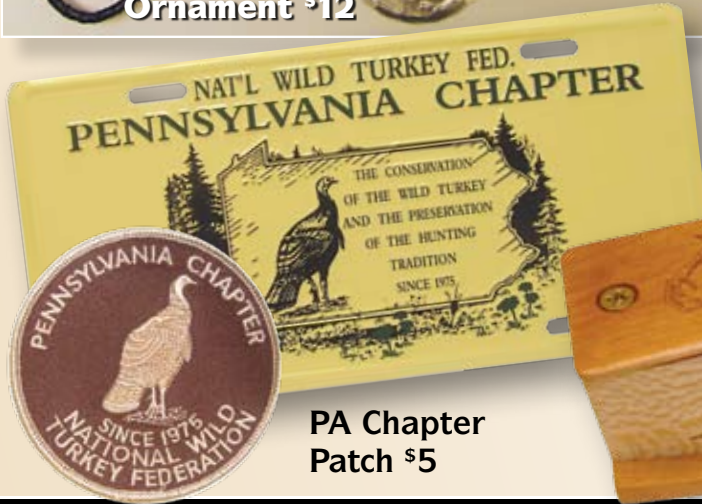
Coaster \$15

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Belt Buckle \$35

(Call for availability)



PA Chapter License Plate \$5

PA Chapter Patch \$5



35th Anniversary PA Chapter Box Call \$30

Complete the order form below and remit **Check or Money Order** payable to: **PA Chapter NWTF**.
 Mail to: **Scott Wojton, 290 Tatra Drive, Lehighton, PA 18235**. Please allow 2 weeks for delivery.
 Supplies are limited. Call 610.377.5048 to inquire about numbers available for the 35th Anniversary PA Chapter Box Call.

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HUNTING HERITAGE

Where Do Your Banquet Dollars Go?

Submitted by Jim Panaro,
PA Chapter Treasurer
and Bob Eriksen,
NWTF Regional Biologist

A common question that comes up from members or perspective members that are asked to join the NWTF or attend a local Hunting Heritage Banquets is ... "Where does my money go?" That is a valid question, especially in these times of needing to stretch dollars, and we thought we would provide an overview of the fundraising process and how and where the money is spent in PA.

First off, all income for the PANWTF is based on either revenue generated at Hunting Heritage Banquets or to a lesser degree grants and donations to the state chapter. Here in Pennsylvania 86 chapters host Hunting Heritage Super Fund Banquets annually. The money raised at the banquets, after all expenses are paid is divided into five categories.

- One percent is returned to the state chapter in the form of an annual rebate that the state chapter uses to help cover the cost of running the state chapter and covers such things as Turkey Talk, Local Chapter Presidents Meeting, Board meetings, Sponsor Member Hunt, supplies, telephone, webpage, equipment repairs, etc.
- Four percent goes back to the local chapter that hosted the banquet to use at the local chapter's discretion.
- Fifteen percent goes to NWTF to be used for program management such as helping to cover the costs of regional staff.
- Twenty four percent is deposited in the National Projects account used to support wild turkey projects that have national or regional significance. Examples of the uses of this fund are NWTF research projects like the recently completed gobbler banding study, Project Appleseed, Operation Oak and other programs. We could devote a whole article to this area of the use of dollars raised.
- The largest percentage (56%) is placed in the Pennsylvania Hunting Heritage Fund (HHF). This fund is managed by the state chapter for use in financing habitat improvements, research, outreach events, scholarships, safety and education needs, land acquisition, law enforcement equipment and a host of other projects.

The State Chapter Board of Director's takes the responsibility of managing this fund very seriously and it is a key discussion at the beginning of each meeting to review where we are in both expenses and income.

The HHF budget is developed jointly by the entire board at the October meeting and adopted for the following year. The income section of the budget is based on projections by the Regional Directors on what dollars they feel the chapter banquets will raise. Donations are usually from private individuals or industry partners and can vary greatly and as such we usually budget that as zero. Our overall strategy in the budgeting process is to be conservative on income and more 'worst case' on the expense side so we don't go into deficit spending. The Board of Directors have been trying for five years to reserve about 20% of each years income to gradually get to the point where we go into each year with only spending the same amount that was raised in the previous year.

The expense portions of the HHF budget are broken down into three sections. The first cut is Five – Star Expenses and we set aside allotments in different categories of the Outreach program based on history of chapter participation for the preceding year.

The second section is for State Chapter budgeted programs which vary from year to year. A lot of debate and review goes into this area and it is where we cover costs for things like the just completed Gobbler Banding study and the Hen Mortality study that was started in January.

The last section is where we divvy up the remaining balance into Superfund Projects with the bulk of the monies usually distributed to Habitat work. Once the budget is established for this Superfund projects portion, it is the responsibility of each committee to stay



2010 Hunting Heritage Fund Budget

		BUDGET	
Starting Balance in Hunting Heritage Superfund Reserve:		\$138,245	
Forecasted Income from 2010 Banquets • 86 Chapters:		\$205,000	
Donations from Outside Sources:		\$0	
Total Funds Available for Projects and Programs:		\$345,245	
2010 5-Star Expenses Projected for 88 Chapters:			
60	JAKES Days	\$500 ea	\$30,000
20	WITO Events	\$250 ea	\$5,000
1	State WITO Event	\$800 ea	\$800
8	Wheelin' Events	\$250 ea	\$2,000
40	Scholarships	\$250 ea	\$10,000
1	PA Scholarship		\$1,000
40	School Boxes	\$63 ea	\$2,520
Local Chapter 5-Star Expenses:		\$51,320	
PA Chapter Budgeted Program Expenses for 2010:			
2011 Super Fund Reserve Allocation		\$25,920	
Unallocated Contingency Reserve		\$1,260	
NWTF Biologist		\$20,000	
Ned Smith Fund		\$2,500	
Hen Telemetry		\$20,000	
Seed Subsidy		\$4,500	
PA Chapter Expenses:		\$74,180	
Total Available for 2010 Super Fund Projects:		\$79,500	
Allocated for 60 Habitat Projects	88%	\$70,000	
Allocated for Safety & Education	9%	\$7,500	
Allocated for Advertising & Membership Growth	3%	\$2,000	
Allocated for Land Acquisition	0%	\$0	
Total 100%		\$79,500	
Ending Balance in Hunting Heritage Superfund Reserve:		\$138,245	

within their allotted budget. As such, they review greensheet requests and may sometimes need to ask chapters to prioritize for greatest benefit, reduce the scope of a project to cut spending, or in some cases ultimately deny a project if their budget can't support the project. This has sometimes created hard feelings with some chapters but it is the only fiscally responsible way that the state chapter can operate when entrusted to keep the organization afloat. We would like to fund every request fully but unless we get in line to receive some federal money to bail us out we will need to continue to make choices because the only thing that the PA NWTF is better at doing than raising money is spending it on projects as surpassing the \$5 million dollar mark shows.

If anyone has further questions on how the process works and/or a particular category we would be happy to answer. Inquires can be sent to jpanaro@panwtf.org or beriksen@nwtf.net or give us a call at the numbers listed in Turkey Talk.

FALL HUNTING SAFETY

Know the

RISKS

and the

Penalties

By: Bob Eriksen,
NWTF Regional Biologist



Fall Turkey Hunting Related Shooting Incidents (HRSIs) have declined dramatically in Pennsylvania in the past several years. No one really knows why the number of incidents has declined but several possible reasons have been discussed. Educational efforts by the Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Chapter have likely played a role. Both the state agency and the state chapter have maintained their outreach and education efforts ranging from public service announcements to billboards and placement of safety reminders in the Game Law Digest. Declining participation in fall turkey hunting is another piece of the explanation and may be an important factor. Hunter density (the number of hunters per square mile of turkey habitat) affects incident rates. When hunter numbers decline as they have for fall turkey hunting incident rates also trend downward. It makes sense that when more people are in the woods the chances of interactions increase. Likewise the opposite is the case and we may have reached a point where fall turkey hunter numbers are low enough that shooting incident rates have dropped off.

Our aging hunter population may also be a factor. The Hunter Education requirement has been in place long enough that the majority of today's turkey hunters have been through the required course. Statistics indicate that participation in Hunter Education does make us safer hunters. Fall turkey hunting season dates may be another piece of the puzzle. Years ago the opening day of fall turkey season fell on the same day as the small game season opener. Large numbers of

hunters were afield in the first few days and the sheer number of people in the woods may have had an affect on incident rates.

Proponents of mandatory orange theorize that this regulatory requirement is a major player in declining incidents. While orange does have a part in the equation, the other factors weigh just as heavily. There has been no change in fall hunting orange requirements since the fall 1995 turkey season. Orange for fall turkey hunting was mandated in 1992. The recent decline in fall incident rates began in 2003 and has continued since then. The fall turkey season structure did not change (until this fall) so regulation changes do not seem to have played a part in the decline.

Another possible factor in this equation is tough to quantify. That is the role of the media in impacting turkey HRSIs. Each time there has been extensive media attention on turkey hunting safety the number of incidents has declined. The terribly high number of fall turkey hunting related shooting incidents (HRSIs) in 1990 and 1991 (38 and 37) prompted regulation changes requiring fall hunters to wear orange in 1992. The regulation was extremely controversial and attracted much media attention. When orange was mandated incident rates declined precipitously. The media hype associated with the regulation change no doubt had an impact. Incident numbers decreased to 6 in 1992, but so did fall turkey hunter numbers- by more than 40,000 between 1991 and 1992. Some people may have quit turkey hunting out of fear. By later in the 1990's incident rates were averaging 14 annually.

In 2002 there was heated discussion about increasing orange requirements for fall turkey hunting. The proposed changes were unpopular and once again the media was involved in reporting the controversial proposal. The proposal was scrapped and no changes to the orange regulations were made. Fall turkey HRSIs declined substantially from 15 in 2002 to 2 in 2003 indicating that the press associated with the proposal and educational efforts by both the chapter and the Game Commission had an impact on safety.

In the fall of 2009 there were 4 fall turkey HRSIs. Since 2003 the numbers have been low. One shooting incident is one too many but the low incident rate in the fall is very encouraging. There is still much work to do to promote safety, not only in the fall but in the spring gobbler season as well. There are more spring turkey hunters in Pennsylvania today than fall hunters and incident rates in the spring are higher. We cannot rest on our laurels when it comes to turkey HRSIs.

All hunters must realize the serious nature of being involved in a hunting related shooting incident. The lives of the shooter and the victim in each of these cases are changed



forever. Often the shooter cannot believe that he or she would do such a thing. Depending on how serious the injury to the victim is, the injured hunter may never recover from being shot. Insurance claims and litigation are precipitated by these incidents and the finances of the shooter can be profoundly affected. Whole families are impacted, especially when there is a fatal shooting or when serious bodily injury or impairment result from the incident. Even in the less serious cases the hunting experience for both the shooter and the victim will never be the same.

What are the legal ramifications? Anyone involved in a hunting related shooting incident in which someone is injured is required to report the incident to the Game Commission or a Game Commission officer within 72 hours. In addition the shooter is required by law to render immediate assistance to the victim. Statutes describing the extent of injury and the penalties for hunting related shooting incidents are covered in the Game and Wildlife Code (Title 34).

There are three ascending gradients describing the nature of the offense and penalties bought to bear on the shooter in a Hunting Related Shooting Incident. The first is a summary level offense. Incidents where a hunter shoots at another hunter and either does not hit the victim or causes bodily injury fall into this category. The definition of "bodily injury" is "impairment of physical condition or substantial pain". In other words any incident that results in someone being frightened because another individual shot at him or any case where a hunter is hit with shot or a bullet even when the injury is not debilitating can result in prosecution. Conviction of a summary violation of the 1st degree will result in a fine of \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00 and the shooter may be imprisoned for up to 3 months. The penalty also includes mandatory 2 year loss of hunting privileges.

A HRSI in which the victim suffers serious bodily injury is a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree. "Serious bodily injury" is defined as "Bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death or which causes serious permanent

disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ". In other words severe and potentially life-threatening injuries caused by the shooter, whether they are permanent or long term moves the incident into the realm of a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree. Fines for a conviction at this level are not more than \$5,000.00 and the shooter can be imprisoned for up to 12 months. Such a conviction results in the loss of hunting privileges for 5 to 10 years.

A hunter who kills another human being while hunting is guilty of a misdemeanor of the 1st degree. Any fines imposed at this level are distributed to the victim's next of kin. The penalty for a conviction on this count is a fine of not more than \$10,000.00 and the shooter may be imprisoned for up to 18 months. The shooter faces a mandatory loss of hunting and furtaking privileges for 15 years. A hunter convicted of a HRSI at any level must complete a remedial hunter education course and must provide evidence of a vision examination to prove their vision meets specific standards contained in Game Commission regulations.

The penalties described above are sobering enough but being involved in a Turkey Hunting Related Shooting Incident is serious on so many levels. Lives are profoundly impacted. The enjoyment that the shooter and the victim once got out of turkey hunting is forever lost. As you take to the woods this fall remember the penalties associated with these incidents. Remember that more than 70% of Turkey HRSIs are classified as "shot for game". In these incidents one hunter deliberately points a firearm at another and pulls the trigger because he or she failed to properly identify their target. Even more serious than the penalties is the guilt the shooter has to live with and the permanent affect being shot has on the victim. Don't think for a minute that you could not make a mistake. Each of us is responsible for his actions. Be careful, hunt defensively, handle every firearm as if it were loaded, make certain of your target and what is beyond. **Think Safety, Hunt Safely!**



A Wife's First Turkey Hunt

By Carol Bahn
Lake Marburg Chapter,
Women in the Outdoors



Tuesday evening May 11, 2010. Bob, my husband of 27 years and an avid hunter, and I packed our truck and headed to North Central Pennsylvania to our family cabin for 4 days of turkey hunting. This was my first attempt at hunting anything. The drive to the cabin was a rainy 4 hours and was filled with anticipation and expectation.

We arrived at the cabin about 10:30 p.m. The temperature outside was in the 40's but inside the cabin was much colder. Bob fired up the kerosene furnace and we went about unpacking and getting our hunting gear ready for the morning. We decided it would be warmer to sleep on the living room sofas close to the furnace since the cabin was still cold. We said our goodnights and crawled into our sleeping bags around 11:30 p.m.

At 12:40 a.m. I awoke in a fog to the strong smell of kerosene. Groggy, I tried to ignore the smell and buried my head into my pillow. A few minutes later, I sat up and looked at the furnace noticing the flame was out. I called for Bob several times before he opened his eyes. I told him the fire had gone out. He was dazed as he got up to start the fire again. When he opened the door to the furnace, the kerosene ignited and began to burn out of control. Black smoke and flames poured from the furnace. Bob quickly turned off the kerosene supply to the furnace inside the cabin and I raced to open the windows and doors. We hurried to move furniture away from the flames shooting out of the furnace door. The fire continued to burn, puffing black smoke through the cabin. He then decided to shut off the valve from the main tank to the inside of the cabin. After what seemed like an eternity of anxiously watching the fire and trying to get fresh air, the flames died down and went out. We are so thankful to be alive! Carbon monoxide is a silent killer. I truly believe the Lord had his hand in waking

me so Bob and I could continue to serve Him and enjoy another day. We got back to sleep without heat around 2 a.m., only to awaken to the ringing alarm clock at 4:30 a.m. **TIME TO GO HUNTING!**

Day 1 – It was 39 degrees outside. The cabin was so cold we turned on the oven to try to keep warm while eating breakfast and putting on the numerous layers of camouflage clothing and boots. (By the way, the night before leaving home I decided to buy new hiking boots – a pair that was a little higher on my leg – there are rattlesnakes in these woods, you know!) As I laced up my new boots I hoped I wouldn't get blisters since we would be walking a lot.

By 5:10 a.m. we were out the door hiking up the mountain (literally, straight up the mountain) on State Game Lands. With 3½ hours of sleep, a flashlight in my hand, and a back pack on my back filled with all of the necessities for a 6-hour stay in the woods, I was trekking up the dirt road behind Bob. Huffing and puffing and trying to keep up with him, I could actually hear my heart pounding in my chest (a great cardio workout, ladies!). He stopped to see if I needed a break (what a sweetheart) and I whispered back to him "Let's keep going." Two rules I quickly learned were there is no talking while hunting and do your best to keep up. The dirt road ended before us and it was now time to "bushwack" through the woods. By now my new boots were beginning to hurt so I said a little prayer, "Lord, please don't let me get blisters. I have a lot of walking to do in these boots." We started into the woods, climbing up the steep embankment, over logs and branches of fallen trees, through the mountain laurel and ferns and ducking under hemlocks. Getting smacked in the face by a tree branch that Bob just walked past, I screamed "Ouch!" He looked back at me drawing his finger to his lips and shushed me.

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What a difference a day can make!

Trade your to-do list for a day for yourself - a day in the outdoors! Join thousands of women who have attended a Women in the Outdoors event and tried something new.

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To find a Women in the Outdoors event near you, or to register online please visit the WITO Events Calendar at:

www.pgc.state.pa.us

(click on the "Education" tab, scroll down to "Special Events and Programs" then click on "Women in the Outdoors")



NWTF

WOMEN IN THE OUTDOORS



Meet the new PA Women in the Outdoors Coordinator

By Jeff Souders

For me getting a chance to work for the National Wild Turkey Federation is unbelievable. I have dreamed of an opportunity like this, but never really thought it would become reality. I have been an avid outdoorsman ever since I received my first gun, a BB gun, at age 5. It was at that point I began prowling around in Pennsylvania's outback. It didn't matter what it was, fishing, hunting or backpacking; if you could be outside I was there.

However, my background as a sportsman is pretty unusual. I didn't have a father who was an outdoorsman. My early hunting experience consisted of shooting my BB gun at cans and when I was old enough, about four hours of hunting every opening day of buck season.

But despite this lack of mentoring, it was quite evident early on that there was some serious passion for the outdoors burning inside of me. It only took those four hours and I knew this was something I would do for the rest of my life. I took my Hunter Education class and got my hunting license in the seventh grade. Then finally, the U.S. Army honed the shooting skills I had started back with my beloved BB gun.

It is my unusual background as a sportsman that drives me to succeed as the Women in the Outdoors Coordinator. As many of you know, it is not typical for an individual lacking a family member who hunts or fishes to develop a life-long love of the outdoors. This is where I plan on taking the Women in the Outdoors program.

My goal is to reach out to every woman and girl who has a desire to be in the outdoors, and introduce them to this way of life.

I have been given a great opportunity to introduce women to the outdoors.

There are a lot of women out there waiting for a chance to experience the joys of time spent in the outdoors. After all, women are the fastest growing segment of the sporting community.

I will need your help though. If you know of anyone involved with your local chapter who wants to organize or help organize a Women in the Outdoors event, let me know. I will also need the support of all the chapters. No events can take place without a sponsoring chapter.

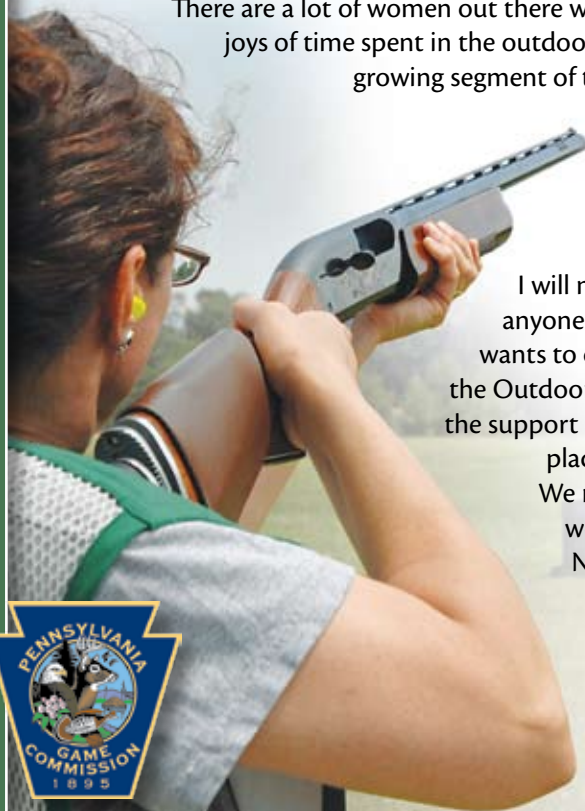
We need to get the word out. The more women we can reach the stronger the NWTF becomes and the more we can continue to support the wild turkey.

If you or anyone you know wants to help with an event, contact me at:

(717) 395-8276 or

jsouders@nwtf.net

I look forward to meeting you!



Continued from page 21

We walked through the brush for about 30 minutes (it seemed like forever) until we finally arrived at the pipeline around 6:00 a.m. We carefully started down the pipeline along the edge of the woods towards Bob's favorite turkey hunting spot by a hemlock tree when he noticed 4 deer grazing in the field near his tree. We stopped to wait and watch because we didn't want to scare the deer off into the woods alerting any nearby turkeys that we were there. After about 15 minutes we moved into the spot to set up. I propped up, seated against the tree with Bob by my side to coach me. We put on our face nets and I laid his gun across my legs. As I settled in, I couldn't help but notice how the woods were alive with squirrels, songbirds and an occasional woodpecker. The fog in the ravine between the mountains was taking different shapes as it lifted. Bob began calling with his box and friction calls; we listened for a gobble. He called again about 15 minutes later; I listened with my eyes closed. He called some more, I listened some more with my eyes closed. Finally, after 2 hours of hearing nothing, he woke me up and we stood to stretch our legs. Without complaining about my blistering feet, we walked to the other side of the pipeline. He called again with hopes of a return gobble. Nothing. After a disappointing morning, we decided to head back to camp taking our time. We occasionally stopped to call, but heard nothing.

Day 2 – We hunted the same area with not one gobble heard. Boots feel better (with the help of band-aids).

Day 3 – After an early dawn thunderstorm, we went to a new area. After a long morning of walking, we heard our first gobble at 11:15 a.m. The gobble was about 150 yards away so we quickly closed the distance and set up. Bob got

him to answer our calls and the gobble moved within 50 to 70 yards away, but he never showed himself. He was still gobbling at noon when we had to walk away since it was quitting time. Exciting! Boots feel great!

Day 4 – We returned to the same area as the day before. Bob was using a box call and got a gobble to answer us from a long distance away about 8:15 a.m. We hurried to move close and get on the same bench as the gobble. It was obvious he was closing the distance on us also. Bob quickly put out a decoy and after he sat down next to me he realized there was a slight rise in the bench and the gobble wouldn't see the decoy until he was on top of us. The bird was coming toward us double-gobbling but hung up about 50 yards away for about 10 minutes. We were on the bird for about 50 minutes and because of the weight I just couldn't hold up the gun any longer and had to lower it to my knee. After that the gobble got quiet and the hunt ended. The gobble might have seen me move when I put the gun down. Disappointing!! My boots felt great but were heavy on the walk back to the cabin knowing that the hunt was over and I missed a great opportunity to harvest my first turkey.

As we walked though, I couldn't help but admire the beauty that God gave us to enjoy. I thanked Him for creating such a wonderful place and the opportunity to experience it. I also thanked the Lord for Bob and trying to call in a bird for me and having the patience to teach me to hunt. I have a new appreciation for him as a hunter and what it takes to harvest a bird. (And I'm also grateful for band-aids.)

I'm looking forward to hunting in the mountains with my husband next year!

UPCOMING Women in the Outdoors Events in Pennsylvania

Oct 24, 2010
Red Rose and The Laurel's
Eileen Montgomery 610-857-4949
mrsbirdicus7@yahoo.com
Atglen Sportsmen's Club (Chester County)



The PA State Chapter of the NWTF and the PA Game Commission will be teaming up with Cabela's to hold a

Women in the Outdoors Event March 5, 2011 at Cabela's in Hamburg

Please keep an eye out for more details in the near future. If you would like to volunteer to help out at this event contact Jeff Souders at jsouders@nwtf.net or 717-395-8276

2011 PENNSYLVANIA HUNTING HERITAGE JANUARY BANQUETS

Jan. 15.....Muncy Creek	Muncy Creek Fire Hall, Muncy	Nancy Craft 570-482-4364
Jan. 22.....Lower Lackawanna LongSpurs.....	Greenwood Fire Hall, Moosic.....	Ray Smith 570-220-1535
Jan. 22.....Sherman's Valley Strutters	Newport Fire Hall, Newport	Perry Smith 717-697-2008
Jan. 22.....Wilhelm Chapter	Nick's Place, Edinboro	Tim Tobin 814-734-1691
Jan. 29.....Foothills Spurs Chapter.....	Rimersburg Community Center, Rimersburg	Bill Coradi 814-473-3575
Jan. 29.....Chesquehanna Spurs	Rembrandt Club, St Benedict	Jim Panaro 814-344-6632
Jan. 29.....Blue Mountain	Kutztown Fire Hall, Kutztown	Michael Hartman 717-866-7539

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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 for the wild turkey. Send a self addressed stamped envelope with your membership number and phone number to: **Scott Letterman, 3200 Crossroads Drive, Lewisburg, PA 17837.** 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.