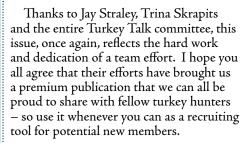
A Publication of the PA State Chapter of the NWTF 2010 Winter Edition Volume 35 Number 2 NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION STEELERS ECUCCITION is the KEY Message From The President

**Dedicated** volunteers is what makes any organization great.



You should enjoy photos of some of our fellow turkey hunters displaying their involvement in the "Turkey Hunters Care" Program – a great example of just what Pennsylvania hunters really are all about not just hunting for their own benefit, but taking the time to spread the generosity of hunters. Why not submit photos of you or your local chapter's efforts – be it in the arena of habitat, outreach events, or other turkey related conservation activities?

In this issue, you will find the annual "Seed Subsidy Order Form." If you are interested in participating in this program, please fill it out and submit it as soon as possible. Among other great information, an article regarding the state of the Super Fund will help enlighten readers as to the current standing of the dollars we dedicate to conservation. A hen study article will describe the soon-to-begin hen study that has been in the planning stages for several years, and reflects another outstanding joint effort between the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the PA State Chapter NWTF.

I recently received an article that Steve Wagner, a representative of Blue Heron Communications, sent me describing his views of "How to Volunteer for a Conservation Organization." I thought it to be so "right on" that I received his permission to share it with you. Please see page 17.

If you have not yet become a volunteer, please consider doing so – whether at the local or State Chapter level. The help of a broad spectrum of dedicated volunteers is what makes any organization great.

As this is my last entry in the "President's Corner," I would like to assure you all that having served as your President of the Pennsylvania State Chapter NWTF for the past two years has been challenging, educational and a privilege. I am honored and thankful to have done so. We have in place many new, younger and eager Board members, and I look forward to them bringing their thoughts and direction to the table as they assume positions of leadership.



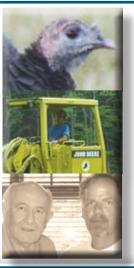


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**NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION MISSION STATEMENT:** 

Dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and preservation of our hunting heritage.

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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 Spring Issue of Turkey Talk is MARCH 10



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#### PENNSYLVANIA State Chapter

Since 1975

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

December 2009 Dear Pennsylvania Member:

The Pennsylvania State Chapter Board of Directors is pleased to offer its members the opportunity to purchase S&R® Northeast/Midwest Perennial Mix or S&R® Clover Blend at a subsidized price. The Pennsylvania State Hunting Heritage Super Fund will pay for 50 percent of the seed and shipping charges.

Sponsor Members may purchase a total of Two bags of seed:

- 20-pound bags of S&R® Northeast/Midwest Perennial Mix for just \$40.00 each, shipping included (either 2 Northeast/Midwest OR 2 clover blend OR one of each)
- 9-pound bags of the S&R® Clover Blend for just \$21.50 each, shipping included

Regular Members may purchase a total of One:

- 20-pound bag of S&R® Northeast/Midwest Perennial Mix for just \$40.00 each, shipping included (or)
- 9-pound bag of the S&R® Clover Blend for just \$21.50 each, shipping included

All orders are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Quantities are limited on subsidized seed due to the dollars allocated to the program. Both mixes will ship approximately two weeks from date of order.

\*\*\*As an additional benefit, each member can purchase additional bags of S&R® Northeast/Midwest Mix for just \$80.00 and/or S&R® Clover Blend for just \$43.00, <u>unsubsidized</u> but at a reduced price, in unlimited quantities. However, to take advantage of these savings, you must submit the order with this seed subsidy offer.

**S&R® Northeast/Midwest Perennial Mix** comes pre-inoculated and a 20-pound bag will cover approximately one acre. This mixture will provide areas of food and cover throughout the winter and provide excellent nesting and brood-rearing cover during spring and early summer. This mix is great for wild turkey, deer and other wildlife. Broadcast 20-pounds over one acre from May into late June and through September in the fall. Cover seed  $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep using a drag or culti-packer to insure good soil to seed contact. Soil pH should be 5.5 - 7.0. If you cannot have soil tested, fertilize with 5-10-15 at a rate of 250 pounds per acre and a minimum of 2,000 pounds of lime per acre.

**S&R**<sup>®</sup> **Clover Blend** is a 9-pound mixture of pre-inoculated alsike, ladino, white and red clover. Soil pH should be 6.5 - 7.0. As an alternative to soil testing, add 300-500 pounds of 3-9-9 fertilizer per acre. Broadcast 9-pounds per acre in spring. Cover seed  $\frac{1}{4}$  deep using a drag or culti-packer to insure good soil to seed contact.

Every bag purchased results in an acre of quality wild turkey brood habitat being established. This helps the PA State Chapter address a key issue identified in our state strategy of the North American Wild Turkey Management Plan. Your membership and financial support at our banquets helps make this program possible and allows the chapter to address high priority habitat needs in our state. THANK YOU!

Sincerely, Jon Pries Pennsylvania State Chapter President National Wild Turkey Federation



PENNSYLVANIA Seed Subsidy Offer Spring 2010



State Super Fund program pays 50% cost of seed and shipping

#### Respond before April 16, 2010

Due to overwhelming responses to this offer, No phone orders accepted until after April 12th

Must provide member number located on magazine mailing label under \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Forms without member number will not receive good

Name (please print)		Member Number (Must have in order to process request. Number located under ***** on Turkey Country magazine)		
Address (unal	ole to ship to PO Boxes)		- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	-,
City  Daytime Phone MUST INCLUDE  Cell Phone		State Zip		
		Evening Phone  Email Address		
Item#	Description	Qty	Price	Total
9800154	S&R®Northeast/Midwest Perennial Mix – 20#		\$40.00 ea	
9800156	S&R®Clover Blend – 9#		\$21.50 ea	
	Non Subsidized - But at a Special Reduced Price with	NO LIMIT	on amount ord	lered
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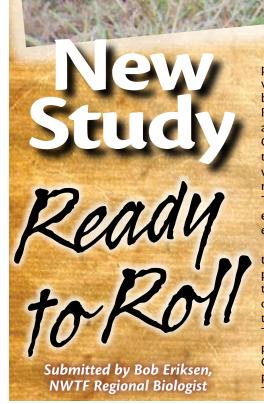
Today's Date

Winter 2010 **Turkey Talk** 5

Source Code PA SS10



#### Sixty hens captured in the winter months will be fitted with radio-transmitters.



As the tri-state gobbler banding research project winds down this winter, the Pennsylvania Game Commission is preparing to embark on a follow-up study. The Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania calls for a study on hen survival and fall harvest rates. Commission biologists recommended that the first major research project be a statewide effort to determine gobbler harvest rates, gobbler survival and harvest reporting. The second most important research project recommended in the plan was a banding effort involving hens.

The wild turkey management plan sets the goal of providing optimum wild turkey populations in suitable habitats throughout the commonwealth for hunting and viewing opportunities. This goal is achieved by maintaining a conservative fall either-sex harvest. The harvest of more than 10% of the fall population can lead to population declines. Commission biologists manage wild turkey populations by changing fall season lengths. These decisions are made by reviewing spring

harvest trends and summer brood survey information. Over-harvest in the fall can influence the number of hens that survive to reproduce the following spring. It is important for managers to know the fall harvest rate, or the percentage of the flock taken in the fall season. That information is not currently available for Pennsylvania. In addition, commission biologists need to discern how much harvest rates might change when season lengths are increased or shortened.

The question up to now has been how exactly to finance such an intense effort. Thanks to the reaction of hunters, firearm collectors and target shooters to the 2008 elections the potential to initiate another research project on the heels of the gobbler study increased. The brisk sales of firearms and ammunition in spite of a lagging economy have resulted in a major increase in the collection of excise taxes. Those dollars generated through firearm and ammo sales, known as Pitman-Robertson Funds, form the basis of federal aid to wild-life research and restoration. State wildlife agencies obtain the federal aid funds based on hunting license sales. Many wildlife agen-

cies, including the Game Commission have received larger amount of federal funds than were expected. Therefore money is available right now to start the much-needed research project. The Pennsylvania Chapter has pledged to support the project to a degree with the Hunting Heritage Super Fund.

The major objective of the proposed work is to determine the rate at which wild turkeys are harvested in the fall and what affect longer or shorter fall hunting seasons might have on the harvest rates. A second objective is to evaluate the survival of hens between the winter period and the fall hunting season. Based on the findings of the gobbler study concerning leg band retention commission biologists will also observe band retention rates on hen turkeys. Getting to the answers to these and other questions will require four years of intense work. It will also require that a large number of hens and poults be captured and banded.

The design of the research project calls for work to begin in January of 2010. It will be another good cooperative project between Penn State and the Game Commission. The project coordinators are Duane Diefenbach of Penn State and Mary Jo Casalena wild turkey research project leader for the Game Commission. Wild turkeys of both sexes

will be rocket-netted during January- March and August- September from 2010 through 2013. Sixty hens captured in the winter months will be fitted with radio-transmitters. The radio-tagged birds will enable biologists to estimate survival rates of hens between the winter and the fall hunting season. Other birds will simply be banded with rivetstyle bands. The goal will be to band at least 230 birds in each of two study areas. Season lengths will be adjusted during the study to ascertain the impact of increasing or decreasing the number of hunting days. Summer trapping will provide a good sample of young birds to learn about the rate at which juvenile turkeys are harvested compared to adults. The study areas have not yet been finalized but each will consist of two to four Wildlife Management Units.

Trapping crews will have their work cut out for them in trying to complete this project. Trapping turkeys in the summer months is quite challenging. Trapping crews can have reasonable

success in late August and early September at least until the soft mast and hard mast begins to hit the ground. No matter what, trapping crews will have to spend more hours in the blind in the summer because of the abundance of food and the difficulty in predicting when exactly he turkeys will show up at the baited site. The crews will need all the information our volunteers can provide on the locations of flocks.

Instead of standard VHF telemetry transmitters, this work will utilize state of the art satellite transmitters to monitor the locations and survival of hens through the course of the year. The satellite transmitters are much more expensive than VHF transmitters, but through the use of satellite tracking the amount of personnel time and vehicle mileage required to keep track of 60 turkeys is significantly reduced. In fact, the initial investment costs on equipment will be more economical than investing in standard equipment and having to hire seasonal technicians and supplying vehicles to a dozen field staff. The technology is relatively new, but it is vastly improved since its introduction several years ago. This will be the first major wild turkey study to employ satellite transmitters.

The new research project is another example of the serious investment the Pennsylvania Game Commission is willing to make in our wild turkey resource. It is also a good example of the reasons turkey hunting enthusiasts should join NWTF. There is much to be learned from the work. Once completed, this research will provide commission biologists with better information on which to base decisions on seasons and bag limits. We'll keep you posted on the project as it gets underway this winter.

The brisk sales of firearms and ammunition in spite of a lagging economy have resulted in a major increase in the collection of excise taxes. Those dollars generated through firearm and ammo sales, known as Pitman-Robertson Funds, form the basis of federal aid to wildlife research and restoration.



## ROOST NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

#### Larry Rohrbaugh

Hometown: Spring Grove, Pa.

**Home Chapter:** Lake Marburg Chapter,

**Spring Grove** 

**Notable Fact:** Larry's chapter is known for its great banquets and JAKES days.



NWTF: Larry, what's your chapter's secret for keeping people coming back to your banquets and outreach events?

Larry Rohrbaugh (LR): I would say that you've got to make it as fun as possible for everyone. We go all-out on getting a lot of things for our banquet, so our Sportsman's Raffle table is always full. We feel if everyone goes home with something, they will be satisfied. We do the same with our JAKES event— make it a fun day, and be sure everyone goes home with something.

#### NWTF: What NWTF program is most important to your chapter, and why?

LR: I feel that the most important NWTF program for us is our banquet. We only had about 40 people at our first one, now we have about 240! We get the whole family to come to them now, not just men. It has become a big social event that everyone looks forward to now, and we raise a lot of money for our cause. At an NWTF banquet, people actually have time to slow down and visit, and that means a lot in this fast-paced world we live in today.

## NWTF: How does your chapter reach out to people in your community to promote conservation, hunting and the shooting sports?

LR: We reach out locally through our local state park (Codorus State Park). The NWTF and the Pennsylvania Game Commis-

sion released some turkeys there a few years back, and now sightings are common. We did habitat improvement in the park, and planted a lot of trees in the area to help. We helped out with the playground at the park and a local township. We also give turkeys away at Christmas to the needy as part of the Turkey Hunters Care program, and sponsor a JAKES Day. We have participated in a local church's wildlife event and handed out our magazines and info on the NWTF. I think when you combine those things, plus the enjoyment people have at our banquet, they help spread the word about the NWTF.

## NWTF: How important is outreach (JAKES, Women in the Outdoors, Wheelin' Sportsmen) programs to your chapter?

LR: It's very important! We especially enjoy the JAKES Day. We feel it is crucial to reach the kids while they are young. Most love to shoot a gun and try new things, and we make sure that safety is our top priority during these events.

#### NWTF: Larry, what's the best part about being an NWTF member?

LR: For me, the best part of the NWTF is the friends that I've made. Being a part of this chapter for 20 years, I have made so many really good friends.

#### NWTF: What's your favorite thing about turkey hunting?

LR: Being outside with friends and family, enjoying the beauty of God's nature. We have had so much fun, not just from turkey hunting, but looking for wild flowers, like Trillians in the spring. Another great memory I have is finding woodcock and watching them do their mating flight in the evenings. We have all learned a lot from spending time in the woods over the years. It's not about the harvest anymore, but just the excitement of calling in a big gobbler in the spring.

#### Harold "Daubber" Daub

Hometown: Halifax, Pa.

Home NWTF Chapter: Lykens Valley

Longbeards — Lykens, Pa.

NWTF: How long have you been an NWTF member, and how long have you

been a turkey hunter?

Harold Daubber: I've turkey hunted for 28 years and I've been a member of the NWTF for 10 years. I went on my first turkey hunt in November of 1981 in Potter County, Pa., with my late friend, Jack Eshenour, and I joined the NWTF in 1999 when our local chapter was formed.

#### NWTF: How did your spring turkey season go this year?

HD: I had a very enjoyable spring season. The turkeys in the local area I was hunting were tough to hunt. They are very pressured, as the area is heavily hunted. Our season started with our "Youth Day" on April 18th. For the third season in a row, I was blessed to be able to enjoy this day with my niece, Madeline Daub. We had gone out Friday evening and "roosted" a couple of gobblers. I was very excited as I watched Maddie harvest her first longbeard the next morning! The "icing on the cake" was the fact it was sporting a band from the just-concluded Pennsylvania Game Commission/NWTF gobbler survey.

Later in the season, I had the pleasure of watching my father bag his first spring turkey. The spring turkey season is my favorite time of year, and this season did not disappoint! I was able to harvest a 21-pound longbeard in Pennsylvania and I tagged out with two longbeards in New York as well.

#### NWTF: It sounds like an exciting past few months for you, Harold. So what's your favorite thing about turkey hunting?

**HD:** I enjoy turkey hunting due to the nature of interacting with the game. I enjoy bow hunting for deer, and testing my woodsmanship skills against a rutting whitetail is very challenging, but nothing compares to hearing a turkey gobble and calling that strutting bird into shooting range!

In addition to that thrill, the general activity of a spring morning is so great to experience as I watch everything come "back to life" after winter. One of my favorite memories from this past season is a morning I spent sitting near a plowed field in New York. The variety of songbirds I was able to watch as they "strutted their stuff" was incredible. Springtime provides so many thrills in so many ways. I also want to add that I attended my very

first NWTF National
Convention this past
February in Nashville.
What a great time! I would
urge all NWTF members to
be sure to make plans to
attend a National Convention, to truly experience
what the NWTF is, and
what kind of great people
are on Team NWTF.

NWTF: We hear that you take the time to help young hunters get started in the sport. What's your favorite part of doing that?

HD: I feel it's very important to pass along our hunting traditions. I volunteer with the Pennsylvania Game Commission as the local coordinator for our hunter education program in northern Dau-

phin County. My favorite part is seeing the kids' faces light up when they hear that first gobble, or see that approaching whitetail, and the joy of watching a first-time hunter retrieve their first squirrel...all of those things create memories for me that I'll never forget. I feel that passing on our hunting heritage is the most important thing a sportsman or sportswoman can do today. You'll never feel more appreciated than when you give your time to educate the a budding hunter of any age — it's a great feeling to know you've helped to passing the hunting heritage!

#### NWTF: Helping with habitat projects is also something that you're active in, correct?

**HD:** That's right. Our "Lukes Trail Project" was one such example. The project was a team effort undertaken by the Lykens Valley Chapter in 2006.

In 2005, we lost our chapter's founder and NWTF Regional Director, Jerry Zimmerman. We all very much miss Jerry, and we wanted to do something in remembrance of a person we all view as the best conservationist we've ever known. Dean Zimmerman, the Lykens Valley JAKES coordinator, along with several other chapter members who are employees of TYCO Electronics, presented us with an

opportunity to apply for a grant from TYCO's "Dollars for Doers" program.

Dean completed and submitted the grant application to TYCO, and we were blessed with being rewarded the maximum amount, \$5,000, for our project!

Working with Pennsylvania DCNR as well as the local Pennsylvania Game Commission Food & Cover team, we were able to have an approximate two-acre opening created in



the middle of a very remote section of Weiser State Forest, which was limed, fertilized, and seeded in the spring of 2007.

This phase of the project was completed in June of 2007, and currently disabled hunters from all over the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have enjoyed hunting from the two wheelchair-accessible shooting/spotting platforms which were erected by local builders and NWTF members Reynold Feger and Dennis Paul. To date, we are aware of at least three deer harvested from these locations last year by hunters with disabilities.

#### NWTF: It's got to be pretty satisfying to see things come to fruition like that.

**HD:** I take great satisfaction from any project the NWTF is involved in that improves or adds beneficial habitat to our public lands. Our local chapter also maintains over 50 acres of food plots. That habitat helps not only wild turkeys, but also deer, bear, game birds like grouse, as well as all sorts of non-game species. When I visit the Lukes Trail plot and can observe deer or turkeys utilizing an opening which was not there until 2 years ago, I get a great sense of pride and satisfaction in knowing our volunteers made that happen.

NWTF: What drives you to donate so much of your time to helping the NWTF?

**HD:** I'm motivated by the great volunteers who are involved with the Lykens Valley Chapter and the NWTF. Our recent local banquet was supported by a Banquet Committee of over 40 volunteers, ranging from 14 to 74 years of age. We all came together for the common interest we have in the wild turkey. I think that's a pretty amazing story. Each of us has our own skills that we bring to the table, and through that, we are very effective at getting things accomplished. Seeing wildlife benefiting from a project that our group created and accomplished provides for a real jolt of inspiration and motivation. Also, the buy-in we see from our local community; we had about 150 businesses donate cash or inventory to our Hunting Heritage Banquet, and we had 332 guests in attendance! Our area is very rural and to be able to see that kind of support, especially this year with the bad news we are all bombarded with daily regarding the economy, really pumps up the motivation factor.

#### NWTF: Why should someone join the NWTF? What's in it for them?

**HD:** I recommend NWTF memberships for a few reasons — most importantly, an active volunteer will find themselves enjoying the company of others who share the same common interests related to turkeys, the outdoors, etc. They'll also be able to be a part of an organization that is well-respected by everyone associated with conservation. The opportunity to really make a difference with not only local habitat projects, but also local community service activities like scholarships to local students, providing store-bought frozen turkeys to local needy families, JAKES, Wheelin' Sportsmen and Women in the Outdoors outreach programs — all of these things will provide them with very rewarding experiences. Finally, there are also political benefits to joining the NWTF. Even if you do not want to become an active volunteer, just being counted among the group reminds our legislators that our voices matter. Examples of this political clout in Pennsylvania include having ineffective fluorescent orange regulations changed and restrictive turkey dog laws removed. The NWTF (with much credit going to Ron Fretts) also worked to successfully see the creation of the first "Families Afield" legislation. The voices of sportsmen and women must be heard. A single voice only carries so far by joining the NWTF, our collective voices are more effectively heard by those who are creating the laws and regulations. So if you are reading this and you are not a current member of the NWTF — join today!

# The Current State of Our Hunting Heritage



In spite of the best efforts of you, our volunteers, the impact of the recession is being felt in our Hunting Heritage Super Fund.

**Our Pennsylvania local chapters** have done a remarkable job through the years raising money for conservation through Hunting Heritage Super Fund banquets.

The Super Fund has been a resounding success and more than 4.5 million dollars have been raised and spent on habitat enhancement, wild turkey research, Hunter Safety education, outreach events and other great projects. The role of you, our volunteers working near home for your local chapter cannot be overstated. So much conservation work would never have been done were it not for this unique and productive method of fund raising.

Keystone State volunteers have always been one of the best groups of NWTF fund-raisers anywhere and our members are to be commended for their efforts. The faltering economy has affected each of us personally, some more than others. The same

is true for conservation organizations. The National Wild Turkey Federation has weathered this financial storm pretty well, better in fact than some other conservation groups. The same can be said for our Pennsylvania State Chapter. The financial crisis has affected us, however, both on a national and a state scale. The result of the slowdown in the economy is



that our fund-raising has been down. This is understandable. In spite of the best efforts of you, our volunteers, the impact of the recession is being felt in our Hunting Heritage Super Fund.

Back in 2006 your banquets on the local level succeeded in placing \$311,030 in the Pennsylvania Chapter Hunting Heritage Super Fund. Some slowdown in the economy began as early as 2007. That year, deposits into the Super Fund were down 11 percent from the previous year to \$276,874. In 2008 fund-raising declined another 14% to \$239,223. This year we had some very productive banquets and we had some that struggled to be successful. Through no fault of the hard work of our volunteers, deposits into the Super Fund declined again, this time by another 15% to \$204,036.

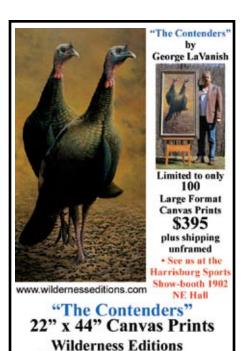
In four short years, the economic situation has reduced our ability to fund projects by more than \$100,000 from the level we found ourselves in 2006. That fact has significant importance to our ability to fund worthwhile projects for 2010. Just a few years ago, we were able to fund more than \$100,000 in habitat enhancement projects and still fund research, hunter education, outreach, scholarships and many other great programs. For 2010, it is imperative that we once again tighten our belts when it comes to deciding on how to budget our Super Fund spending.

Our Pennsylvania State Chapter Board of Directors worked hard and long at their October meeting to develop a Hunting Heritage Super Fund budget for 2010. The decisions they made were not easy ones. One of the most significant decisions concerned the level of spending available for habitat enhancement projects. For 2010, our budget calls for investing up to \$70,000 in habitat enhancement work. That figure is \$12,000 lower than our 2009 budget. In addition, cuts were made in other areas to keep the chapter within the projected income level and allow us to finish the year with a balance in the Super Fund. Keeping a balance is important because we need to have money in the Super Fund in the early spring when outreach and habitat project Super Fund request forms begin to be processed.

What does the 2010 Super Fund budget mean to your chapter? Essentially it means that we will have to be very selective about the habitat projects that can be funded. Our Super Fund Habitat Committee will fund as many projects as possible, but there is a limit. Our recommendation is that our local chapters work closely with the Game Commission land managers, Bureau of Forestry representative and other agencies to develop reasonably priced, quality habitat improvement project proposals. We should endeavor to plan maintenance projects on existing sites rather than trying to implement new projects. We should try to apply lime and fertilizer at optimum rates and find the best purchase prices for seed. Avoid heavy equipment rental and purchases of mature trees. It is unlikely that the chapter will be able to justify any equipment purchases this year.

There are signs that the economy is coming out of the slump. Things will not improve dramatically overnight, but 2010 could be a better fund-raising year than 2009. We have no way to predict how quickly or even how much the economy will improve so we have to approach spending conservatively. We have always done good projects and will continue to do so, though it will be at a slower pace until we see marked improvement. In the meantime, we want to thank each and every one of you for all you do for the wild turkey. Though we may not be full speed ahead right now, there is no question that good conservation will continue to be the benchmark of the Pennsylvania Chapter. Our volunteers expect it and the wild turkey deserves it!

Keystone State volunteers have always been one of the best groups of NWTF fund-raisers anywhere and our members are to be commended for their efforts.



(800) 355-7645 (Mon-Fri)

Partners In

Recently the Pennsylvania State Chapter of the NWTF (PANWTF) confirmed a four year agreement with the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art. The agreement which runs from 2010 through 2014 will provide the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art with a yearly contribution of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00).

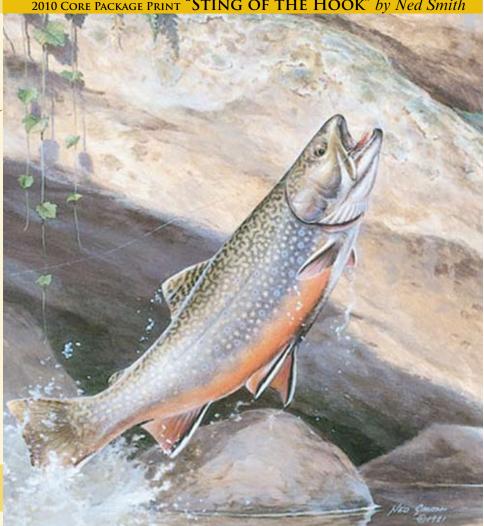
This contribution will be used to support the Center's education outreach programs. In return for this contribution, the Center will provide ninety-two (92) Ned Smith prints per year for Local PA Chapters to use at their Hunting Heritage Banquets. Always a great seller at every banquet, this is a great opportunity for the PANWTF and the Ned Smith Center. Two organizations determined to answer the call for conservation in Pennsylvania.

The PANWTF and the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art are pleased to announce that the 2010 Hunting Heritage art piece will be "Sting Of The Hook".

Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art is located at 176 Water Company Road in Millersburg, PA For more info call 717-692-3699 • 717-692-0977

#### ww.nedsmithcenter.org

2010 CORE PACKAGE PRINT "STING OF THE HOOK" by Ned Smith



## Education is the KEY to our future!



#### **Allegheny Mountain Education Box**

The Allegheny Mountain Chapter presented an Education Box to Miss Long's second grade class at Foot of Ten Elementary School in Duncansville, PA.





#### **Kernsville Elementary School Environmental Awareness**

With the help of Bob Danenhower and the Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter, the kids at Kernsville Elementary School in Orefield, PA know what the NWTF stands for!

## There is More than One Way Curkey to Give the Birth Com

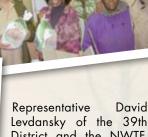


#### peters creek turkey donation

State Representative David Levdansky of the 39th District and the NWTF also assisted the Peters Creek Trail Chapter, which donated 400 turkeys to food banks in parts of Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties. Left to Right Chapter President Mel Gouker, Reg Denne, Joe Benkovich, State Representative David Levdansky, Al Gouker, Pat Connley, and Kyle.

#### my ionsbeards donation

Mon Valley Longbeards Chapter delivered 220 turkeys to various food banks in the area, they included the South Park Food Bank, Bethel Park Food Bank, Eightyfour Food Bank and the West Elizabeth Food Bank. They were able to provide turkeys with help from a grant from State



District and the NWTF. The grant is being used habitat projects, JAKES Days, Women in the Outdoor Events and the Turkey Hunters Care Program in his region which includes parts of Allegheny and Washington Counties.

delaware co lonsbeards Left to Right: Mary Lou Smich, City Team worker, Fran Dagney,

Adam Schwenk, Amanda Smith, Jack Penny

# L to R: Dan Figured PGC Law Enforcement Supervisor

L to R: Dan Figured, PGC Law Enforcement Supervisor, Chapter President, Mark Ferdinand

### Honey Hole Longbeards Donate Turkey Decoys

Submitted by Bob Eriksen, NWTF Regional Biologist

On Election Day the Honey Hole Longbeards made a formal presentation of two remote controlled gobbler decoys to the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Chapter President Mark Ferdinand made the presentation to Dan Figured, Law Enforcement Supervisor for the Northeast Region. The decoys were produced by a retired conservation officer from Alabama. They will be used throughout the northeastern counties when officers receive reports of road-hunting. The Honey Hole Chapter received a Department of Community and Economic Development Grant with the help of Representative Todd A. Eachus of the 116th Legislative District. Mark and Dan admired the handiwork of the manufacturer and experimented with operating the decoys at the Butler Township, Luzerne County Municipal Building. The remainder of the grant will be used for habitat enhancement work on state game lands.

Road hunting is one of the hunting law violations that is most visible to the public. This illegal activity has the potential to sour people on hunting and hunters. In addition, there are significant safety concerns associated with loaded firearms in vehicles and shooting from the road. Wildlife Conservation officers take this type of violation very seriously because of its potential to produce negative public perception of hunters and concern for safety. Game animal decoys are one method of apprehending hunters who engage in this type of violation.



"Shirl - your going to shoot a turkey today!" By Shirl Waltz

I have not been hunting since I was 12 years old, I am now 45.

Ray, my brother told me he would take me hunting turkey, which I never did. I only ever hunted deer one time at the age of 12 and never got a thing.

Saturday I was at his house, late as usual but, we made it to the farm by daylight. There we sat. He called only twice. I could hear the birds come out of the trees and one gobbled, but we only saw deer. That was cool.

After several hours of sitting, Ray said it was time to move, that the birds went to the other mountain and we would have to climb to the other side. We walked and crossed a road into another hollow-Ray calls it the "turkey bowl" because there are always turkey there. We climbed only a little way to a fern patch, Ray's ears were already tuned to sounds. He looked at me and said "Shirl-your going to shoot a turkey today". He also said, hurry up you have less than five minutes, things are going to happen quick. We sat at a tree with no time to spare. Heck, I didn't even have my gun sitting on my knee right. Ray said they were coming, I couldn't see anything. He whispered they were coming down the mountain and told me to follow in front of them and shoot when I could see one in plain view. I did. Ray jumped up and down and said "You got 'em Shirl, my sister just shot a turkey!" He said he had no idea how I did it because my gun was moving all around! I think at

that moment I couldn't have been more excited that I was with Ray than shooting a bird.
I just did what many people don't do in years of hunting turkey.
What more could I ask for - I was hunting after all those years, I was with my brother in the woods and just shot a turkey. I was high. Ray breasted out that turkey and I shared it with my office friends

for our annual Thanksgiving Day luncheon. It was the best.

#### WILD TURKEY BOURBON SHOOTS



Wild Turkey Bourbon Master Distiller, Jimmy Russell and Friendship Hill Spurs Chapter member Bill Henning, at Seven Springs Resort Wild Turkey Bourbon Shoot. The shoot was held this past August at Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, PA. The Friendship Hill Spurs Chapter conducted a silent auction for Hunting Heritage program.

#### A GENUINE **BOURBON LEGEND**

James C. Russell, known by everyone as Jimmy, is master distiller at the Wild Turkey Distillery in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, where he has worked since 1954. Jimmy's claim to fame is making sure that Wild Turkey is still made using the time-honored distilling traditions learned by generations of Kentucky distillers.

## WILD TURKEY WILD TURKEY RECIPE

1 Tbl. Worcestershire sauce 1c. all purpose flour 1 tsp. Hungarian sweet paprika

Ingredients: 1/2 tsp. kosher salt 1/4 tsp. dried thyme

(or domesticated turkey breast) 1 wild turkey breast 1/4 c. honey

1/2 c. Wild Turkey bourbon 2 Tbl. spicy deli mustard

Remove the skin from the wild turkey breast and discard. Slice the meat crosswise into strips about 1/2 inch wide and Preparation:

Place the honey in a medium micro-safe bowl and heat 1 inch thick. Wash the meat and pat dry. on High for 1 minute. Whisk in the bourbon, mustard and

Worcestershire sauce until smooth. Pour this marinade into a large freezer ziptop bag. Add the turkey breast strips, squeeze out the air, and seal. Toss to completely coat the

Whisk together flour, paprika, cayenne pepper, salt, thyme, meat and refrigerate for 4 hours. basil, onion powder, and garlic powder. Place mixture into a

new dry ziptop freezer bag.

1/4 tsp. dried basil 1/4 tsp. onion powder 1/4 tsp. garlic powder Canola oil for frying 1/2 c. grated Parmesan cheese 1 Tbl. minced parsley

1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper, or to taste Remove turkey breast strips from the marinade and shake off excess liquid. Place the strips into the bag with the seasoned flour. Seal and toss to coat strips. Heat 1/2 inch of oil in a heavy skillet. Fry turkey

strips until golden. Do this in batches in order not to crowd the pan. Drain on paper towels. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and minced parsley and

Wild turkey strips may be served as an appetizer serve hot.

or entree.



panwtf.org

mer 2010 Turkey Talk

## FRIENDSHIP HILL SPURS 1<sup>ST</sup> Jakes Day

By Tammy Lambie, Treasure/Secretary Friendship Hill Spurs

The Friendship Hill Spurs Chapter held its first official JAKES day this past September 12, 2009 at the Heritage Scout Reserve. We partnered with the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance foundation who was hosting their Trail Blazer Event. This year is the first year that the N.W.T.F. had joined in partnership with the Trail Blazer program and it was quite rewarding for a lot of JAKES but also gave the parents something to think about and try.

The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation (USSAF) is designed to encourage families

Working for the

Wild Turkey

to turn to the out-

doors and value outdoor activities; so what better way than to introduce adults and JAKES to the sport of turkey hunting.

The U.S. Sportsmen's Trail Blazer group had set up stations all around the Boy Scout camp and gave a map to each JAKE and guardian to explore each station throughout the day. The different stations consisted of the Rifle Range, Archery, Fishing and Fly Fishing, shotgun and climbing, with lunch provided. We had about 100 youth that participated and

about 50 adults. It was cold, wet, and raining but we had a good time regardless of the poor weather.

Ed Stanish, Bill Henning, Mark and Nick Lambie held the demonstrations at our pavilion. Ed started our group out with a bang, he discussed hunting safety, talked about asking permission to hunt and to always respect private property, initiated all the groups with the wonderful calls of the wild turkey and what the turkey looks like, you would not believe how many JAKES had never seen a decoy up close, or knew what the sound of a wild turkey sounded like. He also had all his hunting gear there to stress the proper dress code for the woods, and the pros and cons of orange attire. He encouraged all to try it at least once. He also stressed that regardless of what happens, kill or no kill, to enjoy the beautiful day the Lord had given you to enjoy, the beautiful sunrises, and all the nature around you. Bill, Mark and Nick, spent the morning at football but did relieve Ed with the afternoon sessions. They continued with the same topics. Bill stated to the adults, that it might be an enjoyable sport on ones own, but there is nothing like taking your son and/ or daughter and watching them calling a turkey in and the expressions and excitement on their faces as they experience the thrill of the hunt. Bill also told all that it is "hunting not killing" that makes the experience that much more enjoyable, you never know what will

happen; each hunt is a different experience with a different result.

We finished each group off with some prizes, we had each JAKE put his/her name in a basket and drew names for t-shirts, Frisbees and turkey calls. Each JAKE received several magazines, a pencil and a bookmark so everyone left happy. We had one final prize

of a turkey vest that was given away at the end of the day.

All and all we feel it was an excellent turn out and hope to continue with the partnership next year with the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Trail Blazer program again.

Dedicated to Informing, Educating, and Involving Lehigh Valley Youth in Wildlife Conservation and the Wise Stewardship of Our Natural Resources.



Hunt. Conserve. Share.

The Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter held their 7th Annual JAKES Day. This year two hundred children attended at the Ontelaunee Rod & Gun Club in New Tripoli, PA. One hundred fifty-one JAKES and thirty-nine Extreme JAKES participated in the following stations: fishing, canoeing, dog training, turkey education, trap, archery, .22's, black powder, first aid, and tree stand safety. The Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter would like to thank all volunteers for making our 2009 event another great success.

## HOW TO VOLUNTEER FOR A CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

Whether they work individually or as part of a group, volunteers are essential to conservation today—even more so tomorrow.

That's the consensus of conservation professionals who predict that fish, wildlife and habitat, as well as the future of America's sporting traditions, will depend more and more on devoted souls whose only paycheck is the personal reward of preserving traditional values and passing on a cherished way of life.

Volunteerism spans from teaching a neighbor kid to cast at a nearby pond to serving on a board that directs policy for international wildlife habitat initiatives.

#### A conservation organization can be an effective channel for many volunteer passions.

Here's how to get involved:

- Consider why you're interested in volunteering. Do you want to make a difference in the world, or in your own corner of the outdoors? Is it about building your own skills and social network? Or are you simply inspired to give something back to a special place, species or heritage? These questions can help you choose the right organization.
- Select an outfit that represents something special to you. If your pulse quickens at the thought of mallards over decoys, an elk bugling from a golden stand of aspens, a bass exploding on a topwater lure, there's a group for you. Ditto if you're concerned about Second Amendment issues. Maybe you believe that youths in your community should know more about handling firearms safely, or how hunting and angling pay for conservation. Or perhaps you're just worried about the kudzu infestation in the back pasture of your hunting club. Whatever your interest, there's probably a good fit for you somewhere out there. If not, start something new.
- Speak with staff or volunteers from the organization and ask what opportunities exist for newcomers as well as experienced volunteers. Attend a meeting to see how the group interacts. At its best, volunteering is a selfless act for a greater good, but everyone wants to feel appropriately appreciated—find out how the outfit says thank you.
- Seek out volunteer tasks that suit you. Conservation always needs money but if soliciting donations isn't your cup of tea, consider helping setup for a fundraising event or even a back-office gig stuffing envelopes. Maybe you'd rather install aquatic habitat or remove decrepit fencing from a big-game migration corridor. Of course, it's fun to learn new things and there's real satisfaction in completing less pleasant tasks, but it pays to ensure your core duties will be compatible with your time and talent.
- Start small. If you already have a busy schedule, commitments at home or unpredictable work hours, you can still get involved. In fact, most organizations want volunteers who are busy people because busy people know how to get things done. See about working for only an hour or two per week or perhaps one day per month. Later, if you find you enjoy the work and have more time to pursue it, gradually take on more.
- Ask, don't demand. People in charge of organizing volunteers are often volunteers themselves, but, invariably, they're working to meet certain goals with a bigger mission in mind. Especially if you're just starting out, the best bet is simply assimilating into their system. Later on, if you see that it could work better, make suggestions on how to fix it.
- Ask questions and do research, but until you get your feet wet, you won't know if volunteering for a particular organization is really right for you.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO SUSAN MISSAL
ON HARVESTING
HER FIRST BUCK!
A FIVE POINT
TAKEN WITH A
CROSSBOW AT
30 YARDS.

Volunteering allows a person to make a lasting mark on conservation, leave America's outdoors as—or better than they found it, and hand down a meaningful personal legacy to their children and grandchildren.

It matters not whether you get involved individually or as part of a group.

The important thing is just getting started.

### Help start an NWTF Hunting Heritage Banquet in your hometown and enjoy these benefits:

• Have fun.

• Meet new friends and business contacts.

• Raise money to conserve wildlife. and uphold our hunting traditions.

The NWTF is looking for volunteers to develop new chapters and banquet committees. Or join an existing committee and expand your network and the good you can do for wildlife and hunting.

Visit www.panwtf.org or contact a regional director near you.

## PENNSYLVANIA HUNTING HERITAGE BANQUETS JANUARY THRU MAY

Jan. 16 Sherman's Valley Strutters	Newport Firehall, Newport	Perry Smith 717-697-2008
Jan. 16 Muncy Creek		
Jan. 23 Lower Lackawanna LongSpurs	Greenwood Firehall, Moosic	Ed Skoranski 570-457-8188
Jan. 30 Blue Mountain	Kutztown Firehall, Myerstown	Dwayne Horst 610-589-1189
Jan. 30 Foothills Spurs		
Jan. 30 Chesquehanna Spurs		
Jan. 30 Red Rock	Genetti Best Western, Wilkes-Barre	Toni Landi 570-824-5665
Feb. 5Penn's Woods Spurs	Italian American Club, Export	Danielle Straley 412-798-2965
Feb. 6 Moraine		
Feb. 6Gobblers Knob	Punxutawney County Club, Punxutawney	Scott Aaron 814-375-7839
Feb. 12 Kinzua Allegheny Longbeards	Sheffield Firehall, Sheffield	Rob Arnold 814-436-1048
Feb. 13 Col-Mont Gobblers	Danville Elks Club, Danville	
Feb. 13 Shippensburg Strutters	Penn Twp Fire Co., Newville	Spencer Miller 717-776-7288
Feb. 20 Roger Latham Memorial	Junior's Restaurant, Coraopolis	Bill Krawchyk 724-375-9468
Feb. 26 Steel City Spurs	Alpine Hunting & Fishing Club, Bridgeville	Ed Planinsek 412-221-0515
Feb. 27 Lake Marburg	Porters Community Firehall, Spring Grove	Dave Fraizer 717-225-5842
Feb. 27 Stoney Valley		
Feb. 27 Moshannon		

Feb. 27 Nittany Valley Longbeards	Ramada Inn Confrence Center, State College Tammy Chronister 814-355-8901
	Rodeway Inn Conference Center, Allentown
	Grove City Rescue Squad, Grove City Dean Osborne 724-458-6078
	Port Royal Community Building, Port RoyalBill Corbin 717-935-2743
	Smithfield Firehall, HuntingdonChris Jenkins 814-506-5382
	Carol Twp. Social Hall, Monongahela
	Skytop Lodge, SkytopSkytop Lodge, SkytopSkytop Lodge, Skytop
Mar 6 Susquehanna	Knights of Columbus, ClearfieldPaul Young 814-765-6342
	George Washington Hotel, WashingtonJeff McCombs 412-997-8413
	Ace's Lounge, JohnstownLen Beiter 814-539-2205
Mar 12 Red Rose	Lancaster Host, Lancaster
	Fayette Co. Fairgrounds, DunbarKevin Yonkura 724-246-2006
Mar 13 Endless Mountain	Sayre Elks Club, Sayre
Mar 13 Schuylkill Spurs	Landingville Firehall, Landingville
	Red Fern, St. MarysMike Haines 814-781-6273
Mar 13 Tuscarora Longheards	American Legion, McConnellsburgShawn Mowen 717-267-2590
	Red Eye Center, Flemington
	Four Points Inn, GreensburgEd Maczka 724-423-7703
	Franklin TWP Social Hall, EdinboroBradie Wade 814-756-3669
	Morrison's Cove Banquet Hall, MartinsburgChris McNally 814-224-5555
	Ballrooms at Boothwyn, Boothwyn
	Limestone Firehall, LimestoneDon Keth 814-856-2976
	Waynesburg Moose, WaynesburgFrancis Watt 724-228-8011
	West Newton Firehall, West Newton
	Eagles Lodge Hall 3489, Fairless Hills
Mar. 26 Armenia Mountain Spurs	Troy Firehall, TroyVicky Gardner 570-673-3503
Mar. 26 Allegneny valley	Futules Harmar House, Cheswick Mike Zourelias 724-265-0903
	Best Western, Kulpsville
	Lobitz Hall, Hazleton
Mar. 27 Lake Region Longbeards	Fiorelli Catering LLC, Peckville
	Mt. Jewett American Legion, Mt. JewettAlan Reynolds 814-778-5047
Mar. 27 Cascade Thunderin' Toms	Shenango Twp Firehall, New CastleDavid Boston 724-924-2209
Mar. 27 Fort Chambers	Fayetteville Fire Co. Event Center, FayettevilleDennis Barnhart 717-263-5952
	Cross Creek Country Club, TitusvilleVanessa Rockovich 814-677-6989
	Tioga County Fair Grounds, WellsboroTim Payne 570-662-3429
	Kevin's Place , LykensHarold Daub 717-362-8059
	Woodward Township Firehall, LindenBill Bean 570-279-0354
	Ambridge Sportsmen's Club, AmbridgeDon Short 724-846-0875
Apr. 10 Tamarak Turkey Talkers	Veterans of Foreign Wars, CorryPhil Ferrare 814-796-6983
Apr. 11 Whitehorse Mtn. Longbeards	Bakersville Firehall, SomersetDoug Koscianski 814-701-8080
	Elks BPO Lodge, MeadvilleRobert Morgan 814-587-2780
May 1 Juniata Gobblers	Breezewood Firehall, BreezewoodJamie Spade 814-735-2026

#### THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

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THURKET AUGUSTA

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#### INVEST & FUTURE Hunt. Conserve. Share.





#### **Member Benefits**

Join the NWTF and enjoy exclusive | membership benefits, including:

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- > 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.

5/	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.
□ Reau	lar Member: \$30

a sponsor Member. \$255
☐ Women in the Outdoors: \$30
□ JAKES Member (ages 12 & under): \$7
□ 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 16602