

PENNSYLVANIA
Turkey
TALK



NWTF

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Message From The President



Welcome Spring !! hopefully as this article makes its way to your home it has spring weather and loud gobbles in tow? Those gobbles of which are most of our favorite spring sound are a great example of the message I hope to convey in this article. Think about the gobbles and the sounds related to them , I will wrap up with those thoughts.

Attending my first NWTF national convention this year was a great experience and wealth of knowledge all glued together with fun and new friends as well. As a great friend text me on my drive to Nashville said : Have a great time and hopefully by the end of convention you will know why you do all you do? He was exactly right and why I will always value his words of wisdom! Thanks Buddy! Pennsylvania was well represented in all aspects of the convention , from our very talented artists and custom call makers in the expo hall and competitions to the great

sounding callers of all ages in the Grand National Championships all surrounded by dedicated volunteers.

As a state chapter we did great as well receiving an award for our efforts in our mission focus for the highest increase in hunters created in the Save the Hunt category . We also received the L.A. Dixon memorial outstanding chapter award for having the highest adult membership , this is four years in a row and other states are gunning for us! Your help in securing new adult members is crucial to us retaining our top seat , please continue to share our mission and grow our ranks as we continue to lead the nation at preserving our hunting heritage ! Pictures of your awards are attached with this article. I was very honored to accept these awards on your behalf. Thank you for that amazing experience and honor !

The other aspect of the national convention not realized by most

are all the training classes and meetings for chapter leaders and members to attend with staff and guest speakers as well as focal point experts. Some are by invitation only and others are even open to the general public attending the convention , I could likely fill this edition of Turkey Talk with stories and information from this aspect of convention. Since I'm not a talented writer I will stick to summing it up with one word COMMUNICATION! Yes , as you have heard me mention before I believe to be the key to all things successful . Both good and bad is always needed to make advances in anything positive. Better communication will help us pursue our mission. One example and highlight was a meeting of all the collegiate chapters in attendance. Our motivated members from Penn State University were among the attendees and were very engaged and had great ideas and comments. Some of these are faults on our part as adult members and mentors that we don't make our information or

Continued on page 4



Turkey TALK



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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
2019 SUMMER Issue of Turkey Talk is MAY 8**

resources easier to find. Answers to questions they and other members may have to help tell our story or provide guidance to help with events that will be instrumental in growing members in our younger adults where we know we have a generation gap. I personally pledge to change this within our state chapter and is also a subject of future working groups at the national level of which I was personally asked to be involved. THANK YOU to our Spur Collectors chapter at PSU for your valued input!



Also this year the first ever class of members were inducted into the Hall of Fame. Pennsylvania again showed its deep roots in the NWTF with two of five inductees being from PA! Rob Keck and Terry Rohm both formerly of PA . Their heartfelt messages of their roots in PA and all those from PA whom were instrumental in their humble beginnings were amazing proof that PA is the home of the most passionate NWTF roots! I also included a picture with Terry Rohm whom I shared a table at dinner one evening. The list going forward will be loaded with many, many more well deserved Pennsylvanians to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

As mentioned earlier about the “Gobble “ and “ Communication” this is where I think it is obvious of their relationship? Think about all the things mentioned in this article and what they have in common? All are examples of communication creating passion and a desire for more! But the “ Gobble” you ask?

Well think of spring gobbler season and how it would be if we couldn’t communicate with the turkeys or vice versa or even amongst themselves? Can’t even imagine that challenge , as huge as that would be so is the fact if we don’t communicate the mission and passion of the NWTF and our hunting heritage!

I will close in saying you ALL are the PA state chapter and these awards, dedicated roots and passionate forth comings are ALL yours to be proud of and continue to pass on!

Share Your Passion



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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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WANTED – TURKEY NEST LOCATIONS - **in APRIL** (PGC Research)

TURKEY	GROUSE - NOT NEEDED 
<p>EGGS –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowish cream-color, brown spots or freckling • 2.5” long x 1.8” wide, pointed end • ~ size of Jumbo Chicken Egg <p>NEST – At base of tree, other large structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefer to collect before incubation begins. 	<p>EGGS –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cream-color, oval w/pale blotches • ~ 1.5” long x 1” wide • ~ size of Golf Ball <p>NEST – Often placed under cover of vines, shrubs, fallen logs.</p> 

DO NOT DISTURB NESTS!! Please relay GPS LOCATIONS of TURKEY nests to:

Game Commission biologist: MARY JO CASALENA, mcasalena@pa.gov ,
717-433-8776 (call/text) OR

NWTF biologist: MITCH BLAKE, mblake@nwtf.net , 814-977-0007 (call/text)

OBJECTIVE: Determine if wild turkeys are susceptible to West Nile Virus.



Susceptibility of Wild Turkey Poults to West Nile Virus

- 80 un-incubated wild turkey eggs needed throughout PA – **in April**.
- Research is in conjunction with: Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) at University of Georgia, Athens GA.
 - SCWDS staff will incubate eggs, inoculate & study infection rates of poults.
 - Completely bio-secure facility.
- Poults divided into 2 age class study groups: 3 & 10 weeks old.
 - 3-week age class: replicate young poult susceptibility early in WNV summer season or 2nd clutches at a vulnerable age.
 - 10-week age class: replicate older poult susceptibility in late summer when WNV transmission is higher (more mosquitoes).
- At 3-weeks and 10-weeks old, poults in each age class will be divided into experimental groups & inoculated with either WNV or placebo.
 - Poults will be monitored: clinical signs, behavioral abnormalities (that may decrease fitness in the wild), blood samples taken, mortalities examined.
- 14 days post inoculation all survivors euthanized, examined & blood drawn.
- Determined for each group:
 - Infection rates,
 - Antibodies,
 - Weight,
 - Behavioral abnormalities, other signs that may decrease wild survivability.
- Determine potential of WNV to affect turkey productivity & future populations.



I used this pack in the recent two weeks of whitetail season and I didn't fill every compartment or pocket, but it was nice knowing if I needed to it was there.

The zippers are quiet, and easy to use. It seems weird to point it out, but nothing is more annoying than noisy zippers. I have had other daypacks that are loud to open and shut, and metal zippers clink while walking. Not this one.

The newest upgrade features what the company describes as a padded air mesh on the suspension, back panel and waist belt for enhanced breathability, reduced weight and diminished fatigue. The straps are nicely padded and provide comfort, crucial for those who plan on leaving it on their backs for a long periods of time.

One tip, be sure to use all the straps on this pack to make it carry at its best. Adjusting the straps distributes the weight of the pack and your load making for a comfortable experience.

Its outer material is a rip-stop fabric, keeping your pack from ripping or getting holes when moving through briars and helping it to withstand weighty loads.



One feature I like is in the waist belt, where removable hip pockets allow you to adjust your pack to match your hunting plan. I also liked the easy access to the main pocket without opening the top and the smaller side pockets.

This is the first pack I have owned that features a drop-down bow or gun-carrying boot, a nice convenience to avoid having to sling carry your firearm or bow. There are straps to secure bed rolls, a foldout rain cover as well as an H2O compatible reversible 2-liter hydration bladder.

The TZ 2220 comes in three camouflage patterns and can be found at www.tenzingoutdoors.com

Tenzing, a highly regarded company across the hunting community, has given its favorite backpack an upgrade and new design. They have loaded this design to the seams with options.

Tenzing TZ 2220 daypack is packed with features. So many, once its in hand, you don't know where to begin to check out all the features.

The company said these packs are "engineered and built with specialized features, uncompromising materials and unmatched performance to equip hunters with everything they need for the carry in, the carry out and everything in between."

First, the TZ 2220 is a internal fluted aluminum frame pack and has 2,400 cubic inches of space, so you can fit in virtually whatever you want in there somewhere. Featuring nineteen compartments and pockets, I am not even sure I have found all of nineteen yet to be honest.

FIRE IMPROVES QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF WILDLIFE HABITAT

Submitted by Mitchell Blake



Legislation passed in 2009 made it easier to conduct prescribed fires in Pennsylvania. Prescribed fire, also known as controlled burns, can do great things for habitat and the wildlife that use these valuable areas.

The potential size of the areas affected by controlled burning makes it a landscape scale management tool. Many species, including the wild turkey, are considered disturbance species requiring different habitat types and ages of succession to meet their annual needs. Using fire to create this habitat mosaic is not only the easiest way to manage large acres, but it is also the most cost effective.

Controlled burning promotes oak regeneration. With the amount of oak dwindling in Pennsylvania, using fire to establish oak seedlings in the understory is a great way to ensure that this valuable hardwood will remain

dominant in a stand of timber. Prescribed fire is a great restoration tool. Like most State Forests in Pennsylvania, there are many poor sites typically containing low quality timber. Often located near ridge tops, featuring dry, sandy soil, these areas are historically low basal areas for timber, ericaceous shrubs, etc. An example would be pitch pine/scrub oak barrens. These sites were historically maintained by natural fires. In the absence of fire, shade tolerant/fire intolerant species such as red maple, black gum, and black birch have proliferated on these sites. To restore these habitats, a non-commercial thinning via a Royer machine is often required to reduce the amount of fuel followed by a controlled burn to remove the duff layer and stimulate the herbaceous and grass seed bank.

Habitat is crudely defined as a species requirement of food, cover, water, and space. While three of these requirements are tangible, space is not as easily understood. Most would think wildlife, specifically wildlife in a large-scale State Forest are surrounded by space. While true, the conditions of the forest and more specifically the habitat make the space useable or not useable. Fire transforms marginal habitat (non-useable space) into useable habitat. The best example is mountain laurel, which often occurs in impenetrable patches. The use of fire or even better a Royer treatment and fire on these very poor, non-commercial sites are turning non-useable space into highly valuable useable space. The new landscape creates great nesting habitat for many bird species and brood rearing habitat for wild turkeys. The best part is that these improvements are being done on a landscape scale and restoring diminishing forest cover types. **The use of prescribed fire is a win from every angle.**

NWTF HONORS GAME COMMISSION FORESTER

Pennsylvania Game Commission forester Brent McNeal has been presented with the National Wild Turkey Federation's Joe Kurz Wildlife Manager of the Year Award for his dedication to wild turkeys and wildlife habitat management.

The award is named after former Georgia Department of Natural Resources wildlife chief Joe Kurz, who was a principal figure in wild turkey trap-and-transfer programs across North America and who played a vital role in improving wildlife management.

McNeal received the award at the 43rd annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show in Nashville, Tenn.

In addition to supervising foresters in the Game Commission's Southcentral Region, McNeal is responsible for all aspects of forest management efforts on nearly 225,000 acres of game lands, where controlled burns and other habitat treatments are implemented to increase mast production and reach other habitat-management goals.

Regarding controlled burns, McNeal achieved certification as an "RxB2," which requires hundreds of hours of classroom instruction and participation in prescribed burns and wildfires.

He's the only employee in the region with such a certification. McNeal has spent over 2,500 hours, mostly since 2009, training for, preparing, and conducting controlled burns.

Southcentral Region GIS specialist Jeremy Diehl, who serves on the regional controlled-burns team says the region has been able to do more burning in the last five years, especially on forestland and barrens, than at any time in the past.

"We would not have been able to do that without Brent's training, expertise, and experience," Diehl said.

NWTF CEO Becky Humphries noted these projects benefit turkeys and a variety of wildlife, and McNeal deserves credit for his important role.

"Brent is far more than a forester," Humphries said. "His conservation practices combine forest and habitat management to enhance the landscape and benefit all wildlife."

McNeal said he is honored to receive the award.

"It makes me very proud to represent the agency that I have spent most of my career with," he said. "Habitat management has evolved throughout my career to a point where I feel we are making great strides every day to improve wildlife habitat for current and future generations, and this award reflects that."

I credit my peers in habitat management. I credit my Dad for raising me to be a steward of the resource and to appreciate every day spent in the woods. My wife and children have supported me throughout my career, tolerating me leaving early and coming home late from prescribed burns and wearing muddy boots into the house. For that, I thank them!"



Benefit to Hunters Not Most Important Aspect of Sunday Hunting Issue

By Harold Daub



Pennsylvania is home to 480 species of wildlife. Through license sales to hunters- who pursue only 62 of those species- the funding is provided to conserve all 480 species of wildlife, and maintain 1.5 million acres of State Game Land wildlife habitat. This is referred to as “The North American Model of Wildlife Management”, and is the envy of the world.

Due to the huge “baby boomer” generation aging out of our active hunter ranks, we are currently experiencing a significant net loss in hunter participation rates. Across North America, and also here in PA, where we currently are only replacing about 67 of every 100 hunters who “retire”. This is placing our model in grave jeopardy due to loss of funding. Is there anything we can do? Yes. Through surveys of “lapsed hunters”, (meaning those who no longer hunt), we know the biggest barrier is TIME. What is the easiest thing to do to reduce this threat? Add time.

Due to scheduling of work, everyday family life, youth activities, etc, there are many people who would hunt if more time was offered. This is the big driver of the Saturday opener

being proposed. But even with adding that Saturday, some have a schedule that conflicts between parent and children, husband and wife, friend to friend, and even adult children and aging parents who would like to hunt. We potentially could give some people 52 weeks of Monday-Saturday hunting, and schedules would still get in the way of hunting. By providing the potential for Sunday opportunity, we would ensure that the optimum number of hunters are participating in conservation by buying a hunting license.

In PA we are sitting as an island right now...every state that touches PA offers Sundays in some way for game animals like deer and turkeys and small game. So our avid, hard core hunters can choose to hunt a neighboring state to take advantage of time, and some won't even buy a PA license. Our less passionate hunters aren't

buying a license because it's too hard to make the time.

And on Sundays....while every other recreational activity is provided the liberty of being permitted all 7 days...hunters are shut out.

We have Sunday shut down even though the PGC can, does, and will provide scientific wildlife management decisions that provide for the right conservation of our game and furbearers...even when hunted on Sunday. It's shut down not because or for the protection of any wildlife species nor for the protection of citizens. It's shut down due to an antiquated Blue Law that was thought to push people to Church.

Repealing this ban is so important for two reasons: to ensure the continuation of the North American model of wildlife management and for providing LIBERTY for ALL PENNSYLVANIANS.

As Senator Dan Laughlin's Senate Bill 147 advances through our legislative process, all Pennsylvanians should support repealing this prohibition. It's not about hunters benefitting by harvesting more game, the true benefits are much more important.

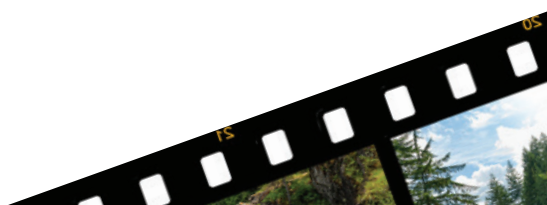
ASK THE BIOLOGIST



Are fishers major predators of wild turkeys? If not, then what are?

No, fishers are not. Fishers have the most diverse diet of any forest carnivore in Pennsylvania. A study published in 2017 that examined 91 fisher stomachs from carcasses collected throughout Pennsylvania found porcupines and rabbit species were common prey items, but fishers also consumed 30 different animal species and 11 plant species. Mammalian prey species were found in 82% of the stomach contents; porcupines and other rodents, carnivores (including other fishers), deer, rabbits, opossum, shrews. Avian prey species were found in 11%; a ring-necked pheasant, a black-capped chickadee egg and a downy woodpecker egg (species that seek tree cavities). Foliage, fruit/seeds and a few species of reptile, amphibians and insects also were detected. There is a perception that, because fishers are adept tree climbers, roosting turkeys are excessively vulnerable

to predation. a roosting turkey will sense a mammal climbing up a tree and will flush before being attacked. A great-horned owl is an effective nocturnal predator due to its silence. Fisher do not utilize “sit and stalk” hunting methods, (like bobcats do). When hunting, they bound through the forest, usually in a zig-zag pattern investigating pockets of cover and debris, until they encounter something they can scavenge or flush something they can catch. Pennsylvania Game Commission furbearer biologist Mark Ternent’s observations from snow tracking are that they don’t scent trail or attempt to stalk their prey. Although nesting hens would be vulnerable to this type of hunting, in general turkeys are too wary, particularly when in flocks, for fisher to be very effective hunters. Of 144 radio-transmitted hen turkeys we





tracked in Pennsylvania from 2010-14 only one did we suspect may have been killed by a fisher, and that was not during nesting season. Because of their diverse prey base and the way they hunt, fishers are opportunistic feeders and do not target wild turkeys. There's a good article on fishers and turkeys: PA Game News, June 2018, pp. 20-23.

What are their major predators? Predators of full-sized turkeys include hunters, mammalian predators such as, foxes, raccoons, coyotes, bobcat, and birds such as hawks and great-horned owls. The major predators of gobblers are spring turkey hunters when, on average, 38% of adult gobblers are taken out of the population. Fortunately, the harvest rate

of first-year males is only 27% and jakes have a high natural survival rate to the next spring (65%). Hen predation is highest during nesting and brood-rearing, and their annual survival in Pennsylvania averages 47%. Because turkeys are ground-nesters their nests are predated by a huge host of predators including raccoon, opossum, skunk, foxes, snakes, crows and other birds, bobcat, coyotes, ground hogs, dogs, small rodents. Nesting hens are also very susceptible to being killed while nesting, with nocturnal mammals accounting for 53% of hen mortalities during a 4-year study in Pennsylvania; mainly

bobcats, coyotes, foxes and even 2 black bears. Hawks and owls also killed nesting hens during the study. Once broods hatch their main predators are again mammalian (raccoons, fox, bobcat, coyote), hawks and great-horned owls. Only about 20-40% of poults survive to the fall. That's the reason turkey hens have such large clutches and readily re-nest if their nest is predated or they abandon it due to disturbance.



INTRODUCTION:

At a recent food plot seminar I hosted, I was asked how I keep deer from over-browsing my food plots. This made me question how we know if we have too many deer, or too few. Although some hunters would never consider it a problem having too many deer, we as habitat managers need to be good stewards of the land and this includes balancing deer numbers with their habitat. The first thing we need to consider when asking the question on deer numbers is having the data to support our conclusions. There are various techniques for determining deer populations, some scientific and others more subjective.

SUBJECTIVE TECHNIQUES:

On the subjective side we can use things like exclusion cages, browse lines or simply gut feel from deer sightings on and around our property. Random trail camera pictures can also help with the subjective analysis of deer numbers. Are we seeing more deer this year than last? Keeping a diary can help make this less subjective. Keeping numbers of deer seen

while hunting from year to year can make this a more objective analysis. Placing an exclusion cage after planting a clover or soy bean plot can help determine how much deer browsing is occurring in this plot. I use 2"x4" welded wire, usually 4' high and make a 3' to 4' circle. I use a rebar stake to hold the cage in place and then use zip ties to attach the cage to the stake. If after a month or two you see dramatic differences inside the cage as opposed to outside, then you probably have too many deer. The picture below left shows an exclusion cage in a field of soy beans that is showing significant deer damage. Often seen on state forest property are larger deer exclosures that protect recently timbered plots from over-browsing by deer. If given the opportunity to see these for yourself, I would encourage you to find them in your area. The dramatic difference seen inside and outside of these plots demonstrates what impact deer can have on our timber industry in Pennsylvania. For the private landowner these large scale exclosure are not cost effective but they do show that deer may be too numerous in your area. A browse line is defined as

the boundary between upper normal plant growth and lower stripped and eaten back growth that indicates the height reached by deer when feeding. The best way to determine if you are experiencing a severe browse line is to look from a distance at trees that deer prefer for browsing upon, oak or apple. If there is not normal plant growth on the lower portions of those trees then there is a good chance that you have a browse line and subsequently too many deer. Photos below show an established browse line and just how far deer will go to feed.

Another sign of over-browsing is a preponderance of hay-scented ferns in your woods. Hay-scented ferns are not on the list of preferred deer food, they are shade tolerant, and once established they prohibit the establishment of deciduous trees. Hay-scented ferns are considered a "native invasive" species because they can dominate a forest, especially a forest experiencing prolonged browsing by deer.

OBJECTIVE TECHNIQUES:

A more scientific based technique for estimating

deer populations is to conduct a spring pellet count. The Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) has detailed instructions for conducting a pellet count. Instructions and formulas for "crunching the data" can be found at www.qdma.com/conduct-spring-pellet-count. Basically this technique consists of laying out transect lines on a map of your property. The transect lines should be about 1,000 feet apart and cross as much of your property as you feel you can cover. Once the lines are established it is important to use the same transect lines every year. Using a compass, a 4 foot measuring stick, and pad and pencil you start walking the transect lines stopping every 100 feet to count deer pellet groups in a 4 foot radius. Repeat on each of the transect lines you have laid out capturing the data along the way. After all the data is collected, use the formulas from the website to determine an estimate of deer per square mile. Another science based technique for estimating deer populations is to conduct an annual trail camera survey. The QDMA has excellent detailed instructions on conducting a trail camera survey found at:

www.qdma.com/run-trail-camera-survey. In general the survey includes using trail cameras set over bait sites across several locations on your property. We do our annual survey as soon as the late flintlock/archery season concludes. We use 3 locations across the 289 acres that we manage. I set the camera to take pictures at 5 minute intervals. A shorter interval results in hundreds and hundreds of pictures that become too labor intensive to analyze. We do a 10 day survey interval but we start the baiting a few days before we start the actual survey so the deer have time to find the bait site.

SETTING HARVEST GOALS:

The real value in these more scientific techniques comes from analyzing the data over several years. Population trends over several years will show whether your deer herd is increasing or declining. We then use these population estimates and trends to set a goal for how many does we want to harvest every year. When we had a declining population we asked our hunters to go off property to fill their antlerless tags. In years when we have an increasing population we encourage our hunters

to take more does on property. We also use permits from the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) to harvest additional does.

We have found that it takes, on average, 4 doe licenses to harvest one doe. Although this seems like a high number of licenses per harvest things come up during a hunting season that sometimes keep our hunters from filling their tags. When setting harvest goals I would err on the high side rather than the low side.

CONCLUSION:

Whether you want to see more or less deer on your property, the first question to answer is how many deer are currently frequenting your property. Using some of the techniques discussed, you can begin to answer that question. Once a population estimate is established, then harvest goals can be set. It may be against your nature to want less deer but sometimes the old adage "less is more" can apply to your deer management too. If you allow your deer herd to expand above what the carrying capacity of your habitat can sustain, you'll find your hunting opportunities will decline. It then becomes harder to bring back the balance of good habitat and satisfying deer numbers.



PICK OF THE FLOCK



Pocono Mountains Chapter

by Eric Steinmetz

HOW TO GROW A JAKES EVENT

The following is one volunteer's story from joining the local chapter's committee to establishing a successful Jakes event.

It's funny how things happen. My son went to a daycare where people learned that I make custom turkey calls. One morning when picking my son up, I was approached by my son's daycare teacher. She asked if I would be able to donate some calls for children attending a Hunter Education Course at McMichaels Rod & Gun Club. I gladly accepted and brought calls to the club plus spoke to the children.

It was at this event I met Skip Motts, western PA NWTF Regional Director, for the first time. Skip Motts, responsible for starting the Pocono Mountains Chapter, asked me to be on the committee. I agreed and have been on the committee ever since.

After realizing our area didn't have a youth program I spoke with both Ray Smith

and Skip Motts and they encouraged me to learn what programs other chapters have for youth in the area.

After attending several programs sponsored by nearby chapters I spoke with Bob Shwalm and Scott Wojton. These men are amazing when it comes to youth programs.

With a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm I still had to find a facility to hold an event.

A chance encounter with Shawn Fetterhoff, my son's scoutmaster and director of Twin Pines Camp solved that problem. The camp, located in Stroudsburg, PA, is a beautiful location covering 1200 acres, including two fishing ponds, fields and woods.

Funding was the next issue I would have to address. I began by contacting people and organizations that donate to our Pocono Mountains Chapter's Hunting Heritage banquet. I was fortunate to make contact with OMM

OUTFITTERS in Maine.

They were not only willing to donate a bear hunt, but also donated 100% of the hunt proceeds to our chapter. There was however one condition place on the donation; 50% would go towards our Jakes program! Since then a large portion of our Jake's event funding comes from the bear hunt they generously donate each year!! OMM OUTFITTERS will be recognized at the NWTF National Convention in Nashville with a Silver Life Membership.

Thanks to Scott Dunkleburger, our Pocono Mountains Chapter president, Dunkleburgers Sports Outfitters runs the archery station. Scout Leader, Shawn Fetterhoff, handles organizing registrations and food, as well as t-shirts for the event. The Pa Trappers Association demonstrates trapping techniques, while Twin Pines offers their Wildlife Center for the kids. Recently we added the

Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited teaching kids to fish, while I run the turkey station, where I educate kids and their parents on different types of calls, calling strategies and the wild turkey. I give each child a slate call with corn cob striker compliments from Capozzolos Slate Quarry and the Huhn farm.

We're hoping to grow this event bigger and better each year. We hope to have Pennsylvania Game Commission join our event in 2019.

A successful Jakes event requires help from our committee members, Twin Pines staff and a host of volunteers. A great deal of THANKS goes to all the people and organizations that make our Jakes event a success.

This year we received an award for our Jakes event at the State Chapter Rendezvous. The recognition means a lot to the many volunteers and myself that make this event a huge success.





Northwest Thunderin Toms 1st Women in the Outdoors Event!

By Shannon Wolf

How can we get more women involved?
You only need to ask...

Attending the Pennsylvania State Chapter Rendezvous was an absolutely breathtaking experience. Being in a room with 50+ chapters represented and hearing all the amazing work they do was inspiring. Chapters offer shooting events, jakes day, women events, and banquets. Money raised goes to introducing new hunters to the sport, improving habitat for all wildlife not just the wild turkey and adding new places to hunt.

After attending this event in State College, I was wide-eyed and ready for action! I was feeling inspired! And I was itching to host a WITO event in my area. Attending this informative weekend I couldn't help but think of three things. First, what is my WHY. Why am I a part of NWTF? Why am I a volunteer? Why do I want to support NWTF? Second, how can our small chapter make an impact by bringing female hunters together? Can we hold a women in the outdoors event? And finally, how can we get more people involved in the NWTF and hunting.

I spent the drive home scribbling ideas, dreaming big and brainstorming! Doubts like we don't have this in the budget and we don't have enough volunteers to pull it off kept creeping into my plans. Despite my initial excitement, I was left feeling stumped.

I had to think of something! Then it hit me! I remember the thrill of doing my own personal photo shoot. What if we held an event where women, showcased in the outdoors, would receive their own personal photo shoot! Once more the excitement returned and I pitched the idea to my local committee. It was a hit! Everyone was interested!

Then I thought, how could I take this a step further? Let's interview the girls! I thought. Let's go to the source. Let's see how they think. Let's find some valuable answers for future events.

Before I go any further I need to add my own little back-story. About my WHY. Why am I part of NWTF? Three years ago a friend asked me to join him at the local NWTF

banquet. At the time I was not a turkey hunter. Although I enjoyed archery and rifle deer hunting, I had never considered turkey hunting. I was told it was too dangerous.

Thinking "what the heck", it sounds like fun, I'll enjoy the evening and spend a little money on a good cause. Little did I know I would fall head over heels for the wild turkey and turkey hunting. It sparked something inside of me. All it took was that one banquet.

Before I knew it I was asking how to use a turkey call? Where to aim on a turkey and more. I wanted to turkey hunt! I found myself asking anyone and everyone to take me turkey hunting. That one banquet got me hooked.

That year I shot my first jake. The following year I went to Northwest Thunderin Toms banquet again and this time I wanted to get involved. They were talking about closing the chapter. I couldn't let that happen. I volunteered and have been involved ever since.

So what exactly is my WHY? Well, it's simple. Getting more people involved in turkey hunting and NWTF. Just like someone did for me. If I would have never attended my first banquet I may never gone turkey hunting.

So this leads me to the question. The one everyone is asking. How do we get more youth, women, and adults involved? I may not have the answer. But I have a good idea where to start. And I am also hoping by the end of this article you will have found your WHY.

Back to our first WITO event and photo shoot. That first year we had thirteen gals, each one wearing a different brand, holding a different firearm, and all with a unique story.

I asked each gal how old she was when she started hunting? If they had ever heard of NWTF and, finally, how can we get more women, youth, and adults involved?

From my questions, I learned that no one had the same start. Some were born into a hunting family, others were self-taught and

others learned from friends. But all were linked by one thing- someone asked and took them hunting. The love and passion simply blossomed from that moment.

The idea of offering to take someone hunting made me think. I had never taken someone new hunting. I have never even offered. I resolved to change that next season.

Have you ever heard of the NWTF? Although many had heard of NWTF, many had not attended a banquet, event or knew there was a local chapter. Again, I paused to think; just by doing this simple photo shoot event there were now thirteen women who now know about our local chapter. I realized we needed more events. We need to reach more people. Informing them about the NWTF and what it has to offer.

The final question, how can we get more people involved? Once again, the answer was clear, offer to take someone scouting, shooting, and eventually hunting. Let them experience nature's beauty, wildlife in its natural setting and the reason we hunt. Take the opportunity to discuss conservation and hunting's role in wildlife management.

Listening to these women, I was inspired by stories from shooting their first buck to duck hunting with their favorite bird dog. They all had amazing hunting stories to tell.

Through this event, I came to realize how important events like this are to the future of our hunting heritage. We need to offer more opportunities to introduce youth, women, and men into the sport.

Bring someone new to a meeting, banquet, or event. You never know, they might just fall head over heels for hunting, shooting and the outdoors, while creating a new NWTF member.

Just think of one more young person shooting their first gobbler. One more young girl or woman inspired to step outdoors and experience nature. All it takes is someone to ask them. So I encourage everyone to be that someone who asks, "Would you like to join me in the outdoors".

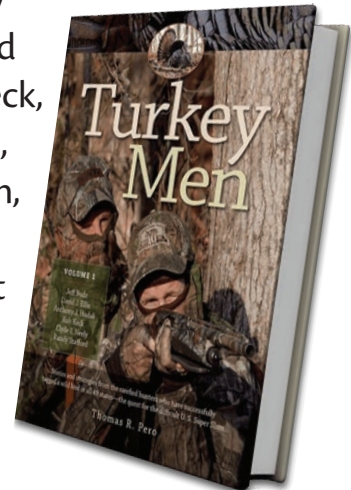
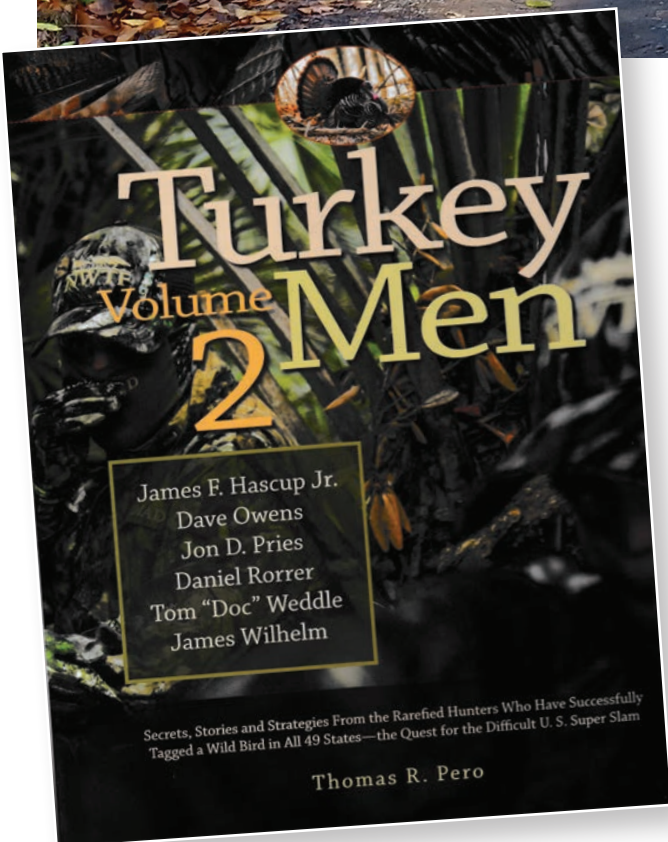
Stony Valley Chapter Family Day Hike!

Chapter activities don't always have to be big elaborate events. Sometimes a simple walk in the woods will invigorate a chapter's committee and chapter members.



Book review:

Turkey Men, Volumes 1 & 2, detail the rare breed of the turkey hunter willing to pursue one of turkey hunting's ultimate challenges, the U.S. Super Slam, tagging a wild turkey in all 49 states. Volume 1 featured Pennsylvania's native son, Rob Keck, while recently released Volume 2, showcases another Pennsylvanian, Jon Pries. Both volumes are available from Wild River Press at www.turkeymen.com



Team Work Mentoring to 2 Generations

By Walter Bingaman

If it were not for my uncle's mentoring I would not have a passion for the outdoors. So it should come as no surprise that I enjoy mentoring others and sharing experiences in the great outdoors.

It can be as simple as helping someone experience his or her first trip to Penn's Creek kayaking and fishing. More often it is shooting, hunting, or attending Hunter-Trapper education classes. Too often we think of these as youth activities. But I want to share this mentoring story to remind everyone that mentoring is for all generations.

At a recent family reunion, my Uncle Rick introduced me to his grandson, Michael Maurer.

Uncle Rick explained that Michael's father is not a hunter or fisherman, but despite those obstacles Michael has shown a fondness for the outdoors. When not at home Michael could be found fishing at a nearby pond. While Uncle Rick would like to help introduce Michael to the outdoors, he was seriously limited by the use of a cane when walking. So, I understood when Uncle Rick asked if I would take Michael under my wing and introduce him to the outdoors.

After a couple of kayak fishing trips I ask Michael if he was interested in taking a hunter education course. I followed that up by asking if he wanted to learn to shoot and eventually learn to hunt. I was greeted with an enthusiastic "yes" to each question.

Finding Michael a hunter education class that worked with the family's schedule proved worth the effort when Michael passed with flying colors. Guiding Michael's parents through purchasing his first hunting license and the application process for antlerless deer tags followed.

To get Michael shooting we headed to the range on a Sunday afternoon with his first gun, a .410 single shot.



To complete Michael's first shooting experience I brought along a .22 rifle and my daughter's 7mm-08 youth model. To overcome an opposite eye dominance issue we added a patch on the right lens of a pair of glasses. With just a little practice he was shooting and hitting left-handed.

The youth squirrel season was our first opportunity to hunt and before we knew it we found ourselves in a grove of oak trees. Michael's first shot anchored a nice fat grey squirrel. As I pen this article I can't tell you who was more excited at that moment, him or me! Several more trips to the squirrel woods provided additional opportunities for hunting lessons and most importantly, what to look for while hunting.

With Pennsylvania's October youth antlerless season fast approaching, I found myself trying to decide where to take Michael deer hunting. While talking to fellow NWTf Regional Director, Skip Motts, he suggested a trip to his camp in WMU 3A would provide Michael with an excellent chance at success.

Getting Mom's permission to leave

on Friday for our hunt included good grades and all homework completed. Getting to camp on Friday evening increased our odds for success with a full day of hunting the following day. With Skip's permission, Uncle Rick joined us for Michael's first deer hunt.

After an exciting trip north, an amazing clover food plot and a blind set up that would allow Uncle Rick to join us for Michael's hunt greeted us and only served to increase our excitement. Thanks to Skip Mott's planning and a little first time hunter's luck we were successful in harvesting Michael's first deer. Having Uncle Rick join us for this hunt was a small thank you for taking me hunting 40 years ago.

This mentoring experience was not just a complete success for Michael, but for myself as well. It opened my eyes to the excitement and thrills a new hunter and his mentor can experience. While this hunt details my experience mentoring a young hunter, it is important to remember that the mentoring experience can include new hunters of any age. Many safe and successful days afield to everyone.

Turkey Hunters Just Can't Seem To Keep It Simple

By Ralph Martone

In the outdoor world there should be a competition between spring gobbler hunters and fly-fishermen to see who can carry the most equipment. I blame it on vests. Most turkey hunters and fly fishermen wear vests designed with a wide assortment of pockets. The average turkey hunting and fly fishing vest has pockets of every size and shape located in the most imaginative places. Sometimes even the pockets have their own pockets.

Like many outdoorsmen, give a turkey hunter a vest with two-dozen pockets and they are going to find three-dozen things to put in those pockets.

A fly-fisherman only needs a fly rod, line and a couple of flies. A turkey call, a couple of shells, a facemask and a gun are about all that is required for a day of spring gobbler hunting. But you give a trout fisherman or turkey hunter all those pockets and suddenly the need to take everything even remotely related to the sport is irresistible.

Like fly-fishermen, turkey hunters are a creative bunch. When faced with all those empty pockets, all of a sudden they need multiple diaphragm calls, several box calls, an assortment of slate calls, and a couple of locator calls. But even with this amazing wealth of calls there

are still pockets remaining to be filled. The addition of a green LED headlight and white LED flashlight, a rangefinder, and of course, a GPS with extra batteries fill more pockets.

With just the right sized pocket, binoculars become an indispensable piece of equipment. A large game pouch on the back of the vest begs to carry a decoy or two or three. And what kind of turkey hunter would head for his favorite spot without extra shells, a pocketknife, a turkey wing for imitating fly-downs and an extra pair of camouflaged gloves. And although it might not be needed it at the beginning of spring gobbler season, insect repellent is something any turkey hunter will definitely appreciate by the end of the season.

And don't forget comfort when sitting on the hard forest floor calling in that big old bird. A good cushioned seat becomes an absolute necessity. What turkey hunter hasn't set up on a bird only to feel a sharp rock or root begin to grow into another Washington Monument or a might oak.

Even though most turkey vests come with a nice padded seat, I often carry an extra cushioned seat. Each season I buy every camouflaged padded seat I can find. Every spring before turkey season I hold auditions to see

which one offers the most comfort. I am convinced several spring gobblers have met an early demise due to the additional comfort of a well-padded seat on a long morning's hunt.

A cell phone or small digital camera is another item that fits in a pocket and can come in handy if you kill a gobbler.

Alas, there are still pockets in my turkey vest that demand to be filled and it takes a little extra creativity to fill these last few compartments. Even though I'm carrying a GPS, I still include a compass and topo map of my hunting area. Granola bars, a candy bar or two and a bottle of water are also logical choices, especially for turkey hunts that start long before dawn.

And finally, with every pocket straining under the weight of all that equipment, I keep one pocket empty. In that pocket I carry a picture of my grandkids, Maddie, Eliot and Logan. I also save this pocket for interesting items I pick up during the hunt. Some of the things I have carried home in this pocket include a large fiddle-head of a hay-scented fern, a unique quartz rock, a morel mushroom and once I even brought home a red-spotted newt. I am often just as excited about the treasures I bring home in that pocket as any turkey I might kill.

SHOTGUN Blasts from the Past

Intro

Thanks to long time members Shirley Grenoble and Reed Johnson, I recently received an amazing collection of magazines and newsletters from the earliest days of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Actually, a few of the documents recalled the former Pennsylvania Wild Turkey Federation. In 1976, with Bob Clark as state chapter president, the Pennsylvania Wild Turkey Federation joined the NWTF as one of 18 state chapters to join the fledgling organization that year.

One thing I found very interesting was that many chapters across Pennsylvania had their own newsletters. A few examples I recently came across include; Gobbler Gossip/ Susquehanna Local chapter, PA Turkeys/ James E. Wilhelm Memorial chapter, Allegheny Views, Allegheny Sultans Local chapter, The Summit Mountain Yelper/ Summit Mountain Yelpers Local chapter, Turkey Scratch/ Mason-Dixon chapter.

Based on these publications, I plan to begin a new Turkey Talk column entitled, SHOTGUN BLASTS FROM THE PAST. Unfortunately, many articles from these early publications are in poor condition or handwritten and difficult to read, so rather than scan and print, I may have to retype them. Those clear enough for printing will appear in their original form.



State Chapter President Visits Susquehanna Local

At the September meeting local turkey buffs were given a special treat as Shirley Grenoble, the PA State Chapter President of the NWTF visited us. Shirley said she was excited by the enthusiasm she noted within our chapter. After sharing several hunting stories, (many of which dealt with problems she encountered as a woman hunter) she moved on to more serious discussions concerning conservation measures, habitat development, poaching problems, effects of acid rain, education of hunters, and the support of research efforts. ... "It is chapters such as your" she noted, "who make it possible for the State Chapter to exist." Our camouflage hats off to Shirley for a job well done.

*Reprinted from
Gobbler Gossip, Susquehanna
Local chapter, Dec 1981*

Turkey Hunter's Prayer

Lord, we've been here on days before
And often times you've let me score
Now, do you think that on this day
You could send a Gobbler down my way?

And if not, just let me say
You've given me another day
To hunt the bird I love the best.
I don't mind sharing with the rest.

[Penn's Woods Products, Delmont, PA]
*Reprinted from Allegheny Views,
Allegheny Sultans Local chapter, Fall 1982*

Turkey Facts

In 1895 the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners was formed.
 In 1909 the "Board" forbid the use of a turkey call for the purpose of calling in and killing wild turkey. In 1937 the Board of Commissioners was changed to the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the law forbidding the use of a turkey call was repealed.
Reprinted for Pa Turkeys, James E. Wilhem Memorial chapter, July 1982

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor, I thought your local membership might be interested to note that I killed the largest gobbler ever taken in Clearfield County this past fall. Field dressed the bird weighed in at 46-pounds and sported a 13-inch beard. I attribute this rare size to the fact that it was shot near a farm and probably had easy access to farmland food. I won't reveal the exact location, but I bagged it near the Grampian vicinity.

Incidentally, I might mention another oddity about this bird other than its size- it was also an albino.

This goes to show you don't need to belong to the NWTf to be a good turkey hunter.

Sincerely yours, Les Dan Smart

A non-NWTf member

Reprinted from Gobbler Gossip, Susquehanna Local chapter, March 1982

ANOTHER "PENNSYLVANIAN" TAKES NWTf HIGH OFFICE

Ron Fretts, from nearby Mt Pleasant, has recently become the new National President of the NWTf. Ron, a Life Member, has been active at all levels (local, state and national) for many years, serving in various office positions. Ron was instrumental in organizing Pa's fist NWTf fundraiser at Severn Springs last year.

Pennsylvania NWTf members can be proud that they now have 3 national officers from their home state. Rob Keck and Carl Brown are also Pennsylvania natives.

WILD TURKEY TRAP AND TRANSFER PROGRAM

Northwest Division, Pa Game Commission
 By Loraine E. Yocum, coordinator – Turkey Trapping

Turkeys trapped from 1956-1984

County	No. trapped
Clarion	41
Crawford	8
Erie	12
Forest	210
Jefferson	26
Venango	53
Warren	199
Total in 28 years	549

Turkeys released into from 1956 to Feb 1984

County	No. released
Butler	76
Clarion	58
Crawford	212
Erie	55
Forest	5
Jefferson	29
Lawrence	20
Mercer	147
Venango	148
Warren	50
Total in 28 years	797*

*Reprinted from PA Turkeys,
 James E. Wilhelm Memorial chapter, July 1982*

*received 248 birds from Northcentral and Northeast divisions (PA)

5th Annual Great Outdoor Picnic

Saturday, June 22, 2019



**Wildlife For Everyone
Foundation**

341 Science Park Road * State College, PA 16803
814-238-8138 * www.wildlifeforeveryone.org

**Pennsylvania Federation
Of
Sportsmen & Conservationists**



2426 N Second Street * Harrisburg, PA 17110
717-232-3480 * www.pfsc.org

WHERE: Penn's Cave & Wildlife Park * 222 Penns Cave Rd * Centre Hall, PA

WHEN: June 22, 2019 * 11am - 4pm

Drawings Start at Noon * Food Served Noon - 3pm

71 Total Prizes Valued over \$37,000

**\$5,000 Cash
ATV**

Only 1,500 Tickets Available
**Fishing Kayak Package
Jon Boat Package
Premium Gun Safes
Hand Guns & Long Guns**

Complete Prize List on Back & on PFSC Web Site

Winning Tickets Reentered for all Drawings

Applicable tax, transfer, background checks & shipping fees
responsibility of the winner.

Do Not Need to be Present to Win!

SGCL # 488-2

*** \$100 Per Ticket ***

Admits 2 Adults

Youth 17 & Under - Free Admission with an Adult

**Included: Food & Beverages, Fly Fishing Lessons,
BB Gun Shoot, Archery Lessons, Trapping Demos, & More
Additional Activities, Programs & Fundraisers Day of Event**

First 50 Kids Get to Build Bluebird Boxes

Free Primitive Tent/RV Camping on Grounds (No Hookups)

(Purchase by April 1st - Receive \$25 Free Day of Event Bucket Raffle Tickets)

\$275 Sponsor Tickets Available

**** Includes 2 General Raffle Tickets & 1 Henry Mare's
Leg .22LR LA Pistol Ticket ****

(Purchase by April 1st - Receive \$50 Free Day of Event Bucket Raffle Tickets)

** Raffle Ticket Purchase Includes 1 Year E-Memberships in the PFSC, WFEF, and the PA Wildlife Federation
(Must include e-mail address)*

***1 Henry Collectible Firearm Drawing for every 10 Sponsor Tickets Sold*

5th Annual Great Outdoor Picnic - June 22, 2019

Order Form

Donation: Tickets \$100 each / Sponsor Tickets \$275 each

2019 SGCL # 488-2

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of Raffle Tickets Requested: _____ @ \$100 each = \$ _____

Sponsor Tickets Requested: \$275 (2 general raffle/1 sponsor raffle): _____ @ \$275 each = \$ _____

_____ # Adults Attending _____ # Under 18 Attending _____ I Do Not Plan on Attending

Payment Enclosed: _____ VISA/MASTERCARD: _____

Signature: _____ Exp: _____ Security Code: _____

(Payment processed through PayPal)

Mail form & payment to: PFSC, 2426 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg, PA 17110

Mark Your Calendar!

2019 Pennsylvania
Hunting Heritage Banquets
MAY - SEPTEMBER



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.

**5.4.19
Juniata Gobblers**
Breezewood Fire Hall, Breezewood
Sandra Burton
sandybr@comcast.net (814) 735-3508

**5.11.19
Cameron County Longbeards**
VFW, Emporium
Donald Perry (814) 486-0244

**5.18.19
Yellow Creek Chapter**
Rustic Lodge, Indiana, PA
Eric Roser
ericroser.er@gmail.com (724) 599-9174

**5.31.19
Mason-Dixon Local**
Walnut Grove Farms LLC, Dover
Anthony Raffensberger
Raffyremodel@comcast.net (717) 880-4754

**5.1.19
White Deer Jakes**
Drop Tine Archery Shop, Allenwood
David Baker
davidbaker1991@live.com (570) 898-4474

**7.20.19
Lenni Lenape**
Dingman Township Fire Hall, Milford
Nicholas May nickmay07@gmail.com

**8.3.19
Southern End Strutters**
Double Tree Resort By Hilton, Lancaster
Mandi Evans
mandievs@comcast.net (717) 284-2321

**8.10.19
Walking Purchase Chapter**
Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays, Coplay
David Lee
pipedope57@aol.com (908) 489-0070

**8.10.19
Sun Area Local Chapter**
Front Street Station, Northumberland
Todd Weader
toddweader@gmail.com (570) 658-2102

**8.17.19
Allegheny Mountain**
Bavarian Hall, Altoona
Walter Bingaman
wbingaman@nwtf.net (570) 274-1633

**8.17.19
Mehoopany Creek**
Shadowbrook Inn Resort, Tunkhannock
Riley Evans
Rileyevans75@aol.com (570) 877-2380

**8.18.19
Pa Elk Expo**
Elk Country Visitor Center, Benezette
Andy Olson (814) 834-4386

**8.24.19
Kit-han-ne**
Kittanning Twp Firehall, Kittanning
William Bassinger (724) 548-7746

**9.7.19
Ben Stimaker Memorial**
Pine Creek Inn, West Galenton
Jerry Foster (814) 558-5364

**9.21.19
Lakeland Longbeards Local**
Knights Of Columbus, Greenville
David Mcconnell (814) 573-1729

**9.21.19
Philadelphia County Fightin Spurs**
Canstatters, Philadelphia
Greg Isabella (215) 336-1710

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Pennsylvania Chapter
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