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PENNSYLVANIA  
**Turkey**  
**TALK**



**NWTF**

Conserve. Hunt. Share.  
**PANWTF.ORG**

A Publication of the PA State Chapter of the NWTF



## Message From The President



Fellow Members,

Just hours after getting home from an amazing predator hunt about as far north in Susquehanna county, PA as you can go. I knew I had to share the weekend with you.

With a somewhat snow covered landscape, a box full of Walker hounds, bobcat permits, great friends and a few homemade muffins we headed out at daylight. Stopping every so often to check tracks in the fresh powder on our way to the normal blue stone quarries the cats like to hide in. I noticed many areas of beautiful mixed habitat. I had noticed these in previous years in the area and had heard of them a few years ago at a local hunting heritage banquet as well. Most of what I heard was just talk about food plots.

While going from one area to another we ran through another

section of warm season grasses and nicely manicured road sides full of fresh hinge cuts and brush piles. Upon mentioning this it was explained to me how these were projects done each year by groups of concerned outdoor groups such as Ruffed Grouse Society, Pheasants Forever, NWTF, QDMA and Trout Unlimited to mention a few. These groups get together and do work in different areas that benefits the resource as well as providing areas open to hunting that are designed to support more game and provide positive opportunities to enthusiasts. Mostly all volunteer work and at little to no cost to any of these organizations, except maybe for some seed here or there to supplement or start a new area.

We were stopped checking tracks in a wooded area around some slues pipes and noticed a hand painted wooden sign on an old fence post propped up by some rocks. I didn't have to ask, my guide said that is one of six or seven areas in this forest that were schools back in 1930's prior to WW II and mentioned how he got an old plot map of the area from 1939 that shows these and told how they weren't sure what the plans back then were, maybe a concentration camp or airport. But was amazing to hear the history of the area instead of what otherwise would just have been a ride through the timber. We started up the road and he said let me show you how nature does habitat work too. Upon coming down in a lower area in the road was a swampy, mostly frozen area on the

east side of the road almost level with the road. All around it was so thick a dog would think twice but the west side of the road was nicely trimmed up and easy walking where we walked in to look at some tracks. As I started in I noticed the pencil point cuts on the stubble and trees, yes he said this is all thanks to a family of beaver moving in.

Most times we hear of these areas and that is just what they are "talk or words" which always takes me to two sayings that are always true. Talk is cheap and Actions speak louder than words! I'm sure most of you have countless examples of your own as do I, some good, some not and some that have taught me life lessons. I believe whole heartedly we have to see through the "TALK" to the "ACTIONS" not only in habitat but in life! Leaders are known by actions not words. And as I knew but confirmed on this trip my leader, guide or most importantly friend has actions that speak for themselves. From a man whom not many words are said it is evident his actions are screaming his messages out loud and clear. Listening to the few words said you hear generations of friends and family that his passion is shared with on a daily basis as well. For all that I would like to say THANK YOU JACK !!



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

# PANWTF.ORG

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Send us your articles and high resolution photo submissions to:

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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  
2020 SUMMER Issue of Turkey Talk is APRIL 27**



## Casalena Receives National Conservation Award

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Mary Jo Casalena has long been involved in wild turkey management through her work at the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and the National Wild Turkey Federation recognized her efforts with a national award.

“I feel extremely honored to receive the Henry S. Mosby award,” Casalena said. “Never did I imagine I’d be in the ranks of past recipients, many of whom have been my mentors since I became the wild turkey biologist for the Pennsylvania Game Commission in 1999. This award actually is in recognition of my colleagues at the Game Commission, NWTF

and the Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF. We all have worked diligently together during for more than 20 years to advance wild turkey research and management in Pennsylvania with application across the US.” Casalena accepted the Henry S. Mosby Award during the 44th annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show.

The NWTF named the award for Henry S. Mosby, Ph.D., whose research during the mid-1900s set the standard for wild turkey management. Mosby also helped found The Wildlife Society and won its highest honor, the Aldo Leopold Medal.

Casalena’s accomplishments as a turkey biologist are numerous. Her primary focus for the Pennsylvania Game Commission has been regulating turkey hunting seasons and bag limits through research to maintain robust turkey populations in the state.

Casalena is actively involved in the National Technical Committee, Northeast Upland Game Bird Technical Committee, WMU 5A Turkey Task Force and routinely attends Pennsylvania NWTF meetings, providing updates on harvests, population trends and research.

Casalena is also a dedicated and active member of her local chapter, the Juniata Gobblers.

“The NWTF is fortunate to have individuals like Mary Jo who dedicate their lives to the conservation of wildlife and habitat,” NWTF CEO Becky Humphries said. “We are proud to honor her with this award and look forward to her continued support for the wild turkey in Pennsylvania.”



## Ross Receives National Recognition from the National Wild Turkey Federation

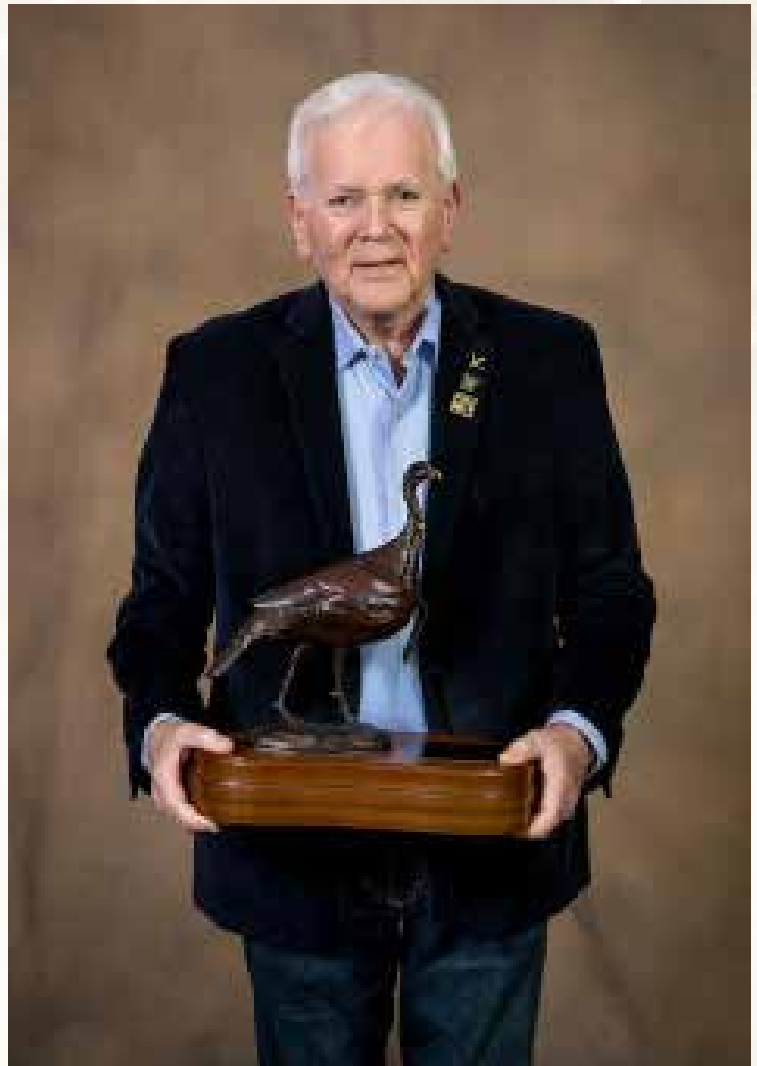
NASHVILLE, Tenn.—The National Wild Turkey Federation honored Vern Ross with the C.B. McLeod Award for his productive and enduring career with the Pennsylvania Game Commission and his dedication to conservation.

“I’m very proud of the work I have done over the years,” Ross said. “When I was executive director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, I had the privilege of working with the NWTF to develop the Youth Mentoring Hunt in Pennsylvania. Working with the NWTF over the years, we have developed a great partnership in habitat

improvement across our state. Having been a member of the NWTF since 1981, and serving as a National Board member for 12 years, I’m proud of the work done by the NWTF; they talk the talk and walk the walk.”

Ross accepted the C.B. McLeod Award at the 44th annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show. C.B. McLeod, NWTF National Board member, was a pillar in establishing the foundation of the NWTF. Favorable lending practices along with his diligent efforts to keep the NWTF financially solvent during the early years was invaluable. McLeod had a heart for conservation and believed in the mission to restore the wild turkey. This award honoring him recognizes individuals who dedicate their lives to wildlife conservation.

Ross has been a dedicated member to the NWTF since 1981 and has served in various roles, including chairman and president of the NWTF’s National Board of Directors. In addition, Ross served as CEO of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.



# 2020 PA State Chapter Rendezvous Awards Banquet Winners

## 2020 Don Heckman Corporate Conservation Award

Pat Hawbaker - Glenn O. Hawbaker  
 Al Hamilton - Eagle Auction Services  
 Shannon Shaffer - Shannon's Catering  
 Melissa Ball



## Pennsylvania Wild Turkey Hunter's Hall of Fame

Sam McCartney  
 Wayne Sheaffer



## Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year

Brad Kreider

## Joe Kurz Award - Land Manager Award

Philip Kasper



## Nancy Craft Memorial Award

Susan James



## 2019 Volunteer of the Year

Bucky Shimp  
 Robert Hunter



## L.A. Dixon Half Million Dollar Club

Adams County Longbeards  
 Terrace Mountain  
 Kinzua Allegheny Longbeards  
 Southern End Strutters



## David Wanless Award

Bob Schmid  
 Abe Frantz

## Roger Latham Award

Dave Boston

## Irven Buttray Award

Frank Antoniacci

## L.A. Dixon Million Dollar Club

Mill Creek Chapter



## Frank Piper Hunting Safety Award

Brenda Beal  
 Shade Mountain Chapter  
 Bill Crespo

## Frank Piper Safety Award

Brenda Beal

## Most Jakes Tickets Sold

Bucky Shimp  
 Roger Custer



## Loyal Order of the Silver Spurs

Dennis Wade  
 Sam McCartney

## James Wilhelm Memorial Award

Walt Bingaman  
 Cody Chapman



**Ancillary Event Awards**

Cabelas Outfitter Expo  
Great American Outdoor Show  
Pa Elk Expo- Wapiti Roost Chapter

**Outstanding Jakes Event Award**

Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter  
Arnie Hayden Memorial Chapter  
Warriors Trail Gobblers  
Wilson F Moore Memorial Chapter  
Southern End Strutters  
Pocono Mountains Chapter  
North West Thunderin Toms

**Outstanding Outreach Event WITO**

Local #1

**Outstanding Jakes Mentored Hunt**

Cascade Thunderin Toms  
Honey Hole Longbeards  
Lower Lackawanna Longbeards  
Lake region Longbeards  
Local #1  
Wilson F. Moore Memorial

**2nd Place Most Net Dollars Raised Nationally**

Pennsylvania State Chapter



**Golden Gobbler**

Clearfield Thunderbirds  
Adams County Longbeards  
Foothill Spurs  
Sherman Valley Strutters  
Southern End Strutters  
Chesquehanna Spurs  
Warrior Trail Gobblers  
Juniata Gobblers  
Lake Marbug  
Peters Creek Trail  
Stony Valley  
Jerry Zimmerman Memorial  
Shade Mountain  
Steel City Spurs

**Highest Net to Gross**

Jerry Zimmerman Memorial

**Highest Net to Gross Revenue Banquets**

**100 & Under Attendees**

Mehoopany Creek  
Lenni Lanape  
Yellow Creek

**101-200 Attendees**

Southern End Strutters  
Chesquehanna Spurs  
Stony Valley

**200 & Above**

Warrior Trail Gobblers  
Jerry Zimmerman Memorial  
Lake Marburg

**Women in the Outdoor Chapter Achievement Award Golden Hen**

Jerry Zimmerman Memorial \ Walking Purchase Chapters

**Best Wheelin Sportsman Event**

Terrace Mountain

**Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Award**

**Most Improved Banquet**

Foothills Spurs  
Brandywine Thunderin Toms





# BIOLOGIST REPORT

## 2019 Pennsylvania Wild Turkey Sighting Survey Results

### METHODS:

Surveys are available on-line ([www.pgc.pa.us](http://www.pgc.pa.us)) and via the free Pennsylvania turkey survey mobile app (available on Google Play or the App Store). Participants record any turkeys they see throughout Pennsylvania during July and August when broods are most easily observed. Participants record the date, general location, number of hens, poults, males and unknown turkeys they observe. For ease of location, observers can drop a pin at the location on the map while on the website or while using the mobile app. Rest assured, locations of turkeys are not saved, only used to record County, Township and Wildlife Management Unit.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) has annually conducted a summer wild turkey sighting survey involving the public since 2016. PGC staff have been conducting summer turkey surveys since 1953. These surveys allow us to estimate the number of turkey poults (young of the year) per hen throughout the state. This information provides an index of reproductive success, is used in our turkey population model and helps us establish fall turkey seasons. In 2019 we adopted the new national standardized survey method and data analysis developed by the National Wild Turkey Technical Committee. This standard survey allows direct comparison of reproductive success across states and regions.

Thanks to all volunteers and PGC staff for contributing to this survey!

### RESULTS:

In 2019, we received 3,172 reports totaling 16,345 turkey sightings (5,273 sightings by staff + 11,072 by public), up from 12,014 total turkey sightings in 2018 (2,040 sightings by staff + 9,974 by public). Reasons for the increase were the survey was expanded to include July (previously it was just the month of August), and the PGC staff survey was expanded to all PGC field staff (previously only State Game Wardens conducted the survey).

The statewide reproductive index was 2.4 poults per hen. This was the

same as the 2018 public survey index, which is the survey that most closely resembles this new methodology. Ten of 23 Wildlife Management Units documented increased reproductive success while 10 documented lower success and the remaining 3 showed similar reproductive success to 2018 (Table 1).

Spring and summer rainfall were variable across the state in 2019, thus affecting turkey reproductive success differently. Persistent cool, wet spring and summer weather is known to negatively impact reproduction due to the need for hens to brood poults more, lack of insects which poults and hens rely on for growth and nutrition, increased predation, and direct mortality due to exposure.

Average statewide reproductive success varied considerably among the states within the Mid-Atlantic Region (Table 2). Poults production was lowest in West Virginia (1.6 poults/hen), and highest in both Maryland and New Jersey (2.7). Due to variability in sample sizes by state the range in the reproductive index was included (lower and upper confidence intervals). Large sample sizes in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia provided tighter confidence intervals for these estimates compared to the other states.

Thanks to the popularity of this survey in Pennsylvania we have high confidence in our estimates. Let's maintain these results in 2020 and even increase participation!



(Table 1) Pennsylvania turkey poults seen per all hens seen by Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) and year. Data from 2016-2018 were from the August public survey. In 2019 the survey was changed to include July & August, and public & PGC staff sightings.

WMU	2016	2017	2018	2019 <sup>a</sup>
1A	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.5
1B	1.9	2.1	2.8	2.0
2A	3.1	1.2	2.2	2.8
2B	2.6	1.6	1.7	2.4
2C	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.5
2D	2.0	2.2	1.7	3.5
2E	2.7	2.9	2.3	2.7
2F	2.9	2.6	2.9	1.9
2G	2.7	3.4	3.0	2.2
2H	2.1	3.0	3.0	2.6
3A	3.4	3.8	4.6	1.8
3B	2.4	3.3	2.1	2.2
3C	2.5	2.7	2.3	2.1
3D	2.1	1.6	2.4	2.5
4A	2.3	4.6	4.4	2.4
4B	2.5	2.8	4.2	2.4
4C	2.0	2.1	2.7	2.7
4D	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.6
4E	2.8	2.6	1.6	2.3
5A	1.7	2.9	2.6	2.8
5B	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.3
5C	2.1	1.7	2.4	1.2
5D	1.4	3.1	3.6	1.6
<b>State</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.4</b>

(Table 2) Turkey poults seen per all hens seen, summer 2019, by State, in the Mid-Atlantic Region, and the total number of broods reported by state.

State	Sample Size	Poults per Hen (lower, upper confidence intervals)
West Virginia	137	1.6 (1.2-2.0)
Delaware	105	2.2 (1.6-2.8)
Ohio	381	2.3 (2.1-2.6)
New York (Agency + Public)	1,023	2.3 (2.1-2.6)
<b>Pennsylvania (Agency + Public)</b>	<b>2,029</b>	<b>2.4 (2.3-2.6)</b>
Virginia (Agency + Public)	692	2.6 (2.4-2.8)
Maryland	413	2.7 (2.4-2.9)
New Jersey	26	2.7 (1.9-3.6)
<i>Average, Mid-Atlantic Region</i>		<i>2.3</i>



# An Interview with Eric Steinmetz Inventor of the 4-Play Turkey Call



Eric Steinmetz started building calls for himself in 2002. As an avid hunter, he was inspired to make calls that would help him entice a big gobbler into range. Doing so, Eric noticed that along with the creativity he enjoyed while making the calls, it also increased his enjoyment of hunting. His passion soon turned into an obsession and he found himself spending much of his day thinking about turkey calls and how he could make them so they would be more effective. In the evening, and sometimes long into the night, he would work on his calls. His "day-job" required him to travel, and so he spent his time on the road thinking about all things turkey. Eric says: "I would always have whatever call I was working on with me, and if I saw any turkeys while driving I would stop and see if I could call them in. The traveling also got me access to some great hunting properties that were owned by our customers who would generously agree to let me hunt there come spring time" It's easy to see the passion Eric has for turkey hunting as he lights up recounting his experiences in and around the sport.

A co-worker asked him if he had ever sold any of his calls to other people. Eric remembers "I told him that I had never considered it and that I was only trying to build them to make myself a better hunter". But an idea had been born. Eric, along with his friend at work, began making calls together and selling them locally to fellow hunters. While Eric and his friend found many interested customers Eric had bigger plans. "I began thinking that it would be really helpful to me, and other hunters, if I could come up with a box call that was a little more versatile than a standard box call. I had experienced what so many other hunters have, of a bird hanging up just out of range and being forced to try to pick up another call only to spook him away". It was at this time that Eric began to formulate first a plan then a crude prototype of what would eventually become the 4-Play turkey call. After trying it out for himself in the woods Eric determined that it in fact worked and worked well. "I was so excited that my invention actually worked and birds really responded to it" Eric says.

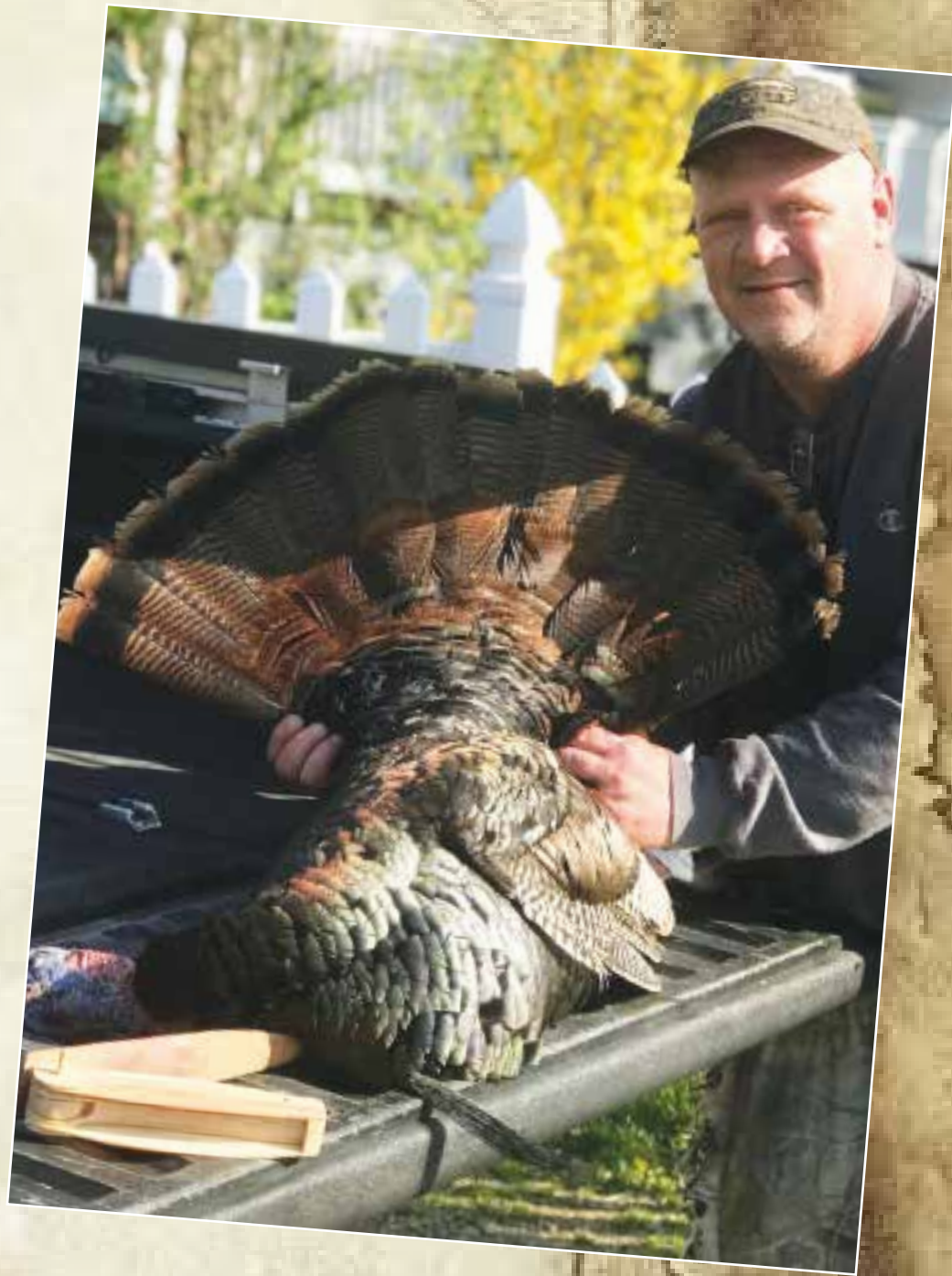
After building and testing his design, Eric thought it was a good enough idea to try to get it patented. "I went out and got a provisional patent and spent every available minute in the shop perfecting the prototype." Obtaining a full utility patent is not an easy thing to do as Eric discovered. "My design was scrutinized very thoroughly. My patent application was actually rejected a couple times before we were able to describe properly in our appeal what makes it unique enough to warrant a patent. The 4-Play's ability to strike each of its sound rails in multiple locations allowing the user to generate multiple tones off each rail is what sealed the deal for us." Eric is quick to credit his wife with helping to bring his idea to reality. "She has always been very supportive even though I push the envelope with how much time and effort I put into turkey hunting". The patent now in hand what was Eric's plan? "I had a lot of options after I was granted the patent. In fact, so many options that it was a very difficult decision of what to do. I initially attempted to make the calls myself but that proved too difficult. I was not able to make each call by hand in an identical manner that I knew hunters would expect. So after that I decided to find a company that would take my call and produce it. I had several meetings with bigger companies but never found quite the right situation. Part of my hesitancy was that this was my baby and it was very hard totally giving up control. That's when fate stepped in. A friend of mine mentioned that he knew of a small woodworking company that might be able to help. After meeting with the owner I knew I



was on the right track. They were able to make the calls in a way that was phenomenal! They produce many of the parts using a CNC router and then refine, assemble, and finish each call by hand. It was an ideal arrangement for me because I can stay involved in the production and sale of the 4-Play. In fact I still personally tune each call that goes out.”

Eric has been an active participant in call competitions across the country. “I have been quite successful with the 4-Play in competitions. I was named Outstanding Rookie of the Year at the 2017 Mid-West Turkey call competition and also took 3rd place at the 2018 Buckeye Challenge World Championship”.

The 4-Play Turkey call is truly unique in design and brings hunters a new option to help them be more successful. It provides four sound rails each made of different woods and a forward mounted wheel that allows the user to switch between sides. Always a Turkey hunter first Eric sums it up this way: “It really is a versatile call. With a little practice hunters can make an almost unlimited number of tones and pitches. I just want hunters to use it and then hopefully send us pictures of them and their Gobbler! That’s what would really make me feel successful.”



If you are interest in learning more about the 4-Play Turkey Call you can visit their website: [4PlayturkeyCall.com](http://4PlayturkeyCall.com)  
Or call them at: Cutting Edge Game Calls 610-984-4099



## INTRODUCTION:

Diversity is much talked about in today's world. The topic today is diversity as it applies to food plots and habitat management. When it comes to food plots and habitat, diversity is important for keeping your target species frequenting your property. For most of us that means wild turkeys and whitetail deer.

What is Diversity:

Diversity is defined as "variety" or "a range of different things". That seems appropriate when looking at habitat diversity. As habitat managers we want to achieve a variety or a range of different habitat to be successful. For food plots, diversity can be achieved by having food sources available over the entire year. For habitat, it means having nesting, escape, and thermal cover as well as water available on your property or in near proximity.

## DIVERSE FOOD PLOTS:

Having diversity in our food plots usually means planting a

mix of annuals and perennials. It can also mean having hard and soft mast available. Things like acorns and crabapples are examples of hard and soft mast but they are only available in the fall of the year and sometimes aren't reliable producers year to year. A late frost can wipe out an apple crop and some oaks don't produce acorns every year. To counter act these occurrences of nature we can plant crops that come available in the fall. But what about the other three seasons of the year? If food isn't available on your property, your target species will search out food from another source, maybe farther away.

The easiest season to provide for is the fall. Most of your spring or late summer plantings are reaching maturity and should be drawing in your target species for hunting opportunities. Soybeans, corn, brassica, winter wheat, and seed mixes, planted in the spring or late summer, are my "go to" sources of food in the fall.

The winter season usually is covered with

"left-overs" from the fall. The standing corn is still available, the brassica is just coming into its own with a few frosts changing the sugar content, and if there are remaining soybeans, they will soon be gobbled up. Winter wheat provides a fresh green option when some of the other forage has turned pithy.

Having something available for wildlife to feed on in the early spring is probably the biggest challenge. My area of Pennsylvania can still have snow on the ground. Depending on the severity of the winter and the availability of acorns and other mast, my standing corn may be depleted by early spring or late winter. I usually rely on clover and winter wheat while waiting for green up to happen. With deer pawing through the snow, by early April my clover plantings have been foraged heavily and those plots have large bare spots throughout. The winter wheat starts early, and the deer find that attractive. Turkeys

will also be drawn to the green shoots of clover and winter wheat.

Summer is a time when insects make up a large part of the turkey's diet. Having lush clover plantings, that encourage insects, fit perfectly in the summer season. Clover also attracts deer but often the number one forage in my area are soybeans. The beans have not yet matured, but the leaves provide lots of nourishment and are browsed heavily until September when they begin to turn yellow.

## DIVERSE HABITAT:

Diversity in your habitat can be more challenging and take longer to create. Sometimes it means NOT doing something. For instance, a stand of white pine you may consider harvesting might be better suited to allow to stand for thermal cover. Conversely a mature timber stand could be harvested to provide bedding, nesting and escape cover, as well as browse for deer.

Before embarking on your habitat diversity projects, stop and inventory what might





*An example of diverse food and habitat in close proximity. Clover and fruit trees in the foreground; pollinator plot and warm season grasses border a regeneration cut in the background.*

be available on neighboring properties. Often habitat features aren't places you'll be hunting, so having something available on the neighbor's property might not be so bad. Planting conifers for thermal cover can take some time to reach an effective point. Roost trees aren't something you'll be able to create in just a few years. Knowing what you have and knowing what's nearby, can determine what might be missing. Other habitat features

can be established a little more quickly. A regeneration timber harvest will quickly establish nesting, bedding and escape cover. Installing water troughs is an easy habitat improvement if you find your property short of water features. A 15-gallon plastic tub can be purchased from local feed stores and easily buried in the ground. Fill with water and install a branch or board so small critters who happen to fall in can get out without

drowning. Planting warm season grasses also can quickly provide nesting, bedding and escape cover. A pollinator plot not only provides food but also cover.

**CONCLUSION:**

Diversity for habitat managers is a key to success. Having food and cover throughout the year helps keep your target species frequenting your property. It's also important to put as many of these habitat

features and diverse food plots, in close proximity to each other as possible. Avian and mammal predation is greater than ever. Having year-round food sources and water, close to escape, nesting and bedding cover, helps reduce exposure of your target species to predation.



# NEVER TOO YOUNG... NEVER TOO OLD

## *to harvest your first turkey*

Dan "Abe" Frantz  
Nittany Valley Longbeards

I consider myself beyond blessed to have had the opportunity to spend countless hours hunting in the forests and fields of this great nation for more than fifty years now. Hunting has always been one of my greatest passions. Over the past fifteen years, I have developed another passion-introducing new hunters to the sport of turkey hunting. I enjoy sharing knowledge and the techniques of equipment, scouting, hunting and turkey calling. I never know where or when I will meet the next person wanting to learn the art of turkey hunting.

For the past several years I have been given the opportunity to mentor a young man from my church. Gabe was only seven years old when he shot his first deer in 2017. Because he is very active and very enthusiastic, I knew it was going to be a challenge to call him in a turkey!

We started to scout in early March 2019. We decided where we would place the large ground blind that could very easily handle two youth and two adults. Early in the week leading up to the youth

hunt on April 20, I asked one of my best friends, Ed, and his grandson, Luke, to join us. When we arrived at the blind very early Saturday morning, we decided that Gabe would be the first shooter if we got a bird in close enough for a shot. Luke had already had the thrill of harvesting his first turkey.

As darkness turned to daylight, the gobbling started on the roost. Before too long we watched a group on hens, jakes and a longbeard come into our view. Unfortunately, they kept their distance from our blind. Later another gobbler started to gobble behind us and that prompted the jakes to run past the blind without any chance of a shot. Their mission was to chase the longbeard out of the field. The jakes turned and ran back past the blind in the opposite direction. Again....no chance for a shot. At that point, we felt like the morning was slipping away.

Before long we heard a gobble in the distance. Ed and I started to call and soon we had a longbeard with a group of hens in the field again. With some of our best calling and a great set up of decoys, we had

him in range. We placed the 20-gauge single barrel on the shooting sticks. At that point, things were in Gabe's hands. With a lot of coaching from me and Ed, the 20-gauge roared and the longbeard was flopping. This created a great deal of celebrating and picture taking of 9-year-old Gabe with his first turkey. What an awesome day with a great friend and two mentored youth!

A couple of weeks later, Gabe was reliving the hunt at church to anyone who would listen. One of our new members told me if I ever needed a "wing-man" he would be very interested in joining me. Dennis had recently moved to our area after spending many years in Hawaii. Dennis, now in his mid-fifties, told me he had not hunted turkey since he was twelve years old. I was really excited to be his guide. After coordinating schedules, we decided that May 18th would be the day of the hunt. Of course we arrived in the parking area long before daylight. From previous scouting, I was pretty sure there were gobblers in this area. As first light approached, we got to the area where we



wanted to begin the hunt. I owl hooted without any response. As the sun started to rise in the east, we decided to sit and call for a while. Time passed and we moved to the second setup and called a little longer. As Dennis and I talked and listened, we heard a gobble in the distance. We planned a setup with Dennis approximately 20 yards in front of me. As I was ready to walk away, I offered Dennis my 12-gauge versa max as it would offer a little more range than his 1187. At that point I started calling again and what we thought was one gobbler turned out to be a pair that were running toward our setup very fast. I was still close enough to offer Dennis my support from my calling location. As the gobblers appeared slightly to our right Dennis was lining up for the shot. I was anxiously watching Dennis, the versa max, and the turkey from my calling spot. The gun cracked, and Dennis had his first longbeard on the ground. We high-fived as well as two "older" guys could. I was very thankful that this pair of two-year-old gobblers read the script.



It was my honor to present Gabe and Dennis with their "1st turkey pins" at our Jakes Event last summer. I am so proud of them! As for me, I am blessed with these great memories.

Remember...there is no such thing as being too young or too old to harvest a first turkey.

***This issue's cover features both Luke (left) and Gabe (right).***





Blue Mountain NWTF delivered turkeys to the needy the their community for Thanksgiving.



Pete Bowser, left, and Dennis Horne, of the Terrace Mountain Chapter met Tuesday morning to deliver 60 turkeys the organization has donated for community Thanksgiving and Christmas meals across the county.



On November 21st members of the Wolf Creek Longbeards Chapter donated/ supplied turkeys to the Grace Methodist Church for a community dinner. Pictured from left to right are Chapter VP Jim Kyle, Chapter President Dean Osborne, Church Secretary Mary Kay Mattocks and NWTF committee member Doug Long.



On the same date the chapter also donated turkeys to the Grove City Area Food Pantry fore their holiday distribution. Pictured from left to right are Chapter President Dean Osborne, NWTF Committee member Doug Long, Chapter VP Jim Kyle, and food pantry director Tracy Turner. The turkeys were purchased with funds donated by our Chapter members and supporters.



Michael Ferrare age 10 of Erie PA  
4th grader at St. George School.  
Buck was killed in Erie County on  
Monday December 9th, 2019.



Allyson Harlan  
Bird was killed on April 20th at 7am  
in Dauphin county, Pa.



Took this young lady (Kaylyn Harring - 13)  
and her father out today after work.  
She killed her first deer!





# Patience

by B. Beal

Ralph Emerson stated “Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience”. When I started turkey hunting I didn’t truly understand this statement. I was told I would eventually and I’d needed plenty of patience. What I didn’t realize was exactly how important that word would become as I continued to hunt turkeys.

All that have chased the magnificent bird are aware of what patience I’m talking about. Patience as dawn breaks. Patience as that cackling hen circles behind. Patience as the blood sucking mosquito sits quietly on your cheek as you sight down the barrel. Patience as the silence grows with no sign of that white head you know is just out of sight. Patience as seconds turn to hours for that last 10 yards. I had many tell me about the need for patience for

Waldo all these scenarios. And I thought I was doing a great job of understanding the patience I needed to hunt turkeys. That was until a few years ago.

No one warned me of this new patience I’d need as my hunting experience continued. This new patience, however, has and will continue to give me some of the best hunting memories of my life.

This new patience is a result of combining a 16 year old daughter, Sarah; a mom and early morning hunts. This patience starts well before the first step in the woods. Patience at the grumbling when waking her 5 minutes too early. Patience when rushing her ‘prep’ time. Patience when asking her opinion or not placing decoys fast enough. Patience when not having everything including the kitchen sink in my vest. Patience when sitting “too

close” to her at the base of a tree. Patience when I am reminded I forgot to bring her hair ties. Patience when she tells me my calls don’t sound like a turkey. Patience when I whisper she’s moving too much. A new patience I never dreamed I’d need while hunting turkeys.

This new patience pays off once that first gobble breaks the morning silence. I see the sparkling blue eyes and the hidden smile under the camo mask. I hear her excited whisper questioning what she heard in the distance. Then begins the ‘normal’ patience so many told me about...right up to the point her Mossberg breaks the silence.

This mixed patience has created more Sarah-Mom memories this season. Us laughing after she takes so long of a shot that the bird doesn’t even



move; the heartfelt thanks for a great morning even though the bird flew down and went the other way; the 'little girl giggle' as mom carries her across the creek only to about fall in climbing the creek bank; mom poking fun at her girl when a pre-dawn deer snort about has her jump out of her boots; mom's gentle nudging to keep the early dawn snoring to a minimum.

And today, with a bit of luck added, this mixed patience gave us high fives, hugs, smiles, 'thanks mom', the non-stop excited chatter walking to the truck; the snapchat streaks to all her friends that just can't wait; and her first Eastern long beard.







UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — As the first collegiate chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, known as NWTF, the Penn State Spur Collectors club aims to provide opportunities for student hunters to make friends and to enjoy the outdoors, while supporting the national nonprofit’s mission of conservation of the wild turkey.

Established in 2012, the NWTF Spur Collectors is one of the newer clubs in the College of Agricultural Sciences. Together, members host fundraisers and engage in service programs that promote conservation.

Susan James, the staff adviser to the club, said that members are required to complete 10 hours of community service. Along with helping other chapters of the federation, the club participates in the “Thanksgiving Basket Drive,” which is held by the Penn State Council of LionHearts. Participants collect baskets of donations, and the Spur Collectors club delivers the baskets to food banks, churches, pregnancy resource centers and schools.

Perhaps the biggest fundraiser for the Spur Collectors is the annual spring banquet, which includes a meal, raffle tickets and games. The highlight of the event is a live auction featuring a local auctioneer. Clothing, furniture, jewelry and artwork are just some of the items up for bid.

This past year, more than 150 people attended the banquet, held at Lambert Hall in Bellefonte. By the end of the night, the club raised \$14,000, which was donated to the NWTF to aid with the preservation of natural habitats. Every year, club members attend the federation’s convention, which takes place in Nashville, Tennessee. There, they join a national conversation about the federation and its fundraising and conservation efforts.

“We go down as a collegiate chapter to represent the young, up-and-coming generation of conservationists,” said club secretary Sara Benzio, who is majoring in animal science and minoring in wildlife and fisheries science. Benzio noted that she found out about the club during the annual

Student Involvement Fair hosted by the College of Agricultural Sciences. Growing up, Benzio enjoyed outdoor activities, and she is passionate about conservation efforts, so she knew the club was perfect for her.

“There are a lot of great opportunities, and you get to make lots of great friends who share the same interests as you,” she said, adding that one of her favorite things about the club is the fun, nature-based camaraderie. Erika Algard, a meteorology major and president of the club, said, “We’re just a group of people who like to be outside and do things outdoors.” She explained that one of the club’s primary goals is to introduce people to the outdoors and to grow a sense of fellowship among members.

To accomplish this, the club participates in many outdoor activities, such as fishing in various locations around Centre County, hiking Mount Nittany and observing elk herds in Benezette, which is known as the “Elk Capital of Pennsylvania.”



The NWTf Spur Collectors club also is focused on providing memorable experiences for those in the community. Algard said her favorite memory of helping others occurred during “Jake’s Day,” a club event held every spring and named after the wild jake, which is a young male turkey. The club partners with the Centre County Youth Service Bureau to organize an array of activities aimed at giving underprivileged youth a day of play.

The event takes place at Robbins Paradise Ranch in Julian. Up to 30 youth between the ages of 6 and 16 take part in activities such as fishing, archery and crafts. The youth are educated on the different types of turkeys, their locations and so forth. In addition, food and prizes are offered.

Algard recalls a little girl hitting her first bull’s-eye at one of the archery stations and being overcome with joy. “It made me realize that, wow, I actually made an impact on her life — this is something she’ll remember.” James also mentioned how special it is to see the kids who attend every year grow up before their eyes.

What started out as a small club in the College of Agricultural Sciences has turned into something that makes a real difference for the community. With the help of the kindhearted and hard-working students who make up its membership, the club hopes to continue to enact positive change for decades to come.

# HUNTERS HELPING HUNTERS PERFORM RESEARCH

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# IMPACT

*by Brenda Beal  
Pennsylvania, Save the Hunt Coordinator*

I will admit I started writing this article in March 2019 while helping instruct 31 students through the PA Game Commission Hunter-Trapper Education (HTE) course. As the course progresses to the section on turkey hunting and my NWTF pride chokes a bit, my attention moves from paper and pen to the faces in the room.

As an NWTF member and/or PA hunter, did you know NWTF supports the PA Game Commission's HTE course with two impactful videos? The first is a video of a successful turkey hunt noting various safety aspects of the hunt. The second is of a shooting incident highlighting overlooked safety aspects of turkey hunting. As an HTE Instructor I don't watch the videos as much as the reactions of those in the room. The smiles on the young attendees and an occasional high five as the bird flops at the end of the first video. The silence, shocked looks and the occasional tears as the attendees watch the shooting incident in the second video. These videos bring reality and mixed feelings to a room of anxious new hunters.

Let me digress a bit. Are you a hunting mentor? If you are, thank you for your time, effort and dedication sharing our hunting tradition with others. And as a mentor, ask yourself these questions.



**Question 1:** As a mentor, how do you help your mentee prepare? Help learn about gear, mentee shooting practice, time afield teaching your mentee how to scout, have your mentee attend a hunter-trapper education (HTE) class?

**Question 2:** As a mentor, how do you prepare? Prep your gear, shooting practice, time afield scouting, attend an HTE class? Yes, attend an HTE class? Why would an experienced mentor need to attend an HTE class? Ever consider attending an HTE class? As your mentee gains an interest and decides to hunt in PA they are required to attend an HTE class. Why not attend an HTE course with your mentee?

**Question 3:** Have you become complacent? Complacent is defined as “contented to a fault with oneself or one’s actions”. Nothing more to learn about something you have done for years? Perhaps done since you were your mentees age? What if your mentee became complacent too? What does that mean to you as a mentor? Lax in handling a loaded gun? Lax in following hunting regulations? Lax in respecting landowners rights? Lax in the basics of any hunting experience?

The first two questions are fairly easy to answer. You’d understand the impacts behind my third question if you attend an HTE course and watch the NWTF videos. Maybe the first video will bring back memories of similar experiences. I hope the second is only ever experienced in video form. Regardless your personal experience with each situation, seeing the impact the videos have on your mentee may aid both in your mentor-mentee relationship.

The NWTF, as an organization, thought enough of educating new hunters to create these videos. Shouldn’t you, as the grassroots mentor, take the time to share the reality, the experience, the feelings and the impact.

I thank the NWTF for their dedication to our hunting heritage. I thank you, the mentor, for your dedication to our hunting heritage. And I’ll ask again, as a mentor how do you prepare both your mentee and yourself?

Try attending an HTE course. Feel and share the NWTF video impact on not just your mentee but you as a mentor.

Thank you NWTF! Thank you Mentor! Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.

# Show your passion with the **PENNSYLVANIA NWTF License Plate!**

Promoting the Pennsylvania Chapter and the National Wild Turkey Federation with our license plates is a great way to show your support for the wild turkey.



Send a self addressed stamped envelope with your membership number and phone number to: **Dennis Wade, 9833 Fillinger Rd., Cranesville, PA 16410.**

A signed application will be returned to you. Complete the application and send it with a check for \$25.00 to PennDot. Your plate should arrive in two to three weeks.



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This safety message brought to you by the Pennsylvania Chapter  
of the National Wild Turkey Federation.





# Mark Your Calendar!

## 2020 Pennsylvania Hunting Heritage Banquets APRIL - 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](http://www.panwtf.org) or contact a regional director near you.

**04/02/2020**

**Allegheny Sultans**

Cross Creek Resort,  
Titusville

Vanessa Rockovich  
vrockovich@hotmail.com  
(814) 673-4122

**04/03/2020**

**Southeast Silver Spurs**

Franconia Banquet  
and Conf. Ctr., Telford

Kathy Michener  
(484) 985-8473

**04/03/2020**

**Michaux-Yellow Breeches**

West Pennsboro Volunteer  
Fire Co., Plainfield

Raymond Bobb  
cdbobb@embarks.com  
(717) 243-5730

**04/04/2020**

**Cascade Thunderin Toms**

New Englander Banquet  
Center, New Castle

David Boston  
DRBoston@Zoominternet.net  
(724) 968-8549

**04/05/2020**

**Northwest**

**Thunderin Toms**

Pampered Palate  
Conference Center,

Saegertown  
Tanner Hannold  
(814) 795-6288

**04/11/2020**

**Arnie Hayden Memorial**

Tioga County Fair  
Grounds, Wellsboro

Timothy Payne  
(570) 404-1833



**04/18/2020**  
**Adams County**  
**Longbeards**  
Biglerville Firehall,  
Biglerville  
Michael Cibula  
mcibula61@gmail.com  
(717) 263-9769

**05/02/2020**  
**White Deer Jakes, PA**  
Drop Tine Archery Shop,  
Allenwood  
David Baker  
davidbaker1991@live.com  
(570) 898-4474

**05/02/2020**  
**Juniata Gobblers**  
Holiday Inn Breezewood,  
Breezewood  
Sandra Burton  
sandybr@comcast.net  
(814) 735-3508

**05/09/2020**  
**Mason-Dixon Local**  
The NEW ZT Auction Hall,  
Glen Rock  
Anthony Raffensberger  
raffyremodel@comcast.net  
(717) 880-4754

**05/09/2020**  
**Cameron County**  
**Longbeards**  
VFW, Emporium  
Donald Perry  
dandjperry@zitomedia.net  
(814) 486-0244

**05/16/2020**  
**Millcreek, PA**  
Heritage House  
Community Hall, Brookville  
James Kemp  
nwrn1960@yahoo.com  
(814) 715-0282

**05/16/2020**  
**Yellow Creek Local**  
Rustic Lodge, Indiana  
Eric Roser  
ericroser.er@gmail.com  
(724) 599-9174

**06/26/2020**  
**Mehoopany Creek**  
Triton Hose Co.,  
Tunkhannock  
Richard Evans  
rileyevans75@aol.com  
(570) 877-2380

**07/18/2020**  
**Lenni Lenape**  
Dingman Township  
Fire Hall, Milford  
Nicholas May  
nickmay07@gmail.com  
(570) 460-9737

**08/01/2020**  
**Southern End Strutters**  
Double Tree Resort By  
Hilton Lancaster, Lancaster  
Mandi Evans  
mandievs@comcast.net  
(717) 284-2321

**08/08/2020**  
**Walking Purchase Chapter**  
Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays,  
Coplay  
Donald Bahnick  
mrbee71040@gmail.com  
(610) 261-2414

**08/08/2020**  
**Sun Area Local Chapter**  
Front Street Station,  
Northumberland  
Todd Weader  
toddweader@gmail.com  
(570) 658-2102

**08/15/2020**  
**Allegheny Mountain**  
Bavarian Hall, Altoona  
Walter Bingaman  
(570) 274-1633

**08/22/2020**  
**Kit-Han-Ne**  
Kittanning Twp Firehall,  
Kittanning  
William Bassinger  
(724) 548-7746

**09/12/2020**  
**Ben Stimaker Memorial**  
Pine Creek Inn,  
West Galenton  
Jerry Foster  
(814) 558-5364

**09/19/2020**  
**Lakeland Longbeards**  
**Local**  
Knights of Columbus,  
Greenville  
David Mcconnell  
(814) 573-1729

**09/21/2020**  
**Philadelphia County**  
**Fightin Spurs**  
Canstatters, Philadelphia  
Greg Isabella  
(215) 336-1710



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**Skip Motts • 68 Railroad Grade Rd., Smethport PA 16749**

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