

2016 Fall Edition
Volume 42 Number 1

PENNSYLVANIA
Turkey Talk



NWTF

PANWTF.ORG

A Publication of the PA State Chapter of the NWTF

Message From The President



Turkey hunting is all about change. You start the day's hunt with an idea of how the morning should go, but before you know it an obstinate gobbler, with a brain the size of a walnut, has ruined your best-laid plans.

Everyday for a week he greeted the morning gobbling from the south side of the road, but today that feathered devil is gobbling from the north side. Or maybe he has been staying on the roost until 30-minutes after first light giving you time to set up, but not today. Today, he is already on the ground, gobbling like a maniac before you are halfway to his piece of real estate.

Sure, you could go right ahead with your plans, but the result will probably be a sore backside and a lot of good practice with a variety of your favorite calls. But experience has taught you turkey hunting is all about change. So you scrap your plans and go after the bird.

Well, that is exactly what the Pennsylvania State Chapter of the NWTF is finding out. Good management and leadership are all about change. An important part of the Save

the Habitat, Save the Hunt mission is focused on the habitat side of our mission.

A quote by George Bernard Shaw applies here, "The reasonable man changes himself to the world. The unreasonable man changes the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man."

For our State Chapter as well as our local chapters, we can keep doing the same thing over and over again and hope it works or we can adapt to a changing world. I am happy to say the State Chapter's Board of Directors along with our new regional biologist, Mitchell Blake, have embraced several changes that are already proving to be the right way to go.

One of those changes involves how we approach habitat projects. At the State Chapter's annual meeting with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, we realized both organizations are on the same page when it comes to habitat. Bigger is better. We are now looking to fund more habitat projects on a landscape scale. The key to this change has been the success of prescribed fire in improving habitat over large areas.

I saw this first hand on State Game Lands 87, where The PGC burned several hundred acres, making it look like a blackened moonscape. Several neighbors were very upset at the perceived devastation. However, within a few days wild turkeys and songbirds were already visiting the area. By the end of the first week a carpet of green was starting to show through the blackened earth. Two weeks after the burn the area was covered in a bright green carpet of grass with little or no sign of fire. Today the area features fields of wild flowers that have cars stopping to take pictures.

Again, we could continue to put our money into small 2, 4 or 6 acre food plots that provide food for a small flock of turkey a couple of months of the year or embrace the change to landscape size projects that affect hundreds and even thousands of acres providing food and cover for wild turkey year-round. Again, I am happy to say we are making that change.

On the Save the Hunt side of our mission we are looking at several exciting changes. Partnering with the Wildlife Leadership Academy, we are preparing to help sponsor Wild Turkey Field School for youths age 14-17. The WLA has nearly a decade of experience in providing a high quality field school staffed by nationally recognized experts. The Wild Turkey Field School will be WLA's sixth school, joining schools on white-tailed deer, black bear, ruffed grouse, brook trout and bass.

In addition to funding from the state chapter, we are asking local chapters to step up with a \$100 donation toward this exciting new project. Local chapters can continue their involvement by using their \$250 NWTF scholarship toward each student's \$500 tuition to attend one of the six field schools.

Mentoring is a big part of Pennsylvania's efforts to support our Save the Hunt mission. In addition to the already successful Jakes, WITO, Wheelin Sportsmen events and Youth Field Days, we are very excited to see our volunteers providing more mentor hunts.

National research shows that the best way to create new hunters is through actual participation in the field. That is what got you and I started and it is what has shown to work for youths, women and handicapped hunters with an interest in hunting. That same research has shown that it takes multiple contacts with mentors to get a new hunter started in a lifetime sport such as hunting and fishing.

If these changes sound like a challenge, they are! But when we start seeing the results of all our hard work and effort, it will be worth it. Accomplishing these goals will take more volunteers and more money. I encourage each local chapter to make an extra effort to add a few new faces to your committees. New people bring energy, excitement and new ideas and that is the kind of change that will make a difference.

With the fall hunting season almost here, now is the time to start thinking about introducing a new hunter to the sport we all love. Have a safe and successful season.

Ralph Martone

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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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Turkey TALK

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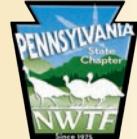
Katrina Skrapits

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The Pennsylvania Chapter
of the National Wild Turkey Federation



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Send us your articles and high resolution photo submissions to:

turkeytalk@panwtf.org

For sending digital photos, follow these guidelines:

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

**Deadline for submitting articles for the
2016 Winter Issue of Turkey Talk is NOVEMBER 14**

First Buck!



9 year old Alexis Ferrare,
Jake member of the Lakefront Gobblers
Chapter, harvested this beauty
Wednesday, October 5th 2016
in Erie County, PA



We're back in Nashville
for our 41st Annual
NWTF CONVENTION
AND SPORT SHOW!



FEBRUARY 15-19, 2017
at the Gaylord Opryland
Resort and
Convention Center in
Nashville, Tennessee

The deadline for PA members that would like to be seated together at the National Covention will be

DECEMBER 1, 2016

Send completed registration forms to
Ralph Martone,
1937 Bell Run Road,
Grampian, PA 16838

Registration forms and information on the 2016 National Convention can be found at: www.nwtf.org

Pennsylvania Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation's 42nd

Annual Rendezvous & Awards Banquet

Saturday, January 7, 2017

DONATIONS
WELCOME
for our
Raffles!

Ramada Inn - State College - 814.238.3001

(Rooms \$70/Night; please call reservations and mention NWTF for special rate)

All Net profits
(100%) go into
the PANWTF
General Fund that
supports our PA
chapters.

The Premiere Introduction of the 2017
Banquet Package along with Chapter and
Individual Awards starting at 5:30 pm

Join us for **HAPPY HOUR** before dinner!

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

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

Early Bird Deadline December 31

Would your chapter or business consider underwriting a core package item?
Email us at: panwtfrep@panwtf.org

RENDEZVOUS SEMINARS

Noon to 1:00 PM:
**Falcon & Hawk
Presentation**
*by the Pennsylvania
Falconry and Hawk Trust*

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM:
Predator Hunting
by Sheri Baity

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM:
QDMA Presentation
by Jack Sorber

3:00 PM to 4:00 PM:
Fall Turkey Hunting with Dogs
by Scott & Cindy Basehore

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Banquet Meal Ticket	\$40	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Banquet Meal Ticket (10 & Under)	\$15	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Bird Raffle Package	\$100	\$ _____

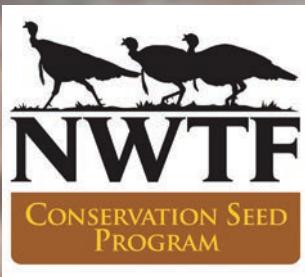
GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

(Names of all people attending): _____



Conditions of Acceptance Form Conservation Seed Program



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Distribution Point:

**SR 219 .5 mile North
of I-80 in Dubois**

Distribution Coordinator:

Sam McCartney

Preferably by email at:
svmccart919@gmail.com
814.359.2338
or cell 814.571.4287
for Bierly's Garage near Center Hall

Chapters will be notified when the seed arrives and will be responsible for picking up their seed. Chapters will be responsible for paying transportation and bagging fee per bag (or higher fee for Round-up Ready seed) AT THE TIME THE SEED IS PICKED UP!! The price of bagging and transportation is subject to adjustment for changes in fuel costs. Chapters will be responsible for paying for any seed orders they placed themselves and the state chapter will not assist in paying for those orders. Chapters can receive their own tractor trailer loads as long as they have a forklift and a suitable storage building. Individual members can order directly but they are encouraged to work through a local chapter to consolidate with their order. Find chapters in your area on PANWTF.org.

2016 Conservation Seed Order Form

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

Chapter: _____ Seed Desired: _____ # of Bags _____

Chapter Contact Info:

Name: _____ Conventional Corn _____

Address: _____ Round-up Ready Corn _____

_____ Sorghum _____

Phone #: _____ Winter Wheat _____

Email: _____ Soybean _____

Send this form to: **Sam McCartney, 155 Greens Valley Road, Centre Hall PA 16828**
Deadline for orders is 1-15-2017. Please make a copy for your records.

Complete this form prior to picking up seed.

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

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

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

Print clearly the information of person **planting seed**: Indicate number of bags:

Name: _____ Conventional Corn _____

Address: _____ Round-up Ready Corn _____

_____ Sorghum _____

Daytime Phone #: _____ Winter Wheat _____

Email: _____ Soybean _____

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

Date: _____

Signature of person **picking up seed**.

Date: _____

Signature of person **planting seed**.

Please note: corn, sorghum, soybeans and wheat come in 50 pound bags. Round-up Ready corn is bagged by kernel count (80,000) so the bags may weigh less than 50 pounds. To curtail misuse of the seed there is a 3 bag limit per seed type per person.



5 Common Food Plot Mistakes

By Bob Schmid

Introduction:

For those with a background in farming you'll probably find this article amusing that these mistakes are even made. But for those of us without a farming background, what seems like common sense might not be common knowledge. For those of you that come to wildlife habitat management without a farming background, this article is for you. I've made all these mistakes myself and even continue to struggle with some of them to this day.

Some is Good – More must be Better:

This common mistake is understandable because often the seed we are planting seems so small that we think we need to spread more. Clover seed and many of the brassica species are so tiny that it just doesn't seem to be enough for the plot we are planting. Combine that with not knowing the exact size of the plots we are planting and often we spread too much seed. The result is too many stems per square foot, the plants that germinate are stunted, and over compete for the nutrients in the soil.

The solution is to know the size of the plot you want to plant and follow the recommendations on the bag of seed you are planting. When buying bulk seed, either online or from local feed stores, look for recommended seeding rates, and follow them accordingly. I have a scale that I use to weigh my seed before going out to plant. I have the estimated acreage of each of my plots so I know how much seed I need to plant before I start.

No need for weed control:

Before I had my own farming equipment I paid a local farmer to plant for me. The first time he planted corn he asked if I wanted him to schedule spraying for weeds when he had his crops sprayed. Not wanting to spend additional money and not being concerned about maximum yield, I said no it would be fine, it was planted just for wildlife anyway; big mistake. The crop germinated but it never produced much corn as it wasn't able to compete properly with the weeds. For clover plots, often people make the mistake of not maintaining the plot with ongoing weed control. A properly started clover plot

should last 5 or more years with ongoing weed control and soil amendments. The initial expense of starting a clover plot is much higher than the ongoing yearly maintenance. Knowing the kind of weeds that need to be controlled is the key. Use the right herbicide for the right target weed control and your clover plot should last several years.

Location Planning:

Having a good location for a new food plot is as important as having a plan for how the plot will be used over the years. Before I had much experience planting food plots I planted some fruit trees in locations that now I wish I hadn't. Fruit trees are a good source of food for wildlife but in my area are subject to late frost wiping out the crop for the entire year. In several instances I have fruit trees in the middle of plots that make it difficult to maneuver equipment around. If I'd done more pre-planning I would have chosen other locations for the fruit trees, more out of the way of equipment. I also have fruit trees planted in lower lying locations which



Example of fruit trees planted in the middle of a food plot.



Example of seed planted too deep along edge of food plot.

makes them more susceptible to late frost. If I would have been more experienced I would have chosen higher locations where the cold air doesn't settle and cause problems with frost killing the blossoms. Planting fruit trees is a long term commitment and should be planned carefully before putting a tree in the ground.

Sunlight is a critically important component to new food plots and should be considered, especially for smaller remote plots. Cutting branches and trees before planting to get enough sunlight onto the plot is better than investing time and money planting seed, then watching the seed not grow because there isn't enough sunlight.

Seed Planted Too Deep:

Many of the types of seed we plant don't have to be planted very deep. Often we are planting small, odd shaped plots and we end up driving our equipment several times over the same areas to set the seed. The result is that, seed like clover, gets buried too deep and just doesn't germinate. The competing weeds flourish and we are left with a little clover in the center of the plot and lots

of weeds in the areas that get driven over several times. Several of the plots I plant are no more than 1/10th of an acre. In the past I've used my ATV and a drag harrow to set the seed but I found that the clover did not germinate very well. The reason was that I was driving my ATV and harrow several times over the edges of the plot so I could turn, resulting in the seed being pushed too deep. Now I have started to cultipack the clover seed only after planting. Once the seed bed is prepared and the clover seed is spread, a final pass with the cultipacker is sufficient to set the seed.

No Soil Sample:

Proper soil amendments prior to planting a food plot is critical and a step often missed by food plotters. Our soils are often low in pH and require a lime treatment before many of our seed mixes will germinate and prosper. Seed mixes often state pH requirements on the bag. Different crops require different pH needs. For example Ladino clover needs a pH of 6 to 7 to prosper. Switchgrass, often planted for habitat, can be established with a lower pH

range, even as low as 5. The best way for determining pH is to take a soil sample. Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences has made it easier than ever to submit soil samples for testing. There is no longer a need to buy soil sample kits from a local extension office. Follow the link below and you will find step by step instructions for submitting soil samples for testing.

<http://agsci.psu.edu/aasl/soil-testing/soil-fertility-testing/soil-fertility-submission-forms>

Conclusion:

After almost 25 years of planting food plots I confess I have made all of the above mistakes as well as many others. Each year I try new techniques when managing my land for wildlife. Some have been successful, others not so much. But by reducing the above mistakes you can expect more successful food plots.



A LIMITED AMOUNT OF 40TH ANNIVERSARY PRINTS STILL AVAILABLE

The PA State Chapter's 40th Anniversary Print was "Demanding Attention" by artist Dan Christ of Kempton, Pennsylvania. There are limited edition numbered prints still available. These numbered prints are not matted or framed, however he can have them matted and framed for you at an additional cost.

Please contact Dan Christ at (610) 756-6342 for more information.

PA State Chapter Event ACTIVITY RESOURCES

Need an activity for your next Expo, Show, Gathering, Fair?

Pennsylvania has two different items to help you with that!

• DART Shooting Simulator

• JAKES Take Aim Trailer

that has an inflatable BB Gun Range.



How do you reserve one of these for your event?

Go to the PA NWTF Home page: www.panwtf.org

- Click on the link at the top of the page for the system/trailer your chapter wants to use.
- View the schedule for the system you are looking to reserve and if the system is available for your date.
- Complete the online reservation form & hit Submit.

It's that easy! The master schedule is on-line and will be updated with your request. Pennsylvania has 2 DART Systems and 2 Take Aim Trailers. **PLEASE Be sure to note - Picking up and dropping off of system and or trailer is the volunteer's agreement to meet the other party half way.**

Please make sure you understand the system requirements and operating instructions. These units are very expensive and not easily replaced, so your understanding and TLC for them is required. These are great tools to reach out to the next generation; they are our future sportsmen and women.

WOULD YOU BE A HUNTER TODAY?

Mentoring today's youths is vital to sustaining our hunting heritage.

By Ralph Martone

Imagine that young boy or girl attending a Jakes Day, Youth Field Day or Hunter/Trapper Education Course for the first time. The day may have been packed with a host of firsts. First time shooting a firearm, first time paddling a canoe, first time shooting a bow, catching their first fish, first time hearing someone talk enthusiastically about hunting and fishing.

Young people leave these events excited and inspired about everything they just experienced. They can't wait for their chance to go hunting, fishing or hiking.

But what if it just ended there. After the event, no one took them shooting. No one took them fishing. No one took them to the woods or field for a hike or scouting for the next hunting trip. As time passed the excitement fades and their interest is replaced by things they can do, like hanging out with friends or playing video games.

What if your first experience with shooting, hunting was your last? What if no one offered to take you hunting or to the gun range? Would you be a hunter today?

As we learn more about the mentoring experience and discover what it takes to make a new hunter, we are learning it is not enough to just expose someone to hunting and the shooting sports. Yes, that initial thrill that comes from having the opportunity to do something

new and exciting for the first time is important. But, as we are learning, much of the evidence points toward the importance of providing a follow-up experience with multiple contacts as the real key to success.

I'm proud that the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation is active in providing young people an opportunity to experience outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing. However, when planning follow-up activities as NWTF members we often think too big. We imagine the follow-up experience needs to be a successful deer or spring gobbler hunt or an organized pheasant hunt. Sure, these activities are great and will no doubt build the kind of excitement and enthusiasm sure to bring a potential new hunter back for more. But those types of activities require large commitments of time and are often difficult to fit into our busy lives.

Too often, in planning these big events or attempting to put together the next big adventure, organizations such as ours find scheduling conflicts and time constraints interfere with our good intentions.

This leads to the question; does each contact need to be the ultimate outdoor experience?

Again, studies are finding the answer may be simpler than we thought. The follow-up might be as simple as a trip to the local sporting goods store. Imagine how educational it would be for a new

hunter to walk the aisles of the local sporting goods store, a Cabelas or Bass Pro Shop talking about each different piece of equipment. How about a visit to a hunting camp to cut firewood, plant a tree or sight in a rifle.

Once again, go back to your early days, when your excitement for hunting was just beginning. Did it take a fully guided hunt resulting a dead deer or gobbler to get you excited and wanting more? No, sometimes all it took was to be in the room while a group of veteran hunters talked about hunting. Just listening to their stories of deer or turkey hunts was enough to whet your appetite and make you want more.

Taking into account all the changes in today's society, including more single parent families, mothers and fathers having to spend more time working to make ends meet and the younger generation's lack of exposure to nature and the outdoors, mentoring has become an increasingly important part of continuing our hunting heritage. But, as we've discussed here, it may not be necessary to provide the ultimate hunting experience. What is important is that we make the time to follow-up and provide multiple contacts. It is those small bits and pieces of the hunting experience that were effective in getting us hooked on hunting, conservation and the outdoors and that's what will work to create the next generation of hunters.

Updated Habitat Proposal Process

Submitted by Mitchell Blake

Since 2013, the Pennsylvania National Wild Turkey Federation has spent nearly \$650,000 on habitat management for the wild turkey across Pennsylvania. The volunteer raised superfund dollars have impacted just north of 12,000 acres on public, hunt-able ground in nearly every county of Pennsylvania - and that doesn't include the thousands of acres impacted through the seed subsidy or conservation seed program many volunteers participate in on an annual basis. To all of those people who have vested an hour or a dollar into the National Wild Turkey Federation, thank you.

Habitat projects are the PANWTF's modus operandi. Each year the Hunting Heritage Committee fields anywhere between 65 and 80 habitat proposals and nearly every chapter in Pennsylvania submit a habitat proposal. No other state chapter within the NWTF can come close to that volunteer commitment on an annual basis. PA chapters have used nearly every management tool in the book to help manage the turkey population across State Game Lands, State Forest, and other acreages open to public hunting.

The Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt initiative (S2H2) is now on its fifth year of implementation and has largely been a success. Conserving acres and creating

hunters has always been rooted deep within the NWTF's mission and reflected by passionate volunteers and their accomplishments, but as we move forward, a more focused and concerted effort is needed to hit our annual acreage and created hunter goals. At the onset of the S2H2, a strategic plan was developed and annual acreage and new hunter benchmarks were created to help guide state-wide efforts in habitat conservation and outreach events. A goal of 5500 conserved or enhanced acres is the annual acreage target PANWTF shoots for; primarily utilizing the seed subsidy program and Super Fund habitat projects to conserve those acres. Currently, we are tracking behind our anticipated acreage total.

To focus our efforts, the "green sheet" habitat proposal process for submission and funding has been updated to reflect the S2H2 mission, facilitate communication between chapters and agency staff, and utilize of the most beneficial management practices for the wild turkey resource. The green sheet proposal includes instructions on how to fill it out and submit, state agency and NWTF chapter contact information, important codes, and a ranking system. The green sheet will be available on the PANWTF website and will be sent to all chapter presidents this fall. Feel free to

contact Regional Biologist Mitchell Blake, mblake@nwtf.net, with any questions you might have regarding the change in process.

The ranking system (*See Table 1*) is an objectively derived tool that will be used to guide the funding process and to achieve Pennsylvania's Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt annual goals. Chapters and agency land managers/foresters can use this tool to help craft their proposal and ensure their proposal is competitive. The PA State chapter's Hunting Heritage Superfund Committee will use this tool to rank habitat proposals for funding consideration.

The ranking system will not be used to turn away proposals, but to simply qualify a proposal for full funding considerations. The ranking system encourages cost effective spending of superfund dollars, partnering among local chapters and other outside sources, larger multi-year projects and use of management practices that provide the most benefit to wild turkeys.

A proposal must have a total score of 14 to qualify for full funding considerations. Proposals that score 14 or higher will be given full funding unless the total requested amount of all qualified proposals exceeds the habitat budget. In this case, proposals will be funded according to the ranking scores of the qualified

Table 1. PANWTF Ranking Criteria For Hunting Heritage Super Fund Habitat Projects			
Category	Score	Criteria	Project Score
Acres	5	≥ 50 acres	
	4	≥ 25 acres	
	3	≥ 10 acres	
	2	≥ 5 acres	
	1	< 5 acres	
Cost/Acre	5	≤ \$50/acre	
	4	≤ \$100/acre	
	3	≤ \$250/acre	
	2	≤ \$400/acre	
	1	> \$400/acre	
Management Type	5	Fire	
	4	Timber Stand Improvement/Early Successional Habitat Creation	
	3	Invasive Species Treatment, Restoration (e.g., logging road reclamation), Perennial Food Plot Planting/Maintenance	
	2	Annual Food Plot Maintenance (Fert, Lime, Seed)	
	1	Tree Planting, Equipment Purchase	
Number of Partners*	5	>2	
	3	1	
	1	0	
	2	Yes	
0		No	
			Total

proposals. Proposals not meeting the minimum score of 14 will be funded with the remaining budget using proposal ranking scores or at the discretion of the Hunting Heritage Habitat Committee. Proposals scoring below 14 may still be fully funded.

* Partners do not include the cooperating agencies. A partner is another PANWTF chapter, an NGO, or a hunting club open to the public that is providing dollars towards the habitat enhancement.

** Multi-year projects do not include multiple years of annual maintenance such as mowing or fertilizing, liming, and planting of food plots. A multi-year project is a project that is completed in steps on the same acreage or on parts of the entire project acreage each year.

With the current wild turkey population declining ever so subtly in Pennsylvania, it is important to reinforce the population with solid, high quality, scientifically based habitat management. Wild turkey populations encompassing areas with

high quality habitat will respond vigorously when reproduction conditions are exceptional and those same high quality habitats will sustain a population when reproductive conditions are less than perfect. The updated model for green sheet submission should result in more acres conserved on an annual basis and additional high quality, wild turkey habitat.

Lake Region Longbeards' 12th Annual Youth Turkey Hunt

Submitted by: Debbie Ozark



Show in the photo are left to right: Row # 1 – Calab Mead, Micah Peck, Connor Gill
Row # 2 – Kyle Zolewski, Carter Davis, Matthew Glasson
Attended but missing from photo: Matt Wescott, Ryan Rushik, Tyler Spinosi, John Tupalanchick

On Saturday April 23rd, 2016, the Lake Region Longbeards' Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation held their 12th annual youth turkey hunt.

As in the past, the event was held at Camp Timberledge, Beach Lake in Wayne County. The youths arrived at the camp Friday evening for a safety presentation by PA Game Commission instructor Randy Worley. Each youth was required by the Chapter to have a parent/guardian present for the event. Each hunter was assigned a volunteer mentor / guide to be with them during the hunt. The two adults that accompany each youth promotes safety and teaches hunting values.

After a quick breakfast the hunters trekked to their hunting site. The morning was spent calling, listening and enjoying the out of doors. They headed back to the camp around noon excited to share their stories with everyone. Micah Peck was the lucky winner of a turkey mount donated by Jason Hitchcock of Hilltop Taxidermy in Hawley.

This mentored program was initiated by the PA Game Commission to introduce youngsters to the privilege of hunting. It sets a day aside specifically for the youngsters to give them an opportunity to receive one-on-one training and guidance.

Micah Peck, winner of the mount, Pa Game Commission Officer McCarthy and guide Randy Whorley.



Fall Turkey - Bucket List

By Bob Smith

Pennsylvania (PA) has a long tradition for fall turkey hunting. PA had a fall season long before it incorporated a spring season into its hunting regulations. The traditional fall turkey hunting method was find, scatter, call and shoot. However, in 2007, PA revised its requirements for fall turkey hunting to allow the use of dogs as part of the fall turkey hunting experience. The use of dogs is relatively new to PA however; the use of dogs was originally developed in Virginia around the 1600's when the English settled their and brought their quail dogs for hunting.

Wild turkeys were more abundant than quail and the English trained their quail dogs to hunt turkeys and these dogs were known as Virginia turkey dogs. There are various breeds of dogs used to hunt wild turkey and some of these breeds include but are not limited to: Boykin, Brittany spaniel, Dropper, various setters and other breeds that can be trained to find and scatter turkeys. Today, 29 states allow the use of dogs for fall turkey hunting.

The late John H. Byrne of Virginia experimented with several breeds of dogs and eventually developed the now famous Appalachian Turkey dog that consists of a mixture of English setter, English pointer and Plott hound. These dogs are the ones you most commonly see in articles and or videos about fall turkey dog hunting. This breed of dog ranges pretty far and when they come upon a flock of wild turkey's they will run into the flock and bark as they scatter the flock. The hunter usually has a GPS on the dogs' collar and can easily pin point the break set. Once located, the hunter then gets to the site, retrieves the dog and places the dog either in a camo bag or cover the dog with camo netting and sets up to

begin the calling sequence to the scattered flock. When the hunter is successful enough to call one to his location and take the shot, the dog will jump out of his bag or cover and get to the turkey and wait for the hunter to retrieve the turkey. This sounds like it's really is easy but still requires the hunter and dog to cover a lot of ground until a flock or individual turkeys are located for the action to begin.

I had read plenty of articles and saw videos on fall turkey hunting with dogs. I hoped one day to experience the thrill of hunting fall turkey with a turkey dog in PA if possible. I wanted to add this type of experience to my bucket list. The next part was to find someone that may have a turkey dog and see if I could tag along for one day just to watch the dogs work. I didn't care if I was the shooter but was looking for the adventure to watch a turkey dog find and break up a fall flock.

That opportunity came in the fall of 2014; Job Seger a good friend from Coal Township had invited me and turkey callmaker, Mike Lapp for a two day hunt with him and another callmaker, Austin Hornberger. On a warm November morning, Mike and I arrived at Job's house and we changed into our hunting gear, Job gathered his two Appalachian turkey dogs, Gunner and Hope loaded them into his truck and headed to our first and only location for the day. We spotted four gobblers in a cut corn field a good four hundred yards from the field we had permission to hunt. As soon as Job took the dogs from their kennels they immediately got into the hunt. You could tell they had the scent and wanted to run. We had them on a leash until we closed the distance and then Job let them loose and the hunt was on for sure. The turkeys saw us and headed into the woods on a hillside. The dogs got their scent and went right in where we saw them and suddenly the turkeys were in the air. It was a good break as the two gobblers went east and the other two went west. We stayed in that break location the rest of the day and never did

see or hear them that day but for me I got what I came for and had a great experience. We hunted the second day and had several breaks but none of us was able to pull the trigger on one.

Job invited me back the next fall (2015) for another two day hunt and I could not turn the opportunity down as I really had fun the previous year. I arrived at Job's house early in the morning on another warm November day. We loaded both of his dogs into his truck and where on our way. Unlike the spring where you want to be in the woods prior to daybreak, in the fall with dogs, you want the turkeys to be on the ground and moving about before you head in the woods with the dogs. We didn't leave until about 7:30AM to head to a destination that Job wanted to try first. We were in the truck driving for about 10 minutes when I saw a small flock of 10 birds in a cut corn field. I pointed that out to Job, he stopped the truck and we watched them for several minutes. Job turned around and pulled down the access road into the field. He had permission to hunt this land and I was really excited to get this hunt started. The turkeys didn't flush or run as we drove down the road parallel to their location the field. Once parked, I got out of the truck got my gear as Job took only one of his dogs from the kennel. He chose to take the female, Hope, who needed more work and experience than her sibling, Gunner did. Gunner is a seasoned turkey dog that has been very successful for Job in years past.

We entered the corn field and the small flock was about 120 yards away and Job release Hope and she immediately ran across the field in the direction of the flock and then came in behind them, began barking and the birds flushed perfectly across the road and part way up a mountain. We got Hope and went across the road and up the mountain about 80 yards. Job set up 25



yards behind me; he was not going to shoot as he had taken his PA turkey the day before. Once set up, Job and I began calling and several turkeys immediately answered our calls. Each time we called the turkeys answered and were getting closer. We called for about about 10 minutes when I noticed a turkey in view about 50 yards in front of me. At this point I stopped calling but Job continued calling softly and the turkey continued straight for me. Job gave one last call and the turkey gobbled. He took a few more steps and I squeezed the trigger and the hunt was over. I had taken a real nice Jake and the hunt was over at 8:41AM. I fulfilled my bucket list fall turkey dog hunt. It was a special hunt for me but also for Job and his dog Hope. This was Hope's first official solo hunt and break without Gunner. Job was very happy for both of us and I cannot thank him enough for the wonderful experience of hunting turkeys with an Appalachian turkey dog. The internet and Facebook has plenty of information on turkey dogs if you're interested in finding out more about this type of experience. For me it was an experience of a life time and an item I can cross off that bucket list but I sure do hope that I can experience it again.



Wild Turkey Federation President Dan Frailey presents the monetary donation to the Community Action Deputy Director, Linda Cornman this past year. He was accompanied in the photo with Federation treasurer, Bill Bassinger and Assistant treasurer, Art Rupp. Every year the Kit-Han-Ne chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation donates to Armstrong County Community Action's turkey fund in November.



The Peters Creek Trail Chapter took part in the Turkey Hunters Care program once again this year. The chapter donated 225 turkeys to local area food banks and senior centers. This brings the total number of turkeys donated to 2,285 since 2004.

Pictured left to right are committee members Mario DiSaia, Jim Stillwagon, Ralph Croushore, Bob Thomas and Bill Grib. Other committee members not pictured are Mike Salopek, Bucky Croushore, Mark Yuretich, Brian Scott, Dan Charney, Paul Wassel and Mark Yuretich Jr.

World Slam Success

Submitted by: Fran Davitt III



After many years of turkey hunting, I finally completed my world slam in Campeche, Mexico with Yukkutz Hunting. I completed my first and second world slam by taking two great gobblers. I hunted from April 9th to the 16th during mating season when the toms sing and are very aggressive to other toms in their area.

I hunted Florida and took a great tom in March. The highlight was taking my eleven year old, John Lucas Davitt, to our spot in Wayne Co., Pennsylvania for the April 23rd youth day. John did it all by himself, and a little help from me with calling. A 28 yard shot with Hevi Shot Magnum Blend in his 20 gauge sealed the deal. He even carried it out the entire way to my truck.

I was able to hunt Pennsylvania on a Monday, the second day, and took a great tom that was with seven hens after a lot of aggressive calling in terrible rain. I was able to get him at 7:25 am, so I then loaded him in truck and went over border to buddies place in New York and was blessed with a great tom at 10:50 am. On Tuesday am, I was blessed, in another storm, to take my second tom in Pennsylvania which weighed 22.5 lbs. I am working on my sixth grand slam and booked a trip to Texas for Spring 2017 with my little hunter John Lucas. He has shot four toms in four years with four shots.



2016 KEYSTONE CLASSIC CALL MAKERS COMPETITION

Winners

2016 CHAMPION:

Neal Impson, Hope, AR

Category 1 - Short Box

- 1st Place: Neal Impson, Hope, AR
- 2nd Place: Ed Terefencro, Pottsville, PA
- 3rd Place: Ed Terefencro, Pottsville, PA

Category 2 - Long Box

- 1st Place: Ed Terefencro, Pottsville, PA
- 2nd Place: Bob Fulcher, Huber Heights, OH
- 3rd Place: Ed Terefencro, Pottsville, PA

Category 3 - One Sided Box

- 1st Place: Ed Terefencro, Pottsville, PA
- 2nd Place: Steve Savage, Alabaster, AL
- 3rd Place: Steve Savage, Alabaster, AL

Category 4 - Slate and Striker

- 1st Place: Jake Naessen, Shell Lake, WI
- 2nd Place: Mark Cornelius, Tyrone, PA
- 3rd Place: Mark Cornelius, Tyrone, PA

Category 5 - Glass/Crystal and Striker

- 1st Place: Jake Naessen, Shell Lake, WI
- 2nd Place: Buddy Stang, Elwood City, PA
- 3rd Place: Jimmy Schaffer

Category 6 - Other/Friction Call and Striker

- 1st Place: Jake Naessen, Shell Lake, WI
- 2nd Place: Buddy Stang, Elwood City, PA
- 3rd Place: Jimmy Schaffer

Category 7 - Turned Trumpet Call

- 1st Place: Anthony Ellis, Chatsworth, GA
- 2nd Place: Kevin Poeschel, Elk Horn, WI
- 3rd Place: Lewis Inzer, White Hall, AR

Category 8 - Wing Bone, Cane & Other Material

- 1st Place: Julio C. Santiago Jr., Troy, PA
- 2nd Place: Chris Rice, Lincoln, NE
- 3rd Place: Kevin Lynch, Elsmere, KY

Category 9 - Scratch Box Design

- 1st Place: Bob Fulcher, Huber Heights, OH
- 2nd Place: Mike Crooks, Battle Creek, MI
- 3rd Place: Eric Rice, Minneapolis, MN

Category 10 - Tube Call NO ENTRY

Category 11 - Scratch Box Design

- 1st Place: Julio C. Santiago Jr., Troy, PA
- 2nd Place: Julio C. Santiago Jr., Troy, PA
- 3rd Place: Jake Naessen, Shell Lake, WI

Category 12 - Locater

- 1st Place: Gregg Gurthridge, St Mary's, PA
- 2nd Place: Shawn Kotchey, Corsica, PA
- 3rd Place: Shawn Kotchey, Corsica, PA

Category 13 - Decorative

- 1st Place: Eric Rice, Minneapolis, MN
- 2nd Place: Dennis Strawbridge, Dallastown, PA
- 3rd Place: Neal Impson, Hope, AR



2017 Pennsylvania Hunting Heritage Banquets JANUARY THRU FEBRUARY

Jan. 14 • Wilhelm Chapter

Nick's Place
12246 Route 99 • Edinboro
Andy Tobin • timothy.tobin@ge.com • 814-734-1691

Jan. 21 • Shermans Valley Strutters

Millerstown Moose Lodge #925
109 Juniata Parkway West • Millerstown
Brenda Beal • tomboyb1288@gmail.com • 717-979-0920

Jan. 21 • Nancy Craft Memorial

Muncy Valley Fire Hall
Rt 42 North • Muncy Valley
Daniel White • dwhite@fairfieldautogroup.com • 570-946-7769

Jan. 27 • Allegheny Valley

The Acme Club
230 Herron Ave • Cheswick
Michael Zourelias • zball@consolidated.net • 724-265-0903

Jan. 28 • Lower Lackawanna Longspurs

Greenwood Fire Hall
3727 Birney Avenue • Moosic
Edward Skoranski • bfged1@comcast.net • 570-457-8188

Jan. 28 • Foothill Spurs

Sligo Area Rec Center
448 Colerain Street • Sligo
Jared Carr • jrod.scarr@yahoo.com • 814-473-8488

Jan. 28 • Chesquehanna Spurs

Rembrandt Club
393 Jackman Rd • St Benedict
Jim Panaro • jim.panaro@resfuel.com • 814-322-2294

Jan. 28 • Blue Mountain

Schaefferstown Fire Hall
100 N. Locust St • Schaefferstown
John Barry • john@lebanonfarmsdisposal.com • 717-821-5306

Feb. 3 • Penn's Woods Spurs

Italian American Club
5930 Kennedy Ave • Export
Jason Straley • jaystray@yahoo.com • 412-855-6353

Feb. 4 • Moraine

American Legion Post 778
American Legion Post 778 • Butler
Christopher Smith • cesmith462@gmail.com • 724-316-4454

Feb. 4 • Moshannon

Veteran's of Foreign Wars Club
114 Fuller St • DuBois
Brian Stoddard • rutstrut@mail.com • 814-808-0009

Feb. 4-12 • Great American Outdoor Show

Harrisburg Farm Show Complex
Harrisburg
Ray Smith • rsmith@nwtf.com • 570-220-1535

Feb. 11 • Col-Mont Gobblers

NEW LOCATION! Pine Barn Inn
1 Pine Barn Place • Danville
Matthew Swartz • mashunts@gmail.com • 570-490-2784

Feb. 11 • Ten Mile Valley

South Strabane Fire Dept. Social Hall
172 Oak Spring Rd., Washington
Jeff McCombs • jmccombs@cpt.com • 412-997-4580

Feb. 18 • Reading Ridge Runners

The Grill Fire Company
743 Mountain View Rd. • Reading
Michael Reiman • mreiman@teksystems.com • 484-332-4329

Feb. 18 • Central PA Limbhangers

Ramey Fire Company
161 Market St • Ramey
Jim Richtscheit • 814-592-0299 • jxr232@gmail.com
or
Fred Mosley • 814-577-5961 • moesthaman@comcast.net

Feb. 23 • Local Chapter #1

Roosevelt Hall
2325 Mt Pleasant Rd • Norvelt
Ed Maczka • truxels@yahoo.com • 724-423-7703

Feb. 24 • Shippensburg Strutters

Shippensburg Fish & Game
4498 Mcclays Mill Rd • Shippensburg
Spencer Miller • 717-249-8961

Feb. 25 • Nittany Valley Longbeards

Mountain View Country Club
100 Elks Club Rd (off Route 45) • Boalsburg
Kathy Greenland • wildkatconfer@gmail.com • 814-574-3017

Feb. 25 • Lake Marburg

Porters Community Fire Company
RR 5 Box 5533 • Spring Grove
Phillip Marks • pmarks6475@comcast.net • 717-225-3488

Feb. 25 • Steel City Spurs

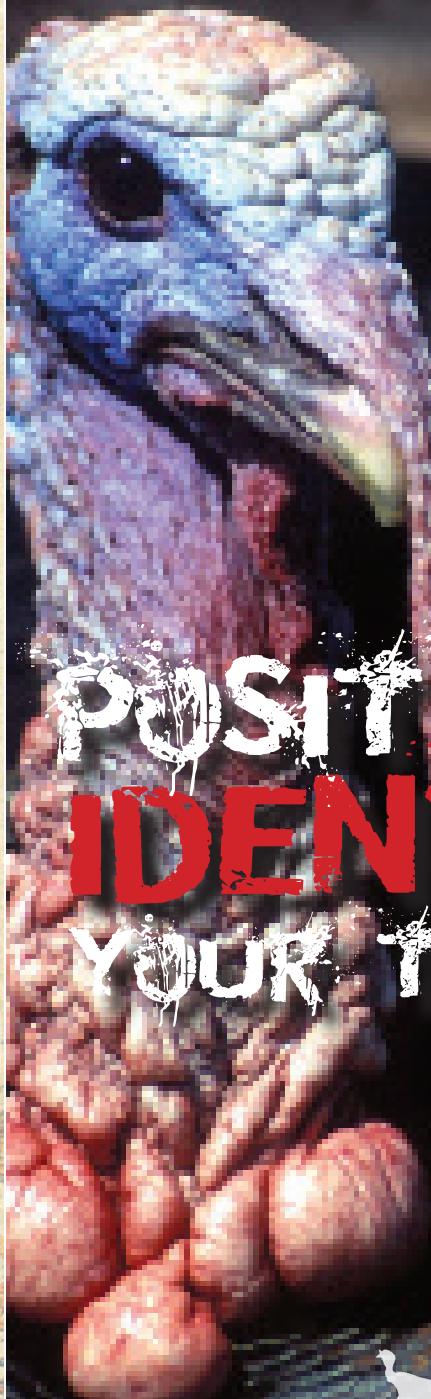
Fairview VFW
3326 Washington Pike • Bridgeville
Ed Planinsek • planinsek@verizon.net • 412-221-0515

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

I'd like to join the National Wild Turkey Federation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of the hunting tradition. This membership also enrolls me in my state and local chapters.

- Regular Member: \$35**
- Sponsor Member: \$250**
- Women in the Outdoors: \$35**
- JAKES Member (ages 12 & under): \$10**
- Extreme JAKES Member (ages 13 - 17): \$10**
- Wheelin' Sportsmen Member: \$35**

Name: (please print) _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Master Card Visa

Credit Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____

(Make checks payable to NWTF)

Send complete application to:

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

www.panwtf.org