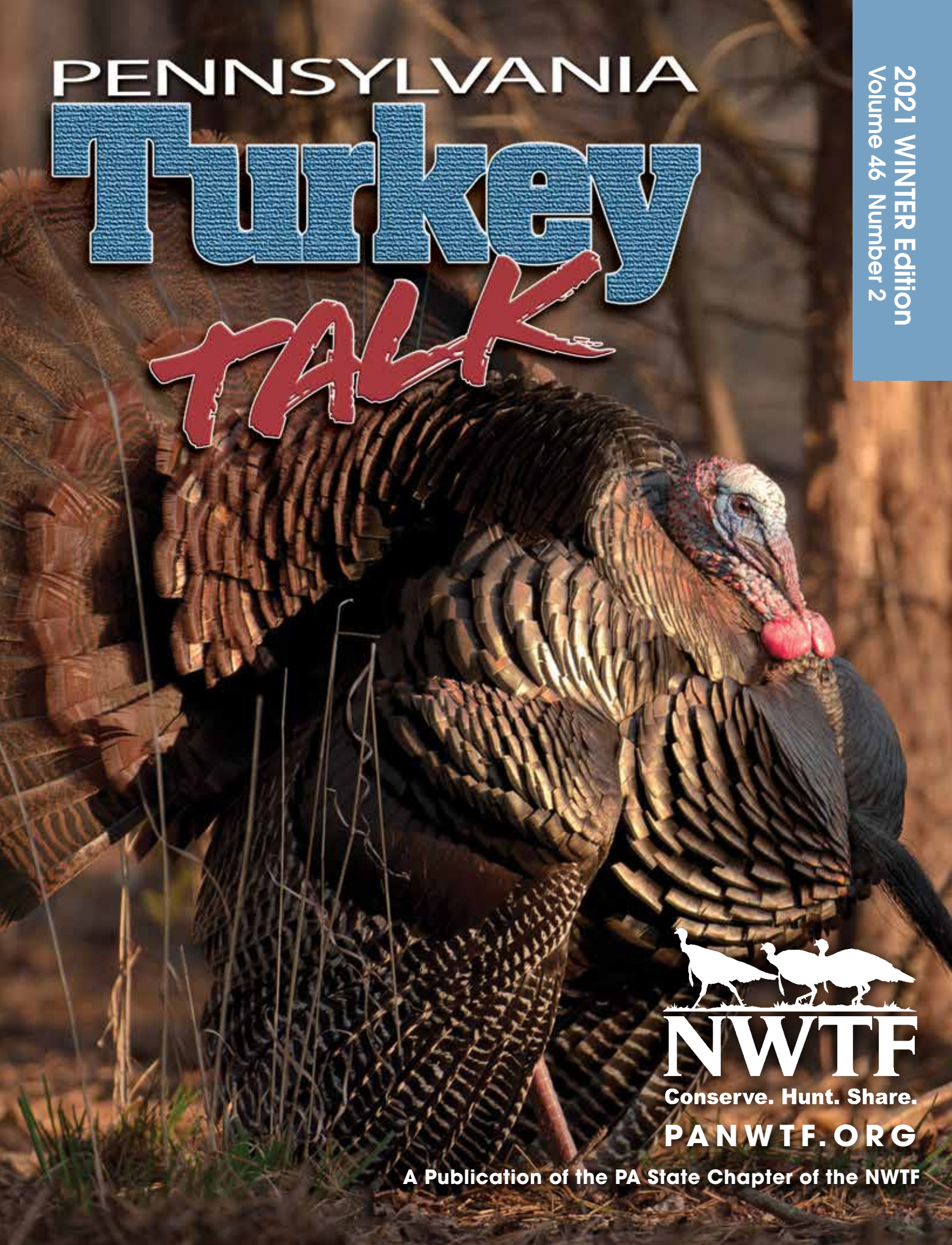


PENNSYLVANIA

Turkey

TALK

2021 WINTER Edition
Volume 46 Number 2



NWTF

Conserve. Hunt. Share.

PANWTF.ORG

A Publication of the PA State Chapter of the NWTF

Message From The President



COVID 2020

2020 will definitively go down as the year to remember!! With the COVID pandemic effecting our daily lives and dictating what we could and couldn't do, our world was turned upside down! With workplaces changing the way we do our jobs, many of us were able to take advantage of what mother nature and springtime had to offer. We enjoyed getting time to spend in trout streams and evidently to chase spring turkeys. I often look forward to this time of year to share

with others the passion for turkey hunting. This year I was able double my efforts to take new hunters out to enjoy the turkey woods and a couple of them are excited to go out and hunt turkeys again this fall. I hope you were also able to spend time in the woods, whether on your own or with fellow hunters, youth or first-time hunters.

But soon after that we found out that the NWTF was experiencing financial difficulties, and the Call for All campaign to raise \$5 million dollars by the end August 2020 began. This spawned some of the most unique raffles and fundraising events we have ever seen. For the first time, we used the internet to reach millions of people for fundraising to help us achieve our goal. In our own state, I saw chapter after chapter step up to the challenge to donate by whatever means you could, and boy did you ever! When I took over as State Chapter President shortly after COVID hit, I thought this is a heck of a time to be President! Superfund events are frozen, banquets are postponed, and now we are being asked to give money from what is left of our pre-banquet checking accounts. How much worse can this year get?

Then I started hearing about chapter after chapter stepping up to donate or hold fundraising events to help raise funds to accomplish our goal of \$5 million. Looking back, I couldn't be prouder of our members in the way they got the job accomplished. To date, through either donations or events, we have raised \$109,000 and that total is still being updated!

This is why PA is the number one state! It is

because of dedicated volunteers like yourself that keep our mission and goals moving forward. Thank you on behalf of the state board and myself for making this a year to remember! I know moving forward that we will be okay in whatever 2021 has to throw at us!

While 2020 presented many hardships for us all, I hope that you experienced some positives as well. Like being able to take others out to enjoy the turkey woods or just being able to spend more time outdoors and enjoy what we as conservationist have worked so hard to improve.

One positive that I experienced is the picture that is with this article. For one of the fundraising efforts for Call for All, I entered and won a Deep South Florida Gator hunt. It was donated by a gentleman named Brandon Storey, of Storey Hunts out of Lake Okeechobee Florida. At first, I wasn't sure that this was something I wanted to do, but then I thought when will I ever get to go on an alligator hunt again in my life. So, I did and the results were a 103" alligator and stories to share with whoever will listen to them. Not to mention I met a fellow NWTF member that is as passionate about the land and the wildlife that it has to offer. www.StoryHunts.com/

David Boston

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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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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
2021 SPRING Issue of Turkey Talk is February 8**

Through the spotting scope

If you were able to join the several thousand volunteers, staff and partners at the NWTF National Rendezvous in Nashville this February, you may remember this photo (below). I can't take credit for it; Kurt Dyroff, our chief business and finance officer, found the photo. It delights me, and, because I found it so appropriate to the current state of the NWTF, I included it in my presentation there and in this column.

Maybe I like it simply because it is a cute, young person in a fun aviator costume peering into a scope. But there is much more than that: There is young hope, anticipation, dreams and focused attention. The NWTF developed and nurtured those feelings through its first 50 years, and I believe they will continue to inspire us in the next half century!

We are an organization that came together because, 50 years ago, what our founders saw through the spotting scope was unacceptable. Wild turkeys and turkey hunting were in a state of decline. The NWTF began with a simple, but huge, purpose — to restore the wild turkey across its habitat and beyond. Biologists and volunteers worked side by side to capture birds, trade and transport them between states, release them into the wild, and see them multiply.

Experienced turkey hunters shared their skills and passion with enthusiastic new hunters. There was anticipation. It was spring, and there was hope. And it was wildly successful! So wildly successful, today we have wild turkeys well beyond their historical range across 49 states.

The fundamentals of our successes as a conservation nonprofit are still very much with us. The willingness to roll up our sleeves and tackle tough challenges. To bite off big dreams and to solve problems one habitat project, one acre of access, one hunter and one turkey at a time. To build partnerships and work side by side with those partners to face challenging new conservation problems. We had visionary leaders, dreamers, an army of volunteers and fantastic partners. We are blessed that we still do!

Our goals today are no less pressing ... to maintain healthy wild turkey populations across our country and preserve our hunting heritage by promoting and strengthening the outdoor lifestyle for generations to come. But in order to be successful, we must evolve and adapt, just like the wild turkeys we trapped and transported across this country. We must utilize new technology to run our nonprofit business. We must create and hold new types of events that are fun, exciting and tailored to the desires of an evolving membership. We must build new partnerships and work together to tackle new projects that help us address landscape threats such as forest overgrowth, wildfire and water issues.

Evolution and adaptation are hard, but the risk of not changing is decline or even death. And our mission is just too important to allow that to happen.

What makes the NWTF strong is the same basic principle that makes our nation strong; we are an organization of



BECKY HUMPHRIES

committed individuals who can tailor our message, our work and our partnerships to regional needs, yet speak with one voice. An organization that values new ideas and volunteer empowerment to be nimble and willing to work with partners to achieve joint success. An organization humble enough to continue to look through the spotting scope with hope, anticipation and willingness to make the adjustments necessary to accomplish even more in the future.

This year we are embarking on a major information technology overhaul and beginning to evolve our brand. Our mission will remain the same, but the way we do business and our look and feel will transform.

We need your ideas, your feedback and your energy as we move forward. And, just as importantly, we need the strength of your character to not be threatened by change, but to embrace it and allow it to fuel our efforts. We have a proud history, but we cannot live in the past. We must plan and act to create a bright future. Working together, we will accomplish much as we make our landscapes more productive and our outdoor lifestyle more relevant in an ever-changing world.

Thank you for your commitment to be part of that bright future!

NWTF CEO Becky Humphries



NWTF CEO wins prestigious conservation award

During the 85th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, in front of a room of peers in the conservation world, NWTF CEO Becky Humphries received the George Bird Grinnell Memorial Award — the highest individual honor bestowed by the Wildlife Management Institute and an award considered to be the highest honor in the natural resources profession.

According to the WMI, the award named for Grinnell – the “Father of American Conservation” – recognizes those who have dedicated their career and, in many ways, their life to natural resource protection.

Humphries’ impressive resume spans more than 40 years of experience in wildlife management and conservation. Before holding prominent roles with the NWTF — chief conservation and operations officer, vice president of conservation and now CEO — she served as the director of operations in the Great Lakes/Atlantic Region for Ducks Unlimited, focusing on conservation delivery, policy and science. She also served the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment for 32 years, including seven years as department director.

Turkey Country May/June 2020



Family Flock,

I want to extend a big 'Thank You' to all our members and major sponsor donors for helping us achieve our 10-year Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative goals in just eight years. From August 2012 to August 2020, the NWTF conserved or enhanced 4,007,920 acres of wildlife habitat, recruited 1,530,162 new or lapsed hunters and opened 667,772 acres to hunting.

Now, we must continue working through the impacts of the pandemic to move forward with our conservation mission. Our work is not over, and we must unite together to ensure that we can Leave a Legacy for the future. Learn more about how you can help by clicking this link: <https://your.nwtf.org/donate/>

It is near the end of the calendar year, so I wanted to share some important information from the CARES Act that passed this year, so you can plan accordingly.

- The adjusted gross income (AGI) limit for cash contributions was increased for individual donors. You can elect to deduct up to 100 percent of your AGI (increased from 60 percent) for cash contributions made in 2020.
- The AGI limit for cash contributions was also increased for corporate donors. Corporations can now deduct up to 25 percent of taxable income (increased from 10 percent).
- Your donations in 2020 that exceed your AGI deduction limits can be carried forward as excess deductions for up to five subsequent tax years

- If you are between 59½ and 70½, you can elect to deduct 100 percent of your AGI for cash charitable contributions.

I invite you to take the next step in your relationship with the NWTF, so reach out to me, Jason Lupardus, at 865-603-5258 or jlupardus@nwtf.net or click here <https://your.nwtf.org/donate/step1.php?type=STH> to give.

I will be happy to visit with you about the next steps in your journey to become a major sponsor of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Thank YOU for your Support!

Jason Lupardus



Spencer L. Miller Sr., 86, of Carlisle died October 26, 2020 in the Shippensburg Health Care Center. He was born February 25, 1934 in Woodbury, Blair County, the son of William L. and Florence W. Horton Miller. Spencer had worked as a Plumber at Dickinson College. He was President of Michaux Yellow Breeches Chapter N.W.T.F. And was a member of Doubling Gap First Church of God.

Surviving are three daughters Nancy Raudabaugh and husband Jim of Newville, Sandy Rider and husband Scott of Newville, and Dawn Horner and husband Andy of Glen Burnie, MD, and three sons Ronald Miller and wife Linda of Coatesville, Mike Miller Sr. and companion Kay Keck of Carlisle, and Spencer Miller Jr. and companion Tracy Fraker of Newville; 10 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Ada G. Ross Miller and two sons Rick L. Miller and Gary L. Miller.



Walt Bingman, Regional Director, NWTF:

"Spencer was originally in the Micheaux Yellow Breeches Chapter, President for many years. At the same time for several years started the Shippensburg Strutters Chapter and was the President for both chapters at the same time!"

Michael C. Wright | Forest Assistant Manager

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:

"Spencer was always willing to "Answer the Call" and his passion and commitment was something that was truly admired by all the staff at the Michaux. He was very dedicated in the enhancement of wild turkey habitat on the forest and took a lot of pride for the work that he helped to promote. He was always at the site typically before the staff, waiting to help out and gave a very detailed history lesson of the work that was done there by him and others. He never missed a opportunity to give very thoughtful advice and some words to live by. Whenever you finished a project with Spencer everyone that took part and worked alongside Spencer felt a sense of great accomplishment and understanding that what was done was "bigger" than just doing work, it was critical for the wild turkey and other wildlife to persist on the landscape. He made others feel important and left a lasting legacy for you and others to live up too. He could remember all 43 of the Michaux's SWMAs special wildlife management areas and knew what and when something was done on them and never forgot to mentioned he helped plant most of the trees on those openings.



Mary Jo Casalena, Pennsylvania Game Commission, wild turkey biologist:

"I've known Spencer since I became the turkey biologist in 1999. He was a passionate volunteer with NWTF, an all-around awesome person and the best Santa Claus! I will miss him dearly, and his fun stories!"

Speaking from not just myself but other staff members at the Michaux, Spencer will forever be greatly missed. His desire and dedication in helping to the save the habitat save the hunt initiative by the NWTF will be sorely missed for decades to come and there will always be an important member of the team that will be greatly missed during our habitat workdays, as we continue to help fulfill Spencer's goals to help make sure there's a turkey population for generations to come."

National Wild Turkey Federation's Dr. James Earl Kennamer Scholarship Program Applicant/School Information Sheet



Purpose:

The purpose of the NWTF Dr. James Earl Kennamer Academic Scholarship Program is to recognize and reward an NWTF JAKES member, who is currently a senior in high school, for their outstanding academic achievement, community involvement and leadership roles. The National Scholarship Winner will receive a \$10,000 scholarship sponsored by Mossy Oak.

Eligibility:

1. Students should be graduating seniors with a 3.0 on 4.0 scale or equivalent grade point average. (If transcript indicates a scale other than 4.0, student should have a minimum of 3.75 on a **5.0 scale**, **4.5/6.0 scale**, **5.25/7.0 scale**, **6.0/8.0 scale**, **6.75/9.0 scale** or a **7.5/10.0 scale**). Students must upload copies of transcripts for review. Finalist GPA and transcripts will be verified.
2. Students must be pursuing a degree at an accredited institution of higher education (i.e. Junior College, Community College, Technical College, College or University).
3. Students must actively participate in hunting, support the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of our hunting heritage. A copy of current hunting license is required.
4. Students must hold a current NWTF membership and upload a copy of their membership card. If you are not a current member of NWTF, visit www.nwtf.org or call (800) THE-NWTF to join. Include a copy of your online receipt or ask our membership department for an ID number to include with your application for membership verification purposes.
5. Students must be involved in school extra-curricular activities (i.e. FFA, Ecology Club, Science Club, Beta Club, Student Council, etc.).
6. Students must demonstrate leadership among his or her peers.
7. Students must demonstrate community leadership and/or involvement (i.e. 4-H, civic group or club, scouting, volunteer work).
8. Students must upload an essay (300 word limit) exhibiting dedication to conservation and preserving our hunting heritage. Essay must include:
 - why you will be a good investment if you are awarded this conservation scholarship
 - any experiences and background that demonstrate your dedication to conservation and the preservation of our hunting heritage
 - why hunting is important to you and/or your family
9. Students must upload two letters of recommendation, one of which must be a from a NWTF leader (i.e. from teachers, counselors, community or clergy (do not include relatives)
10. Employees and board members of the NWTF and their family members are not eligible to participate in the program.

Selection Process:

1. Students must apply on the official online NWTF scholarship application form by **March 1, 2021**. Incomplete submissions will not be considered, **students must have ALL documents available for upload before beginning the application process**. No paper applications will be accepted.
2. The national scholarship committee will select the National winner by **April 1, 2021**.
3. Winners may not be notified until their high school awards banquet.
4. The national winner will be asked to attend the NWTF National Convention the following year to be recognized.

Disbursement of Funds:

Students may use their scholarship at any accredited institution of higher education (i.e. Junior College, Community College, Technical College, College or University). The money must be used for tuition, books, fees and housing. This is a one-time award.



L.A. Dixon Jr. Memorial Outstanding Chapter Awards



Cumulative annual L.A. Dixon Awards are presented to state chapters in recognition of their fundraising achievement through banquets, membership recruitment and mission delivery on behalf of the NWTf. Points are earned in the various categories listed (box, right). The three highest scoring states in each membership category receive awards. Points are accumulated on activities held and reported between the dates Sept. 1, 2018 to Aug. 31, 2019. Point structure is subject to change in 2020.

STATE CHAPTER AWARDS



Less than 2,499 Members
 1st Nebraska State Chapter
 2nd South Dakota State Chapter
 3rd Utah State Chapter



2,500-4,999 Members
 1st Indiana State Chapter
 2nd Michigan State Chapter
 3rd New York State Chapter



5,000-7,499 Members
 1st Mississippi State Chapter
 2nd Florida State Chapter
 3rd Virginia State Chapter



7,500-9,999 Members
 1st Missouri State Chapter
 2nd Alabama State Chapter
 3rd Illinois State Chapter



Over 10,000 Members
 1st Pennsylvania State Chapter
 2nd Tennessee State Chapter



Highest Membership
 North Carolina State University

CHAPTER FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS

- 2,000 points for each fundraising Hunting Heritage Banquet
- 1,000 points for all other NWTf registered fund-raising events
- 5,000 additional points for every new Hunting Heritage Banquet above \$3,500 net dollars raised held in the state
- 1 point for every \$1 net raised (includes membership) through a registered fundraising event

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

- 1 point for every membership dollar raised (limit 25,000 points per member per fiscal year)

MISSION DELIVERY

- 1 point for every \$1 spent from state Super Fund on habitat, conservation, and/or hunter recruitment
- 500 points for every Women In The Outdoors, Wheelin' Sportsmen and/or JAKES event (registered and held by any chapter in the state)
- 500 points for every registered NWTf-sanctioned shooting event or calling contest (registered and held by any chapter in the state)

L.A. DIXON OUTSTANDING COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CHAPTER AWARDS



Highest Net
 University of Alabama

Matt Van Cise stands alone

Van Cise passes Walter Parrott for most Senior Division titles and ties record for most Friction Division wins.

The greatest competition turkey caller of all time doubled up at the 2020 Grand National Calling Championships in Nashville.

Matt Van Cise, of Brookeville, Pennsylvania, won his record sixth Senior Division title and a record-tying fourth Friction Division championship, thrilling live and online audiences with unforgettable routines. Van Cise is the only caller to win both the Senior Division and Friction Division titles during the same convention. Van Cise scored 757.5 in the Senior Open, topping a star-studded field. 2018 Senior division champ Dave Owens was the first runner-up, with a score of 746. Van Cise's Senior win moved him ahead of previous record holder Walter Parrott, who claimed five. Van Cise's Friction triumph moved him into a tie with Bobby Woods, who has also won four.

"I wanted to be focused, but I wanted to have a good time with it, so I sat back and enjoyed everything this year," Van Cise said.

2020 marked the fourth year in which Senior Open contestants performed two real-world scenarios instead of running

through separate compulsory calls. The first scenario involved a spring early-season wake-up in a South Carolina cypress swamp, with a mixed flock of mature hens, gobblers, young hens and young gobblers. The compulsory calls were the fly-down cackle, yelp of an exited hen, cutting, and cluck and purr. The second scenario involved a scattered fall mixed flock of young and old hens, young gobblers and a small group of mature gobblers converging on a small hardwood ridge in Pennsylvania. Compulsory calls were the old hen assembly call, kee-kee run, gobbler yelps and fighting purr.

Callers were scored for each compulsory call and their overall presentation. The six Senior Open finals judges faced away from competitors during calling but then turned around to provide live feedback afterward. For the first time in several years, the high and low scores for each scenario and caller were discarded.

"The scenario format has been an absolute blast," Van Cise said. "It's entertaining for people to watch. When you're on the stage, it's a different atmosphere, and it's fun."

NWTF live-streamed the GNCC events on Facebook, and as in 2018 and 2019, the response was tremendous. Pete Muller, NWTF public relations manager, said the live feed for the Senior Finals had more than 384,000 views with a reach of 1.168 million (all contests).

The Team Air and Friction Challenge, in its second year, also proved popular, as 25 two-man teams — a full field — competed. Each team had to perform three calls on air-operated instruments and three on friction calls, and each team member had to produce three calls. Terence Williamson, of Gordo, Alabama, and Hunter Wallis, of Greenfield Township, Pennsylvania, won the event for the second consecutive year.

Meanwhile, Van Cise is already looking toward 2021, but he intends to savor the 2020 GNCCs for a while.

"My closest friends are from turkey calling," he said. "To be up there and have your competitors — people you've competed against for 25 years, and who you wouldn't think would be that way — be as emotional as I was that I won, that's worth more than the championship will ever be." — *Brian Lovett*



JAMI LINDER
Turkey Country May/June 2020

Anatomy of a JAKES Event: Warrior Trail JAKES Hunt

How would you design a day to introduce as many kids as possible to the outdoors? The Warrior Trail Gobblers NWTF Chapter in Greene County, Pennsylvania, has created the model. Its annual Don McCormick Memorial JAKES Day on Pennsylvania's spring turkey youth day is one of the biggest JAKES events in the nation.

Words like “awesome” and “incredible” fall far short of describing the kids, the hunt and the whole event. During the 2018 hunt, 100 kids shot 31 gobblers. In 2019, the event grew to almost 150 kids, who shot 27 birds. That mark of success is only a small part of the story. Chapter President Guy Hostutler heads the event with about 30 people out front and behind the scenes. The event puts kids in the field to hunt turkeys and engages parents, friends and volunteers in mentoring young hunters. About 25% of the kids have never hunted before, and, in many cases, entire families come together for the day.

IT'S MORE THAN A HUNT

Most of the chapter's work centers on youth, and the event is the climax to year-long planning. Participants gather after the morning hunt for camaraderie and storytelling as officials measure and weigh each wild turkey. Host sponsor Hunting Hills Shooting Preserve in Dilliner, Pennsylvania, offers its lodge as headquarters, where participants eat lunch, learn from seminars and win donated prizes.

The Warrior Trail Gobblers solicit cooperation from people, businesses and organizations that want to see kids have a positive experience. The goal isn't to kill turkeys. It's to put today's kids back in contact with the outdoors and make it a meaningful and desirable destination for them.

FUNDING

The chapter's commitment to making the event free for young hunters means raising money. A grant from Chevron Corporation in 2018 started the financial ball rolling. Other funding comes from the chapter itself through fundraisers, and many individuals and businesses kick in additional dollars because they see the value of this program. Pansy McConnell holds an annual sporting clays shoot in memory of her son, Ben, and raises more than \$5,000 for the event.

“I do this so that money won't be an issue for kids who want to attend,” she said. “And I do this for Ben. Someone told me, ‘Don't learn to live

without your son. Let him live through you.’ So that's what I'm doing.”

More than just hunters contribute. One-third of those who attend the chapter's annual fundraising banquet do not hunt, so the chapter is doing a great job communicating the value of hunting to nonhunters.

ROTATION ACTIVITIES

While the kids kill dozens of gobblers for a noteworthy photo op, the purpose of the event goes well beyond that. These kids are exposed to enough facets of the outdoor lifestyle that if they don't care for one thing, they'll engage in another. Volunteers rotate all the kids through seven stations where the purpose is fun and instruction. Stations include .22 shooting, shotgun shooting, 5-stand clay target shooting, trout fishing, predator trapping and turkey calling seminars and 3-D archery.

PRIZES FOR EVERYONE

It takes the entire year to gather over 200 door prizes, including more than 25 guns — everything from air guns to deer rifles. Three of the seminars teach respect for firearms and expose kids to the safety principles necessary to enjoy using them.

One hallmark of the event is that it is not a competition. The fact that everyone goes away a winner helps reinforce that. More than 100 turkey calls, plus dozens of knives, decoys and other useful hunting gear motivates kids to stay active. For the chapter, the big prize is the winning smile on the face of every youth.

MENTORS MODEL MENTORING

Phillip Coil, a dad from Lakewood, New York, assists with the event.

“When we were kids, no one had programs like this,” Coil said. “Back then, everyone assumed kids would naturally be interested in hunting, and dads would take care of introducing their kids to the outdoor sports.”



Autumn Albright with her first gobbler.

STEVE SORENSEN



Guy Hostutler teaches kids the finer points of turkey calling.

He's right. We can no longer assume kids will catch the hunting bug or that dads will guide kids into nature. In our mobile and urbanized society, the pull of sports stadiums and thumbing on technological toys compete with outdoor opportunities. If hunting is to survive as the primary support for wildlife, we can't let kids grow up unexposed to the outdoors, uninterested in its simple pleasures and inactive in conservation.

Some of the kids come from nonhunting homes, and several of the guides do not have their own kids. They take the kids to State Game Lands 223 and 179 (more than 13,500 acres), plus farms and other private lands that hold wild turkeys. A number of women are guides and mentors. Hostutler himself doesn't have a son or daughter involved, so he brings his 11-year-old cousin.

This high level of commitment rubs off. At the 2018 event, Dylan Hughes and Owen Hughes, NWTF/JAKES members themselves, each donated a gun they previously won at the Warrior Trail Chapter banquet held during the winter. They have the insight to realize that it's best to make sure prizes are spread around, so they asked that only kids who had never won a gun at a Warrior Trail event were eligible to enter the raffle for their guns.

A BOARD MEMBER'S PERSPECTIVE

Alan Johnson serves on the board of the Warrior Trail Gobblers Chapter and is manager of Ryerson Station State Park in Greene County. He's also a father whose son

is not old enough to hunt, but he has guided six different kids in this event. None were related to him.

Johnson recognizes that the way to expand the event is to encourage kids to invite their classmates.

"The answer to the question, 'Why don't you hunt?' is often, 'No one ever asked me to go!'"

Johnson said. "Every kid has friends who don't hunt or fish, or aren't active in the outdoors. So, by encouraging kids to ask their friends to come, more and more kids from nonhunting families are participating."

The second kid Johnson guided had a father who passed away serving in the Middle East. The boy wore his dad's military camo. Another kid wanted to check out every flower, plant a tree, often asking "What's that?" Rather than answer his questions, Johnson told him, "Take a picture, and look it up in this field guide. Then let me know!" Another didn't have camo to wear, so Johnson outfitted him with some of his own.

At the end of the hunt, he told the boy, "Keep it. You'll need it."

NOT A COMPETITION

It would be a mistake to make the event a competition because it isn't about who's the best hunter on one extreme, or "participation trophies" on the other. It's about making sure every youth is happy to be there, happy for others and goes home at the end of the day wishing it wouldn't end. And although each gobbler is measured and scored, and taxidermists offer mounts as prizes for several birds, no kid is honored above the others.

Twelve-year-old Autumn Albright is typical. What stood out for her was meeting new people, shooting guns she had never shot before and learning that hunters play the key role in wildlife conservation.

"And I killed my first turkey!" she added. What she didn't say was, "I killed the biggest."

WANTED: ALL KIDS

Every kid is welcome, not just local kids or the children of the Warrior Trail Chapter members. Besides Greene County, Pennsylvania, they come from Ohio, New York, West Virginia, northern Pennsylvania and Kentucky. Every kid has a real chance to kill a gobbler and goes home smiling with a love for the outdoors. — *Steve Sorensen*



Certified shooting coaches introduce kids to sporting clays shooting.

West Nile Virus Research Continues

Thanks to funding from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Multistate Conservation Grant and the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), the Game Commission partnership with the University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc., the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study and NWTf continued. The study is assessing and measuring the effects of experimentally infecting wild turkey poults and bobwhite quail chicks with West Nile Virus to determine if it may be impacting these game bird species as it is ruffed grouse. Turkey poults and quail chicks were inoculated with West Nile Virus in 2019; one group at about 7 weeks old and another at about 16 weeks old, with a control group (inoculated with a placebo) for each age group. All inoculated birds in the 7-week age group survived with no WNV-related effects. In the 16-week inoculated group no quail and only one turkey showed symptoms from WNV infection. Due to COVID19 closure of the laboratory this past spring/summer, further analyses are pending regarding the one turkey. All control birds from both age groups, housed with inoculated birds, showed no WNV infection and no virus was isolated in post-trial blood samples except for one turkey in the older age group. Further analyses are pending for this turkey.

Preliminary microscopic analyses for the younger age group show mild heart inflammation in some birds of both species and mild brain inflammation in some turkeys. Analyses of the older age group are pending. By the study end point all WNV-inoculated birds developed antibodies to WNV to help fight future infection. The study continues with testing for antibodies to WNV in the wild turkey population to understand the prevalence rate of antibodies and its role in fighting the virus. Presence of antibodies to WNV signifies that the bird survived infection and developed specific antibodies, which can circulate in the blood for years. During the fall 2019 wild turkey season, turkey hunters submitted blood samples from 194 turkeys across Pennsylvania. Of these, 34% had antibodies to WNV or a closely related virus. This percentage is higher than highly susceptible species, like the greater sage-grouse, suggesting some turkeys are surviving infection. Over the three-year study, determining antibody levels in relation to mosquito populations will provide more insight as to how varying factors influence WNV transmission. The Game Commission is coordinating fall turkey blood sample collections to include other Northeastern states during 2021 and 2022.



Drawing blood from an inoculated turkey at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study laboratory, July 2019.
Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study photo.

Wild Turkey Management; Turkey Trapping – Not for Transfers Anymore



Turkey gobbler leg-banded in February. Bands have a toll-free phone number and email address for ease of reporting.

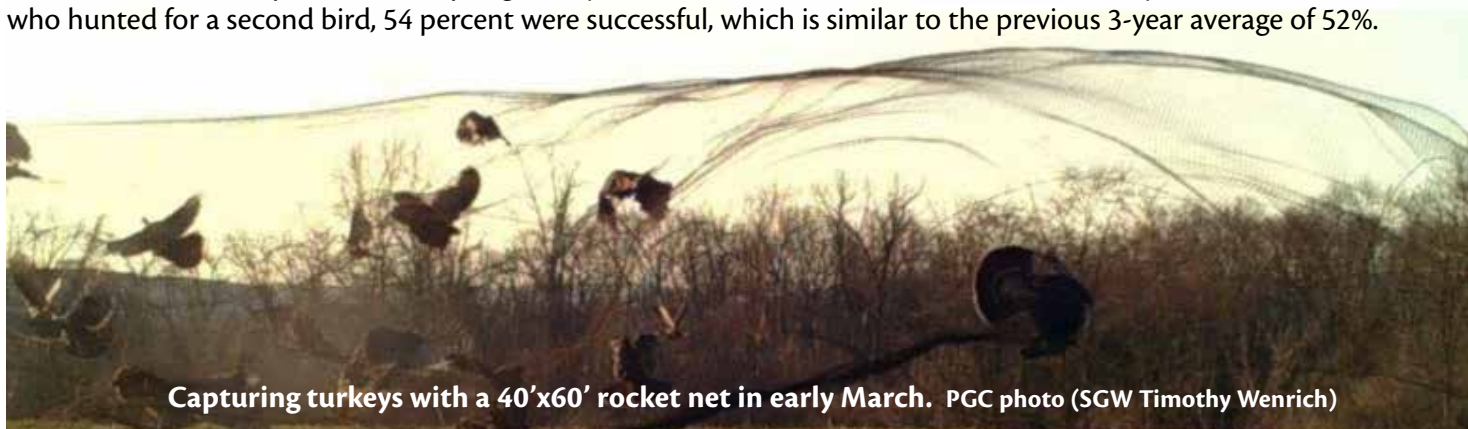
PGC photo (Biologist Jeremy Stempka)

Winter turkey trapping started again in 2020, not to transfer turkeys, but to leg-band male turkeys and release the birds at the trap sites. Reports of harvested turkeys, or those found dead, are being used to determine spring harvest rates and annual survival rates by Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) as part of the updated turkey population model. Creation of the new model is part of the population objective in the Game Commission wild turkey management plan, 2018-2027, <https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeSpecies/Turkey/Pages/default.aspx>. (or <http://bit.ly/PGCWildTurkey>.)

The estimated 2020 spring turkey population of 196,260 was 7 percent below 2019 (212,200) and 11 percent below the previous 10-year average (214,650). The management goal to allow the population to increase is achievable through continued habitat and harvest management to improve survival and reproductive success.

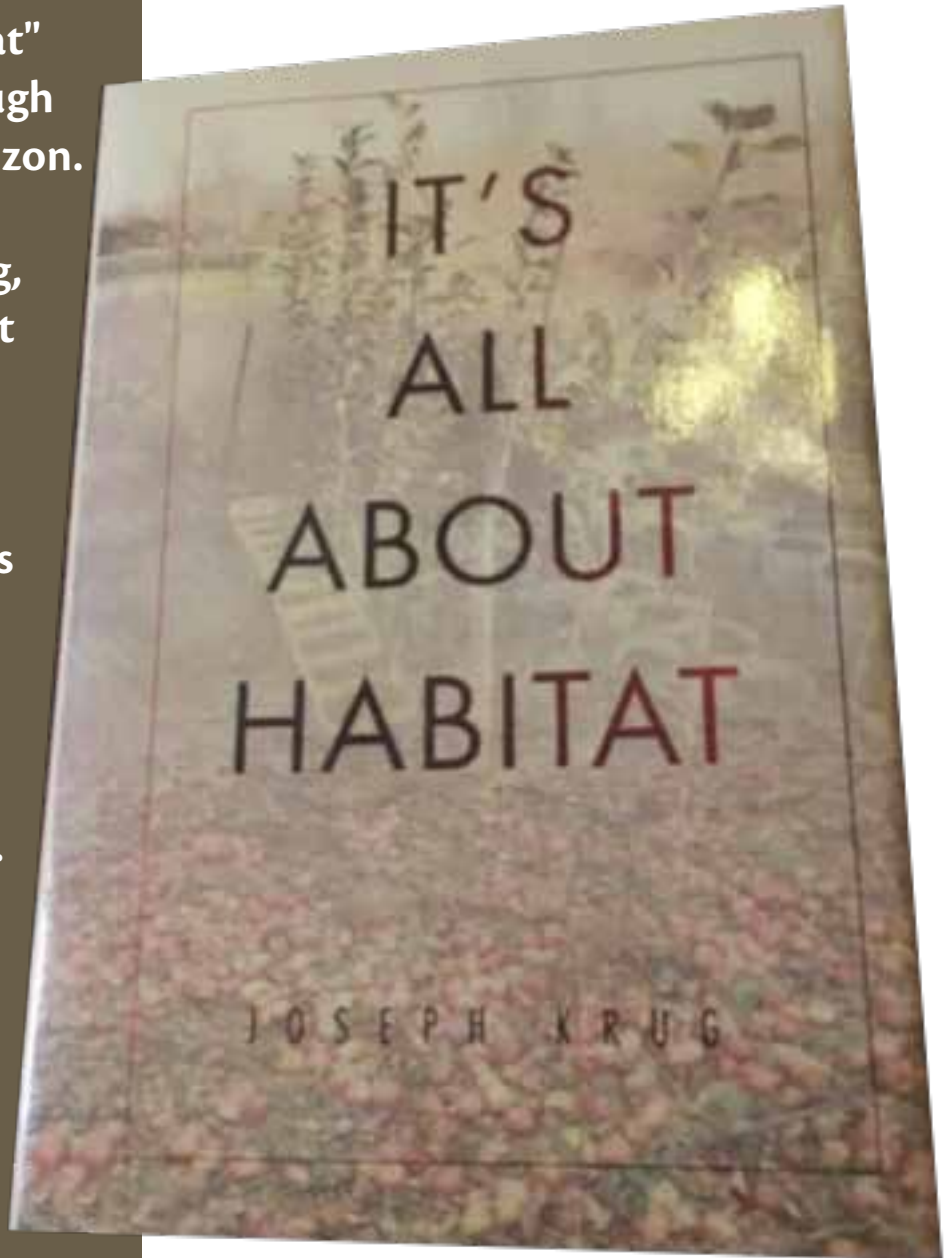
Wild Turkey Hunting

The fall 2019 harvest of 9,056 was similar to 2018 (9,219) and 7 percent below the previous 3-year (2016-18) average of 9,776. Part of this decrease is due to the 2019 Thanksgiving season being shortened from the standard 3 days to 2 days (to accommodate the deer rifle opener). In 2020 the Thanksgiving season will again be 3 days but will be Wednesday-Friday. Other factors that contributed to lower harvests included an abundant mast crop in some parts of the state, which made birds more difficult to locate; carryover effects of below average reproduction in 2018; and decreased hunter participation of 95,800, which was 18 percent below the previous 3-year average of 117,400. During the spring 2020 season, despite the 10 percent increase in turkey hunters from the previous 3-year average (189,440 and 171,700, respectively) the preliminary 2020 spring wild turkey harvest of 34,490 was 11 percent below the previous 3-year average (38,560), which included 3,730 second harvests (compared to the previous average of 4,640). More turkey hunters afield does not always translate to a larger harvest of this elusive bird. Hunter success for their first bird—16 percent—was lower than the previous 3-year average of 20 percent, but similar to the previous 10-year average of 16 percent. With the increase in the number of turkey hunters, sales of the special spring turkey license also increased in 2020 to 25,524—13.5 percent of all spring turkey hunters. Sales have exceeded 20,000 annually since 2017. Of those who hunted for a second bird, 54 percent were successful, which is similar to the previous 3-year average of 52%.



Capturing turkeys with a 40'x60' rocket net in early March. PGC photo (SGW Timothy Wenrich)

Joe Krugs recently published book "It's All About Habitat" will soon be available through Barnes and Noble and Amazon. Joe goes into great detail discussing grafting, growing, planting and caring for fruit trees planted for wildlife. Joe's manual will guide you through tree species selection, soil fertility issues and information on how to prevent tree and seedling mortality inflicted by deer, mice, bear, porcupines, rabbits, insects and blights. Also many helpful tips on forest and food plot management. If this book saves you (and it will) one tree or a handful of seedlings, it will have paid for itself!



NWTF has partnered with PGC, Letterkenny, and Pheasants Forever on a NFWF Monarch grant for 100k to plant 200 acres of expiring ag leases with native forbs and grasses within the quail restoration area located on Letterkenny Army Depot. We were asked to submit full proposal in June and the grant sounds promising. We will find out if successful at the end of October.





Pictured here is Bucky Shimp with his elk and guide, Vince Vigil of New Mexico Hunting Adventures.

My boys Mark, me and Norm, who made my dream come true. Shot October 1, 2020 at 6:35pm. 6x6 bull, 1,100 lb., 220 yards, one shot Barnes Vor-Tx 150 gr. at Valmor, N.M. hunt of a lifetime and a great time.



Custer Family Hunters

Levi Custer, 6 years old (above) harvested his longbeard April 25, 2020. Weight 17 lb., 9-3/4 in. beard, 1 in. spurs, 20 ga. at 20 yards.



Allan Custer (left) and Roger Custer (above) with their longbeards.

STATES	SUPER FUNDS SPENT FROM JAN-OCT 2019	OUTREACH FUNDS SPENT FROM JAN-OCT 2019	TOTAL SPENT SINCE 1985
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southeast REGION			
Alabama	\$218,032	\$0	\$3,184,075
Arkansas	\$91,887	\$0	\$3,049,926
Florida	\$108,251	\$2,100	\$3,202,531
Georgia	\$64,413	\$0	\$4,567,648
Kentucky	\$39,474	\$5,750	\$2,617,544
Louisiana	\$49,739	\$12,383	\$3,565,960
Mississippi	\$131,662	\$4,948	\$2,574,887
South Carolina	\$158,975	\$5,250	\$4,036,989
Tennessee	\$117,453	\$6,221	\$3,271,210
REGIONAL TOTAL	\$979,686	\$36,651	\$30,070,769

northeast REGION

Connecticut	\$601	\$0	\$212,088
Delaware	\$19,890	\$0	\$328,567
Massachusetts	\$4,044	\$0	\$242,672
Maryland	\$29,398	\$3,000	\$1,148,144
Maine	\$1,184	\$0	\$274,538
New Hampshire	\$6,519	\$0	\$188,012
New Jersey	\$9,338	\$0	\$590,889
New York	\$78,158	\$2,324	\$2,724,813
North Carolina	\$276,315	\$2,000	\$4,046,721
Ohio	\$100,310	\$7,335	\$4,482,390
Pennsylvania	\$201,679	\$38,249	\$7,311,436
Rhode Island	\$0	\$0	\$41,366
Vermont	\$7,607	\$0	\$297,276
Virginia	\$134,112	\$0	\$3,021,417
West Virginia	\$72,270	\$1,950	\$1,619,188
REGIONAL TOTAL	\$941,424	\$54,858	\$26,529,517

midwest REGION

Illinois	\$133,021	\$950	\$5,222,751
Indiana	\$95,319	\$3,789	\$2,711,018
Iowa	\$175,124	\$0	\$5,813,276
Michigan	\$100,180	\$1,200	\$4,199,998
Minnesota	\$113,821	\$250	\$3,584,562
Missouri	\$287,661	\$0	\$5,381,596
Wisconsin	\$85,036	\$1,000	\$5,407,641
REGIONAL TOTAL	\$990,163	\$7,189	\$32,320,842



State and local NWTf chapters use Hunting Heritage Super Fund and Outreach Fund dollars for the betterment of wildlife and hunting.

Through the grassroots efforts of chapter volunteers, the NWTf has become a leader in conservation. With your continued support, the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of our hunting heritage will continue to be our purpose and call to action.

With year seven of the 10-year initiative complete, the NWTf has already reached two of the three goals set forth in the Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt, initiative.

Conserve or Enhance 4 million acres of wildlife habitat.
7-Year Total: 3,583,469 Acres

Recruit 1.5 million hunters
7-Year Total: 1,526,852*
*includes Families Afield
Goal surpassed in 2019

Open access to 500,000 acres for hunting
7-Year Total: 626,658 Acres
Goal surpassed in 2018

STATES	SUPER FUNDS SPENT FROM JAN-OCT 2019	OUTREACH FUNDS SPENT FROM JAN-OCT 2019	TOTAL SPENT SINCE 1985
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west REGION

Alaska	\$0	\$0	\$120,773
Arizona	\$20,919	\$0	\$1,119,493
California	\$37,397	\$3,800	\$2,712,613
Colorado	\$20,256	\$0	\$995,774
Hawaii	\$1,097	\$0	\$33,999
Idaho	\$8,259	\$0	\$738,261
Montana	\$20,590	\$0	\$534,858
New Mexico	\$5,500	\$500	\$492,062
Nevada	\$3,418	\$0	\$313,759
Oregon	\$9,745	\$0	\$504,886
Utah	\$29,295	\$0	\$1,378,977
Washington	\$10,762	\$0	\$607,279
Wyoming	\$8,886	\$0	\$1,016,037
REGIONAL TOTAL	\$176,124	\$4,300	\$10,568,771

STATES	SUPER FUNDS SPENT FROM JAN-OCT 2019	OUTREACH FUNDS SPENT FROM JAN-OCT 2019	TOTAL SPENT SINCE 1985
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central REGION

Kansas	\$73,132	\$0	\$1,784,963
Nebraska	\$62,512	\$2,275	\$1,989,913
North Dakota	\$36,342	\$0	\$494,584
Oklahoma	\$72,010	\$2,500	\$2,174,127
South Dakota	\$49,055	\$3,000	\$1,493,182
Texas	\$90,568	\$0	\$7,821,478
REGIONAL TOTAL	\$383,620	\$7,775	\$15,758,247

NWTF.org

For more information on our Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt Initiative, visit NWTF.org.

NWTF exceeds goal of 1.5 million hunters recruited

More than 1.5 million new or formerly lapsed hunters are hitting the woods thanks to the NWTF and its partners.

By NWTF chapters and volunteers working with state wildlife agencies and conservation partners across the country, the NWTF exceeded its Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative 10-year goal by recruiting and reactivating nearly 1,527,000 hunters three years ahead of schedule.

“A general decline in hunters since the 1980s has been a direct threat to a cherished outdoor lifestyle and a crucial funding source for conservation work in the United States,” NWTF CEO Becky Humphries said. “The NWTF recognized this trend early and was at the forefront of finding solutions



to reverse the decline. Our efforts to help develop and implement hunter Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation programs along with our partners have made a tremendous impact, but we still have a long way to go to completely reverse the trend.”

NWTF chapters and volunteers took up the call and have supported these efforts by hosting mentored hunts, hunter education classes, learn to hunt clinics, wild game cooking sessions and a number of other events to attract lapsed hunters as well as new-to-hunting adults and youth to the outdoors.

Reducing barriers was also key. The



Families Afield partnership with the National Shooting Sports Foundation and the Sportsmen’s Alliance works through policy makers and regulatory offices to increase opportunities and reduce barriers, such as age restrictions on young hunters and the creation of apprentice licenses that allow first-timers to experience hunting under the supervision of an experienced hunter before going through a hunter education class.

“The Save the Hunt. goal of 1.5 million hunters was part of a greater action by a large network of partners working hand-in-hand to boost hunter numbers, but we won’t stop there,” said Mandy Harling, NWTF director of Hunting Heritage Programs. “Even though we’ve reached and exceeded our goal, there is more work to do. With such a large force of partners working in concert, there’s no telling where this momentum will carry us.”

The NWTF already exceeded its Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative goal of opening hunting access to 500,000 new acres by 2022. As of Sept. 1, the NWTF had opened more than 626,000 acres to public hunting and recreational use.

“This is just one more example of how our chapters, volunteers and partners are

focusing efforts for the benefit of wildlife, natural resources and the hunting lifestyle,” Humphries said. “Together, we will continue to capitalize on opportunities around the U.S. to open land to hunters, reducing an impediment that historically keeps people from hunting while providing new and veteran hunters places to go.”



MENTOR/DOVE: JASON RIKARD; GROUP: NWTF STAFF Turkey Country January/February 2020

Pint-sized pollinator plots can have gallon-sized impact

Plant small corners and odd spots for bee and butterfly habitat that benefits bigger critters, too.



Populations of monarch butterflies and bees are facing significant challenges in North America. As a landowner or manager, you can do something simple to help: Plant pollinator habitat. Little spots and forgotten corners — from the size of a kitchen table to a kitchen itself, or even an acre — make a huge difference for pollinators on the landscape. And, other wildlife benefit, too.

TIMING

“If you’re going to seed-in a plot, autumn is the best time to do it,” said Drew Larsen, director of habitat education for fellow conservation organizations Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever. “The majority of what you’ll be planting will be wildflower seeds. They have a hard coat that requires winter’s freeze-thaw cycle to break down that coat so the seed can sprout.”

Think October to late November, depending on where you live, until the ground is frozen. You can also seed in spring, but seeds need to have gone through a winter cycle.

SITE PREP

Getting seed onto the ground is a simple three-step process. First, remove existing vegetation, Larsen said.

“Mow it first, then use a herbicide,” he said. “On really small plots, you can weigh down black plastic on the ground for a couple weeks after mowing to kill what’s underneath.”

Next, remove any remaining vegetation so seed can contact open ground and bare dirt.

“There’s no need to till, as that could encourage weeds,” he said.

Finally, broadcast your seed.

“Wildflower seeds are tiny,” Larsen said. “You can hand toss them, or use a hand-held spreader. You want to work to get a nice, even distribution.”

Consider rolling or tamping lightly so seed assuredly makes contact with the ground.

SEED SOURCES

NWTF partner Mossy Oak Nativ Nurseries is a good source for native wildflower seed. Most products are available at the NWTF

Seed Store (seedstore.nwtf.org). Try their Pollinator Package or Full Bloom packets, or a combination of individual species packets such as purple coneflower, swamp milkweed, butterfly milkweed, black-eyed Susan (*rudbeckia*), blanket flower (*garillardia*), prairie clover, cardinal flower and lupine.

“Any good pollinator plot seed mix, whether you buy a pre-mix or build your own, should contain at least two species of milkweed and three species that will bloom in each of the three bloom periods — spring, summer and fall,” Larsen said. “Those are minimums. More is better. No matter where you shop and buy, the key is to get certified seed from wildflowers native to your area. They will grow best.”

STARTED PLANTS

In really small plots, you may choose to plant living, started plants. Results certainly come faster. Do it in early fall, or in spring after the last frost. Costs will be higher, but in a small space, the quick results and rewards may be worth it. Plus, those perennial plants will spread and seed themselves.

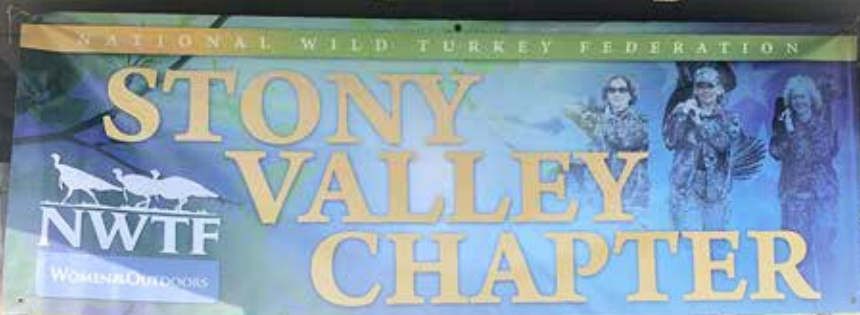
Some common milkweed may well “volunteer” on its own and that’s good. You can also get milkweed seeds and scatter them when you plant live plants.

WIN-WIN

In addition to pollinators, songbirds thrive, cotton-tailed rabbits find haven and whitetails browse in the habitat.

“And gamebirds love pollinator plots for nesting and brood-rearing,” Larsen said. “The bare ground beneath the stems is better than grass for young birds to move around and hunt insects, which also thrive in the habitat. I have seen successful wild turkey nests in pollinator plots as small as a half-acre.”

Got an oddball corner, forgotten swale, roadside ditch or section of backyard yearning to be wildlife-friendly? Plant a pint-sized pollinator plot. — *Tom Carpenter*



Kayaking and Kickin' Back with Stony

By: Abbie Shireman, WITO Coordinator – Stony Valley Chapter NWTF

Sunday, July 19th was the perfect day to be on the water relaxing in a kayak...
at least, that's how Stony Valley Chapter saw it.

This year we had 10 women enjoying the outdoors once again at Memorial Lake at Fort Indiantown Gap. Some were experienced kayakers while others were new to the sport.

This event was a huge success in every way! Women ranging in age from 15 to 60 enjoyed the day together while we observed the social distancing and sanitizing rules of this summer. There was laughter and conversation and even an old friend reunion! Two of our women showed up and were reunited with tears of joy after 2 years apart. Imagine running into someone at an event for a sport you both enjoy!! And that right there, is the magic of WITO: women of all ages enjoying a common interest that repeatedly brings us together in fellowship and joy while enjoying nature.

This was the first event for our chapter since our shooting day in October of 2018 at Blue Ridge Sportsman Club. Due to a motorcycle accident in 2019 this author was not able to host any Stony Valley WITO events. So, in many ways WITO is a constant tie that binds, even overcoming time and harsh realities. If ever there was a time to become a member of NWTF it would be now. It has stood the test of time, and we will do everything in our power to give it what it has given us: life.

To the women that attended this event, please know you make my heart happy and I hope to see you all at our next event. To all the women who are interested in joining the NWTF and WITO family, I welcome you with open arms and can't wait to meet you.

TURKEY CALLS

ON THE HUNT



Here's a three-bone wingbone yelper made by Scott Basehore, with a gobbler drawing, thread wraps and a lip stop. Hunters can undertake similar projects at home.

How to build a wingbone yelper

Many turkey hunters want to create their own wingbones but are intimidated by the process. Actually, the project is fairly easy — and enjoyable.

HERE'S HOW TO CRAFT A UNIQUE WINGBONE YELPER IN STEP-BY-STEP DETAIL.

BONE REMOVAL

Find where the bird's wing joint and body meet. Remove the wing from the turkey by twisting and cutting it free from the socket joint. Do this with both wings. Be careful not to break the wing bones. After that, remove the radius, ulna and humerus bones, all still attached.

BONE CUTS AND CLEANING

Separate the bones carefully. Gently scrape the feathers and meat away with a knife. Place the radius (the thinner of the two middle wing bones), the ulna (the thicker of the two) and the humerus (the largest bone) into a small pot of gently boiling water with a tablespoon of dishwashing liquid. Twenty minutes or so will do. Carefully remove the bones, let them cool and then scrape the remaining residue off.

Next, cut off both ends of the bones with a small hacksaw — just enough to expose the insides. Remove the marrow with a pipe cleaner, piece of wire or thin nylon cable ties. Carefully clean the interior bone ends with a knife tip. Gently boil the bones another five minutes for one more cleaning. Afterward, soak the bones in undiluted hydrogen peroxide overnight to brighten them. Then dry the bones thoroughly.

BONE FITS AND OPTIONS

Study the bones. The radius has a rounded end and a flattened end (a perfect mouthpiece). Handle the other two. Check bone fits before gluing.

Insert the rounded radius bone end into the ulna. Sand the ends gently if needed. Use epoxy glue for an airtight fit. Let them dry, balancing no-glued ends. Two-bone yelpers make clucks and yelps just fine. Other call makers add the humerus bone

for sound projection. To do this, insert the ulna's other end into the smaller end of the humerus. Glue them for a tight fit. When your wingbone yelper is ready, carefully file off any rough edges, especially near the radius bone's flat mouthpiece end.

Check the glue seals. If necessary, gently touch it up with sandpaper.

BONE DRESSINGS

For a lip stop, slide a black rubber plumbing washer just below the flat radius mouthpiece. A quarter-inch section of a radius bone — cut from the round end of the radius bone before you build the call — can be glued on the wingbone yelper for a lanyard ring. Some call makers strengthen glued connections with thread wraps. You can also inscribe hunting memories on the bones with an ultra-fine permanent marker. Light epoxy or a spray fixative can preserve written details or drawings, though most fade a bit with time. The memories likely won't. — *Steve Hickoff*

GOBBLER AND HEN BONES

The late Virginia turkey dogger John Byrne shared this with me in the 1990s. Mature gobbler wingbones hold gobbler clucks and yelps. Adult hen wingbones make high-pitched yelps and clucks. And the same holds true for young birds of both sexes, including kee-kees, though volume might be lacking depending on the size and age of the bird. — *S.H.*

Perfect Pursuit

The outdoors provides us with more than a precious playground. It gives us purpose. Purpose to stay connected to nature and life itself. Purpose to stay grounded as we respect time-honored traditions, and purpose to share wisdom as we inspire the next generation to be greater than the one before. The total outdoor experience affirms our position that hunting is so much more than a sport. It is a calling – a perfect pursuit.

Today, the importance of instilling an appreciation for the shooting sports, the great outdoors, and our individual rights almost defies description. At a time when individual freedoms and rights are at risk, it is important to objectively inform and to meticulously teach the current generation exactly what is in jeopardy for their future.

In a society inundated with charitable enterprises and volunteer programs, the opportunities to reach out to young people in need are endless. Children

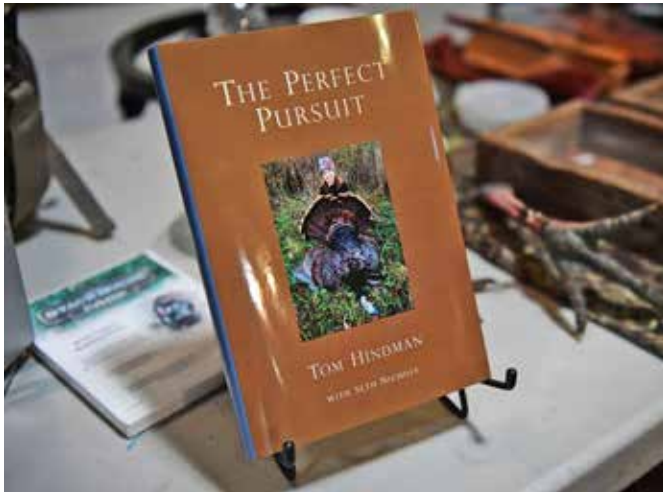
are recognized as an impressionable group, in need of positive bearing, structure and stability. With the current generation's outdoor experiences being replaced by television, participation trophies, and addictive video games, there is no greater time than now to be a role model to a child – especially a youngster with interest and desire.

We can no longer assume that someone else is taking care of the rite of passage issues. In a current generation in which firearms are spoken about negatively and hunting is portrayed as inhumane and absolutely unnecessary, children are losing the traditional meaning of these sacred rights.

A child gains so many life lessons and values from a responsible adult passing on our shooting heritage. The overall experience instills a strong, and sometimes immeasurable sense of confidence, wholesome respect and well-being in the everyday life of the child.

The greatest reward is having the privilege of sharing a cherished legacy. With more individuals willing to make the commitment to reach out and pave a positive, influential path, the upcoming generation will see a bright future ahead for outdoor pursuits, shooting sports and Second-Amendment rights.

Our bottom-line endeavor must be to LEAD BY EXAMPLE...and to carry our position with bearing.



The Perfect Pursuit makes a perfect read...

The Stackhouse Park, Inc. Board of Directors is thrilled to announce that William "Tom" Hindman has published his memoir, *The Perfect Pursuit*. We invite you to celebrate this achievement by spreading the good news, and we encourage lovers of life, hunting, and nature to purchase Tom's book.

The Perfect Pursuit, the author's third book, is available in a limited-edition print run of 350 numbered copies from Wild River Press, a reputable publisher of outdoor life based in Washington State. To order, please mail a check of \$40.00 + shipping payable to "Tom Hindman" at 1636 Sunshine Ave., Johnstown, PA 15905. Feel free to call Tom for info on free local shipping and other details at (814) 525-2303.

The Perfect Pursuit is an excellent gift idea for anyone who wants to support local authors, learn about nature, or enjoy

the adventures of a philosopher and consummate wild turkey enthusiast. And, thanks to Tom, you can support Stackhouse Park in the process! A significant portion of the proceeds from book sales are being donated to the Park. It has been his classroom for decades, and giving back is his way of saying Thank You. After years spent serving on the Park's Board of Directors, Tom has come to realize that "conservationists and environmentalists can work together toward a common goal."

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 \$26.00 to PennDot. Your plate should arrive in two to three weeks.



Mark Your Calendar!

2021 Pennsylvania Hunting Heritage Banquets

We are excited to once again be hosting Hunting Heritage Banquets and other Conservation Events throughout Pennsylvania. To see the most current and accurate list of events, go to our website at NWTF.org and search the Events tab for events being held across Pennsylvania.

The NWTF staff and its volunteers are committed to your health and the health of your community. While we will do our best to make all banquets and activities the fun and exciting events we all enjoy, we will be strictly following all Federal, State and Local, as well as, the CDC guidelines at all 2020/2021 events.

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our dedicated Pennsylvania Regional Directors as follows:

Western PA - **Skip Motts** 570-460-1495 • smotts@nwtf.net

Eastern PA - **Scott Wojton** 610-462-4146 • swojton@nwtf.net



INVEST *IN OUR* FUTURE

Conserve. Hunt. Share.



YES!

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.

Member Benefits

Join the NWTF and enjoy exclusive membership benefits, including:

- Subscriptions to the NWTF's magazines
- Networking opportunities with hunting and conservation-minded people at NWTF banquets.
- 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.

- 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: _____

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Credit Card #: _____

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(Make checks payable to NWTF)
Send complete application to:
**Skip Motts • 68 Railroad Grade Rd.,
Smethport, PA 16749**

www.panwtf.org