



PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and
Preservation of the Turkey Hunting Tradition

Pa. Chapter NWTF home page www.go2pa.com/panwtf E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

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Attention PA Board Members:

Friday Jan. 9, 2003 the Executive Board will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Ramada Inn in State College, PA

Saturday, Jan 10, 2003 the PA Chapter NWTF Annual Rendezvous and Awards Banquet will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Ramada Inn.

Sunday, Jan. 11, 2003 the State Board meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Ramada Inn.

**PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NWTF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
S.B. ELLIOTT PARK, DISTRICT,
DISTRICT 9 OFFICE OF MOSHANNON STATE FOREST
OCTOBER 4, 2003**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Carl Mowry at 9:15 a.m. After the welcome, call to order, Pledge of Allegiance and the review of the ground rules, President Carl Mowry moved into the officer reports.

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT REPORT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - *Carl Mowry*
presented a written report.

VICE PRESIDENT - *Dwight Kuntz* gave a vocal report.

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* presented a written report. August 1, 2003 to September 30, 2003. Starting Balance \$26,515.58. Income \$2,780.35. Expenses \$7,624.65. Ending Balance \$21,671.28. Net Gain (Loss) (\$4,844.30). **Moved by *Rhonda Henry* to accept the treasurer's report with a second from *Dwight Kuntz*. Motion carried.**

SECRETARY REPORT - by *Bill Mackereth*. A motion to accept the secretary's report as corrected was made by *Tom Bundy* and seconded by *Dave Burdge*. Motion carried.

SENIOR REGIONAL SUPERVISOR - *Jerry Zimmerman* presented a written report.

RD REPORT

MEMBERSHIP:	TOTAL:	21,881
	ADULTS:	12,257
	WITO:	2,037
	JAKES:	6,993
	WHSP:	594

PA SUPER FUND BALANCE: As of 10/2 = \$10,392

WH SPORTSMAN FUNDRAISERS:

YOUTH CLINICS:

REMINDER OF NAMES FOR HANDICAPPED HUNT IN JANUARY>

REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - *Larry Holjencin* presented a written report.

National Convention - Hotels - Crowne will be sold out soon.

- Red Roof and Drury Inn are overflow hotels.

Entertainment - Thursday night - Welcome Party - Pam Tillis - Killer BEAZ, Comedian.

Friday AM - Breakfast - Speaker - Wayne La Pierre

Saturday evening - Ricky Skaggs

Sunday AM Worship Service - The Whites

Registration forms will be mailed in mid October to Chapter presidents, banquet chairman, Jakes, WITO and Wheelin' Sportsmen coordinators

- also people that attended either of the last two conventions will receive a registration form

- if you don't get a form by the end of October call NWTf

Conservation Seed - All local chapter presidents were sent a letter and order form from headquarters to order their seed direct from headquarters. This was an error as our chapter orders through *Reed Johnson* and he places a master order. A letter will be mailed next week telling presidents to ignore the letter from NWTf and to order the seed through *Reed*.

Terrace Mtn. Chapter - WS hunt - last day of deer season - Raystown Lake

- need volunteers to drive deer and assist disabled

Lloyd Dell 814-643-4997

News Release - Wheelin' Sportsmen Disabled Deer Hunt

The Army Corps of Engineers at Raystown

WHEELIN' SPORTSMEN DISABLED DEER HUNT

The Army Corps of Engineers at Raytown Lake in cooperation with the Terrace Mountain Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation is announcing the 2nd annual Wheelin' Sportsmen antler less deer hunt. This event will be held on December 13, 2003, at the Seven Points Recreation area. This event is designed to give individuals with disabilities a chance to enjoy the outdoors. Each disabled hunter will be paired with an able body individual at each hunting location. This event also allows the Corps to reach some of their deer management goals.

All hunters and volunteers must attend a mandatory safety meeting to be held at 6:30 PM Friday, December 12, at the Seven Points Visitor Center. All participants must have a current Pennsylvania hunting license. The Corps of Engineers biologists must check all harvest animals. All hunters can receive a Deer Management Assistance Program or DMAP antlerless license coupon at the Ranger office in the Seven Points Visitor Center. This coupon must be picked up 30 days prior to the event and redeemed at the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Harrisburg Headquarters. For more information on the DMAP license contact Wildlife Biologist Jeff Krause at 814-658-6813. All other areas around Seven Points Recreation Area is open to public hunting and all Pennsylvania Game Commission hunting regulations and Corps of Engineer's Title 36 rules and regulations must be followed.

A hot lunch will be provided by the Terrace Mountain Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation and will be held at the Seven Points maintenance compound. Any disabled individuals or volunteers wishing to participate in this event should call Vickie Parks at 814-669-9160 or Lloyd Dell at 814-643-4997 to receive a registration packet. Last years event had a 100% success rate with all the disabled hunters harvesting a deer. For more information about last year's event look on the web at http://raystown.nab.usace.army.mil/LandManagement/wheelin_sportsman-event.htm.

Dwight R. Beall

Manager, Raystown Lake

SENIOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR - *Bob Farkasovsky* was absent.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - *Tammy Mowry* was absent but the board was given a written report. I apologize for not being at this meeting. I'm attending the Wolfcreek Longbeards WITO event in New Castle.

Our new fiscal year began September 1. We currently have 14 events scheduled for the new fiscal year. Last year we had 23 events in the state. My goal for 2004 is to have 30 events in the state. Any help you can provide me with in identifying chapters/businesses that would be willing to host an event would be greatly appreciated.

I attended our regional staff meeting in Edgefield in September and came back with a lot of new ideas and plans for this coming year. As I meet with each committee I will give them an update.

The 2004 State event is scheduled for March 26-28. I'm currently working on the registration form so that the mailing will be ready by the end of the year. An article and registration form will also be submitted to Turkey Talk. The participants will have the choice of approximately 17 different classes and will then participate in 7 during the weekend. Once again *Carl* and *Bob Eriksen* will be teaching the "Talkin' Turkey" class. If you are interested in teaching a class, please let me know. Likewise if you would like to help throughout the weekend, all help would be greatly appreciated.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL BIOLOGIST - *Bob Eriksen* presented a written report.

Chapter Events and Meetings

Two Wild Turkey Woodlands field days were planned and coordinated in New York. One field day was held in Madison County, in central New York and the other was held in Wyoming County in western New York. The field days were hosted by landowners Mike and Sue Welshko and Larry and Carol Becker along with local chapter members. Both events were outstanding successes with attendance of more than thirty landowners at each event.

The regional biologist participated in the Pennsylvania State Chapter JAKES event held in Clearfield County. Sessions on wild turkey behavior and biology included a slide presentation and a "turkey walk".

A chapter presidents' leadership workshop was attended in Ohio. A presentation was made on the NWTF/Arizona Game and Fish Gould's Turkey Restoration Program was presented.

US Forest Service National Forest Plan Revision meetings were attended at State College for Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania and in Hector, New York for the Finger Lakes National Forest. On the state level, a meeting on the Pennsylvania State Forest Plan Revision was attended in Bartonsville, Monroe County.

The Northeast Wild Turkey Technical Committee meeting was attended in Blue Hill, Maine, where the regional biologist presented a program on NWTR Research Projects and participated in discussions on wild turkey management and crop depredation issues.

The regional biologist attended the fall convention of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's clubs (PFSC) and made a presentation on the stand of the PA State Chapter on the issue of new orange requirements for hunters.

The August Board meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter was attended and a presentation made on habitat management techniques.

Writing Projects

Six articles were prepared for the fall issue of The Caller. Three were on Pennsylvania topics, two were on Ohio and one covered the New Jersey spring season results. Two articles were written for the fall issue of PA Turkey Talk and one article was prepared for the winter issue of Hunt Club Digest. The Turkey Talk articles focused on habitat projects initiated by two chapters and on following up on past projects to be sure that they are still benefiting turkeys. An article was co-authored with PGC Biologist *Mary Jo Casalena* for the October issue of Pennsylvania Game News. The article covered the impacts and concerns biologists consider when planning fall turkey seasons.

Special Projects

Fourteen surveillance cameras were placed in a vineyard in Chautauqua County in western New York. The cameras were randomly placed to record losses of grapes to wildlife. The landowner believed that wild turkeys were causing substantial damage to his grape crop every year. A similar program run for two years in the Napa Valley of California showed convincingly that turkeys were responsible for very little damage to grapes. Other wild animals did most of the damage at night. Preliminary results in this vineyard appear to show that deer and raccoons are the primary cause of grape losses. Additional cameras will be placed in the vineyard before the grapes are harvested.

The regional biologist is currently working with the Massachusetts Division of Wildlife on a media event involving the release of live-trapped turkeys just prior to Thanksgiving. Trapping will take place two or three days before the release, which is scheduled for November 18.

PGC Biologist *Mary Jo Casalena* and the NWTF Regional Biologist have cooperated on the preparation of a "white paper" on options for providing additional opportunity to turkey hunters in the Commonwealth. The "white paper" will be available to the commissioners this month.

A mast survey was conducted for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. The survey covered sample plots in three northern counties and sampled four varieties of oaks, beech trees, cherry trees, hickory, walnut, flowering dogwood, black haw, apple and grape vines.

The NWTF regional biologist is working with biologists from Connecticut and Rhode Island on a formal paper on crop losses to wild turkeys in the US and Canada. The paper has been submitted to the "Wildlife Society Bulletin".

Super Fund Projects

Four Super Fund project request forms were processed from Pennsylvania, one from New York and one from Delaware.

The regional biologist visited a project site on State Game Lands 217 with the PGC land manager and local chapter members. The project was somewhat behind schedule because of heavy rains this summer.

A site visit took place at the New Jersey Chapter Thunder Mountain Project on the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The regional biologist met with chapter members and land managers from the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife to plan mowing operations by division operators. In the past, the chapter had paid contractors to mow the 17-acre complex of fields to maintain good brood cover. Under the new arrangement, the division will help with maintenance in exchange for equipment purchases through the New Jersey Super Fund. The chapter began this project in 1987.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE - *Mary Jo Casalena* presented a written report.

NWTF Technical Committee Representatives' Report - PA Chapter of the NWTF's

Board of Directors Meeting

October 4, 2003 -

Statewide Wild Turkey Population Estimate and 2003 Wild Turkey Productivity

According to our harvest estimates and summer turkey surveys, Pennsylvania's spring wild turkey populations peaked in 1995 at approximately 307,475 turkeys and remained relatively stable but at slightly lower levels from 1996 – 2000 (Figure 1). A new record turkey population was reached in 2001, at approximately 409,870 turkeys. This population rise was most likely due to mild winter weather, good fall food production (especially in 1998 and 2000), above average recruitment (i.e., juveniles added to the fall population), and conservative fall hunting season length in some Turkey Management Areas. As expected after a record harvest year, the spring 2002 population decreased slightly to 342,900. However, the statewide 2003 spring turkey population showed growth again to approximately 363,900, due to above average recruitment in 2002. Although data for the 2003 nesting season are not available yet, it appears that recruitment from the first hatch was down, due to the cold, wet spring. Similar to the last two years, during the first hatching peak, in late May, cold rainy weather dominated, but conditions improved for second nesting attempts. However, we expect that many hens may not have renested because they lack the energy supplies to lay and incubate a second clutch due to the harsh winter and limited winter foods. We expect recruitment to be down from last year.

Fall harvests are related more to food availability and weather than to turkey reproduction. When fall turkey foods are abundant (nuts, grapes, etc.), wild turkey flocks are dispersed, making them difficult to locate and pattern. When food is scarce, flocks tend to concentrate around food supplies, such as agricultural fields and trees with abundant nut supplies. In many areas fall foods are abundant this year, so scout early to locate flocks and determine their pattern for a successful hunt.

Spring 2003 Wild Turkey Harvest

Preliminary spring 2003 harvest figures from report cards show an approximate harvest of 43,600 bearded birds. Final harvest figures will be available next fall. This may be the fourth consecutive year of a spring turkey harvest in excess of 40,000. Spring turkey harvests continue on an upward trend and have exceeded fall harvests for the last two years.

2002 Final Turkey Harvests

Total turkey harvest for 2002 was 78,493 (+/- 6,034). See Figure 2 at the end of this report. This was down 19 percent from the 2001 total of 97,194 (+/-6,351), which was a record harvest. We expected this year's harvest to be down after a record harvest year. Still, the 2002 total harvest was our fifth largest. Spring 2002 turkey harvest was 41,147 (+/- 3,744) bearded birds, down from the record 49,186 bearded birds in 2001. 2002 represented our third highest spring harvest, and the third consecutive year with a harvest greater than 40,000. Our fall 2002 harvest was 37,346 (+/- 3,561) birds. This was down from the fall 2001 harvest of 48,008, which was the second highest fall harvest on record. The record was set in 1995 with 49,748 turkeys.

On average, spring hunter success was 19 percent; well above our management goal and 10-year average of 15 percent. Hunter success ranged from 11 percent in TMA 7A in central PA, to 30 percent in TMA 9B in southeastern PA. Even though there were few hunters in TMA 9A in southeastern PA, where we are restoring turkey populations, hunter success was high, 36 percent.

On average, spring turkey hunters harvested 1.6 gobblers per forested square mile. As in past years, harvest densities were highest in western and eastern TMAs. Twenty-six percent of the state harvest was taken in TMA 1A in western PA with 5 gobblers harvested per forested square mile. Although TMA 9B accounted for only 7 percent of the state harvest, the harvest density was high with 6.2 gobblers harvested per forested square mile. Harvest density in TMA 1B, in northwestern Pennsylvania, was 4.1 birds per forested square mile, and accounted for 9 percent of the state harvest.

During the fall 2002 season, hunters averaged 1.4 turkeys per forested square mile. Harvest densities again were highest in TMA 1A (4 birds per forested square mile), 1B (3.2), and TMA 9B (2.6). TMA 1A accounted for 23 percent of the state harvest. Much of this harvest is due to the lengthening of the season from two to three weeks. TMA 7A, where the season also was increased to three weeks, accounted for 15 percent of the harvest.

On average, fall hunter success was 17 percent, but ranged from 11 percent in TMA 3 (north central PA) & 7B (south central PA) to 28 percent in TMA 1B. Average hunter success was below our management goal of 19 percent, but above the 10-year average of 16 percent. It is likely that our lower fall harvest was due to last year's drought and patchy crop of nuts and fruits, which may have scattered flocks in search of water and food. Fall harvests are more dependent on food availability and weather than turkey reproduction.

Wild Turkey Research in TMA 7B (now WMU 5A)

Results of the research project with management recommendations will be featured in an upcoming PA Game News entitled "South Mountain Turkeys – What's Happening?". Thanks to local chapter volunteers, BOF assistance and the financial support from the PANWTF this research project, in south central PA is proving to be a success. During the next four years we will continue to monitor the population and brood use of permanent herbaceous openings, on the Michaux State Forest within South Mountain.

A summary of the management recommendations follows.

Our 2.5 years of fieldwork along with a computerized population model, created by Penn State graduate student *Mark Lowles*, verified that sub-adult and poult mortality might be the population's limiting factors. Fall harvest rates of 15 percent were higher than the recommended maximum 10 percent. Also, nesting rates were lower than average. Lack of or insufficient brood habitat may be contributing to the low poult survival. With better habitat poult can avoid predators more effectively. Additional data will be collected over the next four years to determine the effect of brood habitat on poult survival. Although nesting and survival rates are low and brood habitat may be inadequate, the model showed the current population level appears to be stable, not increasing but also not decreasing.

From these results the following eight management recommendations were made:

1. Close the fall turkey season in WMU 5A beginning in 2003 and until spring harvest density reaches one gobbler per forested square mile, preferably for three consecutive years. The average spring harvest density from 1996-2000 in this unit was 0.52, whereas the statewide average was 1.4. During that period the fall season in this management unit was one week.

2. Closing the fall season may help the population in two ways. First, because fall turkey hunting is additive to natural mortality, closing the fall season will allow more birds to survive through the winter. Second, more hens will be available to nest, which may offset the low nesting rate and, subsequently, improve poult survival.

3. The turkey population in WMU 5A should not be augmented with turkey trap and transfers. Transferring additional turkeys may result in a short-term increase in the population, but it likely will not increase the overall population and will not provide more recreational opportunities for hunting or viewing wild turkeys. Improving survival by restricting fall hunting and improving habitat will have more impact in the long term. Continue the cooperative project with the PA National Wild Turkey Federation chapters and local orchard owners to help prevent poisoning of turkeys by placing rodenticides in enclosed bait stations rather than broadcasting it in the orchards. Even though these accidental poisonings have not been substantial, this human-induced mortality factor can be controlled. We began a program in 2002 to combat this issue, where the local NWTF chapters teamed up with an orchard to minimize exposure of rodenticides to nontarget species.

4. Monitor turkey brood use of the permanent herbaceous openings within the Michaux State Forest, to determine whether or not turkeys and broods are using these habitats, and whether improving the habitat will increase poult survival. These 1- to 4-acre openings are planted in grasses, with fruit and nut producing shrubs and trees also planted in them.

5. Grassy and orchard-like openings typically enhance brood survival, and are generally beneficial to wildlife. Monitoring is being done by local NWTF chapter members, who conduct the bi-weekly surveys of turkey use during the summer, at 10 of the 40 permanent herbaceous openings.

6. Maintain road closures on the Michaux State Forest — where much of the turkey habitat exists — from the spring gobbler season through the turkey-nesting season, to minimize disturbances to nesting hens. Minimizing human disturbance during nesting season may help improve nesting rates.

7. Conduct timber stand thinning in 15- to 20-year intervals on the Michaux SF to improve survival and growth of oaks, and remove less desirable species, such as red maple and birch. This will improve turkey habitat especially for nesting and brood rearing.

8. Remove shrubs such as blueberry, huckleberry and laurel in areas where they are extensive on the Michaux SF, to encourage growth of other shrubs and plants that are more beneficial to turkey nesting. This habitat modification will also improve brood habitat.

9. Continue the long-term monitoring of turkey sightings on the Michaux SF to evaluate the impacts of these management strategies on the population.

Turkey populations on South Mountain may never reach the densities they were back in the early 1980s. The habitat has changed, and now there are more trails, more recreational use and more nesting season disturbances. However, closing the fall hunting season and improving brood habitat are two management strategies that have the most potential for increasing overall survival rates. With the current stable population, this may be the boost the population needs to increase.

The population will not increase overnight, but we are hopeful that with these management strategies, the turkeys on South Mountain will recover.

Writing Projects

Mary Jo Casalena and *Bob Eriksen* are collaborating on several writing projects, the first of which is published in the October 2003 issue of PA Game News, entitled "Pennsylvania Turkey Hunting", which discusses the tradition of fall turkey hunting and how we manage turkeys today using the fall turkey season. An article regarding setting the spring turkey season will appear in as a future Game News article. Additionally we are preparing a report to be submitted this fall to the PA Board of Commissioners regarding the biological facets of five options for expanding spring wild turkey hunting opportunities. With wild turkey and spring hunter numbers increasing, this may be the time to expand spring hunting especially since spring hunting typically has little or no impact on wild turkey populations.

(During New Business: Discuss Utah State University turkey research study, conducted by Greg Kraus, and distribute sampling kits.)

NWTF BOARD OF DIRECTOR - *Ron Fretts* was absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JAKES Treasurer's Report - *Bill Mackereth* had a written report.

Check Book Balance 8/1/03			\$16,543.96
Income:	None		
Expenses:	Chesquehanna Spurs	(14)	\$70.00
	Malone Printing (raffle tick)		257.90
	Postmaster (mailings)		29.05
	Lykens Valley L.B."	(81)	405.00
	Lenni Lenape	(62)	310.00
	State Jakes	(67)	335.00
	Michaux Yellow Breeches	(96)	480.00
	Kit Han Ne	(97)	485.00
	Allegheny Valley	(83)	<u>415.00</u>
	TOTAL EXPENSES		\$2,786.95
Checkbook Balance 9/2/03			\$13,757.01

Art - *Reed Johnson* presented a vocal report.

Dart - *Dwight Kuntz* presented a vocal report.

Nominating Committee - *Carl Mowry* presented a written report. Received no new names or resumes. The present board members will serve a new term of office.

Promotion Committee - *Skip Sanderson* presented a vocal report.

Membership Committee - *Greg Caldwell* presented a written report.

In January 2004 River Valley Game Calls, Inc. will have a power point seminar available for public presentations. This seminar will be an education and safety program. It will teach the audience what it takes to safely and successfully hunt the wild turkey.

Ray Smith or *Greg Caldwell* will begin with a brief history of the turkey and its anatomy. The program will continue with the six P's of successful turkey hunting. This will include both still pictures and videos while allowing each speaker to inject his own stories and personality into the format. Towards the end there will be a short excerpt from *Jerry Zimmerman*, *Larry Holjencin*, or *Bob Eriksen* discussing the NWTF and the importance of safety while hunting the wild turkey.

It is our suggestion that each chapter does cooperative advertising with sportsman and other outdoor clubs. When a chapter schedules a seminar, River Valley will send a newspaper and radio announcement. As an added incentive, we will give a free diaphragm call to everyone signing up as a new member that evening. A membership application and free call will also be offered at all other seminars that are not NWTF affiliated.

The seminar will close with the names of program sponsors, including the PA Chapter NWTF. Therefore, every audience will see the chapter ad; already we have four seminars lined up for the Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show and several sportsmen clubs and other outdoor shows. We are also contracted to do seminars with Gander Mountain. Since these programs are all computer generated, we have the ability to add and change whatever and whenever we like. This allows us to create new seminars with fresh pictures and videos for repeat groups or chapters.

Communications - *Carl Mowry* the communications are posted on the display board at the back of the room.

OLD BUSINESS

Carl Mowry reported that 3,000 names were sent in. The PGC meeting will be held on Monday, October 6, 2003 and Tuesday, October 7, 2003. PA Chapter will have comments. Efforts the state chapter put forth to publicize the Hunter Orange issue to be on AP Wire Service and Sports Afield. POWA writers were impressed at the PA Boards efforts on Hunter Orange.

NEW BUSINESS

Carl Mowry Goshawk Survey by Dr. J. Timothy Kimmel. Chapter will accept a 1/4 page news article for Turkey Talk.

Mary Jo Casalena reported that *Greg Kraus* is undertaking a study on the genetics of wild turkeys vs. domestic turkeys. To be able to test the birds' DNA to see if there is a difference. Will take samples of harvested birds this fall in PA. He needs muscle or organ tissues for his study. Kits for taking the tissue will be provided and *Greg* needs volunteers for all parts of the state to take the samples.

Jerry Zimmerman reported that *Merrill Philipps* is sponsoring HB 2042. The bill would allow for a turkey tag at a cost of \$20 for residents and \$40 for a non-resident. Does not specify how many tags or for which season. The Bill has been referred to the Game and Fisheries Committee.

Governor Rendell has eliminated the old Governor's Sportsman Advisory Council with the new Governor's Hunting, Fishing and Conservation Council. *Rob Miller* is the appointed chairman of the committee.

Roger Latham Award application was announced to the Board. *Gary Beatty* moved that the Board nominate *Carl Mowry* for the *Roger Latham Award*, with a second by *Greg Caldwell*. **Motion carried.**

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Jerry Zimmerman reminded the Board members to contact their assigned chapters. He asked for a show of hands of those who have already contacted their chapter. Also, he is asking the Board members to help get new chapters started in areas where there are "holes". This in no way will take from existing chapters. *President Carl Mowry* reviewed the annual State Chapter Rendezvous and awards banquet to be held Saturday, January 10, 2004 at the Ramada Inn in State College, PA. There will be a mailing to Chapter Presidents and an article in Turkey Talk.

Moved by *Skip Sanderson* to adjourn, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Submitted by,

Bill

**Bill Mackereth, Secretary
PA Chapter NWTF**



PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

**Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and
Preservation of the Turkey Hunting Tradition**

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Pa. Chapter NWTF home page www.panwtf.com E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

Executive Board meeting to be held Friday, October 3, 2003 at Bill Mackereth's camp at 8:00 p.m., directions are enclosed.

Board of Directors meeting to be held Saturday, October 4, 2003 at Moshannon State District Office at S. B. Elliotte at 9:00 a.m.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NWTF BOARD MEETING RAMADA INN STATE COLLEGE, PA Saturday, August 2, 2003

The Board Meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF was called to order by Board Chairman *Carl Mowry* at 9:05 a.m. After the pledge of allegiance and review of the ground rules *Carl* moved into the Officer Reports.

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT REPORT - *Carl Mowry* presented a written report.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT - *Dwight Kuntz* had no report.

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* presented a written report. June 1, 2003 to May 31, 2003. Starting Balance \$29,739.11. Income \$12,374.33. Expenses \$14,925.17. Ending balance \$27,188.27. Net Gain (Loss) (\$2,550.84). Moved by *Dave Burdge* to accept the treasurer's report with a second from *Tom Buntz*. Motion carried.

SECRETARY REPORT - by *Bill Mackereth*. A motion to accept the secretary's minutes as corrected was made by *Jim Panaro* and seconded by *Dwight Kuntz*. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - *Carl Mowry* presented a written report of his activities.

Terry Hyde reported on the Hunter "Blaze" Orange issue. The Game Commission say that 250 square inches of Blaze Orange need to be worn when hunting. Wants to kill the issue now. Write letters to the Game Commission. The power of the pen will help kill the Blaze Orange issue. Inform the Game Commission that you are not confused on the Blaze Orange issue. You are urged to write letters to legislators and Game Commission.

NWTF REPORTS

SENIOR REGIONAL SUPERVISOR- *Jerry Zimmerman* had a voice report. Super Fund balance \$4,240.86. Approximately 18 banquets left in this calendar year. 21,881 members (14,888 Adults and 6,993 JAKES). Of the adult members 2,037 women and 594 Wheelin' Sportsmen. Chapter Presidents meeting for Edgefield July 8th, 9th and 10th of 2004, place to be announced (Augusta, GA or Columbia, SC). If you are interested in going to the meeting, please let *Jerry* know as soon as possible.

Wheelin' Sportsmen - television program wants to use a disabled youth, please notify *Jerry* of any and all names so they can select one for the program.

Discussed the "Healthy Forest Restoration Act" (House Resolution 1904) - Restrictions of US Forest Service on how to handle lands (prescribed burning), this act will eliminate a lot of red tape. Lessons rules and regulations. Get in contact with Senator Spector's office asking him to vote in favor of this act his phone #202-224-4254.

REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - *Larry Holjencin* had a written report.

JAKES

1) JAKES Fund Raffle Raffle

- a. Bob's Army and Navy will be the dealer again.
- b. Gun quote has been received and guns have been chosen.
- c. Distribution forms have been revised to reflect 4 numbers per ticket and will be given to *Bill Mackereth*.
- d. Tickets are printed and will be distributed tomorrow-the rest will be mailed to the chapters not attending the Leadership Workshop.

2) Scholarships

- a. Over \$1,000,000 has been given out in scholarships so far.
- b. Only 22 chapters in PA gave out scholarships this year. We would like to see that number rise significantly.
- c. Remember this is a Super Fund benefit and does not cost the local chapters anything.
- d. Scholarship packets will be mailed to chapter presidents at the end of August. The posters will direct the kids to go to our website, download the application and return to the local chapter name on the poster.
- e. Deadlines remain the same - Feb. 1st for local chapter scholarships to state. The state decides in March and sends our state winner to NWTF by April 1st.
- f. Chapters need to send a picture of their winner to NWTF by Thanksgiving so it can be added to the banner that is displayed at the national convention.

3) JAKES Ed Boxes

- a. Boxes will be shipped to all chapters in September. Please make arrangements now to get them in a local school.

Habitat

- a. The letter that gives all the deadlines for spring Super Fund projects, Seed Subsidy, Conservation Seed and Operation Apple Seed has been written and will be handed out tomorrow to be followed by a mailing.
- b. The deadline for Conservation Seed has been moved up to 12/1/03 to increase the odds we that we get the seed we want. More demand than supply last year. Other conservation organizations are also involved now.
- c. We will promote at each banquet where we will have a drawing for a bronze turkey sculpture. Everyone who fills out an application will be in the drawing. A poster will explain the program and applications will be inside the coupon book.
- d. For NWTF to get credit the following must happen:
 - 1) Must fill out an application
 - 2) MBNA must approve the application
 - 3) Cardholder must then activate the card by making a purchase
- e. Direct mail campaign will take place. Telemarketing will only happen if banquet sign ups do not meet the projected numbers. The goal is 50 per banquet.

We encourage all board members and NWTF members to take advantage of this offer and help the organization at the same time.

2004 Banquet Core package

- a. Possibly the best we have ever had.
- b. Great prints, guns and the sculptures are made of solid bronze.
- c. Framing will be done at NWTF and promises to be better than in the past. Better packaging of prints to prevent damage.
- d. Core catalogs will be in October and we will start meeting with you then to plan for your 2004 banquets.

SENIOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR - *Bob Farkasovsky* presented a written report.

2004 National Convention - Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio

Date: February 19th through the 22nd, 2004

Rooms: The Hyatt is almost sold out-maybe 20 rooms left. The Crowne Plaza has rooms remaining, 800-338-4462. The rate at the Crowne Plaza is \$109 plus tax. Both hotels are connected to the convention center. Red Roof hotel also has rooms available, phone number 614-224-6539 to request a registration form.

Registration: Will be available, plus the registration fees on the Web Site in September or call 1-800-843-6983 to request a registration form.

Reserved Seating: The reserved seating deadline is January 19, 2004. Please remember the earlier you register the better seats you get. Also the people you would like to sit with at a table all the registration forms need to be sent in the same envelope. *Carl Mowry* PA State Chapter President will be handling the reserved seating for PA Chapters, please have your registration forms and who you would like to sit with to him by December 15, 2003.

Entertainment: Entertainment and speakers are not yet confirmed, please check "Turkey Call" magazine and the Web Site for updates.

Workshops: We would also hope that all Chapter Presidents, District Directors, Women event/Wheelin' Sportsmen & JAKES coordinators, sign up for Leadership Workshop which will be held on Thursday, Feb. 19th at 10:00 a.m.

Breakfast: Chapter Presidents and sponsors must pre-register for all the breakfasts, no one is automatically signed up.

Turkey Call - TV Show

We had a contract with TNN through 2004, the network has been redesigned to the point where we felt Turkey Call and TNN were no longer a good fit. Thus we will not air Turkey Call in 2004. We are looking for a new home for Turkey Call.

Turkey Country will remain on the Outdoor Channel 52 weeks a year. Our anchor time is 7:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

We'll also be producing two-minute feature segments for ESPN2's Sunday morning outdoor block. Those segments will air Sundays from approx. 9:25 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. EST from April 4 to June 20, 2004.

We're exploring opportunities with Outdoor Life Network.

And we're looking at additional opportunities with the Outdoor Channel (we may do some 2-minute segments on managing your land for wildlife on a show that's geared to that subject).

In addition we're exploring a national syndication opportunity of Fox Sports Net. They have 22 network affiliates in this country (Fox Sports Net Pittsburgh is an example in my neck of the woods) that take local, regional and national feeds (think high school, college football pro baseball, etc.). The opportunity we're looking at is a national feed that would be aired on all 22 local affiliates between noon and 1:00 p.m. on Sunday.

We're also looking at syndicating an NWTF show on broadcast network affiliates (that means local ABC, NBC, CBS, and Fox affiliates). This would allow us to reach even those who don't have cable, Dish or Direct TV. We could penetrate a variety of markets, though the show would air at different times in each market.

None of the things we're exploring is a done deal and that's important to remember. The deal is done until the ink dries!

Turkey Hunter Care Program

This is a new program that is growing fast.

Last year 35 states participated in the Turkey Hunters Care Program. State and local chapters partner with food banks, churches, schools, social agencies and civic groups during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season to help feed the hungry.

In 2001, 65 chapters participated and donated 1,895 turkeys.

In 2002, 102 chapters participated and donated 3,704 turkeys.

This is a good program to show that hunters do care and we are the good guys. But now is the time if you are interested in doing the program to talk to your local grocery stores.

They are now placing their orders for turkeys for the holidays.

We can now provide the chapters free of charge plastic bags, to place the turkeys in. It has Turkey Hunters Care - National Wild Turkey Federation printed on the bags. There is a Certificate available to give to groups who you are donating the birds to. The bags and certificates are important to let the public know who is doing what.

Local chapter presidents will be receiving a mailing with details. If you need more information call *Kim Saxon* at 800-THE-NWTF, ext. 3166.

NWTF Clothing Program

The 2003 program is still good. Cabela's will continue to do the clothing program for us in 2004. New catalogs will be available by the first of October.

The only change is that the minimum order will be lowered to six.

NWTF Web Site

To get on the web site go to www.nwtf.org. Once you get into the site, there are many useful sites to visit to get great information from.

"New from the Roost" - This is news from the NWTF. It comes out every two weeks, to subscribe go to www.nwtf.org scroll down to the bottom of the page until you come to the News from the Roost application, just fill out the information block and you are set.

Super Fund - I feel this is something we need to use more. We have got to let the public know what we have accomplished in our state.

Go to the web site and click on In Your State - click on PA. It will list all local Banquets calling contests, JAKES Days shooting events, WITO events, etc. It will also show you the field staff, if you click on this you will see our smiling faces. The next sections is SUPER FUND! Click on this and it will give you a brief history of the PA Super Fund along with totals. Then it will break it down by Habitat Enhancements, Education, JAKES & etc. As I said earlier, when someone asks what have we done, SHOW THEM!!

JAKES - Go to the web site, click on JAKES, when you come to the JAKES page look at the bulletin board and click on stuff for coordinators. There is a page that will let you download the JAKES manual, product order form and it will also give you a months event calendar. Also available you can download all information and forms for the Scholarship program.

Media Tool Kit - This is a great feature - go to the web site and click on NWTF Newsroom, click on Media Tool kit find it and click on media tool kit again to enter. Some very useful info to use.

First - NWTF at a Glance, print off the most recent info to use at your banquet, sports show or local fairs or anytime you need to tell the NWTF story.

Second - NWTF Media Gallery, for photo's of turkeys and our different projects and outreach programs. Logo's, all the different logo's to use whenever you send out letters, do your banquet programs etc.

Third - Public service announcements, they are also there to use for all your different events.

The web site has many useful tools, please, when you have time, get on it and use it.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - *Tammy Mowry* had a written report.

- Our fiscal year will end at the end of this month. Three more events will take place between now and then. Stony Valley's event will take place August 9th. Armenia Mountain Spurs event will also take place August 9th. Ligonier Valley's event will be held August 22nd - 24th.
- The Blue Mountain Chapter and the Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards Chapter will each hold their events in September. The Wolfcreek Longbeard's event will take place in October and it is currently the last one for this calendar year.
- We're having a great year for events and the number of women attending. We've had several events that have had between 50 and 100 participants. We've also had several new chapter events this year. We should have several of the events reach the goal of Golden Hen.
- I'm working on scheduling events for next year. As of right now, I have 10 events scheduled with one of them being a new event. The Lehigh Valley Chapter will be hosting their first event next June.
- The 2004 State event is scheduled for March 26th - 28th. Work will begin on it in the near future. It would be nice if every chapter would encourage women to register. Any help the Board of Directors can give would be greatly appreciated.

NORTH EAST REGIONAL BIOLOGIST - *Bob Eriksen* was absent but presented written report.

Habitat Project Site Visits

The regional biologist met with members of the Wilson Moore Chapter and Game Commission land managers for a tour of past and on-going projects on SGL 35 and 140 and Salt Spring State Park in Susquehanna County. Members of the Col-Mont Gobblers and PGC land management personnel toured past and current projects on SGL 58 and 226 in Montour and Columbia Counties along with the regional biologist. A tour of ongoing Super Fund project work was completed with State Chapter President *Mowry*, members of the Terrace Mountain Chapter and US Army Corps of Engineers personnel at Raystown Lake in Huntingdon County. Land Managers and Allegheny Valley Chapter members met with the regional biologist to plan a habitat improvement project on SGL 203 in Allegheny County. Photos were taken to document the work these chapters are doing in future articles.

Meetings and Presentations

A Power Point presentation was given for the June Pennsylvania Game Commission meeting on the accomplishments of the regional biologist position in the past two years. The presentation covered the benefits this position provides to the Game Commission. Approximately 100 people attended the meeting and saw the presentation. A slide show on "Managing Your Property For Wild Turkeys" was presented at a landowner workshop in Delaware County, New York and a presentation called "Wild Turkeys 101" was given at a Ruffed Grouse Society Grouse Camp at Penn State.

The regional biologist attended the annual meeting between the PGC and the Pennsylvania State Chapter along with Board members and regional directors. PGC wild turkey biologist *Mary Jo Casalena* and the regional biologist met to work on several articles for "Game News". The June meeting of the Game Commission was attended as were State Chapter Board meetings and Super Fund Committee meetings in Ohio, New York and New Jersey. A wild Turkey Woodlands Committee meeting was attended in New York. The regional biologist traveled to Georgia and South Carolina in July to attend the NWTR regional biologist summer meeting.

Writing Projects

Nine articles were written for "The Caller" covering Super Fund projects in Pennsylvania (3 articles), information on the spring harvest and a gobbler banding study in Ohio (2 articles), Super Fund projects in New York (3 articles) and the results of the spring gobbler season in New Jersey (1 article). The regional biologist prepared an article on energy right-of-way management for the Ohio Chapter newsletter and co-authored an article on the affects of fall hunting on wild turkey populations for "Game News". Position statements and letters were written and edited for the Pennsylvania Chapter to use in informing members about the proposed changes in orange regulations.

Wild Turkey Woodlands Program

Planning meetings and site visits were completed for Wild Turkey Woodlands Field Days in central and western New York. Programs were prepared and mailing fliers were made up for the events. The regional biologist assisted local chapter members in booking speakers and planning lunches and other parts of the programs. The goal is to have 60 landowners attend each event to learn about habitat management techniques and programs to help them in managing their properties for wild turkeys and other wildlife.

Vineyard Damage Study

Last summer NWTF biologists conducted a study of vineyards in California to determine the extent and cause of damage to grapes. The study will be extended to western New York this fall. The regional biologist met with New York DEC biologists to plan the work.

Information Requests

Twenty-two information requests were handled by e-mail, letter and telephone. Requests for information ranged from questions about nesting to questions about gobbling frequency and the affect of weather on poult survival.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE - *Mary Jo Casalena* had a written report.

Spring 2003 Wild Turkey Harvest

The Bureau of Automated Services is entering turkey harvest report cards for the spring 2003 gobbler season. Preliminary harvest results will be available in late summer/early fall.

2002 Turkey Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents

Turkey HRSI's were reported at the June meeting, but there were several questions left unanswered. The answers are provided below.

- 1) Were victims walking or stationary? Spring 2002 - of the 9 incidents (1 fatal, 8 nonfatal), 5 victims were standing (1 fatal, 4 nonfatal), and 4 were sitting. Fall 2002 - of the 15 incidents (all nonfatal 5 were standing, 6 were sitting, 3 were walking/running, and 1 was unknown. All offenders and victims were hunting during both seasons.
- 2) Were offenders color-blind? This information is not captured in the report.
- 3) Was fluorescent orange visible to offender? Victims of all nine spring incidents were wearing camouflage. Of the 15 fall incidents, 1 was self-inflicted, 4 of the victims were in the line of fire, and 10 were shot for game. Colors worn by the victims mistaken for gamer were, fluorescent orange (3), camouflage (6), and other color (1). Of the three victims wearing fluorescent orange, the color was not visible to the offender. Please go to [Http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/PGC/hte/huntereduc.htm](http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/PGC/hte/huntereduc.htm), and click on Incident Statistics for the complete 2002 Hunting-Related Shooting Report.

Wild Turkey Research in TMA 7B

PGC and BOF staffs, as well as numerous NWTF volunteers are conducting summer turkey sighting surveys on the Michaux State Forest. Thanks to all the volunteers, without whose help the survey work could not be completed.

Wild Turkey Restoration Activities

Please make the following correction to the June 2003 report. The number of wild turkeys transferred to southeastern PA this past winter was 161 (51 males, 110 females), not 174 as originally reported. This past winter was the last of three consecutive years of transfers into TMA 9A. Fifty-five turkeys were released onto 4 sites in York County (40 females, 15 males). Lancaster County received 43 turkeys onto 3 sites (34 females, 9 males). Chester County received 41 turkeys on 3 sites (26 females, 15 males). In Southern Berks County we released 22 turkeys on 2 sites (10 females, 12 males). During the three-year effort we released a total of 515 wild turkeys onto 21 sites (169 males, 346 females). Spring hunting seasons remain open and leg-band returns from hunters show that gobblers are being pursued and harvested lightly. Leg-band returns indicated minimum gobbler harvests of 4.8% of the released gobblers in 2001, 8.9% in

2002, and 32.9% in 2003. Trends in summer sighting surveys and spring harvest will continue to be monitored to determine how well the population responds to restoration efforts. It is too early to make an assessment of the restoration efforts, except to say that summer sightings and harvest appear to be on a slight, but not significantly, increasing trend.

Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in PA

The first revision of the 1999 plan is scheduled for 2004. As discussed with the PA NWTF during our joint PGC/PANWTF meeting in June, the PA Game Commission will scope out the process for the revision and this winter will engage stakeholders to identify goals/values. The PGC will then develop objectives and will involve stakeholders throughout the revision process. The PANWTF and NWTF are major stakeholders. Also, involvement by NWTF Regional Biologist, *Bob Eriksen* will be sought throughout the entire process.

Wild Turkey Productivity, 2003

As most turkey enthusiasts know, cool and wet springs can negatively impact the first nesting attempts of wild turkeys especially if this weather coincides with peak egg hatching in late May/early June. However, wild turkeys have evolved to compensate for this by readily re-nesting. Annual turkey sightings by Wildlife Conservation Officers were down from previous years in June, in many areas of the state (not in the northeast). However, most WCO's commented that hayfields were not cut due to the wet weather, which, subsequently, made it difficult to see turkeys in the high grass. SCOs continue surveys through July and August. Therefore, it is too early to make any preliminary conclusions regarding this year's turkey recruitment. Even if recruitment is low this year, the net impact to the turkey population will be minimized due to the record high turkey populations in many parts of PA. If cold, snowy winters and cold, wet springs persist into the future, this could have negative impacts to the turkey population. Trends in summer turkey sightings and turkey harvests are assessed regularly and fall turkey season recommendations are made to optimize recreational opportunities without limiting the growth of turkey populations. At this point the data do not support a recommendation to decrease fall turkey seasons. This assessment is made annually during the fall after analysis of summer sighting surveys and spring harvest data.

Changes within PA Game Commission Staff Positions

When contacting the PGC, please note there have been several changes in staff due to retirements and reorganizations. Changes most notable to the PANWTF are as follows: Deputy Executive Director, H. Larry Harshaw, retired. This position will not be filled immediately, leaving Michael W. Schmit as the sole deputy executive director. Bureau of Administrative Services Director, Thomas C. Wylie, transferred to Administrative Officer #4 under Vernon Ross, and Carl G. Roe is now the Director of this Bureau. Willis Sneath is director of the Training Division in the Executive Office, replacing retired director, William L. Hutson. Gregory J. Grabowicz, director of the Bureau of Land Management retired. Acting director is Clayton G. Van Buskirk.

NWTF BOARD OF DIRECTOR - *Ron Fretts* had a voice report. Discussed the good changes and growth of the PA NWTF and the Edgefield offices.

Communications - *Carl Mowry*, mentioned the letters posted on the board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JAKES Treasurer's Report - *Bill Mackereth* had a written report.

Checkbook Balance 6/7/03 \$19,063.96

Income:

None

Expenses:

Nittany Valley L. B.	(12)	\$60.00
Mason - Dixon	(62)	310.00
Moraine	(96)	480.00
Ben Stimaker	(125)	625.00
Warrior Trail Gobblers	(60)	300.00
Susquehanna Local	(89)	445.00
Lakeland L.B.'s	(60)	300.00
Total Expenses`		\$2,520.00

Checkbook Balance 8/1/03 \$16,543.96

Upper Gun Raffle - *Carl Mowry* had a written report.

2003 PA Chapter Upper Gun Raffle

Gross Income \$20,502.00

Expenses 9,144.31

Net Income \$11,357.69

Promotional Committee Report - *Skip Sanderson* presented a written report.

Board member shirts have arrived. A selection of dress shirts were ordered for the leadership meeting. There was no other activity since the last meeting.

Elk Expo - *Dwight Kuntz* gave a vocal report. September 27th and 28th at the Elk County Fair Grounds, set up Friday.

Wheelin' Sportsmen - *Gary Huff* gave a vocal report. ?Sportsmen Club next Saturday, room available. Participants receive a hat and a shirt.

Habitat - *Reed Johnson* presented a written report. Looking to have a habitat committee meeting in late September or mid October to make plans for next years project. Will try to work out some of the problems in the conservation seed program and other programs that the committee administrates. Winter wheat should be arriving soon. The committee had enough money to order one load of 850 bags. The request added up to about 4 times that amount.

OLD BUSINESS - *Carl Mowry and Reed Johnson* reported on needing art values. Asked the committee to get together to take care of this issue, would like to have it done this year.

Jeff Mulhollem discussed "Turkey Talk" update, any problems we have talked about, number of pages and advertisement. Participation from local chapters with stories and events at their level. Mailing label was put on the back page that helped the look of the publication. Disappointed in the photo colors and will be switching printers (KB Printer in State College, KB.COM). Letters to the editor, need a reply in the same issue. Discussed the amount of advertising pages. Would like to see more local chapter information in "Turkey Talk".

Don Heckman discussed Resolution #15 - merger of Pennsylvania Game Commission - Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission - public hearings September 25th, Bradford, PA. **Motion made by Don Heckman with a second by Bill Mackereth that the PA Chapter oppose the merger of the PGC - PF & BC (which is Resolution #15).**
Motion carried.

*"Individual letters are better than petitions".

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Panaro introduced *Bob Kasun*, Public Relations Representative who gave a brief background of his activities as a writer.

Jim Panaro discussed the written budget. **Motion made by Dwight Kuntz with a second by Gary Beatty that the budget for 2003-2004 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.**

Jerry Zimmerman discussed the Long Range Planning meeting. Presented lists to the board members of the chapters to be contacted and encouraged to write articles to for "Turkey Talk" and concerns.

Greg Caldwell introduced a new publication - "PA Outdoor News" housed out of Minnesota, 300,000 mailed bi-weekly - 1/2 page advertisement \$1,290. **Motion made by Greg Caldwell with a second by Don O'Brien that the PA Chapter place an inaugural 1/2 page ad in the "PA Outdoor News" for \$1,290. Motion carried.**

Carl Mowry will write a letter to all chapters regarding the Orange issue with the PGC and their position on the matter.

Tom Baldrige as a turkey hunter the Orange issue is insulting. We should act professional. Do everything above board, stay professional and do what is right and get the consensus out there of the people in this state, the biggest numbers imaginable you will have done professionally what is necessary to succeed. Get the numbers out because that is the only chance of winning. Leave all threats out of it. Get as many people as possible to write individual letters. Network and get the numbers to win. This will make the difference.

Ron Fretts discussed the need for individuals to write letters to the Executive Director - *Vern Ross* - stating our position on the Orange issue. He needs all the letters that can be promoted from within or outside of this organization, the more letters he has the more power he has to fight for what we want. We may be successful with enough non-threatening letters.

Jim Panaro discussed people not attending the banquets - would like to get the names and addresses of those persons not attending.

Discussed two bills HB 808 and HB 1205 regarding Sunday hunting.

Moved by *Dwight Kunts* to adjourn, seconded by *Ronda Henry*. Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

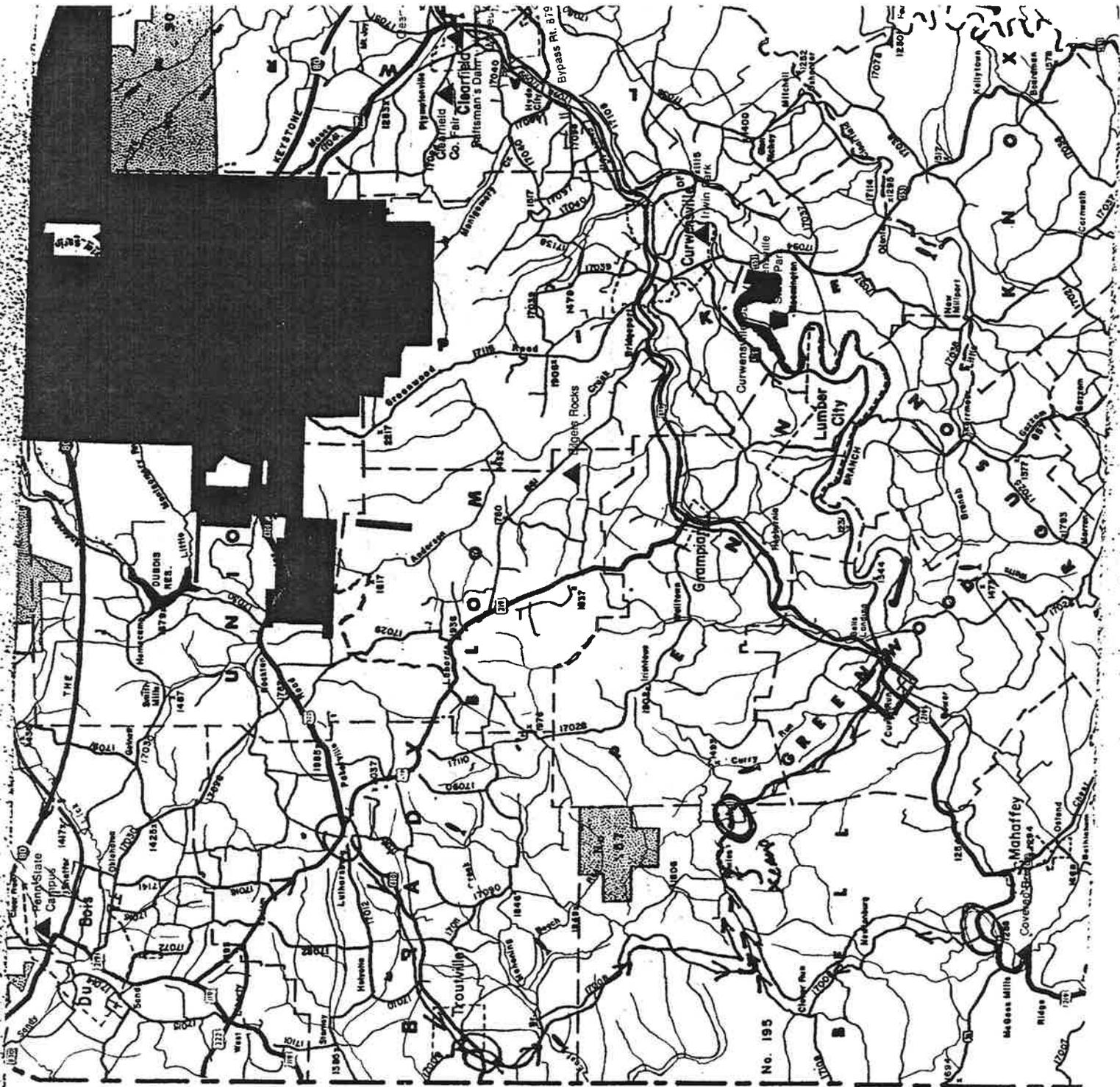
Bill

Bill Mackereth, Secretary
PA Chapter NWTF

Directions to Bill Mackereth's camp. From Clearfield take state route 879 to Grampian. At Grampian go straight through the traffic light and you will be on 219, and going towards Bells Landing. After Bells Landing you will be going down a steep hill. At the bottom of the hill is a curve to the left. Immediately after the curve is a road to the right (Curry Run Road) □. The road starts out paved but soon turns to dirt. Follow Curry Run Road past Reed's camp to a T (Splash Dam Road) O. Turn left on Splash Dam Road and proceed approximately 1/2 mile and you will come to a farm. At the very top of the hill (across from the barn) turn left and go down through the hay fields. You will come to a pipe gate at the edge of the woods, continue to the 3rd camp.

From DuBois: Take 219 south. At Luthersburg O turn right onto 410 to Troutville. After going through Troutville, turn left on route 17008 O towards McGees Mills. Continue on route 17008 until you come to a 90 degree curve. Turn left onto Rock Springs Road (paved) at that 90 degree curve. You will come to the farm and the road turns to dirt. After about 100 yards of dirt road turn right onto the camp road.

From Indiana: Take 219 north to McGee's Mills. Past McGee's Mills you will come to a country store. Turn left onto 17008 O. Continue on 17008 towards the 90 degree curve. There will be a fenced in Gas Company on your right before the 90 degree curve. Go straight through the 90 degree curve onto Rock Springs Road (paved). Follow the road to the farm where the road turns to dirt. Turn right onto the camp road.



J E F F E R S O N

C O U N T Y

I N D I A



PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and
Preservation of the Turkey Hunting Tradition

Pa. Chapter NWTF home page www.panwtf.com E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

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**Attention: The PA Chapter Executive Board will meet on Fri., August 1st at 8:00 p.m.*

**Attention: The PA Chapter Board of Directors will meet Sat., August 2nd at 9:00 a.m.*

**Attention: The Chapter Presidents Meeting will be held on Sun., August 3rd at 9:00 a.m.*

**All meetings will be held at the Ramada Inn in State College, PA.*

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NWTF BOARD MEETING MOSHANNON STATE FOREST OFFICE S.B. ELLIOTT PARK Saturday, June 7, 2003

The Board Meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF was called to order by Board Chairman Carl Mowry at 9:20 a.m. After the pledge of allegiance and review of the ground rules Carl moved into the Officer Reports.

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT REPORT - *Greg Caldwell* will send a report of his activities.

SECRETARY REPORT - by *Bill Mackereth*. A motion to accept the secretary's minutes as corrected was made by *Don O'Brien* and seconded by *Clyde Gouker, Jr.* Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* presented a written report. March 1, 2003 to May 31, 2003. Starting Balance \$27,857.36. Income \$29,299.42. Expenses \$27,417.67. Ending balance \$29,739.11. Net Gain (Loss) \$1,881.75. Moved by *Rick Stutzman* to accept the treasurer's report with a second from *Don Heckman*. Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT - *Dwight Kuntz* presented a voice report of his activities.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - *Carl Mowry* presented a written report of his activities.

NWTF REPORTS

SENIOR REGIONAL SUPERVISOR- *Jerry Zimmerman* had a written report.
RD REPORT 6/7/2003

SUPER FUND: \$45,468.33 with 2 chapters to report Allegheny SuHaus
Juniata Gobblers

MEMBERSHIP: Adults 13,427
March/April Jakes 7,093
Total 20,520

Illinois, Minn. and Wisc. lead Pennsylvania in memberships.

“PASS IT ON PROGRAM” - BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS

-seeking support from NWTF in form of volunteers to mentor some youth - take them hunting, fishing, etc.

REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - *Larry Holjencin* had a written report.

Jakes Raffle - same timing as last year, Nov. 1 - Dec. 10 - drawing
- hand out tickets at Leadership Workshop 8/3
- changing ticket to 4 numbers instead of 3
- Bill and Edie Mackereth will run the raffle

Jakes Hunt-of-a-Lifetime - May 1-3 at Pine Lodge in Tioga County
- Armenia Spurs host chapter
- no birds tagged but great time - clays, fishing, patterning
shotgun
- thanks to state chapter for buying the 2 guns for kids

2004 PA Sponsor Gift - Queen Knife & Sheath

New Chapter - Monroeville the Regional Hunt Auction

Fri.. Aug. 22 at the Monroeville/Pitcairn Sportsmen's Club a Steak dinner will be held.

The Steak dinner will be prepared by *Sam Truxel*.

Various hunts and select items - custom knives, golf pbs, custom calls, top end guns

50/50 splits any leads on hunts will be appreciated

Different format than standard Super Fund Banquet hoping to attract current NWTF supporters and some new supporters.

Ron Fretts says hello to all and he plans to attend the August Board Meeting.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR - *Bob Farkasovsky* was absent.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - *Tammy Mowry* was absent but had a written report.

- * Our membership stands at 41,873, with our goal for this year of 46,650. Here in Pennsylvania we have 1,867 members.

- * We held our State event the weekend of March 28-30 at Frank T. Soles YMCA Camp in Somerset County. We had over 100 women participate in the weekend event. This is currently the largest event in PA. The ladies had all pre-registered prior to coming to the event. They were given the opportunity to choose from 20 different classes that they want to pursue. During the weekend, they had the opportunity to take 7 classes. Some of the choices they had available were: shot-gunning, arrow making, outdoor survival, backyard habitat, archery, hiking/backpacking, edible wild plants/plant and tree identification, zip line and low ropes, fly fishing, fly tying, birding, and horseback riding. Friday evening the ladies had the opportunity to learn line dancing. On Saturday evening, the ladies had the opportunity to talk to Bob Pugh (one of the Q-Creek miners). After that the ladies learned about turkey calling to Steve Morocco of Turkey Duster Game Calls. We gave the ladies the opportunity to participate in a turkey-calling contest when Steve was done instructing. We had 18 ladies who were up to the challenge of the calling contest. During the course of the weekend, we had beautiful weather on Friday evening. Saturday we encountered rain and wind; Sunday morning we awoke to a big surprise (4" of snow). I'd like to thank those Board of Directors who donated their time whether it was to instruct a class or just help us out during the weekend. We really appreciated your help. Next year's event is scheduled for March 26-28.

- * I currently have 23 events scheduled to date. I'd like to have 2 more events scheduled for this calendar so that I can meet my personal goal of 25.

- * As a reminder, Nationals sets goals/expectations for each of the WRC's have goals/expectations (50 participants, 1 sponsor member, and \$2,250 net). For 2003, each WRC is required to hold 30 events. This number hasn't increased this year. For this year, we want to work on building quality events, obtaining some sponsor members, and fundraising. We want to make our repeat events stronger. Any tips or help you can provide me with for leads for events would be greatly appreciate.

- * If your chapter isn't currently hosting an event, let's talk. We need your support to grow the program.

- * 2003 is a very important year, we must make the program self-supportive.

- * Remember the benefits of hosting an event:
 - * Grows the chapter
 - * Chapter/event receive incentives
 - * Fulfills 5 Star requirement
 - * Right thing to do
 - * Pass on our hunting heritage, women have the majority of votes and we need to get them on board. They may not want to hunt, but they need to understand why we do.
 - * Educates women on conservation and hunting
 - * Women control the money
 - * Chapter can make money (25% of proceeds are returned)
 - * Counteract the bad media that is out there
 - * Builds family relations
 - * Outlet for stress

NORTH EAST REGIONAL BIOLOGIST - *Bob Eriksen* had a written report.

Super Fund

Fifty-nine Super Fund request forms were processed since early March. Most of the requests were from Pennsylvania, but there were some from New York and Delaware as well. The regional biologist met with *Bruce Manuel*, a wildlife technician for New York DEC to plan a Super Fund project designed to restore an abandoned apple orchard in central NY. Letters were sent out to notify forty local chapters in PA that their Super Fund habitat projects had been approved by the Super Fund Committee.

Writing Projects

Articles were completed for the spring and summer editions of "Pennsylvania Turkey Talk". The articles covered the setting of spring gobbler hunting season dates, the Super Fund habitat projects at Raystown Lake in Huntingdon County, and update on PA Super Fund habitat project expenditures for 2003 and an article on planning food plots. In addition, articles were written and submitted to "The Caller" covering the Raystown Project, trap and transfer efforts in NJ for the winter of 2002-2003, the progress of a gobbler survival study in northern NJ and the Big Island land purchase in Ohio.

Programs

The northeast regional biologist presented a slide lecture on eastern wild turkey management at a biology colloquium at Union College in New Jersey. Seminars on wild turkey habitat management were held at the New York State Chapter Convention in Rochester, at a woodland owners conference in northwestern Ohio. A slide presentation on wild turkey management and ecology was given at a meeting of the Nittany Valley local chapter meeting in Centre County.

PA Chapter Chairman of the Board Carl Mowry and the regional biologist gave seminars on turkey hunting at the PA State WITO Event in Somerset. The regional biologist attended the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in Rhode Island to present a paper on public attitudes about hunting and general knowledge of wild turkeys. A local cable channel show called "Out in the Open" on the subject of spring turkey hunting was taped in Tannersville in the Pocono Mountains. The host of the show was *Alex Zeedock*.

Interviews

Three interviews were held with outdoor writer *Fred Aun* of the Newark (NJ) Star Ledger on the subjects of spring hunting techniques, the "Turkey Call Television" show and weather effects on spring hunting this year. The regional biologist spent one morning hunting and discussing Super Fund projects and state chapter volunteer efforts in Pennsylvania and New Jersey with *Mark Demko*, an outdoor writer for the Easton (PA) Express Times.

Meetings

The regional biologist attended the Pennsylvania State Chapter Executive Committee and Board meetings in early April, the Pennsylvania Game Commission meeting in Harrisburg and the New York State Chapter Board meeting in Rochester. The New York State Chapter Convention was also attended.

The regional biologist met with wild turkey project leader *Mary Jo Casalena* of the Pennsylvania Game Commission to plan the agenda for the joint PGC/PA Chapter meeting in June. In addition, he met with *Tony McBride*, wild turkey project leader for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife to discuss the 2003 spring harvest, the ongoing gobbler survival study and weather conditions and the potential impact on the 2003 hatch. Field meetings were held with *Bob Boyd* of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and *Bob Ellis* of the Virginia Game Department

Special Projects

The northeast regional biologist, three other NWTF biologists and two NWTF cameramen spent nine days in Sonora, Mexico live-trapping Goulds turkeys for transfer to Arizona. Using drop nets, the team captured fifty Goulds turkeys and transferred forty-nine birds (15 gobblers, 34 hens) to Arizona. Federal law requires that the birds be kept in quarantine for at least 30 days prior to release. Thirty-nine birds (12 gobblers, 27 hens) survived the thirty-seven days in captivity and were released in Arizona.

The regional biologist held an interview with representatives of Allegheny National Forest on the issue of the forest planning process. The Forest Service contracted independent interviewers to contact people with interest in forest management on the Allegheny.

Bob Sanford of the New York DEC and the regional biologist began to work on a wild turkey habitat management webpage to provide information to landowners on the DEC website.

Under the NWTF Energy for Wildlife Program, the regional biologist visited a site restoration project being conducted by Parsons/Chevorn in Southwestern Ohio to provide wild turkey habitat management advice. Contacts were made with representatives of two energy companies in New Jersey (*Jersey Central Power and Public Service Energy) to discuss the Energy Program and right of way management. Another contact was made with Texas-Eastern, a major pipeline company managing right of ways in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and much of the East. In Ohio, the company is currently mowing pipelines in the spring, a poor management technique for wild turkeys and many songbirds.

Wildlife habitat management plans are being completed for a landowner in New York, one in Pennsylvania and a corporate landowner in Ohio.

Information Requests

Twenty-nine requests for information were received and addressed via e-mail, telephone and letter since March. The requests were for information on wild turkey habitat management, handling nuisance wild turkeys, turkey hunting techniques and attracting wild turkeys to your land. Information requests were received from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Ontario.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE - *Mary Jo Casalena* had a written report.

Wildlife Management Units

The Game Commission currently uses different units to manage each game species. In an effort to simplify the management unit system, the PA Game Commission adopted a new Wildlife Management Unit system at the April Commission meeting. Wild turkeys, along with most other game species, are now being managed by Wildlife Management Units. The only species that will not be managed using the new wildlife management unit system are: elk, which are primarily confined to an 835 square-mile area in north-central Pennsylvania; and waterfowl and migratory game birds, which are managed using zones and frameworks established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Therefore, beginning this fall, Turkey Management Areas will be replaced by Wildlife Management Units. The change to new WMUs also will impact certain firearms restrictions for turkey hunting; fall turkey fluorescent orange requirements; the types and numbers of traps that may be used by beaver trapping; and the antler-less deer license application process. While these new Wildlife Management Units will change the way the agency manages wildlife, they will not change the Special Regulations Areas firearm restrictions. Use of rifles will continue to be prohibited in Allegheny, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester and Delaware counties, and bow and arrow and crossbows are the only legal sporting arms that may be used in Philadelphia. For a copy of the approved WMU map, visit the Game Commission's website (www.pgc.state.pa.us), click on the "Wildlife" section and select "Adopted Wildlife Management Units."

Spring 2003 Wild Turkey Harvest

Turkey harvest report cards for spring 2003 gobbler season are beginning to come in to the Bureau of Automated Services. Preliminary harvest results will be available in late summer/early fall.

PRELIMINARY Spring 2003 Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents

Thus far we have preliminary reports of nine (9) turkey hunting related shooting incidents, with no fatalities. Details will be available once officers complete their investigations.

PRELIMINARY Fall 2002 Wild Turkey Harvest

Turkey harvest report cards from fall 2002 show the PRELIMINARY statewide turkey harvest was 30,388 turkeys. Final harvest figures will be available this summer, and most likely will be higher. This preliminary estimate is 15% below the preliminary fall 2001 turkey harvest of 35,724 birds. Final fall 2001 turkey harvest was 48,008 (+/- 3,898) turkeys. 2001 marked the second highest fall harvest on record. The record was set in 1995 with 49,748 turkeys. 2001 was the fourth year we harvested over 40,000 fall turkeys. Even with 3-week seasons in eight of our twelve-turkey management areas (TMAs) harvests were relatively moderate. We see no reason to be concerned because fall harvests vary considerably due to weather and mast conditions, both of which were not very favorable last fall.

2002 Turkey Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents

During the calendar year 2002, there were 68 total HRSIs, 24 of which (35.3%) were turkey HRSIs. During the spring 2002 turkey season there were 8 non-fatal incidents and 1 fatality. One nonfatal incident was self-inflicted (sporting arm in dangerous position). The others were inflicted by others. Cause of the 7 nonfatal and the fatal incident were the hunter being shot for game. All 9 victims had over 10 years hunting experience. The offenders' experience hunting turkeys were: 2-5 years (1), 6-10 years (2), over 10 years (6).

The 15 fall incidents were nonfatal. Fourteen were inflicted by others, and one was self-inflicted (unintentional discharge). Four involved rifles. The other 11 involved shotguns. Causes of the incidents were; victim in line of fire (4), and victim shot for game (10). In 3 incidents fluorescent orange was not visible to the offender. Of the 10 victims shot for game, 6 victims were wearing camouflage, 3 were wearing fluorescent orange, and one was wearing a different color. The victim's hunting experience were : under 2 years (1), 2-5 (2), 6-10 (2), over 10 years (10).

The offenders' experience hunting turkeys were: 2-5 years (3), 6-10 years (2), over 10 years (10).

For the complete 2002 Hunting-Related Shooting Report, go to http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/PGC/hte/huntereduc.htm, and click on Incident Statistics.

Wild Turkey Research in TMA 7B

With the new WMU system, TMA 7B will now be in WMU 5A. WMU 5A is a slightly larger area. TMA 7B's western boundary of Rt. 81 was expanded west to Rt. 75 at the Maryland line North to Rt. 30, east to Rt. 11 North, to Rt. 997 to the PA Tpk East. TMA 7B's eastern boundary of Rt. 15 South from Harrisburg now connects to Rt. 94 in a southeast direction to the Maryland line.

Summer turkey sighting surveys on the Michaux State Forest will continue for at least the next three years to help determine if the closed fall hunting season helps improve the turkey population.

Additionally, beginning this year we are conducting turkey surveys on 10 of the 40 herbaceous openings in the Michaux State Forest. Our purpose is to determine if turkey hens and their poults are using these Special Wildlife Management Areas (SWMAs) throughout the summer, and if so, whether mowing the SWMAs every year increases likelihood of use by turkeys. Poult survival is below average, so we want to determine if poult habitat needs improvement. Thanks go to local chapter members *Spencer Mill, Lonny Miller, Chris Biseline, Bill Little, Doug Lott* and *George Deck* who are volunteering their time to conduct these bi-weekly surveys.

Wild Turkey Restoration Activities

Statewide wild turkey restoration efforts were completed this winter with the transfer of 174 wild turkeys into TMA 9A in southeast PA. Thanks to the diligent work of our Wildlife Conservation Officers and Land Management Crew, all releases were from in-state trappings. Fifty-five turkeys were released onto 4 sites in York County. Lancaster County received 47 turkeys onto 3 sites. Chester County received 50 turkeys on 3 sites. In Southern Berks County we released 22 turkeys on 2 sites. All turkeys were leg-banded and we have been receiving reports from enthusiastic hunters of some spring gobbler harvest. Fall hunting season should remain closed in this area to aid in turkey population expansion.

Regional Wild Turkey Population Model

Current population models for wild turkey assume that population growth is not subject to density dependence. The effect of density dependence in relation to density independent environmental effects has never been examined for this species, however. VA Tech researchers are attempting to use harvest data from state wildlife agencies to assess the utility of incorporation both density dependence and environmental stochasticity into a new harvest model for wild turkey. Over the past year, they have collected harvest records and population indices from nine state wildlife agencies. The researchers anticipate results concerning the possible effects of density dependence over the coming year. Continued support from the participating states are required for the ongoing success of this project.

NWTF BOARD OF DIRECTOR - *Ron Fretts* was absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Promotional Committee - *Skip Sanderson* had a written report.

We had a good response to the license plate articles in the last edition of "Turkey Talk". We have sold 43 more plates for a total of approximately 53. We did have one unhappy customer. Should I send his money back? He was so unhappy; he planned to complain to National about the quality of the merchandise.

The "Turkey Talk" article also generated a few more license plates. According to my records we have about 510 plates on vehicles.

I hope to have the shirts to the August Board Meeting.

Habitat Committee Report - *Reed Johnson* reported 42 Local Chapters requested seed this spring. this is up from last year, (28 chapters). With limited budget and the fact that the seed order was placed when it was, caused somewhat of a problem. But, I managed to get through it with only some complaints from local chapters that did not read the part in the order form that clearly stated that there are no guarantees that they will get what they asked for. The biggest problem is that other states are now ordering seed and using up the surplus. leaving us short. The only thing that we can do is get our orders in by November and get on the top of the list. This year we are at the bottom of the list, everyone is getting ahead of us. Winter wheat will be here in August.

Jakes & YHEC - *Bill Mackereth* presented the treasurer's report.

6/7/2003

Checkbook Balance: 3/1/2003 \$23,783.96

Income: None

Expenses:

Chesquehanna Spurs	111 Jakes	\$555.00
Susquehanna L.B.	26	130.00
Wapiti Roost	135	675.00
Mon-Valley L.B.	19	95.00
Red Rose	31	155.00
Lake Marburg	94	470.00
Lykens Valley	62	310.00
Moshannon	29	145.00
Allegheny Sultans	1	5.00
Peters Creek Trail	62	310.00
Cascade Thunderin' T.	37	185.00
Yellow Creek	81	405.00
Stony Valley	5	25.00
Tamarak T. T.	61	305.00
Endless Mountain	100	500.00
White Horse Mountain	47	235.00
Lower Bucks L. B.	43	<u>215.00</u>

Total Expenses \$4,720.00

Checkbook Balance 6/7/2003

\$19,063.96

Upper Gun Raffle - *Carl Mowry* gave a vocal report. Total Gross \$20,150 on the Gun Raffle.

Wheelin' Sportsmen - *Carl Mowry* gave a vocal report. National Wild Turkey Federation. Wheelin' Sportsmen Event to be held August 9, 2003 at Galitzin Sportsmen's Club (Cambria County, in Gallitzin, PA. Events to include: Shotgunning (Skeet), 22 Rifle, Archery and Crossbows. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the first class begins at 9:00 a.m. Wheelin' Sportsmen Mission Statement: Wheelin' Sportsmen is dedicated to providing all people with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. This event is offered at no cost for participants. Deadline for registration is July 26, 2003. Return all registration forms to: *Gary Huff*, 217 High Street, New Wilmington, PA 16142.

Budget Committee - *Jim Panaro* reported that the committee would meet on July 12, 2003 at the home of *Dwight Kuntz* at 1:00 p.m.

Communications - *Carl Mowry*, *Don Heckman* reported on a check from United Way for \$25. Communications left out for the board to read.

OLD BUSINESS - *Don O'Brien* reported on the art inventory and the values. *Dwight Kuntz* updated the Board on the Pin and Patches from 2000 - everything should be sent out by the end of June.

Don Heckman reported on the PA Chapter web site. Additions would be:

- a. **promotional site link**
- b. **press releases link**: listing of PA Chapter press releases that tell our story - once he even listed the 15 events that would constitute a State Chapter press release, but they still continue to go unwritten, hence the web site is not current, outdoor writers do not have material to write the written word about our successes, and now we have no PR representative to push the issues forward.
- c. **wild turkey management**: finally this one is about to get off square one, this one is 3 years late in getting constructed. I have finally started to build the site link with Joe's help and what information and material needs to be included in the link. This link could be very similar in format to WITO if I can ever complete the development phase. Joe does the design and down load phase.
- d. **Super Fund Banquets**: chapters, dates and location, contacts and a super fund chart of the benefits for spending super fund dollars on the wild turkey resource. The story is not completed until we can list high level information, either in categories or line items, what areas we spend the money and, to some degree where the money goes. We tell our members what we do with the money but seldom tell turkey hunters in PA, they just do not know the facts, and hence we are where we are with them.
- e. **growth and at a glance**: Don O'Brien and I continue to do the chapter and super fund charts, the PANWTF "What We Do For You" and "At-A-Glance" links could stand some window dressing. Don O'Brien gets the posters and flyers made for the sports shows and DART system. Our information and education committee could do a better job of keeping these links current.

- f. **JAKES site link:** look at Tammy's WITO site link and then substitute JAKES and you see what can be done, if somebody out there is interested in helping to design and build the site link. We need to do a state-wide JAKES events press release.
- g. **habitat:** this site link needs updated, we have updated our old habitat brochure, the new NWTf PROJECT HELP material needs to be re-linked. Any additional material the habitat committee or local chapters want added to the site link needs to be communicated and accomplished. We should be doing a spring and fall habitat press release.
- h. **hunter safety link:** ditto habitat link, any new safety material available, what do we as an organization say, do, or recommend for turkey hunting safety, we should be doing a spring and fall hunting season hunting safety press release.
- i. **panwtf history link:** again that's me and that's fine, but it definitely needs window dressing. Rhonda's chapter activities updates can certainly be a source of information.

A hard look at all the other informational and educational material already on the web site and what can be done to improve and design new ideas and components for information and education.

I will ask for an additional \$1,000 to be added in next years web site budget to fund the quarterly webmaster updates, a couple new initiatives on the table, and any suggested improvements from the Board.

Jim Panaro - reported on the Mellon Foundation.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by *Jim Panaro* for *Carl Mowry* to serve as interim president and as board chairman due to *Greg Caldwell's* resignation, seconded by *Reed Johnson*. Motion carried.

Greg Caldwell discussed our ad in the "PA Hunters Digest" and the "PA Outdoor Times". *Dwight Kuntz* also discussed the same.

Motion made by *Jim Panaro* that we support "PA Outdoor Times" @ \$3,000 for 4 issues, with a 1/2 page in each issue, seconded by *Dwight Kuntz*. Motion carried.

Greg Caldwell discussed Turkey Seminars - at least 4 in different regions of PA. Also, new member incentives. The Membership Committee and the Public Relations, Advertising Committees to come back to the August meeting with recommendations.

"Turkey Talk" is there something different out there at a better price?

The Board discussed inviting *Jeff Mulhulle*m to the August Board Meeting.

Dwight Kuntz discussed the Elk Expo to be held September 27 & 28, 2003 at the Elk County Fair Ground. *Ted Nugent* will be putting on seminars. Motion made by *Jim Panaro* that we support and attend the Elk Expo, seconded by *Dave Burdge*. Motion carried.

Don Heckman discussed the up and coming meeting with the PGC. The board reviewed the agenda and what items need to be added.

PA Sportsman Coalition -- the Board will continue its involvement with the P.S.O.

Motion made by *Don Heckman* to donate \$1,000 toward Hunters Sharing the Harvest for the year 2003-2004, seconded by *Don O'Brien*. Motion defeated.

Motion made by *Don Heckman* to donate \$500 to Hunters Sharing the Harvest for 2003-2004, seconded by *Jim Panaro*. Motion carried.

Motion made by *Don Heckman* that the PA Chapter support the Legsold Education Workshop sponsored by PA Institute for Conservation with \$1,000, seconded by *Jim Panaro*. Motion defeated.

Don Heckman will continue to serve on the Blue Mountain - Kittatinny Ridge Project Committee.

Motion made by *Jim Panaro* that we buy one truck ticket for each of the 3 ROD'S at the cost of \$300, seconded by *Dwight Kuntz*. Motion carried.

Upper Gun Raffle Winners:

1. Curtis Diffendorfer, Manliem, PA - Bretta Silver Hawk
2. Michael Wagner, Lewistown, PA - Winchester XZ
3. Nathan & Jennifer McCleaf, Mechanicsburg, PA - Ithica 37
4. J. M. Spanko, Johnstown, PA - Ruger 77 SLS
5. Donald Badorf, Mechanicsburg, PA - Beretta ES - 180

Moved by *Dwight Kuntz* to adjourn, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Bill

Bill Mackereth, Secretary
PA Chapter NWTF



PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and
Preservation of the Turkey Hunting Tradition

Pa. Chapter NWTF home page www.panwtf.com E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

1

Attention NWTF Executive Board Members: The Friday, June 6th Executive Board Meeting will be held at Bill Mackereth's camp (see-enclosed directions) at 8:00 p.m.

Attention all Board Members: The Saturday, June 7th PA Chapter NWTF Board Meeting will be held at the Moshannon State Forest Office at 9:00 a.m. The office is located at S.B. Elliot Park off I-80 at exit 111.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NWTF ANNUAL MEETING STATE COLLEGE, PA

March 2, 2003

The Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF was called to order by Board Chairman Don O'Brien at 10:07 a.m.

There was no Old Business from the last annual meeting, thus Board Chairman asked for New Business.

New Business - Nominating Committee presented the following list of candidates for the officers PA State Chapter: President, *Dr. Greg Caldwell*

Vice-President, *Dwight Kuntz*

Secretary, *Bill Mackereth*

Treasurer, *Jim Panaro*

Chairman of the Board, *Carl Mowry Dale*

Directors until 2006, *Gary Beatty, ~~Carl~~ Butler, Dave Burge, Ray Smith & Tom Bunty*

Directors until 2005, *Gene Alwine*

Director until 2004, *Skip Motts*

Don O'Brien asked for any other nominations for President. **Motion made by Don Heckman** to close the nomination for President, seconded by *Rick Stutzman*. Motion carried.

Don O'Brien asked for any other nominations for Vice-President. **Motion made by Don Heckman** to close the nomination for Vice-President, seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried.

Don O'Brien asked for any other nominations for Secretary. Motion made by *Tom Bunty* to close the nomination for Secretary, seconded by *Don Heckman*. Motion carried.

Don O'Brien asked for any other nominations for Treasurer. Motion made by *Clyde Gouker, Jr.*, seconded by *Rick Stutzman*. Motion carried.

Don O'Brien asked for any other nominations for Chairman of the Board. Motion made by *Rick Stutzman*, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion carried.

Don O'Brien asked for any other nominations for the Board of Directors. Motion made by *Rhonda Henry*, seconded by *Don Heckman*. Motion carried.

Don O'Brien asked for a motion to move that the slate of candidates be accepted as presented. Motion made by *Don Heckman*, seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

PA CHAPTER N WTF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
CENTRE COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
STATE COLLEGE, PA

March 2, 2003

The March 2, 2003 Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chairman *Don O'Brien*, at 10:15 a.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance and reviewing of the ground rules, *Don* moved into officers reports.

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT REPORT - *Carl Mowry* presented a written report of his activities.

SECRETARY REPORT - by *Bill Muckereth*. A motion to accept the secretary's report with some spelling corrections was made by *Clyde Gouker, Jr.* and seconded by *Jim Panaro*. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* presented a written report. January 1, 2003 through February 28, 2003, the starting balance was \$10,118.38. Income \$45,925.00 Expenses \$31,342.02. Ending balance \$25,834.65. Net Gain (Loss) \$15,716.27. Moved by *Don Heckman* to accept the treasurer's report with a second from *Clyde Gouker, Jr.* Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT - *Greg Caldwell* presented a written report of his activities.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - *Don O'Brien* presented a written report of his activities.

Turkey Talk Editor - *Jeff Mulhollem* Questions, answers and comments followed. *Jeff* wants to take Turkey Talk to 16 pages. **Motion made by *Dr. Greg Caldwell* to increase Turkey Talk to 16 pages this time, seconded by *Don Heckman*. Motion carried.**

NWTF REPORTS

SENIOR REGIONAL SUPERVISOR- *Jerry Zimmerman* stated that the membership and Super Fund members haven't changed much. Welcomed new members to the board. He is looking to Wheelin' Sportsman to generate revenue. Some discussion followed.

REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - *Larry Holjencin* in regards to Wheelin' Sportsman said, they usually hold the fundraiser the night prior to the event. There were a lot of Pennsylvanians at the National Convention as 28,000 people attended. In the youth turkey calling division, 3 of the top 5 were from Pennsylvania. Spoke about the speakers and the entertainers. The Susquehanna Chapter was presented national award for raising over \$500,000 for the NWTF.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR - *Bob Farkasovsky* was absent.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - *Tammy Mowry* has 23 WITO Events scheduled this year and the State event is coming up the end of March. Seventy four women are registered for the State WITO Events. There will be 20 classes that the ladies can choose from. The Annual Event Coordinator meeting is coming up soon. PA ranks 3rd in the nation for hosting events. We rank 2nd in getting women to attend events. They need help from volunteers.

NORTH EAST REGIONAL BIOLOGIST - *Bob Eriksen* had a written report.

Meetings and Events Attended

The regional biologist traveled to Minnesota to participate in the Northern Wild Turkey Workshop and to Tennessee for the 27th annual NWTF Convention. The New Jersey Chapter Awards Banquet was attended as was a retirement dinner for Bob McDowell, Director of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. Two Wild Turkey Woodlands Field Day planning meetings, were held in New York. Both field days will be held in September.

In Pennsylvania, a meeting of the Pennsylvania Habitat Alliance was attended. The first formal meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission Spring Youth Hunting Opportunity Committee was held in Harrisburg. The group discussed options for providing additional hunting opportunities for youth hunters in the spring gobbler season. Potential impacts of youth hunting were explored and several alternatives were developed for the commissioners to review.

The Pennsylvania Chapter Habitat Committee meeting was held in early February. A large number of Super Fund Project Proposals were reviewed by the committee.

Turkey Trapping

The regional biologist spent four days live-trapping turkeys with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. Conditions were ideal for capturing turkeys and more than 60 birds were caught for transfer and a gobbler survival study in those four days.

Super Fund Project Proposals

Sixty-three Super Fund requests were reviewed and edited for Pennsylvania, twelve for New York and two for Delaware. Pennsylvania projects are being sent to Edgefield in groups organized by date. Habitat project proposals were dated from February through June. Each will be sent in a few weeks prior to the requested dates.

Land Management Consultation

A training session for 25 land managers and foremen from the Pennsylvania Game Commission Bureau of Land Management was held in the Southeast Region. The session was on the subject of improving the wildlife value of spring seeps and was developed at the request of *Bruce Metz* of the Bureau of Land Management. The idea for the session came when the regional biologist spent a day in the field with PGC Forester *Dave Henry*, Land Manager *Dave Mitchell*, and Land Management Supervisor *Bruce Metz*. The group evaluated five seeps on SGL 217, discussed the value of seeps to wildlife and marked some trees adjacent to seeps for removal.

Presentations and Information Requests

Two slide programs on wild turkey ecology and management were presented in January and February. One was done at the Great Swamp Environmental Education Center in New Jersey and the other was at a meeting of the Western New York Safari Club in Hamburg. A total of more than 240 people were reached.

The regional biologist prepared eighteen letters on wild turkey habitat improvement, setting spring gobbler seasons and other subjects. The letters were sent out to people who requested information by telephone, mail and e-mail.

Forty slides on habitat management for wild turkeys were selected and loaned to the New York Department of Environmental Conservation for use in a habitat management seminar in Allegheny County. The regional biologist sent photo enlargements to the Pennsylvania State Chapter for use on the chapter display and to the Finger Lakes National Forest in New York for their display backdrop.

Writing Projects

Two articles were prepared for the spring issue of Pennsylvania *Turkey Talk*. Some discussion followed.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE - *Mary Jo Casalena*, *Bob Boyd* were both absent.

NWTF BOARD OF DIRECTOR - *Ron Fretts* was absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PA Chapter JAKES/NWTF Fund - *Bill Mackereth* had a written treasurer's report.

Checkbook Balance 1/10/03	\$39,913.96
<u>Income:</u> None	
Balance	\$39,913.96

Expenses:

PA Chapter NWTF	\$15,000.00
Del. Co. Longbeard's (104)	520.00
Beaver Valley L.B.'s (65)	325.00
Ten Mile Valley (57)	<u>285.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$16,130.00

Checkbook Balance 3/01/03	\$23,783.96
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Regional directors, past president, Chairman of the Board, incoming president received a list of all the chapters in the state that have Jakes to use for memberships which carries over from 2001, 2002 and 2003.

Discussed the BB Gun Championships. Discussed having Jakes events in other areas of the state.

Discussed YHEC is alive and strong. We have winners from PA at the Nationals. This years state event will be held at Scotia Range in June.

Promotional Committee - *Skip Sanderson* had a written report.

PROMOTIONS

An article regarding the new license plates and mentioning the rear plates was submitted to *Jeff Mulhollem* for inclusion in the next issue of *Turkey Talk*. There has been no other activity during the period since the last Board Meeting.

LICENSE PLATES

According to PennDot, 503 license plates have been assigned.

Skip wanted to know if anyone wanted a shirt, members were to see *Skip* before they left.

Habitat Committee Report - *Reed Johnson* reported on the Habitat Super Fund Committee meeting. There were \$223,954 worth of projects submitted. We are operating with a \$142,000 budget, following some phone calls and time it was narrowed down to a few hundred less than \$142,000. We were able to fund, partially, most of the requests. A \$9,200 check came back to be put into the Super Fund. The Seed Co. has some problems within the company itself and we may not receive the seed from them. 48 Chapters applied for corn, winter wheat, etc.; which is more chapters that have come on board for this program. Still working on the seed program.

Communications - Posted on the display board at the back of the room.

Ron Fretts received the highest NWTF Award - the 5 Star Award for volunteerism - congratulations to *Ron*.

Jim Gayton, III received the C.B. McCleod Award for special service to the NWTF - congratulations to *Jim*.

OLD BUSINESS - *Carl Mowry* reported on the Super Fund. \$142,000 for projects, \$30,000 for seed, \$23,000 for land acquisitions, \$35,000 for safety and education for the year. We don't want to cut anything away from the different projects. Possibility of holding back the land acquisition portion of the budget in order to have a cushion.

Jim Panaro set up a L. C. D. Projector that his company uses in order that the board members could view it. Motion made by *Tom Bunty* to purchase 2 L. C. D. Projectors (\$2,500), \$1,200 will be Super Funded to make up the difference for this purchase, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion carried. *Jim Panaro* will purchase the L. C. D. Projectors.

Outdoor Heritage - Discussed the motion made at the last meeting. Motion made by *Gary Beatty* to rescind the motion from the last meeting to donate \$1,500 to Outdoor Heritage, seconded by *Greg Caldwell*. Motion carried.

Motion made by *Clyde Gouker, Jr.* to allocate \$100 for booth space at the Outdoor Heritage, seconded by *Gary Huff*. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS - PGC meeting, April 7th and 8th. State Chapter to line up members to attend and comments to be given.

Motion made by *Gary Beatty* to donate 2 framed prints and \$1,000 to PA YHEC, seconded by *Clyde Gouker, Jr.* Motion carried.

Shotguns for WITO - Motion made by *Gary Huff* to purchase 4 semi automatic and 2 over and under shotguns. *Gary Beatty* moved we amend the MM to purchase 3 shotguns (12g. reg., 20g. reg. and 20g. youth) and spend up to \$1,300, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Amendment carried. Main motion as amended carried.

Motion made by *Rick Stutzman* that *Jim Panaro* pursue the contacts with the Mellon Foundation for conservation program support, seconded by *Clyde Gouker, Jr.* Motion carried.

Jim Panaro brought up a fundraising idea of purchasing a hunt and sell chances over e-bay. We will ask *Dave Blakley* to head up a committee to pursue the idea and bring back information to the June meeting.

NWTF/PGC Board Meeting on 16th of June. *Carl Mowry* reported that August and June meetings have been combined, one meeting a year. We can request two meetings. *Don Heckman* was asked to contact *Kathy Wilson*. *Don* explained what took place at the meetings.

The PGC/PFBC merger - *Don Heckman* explained resolution 15, voted 199 - 201, to support a house game and fish and committee hearing across PA to look at any possibility of merging both agencies. The first hearing will be March 25th. The major topic will be salaries. *Don* has sent information to all of you by e-mail.

Motion made by *Clyde Gouker, Jr.* that *Bob Erikson* draft a letter to Region 9 of the US Forest Service indicating that we (PA Chapter) would like to participate in the forest plan revision process for Allegheny National Forest, seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried.

Carl Mowry reported the Upper Gun Raffle is taken care of and tickets are at the printers.

Don Heckman reported that the PA State Chapter is approaching the \$3,000,000 dollar figure for Super Fund expenditure.

Jerry Zimmerman commented on the notification of local chapters of approved local Super Fund projects. Item will be undertaken by Habitat Committee.

Jerry Zimmerman regarding the donation to the Ned Smith Nature Center. Our donation goes toward the Habitat Trail, not for the building. Presentation of check, picture and article will be put in the local news papers.

Gary Beatty asked that the new e-mail addresses be sent to *Dr. Caldwell*.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Don O'Brien thanked the board for all they have done - exchanging of the gavel. *Jerry Zimmerman* - thanks to *Don O'Brien* from the staff.

Moved by *Clyde Gouker, Jr.* to adjourn, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

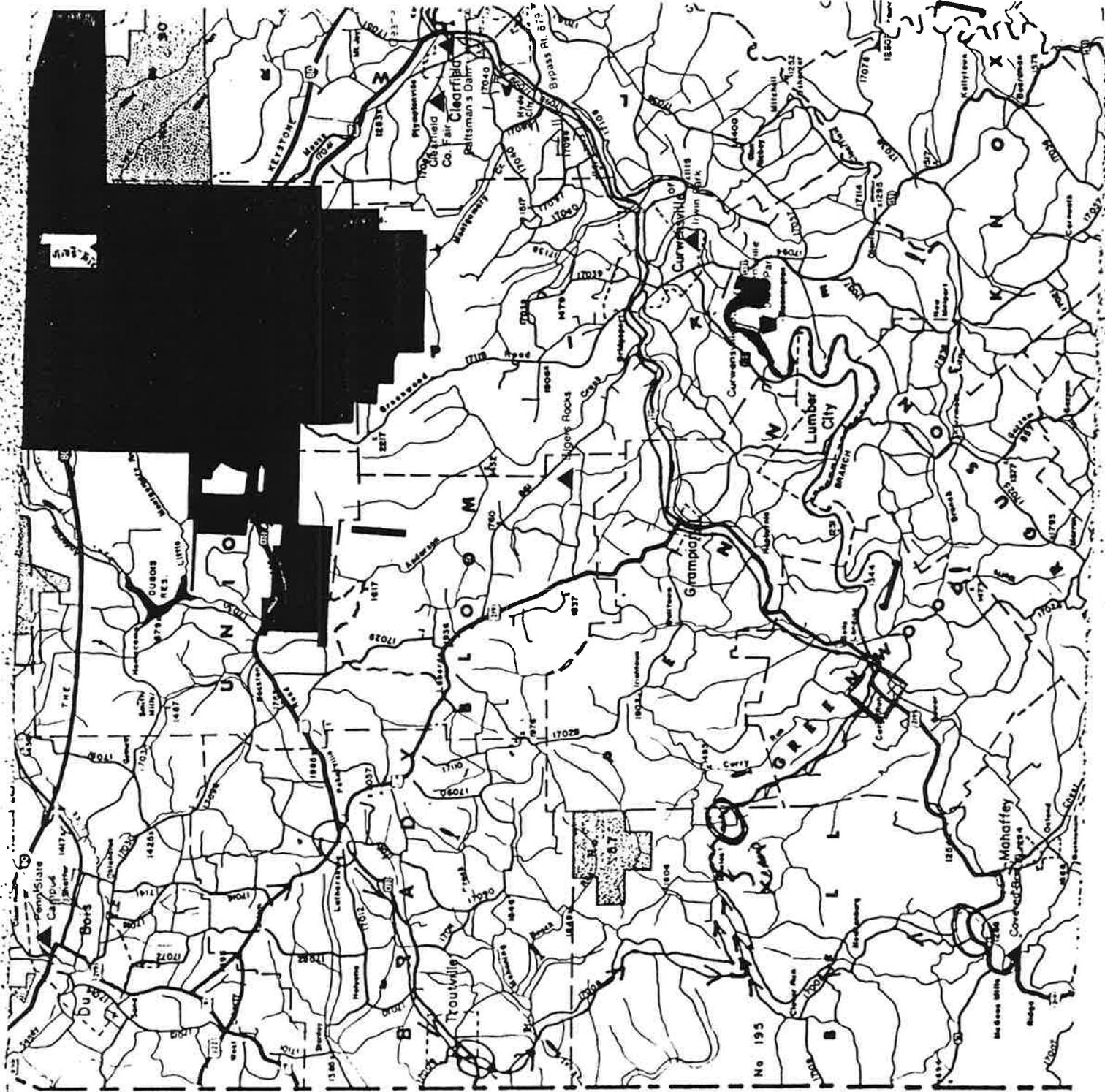


**Bill Mackereth, Secretary
PA Chapter NWTF**

Directions to Bill Mackereth's camp. From Clearfield take state route 879 to Grampian. At Grampian go straight through the traffic light and you will be on 219, and going towards Bells Landing. After Bells Landing you will be going down a steep hill. At the bottom of the hill is a curve to the left. Immediately after the curve is a road to the right (Curry Run Road) □. The road starts out paved but soon turns to dirt. Follow Curry Run Road past Reed's camp to a T (Splash Dam Road) O. Turn left on Splash Dam Road and proceed approximately 1/2 mile and you will come to a farm. At the very top of the hill (across from the barn) turn left and go down through the hay fields. You will come to a pipe gate at the edge of the woods, continue to the 3rd camp.

From DuBois: Take 219 south. At Luthersburg O turn right onto 410 to Troutville. After going through Troutville, turn left on route 17008 O towards McGees Mills. Continue on route 17008 until you come to a 90 degree curve. Turn left onto Rock Springs Road (paved) at that 90 degree curve. You will come to the farm and the road turns to dirt. After about 100 yards of dirt road turn right onto the camp road.

From Indiana: Take 219 north to McGee's Mills. Past McGee's Mills you will come to a country store. Turn left onto 17008 O. Continue on 17008 towards the 90 degree curve. There will be a fenced in Gas Company on your right before the 90 degree curve. Go straight through the 90 degree curve onto Rock Springs Road (paved). Follow the road to the farm where the road turns to dirt. Turn right onto the camp road.



J E F F E R S O N

C O U N T Y

I N D I A



PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and
Preservation of the Turkey Hunting Tradition

Pa. Chapter NWTF home page www.panwtf.com E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

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The PA Chapter NWTF Executive Board Meeting will be held at Greg Dreibelbis' Camp off Route 322 East of Boalsburg, PA. Turn on to the township road that goes past Ski-Mount. The Executive Board Meeting will start at 4:00 p.m., Saturday, March 1st.

The PA Chapter NWTF Board Meeting will be held Sunday, March 2nd beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Board Meeting will be held at the Centre Co. Solid Waste Authority Building off Route 26 that leads from State College to Pleasant Gap, PA. The Waste Authority Building is near the Nittany Mall.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NWTF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 12, 2003

The January 12, 2003 Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chairman *Don O'Brien*, at 9:10 a.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance and reviewing of the ground rules, *Don* moved into officers reports.

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT REPORT - *Carl Mowry* presented a written report of his activities.

SECRETARY REPORT - by *Bill Mackereth*. A motion to accept the secretary's report with corrections was made by *Dwight Kuntz* and seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* presented a written report. October 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002, the starting balance was \$14,036.28. Income \$27,424.12. Expenses \$31,342.02. Ending balance \$10,118.38. Net Loss \$3,917.90. Discussed the upcoming major expense with the winter issue of Turkey Talk. *Jim* handed out an Accountant's Compilation Report and Budget Review for the first four months of the 2002-2003 fiscal year. All budget categories look to be on track for a good year. Moved by *Don Heckman* to accept the treasurer's report with a second from *Dennis Strawbridge*. Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT - *Greg Caldwell* presented a written report of his activities.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - *Don O'Brien* presented a written report of his activities.

NWTF REPORTS

SENIOR REGIONAL SUPERVISION - *Jerry Zimmerman* presented a written report. Membership totals as of the November - December issue of Turkey Call magazine, we are 4th in the country. We are behind Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Super Fund Activity - Banquet - 1-2-03 beginning balance of -\$36,239.84. Total banquets \$366,313.73. Total direct donations \$20,168.46. Total source of funds \$386,482.19. Super fund available before expenditures \$350,242.35. Total expenditures \$326,596.23. Ending balance \$23,646.12. Some discussion followed.

Discussed the clothing with Cabelos. A sample of the shirt was brought to the meeting. Pricing is reasonable and they are available.

Members were asked to give their e-mail to Jerry or Larry to receive the News from the Roost.

Discussed two new chapters.

REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - *Larry Holjencin* received back issues of Turkey Talk some were dated as far back as 1976. They were put on E-bay and were sold.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR - *Bob Farkasovsky* had no report.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - *Tammy Mowry* discussed the events in the state which wrapped up in October 2002. She is now scheduling events for 2003. State event will be held the end of March - she brought that information with her if anyone was interested. Women's membership in 2002 grossed over 43,000 women. PA ranked second in the number of women who come to events. 746 women attend events. Ohio had over 1,000 women attend events. Held over 348 events in 2002. plan to hold 480 events for 2003. Women in the Outdoors gun can be purchased to do fundraising.

NORTH EAST REGIONAL BIOLOGIST - *Bob Eriksen* had to leave but presented a written report.

Super Fund Planning, Project Reviews and Tours

Twenty-nine Super Fund Project requests from three states were reviewed, edited and sent to Edgefield in the past few months. Most of the project requests were Five Star projects. The regional biologist and several members of the Shenango Valley (PA) Chapter met with personnel from the US Army Corps of Engineers to tour the Shenango Lake area and plan habitat improvement projects for the site. Project reviews were completed and photographs taken for upcoming articles on the Finger Lakes National Forest, the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, and Margaret Burke Wildlife Management Areas in New York. These tours included US forest Service and New York DEC biologists as well as members of the Catherine Valley and Capital District local chapters.

Super Fund project planning meetings were held with local chapter members and land managers from the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife on the Flatbrook-Roy, Walpack and Wildcat Ridge Wildlife Management Areas in New Jersey and the Balck Creek WMA in New York. Highlands and Kit-Han-Ne Gobblers local chapter members and New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife land managers worked with the regional biologist on site clean-up, brush-hogging and planting of crabapple saplings on the Wildcat Ridge area in preparation for the Thanksgiving Media Release.

Special Projects

Chapter members from the Pennsylvania State Chapter, the Michaux-Yellow Breeches, Mason-Dixon and Fort Chambers local Chapters spent a Sunday in November placing rodent bait stations on the Stausbaugh Orchard in Adams County. This project was coordinated by the NWTF regional biologist and PGC Wild Turkey Biologist Mary Jo Casalena. The goal of the project is to help reduce the chances of accidental pesticide poisoning in wild turkeys in TMA 7B and to alert locate orchard owners to the availability of assistance in handling bait station placement. Members of a local hunt club also participated in the work party. Approximately 700 bait stations were distributed in the orchard.

NWTF has partnered with state wildlife agencies for the past two years to take advantage of media interest in wild turkeys during the Thanksgiving season. This year wild turkey releases were scheduled for the Chicago metro area and the New York metro area. A tremendous amount of work went into the releases and the regional biologist spent considerable time planning and coordinating the release that took place on the Wildcat Ridge WMA in New Jersey. The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife devoted ten people to turkey trapping efforts and local chapter volunteers helped with release site prep and turkey capture. Thirty-five turkeys were caught in the two days before the release. Two hundred people including 60 local students, state and local chapter members from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland, local and state government and the media attended the event. Twelve turkeys were released at the event and 23 were transferred to another location in southern New Jersey.

Four days were spent setting up rocket and drop nets and attempting to capture wild turkeys in New Jersey for the Thanksgiving release. The effort gave New Jersey a head start on winter trapping effort as two releases were completed in November.

Writing Projects

Two articles were prepared for the winter issue of Pennsylvania Turkey Talk. One article covered the bait station project and the other was about odd-colored turkey beards. An article on Project Heartland was written for the Ohio Chapter newsletter and an article on managing spring seeps was completed for the Habitat Notebook section of "Turkey Call". Four articles were written for the winter issue of "The Caller". One article was on the bait station placement work party in Pennsylvania, one covered two Super Fund projects in New Jersey, and one provided information on the fall harvest for 2002 in New Jersey. The fourth article detailed three Super Fund Projects in New York. Photographs were included for the articles.

Meetings and Presentations

The regional biologists attended the October and January Pennsylvania Game Commission meetings and met with Game Commission biologists planning the Ohio River drainage CREP program.

The TMA 7B Task Force meeting was attended at the Michaux State Forest office along with Game Commission personnel, Bureau of Forestry employees and state and local chapter volunteers. Results of the recent study were presented, and the group formulated recommendations for managing the turkey population in the area.

Two days were spent meeting with Jay McGhee of Virginia Tech and Tony McBride of New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. Mr. McGhee is working on the regional wild turkey modeling project in which Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Rhode Island have been involved. New Jersey recently agreed to take part in the project. The meeting was designed to provide the researchers with data pertinent to the project. The NWTF regional biologist collected data on wild turkeys in New Jersey for 25 years so his input was sought by the researchers.

Met with habitat specialists at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey to review habitat management techniques they are using and discuss wild turkey management on the refuge.

There were several meetings at the Wildcat Ridge WMA release site to plan the event. Meetings included New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife personnel, township officials, the NWTF regional director and state and local chapter members. A slide show on wild turkey biology and management techniques was presented at a meeting of the Niagara Frontier local chapter in New York. Members of three other chapters attended the presentation.

Turkey Call Television

The "Turkey Call Television" segment filmed last spring in New Jersey is scheduled to air on TNN on February 15 and 16. If you are not going to Nashville, have a look at the show and let me know how it turned out.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE - *Bob Boyd* presented a written report.

Turkey Population Status

We continue to be in the best of times across most of the state regarding turkey population status. Wildlife Conservation Officers reported 19.3 turkeys per 1,000 survey miles during the 2002 Summer Sighting Survey, a new statewide record high (Table 1). The most recent Game Take Survey indicated a record total harvest of over 97,000 birds in 2001, with a record high spring gobbler harvest topping 49,000. Spring harvest density was also a new high at 1.9 gobblers per forested square mile (Table 2).

In spite of the rosy statewide picture, we continue to be concerned about low populations in Turkey Management Areas (TMAs) 7B and 9A (Tables 1 & 2).

Fall 2003 Season Recommendations

Fall season recommendations were designed to accomplish 4 objectives:

1. Incorporate proposed Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) (Figure 1).
Transition from TMAs to WMUs causes relatively few problems across the state. Because boundaries of TMAs and WMUs do not match up exactly, some areas of the state will experience changes in season length and usage of sporting arms and daylight fluorescent orange.
2. Maintain 3-week seasons that were established in 2002.
Fall hunting seasons in TMAs 1A, 2 and 7A (WMUs 1A, 2A, 2B, 2D, 4A, 4B, 4C) were lengthened from a 2-week to a 3-week season in 2002. We recommend maintaining 3-week seasons in these areas for at least 2 more years in order to determine if the lengthened season has any impact on the turkey population in these areas.
3. Close TMA 7B (WMU 5A) to fall hunting.
We recommend closing the fall season in TMA 7B (WMU 5A) for a period of at least 3 years to aid in population recovery. TMA 7B has had a one-week season since 1995 and the population has not improved substantially (Tables 1 & 2). Computerized simulations show that the population is stationary. Although spring harvest and summer sightings increased in 2001, we do not yet have data to determine if this is a trend or just an anomaly of the date. The 2.5-year intensive research study showed that turkey survival is lower than recommended, especially survival of sub-adults. Sub-adult survival was lowest during the fall, partially due to the fall hunting season. Study results also showed a 3-year average 15% fall harvest mortality of hens. Simulation modeling has shown that fall harvests more than 10% of the hen population may lead to decreases in population size. Minimizing hen mortality may help increase the population, and hunting is one mortality factor in which we have direct control. The Michaux Wild Turkey Task Force, comprised of representatives from state and local chapters of the NWTF, DCNR and PGC, is in support of this recommendation.

4. Maintain a closed fall season in TMA 9A (WMU 5B).
The fall turkey-hunting season in TMA 9A is closed to aid in turkey restoration activities. The bulk of WMU 5B is comprised of TMA 9A, so we recommend closing fall season in all of proposed WMU 5B as well.

Recommendations approved at the January 2003 Commission meeting were:

WMU	Sporting Arm	Dates	Daily and Season
1A, 2A & 2B	Shotgun/archery	Nov. 1-22	Limit =1
1B	Shotgun/archery	Nov. 1-15	
2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G,	Shotgun/archery	Nov. 1-22	
3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A,			
4B, 4C, 4D, 4E			
5A & 5B	Closed		
5C & 5D	Shotgun/archery	Nov. 1-8	1

Spring 2004 Season Recommendation

Spring Gobbler Statewide May 1 to 29, 2004

In addition, it was recommended extending daily hunting hours during the spring season from a 12:00 pm closure to a 5:00 pm closure.

The season dates were approved by the Board of Commissioners, however extended hunting hours failed to receive a motion of adoption. Some discussion followed.

NWTF BOARD OF DIRECTOR - Ron Fretts was not present.

Carl Mowry presented the David Wellness Award to *Skip Sanderson*.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PA Chapter JAKES/NWTF Fund - Bill Mackereth had a written treasurer's report. (1/10/03)

Checkbook Balance 10/3/02		\$11,371.96
<u>Income:</u>		
Raffle deposits		\$31,640.00
Reimbursement for Jakes Event		<u>11,420.00</u>
		\$43,060.00
	Balance	\$54,431.96
<u>Expenses:</u>		
Bob's Army & Navy (1st payment)	\$10,000.00	
White Horse Mt. (37 Jakes)	185.00	
Stoney Valley (13 Jakes)	65.00	
Shade Mtn. (57 Jakes)	285.00	
Bob's Army & Navy (final payment)	<u>3,983.00</u>	

Total Expenses

7

\$14,518.00

Checkbook Balance 1/10/03

\$39,913.96

PA NWTF CHAPTERS and RAFFLE TICKETS SOLD in 2002

Allegheny Plateau	115
Allegheny Valley	34
Ben Stimaker Memorial	111
Cascade Thunderin Toms	30
Chesquehanna Spurs	115
Col-Mont Gobblers	47
Del. Co. Longbeards	114
Juniata Gobblers	2
Kit Han-Ne	36
Lakeland Longbeards	48
Lake Marburg	75
Lake Region	10
Lehigh Valley	31
Lenni Lenape	50
Lower Bucks L.B.'s	270
Lykens Valley	50
Mason Dixon	50
Michaux Yellow Breeches	77
Mill Creek	4
Mon Valley	15
Moraine	77
Moshannon	23
Nittany Valley L.B.'s	37
Northwest Thunderin' Toms	25
Peter's Creek Trail	50
Pocono Mtn.	34
Red Rock	90
Red Rose	25
Shade Mtn.	35
Stoney Valley	50
Susquehanna	71
Susquehanna L.B.'s	21
Tamarak T.T.	25
Ten Mile Valley	14
Terrace Mtn.	41
Wapiti Roost	40
White Horse Mtn.	24

Wilhelm	62
Wilson F. Moore	21
Wolf Creek	50
Yellow Creek	65

PA NWTF CHAPTERS

Chapters With Unused Jake Memberships From 2000 - 2001 as of 12/15/02

Adams County Long Beards	4
Allegheny Plateau	54
Allegheny Sultans	1
Allegheny Valley	41
Anthracite Longspurs	9
Blue Mountain	3
Chesquehanna	26
Delaware Co. Long Beards	1
Endless Mountain	100
Foothill Spurs	76
James Wilhelm	112
Kit-Han-Ne	105
Lykens Valley	81
Mill Creek	15
S. E. Silver Spurs	2
Sherman Valley Strutters	52
Stoney Valley	51
Tamarack Turkey Talkers	58
Ten Mile Valley	40
Terrace Mountain	47
Wapiti Roost	85
White Horse Mountain	17
Warrior Trail Gobblers	60
Wilson F. Moore	10
Beaver Valley	100

Promotional Committee - *Skip Sanderson* had a written report.

PROMOTIONS

No sales activity to report over the past few months.

The new front license plates have arrived. They were quite expensive to produce and we will need to sell them for \$10.00 in order to recoup our investment in a reasonable time. He will put an ad in the next Turkey Talk.

The committee is looking into a money clip for our 30th Anniversary item. Some discussion followed.

Art Committee Report - *Reed Johnson and Carl Mowry* presented a written report.

PA CHAPTER ART 2002

Paul Dickson	Rustic Dawn	#1
Mark Twain Noe	The Apprentice	#1 of 50
Mark Twain Noe	The Apprentice	#1 of 75 A/P
Ned Smith	Hillside Takeoff	#1 of 1500
Larry Toschik	Amewrican Heritage	#1 of 1500
Jack Paluh	Mountain Music	#1 of 500
Gerald Putt	Spring Quartet	#1

Unframed Prints

Dan Christ	Autum Blue Jay/450	23 prints
	The Peace That Passes All Understanding/500	3 prints
	"The Lord Provides" Last Chance Buck/500	3 prints
	Spring Ritual/500 edition	17 prints
Gerald Putt	Spring Quartet 350	71 prints
	(plus 100 un-numbered prints)	
Dan Feaser	Double Explosion/1500	136 prints
Larry Toschik	American Heritage/1500	11 prints
Jack Paluh	Mountain Music/500	6 prints
	Mountain Music/AP 75	3 prints
Mark Twain Noe	The Apprentice/500	23 prints
	The Apprentice/AP 75	3 prints

Framed Art

- 1 - matched set of Double Explosion and American Heritage #494 of 500
- 2 - 1st Days Night by Blaine Blakeslee

Framed Art at State Forest Building District Office

- 1 - matched set of Double Explosion and American Heritage #600 of 1500

Michel Seive set	Hold Tight	#3869 of 6327
	Wait Till Dark	#3869 of 6327
	Play The Wind	#3869 of 6327
	Get Lucky	#3869 of 6327
	Ladies First	#3869 of 6327
	Find A Refuge	#3869 of 6327
Jack Paluh	Wapiti Falls	#124 of 150 AP
	Last Monarch	#323 of 500
Mark Twain Noe	The Apprentice	#487 of 500
Dan Christ	Windfall Whitetails	#128 of 450
	Appletree	#8 of 10 conservation
Rob Keck	Follow The Leader	#35 of 1000
		#296 of 1000*use in 2003 Bqt.
Mike Schrack	Slendor By Design	#134 of 500*use in 2003 Bqt.
Rod Arbogast	Raccoon Print	#382 of 950*use in 2003 Bqt.

Will try to get values at a later time. Some discussion followed.

Habitat Committee Report - Reed Johnson reported that the habitat projects have been coming in at a slow rate. He received a call from the seed company: they are overwhelmed with seed. They had a very poor year last year. There are large amounts of seed available. There would be no cost involved if we will take the seed. We can take the Bureau of Forestry truck down to pick it up. We have the clearance and arrangements have been made to take tractor trailers down to transport the seed. Need local chapters in the Williamsport area to find some places to transport it to. There is a large volume of last years seed corn there. There is probably enough corn there to take care of the state distribution of seed corn. We should be able to save a large amount of money out of the \$30,000 that has been budgeted (Super Fund money). Partial loads can be picked up.

We have received only 8 forms back on seed requests. Local chapters are calling about the winter wheat. We had to limit it last year. Some discussion followed.

Wheelin Sportsmen - Gary Huff and Larry Holjencin reported that the Terrace Mountain Chapter held a Wheelin Sportsmen event at Raystown Lake, there was an area that was closed off to hunting for 20 some years. The chapter worked with the Army Corp. of Engineers. The chapter members put on drives; local businesses helped to support this event. They had four participants. Next year they will write an article for Turkey Talk to apply for hunting and doe tags in time to take advantage of that hunt. It was suggested that they get someone to write an article for Turkey Talk now while it is fresh in their minds.

Dart System - Dwight Kuntz stated that it is scheduled to go out the 18th of January, to the Col-Mont Gobblers.

State Coordinator - Rhonda Henry reported on the state WITO Event. The dates are March 28th, 29th and the 30th. Would like to see some of the board members there to represent the board. Goal is 50. Volunteers are welcomed.

Communications - Thank you notes, etc. were posted on the bulletin board.

OLD BUSINESS - Don Heckman reported on the Turkey Management Area 7B. The task force seven-year study is now finished. The final meeting was held in October, with 15 to 25 participants. Three updates were published in Turkey Talk. We had 25 recommendations. One was to close certain roads during the month of April and May because of the nesting season. The Bureau of Forestry approved. We have successfully created 40 special wildlife management units. Final goal was to put out the information in the form of an executive summary. **Move by Don Heckman that Turkey Management Area 7b Wild Turkey Task Force support letter be sent to the PA Game Commission and publish that letter also in Turkey Talk, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS - Ned Smith Museum approached us for a donation. Motion made by *Dwight Kuntz* that the NWTF PA Chapter donate \$10,000 at \$2,500 per year for 4 years to the Ned Smith Museum, seconded by *Gary Beatty*. Motion carried.

Series of art work by Michel Seive need values of the art. Some discussion on how to dispose of. Should we put it on E-Bay? We need values of the art before we sell it. Some discussion followed.

Motion made by *Rick Stutzman* that we consider a contribution of \$1,000 to the PA Federation of Sportsman Clubs, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Some discussion followed. Motion failed.

Motion made by *Don Heckman* that the incoming Governor and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission and the PA Chapter work up a letter to support the PGC's position to oppose IRRC intervention, seconded by *Jim Panaro*. Some discussion followed. Motion carried. *Don Heckman* and *Dr. Caldwell* to draft a letter and see that the board of directors get that letter.

Are we going to financially support the Outdoor Heritage to be held on May 1st - 3rd? Last year we donated \$1,500.

Motion made by *Don Heckman* that the PA State Chapter needs to be involved in the Outdoor Heritage Program, seconded by *Reed Johnson*. Motion carried.

Motion made by *Gary Beatty* that the state board supports the Outdoor Heritage with a \$1,500 donation, seconded by *Jim Panaro*. Motion carried.

Motion made by *Don Heckman* moved that the PA Chapter coordinates and schedule the manpower to run the 3 day event of the Outdoor Heritage, seconded by *Reed Johnson*. Motion carried - with one nay.

Motion made by *Dr. Caldwell* that we purchase another sound system for the PA Chapter, seconded by *Gary Beatty*. Motion carried.

Motion made by *Gary Beatty* that the PA Chapter investigate getting prices and model of the LCD projectors for the March meeting, seconded by *Dr. Caldwell*. Motion carried.

P.O.W.A. Dues are \$85 total. Motion made by *Dennis Strawbridge* that we maintain our membership with POWA, seconded by *Don Heckman*. Motion carried.

Motion made by *Gary Beatty* to pay \$40 entrance fee for *Tammy Mowry* to attend the Women's Business Expo, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion carried.

Motion made by *Dwight Kuntz* that the Chapter increase the Jakes budget to \$1,500 (from \$1,000 to \$1,500), seconded by *Reed Johnson*. Motion carried.

Suggested that the Jakes Committee discuss the possibility of additional meeting places for the State Jakes Event.

Gary Huff chairman with *Rhonda Henry* were asked to research the guns (shot guns), models and to be owned by the PA Chapter and used by WITO - Jakes - Wheelin Sportsman and etc. they will bring information back to the March meeting.

Motion made by *Dr. Caldwell* that the PA Chapter donate \$500 to the Halfmoon Sportsman Club, seconded by *Jim Panaro*. *Reed Johnson* amended the motion that we give 2 art prints to the club to fund these activities, seconded by *Gary Beatty*. Amendment carried. Motion now reads that the PA Chapter donate 2 art prints to the Halfmoon Sportsman Club for them to fund their activities. Motion carried.

Motion made by *Don Heckman* that we donate \$25 for the PA Taxidermist Association Wild Turkey Mount Award at ESOS, seconded by *Gary Beatty*. Motion carried.

Motion made by *Gary Beatty* that we purchase and set aside 5 WCO Awards, the cost will be \$125 (\$25 each), seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried.

Dart System Insurance Program does not cover the system when it is in transit - "must be very careful when hauling." *Dwight Kuntz* is looking into the insurance and coverage.

Reed Johnson is to look into insurance on the art at *Reed's* and also the value of the art.

Motion made by *Jim Panaro* that we sell all the art inventory except the Ned Smith #1 print and use the proceeds for our Diamond Life Membership, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. *Reed Johnson* moved that we table the motion until the art committee investigates the cost and when best to sell the art, seconded by *Don Heckman*. Motion carried.

Motion made by *Gary Huff* that we accept the 3 Lavanish Prints from *Dave Blakely*, seconded by *Denny Stuzman*. Motion carried.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

What should we do with the awards for those not present at the banquet? It was decided that they will be mailed to the recipients.

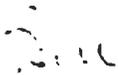
Jerry Zimmerman asked when is the June meeting with the P. G. C.?

At the April meeting - we need to request time to present the WCO awards.

Don Heckman did send an e-mail out to all the board concerning the Federation of Sportsmen resolution on that second spring bird. The Federation of Sportsmen club are pursuing a second bird tag with PA Game Commission for spring season.

Moved by *Rhonda Henry*, seconded by *Denny Stutzman*, and we adjourned at 2:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by,



**Bill Mackereth, Secretary
PA Chapter NWTF**