



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 Board Members:

Executive Board meeting, Calling Contest, Seminars, Banquet and State Board meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn, State College, PA on the following dates and times:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Jan. 7, Friday - | Executive Board meeting 7:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 8, Saturday - | Calling Contest 1:30 p.m.
Seminars 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Banquet 5:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 9, Sunday - | Board meeting 9:00 a.m. |

*Pennsylvania Chapter NWTf
Board of Director Meeting
DCR District Forestry Building
S.B. Elliott Park
October 9, 2004*

Directors Present: G. Alwine, G. Beatty, T. Bunty, D. Burdge,
G. Caldwell, D. Heckman, R. Johnson, D. Kuntz, B. Mackereth,
C. Mowry, J. Panaro, D. Sanderson and R. Smith

Directors absent: D. Butler, Sr., C. Gouker, Jr., R. Henry, G. Huff,
D. O'Brien, D. Strawbridge and R. Stutzman

The October 9, 2004 PA NWTf Board meeting was called to order by *Carl Mowry*, Chairman of the Board, at 9:12 a.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance,

introduction of guests, and the ground rules, Chairman *Carl Mowry* moved into:

OFFICER REPORTS

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

SECRETARY REPORT - *Bill Mackereth* had a written report. *Dave Burdge* moved and *Greg Caldwell* seconded the motion to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* had a written report. Report for period August 1, 2004 through September 30, 2004. Starting Balance \$36,755.05. Income \$18,394.36. Expenses \$10,805.32. Ending Balance \$44,580.37. Net Gain (Loss) \$7,805.32. Moved by *Bill Mackereth* and seconded by *Skip Motts* to approve the Treasurer's report and 2005 budget as printed. Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT - *Dave Burdge* had a written report.

NWTF REPORTS

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

Membership:	22,606	Adults:	12,050
		JAKES:	7,880
		WITO:	2,036
		WS:	640

Super Fund:	Balance \$39,370		
	2004 Dep. - 344,396	(03)	340,835
	2004 Exp. - 320,113		

Dues Increase: \$30 Reg.
\$225 Sponsors

Archery in schools - Meeting Sept. 10
30th Anniversary Print/Boxcall
Reserved numbers

Ned Smith Center - "Naming Opportunity"

WITO & JAKES and Wheelin' Sportsmen dues stay the same.

The State Board approved the placement of a plaque on the entrance pillars of the Ned Smith center for our \$10,000 contribution, on a motion by *Dwight Kuntz*, seconded by *Don Heckman*. Motion carried.

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

National Convention: *Tracy Boyd* - Thursday p.m. entertainer
 Feb 19-22, 2005
 Nashville, TN

- still a few vendor booths available
- Sat. p.m. entertainment not confirmed
- reserved seating available again
- registration forms were mailed 10/8/04 to Chapter President, Banquet Chairman, District Directors, State Chapter Presidents, WITO Coordinators and 2003 & 2004 Convention Attendees
- registration forms and convention update are on our website www.NWTF.org

Big Brothers/Sisters

- invited *Michele Richards* of BBBS to this board meeting, but she had a prior commitment
- *Michele Richards* will attend our January board meeting to discuss their "Pass It On" program which matches kids to hunters and fisherman
- they want to do a fall turkey hunt in Tioga County and Lycoming County. Will talk to our chapters there to see if there is an interest to host some young hunters
- Typical hunt - hosts offer a place to hunt and guides - kids are brought in by BBBS shoot guns Fri. p.m. - hunt Sat.
- *Jerry* and *Larry* have two Lynx Club Cars available for raffle, auction or personal purchase. These came to us in lieu of cash for TV advertising
- if your chapter can use one or if you know someone who would like to buy one, they are \$3,900 delivered to your local dealer - retail price is \$5,200 - \$5,800
- if we don't have a use for all of our allocation, we may ask the board to run and ad in PA Turkey Talk to sell it

Club Car

National Board election

- ballots were in last issue of Women in the Outdoors magazine - should be in next Turkey Call magazine
- *Ron Fretts* is up for re-election - we encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote

Queen Knives

- have 25 leftover sponsor knives and need to pay Queen Cutlery for them - anyone that wants one or more can have them for \$25 - have them with me

Senior Regional Director - *Bob Farkasovsky* was absent.

Women's Regional Field Supervisor - *Tammy Mowry* sent in a written report as follows:

- Our membership stands at 2,036.
- The following events have taken place since our last board meeting
 1. Stony Valley (August 13)
 2. Blue Mountain (August 21)
 3. Ligonier Valley WITO & Local #1 (August 20-22)
 4. Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards (September 17-18)
 5. The Laurels Longbeards (October 9)
- This was an outstanding year for events being held in the state. We had 24 events scheduled throughout the state. Plus as of today, nearly 1,000 women have participated in the events this year.
- Any help you can provide me with in identifying chapters/businesses that would be willing to host an event, would be greatly appreciated. Or, if you know of anyone who would be interested in instructing at an event, please let me know. We are always looking for new classes and new instructors.
- My annual Event Coordinator's Leadership meeting will be held on Saturday, January 8 at the Ramada Inn in State College. The meeting is open to anyone who is interested in coordinating/hosting a Women in the Outdoors event.

National Update:

- *Trish Berry* has resigned her position as the National Coordinator for the Women in the Outdoors program. We will be interviewing for this position in the near future.
- We have several Regional Coordinators' positions that we will be interviewing in the near future: California, Georgia/Florida, Michigan, and Virginia/North Carolina.

Wheelin' Regional Event Coordinator - *Shawn Rybka* was absent.

Northeast Regional Biologist - *Bob Eriksen* had a written report.

Super Fund

Site visits were made to State Game Lands 95 and 304 in the northwest region of Pennsylvania to evaluate and photograph Super Fund habitat improvement projects along with PGC Land Manager *Dale Hockenberry*. A site visit was also made to check on the progress of Super Fund projects in Delaware State Forest in Monroe County, Pennsylvania. The regional biologist met with DCNR forester *Tim Balch* and members of the Lenni Lenape and Lake Region Longbeards Chapters to photograph equipment purchased in a three-chapter effort.

Nine Super Fund project request forms from Pennsylvania, three from Delaware, two from Ohio and one each from New York and New Jersey were processed during the report period.

Writing Projects

Articles were prepared for Pennsylvania Turkey Talk and the New Jersey Chapter newsletter. Articles covered the Bedford County Wild Turkey Woodlands Field Day, Super Fund Projects in the northwest and north-central regions, fall

turkey hunting safety, Sunday hunting and Super Fund Projects in New Jersey.

The regional biologist drafted comments for the Pennsylvania Chapter to present at the October PGC meeting. A press release covering the Lowville, New York Wild Turkey Woodlands Field Day was prepared and sent to five local news outlets.

Wild Turkey Woodlands Field Days

Three field days were planned and two were held during the summer. Preparation for the field days included meetings and public relations work ahead of the actual day. Local and state chapter members were extremely helpful in the preparation and holding of all the events. Successful field days took place at Arnot Forest in New York and in Bedford County in Pennsylvania. Attendance was more than 30 at both events and the field sessions were well received. Excellent presenters from New York Department of Environmental Conservation, USDA NRCS, County Soil and Water Districts and the Pennsylvania Game Commission made the events quite outstanding. Unfortunately the Lowville, New York Field Day had to be canceled because of poor pre-registration numbers. It will be re-scheduled for next year.

Meetings and Presentations

The regional biologist attended the Northeast Wild Turkey Technical Committee (NEWTTC) meeting in Morrisburg, Ontario along with wild turkey biologist from state and provincial agencies and the annual meeting of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Administrators (IAFWA) in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

A presentation on possible options for expanding recreational opportunities for turkey hunters was given at the Pennsylvania Chapter Leadership workshop in State College, a slide show on wild turkey habitat management was presented at a Penn State Extension Landowner Workshop at the Scotia Range and a presentation of wild turkey ecology and management was given at the Slatedale, Lehigh County Fire Company's Sportsmen's Night.

A meeting of officials from Consul Energy and representatives of the NWTF Energy for Wildlife Program was attended in Washington County, Pennsylvania.

Special Projects

In a continuation of efforts to collect data on wildlife damage to vineyards, 29 surveillance cameras were placed in three vineyards to assess wildlife activity in the areas. The vineyards were located in Litchfield, Connecticut and Chautauqua County, New York. All three-vineyard owners had previously reported significant damage to grapes by wild turkeys or other wildlife species.

The regional biologist participated in the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife annual mast survey, checking mast production among oak, hickory, cherry and dogwood trees in two counties.

A week was spent in Nova Scotia touring the province to evaluate turkey habitat and choose potential release sites. In addition, two focus group meetings were held to discuss issues related to wild turkey introduction with groups that support

and oppose the proposal. The northeast regional biologist and Edgefield staff biologist met with Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources biologist to discuss the issue and with the Ministers of Agriculture and Natural Resources. A decision on whether the project will proceed will be made by the ministers in early November.

Judges were selected for the North Jersey Calling Contest and the regional biologist assisted in the scoring for the contest.

NWTF Technical Committee - Mary Jo Casalena had a written report.
Statewide Spring 2004 Wild Turkey Population Estimate and 2004 Wild Turkey Productivity

Pennsylvania's estimated spring wild turkey population peaked in 2001, at approximately 410,000 turkeys. This peak was most likely due to several consecutive mild winters with abundant fall foods (especially in 1998 and 2000), above average recruitment years and conservative fall hunting season lengths in some of our management areas. With three consecutive years of lower recruitment (2001-2003), accompanied by liberalized fall seasons in 2002 and 2003 and harsh winters, the 2004 spring turkey population was approximately 342,000 (See Figure 1). However, data from our summer turkey surveys show that turkey sightings were slightly above average this summer, indicating that the 2004 nesting success also was slightly above average. Even though we sustained abundant rainfall during the first hatching peak, (late May-early June); most rain events were late afternoon showers accompanied by warm temperatures, which apparently did not adversely affect turkey poult survival. Also, Wildlife Conservation Officers reported seeing turkey poults of varying sizes in August, which showed success of late nests as well. Turkey hens that lost their first nests readily re-nested this year, as opposed to last year when very few hens re-nested successfully.

Fall Turkey Hunting Forecast and Final 2003 Harvest

Turkey hunting prospects will be better than last year when low recruitment and poor mast crops deterred hunters from successfully locating flocks. Last year's fall harvest was 31,100 (+/-3,354) birds, which was 17% below the fall 2002 harvest of 37,346 (+/-3,561), and below 22% below the previous 10-year average of 39,707. Fall hunter participation of 211,965 was 10% below the previous 10-year average. Also, hunter success of 15% was 12% below the previous 10-year average (17%). Fall hunter success ranged from 5% in WMU 4B (south central PA) to 26% in WMU 3C (northeastern PA). Average hunter success was below our management goal of at least 19%, but this was expected due to below average recruitment, fall mast crop, and hunter participation.

This year, flock sizes will be average to above average, but the abundant natural food supply will disperse flocks making the hunt challenging if hunters don't scout pre-season. Hunter success can be average to above average, if hunters do scout, and should provide great satisfaction compared to last year.

Total 2003 turkey harvest was 73,976 (+/-5,746) turkeys, according to our

Game-Take Survey. This was 6% below the 2002 total of 78,493 (+/-6,034), and 24% below the 2001 record harvest of 97,194 (+/-6,351), but only 3% below the previous 10-year average. We expected the 2003 total harvest to be down due to the below average recruitment and fall mast crop, which negatively affected the fall harvest. Even so, the 2003 total harvest was our seventh largest turkey harvest thanks to a great spring harvest.

Spring 2003 turkey harvest was 42,876 (+/-3,841) bearded birds, 4% above the 2002 harvest (41,147 +/- 3,744), and 20% above the previous 10-year average (35,833). This was our third highest spring harvest, and the fourth consecutive year with a harvest greater than 40,000.

For the third consecutive year spring harvests exceeded fall harvests. The long held tradition of fall turkey hunting has been overtaken by spring gobbler hunting as the number of spring turkey hunters surpassed fall turkey hunters in 20 years! Hunter success (17.4%) was slightly above the previous 10-year average (16%). Spring hunter success ranged from 10.1% in WMU 2C (southwester PA), to 31.6% in WMU 5C (southeaster PA). And even in WMU 5A where we are restoring a low turkey population, and there are few hunters, hunter success was 13.2%.

Wild Turkey Research in WMU 5A - Michaux State Forest Summer Sighting Surveys

The seventh year of weekly Summer Sighting Surveys on the Michaux State Forest was completed to provide an additional index to turkey population trends besides our harvest and hunting success trend data for WMU 5A. Six routes (approx. 30 miles each) are conducted. Local NWTF volunteers (*Spencer Miller* and *Garnet Zinn*) assist by conducting two of the routes.

This year's sightings were the highest since we began the survey in 1998, with 71.3 turkeys seen per 1,000 miles driven. Turkey sightings increased significantly from last year when we recorded the lowest number of sightings, 13.9 turkeys per 1,000 miles driven. The previous record was in 1999 (38 turkeys per 1,000 miles driven), the first year of the radio-telemetry study. This year's sightings are 88% higher than 1999. Incidentally, the fall turkey harvest rate on the study are in 1999 was the highest during the three years we monitored fall harvests, most likely because of the excellent reproduction and visibility of so many flocks from the extensive road network within the State Forest. Fall turkey hunting in WMU 5A is closed for the second consecutive year. The closed season coupled with excellent summer weather with abundant insects for growing poults, and a moderate to heavy fall mast crop provide favorable conditions for turkey winter survival and for entering next breeding season in good condition.

Turkey productivity (poults per hen) this year also was excellent (7.5 poults per hen), and the highest since records were kept (1996). In 1999 productivity was 5.3 and in 2001 was 5.4 poults per hen. This compares to the low of 3.4 last year. Productivity varies from year to year, due to weather, but a continued closed fall season will allow a higher number of hens to enter the nesting season.

Special Wild Turkey Hunting License

The special (additional) wild turkey hunting license (formerly HB 2042) most likely will go into effect spring 2006. The Bureau of Wildlife Management provided the following suggestions for implementation:

Further increases in fall hunting are not advisable at this time because of the potential to negatively impact the population from this either-sex-hunting season. The alternative is to increase the spring gobbler season bag limit. The Bureau recommended implementing the most widespread and tested option of a two-bird spring bag limit, statewide, one bearded bird per day. Sufficient research has shown that properly timed and implemented multiple bird spring limits have not caused population declines.

Pennsylvania, however, is unique in the large number of wild turkey hunters and harvests. Therefore, it is imperative that any change be accompanied with sufficient data collection so population assessments can be made. With any regulation change the Bureau recommends the single change remain in place for a period of three to five years in order to assess any biological and social impacts from that change, after which adjustments could be made (increase or decrease daily bag limit, hunting hours, season length, etc.)

Initially, the additional turkey tags could be sold the same way the Game Commission distributes DMAP permits. The Game Commission would receive the request for the additional harvest license and print it in house and mail it directly to the customer. This process could be simplified if the agency changes to point the sale system. With the new system, the additional harvest license could potentially be sold at the time of purchasing the regular license.

Action on this issue is expected during the January 2005 Commission meeting.

2004 North East Wild Turkey Technical Committee Meeting

Mary Jo Casalena represented the Pennsylvania Game Commission at this annual meeting, which was held in Morrisburg, Ontario in September. State/provincial wild turkey biologists from all northeast states and Canadian provinces, as well as technical representatives from the NWTF, attended this 3-day workshop, with discussions on current turkey management, research, restoration activities, hunting incident statistics and other issues. The committee also conducts a number of regional projects, some of which the PA State Chapter assists in funding.

Report on the Wild Turkey Breeding Chronology Study

An oral presentation of the results will be given at this meeting. In summary: Researchers searched published literature for studies reporting information on turkey gobbling and nesting phenology, and asked biologists to contribute unpublished data. Of the 34 states and provinces for which they obtained nesting data, 25 opened spring hunting seasons more than two weeks prior to the mean date of incubation initiation, and 18 of those also allowed fall either sex hunting. As extended fall seasons and spring hunting during the pre-nesting period can lead to additive and unsustainable levels of female kill, harvest management in many areas has the

potential to negatively affect population dynamics, future harvests, and hunter satisfaction. Eight states (including Pennsylvania) open the spring season 1-14 days prior to mean incubation initiation during egg laying. The other states are Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont, Wisconsin and West Virginia. Pennsylvania's average incubation date, from two studies, is between April 28 - May 8, May 13 for juvenile hens. Therefore, it is important to not open the spring season any earlier.

Regional Turkey Population Modeling Study, Annual Report

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. We are attempting to use harvest data from state wildlife agencies to assess the utility of incorporating both density dependence and environmental stochasticity into a new harvest model for wild turkey. To date, we have gathered and compiled three population indices and estimated from these the strength of density dependence in wild turkey populations using the theta-logistic model. We have attempted to correlate residual values from model fits to determine environmental variables in an attempt to improve model fit. Current validation attempts imply robust estimates of density-dependence effects from harvest-based population indices.

Turkey Genetics Study - Utah State University

This study is comparing DNA of wild versus domestic turkeys. If differences occur, this will help with law enforcement and prosecuting illegal wild turkey harvests. Preliminary results show 95%+ probability for distinguishing wild from domestic turkeys. Researchers have tested 1,312 samples from 41 states thus far, and will continue through December 2004. The final report is anticipated in December 2005.

Please continue to send wild turkey tissue samples from this fall's turkey harvest. You can use the sampling kits I provided last spring, or contact me if you need additional kits.

Electronic Turkey Decoys

In an effort to enforce the closed fall turkey season in WMU 5A (where the radio telemetry study was), the PGC is requesting the PANWTF to consider purchasing an electronic turkey decoy for the Wildlife Conservation Officers to use in Adams, Cumberland and Franklin Counties, and other areas if needed. A robotic decoy is available from Custom Robotics, Inc. The total price is \$1,160: Life size strutting mount w/robotic tail & swivel base - \$1,100, Turkey skin - \$75, Packing & Crating - \$35. (They also have Life-size standing mount w/robotic head & swivel base - \$1,050, but I think the strutting turkey might be more effective for law enforcement). Southwest Region is allowing their decoy to be used.

Wild Turkey Woodlands Workshop

Mary Jo Casalena assisted with organizing and conducting the first Wild Turkey Woodlands Workshop in Pennsylvania. It was held in Bedford County, August 21, 2004. Despite the rain, over 50 people came to the all-day workshop,

including *Bryan Burhans*, NWTF Wild Turkey Woodlands Coordinator from Edgefield. Thanks to all who assisted especially *Carl Mowry* for helping and loaning the PA State Chapter's tent, without which we would have drowned, and the Juniata Gobblers Chapter for their assistance and the delicious food.
Mary Jo answered questions and comments from the Board of Directors.

NWTF Board Member - Ron Fretts was absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NWTF/JAKES Fund - Bill Mackereth presented a written report.

Treasurer's Report 9/8/04		
Checkbook Balance 8/6/04		
Income:	210 Raffle Tickets	\$10,118.41
	Total	<u>4,200.00</u>
		\$14,318.41
Expenses:		
	Allegheny Mtn	19 95.00
	Nittany Valley	31 155.00
	Susquehanna	94 470.00
	Postage	7.37
	Yellow Creek	81 405.00
	Moshannon	30 150.00
	Lenni Lenape	20 100.00
	Kit tan Ne	53 265.00
	Susquehanna	44 <u>220.00</u>
Total Expenses:		\$ 1,867.37
Checkbook Balance 10/8/04		\$12,451.04

Awards Committee - Tom Bunty - committee to meet after the Board meeting.

Publication Relations/Advertising/Info & Education/JAKES Youth/ Calling Contests/ Shows - Greg Caldwell presented information.

1. Outdoor Times - March, April, Oct.
2. Outdoor News - March, April, Oct.
3. 1/2 page ad + 1/2 page (free) news article
4. 1/2 page ad + article (either mixed bag or 1/2 page)
5. *Bob* has done Safety Message for Outdoor Times
6. I did for news
7. Also through *Bob Kasun* 30 second Public Service Safety Message - Radio
8. No for 2005 Rockview State Correctional Institute through *Frank Tennance* Mentored Youth Turkey Hunt
9. 5000 acres private ground for Youth Hunts, Clfd. Co.

10. World Wide Shooting Complex - School - Educational Center
11. Feb. 18,19, 20 Altoona's Blair Co. Convention Ctr. - 1st Allegheny Mt. Convention 100 vendors, State Friction Contest - consider masters next year - get free booth
12. Youth Mentored Hunting Committee - Sept. 2

Always need to refer back to the Web Site.

Public Service Safety Message by PANWTF

- The Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation encourages all hunters to be careful during this fall turkey-hunting season. Please do not wear any clothing containing the colors red, white, blue, or solid black. Red, white, and blue are found on the head and neck of mature gobblers, and all turkeys have black bodies. Be a responsible and ethical hunter. Hunt safely.
- The Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation reminds all hunters to hunt defensively. During the Fall turkey hunting season, in areas where rifles are legal, you are required to wear a minimum of 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on your chest, back, and head combined that is visible 360 degrees while moving. You then must display 100 square inches of orange within 15 feet of your set up position. Be a responsible and ethical hunter. Hunt safely.
- The Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation reminds all turkey hunters to properly identify their targets and beyond. Never shoot at sounds or movements. Make 100% certain you are placing your sights on a wild turkey and that the shot path to the bird and beyond is safe. Be a responsible and ethical hunter. Hunt safely.
- The Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation reminds all fall turkey hunters to be careful while hunting. Move only on turkeys in order to relocate or change your set up position. Never stalk or sneak up on what you perceive as a turkey. If other hunters approach your location, shout "Stop". Don't wave or make turkey sounds or alert hunters of your position. Be responsible and ethical hunter. Hunt safely.
- To hunt is a safe position. Set up in an open area with your back against a large rock or tree totally covering and protecting your backside. Don't hide in brush, but rely on camouflage clothing for concealment. Be a responsible and ethical hunter. Hunt safely.

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

Received application for several new license plates since the last Board meeting. Unfortunately, not able to communicate effectively with Penn Dot through their new e-mail contact. There is one member waiting to select a specific number that has not been able to be confirmed with PennDot.

Worked with *Walt Young* to have a promotional item page placed in the next edition of Turkey Talk. The license plate application process was included.

Is the artwork for the 30th Anniversary available yet? Made contact with several vendors looking for an appropriate commemorative item. Without artwork,

it is difficult for the vendors to tell me what they can or cannot do.

Any comments about the membership drive? Could we offer an "Official Corporate Sponsor" of the 30th Anniversary with four advertisements in Turkey Talk as an incentive to obtain product or cash to run part of the proposed program?

Wild Turkey Management Committee - *Don Heckman* presented a written report.
Chairman: *Don Heckman*

Committee Members: *Jim Panaro, Dale Butler, Gene Alwine, Bob Eriksen & Mary Jo Casalena*

Purpose: PA Chapter NWTF Wild Turkey Management oversight for the PA Chapter NWTF

Duties: Using PGC Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania as the committee baseline, and with NWTF Technical Committee resources, report to PA Chapter NWTF Executive Committee and Board of Directors current status of wild turkey management.

Actions:

- document and communicate changes in wild turkey management plan or wild turkey management status across Pennsylvania
- present recommendations to PA Chapter EC and BD for approval
- design, plan and communication and action item list for these recommendations
- document and maintain list of activities or events associated with wild turkey management
- review and communicate issues, questions and problems concerning wild turkey management
- suggest and plan articles for wild turkey management, turkey hunter safety, and turkey hunter information and education
- oversight review for the PGC Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania
- review wild turkey management measurements and population modeling tools

Current Committee Assignments:

1. wild turkey management plan - review and recommendations
2. wild turkey management plan funding - recommend and support
3. 2nd additional special wild turkey tag regulations - review and recommend
4. turkey hunter safety - recommendations and support
5. seasons and bag limits - recommendations and public comment presentation
6. Game News, Turkey Talk, and Outdoor magazines - articles
7. wild turkey management news releases - create and coordination
8. turkey hunter awareness and communications - develop and recommend ideas

Communication- displayed on the board

OLD BUSINESS

Don Heckman presented a written report.

PFSC will seek to have Lake Erie dedicated funding language broadened on fishing license increase bill

PFSC votes at its fall convention to ask Game Commission to seek legislation to allow Sunday hunting of woodchucks

***PA Chapter sent support letter**

The Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs (PFSC) voted unanimously at its fall convention, September 26 in Oil City, to work with state legislators to have amendments it objects to in HB 2155, current fishing license increase legislation, revised or removed. If the changes are not made, the Federation will take a neutral stance on the bill. The Federation had previously voted to support HB 2155 before the amendments were added.

HB 2155, introduced into the House of Representatives in November 2003 by Representatives *Bruce Smith* and *Edward Staback*, provides for revamped fishing license and boating registration fees to fund the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Among its amendments is a special Lake Erie fishing permit that anglers would need to fish in Lake Erie or its Pennsylvania tributaries. The stamp would cost \$8. As currently proposed, the fee would go into a restricted account that would sunset after five years, to "acquire property and to provide public fishing access on or at Lake Erie, its tributaries and Presque Isle Bay."

By the recent vote of its county delegates, the PFSC will endeavor to have that language revised to allow the restricted fund monies generated by the special Lake Erie fishing permit to be used for all projects in and affecting the Lake Erie watershed, not just acquiring access.

The Federation also objected to the bill's amendment that designates that half of the \$12 trout/salmon and Lake Erie combo-fishing permit similarly be earmarked for the Lake Erie restricted-use account. The delegates voted that the organization try to have that provision stripped from the bill, so the full amount would go to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's general fund, which the board of commissioners can allocate wherever needed.

The delegates voted that if the contested amendments are not revised, the Federation will neither work to get the bill passed, nor will it work to have the bill defeated, but will remain neutral.

"PFSC already compromised on dedicated funding for the Lake Erie stamp when it was proposed," says *Melody Zullinger*, PFSC Executive Director, "agreeing to support the \$8-stamp for the five-year period, not for it to remain in perpetuity."

Also, at the convention, the delegates voted to support an in-house Conservation Resolution that the PFSC petition the Pennsylvania Game Commission to seek to establish legislation that would permit the hunting of woodchucks statewide on Sunday. Although the Resolution passed by a narrow margin, 17 for, 13 against, with 2 abstentions, this marks the first time in recent history that the Federation has supported any expansion of Sunday hunting opportunities in the state.

The Resolution, put forward the Boulder Valley Sportsmen's Association, of Montgomery County, argued that the Pennsylvania Game Commission currently

permits hunting on Sundays for crows, foxes and coyotes and that the hunting of those game animals on that day "has not caused any specific issues concerning public discontent, over-harvest or safety issues."

With the issue of Sunday hunting increasingly debated in sportsmen's circles, the Federation again polled its delegates on their feelings regarding the practice. After some discussion, the delegates voted to oppose any further expansion of Sunday hunting by a 10 for, 20 against margin, with 2 abstentions.

Although the PFSC's stance on Sunday hunting as an organization did not change, the vote numbers "show that the tide is changing," says *Zullinger*. The Federation is trying to meet the concerns of landowners, as well as the needs of hunters and Pennsylvania's wildlife and habitat resources.

In other action, the Federation delegates approved a Resolution from Happy Hunters, Inc., of Butler County, that asks the Pennsylvania Game Commission to revise the tagging requirement of big game animals to allow a band around the antlers, head or leg. The vote was 17-13, with 1 abstention.

The delegates turned down a Resolution from the Matamoras Rod and Gun Club, Pike County, that asked the PFSC to petition the Pennsylvania Game Commission to lower the Non-resident Junior combo hunting license fee, by a vote of 5 to 26, with 1 abstention. The concern of those supporting the Resolution was that some out-of-state parents could not afford to take their youngsters hunting in Pennsylvania with them. One of the points made by those opposing was that Pennsylvania's fees are in line with what other states charge.

The spring convention of the PFSC will be held March 11-13, 2005, in Altoona.

PFSC represents over 90,000 sportsmen and women in this commonwealth, and we appreciate the opportunity to share their concerns and comments with you.

Pennsylvania trappers to use cable restraint devices to harvest fox and coyote.

A proposal to allow was Recommendation by the PGC at January 2005 meeting.

Jerry Zimmerman wanted to be sure the reserved numbers list for the 30th Anniversary Print and Box Call was accurate.

NEW BUSINESS

Skip Sanderson -30th Anniversary Membership Drive - the idea is to reward the member who signs up a new member or new sponsor. *Skip* would handle the mail and the incentive awards. *Skip Sanderson* moved that we proceed with the 30th Anniversary Membership Drive, each one reach one, seconded by *Gary Beatty*. Motion carried.

Jerry Zimmerman -

- a) Banquet program - name will be changed to Hunting Heritage Banquet.

- b) Effective January 1, 2005 the NWTF will handle the insurance for JAKES, WITO and etc. and there will not be a \$150 reduction in the funds given to each event.
- c) WITO - \$250 for each chapter
JAKES \$500 - \$400 - \$300 depending on number of chapters going together

Ray Smith spoke about River Valley Game Calls Seminars. Asked for chapter to get seminars scheduled early.

Don Heckman - Roger Latham Award - State Chapter is asking for names of possible candidates for the Roger Latham Conservation Service Award. *Don Heckman* move to close nominations, seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried.

Survey list for Turkey Talk - Questions:

1. Sunday hunting
2. All day hunting
3. Second bird
4. reducing the fall orange requirement

Bob Eriksen will be in charge of the article.

- Moved by *Reed Johnson*, seconded by *Jim Panaro* to support the 9th National Wild Turkey Symposium to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan on Dec. 11-14, 2005, with \$500. Motion carried.

Larry Holjencin spoke about the JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime to be held April 22-23-24 at *Skip Motts* camp in McKean County.

Jerry Zimmerman spoke about the Congressional Sportsman Foundation. NWTF support the foundation in the amount of \$100,000. If our State Chapter donates \$5,000 to the State Congressional Sportsman Caucus, they would know we are a partner with them. Moved by *Tom Bunty*, seconded by *Bill Mackereth* to donate \$5,000 to the PA Congressional Sportsman Caucus. The Chapter will receive a Browning Rifle or Shotgun for the donation. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Turkey Talk will be coming out next week.

The Chapter received a Diamond Life plaque for our contributions to the National Building Fund.

Bob Eriksen - Power Point Presentation on timing of nesting and gobbling activities.

Gary Beatty moved to adjourn at 4:00 p.m., seconded by *Tom Bunty*.

Motion carried.

Submitted by,
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.go2pa.com/panwtf E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

ATTENTION PA NWTf BOARD MEMBER AND CHAPTER PRESIDENTS
(All meetings at the Ramada Inn in State College)

1

Attention Board Members:

**Executive Board will meet at *Bill Mackereth's* Camp on Friday,
October 8, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.**

**PA Chapter Board meeting will be held on Saturday, October
9, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at the DCNR District Forest Office at
Elliott Park, PA.**

*Pennsylvania Chapter NWTf
Board of Director Meeting
Ramada Inn
State College, PA
August 7, 2004*

Directors Present: G. Alwine, G. Beatty, T. Bunty, D. Burdge,
D. Butler, Sr., G. Caldwell, C. Gouker, Jr., D. Heckman, R. Henry,
D. Kuntz, B. Mackereth, C. Mowry, D. O'Brien, J. Panaro, D. Sanderson,
R. Smith, D. Strawbridge and R. Stutzman.

Directors Absent: G. Huff, R. Johnson & S. Motts.

The August 7, 2004 PA NWTf Board meeting was called to order by *Carl Mowry*, Chairman of the Board, at 9:05 a.m. After the welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, and the ground rules, Chairman *Carl Mowry* moved into:

OFFICER REPORTS

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

SECRETARY REPORT - *Bill Mackereth* had a written report. *Rick Stutzman* moved and *Rhonda Henry* seconded the motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* had a written report. Report for period June 1, 2004 through July 31, 2004. Starting Balance \$34,897.47. Income \$9,388.23. Expenses \$7,518.98. Ending Balance \$36,766.72. Net Gain (Loss) \$1,869.25. Moved by *Don O'Brien* and seconded by *Dennis Strawbridge* to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT - *Dave Burdge* had a written report.

NWTF REPORTS

SENIOR REGIONAL SUPERVISOR - *Jerry Zimmerman* had a written report. *Jerry Zimmerman* introduced guests: *John Pries, Doug Henry, Fred Dean, Tony Landy & Walt Young.*

Super Fund: Balance \$21,626.23

Membership: 22,606

National Leadership Workshop: 1,000 people attended

- Dedicated new building
- Good meetings

New Chapter: Walking Purchase - Superfund Banquet, August 21st
Phila Fightin' Spurs - Sept. 29th

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

1. Wheelin' Sportsmen Benefit - NW THunderin' Toms will host the first Wheelin' Sportsmen Benefit Dinner in Meadville on August 18, 2004. Revenues from the dinner will benefit the Wheelin' Sportmen Program.
2. Budweiser Conservationist of the Year - \$50,000 to the winner. There are two women candidates *Janet Nyce* of PA and *Christi Henry* of SC. *Janet* has expressed that she would donate the winnings to Middle Creek Wildlife Visitors Center. We do not know of *Christi's* ideas on donating her winnings but based on her extended involvement with NWTF she would most likely give the money to NWTF.
To vote, visit www.budweiser.com - you can vote for who you want as often as you like.
3. Conservation Seed - 2004 we received five loads of corn, one milo and three winter wheat. We have been able to keep the cost down thanks to DCNR and PGC hauling four loads of seed free of charge. Winter wheat is now available for chapters. *Reed* will be at tomorrow's meeting to discuss this. We spent \$24,000 of the \$35,000 budget.

Senior Regional Director - *Bob Farkasovsky* was absent.

Women's Regional Field Supervisor - *Tammy Mowry* had a written report.

- Our membership stands at 2,036.
- The following events have taken place since our last board meeting
 1. Allegheny Valley (June 5)
 2. Lehigh Valley Longbeards (June 12)
 3. Delaware County Longbeards (June 12)
 4. Lykens Valley Longbeards (June 19)
 5. Wilhelm (June 26)
 6. Southeast Silver Spurs (June 26)
 7. Tuscarora Longbeards (June 26)
 8. Moraine (July 24)
 9. Mason Dixon & Lake Marburg (July 24)
 10. Yellow Creek & Chesequehanna Spurs (July 31)
 11. Armenia Mountain (August 7)
 12. Muncy Creek (August 7)
 13. Northwest Thunderin Toms (August 7)
- Events continue to grow throughout 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. Or, if you know of anyone who would be interested in instructing at an event, please let me know. We are always looking for new classes and new instructors.

Northeast Regional Biologist - *Bob Eriksen* had a written report.

Meetings and Presentations

- Prepared agenda and moderated annual meeting between Pennsylvania Game Commission and Pennsylvania State Chapter
- Attended PGC June meeting
- Attended New York Chapter Super Fund Committee, Wild Turkey Woodlands Committee and Board of Directors meetings
- Attended New Jersey Chapter Board meeting
- Presented testimony in favor of regulations changes for New Jersey Chapter at a meeting of the New Jersey Fish and Game Council
- Participated in a planning meeting for the North Jersey Open Calling Contest
- Participated in the NWTF Leadership Workshop in Edgefield
- Presented two turkey hunting seminars at a National Shooting Sports Foundation "Step Outdoors" program in New Jersey
- Gave a slide presentation on wild turkey ecology and management at the Warren Country Sportsmen's Federation meeting in New Jersey

Writing Projects

- Completed three articles for the summer edition of PA Turkey Talk
- Wrote five articles for the fall edition of The Caller, two on PA projects, two on NY projects and one of NJ projects
- Prepared an article for the summer edition of the Ohio Chapter newsletter
- Drafted two letters for the New Jersey Chapter Board of Directors; one in support of Game Code proposals and the other in opposition to an attempted diversion of funds from the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife in the Fiscal 2005 state budget
- Prepared a letter for the PA Chapter nominating *Ron Fretts* for the NWTF Board of Directors

Super Fund

- Processed 54 Super Fund request forms (38 for PA, 9 for NY, 5 for DE, 1 for OH and 1 for NJ)
- Toured and photographed Super Fund project sites on Moshannon State Forest with DCNR Manager *Wade Dixon* for future PA Turkey Talk articles

Special Projects

- Reviewed the draft report on a summary of gobbling and nesting chronology prepared for the Northeast Wild Turkey Technical Committee by Virginia Tech University. The report indicates that many states have timed spring gobbler seasons earlier than is advisable. The seasons in Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio appear to be timed properly. Spring season timing is especially critical in states that have liberal fall seasons.
- Checked on the progress of the Virginia Tech wild turkey population modeling project supported by the Super Fund. The work on developing state population modeling proposals is continuing. Progress is going well, but the work will continue into early 2006. This is a very complex undertaking that will ultimately provide Pennsylvania with advice on areas in which more research or more reliable data is required.
- Planned and held a Wild Turkey Woodlands Field Day at the Cornell University Arnot Research Forest in Schuyler County, New York
- Continued to work on plans for a Wild Turkey Woodlands Field Day in Bedford County. The event will be held on August 21 at the Dave Schreffler Farm in Chaneyville
- Met with landowners and potential speakers to plan a third Wild Turkey Woodlands Field Day in Lowville, Lewis County, New York
- Arranged for an investigator from Monsanto to look into possible misuse of seed from the Conservation Seed program. Met with the investigator and helped to initiate the investigation along with Conservation Seed Coordinator *Reed Johnson*
- Spent two days calling, faxing and e-mailing New Jersey legislators on the Joint Budget Oversight Committee to protest the illegal diversion of two million dollars from the Division of Fish and Wildlife to the Division of Parks and Forests in the Fiscal 2005 budget. If this diversion takes place, the agency will

lose more than four million dollars in federal aid. Calls and faxes were made on behalf of the New Jersey Chapter.

Press Releases

- Worked with NWTf Communications staff to prepare a press release on the work of PA local chapters at Michaux State Forest
- Prepared materials for a press release on PA Chapter support of the YHEC program
- Prepared information for a press release on legislation affecting hunting in New Jersey (14 negative bills in legislature)
- Worked with NWTf Communications staff to develop a press release on the illegal diversion of funds from the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

Information Requests

- Handled ten requests for information on wild turkey habitat management, wild turkey breeding, nesting success and other subjects

Moved by *Don Heckman* to establish a Wild Turkey Management Planning Committee to address wild turkey issues for fall and spring hunting, seconded by *Dennis Strawbridge*. Motion carried. The committee will be *Don Heckman, Dale Burdge, Jim Panaro, Carl Mowry* with *Bob Erikson*, Chairman.

Turkey Talk Editor - *Walt Young*

Enjoy working with PA NWTf Association.

30th anniversary articles is a great idea. Add flash backs, good outline and easy to incorporate into the upcoming issue. Add actual articles, pick out oldies to add to the issue.

Mailing problems - Bulk mail goes out when the post office feels like mailing it out.

Calendar of events has to come from the Chapters. Are local events a value to you to have in? Or pictures and actual facts of the events to be printed or do you want a balance of both added? If you are satisfied with what is being printed, that is great.

Standard Formats (calendar of events), date, chapter, contact information, location and the basic classes offered is very clear and easy. It is possible to have Chapters e-mail the information to *Walt* that needs added to the article. Add as many as room allows for. JAKES Calendar and Wheelin' Sports calendar, or combine?

Four issues at 16-20 pages, issues will have to be increased. Increasing issues will have to add postage.

May need to bump it up another 4 pages.

NWTf Technical Committee - *Don Heckman* stood in for *Mary Jo Casalena* who could not attend the meeting. She had a written report.

Harvest Management

Preliminary spring 2004 calculated harvest was approximately 41,000 bearded birds. This is 6 percent lower than the preliminary spring 2003 harvest, and only 5 percent below the previous 10-year average of 43,260. Final spring harvest figures probably will be approximately 40,000 bearded birds. If this is the case, then 2004 will be the fifth consecutive year of spring harvests above 40,000 bearded birds. Even though spring harvests are down from the record 49,186 in year 2001, turkey populations fluctuate annually due to many factors such as fall recruitment, fall harvest and annual survival. Only since 1993 have we consistently maintained spring harvests above 30,000 and hunter success rates above 12%. Spring 2003 hunter success rate was 17% statewide, slightly above the previous 10-year average of 16%.

Winter Mortality Survey

At the end of every winter, Wildlife Conservation Officers (WCOs) walk along the same streams in their districts, record the number of deer and wild turkeys that died during the winter, and the number of miles they walked. From this we calculate an index of winter-killed deer and turkeys per mile walked, each year to compare to previous years. This winter I also sent a questionnaire to all WCOs and Land Management Officers in the three northern regions and asked them to provide the number of confirmed winter-killed wild turkeys throughout their entire district, as well as the number of rumored, but unconfirmed, winter-killed wild turkeys. Tables from both surveys are presented at the end of the report.

Region 1 (Northwest), 28 responses, 5 of those respondents confirmed one or more turkeys dying from winter conditions (18% of responses), and 4 respondents heard rumors/possible mortalities, but unconfirmed. Total mortalities (confirmed + rumors/possible) from respondents = 32% (approximately 1/3 of the responses).

Region 3 (North Central), 30 responses, 4 of those respondents confirmed one or more turkeys dying from winter conditions (13% of responses), and 3 respondents heard rumors/possible mortalities, but unconfirmed. Total mortalities (confirmed + rumors/possible) from respondents = 23% (approx. 1/4 of the responses).

Region 5 (Northeast), 28 responses, 2 of those respondents confirmed one or more turkeys dying from winter conditions (7% of responses), and 1 respondent had a possible mortality. Total mortalities (confirmed + rumors/possible) from respondents = 11% (approx. 1/10 of the responses).

In all Regions, the confirmed turkey mortalities were only 1 or 2 birds found, not flocks of birds. Three of the rumored mortalities reported finding a flock of dead birds, but these were unconfirmed. The vast majority of respondents commented that the winter was not severe for turkeys because a crust formed on the snow, which allowed turkeys to move around on top of the snow. Once the snow melted in March many turkeys, and large flocks, were being spotted regularly. Overall, winter mortality was not severe for wild turkeys in Pennsylvania.

Electronic Turkey Decoys

In an effort to enforce the closed fall turkey season in WMU 5A (where the radio telemetry study was), the PGC is requesting the PANWTF to consider purchasing electronic turkey decoys for the Wildlife Conservation Officers to use in Adams, Cumberland and Franklin Counties. *Mary Jo Caalena* will submit a green sheet prior to the October board meeting.

Wild Turkey Woodland Workshop

An NWTF Wild Turkey Woodlands Workshop, co-sponsored by the NWTF, Juniata Gobblers Chapter NWTF and the Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies (WOSA), will be held in Bedford County on Saturday, August 21, 2004. Speakers will include *Bob Eriksen*, *Mary Jo Casalena*, *Melinda Far* (PGC Wildlife Habitat Biologist for Huntingdon County), *Dan Mummert* (PGC Wildlife Diversity Biologist for the Southcentral Region), and a representative from the Bedford County Conservation District. The Juniata Gobblers Chapter will assist with registration, a raffle/silent auction and provide lunch. Registration materials will be forthcoming. The registration brochure is attached to the report.

Revision of the Management Plan for the Wild Turkey in Pennsylvania

This plan, approved in 1999, is scheduled for revision during 2004. The Bureau of Wildlife Management is currently reviewing the draft revision of the scientific and biological information, and population status. After the draft is revised it will be distributed to stakeholders (external and internal) for their review and a public meeting will be scheduled to address the goals/objectives, probably in September. We anticipate completion of the plan by the end of the calendar year.

Wheelin' Regional Event Coordinator - *Shawn Rybka* had a written report.

Wheelin' Sportsmen - I have been very busy promoting the program across my region, which includes 13 states and Canada. I have had the opportunity to meet many interested people and work on several interesting events. My goals for the program for the 2005 fiscal year is to hold 15 national events and reach over 1000 participants. In Pennsylvania my goal is to hold 5 national events and 7 local events.

Types of Events - In the Wheelin' Sportsmen Program there are two types of events local and national. According to *Illanna Burkhart* Assistant National Coordinator, the difference between the two events are as follows: a national event is one where we have expenses, resources, exposure, or fundraising opportunities, a local event is one where the chapter is financially responsible and we do not have National HQ resources invested. We are there to assist with local events in any way the chapter needs support. We take a more proactive role in national event.

This is not to say that local events are not important to the program, they absolutely are. The focus is different. A local event is a great way to get the community involved with Wheelin' Sportsmen. A national event is one where there is a more broad interest, be it through national resources invested in the event (merchandise, media, or staff) or resources of event partners.

Changes to the Program - As with every new program there will be change and starting in September the program will now require a \$25 membership fee for all national hunting events. **This is fee only for hunting events** it does not apply to fun and learn days, fishing rodeo, or any other event similar to those.

There also has been a new addition to the program. Bass Pro shops and Wheelin' Sportsmen will co-host hands on educational field days for people with disabilities. What does that mean to PA? Late fall or early winter Bass Pro will be opening a store in Harrisburg and this is a great opportunity for Pennsylvania to hold its first statewide national event.

Events: (Listed below are lists of events that are scheduled for Pennsylvania).

National Events

8/21/04 - Red Rock Chapter & Luzerne Conservation District - Fishing Rodeo at Harris Pond.

9/13/04 - Columbia County Conservation District - Fun and Learn Day at Frank Kocher Memorial Park

10/12/04 - Philadelphia County Fightin' Spurs & Philadelphia Department of Water - Fishing Rodeo at Fairmont Park.

12/11/04 - Terrance Mt. Chapter - 3rd Annual Wheelin' Sportsmen Deer Hunt - Raystown Lake.

Pending National Events

Spring 05 - Cabela's - Fun and Learn Day

Summer 05 - Bass Pro - Fun and Learn Day

Summer 05 - Red Rock Chapter - Fun and Learn Day at Dick's Sporting Goods

Local Events

It is hard to track the number of local events since the reports go straight to headquarters from the local chapters. Starting September I am asking all chapters to please inform me of any events they are hosting, no matter what size they are.

NWTF Board Member - *Ron Fretts* was absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Promo Committee - *Skip Sanderson* had a written report. An up to date inventory of items in stock is prepared for the Board of Directors.

I have received application for five new license plates since the last Board meeting.

I received notification from PennDot that the current Organization License Plate Program has been discontinued. A new Specialty Plate Program has been instituted. The new program will allow a 3"x 3" color image on their standard plate with intricate detail. Our options are:

1. To purchase the remaining stock of license plates at cost and prepare a new license plate. (And trash them I presume)
2. Continue to use the current plates until they are exhausted, and then do a new plate.

3. Decide to no longer participate. PennDot will issue the plates until they are exhausted then eliminate us from the program.

The other details are in PennDot's letter. I do not know how many plates are remaining; I do not know how many plates PennDot made initially. I did not have the opportunity to talk with PennDot.

Is the artwork for the 30th Anniversary available yet?

I will have all the promo items available at the Leadership meeting.

Nominating Committee - *Carl Mowry* need to hear from current board members if they are planning to run for another term.

NWTF/JAKES Fund - *Bill Mackereth* presented a written report.

Treasurer's Report 8/6/04

Checkbook Balance 6/4/04 \$13,850.01

Income: None

Expenses:	Lakeland L.B's	22	110.00
	Moraine	91	455.00
	Mason-Dixon	44	220.00
	Lake Marburg	44	220.00
	Whitehorse Mtn.	14	70.00
	Michaux Yellow Breeches	179	895.00
	Ben Stimaker Memo.	95	475.00
	Lower Bucks Longbeards	100	500.00
	Lakeland L.B's	34	170.00
	Muncy Creek	62	310.00
	Malone Printing		257.90
	Wilson F. Moore	6	30.00
	Postmaster		18.70

Total Expenses: 3,731.60

Checkbook Balance 8/6/04 \$10,118.41

Upper Gun Raffle - *Carl Mowry*

Web Site - *Don Heckman* Windows 98 cannot handle the additional work the webmaster has done, it is too big. 12/13/01 is now being displayed. If you sign on to www.PANWTF.com will come up as 7/12/04, but half of it is missing because it doesn't load anymore.

Legislative - *Don Heckman* presented a document on the legislation signed into law by *Governor Rendell*. *Don* discussed H.B. 2042 passed - 2nd Turkey Tag goes into effect in 2006.

PA Federation of Sportsman Clubs - Don Heckman - We are now certified as a state organization of the PA Federation of Sportsman Clubs, we have a vote. We can go to the conventions at their state delegate meetings and vote.

Communication, advertising & Turkey Talk - *Greg Caldwell* the board needs to make a decision on what they want to do with our on going approach in promoting hunter safety. Would like to do three articles, one in PA Outdoor Times (1/2 page ad and 1/2 page article), PA Outdoor News (much larger publication) March, April and October (1/2 page not guaranteed a news article).

OLD BUSINESS

Jerry Zimmerman Melissa Ball 30th Anniversary Print, a lot more detail, we have a concept of what it will look like. Has an image of what could be put on the 30th Anniversary Box Call. Ads for Turkey Talk are being worked on. Photo ads will be done in 2005. First issue of Turkey Call an ad will be printed. Contracts written on the print and the call. Sell out of the additional size (350 matched sets) they will be advertised. Arts proofs will be available, 80 for the banquet program. Banquet set will be different. #1 print and #1 box call, will be sold at the live auction at the Rendezvous. \$90 for the set.

Don Heckman Wild Turkey Management Plan, list of topics for the commissioner meeting. PA Game Commissioners meeting Oct. 4th and 5th, the board won't meet until the 8th and 9th, *Bob* has a list of the topics that will be addressed.

Bob Ericksen read a list of discussion items for the Oct. 4th & 5th Commissioners meeting.

***Gary Beatty* moved that the board support any activity to legalize Sunday hunting, seconded by *Clyde Goucker*. After discussion *Gary Beatty* moved to withdraw his motion, seconded by *Clyde Goucker*. Motion carried.**

***Gary Beatty* rescinded the motion.**

Elk Expo - *Dwight Kuntz*

Dart System - *Dwight Kuntz* will bring to Expo

***Don Heckman* moved that we give the top selling chapter of JAKES Raffle tickets a print at the annual Rendezvous, seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried.**

Archery in the Schools - *Larry Holjencin* discussed at the last meeting. Started a few years ago, is a part of gym class. It is mandatory for grades 4-12. 15 Chapters

have signed on, 10 more will sign on before the end of the year. 1/2 of the states in the country are supporting archery in the schools. There is money available for a start up kit.

Gary Beatty moved that we support archery in the schools program with two kits, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion carried. Each kit cost \$2,620.

NEW BUSINESS

Don Heckman moved the chapter fund, not to exceed \$1,500, for 1/2 page PFSC safety message in On Target, seconded by *Don O'Brien*. Motion carried.

Don Heckman moved the PA Chapter request Turkey Talk and P. R. Committees to follow through on supporting PA Chapters 30 year review in Turkey Talk and chapter news releases, seconded by *Jim Panaro*. Motion carried.

Under discussion are:

- 5 issues of Turkey Talk starting October 2004
- NWTF News release in fall of 2004
- PA Chapter news release in fall of 2005

Don Heckman moved the President of the PA Board write a letter from the PA Chapter in support of H.B. 2155, seconded by *Skip Sanderson*. Motion carried.

Tom Fegely's Book - *Don Heckman* moved the state board approve a free 1/2 page ad in Turkey Talk in exchange for local chapters to receive one signed (autographed) book by *Tom Fegely*, seconded by *Dennis Strawbridge*. Motion carried.

Jim Panaro moved that the state chapter fund the final two years at \$2,500/year to the NWTF Building Fund from our General Fund, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion carried.

Jim Panaro moved we raise the web page budget \$2,500 for the up coming budget year, seconded by *Don O'Brien*. Motion carried.

Dennis Strawbridge moved the PA Chapter give approval to *Greg Caldwell* to secure a youth (JAKES) hunt at Rockview Penitentiary, seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried.

Greg Caldwell moved the State Board submit a 1/2 page safety message ad for 2005 in the PA Outdoor Times and PA OUTDOOR NEWS three times a year, March, April and October, seconded by *Don Heckman*. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Registration for Nashville - send reservations to *President Carl Mowry* by December 15, 2004. Next meeting October 8 & 9, 2004.

Greg Caldwell suggested we move the Master Calling Contest to the Convention Center in Altoona after next year.

Dave Burdge moved to adjourn at 3:15 p.m., seconded by *Dennis Strawbridge*. Motion carried.

Submitted by,



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.go2pa.com/panwtf E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

ATTENTION PA NWTF BOARD MEMBER AND CHAPTER PRESIDENTS
(All meetings at the Ramada Inn in State College)

Friday, August 6, 2004 Executive Board Meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 7, 2004 PA Chapter NWTF Board Meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, August 8, 2004 PA Chapter Presidents Meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m.

1

**PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NWTF
BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETING
S. B. ELLIOTE STATE PARK
MOSHANNON STATE FOREST DISTRICT #9
CLEARFIELD, PA
JUNE 5, 2004**

Directors Present: G. Alwine, G. Beatty, T. Bunty, D. Burdge, D. Butler, Sr.,
G. Caldwell, C. Gouker, Jr., D. Heckman, R. Henry, R. Johnson, D. Kuntz, B. Mackereth,
C. Mowry, D. O'Brien, J. Panaro, D. Sanderson, R. Smith, D. Strawbridge and
R. Stutzman.

Directors Absent: Gary Huff & Skip Motts.

President and Board Chairman called the annual meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. President
Carl Mowry led us in the Pledge of Allegiance after which he reviewed the ground rules.
Attendance was taken and we moved into:

OFFICER REPORTS

Had a moment of silence in memory of *Jerrey Wunz, Fred Webster, Jim Roessner* and
John Bolan.

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

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

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* presented a written report. March 1, 2004 to May 31, 2004. Starting Balance \$34,396.00. Income \$24,092.00. Expenses \$23,604.00. Ending balance \$34,884. Net Gain (Loss) \$487.00. Discussed upcoming expenses. We still have the unresolved postage overcharge from October. **Moved by *Bill Mackereth* to accept the treasurer's report with a second from *Clyde Gouker, Jr.* Motion carried.**

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT - *Dave Burdge* presented a written report.

NWTF REPORTS

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

Membership: Adults	12,050
JAKES	7,880
WITO	2,036
WHSP	<u>640</u>
TOTAL	22,606

- Super Fund as of 6/4/04: \$78,133.00
- PA JAKES Hunt 2004 - *Michelle Morris* - dad *Archie* winner (alternate) - *Eric Wickwire* - dad *Pete*
- PA Leadership Workshop - August 7, 8 - Ramada Inn
 - No sporting clays as of yet
 - Meeting on Sunday @ 9:00 a.m.
 - Letters went out the Chapter Presidents
- New Chapters:
 - Northern Counties Full Fan - Simpson, PA
 - Phila. Co. Fightin' Spurs - Philadelphia, PA

Organization meeting - June 9 for Northampton County

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

JAKES Raffle

- Similar ticket to before - 40 guns \$20
- Top quality guns
- Drawing November 1 - December 10 - Daily Big 4
- Will get a letter out to all Chapter Presidents asking who wants tickets

SW Regional Banquet and Hunt Auction - August 28, 2004 - Monroeville

- Could use some leads on good outfitters

Habitat Enhancement Project/Tour

-Received a letter from *Rawley Cogan* of RMEF inviting us to attend a tour of the Habitat Projects underway on the elk. Tour is Saturday, June 19, from 10-3. We partnered with RMEF and other org. too.

-I plan to go - we are allowed 2 people - if anyone else wants to go let me know.

Super Fund Banquet Revenue

-Up over \$35,000 into Super Fund from last year due to better product and economy being better

SENIOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR - *Bob Farkasovsky* was absent.

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

- Our membership stands at 1,879
- The State event went really well the weekend of March 26-28. We had 146 women participate that weekend. The event grossed over \$23,000. The event will be receiving a rebate check for \$573.52. The state chapter will be receiving a check for \$191,172. Please mark on your calendar, next year's event date is scheduled for April 1, 2, and 3. If you would be interested in helping to instruct a class or be a volunteer, please let me know.
- We will be having several of the WITO Event Coordinators in attendance at this July's leadership meeting in South Carolina.
- To date, the following events have taken place so far this year:
 - PA State (March 26-28)
 - Moraine (handgun & self defense) (March 20)
 - Gander Mountain (March 13)
 - Susquehanna Local (May 8)
- The majority of our events will take place between June and October.
- Events continue to grow throughout 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. Or, if you know of anyone who would be interested in instructing at an event, please let me know. We are always looking for new classes and new instructors.

Don Heckman introduced *Rob Miller* the Sportsman Advisor of the Governors Council on hunting, fishing and conservation, "GACHFC".

Brought material to review. Working on Growing Greener II. The funding is running out. Initiative sponsored by *Representative Dan Sura*, housed in House Bill 2010. Would like to float an \$800,000,000 bond. Will be paid back with certain fees. Would like you to write to House members and Senate members. Want them to send this initiative to referendum. Is this a good use of our tax money. We would like a letter of endorsement as soon as possible. We are 29th in new investment in business, we have a lot of work to do. Last year we lost 114,000 people from our work force. Our state is in a slump. We lost more young people during the 1990's than any other state in the country. We are growing incredibly slowly but we are losing a lot of farm land. We are losing 110,000 acres a year. Small communities have lost 1.2 million residents. Our newer communities have gained 1.7 million residents. There is some major shifting going on. We are more densely networked with roads. We can't get

all the people who want on the program in because we don't have the funds. The money that funds our portion of the cost share for the conservation reserve enhancement program, farm land preservation comes from Growing Greener. The loss of farm lands cause major declines in nesting species. Our people and environment have suffered because of the coal industry. We have more abandoned mine sites than any other state. It will cost about 1 billion dollars to fix the mines. Growing Greener II will start us down the right road. We lose about 60 million dollars in revenue because the streams are contaminated. We have a lot of problems that need to be addressed now. The government feels that we need to work aggressively to attract job growth here. We need to work on the quality of life issue. Out of the \$800,000,000 bond, 330,000,000 will support farm lands forest and other types of open space preservation. A portion will be used to upgrade our state parks. \$50,000,000 will go the help the Fish & Boat Commission and Game Commission, no pay back. The governor is willing to support Growing Greener II. Working on a thin time line. \$300,000,000 to clean up old mines. The remaining will go to revitalizing PA older communities. Quality companies judge a community on the quality of the work force, at the quality of the community, is our neighborhood safe, is it a town that provides recreational places. Want to establish communities. Community revitalization will help save farm lands. The bond money will be spent over a four year period. Trash disposal will rise about \$5 a fund. Residual waste fees would be charged \$4 per ton. It is now dumped without a fee to the state. .15 per pound will be assessed for the release of toxic waste into the environment. This new money will help fund our the hazardous sights clean-up fund. We import more trash than any other state. We all care about open space. As hunters and anglers, we can flex our collective political muscle and show that we are capable of fighting for a positive change. We need your help and letters of endorsement can be sent to every House member and every Senate member. A letter to the Governor and a copy given to *Rob Miller* to be posted to the Growing Greener website.

House Bill 2042 is moving along. It went through the House in April and through the Senate and it has had first consideration. It will be on the Governor's desk shortly.

House Bill 1512 hasn't moved for awhile. Passed the House in February but has been tied up in Judiciary Committee in the Senate.

House Bill 2155. We need to support the Fish & Boat Commission in their attempt to get a license fee increased. The license fee will only address their operating expenses. Any letters should be sent this week.

Discussed Sunday hunting.

NWTF members on the Governors Advisory Council: *Don Chiappelli, Ed Grasavage, Tom Kinney, Earl Lynn, Janet D. Nyce and John Plowman.*

WHEELIN' REGIONAL EVENT COORDINATOR - *Shawn Rybka* was absent. *Don Heckman* moved that the State Chapter support the growing concept of the Growing Greener II Bond Initiative Proposal that will be on the fall ballot, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion Carried.

Don Heckman moved that the State Chapter ask the Federation of Sportsman, with our help, to support the concept of increasing the dumping fees by \$1.00 through the amendment process to be used for Game & Fish Infrastructure Improvement, seconded by **Gary Beatty**. Motion Carried.

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

Habitat Management Consultation

- Made site visits and provided wild turkey habitat management advice to two landowners in Pennsylvania (Lehigh and Susquehanna Counties), one landowner in New Jersey (Sussex County) and one landowner in New York (Tioga County)
- Toured two State Game Lands in Berks, Lehigh and Carbon Counties with Pennsylvania Game Commission Land Management personnel from the Southeast Region to look at potential sites for the application of prescribed fire to improve oak regeneration.

Writing Projects

- Prepared an article on Turkey Hunting Safety for "Pennsylvania Outdoor Times".
- Prepared articles for "PA Turkey Talk" on habitat improvement projects in Michaux State Forest and all-day hunting for spring gobblers.

Meetings and Presentations

- Attended a memorial service for former Pennsylvania Game Commission wild turkey Biologist *Jerry Wunz*.
- Attended a retirement dinner for *Capt. Hawkswell* of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.
- Presented a Power Point on Integrated Vegetation Management at a meeting of the West Virginia Vegetation Management Association.
- Lectured at Stockton College in New Jersey on wild turkey ecology and management.
- Presented seminars on wild turkey hunting at the Pennsylvania State WITO event.
- Prepared a Power Point presentation on the NWTf Wild Turkey Woodlands Program and wild turkey habitat management tips for landowners. The presentation was used at the New York State Chapter Convention and at a meeting of the Tug Hill Landowners Association in New York.
- Attended a meeting of the New York DEC Bureau of Wildlife Management staff and presented Power Point shows on the Wild Turkey Woodlands Program and the assessment of vineyard damage by wild turkeys in western New York.
- Participated in a planning meeting for a Wild Turkey Woodlands field day in Bedford County, Pennsylvania.
- Attended a meeting of the North Jersey Open Calling Contest Committee. The event will take place in August.
- Made a presentation on Goulds Turkey Restoration efforts in Arizona at the spring banquet of the Mason-Dixon Chapter in Pennsylvania.
- Attended the June meeting of the New Jersey Chapter Board of Directors.
- Made a slide presentation on wild turkey habitat management techniques for a group of landowners in Cortland County, New York.

Special Projects

- Participated in Goulds turkey trapping efforts in Sonora, Mexico.
- Took a youth hunter out for the first youth spring gobbler hunt in Pennsylvania.
- Assisted in the preparation of a Grant Proposal for managing spring seeps in northeastern Pennsylvania. The grant proposal was submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for consideration.
- Worked with the New York DEC wild turkey biologist to develop several pages on wild turkey habitat management projects feasible for private landowners for the New York DEC website
- Assisted in the development of a grant proposal to conduct habitat improvement work on two State Game Lands in the southwestern region of Pennsylvania.
- Provided wild turkey habitat management slides to Pennsylvania Game Commission Bureau of Wildlife Management and Bureau of Land Management.
- Provided information and technical assistance to New Hampshire Fish and Wildlife on potential for damage to silage by wintering wild turkeys and opportunities for youth hunts for wild turkeys.

Super Fund Requests

- Edited and processed 102 Super Fund request forms for projects in Pennsylvania, 8 for projects in Ohio, 6 for projects in New York and 6 for projects in New Jersey.

Information Requests

- Provided information via telephone calls and e-mail requests on wild turkey habitat management, winter survival of wild turkeys, lack of gobbling in the spring of 2004 and scarce turkeys this spring to 18 people from Pennsylvania, 8 from New Jersey, 5 from New York and 4 from Ohio.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Checkbook Balance 3/12/04

\$16,340.01

Income: None

Expenses:

Mill Creek	15	\$ 75.00
Chesquehanna Spurs	102	510.00
Sherman Valley	77	385.00
Blue Mountain	44	220.00
Peters Creek	6	30.00
Stony Valley	31	155.00
Red Rock	114	570.00
Foothill Spurs	20	100.00
Juniata Gobbler	12	60.00

Terrace Mtn.	77	<u>385.00</u>
Total Expenses		2,490.00

Checkbook Balance 6/4/04 \$13,850.01

Ray Smith moved that the State Chapter contribute \$1,000 to YHEC for 2004, seconded by *Clyde Gouker, Jr.* Motion Carried.

Habitat Report - *Reed Johnson* had a written report.

Conservation seed program is nearly wrapped up for this year. It has been an interesting spring. Upon trying to get the orders into National by early Nov. - Dec., did nothing on getting us moved up the ladder. It did not help at all on getting the seed that was needed to fill the orders that were placed. Then having the problem with the seed company over the misuse of the program did not help. This put receiving the seed at all in jeopardy. The rising fuel cost, the increase cost of shipping along with National taking a larger bite in the cost of processing, gave me the jitters as to how much we could spend and stay within budget. I know that there were a lot of unhappy campers out there this year because they did not get what they had ordered. But in the long run they were lucky to get anything at all. We (*Larry and I*) have tried to get it across to the Chapters that this whole program is NOT a guarantee that they will receive anything at all, but some still think that they raised the money and that they are entitled to it. Not So! The cow only has so much milk and when she is dry, that's it. And this is the same with the seed. Too many other state are drying up the supply, and their orders are being placed a year in advance. That is much too hard for us to do and seems to me that they are not seeing that the seed is being used as it was intended. And last of all myself and the other people on this committee who handle the distribution have only so much time that can be given to seeing that this program works, at least to a degree. DCNR and PGC and others who donate equipment and storage locations can only do so much, and that there is a time frame on getting this program completed in a timely manner. With the seed coming in late this year it put a real strain on how much time could be put on the program. We'll just have to see where this leaves us for next year.

Dart System - *Dwight Kuntz* made repairs to the system.

Communications - *Carl Mowry* pointed out that communications to the chapter were on the display board in the back of the room.

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

Harvest Management

In March, I reported that the preliminary statewide fall turkey harvest was approximately 27,100 turkeys, which was 27% below the final fall 2002 harvest of 37,346. However, I would like to clarify that it was only 11% below the preliminary fall 2002 harvest of 30,388.

2004-05 Turkey Hunting Seasons

The PGC Board of Commissioners gave final approval, during the April 2004 Commission meeting, to decrease fall 2004 turkey hunting seasons from three weeks to two weeks in Wildlife Management Units 2C, 2E, 4A, 4B and 4D. Turkey population indices from these WMUs show that the three-week seasons may be limiting these populations.

2004-2005 Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons:

Fall 2004:

WMU	Sporting Arm	Dates	Daily and Season
1A, 2A & 2B	Shotgun/Archery	Oct. 30-Nov. 20	Limit =1
1B	Shotgun/Archery	Oct. 30-Nov. 13	
2C, 2E, 4A, 4B & 4D	Rifle/Shotgun/Archery	Oct. 30-Nov. 13	
2D, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C & 4E	Rifle/Shotgun/Archery	Oct. 30-Nov. 20	
5A & 5B	Closed		
5C & 5D	Shotgun/Archery	Oct. 30-Nov. 6	1

Spring 2005:

Statewide Youth Hunt April 23, 2005 Daily/Season Limit= 1*

Spring Gobbler Statewide April 30-May 28,2005 Daily/Season Limit=1*

*One bearded bird for entire spring season, youth and regular seasons inclusive.

PRELIMINARY Spring 2004 Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents

Thus far we have preliminary reports of seven- (7) turkey hunting related shooting incidents, with no fatalities. The county breakdown is: Allegheny Co., Beaver Co., Crawford Co. (2), Lycoming Co., Schuylkill Co., and Westmoreland Co. Details will be available once officers complete their investigations.

2003 Turkey Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents

During the calendar year 2003, there were 57 total HRSIs, 11 which (19.3%) were turkey HRSIs, as opposed to 35.3% in 2002. During the spring 2003 turkey season there were 9 incidents with no fatalities. All incidents were inflicted by others. Causes were: the hunter shot for game (6); sporting arm in dangerous position (2); and other (1). All parties were hunting. All 9 victims had over 10 years hunting experience. The offenders' experience hunting turkeys were: under 2 year's (1), 2-5 years (1), over 10 years (6), not reported (1). All victims were wearing camouflage. Position of each victim was: standing (2), walking/running (2), sitting (4) other/unknown (1).

The 2 fall incidents were nonfatal. Both were inflicted by others, with shotguns, and victims were shot for game. Both victims were wearing camouflage, and were walking/running. One victim was hunting, and one victim was engaged in an activity other than hunting (walking a dog). The victims' hunting experience, as well as

offenders' experience, were over 10 years.

For the complete 2003 Hunting-Related Shooting Report, go to http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/PGC/hte/huntereduc.htm, and click on Incident Statistics.

Electronic Turkey Decoys

In an effort to enforce the closed fall turkey season in WMU 5A (where the radio telemetry study was), the PGC is requesting the PANWTF to consider purchasing electronic turkey decoys for the Wildlife Conservation Officers to use in Adams, Cumberland and Franklin Counties.

Turkey Genetics Study

Please submit your turkey tissue samples to Utah State University if you have not already done so.

Gobbling and Incubation Study

A draft report has been submitted and is being reviewed by the Turkey Technical Committee.

Wild Turkey Woodlands Workshop

A NWTF Wild Turkey Woodlands Workshop, co-sponsored by the NWTF, Juniata Gobblers Chapter NWTF and the Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies (WOSA), will be held in Bedford County on Saturday August 21, 2004. Speakers will include *Bob Eriksen*, *Mary Jo Casalena*, a PGC land manager, and a representative from the Bedford County Conservation District, among others. The Juniata Gobblers Chapter will assist with registration, a raffle/silent auction and provide lunch. Registration materials will be forthcoming.

Revision of the Management Plan for the Wild Turkey in Pennsylvania

This plan, approved in 1999, is scheduled for revision during 2004. Progress is being made on updating the scientific and biological information, and population status. Public input will be sought for addressing the goals/values, and completion anticipated by the end of the calendar year.

2004-05 PA Hunting and Trapping Annual

The 2004-05 edition of the Annual, in the PA Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations, includes a section regarding options for increasing spring turkey hunting opportunities as a way of informing the public of some possibilities for change. This section is intended as proactive education to help stimulate positive and informed discussion regarding some of the possible options. Options discussed are: a two-bird spring bag limit, extended spring hunting hours, and all-day hunting for the final two weeks for the four-week season. The discussion closes with the statement "Pennsylvania is pleased to offer such outstanding turkey hunting, yet we're continually looking for ways to expand opportunities without threatening the resource."

OLD BUSINESS

30th Anniversary Print - contract with *Melissa Ball* to do the print
 80 prints numbered
 75 A.P.
 80 Box Calls numbered 1-80 with the prints.
 Box Calls made by River Valley Calls

Promo Committee ideas - to report at the August Board meeting.

The Board sent a \$1,000 Legacy contribution to NWTF in memory of *Jerry Wunz*.

NEW BUSINESS

Gary Beatty moved that we contribute 3 WITO memberships and 5 Box Calls to BOW of PA, seconded by *Dennis Strawbridge*. Motion Carried.

Jim Panaro moved to donate \$100 to *Bob Farkasovsky* for the Wheelin' Sportsman event, seconded by *Clyde Gouker, Jr.* Motion Carried.

Gary Beatty moved we purchase one raffle ticket from each of the 3 RD's, seconded by *Rick Stutzman*. Motion Carried.

Don Heckman moved to support the Wild Turkey Woodlands Program with a \$500 contribution by the State Board, seconded by *Rick Stutzman*. Motion Carried.

Don Heckman reviewed the request by *Bob Kasun* for feedback on news articles in various magazines and newspaper.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Don Heckman reported that the H.B. 2042 is in the State Senate now. When it come out it goes to the Governor's desk.

Upper Gun Raffle Drawing:

1st place - Ruger #1 301 Win Mag NSSF Gun NWTF logo. PA State logo leather case and a 4.5x14 Leupold scope - *Craig Bixler* - Mohaton, PA

2nd place Win. Super x2 - 2002 NWTF Gun of the Year Limited Edition 12 gauge with nickel engraved receiver - *Andy Stefanak* - Hermitage, PA

3rd place Beretta #S-100, 12 gauge semi-auto Mezry Oak camo - *Gary Sykes* - Rutledge, PA

4th place Weatherby Vanguard 300 Weatherly Mag. with 3x9 Leupold scope - *Dave Cochran*, Dover, PA

5th place Rem. 11-87, 12 gauge Premier High Gloss - *Dale Hall*, Greenville, PA

Moved by *Rick Stutzman*, seconded by *Clyde Gouker, Jr.* to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "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

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**PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NWTF ANNUAL MEETING
S. B. ELLIOTE STATE PARK
MOSHANNON STATE FOREST DISTRICT #9
CLEARFIELD, PA
MARCH 14, 2004**

President and Board Chairman called the annual meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. After the welcome of the attendees, President *Carl Mowry* led us in the Pledge of Allegiance after which he reviewed the ground rules. Attendance was taken and we moved into:

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Nominating Committee Report.

President - *Carl Mowry*

Vice President - *Dave Burdge*

Secretary - *Bill Mackereth*

Treasurer - *Jim Panaro*

Chairman of the Board - *Carl Mowry*

President *Carl Mowry* asked for additional nominations for President. It was moved by *Don O'Brien* and seconded by *Dennis Strawbridge* to close nominations for President. Motion carried.

President *Carl Mowry* asked for additional nominations for Vice President. *Gary Beatty* moved to close nominations for Vice President, seconded by *Don O'Brien*. Motion carried.

President *Carl Mowry* asked for additional nominations for secretary. It was moved by *Gary Beatty* and seconded by *Tom Bunty* to close nominations. Motion carried.

President *Carl Mowry* asked for additional nominations for Treasurer. *Gary Beatty* moved to close nominations, seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried.

President *Carl Mowry* asked for additional nominations for Chairman of the Board. It was moved by *Tom Bunty* and seconded by *Dave Burdge* to close nominations. Motion carried.

The Nominating Committee presented the names of Directors until 2007:

Reed Johnson
Dennis Strawbridge
Rhonda Henry
Dwight Sanderson
Gene Alwine
Clyde Gauker
Carl Mowry

President *Carl Mowry* called for additional nominations for directors until 2007. ***Rick Stutzman* moved to close nominations, which was seconded by *Gary Huff*. Motion carried.**

President *Carl Mowry* then directed the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the officers and directors as presented by the Nominating Committee.
 Submitted by,

Bill Mackereth



PA Chapter Secretary

MARCH 14, 2004 PA NWTF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

President *Carl Mowry* then moved into the March 14, 2004 Board of Directors Meeting, held in the same office by introducing *Joe Neville*, Acting Legislative Liaison with the PA Game Commission. *Joe Neville* had a written report.

Game Commission Plans to Implement HB 2042 February 10, 2004

This summary provides current plans of the Game Commission (PGC) regarding implementation the proposed HB 2042, which, if passed, would create a special wild turkey hunting license for harvesting additional turkeys in the state.

In response to the recent growth in Pennsylvania's wild turkey population, the PGC has expanded fall hunting season lengths in many Wildlife Management Units. Further increases in fall hunting opportunities are not advisable at this time because of the potential to negatively impact the population from this either-sex-hunting season. The alternative is to increase the spring gobbler season bag limit. There is increased interest in spring hunting among Pennsylvania hunters, and spring gobbler season poses minimal potential for adverse impact to wild turkey populations.

Most states allow multiple birds to be taken in the spring. Agency staff would recommend implementing the most widespread and tested option of a two-bird spring bag

limit, statewide, one bearded bird per day. There is some potential to impact turkey populations because of the increase in hunting pressure resulting in increased hen mortality (from illegal harvests or mistaken kills) and nest disturbance. The increased hunting pressure also could decrease the number of older gobblers available for subsequent years. However, sufficient research has shown that properly timed and implemented multiple bird spring limits have not caused population declines.

Pennsylvania is unique in the large number of wild turkey hunters and harvests. Therefore, it is imperative that any change be accompanied with sufficient data collection so population assessments can be made.

Initially, the additional turkey tags could be sold the same way we distribute our DMAP permits. We would receive the request for the additional harvest license and print it in house and mail it directly to the customer. This process will be simplified when we move to our point of sale system within the next three years. At that time the additional harvest license can be sold at the time of the purchase of the regular license.

OFFICER REPORTS

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

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT - *Dave Burdge* presented a written report.

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

TREASURER REPORT - *Jim Panaro* presented a written report. January 1, 2004 to February 29, 2004. Starting Balance \$30,166.00. Income \$36,859. Expenses \$32,353.00. Ending balance \$34,672. Net Gain (Loss) \$4,506.00. Discussed upcoming expenses. We still have the unresolved postage overcharge from October. Moved by *Rhonda Henry* to accept the treasurer's report with a second from *Don O'Brien*. Motion carried.

NWTF REPORTS

SENIOR REGIONAL SUPERVISOR- *Jerry Zimmerman* had a voice report. Super Fund balance \$31,391.77.

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

- 1) Will do the South West Regional Banquet and Hunt Auction on Saturday, August 28, 2004 in Monroeville. Presently looking for leads on hunting and fishing trips and special one-of-a-kind items.
- 2) Super Fund banquet status:
 - a. Fall 2003 down a little
 - b. Jan/Feb were up

- c. March - have had more being down than up
 - d. Merchandise is doing well and dollars spent per person is up which has offset the lower attendance at some banquets.
- 3) Targeted areas for new chapters remain at:
- a. Southwest Pittsburgh areas
 - b. Monroeville
 - c. Letter sent asking for someone to step forward. Received one reply that will be followed up on.
- 4) Congratulated *Carl Mowry* for Roger Latham Service Award and PA Chapter for 7th place in LA Dixon State Chapter Awards.

SENIOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR - *Bob Farkasovsky* presented a written report. Presented a flyer with information on the Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF Registered Benefit Sporting Clay Shoot, Sunday, May 23, 2004, Hunting Hills Sporting Clay Course.

Don Heckman re: 2nd Bird Tag. PA Chapter voted to remain neutral. *Joe Neville* set up a meeting with *Representative Philips*.

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

- This year's events are really taking off. We currently have 26 events scheduled throughout 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.
- Our membership has grown to 2,017 in the state.
- The 2004 State event is scheduled for March 16-28. Registration forms have been mailed out, it was advertised in Turkey Talk. We will have 19 different classes that the ladies will be able to choose from. In addition to our raffles and silent auction at the event, we will be raffling off a Mossberg Model 835 Ulti Mag 12 gauge; tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. If anyone is interested you can see me. The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the event. I have copies of the registration form available. We have approximately 140 ladies registered. If you haven't been to an event, you are definitely missing out on a lot of excitement.
- On February 20th at the National Convention the Women in the Outdoors awards were presented at the breakfast that was sponsored by Federal Cartridge. This year some Pennsylvania events were recognized at the awards ceremony.

The **Mason Dixon/Lake Marburg** event received the 1st Runner Up Award for **Best Overall New Event Membership Achievement**.

The **Mason Dixon/Lake Marburg** event also received the 1st Runner Up Award for **Best Overall New Event Highest Net**.

The **Mason Dixon/Lake Marburg** event also received recognition for **Best Overall New Event Honorable Mention**.

The **Pennsylvania State** event and the **Wilhelm** event received recognition for the **Best Overall Membership Achievement Honorable Mention**.

The **Stony Valley** event received the 1st Runner Up Award for the **Highest Net to Gross Percentage (\$2,000 to \$2,999 net/net category)**.

The **Pennsylvania State** event received **Best Overall State Event Honorable Mention**.

- At our Awards Banquet, I was able to present awards to:

Best Overall New Event was awarded to the **Mason Dixon/Lake Marburg Chapters for their event**.

Best Overall Repeat Event was awarded to the **Stony Valley Chapter**.

Most Memberships Recruited Event awarded to the **Wilhelm Chapter**.

Top Contributing Event was awarded to the **Mason Dixon/Lake Marburg Chapter**.

Most improved Event was awarded to the **Stony Valley Chapter**.

The following events reached **Golden Hen** status.

Mason Dixon/Lake Marburg Chapters
 Pennsylvania State
 Stony Valley Chapter
 Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards Chapters
 Wilhelm Chapter

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

Meetings

- PA Chapter Executive Committee
- PA Chapter Rendezvous and Awards Dinner
- PA Game Commission meeting
- PA Chapter Habitat Committee-Super Fund Habitat Project Evaluations
- Met with PA Representative *Merle Phillips* on his proposal for an extra over-the-counter turkey tag
- Habitat Enhancement Grant Proposal meeting with in Washington, PA with Columbia Energy, National Fish and Wild life Foundation and PA Game Commission
- New York Chapter Super Fund Committee and Wild Turkey Woodlands Committee
- New York Chapter Board of Directors
- Ohio Chapter Awards Dinner

- Ohio Chapter Board of Directors and Super Fund Committee
- Met with Indiana DNR officials to discuss their proposal for mandating fall turkey hunter to wear orange
- National Wild Turkey Technical Committee meeting
- NWTF Convention

Writing Projects

- Article for Pennsylvania Game News on setting dates for spring gobbler seasons
- Two articles for the spring edition of PA Turkey Talk
- Prepared comments for PA Chapter to present at Game Commission meeting
- Wrote two articles on New Jersey projects for The Caller
- Prepared a draft white paper on handling nuisance and damage complaints for the NWTF Technical Committee
- Drafted a press release for Indiana on the ability of birds to see colors

Presentations

- Power Point on Goulds Turkey Restoration at the PA Chapter Rendezvous
- Power Point on Turkey Hunting Safety and the role (or lack thereof) of orange in improving safety at the NWTF Law Enforcement Officers Session at the convention
- Slide show on "Solving Wildlife Mysteries-Techniques Used by Wildlife Biologists" for New Jersey Outdoor Women's League

Special Projects

- Assisted New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife Turkey Research Projects with trapping of gobblers for gobbler survival study
- Developed materials and compiled and analyzed incident data for use in discussing the Indiana orange proposal
- Conducted a literature search and provided references on color vision in birds for use in Indiana issue
- Assisted Maryland Wildlife Division and Maryland State Chapter in transfer of 30 wild turkeys from Tennessee to the Eastern Shore of Maryland
- Assisted RD *Chris Karinja* with the Kittatinny Gobblers banquet in New Jersey
- Processed Super Fund request forms for Pennsylvania (30), Ohio (5) and New York (2)
- Drafted and mailed letters to PA Chapters notifying them that their habitat projects were either funded or declined

Consultation

- Provided information and advice to the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Wildlife on the potential impacts of fall hunting and scheduling dates for spring gobbler seasons
- Consulted with PGC Land Manager *Dave Mitchell* on the value of various fruit trees for wild turkeys
- Discussed NWTF private lands programs with the Delaware Fish and Wildlife private lands biologist
- Answered 26 requests for information on wild turkey habitat improvement, wild turkey biology, turkey behavior, winter survival and turkey hunting

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

Harvest Management

The preliminary statewide fall turkey harvest was approximately 27,100 turkeys. Final harvest figures will be available in July. This preliminary harvest was twenty-seven percent below the fall 2002 harvest and thirty-eight percent less than the fall 2001 harvest. Harvests were expected to be down last fall for several reasons. Fall turkey flock sizes were smaller because summer reproduction was down. Small flocks were difficult for hunters to locate, especially in areas where turkeys were mainly eating soft mast (grapes) and, thus, not leaving much sign like scratchings in the leaves. Also, hard mast production (acorns, nuts) and spotty, causing turkey flocks to travel away from traditional areas and move large distances.

The PGC Board of Commissioners gave preliminary approval, during the January 2004 Commission meeting, to decrease fall 2004 turkey hunting seasons from three weeks to two weeks in Wildlife Management Units 2C, 2E, 4A, 4B, and 4D. Turkey population indices from these WMUs show that the three-week seasons may be limiting these populations.

Turkey Genetics Study

Researchers at Utah State University, who are conducting this study, received only six turkey tissue samples from PA for fall 2003 season. They thanked us for assisting with their data collection. They would like us to send at least twenty samples from spring 2004 harvested turkeys. If you still have sampling kits from last fall, please use them for this spring's harvest. They will still be good to use. I received 30 additional sampling kits to distribute today.

Gobbling and Incubation Study

The following is an update from the research of the study, *Dr. Darroch Whittaker* at Virginia Tech: The nesting data is coming along very nicely. So far I have incubation initiation estimates from over 50 locations in over 30 states. I ran a quick and dirty exploratory model using latitude, longitude, and elevation to predict initiation of incubation on the uncleaned dataset, and it had an R-square value of around 0.65, so feel like we'll be able to do some good stuff with this. I'm still waiting on about 20 more studies through interlibrary loan. Also, peak of incubation initiation is a very good predictor of the first peak of gobbling locations having both datasets available, though sample size is very limited.

Dr. Whittaker has told us the gobbling data is limited, and he hopes to get some additional data. If not, we may still get some strong correlations of gobbling data with nesting data so we will still have some valuable information in relation to gobbling data.

Ten northeastern states (CT, MA, MD, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, and WV) and the Province of Ontario are funding this regional study, through state superfund dollars. The PANWTF agreed to fund the project at \$1,000. The payment schedule is 25% initially, 50% halfway, and the remaining 25% at project completion. *Dr. Whittaker* intends to have a draft report before April.

Turkey Posters

The illustration by artist *Bob Sopchick*, which appears in the current PA Digest of hunting and trapping regulations, was recently made into a small (11x17") poster by our Bureau of Information and Education. The poster pictorially displays the differences between an adult and juvenile turkey's tail, and differences between gobblers and hens. Posters are for education, and copies are available to chapters for educational displays, while supplies last.

Don Heckman discussed the addition of WMU's 1A, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, and 3D, to be considered for a one-week fall season reduction in hunting season length.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Checkbook Balance 1/11/04 \$19,272.01

Income: None

Expenses:

Lower Bucks L.B.'s	225	\$1,125.00
Del. Co. L.B.'s	165	825.00
Northwest T. Toms	8	40.00
Tamarack T.T.	21	105.00
Wapiti Roost	66	330.00
Postmaster 100 stamps		37.00
Cl-Mont Gobblers	74	370.00
Cl-Mont Gobblers	20	<u>100.00</u>
Total Expenses		2,932.00

Checkbook Balance 3/12/04 \$16,340.01

Awards Committee - *Tom Bunty* gave a report on new awards plaques for State Chapter Awards. Moved by *Don Heckman* and seconded by *Rhonda Henry* that we accept the Awards Committee recommendation for new award plaques. Motion carried.

Moved by *Don Heckman* and seconded by *Dennis Strawbridge* that the Awards Committee also include the Master Turkey Calling Champion plaques as their responsibility in their budget. Motion carried.

Don Heckman discussed the colored fliers that have been made up to disseminate NWTF information.

Legislative Committee - *Don Heckman* discussed the H.B. 1512 - "Right to Hunt and Fish in PA" - explained our responsibility to get the bill passed.

Scholarship Committee - *Carl Mowry* State Scholarship Winner *Ryan Zeiler* from Holly, PA- Lake Region Longbeard's Chapter.

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

Had a pretty good day at the Rendezvous in terms of sales. Some deals had to be offered, but merchandise did move.

Sold approximately 3 license plates since the last report.

Have we started thinking about a 30th Anniversary art print? Would like to have something to begin planning for 30th Anniversary promo items.

Habitat Committee - *Reed Johnson* presented a written report.

Conservation Seed: The PA Chapter is at this time still waiting on shipment. At last conversation with National, seed will be shipped some time this month. It has been noted that there will be a limited amount. Local chapters may only receive a small amount form, which they ordered. This is do to the large amount of seed that is now being ordered nation wide and the limited amount of seed that is available.

CB Foundation Trees: is overstocked on native trees and shrubs for the spring 2004 planting season. These are Octoraro Native Plant Nursery's top-notch plants; 3'x3"x9" containerized seedlings 18-30" tall. I am potential needs for these plants. Our first choice is to get them to buyers (\$3.20 with quantity discount possible). We are likely to do a plant give-away to non-profit groups doing conservation projects if there are plants remaining later in the spring. Trees: white oak, scarlet oak, chestnut oak, swamps white oak, pin oak, tulip poplar, silver maple. Shrubs: black chokeberry, silky dogwood, grey dogwood, arrowwood viburnum, nannyberry viburnum. If you are interested or know others who may be, please be in touch. It will be a service to us, and the plants are excellent.

Turkey Talk Committee - *Greg Caldwell* presented a letter.

To the Board of Directors, PA NWTF:

Lance and I had hoped to attend the board meeting this weekend just to introduce ourselves, but schedule conflicts have prevented us from doing so. I am doing a fly-fishing show near Philadelphia and *Lance* had a church conference.

We wanted to thank the board and the membership of PA NWTF for giving us the opportunity to produce Turkey Talk. We are well underway with the spring 2004 issue, and everything is going well. We met with *Carl* and *Tammy Mowry* and *Greg Caldwell* in late January to discuss the transition process and to outline our responsibilities. That meeting gave us great start. We have been extremely pleased with the lines of communication as we gathered the content and photos for this first issue. Everyone involved has been a great help.

I hope to be able to say "Hello" in person at your June board meeting. By then, we will have our first issue of Turkey Talk under our belts, and we will be able to hear any suggestions you have for making the next one even better. Until then, we thank all concerned for the chance to work with PA NWTF. *Walt Young*

Communications - Letters received were on the bulletin board located at the back of the room. Board members were asked to review them at their leisure.

OLD BUSINESS - *Jerry Zimmerman* discussed the 30th Anniversary print and/or patches contract with *Melissa Ball*. She should have the original done by August. Also discussed the production of a Box Call relating to the 30th Anniversary print.

Don O'Brien moved that the board authorize *Melissa Ball* to paint the 30th Anniversary Print and to work out the details of the Turkey Box Calls with the Art Committee, seconded by *Jim Panaro*. Motion carried.

Don O'Brien moved that the PA State Chapter issue a Position Statement that we oppose any merger between the PA Game Commission and the PA Fish & Boat Commission, seconded by *Don Heckman*. Motion carried.

Don Heckman discussed the fact that the PA NWTF, the leading conservation organization in the country, does not have a representation on the "Governors Advisory Council for Hunting Fishing and Conservation.

Don O'Brien moved that the PA Chapter enter into a shared cost arrangement with the P. G. C. in the reproduction of the *Bob Sopchick* poster "Adult or Juvenile Gobbler or Hen", seconded by *Jim Panaro*. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Gary Beatty moved that the PA Chapter give a "Spring Quartet" framed print to the 4-H Shooting Sports Training Session to be held in Butler, PA, seconded by *Greg Caldwell*. Motion carried.

Don Heckman moved for the PA Chapter to pay \$150 for the POWA outstanding writer's award. seconded by *Dennis Strawbridge*. Motion carried.

Discussion on the Wilson F. Moore Masters Calling Contest: to keep it? to move it? and the costs?, etc.

Greg Caldwell moved to move the Wilson F. Moore Masters Calling Contest to the Blair County Convention Center in 2005, under the same guidelines as the current PA Chapter NWTF contest rules, seconded by *Gary Beatty*. Motion was defeated.

Gary Beatty moved to allow advertising at the rate of 10% over page costs in the PA Turkey Talk for this issue, seconded by *Skip Motts*. Motion carried.

Don Heckman discussed the fact that the PA Chapter now has a vote in the PA Federation of Sportsmen Clubs.

One other issue that has not gone away is that of fluorescent orange. The predator hunters would like us to support the issue. With the last changes made by the commission, they are now required to wear fluorescent orange during any daylight hours, not just during rifle deer season. **Voted to approve the predator's hunter's opposition for them to wear orange. Motion carried.**

Expand the use of crossbows for hunting. The proposal would allow the use of crossbows statewide for hunting bear and elk and during any of the firearms deer seasons, including the regular two week concurrent season, the early muzzleloader season and the late flintlock season. In addition, for hunters in WMU's 2B, 5C and 5D, the most urbanized areas in the state, crossbows would be legal during any established deer season. Disabled hunters would still need to obtain a disabled hunter permit to use a crossbow during the early statewide archery season outside of WMU's 2B, 5C and 5D. **Voted to support the use of crossbows during any season that you are allowed to use a firearm. Motion was defeated.**

Expand the Deer Management Assistance Program. Under the proposal, eligible lands for DMAP are: publicly-owned lands; private land owners or lessees where no fee is charged for hunting; and private land hunting clubs established prior to Jan. 1,2000, that own 1,000 or more contiguous acres. (This could be used to direct more hunter pressure onto lands where deer are over populated, and relieve some of the pressure on other areas.) **Voted to support the expansion of the Deer Management Assistance Program. Motion carried.**

Expand the area where bear hunting will run concurrent with the first week of the firearms deer season in order to address the growing problem of human-bear conflicts. The expanded area would include WMU's 3D, 4C and that portion of WMU 4E, east of Rt. 487; that portion of WMU 3B east of Rt. 487 and south of Rt. 87, and that portion of WMU 3C, east of interstate 1-81. Also included are a portion of WMU's 2G and 3B that lie north of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River from the Rt. 405 bridge, west of the Rt. 220 bridge, east of Rt. 220 to Rt. 44 and east of Rt. 44 to Rt. 973, south of Rt. 973 to Rt. 87, west of Rt. 87 to Rt. 864, south of Rt. 864 to Rt. 220 and west of Rt. 220 to Rt. 405 and west of Rt. 405 to the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. **Voted to expand the area of the Bear Season to run concurrent to the 1st week of Deer Season. 3D, 4C, 3B, 3C, 2G and 4B. Motion carried.**

Expand the elk season. Hold an early elk season September 20-25 and the second season Nov. 8-13. Farmers are suffering severe crop damage and the early season would allow hunters to harvest these animals, rather than have the farmers shoot them for crop damage. The farmers must sign agreements before this hunt can take place and a very small number of licenses will be issued for this early season. **Voted to expand the elk season.**

Voted to hold an early elk season due to crop damage September 20-25 also a regular late season November 8-13. Motion was defeated.

The Board also gave preliminary approval to allow hunters to apply for an elk license in each season. **Voted to all elk hunters to apply for an elk license in both seasons. Motion was defeated.**

Expand the bobcat hunting and trapping opportunities by adding two Wildlife Management Units in the southwestern part of the state, WMU's 2C and 2E. **Voted to allow and expanded Bobcat season in 2C and 2E. Motion carried.**

Proposal to exempt senior hunters from the current antler restrictions and put them in the category with junior hunters, disabled person permit holders and residents serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces or U.S. Coast Guard, which is two or more points to one antler, or with one antler three inches or more in length. **Voted to allow Senior Hunters to be exempted for the three-point restriction. Motion was defeated.**

Expand Sunday hunting. **Voted to allow Sunday hunting. Motion carried.**

Science Based Recommendations for Deer Management. The negative impacts of overabundant deer in Pennsylvania are too costly to our wildlife, habitat, natural heritage, economy, public safety, and quality of life to allow this ecological and economic crisis to continue. Therefore, the participating organizations of the Pennsylvania Habitat Alliance listed above request that the Pennsylvania Game Commission implement the recommendations of its own science staff with all due haste to achieve the deer density goals the commission itself has established for balancing deer with healthy habitats and adopted within its own strategic plan. We encourage you to take whatever actions are necessary to embrace and follow through on a science-based approach to deer management. **Jim Panaro moved we support the Science Based Management of the PA deer herd, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.**

Don Heckman moved we donate \$1,000 to the Legacy Fund in the name of Jerry Wunz, seconded by Reed Johnson. Motion carried.

Don Heckman moved we support H.B. 2042 as written with no amendment and passed by the House Game & Fisheries Committee, seconded by Don O'Brien. Motion carried.

H.B. 2325 - Reed Johnson moved the PGC add a spring turkey license and monies generated be used for the current Turkey Management Plan Budget, with excess funds going into the general fund of the PGC, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.

Nine recommendations to the Board of Commissioners:

- 1) Our broad statement about supporting science based wildlife management decisions, and specific statement about wild turkey management objectives and future decisions.
- 2) Requesting Commissioner support on completing the Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania, and getting the plan signed in 2004.
- 3) Closing additional fall 2004 WMU seasons - bad winter 2002-2003, bad spring hatch in 2003, lower fall 2003 harvest, equates to reducing length of 2004 fall seasons more so than was agreed at January 2004 Commissioner meeting. WMU's 1A, 2D, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C and 3D.
- 4) HB 2042 support for this legislation - if approved at Sunday's Board meeting, letter to *Rep. Phillips*, cc. *Vern Ross*, Commissioners, *Rep. Bruce Smith* and *Ed Staback*.
- 5) Extend spring season by one week at end of season - work around Memorial Day holiday.
- 6) All day spring turkey hunting season, support regulation for illegal roost shooting year around. (sunrise to sunset).
- 7) Strong turkey hunting safety message this spring and fall turkey hunting seasons, detail our plans.
- 8) Reduce fall turkey hunting season orange regulation to spring orange regulation.
- 9) Improve information gathered (male, female - what else) on report cards for successful turkey hunters.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Gary Beatty has a new e-mail address: gbeatty@thiel.edu.

Jerry Zimmerman discussed the replacing of the sponsor's hunt with the gun of the year.

Jerry Zimmerman presented *Carl Mowry* with a stamp print for the Pennsylvania Chapter for being #2 in net dollars raised.

Moved by *Rick Stutzman*, seconded by *Rhonda Henry* to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by,



**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.go2pa.com/panwtf E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

1

Attention State NWTF Board Members:

Saturday, March 13, 2004 at Bill Mackereth's camp, the Scholarship Committee will meet at 10:00 a.m. At 2:00 p.m. the Executive Board will meet. (Anyone wishing to stay overnight on Friday and Saturday is welcome).

Sunday, March 14, 2004, the PA Board of Directors will meet in the DCNR, District 8 Office at Elliotte Park off of I-80 at exit 111. Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

**PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NWTF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
RAMADA INN - STATE COLLEGE, PA
JANUARY 10, 2004**

The meeting was called to order by the President and Chairman of the Board, 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 - Dave Burdge was appointed by the Executive Board - no report.

TREASURER REPORT - Jim Panaro presented a written report. Also *Jim* presented a preliminary report on the Saturday night banquet and awards dinner. October 1 through December 31, 2003. Starting Balance \$21,675.94. Income \$26,733.45. Expenses \$18,243.88. Ending Balance \$30,165.51. Net Gain (Loss) \$8,489.57. **Moved by Bill Mackereth to accept the treasurer's report with a second from Tom Bunty. Motion carried.** *Jim* also reported on the Saturday night banquet and awards dinner.

SECRETARY REPORT - by Bill Mackereth. A motion to accept the secretary's report as printed was made by *Jim Panaro* and seconded by *Tom Bunty*. Motion carried.

NWTF REPORTS

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

RD REPORT - 1-11-04

MEMBERSHIP:	TOTAL:	20,349
	ADULTS:	10,647
	WITO:	2,017
	WH.SP:	434
	JAKES:	7,251

SUPER FUND BALANCE: \$15,087.77 as of 1/6 \$13,090.89

CHAPTER PRES. MTG. in EDGEFIELD: July 8-11

State Chapter President

All District Directors

Local Chapter President - 1 for every 5 chapters

WITO - 1 for every 5 events

JAKES - 1 for every 5 events

WH SPORTS - 1 for every 5 events

COST: \$100 to help cover hotel and food costs

(cost and travel can be super funded)

NSSF is a sponsor @ \$25,000

US SPORTS ALLIANCE will also be a sponsor

Goal is to have 800 people at the event

WHEELIN' SPORTSMAN BENEFITS - different from events

- no membership required

- raise money for the program

WHITETAIL HUNT @ WHITETAIL RIDGE

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

Discussed the Raystown Lake disabled hunt on the last day of deer season had 22 hunters and 108 volunteers, harvested 9 does, 15 misses. Blinds set up and put on drives.

Discussed the turkey sculpture. Discussed "Wheelin' Sportsman" benefit money.

Introduced *Shawn Rybka* - Wheelin' Sportsman Reg. Event Coordinator.

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

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

Date: February 19th - 22, 2004. Rooms: The Hyatt and Crowne Plaza are SOLD OUT!

Rooms are still available at the Hampton Inn & Suites, Red Roof and Drury Hotel, attached is additional information on these Hotels.

We do not automatically give anyone a free ticket to the breakfast or the leadership workshop. If eligible, volunteers must check the box.

Refer to the website for parking maps, directions and forms you can download.

If you have any questions please call *Veronica Vinson*, Ext. 3131.

Reserved seating through the PA Chapter has passed, but if you still have a group to go, send all the registration forms in together with a note.

Entertainment: *Pam Tillis and Killer Beaz*, Thursday night at the Welcome Party. *Ricky Skaggs* will entertain Saturday night at the Awards Banquet. Speakers will include *Wayne LaPiere*, Exec VP of the NRA, *Lt. Gen. Buck Bedard*, Retired United States Marines, and *Tom Ridge*, Secretary of Homeland Security.

All this information and an agenda is in your Jan/Feb. 2004 Turkey Call magazine or call at 1-800-THE-NWTF.

Changes in the TV Show. The NWTF is announcing some changes to its television lineup. In addition to Turkey Country, a new show will air on The Outdoor Channel. Get in the Game will help hunters become better stewards of the land and the wildlife found there, while an old favorite, Turkey Call Television, is moving to the Outdoor Life Network.

Get in the Game - The Outdoor Channel Friday, 9 p.m., Tues, noon and Thur., 3 p.m.

Turkey Call Television - Outdoor Life Network (OLN) Sat, 11:30 a.m.

Turkey Country - The Outdoor Channel Sun., 7 p.m., Mon., 1 p.m. and Tues., 1:30 p.m.

All times EST.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - *Tammy Mowry* presented a written report. During 2003, Pennsylvania held 23 events. There are currently 20 events scheduled. My goal is to have 30 events in the state. Any help you can provide me in identifying chapters/businesses that would be willing to host an event would be greatly appreciated.

The 2004 State event is scheduled for March 26-28. Registration forms have been mailed out, it will be advertised in Turkey Talk. We will have 19 different classes that the ladies will be able to choose from. In addition to our raffles and silent auction at the event, we will be raffling off a Mossberg Model 835 Ulti Mag 12 gauge; tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. If anyone is interested you can see me. The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the event. I have copies of the registration form available. Last year we had 104 women participate, our goal this year is to have 150 participants.

WHEELIN' REG. EVENT COORDINATOR - *Shawn Rybka* would like all chapters who have a Wheelin' Sportsman event to contact him.

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

Two Thanksgiving Media Releases of wild turkeys occurred in November. The releases were scheduled for the Boston, Massachusetts and Houston, Texas metro areas. These releases are designed to focus media attention on wild turkeys; hunting and the contribution hunters have made to conservation. Capturing turkeys was a challenge this

year because of good mast crops and warm weather. The regional biologist worked with the Massachusetts Division of Wildlife and Fisheries selecting a release site and capturing turkeys. Turkeys were rocket-netted in Massachusetts for both releases and both events were extremely successful.

Work continued on the western New York vineyard damage study. Cameras were placed in a forty-three acre Chautauqua County vineyard and were moved around the vineyard as different types of grapes matured. Twenty cameras captured and documented wildlife use of the vineyard from September 14 through October 14. Nearly three hundred photographs of wildlife were taken. The data from this work has not yet been analyzed, but there are more than 150 photos of deer in the vineyard, 90 raccoon photos, 21 wild turkey photos, 1 red fox and 1 cottontail rabbit. This work will continue on other vineyards in 2004. However, the results of the work in New York look remarkably similar to data collected in the past two years in California where turkeys were blamed for major damage to vineyards. Other wildlife species were largely responsible for the damage in both states.

The regional biologist has been meeting with Ohio Division of Wildlife biologists to plan a release of wild turkeys in the Columbus area to coincide with the NWTF Convention in February.

Considerable time was spent assembling data to present to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources on fall turkey hunting and fall turkey hunting incident rates. Indiana biologists proposed a fall season for 2005, the first ever in Indiana. However, other sections of the agency tacked on a provision to require fall hunters to wear orange. The regional biologist met with Indiana DNR officials to discuss the merits of the fall season and the reasons why incorporating orange into the proposal was unnecessary.

Meetings

The Pennsylvania Game Commission meeting and a meeting of the Pennsylvania Habitat Alliance wildlife agency alternative funding committee were attended in Harrisburg. The regional biologist also attended and facilitated a meeting between the Pennsylvania State Chapter and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary *Michael DeBartinis* and his staff.

Super Fund Projects

Twelve PA Super Fund request forms were processed along with two from Ohio and one each from New York, New Jersey and Delaware. The regional biologist toured Super Fund habitat projects on State Game Lands 205 in Lehigh and Carbon Counties with Pennsylvania Game Commission Land Manager *Dave Mitchell* an outdoor writer from the Allentown Call-Chronicle. In addition, a habitat enhancement project site was reviewed with Pocono Mountain Chapter president *Skip Mott*. A tour of Super Fund habitat projects at Thunder Mountain of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and White Lake Wildlife Management Area in New Jersey was conducted with *Dave Chanda*, Assistant Director of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Forest Service Plan Revision

Letters were drafted for the Pennsylvania State Chapter and local chapters to provide comments on the plan revision process for Allegheny National Forest. A plan revision meeting for the Finger Lakes National Forest was attended in Hector, New York.

Writing Projects

A press release on fall turkey hunting safety was prepared for the Pennsylvania State Chapter to send out prior to the opening of the season.

The regional Biologist co-authored a white paper with PGC Biologist *Mary Jo Casalena* on options for expanding recreational opportunity for turkey hunters.

An article on reclaiming abandoned and wild apple trees for wildlife was prepared for Turkey Call magazine.

An article on the value of food plots was written for the Ohio Chapter newsletter. Articles on 2003 Wild Turkey Woodlands field days and a hen turkey with rare plumage were prepared for the New York Chapter newsletter and articles on turkey hunting safety and national forest plan revision were written for P.A. Turkey Talk.

Four articles were submitted to The Caller; two on New York projects and two on Pennsylvania projects.

The regional biologist reviewed, edited and provided literature citations for wild turkey research project report for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. Review and editing was completed on a paper concerning agricultural damage by wild turkeys co-authored by the regional biologist and biologists from Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Information Requests

Twelve e-mail and telephone requests for information on wild turkey management, turkey hunting, and habitat management, were answered during the fall.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE - *Mary Jo Casalena* and *Robert C. Boyd*, Assistant Director Bureau of Wildlife Management, PA Game Commission presented a written report.

Harvest Management

Current report cards received from the fall 2003 wild turkey season are down 24% from the same time last year. Final report card figures will be available in March. Harvests were expected to be down this fall for several reasons. Turkey flock sizes were smaller this fall because fall recruitment was down. Small flocks were difficult to locate, especially in areas where turkeys were mainly eating soft mast, such as grapes, and thus not leaving much sign like scratchings in the leaves. Also, hard mast production (for example, acorns and beechnuts) was spotty, causing turkey flocks to travel away from traditional areas and move large distances.

PRELIMINARY 2003 Turkey Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents

During the June 2003 board meeting, I reported the preliminary Spring 2003 Turkey HRSIs were nine (9). This has been revised to seven (7), with no fatalities. The other two incidents were not turkey related. Causes were: sporting arm in dangerous position

(2), shot for game (4), and other (1). All victims and hunters were hunting. Preliminary results for the fall 2003 turkey season were two (2) incidents. Both victims were shot for game. One victim was hunting. The other victim was not hunting, but walking his dog through a dense cover patch of hemlocks and mountain laurel.

Wild Turkey Productivity

The statewide index of turkeys seen by Wildlife Conservation Officers for 2003 (12.2 turkeys seen/1,000 km) was significantly less than those seen in 2003 (18.3 turkeys seen/1,000 km). Cold rainy weather toward the end of May might have negatively impacted poult survival for the first peak hatch. Also, many hens may not have had the energy reserves to re-nest due to the cold, snowy winter and limited winter mast food supply. However, sightings did increase in August and many WCOs reported mixed sized flocks, indicating some successful re-nesting. Therefore, this index may be conservative. Compared to the baseline year of 1995 with an index of 13.9 turkeys seen, the 2003 index was 12.2 percent lower.

Wild Turkey Season Recommendations

The following recommendations will be presented to the Commissioners for the 2004-2005 Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons:

Fall 2004:

WMU	Sporting Arm	Dates	Daily and Season
1A, 2A, & 2B	Shotgun/archery	Oct. 30 - Nov. 20	Limit = 1
1B	Shotgun/archery	Oct. 30 - Nov. 13	
2C, 2E, 4A, 4B & 4D	Rifle/Shotgun	Oct. 30 - Nov. 13	
2D, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B,	Rifle/Shotgun	Oct. 30 - Nov. 20	
3C, 3D, 4C & 4E			
5A & 5B	Closed		
5C & 5D	Shotgun/archery	Oct. 30 - Nov. 6	1

Spring 2005 Season Recommendation

Statewide Youth Hunt April 23, 2005 Daily/Season Limit = 1"

Spring Gobbler Statewide April 30 - May 28, 2005 Daily/Season Limit = 1"

*One bearded bird for entire spring season, youth and regular seasons inclusive.

Turkey Genetics Study

Sampling materials for collecting tissue samples of harvested turkeys during the fall 2003 season were distributed during the last meeting. This study is being conducted by *Greg Kraus*, Utah State University. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Gobbling and Incubation Study

Recently a group headed by *James Pack* (WVDNR) compiled data on the chronology of wild turkey gobbling and incubation in the Northeast for the Northeast Wild Turkey Technical Committee. Their findings have been useful for member states to use in setting and defending seasons and regulations for spring turkey hunting. Based on the success of

their work, there is interest in increasing both the scale and detail of this investigation. The group is proposing an expanded study using data from throughout the range of the wild turkey in the United States and Canada. This larger dataset will present an opportunity to employ sophisticated analytical techniques, increasing the detail of the resulting information on wild turkey biology. Benefits are expected to be twofold. First, products of this investigation will be useful tools for managers regulating spring hunting across the continent. Second, an analysis of factors leading to regional and interannual variation in the timing of peak gobbling and incubation activity will likely give insight into potentially important factors influencing wild turkey reproduction. The Northeast Wild Turkey Technical Committee (of which *Bob Ericksen*, *Bob Boyd* and *Mary Jo Casalena* are members) endorses this project as a high priority. The current proposal for funding is through state superfunds from all northeast states, at \$808 per northeast state. However, some states have very limited superfund budgets and either will not be able to participate, or participate at a reduced funding level. Pennsylvania is one of the largest states with the most turkey hunters in the east and a large superfund, and funding at the \$1,000 - \$2,000 levels would help considerably. The research proposal is attached.

TMA 7B Study - Michaux State Forest Summer Sighting Surveys

The 6th year of Summer Sighting Surveys on the Michaux State Forest portion of the TMA 7B study area was conducted to provide an index to turkey population trends in addition to our harvest and hunting success trend data for TMA 7B. Six routes (approx. 30 miles each) were conducted.

Observers say 13.9 turkeys per 1,000 miles driven on six routes. This represents a 27.7% decrease from last year (see table). Recruitment in 1999, during the beginning of the study appeared to be very good according to our observations and this survey.

Recruitment since then has much lower. Poul survival is a critical aspect of this population's improvement.

TMA 7B	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003			
Sighting Index		Not conduc		19	38	22.5	13.3	18.8	13.9			
Calculated	243	58	53	65	123	136	155	69*	Closed			

*Fall season length in 2002 was Monday - Saturday. The first Saturday was removed.

The high fall harvests from 1999 - 2001 most likely are due to the excellent fall recruitment of 1999 and carry-over for the next two years. The 55% decrease in fall harvest in 2002 was most likely due to the decreased season length and poor fall recruitment. Beginning in 2003, the fall season is closed until the population recovers.

Wild Turkey Management Plan

The process for the first revision of the 1998 plan will begin early this year. The PANWTF and NWTF Regional Biologist, *Bob Eriksen*, along with other stakeholders will be involved with the revision.

29th Annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show, Columbus, OH

Thanks to the support from the State Chapter, the Game Commission will again have excellent representation at the Convention. PGC attendees will be Commissioner, *Russ Schleiden*, Executive Director *Vern Ross*, Bureau of Law Enforcement Director, *Mike Dubaich*, Bureau of Administrative Services Acting Director, *Carl Roe*, Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year award recipient, *Rod Ansell*, Land Management Officer of the Year award recipient, *Rich Skubish*, and PGC-NWTF Technical Committee Representative *Mary Jo Casalena*.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Habitat Committee - *Reed Johnson* discussed the Seed Program. Directors had some questions and comments.

Awards Committee - *Tom Bunty* discussed the need of new plaques - turkey-calling plaques need more room for lettering. **Moved by *Don Heckman* that the Awards Committee makes the needed changes and purchase new award plaques. Seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion carried.**

Promotion Committee - *Skip Sanderson* presented a written report. More T-shirts were ordered for the Rendezvous. *Skip* has a few phone orders for merchandise.
 Ordered another 5,000 rulers since the last board meeting.
 Had a couple of requests for license plates for Christmas presents.
Skip needs to have something to begin planning for the 30th Anniversary promo items.

Dart System

Dwight Kuntz reported on the repairs and maintenance and on damages. Asked that everyone get their scheduled dates in to use the Dart System to *Dwight*.

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

Check Book Balance 10/2/03 \$13,757.01

Income:	Sale of Raffle tickets	\$36,880.00	
	"	<u>260.00</u>	
		\$37,140.00	
	Sub Total		\$50,897.01
Expenses:	Stoney Valley	(7) \$35.00	
	Red Rock	(112) 560.00	
	Alleg. Plateau	(198) 990.00	
	Bob's A&N Store	10,000.00	

	9	
Stoney Valley	(101)	505.00
Shade Mtn.	(44)	220.00
Wilhelm	(68)	340.00
Bob's A&N Store		1,485.00
NWTF for Guns		2,490.00
State Chapter		<u>15,000.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$31,625.00
Checkbook Balance		\$19,272.01

Summary of PA NWTF/JAKES FUND RAFFLE

- 1857 Raffle Tickets sold out of 2500
- 29 winners out of 40 guns and rifles
- for each ticket sold the Local Chapter will receive 1.25 JAKE's Memberships
- total income \$37,140.00
- total expenses 14,261.95 guns, tickets and postage
- \$22,878.05
- payment to PA Chapter 15,000.00
- profit for JAKES \$ 7,878.05

Highest selling Chapter - Art Print

1 chance for every 50 tickets sold by Chapter for chance on a gun

Membership Committee - *Greg Caldwell* let *Ray Smith* discussed the Turkey Calling and Hunting Seminar. Would like to reach out to non-members. Encouraged the members to come to the seminar.

Communications

Items were displayed on the bulletin board for members to view.

Don Heckman introduced two individuals *Terry Hyde* and *Joe Neville*, acting Legislative liaison with the PA Game Commission. *Joe Neville* talked about House Bill 2042 - "an Additional Turkey Tag." Discussion and questions by the PA Board members followed.

Moved by *Don Heckman* that the chapter remains neutral on House Bill 2042 until March 14. Seconded by *Dennis Strawbridge*. Motion carried.

Joe Neville also discussed the merger of (PA Game Commission & PA Fish & Boat Commission).

OLD BUSINESS - none.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by *Don O'Brien* to pay the POWA Renewal dues of \$100 + \$5. Seconded by *Ray Smith*. Motion carried.

Moved by *Gary Beatty* that the P.R. Committee come back in March with an option of 1 page or 1/2 page in "Hunting Digest." Seconded by *Skip Sanderson*. Motion carried.

Don Heckman talked about President, *Carl Mowery's* public comments for the P.G.C. January 25th committee meeting; so that the State Board has knowledge of the items to be discussed.

1. Revise Turkey Meeting Plan
2. Spring hours - roost shooting
3. Bag limits
4. Add one week at end of spring season when early
5. Safety message

As a Board we support:

1. 2nd bird (spring) no tags, stamp, or license - no
2. 2nd bird (spring) with tag and license - yes
3. 2 birds in the fall - no position
4. spring turkey-hunting license - yes
5. fall turkey-hunting license - no
6. P.G.C. Funding Turkey Meeting Plan - yes
7. PANWTF Turkey Management Plan, goals, objectives and strategies - yes

Move by *Don O'Brien*, with a second by *Dennis Strawbridge* to help the gobbling study in the amount of \$1,000. Motion carried.

Greg Caldwell commented on Turkey Talk - \$6,000/publication now. Option to go to Altoona Mirror with the same format \$4,200. Newspaper format \$2,800. Moved by *Jim Panaro* that we change the printing of the Turkey Talk to the Altoona Mirror with the same format on 50 paper at the cost of \$4,200, seconded by *Rhonda Henry*. Motion carried.

Don Heckman and *Carl Mowry* reviewed Conservation Funding - Principles of Agreement from the PA Habitat Alliance. The 11 principals were read to the PA Board of Directors. This is the first draft.

Don Heckman - spring youth turkey hunting, discussed what the PA Chapters could do.

Hunter Trapper Education on target.

PA Education of Sportsman Club - dues \$500 non voting, \$1,000 membership under 1,000 get a vote, \$1,500 membership over 1,000 get a vote and have a delegate at the spring and fall conventions. **Moved by Don Heckman, with a second by Skip Sanderson that the PA Board of NWTF pays the \$1,500 dues and has a delegate to vote at the spring and fall conventions of the PA Federation of Sportsman Clubs. Motion carried.** Meetings March and September.

Moved by Dennis Strawbridge, with a second by Dwight Kuntz that the PA NWTF not support the merger of the P.G.C. and the PA F. & B. C. and to also support the stance of the P.F.S.C. Motion carried.

Jim Panaro and the western region. **Moved by Dennis Strawbridge, with a second by Rhonda Henry that the chapter secretary purchases a new tape recorder. Motion carried.**

Moved by Don Heckman, with a second by Rick Stutzman that the chapter joins the PA Taxidermist Association with dues of \$100. Motion carried.

Moved by Dave Burdge to adjourn, seconded by Rhonda Henry. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Submitted by,

Bill

**Bill Mackereth, Secretary
PA Chapter NWTF**