



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

ATTENTION BOARD MEMBERS

The Executive Board meeting will be held at the Reed Johnson's Camp on Friday, October 5, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Directions to Reed's Camp coming from the South: Take Route 219 North to Mahaffey. Go to the intersection of Route 219 and Route 36. Take 219 North for 5 miles, then turn left onto Curry Run Road. Go about 3.3 miles and you will have arrived at Reed's camp.

Directions to Reed's Camp coming from the North: Get off of I-80 at the Clearfield Exit, go through Clearfield and follow Route 879 to Grampian. Then from Grampian you will head toward Hepburnia, go through Hepburnia and continue for a few miles. Look for Curry Run Road and turn right and go about 3.3 miles and you will have arrived at Reed's camp. If you go to Mahaffey to have gone to far.

The regular State Board of Directors meeting will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the S. B. Elliott State Park Office.

Pennsylvania State Chapter NWTF Board of Directors Meeting Ramada Inn, State College August 4, 2007

Director's Present: *D. Burdge, G. Alwine, R. Henry, B. Mackereth, P. Ferrare, J. Panaro, G. Beatty, D. O'Brien, D. Butler, T. Bunty, J. Drolet, E. Couch, F. Shields, J. Pries, G. Huff, S. Motts, D. Heckman, G. Caldwell, K. Fernburg, and B. Schmid*

Director's Absent: *R. Johnson*

Guests: *Larry Burger, Pete Howey, and Jack Fetter*

The August 4, 2007 Board Meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chairman of the Board, Dave Burdge. After the Welcome, Call to Order, Prayer, and Pledge of Allegiance, Jon Pries asked for a moment of silent prayer for the passing of our good friend Earl Merkle. Chairman Burdge reviewed the ground rules. Chairman Burdge asked for the Officer Reports.

OFFICER REPORTS

President: Gene Alwine had a written report. His report was for the time period of June – July 2007.

- **June 4:** Attended the Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards local chapter meeting in Berlin, Pennsylvania.
- **June 18:** Attended the PANWTF Annual Meeting with PGC Staff at the Harrisburg Headquarters from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.
- **June 23:** Assisted with the Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards local chapter JAKES Chicken Barbeque sale at the Wal-Mart in Somerset, Pennsylvania.
- **June 25:** Attended the PGC Commissioner Public Comments Meeting at the Harrisburg Headquarters.
- **July 2:** Attended the Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards local chapter meeting in Berlin, Pennsylvania.\
- **July 14:** Assisted at the Moraine Chapter WITO Event in Butler as an archery instructor.
- **July 21:** Attended a “Summer Picnic, Nature Talk, and Forest Management Tour” of the Laurel Highlands Forest Landowners’ Association at State Representative Bob Bastian’s Farm in Friedens and became a member.

Projects:

- Sponsored an AYSO U-6 Team (NWTF JAKES) and Tournament in my hometown (Conemaugh Township, Davidsville).
- Did a Turkey Talk article about the State Scholarship Winner.
- Continual work on the Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards Chapter JAKES Event to be held on August 25, 2007.
- Sent our Kurz Award choice to Edgefield.

Vice – President: Jon Pries had a written report.

- **June 12:** Met with Susquehanna Longbeards Chapter – Banquet Planning.
- **June 18:** 11:15 a.m. – Luncheon session for meeting with PGC Staff.
1:00 p.m. – Meeting with PGC Staff and PA NWTF Members.
5:30 p.m. – Meeting with new PGC Commissioner, Jay Delaney, and Dale Butler to discuss the Orange Issue.

- **June 21:** 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Habitat Management Tour hosted by PGC Commissioner Jay Delaney at State Game Lands #57.
- **June 27:** Traveled to Edgefield, SC to attend NWTF One Team/One Voice Leadership Meeting.
- **July 1 – 3:** Returned from Edgefield.
- **July 10:** Met with Susquehanna Longbeards Chapter – Banquet Planning.
- **July 14:** Visited Lost 8 Hunting Club and solicited attendees for our banquet.
- **July 18:** Met with Susquehanna Longbeards Chapter – Banquet Planning.
- **July 25:** Met with Susquehanna Longbeards Chapter – Banquet Planning.
- **July 28:** Susquehanna Longbeards Chapter Banquet.

Secretary’s Report: Rhonda Henry had a written report. There was one correction to the last meeting minutes. **It is as follows:**

- On page 11 – YHEC/JAKES/EXTREME JAKES/JAKES RAFFLE Reports – Bill Mackereth did have a written report.

Motion made by Bill Mackereth to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Tom Bunty. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Jim had a five page written report.

Starting Balance:	\$32,555.12
Income:	<u>\$25,173.47</u>
Total:	\$57,728.59
Expenses:	<u>\$ 9,544.16</u>
Ending Balance:	\$48,184.43

Motion made by Don O’Brien to accept the treasurer’s report, seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried.

Chairman of the Board: Dave Burdge had a written report.

- **June 8:** Attended Millcreek Chapter Meeting.
- **June 16:** Assisted Millcreek Chapter Wheelin’ Sportsmen Banquet
- **June 18:** Attended PGC Meeting and met with PGC Staff.
- **June 25:** Represented Millcreek Chapter NWTF at the Jefferson County Field Day.

- **July 9:** Attended Millcreek Chapter Meeting
- **July 21:** Represented Millcreek Chapter NWTF at the Clarion County Youth Field Day.
- **July 28:** Represented Millcreek Chapter NWTF at the Forest County Youth Field Day.
- **August 3 – 5:** Attended Executive Board of Director's Meeting, Pennsylvania Quarterly Meeting, and President's Meeting at State College, Pennsylvania.

NWTF REPORTS

Senior Regional Director: Larry Holjencin had a written report.

JAKES Gun Raffle: There are 40 guns ordered. The ticket runs from November 1, 2007 until December 10, 2007. Bob's Army and Navy is the dealer again.

Letters went out to the Chapter President's announcing the raffle along with order forms to get tickets. Tickets will be handed out tomorrow at the Leadership Workshop.

Wheelin Sportsman Position: Kirk Thomas, National Coordinator for Wheelin' Sportsmen resigned to start his own organization. Soon after that the entire Wheelin' Sportsmen staff was let go due to improper conduct.

NWTF is still committed to Wheelin' Sportsmen. A plan for the future will be presented to the National Board on August 11, 2007.

Larry's Resignation: Larry decided back in March that this would be his last year of doing banquets and he informed Carl Brown then. On June 28, 2007 they announced to staff that Larry would be leaving NWTF. Larry was not sure of his last day, however, most likely September 30, 2007.

Larry has met with Carl Mowry and Ray Smith to go over the extra duties he performed so they can decide who will cover them.

Larry will remain involved with NWTF and plans to see everyone at the awards dinner and possibly the National Convention.

Larry appreciated all everyone has done for the NWTF and for him, but mostly he appreciated the friendships that were developed.

Larry feels confident that Carl, Ray, and the new person hired will continue to give good service and will help to make Pennsylvania every bigger and better. Thanks again to everyone and he is proud to have served you all.

Regional Director: Carl Mowry had a written report.

President's Meeting: At the present the count for the weekend is 45 Chapters attending the Leadership Workshop. There will be 85 people attending the Barbeque/Shoot on Saturday evening and 96 – 98 people attending the meeting on Sunday.

NWTF One Team/One Voice Leadership Conference: More than 1,000 chapter leaders from 44 U.S. States, Canada, and Mexico recently attended the National Wild Turkey Federations 2007 One Team/One Voice Leadership Conference held in Augusta, Georgia and the NWTF's Wild Turkey Center in Edgefield, South Carolina. The conference was a chance for state, local, and provincial NWTF leaders to meet and learn what the NWTF has in store for the future.

Attendees enjoyed motivational speaker Scott Deming and Comedian Dana Daniels.

They heard comments from leaders in the hunting and shooting community, such as But Pigeon, U.S. Sportsman's Alliance President; Dave Miles with the National Shooting Sports Foundation; and Roy Grimes with the National Archery in the Schools Program.

Aaron Hobbs with the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation and John Anton with 4-H Shooting Sports also spoke to the attentive crowd.

ON Saturday, participants enjoyed a performance by the Clark Atlanta University Drumline and had opportunities to meet Women in the Outdoors spokeswoman, Cindy Garrison of the television show "Get Wild with Cindy Garrison" and Wheelin' Sportsmen national spokesman, Dana Bowman. Mr. Bowman dropped into the Wile Turkey Center with a purple-heart parachute and a giant American Flag, which he presented to the NWTF. Mr. Bowman lost both of his legs in a training accident when he was a member to the U. S. Army's elite Golden Knight parachute team.

Saturday's fun day also included field activities, such as 5-stand shotgun shooting, fly fishing demonstrations, a tour of Edgefield, archery and rifle target shooting, as well as opportunities to try new outdoor products.

The event culminated with a fireworks display set to patriotic music. The fireworks were open to the general public.

Pennsylvania was well represented with 33 attendees from various chapters across the state.

PA Chapter Membership Numbers: The most recent numbers are as follows:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Regular:	9,240	9,844
JAKES:	15,995	11,415
Women in the Outdoors:	2,119	2,210
Wheelin' Sportsmen:	1,502	720
Hunting Heritage:	<u>2,428</u>	<u>869</u>
TOTALS:	31,284	25,058

32nd Annual National Convention and Sports Show: The National Convention will be held on February 20 – 24, 2008 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia. More details to follow at a later date.

Hotel Information is as follows:

The Omni Hotel at CNN Center
Headquarter Center: (800) 524-0500
800.THE.OMNI
Rate: \$166 per night (plus tax and parking)
Group Code: National Wild Turkey

Hyatt Regency Atlanta
(404) 577-1234
(800) 233-1234
Rate: \$150 per night (plus tax and parking)
Group Code: NWTF
www.atlantaregency.hyatt.com

Regional Director: Ray Smith had a written report

New Banquets: There were 2 new banquets held since our last meeting, Southern End Strutters and Bucks County Double Beards. Turn out was great.

Diamond Life Dinner: On June 11 we held a Diamond Life Dinner at Foglesville, Pennsylvania. We had three paid commitments with 3 to 4 expected over the next year.

Busy month ahead as there are 5 banquets and 1 Wheelin' Sportsmen Benefit this month.

New Raffle: The RD's came up with a new raffle to raise money for the Wheelin' Sportsmen Program. The raffle is called "Trip of a Lifetime Raffle". It will be 400 tickets which will cost \$50.00 each. It will have hunting trips of various prices on this ticket. Ray feels it will be a real money maker for the Wheelin' Sportsmen's Program.

Ray stated that if this raffle doesn't make the money it should, he will make up the difference.

National Women in the Outdoors Coordinator: Tammy Mowry had a written report. She was unable to attend due to having numerous WITO events occurring this weekend.

We are having a lot of great events this year. I'm so proud of all the volunteers who take time out of their busy schedules to help women learn about the outdoors.

The One Team/One Voice Leadership Workshop was a great success.

I've included a list of the events that are occurring through September.

If you know of any chapter or facility that would be interested in hosting an event, please let me know. We are doing a great job in teaching women about the outdoors, conservation, and hunting; but we have a lot of work that still can and needs to be done to ensure we always have our freedom to hunt and spend time in the great outdoors.

August 11, 2007

Mt. Pisgah State Park
Nicole Carman: (570) 297-2734, nicolecarman@yahoo.com
Mt. Pisgah State Park, Troy (Bradford County)

Penn's Woods Spur Chapter
Debbie Wirth: (724) 523-3164, debbiewucw@yahoo.com
Trafford Sportsmen's Club, Trafford (Westmoreland County)

August 18, 2007

Ten Mile Valley Chapter
Roxane Palone: (724) 324-2753, roxane@greenepa.net
Michelle Benedict: (724) 938-7233, michbndct@yahoo.com
Roscoe Sportsman's Association, Roscoe (Washington County)

August 24 – 26, 2007

Adams County Longbeards Chapter and Carlisle YMCA
Tammy Mowry: (724) 284-9201, tammynwtf@zoominternet.net
Bonnie Berk: (712) 243-2525, ext. 222, bonnieberk@comcast.net
Camp Thompson YMCA Camp, Gardners, PA (Adams County)

August 25, 2007

Shippensburg Strutters Chapter

Janelle Hippensteel: (717) 776-4055, hippnellie@aol.com

Shippensburg Fish and Game Association, Shippensburg (Cumberland County)

Bald Eagle Longbeards Chapter

Mary Probst: (570) 748-3339

Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association, Hyner (Clinton County)

September 8, 2007

Black Moshannon State Park

Michelle McCloskey: (814) 342-5960, nrspbimo@state.pa.us

Tammy Mowry: (724) 284-9201, tammynwtf@zoominternet.net

Black Moshannon State Park, Philipsburg (Centre County)

September 14 -15, 2007

Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards Chapter

Rhonda Henry: (814) 443-6241, rhondapa@hotmail.com

Frank T. Soles YMCA Camp, Rockwood (Somerset County)

Northeast Regional Biologist: Bob Eriksen had a written report.

Meetings and Presentations:

- Attended Board of Director's meetings for the Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey Chapters.
- Prepared agenda and moderated annual PANWTF/PA Game Commission meeting in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- Participated in Diamond Life membership dinner in Fogelsville, Pennsylvania.
- Met with wild turkey research project leader for New Jersey Fish and Wildlife to edit gobbler survival data and arrange for analysis of information from a five year telemetry study.
- Attended an "Adopt-a-Food-Plot meeting in Towanda, Pennsylvania arranged by the Endless Mountain R, C&D.
- Attended the South Mountain Partnership meeting in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. This coalition is interested in preserving open spaces and managing habitat in the vicinity of Michaux State Forest.
- Participated in the NWTF summer staff meeting and "One Team, One Voice Leadership workshop in Edgefield, SC.

Writing Projects:

- Prepared four articles on the gobbler banding study, the Montour Landowner Field Day, a Delaware County Longbeards habitat project and a PA Super Fund Up-date for the summer issue of “PA Turkey Talk”.
- Wrote articles on using buckwheat in food plots and monitoring legislative activity for the Maryland and New Jersey Chapter Newsletters.
- Continued to work on draft North American Wild Turkey Management Plan for Pennsylvania.
- Drafted additional “FAQs” for the PA Game Commission.
- Developed a grant proposal for habitat work on the Trexler Natural Preserve in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.
- Developed a grant proposal for habitat work on the House Run Natural Preserve in Lancaster County.
- Prepared letters for the PA Chapter in opposition to legislative changes to the baiting laws and in support of The Narrows Project, a conservation easement being pursued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service near South Mountain.
- Prepared a letter for the New Jersey Chapter commenting on proposed changes to the Black Bear Management Policy.

Hunting Heritage Super Fund:

- Reviewed and edited 34 Super Fund requests for Pennsylvania, 10 for New Jersey, 3 for Delaware, and 2 for Maryland.

Information Request:

- Responded to 10 information requests from Pennsylvania and 1 each from New Jersey, Maryland, and New York.

Special Projects:

- Met with PGC wild turkey biologist and a WCO to examine a wild turkey specimen that may have been taken out of season. After examining the molt pattern, it was decided that the bird was legally harvested.
- Began planning a Wild Turkey Woodlands Landowner Field Day at the Schmid 80 Acre Camp in Jefferson County. The field day is scheduled for September 8, 2007.

NWTF Technical Committee: Mary Jo Casalena had a written report.

Harvest Management

The preliminary spring 2007 turkey harvest, calculated from report cards, not including special spring license, was approximately 39,500. This down 7% from the 2008 preliminary harvest of 42,700, but is similar to the previous 3-year average preliminary harvest of 39,250. Of the 7,620 special spring turkey license holders, 3 weeks after the close of the hunting season 1,263 hunters had reported harvesting a second turkey (compared to 1,270 of 8,041 second license holders by the same time last year). Second license holders are required to mail their report card regardless of whether they harvested a turkey, which is similar to DMAP. A reminder letter was mailed to 1,000 of the 4,407 non-respondents. Similar to last year, thus far approximately 95% of these non-respondents did not harvest a second turkey. We will determine the success rate of non-respondents to calculate the harvest of the remaining non-respondents.

Final harvest figures of spring and fall 2006 will be available for the October board meeting.

Wild Turkey Spring Harvest Rates and Annual Survival Rates Study

Data analysis is continuing for the second year of the 4-year study. The study is progressing well, with a fairly good distribution of banding across WMU's. Table 1 shows the number of turkeys banded and harvested each year in Pennsylvania, by WMU, and age of turkey.

The retention of the butt end bands on the gobblers is tremendous, approximately 70%, compared to 10% of the rivet leg bands.

Turkey Summer Sighting Survey

All Wildlife Conservation Officers (WCOs) currently are conducting this annual survey where they record the number of turkeys seen and miles driven in their state vehicle on a daily basis during June, July, and August. Survey results provide an index to the turkey population by Wildlife Management Unit, and will be reported at the October board meeting.

Michaux State Forest Summer Sighting Surveys

These 6 survey routes (30 miles each) also are conducted June, July, and August. The June surveys yielded the highest number of turkeys seen per mile driven during June for the 10 years the surveys have been conducted. Additionally, Bureau of Forestry staff sightings have yielded the most poults seen per hen during June for the 8 years we have been collecting this data. However, we have 2 more months of data collection before conclusions can be made regarding the breeding season.

Number of Male Turkeys Leg-Banded and Harvested in PA in 2007 by Wildlife Management Unit

WMU	Banded Juvenile	Banded Adult	Banded Recaptures	Harvested Juvenile	Harvested Adult
1A	2	1	0	0	0
1B	12	15	1	2	9
2A	10	6	0	1	1
2B	4	12	0	1	4
2C	17	12	0	6	2
2D	0	2	0	0	1
2E	1	1	0	0	0
2F	0	18	0	0	5
2G	9	7	2	0	3
3A	4	5	0	0	2
3B	9	10	0	0	1
3C	1	8	0	0	0
3D	3	19	0	1	6
4A	13	5	0	3	5
4B	7	6	0	0	1
4C	6	17	0	0	9
4D	17	13	0	2	4
4E	23	3	0	4	0
5A	3	5	0	1	4
5B	2	8	0	0	2
5C	11	7	0	5	3
NY					
TOTAL	154	180	3	26	62

**Number of Male Turkeys Leg-Banded and Harvested in PA in 2006 by
Wildlife Management Unit**

WMU	Banded Juvenile	Banded Adult	Harvested 2006 Juveniles	Harvested 2006 Adult	Banded 2006 Harvested 2007 Juvenile	Banded 2006 Harvested 2007 Adult
1A	0	0	0	0	0	0
1B	19	5	7	2	4	1
2A	0	1	0	1	0	0
2B	4	0	1	0	1	0
2C	6	27	2	10	2	5
2D	0	1	0	1	0	0
2E	0	9	0	5	0	4
2F	6	3	1	0	4	1
2G	3	6	1	0	4	1
3A	3	0	0	0	0	0
3B	2	2	0	0	0	0
3C	0	20	0	7	0	4
3D	20	4	5	1	4	1
4A	1	26	0	8	0	2
4B	0	2	0	0	0	0
4C	14	11	2	6	3	2
4D	20	3	2	0	5	0
4E	0	0	0	1	0	0
5A	0	0	0	0	0	0
5B	0	8	0	5	0	0
5C	9	11	5	6	1	3
NY			1			
TOTAL: 107	139	27	53	25	23	

Don Heckman stated we need to have a meeting in October with regard to the WMU 5A.

Wheelin' Sportsman: Larry gave an up-date on this issue during his above report.

NWTF Board Member: Ron Fretts did not attend the meeting and had no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jon Pries stated that some of the committees are not very active and they do not have a description of what that committee is to do. So hopefully in the next couple of months we can get those descriptions done and have copies to all the board as well as to Joe Drolet to put on the website.

YHEC Report: Bill Mackereth gave a verbal report.

Bill spent 2 days with them, Friday setting up and Saturday was the shoot. There was approximately 180 kids. They were very appreciative of the art work the PA State Chapter donates to the program. Bill presented the art work to the Junior and Senior winners.

JAKES/EXTREMEAKES/JAKES GUN RAFFLE: Bill Mackereth had a written report

PA Chapter NWTF/JAKES Fund Report

Checkbook Balance (6/2/2007) \$8,253.26

Income: None

Expenses:

Stoney Valley (33)	\$165.00
Moraine (28)	\$140.00
North Boros (10)	\$ 50.00
Tussey Mountain (9)	\$ 45.00
Mason Dixon (42)	\$210.00
Susquehanna Local (67)	<u>\$335.00</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES \$945.00 \$ 945.00

Checkbook Balance (8/4/07) \$7,308.26

Art/Promotion Committee: Gary Beatty gave a verbal report.

Gary stated that Fuzzy Shields received the merchandise and did the inventory. They would like to move out some of the old stuff, possibly at a reduced price, so we can start getting some new stuff to sell. Any ideas from the board would be appreciated on what we would like to sell.

Awards Committee/ Nominating Committee: Tom Bunty gave a verbal report.

Tom sent out letters and the information sheets regarding the awards given away at the PA State Chapter Rendezvous to the 84 PA State Chapter President's. Tom also emailed the letters to the board members.

By-Laws Committee: No report.

Dart Systems Committee: Tom Bunty had a verbal report.

The 410 we had re-assembled didn't work out, however, we had a new laser sight put back in the gun and now it is up and running.

Tom will keep the systems at his house when everyone is done with them in October.

Directors Handbook: No report.

Expos/Shows/Conferences/Calling Contest Committee: Greg Caldwell gave a verbal report.

Greg will not be available to help with the Master's Calling Contest next year. The room we used to do the calling contest in at the Blair Convention Center will no longer be donated. The cost to the PA State Chapter will be \$400.00 next year. Chapter will need to decide what we want to do in the future.

Habitat Committee/Seed Committee: No report.

Homepage/Internet Committee: Joe Drolet had a written report.

The last several months have been devoted to creating our new state chapter website and we have finished the job. WWW.PANWTF.ORG actually replaced WWW.PANWTF.COM on July 25, 2007 when Joe Kuhn put a banner and link on the old website that pointed to the new one.

As always in projects there are a number of loose ends that need to be "clipped" before you can pronounce the project complete, so I have created the following checklist to ensure that everything is finished properly.

New PA Chapter NWTF Website Checklist:

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Status</u>
1	Drolet	Set up main email (nwtfrep@panwtf.org)	Complete
2	Drolet	Change PA State Chapter Letterhead	Complete
3	Kuhn	Burn DVD/CD of old site	In Process
4	Kuhn	Add banner/link from old site to new	Complete
5	Young	Change Turkey Talk website/email references	In Process
6	Holjencin	Notify NWTF National	Complete
7	Heckman	Notify PGC	Complete
8	Heckman	Notify PFSC	Complete
9	Panaro	Discontinue hosting with Infoquest and Earthlink	In Process
10	Drolet	Take over management of www.panwtf.org	In process
11	Drolet	Demo new site to Executive Board	Scheduled for 8/3
12	Drolet	Demo new site for Board	Scheduled for 8/4
13	Drolet	Demo new site for Chapter Presidents	Scheduled for 8/5

Websites are always an ongoing labor or love and I expect that we will be turning the website and adding content for a long time.

If anyone wants to add a page to the site just send me the contents in an email. I would prefer that you put the page in a Word document since that is the easiest to convert to the web format, but I will take a regular email if that is what you have. If you want it put somewhere special on the site, let me know in that email.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome and you can send them to me by clicking "Feedback" in the top menu and then clicking "Feedback to the PA Chapter NWTF".

While I have been working so hard on the new website, I have fallen a bit behind in up-dating the Board website. I will have that caught up by the next board meeting.

Information/Education Seminars: No report.

JAKES 1st Bird Awards: No report.

Legislative Committee: Don Heckman gave a verbal report.

There are over 100 Game Law Title 34 and Firearms Title 18 and Title 42 bills that have been introduced in this legislative session.

The following are proposed:

- **HB 13** – Landowner Liability – was passed by both the House and Senate and signed by the Governor. A private landowner is not held liable.
- **SB 580** – Turkey Dogs – was passed by both the House and Senate and signed by the Governor. This is an official law. Dogs can be used in fall turkey season. This regulation will be in effect starting fall 2007 as far as we know.
- **HB 1862** – Baiting – Making it legal to hunt over any ear corn or corn pile in any hunting season in Pennsylvania.
- **HB 1214** – Commissioner term limit.
- **HB 779** – Gives PGC authority to regulate Sunday hunting seasons beyond today's regulations.
- **HB 863** – Legislation that would move spring gobbler season length from noon to 5:00 p.m.
- **HB 1676** – Alternative funding source.
- **HB 142** - Right to Hunt, Trap, Fish in Pennsylvania.

The Board agrees to not support legislation setting seasons and bags limits. That it is strictly a Pennsylvania Game Commission Title 58 regulation.

There are 46 bills out there and 35 are anti-gun, anti-NRA, anti-second amendment, and anti-protection. That is what we are dealing with and Philadelphia has the power to move those bills.

The 2 firearms bills that we are watching and pushing are:

- **HB641** – Castle Doctrine: Self-protection outside of your house. Pro-gun, pro-protection, and pro-second amendment rights.
- **HB1292**- Concealed Carry in State Parks. You would still have to have your concealed permit. As of right now you cannot carry concealed in State Parks.

HB641: The Castle Doctrine (this bill is pro gun) – We tried to get this bill passed last year and it died. This is with a Republican House and Senate. This bill has again been introduced in the House, which are Democrats, which further defines self-defense. This bill will be going to the Judiciary Committee and if it comes out of committee we will let everyone know so we can start tracking it.

Orange Committee: Phil Ferrare gave a verbal report.

Phil stated that it seems like we are making a lot of progress. This issue is going to be coming up at the October PGC Commissioner meeting. There should be a motion made to eliminate the word Mandatory and change it to Voluntary. It should then be seconded, then it will go into Public Comment for 90 days, then it will be adopted at the January 2008 PGC Commissioners meeting. This issue has factual data to back it.

We are going to put the fact sheet back in the PA Turkey Talk and Phil is also going to write an article.

Paper Supplies: No report.

POWA Contact: Jon Pries gave a verbal report.

Jon will be representing the PA NWTF State Chapter at the fall POWA in Carlisle on October 18 – 20, 2007.

Publications/“Turkey Talk” Committee: No report.

Public Relations Committee: Greg Caldwell gave a verbal report.

Greg would like to do a power point presentation to introduce a new program which is to help kids find turkeys, help set-up on turkeys, and when all else fails what are the new strategies. There is also a safety portion in this presentation. This is a really neat little program. Anyone who wants to use it, please contact Greg Caldwell.

Greg feels that it was received really well.

Rendezvous Committee: No Report.

Safety and Education Committee: Don O'Brien gave a verbal report.

They are over budget today by more than \$5,000.00. The budget is \$21,000.00 and they spent \$26,565.00, however, about 70% of that budget went to the new dart systems and the up-grading and repairing of the guns for the systems (\$14,626.00). Otherwise, everything else looks good.

Super Fund Budget: No Report.

Federation of Sportsmen's Club: No Report

Turkey Management Plan Committee: Don Heckman gave a verbal report.

Don emailed all of the board the list of positions that we have already approved as a board. There are 3 documents that we have already approved over the last several years and Don has sent 3 news releases as reference. Don would just like to review them:

Position on Wild Turkey Management:

1. We support the Wild Turkey Management Plan
2. We support the funding of the Wild Turkey Management Plan
3. We support the Turkey Hunting License Stamp for a fee.
4. We support the 2nd Spring License Tag with a fee. (Complete)

They will be holding a small committee meeting after this board meeting.

1. PGC Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania

- PGC adopted revised plan in February 2007 and is working on objectives and strategies.
- PGC Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania, 2006 – 2015, has 6 Objectives and 47 Strategies during the 10 year plan.
- We held our annual PGC Staff meeting on June 18th, Mary Jo Casalena gave us an up-date on strategies.
- Objectives: Population, Habitat, I & E Hunter Safety, Populations, Cooperative Partnerships.
- Reviewed and up-dated PA NWTF position statements on wild turkey management and funding options at August Board Meeting.
- PA NWTF website www.panwtf.org has 3 tabs, Wild Turkey Management, Biologist's Desk, and Commentary, for information on wild turkey management. Please use it.

2. PGC hunting license fees increase package; including turkey hunting license, 3rd time around.

- By this fall PA Sportsmen's Coalition members will have approved a new package, 2006 HB 2601, which the Coalition authored.
- This will be the starting point for legislative support for PGC hunting license fees increase.

- Turkey hunting license will be included, \$5 resident and \$20 non-resident, includes spring and fall seasons.
- Alternative funding sources, these are more long term strategies, hunting license increase is short term strategy.
- Options: Line item in state budget \$10 million – PGC; \$5 million PFBC – HB 1676, PA Sales Tax 1/8 of 1% outdoors equipment user tax.

3. PA Federation of Sportsmen’s Club, our partnership as a state wide conservation organization and PA Sportsmen’s Coalition, making a difference.

- PFSC – joined as a conservation organization in 2004, first conservation organization to join.
- Local chapters are encouraged to join county or division federation in their area.
- PA Sportsmen’s Coalition – joined as wildlife conservation organization back in the early 1990’s – today 12 other conservation and sportsmen’s organizations belong.
- Don Heckman has been the PA NWTF delegate to both organizations and he is always available for questions or comment. Home phone: (717) 761-5925 or email Don at dheckman@ezonline.net.

Communications

We received numerous communications which are posted.

Old Business

Federation of Sportsman’s Club: The Conference will be held on September 7 – 9, 2007. Don is unable to attend this meeting. The PA State Chapter will not be attending due to not having a delegate to attend in his place.

Hunting License Increase: Last increase was in 1999. The PGC is in need of a hunting license increase. The Coalition is going to resurrect HB 2601 with the additional tags and income. This would make the PGC approximately \$22 million. Hopefully by the October board meeting we will have more information. The main goal is to keep the PGC out of a merger.

Report Card: Bob gave a verbal up-date on the report card at this time. Bob will be sending the report card to Walt Young, so he can put it into “Turkey Talk”. All feedback needs to be back to Bob Schmid and Jim Panaro by August 20, 2007.

Pennsylvania Game Commissioner Up-Date: There is a new person in District 7 – Jay Delaney will be seated at the October Commissioner meeting. District 6 is still vacant so this seat will still be vacant during the October Commissioner meeting. The name for that district is Josh First and it was recalled on the 24th and is back in the Governor's office and will be resubmitted the end of August or beginning of September.

The Legislators will be back in session the first part of September and they will have 25 legislative days to run that name for the appointment for District 6.

Jerry Zimmerman Fund: Skip Motts stated that at the last meeting Don Heckman stated there was still a balance left in the fund. At the request of Don Heckman, Skip contacted Scott Bills and he is going to work on a viable project for that sight and get back in touch with Skip when that information is completed. Mr. Bills did not give him an exact date of when that will be done.

New Business

Sponsor Hunt: We have been doing the hunts in Kansas the last three years. Do we want to move it and do a Rio Hunt with Todd Rodgers in Oklahoma as the new sponsor hunt? The cost would be \$1,000.00 which includes a 2 bird limit, lodging, and meals. This would start in 2009.

Motion made by Tom Bundy to move the sponsor hunt to Todd Rodgers operation in Oklahoma for a fee of \$1,000.00 each year for 2009 and 2010 if the price remains the same. Seconded by Don O'Brien. Motion carried.

Dan Christ Prints: Ray Smith spoke with Dan Christ. Dan has 2 different prints, approximately 100 of each print, in his stock that he would like to donate to the PA State Chapter to be used at our banquets. The will delivered to Susquehanna Print Shop to be framed. One print is a turkey and the other print is a deer.

Motion made by Gary Beatty that the PA State Chapter accept the donation of 2 different prints from Dan Christ to be used at each chapter banquet over the next two years. Seconded by Skip Motts. Motion carried.

Hunt Raffle: Ray submitted his new idea for a Hunt Raffle Package. The package would be 400 tickets. We would also offer each chapter two, \$50 tickets for them to use at their banquets.

Motion made by Jon Pries to go with the new hunt raffle package, that was submitted by Ray Smith, which would be 400 tickets to be sold at \$50.00 each. Seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried.

Wilson F. Moore Memorial Master's Invitational Turkey Calling Contest. This event has not been doing well over the last few years.

Motion made by Greg Caldwell that the Wilson F. Moore Memorial Masters Invitational Turkey Calling Contest be suspended. Seconded by Bill Mackereth. Don Heckman voted no. Motion carried.

George LaVanish Print Series: Greg spoke with George LaVanish who has done a 3 print series for us in the past. He would like to reopen another series at no cost to use, however we will have to pay for the framing. They would be 16 x 20 prints. He would like to begin them in the banquets in 2009 with a patch to go with the print

Motion by Greg Caldwell that we accept the offer of George LaVanish for 3 prints over 3 consecutive years starting in 2009 for our Hunting Heritage Banquets, which includes a patch. Seconded by Don Heckman.

After some discussion about the prints, the cost to the banquets, etc., **the Initial motion was rescinded by Greg Caldwell.**

New Motion was made by Gary Beatty that Greg Caldwell and Dave Burdge work together on a contract with Dave Burdge getting a copy of the Melissa Ball old contract and getting it to Greg Caldwell, who will go over the contract with George LaVanish. Seconded by Joe Drolet. Motion carried.

PA Hunters to have a Choice: It was discussed that in view of the orange issue and the wording that a motion be made.

Motion made by Phil Ferrare that we support the PA Hunter to have a choice to wear orange and we will offer our resources to help educate PA Turkey Hunters on proper turkey hunting safety tactics. Seconded by Jim Panaro. Motion carried.

Joe Kuhns Recognition: Don Heckman asked that the PA State Board recognize Joe Kuhns for all his hard work in the past on the PA website.

Motion made by Don Heckman that the PA Sate Chapter recognize Joe Kuhns' efforts with a \$200 Gift Certificate from Bass Pro. Seconded by Jim Panaro. Motion carried.

Alternative Funding: This opportunity has already been introduced into the Pennsylvania General Assembly as a line item in this past budget, which got defeated. Some of the Coalition Members met with Dave Lavansky and started talking about alternative funding. They spoke with Carl Roe of the PGC and he is supporting alternative funding. Spoke with 5 of the PGC Commissioners at the June 26 meeting and they are in favor of alternative funding. The Sportsmen's Coalition is for a long term program and is going to suggest using Representative Dave Lavansky's position as the Democratic Chair of the Finance Committee through all of this.

They are going to look at 4 different directions:

- The first direction is to put a line item in the budget.
- The second direction is to take a state sales tax increase and directing 1/8 of 1% of a sales tax go to the PGC and Fish and Boat Commission. That would be approximately .116 % going to PGC and .058% going to Fish and Boat Commission.
- The third direction is taking what the Federal Government does with the federal tax on equipment.
- There is a 4th option which is REP, it has been passed, but not sure if it was signed. REP provides for grant money that can be used at somebody's discretion, however, we are not sure who that somebody would be at this time.

Nothing has been finalized at this time.

Legislature Bills: Poll taken of the PA State Board of Directors.

HB 1862: Baiting legislation to make it legal to hunt over bait during hunting seasons (corn or ear corn on pile). **Vote taken:** No support

HB 251: Baiting legislation another version (outside 150 yard). **Vote taken:** In Support – 1 vote. All others voted no.

HB 1214: Commissioner term limit which would cut the term back from 8 years to 4 years, however, they can go be reappointed for another 4 years. **Vote taken:** No support.

HB 779: Gives PGC authority to regulate Sunday hunting seasons beyond today's regulations. **Vote Taken:** Support

HB 863: Sets spring gobbler season to end at 5:00 p.m. daily. **Vote Taken:** No support.

HB 1676: Alternative funding source. **Vote Taken:** No Support.

HB 641: Castle Doctrine, further improve on individual self protection legislation. **Vote Taken:** Support

HB 142: Right to Hunt, Fish, & Trap in Pennsylvania. **Vote Taken:** Support

For the Good of the Order

Larry Holjencin stated we were to be at the club today at 3:00 p.m., however since we are running late the time is now 4:00 p.m., as it takes 45 minutes to get there. We will be trap shooting from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Tomorrow we will be holding the Presidents Meeting in the Ball Room

Larry also sated that Dr. Jim Howard, who is a member of Bill Mackereth's chapter, has a 1982 Ned Smith Autumn Descent. He has number 66 of 100 in the Presidential Edition that he would like to sell. Anyone who is interested, please contact Dr. Howard at (814) 765-3231.

Dave Burdge stated that the next Executive Board Meeting will not be held at Bill's Camp, as it is not available. We discussed using Greenwood Lodge. Dave asked if someone could check on whether we can use it on Friday night and then the Saturday meeting will be at the S.B. Elliott State Park Office.

Gene stated there maybe a problem with Greenwood Lodge due to archery season.

Ed Couch stated that at the One Team/One Voice Conference in Edgewood, Gary Huff was asked on very short notice to do the verbal auction and that Gary did a wonderful job. Ed just wanted to give Gary some recognition for the good job he did.

Fuzzy Shields stated he still has some Board of Directors shirts for anyone who is interested. He has 2 of the X-Large and 4 of the Medium.

Motion made by Gary Beatty for the PA NWTF State Board of Directors meeting to adjourn. Bill Mackereth seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Henry
PA State Chapter Secretary