



# 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](http://www.panwtf.com) E-mail: [panwtf@go2pa.com](mailto:panwtf@go2pa.com)

## ***ATTENTION BOARD MEMBERS***

**The Executive Board meeting will be held at Sam McCartney's Camp on Friday, June 1, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Please find the directions below.**

***Directions:*** Go East on I-80 and get off at the Bellefonte Exit, turn left then take the first right onto Forrest Avenue, this road will end at a "T" intersection. Turn left onto SR550, go about 1 mile to another "T" turn left onto SR64. Go approximately 3 miles and turn right into Hecla Park (this road is just past the ball park on the right). Go 1 mile and turn left onto Blue Ball Gap Road (this road is just past the golf course). This is a Mountain Road follow this road up the mountain for about 2 miles through a big "S" turn and look for a pipe gate and road sign on the left for Junior Lane. Follow Junior Lane back and Sam's camp is the 2<sup>nd</sup> one in at the end of the road.

***Directions from Centre Hall Side:*** Coming from I-99 turn left onto SR64 and go the same way as above.

***From the intersection of 144/192 in Centre Hall:*** Go east on SR192 for 4.5 miles turn left onto Blue Ball Gap Road, go to Junior Lane and follow the directions above.

**The regular State Board of Directors meeting will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Center County Solid Waste Authority Building. Please find the directions below.**

***Directions:*** Take SR-26 (East College Avenue) go about 2.9 miles to Transfer Road. The building address is 253 Transfer Road, State College, PA 16801

**Pennsylvania State Chapter NWTf**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**S. B. Elliott State Park**  
**March 4, 2007**

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

**Director's Absent:** G. Huff and S. Motts

**Guests:** Bob Boyd and Howard Meyers

The March 4, 2007 Board Meeting was called to order at 9:25 a.m. by Chairman of the Board, Dave Burdge. After the Welcome, Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, and reviewing of the ground rules, Chairman Burdge asked for the Officer Reports.

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

**President:** Gene Alwine had a written report.

**Vice – President:** Jon Pries had a written report.

**Secretary's Report:** Rhonda Henry had a written report. There were a few corrections to the last meeting minutes. They are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Correction: On Page 17 under the JAKES Gun Raffle. It should be 35 guns not 38. Change noted.

**Motion made by Don O'Brien to accept the minutes, second by Bill Mackereth. Motion carried.**

**Annual Meeting Minutes:** Motion made to accept by Don O'Brien to accept the Annual Meeting Minutes, second by Tom Bunty. Motion carried.

**Treasurers Report:** Jim Panaro had a written report.

**Motion made by Bill Mackereth to accept the Treasurer's Report, second by Don Heckman. Motion carried.**

**Chairman of the Board:** Dave Burdge had a written report. Dave passed around the awards that the Pennsylvania State Chapter was given at the National Convention in February.

## **NWTF REPORTS**

**Senior Regional Director:** Larry Holjencin had a written report.

**Chevy Sponsor Program:** Larry read parts of the letter sent by Chevy.

- Dealers are now being notified by Chevrolet of the Chevy/NWTF partnership.
- Chevy dealers are encouraged to display a vehicle at our banquets and to also attend the banquet – many are buying a sponsor membership.
- Chevy is also still providing a free sponsor membership to every banquet.
- This is a good opportunity for our chapters to get some new folks to our banquets.

**L.A. Dixon Awards at the National Convention:** Pennsylvania went from the #7 spot to the #2 spot in the over 10,000 member category – this happened due to dollars spent through Super Fund, adding 8 new chapters, increase in JAKES and Wheelin' Sportsman, and just an outstanding year in general.

**Roger Latham Award:** Dave Burdge was the recipient at the National Convention

**2 Million Dollar Gross:** This year Local #1 Chapter was the recipient of this honor at the National Convention.

**Highest Net/Net Dollars Raised:** Pennsylvania won the award again this year at the National Convention.

**Regional Director:** Carl Mowry had a written report.

**National Convention:** Wild turkey hunters came in record numbers – more than 42,000, for the National Wild Turkey Federation Convention and Sports Show. Tourism officials estimate visitors to this year's event, one of the most heavily attended hunting shows in the country spend more than \$5 million from February 23 – 25, 2007.

Among the 42,000 convention-goers –Josh Turner headlined for Saturday's Awards Banquet. Louise Mandrell opened the Welcome Party and helped lead worship on Sunday morning after the Remington Breakfast. Kix Brooks of the country duo, Brooks and Dunn, dropped in to talk about his passion for turkey hunting and gratitude toward

NWTF volunteers for their efforts to conserve this North American wild bird during one of six shows scheduled in the Delta Ballroom through the event.

Craig Morgan, one of country music's hottest performers, was part of a succession of country music stars who donated their time to entertain the Thursday night crowd at the Welcome Party. Performers included Aaron Tippin, Daryle Singletary, Rhett Akins, and Bryan White.

Among the "greatest turkey hunters in the world" were many show hosts representing the Outdoor Channel. Michael Waddell of Real Tree Roadtrips, Cuz Strickland from Hunter's Specialties Outdoors, and Bass Pro Next Generation host, John Paul Morris, along with many other show hosts, made appearances and signed autographs throughout the weekend.

Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee spoke to 2,500 people at Saturday's Awards Banquet and again on Sunday during the event's Remington Breakfast and worship service, while NRA President, Nancy Froman, was the keynote for Saturday's Winchester Breakfast. Lieutenant General John F. Sattler, Director of Strategic Plans and Policy, joined the convention on Saturday morning to help honor three medal of honor recipients.

First Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge was the keynote speaker at the Federal Breakfast. "You understand what the NWTF is all about when you meet the leadership", said Ridge. "Remarkably, we have sportsmen, sportswomen, and kids here today – a family oriented organization – the best kind.

**Grand National Calling Contest first place winners at the National Convention are as follows:**

**Senior Division:**

- Shane Hendershot – Zanesville, Ohio
- Van Crise – the reigning world champion turkey caller took 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

**Intermediate Division:**

- Lance Hanger – Churchville, Virginia

**Junior Division:**

- Dakota Clouser – Danville, Pennsylvania (4<sup>th</sup> year)
- Corry Hoone – Smithfield, Pennsylvania (3<sup>rd</sup> place)

**Champion of Champions:**

- Preston Pittman – Petal, Mississippi

**Team Challenge:**

- Doug Benefield – Newman, Georgia and Daymon Davis – Danville, Pennsylvania

**Owl Hooting Champion:**

- Dale Palmer – Harrisburg, Illinois

**Gobbling Champion:**

- Scott Wilhelm – Altoona, Wisconsin

**Spit, Drum & Gobble Champion:**

- Preston Pittman – Petal Mississippi

**Friction Calling Contest:**

- Matt Morrett came in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

**2007 Turkey Call Makers Competition:**

- Scott Bashore won the custom call this year. His long box was this years winner.

**NOTE:** Don relayed to everyone that Scott Bashore has retired at the top of his game. He has won 3 Top Awards. His calls will now become very valuable.

Pennsylvania was well represented at the calling contest at the National Convention

2008 National Convention will be held in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Red Rock Local Chapter:** This chapter won the JAKES Award at the National Convention this year.

**Half Million Dollar Award:** This award was won by the Moraine Chapter at the National Convention this year.

**Wheelin' Sportsman Benefit Shoot:** Carl is holding this event in June at The Shooting Academy at Nemaocolin.

**National Board of Directors:** Vern Ross did not make it for the NWTF National Board of Directors this year. Vern Ross is going to run again for the National Board in 2008.

**Regional Director:** Ray Smith was not at the meeting, however, he had a written report and Carl Mowry gave the report for Ray.

**New Chapter:** A new chapter has been born in Lancaster County. They are called the "Southern End Strutters". We had a great organizational meeting with 55 people attending. The banquet will be held in June or July.

**Diamond Life Dinner:** This event has been secured and booked for Monday, June 11, 2007. Rob Keck will be the keynote speaker with a few others following. Plans are going great with several people already showing some interest in becoming a Diamond Life Sponsor. If anyone in the East knows someone that would be a great candidate for a Diamond Life Sponsor, please let Ray know ASAP.

**National Women in the Outdoors Coordinator:** Tammy Mowry had a written report.

**2007 State WITO Event:** The Pennsylvania State Event is underway and will be held on March 23 – 25, 1007 at Camp Soles. We have a lot go good classes and instructors helping us.

**Scheduled Events:** There are currently 23 events scheduled with more in the process. I am still in the process of scheduling events for 2007 and I am always on the lookout for new areas that events can be held. If you have any suggestions that can help me identify individuals, chapters, facilities, or businesses that would be willing to host an event, please let me know, I would greatly appreciate it. If you know of anyone who would be interested in instructing at an event, please let me know. We are always looking for ideas for new classes and instructors.

**National Convention:** The National Convention was held last weekend and the Women in the Outdoors presented their top event winners for 2006. The largest event in the United States had 354 participants and was held in Bakersfield, California.

**Northeast Regional Biologist:** Bob Eriksen

Bob was very pleased to have been inducted into the Turkey Hunters Hall of Fame at the PA Rendezvous and Banquet in January. He was presented with the plaque at the habitat meeting. He thanked the PA State Board.

**Regional Biologist positions throughout the United States:** Met late in January with the New Hampshire Fish and Game and with the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Concord, New Hampshire with regard to the regional biologist position exclusive to the State of New Hampshire. Both of these agencies are looking to kick into a significant amount of dollars to make that happen. They are very enthusiastic about getting started and asked if they could start by June 1<sup>st</sup>, however, Bob was not sure they would be able to

get everything together by that date. One RCS has to wait for some of their monies to be released. New Hampshire has a turkey stamp or turkey license. That money is what will be used to fund the bill. They are going to sign a 3-year contract with NWTF to pay contributions for 3-years. This individual will be working primarily developing habitat management plans for private landowners throughout the State of New Hampshire.

They also had a conference call with the State of Ohio who would also like to do a similar regional biologist position in Ohio. They also have talks going on in Arkansas and between Tennessee and Kentucky for regional biologist positions in which the state agencies and federal agencies will contribute to those positions. This will not affect the NWTF budget because of the outside funding for these position.

They have a regional biologist who current works in Illinois and his funding comes from the Natural Resource Conservation Service and looks like the Illinois DNR is interested in making contributions also.

With the help of other agencies in these other states the NWTF is able to increase their staff without having the additional expense being put on the NWTF or the volunteers. The State and Federal Agencies want to help foot the bill on these positions because they see the value in them.

**Technical Committee Meeting:** Had a great meeting down in Nashville, it was extremely interesting. A lot of great agenda items and went very fast, even though it was 2 days long.

**Presentation at the Adams County Fruit Growers Associate:** Bob made a presentation down in Adams County at the Adams County Fruit Growers Association the day before leaving for the National Convention.

About 3 years ago, a number of individuals got involved in placing rodent bait stations on 1 orchard down in Adams County. The idea was to get some interest among orchard owners to get this program underway on a larger scale, however, it just didn't seem to get off the ground. The opportunity to speak with those folks yielded about 3 – 4 people with some interest in putting bait stations out. Now they have to explore accessibility of the tires. This may develop into a good lead.

**Super Fund Requests:** Since January he has processed a number of requests. Maryland at this point is the front runner as they had 34 requests since January, which is their big slug of requests. Pennsylvania will out do them without a problem right now Bob has a huge stack of Habitat Super Fund requests to sign. Since January he has signed 20 for Pennsylvania, however, that number will greatly inflate in the next couple of months.

**Operation Oak:** This program has moved into Pennsylvania, which means the availability of seedlings to our chapter members. There was kind of a last minute development and the word did not get out as well as Bob would have liked to have seen

it, however, they will be distributing 10,000 Oak seedlings and some Persimmon Trees through Operation Oak in the next week or so, in fact March 10 is the date of distribution.

There are 3 sites where these trees will be going:

- Howard Nursery
- Tony Abranavick's Warehouse in Kittaning
- Springfield in Susquehanna County to folks in that area.

Bob did not find out until he was at the National Convention that we can have 3 delivery sites for sure, that the trucking company would work with us on that. That is good as none would have to run half-way across the state for their trees. Next year you can look for this program to happen again. Bob will get to word out through Pennsylvania Turkey Talk that the availability of trees is out there, so hopefully we may get a much better response then we had this year.

Larry asked Bob the question of whether these oak trees could be part of the Operation Appleseed Program, where the chapters could order their 25 trees which would include oaks and crabapples so the chapters could get them on time and they would need to be standing around. Bob stated if they could get it worked out it might workable, however, these seedlings are much larger so the shipping is not easy.

**Tri-State Banding Study:** Bob has done some work on this program. Bob and Jim Panaro have been working together on processing the bills from the Game Commission for the purchase of for straw bales, bait, and equipment related to the trapping. So far they have processed about 21 of those bills. There was \$9,600.00 budgeted for that work and there was also a grant received for an additional \$1,500.00 to help off set some of those purchases for this project. So with the grant money the Super Fund will be reimbursed for some of those purchases.

Bob also spent 20 days baiting and trapping turkeys in the last couple of months. The team that Bob worked with, which was Dave Mitchell from the Southeast Region, Bob, and whoever else they could draft or get to volunteer to help. They caught 82 birds, of which were 20 Toms, 21 Jakes, and 41 Hens. They did alright. They have one more possible sight to trap, as there are 6 gobblers he would like to catch, as they did them dirty the other day. The gobblers walked right past the bait and went to a spring seep and set there for half an hour.

Larry wanted to say how much he appreciated the Game Commission having a lot of interaction with the local chapters in this project. Larry received a lot of phone calls from his local chapters telling him that they received a phone call from their land managers and WCO's inviting chapter members to come and be part of the trapping project.

Bob stated the volunteers have been a great asset to this program.



The trapping will continue until the 25<sup>th</sup> of March as it has to stop 1 month prior to the spring turkey hunting season, due to the use of the bait.

**NWTF Technical Committee:** Mary Jo Caselena had a written report. Mary Jo was unable to come to the meeting, however, Bob Boyd came in her place.

### **Harvest Management**

Final fall turkey season report card figures currently are being tallied in Harrisburg and will be sent to Mary Jo soon for analysis.

### **PA NWTF Habitat Super Fund Committee**

Pennsylvania Game Commission technical committee member, Mary Jo Caselena, and Chief of Game Lands Planning and Development Division, Ben Jones, are members of this committee. Despite the smaller habitat budget again this year in order to set aside monies to be used as annual funding, the committee approved, during the February 4, 2007 meeting, funding 53 projects for a total of \$107,599.30 for wild turkey habitat throughout Pennsylvania plus \$10,000.00 for the seed subsidy program. Of these projects, the Pennsylvania Game Commission will receive funding of \$76,260.50 for 37 projects on State Game Lands and cooperator lands, for 2007. In light of the Game Commission's current budget shortfall, when dollars for planning and implementation of wildlife habitat work are so critical, it is through cooperators such as the PA NWTF, that the Game Commission is able to continue its mission.

### **Wild Turkey Management Plan Revision**

After reviewing public comments and making revisions, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has posted the up-dated wild turkey management plan for 2006 – 2015 on its website. The 71-page report can be viewed on the agency's website ([www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us)), by selecting "Hunting" in the left-hand navigation column on the homepage, then clicking on the photograph of the wild turkey and choosing "Wild Turkey Management Plan."

This revision to the 5-year 1999 management plan identifies the strategic goal, objectives, and strategies for guiding wild turkey management and research decisions through 2015. On October 14, 2005 the Game Commission began accepting public comment on a draft revised wild turkey management plan. After reviewing the public comments, modifications were made to the plan, and public comment again was sought beginning October 24, 2006. After considering the second round of public comments, the plan was finalized and approved by Carl G. Roe, Game Commission Executive Director.

### **Wild Turkey Spring Harvest Rates and Annual Survival Rates Study**

Our second year of this 4-year study with New York and Ohio is underway. Each state is to leg band 300 gobblers each winter. To date Pennsylvania has leg banded 218 males, Ohio has banded more than 200 and New York has banded 300+. Each region is to trap at least 50 male turkeys. Regional totals are: Northwest = 10; Southwest = 45; North Central = 20; South Central = 39; Northeast = 43; and Southeast = 61. Although Pennsylvania got off to a slow start due to warm weather, trapping conditions improved with the cold weather. Leg banding will continue through the end of March or until turkey flocks disperse for the spring breeding season.

### **Wildlife Protection Proposal for WMU 5A**

Please give consideration to the attached proposal for funding two (2) non-mechanical turkey decoys for law enforcement use beginning this spring in WMU 5A and other areas with the PGC's South Central Region. This request is consistent with the turkey management plan (strategy 5.2) and is a product of the WMU 5A Wild Turkey Task Force. This issue is a dead issue.

### **Annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show, Nashville, TN**

The Game Commission sincerely thanks the Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF for hosting the Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year award recipient (WCO Brad Kreider, Northampton County) and Land Manager of the Year award recipient (Forester Dave Henry, Southeast Region) at the 2007 NWTF National Convention and Sports Show. They enjoyed this unique opportunity and learned a great deal more regarding all that the NWTF does for our wild turkey resource and hunting heritage.

### **Discussion**

Don Heckman had a few questions for Bob Boyd. On the new Turkey Management Plan there are a few changes made to the new management plan that were not on the copy of the plan back in October 2006 that was taken off the website. Those changes are:

#### **Under Roman Numeral 4:**

1. **Population Objective** - The old plan in October 2006 had maintain and enhance. It has now been changed to sustain or enhance.

Bob gave brief review of why it was done this way. Back in the December public draft it said only to sustain, however, they had internal deliberations with staff and it was agreed to change the working to sustain or enhance, which allows continued growth in the turkey population, which is what has been the pattern and certainly an objective to continue in the future, as long as we don't get to the point where we start seeing some adverse affects.

2. **Strategy 1.1** – Bob did explain it a little bit about the social carrying capacity. Don stated that we are all aware of the problems in the Pittsburgh area. He

wanted to know if anything was going to be done in the Pittsburgh area, such as trapping some of those birds and putting some of them maybe in South Dakota or somewhere else. Bob stated that some of the birds have already been shipped to South Dakota though part of the wild pheasant exchange program with that state. That project will end in a year and next year will be the end of pheasants coming into Pennsylvania and wild turkeys going out to South Dakota. The PGC does have a standing operating policy on how to handle nuisance turkeys which they are developing internal at the PGC that will set policy on how to handle these nuisance situations. On thing generally that they don't like to do is move nuisance problems, they try to solve them. In other words if there are too many turkeys that have developed some bad habits, as they do when they become habitual to people, you don't want to just move them out to the country so they can become bad turkeys out in the country. We probably will try a little bit of moving turkeys and seeing if it is going to be a bad idea. If it turns out it was a bad idea to move these nuisance turkeys then they will have to take more drastic steps, which we don't want to have to do.

Don Heckman wanted to know if they would have the opportunity to move the birds from Pittsburgh to WMU 2A, 2F, and the big question around WMU 2G. Bob Boyd stated these are things they are considering, but just haven't finished it yet. Will this eventually make it into the Turkey Management Plan as an up-date or addendum? Don was not sure how they dealt with direct policy. Bob Boyd stated it could be incorporated as they handle other topics.

### 3. Page 28

**Item #2 and #3 Index Values** - What is the difference between index values #2 and #3 and right above it B - population indices. What are you driving at? Bob stated the first thing they do is opening fall seasons wherever those seasons fall within the curve. We will allow that when the spring hunters densities exceed 1 turkey per square mile for 3 consecutive years or in 1B as populations induces indicate no further population growth after 5 years.

### 4. Page 31

**The 2005 Spring Turkey Population** – In this paragraph it shows the 2005 spring turkey population was approximately 272,000, however, in the old plan the number was 323,500 in 2005. According to Bob Boyd, the 323,500 must have been a wrong number. The 272,000 population comes from the spring gobbler harvest rate with some adjustment being based on the spring harvest rate as well as same sex ratio in population. That is how the number dropped in 2005 to 272,000.

## 5. Page 45

**Paid Wild Turkey Hunting License** – Paragraph #3 – the Pennsylvania State Chapter has asked the PGC at least 3 times since 1996/1997 to support, to actually come out and say the word support, a turkey hunting license and they won't. Everyone up the chain of command at the PGC doesn't want to say the words "Pennsylvania Game Commission Supports". However, the PGC then came out and announced they wanted an increase of \$5 or \$10 for a resident, they came out and supported the Elk license, and you can go on down the list. However, the PA State Chapter can't get a verbal commitment from the PGC, who is a partner. We know the PGC needs money and they can't continue to run in a deficit spending balance. We finally got for the first time in 32 years in 2006 a turkey hunting license tag in HB2601. Last years hunting license increase. Bob stated he can't answer this question, as it is a legislative issue and these things happen much higher than him. The PA State Chapter Board is getting very frustrated with this problem.

## 6. Page 60

Cooperative Partnerships Objective - #6.2 – Reads "Continue the partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation", however, the version in October 2006 read – "Continue the partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation and support for the northeast regional biologist financial support". As it reads now they are taking Bob Eriksen out. According to Bob Boyd, the PGC isn't taking the funding out, they are just taking the wording, the guarantee that PGC will continue to support that out. However, that doesn't mean it will disappear, this was another internal fight, certainly the staff appreciate Bob Eriksen's involvement and he helps a great deal with turkey hunting here in our state. Bob Boyd state that when you have financial problems it is very hard to keep these types of programs going and get grants.

However, Bob Boyd does not see any kind of immediate threat to Bob Eriksen's contract or agreement.

Numerous board members stated their frustrations with the PGC and there unwillingness to take a stand on numerous issues we have brought to their attention. The partnership at this point seems like it is one-sided. As one individual stated "Things like all day hunting for the youth day and extending spring turkey season to May 31 are no brainers". As Bob Boyd stated, "Some times you have to crawl before you can run, but eventually you get to where you want to be at, it just might be slower then we like".

**Pennsylvania Game Commission Intern Program:** Bill Shaffer contacted Gene Alwine about their appreciation of the PA State Chapter's support by green sheeting the interns that work at the Southwest Regional Office. The interns put together a presentation for the PA State Chapter to see how the money they received was used and what happens in the field.

**Wheelin' Sportsmen Coordinator:** Jim O'Brien – Jim was unable to attend, however, he had a written report.

Jim has a few events going on in the near future.

1. **“Night at the Races”** – This event will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2007 at the North Hemfield Fire Hall on Old Rt. 66 in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. This event will benefit the NWTF Wheelin' Sportsmen and the NHS Autism School. The tickets are \$10.00 which include the following: dinner, beverages, and desserts. Tickets are limited. The evening's entertainment will consist of Ten horse races (plus one auction race), various raffles, door prizes, and a 50/50 drawing.

**To make the evening more entertaining you have the opportunity to:**

- Sponsor a race and be listed as a Race Sponsor in the program for \$100.00. This includes naming one horse in your race (only ten available).
- Sponsor and name a horse to be listed in the race lineup for \$20.00 (winning horse owner will receive a \$40.00 prize)

Deadline for Race and horsemanship is March 19, 2007.

2. **Inaugural “Cabin Fever” Sporting Clays Steak & Shoot** – This event will be held at Hunting Hills Shooting Grounds in Dillner, Pennsylvania on Sunday, April 1, 2007. The day's events will consist of shooting 100 rounds of sporting clays followed by a steak dinner, entertainment by EJ and DJ, and various raffles, and door prizes. There will be prizes awarded for the different classes. Check in at Hunting Hills will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a shotgun start at 12:00 noon.

Tickets for the shoot will be **\$70.00** and will include 100 clays, door prizes, and a steak dinner. Carts are available for \$30.00. There will be a 5 stand and wobble trap available at an additional cost for warm-ups. Firearms and shot shells are **NOT** included. You can also become a station sponsor or a shoot sponsor at an additional cost. Station sponsors will receive signage at one of the stations on the course for a cost of \$100.00. A shoot sponsor will receive entries for four shooters, as well as signage at the clubhouse and on the course. The cost for a shoot sponsor is \$500.00. For every ten shoot sponsors we will give away a gun to one of the sponsors. **PRE-REGISTRATION AND CART REQUESTS ARE REQUIRED.**

Early bird ticket packages are available for \$50.00, this ticket package will get you fifty tickets for the main raffle (tickets will cost \$5.00 each, 3 for \$10.00, or 15 for 20.00 at the shoot), so this is a deal that you will need to take advantage of. The first 50 ticket packages purchased will receive an additional \$20.00 ticket.

We will also offer an early bird gun raffle ticket, (tickets for this will be \$10.00 each or 3 for \$20.00). The winner of the early bird gun raffle will receive a Mossberg Silver Reserve O/U Shotgun with a suggested retail value over \$600.00. Cutoff for the early bird tickets will be March 17, 2007.

All proceeds from this event will help further the mission of Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF.

3. **NHS Autism School Field Day** – This event will be held in Herminie, Pennsylvania on May 24, 2007.
4. **Autism Awareness Night at PNC Park** – This event will be held on June 16, 2007 at the Pirates Ball game. Discount tickets are available for anyone.

Jim is still looking for some locations to do 3 fishing events with the grant received from the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. If your chapter is interested, please contact Jim ASAP to get the event set up.

Also if you have any questions about hosting an event or helping out with an event, please contact Jim.

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

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**YHEC Report:** Bill Mackereth gave a verbal report. He received a thank you letter from the YHEC treasurer for the donation and the art that we give to the youth division winner and the senior division winner.

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

### PA Chapter NWTF/JAKES Fund Report

**Checkbook Balance (10/6/2006)** **\$24,357.86**

**Income:** None **Balance** **\$24,257.86**

**Expenses:**

PA State Chapter	\$13,500.00
Postmaster (Stamps)	\$ 19.60
Allegheny Mountain	\$ 95.00 ( 19)

Yellow Creek	\$	375.00	( 75)
Penns Wood's Spurs	\$	125.00	( 25)
Peter's Creek Trail	\$	110.00	( 22)
Friendship Hills	\$	135.00	( 27)
Fort Chambers	\$	80.00	( 16)
Chesquehanna Spurs	\$	210.00	( 42)
Col-Mont Gobblers	\$	315.00	( 63)
Wapiti Roost	\$	290.00	( 58)
Warrior Trail Gobblers	\$	165.00	( 33)
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$15,419.60</b>	

**Checkbook Balance (3/2/2007)**

**\$ 8,938.26**

**Directors Handbook:** Joe Drolet gave a verbal report.

The Director's Handbook is now on the Board of Director's website is the official, or at least the up-to-date handbook. Jon Pries and Joe worked together to keep it that way, so as the changes are made they will be posted to the website. They will post the information on the front page to say what has been changed.

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

**1. Accomplishments:**

- A number of additions were made to the PA State Chapter Website.
- A Board of Directors website (board.panwtf.org) was created (please refer to the separate announcement).
  1. Secure login
  2. Complete up-to-date Director's Handbook
  3. Chat Rooms for Directors
- A number of changes were made to the DART scheduling website.
- An article was written for Turkey Talk on the DART scheduling website.
- An article was written for Turkey Talk on the JAKES Guns availability and scheduling website.
- The web domain [www.panwtf.org](http://www.panwtf.org) was purchased for the PA State Chapter.

## **2. Ideas for the Future:**

- Email for directors?
- Move the PA State Chapter website to [www.panwtf.org](http://www.panwtf.org)?
- Redesign the PA State Chapter Website.

**Safety and Education Committee:** No report.

**JAKES 1<sup>st</sup> Bird Awards:** No report.

**Paper Supplies:** No report.

**Expos/Shows/Conferences Committee:** There was a lack of participation at the Harrisburg Event and the Blair County Convention Center event. We need to look into this further in the future.

**Information/Education Seminars:** No report.

**Nominating Committee:** No report.

**POWA Contact:** No report.

**Art/Promotion Committee:** Please see report under Old Business section of these minutes.

**Habitat Committee/Seed Committee:** Reed Johnson gave a verbal report.

Got some seed, but hasn't heard when it will be coming. Reed is trying to contact Doebler Corn to get seed on his end at the cost of a \$1.00 per bag. Reed will be getting with Sissy at National's next week.

We pay to have that stuff rebag the seed, however a lot of the seed companies do not rebag it, they basically put a label on it. The only 2 companies that rebag are Pioneer and Doebler's, but the rest of the companies do not waste the money to rebag the seed, they just stick a label on it. Could we just put a label on the original bag saying it is for



Conservation Use Only. That would save us money on the \$1.00 per bag. Reed hasn't had a reply back from Doeblers. Reed does have approval from their Forestry Department to use their tractor-trailer to go and pick up the seed, which will save us transportation costs.

People have been asking Reed about alfalfa, which we did order, but that is the one thing he has to wait on but he has no idea when we will be getting it.

Reed did here some comments about the seed from last year, which we still have some of. One chapter down in Bedford checked on what a bag of that corn would have cost and it was \$185.00 per bag and they said it produced the biggest ears he has ever seen.

Dave Burdge stated that there was a new person at the last Habitat Meeting by the name of Ben Jones, who is with the PA Game Commission. Ben sat there with his computer, which had a lot of the habitat projects through the Game Commission. He saved a lot of time and effort as far as when they were looking at different projects. He could tell immediately that the cost of seed and lime in some of the projects were too high, but he has some many costs on his computer, that Dave has already asked Bob Boyd to day and told him they would like to have Ben available at our habitat meeting every year. If we could work it out somehow maybe we can have all the Game Commission habitat projects done electronically then Ben can get on his computer and review things before the meeting, we could cut that meeting down in half the time and have really up to date information. We really appreciated Ben's help at the last meeting and look forward to working with him in the future.

Wal-Mart will now help you with Habitat Projects. You will need to fill out a grant application for Wal-Mart and they will help you with the project. Wal-Mart has set aside a pile of money to help with different projects. See Wal-Mart for any type of help you may need.

**Calling Contest:** Greg Caldwell gave a verbal report.

The Master's Calling Contest was held on Sunday, February 18, 2007 at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona. The weather was horrible and we didn't have the contestants that we were hoping to have. Getting sponsors this year was a nightmare. Thank goodness for Walker Game Ears, Bob Walker, who donated a lot of his major products for the event.

At the callers meeting, Greg told all the contestants about the payout options which were different then was placed in the Turkey Talk. He also relayed that instead of 7 winners there would be 5 winners this year.

**The payouts were:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$1,000.00

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$ 500.00
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$ 300.00
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place: Gift Card
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place: Gift Card

We also had problems with the judges, as 2 of the 5 judges had to cancel out at the last minute, so they were trying at the last minute to find judges, but it did all work out and they were able to proceed with the contest.

**Dart System Committee:** Tom Bunty gave a verbal report.

First system is here and has been used pretty often. There was some learning and a few adjustments, especially at the Harrisburg Sports Show.

Second unit is on order and Bob checked to see about the check which was cut on February 28<sup>th</sup>. With the new system we will be getting 2 new small screens to replace the current one which is two big.

During the Outdoor Sports Show, a laser on the cricket gun was lost. It has been replaced at a price of \$500.00. The fifth gun they have out there, they reassembled it, repaired it, and tested it. We also got that gun back. We also had an outstanding bill in the amount of \$91.00 from last February. So between repairs, replacing the laser, and the outstanding bill the total was \$708.00 which we owed to DART.

We bought 2 gun cases that will house 4 of the guns. We do have 5 guns and Tom felt that since we have 2 systems, we should buy another gun, that way each system will have 3 guns each, that way they will have back-up guns if they need them.

The system has been shutting down at some of the shows. The operating system is Windows 98 and that is the problem with this system. Tom will speak with the company and see if we can get something other than Windows 98 on the setup to see if we can get it to work better.

**Super Fund Budget:** None

**Rendezvous Committee:** None

**Legislative Committee:** Don Heckman gave a verbal report. Don Heckman apologized to madam secretary for not having a written report, however he stated he would go slow and the reports will be brief. We will wait and see what follows!

On September 26, 2006 in Harrisburg, the Committee as a whole meet with the legislators on the House and Senate to review over 90 pieces of legislation for gun violence. The votes that were taken over the next few days were nonbinding; but those votes set the precedence for the following:

- **In 2006** we had a Republican House of Representatives and Senate and a Democratic Governor from Philadelphia. Nothing got done legislatively, not even the Castle Doctrine which is most pro gun bill we need in Pennsylvania.
- **January 3, 2007:** House of Representatives is controlled by the Democrats. They have the majority and run every committee including Judicial, which is the key committee for firearms. The Republicans still control the Senate. We lost one, but we kept one as far as Legislative issues for firearms.

Within 2 weeks, up to the middle of February we have 21 anti-gun bills introduced into the State House. That is what is just introduced right now; 21 bills that are a subset of everything that happened with the committee as a whole on September 26, 2006 and then those preceding nonbinding votes. It goes every where from 1 gun per month to different types of registration, to different types of ammunition, and even different types of firearms. But don't confuse these 21 bills with the new Federal Bill that just came out. Hopefully everyone saw the information that came out of the United State Congress which is 100 times worse than the Brady Bill when it comes to firearms.

The 21 bills have been assigned to the Judiciary Committee. They are going to hold from March 16 – April 20, nine hearings of the committee, with 5 of those hearings being in Philadelphia for the Philadelphia – Chester Area because most of these bills are centered on Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, however, the entire state will be impacted. Gun owners, hunters, whether you shoot or collect, if any of these bills get passed out of the House, they would then need to go to the Senate and we would hope that the Senate would not even bring them to the committee, that they would just allow them to set there and die.

Senator Fumo is pro gun and can stop these bills in the Senate, however, if Senator Fumo gets canned, axed, found guilty, or whatever, we just lost a major pro gun representative. No one knows what is going to happen in the Senate, if it passes the House it will then go to Senate. If the Senate passes it then it will go to the Governor and he is going to sign every antigun bill and firearms legislation he can get his hands on. Governor Rendell came out public stating he supports 9 of these bills. Getting these through the House is going to be fairly simple.

It will be interesting to see what the House Game and Fishery Committee, which has a whole bunch of pro gun guys on, guys who won't give the PGC a license increase because of the deer management problems, however, these same guys, own guns, hunt, and shoot. No one is sure if there will be enough power in the

PA House to stop the representatives from Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, but we will keep track of this and keep every one up-dated in the future.

**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.

**Federation of Sportsmen's Club:** Don gave a verbal report.

**Certificate of Membership to the Federation or Sportsmen's Club:** The PA State Chapter has received our certificate. We was the first conservation organization to joint the Federation 4 years ago and as of now there are 4 conservation organizations who are affiliated with the Federation of Sportsmen's Club. Due to that membership, Don is the delegate, however, he is looking for an assistant delegate who would be willing to take over in his place in 2007 – 2008 and become the delegate from the PA State Board to the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

Duties for this position would include: attend 4 board meetings of the Federation, you should go to the Conventions 2 times per year, you will set on the game committee, you will report on the delegate voting session on Sunday with any issues this State Chapter has. Anyone who is interested in this position, please contact Don Heckman.

**The Federation of Sportsmen's Club Calendar Raffle:** The Federation is running a calendar raffle to support the fighting of the PA Outdoor Heritage (the antigun). The Federation is going to spend a lot of money this year and next year down at Capital Hill fighting it on our behalf. They are our spokes person on Capital Hill, as we don't have a spokes person on Capital Hill and we never have. They are going to fight for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights.

**Federation of Sportsmen's Club Conservation Resolutions For Vote:** Because we are a delegate and because we have a voice in the Federation there are 4 resolutions that the PA State Chapter may vote on. They are as follows:

#### **1. Alleviating Littering and Loitering on State Game Lands**

- **Whereas:** State Game Lands are purchased and maintained with revenue generated from the sale of hunting licenses and are designated for the use of sportsmen.

- **Therefore Be It Resolved:** That the PFSC encourage the PGC to create a regulation that would prohibit the use of State Game Lands parking areas after dark to those not actively engaged in hunting, trapping, fishing, or related activities, in an attempt to alleviate littering.

**The Vote:** Favored – 17                      Opposed – 2

## **2. Uniform 3-Point Antler Restriction Statewide**

- **Whereas:** Antler restriction has caused tremendous dissention in the Commonwealth. It has pitted sportsmen against sportsmen and caused much friction with the PGC. This situation is detrimental to all concerned.
- **Therefore Be It Resolved:** That the PFSC work with the PGC to implement a uniform 3-point antler restriction throughout the state.

**The Vote:** Favored – 4      Opposed – 16

## **3. Paid Permits to Hunt State Game Lands**

- **Whereas:** The Pennsylvania Game Commission's asking for paid permits to hunt on State Game Lands is not a good thing.
- **Therefore Be It Resolved:** That the PFSC act on behalf of the Upper Perkiomen Sportsman's Association, Inc., and all hunters to prevent the Pennsylvania legislature and the Game Commission from becoming law. (NO PAID PERMITS)

**The Vote:** Favored – 17      Opposed – 2

## **4. Light on Firearm for Nighttime Varmint Hunting**

- **Whereas:** The Pennsylvania Game Commission has adopted a regulation stating it is illegal to attach a light to a firearm.
- **Therefore Be It Resolved:** That the Luzerne County Federation of Sportsmen, at their regular monthly meeting, on July 10, 2006, in the Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania request the PFSC and its members unite and petition the Game Commission to negate, rescind, and make null and void this restrictive regulation.

**The Vote:** Favored – 15      Opposed – 2

Don will be taking these votes back to the Federation Convention Sunday session on March 25, 2007.

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

Don relayed that the April PGC Meeting will be held on April 17 – 18, 2007 which is a Tuesday and Wednesday. Tuesday is the public comment day. **Whoever is representing the PA State Chapter at this meeting and is giving the public comment and/or the other folks attending to support our position need to relay that the PA State Chapter has 5 regulation changes.**

**The Changes are as follows:**

- That the PA State Chapter supports the PGC decision to take WMU 2A and 2F and lower them from 3 weeks in the fall to 2 weeks in the fall. We continue to support WMU 2G being a 2 week fall season. We oppose the Game Commissioners decision to make WMU 4D a 3 week season.
- **Extending the spring season to May 31** – Bob Eriksen is going to rewrite his January comments and put them to the April comments with input from the PA State Chapter. We also want to thank them for the May 26 date but we want the May 31. We will keep it on the front burner.
- **All day youth spring turkey** – we are again going to ask for the consideration to extend the special 1 day youth to an all day. Let the Commissioners decide with staff how they are going to regulate it, if they pass that. We are not sure they will pass it, however, we are going to continue to recommend it as a major recommendation from the PA State Chapter.
- **Mentored youth fall hunting season** – The PGC was not going to put in the antlered season for the fall 2007, but by the people who spoke at the January Commissioner Meeting somehow they convinced the Commissioners to support the antlered season for the mentored youth for fall 2007. The Commissioners voted on it and supported it. Now the PGC will write the regulation and the permit stamp that they will need for a mentored youth to tag an antlered deer if that mentored youth is successful. We are going to ask for, as part of the mentored youth program, for the fall turkey season, probably using the same guidelines as they use for the antlered deer, with a permit and tag. We are going to ask for that in 2007 and we are going to put that on the front burner, even though we know this will not happen, but hopefully we can get it for sure in 2008.
- **Changing mandatory to voluntary for orange in spring gobbler turkey season** – Write the regulation to take out **THE MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES** and make it **VOLUNTARY** for spring gobbler season.

Don thanked everyone who attended the January PGC meeting in Harrisburg.

The Wild Turkey Management Committee met back in January at the State Rendezvous and came up with a list of 20 items. They will start tracking these through the Management Committee and hopefully through the score card.

The Wild Turkey Management Plan is completed and we will follow this, along with the PGC, for the next 10 years.

**Score Card:** Bob Schmid gave an up-date on where we are at right now with that.

Bob thinks that maybe 6 – 8 people would really be a nice group of people to work on this project.

The score card needs to be sent to Walt Young to be in the spring issue. This score card is going to help our members understand the issues that the PA State Chapter is working on. And also the things we are bringing back to them that we want them to be aware of. The short term hot button issues, not the long range hot button issues.

**The items that will be on the Score Card:**

- Wild Turkey Management Plan
- Fall season lengths
- May 31
- All day mentored youth spring
- Orange
- Season and Bag Limits

**National Convention:** At the National Convention several people met with Bob Boyd, Carl Roe, and Roxanne Palone. Turkey Management Plan was discussed, importance of Ben Jones, Seasons and Bag Limits to 2G and 4D, special youth all day, May 31, and adult all day, which we know can't happen for a few more years.

Had a chance to talk to Mr. Roe about habitat improvements, safety funds, habitat projects (we told him we funded \$105,000 – we didn't know exactly how many projects).

We told Mr. Roe we were not putting an ad into the 2007 – 2008 Hunting Digest.

We spoke with Mr. Roe about the hunting license increase and a turkey hunting license. Mr. Roe stated they could live with \$21 million which was by large HB2601 as it was written. That is a \$10.00 increase and these other different tags, permits, and licenses. Many of the items going up, adding a pheasant stamp and a turkey stamp. Totaling all of them up comes out to about 20.9 million. The extra \$5.00 for a hunting license increase, would bump it up to \$35.00 would be \$24 million. Again, we don't know if this is coming up.

Spoke with Mr. Roe about the spring orange. He really didn't have much to say about it, as it is a commissioner decision. Mr. Roe does know that staff is going to do the report and get the report back to the Commissioners.

However, Carl Roe did mention 1 thing that the Game Commission is looking at consolidating fall orange. Outside of bear and deer were you have to wear mandatory 250 square inches at all time. The want to consolidate all the oranges on that one page in the Hunting Digest down to 2 oranges, (2 fall oranges), 250 square inches must be worn in bear, deer, and elk and then 250 square inches while you are moving and then take it off and display 100 square inches that is his understanding for all other seasons, with the exception of small game which is 250 square inches all the time. This is just an option, as a way of reducing the number of orange criteria.

**Point of sell:** Will not go into effect for the license year of 2007 - 2008 for the PGC, it will be 2008 – 2009 maybe.

**Publications/“Turkey Talk” Committee:** If article is submitted to Walt, please send it to Tammy also so she can proof read it.

**Orange Committee:** Phil Ferrare gave a verbal report.

Thanks to Joe Drolet the Orange Fact Sheet has been up-dated. This is a draft there are a few corrections, however, Joe is going to fix it and have it done by Tuesday or Wednesday at latest. This article is going to be in Turkey Talk, along with the fact sheet and a cover page that goes with and addresses the commissioners. The same thing is going to be a news release that we want to give to the POWA. We need to identify key writers to get the articles out to the public. We can also email all of the information to the Board of Directors and RD's, so they can hand them out in the areas as well as the banquets.

Bob Eriksen is going to do a letter to all the State Chapters so we can send it to the Presidents, so they can read it, endorse it, and sent it to the Commissioners urging them to change the wording to voluntary not mandatory.

We have the April's Commissioner Meeting and right now at the best we have a 3 – 3 vote. If the vote comes and they get a 3 – 3 vote the issue will die, so we need to speak with our commissioners.

**Public Relations Committee:** No report.

**Awards Committee:** No report.



**By-Laws Committee:** No report.

## **Communications**

We received numerous communications which are posted on the board.

## **Old Business**

**Turkey Dogs:** Jon Pries had a ballot book for the state of Wisconsin. They want to develop a 2 year pilot program for turkey dogs in 9 counties. This ballot asks just yes or no we want to see the pilot program for turkey dogs even though we are non-residents we still support the pilot program.

**Director's Handbook:** Jon Pries relayed that the Guidelines portion of the directors handbooks are still being revised. it should have it completed by the June meeting where it can then approved and voted on by the Board.

**National Convention:** Thursday morning of the convention, Jon sat in on the Presidents meeting for Gene who could not attend. All presidents at the National Convention got a presidents hand-book. There was a lot of good things in this book that we already have in our handbook, however, there are a few other items that we may want to add to our handbook in the future.

**Promotional Items:** Gene still needs someone to co-chair the promotional items for the State Board. Dave Burdge takes care of the art portion.

Don O'Brien suggested putting an ad in the Turkey Talk asking maybe a member to take this over.

Don Heckman stated the co-chair should be a board member being that the items are going through the State Chapter Budget.

Motion made by Bill Mackereth to run an ad in Turkey Talk for someone to take over the promotional items. Second made by Reed Johnson. Motion carried. Don Heckman had the only no vote.

**PA Turkey Dogs:** The Turkey Dog Association of Pennsylvania has worked on the amendment they are going to use for legislation. They have a Senator in mind to submit the legislation, whether it be an amendment or bill, that is what they have to work out. It will be the same wording as the bill that was submitted last year.

When we got to the Federation meeting on March 24, 2007 Don believes the Association will have someone there to speak to the Game Committee or possible on Sunday, March

25, 2007 to just start the communication. There is huge misinterpretation of turkey dogs out there. The Association really has their work cut out for them if they want to help settle that problem.

**Hunting License Increase:** There will be something in the works as soon as the committee finds something from the legislative perspective, we will bring it to the board and then we will take the appropriate action.

**Up-date on Game Commissioners:** As of right now District 6 and District 7 is vacant. Then have 2 names for District 7, one name will probably be sent over to the Senate, however, we don't know what the schedule will be.

District 6 has 2 names and one name is being sent over to the Senate.

The way this works is: The Governor gets the names from the Advisory Counsel and then the Governor's office and his staff will make the nomination. The nomination is called into the Governor's office and they have a little QT. Then the Governor's office works with the Senators and they will work a deal to get the Commissioner. With the budget, there will definitely be one deal and possibly 2 deals for judgeships. We will possibly hear something in April, May, or June.

## **New Business**

**Revist the Website:** Gene Alwine stated that the website is in good hands as we have all seen. While talking back and forth with Joe Drolet and Don Heckman, Joe has expressed an interest in taking on the PA State Chapter Website, along with the Board website, however, he doesn't want to step on anyone toes. Joe also wanted to make sure the Board was agreeable with this. The PA State Chapter Website has been in the care of Don Heckman and his webmaster.

We have already purchased the PA State Chapter Domain which is at a price of \$79.00 for 3 years.

Joe Dolet's plans are to build the new website, while the old one still exists. Now would be a good time to do this, as Joe's work schedule is a little slow now and would allow him to put the new website together, as he could get much busier the future.

Don Heckman requested a little time to relieve the webmaster of his duties and explain we would like to take this on ourselves.

Motion made by Gene Alwine to have Joe Drolet become the new webmaster, to rebuild and redesign the PA State Chapter website with the participation of the Internet Committee. Second by Don O'Brien. Motion carried.

**Sound System for the District Directors:** The District Director's are having problems with the sound systems and a conflict occasionally in scheduling. A request was made to have the PA State Chapter buy a sound system for the District Director's.

Jim Panaro asked if it would be possible to rent the sound systems cheaper than buying them?

Dave Burdge suggested that maybe we see how it goes this season and see how many times you are in need of one, pay a little more attention to details, as far as sizes and costs of the systems and then revisit this issue may at the August or October meeting.

**Terry Hyde of the Outdoors Times:** Time to renew our ½ page ad and editorial with the Outdoor Times. We will be doing it again this year. Bob Eriksen and Doc Coldwell will again write the articles, which includes an article for May.

Motion was made by Don O'Brien to renew our ½ page ad and editorial with the Outdoor Times at a cost of \$750. Second by Jim Panaro. Motion carried.

**Jim O'Brien's Wheelin' Sportsmans Fundraising Events:** Motion made by Gene Alwine to have the PA State Chapter sponsor Jim O'Brien's two fundraising events at a cost of \$100.00 per event. Second by Jon Pries.

Gary Beatty requested he be permitted to amend the motion to include that the PA State Chapter also sponsor Carl Mowry's fundraising event at a cost of \$75.00. Second by Tom Bunty. After some discussion the Motion was defeated.

Going back to the main motion a vote was taken. 11 yes votes and 4 no votes. Motion carried.

**Woodlands Landowner Program:** A few years ago we had the Wild Turkey Woodlands Program, but that name was dropped in favor of the Hunting Heritage Club, however the signage and the concept of Wild Turkey Woodlands Landowners Program was still quite popular and rather than dropping it entirely the Conservation Department came up with the idea of allowing local chapters to recognize landowners who were doing good habitat on his/her land through a Wild Turkey Woodlands Landowner Recognition Program. Gene just received a letter on this program and so should have all the local chapters. Any chapter can participate in this program. All they have to do is recognize a landowner and then the landowner would get a Woodlands sign and a 1 year membership for Hunting Heritage Club. The idea is that these members don't have to be chapter members, they can be someone in your area that you recognize is doing good habitat work, or someone who is working with the Wetland Restoration Project with NRCS putting in warm season grasses on their track and they want to recognize that individual and hopefully that recognition will result in the future a membership of that person or his/her family. Information is available through Sally Foust down in Edgefield. Sally can give you all the information you need and the signs can be super funded which costs \$15.00, then the landowner gets a free Hunting Heritage Membership.

**Extra Guns for Dart System:** Motion made by Gene Alwine that the PA State Chapter Green Sheet a 2<sup>nd</sup> cricket gun and another 410 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> dart system. Bill Mackereth second the motion. Motion carried.

**Green Sheet for Red Rock Chapter:** Green Sheet was put in money to help build a shelter for educational purposes, which will be available for the Red Rock Chapter to sue, and will be put on the Conservation District Land. The cost of the shelter is \$5,000.00, however, the Red Rock Chapter is only asking for \$2,500.00. The size of the building is 38' x 20'. There is NO problem with signage. The chapter will green sheet this.

**Email addresses for directors:** Joe Drolet relayed that the new website would allow Board of Directors to have their own email address if they would like to have one. If you decide you want to have an email, please contact Joe and he will send you the information to get this process started.

**Blair County Convention Center:** Bill Mackereth and Gene Alwine were approached by the lady who does the bookings at the Blair County Convention Center and she would like the PA State Board to look into possibly having the Rendezvous in Altoona. She said she would also give us a good price. This lady originally worked with Larry and Jerry at the Ramada Inn.

Gene will give the information to Larry and have him look into this item.

**June meeting being held at Bass Pro in Harrisburg:** Is there anyway we can do the meeting somewhere else due to the travel time involved for those people from the west. Jim Panaro made the suggestion of Greenwood Lodge or the Solid Waste Authority if they are available.

Gene relayed that there was some concern about having that June meeting being at Bass Pro because of PGC Staff or Commissioners at this meeting among us that is why we may want to maintain the Bass Pro spot for this year.

Don O'Brien relayed that in the last 2 years we were at Bass Pro they only PGC Staff that was at those meetings were Mary Jo Casalena and Bob Boyd, who are part of the Board of Directors Meetings and last year Vern Ross, because he was asking for our support in his running for the National Board of Directors.

Don Heckman stated he has planned on inviting Carl Roe, Cal Dubrock, Bob Boyd, John Dunn, and Mary Jo Casalena. Mary Jo was going to represent the Executive Staff to see what we are all about. The PGC won't come to Pittsburgh or State College.

Motion made by Gary Beatty to hold the June Board meeting in the central part of Pennsylvania either at Greenwood Lodge or Center County Solid Waste Building on June 1 – 2, 2007. Second by Phil Ferrare. Motion carried in favor of the motion.

**Orange Flyer:** Carl Mowry had a few questions concerning this topic.

- Is this flyer going to be 2 pages or 1 page back and front? The RD's can make the decision which way they want their flyers done.
- Do we want the RD's to distribute these at the banquets? Yes
- How will the cost be covered? Do we want them to turn in the bills into the PA State Chapter, as the cost will probably be about \$200.00 per RD for each of their banquets? They are to turn the bills into the PA State Chapter for reimbursement.

### **For the Good of the Order**

Gene Alwine relayed that Board Member Jon Pries wrote an article for the PA Outdoor Times.

Motion made by Bill Mackereth for the PA NWTF State Board of Directors meeting to adjourn. Second by Tom Bunty. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Henry  
PA State Chapter Secretary