

FALL 2019 Volume 44, Issue 2

# Turkey Tales

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

A NEW YORK STATE CHAPTER PUBLICATION



**10 GUN RAFFLE WINNERS**

**SAVE THE HABITAT. SAVE THE HUNT. UPDATES**

**LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS**

**JAKES SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**

[www.nwtf.org/about/state/new-york](http://www.nwtf.org/about/state/new-york)

**2020  
LEADERSHIP MEETING  
& ANNUAL AWARDS  
BANQUET TO BE HELD IN  
SYRACUSE  
INFO INSIDE  
ALL ARE WELCOME!**



NWTF-New York





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NWTF  
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Edgefield, SC 29824

Newsletter Editors:  
Randy Opferbeck, Carol and Larry Becker, Brian Gottfried, Sean Langevin  
Newsletter Designer: Deb Opferbeck

Scott Jordan and Skylar Majot are shown in the photo above after Skylar’s successful Spring turkey hunt. Scott is the Educator who developed the Environmental and Wildlife program at Cuba Rushford Central School in Cuba, NY. Scott and this program have won many awards for his efforts in teaching young people about the outdoors. See the article on Page 12 about CRCS Outdoors. The photo on the front cover is of David and Ashley Halloran of Humphrey, NY with the birds they bagged this spring.

In an effort to cut costs associated with the printing and mailing of Turkey Tales, households with multiple NWTF members may only receive one newsletter. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

**The New York Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation**  
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## **Message from the President**

The red, orange and yellow leaves have fallen in our yards indicating the change of season and signifying another year coming to an end. Fall hunting season is under way and provides another opportunity for sharing your hunting heritage with a youth or adult that is interested in appreciating the outdoors.

Several NWTF chapters held successful JAKES, Women in the Outdoors and Wheeling Sportsmen events. It's never too early to begin planning for 2020 events. Local sportsmen and women in your community can provide you with expert volunteers for successful events. It is as simple as asking someone if they would help with your activity.

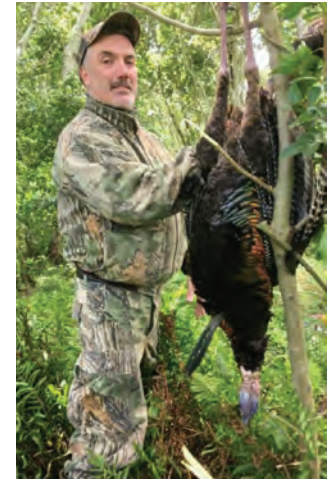
The January Leadership Program & Awards Banquet will be held January 11, 2020 in Syracuse, New York at the Carrier Circle Doubletree Inn. There is additional information in this newsletter.

The NYS committee has made a great effort to centralize the location and organize an interesting leadership program. The Annual Awards Banquet will follow the Leadership Program and we all are looking forward to the upcoming banquet package preview.

NYS will be participating in the State Table competition in Nashville during the National NWTF Convention and Outdoor Sports Show. Donations of items made in NY are needed from all chapters in order to make the NYS table enticing. If you have a committee member or know a local artisan ask for a contribution.

There is a 6 member President's Advisory Council that has been created to open communication lines between the local volunteers and National headquarters. Ralph Martone is the Northeast representative. Ralph can be reached at 724-674-8450 or via email at RAMARTONE@comcast.net.

Happy Holidays to everyone and I look forward to seeing you in January.



## **NWTF REGIONAL FIELD STAFF**

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CONSERVE, HUNT & SHARE  
Norm Ridley, President  
NYS NWTF



## **NYS CHAPTER MEETING DATES**

**JANUARY 11-12, 2020** At the DoubleTree by Hilton in Syracuse, NY

### **Quarterly Board Meetings to be announced**

\*Regular Quarterly Board meetings will be held at the North Seneca Sportsmen's Club, 334 NY 318, Phelps, NY 14532.

[NWTF.org/about/state/new-york](http://NWTF.org/about/state/new-york)

# 2020 LEADERSHIP MEETING & ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Join us for an exciting weekend of education, fellowship and celebrating our volunteers. This is a time to visit with other local chapters and State Chapter Board members as well as NWTf Staff. Get to know other volunteers and share your experiences.

## 2020 NEW YORK STATE CHAPTER LEADERSHIP MEETING Saturday January 11, 2020

Location:

**DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL SYRACUSE**

6301 State Highway 298

East Syracuse, NY 13057

**PRESENTATIONS** at the Leadership Meeting to include:

- \*Tracking deer in snow by **Lanny Benoit**
- \*Recruiting young volunteers by SUNY Cobleskill Chapter
- \*Chapter basics - how to request Super Fund money, reporting outreach events, etc.
- \*Using the 501- online system at your banquet
- \*Air rifle and small game hunting
- \*Arts and crafts to bring back to your chapter
- \*Predator trapping 101

**REGISTRATION/CHECK IN** for Leadership Meeting is 9:30 a.m.

Leadership meeting ends at 3:30 p.m.

Lunch will be provided but you **MUST** register in advance.

Go to [nwtf.org/events](http://nwtf.org/events) to register.

If you have questions about the Leadership Meeting, contact Mike Camberari at 315-481-4147.



Lanny Benoit, deer hunting expert, says tracking is his talent, and he wants to share it with you.

For those not conversant in the art of chasing down game, shadowing a deer for a shot is nearly impossible, given a deer's superior senses.

His secret is his technique, an elixir only for the bold. Eschewing modern amenities like GPS, with the woods of Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Ontario as his realm, he pursues his quarry exclusively on public land by covering wide swaths of land looking for the right track to pursue.

Lanny will share his technics and experiences with you for tracking deer in the snow.

Information from Lydia Lohrer, USA Today Hunt & Fish

**Overnight rooms are available at a discounted price of \$89.00 per room (plus taxes).**

**Call 315-432-0200 or 800-222-TREE and mention NYS NWTf.**

**Reservations must be made by Monday, December 30, 2019.**

# 2020 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

AT DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL SYRACUSE  
6301 STATE ROUTE 298, EAST SYRACUSE, NEW YORK, 13057  
1-315-432-0200

**Invitees:** ALL NWTF MEMBERS and their significant other.

**Purpose:** Awards presentation for outstanding accomplishments over the past year to local chapters and other deserving individuals. This will be a fun time to visit with old friends, make new friends, and to network with your fellow wild turkey conservationists. You will also have an opportunity to meet special guests, view and bid on the 2020 banquet core package and on other items of your choice, enter special raffles for guns and other prizes.

**Registration Costs:** See Form below.

**Advance registration and payment for meals is required, YOU MUST REGISTER BY JANUARY 1, 2020 TO RE-SERVE SEATS FOR YOUR GROUP.** Reserved seats after this date cannot be guaranteed!

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER WITH Mike Camberari (315-481-4157 or mcambare1@gmail.com); complete the form and mail to Mike Camberari, P O Box 421, Lacona, NY 13083 or online at **[www.nwtf.org/events](http://www.nwtf.org/events)**.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR LEADERSHIP MEETING AND AWARDS BANQUET  
PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Member of Local Chapter \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign me up for the following:

RESERVATION TYPE	COST FOR 1	NUMBER	TOTAL
FRIDAY EVENING HOSPITALITY	\$0.00		
LEADERSHIP MEETING	\$0.00		
AWARDS BANQUET DINNER			
GRILLED FLAT IRON STEAK	\$35.00		
HERB ROASTED CHICKEN	\$35.00		
EXTRA LARGE CHEESE RAVIOLI	\$35.00		
SUNDAY BOARD MEETING BUFFET LUNCH	\$0.00		
Totals			

All dinners come with salad, potatoes, a vegetable, and dessert.

Check - Payable to "NYS NWTF". Phone number is required on check.

Credit Card-Circle Type of Card - Expiration date, phone number and Zip Code are required.

MC VISA AMEX DISCOVER \_\_\_\_\_ cvv# \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Cut out and mail the form and your payment** no later than January 5, 2020 to:

Mike Camberari, P O Box 421, Lacona, NY 13083.

**You can also buy your tickets online, go online to [www.nwtf.org/events](http://www.nwtf.org/events) to buy tickets.**

**NYS CHAPTER QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING - Sunday, January 12, 2020: 8:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. (+/-)**

All NWTF members are welcome to attend any of our board meetings. Since we serve lunch and refreshments, advanced notice is helpful to ensure we have enough food and beverages. There is no charge for your meal.

Your participation is encouraged, please indicate your attendance in the form above!

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[NWTF.org/about/state/new-york](http://NWTF.org/about/state/new-york)



# NEWS FROM THE FLOCKS

## YOUTH HUNTS



Brian Gottfried says “Had a great time mentoring Pete on his first hunt ever. He kept his cool with 5 gobblers in front of us and made it happen before 7am! We even had time for breakfast at the diner before we went home to change into dry clothes.” Photo above is Peter Morrell.



Bret Eccleston is with his grandson, Jeffery Stauber after a successful hunt.



Wheelin' Sportsmen began at the NWTF in October 2000. The NWTF recognized the need to help people with disabilities enjoy the outdoors by participating in hunting and shooting sports.

NWTF hunting events provide participants an opportunity they may not be able to have on their own. Either due to the lack of hunting land access, lack of the knowledge of how to go about returning to the field after an injury, or lack of needed assistance. Oftentimes, the knowledge and experience gained at one of our events allows the participants to continue hunting on their own throughout the year.



The Crossroads Limbangers teamed up with the Wyoming County Gobblers to host the Does with Bows Wheelin' Sportsman event in Letchworth State Park. 5 hunters were set up in a doe only area of the park hunting with crossbows. Dave Grace got the only deer of the day but everyone saw plenty of deer while on stand. Pictured are Neil Gottfried of Crossroads Limbangers, Bryan Krawczyk of Wyoming County Gobblers, Dave Grace and Rick Pfaff.



# NEWS FROM THE FLOCKS

On September 21, 2019 the Sullivan County Longbeards's were blessed with a beautiful warm sunny day as they orchestrated another successful youth event with 164 JAKES in attendance. The activities were focused on 5 shooting disciplines. After taking a basic class on gun handling and gun safety participants were instructed at the JAKES Take Aim Trailer, BB gun, air rifle, .22 long rifle, .410 shotgun and archery.

To keep the lines at the shooting venues at a minimum the JAKES could visit our trappers, the 143 Regiment Civil War reactors, alpacas and rabbits or go for a free hotdog lunch, snacks, fresh made apple cider, popcorn or donuts. They could also go to a station to assemble precut bluebird house kits prefabbed by the chapter president and members.

They could also visit any of the various governmental agency booths such as the NYC DEP, National Parks Service (Upper Delaware). Forest Rangers and ENCON were absent because of forest fires and a search operation.

JAKES member Nathaniel Viningre provided a great duck retrieval demo with his golden lab Patriot. We also had a booth for fly casting and one for spin casting with a competition for casting accuracy for 3 age groups.

Highlight of the event was competition for the title of the SCLB JAKES Top Gun 2019. On the .22cal challenge target dueling tree. This competition was made available by a Friends of the NRA Foundation grant. JAKES, 12 and up, sign up for the competition at the safety class and are placed into bracketed elimination. Two JAKES compete against each other until we have the winner. This years winner was Colin Monell of Woodbourne NY, shown in the photo below.



## NOMINATIONS ARE REQUESTED

### MEMBER OF THE YEAR

- Do you know of an exceptional NWTF member?
- The NYS Chapter every year honors a special member as Member of the Year. If you would like to submit a deserving individual, the Awards Committee would like to hear from you.
- For the Member of the Year Award, please provide the member's name, address, and an explanation of what makes this member special. Feel free to include any additional information such as news clippings, letters of support from others, anything that will show how this person is outstanding and should be considered for the award.
- The information should be submitted by 12/27/19, to Randy Opferbeck, Awards Committee, 3164 N.Nine Mile Rd, Allegany, NY 14706.



Above: Nicole and Elizabeth Reeves (twins) competing at the target dueling tree challenge during the JAKES event held by Sullivan County Longbeards.

## NYS CHAPTER'S ANNUAL 10 GUN RAFFLE WINNERS

1. Chris Brown, Springville
2. Herb and Pam Lederhouse, Ransomville
3. Alex Morse, Elmira
4. Howard LaFave, Boonville
5. Floyd Deiss, Norwich
6. Allen Owlett, Addison
7. John Loveland, Oswego
8. Chris Larkin, Cortland
9. Jack DiGirolamo, North Bellmore
10. Dave Dolphy, Weedsport

## MENTORED HUNTS MATTER

The future of our hunting heritage lies in the palm of our youth's hands. It takes teaching to get it there. It takes nurturing to keep it there.

There will always be men, women and children looking to learn about the outdoors. Mentored programs help bridge that gap for folks who don't know where to start.

Some states offer programs to help a novice hunter team with an experienced one. These programs, like the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Hunting Heritage Program, has had great success in connecting and facilitating relationships between mentors and apprentices.

Growing hunters is a process that must be nurtured and taken seriously which is why only dedicated volunteers are needed.

Mentorship programs result in:

Connections with potential to turn into life-long friendships  
Mutually beneficial interactions for both parties  
Chances to unplug and enjoy the natural world  
Opportunities to learn hunting skills, strategy and tactics  
Safer and more responsible hunters

You don't need a specific program to mentor an interested party, ask around your neighborhood and join forces with someone looking to advance their knowledge and skills on hunting.

The outdoors is a treasured tradition. Passing on that tradition is imperative if we are to keep our hunting heritage alive. Introduce someone new to the outdoors. Get someone re-involved. Take someone hunting. Our way of life depends on it.

— Josh Honeycutt



## LESSONS LEARNED FROM HUNTING WITH KIDS

Spending time in the outdoors is truly a passion of mine. I don't even need to be hunting or fishing, though I really do enjoy both of those things. I simply enjoy the fresh air, time spent away from electronics and social media, and I want my kids to appreciate the outdoors as well.

All three of my kids have been hunting with me at this point, but my first venture into taking kids to the field with me was when my daughter, now 9 years old, was just 5. She and I first took to a chunk of public land near the house in hopes of bagging either a deer or hog.

Quickly learning rules to "hunting with kids."

- \* Might as well set up next to the truck because walking to a good spot means stopping to pick flowers.
- \* Don't expect to see or hear anything over the loud "whispering" questions about all the gear I own.
- \* Either get a small drink from the store or be prepared to climb in and out of the blind 100 times because bathroom breaks are needed.
- \* There is no quiet way to unwrap cheese crackers.
- \* Your optics will get fingerprints on them.

All of these things are okay because they are having fun. It's worth noting that I also dozed off during the sit and awoke to more than 50 selfies on my phone.

Now, I meant it when I said it was a fun evening, but I also learned a valuable lesson in patience. In fact, that lesson in patience is probably one of the best lessons any hunter can learn if he or she hopes to become a mentor to kids, or even adults for that matter.

Learning to hunt, or to do any extracurricular activity, is something kids need to do at their own pace. Force them to go beyond their threshold and they will lose interest.

So, the next time you head to the woods for a hunt with a kid, be prepared to answer a hundred questions and know you'll have to pack it up and leave when they are ready. And, most importantly, have fun.

— Pete Muller

Articles on this page and the recipe on page 9 are from NWTF.org.



## SPICY TURKEY SANDWICH

The undisputed fast-food twitter king is well documented. In fact, they are so well known, we need don't even need to mention their name when showcasing this copycat spicy sandwich.

It's a simple, yet quite tasty, sandwich that will tingle your taste buds and have you ready to bring the heat down on your own social media trolls.

### Ingredients:

- 1 turkey breast
- 2 cups of flour
- ½ tablespoon garlic powder
- ½ tablespoon onion powder
- ½ tablespoon paprika
- 1 tablespoon black pepper
- 2 teaspoon salt
- 3 heaping tbsp cayenne pepper divided (2 for flour mix, 1 for egg wash)
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 2 eggs
- Mayo
- Lettuce
- Tomato
- Brioche buns
- Peanut oil

### Directions:

1. Clean turkey breast, portion out to sandwich size cutlets (yielding three to four depending on the size of the turkey breast) and completely dry meat.
2. Mix flour and seasonings in a bowl, and in a second bowl, crack eggs and whisk in cayenne.
3. Coat cutlets in flour first, then egg, then a final dredge in the flour mix. (the cutlets should already have a reddish color to the breading)
4. In a medium pot, add enough peanut oil to keep turkey from sitting on the bottom of the pot and heat to 350-375 degrees.
5. Drop turkey in the fryer and cook until golden brown. Note: Keep oil from overheating to ensure meat isn't overcooked. Once done, place on plate with paper towel to dry excess oil.
6. In a separate pan, or under the broiler, lightly toast the brioche buns.
7. Assemble sandwiches. Bottom bun, spicy wild turkey cutlet, lettuce, tomato, mayo and then the top bun. Repeat for remaining sandwiches
8. Serve while still hot.

Serves 3-4

NWTF

 NWTF-New York



## CALLING CONTEST RESULTS

### RESIDENT

1. JASON POLLACK
2. DEVIN GEE
3. MICHAEL POLLACK

### OPEN

1. CURTIS KENYON
2. MICHAEL POLLACK
3. LARRY SCARTOZZI

### FRICTION

1. CONNOR WARREN
2. RICHARD WARREN
3. SAMUEL WARREN

### YOUTH

1. CONNOR WARREN
2. AIDEN POLLACK

### OWL HOOTING

1. LARRY SCARTOZZI
2. JASON POLLACK
3. AIDEN POLLACK

### GOBBLING

1. DEVIN GEE
2. JASON POLLACK
3. LARRY SCARTOZZI

### AMATURE

1. KYLE KOWALKE



The participants of the 2019 NYS Calling Contest are pictured above. The event was held on April 7, 2019 at the Bass Pro Shop in Auburn, NY.

NYS Chapter President, Norm Ridley on the far right, is shown with the contestants.



## 2019 NYS NWTF SCHOLARSHIPS

It is that time of the year again when each chapter has an opportunity to provide a \$250 Superfund scholarship to a graduating high school senior.

If you desire to have your candidate considered for State and National level you must adhere to the following time line. Complete applications must be submitted to local Chapter Presidents by January 1, 2020 then forwarded to the State Chapter Scholarship Chairman by Feb 1, 2020.

The state winner for \$1000 scholarship will be chosen by the committee and sent to the national for consideration of a \$10,000 scholarship by March 1, 2020.

It is imperative that these time lines are followed. Failure to do so will disqualify the candidate for state or national scholarships.

However, each chapter has until July 1, 2020 to submit a candidate for the \$250 superfundable award. Any applications received after July 1, 2020 will be denied.

Applications can be obtained through the NWTF web site. <https://www.nwtf.org/resource-library/detail/scholarship-application>

Please remember that your scholarship applicant is also a prime candidate to submit for the honor of "JAKES Member of the year". (See the article in the next column) This information will be forwarded to the contact person of each chapter as soon as practical.

If you need any form, information or clarification please feel free to contact me Earl "Butch" Kortright. [butch.kortright@gmail.com](mailto:butch.kortright@gmail.com) or phone (845) 292 4325



Previous JAKES of the YEAR Award winner, Marissa Peters is shown above with JAKES Coordinator Earl "Butch" Kortright.

## MESSAGE FROM: NYS JAKES COORDINATOR

To all Chapter Presidents and or responsible persons,

As JAKES Coordinator for the NYS Chapter of the NWTF, We would like to give you an opportunity to acknowledge one of your chapter's JAKES for NYS JAKES Member of the year. We feel this supports our National Save the Habitat – Save the Hunt incentive.

The State Chapter Board has agreed to continue this recognition as part of our Annual Awards program.

This gives each chapter an opportunity to recognize their most outstanding JAKES Member for this award. We all know an individual within our chapter whose volunteerism, dedication to his/her chapter, community and the outdoors that would be eligible.

Please consider submitting an outstanding individuals completed award application to me by December 1, 2019. The winner will be invited to and honored at the January 2020 Annual Awards Banquet in Syracuse, NY.

The application and eligibility information will be forwarded to Chapter Presidents in the near future or contact me.

Earl "Butch" Kortright – (845) 292-4325  
5 Clifford Lane, Parksville NY 12768



Rich Gerlach, President of the Springville Strutters Local Chapter and Board of Directors member of NYS NWTF Chapter, presents Miriam Hoelscher a check for the scholarship she won in Spring of 2019.



# REGIONAL DIRECTORS CORNER

## UPCOMING LOCAL CHAPTER BANQUET DATES

### Sean Langevin, RD, Eastern NY

01/11/20	New York State Awards Dinner	Syracuse, NY
02/01/20	Genegantslet Gobblers	TBD
02/08/20	Cayuga County Longbeards	Union Springs, NY
02/22/20	Catskill Strutters	Sidney, NY
02/29/20	Catharine Valley Long Spurs	Watkins Glen, NY
03/07/20	Southern Tier Local	Owego, NY
03/13/20	Mohawk Valley Sharp Spurs	Amsterdam, NY
03/14/20	Cortland Limbhangers	Cortland, NY
03/20/20	Chemung Valley Ridgerunners	Elmira, NY
03/21/20	Lake Champlain Turkey Talkers	Altona, NY
03/28/20	Saratoga Springs Strutters	Greenwich, NY
03/29/20	Sullivan County Longbeards	Roscoe, NY
04/03/20	Mohawk River Strutters	Herkimer, NY
04/24/20	Oswego River	Fulton, NY
04/25/20	Between-the-Lakes	Ovid, NY
06/05/20	Salmon River	Pulaski, NY
06/06/20	Northern Catskill	Leeds, NY
06/20/20	TriCounty	TBD
TBD	Northern New York Chapter	Alexandria Bay, NY
TBD	Schoharie County Ridge Runners	Altamont, NY
TBD	Borderline Longbeards	Massena, NY
TBD	Cobleskill Gun Blast	Schoharie, NY

Those marked with an \* are tentative, or TBD are To Be Determined. Check the [NWTF.ORG/Events](http://NWTF.ORG/Events) page (choose NY and banquets) for updates on the tentative scheduled events.

### Brian Gottfried, RD, Western NY

01/18/20	Lakeshore Longbeards	Dunkirk, NY
02/01/20	Niagara Frontier	Amherst, NY
02/07/20	Cohocton Valley Chapter	Hornell, NY
02/22/20	* Twin Tiers Chapter	Corning, NY
02/29/20	* Lake Country Chapter	Canandaigua, NY
03/05/20	The Forest Kings	Amherst, NY
03/06/20	* Lake Ridge Chapter	Clarendon, NY
03/07/20	Letchworth Chapter	Caledonia, NY
03/13/20	Canisteo Valley Chapter	Hornell, NY
03/14/20	Genesee County Chapter	Batavia, NY
03/21/20	* Fingerlakes Bucks n' Beards	Prattsburg, NY
03/22/20	Niagara County Gobblers	Youngstown, NY
03/28/20	Crossroads Limbhangers	Lima, NY
04/03/20	Oak Orchard Chapter	Albion, NY
04/04/20	Wyoming County Gobblers	North Java, NY
04/11/20	* Forbidden Trail Chapter	Painted Post, NY
04/16/20	Hardwood Strutters	Geneva, NY
04/26/20	* Chautauqua Lake Chapter	Frewsburg, NY
05/02/20	Springville Strutters	Springville, NY
06/06/20	* Lake Plains Chapter	Fairport, NY
09/19/20	Enchanted Mountain Chapter	Olean, NY

## CHAPTER SUPPORT NEEDED:

Every local chapter in New York is so important to our mission. Each chapter provides a lot of memberships and raises funds used to forward our mission every year. If you are interested in helping at the local chapter level, we could really use a few new people. The more people we have on our local chapter committees, the less work it is for everyone involved. Everyone is busy and spread thin when it comes to free time, so it's important that we have as many volunteers as possible helping to lighten the load on everyone. To the right, you will find a list of the most critical areas in NY right now. Even if your area isn't

We hope this issue of Turkey Tales finds you well! By the time you are reading this we hope that congratulations are in order for a successful fall hunting season. We



have come full circle on the first year as a Regional Director for Brian Gottfried and he would like to take this time to thank each of you who attended an event, volunteered on a committee, helped at an outreach event, and those of you who simply purchased a membership to the NWTF this year.

As we approach this coming event season we would like to challenge all of you reading this to do one simple thing, **introduce a friend!** Over the course of this year we have increased the membership in NY but we are still only at a fraction of the turkey hunters in NY. As an organization, our voice grows louder with every membership. When we need to influence important decisions in the conservation world, it's the number of members we have behind the NWTF name that make a difference. If each person brought one new person to a banquet, to a chapter meeting,



or simply bought them a membership as a gift, we could double our membership and increase the volume of our voice as hunters. If you aren't currently involved with a local chapter, please reach out to them or myself and get involved in some way. We hope you all have a great holiday season and we look forward to seeing

you all at the Leadership Meeting and Annual Awards Banquet in Syracuse on January 11, 2020.



listed, please reach out to one of the Regional Directors or local chapters if you can help.

Amherst, NY  
Brockport, NY  
Corning, NY  
Dunkirk, NY  
Hudson Valley, NY  
Jamestown, NY  
Long Island, NY

Olean, NY  
Oneonta, NY  
Penn Yan, NY  
Rochester, NY  
Syracuse, NY  
Wayne County, NY  
Wyoming County, NY

## THE BEAUTY OF FALL

By Randy W. Opferbeck

A chill is in the air as my favorite time of the year approaches. Fall is many things. To some it is probably only a prelude to winter. The cutting of wood, raking of leaves, putting on storm windows, checking the furnace and all the other chores that must be done. I do all these things too, but to me, fall is much more.

I love to see the beauty of the changing leaves turning the landscape into brilliant crimson, orange, yellow, purple and gold. The magnificent colors of nature that cannot be reproduced by even the greatest painting. The best part is it is free for all to enjoy if they would just take the time to view it.

There is also the smell of the fall woods. The pleasant, musky odor of leaves laying on the forest floor, of downed trees decaying and slowly releasing nutrients back to the earth from where it was born.

And then there is the wildlife. The squirrels scurrying to gather food, the songbirds and waterfowl flying south and the rut of the whitetail buck. All these things are fall.

There is no more pleasant time to enjoy all nature has to offer.

With life's hectic and busy schedule, I need to relax and have the solitude the fall woods provide. Sitting in a tree stand or against a big oak as I call for turkeys provides me with that. There are many times when I just close my eyes and let my mind go blank. At these times I really do not want to see game, it would be an intrusion of my peace.

There are other times though when my senses are at their keenest as I challenge the turkey or buck as hunters have done for eons. It is a hard feeling to describe and only a true hunter can experience it. It is not being successful, but know the game was played fair and square. If the animal wins, so what! It means you get to challenge him on yet another day. Some of my best days hunting resulted in no game being harvested.

The first snow of fall may be the most tranquil time of all. The wooded stillness announces the beginning of a slumber for much of nature. A slumber that will last until the warm rays of sun and the rain come again in April as the birth of nature begins again for yet another year.

Take some time to look at nature this fall. Go for a walk in the woods, ride your bike or just sit under a tree and absorb the beauty surrounding you. I guarantee it will do wonders to rejuvenate you at least for a while, and we all need that sometimes.

## CRCS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

Welcome to CRCS Outdoors! CRCS stands for Cuba-Rushford Central School and the outdoor program is an extension of our Fisheries and Wildlife Technology classes. Our motto is making a difference "one young hunter (fisherman or student) at a time. "

In 2011-12, the schools environmental programs were featured in national magazines and television. CRCS Outdoors was featured every Saturday morning on the Pursuit Channel with 26 original shows produced right at CRCS and highlighted graduating film editor Cody Card. However, the programming would not have made it on air without support from our outstanding sponsors KA-BAR Knives, Western & Central New York Chapter of SCI, and the TRI State Chapter of SCI!

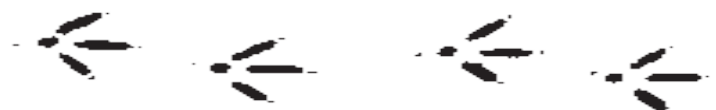
As we all know the future of our hunting and fishing heritage rests in the hands of our nation's youth. If we do not do our part and get them out there early, research says all may be lost. New York State has been slowly doing their part by lowering the hunting age and providing youth seasons. CRCS Outdoors has been making a conscious effort to do our part by providing area youth with opportunities that they may not get elsewhere.

CRCS Outdoors hopes to expand nationally and bring the study of fisheries and wildlife/ hunting and fishing into the mainstream of the nation's educational platform, and to promote student centered scientific research, studying natural resource conservation, aquatics, wildlife, forestry, land stewardship, biology/ management and conservation, Math/ Science and Technology, GIS, satellite images, remote sensing, radio telemetry, data collection and analysis. Through these opportunities students are also exposed to numerous career development opportunities as well as gaining ownership in what they do through choice in what they learn and gaining responsibility.

CRCS Outdoors has traveled to South Africa to hunt, as well as annual trips to Alaska, New Zealand, Texas, and locally around NYS and PA. Students enrolled at Cuba-Rushford have the first option to participate on trips and opportunities, after that, these projects and trips are open to any student, anywhere!

Check out our projects and trips on our website at [www.crcs.wnyric.org](http://www.crcs.wnyric.org) and click on the deer head. Contact Scott Jordan at 585-808-3768 or email me at [scott\\_jordan@crcs.wnyric.org](mailto:scott_jordan@crcs.wnyric.org).

Special thanks to all of you who take young people outside and provide guidance and education! You know that they will appreciate it for a lifetime!





## OUR STATE SAVE THE HABITAT. SAVE THE HUNT. GOALS

NWTF New York will conserve or enhance 11,500 acres of wildlife habitat in the next five years.

NWTF New York will recruit 1,500 hunters in the state each year.

NWTF New York will open public hunting access by 15,000 additional acres in the next five years.

- \* NWTF New York works with landowners and partners to restore its state turkey population through critical habitat work.
- \* NWTF New York volunteers are providing more opportunities for hunter education and hunting opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.
- \* NWTF New York actively seeks opportunities to open more land for hunting.

At the National Wild Turkey Federation, the outdoors isn't just what's on the other side of the glass, it's where we feel most alive. And we're making America the best it can be for the people and wildlife who call it home. The NWTF has divided the country in six areas — America's Big Six of Wildlife Conservation — to focus our effort on the most critical wildlife habitat needs.

New York is part of America's Colonial Forests. NWTF New York is committed to maintain healthy hardwood forests, stop habitat loss, increase habitat diversity and winter wildlife survival.

Learn more about America's Big Six of Wildlife Conservation on [NWTF.org](http://NWTF.org).

## SAVE THE HABITAT. SAVE THE HUNT. INITIATIVE PROGRESS NATIONALLY

### Conserve or Enhance 4 million acres of wildlife habitat.

We're bringing focus to our conservation delivery by identifying areas of habitat that provide the most positive impact for wildlife.

**2019: 653,676 Acres**

**7-Year Total: 3,583,469 Acres**

### Recruit 1.5 million hunters

We're securing the future of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation by increasing the number of hunters, who pay for 80 percent of wildlife conservation through excise taxes on guns, ammunition and more.

**2019: 8,865**

**7-Year Total: 1,526,852\***

[Goal surpassed in 2019] \*includes Families Afield

### Open access to 500,000 acres for hunting

Because lack of access to hunting lands is a main reason people stop hunting, we're ensuring there's opportunity for everyone to find a place to go.

**2019: 66,826 Acres**

**7-Year Total: 626,658 Acres**

[Goal surpassed in 2018]

### BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

The NWTF is leading the effort to solve this problem. We will see to it that the entire industry, our community, becomes part of the solution. This is bigger than any one organization, and it is time we tackled this challenge together.

Here's how you can help —

Join the NWTF now and do your part to Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.

The NWTF is committed to meet and exceed our goals. Give to the Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative and secure the future of wildlife, wild places and the hunt for future generations. Volunteer your time.

The NWTF's most valuable resource is people — volunteers who aren't afraid to get a little dirty when it comes to saving what's important. Our Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative is critical to ensure the future of wildlife and hunting is secure. Now is when we have to make good on our goals. Find your state to learn how you can get involved in your own backyard.

# PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

## NWTF Members Sweat Equity Resulting in Quality Wildlife Habitat

By: Kristen Schnepf-Giger and Kaylee Resha

By now you have likely heard of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) taking place in New York and some surrounding states. NWTF has an integral position in this partnership where two biologists have been working hard to involve private landowners in a program designed to improve wildlife habitat on private lands. Much of the good work NWTF Super Fund has accomplished over the years has been for the improvement of public lands. Lands where everybody can enjoy the fruits of the labor. The reality in our neck of the woods, is that >80% of New York is privately held. With a state that has a landmass of 54,556 square miles, that is a whole lot of opportunity for work on private lands!!

What better place to start than working with existing members who love to put sweat equity into their land, where they also enjoy the thrill of the hunt?! Several NWTF members have signed up for this program and are holding contracts to complete young forest habitat work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). These contracts are a result of management plans written by NWTF wildlife biologists. Trees are hitting the ground as you read this article in an effort to create thick, young forest habitat that is great for turkey nesting, fawn escape cover, and deer browse, among others.

Take a look at these photographs (to the right) of just one growing season after a cut was completed. This particular landowner is working on a second cut in the same area. He will enjoy a wildlife magnet on his property for years to come. Just this fall, he and I were standing on the perimeter of his cut talking. My two hunting dogs were exploring the woods, and it was a good few minutes before a deer decided “enough was enough” and busted out of the middle of the cut. No doubt in my mind that if we had simply been passing through, that deer would have heard us, been aware of our presence, and never moved. We hung out just a little too long. Positive results from this program are nearly immediate.

Additionally, this program can be utilized as a great member recruiting tool. Perhaps you deer hunt on a buddy’s property who isn’t an NWTF member. While NWTF membership certainly is not a requirement to participate in this program, landowners who find out about the great work that the NWTF does beyond this program are often eager to become members. If you know of someone who enjoys putting sweat equity into their property, encourage them to get in contact with one of us today!

Kristen Schnepf-Giger: 814-450-1614 or [kgiger@nwtf.net](mailto:kgiger@nwtf.net) for the southern tier area of the state  
Kaylee Resha: 518-267-3309 or [kresha@nwt.net](mailto:kresha@nwt.net) for the southeastern area of the state

**14 FALL 2019 ISSUE**



[NWTF.org/about/state/new-york](http://NWTF.org/about/state/new-york)



## NATIONAL FORESTRY INITIATIVE

# Where CONSERVATION meets the GROUND



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

N A T I O N A L   W I L D   T U R K E Y   F E D E R A T I O N

The National Wild Turkey Federation and the U.S.D.A.'s Natural Resources Conservation Service are working together to help improve forest health and forest ecosystems on private lands and manage the forestry-related workload derived from the Farm Bill. The NRCS and the NWTF have a longstanding partnership that is built upon promoting and implementing the conservation and wise use of land, water, wildlife and related resources across the United States.

As part of the National Forestry Initiative agreement, the NWTF is positioned to help improve forest health on about 350,000 acres of private land in a number of regions throughout the country by providing cooperative staff of experienced forestry professionals to bolster NRCS staff in 23 states over a five-year period.

Working out of NRCS field offices, 24 foresters and a project coordinator will collaborate with private landowners, state and federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations to deliver technical and financial assistance through Farm Bill conservation programs administered by NRCS on private land throughout the nation.

For more information on the National Forestry Initiative, NRCS programs and how an NFI forester can help you, please contact:

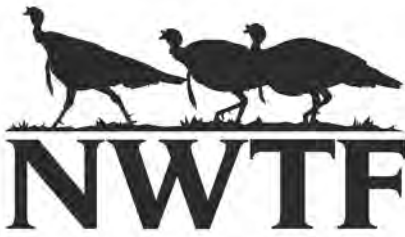
Jim Bagley  
NY Forester - NWTF  
jbagley@nwtf.net  
607-329-9351

### OUR FORESTERS CAN HELP!

- Provide technical forestry assistance for private landowners
- Conduct site visits with landowners interested in forestry management and/or NRCS financial assistance programs
- Aid with the application process for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program and the Conservation Reserve Program
- Assist with creating forest management plans
- Develop standards for the forestry work to be completed
- Certify all completed work to ensure it meets the outlined standards and requirements
- Help landowners monitor completed forestry practices
- Provide educational opportunities through landowner field days and educational resources

**USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender**

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Edgefield, SC 29824

## FALL 2019 - NYS CHAPTER - NWTF NEWSLETTER

### NWTF CONVENTION TABLE CHALLENGE

The NYS Chapter would like to be part of the State Chapter's Tables Challenge again at the National Convention. The idea is that each state sets up a table with products that represent their state. Each table is then auctioned off. The state who's table wins the highest bid receives \$2500 in their SuperFund account.

We have many products that are unique to our state and would like your help gathering these products to fill our table and showcase New York State. If you know of an original NYS product made near you, we would like to place it on the table.

We welcome your input for this project. This is a terrific way to showcase our state before 50,000 attendees.



**February 12 - 16, 2020 in Nashville, TN**

If you can assist us with this, please bring your items to the January 2020 Leadership Meeting/Awards Banquet. If you cannot attend, but have items to share, please contact Norm Ridley, NYS Chapter President, (315) 651-9096 or email [normridley1960@gmail.com](mailto:normridley1960@gmail.com).