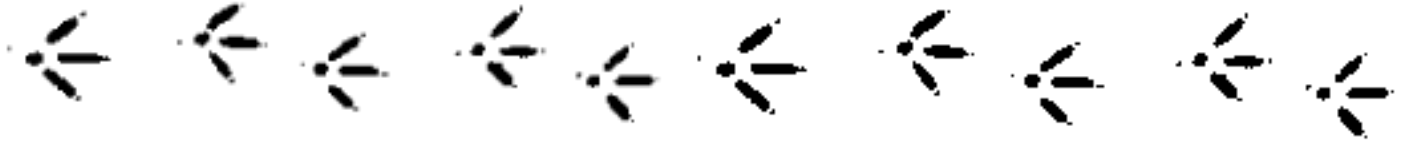


# Turkey Tales

*NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION*

*A NEW YORK STATE CHAPTER PUBLICATION*



**STATE CHAPTER AWARDS BANQUET**

**SPRING TURKEY HUNT PHOTOS**

**LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS**

**JAKES SCHOLARSHIPS INFORMATION**

**10 GUN RAFFLE WINNERS**



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



NWTF-New York



The photo on the front cover shows Ron Magnano fall turkey hunting with dogs on Rock City Hill, Knapp's Creek, near Olean, NY. Picture was taken by Matt Lindler.

The photo to the left shows trapping turkeys for the transfer program.



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## NYS CHAPTER MEETING DATES

**JANUARY 12-13, 2018** At the Quality Inn & Suites,

Batavia

### 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.

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**

This is a picture of my son Jeremy at age 13. He shot his 1st turkey with his Uncle Mike and I in Dublin, NY. Jeremy and I recently went to New Mexico and doubled with Merriam turkeys on a hunt with Kyle Bell from the TV show Mountain Man. Jeremy is a very fortunate young man. His Uncle Mike has a passion for hunting and more importantly for sharing his knowledge and ethics with all youth in the area.



My initial entry into an NWTF chapter was primarily with the intention of being largely involved in the JAKES Day program. These local young men and women are the future of the NWTF.

Congratulations to Brian Gottfried with his new position of Regional Director as he begins a new chapter in his career. May God Bless Marty Huber as he begins a new chapter in his life also. We all wish a long, happy, and healthy retirement to Marty and pray for his wonderful wife Debbie to have patience!! I also will need your guidance and words of wisdom as I transition into the role of NYS NWTF President.

During the National Convention in Nashville, TN we will be participating in an auction where each state puts together a table of items made in their state. Work together with your chapters to find local items either food or hand-crafted that represent "Made in NYS" to donate for our table. NYS has had strong representation in the past 2 years under the direction of Bill Wilbur and has been the proud winner both years. If your chapter has a hand-made item, food specialty (wine, cheese, dairy products) that you would like to donate, I will be driving to Nashville and can make arrangements to pick up your items. The winner of the State Table Auction has \$2,500.00 deposited into their superfund.

I firmly believe that we all need to be involved in our community and the things we are passionate about. My passion is to the youth who want to enjoy the outdoors, learn about safe and responsible harvesting of animals, and look up to local hunters for wisdom and guidance.

I encourage each and every one of you that are reading this newsletter to reach out to a young hunter. Share your enthusiasm and knowledge by mentoring.

CONSERVE, HUNT & SHARE,

Norm Ridley, President

NYS NWTF



NWTF

770 Augusta Rd;  
Edgefield, SC 29824

Newsletter Editors:

Randy Opferbeck, Carol and Larry Becker, Doug Little,  
Sean Langevin

Newsletter Designer: Deb Opferbeck

# 2019 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

AT QUALITY INN & SUITES  
8250 PARK ROAD, BATAVIA, NY 14020  
(585) 344-2100

**Saturday, January 12, 2019: NWTF NYS Chapter Awards Banquet:  
5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

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 2019 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, 2019 TO RESERVE 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**.

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
AWARDS BANQUET DINNER BUFFET STYLE WITH BEEF, TURKEY, SALADS, VEGETABLES & MORE	\$30.00		
Sunday Board Meeting Buffet Lunch	0.00		

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, 2019 to:

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

**NYS CHAPTER QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING - Sunday January 13, 2019: 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!

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

**Overnight rooms are available at a discounted price of \$79.00 for a standard room or \$99.00 for a suite (plus taxes). Reservations must be made by January 1, 2019.**

## NOMINATIONS ARE REQUESTED

### MEMBER OF THE YEAR CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

Do you know of an exceptional NWTF member? An exceptional Chapter? The NYS Chapter every year honors a special member as Member of the Year; and a local chapter as Chapter of the Year. If you would like to submit a deserving individual or local chapter, 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.

Are you proud of your chapter and its 2018 accomplishments such as your outreach efforts, membership growth, projects and events? For the Chapter of the Year Award, submit a synopsis of your chapter's accomplishments and provide supporting information, the more the better, to the Awards Committee by 12/21/18, so that your chapter can be considered for this prestigious award. The information should be submitted by 12/21/18, to Randy Opferbeck, Awards Committee, 3164 N.Nine Mile Rd, Allegany, NY 14706.

## RETIRING REGIONAL DIRECTOR MARTY HUBER FOR WESTERN NEW YORK

After 23 years of serving local chapters as Regional Director, Marty has decided to retire as of January 2019.

Marty has seen many changes in the NWTF over the years and during his tenure, he helped start over 38 chapters that have netted over \$7 Million during that time.

Marty wishes to thank everyone he has worked with along the way, he states he is grateful and thankful to have been a part of the NWTF Family.

He hopes to see everyone at the State Chapter Awards Banquet in Batavia on January 12, 2019.



## REGIONAL DIRECTOR SEAN LANGEVIN FOR EASTERN NEW YORK

As we are deep in the heart of fall hunting season I want to take this time to thank every volunteer that has stepped up and been a part of an extremely successful year for the New York State NWTF. You all deserve a huge round of applause as well as a pat on the back. Your efforts have helped us make tremendous advances in our mission as well as our Save the Habitat Save the Hunt initiative. Without you the NWTF could not be where we are today. We won't be able to continue this trend if we don't recruit new members and more help though. As staff we are working hand in hand with local chapters to come up with a recruitment plan for their local committee. If you are a member and not a volunteer I encourage you to reach out to your local chapter or regional director and get involved. When you volunteer for the NWTF you are joining one big hunting family. I want to wish everyone a safe and successful hunting season.



## NEW REGIONAL DIRECTOR BRIAN GOTTFRIED FOR WESTERN NEW YORK

I am excited to announce that I have taken a staff position with NWTF as the new Regional Director for western New York. As many of you know, Marty Huber will be retiring in January and I will be taking over his chapters. There has been a little shift in the dividing line, so a few chapters to the East of Seneca Lake will now fall under the existing Regional Director for Eastern New York, Sean Langevin.

This change is bitter sweet for me, it means that I get to make a career out of working with hunters and promoting the hunting heritage and conservation, but it means that I had to step down as the State Chapter President. I was really looking forward to accomplishing some great things as the president, but I couldn't pass up this opportunity. This change doesn't mean that I can't continue to work towards the same goals I had, I'm just doing it on a different level now. With my new position, I am no longer able to be a volunteer so the 1st Vice President Norm Ridley has stepped up to be the new State Chapter President.

Norm has been on the state board for a number of years and has a firm grasp on how the state chapter is run, what needs to be accomplished in the future and he has the ability to achieve those goals and a great network of support. He has been the president of one of the most successful local chapters for a long time and he will be great as the new president of the state chapter.

For those of you in the Rochester area, I have also stepped down as the president of the Crossroads Limbhangars. My dad, Neil Gottfried will be taking over as the president of that chapter. He has been by my side since I started the chapter in 2011 and he is the best person for the job. He knows the banquet and all the outreach events that we do as well as anyone and he will continue to grow and improve the chapter as we have together thus far.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the local chapter banquets in western New York this year and I hope to see everyone at the 2019 NYS Awards Dinner on January 12 at the Quality Inn in Batavia.





# SPRING TURKEY HUNTING NEWS FROM THE FLOCKS

## YOUTH HUNTS



Zach LaPointe (pictured to the left) got his first bird on Saturday, April 21 at 7:17 a.m. in the town of Stillwater, Saratoga County. The tom weighed 23#, had a 9.5" beard and 1+" spurs. All of this on his first ever hunt, firing a 20 gauge with an M4 style adjustable stock due to his small frame... And having a broken right trigger hand! Thank you to Chuck Law, Saratoga Strutters and Hudson Falls Fish and Game Club.

Steele Stalloch (pictured below) got his first bird during the youth hunt. The gobbler weighed 19#, 8.5" beard, 3/4" spurs. Brandon Clark guided the hunt in Edmester, NY



In the photo to the right, John got his bird on Saturday, April 21. It weighed 19#, had an 8" beard and 7/8" spurs. David Hendrick submitted the photo and information.



Matt Brownell sat out in the cold with Jacob Smith (photo below) for 4 hours during the youth hunt on Saturday before he got this guy's hens to lead him to his death. They heard gobbling all morning and had 2 jakes just out of range earlier. This Tom gobbled a couple times around 9:30 and his hens came in to check them out.... ten minutes later, down he went! Matt said it was about the only time in life that he hooted and hollered like a little



kid! They took the gobbler to Whitetail Country in Olean to enter it in their contest and he was 21.5 pounds. 9.5" beard, 1 1/16 spurs. Matt is thankful that he has been lucky to be blessed on youth day for the last 3 years.

Shown to the left is Josh Unser..age 13 The turkey was taken in the town of Sand Lake, NY on 4/22 with the New York State Youth hunt. His father, James Unser, mentored the hunt and helped to call the big bird in. Josh's turkey was taken with a 20 gauge at 30 yards. The turkey weighed 25 lbs, 8 1/4 inch beard and one inch spurs.



It was a successful morning for 13 year old Adele Clark in Honeoye, NY. Adele bagged a 19# gobbler with a 8" beard. This is Adele's first bird and her second youth hunt.





Nick Davis reports "My wife, Jessica Davis, (in the photos to the right) got her first turkey, 22 lbs, 1 1/8" spurs 9" beard. I age him at 4, she shot him in Delevan, NY, Cattaraugus County." Nick added "She got it May 1, right around 6:30. It was the best turkey I have ever called in just because I got to watch the excitement explode from her after he was peddling a bike upside down!!!! I think she shook for 2 hours after! Best hunt of my life so far!"



Dee Duffy (pictured in the photo to the left) bagged her gobbler in Farmersville, Cattaraugus County. He weighed 18.12#, had an 8.5" beard and 3/4" spurs!

In the photo to the right, Damien Landon says "Got her done Saturday morning with this 24#, double bearded thunder chicken" in Lansing, Tompkins County.



Aaron Carpenter got this triple bearded bird (shown in the photo below) in Trumansburg, Tompkins County.





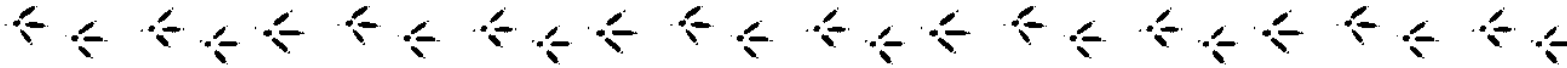
## SPRING TURKEY HUNTING NEWS FROM THE LOCAL FLOCKS (CONTINUED)



In the picture to the left is Anthony Rider. He got this bird first thing in the morning right off the roost on May 4th. The gobbler weighed 22#, had a 10" beard and spurs of 1 5/16" & 1 1/4". The take was in Voorheesville, Albany County. Anthony says "He pitched down and landed at the edge of the field and the woods. I made a 45 yard shot down hill through the woods and rolled him with my Grandpa's 11-87 NWTF turkey gun."



In the picture to the right is Anthony Rider. He got his second tom, weighing 20#, 11" beard and 1" spurs. Anthony says "This bird was gobbling his head off in the hay field. I quickly set up on him in the open hardwoods. I called to him and he gobbled and strutted all the way in."



On May 3rd, in Oppenheim, Fulton County, Devin Gee took his 75 year old grandfather, Pete O'Dell, for his first turkey hunt (in the above photo). Grandpa watched over Devin's shoulder as Devin shot this 22#, 9" bearded gobbler. Grandpa is now hooked! This is the first of many more hunts together!  
#hookedat75



Devin Gee (who is pictured above) tagged out on May 9th with this 23# gobbler with a 9 3/4" beard and 1 1/8" spurs. Devin states that he roosted him the night before, almost a mile away. In the morning, the hens pitched above him at about 45 yards, the gobbler was below him at 75 yards and strutted right to the gun barrel. Taken in Oppenheim, Fulton County.





Shown in the photo above is John Arneth with the 22# gobbler he bagged on opening day.

In the photo to the right is Mickey O'Kane who says "Here's my opening day gobbler from Onondaga County, New York. The two year old bird weighed 21 pounds 11 ounces, 7" beard and 3/4" spurs. I used 3" Hevi-Shot #7 for the 36 yard shot."



Steve Scott bagged a 22# bird (shown in the picture above) in Otsego County. Shane Simpson from "Calling All Turkeys" guided him.



Steve Scott (in the photo above) experienced another successful hunting trip with his buddy Shane Simpson. Scott ended his season that morning slamming another 22 pounder with Shane behind the camera.

All spring hunting photos were posted by our Facebook page, NWTF-New York. Please submit any photos you would like to see in our newsletter or on Facebook to the page or to [deb.randy@verizon.net](mailto:deb.randy@verizon.net).



## NEWS FROM THE LOCAL FLOCKS

The Crossroads Limbhangers held their 2nd annual Women In The Outdoors event on August 26th at the Lima Gun Club. This event was geared towards women with little or no firearm experience. The day was led by women already in the field. Topics such as firearm safety, firearm anatomy, proper fit and a little bit of hunter education were some of what was covered. After going over the vitals, everyone was able to shoot both a .22 and a 20ga.

Overall the day went great and those women left feeling more confident and comfortable around and handling firearms. The Crossroads Limbhangers wants to say a huge thank you to Cherie Gumaer, the hunter education instructor who came out and taught/led the women in the day's events. We also want to say thank you to the Lima Gun Club, for providing us a location to hold the event and to the gentlemen who helped us that day. Without all of you the event would not have been possible.



The photos above and below pictures women learning how to shoot firearms at the WITO event in Lima hosted by the Crossroads Limbhangers.



A group of attendees show off their shooting skills in the above photo.



In the photo to the left are participants of the sanctioned calling contest hosted by local chapter, Cohocton Valley. The contest was held during the Southern Tier Sports Show held in Bath, NY on October 13 & 14, 2018.





## UPCOMING LOCAL CHAPTER BANQUET DATES

### Western New York Banquets:

Jan 19: Lakeshore Longbeards in Dunkirk, NY  
 Jan 26: Wyoming County Gobblers in Alexander, NY  
 Feb 2: Niagara Frontier in Amherst, NY  
 Feb 8: Cohocton Valley in Hornell, NY  
 Feb 23: Twin Tiers Chapter in Corning, NY  
 Mar 2: Lake Country Chapter in Canandaigua, NY  
 Mar 7: Forest Kings in Amherst, NY  
 Mar 9: Letchworth Chapter in Caledonia, NY  
 Mar 15: Canisteo Valley Chapter in Hornell, NY  
 Mar 16: Finger Lakes Bucks N' Beards in Prattsburg, NY  
 Mar 23: Crossroads Limbhangers in Lima, NY  
 Mar 30: Genesee County Chapter in Batavia, NY  
 Mar 30: Springville Strutters in Springville, NY

### Eastern New York Banquets

Feb 2 - Genegantslet Gobblers in Port Crane, NY  
 Feb 9- Cayuga County in Union Springs, NY  
 Feb 22- Catskill Strutters in Sidney, NY  
 March 2- Southern Tier in Owego, NY  
 March 9- Cortland Limbhangers, in Cortland, NY  
 March 16- Saratoga Springs in Greenwich, NY  
 March 22- Chemung Valley in Elmira, NY  
 March 23- Lake Champlain in Altona, NY  
 March 24 - Sullivan County in Roscoe, NY  
 March 28- SUNY Cobleskill Gun Blast in Schoharie, NY  
 March 30 Catherine Valley in Watkins Glen, NY

## NYS CHAPTER'S ANNUAL 10 GUN RAFFLE WINNERS

1. Mark Misner, Plattsburgh, NY
2. Roy Keith, Little Valley, NY
3. Bill Schrameck, East Amherst, NY
4. Hugh Jackson, Addison, NY
5. Joe Dorety, Springwater, NY
6. Ben Gamel, West Valley, NY
7. Kevin Padlo, Olean, NY
8. Howard Ridall, East Bethany, NY
9. Josh Newark, Cassadaga, NY
10. David Schoellig, Burlington Flats, NY



### GET YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS AND EVENTS IN THE NYS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER!

We want to hear from about local chapters events for publication in the *Turkey Tales* newsletters that are sent out twice a year. So if you have photos, articles and information about your events, please share them.

Send your information to Deb Opferbeck at [deb.randy@verizon.net](mailto:deb.randy@verizon.net). Be sure to name the people in the photos and get permission from anyone in the photos to allow us to use their pictures.

See the information below to get your events published in the National's publication, *Turkey Country*.

### Get your Chapter's events in *Turkey Country*:

Share your chapter successes with the world by submitting your chapter news to *Turkey Country* magazine's "Regional News" section. Write up a brief description (one to two paragraphs) of your event or news, and send it along with one or two high-resolution photographs to [turkeycountry@nwtf.net](mailto:turkeycountry@nwtf.net). Put "Regional News" in the subject line.

There are many resources available for you to use in promoting your chapter's events at [www.nwtf.org/resource-library](http://www.nwtf.org/resource-library). If you do not find what you are looking for, the staff at National is able to help customize what you need. You can also get a copy of the Annual Report and the Strategic Vision to give to potential donors for help in fundraising for your event.

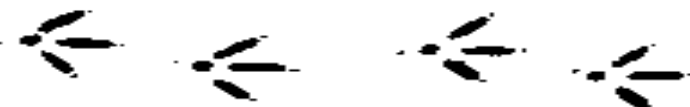


Prior to the implementation of Women in the Outdoors, NWTF supported female-focused outdoor skills training programs through various organizations. Seeing the demand for such activities for women, the NWTF expanded its outreach efforts to include a formal Women in the Outdoors program in 1998.

In the past decade, the number of women owning firearms and participating in target shooting and hunting has soared. See the "Girl Power" graphic to the right, provided with permission from the National Shooting Sports Foundation published in their 2014 Women Gun Owners: Purchasing, Perceptions and Participation article.

According to Southwick Associates, women now make up more than a quarter of all anglers and represent the fastest growing segment within the hunting and shooting communities.

Women who seek outdoor adventures or more quality time with family and friends will find that connection through hundreds of Women in the Outdoors events hosted by NWTF chapters around the United States. Events are affordable and offer outdoor activities such as archery, shotgunning and various introduction to hunting classes. Women in the Outdoor members receive a one year subscription to Turkey Country magazine and special discounts. Get your membership today.







## NWTF SCHOLARSHIP 2018

The time is here for your chapter to select a worthy candidate for the Dr. James Earl Kennamer scholarship. There has been a slight change in position of the national for criteria of qualification. for 2018, “Applicants do NOT need to be pursuing a wildlife or conservation-related degree in college to be eligible”. Any high school senior is welcome to apply so long as they provide the required material.

To complete the time line for a candidate to make state or national recognition the applications must be back to chapter Presidents by January 1st and submitted to the state committee chairman or President by February 1st. The state will forward the winner to National by March 1st.

Any other chapter applications can be submitted up until July 1st to receive \$250 in Super Fund monies for a local scholarship.

Please take the time to nominate a graduating senior acknowledging their accomplishment and desire to pursue higher education, hopefully in conservation. This will also aid the NWTF on our goals of the Save the Habitat – Save the Hunt initiative.

Access for the application online is : <http://www.nwtf.org/resource-library/detail/scholarship-application>.



Pictured above is a previous Wheelin' Sportsmen Event held by the Salmon River Strutters Chapter.

## 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, 2018. The winner will be invited to and honored at the January 2019 annual awards dinner in Batavia 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



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.

## NWTF-NY PARTNERS TO IMPROVE HABITAT WITHIN ALLEGANY MOUNTAINS FOCAL LANDSCAPE

By: Doug Little and Randy Opferbeck

The New York State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF-NY), partnered with the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Lands and Forests (NYS DEC) to enhance 15.5 acres of habitat on the North Nine Mile State Forest. This property is open for hunting and is located in the town of Allegany in Cattaraugus County, NY.

The work consisted of felling undesirable trees that were shading and otherwise competing with apple trees for resources. The desired conditions include quality wild turkey nesting and brood rearing habitat, while also increasing the viability and productivity of the apple trees within the 2 stands that were treated. We anticipate increased herbaceous cover at the ground level as a result of the forest canopy being opened, resulting in greater insect abundance for foraging wild turkey poults. Additionally, the felled trees remaining on site will provide adequate ground cover for hens to nest.

These 2 stands are adjacent to a large field that will also serve as brood habitat for hens successful in their nesting attempts. Bear, deer, grouse, woodcock and many other wildlife species will also benefit from this work.

Please check out the following website to obtain other information about this state forest  
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/73743.html>

NWTF has made a concerted effort to provide resources and improve habitat conditions in southwestern NY State. As you may recall from prior newsletter articles, Kristen Schnepf-Giger, NWTF wildlife biologist, is providing technical assistance to private landowners in several western NY State counties. NWTF-NY also assisted with NYS DEC's efforts to enhance habitat on Hanging Bog WMA in partnership with Ruffed Grouse Society. Although it was a small 3 acre project, the resulting young forest habitat will provide much needed quality nesting cover in an area of predominantly mature woods.

See aerial photo on the next page.



## ENHANCING HABITAT ON NWTF MEMBER'S LAND REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP)

By: KRISTEN SCHNEPP-GIGER, NWTF WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

Chances are pretty good that you're familiar with NWTF's Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative. New York continues to work through its member base and with partner agencies to deliver mission centric habitat work across the Empire State.

A unique opportunity exists here where NWTF (and other like-minded NGO) biologists are working with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). This program enables biologists to meet with landowners free of charge to discuss and plan implementation of young forest habitat on private lands across the state. This work has been going on for well over a year and results are coming in! NWTF members are benefitting from this program in big ways. The pictures (on page 16) show the initial results of a timber cutting one member recently completed on his land around one of his food plots. Creating young forest habitat around an established food plot provides excellent browse for deer (alleviating some of the pressure from your food plot) as well as escape cover for fawns, turkey poults, and a variety of other critters.

Many of the logs will be removed and put to good use. The landowner plans to make boards out of some of them for use in his wood shop. He also plans to cut firewood out of the downed timber. Several logs will remain on the ground and provide excellent drumming logs for grouse which will likely be attracted to the regenerating area. Tree tops will remain scattered on the ground to protect some seedling trees from deer browse. The landowner completed all of this work AND will be receiving cost-share money from NRCS for a job well done.

This is a great example of how landowner goals/objectives are rolled into the planning process for these contracts. It creates a win-win where the landowner is more than happy to complete the work, we're getting acreage for our Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. state goals, and the federal agency (NRCS) is realizing more contracts coming to fruition because of partner biologists than they could handle completing themselves. When like-minded conservation focused individuals get together, wildlife wins every time!

For more information, please contact: Kristen Schnepf-Giger (southwestern NY): [kgiger@nwtf.net](mailto:kgiger@nwtf.net)  
Or Kaylee Resha (southeastern NY): [kresha@nwtf.net](mailto:kresha@nwtf.net)

[See photos of the clear cut on page 15.](#)

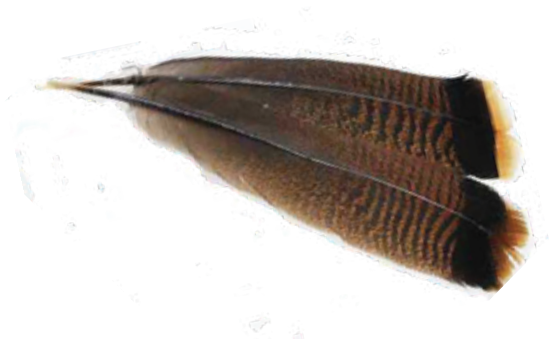




The above pictures show work done to create better habitat for wildlife under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) in conjunction with NWTF and NRCS. (Article on page 14).



The photo above is in reference to the article on page 14.





770 Augusta Rd  
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## FALL 2018 - NYS CHAPTER - NWTF NEWSLETTER

**WE NEED YOUR SUGGESTIONS & HELP  
TO MAINTAIN OUR CHAMPIONSHIP!**

As you may remember, the NYS Chapter won the first place award at the National Convention this past February for the second year in a row.

The NYS Chapter would like to be part of the State Chapter's Tables again at the National Convention. The idea is that each state sets up a table with products indicative of their state. Each table is then auctioned off.

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.

We have a list of some of the items from our state, but if you know more, you can add them to ours. What we have thought of so far is: Maple products, Wine, Apples, Grandma Brown's Beans, Henry Rifle, Philadelphia Cream Cheese, Cuba Cheese, Potato Chips, Cutco/KaBar Knives... this is just a start, we need your help and suggestions for items to present at the convention.



**February 13 - 17, 2019 in Nashville, TN**

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

If you can assist us with this, please bring your items to the January 2018 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 [ncridley@yahoo.com](mailto:ncridley@yahoo.com).