

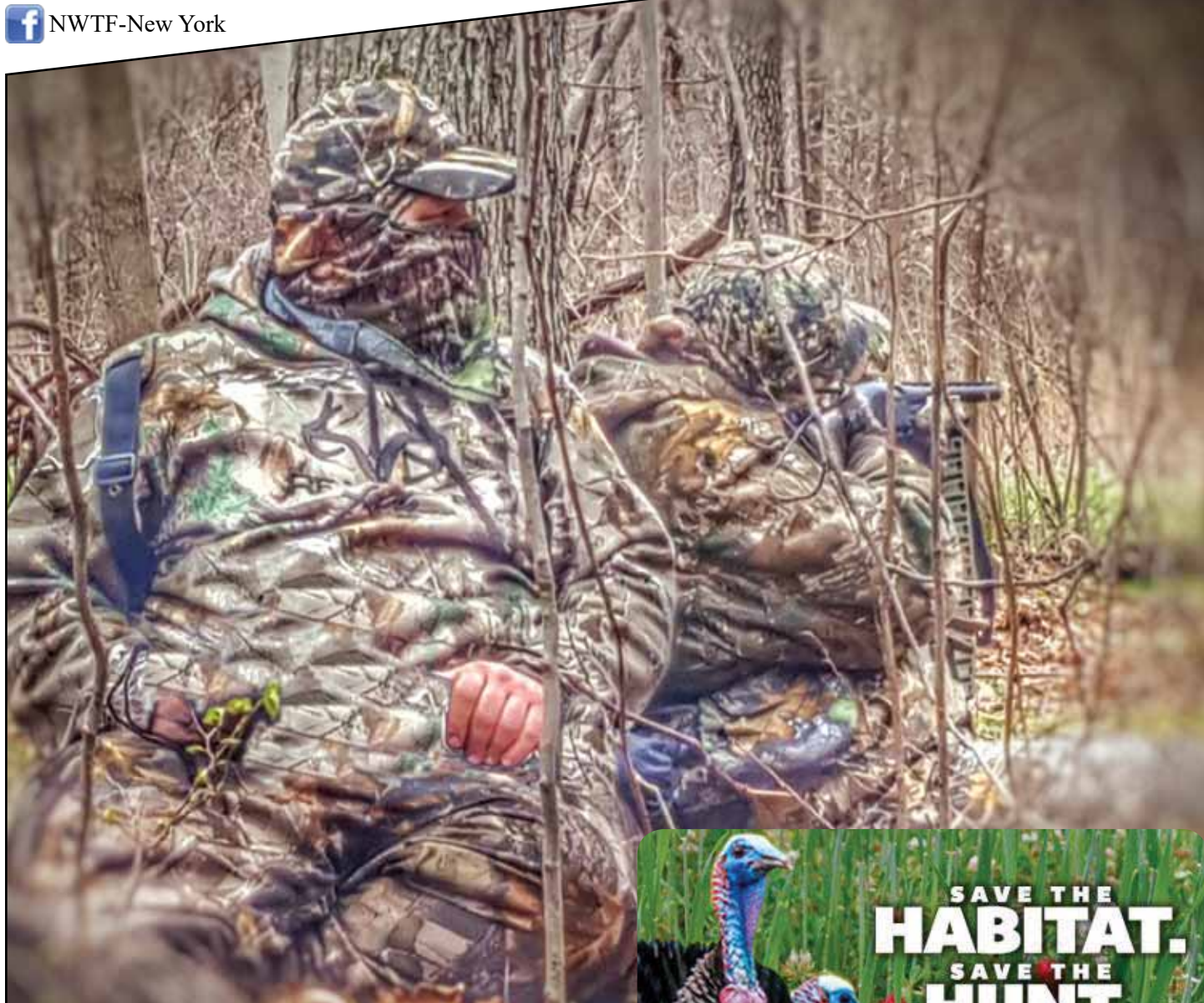
Turkey Tales

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

A NEW YORK STATE CHAPTER PUBLICATION

www.nwtf.org/about/state/new-york

 NWTF-New York



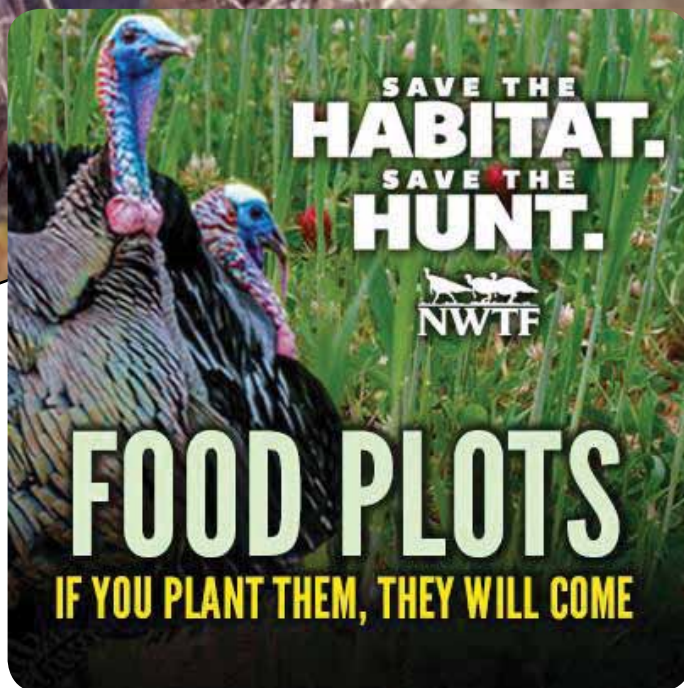
NYS TABLE WINS
AT NWTF CONVENTION

STATE CHAPTER AWARDS BANQUET

STATE LEADERSHIP MEETING

SEED SUBSIDY ON-LINE ORDERING

LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS





Local Chapter Presidents and Leaders received awards for the number of sponsors at their banquets in the above photo. The photo on the front cover shows father and son, Brian and Michael Germano, as they hunt.

IN THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE PRESIDENT & STATE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS LISTING	3
2017 LEADERSHIP MEETING & ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET REPORT	4
XTREME JAKES MEMBER	6
CONSERVATION AWARD	7
NWTF CONVENTION - STATE TABLE WINS/DONORS.....	9
LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS & BANQUET DATES.....	10
NEW STRATEGY ARTICLE	11
ANNUAL 10 GUN RAFFLE/ MORE AWARDS.....	12
NEW YORK TURKEY HUNTING OPEN/ & CALLING CONTEST INFO	13
SAVE THE HUNT UPDATE	14
SAVE THE HABITAT UPDATE	15
SEED SUBSIDY ONLINE ONLY	16



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
Turkey Tales is published biannually by the New York State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF).

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Message from the President

Dear Friends and Fellow NWTF Members,

I have just returned from representing the NY State Chapter at the National Convention in Nashville; what an experience that was. From the energy of the 56,000 attendees to the feeling of being one big family, it was a very inspiring four days. I think that everyone should try to attend this event as there is nothing like it. I am proud to announce that NY won the State Table Challenge and we will get an additional \$2500 in our super fund as a result. I was pleased to hear that NY State is in the forefront on some of our goals for the Save the Habitat Save the Hunt Initiative and is one of the top Chapters in the Country, something we could not have done without your help. I am also pleased to say our fellow New England States are growing by leaps and bounds helping to meet the goals of Save the Habitat Save the Hunt.

While I was there I attended a lot of meetings around our new initiative Save the Habitat Save the Hunt, which will continue to focus our efforts in the years to come. With the favorable conditions last spring a lot of NY had a good hatch which was good given that our turkey population is at 20 year low, and as we are losing hunters faster than we can recruit them I would like to encourage you to introduce or reintroduce a person to hunting and this sport we love so much. Please take advantage of our spring seed subsidy program, this year we have 2 seed blends and crabapple seedlings with the State Chapter paying 50% of the cost to help improve the habitat in your area. Also we are expecting the conservation seed corn to be available in early April this year, these are some of the benefits of being a member of the NWTF. I would also encourage you to attend your local Banquet and to get involved with your local chapter to help preserve this sport we love so much.



Good luck this season and safe hunting,

Bill Wilbur

President, NY State Chapter NWTF

NYS CHAPTER MEETING DATES

MARCH 19, 2017

JULY 9, 2017

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

**ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE HOLIDAY INN, STATE ROUTE 414, WATERLOO, NY
BEGINNING AT 9:30 A.M.**

NWTF

770 Augusta Rd;
Edgefield, SC 29824

Newsletter Editors:

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

Newsletter Designer: Deb Opferbeck

LEADERSHIP MEETING

The New York State Chapter held its Annual Leadership Weekend and Awards Dinner the weekend of January 14th-15th in Waterloo, NY. On Saturday about 60 attendees representing over 25 of the chapters from around the state gathered to learn the latest news and happenings within the NWTF organization as well as to hear some great presentations from our special guests.

The morning started off with a great presentation by retired NWTF biologist Bob Eriksen talking about the history of the wild turkey in the Northeast. Some people were pleasantly surprised to hear just how instrumental New York and, in particular, Allegany State Park were in the re-stocking of wild turkeys all over the Northeast and Canada. It was an honor to have Mr. Eriksen there to tell us first hand stories as he was one of the biologists on the ground making the trap and transfer program happen.



Our next speaker was NWTF Staff member Matt Lindler, Director of Photography and Editor of Turkey Country Magazine and all around media guru. He spent some time talking with us about the mission and goals of NWTF,

a little bit of background on the organization and what the organization means to him as an employee and member. Check out your copy of Turkey Country magazine or your kids JAKES magazine to see some of his amazing photos and read his work.

After a group lunch, the attendees were split up into three groups and rotated through 3 different breakout sessions.

One session was a brainstorming session to work on ways we can be more proactive in our R3 efforts as a state. R3 stands for Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation of hunters. The second breakout session was a class in how to use the 501 online ticket



sales for local chapter banquets. The third breakout session was about the Young Forest Initiative and was presented by NWTF Wildlife Biologist Kristen Schnepp-Giger. Kristen will be concentrating her efforts with the Young Forest Initiative within the Allegheny region, which is an area of special concern for turkey habitat within the state. Kaylee Resha has joined our NWTF field staff team as a Wildlife Biologist to deliver similar work in the southeastern NY counties of Rensselaer, Columbia, Dutchess, Putnam, and Westchester counties.

The day was concluded with a brief afternoon question and answer session and then we moved on to our State Awards Banquet.

Be sure to look in your fall newsletter for an announcement for next year's Leadership Weekend. All members are invited and we are working to provide new and fun experiences for everyone at each Leadership Meeting. If you have something you would like to see at the next Leadership Weekend please email a board member or send us a message on social media.

Bob Eriksen (top, left) and Matt Lindler (bottom, left) speak during the Leadership Meeting in the photos to the left.

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. 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. 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.

AWARDS BANQUET



Pictured to the left is Matt Lindler, Editor, Turkey Country Magazine Jakes Country Magazine and Photography Director for NWTF; the Keynote Speaker for the Awards Banquet event.

In the photo to the right is Board member Butch Kortright with Marissa Peters, Xtreme JAKES of the Year award winner and Board President Bill Wilbur.



Pictured above are members of the SUNY Cobleskill Chapter accepting the Chapter of the Year award. L-to-R: Rickey Rutherford, Alex Clark, Brittany Moore, Kimberly Aney, Chapter President Brandon Keyser, Board Member Randy Opferbeck and President Bill Wilbur.



Pictured above is Norm, Ridley, Member of the Year recipient. With him on the left is Board Member Randy Opferbeck and on the right Board President, Bill Wilbur.

Pictured below is the ECO Officer of the Year, ECI Matthew Nichols. L-to-R: Lt. Kathleen Jacoby, President Bill Wilbur, Nichols, Board Member Howard Travis.



JAKES

Marissa Peters, Sullivan County Long Beards, was selected as the NYS NWTf Xtreme JAKES Member of the Year.

Marissa, of the Sullivan County Long Beards Chapter, is a prime example of the importance of the Save the Habitat - Save the Hunt initiative of the NWTf.

She is an active Xtreme JAKES Member, volunteering at the banquet, working raffle games, displaying auction items and distributing bucket raffle merchandise. She is also a faithful volunteer at most of our JAKES Events.

Due to disabling juvenile arthritis and epilepsy, participating in normal childhood activities is very limited. However, she has found solace when she is hunting with her father or a family friend. She says, "I enjoy the outdoors and the wildlife; to just go out in the woods sit there and listen to the noises of nature".

At the age of 13, Marissa was selected by the Sullivan County Long Beards for a high fence hunt for a Red Stag or Fallow buck provided for a disabled female. After several exciting encounters, she succeeded in taking her fallow buck.

During the youth deer hunt in October of 2016, she won the SCLB's big buck contest. Shoulder mounts of both deer (fallow and white tail) are now on Marissa's bedroom wall. She cherishes both dearly. Pun intended

Marissa is absolutely in her element when she is outdoors pursuing a wild turkey or deer.



A word from NYS-NWTf Chapter JAKES Coordinator, Butch Kortright:

The impact and positive influence (of the NWTf's outreach programs) as is witnessed here, supports the continuation and expansion of these programs. To all local chapters, please put some serious effort into supporting our youth and all outreach programs.



Pictured above, L - to - R:
Kenny Peters (Father) - Marissa Peters (Award Winner) - Donna Peters (Mother).

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The NWTf Academic scholarship program is available for graduating seniors that are members of NWTf. The scholarships for 2017 have been awarded but it is never too early to encourage a student to apply for the 2018 round. All information can be obtained on <http://www.nynwtf.org/scholarships>.

Any graduating senior, with a 3.0 or better GPA pursuing higher education at any accredited institution is eligible.

Winners have an opportunity to receive a minimum of \$250 at the Local Chapter level and will be eligible to win at the State Chapter level which is \$1000 for 1st place or \$500 for 2nd place. The winner at the State Chapter level will go on to compete for a scholarship prize of \$10,000 at the National level.

Keep in mind that this scholarship is a "Conservation Scholarship". Aligning with the NWTf's Save the Habitat - Save the Hunt program with emphasis placed on conservation qualifications.

Any questions or problems contact Butch Kortright - Scholarship Chairman at butch.kortright@gmail.com or 845-292-4325.

The committee members that have the task of evaluating the applicants are: Herb Lederhouse, Norm Ridley, Michael Cali, Jim Gamel & Butch Kortright, Chairman.

THE 2016 CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The inaugural NWTF-NY State Conservation Achievement Award was presented to the Enchanted Mountains Local Chapter. Chapter President Randy Opferbeck received the award on behalf of the chapter volunteers and members during the NWTF-NY State chapter's annual awards banquet on January 14, 2017.

The Enchanted Mountains chapter is one of the original NWTF chapters in NY State. Randy, along with chapter member Fred Evans, has been assisting staff from Allegany State Park to develop a wild turkey restoration museum display at the Red House Area Administrative Building and a monument at the site of the first wild turkey trapping efforts for restoration. The rich history of wild turkey restoration in this local chapter area is not going unrecognized based on the efforts of Randy, Fred and staff at Allegany State Park. The State Park has had a major positive impact on wild turkey restoration in NY and several other northeastern states.

Randy is an NWTF Roger Latham Award winner and chapter member Fred Evans is an NWTF Wayne Bailey Lifetime Achievement Award winner. Both Fred and Randy are in the NYS Outdoorsmen Hall of Fame.



Pictured above, Randy Opferbeck (Middle) accepts the first Conservation Achievement Award on behalf of the Enchanted Mountains Chapter. With Randy are Bob Eriksen (L) and Doug Little (R).

Additionally, Randy has spent a significant amount of time collaborating with NYS DEC Bureau of Forestry staff in Region 9 to develop a habitat project proposal on North Nine Mile State Forest. The project would enhance brood habitat while improving conditions for a variety of game and non-game species of wildlife.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE HISTORY OF THE WILD TURKEY

- In pre-colonial North America wild turkeys numbered approximately 10-12 million.
- By 1930 their numbers were reduced to perhaps 200,000.

NEW YORK DEC DEVELOPED TRAP AND TRANSFER OPERATIONS EARLY

- The first live-capture and transfer occurred in 1959
- 11 turkeys from ASP were moved to another site in Cattaraugus County
- 1959-1962- total of 54 birds moved in county
- Between 1959 and 2000; 1,377 wild turkeys were captured and transferred within NY

NEW YORK RESTORATION HISTORY

- NYDEC contributed 758 wild-trapped turkeys to other states and provinces.
- A total of 2,135 turkeys were trapped by crews, the majority in ASP.
- Allegany State Park has a rich history in wild turkey restoration.
- Wild-trapped turkeys were released in 44 New York Counties.
- New York sent wild turkeys to CT, DE, MA, MN, NH, NJ, ON, RI and VT.
- Without New York the history of wild turkey restoration would not be as rich and successful.

The information above was provided by NWTF Regional Biologist (Retired) Bob Eriksen from a talk given during the 2017 Leadership Meeting.

NEW YORK WINS!

Each State was invited to participate in the State Table Auction at the Saturday Night Awards Dinner in Nashville during the NWTF National Convention. Each state set up a table to be auctioned off. The table that had the highest winning bid won. New York will be receiving an extra \$2,500 in our superfund to be used for outreach events and working towards our goal to Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt.

The State Chapter would like to be part of this project again, therefore we invite anyone to donate for next year. If you are interested in donating something to be a part of the NYS Table auction next year, please contact: Brian Gottfried at camomanbg@gmail.com or send us a message on our facebook page at NWTF-New York.

On behalf of the entire NYS Chapter of the NWTF we would like to thank the following donors for contributing product or services to our table:

1) Henry Golden Boy NYC Engraved - NYS Chapter
2) Turkey Vest and Decoy - Runnings Store
3) Turkey Crossing Sign - Voss Signs
4) 2 Bags NY Potato Chips - Bill Wilbur
5) 1 Gallon Maple Syrup - Enchanted Mountain Chapter
6) ALPS Turkey Vest - Northern Catskill Chapter
7) Hockey Jersey - Northern Catskill Chapter
8) Hockey Puck - Northern Catskill Chapter
9) 1 Bottle Anchor Bar Wing Sauce
10) 1/2 gallon maple Syrup-Muthig Farms-Sullivan Co Lbs
11) 8 bottles of Spiedie marinade
12) 12 Beard Buster gun sights-Dead Ringer Hunting
13) 10 Turkey Broadheads-Dead Ringer Hunting
14) 2 Fantomb Blinds-Dead Ringer Hunting
15) Shooters Field Bag-Dead Ringer Hunting
16) Cutco Hunting Knife - Cutco Corporation
17) Genesee Beer Gift Pack
18) NYS Beer Selection
19) 1 Gallon Maple syrup - Apple Dale Orchards
20) 3 turkey books by Mike Joyner
21) Fishing the Great Lakes Book -Spider Ryback
22) Book - Dave Figura
23) NY crossbow Coalition Hat - NY CC
24) 2 Turkey Calls- Gooseman Game Calls
25) 3 Bottles of wine -Midnite Run Wine Cellars
26) NY Cutting Board - Norm Ridley
27) 2 Bars goat milk soap - Andrew Schibley



28) 3 Turkey Calls - Salmon River
29) Blue bird house- CNY Wild Fowlers
30) Pot Call Empire Gamecalls - Bill Wilbur
31) Pot Call Quakerboy - Bill Wilbur
32) (4) bags apples- Simplaar Farms
33) (2) Bags Onions NY Bold - Bill Wilbur
34) 4 Cans Grandma Browns Beans - Bill Wilbur
35) 4 bottles Honey - Sunswick Farms - Bill Wilbur
36) 46 Bottles of wine - Salmon River
37) 4 Bottles hard cider - Bill Wilbur
38) 1 Bottle moonshine - Bill Wilbur
39) 1 bottle Apple Vodka - Bill Wilbur
40) 2 Bags Death Wish Coffee -Death Wish Coffee Co.
41) Dinosaur BBQ Pack- Dinosaur
42) 12 pack Saranac Beer - Bill Wilbur
43) 1-day Waterfowl Hunt for 4 people- Frontenac Fowlers -Bill Wilbur
44) 2-day Goose Hunt for 2 people- Eastern View Outfitters - Bill Wilbur
45) 2 Night stay Holiday Inn Waterloo
46) Finger Lake wine tour with NYS Pres. - Bill Wilbur
47) Turkey Hunt with Butch Kortright
48) Turkey Call - David Halloran
49) Walleye fishing trip with NYS Pres. - Bill Wilbur
50) Lake Ontario Trout/Salmon Trip with NYS Pres.- Bill Wilbur
51) Stuebenware Glass Piece - Corning Glass - Jim and Karen McGlynn
52) Duel Game Calls Package - Duel Game Calls
53) Quaker Boy-Push Pin Call - Bill Wilbur



The photos above and below depict the display of donated items that were part of the State Table Auction during the Saturday Night Awards Dinner at the NWTF Nation Convention held in Nashville at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center.

In the photo below are members of NYS Board of Directors and their guests behind the State Table Display.



NEWS FROM THE LOCAL FLOCKS

The Crossroads Limbhangers Youth Turkey Hunt at the Shortsville Rod and Gun Club on April 22-23. Contact Brian Gottfried (571) 334-1496 or camomanbg@gmail.com to register as a hunter or a mentor willing to take a kid hunting.

The Chapter will also be hosting the 7th Annual Gobblers in the Gorge Wheelin' Sportsman Turkey Hunt at Letchworth State Park on May 1. Please contact Brian Gottfried (571) 334-1496 or camomanbg@gmail.com for more information.

The Genegantslet Gobblers Hunting Heritage banquet is April 22 at the Port Crane Fire Hall.

The Chapter will also be partnering with the Friends of Rogers Environmental Center to help with their family fishing day June 17. The focus will be on the kids aspect for a JAKES event. We will be buying bait, tackle, etc to help supply youth that come to fish.

The Hardwood Strutters Banquet is April 20, details and tickets can be purchased online or contact Norm Ridley (315) 651-9096 (call or text).

The Chapter will also be hosting JAKES day June 10, 2017. The day is free and we will be giving away a New York State lifetime hunting license. The event will be held at the North Seneca Sportsmen Club on Rt. 318 Phelps, NY. 1 mile West of the Outlet mall. Any youth bringing a non perishable food item for the local food bank will also be in for a special drawing.

The Niagara County Gobblers Chapter - is having its banquet on Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. It is at the Ransomville Vol. Fire Co., 2521 Youngstown Lockport Rd. (Rt. 93), Ransomville, NY. Contact either Herb or Pam Lederhouse at 716-791-3151.

The Springville Strutters Chapter will host its hunting heritage banquet, Saturday April 1st at St. Al's Church Hall, 186 Franklin St, Springville. doors open at 5:00 p.m.; contact Jim Gamel at (716) 592-2388 for tickets or more information.

The Chapter will also be hosting a WITO's event on June 10.



L - to - R: Jim Gamel, Mike Cambareri and Bill Wilbur receive awards as District Directors.

UPCOMING LOCAL CHAPTER BANQUET DATES

APRIL

- 1- SPRINGVILLE STRUTTERS, SPRINGVILLE, NY
- 1- TRI-COUNTY, FREEVILLE, NY
- 2- BORDERLINE LONGBEARDS, MASSENA, NY
- 2- NIAGARA COUNTY GOBBLERS, ALDEN, NY
- 6- LAKE PLAINS, WEBSTER, NY
- 7- OAK ORCHARD, ALBION, NY
- 8- NORTHERN NEW YORK- ALTMAR, NY
- 15- BETWEEN THE LAKES, OVID, NY
- 20- HARDWOOD STRUTTERS. CLYDE, NY
- 21- SCHOHARIE COUNTY- DUANESBURG, NY
- 22- CHAUTAUQUA LAKE, FREWSBURG, NY
- 22- GENEGANTSLET GOBBLERS, PORT CRANE, NY
- 28- OSWEGO RIVER, PHOENIX, NY
- 29- DRUMLINS, CLYDE, NY

MAY

- 6 & 7- NEW YORK TURKEY HUNTING OPEN-COBLESKILL NY
- 12- NORTHERN CATSKILLS- LEEDS, NY
- 14- SUMMER SLAM, HORNELL, NY
- 20- GRAND SLAM GOBBLERS, SAVANNAH, NY
- 20- MOHAWK RIVER STRUTTERS- HERKIMER, NY

JUNE

- 4- SENECA LAKE, PENN YAN, NY
- 9- SALMON RIVER, MEXICO, NY
- 10- SPRINGVILLE STRUTTERS (WITO EVENT)

JULY

- 9- SHAWANGUNK RIDGE, BLOOMINGBURG, NY

AUGUST

- 7- MADISON COUNTY STRUTTERS, HAMILTON, NY

SEPTEMBER

- 30- ENCHANTED MOUNTAINS, OLEAN, NY



NEW STRATEGY

By RANDY OPFERBECK

Gobble! As he had for the past week, the gobbler greeted daylight and the first crow's cawing in the distance. But today would be different, for me at least.

I had chased this gobbler down the ridge every morning that week. He would gobble hard one day, the next he would barely utter a peep. Regardless of what he did, he beat me everyday. I had called a lot, called a little, used different callers and nothing worked!

I have to admit I can be pretty stubborn and the thought of a pile of feathers with a brain not much bigger than a pea beating me up every day was not sitting well. Gobblers are good at frustrating humans. I sometimes think it's their one goal in life, next to finding a little hen cutie.

Time for a new strategy. One thing about this gobbler was his normal off roost direction. It was always the same. Fly down and head south. I never heard hens with him on the roost, so I figured somewhere down the line one or more hens were meeting up with him.

My new strategy, which except for pride, stubbornness and unwillingness to change, should have happened a couple days prior, was to simply get south of him on the ridge and let him come to me.

As turkey hunters, we get into a rut sometimes. We do all the basics right but, we fail to adapt to the situation. We think, 'I am a good caller and hunter that turkey will come', not considering important aspects of the hunt like are we in a bad calling location, where does he meet hens, where does he feed, strut, etc. I'm as guilty as the next guy and I should know better. I have been hunting turkey for over 40 years. One thing I have learned is that a gobbler goes where he wants and does what he wants and we, as hunters need to try to figure that out!

As I settled in next to a tree to wait, I heard the gobbler answer a crow. He was on the ground now. I waited forty-five minutes without calling or hearing a gobble. I knew he was there somewhere. The waiting and silence was killing me. I yelped very softly on my Quaker Boy Split V Mouth Call. A minute, then two passed. Gobble! He knew I was there. I needed to wait more.

Close to 15 more minutes passed when I caught a movement 75 yards away. A wing flap! Was it the gobbler or another turkey? I waited some more.

My eyes strained to see something or anything that might be the gobbler. A bit of black movement was all I could make out. I knew it was him, it had to be. But he was taking no chances and likely he was looking for a hen before committing further. We were in a stalemate. Who would crack?

More time went by, hours, minutes, I don't know! Like a ghost, he appeared out of the foliage and gobbled. I had him now. He wasn't stupid though and he continued to look and listen but, slowly he moved closer.

At 30 yards he obliged me by stepping up on a knoll with his head stuck straight up, his 10-inch beard almost dragging the ground. An easy shot, just move my gun slightly and boom! It was over! Well, sort of!

At the shot, the gobbler flew off and a sapling in front of me exploded and crashed to the ground. I sat there shaking my head in disbelief at first, and then I just laughed. What else could I do? Talk about a cat having 9 lives. Seems like this gobbler got in on that deal. That bugger had beaten me once again.

I did everything right, except the last one. Shooting him! That is why it is called hunting, I guess, and why it is my favorite hunt. Well, except for the sapling jumping in front of my gun part.



In the above photo, the author is shown with a gobbler from a successful hunt.

NYS CHAPTER'S ANNUAL 10 GUN RAFFLE

New York State Chapter of The National Wild Turkey Federation ANNUAL RAFFLE

- 1st Browning A Bolt III .270 w/ Nikon Scope or \$500
- 2nd Thompson Center Venture .308 or \$450
- 3rd Parker Bushwacker Crossbow or \$400
- 4th Remington 870 Turkey 12 GA. or \$350
- 5th Henry H00 1M .22 Magnum or \$325
- 6th Ruger American Rifle .243 or \$300
- 7th Savage Axis XP 7mm-08 or \$275
- 8th Savage B mag .17 HMR or \$250
- 9th H & R Pardner 20 GA. or \$225
- 10th Remington 597 .22 LR or \$175

Drawing July 9, 2017 at the NYS Chapter Summer Board Meeting. Donation \$2.00 per ticket. Book of 10 for \$15.00. Winner need not be present to win. Winners are responsible for local dealer transfer charges.

The Annual 10 Gun Raffle tickets will be mailed out to all members in NYS in early April. All members that sell \$105 or more in raffle tickets, the state chapter will present the seller with a limited edition New York State Chapter Frosted Glass Call. These Quaker Boy Frosted Glass Calls have a beautiful oak base with a slate interior base; and they were specifically designed as an incentive for this raffle. Remember, you cannot buy this call anywhere. The edition is limited to 50 calls, which are truly a one of a kind collector's item that you will love to own. If you do not receive your tickets, please call Randy Opferbeck at (716) 373-3322.



Leadership Meeting attendees listen to Matt Lindler's presentation about NWTF publications.



Becky Werchowski receives an award from President Bill Wilbur for the WITO Event that Springville Strutters held.



Eric Davis from the Genegantslet Gobblers Chapter receives the RD's Most Improved Chapter Award from Regional Director Sean Langevin.



NEW YORK TURKEY HUNTING OPEN

May 6th and 7th

Scoring at Cobleskill Outdoor Sports, 116 France Lane, Cobleskill, NY

12:00 Noon - 2:00 p.m. on Saturday

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. on Sunday

Dinner is at 1:30 p.m. Sunday May 7th

at Locomotion's Sports Bar and Grill, Cobleskill, NY

\$150.00 Per Team

- Includes 2 Tournament Entries
- 2 Yearly NWTF Memberships
- 2 Meals on Sunday
- 2 Yeti 30 Oz Rambler Mugs



NEW TO 2017!!!! Biggest Bird Category. Highest scoring Turkey will win 2017 Beretta A300 12 gauge Camo turkey gun

2017 PRIZES- 1st Place: 2 Yeti 65 Tundra White Cooler with NWTF Logo
2nd Place: 2 Yeti 45 Tundra White Cooler with NWTF Logo
3rd Place: 2 Yeti Roadie 20 White Cooler with NWTF Logo

Additional Dinner tickets may be purchased for \$20

Make sure to like the New York Turkey Hunting Open facebook page for updates!

Call or email Sean Langevin at 607-427-5795 to register or

register online at www.nwtf.org/events

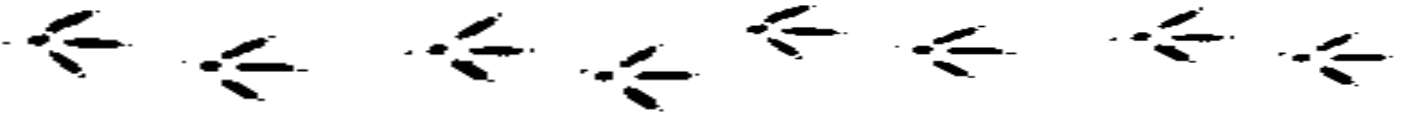
Take a Kid Hunting - Any youth under 16 years old that brings in a turkey to score will be entered to win an Avian X hen Decoy. Youth does not have to be on a team to win.

BE THE BEST TURKEY HUNTER IN NEW YORK STATE.

Rules- Each team consists of 2 people, only 2 birds per team will be scored, highest cumulative score wins.

Scoring on NWTF scoring system, all final decisions made by NWTF Staff, NO NWTF Staff may enter.

Any illegal activity or cheating will result in automatic removal from contest.



Participants from the 2016 NYS CALLING CONTEST appear in the photo above: Jason Pollack, Michael Pollack and Clay Erb.

THE NEW YORK STATE CALLING CONTEST

is scheduled for Sunday, April 9 2017 at Bass Pro in Auburn NY. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the contest will start at 1:00 p.m. The contest is being sponsored by Bass Pro Shops and Lynch Mob Calls. Calling categories will be: Open, Resident, Friction, Intermediate, Gobbling, Owl Hooting, Amateur, and Poult divisions.

My head is still spinning from the last few days spent at the NWTF National Convention in Nashville, TN. I had been sitting at the computer staring at the above sentence for about 15 minutes when my phone rang. It's a name I had just put in my phone while I was in Nashville. What are the odds? It's an NWTF staff member from another state and he's calling to tell me he's glad I'm okay after "the crash". Considering I haven't been in any crashes (ever) I questioned his meaning. Turns out there is a guy with a similar name on Facebook who was in an accident on his way home from Nashville. Easy mistake, but that's not the point I'm getting at. The point I'm getting at is that I got the call. Someone who I see once, maybe twice per year took time out of their day to call me and say they were glad I wasn't injured in a car crash. That's something expected from close friends and family not an annual acquaintance. This is what the NWTF means to me. It's more than just friends, it's family.

I was struggling on what to write about because I was reminiscing about the convention last week, all the new friendships created, the old friendships revisited, and the buzz that fills the air (along with all the turkey calls). That buzz is what everyone is there for. Sure, there are turkey calling contests, an expo that rivals any other outdoor show on earth, achievement awards to win, and even a ton of auctions and raffles to possibly win a hunting trip, a gun or even a boat. But that buzz, it's hard to describe. It's not about the material things, it's not about the turkey calls. It's about the common thread that runs through every person you pass in the hall, sit next to at lunch or walk behind through the expo hall. It's about living an outdoor lifestyle. You can ride in an elevator with someone you've never seen before and walk out when it gets to your floor with one more friend to add to your list. The sense of family and camaraderie at that convention is something I've never experienced anywhere else. I hope you get a chance to come experience that feeling at the next NWTF National Convention in 2018. In the meantime, you can get a very similar experience by attending one of the local banquets that are going on all over the state this spring. Check www.nwtf.org/events for the nearest banquet to you.

There is always a new theme or catch phrase that is announced at each convention. This year the

convention was called Turkey Town. Turkey Town is about the partnerships the NWTF has made to raise funds for Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt. NWTF has partnered with outdoor brands such as Mossy Oak, Avian X/Zink Calls, Nomad, Yeti, and Alps Outdoors to create licensing agreements to generate funds to Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt. If you see the NWTF logo on a product, you can be sure that a portion of the money from the sale is going directly towards funding Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt programs.

As I've written in the past we are constantly working to recruit new hunters. I want to challenge everyone that reads this to take one new person hunting this year. Spring turkey season is right around the corner and it's a great time to introduce someone to the hunting and outdoor lifestyle. The weather is nice, the woods are waking up from the winter and there's always a chance of hearing a turkey gobble. It's hard to have a bad day in the turkey woods. If you take a new person turkey hunting, as a member of NWTF you can report that as a mentored hunt. You can report them on the website by clicking on the box with the green arrow (as seen in the picture below) when you are on the webpage www.nwtf.org/about/hunting-heritage.

If that sounds like too much of a hassle, simply email me at camomanbg@gmail.com or call me at (571) 334-1496 and I will take down the information and get the hunt reported for you. The best way to know if we are making a difference is by trying to record this data. If you don't take anyone new hunting this year, at least urge your local NWTF chapter to hold an outreach event that focuses on recruiting new and lapsed hunters. We need all the help we can get recruiting new hunters this year.

Stay safe this spring, take someone new out in the field, and most importantly....have fun!



A horizontal banner with a dark blue background. On the left, white text reads "Register and Report your HUNTING HERITAGE PROGRAMS events". To the right of this text are four small, square photographs showing people hunting and posing with their trophies. On the far right, there are two dark blue rectangular boxes with white text. The first box has a yellow arrow pointing down and contains the text: "CLICK HERE to access MYNWTF to register or report NWTF chapter facilitated events" followed by a bulleted list: "• JAKES", "• Women in the Outdoors", and "• Wheelin' Sportsmen". The second box has a green arrow pointing down and contains the text: "CLICK HERE to report non-registered NWTF events/activities" followed by a bulleted list: "• NWTF involvement in:", "• state agency mentored hunts", "• personal mentored hunts", "• volunteer taught", and "Hunter Ed classes".

SAVE THE HABITAT UPDATE NEW YORK

New York Conservation Objectives

The NWTF established several conservation-related goals pursuant to the Save the Habitat. initiative. These conservation objectives include working with our partners for diverse and healthy forests and improved grassland health. A premium is placed on projects that will improve wild turkey nesting/young forest cover, brood rearing habitat, and winter foraging habitat. We will work strategically towards our objectives by conducting work in critically important areas for wild turkeys and other upland gamebirds, called NWTF Focal Landscapes. These focal landscapes in NY were established based on areas of the most significant wild turkey population declines.

Our Goals: Conserve or enhance 6,000 acres of private land habitat annually, Conserve or Enhance 5,000 acres of public land habitat in the next 5 years; Conserve or enhance 500 acres of corporate/industrial habitat in the next 5 years. These goals are put in place to help increase our state's wild turkey population back up to the 225,000 level.

Initiative Progress – Since the inception of Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. in New York, 16,336 acres have been conserved/enhanced through 2016. Many projects have taken place within NWTF focal landscapes to address key NWTF conservation objectives. The map provided shows the location of cooperative projects completed since we embarked on this journey to Save the Habitat and Save the Hunt.

Acres specific to conservation objectives include:

Public Land: 2,868 acres enhanced since 2013
(see map below)

Private Land: 13,468 acres of public land enhanced since 2013

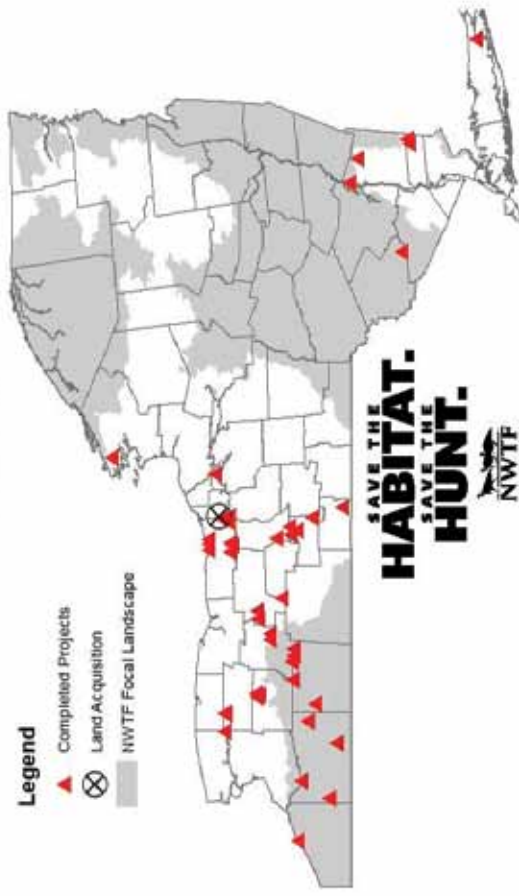
Wild Turkey Specific Benefits include:

Brood & Nesting/ Young Forest Habitat = 3,683 Acres

Winter foraging habitat = 12,653 Acres

Access: 67 Acres added to Northern Montezuma WMA

New York Public Land Habitat Projects 2013-16



Article by Doug Little, Conservation Field Manager;
Photo by Ryan Boyer, NWTF District Biologist.



770 Augusta Rd
Edgefield, SC 29824

SPRING 2017 - NYS CHAPTER - NWTF NEWSLETTER



STATE SEED SUBSIDY OFFER

A **NEW ONLINE SYSTEM** is being introduced and implemented. This exclusive ordering system will give **YOU** the opportunity to place and pay for your subsidized order online, saving time and improving our efficiency.

This **ONLINE ORDERING SYSTEM** will replace printed forms and eliminate the need to fax or mail your order as you did in the past. This will give you access to available products in your state; you will receive a confirmation email at the end of your order. If you do not receive an email confirmation, please check your SPAM folder.

This is a first-come, first-served program, so order early!
We are unable to accept phone orders.

To view your state's offerings and access the new online system, visit: www.nwtf.org/subsidy

NOTE: To access the online ordering page, the cookies on your computer must be enabled. You must either enter your membership number or type your name and address exactly as it appears on the address box of the Turkey Country magazine.

