

SPRING 2018 Volume 43, Issue 1

TurkeyTales

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

A NEW YORK STATE CHAPTER PUBLICATION

 NWTF-New York

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



NYS BBQ BASH & FAMILY FUN DAY

NEW FAMILY EVENT TO BE HELD JULY 28, 2018

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. On the Cover: 2 men celebrate an early morning success with a high five!

IN THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE PRESIDENT & STATE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS LISTING	3
2018 LEADERSHIP MEETING & ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET REPORT	4
NATIONAL CONVENTION.....	6
NATIONAL AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS	8
GOBBLER TIPS	9
LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS & BANQUET DATES NYS BBQ BASH & FAMILY FUN DAY	10
SPRING SEED SUBSIDY	11
ANNUAL 10 GUN RAFFLE/CALLING CONTEST.....	12
NEW YORK TURKEY HUNTING OPEN/ & NY TREE FARM FIELD DAYS	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
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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 NWTF National Convention in Nashville. There is nothing like the feeling of being one big family, visiting with friends, old and new, and sharing our love of the Wild Turkey. I am proud to announce that NY won the State Table Challenge for the second year in a row and that we will get an additional \$2500 in our super fund. I am also pleased to announce that NY State members won both the Wheelin' Sportsmen Volunteer of the year and JAKES Volunteer of the year and our SUNY Cobleskill Chapter won the top membership of a college chapter.

As this will be my last president's message as your State Chapter President, I would like to thank you for all your hard work these last six years. It has been a pleasure to meet so many of you during my term as president and I can say that I will never forget the experience. I hope you will give my successor the same support you gave me and help with our mission to Save The Habitat Save the Hunt.

In closing 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 hopefully sunflower seed, 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.

Thank you so very much,

Bill Wilbur

President, NY State Chapter NWTF



NYS CHAPTER MEETING DATES

JULY 29, 2018 *

SEPTEMBER 9, 2018 *

JANUARY 13, 2019 - AWARDS BANQUET - Location TBD

JANUARY 14, 2019 - BOARD MEETING

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

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

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 13th-14th in Syracuse, NY. On Saturday, attendees representing 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 **Biology Hour** with presentations by Doug Little, Conservation Field Manager (pictured in the photo to the left) and Kaylee Resha, Wildlife Biologist for Eastern New York (pictured in the photo below).

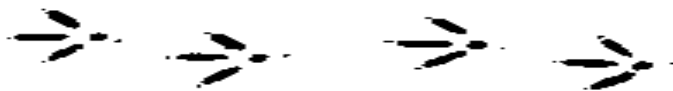
The next session informed attendees about Chapter and Volunteer Recruitment, the lifeline of the NWTf and Conservation as we know it, leading the discussions was Sean Langevin, Regional Director (pictured below).



After a group lunch, the attendees were split up into three groups and rotated through 3 different breakout sessions. These sessions discussed JAKES, WITO and Wheelin Sportsmen Programs. Learning how to improve your banquet and front door efficiency with event management online system was included in the breakout sessions also.



National Wild Turkey Federation Board Directors, Scott Hill (below, left) and Vince Rosdahl (below, right), spoke about the direction of the National Board and goals under the new CEO, Becky Humphries. The Directors answered questions from the audience.



NOMINATIONS ARE REQUESTED

GIVE HONOR TO THE EFFORTS OF YOUR
CHAPTER FOR ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OR A MEMBER FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION:

MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Do you know of an exceptional NWTf member? The NYS Chapter every year honors a special member as The Chapter Member of the Year. If you would like to submit a deserving individual, the Award Committee would like to hear from you. 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 12/17/18, to Randy Opferbeck, Awards Committee, 3164 N. Nine Mile Rd, Allegany, NY 14706.

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

Are you proud of your chapter and its 2018 accomplishments such as; your outreach efforts, membership growth, projects and events? If so, the NYS Chapter Awards Committee would like to consider your chapter for the Local 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 12/17/18, so that your chapter can be considered for this prestigious award. Send the information to Randy Opferbeck, Awards Committee; 3164 N. Nine Mile Rd., Allegany, NY 14706.

2018 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET



MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Pictured above is Chad MacDonald, Member of the Year recipient. With him on the left is Regional Director, Marty Huber, on the right is President Bill Wilbur and Regional Director, Sean Langevin.

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Shown in the picture to the left is Eric Davis, President of the Genegantslet Gobblers Chapter. This Chapter was chosen to receive the Chapter of the Year Award.

ECO OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Pictured below is the ECO Officer of the Year, ECO Gary Wilson. L-to-R: Honorary Board Member Howard Travis, President Bill Wilbur, ECO Wilson,



Officer Wilson was chosen for his hard work, dedication and investigative work in resolving an incident during deer season wherein a house was shot by a hunter.

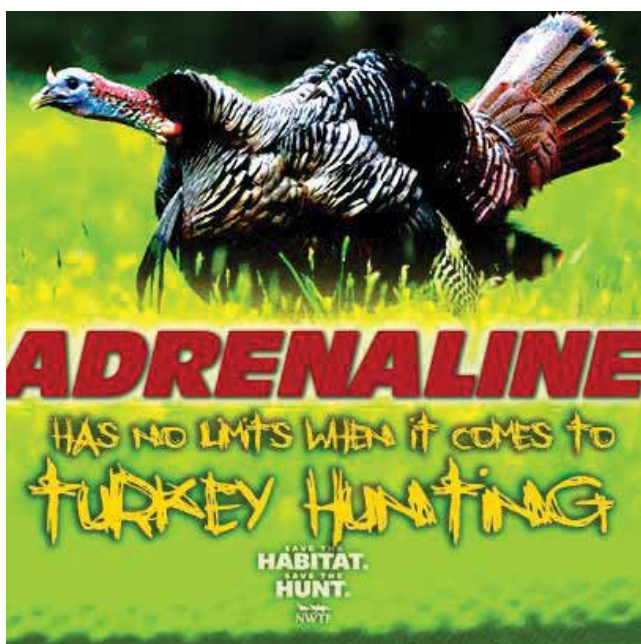
JAKES OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER



Pictured to the left is JAKES OF THE YEAR winner, Teddy Burrows being congratulated by JAKES Coordinator, Butch Kortright. Theodore (Teddy) Burrows from Pine City, NY. is an active member of the Chemung Valley

Ridge Runners Chapter. He has been a junior fireman for 2 years. He, and an associate, generated over \$500 in a can and bottle drive for the fire company. He is a leader within his Scout Troop 43. Teddy earned his Eagle Scout rank by completely refurbishing a memorial garden at Grace Church earning 48 merit badges, 5 Eagle Palms as well as several other conservation awards. He had many hours providing community services.

He has been very loyal to the NWTf being one of the 1st youth banquet sponsors, using funds he raised from mowing grass and shoveling snow. He has continued his sponsorship for 4 years now.



NEW YORK WINS AGAIN!

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 and the table that had the highest winning bid won. New York's table won the highest bid at \$4,700 and 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.

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:

Custom Engraved Henry Golden boy	NY State Chapter
Remington 870 NWTF 25th Anniversary Gun Of the year	Howard Travis
Turkey Hunt	Butch Kourtright
Walleye Fishing Trip for 2	Bill Wilbur
Trout or Salmon Fishing trip for 2	Bill Wilbur
Finger Lakes Wine Tour for 2	Bill Wilbur
Hand Blown Steuben Glass Rainbow Trout	
Dick Kirby Original Box Call	Quakerboy
Quakerboy Call package of 16 calls	Quakerboy
David Halloren Pot Call	Dave Halloren
54 Bottle Wine Rack	Salmon River Chapter
58 Bottles of NY State Wines	Bill Wilbur/NY State winemakers
Several Bottles Hard Cider, Apple Vodka, Craft Beer	Bill Wilbur
Jugs Maple Syrup	NY State Chapter
Jar "Chicken Shit" Buffalo dip and "wet your weenie" sauce	Bill Wilbur
3-Six Packs Ellicottville Brewing Company Beer & Six pack mixed craft	Randy Opferbeck
Dinosaur BBQ sauce, BBQ Rub, Canale's Italian Dressing	NY State Chapter
Hellacious hot sauce, Sal's sassy sauce	NY State Chapter
3 Shakers of Buck's Seasonings, jar Nance's mustard	NY State Chapter
Joey's Pasta sauce and Boss sauce	NY State Chapter
State Fair Chicken BBQ sauce, Grandma Brown's Beans	NY State Chapter
Weber's Horseradish Mustard, Turkey Joints Candy	NY State Chapter
Terrell's Cheese twists, 6 Kind Bars	NY State Chapter
2 Hats and 3 subscriptions to NY Outdoors News	NY Outdoors News
Box Call and Owl hooter call	Gooseman Game Calls
10 packs Iron Skillet Seasonings, 3 Shakers Old Saratoga Spice Rubs and Shirt	Iron Skillet & Old Saratoga Spice
7 Healthy Kitchen Gourmet Soup mix	Healthy Kitchen Soup
2 Bags New Hope Mills Pancake Mixes	Ken Burd
3 six packs Genesee Beer and set of Glasses	Genesee Beer
Lynch Mob Pot calls	Lynch Mob game calls
NY State Shaped Granite Cutting board	
Cheese Package	
6 Bottles Midnight Run Wine Cellars, Ransomville, NY	Herb & Pam Lederhouse



It's one of the biggest consumer shows in the country; where conservation and hunting's most devoted supporters come together for a weekend of networking, learning and a lot of fun. We've put together a convention and sport show that celebrates more than 40 years of conservation successes by NWTF volunteers and partners. It also is a pep rally for great things to come. Our philosophy: Make the experience exciting and fun, and you'll have folks who return each year and, also bring their friends. Things just keep getting better for us at the NWTF. We'd love to have you join the celebration.

If you ever get the chance to attend one of NWTF's conventions, don't hesitate. It is an experience to remember, in the gorgeous setting of The Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. One of the most unique resorts ever seen, with atriums, walkways, botanical gardens and even a waterway with a boat ride. There are also shops and restaurants along their hallways.

The sports show is huge! Anything you could ever want can be seen there for sale. There are also seminars to attend, luncheons, dinners, auctions, raffles and so much more! It is an experience you will always remember!

The 2019 Convention and Sports Show will be February 15 - 17, 2019. Plan to attend!

WINNING NEW YORK STATE TABLE DISPLAY



The photo above left, depicts a side view which shows a custom made wine rack with the donated bottles of wine. The front view of the display shows the other 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.

SUNY-COBLESKILL CHAPTER WINS LA DIXON AWARD



The local college chapter from SUNY-Cobleskill, received the LA Dixon Outstanding College Chapter Award for Highest Membership. Kyle Magdziuk is the Chapter President. Some of the members were able to attend the National Convention to receive their prestigious award.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Earl “Butch” Kortright accepted the JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship) Volunteer of the Year award during the 42nd annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show.



The NWTF determined this year's award winners based on how their work strengthens the Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative.

“Receiving the JAKES Volunteer of the Year award is an honor for me,” said Kortright, of Parksville New York. “I have been an NWTF member for 37 years and an active volunteer for 15. Receiving and

enjoying the outdoors from my own hunting heritage, I feel it is my obligation to give back. My greatest reward is seeing the smiling faces, positive feedback and reactions of the youth who I inspire.”

From inspiring youth during annual events to inspiring the local business community to get involved, Kortright's volunteer spirit is contagious. He recruits volunteers to help make the Sullivan County Long Beards JAKES program a success each year.

In 2016, there were more than 750 JAKES members in the entire state of New York; however, more than 200 of those were from the Sullivan County chapter where Kortright is a volunteer.

“Butch has the true volunteer's heart,” said Becky Humphries, NWTF CEO. “Through his actions, he inspires the youth at these events, and he inspires others to get involved as well. We are thankful for volunteers like Butch who give so much of themselves to our organization.



NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Bill Wilbur's devotion to providing outdoor opportunities to individuals with mobility impairments and special needs earned him a national award from the National Wild Turkey Federation.

He accepted the Wheelin' Sportsmen Volunteer of the Year award during the 42nd annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show.

“It is an honor to be named the Wheelin' Sportsmen Volunteer of the Year and to be recognized for what I have done, but the greatest reward is the gratitude of the disabled individuals whose lives I have touched,” Wilbur said.

The NWTF determines its award winners based on how their work strengthens the organization's Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative.

From the local to the state level, Wilbur's dedication to the Wheelin' Sportsmen program is evident. Wilbur, of Mexico, New York, established New York's Wheelin' Sportsmen program, has served as the program coordinator since the beginning and has helped grow the program by getting new chapters involved and increasing the number of Wheelin' events held each year. The Salmon River Strutters, where Wilbur serves as president, holds five to seven Wheelin' events each year, many on Wilbur's land.

“Bill's dedication to the Wheelin' program is easy to see,” said Becky Humphries, NWTF CEO. “From coordinating hunts to inspiring other chapters to establish new events, he works tirelessly for the mission. Without Bill's, and countless other volunteers' devotion, many would not get to enjoy our great outdoors.”

The NWTF Wheelin' Sportsmen program provides all people with disabilities opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. NWTF chapters host Wheelin' Sportsmen events across North America to help participants gain a sense of independence by learning to stay active in the outdoors on their own.



2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The New York State Chapter is proud to announce the winners of the two annual state scholarships.

- * First Place Winner of \$1,000 is Benjamin Butler from the Genegantslet Gobblers Chapter.
- * Second Place Winner of \$500 is Alexis Reeves from Sullivan County Long Beards Chapter.

Gobbler Tips

by Randy Opferbeck

I was checking out my mouth callers last weekend only to find all, but one sounded like a squealing rabbit or bullfrog. Neither of which would do me much good calling turkeys.

I kept the callers in the refrigerator to keep them from drying out, but I had forgotten to moisten them with water every couple of weeks to keep the latex fresh. I knew better, but at least I found my error well before season so I can replace them. Had I waited until opening day before checking them, I would have been out of luck. Being prepared makes a better turkey hunter.

Turkey hunting is not easy. Old gobblers survive because of their guile and wariness and for an unprepared hunter bagging one can be next to impossible. I go through a lot of preseason preparation, but I have isolated several things I think are most important for success and I am passing them along in the following paragraphs.

1. Be sure your turkey callers are in proper working order. If your mouth callers are bad, toss them and get new ones and have them well before season.

a. Friction callers should be checked for cracks in the wood or slate or for other necessary repairs. Proper maintenance should be done to assure they are functioning properly. Sanding, chalking and tweaking adjustment screws or wires should be completed to get the maximum sound and efficiency from the caller.

b. Practice all your callers until you are comfortable with them and can make all the basic turkey sounds. If you need instruction on how to use a particular caller, seek out an expert that can teach you, go to a turkey hunting seminar, turkey calling contest or buy a DVD that you can learn from in your own home. Quaker Boy Game Calls makes excellent instructional DVD's on learning both friction and air operated callers. Confidence and high quality sounding callers will call in more gobblers.

2. Scout the areas you plan to hunt diligently.

a. Learn where the turkeys roost, strut and feed. Find possible set up and ambush sites before season as well as obstacles to calling.

b. Look for sign, tracks, droppings, feathers, etc.

c. Listen for gobblers in the morning and evening.

Remember this is scouting not hunting or calling, get in and out of the areas without spooking any turkeys that are there. A spooked turkey is ten times harder to call than a relaxed one.

d. If the land you hunt is private, be sure to get permission from the landowner. Make sure you are welcome. Ownership and attitudes can change; don't get a ticket for trespassing on land you "thought" you had permission to hunt. Not only will it ruin your hunt, but also it makes all hunters look bad.

3. Probably the most overlooked piece of equipment the hunter carries is his gun. Gobblers are missed or wounded every year simply because the shooter has no idea where his gun delivered its shot load. Turkeys are tough to kill and its head and neck are the most vulnerable, a tight shot load must be placed in that small area.

a. Shotguns need to be aimed like rifles with the shot pattern to hit at point of aim. Even though my gun is well tuned and has had dozens of shots put through it, every year is different and I make sure my pattern is still hitting the point of aim. Little things like a sight being jarred, a loose barrel or scope screw could affect where the shot pattern ends up. Even changing brands of shells or shot size can make a big difference. Always pattern your gun before season!

b. I also like to experiment with different choke tubes and shot loads to get maximum efficiency from my gun. It is amazing how different each can be. The more I shoot the more I want to try to improve on how my gun performs.

c. I also think it is important to camouflage the gun to prevent glare off it from alarming an approaching gobbler. Many guns today come already camoed up, but if yours isn't camo tape or paint works fine.

d. A sling doesn't hurt either. Turkey hunting often involves covering a lot of ground and a gun can become a burden to carry. Why let it when a sling can lighten the load.

4. Another overlooked but very important part of the turkey-hunting piece is the camouflage clothing that you wear. With time, camo becomes faded and can actually stick out like a sore thumb in the woods. I have seen hunters wearing camo that was out of style 20 years ago. I could see them a mile away in the woods. A turkey can out see me ten fold, so I am pretty sure he can see them too! You are in a gobbler's living room anytime you enter the woods. With his eyesight and ability to identify unnatural or out of place objects you must blend in perfectly with the surroundings or he will pick you out in a heartbeat. Some hunters like to use different camo patterns depending on the time of the season, predominantly green for spring and brown for fall. That is ideal but, if you don't have money for multiple sets of clothes, all-purpose patterns will be fine. There are so many good patterns I cannot really say one is better than the other. Just find the best one for the areas you hunt. I personally wear a Real Tree all-purpose camo pattern. I have hunted from Texas to Florida to Michigan and back wearing the same camo outfit. It worked great everywhere.

a. Also, be sure to have good camo gloves and face covering as well.

5. Check your other equipment. A compass and topographical maps of hunting areas are a must. Comfortable boots, rain gear, flashlight, turkey vest and seat are also important.

6. Get in shape! Turkey hunting can be a grind. Early mornings, big hills, lots of hiking, exhaustion and sore bodies can make turkey hunting a tremendously demanding sport. I will be the first to acknowledge I need to get my act together. Some health problems and laziness this past winter have really gotten me out of shape. The loss of 10 pounds and getting my legs and lungs where they should be will be tough, but lying in bed because of aching muscles and tiredness won't bag any gobblers either.

7. Learn more about hunting turkeys. Read books, watch DVD's, talk to experts, attend seminars and spend time in the woods. Every bit of knowledge you can gain will help your hunt be more successful.

8. Hunt safely. Follow the basic rules of gun handling and especially:

a. Never point your gun at anything you do not intend to shoot.

b. Always be sure your target is a legal gobbler. There is no excuse for shooting another hunter or a hen.

c. Think safety every time you are in the woods.

Have a successful season and take a youngster or new hunter a field so they can experience the magic of the spring turkey woods.



The author is shown above with his spring turkey.

NEWS FROM THE LOCAL FLOCKS

The Crossroads Limbangers Youth Turkey Hunt at the Shortsville Rod and Gun Club will be held on April 21-22. 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 their 8th Annual Wheelin' Sportsman Turkey Hunt on Saturday May 5th on private property in Livingston County Please contact Brian Gottfried (571) 334-1496 or camomanbg@gmail.com for more information.

Southern Tier Chapter

Members from the chapter attended the NYS Annual Awards Banquet in Syracuse and had a wonderful time.



In the photo above, from left to right : Cherry Carley, Larry Shutts, Doug Doty, Russ Avery, Paul Litynski, RJ Avery, Andy Munson, and Chris Hinman.

UPCOMING LOCAL CHAPTER BANQUET DATES

4/5/2018	Lake Plains	Webster
4/7/2018	Tri-County chapter	Ithaca
4/8/2018	Niagara County Gobblers	Youngstown
4/13/2018	Oak Orchard River	Albion
4/13/2018	Mohawk River	Herkimer
4/14/2018	Springville Strutters	Springville
4/19/2018	Hardwood Strutters	Geneva
4/20/2018	Genesee Chapter	Batavia
4/20/2018	Schoharie County	Duanesburg
4/21/2018	Northern New York	Alexandria Bay
4/27/2018	Oswego River	Fulton
4/28/2018	Drumlins chpt	Clyde
5/5/2018	Chautauqua Lake	Frewsburg
5/5-6/2018	N Y Turkey Hunting Open	
5/19/2018	Grand Slam Gobblers	Wolcott
5/19/2018	Northern Catskills	Leeds
5/20/2018	Summer Slam	Hornell
6/1/2018	Salmon River Strutters	Sandy Creek
6/3/2018	Seneca Lake	Dresden
6/9/2018	Springville Strutters Wito Event	Chaffee
8/25/2018	Guns & Lobster Bash	Candor
TBD	Madison County	Clinton
9/15/2018	Mohawk Valley Sharpshooters	Johnstown
9/22/2018	Enchanted Mountains	Olean

NYS BBQ BASH & FAMILY FUN DAY

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY JULY 28, 2018

On Saturday July 28, 2018, the New York State Chapter is hosting a family day at the North Seneca Sportsman's Club, 334 NY 318, Phelps, NY 14532. This exciting day will be filled with shooting using shotguns, rifles, BB Guns, and crossbows. There will also be educational opportunities for landowners regarding maximizing the potential of your land for wildlife habitat and general wildlife biology for all ages. There will be a BBQ and a band to round out the afternoon and evening. We can all sit around and share hunting stories and celebrate the family atmosphere that comes with being a part of the hunting lifestyle. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the National Wild Turkey Federation and also a great time to introduce someone new to the lifestyle of shooting and hunting. We strongly encourage people of all ages, as well as those who are not hunters, to attend and learn more about hunting and the outdoors. Registration is \$5.00 per person; children 11 and under are free. The event will start at 1:00 p.m.

You can register online at www.nwtf.org/events (search by New York and the Date).

For more information, contact Brian Gottfried at 571-334-1496 or camomanbg@gmail.com.

New York Spring Subsidy Offer

The New York State Chapter Board of Directors is pleased to offer its members the opportunity to purchase several seed mixes at subsidized prices. Each member may purchase additional products in unlimited quantities at the NON-SUBSIDIZED prices listed on the order form. All orders filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Quantities are limited; allow two weeks for delivery before calling to check on your order. Always store seed in a cool, dry place prior to planting. Check with your Co-operative Extension Office for appropriate planting times, methods and rates in your local area.

Available seed mixes include:

BIOLOGIC PREMIUM PERENNIAL - 9 POUND PACKAGE COVERS 1 ACRE

BLEND THAT LASTS AS LONG AS THE DEER. AND THEN SOME

Trophies don't grow overnight; it takes seasons of consistent, high quality nutrition to produce those big bucks. Exactly the thinking behind Premium Perennial. This is a highly palatable blend of perennial and annual forages, designed to maximize antler growth and weight gain throughout the growing season, year after year. Extensive research in New Zealand and North America has produced perennials that are extremely palatable and drought-resistant, providing highly digestible protein and minerals during the critical antler and fawn development periods in spring and summer. The annuals — large-leafed brassicas — are a delicious source of protein in advance of the winter stress period. Together, these cultivars yield extremely high tonnage of quality food per acre while addressing the herd's nutritional needs throughout the entire season. To maintain optimum effectiveness beyond the first year, broadcast BioLogic™ Maximum's brassica varieties directly onto the existing perennial crop in the early fall portion of the second growing season. With proper fertilization and care, a Premium Perennial food plot will last four to five years, delivering 30% crude protein, over 80% total digestible nutrients and 100% satisfaction with the size of your bucks.

BIOLOGIC CLOVER PLUS - 9 POUND PACKAGE COVERS 1 ACRE

Few plants are more effective at attracting whitetails and turkeys than clover. Use Clover Plus — a perennial blend of our New Zealand Red and White clovers with our extremely successful varieties of chicory — and you turn that attraction into an obsession. Our New Zealand clover has been genetically developed to produce larger, more succulent leaves and thinner stems for higher nutritional value and improved digestibility. The chicory provides appealing forage during critical months of whitetail growth and development. Both clover and chicory are extremely hardy and drought-resistant, yielding consistent production through the hot months of summer. It's a combination of high nutrition, delicious taste and robust growth that deer can't resist and nature can't beat.

CLEARFIELD SUNFLOWER - 10 POUND PACKAGE

These sunflowers were developed with a resistance to herbicides using the active ingredient imazamox. They have become a favorite choice with people who plant and manage sunflower fields because of the advantage of being able to control weeds in the field more easily. Staggered plantings allow different maturity dates and may benefit management of fields.

For detailed planting information visit: <http://www.plantbiologic.com/images/document/plantingguide.pdf>

Each purchase results in the establishment of quality wild turkey brood habitat. Your efforts support your State Chapter efforts to Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. Your membership and financial support at NWTF Hunting Heritage Banquets helps make this program possible and allows the NWTF to address high priority habitat needs in your state.

THANK YOU!



Annual 10 Gun Raffle

BE WATCHING YOUR MAIL IN EARLY APRIL FOR THE ANNUAL GUN RAFFLE TICKETS. Every member household will receive a booklet of 10 tickets to sell. If you wish to receive the special, limited edition boat paddle call, you can request additional tickets; or if you did not receive your tickets, be sure to call Randy Opferbeck at (716) 373-3322.

Due to a change in the July Board of Directors meeting, the drawing will now be held on July 29, 2018.

NYS CHAPTER'S ANNUAL 10 GUN RAFFLE

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

- 1st Tikka T3X .270 or \$500
- 2nd Remington 700 SPS .308 or \$475
- 3rd Parker Bushwacker Crossbow or \$400
- 4th Ruger American Rifle 30'06 or \$350
- 5th Savage Axis XP 7mm-08 or \$325
- 6th Mossburg 500 12 GA. or \$300
- 7th Remington 783 .243 w/scope or \$275
- 8th Henry H001M .22LR or \$250
- 9th Ruger 10-22 .22LR or \$225
- 10th CVA Wolf Combo B.P. .50 or \$200

Drawing July 8, 2018 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 Mini Boat Paddle Call. These beautiful Quaker Boy Mini Boat Calls are made of cypress, poplar, walnut or cherry 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.



THE NEW YORK STATE CALLING CONTEST

is scheduled for

Saturday, April 7, 2018

at Bass Pro in Auburn NY.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the

contest will start at 12:00 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.

For more information, contact

Bill Wilbur at (315) 963-3368 or

Norm Ridley at (315) 651-9096

You are Invited!!!

NY TREE FARM FIELD DAYS

Saturday June 2, 2018 @ Morrisville State College,
State Route 20 Morrisville, Madison County
8-8:30am

Arrive, Sign-In, Refreshments and Informational Tables

8:30-8:45am

Opening Introduction, Current Tree Farm Membership, 2015-2020
Tree Farm Standards, Thoughts of Upcoming 2020-2025 Tree Farm
Stewardship Standards

Chris Prentis, Lower Hudson Forestry Service, NYTF Chair, NYSTF
Advisory Board-Area1

8:45-9:15am

A Day in the Life of a Consulting Forester
Rod Jones, Northeast Timber Services, NYTF Secretary, NYSTF
Advisory Board-Area 6

9:15-10:05am

Turkeys- A Special Jewel In Your Tree Farm !
Kaylee Resha, Wildlife Biologist, National Wild Turkey Federation
(NWTF)

10:05-10:55am

Invasive Management & EQIP
Black Walnut-Planting Gold Seeds to Reap Gold Nuggets !
Chris Tcimpidis, Bevan Forestry

10:55-11:15am

Break, Refreshments, Information Tables

11:15am-12:45pm

Ticks and Lyme Disease- A Thorough Look at an Ever Growing Threat !
Dr. Carmen Greenwood, Dept. of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental
Sciences, SUNY Cobleskill
Theresa Uellrick, RN, Otsego County Dept. of Health

12:45-1:30pm

Restoring the American Chestnut- Light At The End of the Tunnel !
Allen Nichols, President & District 4 Director, New York Chapter- The
American Chestnut Foundation

1:30-2:15pm

Lunch

2:30pm-TILL

Educational Forest Tour

Morning/Afternoon Presenters & Morrisville State Forestry Professors

NOTE:

Registration Fee of \$10.00 will cover Lunch, Snacks and Hand-Out
Materials

Immediately Paid Registrations Will Assure Space & Materials
Availability and are Requested by contacting:

Chris Prentis (845)-270-2071

Rod Jones (607)-865-5917

Dan Newman(607)-655-1411

Walt Friebe (315)-202-4027

Supper Meal and Overnight Accommodations Info Available Upon
Request.

New York Turkey Hunting Open

May 5th and 6th

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

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

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

Dinner 1:30 p.m. Sunday May 6th

Locomotion's Sports Bar and Grill, Cobleskill NY

Team must be signed up by Friday May 4th
\$150 Per team

- Includes 2 tournament entries
- 2 yearly NWTF memberships
- 2 meals Sunday
- 2 \$25 Bass Pro shops gift cards

**NEW TO 2018!!!! Biggest Bird Category. Highest
scoring Turkey will win Benelli SBE2 in Mossy
Oak Obsession Camo. ONLY 32 in this pattern.**

2018 Prizes-

1st Place - Winchester SXP 12 Gauge Bottomland

2nd Place - Winchester SXP 20 Gauge Bottomland

3rd Place - Vortex Diamondback 10x42 Binoculars

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;
slangevin@nwtf.net to register or register online at
www.nwtf.org/events.

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.



SAVE THE HABITAT, SAVE THE HUNT

BY BRIAN GOTTFRIED

It was a beautiful Saturday in late February, and I had a ton of stuff to do around the house. However, I dodged all responsibilities and went fishing. It was such an enjoyable day to be out fishing, the first weekend that boat launches haven't been frozen, and we were able to launch a small boat to go out in Lake Ontario and go after the spring brown trout bite. I invited my friend and he brought his 11-year-old nephew. We had a blast! The nephew's largest fish to date was a largemouth bass that was probably no more than a couple pounds. That personal record didn't last long. He landed a 10-pound brown trout within minutes of when we started fishing! We continued and caught 4 or 5 more in the next couple hours before they had to go home. The nephew had to go to a scouting function in the afternoon. I asked what the plan was when he was at scouts and his reply was that they were going to play video games!!! That's not the scouts I remember, but I don't know the details. They could be using it to build comradery among the kids. What I do know is that before he went to play video games that afternoon, he learned a valuable lesson



about the outdoors. He learned that there are so many ways to have fun outdoors that he hasn't even learned about yet. He didn't know brown trout existed until about 8:00 a.m. that morning. He's itching to go out again and to get his hunter education certificate before he turns 12 in April.

After they left, I called another friend and he brought his son and step-son out

for another trip down the shoreline trolling for more brown trout. This trip was a little different in that the sun had come up and the fish weren't eating the lures as good. We had 5 bites but only landed one of them. The kids got a little cold, it was getting to be dinner time, and they had already done a lot that day. I couldn't blame them for wanting to be done. The sun was about to disappear behind the horizon anyway, so we pulled lines and headed in. Once I got home I started to receive messages from both friends stating how awesome the fishing trips were, how much the kids had talked about them at dinner, and how much they appreciated the opportunity. All of the kids want to go out again and catch fish.

On Sunday, I again side stepped all responsibility and managed to get out fishing again. The spring brown trout bite on Lake Ontario is hard to pass up. The action can be fast and furious and it's a fantastic way to introduce new people to fishing when it is. This day I brought my girlfriend who has only caught one fish in her entire life. She caught that fish this past summer at a Women in the Outdoors event that my chapter hosted. She caught a sunfish, but it was enough to make her want to go fishing again. We have gone a few times since the WITO event, but she had not caught a fish, until now. Within the first ten minutes of trolling in some uncomfortable waves, she was hooked up with her first brown trout. After fighting it for a couple minutes we landed her biggest fish ever, a nice spring brown trout that weighed about 3-4 pounds. She can't wait to go back out and catch more fish. She also said she wants to find a hunter education class to take so she can go turkey hunting with me this spring.

I wrote all of that to tell you this... Take a new person out hunting or fishing this spring. There is nothing better than the satisfaction you feel when someone thanks you for introducing them to the outdoors lifestyle. There is a connection to the earth, to their food, and to their heritage when they go hunting and fishing. This is important to me for a much greater reason

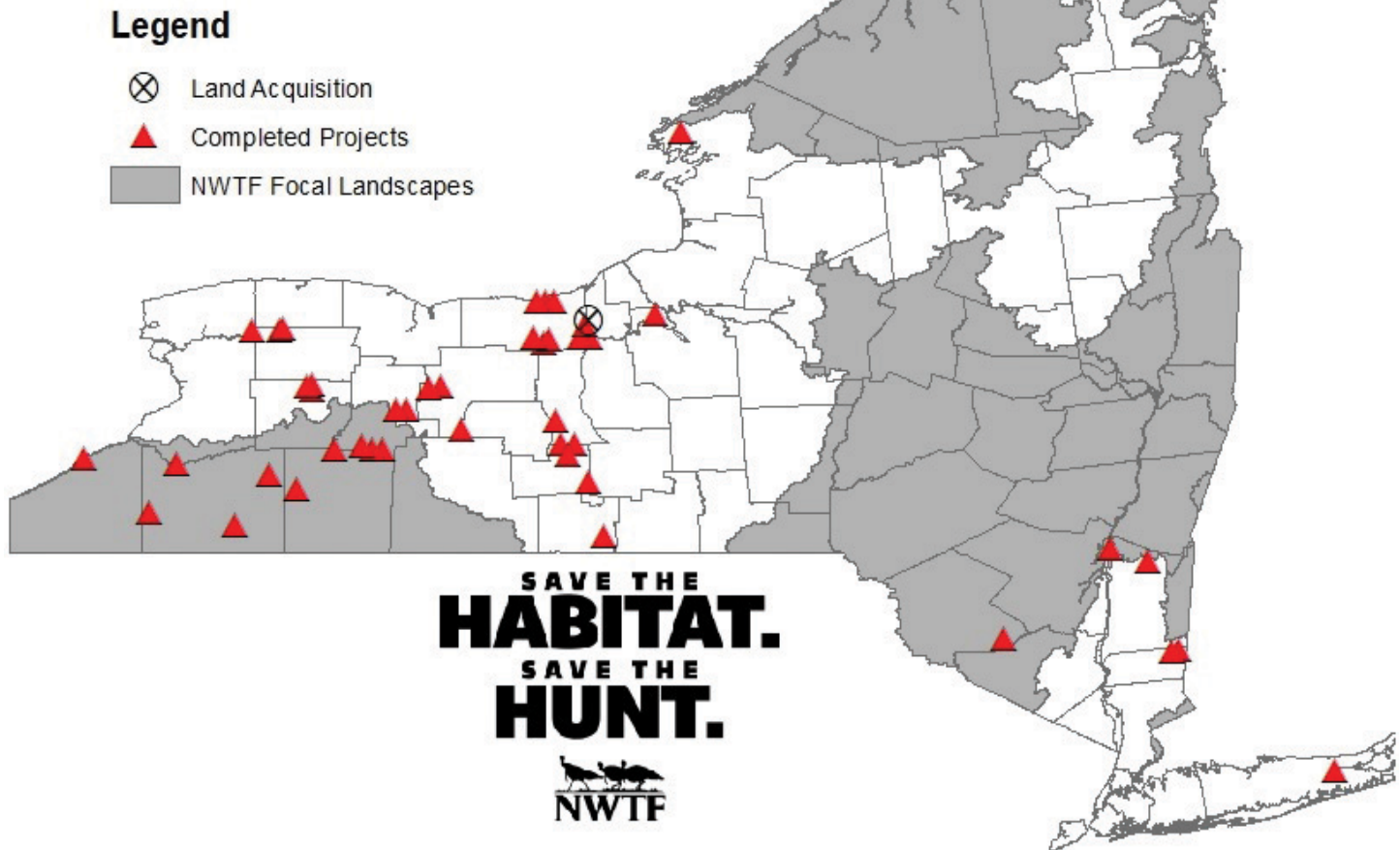
than feeling good when someone thanks me for taking them out. We need new people to get involved in our lifestyle, it's people like you and I who buy hunting and fishing licenses that fund the conservation efforts in this country today.

Unfortunately, the number of hunters is declining at a significant rate and we need to stop that trend and reverse it. We need it to preserve our hunting heritage, but more importantly the earth needs us. The environment needs our help now! Take a new person hunting and fishing this spring and help stop the decline in the number of outdoorsmen and outdoorswomen.



SAVE THE HABITAT UPDATE - NEW YORK

New York Public Land Habitat Projects 2013-17



New York Conservation Objectives – The NWTF established several conservation-related goals pursuant to the Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. 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 Habi-

tat. Save the Hunt. in New York, 20,139 acres have been conserved/enhanced through 2017. 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: 3,770 acres enhanced since 2013 (see map above)
Private Land: 16,369 acres of public land enhanced since 2013

Wild Turkey Specific Benefits include:

Brood & Nesting/ Young Forest Habitat = 4,911 Acres
Winter foraging habitat = 15,228 Acres

Access: 67 Acres added to Northern Montezuma WMA



770 Augusta Rd
Edgefield, SC 29824

SPRING 2018 - NYS CHAPTER - NWTF NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018 - NYS CHAPTER - NWTF NEWSLETTER



STATE SUBSIDY OFFER

Once again, your State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation is offering **seed** and possibly other land management products to their adult members at a discount through its State Subsidy Program.

This *exclusive* online ordering system will give **YOU** the member the opportunity to place and pay for your subsidized order quickly and easily, saving time and helping us to continue to improve 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 quick access to available products in your state and 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.

ONLINE ORDERING

To view your state's offerings and to access the online system, visit:

www.nwtf.org/subsidy

Problems placing your order? Contact 1-800-THE-NWTF (1-800-843-6983)

PRINTED FORMS WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE

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 label of your Turkey Country magazine.

