

SPRING 2019 Volume 44, Issue 1

# Turkey Tales

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

A NEW YORK STATE CHAPTER PUBLICATION



**STATE CHAPTER AWARDS BANQUET**  
**STATE CALLING CONTEST**  
**SEED SUBSIDY ON-LINE ORDERING**  
**LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS**

[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 Brian Gottfried and Jessica Breitfeld heading back to the truck after a fun morning full of gobbling and hen talk. They didn't kill a bird, but it was good practice having birds in close so when they had turkeys close a few days later, Jess was a little more prepared to take her first turkey ever on the last day of the season. The photo was taken by Neil Gottfried.

The photo to the left shows 2 hunters discussing a successful hunt.

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.



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

With the upcoming hunting seasons, I'd like to challenge each and every one of you with regard to the mentoring program initiative. Take a new hunter afield and expose them to the beauty of the outdoors, the magnificent gobble of a turkey echoing through the trees on a brisk Spring morning, and the excitement of using a turkey call for the first time.

The mentoring program was discussed in detail at the National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Our message to Save the Habitat Save the Hunt begins right in our own backyard. The hunter that you share your turkey hunting passion with may be young or old, male or female. Introducing new hunters via the mentoring program encourages existing conservation programs and has a ripple effect for generations to come when that new hunter you have enlightened shares their experiences with others.

As President of NYS NWTF I attended several seminars and gatherings where I was able to spend time with other like-minded individuals from across the country and share our thoughts and experiences. I would encourage anyone that is able to attend the National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee to do so. The programs, contests, and sports show are magnificent and provide an opportunity to network with other NWTF members.

Thank you to all those who participated at the convention or made donations to the NYS Table Auction with items from NYS and to Bill Wilbur and Mike Camberari for overseeing the table set-up and display. Your assistance was greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the entire state membership for their contributions that enabled the NYS Chapter to win 2nd place in the L A Dixon Award that I am holding in the photo above.



Safe hunting

*Norm Ridley*, President

## NYS CHAPTER MEETING DATES

**JULY 21, 2018 \***

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2018 \***

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

**JANUARY 11 - 12, 2020 - LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED. WATCH FOR INFORMATION FOR THE AWARDS BANQUET AND A FAMILY FUN TIME!**



Newsletter Editors:

Randy Opferbeck, Carol Becker, Doug Little,  
Sean Langevin, Brian Gottfried  
Newsletter Designer: Deb Opferbeck

# 2019 Annual Awards State Chapter Banquet



The 2019 Annual Awards State Chapter Banquet was held on January 12, 2019 at the Quality Inn & Suites in Batavia, NY.

Matt Fenoff, Chief Fund Raising Officer was the guest speaker. He encouraged members to help promote the NWTF.

Awards were handed out to local chapters and members that achieved significant goals.

There was a time of honoring retiring Marty Huber, Regional Director.

If you have never attended a State Chapter Awards banquet, put it on your calendar for next January 11, 2020. It is a time to meet other members from across the state and share ideas and fellowship.



The picture to the top left is **JAKES Member of the Year**, Morgan Wilcox from the Tri-County local chapter in Freeville, NY.

The picture to the left shows Chad MacDonald as he receives **The Chapter of the Year** award for The Chemung Valley Ridgerunners Chapter. With Chad, is Randy Opferbeck (left) and Norm Ridley, (right).

In the photo above, Randy Opferbeck (center) is awarding Howard Travis (left) and Jim Gamel (right) with **Member of the Year Awards**.



Local Chapter Presidents and representatives receive awards for their Sponsor member achievements in the photo above.





Guest speaker, Matt Fenoff is shown in the photo to the left. Matt is the Chief Fund Raising Officer for NWTF. He spoke of his career history and the importance of fund raising to keep an organization running.



President, Norm Ridley, presents a gift to Marty.



## WISHING MARTY HUBER A HAPPY RETIREMENT!

After 23 years as a Regional Director, Marty Huber decided to retire. There were many laughs (at his expense) along with some tears. Several people shared their memories of Marty's long tenure with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Sean Langevin, Norm Ridley, Marty and Randy Opferbeck are in the photo to the right sharing a laugh.

Norm Ridley, Matt Fenoff, Brian Gottfried, Sean Langevin, Marty and Phil Ferrare are in the photo below.



NWTF Staff came to honor Marty Huber on his retirement. Left to Right: Kristen Schnepf-Giger, Doug Little, Brian Gottfried, Phil Ferrare, Marty, Ray Smith, Sean Langevin and Kaylee Resha.

# New York Spring Subsidy Offer

The New York State Chapter Board of Directors is pleased to offer its members the opportunity to purchase several 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 Cooperative 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

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-leaved 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 whitetail and turkey 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.

For detailed planting information visit:


<http://www.plantbiologic.com/images/document/plantingguide.pdf>

## 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.

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!





### 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.~~

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


[www.nwtf.org/subsidy](http://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.

#### ONLINE ORDERING







The pictures above and to the right depict new undergrowth after having habitat restoration completed on this land on the North Nine Mile Road in Allegany, NY. This project was completed through a program that is run by the NWTF in cooperation with NRCS.



The photo below shows turkeys picking in a cornfield, which shows the importance of planting seed to help support wildlife throughout winter and early spring.







Twins, Shawn, above and Seth Capes, to the right, each bagged a bird in the 2018 Spring Turkey season.

Thursday, June 6th, the **Lake Plains Chapter** is trying something new and having a barbeque. We hope that our supporters from the past will continue to attend. We would love a chance to get to know more of you! Summer is right around the corner so let's kick it off right! Come out and join the oldest chapter in NY for a night filled with games, raffles, family and friends. Doors open at 6pm, dinner will be served at 7:30pm. Tickets are being sold online at [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org). If you have any questions or concerns, please call Danni Schmitt at 585-507-9281. VFW Post 8495  
300 Macedon Center Rd  
Fairport, NY 14450

**Niagara County Gobblers Chapter**  
Banquet on April 7, 2019  
Doors open at 3:30 pm  
Youngstown Volunteer Fire Co.  
625 Third St.  
Youngstown, NY

Contact Pam or Herb Lederhouse for additional info. 716-791-3151

**The Genegantslet Gobblers Chapter** is participating in the **6th Annual Chenango County Youth Turkey Hunt** on April 20-21. We have a safety day on April 6 at the Oxford Rod and Gun Club. Youth hunters have to submit an application to ECO Brett Armstrong to be a participant by March 23. Anyone with questions can contact him at 607-895-6515 or Eric Davis at 607-207-7431.





As NYS NWTF Scholarship Committee Chairman, it is great pleasure that I, Butch Kortright, announce the 2018 winners of the Dr. James Earl Kennamer scholarships.

Receiving the NYS 1st place award of \$1000 is Kyle Foss, a ten year member of the Sullivan County Long Beards chapter. Kyle is also a past recipient of the NYS Chapters JAKES member of the year.

The 2nd place award of \$500, went to Miriam Hoelscher an active JAKES Member of the Springville Strutters chapter.

Both winners will be honored at their respective NWTF Banquets. Kyle, as NYS award winner, had his scholarship forwarded to the National for consideration.

I want to thank those chapters that went the extra mile to submit and support their scholarship candidates. This is one more way we can promote our mission to Save the Habitat-Save the Hunt by recognizing those individuals that are dedicated to leadership in conservation.

**The Crossroads Limbhangers Chapter** is hosting their annual **Youth Turkey Hunt** at the Shortsville Rod and Gun Club. Youth and Mentor hunter pairing will be done at 1:00 pm on Sunday, April 14th. Mentors will take their youth hunting during the youth weekend April 20-21, with a group lunch on Saturday April 20th at 2:00 pm.

Contact Neil Gottfried at 585-245-3051 or [longbeardg@gmail.com](mailto:longbeardg@gmail.com) to register as a mentor our to sign up as a youth hunter.

**I HUNT WITH MY KIDS SO I DON'T HAVE TO HUNT FOR THEM.**

Share if you do, too!





# Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.

## NWTF-NY State Annual Update

by Doug Little, Conservation Field Supervisor (Northeast)

In September 2012 the NWTF embarked on our Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative. This is a 10-year initiative to conserve or enhance 4 million acres of critical upland habitat, create 1.5 million hunters and open access to 500,000 additional acres for hunting. The progress that has been made towards these critical goals has been nothing short of extraordinary.

I would like to thank you, our membership in NY, for your efforts and contributions that have helped make our conservation impact on the ground happen. Not only directly through your use of our seed programs available to members of NWTF in NY State, but also for your support at our local chapter fundraising events across the state. Your contributions have allowed us to leverage funding for a variety of grants and agreements that result in significant positive impacts for the wild turkey resource and our hunting heritage.

## Our NWTF-NY 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.

Within NY State a premium is placed on projects that will improve wild turkey nesting/young forest cover, brood rearing habitat, and winter foraging habitat.

These goals are put in place to help increase our state's wild turkey population back up to the 225,000 level.

Since 2013, approximately 24,835 acres have been conserved/enhanced in NY State through 2018.

Acres specific to conservation objectives include:  
Public Land: 5,138 acres enhanced since 2013 (see map)  
Private Land: 19,697 acres of public land enhanced since 2013

Wild Turkey Specific Benefits include:  
Brood & Nesting/ Young Forest Habitat = 6,621.5 Acres  
Winter foraging habitat = 18,213.5 Acres

Access: 67 Acres added to Northern Montezuma WMA

(See Map on Page 11)



## VOLUNTEER TO TURKEY HUNT!

by Sean Langevin, Regional Director, Eastern NY

When I think of turkey hunting I don't just think of hard gobbling turkeys and warm spring days. I also think of the social fun of turkey camp or the opportunity to spend the day in the woods with a friend. The time with someone spent turkey hunting creates memories and friendships that last a lifetime. I encourage every volunteer to take some time this turkey season and take someone hunting, how about someone you would like to join your committee. If you aren't sure who that is then take the owner of a local business that has donated to your banquet.

Turkey hunting is a wonderful way to spend time with someone. Use our sport, and everything we have worked so hard for, as an opportunity to make a new volunteer, make a new friend, and make a new memory.

Everyone be safe and good luck to all lucky enough to spend a day in the field hunting the greatest animal on earth.



# New York Public Lands Habitat Projects

2013-18

▲ Completed Projects

⊗ Land Acquisition



## ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

On Saturday, October 12, 2019 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, The Seneca White Deer organization will be hosting its first annual **Fall Festival** at the Seneca Army Depot in Romulus, NY.

The festival will feature various local vendors and artisans offering items ranging from honey and maple syrup to art, crafts, and much more.

Blowin' Smoke from Ovid NY will offer their award winning barbecue, and the NWTF will be running BB gun practice with their JAKES trailer.

Brief tours of the depot will also be given by White Deer Tours. Join Seneca White Deer and a host of great vendors for a day of wildlife, food, and family fun!

Seneca Army Depot  
6600 NY-96  
Romulus, NY 14541



# NWTF

WOMEN<sup>IN</sup>THE OUTDOORS



The gentleman above is competing in the Friction Calling Contest at the National Convention in Nashville, TN.

## THE NEW YORK STATE CALLING CONTEST

Be sure to make plans to attend the NYS Calling contest which is scheduled for **Saturday, April 13, 2019** at Bass Pro in Auburn, NY. You can encourage the callers that participate. The winner can go on to compete in the National Calling Contest that will be held at the National Convention next February 12 - 16, 2020.

Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.; the contest will start at 12:00 noon.

Registration fee is \$25, Youth are Free.

Calling categories will be:  
Open, Resident, Friction, Amateur,  
Gobbling, Owl Hooting,  
and Youth divisions.

For more information, contact  
Bill Wilbur at 315-963-3368 or  
Norm Ridley at 315-651-9096.

## UPCOMING LOCAL CHAPTER BANQUET DATES

### Eastern NY, Sean Langevin, RD

- April 6 - Tri County, Ithaca
- April 12 - Mohawk River, Herkimer
- April 13 - Northern NY, Alexandria Bay
- April 19 - Schoharie County, Duanesburg
- April 20 - Between the Lakes, Ovid
- April 26 - Oswego River, Fulton
- May 18 - Northern Catskills, Leeds
- June 7 - Salmon River Strutters, Sandy Creek
- August 11 - Madison County, Clinton
- August 24 - Guns N Lobster Bash, Candor



### Western NY, Brian Gottfried, RD

- April 6 - Wyoming County Gobblers, N Java
- April 7 - Niagara County Gobblers, Youngstown
- April 12 - Oak Orchard River Chapter, Albion
- April 13 - Forbidden Trail Chapter, Addoson
- April 18 - Hardwood Strutters, Geneva
- April 28 - Chautauqua Lake Chapter, Frewsburg
- June 6 - Lake Plains Chapter, Fairport
- September 28 - Enchanted Mountains Chapter, Olean





# 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 slate call, you can request additional tickets; or if you do not receive your tickets, be sure to call Randy Opferbeck at (716) 373-3322.

					<b>New York State Chapter of The National Wild Turkey Federation ANNUAL RAFFLE</b>
1st	Tikka T3X LITE .270 or \$500				
2nd	Remington 870 Turkey 12ga Camo or \$425				
3rd	Parker Bushwacker Crossbow or \$375				
4th	Thompson Center Compass 6.5 Creedmoor or \$350				
5th	Savage Axis 7mm-08 or \$325				
6th	Remington 783 Package .243 or \$300				
7th	Winchester SXP syn. 12ga or \$275				
8th	Ruger 10/22 or \$250				
9th	Stevens 320 Field 12ga or \$225				
10th	Marlin 795 .22 or \$200				

Name _____	Address _____	City _____	Phone _____	Email _____
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Drawing July 7, 2019 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.

**Due to a change in the July Board of Directors meeting, the drawing will now be held on July 21, 2019.**

**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 Slate Call. These beautiful Quaker Boy Slate Calls are 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.

## 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.





## NWTF and NRCS Recognize Shaw and Marks' Conservation Efforts

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Shanna Shaw and Elizabeth Marks, of the New York Natural Resource Conservation Service office, accepted conservation



awards during the 43rd annual National Wild Turkey Federation Convention and Sport Show. Mossy Oak is the official show sponsor.

**The Making Tracks with the NRCS** award recognizes people or projects that best incorporate conservation education, partnerships and wild turkey management to support the NWTF's Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative.

Wildlife biologists by trade, both Shaw and Marks have been instrumental in building the partnership between New York NRCS and the NWTF. Because of their efforts, NRCS has worked with the NWTF and private forest landowners through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program to provide technical and financial assistance to improve forest wildlife habitat.

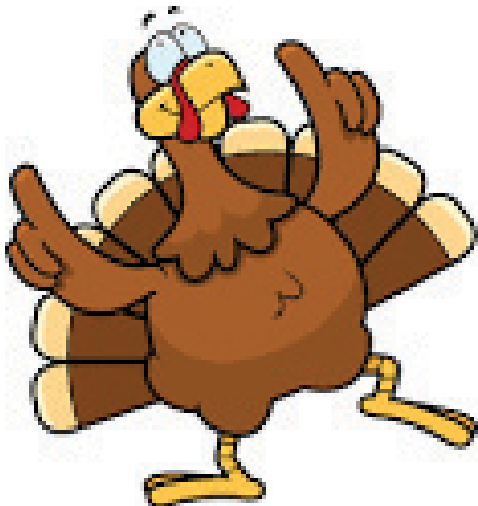
Much of the conservation efforts are in the NWTF's Allegany focal landscape, a region defined in the NWTF's Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative as an area of critical need. One of the area's biggest limiting factors for turkey population growth is the lack of suitable nesting habitat. However, Shaw and Marks have worked alongside NWTF staff to encourage landowners to actively manage their forests to provide this critical early habitat needed by turkeys and other associated wildlife species.

"We could not do what we do without partners like the NRCS," NWTF CEO Becky Humphries said. "Their dedicated staff make building the necessary partnerships a much easier task."



Representatives from Northern Catskills Longbeards Chapter are shown in the picture above. (Left to Right) Timothy Greiner, Doug Little, Russ Burton, Maureen Burton, Martin Dimasi and Allison Brew.

**The Northern Catskills Longbeards Chapter,** New York – More than 20 wounded veterans attended the chapter's mentored turkey hunt and became NWTF Wheelin' Sportsmen members in the process, earning the chapter a **Membership Achievement Award**. Hunters went through a day of education and patterning firearms before ever hitting the field with their mentors.







New York State Chapter received the LA Dixon Membership Award. State representatives are shown above, from left to right is: Brian Gottfried, (Regional Director, Western NY), Andrew Schibley (NYS Board Member), Mike Camberari (NYS Board Treasurer), Norm Ridley (NYS Board President), Herb Lederhouse (NYS Board Member), Pam Lederhouse (NYS Friend of the Board Member), Bill Wilbur (NYS Board Member), Christine Langevin (NYS Friend of the Board), Sean Langevin (Regional Director Eastern NY and Doug Little (Director of Conservation Operations, Northeast).



SUNY Cobleskill Chapter received the LA Dixon Award for Outstanding College Chapter. These young men and women are the future of the NWTF, let's be sure to thank them and encourage them as they continue promoting NWTF.



770 Augusta Rd  
Edgefield, SC 29824

## SPRING 2019 - NYS CHAPTER - NWTF NEWSLETTER



The picture above shows the NYS Chapter Table with the plethora of NYS products that were donated for the 2019 National Convention. Our table placed third this year after having a winning bid for 2 years in a row. We are gearing up for next year's competition at the National Convention. Please help us with donations for the table with items produced in NYS. If you can offer hunting trips, fishing trips, or tours of any type, we would appreciate your contributions. Let's win the competition next year! Thank you.