



TURKEY TALES



NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

A NEW YORK STATE CHAPTER PUBLICATION

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National Wild Turkey Federation

2016 SPRING SEED SUBSIDY INFORMATION

AWARDS & LEADERSHIP RECAP

#RISE&FLY INFORMATION

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

NY TURKEY HUNT OPEN

10 GUN RAFFLE INFORMATION

NYS CALLING CONTEST DATE





Pictured in the photo above is Katie Dugan from Lima, NY, a member of the Crossroads Limbhangers with her second turkey ever. Harvested on May 24th in Schoharie County with Brian Gottfried.

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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 our National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. While I was there I attended many meetings around our new initiative Save the Habitat/ Save the Hunt, which is in its third year. Our efforts to date have resulted in us being well on our way to meeting our goals. So introduce a new person to hunting to help Save the Hunt. Save the Habitat focuses on improving the habitat on private land; therefore, I would like to encourage you to take advantage of our Spring Seed Subsidy Program. This year we have two seed blends and crabapple seedlings with the State Chapter paying 50% of the cost, see the order form in this issue. Also, the Conservation Seed Program which provides corn seed at \$25 a bag, you must leave the corn standing to provide winter food for wildlife and to help improve the habitat in your area; contact your local chapter for this. These are some of the benefits of being a member of the NWTF. I would also encourage you to attend your local Banquet and 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 20, 2016

JULY 10, 2016

SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

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

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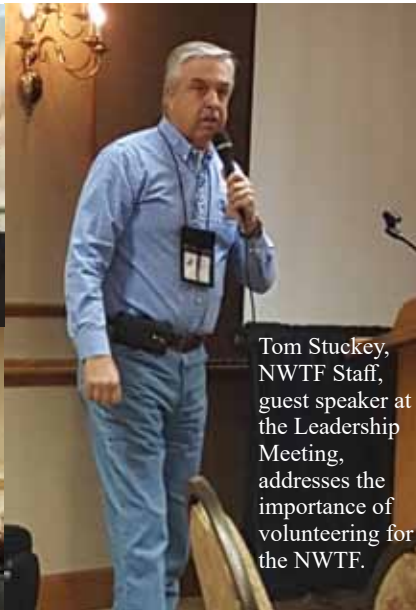
Newsletter Editors:

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

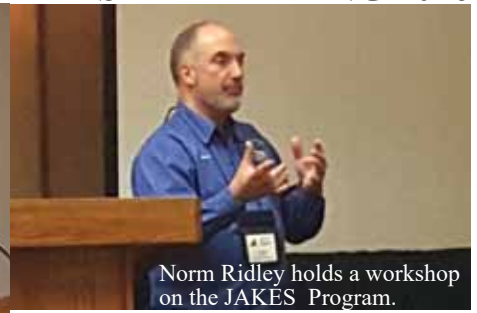
Newsletter Designer: Deb Opferbeck



Hospitality Room



Tom Stuckey, NWTF Staff, guest speaker at the Leadership Meeting, addresses the importance of volunteering for the NWTF.



Norm Ridley holds a workshop on the JAKES Program.



Brian Gottfried explains Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.



ECO of the Year
Nathaniel Mead (Region 9)
L-R Nathaniel Mead, Howard Travis

AWARDS BANQUET 2016 State Chapter Annual Award Winners



Chapter of the Year
Finger Lakes Bucks 'N Beards
L-R Bill Wilbur, Steve & Deborah
Calderwood, Randy Opferbeck



JAKE of the Year
Kyle Floss
L-R Bill Wilbur, Kyle Floss, Norm Ridley



Member of the Year
Mike Cambareri
L-R Bill Wilbur, Mike Cambareri, Randy Opferbeck,
Howard Travis



Above: Outreach Award Recipients: Bill Wilbur-Salmon River Chapter-Wheelin' Sportsmen; Becky Werchowski-Springville Strutters Chapter-WITO; Butch Kortright-Sullivan County Chapter-JAKES; Tom Stuckey; Robert Higginbotham, Scott Hill.

Below:

Grand Slam Award went to Springville Strutters Chapter
L - R: Robert Higginbotham, Scott Hill, Jim Gamel,
Rich Gerlach, Tom Stuckey, Bill Wilbur.



Regional Director Marty Huber was presented a plaque for his 20 years of service to the NWTF. In the picture above, left to right: Robert Higginbotham, National Board of Directors; Bill Wilbur, NYS Chapter President, Marty Huber, Regional Director; Scott Hill, National Board of Directors; Tom Stuckey, NWTF Vice President of development.

Regional Directors
Appreciation Award
winner: Saratoga
Strutters Chapter
L-R: Robert
Higginbotham, Scott
Hill, Dan Hamilton,
Thomas Jordan, Tom
Stuckey, Bill Wilbur.



NYS CHAMPIONSHIP CALLING CONTEST

The New York State Championship Calling Contest will be held April 10, 2016 at Bass pro in Auburn, NY.

The contest begins at 1:00 p.m.; registration starts at 9:30.

Divisions include: open, resident, youth and friction divisions. For more information, call Bill Wilbur at 315-963-3368.



NYS Boy Places Third in Poult Division at Calling Contest at National Convention

On February 12-14, 2016, Samuel and Connor Warren, of Almond, New York attended the National Wild Turkey Federation 2016 Convention and Sport Show in Nashville, Tennessee. The multi-day convention and sport show included turkey and owl calling contests, turkey call contests, seminars, and exhibits covering all aspects of hunting. Sam and Connor competed in turkey calling contests in their respective divisions. Sam placed 8th in the Junior Division (age 11-15) and Connor placed 3rd in the Poult Division (under 10). Prior to competing at Nationals,

each competitor had to place 1st in their respective state's certified turkey calling contest. Sam and Connor competed with self-made box calls and calls made by their grandfather, Mike Warren. Connor also used a Jesabelle slate call made by students in the Multi-Occupations program at Wildwood Education Center in Hornell.



PRESIDENT BILL WILBUR RECEIVES THE ROGER LATHAM AWARD

Bill Wilbur of Mexico, New York, is dedicated to recruiting the next generation of outdoorsmen and women. His contributions earned him a national award from the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Wilbur received one of five Roger M. Latham Sportsman Wild Turkey Service Awards at the 40th annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show. RAM is the official convention sponsor. Roger M. Latham Sportsman Wild Turkey Service Awards are given to NWTF members who are not employed as professional wildlife managers, but have made significant contributions to wild turkey conservation.

"I am honored to receive a Latham award," Wilbur said.

"I am a turkey hunting addict, and that is how I was introduced to the NWTF. The more involved I became with the organization, the more I learned about what they did and the more I wanted to help."

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

initiative. Wilbur, a 20-year NWTF member, has worked tirelessly to introduce hunting, fishing and an outdoor way of life to new audiences.

Since planning and hosting New York's first NWTF Wheelin' Sportsmen event – a turkey hunt for those who have disabilities – he has expanded Wheelin' Sportsmen opportunities to include multiple fishing, turkey hunting, snow goose hunting and deer hunting events. Wilbur also is very involved in working with disabled veterans through Operation Injured Soldier and the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Drum.

Wilbur takes time each fall to mentor first-time hunters during the Cortland Limbhangers' NWTF Women in the Outdoors fall turkey hunt. He also was the Oswego River Chapter's JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship) coordinator for 17 years and the Wheelin' Sportsmen coordinator for 12 years.

"Bill has made a tremendous impact in his community and state," said George Thornton, NWTF CEO. "He exemplifies the NWTF's mission of conservation and the preservation of our hunting heritage."

Wilbur has been a committee member of the Oswego River Chapter since 1997, is president and founding member of the Salmon River Strutters and also serves on the banquet committee for the Cortland Limbhangers.

Bill joins 3 other seated State Board of Directors members that have received this prestigious award:

2011 - Larry Becker
1996 - Randy Opferbeck
1995 - Richard Habes

Congratulations to all and thank you for the volunteer work for the NWTF on the local, state and national levels.



Southern Tier Chapter President Russ Avery presents a Local Chapter Scholarship Award to Krystal Avery, who is enrolled in the Physical Therapy Assistant Program at SUNY-Broome.

LOCAL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

For more information or to become more involved with the NWTF, find the chapter near you and contact the president that is listed. Or call one of the Regional Directors listed on page 3.

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Keeping Tom Turkey Alive in the Classroom

The Finger Lakes Bucks N' Beards Chapter's "Talking Turkey JAKES Education Program" visits the PreK-3rd grade classes at Prattsburgh Central School. In Fall 2015, the annual hands-on education program was expanded to introduce students to wild turkey classification, characteristics, habitat, and purpose of NWTF. The 2nd and 3rd grade students participated in a reading and listening comprehension exercise that completed a Common Core language arts unit on animal classification. 142 students and 10 teachers participated.

Pictured upper left: FLBB Chapter Secretary, and NYS NWTF Board Member Deborah Calderwood 'Talks Turkey' with students from Prattsburgh Central School. Pictured lower left: 3rd grade PCS student learns what a 'snood' is.

MAKING A HABITAT DIFFERENCE LOCALLY

by Doug Little, NWTF Conservation Field Supervisor (Northeast)

Over the last few years you may have noticed a concerted effort to promote the benefits and importance of young forest habitat. With the number of wildlife species dependent on this cover type, federal and state natural resource agencies and non-governmental organizations are investing a great deal of resources towards this habitat type. The National Wild Turkey Federation is among them.

The NWTF has invested significant time and energy into establishing partnerships and agreements with a focus on creating and maintaining young forest habitats. These partnerships have ranged from multi-state agreements with US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service to agreements that target our efforts in a few southeastern NY counties.

In all cases, these agreements provide an opportunity to address critical nesting and brood rearing habitat for wild turkeys. Both habitats are key priorities within NY's plan for our Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative.

While traditional thinking may not consider wild turkeys a species of young forests, their dependence on them is no less important. Consider the nesting cycle of an adult hen turkey. Hens may begin to lay eggs in early April and, on average, lay 12 eggs prior to the beginning of incubation. One egg per day is deposited into the nest and covered with surrounding vegetation until the clutch is completed. Once incubation is initiated, hens are on the nest for 28 days.

The amount of thick vegetation available in early spring is particularly limiting because most vegetation is still dormant or in the infancy stages of green-up. You may walk through your woods in late spring or summer and think there are plenty of areas for a hen to hide. Vegetation is tall, leafy, and readily capable of concealing a turkey nest. Take that walk in late winter/early spring and those areas are barren and devoid leafy concealment. Without brushy habitat or young forest, early spring nesting opportunities that conceal a hen and nest from predators are minimal.

Our changing landscape is resulting in more mature forest land, particularly throughout NY and the other northeastern states. As forests mature, the canopy limits the amount of sunlight reaching the ground level. Coupled with browsing pressure from abundant deer in many areas, these factors have resulted in loss of thick understory vegetation. Find a spot in the forest where a large canopy tree either blew down or was otherwise harvested. You will likely see a vegetation response in that small area where sunlight has been able to reach the forest floor. Even that vegetation will likely be impacted by deer browse. Though you will see the response to some degree.

Establishing brushy, young forest cover on a broader scale within your property will benefit numerous species. Young forest habitat can greatly improve your deer hunting observations while providing nesting cover for turkey, grouse, and woodcock. If you are a bird dog owner, you can certainly put your dog in a better mood by creating this type of cover, which will typically attract woodcock and grouse.

In many cases, establishing as little as a 5-10 acre patch of thick cover is just what the doctor ordered. For example, if you hunt a property that contains mature woods and open fields you may have limited observations of deer. Adding a 5-10 acre patch for thick, young forest cover to that property, the kind you do not look forward to walking through, and there is a good chance you will be

attracting deer and other game looking for a hideout during the fall season. Even better, consider that recently created cover a sanctuary of sorts, meaning that you are not allowed to walk through it for deer drives, stalking deer, etc. and it may increase utilization of the area even more. Hunting stands situated between that cover and a food source when the wind is right and your efforts to create that cover could pay dividends in short order.

Ideally, young forest habitat should be created in 5-10 acres patches or more. However, if you are conducting smaller scale timber harvests on your property there are some steps you can take to enhance your young forest creation. For instance, select tree harvests, if spread out over several acres may be tailored to provide nesting opportunities for wild turkeys and other ground nesting birds. By leaving treetops scattered through the area, the timber harvests provided excellent nesting opportunities in very close proximity to great brood habitat. I was involved in a wild turkey study in Michaux State Forest in south-central PA back in the early 2000's and had a number of hens with radio transmitters successfully nest in treetops left after timber harvest operations.

This brings me to another way you can help. Please support efforts of our state and federal agency partners when they are planning to actively manage our public lands. Your support of their plans to manage forest resources could be the difference in their ability to proceed with projects planned to enhance forest land for a wide variety of species. You can support agency efforts as a resident, via writing or public comment, for active forest management with NY State DEC Unit Management Plans when they are up for review. NY residents can also support agency efforts for Young Forest Initiative work on Wildlife Management Areas, US Forest Service management activities on Finger Lakes National Forest, and other like-minded endeavors impacting active forest management.

Consider how young forest habitat may fit into your goals as a landowner. Managing for this cover type does take significant effort, but there are opportunities to apply for technical and financial assistance. USDA-NRCS, for example, could be a source of financial support for establishing this priority cover type. Though the programs offered may be geared towards a particular species such as New England cottontail, American woodcock, golden-winged warblers, etc., the habitat created benefits numerous species, including wild turkeys. Search for USDA-NRCS in NY on the web to learn more about available conservation programs or go to <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ny/home/> to locate your local county office and inquire about programs available in person.

For a limited time, I may be available to visit landowners in Columbia, Rensselaer, Dutchess, Putnam, and Westchester counties to determine if young forest cover may be a good fit and to help navigate conservation programs available that could help cover some or all of the costs associated with the habitat work.

Please contact me at dlittle@nwtf.net if interested in learning more.



#RISEANDFLY

by Brian Gottfried, NWTF NYS Coordinator-Save the Hunt Initiative

The opening scenes of the new NWTF video “Rise and Fly” has a quote that reads: “When a united people alter the course of history, the wake left is a vapor in the sky. Because to win the fight for a higher cause, you must rise...like angels and airplanes...and fly.”

Rise and fly! That’s the 2016 NWTF Campaign. In fact, #RiseAndFly is the new “hashtag”. The leaders in Edgefield, SC are challenging every member to Rise and Fly. You can do this by helping build our organization so we are stronger in the fight to conserve our wild lands and protect our hunting heritage. The NWTF is 250,000 members strong and by increasing that number we can do amazing things. Each new member is another leg to stand on to defend our hunting heritage and work towards our conservation goals. Each new member is one more person that is educated about the importance of hunter numbers being a vital part of conservation. Every member is one more person that can introduce someone new to the great outdoor lifestyle that we all love so much. This isn’t about the money; it’s more about the number of people. Conservation depends on hunters, it depends on you. Can you give us one? Can you create just one new membership? Can you gift a membership to a friend, family member, or co-worker? Invite them to a local banquet to see just how great this organization is and welcome them into our family. Take a new person hunting this year. Show someone who wouldn’t normally hunt the great opportunities that await them right out their back door.

The goals of the “Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt” initiative are to conserve or enhance 4 million acres of critical upland habitat, create 1.5 million new hunters, and to open access to 500,000 additional acres for hunting. I am happy to announce that in the past 2 years we have already come close to 1/3 of our goal for new hunters created through NWTF programs.

One important aspect of counting these “hunters created” is gathering all of the information. If a NYS Certified Hunter/ Trapping Safety Instructor is a NWTF member, we can count the people that graduate from the class with their certificate. There’s more to the counting side of this but it would be a huge help to find out which instructors are NWTF members. If you know of any instructors that are members or are willing to be members, please put them in contact with us. You can reach us through the NWTF website or email at NWTF_HunterEd@yahoo.com.

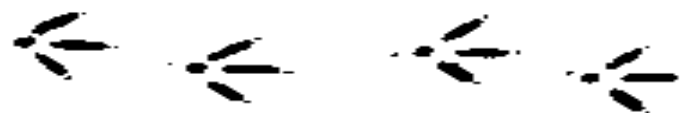
Stay tuned for more exciting news regarding some first time events in New York that we will be using to recruit new hunters. Some of the ideas are wild game-wine pairing dinners, how to prepare wild game classes, learn to hunt classes, and a mentored hunting program.

The ending of the new NWTF video “Rise and Fly” has a quote also which says:

“A fire starts as a flame, lit by a spark...be that spark!”

I challenge all of you reading this to “be that spark”, to go out and find one new member to join NWTF. This is the perfect time of year to invite one new person to a local banquet. You know as well as I do that it’s hard to have a bad time at one of these great events.

Good luck this spring! Get out there with someone new and #RiseAndFly.



ATTENTION

NY STATE SPORTSMEN EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS

We would like to hear from NWTF members that are also Sportsmen Education Instructors

The NWTF-NY State Chapter commends the volunteer work you do to provide aspiring hunters with the foundation needed to hunt. If you are a Sportsmen Education instructor and an NWTF member your efforts may be counted towards our Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative goals.

For more information on how your efforts could be counted towards our initiative please email NWTF_HunterEd@yahoo.com

If you are interested in becoming a Sportsmen Education instructor please check out the following website:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9189.html>



Like us on Facebook: NWTF-New York

TURKEY TALES 9

PROPERTY VISITS AVAILABLE IN SELECT HUDSON VALLEY COUNTIES

REPLY BY APRIL 20TH

Dear National Wild Turkey Member:

The National Wild Turkey Federation is contacting you about an exciting opportunity to improve deer and turkey habitat on your land at little or no cost to you. NWTF can evaluate your property to determine eligibility for program funding and discuss how young forest habitat may fit into your property management goals.

Significant federal cost-share funds are available for landowners interested in creating and/or maintaining young forest habitat on their lands in selected parts of these counties: Rensselaer, Columbia, Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester. If you are interested in creating five or more acres of young forest habitat, we want to hear from you.

Young forest management creates excellent woodcock, grouse, New England cottontail, deer and turkey habitat a host of other wildlife and plants as well. This is a great opportunity for landowners to create habitat that will attract more game, improve hunting success, and increase overall wildlife diversity.

You could pay thousands of dollars for this type of habitat work, but right now, you could get it free or at very little cost to you. For a very limited time, cost share funds may be available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to pay for young forest management.

To learn more about this unique opportunity, you can contact NWTF Biologist Doug Little at (518) 239-4427 or dlittle@nwtf.net

Rarely is NWTF in a position to offer free technical assistance at this scale.

If you are interested in participating, please contact us right away! This program is not exclusive to NWTF members so please share this opportunity with landowners you know.

Sincerely,

Doug Little, Conservation Field Supervisor (Northeast), National Wild Turkey Federation

This opportunity may be gone soon. If you're interested, please contact us right away!

NEW YORK TURKEY HUNTING OPEN

MAY 7TH AND 8TH 2016

\$150 per team of 2 hunters.

Includes 2 memberships 2 meals Sunday and 2 chances at YETI 65 Cooler

RULES:

- 2 Day team tournament.
- 2 Hunters per team
- Max 2 bird per team may be scored
- Highest combined NWTF scored birds per team wins
- Birds must be shot in NY
- Birds must be scored on day they were shot
- **Scoring will be held from Noon to 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday**
- Judging to be held at Cobleskill Outdoor Sports, France Lane, Cobleskill NY
- All birds must be legally shot and tagged
- Any illegal harvesting will result in immediate disqualification
- Awards Dinner to be held at Locomotion's Sports Bar and Grill, Cobleskill NY.
- Food to be served. Event opens at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday May 8th

AWARDS:

- 1st Place – 2 Browning A5 12 Gauges Camo
- 2nd Place- 2 Winchester SXP 12 gauge Camo
- 3rd Place 2 Mossberg 500 12 gauge Walnut

Name 1: _____ Phone Number _____

Name 2: _____ Phone Number _____

Enclosed is \$150 for 1 team to participate in Tournament _____

Make checks out to THE NWTF and Mail to 242 Lady Lane Greene NY 13778

or sign up online at www.nwtf.org/events

For questions please call Sean Langevin at 607-427-5795 or email slangevin@nwtf.net

#RISEAND FLY CAMPAIGN

#RISEANDFLY — A CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE HUNTING WAY OF LIFE

EDGEFIELD, South Carolina — The National Wild Turkey Federation's new membership campaign, Rise And Fly, launched in front of an energized crowd during the NWTF 40th annual National Convention and Sport Show in Nashville, Tennessee.

The campaign challenges NWTF members and hunters to gift a \$35 NWTF membership to someone special or to challenge a friend or family member to join the NWTF online at NWTF.org/RiseAndFly.

The NWTF launched the campaign through a vivid, two-and-a-half-minute video, which has gone viral on Facebook and other social media sites behind the support of many outdoor industry powerhouse personalities and brands sharing the video and using the hashtag, #RiseAndFly.

"Rise And Fly is built on the fact that hunters are made one by one," said George Thornton, NWTF CEO. "As an organization, it works the same way. This is the year we're reminding people, who love our hunting way of life, that those traditions are in harm's way. It's our job to take a stand; to be the spark for someone else and encourage others to Rise And Fly with the NWTF."

A growing list that includes Mossy Oak, Cabela's, Bass Pro Shops, Plano Synergy, YETI, Michael Waddell, Heartland Bowhunter, Franchi, Drury Outdoors, ALPS OutdoorZ and many others have shared the Rise And Fly video, but haven't stopped there. These social influencers are producing their own Rise And Fly video messages and recruiting followers to join the NWTF and participate in the campaign.

Thornton is clear that Rise And Fly isn't just another hashtag in a social media age littered with keyboard activists. The NWTF is immediately putting the Rise And Fly momentum to work.

"We've set lofty goals with our Save The Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative, and our new campaign is going to boost the manpower and funding we need to get there," said Thornton.

The NWTF's Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative is a 10-year plan that will:

- Conserve or enhance 4 million acres of wildlife habitat across North America
- Recruit 1.5 million hunters, so our hunting way of life thrives for generations
- Open access to 500,000 acres of land currently closed to hunting

The NWTF has a reputation for delivering results. When
Like us on Facebook: NWTF-New York

the Federation was founded in 1973, there were approximately 1.5 million wild turkeys in North America. After decades of dedicated work, that number hit a historic high of nearly 7 million wild turkeys, thanks to the tremendous efforts of state and federal wildlife agencies supported by the NWTF, its volunteers and committed partners.

To join the movement and learn more about the NWTF's Rise And Fly campaign, visit NWTF.org/RiseAndFly.
Media Contact: Pete Muller
pmuller@nwtf.net

CONSERVATIONIST FOR KIDS

The Winter 2016 issue of Conservationist for Kids, "Birds are Cool!" is now available online at
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/105233.html>!

In this issue, you will learn more about birds and ways that you can study them.

Classroom packets of this issue of Conservationist for Kids are currently being mailed to 4th grade teachers across the state. If you are a 4th grade teacher and you have not received a packet within the next couple of weeks, or if you need to update your contact information, please e-mail the editor. If you are a 4th grade teacher and have not been receiving Conservationist for Kids, please let DEC know so we can add you to the distribution list.

Are you looking for back issues of Conservationist for Kids online? We are pleased to announce the creation of an index of past issues, which includes the topic for each issue. Teacher information for each issue can also be found on our website.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This year there were 8 scholarship applications received in a timely manner for consideration at the state level.

The winners of this year's NYS Chapter scholarships are:

- 1st Place : Amber Nicole Smith - \$1,000.00 Award
Finger Lakes Bucks 'N Beards Chapter
- 2nd Place : Mikayla Smith - \$500.00 Award
Crossroads Limbhangers Chapter

These awards are in addition to the \$250.00 scholarships that were received at the Local Chapter level.

Thanks go to the committee members that had the task of evaluating the applicants. Michael Cali, Norm Ridley & Butch Kortright, Chairman.

News From The Local Flocks

COHOCTON VALLEY CHAPTER

This year the Cohocton Valley Chapter will be hosting its JAKES day on July 9. We will be partnering with the Canisteo Valley Chapter, The Southern Tier Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited and the Bath Rod and Gun Club. The event will be held at the Rod and Gun Club on County Route 16 in Bath.

We will also be co-sponsoring a youth turkey calling contest at the Steuben County (Bath) Fair in August. This event will be held at our booth in the Steuben County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs log cabin.

In October we will be co-sponsoring another youth turkey calling contest at the Southern Tier Outdoor Show held at Wilkins RV in Bath. Sign up will be at our booth at the show. Although these contests are to get the youth interested in wild turkeys, some have gotten a lot more involved. One of our callers is the current NY State Champ in his division, and he and his younger brother competed at the National Convention in February where both did well for their first time competing at that level. Sam Warren placed eighth in the Junior Division and Connor Warren placed third in the Poult Division. Congratulations to both Sam and Connor.

Recently one of our perennial Banquet attendees entered a raffle sponsored by the State of Arizona and won. The prize was an Arizona Goulds Turkey license! Scott Travis of Bath will be traveling to Arizona for his hunt in April. We hope everyone will join us in wishing him the best of luck. Hope to have more details at a later date, along with pictures from Scott's hunt.

NIAGARA COUNTY GOBBLERS

Niagara County Gobblers is hosting their 21st Annual Hunting Heritage Banquet on Sunday, April 10, 2016 at the Ransomville Vol. Fire Co., 2521 Youngstown Lockport Rd. (Rt. 93), Ransomville, NY.

Doors open at 3:30 p.m. Dinner at 5:00 p.m.

Contact Pam or Herb Lederhouse at 716-791-3151.

CROSSROADS LIMBHANGERS



Here is a picture of Joe Aman (hunter) and Nate Brewster with a turkey that was shot during the **5th Annual Gobblers at the Gorge Wheelin'** event put on by Crossroads Limbhangers at Letchworth State Park on May 1, 2015. The 6th Annual Gobblers in the Gorge is scheduled for May 1, 2016.

SUNY-COBLESKILL CHAPTER

Picture below to the left: Eric Tulytki and Donny Slater pose with their 2 birds from the 2015 New York Turkey Hunting Open. This team took first place in tournament

Picture below to the right is Luke Wlasniewski 2015 SUNY Cobleskill Chapter President with his longbeard.



Pictured above is the banquet committee for SUNY-Cobleskill's Hunting Heritage Banquet held February 25, 2016. It is great to see so many young members involved with the NWTF!

News From The Local Flocks

NORTHERN CATSKILLS CHAPTER

The Northern Catskills Longbeards Chapter hosted our annual Joseph "Skip" Como Wheelin' Sportsmen Wounded Veteran Hunt from May 1-3, 2015. The chapter hosted 14 wounded veterans for our annual hunt. One of the hunt guides is also a wounded Vietnam veteran.

A pre-hunt meeting and shotgun patterning day was held at Norton Hill Wildlife Club on May 1st so the participants could meet each other and the committee members. Pizza and soda were provided that evening and participants patterned their shotguns on the range. A post-hunt BBQ was held at the Norton Hill Wildlife Club after the hunt each day.

The hunters and chapter members had a great time during the hunt. This year we had hunters travel in from MD, VA, DE, NJ, PA, and ME along with four NY residents. Overall, eleven birds were taken by the hunters.

Many thanks to all of the supporters of this great event, including the Columbia-Greene Sportsman Association, Inc.



The NCLB chapter also hosted a spring youth turkey hunt BBQ, a youth pheasant hunt in partnership with the Greene County Federation of Sportsmen Clubs, and two early season bear hunts for wounded veterans through our Wheelin' Sportsmen program. We also held one of our most successful Hunting Heritage Super Fund banquets in years thanks to the support of our community.

SOUTHERN TIER CHAPTER

The Southern Tier chapter plans to sponsor a youth hunt again this year. The dates will be April 23rd and 24th.

The Southern Tier Chapter meets the second Thursday of the month at Jonathon's Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. All NWTF members are welcome to come.

Contact Russ Avery at 607-748-0765 for more information

ENCHANTED MOUNTAINS CHAPTER

The Enchanted Mountains Chapter will host its Handicapped Fishing Derby on July 9, 2016 near Little Valley, NY.

The Hunting Heritage Banquet will be October 1, 2016 at the Bartlett Country Club, Olean, NY. Contact Randy Opferbeck at 716-373-3322 for more information or to purchase tickets.

FINGER LAKES BUCKS N' BEARDS



The Finger Lakes Bucks N' Beards Chapter co-sponsored the 5th Annual Prattsburgh Predator Bowl. On February 5-7, 2016, 81 hunters took to the fields, harvesting a record breaking 40 predators (including coyotes, fox, raccoons, & skunks). It was great to see men, women, and youth enjoying the outdoors together this time of year.

The Predator Bowl is an opportunity for the FLBB Chapter to connect with local sportsmen and women, as part of our annual outreach effort, to build NWTF awareness in our own community. Finger Lakes Bucks N' Beards Chapter is located in Prattsburgh, NY in the western region of the Finger Lakes.



February 2016

Dear New York Member:

The New York State Chapter Board of Directors is pleased to offer its members the opportunity to purchase seed and seedlings at a subsidized price. **Annual members may select only two of the subsidized options on the offer form. Sponsor members and Upper level members may select three items from the form.** The New York State Hunting Heritage Super Fund will pay for 50 percent of the seed, seedlings, and shipping charges.

All orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Quantities are limited on subsidized seed and seedlings due to the dollars allocated to the program. For shipping allow 2 to 3 weeks from the date your order is entered in our system. Additional bags of seed or seedlings may be purchased in **unlimited** quantities using the non subsidized portion of the order form.

Buckwheat is a very popular feed crop for wildlife, as well as an excellent cover crop. It does well in almost any soil and produces heavy seed crop that shatter easily making them readily accessible to turkeys, ducks and other wildlife. Plant after the danger of frost has passed and at the rate of 40-50 lbs. per acre. A weed-free, smooth, well-prepared seedbed should be established before the crop is seeded. Seed should be placed into moist soil to ensure quick germination (can mature in 10 to 12 weeks with good weather). Do not seed more than 2 inches deep. Fertilize with 5-10-10.

Triple Threat Clover Mix is a concentrated, pre-inoculated clover mix including Crimson, Patriot, and Durana clovers. All seeds in this mix are legumes, which means that you will be providing the best quality food and cover conditions for wild turkeys, deer and other wildlife on your property. This mix of seed is adapted to most sites and will stay established for several years with proper maintenance. Prepare the seedbed by disking or harrowing the ground. Create a smooth seedbed. Always do a soil test! Add the recommended amounts of lime and fertilizer. Incorporate both into the soil. Broadcast seed over one acre. Cover seed ¼" deep using a drag or cultipacker to ensure good seed to soil contact. Soil pH should be 6.0 to 7.0. Normally can be planted early fall or early spring depending on location. Check with local Extension Office for proper seeding dates.

Clearfield Sunflower 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.

Red Splendor Crabapple

An upright, more or less open headed tree, flowers are a rosy red bloom. Outstanding features are the tree's almost complete disease resistance and its small red fruit, 1 cm in diameter that cling to the trees all winter. The flowering crabapples are durable, provide a valuable food source for wildlife and are strikingly beautiful in bloom. Crabapples remain on the tree all through winter, providing a good food source for turkeys, grouse and songbirds well into spring.

Each purchase results in the establishment of quality wild turkey brood habitat. Your efforts support the NY 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!

Sincerely,

Bill Wilbur
New York State Chapter President
National Wild Turkey Federation

National Wild Turkey Federation

P.O. Box 530 • 770 Augusta Road • Edgefield, South Carolina 29824 • Phone: (803) 637-3106 • Fax: (803) 637-9180

www.nwtf.org

New York Subsidy Offer Spring 2016

Super Fund pays a percentage of the subsidized portion of your order



Member #: _____

Member type: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Day Phone #: _____

Email: _____

**Call (800) THE-NWTF Membership Department
for changes to your mailing address.**

Ship to information:

Will not ship to PO Boxes

Please print or type

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Day Phone #: _____

Add'l Phone #: _____

Email: _____

(Print clearly, this info will NOT be shared)

- **Only submit one order form per member.**
- Member number must be in the state of subsidized offer. (Example: FL cannot participate in AL, GA cannot participate in SC, etc.)
- Orders **must** be completed on this form and submitted to the address listed by mailing or faxing.
- **No orders will be taken by phone or email.**
- Offer for adult members only. JAKES are ineligible to participate.
- **Limited quantity – first come first served – while supplies last.**
- Not planting immediately? Care should be taken for storing. Limited guarantees are at the discretion of the vendor supplying the seed.
- Do not tear or cut this form – return entire form with all fields completed.
- To avoid duplications, **submit your order once.** (fax or regular mail). Do not send multiple times.
- To check on order call 800-843-6983 opt. 1 sales. **Allow minimum 1 week for processing,** have your member number available.

For credit card security purpose
DO NOT SEND BY EMAIL.

Limits:	Annual members only allowed: 2 items TOTAL (<u>NOT</u> 2 of each) Sponsor members only allowed: 3 items TOTAL (<u>NOT</u> 3 of each) Upper level members only allowed: 3 items TOTAL (<u>NOT</u> 3 of each)	You may combine your selections <u>not</u> to exceed limits based on membership level.	
NOTE: If you have a question concerning your membership level please call 800-843-6983 and ask for Membership.			
Plants 1 acre unless otherwise stated. See statement above for qty limitations. Prices include shipping.			
Items are shipped by various vendors and may arrive in multiple shipments.			
	Item Cost	Qty	Total Amount
0062739183010000 Buckwheat (50 lb)	\$50 ea	x _____	\$ _____
0055765174010000 Triple Threat Clover (12 lb) Crimson Clover, Durana, Patriot	\$33 ea	x _____	\$ _____
0062739181010000 Clearfield Sunflower (10 lb plants 3 to 4 acres)	\$50 ea	x _____	\$ _____
0051518115010000 Red Splendor Crabapple (25 seedlings)	\$30 ea	x _____	\$ _____
Additional seed – no limit on how much can be ordered. Prices include shipping.			
0062739184010000 Buckwheat (50 lb)	NON subsidy	\$99 ea	x _____ \$ _____
0055765175010000 Triple Threat Clover (12 lb)	NON subsidy	\$65 ea	x _____ \$ _____
0062739182010000 Clearfield Sunflower (10 lb)	NON subsidy	\$99 ea	x _____ \$ _____
0051518116010000 Red Splendor Crabapple (25 seedlings)	NON subsidy	\$60 ea	x _____ \$ _____
Shipping date for seedlings: _____			Grand Total for all Items: \$ _____

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p style="color: red;">To avoid duplication ONLY submit your form once (fax or regular mail)</p> </div>	Return form and payment to: National Wild Turkey Federation Attn: NY Seed Offer PO Box 530 Edgefield, SC 29824 Fax: 803-637-9180	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p style="color: red;">For credit card security purpose DO NOT SEND BY EMAIL</p> </div>
Payment <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card <input type="checkbox"/> Money order <input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ Make payable to National Wild Turkey Federation		
Credit Card: _____ Exp. Date: _____ / _____		Source Code: NY SS 16
Signature: _____ Date: _____		



770 Augusta Rd
Edgefield, SC 29824

SPRING 2016 - NYS CHAPTER NWTF NEWSLETTER



NYS CHAPTER'S ANNUAL 10 GUN RAFFLE

Our annual raffle is the primary funding source for much of our day-to-day business expenses and for programs not covered by the State's superfund dollars. Without a profitable raffle we will be unable to achieve our goals and continue to be an efficient organization. Tickets will be mailed in early April, if you do not receive your tickets, please contact Randy Opferbeck at 716-373-3322.

Tickets are \$2 each or \$15 for a book of 10. As you can see by the tickets, we have ten (10) great prizes. Please do your best to sell these tickets on our behalf. Maybe you or a friend will win one of these great prizes.

As an **added bonus**, for anyone selling \$105 or more in raffle tickets, the state chapter will present the seller with a limited edition New York State Chapter Slate Call. These Quaker Boy Slate Calls have a beautiful walnut base and sound great; 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.

Send ticket returns and requests for more tickets to Randy Opferbeck, Secretary; NYS Chapter NWTF; 3164 N. Nine Mile Road; Allegany, NY 14706. You may also request more tickets by phoning 716-373-3322; if you leave a message, please speak clearly and slowly so information can be retrieved. You may also cut out the ticket on this page and submit it with your payment.

Checks should be made payable to **NYS Chapter NWTF**. Please be sure to return your tickets several days before the drawing date so they are received before Friday, July 8, 2016.

The drawing will be held on **July 10, 2016** at the New York State Chapter board of Directors meeting. Raffle winners do not need to be present to win.

Thank you for your support!

New York State Chapter of The National Wild Turkey Federation ANNUAL RAFFLE	
1st	Tikka T3 Lite .270 or \$500
2nd	Thompson Center Venture .308 or \$450
3rd	Remington 870 Turkey 12 ga. or \$400
4th	Parker Bushwacker Crossbow or \$350
5th	Winchester SXP 20 ga. or \$325
6th	Ruger American Rifle .243 or \$300
7th	Savage Axis XP 7mm-08 or \$275
8th	Henry .22 LR or \$250
9th	Marlin XT-17VR .17 HMR or \$225
10th	Remington 597 .22 LR or \$175

Name _____	Address _____	City _____	Phone _____	Email _____
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Drawing July 10, 2016 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.