

Turkey Droppings

Summer 2015



NWTF

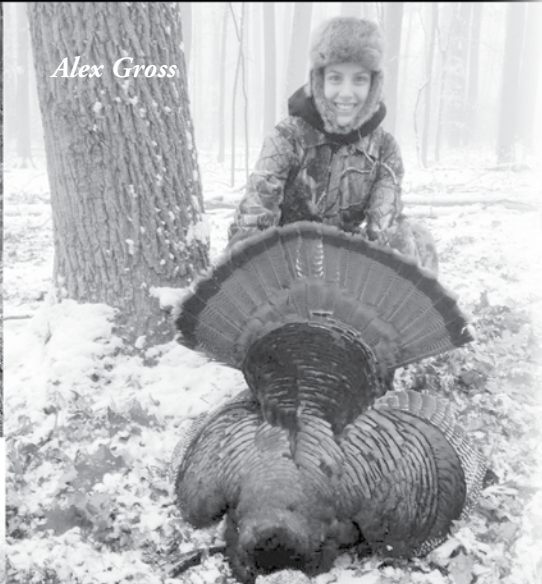
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Newsletter of the Maryland State Chapter

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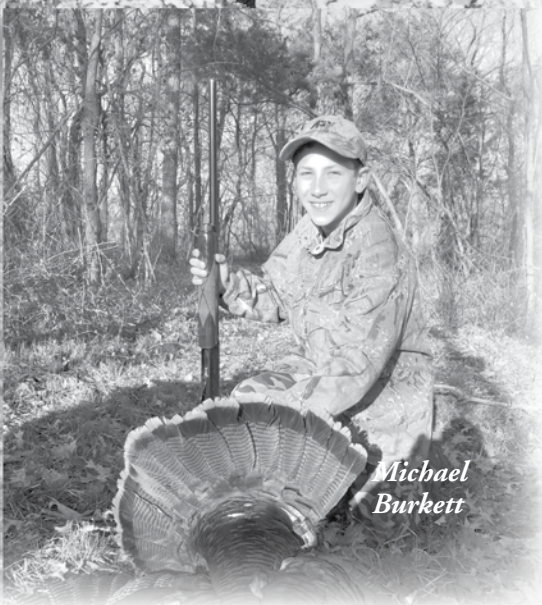
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Turkey Droppings

Turkey Droppings is a newsletter for the Maryland State Chapter, National Wild Turkey Federation, published in January and August. Deadline for material to be published in the newsletter is June 2 and December 10. Contents of this newsletter may be reprinted without permission.

Chris Miller—Editor

The mailing address for the *Turkey Droppings* newsletter is:

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Note: Articles should be submitted in Microsoft Word format. Art, logos, photos, and forms (i.e. banquet forms, seed requests, etc.) should be sent as high-resolution PDFs or jpegs. Send photos with cutlines as an attachment rather than in the body of a Word file. All photos should be clearly identified as to which story they go with. Call the publisher if you have questions.

Please send all revised or updated mailing lists or address changes to:

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Deadline for submissions for the Winter issue: Dec. 1, 2015.

News from the Editor

I hope everyone had a safe and successful spring turkey hunting season.

In the last issue of *Turkey Droppings* I mentioned an article about our mailing house, Appalachian Crossroads that was mistakenly left out. It is on page 8.

Please note that our contact at *The Republican* has changed, while Richard Hill is still there and doing the layout and design, Paula Glotfelty will be the person that ALL articles and photos for the *Turkey Droppings* newsletter will now be sent to. Her contact information is shown on the inside page of this issue, please make a note of it.

Also, please remember that this is your newsletter; if you have a hunting story or photo that you'd like to share with everyone else please send it to me and I will do my very best to make sure it is included. You can send it through e-mail to me at: thec525@aol.com please put "Turkey Droppings" in the subject line. Also I would like to start including some of your

favorite wild game recipes in our newsletter. I know many of you are accomplished hunters and must have some tasty recipes. Please start sending them in. I'd like to put at least two in each issue.

Let's all be safe out there dur-

ing this summer and don't forget to use your insect repellent to guard against ticks, chiggers and all other annoying/ biting insects when going into the woods scouting, hiking or camping.

Have a great summer!

From the State Board of Directors

by Bobby Boarman, Maryland State Chapter President

Hello friends, fellow hunters and conservationists. Another spring turkey season has come and gone. I hope that you had time to get out this spring and enjoy the outdoors. Hopefully you had a chance to take a long beard or take someone hunting.

Well a lot has happen since our last issue of turkey droppings. We had our 2014 awards banquet and a good time was had by all. Volunteer of the year went to Teddy Capel, MVP Dean Ennis, and Chuck Lewis award went to Billy Moore, Johnny Miller and Tommy Deagle. Our hunt trip winners were Kimberly Capel and Tom Maliszewski. Many of our chapters took back to their chapters lots of awards also. Congratulations to all of our winners. A big thank you to Butch Faulkner for making the trip from Florida to be our guest speaker and spending the evening with us. I would like to thank all that helped set up the hall and all of you that attended. We had a full house.

I along with many of our chap-

ter members attended the 2014 NWTF convention. As always it was a great convention with lots to do. Again this year the convention set a new record for most attended. Rooms are available now for the 2016 convention Feb.11-14. One thing that impressed me the most was the NWTF new conservation plan known as the big six of America's wildlife conservation. The areas of distinction within the big six include 738 million acres. To learn more about this go to NWTF web site. The Maryland State chapter took home first place for the L A Dixon membership award less than 1,999 members. Bob Eriksen won the Henry S. Mosby Award. This award recognizes an outstanding biologist who has contributed to wild turkey management throughout their career. Congratulation Bob well deserved. Then there is me. I received the Roger Latham Award. This award is given to volunteers who have given their time, energy and money to the conservation and

management of the American wild turkey. Doing what I have loved to do for twenty five plus years. Giving back to our youth and conservation. I want to thank Billy Moore, my wife Susan and all that wrote letter of support. I am over whelmed and humbled.

The Maryland State Chapter NWTF is selling Guns and Cash raffle tickets. Prizes 1st Remington 700 SPS 270 Win with Leupold VX-2 3x9x40 Riflescope. 2nd Winchester SX3 3 ½" Semiauto 12ga. 3rd \$1,000 cash. Get ahold of your local chapter presidents for raffle tickets. This year instead of a 30 gun raffle we will be doing a 30 day cash raffle in November. Please support your state chapter NWTF.

Daisy has done it again. This year all state chapters that have a jakes trailer will be receiving some goodies to add to your jakes day. They are providing 3 long bows, 2 cross bows, two daisy 74CO2 raffles plus accessories. Thank you Daisy. If any of your chapters would like to purchase any of these packages, contact Denise Johnson at 479-621-4317 or email djohnson@daisy.com.

Congratulations to our western Maryland chapter for receiving the 2014 conservationist of the year award. This award is given by the DNR'S Wildlife and Heritage division.

This spring I had the pleasure of taking two young individuals turkey hunting. One on Saturday and the

other on Sunday during the spring youth turkey season. On Saturday Susan and I met up with Katie Kahlr and off we went. Susan has been mentoring Katie for several years now taking her deer hunting. After several days of scouting and some good decoys and setting up a blind Katie took her first turkey. What a show. Three birds in the decoys and one coming up the field edge. I am not sure who was happier Katie, Susan or me. What a great hunt.

On Sunday Billy Moore and I took Brian Wathen. Brian has been fighting brain cancer for five years now but is doing well. We hunted on my property where I had been hearing a bird for several days. We set up and I started tree talking. Boy he was fired up and the rest is history. Brian shot a monster of a long beard. This is why we all do what we do. The memories shared that morning will last a life time. Big thanks to Joey Johnson Jr. for filming this hunt.

It is with sadness and joy that we will be saying good bye to Bob Eriksen. Bob is our regional biologist for MD PA NJ DE. Bob will be retiring at the end of July to spend more time with family. The work and sacrifice Bob has made on behalf of the wild turkey is endless. We wish you well sir and thank you for all that you have done.

Please take a minute to thank a soldier for protecting our continued freedom. Remember to take a child

hunting or fishing or just spending time in the outdoors with them for they are our future. I would like to thank each and every one of you. From our board of directors, our chapter presidents and our many

volunteers for all that you do for the Maryland State Chapter, and your local chapters. You are the best. Have a great summer. Be safe and again thank all of you for what you do.

MD DNR Wild Turkey Program Update

by Bob Long, Wild Turkey Biologist

2015 Winter Turkey Season Results^_Maryland's inaugural winter turkey season was open January 22-24 statewide. Hunters reported taking 108 wild turkeys. This season was established to provide hunters additional turkey hunting opportunities while minimizing conflicts with other hunting seasons.

Turkeys were taken in 21 of the 23 counties with Dorchester, Garrett, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, and Worcester counties reporting the highest numbers. Eighty-nine percent were taken on private lands. Adult males comprised about 38% of the harvest with the remainder either females or juvenile birds. Ninety-two percent were taken with a shotgun, but a handful of hunters used a crossbow or vertical bow to harvest their winter turkey.

Hunters Report Record Spring Turkey Season Harvest^_Hunters reported harvesting a total of 3,767 wild turkeys during the 2015 spring turkey season that ended on May 23. This year's harvest is 13% higher than the 2013 record-setting harvest of 3,344 and well above the 10-year

Reported Winter Turkey Harvest

County	2015 Harvest
Allegany	6
Anne Arundel	3
Baltimore	2
Calvert	5
Caroline	6
Carroll	0
Cecil	0
Charles	5
Dorchester	15
Frederick	4
Garrett	11
Harford	4
Howard	1
Kent	4
Montgomery	4
Prince George's	1
Queen Anne's	7
Somerset	3
St. Mary's	7
Talbot	3
Washington	6
Wicomico	4
Worcester	7
Total	108

average of 3,045.

The sharp increase can be attributed to a combination of factors including expanding turkey popu-

lations, excellent weather during the season, and additional Sunday hunting opportunities. Wild turkey populations are at all-time highs in some areas and record numbers of turkeys were reported from Carroll, Cecil, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, and St. Mary's counties. Additionally, ideal weather during most of the season likely increased hunter participation and helped them locate and call in cooperative gobblers.

Garrett County reported the highest harvest again this year with 421 turkeys, followed by Washington with 392. Rounding out the top five counties were Allegany (298), Frederick (256), and Charles (253).

Turkey hunters in eight counties were able to hunt on Sundays this year. It seemed that they took advan-

tage of the additional opportunities, harvesting a total of 332 turkeys on Sundays. The table below shows the reported spring turkey season harvest by county for 2009-2015.

Volunteers Needed^_The DNR will soon be conducting our annual summer wild turkey observation survey. We are asking for the help of anyone that may see turkeys during the period July 1 – August 31. The survey is very simple to complete, but provides us with a great deal of information about Maryland's turkey population that helps guide management decisions. Please contact me if you would like to participate in the survey this year (Bob Long: 410-221-8838 ext 106 or blong@dnr.state.md.us). We are always looking for more help. THANK YOU.



Bobby Boarman, Brian Waphen, and Billy Moore on the Youth Turkey Hunt.

Maryland's Reported Wild Turkey Harvest, 2009-2015.

County	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Allegany	342	327	287	257	269	258	298
Anne Arundel	39	56	38	58	82	54	62
Baltimore	19	39	25	29	37	32	35
Calvert	49	35	40	50	57	59	69
Caroline	105	118	132	164	142	141	159
Carroll	27	20	22	30	33	45	62
Cecil	29	30	34	43	55	57	67
Charles	186	215	222	303	270	254	253
Dorchester	236	213	210	219	245	239	252
Frederick	115	113	122	140	215	193	256
Garrett	364	345	339	368	386	383	421
Harford	68	67	69	98	110	97	102
Howard	5	10	16	16	16	10	16
Kent	85	88	97	103	118	150	164
Montgomery	53	42	47	51	82	68	97
Prince George's	73	79	79	92	78	79	87
Queen Anne's	124	125	114	152	159	165	183
Somerset	142	106	114	122	124	120	169
St. Mary's	84	67	83	99	127	173	193
Talbot	105	110	98	102	103	83	68
Washington	308	303	285	292	309	343	392
Wicomico	150	148	162	152	124	146	138
Worcester	202	191	191	192	203	176	224
Total	2910	2847	2826	3132	3344	3325	3767

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David Hohman—301-898-5256 E-mail: ljwcustomcalls@verizon.

Appalachian Crossroads



Editor's Note: This story was to appear in the last issue of *Turkey Droppings*, but was inadvertently left out. The publisher regrets the error.

Our Mission:

APA (Appalachian Parent Association), aka Appalachian Crossroads, operates for the purpose of providing personnel, services, activities, programs, and facilities for the evaluation, training, employment, socialization, support, and transportation of persons who have developmental disabilities, handicaps, economic disadvantages, or are aged, to enable them to become more productive and functional members of society, to promote their quality of life, or to maintain themselves in the community.

The 100+ individuals served range from being profoundly handicapped to very mildly handicapped, young adults to seniors, and in good health to having complex medical needs. To meet the needs of such a diverse group, the agency provides a full continuum of services aimed at assisting individuals to have the supports necessary to live, work, and socialize in the community according to their preferences and abilities.

- Appalachian Crossroads values living in the community, meaningful age-appropriate activities, choice, dignity of risk and interdependence.
- The agency has developed a broad continuum of services and supports in alignment with its values and with the needs and preferences of the people we serve.
- Our services enable people to live, work, play, and retire.

The Mailroom at Appalachian Crossroads offers a variety of services: Bulk Mailings (Foreign and Domestic) database management, shredding, printing and we are NCOA certified. We can offer you both professional and personal mailings. We offer the creation of flyers, brochures, invitations and training manuals.

At Appalachian Parent Association, Inc., we take pride in our client confidentiality and on time service. Take advantage of being able to send us drafts electronically and cut down on costs. Our database management uses leading edge software to stay current with customers' needs and postal regulations. We can offer desktop publishing and Mail Merge for your form letters printed with your clients' names and addresses

giving your materials a more personal touch.

Our state of the art copier makes the duplication of training manuals and flyers a dream, plus warehousing of print materials can be arranged. Any simple print pieces can be easily replicated at our in-house copy service saving you time and money.

Our customer base is as diverse as the surrounding area. There are numerous clients such as Dr. James Jones, Deer Park VFD, Deer Park VFW and Oakland Elks Lodge # 2481. Some of our large customers include Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, Wisp at Deep Creek Mountain Resort, Canaan Valley Resort & Conference Center, Garrett County Board of Education and

First United Bank & Trust.

In the mailroom we have a diverse group of clients. We have a client with Down syndrome who walks with another client of his choice to the Board of Education to pick up mail every day. We have a client who is blind who does shredding and goes around to all of the restrooms and restores the supplies. There is a rotating list of clients who go out with an instructor every day on the mail runs to do pick-ups. We have a client who goes to the elementary school one day a week to work with the students. Therefore, as you can see, we do not only in-house work but we also like to get our clients involved in the community as much as possible.

My Hunt of a Lifetime

by Gene Hyatt

Wow, how can you measure a great hunt? In my younger years I traveled to far-off lands to chase Bear, Moose, and Elk. I came home without a trophy but some wonderful memories, and isn't that what it's all about.

I'm on the state board for the NWTF and I won a turkey hunt (after about 100 years)! This year I finally got to go on my Nebraska turkey hunt.

Now this is wide open country; you wouldn't expect to find a respectable gobbler within 500 miles of these open fields and prairies. You see a barn and it's 30 miles away,



if that gives you an idea of “wide open”.

Many of you know me so you can guess I was a little worried how the seating on the plane would work out. Bobby Boorman was looking out for me as he did on the whole trip. Bobby, John Gagan, Ronnie Hancock, and Myself flew into Denver. There we picked up 2 SUVs and drove to McCook, Nebraska.

The first evening I hunted “Grand Pas” I called in a hen and heard other hens but no gobbling. There where cock bird pheasants crowing ever where. They are looking for girl friends this time of year also. The only trees are cottonwoods along the creeks so that’s where the birds have to come to roost. Well this should be easy, yeah right! Not with my luck.

The Nicholas family run the outfitting program. Bobby has been huning there for 15 years; it’s like family and they took me right in. They where great people.

The son Chris, who scouts out birds and gets the hunters to where they need to be, and Bobby picked me up at the end of the first evening. Bobby knew at that point things where going to be a little tough. They had lost some leases; the biggest one was over 7,000 acres and that was where the Maryland boys had done most of their hunting over the years. Also, there had been about 40 hunters in camp before us, so you can see how things are looking. I really wasn’t

too worried because my three hunting partners knew the properties and the birds like the back of their hands.

I think it was John who broke the ice that first evening. The next morning I was set up in a nice spot but things just didn’t go my way, not a gobble anywhere. The Maryland boys started racking ’em up! By the third day Bobby, John and Ronnie all had their two Nebraska birds. I thought I was a pretty good turkey hunter but these guys are something else! They adapted to the situation, did a little sneaking and some belly crawling and where killing nice birds. This was a little problem for me, I’ll admit, I’m a “big boy” and if I try to belly crawl it’s more like an earth mover is going through! we tried some more great set-ups but those gobblers were either afraid of me or a lot smarter, I’m still not sure which.

On Saturday afternoon we went to Chris’s high school graduation. This became my break. Bobby knew half the people there and rounded up some more property to look at. We went out in full force that evening, John, Chris, Bobby and I. A turkey was going to die. We went to look at one place then another. The second field where Bobby was talking about setting up had three hens and a strutter moving across the back of the field when we got there. We quickly drove around the back side, and Bobby and I snuck toward the corner of the field.

The sky was black the lightning and thunder were announcing the rapidly approaching storm. The birds decided to cross the field and head toward the road. Now the sky opened up, Bobby said we were going to get struck by lightning if we stayed much longer. The birds huddled in the middle of the field. John and Chris kept an eye on the them from the truck. Bobby and I got around into a small hedge row that jutted out into the field. When the rain eased up, the birds headed towards the corner we were waiting in. I dropped my first Merriam at 55 yards. Bobby jumped the fence and grabbed my bird. John pulled the truck up in the field to the scene of the crime and the celebration began.

On the way out we stopped and checked the first field we had looked at earlier and saw three jakes. We decided I should go there in the morning. Chris and I went and I got a chance to show him what I do best, a good old-fashion turkey hunt where

you just call 'em in and shoot um! That evening I took the mom of the Pennsylvania crew that was in camp and called in a couple birds for her but she didn't want to shoot a jake and didn't think her 20 ga. was good at 35 yards.

We got up early and headed back to Denver to catch our flight back home. Now this was truly a hunt of a lifetime for me. Susan Boarman getting all my tags and helping me with the computer stuff to get me started. Hunting my first birds besides Easterns, seeing that big wide open country. This was nice, but what really made this a hunt of a lifetime for me was Bobby, John, and Ronnie. These guys busted their butts to make sure I had a good hunt, they really worked hard to make sure I would get a bird. They found great set-ups and when that didn't work they got me sneakin'. These three NWTF brothers made this my HUNT of a LIFETIME! Thanks, Bobby, John, and Ronnie, and the good LORD!

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The Hunt of a Lifetime

by Elisabeth Esser



Bang is the sound a gun makes when you pull the trigger. That was the sound of the Gun when I pulled the trigger on my first Turkey and my first ever animal I killed. I was afraid of killing an animal because you are killing something's life, but I was so excited to find that I actually got it and that feeling of being afraid smoothed over. I know if you are reading this you probably have killed many other animals and have at least tried to go hunting, so you know what the feeling feels like. But for those who don't, it feels like this. Your heart jumps up and your stomach also jumps up. Your face fills with a smile and your eyes are wide with excitement. And you think this was so worth it.

But before I even got to this spot I had to go through a lot of challenges. Since I had never gone hunting before I had to take my

hunter safety course, which we (I and my dad) took online, which brought a whole new experience as well. Then I had to take an in-person test to show I was not cheating. I was also nervous when that happened. I thought I got a grade and would not pass, but it turns out that I passed with a 100. I had a "wow" expression and even though there were others with 100 too. Everyone was proud of everyone's grade. The next challenge was the Turkey class and after the hunter safety course I felt a whole lot better. But it turns out that at first I didn't know what date the class was and with a little luck I got picked to go on an all-nighter half off.

My friend and I were so excited to go together. When I got home I couldn't wait to tell my dad the news. But he told me the Turkey class was on the same day so I couldn't go to my all-nighter. This was one of the sacrifices, but it was worth it. Even though I didn't get 100 on the test I still passed and was on my way to the hunt. We stayed at a camp the night before the hunt and would go out in the morning. 3 other kids went out as well that morning. My dad and I went out with Daniel our guide and stood in a field listening for sounds of a Turkey. The spot my guide Daniel picked the day before didn't have

any activity so we just followed the sound of the Turkeys which led us to a creek my guide and I sat by a tree and waited. He did some calls and placed a decoy out in front of us, (about 20 yards away).

The first Turkey we saw was behind us, so we didn't try to shoot at it and just stayed still. Then from the other side of the creek right in front of us was a Turkey; it saw the decoy and flew right over the creek and to those who said Turkeys couldn't fly well I saw one fly over a creek. When the Turkey was right at the decoy and turned its head I could see white and blue; when I saw him looking at our tree I shot. The bang happened and I saw it go down. When we were heading back to the car we went back through the woods and I was in the rear and my dad was

carrying the Turkey in front of me. I saw that Turkey and my eyes almost were in tears. Did I just really kill that, I thought. It was a hard thing to transfer from because it was the first time I did this. In the field we took pictures and Daniel my guide look so pleased, it took us 40 minutes to go in and come back. This hunt wouldn't have happened without the National Turkey Federation and the youth hunt raffle. Because of all the supporters and teachers in the classes I would have never been able to bring down that Turkey. You all deserve praise for that—THANK YOU! And also the biggest help was my dad—he was the one who signed me up and helped me with understanding a gun. He was my biggest support. And again THANK YOU ALL!

A Hunt to Remember—April 12, 2015

by Brian Wathen

Today was a usual hunting day, get up early and hunt all morning, but that wasn't the case. Today I hunted with my dad, Billy Moore and Bobby Boarman, the southern Maryland NWTF chapter representatives and last but not least, our cameraman Joey Johnson for the second day of the youth hunt weekend. At 5:15 Billy picked me and my dad up at our house and headed to Bobby's farm near the Potomac River. We arrived at Bobby's around 5:45, with Bobby sitting in the truck.



We talked to Bobby and we set up a game plan; we would walk along the edge of the field and see if we heard anything. If we didn't we would move to another field. Sure enough, we heard one, so we stood where we were and we just listened to see if we could hear this big long beard in the trees. Bobby told me and Billy to sit against an oak tree nearby after we decided to try and call him in. So Bobby and Billy set the decoys 20 yards from the oak tree as I got situated and my dad handed me my Remington 1187 20-gauge shotgun. It was about 6:20 when we were all set up and he was gobbling like crazy when all of a sudden he flew down. It was about 6:41 when Bobby started calling real

lightly and that long beard knew something was going on. It was a little far but at the corner of field I could see the turkey's head and he was strutting saying "I own this place and I got a new girl." He then ran up to a hen decoy and started to turn; that's when Billy told me to pull my gun up. I pushed the safety off. And slightly pulled the trigger. I had done it; at 6:51 a big long beard was on the ground. Bobby had pulled me to my feet and I walked toward my prize. A 9 ½ inch long beard with 1 inch spurs had been taken.

I want to thank Bobby and Billy as well as Joey for taking the time to make this day happen. I will always remember this hunt.

Garrett's Turkey Hunt

by Garrett Shorb



At the NWTf I did not expect to win a mentored youth hunt. When I did, I couldn't believe it. I was so excited. Every day I asked my dad, "Did they tell you anything else about the hunt?" I was always excited to ask. As the day got closer I got more and more excited and ready. On the day of the hunt, we woke up early at about 4:00 to get there at about 5:30 or so.

When we got there we sat in our truck for about 5 minutes and waited for my mentor, Mr. Dave, a great person to hunt with. During the 5 minutes we put green face paint around me and my dad's

eyes where our face masks would not cover. We got on our hunting clothes. It was still dark. We crossed the road and walked for 7 minutes or so. We went to some pine trees and sat down near some fields. My dad and I sat at one tree and Mr. Dave at another. After 5 minutes, we heard some gobbles. It was still dark.

They were right behind us roosting. We waited and it got light and I saw some turkeys in a field. A whole flock, maybe 20 or so in all, with some strutting gobblers, was about 200 yards off. I could see their beards from where I was. Mr. Dave called. Two gobblers came in a little but stopped and left back into the other field. A third came pretty close and I started shaking in excitement but it was too far to shoot and it left into the field and strutted. But before that, Mr. Dave said it was to his right about 20 yards strutting with a hen, but it left before my dad and I could move for a shot. We watched the flock for at least 40 minutes or more and it left into the woods.

We stayed for at least 30 more minutes before leaving. We got up and started down through the fields then suddenly the road was very busy but we got across. We stood at the trucks and decided to go across the road. Then we got in his truck and drove to a farm not at all far away. On the way in, we saw 2 jakes so we circled way around and went through a cow pen. One cow with a big eye was staring straight at me. I

was scared it would run at me. It had really big bug eyes and a big head.

We walked through and we stayed low so the two jakes did not see us. Then we busted a flock. Some went left and some right- we didn't hear the left side again. We got to the blind. We put up decoys and called and went into the blind. In about 5 minutes we saw the jakes about 60 yards or so were coming over the hill. I could not shoot because I could not see more than their heads so I could not see if they were bearded. Then a gobbler from the right... a long beard brought them away from us. Then long beards and a flock came over the hill. A bucket somewhere on the farm dropped and they left. We heard nothing more from there. After a little, we left and walked through a field, over some fences, and through some woods. We called then. Gobble! So we sat down and called it. It gobbled time after time.

It would not come to us but eventually it started to get closer. So we called. Then we were sitting there and I saw it go by. Then I whispered, "Dad, turkey." I turned towards it and put up the gun. It went in the sights. As I saw the long beard, I took it off safety. As it turned to leave, I shot and it flopped to the ground and flopped like a fish out of water. I fist bumped my dad and looked for Mr. Dave. I saw him running to the turkey so I sat down the gun and ran to the turkey. Mr. Dave

stepped on it and we tagged it. We guessed its beard was about 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 10 inches long. We took it back and put it in the freezer and went to get lunch. After lunch, we got my turkey and went home. Then I learned I also won a free turkey mount!

Luke's First Turkey

by Luke Faulkner



One thing I know is this will be one of my favorite hunts and I would like to say thanks to all the people who help run the Jakes NWTF, and thanks especially to my mentor Mr. Dave for taking me hunting.

It was Florida's spring gobbler youth day. It was the first one I had been able to attend since moving back from Maryland. I hadn't harvested my first turkey yet but had many close calls over the last two years. What made this hunt special was that I was hunting on the ground right next to my grandfather's tree stand; he passed away while I was an infant. I had sat on

the ground next to a shallow creek. I was leaned up against a thin tree and called as the sun rose. I had heard a few gobbles but they shut down and refused to call back. The mosquitoes had been attacking me furiously and I sat there swatting at them. As I was trying to hit one that landed on my face, I glimpsed at the creek.

I saw the reflection of two gob-

blers running in my direction on the other side of the creek. I wasn't facing directly towards the gobblers, but I could make out that one was a long beard and the other was a mature jake. As they neared me, I clenched my 12 gauge shotgun. They were about 20 yards diagonally behind me. The closer they got, they got hung up and stopped around 15 yards diagonally behind me. I was looking at them out of the corner of my eye. They started running back to the direction they came from and I flipped my body

around and shot the mature jake, because he was the closest and had a clear shot, and instantly saw him flop on the ground. I laid my gun and calls down and swam across the creek to retrieve my bird. It was an adrenaline packed moment and I thanked God for every second of it. I also gave thanks to my dad for giving up two years' worth of hunting time to make sure that I harvested my first turkey.

Without him, any animal I have ever harvested would have never happened. Thank you, Dad.

Morgan's Hunt

by as told by Morgan's daddy

Morgan was 1 of the 8 names picked for this year's annual lottery of junior hunters (age 10-15) to hunt with a professional guide from the National Wild Turkey Federation at Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge on a beautiful protected island in Kent County, Maryland. The hunts are a conservation effort set up to help manage the wild turkey population in the National Wildlife Refuge and extra care is taken to ensure that it is a safe quality experience. Four applicants were picked at random to hunt this past Saturday (April 11) and the other four get to hunt next Saturday (April



Morgan anticipates tomorrow's hunt.

18th). She was not the only female applicant, but Morgan was the only girl selected at random this year and traveled the farthest to participate. This was her first turkey hunt, and she was the smallest in the group, but seemed to set the pace early for



Morgan and her friend Alexis Main practice (in the rain) to prepare for Morgan's Hunt.

everyone.

Morgan completed her Hunter's Safety course only a few weeks ago and forwarded the application for the hunt only 2 days after completing and passing the course with her brother and some of her friends. She hoped she would get drawn and was ecstatic when she got the call from "Mrs. Cindy" at the NWR with the news last week. Morgan immediately started making plans and used her 11-year-old young lady "experience" to shop with a mission for the right gear and take the opportunity to "accessorize"! She found many favorite things, but now the Duck Dynasty "War Paint" makeup kit is now at the top of her list and she intends to let them know that "It's not just for ducks anymore!"

We made arrangements and traveled last Friday and arrived a few hours early to see the area, take

in some scenery and scout a little if possible. Five bald eagles and countless osprey greeted us at the entrance to the park. We attended a mandatory meeting and safety briefing in the evening where the participants, guides and parents met each other. Licenses were checked, Federal permits for the hunt issued, then the participants and guides drew numbers to see who would be working as teams and areas to hunt. We then went with our guides to scout the options and plan our strategy for the next morning. On the way, we saw some turkeys in a distant field and 2 different gobblers—one Morgan spotted that was "Huge! and was all puffed up!" "Mr. Johnny" (Morgan's guide), took us to an area where we listened and scanned the area until dusk.

We stayed overnight 15 minutes away in Rock Hall at the "Mariner"

which was recommended and was a good choice. The rooms were very appropriate for our outing and the owners very personable and pleasant. Everyone we came in contact with at the National Refuge and during our trip was very accommodating.

At 5:30 am each participant met their guide at the entrance to the Park then split up to settle into their spots to wait for daylight and the 6:05 am legal time to start hunting. The fresh morning air was filled with excitement as turkeys were heard in the distance as they started to leave their roosting areas all around the 2,200+ acre Island. Morgan, Mr. Johnny and I quickly set up in the brush and woods at the edge of a large field and watched the beautiful sky and landscape with the Chesapeake Bay in the distance come alive. Morgan had the best view up front & center with Mr. Johnny crouched about 6 feet away to her right in the brush. I concealed myself about 15 feet behind at the base of a tree and some dead falls. We all settled into the quiet and blended in. We used very small hand signals and moved or whispered only when absolutely necessary—especially if a turkey were to come into view.

After almost an hour of calling from a variety of calls and Mr. Johnny “talking turkey” with some very content birds in the distance, we started to worry that the birds

would eventually move in the opposite direction. At 7:08 am a large tom surprised us very close, when he answered the call with a thundering gobble behind us! Having little time to react, the bird charged forward in full strut from our left. Mr. Johnny whispered to Morgan to “Get ready..” and quietly coached her on her deliberate movements to come. The large bird came into view about 50 yards away still strutting and commenced closing in on the 2 decoys in front of us in the field. Morgan calmly followed the bird down the barrel of her 20 gauge Remington 11-87 and waited for the best shot at his head before knocking him down at 21 yards. The dazed bird got up and started to run as Morgan was already trying to place the bead on him again when Mr. Johnny I both said “Shoot him again! Shoot him again!”

Morgan hesitated then replied “I can’t—I can’t get a shot—there’s too much brush!” Mr. Johnny quickly helped her rearrange to get the final shot before the bird could regain his senses or escape. Morgan was so excited she could hardly contain herself, raising her voice, squealing and dancing only when she saw the bird was down. Her gobbler had a 10" beard, 1¼" spurs and weighed 23 lb. She was the 2nd junior hunter to tag a bird at the Refuge that morning and all 4 hunters at least had a shot before noon. One boy opted to pass

up a legal, but rare “bearded hen” with the possibility and realization that it could be his only chance to bag a turkey that day. He then was able to bag a nice gobbler about 2 hours later. The day’s total was 3 junior hunters bagging their “first turkey” and one who had missed.

Some of the best time was had over the next 5+ hours spending quality time with members of the dedicated team from the National Wild Turkey Federation. Ted Capel and the guide team worked extra hard volunteering their time to make this experience as successful as possible for everyone—especially for the junior hunters. They took interest in sharing their knowledge with the kids to ensure that the sport and conservation will continue and it was very refreshing to witness their sincere dedication. Each made no waste of an opportunity to share something with the junior hunters. A high point was the participation during the turkey calling lessons, practice sessions and using the techniques to try to locate birds while waiting for the others to finish the hunt.

Morgan is still excited about her experience and planning her next hunt. Next Saturday (April 18th) is opening day for the regular Spring season and the other 4 chosen junior hunters have the opportunity to hunt the area too. Jack Stohlman from our area was

chosen as one of next Saturday’s participants and is one of the “Junior Hunter’s Safety Instructors” that taught Morgan’s Hunter’s Safety class a couple of weeks ago at Catoctin Fish & Game in Myersville. She also credits “Miss Lacy” and Jody Eccard as some of the instructors who especially inspired and helped her with her Hunters’ Safety Course. Mr. Johnny also guided Cameren Moneypenny to a successful hunt last year. Dan Neuland is planning to write a article soon in the FNP about this annual hunting opportunity and this year’s hunt, so keep looking for that. Thanks to Dan for sharing this opportunity with everyone, and he can testify to the great experience too, because Nathaniel was chosen as a participant last year where he too filled a tag with a nice gobbler.

We encourage any youth interested to apply for future hunts. Next year the age requirement is to be 10-16 years old and they wish to have as many different youth as possible be able to participate. Only applicants who have not been previously chosen to participate are eligible. This weekend turned into a long one for us, but has been an unforgettable quality experience and one of the best “father/daughter” experiences we have had. The trip to the Refuge is well worth it even if just to visit.



Washington County NWTF
1005 Beachwood Dr
Hagerstown, MD 21742

The
**Washington County
Longbeards Chapter**

of the
National Wild Turkey Federation

Would like you to join us at

**The Academy Theater
58 E Washington St
Hagerstown, MD 21740**

As we host our

**5th Annual Hunting
Heritage Banquet**

**SAVE THE
HABITAT.
SAVE THE
HUNT.**



Saturday September 19, 2015

Doors open: 5:00 p.m.

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

-Banquet Ticket Application Enclosed-

Your early registration will be a great help to us in
planning our event. It will speed up the entry process
at the door and qualify you for our

- EARLY BIRD SPECIAL -

Look inside for more details on our Sportsman Raffle Tickets.

Please complete the enclosed ticket registration form
to reserve your seats at the banquet.

Early Bird registration cutoff date is

September 12, 2015

2015 NWTF Gun of the Year

Winchester 70
.308



GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO CONSERVATION

Would you like to help out with selling tickets, getting donations or maybe helping set the banquet up? How about helping out by giving a little back to conservation with the National Wild Turkey Federation. Please contact us to find out how you can help us. For more information about the banquet please contact

Brian Pikerowski

301-992-2266

pikshirider@gmail.com

Renee Weddle

240-446-9547

Momofsix1120@aol.com

*Come check out all of the
unique one of a kind NWTF
merchandise*



Plus many other high quality items
To include NWTF exclusive prints!

Please RSVP by 9/12/2015

Sa

Name for NWTF membership

Address: _____

City: _____

Email: _____

Membership Number: _____

Additional persons attending: _____

Number of auction bidder number _____

YOU CAN ALSO SIGN

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Sponsor Members

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Hat, and a NWTF Spo

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gifts listed above and s

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_____ Enclosed is \$100 fo

\$_____ **Total Enclosed**

OR, if you prefer to pay by

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SIGNATURE (for credit card) _____

Washington County, NWTF
5th Annual Hunting Heritage Banquet
tuesday, September 19, 2015 at The Academy Theater
Doors open at 5:00 p.m. ** Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**
— Banquet Ticket Application —

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Check if new member: _____

Members needed _____

UP AT WWW.POWDERHOOK.COM

Washington County NWTF
mail to:
Matt Davis
Beachwood Dr
Hagerstown, MD 21742

Business Card Ads: Cost - \$25. Receive a donor sticker, tax deduction receipt, and business card will appear in banquet program. (Submit business card)

Art Underwriting Ads: Cost - \$100. Receive your Business and/or Name listed on one of our prints or merchandise as well the banquet program.

dinner and membership)
two dinners and one membership)
Renewal Only (I can't attend, please renew my membership)
dinner and membership-ages 0-17)
Visiting NWTF Members (**Must** be a current NWTF member)

— includes 2 dinners, Sponsor membership, NWTF 2015 Sponsor Gift, **\$600** in Sportsman Raffle (Sportsman's Tickets), **SPONSOR ONLY GUN DRAWING** (1 for every 10, must have at least 10 for drawing), tax deduction, decal, membership card, recognition at banquet, 6 issues of Turkey Country Magazine, NWTF Sponsor Knife.

Sponsor Table Includes one sponsor membership and guest dinner, 6 regular memberships and dinners, ALL **\$800** in Sportsman's Raffle tickets

or \$400 worth of Sportsman Raffle Tickets
or \$200 worth of Sportsman Raffle Tickets

**This year will include a larger than ever
Sportsman's Raffle!!**

for Banquet Tickets and Raffle Tickets.

PLEASE MAIL CHECK FOR TOTAL ENCLOSED TO

Matt Davis 1005 Beachwood Dr. Hagerstown, MD 21742

Credit Card (Visa/MasterCard/Discover/American Express) please provide info below;

Card Number: _____ CCV: _____ Expiration Date: _____

and purchases only) _____



It's Banquet time again!

Our 2015 banquet merchandise includes:

- NWTF Wooden Gun Concealment Bench
- Ladies Necklace–Sterling Silver Pendant Sapphire
- Tuscany Wine Tray Server
- 72 Piece Flatware set
- Retro Kids Fire Truck
- 12 Piece Cookware Set
- NWTF turkey Table Lamp
- NWTF Remington Mantel Clock with hidden handgun storage space
- 2015 W R CASE Knife of the Year in Shadowbox

AND MANY OTHER UNIQUE ITEMS AND ARTWORK

EARLY BIRD TICKET OFFER!

SPORTSMAN RAFFLE TICKETS

Here's a deal you can't pass up!!! Buy your Sportsman Raffle Tickets on or **before September 12th** to receive the special deals below.

SPORTSMAN RAFFLE

This raffle has thousands of dollars worth of prizes including guns

- Pay **\$100** and receive **\$200** worth of Raffle Tickets which includes: 10 sheets containing 40 general Sportsman Raffle Tickets & 10 Bonus Tickets.
- Pay **\$150** and receive **\$400** worth of Raffle Tickets which includes: 20 sheets containing 80 Sportsman Raffle Tickets & 20 Bonus tickets.

• SPONSOR PACKAGE – BEST VALUE

- Pay **\$285** and receive **\$600** of Raffle Tickets which includes; 30 sheets containing 120 General Sportsman Raffle Tickets and 30 Bonus Tickets PLUS;

*** 2 DINNERS

*** SPONSOR MEMBERSHIP

*** NWTF SPONSOR GIFT (Sent directly from NWTF)

***NWTF SPONSOR HAT

***SPONSOR ONLY GUN DRAWING (1 for every 10, must have at least 10 for drawing.)

This is your BANQUET INVITATION & APPLICATION



A JAKES day fund raiser dance was held at the Delmar VFW in January that was a huge success. Music was provided by the band “Front Page News” and the attendance exceeded expectations. \$1200.00 was raised along with a rebooking of the band for a second dance to raise funds for next year’s annual scholarship. That dance was held in April and raised an additional \$1,000.00. Mid-way through the dance a check for \$1,000.00 was presented to this year’s winner. The turnouts have been so good, and everyone enjoys it so much, we have scheduled another dance on November 14th to raise money to purchase turkeys for local charities. If you would be interested in an evening of music and friendship, contact Dave Johnson for details on the November dance.

On May 2nd the Delmar VFW held their first gun bash. Members of our chapter helped with the event that was also a huge success. We are looking forward to next year’s BASH.

Our 9th annual JAKES day was held at the Delmar VFW on June 13th. The event featured fishing, a turkey shoot, BB gun shooting, and other activities. As always, free lunch was served.

Our 10th annual Hunting Heri-



tage Banquet will be held on September 26th at the Delmar VFW. Last year we raised \$18,000.00 thanks to an outstanding turnout. Thanks to all who attended and we look forward to seeing you at this year’s banquet.

The State Line Strutters team continued holding training classes for the Maryland DNR to teach Hunter Safety classes. We completed our 5th class at the Delmar VFW this spring. If your chapter is interested in forming a team, we can tell you the experience of helping kids, and adults learning firearms and hunting safety is a VERY rewarding experience. We will hold our 6th class this fall.

Continuing the tradition of sponsoring a Easter Shore Baseball League, we have again donated \$250.00 for equipment and uniforms for the State Line Strutters. Good luck this year!

MARYLAND HUNTING HERITAGE SUPER FUND PROGRAM



The Maryland State and local chapters work very hard to raise money for wild turkey conservation —The *Hunting Heritage Super Fund* Program is the way to put your money to work to help wild turkeys and preserve our hunting heritage in Maryland.

The Super Fund annually funds many projects including educational efforts, habitat development, research, and law enforcement efforts.

This is your chance to obtain money to do something for your local turkeys and hunters! If you have an idea for a Super Fund project, please contact your local chapter president (listed in the back of this newsletter) *in advance* of the deadline for help in completing a project proposal form.

PROPOSALS DUE BY DECEMBER 1, 2015

MARYLAND NWTF CONSERVATION SEED PROGRAM

Spring Conservation Seed Orders Due by November 15

The Conservation Seed Program is a partnership between the NWTF and Resource Management, Inc. (RMI). RMI acts as a liaison between conservation organizations and several large seed companies to supply YEAR-OLD seed for **wildlife conservation plantings** (not for harvest) at a reduced cost.

If you would like CORN, SOYBEAN, or SORGHUM seed for Spring 2016 planting, please contact your local chapter president (listed in the back of the newsletter) no later than **NOVEMBER 15, 2015**.

**A fee may be collected by local chapters to offset the shipping costs.
10 bag per person maximum.**

Note: Orders are not guaranteed and seed supply may dictate how many bags you receive, but reserving your bags early ensures the best chance for success.

Local Chapter News

Southern Maryland Chapter

by Billy Moore

Greetings to all avid outdoor enthusiasts, conservationists and hunters from the Southern Maryland Chapter. Life is good in the USA and today this report is written on the anniversary of D Day and we must never forget that the freedom that we enjoy is not free, it was earned by So. many before us.

Today marks the 71st anniversary, June 6, 1944, of the Allied invasion of Normandy, France, designated at the time as Operation Neptune but known in popular culture today as D-Day. May the Lord protect us and may we never forget those who gave their lives for our freedom.

The following are a few highlights for the first half of 2015:

Bobby Boarman 2015 Roger Latham Award Winner:

A major accomplishment and recognition for Maryland during the 2015 NWTF National Convention in Nashville, Tenn., was an award given to Bobby Boarman. As our current state president and past So. MD Chapter president, including a lifetime of investments in So. many people's lives, Bobby was honored with the prestigious Roger Latham Award, a top award provided to a Maryland NWTF member in our chapter history. Bobby also extend-

ed his commitment to the NWTF by enrolling as a Diamond Life sponsor. Congratulations Bobby!!

The 2015 So. MD banquet was a resounding success – Golden Gobbler achievement.

The following are a few highlights:

- Fred Richards was awarded the 2015 Charlie Garner Award
- Joe Herbert, owner of Fred's Sporting Goods, was awarded the Hunting Heritage Award for their long time support of NWTF – their business was closed after a severe fire but he continued to support the annual 30 day gun raffle
- Linda Fowler was awarded as the female volunteer of the year
- Brian Wathen was chosen for a hunt of a lifetime (a copy of his story is included in this report)
- Mr. Hayden O'Neal was chosen as the 2015 So. MD Chapter scholarship and was awarded \$1,000 for his college financial support.

A special thanks to Tommy Deagle and Donnie Poe for their longtime support of the NWTF and our banquets. These two local artists contribute annually to our hunting heritage banquets and their donated art are always top auction items. Thanks, Tommy & Donnie!!



Tommy Deagle—with his Northern Pintail—celebrated 50 years as a carver.



Donnie Poe and Fred Richards—Donnie's hand painted signs are prized local artwork.

Local volunteer events

The So. MD Chapter volunteers supported the annual waterfowl festival at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds in May by assisting children making Bluebird boxes.

On June 6, 2015, the So. MD Chapter and the Young Guns Hunt Club joined together to say thank-you to the hunting guides and sponsors of the annual youth day deer hunt in So. MD. This annual hunt has grown into a nationally recognized event sponsored by NWF, 4-H, NRA, the Bel Alton VFD and the Young Guns Hunt Club. An afternoon of fun included

all you could eat BBQ, burgers, hot dogs and a clay shoot at a local farm – what a great way to say thanks. Great job Colin Mohler and Billy Crutchfield!!

The first annual youth turkey hunt April 2015 was very successful and hopefully the smiles on the many faces tell the story—well done leaders, congratulations to the youth.

Upcoming events:

The first Annual fishing youth derby is scheduled for June 13, 2015 at Gilbert Run State Park, Charlotte Hall, MD, Md.

The 11th Annual Wildlife Adventure Day is scheduled for



The first annual youth turkey hunt April 2015, was very successful and hopefully the smiles on the many faces tell the story. Well done leaders, congratulations to the youth.



October 3, 2015 at the NRG Mc Gregor Farm in Newburg, MD. Contact Bonnie Boyden at the Charles County 4-H Office—301-934-5404 to register.



Trivia contest and just for a little fun, the So. MD Chapter will provide a prize to two lucky winners of our first *Turkey Droppings*

Newsletter trivia contest. Rules are simple. The first person who emails me at billymoore.wapiti@gmail.com and correctly identifies the picture including the scientific name will be given a prize from the So. MD Chapter regardless of your age. The second prize will be given to the 10th person that correctly identifies the picture and a bonus prize will be given if either winner is a youth. Good luck! I can see googling gone crazy!

Monocacy Valley Chapter

by Russ Leith

As I write this yet another turkey season has come to a close. Hard to believe how fast they come and go. My season was a truly memorable one. From the bird I worked all morning on opening day in Virginia that gobbled a hundred times but never gave me a shot, to the gobbler I tagged on Memorial Day in upstate N.Y. that barely gave me time to sit down and get my gun up. Chapter members Jay Zimmerman and Bruce Chaney had seasons they won't soon forget as both tagged career birds right here in Maryland. I hope everyone had a safe and successful season. And please, next time you see me, please tell me about it.

If there's anything I like better than turkey hunting it's talking about turkey hunting.

On March 28th our chapter held our 17th annual jakes event that was enjoyed by the kids and parents alike despite the weather, morning temps in the low 30s and windy! Chapter members Dan Nue-land, Dave Hohman, Ian Hill and Bobby Dutrow all did outstanding jobs as "guides" for our turkey woods walk. With well over 100 years of experience between them the kids were in good hands. Maryland's DNR sponsored a shooting station this year where attendees got to pattern shotguns and taught the importance

of knowing how your gun shoots. Bruce Chaney again demonstrated his magic running various turkey calls and explaining how and why you use them. We were fortunate to have Tuscarora archers back this year to run an archery station that is always a big hit. They really do an unbelievable job with the kids. Two new events this year that went over very well were a falconry and fur trapping demonstration. Our falconers, Greg and Ian, and Larry Emswiler of Maryland Furtrappers Assoc. would be welcome back every year. A special thanks goes to Bob Long for taking the time out of his schedule to give a talk on turkey biology and habitat. It really was a special event this year, now we just need to figure out a way to get more kids involved.

We have also been working on

Central Maryland Chapter

by Gene Hyatt

We held our Hunter Heritage Banquet on March 20, 2015. The attendance may have been down, but with a room full of great prizes, everyone went home happy.

By the time this is printed our June 13, 2015, W.I.T.O. Day and our June 27, 2015, J.A.K.E.S. Day will be history.

Our Hunter Safety Team has been busy this spring and has upcoming classes: July 29, 2015 on-line Hunter Safety; August 29, 2015, National Bowhunter Education Program; September 10 and 12, 2015 a Traditional

a WITO event and our 24th hunting heritage banquet. Our WITO coordinator, Randi Burford, has been very active in the planning for the event that we are co-hosting with Washington County chapter on June 27. The program promises to be an exciting day for the ladies. The banquet committee will be ramping up soon for our banquet to be held this year on September 12. For anyone that has never attended a Monocacy Valley banquet, I encourage you to check us out. I'm biased but I think we put on a really nice event.

In closing, all of us at Monocacy Valley would like to congratulate our very own Bobby Boarman and Bob Erickson for the prestigious awards they were presented with at the NWTF convention in February. You both are truly deserving.

Hunter-Safety class for all, including under 13.

Shooter Qualification Cards will be available August 2015 through the Fall.

Check the DNR website or CentralMarylandChapterNWTF.org

The Central Maryland Chapter meets at Meyer Station (1600 Meyer Station Road, Odenton, MD 21113) on Tuesday evenings. The first Tuesday of the month is our business meeting. All other Tuesdays we have trap shooting for \$5.00 a round and others on those Tuesdays are planning

or working on upcoming projects. Please come out and support the Central Maryland Chapter. We are always looking for new ideas and help.

The C.M.C and Meade Natural Heritage Association (MNHA) along with the Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge put on a spring turkey hunt. Every Saturday of the Maryland season three youth hunters have a chance to chase the gobblers of Central Maryland. Every Monday of the Maryland season there are four general hunters and two disabled hunters in the woods. All hunters must have an MNHA hunting permit, and apply for the computer drawing by the end of Maryland bow season, usually by January 30.

MNHA Hunting permits go on sale in the beginning of August and are sold throughout the season at Hunting Control on Bald Eagle Drive. MNHA and Patuxent offer a wide range of hunting opportunities throughout the fall seasons as well, from small game, waterfowl, deer and the spring turkey hunt.

This spring some MNHA and

CMC members assisted hunters to ten turkeys.

Many new hunters were taken afield and experienced the thrill of a great spring hunt.

One first time gobbler went to Phil Woodall at the end of the year, when things are getting tough. He bagged a great gobbler, 21.7 pounds, 11¼" inch beard, 1 5/8" spurs.

There is one Thursday set aside at the Refuge for a Wounded Warrior hunt.

What a great record breaking hunt we had this year. We had six Vets hunting, and they harvested four long beards. At the end of the hunt we feasted on an unbelievable lunch provided by Missions BBQ. A special thanks to the Second Chance Foundation, No People Left Behind, who helped out with the Wounded Warrior hunt, as well as Patuxent Refuge, MNHA and the CMC of the NWTF and all the volunteers that made the hunting season such a great success this year.

May God bless, see you in the woods.

Free State Chapter

by Tom Maliszewski

Hello, NWTF Members.

Can you believe it's summer? Spring turkey season is over, school is nearly out, vacations are being planned. The past season is blessed with some truly awesome memories. I had two first time youth turkey hunters; Anna Rapski and Austin Floyd both smashed two really nice long beards opening youth weekend.

Austin's hunt wouldn't have happened without a last minute call up from the bullpen, being a standby



Tom Maliszewski.



Austin Floyd, Tom Maliszewski and guide put the smack down on this long beard in Eastern Neck.

hunter for Eastern Neck Wildlife refuge. He was good with that. There was a slim chance that he could hunt, as long as the eagles cooperated with their breeding and nesting habits. The night before the hunt we both attended the safety/turkey management briefing. Followed by some serious pizza we drew a permit and he was going on the hunt. After the class, we went outside and to our amazement there were 4 long beards within 100 yds. of the office. All four participants were excited. We roosted birds around 7:45. We came back in the following morning at 5 am and hooked up with our guide. Here we were going on a guided hunt, so this was a double whammy minus the gun for me. We ended up taking a ground blind placed it on a corn

field, and set up a couple decoys and settled in. Mother Nature took over from there. Between the eagles, geese, ducks and heron, a huge gobbler woke up the woods with an ear piercing gobble. He gobbled for over 30 minutes. The guide and I threw out some soft cuts and purrs I was confident it was good enough, or so I thought. Then the gobbler flew down and was going away and I started second guessing. I was ready to run and gun and get out in front of the bird. I was assured he would come. I've been here before and all plans go right out the window. OKKKKKaaayyyy I said. So I cut real hard and he gobbled about 400 yards away. I'm thinking I need to take charge. Nope I sat there. We worked him and he heard us. He eventually made his loop gobbling



Anna Rapski with her first gobbler with coach and mentor Big Sis Sherry Rapski on left.



Free State JAKES member Logan Hughes called in this gobbler for his uncle Donald Hughes. Nice tag team.

as he walked in. He was in a hurry for nothing!!!! I finally I saw him and gave Austin a heads up he's coming.. Where??? 200 yards on the left. Where??? Don't worry he's coming. My next concerns were the decoys which were 8 yards from the blind. The guide said they were perfect, so who am I to question the guide. Austin was shooting my shotgun and at 10 yards it's a tennis ball for a pattern. I never shot anything that close I'd pull out the fly swatter at that range. Then about 100 yards he started booking towards the decoys. I told Austin to relax and just breathe.. and about that time he saw the bird. Holy cow talk about turkey fever. He was huffing and puffing I though he was going to pass out. The gobbler closed in 40 yards, 35,

30, and then he was close 15. I said kill him.

Booooooooooom! That 12 gauge 3 ½ artillery round went off. The bird folded!!! No nothing, down, lights out. Game over, BBD. Couple of high fives, pictures, pack the guy up and away we go.

I had another young hunter out in Millington WMA with her sister and Harold Bogardus doing the calling and coaching. Early morning had a few birds gobbling and nothing came in. I caught up with Harold in the parking lot and we switched. Harold took Austin home and I took Anna for a hunt that she'll never forget. We went out and grabbed a late breakfast and chased several birds that were very spooky. I assume the birds figured it

out with all the pressure of preaseon hunters there every day. We came across three long beards breeding a hen. I thought I could pull at least one off. NOT!!!! It was set after set they gobbled, but no luck, then at 8 pm we called it quits. I had a friend in Dorchester County who was spotting some birds coming out past my goose blind. So Sunday morning I was there at 5:30 am the first birds sounded off. We had gobblers all over the woods. I heard over a dozen. Out in the distance we saw 3 jakes coming towards us. I knew this was not a good sign. They will come down and bust my jake decoy up and this great plan was going south.... fast. These jakes thought they owned the place. They hammered like 3 year olds. I'm shaking my head. The big boys were still in the trees. Finally a hen ran out and that was it. It was like TURKEYS r US.

Long beards started to pop out everywhere. In front, behind, to the left. Finally Papa dukes comes out with his entourage of 9 hens and he owned the field. Every gobbler was doing their best to entice a hen. All the birds were well over 100 yards away. Anna had not shot anything and this was driving us crazy. I have never had this happen before. So, we waited and purred I need a long beard to break off and challenge my jake decoy. No luck. Finally after 30 minutes we had a long beard who eyeballed my jake and he came running. Anna had him in her sight and let him have it. At the sound of the

boom birds were flying, and running for cover . We had a few hugs and high fives, then had the long walk, over a mile back to the truck.. Congrats to my new turkey hunting buddies.

Lastly, we held our annual banquet at the Havre de Grace community center in March. We struggled a bit with advance sales this year, but thankfully our attendance was 200 adults, 19 kids, and 21 volunteers to pull off our greatest fundraising event thus far! This chapter continually outperforms, and it is all due to our fabulous members, their guests and our awesome volunteers! We increased our net fundraising by 5k over what we did last year. Thank you so much!

Mark your calendars for our annual float trip this July 11, 2015 start time 9 am! We are relocating to Deer Creek - Eden Mill for our annual float trip. Eden Mill float to Rocks state park, bring your kayaks, or canoe; 2½ hour trip through some of the most scenic acres of Harford County. Call me 443-677-6110. Free Lunch, games/ raffles. COST FREE.

September 20, 2015 it's our Annual Crab Feast at Belair Moose Lodge 1952, 310 E. Jarrettsville Road, Forest Hill Maryland 21050 **Cost \$ 55.00** Crabs running a bit more this year. This is a chapter fund raiser, that helps support our scholarship program, and chapter events. We will have some of your

favorite games: winner take all, loaded canoe, silent auction, and a few other collectibles. Come out and enjoy some of Maryland finest

crabs, chicken, beef, corn, salads, beer, wine and sodas. Share some stories and win a few guns....

Mid-Shore Chapter

by Ted Capel

The Mid Shore Chapter has had a busy spring involving youth hunters this spring! Our Eastern Neck Island Youth Hunt expanded to 8 hunters this spring, but placed new problems on the guides. The hunt was again a success, but still only harvested 5 longbeards, which seems to be the ceiling for Eastern Neck Island.

After 15 years, the committee has decided to move our Hunting Heritage Banquet to a new loca-

tion. The banquet will now be held October 3 at the Rock Hall Firehouse, which is all on one level, and much more accommodating to our needs. We are looking forward to the challenges of a new venue, and the possibilities of a more successful banquet.

Several of our Jakes members harvested their first Turkey ever, hopefully instilling in them a new member for life, and a new supporter of the NWTF!

Washington County Chapter

by Brian Pikerowski, Chapter President

With the bitter cold and snowy winter of 2014, no one was wishing for more sunshine and mild temperatures than a turkey hunter. With those warmer temps and longer days came the green buds on the trees, the smell of fresh cut grass, and that morning gobble. Spring 2015 led to the first event for our chapter. March 28 was our annual JAKES day. Again, Izaak Walton League of America in Clear Spring partnered with us to help host the event. Over 50 youth attended to make a fun filled, amazing day in the outdoors. Every child that attended had opportunities to learn about many outdoor subjects and

participate in a variety of events. Archery, shotgun patterning, tree stand safety, turkey calling, along with a fishing derby were just some of the activities that happened that day. No child went home empty handed with the numerous raffles and giveaways throughout the day. A young boy ended up leaving with a new Remington Shotgun! One special drawing was offered for several JAKES members to be mentored on the opening day of the 2015 youth spring turkey season. Five JAKES members were chosen to be guided and mentored to try to bag the elusive Eastern wild turkey. Of the five chosen, some had hunted turkey,

but none had been successful. That was about to change. Four of the five youth harvested a turkey on the youth day opener! The fifth JAKES member was able to kill his Tom on the first day of the regular season. To have all five JAKES members kill their first bird was amazing and has to be a record in some record book! All in all, our JAKES event was a huge success. Washington County is looking forward to more like it in the upcoming years.

Don't worry folks, there are more events coming this year for the Washington County chapter. On June 27, there is one just for the ladies. Our WITO event will be jam-packed with lots of activities to participate in. Instruction based seminars in soap making, marksmanship, archery, fly fishing, and several more will allow the ladies to learn and come away with a skill that they might not already have. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more updates as this article will be published after the event has been hosted.

On July 18, our chapter will be holding it's first gun bash. All will have a chance to win shotguns, rifles, a handgun, a Yeti cooler, a ground blind all while enjoying great food and fellowship with avid hunters and marksmen. Like all of our events, the proceeds raised will be used to support the NWTF. You can be happy when you leave with that new gun and know that the money spent will be used well. Preserving

the hunting heritage, educating new hunters young and old, and trying to keep habitat available for years to come are some of the ways the National Wild Turkey Federation uses its funds.

September 18 will be the Washington County Longbeards' 6th annual Hunting Heritage banquet. Each year gets better than the last! Like last year, the event will be held in Hagerstown. Many items, too many to list, will be available for you to take home as you help support the NWTF's cause. For more information on any of our events, or how you can be involved in our chapter's committee, please contact us. Keep looking on Facebook for more information, updates, and pictures of our chapter's events and activities. Only 1 in 10 people hunt, which means that we are the minority as it relates to preserving land and mentoring youth. If we don't do it, who will? Please help support your local chapter of the NWTF.

I would like to thank all of the NWTF chapter members, committee members, and officers that help make these events possible as well as keep the chapter thriving.





Susan and Katie successfully participate in the Youth Turkey Hunt.



This is Eric Calandrella from Hagerstown. He is age 11 and killed on the first day of the youth season.



This is Tyler Barnhart from Hagerstown. He is age 14 and killed on the first day of the regular turkey season with his father.



Clarissa Harris and Bruce Chaney with the bird Bruce called in on her property in Western Md.



Dave Hohman and Logan Bender after their successful youth day hunt.



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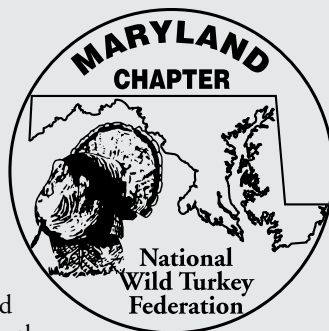
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Maryland State Chapter NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION 2016 J.A.K.E.S. “Hunt of A Lifetime” Application



Applications for the 2015 Maryland State Chapter's JAKES “Hunt of A Lifetime” are now available and will be accepted through December 31, 2015. Successfully drawn applicants must be current JAKES members, pass a Hunter Safety Education course, possess a valid Maryland hunting license and be willing to write a short story about their adventure. Selected applicants will be required to attend and pass the Turkey Hunting Clinic sponsored by the Central Maryland Local Chapter. After meeting all of these requirements, qualified applicants will be entered into a second drawing to determine the winner of the hunt. JAKES may enter “JAKES Hunt Of A Lifetime” until picked for a hunt. Please, one hunt per “Lifetime.” If interested, complete and mail the application below:

Maryland State Chapter NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION 2015 J.A.K.E.S. “Hunt of A Lifetime” Application

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ Birthdate _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Parents' Names _____

NWTF J.A.K.E.S. Membership Number _____

Maryland Hunter Education Card Number _____

Mail this Form to:

Bobby Boarman

11500 BB Farm Place, Newburg, Maryland 20664

JAKES may enter “JAKES Hunt Of A Lifetime” until picked for a hunt. Please, one hunt per “Lifetime.”

NOTE: This form must be received by December 31, 2015



Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and the Preservation of our Hunting Tradition

You can help answer the call by joining
one of the nation's most progressive
conservation organizations

For more information call: 1-800-THE-NWTF

or visit our web site at

www.nwtf.org

or write to:

Maryland State Chapter

National Wild Turkey Federation

11500 BB Farm Place, Newburg, Maryland 20664

Yes, I would like to join the Maryland State Chapter of the NWTF, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of the North American wild turkey and the preservation of the hunting tradition. Sign me up as (check one):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full voting member—\$30.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Women in the Outdoors—\$35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor member—\$250.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelin' Sportsmen member—\$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Active Military—\$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student (age 18-23)—\$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> J.A.K.E.S member (12 years and under)—\$10.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXTREME J.A.K.E.S. (13 - 17 years)—\$10.00 | |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone No. _____ E-mail Address _____

Charge to my: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

(Make checks payable to NWTF)

Send to: Maryland State Chapter—NWTF



Maryland State Chapter
National Wild Turkey Federation
11500 BB Farm Place
Newburg, MD 20664



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