



Turkey Droppings

Spring 2012

Newsletter of the Maryland State Chapter

www.MarylandNWTF.org



Clinton Heys at Patuxent Research Center. See story on page 12.

Turkey Droppings

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

Chris Miller—Editor

Flock Talk

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News from the Editor

Hello, I'd like to introduce myself, my name is Chris Miller. I am a member of the Central Maryland Chapter. I was asked to take over the newsletter from Joe Welch.

I would like to thank Joe for doing such a wonderful job for the years he was editor and hope I will be able to carry on in the same manner. I would also ask that anyone who would like to help out on this project please contact me with any suggestions or comments you may have.

I want to announce the start of a photo contest! If any of you have photos of wild turkey, youth or women hunting wild turkeys or harvest photos, we'd really like you to consider entering them in this contest. A photo will be selected to be on the cover of the *Turkey Droppings* Newsletter. Please include your name, date photo was taken, who is in it and the location of where the hunt took place. Your photo could be on the cover and your credits will be listed in the newsletter. I would prefer that all photos be submitted

ELECTRONICALLY as I cannot guarantee the return of any photos submitted via “hard copy” at this time. You can send your photos to: thec525@aol.com. Please put *Turkey Droppings* Photo Contest in the subject line.

I am in excited anticipation of the Spring season at the time I am writing this (although it will be over with by the time we go to print). I hope all of you had a safe, successful season.

Also, anyone submitting articles for the *Turkey Droppings* Newsletter. Would you please submit them via electronic file? This would make

the whole process MUCH easier. Most any file format will do, such as Microsoft Word. This will help us keep the costs down on the typesetting aspect of the newsletter. Please send your articles to Richard Hill through E-mail: rahill@therepublicannews.com.

Keep in mind that the deadlines for the *Turkey Droppings* are June 2 and December 2.

I look forward to having the opportunity to work with all of you on this newsletter.

Thanks,
Chris Miller
Central Maryland Chapter

From the State Board of Directors

by Bobby Boarman, Maryland State Chapter President



Hello to all. By the time you are reading this another turkey season has come and gone. I truly hope

that you had a chance to get out this spring and enjoy the great outdoors and perhaps have taken one of nature's wonders, a wild turkey. Susan and I had the pleasure of going to Florida this spring to hunt Osceola. Susan got her bird the first day and I got mine the next.

I would like to congratulate all of the winners at this year's Maryland State Awards Banquet. All of Maryland's chapters

were recognized and went home with an award. A special congrats to our Volunteer of the Year winner



Susan and me with her Osceola turkey.

Dan Zinkand and VIP winner Tom Maliszewski. Our Phoenix Award winner Ted Capel and our Chuck Lewis Award winners Colin Mohler and Bill Crutchfield. All of you work very hard to make your chapters a success and I thank you for that.

This year the Maryland Chapter NWTF received the L. A. Dixon Award first place for less than 1,999 members at the 2012 NWTF National Convention. It is because of the hard work that all of you do for the NWTF we received this award; thank you. The Southern Maryland Chapter received first place for best JAKES Event 2011; congrats to them. There were eighteen people

from several chapters that attended this year's convention. All in all, Maryland was represented very well.

Most of you know by now that we have Sunday hunting for wild turkeys. There are five counties that received that status: Dorchester, Caroline, Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert. This all started when House Bill 144 was introduced for the two Eastern Shore counties. Some of the other delegates saw this and were able to get it passed for Southern Maryland, also. This is a stepping stone for the other counties in the state. Get ahold of your delegates and ask them to do the same for your county. The State Chapter is

here to support you. I want to thank all that made this possible in these five counties.

I am sorry to say that we do not have a regional director. Jason Edwards had to step down. Jason had a lot of family issues come up with the passing of his grandfather and his dad being sick. Jason decided it best that he be with his family to help them through this crisis. We wish Jason and his family well. I am told that we should have a new RD in place by the end of May or the middle of June. There have been interviews and the process is moving forward. Let's hope whoever the new RD is sticks around a while.

I would like to take a minute and thank Billy Moore, our past president, for all of his hard work and dedication for the last four years. Billy has helped to make the Maryland State Chapter one of the best in the nation. Billy will still serve on the BOD as Immediate Past President. Thank you Billy. I want to

thank each of you who voted for me as the new Maryland State Chapter President. I hope that I can live up to your expectations. I have attended several of your banquets so far and plan to attend others as well. My hat is off to each and every one who has had to do your banquet without the help of an RD. You have done a great job. If you need any help on any issue or if I can help with your banquet do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Remember to take a kid hunting or fishing and thank our men and women in the military for protecting our freedom.



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Pittman-Robertson, 75 Years of Wildlife Funding

by Bob Eriksen, NWTF Regional Biologist

You may have heard the terms P-R or Pittman-Robertson Funding somewhere along the line. Many hunters learned something about the terms in their Hunter Education classes. This year, 2012, is a very important milestone in funding for wildlife research and restoration and for Hunter Education. The science of wildlife management was just emerging in the 1930s. State and federal wildlife agencies were beginning to realize that they needed scientific information on wildlife habitat, wildlife populations and methods of restoring wild animal populations. In 1937 some forward thinking legislators who truly cared about conservation initiated legislation to provide funding for wildlife science. The U.S. Congress passed the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, more popularly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act, 75 years ago this year. The legislation was named for its congressional sponsors from Nevada and Virginia. That legislation placed a 10 percent tax on the sale of sporting arms and ammunition. Later the tax rate was increased to 11 percent.

Revenues from the federal tax were distributed to the states based on hunting license sales and land area for wildlife research and man-

agement projects. The excise taxes provided a dependable funding base for wildlife agencies that supplanted the funding they received from license sales and the meager contributions that came from the general tax fund. The extra funding allowed state agencies to substantially expand their efforts to study wildlife populations, restore those populations when needed and conduct habitat improvement projects. The states must match the P-R contribution with one dollar for every three federal dollars—a three to one federal to state dollar match. One great clause in the legislation stipulates that no state can receive P-R dollars if revenues from hunting license sales are diverted to unrelated activities. State treasurers cannot use hunting license money for any purpose unrelated to hunting and wildlife management. This little caveat has helped a number of state wildlife agencies maintain control over their hunting license funds in tough economic times when state governments might want to try to use that money.

When the funding was first generated, federal aid projects included wildlife research, land acquisition, construction work (on things like dams for waterfowl impound-

ments) and habitat enhancement on wildlife management areas. Law enforcement and public relations programs were not covered by P-R funding. In 1970 federal taxes on handguns were added to the pool of P-R funds and in 1975 archery equipment taxes were included. Half of the excise taxes on handguns and archery equipment were earmarked for hunter safety education programs, greatly enhancing the safety and image of hunting. Since its inception this source of funding has generated more than \$5 billion for wildlife work.

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Conservation Act is an integral part of the North American Wildlife Management Plan. Hunters and shooters pay for conservation. Sales of firearms, ammunition and archery equipment have provided funding for the purchase of literally thousands of acres of open space in every state. Wildlife species such as wood ducks, beaver, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope and black bears have been restored to their former abundance. Perhaps the most impressive accomplishment of the Pittman-Robertson Act is the restoration of the wild turkey throughout the United States. Back in 1937 there were an estimated 230,000 wild turkeys in the United States. The birds were gone from at least fifteen states where they had once been found. Here in Maryland wild

turkeys were few and far between. A remnant population survived in the mountains. Today more than 7 million wild turkeys roam the forests, fields and grasslands of the United States and Canada thanks to the efforts of wildlife agencies and the funding available through the Pittman-Robertson Act. If you hunt wild turkeys in eastern or central Maryland, this act, legislation that was way ahead of its time, is part of the reason turkeys are here.

The amazing thing about the excise taxes on arms and ammunition is that this is a tax hunters and shooters pay willingly. We just accept it as part of our responsibility. We may grumble about the price of a box of turkey loads, but we're going to buy them anyway. And that new gun you are looking at is another potential contributor to wildlife research and restoration. No other group of wildlife enthusiasts has ever come forward in support of being taxed for the privilege of supporting conservation and wildlife management. Hunters are indeed the true conservationists. Keep up the good work! We should all be proud of what we have accomplished. Everything we have done for the wild turkey, deer, bears, pronghorn, elk, furbearers or small game has had side benefits for other wildlife species too. Remember that P-R stands for more than public relations—it stands for your role in wildlife conservation.

2012 JAKES Hunt Of A Lifetime Wrap-Up

by Gene Hyatt, Central MD Chapter NWTF

This year five (5) JAKES were picked for the JAKES HUNT OF A LIFETIME with



Jimmy Stewart, owner of Creek Bottom Outfitters in Charles County, MD. Jimmy hosted four (4) JAKES on MD Youth Day.

Harrison Ward of Southern MD Chapter heard some gobblers in the morning and watched a couple of gobblers cross a field in the afternoon. Harrison had a good hunt, but did not get a shot.

Christine Gregor hunted with Redigo Saunders, one of the top turkey hunters in MD, and a member of the Southern MD Chapter of the NWTF. Redigo and Christine chased some long beards around for a day and a half with some close calls, but no shot. Christine put herself to the ultimate test by trying to take her first gobbler with a crossbow.

Alyssa Walls knocked an old gobbler down, but before they knew it, he was on his feet and gone. She returned home to the story of her little brother Austin, taking his first gobbler with his grandpa Bobby Walls, President of Wye Oak Long Spurs.

Clinton Heys, of the Central MD Chapter, had an exciting

hunt at Creek Bottom, but did not get a shot. Jimmy Stewart had a drawing and Clinton was

the lucky winner; he could return for another chance to connect with one of these crafty Southern MD gobblers!

Clinton was also drawn for a Youth Hunt at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Russ Melanson of the Central MD Chapter led Clinton to his first gobbler on that hunt, a 21.3 pound, 10½ inch beard with 1¼ inch spurs.

That was not the end of young Mr. Heys' season. He made it back to Southern MD for the last Saturday of the season, guided by J.G. Saunders, a former winner of the JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime (who returned his hunt for another youth to get a chance to hunt, because he was going on a turkey hunt in Texas that year).

J.G., who just returned from college, and had not hunted for himself, took Clinton and worked in another mature bird, sporting a double beard, one ten (10) inch, one seven (7) inch, and 1¼ inch spurs.

I am sure this season saw the birth of many turkey hunters; one for sure is Clinton Heys.

MD DNR Wild Turkey Program Update

by Bob Long, MD DNR Wild Turkey Biologist

2012 Spring Turkey Season Results—A total of 3,132 wild turkeys were reported harvested during the 2012 spring turkey season, an increase of 11% from the 2011 harvest of 2,826. The 2012 harvest nearly surpassed the previous record harvest of 3,136 set in 2005 and was well—above the 10-year average of 2,903.

Weather likely played a role in the near-record harvest. The abnormally warm and dry spring may have encouraged some hens to begin nesting early, leaving gobblers alone and more receptive to hunters' calling. The pleasant weather early in the season also probably increased hunter participation and aided in locating gobbling birds.

Hunters in some regions also benefitted from an abundance of 2-year-old gobblers. DNR turkey brood surveys showed good reproduction in the summer of 2010 in areas where large harvest increases occurred this year, such as Southern Maryland. Two-year olds often make up the majority of the harvest due to their willingness to approach calls and decoys. One-year old gobblers, called jakes, composed 24% of the harvest, below the long-term average and in agreement with surveys conducted last summer that indicated poor reproduction.

The highest harvests traditionally have come from the 3 western counties. Garrett County reported the highest harvest once again (368), but a 37% increase pushed the Charles County harvest to 303 turkeys. Washington (292), Allegany (257), and Dorchester (219) rounded out the top 5 counties.

Hunters were able to pursue turkeys on Sundays in 7 counties this spring. Sunday turkey hunting was limited to April 29 and May 6 in Allegany and Garrett counties, but was allowed throughout the season in Charles, St. Mary's, Calvert, Dorchester, and Caroline counties. A total of 102 turkeys were harvested on Sundays.

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.

Maryland's Reported Wild Turkey Harvest, 2006-2012.

County	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Allegany	331	259	345	342	327	287	257
Anne Arundel	65	47	61	39	56	38	58
Baltimore	28	27	34	19	39	25	29
Calvert	59	40	53	49	35	40	50
Caroline	75	79	107	105	118	132	164
Carroll	24	15	20	27	20	22	30
Cecil	10	24	27	29	30	34	43
Charles	227	209	193	186	215	222	303
Dorchester	265	205	242	236	213	210	219
Frederick	148	115	152	115	113	122	140
Garrett	342	303	327	364	345	339	368
Harford	59	37	61	68	67	69	98
Howard	7	1	2	5	10	16	16
Kent	50	47	62	85	88	97	103
Montgomery	56	50	37	53	42	47	51
Prince George's	95	55	70	73	79	79	92
Queen Anne's	82	73	127	124	125	114	152
Somerset	204	137	132	142	106	114	122
St. Mary's	62	59	59	84	67	83	99
Talbot	80	74	102	105	110	98	102
Washington	322	269	281	308	303	285	292
Wicomico	164	134	133	150	148	162	152
Worcester	253	196	206	202	191	191	192
Total	3008	2455	2833	2910	2847	2826	3132

L.J.W. CUSTOM CALLS

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“Let Jakes Walk”

Bruce Chaney—301-829-6802

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

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, 2012

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 2013 planting, please contact your local chapter president (listed in the back of the newsletter) no later than **NOVEMBER 15, 2012**.

**A \$2 per bag fee will be collected by local chapters.
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.

JAKES

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by Clinton Heys

It was the day of May 5, 2012. It was a beautiful morning with a temperature of around 60 degrees. It was clear skies and I got to the wildlife refuge around 4:30. When I got there, there were three other kids and Mr. Gene. By 5:00 I found out who my guide was. He was Mr. Russ. He had taken me out three years before and we had no luck. Today I was hoping on getting my first bird.

We headed out to where we were going to hunt. It was in section U. When we got there we drove up to a clearing and got out very quietly.

I got my gun and he got his calls and turkey vest. We walked about 50 yards back into the corner of the clearing. We stopped and stood there for about 5 minutes. Then Mr. Russ let out an owl call and we didn't

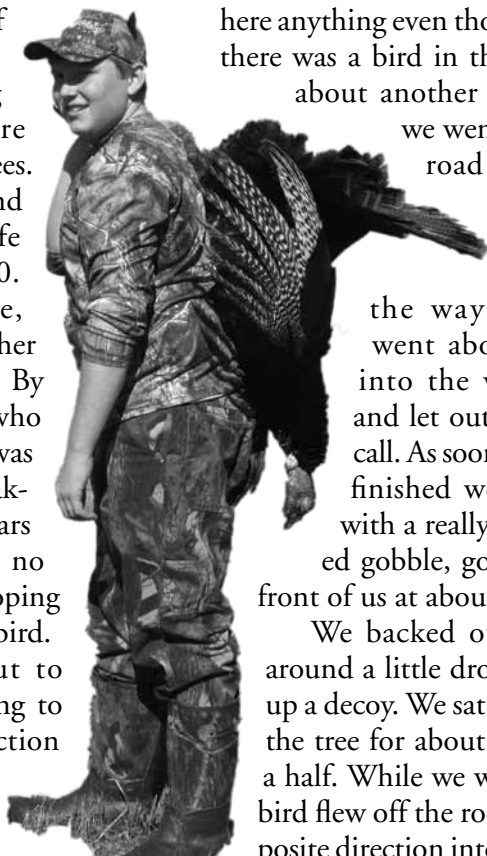
here anything even though he knew there was a bird in the area. After about another five minutes

we went back to the road and walked about a hundred yards back from

the way we drove. We went about 50 yards into the woods there and let out another owl call. As soon as that noise finished we had a bird with a really deep throat-ed gobble, gobble right in front of us at about 20 yards.

We backed out and went around a little drop-off and set up a decoy. We sat at the base of the tree for about an hour and a half. While we were there the bird flew off the roost in the opposite direction into a small little natural clearing in the woods.

While we were sitting there to see if the bird would come into the decoy we could hear another bird gobble about 600 yards off back across the road. Since that was not our area we walked to the road and set up on the





opposite corner of the clearing we were at earlier in the morning. We soon were able to make out three gobblers and a hen.

The hen was probably within 50 yards but we couldn't see her. Hoping the birds would come to her we stayed there for about 20 minutes but they didn't get any closer. After that, we went back to the truck and drove around to the other area that we were assigned. When we got there we kept stopping and letting out a couple of calls trying to find a gobbler. With no luck we drove up to a spot and just sat and listened.

Mr. Russ and I just talked and listened for any birds. We probably sat there till about 9:30. After a while, we called up Mr. Gene and they were in the area so we got in the car and drove up the road to where we were going to meet him. He pulled up with the other hunters and we talked about the morning so far. We also talked about the plan for what everyone was going to do next. We talked till about 10:00 and then everyone went their separate ways.

Mr. Russ and I went to the back side of area U. It was the opposite side of where we were this morning.

As soon as we got out of the truck and got the gear ready, we let out a slight call. Within seconds we had a bird gobble. We hustled to a little four wheeler track about 30 yards in the woods. We sat down and let out another call. They gobbled again but off to our left. We got up and repositioned ourselves for a better shot. We let out another call and now they were back off to our right so we got up quickly ran back to the other side of the track and sat down. I put the safety off and put my head on the gun.

Within seconds we could see one bird in full strut about 50 yards off. He was weaving his way in and out of the trees. Whenever the sun hit his feathers they would light up in an array of colors. Within a minute we could see another bird. The first bird soon moved within 25 yards on top of a little knoll. We let him strut there for about another minute and Mr. Russ finally said, "SHOOT HIM." Within a second the gun went off, smoke went everywhere and the bird had fallen to the ground. We got up and ran to get him. I was so excited. We were jumping for joy. My heart was pumping and I thanked Mr. Russ for the great hunt. My adrenaline was pumping and my whole body was shaking. I couldn't believe what just hap-



pened. With all the excitement we took pictures and headed back to the main station.

When we got to the station, no one else was back. So we got the warden and measured the bird. It weighed 21.3 pounds, had 1" spurs and had a 10 and a 1/4" beard. It tied for the biggest bird taken there this year. That was probably the most exciting day of my life. I couldn't have gotten a better guide and he made the hunt so much fun. I didn't want the day to end. When it was all over with I went home and cut off the tail, beard and spurs to make a mount. I know I was a lucky person because it is a big bird and some people don't get one spending their whole life hunting.



by Matt Baden, Maryland Wheelin' Sportsman Coordinator



On Saturday, June 9, 2012, Southern Maryland NWTF Chapter members Rhonda Baden, David Baden, Kylie Biller, Matt VanHorn and I were provided an opportunity to assist with the Paralyzed Veterans Association Annual Fishing Tournament held at the Smallwood State Park, Charles County, Maryland. The Tournament matches a boat Captain (that volunteers his boat and time) with a disabled angler for a 2-day tournament.

Volunteers began arriving at 5:00 a.m. to help with loading wheelchair bound Veterans into bass boats, providing them with lunch,

water and ice for the day, providing drivers to unload the boat, and Captain and Veteran and returning the truck and trailer to the parking lots. Many Veterans were overwhelmed by being given the opportunity to possibly forget their problems and enjoy a day of fishing. However, nothing could match the warmth the volunteers felt just being allowed to assist these American Heroes. There were rows of empty wheelchairs, some with the Purple Heart emblem sewn on, sitting and waiting while the Disabled Anglers enjoyed an afternoon of fishing.

At 7:00 a.m., the Military Color

Guard presented and raised the Flag overlooking the Mattawoman Creek along with the National Anthem played in the background. After the flag was raised, the fifty-nine (59) Captains, Veterans and boats were introduced by names, number and were released to begin fishing. (What a sight to see!)

There were also twenty-eight (28) Veterans with severe head trauma that participated by fishing from the shoreline. Volunteers were asked to accompany each Veteran while fishing on the shoreline.

At 3:00 p.m., the teams be-

gan their way back to the dock to have the daily catch measured and weighed. The LaPlata American Legion provided a "Meet and Greet" dinner Saturday night that allowed the Captains, Veterans and volunteers to share stories and experiences.

Despite the early rising, you cannot be anything other than grateful to the men and women that serve our country and protect our freedoms. Truly, we are all blessed!! Matthew Chapter 4, verse 19, Jesus said "Come and I will make you Fishers of Men."

Don't forget . . .

30 Gun Raffle Tickets Are Now On Sale!

Please see your chapter president to purchase.

Local Chapter News

Western Maryland Chapter

by Bonnie Friend

Hope everyone had a great spring turkey season. Winter was the mildest on record in Western MD and Spring sure came early this year. The chapter took a break over winter after the fall banquet and we are raring to go!

Spring turkey season was awesome! There seemed to not be as many birds in the area from what I was hearing from other hunters but everyone had a

great time each time they were out hunting. Some birds really challenged the hunters by either coming in silent or staying w/the ladies. It is just a beautiful time of the year when you can be out there watching the woods wake up from winter.

We were asked to help once again with the DNR Hunter's Field Day. Our committee member Bob Miller stepped up to the plate and



Left to right, first row: Bonnie Friend, Chapter President; Braden Isher, Scholarship winner; Joe Mills, Vice President, Second row: Kevin Smith, Secretary; Bob Miller, Committee member; Rodney Lipscomb. Committee members not present: Ernie Metz; Brian Friend, Treasurer.

taught the class this year and really enjoyed the day. The children and adults were all very attentive and asked a lot of great questions.

Our Fishing Rodeo was held on May 19 in conjunction with the Accident Community Planning Group. We had a great time! The fishing was a little slow but the size of the trout that were caught made up for it. There were prizes for the

kids and pizza and drinks for lunch. What a great time to spend with family and friends. It was great to see everyone again.

Plans are being made for our 2nd annual JAKES Field Day that will be held on August 18 from 8 a.m. - approximately 3 p.m. It will be held again at New Germany State Park. Joe Mills, our JAKES coordinator, along w/the committee is looking forward to the event this year and hope you can join us! There will be a minimal charge of \$10.00 for your child's yearly JAKES membership and the chapter will cover everything for the field day. There will be 3 classes taught involving a woods walk and turkey hunting, BB shooting and safety, building bluebird boxes and learning about their habitat. Lunch will be provided, with gifts given to each child that attends the classes. There will be more information as plans are finalized, so watch your email for updates.

Mark your calendars...not that I want to wish the summer away, for the Fall Heritage Banquet on November 3. It will be held again at the Avilton Community Center with Joann Kamp and her family serving the awesome meal that they are known for. The banquet package this year is exciting with some beautiful prints and exciting auction items. Tickets will go on sale at the end of the summer for the Gun of the Year and the Gas Grill. If you



Logan Rounds, age 8, of Grantsville, MD, holds his first turkey, a 19 pounder with a 9.5 inch beard.

would like to check out the banquet package, please go the the NWTF website.

The end of October will be the Becoming an Outdoors Woman's workshop being held at the 4-H center in Bittering. Our chapter has been once again asked to teach the turkey hunting class. We encourage any women that might be interested in learning about the outdoors from hunting to canning to kayaking and fishing to check out the DNR website for more information.

Well, that will catch everyone up with some of the activities that have happened or are being planned and again, we hope you can come out and join us...we always have a great time. Have a great summer season!

Central Maryland Chapter

by *Chris Miller*

The Central Maryland Chapter started the year off with a successful Sportsman's Banquet held at Michel's 8th Avenue in Glenn Bernie, Maryland. Our Turkey Hunters Clinic is March 24 this year. If you have a young turkey hunter be sure to have them attend. This clinic is very useful to new hunters as well as seasoned hunters. Topics will include: Scouting, calling, setups and decoys as well as gear. A short turkey hunting safety class will also be included. There will be plenty of range time to pattern your favorite turkey shotgun also.

Our calendar is set to have a WITO event on June 16 as well as a JAKES WEEKEND on June 23-24. Bring your kids and camping gear and come camp out back for the weekend. We have a great time planned for the kids. Adults are still just 10.00 dollars and kids are free.

Our Turkey Hunters Care program coordinator, Gene Carter, reported that the Central Maryland Chapter came in second in the nation, number one in Maryland this year for donated turkeys to those who would otherwise have gone without. Our grand total was 606 turkeys. The Adams County Sharp Spurs in Illinois came in highest with 625 and Southern Maryland was hot on our heels with 572 donated turkeys. All in all 167 NWTF



Guide Dennis Cease and Dan Zinkand.

chapters around the country donated 12,865 turkeys to families and shelters in need during the holidays.

There is no way enough good can be said about this program. Keep up the good work everyone!

Central Maryland Chapter member Dan Zinkand won the Western Maryland chapter hunt to Wyoming with Rough Country Outfitters. Dan said Dennis Cease runs a first class operation with top notch guides. He said Dennis put them up at the Diamond L Guest Ranch run by Carol and Gary Luther. They have excellent log cabin accommodations and some of the best home cooked food he's ever had on a hunt. Diamond L Ranch runs horseback riding camps starting in June in case anyone is interested in booking with them for a vacation.

Washington County Longbeards

by David Clark

On April 7, 2012, the Washington Co. Longbeards chapter combined with the Monocacy Valley Chapter and hosted an awesome Jakes event at Historic Woodmont Lodge in Hancock Md. Over 100 kids, parents and committee members attended the event. In the morning the kids did a turkey woods walk and talk with Bobby Dutrow and Monocacy committee members. Bruce Chaney did a session on the evolution of the turkey call and had a wonderful display of calls from different time periods. Rick Lushbaugh and his staff at Tuscarora Archers did a one on one archery class with each child which was a huge success. Don Simmons of the DNR did a treestand safety class which cannot be stressed enough.

At lunch, two lucky children were drawn out for a mentored youth day turkey hunt. Nathan Neuland and Ian Mann were the winners. (The following Saturday Nathan killed a two year old bird just before noon. His father Dan was beside him to witness him tagging his first bird. Special thanks to Joe Mills who guided Nathan and kept them in the woods. Ian and his guide Patrick Davis called a Jake bird in to 50 yds but no shot was taken.) Hunter Smith and Ian Mann (lucky) were drawn out to hunt whitetails this coming youth



day with Bill Crutchfield and the Young Guns hunt club in Charles Co. After lunch, prizes from Bass Pro Shops were raffled off to the kids. We wrapped things up at Woodmont and went down the road to Tonoloway Rod and Gun Club where Washington Co. Chapter got the Albert Powell trout hatchery to stock the pond with 300 trout. The kids had a blast; some caught their first fish. I stayed til the end and the last 12 people all had 5 trout limits. It was a great day to be involved. Thanks Monocacy and Washington Co. Capters, for a wonderful event.

Mid-Shore Chapter

by Ted Capel

By this point in time, I know of no open Turkey Season, so now begins the longest season of all, Getting Ready For Turkey Season!

I have been in contact with many of you, and have heard of several extremely successful Turkey Hunts, and numerous not so successful, but still heart racing entertainment. Our Jakes Hunt on Eastern Neck Island was, again, a very successful venture. The first day was 2 harvested long beards, and the third had an opportunity, but was

not successful. On the second day, one hunter harvested a longbeard, a second child had an opportunity, but was not successful, so, all in all, 50% !!

We have our 2nd Jakes event scheduled for July 14 at Chesapeake Farms, and are hoping for a larger crowd than last year.

Our Banquet is scheduled for October 6 this year, which should clear us from the NASCAR Traffic of Dover.

Free State Chapter

by Tom Maliszewski

Now that turkey season has wrapped up, it has proven to be a successful season for our members, their children, families and especially the first timers.

This year's 4th Annual Bill Rowen Jakes Challenge winners are: Matt Bussick and Emily Curry.

Both young hunters killed their gobblers on youth day and their combined scores were a dead tie!

Hard to believe. Congrats to these youth hunters for continuing the tradition!

The Big Gobbler award was captured by Fred Gillotte. He killed a monster 25 pounder in Kent County!

First timer Ryan Bohli had a

season to remember. I accompanied Ryan on his Blackwater Hunt. After a long morning hunt in Blackwater Unit M2 Ryan got his chance. Four gobblers came into the call, gobbling all the way. After 10 agonizing minutes Ryan finally got a clear shot at 15 yards. BANG, he connected and bagged his first 18 pound gobbler on youth hunt day.

Our next story was one of our newest WITO members Sherry Kirby. Sherry worked till 1 am and met up with me 3 hours later on April 21. We met up with Gordon Griffin and put together a game plan on some swamp birds. It started off by trekking across a swamp at 5 am with decoys in tow. The action

never stopped. She closed the deal at 6:25 am with a 22.4 lb tom with a 12.5" beard and 1.25" spurs. Not bad for a first bird, staying up 24 hours and an additional 10 after that.

At this year's banquet the Free State Chapter offered at live auction a guided Turkey hunt on the Eastern Shore. One particular stand out was Jane Marie Terefinko. She was determined to get this hunt no matter what! She was the winning bidder and purchased the hunt for her husband John. What a wife!!!! They both are new to the Havre de Grace area, attending our chapter banquet for the first time, and happily became members. The details were sketchy at best but it was a hunt with the chapter president, who said just bring your bug spray and waders. I promised it would be a hunt he would never forget!!! John's hunt started with winds blowing at 20 mph. Any gobblers calling far away were muffled. Eventually, one did respond and after several attempts a red fox tried to ruin any opportunity, but finally John won out bagging his 1st Dorchester County longbeard.

The first trip of the season was my personal favorite and was with Wheelin' Sportsman Malcolm Whyte. Malcolm Whyte had a chance to go on a Texas Rio Hunt in Childress, Texas. He asked if I wanted to come along. Absolutely!! I had a chance to help Malcolm get



Sherry Kirby with her first gobbler.

his second species. After 4 weeks of prep we ended up in Oklahoma City and 4 hours later we were in Texas. The event was sponsored by the NWTF Wheelin' Sportsman program. Comanche Creek Outfitters hosted the event and everything came together as if we had a scripted play book. Malcolm scored on two big Rios in a day and half of hunting. Nebraska here we come!!!

The Free State Chapter was busy again this spring. Our banquet was a big success. We have had 44 new memberships, 3 new extra sponsors, and 40% gross for the federation, our best in the last 5 years. My hat is off again to staff and volunteers for putting on this spectacular event and to all the wonderful people that came and made this a first class banquet.

This year we set out on a mission to get as many new first time hunters to go out and experience the great outdoors turkey hunting. We had 7 out of 8 new turkey hunters score. Attached you will see several pictures with big smiles and mosquito bites. Take a first time turkey hunter and you'll have a friend for life.



Ben Shultz shown with a Eastern Shore gobbler.

On June 2, 375 kids attended the Fred Zellman' Fishing Derby. It was held in Havre de Grace, Md. The Free State Chapter teamed up with the Fred Zellman several years ago. The event was held at the Elks lodge with a pond stocked with fish, a face painting center, moon bounce and we provided an archery booth and calling clinic. The event lasted all day. It was a great way to get kids hooked on the outdoors.

Catch up with us at our next event, the WITO 3rd Annual Float Trip on July 4 on the Susquehanna River at Perrymans Park in Cecil County. We will set out at 8 am for a leisurely float canoe and kayak trip. This is a free fishing day in the State of Maryland so bring a rod. Lunch will be provided by the chapter.

I like to end by wishing every-



Ryan Bohli a new Free State chapter JAKE, shown here with a Dorchester County gobbler.

one a safe summer and enjoy what Maryland has to offer.

Southern Maryland Chapter

by Fred Richards



Well here we are again, another spring turkey hunting season over and I hope everyone has plenty of great stories to tell your friends and lots of memories to hold you over till next year.

I would like to take a moment to congratulate the volunteers of the Southern Maryland Chapter for the recognition they received at the Maryland State awards banquet. The Chapter volunteers received the following:

2011 Award for the Best Overall Jakes Event and also received national recognition with a first place award at the National Wild Turkey Federation Convention for Best Overall Jakes Event with 1 to 75 participants.

1st Place Southern Maryland Chapter 2011 Chapter Awards for Net – Net > 175 Southern Maryland

Chapter nationally recognized for reaching the Million Dollar mark in fund raising.

Top Memberships for above 175 Members and the 2011 Top Sponsor Award.

Again congratulations to all the committee members for all the work they do to support their Chapter and Community. And a special thanks to all of our Southern Maryland Chapter members who support this National Wild Turkey Federation and its mission.

So begins 2012 with the Southern Maryland Chapter 20th Annual Hunting Heritage Fund Banquet and Auction held on March 24. The banquet was attended by over 360 people and 40 Sponsors. I would like to say a special thanks to all who attended and helped to support our local chapter and a special thanks to

all the volunteers and committee members that worked so hard to make this event such a success. Thank You!

Also recognized at our banquet were our volunteers of the year for 2011 and our Scholarship winner. Our 2011 chapter volunteer of the year was Mr. Doug Hancock, who received the Charlie Garner Volunteer of the Year Award for his support and dedication.

Our community volunteer of the year that is recognized for their support of chapter community work was Mr. Paul Genevie of Genevie Plumbing; and Congratulations to this year's Southern Maryland Chapters Scholarship Award Winner Colby Mohler. This young man has always shown a high regard for conservation and preserving our hunting heritage, which has been a part of his life since a very young man. We wish him the best in his future endeavors as he has been accepted to the University of Missouri where he plans to seek a degree in Natural Resources. Southern Maryland Chapter has started off the year strong supporting our local businesses and sponsors. On May 12, 2012, the chapter supported a new



Grand Opening event at Winegardner Chevrolet in Fort Washington, Maryland. The event started around 11:30; there were numerous local hunting, fishing guides present and several hunting and tackle vendors. Other activities included the FLW tour team who brought their boat simulator for everyone to experience. Professional angler and Sports show host Mr. Jimmy Houston came by and spent some time with us at our booth. A great time was had by all who attended the event.

The following weekend we supported a community event held by Mr. Steven Berry at Avery's Automotive & Glass to show recognition to all of his customers and the local community. The event featured moon bounces and games for the kids and numerous local vendors. The event lasted all day and was live

broadcast by the local radio station WKIK 102.9 with everyone having a great time.

On June 9 we had our first Sportsman night at the Southern Maryland's Blue Crab game held at Regency Furniture Stadium. This was a joint fund raiser event put together by Southern Maryland NWTF and the Young Guns. The event was attended by more than 700 hundred people buying tickets to attend the game thru our promotion code set up by Regency Furniture Stadium to help support our

cause. Booths were set up to inform and educate the community regarding the NWTF and it mission. All that attended had a great night and lots of fun.

This fall we have several events coming up to include our Wildlife Adventure Day and Young Guns Youth Hunt. Also our next Hunting Heritage Banquet will be held on March 23, 2013, at Middleton Hall in Waldorf. You can call me for information regarding any of these events or information about joining our committee at 301-752-4186.

State Line Strutters Delmar, MD, Chapter

by Stephen A. Harrison

On May 4 we hosted a benefit for an Eastern Shore Baseball Team, the "State Line Strutters." The event was held at the Delmar VFW and raised \$3,000.00 for the team to use on equipment, uniforms, and registration. There are high expectations for this year's team after an excellent year last year and the addition of several outstanding players this year.

There will be a benefit for one of our members who is currently undergoing treatment for cancer. The event will be held on June 16 at the VFW. Dinner will be served from 4pm to 7pm, followed by the silent and live auction until 8pm, and a dance from 8pm to midnight. There are some outstanding items in our auction. Here are a few: Tickets to

the September NASCAR race (the Saturday race) which includes lunch with the drivers and tickets to the race. Three separate golf packages, a collection of all the past Orioles greats baseball cards, and a whole lot more.

Our 6th annual JAKES day event will be held on June 23. This year's events include an airsoft gun shoot, turkey shoot, bow shoot, building bird feeders, a retriever demonstration. The pond was stocked with minnows and bass this year to add a new element to the kids' fishing experience. Our retriever dog demonstration has been moved to the start of the day instead of the end so we will have the maximum amount of kids on hand.



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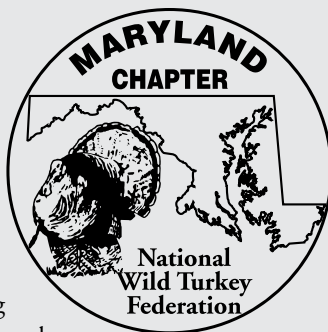
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Maryland State Chapter NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION 2013 J.A.K.E.S. “Hunt of A Lifetime” Application



Applications for the 2013 Maryland State Chapter's JAKES “Hunt of A Lifetime” are now available and will be accepted through December 31, 2012. Successfully drawn applicants must be a current JAKES member, 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. If interested, complete and mail the application below:

Maryland State Chapter NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION 2013 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

NOTE: This form must be received by December 31, 2012



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

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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—\$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor member—\$225.00 | <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)—\$7.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXTREME J.A.K.E.S. (13 - 17 years)—\$10.00 | |

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Number _____ Exp. Date _____

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(Make checks payable to NWTF)

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