

**Summer/Fall
2019**

**Turkey
Droppings**

www.MarylandNWTF.org

Newsletter of the Maryland State Chapter

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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

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

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Articles for submission to the *Turkey Droppings* newsletter should be sent to:

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All articles and photos for the newsletter can be emailed, mailed, or put on a CD or thumb drive and sent directly to the publisher at:

Key Printing
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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 PDF's or jpegs. Send photos with cutlines as an attachment rather than in the body of the Word file. All photos should be clearly identified as to which story/article they go with.

Call the editor of publisher if you have questions.

Deadline for submission for Winter issue is December 10.

Deadline for submission for the Summer issue is July 2.

From the Editor

August, 2019

Hello everyone,

I hope you all had a successful spring turkey season as well as a great summer!

My apologies for the lateness of this issue of the *Turkey Droppings*, as many of you know my family suffered two losses very close together this spring and this circumstance has delayed the newsletter. Thank you all for your thoughts, well wishes, prayers, condolences, and understanding.



Let's try in this upcoming season to get someone new involved in hunting, it could be a youth or an adult. There are many programs out there that will help you and a new hunter. Becoming a Hunting Safety Instructor, First Shot program, Mentoring a new hunter and DNR's apprentice hunter program are just a few of them.

In closing please remember that this is YOUR newsletter, if you have pictures, hunting/ fishing stories or a recipe you would like to share please send them in to me and I will try and include them in the next issue.

Thanks for all you do, hunt safe and pass your knowledge on to others!

Chris Miller, Editor



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Maryland State Chapter

By Bobby Boaman, Maryland State Chapter President

Hello friends, fellow hunters and conservationists. Another turkey season has come and gone. Hopefully your season was filled with many memories and you had some good luck. It looks as though we have finally had a good hatch. It's been a rough couple of years for young turkeys with all the rain we had. But with all the reports in getting and the young poults I have seen this year I think things have turned around. Keep your fingers crossed.

Our banquet season has been awesome this year. For the first time in the history of Maryland's NWTF banquets. All banquets are up from last year and two had \$100,000 plus banquets. Congrats to Free State and Southern MD as well as all of our chapters. Great job everyone.

With that said we have good news. We have started a new chapter in Calvert County. Thank you Jay Johnson and all of your committee for stepping up. Also the Tri County Long Beards have reorganized and are

doing well. Thanks to Corey Itnyre and your committee for taking the plunge.

Our yearly raffle is underway. Chapters are selling chances for five top of the line guns. One for ten three for twenty and ten for fifty. Get a hold of your local chapter president if you want tickets. Again this year we had our first shot turkey hunt. What an awesome event. This hunt gives first time hunters a chance to get out and enjoys hunting and the outdoors. Several of the participants were lucky and got a bird. Thanks to Russ Leith for all of your hard work with this program as well as all of the many volunteers.

At our last meeting we had discussion about Sunday turkey hunting. There are still several counties in the state that do not have Sunday turkey hunting. All of you need to get a hold of your delegates and ask them to put a bill trough asking for this to happen in your county. Good luck and don't give up. We will

be having our annual turkey calling contest September 8th at the ocean city convention center. Calling starts at 11:00 am. This is your contest so please come out and support it. We will be having elections in October for two board members and the executive committee. If you have someone that might be interested in becoming the treasurer for the state send me there name and a short resume.

Finally I would like to ask all of you to keep Jenny and Chris Miller, Russ Leith, Dave Johnson and their families in your prayers. They all have lost a loved one this past year. 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. 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 God Bless.



My First Shot hunter, Fred Alvarado, and me with his first-ever wild turkey. Fred looks like a Happy, Happy Hunter!



From Your Regional Director

By Shawn Weddle

Greetings fellow NWTF members! I hope that you all have had a great summer. It's hard to believe that as I write this that schools will be opening in a few short weeks and that another fall hunting season will be upon us.

As I sit here and reflect on this past spring and summer I can't help but be thankful for the many friends that I have made during my time as Regional Director for the NWTF.

This past spring, I set a personal goal of being with a good friend of mine, Brad, and my brother-in-law Aaron, when they killed their first turkeys. This was my ONLY goal. Aaron got to experience all the wonder of a spring woods waking up and got to see and hear things that he never experienced before. To make a long story short, he missed a nice bird, through no fault of his own. While he didn't take a bird home with him this year, he will be back!! Brad on the other hand was able to take a huge gobbler this year!! To say that two long time deer hunters are now solidly addicted to turkey hunting would be an understatement!

We often hear people referring to the

"Good Ol' Days" of various things. I might be a little biased, but I can't help but feel that we are living smack dab in the middle of the best days of the NWTF right now! Thanks in no small part to the amazing volunteers that make up the backbone of this great organization. If you are a member and do not currently serve on a local committee, PLEASE look up the contact information for your local chapter and contact them to see how you can be part of the amazing work that we are doing.

This year, within the region we will have the opportunity to introduce hundreds on NEW hunters to this amazing heritage that we get to enjoy. We will also be doing habitat work that will benefit the local landscapes for generations to come. We are leaving a lasting legacy on the Old Line State for future generations.

I am also excited at the opportunity to start a NEW chapter in the state! This is the first new chapter in 6 years! Their name is the Chesapeake Longbeards and they are located in Calvert County. You will hear and read more about them in this issue as well as in the future.



Shawn Weddle caught this nice flounder while on vacation.



Shawn with his brother-in-law, Aaron Morningstar on opening day of the turkey season. This was Aaron's first turkey hunt.

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.

PROJECT PROPOSALS DUE BY DECEMBER 1

Maryland DNR Wild Turkey Program Update

Bob Long, Maryland DNR Wild Turkey Biologist

2019 Spring Turkey Season Harvest – Hunters reported harvesting 4,002 wild turkeys during the Maryland 2019 regular spring and junior hunt turkey seasons. This year’s harvest was the 2nd highest on record and an increase of 4 percent over the 2018 harvest of 3,861 birds. Youth hunters kicked-off the season with the Junior Turkey Hunt April 13 statewide and April 14 in select counties, reporting 232 wild turkeys harvested. Garrett County reported the highest harvest this year with 429 turkeys, followed by Washington County with 414. Rounding out the top five were Charles County with 348, Frederick County with 304, and Allegany County with 278. Record harvests were reported in Baltimore, Cecil, Charles, and Prince George’s counties this year. Hunters in 10 counties were able to hunt on Sundays again this year, leading to a harvest of 314 turkeys.

The table below shows the reported spring turkey season harvest by county for 2015-2019:

Maryland Spring Turkey Harvest, 2015-2019					
County	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Allegany	298	258	293	250	278
Anne Arundel	62	45	58	49	74
Baltimore	35	52	51	55	58
Calvert	69	73	59	76	68
Caroline	159	172	149	135	152
Carroll	62	76	103	103	73
Cecil	67	69	87	69	89
Charles	253	265	320	336	348
Dorchester	252	274	303	212	221
Frederick	256	299	332	313	304
Garrett	421	387	429	412	429
Harford	102	110	127	105	124
Howard	16	34	24	36	33
Kent	164	181	174	168	166
Montgomery	97	94	135	149	135
Prince George's	87	87	91	76	105
Queen Anne's	183	190	160	115	145
Somerset	169	150	163	145	129
St. Mary's	193	188	202	191	188
Talbot	68	88	94	80	87
Washington	392	355	428	459	414
Wicomico	138	206	175	139	155
Worcester	224	223	220	188	229
Total	3,767	3,874	4,175	3,861	4,002

Volunteers Needed - The DNR is now 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 help guide management decisions. Please contact Bob Long at bob.long@maryland.gov if you would like to participate in the survey this year. We are always looking for more help. THANK YOU.

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 2019 planting, please contact your local chapter president (listed in the back of the newsletter) no later than **NOVEMBER 15, 2019**

**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

Free State Chapter

Tom Maliszewski

Hello FreeState Nwtf Members,

Wow on Spring 2019 season!! Were you successful or did you take the gun for a walk. This year we had the second highest harvest 4002 turkeys were taken. Go figure. I personally can say it was a tough one. Very limited on eyes on birds when scouting, very little gobbling activity, in my 2522 miles of travel for this season, some of the highlights for the FreeState are three counties, Baltimore, Harford and Cecil counties were up. Awesome!!! After last year's spring and summer rains, I really thought we were going to go backwards. I was thrilled by the number but also how many FreeState members got turkeys in those counties. This says a lot, we all spend a lot of time and energy to enjoy the sport of turkey hunting and its great to see results like these.

A couple of years, more than a couple a member asked me "What has the turkey federation done for me I was like "whoa", where did this question come from? I was new at being a chapter President, wasn't exposed to the many programs, I hadn't attended a NWTF conference/meeting until this year. I responded to the young man, that if wasn't for the 2 men at the table Don Colburn, William Meyers. These guys helped get the NWTF started in Md. It wasn't that long-ago turkey hunting was very limited to the Western counties of Md. There were several restocking efforts that took place in



Garrett Williams got this giant bird.

80's, 90's and by this year results, we owe them a big thank you! It wasn't just restocking birds. Fundraising with the NWTF, scholarships, habitat seed programs, forest restoration projects throughout the state were some of ideas which we wrapped our hands around. We encouraged young hunters to get back out woods with our Jakes programs, Women in the Outdoors was another big initiative. I personally got hooked on the Jakes program, I knew the need to get as many kids out there enjoying the outdoors. This past year at convention I sat in one class. These numbers are real. 14 million hunters in 2016, we lost 2.5 million hunters in 2 years. If that doesn't hit you and open your eyes. I said to myself how can that be? I thought we were doing a good job? Even though, I take several kids hunting, the kids only go hunting with me. The parents don't hunt or fish. They never learned how to. A generation or two ago we all fished, camped, hunted and it was the best of times. Time, we now compete for TIME. Parents make choices that fit. Soccer, lacrosse, football, you name it, there are so many activities. We run out of TIME. Time is precious. Don't waste it. Find time in the great outdoors especially here in Maryland. We have the mountains, we have the bay, the Eastern shore and the Atlantic Ocean all with easy driving distance. Enjoy. So back to the "the question what has the NWTF done for me?"



Tom Maliszewski and Jerry Rutkowski did a little pheasant huntig.

For me I broke it down. What does the NWTF stand for: National Wild Turkey Federation. Easy. Now I changed the "F" to Friendship, or how about Family. That changes a lot. I look at the NWTF as Family. The amount of new family members is mind boggling I couldn't name them all. I couldn't, but I can say it's literally hundreds (Thousands)of friends that I added to my circle and to me that says it all. I want to say thank you. I'm glad to be part of your family.

For those of you who missed out on our Spring Banquet, it was our best banquet we had over 400 people attend, with that attendance, our chapter earned the award Golden Gobbler. That was a first for me as chapter president. I just want to say thank you to all the volunteers who put it together, and another shout out to all the people who attended. Thank you. Free state will now be recognized as a Diamond life member. That brings us up to three Diamond life members, in our chapter.

Our next big event will be our annual Free state Crab feast on Sept 22, 2019 at Level firehall This event does sell out. For tickets call me at 443 677 6110.

Again, thank you for being part of the NWTF, have a safe summer!



This group f NWTF members went offshore for Mahi Mahi. Eric Gomez, Eric Gomez, Jr. Nykki, Fields.

Central Maryland

by Lauren Atwood and Chris Miller, President

In March we held our Sportsman's banquet at the Elks Lodge in Severna Park for the second year, the banquet was well attended and one of the best so far.

In May Central Maryland Chapter had a booth at the Crofton Days and handed out information on the chapter as well as flyers for our "Family Fun Day" which was held at the Stoney Creek Fishing & Hunting Club in June, 75 people were in attendance and learned wildlife skills as well as shooting .22's, trap and archery. A BIG THANKS goes out to not only our members but also to the people at Stoney Creek who helped out and made it a great day for everyone! We hope to be back next year.

Hunting safety classes are scheduled, look on the DNR web site under "education" for posted dates.

Our meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at the Green Turtle in the Wagh Chapel shopping center in Crofton Maryland at 7:00 p.m.

by Chris Miller

The Central Maryland Chapter held our first Family Field Day event on June 23rd at the Stoney Creek Fishing & Hunting Club in Pasadena. Stoney Creek's facilities allowed us to offer rifle shooting (.22s and AR-15s), trap lessons on one field and full squads on another, archery, bucket raffles and free lunch to attendees. Though we put in a lot of time and effort to get the word out about the event, we had no idea what to expect as this was the first event in a while that we've put on that wasn't a Jake's Day or a WITO function. We planned for an optimistic 100 attendees, and as it turned out, we



couldn't have been more spot-on. Between NWTF and Stoney Creek volunteer members and attendees, we entertained and fed a few over the 100-person estimate. Everything went very well and we received multiple expressions of gratitude from guests who had a great time. Dan Zinkand's pet turkey

was a huge hit, as were the bucket raffles and especially archery. We learned a lot during the process of planning and putting on the event, and we look forward to doing it even better next year!

Story & Graphics by Lauren Atwood

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"Let Jakes walk"

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Southern Maryland

By Billy Moore

There are those rare times in our lives when we actually live to see our dreams come true. Regardless if it involves mentoring a youth, harvesting a trophy of a lifetime or even doing an activity that will invest in others for years to come. Each of us has been blessed with dreaming great dreams and when we reflect back on them, they will be in our hearts forever. Great Leaders surround themselves with motivated people, high energy individuals with integrity. Fred Richards, So MD Chapter President is that kind of Leader, difficult at times, with a heart for absolute perfection with noteworthy success. Pushing people to their limits, challenging the status quo, not accepting no for an answer, setting goals that are not achievable and then by the Grace of God the magic happens and that dream comes true. The 2019 banquet results speak for itself. Without a family attitude of motivated and supportive volunteers success would not have happened. Although the Committee is made up of over a dozen committed volunteers, a couple standout and have always put on that extra whatever it takes to "get er done" Thanks Colin Mohler and Susan Boarman for all you do! Thank you Fred for leading an outstanding committee of volunteers in the Southern Maryland Chapter who reached a new milestone in 2019 with the largest gross (\$150,000) and net (over \$100,000) Heritage banquet after 27 years as a Chapter.

The April 6, 2019 banquet at the Charles County Fairgrounds was attended by approximately 500 people.

Country music was provided by local singer Eric Wathen who provided a great atmosphere for attendees who dressed in their best western outfits. The western theme created a unique party atmosphere which will certainly be used in future banquets. The best dressed male and female were given special prizes by the Committee.

Special guests included Michael Waddell, the Original Bone Collector and national spokesmen for NWTF, Ray Smith NWTF Eastern Director of Development and Frank Castellano. Francis

Xavier "Frank" Castellano United States Navy captain currently assigned as the commanding officer of Center for Surface Combat Systems. Castellano is best known as the commander of the guided missile destroyer USS Bainbridge during the hijacking of MV Maersk Alabama. The siege ended after a rescue effort by the U.S. Navy on 12 April 2009. It was the first successful pirate seizure of a ship registered under the American flag since the early 19th century. His leadership was responsible for leading a seal team in rescuing Captain Phillips.

Many thanks to Michael Waddell, Ray Smith and Navy CPT Castellano on attending and making our banquet so successful. These men were so inspirational for all our guest especially a message for our children sharing their love for God, Family, our Military and our Country.

The Chapter also sponsored several youth hunts including a very successful day on the Wicomico River harvesting a limit of beautiful Canvasbacks.

The So MD NWTF Chapter continues to educate new hunters with a group of volunteers as certified Maryland Hunters Education trainers. We held a Hunter Safety Class on March 6-9, 2019 and had a total of 13 students, 5 female youth, age 13 and under, 7 male youth, age 11 and under 1 adult.

Celebrating another successful year, the Chapter invited all volunteers and their families to an Atlantic MLB game supporting the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs. Two suites and all the food you could gobble up was provided. The night was made extra special with Mossy Oak camouflage game jerseys designed specifically for NWTF. The camo jerseys were auctioned off and many chapter members were fortunate to be owners of these unique game jerseys. The Blue Crabs won the game, the food and fellowship was excellent and the game was closed with a beautiful fireworks display. A great event with wonderful people. Can't wait until next year!!

Lastly we must close with a huge "thank you" to Sharon Lanthier. Sharon's

husband loved hunting and was a long-time supporter of turkey hunting and any outdoor sports, mostly hunting and fishing. Sharon reached out to our Chapter to donate her husbands' hunting equipment following his passing. All of the numerous items were given freely to youth in the NWTF and 4-H. A fundraising auction was also held during NWTF and Young Guns Volunteer Appreciation Day located at Cindy Bliss's Farm. The money raised during the auction will be used to support the JAKES Program. Passing on a legacy such as demonstrated by the Lanthier's is an excellent model for Saving the Hunt and Passing It On.



Hi Everyone,

I just wanted to take a minute to share my awesome experience I had with the Southern Maryland NWTF Chapter this year. I harvested my first deer with my Grandfather as my guide (Fred Richards) through Young Guns. I was able to harvest my turkey in Heathsville, VA in early spring, also guided by my grandfather. These are memories I will never be able to replace and I wanted to say "thank you" to the Southern Maryland Chapter for helping me create these memories.

Alex Miller

Highlights From Southern Maryland



The Annual Spring Turkey Hunt, partnering with Young Guns, was another tremendous success with over 50 youth hunters and numerous happy and successful faces. Thanks to all the volunteers that continue to make this day extra special.



Mid Shore Chapter

by *Teddy Capel*

The Mid Shore Chapter once again provided guides for two youth hunts on Eastern Neck Island on April 13th and April 20th, helping three youth each day. Each youth had an opportunity to harvest a gobbler, with five being successful.

On July 27th, we partnered with the Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company to host our 3rd Annual Gun Bash to fund our ongoing youth activities.

We are now preparing for our Annual Banquet on September 28th, with guest Regional Director, Butch Faulkner in attendance!



Bounty from the Youth Hunt on Eastern Neck Island.



Gannon Vernon shows off his first bird.



Our Youth Hunters enjoyed their day.

State Line Strutters

By *Teresa Stuber*

Busy, Busy, Busy!!!! Yep that's the State Line Strutters!!!! What a spring and summer it has been. We are very proud of what our classroom hunters Education Courses produced, just take a look at what Ian Parks gets to hang on his bragging wall!!! This is his trophy Buck killed youth day measuring a 143. WOW!!! Can't wait to see what our next Hunters Ed Class September 30, 2019 through October 12, 2019 produces!!!! Jakes Day was as usual a great success with 45 BEAUTIFUL smiling faces, here just a few pictures for your enjoyment!!!! Jakes day makes all of what we do worth it!!!! You don't want to blink your eyes or you will miss all the good stuff in our near future! September 28th is our Annual Banquet!!!! Tickets are still available but you might want to get your tickets before they are gone! (call Dave Johnson, he will hook you up 302-841-4833). If that's not enough fun to get you wound up we have our Fall Dance November 2, 2019 with the AWESOME Band FRONT PAGE NEWS starting at 8:00pm to Midnight at the Delmar VFW guaranteed to get your boogie shoes smokin!!!! See you there!!!!



These smiling faces are all from JAKES Day Makes the day worth the effort when so many young people learn so much!



Ian Parks very proudly shows his bounty from the Youth Day Deer Hunt.

Wye Oaks Longspurs

Patti Ervin

We held our sold out annual heritage banquet March 2, 2019. The food was great as always and it was a great time had by all. Thanks to old friends and new ones for the support.

This year, our chapter was able to award two scholarships. We would like to congratulate Elizabeth Ross and William Manship. Elizabeth was also the recipient of the state scholarship award. Elizabeth plans to attend Unity College in the fall and major in Conservation Law Enforcement with the hopes of being a K-9 game warden in Maine. William plans to

attend Salisbury University in the fall and major in Sociology with an emphasis in Criminal Justice. We would like to wish both of the recipient's success. The chapter is in the planning process for a Jakes event this summer. Please check the NWTF website under the events tab for information as it becomes available. We are already planning for 2020 and hope to offer a larger variety of guns to win to our guests. We hope you had a successful spring hunt. Hopefully you were able to mentor a young hunter or new hunter in expe-

riencing just how much fun and exciting turkey hunting is. Thank you to all of our members for your continued support. Anyone interested in joining as a committee member, please contact us. Have a great summer and enjoy the outdoors!



Bob Walls, Elizabeth Ross, William Manship, Bo Greenwood, Wye Oak Longspurs Scholarship Winners



Chapter Vice President, Bo Greenwood with an Oklahoma Rio Grande Turkey shot this year.



Last year, one of our members, Pete Morris, not only took one 22.7 pound longbeard with is Matthews bow, he took a second. Great job Pete!

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Monocacy Valley

Russ Leith

This year has been a busy one for Monocacy Valley chapter starting with our Jakes event on March 30th. Catoctin Fish and Game in Myersville was our host this year and provided an awesome venue for the event. The 78 young people in attendance was our biggest Jakes Day ever and all the kids enjoyed a fun filled day of shooting, archery, retriever training, turkey hunting woods walk and trout fishing. We also provided lunch for everyone and gave our attendees a turkey call, all free of charge.

In conjunction with our Jakes event the chapter was thrilled to take seventeen young people turkey hunting on Maryland's youth day, April 13th. Fourteen of our hunters had never hunted at all before and many of our parents had little to no experience as well. While only two of our hunters were successful that day everyone had stories to tell when we met for lunch after the hunt. Many thanks to chapter members Lee Jernigan, Jason Sweeney, and Jeremy Poling for find-

ing the properties to hunt that allowed us to take so many kids and all the volunteers that made a difference by mentoring.

On June 29th we hosted our first crab feed for our annual fundraiser. Catoctin Fish and Game was again gracious enough to allow us the use of their pavilion for the event. There were over 120 in attendance and everyone enjoyed an awesome dinner of steamed crabs, crawfish and roast pig. Everyone on the committee heard lots of compliments about the evening and we are all looking forward to doing a crab feast again next year.

Continuing with our busy summer we had our second annual Family Field Day at Thurmont Sportsmans Club on July 27th. While attendance was down somewhat from last year (maybe the heat?), well over one hundred people took advantage of all the activities that included rifle and pistol shooting, trap shooting and archery. Everyone also enjoyed a free lunch of

bbq chicken.

All of us are looking forward to our 28th annual Hunting Heritage Banquet on September 7th. We have been working hard to make this year our best banquet ever. As chapter president I am truly blessed to be involved with a committee that is so passionate about what we are doing and understands how important it is that we realize our mission to Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt.



Cover Photo



Joshua Crouse, Monocacy Valley JAKE Youth Hunt.

Maryland State Chapter NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

J.A.K.E.S.

“Hunt of A Lifetime”

Application



Applications for Maryland State Chapter's JAKES "Hunt of a Lifetime" are now available and will be accepted through December 31st of the current year. 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 hunting adventure. JAKES may enter "JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime" until picked for a hunt. ONE hunt per "Lifetime". If interested, please complete and mail the application below.

**Maryland State Chapter
NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION
J.A.K.E.S. "Hunt of A Lifetime" Application**

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ Birthdate _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Parents' Name _____

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

Maryland Hunter Education Card Number _____

Mail this form to:

Bobby Boarman
11500 BB Farm Place, Newburg, MD 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 31st.



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, MD 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—\$35.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Women in the Outdoors—\$35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor member—\$250.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelin' Sportsmen member—\$35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Active Military—\$20.00 | |
| <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 check payable to NWTF & mail to Maryland State Chapter—NWTF

2019 Maryland State Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation

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

Summer/Fall 2019

Turkey Droppings

Newsletter

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Save The Habitat - Save The Hunt

By Russ Leith, Save the Hunt Coordinator

All of us associated with the NWTF and the Maryland state chapter should be extremely proud of everything we are doing in the state for hunter recruitment and the Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt initiative. Many of our chapters are active in conducting Hunter Education classes where they take an active role in promoting gun safety, tree stand safety and what it means to be an ethical hunter. For many years now the path to creating a new hunter has gone through the Hunter Ed program. When a parent, almost always a hunter themselves, determined that their child was old and mature enough they would sign up for a class. Upon passing they would get a hunting license and hopefully the tradition would carry on. While we obviously should do everything we can as parents, grandparents, uncles, etc. to pass on our hunting heritage, the "traditional" way is no longer working. There aren't enough kids joining our ranks to replace the baby boomer generation that is ageing out. That is why it is incumbent upon all of us as hunters to commit to mentoring someone new, not just young people but anyone of any age that might

show an interest in learning how to hunt, but don't have the knowledge or support network to do it on their own. Currently there is a movement nationwide among many groups, including NWTF, Ducks Unlimited, QDMA, Council to Advance Hunting & Shooting Sports and others to reach new audiences in an effort to recruit new hunters.

The Maryland State chapter, in partnership with Maryland DNR and the US Fish & Wildlife service has developed a program designed to reach a new and diverse demographic. Called First Shot, the program targets adults that have never hunted at all. We have been amazed at the response we have received and the many different backgrounds of our applicants. Their motivation to learn how to hunt may be very different than the "traditional" hunter but they are eager to learn and enthusiastic about joining our ranks. Since the program's inception in the spring of 2018 and with our upcoming sika deer hunt in October at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, we will have successfully introduced over sixty adults to their very first hunt. Most of our new hunters have indicated that they plan on continu-

ing to hunt on their own. First Shot has also garnered some attention on a national level.

Another program, while not new, that has become extremely successful is the Southern Maryland/Young guns youth hunts. On the most recent youth day hunt in April, fifty kids were taken turkey hunting, with half of them being first time hunters. In November on the youth day hunt for deer they plan on mentoring over one hundred kids. Monocacy Valley chapter in Frederick was able to take seventeen youth turkey hunting, fourteen that had never hunted before.

If you notice a theme, that's because there is one, a focus on the "new", new hunter, someone of any age that has never hunted before. We can no longer rely on the traditional means of recruiting new hunters to save our lifestyle and hunting heritage. Want to make a difference, be a mentor! I am confident that together we can "Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt". If you would like more information about mentoring opportunities or programs for new hunter's, please don't hesitate to contact me at rlleith6@comcast.net.