



# SHOW-ME GOBBLER

A Tri-Annual Publication of the George C. Clark Missouri Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation

Volume 35 Number 1 • April 2016

## Awesome NWTF Opportunities

by Cassidy Keeven

Over the years, I have had many incredible experiences through the NWTF doing all kinds of things, but this year topped them all. I won the opportunity to go on pheasant hunt! I have gotten deer and turkey in the past, but I have only ever been able to hunt pheasants one other time, and it was a blast! I was so excited to get to go again! It all started last year when I became eligible to participate in the

X-treme group at the J.A.K.E.S. day hosted by the Rhine Valley NWTF Chapter in Hermann, Missouri for the first time. This meant that I would be competing against other kids around my age. In our group, we went across the river to the quarry. There were three stations set up when we all arrived. Each of us shot claybirds, .22s, and pistols. Later on, after a delicious lunch, we all did our best turkey call for the judges to conclude our events for the day. Out of about 20 kids, the top four boys and top two girls would win a guided pheasant hunt at Wild Boar Creek in Rhineland, Missouri. Lucky enough, I was one of the two girls who got the chance to go and have a day of shooting! I could not imagine a better way to spend the day! Around 10 o'clock on February 21st, all of the hunters, including me, and one of each of our parents went to Wild Boar Creek. We briefly visited and then we headed up

continued on page 10



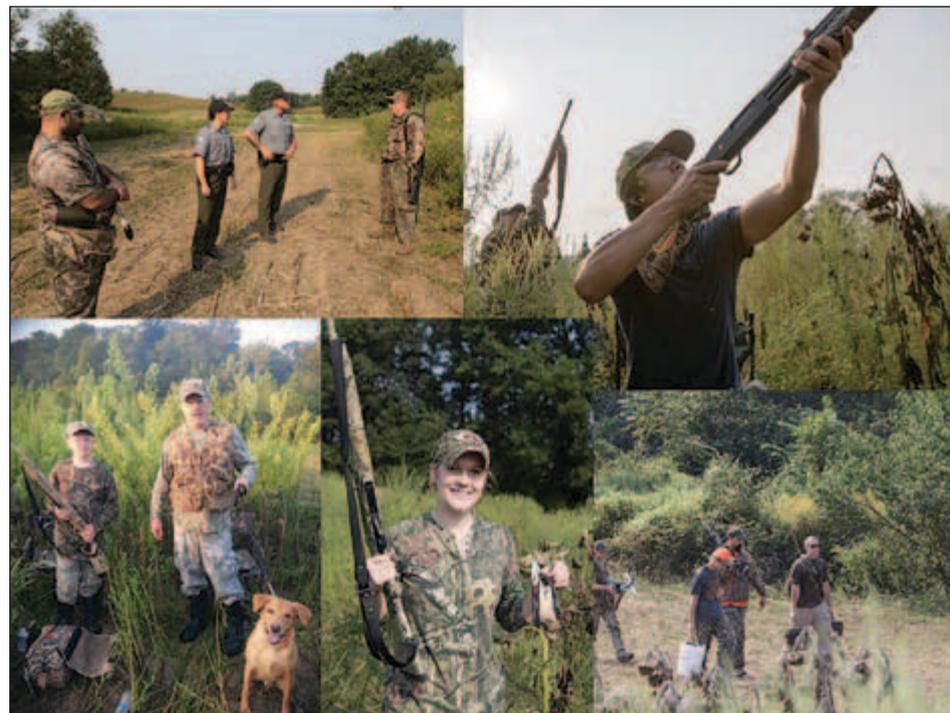
Time spent watching a bird dog working is time well spent.

## Mentored Hunting Will Help Us Get There!

by John Burk

As we strive to do our part to conserve and enhance 4 million acres of habitat, create 1.5 million hunters, and open access to an additional 500,000 acres for hunting nationally, Missouri is shooting for 4,000 new hunters created annually. Of this total, 1,000 will be added as a result of our members and volunteers mentoring folks of all ages; exposing them to the joys of hunting. These efforts will not only strengthen our collective voice in defense of the hunting lifestyle but also increases the amount of available funding to ensure that our kids and grandkids will have access to the resources that support this lifestyle.

Most of us have been directly involved with mentoring friends, family, and coworkers because that is our passion, we want to share it, it's all consuming, and comes naturally to us. However, as an organization we haven't always accomplished this important goal in an organized and deliberate fashion. We have been doing outreach events since our inception and these events are still an important part of who we



are and can and have led to mentored hunting opportunities. We also do have examples of organized mentored events. The 2016 youth turkey season will include the Eighth Annual Governor's Youth Turkey Hunt where 15 youth will participate and the Spring Hunter Apprentice School at Lake Wappapello will provide similar opportunities for 10

youth. In addition, this coming fall, we will once again be partnering with the Missouri Department of Conservation, Quail and Pheasants Forever, Missouri Prairie Foundation, Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation, Lucas Oil Speedway and private landowners throughout the state to provide mentored dove hunting opportunities in September.

Once fields have been secured and planted, be looking for specific locations on the website and June edition and help us spread the word.

Another area we could use your help is not only providing mentored hunting opportunities but in getting them reported. We know that many of our volunteers and members are actively involved in helping others enjoy our sport but we currently do not have a very good idea at what scale this is occurring. We also cannot tally numbers towards our 40,000 hunters created goal and brag on your success if there is no official record of these important occurrences happening. Please help us tell others about the great works that you are doing. Information can be directly entered using the following link: <http://www.nwtf.org/about/hunting-heritage> or fill out the accompanying sheet (on page 5) and send it to my attention either by snail mail 7152 Tomahawk Lane, Steedman, MO 65077 or e-mail the information to [jburk@nwtf.net](mailto:jburk@nwtf.net)

Take someone(s) new with you this spring and please let us know about it!

# President's Report



our greatest achievement was leading the nation in hunters created through registered events, and acres of habitat conserved and enhanced. This is what our Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt Initiative is all about; setting important and challenging goals that will help us make a difference for future generations and succeeding in accomplishing them.

I have to hand it to our great volunteers and members all over the state that have made these great accomplishments a reality. Your continued hard work is truly making a difference. Thank you for giving of your time, talents and dollars to insure that we continue to be successful. Our quest is a noble one; to assure that our future generations will always have the privilege to hunt and fish and that our woods and waters will always have an abundance of fish and wildlife to fuel our passions.

Those of you that have not been a member of the NWTF long are hopefully seeing and feeling what I have since I became a member. The NWTF, especially in our state, is accomplishing great things by responsibly and wisely investing the dollars you donate and help us raise. What I think makes this organization even more special, though, is that we function as just one big family

It's been an extremely mild winter. The Gobblers are starting to gobble and the song birds are chiming in to let us know that spring has almost arrived.

It's been a great year for the NWTF. Our National Convention, held in Nashville, Tennessee in February, was the biggest, with the largest attendance in the history of the NWTF.

The Great State of Missouri brought home more than its' share of awards. In The Outstanding State Chapter Award, Missouri came in 1st Place in our respective category for the very first time. We also finished number one in seven other areas. We should be proud of all of these achievements. However, I believe that

with common interests, goals and dreams for the future.

If you're not a member of your local committee, I would encourage you to volunteer. The time you donate will far be outweighed by the sense of accomplishment, the friendships you gain, and the difference you can make for our children and grandchildren.

As turkey season is upon us, I would encourage each of you to take a new person with you this year. Whether it's a child or an adult, they all can have a great time and you can lend your helping hand in the Save the Hunt. part of our Initiative. You will find it much more rewarding to watch a new person, young or old, harvest a bird than harvesting one yourself. Not only will there now be a bond between the two of you, but you will make memories that will last a lifetime.

I wish each of you a great turkey season this spring, and, as always, if there is anything we can do, or questions we can answer, please don't hesitate to call or email myself or any of our Missouri staff and we will be more than glad to help you in any way we can.

*R. L. Bennett, President  
George Clark  
MO State NWTF Chapter  
Turkeyslayer79@msn.com*



# SHOW-ME GOBBLER

**R.L. Bennett, President**  
P. O. Box 1186  
Nixa, MO 65714  
H: 417-725-1973  
C: 417-840-3949  
Turkeyslayer79@msn.com

**Chairman of the Board**  
**Tim Brooks**  
1809 Michael Dr.  
Louisiana, MO 63353  
573-754-6692  
Tim.brooks@mdc.mo.gov

**Dan Zerr V. President**  
8522 Orf Rd  
Lake St. Louis, MO 63367  
(636) 625-1608  
dan089@centurytel.net

**Brian Duckett, Secretary**  
120 Foxtree Dr.  
Hazelwood, MO 63042  
(314) 574-9213  
brian\_duckett@sbcglobal.net

**Bernard R. (Bernie) Grice, Jr.**  
1213 Marcassin Drive  
Columbia, MO 65201-7224  
H: 573-445-6967  
Fax 573-445-8515  
C: 573-268-0453  
bernie@tranquility.net  
bernie@monwtf.org

**State JAKES Coordinator**  
**Charlene West**  
1807 Grant Circle  
Rolla, MO 65401  
573-426-6331  
ckwest62@yahoo.com

**Regional Biologist**  
**John Burk**  
573-676-5994  
jburk@nwtf.net

**Regional Director**  
**Tim Besancenez**  
2710 Eagles Drive  
Pacific, MO 63069  
636-257-7121  
tbesancenez@nwtf.net

**Regional Director**  
**Larry Neal**  
2780 Hwy. V  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
573-334-8881  
lneal@nwtf.net

**Regional Director**  
**Mike Allen**  
20240 State Highway J.  
Brashear, MO 63533  
660-323-5531  
mallen@nwtf.net

**Regional Director**  
**Derek Payne**  
**(East KS-West MO)**  
8733 N Chestnut Ave  
Apt. 102  
Kansas City, MO 64156  
Cell: 573-999-4574

**Editor/Designer**  
**Joe Pendergrass**  
Show Me More Outdoors  
573-368-1402  
smg.editor@gmail.com

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** The Show-Me Gobbler is published three times per year by the George C. Clark Missouri State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation and is circulated statewide to its membership as well as other interested parties. As the official publication of the George C. Clark Missouri State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Show-Me Gobbler serves to inform, educate and entertain wild turkey enthusiasts throughout Missouri and is committed to supporting conservation through sound wildlife management, and sport hunting through safety and ethics education.

### ARTICLE SUBMISSION NOTE:

The staff of the Show-Me Gobbler thank you for your contributions to the publication. Please feel free to submit future articles with photos to the contact information listed on the back page of this issue. Submission requirements: Digital copy submitted in Microsoft Word. (please contact us if you can only send hard copy) Digital photographs are preferred but will be accepted as snapshots if supplied to the editor. When scanning your own photos, please use at least 225 resolution (dpi) but no more than 400 dpi, saved as a .jpeg, .jpg, .tiff or .eps. Photos submitted outside of these guidelines may not be suitable for printing. Please include photo captions and credits for each photo submitted. Photos will not be returned. Thanks again for your contributions and we look forward to your participation in the future.

## Another Successful JAKES Event.



The Bunt Cumbea Chapter held our JAKES event on Saturday, April 2, 2016. Approximately 120 youth were able to shoot skeet, pellet guns, pattern a shotgun, learn about animal ID and the basics of turkey calling. 6th Day Creations Outdoors was there to give the youth an opportunity to try their hand at bowfishing as well during the day.

# 2016 Missouri Spring Turkey Season Outlook

By Jason L. Isabelle  
Resource Scientist  
Missouri Department of Conservation

Spring turkey harvests have increased each year in Missouri for the past four years, and the 2016 harvest is expected to continue this trend. An abundance of two-year-old gobblers resulting from the 2014 hatch should result in good hunting opportunities this year. Spring turkey harvests in Missouri continue to be among the highest in the nation, and the 2016 season should be no exception.

During the past five years, turkey production has been considerably higher than the previous four. Although turkey abundance in most of Missouri remains below the peak that occurred in the late 1990s and early 2000s, turkey numbers in many areas have begun to rebound from the poor hatches that plagued the population from 2007–2010. Turkey numbers are increasing throughout most of the Ozarks as well as in portions of southwestern and north-central Missouri.

Of particular significance to hunters is the hatch that occurred two years ago. To the delight of turkey enthusiasts, much of Missouri experienced good production in 2014. As a result, the number of jakes harvested during the 2015 spring season was up in all regions of the state. Results of the ongoing north Missouri turkey research project indicate hunters are harvesting a very small percentage of the jakes that are available ( $\leq 6\%$  in the last two years). A large number of unharvested jakes in 2015 will result in a good number of two-year-old gobblers for the 2016 season. However, turkey numbers and population trends do vary across Missouri's diverse landscape. Although 2016 should be a good year for most hunters, season prospects do vary regionally.

This year's spring turkey harvest should be up in northern Missouri compared to the 2015 harvest total. Although turkey numbers in northern Missouri remain well below the population peak that occurred 10–15 years ago, turkey populations have begun to rebound in portions

of the region during the last several years. The Northwest and Northeast Regions had the state's best turkey production in 2014, which resulted in a considerable increase in the number of jakes harvested during last year's spring season. Hunters should encounter more two-year-old gobblers in both regions this spring.

The 2016 spring season should be a good season for hunters in the Ozarks as well, especially in the eastern Ozarks where turkey production has been the highest in the state in three out of the last four years. For several counties in the central portion of the region, the 2016 spring harvest could be among the highest on record. Increasing turkey numbers throughout much of the Ozarks, coupled with an abundance of public land, make this region a great choice for hunters this year.

Turkey harvest should also be up in the Ozark Border and West Prairie Regions of west-central and southwestern Missouri. Many of the counties in these regions typically rank among the highest in the state for spring turkey harvest, and this year should be no exception. The percentage of jakes in last year's harvest was up in both regions. The

turkey population in southwestern Missouri, in particular, has experienced considerable growth in recent years, and county-level spring harvests in 2016 are likely to meet or exceed previously-established records.

Spring turkey harvests in the River Breaks Regions of central and east-central Missouri have been relatively stable for the last five years. The 2016 spring turkey harvest in these regions is not expected to deviate greatly from harvests in recent years although both may have a slight increase compared to the 2015 season. Similar to counties in the Ozark Border Region, many of the counties in the Union Breaks Region, from Osage east and south to Ste. Genevieve, typically rank among the highest in the state in spring harvest, and these counties are likely to do so in 2016 as well.

This year's regular spring turkey season runs from April 18 – May 8, and the youth spring turkey season is April 9–10. Hunters should refer to the Conservation Department's *2016 Spring Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information Booklet* for additional information.

## JAKES Event Experiences

By Abigail Keeven

The National Wild Turkey Federation strives to teach kids at JAKES Events about conservation, shooting safety, and how to preserve hunting heritage. I learned all of these things and much more at the young age of 7 when I began attending the Rhine Valley Chapter's JAKES Day in Hermann, MO. That was 11 years ago.

At the events in Hermann, there would be an incredible number of around 250 participants gathered early in the morning, all eager for the day to begin. The day would be packed full of excitement and learning. As you got older, the stations would gradually change until you could become an Xtreme Competition Participant. Every year, I would count down the days until the next event. I met many new friends at these events throughout the years who I am still in contact with.

My family has been very involved with the National Wild Turkey Federation for as long as I can remember. After a few years of participating in the

events, my dad was asked to join the committee for the Four Rivers Chapter and for the Rhine Valley Chapter. After accepting, we became even more involved. We would attend every banquet and event that each chapter held. Two years ago, the Four Rivers Chapter decided that they would like to have a JAKES Day, similar to the one in Hermann. They began brainstorming more and after a while of searching for a place to host the event, my grandparents offered the use of their farm in New Haven, Missouri.

At our first event, we spent months of planning. We discussed everything from where to have each station, to where to have people park, to where to have the lunch line. We had a wonderful turnout of about 90 kids and a tremendous amount of parent and volunteer support. The day went off wonderfully. Everyone had a blast and said that they all couldn't wait for next year!

At our second event, we had even more participants and the entire event went on without a hitch. Even with the tremendous amount of rain that had come the week before, we still managed to park everyone and have a successful day.

Both years, we worked diligently before, during, and after the event to make sure that we could

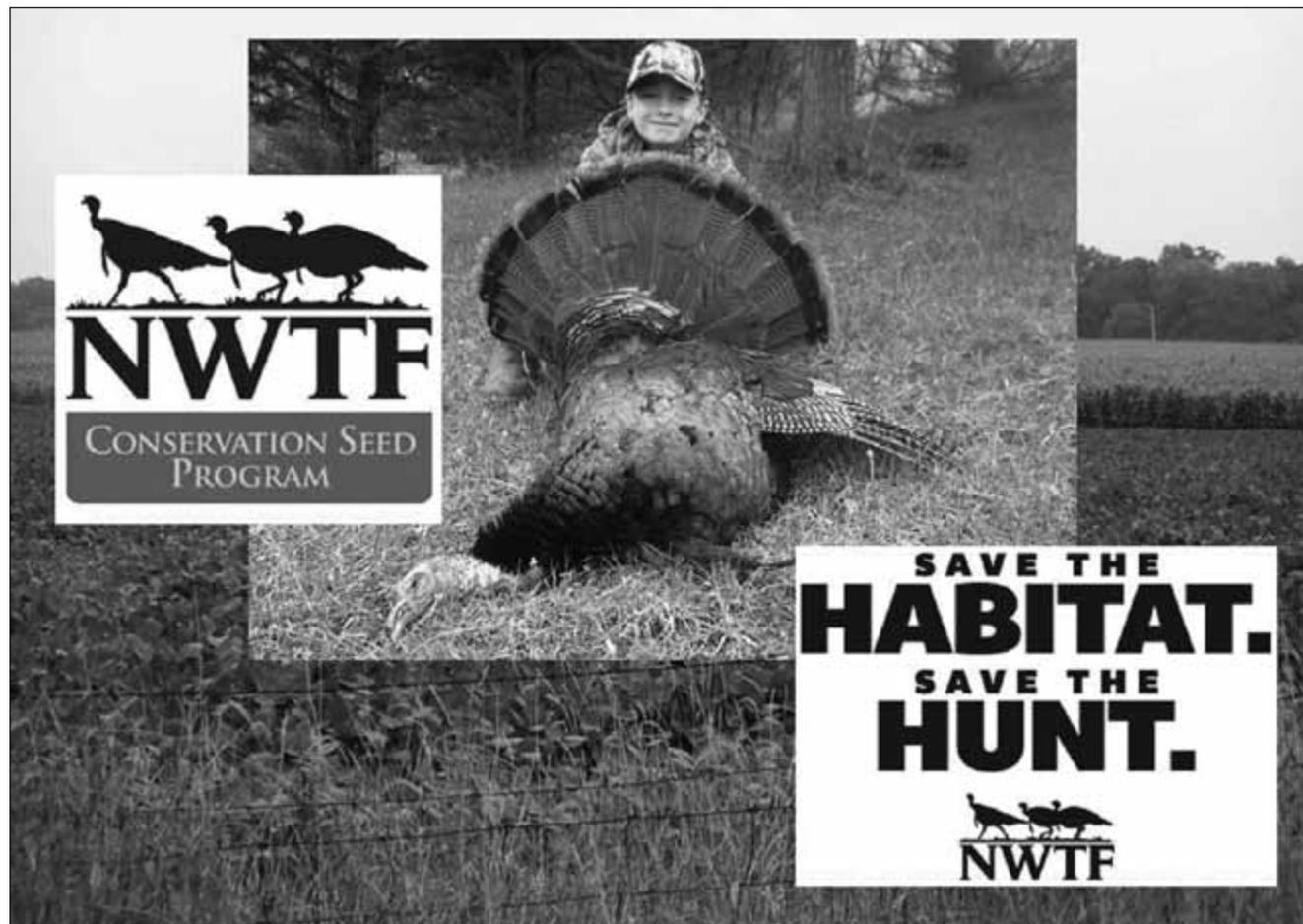
make it the best experience for each child that it could possibly be. After the events, we take all of the pictures that were taken that day and compile a scrapbook. After working for hours on end to finish it, we submit it to the National Headquarters of the NWTF. Both years we have won awards at the state and national level. Being rewarded with these awards is awesome in itself, but the real prize is spending the days that we do with the wonderful committee members, and being able to watch each child have a blast at the events just as I did when I was a youngster.

This past year, I made the journey with my family and other committee members to Nashville, TN to receive our 2015 Event Award at the NWTF National Convention. The amazing event that the NWTF puts on truly reinforces the fact that this is an outstanding group of people as well as the organization as a whole.

I would encourage all NWTF Chapters to have a JAKES Event, it is a most rewarding experience and getting new young people involved in hunting and outdoor sports is vitally important to the future of our country.

I am proud to be a National Wild Turkey Federation Member!

## NWTF Seed Program



This year the Conservation Seed Program should work out well for those that took advantage of it. All of the seed arrived in the state by the end of the second weekend in March which was earlier than usual. The seed was delivered to St. Peters and Kirksville and we have been working at getting it distributed. If you placed an order you should be contacted soon if you haven't been already. If you have not been contacted and you know that you ordered it, please contact me at 573-676-5994.

As has been pointed out every year that the program has been offered, getting your order in early is important. I try to order the seed based upon average demand but it varies a little from year to year and the program is run as a pass-through where the state chapter backs the Conservation Seed Program but does not budget for it and expects it to pay for itself; it usually does but it can be a big risk so I order conservatively.

This year we committed to back \$60,000 worth of shipping and handling on 880 bags of corn, 1,716 bags of beans, 429 bags of sunflowers, and 180 bags of milo.

Placing your order means that you will get your seed if we get our seed (it is not a guarantee because, at the time we advertise the program, we do not yet know how much seed will be released into the program or when it will get here). However, not placing your order means that you may not get seed. This year, the folks that placed an order for milo and corn will get it and they accounted for 100% of the supply. If you did not place an order, there are still beans (\$7/bag) and sunflowers (\$35/bag) available but they will be first come first served to members until they are gone. Contact your RD if you might be interested in what remains of the seed.

## Expanding Hunting Properties

If you are one of the many hunters in this country who leases land for hunting and outdoor recreation, look no further than Base Camp Leasing.

Base Camp Leasing takes pride in connecting quality landowners and land in 22 states with quality hunters, and they recently partnered with the NWTF to support the Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative.

Through the partnership, Base Camp Leasing will contribute a portion of the proceeds from every lease it secures, and it also will allow its lessees to make a matching contribution. The funds will directly support the NWTF's Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative.

"Thanks to Base Camp Leasing President Steve Meng's commitment to the future of hunting and conservation, he quickly realized that the NWTF's efforts to preserve our hunting heritage were the right place to make his charitable investment," said Doug Saunders, NWTF Executive Vice President of Marketing and Development. "The Base Camp team is committed to supporting Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. each year, and they have given their customers the opportunity to do the same."

For more information on Base Camp Leasing and its partnership with NWTF, or to find your own quality hunting ground, visit [www.BaseCampLeasing.com/NWTF](http://www.BaseCampLeasing.com/NWTF).

## Wheelin Events

### Wheelin' Sportsmen's Day At The Lake — 06-05-16

Contact: Scott Roy  
jsrcrr@grm.net  
(660) 359-3399  
Location: Barton Campus  
Hwy 65, Trenton, MO 64683

### Ws Bootheel Boss Gobblers Clay Bird Shoot — 06-11-16

Contact: Bronson Senn  
Ineal@nwtf.net  
Location: Cracraft Farms  
Co Rd 316, Jackson, MO 63755

### Ws Bootheel Boss Gobblers — 06-11-16

Contact: Timothy Schwent  
tjscpa@swbell.net  
(573) 225-3740  
Location: Jackson Civic Center  
381 East Deerwood Drive  
Jackson, MO 63755

### Ws Platte Purchase Sportsmans Night Out — 07-16-16

Contact: Eddie Helsel  
eddiaray\_56@yahoo.com  
(816) 253-9583  
Location: Pony Expres Museum  
914 Penn St, St. Joseph, MO 64503

### Heartland Gobblers Gun Blast — 08-19-16

Contact: Cordell Stewart  
(573) 222-7182  
Location: American Legion Hall  
2320 Kanell Blvd, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

### Bootheel Boss Gobblers Gun Blast — 10-06-16

Contact: Timothy Schwent  
tjscpa@swbell.net  
(573) 225-3740  
Location: Jackson K Of C Hall  
Hwy 61 North, Jackson, MO 63755

### Bollinger County Double Beards Gun Bash — 10-13-16

Contact: Jackie Rowe  
jrowecrna@gmail.com  
(573) 579-9170  
Location: First Baptist Church  
502 Broadway, Marble Hill, MO 63764

### River Hills Thunderin' Gun Bash — 10-20-16

Contact: Rob Sulkowski Jr  
rob.sulkowski@mdc.mo.gov  
(573) 883-9982  
Location: Bloomsdale Knights Of Columbus  
175 Jersey Ln, Bloomsdale, MO 63627

### Sho-me Gun Bash — 10-27-16

Contact: Kevin Hess  
hessmnr@gmail.com  
(417) 521-7447  
Location: White River Conference Center  
600 Sunshine, Springfield, MO 65802



# HUNTER RECRUITMENT REPORT FORM

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

**MENTORED HUNTS** *(Please select one)*

- State agency learn to hunt program       Mentored new hunter(s) on individual hunt
- Mentored new hunter on a guided hunt       Mentored lapsed hunter(s) on individual hunt

Date of hunt \_\_\_\_\_

Was the hunt registered with the NWTF       Yes       No

Number of hunters \_\_\_\_\_

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MENTORED HUNT PROGRAM**

Cost of hunt \_\_\_\_\_ Cost per hunter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount contributed \_\_\_\_\_ Cost per hunter \_\_\_\_\_ = Hunters counted \_\_\_\_\_

**HUNTER EDUCATION**

NWTF volunteer hunter ed instructor \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of hunter education class \_\_\_\_\_ Number of graduates \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN FORM TO**

Name John Burk  
 Address 7152 Tomahawk Lane  
 City/State/Zip Steedman, MO 65077  
 Email jburk@nwtf.net

## The George C. Clark Missouri State Chapter Member Harvest Page

Share your outdoor experiences with your NWTF peers, PLEASE submit them to John Burk at [jb Burk@nwtf.net](mailto:jb Burk@nwtf.net) with a brief photo description and they will be considered for the harvest page section of your Show Me Gobbler newsletter.



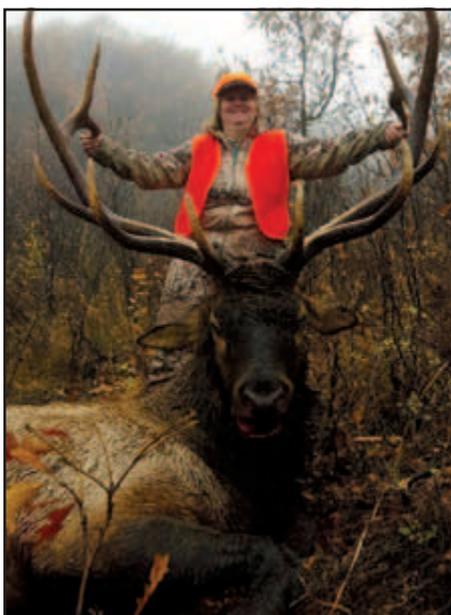
Johnny Picone from Pike Co. Illinois. His parents are Dr. John & Daloris Picone. He took this Boar in Oklahoma with 1 shot at 65 yards.



Morgyn Hubbard; a Ray County Short Spurs JAKES member with a fine looking coon taken on her trap line last fall.



Bill Hall with a 193 taken on the Swan Lake hunt for people with disabilities. AWESOME BUCK!



Marilyn Bogaski with a huge bull taken last fall.



Walt Beumer chapter president's daughter Molly Beumer, with her 2015 deer.

## The George C. Clark Missouri State Chapter Scholarships Winners



Collin Dungan receiving his scholarship check from Bruce Mills of the Union Covered Bridge Gobblers.



Emily Johnson receiving her scholarship check from Tabo Creek Thundering Toms Banquet Chairman Kevin Whitworth.



Samantha Anthony receiving her scholarship check from Grand River Gobblers Committee Member Jim Shippers.



Alex Windmiller from the Pike County Twin Rivers Chapter with Committee Member Roy St. Clair.



Kolin Reynolds receiving his scholarship check from Stealth Gobblers Chapter President David McCannon.



Tori McAfee receiving her scholarship check from Current River Callers Banquet Cochairman David Adams.

# Prescribed Burning Efforts in Missouri

Hopefully by now you can recite our Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. goals by heart. Just in case you forgot; conserve and enhance 4 million acres of habitat, create 1.5 million hunters, and increase hunting access by 500,000 acres by 2022. In numbers specific to Missouri include 300,000 acres, 40,000 hunters, and 2,000 acres. We're doing pretty good too as the national maps in figure 1 indicate. We lead the nation in both acres conserved and in hunters created through registered events thanks to your efforts in the trenches raising the dollars that make it all possible. THANK YOU!



Figure 2. Examples of glades left and open woodlands right that provide superior nesting and brooding rearing habitat for turkeys as well as good habitat for many other wildlife species. These habitats cannot exist or persist without the use of prescribed fire.

However, the safe and responsible use of this tool usually requires special equipment and knowledgeable practitioners and this often limits how much it is used. Prescribed burning associations are being developed to address these limiting factors and your dollars are helping make it happen. Our partners Quail and Pheasants Forever have been working in Northeast (Paris) and Northwest Missouri (Chillicothe) utilizing the local relationships and expertise of their Farm Bill Biologists Casey Bergthold, and Andrew White, respectively, to build local prescribed burning associations. We have provided funding along with the Missouri Department of Conservation through the super fund to help them purchase the necessary equipment (rakes, torches, protective gear, blowers, spray tanks, and the trailer to haul and store it all) to safely and efficiently conduct prescribed burns. With their experience and credentials, they provide the necessary planning and oversight and organize the volunteers so that they can be mobilized when conditions are favorable. The two trailers that we helped put in the field this year are projected to impact over 2,500 acres annually from this point

forward. An example of the trailer wrap is displayed in figure 3.

On the public land side, we have signed a collection agreement with the USFS to expand their capability of conducting prescribed burns on the Mark Twain. This agreement will allow them to pay for additional helicopter time that will increase their capacity to get burns accomplished. Through this agreement, nearly 7,400 acres of glade and open woodland restoration will be accomplished in the Brushy Creek North, Goetz Ridge, and Three Sisters project areas within the Ava, Cassville, Willow Springs Ranger District.

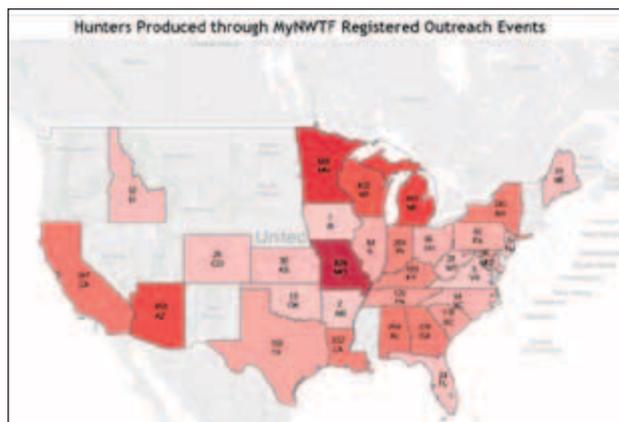
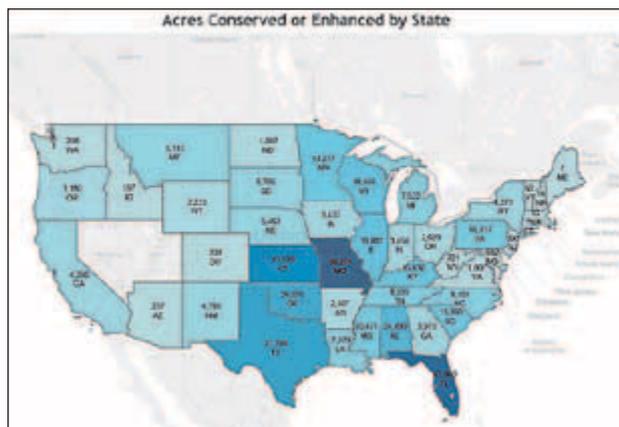


Figure 1. Acres conserved and enhanced (top) Hunters created through registered event.

Something that we have done here in Missouri that isn't as common elsewhere and has enabled us to achieve a lot of acres are the equipment purchases that we cooperate on. We are a private land state and our practice of donating needed equipment to SWCD's and other agencies and organizations often times provides the missing link in getting good habitat work implemented in private lands. This year is no exception. Prescribed burning is probably one of the most important management tools that you can use to create and maintain early successional habitat types preferred by turkey, quail, and rabbits depicted in figure 2.



Ground crews ignite a head fire on the Mark Twain while a helicopter heads to ignite carefully planned landscape burns to achieve restoration objectives on the Mark Twain.



Figure 3. Example of the wrap that will be featured on prescribed burn trailers that will hit the field this spring to improve efforts to implement prescribed burns on private land in northeast and northwest Missouri.

## JAKES Events



### River Bottom Gobblers Jakes — 05-14

Contact: Mickey Moody  
dmood@fsbtrust.com  
(573) 333-0662

Location: Steele Shooting Range  
Hwy 164 West Main, Steele, MO 63830

### Crowley's Ridge Limbangers Jakes Event — 05-21

Contact: Dale Kemp  
kemp hobbies@yahoo.com  
(573) 624-9769

Location: Holly Ridge Pavilion  
County Rd 517, Bloomfield, MO 63825

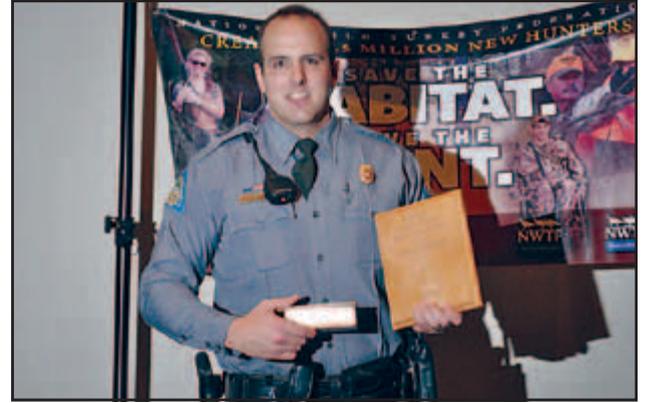
# Awards & Accomplishments



Dan Drake of Heartland Longbeards receives the "Unsung Hero" Award, pictured with Tim Besancenez.



From left to right, Rob Stover, RD Larry Neal, and Jackie Rowe receive Mentored Hunt Award.



Jarad Milligan received the Conservation Officer Of The Year Award.



State Board Member Lyndon Ruediger (center) received the Lifetime Outreach Achievement Award for his efforts in guiding our outreach programs with emphasis on Jakes.



Bill Wilson and Colleen Meredith accepted the Save the Habitat Award on behalf of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts Association for their being a key partner in making necessary habitat equipment available to private landowners throughout the state.



From left to right, RD Larry Neal, QF RD John Wallace, Missouri State Coordinator Elsa Gallagher, Farm Bill Biologist Andrew White, RD Tim Besancenez pose for the Save the Hunt Award for their organizations assistance with our mentored dove hunting program.



The St. Louis Sponsor Event had the second most regular members and Jim Mraz was present to accept the recognition.



The Sho Me Chapter had the 6th most sponsor members and 6th most regular members.



Bernie Grice, Jr. received the John Lewis Lifetime Achievement Award.



The Osage Prairie Thundering Toms had the 4th most Wheel'n members.



Todd Grant of the Polk County Hillbilly Longbeards also received an "Unsung Hero" Award.



The Gateway Longspurs had the 4th most regular members.

Continued on page 11.

# LAND MANAGEMENT

## Understanding Herbicides



By David Hart

Herbicides help control unwanted plants, and in some cases, they can be the only solution to eradicating and controlling invasive vegetation on your property. You don't have to be a chemist to understand the various herbicides available, but what you use depends on what you're trying to accomplish. Get the facts below.

### Herbicides fall into two general categories:

**Selective:** herbicides that kill specific varieties of plants. They are a fantastic tool for clearing weeds out of food plots and for removing unwanted invasive plants in wildlife habitat.

**Non-selective:** herbicides that kill all plants it contacts. It's the most common tool for carving out new food plots, and it's an important one for starting fresh in existing food plots. Glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, is commonly used.

### Read the label

Reading the label will help you understand the various uses for the herbicide, but often times, it tells you the exact plants it controls and what plants it's safe to use on.

Labels also provide safety instructions and application rates, usually in terms of ounces per acre or ounces per gallon, to prevent you from doing more harm than good.

### Herbicide terms

- **Pre-emergent:** used before seeds sprout. Pre-emergents can only be used after desired plants are established.
- **Post-emergent:** used to control plants after they have started to grow
- **Systemic herbicide:** kills the entire plant, roots and all
- **Contact herbicide:** kills only the parts of the plant the herbicide contacts
- **Nonselective herbicide:** kills all plants it comes in contact with
- **Selective herbicide:** kills only those plants noted on the label
- **Restricted herbicide:** available only to licensed applicators
- **Unrestricted herbicide:** available to anyone

### Be patient and safe

It can take weeks to notice any impact of some herbicides. Just because the plant doesn't look like it's dying a week or two after you sprayed doesn't mean the herbicide isn't working. Follow instructions on the label and give it time.

Handle all herbicides with care and know they can be dangerous to you and harmful to the environment if handled improperly. If you have more questions, contact your local cooperative extension agency.

# Missouri Hunting Heritage Banquets

#### Green Hills — 04-15-16

Contact: Robin Chambers  
rj.chambers@yahoo.com  
(660) 654-1192  
Location: National Guard Armory  
900 Industrial Drive  
Trenton, MO 64683

#### Muddy Creek Gobblers — 04-15-16

Contact: Jared Chestnut  
(417) 682-3767  
Location: Thiebaud Auditorium  
11th And Poplar  
Lamar, MO 64759

#### Hocomo Big Beards — 04-16-16

Contact: David Glaskey  
david.glaskey@swcd.mo.gov  
(573) 631-5533  
Location: New Franklin Community Center  
North Union St  
New Franklin, MO 65274

#### Spring River Toms — 04-22-16

Contact: Jerry Hartman  
j42a43h@hotmail.com  
(417) 388-2923  
Location: Carthage Memorial Hall  
407 South Garrison  
Carthage, MO 64836

#### Gentry County Gobblers — 04-23-16

Contact: Mitch Holtman  
mholtman@nwjd.com  
(816) 273-6774  
Location: Tri Meadows  
34499 St Hwy VV  
Conception Jct., MO 64434

#### Osage Gobblers — 04-29-16

Contact: Steve Brune  
sbrune@midambk.com  
(573) 897-2211  
Location: Osage County Community Center  
Highway 50 East  
Linn, MO 65051

#### Carroll County Longbeards — 04-30-16

Contact: Robert Peetoom  
(660) 593-3475  
Location: Goppert Community Center  
201 S. Pine St  
Norborne, MO 64668

#### Triple B Chapter- Buffalo Big Birds — 05-05-16

Contact: Travis Pierce  
bighunter\_270@hotmail.com  
(417) 840-8761  
Location: Timber Line Barn  
42 Rainbow Road  
Buffalo, MO 65622

#### Marshfield Full Strutters — 05-06-16

Contact: Kenny Grunlien  
kgrunlien@gmail.com  
(417) 224-1857  
Location: Marshfield Buildings  
1049 School View Dr  
Marshfield, MO 65706

#### Branson Tri-lakes — 06-04-16

Contact: Jack Livingston  
jlandcm@yahoo.com  
(417) 699-3481  
Location: Clarion Hotel  
2820 West Hwy 76  
Branson, MO 65616

#### Warren County Strutters — 06-09-16

Contact: Amy Mergelmeyer  
amymergelmeyer@yahoo.com  
(636) 221-1538  
Location: American Legion  
28855 Legion Trail  
Warrenton, MO 63383

#### Crowleys Ridge Limbhangers — 06-17-16

Contact: Kyle Ouzts  
kouzts@sbcglobal.com  
(573) 258-0770  
Location: Elks Lodge  
325 Two Mile Road  
Dexter, MO 63841

#### Bollinger County Double Beards — 06-18-16

Contact: Jackie Rowe  
jrowecrna@gmail.com  
(573) 579-9170  
Location: First Baptist Church Of Marble Hill  
502 Broadway  
Marble Hill, MO 63764

#### Finley River Chapter — 07-15-16

Contact: Jared Byerly  
jaredbyerly@yahoo.com  
(417) 840-4973  
Location: Christian County Elks  
2400 N 18th Street  
Ozark, MO 65721

#### Ritchie Meredith Memorial Chapter — 07-16-16

Contact: Brian Fronabarger  
bfronabarger@gmail.com  
(417) 840-4797  
Location: Elm Branch Church  
17591 Lawrence 1200  
Aurora, MO 65605

#### Shoal Creek Chapter — 07-30-16

Contact: Bill House  
bill.house@tyson.com  
(417) 236-3719  
Location: St. Marys Catholic Church Gym  
200 Front Street  
Pierce City, MO 65723

For a complete list, visit: [www.nwtf.org/events](http://www.nwtf.org/events)

# 7th Annual Youth Turkey Governor's Hunt

By Julian Lozoya

In 2015 I participated in the National Wild Turkey Federation's Jakes Event in Hermann, MO, this being my first time I wasn't sure what to expect. I can tell you I had a great time! There were kids of all ages learning everything from archery, shooting, trapping, and wildlife identification and hunter safety. It was through this event that I was fortunate enough to meet Mr. Lyndon Ruediger who offered me the opportunity to fill out the application for the Youth Turkey Governor's Hunt. After the event I went home and filled out the application and wrote my letter hoping for the chance to go on my first turkey hunt. I was so excited when I received my letter from the Governor telling me I was selected to participate in the 7th Annual Hunt. My Dad and I went to the weekend long event that started on Friday at the United Sportsman's Club in Jefferson City. We patterned our shotguns, learned about different turkey calls and had the opportunity to talk with members of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Afterwards we were invited to dinner at the Governor's Mansion, took pictures with Governor Nixon and received a handmade personalized turkey call. Later we met up with Don & Brant Masek who were our hosts for the hunt. The next morning bright and early we got up, hiked into the woods, set up the decoys and waited. I wasn't able to get a turkey my first day out but the other boy who was in our group was able to get a shot off and harvest his first turkey. Sunday



Julian with Governor Jay Nixon before the annual youth hunt.

morning my guides were confident I would have a chance to take a shot and harvest my own turkey. I can tell you one of the best things to see is a turkey walk out into an open field in full strut. At 8:24 in the morning I shot my first turkey at 38 yards; it



Julian made a great shot, bringing home a beautiful bird.

was my moment to pull the trigger and claim my prize. I would encourage all kids to participate in the local JAKES Events and I will never forget this wonderful experience.

Awesome NWTF Opportunities continued from page 1



A little practice before taking to the field makes for a more successful day.

to begin the fun! We started by warming up our shoulders a bit by doing some casual claybird shooting. Then, we started playing Annie Oakley and got a little competition going on! That was a fantastic start to my Saturday morning! After we finished our friendly competition, we grabbed our shells and headed out to the field.

Our guide, Gary, and his dog followed the three of us out, while the other three hunters went to a different part of the farm. I can not even explain how exhilarating the feeling was when the dog flushed the bird and it flew out right in front of us! One shot and it was down! Then on we went to the next bird



A beautiful spread of pheasants make for a memorable day, and a tasty dinner.

awaiting us a couple hundred yards away. After we were done, we headed in for some lunch. We got all the birds and even came in with one extra! After getting all the meat packaged up, we headed on home. Just a few short weeks ago, the Rhine Valley Chapter held another event, in which I attended. Out of three girls, I placed first! Now, I get the opportunity to go on another pheasant hunt next February, and I am very excited! In this whole process, I didn't just meet new people and make friends, but I also got another family. The NWTF is an amazing program helping youth like myself to get these incredible experiences, and I am proud to be a part of it!

## What About Feral Hogs?

The truth is that feral hogs are kind of fun to hunt and they can be wonderful table fare. I lived in East Texas for 12 years and am familiar with the pluses and minuses that come with sharing a landscape with them. I can also tell you from experience that the pluses do not outweigh the minuses and very few folks in Texas will claim them as a blessing. In fact, feral hogs in Texas are credited with causing over 52 million dollars of agricultural damage annually. Evidence also suggests that where feral hog populations become established, they can actually alter forest composition because a lot of the nuts, seeds, and fruits of wildlife and economically valuable native tree species are at the top of the feral hogs' menu. Feral hogs also commonly carry diseases like swine brucellosis, pseudorabies, and tularemia which could become a problem with livestock and, in the case of swine brucellosis can also infect humans. If cattle get exposed to swine brucellosis it can cause false positives for the bovine variety which would require the herd to be quarantined.

Feral hogs are not a natural part of any landscape and, as such, should not be welcomed and should certainly not be introduced. Like almost any example of plants, insects, fish, or fowl, when something that does not belong is introduced, it usually spells trouble. Think of an ecological system as an engine. God designed the engine with specific parts to perform specific tasks. When parts are added or removed, especially when you may not have a clear understanding of their overall function, the alteration usually does not result in an improvement. The problem with feral hogs is that they put significant additional

pressures on systems that were never designed or intended to absorb them. Feral hogs have voracious appetites and they are omnivorous which means they can and do eat about everything and anything they can fit in their mouths. Hard mast (acorns and other nuts) are at the top of a hogs grocery list in the fall and they are extremely efficient at finding and vacuuming them up. Deer, turkey, squirrels, and many other species of native wildlife also prefer mast and in the southern part of our state, the availability of mast can determine what kind of deer, turkey, and squirrel production you can expect the following spring. Therefore, feral hogs are in direct competition and can negatively impact carrying capacity of these native Missouri treasures.

Until not too long ago, feral hogs were a localized annoyance but not really a serious concern. That has changed and primarily for the same reason hog populations have spread everywhere else they are found; the selfish or unknowing capture them and stock them elsewhere like fish from one pond to another. Feral hogs are also very prolific breeders with females reaching sexual maturity at 6 months, capable of breeding throughout the year, having 2 litters annually with usually 4 to 6 piglets, and very high survival rates so populations can expand rapidly. Feral hogs are also smart and respond immediately and negatively to hunting pressure so once populations get a foothold, they are almost impossible to eradicate or even control strictly by hunting them. The most effective way to control hogs is by trapping them because you can remove entire groups at one time.



Recently, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has pushed from several fronts to address this growing concern and attempt to solve the problem while it can still be solved. One such effort is to work with the legislature and partner agencies and organizations to draft laws prohibiting hunting on MDC owned or managed lands. As previously stated, trapping is the most effective control measure but getting the hogs comfortable with the trap site, so that the entire group can be captured, takes time, sometimes weeks. When hunters discover the trapping locations, they key in, take a pig or two, and their encounter often displaces the rest of the group and sours the trapping effort. This is the reasoning behind the hunting prohibition. Effective efforts are being thwarted by ineffective efforts.

We have also partnered with MDC and other agencies and organizations including: Quail Forever, Quality Deer Management Association, Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation, Missouri Corn Growers Association, Missouri Soybean Association,

Missouri Pork Association, Missouri Cattlemen's Association, Missouri Agribusiness Association, Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, and Missouri Farmers Association to expand trapping capabilities. Funding will be used to assist in the purchase of additional trapping supplies like trap gates, drop traps, and Boar Buster Portable traps as well as getting the word out about this serious threat. Our dollars combined with partner dollars should help increase the ability of our managers to get feral hog populations back under control by expanding their arsenal.

Although increasing the capacity to remove hogs should help, an even bigger help will be to understand and respond to the real "root" of the problem. If you know of folks that are moving pigs around or interfering with trapping efforts, or are sympathetic to those that are, try to educate them. If that fails, do not look the other way. What they are doing is a real threat to our precious resources and should not be tolerated any more than poaching.

## More Awards



The Bunt Cumbea Laclede County Chapter had the 4th most JAKES members.



The Kirksville Ridge Runners Chapter took 6 awards at the state awards banquet including: 2nd best net to gross, 3rd most dollars raised, 4th most WITO members, 4th best L.A. Dixon score, 5th most regular members, and 5th most sponsor members.



The David Blanton Memorial Chapter took 3 awards at the state awards banquet including: 5th best chapter by L.A. Dixon score, 5th most JAKES members, and 3rd most sponsors.

# Superfund Dollars At Work

On Saturday, April 2, the Pomme de Terre archery range had its grand opening due to generous gift from the NWTf and other helpful sponsors in the area.

This new archery range features 6 shooting lanes out to 50 yards that is free to the public and is handicap accessible. Featuring a covered shooting area, this range will create countless hours of enjoyment to beginning and seasoned archers alike.

This project took about 2 years to get done, with a total cost was \$84,000. Both the Corps of Engineers at Pomme de Terre and the NWTf secured "highly competitive" significant national grants to provide the majority of funding, however there were several partners along the way that made this project possible.



The National Wild Turkey Federation  
Show-Me Gobbler  
c/o Bernard R. (Bernie) Grice, Jr.  
1213 Marcassin Dr  
Columbia, MO 65201-7224

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 353  
Columbia, MO

**Copy Deadlines for the Show Me Gobbler**  
March 15, July 10 & November 15

**LUCAS OIL Speedway**

**VIEW THE FULL 2016 RACE SCHEDULE**  
LucasOilSpeedway.com  
417.282.5984

700 E. HWY 54, WHEATLAND, MO 65779