



SHOW-ME GOBBLER

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

Volume 34 Number 3 • December 2015

Investments That Are Sure To Have A Return

by Kevin Hedgpeth

Fall 2015/Spring 2016

Fall and winter are times of the year to get out on your property and survey for upcoming habitat projects. The leaves have fallen and annual weeds are dormant so take a look around to prioritize your work projects. Old fields can be renovated by tree shear and chainsaw work to remove unwanted cedar trees and early successional hardwoods like sassafras and persimmon. A few pockets of the early successional woody plants are needed but the old fields will soon be lost in just a few years without some kind of treatment. Wind rows and brush piles will provide escape cover for rabbits and quail and returning old fields to native warm season grasses and forbs (wildflowers) will provide nesting and brood rearing habitat for all ground nesters including quail and turkey. Get with your private lands conservationists provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation for a site visit to determine what plan works best for you and your land at the following link. <http://mdc.mo.gov/your-property/wildlife-your-property>

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An example of practices incorporated for good wildlife management on your farm; a green browse plot that will double as a firebreak planted with the help of equipment your dollars helped pay for.

Legislative Action Center Improves Conservation Communication



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by Brandon Butler
Executive Director
Conservation Federation of Missouri

The Conservation Federation of Missouri had a big year in 2015. It's almost hard to believe how much we accomplished in just 12 short months. CFM has grown in size, added events, improved our outreach and developed

tools to make us more effective at advocacy, education and partnerships. The past year has been a blur, but as they say, time flies when you're having fun.

If you are not familiar with the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM), we are the main organization in the state that works on legislative issues pertaining to conservation and

natural resources. CFM is the organization responsible for the creation of the Missouri Department of Conservation and played an instrumental role in passing the Design for Conservation Sales Tax. In fact, if there has been legislation filled and acted on in the last 80 years that had to do with the outdoors of our state, the Federation was surely involved.

CFM operates as a true federation. We are comprised of individual members, affiliate organizations and corporate partners. The affiliate organizations of CFM are our backbone. By bringing so many diverse user groups together under one umbrella, we are able to harness our collective power and strategically advocate in the Capitol. NWTF is one of our largest and most active affiliate organizations. All of us at CFM are grateful for the never ending efforts of NWTF.

The 2015 legislative session opened in alarming fashion last January. An onslaught of bills were filed that if passed would have significantly damaged the incredible system of conservation man-

agement we have in Missouri. There were bills filed attacking the composition of the conservation commission, the conservation sales tax, license sales and more. In the end, none of those bills became law. CFM had a lot to do with that.

Strong relationships take time to develop. That's why CFM and many of our partners spend a lot of time at the Capitol during the legislative session working to build relationships with legislators. We work to inform elected officials from across Missouri about how important conservation is to our state intrinsically, recreationally and economically. CFM exists to make sure our natural resources are protected for future Missourians.

As a citizen conservationist, you should want to participate in this process of protection. It takes a true Federation of individuals, organizations, corporations and agencies to maintain Missouri's status as one of the greatest places in the world to experience the outdoors. But like many others, you

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President's Report



Hello to All,

I hope all of you have had a great fall. Firearms Turkey season has come and gone. Duck, Archery, and Firearms Deer season is here. I hope all of you have had a chance to get out and enjoy our outdoors this unseemly warm Fall. I also hope some of you had a chance to introduce a new hunter to our great outdoors.

If you have some success pictures, please send them to the Show Me Gobbler and as always, we love those pictures of our young hunters with their harvest.

Our Dove fields that the NWTF helped put in over the state was a great success, as many of our members helped mentor many new hunters young and old alike. A lot hunted for their very first time and others was rejuvenated hunters that had not hunted in years.

We have heard many negative things over Social Media the last few months from Anti-Hunters. As hunters, we realize that we provide the vast majority of the dollars for fish, wildlife, conservation and habitat in the United States.

Sometimes we need to break out of our comfort zones and take a stance on behalf of the future of our hunting heritage.

Renowned Statesman Winston Churchill once said " You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life."

I would like to thank all of our great volunteers for their continued hard work in your banquets, outreach events such as Jakes Days, Wheelin Sportsman and Woman of the Outdoors events as well as reaching out to your nearby chapters with a helping hand.

Because of all that hard work Missouri has moved to #1 in the Nation for memberships, as we strive to Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.

We are into the holiday season and I would ask each of you to think about buying a NWTF membership for a youngster or a turkey hunter that you know that's not a member. Each of us can make a difference in our own way.

As we strive to protect our hunting heritage for generations to come by creating habitat, opening up more land for public hunting and outdoor recreation, and creating new hunters we are doing and trying new thing that we have never tried before. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said " Do not go where the path leads, go instead where is no path and leave a trail." As we continue to grow our trail we are carving, in hopes it will become the highway to success for hunters and sports minded men and women of the future.

I hope to see a lot of you at our State Banquet at Tan Tara Lodge at Lake of the Ozarks on January 9, 2016.

Don't forget to tell a Veteran THANK YOU for our FREEDOM

*R. L. Bennett, President
George Clark
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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.

Funding Dollars Help Make It Possible

Congrats Jay Herring on achieving the half million mark for his chapter, and Eldo Meyer for hitting the one million dollar club this year. Fundraising banquets are what keeps the NWTF in operation to protect your rights as hunters, restoring hunting habitat, and keeping the wild turkey in healthy populations all over North America. Keep up the great work fellas.

Type	Convention Year Received	Chapter #	Past Recipients:	Dollar Amount	State	RD
Half	2016	25117	Ozark Mountain Gobblers,MO	\$512,662.63	MO	Larry Neal
Half	2016	250101	Perry County Beards & Spurs,MO	\$571,396.12	MO	Larry Neal
Half	2016	250131	Lincoln Hills, MO	\$513,537.00	MO	Tim Besancenez
Million	2016	25006	Four Rivers, MO	\$1,015,151.78	MO	Tim Besancenez
Million	2016	25127	Pike County Twin Rivers	\$1,067,101.16	MO	Mike Allen

Wild Turkey Production and Fall Firearms Turkey Harvest Report

By Jason L. Isabelle
Resource Scientist
Missouri Department of Conservation

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has conducted a turkey brood survey annually since 1959. During the survey, Department staff and citizen volunteers record turkey observations during summer to determine the success of the hatch. Data are collected at the county level and reported state-wide and by Turkey Productivity Region, which are counties grouped by similar land cover composition. One of the keys to the survey's success has been the dedication of volunteers. About 9,000 citizens participate in the survey, and the Department is grateful for their participation and contribution.

In 2015, nearly 78,000 turkeys were observed during the survey. This year's statewide poult-to-hen ratio (PHR) was 1.5, which is 12% less than the 2014 ratio and the same as the previous five-year average. This year's PHR was 7% greater than the 10-year average. Poult-to-hen ratios ranged from 1.1 in the West Prairie region to 1.9 in the Ozarks East. Compared to

the five-year average, PHRs were lower in the Lindley Breaks, Mississippi Lowlands, Northeast, Ozark Border, and West Prairie. Poult-to-hen ratios were higher in the Northwest, Ozarks West, and Union Breaks. This year's PHR in the Ozarks East was the same as the five-year average.

During this year's survey, 43% of hens were observed with a brood, which was down from 45% in 2014 and 2% greater than the five-year average. Regionally, the percentage of hens observed with a brood ranged from 36% in the Northeast and West Prairie to 53% in the Mississippi Lowlands. The statewide average number of poults per brood was 3.9, which was down from 4.4 in 2014 and 9% less than the five-year average. The average number of poults per brood ranged from 3.7 in the Mississippi Lowlands to 4.9 in the Northwest.

Hunters harvested 6,158 turkeys during Missouri's fall firearms turkey season, which ran Oct. 1–31. This year's harvest total is 8% greater than last year's total. Top harvest counties during the 2015 season were Dent (210), Greene (159), and Franklin (148).

Compared to the 2014 season, harvest was up in the Central (+24%), Northwest (+3%), Ozark (+31%), St. Louis (+9%), Southeast (+1%), and Southwest (+1%) MDC administrative regions. Harvest was down in the Kansas City (-1%) and Northeast (-7%) regions.

Hunters purchased 13,303 fall firearms turkey hunting permits this year, which was 6% lower than the 2014 permit sales total. This continues a declining trend in fall firearms turkey hunting participation. In 1987, at the height of fall turkey hunting popularity in Missouri, nearly 53,000 permits were purchased. This number had declined to about 26,000 by 2005, and has since declined precipitously. It is likely that declining turkey numbers during the mid-to-late 2000s impacted fall permit sales; however, even as the state's turkey population continued to increase during the 1990s, fall firearms permit sales were in decline. It is also likely that the popularity of the archery deer and turkey season has lured some fall firearms turkey hunters away. Last year, nearly 116,000 hunters bought an archery deer and turkey permit – the second highest on record. Fall is a busy time with many hunting opportunities compared to the spring season when hunters have substantially fewer options. For those still interested in harvesting a turkey, the archery season runs through Jan. 15, 2016, excluding the November portion of the firearms deer season (Nov. 14–24).

Investments That Are Sure To Have A Return
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Spring brings thoughts of food plots, fire lines, and prescribed burning so get your farm plan written early so you will have time to do your projects and harvest a big ole gobbler. If you are a member and are intending to plant corn, beans, or milo as a supplemental food source, check out the order form in this newsletter and take advantage of reduced cost seed. Your support and individual efforts have helped us **Save the habitat. Save the Hunt.** with super fund dollars accomplishing 68,271 conserved and enhanced acres of habitat in Missouri to date. Help us get to our goal of 300,000 over the next 6 years!

Order Your Spring Seed Here!

Despite logistical challenges, most of which are beyond our control, the conservation seed program continues to be popular with our members and provides a significant member benefit. Things to know about our seed program:

- The year-old or older seed that makes our program possible has a germination rate of greater than 60% (most is greater than 80%) or we wouldn't offer it.
- This is a national program so how much seed we get is dependent upon how much is released by the seed companies and we do not control this. Therefore, placing an order does not guarantee that you will get that seed, it just lets me know how much to order and will be made available to you IF it becomes available.

- We do not control when the seed gets here but it is usually well within the planting window (usually by mid-May).
- Shipping restrictions (429 bag minimum, forklift accessible, adequate storage area) limit where we can have it delivered so it may not be close to you. The delivery locations will likely be Kirksville, St. Louis, and Cape Girardeau.

We will improve the program where we can:

- Seed location coordinators will contact everyone on my list associated with their site once the seed arrives (this hadn't always happened previously).
- We will either commercially ship larger chapter orders in-state once

the seed is here or we will offer gas reimbursements based on receipt to volunteers willing to move larger chapters orders to more convenient locations.

The seed will be Roundup Ready corn and soybeans and milo. The corn will be \$35/50lb bag and the beans and milo will be \$7/50lb bag. Same rules apply, you **MUST** be a member to purchase the seed, it **CANNOT** be harvested, and the limit on corn is 5 bags per person.

If you are interested in ordering some seed, please fill out the information below and return it to John Burk, 7152 Tomahawk Lane, Steedman MO 65077 or e-mail me the same information to jburk@nwtf.net.

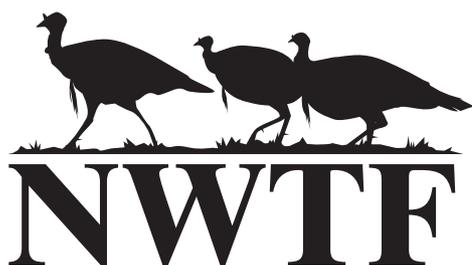
Name: _____ Phone # (____) _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of bags of RR corn (5 bag limit) _____ (should be around \$35.00/50lb. bag)

Number of bags of RR soybeans _____ (should be around \$7.00/50lb. bag)

Number of bags of milo _____ (should be around \$7.00/50lb. bag)



How Much Time Will It Take?

By Mike Allen
Brashear, MO - Regional Director
National Wild Turkey Federation

Everyone's lives are very busy these days; work, family activities, school and sports seem to take up most of every day. As the NWTF works to save and enhance a hunting lifestyle, we will need even more folks to assist in the worthy efforts set forth. As we approach the upcoming banquet season, our current committee folks will find the time to make the contacts and calls necessary to ensure a successful event for our local chapters. However, how much easier would it be for them, and all of us that make the banquets happen, if we could find a few more folks to assist us in our efforts?

I don't think there is a single chapter that I work with that would not benefit from additional assistance and I think there is plenty of willing help out there if we ask the right people the right way. Too many times, however, I think the ask goes something like this, or at least it's perceived that way; "Sell these 20 tickets, make sure and find 5 sponsors, sell 10 gun of the year tickets, and while you are at it, see if you can get 4-5 items donated for the silent auction." I think that is just the way we ask for help, sometimes works against us. Joining a committee has a sense of permanence that some people might find too much. Asking a person to volunteer often is an easier commitment for them to make.

I also would suggest taking the time to explain the mission of the organization. Let them look over your copy of Turkey County, our magazine, for a great overview of who we are and what we are trying to do. A passionate plea for a little help with a worthy cause is difficult to say no to. Most people probably would rather help save a lifestyle, or mentor a new hunter, than try to make the banquet bigger than last year. And most volunteers will understand that the dollars raised at the event are the funds that do all the work the NWTF does. Let's make it easy for folks to see the benefit of giving some of their time to the NWTF.

As we find these new volunteers, let's try to not overwhelm them. "All I need you to do is get three catering bids" doesn't sound like too tough a job. Once they're onboard, you can lay out what the needs are and let them pick a pace that they are comfortable with. Some will do a lot and some may not but the more help there is increases the chances of a successful event without putting so much on a few shoulders. I would challenge each chapter to hold a recruitment meeting as one of the first meetings prior to your 2016 event. This is the time to showcase the NWTF, educate about who we are, and what we do, and then ask those folks to volunteer of their time to help. Your regional director can help with information that will help you in making certain your recruitment event is successful.

Each volunteer has value, and not everyone's strength is selling tickets. While getting a crowd is essential for a banquet success, there are lots of ways for people to help the NWTF. As we move forward with the **Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.** initiative we will need more mentors, more shooting instructors, and more persons willing to help others.

I would also add that most people who give of their time need to feel that it makes a difference. As we add new volunteers, do give them a task, and do hold them accountable. At your meetings, have someone take minutes, and run the meeting as it should be. Remember, your chapter is part of the national organization, and should conduct business as such. Structure and procedure are very good things. Not only will the current members benefit, but new volunteers will easily be able to understand what is going on within the local chapter. Again, contact your RD if you have any questions on procedure that will make your chapter more efficient and fun for all volunteers.

2016 should be a tremendous year for the NWTF in Missouri. We are coming off a great year in 2015, and all indicators point to continued growth. I hope to see a lot of you at the Missouri State Banquet on January 9th at Tan Tar A Resort. We will have a lot of fun, showcase the 2016 banquet product, and honor some of the outstanding chapters and individuals for their achievements in 2015.

Wheelin Events

Perry County Gun Blast - 2016-01-21

Contact: Al Huber, (573) 517-1936
Location: Perryville K Of C Hall
Perryville, MO 63775

Ws Platte Purchase/ Sportsmans Night Out - 2016-07-16

Contact: Eddie Helsel
eddiery_56@yahoo.com, (816) 253-9583
Location: Pony Expres Museum, 914 Penn St
St. Joseph, 64503

Heartland Gobblers Gun Blast - 2016-08-19

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

Bootheel Boss Gobblers Gun Blast - 2016-10-06

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

Bollinger County Double Beards Gun Bash - 2016-10-13

Contact: Jackie Rowe
jrowecrna@gmail.com, (573) 238-4535
Location: First Baptist Church
502 Broadway, Marble Hill, MO 63764

River Hills Thunderin' Gun Bash - 2016-10-20

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 - 2016-10-27

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

Legislative Action Center continued from page 1.

might not know how to participate, or how you can make a difference. The answer is quite simple. You need to develop a relationship with your state senator and representative. CFM has created a tool to make doing so incredibly simple.

One of the major accomplishments of CFM during 2015 was the development of our Legislative Action Center. This important tool quickly and effectively connects citizens with their elected officials. If you don't know who your state senator and representative is, the Legislative Action Center will inform you of who they are and how to contact them. Then you can let them know how important

conservation is to you and your family.

The Legislative Action Center is completely free to sign up for and use. You don't have to be a member of CFM, although we hope you'll become one if you're not already. Signing up is quick and easy. Just click on the Legislative Action Center box on the CFM home page of the CFM website (confedmo.org) and follow a few simple steps. Once you have signed up for the Legislative Action Center, you will receive CFM alerts informing you of legislative actions concerning conservation. How you respond to those alerts is up to you. Our job is to inform you of what is happening. Your job is to

decide how you feel about it and to take action in support or opposition.

Two million Missourians identify themselves as wildlife watchers. There are over a million anglers and more than 600,000 hunters in Missouri. Could you imagine the collective power of a constituent base this large if it was active in the legislative process? There is power in numbers. The Legislative Action Center is a tool you should use to stay informed about legislation affecting conservation and to make your voice heard. Take a couple of minutes and sign up today, and become more engaged than ever in the protecting conservation in Missouri.

CFM organizes diverse outdoor enthusiasts from all over Missouri into a community of conservationists. We are hunters, anglers, campers, paddlers, birders, gardeners, and more. Membership continues to increase. Important organizations continue to become affiliates. The Business Alliance is growing rapidly. Our Federation has a lot to be proud of, but there is no time to rest. We are on a roll, and the momentum we've picked up is going to propel us to a greater future.

See you down the trail...

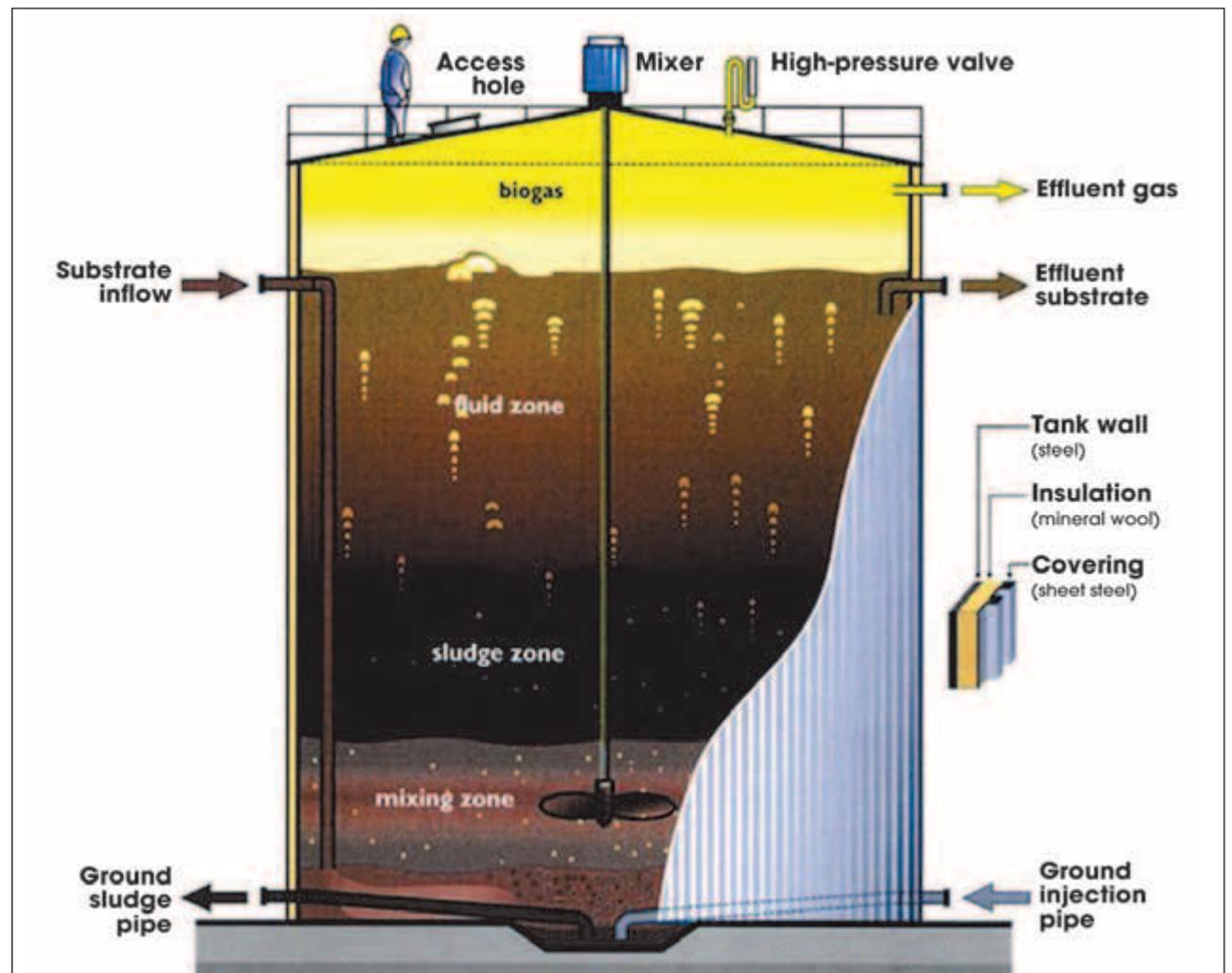
Brandon Butler

Saving the Habitat with Renewable Alternative Energy

The **Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.** initiative continues to mold the way we think and assists us in pursuing mission achievement efforts strategically. One exciting new path for the NWTf is the concept of developing 10-year conservation plans for each of our 87 Focal Landscapes within America's Big Six of Wildlife Conservation; a strategic approach to achieving significant habitat goals by outlining objectives and potential partners with specific conserved acre targets identified. We have always done good conservation work with our traditional partners, but we are looking beyond our normal parameters to get more work done in our focal landscapes. Our strategic approach of creating specific development plans is helping us to collaborate with others who share a common vision, thus opening the door to more significant funding that will have larger conservation benefits for the community at large.

The country is divided into six areas focusing our efforts to keep healthy forests, clean water, and stop critical habitat loss. Missouri falls within Americas Crossroads of the Big Six, which covers most of the Midwest. One example Focal Landscape; The Driftless Area, was initially chosen because it spans 4 states (IA, MN, WI, and IL) where there is tremendous partner interest and great potential for success. However, a recent new development has created additional opportunity within the Americas Crossroads that is directly tied to Missouri. A few years back the Midwest Conservation Biomass Alliance (MCBA) was established. This group of conservation agencies, organizations, academia, and businesses coalesced as a result of the governmental push to develop alternative sources of energy and to be at the tip of the spear in guiding these efforts where possible. It is often very difficult to affect change within an established system but when you can influence how the system is created, the impact can be very significant. We will continue to raise money to do the great conservation work that we have always done, but getting there a few hundred or even a few thousand acres at a time is not as effective as conserving hundreds of thousands or even millions of acres. A good example of this type of influence can be found in the creation of the Farm Bill and the practices cost shared by the tax payer that allowed it to happen. The primary goal of the Farm Bill was to address the significant problems that we faced as a nation with regards to what farming practices were doing to our soil and water quality. Millions of tons of soil were being eroded away by wind and rain, and agricultural nutrients and chemicals were polluting our streams and rivers. Previously accepted practices were recognized as unsustainable and the government created a system that effectively addressed the crisis. Almost overnight, hundreds of millions of acres of land previously under the plow was set aside and wildlife responded immediately. Over the years, practices within the Farm Bill have been tweaked to be even more wildlife friendly; wildlife management became a priority rather than a collateral benefit.

The MCBA is taking a similar strategic approach as they work to influence policy designed to encour-



New and inovative farming practices will help save our precious natural resources and help **Save the Habitatc. Save the Hunt.**

age the development of alternative sources of energy. Currently efforts to develop wind, biofuels, and other sources of energy have still not really taken off; no one has really cracked the code on how to make it cheaper, more convenient than oil, and profitable enough to get the developers fully invested. However, an effort is underway in northern Missouri to address multiple challenges facing agriculture while at the same time creating alternative energy AND wildlife habitat.

Rudi Roeslein is a St. Louis businessman who built a successful business as an engineer creating manufacturing systems that are sold all over the world. Rudi's global perspective, keen eye for opportunity, understanding of complicated systems and processes, and his passion for the outdoors and conservation have put him at the forefront of an effort that shows great promise for northern Missouri and eventually throughout the Midwest. Our goal, outlined in our **Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.** state plan, is to enhance and conserve 18,000 acres of grassland by 2023; Rudi's goal is to enhance and conserve thirty million.

Rudi is in the process of creating anaerobic digesters that will address an existing problem facing hog producers in the area. The confinement operations where the hogs are raised generate large amounts of animal waste. The commercial farms that run these confinement operations initially purchased large chunks of land to disperse the effluent generated by the hogs (about 45,000 acres). The volume of waste disposal exceeded the air, soil, and water quality standards established and enforced by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources such that the farms have to operate at a reduced capacity. Phase I of Rudi's solution to the hog producers' problems was to develop anaerobic digesters that capture, store and breakdown the hog

waste. This process reduces the amount of effluent that needs to be disposed. When effluent discharge is reduced the capacity of the farm can increase and still remain within environmental quality standards; a win for the producers.

A significant byproduct of the anaerobic digestion process is biogas with a high concentration of methane, which can be purified into pipeline quality renewable natural gas. Digesters function by creating the ideal environment for specific bacteria to breakdown a specific kind of waste. In the case of hog waste, the specific bacteria used in the process prefer warm temperatures. Therefore, biogas production decreases significantly during cooler weather and, in fact, below production levels that would keep renewable energy production profitable strictly using these digesters. However, a different kind of digester with bacteria that breaks down cellulose in plant material prefers cooler temperatures for optimum production. So establishing a system with multiple digesters was discovered to be sustainable.

A variety of plant material can be used to feed the digesters, but Rudi is currently working with university researchers to determine what mixture of native vegetation would create the best structure for wildlife species while at the same time providing adequate volume to feed the digesters. The initial math indicates that it will work. The next step will be to convert 500 acres of fescue to a preferred mix. During 2016 we will work with key partners to fund the initial fescue eradication. During the following year we will complete the process by establishing 500 acres of native warm season grass that will provide preferred nesting and brood rearing habitat for turkeys, affordable energy, and hopefully set the stage for a sea change in land management in Americas Crossroads.

The George C. Clark Missouri State Chapter Member Harvest Page

If you have pictures of your outdoor experiences that you would like to share with your NWTF peers, PLEASE submit them to John Burk at 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.



Rudi and son Derrick Roeslein with their rifle bucks taken in Putnam County.



Mason Wolf with his dad Korey from the Osage Gobblers and Mason's first bow kill taken during rifle season.



Matt and Lacy Oesch from Youngs Creek Strutters with their pair of nice bucks taken during firearms season here in Missouri.



Logan Burk, son of Regional Biologist John Burk, with a decent rifle buck.



Quin Allen, son of Mike Allen, and his 2015 buck from firearms deer season and with his fall birds. Take a full house to beat that pair!



State Board Member Tim Hendershott with a nice NEMO bow buck.



Joe Ream of the Putnam County Chapter with a dandy bow buck.



Macie Hubbard of the Ray County Short Spurs with a fine youth season buck!



Kurt Heisler and his 2 sons n a pheasant hunt in South Dakota from the Lake of the Ozarks Chapter.



Kirk Hendershott of the Locust Creek Longbeards with the spoils of a pretty decent trip out west.



Congratulations Brandon Hawkins from Pacific, Missouri on his first deer sponsored by the Big River Gobblers Chapter.



Emma Marie Jones - 9 years old. She shot her first deer while hunting on their family land with her father, Clayte Jones.



Dylan Hickman from Hawk Point, Missouri



Reese, son of Tim Besancenez, took his first deer in 2015. I'm sure this will be the first of many for Reese.

WITO
Events

Bootheel Boss Gobblers - 01-31-16

Contact: Sara Bradshaw, (573) 579-7859

Location: Tomlin Farms,
Co Rd 349, Jackson, MO 63701



Missouri Hunting Heritage Banquets

Missouri State Banquet - 01-09

Contact: Tim Besancenez
tbesancenez@nwtf.net
(636) 262-0815
Location: Tan Tara Resort - Lake Of The Ozarks
494 Tan Tara Rd, Osage Beach, MO 65065

Shaky Ground Gobblers - 01-15

Contact: Walter Campbell
(573) 380-7928
Location: Southern Comfort
650 Main St, New Madrid, MO 63869

Union Covered Bridge Gobblers - 01-16

Contact: Bruce Mills
bcmills@hughes.net
(573) 721-2268
Location: Madison Community Building
115 South Main St, Madison, MO 65263

Springtown Wattlenecks - 01-16

Contact: Troy O'dell
todell1@ford.com
(816) 628-4254
Location: American Legion Post
2607 Nw 92 Highway, Smithville, MO 64089

Current River Callers - 01-16

Contact: Troy McAfee
troystransmo@centurytel.net
(573) 325-4475
Location: Winona School
Hwy 19N, Winona, MO 65588

Honey Creek Strutters - 01-23

Contact: Chad Foreman
foremansmoking@yahoo.com
(816) 632-2017
Location: Cameron Community Center
1600 E Evergreen Street, Cameron, MO 64429

Dent County Thundering Toms - 01-23

Contact: John Steelman
jdsteel@fidnet.com
(573) 729-9217
Location: Indian Trail Archery
Highway 19 North, Salem, MO 65560

Clearwater Longbeards - 01-23

Contact: Richard Ayers
(573) 223-2356
Location: Trinity Methodist Church
Hwy 34, Piedmont, MO 63957

Southern Ozark Longbeards - 01-23

Contact: Sam Griffin
sam@bobgriffininsurance.com
(573) 996-8269
Location: His Place
#4 Wright Park Drive Hwy 160
Doniphan, MO 63935

Salt River Sharp Spurs - 01-29

Contact: Jason Pollard
jason.pollard@basf.com
(573) 248-4976
Location: Father Buhman Center
103 S. 4th, Shelbina, MO 63469

Willard Thunderin Gobblers - 01-29

Contact: Carrie Bussard
cbussard@dmp.com
(417) 827-0782
Location: The Round Barn At Clear Creek
10731 West Us 160, Walnut Grove, MO 65770

Rogersville Strutters - 01-29

Contact: Cody Wilson
(417) 753-3164
Location: First Baptist Church
101 West Center St, Rogersville, MO 65742

Ray County Shortspurs - 01-30

Contact: Mark McCorkendale
ricklan1@hotmail.com
(660) 398-4785
Location: Ray County Veterans Memorial Building
312 Clark St, Richmond, MO 64085

Hickory County Jakes And Jennies - 01-30

Contact: Tim Pratt
tcpratt@hotmail.com
(417) 718-1114
Location: Hickory County Senior Center
Highway 54, Wheatland, MO 65779

Delta Bootheel Gobblers - 01-30

Contact: Lynn Smith
lynn.smith@modot.mo.gov
(573) 888-0054
Location: Kennett VFW
1101 Veterans St, Rt 412 S Bypass
Kennett, MO 63857

Swampeast Strutters - 02-04

Contact: George Curtis
g.a.curtis05@wildblue.net
(573) 258-0851
Location: United Methodist Church
1700 E. Marshall, Charleston, MO 63834

Tabo Creek Thunderin' Toms - 02-05

Contact: Kevin Whitworth
colkwhit@ctcis.net
(660) 584-7352
Location: American Legion Post
1001 N 22nd St., Higginsville, MO 64037

Walt Beumer Memorial Chapter - 02-05

Contact: Brian Duckett
brian.duckett@hotmail.com
(314) 574-9213
Location: The Boeing Machinist Building
212 Utz Lane, Hazelwood, MO 63042

Heartland Longbeards - 02-05

Contact: James Drake
ddrake_4@yahoo.com
(816) 718-1100
Location: Oak Grove Civic Center
2100 S Broadway, Oak Grove, MO 64075

Tick Ridge - 02-06

Contact: Matthew Burks
mattburks1@yahoo.com
(660) 395-1404
Location: Macon Co Expo Center
Hwy 63 S, Macon, MO 63552

Chariton River Full Strutters - 02-06

Contact: Jordan Harmon
jordan.harmon@myfcsfinancial.com
(660) 247-5306
Location: Knight & Rucker Building
Broadway, Brunswick, MO 65236

Lincoln Hills - 02-06

Contact: Jay Herring
jherringhri@yahoo.com
(573) 898-5420
Location: Sacred Heart Parrish
714 Lincoln Street, Elsberry, MO 63343

Black Mountain Longbeards - 02-06

Contact: Jason Wengler
jasonwengler@hotmail.com
(573) 783-9988
Location: St Michaels Catholic School
Main, Fredericktown, MO 63645

Indian Creek Chapter - 02-06

Contact: Matt Friend
mfriend_42@yahoo.com
(417) 825-3305
Location: Neosho Civic Auditorium
109 West Main Street
Neosho, MO 64850

Young's Creek Strutters - 02-13

Contact: Eddie Schultz
eddieschultz@centurytel.net
(573) 682-4659
Location: Nick And Noah's
801 E. Switzler, Centralia, MO 65240

Warren County Strutters - 02-19

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

Truman Lake Chapter - 02-19

Contact: Christopher Tucker
tuckerc66399@yahoo.com
(660) 885-4486
Location: Benson Convention Center
1008 E. Sedalia St
Clinton, MO 64735

Grand River Gobblers - 02-20

Contact: Bryan Gray
grayjewl@grm.net
(660) 425-3353
Location: American Legion Post 216
32932 W State Hwy 13
Bethany, MO 64424

Gateway Long Spurs - 02-20

Contact: Dan Zerr
dan089@centurytel.net
(636) 699-7000
Location: St. Theodore Catholic Church Gym
5051 Hwy P, Flint Hill, MO 63385

Bootheel Boss Gobblers - 02-20

Contact: Bronson Senn
lneal@nwtf.net
Location: Bavarian Hall
Jct I-55 And Us Hwy 61 N @ Fruitland
Jackson, MO 63755

Kingdom Of Callaway Limbhangers - 02-26

Contact: John Burk
jburk@nwtf.net
(573) 676-5994
Location: 54 Country
400 Gaylord Drive
Fulton, MO 65251

Upper Meramec Longspurs - 02-26

Contact: Shane Staples
sstaples@mullallydistributing.com
(573) 259-7405
Location: Knights Of Columbus Hall
7057 Old Hwy 66, Cuba, MO 65453

Sand Burr Strutters - 02-26

Contact: Tony Beeson
(573) 703-6015
Location: VFW
709 Smith Street, Sikeston, MO 63801

Fabius River Fantails - 02-27

Contact: Jeremy Holman
holmanjp@missouri.edu
(660) 341-8823
Location: Community Center
207 N. 4th St., Edina, MO 63537

Summit Ridge Longbeards - 02-27

Contact: Jeff Demand
augustjd72@hotmail.com
(573) 289-0401
Location: St Andrews Catholic Church Gym
400 St. Andrews Drive
Holts Summit, MO 65043

Moniteau Monarchs - 02-27

Contact: Brian Hill
chop15cmc@yahoo.com
(573) 796-3885
Location: Knights Of Columbus
Highway 50, Tipton, MO 65081

South Grand River Gobblers - 02-27

Contact: Rodger Benson
BensonRodger@gmail.com
(816) 679-3119
Location: Cass County Elk's Lodge
2402 N Hwy 291, Harrisonville, MO 64701

Lead Belt Longbeards - 02-27

Contact: Kathryn Wolff
kathyalldogs@gmail.com
(573) 701-2050
Location: Knights Of Columbus Bonne Terre
7897 Berry Rd, Bonne Terre, MO 63628

Current River Longbeards - 03-03

Contact: Delbert Dewolf
d-dewlf@hotmail.com
(573) 660-1119
Location: So Mo Baptist Assembly
Hc 1 Box 200, Van Buren, MO 63965

Parkville Gobblers - 03-04

Contact: John Shene
jshene@bonterracatering.com
(816) 365-2856
Location: Parkville Athletic Complex
6014 N. 9 Hwy, Parkville, MO 64152

Stealth Gobblers - 03-04

Contact: David Mccannon
dnmccannon@yahoo.com
(667) 747-8260
Location: Elks Lodge
822 E. Young St., Warrensburg, MO 64093

Osage Prairie Thunderin' Toms - 03-04

Contact: Adam Dean
adean@cottey.edu
(417) 448-7380
Location: Eagles Lodge
East Austin Blvd, Nevada, MO 64772

Rocky Top Limbhangers - 03-04

Contact: Larry Lindeman
golfnson2@hotmail.com
(417) 256-0980
Location: West Plains Armory
Broadway, West Plains, MO 65775

Cooper County Limbhangers - 03-05

Contact: Vaughn Sell
vaughnsell@sbcglobal.net
Location: Knight's Of Columbus Hall
1515 Radio Hill Road, Boonville, MO 65233

Mark Twain Forest Longspurs - 03-05

Contact: Tony Hollinsworth
(543) 438-2219
Location: Potosi Lions Club
Highway 185, Potosi, MO 63664

For a complete list, visit:
www.nwtf.org/events

Turkey Creek Longbeards - 03-05

Contact: Terry Greer
tag6364@yahoo.com
(417) 434-6745
Location: Joplin Elks Lodge
1802 W. 26th St, Joplin, MO 64804

Sho-Me - 03-05

Contact: Matthew Kramer
karstcon@yahoo.com
(417) 839-6366
Location: White River Banquet Hall
600 West Sunshine, Springfield, 65806

Platte Purchase - 03-05

Contact: Bryan Lukehart
lukehart.bryan@gmail.com
(816) 244-6858
Location: Knights Of Columbus
1204 N 49th Terrace, St. Joseph, 64506

Bayou Strutters - 03-10

Contact: Larry Neal
lneal@nwtf.net
(314) 334-4942
Location: Cedars Banquet And Gatherings
401 East Washington, East Prairie, MO 63845

Putnam County Chapter - 03-11

Contact: Joe Ream
j.ream@hotmail.com
(660) 341-0895
Location: Putnam County High School Commons
801 S. 20th, Unionville, MO 63565

Lake Of The Ozarks Nwtf Chapter - 03-11

Contact: Kurt Heisler
kurt.heisler@mdc.mo.gov
(573) 569-0550
Location: Tri County Convention Center
Highway 52 East, Versailles, MO 65084

Carman Springs Longbeards - 03-11

Contact: Terry Newton
trnewt@hotmail.com
(417) 469-2881
Location: Willow Springs R-4
Elementary Cafateria
215 4th St, Willow Springs, MO 65793

Nemo - 2016-03-12

Contact: Travis Moore
old3toes@hotmail.com
(573) 231-2859
Location: American Legion Building
Hannibal, MO 63401

Yellow Creek Gobblers - 03-12

Contact: Dennis Paalhar
Dennis.Paalhar@walsworth.com
(660) 537-3459
Location: Walsworth Community Building
122 E. Ritchie, Marceline, MO 64658

Randolph County Longbeards - 03-12

Contact: Larry Terry
djerry_5@yahoo.com
(660) 651-8636
Location: St. Pius X Gymnasium
210 S. Williams St., Moberly, MO 65270

Heartland Gobblers - 03-12

Contact: Chuck Stewart Farms
chuckcaseman@yahoo.com
(573) 222-7182
Location: American Legion
2320 Kanell Blvd, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

St. Louis Longbeards - 03-12

Contact: Russ Ode
(314) 644-4228
Location: Oakville Elks Lodge
Oakville Elks Lane, Oakville, 63129

King City Strutters - 03-18

Contact: Justin Washburn
jkwash5@centurylink.net
(660) 535-4824
Location: Tri County Alternative Energy
604 North Grand, King City, MO 64463

Pike Co Twin River Mo Spring - 03-18

Contact: Timothy Brooks
tim.brooks@mdc.mo.gov
(573) 754-6692
Location: Elk's Lodge
120 N 5th, Louisiana, MO 63353

Marshfield Full Strutters - 03-18

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

Reynolds County - 03-18

Contact: Gary Black
garsueb@gmail.com
(573) 637-9344
Location: Reynolds County Fairgrounds
Hwy O, Redford, 63665

Kirkville Ridge Runners - 03-19

Contact: Josh Meyer
joshuameyer22@gmail.com
(660) 665-4300
Location: Nemo Fairgrounds
Hwy 11 East, Kirkville, MO 63501

Big River Gobblers - 03-19

Contact: Rich Christopher
rchristopher@juno.com
(636) 274-2574
Location: Knights Of Columbus Hall
6800 Kc Lane, House Springs, MO 63051

River Hills Thunderin' Longbeards - 03-19

Contact: Butch Stephens
bste9199@brick.net
(573) 543-2165
Location: Bloomsdale Knights Of Columbus Hall
175 Jersey Lane, Bloomsdale, MO 63627

Lake Show-me Longbeards - 03-25

Contact: Chris Comstock
ccomstock1978@gmail.com
(660) 216-0634
Location: VFW Post 4958
123 W. Monroe, Memphis, MO 63555

Saline County Strutters - 03-26

Contact: Joe Pycke
mogobbler@yahoo.com
(660) 631-3407
Location: Saline Co Fairgrounds
Hwy 65, Marshall, MO 65340

Lake Area Longbeards - 03-26

Contact: Charles & Phillips Mcelyea
cmclyea@onemain.com
(573) 216-2769
Location: Old Kinderhook Resort
20 Eagles Ridge Road, Camdenton, MO 65020

Lewis County Strutters - 04-01

Contact: Ron Richardson
rdrichardson14@gmail.com
(660) 462-3640
Location: Queen Of Peace Parish
Ewing, MO 63440

North Central Local - 04-02

Contact: Bill Wehrle
bpwehrle@greenhills.net
(660) 646-4362
Location: Chillicothe Elks Lodge
401 Harvester Road, Chillicothe, MO 64601

Platte Cty Longspurs - 04-02

Contact: Brandon Biddle
birdbuster84@yahoo.com
(573) 719-6077
Location: Platte County Fairgrounds
414 M92 Spur Hwy
Tracy, MO 64079

Four Rivers - 04-02

Contact: Eldo Meyer
waldomeyer@gmail.com
(573) 484-3102
Location: Knights Of Columbus Hall
110 Pottery Road, Washington, MO 63090

Mid-state - 04-07

Contact: Jody Martin
jmartin@cmcmfg.com
(573) 999-9024
Location: Stoney Creek Inn
2601 S. Providence Road, Columbia, MO 65203

Carroll County Longbeards - 04-08

Contact: Joe Mccumber
joemccumber@hotmail.com
(660) 322-0801
Location: Rupe Center
710 Harvest Hills Drive
Carrollton, MO 64633

Meramec Valley Strutters - 04-08

Contact: Dennis Twyman
twymad@fitnet.com
(573) 468-5010
Location: Knights Of Columbus Hall
231 South Highway 185
Sullivan, MO 63080

State Fair Strutters - 04-09

Contact: Charles Mattingly
cmats@sbcglobal.net
(660) 827-0758
Location: Mec Building
Missouri State Fair Grounds
Sedalia, MO 65301

Green Hills - 04-15

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

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

Hocomo Big Beards - 04-16

Contact: Gene Smith
gsmith603@hotmail.com
(660) 537-4667
Location: Knights Of Columbus Hall
707 First St., Glasgow, 65254

Triple B Chapter - Buffalo Big Birds - 04-22

Contact: Travis Pierce
bighunter_270@hotmail.com
(417) 840-8761
Location: Double Diamond Banquet Building
Highway 32 West
Buffalo, MO 65622

Spring River Toms - 04-23

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

Gentry County Gobblers - 04-23

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

Osage Gobblers - 05-06

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

Branson Tri-lakes - 06-04

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

Crowleys Ridge Limbangers - 06-17

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

Contact: Jackie Rowe
jrowecrna@gmail.com
(573) 238-4535
Location: First Baptist Church Of Marble Hill
502 Broadway, Marble Hill, MO 63764

Finley River Chapter - 07-15

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

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

WS Shoot - 07-23

Contact: David Howlett
dthowlett@yahoo.com
(573) 765-8568
Location: Lucas Oil Speedway Race Track Nwtf Night
Hwy 54, Wheatland, MO 65568

Shoal Creek Chapter - 07-30

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

Dry Fork Strutters - 08-05

Contact: Joseph Malter
jmalt@fidnet.com
(573) 364-1550
Location: Oak Meadow Country Club
10700 Co Rd 8110, Rolla, MO 65401

Locust Creek Longbeards - 08-06

Contact: Kirk Hendershott
kirkhendershott@yahoo.com
(660) 216-9991
Location: Milan Community Center
203 N. Market St, Milan, MO 63556

Rhine Valley Chapter - 08-06

Contact: Lyndon Ruediger
lruediger@hkdglobal.net
(573) 294-7189
Location: St. George Church
4th Street, Hermann, MO 65041



We have entered our fourth year since we started our journey to **Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.** The initiative is designed to help us do a better job of focusing our energy on accomplishing the important mission driven work of the NWTF. National goals were set (4 million acres enhanced and conserved, 1.5 million new hunters created, and 500,000 acres of additional hunting access secured) and each state board developed plans with key partners identifying the roles their states would play in achieving a portion of the national goals.

Missouri, once again, is leading the pack. Initially, we set the goal of enhancing and conserving 131,000 acres. These goals were established based primarily upon what we've done and what we thought we could do with our ongoing efforts to provide cost share assistance to private landowners in several focus areas, our work on a variety of Conservation Areas, and projects with the Mark Twain. What it did not include was the acreage impacted by all of the equipment that we have purchased over the years.

We have purchased about 200 pieces of equipment that we have donated to various state and federal agencies and NGO partners since 2004 including seed drills, prescribed burning equipment, tractors, UTV's, disks, seeders, mowers, seed harvesters, tillers, skid-steer brush attachments, etc. Since reporting has always been a challenge I used to report equipment impact as around 80,000 acres annually. This was based off of an extrapolation developed from the percentage that I could get good numbers from. In an effort to be as transparent and clean as possible, a national committee set reporting standards in place governing the metrics of how we track our accomplishments towards our **Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.** goals. As they pertain to equipment, these standards stated that actual acres for each piece of equipment had to be captured individually and that extrapolations could no longer be used. This past summer was an eye opener for many. I discovered what I had anticipated; some of the equipment had timed out, some changed hands, some contacts were not able to be made or data was not known. However,



Missouri once again leads the nation in hunters produced in NWTF Registered Outreach Events.

these contacts also revealed that a percentage of our equipment purchased and donated since 2007 impacted over 60,000 acres in the last 3 years. With this information in hand, the state board adjusted our acreage goals to account for equipment acres. This adjustment upped our enhanced and conserved acreage target from 131,000 to 300,000!

The included dashboard (right) for Missouri also indicates that we lead the nation in hunters created at 829. Although it is great that we are number one, this number is significantly below the boards goal of 4,000 annually created through hunter education and mentored hunts. A common problem here and elsewhere is, once again, linked to reporting. Please help us do a better job of tracking the great things that you are accomplishing. If you are a hunter education instructor or are taking new hunters afield, even if it is one on one, please fill out the below form and return it to me so

that it can be entered and captured as an accomplishment towards our **Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.** goals. Remember the metrics for counting hunters:

1. 60% of the total graduates from hunter education courses taught or co-taught by NWTF members.
2. Someone that you take hunting that has never hunted previously.
3. Someone that you take hunting that has lapsed at least one season.
4. Someone that you take hunting that has never hunted the species you are pursuing (example: someone that may be a turkey hunter but has never hunted deer or small game)

John Burk

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

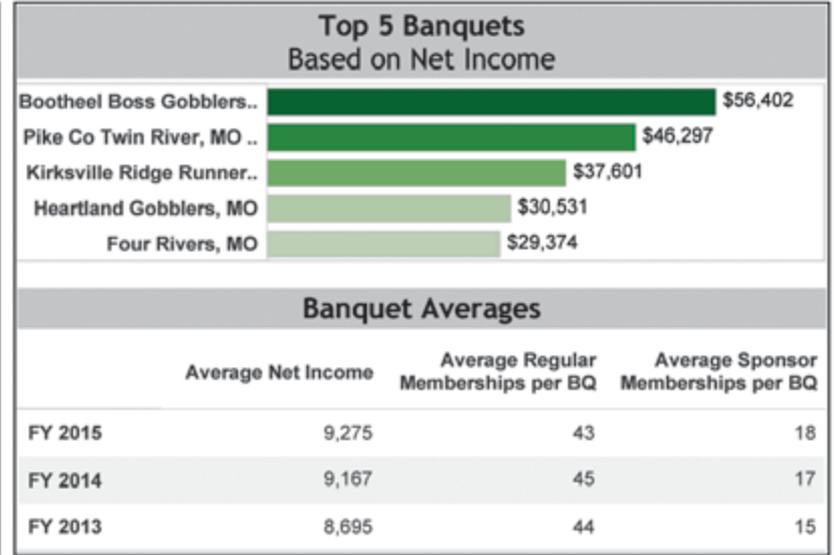
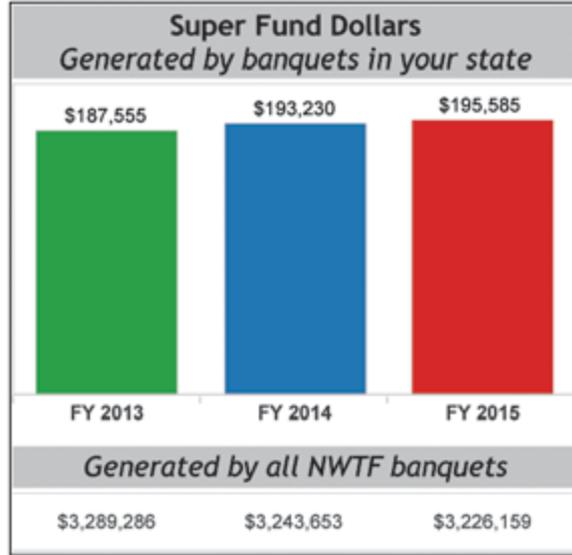
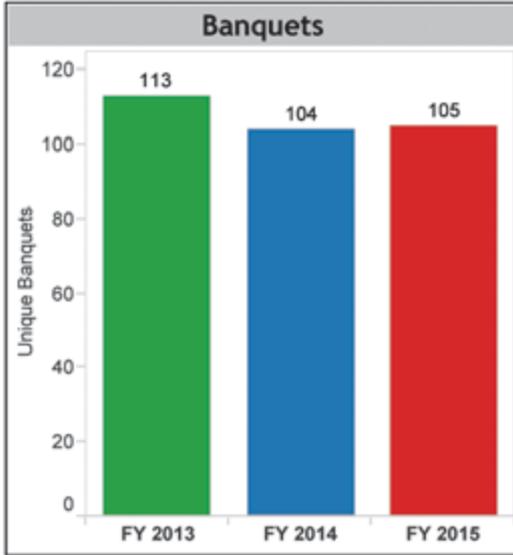
Name John Burk
 Address 7152 Tomahawk Lane
 City/State/Zip Steedman, MO 65077
 Email jburk@nwtf.net

Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.

Initiative Report for Fiscal Year 2015
State of MO

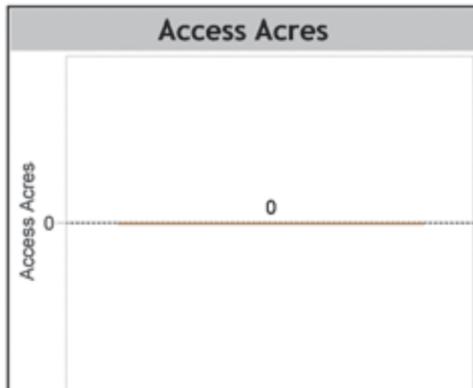
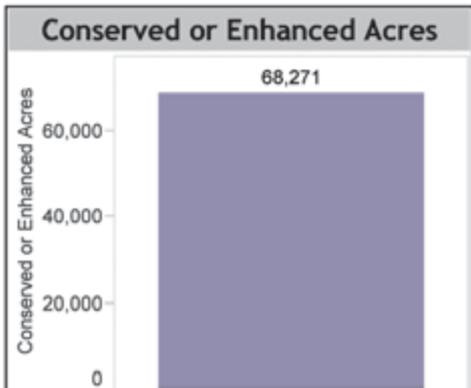


Supporting the NWTF Mission through the Hunting Heritage Banquet Program



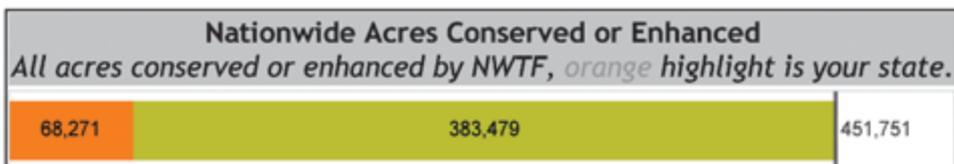
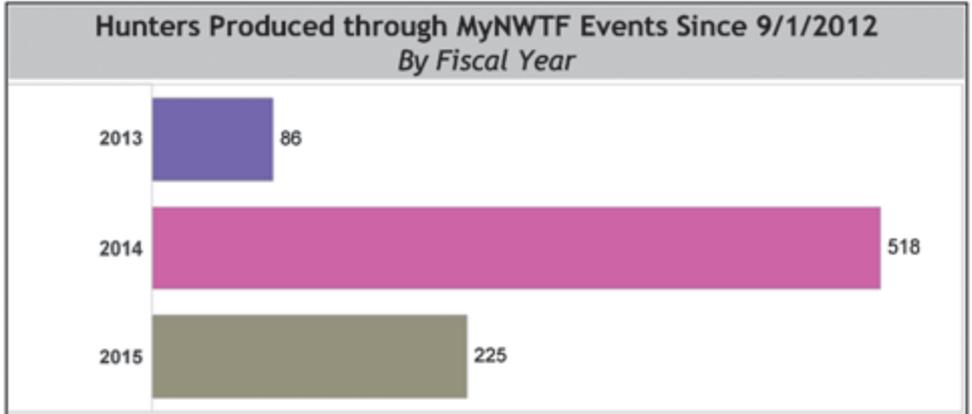
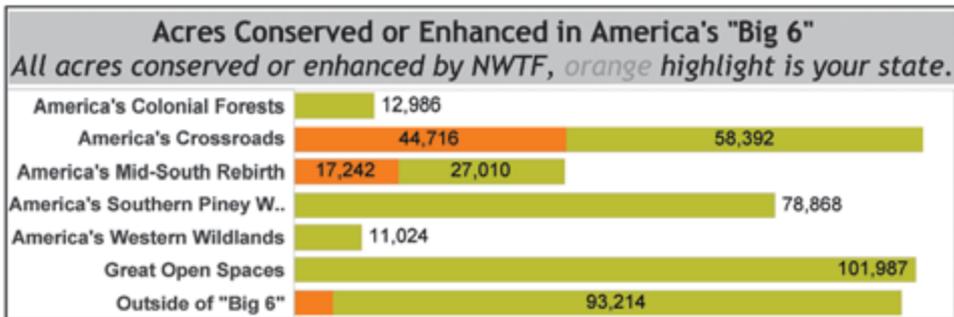
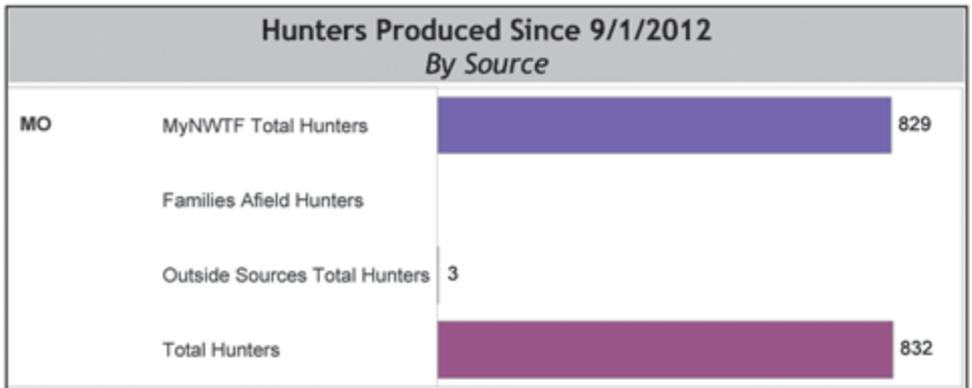
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Save the Hunt.

Creating 1.5 Million Hunters



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 Contact Tim Besancenez @ 636-262-0815 for more information.



The National Wild Turkey Federation
 Show-Me Gobbler
 c/o Bernard R. (Bernie) Grice, Jr.
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 March 15, July 10 & November 15

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