



SHOW-ME GOBBLER

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

Volume 35 Number 3 • December 2016

An Ocellated Adventure!

by Jared Reynolds

The first time I saw an ocellated turkey was in Brenda Potterfield's office at Midway USA; it was the most awe-inspiring, beautiful turkey I had ever seen. At that moment I knew that I would do whatever it took to harvest an ocellated turkey for myself. A quick study revealed that the bird is about half the size of a Missouri gobbler and only found in the jungles of Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico, with the latter country being where most turkeys are harvested by sport hunters. I was still planning my trip south of the border when Jon McRoberts, a committee member of the Mid State NWTF Chapter, told me there would be an ocellated turkey hunt for auction at our local NWTF banquet in Columbia, Missouri. As you can imagine, I was not going to miss this opportunity and with the help of my 8 year old son Brody, we won the auction. Later in the evening Jon approached me and said he would be happy to accompany me in the trip. I knew then that this was going to be an experience of a lifetime as



The Ocellated turkey is on many NWTF members "bucket list".

Jon, working closely with the NWTF, had conducted research on the ocellated turkeys in Campeche, Mexico for about 4 years. We booked the trip for April of 2016. This time period coincided with the ocellated turkey breeding season and I was eager to see the birds in strut and hear their version of the gobble.

Upon arrival in Campeche we rented a car and began our adventure (note: in most cases the hunting outfitter provides transportation, so a car rental is not necessary. We wanted to be able to do some additional exploring). Having Jon as a tour guide proved invaluable as he speaks fluent Spanish and knew all the best local places to stay and especially eat! We

arrived at Yুক্ত Hunting Lodge the first day about mid-morning and were greeted by owner/outfitter Manuel Olaguibel. After a brief orientation I was able to hunt that same afternoon. My guide was Jose and the hunting grounds were a fast 30 minute gravel road drive from the lodge. Jose would quickly make a blind with nothing more than a machete and then we would use an electronic call to try to attract a big male turkey, known locally as a "Macho." The birds are not nearly as vocal as our wild turkey and even the local Mayan civilization have not developed a call to attract turkeys. You hunt first thing in the morning and then again late in the afternoon until dark. This is mainly due to the intense heat and reduced activity of the birds. Ocellated turkeys are very skittish and you have to be on your toes with noise and movement.

After a couple days of diligent hunting and scouting, the hard work paid off. Jose and I went to the edge of a cut corn field that was surrounded by jungle and built a blind. As Jose was

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Making Your Own Luck

Ask Derrick Roeslein how his bow season went in 2016 and you'd have to pull up a chair. The total amount of time he spent on stand was only 90 minutes but the quest for one buck began years ago. On October 17th, the Harvest Moon nonetheless, Derrick managed to make a perfect shot on a northeast Missouri monster, but what led to that memorably adrenaline soaked moment is worth reading. A lot of folks think that people that shoot bucks of the caliber of "Mad Bum" are just lucky. While luck does play a role I've always contended that "lucky people" have a tendency to make their luck and "unlucky people" the same. Like most things in life, careful planning, hard work, and persistence usually pay off.

Derrick Roeslein manages over 2,300

acres of his father Rudi's properties in Putnam and Osage Counties in Missouri. The farms were initially managed as recreational properties primarily for deer and turkey hunting opportunities for family and friends. However, Derrick and his father sought professional guidance from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the USFWS and gradually became sold on the concept of holistically managing their properties. Over the years the two properties they control have become demonstration areas for how best to manage wildlife in the Midwest...and...oh yeah...this also happens to be a good recipe for growing big bucks.

The Roeslein's Putnam County property falls within the NWTF's Missouri/Iowa Oaks Focal Landscape in America's Crossroads Big Six. Annually, the Missouri super fund is matched with the MDC Private Land Services Habitat Challenge Grant as well as the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative and USFWS Partners dollars to provide private landowners like the Roesleins with cost share assistance to implement practices designed to improve wildlife habitat in this focal landscape. To date, our efforts have helped conserve and enhance over 2,100 acres of high quality habitat on private land in this area. Our dollars are used to incentivize practices that make a difference but can be costly and not as attractive for landowners to implement without cost share assistance such as tim-



Anna and Nathan Roeslein holding the 2015 antler sheds from Mad Bum.

ber stand improvement (TSI), prescribed burning, and native warm season grass (NWSG) establishment; we don't pay for food plots. Although food plots definitely do attract and concentrate game and should be part of your management

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President's Report



2016 has been a great year for the NWTF thanks to the hard work of all of our volunteers. SAVE THE HABITAT. SAVE THE HUNT has become more than just an initiative, it's become a reality. As we are just in our 4th year of our 10 year initiative and we have already reached 43.3% of our 4,000,000 acres of habitat enhanced, 65.6% of our increased access of 500,000 acres and 45.4% of our 1,500,000 hunters created. We are well on track to meet our goal before our 10 years are up.

The Hunter creation category takes on a complete different level of involvement than does the other two. Whereas acres of enhanced habitat and access is directly related to dollars raised, spent and leveraged. Hunters created is related to our members and volunteers doing their part in helping create hunters and reporting those numbers. The NWTF has named the hunter creating phase of our Initiative, R-3. RECRUITMENT, RETENTION and REACTIVATION. RECRUITMENT being when you take someone out hunting for the very first time. This is a phase that most of us try to do our best at introducing new people, young and old alike to the outdoors. Not all, but most of us need to do better at the RETENTION phase. This phase is when we take that same person out again, no matter if we take them Squirrel, Rabbit, Dove, Quail, Pheasant, Deer, Turkey or Predator hunting. Just something to spark the interest again and get them where they feel the confidence to go out hunting on their own. This level is reached at different times with each individual. The REACTIVATION phase is where we take someone hunting that has not been in the field for sometime. This phase can be the most simple, as these people already know how to hunt but something has happened in their life that has caused them not to

go out for sometime, but once there, it all comes back, the fire is rekindled and they are ready to start hunting again. We all need to make an effort to work on all three of these areas if we are going to increase hunter numbers and pass on to our next generation the things that we as outdoors enthusiasts love so much. Our right to hunt and our hunting heritage depends on it.

We in Missouri are blessed to have probably the best run state conservation agency in the nation, the Missouri Department of Conservation. What makes our agency different, is partly because in Missouri we use not only public opinion but also Science to set season dates and bag limits based on data received and Biologist research, unlike some states where these things are controlled by State Legislators.

We would like to welcome the newest Director of Conservation for the State of Missouri, Sara Parker Pauley. Sara is the 9th Director since the MDC was founded in 1937. We're glad to have Sara, as she will bring great things to the table for conservation in Missouri. She was one of our own, as Sara was a NWTF Coordinator for the Women in the Outdoor, before she became the Director for the Department of Natural Resources for the State of Missouri, along with many more positions she has held over the years. Sara is avid hunter and a true lady of the outdoors. Sara and her husband are also part of a local NWTF Committee. I am sure that Sara will help bring the already top conservation department in the nation to even greater heights.

Our NWTF State Banquet will be held at Lake of the Ozarks, at the beautiful Tan Tara Lodge January 7th. It's a great banquet that gives everyone a chance to view the core package for the coming year. The core package will be given away by raffle tickets. It's a great time and Tan Tara gives us discounted room rates, if booked in advance. I would highly recommend if you've not been, to come and if you've come before, please make plans on returning again this year. Contact your Regional Director to reserve your spots and answer any questions you might have.

If we want our children and grandchildren to have and enjoy great outdoor experiences, we need to do more to ensure that this happens. We know the people that don't care will do nothing. We also know there's those who will look back and say "I wonder what if". I know I want to look back and say "WOW, LOOK WHAT WE'VE HELPED MANAGE TO DO".

If we each work as hard as we can, we can accomplish much, but if we all work hard together, we can accomplish anything.

*R. L. Bennett, President
George Clark
MO State NWTF Chapter*



SHOW-ME GOBBLER

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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 .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.

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 wild turkey brood survey annually since 1959. During the survey, MDC staff and citizen volunteers record turkey observations during June, July, and August to determine the success of the hatch. Data are collected at the county level and reported statewide and by Turkey Productivity Region which are counties grouped by similar land cover composition.

This year's statewide poult-to-hen ratio (PHR) from the turkey brood survey was 0.8, which is 47% less than the 2015 ratio and 50% less than the

previous five-year average. This year's PHR was 43% less than the 10-year average and 53% less than the 20-year average. Poults-to-hen ratios ranged from 0.8 in the Northeast, Union Breaks, and West Prairie Regions to 1.3 in the Mississippi Lowlands. Compared to the five-year average, PHRs were down in all regions of the state, ranging from 13% below average in the Mississippi Lowlands to 55% below average in the Ozarks East.

During this year's brood survey, 29% of hens were observed with a brood, which is down from 43% in 2015, and is 34% less than the five-year average. Regionally, the percentage of hens observed with a brood ranged from 25% in the Northeast and Northwest to 35% in

the Mississippi Lowlands. For hens that were observed with a brood, the average number of poults per brood was 3.5, which is down from 3.9 in 2015 and 19% less than the five-year average. The average number of poults per brood ranged from 3.3 in the Union Breaks to 4.2 in the Mississippi Lowlands.

Hunters harvested 3,698 turkeys during Missouri's 2016 fall firearms turkey season, which ran Oct. 1–31. This year's harvest total is 40% less than last year's total. Top harvest counties during the 2016 season were Greene (128), Franklin (96), and Wayne (92). Compared to the 2015 season, harvest was down in all regions of the state, ranging from 30–50% below last year's harvest totals.

This year's fall firearms turkey harvest was impacted by a poor hatch, above-average acorn production, and a decline in hunter participation. A poor turkey hatch resulted in far fewer young birds for hunters to pursue this fall. Acorn production was above-average in much of the state this year, which typically results in reduced fall turkey harvest. When acorns are abundant, turkeys spend more time in forested areas and do not have to range far to locate food, both of which typically result in reduced turkey harvest. With less than 12,000 hunters purchasing a permit, this year's fall firearms turkey permit sales total was the lowest on record since the season started in 1978. Interest in the fall firearms turkey season has been declining since the mid-to-late 1980s in Missouri when nearly 53,000 permits were purchased.

Missouri Hunting Heritage Banquets

Missouri State Banquet 01/07/2017 · 5:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Tim Besancenez (636) 262-0815
Timothy.Besancenez@nwtf.net
Location: Tan Tara Resort - Lake Of The Ozarks
494 Tan Tara Rd, Osage Beach, MO 65065

Honey Creek Strutters 01/14/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Chad Foreman (816) 632-2017
foremansmoking@yahoo.com
Location: Cameron Community Center
1600 E Evergreen Street, Cameron, MO 64429

Union Covered Bridge Gobblers 01/21/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Bruce Mills (573) 721-2268 bcmills@hughes.net
Location: Madison Community Building
115 South Main St, Madison, MO 65263

Springtown Wattlebacks 01/21/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Troy O'dell (816) 506-9422
Location: Annunciation Community Center
705 North Jefferson Street, Kearney, MO 64060

Dent County Thundering Toms 01/21/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: John Steelman (573) 247-9217 jdsteel@fidnet.com
Location: Indian Trail Archery, Highway 19 North
Salem, MO 65560

Current River Callers 01/21/2017 · 5:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Troy McAfee (573) 325-4475
troystransmo@centurytel.net
Location: Winona School, Hwy 19 N, Winona, MO 65588

Salt River Sharp Spurs 01/27/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Jason Pollard (573) 248-4976 jason.pollard@basf.com
Location: Father Buhman Center, 103 S. 4th, Shelbina, MO 63469

Willard Thunderin Gobblers 01/27/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Carrie Bussard (417) 827-0782 cbussard@dmp.com
Location: The Round Barn At Clear Creek
10731 West Us 160, Walnut Grove, MO 65770

Shaky Ground Gobblers 01/27/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Walter Campbell (573) 380-7928
Location: Southern Comfort, 650 Main St, New Madrid, MO 63869

Indian Creek Chapter 01/27/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Matt Friend (417) 389-5443 mfriend_42@yahoo.com
Location: Neosho Civic Auditorium
109 West Main Street, Neosho, MO 64850

Ray County Shortspurs 01/28/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Mark Mccorkendale (660) 398-4785
ricklan1@hotmail.com
Location: Ray County Veterans Memorial Building
312 Clark St, Richmond, MO 64085

Hickory County Jakes And Jennies 01/28/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Tim Pratt (417) 718-1114 tcpratt@hotmail.com
Location: Hickory County Senior Center
Highway 54, Wheatland, MO 65779

Southern Ozark Longbeards 01/28/2017 · 5:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Sam Griffin (573) 996-2148
sam@bobgriffininsurance.com
Location: His Place, #4 Wright Park Drive Hwy 160
Doniphan, MO 63935

Swampeast Strutters 02/02/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Kevin Miller (573) 683-3203 charleston131@gmail.com
Location: United Methodist Church
1700 E. Marshall, Charleston, MO 63834

Walt Beumer Memorial Chapter 02/03/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Brian Duckett (314) 574-9213
brian.duckett@hotmail.com
Location: The Boeing Machinist Building
212 Utz Lane, Hazelwood, MO 63042

Heartland Longbeards 02/03/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: James Drake (816) 718-1100 ddrake_4@yahoo.com
Location: Oak Grove Civic Center, 2100 S Broadway
Oak Grove, MO 64075

Rogersville Strutters 02/03/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Cody Wilson (417) 753-2548
Location: First Baptist Church, 101 West Center St
Rogersville, MO 65742

Tick Ridge 02/04/2017 · 5:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Matthew Burks (660) 395-1404 mattburks1@yahoo.com
Location: Macon Co Expo Center
Hwy 63 S, Macon, MO 63552

Chariton River Full Strutters 02/04/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Jordan Harmon (660) 247-5306
jordan.harmon@myfcsfinancial.com
Location: Knight & Rucker Building, Broadway
Brunswick, MO 65236

Lincoln Hills 02/04/2017 · 5:00 PM (CST)
Contact: R.Jay Herring (573) 898-5420 jherringhri@yahoo.com
Location: Sacred Heart Parrish, 714 Lincoln Street
Elsberry, MO 63343

Black Mountain Longbeards 02/04/2017 · 4:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Jason Wengler (573) 783-9988
jasonwengler@hotmail.com
Location: St Michaels Catholic School, Fredericktown, MO 63645

Delta Bootheel Gobblers 02/04/2017 · 5:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Lynn Smith (573) 888-0054 lynn.smith@modot.mo.gov
Location: Kennett VFW, 1101 Veterans St,
Rt 412 S Bypass, Kennett, MO 63857

Upper Meramec Longspurs 02/10/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Shane Staples (573) 259-7405
sstaples@mullallydistributing.com
Location: Recklein Auditorium, 304 North Smith Street
Cuba, MO 65453

Platte Cty Longspurs 02/11/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Doug Yeager (816) 807-4277
Location: Platte County Fairgrounds
414 M92 Spur Hwy, Tracy, MO 64079

Young's Creek Strutters 02/11/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Matthew Oesch (573) 489-9216
Location: Nick And Noah's, 801 E. Switzler, Centralia, MO 65240

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Gateway Long Spurs 02/11/2017 · 5:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Dan Zerr (636) 699-7000 dan089@centurytel.net
Location: St. Theodore Catholic Church Gym
5051 Hwy P, Flint Hill, MO 63385

Bootheel Boss Gobblers 02/11/2017 · 4:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Bronson Senn lneal@nwf.net
Location: Bavarian Hall, Jct I-55 And Us Hwy 61 N @ Fruitland,
Jackson, MO 63755

Kingdom Of Callaway Limbhangers 02/24/2017 · 6:00 PM
Contact: John Burk (573) 676-5994 jburk@nwf.net
Location: 54 Country, 400 Gaylord Drive, Fulton, MO 65251

Summit Ridge Longbeards 02/24/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Glenn Farris (573) 690-6425
Location: St Andrews Catholic Church Gym
400 St. Andrews Drive, Holts Summit, MO 65043

Sand Burr Strutters 02/24/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Tony Beeson (573) 380-5814
Location: VFW, 709 Smith Street, Sikeston, MO 63801

Fabius River Fantails 02/25/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Jeremy Holman (660) 341-8823 kariahholman@gmail.com
Location: Community Center, 207 N. 4th St., Edina, MO 63537

Grand River Gobblers 02/25/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Bryan Gray grayjewl@grm.net
Location: American Legion Post 216
32932 W State Hwy 13, Bethany, MO 64424

Moniteau Monarchs 02/25/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Brian Hill (573) 796-3885 chop15cmc@yahoo.com
Location: Knights Of Columbus, Highway 50, Tipton, MO 65081

South Grand River Gobblers 02/25/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Joshua Stafford (818) 289-8921
josh@staffordagency.com
Location: Cass County Elk's Lodge
2402 N Hwy 291, Harrisonville, MO 64701

Lead Belt Longbeards 02/25/2017 · 5:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Kathryn Wolff (573) 701-2050 kathyalldogs@gmail.com
Location: Knights Of Columbus Bonne Terre
7897 Berry Rd, Bonne Terre, MO 63628

Current River Longbeards 03/02/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Delbert Dewolf (573) 660-1119 d-dewolf@hotmail.com
Location: So Mo Baptist Assembly
Hc 1 Box 200, Van Buren, MO 63965

Stealth Gobblers 03/03/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: David Mccannon (667) 747-8260
dnmccannon@yahoo.com
Location: Elks Lodge, 822 E. Young St.,Warrensburg, MO 64093

Osage Prairie Thunderin' Toms 03/03/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Adam Dean (417) 448-7380 adean@cottey.edu
Location: Eagles Lodge, East Austin Blvd, Nevada, MO 64772

Rocky Top Limbhangers 03/03/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Larry Lindeman (417) 256-0980 golfnson2@hotmail.com
Location: Howell County Rural Fire Station #1
K Highway, West Plains, MO 65775

Cooper County Limbhangers 03/04/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Vaughn Sell (660) 882-7833 vaughnsell@sbcglobal.net
Location: Knight's Of Columbus Hall
1515 Radio Hill Road, Boonville, MO 65233

Mark Twain Forest Longspurs 03/04/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Tony Hollinsworth (573) 854-0497
Location: Potosi Lions Club, Highway 185, Potosi, MO 63664

Clearwater Longbeards 03/04/2017 · 5:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Richard Ayers (573) 223-2356
Location: Trinity Methodist Church, Hwy 34, Piedmont, MO 63957

Turkey Creek Longbeards 03/04/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Terry Greer (417) 540-8526 tag6364@yahoo.com
Location: Joplin Elks Lodge, 1802 W. 26th St, Joplin, MO 64804

Sho-me Mo 03/04/2017 · 5:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Matthew Kramer (417) 839-6366 karstcon@yahoo.com
Location: White River Conference Center
600 West Sunshine, Springfield, MO 65806

Platte Purchase 03/04/2017 · 5:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Bryan Lukehart (816) 244-6858
lukehart.bryan@gmail.com
Location: No Place, 3414 S 22nd St, St. Joseph, MO 64503

Bayou Strutters 03/09/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Larry Neal (314) 334-4942 Larry.Neal@nwf.net
Location: Cedars Banquet And Gatherings
401 East Washington, East Prairie, MO 63845

Parkville Gobblers 03/10/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: John Shene (816) 365-2856
jshene@bonterracatering.com
Location: Parkville Athletic Complex
6014 N. 9 Hwy, Parkville, MO 64152

Lake Of The Ozarks Nwtf Chapter 03/10/2017 · 6:00 PM
Contact: Kurt Heisler (573) 378-0763 kurt.heisler@mdc.mo.gov
Location: Tri County Convention Center
Highway 52 East, Versailles, MO 65084

Carman Springs Longbeards 03/10/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Terry Newton (417) 469-2881 trnewt@hotmail.com
Location: Willow Springs R-4 Elementary Cafateria
215 4th St, Willow Springs, MO 65793

Yellow Creek Gobblers 03/11/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Dennis Paalhar (660) 537-3459
Dennis.Paalhar@walsworth.com
Location: Walsworth Community Building
122 E. Ritchie, Marceline, MO 64658

Randolph County Longbeards 03/11/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Larry Terry (660) 651-8636 djerry_5@yahoo.com
Location: St. Pius X Gymnasium, 210 S. Williams St.
Moberly, MO 65270

Heartland Gobblers 03/11/2017 · 5:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Chuck Stewart Farms (573) 222-7182
chuckcaseman@yahoo.com
Location: American Legion, 2320 Kanell Blvd
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

St. Louis Longbeards 03/11/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Russ Ode (314) 644-4228
Location: Affton Elks Lodge, 6330 Heege Road, St. Louis, MO 63123

Putnam County Chapter 03/17/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Joe Ream (660) 341-0895 j.ream@hotmail.com
Location: Putnam County High School Commons
801 S. 20th, Unionville, MO 63565

King City Strutters 03/17/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Justin Washburn (660) 853-2377
jkwash5@centurylink.net
Location: Tri County Alternative Energy
604 North Grand, King City, MO 64463

Reynolds County 03/17/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Gary Black (573) 637-9344 garsueb@gmail.com
Location: Reynolds County Fairgrounds
Hwy O, Redford, MO 63665

Kirkville Ridge Runners 03/18/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Josh Meyer (660) 665-4300 joshuameyer22@gmail.com
Location: Nemo Fairgrounds
Hwy 11 East, Kirkville, MO 63501

Big River Gobblers 03/18/2017 · 5:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Rich Christopher (636) 274-2574
richchristopher022@gmail.com
Location: Knights Of Columbus Hall
6800 Kc Lane, House Springs, MO 63051

Truman Lake Chapter 03/18/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Christopher Tucker (660) 885-4486
tuckerc66399@yahoo.com
Location: Benson Convention Center, 1008 E. Sedalia St
Clinton, MO 64735

River Hills Thunderin' Longbeards 03/18/2017 · 5:00 PM
Contact: Butch Stephens (573) 543-2165 bste9199@brick.net
Location: Bloomsdale Knights Of Columbus Hall
175 Jersey Lane, Bloomsdale, MO 63627

Lake Show-me Longbeards 03/24/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Chris Comstock (660) 216-0634
ccomstock1978@gmail.com
Location: VFW Post 4958, 123 W. Monroe, Memphis, MO 63555

North Central Local 03/25/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Bill Wehrle (660) 646-436 bpwehrle@greenhills.net
Location: Chillicothe Elks Lodge
401 Harvester Road, Chillicothe, MO 64601

Saline County Strutters 03/25/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Joe Pycke (660) 631-3407 mogobbler@yahoo.com
Location: Saline Co Fairgrounds
Hwy 65, Marshall, MO 65340

Four Rivers 03/25/2017 · 5:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Mark Burns (636) 584-4046
Location: Knights Of Columbus Hall
110 Pottery Road, Washington, MO 63090

Pike Co Twin River 03/31/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Timothy Brooks (573) 754-6692 tim.brooks@mdc.mo.gov
Location: Elk's Lodge, 120 N 5th, Louisiana, MO 63353

Hocomo Big Beards 04/01/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: David Glaskey (573) 631-5533
david.glaskey@swcd.mo.gov
Location: St Joseph's Church Hall
300 N. Cleveland, Fayette, MO 65248

Warren County Strutters 04/06/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Amy Mergelmeyer (636) 221-1538
amymergelmeyer@yahoo.com
Location: American Legion, 28855 Legion Trail
Warrenton, MO 63383

Lewis County Strutters 04/07/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Ron Richardson (660) 462-3640
rdrichardson14@gmail.com
Location: Queen Of Peace Parish, Ewing, MO 63440

Meramec Valley Strutters 04/07/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Dennis Twyman (573) 468-5010 twymad@fitnet.com
Location: Knights Of Columbus Hall
231 South Highway 185, Sullivan, MO 63080

State Fair Strutters 04/08/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
Contact: Charles Mattingly (660) 827-0758 cmats@sbcglobal.net
Location: Mec Building, Missouri State Fair Grounds
Sedalia, MO 65301

Lake Area Longbeards 04/08/2017 · 5:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Charles Mcelyea (573) 376-7231
cmcelyea@onemain.com
Location: Old Kinderhook Resort
20 Eagles Ridge Road, Camdenton, MO 65020

Green Hills 04/14/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Robin Chambers (660) 654-1192 robinc@cfmimo.com
Location: National Guard Armory, 900 Industrial Drive
Trenton, MO 64683

Carroll County Longbeards 04/15/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Robert Peetoom (660) 593-3475
Location: Goppert Community Center, 201 S. Pine St
Norborne, MO 64668

Mid-state 04/20/2017 · 5:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Jody Martin (573) 999-9024 jmartin@cmcmfg.com
Location: Stoney Creek Inn
2601 S. Providence Road, Columbia, MO 65203

Muddy Creek Gobblers 04/21/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
 Contact: Jared Chestnut (417) 682-3767 Location: Thiebaud Auditorium
 11th And Poplar, Lamar, MO 64759

Spring River Toms 04/21/2017 · 6:00 PM
 Contact: Jerry Hartman (417) 388-2923 j42a43h@hotmail.com
 Location: Carthage Memorial Hall
 407 S Garrison Ave, Carthage, MO 648361749

Gentry County Gobblers 04/22/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
 Contact: Mitch Holtman (816) 273-6774 mholtman@nwjd.com
 Location: Tri Meadows, 34499 St Hwy VV, Conception Jct., MO 64434

Osage Gobblers 04/28/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
 Contact: Steve Brune (573) 897-2211 sbrune@midambk.com
 Location: Osage County Community Center
 Highway 50 East, Linn, MO 65051

Triple B Chapter - Buffalo Big Birds 05/05/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
 Contact: Travis Pierce (417) 840-8761 bighunter_270@hotmail.com
 Location: Timber Line Barn, 42 Rainbow Road, Buffalo, MO 65622

Marshfield Full Strutters 05/05/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
 Contact: Kenny Grunlien (417) 224-1857 kgrunlien@gmail.com
 Location: Marshfield Buildings, 1049 School View Dr, Marshfield, MO 65706

Southern Boone Strutters 05/06/2017 · 5:30 AM (CST)
 Contact: James Creel (573) 356-4924 jcreel8@gmail.com
 Location: Ashland Optimist Club, 511 N. Optimist Drive, Ashland, MO 65010

Warren County Strutters 06/09/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
 Contact: Amy Mergelmeyer (636) 221-1538 amymergelmeyer@yahoo.com
 Location: American Legion, 28855 Legion Trail, Warrenton, MO 63383

Crowleys Ridge Limbhangers 06/16/2017 · 5:30 PM (CST)
 Contact: Kyle Ouzts (573) 258-0770 kouzts@sbcglobal.com
 Location: Elks Lodge, 325 Two Mile Road, Dexter, MO 63841

Bollinger County Double Beards 06/17/2017 · 4:30 PM (CST)
 Contact: Jackie Rowe (573) 238-4535 jrowecrna@gmail.com
 Location: First Baptist Church Of Marble Hill
 502 Broadway, Marble Hill, MO 63764

Bunt Cumbea Laclede County Chapter Participates in Mentored Dove Hunting Program for Third Year



Mentors and new hunters from the Bunt Cumbea Laclede County Chapter.

During the opening weekend of dove season, 11 new dove hunters spent the day with family and mentors from the Laclede County Bunt Cumbea Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation and 6th Day Creation Outdoors trying to harvest the fast flying birds. The hunt was a success. The hunters learned a lot and now have a greater appreciation for the outdoors.

The dove field was located on Missouri State Board Member Stan O'Daniel's property and the funding that provided the seed, herbicide, and fertilizer was provided by the Private Lands Services Division of the Missouri Department of Conservation. This was the third year of this successful program designed to help Missouri achieve its' hunter creation goals through mentored hunting programs. The chapter intends to continue the tradition as well as planning future hunts during future hunting seasons.

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

New Hunter Recruitment Dove Field Initiative

As part of the National Wild Turkey Federation's (NWTF) Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. Missouri initiated a hunter recruitment program in 2014 in partnership with Quail Forever (QF), the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), Friends of the NRA, the USFS, and private landowners throughout the state. The 2016 season marked the third year that this program has been offered and the state chapter will continue to work with its' partners to expand the program in the future.

This project, from start to finish, has been an excellent example of the true value of a cooperative effort in that all partner agencies and organizations gave equally of their resources to make it a success. The state chapter, Friends of the NRA, and MDC paid for the seed, herbicide, fertilizer and contracted installation costs of establishing the fields. All partners helped promote the opportunity and MDC conducted some workshops to educate the new hunters. Quail Forever was very instrumental in locating landowners that provided about half of the access and also planted the fields that they provided.

Table 1 reveals numbers associated with the 3 year program. The total cost of the program was \$38,267 with \$20,129 spent on seed and herbicide, \$4,319 for contracting some of the NWTF fields, and \$13,819 for fertilizer. Therefore, providing this opportunity cost \$47.54/hunter and \$132.87/hunter created.



Counties	Fields	Total Acres	Total Hunts	Total Experienced Hunters	Total New Hunters	Total Hunters
16	31	292	58	517	288	805

Table 1. Counties where dove fields were planted, acres planted, number of hunts, number of mentors/experienced hunters, number of new hunters, and total number of hunters for the 3 year effort.

Making Your Own Luck continued from page 1

plan they shouldn't be THE plan and you don't have to incentivize those to make them happen. Food plots don't make more deer and turkeys they just concentrate what's already scattered across a 4 or 5,000 acre landscape. If you do the timber management, grassland establishment, AND food plots, you get a lot more bang for the buck as I'm sure Derrick would attest to. I think another thing that Derrick and his father would admit to is that what started as a project designed specifically to grow big deer has turned into something much larger and more rewarding. Aldo Leopold once said, "The recreational value of a game animal is directly proportional to the artificiality of its origin." The following story should thoroughly capture the essence of Aldo's statement. There are easier ways to put heads like "Mad Bum" and even much larger on the wall but "Mad Bum" was the end result of a passion driven process; a lifestyle and not a large check at the end of a long weekend.

Here is Derrick's story:

Since I began bow hunting 28 years ago, at just 11 years old, I have been very fortunate. Not only has my father owned land where I could hunt but he also spent dozens of weekends each year teaching me how to hunt and shoot as I was growing up. I have had very good luck with my rifle. I have taken six bucks over 140, four of them in the 160's. However, despite spending much more time bow hunting, I had never taken an archery buck of that caliber.

For many reasons, this hunt is one I will never forget. Just shooting any deer with a bow is a challenge and something a hunter should be proud of. I usually enjoy the hunt as much as the kill and I definitely do not need to harvest a buck every year. I once waited seven years before pulling the trigger on my next buck. I love the challenge and I don't have any regrets passing immature bucks so they can grow. I've been determined to wait for a fully mature monster buck, even by bow and arrow.

So finally getting the opportunity was very special to me. I was also able to mold the landscape that created this animal. He existed almost exclusively in one of our restored savannas; a spot that looked much different 5 or 6 years ago when "Mad Bum" was probably just a fawn. I was able to initiate the restoration effort that built his home through cost share programs provided by NWTF, MDC, the USFWS Partners For Wildlife Program and the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative grant programs.

I also have a lot of history with this animal as he was growing up; catching him on trail camera, finding his sheds and seeing him with my own eyeballs on a few hunts, including a very close encounter last December. When he was 3-years-old I guessed his rack to be in the 150's based on trail camera pictures, later confirmed when I found one of his sheds, but I had no intention of taking him then because I could see his potential of becoming the giant I sought. In case you are wondering by now where the name "Mad Bum" is coming from, I live in St. Louis and I am a huge Cardinals fan. Back in 2014 when my team lost in the playoffs to the Giants AGAIN, I decided to start naming all of the "giant bucks" on my hit list after Giants' players...so...Mad Bum is short for Madison Bumgarner. No disrespect, just healthy disdain for the opposition.

I also have a collection of his sheds. I found the right side of his 2014 rack in March of 2015 and while spending spring break with my daughter Anna up at the farm, she found the left side of his 2013 rack just a couple weeks later!

During the 2015 season I estimated him at around 160" and hunted him hard before rifle season, spooking him twice while approaching a deer stand in the morning. Trail cameras indicated that he managed to survive rifle season so I pursued him again during the December portion of the season. On one hunt I watched him feed on turnips for an hour as he made his way toward me. However, luck was on his side and he walked by me at 12 yards on my wrong side so I was unable to draw on him. Devastated, I regrouped and hunted him a few more times from the same stand. My last hunt of that season was January 14, 2016. I saw a lot of bucks but noticed that one of the larger bodied bucks had already dropped his antlers. At the end of the hunt I snuck out making the 600 yard walk back to the UTV. Instead of avoiding the field, I drove to it and through it and just before the field's edge, lying in the middle of my path, I found Mad Bum's left antler! After another 150 yards and in the center of the field, I found his right antler! Unbelievable! Finding his sheds almost completely made up for not getting him back in December. After bow season ended, I had two of my workers do additional timber stand improvement (TSI) work on the savanna. I carefully marked the trees for removal in Mad Bum's core area. I also marked a few trees for them to hinge cut to help me sneak into my stand later in the year. While working in the savanna, one of them found the left side of Mad Bum's 2014 rack!



During April of 2016, at the last minute I changed the plan from planting clover/alfalfa to sticking with soybeans in the field that Mad Bum usually visited. I knew Mad Bum liked soybeans and I was fearful that planting anything else would alter his previous patterns. Rotation could wait another year.

Over the summer, I finally went into Clarkson Eye Care to get new frames that wouldn't interfere with my ability to see through my peep sight. I also got a new Mathews Halon to replace my Mathews Legacy I had

been shooting for the last 12 years or so. I wanted to be sure I was as ready as I could be for my date with Mad Bum!

By August of 2016 I was not certain that Mad Bum was still alive. I was later than I wanted to be placing my trail cameras. After going through a few thousand pictures one caught my attention, a buck at the far end of the field. I was certain it was him! Time to get even more serious! So just prior to the September 15 opener I freshened up shooting lanes and cleaned up the path to my stand, which was already improved the previous winter by hinging some of the trees.

On September 17, 2016, the third day of the new season, conditions were favorable to sneak into my stand undetected and the temperature was just cool enough to avoid a heat stroke. I took over an hour sneaking to my stand and another 30 minutes slowly getting situated. When I was completely settled I checked the time; 5:15 p.m. Just 45 minutes later I had four bucks less than 30 yards from me and Mad Bum was one of them!

Despite shaking uncontrollably for over 10 minutes, I was able to draw my bow undetected while Mad Bum was staring down a nice but younger 10-pointer. Trying to avoid rushing the shot I held the pin on his chest for a few seconds before putting my finger anywhere close to the trigger. I estimated him to be 25 yards so I held the 20 yard pin 2/3 up his side. The soybeans were half way up his chest anyway so I wanted to avoid them as well. I squeezed and the arrow hit right where I aimed; passing completely through him. I wanted it to hit two or three inches lower but I felt like it was still a good shot. My suspicion was confirmed when, let's just say it became obvious there was going to be a good blood trail. I watched him run into the woods, down a small hill and turn right toward the creek. I saw some movement that appeared like a death fall but I heard no noise. I checked the time; 6:15 p.m.

I contemplated how long to wait but after only a few minutes I convinced myself that the shot was true, gathered my stuff, climbed down carefully, and began looking for blood. The blood was heavy and the analytical part of my brain was telling me he couldn't be far but the emotional side of my brain told me to be cautious. I followed the trail he took into the woods, down the small but steep hill and turned to my right. There he was! Thank you Lord! I cherished the moment and did my best to praise God and I said a strong prayer for my buck as I laid my hands on him for the first time! It was the moment I had dreamt about for decades!

Dragging him out by myself ensured several more trips to the chiropractor but made for an even more memorable experience. I got him field dressed (198lbs.), into the bed of my truck and to the gas station for 12 large bags of ice by 9:30 p.m., to the cooler at the central MO farm by 2:00 a.m., and was home around 4:00 a.m. I was back to the central MO farm with my kids around noon where my taxidermist was getting ready to cape him. We measured him conservatively and came up with 166-2/8 gross and 162-7/8 net.

This entire experience is one that my family and I will cherish. From planning and implementing the management activities made possible by NWTF and their partners to planning and preparing for individual hunts, this is truly a lifestyle that has brought me many blessings.

Mo NWTF Leadership Course



In October, twenty-seven Missouri attendees gathered for the fall NWTF leadership meeting. If Missouri is going to continue to lead the nation in birds harvested and hunter retention, we need to continue to build strong leaders for the NWTF.

Bunt Cumbea Chapter Assists in Shooting Range Improvements



In collaboration with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Lebanon Area Bow Hunters, the Bunt Cumbea Laclede County Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) recently made improvements to the archery range at the Osage Fork Conservation Area located just south of Lebanon. The Lebanon Area Bow Hunters donated funds for materials to construct five new metal target stands while the Bunt Cumbea Chapter NWTF donated funds for new backstop material. MDC provided funds to construct four shelters over the targets and base-rock for the walkways and shooting areas.

Current River Callers Hold Annual JAKES Event



Winners of shotgun, guided youth turkey hunt, and hunting backpack, left to right: Trenton Martin of Birch Tree, Jayden Stone Smothers of Birch Tree, and Maverick Doughty of Pomona.

On October 1, 2016 the Current River Callers and Jacks Fork JAKES held their annual JAKES Day at the Twin Pines Conservation Education center in Winona. All participants, ages 6-12 got a chance to fish, target shoot, bow shoot, participate in interactive sessions about hunting smart and being "bear aware." The chapter also provided each participant with a goodie bag filled with outdoor/hunting related items and a free JAKES membership. The chapter also held a drawing enabling one lucky youth to win a shotgun, one to win a guided youth turkey hunt, and one to win a JAKES backpack full of hunting items.

This event was made possible by the efforts of Missouri Department of Conservation staff at Twin Pine Conservation Education Center, student volunteer Dillon Teague and the committee of the Current River Callers including: David and Valeria Adams, Cole and Natalie Chatman, Alex Cox, Troy, Margaret and Tori McAfee, Rex Ennis, Gary Gognat, Nick Zaczek (who will guide the youth hunt 2017), David Brawley, FFL Mike Bill, and Terry Thompson.

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

MISSOURI STATE BANQUET



Saturday, Jan. 7th, 2017
Tan-Tara Resort at Lake of the Ozarks
 State Road KK, Osage Beach, MO 65065

Free Refreshments for Happy Hour

Doors open at 5:00pm | Dinner at 7:00pm *live entertainment after dinner*

Guns, Raffles
 Chance to win a prize
 from the 2017 Core Book
 and much more!

**RSVP by Dec. 31st and get a chance at a
 FREE 2017 GUN OF THE YEAR**



Meet chapters from all across the state | Contact your Regional Director for details



Special room block if you
 reserve your room by Dec. 31st
 Mention that you're there
 for the NWTF event
573-348-3131

An Ocellated Adventure... continued from page 1



building the blind he found a Macho roosted in a tree just on the edge of the field. We quickly shifted the blind to face the other direction and waited for daybreak. At dawn he hit the call and the Macho answered with their version of a gobble. Moments later he flew down into the field, but was behind a part of the blind where I could not see. After what seemed like an eternity, Jose grabbed me and told me to rotate to my left very carefully. Upon doing so I noticed the blue head of the ocellated turkey peeking above the stalks of cut corn. We waited for the bird to drop his head, then I got my gun up and into position. "Shoot" whispered Jose and that's exactly what I did. The 35 yard shot connected and the bird went down. We busted out of the blind and raced to the downed bird. Success! He weighed in at over 10lbs and had 1 1/4th and 1 1/8th inch spurs. The colors were unbelievable and I cannot wait to have the mount back. I can't thank the NWTF and Jon McRoberts enough for an amazing opportunity and experience of a lifetime!

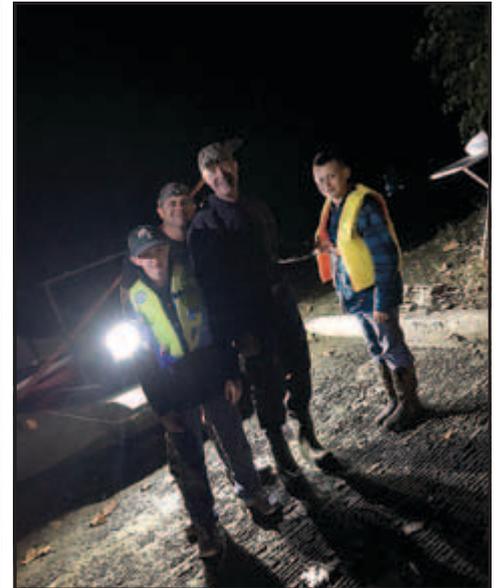
To learn more about ocellated turkey hunting I recommend:
<http://www.yukkutzhunting.com/>

CONGRATS!



Contratulations to Gasconade River gobblers scholarship recipient Liam McDaniel.

Hickory County Jakes & Jennies Host Giging Outting



On October 1, 2016 the Hickory County Jakes and Jennies Chapter in conjunction with the Missouri Department of Conservation hosted a youth fish giging clinic. During the clinic we took out 16 kids ages 9-13 to gig on the Pomme De Terre River just north of Hermitage. We had a fish fry for all the kids and parents before the clinic began. Even though there was only one fish killed by the kids at the clinic they all had a good time and were able to try and gig fish. The clinic could not have happened without Superfund money which paid for the equipment to set up a boat to gig from. We used a second boat in order to get all the kids out in a reasonable time frame. We plan to try and host another clinic later this winter and in the years to come. The clinic was a success thanks to all the Chapter members of the Hickory County Jakes and Jennies, Conservation Agents from the Missouri Department of Conservation, and help from the US Army Corps of Engineers at Pomme De Terre Lake.

SAVE THE HABITAT. SAVE THE HUNT.



We have entered our fifth 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.

As the attached dashboard indicates, you are helping keep Missouri in the front of the pack. Your hard work and commitment at the local level have placed us number one in the nation in super fund dollars raised, we are second in acres conserved and enhanced, and fourth in hunters created. Although our goals both nationally and at the state level have been aggressive, we are on track to hit our marks and it is thanks to your efforts!

As well as we are doing we could always do better. This is especially true as it relates to our hunter creation goals. Initially, we established an annual goal of 4,000 created through hunter education and mentored hunts. The board did not adjust this because it is still felt that this is an achievable number. A common problem here and elsewhere continues to be lack of reporting. Please help us do a better job of tracking the great things that you are accomplishing.

We have just finished a few hunting seasons and are in the middle of a few others so the memories of these wonderful experiences should be fresh in everyone's minds. If you took a new hunter

afield (as defined below) or are a hunter education instructor please take the minute or two to contact me and let me know so that I can record this information. Call me at 573-676-5994 or send an e-mail to jburk@nwtf.net

The information I will need for mentored hunts is: 1. Name, 2. Chapter affiliation, 3. Date of hunt, 4. Number of new hunters created

The information I will need for hunter education is: 1. Name, 2. Chapter affiliation, 3. Number of students attending, 4. Hunter Education instructor ID number, 5. Remember the metrics for counting hunters: A. Someone that you take hunting that has never hunted previously. B. Someone that you take hunting that has lapsed at least one season. C. 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)

Order Your Spring Seed Here!

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

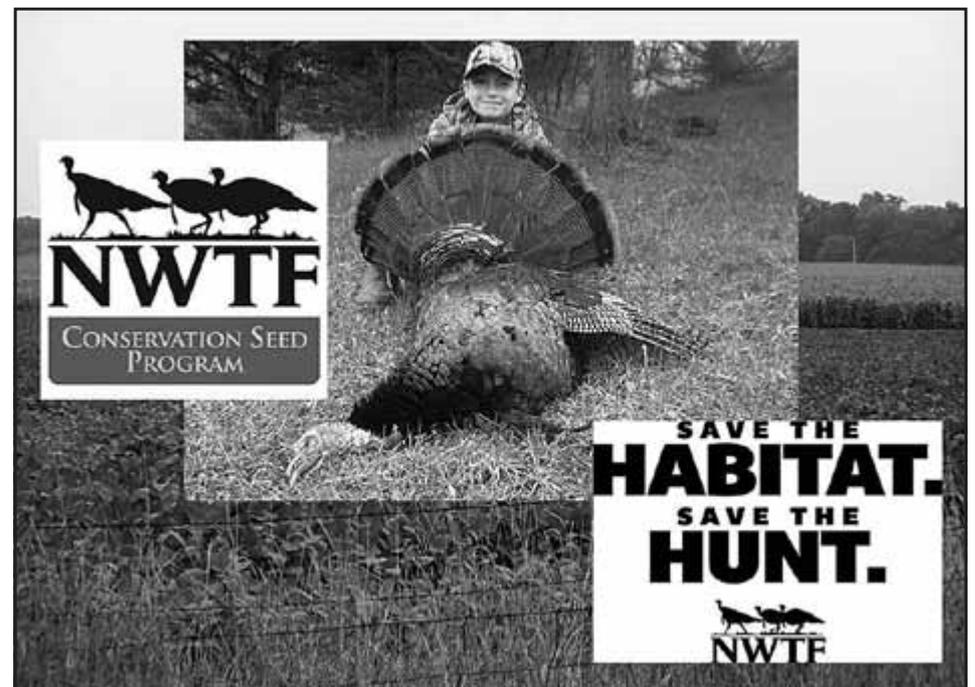
can have it delivered so it may not be close to you. The delivery locations will likely be Kirksville, St. Louis, and Cape Girardeau.

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.

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, soybeans, milo, and Clearfield sunflowers. The corn and sunflowers will be \$35/50lb bag and the beans and milo will be \$10/50lb 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 infor-

mation 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 Number: (_____) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

- Number of bags of RR corn (5 bag limit) _____ (should be around \$35.00/50lb. bag)
- Number of bags of sunflower _____ (should be around \$35.00/40lb. bag)
- Number of bags of RR soybeans _____ (should be around \$10.00/50lb. bag)
- Number of bags of milo _____ (should be around \$10.00/50lb. bag)

Your Time is Valuable and We Thank You for Sharing it With US!

By Jason L. Isabelle

“It’s almost here.” It seems that we think that a lot. It’s almost Christmas; it’s almost muzzle loader season; it’s almost time for our annual NWTF banquet. Time goes by in a hurry and with all the demands for our time, from work and family obligations, finding time to hunt, fish, or otherwise enjoy the outdoors, to serving on your local NWTF committee, effectively budgeting our time can be a challenge. As NWTF staff, we certainly recognize and appreciate the efforts of you, our members and volunteers. Our members support us by purchasing the memberships that fund the organization, and our volunteers do this as well as pound the pavement in their local communities, on their time, to organize the banquets and implement the programs that make Save The Habitat. Save The Hunt. happen. The passion and hard work of our volunteers is the key to our success and our continued success is linked to constantly growing our volunteer base.

Volunteerism is something that burns within; a passion that drives some of us to want to share that passion we feel and do something to give back and make a difference. Our newsletter goes out to every current adult member in our state and there are over 9,000 of us. Therefore, if you are reading this, you are already giving more than most because there are over 100,000 turkey hunters in Missouri. You bought the membership because you believe in what we are doing and decided to help us further our mission. However, if you currently aren’t a volunteer and would like to be, please consider contacting a committee member or staff person, to see what you might be able to do to help us.

The contact information for your Regional Director is included in this newsletter and we can hook you up with committee folks in your area or if you live in a community that currently doesn’t have a chapter and you would like to start one, we can set you up there as well. How committees function throughout the state varies and it is up to the committee leadership how they decide to conduct business. Some chapters are very involved, raise a lot of money, and do a lot of work throughout the year to make their chapters successful and their footprint large and deep. However, we also have a lot of smaller chapters and their collective efforts are just as important to our overall success.

As someone considering volunteering, especially when considering time budgeting concerns mentioned above, the prospect can be fairly daunting. Images of, “All you have to do is go out and sell 50 tickets, sign up 10 sponsors, and get 15 donations for our banquet” can scare folks away from making a commitment. Everyone wants to feel like the time they give makes a difference and there is a spot for you at whatever level you chose to be involved. Some folks are really well connected in the community and have no problem selling tickets and getting folks to attend. Others may be better suited to taking care of local arrangements like getting bids from caterers, or putting together a list of potential sponsors. Whatever you’d be willing to do would be appreciated and the more folks we can get involved, the more successful we can be and the less work it is for everyone that is involved in raising the money that makes our mission happen.

For those of you already in the trenches; first of all, THANK YOU; you are the gas that makes the Save The Habitat. Save The Hunt engine hum! As we get closer to January, and the start of the majority of our annual banquets, let’s all use our time wisely, and plan and work to make a difference. The earlier your local chapter holds your organizational meeting to plan your 2017 event, the more successful you will be. It is great to get together, look over the 2017 merchandise catalogue, and visit with everyone on the committee. Hopefully you have identified, and reached out to new prospective committee members prior to your first meeting.

When gearing up for banquet season here are some things to consider:

- Although having a physical meeting has benefits beyond taking care of business, there is a lot of business that can be covered without having to meet.
- Some chapters have set up Facebook pages with a closed group, and everyone posts their progress on there.
- Some committee members text between themselves as to their progress.
- There are some things that have to be covered (i.e. reservation of the hall, commitment from FFL, auctioneer, caterer). Identifying someone to check on these things and report on them via some of the options mentioned allows things to move forward.

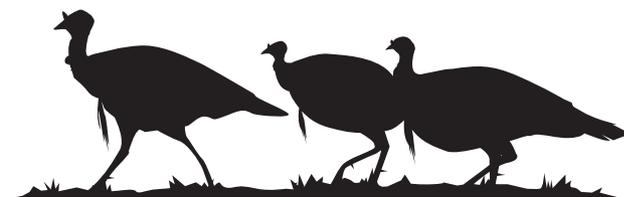


Although we don’t have to meet prior to doing any business, as mentioned above, there is still a lot of value in holding chapter meetings. The fellowship we share as committee members, working together in our efforts to Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. strengthens our resolve to make a difference. Whether you chose to have regularly scheduled meetings or not please make sure to keep your Regional Director informed of what is going on. We want to be directly involved in your efforts and help you as much as we can to make your lives easier and your banquets as successful as we can. However, please understand that your Regional Directors each have about 30 events so it is challenging for us to attend at a moment’s notice so advanced notice ensures that we can make as many of your meetings as we can.

The NWTF staff feels like 2017 is going to, once again, be a tremendous year in our state. We have some new chapters formed, our product lineup looks great, and we have the best volunteers in the nation. We have continued to grow our organization in Missouri by increasing our sponsor member numbers as well as our adult and youth memberships. As a result, we will be able to fund a great variety of projects across the state in the coming year.

We will be celebrating our joint successes for 2016 at our Missouri State Awards event on January 7, 2017 at Tan Tar A Resort at Lake of the Ozarks. I hope you will consider attending. We will have the 2017 product to raffle off, several great firearms, and an evening of fun, fellowship, and a great meal. Please contact your Regional Director for tickets. This event is for all NWTF members in our state, and if you are not currently serving as a committee volunteer, this event is a great place to network and make the contacts to get you on the NWTF team.

The NWTF staff would also like to thank you for your support of the organization. If you serve on a local committee, sponsor an event, or simply renew your membership each year, what you do is making a difference. In order to continue to ensure that we enjoy a lifestyle that includes all outdoor pursuits we hold dear, it will take all of us, and the time is here.



Wheelin Events

Perry County Gun Blast
01/26/2017 · 6:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Al Huber - (573) 517-1936
Location: Perryville K Of C Hall
Perryville, MO 63775

Ws Bootheel Bossgobblers Clay Bird Shoot
06/11/2017 · 8:30 AM (CST)
Contact: Bronson Senn
lneal@nwtf.net
Location: Cracraft Farms
Co Rd 316, Jackson, MO 63755

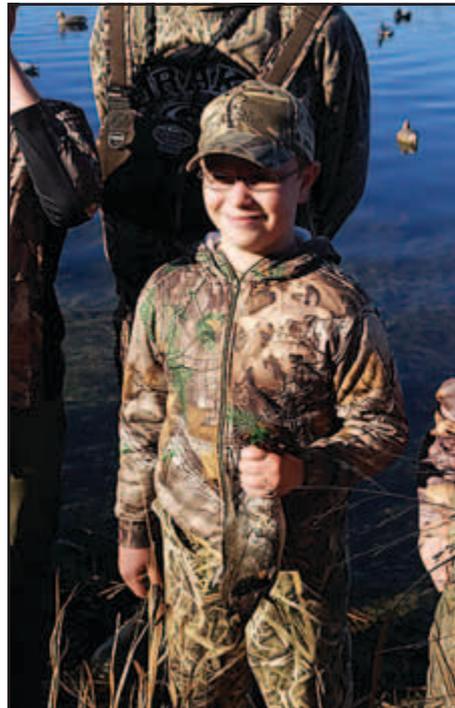
Ws Bootheel Boss Gobblers
06/11/2017 · 5:00 PM (CST)
Contact: Timothy Schwent
tjscpa@swbell.net - (573) 225-3740
Location: Jackson Civic Center
381 East Deerwood Drive, Jackson, MO 63755

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 with a brief photo description and they will be considered for the harvest page section of your Show Me Gobbler newsletter.



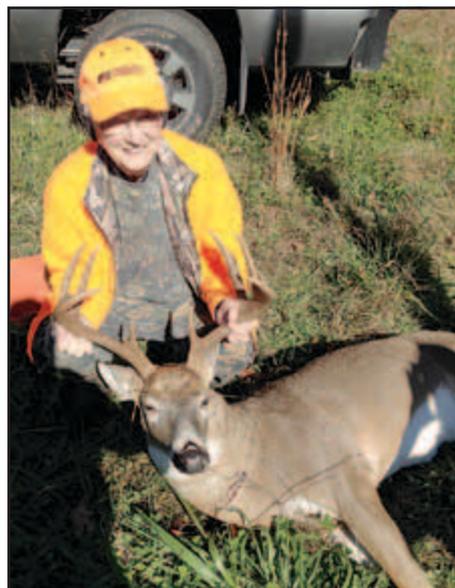
Wesley Findly of the Kirksville Ridge Runners tags out with a fine pair of NEMO bucks in 2016.



Congratulations to Lucas Mercurio on his first bird a green wing teal!



Matt Oesch also of Youngs Creek Strutters with his rifle buck.



Mrs Smith at 80 years young with her big deer this year from the Dent County Thundering Toms chapter in Salem MO.



Brandt Martin, son of Midstate Chapter President Jody with his first rifle buck.



Lucas, Jacob and the Fritz brothers at the Mo Muddy Kids event.



Members of the Bootheel Boss Gobblers Chapter had a good rifle season opener. Pictured from left to right are: Alex Parker, Brandon Job, Chris Sawyer, and Bill Carroll.



Jody Martin, President of the Midstate Chapter with a great archery buck.



North MO RD Mike Allen with his 2016 rifle buck.



Lacy Oesch of the Youngs Creek Strutters with a good rifle buck.



Eddie Schultz of Youngs Creek Strutters with a fine bow buck.



Logan Burk, son of RB John with his rifle buck.



Brennen Serio nephew of Midstate Chapter President Jody Martin with a dandy.



Dry Fork Strutters Day at the Fishing Hole. Their event brought together 90 participants.

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

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Map showing location: WHEELAND, MISSOURI, with nearby towns like COLLEA, WHEELAND, PRESTON, BUFFALO, and SPRINGFIELD. Highway markers for 13, 54, and 65 are shown.