



SHOW-ME GOBBLER

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

Volume 40 Number 1 • Spring 2019

Clay Howlett Memorial Chapter Hosts 4th Annual JAKES Event and Mentored Youth Turkey Hunt.



R.J. Peace of St. Robert and his spring turkey.

The Clay Howlett Memorial Chapter held their 2019 JAKES Event on March 23. Eight first time turkey hunters between the ages of 11-15 participated in a turkey hunting workshop where they learned about turkey biology, turkey hunting techniques and calling, turkey hunting regulations, hunting safety, and shotgun patterning. Youth who attended the workshop were selected to participate in a mentored turkey hunt on April 6-7 at the farm of Art and Kathy Booth near Richland.

The hunters arrived early on opening morning and were paired with a conservation agent or NWTF member who served as hunting guides. On the opening morning of youth season, Evan Farris of Camdenton knocked down his first long beard and so did R.J. Peace of St. Robert. Kyle Wilking

of Waynesville shot a jake the following morning on his first ever hunting trip. The other hunters all experienced close encounters with toms but did not leave with a turkey.

Special thanks are due to Art and Kathy Booth for their idea to sponsor the hunt by opening their property to the hunters and their hospitality for feeding and hosting everyone. The Booth's have done a tremendous job of managing their habitat to produce excellent nesting habitat for turkeys. In addition, they invested significant time in pre-hunt planning and scouting to ensure that mentors and hunters would be able to maximize the effectiveness of their time afield.

continued on page 3

2019 Governor's Youth Hunt

The 2019 Governors Youth Turkey Hunt marks the 11th year of this very special event. The hunt serves as a recognition, by our government, of the importance of natural resources and, more specifically, hunting, to the citizenry. It is also a celebration of Missouri's leading role in recruiting, retaining, and reactivating hunters. This hunt is a cooperative effort between Governor Mike Parson, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Most of the landowners and guides are our members; without you, this event would not be possible! Especially to you landowners, this incredibly special gift that you willingly give year after year cannot be repaid. Please know that all involved are aware of this and that your efforts truly are making a difference with mission delivery and, more importantly, in the cherished memories that you made possible. THANK YOU!!!

This year's hunt was very special in that the Hamilton family reached out to us also wanting to support this event in honor of their son Kyle. Kyle was a young, dedicated outdoorsman with a special place in his heart for turkey hunting that passed away in early February. We are grateful for their contribution that helped make this event possible. The event would also not

be possible without the support of the following folks that offered up their properties and served as guides:

Guide

R.L. Bennett
Jason Isabelle
Bruce Sassmann
Eldo Meyer
Dave Groenke
Stan Kloeppe
Don Masek
Kenny Walker
Don Dettmann
Kirk Ekern
Stan Fredrick
Brandt Masek
Jim Cihy
Cole Cihy
Kyle Lairmore
Issac Reed
Brandon Butler
Logan Burk
Tracy Alferman
John Burk
Shawn Wagner

Landowner

R.L. Bennett
Bill Haag
Bruce Sassmann
Eldo Meyer
Dave Groenke
Stan Kloeppe
Don Masek
Stan Fredrick
Don Dettmann
Jerry Lairmore
Shawn Wagner
Lucas Oil
Jim Meehan
Brandon Butler
George Huffman
Tracy Alferman



Kyle Hamilton as a young boy shows off his turkey.

continued on page 5

Marias Des Cygnes River Gobblers Youth Hunt

Big shout out to Jakes member Brylee who shot this stud of a bird opening day of youth season at 8 yards. 25.2 pounds 4 beards totaling over 30" and 1.25 spurs. She was on the annual Jakes hunt from Marias Des Cygnes River Gobblers chapter.



Message From Mike

Spring is finally here, thank goodness! The grass is turning green and starting to grow, the buds are appearing on trees and shrubs, and things are looking up here in Adair County. This past weekend was youth turkey season, and the regular season is just around the corner. Hopefully you were able to mentor a youth hunter and enjoyed some kind of success; almost a certainty if your measure is more than just a notched tag.

With the arrival of spring, the NWTF banquet season is almost over. The majority of banquets are held in our state and across the country in the first four months of the year. The majority of the funding we raise to deliver our mission is secured during this time of year. It's a busy time for your Regional Director staff as we are working on chapter dates for 2020, completing gun and general merchandise orders, and still helping you with the banquets in your communities throughout the state. It is helpful if you touch base with your RD and firm up your 2020 date, location, etc.; planning done now will pay off in spades for your event next year. For those chapters that have held your banquet, taking a little time to say thanks to your sponsors and donors is a great investment. Maybe you can have a wrap-up meeting and go over the numbers deciding what went well, where improvements might be made, and write a few thank you notes. Again, it is an investment in your future success.

There are still several banquets that will happen in 2019. Help us finish strong. Missouri continues to be in the top tier of state chapters in our organization, and we want to stay there. Helping us sign up members, have good, profitable banquets, and mentoring new hunters will ensure that your state continues to set the bar high.

With the arrival of spring, there is usually an uptick in JAKES events. Please make sure to let your RD know at least 30 days in advance when and where your event will be. We all understand that mentoring new hunters is the future for not only the NWTF, but for hunting as a whole. Your chapters JAKES event can certainly be a mentored hunt and it does not have to be a turkey hunt. Squirrel season offers great opportunities to introduce someone to the hunting world. It also allows a mentor to take more than one hunter, and still have the chance for a successful hunt. Just make sure to check for ticks when you get done! If you would like some ideas, or advise, reach out to your RD or District Biologist; we are here to help. Getting kids outdoors is great, and a JAKES day does that. Taking them hunting is even better!

As always, thank you so much for what you do to support the National Wild Turkey Federation!

*Mike Allen,
Regional Director*



NWTF

Conserve. Hunt. Share.

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.

Missouri Hunting Heritage Banquets

Branson Tri-Lakes

06/08/2019 - 5:30 PM
 Contact: Charles J Livingston (417) 699-3481
 Location: STONEBRIDGE
 50 Stone Bridge Parkway
 Branson West, MO 65737

Clearwater Longbeards

06/22/2019 - 5:00 PM
 Contact: Richard Ayers (573) 223-2356
 Location: Trinity Methodist Church
 Highway 34
 Piedmont, MO 63957

Ozark Mountain Gobblers

08/03/2019 - 5:00 PM
 Contact: Kenneth Sherrill (573) 546-3392
 Location: Arcadia Valley Elks
 204 S. McCune Street
 Pilot Knob, MO 63663

Nolan R. Hutcheson Memorial

08/23/2019 - 5:30 PM
 Contact: Randy Lewis (417) 260-5602
 Location: Intercounty Electric
 102 Maple Avenue
 Licking, MO 65542

Crowleys Ridge Limbangers

06/14/2019 - 5:30 PM
 Contact: Dale Kemp (573) 624-9769
 Location: ELKS Lodge
 325 Two Mile Road
 Dexter, MO 63841

Finley River Chapter

07/20/2019 - 5:00 PM
 Contact: Scharlene Hughes (417) 581-7863
 Location: Christian County ELKS
 2400 N 18th Street
 Ozark, MO 65721

Delta Bootheel Gobblers

08/15/2019 - 5:30 PM
 Contact: Rick Branch (573) 576-2955
 Location: American Legion Hall Kennett
 1615 First Street
 Kennett, MO 63857

David Blanton Memorial

08/24/2019 - 5:00 PM
 Contact: Darren & Lori Jones (417) 746-4854
 Location: Mt. Grove YMCA
 1 YMCA Drive
 Mt. Grove, MO 65711

Bollinger County Double Beards

06/15/2019 - 4:30 PM
 Contact: Jackie Rowe (573) 579-9170
 Location: First Baptist Church of Marble Hill
 502 Broadway
 Marble Hill, MO 63764

Locust Creek Longbeards

07/27/2019 - 5:30 PM
 Contact: Kirk Hendershott (660) 216-9991
 Location: Milan Community Center
 203 N. Market St
 Milan, MO 63556

River Bottom Gobblers

08/17/2019 - 5:00 PM
 Contact: Mickey Moody (573) 333-0662
 Location: Caruthersville Armory
 801 West Third Street
 Caruthersville, MO 63830

Truman Lake Chapter

08/31/2019 - 5:30 PM
 Contact: Christopher Tucker (660) 885-4486
 Location: Benson Convention Center
 1008 E. Sedalia St
 Clinton, MO 64735

The Parkville Gobblers Host Boy Scout Event



The Parkville Gobblers sponsored Kansas City Boy Scout Troop 1395's Annual Shotgun Campout this year. Around 40 youth went through almost 4 cases of shotgun shells. Many of the children had not shot before this event. This troop also helps with our raffles and auction at the banquet as well as folding and storing a lot of tables and chairs. Nice to give back to the area groups that help us raise money each year.

Clay Howlett continued from page 1.

Sincere appreciation is due to MDC Conservation Agents Jared Milligan, Justin Emery, Casey Simmons, and Aaron Pondrom; State Board Member and Clay Howlett Memorial Chapter President Dave Howlett, NWTF members George Dalgetty and Tyler Gibson served as hunting guides. Hunters cannot be recruited and introduced to the sport without knowledgeable mentors willing to give of their time and talents. We appreciate their willingness to share their passion to ensure our hunting heritage.

Events like these are also how we ultimately achieve our Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. goals. Therefore, if you think your chapter might be interested in this worthwhile endeavor, start planning now. Even if you can't put on an event that hosts multiple hunters, invite someone new to share a hunting experience with you in a one on one hunt and then let us know about it by contacting John Burk at 573-676-5994 or jburk@nwtf.net.



Active Forest Management is Essential for Tree and Wildlife Health

By Justin Ferguson

Since the beginning of my tenure as the NWTF's Project Forester in the St. Francois Knob region, I have had the pleasure of visiting with many landowners to discuss their goals and their vision for the future of their properties. As a Forester, I am tasked with weighing environmental and economic factors in order to provide the best advice that I can to the landowner. Every property and owner is different and the desired outcome is unique. However, there is one near constant that I have noticed.

Through observation of a multitude of properties, I can safely conclude that the vast majority of forestland I have encountered would benefit from some degree of thinning. Without active management or disturbance, forests become overstocked with trees. Forests that are overstocked lose their productivity in both mast and wood volume production. A common measurement Foresters use when assessing forest stand is basal area per acre. This measurement is an estimate of the cross sectional area of each tree over an acre measured at a height of 4.5ft. This measurement is useful because it provides insight into both size and number of trees within the stand. Generally, turkeys prefer forests with a basal area of 60-80/acre. Basal areas exceeding 100/acre are common.

Forest Stand Improvement (FSI) is an umbrella term for pre-commercial thinning treatments that involve cutting or killing trees of undesirable species or poor growing stock in order to manipulate forest composition, structure and density. Trees retained after the thinning are freed from competition and can expand their crowns, increasing their mast and woody biomass production. Openings in the canopy result in increased forest regeneration and herbaceous growth on the forest floor. Trees left standing dead create den trees. FSI treatments are tailored to each forest



Open woodlands are ideal nesting and brood rearing habitat for turkeys.

stand within a property and can be utilized to encourage forest health and vigor, enhance wildlife habitat, promote regeneration of desirable species, and restore ecosystems.

When management for turkey habitat is the goal, prescribed fire in conjunction with thinning should not be overlooked. On some sites, a dramatic reduction in basal area will result in a flush of thick forest regeneration. While this may be desirable bedding habitat for deer, turkeys generally will not feel comfortable with the reduced visibility and will avoid these areas. Well timed prescribed fire can be

utilized to control regeneration. On suitable sites, FSI can be conducted and prescribed fire implemented on rotation for the purpose of woodland restoration. Woodlands have less canopy coverage than forests, as well as little to no mid-story and understory trees, resulting in abundant growth of grasses and forbs on the forest floor. Restoration of woodlands, where practical, provide excellent brooding and nesting habitat for turkeys, as well as high quality browse for deer.

Landowners in Missouri managing their forestlands have many great resources available to them. There

are several cost-share programs with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Natural Resource Conservation Service that can assist landowners with forest and wildlife habitat management on their properties. Interested landowners can receive technical forestry assistance by contacting their local MDC Private Lands Conservationist or private consulting forester. If your property is within my service area of Washington, Jefferson, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Madison or Iron Counties I can provide assistance. Please contact me at (309) 453-1283 or a jferguson@nwtf.net

Please consider sharing your story in the Show Me Gobbler Publication
Updated submission deadline is — April 15, July 15 & November 30

Governor's Youth Hunt continued from page 1.



Guide Cole Cihy, Brady Murr, and guide Brandon Dority.



Liam Rasmussen, and guide Eldo Meyer had a successful day.



Guide Shawn and Lily Wagner making memories.

During the 2019 youth season, the weather was pretty favorable compared to 2018. However, the results were pretty similar with 4 out of the 22 kids participating, harvesting birds. Youth weekend is always a little early as far as timing. Not too long ago we were still scraping ice off of our windshields in the morning and the birds are still pretty bunched up. As a result, most of the folks I talked to, both affiliated with the Governors Youth Hunt as well as others that took kids independently this weekend, reported very sparse gobbling activity. An additional curveball that may have effected some areas was a decent red oak crop so the birds were still in the woods scratching around and not as prone to field hunting tactics that usually produce youth season results. Although not the official total at this writing, the state-wide harvest was 2,548 which is slightly better than last year but a bit short of the 4,000 that is closer to what is usually taken. Despite the lack of success measured in beards for the beard board, Missouri youths that participated in the Governors Youth Turkey Hunt were blessed with being able to get out and partake of one of Missouri's greatest outdoor experiences. Most had the opportunity to hear turkeys gobbling, many had a chance to "watch the show," some missed, and some were not able to take advantage of the opportunities presented. However, I think all had a wonderful time and would probably admit that turkey hunting is pretty cool.

The Governors Youth Turkey Hunt is just one event that we coordinate in an attempt to connect more people to the joys of a hunting lifestyle. Mentored hunts take our popular outreach programs to the next level providing a hands-on hunting experience that will ideally complete the hunter creation circle. Many of our chapters offer their own hunts and we are gearing up to plant our dove fields for our fall mentored dove hunting events that are available to any new hunter regardless of age. Mentored hunts play heavily into the achievement of Missouri's portion of the 1.5 million hunters that we will create for Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. However, the only way we can tally the number of hunters created through mentored hunts carried out by our members is if they are reported by those individuals that provide them.



Harper Pinkston and guide R.L. Bennett on a succesful youth season hunt in 2019.

this past April 6th and 7th as well as many more April 15th through May 5th. Please help us achieve our Save the Hunt goals by taking a minute or two to fill out one of our Hunter Recruitment Reporting Forms. These forms and reporting instructions can be found at www.monwtf.org/news/. You can also contact me at 573-676-5994 or e-mail me at jburk@nwtf.net to report this information. Let's all continue to make a difference by taking someone new with us whenever we can.

*Turkey Hunting
Headquarters
of Northeast Missouri*



"Second best cheeseburger in town"
Kirksville, MO

Like us on Facebook
www.dukuminn.com

I know that we created 21 new hunters through our Governors' Youth Turkey Hunt this past spring and these were recorded as part of our total. However, I also know that our members provided similar opportunities to youths across the state

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.



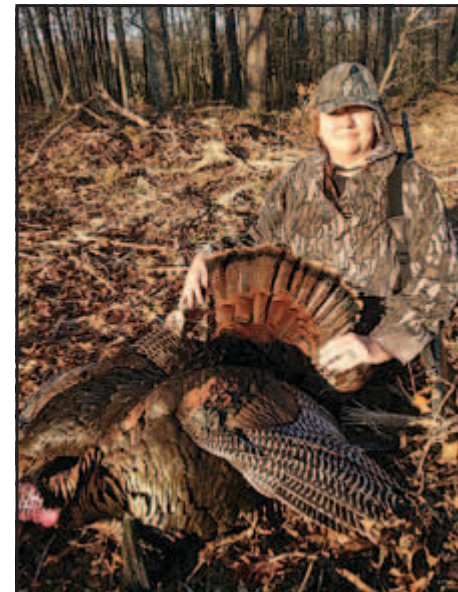
4 Rivers Chapter President Eldo Meyer with his opening day gobbler.



Mark McCorkendale President of the Ray County Short Spurs and his son Tom with a pair of 2019 opening day longbeards.



Chuck Stewart of the Heartland Gobblers with his 2018 bird.



Sherry Lindeman, wife of Larry Lindeman (Rocky-top Limbhangers Committee Member) and her first turkey.



Rhett Pollard (Jason's nephew) with his youth season longbeard.



Kale Pollard (son of state board member Jason) With a fine youth season bird.



Harry Chapin and Larry Lindeman double up on big Gobblers. Both with Rocky Top Limbhangers chapter West Plains.

Missouri Wheelin' Sportsman Events

WS Bootheel Boss Gobblers

06/08/2019
Contact: Timothy Schwent (573) 225-3740
Location: Jackson KC Lower Hall
Hwy 61 North
Jackson, MO 63755

WS Bootheel Boss Gobblers Clay Bird Shoot

06/08/2019
Contact: Bronson Senn (573) 225-3087
Location: Cracraft Farms
Co Rd 316
Jackson, MO 63755

Perry County Gun Blast

08/01/2019 - 6:00 PM
Contact: Al Huber (573) 517-1936
Location: Perryville K of C Hall
Perryville, MO 63775

Platte Purchase Sportsmans Night Out

08/08/2019 - 6:00 PM
Contact: Bryan Lukehart (816) 244-6858
Location: Pony Express Museum
914 Penn St
St. Joseph, MO 64503

Perry County Gun Blast

08/15/2019
Contact: Al Huber (573) 517-1936
Location: Perryville K of C Hall
Perryville, MO 63775

Heartland Gobblers Gun Blast

08/20/2019
Contact: Cordell Stewart (573) 222-7182
Location: American Legion Hall
2320 Kanell Blvd
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

Sho-Me Gun Bash

08/30/2019 - 6:00 PM
Contact: Kevin Hess (417) 521-7447
Location: Shrine Mosque
601 East St Louis Street
Springfield, MO 65802

Bootheel Boss Gobblers Gun Blast

10/08/2019 - 6:00 PM
Contact: Timothy Schwent (573) 225-3740
Location: Jackson K of C Hall
Hwy 61 North
Jackson, MO 63755

River Hills Thunderin Gun Bash

10/10/2019 - 6:00 PM
Contact: Rob Sulkowski Jr (573) 883-9982
Location: Ste Gen K of C Hall
600 Market Street
Ste Genevieve, MO 63627

Heartland Gobblers Gun Blast

10/17/2019
Contact: Cordell Stewart (573) 222-7182
Location: American Legion Hall
2320 Kanell Blvd
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

The George C. Clark Missouri State Chapter Scholarship Winners



Amanda Sencenbaugh receives her scholarship from Pike County Twin Rivers President Tim Brooks.



Payton Schuster receives her Scholarship from Summit Ridge Longbeards President Glenn Farris.



Hayden Dorrell received his Yellow Creek Gobblers scholarship from Brent Vandeloecht as well as his check for placing second state-wide.



Payton Hays receives her scholarship from NEMO President Travis Moore.



Olivia Browning receives her scholarship from Cooper County Limbhangers Gene Walje.



Trevor Anthony, Kara Lovelace, and Nick Stone receive scholarships from Lincoln Hills President Jay Herring.



Aubrey Summers was awarded a \$500 scholarship from the Carroll County Longbeards.



The Green Hill Chapter of the NWTF awarded three scholarship awards this year. Pictured L - R: Logan Dunkin, Isaac Harris, and Dylan Harris.



Bootheel Boss Gobblers Scholarship Winners 2019: Bootheel Boss Gobblers awarded 2 scholarships on February 9! First place went to Hailey Farmer of Jackson High School. Second place went to Ben Janson of Notre Dame High School of Cape Girardeau

The George C. Clark Missouri State Chapter

Awards & Recognition

On January 5th, 2019 The Missouri State Chapter held their annual Board Meeting at Tan Tara resort complex where super fund projects for the 2019 calendar year were ranked and approved for funding. That evening, NWTF staff also held the annual State Awards event where individuals and chapters were recognized for their achievements during the 2018 fiscal year. The following were the results:

14 chapters were recognized as being members of the Half Million Dollar Club representing their cumulative earnings for Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt: Big River Gobblers, Kirksville Ridgerunners, Lincoln Hills, MidState, NEMO, North Central Missouri, Ozark Mountain Gobblers, Perry County Beards and Spurs, Platte Purchase, River Hills Thundering Longbeards, St. Louis Longbeards, Sho Me, Upper Meramec Longspurs and newly inducted Tick Ridge.

5 chapters were recognized as being members of the Million Dollar Club representing their cumulative earnings for Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt: 4 Rivers, Gateway Longspurs, Heartland Gobblers, Pike County Twin Rivers, St. Louis Sponsor.

1 chapter was recognized as being a member of the exclusive One-and-Half Million Dollar Club representing their cumulative earnings for Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt: Bootheel Boss Gobblers.



Tick Ridge Members (left to right) Marisa Kerns, President John Kerns, Bart and Teresa White.



The Pike County Twin Rivers Chapter took 2nd in best overall chapter, 1st in Sponsors, and 3rd in Net Dollars. Pike County Twin Rivers Members (left to right) Melinda and Roy St. Clair, Tim Brooks, Weston Graham, Parker Graham, Melinda Brooks, Carle Graham, Joey Graham



David Blanton Memorial took 3rd in best overall chapter, 4th in Jakes, 3rd in Sponsors, 4th in Net Dollars, 1st in Net to Gross, and 1st in Dollar increase in Net Dollars. Pictured L- R: Darren Jones, Lori Jones, Geoff Casper, Robin Hicks, and Tony Dugger.



The Bootheel Boss Gobblers took top honors as a chapter for the year placing 1st in L.A. Dixon cumulative chapter score, 2nd in Jakes, 1st in Adult Members, 2nd in Sponsors, 1st in Net Dollars, and 5th in Net to Gross, and were also nationally recognized as a Grand Slam Chapter. Bootheel Boss Gobblers Members (left to right) Rob Stover, Charlie Beard, Tim Schwent, RD Larry Neal.

The **St. Louis Sponsor Chapter** took 4th in best overall chapter, 2nd in Adult Members, and 2nd in Net Dollars.

Kirksville Ridgerunners took 5th in best overall chapter, 4th in Adult Members, 5th in Sponsors, 5th in Net Dollars, and 3rd in Net to Gross.

Other Chapters Recognized Included: Southern Ozark Longbeards for 1st in JAKES, Bollinger County Double Beards for 3rd in Jakes and 5th in Adult Member, Current River Callers for 5th in Jakes, Sho Me for 3rd in Adult Members, Crowleys Ridge Limbhangers for 4th in Sponsors and 2nd in Dollar Increase in Net Dollars, Ray County Shortspurs for 2nd in Net to Gross and 5th in Dollar Increase in Net Dollars, Carroll County Longbeards for 4th in Net to Gross and 3rd in Dollar Increase in Net Dollars, Big River Gobblers for 4th in Dollar Increase in Net Dollars, Shaky Ground Gobblers for 1st in Percent Increase in Net Dollars, Cooper County Limbhangers for 2nd in Percent Increase in Net Dollars, Lake Area Longbeards for 3rd in Percent Increase in Net Dollars, Rogersville Strutters for 4th in Percent Increase in Net Dollars, Ritchie Meredith Memorial for 5th in Percent Increase in Net Dollars, Cedar County Upland for Most Improved, Triple B for 2nd Most Improved, Marshfield Fullstruts for 3rd Most Improved, Springtown Wattlenecks for 4th Most Improved, and Finley River for 5th Most Improved.



Ben Doerge for the George C. Clark Award.



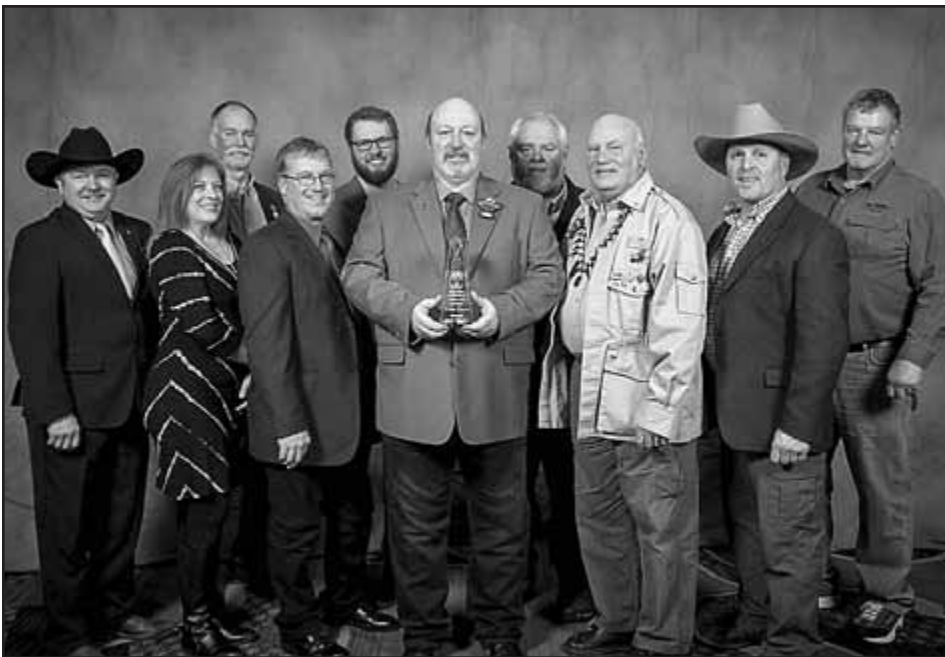
Tim Brooks for the John Lewis Lifetime Achievement Award.



K. Shannon Ohrenberg for Conservation Officer of the Year.



US Army Corp of Engineers for the Save the Hunt Award (left to right) DB John Burk and Rob Stover



Your Missouri State Chapter was #1 in the Country in the 7,500-9,999 member category. (left to right) RD Mike Allen, Anita Allen, RD Larry Neal, DB John Burk, RD Nate Carl, President R.L. Bennett, Rob Stover, Tim Schwent, RD Jason Brown, Vice President Dan Zerr.



Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative for the Save the Habitat Award (left to right) Michelle Gabelsberger (CFM), Gene Gardner (MRBO), Dave Erickson (Treasurer), John Burk (NWTF), Bill Mees (ASM), Rick Thom (MPF), Allison Vaughn (MODNR)



R.L. Bennett received the Wheel'n Sportsmen Volunteer of the Year Award and also accepted the Sho Me Chapters National Partnership Award.



Jackie Rowe (right) received the Mentored Hunt Award from RD Larry Neal.



Conservation Seed Program

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 national supply and demand. Therefore, placing an order only guarantees that you will get the seed IF it becomes available.

I order a limited amount of seed based upon past demand and although we MAY have seed available for walk-ins, we will NOT release any seed to folks that have not placed an order until those that did have been served.

The delivery locations will be Kirksville, St. Joseph, and St. Peters.

Seed location coordinators will contact everyone on the list associated with their site once the seed arrives.

All distribution sites **INCLUDING ST. Peters Coop** will have seed days and the seed will only be available for pick up on those days. The dates and times available for seed pickup will be determined by the coordinators of those sites and you will be notified of these dates and times.

The seed will be Roundup Ready corn, soybeans, and milo. Same rules apply, you 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 jb Burk@nwtf.net.

Name: _____ Phone (_____) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of bags of RR corn (5 bag limit) _____ (\$35.00/50lb. bag) Number of bags of RR soybeans) _____ (\$10.00/50lb. bag)

Number of bags of sunflower _____ (\$35.00/40lb. bag) Number of bags of milo _____ (\$10.00/50lb. bag)

Please check your preferred pick up location: Kirksville St. Joseph St. Peters

Winona Area Group (Gods Pro-Staff) Holds another successful youth event during Missouri's youth turkey season.

For the second year in a row, the Current River Callers Chapter supported the efforts of Gods Pro-Staff (GPS) during Missouri's youth turkey season. The 12 "first timers" invited to attend the event arrived at coordinator Greg Buckner's camp prior to the opening of the 4/6 and 7/19 season. First things first, the 12 young hunters amped up for their first try at spring turkey hunting, gathered around the campfire for a short talk about hunter's safety. Reminders were emphasized on how to carry and be safe with the shotguns, and the importance of always knowing where the business end was pointed and to be sure of the shot before taking it. The morning campfire meeting ended with a prayer and a reminder that we should always give thanks to God for providing us with the resources, desire and ability to hunt the wild turkey. Then it was into the vehicles around 5:30 a.m. with their guides and off to a dozen different spots on the Mark Twain National Forest with great expectations and anticipation of that first gobbler.

Greg took two of the boys with him (Rowdy Brown and Daniel Sandoval) and God was definitely smiling down on the trio opening morning. Shortly after the first calls were made 6 long beards approached from the left and young Daniel scored on his first turkey. The other 5 scattered and flew in all directions and despite the temptation to go to their prize, Greg instructed the boys to stay still. Other approaching birds had been close by prior to the shot so Greg called again. In less than a minute, two long beards approached from the right and Rowdy was able to put an exclamation point on a perfect morning in the Ozarks! Gabe Voyles also tagged a gobbler



Gabe Voyles with his spring gobbler at GPS.

with GPS over the weekend and most of the other 9 young hunters had a chance to shoot or at least were able to experience "playing the game."

That is something that we, as mentors, need to remind ourselves of. We tend to measure the success of a hunt by a body count. A harvest is tangible, it's ultimately the goal, and we want our hunters to experience the thrill of that moment as well as that sense of accomplishment. Most of us have taken a lot of birds over the years and have experienced thousands of hours afield. In fact, we can often take for granted the soul cleansing joy of simply being outdoors and experiencing



Greg Buckner (center) with Rowdy Brown (left) and Daniel Sandoval (right).

wild things and wild places. However, to many that we mentor, simply being in the field is measured as a success. Remember that the next time you contemplate sharing the precious gift of mentoring an outdoor experience with someone new to it. If you are taking them on a hunt, striving to successfully harvest the target animal is desired but don't forget that there is a lot more that you are sharing with the overall experience.

Hats off to Greg and his friends that are helping us make a difference! We look forward to the stories from seasons to come!

Save the Habitat Saved for a Hunt

The Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (MoBCI) is an organization of 73 conservation organizations, including the NWTF, dedicated to all bird conservation in Missouri. At the 2019 Awards Banquet held at Tan Tara on 1/5/19, members of the MoBCI steering committee were presented with the Save the Habitat award which was a box call (pictured in the photo with the shotgun and turkey). After the award was presented and the steering committee members were visiting at their table, Dave Erickson made the suggestion that the award ought to be used to harvest a turkey during the 2019 season. On day two of Missouri's turkey season, Dave made good on his pledge and tagged a fine adult gobbler using their Save the Habitat Award.

Since 2003, MoBCI has put over 4 million dollars to work improving bird habitat throughout Missouri. We have received over \$115,000 dollars in MoBCI money over the years that has allowed us to match our super fund dollars with the Missouri Department of Conservation, Columbia Audubon Society, the USFS, and the USFWS at more than 4:1 to help us achieve our Save the Habitat acreage goals.



MoBCI's Save the Habitat Award was put to good use on day two of the 2019 Missouri turkey season by Steering Committee Member Dave Erickson.



Steering Committee Member Dave Erickson with his 2019 turkey.

I thought it was a pretty symbolic occasion; the group that has helped us do great work for the wild turkey used the call we presented to them in honor of their generous support over the years, to harvest an animal that is the core of what motivates us to do the work. I can't think of a better way to show appreciation of the award and what it stands for.

David Blanton Memorial Chapter Holds Mentored Youth Turkey Hunt



Pictured L - R: Benjamin Smith, Jackson, and Beau Blair.

During the 2019 youth turkey season the David Blanton Memorial Chapter organized a mentored youth turkey hunt for 6 lucky young hunters. Benjamin Smith scored on a big Ozark tom that tipped the scales at 24.5lbs. and sported an 11" beard and 1.25" hooks, and Beau Blair harvested a fine jake. All 6 kids had a great time being indoctrinated into our fold and the chapter looks forward to hosting a similar event during the 2020 season!

The National Wild Turkey Federation
Show-Me Gobbler
c/o Bernard R. (Bernie) Grice, Jr.
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April 15, July 15 & November 30

An advertisement for Lucas Oil Speedway's 2019 schedule. The top half features a collage of various race cars, including a prominent orange and black car with 'Lucas Oil' branding. The bottom half contains a map of the area around Lucas Oil Speedway, showing nearby towns like Wheatland, Colerain, and Springfield, and highways 54, 65, and 13. The text 'VIEW THE FULL 2019 SCHEDULE ON LUCASOILSPEEDWAY.COM' is prominently displayed in large, bold letters.

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