

Turkey Is National Symbol For Thanksgiving

Benjamin Franklin wanted it for the national symbol. It is the icon for Thanksgiving dinners. Today, the wild turkey has almost a cult following of dedicated hunters who will go to practically any length and spend thousands of dollars to provide the ideal conditions for wild turkeys to flourish.

A little over a decade ago, turkey hunters in Adams and Franklin counties noted a disturbing trend. While turkey populations in other parts of Pennsylvania were enjoying an historic high density, the turkeys on South Mountain and the Michaux State Forest were becoming scarce. From that concern, a blend of people from the PA Game Commission, Michaux State Forest Bureau of Forestry, National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTFF) and three local chapters of the NWTFF formed a "Wild Turkey Task Force," to research the problem. Long a wildlife 'oasis,' in recent years South Mountain has been increasingly surrounded by urban sprawl. While urbanization has not treated turkeys well in the grand scheme of things, additional research from Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 5A, in which the state forest is located, revealed that perhaps a combination of factors are placing undue stress on turkeys. From this research, the task force has agreed upon certain recommendations.

1) Continue the closed fall turkey-hunting season in WMU 5A until data from turkey population indices show a steady population improvement for three consecutive years. The task force recently met and agreed that the population is not quite there yet, but the ultimate goal is to once again have a fall turkey season that the population can sustain. To err on the side of caution, the fall season would be a short, perhaps three-day, mid-week hunt. "Fall turkey hunting is the second most popular fall season, next to deer hunting. When we open the fall season here we don't want to place too much pressure on this turkey population and find ourselves right back where we started with a low turkey density," said Mary Jo Casalena, PGC wild turkey biologist who coordinates the task force meetings. The fall season in WMU 5A was closed in 2003 when research results showed that the fall turkey harvest was one factor suppressing the wild turkey population.

2) Turkey numbers in 5A will not be augmented by trapping and transferring wild birds from other areas. While this seems an easy quick fix, research indicates that doing so will likely not increase the population in the long term. Accurately managing and monitoring the natural population already in place is more sound management, and the population is now increasing.

3) Free ranging turkeys are susceptible to picking up rodenticides while foraging. The National Wild Turkey Federation is contacting orchard owners around South Mountain to offer assistance with building and distributing bait stations for ridding orchards of unwanted rodents rather than broadcasting rodenticides. These bait stations will help prevent accidental rodenticide poisoning of turkeys. While turkey mortality from rodenticide poisoning is small, it is another form of mortality that is preventable. The NWTFF hopes to supply the bait stations to orchard owners next fall. Fruit growers interested in participating may contact NWTFF regional biologist, Bob Eriksen, boberiksen@juno.com, for more details.

4) Members of the task force are monitoring the use of wildlife openings by hen turkeys and their broods within the Michaux State Forest to see if more time and money should be put into improving the habitat of these openings.

5) Road closures in the state forest during spring gobbler season and the turkey-nesting season will continue so as to minimize disturbance of nesting hens.

6) Acorn production is important to a healthy turkey habitat. The Michaux forestry staff are conducting timber stand thinning in certain sections of the state forest. This improves survival and growth of oaks and removes less desirable competitive tree species. This effort has been ongoing with thinning on more than 400 acres so far, according to Bureau of Forestry forester David Yeager.

7) Mountain laurel is only marginally useful as a habitat covering for turkeys and other species. It and other overly thick shrubs in areas where it is extensive will be removed to encourage growth of other shrubs and plants more beneficial to turkeys. A process called "scarification" uses a bulldozer with attached specialized equipment to disturb the forest soils. Then, special seeds and acorns are loosely tilled into the exposed soil and allowed to germinate. Almost 450 acres in the state forest already have been treated during the last two years, Yeager said. Yeager also has solicited the assistance of local sportsmen clubs to conduct habitat improvement projects on the state forest, such as fertilizing wildlife openings that are excellent turkey habitat all year-round.

8) Continue long-term monitoring of the turkey population in the Michaux State Forest, in order to evaluate the impacts of these management strategies.

Don Heckman, spokesperson for the PA Chapter NWTFF said the NWTFF has always been an activist in supporting measures to increase turkey habitat. "I suppose it may be difficult for nonhunters to understand the admiration and respect that we have for this magnificent, wary bird. To that end, the NWTFF, Game Commission, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and our local chapters will readily ally for a common cause - assuring healthy populations of free ranging wild turkeys."

Birth Announced



Jeremy and Marie Peters of McConnellsburg would like to announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, Alice Rebecca, born on October 2 at UPMC Bedford Memorial Hospital at 8:13 p.m.

She weighed 9 pounds 3 ounces and was 21 inches long. Alice is named after her grandmothers. Proud grandparents are Harold and Alice Goodwin of Port Matilda and Elmer and Rebecca Peters of Howard.

SBA Introduces Its Newest Online Resource for the Baby boomer generation of entrepreneurs

The U.S. Small Business Administration has unveiled a new Web site geared to the 50-plus entrepreneur, providing useful information, links and resources vital to starting, growing and expanding a small business. The new Web site at www.sba.gov/50plusentrepreneur

features interactive information and links to help 50-plus entrepreneurs consider the benefits and rewards of business ownership, and to help them make informed choices about business ownership.

"The SBA is working hard to increase opportunities for small businesses of the baby boomer generation at every stage of their business development through better technology tools and effective services through the agency's district offices and resource partners," SBA Acting Administrator Sandy K. Baruah said. "We believe 50-plus entrepreneurs will drive significant new business growth in the coming years."

Components of the new Web site include a self-assessment feature to help the aspiring entrepreneur determine his or her business readiness, information on borrowing and credit, and inspirational success stories from baby boomer entrepreneurs. The Web site will help users evaluate the reasons for business ownership after age 50, the risks involved, and how to devise a plan of action at every phase of business development.

This is the first new offering under the structure of the relaunched Office of Entrepreneurship Education (OEE). OEE combines SBA's online education programs, business and community initiatives, and outreach to underserved markets under a single umbrella.

As baby boomers consider career and lifestyle shifts that extend beyond their work careers, tapping into the world of business ownership can allow them to leverage their flexibility, know-how and business acumen to go into business for themselves. Many have already joined the ranks of the nation's self-employed and small business owners.

The SBA provides financial, management and technical assistance to thousands of small business owners throughout the country. The Web site can be accessed at all times, as well as the SBA's other online resources and free online training at www.sba.gov.

Wipe Out Lead Poisoning

National lead poisoning prevention week

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 19-25, is set aside to educate parents and children about the dangers of lead exposure, especially lead-paint hazards in housing.

The theme for this year's lead week, "Let's Wipe Out Lead Poisoning - Renovate Right!" highlights EPA's March 2008 rule requiring the use of lead-safe practices during renovation, repair and painting activities. Under the new rule, beginning in April 2010, contractors performing projects that disturb lead-based paint in homes, childcare facilities and schools built before 1978 must be certified and follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination.

Cracking, peeling or worn painted surfaces create lead dust and children come into contact with lead dust by playing on the floor, the ground, grabbing window sills and eating paint chips. Children are at great risk from environmental factors because pound for pound children breathe more air, drink more water and consume more food than adults.

For additional information on lead poisoning prevention week, please visit www.epa.gov/lead.

To learn more about lead renovation visit the Web site at: www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm.

PennDOT Presents School Bus Safety Awards

Students, drivers honored at school bus safety week kickoff

PennDOT recognized 12 Pennsylvania students for helping to communicate an important safety message and six school bus drivers for their superior driving skills during a ceremony Monday to kick off National School Bus Safety Week, which runs through Oct. 24.

The students, in kindergarten through eighth grade, were honored for their winning entries in the 2008 School Bus Safety Poster Contest. The theme for this year's contest, "Avoid Harm - Obey the Stop Arm," stressed the need for motorists to stop when a school bus is loading or unloading passengers.

"Through this contest, children have the opportunity to have fun, explore their creativity and, most importantly, raise awareness of the dangers of passing a stopped school bus illegally," said PennDOT Secretary Allen D. Biehler, PE.

PennDOT organizes a poster contest every year and invites statewide entries from public and private schools. This year's winners were chosen from more than 450 entries. Pennsylvania's first-place entries will be forwarded to a national competition to be judged next month.

During the ceremony, Janet L. Dolan, director of PennDOT's Bureau of Driver Licensing, and Sgt. Robert J. Krol, supervisor of the Pennsylvania State Police's commercial vehicle safety section, also presented certificates and governor's citations to six school bus drivers for winning the 2008 Pennsylvania School Bus Driver Safety Competition. The competition, held annually in June, tests school bus drivers' knowledge of safety rules and safe operation of their buses.

"School bus drivers face the difficult challenge of safely transporting children to and from school every day," said Krol. "Through their extraordinary dedication and commitment to safety, they have earned the trust of parents and guardians throughout the state, and we thank them for their continuing commitment to this very important role."

Krol said "Operation Safe Stop," held in conjunction with National School Bus Safety Week, will be conducted Oct. 22, and will mean police officers will be looking for people who violate Pennsylvania's school bus stopping law.

Operation Safe Stop unites local and state law enforcement agencies, school districts and pupil transportation in an effort to raise public awareness of the consequences of improperly passing school buses and reducing occurrences.

State law requires motorists approaching a school bus with its red lights flashing and stop arm extended to stop at least 10 feet from that bus. Motorists approaching from all directions are required to stop. However, motorists who encounter a school bus stopping on the opposite side of a divided highway are not required to stop; lanes of a divided highway are clearly separated by a divider such as concrete barriers or grassy medians.

If possible, school bus drivers will also document any illegal passes occurring on their routes and will file a report with local authorities.

For school bus safety tips, visit the Driver Safety Information Center on PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services Web site at www.dmv.state.pa.us.

FR Class Of 1966 Holds Reunion

The New Fort Restaurant in Fort Littleton was the gathering place for the Forbes Road Class of 1966 reunion on October 11, 2008.

A delicious meal was served, after which class members caught up on each others lives, jobs, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. It was a good time to visit and learn how many and which class members were fortunate enough to retire from their full-time jobs. It was nice to see each other again and a good time was enjoyed by all.

Class members attending were: William Cutchall, Glenda (Ford) Wolford and husband Jeff, Paul Grove, George Hann Jr. and wife Jody, Harry Helser, Donald Horn and wife Panda, Ronald Horne and wife Nancy, Roger Horton and wife Melissa, Henry and Cindy (Martz) Knepper, Judy (Melius) Bradnick and husband Rudy, Judy (Ramsey) Kagarise and husband Bill, Barry Shafer and wife Judy, Brenda (Snyder) Wible and Faye (Witter) Butts and husband Jim. Another reunion is planned for sometime in 2010.

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The Last GOOD, CLEAN, CHEAP Cars On This Planet

VEHICLE	FULL PRICE	\$ DOWN +
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'94 Ford Probe GT	\$2,150	\$725
'95 Chevy Lumina	\$2,450	\$825
'95 Mercury Tracer	\$2,250	\$825
'95 Saturn SL2	\$2,450	\$850
'95 Subaru S/W, 4x4	\$2,750	\$925
'95 Ford Escort	\$2,150	\$725
'97 Mitsubishi Galant	\$2,750	\$950
'97 Chevy Lumina	\$2,250	\$750
'98 Mercury Tracer, 24k on motor	\$3,250	\$1,075
'99 Ford Escort	\$3,250	\$1,100
'01 Pontiac Gran Am	\$3,250	\$1,075
'01 Hyundai Elantra	\$4,950	\$1,650
'02 Kia Spectra	\$3,450	\$1,250
'02 Chevy Malibu	\$4,950	\$1,650
'04 Kia Optima	\$5,950	\$1,950
-VANS & 4X4s-		
'90 GMC S15 4 x 4	\$1,750	\$600
'94 Dodge Dakota, 51K	\$2,950	\$975
'94 Ford F150 Ext. Cab 4 x 4	\$2,950	\$1,000
'95 Ford Explorer	\$3,750	\$1,250
'97 Jeep Cherokee 4X4	\$4,750	\$1,600
'00 Chevy Blazer 4x4	\$3,950	\$1,350
'00 Ford Windstar	\$4,450	\$1,450
'02 Ford Windstar	\$5,750	\$1,950

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS & PESTICIDE WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

For residents of Fulton County
SAT., OCT. 25, 2006
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Penn's Village Shopping Center, McConnellsburg
In front of Fulton County Medical Services

HOUSEHOLDS ONLY, NO BUSINESS WASTE PLEASE!

<p>WHAT TO BRING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oil-based paints and solvents Drain cleaners Toilet bowl cleaners Photographic materials Oven cleaners Wood and metal cleaners Small propane gas cylinders Asbestos Herbicides (weed killers) Fungicides Insecticides Wood preservatives Fertilizers Mercury-containing materials Antifreeze Fire extinguishers Fluorescent tubes (including compact fluorescent bulbs) 	<p>DO NOT BRING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latex paint Explosives, ammunition Medical waste, needles Smoke detectors Radioactive materials Prescription drugs
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Any questions, contact Greg Reineke, Fulton County Conservation District,
717-485-3547 Ext. 120

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First Anniversary CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 2, 2008

Join us...

NOVEMBER 2, 2008
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

With
Self Guided Tours - 1:00 - 3:00 P.M.

Viewing of Memory Wall - 1:00 - 3:00

Planting of Time Capsule - 2:00 P.M.

Launching of New Website - 2:30 P.M.

Refreshments

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