



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As sure as the day is long, the cool mornings of spring have transitioned into the hot and muggy days of summer, and have settled in for what seems like the long haul. Never fear though, this is Virginia, where we can experience at least three, if not four seasons, in the same week, and fall will be here before we know it.

Things have been progressively getting more active within the NWTf in the past few months, which is a much-welcomed change from where we were a year ago, when the world was basically on complete lockdown. We have begun to turn the corner in many aspects with the help of prayers, our faithful volunteers, and our loyal membership across the state and country.

Many chapters across Virginia were able to pull off some great outreach events, including several Spring Gobbler hunts, fishing events, WITO hunts, mentored turkey hunts, and even a few JAKES events. We launched the Conservation Seed Program in Virginia this year, and it was well received. We were able to distribute 3 pallets of Round-Up Ready corn (198 bags) and ½ truckload of milo (420 bags) to NWTf members across the state for wildlife plantings and winter wheat will be offered up for sale in the very near future. In the short time our coordinators had to get this program going, it was a big success for us and we look forward to expanding the program in the upcoming year. The state chapter board of directors and Executive Board met, "in person", for our regularly scheduled spring board meeting in late May in Lexington and I tell you, it felt great to get back to work in person with our mission!

We also recently kicked off the 2021 Virginia NWTf Turkey Tour (aka banquet season), with our annual VA NWTf State Awards Banquet on June 26 in Roanoke, where we celebrate our awesome volunteers, chapters, and cooperators from other agencies that work for the common goal of supporting the wild turkey. It was great to see all of the chapters from across the state come together and recognize them for supporting the mission, albeit, six months later than normal.

I recently met with leaders of our national organization and the state chapter presidents from across the country where we were presented some great news! The National Superfund Workgroup that was established early last year had been working diligently on a plan to reinstate the Superfund, and the workgroup submitted their proposal to the National Board of Directors in early June. The Board approved their proposal, which will gradually re-open the Superfund to support our mission work across the country, beginning on September 1, 2021. With that news, the Virginia NWTf Superfund committee has sprung in to action, with their first meeting in over a year at the Virginia DWR Headquarters in Richmond, VA on July 25, and began the process of vetting our habitat projects and budgeting the available funds to be spent in the most responsible way possible. The Superfund is the epitome of who we are, and we are very excited to get work going in the ground and the communities for the resource that we love so dearly.

With many chapters reactivating activities, we encourage you to take a look at our upcoming events via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaNWTf> or www.NWTf.org/events to see where the banquets and events are in your area and we hope to see you at one of them soon. God bless you all. – Jon Joyner

VA NWTf Executive Committee

President – *Jon Joyner*

Vice President – *Ray "Bear" Davidson*

Treasurer – *Staci Longest*

Secretary – *Liz Grove*

Outreach Coordinators

Women in the Outdoors Coordinator – *Julie Abel*

Wheelin' Sportsmen Coordinator – *Robin Clark*

JAKES Coordinator – *Tim Burton*

Save the Hunt Coordinator – *Jeff McCambridge*

NWTf STAFF

Regional Directors – *Billy Hall, Davy Blessing*

Regional Biologist – *Cully McCurdy*



OUTREACH PROGRAMS



Our Virginia Wheelin' Sportsmen was able to trudge through the Covid-19 restrictions safely last fall and resumed with a full schedule this spring. Our program hosted six spring gobbler hunts throughout the commonwealth and, although for the most part the turkeys were uncooperative, we did manage to knock down a few birds. The Woodsman Classic, hosted by the family of William Lowry and held in western Hanover County, continues to be a great hunt. They always hold a fundraising turkey shoot, with raffles and an auction following the hunt. It is amazing how this small community comes together each year to support our program; this year to the tune of \$6700! We truly appreciate their support! Mike Chenail nailed this big gobbler at the Woodsman Classic (bottom left)



Scheduling conflicts took a toll on our fishing events, but the Botetourt Chapter was able to host another successful event at Trasher's Pond in Buchanan. Most participants caught their six-fish limit in the first hour! If you have never attended this event, you better put in on your calendar for May of 2022! Butch Lawrence of Sandy Level shows off his limit of big rainbows (upper right).



We also returned to Susie-Q Farm for our 15th annual Trout Rodeo on Memorial Day weekend. The Smith Creek, running through the Grace family property, is full of trout and they always show us a great time. Bruce Dellinger and his friend Charis (left), Shawn Floyd with a rainbow (right).



Last year's Graham Johnson Memorial Cobia Challenge fell victim to Covid, twice, but we prevailed and pulled off a fantastic inaugural event in June. Chris Beard created this event in honor of his friend who was an avid cobia fisherman. After an awesome day on the Bay, Chris hosted a delicious dinner at Ballyhoo's and presented us with a check for \$5100 to top off our event. What an amazing day and we're already planning a bigger event for next year!





Glenn Smith and Blake Rush were the top anglers of the day with two nice cobia!



Chris Beard (center) presents the check.

We are already booking our fall hunts and have some great deer hunts coming up. If you'd like to host an event for our sportsmen and women with disabilities or have a disability and would like to participate in our events, please reach out to us, and we'll get you onboard. See you in the woods this fall!

Robin Clark
State Coordinator
huntvaws@gmail.com
434-249-6154





NWTF Friends

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. With fall of the year approaching fast, I would like to encourage everyone to do some type of a youth event. Coming out of Covid, people are eager to get out and do things. Franklin County Longbeards held their JAKES event on June 5th with just shy of 200 youth participating. Please remember that it is not the size of the event but the quality of the event. Everyone should be able to do something even if it is just simply taking a youth out hunting. At the end of June, we had a committee member organize a squirrel hunt with 9 youth. A couple of these youth had never hunted before, but you can bet that they are hooked for life now. I do believe that the mentors had even more fun than the youth according to the tales that I was told. The point is, it is so important to just get started and do something. Don't put it off, we may not have this opportunity very long before the next crisis has us shut down again.

September 25-26 is youth weekend. This is another great chance to get some youth out. The State will have its photo contest for a chance to win a gun for one lucky JAKE and Xtreme JAKE. We also sponsor a youth essay contest. Last year 17 youth participated in the essay contest with 10 cash prizes given away and this was up from past years. Contact the State Chapter, your local chapter, or myself for details or visit our state website or Facebook page for these great opportunities!

As with many events, the success falls on volunteers! Please consider reaching out to me or your local chapter to promote these events and get involved, every volunteer minute counts and there is nothing too small! The State Chapter as well as local chapters have equipment such as the JAKES Take Aim inflatable BBGun range and many more! This equipment not only helps promote the NWTf, your local chapter, but is geared towards introducing youth to the outdoors and related activities.

Remember, it just takes one person to get your JAKES program started. That one person is YOU!

Tim Burton
State JAKES Coordinator
tandkburton84@yahoo.com
540-484-3041





LOCAL CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

FRANKLIN COUNTY LONGBEARDS

Franklin County Longbeards JAKES Day 2021

On June 5th, 2021, the Franklin County Longbeards hosted their 20th JAKES Event. We had 196 kids in attendance for this amazing event. After having to take a year off due to COVID this event was so special for our community. We had tons of people who were excited to get out and have their kids out again. People told us over and over how nice it was to have some normalcy after a crazy year and how much they missed our event last year. The planning for this event began early into the year in hopes that we would be able to pull it off this year. The date for the event had to be set up well in advance to reserve the park and aid in the planning process. During our banquet each year we are normally able to raise some money for the JAKES event to help us keep all of our JAKES event free for the kids in our community. However, with this crazy year and everything being affected, we were no different. With a virtual banquet we were unable to raise the money we normally do for the memberships for our kids. This year we decided to raise funds another way. We held a turkey rodeo in the spring to help with some memberships and we also did some fundraising by selling raffle tickets for a shotgun to raise additional funds. Our JAKES event is very important to the Franklin County Longbeards since it helps us to partner with our community in many ways. This year's JAKES event was a special one, coming back from COVID. We were so glad to see such a crowd and so many smiling faces who were excited to be with us again in the outdoors. We loved hearing stories of families who missed our event last year and were so excited to be there this year. This event was wonderful for our community to have some of our normal back this year for the JAKES event. We are already looking forward to next year's event!





NWTF **VIRGINIA STATE CHAPTER**
Conserve. Hunt. Share. *NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION*



VA STATE CHAPTER AWARDS BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS



#1 CHAPTER – PIEDMONT CHAPTER (L-R, RANDY HOVEY, JON JOYNER, BEAR DAVIDSON)

**VIRGINIA STATE CHAPTER**
NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR – BEAR DAVIDSON



Best Virtual Event – Wheelin Sportsmen



Best Turkey Hunters Care – Botetourt Longbeards

nwtf®



VIRGINIA STATE CHAPTER
NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION



#1 WHEELIN EVENT-STAUNTON/MEHERRIN GOLDEN GOBBLER-HIGH BRIDGE STRUTTERS



Mike Hilbert – Hall of Fame Inductee



Reed Kirk (left) - State Scholarship Winner



nwtf.®



VIRGINIA STATE CHAPTER

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION



Out-going State Chapter President Richard Pauley receives his BB Gun (an engraved rifle will be given at a later date – that’s all we had 😊)





Out-going Secretary Judy Vaughan accepts her award for over a decade of service to the State Executive Board



National Wild Turkey Federation Youth Essay Contest “The Hunt”

Attention JAKES and Xtreme JAKES members, here's your chance to put your writing and storytelling skills to work. Simply write a 500 word, or less, essay describing a hunting or outdoor experience you've had, and how it has affected your life. **Entry deadline is December 3, 2021.**

Include in “The Hunt” essay, what or who inspired the interest for the hunt. Has your interest been inspired by a JAKES event, 4-H shooting event or any other type of hunting and shooting event? If so, how? Please include what made that hunt special. The story can include more than one outdoor adventure.

Send a picture (if available) with caption along with “The Hunt” essay.

The essay of “The Hunt” does not have to include the harvesting of any game.

Please limit your essay to 500 words or less.

Prizes will be awarded in two categories,

1. JAKES 12 years old and under
2. Xtreme JAKES 13 to 17 years old.

Prizes:

1st - \$250.00

2nd - \$150.00

3rd - \$50.00

4th & 5th - \$25.00

All JAKES ages 17 and under are eligible to enter the contest.

Entries **MUST** include the **Virginia State JAKES Youth Essay Contest Entry Form** that is available on our web site, www.vanwtf.org or from your local NWTf Chapter.

Entries must be received by December 3, 2021, and can be mailed or emailed to:

Tim Burton
4640 Franklin Street



Rocky Mount, VA 24151
tandkburton84@yahoo.com
540-484-3041

Take a child outdoors this fall, introduce them and others to our pastime, help create new hunters, or take your neighbor who maybe doesn't have anywhere to hunt. Good luck afield, have fun, be safe, and thank you for helping the NWTF
“SAVE THE HABITAT, SAVE THE HUNT”!

nwtf®



VIRGINIA STATE CHAPTER

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION



nwtf.®