



## ILLINOIS STATE CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

Gerald Lively - President  
PO Box 461  
Odin, IL 62870

Illinois State Chapter web address: [www.illinoisnwtf.org](http://www.illinoisnwtf.org)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Tri-Annual Agenda – January 14, 2023

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike Lowder, Steve McNeil, Kent Bushman, Bob Reich, Heath Jordan, Greg Shaffer, Gerald Lively, Terri Lively, Jeff Erb, Todd Batten, Gerald Bois

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Alison Reynolds, Mike Frye, Trevor Pullum, Troy Pinkston,

**NWTF STAFF:** Cindy Spillman, Jeff Ravenscraft, Stacy Lindemann, Chase Seals

**GUEST:** Michael Howie, Wayne Prather, Eugene Stearns

**NOTE:** Board members are required to attend 2 of the 4 meetings to retain a seat on the board.

Pledge of Allegiance

A Moment of Silence for all of our service men and women serving domestic and abroad protecting our freedoms and for all those in harm's way.

Self-Introductions (Roll-Call): Board, Staff & Guests

Recognition for Mike Lowder for his behind the scenes help with the meeting and banquet.

Mike Lowder also presented Heath Jordan with a National Award for Save the Hunt 2020 that was overlooked due to Covid.

Secretary's Report from August Meeting/Phone Conference: Terri Lively – Approved and sent 1/9/2023

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Steve McNeil - State Balance - \$72,351.09; 3<sup>rd</sup> Tri-Annual Expenditures - \$24,716.63; 3<sup>rd</sup> Tri-Annual Deposits - \$97,351.09. A complete summary will be handed out. **Attachment 1** - Motion to approve. 1<sup>st</sup> - Greg Schaffer 2<sup>nd</sup> - Mike Lowder - Motion Carried

**SUPER FUND SUMMARY:** Conservation Staff – Balance/Report **Attachment 2** - Super Fund Balance Issue has a summary in the Conservation Program report. John Burk is working to get the \$50,000 back into our State Fund which should be back on the books shortly.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1) **Regional Field Staff Report:** Cindy/Jeff – State Membership Numbers; Calendar Update; Fund-Raising Events on the Books; Preferred Vendors Update; National Leadership conference

Cindy - Gerald and Terri Lively will be receiving the Roger Latham Award, Five are given Nationally each year. Banquet season just kicking off, I have 27 in person events scheduled plus 3 virtual.

Anyone going to National will have to take anything purchased on Live or Silent Auctions with them. There will be people to help pack stuff, anything not taken will be packed and shipped at a onetime fee of \$25.

National Leadership program still working on the Agenda.

In December NWTF collected 2.44 million dollars which was 1 million over the previous year.

50th Anniversary Goals, **Attachment 3**

Continue sharing events on Social Media. Link to You Tube Videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/nwtfonline>

Mike Lowder, how will the 50th Anniversary monies be kept track of. Jeff - if a raffle at a banquet is for 50th or an extra event just for 50th it will go into the 50th Anniversary monies. 50th Anniversary guns for example will be stand alone. We have one of those guns, going to have 30 chances at \$35 a chance to win 1 of 30 Box Calls for chance to win the gun. After a raffle sells out the next raffle will start. Hope to have all 30 Box Calls raffled by March which is the founding month for NWTF.

Jeff - 150 calendars left, doing a raffle right now at \$35 a chance to win 50 calendars to get rid of the last 150. Not sure what took place, some Chapters that sold good last year had trouble this year.

Netted \$52,000 on the Cash Raffle, did not sell out but definitely want to do it again.

I have 32 events scheduled, 3 Chapters that haven't come back from Covid but think some coming back. New Chapter in Peoria started but now having trouble contacting the person that was heading it up.

Cindy stopped at Reed's in Walker MN and designed an 870 which you'll see tonight. It is recommended Chapters sell chances at \$30 which would include a membership they would gift to someone who is currently not a member, this would be a way to get more members and possibly get more members in the future. Only 65 of those guns being made, picture of gun **Attachment 4**

The gun in the Core Package has a Thumbhole stock and due to a new law that recently went into effect in Illinois National will not be sending these to IL Chapters.

If Chapters order anything from Bass Pro write on the Sales Tax line, "Exempt", all the paperwork for NWTF has been filed with them for the IL Sales Tax Exemption.

Gerald Lively, how many Chapters in IL?, Jeff, 80 Chapters but 15 are not active at the moment and some of the others will be virtual.

- 2) **Regional Biologist Report:** Conservation staff: **District Forester:** Chase Seals; **Forester:** Stacy Lindemann - **Attachment 5**

Seed prices listed do not show the discount, online will show the difference.

- 3) **IDNR Report:** Luke Garver - Not present due to other commitments. Chase Seals covered the report which is in **Attachment 5**.

- 4) **National Advisory Council Report:** Steve McNeil

50th Anniversary goals have been covered.

Working on the National Leadership agenda; we are hoping to get information out soon on prices etc. Setting it up so families can go with and have things to do while members are at the conference.

5) **Social Media Report:** None

6) **Land of Lincoln Scholarship:** Dr. Reich

Thirteen applicants, 12 very qualified, gave out 4 Scholarships. Believe we received more applications because we got the word out more than in the past. We would like to see the amount for Scholarships increased but will address that with the Super Fund later.

7) **2023 LOL Rendezvous:** Jeff/Mike/Gerald – Games/Raffles. Need workers for the various raffles/games. The rest will assist in the walk-through and veterans recognition.

**2024 LOL Rendezvous:** TBD ?

Mike Lowder, this hotel is possibly being turned into apartments or something else, City Council has turned it down so far. The hotel across the street has actually reached out to us. If we are only going to have the numbers that we currently have it's no more than a regular banquet. Had to raise prices that some complained about but don't think we're even breaking even on the cost with what we're charging. This event isn't to raise money but to not lose money and honor recipients and we are required to have it as a State Chapter. May look at renting a Banquet Hall next to a Motel for people that are staying. Just some things that we need to look at. Springfield is central but we could look at moving it to North, Central and South to try and get people from different areas to attend. Keep looking at entertainment or incentives to try to get Chapters to try and draw more people. Maybe a high price door prize for those buying by a certain date. Just haven't found much that helps other than the first time we had Michael Waddel attend.

Jeff-not much here for family or spouses to do, DU always goes to Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino in E. Peoria it seems to draw more people. Todd-maybe Bass Pro would do something that weekend for a discount for NWTF members. Kent-think Todd had a real good idea about reaching out to Bass Pro on a discount of some sort for the weekend.

A lot of other discussion on drawing people, location, entertainment in area, etc.

8) **Other:** Gerald - Assignments for tonight's Banquet.

Kent - Calendar incentives, was that passed out? Gerald, assumed the RD's would pass that word out. Kent - just feel that the information was after the fact because it was basically sent out after calendar sales ended.

Discussion on the incentives adopted at the last Board meeting. Jeff will make a list of those who met the incentive and make sure if they are here they get a refund.

Jeff - calendars, MO has done something, the Chapter gives a post dated check to the RD when they get their calendars, if the RD doesn't hear anything that check gets cashed. Michael, that pushes real close to the Touch of Nature hunt where I sell a lot of the calendars. Jeff, you would just call Cindy ahead of the hunt and tell her how many you had sold and wait until after the hunt. Always some exceptions but hopefully it would eliminate those Chapters that take 50 calendars then at the last minute send 35 back.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1) **IFOR Report:** Gerald – No report.

IFOR Liaison is now an open position that we need to fill.

IFOR meets in Springfield every other month on Sundays at 12:30pm. Bob Reich would do it temporarily until someone else steps forward. Michael Howie had a Chapter President that would possibly do it. Majority discussion that it would be better for a Board Member since you have to be very careful on political things when acting as a representative of NWTF.

2) **Social Media Coordinator:** Gerald

Open position that we need to fill.  
Gerald talked to Heath about it.

Heath, I talked to Alison after talking with Gerald, it was talked about possibly being best for Jeff and Cindy to take care of the FB page. Probably need someone to do the Website.

Gerald, would you be willing to take the website, Heath said yes. Heath will remain on FB page also. Not sure who all has admin rights on the State FB page right now. Chase would be willing to do an Instagram page.

3) **Wheelin' Sportsmen Report:** Michael Howie – Update; Trailer; Insurance

Michael, last year was very busy, this year looking good. We had a lot of new people at Touch of Nature deer hunt. Everyone went home with deer meat, processed and packaged there. Touch of Nature wants to make it bigger but they want to fund it but have NWTF and IDNR still run it. Touch of Nature would do a study on the affect it has on those disabled hunters.

Gerald - would our insurance cover that? Jeff and Cindy said it would be a registered event and would sign everybody there as a member at no cost to those working for Touch of Nature, IDNR, etc.

Hunts are growing, going to split Pope County Turkey and Deer hunt both from one to two hunts, looking at another in Central part of State.

Also looking at some fishing on Lake Shelbyville.

Need to look at something to store and haul stuff, getting an accumulation of donated equipment and can no longer park car in garage. Also need a way to get it to the locations.

Gerald, we have an issue with trailers.

Jeff – we were under assumption that all the trailers were covered by Headquarters. We had two JAKES trailers and three RD trailers. Now two JAKES trailers and one RD trailer. Headquarters only insures one of the JAKES trailers. We need to insure one of the JAKES trailers and one RD trailer. Steve will check into insurance.

Michael, what do I need to do to get a trailer? Super Fund could pay for it. Gerald's JAKES trailer only moved once this past year. Heath's 6 or 7 times.

Jeff, I think the use of the trailers will start coming back and hopefully they will be used more, would hate to get rid of one and then have a need for it.

Gerald, need tires, rewrapped with new branding. Steve, if Gerald and Heath need stuff for JAKES trailer and Michael needs a trailer they need to go out and get prices and bring it to the Super Fund for approval. If under \$1,000 the President can give approval.

Jeff, NWTF will design the wraps and send it to the wrap company so that saves money.

Lots of additional discussion.

4) **JAKES Report:** Heath Jordan – Update - 2023 JAKES Hunt; Supplies for trailer

Spring hunt at Pecatonica, 20 of 25 spots awarded, we have 6 more applicants but have no host for 3rd Season. **If someone would host 3rd Season we could award 5 more youth.**

Talked about the JAKES trailer already.

5) **STH2:** Heath - Update

Very little information on Hunter Safety Classes or new hunters. If they hunt deer, turkey, squirrel, etc. for first time they can be counted as a new hunter, also someone who hasn't hunted a particular species for say five years can be counted as a new hunter since they were reactivated. Heath needs everyone, Board, Committee Members and Members to help capture these numbers!!!

6) **Board Seat Elections/Officer Elections:** Five board seats will be opened up for election. Those include expiring terms for Kent Bushman, Terri Lively, Alison Reynolds, Mike Frye and Trevor Pullum. Two incumbents responded with their desire to run for re-election. They are Terri Lively and Kent Bushman. The other three incumbents are not running for re-election. Three applicants were received for the three open seats. The three applying for the open board seats were Eugene Stearns, Michael Howie and Wm. Wayne Prather. Additionally, the office of Vice-President is vacant due to Alison Reynolds' departure. The election for VP will be held after the general board election. General board election by ballot. Office nominations/vote.

Those running for election all given a few minutes to explain why they are running for the Board.

Kent Bushman - majority

Terri Lively - majority

Michael Howie - majority

Eugene Stearns - majority

Wayne Prather - majority

Vice President - One year vacancy

Todd Batten nominated Greg Schafer - Elected

Michael Howie nominated Heath Jordan -

7) **Other Business:** Mike - talked about how we are always looking for people to fill the Board seats but there is a commitment that you're involved. We had some new members that we've never met. Maybe need to go back to some committee assignments to get everyone involved.

Bob-elephant in the room, the new gun law, thumbhole stocks, new handguns can't hold more than 10 rounds. Understand we can't take political stand here but we need to be aware of what we are facing.

Jeff, something we haven't done for a long time is a fellowship meeting. We did one in the past at Pecatonica where we did some Trap Shooting etc. Think our Board is missing that.

Phil Ferrare, Director of Field Operations Northeast/Midwest can't make it tonight due unforeseen circumstances.

Director of Development, Brian Gray will be at the Upper Level reception today.

- 8) **Next Meeting:** Mike motion, Todd 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> Virtual/In Person meeting, Carried **Time:** 10:00am, Scheels  
Future meetings: June 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am?, Pecos; Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am, Scheels; Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, 9am, TBD

Motion to adjourn: 1<sup>st</sup> - Steve - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Terri      Time - 1:24pm

Att, 1

## Financial Report

2022

Check #	Date	Description of Transaction	Expense	Deposit	Balance
	05/20/22	open account UCB		\$2,541.30	\$2,541.30
	05/13/22	UCB – Statement	\$2.95		\$2,538.35
	06/10/22	Deposit – Gun A Day		\$6,755.00	\$9,293.35
1001	06/10/22	Void – Reeds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,293.35
1002	06/10/22	Void – National – eft setup	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,293.35
	06/15/22	Steve McNeil – Board Lunch	\$86.23		\$9,207.12
	06/30/22	UCB – Statement	\$2.95		\$9,204.17
1004	07/11/22	Reeds – Gun A Day	\$12,594.00		-\$3,389.83
	07/11/22	National – Banquet Rebate		\$309.72	-\$3,080.11
	07/11/22	National – Gun A Day		\$5,839.00	\$2,758.89
		UCB – Overdraft – Gun A Day	\$29.95		\$2,728.94
1005	07/28/22	National – Cindy Works	\$495.00		\$2,233.94
1006	07/28/22	ICF – JAKES hunts donation	\$500.00		\$1,733.94
	07/28/22	UCB – Refund Statement fees		\$5.90	\$1,739.84
	08/01/22	Deposit – Trailer sale		\$650.00	\$2,389.84
1007	09/09/22	void	\$0.00		\$2,389.84
	09/09/22	Deposit – tsf from old account		\$3,992.06	\$6,381.90
1008	09/12/22	void	\$0.00		\$6,381.90
1009	09/12/22	Mike Lowder – Board Lunch	\$195.00		\$6,186.90
1010	09/12/02	void	\$0.00		\$6,186.90
1011	09/12/22	Steve McNeil – JK Williams Distillery	\$1,600.40		\$4,586.50
1012	09/12/22	Jeff Ravenscraft – trailer sticker	\$37.00		\$4,549.50
1013	01/24/22	BQ - Reeds	\$177.93		\$4,371.57
1014	09/27/22	USPS - postage	\$16.13		\$4,355.44
	10/14/22	National – Banquet Rebate		\$83.11	\$4,438.55
1015	10/24/22	National Banding - banquet leg bands	\$1,675.00		\$2,763.55
1016	11/08/22	Peoria County Long Spurs - start up	\$300.00		\$2,463.55
1017	11/23/22	BQ - Custom Art Concepts	\$170.00		\$2,293.55
	11/17/22	Deposit - Calendars		\$3,750.00	\$6,043.55
	12/05/22	SF - ASO - Advertising		\$400.00	\$6,443.55
1018	12/06/22	Adventure Sports Outdoors - Advertising	\$400.00		\$6,043.55
	12/08/22	Deposit - Calendars		\$20,850.00	\$26,893.55
	12/12/22	SF- Scholarships -		\$5,200.00	\$32,093.55
DC	12/13/22	USPS - postage	\$60.00		\$32,033.55
1019	01/24/22	BQ - Melissa Ball	\$295.00		\$31,738.55
1020	01/24/22	BQ - Bass Pro	\$438.18		\$31,300.37
1021	01/24/22	BQ - Higdon Outdoors	\$357.44		\$30,942.93
1022	01/24/22	BQ - Wild Wings	\$205.20		\$30,737.73
1023	01/24/22	BQ - GSM Inc	\$631.00		\$30,106.73
1024	01/24/22	BQ - Deer Management System	\$121.99		\$29,984.74
1025	01/24/22	BQ - Active Lifestyle Products	\$384.97		\$29,599.77
1026	01/24/22	BQ - Custom Art Concepts	\$182.00		\$29,417.77
1027	01/24/22	BQ - Custom Art Concepts	\$205.50		\$29,212.27
1028	12/27/22	BQ - D&A Private Label	\$1,127.00		\$28,085.27
1029	12/27/22	Mike Lowder – IFOR membership	\$750.00		\$27,335.27
1030	12/28/22	BQ - Doris Brothers Trophies, Inc	\$86.28		\$27,248.99
DC	01/03/23	Walmar checks	\$28.59		\$27,220.40
	01/04/23	Deposit - Calendars		\$12,100.00	\$39,320.40
	01/06/23	Deposit - Calendars		\$33,400.00	\$72,720.40
	01/11/23	Deposit - Calendars		\$400.00	\$73,120.40
	01/11/23	Deposit - Banquet		\$775.00	\$73,895.40
1031	01/24/23	BQ - Reeds	\$525.94		\$73,369.46
1032	01/13/22	BQ - Powder Keg	\$1,035.00		\$72,334.46
	01/13/23	Deposit - Banquet		\$300.00	\$72,634.46
					\$72,634.46
		Total			\$72,634.46

\$24,716.63

\$97,351.09

Att. 2

## Illinois Super Fund Summary January 14, 2023

(as of Friday 1/13/23 there is \$77,853\* in the states Super Fund Account. Between what we set back towards hard dollars (\$50,000) plus unspent carryover our total starting the fiscal year should have been \$94,753.)

### Proposals Received for January 2022 Granting Period

**Siloam Springs (\$10,000).** Phase III 155 acre open woodland restoration project. **Pending**

### Proposals Received for 1 September 2022 Granting Period

**Project 1: State Jakes Hunt (\$2,500).** **Pending**

**Project 2: Envirothon (\$2,000).** **Pending**

**Project 4: Jim Edgar Panther Creek project (\$10,000).** **Pending**

**Project 5: 25 acre glade restoration project at Pere Marquette (\$10,000).** **Pending**

**Project 6: SIPBA and GRPBA support funding (\$10,000).** **Pending**

**Project 8: Rock River Wheel'n Youth Turkey Hunt (\$1,500).** **Pending**

**Project 9: State Wheel'n Deer Hunt at Touch of Nature (\$8,000).** **Paid**

### Additional budgeted maximums for approved local projects that will be submitted throughout the year.

	Budgeted	Paid
• 4-H Shooting –	\$1,350	\$0
• CP Program Support -	\$20,000	\$0
• Hunter Education –	\$2,000	\$1,000
• NASP –	\$2,150	\$0
• JAKES –	\$2,500	\$500
• Wheelin' Sportsmen –	\$500	\$250
• WITO –	\$500	\$0
• Scholarships –	\$7,700	\$5,950
• Youth Shooting –	\$1,500	\$0
• Travel	\$2,000	\$800
• Seed Subsidy	\$8,000	\$0
• Mentored Hunts	\$500	\$0
• Chapter Recruitment	\$6,000	\$400
• HHF,NASC,USSA, IFOR	\$5,000	\$0
• Summer Leadership Meeting	\$10,000	\$0
• Savings towards hard dollars	\$100,000	\$75,355
<b>Approved 2023 line item budget</b>	<b>\$94,345</b>	<b>\$8,900</b>
Total amount needed for projects previously approved		\$46,000
Total amount in programmatic annual commitments 2023		\$94,345
Total required to cover above expenses		\$131,445

### RD Projections:

**Cindy \$62,000**

**Jeff \$88,000**

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**Total \$150,000**

Banquet projections are \$150,000-\$4,057 = \$145,943+\$77,853 = \$223,796 - \$94,345 = \$129,451 for 2024 cycle.

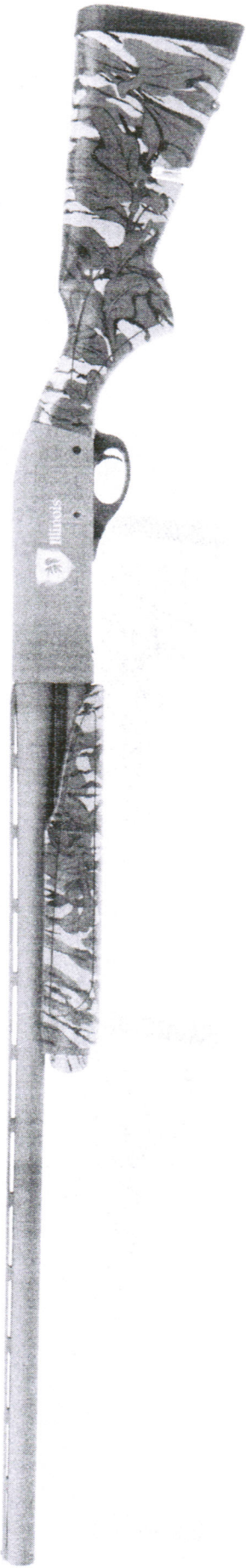


## 2023 Organizational 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Goals:

We have some ambitious goals for this year that will guide our focus and help us sustain momentum throughout 2023. Following are our goals:

- **Make a positive impact on one million acres.** Promoting a healthy habitat means wild turkeys can flourish. This work also helps maintain forest land and clean water, which benefits everyone. We need members and volunteers to check with local or state NWTF chapter to find out how you can contribute to our conservation efforts.
- **Raise \$500,000 for wild turkey research.** If there are not any turkeys to hunt, our mission falls flat. That's why research is so important to the NWTF. From understanding habits and habitats to identifying and preventing disease, research helps us make important decisions about the ways we can assist in maintaining a robust flock. We need members to support chapter fundraisers and encourage others to do the same.
- **Reach 250,000 adults and enlist as many as possible to become members and donors.** Keeping our mission alive means growing our numbers. We are encouraging and assisting local chapters in using our Event Management System (EMS) to capture information on all event attendees for follow-up marketing – and to encourage sharing of our social media posts with family and friends on your social channels or in person.
- **Raise \$1 million for education and outreach.** Achieving our mission means reaching beyond our dues-paying members. Local hands-on events and hunts that offer people – especially younger adults -- opportunities to explore the outdoors and teach conservation principles to further our mission.
- **Collect \$5 million in 2023 to seed a \$50 million endowment.** The endowment will help support all mission-related activities for generations to come.
- **Invest \$5 million in technology and people.** The NWTF has assembled some of the most skilled and passionate teams across the country. Retaining these highly skilled people while investing in a modern and streamlined IT infrastructure will ensure we remain among the most efficient and effective conservation organizations in the U.S.

Att. 4



Att. 5

## Conservation Programs Report for January Board Meeting 01/14/2023

### Stacy Lindemann: Illinois and Kaskaskia River Basins Focal Landscape

- Stacy continues to work on the deliverables associated with the NRCS grant
- NRCS October -December Update for Stacy:
  - Completed 4 Tree Planting/Re-enrollment/Mid-Management/Forest Management Incentive plans influencing 50.2 acres of CRP
  - Completed 9 Forest Management Plans (EQIP) influencing over 946 acres for NRCS
  - Completed 1 burn plans for a total of 61 acres
  - Reviewed 10 properties totaling 180 conserved acres of EQIP/CRP/HIP projects for compliance.
  - Completed 24 site visits
  - Was in contact with 30 landowners
  - Total of 1237 acres influenced/conserved

### Chase Seals: Shawnee Hills Focal Landscape

#### USFS

- John and myself are still monitoring the push to re-designate the Shawnee as a National Park.
- Buttermilk Hill Stewardship (SPA) is finished expect 90 acres of mastication and tree planting via the Arbor Day grant I acquired two years ago.
- Log Mark Pine SPA has been signed. I will put out for bid a 195.5-acre pine/hardwood timber sale on behalf of the USFS. Once the sale is awarded, I will administer the sale from start to finish for the USFS. In addition to the timber sale and work to be accomplished via timber revenue, the USFS brought just over \$152,000 for additional service work. This will yield roughly \$22,000 in indirect rate for NWTF and \$10,575 in salary support for myself. This is scheduled to yield 925 acres of habitat work outside of the timber sale.
- Service work under Log Mark SPA was awarded to a subcontractor who has now back out. I rebid the work out and was able to get a cheaper bid so the number of acres will increase due to the savings this brought NWTF and USFS.
- Without modifications, Log Mark Pine SPA will impact at a minimum of 1,120.5 acres. Realistically this number will be more like 1,300-1,500 acres
- In addition to this new agreement, I am working with the USFS on another new agreement that will focus on shoreline restoration at Kincaid Lake. This project will bring little over \$46,000 per year for 5 years. This would result in a little over \$34,000 (\$6,800 per year) in indirect rate during this agreement.

#### IDNR

- John and myself were able to apply for the habitat stamp grant again this year and made the final pool of applicants.
- NWTF was awarded a roughly \$100,000 grant via the Habitat Stamp Fund to do a second round of the IL HIP program.
- Stacy, John, and myself are awaiting word from HQ as to when we may begin the new program. HQ is working with IDNR to get final payments taken care of the original HIP grant before we start the new one.

## NRCS

- Deliverables accomplished since August 2022.

Deliverables	# of Activities	Acres	Attendance
Outreach/Landowner Workshops	1		66
Landowner Contracts	39		
Site Visits	58		
Plan Updates	25	2,722.75	
Practice Review/Certifications	16	377.75	
Tree Planting Plans	12	618.8	
Forest Management Plans	7	618.75	
Burn Plans	2	46.4	
Total Influenced Acres		4,384.45	
Total Conserved Acres		377.75	

### Driftless Area Forester Position Update

Although we fully intend to refill the Driftless Area Forester position that will remain exclusively in Illinois, we have not had much luck in finding qualified applicants. Jared recently reposted the position late last week for the third time. This has been somewhat of an issue nationwide but seems to be worse here because state and federal forester jobs in IL pay better than we can and have been scooping up the qualified applicants available.

### Super Fund Balance Issue

\*The policy changes recommended by the national super fund committee and supported by the national board and the subsequent actions that were taken by the management team to accommodate states impacted by these changes has resulted in some confusion regarding super fund budget interpretations. As previously mentioned, only 5 states were negatively impacted by these policy changes and, unfortunately, all 3 of my states were amongst the 5. When we were "given" 75% of our 3- year average spend rate in fiscal 2022, the management teams' interpretation of what that meant was that we would have access to spend, up to, the \$152,000 representing our spend rate. In other words, we had to spend it to be credited for it and savings towards hard dollars was not credited as having been spent. My interpretation, since the national committee also required running off of a hard dollar budget, was that we needed to start budgeting towards hard dollars. Therefore, I earmarked \$50,000 of our \$152,000 towards hard dollars, did not aggressively promote a fiscal 2022 call for proposals, and, due to COVID, a lot of our budget line items ended up being significantly overbudgeted. This resulted in an additional \$44,753 that I put towards our hard dollar budget savings for a total of \$94,753. As of now, we did not get credit for this amount but just prior to the holidays I met with Mark Hatfield, explained the situation, presented him with a spreadsheet displaying my logic, and he is going to work with Kurt Dyroff and accounting to see how this can be rectified.

### Landscape Initiatives

With the completion of STH2 we set the bar high but we still cleared it. The goal of 4 million acres conserved and enhanced was set and we achieved 5.2 million. The goal of 1.5 million new or lapsed hunters recruited or retained was set and we achieve 1.53 million. The goal of 500,000 acres opened for hunting was set and we achieved 700,041. Establishing the STH2 initiative and associated goals was important in developing a plan for success and a way to strategically deliver upon our mission. As such, these 3 main pillars of STH2 will always be an important part of delivering upon our mission and our mission statement has not and will not change.

In fiscal 2023 we have been building upon the excitement of reaching our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and establishing goals centered around this special milestone. These include:

- Recruiting 75,000 NEW adult members
- Raising \$500,000 to support turkey research
- Positively impacting 1,000,000 acres
- Dedicating \$1,000,000 for Hunting Heritage Programs
- Raising \$5,000,000 to invest in our people and modernize our IT infrastructure
- Raising \$5,000,000 to build a \$50,000,000 endowment.

Although we will still be using the STH2 goals to guide us into the future, we will also be looking towards being more directly involved with regional initiatives like the White Oak Initiative (WOI). Most of the work we have been doing would fall under the umbrella of the WOI and our RFP now links to goals and strategies outlined under that initiative.

The western states are where this strategy has been developed because they have always needed to think in these terms to make NWTF valid in that region. The bulk of our membership resides in the east and the western states have always had very little super fund money. However, the west is also dominated by public land management agencies that we have been able to successfully work with at these larger initiative based landscape scales. The eastern regions are at varying levels of development with the southeast poised to launch their version that has been in development for most of the last year and the northeast has also been collaborating on their version. Recently, Jared has had the DB's in the central region working on developing a regional initiative that will include America's Crossroads and southern Missouri and Kentucky. Since the turkey decline is a major issue in our region, addressing this concern will likely be the primary driver of our initiative. Research has not floated to the top as a priority in any of the other initiatives but it will be an important component of ours. We know that habitat is always the key but fine tuning what, where, why, and how it specifically needs to be configured to gain the greatest results is also critically important to effective delivery. I will be sure to keep everyone informed as the initiative takes shape.

#### **Seed Subsidy**

We will offer a seed subsidy program this spring. Although it is preferred that subsidy rates remain at 15% as they were during COVID, this was not a requirement and the board voted to approve an \$8,000 budget line item to include a mailer to sponsor members announcing the program and a 50% subsidy. As was the case in the past, each regular member will have access to three bags of any of the offered mixes at the subsidized rate and sponsors will have access to 10 bags at the subsidized rate. Illinois members will be able to order seed once the link goes live and I will post the link and send out an e-blast containing it hopefully within the next week or two.

The seed must be ordered using the following link: [nwtf.org/subsidy](http://nwtf.org/subsidy) and the prices that will be listed are the actual subsidized cost including shipping. The following blends will be offered:

**Triple Max Clover \$63** and includes Frosty and Fixation annual clovers and Domino perennial

**Clover Fab 5 \$73** and includes crimson, arrowleaf, berseem, balansa, and dynamite red clovers

**HuntMaster Clover \$71** and includes red and white clover and chicory

**Hooks & Horns \$78** and is a large leaved durable white clover

**Longbeards Lunchbox \$81** and includes brassica, chicory, and clover

**Wildlife Buffet \$62** and includes pearl and proso millets, sorghum, forage beans, buckwheat, cowpea, and sunflower

**Sorghum Cuisine \$60** and includes 4 different sorghum varieties of varying heights, sudan grass, and foxtail millet

**Dove Delight \$60** and includes grain sorghum, sunflower, and browntop and proso millets

**Pro Plus \$73** and includes alfalfa, white, red, and berseem clovers

**Quail Keeper \$48** and includes Egyptian wheat, millets, sunflower, and grain sorghum.

Everything but the Quail Keeper will do an acre a bag. The Quail Keeper plants at 2 bags to the acre.

### **Conservation Seed**

As has been offered in the past, both Illinois and Iowa members will have access to the conservation seed program available in MO. Seed offered will be RR corn for \$40/bag, Clearfield sunflowers \$40/bag (if available and they are usually a longshot), RR beans for \$18/bag, and milo for \$12/bag. Seed can be ordered at [monwtf.org](http://monwtf.org) and then click the "seed program" tab in the top center of the homepage.

### **DNR Report:**

#### *Fall Season Harvest:*

#### *Fall Gun:*

- Fall Gun Turkey Season ran from Oct 22 – Oct 31
- 267 birds were harvested (245 last year)
- 1,727 permits were sold

#### *Fall Archery:*

- Fall Archery season opened Oct 1 and closes Jan 15<sup>th</sup>
- Through Jan 9<sup>th</sup> harvest was 778
- The total should end up over 800 birds which will be the highest since 2015 and 3<sup>rd</sup> highest all-time

#### *Spring Lottery:*

- The lottery application system was down for a period of about 6 days in November when a large proportion of applications are typically coming in. The decision was made to extend the deadline for all three lotteries.
- The Second Lottery is currently open and will close January 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The Third Lottery will open January 30<sup>th</sup> and run until February 17<sup>th</sup>.
- All remaining permits will be available OTC March 14<sup>th</sup>
- POH (Landowner) permit applications are due February 9<sup>th</sup>

#### *Proposed .410 Bill*

I wrote up a bill proposal to make .410 shotguns a legal method of take for turkey hunting. It was well received through all levels at IDNR but was denied once it hit the Governor's office. I plan to resubmit the same proposal this year as early they will be accepted.