



**ILLINOIS STATE CHAPTER  
NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION**



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

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**2nd Quarter Minutes – June 25, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gerald Lively, Greg Shaffer, Steve McNeil, Mike Lowder, Bob Reich, Terri Lively, Todd Batten, Eugene Stearns

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kent Bushman, Heath Jordan, Jeff Erb, Gerald Bois, Michael Howie, Wayne Prather

**NWTF STAFF PRESENT:** Cindy Spillman, Jeff Ravenscraft, John Burk **ABSENT:** Stacy Lindemann, Chase Seals

**GUEST:** Neil Waters

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

Secretary's Report from March Meeting: Kent Bushman – Approved and sent 3/19/23

**TREASURER'S REPORT: ATTACHMENT A;** Steve McNeil - State Balance - \$9,420.29; 2nd Quarter Expenditures - \$3,483.62; 2nd Quarter Deposits - \$4,252.80. A complete summary was handed out. Motion to approve - 1<sup>st</sup> – Greg Shaffer; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Todd Batten – Motion Carried

**SUPER FUND SUMMARY: ATTACHMENT B;** John Burk – Balance/Report - a complete summary was provided prior to the meeting. John went over the handout and explained in detail.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1) **Regional Field Staff Report:** Cindy/Jeff – National Leadership conference 2023 (June 20-22) Highlights; State Membership Numbers; Calendar Update-2023 Calendar incentive guns won by Chapter Spoon River Gobblers, individual Jeff Kerr; Ongoing Events  
**ATTACHMENT C** – provides a complete summary of information shared
- 2) **Regional Biologist Report:** John Burk; **District Forester:** Chase Seals; **Forester:** Stacy Lindemann  
**ATTACHMENT D** - a CP Report was provided prior to the meeting. John went over the handout and explained in detail. John went over Stacy and Chase's reports. IDNR owes us \$200,000 through the Habitat Stamp Grant - having issues getting the money and haven't been paid in 3 years. Considering not participating in the program. Jeff inquired about deliverables which are on a calendar year.
- 3) **IDNR Report:** Luke Garver – bottom of **ATTACHMENT D, 3<sup>rd</sup> page.** John went over Luke's report.

- 4) **Social Media Report:** Heath Jordan – Report on recent activity; Web Page, Facebook, Instagram, Nat'l Upgrades  
No report provided
- 5) **Land of Lincoln Scholarship:** Dr. Reich  
Reported more interest and a good quality of applicants for the scholarship last year. Discussed increasing the LOL scholarship cap to \$9,000 – (2) \$2,500, (2) \$1,500 & \$1,000 to cover expenses to attend the LOL Rendezvous. Motion to approve – 1<sup>st</sup> – Steve McNeil; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Todd Batten – Motion Carried. Jeff suggested using a QR code on the application this year.
- 6) **2024 LOL Rendezvous:** Jeff/Mike – January 12 – 13 at the Wyndham in Springfield, IL; State Awards; Vendors; Discussion/ideas? Incentives? Speakers? Guests?  
Jeff contacted the following Preferred Vendors who are interested in attending: Bass Pro, Higdon Outdoors & Reeds. Discussion on having Reeds offer a seminar & setting it up in a corner of the banquet room. Other vendors to invite – Cindy will contact Scott Branca (Branca Boys Spurs), Derrick Fair (Solid Surface Creations), Anthony Padgett (Red Truck Productions). Discussion on offering an incentive to attendees who purchase a ticket; example, get a donation from Scheels and each attendee would receive a \$10 gift card. Will offer Early Bird social on Friday night. Jeff will invite Kurt or Jason, NWTF Co-CEO's, to attend. Cindy will invite the IDNR Director to attend.
- 7) **Other:** Gerald informed everyone of a vacant seat on the Board. Reviewed and discussed the current Bylaws pertaining to the number of meetings required for a prospective Board member to attend to qualify for a seat on the Board. Applicants are required to attend 3 meetings. Application deadline is December 1<sup>st</sup>. Not a set number of Board members required. Discussion on amending Bylaws.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) **IFOR Report:** Dr. Reich – Update – IFOR continues to lobby on the new gun law in IL; NRA has done nothing. Doesn't know about the semi-automatic ban. Vice Chairman Sanders expressed a need to promote the shooting sports with tourism. Gerald asked if we can talk with IFOR about helping us get the money owed to us from IDNR.
- 2) **Wheelin' Sportsmen Report:** Michael Howie\Steve McNeil – Update; Trailer; Insurance  
Michael will attend the Deer & Beer Fest at the McLean Co. Fairgrounds in Bloomington, IL on August 25-27, 2023 to promote the WS Program and will have the Jakes Take Aim trailer there. Organizing an archery deer hunt in Pope Co. October 1-3, 2023; partnering with the United Special Sportsmen's Alliance to host a first-time deer hunt for terminal or disabled kids at Touch of Nature on November 3-5, 2023; partnering with IDNR on the annual WS deer hunt at Touch of Nature on November 10-12, 2023. Michael purchased his trailer for the WS Program and it is insured.
- 3) **JAKES and STH2 Report:** Heath Jordan – Update - 2023 JAKES Hunt; Trailers; Supplies  
No report provided. Discussion on trailer insurance. Gerald's JTA trailer is insured but need to get insurance on Heath's trailer. Gerald shared that a member of his chapter attended the IL State Jakes Hunt at Pecatonica and had a great time. The hunt was a success with four turkeys being harvested by participants.
- 4) **Conflict of Interest Form and Amendments to the State Chapter Board Bylaws:** Gerald  
Board members were provided with a Conflict of Interest form to complete, sign and turn in. Board members not present are to sign the form and submit it to Gerald. Once all the forms are completed and turned in, Jeff will submit them to National. Board voted to amend the Bylaws per National for the Conflict of Interest. Motion to approve – 1<sup>st</sup> – Greg Shaffer; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Terri Lively – Motion Carried.

- 5) **Other Business:** Guest Neil Waters spoke. Shared his views and dissatisfaction with the direction the NWTF is taking. Resigned from his position as District Director and will no longer be affiliated with his local chapter or the NWTF. Requested to be removed from the Chapter Portal.
- 6) **Next Meeting:** Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> (in-person meeting), Scheels in Springfield, IL. Will hold Super Fund Meeting at 10:15 a.m. with the Board Meeting following at noon. Future meeting: January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Wyndham in Springfield, IL

Motion to adjourn: 1<sup>st</sup> – Todd Batten; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Terri Lively – Motion Carried                      Time – 1:00 p.m.

Att. A

Att. A

Financial Report 2023

Check #	Date	Description of Transaction	Expense	Deposit	Balance
	01/01/23	BALANCE FORWARD FROM 2022		\$27,157.99	\$27,157.99
DC	01/03/23	Walmar checks	\$28.59		\$27,129.40
	01/04/23	Deposit - Calendars		\$12,100.00	\$39,229.40
	01/06/23	Deposit - Calendars		\$33,400.00	\$72,629.40
	01/11/23	Deposit - Calendars		\$400.00	\$73,029.40
	01/11/23	Deposit - Banquet		\$775.00	\$73,804.40
1031	01/24/23	BQ - Reeds	\$525.94		\$73,278.46
1032	01/13/22	BQ - Powder Keg	\$1,305.00		\$71,973.46
	01/13/23	BLANK			\$71,973.46
DC	01/13/23	Board Lunch - Papa Johns	\$141.92		\$71,831.54
1033	01/13/23	Change Banquet	\$1,500.00		\$70,331.54
	01/19/23	Deposit - Banquet		\$10,021.00	\$80,352.54
	01/19/23	Deposit - Calendars		\$28,750.00	\$109,102.54
	01/19/23	Deposit - Banquet Change		\$1,500.00	\$110,602.54
	01/13/23	Deposit - Calendars		\$25,100.00	\$135,702.54
1034	01/14/23	Taylor Munson	\$1,000.00		\$134,702.54
1035	01/14/23	void	\$0.00		\$134,702.54
1036	01/14/23	Valentina Pogge	\$1,500.00		\$133,202.54
1037	01/14/23	Allison Wallace	\$1,500.00		\$131,702.54
1038	01/14/23	Hannah Thompson	\$1,000.00		\$130,702.54
DC	01/23/23	BQ - red truck productions	\$705.00		\$129,997.54
	01/23/23	SF - IFOR - JAKES Hunt		\$5,000.00	\$134,997.54
	01/25/23	Deposit - Calendars		\$4,250.00	\$139,247.54
	01/27/23	Deposit - BQ revenue		\$7,400.00	\$146,647.54
1039	01/19/23	JAKES - Quaker Boy	\$180.75		\$146,466.79
1040	01/19/23	JAKES - Branca Boys Spurs	\$231.00		\$146,235.79
1041	01/19/23	BQ - Quigley Ford	\$500.00		\$145,735.79
1042	01/19/23	BQ - Gerhardt Outdoors	\$1,500.00		\$144,235.79
1043	01/19/23	BQ - Charma Engraving	\$882.00		\$143,353.79
1044	01/30/23	Caledars - Final	\$129,925.00		\$13,428.79
1045	02/07/23	BQ - Mike Lowder - facility	\$8,718.72		\$4,710.07
	02/09/23	Deposit - Calendars		\$1,200.00	\$5,910.07
1046	02/17/23	SF - Jakes Trailer	\$308.96		\$5,601.11
	03/09/23	Deposit - Whiskey		\$3,050.00	\$8,651.11
1047	03/12/23	Mike Lowder - Raffle Calls	\$652.00		\$7,999.11
DC	03/13/23	Scheels - Board Lunch	\$148.57		\$7,850.54
	03/20/23	National - Calendars		\$2,000.00	\$9,850.54
	03/20/23	National - Banquet Rev		\$302.80	\$10,153.34
DC	03/23/23	Congressional Sportsmen Caucus	\$400.00		\$9,753.34
DC	03/30/23	EventGroove - Raffle Tickets	285.02		\$9,468.32
1048	04/13/23	Heath Jordan - JAKES Hunt	113.69		\$9,354.63
1049	04/13/23	Steve McNeil - JAKES Hunt	\$85.64		\$9,268.99
1050	04/13/23	Kaleef's Clothing - JAKES Hunt T-Shirts	\$909.00		\$8,359.99
	04/20/23	Deposit - Whiskey		\$1,350.00	\$9,709.99
1051	05/09/23	Emerson Press - State Banquet	\$172.57		\$9,537.42
1052	05/31/23	Stacey Lindemann - JAKES Hunt	\$254.79		\$9,282.63
1053	05/31/23	Northern IL Thundering Toms - JAKES Hunt	\$272.78		\$9,009.85
	06/05/23	Deposit - Whiskey		\$600.00	\$9,609.85
1054	06/06/23	Jeff Ravenscraft - Trailer Lic	\$189.56		\$9,420.29
		Total			\$9,420.29
		Year to Date	\$154,936.50	\$164,356.79	
		3rd Quarter income & expense	\$3,483.62	\$4,252.80	

Att. B

**Illinois Super Fund Summary  
June 25, 2023**

Att. B

(as of Friday 6/23/23 there is \$67,686 in the states Super Fund Account)

**Proposals Received for January 2022 Granting Period**

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

**Proposals Received for 1 September 2022 Granting Period**

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

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

**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).** Paid

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

**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.**

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Paid</b>
• 4-H Shooting –	\$1,350	\$0
• CP Program Support -	\$20,000	\$0
• Hunter Education –	\$2,000	\$2,200
• NASP –	\$2,150	\$1,075
• JAKES –	\$2,500	\$2,846
• Wheelin' Sportsmen –	\$500	\$250
• WITO –	\$500	\$0
• Scholarships –	\$11,000	\$8,700
• Youth Shooting –	\$1,500	\$900
• Travel	\$2,000	\$2,340
• Seed Subsidy	\$8,000	\$0
• Mentored Hunts	\$500	\$0
• Chapter Recruitment	\$6,000	\$3,848
• HHF,NASC,USSA, IFOR	\$5,000	\$5,000
• Summer Leadership Meeting	\$10,000	\$1,060
• Savings towards hard dollars	\$15,000	\$0
<b>Approved 2023 line item budget</b>	<b>\$84,700</b>	<b>\$27,873</b>
Total amount needed for projects previously approved		\$20,000
Total amount in programmatic annual commitments 2023		\$56,827
Total required to cover above expenses		\$76,827

Banquet projections are  $\$67,686 + \$22,000 = \$89,686 - \$76,827 = \$12,859 + \$15,000 = \$27,859$

Att. C

**Regional Director's Report for June Board Meeting**  
**6/25/23**

Att. C

**Jeff Ravenscraft**

- As of May, 2023, Illinois ranks #3 in memberships by state with 12,624 adult members. Nationally we are at 218,235 adult members toward our goal of 250,000 adult members by the end of the calendar year.
- Upcoming banquets remaining in FY23 - Jeff has a new event in Aledo and Schuyler County in July and August respectively. He also has an event in August in Belvidere Illinois in August as well.
- Jeff's net revenue to date is \$444, 053.00
- Calendar Program – expect to have our 3 sets of 2024 calendars around 7/15/23; no changes made from last year; price will remain \$50. After some discussion, the decision was made to not offer any chapter incentives.
- Browning Citori Box Call Raffle for a chance to win #23 of 50 custom engraved 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary NWTf Browning Citori 12 ga. shotguns. Selling 30 chances @ \$35 each on 30 numbered box calls by Putt Rohm.
- Galesburg Guns Galore Party, September 16<sup>th</sup> at The Vault in Galesburg, IL, Doors open at noon – pre-selling tickets for a 75 Gun Raffle @ \$40 each, includes a regular membership or 7 tickets for \$260 and receive a Sponsor membership. Selling only 3,000 tickets. Odds of winning are 1:40. Need not be present to win. Ticket includes sandwich, chips and beer or soda.

**Cindy Spillman**

- Upcoming banquets remaining in FY 23 – Cindy has 7 banquets remaining in FY23; (3) in July and (4) in August. One banquet, the Ford Co. chapter, has not been held since the pandemic; (2) have new leadership and are making special plans to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at their events.
- Net revenue to date is \$387,640
- National Leadership Conference was held June 20-22, 2023 at Big Cedar Lodge in Ridgedale, MO. We had 4 attend the conference.
  - Keynote Speaker, Clint Runge – Founder of Archrival, a youth culture agency
    - Shared insights on how to reach young adults
    - Covered the various generations & how they view things differently
    - Recommended we target recruiting Millennials & encouraged the use of various social media platforms to reach younger generations
  - 2024 NWTf Academic Scholarship—
    - The scholarship application portal will open November 1, 2023
    - All applications should be submitted via the online portal. Chapters are required to adhere to the set submission deadlines in IL of January 1<sup>st</sup> to the local chapter; February 1<sup>st</sup> for the State Scholarship and March 1<sup>st</sup> for the National Scholarship

- Each chapter can have online access for 3 people who can: View submissions; Download submissions; Print submissions; Select chapter winners
- A flyer will be designed by our graphics department
- Cindy will be a part of the scholarship program review panel; let her know if you have any recommendations to share
- Introduced Project NEST (New Engagement System for the Team—this will merge NWTF information together making it more accessible and accurate
  - The email marketing system will be integrated with the CRM system which will allow NWTF to communicate more effectively with members & potential members about membership opportunities, giving opportunities and events
  - Memberships will be processed more effectively and data around membership ID's, membership types & giving history should be addressed
  - There will be fewer duplicate accounts
  - The interface between the CRM system and EMS will be better resulting in more accurate historical event reporting
  - The Turkey Records process will be integrated into the CRM system
  - The project will take up to 24 months to complete
  - Look to begin converting to the new system in June/July 2024 and will keep us informed of the target date
- NWTF & an agency partner, the Truth, are developing a new national advertising and education campaign aimed at increasing the social acceptance of hunting. The **“Hunt for Good”** campaign helps to introduce non-hunters (and lapsed hunters) to all the great benefits of hunting and assists in ensuring our voice as hunters does not diminish as populations grow. The campaign is funded in part through the Multi-State Conservation Grant Program and the Assoc. of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. To test the campaign, we did a small-scale national campaign that will conclude this month and allow us to gather results to maximize its benefits towards preserving our hunting heritage. <https://huntforgood.com/>

Att. D

**Conservation Programs Report for June Board Meeting  
06/25/2023**

Att. D

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

- Stacy continues to work on the deliverables associated with the NRCS grant
- NRCS September -June Update for Stacy:
  - Completed 27 Tree Planting/Re-enrollment/Mid-Management/Forest Management Incentive plans influencing 457 acres of CRP
  - Completed 21 Forest Management Plans (EQIP) influencing over 2119 acres for NRCS
  - Completed 3 burn plans for a total of 107 acres
  - Reviewed 28 properties totaling 936 conserved acres of EQIP/CRP/HIP projects for compliance.
  - Completed 97 site visits
  - Was in contact with 75 landowners
  - Total of 3619 acres influenced/conserved
- NRCS Cost \$142,358
- Reimbursed to NWTf \$106,768.50 (Match \$35,589.50)

**Chase Seals: Shawnee Hills Focal Landscape**

**USFS**

**Log Mark Pine SA**

- Log Mark service work is underway. Contractor has completed roughly 326 acres of TSI (non-herbicide) site preparation.
- Still awaiting on contractor to get his herbicide license.
- Log Mark timber sale was sold for a sum of \$123,656.00. This yielded \$37,468.14 bid premium over the USFS required bid minimum.
- Extra revenue from the timber sale, my contract rate for service work, and the USFS adding \$80K in additional funding resulted in the addition of 652 acres that will be conserved/influenced.
- With the acreage addition, the total acres impacted via this agreement will be 1,945 acres
- These additions increased NWTf's indirect rate value from \$22,517.03 to \$32,824.55

**Buttermilk Hill SA**

- Mastication contractor has only 2 units left and that work will be complete
- USFS staff and myself are planning to accomplish the tree planting side of the agreement this coming planting season (Feb-May 15, 2024)
- Once these two items are wrapped up, Buttermilk can be closed out.

**Kincaid Lakeshore Restoration (CALR)**

- I am still working with the USFS on this potential 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.
- Work focus will be FSI within a buffer along the lake edge, removal of non-native invasive species, and releasing around giant cane patches.
- This work will help to keep the forest in the native oak/hickory ecosystem (which is essential for turkeys), improve usage and visibility for turkeys in locations, and help to promote the bamboo species native to the state.
- Ecologically giant cane is forage for deer when it is young. In addition, these young stands often provide good nesting and broad rearing habitat for turkeys.

**IDNR**

- HQ and IL DNR are both still trying to close out the original HIP grant
- John and myself were able to secure a new grant from IL DNR to do a second round of the HIP grant
- Since the original grant has not been closed, we have not been able to start the new grant

**NRCS**

- We are currently in the 9-month window of our yearly NRCS agreement. I am sitting at just over \$86,400 in deliverables to date



- I have impacted an additional 1,152.55 acres since the March meeting and have impacted 4,957.55 acres on the FY.

### **Driftless Area Forester Position Update**

At our last meeting I mentioned that we had a very strong candidate and that Jared would be going through the reference checks and other administrative details to make an offer. The applicant was a private contractor that had been implementing a lot of the work recommended in the plans written by folks doing the job he'd applied for with us and paid for through farm bill programs so he was definitely someone that would've hit the ground running. Unfortunately, when the offer was made, he turned us down. We have obviously struggled at refilling this position that will remain exclusively in Illinois. Finding qualified foresters has been a challenge, for whatever reason nationally, but particularly here in Illinois, because we have a tough time competing with DNR and the USFS for the handful that are available; their salary and benefits are much better than we can afford. We have had to repost this position 4 times now. The position is posted again and we hope to be able to interview some qualified candidates soon.

### **Super Fund Balance Issue**

I recently received clarification on changes regarding Super Fund accounting as it relates to the states like IL who were granted 75% of their three-year average annual spend rate for fiscal 2022. While all of my states were under the impression the money granted us was fully available to us, the Management Team has clarified these funds were available for FY22 only. So, while we budgeted for FY22 with the intent to save money to get to hard dollars, that is not the case and we will not have the \$94K we thought we saved. The good news is that there is no deadline to get to a hard dollar budget so this will result in more time needed to get to a hard dollar based budget than we originally had thought. More good news is that, with your help, Jeff and Cindy are having a good year and the banquets are performing well. They projected \$150,000 and \$152,000 has already been deposited with probably another 15 yet to go in. This means that once we cover all of our obligations, we should still have around 30k remaining for either hard dollar savings or as carry over to be used in fiscal 2024.

### **Showdown on the Shawnee**

As a reminder, there has been some activity over about the past 2 years by a small number of folks from southern Illinois to change the designation of the Shawnee National Forest to the Shawnee National Park and Climate Preserve. The core of the proponents are primarily opposed to active forest management. They see the Shawnee as a wilderness and believe that no management is the best strategy for the future of this land and the plants and animals upon it. Ironically, the dramatic decline of the health of the forest that we see today came as a result of previous antimanagement activism in the 1990's largely led by the same individuals at the core of this new group. A National Park designation, based upon the over 400 other National Parks currently in existence, would likely result in active management stopping as well as likely no hunting allowed. The activists quickly point to that fact that currently 60% of the existing parks allows some hunting. What they fail to tell you is that the majority of that 60 percent is in Alaska and much of that access is limited to native American subsistence hunting.

As far as our need to get in the middle of this, our policy leads are still of the same mind. In order for this to be successfully accomplished, there would have to be some kind of a bill drafted that would have to pass congress. Currently this is still just local noise and there is no bill to oppose even though we have been told that Durbin and Duckworth are aware and interested because of the "Climate Preserve" angle. What Matt Lindler did suggest is that if we know some heavy hitters that have some stroke with local and national politicians, it can be very effective to kill this from the inside. In other words, if the Duckworths and Durbins know that constituents that can significantly influence their support are completely opposed to any such bill, it would never see the light of day. I also spoke with Mike Baltz who is the coordinator of the Let The Sun Shine In initiative in southern IL. Mike has been on the front lines of this issue and he says that, although this small group is still very actively pursuing this designation they do not appear to be gaining much traction with very little support from the conservation community. He did say that they have been talking about some big announcement forthcoming next April associated with the eclipse. I will continue to keep you informed on this issue.

### **Seed Subsidy**

We offered a seed subsidy program again this spring. The board voted to approve an \$8,000 budget line item to include a mailer to sponsor members announcing the program at 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 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. We have not been billed yet but the mailer was \$516.27 and we have sold the following amounts of the following blends:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**For a total of \$6,406.** Everything but the Quail Keeper will do an acre a bag. The Quail Keeper plants at 2 bags to the acre. I told Cissy to let the program run until we hit our super fund budget ceiling (about another \$1,000) or July 10<sup>th</sup>, whichever comes first. At that time she will invoice me and the 2023 seed subsidy program will be closed out. Therefore, if you want seed and have not gotten any yet go to the above link and place an order soon.

### **Conservation Seed**

As has been offered in the past, both Illinois and Iowa members have access to the conservation seed program available in MO. Seed offered will be RR beans for \$18/bag, and milo for \$12/bag. If you have any interest in this seed let me know. It is still not too late to plant beans (assuming it ever rains again) and milo keeps for years and \$12 is a really good price.

### **NFWF Grant**

Every year the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has a call for proposals to do conservation work that promotes pollinator and, more specifically, monarch habitat creation. These are large grants (250k) and I applied for one under the early May deadline called "Open Lands Restoration on The Shawnee National Forest." I reached out to Chase and he reached out to his contacts on the Shawnee Mark Vukovich, Justin Dodson, and Scott Chris. They have about 1,000 acres in 3 separate tracts (The White, the Rothamel, and Pennant Bar) that require a lot of mastication work to restore to a condition that can be maintained by fire. I submitted a preproposal by the early May deadline. The NFWF folks evaluate all of the preproposals received and then ask for a full proposal for projects that made the first cut based upon the concept outlined in the preproposal. A little over a week ago, I was asked to submit a full proposal that is due 7/13/23. Most, if not all of the match will come from probably a combination of NWTf and USFS time but there is no match requirement. Restoring 1,000 acres of open land would be extremely beneficial as nesting and brood rearing habitat.

### **DNR Report:**

#### *Spring Season:*

Turkey hunters harvested 16,123 birds during the 2023 Illinois Spring Turkey Season. This compares with last year's total of 13,701. This year 80,642 permits were sold compared to 81,672 last year. The record harvest total for the spring turkey season was set in 2006 when 16,569 turkeys were taken.

The 2023 total includes the Youth Turkey Season harvest of 1,309 birds, which compares with the 2022 youth harvest of 1,258.

The top five counties for spring wild turkey harvest in 2023 were Jo Daviess (596), Jefferson (480), Pike (420), Pope (382), and Randolph (371).

Jakes made up 28% of the harvest compared to 27% last year while hens made up 1.4% compared to 1.75% last year.

***Brood Survey:***

This year we are making a switch from paper postcards to a web-based survey for our annual brood survey. The new electronic version can be accessed on both mobile devices and home computers. In addition to submitting surveys through their internet browsers, mobile users will have the option to use the Survey123 app to log turkey sightings. We hope the new format will make it more convenient to report turkey sightings while allowing a broader pool of volunteers to participate. For more information on the survey, read our previous articles in *Outdoor Illinois Journal* from [May 2021](#) and [May 2023](#).

If you would like to help with the IDNR Wild Turkey Survey, follow this [link](#) (or type in this url:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/dab52803edd24b61bfbc6eb8110db0bb>). We also have a QR code that can be scanned with a mobile device:



For anyone who would like to use the app, I've included step-by-step instructions for its installation and use. All this information and more can be found in the Wild Turkey section of the [Hunt Illinois](#) website (<https://huntillinois.org/turkey/>). Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions: [luke.garver@illinois.gov](mailto:luke.garver@illinois.gov).