

WV Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation Honored



Mark Shook

Turkey with transmitter on back takes flight.

The West Virginia Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was chosen as the 2006 recipient of the Division of Natural Resources *Sportsmen's Organization of the Year Award*.

"This organization always does an outstanding job of supporting our state's outdoors sportsmen and the DNR with their programs and contributions," DNR Director Frank Jezioro said. "Over the past 20 years the West Virginia chapter has donated more than half a million dollars for habitat enhancement, equipment,

wildlife management area projects, educational programs for young people all over the state, and many other worthy projects."

The state chapter has a Wild Turkey Super Fund that raises money for projects that support wild turkey conservation and preservation of the hunting tradition. Among the major contributions made this year were \$194,000 that went toward the Little Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area in Monongalia County (see related story page 12) and \$9,000 for the state gobbler study. Other efforts supported by the state chapter include the Hunter Safety Education Program; wild turkey research, management and

restoration; women's programs such as Women in the Outdoors; rewards for the prosecution of turkey poachers; law enforcement equipment; land purchase; and Wheelin' Sportsman, a program for disabled outdoorsmen and women.

"DNR would not be able to perform as well as

it does without the remarkable support of individuals and organizations such as these," said Jezioro. "Our agency thanks this year's winners and all the other organizations and citizens who work so hard to improve our environment and quality of outdoor recreation."

License Plates Still Available

Nature and hunting enthusiasts can still purchase West Virginia's popular wildlife license plates. One features a white-tailed deer standing alongside a mountain stream and the other portrays a rose-breasted grosbeak at Dolly Sods. Both wildlife plates were designed by artist Tom Allen.

The wildlife license plate fees include the \$30 annual registration fee,

a \$15 annual fee which supports the Wildlife Diversity Program, and a one-time \$10 fee. The total cost of the plate is \$55 the first year and \$45 in subsequent years.

The program supports the conservation of the Mountain

State's rich nongame wildlife and botanical resources. Contact your local West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles office for more details.



Hands-On Educational Trunks Available To Teachers

Ever wonder how you were going to get that lesson plan complete for science? Here's the answer. The DNR currently has two great educational resource trunks-on bats and neotropical migratory birds-that are full of wonderful materials, including lots of books, videos, puppets, posters, transparencies, audiotapes, stamps, puzzles and games. A

trunk on mammals will become available later this fall.

All the trunks are interdisciplinary, literature-based, and provide hands-on experiences which foster an awareness and appreciation of West Virginia's wildlife.

Best of all a huge lesson plan is included in the package that is full of great exercises that the kids will really

love. These are geared for classes in the K-5 range.

Trunks are available for loan to educators statewide with a \$25 refundable deposit. Return postage is the responsibility of the school (approximately 10-\$15) and the trunks are loaned for a three-week period. Teachers receive the manual two weeks in advance of the trunk delivery.

For an applica-



Mark Shook

Summer tanager

tion form, write the Wildlife Diversity Program, WVDNR, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241; call (304) 637-0245; or email: kareneye@wvdnr.gov.

DNR Now Offers Online Hunter Education

The Law Enforcement Section of the DNR is now offering Alternative Delivery Hunter Education courses to any person eligible to take the “traditional” course to earn a permanent Hunter Education Card.

Those interested must first register at one of the six law enforcement district offices listed on the DNR Web site www.wvdnr.gov or the Hunting/Fishing regulation booklet.

Upon registration, you can complete a study workbook or take an online course at www.ihea.com. After completing that stage of the course, you will be required to attend

Clarification

A reader from Georgia pointed out that although a photo cutline on the story about the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (*Spring/Summer, 2007*) indicated that Frank Hayes developed the CapChur gun, it was a cooperative effort between Jack A. Crockford who built the first CapChur gun and Hayes who developed the tranquilizing chemical.

“Had it not been for the cooperative efforts of these two men, the CapChur gun system for tranquilizing wildlife would probably have not been developed until later years,” reader Robert S. Baker writes.

practical exercises and take a written exam.

“Because a lot of our youth are tied up with school activities in the fall, these alternative courses will give them additional

opportunities to complete a hunter education course that is required to purchase a hunting license,” according to Lt. Tim Coleman, DNR Law Enforcement Section.

New State Record For Striped Bass

A state record for striped bass was recently caught by Michael Pittman, Jr., of Wayside in Monroe County. Pittman caught the 40.88-inch, 21.38-pound fish from Bluestone Lake in Summers County July 8. He caught the record striped bass using a crank bait while fishing near the mouth of the Bluestone River.

Pittman’s catch establishes a new West Virginia record for length. The previous length record for striped bass was a 37.75-inch fish caught by Har-

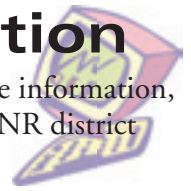


Michael Pittman, Jr. with his state record bass.

old Mills from Bluestone Lake in 2006. The current record weight for striped bass is a 29.56-pound fish caught by Terry Watkins at Bluestone Lake.

Anglers who believe they have caught a state record fish should check the 2007 Fishing Regulations brochure or go online: www.wvdnr.gov.

For more information, contact a DNR district office.



New Clays Shooting Range Opens

The first sporting clays shooting range to be built in a West Virginia State Park opened this summer at Cacapon Resort State Park. The Wobble Clay Shooting Range is located at a section of the park where it was determined that noise impact would be minimal.

“This facility, with guns, shells, and eye and ear protectors furnished, is a perfect place to introduce new shooters, especially youngsters and women, to another outdoor activity they can participate in for the rest of their lives,” said DNR Director Frank Jezioro.

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