



On Target

September/October 2011

**PFSC Convention
September 16 - 18, 2011
Harrisburg Radisson Hotel
Details on page 6**

**Pennsylvania Outdoors Forum:
Marcellus Shale Development
&
Penn's Woods
September 17th
Harrisburg Radisson Hotel
Details on page 7**

**Triple-split season for Dove this year.
First season opens Sept. 1 - Oct. 1
Second season Oct. 29 - Nov. 26
Third season Dec. 26 - Jan 4**

**The Official Publication of the
Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs**

**Protecting and advancing Pennsylvania's hunting, fishing, and trapping heritage and our resources.
Protecting our 2nd Amendment Rights.**

and wildlife.

If you know anyone interested in attending next year's programs, please contact Michelle Kittell at: mkittell@picweb.org for more information.

The knowledge I gained from Field School will not only benefit me in the outdoors, but in many other aspects of my life, and I am grateful for having the opportunity to participate. *Garret Pensak*

Continued from Page 32 Pennsylvania Bucktails

its fifth year.

In *A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold wrote that there was a need for a "new ethic", an "ethic dealing with man's relation to land and to the animals and plants which grow upon it". This is a program that would make Leopold proud; as each of the youth develop a land ethic.

Leopold states the basic principle of his land ethic as, "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

The QDMA Pennsylvania State Directors that assisted in bringing the land ethic to these incredibly bright youth were Tim Smail, Rick Watts, Gary Lewis, Scott Rushe, Jeff Krause and Kathy Davis; some of whom spent the entire five days at the field school and survived on very little sleep!

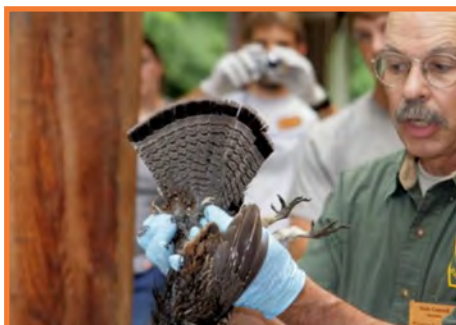
When asked why they would put so much effort in a camp like this; one phrase summed it up well, "We hold the future in our hands".

WLA Student Comments

Briana Jimenez from Lehigh Co.:

WLA is an eye opening and life changing program. It prepares and encourages its students to become ambassadors of wildlife conservation. It can also in many cases be

info@pfsc.org



Dr. Cottrell discusses the Ruffed Grouse tail feathers. Characteristics of these feathers are used for sexing the grouse.

a deciding factor in whether or not one wants to pursue a career that involves wildlife or conservation.

You learn more than many will learn in a lifetime about white-tailed deer and conservation in just five days. You also get to meet lots of new people that share some of the same interests, and form bonds that may last for the rest of your life.

The instructors are just so passionate about what they do and they make all the hard work worthwhile.

You have the opportunity to talk to each instructor on such a personal level, ask questions, and hear about their numerous accomplishments.

It's truly empowering! The team leaders and assistant team leaders are wonderful, pushing the students and keeping their confidence up. In addition there are various team building activities that are extremely fun and help you bond with your teammates, as well as the other students, while teaching leadership skills and lessons of conservation.

Before going to WLA, I absolutely hated hunters. I had a very negative opinion that anyone who could even think of hunting, but after meeting so many amazing people that were hunters, and becoming educated on the importance of hunting, I began to appreciate and understand that hunting is indeed a necessity in order to conserve our wildlife and natural resources.

I'm under age 21 and I want to be a member of

PFSC's NEXT GENERATION Of Sportsmen/Women!

Here's my membership info and a check to PFSC for \$10.

P.S. to adults:

Next Generation Membership makes a great gift to youths on your shopping list - Join Today!!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zipcode _____

Date of birth _____

E-mail: _____

Send form or same information and \$10 check to:

PFSC / Next Generation
2426 N. Second St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

I'm from the suburbs so being surrounded by wilderness for a week was incredible! I fell in love with our environment and when it came time to go home, I didn't want to leave.

I'm beyond excited to do my outreach projects and share all the info I have learned while spreading the word about the Wildlife Leadership Academy. I'd recommend this program to anyone who has any interest in wildlife and conservation as I can almost guarantee they will not regret it.

Tyler Schoonover had this to say:

My favorite parts of the camp were the hands on parts. It was really fun when we were able to shoot at Scotia. I had trouble shooting the clay pigeons at first, but after a few shots, I got the hang of it. I also enjoyed when we had the opportunity

Continued Page 31

www.pfsc.org 29

PFSC Statewide Organization Spotlight



Since 1985
\$5.1 Million has been
raised and spent by
Pennsylvania chapters on
projects within the state.

JAKES

Spent over \$315,000 to introduce youth to outdoor activities, conservation and hunting.

Women in the Outdoors

Spent over \$109,000 on programs, materials and equipment to introduce women to the outdoors, hunting and conservation by holding Women in the Outdoors events throughout the state.

Wheelin' Sportsmen

Spent over \$19,250 to provide opportunities for the disabled to participate in outdoor activities and learn about wildlife conservation.

Mentored Youth Hunting Program

The Pennsylvania State Chapter has long supported initiatives to attract more young hunters and preserve the tradition of turkey hunting with programs like the Mentored Youth Hunting Program.

Land Purchase

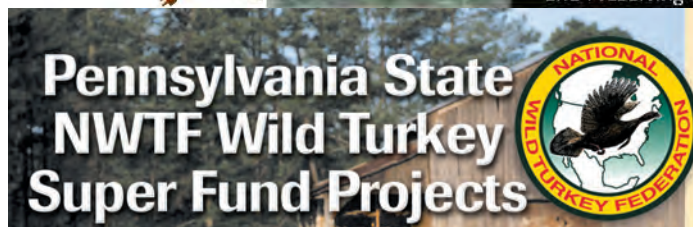
Spent over \$320,000 to purchase 27,594 acres of land or conservation easements to preserve wildlife habitat and provide additional hunting areas.

Research

Spent over \$99,000 on wild turkey research. Purchased equipment related to research such as radio telemetry equipment.

Management

Spent over \$24,000 on wild turkey management.



Habitat Enhancement

Spent over \$2.6M on habitat improvement projects. Habitat enhancement projects have impacted more than 273,068 acres within the state.

Projects were completed on Allegheny National Forest, PA Game Lands, DCNR State Forests and Parks, and other public hunting grounds.

Education

Spent over \$370,000 on educational programs and literature including scholarships, education boxes, 4-H and teacher workshops.

Spent over \$79,000 on educational projects for volunteers and professionals.

Hunter Safety

Spent over \$260,000 to support hunter safety classes and initiatives within the state.

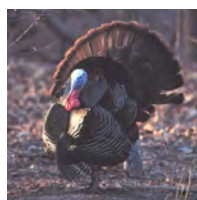
Purchased hunter safety materials and equipment, including interactive shooting systems.

Hunting Heritage

Spent over \$225,000 to protect and promote the hunting tradition including contributions to the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance and the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Rewards

Spent over \$10,000 to protect wild turkeys and other wildlife through support of state sponsored reward programs, the printing of reward signs and reward payments.



YES! I'd like to join the National Wild Turkey Federation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of the hunting tradition. This membership also enrolls me in my state and local chapters.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor Member: \$235 <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member: \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Women in the Outdoors: \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> JAKES Member (ages 12 & under): \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Xtreme JAKES Member (ages 13 - 17): \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelin' Sportsmen Member: \$30	Name: (please print) _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> V <input type="checkbox"/> AmEx <input type="checkbox"/> Dis Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____
Mail this complete application to: Carl Mowry, 288 Crisswell Road, Butler, PA 16002 www.nwtf.org 724-283-5708 • cmowry@nwtf.net www.panwtf.org	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please check here if you are interested in being involved with or would like information about a local NWTF chapter.	

Continued from Page 29 Bucktails Student Comments

to use the telemetry equipment. Everything at the camp was enjoyable. It's hard to pick just one thing. I had fun just being able to go to WLA. Sunny Huang of Bucks County, near Philadelphia wrote:

I've been to many camps through the years. Some were fun, and some attempted to be both fun and educational, but the latter usually didn't work out. I began to have my doubts about these so-called "educational" camps, and before my senior year, I gave them one last try, and attended Wildlife Leadership Academy: Bucktails. And by far, it was the most fun I've ever had at a camp.

WLA combines fun and education so seamlessly well that you don't even know where one ends and the other begins. What would take several weeks, or perhaps even months to cover in a regular school curriculum is jam packed into five intensive days.

It's tough (and I'm speaking from experience: less than five hours of sleep a night for four straight days isn't a walk in the park), but it's

more than worthwhile. Students gain insight into the lives of wildlife biologists and the world of environmental science and conservation, obtain a firsthand experience with white-tailed deer (literally a firsthand experience--live autopsies and dissections), hunting, tracking, wildlife management, identifying plants, photography...and that's only listing a few. (I would go on, but the detail would probably cover an enormous expanse of pages.)

But while I thoroughly enjoyed learning more than I could have ever dreamed of in less than a week, I have got to say, my favorite part was the instructors. This has probably been repeated over and over and over, but the instructors are just so passionate about their work and the kids. You can see their eyes light up with every hand in the air, and they do their best to fully and comprehensively answer questions.

With several questions about drawing in art, I nervously approached one such instructor, who was particularly gifted in art, but she greeted me and answered all of my questions enthusiastically. The next day, I tentatively approached her yet again, but before I could do so, she approached me and willingly showed me some of her techniques.

Another instructor engaged me in an analytic conversation about why some carnivores had



What Deer Eat: Students rotate between four stations to learn about deer anatomy and physiology. At the station seen in the photo students get a close up look at a stomach as Kip Adams, REACH Director for the QDMA, teaches about the digestive system of a white-tailed deer; students also get a hands-on look at identifying the actual plants in the stomach.

long jaws and why others didn't. He later pointed out to me my strengths, which I previously thought weren't "strengths" at all, and encouraged me to pursue those strengths further. That same instructor went around and sat several other kids down to point out their strengths and get to know them better.

WLA is the place for aspiring wildlife conservationists to go.

For more information about next year's programs, contact Michelle Kittell at: mkittell@picweb.org

Are you receiving PFSC's E-mail News Alerts?

If not, you're missing out on all the up to the minute news and information pertinent to the interests of sportsmen and women.

Sign up now by sending an e-mail to info@pfsc.org. Just include your full name, county of residence, and any clubs or groups you belong to.

Don't be left in the dark!

Sign up today!



Plant Pressing: Students create a pressed collection of plants that are important to deer. In this photo, Kathy Davis, Team Leader and Pennsylvania QDMA State Chapter Director, helps her students properly place the just collected plants into the plant press.

Or Current Resident

www.pfsc.org

Wildlife Leadership Academy

By Kathy Davis

Sleep deprivation, cold showers, hectic schedule, and more fun and a better basic wildlife education than one can ever imagine.

Those are all words that describe one of the highest energy, forward thinking wildlife programs for today's youth in our Nation, the Wildlife Leadership Academy.

The Wildlife Leadership Academy (WLA) is exactly what it sounds like. It's an academy for youth ages 14 to 17 to learn about a specific species of wildlife, with an emphasis on leadership skills.

WLA holds a Ruffed Grouse focused program called, Pennsylvania Drummers, whose host partner is the Ruffed Grouse Society (see story on page 28), and a Pennsylvania Bucktails focused program, whose host partner is the Pennsylvania State Chapter of Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA). A new program focusing on trout is forming with its host partner Trout Unlimited.

The programs are administered by the Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education (PICE) and are a cooperative initiative involving several state agencies and conservation organizations.

Each field school is five days of intensive learning. Days start as early as 5:45 AM and end as late as 11:15 PM, with many assignments

and challenges in between.

The field school I participated in was the Pennsylvania Bucktails.

After checking in, the youth are given a brief introduction to white-tailed deer natural history and then they literally jump into the "meat" of the matter - a necropsy.

Several deer are sectioned and after an introduction by Dr. Walter Cottrell, wildlife veterinarian for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the students break out into their herds, where they continue to explore the basic anatomy and physiology focusing on the cardio-respiratory system, embryology, and the digestive tract.

The cadets also learn about disease, health and nutritional requirements, life cycle, behavior, carrying capacity (complete with lab exercises), population monitoring and research (telemetry is used) and a plethora of everything related to white tailed deer.

Students delve into the deer's habitat requirements. They learn some general forestry, plant ecology, general ecology, and build their own



Field Time: Jeff Krause, wildlife biologist for the Army Corp of Engineers and Pennsylvania QDMA State Chapter Director, prepares students to go into the field to participate in hands-on evaluation of white-tailed deer habitat.

plant collections using plant presses and make museum quality specimens.

They participate in team building activities as well as focus on individual leadership skills. By the end of the program, a shy fawn or button buck can grow into a dominate doe or a mature ten point buck by exhibiting confidence and showing strong leadership skills. The social structure of the original herd changes from one of individuals to a cohesive team unit.

Modeled after the Texas Brigades, a program QDMA's newest National Director Bill Eikenhorst is involved with, the Wildlife Leadership Academy in Pennsylvania is in

Continued Page 29