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Welcome to the National Wild Turkey Federation where sharing our passion of hunting wild turkeys with new hunters is part of the mission. The NWTF's Turkey Hunting 101 is considered the premier educational tool to learn everything you need to know about wild turkeys, their behavior and planning a successful hunt, and we've compiled all that information here.

Turkeys are intelligent wild animals that are wary of humans. Their keen eyesight makes up for their lack of smell and they can detect even the slightest amount of movement, so hunting them is challenging. We encourage you to learn all you can before hitting the woods to begin your turkey hunting adventures – a safe and successful hunt depends on it.

It is important to learn how to distinguish between adult toms and younger jakes, as well as knowing the difference between male and female turkeys. It sounds simple, but when you are out hunting, the differences may be less noticeable, especially from a distance.

Adult male turkeys are typically larger in size and more colorful than their female counterparts, with colors of red, white and blue being noticeable on their head and neck. A male turkey's feathers also will be closer to black and have a more vibrant sheen, while a hen turkey will generally be more brown in appearance. Do not assume a bird is a male if it has a beard – about 10 percent of hens also can have beards.

General wild turkey habitat requirements:

- Trees: provide food, daytime resting and escape cover, and most importantly, nighttime roost sites
- Grasses: provide food for adults and are especially important to poults, which need an environment where they can forage for insects
- Moisture: a direct and indirect key feature to wild turkey survival and reproduction

To hunt wild turkeys in most terrains, you will need basic gear. In most states, choices for method of take for turkeys are shotgun, muzzleloader or bow. Thanks to modern turkey loads and turkey chokes, both 12 and 20 gauge do a good job at taking down a turkey.

Many hunters choose to use a choke with their turkey guns to keep the pattern of the shot tight. Most choke tube companies have “turkey” choke tubes are designed for turkey hunting.

If you choose a bow, either traditional, compound or cross bow, make your choice something you are comfortable shooting from a seated position, as most turkey hunts happen from the ground. Also to consider, hunting with a bow does present some logistical issues when hunting from a ground blind.

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If you failed to enclose a Stamped-Self Addressed Envelope with your mailed dues submittal, your 2021 card will be at the club and available for pickup at any scheduled meeting



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Room is at a premium for drawing back your bow. Be sure to sit in the blind and practice drawing back your bow prior to your hunt. This will ensure you are not trying to draw too much weight on your bow as well. If you cannot comfortably sit and draw back your bow, you need to reduce your draw weight. Drawing too much weight can not only be awkward, but it can cause injury, create a safety issue and can put a damper on any hunt.

(end)

There is no need for anyone to work alone. Please call one of the following so that they can assist and provide additional safety.
Smokey Burdin 724-396-9627 M-F 9-5
Kevin Kennelty 724-640-0726
Rich Boehm 724-953-4778

Did you change your phone number, email account, or address? Please tell us so that we can communicate with you.

Obituary for John E. Reed Jr.

John E. Reed Jr., 70, of Irwin, died suddenly Friday January 22, 2021. He was born April 4, 1950 in Owensdale, a son of the late John E. Sr. and Minnie (Schwartz) Reed and was also preceded in death by a sister Marsha Knight. John was a retired employee of Reed Tool & Die Co. and was an Army and Navy veteran. He was a member and Elder of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church, the Irwin Sportsman's Club, the NRA, and enjoyed spending time at the trailer in Punxsutawney where he liked to hunt and fish. He is survived by his wife Karen L. (Smith) Reed; his children Nicole A. (Andrew) Reckhart of Greenville, Jennifer L. (Matthew) Stephens of North Huntingdon, and Matthew C. Reed (Danielle Lloyd) of McKeesport; his grandchildren Isaac Meyer, Taya Sears, Cassidy Frick, Noah Reckhart, Hannah Reckhart, Loralye Stephens, Ella Stephens, Carson Reed, Leah Reckhart, and Brantley Reed; his siblings William Reed of IN, David Reed of Mt. Pleasant, and Deborah Bryant of CT; also nieces and nephews. Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the William Snyder Funeral Home, 521 Main Street, Irwin, 724-863-1200, where a funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday with Rev. Andrew Wirt, officiating. In lieu of flowers those wishing can make a contribution in John's memory to Irwin Sportsman's Club. For online condolences please visit

www.snyderfuneralservices.com.

A Crash Course in Hunting Coyotes by Tom Carpenter, and Toby Walrath

It used to be that when small-game, upland bird, waterfowl, and big-game seasons ended, a hunter finally had a chance to pull up an easy chair next to a cozy fire, rest up, and reflect on an autumn well spent. Ditch that notion. Winter is time to hunt the hunter. Coyotes are out there waiting in habitat near you, and all you have to do is go after them to experience some of hunting's knee-shakingest thrills. While the basics of coyote hunting are simple—set up with visibility and minimize movement; keep the wind in your face or crossing; call in dogs by appealing to their stomach, territoriality, or libido—success hinges on the details. It pays to match your approach to the habitat, and assemble your gear with meticulous care. Easy chairs are for old farts. Get out there now where the air is clean and the coyotes roam.

Though traditionally thought of as creatures of the wide-open West, coyotes have moved into timber country in untold numbers in recent years. The challenges of hunting expansive woods are clear: The cover never ends, and the calling noises you make will only reach so far. Here are three solutions.

In flat country, search out clear-cuts, meadows, loggers' landings, marsh edges, cover seams, and other openings, and set up there. You'll gain much-needed visibility, your calls will carry farther, and you'll be where the coyotes are—that combination of clearings, transition zones, and thick cover where prey (including cottontails, mice, voles, and moles) reside.

In hill country, head for hollows, gullies, valleys, draws, washes, and other terrain that lets you set up on one side and survey the opposite slope for approaching varmints.

In big timber habitat, set up often, call loudly, and wait a short time (15 to 20 minutes, with three to five distress calling sequences in there), then move on. Covering ground, and lots of it, is the way to find a coyote that will hear you; the dogs have many places to be, and call sounds do not carry far.

There's another secret to shooting coyotes where the cover sprawls on forever: Scout hard. Here are three effective approaches. Spend a starlit winter evening out in hunting country, standing by your vehicle and listening for the yips, yowls, and howls of coyotes. Triangulate the approximate location of the calls (they carry better on a clear winter night) and you'll know if there's a pack in the area and where you might start your search.

An even better time to do this kind of scouting is the last hour before dawn, when the coyotes will be close to their denning area. It's like listening for a turkey gobble to determine where his roost is. Hike in toward the howls, and hunt. Or after a fresh snow, drive back roads and trails, and look for coyote tracks crossing. The purpose isn't to take off and track the dog down (a formidable task), but rather to just know there are coyotes working the area.

After exurban and suburban areas, agricultural habitat has experienced the biggest increase in coyote populations over the last decade. That doesn't mean farmland song dogs are easy to hunt. On the contrary: These coyotes are pressured and persecuted hard by everybody and their uncle. Folks who hear the dogs howling at night know where they live and pursue them with a vengeance—and educate them in the ways of hunters.

Here's another challenge: Agricultural coyote habitat varies widely. Rolling dairy farm country with a mix of woodlots, row-crop country punctuated with sloughs and grasslands, beef country with its expansive pastures and extensive wooded river bottoms—they're all different, and no single setup and approach fits all. As a hunter, you have to be as adaptable as the coyotes you're chasing.

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Welcome New Members

We hope you will enjoy the ranges and the fellowship of our club. Best Wishes.

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I have four Ruger 22 target pistols @ \$225 each. All are standard model, blue finish, excellent condition, and come with one magazine.

MK 1 6 7/8 inch barrel MK 1 6 inch barrel

MK 1 4 3/4 inch barrel MK 11 4 3/4 inch barrel

Contact Rege Byerly rsbyerly@comcast.net 724-733-4715

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