

"We're so honored to have these brave soldiers here with us," said NWTF CEO George Thornton. "Offering them the opportunity to enjoy a summer afternoon of relaxation is the least we can do to show our appreciation to these heroes for all the sacrifices they've made to keep us free."

Local volunteer and Edgefield resident Jackie Jordan said the outpouring of support for the soldiers from the local community was inspiring. "We just wanted to let these soldiers know that we care, the NWTF cares and we're here for them," said Jordan. "To see them out here having a good time is really what it's all about."



Wounded soldiers from Fort Gordon in Augusta, Ga., enjoyed an afternoon of food and fishing at the NWTF's headquarters.

One soldier relaxed while keeping a close eye on his fishing rod. "It's nice to be out here," he said. "We appreciate everybody having us here and giving us the chance to unwind and have some fun."

[WOUNDED WARRIORS EVENT]

## Kentucky hunt

Trigg County, Ky.—In April, nine wounded warriors participated in a turkey hunt coordinated by the NWTF's Trigg County Chapter and Donaldson Creek Outfitters, along with the help of more than 40 volunteers.



Nine wounded warriors enjoyed a spring turkey hunt thanks to more than 40 volunteers, Donaldson Creek Outfitters and NWTF's Trigg County Chapter.

After an early breakfast, the soldiers were given several gifts, including a Knight and Hale turkey call presented by Jim Strelec, jackets and hats by Donaldson Creek Outfitters that were embroidered by G and S Embroidery and limited edition knives and a Bible by the Trigg County Chapter, as well as pins and certificates.

No one harvested a turkey during the morning hunt, but Derek Park scored a trophy gobbler in the afternoon. Next year's event is already in the works.

[CATFISH AND CASTING]

## Arkansas fishing event

Booneville, Ark.—NWTF's Sebastian County Boss Gobblers Chapter from Greenwood, Ark., hosted a Wheelin' Sportsmen event in May. Forty-eight residents from the Booneville Human Development Center enjoyed a catfish round up, casting contest and horseback rides.

One 54-year-old participant caught his first ever fish, a 16½-inch catfish. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission supplied the fish for the derby. Contest winners received a rod and reel combination set donated by a local Wal-Mart.

[POSITIVE PARTNERSHIP]

## Longleaf pine restoration

The NWTF continues to make restoring the longleaf pine—one of America's most endangered ecosystems—a priority.

The Federation recently signed a conservation agreement with the Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield Partnership for Longleaf Pine Restoration to help restore the longleaf pine to areas in and near Fort Stewart in southeastern Georgia.

More than 271,000 longleaf pine seedlings will be planted on 678 acres of federal, public and private lands surrounding Fort Stewart. The seedlings are grown in containers in a nursery and are planted with soil still attached to their roots. They have an extended planting season and better survival and growth rates when planted in the winter or fall than bare-root seedlings or seedlings without containers.

"This agreement is an excellent example of cooperative conservation," said Lynn Lewis-Weis, NWTF's regional biologist in Georgia. "No single group can perform the enormous task of conservation, but we can make positive changes to our nation's resources by working together."