

Chenango County Youth Turkey Hunt - 2019

April 6, 2019 was the sixth year that we engaged here at the Youth Turkey Hunt in Chenango County. This was Safety Day at the Oxford Rod and Gun Club. A day when we all gathered to teach the kids about all the nuances of turkey hunting, from the difference between a tom and a hen to the difference between two and nine birdshot.

The day started off with an introduction by ECO Brett Armstrong, followed by a short course on turkey calls by Writer Eric Davis. After a quick lunch of pizza provided by Roma's in Oxford, the kids were taken, one at a time down to the gun range to show off their shooting skills. This allowed the mentors to see that the youth were safe and could easily handle the gun they were going to use while out in the field. While each kid was shooting on the range, the rest of the gang were building turkey calls furnished by Quaker Boy Calls of Orchard Park, NY and Ethan Paul of Beard Bustin' Calls. Afterward they all got their assignments of who they would be hunting with and where they'd meet up for that most exciting morning.

On April 20th our teams of mentors and hunters set out at O'Dark Thirty to try and harvest a bird. There would be 12 teams roaming the countryside in search of Mr. Tom. The plan was to harvest a bird and meet back at the Oxford Rod and Gun Club with bragging rights and to enjoy a few donuts if they were early or hamburgers for lunch.

Four of the twelve youth came back with birds. Kalib Alari and Kostin Alari hunted with their grandfather Ron Meek and were the first successful boys. Then it was Ava Cigliano who harvested a nice bearded bird with Jaret and Ethan Paul. Finally, Ty Babcock was our fourth successful hunter bagging a bird with his dad Chris.

Unfortunately Sunday turned out to be Easter Sunday and not many of the youth went out. Those that did, seen turkeys but didn't get a shot off. Well there is always the regular season.

A big treat for those successful hunters was to have Warren and Ruth Smith on hand from Chenango Taxidermy to mount the turkey fans for them at no cost.

A special thanks to Safari Club Internationals Adirondack-Catshill Chapter, Beard Bustin' Calls, The NYS Encon Officers Association, The Chenango County Federation of Sportsmans Clubs, Southern Tier Scope, NY Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Oxford Rod and Gun Club, Roma Pizzeria and Chenango Taxidermy. With out their generous donations this important activity would not be possible.

Oh and one last pat on the back to all the mentors who gave up their Saturdays to help out. See you next year!





