

## 30<sup>th</sup> MIDWEST DEER & WILD TURKEY STUDY GROUP

### *EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*

August 20-23, 2006 @ Ransburg Boy Scout Camp, Lake Monroe, Bloomington, Indiana  
Hosted by the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, Indiana Department of Natural Resources

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Midwest Deer and Turkey Study Group (MDWTSG) met at the Ransburg Boys Scout Camp on the southern shore of Lake Monroe south of Bloomington, IN off of State Road 446 from August 20-22, 2006. The Ransburg Camp provided rustic and extremely reasonable accommodations for the attendees. All member states (12) had at least one representative. The Province of Ontario was not able to send a representative but did send status reports. Besides invited speakers, invited guests included the deer program specialist from Kentucky Fish and Game, a couple regional biologists from the National Wild Turkey Federation, and several emeritus (semi-retired) long time members of the MDWTSG. A series of speakers presented a variety of topics to the combined deer and wild turkey group members that stimulated open and candid discussion from the participants. After the joint presentations, the respective deer and turkey groups broke out into separate groups to discuss and review each respective state's reports on population status, harvests, new regulations, related issues, ongoing research and other topics of interest. The deer group discussions focused around harvest management issues, trophy management issues and CWD disease monitoring. The wild turkey group discussions also focused around spring and fall harvest management strategies/issues, variations and the influence of annual production, ongoing research projects, nuisance complaints, and the continual growth in hunter demand as turkey population growth begin leveling off post restoration.

At the annual business meeting revisions to the original MDWTSG organization guidelines (1977) developed prior to the meeting by an ad-hoc committee were discussed and the revised guidelines were approved by the membership. The approved revised guidelines re-affirmed the original intent of the MDWTSG membership from the 12 Midwestern state wildlife agencies, formally recognized the 1984 inclusion of Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the 2004 representative from the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) to function as a liaison between the Group and the Association. The group also agreed to have the 2007 meeting in Ohio, hosted by the Ohio Division of Wildlife, ODNR. The group agreed to stay with the late summer/early fall meeting dates. An evening social and hog roast has held at a nearby shelter house over looking at Hardin Ridge Campground, Hoosier National Forest, U.S. Forest Service. Tuesday afternoon some of the meeting participants took part in a field trip to view a military combat simulation training while others finished up informal discussions and began meeting clean-up chores.

The Indiana Chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation through their Super Fund provide the start-up funds for meeting preparations and the Professional Development Endowment Fund of the Indiana Chapter of The Wildlife Society provided funds to cover the expenses of the invited speakers and refreshments. Appreciation is extended to Hoosier National Forest for allowing the use of the shelter house for the Monday evening social. Finally, a special thanks to other members of the Ad-Hoc Committee to review, revise, and update the MWDWTSG Organizational Guidelines (Committee listed after the Presentation Summaries).

Steven E. Backs  
Jim Mitchell  
Meeting Co-Chairs