

## 2nd Annual North Country Youth Turkey Hunt with an ECO, Spring 2011



Environmental Conservation Officers from Region 6 took thirteen youngsters hunting for turkeys during the annual youth turkey hunting weekend. The event was hosted by the Lowville Fish and Game Club, sponsored by the Federated Sportsman's Clubs of Jefferson and Lewis Counties and made possible from funding from New York Conservation Officers Association. This year's hunt was again a two-day event with the first day being an instructional day and the second being the hunt day. The instructional day included some time in the class room covering basic information on wild turkeys, the rules and regulations pertaining to turkey hunting as well as covering the different types of calls, use of decoys, turkey hunting strategies and safety. The day

continued on the shooting range where some basic marksmanship skills were reviewed, shooting practice was conducted and shotguns were patterned. Day one finished up with the youngsters heading out to the areas that they would be hunting the following weekend with their ECO mentors. They scouted the areas they would be hunting and met with the cooperating landowners. The following Saturday, the young hunters met their ECO mentors for a day of hunting. The weather did not cooperate, with winds gusting to close to 50 mph and driving rain hampering the hunting activity. The kids and mentors stayed positive and continued to try to hunt throughout the morning. The hunt concluded with limited success with three kids getting shots at birds. Unfortunately none of the shots connected. The day ended with a picnic lunch at the Lowville Fish and Game Club. The following day a few officers took a few of the young hunters that were available out hunting again. The day was much more successful with two out of four kids taking birds and a third shooting and missing.



A great time was had by all. Our sincere thanks to the Lowville Fish and Game Club, the Federated Sportsman's Clubs of Jefferson and Lewis Counties, and the New York Conservation Officers Association for their support.