

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters inc.

Website: www.pafoxhunters.com

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Winter Newsletter – December 2023



Jaxon Sorber, grandson of Jack Sorber, with his 1st deer, 8 points with sticker, taken with a cross bow. Jaxon passed up several smaller bucks before selecting this one.



Levi Miele, 2-year-old grandson of Mike Miele, can't wait to help Grandpa "collar up" those hounds and take everyone out for a coyote chase.

From the President's Pen...

The most gratifying result of our association with our members, is the witnessing of the involvement of our youth in outdoor activities. The photos above, provided by their families brings credit to these parents and grandparents. In these modern times, there is so much competition for our youngsters attention, that it takes a skilled, disciplined approach to succeed. Can't start them too early !!

Sporting Dog Owner's Meeting Held at Game Commission Headquarters

Our annual meeting with Pennsylvania Game Commissions held on October 17th. Captain Chad Eyler and Colonel Jason DeCoskey hosted the event and represented the Agency. Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters Assn. President Jerry Ross facilitated the meeting. PA Nite Hunter's President Bruce Knopsnider spoke on behalf of the coon hunters. The PGC biologists also detailed their comprehensive snowshoe hare study and bobcat scenario.

Most of the discussion centered around trespassing issues and safety zone violations. Several of our members were in attendance who recently were cited for hounds within safety zones. Everyone was appreciative of Col. DeCoskey participation and his explanation and clarification of procedures related to this matter. (*See the section below*)

Hounds in Safety Zones – Violates Section 2505

During the past winter running season, several members had been cited for their hounds being in safety zones (within 150 yards of occupied building), without the advanced permission of the occupants of a dwelling.

In most cases, these were unintentional, inadvertent incidents, wherein the hunt started a considerable distance away (sometimes miles), often involving a “bay up” of the coyote within the safety zone. Nevertheless, this is a clear violation of **section 2505 – it is unlawful.... to pursue, disturb or otherwise chase any game or wildlife....while it is within the safety zone without the specific, advance permission of the lawful occupant.**

The penalty prescribed is not less than \$200.00 nor more than \$500.00. A subsequent offense within two calendar years is a summary offense punishable by a fine ranging from \$500.00 to \$1000.00.

What is a hunter to do ? It is understood that as long as coyotes range as far as they do when pursued, such incidents are inevitable. Neither coyotes, nor hounds heed posters and safety zone signs. Hunters are often a considerable distance away – too far to contain the chase in time.

Whenever hound presence in safety zones come into play, hunters are encouraged to request permission to enter the zone to remove their hounds, in the most courteous, apologetic way. If the occupant notifies the PGC and requests that you be cited, it may happen.

Members are encouraged to review the entire **Section 2025**, which appears on page 18 of the current **Hunting and Trapping Digest – Safety Zones**. Further details appear on page 66 of **Title 34, Game and Wildlife Code**.

Section 2314 (b).Unarmed person “Right to Retrieve” no exemption to Section 2505

Members are reminded that the “Right to Retrieve” exemption, which allows an unarmed person to enter private property for the sole purpose of retrieving their hounds, **does not negate the fact that their hounds are within a safety zone**, which is a violation of section 2505 mentioned above. A hunter need not be anywhere near a safety zone, but if their hounds are within one, it is citable under the provisions of section 2505.

Your Recourse if you are cited.

Col. Decoskey advised those present to contact their regional PGC office and request that their case be reviewed by the Law Enforcement Supervisor prior to any formal hearing by a District Magistrate. We have seen a few cases where multiple additional

charges were made and were given some indication that a review was merited. Contact information for your Regional Office can be found on page 3 of the **Hunting and Trapping Digest**.

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's to Hold Coyote Tournament

Once again, the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. will conduct a season long, member's only, trophy only, Coyote Tournament. The competition will be conducted under an "Honor" system, merely requiring registered hunters to provide the certified weight, along with a suitable picture. Since we have members from six states and Canada, the contest will be open to all states and Canadian provinces, wherever legal.

Our substantial 'Challenge Trophy' will be awarded for the heaviest coyote, which will be replaced by a replica after one year. Trophies will also be awarded for the ten heaviest entries. Entry fees will be \$10.00 for the event. Entry forms will accompany 2024 membership billings which will be sent at year-end...

Our 2023 winner was Josh Fields with a 55.12 lb. specimen.

Remember to Nominate Your Youngsters for Awards

Again this year we will be promoting our award program to include "First Turkey" or "First Coyote/Bobcat" in addition to the "First Deer" or "First Bear" awards. The PA Game Commission will provide certificates for youngsters who take a deer, bear or turkey, while the Association will present our own "First Coyote/Bobcat" Certificate. Members are requested to notify Dick Bednarczyk about the successful hunters and provide a digital photo, if one is available.

Welcome New Members!

Recruiting efforts for 2023 concludes with 26 hunters joining the Association. Since our last newsletter, Levi Miller, Eric and Travis Schall and Earl Schweitzer have come on board. Welcome hunters!

In Memorium

Stephen Gilbert

Expect Membership Billings in mid-December

Your Association plans to mail membership and coyote tournament applications in mid-December. There is no change in fees which have been in place since 2006. Adult - \$25.00, Youth - \$5.00, Tournament -\$10.00.

Due to the ever- increasing cost of postage, which is one of our main expenses, we will curtail the practice of pre-stamping the return envelopes. Although it was an unscientific poll, we have had several members suggest that we initiate this change, which will result in a \$600.00 reduction of our postage costs.

Legislative Monitoring – Pennsylvania

Since our last publication, there has been no movement reported of the following bills which constitute a major concern. We feel it is worth repeating this listing due to the potential impact on our sport.

HB 529 – Would make it illegal to transport hounds in the exterior of vehicles, unless in an insulated dog box. (Our objection pertains to the insulation requirement which could be fatal in warmer weather). **Sent to Judiciary March 17th.**

HB 549 – “All Dogs Equal” – Requires to same ventilation, ambient temperature, heat index values and ammonia ranges monitored and maintained by large commercial kennels be applied to all private kennels. **Sent to Agriculture March 20th.**

HB 669 – Would provide for the revocation of a hunting license if merely accused of animal cruelty, prior to any hearing, trial or other defense afforded to the accused. **Sent to Game and Fisheries on March 23rd.**

SB 785 – Provides for a reconstituted Dog Law Advisory Board. Last year we were accorded one seat, we are requesting a second seat to represent large sporting dogs. **Sent to Agricultural and Rural Affairs on June 14th**

HB337 (Last year’s bill number) Commonly referred to as Libre’s Law, this suggested version would eliminate our exemption to the tethering bill, requiring that hounds/sled dogs be brought indoors if temperatures fall outside of 32 – 90 degrees.

HB495 – While at first glance, this bill seems to address a clearly debatable issue – Monday vs. Saturday deer opener, it would set a dangerous precedent wherein the political body (Legislature) would make wildlife decisions instead of professional wildlife biologists and wildlife staff personnel. There is ample evidence in seven or eight other states wherein Wildlife Advisory Boards have been infiltrated and taken over by anti-hunting legislators. This would be clearly against the North American Model of Wildlife Management. It would also jeopardize Pennsylvania’s share of Pittman Robertson revenue (\$38,340,930.00 for 2022. The act prohibits allocation of such funds for anything other than wild life habitat and wildlife management research. **Sent to Game and Fisheries on March 17th.**

Project Coyote – Would ban coyote tournaments. No bill introduced in Pennsylvania to this point, however proponents have vowed to do so. They have been successful in seven or eight states so far- most recently New York.

Legislative Monitoring – New York

As previously reported, anti-hunting factions have successfully banned all coyote tournaments in the state.

The requirement of a background check, prior to the purchase of ammunition was also instituted within the past few months. We recently visited a favorite family-owned sporting business, which has been run by the same family in the Catskills for 107 years. The owners lamented on the inconvenience and chaos created by this legislation, not to mention the added cost (\$9.00. for guns, \$2.50 for ammo.)

Editors note: As previously reported, Senator Haywood (D), serving Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties, introduced SB 908 , which contains similar provisions, with higher fees, on September 7th. As of this publication, the bill has been sent to the Judiciary on that date.

Need some stocking stuffers ?

Take a look at the following merchandise for some great affordable Christmas gift ideas. You may mail the order form, or send your order via text (570-209-3700) or [gmail-dick.bednarczyk@gmail.com](mailto:dick.bednarczyk@gmail.com)

***Pennsylvania State Fox
& Coyote Hunters Association***



***Crewneck
Sweatshirts***

\$20.00

S	M	L	XL	2X

Youth Cotton Tees

\$15.00

White	S	M	L
Red			

***License
Plates***

\$20.00




***Camo
Caps***

\$15.00



***Safety Orange
caps***

\$15.00

Plain Orange	
Orange Camo	



***Pro Style Fitted
Caps***

\$15.00

	Red	Stone	Forest	Navy	Maroon	Royal
S/M						
L/XL						



Beanies w/ Cuff

\$12.00

Red	Maroon	White	Orange	Spruce	Navy



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Pennsylvania State Fox

& Coyote Hunters Association



100% polyester shell
100% polyester mesh upper-body lining, 100% nylon lower-body, front and sleeve lining
Contrasting Color on Collar/Hood

	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	4X	5X <i>Men's Only</i>	6X <i>Men's Only</i>
Black/Grey									
Navy/Red									
Hunter/Navy <i>Men's Only</i>									
Khaki/Nutmeg <i>Men's Only</i>									
Blue/Navy									
Red/Navy									
Stone/Navy									

Legacy Jackets
\$65.00

Use L or M to specify Men's or Ladies
Next to Quantity (ex. 1L or 1M, etc.)



**50/50
Cotton Tees**
\$15.00

	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X
White						
Ash						



Challenger Jacket
Teklon® nylon shell
Poly-filled body with heavyweight fleece lining for extra warmth.
Available in Black/Black
\$69.00

	XS	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	4X	5X	6X



Hooded Sweatshirt
Available in Forest Green
\$25.00

	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X



Zip Hooded Sweatshirts
Color - Dark Chocolate
Includes embroidered logo
\$30.00

	S	M	L	XL	2X

Item	Sweatshirts	Camo Caps	License Plates	Pro Caps	Beanies	Legacy	Tees	Challenger	Hoodie	Zip Hoodie
Price	\$20	\$15	\$20	\$15	\$12	\$65	\$15	\$69	\$25	\$30
Quantity										
Make your check payable to the PASFCHA: at this address: Add \$7.00 for shipping and handling.									Subtotal	
PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. c/o Richard J. Bednarczyk 118 Commerce Drive Scott Twp., PA 18447 dick.bednarczyk@gmail.com									Shipping	Add \$7.00
									Total	



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