Pennsylvania ***State Fox & Coyote Hunters inc.***

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Winter Newsletter – December 2026

In conjunction with the Sportsmen's Alliance and the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, we have been fighting hard to preserve our right to run hounds in the wilds of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania since 1938.

From The Presidents Pen…

As we enter the traditional running period, we wish an enjoyable and safe season for yourself and your hounds.

By now, you should have received information regarding our gun raffle and the reasons which brought about the need to launch this effort. Our thanks to so many of you who have already made returns and requested significant numbers of additional tickets. We hope to duplicate the level of success we enjoyed with last year's inaugural gun raffle.

Although it would be premature to predict the impact of the mid-term elections on the hunting community, it would be naive and irresponsible if we did not prepare for challenges to emerge. We are counting on the gun raffle to provide the resources needed to defend our sport.

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's to Hold Coyote Tournament in 2027

Once again, the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. will conduct a 2027 season long, members 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. The Tournament will run from January 1 through March 31.

Our substantial "Challenge Trophy" will be awarded for the "State Champion" heaviest coyote, which will be replaced by a replica after one year. Trophies will also be awarded to nine other individual hunters. Entry fees will be $10.00 for the event. Multiple entries may be submitted. We will accept all entries but only 1 award per member for their heaviest coyote. Entry forms will accompany 2027 membership billings which will be sent at year-end.

Our 2026 winner was Mike Murnin with a 46.99 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 2026 concludes with 37 hunters joining the Association. Since our last newsletter, Gibson McKean has come on board. Welcome Gibson!

Gun Raffle Returns starting to roll in.

To ensure that the Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. can sustain the 'Hard Fight' on behalf of Coyote Hunters, Beaglers, Coon Hunters and all other sporting breeds, we ask that you continue your support of the gun raffle, and send in any sizeable returns you may have already gathered.

We are more than pleased by the support of so many members who have requested such significant amounts of additional tickets. Your encouragement means so much!

Legislative Monitoring – Pennsylvania

HB 1075, introduced by Rep. Mandy Steele (D), District 33, would lift the current $400.00/per acre cap which limits the Game Commission's ability to purchase additional State Game Lands. The bill was referred to the Game & Fisheries Committee on March 31, 2025.

HB 1937, introduced by Rep. David Rowe (R), District 85 would provide that voter registration applications be made available any time that Hunting or Fishing Licenses are applied for. The bill was referred to the State Govt. Committee on October 10, 2025.

Know the Law !!

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. 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.

Section 2308 (A) (10) – Allowing Dogs to Kill a Coyote

Allowing dogs to kill a coyote is considered using a prohibited device under this section. The current grading penalty is $150.00 to $300.00. Obviously, members are cautioned to make every attempt to prevent this from happening in the event of a bay-up. Members have been recently cited under the provisions of this section.

Hunting Furbearers with Hounds During Regular Firearms Deer/Bear Season Prohibited.

Recently enacted regulations prohibit hunting coyotes and foxes with hounds during the regular firearms deer and bear seasons. Refer to page 48 of the 2026 -27 Hunting and Trapping Digest for your reference. The change does not affect lawful nighttime hunting of furbearers during open seasons.

Game Commission Biologist Cautions Houndsmen about Eye Worms

While planning the agenda for our recent Sporting Dog Owner's Meeting, we requested a briefing about the newly discovered issue of "Eye Worms" found in bears. Melanie Weaver, PGC Supervising Staff Biologist informed us that Eye Worms now appear in both foxes and coyotes. Melanie emphasized the need to handle all carcasses with protective gloves.

There are a number of recent refences published by the University of Pennsylvania which provide emerging information about Eye Worms, their source and the potential to be transmitted to humans.

We Need Your Email Address (and Home Address)

While we have over 300 members included on our email listing, a growing number of messages concerning vital matters of Association business are being returned as undeliverable for a variety of reasons. Our ability to contact all members is critical for our ability to act quickly on legislative matters.

In the event that you have moved or changed your email provider, please update your information by messaging Dick Bednarczyk at dick.bednarczyk@gmail.com.

Senator Rothman Announces His Intention to Introduce Legislation for Constitutional Amendment.

Editor's note: Senator Rothman issued this memo to all Senate Members on September 28, 2026. The Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Association has expressed keen interest in securing this amendment. Thank you, Senator Rothman !

"I intend to introduce legislation establishing a constitutional amendment that enshrines Pennsylvanian's right to hunt, fish, and trap.

Hunting, fishing, and trapping have long been valuable components of our Commonwealth's heritage and ought to be practiced and preserved for generations to come. Not only are these practices recreational for many, but they contribute to necessary conservation and provision around the Commonwealth. Given the dangerous efforts in other states to strip hunting, fishing, and trapping rights away, this amendment ensures the sportsmen of Pennsylvania maintain this fundamental right.

Currently, 24 state constitutions protect the right to hunt, and 26 the right to fish. By including this right in the Pennsylvania Constitution, we guarantee hunting, fishing, and trapping will continue to be a part of our heritage and way of life in perpetuity.

Please join me in cosponsoring this amendment to protect the rights of all Pennsylvanians."

PSFCHA Recommends Supporting our Partners in the Fight

As each month goes by, our dependency on the assistance provided by the ***Sportsmen's Alliance*** and the ***Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and Conservationists*** is increasingly apparent.

The **Sportsmen's Alliance** has recently come onsite to represent us in Harrisburg during "crises" situations on several occasions, in addition to focus on nation-wide issues.

The **Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs** Director of Gov. Affairs, Mike Kriner, maintains a regular presence in Harrisburg, on our behalf.

Vice President – East, Duane Dunmire, is a member of the PSFCHA and provides a direct link to the Federation.

We encourage our members to join and support both of these partners. Federation dues start at $20.00 (E-Membership) (www.pfsc.org) while Sportsmen's Alliance dues start at $35.00. (www.sportsmensalliance.org).

Need "Stocking Stuffers " ?

Consider our wide variety of embroidered caps, T-shirts, hoodies, beanies and sweat shirts as you plan your Christmas gift purchases for the upcoming holiday season. Our full selection can be found on pages 5 and 6.

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters Association

Crewneck Sweatshirts



$25.00

S	M	L	XL	2X

Youth Cotton Tees



$19.00

White	S	M	L
Red			

License Plates

$20.00



Camo Caps



$19.00

Safety Orange caps



$19.00

Plain Orange	
Orange Camo	

Pro Style Fitted Caps



$19.00

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

Beanies w/ Cuff



$19.00

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 Men's Only	6X Men's Only
Black/Grey									
Navy/Red									
Hunter/Navy Men's Only									
Khaki/Nutmeg Men's Only									
Blue/Navy									
Red/Navy									
Stone/Navy									

Legacy Jackets
$70.00

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



50/50 Cotton Tees
$19.00

Add Additional $5 for 2X & 3X

	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

$70.00

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



Hooded Sweatshirt

Available in Forest Green

$30.00

Add Additional $9 for 2X & 3X

S	M	L	XL	2X	3X



Zip Hooded Sweatshirts

Color - Dark Chocolate
Includes embroidered logo

$39.00

Add Additional $5 for 2X

S	M	L	XL	2X

Item	Sweatshirts	Camo Caps	License Plates	Pro Caps	Beanies	Legacy	Tees	Challenger	Hoodie	Zip Hoodie
Price	$25	$19	$20	$15	$12	$70	$15	$70	$30	$39
Quantity										

Make your check payable to the PASFCHA: at this address:
Add $10.00 for shipping and handling.

PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn.
c/o Cas Bonczewski
353 Center Street
Covington Twp., PA 18444
Cbonczewski@msn.com

Subtotal	
Shipping	Add $10. 00
Total	

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