

# *Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters inc.*

## Directors:

Dick Bednarczyk, Marty Carr, Ron Cole, Ron Davis, Chris Meeker, Mike Miele, Aaron Montross,  
Mike Murnin, Jay Roberts, Jerry Ross, Mercy Ross, Shawn Spence, Chip Sorber, Walter Vosefski

## Officers:

Cas Bonczewski, 353 Center St., Covington Twp., PA 18444

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Jack Sorber, 436 Cemetery Road, Little Meadows, PA. 18830

Vice President

Betsey Ross, 379 Mills Road, Wyalusing, PA., 18853

Secretary

Pat Carr, 4860 McDermott Rd, Bangor, PA 18013

Treasurer

## Fall Newsletter – September 2026 2026 Scholarship Winners



### George Hobbs Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to:

**Tucker Vaughn**, New  
York

Tucker is studying at  
Modern Welding School

He is the grandson of  
Ron and Sally Davis



### Roy R. Rosembaum Memorial Scholarship

(1 of 2)

Awarded to:

**Kaylee Meeker**  
Kaylee is studying  
Physics at Bucknell  
University.

She is a Youth Member  
and the daughter of  
Chris Meeker.



### Roy R. Rosembaum Memorial Scholarship (2 of 2)

Awarded to:

**Caden Moher**, Clarks Summit,  
Pennsylvania

Caden is studying Architecture at  
Syracuse University.

He is a Youth Member and the  
grandson of Dick Bednarczyk



### Dick Ross Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to;

**Marilyn Ross**, Stevensville,  
Pennsylvania

Marilyn has entered Lock  
Haven University.

She is a Youth Member and the  
daughter of Joe & Mercy Ross.

Congratulations to these outstanding young adults and  
best wishes in their academic endeavors. We extend our  
sincere thanks to Toni Cisowski and the Honesdale,  
Pleasant Mount, Boyd Mills crew for honoring our  
departed members by fully funding these legacy awards.

## **From The Presidents Pen:**

Dear Members,

As you can see from the information below, during the past quarter we have achieved benchmarks key to our mission:

The Sporting Dog Owner's Meeting was well attended, with several new participants and officials from like-minded hunting and dog organizations.

Most recently, the Executive Committee concluded plans to implement an upgraded prize listing for our Gun Raffle Please support this effort. It is our only fund raiser and is critical to maintaining our financial position.

Through the efforts and leadership of the Sportsmen's Alliance, the harmful anti-hound provisions have been struck from the Farm Bill.

On a serious note – just hours ago, Representative Jim Haddock (D) 118<sup>th</sup> District, alerted us of a campaign launched by United Sportsmen of Pennsylvania to remove our Right to Retrieve Amendment. Another example of a sportsmen's group targeting coyote hunters at a time when we should be offering support – very disappointing.

## **Sporting Dog Owners Meeting with PA Game Commission - an Overview.**

The Sporting Dog Owner's Meeting was held on Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Commission Headquarters in Harrisburg. The PA Nite Hunters (President Levi Butler) and Northeast Beagle Gun Dog Association, (John Gibble -Legislative Director) our regular co-partners, assisted President Cas Bonczewski, who facilitated the meeting.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to Capt. Chad Eyler for making all the arrangements and Col. Richard Danley for hosting the meeting and responding to our questions.

We were encouraged by increased participation on behalf of many beagle organizations and mounted fox hunting clubs, and were delighted by the presence of Duane Dunmire, VP – East of the PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Charlie Hall – Legislative Director – American Kennel Club, Blaine Grove, President Northeast Beagle Gundog Federation and Levi Butler, President –PA Nite Hunters.

We heard excellent presentations by PGC Biologists on those topics that we requested: Supervising Biologist Melanie Weaver provided a comprehensive update on the presence of “eye worms” in the bear population. She reported that eye worms now appear in both coyotes and foxes and cautioned that protective gloves should be worn when handling such animals.

Furbearer biologist Tom Keller presented an extremely interesting, in-depth overview of Bobcat presence and dispersal trends.

A good portion of the open forum was devoted to hound safety, the prohibition of hunting furbearers with hounds during the rifle deer and bear seasons, and a controversial proposal for a hound-bear hunting season in the state, which could lead to un-intended consequences.

AKC Legislative Director Charlie Hall provided a sound warning that houndsmen need to be ever vigilant and avoid being lulled asleep when any dog group is targeted. He emphasized that many anti dog/hunting proposals represent cleverly veiled attempts to ban more than “meets the eye”.

### **Membership Dues Increase for 2027**

At our Annual Meeting, the membership voted to increase the dues for 2027 to \$30.00 for adult members. Dues for youth members will remain unchanged at \$5.00. Our last dues increase was in 2006.

### **Dues Reminder**

Membership fees for 2026 are now due. If you have not renewed your membership, please remit your payment to Treasurer Pat Carr at the address listed on the cover page.

### **A Reminder - Retrieving your Hound from Private Land**

*( Editor's Note: The following section has been repeated in past newsletters. Prompted by serious recommendations we bring it to the attention of our membership once again).*

As most members know, for the past few years, we have enjoyed the privileges outlined in Sec on 2314 (b) which allows unarmed hunters to enter private property to retrieve their hounds without subjecting them to the enhanced trespass penalties. Pennsylvania is one of a mere handful of states with a hound retrieval law.

We have recently seen repeated instances where pending legislation contained provisions to eliminate this exclusion (The initial 2024 versions of both the Senate and House Sunday Hunting Bills). The Game Commission and Legislature continually receive considerable pushback regarding this feature.

Some complaints concern hunters who may deliberately cast their hounds onto private land. Others complain that hunters may enter private properties to drive big game, under the pretense of looking for their hounds. Still others exercise poor judgement by flaunting the exemption with landowners with whom they may have had an ongoing dispute.

Although there is language which allows doing so, if a landowner is surprised by your presence, it may only result in confrontation. The exemption is new and untested. Any attempts to flaunt the language or abuse its provisions must be discouraged - if we wish to enjoy the privileges it provides. We have a serious concern that such abuse may jeopardize the continuance of this exemption.

It will always be our recommendation that houndsmen make every attempt to secure permission to enter property for purposes of retrieving their dogs.

**Conduct yourself as though we did not have this privilege.**

### **Know the Law!!**

#### **Section 2505. – Safety Zones**

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 that- if their hounds are within a safety zone, - 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.

Members have been recently cited under the provisions of this section.

### **PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's to go on Offense.**

Recently we were approached by State Representative Jamie Walsh (District 117 – Luzerne County) who volunteered to champion any pro-hunting legislation which would benefit PSFCHA members and hunting in general..

Representative Walsh noted that we are always on the defensive, required to fend off the myriad of assaults on our sport and it was time to go on offense!

Obviously, we are delighted to have this opportunity and feel blessed that Representative Walsh came to us, unsolicited, and eager to help.

As a result, the Executive Committee has identified three issues and submitted them for consideration:

- A proposal which would deem the right to hunt, fish and trap as a part of the State Constitution.
- A bill which would specifically ban any state entity from access to Game Commission funds.
- A bill which would specify that all season and bag limit decisions follow the North American Model (based upon professional wildlife biologists vs political bodies).

### **Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish**

The right to hunt and fish has been adopted by 24 states – 23 of them since 1996. The measure failed to pass in 2012 and 2014 in Pennsylvania. New Hampshire, Delaware and Colorado are currently attempting to establish this as a constitutional right.

What it does:

- Prevents future bans.
- Prioritizes Wildlife Management.
- Protects traditional methods.

### **A Bill to Protect Game Commission Funds**

A bill to ban any state entity (legislature, governor, etc.) from access to Game Commission funds would not only protect current funds – it would preserve Pennsylvania's eligibility to continue to receive Pittman Robertson funds from the Federal Government. Such funds are a re-imbursement of the 11% excise tax applied to the purchase of guns, ammo and archery equipment. Pennsylvania's allocation for Y/E 2025 was \$33, 061, 757.00!!! Any move by the legislature to access these funds would disqualify Pennsylvania as a recipient.

This is a current issue as we have seen recent attempts by some legislators to access the Game Commissions surplus to fund the State deficit.

## A Bill to Protect the North American Model of Wildlife Management

Such a bill would bar the legislature from yielding to extremists and interfering with wildlife management decisions, seasons and bag limits vs. ensuring such decisions are based on science as determined by professional wildlife biologists.

### PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn., - 2026 -2027 Gun Raffle

In view of the successful results of our 2026 Gun Raffle, we will repeat that effort, as our only fundraiser for 2027. You may recall that last year we faced a critical need to regain our financial stability after extraordinary incurred while dealing with the harmful hound features of the Sunday Hunting Bill.

Most recently, we have dealt with several anti-hound provisions the Farm Bill, which have been removed (for the moment)s to our affiliation with the Sportsmen's Alliance.

Such threats are unending and require constant vigilance- and action.

The Board of Directors has approved a plan to repeat a gun raffle, with an upgraded prize listing, which entails the following details:

- Increase the budget to \$5000.00 for the purchase of 5 substantial firearms (detailed below).
- Ticket price - \$20.00 each
- Sales period – immediately through March 31st, 2027
- Public drawing to be held at our Annual Meeting – April 17th, 2027
- Sales goal –500 tickets
- Methodology - Within a few days, we will be sending each member a single \$20.00 ticket in hopes that you will participate and perhaps request additional tickets. If each member takes one additional ticket, we will reach our goal. You may have hunting buddies, who are not members yet enjoy the sport provided by your hounds or appreciate the management of the coyote population – approach them.
- Purchasers must be 18 years of age, comply with all state and federal firearm regulations and satisfactorily complete a background check.
- Guns must be picked up within 90 days of drawing at Bryant Firearms Repair, Honesdale Area, (570)253-0370.

#### List of Prizes:

|            |                                 |                 |                    |
|------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1st prize: | Tikka T3X Lite 7MM Mag          | SKU #JRTXRBt370 | (or \$825.00 cash) |
| 2nd prize: | Bergara B-14 Wilderness 6.5 PRC | SKU #B14SM809   | (or \$700.00 cash) |
| 3rd prize: | Beretta A300 Ultima 12 GA,      | SKU #J320SG18   | (or \$600.00 cash) |
| 4th prize: | Winchester XPT Extreme .270     | SKU #5358000226 | (or \$500.00 cash) |
| 5th prize: | CZ Quail 20 ga. O/U             | SKU #06483      | (or \$400.00 cash) |

### Welcome New Members.

YTD, thirty-six new members have joined the organization. Since our last newsletter, Stephen Stoltzfus, Joseph M. Grab Jr., Duane Dunmire, Charles Crawford and Bo & Nate Ross have come on board. Welcome hunters.

### Memorial Donations – Dale English

The Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn, inc. wishes to thank the Bald Eagle Beagle Club, Bryan Courter and Alan and Kathy Bugg for their recent donations in memory of Dale English.

#### In Memorium

Dale English

### Legislative Monitoring - Pennsylvania

#### Bills worth watching.

- HB 2143 – would create an animal abuse registry – citizens could be cited for something as trivial as not buying dog licenses on time. Referred to Judiciary 1/26
- HB 1456 – would create an animal abuse hotline maintained by the state police. Referred to Agriculture and Rural Affairs. 5/25
- HB2298' Right to Carry' for dog wardens - Referred to Agriculture and Rural Affairs 3/26

#### Bills that we support.

- HB 1075 – would lift the current \$400.00 per acre cap imposed upon the PGC for the purchase of game lands. Referred to Game & Fisheries on 3/25
- HB 1937/SB 1155 – would provide for easy voter registration at time of purchase of hunting or fishing license. Referred to State Govt - 10/25
- HB 2387 - would impose damages for wrongful death of pet - \$15,000.00. Could prove a deterrence to the deliberate shooting of hounds. Referred to Judiciary 4/26.

### Other Notes:

Be sure to thank a veteran on Veteran's Day and remember those who did not return.

