

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters inc.

Directors:

Roy Rosenbaum Richard Ross Ron Davis James Rogers Jay Roberts
Ron Cole Walter Vosefski Shaun Spencer Chip Sorber Cas Bonczewski (Membership Chairman)

Officers:

Richard J. Bednarczyk, 118 Commerce Dr., Scott Twp. PA 18447
President

David Hall, 261 Hall Ln, Monroe Twp, PA 18657
Treasurer

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Vice President

Kipp Adcock, 76 Center St., Covington Twp, PA 18424
Secretary

Spring Newsletter – March 2015



On the Cover: Is there anything cuter than a hound pup?

We have all seen an endless variety of pictures of baby animals which can be described as ‘precious’; bear cubs, fawns, kittens, bunnies – the list goes on.

This litter of Walker pups, representative of the breed, is shown with the hope that 2015 will bring peace, hope and good fortune to all members and their families, just as the eventual owners of these pups will be hopeful of their potential.

From the President’s Pen...

2015 has gotten off to a good start for your Association, as you will see from the following news items:

Our calendar for 2015 is being finalized and preparations are underway for our major events. We have already begun discussions with Game Commission personnel regarding the agenda for our June meeting. (See information below).

Our Annual Meeting has been set for Saturday, April 11th, and our “Member’s Only” Coyote Tournament is underway, with several good specimens being reported.

Most significantly, we will be awarding a \$500.00 scholarship to two students who are the children or grandchildren of a member. (See details below –page 6).

Dates for Major Activities Scheduled

Many members have requested the earliest possible notice for our major activities for 2015, in order to allow for scheduling vacations, etc. Unless unforeseen circumstances develop, our calendar for 2015 is as follows:

Saturday, April 11 th	Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 27 th	Family Day Picnic
Tuesday, June 30 th	Meeting - PA Game Commission
Saturday, August 8 th	Speed & Drive Field Trial

The Annual Meeting will be held at the American Legion in Wyalusing, the Family Day Picnic will be held at Molyneaux's Training Facility in Endicott, New York. Further details will be announced as they become final.

Sporting Dog Owner's Meeting Agenda Underway

As early as mid-January, PGC Executives took the initiative to offer suggestions for our June meeting. At this point we expect to enjoy a report concerning their Appalachian Cottontail and Snowshoe Hare Studies. Depending upon the availability of key agency personnel, we are hopeful to hear more about Bobcats and the programs to control "mean seeds" (awns disease) in hounds.

Annual Meeting – Saturday, April 11th, 2015

The Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. has been scheduled for 4:00 pm, Saturday, April 11th at the American Legion, Route 6, Wyalusing, PA. In addition to election of officers for 2015, the agenda will include a review of the accomplishments of the organization during 2014, plans for 2015, and review of significant legislative issues and other important business. Please mark your calendar and watch for further correspondence regarding this meeting.

Annual Meeting to Feature Porketta Dinner

This year's Annual Meeting will feature a Porketta Dinner provided by the folks from the Wyalusing American Legion Auxiliary.

In order to insure proper dinner arrangements, please RSVP to Dick Bednarczyk via e-mail (dick.bednarczyk@epix.net) or by phone (570) 586-9270 if you plan to attend. Please note: There will be a \$10.00 charge for the dinner, payable to the American Legion.

Annual Meeting to Feature Member's "For Sale" Table

In response to requests from membership, we will have a "For Sale" table available for anyone wishing to sell electronic collars, systems, etc. (No firearms please). Hopefully this will provide an excellent medium for interested buyers and sellers to see what will be available. Sellers will be asked to personally attend their merchandise or have it clearly tagged for ease and accuracy of any transactions.

PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Coyote Tournament

This is a reminder that our season-long coyote tournament will end on March 31st.

Successful participating hunters should return their weight cards to Dick Bednarczyk by Wednesday April 15th.

Accepting Nominations for Youth Achievement Awards

Since we introduced the concept seven years ago, the recognition of deserving youngsters with Achievement Awards has proven to be very successful. The award is in the form of a citation which is usually presented at the Annual Meeting and is followed by an appropriate article in our quarterly newsletter. Since we are a statewide and multi-state organization, there is one challenge with this program - that is the difficulty of identifying deserving youngsters. At this time we are encouraging all members to help us with this matter, by nominating any deserving youngsters that you may know.

Our criteria are broad and informal – merely that the youngster has shown a deep interest in hounds and hunting or has enthusiastically participated in the events of the Association.

Please give this some serious consideration and provide your suggestions to Dick Bednarczyk at 570-586-9270 or to any other officer or director, if it is more convenient to do so.

Game Commission to Recognize Youngster from Our Organization

Jay Delaney, PA Game Commissioner, Northeast Region, will present an original Game Commission Coyote Patch to the first Mentored Youth from the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. who successfully takes a coyote. Please keep this in mind and be sure to notify any of the Officers or Directors immediately, when this historic event occurs. Our sincere thanks go to Commissioner Delaney for this gesture and his continuing support of our Association.

Reminder –Raffle Drawing

Although we indicated a March 31st deadline for raffle ticket returns, we can continue to receive them up to the moment of our drawing, which will be held at the Annual Meeting on April 11th. This fundraiser has become an integral part of our overall financial scenario for the year. The grand prize is a Garmin Astro Hunter-Dog 320 GPS with the improved DC50 collar valued at approximately \$600.00 retail or a \$500.00 Cash Award. In the event that you have not yet made your returns, we encourage you to support your organization by doing so.

2015 Memberships Now Due

At this point, everyone should have received their 2015 membership billing. We are requesting prompt payment of dues so that we may continue to fund our various activities and maintain our advocacy of hound owners' rights with the various governing bodies which affect our sport. In the event that you may have misplaced your billing, you may remit your dues to Dick Bednarczyk, using the address which appears on the letterhead.

Legislative Monitoring – New Mexico

The US Sportsmen's Alliance has notified us that New Mexico's Senate had passed SB 253 which bans coyote tournaments in the state. The bill was later defeated by an 8 to 2 margin by the Agriculture, Water and Wildlife committee. A similar ban has recently been introduced in California. New Mexico currently has no bag limits on coyotes.

Legislative Monitoring – Maine

Just three months after being soundly rejected, a Bear Hunting Bill, which would outlaw hound hunting and trapping has been reintroduced. Since the earlier proposal was defeated on Nov. 4th, it is expected that the new bill will die in committee.

Legislative Monitoring – New York

As reported in the **New York Houndsmen Winter Newsletter**, three pieces of legislation would add to the NYS SAFE ACT. S-01113 would require that all handguns sold in the state be capable of micro-stamping ammunition, S- 00053 would require that anyone who owns firearms to keep them in a locked case/safe. S- 01747 would require anyone who purchases handgun ammunition to be holders of a firearms license. All members are requested to contact their legislators and request that they do not support these bills.

Legislative Monitoring – Maryland and Virginia

Senate Bill 1001 in Virginia seeks to outlaw any dog transactions in a public meeting place, such as a parking lot or park. Senate Bill 26 in Maryland would prohibit the tethering of dogs outside when the temperature falls below 32 degrees for more than an hour – regardless of breed, activity, access to shelter or other concerns.

PA State Fox & Coyote Assn. Members Enjoy Success in Tournaments

Many members continue to appear among the successful hunters at regional tournaments. A partial listing follows:

District Nine Trappers – Tunkhannock

John Bold took a 45.5 pound coyote to win the Grand Prize. Bruce Tewksbury took the heaviest on Sunday with a 40.75 lb. yote. There were 48 entries overall, 41 coyotes were taken with hounds.

Successful members were; Jeff and Bob Cragle, Jonathon Wychock, Nathan Minier, Bob Clark, Charlie Michalowski, Bob Brown (2 coyotes), Trevor Fulmer, Jack Johnson (2 coyotes), Jack and Chip Sorber, Barry Kytte, Wade Gray, Bruce Tewksbury (2 coyotes), Drew Madill, John Bold, Jason Brown, and Mike Murnin. Members of the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. harvested 21 of these.

Endless Mountain Coonhunter's - Springville

Successful members were; Bob Cragle, Jeff Cragle, Dale Arthur, Bob Brown, (2 coyotes), Charlie Michalowski, (2 coyotes), Wade Gray, Corey Luther, George Hobbs, Mike Murnin, and Shane Malicky (2 coyotes). There were Twenty Seven entries overall. Twenty coyotes were taken with hounds.

Huntington Mills

Bob and Jeff Cragle, Bob Brown and Nathan Minier were successful hunters. Ron Taylor was the gun raffle winner.

United Sportsman Camp 271

Ron Taylor took home the top prize with a 41.2 male coyote taken in Luzerne County.

Welcome New Members!

Recruiting efforts for 2015 are off to a good start. YTD eight hunters have joined the Association. Since our last newsletter, Dave Hanley, Jim Hardler, Seth Pennington, Gene Kielar, Rich Schott, George Jones, Grant Turano and Ethan Podunajec have come aboard. We are delighted to see the number of youths and family groups which have joined the Association over the past few years. Welcome hunters!

High School/College Students need a service project?

Since the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. is a tax exempt, non-profit 501 (c) corporation, we have successfully provided requesting youngsters with assignments that satisfy their service project obligations at their schools. Most often the assignment involves helping out at various events. There may be other projects which can be conducted from the member's home, at their convenience.

Please feel free to notify any of the officers if your youngster has a service obligation which you'd like to explore with us.

Remember to Nominate Your Youngsters for "First" Awards

Recently we expanded our award program to include "First Turkey", "First Bobcat" or "First Coyote" 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 Bobcat" or "First Coyote" Certificate. Members are requested to notify Dick Bednarczyk about the successful hunters and provide a digital photo, if one is available.

Remember To Support Our Sponsors

Please support these loyal sponsors, who continually provide substantial donations to insure the success of our events. Each of these sponsors willingly provides their support. Some do so automatically each year, without the need for personal solicitation from us;

Johnson's Telemetry, Prowler/Quick Track, Sportmix Dog Food, Thunder Valley Pet Pantry, Chase Publishing, Gundog Supply, Custom Collars, PA Outdoor News, Double U Hunting Supply, Sacandaga Dog Supply and Hunter's Horn magazine.

All companies listed provided gift certificates, subscriptions or merchandise. Also Dave and Shannon Messersmith, members from Beach Lake, have established Houndsmen's Cream (www.houndcream.com) and have provided samples of their product to distribute at the Annual Meeting.

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. Launches Scholarship Program

For the first time in our history, the Association finds itself in a position to recognize two worthy students in the form of a \$500.00 scholarship award.

Please see the details and scholarship application below. Any questions may be directed to Dick Bednarczyk (570) 586-9270, Jerry Ross (570) 423-3389 or Cas Bonczewski (570) 977-4539.

The Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters Association announces the 2015 Scholarship Award!

As decided by the Officers and Board of Directors, the association will provide \$500 scholarships to two eligible students. The award will be presented during the awards portion of the 2015 Family Day picnic to be held at Molyneaux's Pen, Saturday, June 27th, 2015.

Details:

1. Student must complete the application below and submit by June 1st, 2015. One application per student. Families with multiple students may copy the application below. Mail application to RJ Bednarczyk, President.
2. Student must be a PA State Fox & Coyote Hunters Association member or the child or grandchild of a current, paid member.
3. The Scholarship opportunity is open to:
 - a. All graduates from the class 2015 who meet the above qualifications, regardless of state or province of residence.
 - b. Previously graduated students currently enrolled in further education programs, who meet the above qualifications, regardless of state or province of residence. Currently enrolled college students must not have entered into the 4th year of their chosen program.
4. A qualifying further education program refers to a 2 or 4 year college, trade or specialty school or any other higher education program for which the student is paying for.
5. In an effort to be fair and objective to all qualified and deserving applicants, the name of each applicant will be placed in a hat for a random drawing to determine the winners.
6. The winning students will be required to submit proof of current enrollment or planned continuation of education beyond high school. (i.e., acceptance letter)
7. Student need not be present at Family Day picnic to win.

Students Name (please print):		Date:
Address:		
Town:	State or Province:	Zip Code:
Phone Number:	e-mail Address:	
Member's Name (student, parent or grandparent):		
College or Trade School you are/will be attending:		
Students Signature:		