

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters inc.

Directors:

Roy Rosenbaum Mercy 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

Jerry Ross, 603 N. Wilbur Ave. Sayre, PA 18840
Vice President

Pat Carr, 4860 McDermott Rd, Bangor, PA 18013
Secretary

Spring Newsletter – March 2020



Kids Show Off Their Winnings at Family Day. Planning Begins for 2020

Even though it's mid-winter it's never too early to anticipate and plan for the Family Day Picnic. As shown in this photo from last year's event, the kids have a good time and receive ample recognition for their good fortune in the various events. Some even win a puppy!!

We expect to duplicate these proceedings again this year and have reserved Molyneaux's plantation for June 20th.

Expect to see the photo hunt, horn blowing contest, children's bench show, baking contest and traditional picnic fare once again. Further details will be published in our June Newsletter.

From the President's Pen...

2020 has resulted in a good start for our Association, as you will see from the following news items:

Although it was signed on November 27th, the hound retrieval bill became effective at the end of February. (see legislative monitoring section below).

Our calendar for 2020 is being finalized and preparations are underway for our major events.

Our Annual Meeting has been set for Saturday, April 18th, and our "Member's Only" Coyote Tournament is underway, with several good specimens being reported.

The Executive Committee has agreed to continue our scholarship program to five students who are the children or grandchildren of a member. (See details below and on page 6).

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

During our last business meeting, the Executive Committee voted to continue our scholarship program for **five students**. Each will receive a \$500.00 award.

The first scholarship to be awarded will be designated the **Dick Ross Memorial Scholarship**. It has been funded by memorial contributions made in Dick's honor. The second scholarship will be earmarked as the **Western Boys Coyote Team Honorary Scholarship** funded by the Mercer County group.

Please see the details and scholarship application below. Any questions may be directed to Dick Bednarczyk (570) 586-9270 or, Jerry Ross (570) 423-3389. Our 2019 winners were Kole Peterson, Colton Babcock, Allison Stuart, Michael Wallitsch and Jacey Kleintob.

In Memorium

Eric Emerson	Clarence Heaton
John Kutz	Seth Pennington

Annual Meeting – Saturday, April 18th, 2020

The Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. has been scheduled for 4:00 pm, Saturday, April 18th at the American Legion, Route 6, Wyalusing, PA. In addition to election of officers for 2020, the agenda will include a review of the accomplishments of the organization during 2019, plans for 2020, and review of significant legislative issues and other important business.

Please mark your calendar and watch for further correspondence regarding this meeting.

In order to insure proper dinner arrangements, please RSVP to Dick Bednarczyk via e-mail (dick.bednarczyk@gmail.com) 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.

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 18th. This fundraiser has become an integral part of our overall financial scenario for the year. The grand prize is a Garmin Alpha Bundle GPS with the improved TT/15 collar valued at approximately \$800.00 retail or an \$800.00 Cash Award. In the event that you have not yet made your returns, we encourage you to support your organization by doing so.

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 Saturday, April 11th.

Legislative Monitoring – Pennsylvania Hound Retrieval Bill to Become Law.

SB 147 passed the Senate on November 18th. It includes our amendment which exempts unarmed hunters attempting to recover their dogs on private property from trespassing charges. The Governor signed the bill on November 27th, *to be effective after 90 days (end of February 2020)*.

We cannot overemphasize how important this amendment is for the hound owner, or how difficult it would be to ever achieve such a measure on a stand-alone basis.

We owe a huge measure of gratitude to Hon. Mike Peifer for sponsoring the amendment and achieving a 96 - 0 vote for it in the House. Mike is a member of the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. and has been for several years.

This landmark achievement is the result of at least two years of hard work on our behalf and marks Pennsylvania as one of a handful of states with a hound retrieval statute. We could not be more fortunate.

Legislative Monitoring – Pennsylvania HSUS Again Proposes to Define Adequate Shelter – HB 2104 Would Limit Outside Exposure to 15 Minutes!!

The latest version of the HSUS sponsored ‘Building Code for Dogs’ bill was resubmitted on December 2nd. Although similar legislation proposed last year initially honored our hard earned exemption, (see section below) final “last minute” versions took direct aim at our language and proposed to overturn it.

It is apparent that our exemption is squarely in the “cross hairs”.

Informed sources advise us that the bill has little current support outside of the small group of sponsors. Rest assured that we are watching this matter very closely and will mobilize should circumstances dictate.

Legislative Monitoring – Pennsylvania Members Threatened by Bogus Citations - Know Your Rights!

As mentioned above, in 2017, after 3 years of hard work, we secured favorable language exempting our hounds and similar breeds from the anti- tethering bill.

Recently we have had three cases wherein our members were threatened with citations from different enforcement entities whose officers were unfamiliar with the contents of the law - specifically our exemption.

We feel it is warranted that we repeat this information and recommend that you retain this newsletter for ready reference should you be confronted at some future point.

The specific language of Act 10 – 2017, section 5536 appears below:

b) Construction.--This section shall not be construed to prohibit any of the following:

(1) Tethering a dog while actively engaged in lawful hunting, exhibition, performance events or field training.

(2) Tethering a hunting, sporting or sledding dog breed where tethering is integral to the training, conditioning or purpose of the dog.

(3) Tethering a dog in compliance with the requirements of a camping or recreational area.

(4) Tethering a dog for a period of time, not to exceed one hour, reasonably necessary for the dog or person to complete a temporary task.

As noted above, this exemption continues to be targeted by the HSUS and similar anti-hunting organizations. Continued vigilance is required!!

Welcome New Members!

Recruiting efforts for 2020 are off to a good start. YTD 21 hunters have joined the Association. Since our last newsletter, Ron Micklow, Harold Wodrig, Seth Bullock, Bill Holena, Colton Hess, Codie & Becca Ross, Matt Bender, Dan, Clayton and Mitchell Brinsky, Rick Erhardt, Jack Henderson, Chris Ruhf, John Tanmines, Jim Hardler, Max Johnson, Doug Vogan, Tracy Vanderpool, Tom Weaver and Hunter Johnson 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!

Remember to Nominate Your Youngsters for “First” Award

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, PA Outdoor News, Double U Hunting Supply, Sacandaga Dog Supply, Down Home Rice Pudding and Hunter’s Horn magazine.

All companies listed provided gift certificates, subscriptions or merchandise.

PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. Affiliates with PA Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists

We are pleased to report that your Association has joined forces with the PA Federation. This move will enhance our effectiveness in the pursuit of our rights as Houndsmen. Harold Daub, the Executive Director, is a registered lobbyist who will provide valuable insight and assistance as we continually deal with the PA Legislature.

Their headquarters are in Harrisburg.

The linkup also affords a \$15.00 discount to anyone who enjoys a personal membership with the Federation (reduced from \$25.00 to \$10.00).

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

There were 46 entries overall, 30 coyotes were taken with hounds.

Successful members were; Bob Cragle, Chip Sorber, Jack Johnson, Guy Michlowski, Ron Taylor, Bill Babcock, Bob Brown, Corey Luther, Bruce Tewksbury, Charlie Avery (2 coyotes), Emily Bold, Harold Wodrig, Dave Podunajec (2 coyotes), Shaun Spencer, Bill Zdziarski, Josh Cragle (2 coyotes), Mike Murnin, and Jeremy Kovalick. Members of the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. harvested 21 coyotes during the event. The winning coyote weighed 47.4 pounds.

2020 Memberships Now Due

At this point, everyone should have received their 2020 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 Pat Carr, using the address which appears on the letterhead.

Upcoming Events for 2020

In addition to our Annual Meeting cited above, the following are the projected dates for our usual events:

- Family Day Picnic – Saturday, June 20th, Molyneaux's Plantation, Endicott, NY
- Sporting Dog Owner's Meeting - TBD , PGC Headquarters

The date for our meeting with the Game Commission is not confirmed as of publication. The date designated typically represents the second day of the Commissioners Quarterly Meeting. We will publicize final arrangements well in advance.

New Member Benefit – PA Outdoor News Discount (also NY Outdoor News)

PA Outdoor News is offering us a \$5.00 rebate for any new or continued subscription taken at our annual meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to take advantage of this saving, please remit your check to Dick Bednarczyk in the discounted amount of \$22.00 payable to PSFCHA. by April 18th. Current subscribers are requested to provide an address label from a recent copy to facilitate the transaction. Those attending the Annual Meeting may do so at that time.

The Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters Association announces the 2020 Scholarship Award!

As decided by the Officers and Board of Directors, the Association will provide \$500 scholarships to five eligible students. The award will be presented during the awards portion of the 2020 Family Day picnic to be held at Molyneaux's Pen.

Details:

1. Student must complete the application below and submit by June 1st, 2020. 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 2020 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.
8. Previous winners are ineligible.

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:		