

# *Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters inc.*

Website: [www.pafoxhunters.com](http://www.pafoxhunters.com)

## Directors

Richard Ross Roy Rosenbaum James Rogers Jay Roberts Ron Davis Ron Cole Chip Sorber Shawn Spencer Walter Vosefski

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

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

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

Treasurer

Kipp Adcock, RR#1, Box 1297 Center St Gouldsboro, PA 18424  
Secretary

## Fall Newsletter – September 2014



**Kid's Take Home the Hardware on Family Day**



**August 9<sup>th</sup> Speed & Drive – see article below for details**

### **From the President's Pen...**

The last three months of 2014 has proven to be a busy time for the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. We participated in an extremely interesting and productive Sporting Dog Owners meeting with the PA Game Commission on June 10<sup>th</sup> and our Family Day Picnic was held on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Our Speed and Drive Field Trial was held on August 9<sup>th</sup>. We also participated in a special meeting concerning "Mean Seeds" plantings with Wyoming County agents and sportsmen. See the full reports on these events below.

### **Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. Host Family Day Picnic**

Molyneaux's Training Enclosure, Endicott, New York, was the site for Pennsylvania State's tenth annual Family Day Picnic. 150 members and guests were on hand to enjoy summer picnic fare while running 68 hounds.

A variety of competitions and training classes also comprised the day's activities.

The traditional horn-blowing contests were won by Dillon and Hannah Keane, with Anna Brown and Caden Jennings taking second honors. Five year old Colton Strong won the photo hunt, with sisters Marina and Madison Morgan taking second and third places in that event.

Many youngsters (and adults) were very attentive during a highly informative "Wild Turkey Aging" class presented by Director Chip Sorber. Director Jim Rogers presented detailed instruction during a children's handling class which was followed by the bench show. Director Ron Cole acted as bench judge. An intense judging period resulted in the following winners, listed in order of bench placement: Karly Wilkes showing Red, Josh Brown showing John Wayne, Kendall Peterson showing Sissy, Madison Morgan showing Toby, Dylan Wilkes showing Trey, Adele Vaughan showing Deena, Karlee Keane showing Foxy, Michael Davis showing TC, Tucker Vaughan showing George, and Seth McCammon showing Savage.

2014 State Champion Coyote Hunter Bob Brown was on hand to receive his trophy for first place in the Association's Coyote Tournament. Bob was easily declared the 2014 PA State Champion with a 51.4 pound coyote. Bob also won our State Championship two years ago. He also took third and fifth places in the event. Other winners were Jack Sorber (2 places), Justin Smarsh (3 places), Bob Clark, and Shawn Dietz.

The puppy raffle was won by Mike Davis with Sharon McGowan being declared winner of the Yeti cooler. Special thanks are in order to Curve Lake Ontario's Terry Rose who provided a particularly beautiful 8 week old puppy and to John Nielson and Kevin Van Camp for transporting and housing the puppy for the organization.

Special thanks for donated auction items are accorded to Tammy and Kevin Van Camp (multiple woodcraft items), Wade and Carol Gray (NY Strip Steaks), Sally Davis (woman's bath products basket), Moscow Area Coyote Hunters (trail camera and accessories), Carl Berkheimer (dog food), Bill Doney's Thunder Valley Pet Pantry (dog food) and Chip Sorber (maple syrup). Also special thanks to Wade and Carol Gray and Ron and Sally Davis for donating the burgers for the event – a huge savings for the organization!

**Results of PA State 2014 Speed & Drive Field Trial**  
**Wade and Carol Gray's Springs Kennels Wins Event, Places Eight Hounds**

Favorable weather, good game conditioning and superb hounds combined to make another memorable PA State Speed & Drive Field Trial at Molyneaux's Plantation, with Spring's Argo winning the event. Wade and Carol Gray's Springs Kennel placed eight hounds, with Dave Peterson and Dale Arthur garnering fourth and eighth places.

49 hounds were entered, representing Pennsylvania, New York and Canada.

Kipp Adcock did a great job serving as Master of Hounds.

A sincere thank you to the following judges: Dick Bednarczyk, David Hall, Ron and Scott Davis, Walter Vosefski, David Wride, Brian Coleman, Chip Sorber, Bob Brown, Charlie Michlowski, Jim Rogers, Dave Susz and Jerry Devine.

Other Field Support Staff were Paul Conway, Tom Maciun, Tim Folk, Drew Madill, Rick Gardner, Jeff Miszler, Charlie Foulk, Dave Allen, Trevor Fulmer, Bill Higgins, Jack Johnson and Kevin O'Neill.

Dave Wride once again performed double duty with computer operations in addition to judging.

We are also grateful to Gene, Staci and Richard Molyneaux who continue to host many of our events and are continually responsive to all of our requests.

Special thanks to Mike Jaskulski and Marty Carr. Sometimes we forget to give the credit to those who work the hardest during our field trial. They cooked, cleaned, sold merchandise, set up the booths, tore them down and performed a countless number of other tasks.

We are ever grateful to our faithful sponsors: Johnson's Telemetry (collar), Prowler Quick Track for their discount coupons and Bill Doney's Thunder Valley Pet Pantry for Sportmix Dog Food.

Finally, thank you to all who entered hounds in this year's event. None of this would be possible if it were not for your support.

Congratulations to:

- 1). Spring's Argo (Bonner's Humpy - M&S Polly), Wade & Carol Gray, Laceyville, PA
- 2). Spring's Sky (Leafloors Ricky - Leafloors Molly), Wade & Carol Gray, Laceyville, PA
- 3). Spring's Nitro (CRHC (f) Ch. Run-Em-Down Bullet - CRHC (fd) Ch. Locust Grove Rage), Wade & Carol Gray, Laceyville, PA
- 4). Pete's Cleo (Ch. Run-Em-Down Bullet - Ch. Locust Grove Rage), Dave Peterson, West Middlesex, PA.
- 5). Spring's Ms. Speck-G (Springhill Rocky-G - CRHC (fd) Ch. Locust Grove Rage), Wade & Carol Gray, Laceyville, PA
- 6). Spring's Widget (CRHC (f) Ch. Run-Em-Down Bullet - CRHC (fd) Ch. Locust Grove Rage), Wade & Carol Gray, Laceyville, PA
- 7). Spring's Lil Speck (Hammerin Down Ace - M&S Angle), Wade & Carol Gray, Laceyville, PA
- 8). Dot (N.G. - Springs Dot), Dale Arthur, Springville, PA.
- 9). Spring's Duster-G (Springhill Rocky-G - CRHC (fd) Ch. Locust Grove Rage), Wade & Carol Gray, Laceyville, PA
- 10). Spring's Dust-em-G (Springhill Rocky-G - CRHC (fd) Ch. Locust Grove Rage), Wade & Carol Gray, Laceyville, PA

## **Overview – 2014 Sporting Dog Owners Meeting, June 10, 2014**

The 2014 Sporting Dog Owner's Meeting was held at PA Game Commission Headquarters, Harrisburg, on Tuesday June 10th. The meeting was jointly chaired by Dick Bednarczyk, President, PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. inc. and Richard Palmer, Deputy Executive Director, PA Game Commission.

Major participants were members of the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunters Assn., The PA Beagle Gun Dog Assn. and the PA Nite Hunter's Assn.

The meeting featured presentations by Drs. Ben Jones and Matt Lavallo of the PGC.

Dr. Jones reported on the commission's findings and action concerning Awns Disease (mean seeds), which resulted from discussions at the 2013 meeting of the groups.

The commission has identified Canadian wild rye, foxtail and two other weeds and the source of Awns Disease. Dr. Jones reported that PGC plantings have been reduced to approximately 1% of problematic seed content and are further restricted to application in low dog-use areas.

A participant commented that it was their understanding that pipeline seedings, prevalent throughout the state, contain a significant portion of culprit grasses. Dr. Jones responded that such seedlings must meet DCNR guidelines; however private landowners may specify the seeding that they desire.

Dr. Jones also presented details regarding snowshoe hare habitat and density and measures taken to improve such.

Dr. Matt Lavallo provided data concerning the 2014 Bobcat harvest, as it pertains to the split hunting season, and further reported on the density of Fishers throughout the state.

Other items covered were the use of radios by coyote hunters, the possibility of starting and ending the Bobcat season on a Saturday vs. Tuesday and allowing hunters to take fishers during the current week long trapping season.

Bruce Knopsnider, President, PA Nite Hunters, reported on counsel he has recently received regarding their quest for 'Right to Retrieve' legislation within the state.

### **Check Out Our Website**

All members are encouraged to review our new website ([www.pafoxhunters.com](http://www.pafoxhunters.com)). We are indebted to Member Joe Ross for developing and maintaining the site for the Association. In addition, Joe has prepaid our subscription fees for a five year period! Special recognition is in order for Joe's uncle, Vice President Jerry Ross, who volunteered to spearhead this project. We would welcome your comments and suggestions regarding anything you feel should be included. Merely use the website's "Contact Us" feature if you wish to respond.

### **2014 Memberships Now Due**

At this point, everyone should have received their 2014 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.

### **Remember To Support Our Sponsors**

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 and Hunter's Horn magazine. All companies listed provided gift certificates, subscriptions or merchandise for our various events...

### **Welcome New Members!**

Recruiting efforts for 2014 continues on a good note... YTD 37 hunters have joined the Association. Since our last newsletter, Derrick and Colton Strong, Ted, Luke and Jacob Moyer, Joe Grzenda Jr. and Joe 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mike Miszler, John and Nick Solinsky, Jay Maneval, Jack Johnson, Cindy Coombe, Sam Huff and Brooke Maskell have come on board. Welcome hunters!

### **Legislative Monitoring – Oregon State Ends Coyote Tournaments**

A recent lawsuit brought on by "anti's resulted in a settlement wherein the organizers of Oregon coyote tournaments agreed to curtail the practice. The hunters reported that they no longer had sufficient resources to continue their legal defense.

### **Legislative Monitoring – California Proposal to End Coyote Tournaments**

As reported by the September issue of NRA's American Hunter Magazine, the California Fish and Game Commission is in the process of making its final decision regarding a proposal to ban predator – hunting competitions in the state. A result of a petition from animal rights activists, the proposal, if passed into law, would make it illegal to offer a reward for killing coyotes, effectively putting an end to local competitions that have assisted in the management of the predators for years in California.

### **PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. Again Selected as Successor Organization.**

During Family Day proceedings, members Rick Gardner and Jeff Miszler presented us a check for over \$2100.00 from the Northeast PA Houndsmen Organization, representing approximately one – half of its treasury. The organization made a decision to cease operations and allocate its remaining resources to both our Association and Maine Bear Hunters, who are facing a shut-down referendum in November. Our sincere thanks to Rick and Jeff, and their Honesdale, PA colleges for this recognition and financial support.

This marks the third time in recent years wherein the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. has been similarly chosen - the prior organizations being the Northern PA Foxhunters Assn. and the PA Dog Owners Protective Assn.

### **New Training Enclosure Set to Open**

Chad Duncan, Delevan, NY, is making final preparations to open a 105 acre training enclosure and attached puppy pen. Chad's contact information is 3001 Elton Rd., Delevan, New York, 14042, (716) 560-5897

## DCNR Bureau of Forestry Guidelines include planting “Mean Seeds”

In direct response to discussions prompted by the Game Commission during last year’s Sporting Dog Owner’s Meeting in Harrisburg and much to their credit, the PGC introduced guidelines to limit their plantings of “mean seeds” to approximately 1% and further restrict their usage to low “dog traffic” areas. Their decision was made after a month’s long investigation.

“Mean Seeds” have been determined to cause the often fatal **Awns Disease** in sporting dogs which come in contact with the nasty vegetation.

We have recently discovered that the DCNR Bureau of Forestry, however, specifies the planting of these harmful seedings as follows:

\*Slopes above 15%: - Canadian Wild Rye (6 lbs. / acre) and Switchgrass (2 lbs.)

\*Slopes less than 15% - Virginia Wild Rye (6 lbs. / acre)

These plantings, along with Foxtail, have been determined to be most harmful to dogs.

***\*(Editor’s note :) –Source DCNR Bureau of Forestry – Guidelines for Administering Oil and Gas Activity on State Forest. Page 108.***

With the vast amount of pipeline and gas well activity now taking place throughout the commonwealth, it is important to be aware of these factors. If you may be an affected landowner it may be your right to specify the type of seedings which are not otherwise harmful.



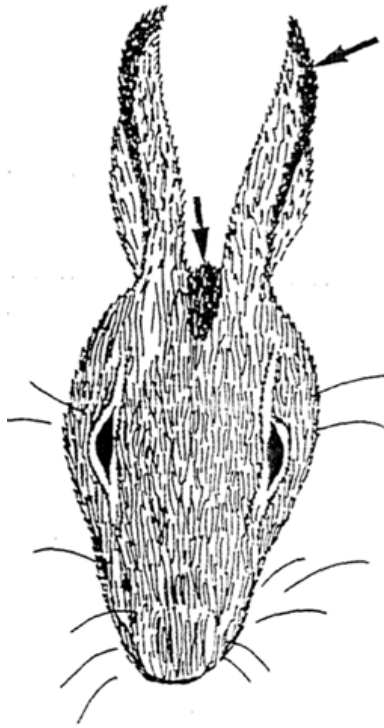
## Houndsmen Asked to Assist with Cottontail Study

During the June Sporting Dog Owners Meeting, Game Commission biologists introduced the launching of a study of the Appalachian Cottontail. Game Commission personnel presented a specific request of the Houndsmen present to assist in the gathering of data for their research. We strongly encourage all hunters to take part in the study, if the opportunity is presented. Please use the survey forms printed below to report your specimens.

## The Appalachian Cottontail Head Collection Study

The Appalachian cottontail is a species of high-level concern on Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan. The Pennsylvania Game Commission seeks to gain a better understanding of the statewide distribution of the Appalachian cottontail. We are asking hunters to submit frozen heads of legally harvested or road-killed cottontails which meet any of the following criteria:

- 1) **The cottontail has a black blaze on the forehead and ears with black leading edge.**



- 2) **The cottontail was harvested in deep woods (not near the edge of a field).**
- 3) **The cottontail was harvested at higher elevation (> 800 feet).**

For each head collected, fill out a copy of the "Cottontail Head Collection Data Sheet" and number the sheet and head so that they can be matched. Removing the head from the cottontail and freezing it as soon as possible will help to maintain skull suitability and DNA integrity for analysis. To make arrangements for submitting frozen cottontail heads meeting the criteria listed above, or if you have any questions, please contact:

Emily Boyd  
Small Game Mammal Biologist  
Email: [eboyd@pa.gov](mailto:eboyd@pa.gov)  
Phone: (717) 480-7597

**Cottontail Head Collection Data Sheet**

**Head #**

Name of Hunter: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Harvested: \_\_\_\_\_ Coordinates (deg.min.sec) Lat: \_\_\_\_\_ Long: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Township: \_\_\_\_\_ WMU: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of where cottontail was harvested: Please describe the location where this cottontail head was collected. Information such as SGL #, State Forest, proximity to road intersections and landmarks, and landowner information is helpful. Elevation (ft): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Black ear edge: Y N Spot between ears: White Black NA Sex: M F

Habitat/vegetation information (check all that apply): \_\_\_ On mountain

\_\_\_ Mountain laurel

\_\_\_ Rhododendron

\_\_\_ Blueberry/huckleberry

\_\_\_ Scrub oak

\_\_\_ Shrub

\_\_\_ Early successional

\_\_\_ Mature deciduous/coniferous forest- describe tree composition

\_\_\_ Other-please describe

\_\_\_\_\_  
We are grateful for your cooperation and interest in wildlife conservation. If you would like to receive a summary letter of our findings, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_