

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters inc.

Website: www.pafoxhunters.com

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Winter Newsletter – December 2018



Windy Hollow Hunt Launches Their Initial Hunt!

Pictured above is Huntsman Chris Burrows-Wood of the New York - based Windy Hollow Hunt, with 10 couple of foxhounds brought to Muncy for a recent exercise.

Please see the account below, furnished by Member Sally Jellison. Sally currently serves as Vice President of the Hunt. We can only imagine the effort necessary to bring this mounted hunt to Pennsylvania. Securing permission to use totally private land, in this case, is a huge accomplishment and a testament to the dedication and professionalism of Sally, her husband John, and those who assisted them.

It is our best wishes that the WHH will enjoy continued success as they strive to protect and promote their unique facet of hunting with hounds in the Commonwealth.

About the Hunt:

On August 22, Fox Valley (located at J&S Farms) in the Muncy Hills of Central Pennsylvania, hosted a mounted hound exercise. Of note is the fact that this was the first ever such event to be held in this geographical region. Chris Burrows - Wood, the huntsman from Windy Hollow Hunt (WHH) and other staff members traveled from New York with ten couple of foxhounds to conduct hound training. Also present were members from WHH as well as a robust showing of local equestrian enthusiasts representing several stables in the area.

The majority of the participants, led by experienced Fox Hunter Sally Jellison, were new to the sport of mounted fox hunting and got a fun “on the fly” introduction to protocol and a basic understanding of the sport.

The exercise lasted for approximately two hours, followed by a tailgate (known as a stirrup cup in the world of mounted fox hunting), and based on the feedback of the participants, neighbors, landowners and volunteers... it was deemed to be a huge success... as well as a blast!

Future events, to include hunter paces, hound training, and mounted hunting are in the works for the near future. Please contact Sally Jellison at sajellison@gmail.com if you are interested in riding, volunteering, or even just observing the fun.

Mosquito Creek Sportsmen’s Assn. Renews Considerable Donation

Last year, faithful member Mart Bumbarger advised us to expect a donation from the Mosquito Creek Sportsmen’s Assn. Within a few days, the organization issued their check in the amount of \$500.00 payable to the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter’s Assn. Martin Bumbarger, an officer of the club, made it clear that their donation was unrestricted and may be used in accordance with the Executive Committee’s discretion, in furtherance of our mission to enhance and protect our sport.

Again this year, Mosquito Creek has presented another \$500.00 payment to our association.

We offer our sincere thanks to this key group of members and active supporters. As you know, Mosquito Creek, Frenchville, sponsors the largest coyote tournament in the state, drawing approximately 8000 entrants.

From the President’s Pen...

We expect to 2019 to present unprecedented legislative challenges for the hound community once again. HB 1603 was removed from the table on June 25th and HB 2503 was referred to the judiciary on June 18th. Although we reported on both bills in our September Newsletter, due to their profound impact on our sport, essential contents are repeated below. Members are requested to be alert to any progress on these bills and anticipate the need to voice your opposition to your legislator.

Legislative Monitoring, PA – HB 1603: Trespassing While Hunting

HB 1603 proposes to increase current penalties for trespassing while hunting, including revocation of your hunting license for a second offense within a seven year period. While we understand the importance of protecting property rights, we are hopeful that this bill will be amended to allow for hound retrieval situations, especially in those cases where the landowner cannot be reached or identified in order to seek permission.

Last Action – Removed from table – June 25th, 2018.

Legislative Monitoring, PA – HB 2503: Transporting Dogs

§ 5538.1. *Transporting dogs in external section of vehicle.*

(a) *Offense defined.--It shall be prohibited to carry or cause or allow to be carried a dog on the hood, roof, truck bed or any other external section of a vehicle on a public road in this Commonwealth.*

Needless to say, this bill, as proposed, clearly fits the definition of absurdity!! It must be construed as another covert attempt to insert an anti-hunting regulation into Commonwealth Statutes.

Last Action – Referred to Judiciary – June 18th, 2018

PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's to Hold Coyote Tournament

Once again, the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. will conduct a season long, member's 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.

Our substantial 'Challenge Trophy' will be awarded for the heaviest coyote, which will be replaced by a replica after one year. Trophies will also be awarded for the ten heaviest entries. Entry fees will be \$10.00 for the event. Entry forms will accompany 2019 membership billings which will be sent shortly.

Our 2018 winner was Jack Sorber with a 51.5 pound 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" 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" 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 2018 has broken all previous records! YTD, 58 hunters have joined the Association. Since our last newsletter Danielle Brinsky and Hunter Blumig have come on board. Welcome hunters!

Pennsylvania Outdoor News Clears Up Serious Dog Shooting Statements

Their August 17th article concerning the recent passage of legislation approving the use of blood tracking dogs for the recovery of big game contained serious misstatements concerning the shooting of hounds in PA.

In the **Opinion** page of the September 14th issue, Editor Jeff Mulhollem provided an excellent clarification entitled ***"Doggone it; we just gotta clear this up."***

The original article stated "the Game Code still allows for the shooting of any off-leash dog seen running through the woods in pursuit of game".

The editor correctly reported "This statement is an oversimplification of what the law actually says".

Further explanation, provided in part by Andy Bensing, the proponent of the use of blood tracking dogs follows:

“You certainly can’t shoot ANY dog seen running off- leash because it is in pursuit of wild game”, he said.

Page 17 of the current Hunting and Trapping Digest spells it out clearly and I encourage anyone considering shooting a dog to read it. Yes, it is true that you can still shoot a dog that is chasing a big game animal- but the dog must be clearly endangering the big game animal’s life, not just chasing it.

If you shoot a dog chasing a big game animal, it becomes your legal responsibility to be able to prove that the dog was actually attacking and endangering the big game animal’s life, Bensing explained.

“I would say that unless there is deer hair in the dead dog’s teeth, the shooter will be in big trouble,” he said.

“The shooter is required to report the shooting to the dog’s owner or the Game Commission. If the shooter can’t prove that the life of the big game animal was endangered, the penalties to the shooter can be as high as a \$5000.00 fine, two years in prison and restitution for the value of the dog. Not to mention the reaction of the owner when you tell him you killed his dog!”

The bottom line is that shooting a dog running through the woods may be legal under certain, very specific circumstances but is probably a really, really bad idea. Better to report the free running dog to the Game Commission, let the agency’s law enforcement officers handle it, and avoid all the likely complications to your life if you shoot it.”

Editor’s Note: As a result of our pleadings during past Sporting Dog Owner’s Meetings, the PA Game Commission provided enhanced clarification and more favorable language regarding the shooting of hounds as now appears in Page 17 of the digest..

We have continually expressed our appreciation for this result.

We also thank the many Houndsmen throughout the Commonwealth who expressed their dissatisfaction with the original article to PA Outdoor News, and especially faithful member Carl Hartman (Hartline Kennels, Liberty, NY) who immediately alerted us to its reference in neighboring New York papers.

Lastly we commend PA Outdoor News Editor Jeff Mullhollem and tracking dog advocate Andy Bensing for their excellent work producing the much needed clarification.



Logo Merchandise – Great Stocking Stuffers – Landowner Gifts!

Our newest item is our logo cap in safety orange or orange camo (not shown) pattern – very popular for \$15.00.

These items would make great stocking stuffers and can be obtained by completing the enclosed order forms or by contacting Dick Bednarczyk (570-586-9270).

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters Association



Full Color Mugs
Two-Tone, Burgundy/White 11 oz.

\$8.00



*Crewneck
Sweatshirts*

\$20.00

S	M	L	XL	2X



*Camo
Caps*

\$15.00



*License
Plates*

\$20.00



Pro Style Fitted Caps

\$15.00

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



Beanies w/ Cuff

\$12.00

Red	Maroon	White	Orange	Spruce	Navy

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

Legacy Jackets
\$59.00

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



**50/50
Cotton Tees**
\$12.00

	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X
<i>White</i>						
<i>Dark</i>						



Challenger Jacket
Teklon® nylon shell
Poly-filled body with heavyweight fleece lining for extra warmth.
Available in Black/Black
\$63.00

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



Hooded Sweatshirt
Available in Forest Green
Large & XL Only
While Supplies Last!
\$25.00

	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X

Zip Hooded Sweatshirts



Color - Dark Chocolate
Includes embroidered logo
\$35.00

	S	M	L	XL	2X

Item	Mugs	Sweatshirts	Camo Caps	License Plates	Pro Caps	Beanies	Legacy	Tees	Challenger	Hoodie	Zip Hoodie
Price	\$8	\$20	\$15	\$20	\$15	\$12	\$59	\$12	\$63	\$25	\$35
Quantity											
PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. c/o Richard J. Bednarczyk, President 118 Commerce Drive Scott Twp., PA 18447 dick.bednarczyk@epix.net										Subtotal	
										Shipping	Add \$5.00
										Total	

Make your check payable to the
PASFCHA: RJ Bednarczyk, at this address:
Add \$5.00 for shipping and handling.