

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters *inc.*

Website: www.pafoxhunters.com

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Secretary

Spring Newsletter – March 2024



Greg Reed is shown with his 51.65-pound coyote which won the District Nine PA Trapper's Assn. Hunt. Greg also placed two smaller critters as well. A record 82 coyotes were entered by the 566 hunters who were registered. Several coyotes were affected by mange (one third were mangey during last year's hunt). Lauren Maxwell, a graduate of Delaware Valley University, spent all weekend, along with two other researchers collecting data for the University of Pennsylvania school of veterinary medicine.

Editor's note: The information above was provided by The Citizen's Voice article authored by Staff Writer Robert L. Baker.

From the President's Pen...

The first quarter of 2024 has been a busy time for your Association. Arrangements are being finalized for our Annual Meeting and several decisions are required regarding the Sporting Dog Owner's Meeting with the PA Game Commission and our Family Day. Most importantly, there is a myriad of legislative bills which will require vigilant monitoring on our behalf.

Legislative Monitoring

"If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government, then you are destined to be governed by fools".

Plato

Commissioner's Proposal to Prohibit Fox Chasing on State Game Lands.

The proposal to create section 147.224 pertains to those holding a fox chasing permit under section 2945 of the Game and Wildlife Code (essentially mounted hunts). It would prohibit (1) the injuring or killing of any fox through the use of a dog used in the chase, (2) conducting any fox chasing activities on lands under control of the Commission and (3) conducting any fox chasing activities during the regular firearms deer and regular firearms bear seasons.

We understand that the proposal to prohibit fox chasing on SGL has not been implemented, with the understanding that hunt clubs will collaborate with the Agency on resolving issues connected with their activities on State Game Lands.

PGC Board of Commissioners Meeting rules "no hound running during regular deer and bear seasons".

The proposed amendment to 58 Pa. Code 141.67 was adopted during the January Commissioner's Meeting. The ruling prohibits the hunting of any furbearers using a dog during the overlap with any regular firearms deer season or regular firearms bear season.

Currently Monitored Bills – Pennsylvania

As of publication there has been no movement on the following bills, which we have covered in detail in our September and December Newsletters:

HB 529 – Transporting dogs in the exterior of vehicles.

HB 549 - 'All dogs equal'.

HB 669 - Hunting License revocation without due process.

SB 785 - Reconstituted Dog Law Advisory Board.

HB 495 - Would allow legislature to determine Wildlife decisions.

"Project Coyote" continues to rack up legislative victories – New York latest to fall.

On December 22nd, NY Governor Hochul, signed legislation to ban coyote tournaments in the State. The new law will take effect on November 1st, 2024. This marks the tenth state to do so, including New Jersey, Vermont, Arizona, Colorado, Oregon, California, Maryland, New Mexico and Washington.

Annual Meeting – Saturday, April 20th, 2024

The Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. has been scheduled for 4:00 pm, Saturday, April 20th at the American Legion, Route 6, Wyalusing, PA. In addition to election of officers for 2024, the agenda will include a review of the accomplishments of the organization during 2023, plans for 2024, and review of significant legislative issues, numerous hound related citations and other important business. Please mark your calendar and watch for further correspondence regarding this meeting.

In order to ensure 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. You may also send a text to (570) 209-3700.

Please note: There will be a \$15.00 charge for the dinner, cash or check payable to the PSFCHA at the time of seating.

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 20th. 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 \$1000.00 retail or a \$1000.00 Cash Award. In the event that you have not yet made your returns, we encourage you to support your organization by doing so.

2024 Memberships Now Due

At this point, everyone should have received their 2024 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 Association Secretary Pat Carr, using the address which appears on the letterhead.

Remember to Nominate Your Youngsters for "First" Award

Please be mindful of our award program which includes "First Turkey", "First Bobcat", "First Coyote" in addition to "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.

Help us recognize your youngsters.

Please help us enhance our efforts to recognize your youngsters by proving any outdoor/hunting/hound/agriculture related photos which you are willing to share. Although we continually post 1st harvest pictures, we do not wish to limit our coverage to that. Please include enough information to create a suitable caption.

Possibilities could include school and civic activities and clubs. Future Farmers, 4 - H, riding or archery clubs, rifle team, scouting, etc.

The preferred method for submission would be via email to dick.bednarczyk@gmail.com.

Association Members enjoy success in Coyote Hunts.

The Springville Hunt included entries from Members Charlie Avery (2 coyotes including largest of the day), Emily Bold, Jack Sorber, Jack Johnson, Pat McPeak, Preston Lewis, Bob Brown and Jack Henderson.

The District Nine PA Trappers Association Hunt was well represented by our members including hunt winner Greg Reed with a 51.65-pound coyote and two additional coyotes (see cover). Chris Jennings brought in Sunday's winner at 44.9 pounds. Other successful members include Cody Corby (2), Guy Michalowski, Bob Cragle (2), Emily Bold (5), Bill Babcock, Preston Lewis, Bruce Tewksbury, Mike Murnin, Chip Sorber, Shawn Spencer, Caden Jennings, Tom Weaver (2), Ivan Baker, Ron Taylor, Jack Johnson, Tracy Vanderpool, Tyler Peterson, Chris Meeker and Bob Brown.

The **Mosquito Creek Hunt** shows members Preston Lewis II (2), Storm Bumbarger, Douglas Todd, Gearld Pritt, Bob Cragle (2), and Travis Schall as successful. The top three weights were 53.15, 53.0 and 52.05 lbs. 4189 hunters were registered, with 263 coyotes harvested.

Remember To Support Our Sponsors

Down Home Rice Pudding, Cargill Taylor Beef – Wyalusing, Sportmix Dog Food, Thunder Valley Pet Pantry, Gundog Supply, PA Outdoor News, Double U Hunting Supply, Sacandaga Dog Supply and Hunter's Horn magazine. All companies listed provided gift certificates, subscriptions or merchandise for our various events.

In Memorium
Mike Wright
Sally Jellison
Jim Rogers

Have you moved or changed your email address?

Members who may have moved or changed their email addresses are requested to notify the Association, in order to receive timely correspondence and messages. Likewise anyone who has not received any recent emails are requested to advise us, if that is the case. We may have incurred typos or punctuation omissions while setting up your contact information. Notification to Dick Bednarczyk may be achieved via phone (570-586-9270, text (570) 209-3700 or email - dick.bednarczyk@gmail.com (preferred).

Pennsylvania Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. – Membership Involvement Needed

Your Association is welcoming any member to submit their name for any officer or director position for the election in April. Step up. Become involved. Help out. To find out more, please call any of the officers or directors listed. You are also welcome to attend any of our bi-monthly meetings to gauge the dynamics of organization beforehand.

Welcome New Members!

Recruiting efforts for 2024 are off to a good start. YTD eight hunters have joined the Association. Since our last newsletter, Ivan Baker, Dillon Pallman, Robert Sullivan, Bob Patton, Travis Wagner, Nash Talley, Connor Knott, Alex Geitner and Ed Wysocki 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!

Members make major contributions to Scholarship Fund

We wish to acknowledge Toni Cisowski for her \$1000.00 contribution to the further continuance of the Roy Rosenbaum Scholarship and Wayne County's Boyd Mills/John Klinkewicz groups for their \$500.00 contribution toward the George Hobbs Scholarship.

The guys mentioned that since they won the Springville Hunt and placed in others, they wished to use their winnings to further memorialize their late hunter/friend.

We are eternally grateful to Toni Cisowski and the Wayne County guys for their thoughtfulness, sensitivity and generosity.

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 6th.

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

The Executive Committee has voted to fund our scholarship program for four students. Each will receive a \$500.00 award.

The scholarships to be awarded will be designated as the Dick Ross Memorial Scholarship, the Roy Rosenbaum Memorial Scholarship, and the George Hobbs Memorial Scholarship, which have been funded by memorial contributions made in their honor. The fourth scholarship will be earmarked as the Western Boy's 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 2023 winners were Brianna Sears, Charlene Dugan, Spencer Kishbaugh, Austin Hartman and Allison Stuart.

Eligible students may use the application below to participate in the drawing.

2024 Scholarship Award Program!

Details:

1. Student must complete the application below and submit by June 1st, 2024. One application per student. Families with multiple students may copy the application below. Mail application to RJ Bednarczyk, Director.
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 2024 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 drawing location 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:		