

# *Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters inc.*

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

## Directors:

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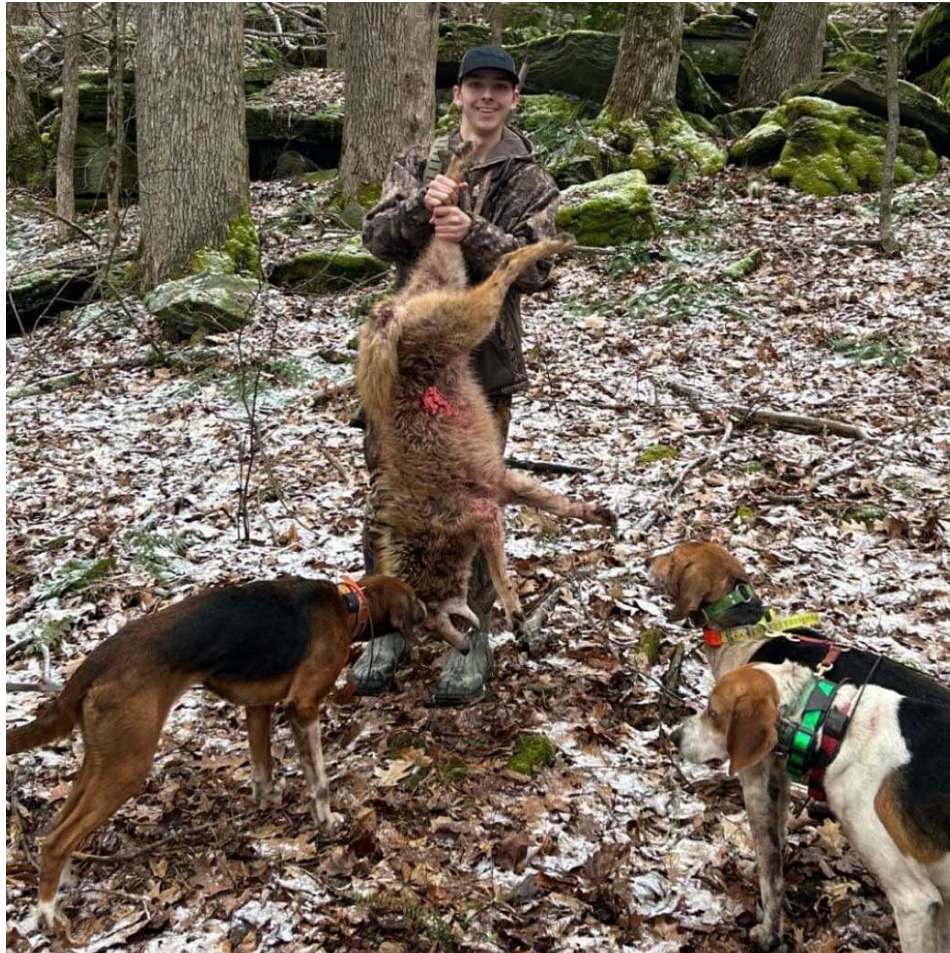
Jerry Ross, 603 N. Wilbur Ave., Sayre, PA 18840  
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Secretary

## Spring Newsletter – March 2023



### **Caden Jennings – 39.2 lb. entry for Youth Division**

Caden Jennings, Falls, PA. is shown with his current entry for the Youth Division of our State Championship Tournament. Caden is the son of Chris and Christa Jennings.

In 2020 Caden was our Youth Champion, having taken both first and second places in that year's hunt. His winning entry in 2020 registered at 46.45 lbs.

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

2023 has resulted in a good start for our Association:

Our calendar for 2023 is being finalized with these major events:

Our "Member's Only" Coyote Tournament (January 1- March 31) is underway, with several good specimens being reported.

The Annual Meeting has been set for Saturday, April 22nd, at the American Legion, in Wyalusing PA. An invitation is forthcoming in the mail.

Our Family Day Picnic returns ; It has been tentatively set for Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Sorber Cabin in Noxen, PA.

On a serious note, the recent mid-term elections have resulted in a change in majority for the PA House of Representatives. Since it is too early to assess the effect on the sporting community, this result will require careful watchfulness if we wish to preserve those traditions we hold as integral to our rural and sporting life style.

### Legislative Monitoring – An Overview

There is a ground swell of evidence of a concerted effort to ban the use of hounds, especially coyote hounds, nationwide.

- **Vermont** has banned the training and hunting of coyote hounds, effective July 2022.

- On August 8, 2022, **Maine** enacted a new "Civil Trespass with Hunting Dogs" law curtailing the use of hounds for bears, bobcats, fox, racoon and coyotes.

- A campaign by anti-hunting organizations to eliminate coyote tournaments nationwide including our commonwealth.(Project Coyote). Project Coyote has been successful in banning tournaments in 8 states: **Arizona, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Mexico, Vermont and Washington.** (No bill brought forward for Pennsylvania at this point).

"If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government, then you are doomed to live under the rule of fools"

-Plato

### Legislative Monitoring - Pennsylvania

- Former SB907, designed to revamp the PA Dog Law, which contains a listing of 13 members of an Advisory Board, that includes two (2) humane society groups, an insurance council and other entities typically opposed to the hunting community. Sporting dog groups had been specifically excluded. We have been successful in achieving a nomination for one seat on this board and continue to advocate for a second seat. As of this publication, the bill has not been re-introduced for the 2023 session.
- A campaign by anti-hunting organizations to eliminate coyote tournaments nationwide including our commonwealth.(Project Coyote). Mentioned above.
- A veiled attempt to eliminate our current exemption to the 32-degree -90-degree threshold for tethering dogs outdoors. We expect this to be included in an enhancement of Libre's law.

- Rep. Smith (R-PA-66) will be introducing a bill to start deer season on the Monday after Thanksgiving-No bill number yet. This bill sets a dangerous precedent for the politicians in the Legislature to set seasons rather than the independent PA Game Commission.

### **Annual Meeting – Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

The Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. has been scheduled for 4:00 pm, Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the American Legion, Route 6, Wyalusing, PA. In addition to election of officers for 2023, the agenda will include a review of the accomplishments of the organization during 2022, plans for 2023, and review of significant legislative issues and other important business.

If you are interested in running to be an Officer for the Association, please contact Ron Cole, Nominations Chairman, at (570) 746-1157.

Please mark your calendar and watch for further correspondence.

In order to ensure proper dinner arrangements, please RSVP to Dick Bednarczyk via e-mail ([dick.bednarczyk@gmail.com](mailto:dick.bednarczyk@gmail.com)), phone (570) 586-9270, or text (570) 209-3700 by April 17<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend.

Please note: There will be a \$10.00 charge for the dinner, (cash or check) 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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.

### **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 Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **2023 Memberships Now Due**

At this point, everyone should have received their 2023 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” and/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**

Down Home Rice Pudding, Johnson’s Telemetry, Prowler/Quick Track, 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.

### **Association Members Enjoy Success at Mosquito Creek Hunt.**

The following members were fortunate hunters during the Mosquito Creek Hunt; Bob Cragle and Dave Evans (2 coyotes each).

A total of 269 coyotes were entered, 76 taken in front of hounds, which represents a marked decline from previous years. 4419 hunters enrolled in the hunt. The top three entries weighed 53.55, 49 and 48.2 pounds.

### **Welcome New Members!**

Recruiting efforts for 2023 are off to a good start. YTD ten hunters have joined the Association. Since our last newsletter, David Stearns, Rob Ackors, Gordon Blood, William Thompson, Scott Reese, Marquette Pisarcik, Leander Yoder, Frederick A. and Frederick H. Raspe, Thomas Kearney, Dawn Hardler, Joey and Marilyn Ross and Cooper Shaw have come aboard. We are delighted to see the number of women, youths and family groups which have joined the Association over the past few years. Welcome hunters!

### **PA Game Commission Staff Offers Sage Advice to Coyote Hunters.**

As part of our Annual Sporting Dog Owner’s Meeting, it is our custom to ask PGC Staff personnel for any comments or advice they may have, regarding issues created by coyote hunters.

The staff stressed two matters in particular: caution to avoid any contact with livestock and domestic pets and restraint in the usage of social media for the posting of graphic photos.

The posting of photos is of extreme and growing importance. Such photos are commonly used by anti-hunting organizations in their campaigns to gain public and legislative support.

We urge all members to use sound judgment when sharing photos, especially any which depict “bay ups” or “arguments” between hounds and quarry. There can be no downplaying of this advice. Hound hunters are now in the fight of our lives and undergo more scrutiny than ever before. We should not be providing graphic evidence to be used against us.

### **Fur Fish & Game Magazine – PSFCHA Championship Coyote Hunt.**

The January 2023 issue of Fur-Fish-Game Magazine includes the account, written by member Jack Wentzel, of his harvesting a 54.8 lb. coyote which won our 2010 State Championship Tournament. The winning weight has held up as our heaviest for 13 years, but has recently been topped by a current 2023 entry (55.12 lbs.). Jack's two -page account("Once in a Lifetime Coyote") takes the reader through all facets of the January 2010 hunt which took place in Bradford County and provides very complimentary information about the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn., for which we are grateful. We recommend the account to our members – you should find it a good read ! Copies are available through the FFG website (furfishgame.com). Details of the hunt also appear on our website (pafoxhunters.com) under the Coyote Tournament tab (<http://www.pafoxhunters.com/coyote.html>).

Our congratulations to Jack for this remarkable hunting achievement as well as his writing accomplishments.

### **PA Game News Magazine – PSFCHA Secretary & Treasurer in Featured Article**

The December 2022 issue of PA Game News Magazine includes an article entitled "Extended Play" about PSFCHA Secretary Pat Carr, Treasurer Marty Carr and member Tim Carr detailing Pat's harvest of a 512-pound bear in Wayne County, which entered the PA Big Game Trophy program as the 20<sup>th</sup> largest bear ever taken in PA. At 21 15/16 inches, Pat's bear will also place within the top 400 of Boone and Crockett's recognition of all black bears taken in North America. We recommend that our members check out the article available through the PA Game News website (<http://www.penngamenews.com>) or your local library.

Pat states that he hunts for the love of hunting, doesn't go out to harvest a record book animal, but if he does, he wants to recognize the game for its stature in PA's woodlands.

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

The Executive Committee voted to continue our scholarship program for five students. Each will receive a \$500.00 award.

The first three scholarships to be awarded will be designated 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 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 2022 winners were Alex Van Camp, Rebecca Stuart, Brenna Babcock, Anna Brown and Jessica Spencer.

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

In Memoriam  
George Hobbs

## 2023 Scholarship Award Program!

1. Student must complete the application below and submit by June 1st, 2022. One application per student. Families with multiple students may copy the application below. Mail application to **Dick Bednarczyk, Director. 118 Commerce Drive, Scott Twp. PA 18447.**

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 of 2023 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:		