

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters inc.

Website: www.pafoxhunters.com

Directors:

Mercy Ross Chris Meeker James Rogers Jay Roberts Ron Davis Ron Cole Chip Sorber Shawn Spencer
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Vice-President

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Secretary

Fall Newsletter – September 2022



At the conclusion of the 2022 Family Day, trophies were awarded to the top ten places of the Kid's Bench Show and the first three places for each age group who participated in the Turkey Calling Contest.

Emma Fields, daughter of Josh Fields, also received her PA Game Commission 'First Turkey' Award.

VP Jack Sorber conducted the Turkey Calling Contest.

Cas Bonczewski acted as Bench Judge, assisted by Ring Master Paul Conway.

" The West Middlesex Mud Dawgs sponsored by The Western Boys Coyote Team, recently won the Mercer Co. PA 8U fast pitch softball championship. The team is coached by W.B.C.T. member/officer Sam Huff along with his wife Lisa (back row right). Their daughter Harper is pictured on the right side of the front row #8." Congratulations to these girls on a spectacular season!

From the President's Pen...

Since the last newsletter, your Association has resumed sponsorship of our traditional Family Day Picnic which was held on July 16th.

We are in the process of concluding arrangements for the Sporting Dog Owner's Meeting which will be held on Friday, September 23rd, at PGC Headquarters in Harrisburg.

In addition, we have helped to secure a nomination to the Animal Welfare Board for John Gible, who will represent both the Beaglers and Coyote Hunter's, assuming SB 907 is enacted. John is the Vice President for Government Relations for the North East Beagle Gun Dog Assn. in addition to being a member of the Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. Through the years he has been a major partner at the Sporting Dog Owner's Meeting, as well.

On Saturday, August 6th, Officers Marty Carr, Pat Carr and Dick Bednarczyk participated in an hour- long presentation by Charlie Hall, Govt. Affairs Representative, AKC. The conference focused on available measures for legislative monitoring and was facilitated by John Gible and Blaine Grove. Blaine is the President of the NE Beagle Gun Dog Assn.

Family Day Proves to be a great learning experience for the kids!

The closure of Molyneaux's Training Facility provided the opportunity to change our Family Day venue to programs which would provide "hands on" learning to the kids. Our day featured a fantastic retriever dog demo, a highly informative bee keeping program by Sheehan's Bees, Joe Ross's black powder demo, a Garmin collar hunt by Director Shaun Spencer, a paint ball coyote shoot conducted by Officers Marty and Pat Carr, assisted by Marty's granddaughter Martina Parola.

VP Jack Sorber and Director Chip Sorber also ran a turkey calling contest, awarding prizes to four different age groups.

The final structured event was a kid's bench show, with Cas Bonczewski acting as Bench Judge, assisted by Ringmaster Paul Conway.

2022 Scholarship Winners Selected by Random Drawing !

The drawing for our 2022 Scholarship Winners was conducted during Family Day proceedings. The following were the deserving winners:

Dick Ross Memorial Scholarship – Alex Van Camp

Roy Rosenbaum Memorial Scholarship – Rebecca Stuart

Western Boy's Honorary Scholarship – Brenna Babcock

PAFCHA Scholarships (2) – Anna Brown and Jessica Spencer

Alex Van Camp is the grandson of Kevin Van Camp and will be attending SUNY - Cobleskill, NY.

Rebecca Stuart is the granddaughter of James Allison and will study at Bucks County CC.

Brenna Babcock is the daughter of Brett and granddaughter of Bill Babcock. She is a student at Wilkes U.

Anna Brown is the granddaughter of Bob Brown. She will attend Bucknell.

Jessica Spencer is the granddaughter of Don Spencer and will study at Luzerne CC.

We offer our congratulations to our winners and extend best wishes for their future endeavors.

Family Day Raffle Drawing Winners:

This year's Family Day Raffle Drawing featured a seven – month- old foxhound puppy, donated by Andy Hess and a replica flag with our logo, made by Ryan Thumann of "Grain to Glory" Flag Company. Jack Sorber won the puppy and Cas Bonczewski garnered the flag.

Baking Contest Winners

In addition to being a popular feature, the baking contest also provides the dessert highlight of our picnic lunch. This year's winners were Cakes - Carol Jaskulski, Pies - Karlene Sorber and Cookies - Vera Sorber. Thanks Ladies – you were a big help!

Our Thanks to Our Donors

We are beyond grateful to the following members whose generosity made Family Day possible; the Sorber brothers who welcomed us to their beautiful cabin grounds; the North Mountain Branch – QDMA - \$200.00; a member donation in honor of Family Day Founder/Past President Roy Rosenbaum - \$1000.00; Wade Gary and Ron Davis – Cargill Burgers; Mike Brown – 'Down Home Rice Pudding'; Sally Davis - exquisite hand sown Bobcat wall hanging; Sheehan Family (Bee Keepers) - honey gift basket; Andy Hess – foxhound puppy; Jerry Ross- 50 lbs. dogfood; Bill Doney, Thunder Valley Pet Pantry, two 50lb. bags of Sportmix Dog Food and eight bags of dog biscuits; Frank Hall -two TT5 Collars.

Welcome New Members!

Recruiting efforts for 2022 continues. YTD 27 hunters have joined the Association. Since our last newsletter, Jayden Gardner, Richard Pogmore Jr., Robert Lyons, John Beardsley, Brian Weaver, Michael Cooper and Lincoln Ferig have come on board. Welcome hunters!

Editor's Note: The following section was featured in a past newsletter (September 2020). Prompted by serious recommendations we bring it to the attention of our membership once again.

Notes about the hound retrieval exemption: Game Commission receiving pushback!

As most members know, the recent Sunday Hunting Bill contains provisions which allow unarmed hunters to enter private property to retrieve their hounds without subjecting them to the enhanced trespass penalties. Pennsylvania is now one of a mere handful of states with a hound retrieval bill.

State Representative Mike Peifer, a member of the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn., championed this provision on our behalf.

The Game Commission is now receiving considerable pushback regarding this feature. Some complaints concern hunters who may deliberately cast their hounds onto private land. Others complain that hunters may enter private properties to drive big game,

under the pretense of looking for their hounds. Still others exercise poor judgement by flaunting the exemption with landowners who they have had an ongoing dispute.

Editor's note: We have a serious concern that such abuses may jeopardize the continuance of this exemption.

It will always be our recommendation that houndsmen make every attempt to secure permission to enter property for purposes of retrieving their dogs.

Although there is new language which allows doing so, if a landowner is surprised by your presence, it may only result in a confrontation. The exemption is new and untested. Any attempts to flaunt the language or abuse its provisions must be discouraged - if we wish to enjoy the privileges it provides.

Listed below are a few points clarified by the PA Game Commission, to the Beagler's John Gible. John is an equal partner with us at the annual Sporting Dog Owner's Meeting and we thank him for taking the initiative on our behalf and sharing the information with us:

"1. I expect that if I'm found on posted property with a gun, and say I'm looking for my dog, the exemption would not apply. - Correct."

"2. If the property owner could demonstrate that I willfully released my hounds on his property, the exemption would not apply (e.g. phone video or trail camera). **Correct**- the property owner would be able to prove the intent of the person releasing the dog."

"3. Also thinking that this retrieval language only pertains to the trespassing while hunting statute, and does not extend to other trespass statutes. So if the police are involved, the dog owner could be cited under those other statutes enforced by local authorities. I know there was another bill passed with the same exemption language, but I'm a little fuzzy on what statutes it applied to. - **Not true** about the language only applying while hunting, Title 18 3503 (HB 1772) includes similar language to your question. This was the other bill that you said you were a little fuzzy on. This is found in the crimes code under defiant trespasser 3503 (c.1) Applicability- This section shall not apply to an unarmed person who enters onto posted property for the sole purpose of retrieving a hunting dog."

"4. If while on private property my dogs cause damage, or if my entry into private property causes damage (e.g. I tear up a private road or run over a fence), I'm still civilly responsible for the damage- **Correct**. You can also be charged under the game code criminally too. Remember entry onto those properties is on foot."

Legislative Monitoring – Vermont

Under the new law: *hunting coyotes with dogs and training dogs to hunt coyotes will be temporarily banned* in Vermont starting July 1. Under S.281, hunters will only be able to pursue and take a coyote with dogs if they are on their own property and acting in defense of a person or property, or if they have signed permission from a landowner who has a legitimate defense of persons or property concern. This moratorium on pursuing

coyotes with dogs will last from July 1, 2022, until the board is able to put rules in place requiring permits.

Legislative Monitoring – Maine Civil Trespass with Hunting Dogs

A new Civil Trespass with Hunting Dogs law, effective August 8, 2022, applies to anyone who is using a dog to:

***Hunt for bear, coyote, fox, bobcat, or racoon; or
Train for bear, fox, and raccoon***

It does not apply to anyone who is using a dog to hunt snowshoe hare, waterfowl, ruffed grouse, woodcock, wild turkey, and other species of waterfowl or migratory birds.

Permit Requirement: Persons 16 years of age or older engaged in hunting bear, coyote, fox, bobcat or racoon OR who are training to hunt bear, fox or raccoon are required to have a Dog Training and Hunting Permit. Permits are available for purchase for \$12 (plus agent fee) online at mefishwildlife.com or at a local license agent. Proceeds from this permit go to the Landowner Relations Fund.

A person is in violation of civil trespass with a hunting dog if:

They turn a hunting dog loose onto posted property.

They turn a hunting dog loose onto property where the landowner has communicated to the dog handler that they do not want hunting dogs on their property.

A hunting dog enters property upon which a hunting dog has been previously found and a law enforcement officer has warned any handler of the hunting dog (within the past 365 days) that hunting dogs are not permitted on the property.

Legislative Monitoring – Pennsylvania SB 907

As mentioned above (From Presidents Pen...), we have been successful in securing the addition of John Gible to the Animal Welfare Advisory Board. John will represent the sporting dog community.

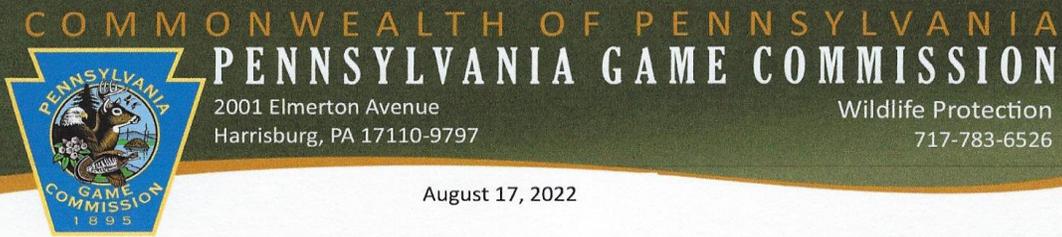
PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. To Meet with Game Commission

The date for the annual Sporting Dog Owners Meeting with the PA Game Commission has been set for Friday, September 23rd at the Harrisburg Headquarters. Based on their recommendation below, we will assemble in their lobby at 1:00 pm.

Once again, we will be chairing this meeting which has provided us with excellent opportunities to bring our unique issues before the Board of Commissioners and PGC Staff. These meetings have recently resulted in year-round training, the legalization of electronic recovery collars, provisions which make the unauthorized removal of collars a game law violation, the extension of rabbit season, the addition of coyotes and rabbits to the Mentored Youth Program, a Youth Rabbit Hunt, the reduction of "Mean Seeds" plantings, a split Bobcat Season and many other solutions to issues we have brought forward.

If available, members are requested to join us in Harrisburg.

Anyone residing in the Northeast Region, who may be interested in car-pooling from Scranton or Wyalusing, is invited to call Dick Bednarczyk (570) 586-9270 or Jerry Ross (570) 423-3389.



August 17, 2022

I am writing to cordially invite you to the annual 2022 Pennsylvania Sporting Dog Owner's meeting. This year's meeting is scheduled for Friday September 23, 2022 at our headquarters building located at 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110. The meeting will commence in the auditorium immediately following the Board of Game Commissioners meeting (no later 2:00pm, however you may want to assemble by 1pm in auditorium in the event that we can start early).

Since this meeting has not occurred since 2018 and the leadership of the organization may be notified by email, the Bureau of Wildlife Protection will not be sending this notification in the mail via USPS.

Please feel free to advise all interested parties of the meeting as the participants vary from year to year. We look forward to another productive and informative meeting.

If you have any questions regarding this year's meeting, please contact Captain Chad R. Eyler, Special Permits Enforcement Division at 717-787-4250 ext. 73504 or ceyler@pa.gov.

Sincerely,

Colonel Jason L. Decoskey
Bureau of Wildlife Protection