

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assoc Inc

Website: www.pafoxhunters.com

Summer Newsletter – September 2024

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2024 Scholarship Winners

The Pennsylvania State Fox and Coyote Hunters Association continued the tradition of awarding scholarships to five students. The student must be a PSFCHA member or the child or grandchild of a current PSFCHA member. The first scholarship is the Dick Ross Memorial Scholarship. Dick, a Wyalusing PA resident, was a lifelong fox/coyote hunter and instrumental in establishing the PSFCHA. The second scholarship is the Roy Rosenbaum Memorial Scholarship. Roy of Centerville, PA, was also a lifelong fox/coyote hunter and served as the PSFCHA president for many years. The third scholarship is provided by the Western Boys Coyote Team Honorary Scholarship funded by the Mercer County Hunting Group. The fourth scholarship is the George Hobbs Memorial Scholarship. George of Prompton PA, was an avid outdoorsman and an active/long time member of the PSFCHA. The fifth scholarship is sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Fox and Coyote Hunters Association. The drawing for the 2024 Scholarships were conducted during the July Board meeting. The following were the deserving winners:

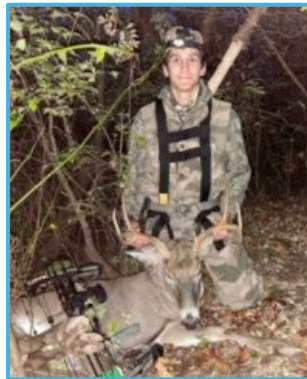


Dick Ross Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to
Caroline Klinkiewicz of Honesdale, PA.

Caroline will attend the
University of Delaware.

Caroline is the daughter of
PSFCHA Member John Klinkiewicz



Roy Rosenbaum Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to
Joshua Brown of Tunkhannock, PA.

Joshua will attend Penn State.

Joshua is a PSFCHA member,
and the grandson of
PSFCHA Member Bob Brown.



Western Boy's Honorary Scholarship

Awarded to
Morgan Gregory of Hunlock Creek, PA.

Morgan will attend
St. John Fisher University.

Morgan is the daughter of
PSFCHA member Jeremy Gregory.



George Hobbs Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to
Alexis Spickler of Middleburg, PA.

Alexis will attend Bloomsburg University.

Alexis is the granddaughter of
PSFCHA member Kevin Auker.



PSFCHA Scholarship

Awarded to
Elijah Peifer of Greentown, PA.

Elijah will attend the
University of Scranton.

Elijah is a member of the PSFCHA
and the son of
PSFCHA member Mike Peifer



From the President's Pen – Jerry Ross

Since the last newsletter, members of the PSFCHA held an informational and question/answer meeting in Harrisburg with PA Game Commission representatives. It was a great collaboration of Sporting Dog Groups - In attendance and making presentations were members from the PA Beagle Gun Dog Association, PA Nite Hunters, the PA Federation of Sportsmen, PA State Fox and Coyote Hunters Association and PGC biologists. This uniting of associations, working together, is what it will take to fight against upcoming anti-sporting dog legislation. Critical legislation – SB-67 concerning Sunday Hunting and retrieval of dogs, and HB-2106 concerning that Sunday hunters must hold written landowner permission slips, are still in process. The Pennsylvania Legislature continues to focus on sport dog hunting. The Board of Directors continues to monitor legislation in Harrisburg. **(The full text of the bill can be found on the website - <https://www.legis.state.pa.us>. Search by letters and numbers for the bill.)** Thank you to the PGC members, the speakers/representatives and the houndsmen that attended. Let's keep the fight going by working together to preserve the running hounds for future generations.

Notes From the PA Game Commission Meeting by Pat Carr

The Annual Sporting Dog Owners Meeting with the PA Game Commission took place on August 14, 2024. Forty (40) dog hunters participated in the annual sporting dog owners meeting with the PA Game Commission. The meeting was coordinated by PGC Colonel Jason Decoskey of Bureau of Wildlife Protection and Captain Chad Eyer of Special Permits Enforcement Division. The meeting provided an opportunity for the exchange of information and concerns. PGC Biologists Tom Keller and Emily Boyd presented information, specifically on Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease and snowshoe hares, and answered general questions from participants. PSFCHA President Jerry Ross made a statement for the PA Fox & Coyote Hunters. John Gible spoke for the PA Beagle Gun Dog Association and Bruce Knopsnider spoke for the PA Nite Hunters.

John Gible provided much comment and questioned the PGC employees in attendance, about rabbit trapping and field trialing for beagles. Bruce Knopsnider brought up the fisher impact on raccoons and other species. There was discussion on SB67 and HB2106 and their impact on dog hunters. PGC does not take a stand on bills when the bills are working through the legislative process but enforces the law resulting from the passage of bills. Bills SB67 and HB2106 may not be acted upon this legislative session because only 11 legislative working days remain. The Vice-President of The PA Federation of Sportsmen spoke to the group, as did the American Kennel Club representative.

PSFCHA Website and Facebook Page

Visit the PSFCHA website pafoxhunters.com for copies of the latest newsletter, order merchandise, membership information, legislation updates, etc. Thank you to Joe Ross, our webmaster, for maintaining the website.

PSFCHA also has a facebook page – Pennsylvania State Fox and Coyote Hunters Association - administered by Mike Miele (mikemiele88@gmail.com) and assisting Mike will be Betsey Ross (bitzi1661@gmail.com).

The present facebook set up requires people to friend Betsey first, and then be approved to be a friend the PSFCHA page. (When facebook reformatted, it automatically changed the PSFCHA page into a business page under Betsey's personal account.) Research is being undertaken on how to change this clumsy way of becoming a friend of the PSFCHA page. It is looking like the creation of a whole new facebook page, with its own email address will need to be done. Please be patient as we work thru this process.

Welcome New Members!

Recruiting efforts are continuing for the Association. Since the last newsletter - Tyler Rhodomoyer Joel Hoyt, Paul Tashjian and David Woodard have come on board. Welcome hunters! If you know of anyone that would like to join the association – applications can be found on the website and facebook page – or by contacting Patrick Carr, 4860 McDermott Rd., Bangor, PA 18013

PSFCHA Newsletter Items Welcome

Readers are welcome to send in hunting news and photos to be included in the newsletter, as room dictates, and to be also posted on the facebook page. Example: upcoming hunt registration information, hunt results, firsts, a newsletter front page photo, local hunting group photos and news, etc. Items can be sent to **Betsey Ross** (bitzi1661@gmail.com).

Do We Have Your Current Address and E-Mail Address?

The PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. uses e-mail for Association business, as well as for responses to individual queries from members. In the event that we may not have your email address or that you have changed your email address, please make sure your email address is on the contact list by sending the info to PSFCHA Secretary, Betsey Ross at bitzi1661@gmail.com - assuming that

you are willing to do so. At present we maintain an e-mail address list for approximately 300 members. Be assured that it is the policy of the Association to restrict this medium for official business, or to respond to requests from members. In the event that you do not have e-mail capability, please send a note to Betsey (54 Kast Road, Sugar Run, PA 18846) that you require paper supplements of all e-mailed messages.

Finally if you know of anyone not receiving their newsletter, please let Betsey know via email/mail at addresses listed above.

Right To Retrieve

The following section has been featured in a past newsletters. We bring this to the attention of our membership once again.
Notes about the Hound Retrieval exemption:

As most members know, the 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.

The Game Commission still receives 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.

****There is a serious concern that if such abuses continue it may jeopardize the continuance of this exemption.**

It is always the PSFCHA recommendation that houndsmen make every attempt to secure permission to enter property for purposes of retrieving their dogs.

Although allowed to do so, if a landowner is surprised by your presence, it may result in a confrontation. 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 a champion at following legislation. PSFCHA would like to thank him for taking the initiative on our behalf and sharing the Right to Retrieve information below:

1. I expect that if I am found on posted property with a gun, and say I am looking for my dog, the exemption would not apply. **CORRECT.**
2. If the property owner can demonstrate that I willfully released my hounds on his property, the exemption would not apply. (ex: phone video, 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 am a little fuzzy on what statutes 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 my entry into private property causes damage (eg: I tear up a private road or run over a fence), I am still civilly responsible for the damage. **CORRECT – You can also be charged under the game code criminally too. Remember entry onto those properties are on foot.**

In Conclusion

Hunters should conduct themselves as if we do not have the right - make every effort to secure landowner approval beforehand

Canada/USA Border Requirements

Those houndsmen that like to pop up and run at Mallen's, Canada, as of August 1, 2024 new dog guidelines from the US Centers of Disease Control and Prevention has put updated dog guidelines in place that affects houndsmen with dogs returning from Canada. According to Ducks Unlimited, the new guidelines "violate two existing federal acts." Sportsmen's Alliance are looking into the violations.

Houndsmen need to be aware of the new changes and have items in order before entering Canada and re-entering the US. After an uproar from hunting groups, the CDC did back down from their original set of requirements and "simplified" the guidelines. The updated US CDC requirements are:

- Dog import form (Doggy passport). If a dog has been only in countries that are rabies-free or low risk in the past six months (Canada is rabies-free) the only new document now needed is verification of completion of a CDC Dog Importation Form – found online(<https://cdc-786687.workflowcloud.com/forms/090dc543-7b2f-4538-b2c7-2929d12ecc73>). Once the form is complete, hunters must save a receipt digitally or print it out – and it must stay with you over and back from the border. The import receipt is valid for six months and can be used for multiple entries. Each dog needs its own form. It is highly recommended the form is completed before travel, even though it can be completed at the border crossing – if an internet signal is available.
- Good Health. A dog must appear healthy to enter or re-enter the United States.
- Dogs must now have a valid microchip that can be detected with a universal scanner. There is no longer a requirement on the timeframe the microchip must be administered.
- Dogs must be at least 6 months old

Hunting groups agree that the original regulations went too far, while the new revised regulations, are not perfect, they are easier to understand and complete.

The Sportsmen's Alliance has filed a suit in US District Court for the Western District of Michigan rescind the new rule restricting the importation of dogs into the US. Dr. Todd Adkins, Vice President of Government Affairs at the Sportsmen's Alliance, stated – "CDC has one speed, and that is to over regulate to the point of ruin, so let's see what a federal judge has to say about this agency running roughshod over American people. We are not going to stand by while the CDC cancels sporting dog breeders and hunting or trailing across the border without a fight."

Canadian requirements by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has its own brief set of requirements, that should be familiar to US hunters. Upon crossing, you will need to ensure each dog has – a valid rabies vaccination certificate and appears healthy.

Hunters just need their passport –

Remember To Support Our Sponsors

Johnson's Telemetry, Prowler/Quick Track, Sportmix Dog Food, Thunder Valley Pet Pantry, Gundog Supply, PA Outdoor News, Double U Hunting Supply, Hunter's Horn magazine and "Down Home Rice Pudding". All companies listed provided gift certificates, subscriptions or merchandise for our various events.

Remember To Thank a Veteran and Exercise Your Right To Vote

Be sure to exercise your voting privileges on the upcoming Election Day on November 5. Be sure to thank a veteran on Veteran's Day on November 11, and remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.

Kids Corner – Fun Coyote Facts



Fast Facts: Coyote

- **Scientific Name:** *Canis latrans*
- **Common Names:** Coyote, prairie wolf
- **Basic Animal Group:** Mammal
- **Size:** 32 to 37 inches plus 16 inch tail
- **Weight:** 20 to 50 pounds
- **Lifespan:** 10 years
- **Diet:** Omnivore
- **Habitat:** North and Central America
- **Population:** Millions
- **Conservation Status:** Least Concern