

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters inc.

Website: www.pafoxhunters.com

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Winter Newsletter – December 2016



From Left: Chad Duncan and son showing 5th place hound, #11, Duncan's Carla, Cody Woods showing 4th place hound, #44, Thompson's Winnie, owned by Nick Rose, Andy Gismonei, showing 2nd place hound, #45, Tuck, John Bates, son and daughter with 8th place hound, #21 Maple Wall Max and 7th place hound, #18, Maple Wall Peanut.



From Left: Carol Gray with 9th place hound, #5, Spring's Shadow, Dick Bednarczyk with 3rd place hound, #1, Quinte (f)Ch Springs Argo, Wade Gray with 1st place hound, #6, Spring's Blitz, Heath Begore with 10th place hound, #56, Begore's Saddie and Lee Begore with 6th place hound, #59 Begore's Em.

On The Cover

Winners of the first ten places in our 2016 Speed and Drive are shown on our cover.

The full report appeared in our September Newsletter which can be seen in the archives of our website (pafoxhunters.com).

From the President's Pen...

The last three months of 2016 has been challenging for the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. We have spent countless hours contacting legislators around the state in an effort to alter or amend the most recent onerous anti-tethering bill (HB 869).

We previously agreed to support a sensible version of such legislation developed by the Judiciary Committee, only to find an "eleventh hour" resurrection of the original bill, which previously languished for almost two years due to intense opposition. We understand that Senator Richard Alloway (R) Senate District 33 is the main sponsor of HB 869 which requires that dogs be brought indoors when temperatures fall outside of the 32-90 degree range. See "Legislative Monitoring" below for additional details.

We also report that a group of long time members suffered the unfortunate experience of having two coyote hounds maliciously shot by a turkey hunter on the first Monday of the fall season. (See report below).

Member's Hounds Shot While Chasing a Coyote

On Monday, October 31st, Dick Bednarczyk received a call from a longtime faithful member, who reported that a turkey hunter shot two of his hounds while they were involved in a coyote chase earlier that morning. One hound survived the shooting but required veterinary care. The older hound, aged seven, was killed outright. The turkey hunter was observed fleeing the scene on his quad, identified and confronted.

To their complete credit, both the PA State Police and the area WCO responded in a timely fashion and conducted a thorough investigation.

At the time of publication, charges are being filed against the shooter. The incident took place in Tioga County.

We will provide additional details on this case as they develop.

Editor's note: The PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. provides each member with a brochure entitled "A Foxhunter's Rights and Obligations". This was developed to provide a ready reference when such unfortunate incidents occur. Unfortunately they occur all too often. We strongly encourage our members to retain this ready reference in their truck or elsewhere for easy access. In the event that you have misplaced your copy, please contact Dick Bednarczyk.

We also remind members to contact us immediately in the event they are similarly victimized.

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.

Remember To Support Our Sponsors

Please support Johnson's Telemetry, Prowler/Quick Track, Sportmix Dog Food, Thunder Valley Pet Pantry, Chase Publishing, Gundog Supply, Custom Collars, PA Outdoor News, Double U Hunting Supply and Hunter's Horn magazine. All companies listed provided gift certificates, subscriptions or merchandise for our various events.

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 2017 membership billings which will be sent shortly.

Our 2016 winner was Bob Brown with a 50.77 pound specimen.

Legislative Monitoring – Pennsylvania SB 1166

Senate Bill 1166 would exempt funding for wildlife conservation from the political process and allow the Game Commission Board of Commissioners to set license fees. Passage of this bill would represent a historic milestone for wildlife conservation and the future of wildlife management in Pennsylvania.

SB 1166 was unanimously passed by the Senate Game and Fisheries committee on March 18th. In addition to the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn, the bill has been supported by WTF, QDMA, PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Susquehanna Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and several other hunting organizations.

At time of publication the legislature took no action on this bill and none is expected before the close of this legislative session.

Legislative Monitoring – Pennsylvania HB 2083

HB 2083 would transfer authority for the management of Pennsylvania's wildlife matters from the current science – based expertise of the Pennsylvania Game Commission to the political process.

A council of political appointees created by HB 2083 would dictate policy to the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) on matters of wildlife habitat and management. The independence and ability of these two agencies to fulfill their missions, as required by statute, is critical to all Pennsylvanians. Interference by a politically appointed group on matters of policy and operations of wildlife management would be disastrous.

The PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. has gone on record to vehemently oppose this bill.

At time of publication the legislature took no action on this bill and none is expected before the close of this legislative session.

Legislative Monitoring – Recovery Dog Bill

Legislation amending the Pennsylvania Game Code, providing an exemption to allow for the use of a leashed tracking dog to track white-tailed deer to assist in recovering an animal which has been legally harvested or wounded was previously supported by the PA Game Commission and many sportsmen's groups, including QDMA. This bill has also languished for several years.

At time of publication the legislature took no action on this bill and none is expected before the close of this legislative session.

Legislative Monitoring – Pennsylvania HB 869 – Anti-Tethering

HB 869 comprises a resurrected SB 373, which proposes a range of anti-tethering and ambient temperature provisions which would make it impractical, if not impossible for owners of sporting dogs to comply with. At time of publication this bill was placed on the legislative calendar for November 22nd.

A previously amended version, developed by the Judiciary Committee and deemed acceptable by the sporting dog community has apparently stalled.

Legislative Monitoring – Kansas Coyote Tournaments

Outdoor News Report via Associated Press - Wichita, Kan. — Organizers of a Kansas coyote hunting contest have settled a lawsuit filed by an animal rights group that sought to stop them from holding another one.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), based in San Francisco, filed a recent lawsuit in Kansas against organizers of the WaKeeney hunt, which was held in January. Coyote hunting contests usually involve hunters using mouth-blown or electronic callers that mimic the sounds of a wounded rabbit, songbird or fawn to attract coyotes looking for an easy meal. Contests have been held across the western half of the United States for decades.

Jordan Bleske, one of three organizers of the WaKeeney hunt, told The Wichita Eagle the lawsuit was settled by agreeing to not hold the contest again and paying the organization \$2,000 in legal fees.

Bleske, 24, would not say how many hunters entered the contest or how many coyotes were shot.

“It's been resolved,” Bleske said. “I've moved on.”

ALDF lawyer Sarah Hanneken said her group cited Kansas' gambling laws to say the WaKeeney contest was a game of chance. Entrants paid \$80 to participate in the one-day event. The grand prize of \$500 went to whoever killed the most coyotes that day. She said the ALDF has ended contests in other states by citing gambling laws.

“As a general matter, anytime you have to pay to participate to win a prize that is largely based on chance, that is going to fall within the definition of gambling,” she said.

The ALDF represented the Western Plains Animal Refuge in Hays in the lawsuit.

“These contests are not welcome in Kansas,” said Brendon McCampbell, the refuge's director. “We are happy this horrible event has been canceled, and we hope others like it will also be ended soon.”

Chris Tymeson, a lawyer for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, said the department was not contacted about the lawsuit, but he believes hunters would win if such a case went to court in Kansas.

Logo Merchandise – Great Stocking Stuffers – Landowner Gifts!

Our newest item is our logo caps in camo 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) or any of the officers or directors directly.

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

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

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
White						
Black						



Challenger Jacket
Teklon® nylon shell
Poly-filled body with heavyweight fleece lining for extra warmth.
Available in Black/Black
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	XS	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	4X	5X	6X



Hooded Sweatshirt

Available in Forest Green
Large & XL Only
While Supplies Last!

\$25.00

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Zip Hooded Sweatshirts

Color - Dark Chocolate
Includes embroidered logo

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	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											
<p>Make your check payable to the PASFCHA: RJ Bednarczyk, at this address: Add \$5.00 for shipping and handling.</p>										<p>PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. c/o Richard J. Bednarczyk, President 118 Commerce Drive Scott Twp., PA 18447 dick.bednarczyk@epix.net</p>	
										Subtotal	
										Shipping	Add \$5.00
										Total	