

# Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters inc.

## **Directors:**

**Roy Rosenbaum**      **Richard Ross**  
**James Rogers**      **Jay Roberts**  
**Ron Davis**

## **Directors Emeritus:**

**Pat Smithson**

Richard J. Bednarczyk, 118 Commerce Dr., Scott Twp. PA 18447  
President

David Hall, 261 Hall Ln, Monroe Twp, PA 18657  
Treasurer

Ron Cole, 1187 Beacon Hill Rd, Wyalusing, PA 18853  
Vice-President

Kipp Adcock, 76 Center St., Covington Twp, PA 18424  
Secretary

## **Spring Newsletter – March 2011**



### **Jim Rogers takes 2010 Best in Show, Dave Peterson garners Best Opposite Sex**

Pictured above is BIS Hound #30, Sherry – Locust Grove Blitz x Locust Grove Dawn, owned by Jim Rogers, Mehoopany, PA. Sherry also finished second in the Derby running and won the Derby Combination trophy. The pretty dog can run!!

Also shown is BOS Hound #202, Pete's Lefty – Pete's Whiskey Hoot x Neilson's Lisa H, owned by Dave Peterson, Western Boys Coyote Team, West Middlesex, PA

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

2011 has gotten off to a good start for your Association, as you will see from the following news items:

On January 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, members participated in our third "Hunts for Healing" with three Wounded Warriors from an Army Ranger Battalion stationed at Fort Benning, Ga.

These vets were great hunters taking four deer by flintlock on Thursday and Friday and also a coyote during a "Sam Noone/Tommy Smith" hunt on Saturday!

Our calendar for 2011 has been finalized and preparations are underway for our major events.

Our Annual Meeting has been set for Saturday, April 16th, and our "Member's Only" Coyote Tournament is underway, with several good specimens being reported.

### **Two Members Victims of Hound Shootings**

For your information and awareness, our winter coyote season had just begun and we have already experienced two hound shootings within our membership by early January:

1). On Saturday, January 15th, a member's hound was killed during a chase in the Millville area, Columbia County. The GPS collar was either destroyed or turned off and the carcass was removed from the scene. The GPS track allowed the hunter to pin-point the scene in the dark and find evidence of the shooting. This was a bonafide coyote chase witnessed by several hunters and local landowners.

2). On Saturday, January 22nd, a member's hound was shot through the nose, during a chase, by an individual who claimed that he was attempting to "scare the hounds". This hound is expected to survive. When confronted, the shooter admitted committing the act. Subsequent involvement by the area WCOs has resulted in a resolution satisfactory to our member. This incident took place in Penn's Creek, Snyder County. This also was a bonafide coyote chase witnessed by several individuals.

In both cases, our members have been highly complimentary of the assistance rendered by the PA Game Commission Officers.

- If your hound's collar has been removed, stolen etc., the Game Commission has jurisdiction, **under regulation 2302 - disruption of a legal hunt.**
- The killing of a hound should be investigated/prosecuted by the PSPCA in your county, **under Title 18 Chapter 55 Section 5511 Cruelty to Animals.** Local police officers can bring charges as well.
- Members of the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. are reminded to call Dick Bednarczyk promptly (570)586-9270, if you are ever victimized in this manner.

We fully understand that these cases are often very frustrating and difficult to prosecute, either due to lack of witnesses or absence of support from authorities. Regardless of the circumstances we must continue to communicate thoroughly and attempt to address them to the fullest extent.

### **Dates for Major Activities Scheduled**

Many members have requested the earliest possible notice for our major activities for 2011, in order to allow for scheduling vacations, etc. Unless unforeseen circumstances develop, our calendar for 2011 is as follows:

Saturday, April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Family Day Picnic
Saturday, August 6 <sup>th</sup>	1 Day Speed & Drive
Saturday, July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Judge's Training
Friday & Saturday, Sept. 16th & 17th	2 Day Field Trial

Except for the Annual Meeting, all events will be held at Molyneaux's Training Facility in Endicott, New York. Further details will be announced as they become final.

### **Annual Meeting – Saturday, April 16th, 2011**

The Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. has been scheduled for 4:00 pm, Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion, Route 6, Wyalusing, PA. In addition to election of officers for 2011, the agenda will include a review of the accomplishments of the organization during 2010, plans for 2011, and review of significant legislative issues and other important business.

Please mark your calendar and watch for further correspondence regarding this meeting.

### **Annual Meeting to Feature Chicken Dinner**

This year's Annual Meeting will feature a change of format centering on a Chicken Dinner provided by the folks from the Wyalusing American Legion.

*In order to insure proper dinner arrangements, please RSVP to Dick Bednarczyk via e-mail ([dick.bednarczyk@epix.net](mailto:dick.bednarczyk@epix.net)) or by phone (570) 586-9270 if you plan to attend.*

*Please note: There will be a \$9.00 charge for the dinner, 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.

### **Remember to Nominate Your Youngsters for "First" Awards**

Recently we expanded our award program to include "First Turkey", "First Bobcat" 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 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.

### **Northern Pennsylvania Foxhunter's Annual Luncheon**

The annual luncheon sponsored by the Northern PA Foxhunters will be held on Saturday, April 2nd, at American Legion Post 534, Rt. 6, Wyalusing. Plan to attend what will be a delightful, entertaining affair sponsored by Dick Ross and Paul Stone.

### **Accepting Nominations for Youth Achievement Awards**

Since we introduced the concept five years ago, the recognition of deserving youngsters with Achievement Awards has proven to be very successful. The award is in the form of a citation which is usually presented at the Annual Meeting and is followed by an appropriate article in our quarterly newsletter. Since we are a statewide and multi-state organization, there is one challenge with this program - that is the difficulty of identifying deserving youngsters. At this time we are encouraging all members to help us with this matter, by nominating any deserving youngsters that you may know. Our criteria is broad and informal – merely that the youngster has shown a deep interest in hounds and hunting or has enthusiastically participated in the events of the Association.

Please give this some serious consideration and provide your suggestions to Dick Bednarczyk at 570-586-9270 or to any other officer or director, if it is more convenient to do so.

### **Game Commission to Recognize Youngster from Our Organization**

Jay Delaney, PA Game Commissioner, Northeast Region, will present an original Game Commission Coyote Patch to the first Mentored Youth from the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. who successfully takes a coyote. Please keep this in mind and be sure to notify any of the Officers or Directors immediately, when this historic event occurs. Our sincere thanks go to Commissioner Delaney for this gesture and his continuing support of our Association.

### **Reminder –Raffle Drawing**

Although we indicated a February 28<sup>th</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 16<sup>th</sup>. This fundraiser has become an integral part of our overall financial scenario for the year. The grand prize is a Garmin Astro Hunter-Dog GPS with the improved DC40 collar valued at approximately \$600.00 retail or a \$500.00 Gift Certificate from Gander Mountain. We will also be awarding a tracking collar donated by Debbie Johnson of Johnson's Telemetry. 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 31<sup>st</sup>. Successful participating hunters should return their weight cards to Dick Bednarczyk by Monday April 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **2011 Memberships Now Due**

At this point, everyone should have received their 2011 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 Dick Bednarczyk, using the address which appears on the letterhead.

### **Remember To Support Our Sponsors**

Johnson's Telemetry, Dad's Dog Food, Tracker Telemetry, Wholesale Light & Supply, Quick Track, tri tronics, Gundog Supply, The Hunter's Horn, Sportmix Dog Food, and Thunder Valley Pet Supply.

### **Welcome New Members!**

Recruiting efforts for 2011 is off to a good start. YTD 10 hunters have joined the Association. Since our last newsletter, Drew Madill, Dalton and Gavin Calhoun, Robert Hendrickson, Marina Morgan, Tim Copeland, Bernard Edsell, Tyler Rhone and Joey Berkheimer have come onboard. Welcome hunters!

### **PA State Fox & Coyote Assn. Members Enjoy Success in Tournaments**

Many members continue to appear among the successful hunters at regional tournaments. A partial listing follows:

#### ***District Nine Trappers – Tunkhannock***

Successful members were; Bob Cragle, John Bold, Brian Stucker, and Bob Brown. It took a 46.2 pound coyote to win the Grand Prize. There were 21 entries, of which 8 were taken with hounds. Seven hundred and twenty five hunters registered for the event. John Bold was a daily winner with a 41.75 pound specimen.

#### ***Mosquito Creek***

One hundred and seventy three coyotes were brought in by the 3541 hunters registered for this event. Successful members included Bob Cragle (3 coyotes), Wade Gray (3 coyotes), Kevin McCloskey (3 coyotes), Steve Minor (3 coyotes), Guy Michlowski (3 coyotes), Ken Miller (2 coyotes), Ryan Confer (2 coyotes), Jake Kowalczyk, Marty Bumbarger, Ryan Rambo and Taylor Kishbaugh. Hounds accounted for 111 of the specimens turned in.

#### ***Western PA Coon & Fox Hunter's Assn.***

John Sonntag reported that 36 hunters took six coyotes during this hunt, including members George Burns Jr., Steve Minor and Jerry Dyer. All coyotes were taken in front of hounds.

## Legislative Monitoring

The following information has been provided by the US Sportsman's Alliance, Sporting Dog Coalition:

A bill introduced in Texas would require sporting dog owners to purchase liability insurance for many of their dogs.

House Bill 998, introduced by Rep. Ruth McClendon (D- San Antonio), would require owners of unneutered male dogs weighing 20 or more pounds, that are not restrained at all times, to carry a minimum \$100,000 insurance liability policy. A dog is only considered restrained if it is either kept in an enclosure or kept on a leash under the immediate control of a person at all times.

Failing to purchase the insurance would be a class C misdemeanor.

Under the bill, many sporting dog owners will be forced to buy the insurance policy, neuter their dog, or face criminal charges. In addition, a large number of sporting dog breeds weigh more than 20 pounds and would be considered "unrestrained" under the bill's definition when hunting, training, or field trialing. Even a securely tethered dog would be considered unrestrained by this bill.

"It is completely unreasonable to require a dog owner who wants take their dog hunting or to even play fetch in an unfenced back yard to require them to purchase liability insurance to do so," said Jeremy Rine, U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance associate director of state services. "In addition to being costly for dog owners, this bill sets an arbitrary weight threshold – what happens if you have a dog that regularly fluctuates between 19 and 20 pounds? This bill is unnecessary and unreasonable and should be opposed by all dog owners alike."

## Youth Memberships Now Available

At our 2009 Annual Meeting, a resolution to establish a Youth Membership within our classes of memberships was discussed and adopted. Members present were advised of past requests voiced by members for such a membership category and the benefits of doing so by President Bednarczyk.

The exact wording of the resolution adopted is as follows:

***Proposal:*** *The Association will add the category **Youth Member** to the classes of members. Such **Youth Members** will enjoy all rights and privileges of the Association. The age limitations for **Youth Members** will coincide with that of Pennsylvania Jr. Hunting License holders – currently under age 17. The annual fee for **Youth Membership** will be proposed at **\$5.00**.*

## **'Mean Seeds' and More** by Catherine Klene

*Editor's Note: This article appears in the January 2011 issue of Purina's Today's Breeder Magazine (Issue 73). Several members have recently lost a number of young, otherwise healthy hounds to awns disease. Their purchase of common straw bedding from SE Pennsylvania is suspected.*

Sporting dog owners have long known about "mean seeds," harmful barbed grass seeds that can snag in a dog's coat and burrow through the skin. Eventually these bacteria-carrying seeds migrate through the body, potentially causing a life-threatening condition known as grass awn disease. Mean seeds also can be inhaled as a dog runs through a field.

Grass awn disease is challenging to treat because a dog often does not show signs until the disease is well-progressed. New research funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation will examine whether grass awn disease is more common today due to the inclusion of barbed grass seeds in the Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

With a goal of preventing soil erosion and preserving wildlife habitat, CRP encourages farmers to plant mixed grasses on idle cropland. Sporting dog enthusiasts often use CRP land for field trials and training. Among the barbed grass seeds known to be potentially harmful to dogs are cheatgrass, Canada wild rye and foxtail barley.

William K. Lauenroth, Ph.D., professor of botany at the University of Wyoming, leads the study that will analyze USDA data from 10 states to identify problem grasses in CRP mixes. The research team also will analyze clinical information and treatment of dogs diagnosed with grass awn disease at eight veterinary teaching hospitals over the past 20 years. The aim is to establish a comprehensive list of problem seeds.

Sponsors of the research include: the AKC Humane Fund, the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association (ESSFTA), the ESSFTA Foundation, the Boykin Spaniel Society, the Golden Retriever Foundation, the National Amateur Retriever Club, the Spinone Club of America, the Labrador Retriever Club, and the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America.

## **The Mean Seeds Project**

*Editor's Note: The following has been extracted from the January 2011 Issue of the A.K.C. Humane Fund News*

Grass awn migration disease results when a grass awn enters the soft tissues of an animal and because of its barbs moves continuously forward through the tissue leaving a tract of infection behind it. Hundreds if not thousands of such cases have been documented in the canine veterinary literature (Brennan and Ihrke 1983, Frendin 1997, Walker et al. 2000, Wagner et al. 2006, Brukitt et al. 2007, Bigham and Nourani 2009). The most common site of grass awn entry was the external ear canal followed by inter-digital webs, eye, nose, and lumbar area. Walker et al. (2000) reviewed 98 cases (51 dogs and 47 cats) and found that several of the bacteria isolated were exclusively from grass awns. The literature also contains detailed case studies of individual dogs such as the Yorkshire Terrier that suffered from septic pericarditis (fluid around the heart) as a result of penetration by a grass awn. This condition is also reported in large breeds and is primarily caused by foxtail migration (Wagner et al. 2006).

## **Sporting Dog Owners Continue to Take Fire**

*Editor's Note: The following has been provided by Evan Heusinkveld, Director of State Services, US Sportsman's Alliance.*

Over the past couple of years, sporting dog owners from coast to coast have been under a constant barrage of legislative attacks that would threaten their way of life. Be it a bill mandating the spaying/neutering of prized hunting dogs or an overly-zealous attempt to crack down on abusive commercial breeders, sportsmen have consistently been in the crosshairs.

Make no mistake; these efforts are part of a larger, coordinated push by animal rights and anti-hunting groups to ban commonly accepted practices. If antis are unsuccessful in obtaining outright bans, they turn to efforts to over-burden responsible dog breeders and kennels with massive new regulations and astronomical compliance costs, forcing many out of existence.

**The major push started with Pennsylvania in 2007** and now more than 150 bills have been introduced over the last two years alone. In 2011, we're tracking more than 50 bills in 21 states; and we're barely six weeks into the year.

Below are examples of just a handful of recent bills that have popped up across the country.

### **Illinois**

House Bill 1247 prohibits the tethering of a dog for more than 15 minutes between 10:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. unless the dog has access to shelter, even if the owner is present with the dog.

### **Nebraska**

Nebraska Legislative Bill 427 would create costly new standards of care requirements for those considered to be a "commercial dog breeder" under current law, including anyone who owns more than four dogs that are intended for breeding. New requirements include mandatory micro-chipping, nearly continuous access to an outdoor exercise area all times, and mandatory inspections by the Department of Agriculture.

### **Rhode Island**

Senate Bill 140 prohibits keeping a dog penned, tethered, or confined outside for more than one hour at a time without access to a housing facility or unless someone is outside with the dog. It also would eliminate all outdoor kennels in the state by prohibiting a dog from being kept penned for more than 14 hours in a 24 hour period regardless of how big the pen or cage may be. Maybe worst of all, the bill would allow the Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and animal control officers to enter onto an individual dog owner's property to search for violations. This allows enforcement officers access to private property without probable cause or without a warrant under the guise that they are simply "checking" for violations.

So what do we do from here?

Sportsmen, sporting dog owners, hobby breeders and kennels must continue their vigilant fight against these dangerous bills. We must not let up... their goal is to wear us down... to make us give up the fight.

You can be sure that the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance, our Sporting Dog Defense Coalition and many other groups and organizations across the country will continue to fight for your rights, but we need your help too.

Sportsmen should contact their state legislators and educate them on the danger these bills pose to legitimate and law-abiding dog owners. To find your state representative's contact information, please visit [www.ussportsmen.org/LAC](http://www.ussportsmen.org/LAC). You can also help in the fight by joining the USSA today by visiting [www.ussportsmen.org](http://www.ussportsmen.org).