

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters inc.

Directors:

Roy Rosenbaum Richard Ross Ron Davis James Rogers Jay Roberts
Ron Cole Walter Vosefski Shaun Spencer Chip Sorber Cas Bonczewski (Membership Chairman)

Officers:

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

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

Jerry Ross, 603 N. Wilbur Ave. Sayre, PA 18840
Vice President

(Position Vacant)
Secretary

Spring Newsletter – March 2018



Dylan Kochmer takes his first coyote!

Dylan Kochmer, Falls, PA, 12 year old son of Mike Kochmer, is shown with this 38.45 pound coyote taken in Susquehanna County. The hounds pictured with Dylan are Patty and Axel. Axel is Dylan's own hound and this was his first kill as well. Other members who took part in the hunt were Perry and Dylan Clark and Seth Turock. What a great start to a hunting career for Dylan, who will receive his 'First Coyote Award' at our Annual Meeting!

From the President's Pen...

2018 has resulted in a good start for our Association, as you will see from the following news items:

Our calendar for 2018 is being finalized and preparations are underway for our major events.

Our Annual Meeting has been set for Saturday, April 21st, and our "Member's Only" Coyote Tournament is underway, with several good specimens being reported.

The Executive Committee has agreed to expand our scholarship program to four students who are the children or grandchildren of a member. (See details below –page 6).

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. Expands Scholarship Program

During our last business meeting, the Executive Committee voted to expand our scholarship program to four students. Each will receive a \$500.00 award.

Please see the details and scholarship application below. Any questions may be directed to Dick Bednarczyk (570) 586-9270, Jerry Ross (570) 423-3389 or Cas Bonczewski (570) 977-4539. Our 2017 winners were Emily Carr, Rachael Stucker and Larissa Stucker.

Annual Meeting – Saturday, April 21st, 2018

The Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. has been scheduled for 4:00 pm, Saturday, April 21st at the American Legion, Route 6, Wyalusing, PA. In addition to election of officers for 2018, the agenda will include a review of the accomplishments of the organization during 2017, plans for 2018, and review of significant legislative issues and other important business.

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

In order to insure proper dinner arrangements, please RSVP to Dick Bednarczyk via e-mail (dick.bednarczyk@gmail.com) or by phone (570) 586-9270 if you plan to attend.

Please note: There will be a \$10.00 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.

Reminder –Raffle Drawing

Although we indicated a March 31st 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 21st. 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 \$800.00 retail or an \$800.00 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 Wednesday, April 11th.

2018 Memberships Now Due

At this point, everyone should have received their 2018 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.

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

There were 45 entries overall, out of 685 registered hunters for the 2018 contest. Successful members were; Jon Wychock, Wade Gray, Ron Sands, Dylan and Mike Kochmer, Shaun Spencer, Brad Corby, Bob Brown, Bob Cragle, Jack Sorber, Ed Zaleski, Mike Murnin and Emily Bold.. Members of the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. harvested 13 coyotes during the event. The winning coyote weighed 46.5 pounds. Hounds accounted for 31 of the coyotes presented.

Mosquito Creek

Member Dustin Holl took third place with a 45.55 pound coyote taken in Susquehanna County. Other successful members were Caden Jennings, Bob Cragle (3 coyotes), Bob Brown, Jason Brown, Mike Johnson, Kris McDermott and Storm Bumbarger.

The hunt had 4836 registered hunters who took 193 coyotes. Hounds accounted for 132 coyotes out of the grand total reported.

Congratulations to Dustin Holl and all other members listed above.

Remember To Support Our Sponsors

Please support these loyal sponsors, who continually provide substantial donations to insure the success of our events. Each of these sponsors willingly provides their support. Some do so automatically each year, without the need for personal solicitation from us;

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.

Coyotes in Pennsylvania: What's the latest information and research?

Members Pat Carr and Mark Chicketano, both wildlife professionals, have alerted us to a recent feature found at:

www.pennlive.com/wildaboutpa/2018/02/coyotes_in_pennsylvania.

This is an interesting, informative and "easy to read" series covering a complete range of coyote topics from the myth about their being stocked by the PGC, their compatibility with foxes, habitat preferences, etc. The study is the work of David Drake and Marcus Mueller of Rutgers University.

Legislative Monitoring – Pennsylvania

Editor's Note:

Our appreciation is accorded to John Gible of the Elizabethtown Beagle Club who has provide the PA summary listed below. John continues to do extraordinary work on our behalf. We will continue to monitor the progress of these and similar bills and request your action when appropriate.

Memorandum on Pennsylvania House Bill 1917
December 21, 2017

House Bill 1917 was recently amended by the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. The bill proposes to add and update training requirements for Humane Society Police Officers to include training on proper criminal procedures, applicable animal cruelty laws, limits of authority, and recognizing animal cruelty in an agricultural operation.

After passing Act 10 or House Bill 1238, the omnibus bill on animal cruelty statutes that included anti-tethering language and provided additional authorities to Humane Society Police Officers, it is fitting that such officers need to be better trained in using those authorities. This is a good bill, but it could be better:

HB 1917 updates an overseeing Humane Society Police Officer Board that reports to the Department of Agriculture and the legislature. The bill outlines various representatives and organizations that must be represented on the Board. As proposed, the bill does not currently provide representation for dog owners, kennels, or hunting dog interests.

HB 1917 provides the Department of Agriculture authority to contract with a provider to develop and administer the outlined course work required to be taken by Humane Society Police Officers. There should be standards added for a suitable contractor, such that an award is not given to an educational institution to promote animal rights organizations such as PETA or HSUS. We need an objective slate of coursework, not indoctrination by animal rights interests.

An annual report to the legislature should be required from the Humane Society Police Officer Board or the Department of Agriculture that outlines how many citations or arrests are made annually, an evaluation of the conviction rate on those citations and arrests, a listing of currently closed and open cases, any costs to the counties or state in administering or adjudicating such arrests and citations, and any other information pertinent to demonstrating an even-handed execution of authorities by these private police officers.

This bill has been re-referred to Appropriations as of February 5, 2018.

To read the bill, find your state representative, or look for more information on this and other legislation, visit legis.state.pa.us (The Pennsylvania General Assembly web site).

Legislative Monitoring - Pennsylvania Protecting Honest Hunters

Editor's Note: The following has been provided by Rep. Tina Pickett:

A new law seeks to protect and encourage honest hunters by addressing situations in which hunters may erroneously harvest an animal and turn the animal into the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Presently, a hunter who harvests a deer or turkey of the wrong sex or accidentally takes two can turn the animals into a wildlife conservation officer and receive a new tag, pay a small fine and suffer no license revocation. **Act 3 of 2018**, formerly House Bill 359, expands that protection to the other two big game animals, bear and elk.

The new law does not change any of the other penalties hunters face for illegal out-of-season kills, except for the elimination of license revocations in those instances where the hunter self-reports and surrenders the animal.

Restitution for mistakenly killing bear or elk has been set at \$100 for each animal killed. Violators who are on a payment plan to repay penalties and who are making on-time payments, may not have their hunting or trapping privileges suspended for failure to pay penalties.

Welcome New Members!

Recruiting efforts for 2018 are off to a good start. YTD 12 hunters have joined the Association. Since our last newsletter, Eric Hottenstein, Caden Jennings, Seth Hower, Jeremy Kovalick, Eric and Carter Griffith, Kyle Johnson, Brian Dana, Anthony Riscavage, Ethan Brown, Dustin Holl and Mike Miele have come aboard. We are delighted to see the number of youths and family groups which have joined the Association over the past few years. Welcome hunters!

Remember to Nominate Your Youngsters for "First" Award

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.

*IN MEMORIUM
Larry Herron
Garth Yoder
Gerry Good*

The Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters Association announces the 2018 Scholarship Award!

As decided by the Officers and Board of Directors, the association will provide \$500 scholarships to four eligible students. The award will be presented during the awards portion of the 2018 Family Day picnic to be held at Molyneaux's Pen.

Details:

1. Student must complete the application below and submit by June 1st, 2018. One application per student. Families with multiple students may copy the application below. Mail application to RJ Bednarczyk, President.
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 2018 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 Family Day picnic 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:		