

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters inc.

Website: www.pafoxhunters.com

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Fall Newsletter – September 2016



Participants – Sporting Dog Owners Meeting – PGC Headquarters Harrisburg

Members of the Pennsylvania State Fox and Coyote Hunter's Assn., PA Nite Hunters, PA Beagle Gundog Assn. and other beagle clubs took part in what turned out to be a highly productive meeting on Tuesday, August 9th.

Spokesmen for this partnership of hound organizations were Bruce Knopsnider (President - PA Nite Hunters), Jim Katchko (President- PA Beagle Gundog Assn.) John Gibble (President – Elizabethtown Beagle Club) and Dick Bednarczyk.

Please see the additional information regarding great news concerning our battle with Awns Disease (Mean Seeds) on page (2) below.

From the President's Pen...

The last three months of 2016 has proven to be a busy time for the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. We participated in an extremely interesting and productive Sporting Dog Owners meeting with the PA Game Commission on August 9th and our Family Day Picnic was held on June 25th. Our Speed and Drive Field Trial was held on August 13th. See the full reports on these events below.

Overview – Sporting Dog Owners Meeting, August 9th, 2016

DCNR agrees to curtail planting mean seeds on pipeline restorations!!

The 2016 Sporting Dog Owner's Meeting was held at PA Game Commission Headquarters, Harrisburg, on Tuesday, August 9th. The meeting was jointly chaired by Dick Bednarczyk, President, PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. inc. and Thomas Grohol, Director, Bureau of Wildlife Protection, PA Game Commission.

Major participants were members of the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunters Assn., The PA Beagle Gun Dog Assn. and the PA Nite Hunter's Assn.

Below is a brief summary of the most significant items which were dealt with.

- 1). The PGC announced that they have totally eliminated mean seeds from their seed mixes. Previously they were reduced to 1% and restricted to low traffic areas.
- 2). The DCNR clarified that they will eliminate mean seed grass awn species on DCNR lands by 2017 and eliminate mean seeds from the mixes in their guidelines for the gas companies for well pads and pipeline restoration by 2017 as well.
- 3). Dr. Matt Lovallo provided an overview of the bobcat hunting scenario.
- 4). Josh Zimmerman, PGC Legislative Liaison provided an update on HB 2083 and SB 1166. (The hound community has expressed our opposition to HB 2083, which would impose a committee of political appointees over the Game Commission, and expressed our support for SB 1166 which would remove hunting license fee scheduling from the political process).

Editor's note: .(Please note that items (1) and (2) are the result of discussions which were introduced during previous year's meetings and required appropriate study of their impact before final outcomes could be reached. We believe that most of these accomplishments are significant and lead to the overall enhancement of sporting dog life in the Commonwealth.

They also reflect the extreme importance of these meetings to our sport and the willingness of the Game Commission Staff and the Board of Commissioners to support our efforts whenever possible).

Our thanks to all members who took the time to travel to Harrisburg and participate and to Jim Katchko and John Gible of the beaglers and Bruce Knopsnider of the PA Nite Hunters for their ongoing partnership with us in these efforts.

Letter Writing Campaign Plays Big Role in Mean Seeds Curtailment

We have been advised that our recent letter writing campaign during the development of the DCNR Management Plan was very useful to the DCNR and had much to do with the curtailment of mean seeds planting. Thanks to all who wrote and thanks to the DCNR for being responsive to our request.

**Results of PA State 2016 Speed & Drive Field Trial
Springs Kennels Wins Event, Also Takes Third and Ninth Places**

Excessively hot, humid weather affected the 2016 PA State Speed & Drive Field Trial at Molyneaux's Plantation. Nevertheless, Springs Kennel's 10 month - old Spring's Blitz proved her mettle by winning the event. 67 hounds ran in the limited entry event, representing Pennsylvania, New York and Canada.

Kipp Adcock did a great job serving as Master of Hounds.

A sincere thank you to the following judges: Dick Bednarczyk, Ron and Scott Davis, Walter Vosefski, Chip and Jack Sorber, Bob Brown, Charlie Michlowski, Dave Susz, Tim Carr, Jerry Ross and Jerry Devine.

Other Field Support Staff were Trevor Fulmer, Paul and James Conway, Seth Turock, Pat Carr, Carmen Aliberti, Ron Hertz, Joe Ross, Jack, Mike and Paul Johnson, Ben Arendt and Kevin O'Neill.

Dave Wride once again handled computer operations.

We are also grateful to Gene, Staci and Richard Molyneaux who continue to host many of our events and are continually responsive to all of our requests.

Special thanks to kitchen staff Mitch Wasczak, Don Bednarczyk and Marty Carr. Sometimes we forget to give the credit to those who work the hardest during our field trial. They cooked, cleaned, set up the booths, tore them down and performed a countless number of other tasks.

We are ever grateful to our faithful sponsor: Prowler Quick Track for their discount coupons and Bill Doney's Thunder Valley Pet Pantry for supplying Sportmix Dog Food.

Finally, thank you to all who entered hounds in this year's event. None of this would be possible if it were not for your support.

Congratulations to:

1. Spring's Blitz (Quinte (f) Ch Spring's Argo - Pete's Cleo), Spring's Kennel, Wade & Carol Gray, Laceyville, PA.
2. Tuck (Bold Ruler - Hills Sister Sara), Andrew Gismonei, Desboro, ON.
3. Quinte (f)Ch Spring's Argo (MHCL(d)Ch Bonner's Humpy - M&S Polly), Spring's Kennel, Wade & Carol Gray, Laceyville, PA.
4. Thompson's Winnie (Heis Hardload - Thompsons Abby), Nick Rose, Curve Lake, ON.
5. Dunems Carla (Jimmy B. - Bonds Pet), Chad Duncan, Delevan, NY.
6. Begore's Em (McGee's Hemp - Redwing Express), Lee Begore, West Chazy, NY.
7. Maple Wall Peanut (Tim's Van Gogh - Maple Wall Rose), John Bates, Canton, NY.
8. Maple Wall Max (Bonners Humpy - Surefire Cricket), John Bates, Canton, NY.
9. Spring's Shadow (Quinte (f) Ch Spring's Argo - Pete's Cleo), Spring's Kennel, Wade & Carol Gray, Laceyville, PA.
10. Begore's Saddle (McGee's Hemp - Redwing Express), Heath Begore, Mooers Forks, NY

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. Host Family Day Picnic

Molyneaux's Training Enclosure, Endicott, New York, was the site for Pennsylvania State's twelfth annual Family Day Picnic. 109 members and guests were on hand to enjoy summer picnic fare while running 42 hounds.

A variety of competitions and training classes also comprised the day's activities.

The traditional horn-blowing contests were won by Caden Jennings and Hannah Keane, with Trapper Fox and River Gardner taking second honors.

Many youngsters (and adults) were very attentive during a highly informative "Whitetail Deer Survival" class presented by Director Chip Sorber. Director Jim Rogers presented detailed instruction during a children's handling class which was followed by the bench show. Director Ron Cole acted as bench judge. An intense judging period resulted in the following winners, listed in order of bench placement: Kristen Davis showing Dan, Aragon Cruz showing Springs Shadow, Michael Davis showing Rocket, Acquoya Ridall showing Rufus, Trapper Fox showing Champ, Adele Vaughan showing Hughey, Tucker Vaughan showing Bo, Hunter Jones showing Wine, Bowen Mineir showing Springs Blitz and Seth McCammon showing Savage.

2016 State Champion Coyote Hunter Bob Brown was on hand to receive his trophy for first place in the Association's Coyote Tournament. Bob was easily declared the 2016 PA State Champion with a 50.77 pound coyote. Bob also won our State Championship twice previously.

The puppy raffle was won by Trapper Fox with Sharon Coole being declared winner of the Yeti cooler. Special thanks are in order to Ontario's Terry Rose and Jeff Whan who each provided beautiful puppies and Wade Gray and Ron Davis for transporting and housing the puppies for the organization.

Special thanks for donated auction items are accorded to Wade and Carol Gray (NY Strip Steaks), Sally Davis (hand crafted quilt), Bill Doney's Thunder Valley Pet Pantry (dog food) and Dave and Debbie Wride (Brunswick Logo Items) and Gene Molyneaux (hand crafted knife and sheath).

Scholarship Winners Drawn!

History was made at the Family Day Picnic when Travis Roberts and John Chapman saw their applications drawn at random, for our second annual scholarship program. There were eighteen eligible applicants.

Travis is the son of Jay and Claudia Roberts of Mercer County's Western Boys Coyote Team. He has been a youth member for several years and regularly attends both Family Day and Field Trial activities. Travis will attend Penn State.

John Chapman is the grandson of Dick Ross and will be studying Survey Engineering at Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus. Along with his twin brother Patrick, John has been a regular participant and winner of many Family Day activities.

Congratulations and best wishes to Travis and John.

Baking Contest a Big Hit!

As a result of suggestions from a few members, this year's Family Day featured a baking contest for the second time in our recent history. The first place results were:

Cakes: Spencer and River Gardner
Cookies: Karlene Sorber
Pies: Sharon Coole

We are grateful to Sally Davis who provided the necessary "Woman's Touch" and coordinated the event.

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. At time of publication it is expected to be brought up by the House Game and Fisheries Committee on Sept. 20th.

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.

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.

Remember To Support Our Sponsors

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.

Welcome New Members!

Recruiting efforts for 2016 continues on a good note. YTD, 35 hunters have joined the Association. Since our last newsletter Colleen Sands, Matthew Hill, Curtis and Aspen Ridall, Owen and Trapper Fox, Terry Maneval, Dylan Clark, Jared Shade, Mark Chicketano, Jeremy Ferree and Kirk Peterson have come on board. Welcome hunters!

Do We Have Your Current E-Mail Address?

With increasing frequency, the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. uses e-mail for all Association business, as well as for response to individual queries from members. At present we maintain e-mail addresses for approximately 230 members. In the event that we may not have your address or that you have changed your internet provider, please provide your address to Dick Bednarczyk at dick.bednarczyk@epix.net, assuming that you are willing to do so. 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 note that a letter supplements all e-mailed messages, when it is appropriate or necessary to do so.

2016 Memberships Now Due

At this point, everyone should have received their 2016 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.

Check Out Our Website

All members are encouraged to review our new website (www.pafoxhunters.com). We are indebted to Member Joe Ross for developing and maintaining the site for the Association. In addition, Joe has prepaid our subscription fees for a five year period!

Special recognition is in order for Joe's uncle, Vice President Jerry Ross, who volunteered to spearhead this project.

We would welcome your comments and suggestions regarding anything you feel should be included. Merely use the website's "Contact Us" feature if you wish to respond.

