

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters inc.

Website: www.pafoxhunters.com

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Fall Newsletter – September 2017



Pictured from left: Richard J. Bednarczyk, President, PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn., Tioga County WCO Steven Brusse, Randy Shoup, Director, Wildlife Protection, PA Game Commission and Rick Macklem, Law Enforcement Supervisor North Central Region.

Hound Killer pays \$7500.00 – faces other charges.

**PA Game Commission Officer
Commended by Coyote Hunters.**

(see account on page two (2) below)

From the President's Pen...

The last three months of 2017 has proven to be a busy time for the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. Our Family Day Picnic was held on June 25th. We participated in an extremely interesting and productive Sporting Dog Owners meeting with the PA Game Commission on June 27th. On July 15th, we conducted seminars at Chip Sorber's QDMA Youth Camp with over 80 youngsters in attendance. See the full reports on these events below.

On the Cover.

In November, 2016, two coyote hounds (BWT) were shot, one fatally, by a fall turkey hunter, who claimed he mistook them for coyotes. During the Sporting Dog Owner's Meeting with the PA Game Commission, at PGC Headquarters in Harrisburg, on June 27th, Dick Bednarczyk, President, PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. presented the Association's plaque to Tioga County WCO Steven Brusse. The award indicated the coyote hunter's appreciation for the role that the officer played in the successful investigation of Game Law violations connected to the shooting. PA State Police Officer, Donald Wolfe, Mansfield Barracks, led the criminal phase of the investigation, which resulted in the shooter paying \$7500.00 restitution to the hound owner. The shooter faces additional game law violations, including riding an ATV with a loaded shotgun.

Overview – Sporting Dog Owners Meeting, June 27th, 2017

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 characteristically productive meeting on Tuesday, June 27th.

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

Please see the additional information regarding great news concerning our battle over anti tethering legislation and clarification regarding the three week training moratorium below.

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.

Also to Chad Eyler, Chief, Special Permits Enforcement Division, Randy Shoup, Director, Bureau of Wildlife Protection and Tom Grohol, Deputy Director of Administration, PA Game Commission, who hosted and supported this annual event.

Training Moratorium Does Not Affect Coyote Hunting on State Game Lands.

One of the main items included on the agenda for the Sporting Dogs Owner's Meeting was the affect, if any, that the three week training moratorium, prior to the pheasant season might have on coyote hunting. We received clarification that moratorium does not affect any legal hunting such as grouse or coyote hunting on those lands during that time frame.

Letter Writing Campaign Plays Big Role in Anti Tethering Law

House Bill 1238 (Act 10) will become effective the end of August. The section that will affect most of us is the ban on tying out dogs for more than 9 hours in a day. *There is an exception for hunting, sporting, and sledding breeds where tethering is “integral” to the training or conditioning of the dog. Anyone that is challenged by Humane Society Police Officers, local or state police, or township officials should simply cite this exception.*

It is our unconfirmed opinion that the aggressive, sustained efforts made by the hound owners community to their legislators over the past three years, have resulted in this exemption.

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 thirteenth annual Family Day Picnic. 115 members and guests were on hand to enjoy summer picnic fare while running 44 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 Kristin Davis, with Jordan Theodore and Trinity Rohe taking second honors. Steven Short and Adele Vaughan finished in third place.

Madison Miller won both first and second places in the photo hunt, with Mike Kochmer taking third place in the event.

Many youngsters (and adults) were very attentive during a highly informative “Wild Turkey Aging” class presented by Jack Sorber.

Directors Jim Rogers and Ron Cole presented detailed instruction during a children’s handling class which was followed by the bench show. An intense judging period resulted in the following winners, listed in order of bench placement: Adele Vaughan showing Hershel, Alex Van Camp showing Todd, Rachael Stucker showing Sadey, Michael Davis showing Reilly, Dustin Dixon showing Sassy, Madison Miller showing Ruby, Acquoya Ridall showing Rufus, Caden Jennings showing Trigger, Dillon Kochmer showing Shiloh and Hunter Jones showing Wine.

2017 State Champion Coyote Hunter Carl Hartman was on hand to receive his trophy for first place in the Association’s Coyote Tournament. Carl was easily declared the 2017 PA State Champion with a 49.5 pound coyote. The puppy raffles were won by Sharon Coole and Brian Stucker with Chad Hilgus winning the Yeti cooler. Special thanks are in order to Ontario’s Eric Rutledge and Brooke Maskell who each provided beautiful puppies and Wade Gray for recruiting, transporting and housing the puppies for the organization.

Mike Kochmer was the lucky winner of the drawing for a \$50.00 Cabela’s gift card donated by the Western Boys Coyote Team.

Special thanks for donated auction items are accorded to Wade and Carol Gray (NY Strip Steaks), Kevin and Tammy Van Camp (Woodcraft items), Bill Doney’s Thunder Valley Pet Pantry (dog food items) and Gene Molyneaux (hand crafted knife and sheath). Additional thanks are in order to Cargill Meat Packing, Wade and Carol Gray and Sally and Ron Davis who jointly donated all the burgers for the cookout.

Special Thanks to Our Cooks and Helpers.

A lot of hard work goes into the running of an event like our Family Day Picnic. Special thanks to Ron Davis and grandson Tucker Vaughan, Kirsten Pedro, Ariel Leahy, Bowen Minier, Jubei and Aragon Cruz, Jerry Ross, and Shaun Spencer, for doing the heavy lifting setting up the pavilion at 6:00 am, Grill Masters Ron Cole, Don Bednarczyk and Mitch Wasczak, Food line managers Ron Davis, Jerry Ross and buyer Dave Hall, Baking Contest coordinators Amy Carr and Rachael Stucker, ticket, membership and mdse. managers Pat, Tim and Marty Carr. Without such willing, dependable volunteers, managing such an event would be a major struggle.

Scholarship Winners Drawn!

History was made at the Family Day Picnic when Rachael Stucker, Larissa Stucker and Emily Carr saw their applications drawn at random, for our third annual scholarship program. There were sixteen eligible applicants this year. This past spring we announced that we would increase the number of winners to three applicants.

Rachael and Larissa Stucker are the daughters of Brian Stucker. Both attend King's College in Wilkes Barre where Racheal is a freshman and Larissa a junior. Both young ladies are regular participants at our Family Day Picnic and Annual Meeting.

Emily Carr, enrolled at the University of Scranton, is the daughter of Tim and Amy Carr, granddaughter of Marty Carr and niece of Pat Carr. Emily has been a member and regular volunteer worker at the Annual Meeting and Family Day Picnics for several years.

Congratulations and best wishes to Rachael, Larissa and Emily!

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 third time in our recent history. The first place results were:

Cakes: Sally Davis
Cookies: Jessica Degilio

We are grateful to Amy Carr and Rachael Stucker who provided the necessary "Woman's Touch" and coordinated the event and to all entrants who donated their hard work and talent to the contest.

Welcome New Members!

Recruiting efforts for 2017 continues on a good note. YTD, 26 hunters have joined the Association. Since our last newsletter, Joe Paolucci, James Allison, Alex Van Camp, Richard Walworth, Claude Gave, Edward Beagle and Kole 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.

A Reminder about Overdue Memberships.

Recently we sent a final reminder to those members who have not paid their 2017 dues. We are requesting prompt payment 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. If you wish to be removed from the mailing list, merely indicate so on the form provided.

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.



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.



The advertisement for Gundog Supply features a black dog's head on the right side, holding a white, textured toy. The text on the left reads: 'GUN DOG SUPPLY' in large, bold letters, with 'DOG' in red. Below this, it says 'Serving Hunting & Field Dog Owners Since 1972'. Further down, it states 'We train OUR dogs with the products we sell'. At the bottom, it provides the phone number '1-800-624-6378' and the website 'www.gundogsupply.com'. A row of logos is at the bottom, including Sportdog, TRI-TRONICS, GARMIN, dogtra, and DTV.

