

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters *inc.*

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Fall Newsletter – September 2011



Puppies & Kids Make a Great Family Day

Staci Molyneaux, bottom left, and three year old grandson Landon, help the kids wrap up Family Day festivities and show off their hardware. Landon “stole the show” and proved to be a tough act to follow, easily winning the metallic horn blowing contest!! Approximately 130 members and guests brought 60 foxhounds to the event. The full account of Family Day activities appears on page (3).

From the President's Pen...

The last three months of 2011 has proven to be an eventful, productive time for the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. In addition to holding our Family Day Picnic and One-Day Speed & Drive we also chaired the Sporting Dog Owner's Meeting with the PA Game Commission. On July 16th, our Field Trial Judges training seminar was held at Molyneaux's, yielding four new judges. At the time of publication we are preparing for our Two-Day Field Trial, which will be held on September 16th and 17th.

We have also revised our "Foxhunter's Rights" brochure, which is included with this newsletter.

Please refer to further details on these matters which appear below.

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 seventh annual Family Day Picnic. One hundred thirty members and guests were on hand to enjoy summer picnic fare while running their hounds.

A variety of competitions and training classes also comprised the day's activities. The traditional horn-blowing contest was won by Dillon Keane (age 7), while 3 year old Landon Wynarg took the metallic horn event. John Chapman won the photo hunt, with Patrick Chapman and Anna Altmiller taking second and third places in that event. Emily Carr, Anna and Elena Altmiller teamed to take first place in the recovery collar competition for youngsters age 10 and over. Twin brothers John and Patrick Chapman took second and third place while Karlee and Dillon Keane and James Conway were winners for kids under age 10.

Many youngsters (and adults) were spell-bound during a highly informative "Wild Turkey Aging" class presented by Chip Sorber. Director Jim Rogers presented detailed instruction during a children's handling class which was followed by the bench show. Director Rogers doubled as bench judge, assisted by ringmaster Cas Bonczewski. An intense judging period resulted in the following winners, listed in order of bench placement: Cole Peterson showing Duce, Mike Davis showing TC, Kendall Peterson showing Poncho, Juvei Cruz showing Rage, Adam Minor showing Brindle, Dakota Pedro showing Rebel, Bowen Minier showing Survivor, Christopher John Cox showing Ellie, Elena Altmiller showing Emily's Carmel and Austin Minor showing Gypsy.

2008 and 2010 State Champion Coyote Hunters Brian Weidner and Jack Wentzel were on hand to present trophies to the 2011 winners of the Association's Coyote Tournament. Ed Grasavage was easily declared the 2011 PA State Champion with a 47.7 pound coyote. Other winners were Jack Sorber (2nd), Ray Pawelski (3rd), John Lee Labuda (4th), Jerry Devine (5th), Jeremy Gregory (6th), Pat Carr (7th), Jerry Dyer (8th), Ron Davis (9th), and Tim Carr (10th).

The puppy raffle was won by Joe Spano with Travis Roberts being declared winner of the Gas Grill. James Conway won the children's raffle drawing – a Cabela's Gift Card donated by the Western Boy's Coyote Team of Mercer County.

Puppy Raffle/Auction a Big Hit!

Each Year our Puppy Raffle continues to grow in popularity. This year we were fortunate to obtain an eight week old Canadian puppy bred by Steve "Beaver" McGill, whose parents are great outside hunters. Our thanks go to Vice President Ron Cole for traveling to Canada for the pup, won by Joey Spano.

Sporting Dog Owner's Meeting –PA Game Commission Headquarters, Harrisburg

Twenty members of the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. showed their support by attending the dog owner's meeting on June 28th. As usual, our primary focus centered on hound safety issues, primarily wanton shooting incidents and unauthorized collar removal. Jim Katchko represented the Beagler's issues, including rabbit trapping permitting and youth mentoring, while Bruce Knopsnider, President of PA Nite Hunter's discussed hound retrieval issues and related matters.

Our sincere thanks are extended to the Game Commission Staff and the members of the Board of Commissioners who gave their valuable time and attention to the "dog folks" in attendance.

PA Game Commission Honors Our Request to Strengthen Dog Shooting Language.

Each year, hound safety, whether in the form of use of recovery collars, collar theft or wanton shootings of our hounds, is a primary focus of our annual meeting with the PA Game Commission. Last year, our specific request centered on the inclusion of Crimes Code language in their Dog Training Regulations. As a result, the following language has been inserted on page 32 of the 2011-2012 Hunting and Trapping Digest: *"If you shoot a dog that is not attacking a big game animal you could be subject to persecution under the Crimes Code as a misdemeanor offense with penalties of up to \$5000.00 and two years imprisonment, as well as civil liability for the restitution of the dog"*.

We are once again indebted to Director Richard Palmer for implementing this language improvement on our behalf.

Hound owners Present Award to Director Richard R. Palmer

At the conclusion of the Sporting Dog Owner's meeting, representatives of the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn., PA Beagle Gundog Assn., and PA Nite Hunter's presented a commemorative plaque to Richard R. Palmer, Director Wildlife Protection, PA Game Commission, in appreciation for the ongoing support of his bureau.

The plaque was inscribed as follows:

Presented to Director Richard R. Palmer, Bureau of Wildlife Protection, in appreciation of your outstanding support of the Sporting Dog Owners of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

June 28th, 2011

Dick Bednarczyk cited several instances wherein Director Palmer dispatched his WCO'S to immediately respond to collar removal or hound shooting incidents on our behalf. In each case, our members have been highly complimentary of the Game Commission personnel involved. Director Palmer continues to be instrumental in crafting the many accomplishments that the Sporting Dog Owners have achieved as a result of our annual meetings with the bureau.

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.

Welcome New Members!

Recruiting efforts for 2011 continues on a good trend. YTD 32 hunters have joined the Association. Since our last newsletter, Dale Myers, Evan Madill, Ky Amico, Ryan Bernecky, Austin Shawgo, Sam Venslosky, Brian Mabie, M.Raymond Mailloux and Adam Minor have come on board. We now have 24 Youth Members as part of the Association –a good basis for a strong future. Welcome hunters!

Our Upcoming Field Trial

Two – Day Speed and Drive and Bench Show – September 16th and 17th. This will be an open hunt with trophies awarded to the first ten places for both Derby and All-Age hounds.

This competition will be held at Molyneaux's in Endicott, New York. Numbers may be reserved by calling Kipp Adcock at 570-842-5477 or 570-840-1086.

Two – Day Field Trial and Bench Show to Award Bench Championship.

For the first time, the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. will award a Bench Championship to the hound selected as "Best in Show". The event will be judged under the rules of the National Foxhunter's Assn.

All hunters competing at our trial are encouraged to be sure to show your hounds in addition to running them.

PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. Recognized by "Hunts for Healing"

Mindy Piccotti, Director of Events for "Hunts for Healing", presented the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. with a framed artwork commemorating our participation in their Wounded Warrior program. Mindy requested that the gift be used to generate funding for our events. The artwork, by local artist Alan E. Crothamel, comprised a coyote scene painted on two wild turkey feathers and was won by Director Jim Rogers. Mindy and her husband John are proprietors of the Ringneck Ridge Pheasant Preserve, Laceyville. They also hold membership in our organization.

Remember To Support Our Sponsors

Gun Dog Supply, Johnson's Telemetry, Dad's Dog Food, Tracker Telemetry, Wholesale Light & Supply, Quick Track, TracTech, tri tronics, Custom Collars, The Chase Magazine, Hunter's Horn, Sportmix Dog Food, Thunder Valley Pet Pantry.

Field Trial Judges Seminar Completed

On Saturday, July 16th, members Scott Davis, Jack Wentzel, John Case and Walter Vosefski took part in our Field Trial Judges seminar and practicum. The course consisted of approximately two hours of “classroom” discussion followed by the actual scoring of crossings. Two additional practice sessions are required to complete the experience. Jim Rogers, Roy Rosenbaum and Dick Bednarczyk acted as instructors for the program. The PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter’s Assn. welcomes Scott, Jack, John and Walter to the cadre of judges.

Wade and Carol Gray’s CRHC (fd) CH Locust Grove Rage Repeats.

Rainy weather, good game conditioning and superb hounds combined to make another memorable PA State Speed & Drive Field Trail, with Locust Grove Rage repeating her 2009 win of the event. David Wride did a great job serving as Master of Hounds.

A sincere thank you to the following judges: Dick Bednarczyk, Kipp Adcock, David Hall, Cas Bonczewski, Roy Rosenbaum, Ron Cole, Ron and Scott Davis, Jim Rogers, Kevin McCloskey, Walter Vosefski, Dave Susz, David Wride and Tim Carr. 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 the folks behind the scenes. Sometimes we forget to give the credit to those who work the hardest during our field trial. They cooked, cleaned, sold merchandise, set up the booths, tore them down and performed a countless number of other tasks.

They are: Martin Carr Jr., Gerry Ross, and Michael Jaskulski.

We are also grateful to those who donated salads and a wide variety of spectacular baked goods.

We are ever grateful to our faithful sponsor: Prowler-Quick Track.

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). CRHC (fd) CH Locust Grove Rage –Locust Grove Spud x Solly H.D. Jade, Springs Kennels, Laceyville, PA
- 2). NBC Speed Lightnin - S&R Scooby Doo x NBC Izzy, NBC Kennels, Lockport, NY
- 3). NBC Squirrel - S&R Scooby Doo x Creekside Julie), NBC Kennels, Lockport NY
- 4). B&C Roger - East Coast Holiday x Hunt’s Fly, B&C Kennels, Meshoppen, PA
- 5). B&C Grey Boy - Hammerin Down Ace x Peeble’s Dolly, B&C Kennels, Meshoppen, PA
- 6). NBC Whitey - S&R Scooby Doo x NBC Izzy, NBC Kennels, Lockport NY
- 7). Cascade Black Widow - Hemphill’s Crazy Horse X Cascade Sassy, Frank Hall, Moravia, NY
- 8). Rock & Roll Razer - Jay’s Top Ten x Miss Louisiana, Tim Parmeter, Lisbon, NY
- 9). Rock & Roll Mari - Gunstock Casper X Winchester’s Mabel, Tim Parmeter, Lisbon, NY
- 10). B&C Flake II - Bonavita’s Flake x Smith’s Termite, B&C Kennels, Meshoppen, PA

“Foxhunter’s Rights” Brochure Being Distributed to all Members

Enclosed with this issue, members will find our newly revised “Foxhunter’s Rights” brochure. The brochure is designed to serve as a resource in the event you may be the victim of an unfortunate experience such as having a hound shot, collar removed or hunt disrupted.

Members who currently hunt outside are encouraged to retain the brochure in their hunting vehicle, knapsack or suitable safe place for ready reference.

A Word about Field Trial Numbers

Probably the most discouraging aspect of judging field trials occurs when our judges observe fine hounds doing good things but the judges are unable to read their numbers. In addition to insufficiently prepared numbers, factors like wet weather, muddy conditions, and low light due to canopy cover or fog can also play a role.

It is our belief that red, brown and lemon hounds are at the greatest disadvantage.

It is the consensus of our judges, as well as many judges from other states, that the best numbering practice would show white numbers on a good dyed black blanket. If you are a field trial competitor, you owe it to yourself and your hounds to optimize their potential for placing in an event by having the best numbering practice possible.

In essence, we offer this recommendation:

- Black dyed blanket – sizeable.
- 6 inch stencils, numbers painted extra wide (unless hound is too small).
- Sherwin Williams White Lacquer paint #L61 - W34
- “Second coat” numbers if the initial coat is light.

In the event that your hounds are completely white sided (no lemon or other markings), black numbers might suffice. If the numbering system described above is new to you and you wish to discuss any nuances, feel free to call Vice President Ron Cole or Director Roy Rosenbaum – they will be delighted to assist you.

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 50 % of our membership. 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.