# PRESIDENT’S REPORT

**March 2015**

I attended the Pennsylvania Game Commission Board meeting on January 25 in Harrisburg to represent the trappers. The PTA testified to support the proposed otter season for February 2016. The commissioners gave preliminary approval for a 3 day trapping only season that could be extended up to 5 additional consecutive days. The season would be open only in WMU 3C & 3D. Trappers would have to purchase a permit and would be limited to 1 otter. All beaver and otter trappers in the WMU’s with an open otter season would be limited to 5 trapping devices and no more than 2 may be body gripping traps. All other regulations that apply to beaver trappers would need to be followed by otter trappers along with a mandatory harvest report within 24 hours. For more information read Barry’s P.R. report.

The PGC and the PTA worked together to reconcile our differences with Cable Restraint locks. At the recent commissioner’s meeting regulation change better defined relaxing locks as approved locks that have tested favorably in the BMP testing. This action should remove the varying interpretations between the trappers and law enforcement. For your information, two trappers and techs have just concluded the trapping portion of a BMP study on two additional locks and if results are favorable we look forward to the PGC adding these lock to their list of approved locks.

The last item I presented to the commissioner was in regards to exposed bait. We look forward to dialog with the PGC to define a distance we all can accept. Currently the regulation has no defined distance which leads to varying interpretation between the trappers and law enforcement.

The Pennsylvania Trappers Association would like to thank Commissioner Ralph Martone for his service to the trappers by serving on the PGC board of commissioner. Next time you see Ralph remember to thank him.

I would like to remind everyone **2015 IS AN ELECTION YEAR:** Please contact me for more information or send your resumes to Tom Lane. For more information see Tom’s Election Chairman Report.

I would like to thank everyone that helped at the Great American Outdoor Show in Harrisburg. It takes a large amount of volunteers to man a nine day show but the interaction with the public makes it all worth it. We just completed the Early Bird Show in Bloomsburg, and have several other shows in the future. Visit our website for events and contact the chairman to help at a booth.

Did you plan your vacation time for the PTA Rendezvous in June at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds?

Our next state officer and directors meeting is March 7 in Clearfield.

**Brian Mohn**