**PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT**

**OUR IMAGE IS OUR FUTURE**

 For a decade or more the PTA has been encouraging the PA Game Commission to establish a river otter season. Our knowledge, through our personal observations, gave us the assurance of a healthy and expanding otter population.

 As a result of an extensive PGC study of PA’s river otter population and its resurgence, the commissioners, at their January 2015 meeting, indicated support for a restricted season. Hopefully, this support will be confirmed at their April 2015 meeting.

 It is critically important that we continue to take every measure possible to avoid incidental captures of river otters. As we have encouraged in the past, trigger placement and configuration on body-gripping traps, and proper trap location can be critical in this avoidance. Regardless of the measures we take to avoid incidental captures, incidents may still take place. If an incident does take place it is incumbent upon us to report this capture to the PGC. We have arrived at this junction of otter management, not only through our efforts, but additionally through extensive support and hard work by a number of dedicated agency biologists. It is our responsibility to provide all data possible to support their efforts.