



The ONLY Sportsmen's Organization
Representing SPORTSMEN on Capitol Hill



On Target

The Official Publication of the PFSC
March/April 2019

Pollinators Need Our Help
Story on Page 35

Providing leadership and advocacy for the enhancement of our fish and wildlife resources.
Ensuring the protection and advancement of our outdoor heritage, natural resources and
2nd Amendment Rights.



On Target

PFSC On Target March/April 2019

PFSC Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Denny Fillmore
Cumberland County

VICE PRESIDENT EAST

Chuck Lombaerde
Pike County

VICE PRESIDENT WEST

Vacant

TREASURER

Lowell Graybill
Lancaster County

SECRETARY

Mike Zenzel
Columbia County

IMMEDIATE PAST

PRESIDENT

John Ord
Susquehanna County

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Mary Hosmer
Elk County

STATE WIDE ORGANIZATIONS

PA Chapter NWTF

Brenda Beal

PA Trappers Association

Todd Strohecker

Pheasants Forever

Kent Adams

United Bowhunters of PA

Wes Waldron

PA Flyers Association

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Josh First
Dauphin County

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Chet Krcil
Washington County

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

Mike Topping
Northampton County

SOUTHCENTRAL DIVISION

Vacant

NORTHWEST DIVISION

Mark Crabb
Crawford County

NORTHCENTRAL DIVISION

Phil Labant
Elk County

NORTHEAST DIVISION

Bob Banks
Lackawanna County

CENTRAL DIVISION

Gary Lewis
Montour County

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT

AFFAIRS

John Kline

PFSC OFFICE MANAGER

Susan Hughes

The official registration and financial information of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

The mission of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists, Inc. is to protect and conserve Pennsylvania's natural resources, outdoor heritage and 2nd Amendment Rights.



Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists, Inc. (PFSC)

2426 North Second St
Harrisburg, PA 17110

717-232-3480

fax: 717-231-3524

info@pfsc.org

www.pfsc.org

Editor

Melody Schell

editor@pfsc.org

On Target, the official publication of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists, Inc., is published 6 times a year, and distributed to all PFSC affiliated club Presidents, Secretaries, and Delegates from each affiliated club and organization, and individual members. For club or organization membership information, contact PFSC as listed above.

Formed in 1932, PFSC is Pennsylvania's oldest and largest conservation organization.

PFSC welcomes stories, art, and photographic contributions. We will consider, but assume no responsibility for unsolicited proposals, manuscripts, art, or photographs.

Advertising inquiries should be directed to PFSC at the above address, phone number or email.

In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, any copyrighted work in this publication is distributed under fair use without profit or payment to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving this information for non-profit research and educational purposes only.

No portion of this magazine may be reproduced without written permission from PFSC.

© Copyright 2019.

Ads and individual writer's views may not necessarily represent the mission or views of PFSC.

Cover Photo:

This wildflower plot is only in its second growing season and already the colors are abundant. Plots like these make great backyard projects and also benefit local pollinators. Read more about pollinators on page 35. Photos by Stefan Karkuff, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist





ENCOURAGING THE
CONSERVATION
 OF OUR WILD
 FURBEARING RESOURCES
 www.patrappers.com



PENNSYLVANIA BOBCAT TRAPPING PART 1 – LOCATION

By: Todd Strohecker, PTA Vice President - East

**Be Responsible!
 Be Respectful!
 Be Ethical!**

The 2000-2001 furtaking season was a milestone for Pennsylvania trappers and hunters. For the first time in many years, furtakers could legally harvest the Keystone State's only wild felid - the bobcat. The bobcat season brought a new excitement to trapping. Avid trappers were eager to catch their first bobcat but the new season also sparked an interest folks who had never trapped before or may have trapped in their youth but had their traps hung up for years. Trapping is alive and well in Pennsylvania and trappers can thank the bobcat for being such an integral part in promoting this new interest.



trapper is to rely of your woodsmen skills and keep things simple.

So the lure of catching a 'cat has peaked your interest? While trapping this feline predator is not exactly easy it is surely a feat a beginning trapper can accomplish if they are dedicated to doing so. The best advice I can give to a beginning bobcat

trapper is to rely of your woodsmen skills and keep things simple. The first step to 'cat trapping success is identifying locations where bobcats frequent. Location is so very important in trapping any species but also applies to hunting and fishing as well. It is said that 10 percent of hunters and anglers take 90 percent of the game. I believe that statement is pretty close to reality and, in my opinion, much of the success of that 10 per-

cent can be attributed to the fact that they understand best where to find the highest concentrations of their quarry.

Show me a successful rabbit hunter and I can assure you that that individual will be quite adept at picking out optimal bobcat habitat. Bobcats spend a lot of time near thick cover so it shouldn't surprise anyone that cottontail rabbit is high on the list of the 'cat's favorite prey species. Here in the farm country of east central PA, bobcats can be found in any large wooded tract, ridge, or hollow. The wooded habitats that have been recently timbered and have abundant ground cover, tree tops, and briar patches move far to the top of the list as premium bobcat habitats. This same type of cover makes excellent bobcat habitat in the big woods country of Pennsylvania's northern counties as well. Don't overlook low lying wet areas, creek bottoms, beaver ponds, and swamps - especially in late winter. A good rabbit hunter knows that during late winter during periods of snow cover, the creek bottoms become a mecca for birds, rabbits, and other small mammals. And similar to the upland locations, the thicker the cover the better for bobcats.

Locating optimal habitat is the key to finding areas where bobcats live. Once a trapper has keyed in on the "catty" areas their next hurdle is pinpointing exact locations in that area where the chances of a bobcat encountering their traps is greatest. Two features that most successful trappers are adept at finding are travelways and pinch points.

Travelways are simply landscape features that guide animals over long distances. An obvious example of a travelway would be a dirt road or trail in the



PENNSYLVANIA TRAPPERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

DONNA SPITTLE
 P.O. Box 708
 Hummelstown, PA 17036
 (717) 239-9267

CHECK ONE
 New
 Renewal



Regular	Including Monthly Official Publication.....	\$30.00
Regular	No Publication.....	\$10.00
Junior	No Publication, Age 16 and Under.....	\$5.00
Lifetime	Includes Plaque, Card, Patch & Publication.....	\$500.00
Lifetime	No Publication.....	\$250.00
Senior Lifetime	Membership with Publication - 65 Years and older.....	\$250.00
Senior Lifetime	No Publication.....	\$200.00

Arm Patch (\$4.00) • Car Decal (\$1.25) • Camo or Tan T-Shirt (\$15.00*) • Hats (\$15.00*)
 * Please add \$3.00 shipping and handling for each Hat and each T-Shirt

I am enclosing _____ to pay for one year's membership in P.T.A. and I will work with your organization to bring about trapping laws that are fair to all and better conditions for all trappers in Pennsylvania.

Name _____ Age _____
 Street _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ County _____ District _____
 Phone _____

Effective 1/1/2014 Please Print Legibly

woods. It is easier for an animal to travel along the clear path of the road verses moving through the woods itself. If multiple travelways intersect or cross, the chances are increased that an animal will pass by that location. Some examples of travelways that a bobcat trapper should keep in mind are drainages, waterways, steep ridges, powerlines, highways, railroad tracks, and edge habitat where one type of cover changes to another. Edge habitats are very important to the big woods trapper.

Pinch points are two intersecting features which funnel bobcat travel to a relatively narrow path. Bottomland areas along creeks are excellent places to locate pinch points. Where the creek changes course and parallels a high bank or ridge usually creates a good pinch point. 'Cats are funneled from the flat bottomland to the point where the creek meets the high bank which significantly narrows the travelway. Even patches of heavy cover that come together to narrow a travelway act as a pinch

point and, more often than not, there is a heavily used game trail at these types of locations. In areas where a body of water is dictating animal travel, a crossing feature such as a beaver dam or log crossing could be considered a pinch point that will funnel bobcats.

Experienced trappers have become quite proficient at looking over the landscape and pinpointing good locations to catch animals. But the surest way to know the location is going to be productive is

to get out there and scout for sign. Snow will teach a trapper more than any book or video ever could. Look for evidence that a bobcat or bobcats are coming through regularly. Multiple sets of tracks and better yet multiple sets of different aged tracks tell a trapper that that location is one that bobcats frequent. Older tracks in snow will often be "melted out" and look larger, and not as defined as fresh ones.

As a beginner bobcat trapper, first seek out multiple areas with good 'cat habitat. Within those areas of good habitat key in on physical features that will guide animal travel and verify the presence of bobcats by scouting for sign. The correct choosing of trap locations is the largest hurdle in achieving success as a bobcat trapper.

Coming next:
Part 2 - Equipment & Sets
PTA



PENNSYLVANIA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

State Banquet

Hosted by PTA District #4



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

All Outdoorsmen, Women, and Children Welcome!

Saturday, March 23, 2019

The Red Fern Banquet and Conference Center

421 Old Kersey Rd. Kersey, PA 15846

www.the-red-fern.com

Doors Open at 4:30 pm

Dinner Served at 6:00 pm

You're invited!!! Come out for an evening of games, raffles, auction, food and good ol' fashion fun. There will be many prizes from traps to guns. Bring the whole family; there will also be prizes for the kids and ladies!!

**Banquet Tickets are \$30 per person OR \$50 per couple
Children 12 and under FREE**

For more information or to order tickets please contact:

Rob Daniels

169 Benzinger Rd, St. Marys, PA 15857

814-781-6664

HOTELS IN THE AREA:

Holiday Inn Express

195 Comfort Ln.

St. Marys, PA 15857

814-834-2030

1.1 miles for the Red Fern

Best Western Plus

1002 Earth Rd.

St. Marys, PA 15857

814-834-0000

1 mile from the Red Fern

Cobblestone Inn and Suites

328 Depot St.

St. Marys, PA 15857

814-245-2020

3.1 miles from the Red Fern

Pollinators Need Our Help

by Stefan Karkuff, PF Farm Bill Biologist

Bees and butterflies are nature's most efficient pollinators, moving pollen between flowers, allowing plants to reproduce. Nearly 85% of the world's flowering plants require pollinators for reproduction, and approximately 1/3 of the food and beverages we consume require the presence of a pollinator. But in recent years we've witnessed major declines in many species. Honeybee numbers have plummeted as a result of pests, disease, and colony-collapse syndrome, where entire populations die or disappear. Monarch butterflies have declined by 80% over the past 20 years and are being considered for the Endangered Species List. These commonly recognized species are just the tip of the iceberg, as many other species face the same plight. One reason for these declines is disappearing pollinator habitat. Urban and suburban sprawl, perfectly manicured lawns, clean farming, and roadways maintained as grass have all reduced the presence of flowering plants favored by bees and butterflies. These human impacts on the natural landscape will likely continue, so what can we do to help?

Planting native wildflowers is a great way to help our pollinators. Even a few hundred square feet of wildflowers can boost the local food supply, creating a one-stop shop for all their food needs. Insects of all types are attracted to these plots, which attracts birds and small mammals that feed on insects. Planting wildflowers also adds a dash of color to an otherwise dull landscape. The aesthetic beauty of wildflowers is reason enough for

most people to plant them. The added benefits for wildlife is icing on the cake. With a little TLC anyone can start a wildflower plot. Here are a helpful few tips for getting your own plot established:

1. Site prep is critical:

Wildflowers benefit greatly from reduced competition in the first year. If planting into an existing lawn, kill the grass prior to planting. An herbicide spray in fall or spring prior to seeding is an effective method. Organic herbicides are available if you are hesitant to use chemicals.



Common Milkweed is the most important food source for Monarchs. It is the only plant that the caterpillars will eat as they develop into adult butterflies.



Black-eyed Susans are a native perennial that will bloom all summer long and will provide color in the first growing season

2. Improve seed-soil contact:

Spreading seed onto existing sod will have reduced success. The goal is to get the seed into the soil. The use of a rake, rototill, or disk prior to planting will bring soil to the surface for improved seed germination. Be aware this may expose some weed seed that could germinate with your wildflowers

3. Mow the first year:

During the first growing season expect to see some weeds competing



with your wildflowers. Reduce weed competition by trimming weeds as they appear. Mow to a height no less than 10" to avoid clipping wildflowers. This will thin out weed competition the first growing season and reduce their seed dispersal. This means a better looking pollinator plot in years to come.

4. Plant native perennials:

Native perennial wildflowers come back year after year and have higher pollinator value than the non-native flowers sold at garden stores. Planting some annuals is good for color in the first growing season, but perennials will ultimately dominate after establishing a good root system, and this is what you want.

Growing wildflowers is site specific. Factors such as moisture, sunlight, and deer pressure will determine which species will grow. If you are unsure what mix to use, below is a list of species that tend to grow well across a variety of landscapes in Pennsylvania:

Black-eyed Susan, Maximilian Sunflower, Partridge Pea (annual), Cosmos (annual), Lanceleaf Coreopsis, Common Milkweed, Purple Coneflower, Wild Bergamot, Cornflower (annual).

Within a year, a small plot of unused lawn can be buzzing with life as bees, butterflies, and other insects take advantage of newly established wildflowers. Aesthetic beauty, pollinator habitat, and year-round cover for birds and small mammals makes pollinator plots a win across the board for outdoor enthusiasts.

PF

PA Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists, Inc
2426 North Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-1104

www.pfsc.org

Non Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 830
Harrisburg, PA

Or Current Resident

Pollinators Need our Help
Story on page 35

