



The ONLY Sportsmen's Organization  
Representing SPORTSMEN on Capitol Hill

## PFSC Welcomes Executive Director Harold Daub



The Official Publication of the PFSC  
May/June 2019

On the Front Lines, So You Can Be In the Woods, On the Water or At the Range



# n Target

PFSC On Target May/June 2019

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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.



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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.

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### Cover Photo:

Brielle Gleason, 8, Franklin Co., hooked a 19 inch rainbow trout during the Mentored Youth Fishing Day March 30. She's with her proud dad, Stephen. They were fishing along the Conococheague Creek. The fish wasn't hooked real well, and dropped off the line just as she landed it. Luckily her uncle Jeremy Fritz was nearby cheering her on and was able to grab it and throw it up the bank before it escaped back into the water. Brielle was over the moon excited with her catch!



# PFSC's ED Corner

by Harold Daub  
dauber@pfsc.org

## My Dream Job

When I am asked, "how many years have you been hunting in Pennsylvania?" I honestly answer, "since before I was born."

In early December of 1960, my mother, B. Marie Daub, was hunting with her brothers Rollie, Ben, and Carl Machamer in Weiser State Forest, near Williamstown, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. She was concealing a secret due to the fact she was afraid her brothers wouldn't allow her to go along hunting if they knew - I was there too.

Growing up in the 60's and 70's in the small town of Muir, Schuylkill County, my best childhood friends and I spent most days doing something outdoors. My grandparents owned a farm in the Tower City area, which included a typical farm pond. A perfect place for kids to recreate by swimming, fishing or doing both on hot summer days. I miss those days floating on an innertube, fishing rod supported between my toes, waiting for that channel cat to bite.

I am very proud of my outdoor heri-

tage and passion to protect our wildlife, wild places, and our Second Amendment rights. I believe all three are equally important.

That's why I am a lifetime member of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen and Conservationists. I understand the need for a full-time presence in the halls of our Capitol in Harrisburg, with a focus on promoting and protecting Pennsylvania's conservation efforts.

To now be chosen as the next Executive Director of PFSC is an honor. This is truly my dream job. I'm am so excited to have been at the right place and time for this to happen.

I want to assure all PFSC members that I am up to the task at hand. I know this is not going to be an easy undertaking. We have many challenges facing conservation today.

With the baby boomer generation aging, we have to optimize our recruitment of the next big generation...the millennials.



Our organization [PFSC] needs to adjust to our modern 'at a glance' society.

I view conservationists as individual sticks littering the forest floor, easily broken as an individual. But collected into a bundle, those individual sticks become strong and unbreakable.

I will be providing leadership to create a strong Federation, so powerful that our legislators ask us how to provide proper solutions [laws] when needed and remove barriers when identified through proper legislation. At the same time, lawmakers need to be educated to also allow conservation regulations to prevail from our resource agencies whenever possible and not be dictated by politics, emotion and personal agendas. Nimble, quickly adjusted regulations are going to be the most effective solutions to some of the most concerning issues we face today.

Pennsylvania is a blessed place we are privileged to call home. Whether we hunt, fish, shoot, hike, bike, or ride horses, we need to be thankful for the public lands that are so easily accessible to all Pennsylvanians and the dedicated private landowners throughout the commonwealth.

I am ready to represent you, bringing your voice and my passion to bear on those important sportsmen and conservation issues that affect so many of us.

**PFSC**



*PFSC ED Harold Daub with PGC ED & Commissioners following PFSC's testimony on the proposed Rifle Deer season Saturday opener. Left to right: PGC ED Burhans, Commissioners Daley, Fredericks, and Mitrick, Harold Daub, Commissioners Layton, Fox, Hoover, and Knick.*



# Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists, Inc.

## Sportsmen Working for Sportsmen

[www.pfsc.org](http://www.pfsc.org)

**F**or over 86 years, the PFSC has been the sportsmen's advocate in Harrisburg. We are the only sportsmen's group in the state with a full-time lobbyist looking out for your interests and the interests of our natural resources.

And we have a long-time record of successfully protecting hunting, fishing, trapping, conservation and 2nd Amendment rights in Pennsylvania.

Our members are hunters, trappers, archers, anglers, boaters, gun owners, dog owners, and conservationists. PFSC represents all sportsmen and sportswomen's interests to make sure you can pursue what you are passionate about!



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**Individual memberships include:**

- Regular email "news" updates
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- Voting representation at PFSC meetings through your "at large" representative

Club & Chapter memberships are also encouraged. The more voices we have, the louder we speak.

**Check appropriate membership level**  
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## PENNSYLVANIA BOBCAT TRAPPING PART 2 – EQUIPMENT AND SETS

By: Todd Strohecker, PTA Vice President - East

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

The vast number of traps, lures, baits, tools, and other gadgets available to the modern trapper can be overwhelming to a beginner when trying to determine what equipment is vital in their quest to catch their first bobcat. Anyone who has paged through one of the various trapping supply catalogs or attended a trapper's rendezvous can vouch to the sheer number of gadgets used in the trapping trade. A new 'cat trapper can keep their costs to a minimum by purchasing only the necessities and sticking to simple, proven sets.

The trap to a trapper is the equivalent of a gun to a hunter or a rod to an angler. There are many good traps available on today's market. For bobcats, I prefer foothold models with a 6" outside jawspread (jawspread is the measurement of the open jaws when the trap is in the set position). Some of the #2 sized traps and many of the #3s will fall into this size category. Each

trap company interprets sizes differently, so one company's #2 could be quite a bit larger than another's. The only way to know for certain is to measure jawspread. Several coil spring foothold traps which I consider good bobcat traps (coyote and red fox, too) are the Bridger #2, Duke #3, Sleepy Creek #3, and Victor #3. These traps come in regular jaw and offset (gapped jaw) versions, and either will be fine for bobcat trapping. The above listed traps are also of simple, proven designs which a beginning trapper can easily master adjusting and setting.

Trap adjustment and treatment does not have to be complicated for bobcat trapping. The post where the dog pivots should be bent (with a large pliers) outward to raise the pan or inward to lower it. The goal is to have the pan level with the jaws and only needs to be depressed a minimal distance from this point before the trap fires. The pan bolt should be tightened to

the point where the pan falls up and down freely with no side-to-side wobble. The pan notch can also be squared up with a small file if needed. After adjustment, new traps should be degreased, and a simple way to do so is to soak for a few days in a solution of water and a degreaser. Degreasers can be found in the automotive section of most retailers. After the soak, the traps should be rinsed with a high pressure sprayer for best results. There are many options if one chooses to treat their traps. The benefit to doing so is it will keep them from rusting and prolong the life of your equipment. Bobcats are not scent shy, so many trappers simply paint their traps with a few light coats of spray paint.

The 'cat trapper also needs the proper anchoring equipment. Many trappers who set in open areas use two rebar stakes 18"-24" in length and pound them in at opposite angles. Trappers call this cross staking and it's necessary to keep large animals like coyotes from pulling stakes. The woods trapper has some other options. One can anchor to a tree using cable, chain, or by securing the trap chain to a tree root with a large fence staple. In areas with heavy cover, solid anchoring is not needed if the trapper uses a grappling hook and long chain. For large predators such as bobcats, 8-12' of chain will help the animal tangle up faster and close to the set area.

Now the 'cat trapper needs something to entice their quarry to their sets. There are many commercially produced baits and lures that are suitable for bobcat trapping. If you plan to buy some lures, bobcat gland lures, beaver castor lure, and red fox urine are proven attractors for bobcats. There are commercial baits on the market as well, but

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most trappers choose meat or even fish for bait. Beaver meat, muskrat meat, and even raccoon meat has been proven effective. Fresh or canned fish work as well. We all know how cats love fish.

Trapping methods for bobcats (or any furbearer for that matter) can be narrowed down to two types of trap sets - - baited sets and blind sets. Baited sets are simply lure or bait placed in a manner so that the animal must cross over the trap to reach the attractor. It is best to place the bait in a hole or cubby to guide the animal to investigate it from the side the trap is placed. A dirthole set is very common, and it is simply an angled hole dug into the ground

with a trap placed in front of it and blended in with dirt or ground debris. One can use a hollow log or build a cubby from branches or rocks to provide the same effect as the hole. Blind sets require a trapper to know the path of the animal they are pursuing. A trap is set and placed in a trail and camouflaged and no bait or lure is used. Good places to make blind sets for bobcats are log crossings over creeks. A very important point when 'cat trapping in late winter is to keep any covering over the trap very sparse. It is very disheartening to check a trap where



a bobcat visited but did not fire because it was frozen in or too much debris covering was used.

Bobcat trapping is quite popular with Pennsylvania outdoorsmen and women these days. Many folks have been introduced to the craft of trapping for the first time because of their desire to harvest a 'cat. If you seek out areas of good bobcat habitat, choose wise trap locations, and construct simple sets that work in all weather conditions, you, too, can successfully harvest Penn's Wood's wily feline predator.

*PTA*

## Rendezvous Time!

The Pennsylvania Trapper's Association (PTA), the oldest trapping organization in the country, began back in 1937 when a group of Pennsylvania trappers gathered to form an association that not only provided a unified group, but would also promote and protect trapping for the future. These forward thinking trappers had their annual membership meetings at a rendezvous, probably named after the trapper and fur traders rendezvous from the past century. What started as a meeting, has now turned into one of the largest trapper's events in the country. The annual rendezvous has been held every year since the start in 1937 except for a brief 3 year period during World War II. The Pa. Trapper's Association is made up of 11 districts, each comprised of between 5 and 7 counties. Each year, a district bids to host the event, so the rendezvous moves to different locations around the state. Each bid is placed 2 years prior to the rendezvous date so that a district has time to plan for such an event. If you've never attended a trapper's rendezvous, I'll try to explain what goes on there.

This year's rendezvous, our 82nd annual, will take place on June 27-29, at the Washington County Fairgrounds, in Washington Pa. During the three days of the event, the schedule will be full of things to see or do. Many people come for the whole show and camping, both primitive and with hook ups for RV's is available. Washington is also home to many hotels if you'd like your camping to be a little more modern. Gate admission to the rendezvous is \$5 per day, or \$10 for the whole show.

One of the biggest draws at the rendezvous is the vendors. One can pick up any of their supplies from the many indoor vendors selling

their wares. The chance to look at not only new but any products you're not completely familiar with makes this a very popular venue. The fact of not paying shipping on your supply order also makes it a worthwhile choice for shopping. Almost everything one could need will be here in the indoor vendors, but there will also be the popular tailgate section. The outdoor tailgaters will have anything and everything also for sale (Or trade, we are trappers after all) Just picture a giant flea market with not only new and used trapping or hunting supplies, but practically anything else that may end up for sale.

The trapping demonstrations are another huge draw at the rendezvous. Education is a key component of the Pa. Trapper's Association. Trappers from not only Pennsylvania, but all across the country will be putting on demonstrations in their area of expertise. Regardless of what you'd like to target, there will be a chance to learn and better yourself. Each demo lasts for one hour, and they are scheduled just about every hour of the event. Many people plan their day or days of attendance, along with vacation time, according to the demo list. Besides the trapping demos, both Fur Harvesters Auction and North American Fur Auctions will be doing demonstrations on pelt handling throughout every day of the rendezvous. These demos also draw a big crowd for anyone wanting to better themselves in the fur handling phase.

The PTA's annual live auction will be held Friday evening after the vendor buildings close. As with the tailgate section, you never know what will end up on the auction block. Being one of the bigger fund raisers of the event, sometimes there is spirited bidding on some items, but one can always find something that

you just can't do without.

During the course of the entire rendezvous, there will be several women's and kid's events going on. All are welcome and the PTA tries to make sure that there is something going on for just about everyone. On Saturday, both the kids and adult trap setting contests will be held. The popular mountain man race will also be held Saturday. This is an original Pa Trapper's event that has been going on as long as I remember. During the mountain man race, the district directors run the race against each other. The events of the race are a secret until the start of the event, but usually include many obstacles. Since the course and event changes every year, nobody can really prepare for the race in advance. There are usually many laughs during the mountain man race, mostly from the spectators and not the participants!

The PTA general membership meeting will also be held Saturday afternoon.

This year, special guest Troy Landry, from the TV show "Swamp People" will be here on Saturday afternoon to visit. Troy is a great supporter of not only trapping, but the entire outdoor lifestyle we all enjoy.

We're hoping to see you in Washington Pa. this June for the Pennsylvania Trapper's association's 82nd annual rendezvous. The PTA website, [Patrappers.com](http://Patrappers.com), will have all of the information on the rendezvous listed. The event is approaching quickly and things are getting added to the list almost daily. If you'll be traveling to the rendezvous, while visiting the southwestern corner of the state, try visiting the Washington County site for things to see and places to go.

- Dave Eckels

*PTA*

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| Jameson's Ultrablend                  | Trapper Paul's Supply House          |
| Jim Mindler                           | Trapper's World                      |
| Joe Goodman                           |                                      |

**DEMONSTRATIONS**

(List subject to change)

Thursday, June 27	Friday, June 28	Saturday, June 27
8:00 Jack Bartram Muskrats	8:00 Don Powell Mink	8:00 Michael White Fisher
9:00 Douglas Chubb Cable Restraints	9:00 Kendall Obermeir Coyote	9:00 Rusty Johnson Predators
10:00 TBA	10:00 Karen Stewart Linkhart Canoe Trapping / Getting your Lady to go trapping with you	10:00 Jeff Dunlap Beaver / Otter
11:00 Bob Jameson Bobcats	11:00 TBA	11:00 Ed Schneider Walk Through Flat Sets
Noon Autumn McEntee DP's	Noon Lesel Reuwsaat Predators	Noon Matt Kauffman Raccoon
1:00 Scott Painter Otters	1:00 Mark Zagger Coyotes	2:00 TBA
2:00 TBA	2:00 Andrew Hyd Raccoon	3:00 Jim Pierson Coyote
3:00 Leroy Renno Multi Species Land Set	3:00 Butch Barhorst Coyote	
4:00 Barry Warner Beaver Snaring	4:00 John Wilkinson Beaver	
5:00 Todd Strohecker Fox	5:00 Harry Nestell Coyote	



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