

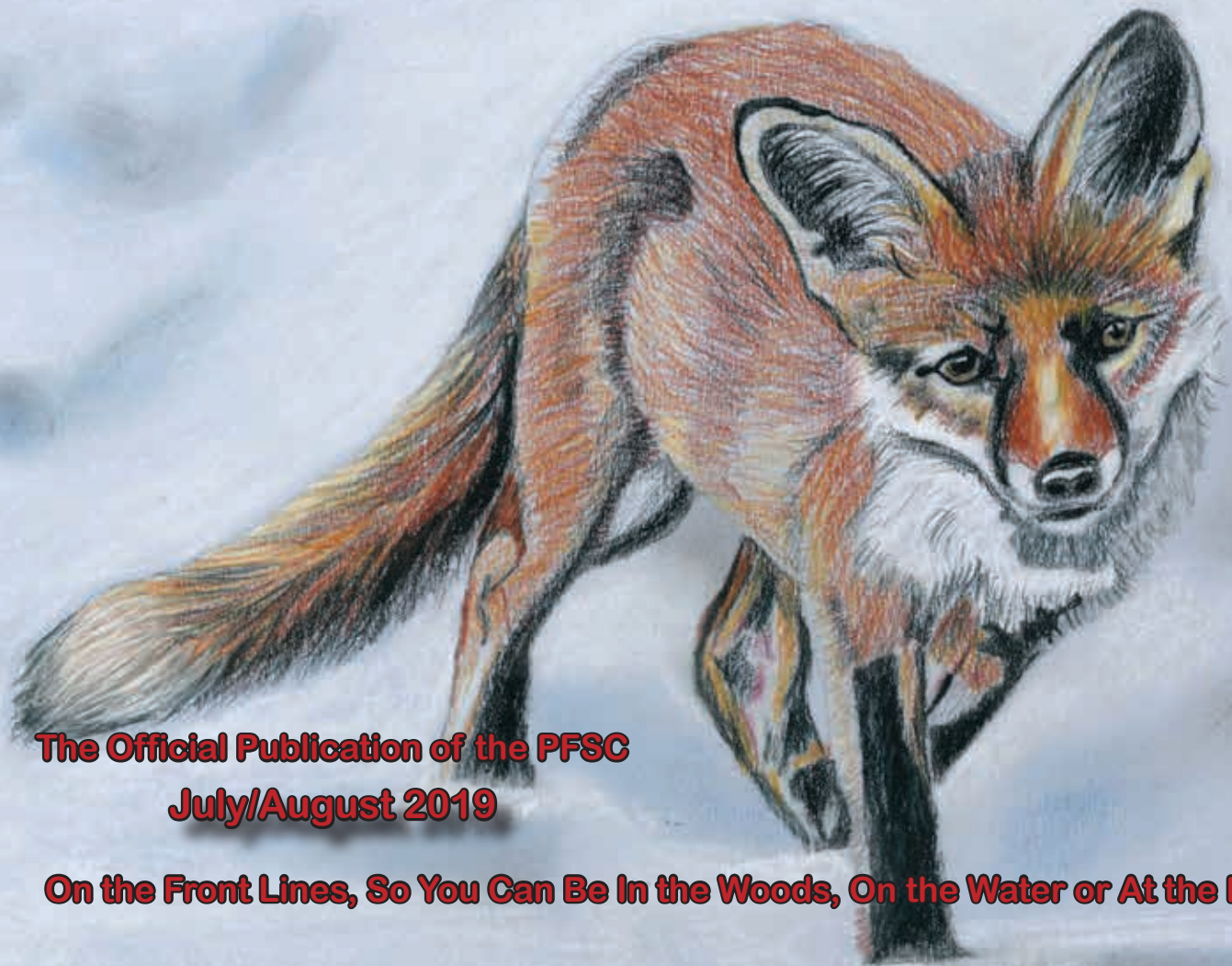
PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION



SPORTSMEN & CONSERVATIONISTS

# First

# Encounters



**The Official Publication of the PFSC**

**July/August 2019**

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



# On Target

PFSC On Target July/August 2019

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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.

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### Cover Photo:

Senior 1st Place  
Poster Contest  
winner Adric  
Howell of Pot-  
ter County. See  
all the poster  
winners start-  
ing on page 18.







## Proposal to Standardize Beaver Snare & Cable Restraint Locks

By: Barry Warner, PTA PR Director

We have received inquiries relative to our support for the proposed regulation change for beaver snare locks. When the original regulations were approved for beaver snares and cable restraints, both regulations required a release or relaxing type lock.

Unfortunately, this wording left the selection to interpretation and judgment. A great deal of misunderstanding and disagreement resulted in locks being used that did not meet this critical requirement.

Due to this serious misunderstanding or disregard, and thanks to the BMP testing done on behalf of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Pennsyl-

vania Game Commission selected six locks to be exclusively approved for use with cable restraints.

It is unfortunate this approval did not cover



both devices at that time, but the proposal would now correct this oversight. With the approval of this regulation change, the six approved locks for cable restraints would now be the only approved locks for beaver snares.

The bottom line, individuals continue to use locks on beaver snares that are not, and never have been legal. These illegal locks, in the wrong circumstances, could not only create injurious situations reflecting on all trappers, but could cause us to lose this valuable tool.

The regulations for beaver snares and cable restraints were created after considerable testing and concern for their proper use. Once again, if these tools are not used properly, we could lose them in a heartbeat.

For more information, relative to BMP testing of snares, cable restraints, and other trapping devices, visit the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies web page: [www.fishwildlife.org/](http://www.fishwildlife.org/)

PTA

### PENNSYLVANIA TRAPPERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

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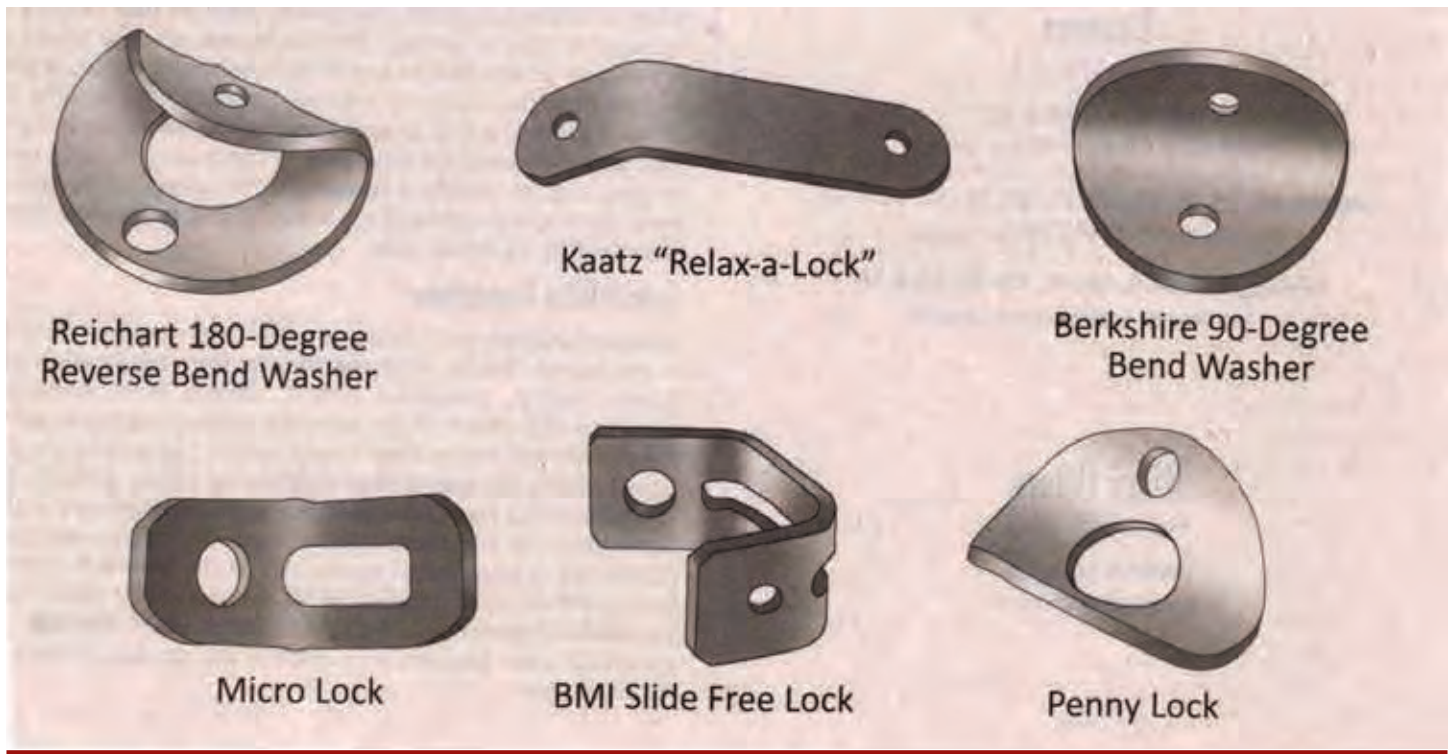
I am enclosing \_\_\_\_\_ to pay for one year's membership in P.T.A. and I will work with your organization to bring about trapping laws that are fair to all and better conditions for all trappers in Pennsylvania.

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**Effective 1/1/2014**      **Please Print Legibly**

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

## Proposed Standard Locks for Beaver Snares & Cable Restraints



### Wild Turkey West Nile Research Project Continued from page 30

turkey nesting habitat (e.g., agency foresters, NWTf volunteers), of the research project and the need for wild turkey eggs that have not begun incubation. Nest searching started in early April and field-collection of eggs concluded a few days after the opening of spring turkey season. Principle investigators asked for a quota of 80 eggs and fortunately, we were able to make that happen using a combination of pre-incubated and incubated eggs found by agency partners and volunteers on private and public lands. Collected eggs will be incubated and chicks reared in captivity from hatch in a mosquito-proof enclosure and will be housed in animal facilities at the University of Georgia (UGA) and provided an artificial heat source, constant supply of commercial diet, and clean water.

Once hatched, two age classes of wild turkey poults (3-week old and 10-week old) will be delineated for clinical analysis of morbidity and mortality. Half the birds in each age class will be inoculated with WNV and the



other half inoculated with a sham inoculum (placebo). 3-week age class was chosen to replicate young poults susceptibility early in WNV summer season or 2nd clutches at a vulnerable age. 10-week age class was chosen to replicate older poults susceptibility in late summer when poult immune system is more developed and WNV transmission is higher (more mosquitoes).

Following experimental infection, birds will be monitored twice daily for clinical signs of disease and bled, swabbed (oral and cloacal cavities), and weighed daily for up to 7 days post-inoculation (DPI) and euthanized on 14 DPI. Blood samples will be used to measure the level of WNV in infected turkeys to gauge the capability of wild turkeys to act as a host for WNV. Monitoring of infected poults, aimed to reflect biologists' observations in the field, will include assessments for lethargy (e.g., decreased activity), dull mentation (e.g., subdued response to human presence), inappetence, poor balance (e.g., stumbling), limb weak-

ness, and poor nutritional condition (e.g., weight loss or lack of weight gain). Birds exhibiting severe clinical signs or behavioral changes will be euthanized. Following euthanasia, a full postmortem examination will be performed and representative tissues will be examined microscopically for WNV-associated lesions.

#### Next Steps

Once researchers understand the level of susceptibility wild turkeys exhibit to WNV, the next step is to understand how the virus is interacting in a population of wild turkeys by measuring state-wide exposure to WNV (i.e., antibody prevalence) via a serology study. When vertebrates are infected by a virus, their immune system releases antibodies to eliminate the virus.

Antibodies are found in the blood and can be clinically detected in a laboratory. To examine antibody prevalence in the wild turkey population, blood samples from hunter-harvested wild turkeys from the Fall 2019 wild turkey season will be used. Participating hunters will be given kits for blood sampling and directions on how to use the samples and where to mail them.

PANWTF



Or Current Resident

# be an ethical hunter

## PREPAREDNESS

Hunting well is synonymous with good hunting. Ethical hunters practice their shooting skills, prepare themselves for the physical demands of the hunt, review the rules of firearm safety, select equipment equal to the dignity of the game and maintain their firearms properly to assure functional reliability. They also review wildlife identification and behavior often.

## COMPANIONS

Ethical hunters choose their hunting companions with care. They must share a commitment to responsible behavior and be bound by mutual consideration. It is important that they share a willingness to sacrifice selfish interests and lend a helping hand in times of difficulty. With good companions, there are no bad days afield.

## LANDOWNER RELATIONS

Hunting on someone else's land is a privilege, not a right. The ethical hunter always asks for permission, follows the owner's wishes and leaves the property as it was found.

Expressing thanks for the owner's hospitality, maybe with a gift from the game bag, is a common courtesy that can go a long way toward securing land access again and establishing good hunter-landowner relations in the future.

## GAME

Understanding wildlife behavior is crucial to hunting success and adds immeasurably to respecting the hunt even when no game is taken. When skill and tireless determination result in the opportunity to shoot, the ethical hunter never takes more game than can be used. If they can, ethical hunters use well-trained dogs to help find downed game. Properly field dressing and cleaning game assures that game is never wasted. Skill, patience and respect enhance the total hunting experience.

