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n Target

The Official Publication of the PFSC
September/October 2018

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



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PFSC On Target September/October 2018

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The mission of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc. is to provide a statewide, united voice for the concerns of all sportsmen and conservationists; to insure that their rights and interests are protected; and to protect and enhance the environment and our natural resources.



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

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

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Cover Photo:

Fly Fishing Guide Michael Harpster, WFEF Board Member, with a lucky young trout angler during the 2018 Great Outdoor Picnic at Penn's Cave's





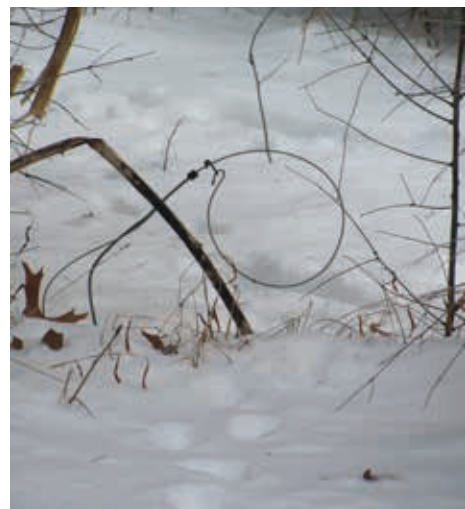
CABLE RESTRAINTS – ETHICAL USE IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY

By: Todd Strohecker, PTA VP East

The use of cable restraints in Pennsylvania is a privilege. This privilege was established after a lengthy process and would not have been possible without the dedication, many hours of hard work, and extensive research done by the Pennsylvania Trappers Association, PA Game Commission personnel, the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, and individual trappers. With any privilege, comes responsibility, and the continued use of cable restraints by future generations of trappers tomorrow lies solely in the hands of trappers today.

OBTAIN PERMISSION

Ethical trapping starts with securing permission from landowners. This is even more imperative when placing cable restraints, because the majority of the public is unfamiliar with the device. When obtaining permission, show the landowner a cable restraint, demonstrate how it functions, and explain how the device is used as a tool for live restraint just as a collar and leash is to a dog. Be sure to explain how the lock functions and how the cable



restraint loop is opened. The Pennsylvania Trappers Association provides printed material to the public that details pet release from trapping devices, which can be utilized when obtaining permission if domestics are a landowner concern.

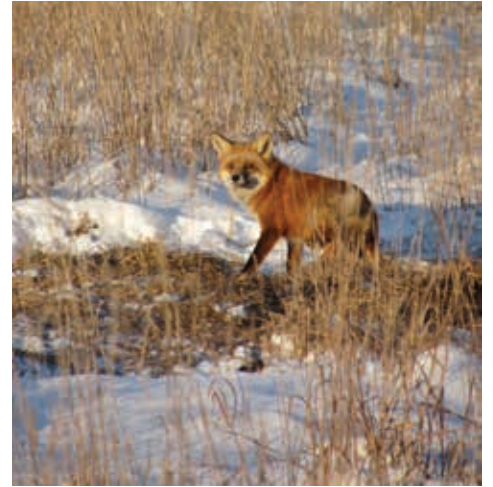
CHOOSE CABLE RESTRAINT SET LOCATIONS WISELY

Avoid setting cable restraints in areas where you suspect they may cause problems with the public. Familiarize yourself with your trapping area and identify areas where there will be expected heavy hunting pressure using dogs, or areas the public uses for recreation and may have dogs which wander off a leash. Avoid setting cable restraints on deer trails. Deer often knock them over rendering them inoperative, and it would surprise most trappers how low a deer will duck under an object placed above the trail. Legal PA cable restraints possess features that allow a deer to escape if they become caught in the device, but common sense dictates that a cable pulled down by a deer will not be functioning to catch a fox or coyote. Refrain from setting areas which contain livestock.

Although cable restraints are designed to be relatively safe to use around livestock due to the breakaway device, our image hinges on making choices that positively influence our perception by the public.

BE CAREFUL WITH BAIT

One of the most frequent violations trappers are cited for in the state of Pennsylvania is trapping with exposed bait visible from the air. This regulation also applies if bait is used in conjunction with cable restraints. Keep in mind that any bait used with cable restraints (as well as foothold and bodygrip traps) needs to be com-



pletely covered so no part is visible from the air. If a trapper is using a large bait as a draw for their cable restraint sets, they run the risk of citation if an animal or bird of prey partially uncovers the bait without their knowledge. Many experienced trappers also find that they have more success by setting some distance away from large baits.

PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR EQUIPMENT

It is imperative that any user of cable restraints has a complete understanding of each of the components of the device. All of the components comprising a cable restraint work together in unison to insure the device efficiently and humanely restrains the target furbearer. Many of these components are specifically defined in the regulations and must meet certain requirements. Every component is important from the lock to the identification tag and cable restraints should be routinely inspected so that all parts are functioning and in working order. It is the responsibility of the trapper to be sure that the cable restraints they are purchasing or building are legal for use in Pennsylvania.

ENTANGLEMENT

The greatest difference between a traditional snare and a cable restraint does not lie in the physical components



of each device but in the manner each is set. Cable restraints may not be set in ANY situation or location where entanglement may occur. Setting a cable restraint where the animal will not become entangled is the most important factor in holding animals alive in a cable. Set only where a fully extended cable and restrained animal cannot become entangled in any woody vegetation larger than ½" in diameter. Woody vegetation may be cut and pushed back in the ground as guiding; but keep in mind that these guide sticks could freeze in, and an entanglement situation may occur.

Cable restraints should be staked securely with steel stakes or earth anchor type cable stakes. Using a movable object such as a drag or grapple as an anchor for a cable restraint is not permitted. Any large rocks, trees, fences, or man-made structures such as culvert pipes should not be located within the catch area as these may cause entanglement. Any situation where a restrained animal may become suspended

is unlawful.

An in-line swivel is a legal requirement on cable restraints in Pennsylvania. Many trappers use multiple swivels as they help to allow for free movement if one swivel is fouled with grass. Not only do swivels aid in the humane live restraint of the animal, they also provide efficiency by preventing escape.

Remember, avoiding entanglement situations when setting cable restraints is of the utmost importance and is our greatest responsibility if we want to insure continued use of this tool in the future.

THE FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS

While many trapping opportunities throughout the United States have been restricted in recent years, Pennsylvania has expanded opportunities for trappers; and many agree that the use of cable restraints is one of the greatest privileges available to us. It is our responsibility to think about trapper ethics at every set we make and especially when setting cable restraints.



Brian Mohn making a cable restraint set in a crop break. Photos provided by Brian Mohn

Pennsylvania trappers need to keep ethics and public perception in their minds at all times. We are entrusted to preserve these opportunities for future generations of the Pennsylvania Trapper. **PTA**

Two New Members Bring Game Commission Board Up To Full Strength

Two vacancies on the Board of Game Commissioners were filled recently by Scott H. Foradora, of DuBois, and Dennis R. Fredericks, of Amity, to bring the board to its full complement of eight.

Foradora was selected from Region 3, which includes Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean and Potter counties. This position was left vacant when former Game Commissioner David Putnam's term expired.

Fredericks was selected from Region 2, which includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington and Westmoreland counties. This position was left vacant when former Game Commissioner Robert Schlemmer's term expired.

Commissioners are selected from eight geographic areas of the Commonwealth to ensure uniform representation throughout Pennsylvania. Once appointed, however, commissioners represent all Pennsylvania citizens, not just those from their regions.

Foradora grew up in Brockway in Jefferson County, where the hunting tradition runs deep in his family. He's been hunting since he was 12, more than 40 years. He enjoys hunting all game and trapping in Pennsylvania, but, like many hunters, deer are his favorite, followed by

turkeys. Foradora is a member of the NRA and the Eastern Wild Sheep Foundation.

When he's not hunting, fishing or trapping, Foradora can be found in his insurance-business office in DuBois, where he puts his accounting and economics degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania to use.

Foradora said his extensive experience in outdoor Pennsylvania will serve him well while on the Game Commission board.

"I'll look at issues from our hunters' perspective," he said. "It's an honor to be on the board of an agency with such a proud and storied history. I want to work toward increasing hunter participation, especially with the Mentored Youth Hunting Program. I have three sons who participated in the program, and my wife Paula, who hunts, got involved in that program with my boys as well," he said.

Fredericks is serving his second term on the board. He served a prior term from 1991 to 1999. He's the sixth individual to serve a second term as a commissioner. During his prior tenure on the board, he served as chairman of the Wildlife Management Bureau committee for six years of his eight-year term.

Fredericks was born and has lived his entire life in Washington County. He's a lifelong hunter and trapper, and has hunted all big and

small game, but now really enjoys hunting for ruffed grouse.

Fredericks graduated from Penn State Mont Alto campus in 1972 with a degree in forest technology. In 1992, he attended Colorado State University for a structured course in wildlife management designed for individuals who have been politically appointed to a position to affect management policy for wildlife resources.

Fredericks, now retired, had a 42-year career as an environmental engineer and manager of conservation properties and activities for CONSOL Energy, where he was responsible for coordinating natural-resource management on 500,000 acres in several states.

Fredericks is a member of many sportsmen's organizations and conservation groups, including the NRA, Ruffed Grouse Society, National Wild Turkey Federation and Ducks Unlimited, to name a few.

As a commissioner, Fredericks said he relishes the opportunity to once again work with Game Commission staff to improve the way our wildlife resources are managed.

"First and foremost, the agency needs to be adequately funded, and I will do all I can to get this done," Fredericks said.

Foradora and Fredericks were appointed June 5. Each will serve four-year terms. **PGC**