

PENNSYLVANIA DEER FARMERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

-To Preserve, Protect & Promote the Deer Industry in Pennsylvania-



NEWSLETTER

Volume 6

Spring 2007

No. 1

SPRING BENEFIT AUCTION AND MEETING

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2007

JAFFA MOSQUE, ALTOONA

DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 AM WITH TRADE SHOW

MEETING AND SPEAKERS 9:00 AM

FREE BUFFET LUNCH 11:00 AM

AUCTION

12:00 NOON - 5:00 PM

SILENT AUCTION FINALS 2:00 PM

SEE YOU IN ALTOONA

ROOMS AVAILABLE WHILE THEY LAST AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

814-944-9661

ASK FOR PDFA RATE OF \$89.95

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814-643-7181

wtrinfo@trophyclassdeer.com

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814-723-8294

lore@westpa.net

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rdmwildbunch@csonline.net

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rhuff29@netzero.com

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creegan784@msn.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone:

By now you should have received a copy of the Association's 2007 "Directory and Resource Guide." If you did not receive a copy, please contact the Association office at 610-767-5026. Copies were once again distributed at the North American Deer Farmer's Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Our Spring Meeting is once again fast approaching and is scheduled for Saturday, May 5, 2007 at the Jaffa Mosque downstairs banquet room. We will be a week earlier this year, missing Mother's Day. Skirted tables will again be FREE of charge on a first come first serve basis to any member who donates an item to the benefit auction. Remember it is important to take the time to get off the farm and market your products and services to the industry.

Please don't forget the Spring Benefit Auction is the Association's main fundraiser of the year. Its success is what keeps annual dues low and allow us to maintain our presence in Harrisburg. You will once again be receiving information from the Association about the Spring Meeting and I hope you will donate an item or items to the auction. Semen, Animals, Services, Furniture, Equipment, Crafts, are just a few suggestions. We will also be providing a buffet style meal to the membership attending FREE of charge.

The PAC (Political Action Committee) Fund will soon be rolling out the Spring Gun Raffle. This raffle will again offer a mix of great guns, cash, and a 140" class whitetail at Walk's Quest Haven. Please remember this raffle is also very important to the future of our Association. The monies raised for the PAC fund are used to support the legislators that support us. Anyone who needs more tickets contact Bev Gruber at the Association office, 610-767-5026. Winners will be drawn at

the Spring Meeting.

Nominations for new directors closed in February and you should have received a ballot in the mail by now. The five new directors will be announced, by nomination chairperson George Hazard during the business session of the Spring Meeting. Two directors who have decided not to seek re-election are Cliff Stitely and Ralph Wheland. I want to thank them both for all the time they put into serving the Association.

Our Economic Impact Study has received final approval by the board and will soon be going to print. It will be printed in a four-color book and mailed to each PDFA member as well as State Legislators and key government agency heads. We also just received our government grand monies in the amount of \$10,000.00 that assisted us in the compilation of the study.

Since our passage of House Bill 1580, the transition of the PA Cervid Industry exclusively to the PA Department of Agriculture has gone relatively smoothly. Everyone should have received their new Cervid Livestock Operation (CLO) license by now. Hunting Ranches were to begin enrolling March 1, 2007 in the CWD Herd Monitoring Program to be ready for the fall 2007 season.

The board recently approved the establishment of the PDFA CLO Protection and Reward Fund at the request of long time board member Cliff Stitely. The rules for the fund are being drafted and will be approved in the near future. The fund will be available to assist PDFA members in the prosecution of anyone vandalizing their Cervid Operation.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support of the Association. We can all be very proud of what we have done together to strengthen our industry here in Pennsylvania. Please remember that one of the most important things we can do to protect our industry is to run good operations and encourage our new cervid farmers to do the same.

I look forward to seeing you at the Spring Meeting.

Dave Griffith, President

PSCFO SPRING MEETING HELD

The Spring meeting of the Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations was held recently at the State Capitol in Harrisburg. The Council is made up of eighty ag organizations, one of which is the Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Association. The Council's primary purpose is to promote the welfare of agriculture in Pennsylvania by bringing together farm organizations for the study, discussion and solution of mutual problems and to support legislation to help Pennsylvania agriculture.

The 2007 officers were elected. They are President Walt Peechatka, Penn Ag Industries; Vice President Bob Leiby, PA Association of County Ag Agents; Secretary-Treasurer Alexa Stoner, Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association; and Executive Director Beverly Gruber.

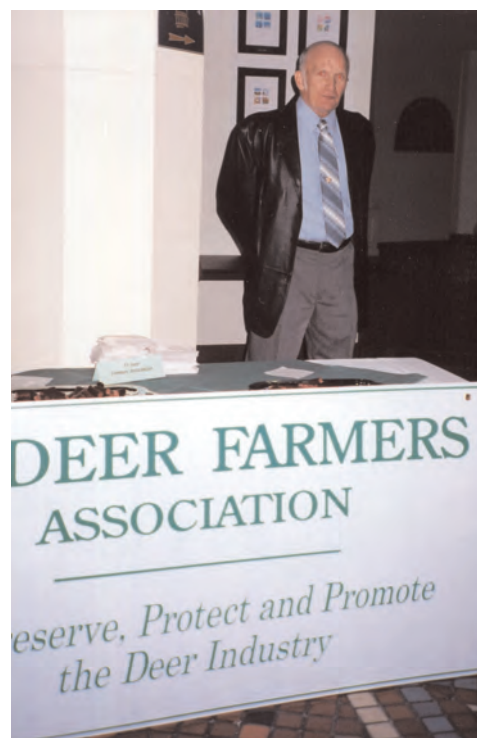
The "Yellow Book" committee

report was given by George Wolff, Wolff Strategies. This is the legislative ag agenda that is presented to the governor and the legislators. It is now on the web. Be sure to check it out at www.pscfo.com.

Following the business meeting two presentations were given, "Nutrient Trading" by Ann Smith, DEP and "PA Agriculture by the Numbers" by Marc Tosiano, Director, PA Field Office NASS-USDA.

The day concluded with the Cornucopia: "Taste Pennsylvania" reception held for over 150 legislators and guests in the Lower Concourse of the Capitol with over eighteen organizations displaying their commodity products. Our organization was present and served deer sticks and jerky to the House and Senate guests. A big thank you to board member Cliff Stitely and his wife Dawn for gracious-

ly volunteering to serve as hosts of the PDFA table.



GUN RAFFLE TICKETS MAILED OUT

Ten Gun raffle tickets were mailed to each PDFA member on March 27th by first class mail. The proceeds from this fund-raiser goes to support our legislative efforts in Harrisburg. The Raffle Committee has worked very hard to put together an impressive number of guns, cash awards amounting to \$2,000.00 and the grand prize of a Hunt with up to a 140" class buck at Quest Haven Lodge near Tyrone, PA donated by Russ Walk.

The ticket stub and payment can be mailed back to the PDFA office or brought to Altoona the day of the drawing. If you need more tickets contact Bev Gruber at 610-767-5026. The drawing will take place at the Spring Meeting on May 5th in Altoona.

Be sure to make you checks out to PDFA Political Action Fund. No corporate checks can be accepted.

Visit the Website
www.padfa.com

Be Sure Your Information
Is Correct

**Mark
Your
Calendar**



April 19 (Thursday)
April Board Meeting
6:00 P.M.

Huntingdon Ag Extension Office
Please notice change in meeting day.

May 5 (Saturday)
Spring Annual Meeting and Benefit Sale
Jaffa Mosque, Altoona
Doors open @ 7:30 AM
Sale begins at Noon

June 14 (Thursday)
June Board Meeting
6:00 P.M. Huntingdon

July 12 (Thursday)
July Board Meeting
6:00 P.M. Huntingdon

PA DEPARTMENT OF AG UPDATED INFORMATION

CORRECTION ON CERVID ID AND SEPARATE HERDS:

The Bureau inadvertently misspoke at a recent Lancaster County meeting. The correct information follows:

1. For the Herd Certification Program (HCP) two forms of identification are required on each animal age 12 months and older. One of them must be official (state issued metal tag, RFID tag, microchip or tattoo) and the other may be a farm tag, as long as it is unique to the animal and to the herd (no two with the same color/number combination). It is also acceptable to have two official forms of identification on each animal.

2. It is not mandatory to have an RFID tag.

3. Separate herd forms pertain to all programs – Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), Tuberculosis (TB) and Brucellosis (BD). You CAN maintain separate herds with different program levels and they WILL NOT be quarantined to be considered separate herds. The requirements to maintain separate herds are:

-No animal movement takes place from the non-program to the program areas on the property (this also means that program animals moved to a non-program area cannot return to the program area).

-At least 30 feet of physical separation exists between the program and non-program areas on the property.

-No water runoff exists from the non-program to the program areas of the property.

-Adequate biosecurity measures are routinely employed to prevent contam-

ination of the program areas on the property (including human movement, equipment use, feeding and watering procedures, etc.)

-Signature of an accredited veterinarian that the above requirements are met.

IMPORT PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

To obtain an import permit, contact Mary Martin at 717-783-5309. To import cervids into Pennsylvania, the herd of origin must have three years participation in a state/province approved CWD program if from a state/province not known to have CWD. Five years participation is required if from a state/province known to have CWD (Current list – CO, IL, KS, MT, NE, NM, MN, NY, OK, SD, UT, WI, WV, NY, Saskatchewan and Alberta).

CWD SPECIMEN CONCERNS

The laboratory has received numerous CWD samples with incorrect tissue, missing paperwork, missing identification, etc. In each case, the Certified CWD Technician (CCT) is notified and given the opportunity to correct the problem for the future. However, too many problem samples from a CCT will result in that person being disqualified from operating as a CCT.

Transport of CWD test specimens out of PA must be approved by PDA and transported under special PDA permit. Violations will result in escalating penalties against the source herd (such as fines, quarantines, mandatory test-

ing of percentage of herd with no indemnity, etc.).

BRUCELLOSIS (BD) UPDATE

PA has adopted the same requirements for Brucellosis as those for Tuberculosis. For BD certification, complete two whole herd tests 9-15 months apart on all cervids 12 months of age and older. For recertification, retest in three years all animals 12 months of age and older.

CWD PROGRAM REMINDER

The grace period for pre-existing herds to enroll in a CWD program has now expired. If you have not signed up for the Herd Certification Program (HCP) or the Herd Monitored Program (HMP), immediately contact Mary Martin or a regional BAHDS employee for the enrollment forms. Herd owners not in compliance may receive a verbal warning that may be followed by a written warning. Herd owners not in compliance after the written warning are at risk of an escalating series of fines going from \$300 to \$10,000. If you know of anyone not in compliance, please provide them with PDA's contact information or forward their name and address to BAHDS.

Reminder: Cervids that are on the HCP program qualify for inter/intrastate movement (if other non-CWD requirements are met.) Cervids on the HMP cannot move intrastate unless 30 animals have first been tested for CWD (after testing the 30, then movement can only be to a shooting preserve or slaughter facility).

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Dues notices for the Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Association will be arriving in your mailbox soon. Send in your dues renewal right away and your member benefits will continue uninterrupted for the coming year. If you are an Associate, consider upgrading your membership to Voting Member and have a say in how your association is governed.

COME ONE - COME ALL

THIS IS YOUR INVITATION TO ATTEND
AND BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO

PENNSYLVANIA DEER FARMERS ASSOCIATION
2007 SPRING MEETING AND BENEFIT AUCTION

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2007

AT

JAFFA MOSQUE - ALTOONA, PA
DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 AM

MEETING IS FREE - SPEAKERS ARE FREE - BUFFET LUNCH IS FREE

ANNUAL MEETING starts at 9:00 a.m. followed by a presentation by Charlie Seale from the Exotic Wildlife Federation; Shawn Schafer Chair of the Wildlife Council Cervid Industry; updates from other states and then updates from Mary Martin, PDA and Kendra Stauffer, USDA.

AUCTION BEGINS AT 12:00 PM SHARP: Be sure to dig deep in donating items to the auction, as this is our main income in fighting for your rights to keep the animals we all love without being over regulated or put out of business.

SILENT AUCTION closes at 2:00 PM

EXHIBITORS: Anyone who donates an item to the Benefit Auction will be entitled to FREE booth space - Contact 610-767-5026

We will be selling raffle tickets again with profit going to our Political Action Fund (over)

SEE YOU ALL AT THE MEETING - BRING A FRIEND

PENNSYLVANIA DEER FARMERS POLITICAL ACTION FUND RAFFLE TICKETS \$10.00 EACH

1. Up to 140" class Hunt at Quest Haven Lodge Donated by Russ Walk
2. Remington Model 700SPS 30-06 Buckmaster Camo.
3. Browning A-Bolt 223 WSSM
4. Tikka T3 270 cal.
5. \$100 cash
6. Browning A-Bolt 22 Hornet
7. Remington 7600 270 cal.
8. Marlin 925 M 22 mag.
9. \$100 cash
10. Remington Model 700 Classic 300 cal.
11. Marlin 25M 22 LR
12. Savage 12FV 243 Varmint Rifle
13. \$100 cash
14. Savage 12FVS 204 cal. Rutger Varmint
15. Ruger M77 300 REM. SA Ultra Mag
16. Stoeger Uplander 12 ga. SXS
17. \$100 cash
18. Browning A-Bolt 7mm mag.
19. Browning A-Bolt 25 WSSM
20. Remington Model 7 260 cal. Stainless
21. \$100 cash
22. Remington Model 700 Classic 221 Fireball
23. Browning BLR 270 cal.
24. \$500 cash
25. Browning A-Bolt 22-250 Varmint
26. Marlin 8822 22 mag. lam. Stock
27. \$1000 cash

- All members will receive 10 tickets to sell.
- Proceeds go into the PDFFA Political Action Fund.
- Winners need NOT be present.
- Make checks payable to "PDFFA PAC FUND" (personal checks only - no business checks).
- Please, if you are not going to sell the tickets, return them as soon as possible.
- Send sold ticket stubs back with a check by May 1st or bring them to the Spring Meeting.
- Drawing will be held during the Auction May 5, 2007 at the PDFFA Spring Meeting (see reverse side).
- Contact Bev Gruber at 610-767-5026 with questions or requests for more tickets.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Sally & Mark Gettys

Dream on Sally and Mark's Whitetails
521 Lisburn Road
Wellsville PA 17365 717-432--9125

Mickey Goodling

Backwoods Whitetails
616 Lauver Hill Road
Liverpool PA 17045 570-809-4699

Michael Heiter

H & H Whitetails
198 Sandy Run Lane
New Paris PA 15554 814-839-2022

Henry Martin

Replica Antlers
228 W. Church St.
Annville PA 17003 717-867-8445

Chuck Pettit

Beech Ridge Whitetails
P.O. Box 411
Central Square NY 13036 315-243-6202

Cody Pheasant

Creekview Whitetails
RD 2, Box 180
Williamsburg PA 16693 814-832-3379

Philip and Deb Schreyer

Misty Mountain Trophy Hunting, Inc.
2219 Executive Drive
Fallentimber PA 16639 814-687-4327

Bob & Rosemary Simmons

Katie Black Farm
160 Harrisville Rd
West Sunbury PA 16061 724-637-2174

PDF/A NEWSLETTER ACCEPTS ADVERTISING

Something new has been added to your quarterly newsletter. At the March 23rd Board Meeting the decision was made to accept black and white advertisements. The following rate structure was established:

Reproduce a business card (2 x 3½)	\$ 10.00
1/8 Page (2½ x 3½)	15.00
1/4 Page (3½ x 5)	25.00
1/2 Page (5 x 7½)	50.00
Full (7½ x 10)	100.00
To enclose a one-page flyer (8½ x 11)	250.00

If you are interested in taking out an ad call the office. An introductory special was also set up. If you would like to advertise in all four issues you may do so for the price of three.

OFFICIAL BALLOTS MAILED

On March 5, 2007 each of the regular member (those paying \$50.00 in dues) and life members were mailed an Official Ballot to elect five directors to the board for the 2007-2010 year.

According to George Hazard, Nominating Committee Chair, those running for the five positions included:

Dave Griffith, Griffith Brothers Farm
Rich Hillegas, Dogwood Hills Deer Farm
Bob Leiberum, Foremost Whitetails
Greg Lucas, L & M Whitetails
Josh Newton, Red Ridge Whitetails
Larry Pittenger, Thunder Valley Whitetails
Mark Sipes, Battle Ridge Whitetails
Russell Walk, Walk's Premier Whitetails

Ballots were due back April 5th. Winners will be announced at the May 5th Annual Meeting.

FALL SALE SET FOR JOHNSTOWN

The contract has been signed, it is now official the Fall Premier Breeder Sale for the PA Deer Farmers Association will be held at the Pasquerilla Conference Center, 301 Napoleon Street, Johnstown. The dates are Friday, September 7 and Saturday, September 8.

The sale will be managed this year by Midwest Whitetail Deer Sales, Jerry Campbell and John Yoder. You can read more about this company by going to www.midwestwhitetaildeersales.com.

A trade show will be held both days. Friday's schedule will include a Breeder Sale, Special Trophy Buck Auction, an evening banquet followed by evening Top 30 Sale. Saturday, September 8th will be a breeder auction all day.

To consign your lots contact Midwest Whitetail Deer Sales, 6860 S. SR 5, Topeka, IN 46571.

The hotel facilities will be the Johnstown Holiday Inn located two blocks away. Room rate per single is \$89.99. It does have a pool. Contact telephone is 814-535-7777. Be sure to tell them you are with the Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Association Block.

See you in Johnstown right after Labor Day.



WORLD HUNTING ASSOCIATION ADDS POLLS, REVIEWS TO WEBSITE

The World Hunting Association has added new interactive and informational content to its Website, <http://www.worldhunt.com>, including weekly polls and video reviews.

Every Monday, <http://www.worldhunt.com> will feature a new poll setting two rival hunters, products or techniques against each other. The current poll pits veteran hunters Mike Waddell and Brad Farris against each other for the title of the better hunter, and asks who would win in an all-out fist fight: Bill Jordan or Toxey Haas. As of Monday morning, Waddell has captured 69 percent of the vote for the best hunter against Farris, while 57 percent of the voters' support Haas against Jordan.

Under the moniker "The Outdoor Critic," Paul Biggs has begun posting his weekly reviews of hunting TV shows, DVDs, magazines, books and outdoor products at <http://www.outdoorcritic.com>

"Paul isn't afraid to give his unbiased opinion -- something that is lacking in most other reviews," said David Farbman, WHA commissioner. "For example, he's not afraid to tell the Primos crew, 'I've about had it with your slow montage of game and 1980's signature music. I know it's not Hollywood, but it is the truth. And the truth is, I want something new.'"

Biggs has always been an avid outdoorsman and intrigued with outdoor video productions. He earned a degree in TV/Video production and has worked in the outdoor industry ever since. He has produced, edited, and filmed for numerous outdoor hunting shows including Jimmy Houston Outdoors, Scent-Lok's Wildlife Point Blank, Jack Brittingham's World of Hunting, Gene Percy Outdoors, Woods Wise Products, Paul Newsom's Great Outdoors, Outdoor Connections, and his own work "Big Time Outdoors."

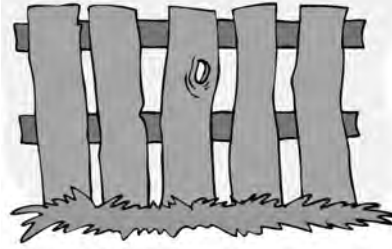
About the World Hunting Association - The World Hunting Association™ (WHA) is a global competitive sporting establishment dedicated to organizing and promoting the sport of hunting. Through its web portal, (<http://www.worldhunt.com>), the WHA is a social community connecting hunters from across the globe to share their hunting experiences. The WHA community is a place for hunters to be discovered.

The Association also includes a groundbreaking, professional competitive hunting tour, spotlighting some of the world's greatest skilled hunters, as well as the latest technologies in the field and on the website that take hunting to a new level.

The WHA will enhance the image and experience of hunting today and for tomorrow's generations. For more information, visit <http://www.worldhunt.com>.

OVER THE BACK FENCE

by Beverly Gruber
Executive Director



Finally we have a beautiful day and the snow is nearly gone. I think Spring is finally here.

Be sure to check out the PA Deer Farmers website at www.padfa.com. We have changed site providers and have updated the site. If you have suggestions give us a call.

Please support the Spring Sale in Altoona at the Jaffa Mosque. It will be on May 5th. Consider having a table display promoting your farm, ranch or specialty product. There is no fee for the booth but you must send in the sign-up form.

Sell those raffle tickets. Make 2007 a successful year.

Sincerely,
Beverly Gruber.

IMPACT STUDY COMPLETED

After nearly a year of work, Shepstone Management Company from Honesdale, have completed the economic impact study of the Pennsylvania Deer Farms which was sanctioned by the PDFA board and partially funded by a grant obtained with the assistance of State Representative H. William DeWeese of Greene County and the PA Department of Commerce and Economic Development (DCED).

The key facts include :

- Now over 750 deer and elk farms - up 82% since 1990
- Pennsylvania No. 2 in commercial deer and elk farms
- Pennsylvania No. 3 among the states for deer and elk sold
- Deer or elk farms found in 63 of 67 Pennsylvania Counties
- Average deer or elk farm protects 68.5 acres of open space
- Deer farming is \$103 million industry in Pennsylvania
- Deer farming generates 3,500 jobs for Pennsylvania's
- Typical deer or elk farm generates \$53,650 sales per year
- Deer and elk farm sales are growing by 12% per year
- Pennsylvania deer and elk farms invested \$149 million of new capital in the Commonwealth over the last 5 years
- Deer and elk industry is now a major agricultural niche larger than sheep and goats, tobacco or Christmas trees

As soon as the printing is complete, each member will receive a copy of the study. This should happen within the next three to four weeks.

This information should be especially helpful to those of you who need facts to give loan officers at financial institutions.

GOVERNOR ENCOURAGES ALL TO RECONNECT WITH THE GREAT OUTDOORS

by Governor Ed Rendell

The arrival of warmer weather carries an open invitation to get out and explore Penn's Woods. Unfortunately, the increasing demands of modern life make it difficult for many of us to find the time to enjoy Pennsylvania's great outdoors — a trend that could eventually threaten key sectors of our economy and our quality of life.

Similar to national trends, Pennsylvania's aging population, declining numbers of hunters and anglers, loss of open space, increased competition for leisure time and a drop in environmental literacy have combined to cause concern. If not addressed, these trends could suppress tourism revenues and thwart economic development in rural areas.

We're already working to address this challenge. Just one example is our Pennsylvania Wilds initiative, which promotes nature-based tourism in the north central region. It has become a national model for mobilizing and coordinating a wide array of conservation, tourism promotion, economic development and community revitalization interests.

After only two years of the program, hotel occupancy rates in the region increased above the state and national averages. In the Elk County community of Ridgway, 30 historic homes have been improved, 20 new businesses

started and retained, and county hotel tax receipts are up 20 percent since 2002.

The Pennsylvania Tourism Office has launched an integrated campaign promoting attractions along the 400-mile stretch of Route 6 that spans northern tier counties. The campaign led to an increase in hotel occupancy rates and sharply boosted inquiries to regional tourism promotion agencies. Many travelers told local business owners that the special campaign was what prompted them to visit the region.

Statewide, we are protecting more land than anytime during the last 30 years; investing millions of dollars in improvements to our state parks and forests for citizen enjoyment and conservation of the resource; helping communities reconnect to their rivers as a revitalization tool; and enticing people to get outdoors with tourism and heritage marketing efforts and new educational recreational opportunities.

This week, I was pleased to lead another important effort to help Pennsylvanians reconnect with the outdoors. The Governor's Outdoor Conference brought 300 experts and stakeholders together to discuss the shared challenges we face, as well as forge important new partnerships. We made great progress, but I want to engage the public in a broader dia-



logue.

I've appointed a task force that will conduct five statewide public meetings to present conference findings and solicit additional ideas and recommendations. These meetings will be held later this spring in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Scranton, Harrisburg and Erie. The input we gather will be incorporated into a final report with recommendations for action by the General Assembly and my office.

I hope you join in this important conversation because we must all become a part of the solution. Pennsylvanians simply cannot afford to lose our connection with the outdoors. It's a rich part of our heritage, important to the health of our children and families, and provides the balance we need for a prosperous future.

Note: Beverly Gruber attended this conference and she encourages all PDFA members to get involved in these task force meetings across the state.

PDFA Lifetime Members

Dean Borntrager
Duke Carl
Andy Coblentz
Kermit R. Fidler
Andy Foor
George Hazard
Joseph Hostetler

Aaron E. Lapp, Jr.
Ted S. Miller
Vince Piancone
Cody Pheasant
Amos Stoltzfus
John Ervin Stoltzfus
Dale and Margaret Streams



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

GOVERNOR REVEALS DETAILS OF HIS AGENDA

by Jim Mann, Esq., Legislative Counsel
Milliron & Associates

The Pennsylvania General Assembly is in full “budget mode” right now. The Governor has given his budget address and outlined his spending priorities. In addition to his intention raise billions of dollars in revenue by leasing the PA Turnpike, imposing a corporate profits tax on out-of-state oil companies, and increasing the state sales tax by 1%; he released some major details on his universal health care proposal.

“Cover All Pennsylvanians.” This health insurance program would be for Pennsylvanians who are 19 years of age or older with the following components. The bill summary for this proposal, House Bill 700, contains the following provisions:

- CAP basic health care coverage would cost an estimated monthly premium of \$280 for the first year. Employers who employ 2 to 50 employees whose average wage is below the commonwealth average wage (and have not offered health insurance to their employees for the

previous 180 days) may participate in CAP by enrolling at least 75% of their employees who work 20 hours or more per week.

- The \$280 premium would be split between the state, the employee and the employer (who would pay up to 65% of the discounted premium). Employers would sign up directly with a CAP contractor servicing their geographic area.

- A 3% “fair share tax” would be imposed on all employers in the Commonwealth and collected quarterly by the Department of Labor and Industry to help fund the cost of the CAP program to the Commonwealth.

- During the first 4 years, employers will get a credit against the amount of the fair share tax they are required to pay. For the first year, the credit will be \$60,000. The Department of Revenue will determine what the amount of the credit will be for each subsequent year that the credit will be allowed. Employers who already offer adequate health care coverage to their full time employees will receive a further credit equal to 3% of the wages paid by the employer to its employees. The Department of Labor and Industry and the Insurance Department together

will determine whether an employer receives this credit.

There is already some disagreement among the proponents of this legislation – some argue that the only employers that would be taxed are those that do not provide health coverage; others argue that the employer would receive their payroll tax back quarterly; and still others argue that the bill language is precisely what the governor intended. There’s also some disagreement over the amount of payroll tax. Now, the proponents of CAP are saying that the tax would be 3.5%, and not the original 3% as outlined by the governor during his budget address.

The budget process is a lengthy one. And, given the scope of the Governor’s agenda, it’s likely that this year will be longer than most. Rumors are already flying about an autumn budget, with state workers not getting paid for months on end.

In addition to the other legislative issues we will be working on for the Deer Farmers Association, we will work with leaders in the House and Senate to educate members on how these proposals would affect deer farmers throughout the state.

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

You will soon be contacted by mail or by a fellow Deer Farmer for your donation for the Spring Auction. As most of you know this event is what keeps our association afloat.

This year a new format will be followed. We will have a silent auction as well as a regular auction. Last years auction totaled just over \$90,000.00, so lets try to top that this year.



Send your auction item information to Aaron Kanagy, 60 Pleasant Maple Lane, Belleville, PA 17004. He can be reached at 717-935-2939.

If you have time please consider asking others in your community to support our association you do not have to be a member to donate. We will recognize their donation and give them recognition.

WE NEED PICTURES

It seems we are always in need of pictures for association publications, etc. If you are willing to share electronic/digital pictures, email them to lowhill@rcn.com

If you have other pictures you can send them to the office we will scan them and return them to you.



SHOW PRIDE IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP

HATS



\$15
Assorted
Colors
with Logo

**CONSIDER A HAT OR OTHER
PA DEER FARMER APPAREL**

**Order Today by Calling
the PDFFA Office at 610-767-5026**

Visa or Mastercard Accepted



TEES

\$15
Assorted Colors
Embroidered Logo



\$35
Authentic
Pigment

SWEATSHIRTS

\$25
Jerzees
Assorted Colors
Embroidered
Logo

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

100% Cotton Polo Shirt with Collar - \$25

Blue Denim Long Sleeved Shirt - \$30

Pullover Windshirts - \$40

Wind-proof • Water Resistant

All in Assorted Colors

Embroidered with PDFFA Logo

Larger size additional charge:

\$2.00 for XXL • \$3.00 for XXXL • \$4.00 for XXXL

PLUS SHIPPING

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 11
CLARION, PA

PDFFA Newsletter
P. O. Box 5
New Tripoli, PA 18066