



April 2010

# Full Cry

## View From The President's Den

By Jay Young

This issue of Full Cry marks the end of a wild year of hunting. No one with whom I have spoken seems to remember ever having hunt operations suspended for as long as this year. We seem to have been hit harder than even neighboring hunts with the record amounts of snowfall. I would like to especially commend the staff for efforts above and beyond the call of duty to deal with continuing to care for hounds and horses under the most adverse conditions. The double-barrel storms and almost 60" of combined accumulated snow presented tremendous challenges which were met head on by our dedicated staff. Many thanks to Geoff, Mary Lee, Cathy, Daniel and Terry.

With spring comes new hope and anticipation of a great hunting season next year. We are especially happy to announce the addition of another member to our hunt staff family, a new professional whipper-in – Adam Townsend. Adam will begin on May 1<sup>st</sup> and is especially anxious for the opportunity to work under our nationally reputed huntsman, Geoff Hyde.

Adam has served as professional huntsman to the DeLaBrooke Foxhounds for the last five seasons. He hunted three days a week and maintained and bred a pack of 35 couple of Penmarydel hounds. Adam was raised foxhunting. His mother is an avid foxhunter and has served as whipper-in to the Princess Anne Hunt in Virginia and now serves as whipper-in to the Reedy Creek Hounds in southern Virginia.

At DeLaBrooke Adam also participated in developing the breeding program.

(cont'd on pg2)

### In This Issue

- President's Den
- Pony Club News
- Reynard who?
- EHHC Calendar
- Field trips
- GSVHC Hunter Pace
- Painted Pig News



*Gone to ground one final time in March*

### FULL CRY GOES GREEN

Beginning next season, Full Cry will "go green" and be delivered electronically. Full Cry is always available on our website. In addition, we will E-mail issues directly to members and to others who request to be included. If you currently receive electronic mail with status notifications on Hunt meets and other news updates from Jay Young, you will automatically receive Full Cry electronically. If you are not currently on that E-mail list and desire to be, please send an E-mail to [jay@lawbrown.com](mailto:jay@lawbrown.com) and [arcpostman@cs.com](mailto:arcpostman@cs.com) and we will include you on the E-mailing list. If you do not receive E-mail, we would ask that you coordinate with someone who is on the E-mail list and who is willing to print a copy for you when it is delivered. This initiative is not only environmentally responsible, but it will save the Club over \$15,000.00 in annual production and mailing costs. We thank you for your cooperation.

## Just Who is Reynard?

By Bill Pearce

As another hunting season winds to a close, I thought it would be interesting to learn more about our elusive and cunning partner in this sport of chase that we enjoy so much.

The Red Fox, (*Vulpes vulpes*) is by far the most widespread and abundant species of fox. You can find the Red Fox all over North and Central America, Europe, northern Asia, and even parts of Australia. The Red fox was first introduced to the eastern United States sometime around 1850. Early records show that Robert Brooke Sr. imported 24 Red Foxes from England for the purpose of fox hunting. With wide open country and very few predators they established large numbers very quickly much to the delight of those in pursuit.

On average their weight will range between 8 and 15 pounds with the males being slightly heavier than the females. For their diet they are classified as a carnivore but are very much omnivorous. Being opportunistic hunters their diet can range from rodents and birds, to crayfish, worms, grubs, berries, seeds. If too much food has been caught they will bury the extra to be eaten at a later time. On average the life span is between 2 – 6 years. To aid them in their hunting ability or to out run predators they can reach speeds as high as 45mph.

Except for mating season the Red Fox is a solitary creature. They will establish their territory and mark it with scat and urine. They are curious in that they will leave their scat on locations that are very visible, atop a log or a rock, etc. They will remark this boundary every few days to defend their territory.

(cont'd on pg2)

## The President's Den

His efforts brought about numerous successes such as a 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 2006 Carolina Pack Class, 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 2007 Virginia Pack Class and 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 2008 Malborough Hunt Bowl. He was also responsible for breeding the best Pennmarydel hound in the 2008 and 2009 Maryland Foxhound Show.

Adam completed the 2008/2009 Masters of Foxhound Association Professional Development Program which included a week hunting with the Live Oak Hounds. Those of us who hunted in Georgia, Florida and Alabama at the time of the MFHA Centennial understand what a challenge and wild scene that is. Adam has been invited to speak at the 2010 MFHA Staff Seminar in Lexington, Kentucky. In the recruitment process, Adam received glowing recommendations from sources in the Masters of Foxhounds Association, as well as noted national hunting figures.

The Hunt Wrap-Up Party has been scheduled for Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. This year the Wrap-Up Party will also serve as our "Welcome Adam" party. Please join us at that event to welcome Adam Townsend to the El-ridge-Harford family.

### EHC SOCIAL CALENDAR 2009 -2010

Sat., Apr. 3	<u>APRIL</u> EHHC Point to Point O. Young
Sat., Apr. 10	Manor Race – Tent Party J. Baldwin Members and Landowners Appreciation Party P. Smalley
Fri., May 7	<u>MAY</u> Wrap Up Party C. Gittings

## Who is Reynard?

In our region December and January mark the mating season. After a gestation period of just less than 2 months the vixen will give birth to an average of 3 to 6 kits. They are born with their eyes shut and will open after about two weeks. After about 5 weeks they will start to venture outside the den and by ten weeks are weaned. The dog fox will bring the mother food while she is tending to the kits, and also help protect the den from predators. In time she will begin feeding them regurgitated food, and then bring them live prey for them to play with and then eat. Playing with the live prey develop skills that they will need for hunting. They will remain with their mother for 7 to 8 months, just about the time we start cub hunting. This is no mistake. Liz points out that this is when the important relationship begins between young foxes and young fox hounds. The young foxes are teaching the hounds how they will run and how they will be hunted. Geoff shared an observation he has made time and time again is that while a fox being pursued they run in large circles. However he points out that when a fox starts his circle to either the left or right it will continue making that turn in the same direction. It is very common to have the same fox run the same course year after year.

In speaking with experienced fox hunters there is one answer that is consistent. The fact that there is just no predictable rhyme or reason how the scent will be on any given day. You will hear people predict scenting for a given day based wind, temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure etc. The bottom line is that I have yet to hear of a person or technique that will prove to be consistently accurate.

Confusing to non foxhunters, It is with great reverence that the mounted foxhunter goes about protecting the foxes and there habitat. A great example would be the historic snow fall of this past winter. There were quite a few folks making the effort to place feed around known dens to offer some protein to Reynard when three feet of snow keep him from hunting. While this past winters snow fall was a threat to the foxes, it was a short term and I hope a very rare event. The Red Fox has flourished for decades, and in recent years its future became even brighter with the collapse of the fur market. However now there is a new threat to the Red Fox, not foxhunters, nor development ...The Coyote is the next threat to Reynard and his family.

The coyote historically was a species that was found mostly west of the Mississippi river. Over the past century with a shift in their competing predators and their incredible ability to adapt the coyote now occupies every state in the nation. According to a Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources report the Coyote was first documented in Maryland in 1972 with sightings in the western counties of the state. Today in 2010 the coyote now resides in every county in the state. Cited in the same report was an alarming statistic from neighboring Virginia, is that there Coyote studies have a verified annual growth rate of 29% ..!!!!

What does this mean for Reynard ? Quite simply the coyote and the Red Fox require the same habitat. With the coyote's average weight at 35 to 40 pounds they are able to out compete and displace the Red Fox from his native habitat. With the loss of habitat we can expect to see declining numbers of the Red Fox. While there is some debate at what point we will see this decline the fact is if the coyote are expanding their range unabated this it will happen. The Maryland DNR has reported a decrease in Red Fox populations in the western and central portions of the state.

Geoff commented that EHHC is one of the few remaining hunts in the country that are hunting Red Fox only. We can only hope that we can remain this way for as long as possible. Most other hunt's have reluctantly included hunting the coyote, and that is a whole other type of hunting. Coyotes run straight, fast and far, this is hard on hounds, horses, and riders.

So the next time Geoff and his great pack of hounds provide a nice view of Reynard take a moment to appreciate what we have with this great partner of the chase. And keep your fingers crossed that we don't start seeing Wile-E Coyote instead.

**CHANGE OF DATE:**  
**ELKRIDGE-HARFORD HUNT PONY CLUB**  
**OPEN HORSE TRIALS**  
**AND PONY CLUB ROUND ROBIN**  
**SATURDAY MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

AT  
 ELKRIDGE-HARFORD HUNT CLUB, POCOCK ROAD  
 DIVISIONS INCLUDE:  
 Baby Beg. Novice (18"-2') Beg Novice (2'3"-2'6), Novice (2'6"-2'11)  
 And 'Dressage Only' division  
 Check out our website for further details!!!!  
 Or call: Karen Bennett 443-617-1797

## GREEN SPRING VALLEY HOUNDS HUNTER PACE

Sunday April 11, 2010

Due to winter weather riding conditions, the Hunter Pace course has been shortened this year. The start times will be available Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> and also will be posted on the course maps.

HILLTOPPING/NOVICE - Open to all riders. To be ridden over the Junior course. Fences are optional.

JUNIOR HUNTER PACE - Open to children with or without an accompanying adult. Modified course with inviting fences not to exceed 2'9".

HUNTER PACE - Open to all riders. The flagged course will be 2 to 3 miles over hunter type fences approximately 3'3" to 3'6" in height. Riders may choose to go optimum or fast time.

Proper hunting attire is required. The times for each division have been previously ridden and calculated.

The start of the Hunter Pace will be held at Mr. & Mrs. Jerald E. Brown's Jackson Hole Farm, 4017 Black Rock Road, Upperco Maryland, 21155.

Directions and parking: Falls Road to Black Rock Road to parking sign.

Each team must declare on their entry form in which division(s) they will be riding. Maps of the courses will be available in the club tackroom and in Maryland Saddlery by Wednesday, April 7th. The entry fee is \$25.00 per horse.

There will be no schooling over the course. This course is provided through the kindness of the landowners, please don't abuse their generosity.

For more information contact:

Becky Naylor - 717-428-1043 / 717-683-8974

## Cross-Country Schools

*By Chris Peddicord*

In consideration of not being able to hunt as regularly as we often do during this past season, I thought it would be a good idea to schedule a few field trips. After all, many of our horses didn't work as diligently during January and February as usual so why not add a few experiences to their repertoire to season them even more. Keep in mind that these efforts will be low key, calm and relaxing; not a stressful, nerve racking experience, but straightforward enjoyable experiences that will benefit a green horse and intrigue a made horse.

- There are about twenty or so host farms that conduct three phase or three day events in our proximate neighborhood. Many of these farms offer cross country schools for a nominal fee. This is extended to horses and riders outside of a competition schedule. Their requirements are simple: a signed release, a certified helmet and in some cases a protective vest. The courses range from baby novice to preliminary levels. The attraction of schooling an event course is being able to experience many of the natural barriers we face out hunting but doing so in a calm and relaxed atmosphere and being able to correct mistakes and have as many "do-overs" as you feel you need. Once the ground has dried up a bit, probably not before May, but throughout the spring and tolerable summer heat I plan on travelling to some of these farms to enjoy a day out having fun in a different venue.
- The NCR Trail is a wonderful place to hack a horse and enjoy the view as well as experience a few things that your horse may not see every day but will help his overall training. How many times has a cyclist on an adjacent road sent your trusty steed into a bit of a tailspin? After a few hours of seeing nothing but, its my guess that he'll forget all about a biker. These **walks** will usually last about two hours and are one of the most relaxing things you could possibly do both for you and your horse.

If either of these endeavors interests you please contact me. I'll create a list of folks and once I put a trip in place I'll be glad to contact you to give you details. They will be scheduled often mid-week after rush hour traffic. First and foremost it will be **LOW KEY**; no craziness, no fast wild endless gallops....quiet, calculated and relaxed. If this suits you send me an email and I'll add your name to the list. Once I plan a field trip I'll let you know the details.

**Contact email: [arcpostman@cs.com](mailto:arcpostman@cs.com)**



2760 Hess Rd.  
Monkton MD 21111

## Calling All EHC Horse Show Volunteers Past & Present



*Guess the name of the "Wildly Enthusiastic Volunteer" from the 1994 EHC Horse Show and win a EHC ballcap. Entries must be submitted to the editor in writing at the following email address: arcpostman@cs.com. The individual above and her family are ineligible.*

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Elkridge Harford Horse Show and we could not have done it without the countless people who have volunteered, some of them for all 20 years. To honor them we are having a reception at the show on August 7<sup>th</sup>. The reception is open to all volunteers, exhibitors, sponsors and supporters and we hope to have a wonderful time viewing old photographs, reminiscing about great horses and riders and looking forward to another 20 years. Please join us on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

## What's New at The Painted Pig?

- Hunt pictures from George Wright, Jon Frederick Herring Sr. and a Pytchley Hunt by Barraud. A beautiful pair of fox scones. All these things are reduced 20%.
- Tea at two at the Painted Pig Cafe & Consignments: Offering Homemade scone, tea sandwiches, soups, salads, quiche and dessert, By reservation only.

Nancy Wallis  
The Painted Pig Cafe & Consignment  
17052 Troyer Road  
Monkton, Maryland 21111  
410-472-1262 Store  
410-908-0083 Cell

### RACE FILMS

If you didn't get a chance to attend the races or just want to see them again there's plenty of opportunity to see them on film. GSVHC and The Manor Tavern both show the previous weekend's races.

On Wednesday nights the GSVHC is hosting an evening viewing films. There is a nominal fee to cover the cost of the film and food is pitch-in type. Contact the editor for details.

On Thursday nights The Manor Tavern shows films at 7:30. Be sure to plan ahead as it does tend to be SRO.

### BLANKETS REPAIRED

Turnouts / Blankets / Horse "Wear" washed and repaired.  
Contact Linda Nickel: linda.nickel@gmail.com 410-299-2848.