



**Thomas H. Jackson, ex-MFH**

**b. 1945 - d. 2015**

**Sewickley Hunt Club 1973-1975, Ottawa Valley Hunt Club 1976-1984,  
Mission Valley Hunt Club 1984-2009, and Coal Valley Hounds 2002-2011**

Thomas H. Jackson, born June 19, 1945, in Bellevue, Pennsylvania, passed away on October 21, 2015, at the age of 70. Survived by his daughter, Tracey, and son, Kevin, Tom's life was marked by hard work, passion, and kindness. Starting work young due to financial struggles, he developed a love for the outdoors and began his lifelong career as a professional huntsman after serving in the Army and earning two Bronze Stars during the Vietnam War.

Tom's career took him from Pennsylvania to Canada and the Midwest, where he served as huntsman for various clubs, including the Sewickley Hunt Club, Ottawa Valley Hunt Club, and Mission Valley Hunt Club. He also was the Huntsmen for the Coal Valley Hunt Club and Joint Master of Foxhounds. He was well-respected and admired in the foxhunting community, known for his skill, kindness, and mentorship. A passionate hound breeder, he worked to improve hunting packs across the U.S., especially in the Midwest, and was President of the Central States Hound Club.

Tommy had a unique ability to connect with people, landowners, and juniors, often mentoring aspiring huntsmen and involving young riders in hunts. He cherished his Irish heritage and was remembered for his honesty, generosity, and zest for life. His dedication to his craft and hounds was beautifully captured in a quote from Foxhunting in North America by Alexander Mackay-Smith, emphasizing his innate understanding of hounds and the deep bond he shared with them.

**"Most of the factors which contribute to the successful hunting of a pack of hounds can be learned. But there is one quality which must be born in a huntsman--it cannot be learned. This is the sensitivity and understanding which enables a huntsman to put himself in the hound's position and to know instinctively what that hound is apt to do. If he is so endowed a huntsman can secure the confidence and trust of his hounds and so create a partnership which can perform miracles in the hunting field."**

Tommy Jackson's legacy lives on through the many lives he touched and the traditions he upheld in the hunting world.