

*Ameraucana*

Spring 2002



*Bulletin*

Vol. XX11 #1

**AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB 6442 CHESTNUT AVE., ORANGEVALE, CA 95662**

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# ABC JUNIOR MEMBERS



Adam Wozney, of Blair, Wisconsin with his white Ameraucana pullet. It was Best of Breed and Reserve AOCCL at the Portage Wisconsin Junior Show last September.



Hannah Misciasci, from Muskego, WI with her Junior Showmanship Award.



Emily Guerra, of Grass Valley, CA with her Champion Ameraucana bantam, at the Southeastern Dist. Meet at Roseville in January. Emily managed to place this top award in an open class of Ameraucanas and beat her mother's brown reds, the whites shown by the Dist. Director and the whites shown by your Secretary. This was an outstanding wheaten hen shown in top condition. Congratulations, Emily. The juniors on this page are fine examples of the quality of our ABC youngsters.





## **Out West**

**Notes from your Secretary**

We hope that you will approve of the addition of color to our quarterly bulletin. The color copier that provides this service is now property of the Ameraucana Breeders Club to be retained by the Secretary-Treasurer and passed on to his successor following election. The greater portion of the cost of this machine and ink cartridges, was from donations by South Central Director Robbie Lindsey, President Mike Gilbert and your Secretary. If you appreciate the addition of color to our bulletin and would like to contribute toward funding the color copier, please send your contribution to your club Secretary. Thank you for your consideration.

The new club logo on the cover of the bulletin was produced by Katherine Plumer of Wilton, California, a recent graduate of the University of California at Davis. She is a gifted artist and an Art major at her university but knows a bit about poultry as well, being a Poultry Science minor and breeder of excellent Rosecomb bantams in a variety of colors. When I met with Katherine just prior to her rendering of the logo, she took considerable time in observing and sketching one of my white bantam pullets in order to better represent the breed. She was also very patient with me as I asked for a number of changes to "fine tune" the logo. I hope you like it.

We feel that our club is the finest in the fancy and your Board of Directors welcome your input and suggestions for continued improvement. Remaining the finest is our goal and an ongoing process. We take pride in being a member-driven organization and hope that we will have your continued support throughout the year.

Finally, I must end on a sad note. Former member Eric Wilhelmi, of Colby, Wisconsin, died in January as the result of an automobile accident. Eric, 29, worked with 4H Youth programs in poultry and exhibited Blue Wheaten Ameraucana bantams at Wisconsin shows. Eric will be greatly missed by his family, friends and fellow poultry fanciers. We of the Ameraucana Club extend our sympathy to his family.



### Northeast District Report

Just a few lines from the Northeast District Director. This being the 12th day of February and we have over 100 Ameraucanas hatched in both large fowl and bantam. We are testing the birds we intend to show this spring. We keep only 25 breeders over winter. Our two brooders have some good looking birds in them.

Now to the future. I hear from Don Cable that I have three new members in my district since Jan. 16 and have signed up four members since Columbus, one not from my district. Make sure you keep a membership application with you at the shows. Sell some breeders, promote the Ameraucana breed. Help a beginner, ease your feed bill.

Now for the specials for the Columbus, Ohio National Meet. This is your club, so consider this- I hope we can have a sponsor for every variety of both large fowl and bantam. Specials and their donors will be posted in the showroom.

New member John Imes has donated an 11X16 banner for both wheaten and blue wheaten bantams and the supplier indicates they will cost about \$12. each. If you are thinking about sponsoring an award, let me know, be it cash or whatever. Snail mail me at 22769 Steen Hill Rd., Cochran, PA 16314-9803 with any thought on this. If you send money please specify where you want it applied.

I hope to have some news in the May bulletin about who will be judging in Columbus at the National Meet. The Ohio National Committee is meeting to decide who judges what. We hope to make this a super Ameraucana Show, but without your support it will be just another show. Neil Townsend.

### Southwest District Report

Hello to all! I hope everyone is surviving the winter months. Here in Northern California, we have had quite a cold spell, with many freezing days. Hopefully we will be seeing springtime soon, and get some eggs to set.

We had our District Meet at the Pacific Poultry Breeders Show in Roseville, CA on January 26th and 27th. There were 21 Bantam Ameraucanas shown, and 11 Large Ameraucanas. Emily Guerra, a junior, took Best of Breed on a bantam wheaten hen. Teresia Renwick has Reserve of Breed on a white cockerel. Teresia also took Best of Breed on a Large Fowl white cock and Jay Horn took the Reserve of Breed on a Large buff pullet. All winners were ABC members.

Our next meet is a state meet at Fresno on Feb. 23rd and 24th. I hope everyone has a good hatching season with many future champions in the incubator. Teresia Renwick, District Director.

### South Central District Report.

The South Central District Meet will be held with the Cowtown Poultry Association in Fort Worth, TX on March 16-17, hosting the APA Semi-annual Meet. Info. from Sam Brush (817) 379-6475.

An ABC state meet will be held with the Southeast Oklahoma Poultry Club on May 4 at the Oklahoma Fairgrounds in Idabel. Info. from Cassy Garrett at 1-580-266-7225. Robbie Lindsey



## Building a Bantam House

In a real sense my bantam house was built from the inside out. By this I mean that the size of the inside pens determined the overall size of the structure. I wanted pens that were four feet wide by three feet deep, providing sufficient room for a pair or trio of bantams in each. The cost of the structure limited me to four pens of this size on each side of the house separated by a four foot center aisle. Thus the overall dimensions of the structure is ten feet wide by sixteen feet long- not large by any means but meet my needs as I seldom carry more than a dozen birds over winter. Breeding and/or holding pens on one side, rearing pens on the other.

Half of the breeding pen nest boxes protrude into the pen, yet allow nearly twelve square feet of floor space, reducing potential conflict among the confined birds. The four breeding units are located on the north side of the structure and eliminate most direct sunlight- more on this later. The south-facing rearing pens do admit sunlight, but the overhanging eaves limit the direct exposure to about one fourth of the floor area so that growing chicks may regulate the amount of sun they desire. During the summer months exposure is limited to early morning.

Since there is no permanent electric power to the bantam house, the roof is composed of white translucent material which admits considerable light. On cold, overcast days, light is roughly equal to outside conditions. The same is true of cold, but sunny days of winter with the advantage of about ten degrees rise in temperature and on such days a 50 degree day is a comfortable 60 degrees inside.

During the hot summer months a tarp is spread over the entire roof as 100+ summer days would make it unbearably hot within. Each pen is provided with a large screened window which is covered with plastic light-admitting material in winter to ward off any wind aided rain and is removed as late spring approaches. Temperature is also controlled by a set of solid outer doors which may be held open for improved air circulation or closed and locked for security. Another set of inner screened doors are latched for the majority of the year and with outer doors open, provide a flow of fresh air throughout the interior of the building. At the same time the welded wire screen on these inner doors excludes potential predators, wild birds and small boys- my grandkids.



Since the four foot aisle runs the length of the inside of the building, it provides plenty of room to feed, water, clean pens and work with the birds. All pens are raised up three feet high so that there is no stooping and a minimum of bending in daily care. Also, I am able to move my wheelbarrow directly under the doorway to each pen and remove soiled litter with a long-handled scraper, making cleaning a simple task.

One half of the nestbox protrudes out into the aisle and a gravity-fed watering device sits on top of the nestbox where the base of the waterer slips under a doweled frame providing access for the bantams. Next to the waterer is the feeder- a medium loaf pan that is filled so that the birds eat by sticking their heads between the dowels that contain them. A hinged piece on the aisle side of the nestbox allows collecting eggs from this point. The nestbox- about 18" square- is large enough to accommodate two bantams laying at the same time as they often do. The half of the nestbox within each pen provides a platform for the birds to stand upon while they feed and drink and also anchors a 2"X2" which spans the narrow end of the pen to the window and serves as a roost. The floor is covered by a two to three inch layer of wood shavings which is added to periodically to keep the bedding dry and reasonably clean.

The translucent roof was installed because I did not have permanent electric power to the bantam house. I wanted the house to remain as light and airy as possible as opposed to the dark, smelly poultry houses I remember as a child. Moreover, I am partial to the white Ameraucana bantam which can become brassy from direct exposure to sunlight which is why the breeding pens face north, yet have plenty of filtered light provided by the translucent material of the roof. During the cold, but sunny days of winter, the greenhouse effect that raises the internal temperature helps keep the litter dry and fluffy, and the bantams (and myself) comfortable and active.

Obviously my bantam house would provide inadequate protection from cold in states with severe winter weather or perhaps too much exposure for states in the desert southwest. If you are considering a new poultry building, visit other fanciers and you may find ideas that you may apply to your particular circumstances. Before you decide on the ultimate chickenhouse, consider the cost, close neighbors and be sure to investigate both city and county ordinances which regulate poultry keeping. This may save you some money, much aggravation and considerable heartache. Whatever your decision, my very best wishes as you proceed. Don Cable

Next Quarter- beginning a two part series on feeds and feeding.





The bantam house from the northwest corner. Outer doors open and inner wire covered doors locked against varmints but admitting a free flow of air on a pleasant Autumn day.



Breeding pens from the aisle showing the arrangement of nest boxes which provide feed and water atop the boxes on the outside and a platform for bantams to access these from within the pens.





Central Coast Poultry Fanciers Show at Paso Robles, CA last Fall. ABC members Jay Horn (Best singer), Don Cable (Best bantam) and Jim Wheeler (Best mustache). Los tres bandidos.



ABC members at the ABA National Show in Tucson, AZ last November. From left: Don Cable, CA Robbie Lindsey, TX, David West, NM and Monique Davis, AZ. Robbie had Reserve AOSB on a fine Black large fowl Ameraucana. Don had best bantam, David had best ostrich and Monique had the best time. A banner at the banquet proclaimed, "SHOW THE BEST AND EAT THE REST<. We did.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Secretary Don Cable 6442 Chestnut Ave., Orangevale, CA amerabantams@aol.com

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Southwestern Teresia Renwick 13333 Quarterhorse Dr., Grass Valley, CA clucky@ips.net

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Eastern Neil Townsend 22769 Steen Hill, Cochran, PA 16314 loudandproud@csonline.net

Southeastern Scott Eutsler 88 Dobyns Rd., Stuart, VA 24171 tucherth@swva.net

New members- Contact your District Director if you want an ABC Meet at your local show.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bryan Taylor 1438 220th Ave., Milo, IA 50166

Linda Jones 2624 Newport Rd. NE, Iowa City, IA 52240-7852

Rick Olson 84E & 500S, Midvale, UT 84057

Walter & Ursula Scheu Box4062, Ashboro, NC 27204-4062

Deidre Edder 683 Mulberry Rd., Winder, GA 30687

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Bonnie Norris 2121 S. River Rd., West Lafayette, IN 47906

Leon Williams 629 Oak Hill Rd., Swanville, ME 04915

Susan Dutcher 436 Green Level Rd., Apex, NC 27502

Nancy Utterback 11638N 600W, Frankton, IN 46044

Starlene Kalinski 2350 Sandy Ln., Naples, FL 34112

Lester Bryne Po Box 309, Grafton, NH 03240

Jeff Byrd 1600 Governor's Dr., Apt. 233, Pensacola, FL 32514-9411

Tom Krein 18201 W. Hwy. 102, Decatur, AR 72722

Peggy Butler Rt. 1, Box702-6, Idabel, OK 74745



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (Cont'd.)

John Imus 19402 Green Mountain St., Meadville, PA 16335-9062

Vernon Rondeau 377 200th St., Osceola, WI 54020

Van Pate, Sr. PO Box 2473 Calhoun, GA 30703-2473

Janet Heida 284 Warbasse Jct. Rd., Lafayette, NJ 07848

Sean McKee 4019 Stramba Rd., Cincinnatus, NY 13040

Mark Hood 270 N. CrossLane Rd., Monroe, GA 30656

Joe Swain 746 McGarity, McDonough, GA 30252

## THE MAILBOX

Hi Don,

Here are my dues for the new year. I have been making good progress with my Red Ameraucana bantams. My red cockerel I think has good color but the pullets are harder to get the color just right but I will continue to work on them.

Jim Tuckwood  
Boscobel, Wisconsin

Thanks for the update on your red Ameraucana project. If you get some good photos, please send them along so that I can put them in the bulletin in color. Good luck and please keep me posted.

Hi Don,

I received the ABC ribbons for my old cock "Bambino" and the young cockerel that won the recent Southern Ohio Poultry Association Show. I am focused on the ABC National in Columbus. Please let me know if there is anything I can do, or contribute to assure a fantastic show.

Kathy Gratsch  
Cincinnati, Ohio

It sounds like you're doing very well with Bambino and your other birds. If you read Neil Townsend's Eastern District Report, you'll find information about contributing toward our National Meet Awards.

Thanks for your friendly letter and I will look forward to meeting you in Columbus this November.