

Ameraucana Newsletter

Fall 2016 ~ Volume 2, Issue 3

Copyright © 2016 by Ameraucana Alliance™



Welcome New Members...

Becky Hammond, AK

Chris Hintz, NE

Crystal, Jeff, Scott, Darrin,
Charley & Emma

Valerie Kolaga, PA

Beverly Fledderjohann, OH

Micah Christian, OK

Matthew

Melodie Jane Cuffin, PA

April Obregon, TX

Noah Lasley, WI

Dave Lasley, WI

Aimee Reay, CO

Annica & Katie

April Howington, TX

Terry Boyers, OH

Mary Lynn Scuderi, LA

Robert Trezise, NV

Eveleen

Lisa Stanley, WV

Arlene Woodall, TX

William Nowlin, TX

Megan White, MI

Marlie & Matthew Duby

Kim Bailey, CA

Ellen Calkins, CT

Abigail & Hugh Cipparone

Shannon Rowe, TX

Michele Cram, WA

Amanda Peters, IL

Lea Ann Wiemann Post, MN

Nina Anna & Sara Valentina

Kelly Cortez, TX

Sarah Rose, CA

Sharon Bergman, MI

In This Issue:

Welcome Members.....1

Michael Muenks.....2

John Blehm.....2

Beth Curran.....3

Mike Gilbert.....4

Gina Neta.....5

National Meet Awards.....7

Treasurer's Report.....8

Upcoming Meets.....8

Club Directors.....8

"Our Election Commissioner is Sue Paolini and our Assistant Election Commissioner is Duane Schoeder. Thank you to those who have stepped forward to run for the open positions in the leadership of the Ameraucana Alliance..."
[read more on page 2](#)

"I attended last year and I can honestly say it was the best poultry show I have ever been to! This year's show promises to be even better, with over \$2000 in awards up for grabs..."
[read more on page 3](#)

"...in the silent auction. We are looking for large fowl or bantams, and they can be part of the silent auction as single birds; pairs; trios; etc. Good birds that you are willing to part with will certainly help someone else..."
[read more on page 5](#)

*Mike Gilbert's
Best of Breed
bantam
wheaten pullet
at the Coulee
Region Poultry
Show, June
4th, in
Galesville,
Wisconsin*



Michael J. Muenks ~ President



Greetings and welcome to the Fall 2016 Show Season! There is an amazing list of awards for the National Meet in Lebanon, IN October 15, 2016. I'm so impressed by the dedication and commitment of our Board of Directors and members. You are outstanding in your commitment to Ameraucana. I hope as many of you as possible are able to make it to the National Meet for fellowship, fun, and some competition. The meet was great last year, and I am sure it will be fantastic this year. I hope to see everyone there and to make some new friends.

As an update to my thoughts on flock mating from the last newsletter, I'm pleased to report that I ended up with some decent Silver Ameraucana bantams from this year's flock. The silver bantams I have are descended from bantams I bred up, some from Curtis Beck, and some from John Blehm. They are the only variety I have enough of to really call a "flock." While not perfect by any stretch of the imagination, I was very pleased with the results this year. I need to work a bit on the genetics of the flock, but I'm pleased and they are a good example of flock mating.

As I wrap up my thoughts for this newsletter, I need to remind the membership that it is an election year this year for not only the United States of America, but also the Ameraucana Alliance. Our Election Commissioner is Sue Paolini and our Assistant Election Commissioner is Duane Schoeder. Thank you to those who have stepped forward to run for the open positions in the leadership of the Ameraucana Alliance.

Have a wonderful fall show season, hatch some late chicks, and enjoy the change of the seasons!

John W Blehm ~ Secretary/Treasurer



◇ Every member should have received an Ameraucana Handbook by now. I also included an Egg Color Reference Chart with each one. Handbooks are mailed to every first time Alliance member as part of their membership and extra copies can be ordered thru our site's Ameraucana Merchandise page.

◇ Michael has named Sue and Duane as Election Commissioner and Assistant Election Commissioner as he noted in his report. Please let me know by October 1st if you would like to run for office. Ballots will be sent out by October 15th. Completed ballots must be received by the Election Commissioner by November 1st. When only one member accepts the nomination for any office that person will be elected by acclamation. The official election results shall be included in the Winter Newsletter and the new officers shall assume office on January 1st.

◇ I started and pinned a new topic called Chick Phenotype under the Breeding subforum of our Ameraucana Forum. There are many photos included.

◇ I started a forum for the club back in 1999 and it was going to be just for a few purposes so that it wouldn't compete with the ABC Sharing Place which was started by Rita & Vicky, a couple club members at the time. Their Sharing Place was an MSN message board and MSN had a rule that didn't allow buying & selling on their boards. Our forum filled the void. The MSN boards are long gone and for over 10 years now our forum has expanded from just an Ameraucana Marketplace to everything about the breed and club. Thru the forum someone suggested on online Ameraucana Directory and that can be viewed and downloaded from the Home page of our club's site. It is updated as members join and want to have a listing there of the Ameraucana birds and hatching eggs they offer for sale. Members without internet access can request a printed copy from me.

Beth Curran ~ Director of Club Meets

Hello, everyone, hope you are all faring well in this heat wave that seems to cover most of the country. As I sit here typing, the heat index is over 110. Knock on wood, the birds are holding their own, even though the heat is hard on them, but I am sure they are as anxious for fall as I am!



Another good reason to be looking forward to fall is our Ameraucana Alliance Nationals in Lebanon, IN. I attended last year and I can honestly say it was the best poultry show I have ever been to! This year's show promises to be even better, with over \$2000 in awards up for grabs between the open and junior shows - check out the awards list for more details.

Speaking of awards, points have been updated and ribbons have been mailed for all shows through the end of July 2016. Thank you so much for your patience. I fell way behind when I had so much trouble last year getting meet reports, but I believe it is all finally current. Please check your points and make sure they are correct. If you notice any discrepancies, or did not receive your ribbon(s), please let me know as soon as possible.

This is also an election year, so for those of you who do not know me, I have included my bio to tell you a little bit about myself:

I grew up in Gerrardstown, WV and graduated from Martinsburg Senior High, like my mother and grandmother before me. I met my husband while working at the Leesburg, VA, Wal-Mart, and in 1997 he joined the Marine Corp, and was stationed at Camp Lejeune. We bought 5 acres in Maysville, NC and were married in 1998. He is now civil service on the base, and our son, Walker (Fuzz) was born here, and we have pretty much put down roots, but I still get homesick, especially in the fall & winter - I miss the mountains, the smell of apples in the fall, sled riding, etc.

I started raising Ameraucanas in 2009, so compared to many of you I've barely gotten my feet wet. But my interest in these fascinating birds goes back to a grade school incubator project in the late 70's (maybe even 1980?). I was given eggs by a local farmer who said he had 2 breeds "ones that lay blue eggs and ones that lay green ones." He gave me the green ones. They never hatched and I have no idea what type of birds he actually had, but I never lost my fascination with those unique eggs and, after a couple of years of researching and comparing Ameraucanas and Araucanas, in 2009 I hatched my first Ameraucanas from eggs I purchased from Wayne Meredith.

My son, Walker, is all about chickens and has been since we got the first layer birds when he was just a toddler. He loves to show and competes in youth showmanship. He particularly loves bantams. He has silver, white, buff, wheaten and blue wheaten Ameraucana bantams, black MGBs, and butterscotch Call Ducks.

In addition to chickens, I am a life-long horsewoman, and I also have Lamancha dairy goats which are primarily family milkers & pets, but I have made a point of breeding to the best bucks available. Our family is active in our church, and I work at a different church, were I have become very close to the church members and staff. I feel doubly blessed to have two church families!

Have a great rest of the summer, and I hope to see you in the fall!

Beth

Jim Fegan ~ Director

(no report)



Mike Gilbert ~ Director of Recruitment & Promotion



This is the time of year when the superior birds from this year's hatch begin to emerge from the rest of the flock. As the young birds begin to mature their conformation, coloring, and temperament become more and more apparent. It's a good time to make those final cuts, and cull the ones that won't make the grade for breeding and/or showing. Why throw money away on feed for birds that won't ever be of any use? The remaining birds will do so much better with less competition in the pens. Of course with any muffed and bearded variety it is always safest to pen the very best ones

separately so they don't end up getting those feathers picked out by their pen mates. It only takes a day or two for a show worthy bird to lose much of those muffs and thus become worthless for showing until they molt and grow in new feathers. Rowdy young cockerels full of hormones can damage the females back, neck, and wing feathers with their amorous advances. It's best to pen the cockerels away from the pullets if the space is available. With pens of young cockerels, I have found it beneficial to keep an older dominant male with them to keep order and to discourage the young males from attacking each other. It's also a good time to treat them for internal and external parasites, administer their final vaccinations, etc. When the adult feathers are mostly grown in it is time to handle the show prospects gently on a regular basis and get them used to being caged. Remove broken and ragged feathers at least four to six weeks before their first show so that replacement feathers have time to grow in. With just a little extra care and handling your birds will be at their best when it comes their turn to impress the judge. Good luck, and enjoy the hobby.



Ameraucana Meet Report

Coulee Region Poultry Club

Galesville WI, June 4, 2016

19 bantams by 6 exhibitors judge: Bart Pals

BV - black H by Mike Gilbert out of 4
RV- black P by Bob Rennolet
BV - blue H by Bob Rennolet out of 3
RV- blue P by Bob Rennolet
BV - blue wheaten H by Jacob Sonsalla out 1
BV - buff H by John Blehm out of 2
RV - buff C by John Blehm
BV - silver H by John Blehm out of 1
BB, BV - wheaten P by Mike Gilbert out of 2
RB, RV - wheaten H by Natalie Sonsalla

BV - lavender H by John Blehm out of 6
RV - lavender H by John Blehm

26 large fowl by 12 exhibitors judge: Zeb Skow

BB, BV - black C by Jacob Sonsalla out of 10

RB, RV - black H by non-member
BV - blue C by non-member out of 6
RV - blue H by Bob Rennolet
BV - brown red C by Mike Gilbert out of 2
RV - brown red H by Mike Gilbert
BV - buff C by John Blehm out of 1
BV - white H by Bob Rennolet out of 3
RV - white H by Gina Neta
BV - lavender C by John Blehm out of 4
RV - lavender H by Bob Rennolet

Gina Neta ~ Director



Summer Fun and Poultry Shows - Our long awaited summer seems to be flying by. Someone told me recently that after celebrating Independence Day summer is considered half over. It can be difficult to pack in all the fun that you had planned during the long winter months but please give it your best shot! We love to visit Upper Michigan and enjoy long weekends there several times each summer.

I find myself spending time each day studying my group of young Ameraucanas to try and identify the best of the best. Some days I'm convinced they all should go into the soup pot but other days I think I see some diamonds in the rough. They grow and change rapidly and I have to remind myself to be patient and let them mature. I hope you are seeing some future shining stars in your grow out pens too.

Show season is getting under way and attending these events is a terrific way to connect with other enthusiasts to share stories, ask questions, view pictures, and get to know each other. For me that's the best part of the shows and I am looking forward to several such opportunities this fall.

The Central Indiana Poultry Show in Lebanon, IN is October 15th and will be one to remember. Make sure it gets on your calendar as this show will host our Ameraucana Alliance National Meet. I am happy to announce an exciting addition to this show: There will be a Silent Auction of Ameraucanas for everyone to participate in with proceeds being credited to the club. This is a wonderful opportunity to purchase quality Ameraucanas from Alliance members while supporting our breed organization. I want to encourage everyone who has 'extra' Ameraucanas to consider including them in the silent auction. We are looking for large fowl or bantams, and they can be part of the silent auction as single birds; pairs; trios; etc. Good birds that you are willing to part with will certainly help someone else continue to build on their breeding program. For more details and/or questions, you can contact myself (920)615-5930 gnetas831@me.com or Russ Blair (419)410-2613 Slicktree@hotmail.com.

The Central Indiana Poultry Show mentioned above on October 15th is being held in Lebanon, IN at the Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds located along I-65. Judges are Bud Blankenship (judging the Ameraucanas), Jeff Halbach, Matt Lhamon and Mike Sayre. For more information or questions, please contact Ron Patterson at 765-676-6192 or rpatter56@gmail.com. I hope to see you there!

Ameraucana Meet Report

California State Fair

Sacramento CA, July 22-24, 2016

21 bantams by 5 exhibitors, judge Jim Sallee

BV - black H by Debra Hogan out of 8

RV - black H by non-member

BV - blue H by non-member out of 5

RV - blue K by non-member

BB, BV - buff H by Debra Hogan out of 5

RB, RV - buff H by Debra Hogan

BV - silver H by Debra Hogan out of 3

RV - silver H by Debra Hogan

58 LF by 6 exhibitors, judge Mark Dooms

BV - black H by Debra Hogan out of 10

RV - black ? by non-member

BV - blue K by Debra Hogan out of 7

RV - blue ? by non-member

BV - blue wheaten K by Debra Hogan out of 8

RV - blue wheaten H by Debra Hogan

BV - brown red H by Debra Hogan out of 5

RV - brown red K by Debra Hogan

Ch AOSB, BB, BV - buff H by D. Hogan out of 6

RV - buff C by Debra Hogan

BV - silver C by Debra Hogan out of 4

RV - silver H by Debra Hogan

RB, BV - wheaten K by Debra Hogan out of 9

RV - wheaten H by Debra Hogan

BV - white H by Debra Hogan out of 9

RV - white C by Debra Hogan

Awards list for Ameraucana National Meet

Lebanon, IN ~ October, 15th, 2016

Open Show Competition:

Champion Ameraucana Over-All.....	\$100
Reserve Champion Ameraucana Over-All.....	\$100
Best of Breed Bantam.....	\$50
Reserve of Breed Bantam.....	\$50
Best of Breed Large Fowl.....	\$50
Reserve of Breed Large Fowl.....	\$50
Best of Variety Bantam (recognized & Best AOV).....	\$30
Reserve of Variety Bantam (recognized & Reserve AOV).....	\$25
Best of Variety Large Fowl (recognized & Best AOV).....	\$30
Reserve of Variety Large Fowl (recognized & Reserve AOV).....	\$25
BV Large Fowl Wheaten & Blue Wheaten.....	\$25 each by Royce Van Blaricome
RV Large Fowl Wheaten & Blue Wheaten.....	\$10 each by Royce Van Blaricome
Champion Bantam Trio.....	\$25 by Mike Gilbert
Champion Large Fowl Trio.....	\$25 by Mike Gilbert
Champion Display Over-All.....	\$50 by Robert Rennolet
Reserve Champion Display Over-All.....	\$25 by Robert Rennolet
3rd Place Champion Display Over-All.....	\$25 by Robert Rennolet

Ameraucana Egg Competition:

Best Bantam Eggs.....	\$25 by Duane Schroeder
Reserve Bantam Eggs.....	\$20 by Ken Olsen
Best Large Fowl Eggs.....	\$25 by Duane Schroeder
Reserve Large Fowl Eggs.....	\$20 by Ken Olsen

Junior Competition:

Best of Breed Bantam.....	“Ameraucana National Meet” Rosette & \$30 + \$20 by Russ Blair
Reserve of Breed Bantam.....	”Ameraucana National Meet” Rosette & \$30 + \$10 by Russ Blair
Best of Breed Large Fowl.....	”Ameraucana National Meet” Rosette & \$30 + \$20 by Ken Olsen
Reserve of Breed Large Fowl.....	”Ameraucana National Meet” Rosette & \$30 + \$10 by Russ Blair
BV Bantam and LF (recognized & Best AOV).....	Blue “Ameraucana National Meet” Ribbon
RV Bantam and LF (recognized & Reserve AOV).....	Red “Ameraucana National Meet” Ribbon
BV Bantam Buff, Wheaten & Blue Wheaten and Large Fowl Buff.....	\$15 each by Beth Curran
BV Large Fowl Wheaten & Blue Wheaten.....	\$20 each by Royce Van Blaricome
RV Large Fowl Wheaten & Blue Wheaten.....	\$10 each by Royce Van Blaricome
Exhibitor (other than BV & RV).....	Yellow “Ameraucana National Meet” Ribbon

- Only Ameraucana Alliance Members are eligible for these awards by the club and our members, except nonmembers are eligible for ribbons & rosettes in Junior Competition only.
- Eggs entered into the egg judging contest become the property of the Ameraucana Alliance.
- Some members prefer cash and some prefer trophies of some sort. Winners have the choice of either cash or non-cash for club sponsored awards. Dollar amounts are associated with each win and each winner may decide whether to receive the cash or a non-cash (hardware) award, such as a plaque, rosette, coaster, etc. of fairly equal value with shipping figured in. This gives winners the option and by having non-cash awards made after the meet the winner’s name may be included in custom designed awards.

Russ Blair ~ candidate for Director

Hello Everyone,

As I write this, hatching season has thankfully come to an end and now my pens are at full capacity. My thoughts are moving towards the fall show season. So prospective birds are being sorted, damaged feathers pulled and conditioning is well under way. It is asked that anyone running for a position in our club to please write a short Bio so here I go.

My name is Russell Blair (Russ is fine) I am a father of 3 and happily married for the past 7 years. I am running for a Director position in this upcoming election. My first introduction to chickens was when I was 5 years old. I come from a family of 5 siblings and my Father would raise meat chickens to help provide food for the family. I had an Uncle who owned a small farm and would spend weekends with him. He probably is to blame for my love of small scale farming. He was responsible for my first chicken, a barred rock hen he bought for me at an auction he would always take me to.



It was not until 2009 after my marriage that I decided to get some more chickens. After receiving some hatchery layers, I started researching chickens hot and heavy. That's when I first saw Ameraucana's and found the ABC forum. I picked up my first chicks from John Blehm that year (6 LF Silver and 6 LF Black). I should of had them shipped. When I saw his set up, that's when the thought of breeding chickens as my hobby started. In 2010 I first joined the club, at that time it was the ABC.

In true chicken addict fashion, I started my two youngest children in 4-H a year later to justify more chickens. I soon bought LF Blue hatching eggs from Wayne Meredith, and started my own line of Blues. After the first year of 4-H I realized LF chickens were too large for my daughter to handle. So I bought a trio of Black Bantams from Patty Pickard, which John happily brought back from nationals that year. I also bought a quad of Lavender and a quad of Silver Bantams from John.

At this time I started going to Fowl Fest to see what Poultry shows are all about. Michael Gilbert was selling out all his Blue Bantams and I jumped all over them. Of course they were for my daughter and her 4-H project. After stalking the poultry shows I decided to enter. I remember winning BB and reserve CH AOCCL at Fowl Fest with a Black Bantam Cockerel. That was the day my wife regrets the most. For that was the day I found a new passion.

Since then I have entered several shows and enjoyed meeting all the great people that attend them. I now breed Large Fowl Silver, Blue, Black and a project flock of Blue Silver. In Bantams I breed Blue, Black, Silver, Lavender and now wheaten. I am a lifetime member of Ameraucana Alliance, and a member of the APA (unfortunately I am reconsidering the later of the two). My goals are to continue to improve the strains I have. I also am passionate about our great Club, and promoting our wonderful breed.

Well I hope this helps you all get to know me a little better. So with that get your birds singled out. Pull all the damaged feathers. Treat them all for parasites, internal and external. Feed them a sound ration of feed. More importantly start handling them daily. Hope to see you all this fall at our Nationals. If you have doubts of the quality of your stock, don't worry you will find the fellowship with fellow fanciers is worth more than any ribbon or plaque. Who knows you may get to enjoy both.

Sincerely,
Russ Blair

Important Dates

Deadline for the next Ameraucana Newsletter is November 15th. Please have reports, articles, photos, ads, etc. to me by then.

That is also the date to request meets be placed by, thru Beth, for any shows that have an entry deadline after December 1st...the date the Fall Newsletter is due by. Request meets as early as possible & request meets at both shows when there are double shows.

Treasurer's Report

Checking account at Credit Union Plus, Birch Run, MI

Previous Total Balance as of 5/29/2016 =	\$4,221.60
Previous Checking Balance as of 5/29/2016 =	\$3,820.31
Income	\$1,524.34
E x p e n s e s	
\$1,085.24	
Checking Balance as of 8/24/2016 =	\$4,259.41
PayPal Balance as of 8/24/2016 =	\$40.65

Upcoming Ameraucana Meets - Go to AmeraucanaAlliance.org for updates

October 1, 2016
Wisconsin Club Meet, requested by Kirstin Thompson
[Red Cedar Showdown](#), Menomonie, WI
Contact: Larry LaGesse larsherozyacres@yahoo.com

October 1-2, 2016
Ohio Club Meet, requested by John W Blehm
Southern Ohio Poultry Association Show, Lucasville OH
Contact: David Adkins johndavid.adkins@gmail.com

October 8-9, 2016
Michigan Club Meet, requested by John W Blehm
Michigan Poultry Fanciers – [Fowl Fest](#), Birch Run MI
Contact: Matt Boensch mjwaterfowl@yahoo.com

October 15, 2016
Ameraucana National Meet
Central Indiana Poultry Show, Lebanon IN
Contact: Doug Akers dakers@purdue.edu (765)482-7182

November 19, 2016
British Columbia Club Meet, requested by Dawn Webster
Cowichan Valley Feather Fanciers, Coombs BC
Contact: Dawn Webster ClassicAcres@gmail.com

December 17, 2016
North Carolina Club Meet, requested by Beth Curran
Carolina Feather Fanciers Assoc., Greensboro NC
Contact: Kristina Wilson info@carolinafeatherfanciers.us

[Countryside Daily spotlighted Ameraucanas as their Breed of the Month for August.](http://countrysidenetwork.com/daily/poultry/chickens-101/ameraucana-chicken-breed-of-the-month/)

<http://countrysidenetwork.com/daily/poultry/chickens-101/ameraucana-chicken-breed-of-the-month/>

They also have a short [Ameraucana YouTube video](#) with some good photos.
<https://youtu.be/ucKo8ThHcfE>

If you receive this newsletter by email and the clickable links, in blue, don't work for you, just copy & paste the URL links in your browser to view.

Ameraucana Alliance Board of Directors

President, Michael Muenks
33878 Hwy 87, California MO 65018-3911 michael.muenks@yahoo.com (573)796-3999

Secretary/Treasurer, John Blehm
4599 Lange Road, Birch Run MI 48415-8137 John@FowlStuff.com (989)777-1234

Director of Club Meets - Beth Curran
136 Twin Oak Road, Maysville NC 28555 bncairey@hotmail.com (910)743-8311

Director - Jim Fegan
278 County Road CNA, Champion MI 49814 lorpman@aol.com (906)486-9464

Director of Recruitment & Promotion - Mike Gilbert
W5171 Baker Road, Holmen WI 54636 chantecler7@gmail.com (608)857-3386

Director - Gina Neta
8771 Kosmal Lane, Lena WI 54139 Gnet831@me.com (920)615-5930



[Facebook.com/ameraucanaalliance](https://www.facebook.com/ameraucanaalliance)

Ameraucana.org - AmeraucanaAlliance.org - Ameraucana.club