



Ameraucana Newsletter

Fall 2020 ~ Volume 6, Issue 3

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members...

Arkansas

Josiah Christner

Indiana

Jeph Boston

Montana

James Whitney

Tennessee

Rebecca Stengel

California

Rebecca Burkhart

Jessica Holle

Heidi Benham

Kentucky

Christina Thomas

New York

Michelle Lobaito

Texas

Justina Conley

Hawaii

Chris Hardenbrook

Missouri

Tracy Buck

Donnie McCloud

Michelle O'Brien

North Carolina

Valorie Nycum

Jessica Simmons

Virginia

Barbara Mayer

President - John Blehm

Stan Alder resigned as an Alliance director due to personal reasons. Family comes first and we thank Stan for volunteering his time to serve.

"In the summer of 1978, Don Cable came up with the idea to form a club to promote the muffed and tailed blue egg laying bantams after he acquired two pair of Wheaten bantams from Mike Gilbert... Don served as the first Secretary of the club, while Mike served as President... In 1980, Don organized an ABA qualifying meet in California, which succeeded in having the ABA recognize the Wheaten and White varieties." That was forty years ago. Two years ago, this September, Don K Cable died in his sleep. Since he didn't want a formal obituary published upon his death we just recently learned of it. He was a firecracker baby - born on the 4th of July, 1933 and made his living as a school teacher. Don and his wife, Ruby, lived in Orangevale, California. His son, Curtis, told Jeannette Frank his father had often talked about Mike Gilbert and some of the others that he had been involved with in the poultry fancy. Mike said "I feel like an era has passed. Don was the perfect person for the job from 1978 until 1985. He was the real force and workhorse behind getting the Ameraucana recognized as a breed by the ABA and APA."



Frank L Gary and Don K Cable, 1984.

Beth Curran, of NC, received our 2020 Ameraucana Lifetime Achievement award! It is the highest honor we bestow and only one Alliance member is recognized with it each year. Beth's contributions to our Alliance over the past ten years include serving as club president and director, publishing articles promoting our breed and club, paying for a Lifetime Membership, contributing to our Ameraucana Forum and achieving "Guru" status in record time, going out of her way to attend some Ameraucana National Meets and more. I personally and the entire Alliance owe Beth our gratitude and respect for standing up and exposing the misconduct of many club officers several years ago. Her courage and integrity helped bring the club back on track and allowing it to grow into the great organization it is today. Mike Gilbert commented: "This award is very well

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Beth Curran, recipient of the 2020 Ameraucana Lifetime Achievement award.

deserved. You brought light in a time of darkness and then followed up with selfless service to Alliance members. Well done." And we all say, Congratulations Beth!

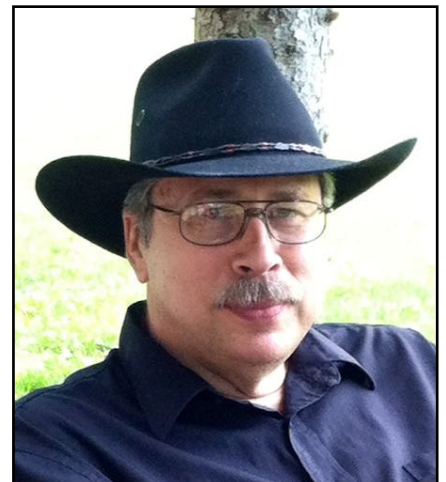
Our Exhibitor Points policy had a sentence saying "If a membership is lapsed, for more than 60 days, then the points will be forfeited." I proposed eliminating that sentence. Members may pay dues for up to a couple years in advance and receive at least two notices in December, if they haven't paid dues for the upcoming year. I've never felt we should hold on to points for a non-member and believe only dues paying members should have the privileges that come with membership. Our board of directors decided to go with a "compromise" and changed 60 days to 31 days. The updated policy can be viewed, along with our other policies, on our Ameraucana.org site.

Ken Olsen, from KS, has agreed to be our Election Commissioner and Max Strawn, from TX, agreed to be our Assistant Election Commissioner. As I mentioned in our summer newsletter, this is an election year and "Candidates must notify the President by October 1st of their candidacy". Please don't hesitate to run for president or director. All the requirements are listed in our Constitution. Article 6 says: "Any continuous member (no lapse in membership) for at least 12 months that is not also a member of another Ameraucana breed club (due to any possible conflict of interest), may run as a candidate for office. Candidates for President must also have first served at least one full two year term on the Board of Directors, before taking the office of President."

Please remember that bids/offers for our 2021 Ameraucana National Meet(s) have to be submitted to me by November 1st as per our Meet Policy. If you have a show in mind that you want the board to consider for a national meet please solicit a bid/offer from them. The board will place one or two national meets by November 15th, so all our Alliance members have plenty of time to prepare.

Years ago I had a dream, well it was really just an idea, to hold an Ameraucana only meet in my backyard. Due to COVID19, the two poultry shows that were to host our national meets are canceled this year and my dream is becoming a reality. Our Ameraucana Northern National will be October 10th on my farm, near Birch Run, Michigan. I have a 30' by 40' shed that will be cleared out for the birds. There is also a pavilion and barrier-free restroom in our backyard for attendees to use while here. We are just 7.5 miles from the I-75 exit in Birch Run and there are many hotels between Bridgeport, Frankenmuth and Birch Run...the 3 closest towns to my place. RVs/campers may park in our backyard and have electrical hookups, with their extension cords. Our Ameraucana Southern National will be October 31st on Sherry Klaus' farm, in Foristell, Missouri (just west of St Louis) and Becky has more details about it in her report. Both of these Alliance farm shows are APA & ABA sanctioned meets with licensed judges. They will be on the private property of Alliance members and the meets will be private, with only Alliance members and their families in attendance. Only Ameraucana chickens may be entered and only by Alliance members. These are the kind of meets dreams are made of!

Our Meet Policy says there has to be "three or more birds in a class" at our Club Meets before an award is given out and we



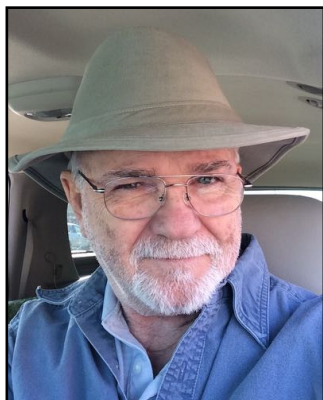
President John Blehm

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are using the same rule for our National Meets. I've seen where exhibitors feel a bird or more they have entered isn't in good enough show condition and leave them "OUT", leaving too few birds for awards in that class. It is a real shame to see a BV and maybe a RV not receive anything, because a bird or two that were entered didn't show. If you enter a bird, please show it, unless it is sick.

About two months ago a mink, probably on its own, killed 42 of my bantams and 6 large fowl in one night. It was the biggest one day loss for me in many years. I hadn't seen a mink here in nearly 40 years, but the day before the attack my son and I were sitting in the backyard and watched one go thru the yard from one section of woods to another. This mink killed mostly in two outside pens, but also went into the coops and killed. I figured the mink got thru the 2 by 4" welded wire. I added leg traps, live traps and "other stuff", but the mink was ahead 63 to zero after 3 days and then seemed to disappear. I've built wooden trap boxes that I placed #110 Conibear traps in. As the county drain that runs thru my property dried up I believe the mink moved on down to the creek the drain runs into. Photos are posted under the "CHICKEN LIFE" topic on our Ameraucana Forum, along with more information.

Director - Stan Alder



Director Stan Alder

On August 17, I decided that it would be best for me to resign from my director position. Alicia, my wife, was scheduled for major surgery that week. Her doctor said that she would be a long time recovering and that was all that my mind could handle. I wanted to thank you all for the good wishes, thoughts and prayers. Now, she is in recovery and doing very well. The surgery was major, but they did not have to do as much reconstruction as they originally expected. That will mean a quicker recovery, but still long and painful. She is feeling relief already. Though that may be due to the hospital drugs...again, thanks to all.

Director - Russ Blair

Hello again my Ameraucana enthusiasts and fellow Alliance members. I hope all is well and everyone is blessed with good health. With all the doom and gloom currently being spread by the MSM, I am glad to announce some exciting news. With the "pandemic" wreaking havoc in all areas of our lives, including the upcoming poultry shows, our board of directors and President John Blehm have elected to take some initiative to protect our upcoming National Meets from falling victim to Governor mandates.

Our Ameraucana Northern National was scheduled to be October 10th and hosted by the Michigan Poultry Fanciers at their Fowl Fest show in Birch Run MI. The event center, where it is held each year, will be closed. Thus, the Fowl Fest is canceled. The show must go on is the old saying and it will be at John Blehm's farm, close to Birch Run and on the same date of October 10th.

Unfortunately, we were informed that our Ameraucana Southern National, hosted by Missouri State Poultry Association October 24th in Sedalia MO, was cancelled. Well here is proof that this is one of the greatest breed specific clubs out there folks. After hearing this news, we had another club member volunteer to host our Ameraucana Southern National on their farm in Foristell MO, October 31st.

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Now I cannot speak for anyone else but let me tell you, this made my day. I always look forward to the fellowshipping that takes place at our National Meets. With all the current craziness taking place I need a good get-away with some likeminded chicken folks and relax. It's not the ribbons or plaques that I attend for, it's the friendships I make along the way.

The Nationals, that will be held at our members' farms, will be for our Alliance members and their families only and only Ameraucanas will be shown. These will still be APA & ABA sanctioned meets with licensed judges. We will be offering the awards originally voted upon by our board, totaling over \$3,500. I also wanted to mention that there will be a silent auction and sale area at each of the Nationals. This will be a great time to consider adding to your Ameraucana flock. More importantly, this will be a great opportunity for fellowshipping and celebrating the ABA acceptance of our Wheaten and White bantam Ameraucana varieties 40 years ago!

Remember this is also an election year for our board members and president. So, I strongly urge all members to think about getting involved. It is our wonderful members that make this one of, if not, the greatest clubs I know of. All the rules and requirements can be found in our constitution on our website at Ameraucana.org under the Downloads tab, so be sure to check it out. With everything that is going on I want to remind you of our open Facebook group and also our Ameraucana Forum at Ameraucana.org to stay up to date on club news.

You see, I did have some exciting news to announce. Geez, I almost forgot the most important announcement of all. That is the Neil Townsend memorial awards that will be offered up this year in honor of our long-time member and friend to many who was called home this past March. We will offer a memorial award at each national meet. These will be awarded to the overall best between the Wheaten and White bantam varieties as we remember their 40th anniversary of being accepted by the ABA. These awards will be furnished through part of the proceeds raised last year from our silent auction in Greenville, Ohio. Well folks, there you have it. Get those birds conditioned and make those plans. It is my honor to announce that the show will go on and I am planning on attending both. Until next time, take care and God Bless.



Director Russ Blair

Director - Becky Howie



The 2020 Ameraucana Southern National is a go!! Lisa Helms, Sherry Klaus and I were feeling pretty down for a while when the original host show of our National was cancelled. Chatting on FB one evening I teased Sherry, "Lets just have the show at your place" and she replied, "I'd love to!!"

Lisa soon joined the conversation and the brainstorming began. We made a to-do list and set ourselves to make it happen. It was looking like an old fashioned "Lawn Show," but only for a little while. Sherry reached out and now we have an adequate supply of cooping. Lisa very excited and is ready to take on the paperwork needed with help from resources John Blehm knows.

This will be a great weekend! The Southern National is

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sponsored and hosted by the Ameraucana Alliance and will be a show exclusively for Ameraucana Alliance members and their families. We are very honored that Phil Bartz will be judging our Ameraucanas. The entry fee is only \$3 and no cleanup fee. Members will receive a show catalogue and entry form in the mail. So get your entries in soon! There are also additional donors and awards on the table for Youth and Open winners. There will be a sales area for extra Ameraucanas looking for a new address. After the show, there will be lunch and a club meeting with awards.

The host Hotel is the Quality Inn, 12 Highway W, Foristell, MO 63348, Phone 636-673-2900. Early check-in will be Friday, October 30th from 6pm-9pm. The day of Show check-in will be 7am-9am and the judging will begin at 9:30am. NPIP testers will be there at no charge. Saturday morning we will also have a breakfast spread available since hotels are not offering a full morning buffet at this time.

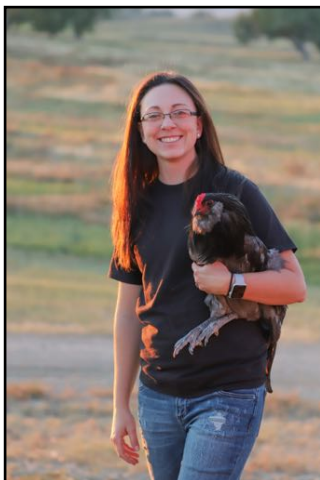
We are so fortunate and excited to have this opportunity to get together and have an APA and ABA sanctioned meets and I invite every member who can to join us. It will be worth the trip.



Director Becky Howie

Director - Monique Mankin

As the other directors have mentioned, this year's Nationals are going to be extra special. This time, I would venture to say that this is actually a positive that developed out of this year. I am very excited for those members that are planning to attend. I mean how awesome is it that



Director Monique Mankin

several Alliance members and the club stepped up and offered to host private shows after the original Nationals were cancelled. And speaking of that, I would personally like to thank all those that are putting in the hours and the work to make this happen. Especially, John Blehm and Sherry Klaus for opening up their places and offering to host the shows. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your Ameraucanas, to learn more about Ameraucanas and to network with like-minded individuals. I just don't think an Ameraucana enthusiast could ask for must more!

Recently, Stan Alder resigned to focus on the health of his wife. The Alliance wishes both of them the best moving forward. Stan has been a wonderful director and member of the Alliance. He has also contributed significantly to the White Ameraucana variety. Stan deserves recognition for all that he has done and I want to thank him. I also ask of you to keep him and his wife in your thoughts and prayers. We all need support during turbulent times.

Director - Steve Neumann

While this pandemic has taken a hard toll on many of us, one bright side is that we continue to see our membership grow as people become more interested in raising standard bred poultry. We have had a good quarter of growth in membership despite the cancellation of many poultry shows. This year, I raised out a bunch of LF silvers hoping to make some big gains in my breeding program. I am getting some promising birds. Since most of the fall shows were

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cancelled, I also hatched out a bunch more of my Light Ameraucana project, hatching all the way through July. I am feeling a little bit of breeder burnout and probably will skip fall breeding this year, even though I had planned on breeding blues this fall. I am looking forward to colder weather, as I plan on building a new coop and breeding pens for my silvers.

Director Steve Neumann

Director - Jeff Sonsalla

Summer is winding down here in Wisconsin. It has been pretty quiet with fairs, city festivals and most other events cancelled. Even with most fall poultry shows already cancelled or discussing cancelling, I am still looking forward to attending an Ameraucana Alliance National. John Blehm and Sherry Klaus have offered to host respectively if needed.

My young stock is growing well and the bantam pullets have started to lay. Those little blue eggs are special to see. It is time to do a bunch of sorting and culling though. They are eating far too much feed.

I am looking forward to the pullets and cockerels to mature out from the large fowl Blue Wheaten pair. They are really good-looking birds. I am also enjoying a group of bantam Buff x Wheaten pullets. I did not have a good laying buff hen, so I placed a wheaten hen in with my Buff rooster. She was an excellent layer and with good fertility. I now have a nice group of these pullets to choose from. They will be bred to a pure bantam Buff rooster for next years bantam Buffs. I am hoping the next generation will look pure buff. Either way, now at least I can raise bantam Buff Ameraucana after being frustrated for a few years trying to have a Buff hen give me any chicks.



Director Jeff Sonsalla



One of Jeff's pullets from a Buff x Wheaten breeding.

There have been some hot and humid days around here this summer. Electric fans have really helped. The chickens really seem to appreciate the breeze and the fresh air. Luckily gnats have not been too bad this year so the chickens have had more enjoyment outside when the weather is good.

I hope everyone's Ameraucanas are doing well and will be ready for this October. The Ameraucana Nationals will be an enjoyable way to meet up with friends, old and new, during this time when so few opportunities are available.

Ribbons for Champion and Reserve Champion as listed in our Summer Newsletter, have been mailed out. If anyone has not received their ribbons or if they wish to not receive ribbons in the future, please contact me at myhometownvet@gmail.com or (608) 738-8701.

I hope to see many of you at our Ameraucana nationals this October and wishing everyone health and happiness.

Ameraucana National Meet Schedules

Northern Ameraucana National schedule

October 10th, 2020 – 4599 Lange Rd, Birch Run, Michigan

Show committee: John Blehm (989)598-5555, Alison Abbott (734)660-7887 & Russ Blair (419)410-2613

Host Hotel: Americas Best Value Inn, (989)624-4440, 9235 Birch Run Rd, Birch Run, MI 48415 – “Poultry Show rate”

There are many local hotels & motels in Bridgeport, Birch Run & Frankenmuth to choose from.

RVs/campers are welcome to camp at the show – *make reservations with John.*

NPIP: Exhibitors must provide a parent flock NPIP certification number, VS9-2, VS9-3, or state pullorum test certificate dated within 90 days of the show before cooping-in their birds, except birds from MI shown in MI in 2020.

Friday:

Noon – 8pm, early coop-in, in show building, with Sale Area and Silent Auction, in chicken barn.

6pm, Fried chicken buffet in the pavilion \$10/per person - *make reservations with John.*

Saturday:

7am – 9:30am, coop-in. Lewis Cunningham begins judging at 9:30.

10am, Ameraucana Egg Judging Contest in pavilion. 6 bantam or large fowl eggs per entry.

11am, Ameraucana Q&A seminar, in pavilion.

12pm, Silent Auction ends, in chicken barn.

1pm, Lunch in the pavilion. Pizza, Subs, Deserts & Bottled Water for \$10/per person - *make reservations with John.*

✓ You may want to bring your own non-alcoholic beverage and food items for any special dietary needs.

1:30pm, Announce winners, Annual Club Meeting, followed by cooping-out for those that don't want to coop-out Sunday morning.



Southern Ameraucana National schedule

October 31st, 2020 – 27 Trophy Buck Ln, Foristell MO 63348

Show committee: Becky Howie (407)327-1212, Lisa Helms (573)561-4423, Sherry Klaus (636)484-2249 & John Blehm

Host Hotel: Quality Inn, (636)673-2900, 12 Highway W, Foristell, MO, 63348 – Ask for the “Poultry Show rate”.

NPIP: Entry into Missouri is easy with NPIP flock # or VS 9-2 or Vet certificate within 90 days and an entry permit number. Just call (573)751-3377 and get a number over the phone.

Friday:

6pm – 9pm, early coop-in. Check with Sherry to coop-in earlier.

6pm, Evening meal at the show, \$10/per person - *make reservations with Becky.*

Saturday:

7am - 9am, a breakfast spread will be available onsite, with a free will donation.

7am – 9:30am, coop-in with free testing will be available. Phil Bartz begins judging at 9:30.

10am, Ameraucana Egg Judging Contest. 6 bantam or large fowl eggs per entry.

11am, Ameraucana Q&A seminar.

12pm, Silent Auction ends.

1pm or close to it, Lunch at the show when judging concludes, \$10/per person - *make reservations with Becky.*

1:30pm, Announce winners, Annual Club Meeting, followed by cooping-out for those that don't want to coop-out Sunday morning.



Go to AmeraucanaAlliance.org/forum for updates, under the Exhibiting, Promoting & Club Notes subforum

Upcoming Ameraucana Meets

October 8-10, 2020 - Utah Club Meets (2)

Utah Fancy Poultry Association

Fall Show in Farmington, UT

Contact Michelle Stevens at utahfancypoultry@gmail.com

October 10, 2020 - Ameraucana Northern National

Ameraucana Alliance

Ameraucana Northern National in Birch Run, MI

Contact John Blehm at john@fowlstuff.com or (989) 777-1234

October 31, 2020 - Ameraucana Southern National

Ameraucana Alliance

Ameraucana Southern National in Foristell, MO

Contact Becky Howie at rebeccah@mac.com or (407) 327-1212

October 24, 2020 - Arizona Meets (2)

Requested by Janet Tipton

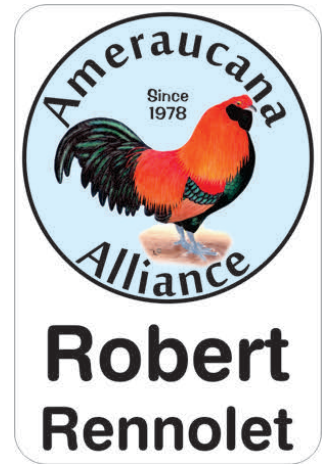
Apache County Poultry

Fall Show in St. Johns, AZ

Contact Lacy Greer at ivgreer59@yahoo.com or (602) 686-1817

Alliance Meet Badges

If you would like an Alliance name badge, with our updated logo, please contact John W Blehm (contact info is on back page). These badges are 2" by 3", with a pin on the backside. They were \$10 each the last time we ordered them. The name of your state or farm can also be printed with the member's name, but of course the font size will be smaller with more text.



Newsletter/Meet Deadline

Have something to share in the Ameraucana Alliance Newsletter? Great! Email your ads, articles, opinions, stories, photos, etc. to Monique @ WYardbird@gmail.com by November 15, 2020.

If you have a meet request, with an entry deadline after December 1, 2020, you need to email Russ @ SlickTree@hotmail.com by November 1, 2020.

Please request meets as early as possible. If there are multiple shows at the venue, it is encouraged that a meet request is made for each one.

Treasurer's Report

*Checking accounts at Great Lakes Federal CU, MI

Previous Balances as of 05/14/2020	
Checking Balance =	\$5,244.07
PayPal Balance =	\$638.65
Total Balance =	\$5,882.72

Current Balances as of 05/14/2020	
Previous Checking Balance =	\$5,244.07
Income =	\$551.31
Expenses =	\$212.41
Ending Checking Balance =	\$5,582.97
PayPal Balance =	\$398.91
Ending Total Balance =	\$5,981.88

Ameraucana Alliance Board of Directors

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Director - Monique Mankin

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facebook.com/groups/AmeraucanaAlliance/

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Ameraucana.org