

Ameraucana Newsletter

Spring 2016 ~ Volume 2, Issue 1

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Since 1978

Welcome Members...

Joined in 2015:

Hunter Ford, PA

Brandy Harrington, MS

Joined in 2016:

Spencer Crouse, TN

Dawn Webster, BC

Janet Heida Little, NJ

Gary E Burton, KY

Syl Carle, ON

Dennis Heltzel, PA

Kraig Shafer, OH

Jessica Renner, SD

Brianna Rokusek, Jayden

Renner & Ava Wyldes

Gary R Pickler, NC

Rebecca G Howie, FL

Debbie Varnam, NC

Patricia Flood, NY

Steve Neuman, CO

Margo B Fitting, MO

Larry Giberson, WA

JoAnna T King, VA

Claude Painter, FL

Elizabeth Von Lintel, KS

Jamie Corey, OH

Judy Johnson, IL

Emma, Michael & Hannah

Margaret Scott, WA

Erika Wiggins, OH

Grady & Helena

Carl Greathouse, GA

Alicia Santiago, AZ

Nicole Betts, FL

Mike Morton, CA

Douglas Sargent, OH

Melanie Pace, AL

Barb Bartel, OH

Lisa Creekmur, TN

Brenda Ernst, OH

Stacey Palmer, VA

Lance Capozella, IN

Holly McDonnell, FL

Paul McDonnell, FL

Kathy Gratsch, OH

Lara Mastro, CO

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"In my wildest moments I consider going totally off the reservation with Lavender Mottled, but I will not open that can of worms right now." [read more on page 2](#)

"The Board of Directors has voted on an Honorary VP policy and elected three members to be honored. They are..." [read more on page 3](#)

"I outcrossed on black a couple of years ago and am really pleased with the results so far. I think they should be back to solid buff in this generation." [read more on page 4](#)



Day-old bantam buff Ameraucana chicks - 2016 hatch

Michael J. Muenks ~ President



Greetings to the wonderful Ameraucana Alliance! Ameraucana are definitely the best breed of chicken in my opinion! As I write this note to you from Central Missouri, the winter weather has broken and we are experiencing some absolutely beautiful early spring weather that makes one think of chicks, ducklings, goat kids, early gardens, fruit trees, and honey bees! I have a lot on my mind as you can tell!

As with everything, life tends to throw a few curve balls. While personally disappointed that the American Poultry Association (APA) did not appear to seriously consider the well-reasoned and articulate appeal presented by Michael Gilbert on behalf of the Ameraucana Alliance regarding the use of the name Self-Blue for what has been long known as Lavender Ameraucana, in the end little changes. The decision by the APA is not a good one, but it is a decision. I'm personally feeling a bit ornery about the whole thing and think a Self Blue Wheaten and Self Blue Silver may be personal projects or to even develop and put forward under the better name of Lavender Wheaten and Lavender Silver. In my wildest moments I consider going totally off the reservation with Lavender Mottled, but I will not open that can of worms right now. I know the ABA has been firm on the self blue name for many years for reasons that are historical, it will be interesting to watch what other breed clubs with only large fowl do in reaction to this decision by the APA. Enough said by Michael!

As you are looking toward your spring breeding pens and long range plans, I encourage you to save room for some of the approved breeds of the Ameraucana which are really quite rare. Blue Wheaten, Wheaten, and Brown Red bantams are just about impossible to find. If you have some, I would love to get some from you. White and Silver bantams are a bit easier to find. Large fowl Brown Red, Silver, White, Blue Wheaten and Wheaten are also fairly rare. Think about adding a small pen of one of the rare varieties to your layout. The whole breed will benefit from the preservation and improvement of these bloodlines.

I wish you the very best breeding season and hope Avian Flu stays far away from all of us!

John W Blehm ~ Secretary/Treasurer



- Harry Shaffer was in Lehigh Valley Hospital (PA) for 3 weeks and had gallbladder surgery . He said "Looks like my recovery is going well right now. Will know better on Mon Feb 29 when they take out about 40 clamps/stitches".

- The Board of Directors has revised our club's [Meet Policy](#) that covers all our sanctioned "Club Meets". You can view the entire policy and other club documents on [our Downloads page](#). Receiving Meet Reports from show superintendents is an ongoing problem for all breed clubs. Our policy is they are supposed to send one within 30 days of the meet. Often the reports are incomplete and sometimes they never show up. The revision...

"Members requesting club meets are strongly encouraged to obtain an exhibitors list and either:

- a. Take photos of ALL judged Ameraucana coop cards even if a bird is "Out" or,
- b. Fill out a Meet Report on their own and have it signed by two other exhibitors.

If an official Meet Report isn't received from the show superintendent within 60 days our member's photos or report will be used, but only if it meets the stated requirements."

Our plan is to continue to place meets as usual, expecting show superintendents to turn in Meet Reports within 30 days. I feel we have to be careful not to just let show management off the hook for something they agree to. Only if an official report isn't received within 60 days will the member's photos/report be used and only if it meets the stated requirements, above. If not, then no ribbons or points...the meet would be essentially null & void, as if it didn't take place. Photos of coop cards takes all the guess work out and either way would have to be accompanied by an exhibitors list. I know some like to fill out reports and just have a show superintendent sign it, but I doubt they actually check them over...they just sign. This also should make Alliance members feel much more comfortable knowing there is a backup plan in place, as long as they are willing to do a little work.

(continued →)

Even when reports are received by show management, a members report or photos could be referred back to just in case there is a discrepancy with the official one. Here is where a digital photo of each judged coop card would be even better. This revision is for "club" meets, not our annual Ameraucana National Meet. We've been doing our own reports at national meets for years and we let the superintendent know, at the show, that we'll take care of it. It gets the results sooner and probably more accurately.

• The Board of Directors has voted on an Honorary VP policy and elected three members to be honored. They are (in alphabetical order):



Jim Fegan, of Michigan



Mike Gilbert, of Wisconsin



Jerry Segler, of Illinois

"Vice Presidents receive Lifetime membership status in the Ameraucana Alliance. The Ameraucana Alliance "honors" and values the experience and advice our Vice Presidents have to offer. All Honorary Vice Presidents will be included in all discussions and decisions of the Board..., unless they choose to opt out. Vice Presidents are encouraged to participate in the discussions and give their opinions, but are not voting members of the Board of Directors".

• Our new club constitution and bylaws are attached to this newsletter. The documents can also be viewed and printed from our website's Downloads page, along with several other files.

• It's that time of year again for ABA Yearbook ads. If Alliance members pay for six 1 7/8" high by 2 3/16" wide ads the top quarter page is free for our club ad. It is \$120 for a black and white page or \$40/ad and \$240 for a color page or \$80/ad. I just need your ad info, a high resolution logo (if you have one) and payment. For every 6 ads sold we'll take one page. I'll assume you want black & white, unless you say otherwise. If you pay to pay@AmeraucanaAlliance.org, using PayPal, please add a couple bucks to cover the PayPal fee. The Deadline is May 1st for me to have the ads and payment to the ABA, so please have everything to me by April 15th and I'll have time to develop your ads and have you proof it.

• This is an election year for club officers. "Any charter member without a lapse in membership that is not also a member of another Ameraucana breed club (due to any possible conflict of interest), may be nominated as a candidate to office." With the club being reorganized, last year, as under the new Ameraucana Alliance name charter members are those that joined the Alliance in 2015. More details about club offices, nominations and the election are in the constitution/bylaws.

• If you can make it, even if you don't bring birds to show, please plan now to join your fellow Alliance members at our annual Ameraucana National Meet, October, 15th, in Lebanon, Indiana. This is our BIG event of the year. Many of us will coop in Friday afternoon on the 14th and coop out early Sunday morning on the 16th. Expect a couple hundred Ameraucanas in competition. We'll have a Friday evening get together at a restaurant and Saturday evening we'll have a pizza party & club meeting. It is not too early to make hotel reservations. Contact Ron Patterson (765)676-6192 or Doug Akers dakers@purdue.edu.

• I've said for many years that if lavender Ameraucanas are accepted as "self blue", by the APA/ABA, I'll continue breeding, hatching, selling and exhibiting them as lavender. I know of several others that will do the same. Also, if my lavender Ameraucana chickens aren't properly titled "lavender" on their coop cards or a judge changes it to "self blue" I will remove those birds from the show.

Beth Curran ~ Director of Club Meets

Greetings, friends, hope 2016 is treating you well so far! Ours got off to a good start when North Carolina lifted the ban on shows in early January. Other states have ended theirs as well, and I have placed a number of meets. Fuzz and I are looking forward to doing some showing. He is playing basketball this year and the season ends exactly one week before the first show - how's that for timing?



I am hoping we will have birds ready for the fall shows, but the weather here has been just plain bizarre and it has thrown the birds off kilter. December brought record breaking high temperatures, then in early January the temperature dropped from 80's to 20's and all of the birds quit laying. They are finally starting to lay again but we're running out of time. Glad I was able to get one small hatch before they went on strike.

Meanwhile I have been taking advantage of the cooler weather to get some much needed work done around the place. I've converted the old pheasant pen to a large run and attached it to the new coop, and Mike loaded up an old connex box and brought it around for me to use as a brooder house. We bought it years ago at a demo sale on base and used it as a tool shed before we had a garage. It is already wired with lights and outlets - can't wait to get it set up. And he can't wait to get the chicks out of the garage! ;-)

I've just begun getting buff eggs, and I'm looking forward to seeing what they do this year. I outcrossed on black a couple of years ago and am really pleased with the results so far. I think they should be back to solid buff in this generation.

Check out the meets on our website, and if you don't see your favorite show listed, let me know and I can fix that. ;-). Just remember to get your meet requests to me in time to be placed and published in the newsletter preceding the show.

Also, check out the changes to our meet policy. As some of you may know, it has become increasingly difficult to get meet reports from clubs, so the board recently voted to make some changes that will give our members a little more control and should improve turn around time for results and points updates.

Hope all of you have a nice Spring, great hatches, and are able to get out and enjoy some shows! *Beth*



Jim Fegan ~ Director

My health continues to improve but ever so slowly. My doctor continues to council patience and reminds me of my age. I have advanced to the point I no longer require the services of the home health nurse, so that indicates progress. I'm feeling good but strength and stamina are slow to return. Two sessions a week at cardiac therapy are helping me to gain strength. I guess I will just be patient and hope by this summer I'm back to near normal.



I'm still not up to caring for the birds but John and Norma are doing a good job with them.

We've decided not to hatch any chicks this winter or spring, maybe a few later in the year. I do think we will make it to the Galesville show in June. Hope to see many of you there. *Jim Fegan*

Mike Gilbert ~ Director of Recruitment & Promotion



The Coulee Region Poultry Club, Inc., is looking forward to hosting a Club Meet of Ameraucana Alliance the first Saturday of June in the hill country of beautiful western Wisconsin. There is only one motel right in town, the Sonic, so make reservations early if you plan to attend. We would love to see a big turnout of Alliance members, and we will provide some nice awards for the winners. Yours truly will again be serving as show secretary, so contact me by email at Chantecler7@gmail.com or call me at (608) 857-3386 for a show catalog or any other information needed. We will be arranging for

special poultry show rates at the motel, and they are quite reasonable even without the special rates. There will be a food stand on the grounds, and there are also a number of good restaurants nearby. Camping is available on the grounds with electrical hookup for a modest fee, or there are commercial campgrounds near the fairgrounds as well. This is just a one day show, so consider coming Friday evening to maximize your experience. Judges will be Bart Pals, Zeb Skow, and Don Karasek. We expect about 800 entries. We have been enjoying an active discussion forum at our website as well as an open-to-all Facebook Group page which is quite active as well. Lots of photos, questions, and interesting topics can be found at both. Thanks to Sue Paolini of PA for managing our Facebook presence.

After our diligent effort to pursue Lavender recognition for Ameraucana large fowl (see our article in the February edition of Poultry Press) the APA Directors at their meeting in Modesto decided to only allow recognition under the self-blue name. By doing so they ignored the compelling arguments presented to them for Lavender in favor of, apparently, some outdated tradition. There were no good reasons for insisting on the self blue name in our opinion, but they refused to think outside the box and went with, quite simply, the way it has always been done in the USA.



Bantam black, wheaten & blue wheaten Ameraucanas

The lavender term is commonly used in other countries. To say the least, this was not the APA's greatest moment. It indicated an authoritarian philosophy and blatant disregard for the desires of the originators of new varieties. We did not even receive the courtesy of a written or oral response to our request from a single APA officer. Alliance members will continue to enter and show the variety under its' proper name which is lavender. The only other way for us to protest is to withhold financial support from the APA by those sympathetic to our cause, and that will likely happen. Yours truly has also resigned as an APA state representative.

On a personal note, I have been hatching some bantams in black, wheaten, and blue wheaten. The bantam brown red and white old hens have not begun to lay yet, but they will start soon. We also have fertile eggs from the large fowl brown reds incubating and due to hatch February 22nd. So it would appear we should have a nice selection to show at our national meet in October in Indiana. I have a waiting list for started and adult birds, so should probably not take any more orders this spring. There should be some nice birds available at our national meet after the show, not only mine but from others too if past experience holds up. Hope to see many of you there!

One last thing to mention: this is an election year. I do not expect to be a candidate for re-election as a Director-at large. I feel at my age it is time for new blood and new ideas. If you have been breeding Ameraucanas for a number of years, are not holding dual memberships, and can communicate effectively via email and the written word, I encourage you to consider running for office this fall. We have a good number of capable members who would qualify under that criteria and do us proud.

Gina Neta ~ Director



I grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and went to school in the small town of Stephenson. My family consisted of Mom, Dad and one older brother. I was the only one who had been bitten by the "I love animals" bug and was especially enamored with horses. I became involved in 4-H and started showing horses as soon as I was old enough – 9 years old I believe. My love of horses and drive to compete within the horse show world continued for years and is with me yet today, however my active passion seems to have switched to poultry.

I am married and have two adult children, neither of whom are close to home. My oldest son is in the US Navy serving in Pearl Harbor, HI aboard a Fast Attack Submarine – The USS Jacksonville. My youngest son lives in Rhode Island and is pursuing his love of music while supporting himself as a cook in an Italian Supper club. I am very proud of them both.

My poultry hobby got its start several years back when my youngest son finished high school and moved to Rhode Island to get his career started. I think they call this phenomenon "Empty Nest Syndrome". I can vouch for that because my nest felt empty and I naturally turned to eggs and chickens to fill it. I attended a local Poultry Club meeting and met many fantastic people who have supported and enabled me along this journey. It is here that I met my wonderful mentor Jim Fegan. Jim was obviously accomplished, knowledgeable and incredibly helpful to me with my ten thousand questions. My first hatching eggs were given to me by him – I believe they were Chanteclers and Ameraucanas.

Today I continue with Chanteclers in White – Large Fowl. I also dabble with Barred Plymouth Rocks and Ameraucanas. It is so hard to limit yourself to just a few breeds – a request I hear so often from my husband Richard. Speaking of whom, Richard is a carpenter and if you know anything about chickens you always need one

more coop / pen / area / spot / cage / brooder / breeding pen / etc. Richard has continually and beautifully provided all of those "one more" items, soliciting a promise from me that 'this one more thing is it – you won't be asking me to build any more ... right?' In good conscience I cannot agree. He's a good sport.

Ameraucanas have always been in my flock, and I have taken an even greater interest in them lately. I currently



have a nice breeding group of Black, Blue and Splash individuals, as well as a small breeding group of Whites – all large fowl. My love for showing poultry dates back many decades to my love for competition and drive for continual improvement. I have met some truly wonderful, supportive, kind, patient, and generous people in the poultry fancy. I am grateful to each and every one of them for encouraging and supporting me and for the deep friendships we've built along the way.

Ameraucana Meet Results

Washington Feather Faniers Fall/Winter Brisk

Chehalis WA - club meet, November 21, 2015

11 open bantams by 3 exhibitors, judged by?

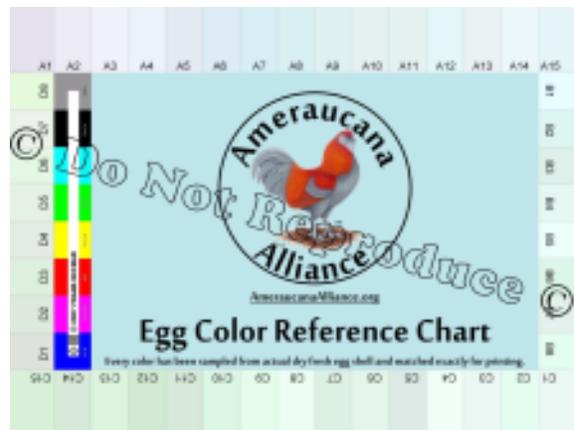
BB, BV - black H by non-member, out of 2
 RV - black P by non-member
BV - blue K by non-member, out of 2
 RV - blue H by non-member
BV - blue wheaten K by Larry Giberson, out of 2
 RV - blue wheaten C by non-member
RB, BV - wheaten H by Larry Giberson, out of 3
 RV - wheaten P by Larry Giberson
BV - splash P by non-member, out of 2
 RV - splash K by non-member

14 open large fowl by 6 exhibitors (including 2 youth, judged together with open), judged by?

BB, BV - black P by non-member, out of 5
 RV - black H by non-member youth
RB, BV - blue wheaten P by non-member, out of 5
 RV - blue wheaten P by Royce Van Blaricome
BV - wheaten P by Royce Van Blaricome, out of 2
 RV - wheaten H by Royce Van Blaricome
BV - white H by non-member youth, out of 1
BV - splash C by non-member, out of 1

Ameraucana Merchandise

Prices include postage within the US and Canada.



(5) 4" x 6" Ameraucana Egg Shell Color Reference Charts - \$5



(2) 4" Ameraucana Alliance Patches - \$8

Make Checks Payable, in USD, to: Ameraucana Alliance
 4599 Lange Road, Birch Run MI 48415

Ameraucana Handbook

With the reorganization of the Ameraucana Alliance it is time for an updated Ameraucana Handbook. Don Cable published the original Ameraucana Bantam Handbook in 1982. I've published updated ABC Handbooks in 1998, 2005 and 2014. With this edition I plan to print 300 or more booklets. They will include our club constitution/bylaws, history, photos and numerous articles along with other information about Ameraucana chickens and the Alliance. Each member will receive one and they will be available to purchase on our website. Please consider advertising in the Ameraucana Handbook. With enough paid, poultry related, ads the cost of publishing will be covered.

The prices are shown.

Please send ad information and payment to me by April 1st.

Thank You!

Email ad info: John@FowlStuff.com
 PayPal to pay@AmeraucanaAlliance.org

Mail ad info with check
 (payable to Ameraucana Alliance) to:
 John W Blehm
 4599 Lange Rd
 Birch Run MI 48415

Full page ad
 4 1/2" x 7 3/4"
\$170 Black & White
\$250 Color

plus you receive 2 complimentary Handbooks!

1/2 PAGE AD

4 1/2" X 3 7/8"

\$95 BLACK & WHITE

\$140 COLOR

PLUS YOU RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY HANDBOOK!

1/4 page ad

2 1/4" x 3 7/8"

\$50

Black & White

\$75 color

plus you receive a
 complimentary Handbook!



...an alliance of folks focused on the promotion of standard bred Ameraucana and positive support for those interested in standard bred Ameraucana.

Important Dates

Deadline for the next Ameraucana Newsletter is May 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 June 1st...the date the Summer 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 Balances as of 11/28/2015 =	\$2,313.39
Previous Checking Balances as of 11/28/2015 =	\$2,008.00
Income	\$805.05
Expenses	\$98.73
Checking Balance as of 2/28/2016 =	\$2,717.32
PayPal Balance as of 2/28/2016 =	\$512.19
Ending Total Balance as of 2/28/2016 =	\$3,229.51

Upcoming Ameraucana Meets - Go to AmeraucanaAlliance.org for updates

March 12, 2016

North Carolina Club Meet, requested by Beth Curran
Cape Fear Poultry Assoc. – Smithfield NC
Contact: Wilbur Hanley (919)796-2936
langshanman@gmail.com

March 19, 2016

Washington Club Meet, req. by Royce Van Blaricome
Washington Feather Fanciers - Monroe WA
Contact: Emmet Wild magpie.wild@yahoo.com

April 2, 2016

California Club Meet, requested by Debra Hogan
NorCal Poultry Association - Red Bluff CA
Contact: Leeann Stearns (530)226-0413
norcalpoultry@sbcglobal.net

April 9, 2016

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

June 4, 2016

Wisconsin Club Meet, requested by Mike Gilbert
Coulee Region Poultry Club, Galesville WI
Contact: Mike Gilbert chantecler7@gmail.com

October 1-2, 2016

Ohio Club Meet, requested by John W Blehm
Southern Ohio Poultry Assoc. - 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 (765)482-7182

January 28-29, 2017

California Club Meet, requested by Debra Hogan
Pacific Poultry Breeders Assoc. - Modesto CA
Contact: Bridget Riddle chopped50@hotmail.com

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 bncarey@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 Gneta831@me.com (920)615-5930



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