



Ameraucana Newsletter

Summer 2020 ~ Volume 6, Issue 2

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members...

Canada

Brittany Hutchings

Missouri

Alaina Lewis

South Carolina

Tim Boozer

Washington

Kelly Fitzgerald

Florida

Amanda Maupin

Oklahoma

Adrienne Steelman

Texas

Leah Franczek
Sara Janssen

West Virginia

Sarah Milcetic

Michigan

Alison McDowell
Ken Ross

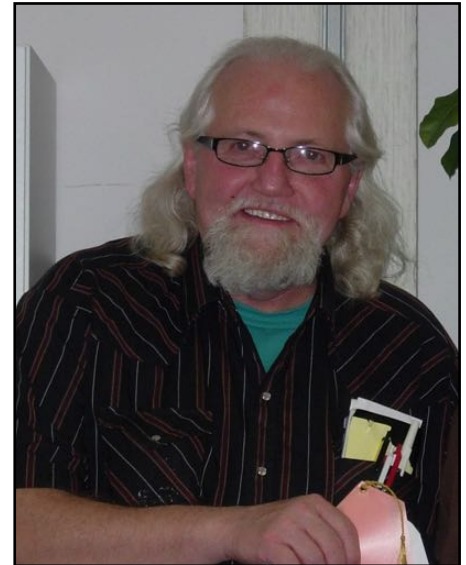
Pennsylvania

Virginia Bogardus
Tracy Sayre

President - John Blehm

Former club Director, Neil Townsend of Pennsylvania, passed away on March 25, 2020, from complications of a tumor on the brain. He was 68 years old and survived by his wife, Donna, two sons and their families. Neil and Donna have been club members for over 20 years and they were always ready and willing to help out at many of our Ameraucana National Meets, especially manning our club table and selling raffle tickets. A couple years ago they were recognized with our highest honor, the Ameraucana Lifetime Achievement Award. Check out our 2018 winter newsletter on the Archives page of our Ameraucana.org site for their story. LOUD and PROUD POULTRY...RIP.

In 1985, the club was several years old and still didn't have a logo, so a prize of two years membership was offered to the winner of the logo contest. The late Jeanne Trent had a friend in the poultry fancy named Rusty Hart. He was also quite an artist, so she asked for his help. In our spring/summer bulletin, Mike Gilbert relayed the story Jeanne told him: "...the design was done freehand on her kitchen table by kerosene lamp, near a wood fire, during a snowstorm in northern Michigan last winter." Well, Rusty has done it again! The board has approved this new Alliance logo featuring the portrait of a bantam wheaten Ameraucana cock. The full color version is on the front page of this Newsletter and the black & white version is on page 7. All Alliance members have the right to use our club logo to promote our Alliance and high resolution images can be requested from any Alliance officer. As an original artwork, given to the Alliance, we hold the copyright and others may not use it without permission from our board of directors. Not only has Rusty donated his time and talent, but also given us his pencil colored 11" by 14" portrait to auction off as a fund raiser for the club! This auction will include online bidding and coincide with our two Ameraucana National Meets this October. Thanks again to Rusty.



Former director and recipient of the Ameraucana Lifetime Achievement Award, Neil Townsend (1951-2020).

(Continued...)

Article 6 of our constitution/bylaws covers Election of Officers and this is an election year. "Candidates must notify the President by October 1st of their candidacy" and I've notified myself that I'll run again for president. Consider tossing your hat in the ring for president or director. I'll appoint an Election Commissioner and Assistant by mid-August.



Original Ameraucana Bantam Club Logo

Since the APA has officially recognized a "self blue" large fowl variety of Ameraucana, I've added links to photos of them on the Photos page of our Ameraucana.org site, but we still need some good photos to put up on the site. If you have some for our committee to consider, please email them to Jeff Sonsalla, Mike Gilbert or me. We are looking for photos of an adult male, adult female and a day-old chick(s). With the chick photos, it is nice to include three in the photo showing one from the front, one from the side and one showing it's back.

Online forums aren't as popular as they were before many of the other "social media" platforms caught on. Our Ameraucana Forum doesn't get the participation it once did, but I check it out daily and notice there are generally a few to several from around the world checking it out at any given time. If I had the time and ambition, I could write a book just by mostly copying & pasting the invaluable information there. The book would be mostly about Ameraucana chickens, but much of the info can be applied to other breeds too. Chapter headings could follow our sub-forum headings, including breeding, exhibiting, health, housing, hatching, etc. Two of the top 10 most viewed topics are Lavender vs Self Blue and Chick Phenotype. When fanciers want answers to their questions or just want to study and learn, they go to our Ameraucana Forum. It may not receive many new posts, but the information that is there is as I said... "invaluable".

Starting July 1st, membership dues for Newsletters received thru the US mail will go up another \$1 to \$17 per year. Those that have paid in advance will not be asked to pay retroactively, so feel free to pay for a couple years in advance by the end of June and save. Go to our Ameraucana website's Join page to pay dues with PayPal. A link to our Membership Form is there also with all the details for sending a check.

I'm looking forward to attending both our Ameraucana Northern National in Michigan and our Ameraucana Southern National in Missouri and I hope to see many of you this October.



Rusty Hart's pencil colored portrait that will be auctioned at the Ameraucana National meets.

Director - Stan Alder

Summer is here! It usually comes early and stays a long time in South Carolina, and this year doesn't seem like it's going to be an exception. It's hot here already! But, summer means it's time to begin to sort through all those chicks we hatched and start to pick favorites. I usually have already picked favorites, but they are not necessarily the best! I hatched too many this year and I always have a hard time evaluating them. I really prefer to grow them all the way out, because I'm afraid I'll let a really good one go..can't do that of course, because I just don't have

(Continued...)

enough room..who does?...lol....so that means this is the time of the year that I am always looking for every available space to grow those potential winners out. I generally sell most of my breeders in the early spring when I have hatched enough and the demand is high. My thinking is that I should be improving every year and this year's birds should be better than the breeders I used last year... you can't stand still...you're either going forward or backward. So, with the room vacated by the breeders, I spend a few days digging out the pens, turning the soil and adding new sand. I'm getting to the age that it is a major chore to do that. It takes an extra day each year it seems. I'm wishing I had made the pen access doors wide enough to get a front loader in there to save on the muscle aches.



Stan's grow outs in a recently cleaned pen.



Some of Stan's favorite birds this spring.

So hopefully this fall we will begin getting back to the 'new normal' and that means fall poultry shows! I hope to get out to a few and see some old friends and make some new ones! I'm still working to get consistent color back into the White chicks. By being very selective, I hope to eliminate the yellow chicks and get back to consistently getting the light Grey chicks, that will produce the better colored Whites.

Director - Russ Blair

Greetings my fellow Alliance members, as I type this, I hope everyone is well and doing fine. It seems life as we know it has taken a drastic turn. I will not get into politics or the doom and gloom. I think everyone understands the poultry exhibition world has come to a screeching halt. The spring shows have all been cancelled and everyone, me included, has their fingers crossed we will be back to normal by the fall season.

I personally will continue to plan on attending both National meets and will see what happens. It is better to be prepared than not in this scenario. I just wish my breeding stock understood this. They seemed to stay in lounge mode longer than I liked, even with added light, and my brooders are just now filling up. At least the few I have on the ground are looking promising, so perhaps this is the year of quality over quantity?

Just a quick reminder, to any of our members planning on attending our Northern National in Birch Run Michigan, I will once again be putting together another silent auction of breeding quality Ameraucana. We have had a great success in the past due to the generosity of our members' donations and participation. If you see a few decent ones in your grow out pens and want to donate, just let me know. Tim Hilton and his family have already told me if all goes well, they will donate a pair of wheaten or blue wheaten bantams.

Also, let us not forget this is also an election year. If anyone wants to get involved, all the requirements to hold an elected position can be found in our by laws on our website. A club is

(Continued...)

only as good as its members and officers, which is why I feel this club is second to none. It does not matter if you exhibit, breed, or just like having a few in your backyard. Everyone's opinion carries the same weight around here. I encourage anyone with interest to get involved, just email John and let him know to put you on the ballot.

Well, I will keep this directors report short and sweet. Please do not forget to stay up to date by logging into our forum, especially with everything that is going on due to COVID-19. You can also find us in our Facebook open group as well. Until next time, stay safe and keep your eye on those grow outs. May God bless every one of you.

Director - Becky Howie

Thank goodness for warmer weather, though it has been a bit wetter that I would like. Since my move to Arkansas, one of the challenges has been getting coops and runs built and I am still at it. I have the frames for 2-8x8 foot covered pens for grow outs that will go up as soon and the ground is leveled a bit more.

The youngsters will be very happy to have a new hangout as soon as it is ready. I had a pretty good hatching season this year with about 100 chicks on the ground and a handful still in the incubator. It may not seem like a lot to some who have larger operations, but that is enough for me to enjoy watching as they grow up and I look forward to the coming days as they start looking like young men and women instead of gawky, gangly adolescents.

Like everyone else, I have been disappointed with the spring cancellation of shows in the area. I guess that makes the fall shows even more exciting to look forward to and prepare for. Of course, the Ameraucana Southern National, hosted by the Missouri State Poultry Association, in Sedalia, MO on October 24, 2020 will be the highlight show in this area for Ameraucana enthusiasts. Lisa Helms, Sherry Klaus and I are looking forward to making this National Meet a memorable event and look forward to seeing many fellow enthusiasts there. We will have some special awards, a silent auction, an egg contest and lots of opportunity for "poultry chat" at the meet table. The host hotel is Comfort Inn Sedalia Station, phone 660-829-5050 for reservations.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer and stays healthy. We look forward to seeing you this fall.



Director - Monique Mankin

As John mentioned in his report, elections for club director will be coming up this fall. I want to encourage you to run for a position, no matter your experience in Ameraucanas or technology. I ran two years ago as a new member and I am thankful I did. It can be intimidating to consider, but look at it as an opportunity for you to evolve as a breeder and as a person.

It has been a pleasure serving with the other directors, as it really is a group effort. Because the tasks and the needs of the club are divided between the directors, and other

(Continued...)

generous members, it really doesn't take too much of anybody's time. Tasks were given to each director based on their strengths and resources. I did have to learn how to use a new program to develop the newsletter, and I am so glad I took the time to. I now use that same program for many other projects of my own. If I had not become a director, I may never have forced myself to learn it.

Becoming a director has also provided me with great opportunities to build relationships with other members and learn more about poultry from seasoned breeders. It is an experience that will provide you with invaluable information you may not get elsewhere. Yes, being a director will involve you giving some of your time, averaging an hour per month give or take. The time you want to give past that is totally up to you. However, what you will gain from the experience will more than offset that time. If you are considering running for a director's position and would like more information on my experience to help you with your decision, please feel free to give me a call at 307-689-6513.

Director - Steve Neumann



The "Love Birds."

Our club continues to maintain good numbers. The Alliance has added 15 new members this quarter. We appreciate the continued support of all members, especially during this pandemic, when so many shows have been cancelled. I have been taking advantage of being stuck at home by raising lots of growouts. I chose to focus on silvers this year, and I am raising cohorts from several different cocks over my outcross hens and I am getting some nicely marked chicks (and even more not so nicely marked chicks, haha). Sadly, space has required something to give and I will have to scale my blacks back to a single trio. I remain optimistic that I can produce a good bunch of nice LF silvers this year. I have a pair of silvers hatched last fall that are the funniest birds. I call them my love birds. They hop the fence and hang out together in our front yard. They are inseparable and mate constantly. I've never seen two birds so closely bonded.

Director - Jeff Sonsalla

May is here and Wisconsin's Safer at Home has ended suddenly on the 13th. I hope all members and their families are safe and healthy during this COVID-19 pandemic. So far, everyone I know has been ok. We have been living on a pretty bumpy road though with all the new information and changing opinions about the virus and how people are best to live at this time. All we can do is use our best judgment to keep ourselves and the ones we love safe.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our local Coulee Region Poultry Club Show for this June. I am sure many other shows are or will be cancelled this spring and summer. Hopefully fall shows, especially our Ameraucana Nationals, will be available this October. It would be good for people to be able to get out, exhibit and socialize with other club members again. Ameraucanas have been shown well through this past spring and our members should be commended with how they are promoting the breed.

(Continued...)

Raising chickens is good therapy for people's physical and emotional health. It is great we have a hobby that is also good for us. My chicks are growing well. I especially enjoy watching our bantam Wheaten and large fowl Blue Wheaten (chicks are actually Wheaten, Blue Wheaten and Splash Wheaten) develop. This is my first time raising LF Wheaten/ Blue Wheaten Ameraucana. They are such good-looking varieties in my opinion. I am looking forward to sorting through the young from this LF Blue Wheaten mating. This makes it a bit more exciting to save back the keepers for the next breeders. I look forward to them becoming the beginning of generations to come.



Jeff's large fowl Blue Wheaten growouts in with Bantam Langshan.

As people are staying safe and healthy, be sure to also work at keeping your flock safe and healthy. Predators are numerous this time of year. We should be sure our coops are secure and the yard is safe. I have been blessed that few predators think of our couple acres as a free cafeteria. I have been able, for numerous years, to open up the coop door each morning (winter excluded) and allow a significant number of my flock to roam free in our large yard and bit of nearby woods. This has been with very minimal losses. I realize there is some danger in allowing this, but it is small at this time and worth the risk. They seem happy with their freedom and I love watching them roam around my yard scratching for food, dusting and just enjoying their time outside.

Ribbons for Champion and Reserve Champion, as listed in our Spring 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 at (608) 738-8701.

I hope to see many of you at our Ameraucana Nationals this October and wishing everyone health and happiness during this time of uncertainty.

Ameraucana Meet Reports

Cascade Spring Show March 14, 2020

10 Bantams Entered by 3 Exhibitors

Judged by Ramona Trombley

BV Black H by Karen Carpenter

BV, RB Blue H by Chloe Burns, Out of 5 Birds

RV Blue Hen by Chloe Burns

BV, BB Wheaten K by Avalyn Hogan

BV Self-Blue H by Karen Carpenter

BV Splash C by Karen Carpenter, Out of 2 Birds

RV Splash P by Chloe Burns

22 Large Fowl Entered by 10 Exhibitors

Judged by Seth Scarola

BV, BB, Res Ch AOSB Black C by Jason Earl, Out of 3 Birds

RV Black K by Mindy Waters

BV Blue Wheaten H by Katie Johnston, Out of 6 Birds

RV Blue Wheaten C by Royce VanBlaricome

BV Wheaten H by Katie Johnston, Out of 6 Birds

RV Wheaten H by Royce VanBlaricome

BV, RB White P by Mindy Waters

BV Self-Blue H by Kelly Fitzgerald, Out of 3 Birds



Steve Neumann's Silver Ameraucana Chicks

Upcoming Ameraucana Meets

September 11-12, 2020 - Wisconsin Club Meet

Requested by Anne Lind
Northwoods Poultry Fanciers Club
 1st Annual Show in Merrill, WI
 Contact Zach Wrzesinski at northwoodspoultryfanciers@gmail.com or (715) 921-4399

October 10-11, 2020 - Ameraucana Northern National Michigan Poultry Fanciers

Ameraucana Northern National in Birch Run, MI
 Contact Matt Boensch at mjwaterfowl@yahoo.com or (989) 529-7030

October 10-11, 2020 - Michigan Club Meet

Requested by Russ Blair
Michigan Poultry Fanciers
 Fowl Fest in Birch Run, MI
 Contact Matt Boensch at entries@fowlfest.org

October 24, 2020 - Ameraucana Southern National Missouri State Poultry Association

Ameraucana Southern National in Sedalia, MO
 Contact Bernita Miller at bmiller@iland.net or (660) 647-2474

October 24, 2020 - Missouri Club Meet Missouri State Poultry Association

Swap and Fall Show in Sedalia, MO
 Contact Bernita Miller at bmiller@iland.net or (660) 647-2474

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

Treasurer's Report

*Checking accounts at Great Lakes Federal CU, MI

Previous Balances as of 02/12/2020	
Checking Balance =	\$5,339.95
PayPal Balance =	\$448.80
Total Balance =	\$5,788.75

Current Balances as of 05/14/2020	
Previous Checking Balance =	\$5,339.95
Income =	\$113.58
Expenses =	\$209.46
Ending Checking Balance =	\$5,244.07
PayPal Balance =	\$638.65
Ending Total Balance =	\$5,882.72

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 August 15, 2020.

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

Ameraucana Alliance Board of Directors

President - John Blehm

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

Director - Becky Howie

19699 Jewell Dr.
 Gravette, AR 72713
Rebeccah@mac.com
 (407) 327-1212

Director - Jeff Sonsalla

West 24453 Benrud Road
 Galesville, WI 54630
MyHometownVet@gmail.com
 (608) 738-8701

Director - Stan Alder

219 Stonehenge Circle
 Edgefield, SC 29824
allistan1@gmail.com
 (803) 637-2415

Director - Monique Mankin

PO Box 3685
 Gillette, WY 82717
WYardbird@gmail.com
 (307) 689-6513



Join Us on Facebook at:

facebook.com/groups/AmeraucanaAlliance/

Director - Russ Blair

13100 South Adrian Highway
 Jasper, MI 49248
SlickTree@hotmail.com
 (419) 410-2613

Director - Steve Neumann

3000 Wedgewood Drive #2351
 Pueblo, CO 81004
SteveMNeumann@gmail.com
 (719) 252-4908



Ameraucana.org

Just for Fun!

Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Crossword Puzzle

All the answers are available,
between our Ameraucana Handbook,
Ameraucana Forum and
Ameraucana Website.

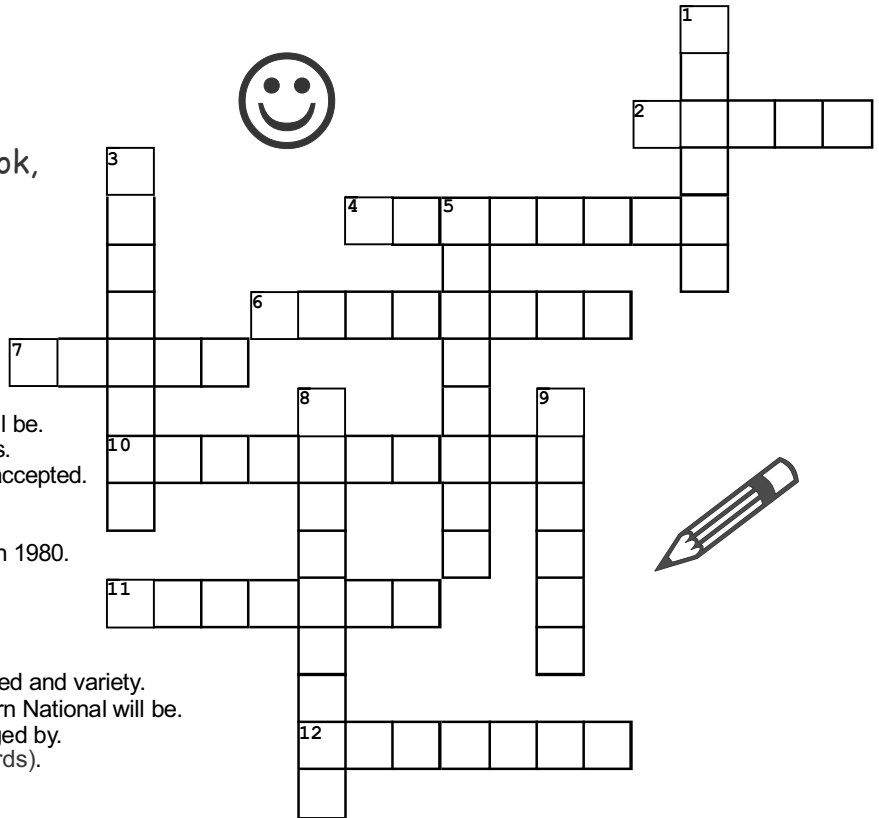


Across

2. Birds that meet a standard description.
4. State where our Ameraucana Southern National will be.
6. Folks united together and focused on Ameraucanas.
7. One of the first two bantam Ameraucana varieties accepted.
10. A name chosen over 'American Araucana'.
11. Generally relates to feather color and pattern.
12. The other bantam Ameraucana variety accepted in 1980.

Down

1. Closely related birds of the same breed and variety.
3. State where our Ameraucana Northern National will be.
5. The written description poultry is judged by.
8. A chicken that isn't dwarfed (two words).
9. A miniature/dwarfed chicken.



Word Search - Find the variety names in the puzzle that are listed below it.

C A S D X F K C C P L Y L R E O T P U A H X Y T E K F U H U
 Q C A P D S D L O R G R E E N L L S F V R S W T D A K C B Z
 V R C L L O O T D L Z I F M I A D V A E Z K I X P A C T N N
 E M K E F A L M W X U G K Q C W G N D W W H Z D T E U E E I
 S A H P Q M S M M C M M V Y L Z X N S Q W E L U W G U T J A
 F B F B D R S H S Z W L B D D Q E F X P D D I Y R L A F A R
 K B Q R S Y J I E V G F K I O V G S L D N L W Y B E D V S E
 V J V R I P O G L I B A R U A W Q X Q I M S D Q H O U X B G
 V M Y P U G Y A F V V W N L Q N R D E Z M W V W S Q V C K D
 E B L A C K P N B P E E J I X U N W L V Q R E C P A P I W A
 C Y H N Y C M K L Y T R E Z U L S P C K A U F Q I J Y F E C
 F B I O X A J B U A N B R O W N R E D E L B Y P N F D Y Z Q
 X T Q X D J O E E E M G Y W O V H D U B P U Q S K L E I S M
 U Z C R U O K H J D H R E I L H S S L D J F O H F R V F W N
 V V B J P Q W A B D F J V I I R T V X Q Y F M D N D G P E W

BUFF
 WHITE
 BLUEWHEATEN
 SPLASH

BLUE
 BROWNRED
 BLACK
 LAVENDER

WHEATEN
 SELFBLUE
 SILVER
 COLUMBIAN