

Ameraucana Newsletter

Ameraucana Alliance ~ AmeraucanaAlliance.org

Winter 2015 ~ Volume 1, Issue 4



Since The Beginning

Welcome Members...

Danae Lowell, OH
 Mary L Howdeshell, FL
 Jim, Broaddus, KY
 Annette Keenberg, CA
 John Foley, IN
 John Nyquist, TX

Kirstin Thompson, WI
 Natan, Lauren & David
 Lori Hagi, WV
 Max Strawn, TX
 Cody Granatier, IL
 K. Kaye Nyquist, TX
 Lee-Ford Tritt, FL
 Evan Whitehead, OK
 Pason & Leighton

Group photo after club meeting in Lebanon, IN - 10/17/2015



Neil Townsend; Bob Rennolet; Donna Townsend; Eva, Michael & Lucy Muenks; Ken Malcolm; Russ Blair; Kristine & Gus Malcolm; John Blehm; Walker Curran; Jerry Segler; Gina Neta; Mike Gilbert; Beth Curran



Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Bob Walchak!



Russ Blair's bantam black cockerel was Champion Ameraucana Over-All!

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"On a personal note, I underwent open heart surgery in October and am home recuperating. It's proving to be a long journey back to normal full activity but I'm encouraged by each little success, simple things like learning to walk again." [read more on page 4](#)

"...but we waited another year before the APA handed down a decision. They then accepted not only the Ameraucana bantams in all eight varieties, but large fowl Ameraucanas in the same varieties as well. We were shocked." [read more on page 4](#)

Michael J. Muenks ~ President



My how time flies! I am not sure where this year has gone, but in many ways I am glad to put it behind me. As challenging as the year was, there were positive things which occurred! One of the personal highlights for me was the National Meet in Lebanon, Indiana. The trip started out rough, but safe. Eventually we made it to the show to find old friends, make new friends, and bond with poultry. I was pleased to see my daughters take a renewed interest in poultry. They came home

with some Call Ducks, Brown Red Old English bantams, and Lucy claimed the pair of Buff Chantecler bantams from Michael Gilbert as the cutest in the world and hers.



Because I had my daughters with me, we spent quite a bit of time in the Junior Barn looking and talking about showing poultry as a Junior. I managed to get a few pictures of the Ameraucana shown by Juniors. I was very impressed by the quality of the birds. They would have done well in the open show. I have included four pictures with this article. It is of course time to think about the spring 2016 hatching season. I have started my egg production feed in the hopes of getting those valuable early fertile eggs for hatching in January. Since I am in a rebuilding phase this year again, I continue to mate what I have as pairs and groups going for the most chicks to choose from. In the past I tended toward flock mating and I cannot wait to get back to those days of having small flocks of Ameraucana in different varieties.

I wish you and yours the very best during this season of lights, family, and fun! Every blessing of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, be with you.

John W Blehm ~ Secretary/Treasurer



Please review the attached proposed constitution and send comments to me.

Harold Knapp, from NY, sent a letter with his donation for our Ameraucana National and I take off my Stetson to this friend.

*"John,
Enclosed is a donation to be used for the National Meet at the Central Indiana Poultry Show. Use it wherever needed.*

I'm not able to take in any out-of-state shows. I will miss seeing many old and new friends, which has always been a very enjoyable time for me.

I am very pleased with our slate of officers. None of you needs the extra work and aggravation that come with the job. Knowing that, you all came forward anyway. If I had a good looking hat like you John, I would take it off to all of you. Good to see Michael back.

Harold"

(continued →)

Thanks to all our members that donated cash to be used toward awards at our National Meet: Royce Van Blaricome, Russ Blair, Ken Olsen, Jim Fegan, Neil & Donna Townsend, Harold Knapp, Beth Curran, Mike Gilbert & Michael Muenks. A few designated awards weren't awarded since birds weren't entered in those classes or the winners weren't Alliance members. As in the past those awards will carry over to our next National Meet.

As we near the end of the year, here are some reasons some may want to join our Alliance for 2015. Since the Ameraucana club forked into two clubs earlier this year and we reorganized as the Ameraucana Alliance, all our 2015 members will be considered "charter" members under the club's new name and will be included in our revised Ameraucana Handbook to be published in the first half of 2016. ABC members that join the Alliance before the end of the year will be credited with any "Exhibitor Points" earned at ABC meets up to the date they joined. ABC members still have the opportunity to transfer their membership to the Alliance thru the end of this year only. This means they will be credited for the years of dues already paid with the closest membership the Alliance offers, so those that don't want dual memberships don't have to pay twice.

The tri-fold flyer I designed years ago for the club to use as a promotional tool has breed and club information along with some photos. The flyer is designed to be folded to fit into a #10 envelope and can be displayed on a club table in a clear plastic holder. Our membership form should be printed on the opposite side and both can be downloaded and printed from our Downloads page. I encourage you to print and distribute these. Not only will our membership grow, but Ameraucana fanciers benefit by being members of the Alliance! A personal invitation from you to join is all they may need.

The board has recently been discussing offering 2016 National Meet open show winners the choice of either cash or non-cash for club sponsored awards. Instead of having awards made in advance we may just associate dollar amounts with different wins and let each winner decide whether to receive the cash with a letter recognizing the win or a non-cash award such as a plaque, rosette, coaster, etc. of fairly equal value with shipping figured in. When non-cash (hardware) awards are made in advance of a meet there is the chance it won't be awarded due to either lack of entries or non-members winning and those things happen. Some members prefer cash and some prefer trophies of some sort. I think they should have the option and for this once a year big event we can mail them out after the show.

With so many states still banning poultry exhibitions and after the great Ameraucana National Meet with the Central Indiana Poultry Show (CIPS), in Lebanon, Indiana, we are going to do it again in 2016! It is official. The board of directors has voted to place the 2016 Ameraucana National Meet with the CIPS, at the Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds in Lebanon scheduled for October 15th. It's just about a 30 minute drive northwest of Indianapolis. This is a one-day show, but again, we'll treat it like a two-day show. Coop in Friday late afternoon/evening and coop out early Sunday morning. The one-day option is available to those that want to coop in early Saturday and coop out after the show on Saturday. Friday evening we'll get together for dinner. We'll have our club meeting late Saturday afternoon after pizza and fellowship at a hotel, if possible. It is not too early to make your hotel reservations. More details will be in upcoming Ameraucana Newsletters. We try to place our National Meets early enough for members to have plenty of time to plan their hatches, so birds will be ready to show and to schedule vacation time.

Cesar Villegas, from AZ, is planning to contact major retailers (Tractor Supply, Rural King, and local retailers) to make them aware that the chicks they are selling as Ameraucanas, aren't. He invites others to help by way of social media. Also on the list would be the big commercial hatcheries that still mislabel "Easter Eggers" as Ameraucanas. This is an ongoing educational effort and progress has been made over the decades with letters, published articles, phone calls and emails. Social media is a newer tool and maybe we can put pressure on these hatcheries and retailers to stop with the false advertising.

I think it is very interesting that the lavender class was the second largest variety class in large fowl and the LARGEST in bantams at our National Meet! If you are an APA member and have LF lavender Ameraucanas, please let Beth, Mike or Bob Rennolet know. They are the committee to get them accepted.

If you haven't paid club dues for 2016 yet, please be sure to do it before December 31st so there won't be a lapse in your membership. Remember you can pay for up to two years in advance and lifetime memberships are available. We don't offer family memberships, but the children in your household are included in your membership, and if a spouse wants to be a member also it only takes an extra \$10 per year.

Beth Curran ~ Director of Club Meets

Hi, all! Hope everyone is having a nice fall. We are finally getting some seasonal weather, just in time for Thanksgiving.

In October, Walker and I attended our national meet in Lebanon, IN. It was so nice finally seeing everyone in person, and I can honestly say it was the most fun I've had since I was a kid! The show committee did an amazing job - I was so impressed with how smoothly and efficiently this large show operated. I also got to experience my first egg judging, which I must admit was a bit intimidating. I never realized how much was involved in the process! Gina Neta and Jerry Segler judged the bantam eggs and Donna Townsend and I judged the large fowl eggs. My only complaint was the trip was far too short, would have loved to spend another day or two, and I am already looking forward to next year!



*Jerry Segler's Reserve LF
AOV cuckoo lavender*

I returned with 2 trios of wheaten & blue wheaten bantams from Jeff Sonsalla, who, unfortunately, was unable to make the show but Mike delivered the birds for him. They have already started laying and I set my first batch today. Fingers crossed I will have enough this season to get some into the hands of other local breeders.

I apologize for the delay in getting the points up to date and ribbons mailed out. Unfortunately, some meet reports have still not been received, and others had incorrect and/or missing information. To avoid confusion I wanted to update everything at once, but I don't want to keep people waiting any longer, so I have updated with what I have and will add more as it becomes available. Thanks so much for your patience! This year has been a learning experience, and there are a few things I will be doing differently next year that I hope will make things go smoother.

Speaking of meets, I am still placing meets in states that are open. With several bans set to expire soon, we are watching closely and will update when we hear something. Hopefully we will be able to do some more showing in the upcoming year! Please make sure you have your meet requests to me by February 1 so that they can be placed in time to make it into the spring bulletin.

Have a great Thanksgiving and Christmas, and best wishes for a happy & healthy New Year!

Jim Fegan ~ Director

Greetings from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Here it is late November and the birds are outside every day chasing bugs and grazing in grass that is still green. We have never had birds outside so late in the year ever. The birds are certainly enjoying these conditions.

My Ameraucana numbers are down this year. I do have a few Blacks, Brown Reds and Silvers. I don't see any real winners among them at this point but hoping for more maturity and development in time for the spring shows.



On a personal note, I underwent open Heart surgery in October and am home recuperating. It's proving to be a long journey back to normal full activity but I'm encouraged by each little success, simple things like learning to walk again. I'm doing well in that area. This week I was okayed to drive the car again and had the lifting restrictions removed. So now I can do some of my own shopping.

Strength and energy are slowly returning. My wonderful family has been with me every step of the way and continue to take care of many of my needs. I certainly thank God for them and say thank you to all of you who have sent cards and other expressions of love and support.

Jim

Mike Gilbert ~ Director of Recruitment & Promotion



The Central Indiana Poultry Show hosted the Ameraucana National on October 17th at the Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds in Lebanon, Indiana. Ron Patterson, Doug Akers and crew did a fantastic job of organizing and running their largest show in terms of number of entries to date, with over 2600 birds on display. Ameraucana folks from Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Wisconsin showed up to participate, along with a number of visitors from other states. Between the open and junior shows there were 152 Ameraucana chickens and bantams on display. Club members kicked things off with dinner at a local restaurant Friday evening.

When Saturday rolled around, Judge Paul Monteith judged the open show and was joined by Tim Bowles, Terry Britt, and Tom Carey when it came to picking the overall show winners. In the large fowl Ameraucanas a pair of blacks shown by John Blehm of Michigan came out on top, with a nice cockerel taking BB and best AOSB, and a pullet going RB. Other variety winners were Bob Rennolet of South Dakota in whites, Russ Blair of Michigan in blue, John Blehm in buff, silver, and lavender, and Mike Gilbert of Wisconsin in brown red. Best AOV (non-recognized variety) was a lavender pullet by Blehm and reserve AOV was a lavender cuckoo by Jerry Segler of Illinois. Splash was another AOV variety shown. In all 60 birds competed in the large fowl open division, with 23 blacks and 12 lavenders being the most numerous. Ten exhibitors competed in the large fowl.

This year the bantams outnumbered the large fowl, with 66 entries put down by five exhibitors in the open show. The lavender entries led with 19 followed by the blacks with 11 and blue with nine. When all was said and done, Russ Blair's Black cockerel took BB and Reserve Champion bantam of the entire show with over 1,000 bantams shown. Reserve bantam was a white hen by Gilbert. Other variety winners included Blair in blue, Gilbert in brown red, Neil & Donna Townsend of PA in blue wheaten, and Blehm in buff, silver, and wheaten. Best AOV was a lavender pullet by Blehm and reserve AOV was a lavender cockerel by Blair. Splash and lavender silver bantams were other AOV entries.

Over in the junior show 19 bantams were shown by five exhibitors along with seven large fowl by four exhibitors. Top large fowl winner was Cody Granatier of Illinois with a black cockerel, and a blue cockerel was RB. Keesha Ivins, from Indiana, did well with her large fowl winning BV with a splash pullet and RV black and RV blue with her pullets. In the bantams, a nonmember from Michigan took BB and RB on wheatens. The Malcolm brothers of Colorado, Walter and Gus, showed some real nice bantams in black, blue, silver, buff, and splash. Natalie Sonsalla of Wisconsin had top buff bantam, and Walker Curran of North Carolina had BV and RV whites. Many of the birds in the junior show could have done very well in the open competition.

After the show the Ameraucana Alliance members and guests gathered together for a pizza and sub-sandwich buffet, annual club meeting, and awards presentation. Thanks to Kathy Blehm, Sandy Rennolet, and Mary Gilbert for organizing this well-attended event. Club president Michael Muenks presided. Bob Walchak was the recipient of the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award. He was not at this year's national meet, but Bob has won BB bantam at several of our national meets with his White and his Black Ameraucana bantams. He traveled as far as Montana, Ohio, Kentucky, and Missouri from his home here in Wisconsin, which is about 5 miles from my place, to participate in Ameraucana National Meets. Congratulations Bob! The award is well deserved. The annual egg contest winners were Bob Rennolet on large fowl hen eggs, Gina Neta of Wisconsin on large fowl pullet eggs, John Blehm on bantam hen eggs, and Donna Townsend of PA on bantam pullet eggs. Fowl Stuff nest boxes were awarded to the winners along with other prizes. A great time was had by all. Join us next year for our Ameraucana Alliance national the weekend of October 15th, 2016, in Lebanon, Indiana.



Mike visits with Linda Ferguson, in Sacramento, CA, during his and Mary's vacation.

Ameraucana Meet Results

Rocky Mountain Poultry Association, Spring Fling

Missoula, MT club Meet, May 2, 2015

(Two Shows with the same results)

8 Open LF by ? exhibitors, judged by ?

BB, BV – black H by Janie Voigt, out of 4 - **CH AOSB**

RB, RV – black H by Janie

BV – lavender P by Janie, out of 2

California State Fair

Sacramento, CA - club Meet, July 10-26, 2015

15 Open bantams by ? exhibitors, judge: ?

BB, BV – black ? by Debra Hogan, out of 3 -

Champion AOCCL, CH Bantam, CH Landfowl

RV - black ? by Debra

BV – blue C by John Marshall, out of 1

RV - blue ? by ?, out of 3

RV - blue ?, by ?

RB, BV – buff ? Debra, out of 4

RV – buff ? by Debra

BV – silver ? by Debra, out of 5

RV – silver by ? by ?

25 Open LF by ? exhibitors, judged by ?

BV – black ? by Debra Hogan, out of 9

RV – black ? by ?

BV - blue ? by ?, out to 3

RV - blue ? by Debra

BB, BV - blue wheaten ? by Debra, out of 3 - **CH AOSB**

RV – blue wheaten ? by Debra

BV - brown red ? by Debra, out of 3

RV - brown red ? by Debra

RB, BV - wheaten ? by Debra, out of 4 - **Reserve AOSB**

RV - wheaten ? by Debra

BV - white ? by Debra, out of 3

RV - white ? by Debra

National Heirloom Exposition

Santa Rosa, CA club Meet, September 8-10, 2015

"the one exhibitor was a young child - Pearl Luedecke with a black non tufted cock. Judge was Walt Leonard and placed it first. You can fill out any other paper work. Lenore"

Central Indiana Poultry Show

Lebanon, IN – Ameraucana National Meet, October 17, 2015

66 Bantams by 5 exhibitors, judge: Paul Monteith

BB, BV – black K by Russ Blair, out of 11 –

Champion AOCCL, Reserve CH Bantam Chicken

RV – black P by Russ Blair

BV – blue P by Russ Blair, out of 9

RV – blue P by Russ Blair

BV – blue wheaten P by Neil & Donna Townsend

BV – brown red K by Mike Gilbert, out of 2

RV – brown red P by Mike Gilbert

BV – buff P by John Blehm, out of 6

RV – buff P by John Blehm

BV – silver P by John Blehm, out of 4

RV – silver P by John Blehm

BV – wheaten H by John Blehm, out of 5

RV – wheaten H by John Blehm

RB, BV – white H by Mike Gilbert, out of 4

RV – white P by Mike Gilbert

BV – lavender P by John Blehm, out of 19 – **Best AOV**

RV – lavender K by Russ Blair – **Reserve AOV**

BV – lavender silver P by John Blehm

BV – splash P by Russ Blair, out of 4

RV – splash P by Russ Blair

60 large fowl by 10 exhibitors, judge: Paul Monteith

BB, BV – black K by John Blehm, out of 23 – **CH AOSB**

RB, RV – black P John Blehm

BV – blue P by Russ Blair

BV – brown red K by Mike Gilbert, out of 2

RV – brown red P by Mike Gilbert

BV – buff P by John Blehm, out of 9

RV – buff K by John Blehm

BV – silver P by John Blehm, out of 5

RV – silver P by John Blehm

BV – white C by Bob Rennolet, out of 4

RV – white H by Bob Rennolet

BV – cuckoo K by Jerry Segler

BV – cuckoo lavender C by Jerry Segler – **Reserve AOV**

BV – lavender P by John Blehm, out of 12 – **Best AOV**

RV – lavender H by John Blehm

BV – splash P by Russ Blair, out of 2 (1 was OUT)

Jr Competition, 19 bantams by 5 exhibitors, judges:

Brad Jones, Greg Chamness, and Shannon Brady

BV – black P by Gus Malcolm

BV – blue K by Gus Malcolm

BV – buff C by Natalie Sonsalla, out of 2

RV – buff P by Walter Malcolm

BV – silver H by Walter Malcolm, out of 5

RV – silver K by a non-member

BB, BV – wheaten K by non-member, out of 4 –

Res AOCCL

RB, RV – wheaten P by a non-member

BV – white K by Walker Curran, out of 4

RV – white H by Walker Curran

BV – splash P by Gus Malcolm, out of 2

RV – splash H by Gus Malcolm

Jr Competition, 7 large fowl by 4 exhibitors, judges:

Brad Jones, Greg Chamness, and Shannon Brady

BB, BV – black K by Cody Granatier, out of 2

RV – black P by Keesha Ivins

RB, BV – blue K by a non-member, out of 4

RV – blue P by Keesha Ivins

BV – splash P by Keesha Ivins

Annual Meeting Minutes Ameraucana Alliance Lebanon, IN - October 17, 2015

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at the Comfort Inn meeting room at 6:15 PM ET by Michael Muenks.

Welcome and Introductions

He asked all to introduce themselves. Members in attendance were Kristine Malcolm, Gus Malcolm, Jerry Segler, Beth Curran, Walker Curran, Gina Neta, Robert Rennolet, Michael Gilbert, John Blehm, Russell Blair, Donna Townsend, Neil Townsend, Michael Muenks, Eva Muenks, Lucy Muenks and guests.

Secretary's Report

John Blehm provided the minutes from the meeting in 2014 of the Ameraucana Breeders Club. Donna Townsend motioned for approval and Bob Rennolet seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Treasurer's Report

John Blehm provided the current club treasury balance of \$1301.20. Ameraucana Alliance will receive \$200.00 from the show club for the national meet. Michael Gilbert motioned for approval and Bob Rennolet seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Old Business

Lavender and Splash APA Approval

Discussed the situation with and the status of the process of gaining approval of Lavender and Splash Ameraucana. A general discussion of how a new variety is approved by the APA. Five members need to be APA members and breeding large fowl lavender for a minimum of 5 years and provide certification that the variety is breeding pure. Different members can be at the same address and certify that the variety is pure. The second phase is a meet with 50 birds of the variety shown by at least 5 different exhibitors at the qualifying meet. Of all those showing at the qualifying meet at least 5 must be APA members.

The general consensus was to focus on the Lavender large fowl and to go for admission to the APA.

New Business

Constitution

Discussed the draft club constitution in some detail and members were generally positive. The constitution will be published in the December Newsletter to give members a chance to provide official feedback. Based on the feedback of the members present, the board will review the feedback and vote on the constitution at the end of December 2015.

Ameraucana Handbook

John Blehm will serve as the editor and the board members will serve as the editorial board. An updated history, list of charter members, member ads, and business ads will be included.

Members are encouraged to provide articles for consideration of inclusion in the handbook.

Large Fowl Ameraucana

Beth Curran, Michael Gilbert, and Bob Rennolet will serve as the Large Fowl Lavender Committee and move forward with the process of getting large fowl lavender accepted by the APA.

Ameraucana Lifetime Achievement Award

Bob Walchek was presented with the Ameraucana Lifetime Achievement Award. Bob was not present to receive the award and the award will be sent to him.

Bob Rennolet motioned that the meeting be adjourned to take the club picture and Neil Townsend seconded the motion with all in favor.



*BV Blue Wheaten bantam pullet
by Neil and Donna Townsend*



Mike Gilbert receives the Pinnacle Award

At the Master's Cup Poultry Show banquet, in Webster City, Iowa, on November 21st, Bart Pals presented the Pinnacle Award to Mike Gilbert. Bart said "The Pinnacle award was designed for someone who has actually made a difference with purebred poultry, not just winning. That most certainly is Mike."

Here is Mike's story...

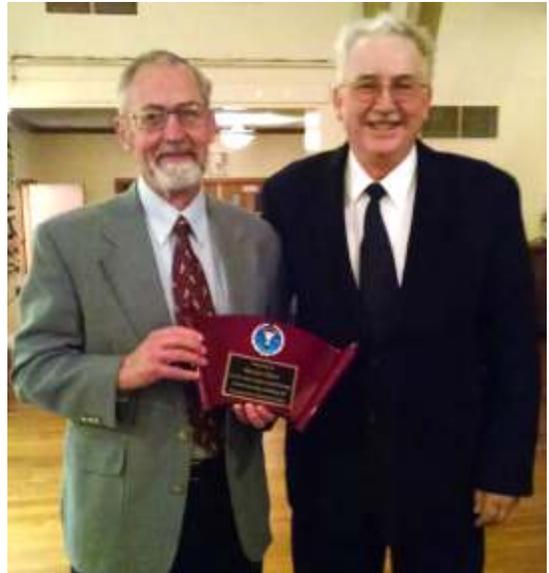
I was raised on one of many small dairy farms in western Wisconsin, and in the 1950's every farm had a few chickens and pigs to go along with the cattle. We were organic and sustainable before those terms became cool or fashionable. I paid little attention to the chickens until the year my mother ordered 50 Barred Rock chicks from some hatchery. That was the first time I had seen baby chicks, all the stages of growth, and the fine condition they could achieve on free range. So I purchased a few crossbred bantams from neighbors and was soon raising my own. Somewhere along the line I ordered the Rare Breed Special assortment from McMurray Hatchery, and an assortment it was.

Buff Laced Polish, Naked Necks, Columbian Wyandottes, and many more I no longer remember. A few of those were entered in the local county fair, and all were rewarded with a blue or a red ribbon.

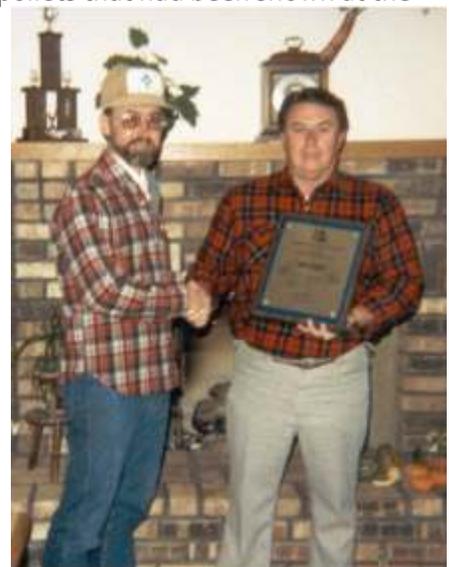
Still, I had no idea there were poultry shows other than the local fairs. It was not until I was married and living near Cedar Rapids, Iowa, that I learned about shows, the ABA, and the APA. Mentors then were folks like the late Herb Holtz, John Allen, and Bill Noelk. In about 1974 or '75 I ordered an assortment of bantams from Marti Hatchery in Missouri. They sent an assortment of mostly nondescript bantams, but included a few Buff Orpingtons, Brahmas, and Wyandottes. They also sent some muffed, tailed bantams that turned out to be blue egg layers. One of the latter group had feathers on the legs, another a crossed beak, another a small crest. None matched up very well with any color descriptions in Bantam Standard.

By that time I was a subscriber to Poultry Press, and the Araucana controversy was raging. After the APA imposed an Araucana standard in 1976 in an attempt to bring order out of chaos, people were still showing the tailed birds, and yours truly was one of them. I had bred up a wheaten strain by crossing a tan easter egger bantam (no black anywhere) with a wheaten O.E. game bantam, and then breeding the F-1's together. For some reason, my picture appeared in Poultry Press with a pair of wheaten pullets that had been shown at the Eastern Iowa show back when it was held at the town hall in Bluegrass, IA. A school teacher near Sacramento, CA, saw the photo, called me and ordered a trio. I shipped Don Cable two pair, and he was so pleased he contacted me about forming a club to promote them as a new breed of bantam. So together we formed the Ameraucana Bantam Club, sought out members, wrote a standard, and petitioned for ABA acceptance. The qualifying meet was held in 1980 in California, whereupon judge Bill Holland recommended they be accepted. So they were now recognized by the ABA which removed the fear of disqualification at shows.

Meanwhile, various organizations had been attempting the same thing in large fowl under names like "American Araucana" without success. The Ameraucana Bantam Club requested a qualifying meet from the APA to be held at the Ohio National in 1983. That same show was our ABA qualifying meet for the six varieties other than Wheaten and White. We had six exhibitors show up, including judge John Wunderlich, with about 70 bantams in seven varieties. By that time I had created the blue wheaten variety, an easy task, and they received many favorable comments.



Mike with Bart Pals



Mike with Don Cable - 1987
(continued →)

The ABA recognized the six additional varieties immediately at the show, but we waited another year before the APA handed down a decision. They then accepted not only the Ameraucana bantams in all eight varieties, but large fowl Ameraucanas in the same varieties as well. We were shocked. But we changed our name to the Ameraucana Breeders Club, and some of us started working to create those varieties in large fowl. As they say, the rest is history.

I still raise a few Ameraucana over 35 years later as do some of my best friends. The club we started in 1978 became one of the largest and most active in the country. In 2015 this club split into two different Ameraucana Clubs primarily due to some unfortunate election irregularities. I decided to stay with the person who was responsible for the development and/or improvement of most of the large fowl Ameraucana varieties and my very good friend, John Blehm of Michigan. So I remain one of the very few remaining active charter members, along with Jerry Segler of Illinois, in the breed club known as Ameraucana Alliance. Our October, 2015, National Meet in Lebanon, Indiana, drew about 160 entries. Not too bad for a club that had split into two groups earlier in the year. Another noteworthy item is the fact that an Ameraucana won Best of Show at the 2014 APA National.



Mike with John Wunderlich

I have raised most breeds of bantams over the years, created a good number of new varieties & strains within different breeds, and in 1998 was awarded APA Master Exhibitor #385. I had never been a point chaser and was not keeping track of points, so was quite surprised. The friends in the hobby made over the years mean so much more than any recognition that happens to come my way.

About five years ago the Badger Poultry Club folded, primarily due to the untimely death of David Lefebber. Jeff Sonsalla of Arcadia, Wisconsin, and I got together and formed a local poultry club in our immediate area of Western Wisconsin, purchased the cooping and equipment from the old Badger Club, and have held three successful shows so far. We were unable to hold a 2015 show because of state regulations pertaining to the HPAI epidemic, but hope to continue in 2016 if the state allows. The Coulee Region Poultry Club has a good number of active families involved, so the future looks bright.



John Blehm, Mike Gilbert, Jerry Segler - 1991

Living back in Wisconsin since 1978, it was natural to develop an interest in the Chantecler breed. A former fancier in Montana and I formed Chantecler Fanciers International in 2007, and today I serve as Secretary-Treasurer of this thriving organization. Unable to find any Partridge Chantecler bantams to purchase, I ended up creating my own following the formula of Brother Wilfrid, creator of the Canadian White Chantecler in the early 1900's, utilizing the best attributes of four or five different breeds. I have also created a Buff Chantecler bantam and my own strain of White Chantecler bantams. All have done very well in the show room, though APA recognition of the buff variety has not yet been attempted. I'm also working to create improved strains of Partridge and Buff large fowl Chanteclers.

Any success or accomplishment achieved can be attributed to the support and encouragement of my family, especially my wife of more than 50 years, Mary, networking with my friends in the hobby, and the manifold blessings of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Club Notes ~ John W Blehm

Deadline for the next Ameraucana Newsletter is February 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 March 1st...the date the Spring 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 8/31/2015 =	\$2,239.54
Previous Checking Balance as of 8/31/2015 =	\$1,677.85
Income	\$1,846.00
Expenses	\$1,515.85
Checking Balance as of 11/28/2015 =	\$ 2,008.00
PayPal Balance as of 11/28/2015 =	\$305.39



*Jerry Segler, Beth Curran, Russ Blair & Gina Neta
at our club table at our 2015 Ameraucana National Meet!*

Upcoming Ameraucana Meets - Go to AmeraucanaAlliance.org for updates

October 15, 2016

Ameraucana National Meet

[Central Indiana Poultry Show](#), Lebanon IN

Contact: Doug Akers dakers@purdue.edu (765)482-7182

Ameraucana Alliance Board of Directors

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*BV white LF cock
by Bob Rennolet*