

Ameraucana Newsletter

Winter 2016 ~ Volume 2, Issue 4

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Welcome New Members...

Keith R Graul, AZ
Elisabeth & William
Shanie Searing, WA
Natalia Breeden
Linda Scheuers, WI

Kim Tuyls, WI
Heather Perkins, IN
Matthew, Lillian & Nicholas
Gary Bucher, IN
Sonny McDonald, IN
Colton Friedel, OH
Lizzie Beller, NY



John Blehm presents the Lifetime Achievement Award to Bob Rennolet, from South Dakota



Group photo after our meeting - standing: Bob Rennolet, Donna Townsend, Stan Alder, Neil Townsend, Jim Fegan, Mike Gilbert, John Blehm, Max Strawn - seated & kneeling: Dave Lasley, Noah Lasley, Duane Schroeder, Gina Neta, Russ Blair, Tawnya Strawn

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"I'd like to thank all of the out-going officers for their time, effort, and leadership these past two years. The accomplishments have been nothing short of amazing..."

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"...If you haven't paid club dues for 2017 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..."

[read more on page 2](#)

"Our 2017 Ameraucana Alliance National Meet Venue has been determined, and I am really looking forward to this BIG event in Birch Run, MI at the annual Fowl Fest on October 7 and 8. Plan your hatches accordingly!..."

[read more on page 5](#)

Michael J. Muenks ~ President



Greetings fellow Ameraucana breeders and enthusiasts! Another national meet is a memory as well as many of the fall 2016 shows. The fruits of your labors have been judged with much success. In addition, each of you has hopefully had a good time, shared stories, made friends, and visited with old friends at the fall shows. You are winners for putting your efforts and your birds out for your colleagues and the judges to see.

I publicly wish to applaud the stellar work of the group who worked to make this 2016 National Meet a success. I also wish to publicly acknowledge the time and efforts of our board of directors, and especially our secretary/treasurer for putting together such an enjoyable event. I regretted that was not able to stay at the national meet for long.

Through a series of unfortunate reschedules of an anniversary celebration I had agreed to sing at, my time at the meet was short. When I had agreed to sing the event was scheduled for next weekend. It was then moved to the first weekend of October. When I received the final information, much to my disappointment, it had been moved to the weekend of the 2016 National Meet.

I did make it out to wander the show barns Friday evening and early Saturday morning. It was a long drive for such a short time, but I saw some very nice Ameraucana bantams and large fowl. It is always fun to see some of the more rare Ameraucana varieties in shows and looking really good. From the beetle green blacks and laced blues to the refined brown reds to the flashy wheaten and everything in between, I applaud your efforts this year! I had the opportunity to visit with a few members and buy a few Ameraucana before, reluctantly, returning home to central Missouri.

With the turning of the year we will have a new set of officers at the helm of the club. I'd like to thank all of the out-going officers for their time, effort, and leadership these past two years. The accomplishments have been nothing short of amazing. I welcome the new leadership team and hope that everyone will work to support them as they continue the good work of the club.

I wish you and yours the very best of holiday season and new year!

John W Blehm ~ Secretary/Treasurer



✧ At our Ameraucana National Meet Russ Blair and Gina Neta organized a silent auction of Ameraucanas to benefit the club with several members donating quality birds. Bidding was heavy and the auction grossed \$598! Saturday evening we had a pizza and subs dinner followed by our annual club meeting, where Bob Rennolet was presented with an Ameraucana Lifetime Achievement Award. Bob joined the club in 1998 and was the first to pay for a lifetime membership. He and his wife, Sandy, truly go the extra mile when it comes to traveling to our National Meets. Bob breeds bantam and large fowl Ameraucanas in several varieties. He has also been very generous when it comes to donating to the Alliance with cash awards, birds for auctions and his time. He is one of those all-around good guys! The meet results from our 2016 National Meet and some photos are included in this newsletter.

✧ Since all members running for each club office were unopposed they won by acclamation, according to our constitution and will assume office on January 1st, 2017.

President: John Blehm; Secretary/Treasurer: Gina Neta; Directors: Beth Curran, Russ Blair, Jeanette Frank & Jensen Pierson.

✧ If you haven't paid club dues for 2017 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. I am including either a post-it note or email notice with this newsletter reminding each member of their membership status.

Beth Curran ~ Director of Club Meets

Hello, everyone! Hope this finds you all well! Things have been pretty quiet around here. We came through Hurricane Matthew unscathed and, on the back side of it, were blessed with a month of dry, cooler weather that has allowed me to catch up on some of the things that have been on the back burner through a summer of oppressive heat and relentless rain. I am now starting to look ahead to next year, have begun setting up breeding pens, upped the birds' protein & daylight, and hope to start setting eggs in the next few weeks.



Fuzz just finished cross-country season and is anxiously awaiting the first basketball game of the season. His school schedule hasn't allowed for many shows but we are both looking forward to hatching season. There's just something about the promise and possibilities that those new babies bring that energizes you!

Spring also means spring shows! Make sure you request your favorites in time to get them in the next newsletter.

Have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!



A photo from the 2016 Fowl Fest, at the Expo Center, in Birch Run, Michigan

Jim Fegan ~ Director

I managed to attend the Ohio National Poultry show and showed a few birds, none of them were Ameraucanas.

I did not get a count on the number of Ameraucanas, at the Ohio National, but I did see many fine specimens. The blacks and whites did stand out as usual with a black cockerel, shown by M & J Farm making it all the way to Champion large fowl of the show.



The Grand Champion of the show was a black Cayuga duck by Rick Hare and the reserve was a New Hampshire red bantam hen by Robert Poole.

On a personal note I was recognized as one of the APA honorees for 2016, a pleasant and unexpected surprise.

Mike Gilbert ~ Director of Recruitment & Promotion



This will be my last report as a Director of Ameraucana Alliance, as I had decided not to run for re-election this term. This organization has come such a long way in a very short period of time, and it will continue to prosper in the hands of the new slate of officers. We have very capable people taking the reins, a blend of youth and enthusiasm combined with experience and the steady hand. The future looks bright for the Alliance and the breed.

This morning I went on the Facebook page set up for preselling birds and posting wanted ads at the Ohio National. A gentleman had posted a photo of a pen of very nice bantam wheaten female bantams offering trios for sale. If you know anything about Facebook, you know there is an opportunity for viewers to "Like" or "Love" the post. This one had a good number of both, including some from experienced poultry judges whose names I recognized. So I posted an inquiry as to whose line they were from. The response came back that he had acquired bantams from Bill Davis in Georgia, and they were supposed to be my line. Well, I did sell Bill some birds, but he also acquired some from the late Patty Pickard, so I explained that if the lines had been crossed they were Bill's line now. To me it was just rewarding to see this variety being passed around among fanciers and that many people seemed to like their appearance. I'm still raising wheaten and blue wheaten bantams, but they are a different line than I had five or six years ago.

I'm including with this report a photo of my favorite cockerel I raised this year. He has nice clean hackles and good type; his main fault is a somewhat twisted comb when viewed from the top. I kept a half dozen wheaten and blue wheaten pullets to mate him with, so am already looking forward to next year's crop.



Maybe in 2017 I can finally give Russ a little competition at our national meet in Michigan. I have a nice trio of older white bantams too, so if all goes well there may be some of those to compete with as well. The big event will take place October 7th & 8th, 2017 so plan your hatches accordingly. I'm sure there will be lots of information in this newsletter about our 2016 National in Lebanon, Indiana, so won't say much about it. Congratulations to Max and to Russ for their great wins in heavy competition! Everyone who participated was and is a winner in my opinion. Hope to see you all back in 2017!

Ameraucana Meet Report

Southern Ohio Poultry Association

Fall Show - Lucasville, October 1-2, 2016

5 bantams by 1 exhibitor, judge Lou Cunningham

BV - silver P by John Blehm out of 2

RV - silver K by John Blehm

BV, RB - wheaten C by John Blehm out of 1

BV, BB - lavender P by John Blehm out of 2

RV - lavender K by John Blehm

23 large fowl by 4 exhibitors, judge Paul Gilroy

BV, RB - black P by Jensen Pierson out of 12

RV - black K by John Blehm

BV - blue K by non-member out of 1

BV - buff K by John Blehm out of 2

RV - buff P by John Blehm

BV - silver P by John Blehm out of 2

RV - silver K by John Blehm

BV, BB, Res CH AOSB - white C by Kraig Shaffer out of 4

RV - white P by Kraig Shaffer

BV - lavender P by John Blehm out of 2

RV - lavender K by John Blehm

4 jr bantams by 1 exhibitor, judges Lawrence & McCammon

BV, BB lavender K by Alyssa Hutchinson out of 4

RV, RB lavender P by Alyssa Hutchinson

5 junior LF by 2 exhibitors, judges Lawrence & McCammon

BV, RB black P by non-member out of 2

RV black P by non-member

BV, BB, Res CH AOSB blue K by non-member out of 3

RV blue P by non-member

BB splash K by non-member out of 1

Gina Neta ~ Director



Warm Holiday Wishes are being sent to you from the Northwoods of Wisconsin. I hope this finds you well and prepared for the upcoming winter months. Our temperatures in Wisconsin have been beautiful recently, allowing us to spend more time outdoors finishing up the last-of-the-season upgrades and general maintenance to buildings and pens. Besides the Holidays right around the corner and spending time with family and friends, this season is exciting for me because it means the creation of well thought out breeding pens and soon-to-follow fertile eggs that will hatch into beautiful chicks. I always have such high hopes and expectations from the carefully selected groups of males and females.

Our 2017 Ameraucana Alliance National Meet Venue has been determined, and I am really looking forward to this BIG event in Birch Run, MI at the annual Fowl Fest on October 7 and 8. Plan your hatches accordingly! For those who have not attended a show at this location – you are in for a nice surprise! The facility is top-notch, the organizers friendly and helpful, and shopping and dining are fine indeed. Please make every effort to attend this event. The Board of Directors already have their thinking caps on and are brainstorming all sorts of ways for everyone to enjoy and have a chance to participate in events during our time together in Birch Run.

Also, our 2017 Board of Directors has been determined and I encourage everyone to become familiar with this group. The Board is a cohesive and collaborative group of folks with the best interest of the Ameraucana breed and our organization at the heart of our discussions and decisions. There is a wealth of knowledge represented by the members of the Board and I am confident that whatever your question – an answer will be provided. We exist to listen to and consider your wishes and desires – we are here to serve you. Reach out to any of us via email, text, phone call, or letter. We would love to hear from you!

Lastly, I want to extend a warm welcome to our newest members and encourage everyone to continue their membership with our organization. You will make many new friends and find yourself on a continuous learning path full of excitement and fun. Remember to visit our website at AmeraucanaAlliance.org to renew your membership and even direct your friends to join us. As always, members receive quarterly newsletters and membership dues are only \$10 per year (for newsletters received by email) or \$15 per year (for newsletters received by U.S. Postal Mail).

Ameraucana Meet Report

Michigan Poultry Fanciers

Fowl Fest - Birch Run, October 8-9, 2016

9 bantams by 2 exhibitors, judge Phil Bartz

BV - blue P by Russ Blair out of 1

BV - silver H by Russ Blair out of 3

RV - silver P by John Blehm

BV, BB - wheaten P by Russ Blair out of 3

RV, RB - wheaten K by Russ Blair

BV - lavender P by John Blehm out of 2

RV - lavender K by John Blehm

16 large fowl by 2 exhibitors, judge Phil Bartz

BV, BB, Champion AOSB - black K by John Blehm out of 7

RV- black H by John Blehm

BV - blue K by Russ Blair out of 1

BV - buff K by John Blehm out of 2

RV - buff P by John Blehm

BV, RB, Res CH AOSB - silver P by John Blehm out of 2

RV - silver K by John Blehm

BV - lavender P by John Blehm out of 4

RV - lavender K by John Blehm

1 junior bantam by 1 exhibitor, judge Butch Gunderson

BV, BB, Res CH AOCCL lavender C by non-member, out of 1



**Reserve of Breed
large fowl
black cockerel,
by Max Strawn,
at Lebanon, IN
October 15**

Minutes of Ameraucana Alliance Annual Meeting, Saturday October 15th, 2016 7:00 p.m. EST Lebanon, IN

Members Present: Max Strawn (wife Tawyna); Russ Blair (Uncle David); Jim Fegan (daughter Norma); Neil Townsend, Donna Townsend; John Blehm (wife Kathy); Mike Gilbert (wife Mary); Stan Alder; Duane Schroeder; David Lasley, Noah Lasley (and mother); Bob Rennolet (wife Sandy); Gina Neta (mother Donna & Aunt Carol)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by John Blehm, for Michael Muenks. Gina Neta took minutes of the meeting. Everyone was welcomed, introduced, and thanked for participating in our National Meet today. There were over 200 total Ameraucanas entered which qualified us to receive a \$300 rebate from the host club. This money will be invested back into our club.

Reports: The Secretary's report from the annual meeting in October, 2015 held in Lebanon, IN was given by John Blehm. There was a motion made by Jim Fegan to accept the Secretary's Report; seconded by Bob Rennolet and unanimously passed.

The Treasurer's report was given by John Blehm. Currently the club has \$2,109.36 between our checking account and PayPal. We had \$4,300 when the fall newsletter went out and expenses included awards for this meet and toner for printing. The Silent Auction held today grossed \$598, there were a few new memberships, we received a \$300 rebate from the show club and about \$300 in awards was not won. This gives us approximately \$3,300 in the treasury. There was a motion made by Neil Townsend and seconded by Dave Lasley and unanimously passed to accept the treasurer's report as given.

Old Business: The Constitution of the Ameraucana Alliance. The current constitution was ratified and became effective January 1st, 2016. The club also put together, published, and printed 300 copies of an Ameraucana Handbook. With the advertising monies received it ended up being a small money-maker for the club. Thank you to all who contributed whether through buying advertising space or informative articles. The handbook has been recognized as an invaluable tool to those interested in the breed.

Acceptance of the Lavender Variety. It was reported that the Ameraucana Breeders Club is pursuing this variety under the name of Self Blue and is currently working through the APA process to get it finalized. Our club had a committee in place as of last year to pursue this very same thing but under the Lavender name. The committee consisted of Mike Gilbert, Beth Curran and Bob Rennolet. No further comments were provided.

New Business: National Meet for 2017. There was discussion about where to hold our 2017 National Meet. Suggestions included the Fowl Fest in Birch Run, MI held in early October; Lucasville, OH; Portage, WI; Shawnee, OK; and in conjunction with the APA and ABA Nationals in 2017. Members were reminded and encouraged to obtain a bid for our National Meet from their preferred Show Club and submit the details to Michael Muenks no later than November 1st. The bids will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and voted on with a decision made by November 15th. This allows breeders to plan hatches and vacations accordingly. Things to consider when obtaining bids for our National Show include a Club Table and couple of chairs for our use; Choice of Judges; our breed judged first during the show; any awards that are offered such as special plaques, ribbons and cash; and any money offered to our club. John will add a discussion to our Ameraucana Forum with bullet points regarding this topic to keep this discussion active and visible to members who would like input.

Cooperation/Collaboration with the ABC in getting new varieties of Ameraucanas recognized by the APA/ABA such as Splash and Splash Wheaten. There was discussion regarding the desire and benefits of collaborating with the ABC in projects such as new variety recognition and acceptance. There were comments and lively discussion surrounding the benefit of being able to have input into the written description of Ameraucana varieties into the Standard of Perfection as they are developed and eventually approved. Mike Gilbert reported that Paul Smith had asked him if our club would be interested in working together with Splash Wheaten development and recognition. There was a motion made by Mike Gilbert to have the Board of Directors vote on this issue – whether we are willing to work together with the ABC in these types of endeavors. The motion was seconded by Russ Blair and passed.

Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award. John Blehm presented Bob Rennolet with the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award, on behalf of President Michael Muenks. Bob was recognized for his participation in breeding and exhibiting Ameraucanas. Bob travels great distances for poultry shows and brings a large number of birds. Bob also has provided financial support for our National Meets. Congratulations Bob!

Thank you to all who donated money, birds, time, and effort to make today's Ameraucana National Meet a Success! Russ Blair and Gina Neta chaired the Silent Auction, of Ameraucanas, and this was considered a big win for our club. There were several memberships to our club given to those who purchased birds through the silent auction, by those donating birds. There was energetic discussion surrounding whether or not this is a practice we want to continue if we have silent auctions/fund raisers in the future.

There was a motion made by Duane Schroeder and seconded by Mike Gilbert to have the Board of Directors make a decision on the issue regarding offering free memberships to winners with fund raisers such as silent auctions. The motion was unanimously passed.

John reported our club currently has about 187 members. It was noted members can pay annual dues up to 2 years in advance.

Awards were presented to the winners present from today's show.

John read a letter that was provided by President Michael Muenks given that he was unable to attend the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. EST

Ameraucana National Meet Report

Boone County 4-H Poultry Club

Central Indiana Poultry Show - Lebanon, October 15, 2016

78 bantams by 8 exhibitors, judge Bud Blankenship

BV, BB, Res CH Ameraucana - black H by Russ Blair out of 24

RV - black P by Russ Blair

BV - blue P by Russ Blair out of 5

RV - blue P by Russ Blair

BV - blue wheaten P by Mike Gilbert out of 12

RV - blue wheaten P by Donna Townsend

BV - brown-red P by Mike Gilbert out of 4

RV - brown-red P by Mike Gilbert

BV - silver P by John Blehm out of 3

RV - silver H by Russ Blair

BV, RB - wheaten H by John Blehm out of 12

RV - wheaten K by Mike Gilbert

BV - white H by Mike Gilbert out of 2

RV - white C by Neil Townsend

BV, Best AOV - lavender P by Robert Rennolet out of 12

RV, Reserve AOV - lavender P by Gina Neta

BV - splash K by Russ Blair out of 2

RV - splash P by Russ Blair

BV - splash wheaten K by Donna Townsend out of 2

RV - splash wheaten P by Donna Townsend

Champion Bantam Trio – young wheaten by Russ Blair

Reserve Bantam Trio – young black by Russ Blair

97 large fowl by 11 exhibitors, judge Bud Blankenship

BV, RB - black K by Max Strawn out of 37

RV - black P by Max Strawn

BV - blue P by Max Strawn out of 10

RV - blue K by Max Strawn

BV - blue wheaten P by Max Strawn out of 3

RV - blue wheaten C by Max Strawn

BV - brown-red H by Jim Fegan out of 5

RV - brown-red K by Mike Gilbert

BV - buff K by John Blehm out of 3

RV - buff P by John Blehm

BV - silver P by John Blehm out of 7

RV - silver H by Jim Fegan

BV - wheaten C by Max Strawn out of 4

RV - wheaten P by Max Strawn

BV, BB, CH Ameraucana - white P by Kraig Shafer out of 16

RV - white K by Gina Neta

BV - blue silver C by Russ Blair out of 1

BV, Reserve AOV - lavender P by John Blehm out of 10

RV - lavender K by John Blehm

BV, Best AOV - splash P by Max Strawn out of 1

Champion LF Trio – young black by Bob Rennolet

Reserve LF Trio – young black by Jensen Pierson

Displays (1 cock, 1 hen, 1 cockerel, 1 pullet, plus 1 trio)

Champion Overall – black bantam by Russ Blair

Res Champion Overall – black large fowl by Bob Rennolet

3rd Place Overall – lavender bantam by Bob Rennolet

4 junior bantams by 2 exhibitors, judge Brad Jones

BV, BB - lavender H by Nicholas Perkins out of 4

RV, RB - lavender K by Alyssa Hutchinson

6 junior large fowl by 5 exhibitors, judge Greg Chamness

BV, BB - black H by non-member out of 3

RV, RB - black C by Cody Granatier

BV - blue C by non-member out of 2

RV - blue C by non-member

BV - splash P by Keesha Ivins out of 1

Bantam Egg Contest, judges Jensen Pierson & Gina Neta

Best – Russ Blair

Reserve – Donna Townsend

LF Egg Contest, judges Duane Schroeder & Russ Blair

Best – Bob Rennolet

Reserve – John Blehm



**Best of Breed large fowl white cock, by Kraig Shafer,
at Lucasville, Ohio, October 1-2**

Important Dates

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 8/24/2016 =	\$4,300.06
Previous Checking Balance as of 8/24/2016 =	\$4,259.41
Income	\$1,065.69
E x p e n s e s	
\$2,416.73	
Checking Balance as of 11/25/2016 =	\$2,908.37

Upcoming Ameraucana Meets

December 17, 2016

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

January 28-29, 2017

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

October 7-8, 2017

Ameraucana National Meet
Michigan Poultry Fanciers – Fowl Fest, Birch Run MI
Contact: Matt Boensch mjwaterfowl@yahoo.com

My place is just 7.5 miles from the Birch Run Expo Center, home of the Fowl Fest, and I'm hoping to have our Saturday evening meal and club meeting at our house. There are many lodging opportunities and overnight camping is available at the Expo Center. Frankenmuth is also only 7.5 miles from the show and the two towns draw many tourists...so there is something for every member of the family! Please plan on attending and feel free to contact me about the show and our BIG meet. *John Blehm*

Ameraucana Meet Report

Washington Feather Fanciers

Winter Brisk - Chehalis, October 19, 2016

3 bantams by 2 exhibitors, judge Johnathan Patterson

BV, BB - black H by non-member out of 2

RV, RB - black P by non-member

BV - white C by Karen Carpenter out of 1

23 large fowl by 5 exhibitors, judge John Monaco

BV, RB - black P by non-member out of 6

RV- black H by non-member

BV - blue P by Natalia Breeden out of 3

RV- blue C by Karen Carpenter

BV - blue wheaten P by non-member out of 7

RV - blue wheaten H by Royce Van Blaricome

BV, BB - buff K by Natalia Breeden out of 2

RV - buff P by Natalia Breeden

BV - wheaten K by non-member out of 5

RV - wheaten P by Royce Van Blaricome



Facebook.com/ameraucanaalliance

Ameraucana Alliance Board of Directors

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