4-2-17 Volume XLVIII, Issue 1

AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB



Inside this issue:

Secretary/Treas report	2
Western District Report	3
Member spotlight	3
South Central Report	4
North Central Report	5
North Eastern Report	7
South East Report	10

Special points of interest:

- We will be featuring a new section in each newsletter referred to as the "Member Spotlight"
- The Splash Wheaten effort is underway!
 See pages 8-9!
- Congratulations to our Junior Master Exhibitors! Way to go Hannah, Colton, and Matthew!

Please extend a warm welcome to our new members!

Jan Wells	Tammy Foster	Jan Williams
Ann Horsman	Laurel Pickens	Tammy Ralls
Sherry Klaus	Eugene Crist	Linda Penning
Sarah Withrow	Neal Johnson	Maria Betancourt
Sandy Abel	TJ Chavez	Jessica Duerler
Sara Knight	Eric Waterman	Kaye Lefkowicz
Chelsea Gilbert	Kris Dossey	Dee Fleetwood
John Scott	Gwyn Lynch	Dee Chappelle
Ashley Gagnon	Raquel Tejeda	
Thomas Wilkerson	Dennis Herrell	/ serauc
Aaron Decker	Katherine Harrell	
Stephanie Matonic	Diane Blanzy	7

Heather Corson Isaac Helmericks

Pam Stemmer

A word from our club president....

Hi everyone! I trust hatching season has been, and still is, going well for you. I'm excited about some of the great show reports I've been seeing; Ameraucanas winning their classes and some making it to Champion Row. Congratulations to all who are showing and win-

Melissa Phaturos

Gary Fletcher Chrissy Hale

ning with this wonderful breed. I'm also excited about some of the progress I've been making here at home on the Blue variety of Ameraucana. My goals were, and still are, to rid the Blue Ameraucana of the dirty rusty-looking feathers and to have good consistent lacing.

I've been working on this for the past four breeding seasons and am seeing some very nice progress.

To help with this goal, I felt it would be beneficial to incorporate the great lacing and color quality of the Blue AndaPage 2 Spring Bulletin Volume XLVIII, Issue 1

(continued)



lusian. I began by taking my best Blue Ameraucana hen. She was one that I had purchased from Jeff Vance., which was out of a Wayne Meredith line. I bred her to my Blue Andalusian cock bird and in the second year, came up with a very nice heavily laced hen. At that point, I knew I needed a good Blue Ameraucana male, which I was able to purchase from Sharon Caywood. I was then able to hatch four nicely laced pullets and two extremely

nice laced cockerels. But shortly after the hatch of ten chicks, the cockerel I bought from Sharon died. Still needing an Ameraucana male that could add something to this wonderful offspring, I checked back with Sharon Caywood again, but she didn't have anything available.

I then called another friend of mine, Sharon Yorks, and after telling her what I needed, she felt she had just what I was looking for. She sent me a gorgeous Blue cock with a great type and weight, which also had a nice three-row comb. The chicks I've been hatching are over the top! This project has taken some time, but has been well worth the effort. I am looking forward to the fall shows to see what the judges think of them.

-Clif

A word from our Secretary/Treasurer

"So, let this be a lesson to everyone asking when to move the unwanted extra cockerels off the feed bill – wait until at least 10 months. You, too, could have the next Grand Champion just waiting to grow up."

I'm always reading these questions about when to cull a young cockerel. Is 4 months too early? Can you tell at 6 months? When I am asked, I always plead caution – let him grow, I say. Let him fill out before you make that decision. Of course, like many folks, sometimes I don't listen to myself and I very nearly culled a young black cockerel at 6 months of age. I was catching birds and handing them off to

Barry to put in the "cull pen" and, when I caught him, I stopped. Took another look and, thought, no I think he'll stay for a bit longer.

That was last October and if we fast forward to this past February, you'll see me floating home from a small show in Edgefield, SC, Ten Governors Classic, with the Grand Champion in my back seat. Guess who was that Grand Champion? Yep, that bird that made me just stop and put him back down 4 months earlier.

So, let this be a lesson to everyone asking when to move the unwanted extra cockerels off the feed bill – wait until at least 10 months. You, too, could have the next Grand Champion just waiting to grow up. :)

-Susan Mouw

The deadline for placing an ad in the APA amd ABA yearbook is quickly approaching! Ads must be in by May



The deadline to place an ad in the APA and ABA yearbooks is May 1st! It is a great way to showcase your farm as well as your accomplishments. If you would like to place an ad in the APA or ABA yearbook, please contact me at 22wareagle22@gmail.com. Payment for your ad can be submitted via paypal

to <u>sales@Ameraucanabreedersclub.org</u>. Club pages are 4.325" x 7.625."

Prices are as follows:

Black & White: Color:
Full page: \$120 Full page- \$220
1/2 page - \$60 1/2 page- \$110
1/4 page - \$40 1/4 page- \$55
1/6 page - \$20 1/6 page- \$37



Spring Bulletin Volume XLVIII, Issue 1 Page 3

Western District Report

It's hatching season and we still have lots of snow up here in the Pacific Northwest. Local snow totals are over 60 inches so far this winter and we are still expecting more. My outside growing pens are under water from snow, rain, and run off. I set my first batch of hatching eggs for the season last week and a test batch of sebastopols a couple days later. I think this will be another year with a late start.

I plan to do very little hatching

this year and will focus on upgrading my buildings and pasture for the birds. I am also looking into other brooding facilities than what I currently have.

I am off to my first show of the season up here and hope to see lots of old friends and make new ones. We only have a few meets listed in our area so far, so if you plan to attend a show, forward me a note and I will see if we can set up a Club meet. I have not yet placed a District Meet and if you have any recommendations I will surely look at them.

-Jean Ribbeck



Member Spotlight-Jeff and Sherry Vance

Our very first member spotlight is Jeff and Sherry Vance. Jeff and Sherry are wonderful advocates for the Ameraucana breed. We are grateful to have them as a part of the ABC. Jeff writes the following...

The very first Ameraucanas I saw were in northern WV in the winter time. We used to trout fish up north. They were tied out like gamecocks, but we knew they weren't. They were blacks. We tried to inquire about them, and they would never tell me anything. I took my dad by that place and he knew exactly what they were. So then we found a box of

chicks from a guy that was going into the service and wasn't going to be able to keep them. They were John Blehm blacks. Then we purchased a few boxes of chickens from Paul Smith and a few boxes of chickens from Clif Redden. Later we started fooling with a few blues from Sharon Yorks and then wheatens from Barbara Campbell. The day that I went to pick up the wheatens was a journey for me....I spent all day talking to Barbara about the wheaten variety. My wife also purchased a few wheaten and blue wheatens from Wayne

Meredith. At this time we are raising blacks, buffs, wheatens, and blue wheatens. We had a bad varmint and dog problem in 2016. It took a toll on our blacks, but we are bouncing back. We ventured into bantams in 2014. These are all a work in progress, but they are nice. We have a small farm, It's not really a farm....it's on the side of an Appalachian Mountain. Lol. Pretty much all we have is mountains where we live, but we love it here. It is so peaceful. We have a baby house with 4 brooders and 2 step down units, and then two

"Beginning in this newsletter and continuing forward, I will be featuring a member spotlight section. Our very first member spotlight is Jeff and Sherry Vance. Jeff and Sherry are wonderful advocates for the Ameraucana breed. We are grateful to have them as a part of the ABC."



Jeff and Sherry Vance

Page 4 Spring Bulletin Volume XLVIII, Issue 1

(continued)

live, but we love it here. It is so peaceful. We have a baby house with 4 brooders and 2 step down units, and then two step down units outside as they grow. We have a rough time in the winter here. It's very cold and hard to maintain the water due to ice freezing. And then of course the power outages too....which is a big worry, especially when we have the incubator and hatcher running......This year hasn't been too bad for snow, but it has been very cold. It's so beautiful here in

spring and summer. There are so many beautiful trees and such beautiful scenery.

I enjoy watching the Ameraucanas grow and taking care of them. I also love going to the shows and meeting all the people. You wouldn't believe all the friends that I have met and became very close friends with through this journey. I so much enjoy selling eggs and adding extras to see what kind of response I get from the purchaser. It pleases me to see that people are

happy with my eggs and the good hatch rates that they are getting with them. We take special precautions while packaging them in hopes that they will have a great hatch rate. I wish we could start back selling chicks, but it so costly for us to travel so far just to get them mailed out. Right now we are basically only selling eggs at this time. We do want to start selling started fowl. and have sold adult birds in the past.

-Jeff Vance



South Central District Report

Greetings from the South Central District. Show season is nearing completion and hatching season is getting in full gear now. Heard from Howard Story who has been hatching some blues and a few self blue. Howard helped make our pre-qualifying self blue meet in Shawnee, OK. a success. He plans on offering self

blue next year and has blue chicks and their hatching eggs available now. Speaking of hatching eggs heard from Peggy Taylor. Peggy is offering wheaten/blue wheaten/ splash wheaten large fowl hatching eggs now and maybe able to supply bantam eggs soon. Also heard from Max Strawn. Max's first hatch is due in a

few days from the time of this writing. Max is accepting chick orders now and already has some orders. Max has won a lot of shows the past few years since he started breeding Ameraucanas.

Angela and I restarted hatching our first for the fall 2016/spring 2017 on Sept. 13.

Spring Bulletin Volume XLVIII, Issue 1 Page 5

(continued)

Our eighth hatch was Feb. 27. We will have one every two weeks until it gets too warm to ship the baby chicks. Presently we have many orders for our day old chicks but can still accept more in white, black, blue and splash. The 3 wheatens and self blue are full up for now and the buff refuse to hatch. Hope many breeders will have some soon to show at our national meet in Hutchinson, MN. on October 28th and 29th 2017 and our South Central District meet at Fayetteville, Arkansas on November 4 and 5, 2017. I heard that rooms can be booked at the Super 8 by calling <u>1-479-</u>

750-7590, for \$74/night (ask for HOTO Poultry Show, blocked rooms. This is their homecoming week so rooms will be scarce and at a premium. The Super 8 is a few miles North of Fayetteville.

Our first two hatches were decent. The next few were very low as fertility decreased while the older cocks went through their annual molt. A cock goes temporarily sterile while he is in molt. Once completed he is highly fertile, usually in time for the spring hatches. The number of chicks hatched are increasing in each

hatch. Soon we will be in full production with 411 eggs in one hatch followed by 576 eggs in two weeks.

Show season is nearing completion for our district. We plan to show at the South Texas State Fair in Beaumont on April 1 and the North Texas Poultry Showcase in Dallas on April 8.

Hope all are blessed with good hatches which produce some outstanding Ameraucanas that win champion for them at the shows.

-Paul Smith

North Central District Report

Greetings from the frigid North Central District. We certainly have had our share of cold weather and snow flurries. I must concede that Larry in the North Eastern District probably wins the trophy for the most snow. I'm sure Don (SEDD) and Paul (SCDD) have the jump on the rest of the ABC districts with hatching in their warmer climate. Jean, I'm sure parts of your Western District have had an

abundance of rain. With all of that, I know many of you are in the midst of hatching those 2017 show winners and replacement breeding stock. This is a great time of the year with all of the anticipation of new chicks and the show season starting in full gear next month in many of the states in my district.

As many of you know, this has been an excit-

ing time in the ABC. I want to personally thank Paul Smith and all ABC members involved with moving forward with the recognition of the LF Self Blue Ameraucana variety of poultry. I know that work is also being done with other varieties such as Splash and Splash Wheaten but just not as far along as the Self Blue LF variety. This truly shows that the ABC is not standing still, but continues to

Page 6 Spring Bulletin Volume XLVIII, Issue 1

(continued)



forge ahead for the betterment of the breed. Susan has been quite involved with the preparation of a new ABC handbook to replace our outdated handbook. From all initial reports the new handbook will be much larger and set a record for advertisers. Great work Susan, and I see by the ABC Forum she still has had time to show a few birds and win some hardware! You won't find that gal standing still, always a step ahead of the rest of us with great ideas.

Now for the not so exciting news. As many of you have heard by now, the dreaded Avian Influenza has reared it's ugly head again in 2017. Our members in TN are being put to the test and inconvenience of this new threat. So far all indications are that it has been isolated once again to the large commercial flocks. We all certainly pray that this does not evolve into the fiasco that we had in 2015 in many of the states with the ban of shows and selling of poultry. Time will tell.

If you haven't circled it yet on your calendar, remember October 28-29 2017 Hutchinson MN for our ABC National Show. New members in 2017 are eligible for a drawing for a brooder heater. The rest of us can just enjoy the fellowship with other ABC enthusiasts and show those birds. Have a great hatching spring and summer and keep an eye out for those potential winners in your chicks!

-Gordon Gilliam



Ameraucana Breeders Club National Meet

Article VIII of the ABC By-Laws states, "The Ameraucana Breeders Club shall hold an annual National meet to be rotated clockwise each year among the club districts." Over the years, that rule has been followed, with a few exceptions, when circumstances require it.
The National Meet for 2017 has been selected for the Minnesota State Poultry Association
Show in Hutchinson,
MN, for October 28-29, 2017. A block of rooms have been reserved under the Ameraucana Breeders Club name,

with a discounted rate at the Days Inn Hutchinson, 1000 Highway 7 West, Hutchinson, MN 55350. PH: 320-587-6030.

Email: stacygoode@outl ook.com. The reduced rate is \$77.39, if reservations are made prior to Oct 1, 2017.

Spring Bulletin Volume XLVIII, Issue 1 Page 7

North Eastern District Report

Happy Spring from Central Pa to members of the Northeast and the USA. Spring was really looking good after a pretty quiet winter and a few days in the 70s when suddenly on 3/13 thru 3/14 we were hit with a 25 inch snowfall. the good thing about March snows is they don't stay around too long and most of it is gone now. Unfortunately, with the snow came bitter cold and the temps dropped which affected my incubator that had several dozen eggs inside. My incubator is in my shop in my barn and non heated. This is why i have not tried to hatch in March for the last couple of years because it always happens. So, starting all over again.

But, before I talk about a few things i would first like to commend the ABC secretary/ treasurer Susan Mouw on a project she has undertaken and has almost completed and that is redoing our handbook. Having viewed the contents along with the other Directors, I cannot say enough about how well she has put this together. It is filled with ABC history, wonderful articles from Directors Jean Ribbeck, Paul Smith, Susan herself and member Sarah Meaders about our breed and how to get the varieties you want, how to prep your birds for shows and so much more. I think all of our members will be really happy to get this new edition of the ABC and people who are starting out with Ameraucanas will want to join the club in order to obtain a copy. I applaud Susan and all the contributors and urge our members to show appreciation to them when you see them at shows or when requesting a meet in your district. It is laid out really well and worth having.

Now for some business, I

guess most of you are aware that AI has reared its ugly head in the USA again. A turkey farm in the south has a few cases and out west also. I read that depopulation has been done and can only urge all of you to practice good bio security measures and keep your birds safe. So far most of the shows coming up are still on so hopefully this nagging disease will be controlled and maintained. Europe has had its share of AI through a lot of countries and there's always the fear the same can happen here. Let's be vigilant and safeguard our birds please.

Speaking of shows, I would like to congratulate many of you who placed well and won in the fall shows of 2016. I only went to our local show in Lebanon County, PA where I live and got beat by Christine & Will Kitsch again. In January of this year, I also entered the PA farm show which is only open to PA residents and had a reserve champion with a Plymouth Rock cock. The show did something different this year from the past. After judging, only the birds that were BV and RV stayed for three days and the rest went home. Out of my 23 entries, 9 remained. Usually the birds are at the show for a week but our Dept. of Ag. is really concerned about AI so the best birds stayed for three nights. It was very sad because the farm show brings thousands of people to Harrisburg, PA and the chickens and rabbits are main attractions and we heard many complaints about where the chickens were for the rest of the week. Ag Officials advised that hopefully next year it will be back as it was. However, I was really delighted when both a Black Ameraucana Cockerell and a Black Ameraucana pullet were crowned Champion and Reserve

Champion of the entire show. Both birds were owned by a young man named Hunter who had bought them from the Kitsch's as chicks in the spring of 2016. Although not an ABC member, the young man was praised for his titles and urged to join our club. Hunter, if you read this, please take my advice and join. And i would be remiss if I didn't mention that the great show in Harrington, Delaware on April 1 of this year is my District meet for 2017. The show, known as DEL-MARVA is having its 41st show and I hope many of our members residing within two states or more of Delaware have entered and show their Ameraucanas. I have 15 Ameraucanas entered so bring your best. Make sure you look me up if you're a member and we have never met before. Temple i hope you make it. Temple Dasilva is our show coordinator and does a great job getting our meet reports to show secretaries and coordinating ABC meets.

In closing, I would like to remind all of you to get on the ABC website for a list of all the upcoming shows for this year, read about our breed, buy items from our store to show off our breed and keep abreast of all things Ameraucana. Hope I see many of you at future shows and lets get many more Ameraucanas on Champion row. Until next time, Clionsky out.

-Larry

In closing, I would like to remind all of you to get on the ABC website for a list of all the upcoming shows for this year, to read about our breed, buy items from our store to show off our breed and keep abreast of all things Ameraucana

Splash Wheaten Ameraucana Effort

The Splash Wheaten Ameraucana Project has completed its first year, and I couldn't be more excited! At the beginning of 2017, we have several beautiful one-year-old Splash Wheaten cockerels. With this generation, some very telling trends are occurring. We have also uncovered at minimum two traits that will be variable based on the level of dilution of the blue gene. I have been in contact with Walt Leonard, Chairman of the APA Standard Revision Committee, who is guiding me step by step. All in all, I am very pleased and encouraged with how this first year in this longterm project is shaping up!

We are seeing a very consistent phenotype in the Front of Neck and Breast of the Large Fowl Splash Wheaten (SW) cockerel. There is definite orange-red shafting and lacing in these areas. Shafting is defined by the American Poultry Association Standard of Perfection, 2010 Edition as "A color characteristic where the shaft of a feather is either lighter or darker than the color of the web." Shafting is a "Standard requirement in some breeds; a defect in others." According to photos and some knowledgeable Blue Wheaten (BW) breeders, orange-red lacing is a common appearance in juvenile BW males. As we watch both varieties mature, however, the BW lacing changes to a blue, laced with dark blue, and looking closely, there does seem to be dark blue

shafting as well. The SW presents with the orange or orange red shafting and lacing against a white to white-with-a-bluishgray-tinge color on the web.

This has caused us to re-examine how we will write the Standard Description for the Splash Wheaten. Many have advised others to cull the SW cockerels who display this lacing and shafting. The Standard for the Blue Wheaten male states that the breast will be "blue, preferably laced with dark blue" in both large fowl and bantam. I suspect that due to the darker base coloring of the BW, lacing and shafting simply isn't as striking and noticeable. Since the base color of the SW in these areas is so much lighter, the shafting and lacing are just more prominent. I invite breeders of Blue Wheatens to look very closely at the breasts of fully mature males to see if there is any dark blue shafting as it appears to in many photos. Moving forward, the current population of SW males coming into maturity will show us just how much this lacing and shafting remains in the full-grown cock. We are also tracing the parentage of each cockerel, when possible. This area of the description will be further discussed at the point in time when we have more full grown cocks from multiple lines to examine and compare.

My current *tentative* timeline utilizes 2017 for more breeding, hatching, and show-

ing the Splash Wheaten male and female. The 2017 Nationals is set to be held October 28 -29 in Hutchinson, MN. Ideally, this meet will be populated with many lines of Splash Wheatens for not only handson comparing, but to bring attention to the variety. Best case scenario, this meet will have the first required meet of 4 from each class. The year of 2018 will hopefully bring even more SWs across more regional meets. My ultimate goal will be to have a finalized proposed Standard written up and presented for finalization during the National Meet of 2018, as well as the second of the two required meets with the 4 of each class. By then, we will have three years of breeding, growing and showing multiple lines across the country. By the end of 2018, or the start of 2019, I hope to submit the full petition and fees to the APA. This timeline may seem longer than some had hoped, but we must remember we are just now starting to actually see this variety kept and grown out. We must be patient and recognize that this project is a multi-year endeavor. I do not want to rush this only to have years of regret for not taking our time and writing the very best Standard Description. While we do have a handful of full grown males dotted across the country, this is not nearly enough to base a proposed Standard Description. I believe being patient is wise to have the best chances of success and

A special thank you to Sarah for all of her hard work regarding this effort.

(continued)

produce the best Standard Description for promotion of the breed and this variety. To quote Mr. Leonard with his permission, "I wish everybody was like they are in the sense of taking their time and getting it correct," referencing the Cream Legbar Club in the APA 2016 Yearbook article, "New Breeds and Varieties", page 48-50. If we need to extend this timeline, we most definitely will.

In conclusion, please do not cull any Splash Wheaten males due to coloring yet. Cull only for obvious DQ's, such as yellow or green skin, duck foot, incorrect comb, lack of beard or muffs, etc. I understand that it is difficult to view the lacing and shafting on the Splash Wheaten male breast as desira-

ble if you have already been viewing it as a fault, but try to think of the Blue Wheaten shafting and lacing in the breast and apply that to his brother variety. We need at a minimum two or three more generations of cockerels to reach full maturity before we can get serious about finalizing and voting on the final Standard Description. Consistency is crucial in our future qualifying meets. This is historically true, as well as stated very plainly by members of the APA Standard Revision Committee. The goal of writing a Standard true to the variety while taking into consideration the many improvements the Wheatens need IS achievable, but will take patience, time, and open discussions once we have enough

samples to examine and compare across the country. We need many more Bantam Splash Wheaten breeders, though, so if you already have Bantam Blue Wheatens, please consider raising up some Splash Wheatens and joining our project.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any input, questions, or would like to join this project. Our Facebook group is https://www.facebook.com/groups/splashwheatenameraucanas/. We have many breeders, but need many more! If you are not on Facebook, you can reach me on the ABC Forum, or via email at sa-rahmeaders@live.com. Here's wishing everyone a successful hatching and showing season!

-Sarah Meaders



Castle Jr-BW Cockerel-Courtesy of Kiersten Parkerson, bred by Susan Mouw



Nugget- young SW Cockerel, courtesy of Rebekka Hansen

Page 10 Spring Bulletin Volume XLVIII, Issue 1





South East District Report

I hope all of you have breeder pens set and are on the way to good hatches for this spring season this year. Our spring shows are coming to a close and we have some months before the next set of shows will start again. So there is plenty of time to get youngsters on the ground and raised for good show candidates this fall. I hope everyone has been able to enjoy the warm temperatures that have sprouted up this winter. It seems like everything has been tricked into thinking that spring is already here. Yet even after the spring buds are out our more seasonable temps as well as frozen precip are coming back to correct our confusion.

There are plenty of op-

portunities for showing all of the new varieties this fall. I expect that Paul and Jean will have another pre-qualifying meet for the Self Blue variety this fall. I don't know who will lead the effort to work with the Splash Variety. But I expect that Sara Meaders will keep everyone updated on the progress for the Splash Wheaten color this season. Please support these efforts as best you can. Get out to shows and exhibit all of your varieties. Its easy to interest new folks to the breed when they see a nice string of Ameraucanas at their your shows. The breed is developing more interest in other areas of the country. The more folks breeding and

showing the better for the Breed.

We do not plan to hatch as many youngsters as we have in the past here. Hopefully we will be able to hatch some bantams in several varieties. But the LF take up so much room and other resources. Its good that so many enjoy the LF in all varieties and can help to make progress in these lines. Bantams are beginning to be less rare in our area, but they can still use a lot more folks to help improve and promote the smaller versions of the breed. Get out and enjoy the fellowship of other breeders in your area shows. Good Luck with the Spring season.

-Don Cash

Congratulations to our Junior Master Exhibitors! A junior master exhibitor award is given to those juniors that earn 100 points in all varieties added together before the youth's 18th birthday. Way to go Hannah, Colton, and Matthew!!! They are pictured in the images above.

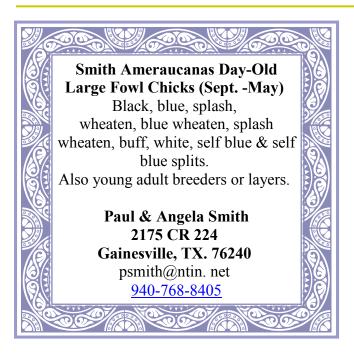
Ameraucana Breeders Club



We're on the web!

www.ameraucanabreedersclub.org

Do you have any breeding questions, or is there are particular topic that you would like covered in an upcoming newsletter? If so, please contact Lindsay Helton, newsletter editor, at 22wareagle22@gmail.com



Rocky Springs Farm

Wheaten, Blue Wheaten, Buff and Splash Wheaten in both Large Fowl and Bantams plus Silver, Chocolate, and Self Blue in the Bantams

Ph: <u>936-707-3766</u>

peggy0427@gmail.com



