

# Spring Bulletin

A M E R A U C A N A B R E E D E R S C L U B

**INCLUDED  
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- Quarterly updates from the district directors
- New member drawing info
- APA Yearbook Ads

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**A WORD FROM OUR SECRETARY /  
TREASURER**

Breeding Ameraucanas, or any breed of poultry, is not an exact science. Although much more of the science of genetics is known now than even a few years ago, we still don't have the tools to accurately predict what breeding combinations will produce exactly what. It would be nice if we could get a genetic map on every chicken we breed. Unfortunately, as far as I know, that is not available and, if it were, it would be prohibitively expensive. So much of our genetics is based on theory and anecdotal evidence. What that means is what one person has tried and believes in may not necessarily match what another person has tried and believes works. For example, some folks believe that lavenders, aka self-blue, should only be bred to other lavenders or, to improve type, blacks. There are some that believe that lavenders should only be bred to other lavenders, or to improve type, blues. Why the diverse opinions? It comes from the understanding that all chickens are either silver based or red (gold) based and that, further, blacks based on gold are the best blacks and blues (and lavenders) based on silver are the best blues and lavenders. While the first part of this theory is accurate (all poultry are based on two colors - silver and gold), the second part is an opinion, not a fact. So you go to one site and hear one opinion and go to another

site and hear a different opinion. Which do you believe? It comes down to who do you trust and who has the history and results to prove their belief. When I say results, I don't necessarily mean the latest picture of the variety you want; I mean proven show results - since the



But if you're looking for concrete, solid answers in the practice of breeding poultry; if you have been led to believe that there's only one way to do it right; or if you're hoping there's a solid rule book written somewhere that takes you down a path of proven success - you're going to be disappointed. Successful breeding is at least half art and half science. And beauty is always in the eyes of the beholder.

-Susan Mouw

show venue is the most recognized authority on proving breeding lines that we currently have available. I know there are some breeders that don't show, and that's fine. I still have the opinion that show results are the most telling, in the long run. Even if that breeder doesn't show their birds; someone down the line has, as their foundation stock, birds from that line and can probably be seen in the show room. There are some who are going to disagree with me on this and that's fine, too. Again, this is just my opinion and it is how I base many of my acquisition decisions when I'm looking for new stock. You may base your decisions on something else.



## NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT REPORT

Welcome to spring weather and time to hatch those youngsters. As I sit here writing this, I can look out the window and still see snow remnants from the last storm a couple of days ago. High winds and low temperatures have made winter seem much longer this year. My girls have finally began laying eggs (a few here and there). I am starting to accumulate a few eggs and hope to fire up the small incubator by the end of the week. Poultry Shows are lining up and I hope to see ABC members attending. It is always a pleasure to meet and greet, but also good to see the new crop of Ameraucanas on display for the upcoming year. Our goal of furthering the Ameraucana Breed is certainly influenced by getting those birds out for the public to see. Great strides have been made in recent years for more quality birds and the show results reflect that. ABC membership continues to grow and it shows that your efforts promoting the breed is resulting in positive results. Keep up the

good work!

I am still working on finalizing our North Central District Show for 2018. If any of the North Central members have any preference to which show works for them, please contact me with input. If any of you in the North Central District know of a show you would like placed as an ABC sanctioned show, just drop me an email or give me a call. I may not be home all the time, but the answering machine will leave a message greeting after several rings if no one answers. 402-944-7674. Leave a name and phone number and I will get back to you. Email is [dudesfriendgordon@yahoo.com](mailto:dudesfriendgordon@yahoo.com).

Let's all get behind Larry Clionsky and start promoting the ABC National Show in Greenville Ohio on October 6, 2018. It should be a great show and more centrally located for ABC members to attend. I have it marked on my calendar and hope you do also. For those working on the final phases of the LF Self Blue acceptance, thank you for your hard work and efforts to establish another Ameraucana variety. This has not been a short time

venture, but years in breeding and planning. Your dedication and persistence to this program has brought us closer to the goal of another LF Ameraucana variety.

A warm welcome goes out to all of the new members who have joined the ABC in 2018. We all started like you, anxious to get our feet wet and numerous questions on all sorts of poultry topics, especially on Ameraucanas. The ABC Forum is a great source of information which can be researched by using the search feature. It is also a good way to meet and converse with other ABC members. Another way is to attend some sanctioned ABC shows. Here you can meet some of the other ABC members, pick their brains and at the same time see some of the outstanding Ameraucana varieties in person (not just in pictures). As many have said, I think you will find



most ABC members friendly and willing to help you with any questions that you may have.

Well it's time to go talk to those hens and see if I can get egg production up. Happy Hatching and watching those grow out pens produce some winners. Warmer weather has just got to be around the corner!

-Gordpn Gilliam

## APA YEARBOOK ADS

It's that time of year again! The American Poultry Association is currently accepting ads for their 2019 yearbook. If you would like to submit an ad, please contact Susan Mouw at [Samouw@gmail.com](mailto:Samouw@gmail.com). All color ads in the APA Yearbook will also be posted on the APA website! That's double the advertising for the same price!



## NORTH EAST DISTRICT REPORT



Well happy spring from Central Pa, 11&1/2 inches of snow dumped down on us the first day which was the 21st and today, 4/2 another 5 inches arrived. Old man winter won't let go and the birds are really confused about breeding or molting and no egg production. But I hope all the other ABC members reading this are enjoying nice weather and have fertile eggs in their incubators getting ready for a fall show somewhere.

A week ago Sharon and I attended the Delmarva show in Harrington, DE which is one of my favorites of the year. My large fowl Ameraucanas did ok but my Wheaten btm hen won BB. There weren't many Ameraucana entries, I think 26 in all for both sizes. Only half were shown. I did get reserve Champion American with a beautiful white Rock hen. She was beaten by a Rhode Island Red cockerel that I thought needed to mature some

cockerel that I thought needed to mature some more. But a friend, Jim Zook took all show honors with a gorgeous cubalaya. I remember when he started out years ago with starter stock but his years of persevering have finally paid off. So, it just goes to show that if you keep trying for that super grand champion it can happen! But I am concerned that I'm not seeing Ameraucanas in these shows. Come on ABC members, get those birds entered and good luck.

Speaking of shows, I'm going to Sussex County in N.J., the York, PA show at end of May and that is probably it until our Annual Meet in Greenville, Oh hosted by the Dayton Fancy Feather Club which is having a spring show which I believe is the APA semi. Might be ABA. Remember to check our website for all the upcoming shows and mark your calendars. Also don't forget to visit the ABA gift store for all things Ameraucana. Club Secretary/Treasurer Susan Mouw has done a great job of keeping the store in operation.

The York show is being reopened by Tom Topper and other poultry aficionados as well as our good friend Sue Boose Reed in the show secretary office. Sue has been involved in waterfowl forever and knows how to put a catalogue

forever and knows how to put a catalogue together.

In closing, I would like to give a shout out to member Donna Townsend who is recovering from a broken ankle incurred after a fall several weeks ago. Donna was in rehab and is now convalescing at home with her husband Neil. Get well Donna, we are wishing you a speedy recovery.

Been a crazy winter here in Pa, we had a day in February when temps reached 69 degrees and now snow in April. Crazy. We are ready for sunshine and dry. My farm is like walking through a swamp. If it's not snowing it's raining. Clionsky out.

-Larry Clionsky



## SOUTH EAST DISTRICT REPORT

I hope most of you have a good start to the hatching season and are looking forward to a nice group of potential Champions for the fall shows. There are already a Good number of shows set for the fall in the SE. You can take a look at these in the Website under Upcoming Shows. It would be great to have some really well attended shows this season. So talk to your fellow exhibitors in your area and decide where many plan to gather for these shows. And bring out some of those project varieties and lets get these colors noticed. We need to especially bring out these colors in bantams, so these can be accepted into the standards as well. Please contact me if you shows that you plan to attend and want to have these placed as meets. You can read the Meet Request forms on the Website for more information.

If you can arrange your travel plans, You will want some to "pencil in" one of the bigger shows this season. The ABC National will be held in Ohio Early this fall. And the APA National will be held in Shawnee mid

the bigger shows this season. The ABC National will be held in Ohio Early this fall. And the APA National will be held in Shawnee mid November too. This will be a BIG show, so make your plans now if you want to show or just attend, and meet and talk to or at least read about online. This is the First Qualifying Meet for the Self Blue LF, so lets just bring them out in numbers to let people see how nice they are already. It will be nice when these can compete on a level field with the other accepted varieties.

We've had a lot of discussion this past year on The Standards and how our Breed and Variety compares. We've known for a time that the APA female tail angle should be 40 rather than the 45 listed. And the ABA has the Silver female muff/beard listed as Black when it should be Grey. It's very difficult to get these "typos" corrected once they've been printed. There

should be Grey. It's very difficult to get these "typos" corrected once they've been printed. There has been more than one heated dust-up about who's birds are closest to this point or another in the standard. And these discussions often hinge on a word or short phrase that one or another breeder interprets in their favor. A little friendly competition can be good as long as it's in the right spirit. We all need to encourage and work together for the breed. It's difficult to always see the comparison between the written word and our birds. Pictures help some of us for sure. And I think it helps to talk with others at the shows about the finer points of the birds entered. We call the APA the "Standard of Perfection", for a reason. Most of our varieties are not there yet. When we catch up with the Standard, then its probably time to raise the

***"The APA National will be held in Shawnee, OK in mid November."***

our varieties are not there yet. When we catch up with the Standard, then its probably time to raise the bar a bit more.

I hope everyone has a Great spring hatching season. Have a nice glass of lemonade and watch them grow.

-Don Cash

## SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT REPORT



South Central Director

Greeting from the South Central District

Show season is nearing completion for most of us with a few more ABC meets to go. Angela and I finished our showing for the season with reserve large fowl on a black pullet at the South Texas State Fair in Beaumont on March 24. This is going to be the year to

remember as the rollercoaster. Preparing the birds to show has been extremely difficult due to our constant changes in temps. This caused some birds to start molt at 6 to 7 months of age. We use to stop showing in December after Shawnee, OK. and start hatching in January. Now we start hatching in September before any shows. Life gets in the fast lane while hatching at full capacity and trying to show at the same time. Presently we have had 8 hatches. The first 6 were very low due to fertility issues. I think the rollercoaster weather had a big effect on fertility just as it did with early molting. The last two hatches had a large increase in number hatched. Thus far we have hatched 513 head and sent out 300 in 20 boxes. Our next six hatches are going to need to increase greatly if we are going to hatch our goal of 2500 head. Most everyone I visited with about hatching are planning to start

soon. We hope everyone has a great hatching season and plans to bring some to our district meet at the special APA national meet in Shawnee, OK. on November 17 & 18, 2018. This show will be our first qualifying meet for the large fowl self blues. The ABC will need at least 5 exhibitors in each of the four classes ( C, H, K, P) plus an additional 5 head of self blues for this qualifying meet to be a success.

Hope everyone is hatching some champions for the fall shows.

-Paul Smith

**Paul and Angela Smith**

**940.768.8405**

**We are currently accepting orders for our old chicks in black, blue, splash, blue wheaten, wheaten, splash wheaten, white, self blue and self blue splits. Contact us for more info!**

## New Member Drawing!

Every year, at our National Meet, we put all the new member's names that have joined since the last National, into a hat and draw out one winner. So far, since we started this program, we've shipped out two incubators, and one Eco Glow 20 Brooder Heater, and Premier Brooder Heater. This year's award will be winner's choice: One Large Fowl Three Hole Show Box or One Bantam Four Hole Show Box, made by Vinson Workman! The winner will get to select which one they want. Members do not need to be present to win. Drawing will held at our 2018 National Meet, at the Dayton Fancy Feathers Poultry Show, Greenville, OH, 10/6/18.

To enter, just join the ABC! You can join at [ameraucanabreedersclub.org](http://ameraucanabreedersclub.org)

# WESTERN DISTRICT REPORT

Happy Spring! Finally.

We can call it spring now. I know in several parts of the country the winter weather has been severe. I hope everyone can come back and get their flocks on track. Some of you are already done with your hatching season and well, I haven't started.

Again I have been plagued with health issues, etc. I have had to have a shoulder injection and it is looking like I will need another one soon. Cleaning and separating breeding birds has been on the back burner, but it looks like the road is clear to start getting it done now.

I have also had a predator issue for the last couple of weeks and think I have found the culprit; a cat. My birds were killed and drug under my

husbands tarped up boats. Then the animal chewed on the backs, thighs and areas you don't normally see eaten by a wild animal. I put my trusty game camera up and have seen a strange cat going back and forth in the area of depredation. None of my neighbors are claiming it, so I will be getting out the trap.

I still have lots of plans for my chickens this year, just a slower start.

The geese have been laying and I have around 14-15 goslings that hatched over the past week. So things are looking up compared to last year.

I hope you all can move forward with your breeding goals this year. Good luck to all.

