

Presidents Message

Hello everyone,

I have spent a good portion of this past year in New York City but am now back home full time. While I was gone my daughter took over daily chores and more importantly ran my breeding program in the spring. She did a fantastic job as we hatched out 160 Call ducklings along with various other wild waterfowl.

We have a new poultry and rabbit building at the fair and a big improvement over the old one. It's almost double in size with a more open feel to it. Rick, Barb and their crew did a great job with the birds (as always). Next year Rick will be running the entire building both poultry and rabbits which should bridge a gap between the two sides that's existed for a while. We are in the process of securing that building for our spring show, hopefully that will be our new home for many years.

The fall shows have had some real nice turn-outs, I have attended Bath, Cobleskill and Mumford with Columbus and Springfield up-coming. As always, our club members have filled many champion row cages this fall. It's a great feeling to be part of a club whose member's are some of the best breeders (and judges) in the country.

Elections are coming up at the November meeting. I have listed in the news and notes who is running for what office. We had a decent turn-out at the October meeting but there's always room for more members or guests. The restaurant we hold our meetings at serves some good chicken wings and sandwiches along with a full bar. We have our own heated room in the back so everyone can hear and take part.

It's been a while since a newsletter has been published; I will try to keep on top of at least one per season.

Chris Choate, President

Vice Presidents Message:

It is now fall again and the show season is in full swing. While the numbers of chickens at the shows seem down slightly the waterfowl numbers are holding steady with a lot of quality birds being shown. For those of you that keep waterfowl, like me, the upcoming winter season can be a challenge when it comes to caring for them. I would like to share a couple of things we do in the winter season that might help you.

Our birds are all housed in outdoor pens and while they seem to prefer to brave the elements they do need adequate shelter. For wind breaks we use either poly-tarps or old wood doors but straw bales work well too. We also make sure they have plenty of clean, dry bedding in their shelters. As long as the weather is mild this set up works well but if the weather turns extreme we confine them to the shelters to help prevent frostbite to their feet and bills.

Watering them is probably the biggest challenge. We like to give them fresh, warm water twice a day with their food. While we do have water out in our barn it is not hot so we have to bring it from the house. We have found that using the plastic cat litter jugs and pulling them around in plastic sleds makes this task easier. The jugs keep the water from splashing out as well as keeping it warmer longer. We also use the Fortex rubber buckets and dishes for water. Because they are very flexible it makes breaking the ice out of them easier without the risk of them cracking.

When it comes to the ice build up around the water bowls we have found that putting down some bark mulch helps. When it freezes into the ice it helps to provide some much needed traction.

While these are a few tricks we have found to make winter chores easier I am sure that others have great ideas as well so I invite everyone to come to a meeting to share their ideas. Whether you keep your birds for exhibition or pets, we all have had experiences that others can learn from so come and share them.

Kelsey Ferguson, Vice President

Buffalo & WNY Poultry club Newsletter Fall 2010
Q & A from the Poultry Connection

Q: I have a pair of Roman tufted geese. With winter fast approaching here in Maine and foraging getting smaller by the day just what type of feed is necessary for these geese during the winter months?

A: Any good poultry pellet is fine. Whole corn can be given for extra calories in extremely cold weather, but is not recommended as a steady diet. Pellets are more economical than crumbles as there is less waste.

Q: Is duckweed good or bad for a pond with ducks on it? I understand that if it covers an entire pond, sunlight doesn't filter through, underwater plants die off, there's less oxygen in the water and fish die. But I also know duckweed recycles nitrogen in the water, essentially cleaning the water, even though it isn't considered attractive. And it is a good protein source for animals. I have a medium-sized pond that has given me trouble over the last few years b/c the continuing drought keeps its levels very low. The pond is really only there for the ducks to swim in, not for fishing purposes. Would it be a good thing to introduce duckweed to keep the duck droppings from contaminating the pond when water levels drop really low? Could also be an excellent food supplement to the ducks and the chickens? I know it would provide nice cover from hawks for ducklings when they're on the water. I know it is considered a fast grower, but does duckweed stand a chance of growing with ducks actively on the pond? I've read many articles about duckweed (pros and cons) but does anyone have any actual experience with duckweed and ducks on their pond?

A: Great stuff. Not good for "cover", as it's just a tiny surface plant, but if you can get it going, it's wonderful food for them.

A: I used to keep a 5 gal. bucket with duckweed in it under my deck. Every few days I'd scoop some into the ducks kiddie pools and they'd be content for hours.

Q: I know that corn can cause white on birds to get a brassy look. What feed does not have corn or high volumes of corn. I live in Iowa and it seems that most of the feed I find has a lot of corn in it. I know that what I do buy does keep my birds healthy and laying well (for cochins). Only raised black bantams up to this point. Recently purchased 2 good pair of breeder bantam Columbian cochins from Tom Roebuck and am looking to feed them the best I can. None of the hens are brassy at all and only a little brass tint on one of the cocks. Open for suggestions on the optimum feed.

A: Corn fed to birds that have genetic factors allowing corn to cause brassiness will certainly cause problems. It would surprise me very much if Tom Roebuck's birds were afflicted with this problem. Very much. Especially in Columbians.

A: I would suggest that you feed them a good commercially prepared diet, limit exposure to direct sunlight, prevent staining and do a good wash and rinse job and you should not anticipate any problems with yellow/brassy coloration at the show.

Buy – Sell – Trade

I have some 2010 hatch Call ducks still available:

A few pairs of breeder quality Grays - \$40/pair

Breeder quality Gray drakes - \$20 each

Breeder quality Snowy drakes - \$20 each

Breeder quality White drakes - \$20 each

Trio 2009 Black D'Anver bantams - \$25/trio

2009 female apricot wood duck, nice bird - \$25.00

If you are interested please email me cchoate1@gmail.com

News & Notes

Our current officers and directors:

President: Chris Choate

Vice President: Kelsey Ferguson

Secretary: George Beyer

Treasurer: Bill Ziem

Directors: Rick Hare, Jim Milks, Paul Kroll, Steve Wojtkowski

Running for 2011:

President: Chris Choate

Vice President: Rick Hare

Secretary: Kelsey Ferguson

Treasurer: George Beyer

Directors: Paul Kroll, Jim Milks, Steve Wojtkowski, Joel Henning, Ed Thomson

Anyone interested in posting something here please email. I can be reached at

cchoate1@gmail.com

Our Website address: **wnypoultryclub.webs.com**

