

Presidents Message

Happy New Year!

I hope your 2009 is off to a good start. I'm sick of snow blowing and the cold temps! Some of the club members show season starts in the middle of January with a show in Springfield, Mass. This is always a nice show, traveling has not been too bad in the past (knock on wood) and don't worry the show hall is well heated!

My hatching season started and have about 30 chicks out as of Jan 1st.

The club had a board meeting in December where all the details were gone over for our big show this year. We discussed our prizes, show hall, kitchen and show catalog which Paul Kroll has again taking on this huge task! I have sent out for breed meets and many members have also requested meets for their breed. I have the show headquarters hotel all set which is going to be the Holiday Inn on Camp rd. I'm still going over the details for the show hall, it will be the same as last year (livestock arena)

I have purchased 34 sheets of plywood from Lowes in Batavia; we needed more plywood since we are hoping to double our entries this year with the APA Semi-Annual. A big thank you to Kendall Ferguson (Kelsey's sister) for getting us a good discount on the plywood! If there are any questions or concerns about our show please contact me. I already have request for show catalogs from many different states and also tables for clubs and venders to sell poultry supply's. Hope your spring comes soon and a good hatching season to come!

Rick Hare

Vice Presidents Message

Hi everyone,

It was a nice fall both weather and show wise. I attended Bath, Mumford and Columbus. The Columbus show had 430 exhibitors with 5,300 entries which was maximum capacity for that show hall along with well over 1,500 sale birds. They (Ohio National Poultry club) claimed it was the largest non-national show ever and the largest in the country for 2008. It's always my favorite fall show but 2008 especially as it was the Call duck national. There were over 600 Calls entered which accounted for more than 10 percent of all entries. Many of our members had birds on champion row but Joel Henning had grand champion with a white crested black polish. The Ohio breeders must hate seeing us coming as we do a lot of winning there.

This winter has been pretty bad, the week before Christmas my area (Genesee county) saw more than 30 inches of snow in a 3 day period. The week after temps hit 60 and it all melted which caused major flooding. Some of my pens had a foot of water in them but they held mostly ducks and they loved it. Every year I have a few Calls that don't condition well and their feathers don't repel water. They didn't survive along with a few pheasants. A day later came all that wind which of course killed my power. We were off for almost twenty four hours but I have a back-up generator that will run my entire house (and coups).

The Springfield show is almost here which is always a nice get-away in the middle of winter. It's also a good way to see some different breeders than the mid west shows. Just a few more months will start the spring shows with ours being a much bigger deal than usual. Hosting the semi-annual APA national we will be a two day show and we are expecting more than double the amount of entries than normal. As Rick stated, our club has made provisions to accommodate the larger show by purchasing some additional wood and borrowing cages from the Twin Tier (Bath) poultry club.

I know most of your breeding seasons have started with chickens but I don't get going till late March / early April. None of my coups are heated so if I started my birds laying with artificial light before spring their eggs would be frozen before I collected them. My male Call ducks generally aren't fertile till April anyway so I really try to keep my waterfowl from laying until then.

Good luck to everyone hatching, see you at the first spring meeting in March.

Sincerely,
Chris Choate

Secretary's Message

I just got home from the Pennsylvania Farm Show. It was great, and I was treated like royalty. There were three judges and just under 1400 birds. What a building; 27 acres under one roof! I'll be back next year.

Many of us will attend the Northeastern Poultry Congress show next weekend in West Springfield, Massachusetts - always a good time and a great show!

Our B&WNY show for this May promises to be a real winner! I've talked to so many fanciers who are planning to attend and really looking forward to it. Let's show them all a wonderful show, great hospitality and an overall good time. This is the American Poultry Association's semi-annual Meet for 2009. We are the parent club of the American Poultry Association - the oldest livestock organization in America! Let's show them why!

We'll need LOTS of help for this show. Many of you show up each and every year to help with setup and tear down, but we will need EVERY member to do that this year. Many hands make light work, so please plan on it. WE NEED YOU!

The catalog must go to press soon, so please let us know your list of cash special offerings to list in it. We must have them by February 1st to get into the catalog.

Think positively and plan on a good year of hatching, brooding, growing and showing in 2009!

Twenty current memberships makes it about one-third of what we had ten years ago. Yes, we had over 60 memberships in the late 80s and early 90s! However, our club is one of the most active in the USA, as I travel around. Everyone in the fancy knows the Western New York group and looks forward to spending time with us.

According to my records - which may not be as accurate as we hope - the following lists are what I have:

Current in dues:

Beyer	Stevens [life]
Choate [family]	Snyder
Clarkson	Szucs
Ferguson	Thomson [family]
Hare	Tojek [family]
Milks [family]	Wojtkowiak [family]
O'Connor [family]	Ziem
Henning	Expired:
Krantz	Miskey/Caruso
Kroll [Life]	Robinson, B
Lang	Robinson, C
Perrin	Weinheimer
Pionessa [family]	

For Sale / Wanted

I have Calls in Magpie, White and Snowy males.

Anyone interested can reach me (Chris Choate) at cchoate1@gmail.com

Some News and Notes

Elections were held at the November meeting and our Officers and directors are the following:

Officers

President – Rick Hare

Vice President – Chris Choate

Secretary – Paul Kroll

Treasurer – Bill Ziehm

Q & A from the Poultry Connection

Q: A flock of wild turkeys spent some time yesterday just beyond a 5' fence that keeps my chickens, ducks and geese from roaming. The fence is, of course, not an obstacle for the turkeys. The turkeys are back today. What is the likelihood that they might harm my birds if they decide to come into my yard area? I enjoy seeing them, but wonder if I should chase them away. What to do, if anything?

A: Chances are, they're healthier than most domestics & everything can carry mites & your birds probably already have them. About the only harm they'd do is to your feed supply. They're interesting, intelligent birds. Enjoy them.

A: The turkeys are in far more danger from your chickens and waterfowl than the other way around. The most likely thing is that the turkeys could contract *mycoplasma gallisepticum* from your chickens as they almost certainly are infected with it

Q: I live near Seattle Washington and the weather got down to about 10 degrees this year so far and 75 mile winds. Tonight its going to be around 40 degrees and 50 mph winds. I am looking for a solution for housing by birds during the winter. I am looking for a low cost coop idea that can hold birds through winter. If it cant I have a Mini Barn that will have show cages for them to go into. One idea that I thought of was just a covered area with the side the wind comes from have a wall.

A: Insulation, heat, plastic & tight coops are the worst things you can do for poultry. Years ago, I had birds not only loose combs, but toes, due to my ignorant kindness. They give off a lot of body heat which in turn causes condensation in a tight coop. The moisture leads to frozen body parts. All one needs is good wind shelter, good venting near the roof & a base heater for waterers. Flat, wide roosts so they don't curl their toes around it & can cover them is good. No roosts & thick bedding on the floor is better. Separate cages are not a great idea. Cuddling together keeps them warmer. In below zero temps, a handfull of whole corn late in the afternoon gives them extra calories through the night.

Q: What are some ways to increase protein? With the colder weather and loss of insects, my free rangers have slowed in egg production. I have read about alfalfa meal and bean meal and just wondered what some of you use to increase protein to keep the girls laying.

A: Dry dog or cat food, as long as "real meat" (animal by-products) is among the first couple ingredients on the label & NOT soy or soy products.

A: Catfish pellets are 40% protein but high in fat. The birds eat them just fine. Gotta be careful you don't feed too much

Buffalo & WNY Poultry Association winter 2009

Chris Choate
9524 Beaver Rd
Alexander, NY 14005

First meeting of 2009 –Tuesday, March 31st



