LRBA NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2014

LOUISIANA RABBIT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – Steven Hyatt

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NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: April 30, 2014

LRBA, Inc. web page

http://www.louisianarba.net

On Facebook:

LRBA Members Only

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Business card ad ~ \$4.00 per year 1/4 page ad ~ \$4.00 per issue

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Ad copy & payment should be mailed by published deadline to:

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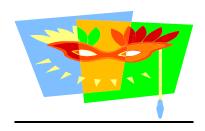
Yvonne Hebert &ShondaComeaux

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LRBA YOUTH OFFICERS

Austin Roark – **President**Chase Domingue – **Vice President**Destiny Bearden – **Secretary**RusselLisitsa – **Treasurer**

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Shane Theall - Louisiana Polish RC
Jessica Mast - S. LA. Netherland Dwarf
Club
Cheryl Moyers - Tri Parish Dutch Club

Steven Hyatt Bryan Manning Collette Waters



Calendar of Events

March 1, 2014 – LRBA State Show NorthLouisianaExhibitionCenter, Ruston –
Show Secretary- Collette Waters
collettewaters@hotmail.com
Judges: Tony Bell, Allen Mesick, Scott
Rodriguez & Eric Stewart

March 1, 2014 – LRPC Single Open/Youth APRC Sanctioned Polish Specialty in conjunction with the LRBA State Show – Show Secretary – Destiny Bearden aakede@hughes.net 318-372-6825

March 8, 2014 - Acadiana Area RC Iowa Rabbit Festival Show Double open/ youth – Show Secretary – Jerry Castille Judges: Cheryl Blackman Michael Franke, Donald Mersiovsky, Mary Jo Terry

May 23 & 24, 2014 – LRBA Memorial Day Weekend Show – EvergreenCajunCenter, Houma Show Secretary - Collette Waters – collettewaters@hotmail.com

<u>Judges</u>: Randy Shumaker, Allen Mesick, Michael Franke, Ken McCracken, Nate Burgidge, Cheryl Blackman, Rosa Fields, Leann McKinney, Wade Burkhalter, Todd Naragon June 21st, 2014 – LRBA Annual State

Meeting & Fun Show – Single Open &

Youth Sanctioned show. – Winnfield, LA

Show Secretary – Sheila Spillers

bsfarms@bayou.com

Note all Specialty club sanctions will be by donation only. Meeting to begin at 9AM – Show to following completion of meetings. Judging will be Mikey Franke& Wade Burkhalter

October 4th, 2014 – SLRBA Double
Open/Double Youth with Mini Rex and
Netherland Dwarf Specialties –Opelousas,
LA - Show Secretary- Sheila Spillers
bsfarms@bayou.com

<u>Judges</u>: Tom Green, Don Mersiovsky, Justin & Danielle Lowe

October 11, 2014 – CLRBA Double
Open/Youth AND Cavy show – Alexandria,
La – Show Secretary – MonnaBerryhill
Judges: Scott Rodriguez, Josh Humphries,
Rusty Westhoff, Tom Green, Piper Smith,
and Arma Cabrera

Any Proposals for changes to the CBL's or requests for items to be included on the meeting agendas must be received no later than April 22nd. Send your changes or requests to Sheila Spillers bsfarms@bayou.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings all,I hope you all have survived this unpredictable weather. The Hyatt house experienced something we have never experienced before: a frozen litter. As most of you know, we have an "indoor" barn, and this was quite a surprise. We did manage to save 2 of the litter, using the old "warm water" technique though, so that was a positive. It certainly did put us on our toes though. As the weather warmed quickly, now everyone in our barn is molting.

I am really looking forward to the state show. We are considering a new and updated logo for our club and it will go to the Eboard for a vote. We are eagerly awaiting Bruce Spiller's new table prototype so we can vote on it too! He has some great ideas for stability and portability. LRBA t-shirts are on sale at every show, and the Memorial Day Cajun Classic shirts will be ordered soon. Don't forget to place your order for these.

Kudos to the Mississippi club and to Bonne Terre for running great shows in the middle of our snow days. I understand both shows had good turnouts and a good time was had by all.

Several members have expressed a concern to me for the Memorial Day Show being moved to the Houma area this year. This was out of necessity. The Rapides Parish Coliseum in Alexandria, where we usually have the show, is under renovations. The only other place in the Alexandria area that is big enough to house us,, is an airplane hangar that has no restroom facilities or climate control. As usual, we are always open to new venue suggestions at our annual meeting.

In closing, I hope your breeding is going well with all this unpredictable weather, and I hope you and yours are safe. Looking forward to seeing you at the State Show!

Steven Hyatt, LRBA President

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT:

Random Thoughts from the Vice-President

I recently received my NFFGRB newsletter and was leafing through it when I noticed a recurring theme in several of the articles: Show Etiquette. As I began to read each article a little closer I blushed to find that perhaps my sense of show etiquette needed to be fine-tuned a little! One of the issues addressed in a director's letter were exhibitors chatting with each other while the judge was sorting rabbits. Yes, this was the one that made my ears burn. It seems it is not really a problem unless you are directly in front of the judge and your conversation makes it difficult for other breeders to hear comments. Another issue that was pointed out was breeders who hang on the judging table basically blocking the view of table and those who hang onto the coop where their rabbit is sitting. These actions could be the result of just carelessness or an attempt to subtly or not so subtly influence the judge. Note to self: be mindful of where I am standing and how loud I am talking. Other people want to see & hear too.

An issue that apparently cropped up at convention (and other shows) was rabbits entered in the wrong class. According to ARBA a senior rabbit is "...6 months of age or over in those breeds having 4 showroom classes. A rabbit 8 months of age or over in breeds having 6 showroom classes. An animal having reached minimum senior breed weight, if allowed in the breed standard." A brief review of the standards reveal that the age range is very clear. An intermediate is 6 to 8 months not through 8 months. Note to self: be careful about the rabbits' birthdays so that seniors are shown as seniors and not intermediates and intermediates are shown in the correct class and not as juniors.

Service animals at rabbit shows. Not only is access permitted per ARBA rules it is the law folks. People who require service

animals are allow access to all public places. The service animal will be in its harness and attached to its owner at all times. The person needs this animal to function in a "normal" way. This is not a pet dog on a leash. If the animal becomes uncontrollable, the owner and animal may be asked to leave just as any other exhibitor or visitor may be asked to leave if they or their children become disruptive. My rabbits have been more "freaked-out" by children being allowed to run wild in a showroom than when a service dog walked by or its owner set up next to me. Every service animal I've met has been too busy doing its job to worry about anything else. Note to self: Leave super skittish rabbits at home they won't show well anyway.

Finally, at non-cooped shows space is at a premium and some exhibitors spread out and take up too much room. Take a minute and look around you when you set up, if there is a lot of room it is ok to spread out a little but if the show room is filling up consider consolidating a little. Move the chairs a little closer, stack the carrying cages up, and put your ice chest under your table. Be conscience of where the travel lanes are and not block traffic. The show will run smoother and faster if breeders can get around the showroom without running a maze. **Note to self**: Pay attention to showroom conditions and setup accordingly.

It seems that remembering mama's warning about minding my manners will cover most if not all the issues that were addressed in the newsletter. So, see you at the show!

May your nest boxes be filled with fat happy kits.

Collette Water, LRBA Vice-President

FROM THE SECRETARY:

Ihope everyone is doing well after all the weird winter weather we've been having and you and your buns have survived the storms. It seems winter is not quite through with us yet! I am more than ready for some spring weather! We didn't get as much of the extreme weather as most of you folks to the south did, but we did get quite a few below freezing and windy days and nights.

Everyone is working hard to finalize the preparations for our Annual State Show here in Ruston. I hope you all enjoy your stay with us up here in the "north".

The sweepstakes have officially started over with our January shows. I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone on their placing in last year's sweeps and quality points. The #1 placing winners will be receiving either an email or letter soon requesting your choice of awards. They will be awarded at the annual meeting in June. Please send those choices in quickly!

Just a reminder that it won't be long until our next annual state meeting. If you have any changes to submit for the CBL's this year, they will need to be submitted no later than 60 days before the meeting. Feel free to email them to me for submission any time.

I hope everyone stays safe and warm!

Sheila Spillers, LRBA Secretary

Welcome to our new members: Robert, Dani Jo, Courtney & Candice LeBlanc; Sofia Modares, Bill McNeer, Jacob & Jayden Austin!

RENEWAL REMINDERS!

December

Cierra Bennett Pamela Franklin Sadie Freeman Dusty Mills Jamie St. Germain

January

Breanna Dunaway Anthony Amorello Edie & Danny Killian, family

February

Kathy Elliott, family Joe Wayne & Kay Gersch Bridgett Stokes, family Samuel Babineaux

March

Al & Peggy Boudreaux, Zylicia Cherri Foster Ashlee Hawkes Hannah Rashall Monica &Larindy Guidry OveyViator, Jr.

April

Heike & Cheyanne Cooley Brent Harrington Priscilla & James Ohl RusselLisitsa Hannah Ortego Davin Korn Douglas Slaven

May

Angela, Sara, Alexis Cavalier Michael Milton Robert & Jackie Dakin, family Jessica Hough, family Stevie Wilson

REMEMBER: In order to keep your sweepstakes points active, you must renew within thirty (30) days of expiration, i.e. October expiration needs to be paid no later than November 30th. Not paying within thirty (30) days will result in loss of all points accumulated to that point. A membership application can be found at the end of this publication.

Hello Everyone!

The Youth Scholarship show was AWESOME. I would like to thank the LRBA, as a whole, because it took judges, show staff, exhibitors, parents, and most importantly volunteers to make this a successful show. We raised approximately \$3,000.

The State Show is being held March 1st in Ruston, LA. The Youth Advisory Board is meeting in Ruston to go over our Scholarship Applicants. Please have a Representative from each club present. The newsletter provides a list of who represents each club.

We will be announcing the winner of the T-Shirt Contest. We will have one T-shirt for everyone competing at ARBA Convention, and also we will have one T-shirt for sale. Winners will be announced at the State Show.

All youth are interested in competing at the ARBA Convention in Ft. Worth, please contact me. We will be hosting a competition workshop at Mr. Petrus's camp on June 21st at 10:00 a.m. Everyone that is interested in competing is strongly encouraged to attend. We will have several experienced breeders there helping teach.

All Royalty competitors please find me, to do your Oral Interview Part of the Royalty Contest, at the State Show.

Have Fun with Your Buns!

Thank You,

Beth Roark/LRBA Youth Chairsperson

Hello Everyone!

I would like to thank my fellow Youth Officers, youth members, and Parents for the success of our Youth Show. We had an abundance of help, and fun. The youth show cleared approximately \$3,000! That money is being put into the Scholarship Fund. We had a success in our Raffle Table, Silent Auction, Entries, and in all of our Contests.

The LRBA Youth are forming teams to compete in the 2014 ARBA Convention in Ft. Worth, Texas. If you or your child would like to compete, please contact me. We are wanting to have a great turnout if youth representing our State. We are having a Youth Competition workshop, on June the 21st, at Mr. Petrus's Camp in Alexandria, LA. The workshop will beginning at 10 a.m. Details will come soon..

Thank You,

Austin Roark

I would just like to start by saying I have once again enjoyed another wonderful year of showing in the LRBA. My personal thank you goes out to everyone, who in anyway has helped in the past year. We have splendid new officers and committee chairpersons working diligently for us. Thank y'all for taking on the task at hand.

It's been a bitterly cold winter with all the challenges that brings to each and every one of us. The worst thing that has occurred to me was one broken water line, and the scourge of every Californian raiser, SMUT, though I only had a few develop it, but like anything that goes wrong in the rabbitry it happened to some of my best show stock. Though the cool was a welcomed break after a very hot summer, which motivated me to build a climate controlled barn, I can honestly say I've had enough cold.

Raising and showing rabbits has long been a passion for me which I work at very hard. I try not to get too aggressive with it, but I do seem to lose control at times. So if I've offended anyone I humbly apologize at this time. Feel free to tell me if my actions offend you. Not only do I want to have fun. I want you to have fun also.

Looking forward to another Great Year in the show world of the LRBA. I would like to tell all new comers and young rabbit raisers. If you have any questions please feel free to ask me, when I started raising rabbits advice was hard to come by. So ask questions. The only dumb question is the one I don't ask.

Not only does the ARBA have great information, but there's a lot out there just ask and research. Remember what works for me may not be the best for you. I would like to mention a fine little manual just written by a young man who's been around an in the rabbit world since a youth, Ken Turner out of Alabama. It's called Rabbits for Regular Folks and will soon be out on Amazon and Kindle, it really is a must have of both old and new rabbit breeders. I mean it really is a working manual from picking your breed, doctoring, breeding, raising, showing, an just being a Showman. For a few bucks it's well worth it.

In closing I'd like to wish everyone a Championship Show Year. May God Bless You.

Sincerely, Carl LaBiche

I would like to thank everyone that helped with the SMRBA show held in Poplarville, MS on 1/25/14. The weather turned out very nice for that Saturday; however, Friday's ice storm closed highways and made it impossible for some to get there. Overall, we still had a good show and want to congratulate all the winners.

Top winners were:

BIS Open A Mark and Sonya Charles Mini Rex

1st Reserve Terry Herman Netherland dwarf

BIS Youth A Tommy Perez Black Havana Buck

1st Reserve Luke Lewis Castor Mini Rex

BIS Open B Maleta Walls Dutch

1st Reserve Silas and Marge Drake Tan

BIS Youth Chase Herman Holland Lop

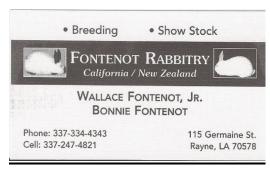
1st Reserve Chase Domingue Netherland Dwarf

Keep those nestboxes warm and cozy for the remainder of the winter. Hope to see everyone at the State show in March.

Tracey Freeman

SMRBA secretary





IN MEMORIAM

Some of you may have wondered why Susan Williams was absent from the Fall 2013 rabbit shows. Susan was diagnosed with cancer in late October and passed away in her sleep on December 4, 2013.

Susan started showing rabbits a few years ago and, although she was a newbie to rabbits, Susan embraced the rabbit show world and loved her mini rex! She looked forward to learning more about her rabbits and believed that even if she didn't win, maybe she helped someone else get a leg.

Susan got into rabbits for her daughter, Katie. Although Katie didn't share Susan's interest, the students at Pineville Elementary School in Pineville, Louisiana did. For two years, Susan's bunnies came to her classroom and encouraged children in all subjects. Her students wrote stories about rabbits, learned about them in science, and even worked math problems about the rabbits. The rabbits encouraged good behavior and even visited other classrooms. I will miss the smiling face and cheerful attitude of Susan Williams. She had many friends in LRBA and CLRBA. She was a truly special person and a great friend.

Married to Don for 24 years, mother of Katie, and a teacher for more than 30 years, Susan touched countless lives and will be missed by many. Susan was active in Early Childhood Education and was a Docent (specially trained volunteer) at the Alexandria Zoo.

Think about Susan as you share your love of the rabbit hobby with others. She loved going to shows and visiting with all of you. Visit with a friend in Susan's memory at your next rabbit show!

Tammy Lloid



On November 10th 2013 the Rabbit community has lost one of its own. Allen Creduer 60 years old has passed away from complications unknown to doctors. Allen was a very strong and independent person as we all know. He was a resident of Lafayette. He worked very hard to accomplish a lot of things with his rabbits. He was very well known to most of us. He attended many Conventions and Nationals in his rabbit hobby days. He always strived to get his family to the shows as well as being very competitive. He worked very closely with the youth organizations within the LRBA as well as the local 4-H and FFA groups in the parish. Allen stopped showing for a while and in 2005 made a comeback. He raised Florida Whites and Mini Lops as well as Satins. He has had multiple Best In Show's in his career. He will be missed by family and friends.



Allyson Jane Denais Falcon

February 7, 1986-August 14, 2013

To describe Allyson in one word would be impossible – Well, impossible is a word that can be used to describe her too! She was so many things wrapped up in a beautiful package.

A rambunctious daughter, a head-strong sister, a tireless mother and dedicated wife. She was fearless and a free spirit....silly, comical, righteous, just, selfless. The world was her gym, and she explored it, climbed it and made it her own. She was courageous and inspiring. Even in her last days, she wanted to do things herself and her way. Love and laughter were as important as ever.

She was a friend to many and a stranger to no one. Her heart was made of gold, and she held a soft spot for those in a lesser position than her own. This included every animal she came across. If her house had been as big as her heart, there would be no such thing as a stray animal, for she would have given all of them sanctuary. She often dreamed of opening a horse rescue and rehabilitation farm. She wanted to give her voice to those voiceless animals with no desire other than to be their protector and friend. Her love for animals began at an early age. She first started showing sheep in 4-H in middle school. She did very well

and was soon getting her feet wet, (or should I say she dove head first) with showing horses. She excelled at this and had a gift with horses that could not be taught. As her cancer spread in her body and showing, riding and caring for horses became more difficult she changed gears to a smaller more manageable animal...RABBITS!! She wanted an activity that she could share with her children that could teach them the importance of caring and responsibility. She started with 4 New Holland Lops and her barn quickly filled. Ally and her oldest son Riley went through a series of trials and errors and met a host of wonderful people along the way. Her show string expanded to include Netherland Dwarves and Mini-Rexes. At the time of her passing, over 50 rabbits were in her herd. And the same wonderful people that she encountered came to help her again by guiding her loved ones in dispersing her herd.

In keeping with her own stance to do what was honorable, Allyson strongly believed in forgiveness and in second chances. And with her no-nonsense nature, she also believed that those second chances were earned. She did not exclude herself from this belief. As strong minded as she was, when she believed she had wronged another, she was able to apologize and humbly ask for forgiveness.

Allyson had little regard for propriety. She was the type of woman who cared more about what was just and right than about what was politically correct or ladylike. As a child, she got around most places on all fours. She would trot, gallop, rear up and shake her head like a wild horse. She didn't care one iota who saw her, because she did this in public too! And most of the time, she got around better and faster than most people who walked on two feet. Whether on two feet or four, she followed her sisters everywhere and was into everything! So much that she earned the nickname

"Puppy." She was so honored and proud to get this name that when she received her Letterman's jacket for track.....she insisted that "Puppy" be put on the back. The nickname stuck with her - even the next generation knew her as Nanny Pup or "Cwazy Aunt Pup"!

As she started coming into her own and discovering more of the outside world, she would get these wild dreams! Her imagination was boundless. When any of us tried to reroute her passions or ambitions for what we always saw as for her own good, she treated us to a lesson in following your heart and dreams, without fear of failure or regard for the nay-saying of others. She was true to herself always.

Family was everything to Allyson. When she became a mother, she still managed to balance the wellbeing of her children and her passions in only the awe inspiring way she could!

Becoming a mother for the first time completely changed her, and her motherly instinct quickly took over. Her love for animals was large, but her love for Riley was even greater. He was her world, her Riley Bug.

Four years ago, Allyson married the love of her life. Jeremy was another source of pride for her. She was proud to be his wife and equally proud of the father he became to their children and all of the successes he achieved both professionally and personally.

They welcomed two more beautiful children: Alexis, her sweet girl, and Seth, Tub-Tub, completing their family of five. Over the years, Jeremy and Allyson grew their family, relationship, love and commitment to each other. Eight days before her passing, Allyson and Jeremy renewed their vows in an intimate ceremony. No matter how sick she was, she never let it cloud her commitment and love to her family.

Over the course of her 27 years, Allyson shared her infectious laughter, joy and love with so many people. And it will continue to be shared through her family and friends with the stories that they know of an inspiring young woman, Allyson Jane.

Anna Lebouef, Allyson's sister



MW's Ladybird (LB)

Dutch Black Junior Doe

Best in Show Acadiana Area Rabbit Club Fall Show B (Open)

November 23, 2013 Breaux Bridge, LA

Loved, bred, owned and shown by Maleta Walls, Bunkie, LA

Judge; Mary Jo Terry





CONGRATULATIONS TO
Shelia Humphries and her
husband on their new
addition of a son to their
family!

CONGRATULATIONS TO
Chase Herman for being
named the Youth Director
for the National Holland
Lop Club District 6 !!!!!!

LRBA Members – Judges and Registrars

<u>Tracey Freeman – Registrar</u> 126 TNT's Place, Bogalusa, LA 70427 985-732-5060 – tntscountrycritters@hotmail.com

<u>Doug Girard – Registrar</u> 109 Satinwood Dr., Carencro, LA 70520 cajunrabbits@yahoo.com

<u>Tom Green – Judge</u> 538 Phin Croft Rd., Marion KY 42064 270-969-0481 – <u>HarleTom@aol.com</u>

<u>Gwen Himel – Registrar</u> 1710 N. Union, Apt 16; Roswell, NM 88201 225-588-8293 – gwenhimel@yahoo.com

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Ariana St. Pierre – Registrar Pollock, LA

985-677-1298 - <u>aarabbitry@gmail.com</u>

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ADDRESS:
PHONE # E-MAIL
YOUTH \$8.00 () INDIVIDUAL \$12.00 () COMBO \$20.00 ()
YOUTH 3YRS \$20.00 () INDIVIDUAL 3YRS \$30.00() COMBO 3YRS \$50.00 ()
FAMILY (\$16.00 + \$2.00 PER YOUTH) () 3YR (\$45 + \$5 PER YOUTH) ()
AGE & NAME OF YOUTH MEMBERS
RABBITRY NAME (ADDTL \$1.00 PER YR)
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CURRENT BREEDS
LOCAL LOUISIANA CLUB
(MUST FILL IN IF OUT-OF-STATE MEMBER COMPETING FOR SWEEPSTAKES POINTS)
REFERRED BY
Mail to:
Sheila Spillers
771 Hwy 146
Ruston, La 71270
<u>bsfarms@bayou.com</u> 318-251-2442

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE 2014 LRBA STATE SHOW GOES OUT TO THE FOLLOWING:

Fairfield Inn & Suites of Ruston



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Autozone 405 N Main Street, Farmervile, LA

Ryan's 1107 N Service Road E, Ruston, LA

Crow Burlingame Co Bumper to Bumper, 504 East Georgia Ave, Ruston, LA

Ruston Tourism, 2111 N. Trenton, Ruston, LA

Raising Cane 659 North Service Road

Scott's Fish and Seafood, 2480 Highway 33

Portico Bar and Grill, 1821 Northpointe PVT Lane

Chili's Bar and Grill, 649 North Service Road