



# LRBA NEWSLETTER

## NOVEMBER 2011



**LOUISIANA RABBIT BREEDERS  
ASSN., INC.**

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**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**

**JANUARY 31, 2012**

**LRBA, Inc. web page**

***<http://www.louisianarba.net>***

**LRBA Email List**

***[www.yahogroups.com](http://www.yahogroups.com) - Join  
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**LOUISIANA RABBIT BREEDERS  
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## Roger Carr &amp; Ford Eastin

## Gwen Himmel &amp; Eric Himmel

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## YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

## Carrie Laboyteaux

rabbidwifeoriginal@yahoo.com

**Kevin LeBlanc** – member



[eastin@bellsouth.net](mailto:eastin@bellsouth.net)





## Calendar of Events

### **NOVEMBER 12, 2011**

Youth Scholarship Show - National Guard Armory 5500 Coliseum Boulevard, Alexandria, La

Ariana St. Pierre & Tabitha LaBoyteaux, Show Secretary, [aarabbitry@gmail.com](mailto:aarabbitry@gmail.com)

Judges: Michael Franke & Lance Gendron

### **NOVEMBER 19, 2011**

AARC – Double Open/Youth Show, Breaux Bridge, La

Amy Lukaszewski, Show Secretary, [amy.lukaszewski@gasandsupply.com](mailto:amy.lukaszewski@gasandsupply.com)

Judges: Tex & Tonna Thomas, Bob Sorrels, Tanner Biggs

### **NOVEMBER 26, 2011**

4H & Youth Red River Rumble, Single Show, Alexandria, Louisiana, LSU-A Ag Center

Tammy Lloid and Collette Waters, Show Secretary, [tlloid@gmail.com](mailto:tlloid@gmail.com)

Judge: Tracey Freeman

### **JANUARY 6, 2012**

Bonne Terre Rabbit Club – Single Open/Youth, Addis, La, Ariana St. Pierre, Show Secretary, [aarabbitry@gmail.com](mailto:aarabbitry@gmail.com)

Judges: Rusty Westhoff, Josh Humphries, Sheri Abrahams, Scott Rodriguez, Frank Farrow

### **JANUARY 7, 2012**

Bonne Terre Rabbit Club – Double Open/Youth, Addis, La

Ariana St. Pierre, Show Secretary, [aarabbitry@gmail.com](mailto:aarabbitry@gmail.com)

Judges: Rusty Westhoff, Josh Humphries, Sheri Abrahams, Scott Rodriguez, Frank Farrow

### **JANUARY 21, 2012**

SMRBA Show, Poplarville, Mississippi

Judges: Frank Farrow, Mary Jo Terry, Brad Kingsbury, Lance Gendron

### **MARCH 3, 2012**

LRBA Annual State Show, LSU Mini Farm, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Ariana St. Pierre, Show Secretary [aarabbitry@gmail.com](mailto:aarabbitry@gmail.com)

Judges: Cheryl Blackman, Allen Mesick, Julie Ueno

### **MARCH 17, 2012**

AARC Iowa Rabbit Festival, Iowa, La

Ronnie Duhon, Show Secretary

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## From the Desk of the President:

Another show season is well on its way. Hope everyone is showing well with the litters from the spring and early summer. Hope everyone who went to Convention in Indianapolis made a good showing.

There are still a few volunteer spots available for anyone that is interested, namely equipment manager and historian. Equipment manager would deal with housing and transporting the LRBA trailer to LRBA sponsored events and facilitating minor table repairs. The historian's job would be basically scrapbooking. If interested in either position, please give me a call at your earliest convenience.

Also needed at this time is someone to fill role as superintendent for the Southern Show on April 14, 2012. At this time, it is under a vote by the e-board to see if it will be a single or a double. Don't be afraid to step up and accept a challenge.

In this newsletter, you should find the profiles of the members that were nominated for the various awards. Cast your vote for the member that you feel deserves the award. Remember that your ballot must be postmarked by December 31, 2011 and be on the original ballot to be counted.

I would like to challenge all the local clubs to submit an article the newspaper editor for our upcoming newsletters. Also, I would like to see some short articles from our members on some facet of the rabbit hobby that suits your fancy. We could possibly publish one or two a newsletter.

In closing, I wish you success in the rabbit hobby. Just remember, it's not always as easy as it looks. It takes hard work and dedication. May everyone have nest boxes full of kits.

Kevin LeBlanc, LRBA President

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## FROM THE SECRETARY:

The following is a list of new members that have joined since June 2011. Please give them a warm welcome when you see them at shows!

Seth Babin (y)

Pamela Batey

Dylan Miller (Y)

Anna & Chanse Behringer

Nathan & Nicole Boehringer (Y)

Sherry Burns

Jade Burns (Y)

Sheri & Madison(Y) Delahoussaye

Chase Domingue(Y)

Kyle Erwin

Nicole Guevara (Y)

Monica Guidry

John & Stephanie Hawkins

Rebekah Hawkins (Y)

Shelia Humphries

Jude & Franella Lantier

Tiffany & Darin Lessigne

Darian & Joshua Lessigne (Y)

Jimmy & Dawn Lormand

Adam & Sage Gillis (Y)

Jerry Norris

Camille Poynter (Y)

Godfred Schexnayder

Olivia Smith (Y)

Megan Tassin(Y)

Lacey Trahan (Y)

Lauri Wiss

Kenneth & Imogene Drews

Kayley Zimmerman (Y)

**The following members are up for renewal with expiration dates listed:**

Billy, Stacy, Austin and Dayton Taylor 11/11

Kevin, Toni, Kolby, Kollin, and Kyle Breaux  
11/11

Ethan Dupree (Y) 11/11

Anthony and Judy Duthu 11/11

Cheryl Guerin 11/11

Warren, Tammy, and Alice Himel  
11/11

Hunter Vice (Y) 11/11

Cody, Robin, and Delaney Shuff  
11/11

Jessica and Eileene Mast 10/11

Kimberly, Kelby, and Kyler George  
12/11

Jeremy and Kayla Dickerson 12/11

Blair & Ryan Guerin 12/11

Ronnie and Mary Ellen Hopson 12/11

Babette Loe, Dusty Mills, & Gabby G 12/11

Renee, Madelyn, and Molly Easley 1/12

Frank and Theresa Farrow 1/12

Greg Knox 1/12

Charles Pruitt 1/12

Megan Simon 1/12

Ken and Monna Berryhill 2/12

Shecky, Tammy, and Tori Carriere 2/12

Tracey and Tyrone Freeman 2/12

Dylan and Dawson McDowell (Y) 2/12

Show season is in full swing and I am very happy to say that our membership is growing rapidly with each new show. Open and youth exhibitors are up at each show and I'm sure every club is feeling the rise. Cooler weather is here and I hope everyone is breeding and receiving nest boxes full of showstoppers for the spring.

Charter renewal notices have been sent out. Charters are due January 1, 2012 and will be charged a late fee if received after March 1, 2012.

Last year's sweepstakes award choices have finally all been collected and will be ordered. The first show after they arrive they will be handed out. I apologize for the delay and any inconveniences caused.

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**From the Barn of the Youth Advisor**

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your youth advisor this year. I want to thank all the parents and LRBA members for their support in the youth activities we have had so far. I hope the youth are having fun and learning a few new things along the way. I would like to have a youth activity at each show providing the club sponsoring the show will allow it and I will do my best to make all the shows. Keep up the good work and study, study. I post a good bit on the LRBA youth Facebook page to help you out. Please feel free to approach me at any show you see me at with any of your questions or call me at home I am here for our youth. I would like to see more pee wee involvement they will have fun. Please remember at a youth show Only YOUTH should be showing there rabbits. If you get caught up at another table, grab a rabbit buddy that is a youth to help you out. It is ok if a youth helps another youth but not acceptable if an adult puts or removes a rabbit from the table. Please be courteous to your fellow exhibitors and please do not put cages in the walk way of the tables. Please place your rabbits on the table and step back. Remember you are not to show

ownership of the rabbit once it is on the table. When the judge is finished they will be happy to answer your questions if they have time. If you listen when they make comments about your rabbits, I bet a lot of your questions will be answered. Make sure you listen about other rabbits in the class. That is how you learn. Let's all show good sportsmanship and make me proud of our LRBA YOUTH!

Most of all, always remember to have fun with your buns.

Carrie LaBoyteaux

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### **OPEN BREEDER OF THE YEAR:**

#### **TRACEY FREEMAN**

I appreciate being nominated for LRBA "Breeder of the Year". To give a little background, I live in Bogalusa, LA. and have been raising rabbits for the last 8 years. I raise Jersey Woolies and several months ago purchased a pair of French Lops. To find me at a show, all you have to do is look for the one that has wool from head to toe. My rabbitry is not very big, but I do have about 50+ holes that keep me busy.

I am an ARBA Registrar and have passed the written and oral part of the ARBA Judge's test. Currently, I am a member of the National Jersey Wooly Rabbit Breeder's Club, Lop Club of American, and secretary of the South Mississippi Rabbit Breeder's Association. Along with being a member of LRBA, I have served as LRBA's vice president in the past.

As far as those cute and fuzzy creatures, I really enjoy raising rabbits. I'm all smiles when I have a new litter in the nest box. It's non-thing for expecting does to be brought into our home during the winter to a nice warm bedroom. My husband, Tyrone, tolerates my passion and drives me to the bunny shows, which has taken us all over the country. Since I'm working on acquiring my judge's license, I will be putting him in training to show my Woolies. Whenever given a chance, I like to share rabbit

information with inquiring minds and promote the rabbit hobby.

In conclusion, I want to thank you for your support for "Breeder of the Year". If there's anything that I can help with, please drop me an email or give me a call.

Sincerely,  
Tracey Freeman

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### **OPEN BREEDER OF THE YEAR:**

#### **BUSTER CHARPENTIER**

I've been married to my wife Shirley for 46 years. We've both been fortunate enough to have been born, raised, and living in the beautiful, quiet, clean, and small town of Franklin, LA. We have 4 wonderful children: Libby, Sterling IV, Larry and Angela. They have blessed us with 6 grandchildren. The oldest grandson has showed rabbits in 4-H and has now graduated. The next 3 in line are now showing in 4-H. We encouraged our children to show and we now instill this in our grandchildren as well. They have all won numerous Best In Show and Champion Meat Pens.

My love for rabbits started when I was 10 yrs. Old with a pair of New Zealand Whites. I raised this pair for 4 years. I started again when I was married in 1965 with New Zealand Whites. I then added Californians, which is a favorite of mine and my wife. I am still raising Californians to this day.

We have tried several different breeds, some of which the children wanted. They were Dutch, Standard Rex, Florida Whites, Silver Martens, Flemish Giants, Netherland Dwarfs, Holland Lops, and New Zealand Reds. A close friend and ARBA member, Joey Blanchard, got us started with Mini Lops. I've been raising them for the past 7 years. We have won several Best In Shows and Best Of Breeds.

I have been an ARBA member since early 1980. I was President of our local Teche Area Rabbit Club in the late 80's. I've been Superintendent of our Parish 4-H Rabbit Show and do volunteer work with 4-H and



FFA for the parish 4-H show for the past 20 years or so.

I've started numerous children into raising and showing rabbits. This is the most rewarding part of it all for me. When those children, my grandchildren included, win ribbons and awards for their rabbits. Their excitement is contagious. It makes it all worthwhile to me. It all helps to keep the tradition passing down the line.

Now that my wife and I are retired we both love going to shows with the grandchildren or just to show for ourselves. We enjoy getting together with the many friends that we have made throughout the years at these shows. I also look forward to meeting new friends and encouraging more children to raise and show rabbits.

I'd like to thank the people who nominated me. This is indeed an honor to even be considered for this award. Many thanks to everyone and we're looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming shows. May God Bless Us All!!!!

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#### **OPEN ROOKIE BREEDER OF THE YEAR:**

##### **ANGELLE KRAEMER**

Hello Fellow Rabbit Breeders,

My name is Angelle Kraemer. I am from Raceland, Louisiana, which is approximately 50 miles south of New Orleans. I have been married to my soul mate, Ken Kraemer for 20 years. My husband and I have 3 beautiful children, Kody, 16, Kasey, 15, and Kylie, 12. We also have 3 lovely dogs, Sophie, Daisy and Bosco. I have been a nurse for 18 years and am currently employed by the Lafourche Parish School Board as a school nurse. We currently raise Holland Lops and Mini Rex Rabbits.

My love for rabbits started in December, 2008 when my daughter wanted a bunny for Christmas. When my boys' found out their sister wanted a bunny, they each wanted

one too. Well, needless to say, after realizing how gentle and affectionate the Christmas bunnies were, I fell in love, buying more and more bunnies! The cage space began to expand and now we currently have 45 holes, consisting of awesome show quality stock, most of them with many GC legs! We have grown so much that we recently built an A/C barn for the bunnies to live in. I plan to continue to strive for the best right here in my own barn!

I truly enjoy attending rabbit shows to display my beautiful rabbits of course, but also to meet new people and visit with wonderful bunny friends I have met along the way. It is amazing how everyone becomes a family here! Since so many rabbit breeders have helped me as a "Rookie", I want to help others learn more about this hobby and help better their stock in any way possible so they can join our rabbit family too!

I am always willing to learn new things that can make me a better rabbit breeder. Becoming more involved in the different clubs is a must for me. I am now the Secretary for the Bonne Terre Rabbit Club. I want to learn more about the job duties and responsibilities of the different positions held and who knows, maybe even run for an officer's position with the LRBA one day!!

I would like to thank all of you very much. I am extremely honored to be nominated for the Open Rookie Breeder of the Year award!

Angelle Kraemer

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#### **OPEN ROOKIE BREEDER OF THE YEAR:**

##### **AUBOY & DONNA HOLLAND**

Hi, Our names are AuBoy and Donna Holland. We would like to say what an honor it is to be nominated for  
**OPEN ROOKIE BREEDER OF THE YEAR.**



We live in Gulfport Mississippi and have been married for 5 years , we have 3 children, Destiny Myers age 10, Bryce Myers age 9, and Anthony Holland age 18. We have been showing rabbits now for only 2 years and have enjoyed every minute of it.

We started out raising New Zealand Whites and within a two year period brought in about 7 more breeds. For Auboy's favorite bred would have be the Flemish Giants and mine being the Holland Lops. We have learned a lot the past 2 years on breeding and showing. We have been taught a lot by our RABBIT FAMILY. We would recommend this hobby to anyone. AGAIN THANKS SO MUCH FOR THE HONOR.

AUBOY & DONNA HOLLAND

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#### **OPEN ROOKIE BREEDER OF THE YEAR:**

##### **SHANA NIELSEN**

Dear LRBA Members,

My name is Shana Nielsen and I've been nominated for Open Rookie of the Year. My family and I only started showing Mini-Rex rabbits a year ago, but we have made so many new friends. Because my husband is active duty military we live pretty far away from all of our family. We'd really been missing that sense of family and connectedness until we got started in rabbits. Now our Rabbit Family fills that void!

The last year has been an amazing journey for us. As I write this the CLRBA fall Alexandria show just wrapped up, and I vividly remember that time last year when it was our second show. We were still learning everything, but each and every person I talked to was so welcoming that I felt like I could just jump right in. And I did! When Lance moved to Tennessee I filled in as Secretary for the Louisiana Mini-Rex Rabbit Club, a position I'm really happy to have because I am so excited about working for the LA Mini Rex community! At the LRBA annual meeting this past June I volunteered to be Show Secretary for three of LRBA's four shows. You'll be seeing me

behind the desk at the Southern Show, the Memorial Show, and the 2013 State Show. I'm also your Sweepstakes Chair for the year, which is a little bit like being Santa Claus. I get to see the results and put them all together and root for all of you, and then deliver them to our wonderful web mistress like gift wrapped presents!

We're headed to our first ever ARBA Convention in just another day or so, and I'm happy to be transporting upwards of 30 rabbits back to Louisiana from all over the country for our LRBA members. If sweepstakes is like being Santa all year round, then our trip back from Convention will be like Christmas come early as we drop off the bunnies to their new owners all over LA.

Besides finding (and getting involved with) our new rabbit family this last year, we've had some amazing experiences at different shows. My white doe from Nancy Walker won BoS at the Southern show, and then I went on to win my first Best of Breed with a home grown doe at the Friday night part of the Memorial Show. That show was simply remarkable, because we took Best Opposite with a home grown buck! And a week ago, just as I was getting nostalgic about how we had come full circle to our second fall Alexandria show, we won our first Best in Show with the same doe.

Our family could not have any of these amazing experiences if it were not for the amazing people that make up the LRBA. I am so happy to be a part of this wonderful hobby with all of you, and to consider each and every one of you a member of my family. Thank you.

Shana Nielsen

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#### **OPEN ROOKIE BREEDER OF THE YEAR:**

##### **GAYLE ZIMMERMAN**

Hello, I'm Gayle Zimmerman from Rayne, LA. I would like to say thank you for the nomination, Open Rookie of the year. I'm

married to Jack Zimmerman we have 2 children and 2 step children.

I have had many years of exposure from my dad, Wallace Fontenot. I showed cattle and sheep in 4-H and FFA through my elementary and high school years. My rabbit showing started when my daughter Caroline wanted to join 4-H and show rabbits. Well that's when the fever started for all of us. I fell in love with the Mini Rex breed. Thanks, to Susan who picked up my first 4 rabbits. My first show was the Memorial show of 2010, I placed well and was pleased with my first show. The State Fair in Shreveport is where the excitement and fever was overwhelming after I got BIS. At that point I knew there was a need for more rabbit cages, my husband went to work and has expanded my cages from 18 to 86 holes. I have done well at all the shows, but, especially met many great people.

I'm currently a member of ARBA, LRBA, NMRRRC, AARC, and SWLRC. I look forward to continue to grow and learn with my rabbits. The best part of this hobby is sharing time with my dad and kids. At our family gatherings there will be at least one conversation about the rabbits, and I'm sure the rest of the family has learned to tune us out.

I would like to thank my dad for guiding and teaching me during my first year and my husband for all his hard work accommodating for more bunnies. Thanks again for the nomination, Open Rookie of the year.

Thank you,  
Gayle Zimmerman

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#### **HALL OF FAME:**

##### **ROGER CARR**

My name is Roger Carr and I have been nominated for the LRBA Hall Of Fame.

I live in Columbia, Ms. with my wife Jo Ellen and my daughter Sidney. I graduated from Miss State. I have been manager of the State Employment Service Office in Columbia for the past 37 years. My wife and

I also own a small Christian Bookstore in Columbia.

I have been a member of the ARBA for the past 12 years and have raised Dutch, New Zealand, Mini Rex, Polish, and Netherland Dwarf. At the present time I show mainly Dutch. (Dutch Rule!)

Most of you know me from the Magnolia State RBA Show in Collins, Ms. I have served as president of that club for the past 8 years as well as being Show Superintendent.

When I started out I was limited in the number of shows I could attend. I learned very quickly that if you put on a show near your house, you would always have at least one you could attend. I appreciate the hard work and help required to put on a rabbit show.

Let me close by saying I am honored to be nominated to the Hall Of Fame.

Roger Carr

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#### **HALL OF FAME:**

##### **KEVIN LEBLANC**

Hello, I'm Kevin LeBlanc, and it's an honor to be nominated for LRBA Hall of Fame. What started as a simple 4-H project in 2002 with a trio of Mini Rex for my youngest daughter, Megan, has blossomed into a 92-hole barn that was recently been reduced to 78-holes, that seems to burst by the end of each summer. Dutch were added as a second breed in about a year and soon gave way to Netherland Dwarfs. My eldest daughter Katie had started showing and took over the Mini Rex. The Netherland Dwarfs were then for Megan who was having problems handling the Mini Rex. So as my daughters got involved in other activities, I started showing the bunnies in 2006. Havana was added as a third breed in the summer of 2008. In the summer of 2010, the Netherlands were sold to provide more room for the Mini Rex.

I'm a volunteer leader for 4-H, and served as a Regional Representative for the Louisiana State 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association for 2005 and 2006. In my home parish of West Baton Rouge, I have served as president of the WBR 4-H Foundation Board for the past seven years and serving as vice president for a year and half prior. I'm also a member of the WBR Fair Board and have served as Assistant Manager from 2005 to 2008. At this time I serve as the Fair Board Vice President. I have volunteered to help with numerous 4-H rabbit activities including; working shows, clinics or workshops, judging and just being there to answer questions and help many local breeders. I have also helped with WBR Jr. Leadership Club for the past 9 years. I have trained 4-H members for 4-H University in the following competitions, Ag Demonstration, Wildlife Management, Plant Science and Electrical Energy Management. In 2005 I received the 4-H Attorney General Award for Livestock Leadership.

I'm a member of the following rabbit clubs, ARBA, LRBA, NMRRC, HRBA, LMRRC and Bonne Terre Rabbit Club. In LRBA I have served as Youth Advisory Chairman in 2007/2008. I served as LRBA Secretary and Sweepstakes Chairman 2008/2009 and Vice President for 2009/2010. Currently, I serve as LRBA President, BTRA President and LMRRC Vice President. Over the years I have held to one objective for every show that I attend; that is to learn something new at every show. It can be about one of my breeds, or more recently about other breeds.

In closing, I'd like to thank Bonne Terre Rabbit Club and Louisiana Mini Rex Rabbit Club for the nomination. Hope everyone has nest boxes full of kits and I'll see you at the shows.

Thanks,

Kevin LeBlanc

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## **HALL OF FAME:**

### **FORD EASTIN**

I am Ford Eastin and I live in Picayune, MS, about 20 miles north of Slidell, LA. I am happily married (49 years) and have 4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls, and 6 grandchildren. It is an honor to be nominated for LRBA Hall Of Fame.

My start in rabbits, other than raising meat rabbits as a child, was with a mini-lop that my sons bought on the way home from church one Easter in the 1970's in Beaumont, TX. Wilbur, the yard rabbit, led us into raising Mini Lops (from Bruce Ford, GA), Netherland Dwarfs (from Sid Sigura, LA), and New Zealand Whites (from Rev. Herbert Lane, LA). After showing a few years I was forced to get out of rabbits due to city codes in the early 1980's.

Upon my retirement in 2001, my wife, daughter, and I moved back to Picayune and in 2003 I got back into rabbits with New Zealand Whites. I added Californians in 2004.

I am a member of ARBA (life), AFNZRB (life), CRSC, LRBA (Life), Magnolia State RBA, and South Mississippi RBA.

Win or lose I always enjoy the fellowship with other breeders at the shows. While it is fun showing, the best part of rabbit shows is the people you get to associate and fellowship with. I wish all breeders the best of luck on the show table and hope to see you at the shows this coming season.

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## **YOUTH ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:**

### **EMILY LAMARCA**

My name is Emily LaMarca, I am 14 years old and rabbits are my passion. I have been raising rabbits for 3 years and showing them for 2 years but I have owned rabbits all my life.

I have worked with several breeds including Dutch, New Zealand, Florida White, American, Netherland Dwarf, Holland Lop, Lionhead, and Mini Rex. After some research and working with those breeds in person I decided that the Mini Rex and Holland Lops were the breeds I wanted to focus on. My goal is to produce a line of Blue Otter Mini Rex that is nice enough to compete with the unbeatable Blacks and Castors.

I was the LRBA Youth Treasurer from June 2010 – June 2011, I enjoyed having a role in making the LRBA youth group a success and I plan to continue running for an officer position at the annual meetings.

While my parents assist me with the financial aspect, I plan my own herd. I take the rabbits out hands on and compare bloodlines to determine which pairs would compliment each other best to produce the most promising litters. I work hard to maintain a clean barn and a healthy herd, I have a small barn of only 32 holes but I manage to work with what I've got. I would not have achieved where I'm at without the help of some extremely nice breeders and a warm welcoming from the rabbit family.

I have faced several obstacles and none of which deterred me from my path. I had a mission and I was set to accomplish my goal. On December 23, 2010 a stray dog got into our barn. Our herd of only 24 at that time was struck a bit hard. Two rabbits were killed before we were aware of the event that was taking place in our barn and 17 were injured and no longer able to show. I was devastated but willed myself to recover my herd, and I have. We came back stronger than ever and are still continuing to improve our rabbits.

Raising rabbits has been a great learning experience. I plan to become a veterinarian and with so few truly rabbit savvy vets I feel that having experience with them will help me to better accommodate rabbit owners

with a local rabbit savvy vet. I am learning something new at every show. There are many different rabbit illnesses that are so commonly misdiagnosed but my intentions are to be able to give more accurate opinions having seen several diseases and illnesses first hand.

It is truly a great honor to be a nominee for Youth Rookie of the Year. I have achieved so much and aspire to do more over the years ahead. I hope you see as much potential in me as I do. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Emily LaMarca, Redhill Farms

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### **YOUTH ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:**

#### **DAKOTA ST. PIERRE**

My name is Dakota St. Pierre and I am 10 years old. I'm in 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Krotz Springs Elementary. This is my first year in 4H and I was sad when I found out this parish has no rabbit show! I started raising rabbits about 3 years ago when my brother started in 4H. I used to have Holland Lops, but that was too hard. I wanted to keep all of them! Now I raise Dutch in all 6 varieties. I really want to have chinchilla Dutch in my herd too! I can't wait for them to be accepted.

I have about 40 Dutch that I work with for breeding and showing. My favorite color in them is the blues and that is the hardest color for me to get in a litter! I try to bring at least one of each color to a show to make sure everybody has something to compete with. It's not fun showing against yourself.

I've made lots of friends in showing rabbits. I like traveling out of state to shows

because I like to shop at them! My favorite memory of showing rabbits was when a blue dutch junior buck I had gotten from Ms. Ginger won Reserve in Show at the Southern show in 2010.

I am so thankful for this nomination for youth rookie of the year. I do try really hard to learn about the breed I have and other breeds too. I want to work behind the tables and write for judges, but Mom won't let me yet. I have ADHD and she said I would need more focus back there than I have right now. One day I will though!

Right now I have at least 7 does due to have babies and in about 2 weeks I'll have another 7. This is one of my favorite parts of raising rabbits. I love to see the little babies when they are born. But with Dutch, we cull at birth for markings. Then we cull around 6-8 weeks on any DQ's we find and start looking at body type on them. By 4 months old we have made our last culls. I don't like culling the babies too much, but I know it is part of raising rabbits.

Again, I'd like to thank everyone for the nomination. It's an honor just to be nominated and I hope you will vote for me.

Thank you,

Dakota St. Pierre



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### YOUTH ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:

#### DESTINY BEARDEN

My name is Destiny Bearden. I am ten years old. I love going to church, family time, taking meals together and getting together with my bunny friends at shows. I am a member of ARBA/LRBA/APRC and 4-H, serving as vice president this past year of my local Homegrown 4-H club. I have raised rabbits for 5 years. I raise Polish and Mini Rex with my main focus being Polish. I have fun introducing myself to new people at shows and taking them to meet people who have the breeds they are interested in. I feel blessed to be able to involve myself and my bunnies locally by taking a bunny at certain times to the local library so kids can "read books" to the bunny thus encouraging literacy. At the same time I get to teach

bunny care and promote the bunny industry. I have created flyers regarding general rabbit care, show guidelines, a daily health check list and am planning a bunny workshop for Lincoln and Union Parishes in the near future. I am very proud to say that I rank 6<sup>th</sup> place in overall Polish national club competition thru APRC and this is the first year my parents have allowed me to compete nationally. My goals are to continue to promote the bunny industry and to improve upon the breeds I raise based on the standards of perfection. I believe that the responsibility and decision making skills I am gaining thru this hobby will make life easier for me as an adult. I plan on always being involved in bunny education, bunny preservation and betterment and to share my bunny passion with anyone interested. I am so grateful to my parents for making this adventure possible for me. I am also grateful to all the folks who have answered my questions, shared their bunny knowledge with me and have in whatever aspect, helped me grow in the bunny industry/hobby.

Love,

Destiny B.

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### **YOUTH ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:**

#### **CAROLINE ZIMMERMAN**

Hi, I'm Caroline Marie Zimmerman from Rayne, LA. I would like to say thank you for nominating me for Youth Rookie of the year. I'm 11 years old and in the 5th grade at Rayne Catholic Elementary.

I started showing rabbits 1 1/2 years ago. It all started when I told my mom I wanted to join 4-H and show rabbits. My grandpa, Wallace Fontenot was eager and happy to help me. I started with Californian and New Zealand Whites, but still not what I was looking for. My grandpa introduced me to the New Zealand Black, I was hooked and knew that was the rabbits I wanted to show and raise. I also enjoy showing the black Minirex. My first year of showing was awesome, I got several BIS and runner-ups.

Winning is fun but not everything. It takes a lot of hard work and time to keep up with the rabbits, school, and other activities, but its all worth it.

I have met new friends and enjoy the rabbit shows even though I have to get up early. The shows are not about just showing, its being with your friends, trying to get your raffle ticket drawn, and having fun working the concessions.

I belong to the ARBA, LRBA, American Federation of New Zealand Breeders, NMRRRC, AARC, SWLRC, and 4-H club. I'm looking forward to continue showing, meeting friends, buying raffle tickets, and working concessions. I would like to thank my Paw Paw, Wallace, for being patient and guiding me through my first year of showing. Thank you for the nomination of Youth Rookie of the year.

Thank you,

Caroline Zimmerman

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Congratulations to all the winners and exhibitors at our second show for the club! We appreciate you greatly!

We thank all the exhibitors, workers, judges and crew that all helped to make it a success. We have a great group who has worked very hard to make our show happen.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to the family of Molly Gardner who passed away after an accident the night before our show. We are very glad to hear that Tony Bell is doing well after his accident while traveling over to be one of our judges.

Our show next time will be held in the same building in Opelousas on October 6th, 2012. So make plans to come out and have a great time, enjoy some great food, friendly competition and family fun! A big welcome to all of our new members! Good luck and safe travels to everyone for the upcoming shows.

Thank you, SLRBA





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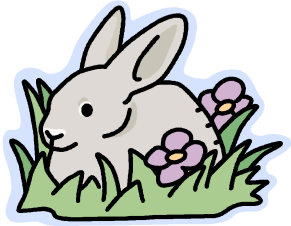
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