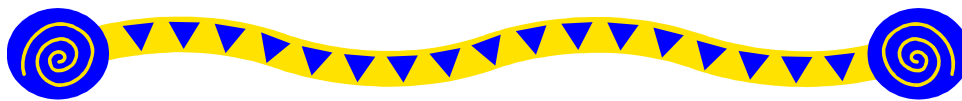


LRBA NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2012



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

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NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

January 31, 2013

LRBA, Inc. web page

<http://www.louisianarba.net>

On Facebook:

LRBA Members Only Please

LRBA Email List

***www.yahogroups.com - Join group
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Business card ad ~ \$4.00 per year
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LRBA YOUTH OFFICERS

Emily LaMarca – President

Austin Roark – Vice President

Alyssa Lloid – Secretary

Russell Lisitsa – Treasurer



Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 10, 2012

LRBA Youth Scholarship Show, Burton
Center, Lake Charles, La.

Ariana St. Pierre/ Bradley Babin, Show
Secretary

Judges: Lee Engel and Cheryl Blackman

NOVEMBER 17, 2012

AARC Double Open/Youth Fall Show,
St. Martin Parish Livestock Shed, Breaux
Bridge, La.

Yvonne Hebert, Show Secretary

JANUARY 4 & 5, 2013

BTRC Show, Raceland, Louisiana

Ariana St. Pierre, Show Secretary

Judges: Allen Mesick, Randy Shumaker,
Cheryl Blackman and Frank Farrow

MARCH 2, 2013

LRBA State Show, Burton Center, Lake
Charles, La

Mini Rex, Netherland Dwarf, Polish and
Dutch Specialties in Open and Youth, Ariana
St. Pierre, Secretary

MARCH 9, 2013

Iowa Rabbit Festival, Double Open/Double
Youth, Iowa, Louisiana Dana & Ronnie
Duhon, Secretary

MAY 24 & 25, 2013

Memorial Day Show, Alexandria, La Collette
Waters, Open Show Secretary, Breanna
Dunaway, Youth Show Secretary, Ariana St.
Pierre, Show Superintendent

*Please visit www.louisianarba.net for
catalogs and fliers.

From the desk of the President

As I write this article, the 2012/2013 LRBA
Show Season is well under way. The
SLRBA and the CLRBA have both host very
successful shows with great turnout and lots
of bunnies entered. It was nice to see that
we have several new members showing
rabbits this year. To all of the new exhibitors

I want to extend a heartfelt welcome to our
hobby. May you find as much pleasure in
this hobby as I have enjoyed in my years in
the wonderful hobby of ours. It was also nice
to see so many familiar faces. I am glad so
many continue to enjoy this hobby year after
year.

Many of our members took the ride over to
Wichita, Kansas this year to attend the
ARBA Convention. I have heard reports that
several of the rabbits that they exhibited
placed quite well. Congratulations to all who
exhibited their rabbits at the ARBA
Convention and placed against this high
level of competition.

In this newsletter you will find the profiles of
the members nominated for LRBA awards.
Please take the time to read there profiles
and vote for the nominee you feel is most
qualified for the job. Remember that all
award ballots must be post marked on or
before the last day of December.

Thank you and may God bless.

Lynn Hebert - LRBA President



From the Vice-President:

Happy cooler weather to everyone I know
we are all enjoying it especially the buns. I
hope everyone who went to convention had
a great time! I heard a lot of our members
did well placing in the top of their classes.
That's great and exactly what our goals are

as breeders to produce the best quality rabbits. However I do know that convention didn't start off the best for everyone, I want to send out prayers to the Byron family for their tragic loss and we hope for a speedy recovery for Amanda and Kari. I did not personally know them but they were part of our huge bunny family and I know they are in everyone's thoughts and prayers.

We have the youth show coming up this month and I believe it will be a great one I encourage everyone to come out and support our youth! I know they are excited to come and show us all what they have learned and I must say I was impressed at the last two shows the quality of rabbits these kids are producing. I hope to see many great things in the future and I want ya'll to keep up the great work kids!

I want to thank everyone who has put in their time and efforts with all the shows it really does make a difference to have volunteers and workers. I hope this year will be filled with lots of fun times and GC Legs!

Breanna Dunaway LRBA
Vice President and Youth Advisor

From the Secretary:

Greetings fellow bunny breeders!

What wonderful weather we are having here in the south right now! Our show season kicked off to a great start with two very well done shows by SLRBA and CLRBA. Thanks to everyone who helped out with making sure they ran well.

Because of our deadlines, I won't get to tell you about convention in this issue, but be on the lookout for February's issue with lots of information from convention! I know several of us Cajuns are making the trek to Kansas in just a few days and we are all excited to see how our southern bunnies hold up in showing against everyone else. I'm proud to

say that we have several Louisiana youth that are participating in the contests available at convention. Austin Roark and Bradley Babin are part of the District Intermediate team for Breed ID and judging. They are both participating in the individual contests as well. Larindy Guidry is participating in youth contests in the junior division.

Our new district 6 director, Rusty Westhoff, and I have been discussing plans to have Louisiana youth teams for next year's convention. If you are even remotely thinking about going, please contact me ASAP to start mapping out plans. We would love to have our state well represented!

The Annual Youth Scholarship show is only a month away and may have passed by the time you read this, but please come out and support our youth! They are the future of this hobby.

CLUBS- please make sure that you have done your part and sent or brought a donation for the raffle table at the youth show.

Remember that in June, we voted to change the entry fee for LRBA sponsored shows. This includes the youth show, our state show in March and Memorial Weekend show in May. The early entry fee is now \$4 and late entry fee is \$5.

Charter Renewal notices will be sent out in early November. Please be aware that all clubs must have their charter (or affiliation) renewals in to me by December 31, 2012 or a late fee will be assessed. I need these in prior to being able to send in the LRBA charter for ARBA. Also make sure that you meet ARBA's deadline, this can affect the shows that are hosted early in 2013.

Right now most of us are happily breeding our bunnies in hopes of that stunning showstopper for the spring. Make sure to take precaution against the colder weather

by having lots of hay on hand or tarps to block the north wind if necessary. Thankfully freezing water is not too much of an issue for us here.

Just a reminder — when you see a new face at a show, please take the time to say hello and introduce yourself. Many newcomers are shy and unaware of how things operate at a show. Sometimes a friendly word of encouragement will help to keep someone in the hobby instead of quitting right out of the gate. We want everyone to feel welcomed and encourage everyone to learn and grow in rabbits!

Ariana St. Pierre, LRBA Secretary

Celebrating 5 years with LRBA!

Mark, Mary Beth, and Destiny Bearden

Jessica Mast

Edgar and Laura Mae Venable

Tom Green

Alyssa Lloid

Celebrating 10 years with LRBA!

Eric Himel

New Members since June 2012

Emily Ducote (Y)

Bill Garrett

Ainsley Gaspard (Y)

Alexis Lozier

Kara Ryland

Emma Dupree (Y)

Aleah Lukaszski (Y)

Celeste Orgeron

Zachary Belton (Y)

Brelyn Savage

Garrett Hendry

Lee Percle

Steven Durand

Monica Lopez

Ariel Carter (Y)

Aidan Lopez (Y)

Ronnie Perrin

Courtney, Payton, and Adam Smith (Y)

Expiring Members

Auboy & Donna Holland (8/12)

Meredith Musgrove & Family (8/12)

Gayle Zimmerman & family (9/12)

James Bynum (10/12)

Kenneth and Imogene Drews (10/12)

Stephanie Hawkins & family (10/12)

Olivia Smith (10/12)

Taylor Cooksey (11/12)

Dalton Easterling (11/12)

Warren, Tammy, and Alice Himel (11/12)

Danny and Raelena Luquette (11/12)

Shuff Family (11/12)

Kiley and Skylar Hough (11/12)

Mary Byrd (12/12)

Bet Loe (12/12)

Blair Guerin & family (12/12)

Logan Brown (1/13)

Breanna Dunaway & family (1/13)

Easley family (1/13)

Laura Hogan (1/13)

Mary, Todd, and Tommy Perez (1/13)

Elliot family (2/13)

Frazier family (2/13)

Tracey & Tyrone Freeman (2/13)

Vikkie and William Lafollette (2/13)

Latham Family (2/13)

Leonard and Mavis Musk (2/13)

Samuel Babineaux (2/13)

From the LPRC:

We held our first specialty show on October 12, 2012. There were 47 entries. Winners were as follows:

Youth BOB - Destiny Bearden

Youth BOSB - Carley Jeane

Open BOB - Karen Guillory

Open BOSB - Amy/Aleah Lukaszski

Everyone was excited to see one another again and we all enjoyed conversations about our little aristocrats. Thank you CLRBA for letting us use the facility and tables for our show. Thank you Maleta Walls for the BOB, BOSB, BOV, BOSV awards for the youth show. They are very nice and the kids really liked them. And a special thank you to Adam McCabe for judging the shows for us.

We have a specialty show planned for the 2013 LRBA State show with Judge Ken McCracken. We were also invited to do two specialty shows in Longview, Texas for the ETRBA and accepted. Those shows will be in June of 2013 (Judge Michael Franke) and August of 2013 (judge not yet determined).

We hope to hold several more Polish specialties as the 2013 show year progresses.

If you have interest in Polish, please see any of our members. If you wish to join us in our efforts to preserve and improve this wonderful breed, please find our membership form in this newsletter.

Mary Beth, President LPRC

SLNDRC NEWS

SLNDC held a specialty show on October 6, 2012 in conjunction with the South Louisiana RBA 3rd Annual Fall Show which kicked off the fall show season for many Louisiana rabbit breeders. Lee Engel was the judge. The kids loved to have the opportunity to learn from him as always. Many thanks for the time he devotes to them and the knowledge he so willingly shares with others. The results are as follows: Youth-BOB: Morgan Wainwright, BOS Morgan Wainwright, Open -BOB: Lynn Langley BOS: Jamie St. Romaine.

The Netherlands also fared well in the SLRBA Show A and B as in Youth Show A 2nd Runner Up was ND shown by Morgan Wainwright, Open Show A BOBO was ND shown by Ronnie and Dana Duhon, Youth Show B Best in Show went to Tommy Perez with a Junior Silver Martin Doe, and BOBO to Morgan Wainwright. Special Congratulations to Tommy Perez who also claimed second BIS at the following show in Alexandria, La!! Way to Go Tommy!! Keep up that winning streak!!

As the new Digests are published and current sweeps standing are calculated and reported, many of SLNDRC members continue to stand out and represent our area well. Congratulations to Ronnie and Dana Duhon and Lynn Langley for their top placings in Region 6 in Quality Points and for being among the top 25 in the nation in

Quality as well. The youth of Louisiana continue to dominate the region when it comes to quality, occupying all but one of the top five spots. Congrats to Morgan Wainwright, Courney, Gavin Duhon , and Ryan Hebert, Lacey Trahan, and Stone Manning on a job well done! Keep up the good work! Also worthy of mentioning, another SLNDRC member's outstanding accomplishments, breed notwithstanding, Chase Herman, is currently 7th in the country in Holland Lop Quality Points, 1st in his zone in Quality and Sweeps, is currently in 9th Place in Herdsman Points and holds the Number 3 and 19th Top Lop position. Outstanding job Chase!! Even if those rabbits have broken ears.

Many of SLNDRC members attended the ARBA convention and from all reports, had a great time! Plans are already in the works for Dwarf Nationals in the Spring!! Look out Louisville!!

HALL OF FAME: Zeke & Collette Waters

Zeke and I got into showing rabbits almost by accident. After telling Cody, our oldest grandson, a childhood memory about my pet rabbits Brownie and Buck, he and Zeke decided that I needed a rabbit. So one afternoon the two of them came in and handed me a small paper sack THAT WIGGLED! Inside the sack was a small brown and white bunny, who I promptly named Easter. She was soon followed by Brownie and Buck. About a year later I saw a bit in the newspaper about CLRBA having a rabbit show. Zeke was home and we decided to go. Later I attended the LRBA state show- just to see. We were hooked. My first purebred rabbits were French Lops I got from Mr. Lynn Hebert.

Now several years and breeds later Zeke and I are still in love with our rabbits. In fact, should anyone visit us the first thing Zeke does is dragged the visitors to the barn to

see the rabbits. He is already planning on what breed would be good for our great granddaughter – after all she will be old enough to show in just four years!

We enjoy showing rabbits and look forward to visiting everyone at the shows. In the future I hope to be a judge by the time I retire from teaching and Zeke's goal is to have a Best in Show rabbit.

Zeke and I are honored to have been nominated for the Hall of Fame award.

HALL OF FAME: Kathy Elliott

Wow! What an honor to be nominated for the Hall of Fame. My name is Kathy Elliott and I live outside of DeRidder, Louisiana. I currently serve as Vice President of Tiny Town Rabbit Club. My boys and I have been active in rabbit showing since January of 2006. I helped organize a 4H rabbit club that has now grown into an ARBA and LRBA club. I am over the Parish Fair and Livestock Expo Rabbit Shows, and our club is working towards an ARBA, LRBA show in DeRidder in the near future.

My favorite breeds are Holland lops and American fuzzy lops. Rabbits and rabbit shows have played a very important part in our lives and have helped my boys learn responsibility and built character. I am so appreciative to all of the "rabbit people" that have come into our lives and helped us learn about this wonderful, fun family activity. I enjoy visiting with everyone at the shows, even with all the frantic activity that goes on during the show.

Thank you again for the nomination. It truly is an honor.

Breeder of the Year: Ken & Angelle Kraemer

Our names are Ken and Angelle Kraemer. We have been married for 21 years and have 3 beautiful children, Kody, 17, Kasey, 16, and Kylie, 13. We also have 3 lovely dogs, Sophie, Daisy and Bosco. I have been a nurse for 19 years and am currently employed by the Lafourche Parish School Board. Ken has been a designer at Hunington Ingalls Shipyard for 24 years.

Our love for rabbits started in December of 2008, when our daughter wanted a bunny for Christmas. When our boys found out their sister wanted a bunny, they each wanted one too. Well, needless to say, after realizing how gentle and affectionate the bunnies were, we fell in love, buying more and more bunnies. Our outside cage space began to expand from 6 holes to now 45 holes in an A/C barn. Our barn consists of awesome show stock, most of them with GC legs.

We truly enjoy attending rabbit shows to display our beautiful bunnies of course, but also meeting new people and visiting with wonderful bunny friends we have met along the way. Many people have touched our lives throughout the years. We have made life-long relationships that far exceed anything else.

We are always willing to learn new things that can make us better rabbit breeders. We belong to multiple clubs and I am now the BTRC secretary and an officer in the BHLRC. We want to continue 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!

We would like to thank all of you very much. We are extremely honored to be nominated for the Open Breeder of the Year award.

Ken and Angelle Kraemer

Breeder of the Year: Kevin Leblanc

Hello, I'm Kevin LeBlanc, and it's an honor to be nominated for LRBA Breeder of the Year. Though I no longer raise rabbits, I plan on helping with the hobby as time allows through LRBA and 4-H. My job has taken a lot more time, as announced at a press conference in late September, the project that was looming has finally been approved and my free time during the week is very limited.

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 eight 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 also provide two grants to 4-h'ers from West Baton Rouge Parish to attend summer camp at Camp Grant Walker each summer.

I'm a member of the following rabbit clubs, ARBA, LRBA, 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, Vice President for 2009/2010, and LRBA President 2011/2012. I have also served as

BTRA President and LMRRC Vice President.

In closing, I'd like to thank everyone that has helped me through the years. Hope everyone has nest boxes full of kits and I'll see you at the shows.

Thanks,
Kevin LeBlanc

Breeder of the Year: Ariana St. Pierre

It is an honor to be nominated for breeder of the year! Thank you to everyone who approved me being on the ballot.

My husband of 10 years, Artie St. Pierre, began our adventure in rabbits 4 years ago when our oldest son, Bradley, started in 4H. I instantly fell in love with French lops and haven't stopped loving them since. When I first began showing them, I was the only breeder at the time. For 8 months or so I was the only one putting them on the table in open. I know other breeders had them in the past and I encouraged everyone I talked with to have a French Lop in their barn. Four years later, I am happy to say that we recently had 30 French on the table in Open with one in every class! That's quite an accomplishment for such a large breed. I know I didn't bring about the increase in numbers in the breed alone, but I do know that I have worked hard to increase the numbers here in Louisiana in my favorite breed.

Currently I am LRBA's secretary as well as superintendent and show secretary for many past shows as well as upcoming ones. In the past, I have also served as Sweepstakes chair, Louisiana Mini Rex Rabbit Club secretary, Tri Parish Dutch Club secretary, and youth division secretary. I am glad to have served in all of these capacities, but I am very excited that many of our newer faces have stepped up to help our clubs as well as learn the inner workings.

Winning Rookie of the Year in 2010 was one of my proudest moments. However winning BOB or BOS with a homegrown French Lop is right up there in top moments. This year I finished at #30 in the Lop Rabbit Club of America's Open French Sweepstakes. I also had 10 rabbits that made it to the Top Lop listing! I one day hope to compete with the "big names" like Lynn Eden and Tami Shaw. My short term goal is to win BIS with a French Lop that was born here at my barn. My long term goal is to win BOB at ARBA convention or even Lop Nationals.

I thoroughly believe that educating our youth and new members is the future of our hobby and our club. If we don't teach them, how will they ever be able to move up and want to be more involved? I do my best to help and encourage anyone who wants to learn. I strive to be accessible and approachable in all aspects of communicating. I enjoy our wonderful hobby and appreciate all the friends I have made along the way.

Thank you again for the nomination!

Ariana St. Pierre

Breeder of the Year: Linda Burkhart

I feel so honored to be nominated for breeder of the year! I love this wonderful hobby of raising and showing rabbits. All the wonderful people I've met have kept me addicted to the rabbits. I look forward to every show. The joy on the faces of the new breeders and pet owners taking home their new rabbits always leaves a smile on my face, too.

I live in Walker, La and it all started 3 years ago when I decided I wanted a giant rabbit. I thought I was the only fool crazy enough to drive over 500 miles to Fort Worth to get two pet bunnies from a Flemish breeder. I soon discovered rabbit shows and more crazy people like me. I bought a few more rabbits, and started showing them and their kits. I've enjoyed meeting new friends and traveling to shows. My Flemish have done well, even

winning several classes at Nationals and Convention.

I decided it would be fun to have some smaller rabbits and chose to try some Holland Lops. I love them even more than the Flemish. I've worked very hard, and have been helped with wonderful stock from some generous breeders. Lots of breeding, learning, and culling, and my Holland herd is coming along quite well. We were able to work our way up to the top 25 nationally last year and I'm hoping we will be able to do as well for 2012. I was also privileged to help get the Bayou Holland Lop Rabbit Club up and running last year and we were able to put on three specialties thanks to LRBA and CLRB.

Thank you all. I look forward to seeing you at the shows.

Linda Burkhardt

Breeder of the Year: Ronnie and Dana Duhon

Hello LRBA Members,
Dana and I have been married for 8 years. We have 4 beautiful kids. We have 3 boys and 1 girl. We live south of Crowley. We have start out with 5-hole rabbitry and grew to about 250 hole rabbitry. Here is our story.

It all starts in 2009 when we heard about Netherland Dwarf Rabbit from a work friend. We start out looking for some [Netherland Dwarf rabbits](#). It seem like no one had them or had sold out of them until we made that call to Kevin Leblanc. He had a buck and doe he had for sell. Still new and didn't really know about showing. Start to breed the two rabbits we got from Kevin Leblanc. We did some research on the computer about showing rabbits. At this point we didn't know if we want to show rabbits or not we bought some more rabbits from Carol Petit jean and Carrie LaBoyteaux. Carrie had invites us to the Iowa show. So we went to the show and meet up with her and her family. We also met up with Kevin Leblanc and bought our first BEW pair of Netherland Dwarf Rabbit. We watch Frank Furrow judge the Netherland dwarf rabbits. He was explained to the youth about the rabbits and was

asking question. We had learned a lot that day. From that day we were hook. It was like some kind of parasite had taken over our brain and wants to buy more rabbits. (We think we still have it and have passed it to other)

Our first show to show rabbit was Baker, LA 2009. We can still remember that day. We had an S sable doe that took BOV and BOG. Poor doe was the only one in the class but we were so proud of her. We got a nice first place ribbon. Let me tell you about this doe. She had nice color but her ears was 2 1/2" long and it didn't balance with her head. We didn't learn until later that they need to be as short as they can be. The book of stander said they need to be no longer them 2 1/2" we was happy they was 2 1/2". We had shown other dwarf that day but didn't do that good. As we continue to breed rabbit we show our Jr. Or first year we show rabbit we took 1 BOB and 1 BOS with our home grown rabbits. We grand champion one of our home grown rabbits that year to. We were very happy about our wins but we knew that we had a long way to go to beat the top Louisiana breeder.

In 2010 we were lucky enough to buy some of the top Louisiana breeder Netherland Dwarf herd. They herd had help us so much but we knew we had to get other blood line in into our breeding program. Dana added some Holland to our breeding program. At this time she was into the Holland lops and Ronnie was into his Dwarf. It was funny because we were fight over cage space. We had expanded our barn to have more cages. Even though we had more cages we still fight over the cage space. To think about it now it's funny how we were fight over cage space. At the end of 2010 we start to import rabbits from other top breeder in USA. At the end of 2010 and 2011 sweepstakes year we were doing a lot better than our first years. We had 4 BOB, 2 BOS and one 1 RIS with a home breed rabbit. At the end of 2011 we started a new spec club called SLNDRC to help promote Netherland Dwarf. Our number for dwarf had rose into the 100 for the open and youth shows.

In 2012 we add two new breed Tans and French Lops. Tans and French Lop is a side project. Our main breed is Netherland

Dwarf. We were lucky to get some nice tans. When we got them we didn't like them because they were so bony. Also they were hard to breed. After we learn a trick to breed them and had our first litter we start too really like them. Dana is messing with the French Lop she is working really hard on them. We will continue to improve our Netherland Dwarf Rabbit and one day able to compete at national show.

We have learned a lot in show rabbits and have met some wonderful people. We love helping youth to start at this wonderful hobby. We are member of ARBA, LRBA, ANDRC, SLNDRC, AARC, SLRBA and we just join BTRA. We want to also thank you for open breeder of the year nomination.

Rookie Breeder of the Year: Breanna Dunaway

Hello all, my name is Breanna Dunaway and I have been nominated for Open Rookie Breeder of the Year. I am also the new 2013 Vice President and Youth Advisor for LRBA.

I first want to say thanks as it is such an honor to be nominated. A little bit about me and my life: I have a wonderful husband named Ben. We have been together for 7 years. We have 3 amazing children: AJ, age 7, Payton, age 2 1/2 and Blake, 7 months old. I was born and raised in Gonzales, La., a small town where everybody knows everybody and one of the first questions people ask you is "And who are your parents?" We have recently moved to the Leesville, Louisiana area and are adjusting just fine.

My love for animals started at a very young age and I have been lucky enough to continue with my passion for them throughout life. My first LRBA show was at Addis and I was amazed at how different rabbits were outside of 4-h as a kid. From then on I was hooked. I went through several breeds before deciding that French Lops are my absolute favorite. Currently I have around 25 French lops, and am working alongside Ariana St Pierre to start producing different varieties of colors in Louisiana. I have enjoyed meeting so many

great rabbit breeders and have learned so much. I hope to be able to get our French lop numbers up at the shows so that we can have classes of 50 plus rabbits like many other popular breeds. Again I'm honored for the nomination and I hope all your nest boxes are full of babies. Have a great show season!!

Thanks, Breanna Dunaway

Open Rookie of the Year: Bryan Manning

My name is Bryan Manning, and I am from Sulphur, Louisiana. I live on a small farm with my wife, Kodie and three boys, Stone, Henry, and Crane, and about 100 rabbits! Stone and I have been members of the LRBA since the spring of 2011. Our interest in showing rabbits began as an effort to spend time together doing something we both enjoy. On our farm, we have horses and chickens, and of course, a dog and a barn cat, but we wanted to find something a little bit different. We decided to investigate showing rabbits.

I had spent some time with Randall and Judy Whitfield in the mid-1990s learning about breeding and showing rabbits and had even attended a few shows with them but was unable to start showing at the time. So, I had a little knowledge about a few breeds in the beginning, but boy, did we have a lot to learn! We attended our first show in Baker, LA, mainly to look at the different breeds and choose one for each of us to start. I already knew that I wanted to raise mini rex from my prior fascination with their velvety fur. Stone wanted something smaller and chose Netherland Dwarfs. Little did we know, they should mail a pamphlet for a 12 step program (to deal with rabbit addiction) when you receive your LRBA card!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience showing mini rex rabbits. The breed is nice for beginners, in my opinion, largely due to

the manageable size, ease of breeding and low grooming requirements. There are also enough color varieties to suit just about anyone's taste. I currently show black, broken, castor and otter varieties, but my main focus has always been otter. I love the look of a rich, black otter in prime coat. However, as I have gained experience, I have come to appreciate a rabbit of any breed or variety that is really nicely typed and in prime condition, partly because of the beauty of the animal and mainly because of all the work it represents. I think this should be the main focus of a breeder of any show animal.

We have learned quite a bit over the past 18 months, some from books, some from the Internet, but mainly, from other breeders. The best resource the LRBA has is its membership. Stone and I have both been fortunate to have obtained stock from experienced breeders willing to take the time, not only to offer us excellent starter animals, but also to take the time to show us the attributes they possessed that made them so nice. At our first show, which was the 2011 Memorial Day show (a triple with specialties in both of our breeds...CRAZY!) we were being constantly aided by fellow breeders. They helped to make sure our rabbits were properly groomed and more importantly, on the table when they needed to be! It was such a humbling experience.

My goal is to pay it forward and encourage other beginners in the same way that I have been, and still continue to be, encouraged by my fellow LRBA members. Thank you for such a wonderful experience. The many friendships we have established through this hobby will surely endure long after the last rabbit pellet rolls out of my barn.

Open Rookie of the Year: Steven and Stacy Hyatt

We are honored to be nominated for the Rookie of the Year. We have been raising Holland Lop and French Lop rabbits since March 2009. It all started with a mixed breed French Lop that we bought at an auction for \$2.50. After discovering this little buck's charms and his personality, we just knew we had to have more.

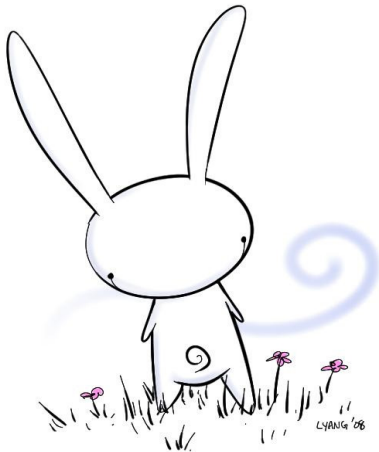
After many non-pedigreed rabbits and many false starts, I finally located the LRBA, ARBA, and reputable breeders. With lots of help from wonderful people in these organizations, we were off and running. In our first show, we earned 3 DQ's, and one leg. It only took that one show to have us hooked.

Three years later, a Holland Lop Nationals show, many travelled miles and a few BOB and BOS's later, we are still striving to breed that perfect Holland lop and that awesome French Lop. We so enjoy our rabbit friends, the new places we go, and every litter that is born.

We are proud to be members of the LRBA, ARBA, HLRSC, and the Bayou Lops Rabbit Club. I proudly serve as president of this newly expanded club and can't wait to have our first specialty showcasing Holland, French, English, and Mini Lop rabbits. As your newly appointed Zone 6 director for the Holland Lop Rabbit Specialty Club, I am looking forward to increasing my communication with breeders within our zone, and across the country.

My husband is also coming into his own breeding French. He started with me, but now enjoys the French as HIS breed. I am a true Holland girl, while he prefers the bigger breeds. We are so happy there are two of us to serve these two breeds.

Thank you again for nominating us, and we will see you at the shows!



**Youth Breeder of the Year:
Bradley Babin**

My name is Bradley Babin. Thank you for nominating me for Youth Breeder of the Year. I have been raising mini rex for 4 ½ years and I've placed well against heavy competition.

At the Alexandria show, I won BOB with a homegrown Broken Senior Doe. She continued on and won 1st Reserve in Show as well. This was my first "big" win with a homegrown. I was also a Jr youth ambassador for 2011-2012 year. I hope to be a senior ambassador in a few years.

I am responsible for my 50 holes of Mini Rex. I get a little help financially, but I plan my breedings, do my own culling, and groom my own rabbits for show.

Thank you for your time. Please vote for me.

Bradley Babin

**Youth Breeder of the Year:
Austin Roark**

My name is Austin Roark, and first of all I would like to share my gratitude for being nominated for Youth Breeder of the Year. It means a lot to me to be nominated, for such

a High Honor. I would first like to tell you a little bit about myself. I am a Proud member of Caldwell Parish High-school, we're I am currently a freshman. I have a 4.0 Grade Point Average, as of right now. I am a Proud member of the Caldwell Parish Beta, 4-H, Students for a Cause, and Jesus Club.

I raise [Holland Lops](#) exclusively, and yes I've ventured around into other breeds, but there's always been Holland in my barn. Holland's just mean a lot to me. My closest Friends, whom friendship I cherish, all raise Holland Lops. The Holland Ladies of Louisiana Cheryl Guerin, Angelle Kremer, and Mrs. Stacy Hyatt, have all been huge helpers to me and my project, thank you Ladies.

I would also like to thank, Mrs. Breanna Dunaway, for stepping up and accepting the position of Youth Chairperson, we, the youth, appreciate it dearly. I would also like to thank the whole Administration of the LRBA Inc. without y'all nothing would ever get done.

Rabbits have taught me to do many things, not only in the rabbit world, but I have also gained knowledge that I can apply to my life. Rabbits have taught me such things as: Responsibility, Consistency, and Character. Through everything that I have learned there has been an obstacle that I've had to overcome to obtain that knowledge.

Once Again, I'm thankful for your nomination, and thank you, LRBA Members, for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,
Austin Roark

**Youth Breeder of the Year:
Daniel Caleb Elliot**

Hi. I am Daniel Caleb Elliott. You can call me Caleb. I have been nominated for Youth Breeder of the Year. I am excited and surprised. Thank you for this nomination, it means a lot to me.

I am a 16 year old homeschooler, and am very active in 4H. I have completed all the rabbit books, currently serve as President of

my club, Parliamentarian of the Jr. Leaders club, and am on the Executive Council. I am also a member of Tiny Town Rabbit Club.

My first rabbit purchase was five years ago and was a mini lop that I bought from Mrs. Cormier. I won 1st RUP and BIS with that mini lop at his first show, a double show in Alexandria. I am now showing his children and grandchildren and have earned legs on both. I enjoy helping younger and new rabbit showmen, and have taught rabbit showmanship clinics at the local parish fair and livestock expo. Rabbits are a very big part of my life and I am working on enhancing my mini lop stock. I enjoy the friendly competition in our state. Hope to see you at the shows.

Youth Rookie Breeder of the Year: Larindy Guidry

Hello, my name is Larindy Guidry. I am 11 years old and I am in the 6th grade at South Beauregard Upper Elementary School. My family and I live in Ragley, Louisiana. I am a member of Beauregard Parish 4-H, ARBA, LRBA, ANDRC, HLRSC, and SLNDRC. Thank you for nominating me for Youth Rookie of the Year.

My rabbit habit started in October of 2010 when I attended my first 4-H rabbit show at our parish fair. I only had a mixed breed bunny from Tractor Supply. At that show I decided I wanted Netherland Dwarfs and Holland Lops. I was lucky enough to be able to buy my first pedigreed show/breeding rabbits from some very helpful breeders. I have been breeding and showing for two years. I have only missed two LRBA shows in Louisiana in those two years. I love going to shows and visiting friends and making new friends. I have even attended two shows in Texas. This year my Mom and I are going to the ARBA Convention in Wichita, Kansas. I will be showing a few rabbits and competing in showmanship and a couple other youth contests.

I now have 32 Netherland Dwarfs, 17 Holland Lops and 1 French Lop (including babies). Raising rabbits is a big job and it has taught me to be more responsible.... from knowing which rabbits to breed together for better offspring, feeding, cleaning and doing barn chores, to getting up early to pack for a show and being up late unpacking, and making sure everyone is fed and watered before bed.

The most exciting times have been winning RIS, BOB and BOS with home-grown bunnies. It makes me proud to have raised such nice bunnies. I also enjoy writing for judges. It helps me learn more about the breed. It was also fun to help with the bake sales for our new ND club. It's not all about winning! It's about having fun, making friends and being a good sportsman. Everybody gets a chance to win and be proud. I am just as happy for my friends when they win as I am if I win. Thank you for considering me for Youth Rookie of the Year!

Youth Breeder of the Year: Alyssa Lloid

Hi! I'm Alyssa Lloid and I'm super happy to be nominated for Youth Breeder of the Year!

I'm a junior at Pineville High School and live just outside the city limits of Pineville, Louisiana with my mom, dad, many pets, and around one hundred rabbits. I play the bassoon and clarinet in the Pineville High Rebel Band. I'm LRBA Youth secretary and am an At Large member of Rapides Parish 4-H club. I have been in 4-H since 4th grade. I've gotten a lot more active with my local all-breed club over the last few years (Central Louisiana Rabbit Breeder's Association) and have helped with four rabbit clinics for Central Louisiana 4-H and youth. Rabbit clinics are a lot of work but it's all worth it when the kids learn about their rabbits, more rabbits get tattooed and less rabbits get DQ'd at 4-H shows.

I raise and show Dutch, Mini Lops, and Polish. I've had larger breeds but the

smaller rabbits are a lot easier to carry around! I belong to the American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA), Louisiana Rabbit Breeders Association, Central Louisiana Rabbit Breeders Association, Tri-Parish Dutch Club, Tiny Town Rabbit Club, Texas Rabbit Breeder's Club, Texas Mini Lop Rabbit Breeder's Club, Mini Lop Rabbit Club of America, American Mini Lop Rabbit Club and American Dutch Rabbit Club. I've increased my rabbit knowledge and improved my skills thanks to many rabbit friends in LRBA and CLRBA. I miss Ms. Mollie Gardner - she was the person who finally convinced me to like rabbit showmanship! And thanks to Mr. Hebert and Mr. Kevin for making me compete in showmanship even when I didn't like it! Thanks to all their efforts I won the 2012 Rapides Parish Fair Rabbit Showmanship belt buckle!

I was honored by the membership of LRBA by being chosen as Youth Rookie of the Year for 2009 and Youth Breeder of the Year for 2010 and 2011. That made me so happy and proud!

I've worked really hard with my rabbits the last few years. My Mini Lop rabbits have shown well and I'm working on the Polish now. Mini Lops and Polish rule! I'm working on the juniors that are going to take over next year!

My Biology teacher was surprised at how much I've learned about genetics from my rabbits. She asked me to bring my science fair rabbit project boards for my class to see. Breeding and choosing good show rabbits is hard work! Sometimes my rabbits go to school too!

My rabbits go to lots of local activities like Palm Sunday children's activities at church, the local children's museum, schools and to the Alexandria Zoo for educational programs.

I love to sew and cook too. I'm a BSA Explorer at the Alexandria Zoo and volunteer to demonstrate weaving and churning butter at Kent House (a local state commemorative area). In Teen Leaders I volunteer for the Rapides Parish Fair and the Food Bank. I volunteer to help with 4-H sewing camp during the summers too.

I am so excited about this nomination! Again, thank you for the honor of being nominated for LRBA Youth Breeder of the Year!

Youth Rookie Breeder of the Year: Russel Lisitsa

My name is Russel Lisitsa. I am a 13 year old 7th grader from Lake Charles, Louisiana. My usual activities consist of going to school, participating in sports, and caring for my rabbits. I have been showing, breeding, and selling Dutch rabbits since 2011.

My journey into rabbits began with the acquisition of my first rabbit. It was a blue buck and a gift from my cousin. My cousin is the one who first told me about the shows, and encouraged me to enter my buck. I did, and enjoyed it so much I bought more rabbits and continued showing.

The shows have provided me with the opportunity to not only expand my knowledge of Dutch, but other breeds as well. Upon reflection, I feel the shows have provided me with more than just knowledge. They have also given me the opportunity to build an extensive network of friends. It is to these friends, along with my family, that I must give thanks. It is their continued help and support that has allowed me to progress to where I am today.

Youth Rookie of the Year: Ryan Guerin

My name is Ryan Guerin. I am honored to be nominated by you for Youth Rookie of The Year. I am 13 years old and I attend Holy Family School in Port Allen, but I live in Plaquemine.

My first interest in rabbits was when I saw my dad's rabbit trophies from 25 years ago. He took me to my first rabbit show in Lafayette to pick out a breed to raise and

show. That's when I meet Mr. Kevin LeBlanc and Bill my 1st Castor Mini Rex buck. A month later I entered Bill in the West Baton Rouge Parish Fair and he won Best in Show. That's when I knew this was something I wanted to do. My dad and I started to research the Mini Rex breed to find the top breeders in order for me to get the best rabbits I could for a good start. That's when we talked to Mrs. Sandi Lowery. I met her at a show in Mississippi to get a pair of brokens and a castor doe. At that show I won Best in Show and 1st Reserve. I didn't realize how important that was, but I knew I had some good rabbits to start with. Later, I met Mrs. Nancy Walker to get another castor doe from her to start breeding my rabbits. In the spring of 2011, I started breeding to show my own rabbits. It's fun to check the nest box to see what you get, especially in brokens. By the fall of 2011 I had my own rabbits to show. I am still learning about the Mini Rex. What's fun about my new hobby is how to pick out the best rabbit to show and breed. Rabbit shows are fun. I learn something new at every show. I have met many new friends, young and old. Mr. John Mulkey (Ha-Ha) and I pick on each other all the time at the shows.

I am a Boy Scout in Troop 23 in Plaquemine. I am the Sr. Patrol Leader in my troop. I am working on my Eagle project to become an Eagle Scout. I am also an officer in the West Baton Rouge Parish 4-H Club. At my school I am a member of the Beta Club and the Student Council. I participate in school sports. Cross country, basketball, and track are the sports I like. Some of my other hobbies are hunting and fishing with my dad.

I would like to thank all the people that have helped me with my rabbits so far. But especially Mr. Kevin, Mrs. Nancy and Mrs. Sandi for a great start in Mini Rex. But most of all I need to thank my dad for working and helping me with my rabbits. With him

showing in the past, that has helped me greatly.

I would appreciate it if you would vote for me for the 2012 Youth Rookie of the Year.

Thank You, Ryan Guerin

Youth Breeder of the Year: Courtney Duhon

Hi, my name is Courtney Duhon, I'm an 8th grader at Scott Middle School. I show my team spirit as a cheerleader and a member of the track team. My outside hobbies are dancing, and showing rabbits. My showing partners are my little brothers; Ryan & Gavin.

Youth Breeder of the Year: Ryan Hebert

Hi, my name is Ryan Hebert, I am a 5th grader at SCE School. While at school, I love to read, I read so much I even read to the little kids at my school and got an certificate for it. My outside hobbies are working hard at things I am proud of, which are my rabbits. I am a member of ARBA, ANDRC & LRBA. I show rabbits with my two siblings, which is Courtney & Gavin Duhon.

Courtney & Ryan would want to say "Thank You " to everyone that nominated them as youth breeder of the year!

Youth Rookie Breeder of the Year: Jade Burns

My name is Jade Burns and I am fourteen years old. I love my rabbits! I have been raising and showing them for six years. I remember walking into the show barn at the fair when I was little, begging my mom for a bunny; this is how it turned out!

My barn ranges from 60-100 rabbits and I have had many kinds of breeds. I started out with two Mini Lops, but ended up experimenting with Dutch, Netherland

Dwarf, Dwarf Hotos, French Lops, Mini Rex, Jersey Woolies, English Angoras, Lion Heads, Holland Lops, Tans, and Champagnes. Mini Lops have always been my favorite. I currently only raise Mini Lops, Jersey Woolies, English Angoras, French Lops and Champagnes. Sometimes, I hear people making remarks about how showing multiple breeds is a bad thing. My answer to them is that if the people that are doing it can handle it, and they have fun while doing it, then why does it matter to you?

I love to show! Winning is great, but I love to make friends! Rabbit friends seem like the best to me. They're always there for you! I have made so many awesome friends while showing rabbits. They probably don't realize how grateful I am for them.

Of course, with the good things that come with raising rabbits, there are bad things. When I was about eight, a pitt-bull dog attacked my barn of about seven, at the time. I was terrified. At the end of that day, there were only four bunnies left. Some were injury, but the other three were dead. I hope I never had to encounter that ever again. I also hope that no kid has to go through, or even see that happen!

Recently, my dad passed away and my brother was planning to do his services. It turned out that he didn't have enough money to do it and we didn't know what to do. Even though I didn't know my dad very well (he and my mom were divorced), I offered to sell rabbits to at least have him cremated. We had to have \$2200 in less than twenty-four hours. My mom was posting like crazy EVERYWHERE that I had rabbits for sale. We were mainly selling my French Lops, which we had just starting to get into good. They were also my mom's favorite, but I told her that we could always start again. It didn't take long before Mrs. Ariana saved the day! She came and bought over half of our French Lops herd. I was still able to keep my one favorite French Lop! I want to thank Mrs. Ariana and the Duhons for helping me out through that time. I ended up having the money I needed by the time it needed to be turned in and everything went well. That is one of the times that I have been most grateful for my rabbit friends!

It might sound funny, but so far, my goal in raising rabbits is to have an actual barn to put my bunnies in! What I have now is pretty good, but I can dream right?

Aside from rabbits, I am in the Alexandria Youth Orchestra. We travel and compete all over the United States. So far we've travel around Louisiana, Nashville, Tennessee, New York, New York, and this year we will compete in New Orleans! I made the auditions to go to New York again in 2014 and play at Carnegie Hall! I'm so honored and can't wait! I am also a part of Alexandria Senior High's Flag Line. We perform at the football game's half time show with the marching band. I am disappointed because I'll be out the rest of the season due to surgery I will soon be having. I also go to Seminary every morning before school. It's church in the morning that strengthens you and prepares you for your day and I love it.

I am so thankful that I was nominated for Rookie Breeder of The Year again this year! I work really hard on my breeds and to learn what I do know. I want to learn to work behind the tables and write! I guess the reason I haven't yet is because I'm too shy!

Thank You,
Jade Burns

Youth Rookie Breeder of the Year: Katherine Moss

Hello, my name is Katherine Moss. I am 10 years old in the 5th grade. I make banner roll in school. At First Baptist Christian Academy, I was in honor choir and CIA (Christian's In Action). This year is my first year to be home schooled through the Abeka Academy. I am an active 4H member. I am looking forward to being in the horse club, rabbit club and shooting sports. The best thing about being home schooled is that I get to spend more time with my animals. I live on a farm in Ragley, Louisiana, which is about halfway between Lake Charles and DeRidder. We have all kinds of animals on our farm, horses, cows, sheep, goats, chickens, cats, dogs, and

RABBITS. Rabbits and horses are my favorite. If I'm not playing with the bunnies, I'm riding one of my horses. I participate in the riding clubs and I have finished in the top ten each year for all-around.

Growing up with all these animals, we of course travel to many auctions and livestock sales. I used to walk the aisles of the sale barn picking out all the bunnies I wanted to take home. Needless to say we had a lot of bunnies. Once I decided which breed I really liked my mom began looking for my first registered Holland Lops. I got my first pair of Hollands in November of 2010. Hollands are such sweet bunnies and I love their floppy ears. I went to my first rabbit clinic in March of 2011. It was so much fun! My first rabbit show was the Memorial Day show in Church Point.

I do love my Hollands, but as I walked the aisles of the shows I was drawn to the huge French Lops. I finally talked my mom into getting one and she said, "Only one!" Well, after having a French Lop bunny like Foster's Gorgeous George, who could have just one? My mom and I both fell in love with the French and their wonderful personalities, so now we have more than one!

Having three breeds, since we have now added Netherland Dwarfs, is a lot of work, but I love them all! I spend my afternoons playing with bunnies, feeding, watering, and helping decide which bunnies we should cross to raise our best show bunnies. My mom is willing to try the crosses that I like. That is good because it helps me learn. Sometimes we find out that wasn't a good cross, but sometimes it is perfect. I also spend time entering information into Evans to keep up with pedigrees, names, litters, breedings, and tattoos.

My second favorite thing to do at rabbit shows, the first being showing of course, is to write for the judges. I have learned so much about the different breeds of rabbits. I

think all the breeds are unique and I love to learn about them all. When I am showing, I like to write down what place my rabbits get and the judge's comments. Then I can go home and try to feel what the judge says. I love to do the breed ID quiz, showmanship and youth judging contests.

I am a member of ARBA, LRBA, HLRC, LRCA and ANDRC.

I am so excited and honored to be nominated for youth rookie of the year!

Youth Rookie of the Year: Chase Domingue

Hello! My name is Chase Domingue. I am a freshman at St. Paul's High School in Covington. I am 14 years old and I live in Mandeville Louisiana. I enjoy playing many sports, especially soccer. I am also a part of my local 4-H club. We started White Oaks' Rabbitry about 5 years ago as a very small, 4 hole, meat rabbit set up. We have since expanded slightly to a 10 hole rabbitry, quality not quantity right?! We got our original trio of meat rabbits from Mrs. Carrie Laboyteaux. She is also the person who introduced me into the rabbit showing world and started me off with a nice REW Mini Rex doe who later on, won Grand Champion Female at my Parish fair, my first win. I then began going to other LRBA shows and became a member. I have been a member of the LRBA for about 2 years now, so yes, I am fairly new, but I have learned very quickly from my amazing friends. We still do have our New Zealand Whites and one New Zealand Red doe. They are meat rabbits and are mainly my dad's project, not mine, as I have the show rabbits. I have had a couple of different breeds over the years, trying to find the breed I knew I would love to help improve. I've had Netherland Dwarfs, Polish, and Mini Rex. After having the Netherlands and Polish, I really began to miss the Mini Rex. So I have chosen to stick to Mini Rex, and more specifically Tris. I

have recently purchased a trio from Justin Barbee, owner of 2nd Tri Rabbitry, in East Texas. I am extremely excited to be getting some tris that will be competitive with other varieties and hoping for the best. I couldn't have gotten a better start. Thank you all for nominating me as Youth Rookie of the Year.

Chase Domingue



Youth Rookie of the Year: Dylan Miller

Hello my name is Dylan Miller. I live in Arnaudville, La. I'm 13 years old and I attend Cecilia Junior High School as an 8th grader. I really enjoy school and being able to learn new things. My favorite subject is Science. I have lots of friends and love spending time with them. My family means a lot to me, especially my Mother. I have a little sister named Hannah and I love spending time with her as well. I love playing basketball, reading, and doing word searches. In the summertime, I really enjoy swimming.

I love my rabbits. I really enjoy showing them. Showing them is one of my favorite hobbies. I specialize in showing polish. I got my first pair of polish a little over a year ago. That's about when I started this hobby. With breeding and after purchasing a few more

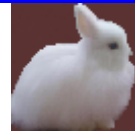
polish, I now have quite a few different colors. I really work hard with my rabbits. I also enjoy taking care of them too. I have made quite a few friends at the shows as well.

I am a member of ARBA, APRC, LRBA, ANDRC, and SLNDRC. It's exciting to be a member of so many clubs. I am still learning something new just about every day when it comes to my rabbits. The rabbit hobby is very exciting. Along the way, I have earned ribbons, trophies and many legs on my rabbits. I really enjoy breeding and showing my polish.

Thanks for nominating me for youth rookie breeder of the year

Dylan

sheliahumphries@yahoo.com



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*MEMBER: ARBA, NJWRC, LRBA & CLRBA

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