

Northeastern Poultry Congress 2014, by Cheryl Barnaba

I was asked to do a post Congress show report. I said sure. Then I realized I have no idea what happened. I am pretty sure I had a good time !

It all started the Sunday before... volunteers fanned out, cages went up shavings went in and a warm pot of healthy chicken harvest stew kept em working.

A few of us stuck around for the better part of the week hanging cage tags, taping out sales areas, prettying up champion row and fielding calls from excited folks traveling in. We even took a moment for a selfie. Our goal was to be pro active. In the old days we just called it Ready. And by gosh we were!

And so were the exhibitors. This year the Congress opened its doors at 9:00a.m. Friday for exhibitors. The theory was get in early... water the birds and kick back with a micro brew. It seemed like most everyone agreed with us and was cooped in by Friday evening. I made all the usual embarrassing mistakes; mispronouncing names, forgetting the names of people I love and respect. One of those is a friend of mine we have always called "Winks". Friday night Mr. Winks walked right up to the check in table and announced *we* had spelled *his* name wrong. Its **Pikerton** not pink'er'ton. Gee we are still sorry about that; but you know we will not do it again !

That night Janet Winnett and I went off line and saddled up to the bar for a complicated salad and a couple of drafts. Unfortunately we did not get a chance to dine with our Virginia friends Ross Keith, Paul Gilroy, Winks Pikerton and Bob Joy. I was bummed out as I enjoy eating with Mr. Winks and his Virginia crew. As many of you know Mr. Winks is a chief and historian in the interdisciplinary field of food. Since I could not be there to eat with him I sent along a local delicacy of my own. I hand made a Skippy and Welch Peanut butter and Jelly sandwich on whole wheat bread (this is a blue state). I heard he found the cultural and economic statement the PB&J sandwich made to be quite intriguing.

That's really the last thing I remember about the show with some notable exceptions. Saturday was a sea of paper work with classes coming back to the office in waves. There were the occasional moments when I had to go

out into the hall to yell at some poor clerk. That's when I bumped in to some friends. Friends I only get to see at exceptional shows. Friends like Pat and Dick Horstman. They took a few minutes away from the APA table signing up new members and selling Standards to say Hi! I tell you that if smiles were dollars than Pat and Dick would be very wealthy. It was great to just be standing next to them cuz it made me smile too.

Continuing on my journey to yell at a couple of clerks I got pulled over by Bonnie Sallee ! Good God Bonnie does not look a minute over the last time I saw her in 2010. Must be the California almonds she's been eating.

Orbiting around them but headed to the far reaches of the galaxy was Jones and Leonard. Ok *it was either* Jones or Leonard. I still am not sure which but boy I love that guy. Stay crazy man....

I was going to go over to talk to Jeff who was judging Moderns but I thought I saw him twerking in the isle with his clerk. So I kept on trucking.

I decided to put it on cruise control and head over to the football field that was the junior area. As I made my way over there I noticed a curious site. I thought, what is happening here did someone Tweet a flash mob?! It turned out to be the new junior encampment. It was a huge cluster of parents and kids preparing to compete in showmanship. It looked like they were here to see the Indy 500. And it might as well have been with the legions of juniors competing.

While I was over there I talked to some of our junior judges. We had four qualified judges to work the 750 junior birds show. Linda Blackman (who made her husband steward) indicated she was impressed by the quality of the birds she had been handling. Paul Gilroy seemed to be really enjoying himself. He had a kid clerking with him who was hanging on his every word. Then I observed Tom Roebuck working his clerk "hard". He was trying to hide his smile. Its clear Tom enjoys teaching chicken to interested kids.

So I stepped on it and sped out of the junior isle with a smile on my face too. Then I had to slow down for a traffic jam consisting of chicken gawking day-trippers. That's when I ran into the upstate boys in the Old English isle. Gary Wells cracked a really good joke and I was all smiles again.

I was then forced to lay on my horn so I could make my way through the crowd. I arrived at the silly (*not!*) serama tabletop show. This was a first for us at the Congress. Since I was stuck in gridlock I stayed for a minute. Danged if that perky little bird didn't just did stand right up there all puffed up and proud! Never a thought in his little bird brain to jump off.

At that point I took a left and headed into pleasant valley. Other wise known as the SCCL class. The birds really were beautiful. I knew from looking at my paperwork that there were 214 Plymouth rocks alone. But I did not have time to look at birds! I was on a mission. This is when I decided I was very happy with my decision to wear my comfy/ugly Crocks. I had wanted to wear heels to look fashionable like Jackie Koedatich. But forget it; she's got me beat hands down in that department.

I did slam on the breaks when I saw Jim Sallee who was judging Bantam Polish. I could not get over how good he looked. I figure Bonnie must be feeding him almonds as well. I was tempted to yell at Jim's clerk Keith Lutz. But he's a pretty nice guy, and never messes up so I took a pass on that.

Have you ever stopped at a green light ? That's what was happening for me when ran headfirst into the Standard Langshang isle. I was transported into the "now moment" and forgot about time. I breathed in the beauty and decided this was the most amazing class in the whole show. There were over 100 of them. All gleaming and huge. Now this is a *National* I thought.

I was so drawn to those big birds I forgot who I was looking for. I asked my self; why am I driving so fast? This is a thing to behold. This is why I have done all this work in the first place. So I decided to watch Americas best chicken man Don Nelson Judge. He walked back and forth. He scratched his beard, shook his head in a "no" fashion; then smiled broadly. I know Don well enough to know what was going on... He was saying to himself: "*There are some really good chickens in this Class*". That really busted me up and I merged back on the highway that makes the show run.

I know what you readers are thinking. I have not said much about the fact that this was a historic show for us in New England. True, I have not. The fact is that everything came together perfectly. Everyone showed up. All the birds looked great (despite the harsh winter). People hooked up with

friends and had a good time. We celebrated what we do everyday in a very large and special way.

“I keep chickens”. This is what you say to coworkers and friends. It sounds so simple. But in fact it's not: we fanciers raise **PUREBRED POULTRY**. And we are the only ones who really understand what that means. It was an honor to host the American Poultry Association for this reason alone. The members of the Congress sincerely hope we helped the APA on its mission to protect and promote Standard Bred Poultry. Thank you American Poultry Association for choosing to partner with us for such a special show.

Like I said there is a lot I don't know about what happened. I can tell you this: The Massachusetts State slogan is “*Make It Yours*” and the Virginia State slogan is “*Virginia is for Lovers*”. Well the Virginia boys made us theirs and we love them for it!

Firstly Tom Roebuck's Black Cochin Hen had all its circles and angles correct. This bird was mathematical perfection. So much so the well-coifed bird went on to **win Super Grand Champion of the 2013 APA National!** Then there was William Sandoe's Grand Champion Trio, which he won with a fantastic OT of Standard White Leghorns (your right I don't have a really good handle on geography). William also had 3rd best LF on a White Leghorn Pullet. Then there was Tom & Bridget Kane (of Kanes Feathered Friends) who had a really nice Black Modern Game Btm (res of class) on Champion Row. Then there was Bob Joy (of Joys Poultry) who won BB Jersey Giant. He was happy with that; but then he won the ROLLX Incubator!!! He told me that he asked Santa to bring him one for Christmas but that did not happen. He purchased one ticket at the show and went home with a brand new 700.00 incubator! I bet he can hatch more Jersey Giants than he needs with that unit. Then there is Paul Gilroy who is one diligent and enthusiast judge. Finally there is Ross Keith with a full head of hair who just hangs around looking great.

Not the least of these cultured gentlemen is Mr. Winks Pikerton. On Saturday just around lunchtime he outsmarted me. Winks countered my peanut butter and jelly sandwich with a Maryland Stuffed Ham sandwich presented on southern hearty white bread. He also prepared a tangy eggie potato salad that was hand crafted by himself. I must say I was flabbergasted. This was REAL manly ham; not like the pink slimy crap with

a green sheen that we eat up here. The potato salad was a perfect balance of vinegar and egg (not to mention cooked just right, not rock hard or squishy).

Honestly readers I wanted to write for you an old-fashioned show report. Like a nod to the old days when the Press meticulously listed all the placings. But since I have already run on so much I don't think that is possible. Fortunately for anyone who is interested the Northeastern Poultry Congress has both the APA and the ABA show reports on line for all to see. Photos of the winning birds can be viewed there as well.

I will how ever tell you what the top 3's were. Third best Btm was a Birchen Modern Game Pullet by Troy LaRoche. Res Champion Bantam was a Silver Laced Wyandotte Pullet by Marco & Melissa Mizzoni. Champion Bantam was a Black Cochon Hen by Tom and Sandra Roebuck. 3rd best WF was a Brown African Cock by Bob Bartholomew. Reserve Champ WF was a White Call Cock by David Touchette. Champion Waterfowl was a Blue Muscovy Hen by Danny Padgett. Res Champ Turkey was a Royal Palm K by Cindy & Mark Mansell. Champion Turkey was a Bronze Cock by Erin Thibault. 3rd best LF was a White Leghorn Pullet by William Sandoe. Reserve Champ LF was a Dominique Pullet by Mike Stichler. Champion Largefowl was a Silver Spangled Hamburg Pullet by Eric Nelson.

Reserve Champion of show went to The Blue Muscovy Hen by Danny Padgett. Reserve Champion Land Fowl was the Bantam Silver Laced Wyandotte Pullet by Marco & Melissa Mizzoni. And Champion Landfowl / Super Grand Champion of the American Poultry Associations' 2013 National went to Tom and Sandra Roebuck on the Black Cochon Bantam Hen ! Stunning indeed.

This being one of the Nations top Trio shows I will tell you how it played out. This year we had 87 trios competing. Res. Champion Btm Trio was a YT of White Wyandottes by Rudy Plausse. Champion Btm Trio was a YT of White Leghorns by George Beyer. Res Champ LF Trio was a YT of Black Langshangs by McCarty & Bacon. Champion LF Trio was an OT of White Leghorns by William Sandoe. Over all Trio Champions were: 3rd Best the YT of White Wyandotte Bantams by Rudy Plausse. Res Champion over all Trio was the YT of White Leghorn Btms by George Beyer. And Super Grand of the Northeastern Poultry Congress Trio Class went to the OT of White Leghorns by William Sandoe!

Since the Junior show was a force to be reckoned with I will also list the top winners. Res champ Jr Trio was a Millie Fleur Duccle trio by Daniel Epe. Champ Trio by a Jr was a sharp trio of Red Pyle Modern Games by Will Reppert. 3rd best btm was a White Call cock by Robbie Boisvert. Res Jr btm was a Red Pyle Modern Game Pullet by Zachary Johnson. Champ Jr btm was a Barred Plymouth Rock Cockerel by Ari Katz. Res Champ Jr turkey was a Beltsville K by Edison Cigany. Champ Jr Turkey was a Slate K by Daniel Epe. 3rd best Jr Waterfowl was a Rouen by Megan Matts. Res Champ Jr Waterfowl was a Sebastopol Goose by Tiffney Howe. Champ Jr Waterfowl was a Blue Muscovy C by Dominic Kierkla. 3rd best Jr LF was a Black Americuna K by Will Kitsch. Res Champ Jr LF was a Blk Australorp K by Kara Miller. Champ Jr LF was a R.I Red C by Will Kitsch. In the end reserve super grand Junior bird went to Ari Katz on a Barred Plymouth Rock Bantam. AND... Super Grand Champion of the biggest Congress Junior show ever / APA National was won by Will Kitsch on his regal Largefowl Rhode Island Red Cock ! **Congratulations Juniors!**

The Junior show was so large and well attended its still blowing my mind. It was larger than most normal shows in New England. Our continued success is due to the thoughtful diligence on the part of our Junior program coordinators Rick and Allison Trojanoski. A large part of the Congress's strong attendance is due to them: Thank you Rick and Allison.

Showmanship was so killer I can not even talk about it. Complete results are posted at the NEPC's web site. I will say the winner of our clubs most special award went to Ally Greene. Alley won the *A.B.A lifetime award* donated by Congress member Shawn Streeter. Alley won this prestigious award by using her brains and skills. She was the Champion Senior Showman of the Northeastern Poultry Congress biggest show ever ! And a National to boot. Congratulations Ally!

I am really excited to report the top two display winners. Rebecca Buffington of North Dighton MA won with an astonishing 724 points on her Std Langshans. This is the highest display total that I can remember. Here is proof you don't need to win Supergrand to be super proud! As far as I am concerned Rebecca's Standard Langshangs put the **National** in this prestigious APA national meet. Thank you Rebecca for doing such a great job! Oh also a heart felt congratulations and (thank you for coming to the

Congress) to Mr. William Gardhouse for wining Res Champion display with his Std Silver Penciled Wyandottes!

How are we going to do better next year ?! Gosh I don't know. We are going to have to bring in some big acts I think. Now I do have some ideas on this. Shooting live circus chickens from cannons I thought. Nah we may run into paperwork problems with that... Then I was thinking of something for the kids to watch. Like a senior competition. This will be open to exhibitors over 65 years of age who have been breeding a minimum of ten years. To win this competition seniors will be tested for dexterity and mental prowess with challenges such as accurately reading leg bands with out reading glasses. Putting a Q tip in a bottle of veterex with out knocking it over (bonus points for bending over and retrieving Q tip from floor). Opening a Largefowl cage door and taking a Cock Sumatra out with out being pecked or loosing the bird (bonus points for remembering to close the door afterwards). There are lots of other ideas we could work with such as who can open a cheese stick with out any tools. And who can go the longest without complaining about President Obama. Please send your good ideas.

So while I really can't tell you much about what happened out on the show floor I can tell you that the secret to a successful show is this: **fantastic volunteers**. I would like to acknowledge just a few of ours: Julie Rountree who aptly directed the many vendors. Stephen Blash who helped us *again* by lending his Boston Poultry Exposition cages (you really should check out his show its awesome). Wes Shelden, who helped with everything. Joel Henning for making himself indispensable. Mark & Lisa Podgwaite for bringing on a fantastic APA National. Steven Gould, Janet Winnett, Rick, Allison & Nate Trojanoski and Brian Knox who care very much about presenting a quality show for our exhibitors. Guy Roy, Bill West, Bruce Laviolette, Bob Murphy, Kenny Mainville, and Russ Crevoiserat who have been giving there all to the club since the beginning. Jan Brett for being a great poultry woman and our best supporter. Lyons Incubators for donating a really nice machine. Edith Rochette who honors her husband and our dear founding father Arthur Rochette by continuing to do the hard job of taking entries. Thanks so *some* of the many other people who helped out big time such as: Joseph Marquette, Kate Morreale, John Buffington, Donna Fenton, Jason Page, Jackie Koedatich, Donna Woolham, Shawn Streeter, Mike Stichler, Beth Gaetano, Don Nelson, Doris Yeaw, Paul Kroll, Keith Lutz, Howard Kogan, Larry Parent and the guys from Ohio for their continued support.

And thanks to all our great Judges! A little factoid: we used to think Jeff was the best judge in the world but now we think its Clell.

And now for a very important factoid for anyone planning a show: if you want to put on a great show be sure to support your members and volunteers! Genuine appreciation is your best asset.

In closing I would like to say much as a National is about the nations top birds it's also about the people who love them. Thanks to all of you who attended, volunteered, and exhibited! Each one of you was very important to our success!

Cheryl Barnaba; Show Sect / Vip Northeastern Poultry Congress !