



Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound* July 8, 2016

“What interested me about hunting was the adventure: the shifting, unpredictable play between the characters—the human and the animal—the setting in which their drama unfolded, and the chance events they might encounter in the course of the day.”

~Jane Shilling from *The Fox in the Cupboard*

- 1. Trail Ride. Saturday, August 13.** We will be having a guided trail ride at Broadview next month. This is a fundraising ride and will be open to anyone – all riding disciplines. Cost will be \$25 with dinner included. More details coming soon. Specific questions can be directed to our coordinator Liz Hall - 434-760-3784, ehhall1229@yahoo.com.
- 2. Capital Campaign for GPS Hound Tracking Collars.** Thank you to everyone who so generously donated funds to this important campaign. We have the collars and the staff and hounds are hard at work learning how to use them!
- 3. Kennel News.** Congratulations to Rockbridge Legend ‘10 and Rockbridge Relic ‘11 on the birth of their ten new foxhound puppies at the Kennels! They’ve got quite a puppy pile!
- 4. Summer Work.** The Executive Committee is putting together a list of projects that need to be completed in our hunt country this summer. This will include some painting work at The Tex Tilson Lodge, mowing, trail trimming, deadfall clearing, etc. We’ll have specific details out soon, but please give thought to how you can help. Anyone who helps with these critical maintenance projects is eligible to hunt in our Volunteers’ Hunt scheduled for Sunday, September 11!
- 5. Breakfasts and Tailgates.** The Executive Committee is also thinking ahead to the hunting season. We are hoping to have at least one formal hunt breakfast each month between September and the New Year. We are also looking for ways to organize our tailgates and potlucks a little better so that everyone can contribute and we can minimize duplication. Executive Committee members have volunteered to “host” a tailgate and provide a little extra something to make sure no one drives home hungry. We’re still working on the details, but if you’d like to “host” a tailgate during the upcoming season, we would love to help you find a date. Pair up with a friend. It doesn’t have to be formal or fancy. Fried chicken? Pizza? Anything goes!
- 6. Foxhunting Reading Group.** The group is now reading Martha Wolfe’s *The Great Hound Match of 1905* and will meet on Wednesday, July 20 to discuss it. Carol Lueder is selling these books with a very good discount for the reading group. For those of you who want to shop ahead, the book for August is *The Fox in the Cupboard: A Memoir* by Jane Shilling. This book is fairly modern (2004) and was fairly popular so used copies should be abundant. There are copies that we’re willing to lend so you certainly don’t have to buy it. Please note: Anyone is welcome to attend our group meetings. They are not restricted to Rockbridge Hunt members or foxhunters. Contact Cindy Morton or Hugh Brown for information about how to join in the fun.

Cindy Morton, mortonc@wlu.edu; Hugh Brown, brownhh@jmu.edu; Carol Lueder, shop@fchase.net

Here's a little taste of *The Fox in the Cupboard*:

The story of a hunt—any hunt—is like the story of a family; a synstic saga in which the good, the clever, the shrewd, and the kind are thrown together, hugger-mugger, with the bad, the mad, the destructive, and the stupid, with whom they must somehow contrive to get along, because above the battlefield fog and din of everyday life in a family or a hunt, there somehow persists the ideal of the institution itself as essentially benign, no matter what ignoble shenanigans its individual members may sometimes be getting up to.”

7. Fees for 2016-17. The Executive Committee set the following fees for the upcoming hunting season:

- **Capping Fees.** \$50 adult, \$25 junior (unchanged)
- **Seasonal Capping Fees.** We set the seasonal capping fee at \$300 for the year (\$200 for juniors). This will allow foxhunters who are full hunting members of other recognized hunt clubs unlimited hunting with us at home meets (joint meets away from home are excluded). The seasonal capping fee does not include any other membership privileges like trail riding at The Hunt, Inc. or voting.
- **Young Adult Seasonal Capping Fee.** We decided to continue our Young Adult Seasonal Capping Fee for this year. The cost is the same as the Student Membership fee (\$470). This is open to persons 18-23 years of age and offers unlimited capping for the current hunting season. Young Adult Seasonal Cappers do not have to be members of another hunt. They also are not extended membership privileges in the Rockbridge Hunt including voting and riding at The Hunt, Inc (except when accompanying a full member of the Hunt). The Young Adult Seasonal Capping Fee may be paid in a lump sum or by paying capping fees at each hunt until the total is reached.
- **Initiation Fees.** In order to continue to encourage new membership, we decided to again waive initiation fees for new members for the 2016-17 year. This would be a great time to bring new members into the Hunt!
- **Hound Sponsorship.** The amount will be \$150 for a full year sponsorship, \$75 for a half year (unchanged). Valerie Mann will be coordinating the Hound Sponsorship program for us again this year and she'll be starting that up very soon.

8. Southern States Proof of Purchase Program. For several years now, the Hunt has been collecting Southern States feed bag and supplements labels (we need the proof of purchase label). We get about 25 cents per label. Cindy Morton has graciously been coordinating this effort for us. Many members have been participating and it really does pay off. Since we started participating in the program, we have cashed in over \$3,000 in feed/supplement labels! Keep saving those Southern States proofs of purchase – any equine feed or supplement from Southern States – Triple Crown, Legends, etc. To make it even easier, there's a collection box at the Tex Tilson Lodge for labels. Every label makes a difference!

9. Important Reminders!

•**Summer Trail Riding at The Hunt, Inc.** Rockbridge Hunt members have permission from many generous landowners to *hunt* on their property. This does not entitle any individuals to *trail ride* on private property. Rockbridge Hunt members can ride on much of the property at The Hunt, Inc. but you must know where the boundaries are and respect them. Many of our landowners do allow trail riding but not all of them do. When individuals ride on private property without permission, landowners are (justifiably) displeased. These situations are one of the main causes of permission to hunt being withdrawn. If you don't absolutely know for certain where you can ride and where you can't, please

make arrangements to ride with someone who knows the territory. Most of the Executive Committee and the Hunt Staff know the property and will be happy to meet you and ride with you.

Also, please be very certain that any dogs you have with you are under your control at all times and kept off private property.

•Insurance, waivers, and helmets! The new year has started for us – so that means new waivers are needed for everyone. For insurance purposes, it is *critical* that any member or guest riding at The Hunt, Inc. have a signed waiver on file. There is a box with waivers on the mounting block in The Hunt, Inc. parking lot and on the hunt barn. We will also have new waiver forms available at summer events and work days. If you are not sure if your guest has a current waiver, you may check with Hugh Brown or just sign a new one. We also *strongly encourage* everyone to wear approved helmets when riding. Thank you!

10. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee. Hunting terminology: **Line**

Line – The trail of the fox.

*“There was a lot going on inside this little clump of trees and underbrush: the high yelping wail of hunting hounds and the throat-music exhortations of the huntsman cheering them on—by voice, mainly, though with occasional notes of his horn. First nothing was visible, then a trickle of hounds—pale, elegant, cream-and-caramel animals—plunging intently through the dull brown underbrush like figures on a tapestry, but on a rising note of excitement. The lead hound checked, faltered, turned back on the **line**, and then they all turned away and disappeared back the way they had come. As soon as they’d gone, the fox came barreling past: small, bunched up, dark reddish brown.”*

Excerpt from *The Fox in the Cupboard* by Jane Shilling

11. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

Saturday, August 13	*Summer Trail Ride (New fundraising event)
Saturday, September 10	*Kick-Off Party
Sunday, September 11	Volunteers’ Hunt
Saturday, September 17	Cubbing season begins
Saturday, September 24	Western Day at Broadview
Sunday, September 25	*Fall Poker Ride
October 7-10	Hunting Weekend with Oak Ridge, Glenmore, and Bedford County
Sunday, October 30	*Fall Hunter Pace
Saturday, November 5	Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds
	*Fundraising events

12. Other Hunt-related dates

Sat. & Sun, July 16-17	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend
Saturday, July 23	Glenmore Hunt <i>Foxhunting Clinic</i>
Saturday, July 30	Bedford County Hunt Fun Show at Raldolph College http://www.bedfordcountyhunt.com/
August 10-14	Lexington National <i>Horse Show</i> , Virginia Horse Center http://www.horsecenter.org/Events/
Sat. & Sun, August 20-21	Farmington Hunt <i>Foxhunting Clinic</i> http://www.farmingtonhunt.org/home
Sat. & Sun, August 20-21	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend
Saturday, August 20	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Long Meadows Farm
Saturday, August 27	Glenmore Hunt <i>Fun Horse Show</i>

Sunday, August 28	Farmington <i>Hunter Pace</i> (south of town)
Saturday, September 3	Maury River <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Virginia Horse Center
Saturday, September 11	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Maceland, Chatham
Sat. & Sun, Sept 17-18	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend
Sunday, November 6	Virginia <i>Field Hunter Championships</i>
Sunday November 6	Farmington Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i>
Saturday, November 12	Farmington Hunt <i>Opening Meet</i>
Sunday, November 13	Glenmore Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i>
Saturday, November 19	Bedford County Hunt <i>Fall Show</i> at Randolph College

13. The Rockbridge Hunt NewsHound is archived on the RH website under Newsletters in the Archive section. You can also access copies by logging into Google or Google Groups and read stuff from the Friends list. If you don't have a Google account, it's easy to create one using the same email address that you use for the Friends list.

As always, if you have feedback or suggestions for the Executive Committee, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Rockbridge Hunt Executive Committee
2016-2017**

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Please Support the Sponsors of the Rockbridge Hunt

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Rockbridge Farmers Co-op

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