



Rockbridge Hunt Staff

Masters of Foxhounds:

Cynthia J. Morton Hugh H. Brown, III

Huntsman (Professional):

David Conner

Whippers-in (Honorary):

Katharine Conner Nancy Conner
Cynthia Morton Bob Richardson
Rebecca Tilson Jake Wilson

Honorary Masters of Foxhounds:

Dr. G. E. Clapsaddle
Dr. David Bolen



Executive Committee, 2017-2018

Lauren Keating, President
Cindy Morton, Master of Foxhounds
Hugh Brown, Master of Foxhounds
Louise Golian, Treasurer
Valerie Mann, Honorary Secretary
Laura Jarvis, Steward '15
Liz Hall, Steward '16
Kathy Eichelberger, Steward '17
Rebecca Tilson, Steward '17



Rockbridge Hunt

Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds

Joint meet with Glenmore Hunt



Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 2:30 PM

Tex Tilson Lodge at The Hunt, Inc.



*Celebrating 70 Years of Foxhunting
1947-2017*

Rockbridge Hunt

Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds
& Joint meet with the Glenmore Hunt



Program

I. Welcome

*Cynthia J. Morton, MFH
Hugh H. Brown III, MFH*

II. Awarding of Colors

*Cynthia J. Morton, MFH
Hugh H. Brown III, MFH*

The awarding of colors is a traditional rite of passage common to almost all organized hunt clubs and includes the privilege of wearing the colored collar and logo buttons that are a distinctive part of the hunt's uniform. It is a way of recognizing that a member has achieved a certain level of expertise. The colors for Rockbridge Hunt consist of a green collar with yellow piping and the hunt buttons bearing the letters RH.

III. Blessing of the Hounds

Rev. Philip Parker

The centuries-old tradition of Blessing of the Hounds encompasses more than just hounds and includes all animals and humans involved in the hunt. The blessing practice dates back to the Eighth Century and to celebrations associated with St. Hubert, Patron Saint of Hunters. English hunters popularized this ritual and brought the custom to the American colonies in the Seventeenth Century. We are very fortunate to have Rev. Phillip Parker here to conduct our blessing. Rev. Parker is the father of Hunt member, Dr. Joy Watkins.

IV. The Hunt

*David Conner, Huntsman
& The Rockbridge Hounds*

The Rockbridge Hunt was founded in 1947, registered with the Masters of Foxhounds Association in 1960, and recognized in 1962. The Hunt was essentially founded by a single individual, Warren Edward "Tex" Tilson at his farm, Broadview Ranch. Of great importance to the history of the Rockbridge Hunt was Tex's organization in the early 1970s of The Hunt, Inc. This corporation purchased 709 acres from which 12 lots of approximately 20 acres each were subdivided. The Rockbridge Hunt retained one of the lots and the other eleven were sold to various individuals. The profit from these sales went to developing the roads within The Hunt, Inc. area. It is agreed in these sales documents that the owners will permit foxhunting on their properties. The Hunt, Inc. was set up as a home base for the Hunt. There was already a large barn on the Rockbridge Hunt lot but a show ring and kennels had to be constructed. The original landowners in The Hunt, Inc. decided to sell an extra lot, the proceeds of which were given to the Rockbridge Hunt in order to build a club house now called the Tex Tilson Lodge. Additional funds were raised for the project and it was completed in 1973. Three years later, a huntsman's house was erected. Our hunting territory continues to include The Hunt, Inc., Broadview Ranch, and surrounding farms.

V. Breakfast

It is traditional to call the meal following the hunt a breakfast no matter the time of day. Please join us for our breakfast in the Tex Tilson Lodge after the hunt. The breakfast has been coordinated by Valerie Mann. The Eichelberger family has graciously prepared the main course and some of the side dishes with the rest of the meal prepared by Rockbridge Hunt members and friends.

