



## **Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound*** ***Celebrating 70 Years of Foxhunting – 1947-2017***

**March 30, 2017**

“What makes fox-hunting the prince of field sports is undoubtedly the cunning of the fox. He knows better than anybody precisely what is happening. He knows the country, he knows exactly what hounds are capable of and what they are not. Every man’s hand is against the fox from the moment he breaks cover, and there are twenty or thirty couple of hounds who can run as fast as he can and outstay him. If he will live to see another day, the fox must reply on his swiftness of mind as well as on his speed of limb.”

From “A Master of Hounds” by One Who Knows Him

**1. Closing Meet.** We had a fabulous Closing Meet on Saturday, March 18. There were 43 members and guests riding including 11 from the Glenmore Hunt. There were at least 65 people at the cookout following the hunt and rumor has it that the merriment went late into the evening! Huge thanks to Lynn and Joe Williams for coordinating cookout for us and to Laura Jarvis for setting up the grill, Trish Lyons, Valerie and Caitlin Mann for cleanup, and Lauren Keating for final cleanup at the lodge on Sunday. Special thanks to everyone who brought food to the event.

**2. Sedgefield Cup 2017.** The 2017 renewal of the Carolina Foxhound Performance Trial – “The Sedgefield Cup” – was held **March 24-26, 2017**. Rockbridge Hunt was represented again this year with 11 members attending. Our entry in the trial included: Rockbridge Rex 2015 (sponsored by Rex Brown), Rockbridge Rocky 2015 (sponsored by Bernard & Candi Hylton), Rockbridge Opal 2014 (sponsored by Carol Lueder), Rockbridge Omelet 2011 (sponsored by Valerie Mann), and Rockbridge Outlaw 2014 (sponsored by Ann Layman, Beth Pappas, and Joy Watkins). Outlaw was a last minute substitution for Teasel who was lame the morning we left. There were 13 hunts competing in the event – the largest number to date. Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia were all represented by at least one hunt. Over the two days of hunting, hounds found and chased multiple gray foxes and at least one coyote and we had a terrific time following and listening to the awesome hound music of 65 hounds chasing the game. Although our hounds did not place in the top 8 over the two days, everyone who watched them from horseback or car witnessed their drive and determination to hunt for and chase the quarry.

Very special thanks to everyone who donated funds for our GPS tracking collars last year. They came in very handy on the first day when the huge pack of hounds got a bit scattered at the end of the day. David Conner was able to safely retrieve all of our hounds and bring them back to the trial kennels.

Complete results are posted here: <http://sedgefieldhunt.com/performance-trial-results.html>

Some pictures taken by a professional photographer at the event can be found here:  
<http://photosbyjamespiedad.zenfolio.com/p946442799>

**3. In the News!** A photo of Abby Hylton receiving her Fairly Hunted certificate from Hugh Brown appeared in the local newspaper, The Recorder. ("The Recorder is the newspaper of record serving scenic Bath and Highland counties, and the Allegheny Highlands of Virginia. As far as historians can tell, The Recorder is the oldest, continuously published newspaper of any size in the Commonwealth, and perhaps in the U.S., under the same name.") This is great, positive publicity! Good job, Abby!

**4. Also in the News!** Steve Beck, one of our neighbors near Fancy Hill, will be presenting a program for the Rockbridge Historical Society about the community of Natural Bridge Station. There was an article in the Lexington News-Gazette about it. The presentation is open to the public and will take place this Sunday, April 2, at 2:30 at the Natural Bridge Elementary School.

**5. Reading Group Update.** The next meeting is scheduled Wednesday, April 12, probably at 7:00 PM and probably at the Tex Tilson Lodge. (Dinner at the PC before the meeting?) More information will be forthcoming. We'll be discussing *Letters to a Young Huntsman* by Andrew Barclay. We have a few copies circulating. If you're interested in borrowing a copy, contact Cindy or Hugh. For those of you who want to shop ahead, here's the planned schedule.

In April: *Letters to a Young Huntsman* by Andrew Barclay

In May: *Foxhunting Adventures* by Norman Fine

In June: *Foxhunting in North America* by Alexander Mackay-Smith

In July: *Foxhunters Speak* by Mary Motley Kalergis (Just published this month!)

**6. Annual Meeting. Wednesday, May 10 at 7:00 PM, Tex Tilson Lodge at The Hunt, Inc.** Please save Wednesday, May 10 on your calendar for our Annual Meeting. We will be electing new officers for the year ahead, voting on the proposed budget for the 2017-18 year, and attending to other matters important to our organization. Members whose dues have been paid in full by the time of the meeting are eligible to vote. Each single hunting membership, each family membership, and each landowner membership has one vote. In order for the Hunt to conduct business, there must be a quorum at the meeting of 20 members physically present. Family and landowner memberships may have more than one member, and the numbers matter. Our president runs a very efficient meeting and we always have an enjoyable evening discussing the past year and laying the groundwork for the new year. ***Please come!***

**BONUS!** Last year's pre-meeting lasagna dinner before the Annual Meeting was a huge success, so we've planned to do it again this year. We'll have dinner at 6:00 PM at the Tex Tilson Lodge. Please plan to come early and have dinner with your friends from the Hunt. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and lasagna dinner!

**7. Maury River Hunter Trials.** Maury River Hunter Trials are coming up on April 22. More info online: <https://www.eventinginvirginia.com/hunter-paces-trials>. We're considering setting up a tailgate again this year. If you would be interested in helping with that, please contact Hugh.

**8. Educational Bits** – courtesy of the Education Committee. Have you ever been asked a question about foxhunting and not known how to answer? Have you ever wondered how to talk about our sport in positive ways to folks who don't understand it? The Masters of Foxhounds Association (MFHA) has put together a "Public Relations & Media Guide." Over the next few months, we'll highlight some of the "talking points" and foxhunting "facts" the MFHA has put together to help us talk positively and clearly about our sport.

### Talking points

"George Washington, first president of the United States, was an ardent foxhunter who owned his own pack of hounds. He hunted the area where Washington Dulles Airport now sits. About 30% of foxhunters still hunt in the Mid-Atlantic region."

"In the last 25 years, the MFHA has had as many as 174 hunts and as few as 155 with around 20,000 foxhunters in the USA and Canada."

"The fox or coyote, also a hunting animal, most often eludes the hounds by cleverly taking a path that is difficult for the hounds to follow, or in the case of the fox, going into a secure hole. The hunt ends when the hounds can no longer find the scent or the huntsman and/or Masters are ready to call it a day. Sometimes the quarry, usually a hurt or unhealthy animal is caught by the hounds and quickly killed. Healthy quarry live to hunt another day."

### Foxhunting Facts

"The MFHA was formed in 1907 and is the governing body of organized fox, coyote, other acceptable legal quarry and drag hunting in the United States and Canada whose main activities are to promote, preserve and protect the sport of mounted hunting with hounds and establish and maintain standards of conduct for foxhunting."

"Foxhunters dress is a traditional manner for practical reason. For example: red coats are akin to hunters orange so that they can be easily seen, tall leather boots protect the legs, and a stock-tie and pin can become a sling or a bandage."

**9. Hunter Pace Season!** The hunt season is drawing to a close, but the hunter pace season will be starting up soon afterwards! There are lots of opportunities for fun rides in the area this spring. Here are a few that the NewsHound has heard about so far:

Saturday, April 1	Glenmore Hunt Spring Hunter Pace, Mountainside, Swoope <a href="http://www.glenmorehunt.org/2017/02/21/hunter-pace-4117/">http://www.glenmorehunt.org/2017/02/21/hunter-pace-4117/</a>
Saturday, April 8	Bull Run Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Locust Hill Preserve <a href="http://www.bullrunhuntclub.com">www.bullrunhuntclub.com</a>
Sunday, April 30	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Sweet Briar College <a href="http://www.bedfordcountyhunt.com">www.bedfordcountyhunt.com</a>
Saturday, May 6	Rockbridge Hunt Derby-Day <i>Hunter Pace</i> at The Hunt, Inc.
Saturday, May 27	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> (tentative) <a href="http://www.oakridgefoxhuntclub.com">www.oakridgefoxhuntclub.com</a>
Saturday, June 3	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Long Meadows Farm, Huddleston
Saturday, June 10	Rockbridge Hunt <i>Poker Ride</i> at West Airslie & Greenock Farm
Saturday, June 10	Farmington Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Mint Meadows <a href="http://www.farmingtonhunt.org">www.farmingtonhunt.org</a>
Saturday, June 24	Glenmore Hunt <i>Murder Mystery Ride</i>

## 10. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

Saturday, May 6	*Derby-Day <i>Hunter Pace</i> (Kathy Eichelberger, organizer)
Sunday, May 28	Glenmore Hunt & Rockbridge Hunt Joint <i>Reception</i> at the Virginia Foxhound Show, 9AM-4PM, Morven Park, Leesburg
Wednesday, May 10	Annual Meeting of the Rockbridge Hunt, 7:00 PM, Tex Tilson Lodge
Saturday, June 10	*Poker Ride at West Airslie & Greenock Farm (Louise Golian, organizer)
July TBA	*Trail Ride with Tests at Broadview (Lynn Williams, organizer)
Saturday, September 9	*Kick-Off Party at the Tex Tilson Lodge at The Hunt, Inc.
Sunday, September 10	Volunteers' Hunt
Wednesday, September 20	Autumn Hunting Begins (tentative)
Saturday, September 30	Western Day at Broadview
Sunday, October 1	*Poker Ride at Broadview (Lauren Keating, organizer)
Saturday, October 29	*Hunter Pace at The Hunt, Inc. (Liz Hall, organizer)
Saturday, November 4	Opening Meet at The Hunt, Inc. *Fundraising events

## 11. Other Hunt-related Dates

Saturday, April 1	Farmington Hunt <i>Hunter Trials</i>
Saturday, April 1	Glenmore Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i>
Saturday, April 8	Glenmore Hunt <i>Ball</i>
Saturday, April 8	Bull Run Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Locust Hill Preserve
Saturday, April 22	Maury River <i>Hunter Trials</i> , Pennmerryl Farm, Greenville
Sunday, April 30	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Sweet Briar College
Fri April 28-Sun April 30	Bull Run Hunt Weekend <i>Camping Trailride</i>
Sunday, May 14	Bedford County Hunt <i>SWVHJA sanctioned horse show</i>
Sunday, May 14	Farmington Hunt <i>Jumper Derby</i>
Sat. May 27-Sun. May 28	Hunt Country <i>Stable Tour</i> , Middleburg & Upperville, VA
Saturday, May 27	National Horn Blowing Contest, Morven Park, Leesburg
Sunday, May 28	Virginia <i>Foxhound Show</i> , Morven Park, Leesburg
Saturday, June 3	Farmington Hunt <i>Spring Horse Show</i> , Brookhill Farm
Saturday, June 3	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Long Meadows Farm, Huddleston
Saturday, June 10	Farmington Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Mint Meadows
Saturday, June 24	Glenmore Hunt <i>Murder Mystery Ride</i>
Saturday, July 1	Farmington Hunt <i>Jumper Show</i> , Schelford Farm
Tuesday, July 11	Farmington Hunt <i>Fun Horse Show</i>
Saturday, July 29	Farmington Hunt <i>Jumper Show</i>
Saturday, August 12	Farmington Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Miller School of Albemarle
Sat. Aug 19-Sun. Aug 20	Farmington Hunt <i>Foxhunting Clinic</i>
Saturday, August 26	Glenmore Hunt <i>Fun Horse Show</i>
Saturday, September 9	Glenmore Hunt begins <i>Autumn Hunting</i>
Saturday, September 17	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Maceland in Chatham
Saturday, October 21	Glenmore Hunt <i>Opening Meet &amp; Blessing of the Hounds</i>
Sunday, November 5	Farmington Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i>
Sunday, November 5	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at The Cedars in Cifax
Sunday, November 12	Glenmore Hunt <i>Fall Hunter Pace</i>

**12. 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

**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.

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**Rockbridge Hunt Executive Committee  
2016-2017**

Lauren Keating, President  
H 540-463-5574  
keatadvn@gmail.com

Cindy Morton, MFH  
W 540-458-8109, M 540-570-0770  
mortonc@wlu.edu

Hugh Brown, MFH  
H 540-886-6359, W 540-568-3501  
brownhh@jmu.edu

Louise Golian, Treasurer  
C 540-460-2628, H 540-377-9409  
Louisegolian@gmail.com

Valerie Mann, Hon. Secretary  
540-580-6614  
valeriemann1229@gmail.com

Kathy Eichelberger, Steward 2013-2017  
H 540-258-2065, W 540-343-0193, M 540-354-2348  
bergrbnch@aol.com

Rebecca Tilson, Steward 2013-2017  
540-460-3101  
rebecca@broadviewranch.com

Laura Jarvis, Steward 2015-2019  
540-319-8863  
lwjarvis93@gmail.com

Liz Hall, Steward 2016-2019

434-760-3784  
ehhall1229@yahoo.com

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**Ms Carol Lueder & Fair Chase, Inc.**

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