



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

May 16, 2017

“Say what you will about the thrill of a long, fast gallop, and I’ll agree. But I also love the chance to stroll or trot along with hounds on a difficult scenting day and watch them find, lose, cast themselves, try, find, and lose again—boo-hooing slowing along—in the slowly warming flush of an early autumn morning.

For an ordinary member of the field like me, it provides a rare chance to really see hounds work.”

Norman Fine in *Foxhunting Adventures*

1. Annual Meeting. Wednesday, May 10 at 7:00 PM, Tex Tilson Lodge at The Hunt, Inc.

In case you missed the Annual Meeting last week, we easily met our quorum for the meeting and were able to conduct our important annual business. We approved the proposed budget for the upcoming year, had reports from the President, Treasurer, Masters of Foxhounds, and Huntsman. We also elected officers and stewards for 2017-2018:

President – Lauren Keating

Joint Masters of Foxhounds - Cindy Morton & Hugh Brown

Treasurer - Louise Golian

Hon. Secretary - Valerie Mann

Stewards 2017-2021– Kathy Eichelberger and Rebecca Tilson

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Meeting! Your votes will keep the Rockbridge Hunt moving forward into the new year!

2. Poker Ride. Saturday, June 10 at West Airslie & Greenock Farms near Brownsburg. We’re very excited to be having our next fundraising ride at our most northern hunting fixture! Coordinator Louise Golian will be looking for volunteers *very* soon. Please consider volunteering and help us spread the word about this beautiful and popular ride!

3. MFHA Subscribing Membership. If you are not already a subscribing member of the Masters of Foxhounds Association, please consider becoming one. The most tangible benefit as a subscribing member is that you would receive *Covertside*, a beautiful magazine devoted to mounted foxhunting. You would also have other benefits such as attending MFHA events and seminars and subscribing membership helps pay for the very important Foxhound Show here in Virginia. The MFHA also provides financial support to The Pony Club, the MFHA professional development program, US Sportsman’s Alliance that does great work protecting our hunting interests in all states and our investment in cures for canine diseases to name just a few. You can also get significant savings on nationally known products through NTRA Advantage. John Deere, Sherwin Williams, and UPS are a few examples. Individual MFHA subscribing memberships are just \$35. You can apply online here: <http://www.mfha.org/about-membership.html> or download and print a membership form at that same address. If you’d like more information or help obtaining a membership form, please contact Hugh Brown.

4. Southern States Proof of Purchase Program. We recently received a check for **\$656** from Southern States for our most recent submission of feed bag labels! It really does work! We get 25 cents for each label we submit. Cindy Morton has graciously been coordinating this effort for us. 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 does make a difference!

5. Reading Group Update. The next meeting of the Foxhunting Reading Group is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24. We'll be discussing *Foxhunters Speak* by Mary Motley Kalergis. We have a few copies circulating. If you're interested in purchasing a copy, Carol Lueder has several copies at a great discount. If you are interested in borrowing a copy, contact Cindy or Hugh. For those of you who want to shop ahead, here's the planned schedule.

In May: *Foxhunters Speak* by Mary Motley Kalergis

In June: *Foxhunting Adventures* by Norman Fine

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

6. New Event! The Glenmore Hunt and Rockbridge Hunt are teaming up for a joint reception at the Virginia Foxhound Show at Morven Park in Leesburg on Sunday, May 28. This is a very informal event. There will be a tent set up ring-side at the show from 9AM to 4 PM for members to hang out and socialize during the show. A light lunch will be served at noon and the organizers welcome contributions of food – light tailgate items are the order of the day. The Virginia Foxhound Show is a great place to learn about foxhounds. There are separate rings for showing American, English, Crossbred, and Penn-Marydel hounds. This is the largest show of foxhounds in the world and it's right here in Virginia. Hunts from all over the country show their hounds singly and in groups. At noon, there are special junior handlers' classes which are always fun to watch. There are a number of vendors (including our own Carol Lueder) at the show selling hunt clothing, antiques, books and more. The Museum of Hounds and Hunting North America which is housed in the Morven Park mansion will be open and free on the day of the show. There is a large collection of foxhunting memorabilia and art in the museum. This year, there will be a special exhibition of foxhunting art on china dinnerware. Twelve different tables will be set up with china inspired by 19th and 20th century antique hunt scene china. It's a great day out, so please consider joining us in Leesburg on the 28th of May. Bring a chair and a hat for the sun and enjoy a day celebrating our beloved foxhounds. RSVP to Hugh by Thursday, May 25 if you can join us. (brownhh@jmu.edu H 540-886-6359, W 540-568-3501)

7. 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!

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

Hounds, horses, and riders love the thrill of the chase. Few breeds of dogs get to do what they were actually bred to do as the foxhound does. In hunting, horses get to move together in a herd as they do in a pasture so it's a natural activity for them. Families and friends enjoy riding together across natural terrain following the unscripted path of hounds and quarry.

Foxhunting follows the ecological balance of the seasons, beginning in the fall after farmers have harvested their crops and finishing in the spring when farmers are planting and wild animals are having their young.

Foxhunters are avid conservationists and active in helping to impede urban sprawl. Many are involved in preserving land for riding and hunting. They take care of their hunting territories by clearing trails, maintaining healthy wildlife habitat and building strong conservation communities through easements. The hunts in North America alone have placed more than a million acres in conservation easements that all field sport participants can enjoy.

9. Hunter Pace Season! The hunt season may be over, but the hunter pace season is in full swing! There are lots of opportunities for fun rides in the area this spring and summer. Here are a few that the NewsHound has heard about so far:

Sat.-Sun. May 20-21	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub
Saturday, May 27	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> (tentative) www.oakridgefoxhuntclub.com
Saturday, June 3	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Long Meadows Farm, Huddleston http://www.bedfordcountyhunt.com/
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 www.farmingtonhunt.org
Sat.-Sun. June 17-18	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend
Saturday, June 24	Glenmore Hunt <i>Murder Mystery Ride</i> www.glenmorehunt.org
Sat.-Sun. July 15-16	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend
Saturday, August 12	Farmington Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Miller School of Albemarle
Sat.-Sun. Aug 19-20	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend

10. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

Sunday, May 28	Glenmore Hunt & Rockbridge Hunt Joint <i>Reception</i> at the Virginia Foxhound Show, 9AM-4PM, Morven Park, Leesburg
Saturday, June 10	*Poker Ride at West Airslie & Greenock Farm (Louise Golian, organizer)
Saturday, July 15	*Judged Pleasure Ride 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

Sat.-Sun. May 20-21	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend
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 Spring <i>Horse Show</i> , Brookhill Farm
Saturday, June 10	Farmington Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Mint Meadows
Saturday, June 17	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Long Meadows Farm, Huddleston
Sat.-Sun. June 17-18	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend
Saturday, June 24	Glenmore Hunt <i>Murder Mystery Ride</i>
Saturday, July 1	Farmington Hunt Jumper Show, Schelford Farm
Tuesday, July 11	Farmington Hunt <i>Fun Horse Show</i>
Sat.-Sun. July 15-16	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend
Saturday, July 29	Farmington Hunt <i>Jumper Show</i>
Saturday, August 12	Farmington Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Miller School of Albemarle
Sat.-Sun. Aug 19-20	Farmington Hunt <i>Foxhunting Clinic</i>
Sat.-Sun. Aug 19-20	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend
Saturday, August 26	Glenmore Hunt <i>Fun Horse Show</i>
Saturday, September 9	Glenmore Hunt begins <i>Autumn Hunting</i>
Sunday, September 17	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Maceland in Chatham
Sunday, September 17	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i>
Saturday, October 21	Glenmore Hunt <i>Opening Meet & 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 Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i>

12. 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**

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

Laura Jarvis, Steward 2015-2019

540-319-8863
lwjarvis93@gmail.com

Liz Hall, Steward 2016-2019

434-760-3784
ehhall1229@yahoo.com

Kathy Eichelberger, Steward 2017-2021

H 540-258-2065, W 540-343-0193, M 540-354-2348
bergrbnch@aol.com

Rebecca Tilson, Steward 2017-2021

540-460-3101
rebecca@broadviewranch.com

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Broadview Ranch

1397 Zollman's Mill Rd., Lexington, VA 24450
540-458-1001
<http://www.broadviewranch.com>
store@broadviewranch.com

Dover Saddlery

484 Maury River Road, Lexington, VA 24450
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<http://www.doversaddlery.com>
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Ms Carol Lueder & Fair Chase, Inc.

925 Valley Pike, Lexington, VA 24450-3352
(H) 540-463-9189, (Cell) 540-460-5302
<http://fchase.net>
shop@fchase.net

Rockbridge Farmers Co-op

645 Waddell Street, Lexington, VA 24450
540-463-7381
<http://rockbridgefarmerscoop.com/>

Southern Inn Restaurant

37 South Main Street, Lexington, Virginia 24450
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info@southerninn.com

Stone Bridge Equestrian Center

100 Equus Loop, Natural Bridge, VA 24578
540-291-24578
stonebridgeequestriancenter@gmail.com

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100 Asian Pear Way, Natural Bridge, VA 24578
540-291-1481