



Rockbridge Hunt NewsHound

August 14, 2024

“A really fine working hound is unquestionably an extraordinary animal, probably the most unusual of all domestic animals. He must have prodigious endurance, the best nose of all sporting dogs, cry, speed, strength, agility, brains, acquired experience, and be under the mounted huntsman’s control where proper pack work is de rigueur. No other domestic animal used for sport is called upon for all the qualities that must be found in a good hound.”

-Joseph B. Thomas, MFH in Hounds and Hunting Through the Ages

1. Work Days! Thank you to everyone who came out to help clear trails on Saturday, August 10. We had a terrific group and we were able to split into four teams to conquer several areas at Broadview. Thank you to team members: Jake Wilson, Bob Richardson, Cindy Morton, Diane Long, Mary Ann, Ken, and Nicholas Jacobsen, Duane Hylton, Kathy Eichelberger, Lu Dooley, David Conner, and Hugh Brown. We even had a new friend of the Hunt come out to help – Jessica Laprice. Thank you all for your hard work Saturday!

Thank you also to the tiny, but mighty crew that came out on Saturday, August 3 – Bob Richardson, Cindy Morton, Diane Long, Hugh Brown. That crew worked at Hunt, Inc. Cindy Morton and Lu Dooley also did work earlier in the week at Hunt, Inc. Thank you all!

There is much more to do! Please consider coming out to help. We have work days scheduled for the next three Saturdays. Locations TBA. We usually start at 8 AM to beat the heat but can usually accommodate someone who can’t start until 9 AM. Just let us know in advance.

Thanks everyone! Not long until hunting starts again!

2. Volunteers’ Hunt. This year’s Volunteers’ Hunt to reward members who come out to help clear trails and maintain our hunt country will be Saturday, September 7 at The Hunt, Inc. at 8:00 AM.

3. Kick-off Party. The Executive Committee is busy making plans for our annual party to kick off the hunting season on **Saturday, September 7**, at the Tex Tilson Lodge. At 4:00 PM you can get a look inside the Kennels with Huntsman Jake Wilson, MFH and see our foxhounds and last year’s pups that are getting ready to hunt for the first time this fall! The rest of the evening’s events will start at 5:00 PM at the Tex Tilson Lodge. Reservations are not needed for this casual event.

One of the features of this annual gathering is a silent auction to help raise funds for our award-winning hounds. If you have something you would be willing to donate for the silent auction, please let Hugh Brown know. If you or someone you know would be willing to donate a service (riding lessons, animal care, etc) that would be great!

This is a potluck affair – the main course and beverages will be provided. Please bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share. Please let Hugh know if there is someone you would like to receive an invitation. We hope to see you there!

4. Hound Sponsorship. We traditionally focus a lot of our Kick-Off Party energy on our hound sponsorship program. We are hopeful that many of our Rockbridge Hunt members and friends will consider choosing and sponsoring a hunting hound this year. We extend a big "Thank you!" to those of you who have already reached out to sponsor your hound again or to sponsor for the first time. Throughout the year our hounds must be fed, vaccinated, given flea preventative treatments and receive medical attention. We can expect to spend over \$330 on each hound each year. The importance of hound sponsorship cannot be overstated. Your contributions are vital to the well-being of our pack. Sponsorship for an entire year is \$250, or \$125 for a half year. Many of us like to sponsor the same hound year after year and if that is your wish please contact Valerie Mann by September 1st to renew sponsorship of "your" hound. valeriemann1229@gmail.com or 540-580-6614. The list of hounds available for sponsorship will be available after September 1st.

Very special thanks to Dr. Brent Hall for continuing our hounds' veterinary care this year!

5. Are you licensed to Hunt? Remember to get a new Virginia Hunting License before the start of hunting season. This is *not optional*; everyone must purchase and carry a current hunting license. We recommend that you get a statewide license if you plan to attend joint meets away from home. You can purchase licenses several ways:

On-line at <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/licenses/> or <https://gooutdoorsvirginia.com/>

By telephone: 1-866-721-6911 (available Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM, except **holidays**)

In person at local license agents located around the Commonwealth. Licenses are also sold by some clerks of the Circuit Court.

6. Getting Ready for the Hunt Season. The start of hunting season is only a few weeks away now! Our huntsman and staff are hard at work training the hounds for the upcoming season. Here are some things you can be doing now to get ready for the fall:

1. Buy a Hunting License. This is *not optional*, everyone must purchase and carry a current hunting license. (See "Are you Licensed to Hunt" above for instructions.)
2. Start legging up your horse – and yourself!
3. Make sure your Coggins is up to date, along with other vaccinations and worming.
4. Sign a waiver for the season.
5. Pay some or all of your dues.
6. Check your tack for wear and tear.
7. Check your trailer and towing vehicle - tire pressure and wear, electrical systems, etc.

7. Hunter Paces! The popular Hunter Pace Series with Glenmore, Oak Ridge and Bedford County hunts continues this summer and fall! These events are either encouraging or requiring advance online registration, so be sure to check their websites carefully for details. The current schedule is:

Saturday, August 17 Oak Ridge Fox Hunt *Hunter Pace* <https://oakridgefoxhuntclub.com/>

Sunday, September 15 Bedford County Hunt Fall *Hunter Pace* <https://bedfordcountyhunt.com/>

Sunday, October 6 Rockbridge Hunt Fall *Hunter Pace* <http://rockbridgehunt.org>

Sunday, November 10 Glenmore Hunt Fall *Hunter Pace* <https://www.glenmorehunt.org/>

8. Virginia Hunt Week 2024! Virginia Hunt Week is back and better than ever. There are two more meets this year than last year. There will be several evening parties for participants throughout the week(s). The cost for members of one of the participating hunts will be \$350 (15 meets for \$350!!!). The cost for foxhunters not members of a participating hunt will be \$600. Juniors (full-time students 22 and under) participate at no cost. Although the schedule is subject to change, here is the tentative plan for this year:

Wednesday, October 23	Princess Anne Hunt
Thursday, October 24	Deep Run Hunt
Friday, October 25	Caroline Hunt
Saturday, October 26	Rappahannock Hunt
Sunday, October 27	Thornton Hill Hounds
Monday, October 28	Warrenton Hunt
Tuesday, October 29	Old Dominion Hounds
Wednesday, October 30	Keswick Hunt
Thursday, October 31	Bull Run Hunt
Friday, November 1	Bedford County Hunt
Saturday, November 2	Rockbridge Hunt (yes! Our Opening Meet!)
Sunday, November 3	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt
Monday, November 4	Shopping Day at Horse Country
Tuesday, November 5	Glenmore Hunt
Wednesday, November 6	Middlebrook Hounds
Thursday, November 7	Farmington Hunt

Check out the new Virginia Hunt Week website at vahuntweek.org. Registration forms will be available around September 1 on the website. Hugh Brown is a Director of Virginia Hunt Week, so you can direct questions to him at brownhh@jmu.edu or 540-290-9868.

9. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your Calendar

Saturday, September 7	Kick-Off Party at the Tex Tilson Lodge
Saturday, September 14	Volunteers' Hunt
Wednesday, Sept. 18	Autumn Hunting begins
Sunday, October 6	Fall Hunter Pace (series) at Goose Creek Highlands Farm, Fairfield
Saturday, November 2	Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds, Joint Meet with Glenmore Hunt and Rockbridge Hunt hosts Virginia Hunt Week
Saturday, November 9	Joint meet with Sedgfield Hunt
Saturday, December 7	Christmas Meet & Party
Thursday, December 26	Boxing Day Meet
Wednesday, January 1, 2025	New Year's Day Meet

Other Hunt-related Dates

Saturday, August 17	Glenmore Hunt Moonlight & Fireflies Ride
Saturday, August 17	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Hunter Pace (series)
August 17 & 18	Middlebrook Hounds hunter pace
Sunday, Sept 15	Bedford County Hunter Pace (series)
Saturday, Sept. 21	Glenmore Hunt Foxhunting Clinic
Saturday, Sept. 21	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Foxhunting Clinic
Saturday, October 5	Farmington Hunt Fall Hunter Show with Hunt Night
Wed Oct 23-Thurs Nov 7	Virginia Hunt Week 2024

Sunday, November 3	Farmington Hunt Fall Hunter Pace – The Barracks
Saturday, November 9	Farmington Hunt Opening Meet
Sunday, November 10	Glenmore Hunter Pace (series)
Sunday, November 17	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Turkey Trot at Wood Ridge Brewery
Thursday, November 28	Keswick Hunt Blessing of the Hounds

10. 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 2024-2025

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

Cindy Morton, MFH
540-570-0770
mortonc@wlu.edu

Hugh Brown, MFH
540-290-9868
brownhh@jmu.edu

Jake Wilson, MFH & Huntsman
540-784-0515
wilsonfence@gmail.com

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 Arnold, Steward, 2021-2025
(H) 540-725-3656 (Cell) 540-815-0325
vinluke@cox.net

Susan Richardson, Steward 2021-2025
804-212-6194
ten9tilson@yahoo.com

Liz Hall, Steward 2023-2027

434-760-3784

ehhall1229@yahoo.com_

Diane Long, Steward 2023-2027

540-473-3151

dglongacres@yahoo.com

Please Support the Sponsors of the Rockbridge Hunt

Blue Ridge Equine

Valley Division, 55 Mint Spring Circle

Staunton, VA 24401

(540) 460-5702

<http://www.blueridgeequine.com/>

Broadview Ranch

1397 Zollman's Mill Rd., Lexington, VA 24450

540-458-1001

<http://www.broadviewranch.com> store@broadviewranch.com

Grey Horse Saddlery

Ms Mary Ann Jacobsen

490 Swope Lane

Fairfield, VA 24435

301-305-2832

www.greyhorsesaddlery.com greyhorsesaddlery@gmail.com

Ms Carol Lueder & Fair Chase, Inc.

407 Kyloe Road, Southern Pines, NC 28387

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/>

RubyLyane

Equestrian Jewelry by Trish Lyons

25 Skyview Lane, Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473

540-348-1073 Taw0106@yahoo.com

Virginia Gold Orchard

100 Asian Pear Way, Natural Bridge, VA 24578

540-291-1481, M 540-354-2348