



## Hotot Rabbit Breeders International July 2019 Newsletter

---

Hotot Rabbit Breeders International was founded in 1979 to promote and encourage the breeding and improvement of the Blanc de Hotot. Members promote the Blanc de Hotot through active club membership and are quick to point out the Blanc de Hotot advantages for food, fur and fancies.

## Happy Summer to all of our HRBI Friends and Family!

We would like to introduce ourselves as your Newsletter Editors, we are Annette and Greta Minthorn. Greta has been showing Dwarf Hotots for the past 5 years and finally got me (her mother) talked into letting her expand and enter into the 6-Class world -naming -Blanc de Hotots. She obtained her first pair last September and hasn't looked back. She loves going to shows with the *RARESTARBA* recognized breed and even won a BIS this past March. In June we welcome our first litter. Greta's younger sister also shows rabbits, but her breed is the American Fuzzy Lops (so no competition between them). Thank you for being patient with us as we learn how this works.



### Important Contact Information:

President	Stacey Konency <a href="mailto:Htclub.konency@gmail.com">Htclub.konency@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Barbara Blankenship <a href="mailto:B_blankenship@hotmail.com">B_blankenship@hotmail.com</a>
Secretary/ Treasurer	Lisa Lang <a href="mailto:hrbicclubmembership@gmail.com">hrbicclubmembership@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editors	Annette and Greta Minthorn <a href="mailto:theminthorns@gmail.com">theminthorns@gmail.com</a>

## 2019 HRBI Calendar of Events~

### January

- 1 - Newly elected officers assume duties
- 1 - Newsletter Published
- 15 - Quarterly report of finances, membership  
And sweepstakes

### February

- 1<sup>st</sup> Weekend - Exec Committee Meeting
- 10 - Domestic Rabbit Report due to ARBA

### March

- 15 - Newsletter Reports due from all Officers  
And Members

### April

- 1 - Newsletter Published
- 10 - Domestic Rabbit Report due to ARBA
- 15 - Quarterly Report of finances, membership  
And sweepstakes

### May

- 1<sup>st</sup> Weekend - Exec Committee Meeting

### June

- 10 - Domestic Rabbit Reports to ARBA
- 15 - Newsletter Reports due from all Officers  
And Members
- 30 - Sweepstakes Ends

### July

- 1 - Newsletter Published
- 1 - Sweepstakes Year Begins
- 1 - National Show bids submitted (2 years)
- 15 - Quarterly Report of finances, membership  
And sweepstakes
- 31 - E. Bernhard Memorial Member of the Year  
Award nominations due.

### August

- 1<sup>st</sup> Weekend - Exec Committee Meeting
- 1 - All petitions for Elected Offices due
- 10 - Domestic Rabbit Report due to ARBA

### September

- \*Election of Officers\* (by 30<sup>th</sup>)
- 15 - Newsletter Reports due from all Officers  
And Members

### October

- 1 - Newsletter Published
- ARBA National Convention - Annual Meeting  
Of HRBI (Secretary's Stipend Given)
- 10 - Domestic Rabbit Report due to ARBA
- 15 - Quarterly Report of finances, membership  
And sweepstakes

### November

- 1<sup>st</sup> Weekend - Exec Committee Meeting

### December

- 10 - Domestic Rabbit Reports to ARBA
- 15 - Newsletter Reports due from all Officers  
And Members
- 15 - Annual Committee Report due from  
Committee Chairs to be published in  
January Newsletter

## *Message from the President*

Stacey Konency ~  
Vancouver, Washington  
[Htelub.konency@gmail.com](mailto:Htelub.konency@gmail.com)

Hello Hotot Enthusiasts!

I am hoping you are having a great start to summer and that your nest boxes are full. I am looking forward to ARBA Convention in Reno in October! I anticipate large numbers of Hotots on the table within Youth and Open. We will be manning the Hotot booth full time and it will be decorated to the hilt. The rabbit community will know we have arrived and mean business in Reno!

Since a recent SCAM occurred with my club email address, I want to share ways to keep your email presence safe:

1. Use a strong, unique password
2. Use two-factor authentication
3. Do not forward emails very often
4. Logout of any public sessions you open your email over
5. NEVER Cc: a whole list of email addresses you are sending email to - ALWAYS Bcc: which sends the email to everyone you want to, but no one sees each other's email addresses
6. Read emails thoroughly - email may come in with a legitimate email address and use names of people that you know - but the email will contain subtle misspelled words and often be grammatically incorrect

Now on to club work! Your Board of Directors has continued to stay on top of HRBI business. Please review the attached BOD Minutes in this newsletter for a complete outline of business.

### **Highlights Include:**

**Retirement of the Traveling Trophy.** The trophy has been a great award for winners of the national Hotot conventions, but it has been cumbersome to deal with and transport. It will make its last trip to Reno in October and then either go home with the convention winner or be donated to the ARBA museum. In the trophy's place, we will be creating a beautiful traveling plaque that will be easily mailed ahead to the next convention for awarding or packed in the winner's suitcase.

**Scavenger Hunt at Reno!** We will be hosting an all-breed scavenger hunt that will run over the course of three days during convention for the youth. This has been well received by our Hotot youth as an excellent event idea. There will be top three cash/or rabbit merchandise prizes. The theme for the scavenger hunt will follow the Oregon Trail which ties into the Go West Young Buck Convention theme. It is sure to be a fun event that we hope to make an annual convention tradition. If anyone would like to help with this event please contact me as I am heading it up.

It is time to re-establish awarding the **Bernhard Memorial Member of the Year!** Nominees are due July 31st! Please submit your nomination and a letter as to why the person should be nominated and send it to our Secretary Lisa Lang [hrbicclubmembership@gmail.com](mailto:hrbicclubmembership@gmail.com). The Bernhard Memorial Member of the Year" shall be chosen yearly. Nominations shall be made to the Secretary prior to July 31st for any member whose services and/or achievements merit such an award. The Executive Committee shall review each nominee's services and/or achievements and shall select a "Member of the Year." Award to be presented at the Annual General Meeting. A plaque bearing the winner's name shall be kept in this organization's office with a token award presented to the winner. A resume of the winner's service(s) and/or achievement(s) will be published in the official publication.

**Resignation of International Director** I want to profusely THANK Aurora West for her work as International Director, Hotot Guidebook creator and Website Manager. Aurora has been a huge asset to my transition as President and to our club these past few months. She has made tremendous strides with our Hotot Guidebook and our website. I hold great appreciation for Aurora and working with her. She will be missed.



Time to send in **Petitions for Elected Office!** We will be voting for Vice President, West Regional Director, (The initial terms of West, Central and East Regional Directors will be staggered in one, two- and three-year terms, respectively. All U.S. Regional Director elections thereafter will continue with three-year terms to keep up the one-third regional rotation. International Director will be a term of two-years.) and International Director. Please submit petition for elected office to Secretary Lisa Lang [hrbicclubmembership@gmail.com](mailto:hrbicclubmembership@gmail.com) by August 1st. Any member in good standing of the Hotot Rabbit Breeders International, wishing to become a candidate for any elective office of this organization, shall write the Secretary for a nominating petition. The nominating petition shall carry the members name and the office s/he decides to be a candidate for and shall carry the signatures of five (5) members in good standing of the Hotot Rabbit Breeders International. When the petition is filed before August 1st, with the Secretary, the Secretary shall then place the member's name who appears on the petition on



the election ballot. The Secretary shall then mail or transmit by email the election ballots to each member in good standing.

**Survey Monkey!** This survey format has proven effective and efficient in our voting process. Our recent vote on adding a Family Membership was approved through Survey Monkey votes and we had a fair number of responses. If you have any questions or concerns about Survey Monkey please share them with me. We will continue to use this platform for voting. Please watch your inbox for another matter to vote on soon.

**2021 National Bids** are past due. Please submit immediately for our review. The only current bid is Portage, CO RCBA

**Many Hands Make Light Work!** Please consider joining a Committee to help our club run smoothly and with as much member participation as possible. The HRBI is made up of all of us and our success is a direct result of member participation. The club needs two more Standards Committee members to join chair Paula Courtney, Aurora West and Alexis Lichvarcik. We also need an Elections Committee Chair who will handle the election nominations, create, and manage the Survey Monkey vote. Also, we are seeking a Website Manager. Finally, I have been creating the Standard of Policies and Procedures Handbook and could use some helping hands. Please contact myself or our Secretary Lisa Lang [hrbiclubmembership@gmail.com](mailto:hrbiclubmembership@gmail.com) with your inquiries about any of these positions.

## Regional Director Reports

### Central Regional Director's Report~

Corely Welch  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
[HRBICentral@gmail.com](mailto:HRBICentral@gmail.com)

I have not heard from any members in my district, I do hope it is because they are busy with nest boxes full of babies. I personally have two litters in the nest box!

As many of you have heard, Barb Semb's son was involved in a bad car accident, he and his wife were hospitalized, their daughter did not survive the accident. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

ARBA Convention is drawing near! Hope your nest boxes are full of hopefuls!

### Western Regional Director's Report~

Kim Sugden  
Wellsville, Utah  
[gotbunny@yahoo.com](mailto:gotbunny@yahoo.com)

Hello Blanc De Hotot family, I hope everyone is well and your nest boxes are full of bunny popcorn. First of all, I like to congratulate the winners of some major shows across the nation. Great job on showing some Hotot spirit and representing our beautiful breed.

With the warming weather it also means more shows, exhibits and fairs. I realize many of us across the nation are the only breeders in your area and its rather dishearten competing against oneself. Still how are we supposed to promote a breed and get more breeders if we do not exhibit? I hear quite often the line of "What breed is that?" or "I have never seen that breed before". Let's change that. It doesn't have to be for the show table ether after all they are a meat breed. Getting more breeders for meat also would promote our rare breed. It only takes a pebble to cause a ripple in a pond. You could be that pebble in your area. So please get out there and promote the Hotot. We need more breeders and member participation for this club to thrive.

Just as the saying goes it takes a community to raise a family this applies also to our club. Without our helping members we cannot exist. Right now, we have a few members who are putting their all into this club, which deserve a big thank you. However, it is rather stressful and time consuming for those few members covering many open positions within the club. I know how scary and daunting a position can be. I'm far from any social butterfly but I'm trying which is the key thing. So, if you could spare a few minutes each month we would love to have your help. Just contact one of the board

members, and I'm sure we can find a position you would be great in. So anyways keep those litters coming and hope to see you all at Convention to fill that lucky # of 50.

## Eastern Regional Director's Report~

Diego Aguilar-Beauregard  
Gatineau, Quebec, Canada  
[diegobeauregard@hotmail.com](mailto:diegobeauregard@hotmail.com)

No report submitted at time of print.

## International Director's Report~

Open Position

## Youth Liaison Report~

Isabella Stouffer

Our youth have discussed multiple ideas to involve other youth in the Hotot project, including a scavenger hunt, a live judging class extended to our club youth and any other youth that would like to participate. As well as having many informational displays at our club booth to inform anyone and everyone that may be interested in this amazing breed.



## Recognition~ National Blanc de Hotot – Columbus, OH-

Congratulations to those members who participated in the National Blanc de Hotot Show in Columbus, Ohio the first weekend in May. We are pleased to report the following winners:

Alexis Lichvarcik (Open)



Greta Minthorn (Youth) – Sr. Buck



Next year's National Show will be held on May 2-3, 2020 by the West Coast Classic in Reno, Nevada. Please contact JJ Veale if you have any questions about the event.

## HRBI Membership~

### *New Members~*

We are pleased to Welcome new and returning Members to our HRBI Family:

- Melissa Thom
- Randi Decker
- Annette Minthorn
- Stacie Grange (coming back)

#### Membership Application

Excited to report that we had 100% approval for adding a Family Membership (\$14 + \$2/youth) to the HRBI Constitution and Bylaws.

### *Current Membership Listing~*

Name	State/ Providence	Type
Kim Sugden Baker	UT	Open
Caleb Baker	UT	Youth
Dylan Baker	UT	Youth
Brian Bell	PA	Open
Ruth Ann Bell	PA	Open
Erik Bengtson	MN	Open
Diego Aguilar Beauregard	QC	Open
Barbara Blankenship	WA	Open
Mike Brackett	MA	Open
Rick Cole	IN	Open
Shawna Cook	CANADA	Open
Paula Courtney	TX	Open
Randi Decker	MI	Open
Melissa Deitrich	DE	Open
Fernand Eberli	FRANCE	Open
Barbara Galkowski	IA	Open

Name	State/ Providence	Type
Kelly Garrity	PA	Open
Gaby Gilbeau	PA	Open
Stacie Grange	TX	Open
Christina Hacking	UT	Open
Matthew Hinderman	MI	Open
Tazanna Hughes	CANADA	YOUTH
Jason King	UT	Open
Ella Konency	WA	Youth
Stacey Konency	WA	Open
Lisa Lang	PA	Open
Ludivine Laperrière	DC	Open
Alexis Lichvarcik	PA	Open
Mandy Lott	CA	Open
Sandy Lovelace	CANADA	Open
Annette Minthorn	IN	Open
Greta Minthorn	IN	Youth
Michael Pollock	CA	Husband/Wife
Julie Bisch-Pollock	CA	Husband/Wife
Becky Rothlisberger	CA	Husband/Wife
Jim Rothlisberger	CA	Husband/Wife
Leila Salmi		
Colleen Schulte	IA	Open
Stephanie Steffens	MI	Open
Ashleigh Stouffer	WA	Open
Bella Stouffer	WA	Youth
Melissa Thom		
Julie Turner	MI	Open
Isaiah Veale	AZ	Husband/Wife
JJ Story-Veale	AZ	Husband/Wife
Collette Waters	LA	Open
Aurora West	Canada	Open
Corely Welch	IA	Husband/Wife

Name	State/ Providence	Type
Nathan Welch	IA	Husband/Wife
Cheryl Wilkinson	WA	Husband/Wife
Robert Wilkinson	WA	Husband/Wife
Brice Wonders	PA	Open

### *Proposed change in HRBI By-Laws~*

A Survey Monkey will be distributed to the HRBI Members on or about July 14, 2019 for the following:

29 June 2019 PROPOSAL to remove the entire AWARDS section from the HRBI By-Laws

Historically AWARDS are not a subject contained in the legal documentation of a Constitutions or By-laws. Awards would typically be found in a Policies and Procedures Handbook (which is under development at this time for the HRBI).

Remove from By-Laws into Policies & Procedures Handbook ARTICLE VIII  
AWARDS

Section 1: An "E. Bernhard memorial Member of the Year" shall be chosen yearly. Nominations shall be made to the Secretary-Treasurer prior to July 31st for any member whose services and/or achievements merit such an award. The Executive Committee shall review each nominee's services and/or achievements and shall select a "Member of the Year." Award to be presented at the Annual General Meeting. A plaque bearing the winner's name shall be kept in this organization's office with a token award presented to the winner. A resume of the winner's service(s) and/or achievement(s) will be published in the official publication.

Section 2: A "Bob D. Whitman Trophy", named after Bob D. Whitman for his significant contribution to the breed in North America, shall be presented to the Open BOB winners of the ARBA Convention and the Hotot Rabbit Breeders International National Show. Winners will engrave their own name on the trophy using Bernhard Tango font, as follows: (Year) ARBA Conv. or (Year) National First Name Last Name Winners must return the trophy and its case by mail or in person to a club member who officially commits to award the trophy at the

next national event (Blanc de Hotot National Show or ARBA Convention). In principle, winners shall keep the trophy for a minimum period of two (2) months.

Section 3: A "Mary Hughley Award", named after Mary Hughley for her significant contribution to the breed in North America, shall be presented to the Youth BOB winners of the ARBA Convention and the Blanc de Hotot National Show. Section 4: In order to receive awards from Hotot Rabbit Breeders International, exhibitors must be current members of Hotot Rabbit Breeders International or apply for a membership and pay their dues.

## With Deepest Sympathy -

It is with sad news that we report that Nathan (Barb Semb's son) Semb and his immediate family were in a tragic car accident in which there were numerous injuries and Nathan's daughter passed away. Barb and Nathan had been longtime members of the HRBI. On behalf of the Club, \$200 was donated to them to be used however necessary.

If interested, a Go Fund Me account has been set up for them.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/nathan-sem-b-and-family>

## Next edition~

Let's make this Newsletter truly interactive. This Newsletter is not just for YOU but about YOU. We are looking for entries from YOU for the following sections:

- **Recipes** – submit your favorite dish, does not have to be rabbit based
- **What's New** – Is there a recent article you read? A recent seminar that you attended and would like to promote? Is there a show coming up that you want to promote?
- **Awards** – What show did you recent win? With pictures, we want to SEE you.
- **Best Practices** – For those of us who are new to the Blanc de Hotot breed – what key points do you have to share?

Please send your submissions to Annette and Greta Minthorn at [theminthorns@gmail.com](mailto:theminthorns@gmail.com) by the 15th of the month prior to win the Newsletter is to be published (see HRBI Calendar for dates).