

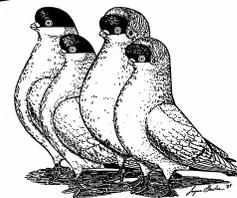
Helmet Happenings

May/June Issue

July 1, 2005

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From the President

I procrastinated and I missed the deadline for the last bulletin. My apologies to the Farnsworths. I understand how much time it takes to put together a quality bulletin and I thank them for all their time and effort. Their work has had a big effect on the club. I will try to be more prompt in the future. Thanks to all who contributed as well. It is really nice to see some dialog once again between club members.

I like Steve Mitchell's idea of a judging clinic at the national. I think it would do us all some good to discuss openly the standard and point allocations. I would suggest that it be held early afternoon on Thursday. Usually the birds are not due in until 4:00 p.m. on Thurs., but generally most are in before that. With the NPA meetings and the AHA meetings and activities, I wouldn't want to cram it in any later. So far as setting some system for allocating points for the final judging, that would still be the judges prerogative, based upon the points in the standard. I would think that the pre-show discussion might have some influence on him.

There has been a fair bit of discussion as to setting the sectionals in permanent locations. I for one am against it. Over the past twenty five years at national meetings, I have sat through many discussions about shows, particularly point shows. The last time there was a major discussion on this, the constitution was worded to say that the vice president is to set the date and location of the sectional show in consultation with the district directors. It further states that it is anticipated that the sectional show will be rotated through the various districts in that particular section. The purpose for this was to allow every member the opportunity to participate in a large helmet meet in his area even if he is unable to travel far from home to attend shows. We have new members who are just beginning to show, junior members that cannot travel, and some of us old timers whose means or time for travel may be limited that would benefit from a large show close to home. It would be good if some of us who can and do travel to shows would support sectionals in different areas and help new fanciers and the helmet breeds in those areas.

We have some large shows across the country such as Louisville and the Pageant that are going to be large helmet meets no matter if they are district shows or sectionals. I think that it is important to expose our helmets to many other breeders in other areas. When I got back into pigeons and helmets in 1981, it was several years before I felt that I could justify the expense of traveling to a show. For many years, I would allow myself because of family obligations one out of town bird show a year. I saved all year for that trip. In recent years, I have been able to travel more, but there was a time when I had to chose if I would attend the National, a Sectional, the pageant, or Louisville. I was always glad when our district hosted a sectional or national even if it meant more work for me. Although going to different areas can be a little inconvenient, perhaps we need to go out of our way once in a while just to support the breed. Personally, I enjoy seeing different areas of the country. I would like to challenge all members where possible to support the sectional shows. I think they can be a great building block for helmets and the AHA.

I hope you are having a great breeding season. I'll see you at the shows.

James P. Jensen

Secretary's Report by Charles Dwight

Not much to report. I guess everyone is raising so many young birds, that they are too busy. Or maybe they are like me and are trying to figure out how to raise some.

We are sold out of AHA bands! If you need more you will have to buy them from the NPA and register them with me. There is a \$5.00 fee to register them.

I talked to Wes Pfadenhauer a few weeks ago. He is planning on having some meets in District 3 this year. It has been quite a long time since there have been any there. Hope all you District 3 members will help him out.

I want to thank Curtis Oberhansly for paying for the picture page in the Jan/Feb bulletin. Curtis also paid for the ad in the new pigeon magazine, The Purebred Pigeon. He will also be writing articles for the magazine. Starting in May we will be having a classified ad in the Pigeon Debut again. We will also have a 1/4 page in the NPA bulletin.

I talked to one of our lifetime members a few weeks ago, Fred Smith. Fred asked me to write a short piece for him (elsewhere in the bulletin). As you know Fred and Al Flinn wrote the Helmet Handbook, the Bible for Helmet pigeon breeders. It was a great honor for me to be able to do this. Hope I got everything right.

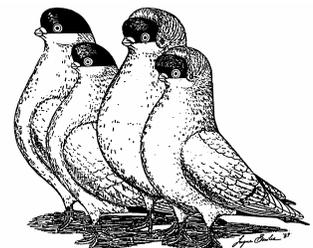
News from DISTRICT 7

by Bob Bollinger

What a great National. It was good to see old friends and enjoy good competition. I think everyone should be commended. The judges did a great job and everything went along smoothly. It was also good to see lots of nice birds from all parts of the country. The depth and breadth of the classes was striking. All in all it was a great show!

I would also like to thank the club for nominating me for an NPA service award. It is greatly appreciated! Thanks!

I was really really impressed by our Jan/Feb bulletin. It was good to see lots of articles from all areas of the country. Good work everyone! Participation helps keep up everyone's energy level and generate excitement for the upcoming season. Lets try to keep it up!



I Like the Point Card Idea

By Bob Bollinger

In our last bulletin Steve Mitchell brought up the concept of using a point card during helmet judging. I have seen this concept used for English Trumpeters at the Pageant many times. I am always impressed with how much people are engaged and in tune with the process during the ET finals. The point card is helpful for experienced and new breeders alike. New people are quickly immersed in the standard. Lining out the exact points for each feature helps new people calibrate their eyes. Experienced fanciers get to objectively critique and discuss the birds. By seeing the exact points that a judge allocates per feature we can focus on the direction of the breed and our own breeding programs.

I'm not too concerned about the uniformity of judging. Here in the east we are lucky to have a number of folks with pretty calibrated eyes. I think the big advantage of the point card is how it helps the judging spectators (you know it could even help generate interest and understanding among non-helmet breeders). I think the best place to introduce this concept would be in a judging clinic. There people could learn about the point card and we could all have fun reviewing the birds and our standard.



I Support Fixed Location Shows

By Bob Bollinger

I enjoyed reading Curtis' ideas regarding the Western Sectional in our last bulletin. I don't feel that it's appropriate for me, being from the East, to give an opinion specific to a Western event. However, I will heartily agree with most of his points regarding holding shows at fixed locations. I have long felt that holding events at the same location year after year had many benefits. I think the most important benefit of this concept is knowing the logistics. As Curtis pointed out, here in the East we all know everything there is to know about going to the NYBS in Louisville. We know how long it takes to get there, where we prefer to stay, where we prefer to eat, what to expect from the show, etc. This makes the decision to go to the show much easier. It also helps us convince others to join us. Many people can provide recommendations and suggestions to new fanciers or those who have never been there. Lets face it, many pigeon folks are resistant to new things. Having things that are known and highly regarded will generate larger events and more attendance.

News from District 8

by Curtis Oberhansly

Much of District 8 experienced an up and down weather year. This held true through most of the spring months. The District members that I have spoken to or heard about have had mixed results, some breeding through the weather issues better than others. Regardless, it sounds as though everyone will have some birds ready when the shows roll around. Speaking of which, here's a quick preview of the shows in Northern Utah coming up this year.

We have tentatively scheduled a lawn show for September, more details to follow. Always a fun way to kick off the show season. The AHA Western Sectional is in Salt Lake this year in conjunction with the annual Utah Premier Show November 4th-5th at the Utah State Fairpark. We also have a Young and Yearling show, which has been moved from fall to winter, to January 7th 2006, also at the Utah State Fairpark.

Speaking of the Western Sectional, it was interesting to read the comments of Todd and Cathy Farnsworth and Bob Bollinger. They each express different but very valid views. Everyone wants to be as fair as possible and make the Sectional shows easily accessible to as many members as possible. On the other hand, they also want to build the best specialty show they can to promote the club and the breed. I've talked with other members and they are sympathetic to both views. Then someone put a completely practical spin on the issue that I hadn't fully thought through. I'm paraphrasing them but it goes something like this: "Basically, you folks can't seem to come to the sectional when it is in our District, and we can't generally travel to it when it is in your District, so most of the Sectionals end up being kind a small and local anyway. So try something different, something with lots of excitement and see if it draws more exhibitors. Our local show will still be here, and calling it a sectional only really matters to us if a lot of members from other Districts can show up. Otherwise, we just get extra points for showing against ourselves."

I also thought that Bob Bollinger and Todd and Cathy Farnsworth made some interesting points adding to Steve Mitchell's article about point cards and judging clinics. I was talking to Don Phyllis about it and, although he didn't favor changing the judging system in any particular way, he did agree that there were some areas of the standard that needed clarification. (Such as beak length, stained beaks, etc.) Perhaps a judging seminar could be scheduled the afternoon before the judging at Louisville and the National to discuss the standard and simply banter around issues and then see where it goes.

Anyway, I'm sure that a lot of you by now are seeing some hopeful prospects in your loft. Good luck.



Curtis Oberhansly's
Young bird loft on the left, breeder loft
on right under the deck.



Sun Porch in breeder loft

News from District 14

by Victor Cline

It was nice to see everyone in Lancaster. I am sorry that I missed a lot of the show. It sounds like it was exciting.

I was very pleased to see our District 14 members participating and showing respectably in the various classes. Good work Steve, Brandon and Don!

I have several pairs together and I am hoping for a good breeding season!

Short Face Gleanings

by Phil DeCarlo

You Can Sell The Fruit but Never The Tree

In my earnest endeavor to get my short face birds out to fanciers. I am swapping quality for quality Short Face for Medium Face Helmets.

Now on a recent swap, I got over zealous—what I mean is, I let one of my “hit pairs” (proven breeders) go in an exchange. I got rid of the pair that bred me 4 top first place winners in three years. Now if one looked at this pair it would be deceiving to understand that they can breed such top birds. But they do.

Well I had a stroke of luck come my way. I ended up trading again and getting this pair back! Little did this fellow know he had the key to raising champion Short Face Helmets for years. The motto of this story is three fold:

1. Sell the fruit, never the tree.
2. Looks can be deceiving. Take it from me I had many pretty birds that bred nothing like they look.
3. We can all learn new things. From other fanciers & our *birds*.

See you all in my next column!

THOUGHTS ON BREEDING HELMETS by James Jensen

The other night I enjoyed a phone call from Myron Berger. I have enjoyed having Myron as a friend since I first got back into helmets in 1981. He was very appreciative of the quality bulletin that we are now enjoying, but he made a comment to me personally that has caused me to think. He said, "James, I have been looking through old bulletins to find some historical articles to send in to Todd and Cathy and I noticed that you have written a lot of articles, but you haven't written much on breeding tips." I told him that I didn't know what I could say that has not already been said. He then asked "James, how do you select your pairs for breeding?"

I have thought about that and I would like to share a few thoughts with you in the hopes that something I say might help another breeder. I can't say that I have a fool proof system, but I have enjoyed a good amount of success over the years. Part of the fun of breeding helmets is the surprises that you get no matter how hard you try to control the breeding.

I started in helmets with some very nice birds from Steve Mitchell and later from Dennis Bray. It took a few years to get an eye for exactly what I thought a helmet should look for and how to get it. I entered many birds in the shows just to see how they compared to other birds from other breeders. I asked lots of questions to the more experienced breeders. They were always glad to give me some tips. I read all that I could find. I helped steward birds for the judging and always asked the judge to explain himself.

After a few years I developed my own vision of the helmet. I didn't always agree with the judge, but I would pay attention to what he said in case I was missing something. I never based my breeding on the decision of the judge. I found that a different judge on a different day, and a bird in different circumstances can all add up to a real difference in the final outcome.

I tried to look at my birds honestly to see where I was lacking. I would then try to buy a bird that had a particular trait that I needed. If I couldn't get exactly the bird I wanted, I would try to get a close relative. May I emphasize that I bought stock birds, not show winners. I was looking for pieces that I needed. After many years and many birds from top breeders, I finally had some helmets that were getting closer to the standard. I might add that thanks to the generosity of AHA members I was able to purchase quality breeding stock at very reasonable prices. Only once did I violate my rule to not pay more than \$80.00 for a bird. I purchased a bird that I thought was really going to take me places at an auction for \$250.00. The silly thing drowned in the bath pan six months later. That was the end of my big spending days.

As I have come up with some quality birds, I have done a lot of line breeding. I like to breed to close relatives to enhance the desired features. I have also learned to cull, because you can also enhance undesirable traits. I always look at mating best to best, but find that quite often I don't do this. I like to find traits that complement. For example, I might put a bird with a massive crest that is a bit loose and may show a break in the mane with a bird that is tight feathered in the crest but has drilled in rosettes and a smooth mane. I like to breed with extremes. I have a bird with a very wide head and a wealth of feather, but he is very miss marked. I will use him for a year or two to try to improve heads, but not too long or I will have a lot of miss marked birds to deal with. I have a bird that has a massive crest and is too big. He is not a show bird, but I have him on a little tiny hen that some would wonder why I keep her and they are throwing some very nice birds. I know their backgrounds. They are part of a project.

Continued on next pg.

Continued from pg. 6

When I look over my birds to determine what I will keep for the next breeding season, I look for the following:

1. A balanced bird that is full in the neck, short and cobby, and looks like all its parts are meant to be together
2. A head that is wide at the front and is well rounded in the top skull.
3. A high crest with well formed rosettes that encircle the head coming up by the ears.
4. A thick stout beak that is strait set.
5. Head markings that are straight under the eye to the center of the rosette
6. Short legs that are set well back. This will cause the bird to stand more upright.
7. No sideboards on the wings. Good back cover. No wing dropping.
8. A narrow tail.
9. Rich color that is the same both head and tail.
10. A bird that is not flighty.
11. I really like a full, smooth mane and a thick short neck.

Not all desirable traits are in every gene pool and although I have added very few birds to the loft in the last five or ten years, once in a while it is necessary to add something. Again, I go looking for a particular piece not a champion bird. Often this out cross will not give the desired result the first year, but I will keep the best young for the trait that I want and work it back in. Because my gene pool is very tight, it usually doesn't take too long to add the new trait. Unfortunately, not all matings work out the way you want them to, but that is the fun of breeding.

I like to keep a fair amount of dilute color in the background of my breeding pairs. I feel that I get better color that way.

It has taken many years to bring my helmets to where they are today. It took a long time to get the rich red I now have. The beautiful crests with thick manes were another long term project. Over the years the sideboards have mostly disappeared. The size of my birds has gotten a little bigger than where I think they should be as have most helmets so I'm working to bring them down again. A major project now is to get the beaks strait set. There is always some refinement to work on. That's what keeps it interesting.

Well, I have rambled. I hope there is something here that will give you food for thought. I'm always glad to talk pigeons.

James Jensen
(801) 544-9390

Tribute to Albert Flinn

by Fred Smith

In 1982 the Helmet Handbook was published. Without the help and encouragement of Albert Flinn it would have been nothing but a dream.

Albert did the organizing, the printing, and layout for the handbook. It was him encouraging to start it and continue until it was completed. Albert would send me ideas at least once a month, often only two or three weeks apart. He traveled to my home three different times with ideas and encouragement.

When the AHA was in a very depressed state, it was Albert who turned things around and got it going again. He edited and published the Bulletin, (from 1982 until 1992) at no cost to the AHA. He also bought and paid for the AHA bands during the depressed years.

Albert was a very good breeder. He won a national championship, and was one of the first to develop the muffed helmet. He could have been a Master Breeder, but would never turn his points in because he did not feel that he was worthy of it.

At the shows Albert made an impact on everyone he met. He was always there to help anyone who needed it, or do anything that needed done.

Written for Fred Smith by
Charles Dwight



**2005 A.H.A. Nomination Ballot
National Show Judges**

Medium Face Crested_____

Medium Face Plainhead_____

Short Face Crested_____

Short Face Plainhead_____

Muffed (all)_____

The annual award for the outstanding member of the year is selected by popular vote of the membership on the basis of: (a) effort for the betterment of the AHA and the Helmet pigeon, (b) bringing in new members, (c) promotional work, (d) articles for and about the AHA and the Helmet pigeon, (e) helping new fanciers and (f) the bests interest of the breed.

Signed:_____

Return ballots to:

Charles Dwight, Secretary
1093 St. Rt. 101 E.
Clyde, Ohio 43410

Return ballots by July 31, 2005

Pageant of Pigeons 2004 Western Sectional Show Results

by Kevin Heppner

Judge: Ed Pointer

Plainhead Helmet—15 birds

Champion/Best Young:

#2356 Black YC—Leonard Patito

Reserve Champion:

#2362 Yellow YC—Leonard Patito

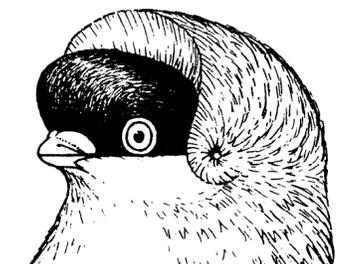
Final Line-up

1. #2356 Black YC—Leonard Patito
2. #2362 Yellow YC—Leonard Patito
3. #2355 Blue YC—Leonard Patito
4. #2353 Red YC—Leonard Patito
5. #823 Blue OC—Leonard Patito
6. #2283 Silver YC—Leonard Patito
7. #1510 Black OC—Leonard Patito
8. #1502 Yellow OH—Leonard Patito
9. #2368 Blue YH—Leonard Patito
10. #1507 Blue OH—Leonard Patito
11. #2384 Silver YH—Leonard Patito
12. #2352 Red YH—Leonard Patito
13. #436 Black YH—Shannon Ell
14. #2395 Yellow YH—Leonard Patito

Yellow

Young Cock

1. #2362—Leonard Patito
2. #2354—Leonard Patito



Judge: Ed Pointer

Medium Face Crested Helmet—76 birds

Champion/Best Young:

#3115 Red YC—Steve Mitchell

Reserve Champion/BoS:

#1660 Black OH—Wayne Diviney

Final Line-up

1. #3115 Red YC—Steve Mitchell
2. #1660 Black OH—Wayne Diviney
3. #1867 Black YH—Wayne Diviney
4. #3428 Black OC—Wayne Diviney
5. #3110 Yellow YC—Steve Mitchell
6. #1200 Red OC—Kevin Heppner
7. #1285 Black YC—B. McCormick
8. #3253 Yellow OH—Steve Mitchell
9. #1157 Red YH—Kevin Heppner
10. #1282 Blue YC—B. McCormick
11. #1207 Dun YC—Mike LaCom
12. #430 Red OH—Rob Kulungian
13. #3101 Blue YH—Steve Mitchell
14. #1229 Yellow YH—Mike LaCom
15. #308 Ash Yellow OH—S. Ell
16. #1381 Blue OC—Kevin Heppner

Dun

Young Cock

1. #1207—Mike LaCom
2. #3121—Steve Mitchell

Blue

Old Cock

1. #1381—Kevin Heppner

Young Cock

1. #1282—Brian McCormick
2. #1142—Kevin Heppner
3. #2596—Brian McCormick

Young Hen

1. #3101—Steve Mitchell
2. #2580—Brian McCormick

Pageant of Pigeons 2004 Western Sectional Show Results

Continued from previous pg.

Black

Old Cocks

1. #3428—Wayne Diviney
2. #407—James Jensen

Old Hens

1. #1660—Wayne Diviney
2. #2080—Brian McCormick
3. #3446—Leonard Patito

Young Cock

1. #1285—Brian McCormick
2. #3119—Steve Mitchell
3. #1859—Wayne Diviney
4. #453—Shannon Ell

Young Hens

1. #1867—Wayne Diviney
2. #3112—Steve Mitchell
3. #3124—Steve Mitchell
4. #2359—Leonard Patito

Yellow

Old Hen

1. #3253—Steve Mitchell

Young Cock

1. #3110—Steve Mitchell
2. #1101—Kevin Heppner
3. #3123—Steve Mitchell

Young Hen

1. #1220—Mike LaCom
2. #1130—Kevin Heppner
3. #3130—Steve Mitchell
4. #3129—Steve Mitchell

Ash Yellow

Old Hen

1. #308—Shannon Ell

Red

Old Cocks

1. #1200—Kevin Heppner
2. #1547—Leonard Patito
3. #1916—Steve Mitchell
4. #403—Rob Kulungian
5. #2605—Kevin Heppner
6. #872—John Heppner
7. #1222—Shannon Ell
8. #316—John Heppner
9. #2728—James Jensen
10. #2851—Steve Mitchell

Old Hens

1. #430—Rob Kulungian
2. #3224—Steve Mitchell
3. #1267—Shannon Ell
4. #201—Rob Kulungian

Young Cock

1. #3115—Steve Mitchell
2. #1113—Kevin Heppner
3. #2363—Leonard Patito
4. #3120—Steve Mitchell
5. #3109—Steve Mitchell
6. #1103—Kevin Heppner
7. #1221—Mike LaCom
8. #1211—Mike LaCom
9. #2376—Leonard Patito
10. #3107—Steve Mitchell
11. #1217—Mike LaCom
12. #1200—Mike LaCom
13. #1208—Mike LaCom
14. #2587—Brian McCormick
15. #1201—Mike LaCom
16. #1215—Mike LaCom
17. #226—Rob Kulungian
18. #225—Rob Kulungian
19. #540—(no other information)

Young Hens

1. #1157—Kevin Heppner
2. #3141—Steve Mitchell
3. #1203—Mike LaCom
4. #1202—Mike LaCom
5. #1204—Mike LaCom
6. #3128—Steve Mitchell
7. #2364—Leonard Patito
8. #1214—Mike LaCom
9. #1206—Mike LaCom
10. #2386—Leonard Patito
11. #1104—Terry Bishop
12. #1316—Mike LaCom
13. #411—James Jensen

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Ph: 801-955-8381
email: binghab@msn.com

Dan Homick
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Harrow, ON CANADA NOR 1G0



Are your dues past due?

Please check your mailing address label on this newsletter—
If highlighted, your membership is due for renewal.

Cassandra Dee Clawson
Victor Cardillo
Tracy Tran

This is your last bulletin—
Leonard & Donna Keller
Bob Kuzminski
Jim Garus
Ray Sanchez
Jonas Willie
Mark Etherington
Tom & Malanie Kleiser
Galen Goshorn

Treasurer's Report

Feb/May 2005

by Charles Dwight

INCOME

Dues	\$ 115.00
Bands	\$ 124.25
Band Postage	\$ 9.00
Futurity	\$ 100.00
Bulletin Pictures Pg. (pd. by C. Oberhansly)	\$ 90.13
Total	\$ 438.38

EXPENSES

Postage	\$ 15.33
Bulletin Printing	\$ 223.12
Bulletin Postage	\$ 67.79
1/2 2006 Bands	\$ 525.00
Pigeon Debut Ad	\$ 50.00
Total	\$ 881.24

TOTALS

Starting Balance	\$3,465.26
Income	\$ 438.38
Total	\$3,903.64
Expenses	- 881.24
Ending balance	\$3,022.40

Address Corrections:

James Jensen
E-mail: jensenkunkel@hotmail.com

Chuck Dwight's zip code on the order form should be 43410

Address Changes:

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1919 N. Blackberry DR
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Send comments, suggestions or even a joke or two to us at:
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528 N. 660 W. West Bountiful, UT 84087
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The deadline for articles in the next newsletter is August 20.

Issue	Deadline	Approx. mailing date
Jan/Feb	February 20	February 28
Mar/April	April 20	April 30
May/June	June 20	June 30
<u>July/August</u>	<u>August 20</u>	<u>August 31</u>
Sept/Oct	October 20	October 31
Nov/Dec	December 20	December 31

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District 13 Director: OPEN

District 14 Director:

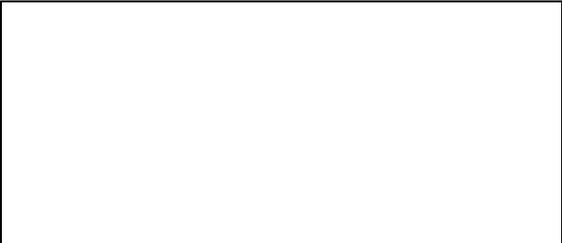
Victor Cline
375 Pangborn Blvd.
Hagerstown, MD 21742
Phone: 301-416-8688

American Helmet Association

c/o Todd Farnsworth, Bulletin Editor
528 North 660 West
West Bountiful, UT 84087-1333



American Helmet Association
Founded 1958



Helmet Happenings

A.H.A. BANDS SOLD OUT

If you need more bands, purchase them from the N.P.A. and register the numbers with me. There is a \$5.00 fee to register them. They must be registered to receive Master Breeder points.

Also, please send in your nominations (see enclosed form) for our National show judges by the end of this month.

Thanks, Charles Dwight, Sec.