



## President's Message

*Gloria Weisgram*

Hello to everyone, and a special welcome to the new members who recently joined the club! Summer is flying by and breeding seasons are in full swing. I have been in contact with many members over the last month. Most folks are experiencing some rainy weather, myself included. Some are already finished banding youngsters and others are trying to make up for a slow start. Be sure to dust off that standard and look for some youngsters that might be show worthy. That season will be here before you know it.

You will notice that we are voting for annual meet site and judge and also nominating members for office this time around. Des Moines and Alabama have been nominated for our annual meet site. Mike Swanson, Gary Romig and Bill Griebel have agreed they are interested to judge and in my estimation there are no poor choices here. Please make sure you that you vote. When filling our your card in regards to the nomination process you are allowed to write in a candidate for all offices with a limit to nominating a director for your respected area only. In other words you may not nominate a member for western director if you live in the central district. If you have any questions please contact your current director or any club officer or myself.

Dave Harris, our coordinator for the August USC Special contacted me June 1<sup>st</sup> to let me know that not enough members supported this effort in the way of ad money and written material. Dave has been in contact with Ed Pointer of the Debut and I have visited with Ed as well. Right now we will not be putting out a USC Special in August. Members will receive their money, ads and articles back. Ed has indicated that the Debut may be open to letting our club have the February spot and he has been in contact with Dave about this. You will be kept informed of any developments and in the meantime please hang on to your returned material. If you have any questions or have not received your money or materials yet please contact Dave Harris.

Progress on our new Thuringer Standard has been slow but sure. Bill Griebel Jr, has informed me that we will see it and be able to vote on it in the Fall bulletin when we vote for our 2004 officers. The final touches are being put on the photos that will accompany it. Thank you to Bill and the committee for your efforts.

Canadian Director John Taupert says northern breeders are having a good season. Plans are in the works to add another big Canadian district meet in the east this year. Also in the works are plans to have a bigger show in Rochester, NY. Information on the USC Canadian shows and USC meets here in the United States will be available in the next bulletin.

Lastly, I have heard from reliable sources that there have been no occurrences of Newcastle virus in association with pigeons in the past 6 months in California and the Pagent of Pigeon has been scheduled for Fall. We hope this situation has stabilized and that there will be a good showing of swallows in California once again.

Best of luck as you complete your breeding season!

Gloria

## Secretary's Message

*Elliot Yeske*

Hello all it is a slow time of the year for the club. We have lost a few members some that we had as members for a while and some that were new. We are all sold out of the muffed bands but I do have 61 clean leg bands left to sell. I hope someone needs them, it would be nice if the club can sell out of bands in both sizes. Here up north things are going okay have some nice young in clean legs but it has been slow with the muffed birds. Hope everyone else is having a good year and that we can record numbers of birds in the shows this fall. Please keep an eye on your dues expiration date there are few members that are close to need to renew. Thats about it for now take care everyone and good luck with the birds.

## Vice President's Message

*Bill Griebel Jr.*

Showing Swallows is a process. You cannot simply wake up one Saturday morning in December and decide that today you will take your pigeons to a show. While most people are basking in warmth of summer, the pigeon breeder has already moved his thoughts to the fall and winter. It is no wonder that those outside the hobby (and even some of our own family members) cannot understand what drives us to raise these creatures.

During the summer decide shows you will attend this season. Begin paring down the number of birds in your loft to enable the cream of the crop to moult and mature in a less stressful environment. Prepare your loft so that you may begin conditioning your birds. Keep your loft clean and birds free of bugs so that feather condition is not impaired. Pull muff feathers seven to eight weeks before the show. Begin trimming the spot and pulling foul feathers in the back, wing shield, hocks, and muffs one to two weeks before the show. There are few greater rewards in this hobby than seeing your Swallows at their best in front of a crowd of your peers!

My thoughts have turned towards the winter and the NPA Grand National in Birmingham, Alabama. I am excited at the opportunity the United Swallow Club has before it to show the hobby the quality of our birds and the quality of our program. With the support of our members, in both their presence and numbers of birds shown, we can have the finest Swallow exhibit the southern United States has ever witnessed. I know that our members appreciate the importance of growing and promoting the United Swallow Club and will support our endeavor in Birmingham.

Please take the time to nominate officers, vote for our annual meet judge, and vote for Birmingham as the United Swallow Club Annual Meet Site.

## Comments from Canada

Esteemed Breeder Friends:

First, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Hartford winners.

I honestly expected more 'Thuringer' as John Taubert told me some time ago, that there were some breeders with 'Thuringer' in the eastern United States. The long distance must be the reason there were not more.

My financial situation, unfortunately, forced me to decide between the Hartford show or between the National, in Germany. I made the decision to attend the National in Germany with Guido Pffiffer, who is also a member of USC. The show took place for the first time in the heart of Thuringian, which is not only the birthplace of the 'Thuringer' color pigeons but also my birthplace. I knew that in relation to other 'Nationals' this was going to be only a small show with 36,000 entries. (In 2000 there were over 62,000 entries.) The benefit, however, was the get together with the breeders, who I stay in constant contact with, but haven't seen for many years.

Amongst others, I had the pleasure to meet Hans Schipper at the show, who like we all know, judged in Tacoma. As it was, Hans Schipper was chosen to be the show director for the European show in November 2003 in Holland for that congratulations are in order. We also met with breeder friends from U.S.A. who didn't want to miss this show.

Believe me my friends, it was sheer pleasure going through the rows of the exhibition, observing the variety and quality of pigeon species. Very interesting also, were the discussions between the breeders over quality, standard, breeds, exhibition etc. and it was no surprise to find that there were differences of opinion on this and that, in our hobby.

I also met the breeders from whom I obtained my present Thuringer Wing Pigeons and who all are members of the special association of Thuringer Color Pigeons. As I only got to know a few breeders, last year in Tacoma (very nice guys), it might be a good idea to mention a few words about myself. I am sure some of you will ask yourselves who is this writer from the cold north anyway? When I immigrated to Alberta/Canada in 1981 I tried to get Thuringer Wing Pigeons, unfortunately without success; it seemed there weren't any in all of Canada at this time. The Government only approved the application for import, from Germany, in 1992. Then only after a very long waiting period, could I finally import Thuringian Wing Pigeons in the colors blue, silver, red, black and yellow. Bill Griebel sr., who visited the German National in 2000, brought back three more pairs, one pair, of which, was blue with black bars. This made me very happy.

Just think, until 1992 no Thuringer were present at the shows in western Canada and now they are making a steady appearance. We established a North American record with 120 Thuringer Wing Pigeons at the Western Canadian National in Calgary.

Since 1959 I bred Thuringer wing pigeons in blue and silver, with a forced interruption in the eighties,

but now I am trying to carry on. John Taubert was the first who was genuinely interested in getting some from me. Since John knows more breeders than I do, thanks go to him for the successful expansion of the breed and it is my hope that more breeders will become interested.

It was the right decision by our USC, in my opinion, to retain the European standard for the Thuringer Wing Pigeon i.e. adapt it; anything else would not make much sense. I can hardly wait for the translation.

Before I come to the end of my contribution here I would like to throw out a few things for discussion, as there seems to be quite some confusion in terms of characterization/description of the Thuringer wing pigeons. We did adapt the species from Germany so why can't we adapt the proper name also or agree on one name for that matter? Sure, mistakes were made in the translation many years ago but why should known inaccuracies be dragged along forever? As I have been told, it took many years to get the Thuringer color pigeon away from the 'German Toys' which was previously wrong. The right description is Thuringer Wing Pigeon if they have the spot, clean-legged and the colored wings, but they are called Thuringer Spot, Thuringer Swallows, Thuringer Fairies, Thuringer Clean-Legged or even Clean-Legged Thuringer Fairy Swallow like in the pigeon book of America by Wendell M. Levi - 1965. If we, as the special association, don't do it now, then who will? Presuming we, as breeders, are interested in a correction! I hope I am not viewed as a revolutionary

or wanting to change the world. I am just convinced that it is positive for the species and confusions will be eliminated in the future. There really is for example a Thuringer Spot, which has, in regards to standards, little to do with Thuringer Wing Pigeon - can you see what I mean?

If the members desire a correction, I am more than willing to help and would compile a list with pictures and the proper or recommended name, according to species, to eliminate future misconceptions. As I said, only if the members of the USC are interested.

Perhaps some can remember Tacoma, where I entered my pigeons correctly as Thuringer Wing Pigeons, but the show directors did not know what to do with them so they were accommodated three rows down.

Since I am on the topic, a word about Hartford - I am certain some of you also noticed it and it has to be said - it is obvious in the pictures that the spots become too broad at the base; and not only with the red Thuringer! If we want to accept the European standard in the future, then this needs to be observed as the standard clearly states that a too broad spot on the base (not necessarily the spot reaching into the beak corner) is a major fault. I am fully aware how difficult it is to evaluate the red and yellow ones to the level of the blue ones, and I hope I am not misunderstood either by the breeders or by the judges, but if no one will point it out, we will one day have a general problem with the spots and they will no longer comply with the standard.

Sincerely  
Bernd Licht

## The Judging Program

Hopefully all of you are having a great breeding season and are raising lots of good birds. I got a late start due to having knee replacement surgery. However I am catching up now and hopefully, I'll raise a few nice ones before the end of July when I break up my birds.

My purpose for writing about the judging program is to inform club members that I was elected to the position of judging program chairman in early March. This was done through the guidelines established in the certified judging program. I accepted the position because I felt I could devote more time to the USC club activities since I retired from my job at the end of May.

Some of the first things I would like to accomplish is to add more members to the certified judging program list. Currently there are a minimum of at least six members who should be added to the list! Bill Griebel Sr. who served as the last program chairman informed me that Gloria Weisgram needs only one more show to fulfill the requirements. Once this is done the program committee can vote on having her added to the list of certified judges.

I am more than willing to help any members

wanting to be added to the program. It is clearly evident a number of you have judged shows and completed most of the other requirements but just need to complete the paper work. I will gladly help any member with this task. I know a lot of the requirements are not that easy to accomplish. The requirements were designed for that purpose to make sure those who do become certified judges are capable of doing an excellent job of judging. Promoting and nurturing quality judging enhances the quality of our swallows.

Currently I have the complete program copied to those individuals that are ready to submit their paperwork should contact me and I can forward these forms to you. Don't forget that I am willing to assist you in any way that I can. Please call me if you should have any questions. The best time to reach me is before 8:00 A.M. or after 8:00 P.M. If you should have any suggestions for the program they are welcome, too.

Thanks and hope to see some of you at one of the shows this year.

Mike Swanson 303-857-0985  
4800 Road 23  
Fort Lupton, CO 80621

# 2003 Des Moines Show Information

Greg Olson

We would love to help you host your annual show, so let me know what you might need to be successful. We have many advantages in Des Moines, including cost, central location, available transportation, great hotels, hospitality, quality cooping, rebates, etc. The new show hall also has new advantages: club meeting space, all ground floor, easy/free/close parking and access, no isle judging, good lighting, etc. We are moving our show from Vets Auditorium near downtown Des Moines to The Cattle Building (Barn, Pavilion, Shed, Choose your name here \_\_\_\_\_). It is a very large, all ground level, concrete floor, commercially heated, commercially lighted building with glass windows. It has a main entrance on a large paved main street of the Fairgrounds. Inside the front doors is a large lobby with a commercial concession stand and male and female bathrooms with running water. Beyond the lobby is a huge building with 2 attached wings. There is parking right next to the building on both sides of the front entrance with both large drive-through doors and entrance doors. No stairs, no smart-aleck, smirking, gestapo-like security guards, no turn styles or posts to lift your baskets over. The Iowa State Fair is one of the very largest and best built fairgrounds in the USA with a multitude of shows, exhibitions, markets, and other events meeting there throughout the year.

I am getting emails and phone calls from people all over the country wanting to know how we can have a show in Iowa in December in a pole barn, tent, pig sty, you-name-it!!! It's a grand old building that has been very recently renovated and made available for public events - I'm told they don't EVEN have any cows in there except for 2 weeks in August!

Thanks for your inquiry, please EVERYONE let folks know we're NOT having a lawn show in December in Des Moines!!!!

Greg Olson  
ISPA Secretary"



## Nominations for Club Officers

**Please fill in your nominations for the Club Officers.**

**Nominations will appear in a ballot later this year**

**Send Your Choices to: Tim Starr, 8804 Ft. Loudon Rd., Mercersburg, PA 17236,**

**Phone: 717-328-9751, Email: [timstarr@comcast.net](mailto:timstarr@comcast.net)**

**NOMINATIONS MUST ARRIVE TO TIM BY AUG. 12, 2003**

**President** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President** \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary/Treasure** \_\_\_\_\_

**Western District Director** \_\_\_\_\_

**Central District Director** \_\_\_\_\_

**Eastern District Director** \_\_\_\_\_

**Canadian District Director** \_\_\_\_\_

## Current Club Officers

President	Gloria Weisgram
Vice President	Bill Griebel Jr.
Secretary	Elliot Yeske
Western District Director	Leon Stephens
Eastern District Director	Merle Starr
Central District Director	Bob Benson
Canadian District Director	John Taupert

## Vote for Annual Meet Location & Judge (Pick one for each)

**JUDGE** -  Bill Griebel Sr.,  Mike Swanson,  Gary Romig  
**MEET LOCATION** -  Birmingham Alabama  Des Moines Iowa

## SWALLOW CLUB TREASURE'S REPORT

*Elliot Yeske*

SECOND QUARTER 2003	
<u>PREVIOUS BALANCE</u>	1,845.64
<u>INCOME:</u>	
HARTFORD REBATE	51.00
DUES	55.00
CHECK RETURNED	325.00
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	
GARY ROMIG (NEWS LETTERS)	175.00
GARY ROMIG (AWARDS)	192.00
MIKE LERP (NPA BOOK)	90.00
CHECKING SERVICE CHARGES FOR MARCH, APRIL, MAY AND JUNE	15.00
<u>CURRENT CHECKING BALANCE</u>	1,804.64