



President's Message

Chris Auer

Hello ALL USC members!!!

I hope that every USC member and their families are doing well and that your breeding season has been a success.

The first order of business for everyone is that the election results are in and here they are:

2021 Election Results Officers

President: Chris Auer

Vice President: Gary Romig

Sec/Treasurer: Elliot Yeske

Directors

Eastern: Rob Teti

Central: Perry Mueller

Western: Dave Gazaway

Canadian: OPEN

Annual Meet Location

NPA National - Amarillo, TX Jan 20-22, 2022

Judge - Nate Wayne

My first reaction is VERY positive, we have 2 new District Directors in the East and West to compliment the "old" veteran in the Central (sorry Perry). Please support Rob and Dave as I know both of them want to have a positive impact on the club and drive enthusiasm. One of their first tasks is to find the support to have a district meet each year in their district plus NYBS and DesMoines in the Central. Good luck to both of you!!

Hopefully, there are a lot of you planning on attending and/or exhibiting birds at the Annual meet. Let's make this a great show!! In conjunction with the Annual Meet we will be holding our USC auction, please donate items to the auction. We could really use someone to step up as the member in charge along with someone to take on the running of the auction. Until someone volunteers please contact me about donations or anything else.

A few more thoughts:

- Breeders matrix - Last year we published our first breeder/breed matrix that is posted on the USC website, if any of you have any changes to the breeds that you are currently breeding let me know. For any new members or if you are not included in the matrix please send me an email with the types that you breed and I will get you added. I know of several people that utilized this resource last year to track down who had some of the "less" popular types.

- Email addresses - Here is a request to EVERY USC member, please verify your email address on the club roster to make sure it is the one that you use most often. If you do not have an email address listed please send it in, I personally like to send out periodic

emails to everyone and I know we are missing 6-8 of you on those communications. The fall is when a lot of these communications are sent out due to updates for the Annual meet and auction.

Purebred Pigeon magazine:

Last but not least don't forget to send articles and place adds for the Sept/Oct 2021 Purebred Pigeon special on Color Pigeons. The deadline for ads and articles is coming up 9/1/21. Although we all know that this issue is NOT a Swallow special not all the non USC subscribers know that. I talked to someone the other day that asked me if I was coordinating the Color/Swallow Special. Let's make sure there is enough content in the issue to have the USC shine in a positive light. Also let's all support this fine magazine.

Good bye for now and see you at the shows this fall

Perry Mueller, Central District Director notes

2 Shows for the Central District are announced. Perry Mueller will be the member in charge for both shows and the judges will be announced later.

National Young Bird Show on October 9 2021

Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center West Pavillion

Send Entries to: National Young Bird Show

4283 Produce Road, Louisville Kentucky 40218

Make Checks Payable to the National Young Bird Show

Entry Fee \$5.25 Canadian entries: US Money orders ONLY

Entries can be emailed to <NYBS1972@gmail.com>

Emailed Entries must be paid by PayPal

Iowa State Pigeon Association 94th Annual Show on

December 3rd & 4th, 2021 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds

Des Moines, Iowa. Entry fee is \$6.00 per bird if postmarked

before November 3rd. Late entries after the 3rd before

November 17 Entry fee is \$7.00 per Bird

Send Entries to:

Jeff Clemens, 2425 Gueneyer Court

Altoona, Iowa 50009

Western District News

Bill Griebel

Looks like we may be able to have a district meet at the Pageant this year. Between the Newcastle Disease and Covid-19 we have not had a Pageant of Pigeons Show since 2018. We are making plans for a USC Western Meet November 11-13 of this year. Just a reminder, USC can have only one Annual Meet which will be in Amarillo, Texas with Nate Wayne judging but each USC district may have several meets if they wish, just let our USC President know your intentions. I look forward to seeing you at the show!



Nate Wayne's Champion Swallow at the NPA Grand National-1992
See more NPA Champion Swallows inside.

Chris Auer

by Dr. Rob Teti, DVM

As easy going and amiable as the Skipper from Gilligan's Island, USC's President, Chris Auer, leads his flock of members from his perch located just south of St. Louis, Missouri.

Like many pigeon folks, Chris' first exposure to columbiformes came by way of his father. The elder Auer was working on the development of the Archcrested fantail (similar to today's American/Indian Fantasy) during the late 1960's and early 1970's. Chris' interest was sparked by the idea of selective breeding altering a bird's phenotype.

What also interested Chris, was the social component of having pigeons. He appreciated visiting the lofts of his father's fellow fanciers, including Ed Hohn & HP Maclin. And it is that same social camaraderie that Chris values with his friends and members within the USC.

As a child, Chris was involved in animal husbandry— from raising small mammals, like guinea pigs & rabbits to small birds, like quail & doves. However, it was in the early 1980s that Chris would acquire some Ice Pigeons &, subsequently, some black barless Silesians from fellow USC member, Perry Mueller. The raising of swallows continued for about ten years until he had to temporarily put that on hold due to subdivision rules prohibiting pigeons. So he focused on raising his two daughters instead of squabs. After an approximately 20 year hiatus from pigeons, Chris found himself back in the swallow flock in 2012 and has continued with swallows since.

In addition to the social component that the fancy brings, Chris does also enjoy the competition of the fancy; not so much the winning, but the hoping and dreaming of being able to produce that one winning pigeon for the next round of shows.



Pigeons also offer Chris a sense of daily purpose and respite from the daily stress of life.

Not only as the USC president but also as a breeder, Chris hopes that other members will benefit from his experience: "I hope breeders see me and other members breeding their favorite type of swallows even though they may not be the most popular. That with some hard work and dedication, improvements can be made to any type; that winning isn't everything but just a stop along the journey that we are all taking.. Along with that, I hope USC members learn that we have a common bond and that there can be long lasting friendships developed over long distances."

Helping Eggs to Hatch

By Bill Griebel

I am sure almost everyone has experienced watching with anticipation a set of eggs from a favorite pair only to see one or both go full term and then show dark blotches and die. Some believe it was meant to be and some try to help the young out. I'm in the camp that helps them out.

Here are some things that I monitor when eggs are ready to hatch. First, in each pen I have the dates that eggs were laid on the wall near-by and extend out the date they should hatch. I start looking for the first pip and start to monitor the hatching process. Roughly every two hours I check the piping process (yes, I am retired). If I come back in two hours and there is still only 1 pip I get concerned. If there are two or three pips or more, they are on track.

Sometimes there are extenuating circumstances where help might be necessary and the heat we've had lately is one of those circumstances and then, sometimes it's just the curiosity that you can get that little creature out and it lives. Once you have determined that the baby is probably under hatching stress there are two important things to be aware of. (1) There is a membrane around the

hatchling that has a system of blood vessels and if you try to hatch them too soon, they will bleed to death. (2) If you wait too long the baby will get exhausted and die! Fun, huh. Definitely, a delicate dance.

Once you determine the baby is under stress, that is when you go into action. I start with the pip or pips and start peeling the egg towards the end that the baby will come out. Little by little I peel small pieces and stop if the membrane starts bleeding, it is too soon and come back a little later and continue. If it does not bleed, I continue to peel the top part the baby would have piped off, I reach in and pull the head out, I leave the baby in the egg, put it back under its parents and it will come out by itself. It is very important that the delicate yoke sack be protected at all times, that's why I leave the baby in the egg with its head out. The baby will bring the body out when it is ready.

Easy, huh! When I started this year, I lost several of the young I tried to rescue. After much trial and error, I have saved the last 5 babies. Just another one of those "timing in life" things.

AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR

By Mike and Cathy Swanson

Recently we spent time in our loft with our grandchildren. Each Friday we pick them up for our "Friday Fun", a ritual we established many years ago and so enjoy each week.

On this Friday, they were eager to help in the loft. They love to band the babies and check to see which eggs are fertile. So as we went from pen to pen feeding the birds, banding the young and checking the eggs, we were met with a big surprise. Coiled up in one of the nest boxes was a very huge bull snake. We were startled, to say the least. Our surprise guest was coiled up in a nest box as if it was sitting on a nest of eggs or babies! We hurriedly left the pen amid shrieks and tennis shoes stampeding for the exit!

Sure enough, the bull snake, was sitting fat and sassy in the nest culling our young birds! We're confident he wasn't using the same criteria as we do. After capturing the snake, our grandkids were fascinated by his size and appearance. After some coaxing they collectively held our surprise visitor. He provided excitement and curiosity to our morning and made for great stories and photos to share with their parents. Off we went to a nearby wildlife area to release our "friend" and rare guest.

You just never know when an unexpected guest might arrive and our recent guest was very similar to one a few years ago. However, our previous bull snake had a heartier appetite and ate too much. He couldn't leave our loft through our inch welded wire.

Our guest reminded us of Gary Romig's Rosie that visited his loft a few years ago. Rosie, a non-venomous snake, had a hearty appetite as well. Gary released Rosie a few miles from his house. We surmised both snakes had good taste in pigeons, just like us.

We are vigilant about raccoons, skunks and most recently mink. Mink are a very new visitor that we have not experienced during our entire time raising birds. Certainly, our birds can provide entertainment for hungry late night visitors causing us to be every vigilant.

Our breeding season this year is going well. We have banded over 200 babies . . . way too many babies and birds. We will be winding down our breeding season breaking up our birds in two weeks so that means even more babies! We've been busy preparing for Cathy's upcoming New Mexico bighorn sheep hunt in August. So much to do and prepare for, yet we are excited! The draw odds for the license she drew were 0.017 definitely we got lucky!

Lastly, a reminder about the SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 DEADLINE for articles to be submitted for the upcoming Purebred Pigeon Magazine Color Pigeon special. Submit your articles to Doratha E.

Connally, Editor and Publisher of the Purebred Pigeon Magazine. Her contact information is staff@purebredpigeon.com her phone number is 615-851-9674. Doratha has already received numerous articles and is eager to receive yours! Should you need help don't hesitate to reach out for her support and expertise. She is eager to help and assist you in any way. Know that she has had some challenges in her life as a result of a tornado that caused much damage to her property yet she is always positive and resilient.

Gary Romig has designed both the front and back cover of the upcoming Color Pigeon special and in true "Romig fashion" they are stellar in every way! Gary brings his insight and creative genius to his work and we get the pleasure and benefit. Take advantage of both Gary's talents and Doratha's expertise, and participate in a truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity by being part of this unique special.

The Purebred Pigeon Magazine is without a doubt an important resource to our pigeon hobby. The quality of the paper, the pictures and the content are indicators of Doratha's commitment to publishing a topnotch magazine, a reflection of her dedication as an editor and publisher. Don't miss out, be part of the special by participating with photos, advertisements articles!



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George de la Nuez
909-224-5449

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NPA National Champions and other Top Swallows



1969, Ft. Worth-Dr. Hummel



1983, Lincoln, NB, Mike Swanson



1988, Portland, OR, Bill Griebel Sr.



1994 Portland, OR-Rudy Sabo



2001, Oklahoma City-Nate Wayne



2002 Tacoma, WA-Bob Benson



2003 Hartford CT-Gloria Weisgram



2004, Birmingham, AL-Dave Harris



2006, San Bernardino, CA-Mike Swanson



Jr. Champ 2008, Mt Clemens MI-Kaylee Skistimas



2010, Salt Lake City, UT-Bill Griebel



2011, San Diego, CA-Jay Beals



2012, Lakeland FL-Kaylee Skistimas



2013, Vancouver WA-Leon Stephens



2014, Oklahoma City-Mike Swanson



E rated 2014, Oklahoma City-Perry Mueller



2015, Ontario, CA-George de la Nuez



2016, Springfield, MA-Jay Beals



2017, Vancouver WA-Frank Bailey



2017, Vancouver WA-Dave Holloway



2018, Amarillo, TX-Mike Swanson



2018, Amarillo, TX-Ron Smith



2018, Amarillo, TX-Chris Auer



2019, Myrtle Beach, SC-Brad Stuckey



2020, Amarillo, TX-Brad Stuckey



2020, Amarillo, TX-Perry Mueller



2020, Amarillo, TX-Mike Swanson

Natures Choice



Health tips for pigeons

By George de la Nuez

In today's modern world and never ending challenge to keep our pigeons healthy, there is nothing more important than a solid nutritional plan that includes natural products to strengthen our bird's immune system.



Birds enjoying a freshly prepared salad of greens and carrots.

Establishing a good health program in our loft can be challenging and confusing when it comes to knowing how to approach and determine what works best for our birds. Essential nutrients to meet their needs are critical during certain times of the year. Fancy pigeons as a whole are more susceptible to ailments than their performing counterparts, which are bred and selected for their vitality, physical strength and stamina.

Today's strains of viruses like Adeno and Paramyxo plague our pigeons. Yearly, viruses claim a magnitude of young and old birds especially after exhibitions. At exhibitions they are exposed to a large number of birds and also experience stress due to travel and being cooped up for days. There is no magic pill or potion to prevent our birds from becoming ill due to health issues such as, Salmonella, E-coli, respiratory and many others. The pharmaceutical companies continue to formulate all in one medicines that promise to prevent or cure pigeons. However, this results in building resistance and exposing a bird to additional medications that are not necessary. Today, natural remedies are making a comeback and proving to be beneficial to the health and vitality of our pigeons.



Natural products will keep your pigeons healthy during the breeding season, producing healthy young.

Natural choices come in many forms and are readily available at our local grocery store and backyard gardens. They can make a huge difference in your health program without having to use costly chemically modified products. For the last several years I have diligently implemented a natural regiment resulting in an extremely healthy and productive flock. A holistic approach offers many benefits such as, overall conditioning, enhanced immune system, improved feather growth, increased survival rate, prevention of bacterial and viral infections, increased lifespan, etc. Maintaining maximum vitality and production is the foundation to a successful loft.

The natural approach to keeping your pigeons healthy is not as fast acting as antibiotics and other remedies. We must understand that when there is a question of life and death, medicine is your last option and one should not hesitate to use it.

There is an endless amount of natural remedies used today to assist with the overall health of our pigeons. I would like to share a few that are staples in my health regimen and use year around in my loft and have been proven and contributed to the overall health, condition and success of my pigeons in the show room and loft.



A home garden can be very resourceful for many of your medicinal needs for your pigeons and kitchen.



Oregano - This is one natural product that every loft should not be without! I use the oil form in the feed or water once a week. One can also use the dry leaves in the feed or made in a tea. For those that are gardeners, Oregano is very easy herb to grow, just like many herbs. I happen to have a small herb garden and have a plentiful crop all year. Oregano contains an impressive list of properties that include, calcium, magnesium, zinc, iron, potassium, copper. Vitamins C, A and Niacin. Helps digestion, boosts the immune system.



Cinnamon - This is one product I use consistently in my loft. The ground form is readily available at any market. I use it weekly mixed in with the feed moistened with a little oil of your choice. I give it once, or twice a week, 1

TBS per 2 LBS of grain. Cinnamon has many beneficial properties. It is an antibacterial, antifungal, antimicrobial and helps fight against young bird disease, salmonella and especially against E.coli and most effective against Canker.



Kale - As far as leafy green vegetables, I tend to use an array of them and what is in season at the time. My main go to is kale, for its high source of nutrients and good source of fiber, protein, thiamin (vit.-B), riboflavin, folate, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, calcium, potassium, copper, manganese, vitamin A, B6, C and K. I normally chop it up into small pieces and mix it in with other vegetables to create a salad, or hang it in the loft for the pigeons to pick at. Note: fresh vegetables are given only once a week.

Carrots - The sweet taste makes it a favorite with the birds and is enjoyed by the whole flock. Given to them shredded, or added to their drinking water in a juice. Carrots are a good source of thiamin, pyridoxine, niacin, folate, manganese, pantothenic acid, calcium, copper, iron, phosphorus, potassium, zinc, very rich in vitamin A, B6, C, and K.



Apple Cider Vinegar - This product is another one of those must haves in your loft cabinet.

The benefits of ACV and uses are endless. I know many of you are currently using it and I hope I can share a few facts or uses you may not know about. ACV has been known to have numerous health benefits. It can fight infection, promote digestion, prevent sickness. It boosts the immune system, anti-bacterial, anti-coccidia that is effective in killing strains of E-coli bacteria and Salmonella. Benefits include, aids the molt, firm droppings, increases egg supply, soft and shiny feathers. ACV includes vitamin G, A, B1, B2, B6, beta-carotene and vitamin P. The best type of ACV to use is the 100% naturally made with the mother. I use a ratio of 2 tbs per 1-gallon of drinking water, once to twice a week. (keep away from metal water drinkers) Like anything else,

one can overdose your pigeons if given in great quantities and have the opposite effect by damaging the good bacteria. ACV can also be used to slightly coat the feed when adding other powdered nutrients and vitamins. Lastly, ACV can be used in the bath water to help clean, soften and add sheen to the feathers.



Honey - The benefits of pure honey and its healing abilities play an important role in the overall health and prevention. Honey is a natural anti-oxidant, anti-bacterial, as a recovery supplement and a great source of potassium, iron, Calcium, carbohydrate, glucose and B vitamins. Honey can be given once, or twice a week at a rate of 1 Tsp. per quart of water.

The sweet taste is favored by our pigeons. Use it in combination with ACV to make the water better tasting.

Coriander - (Cilantro) - One of my most recent additions to my health program and a hidden gem when it comes to fighting the terrible disease Salmonella. Coriander has many impressive health benefits including a chemical called dodecenal which kills the harmful bacteria Salmonella. It also is a good source of thiamin, vitamins, B6, C, E, K, riboflavin, niacin, folate, pantothenic acid,



calcium, copper, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, manganese and zinc. Coriander can be given as a salad, chopped up finely with other vegetables, in the water as a tea and in seed form, or ground up and sprinkled on the feed.



Garlic - provides many benefits for our pigeons health. Garlic is a natural de-toxifying agent and blood purifier, anti-parasite (kills worms) support of immune system, for respiratory system. Loaded with anti-bacterial properties and anti-oxidants, with Selenium and germanium that boost the immune

system. It is best to use it fresh and avoid any processed liquids and powders which can cause the loss of its medicinal properties. Simple by crushing a clove and put in the water twice a week will make a huge difference in the health of your birds.

The health program and products I have shared in this article are the result of my own practices and experiences. I recognize there are many theories on pigeon health and management. I know that in order to maintain such a program, it takes consistency and hard work. I also know many of you have very large flocks and see it as a monumental job preparing and administering such products in large quantities. I would recommend if you want to try it on a small scale, one can take a specific section, or loft to see if this is something you may want to incorporate into your health program. For those that are currently implementing natural choices in your loft, hopefully you may want to introduce one or several of these products featured in this article. Prevention and building a strong immunity in our birds is our best defense in maintaining maximum vitality and production in our pigeons.

United Swallow Club Members August 2021

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