



American Racing Pigeon Union

Pigeon Tracks

It's great to see more junior members in our ranks—plus, we have more National Youth Race entries this year.

I am also happy to see the scholarship fund (announcement below) continuing in order that more junior members may benefit by educational financial support from their hobby organization. Since you are our future, and the future of the sport, we want to see you succeed.

On behalf of the AU board, thank you for participating and have a great race season!



Tom Coletti, AU President

New AU Youth Scholarship Fund

Karen Clifton, AU Executive Director



For many years, the National Ladies' Auxiliary (NLA) of the AU coordinated a scholarship program whereby AU members and relatives of AU members would be awarded funds to help pay for college and higher education programs.

We owe the dedicated ladies of the auxiliary our gratitude. The NLA has decided to dissolve. They will be announcing their final scholarships to be awarded this year during our annual con-

vention in Ogden, Utah in October.

The AU Board wants to see the scholarship continue and so will be allocating funds from our annual budget to assist with this.

Under the AU Youth Scholarship fund, three scholarships will be awarded in 2016. Applications may be found in the 2015 Yearbook, which will be distributed in October. If you prefer, call the national office (800-755-2778) and an application will be sent to you. Applications should be sent to the national office by no later than June 1, 2015. Applications will be reviewed and the top three will be selected.

Scholarships are available to pigeon fanciers and their relatives. Applicants must be 23 years of age or younger, maintain a B average and provide proof of enrollment for the Fall semester. Once received, a check will

be mailed to you.

We will announce scholarship recipients at our annual convention. We encourage our junior members to take advantage of this AU member benefit. We want to help you achieve your higher education goals!

Summer 2015

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The Pigeon Museum Celebrates Their First Year Anniversary

What a weekend we had at the museum celebrating our first anniversary! All week we will be posting pictures and hopefully some video for you to see the fun. So please check out our website www.theamericanpigeonmuseum.org. If you haven't seen our new website, please take a look. It is beautiful and full of great information.

Beginning with the Oklahoma National Guard's honor guard posting the colors and our own white bird release and ending with some great ice cream from Roxy's, we had hundreds of visitors from near and far coming through the doors all day, both days. Local news stations came to see all the fun and broadcast from the museum. It was great fun and a great success.

I would like to thank you all first and foremost for your support. Thank you to all of our visitors, new members, Jarvis who played music for us, the boy scouts who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, visiting artists who talked about their work, and Cory West who not only brought us his grandfather's (Otto Meyer) collection, but came by to join in the festivities. A special thank you to the AU and Deone, who spent the two days with us and providing children's activities. And most especially the 4 individuals, who work with me: Meta, Jessica, Alberto and Andy. Without you this weekend wouldn't have happened, you all worked tirelessly and I appreciate you so much.

On a personal note, I want to let you all know that June 27th will be my last day as curator of the museum. My time here has been a joy, very fulfilling, and the highlight of my career. Due to my mother's and mothers-in-law deteriorating health, I will be leaving to care for them for now. Don't feel sorry for me since we are off to Key West. I still plan to be involved with the museum in other ways if I can help the new curator.



Museum panorama



Museum panorama

(Continued from page 2)

Your new curator is Jessica Nguyen. She comes to the museum with great experience and enthusiasm. She is a fabulous addition to the museum and I have no doubt the museum is in capable hands. In fact, I know that she will continue the mission of the museum. Please welcome her when you call and introduce yourselves when you visit.

Last but definitely not least; I would like to thank the museum board. I thank you for the opportunity to be the curator for 3 years. I am honored to have been able to work for you and help with the mission of opening this wonderful place. I feel deeply sad that I must leave this place that I love but am forever grateful.



Jessica Nguyen

Jessica Nguyen has a bachelor's degree in history and a master's in museum studies. She has worked in the museum field for over a decade working on archival collections at the Dickinson Research Center at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, the corporate collection at Chesapeake Energy Corporation and the Research Division at the Oklahoma Historical Society. She is married with three young children.



Lorrie Montiero
Past Curator



A Report From The (Youth Race) Loft

We caught up with a very busy Brad Hoggan to ask how the youth race bird entries were doing.

Brad is the point man for shipping birds to the youth race for 2015. And just so you understand who we were speaking with, Brad recently left the AU Board of Directors Mountain Zone position when his term expired. Personally, he runs the Plymouth Peak Pro Challenge one loft race. He also serves on the AU Speaker's Bureau.

That's just his service résumé. In his race career, he's won numerous club and combine awards from 1994-2002 in NURPC. He had First Ace Pigeon AU Middle Distance 2005 40-60 Loft Category and First Ace Pigeon AU 100-600 miles 2006 40-60 Loft Category, Second Ace Pigeon AU 100-600 miles 2006 40-60 Loft Category, 5 AU Elite Champions, 8 AU Champions and more.

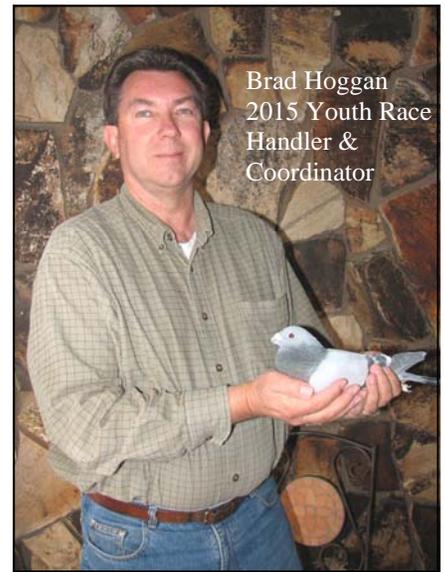
Brad shared that this year's race entries are very nice quality birds.

Training has been going very well. Brad sends updates to the entrants each week. The race is slated for Thursday, October 22nd, so it is looking like the race is setting up to be a good one.

One thing Brad has noticed is that he is getting a lot of calls from junior members to check on their birds. Even though updates are sent weekly, Brad says it is so nice to hear from them and to hear how interested they are in their birds' progress.

The entries are on rotation this year among several lofts. Each handler has 10-12 birds in their loft. If you and/or your parents attend the convention, you are very welcome at any of the lofts to watch the birds come in on race day.

A final thought from Brad: when the kids like the birds, a lot like color. So if you are someone giving birds to kids, give them quality. Maybe they are selected



by color. But make sure they are quality birds.

Brad himself put together some of his best pairs and gave babies from those pairs to beginners in Utah and they won top spots. Help your beginners get on the top of the race sheet. It is so nice to see the kids involved.



Promoting with banners.

Justin Michael, in Iowa, is a regular at his kids' ball games. So he and his wife thought "what better place to make another sport known?" The AU vinyl banner is an easy to hang or tie banner printed on both sides. It's an easy way to advertise at community events.

From the Mountain Zone

With Joyce Stierlin, AU Mountain Zone Director



Here is a bit of the latest news from my area.

Tom Brasher of Auburn RPC is sponsoring a 4-H project for twelve kids. He built a small loft for each of them, and members of the Auburn Club and Camellia Combine gave six bird kits to each of the kids.

Tom is mentoring them as they raise and train their birds for races among themselves. Krissy O'Malley-Rapp is a teen and is president of the club now.

Krissy was featured in the January 2014 Pigeon Tracks as Outstanding Junior of the

Year for California State Racing Pigeon Organization. Krissy did so well in competition against her club and combine adult members that they created the award just for her. She was also featured in British Homing World magazine.

Krissy is organizing a club booth at the Nevada County Fair. She contacted AU for supplies for a great display.

The California convention is November 5-7 in Fresno. Perhaps we will see some of you there!



Calling all junior members!

Join the ranks of AU Youth Ambassador. You'll be in good company: Mary Shaw, Whitney Sabrowsky & Dylan Patera. The Ambassador's duty is to submit junior member information to the AU office, for publication in Pigeon Tracks. It's good experience. Let us know if you would like to participate. Contact Karen Clifton at 405-848-5801.

Contact information:

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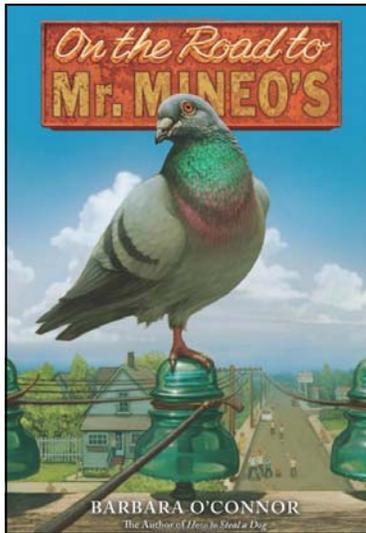


Two New Books



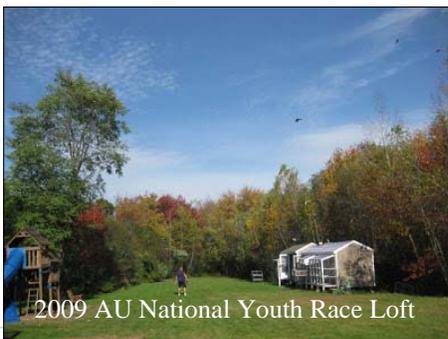
Author, Barbara O'Connor visited the 2009 AU National Youth Race to speak with junior competitors about their experiences with raising and racing homing pigeons.

Here is the book she was planning . . . We found it on Amazon.



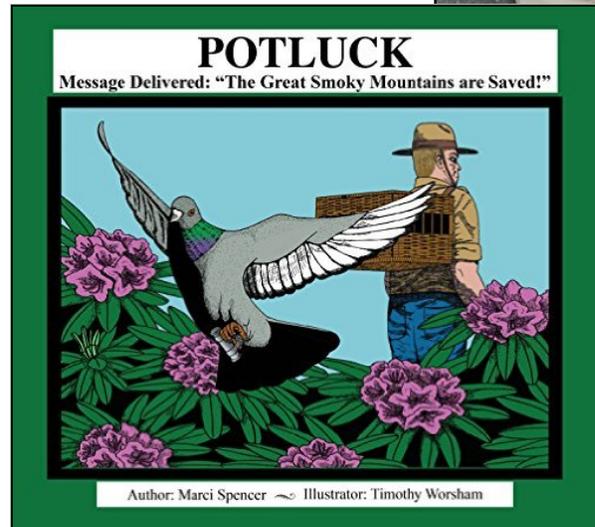
Summer days drift by slowly in Meadville, South Carolina--that is, until Sherman the one-legged pigeon flies into town and causes a ruckus. First Stella, who's been begging for a dog, spots him on top of a garage roof and decides she wants him for a pet. Then there's Ethel and Amos, an old couple who sees the pigeon in their barn keeping company with a little brown dog that barks all night. The pigeon lands smack in the middle of Mutt Raynard's head, but he's the town liar, so no one believes him. And when Stella's brother Levi and his scabby-kneed, germ-infested friends notice the pigeon, they join the chase, too. Meanwhile, across town, Mr. Mineo has one less homing pigeon than he used to...

Barbara O'Connor has delivered another ingeniously crafted story full of southern charm, kid-sized adventures, and quirky, unforgettable characters.



2009 AU National Youth Race Loft

Author Marci Spencer just penned this book recently. We found this on Amazon also.



In 1929, newspapermen from North Carolina and Tennessee hiked from opposite sides of Clingmans Dome, the highest mountain in the Great Smokies, for an important celebration. Although the country was entering the Great Depression, citizens from both states raised enough money to help create a new national park. J.R. Horne loaned his homing pigeon, Potluck, for the expedition. After the journalists shook hands across the state-line on Clingmans Dome, they released Potluck to carry their goodwill message home. Both states had come together in a spirit of friendship to protect their precious forests. Inspired by true events, Marci Spencer records Potluck's historic flight announcing the good news to waiting crowds: "The Great Smoky Mountains are Saved!" Marci Spencer is a retired nurse practitioner. As a certified NC Environmental Educator, she offers presentations in natural history for classrooms and community events. Raising ceremonial white doves (homing pigeons) to release at special events is a favorite hobby. Marci is author of Clingmans Dome: Highest Mountain in the Great Smokies and Pisgah National Forest: A History, both published by History Press. Tim Worsham, son of the author, is a free-lance artist who provided the pen-and-ink illustrations for the 2013 History Press publication of Clingmans Dome and the 2014 publication of Pisgah National Forest. He has contributed illustrations for educational brochures and other literature. Tim has a degree in Criminal Justice. He lives in Hendersonville, North Carolina, with his wife and three children: Shelby, Lydia and Michael.