

EGG TRIVIA

A hen requires 24 to 26 hours to produce an egg. Thirty minutes later, she starts all over again.

The egg shell may have as many as 17,000 tiny pores over its surface. Through them, the egg can absorb flavors and odors. Storing them in their cartons helps keep them fresh.

Eggs age more in one day at room temperature than in one week in the refrigerator.

About 240 million laying hens produce approximately 6.2 million dozen eggs per year in the United States.

White shelled eggs are produced by hens with white feathers and ear lobes. Brown shelled eggs are produced by hens with red feathers and red ear lobes.

To tell if an egg is raw or hard-cooked, spin it! If the egg spins easily, it is hard-cooked but if it wobbles, it is raw.

If an egg is accidentally dropped on the floor, sprinkle it heavily with salt for easy clean up.

During the spring (vernal) equinox (about March 21), it is said that an egg will stand on its small end. Although some people have reported success, it is not known whether such results were due to the equinox or to the peculiarities of that particular egg.

Egg yolks are one of the few foods that naturally contain Vitamin D.

Yolk color depends on the diet of the hen. Natural yellow-orange substances such as marigold petals may be added to light-colored feeds to enhance colors. Artificial color additives are not permitted.

Occasionally, a hen will produce double-yolked eggs throughout her egg-laying career. It is rare, but not unusual, for a young hen to produce an egg with no yolk at all.

IMPORTANT!!

by Lee Salmon

All members should plan to attend. March Meeting; March 27. In this meeting we will be discussing changes to the south Florida Fair premium book. We have been given the "O.K." to reinstate the pigeon class. Doves will be included in this class also. Anyone who wishes to suggest changes or include additions needs to be present at this meeting. All changes and additions are subject to the popular vote. We have only one chance to change things, and this is it. Deadline for premium book is May 1st.

Notes From Livestock Meeting

by Lee Salmon

The Livestock meeting for the South Florida Fair was held on March 4, 1998. Our livestock chairman, Don Yates, stated that this year all livestock deadlines will be strictly adhered to, and there are to be NO exceptions. Only birds pre-registered by December 24 will be allowed to exhibit. Absolutely no late registrations will be accepted or walk-ins on check-in day.

We will also be allowed to order our own feed next year. Members are more than willing to pick up the feed from Higg's and bring it out. We will be getting quality feed at reasonable prices, and be able to get what we need.

February Meeting

by Lee Salmon

The last meeting of the club was held in the Mounts pavilion. We discussed the following old and new business. We passed the secretary and treasurer reports. We voted to award of Mike Robinson and Richard Wright \$100 to cover their expenses incurred at the fair. They use their equipment to help set up and do the parade. We also voted to get Dennis a copier, or printer to do our newsletter. He also gave a report on expected expenses. We will need ink, paper, etc..

Our vice-president, Mike Robinson, attended some meetings of Yesteryear village and gave us a report.

Lee Salmon read letters requested by Don Yates and Maria Sanecz; and a return letter from Dr. Jetter in Tallahassee. Dr. Jetter is with the Bureau of Animal Testing for the State of Florida.

Arvis Okerson invited us to the spring plant sale at the Mounts Botanical Gardens on April 27 and 26. We should let her know who to expect at the March meeting. We discussed the baby ducks and chicks at the fair. To encourage people to buy a two, perhaps a price of \$5 each or two for \$9. We have not voted on this issue. We agreed to allot \$100 to Ben Hoover to help sponsor the guide dog program walk-a-thon. We owe the Hoover's a big "thanks" for all the help they give us each year.

I would also like to thank the Davidson's Heritage Farms, Ruth Barhite's Fancy Feathers, Keeta Schwartz's Busy Bees and Peter Bryne's club. All the kids are dedicated and good workers.

Linda agreed to do refreshments for March meeting. We held over Brag Box and adjourned the meeting.



Photo Contest Winners

Here are some more winning photos in our annual club photography contest. These photos were not available in time for publication in the last newsletter. Pictured on the right is a photo that tied for **Best Color**. Below is the first place winner in the **Best Dressed** category.

The photos are due at the Christmas party and the winners are usually announced at the opening of the South Florida Fair. As you can tell, the competition is friendly, but fierce. So now is the time that you should begin snapping photos for the next contest. Sorry, but only club members are allowed to enter this contest. If you are not a member, see the membership form on the back page of this newsletter.



Newsletter Goes **COLOR**

In case you haven't already noticed, this month's newsletter is in full color. The club voted at the last meeting to allocate funds for the purchase of a new copier/printer. It was decided at the last moment to purchase a color printer instead of a copier. A typical copy machine costs a lot more than the printer that we purchased and also costs a lot more to operate. Not only that, but a copier only does black and white copies - not color.

The only catch is that since the printer uses real ink and not toner, a thicker paper is needed to keep the ink from bleeding through to the other side. Toner, which is used by copy machines, is actually plasticized carbon powder that is melted by hot fuser rollers inside the copy machine. Because it rests on the surface of the paper, it does not show through very easily. Liquid ink, like what the club's new printer uses, is absorbed into the paper like a sponge and will show through if the paper is not thick enough. However, even with the new paper, the cost for a black and white page is quite a bit less than the cost of a photocopy of the same page made with a desktop copier.

Color does add a little bit to the cost of the newsletter, but it also makes the newsletter look much more interesting. The expense for color ink depends on how much of it we use just like your gas expenses depend on how much you drive.

Picnic Date To Be Decided

The club voted last year to move the month for our annual picnic to April. The exact date and time for this picnic will be decided at the March meeting. It is expected that the picnic will remain on a weekend and at Dreher Park, but this may change depending on the outcome of the meeting. If you would like a say in determining the date, time, and location of the picnic, then you must attend the March meeting.

Our annual picnic came into being because our regular meeting place was being used by the Mounts people during our regular meeting time in June. This is an every year event for them and it is expected to always be the case. The club's solution to that problem was to simply have a picnic, instead of a meeting, during the month of June.

At first, this was a great solution. Then it rained on our picnic - literally. The month of June proved to be a poor month to have a picnic because of the constant wet weather. In addition, many of our club members were on vacation and were unable to attend. This is what prompted the club to vote to change the month of our annual picnic to April. Traditionally, April has proven to be a superior month for picnics. We hope that this year will be no exception.

Unfortunately, the 4th Friday of June is still reserved by Mounts personnel for their own use. Therefore, we will be having June's meeting on the 3rd Friday instead of the 4th.

Member Tragedy

by Dennis Hawkins

On February 1, 1998, the last day of the Fair, my 17 year old nephew, Chris Hawkins was blown up in a dive shop where he worked as a scuba tank fill technician. Chris is pictured on the right and is the good looking one wearing a hat. Witnesses to the event say that the tank exploded without warning and without any air being added to the tank. Chris survived the explosion, but not without severe facial and hand injuries.

The blast force resulting from a scuba tank explosion is equivalent to several sticks of dynamite. Many people tend to take their scuba tanks for granted and don't realize the enormous explosive potential contained within them. The explosive force in a typical 80cf scuba tank can blast a fire truck 60 feet in the air!

Chris's facial injuries were mostly corrected by a skilled plastic surgeon. His hand is a different matter. Half of it is permanently lost including his thumb, index finger, and half his palm and wrist. He will have to submit to many future surgeries in an attempt to reconstruct his hand into something more functional. Your prayers and warm thoughts toward Chris's recovery would be greatly appreciated.

The scuba tank itself was made from a defective aluminum alloy labeled 6351. It was routinely used to make scuba tanks prior to 1990. If you own such a tank, then you may be in danger of a similar explosion when you least expect it. It is best to retire these tanks from service. The cost of a new tank is far less than the cost of a new hand - or possibly a life.

If you would like to learn more about Chris's accident - including detailed photographs of the ruptured tank and the remains of the building - you can view them on the WEB at:

<http://www.flinet.com/~n4mwd/chris.htm>

(Note that the '~' symbol is a Tilde, not a dash.)

Mini Membership Application

Send your name, address, telephone number, and check (no currency please) for the dues to:

PBCPFA c/o Rose Greggs, Treasurer
8643 El Paso Dr.
Lake Worth, FL 33467-1109

Include the names and ages of your children (if any), your Email address (if applicable), and your full 9 digit zip code (if in USA). The dues for the PBCPFA club are \$12 for families and \$8 for individuals and run from January 1 to December 31. New members joining after June 30 are eligible for an initial half price rate. For existing members, all renewals are due December 31 and are for one year. Non-US members, please add \$8 for postage. Sorry, we can only accept checks payable in U.S. funds.

Refreshments served and a raffle at every meeting!



All Renewals Due

Everybody's membership expired on December 31, 1997. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, then this could be your last newsletter. The annual dues for the Palm Beach County Poultry Fancier's Association are \$8 for individuals and \$12 for families. If you haven't done so already, please take the time to send your dues to Rose - our club treasurer. Don't let your membership lapse. The club needs you. Please see the membership application on the back page for specific instructions and addresses.

Classified

Rate: \$1 per line. Members get first three lines free. Send check payable to PBCPFA to Rose Greggs, 8643 El Paso Dr., Lake Worth, FL 33467-1109.

FOR SALE:

PBCPFA T-Shirts, excellent quality, beautiful logo. Assorted sizes are available for \$10.00 Contact Richard Greggs (561) 433-8157. Don't be chicken, get yours today.

Black and Partridge Cochin Standard Roosters. Rhode Island Red Pullets and Cockerels of various ages. Contact Richard Greggs at (561) 433-8157.

FREE ROOSTER. An interesting mix having a crest, a buttercup comb, and a straight comb all on the same white leghorn. Dennis Hawkins (561) 795-2067.

FOR LOAN OR RENT:

Don't let your flock fall victim to predators! The poultry club owns a trap that members may use free of charge. To reserve your time to use the trap, contact our Property Manager, Richard Greggs, at (561) 433-8157.

WANTED:

Newsletter articles for the PBCPFA newsletter. The deadline is the fourth Friday of the previous month. Submit articles to the editor by mail, Email, or in person at the meeting.