

# T h e Pheasant Pen

WASHINGTON ORNAMENTAL & GAME BIRD BREEDERS



Larry Clark  
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Issaquah, Wa 98027

[www.wogbb.com](http://www.wogbb.com)

August 2013

# Washington Ornamental and Game Bird Breeders

## Our mission and goals

1. To promote the welfare and encourage the breeding of pheasants, waterfowl, and other species of fowl, quail, partridge, and related birds to the generally accepted representative standards and pure of the wild species.
2. To share breeding and propagation methods.
3. To introduce new species of birds into private and public aviaries; to improve present captive breeding stock and to catalog present captive bird species and aviculture in the Pacific Northwest.
4. To interest more individuals and groups in aviculture.
5. To promote programs and other goals as may be deemed to be in the best interest of Pacific Northwest Aviculture.

Web site: [www.wogbb.com](http://www.wogbb.com)

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## Honorary Members

• Jim Abernathy	• George Allen Jr.
• Westley Batterson	• Edna Goldstone
• JoAnne Elbert	• Phil and Bobby Krueger
• Jim Harvey	• Bruce Morgan
• Joe & Marge Longo	

## **WOGBB President's message**

I'd like to thanks Kathy Fries for hosting the meeting last month. It was a very enjoyable Sunday afternoon along Lake Washington. Read more about her place in the minutes.

This month we will be down south in the Tenino area visiting Bruce and Jackie Morgan's plantation. There is something for everyone to see and do so come on down and join us for the day.

Also before next month's newsletter, the Puyallup Fair will start and we will be there. If you find yourself at the fair on Sept 6 thru the 10, look for us in the Animals of the World exhibit. If you would like to help out and help out at the exhibit contact Craig Holmes or myself we would love to have the help.

Larry Clark  
President

## **Treasurer's Report**

Checking as of July 1    \$3046.59

Savings as of July 1    \$1750.52

Total of accounts       \$4797.11

## **WOGBB Meeting minutes**

July 21, 2013

On July 21, 2013 WOGBB had the privilege of having its monthly meeting hosted at the home of club members Kathy and Ken Fries, lakefront on Lake Washington north of Kirkland (unobstructed view of Mount Rainier included). So now the secret is out: Kathy, in addition to being a serious student of aviculture (raising Impeyans, Temminck tragopans, red goldens, and several varieties of quail) is also a dedicated gardener. On their homesite she toured us her collection of birds as well as plants.....including her own special purpose dedicated garden club meeting room —a detached building of most interesting architectural detail where Kathy's garden club evidently gathers to do their thing. It seemed most natural for us to explore the gardens about the aviaries where we witnessed aviaries melded into shaded wooded gardens graced with many species and cultivars of hydrangeas, rhododendrons, ferns, and numerous other plant families. And Kathy could recite the common names and Latin names of each of her plant world charges, a feat which demonstrated for me, at least, the studied dedication she has put into her passion for her birds and plants alike. In summary we found it to be a most pleasant experience to be invited to share a glimpse into what has obviously been a consuming passion as the Fries have enjoyed their home and wooded gardens while raising their family for the past 21 years. I was grateful that my wife Jackie and I had taken the time out of our busy life to brave the freeways and retrace the route past where I had spent the first 55 years of

## WOGBB Meeting minutes (cont)

my life (with Sunday traffic a drive north of over two hours) to honor the hospitality of members Kathy and Ken. Unfortunately most of our club membership missed out on this very special opportunity. All attending enjoyed a great meal and a brief business meeting. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as printed in the Pen. Craig was given the go ahead to update pricing and availability for the vinyl coated chicken wire project. It was again noted that these 150 foot long rolls of one inch vinyl coated chicken wire are also now available in widths to seven feet, allowing more flexibility in creating aviary flights with greater headroom clearance with no seaming required.

Larry also reported on the June work party held at the Puyallup Farigrounds where the new generation of display pens were the focus of the day. The designs were finalized and several new panels assembled. Larry and Craig will be holding a second work session prior to the September Fair to finalize the project for use this coming fair season. Notably the new pens will feature the vinyl coated fabric referenced above as well as plastic artificial turf as a substitute for sawdust substrate.

Larry reviewed the upcoming events:

August 18 Picnic meeting hosted by Bruce and Jackie Morgan at their farm South of Olympia (details separately provided in the August Pen).

September 6 through 10 Puyallup fair This year the club's participation will be focused on its award winning display which will be located in the Animals of the World Pavilion. Please contact Craig or Larry if you are interested in participating in person or by providing birds or other assistance for this display.

September 22 Monthly meeting hosted at the Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle. Free admission and behind the scenes tour and preview of exhibit upgrades.

October 20 Port Angeles hosted by the Shoutens? Details still need to be confirmed. Watch for more information in the Pen.

November at the Cabala's, Lacey, Washington.

December Christmas party at the Holme's, Covington.

Larry suggested that he had been exploring holding a wintertime indoor meeting at the Burke Museum in Seattle. Burke does evidently have a respectable collection of study skins of birds and this could be of interest to aviculturists. It was also suggested that the good times at our meetings or other events could be better illustrated through photos published in the Pen or posted on-line. Not a bad idea but it still remains a mystery why more members do not make participation at club meetings or events a priority in their lives, particularly since the officers have made it a priority to vary meeting locations geographically throughout the year and to offer great opportunities for interesting aviculture oriented outings.

With no further business to conduct Larry adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce Morgan, Secretary

# August Meeting

**Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm**

## **VIOLET PRAIRIE, THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

See you here August 18, 2013

August picnic meeting hosted by Bruce and Jackie Morgan at:

The Violet Prairie Plantation

1228 Oak Drive SE

Tenino, Washington 98589.

Events scheduled to commence by 1:00 p.m. Potluck picnic lunch/barbeque.

(Driving time about 20 minutes south of Olympia, 11 miles north of Centralia).

Home phone 360-264-7079/ cell 425-941-2262.

Google maps will likely send you to us by having you exit I-5 at Exit 88, Grand Mound/Rochester/Tenino, and head easterly from I-5 on Old Highway 99 SE toward Tenino. Oak Drive SE is our driveway on the right about 4.5 miles from this exit. Our friends and the curious are all invited to have another glimpse of how overwhelming a 300 acre "family farm" can become..... We are now 12 years into the effort to make this a productive farm-----starting as we did with acres of badly neglected forest reprod (reclaimed as it had been by scotch broom) and virtually no farm infrastructure. I had left my 20 acre farm in Newcastle, King County (which had taken me over 30 years to tame) and set out to replace aviaries, pastures, barns, restore oak savannah habitat, keep the beavers, elk, deer, bear, bobcat, weasel at bay, etc. and had set out to get this new farm into shape to permit us to relax and enjoy in retirement. The task has proven daunting.....but I persist, if only incrementally. If you have been here before you should notice significant progress since the last club meeting here. But this year we have focused on a new home and relocating a rental home and extending landscape improvements along access roads to the aviaries. We have still to beat back last spring's surge of vegetation, repaint our bridge, complete the permanent tragopan aviary, wire the crane breeding pens, building a new wintering barn for the deer and antelope, or to restore to vehicular use miles of access roads in the forested portions of the farm ravaged by the ice storm of 2011. But, come see for yourselves. And please come ready to talk about birds, aviculture and other alternative livestock.

Bruce and Jackie Morgan

VIOLET PRAIRIE PLANTATION

# Crested-Green Wing Wood Partridge Roul Roul" (Rollulus-Roul Roul)

*By Francis Billie*

The coloration of the map is dark glossy blue-green and becoming greener on the back and rump. The wings are brown and paler at the tips and washed with blue at the shoulder. The tail is black, forehead black with a band across the crown of white also a large red crest and a patch of red skin around the eye. Neck and underparts are black and a black bill and legs red.

The female has no crest, has a red patch around the eye, head is dark grey, wings are brown, tail is black, the rest of the plumage is dark grey.

In the wild Roul Roul's are found in pairs or in small coveys in the jungles of Malaysia up to 4000 feet. Frequents undergrowth and can be more often trapped than seen. The call is a low whistle.

In captivity the problem of keeping and breeding Roul Roul's are distinctly different from and much greater than those of propagating quails and partridges and as a result few people have succeeded in keeping and breeding Roul Roul's in large numbers, until the last few years. But in the last few years a number of breeders have been raising a fairly large amount of these birds.

Some of the problems in keeping and breeding Roul Roul's in captivity are their sensitivity to various poultry diseases and parasites that are transmitted by ground contact forcing the breeder to keep the birds on wire bottom cages so they have no direct contact with the ground or their own droppings. This however is not a good idea because on wire the birds will get feet and leg problems. The worst enemy of these birds in captivity are Cropworms, another infection is Pullbrum disease, a bacterial infection caused by Salmonella and Aspergillosis, a fungus disease of the respiratory tract.

I have had good luck with my birds in medium size cages on the ground with sand in them. I worm my birds about every 60 days and keep Roul Roul's at no lower temperature than 50° using lights or heaters if the temperature drops below 50°.

Roul Roul's if kept on the ground and supplied with pine needles or straw will make a cone shaped tunneled nest, the male doing most of the work by throwing the pieces of straw or pine needles over his back and putting them in the shape of a tunnel. After this has been done the female will go in and inspect the nest; if it is to her liking she will lay her eggs.

Roul Rouls make good parents and will normally raise one or two young on their own if left to do it this way. However, most of the breeders take the eggs and incubate them. If this method is to be done eggs should not be held longer than a week before being placed in the incubator and during storage they should be kept at a temperature of between 50° and 60° F and a relative humidity of about 80 to 90 percent, and they should be stored with the pointed end down. Tilting them or turning them during the preincubation storage period is also desirable. Incubation may be done in either a still air or forced air incubator with the latter being generally preferred, although considerably more expensive. In either case, the eggs should be rotated ninety degrees every three to six hours or at a similar regime until the last few days of incubation when they are moved to hatching trays.

Ideal incubation temperatures differ with the type of used. The ideal temperature for incubating eggs is 103° in still air incubators, (60-65 percent relative humidity) during the first two weeks and 99.5 degrees in forced air incubators (similar relative humidity) during that period. During the remainder of the incubation period the relative humidity should be slightly higher. For best result there should be an increase of available fresh air. The final humidity should be somewhat higher than earlier in the incubation, with higher humidity generally recommended for Roul Roul eggs.

Following hatching chicks must be provided with supplemental heat, artificial brooders are used, as hens are too large for these small chicks. For artificial brooders, newly hatched chicks should initially be exposed to a brooder temperature of 90° F which is generally reduced so that by the time the birds are two weeks old the brooder temperature is around 80° F. Newly hatched chicks should be provided with a high-protein food such as chick-starter and in addition, may benefit from finally cut fresh lettuce, endive or dandelion. For Roul Rouls live insect food such as meal worms may be critical in inducing the young to begin eating. Also by sprinkling Purina Startina with hard-boiled eggs and finally chopped greens to which I add small live chopped up meal worms.

For water I recommend jar lids filled with water and marbles, with one teaspoon of Terramycin added per gallon of water, or maybe ½ teaspoon of Head Start per quart of water, as a disease preventative.

I have heard of some breeders dipping meal worms into egg yolk or corn syrup, and then dusting them with high protein starter mash to initiate check feeding.

I have never tried this but generally feeding the above startina and hard boiled egg and try to have several baby button quail chicks in with the Roul Rouls and normally they will teach the baby Roul Rouls to eat. Once you get the baby's started they are fairly hardy and will do well on their own.

I have kept Roul Rouls for 20 years and feel that they are the gem of the partridge family and would be a special joy for any bird lover.

