



## Closing Hunt of 2009

On the second day of spring, we hosted our closing meet of the season at Walnut Grove near Swoope. In a time-honored tradition, the Rockbridge Hunt joined us for a joint meet and sixteen Rockbridge members and a guest made the journey north.

After a pre-hunt stirrup cup and snacks in the farmyard behind the Walnut Grove house, a field of about 35 set off across the beautiful rolling countryside to look for something to chase. And chase we did! After some diligent searching, the Glenmore hounds got up a coyote that gave them—and us—quite a jolly run. I didn't see the coyote myself, but others in the field got good views. He apparently ran around Corner Woods three times before running through Brown's Woods, through Wheatlands, and across Cattleman Road towards Trimble's Mill before the hounds gave up the long, long chase. Yorktown and Yo-Yo were the last to give it up.

Once **Master Dan** and the staff had gathered up the hot and tired hounds, we headed back to Walnut Grove for breakfast. Special thanks are due to **Joanne VanSiclen** and **Brenda Simmons** for organizing a terrific catered breakfast for us. **Angelika O'Donnell** was on the scene and used her considerable decorative flair to present the breakfast beautifully to the famished riders and social members who joined us. You've never seen a lovelier buffet in a barnyard! Of course, there was a lot of conversation about the day's hunt, but I also heard a lot of talk about what a great season we've had overall. Lots of red and gray foxes and several coyotes have given us many memorable chases. I heard several of the Rockbridge members exclaiming over our gorgeous territory. We are truly blessed by our landowning members to be allowed to ride and hunt in such lovely country.

We have a lot to be thankful for this season besides great hunt country. I think I can speak for everyone in thanking the Masters—**Dan Jones** and **Jewell Phelps**—and the Whippers-in—**Jan Jones, T Stewart, Sara Wood, Chris Thompson** and **Linnette Coaker**—for all their dedication and hard work this season to provide us with great sport. Big thanks also to our kennelmen, Mike Hidecker and DJ Mullins, for looking after the hounds so well this year and getting them to the meets for us.

"It is the case with foxhunting as it is with life that there will always be those who bewail the passing of time and who maintain that what is past is necessarily best" (Robin Rhoderick-Jones from *Ronnie Wallace*). With great friends, dedicated staff, fast foxes, long chases, beautiful countryside, old hounds, new hounds, delicious tailgates and breakfasts—can it really ever have been any better than this? Here's looking forward to next season!

Hugh Brown

**Closing Hunt at Walnut Grove—the field begins the day**



### **Secretary's Corner**

The April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Glenmore Hunt Club will be held at the Staunton Glenmore Office. The Board meets at 7:00 and the membership meets at 8:00.

**2009 Annual Meeting to elect Masters of Foxhounds, Officers and Directors. Please make every effort to Attend.**

#### **Roster changes:**

Resignation:  
Guy and Judy Eavers

## **Events of Special Note**

### **Looking Ahead—The Calendar**

#### **April**

18<sup>th</sup> —Spring Hunter Pace, Cottage Hill Farm, Rain date April 19th.

#### **May**

3<sup>rd</sup> —Hound Day at the Kennels

24<sup>th</sup>—Virginia Foxhound Show, Morven Park, Leesburg

#### **June**

6<sup>th</sup> —Glenmore Spring Horse Show (SWVHJA) (tentative)

14<sup>th</sup> —Trail Ride & Picnic Social

### **Glenmore Hunt Club Spring Hunter Pace & Luncheon**

Saturday, April 18, 2009 Rain Date: Sunday, April 19, 2009  
COTTAGE HILL. Swoope, VA 24479

All Riders Welcome:

English, Western, Gaited, Trail, Pleasure Event and Walking Horse

Four Divisions!

\*Trail Riders \* Hilltoppers\*Junior Hunter Optimum \* Hunter Optimum  
Rider Entry Fees: Include luncheon!

Adult Rider \$35 \* Junior (17 & under) Rider \$25 \* Luncheon only  
(Non- Riders) \$6

www.glenmorehunt.org:\*Upcoming Events \* Entry Forms \* Waivers \*  
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### **Volunteer for the Spring Horse Show!**

Mark your calendar now! The Glenmore Spring Horse Show is coming – Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, at Mill Creek Farm near Port Republic. Volunteers will be needed for all sorts of jobs on the day of the show – greeting, ring crew, gatekeeper, jump order, clean-up, and more. We'll also need volunteers for a couple of hours on Thursday, June 4 in the late afternoon/early evening to help set up and decorate the jumps.

You don't have to be highly skilled to be a big help! Never fear, we'll find a job for you! This is a very important fund-raiser for Glenmore, so please consider volunteering. Half day? Whole day? We'll take you any way we can get you! Also mark your calendar now for the Fall Horse Show – September 5 at Mill Creek.

To volunteer, you can contact me by e-mail at [brownhh@jmu.edu](mailto:brownhh@jmu.edu) or by phone at 540-568-3501 (daytime) or 540-886-6359 (evenings)

Thanks for considering it. I hope to see you at the show!

Hugh Brown

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**Glenmore Hunt Board of Directors  
2007-2008**

Christopher Thompson, *President*

Col Hugh B. Sproul, III, *Vice*

*President*

Dwight F. Phelps, *Honorary Secretary*

Graham A. Pitsenberger, *Treasurer*

G. Daniel Jones, *Master of Foxhounds*

Jewell S. T. Phelps, *Master of Foxhounds*

Janet Jones, *Member at large (Hunt Status)*

Brenda Simmons *Member at large (Hunt Status)*

Daryl Hurst *Member at large (Non-hunt Status)*

Robert C. Heitler, *Member of large (Non-hunt Status)*

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**Glenmore Hunt WebSite:**  
<http://www.glenmorehunt.org>

## PIXs from March Hunting



Burke Pemberton - **Smokey Row- March 10,2009** -Going home



**Sandy Cryder leads 1st flight**



**Angelika blows the horn for breakfast; Brenda works the tables**

## Closing Hunt- Walnut Grove March 21,2009

### **GLENMORE GREEN PAGES**

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## Masters' Corner

By the time you are reading this, Glenmore hunt will have closed its 2008-2009 hunting season. Some may question the timing as it seems other hunts are still hunting, or that maybe we could have just one more go at it. Others may feel that it has been a long time since September and its time to move on to something else as the weather gets warmer. Be that as it may, let's just think of spring as a time for the rebirth of our sport. Vixens are already with whelp and along with their mate will soon be working nearly around the clock in trying to secure food for the pups. It is also a time for the spring rains (we hope to get) and the grass to grow, providing that tight turf, good pastures and feed for stock that make for our lovely countryside.

I am sure that for most everyone that has had the opportunity to hunt this season there will be some moments that will be memorable. There will be some questions also. Some answered and some that will never be. A member asked, "How slippery is it?" When your horse is standing still and his feet fly out from under him, I guess I'll call that slippery, especially if there is a big red with the pack in tight pursuit. "You are going to get what type of hounds? Don't they just poke and babble?" But at the end of one day the word was, "If these are the slow ones, maybe we'd better go back to the type we had". Where did Anne's briar patch grey go? Three times he evaporated from the corner at Maddox, only to be found another day. I'll never know this season. And how cold is too cold? I bet there are a half dozen that will have differing opinions on that, but hounds' cry carries well at, was it 4, 7 or 12 degrees. For some, the memories will become stories. I am sure these stories will never be anything but the truth, spoken as true foxhunters.

In closing, I want to thank all those that helped make this past season as good as it was. From whips to gate persons to those that contributed to great tailgates and fine breakfasts and all the other jobs that are necessary for a day's hunting, you are the ones that make it work. Thanks for your help this season.

Dan

## Mourning the End of Season

Now that foxhunting season is over, what's to do on Tuesdays and Saturdays? The end of hunt season seems to leave a void in my weekly schedule. No more brisk canter or air-raising gallop across the fields, streams and through the woods. No more sound of hound music floating across the frozen ground. No more breathtaking views of the Swoope area. No more flask favors going around the field of riders. Also—

No more slogging out in the cold, snow, rain, to hook up the horse trailer. No more scraping mud off the white spots and legs of my trusty mount, Half Pint. No more blankets to take on and off in order to keep him reasonably clean. No more tugging on my long johns and squeezing into my already tight britches and boots. What's a girl to do?

Well, there is always vacuuming the mountain of Jack Russell Terrier hair that has accumulated over the winter. There is cleaning and storing away the dog blankets, horse blankets, and dress hunt boots. Driving to the dry-cleaners with my black melton and tweed coat sounds like a reasonable option. Mending the bramble tears in my favorite pair of britches could be a scintillating way to spend an afternoon. NOT!!!

Instead, I'll call a friend and ask her to go trail-riding. I'll help out at the Glenmore horse show or hunter pace. I'll take my JRT to a nearby agility trial and run off some of the winter doldrums (and hopefully some of the accumulated fat.) The month of May offers the Glenmore Hound Day and also the Virginia Foxhound Show. Hmmm. Guess there are still plenty of ways to entertain myself without foxhunting but it's just not the same!

Sandy Cryder

## Joint Meet at Walnut Grove

*Saturday, February 28, 2009,*  
**Walnut Grove**— Mason Houghland, in his book *Full Cry*, says that scenting will be good when a cold day follows several warm days. This augured well as the days previous to this meet had been warm, but the forecast called for temperatures in the low forties. We met in the Walnut Grove farm yard and greeted our friends from the **R o c k b r i d g e H u n t**.

We mounted up and headed out to the feedlot behind the barn. **Dan** appointed **Sandy** as leader of the first flight and gave **Joe** responsibility for the second flight. As we set off, the pony of one of the guests' fell to her side. Fortunately, it was determined that a too tight girth and the excitement of being in a crowd for the first time caused sudden reaction. The guest gamely remounted and we hacked through the valley to Livick Road and, after about half a mile, turned into a field and up a hill. Dan drew a wood to the south, with no results.

We then moved to a wooded cover to the north. Dan invited Bob, a guest from Rockbridge, and his daughter to join him. Sandy took first flight further down the hill and over a small coop near the bottom

of the hill. The hounds drew this covert, but no game was found. We followed the staff and hounds into a field with a large and inviting (if you're a fox) blackberry patch in the middle. We could see the car toppers to the north on Hewitt Road, near the railroad tracks. The area around the covert has been thoughtfully bush-hogged around the perimeter, so Sandy led the first flight around the edge of the field to an excellent vantage point.

The hounds began to speak and the field eagerly prepared for a run. It appeared that we were to be disappointed when a wild turkey suddenly took flight. The hounds mostly ignored this distraction and continued to work the thicket. The music began to build when the entire field, almost simultaneously, saw a gray fox emerge from the covert and shamle westward into the wood. We cleared the path to allow the staff to and our guests through and then thundered down the hill, and back up to the path in the wood near an old, collapsed coop. We followed the Master through the path in the forest and listened as the fox pulled the hounds along. The music began to fade and it was clear

that this gray was circling.

We tracked back down the hill, made a rollback over a jump consisting of railroad ties and back onto the path through the wood. Unfortunately, we had to hold hard as the fox ran into forbidden (but very inviting) country. Dan and some of the staff continued through a gate and into the field. The field, never willing to sit idle, filled the time sharing flasks and speculating where the fox might be headed. Stacy also jokingly (I think) reminded me that if I were to fall off, she would have to run over me.

We received word from the staff by radio that the hounds were too far gone to continue. We retraced our steps to the pasture near the railroad tie jump and paused before continuing on towards Livick **R o a d**.

I volunteered to close the gate for the group as we re-entered the valley towards Walnut Grove and was very pleased at my ability to remount Max without the advantage of a mounting block. Kelsy and Jangoe waited patiently for me to creak and groan my way back into the saddle, gather my stirrups and we were off. We pulled up in the center of the field and continued on to the meet without further incident.

We closed out the day with an excellent breakfast of cold cuts, cookies and many other delicious **snacks provided by Angelika, Stacey, Joe, Hugh Brown, Sheila Jennings, and Julie Bullock.**

John Meyer



## **Glenmore Hunt Board--Slate of Candidates for 2009-2010**

President - Chris Thompson  
Vice President - Hugh Sproul  
Secretary - Diane Gibbs  
Treasurer - Graham Pitsenberger  
Master of Foxhounds - Jewell Phelps  
Master of Foxhounds - Dan Jones  
Member-at-Large Hunt Status - Jan Jones  
Member-at-Large Hunt Status - Brenda Simmons  
Member-at-Large Non-Hunt Status - Darrell Hurst  
Member-at-Large Non-Hunt Status - Bob Heitler

Additional nominations from the members will be accepted during our election of the Board of Directors. For everyone's benefit, it is recommended that the nominee be approached prior to the meeting and be eligible and willing to serve the Glenmore Hunt Club.

The Nominating Committee: Linnette Croaker, Jan Jones, Joe Manning, Hugh Sproul

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*In  
This  
Issue*

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*Pictures + Spring Social Dates + End of Season Commentary*

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