



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Photo by Terri Kent



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GFIA 2012 Conference

Guinea Fowl International Invites you to our Seventh Annual Guinea Fowl Conference.

Place:

North Carolina State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, Raleigh, North Carolina

Dates: March 16-18

Speakers:

- ◆ Donna Carver, DVM, PhD, is a professor and extension veterinarian from NC State University who specializes in Livestock and Poultry disease management, and Pre-harvest and Farm Food Safety.
- ◆ Anne Fanatico, PhD, is an assistant professor at Appalachian State University who specializes in Specialty Poultry Production.

- ◆ Michael Loomis, DVM, is the chief Veterinarian at North Carolina Zoo and will speak about Helmeted Guinea Fowl in Africa.
- ◆ Doug Smith, PhD, is a professor at NC State University who teaches Poultry Processing as well as Poultry Leadership and Management.
- ◆ Michael Wineland, PhD, is Dept. Extension Leader and Professor whose current research focuses on maximizing the production of high quality chicks.
- ◆ Carl Schaler will be giving a tour of his fascinating guinea farm in Wake Forest, NC.

Please go to our website for the latest information on the 2012 Conference.

GFIA Membership Renewals

GFIA memberships expire at the end of each calendar year. If you joined anytime after September 1, 2011; your membership is still valid for 2012.

Benefits include a Welcome Packet, educational materials, newsletters, and an annual educational conference. In addition you'll be supporting our work to expand the information available about our favorite fowl.

Go to our website for more info - www.guineafowlinternational.org

Rates:

- Single membership: \$ 20.00
- Family membership: \$ 28.00
- Junior membership: \$ 5.00 (age 15 & under)

Send payments to:

GFIA
2812 FM 987
Kaufman, TX 75142

You can also join online using Paypal.

(mail-in form on page 4)

Love At First Sight! *by Shelley Broadwater*

Everyone has their own story about how they became aware of the guinea fowl existence as well as the first impression. Some may have thought “What in the world is that loud, ugly thing?”! Others may have a more scientific thought such as “Must be an ancestor of the turkey because of the similarities in appearance”. All in all both reactions to the guinea fowl are accurate. As a new guinea parent, I will tell my story!

In May 2008 I moved to a rural area in Southwestern Pennsylvania with my husband. We have many farmers as neighbors, including one who lives about a mile from our home. My husband was driving as we approached this particular neighbor. I noticed some bird-like creatures on the bank beside the road. As we approached the birds, I noticed that they looked like something you would see in a cartoon skit. Their feathers were beautiful! They were gray with white spots, almost looked like a painting of some sort. Now, their facial features were a different story. I noticed their blue, featherless heads and those “wattles” are hilarious! “What in the world is that ‘nodule’ on the top of their heads?” I thought. With my nose pressed up against the window, I asked my husband, “What are those things?” He said “Those are guineas, and they are annoyingly loud birds.” Although, who really knows the meaning of loud guineas until you actually hear a loud guinea, right? I thought my husband was full of it and I fell in love with my cartoon birds!

After about 3 years of pestering, I got the ok from my husband to purchase some guineas, and it was the best \$20 I have ever spent! I found an owner close by on craigslist who wanted to get rid of 6 male guineas. She raised them since they were keets, and her coop was getting really crowded as they approached full grown fowl. I immediately contacted her, and my husband and I were on our way! As my husband and I arrived, I noticed that the owners did not separate any guineas for us to take, although they were all in the guinea enclosure. Even though the owners raised them as keets, they were still unable to be handled without any resistance. After several failed attempts on luring the guineas into our entic-

ing guinea cage, I decided to take matters into my own hands. This meant crawling into the enclosure with the guineas, on my hands and knees, through guinea “droppings” in hopes of catching 6 males. The owners quickly educated me on how to tell a male from a female. Females have smaller wattles and their call sounds like they are saying “buckwheat.” So I quickly scouted out the guineas with the biggest wattles and, as gentle as I could, grabbed them and held on. If anyone has ever tried to restrain a guinea, they would notice how strong their legs are as they try to get away! Ok, I have one, now what? It was hard to try to crawl to the opening while holding a resisting guinea, so they cut a hole in the top for me to hand them each one to place in our guinea carrier. Success! Six male guineas and \$20 later, my dream is fulfilled!

Now it’s the really hard part. Adult guineas will run away to find their home if you try to move them out of their original habitat. So, I kept them enclosed for 2 days while getting to know our chickens through the fencing. We were hoping our chickens would talk them into staying because we spoil our chickens; they have it pretty good. The first day of freedom was a lot of guinea herding on my part. We own 5 acres with my father-in-law’s 275-acre farm right beside us. We have a lot of woods and fields around. I knew when the guineas were being quiet that they were up to no good. All I had to do was stand and listen to see where they were hiding. I think the funniest moment would have been a neighbor noticing me running with a mop in my hand at 6am in the morning across her property. The mop was to be able to guide the guineas more easily. A long stick or another person works best; but in this case, a mop was handy at 6am. Eventually, the guineas decided our property was their home and the chickens were their buddies as we all live happily ever after!

I love my 6 male guineas! They keep me laughing and I love to show them off to unaware visitors! All in all, it’s a pretty good life for a guinea at the Broadwater household.



Photo Caption Contest!!

Do you have a funny caption to add to this picture?

Please go to our Facebook page or email newsletter@guineafowlinternational.org to submit your unique captions.

You can also mail captions to:

GFIA
2812 FM 987
Kaufman, TX 75142

Photo provided by Carl Schaler

**** Winner will be posted in our next newsletter and will receive fun GFIA merchandise!! ****

GFIA Around The World

We want your pictures! Please email to: newsletter@guineafowlinternational.org. Please try to include the GFIA decal or a copy of the GFIA Newsletter in your photo.



GFIA in Sicily and Palermo by Leona Marks



GFIA in Australia by Catriona Thompson

GFIA MAIL-IN MEMBERSHIP AND/OR BREEDERS LIST FORM

2012 Membership Rates: (all prices in U.S. dollars)

Check One:

- Single Membership \$20.00
- Family Membership ... \$28.00
- Junior Membership
(Age 15 & under) \$5.00
- Breeders List Only
(No membership)No charge

Make checks payable to **GFIA** and mail with this form to:
Guinea Fowl International Association
2812 FM 987
Kaufman, TX 75142
USA

Full Name _____ Work Phone Number _____
 Street Address _____ Home Phone Number _____
 _____ Cell Phone Number _____
 City _____
 State/Province _____
 Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____
 E-mail Address* _____

*It is important that we have a working E-mail address. Please **double-check** that it has been entered correctly.

What are your areas of interest? Would you consider writing an article for our newsletter/website? How about serving on a committee?

How would you like your name to appear in our Membership Directory, which is printed annually and mailed exclusively to GFIA members?

(Check one if applying for membership)

- Name, full address, home phone, cell phone, e-mail, website, and (if submitted) types of guineas
- Name, city, state/province, country, e-mail, website, and (if submitted) types of guineas
- First initial, last name, and country only (Example: J. Smith, Canada)

Would you like to be included on the online GFIA Breeders List? (No charge for members or nonmembers)

- Yes No

If Yes, how would you like your name to appear on the Breeders List? (Examples: John, John Smith, Smith's Hatchery)

If you leave this space blank, only your first name will be displayed.

Breeders List Message:

(This text will be posted under your name on the Breeders List. If you need more space for your message, please add a separate page.)

Check colours that apply to you: (Required for Breeders List/Optional otherwise)

- Pearl
- Pied
- White
- Lavender
- Royal Purple
- Brown
- Chocolate
- Buff Dundotte
- Buff
- Violet
- Slate
- Pewter
- Bronze
- Sky Blue
- Coral Blue
- Opaline
- Unknown
- French
- Jumbo

Other _____

How many guineas do you have? _____