



## **WESTERN MAINE RABBIT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION**



Western Maine Rabbit Breeders Association has selected Marie Bishop for our 2005 Rabbit Person of the year. Since Marie is so active in the rabbit community I can't imagine that anyone here does not know her; however, I would like to supply some background information that not everyone may know about her. For my own part, I know that I learned a lot about Marie in preparing for today's presentation.

Let's start with a little history on Marie as a rabbit raiser. Before Marie was married, she started off raising meat rabbits in her backyard for her own freezer and sold the occasional pet rabbit. This was before she knew about showing rabbits or rabbit clubs. Rabbit raising became a little more difficult after she was married and had her first child – Jarrod. As a toddler, Jarrod loved to help her with the rabbits and then along came Holly. She continued to raise rabbits until the birth of her third child Daniel; at that time, Marie decided to take a little break from raising rabbits.

But that was not the end of rabbits. Jarrod always had pet rabbits and at age 11 he joined boy scouts and earned the rabbit raising merit badge. (That badge no longer exists but it helped him earn his Eagle at 17.)

In the spring of 1992, Marie joined Western Maine Rabbit Breeders Association because Jarrod wanted to raise and show rabbits. Holly and Daniel decided that they would also like to show and raise rabbits. Jarrod chose mini lops, Holly chose Holland lops and Daniel chose mini rex. Marie started showing Netherland Dwarfs and tried to help in any way that she could. A little later on Jarrod added Dwarf Hotots to the breeds that he showed and at this time the rabbits were more for the kids. Marie also led a 4h rabbit group for two years during this time.

The kids grew older and soon enough, it was time for Jarrod to go off to college. Although he did not want to give up the rabbits he had to in order to go to college. It was at this time that Marie decided that she would like to have another meat breed again. She wanted a breed that she could also show and after looking around she chose Californians. All too soon, Holly and Daniel also went off for college and the rabbit project was hers alone. Incidentally, Holly just graduated in December of 2005.

Marie has enjoyed raising rabbits and showing them. Californians and Netherland Dwarfs are her two major breeds although she does occasionally have other breeds. Recently she has added a few angoras which she doesn't show but they provide her with fiber for her spinning, knitting and crocheting projects.

Marie is a genuine person that with an ebullient personality that has really worked hard (*not just this past year*) in promoting WMRBA as well as the rabbit industry. She is our Vice President at WMRBA and is at every meeting faithfully. If there were a recruiter of the year award we would have nominated her for that as well. Out of the eight new members that joined our club last year, six of them were recommended and introduced by Marie.

Marie ran our raffle table last year at the January show. She visited several local businesses soliciting donations for this event and it was an incredibly successful raffle with a lot of nice items.

In the spring, Marie organized a Show Secretary workshop under the tutelage of Lindsay Benoit. She established the time, initiated the invitation to Lindsay to teach the topic and sent out the notice to all of the state clubs.

In June, Marie was our Show Secretary for the Father's Day Show. Those of you that attended that show will attest that it was a fun day for all that attended. The weather was incredible and the smooth operation of the show made for a fun and relaxed day.

In September, Marie trained and mentored Jon Bishop as the Show Secretary for the Oxford Fair. It was Jon's first show as Secretary and she made sure that he had all of the help and support that was necessary.

On top of all this Marie has hired all of the judges for WMRBA for the past several years. She sends out all of the bid forms and secures the judges and dates for all of our shows. She organizes the lodging and transportation when needed to make sure that our shows go over well.

In closing, Marie is not just an active member of WMRBA; but rather an active friend of every member in Western Maine Rabbit Breeders Association. For these reasons and for several that are too numerous to recite as well as remember – we would like to nominate Marie Bishop for Maine State RBA Person of the Year.

Thank you.