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**Preserving Breed Standards since 1983**

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WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER

# SCHSIA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello to all SCHSIA members,

As many of you know we weren't able to host an annual meeting in person this year. As required by our bylaws we are required to have an annual meeting of the membership each year and so we opted for a Zoom meeting. Overall the annual meeting went very well and I feel it was fairly well attended considering the circumstances. The meeting was attended by members from 10 states spanning from coast to coast. Along with covering necessary required business there were several good discussions that covered many different topics that we as breeders face and the feedback from other members was very helpful and well received. It was nice to meet some members that I had not known previous to the meeting and I feel like everyone on the call contributed and I was very thankful for the time they devoted to the meeting that day. I encourage all members to read the minutes from the annual meeting to see what topics are being considered and also would like to remind members to reach out to myself, the other officers, and board members anytime they have a question or concern.

I would also like to take a minute to discuss a topic that has been brought up many times involving the sale of animals. I bring this up only as a way to convey what some other breeder's thoughts are and make everyone aware of why this is something to be considered. With the sale of every animal we have the opportunity to grow our breed's numbers or not. If an animal is sold and not registered then that animal will never contribute to the breed as a whole. This affects the number of legitimate pedigreed St. Croix sheep and also limits the ability of the breed to grow genetically. As we all know the genetic possibility for overall improvement is there, but with the limited number of sheep in the registry it can be hard to locate new stock. This might not seem like it would be an issue, because in most cases people assume that if someone has sought out registered stock, they will continue to register the animals and their offspring. This isn't always the case many people just want a limited number of "pure" St. Croix sheep for their own needs and do not have an interest in further promotion of the breed. Others may be purchasing these animals to cross into their commercial flocks.

Whatever the case may be, I'm not knocking other people's plans or needs. This is just an opportunity for me to say that we as breeders have a responsibility to preserve and promote the breed. Some breeders cover the cost of registration and or transfer at the time of sale in order to make sure the animals sold will retain registration going to the new owners. It is also a good idea to stress how easy it is to register animals in our organization. Any time we can add a new member and start a new flock it helps us all, so maybe next time you make a sale see what you can do to ensure the animals you have worked so hard to produce and develop will continue to stay in our registry and produce other animals to further develop and spread the benefits of the St. Croix breed.

Thanks for your time and good luck with your flock.

**Kaleb Kahl**

*President SCHSIA*

Kalebkahl@gmail.com

## 2020 SCHSIA ELECTIONS

Yes, we understand that you don't want to hear any further news about elections. However, we are bound by our By-Laws to present your Board of Directors nominations for this year, as follows:

**Region 2 - North Central Director:** Travis Ellis, Ellis Sheep Co., Maysville, MO

**Region 4 - \*Western Region Director:** Dr. Ed Barnes, Dorsey-Lee St. Croix, Portland, OR

**Region 5 - \*At Large Director (Past President):** Brent VanSickle, Goose Creek Farms, Trafalgar, IN

Some explanation for regions 4 and 5 are in order. At our (Zoom) Annual Meeting held on Oct. 17th we discussed and voted to revise the name of the Northwest Region to Western Region, encompassing both of the previous Regions 4 and 5. This was done in order to balance the number of members in each region. Further, it was recommended and approved unanimously to make Region 5 an "At Large" Region to be filled by the immediate past President. If the Past President were unable or unwilling to serve then that position would be filled in the usual manner. All members would then be eligible to fill that position.

Please direct any questions you might have to our Secretary, Laurel Field.

# SCHSIA vs SCHSBA

During the annual meeting, it was mentioned that several calls had been received by Laurel Field, SCHSIA Secretary, about the split of the Breeder's Association from SCHSIA. A member had asked if that information could be in the newsletter so that as a new member, they could be more aware of our history.

Here is the account from the President of our association at the time of the split.

The split was over the breed standard which had been in effect since 1983 and the SCHSIA is the continuation of that organization and maintains the original polled and white standard. Some board members of the SCHSIA decided that they wanted to allow sheep with color and Scurs to be registered and further decided that they needed to set up a new assn. now known as the SCHSBA (Breeders ). This was done in 2012. At the next annual meeting in 2013 , a majority of the members present voted to not allow the breed std. change but at a hastily called special board meeting just afterward, the vote was disallowed and the board, without a member vote, revised it.

It was shortly afterward that a core group of long time International members met, had the SCHSIA reinstated with the IRS and restarted the SCHSIA.

So long story short, the SCHSIA is the continuation of the original association established in 1983 and the " Breeders" was established in 2012 and allows sheep with color or scurs to be registered. Thus our logo which says "Preserving Breed Standards since 1983".

If you have any further questions feel free to reply to any of our board members.  
You can find our contact info on our website.

## St. Croix Hair Sheep International Association Proposed Code of Ethics

As a member of the St. Croix Hair Sheep International Association, I agree that I will:

- Not knowingly make any untruthful statement in submitting applications for registry and not register animals of questionable parentage.
- Not neglect or mistreat my animal(s), but, on the contrary, at all times safeguard and further its/their well-being.
- Make a reasonable effort to ensure that any party to whom I am transferring ownership of animals has both a commitment to and a fair understanding of the proper care and humane treatment of the animals, and the means to provide same.
- Only breed animals that I know to be in good condition and health.
- Represent my animals honestly to prospective buyers and give such advice or assistance to the buyer as may be reasonably requested.
- So act in my breeding practice and in dealings with others as to protect and improve the good standing and reputation of the breed and of the association.

# SCHSIA PROFILE

## CHARLIE BEDINGER CATLIN, ILLINOIS

**SCHSIA:** Can you give us an idea of your general background?

**Charlie:** I grew up on a 300 acre grain farm in Central Illinois. I started raising sheep in 1956. Initial breeds were Southdown and Hampshire. Illinois had a very good paying county fair system, I showed the sheep extensively at county, state and at national shows for forty years through the nineties and to a smaller extent to date. I graduated from Southern Illinois University in Animal Science. I then became the nutritionist for Shur-Gain feeds in the seventies. I later owned a couple of feed manufacturing plants and a distribution company that sold feed to several states. I sold my feed companies in 1995 and began finding livestock for several exporters.

**SCHSIA:** What year did you get started with SC? As a novel breed, how did you decide SC? Who did you purchase your starter flock from and how many animals did you start with?

**Charlie:** In 1997, as part of a 200 head order to the Philippines, I went to St. Croix and selected a large group of St Croix Hair Sheep that came back to my farm for selection and testing. Lambs under 50 pounds and ewes with lambs on their side could not be shipped. I kept nearly 40. Several ewes lambled on my farm and I was impressed with their mothering ability, low maintenance and gentle nature. During that time, the biggest surprise was the herding ability of the originals. They just gently went where you wanted them to go. When I loaded the shipment to head to the Philippines, the truckdriver said he had hauled for over 27 years and had never seen sheep load that easily!

**SCHSIA:** What were the ages of your children when you got your SC and what was the family involvement?

**Charlie:** My three daughters were grown and had moved off the farm when I started into SC.

**SCHSIA:** Can you tell us how many animals have been born on your farm and how many have been registered?

**Charlie:** I believe I registered my first lambs in 1997. At one time I owned over 200 brood ewes so I have produced several thousand lambs.

**SCHSIA:** Where is the farthest location you have shipped your SC?

**Charlie:** I have exported sheep to over 30 countries. Not all have purchased SC but many have. The two farthest points were to the United Arab Emirates (UAB) and the Philippines. Domestically, I have sold to many states. The farthest being Maine and also including Minnesota, Nevada, Texas, Florida and Virginia to name a few.

**SCHSIA:** Did you or do you have any farm favorites?

**Charlie:** My favorites have been the stud rams. I appreciate rams that are fault free, have straight lines and show good muscling. The first ram was born after the arrival from St. Croix that I named Island Boy. He was the foundation ram for my flock. I have produced many more that I am proud of including Rum Runner and BACARDI, who sold to Mexico for \$1500. Thick Burger to Trinidad. White Lightning and Sledge Hammer used on the farm while Triple Meat Whopper is presently in service. These all go back to Island Boy and the infusion of USU (Utah State University) bloodlines. I bought and enjoyed 77 ewe lambs from them in 2004-05.



**SCHSIA:** In all your years of service, what are you most proud of?

**Charlie:** I think I am most proud of the number of new breeders that I have started. Many raised them on shares with me. One accomplishment was starting Pearce McKinny who was raising Suffolk and Montadales with 5 SC ewes that he developed into a flock of over 70. He was a very good friend, excellent shepherd and was a great help to me when I was the Association President.

**SCHSIA:** Can you list each type of service and years served?

**Charlie:** I served as Association President in the early 2000's and have been a region director on either side of that since 1999.

**SCHSIA:** What are some Annual Meeting memories or favorite locations?

**Charlie:** The Annual Meetings have been a great experience. Some that stand out to me were in Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas. I was in charge of two that we held in Springfield, ILL. and had a national sale in conjunction. We had breeders from several states consign and attend. Brent's (VanSickle) last two in Indiana were like mini vacations with guest speakers. Keibler's did a great job with one at their farm in Kentucky. Bottom line is that our membership is a diverse group of people with a lot of enthusiasm for the breed!

**SCHSIA:** After all the years, can you explain what it is you still find so appealing about raising SC and the attributes you cherish most?

**Charlie:** I feel that the SC have a definite niche in the sheep industry. They are easy to care for, inexpensive to feed and gentle to work with. There is a high demand for the breeding stock which makes them economically sound.

**The entire Association would like to thank Charlie Bedinger for his service as he leaves the board of directors at the end of 2020 after many continual years. His knowledge and influence have helped the SCHSIA to get into a healthy, productive state of affairs and is greatly appreciated.**

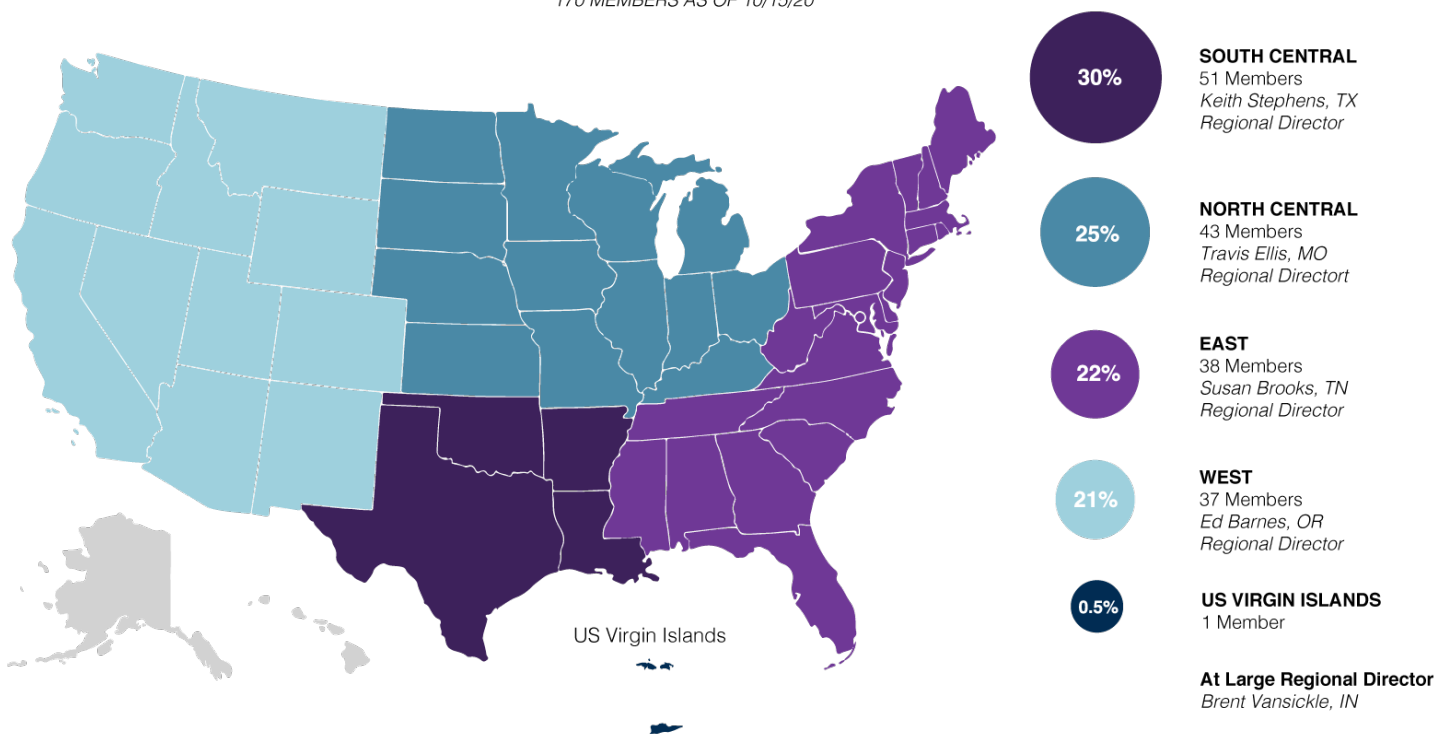
**See you in the barn, Charlie!!**



# MEMBER MAP

## SCHSIA Members Per Region

170 MEMBERS AS OF 10/15/20



Go to our web site - [www.stcroixhairsheep.org](http://www.stcroixhairsheep.org), at the top of the home page go to members and click "Member List", in the quick search bar, click the arrow next to "STATE" and then select your desired state, followed by "GO". A list of members in that state will follow. You can also sort the entire member list alphabetically by state or any other column by clicking on the header for that column."

An interactive map for the website is coming soon.



## BRAIZED LAMB SHANKS

Courtesy of Delish Magazine

After a quick sear, the oven does all the work for you! You'll have the most tender, fall-off-the-bone lamb for the most comforting dinner you've had all year!

### INGREDIENTS

- 6 lamb shanks
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 tbsp. butter, divided
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 medium carrots, peeled and finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp. tomato paste
- 2 c. low-sodium beef broth
- 1 (15-oz.) can tomato sauce
- 2 sprigs rosemary
- 1 c. red wine

# LIFESTYLE



## St Croix Hair Sheep International Assoc

Private group



## CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK!

It's hard to believe that the St. Croix Hair Sheep International Assoc Facebook Page is now well into its 4th year! Though we are a closed group, we have over 370 members who regularly exchange pictures, stories, and information. It was originally established to be an efficient means of communication for our members. However, we've now expanded to admit anyone who owns or is otherwise enthusiastic about polled and white St. Croix Hair Sheep.

It's a great way to learn about upcoming Association events, as well as a network of support for new and established St. Croix farmers alike. If you haven't already, please consider joining us! Just type "SCHSIA" in the search bar at the top of the page. We'll be the first group in the list. We'd love to add you to our Facebook family!

### Susan R. Brooks

*Board Member, Eastern Director*

## DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°. Season lamb shanks with salt and pepper. In a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat, heat oil. Add lamb and cook until golden all over, about 4 minutes per side. Work in batches as necessary. Remove lamb from pot and place on a plate.

In the pot, melt 2 tablespoons butter over medium heat. Add onion and carrots and cook until soft, 4 minutes. Add garlic and cook until fragrant, 1 minute more, then add tomato paste and stir until vegetables are coated. Pour in broth and tomato sauce, then return lamb shanks to pot. Add rosemary and bring to a boil. Cover and transfer to oven. Cook until lamb shanks are completely tender, 2 hours.

Remove lamb from pot and place on a cutting board. Tent with foil to keep warm. Discard rosemary.

Return pot to stove over medium heat. Add wine and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and let simmer until thickened, 10 minutes. Stir in remaining 2 tablespoons butter.

Serve lamb with mashed potatoes and spoon a little sauce on top.

Enjoy!



Swan Ranch



Lindsey Posner Williams



Ewe Poo Compost



Ellis Sheep Company



Sweet Valley Farm

**POST YOUR PICTURES ON FACEBOOK FOR A CHANCE TO BE FEATURED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!**



<https://www.stcroixhairsheep.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SCHSIA/>



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