

Old Dominion Hounds News and Notes

Tuesday, August 3, 2021

Written and digested by HonSec Betsy Burke Parker (betsyburkeparker@gmail.com); distributed by Sheila Quinn DeHart (quinndehart@msn.com)

****** IN THIS NEWSLETTER –**

- **Gone Away – Full obituary for landowner and longtime ODH friend Ruth Wilson**
- **Subscription letters, take 2**
- **August (weekend) training days**
- **August (Wednesday) work parties**
- **Save-the-date calendar**
- **The regular stuff (Food pantry, how to find out more, etc.)**

******Gone Away: ODH landowner Ruth Boyd Wilson**

February 23, 1923 – July 26, 2020

On Monday, July 26, Ruth Boyd Wilson – mother, sister, wife, grandmother and longtime master of hounds – died at age 98. Ruth was born February 28, 1923 to Ernest C. Boyd and A. Beatrice Simpson Boyd, from Worcester, Massachusetts and Nova Scotia, respectively.

Ruth grew up in Worcester and attended college at Cornell University. There she met future husband Jim Wilson while he was in officer's candidate school for the Marines. They married November 25, 1944.

They had four children: Susan, Doug, Sally and Jeffery.

The family lived in Worcester and Springfield, Massachusetts before moving to the Marine base at Quantico, where most of the Wilson clan took up horseback riding.

After a brief transfer to North Carolina, Jim returned to Quantico and then the Pentagon, during which time the family settled at Hidden Hollow farm in Warrenton.

Ruth joined the Ashland Bassetts, serving as joint master and field master 1976-2003. She secured a photo feature in GQ Magazine's coverage of the rise of the sport. At their Stone Hill Farm near Hume, the Wilsons were major landowners in ODH territory, and the clan enjoyed attending the point-to-point races. The Wilsons' tailgate space was held for more than 25 years.

Ruth was a member of the Blue Ridge Garden Club where she collected prizes for her green thumb year after year.

Ruth taught second and first graders at Highland School in Warrenton. She also became an avid quilter and knitter. Wicker weaving and rug braiding rounded out her artistic skills and hobbies.

Ruth has eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by brother Alden Boyd, husband Lieutenant Colonel James Jay Wilson and son Doug Wilson.

A memorial service will be held at Leeds Church (4346 Leeds Manor Road, Markham) at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 14. The service will be followed by a celebration at Stone Hill at 5786 Keyser Road, Hume.

Gifts may be made in Ruth's honor to the Ashland Bassetts at P.O. Box 184, Warrenton VA, 20188.

(**Photo by Douglas Lees of Ruth Wilson in the early 1980s during a day out with her beloved Ashland Bassetts.)



******SUBSCRIPTION LETTERS ARE OUT. DID YOU GET IT?** Because of a computer glitch, some 2021-'22 season subscription invitation letters were not mailed.

If you did not receive one, or would like to be added to the snail-mail list to receive an invitation to subscribe to the hunt (as a riding member, a social member, family, professional or any of the other options) please send your mailing address (and emails so we can confirm correct information) and text number (so we can add landowners to the correct distro list for a new “hunt day alert” system) to honsec Betsy Burke Parker – betsyburkeparker@gmail.com.

******WORK PARTIES.....AUGUST WEDNESDAY EVENINGS:** Every Wednesday in August (Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25), subscribers/friends/family/landowners/neighbors/kids are invited to meet at the hunter trial field in Orlean at 6 p.m. to help with trail clearing, jump repair and more. Masters and staff will meet helpers there and send you out in the territory to help prep the area for hunting.

Bring tools – hand nippers, weed eaters, chainsaws, scythes, adjustable wrench, etc.

*****HUNT TRAINING SESSIONS....***NEW DATES IN AUGUST:**

For young hunters (horse or human) or those returning that need to work on their fitness, ODH has a range of training sessions this month.

→ **SATURDAY, Aug. 7** – Hunt training ride. 9 a.m. Hunter trial field, Orlean.

Field master/honsec Betsy Burke Parker will lead a 2-hour ride around the kennels' territory, with lots of "practice moves" to prep for/learn/commit to memory such as forward-reverse, checks, safe distancing, increase and decrease pace sharply, creek crossings, field reverse (where the last rider briefly becomes the 'leader'), etc. We'll end the training session with a parade past the kennels where the hounds will be turned out in the grass yard so the young hunters can "see" and sense dozens of red-and-white hounds and learn that they are friend, not foe.

Optional supervised schooling over the log jumps near the grass yard.

The hunt coolers will be filled with cold drinks and riders are asked to bring a snack to share for afterwards.

\$30 for adults, \$10 for kids 12 and under. Call secretary Betsy Burke Parker 540 364-2929 for details and directions.

→ **SUNDAY, August 15** – Open schooling at the hunter trial field. The jumps (big, medium and small) will be freshly mowed and weedeat-ed. Subscribers and friends of ODH are welcome to school the jumps, and/or hang out with young horses near the kennels' grass yard to acclimate to the sights and sounds of foxhounds.

Fee: \$30

Time: Open schooling 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Contact: MFH Debbie Welch 540 631 8607

→ **SUNDAY, August 22** – "" ""

→ **SATURDAY, August 28** – Hound exercise **on horseback.** Take the gentle education you've given your horse through the month and put it all together with a simple walk-out with the ODH pack out in front of you.

Fee: none

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Contact: Debbie 540 631 8607

→ **TUESDAY, August 31** – Hound exercise **on horseback.** Take the gentle education you've given your horse through the month and put it all together with a simple walk-out with the ODH pack out in front of you. Park at the hunter trial field.

Fee: none

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Contact: Debbie 540 631 8607

→ **THURSDAY, Sept. 2** – Hound exercise **on horseback.** Take the gentle education you've given your horse through the month and put it all together with a simple walk-out with the ODH pack out in front of you. Park at the hunter trial field.

Fee: none

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Contact: Debbie 540 631 8607

→ **SATURDAY, Sept. 4** – First day of cubbing. Hunter trial field, Orlean.

Time: TBD (but probably 8 a.m.)

→ **MONDAY, Sept. 6** – Labor Day cubbing. Hunter trial field, Orlean.

Time: TBD

*****DAILY HOUND EXERCISE:** Join ODH for walking hounds (on foot) from the kennels every morning (usually not on Sundays), usually at 7:30 a.m., though days and times are fluid because of the weather, so call or text master Debbie Welch to confirm: 540-631-8607.

******SAVE THE DATE/S:**

- * Daily (except Sundays) – from kennels – hound exercise.
- * August 7 – 9 a.m. Hunt training trail ride. Hunter trial field, Orlean. \$30/\$10.
- * August 8 – 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Hunt training/open schooling. Hunter trial field, Orlean. \$30.
- * August 22 – 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Hunt training/open schooling. Hunter trial field, Orlean. \$30.
- * August 28 – 7:30 a.m. Hound exercise on horseback. Hunter trial field, Orlean. Free.
- * Sept. 2 – 7:30 a.m. Hound exercise on horseback. Hunter trial field, Orlean. Free.
- * Sept. 4 – 7:30 a.m. Hound exercise on horseback. Hunter trial field, Orlean. Free.
- * Sept. 6 – First day of cubbing.
- * Sept. 26 – Landowners’ picnic. Marriott Ranch, Hume. Details TBA. Free.
- * September/October – Autumn wine trail ride. Henchman’s Lea, Orlean. 12 p.m. start for self-guided wine-tasting ride. Details TBA.
- * October – Oyster roast – mid-October during Virginia Hunt Week. Details TBA.
- * October – Autumn hunter pace – Sunday, October 24. Hunter trial field, Orlean. Details TBA.
- * November – Opening meet – Saturday, November 6. Details TBA.
- * November – Kennels open house and Christmas photos with Santa – Sunday, November 28. ODH kennels, Orlean. Details TBA.

******NORTH AMERICAN FIELD HUNTER CHAMPIONSHIPS:** The 2021 Theodora A.

Randolph Field Hunter Championship, (formerly the North American Field Hunter Championship) will be held October 4 - 9. This event features four days of hunting privileges with four local packs: Bull Run, Blue Ridge, Orange County Hounds and Old Dominion Hounds. The event benefits the INOVA Loudoun Hospital Foundation.

The championship finals are at Glenwood Park in Middleburg Saturday, October 9 before the Virginia Fall Races.

Entries are now open and will be accepted on a first come, first served basis – 60 total entries are being accepted.

This competition awards a total of \$4,000 in prize money; \$500 each to the champion and reserve champion rider, \$2,000 to the hunt of the champion rider and \$1,500 to reserve. An award for the highest placing thoroughbred in memory of Dr. Alexander Mackay-Smith is a new prize this year. Entry form and more information – vafallraces.com or on the Theodora A. Randolph Field Hunter Championship Facebook page.

******OLD DOMINION FOOD PANTRY NEWS:** The Old Dominion Self Serve Food Pantry is located behind the post office in Orlean. The easy-access assistance system is for families who need a little help to get through the next meal.

ODFP partners with Fauquier For Immediate Sympathetic Help (FISH) to get the word out about the pantry. FISH is located in Warrenton near the Salvation Army and is a privately funded food bank. FISH arranges for needy children to take home backpacks of food every week through the elementary schools.

Here's how you can help:

1. Place donations directly in the white shed behind the pantry.
2. Go by the pantry any time to check on it. If it's empty or needs attention, e-mail ODFoodpantry@gmail.com

******PLEASE SEND** any news, or notes, photos, interesting items or upcoming events to be included in this ODH online newsletter.

Feel free to forward this to friends and family and anyone you think might be interested in ODH happenings.

Send current/updated email addresses if you'd like to be included on our direct newsletter list.

******WANT MORE? THERE ARE THREE WAYS:** If you can't get enough ODH news, check out the regularly-updated and ongoing newsfeed on our Facebook page.

Or dive deep into club history, photo galleries and more on our newly-refreshed website –

theolddominionhounds.com (*don't forget the 'the' at the beginning of that website address.)

Or call the hunt monitor for up-to-the-minute hunting information and changes – 540.364-7457.