

News from your NBS President

Busy is the perfect word to describe this time of year! Your Board is hard at work, putting the finishing touches on the show weekend to ensure your experience is nothing short of amazing. To make sure your experience is smooth and enjoyable, start checking off your to-do list now. First, secure your hotel reservation early. Then, review your flock carefully and decide which birds you plan to enter in the competition. Don't forget to obtain the advanced registration forms, complete them, and send them in promptly. It's also a great time to reach out to your fellow bird enthusiasts and confirm they'll be joining you at the show.

Advanced registration opens around the second week of September, and pre-planning will make everything easier. When filling out the forms, look out for some key items: cage tags are cheaper to buy in advance, Feathered Fortune Tags are essential for your winning birds, banquet tickets come with a \$10 discount if purchased early, and buying your show t-shirt ahead ensures you get the size you want. Also, pick out a booster button to show your support.

Thanks to the generous support of Higgins Premium Pet Food and Lone Star Avian, this year's awards are truly stunning. It's time to pamper your offspring a little extra because the competition is going to be fierce!

Exciting news—shopping is back at the show! Shopping returns to the show this year, with several vendors bringing the latest bird-related products. Keep an eye on the National's Facebook page to see which vendors will be there so you can plan your shopping list. If your favorite vendor hasn't signed up yet, encourage them to visit NCBS.org and reserve their table.

We're thrilled to welcome a new board member, J. D. Ferrigno, from New York. J.D. is a Champion Breeder with the African Love Bird Society and also breeds and exhibits Pacific Parrotlets. With about 20 years of experience and a strong exhibition record, he brings valuable expertise to our team. Outside of birds, J.D. is a classically trained bassoon player and runs a private tax preparation and resolution business. We're grateful for his time and support.

This year marks the 77th Annual National Bird Show—a special milestone. The number 77 is unique: it's a composite number made up of prime factors 7 and 11, a palindrome, the sum of the first eight prime numbers, and also the sum of three consecutive squares ($4^2 + 5^2 + 6^2$). Historically, "77" was a secret code in WWII Sweden and is linked to faith. Scientifically, it's the atomic number of Iridium. To me, 77 symbolizes dedication and hard work—a true milestone earned by passion and commitment.

As your president, my goal for the 77th show is to ensure you have a wonderful time, your birds receive the best care, your voices are heard, and your efforts are appreciated. I hope you experience true **Hospitality** at the event and share that warmth with everyone you meet.

Looking forward to seeing you November 20–22, 2025 in Knoxville, Tennessee!

Laura Bewley