



# THE RAPP SHEET



June, 2021

## Change

CHANGE – verb - make (someone or something) different; alter or modify. This word has defined 2020 and 2021. Rappahannock Hunt has certainly undergone changes in the last year or so. Of course, Covid 19 has defined change in all of our worlds; professionally, personally, and sports wise. The membership stepped up and made our hunting season work in many ways. Kudos to all of you. We have also changed huntsmen. After 21 years with Michael Brown at the helm, and prior to that Oliver Brown carrying the horn for 20 years, we now have Jeff Woodall handling the hounds and hunting. Any change in personnel, reflects in a difference in how we hunt. We appreciate and honor the old but embrace and enjoy the new. Please be sure to let Michael and Oliver know how much we all appreciated their many years of dedicated and skilled hunting abilities. Covid has prevented any planned celebration for Michael, but we will have something to honor his retirement in the future.



Walking hounds in the summertime is for everyone who wants to join in. The walks are to get the new entry out on couples or on leads and is at a leisurely pace. These youngsters need to learn their names and the verbal commands we use. It is a great opportunity to get to know the hounds and to get out for a nice walk. A bonus is to get to know the hounds so that during the hunting season you will recognize those that were walked out in the summer.





## TAKING A LOOK BACK

With Janet Payne O'Keefe, Ex-MFH (RH)



Hoping you all enjoy a nice summer and take the time to relax because the hunting season will be back in a flash. I am sure you know, the hunt committee, Masters and Huntsman will still be at work because hunt business never gets a break.

Soon you will be getting your dues letter for the next hunting season so I thought you might find it interesting to look back at a dues schedule from way back-**53 years ago!** I have included a letter to the membership dated June 13, 1968. Please note the individual and family dues doubled to a whopping \$75 and \$150 respectively. No mention of capping fees, but I know in the mid-70s it was about \$10-\$15 or \$25 for a couple.

While looking back at 1968, below is a photo of the hunt up on Red Oak in 1968. Red Oak was open and the tree line well down from the tower. You had a wonderful 360 degree view and could see past Warrenton and Culpeper!

Of note in this photo, Jack DeBergh, MFH is leading the field, but do you recognize anyone—look at the fellow on the paint pony and the fellow on the gray 4th from the left!!



# RAPPAHANNOCK HUNT

June 13, 1968

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR HUNT COMMITTEE!

During the May 17 Membership meeting, first of the 1968-69 season, certain motions were passed for study, action and report.

On May 24, a Hunt Committee meeting was held with the following results: (These actions and recommendations were made after lengthy and careful discussion and analysis.)

1. In order for the hunt to become self-supporting and therefore hire a full-time Huntsman, additional revenue is necessary. To obtain this, all 1967-68 dues (with the exception of the junior hunting membership) have been doubled, and a non-resident membership has been introduced (with the exception of the junior classification) in each category.

Family Hunting Membership .....	\$300.00
Non-resident Family Hunting Membership .....	150.00
Individual Hunting Membership .....	150.00
Non-Resident Individual Hunting Membership ...	75.00
Junior Hunting Membership .....	35.00

Family Non-Hunting Membership .....	120.00
Non-Resident Family Non-Hunting Membership ...	60.00
Individual Non-Hunting Membership .....	60.00
Non-Resident Individual Non-Hunting Membership	30.00

Initiation Fee for Non-Hunting  
Membership ..... \$100.00

A resident is a landowner in Rappahannock County and/  
or Rappahannock Hunt Territory.





If you haven't seen these articles, I thought you might find them interesting. The next time you see Oliver, just ask him, he can tell you all about the ad campaign.

The article about Michael is a good read, since it chronicles his first time hunting hounds (as a junior), and well before taking the horn for Rappahannock for 20 years!!

# Youngest Huntsman on Record Works Rappahannock Hounds

## Michael Brown Takes Cues From Family

By BETSY BRANSCOME  
Rappahannock News Staff Writer

Nineteen-year-old Michael Brown has found a successful formula for juggling college classes, hunting the Rappahannock Hunt's hounds and riding steeplechase races while at once retaining a laid-back and reserved demeanor that belies the fact that he is the youngest huntsman ever to officially hunt the Rappahannock County pack.

"Michael has recently begun hunting the Rappahannock hounds in the absence of his father [official huntsman Oliver Brown]," said Rappahannock Hunt Master of Foxhounds Larry LeHew. "He is just as cool with the hounds as he is with horses."

The senior Brown is a professional horseman who travels to various thoroughbred and horse sales throughout the summer months when not hunting. Now that his son is old enough and experienced enough to hunt the hounds, Oliver handed over the reins to Michael while he traveled to Kentucky to work a thoroughbred sale.

On Dec. 19, at the Rappahannock Hunt junior meet held at Hayday Farm in Culpeper, Michael hunted the hounds for the first time under his father's watchful eye.

"I hunted them the second day of cubbing back in September," Michael explained of the mostly cross-bred Rappahannock pack. "And I took them out on the second day of the official season. But this was the first time for me to hunt the hounds while dad was here to watch."

The annual junior meet was a most fitting trial for the younger Brown. A field of more than 60 riders — including nearly 30 children hunting behind junior field masters Innis Nelson and Ashley Settle — took to the hills for a big day of sport. "We jumped what seemed like a covey of foxes at the very first co-

vert!" exclaimed Michael of the day's hunting. "It was a good day, especially when we came home with all of the hounds [accounted for.]"

**"He is an exceptionally nice young man, very pleasant to be around — something that is especially nice to see in this day and age."**

Larry LeHew

Foxhunting is firmly entrenched in the Brown blood — Oliver has been the Rappahannock huntsman for 15 years; Michael's uncle Charlie for five years has hunted the Old Dominion Hounds and was previously a professional whip for the Keswick Hunt; uncle Mike is also an area horseman, competing successfully in local hunter pace events and avidly riding to hounds.

"I got a later start on riding than my dad did," Michael explained of his equestrian beginnings. "I started really riding late — at about age six or seven because of [severe asthma and] an allergy to horse hair." Michael said his father began riding at five years, quickly rising in the ranks to show grandfather Elzy's hunters both in the ring and in the field.

"My family has been based in this area [Culpeper and Rappahannock Counties] since 1916," said Oliver, a

resident of Reva. "Before that, the Browns lived in Madison County. We've been around for a long time."

"My dad actually wanted me to be a vet at first," the senior Brown continued. "I went to Virginia Tech for a year, and then transferred to Germanna College for another four years. I ended up with a degree in business management, just a few classes away from another degree in accounting. The farthest thing from my mind was hunting hounds. I came home and rode on the weekends, but I never thought of being a huntsman," Brown said.

Through whipping-in for the Rappahannock pack, the elder Brown eventually took over the full-time responsibility for hunting the hounds 15 years ago. At the same time, his eldest son began riding.

"I bent over backwards not to push my kids to ride horses," Oliver explained. "All kids seem to want to ride horses, but I tried not to push too hard."

The path of least resistance worked well, and Michael flowered into a confident rider. "I ride with Michael and help him with the hounds when he takes over for his dad," said Rixeyville farmer and Rappahannock hunt committee staff member David Ingram. "He is a natural horseman and hound-man. He is a fearless rider, and he is doing. I think, a super job with the hounds."

"I can't say enough good about Michael," offered Ingram. "He is a good kid. He comes from a real fox-hunting family, and I think Michael will be able to carry on the tradition for his daddy."

LeHew agreed. "Like his grandfather [Elzy Brown,] Michael has real qualities of a southern gentleman," he said. "He is an exceptionally nice young man, very pleasant to be around — something



Rappahannock News Staff Photos/Betsy Branscome

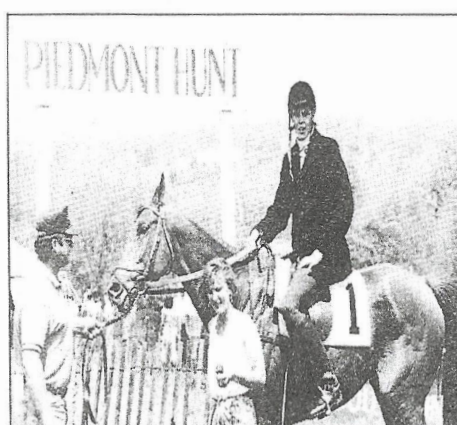
Michael Brown and "Rappahannock Drummer" visit outside the hunt's kennels.

that is especially nice to see in this day and age."

"I will officially hunt the hounds again in January, when Dad goes to Kentucky again for the sales," said Michael. "I also plan to maybe ride in some [steeplechases] again this spring. I held out for a long time, but last spring was fun," when he won his first-ever race aboard his father's Oliver's Tiger. "The bug has bitten. I guess," Michael surmised.

Oliver summed up his elation at the family tradition, saying, "The '93-'94 season is the best year I've ever had. [The Rappahannock Hunt] has a good group of subscribers, a good staff, and the best part about it is that Michael can really take the pressure off of me."

"It has always been nice to hunt with the Brown family, and maybe Michael will continue this tradition. I hope so," LeHew said.



Michael Brown won on his father's horse Oliver's Tiger at the Piedmont Fox Hounds Point-to-point in Upperville last May. His father, Oliver Brown holds the horse.





FALL 1987

CDC 00441 \$3.50

# VIRGINIA COUNTRY

"FROLICKSOME, SPORTIVE"  
POCAHONTAS

"BIG CATS"  
IN VIRGINIA?

THE BEALE TREASURE  
BLUES







# Culpeper News

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ONE SECTION, SIXTEEN PAGES

## Local Hunt Adds Flavor To National Ad Campaign

By ROSANNE BERKENSTOCK  
C/N Staff

If you look carefully in a recent issue of Playboy magazine, you might recognize Reva resident Oliver Brown. You can also find him in the October issue of Southern Living magazine, or hanging around liquor stores across the country with jewelry store owner Larry Levy.

The two men are the most easily recognizable members of the Rappahannock Hunt to be featured in a full-color poster being used nationally to advertise Virginia Gentleman bourbon which is produced by the A. Smith Bowman Distillery at Sunset Hills in Fairfax County.

BROWN AND the Rappahannock Hunt hounds are also the focal point of a black and white advertisement for the bourbon which is being used in such well-known national publications as Playboy and Southern Living. J. A. B. Dahlgren, one of Rappahannock's joint masters, is also featured prominently in this advertisement.

The two pictures are the work of Warrenton photographer Marshall Hawkins and they were taken several years ago during a November meet of the Rappahannock Hunt at Massie's Corner on Rt. 211. The Massie's Corner area is one of the most picturesque sections of the Rappahannock Hunt territory and several mountain ridges are visible in the background of the photos. The color advertisement, in particular, brings out the beauty of this part of Rappahannock County.

Although Brown is pleased to have his picture used in a national campaign, he isn't overly excited about the honor. He says the experience has been "interesting" and agrees that "not everybody" gets his picture put in a national ad campaign.

"It says a lot for the beauty of our hunt country that we were picked," Brown says. "Marshall does all the hunts in the area and they selected this one. I'm happy

LEVY, ON THE other hand, says he's "tickled pink" and "super pleased" to be in the poster ad. "I love it," he says. "People have come up and asked 'Was that you?'" He agrees with Brown about the beauty of the Massie's Corner area and says "that's the most beautiful hunting country in the whole world."

Employees at the ABC store here in Culpeper say they have not seen a copy of the poster, but for a short time one of them hung on the wall at the liquor store in Leesburg. That poster is now hanging at Levy's jewelry store on Main Street here. "Everyone wants one of the posters," he says, but a phone call to the Bowman Distillery failed to produce any extra copies.

Brown, 33, has been the huntsman at Rappahannock for the past six years, although he rode as a hunt member for 20 years previously. His father Elzy Brown is an avid foxhunter, and his brother Charlie is a professional whipper-in with the Keswick Hunt. During the time Brown has been huntsman, Levy served as an honorary whipper-in for several years.

AT FIRST Brown did not realize that the photographs would be used in advertisements in such widely known publications as Playboy and Southern Living. Brown, Levy, and the Rappahannock joint masters all signed model releases which allowed the pictures to be used for advertising, and Brown says that he at first signed the release "as much for Marshall Hawkins as for ourselves. He's been good to us."

Hawkins has specialized in horse photography for the

(Continued on Page 16)

Huntsman Oliver Brown and the Rappahannock Hunt Hounds are being featured in a national advertising campaign for Virginia Gentleman bourbon which is produced by the A. Smith Bowman Distillery in Fairfax County. The ad, at right, has appeared in several well known publications

After a run at the foxes,  
there was always a  
race for the bourbon.

Back in 1957 Virginia's oldest sporting tradition was customarily followed by the one bourbon made in the state. For it was then that Virginia Gentleman became the official bourbon of the Fairfax Hunt. Naturally those who'd appreciate the tradition of the hunt would appreciate a bourbon that's made in the traditional manner. Distilled in a four-story cypress still. Fermented in cypress tubs. And aged in charred oak barrels. Even to this day, no matter how furied the chase, afterwards they sit back to slowly sip Virginia Gentleman.



Hoping you know this RH trio, but do you remember these outstanding hunt horses? They were probably more well known than the characters riding them!!





## The Kennel Club

### Meet Windsor

Windsor started his rookie year last year and was a star pupil. He was born in 2020 by Shakerag Major and out of RH Wilma. Michael put a lot of thought into this combination combining Wilma with her hunting drive and Major, also with an excellent nose and booming voice. Windsor has been a delight in the kennel as well as the hunting field. Be sure to look for him this season.



On a personal note, I gave Jean Martin (Janet O'Keefe, former RH MFH's sister) my hunting pony to find a second career. Here is a picture of Janet on Luna. Don't they look great.

It really does my heart good to see the pony doing so well and enjoying her new life with Jean.

Over the years Janet has been so giving to loan horses to other hunt members as needed. So to see her enjoying a ride on my old hunt pony is fantastic.

Hope to see both of you out on some trail rides.

Thank you Jean and Janet,

Barton



# Rappahannock Hunt offers....

## SUMMER SCHOOLING SESSIONS

2021



First Field 6:00 pm	Hilltoppers 8:00 am
Thursday, June 24 The Hill	Saturday, July 3 Red Hill
Thursday, July 8 Pine Rock	Saturday, July 10 Gooze Mountain
Thursday, July 22 Red Hill	Saturday, July 24 The Hill
Thursday, August 5 Grovespring Farm	
Friday, August 27 The Hill	
First Field sessions will be open to riders and horses that are comfortable in a group at the walk, trot, canter, and over jumps. All jumps will be optional. Time for schooling over jumps or creek crossings will be allowed, as needed.	Hilltopper sessions will be open to green horses and riders, new to the field. Also for seasoned pairs looking to gain fitness or wanting to reinforce field manners. Pace will primarily go at a walk, with some trotting incorporated, as the group is comfortable.
<p>\$25 Adults, \$15 Juniors 16 &amp; under. Waters and Sodas provided post-ride. Please bring a snack to share. Negative coggins, current waivers, and helmet required.</p> <p>Questions? Email: <a href="mailto:rappahannockhuntsecretary@gmail.com">rappahannockhuntsecretary@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Directions to meets: <a href="https://www.rappahannockhunt.com/directions">https://www.rappahannockhunt.com/directions</a></p> <p>Hunt Monitor 540.987.8957 for changes and updates. Look for Facebook posts prior to each ride with specifics and additional information about parking.</p>	