Join Us for Entlefest and National Specialty 2019 in the Finger Lakes!
by Cindy Stocker, Specialty Committee

I am getting really excited for Entlefest and the National Specialty! It will be held in the beautiful Finger Lakes region of Western New York September 26-29.

I live in Wisconsin, and I have two Entle girls. Liesel is five and Echo, her puppy, is one. This will be the third Entlefest and Specialty for Liesel and me and the first for Echo. I had such a great time in 2016 at my first Entlefest in Pennsylvania that I vowed to go to as many as I could. It was fun meeting new people and their Entlebuchers. The opportunity to see old friends and meet those I had only “met” on Facebook was invaluable.

Keynote Speaker
Each year NEMDA finds a keynote speaker with expertise in a subject important to the Entlebucher Mountain Dog breed. Our speaker this year is geneticist Dr. Jerold Bell, D.V.M. He will talk in detail about the health and genetics of the Entlebucher. This will be something everyone can learn from, not just breeders. The more we all know about our dogs and the population, the better we can all protect and continue our breed. Our Entlebucher gene pool is small. The best way to protect, preserve, and improve our breed going forward is for as many people as possible to learn about the population genetics involved. You can read more about the keynote speaker and his talk in the February 2019 Entlebook, page 12.

Comprehensive Entlebucher Breed Assessment (CEBA)
On Sept. 26th, Leelee and her team will be conducting CEBA. They have done a great job making CEBA as close as possible to the Swiss Ankörung, the licensing test for breeding dogs. We can learn a lot about our dogs by running them through CEBA. Teams that complete the assessment get a CEBA Dog tag! It’s also fun to be a volunteer in the evaluations and see how each dog goes through the process. You can read more about CEBA in the May 2019 Entlebook, page 12.

Herding Clinic
In 2016, there was a herding clinic out on a sheep farm, and the next day many of those same dogs were in the show ring for the National Specialty! I love the versatility of these dogs—running in dirt one day, prancing in the show ring the next.

This year, we will again have a herding clinic so we can see our Swiss Cattle Dogs working sheep. It will be a two-part clinic on Sept. 28th. Part 1, in the morning, will test each dog for herding instinct. Part 2, in the afternoon, will be an instructional session for each participant with their dog in the ring. You can read more about the herding clinic in the May 2019 Entlebook, page 11.

National Specialty
The National Specialty is always fun because we rarely have such a large entry in one place. It’s quite a sight to see so many Entlebuchers in a ring. This year there will be conformation, obedience, rally, and agility trials. All of these dog sports will showcase outstanding teamwork between Entles and their handlers.

Swag and T-shirts
So we’ve talked activities, let’s not forget the swag! Each registrant will get a “swag bag” of goodies. We’ve worked hard to get some different things this year, which I think everyone will enjoy.

We also have some fabulous T-shirts with a custom design by Teddy the Dog! Many of you are sure to be familiar with their punny designs, and if you aren’t, look them up online and prepare to laugh! The