

AMERICAN CONNEMARA

The Official Publication of the American Connemara Pony Society

MARCH/APRIL 2015

Edition II, VOL. 16 NO. 2



Coralee Richardson on Cobblestone Ivy - helping prove the saying

Connemaras Do It All!

THE AWARDS ISSUE

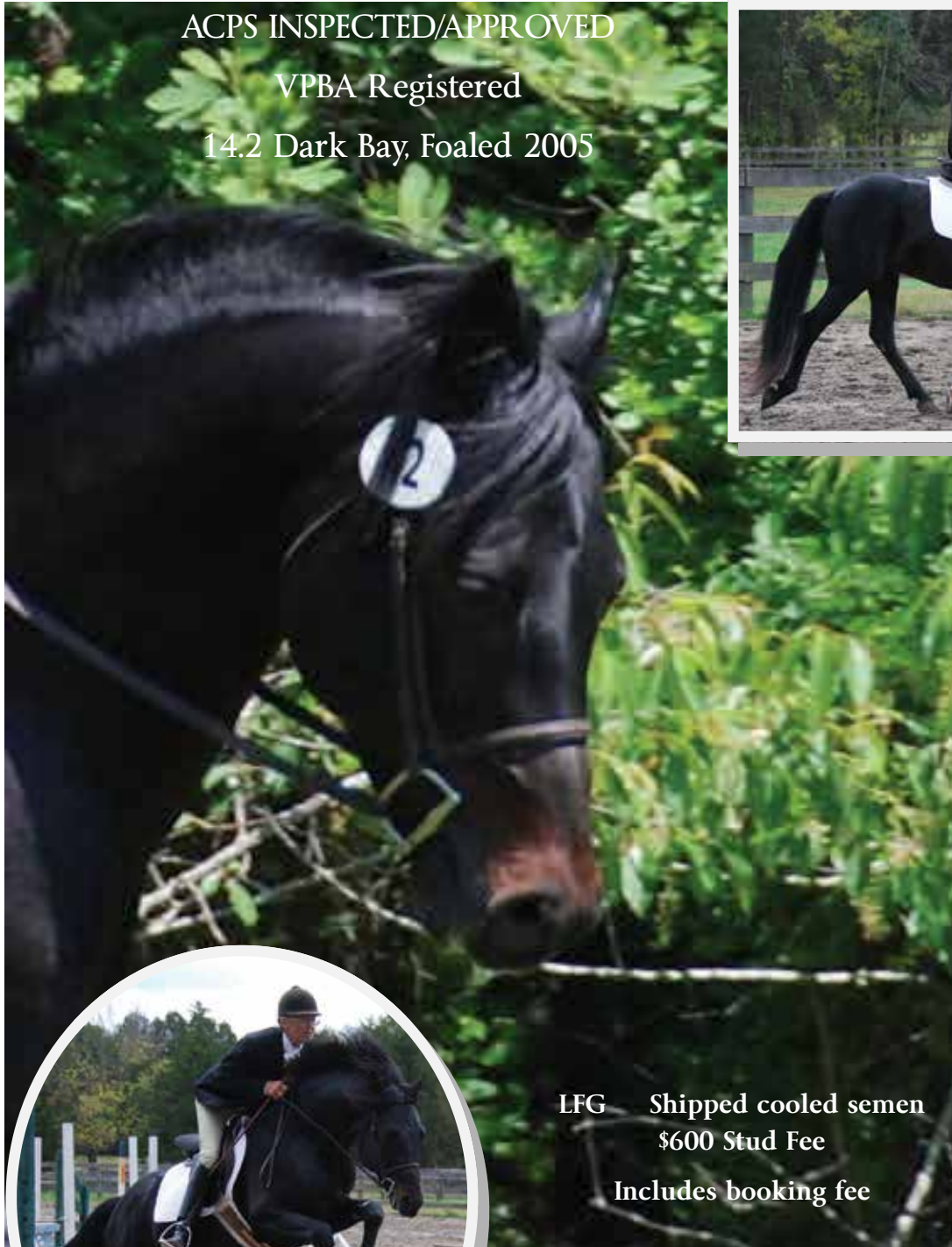
S.R. IRISH ENVOY

*By Greystone Ian McVai x Glenmary Absinthe (x *Bobby Brown)*

ACPS INSPECTED/APPROVED

VPBA Registered

14.2 Dark Bay, Foaled 2005



Performance
Pedigree
Exceptional
Athleticism, and
Movement
Extraordinary
Temperament
Lovely Foals

A superb choice
for your mare.

LFG Shipped cooled semen
\$600 Stud Fee
Includes booking fee

Sycamore Ridge Farm

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Marilyn Z. Cheek
mzcheek@gmail.com

She “Stayed the Course!”



**Four-Year-Old Coralee Richardson
in 2004,**

*Riding the Connemara Stallion,
Canal Laurinston



**Coralee Richardson, 14, riding her
Connemara Pony, Cobblestone Ivy
2014 American Eventing Championships,
Tyler, Texas**



CORALEE'S BRIEF BIO:

At thirteen, after more than four years of allergy shots, Coralee was able to ride! About that time, Coralee was “gifted” Cobblestone Ivy by longtime friend, Sue Laidlaw, who I’m sure, is smiling down on this developing partnership!

Eventing was already a passion, and in June, 2014, Coralee rode in her first “Intro” horse trials at the Colorado Horse Park, not far from her Parker, CO, home. Friends and family were in place, including Joanie Webster and Lee Webster Ramensky! Winning a big, purple, 7th place ribbon was a great beginning!

From there, Coralee and Ivy moved up to USEF/USEA Junior Beginner Novice competitions in Colorado and California. They were consistently in top placings, qualifying them for the 2014 year-end American Eventing Championships. They finished in 7th place out of 26 entries.

Coralee also received an Honorable Mention for her essay submitted to the ACPS Awards Committee and was recently notified that she earned her ACPS Bronze Medal in Eventing. All of this in less than a year of competing in recognized horse trials! We are so proud of Coralee’s hard work, determination and focus in bringing along her talented pony. She represents the third generation of Webster-related Connemara Pony enthusiasts!

RIDE ON, CORALEE!



Stonybrook Connemaras

Grandmother Joanie Webster • Stonybrook Connemaras, Napa, CA • joanmwebs@sbcglobal.net

Oakfields invites you to consider...



**Grange Finch*

(Coosheen Finn x Grange Agnes Sparrow) 1993



*Premium Stallion N/N for HWSD Cooled or Frozen semen
Stud Fee: \$700 with \$200 Non-refundable Booking Fee*

Oakfields congratulates Hilary Gerhardt of Bealeton, VA on the purchase of Oakfields Jansen, Kathy Milam of Unison, VA on the purchase of Oakfields Carnelian, and Ann Hughston of Ellerslie, GA on the purchase of Oakfields Onyx



**Hearnesebrook*

Dunoon

(Hearnesebrook Fastnet

x

Kirtling Bonnie Doon)

1995

Premium Stallion—N/N for HWSD

Stud Fee: \$700

w/\$200 Non-refundable Booking Fee

Cooled or Frozen Semen



Susan McConnell

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1085 Wood Lane

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Balmullo Farm *presents*

FOOTHILLS FIELD MARSHALL

6 Year-old stallion

*Gun Smoke x Foothills Maybee

N/N for HWSD



10th Place, Novice Division, USEF American Eventing Championships 2014

Reserve Champion, Beginner Novice Division USEF American Eventing Championships 2013

12th Place USDF Region III Training Level Championships 2012

Grand Champion In-Hand ACPS Region IV Show 2012

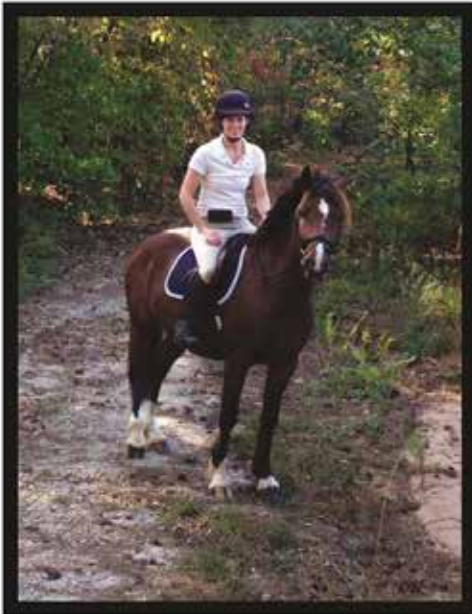
Cooled shipped semen only, in 2015

\$850 LFG Includes nonrefundable \$100 booking fee

For Further Information call (804) 507-0269 or email balmullofarm@gmail.com



Brambleridge Farm wishes to congratulate Kathy on her purchase of Providence's Sawyer Brown!



For Sale - Providence's Mountain Smoke



Dillon earned his Certificate in Foxhunting in 2014! Quiet 7 year old gelding, ready to continue his career in dressage, eventing, foxhunting, or all of the above! 12.5k
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Elderglen Farm

Breeders of pure & half bred Connemara's



Satnding at Stud:

W.H. Topgun

*2004 Dun 14.3h Connemara Stallion
Gunsmoke X Ballywhim Candace
2007 & 2009 ACPS Region IV Champion*

*A.I and Shipped Semen
2015 stud fees: \$900 LFG
Includes first collection*



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Ph: 352- 572-1444 or 352-591-4331
email: elderglenfarm@yahoo.com
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American Connemara

The official publication of the American Connemara Pony Society

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While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the materials contained herein, the ACPS and American Connemara Magazine assumes no responsibility to anyone for any errors or omissions.

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Read about the new ACPS Connemara Sport Horse Registry --- Register your 1/4-bred now!

Register your halfbred stallion - see article on page 43



Aluinn Durango and his owner/partner have spent the winter dragging logs - what a job!

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President's Message

Awards. It is a subject that is near and dear to all of our hearts. I was talking to a friend of mine, who events a nice halfbred, about her love for her “pony” and about the competitions that they participate in together. She remarked that she always felt sad when she came away from a competition without a ribbon. She laughed and said: “Let’s just face it, no matter how old you are, everyone loves a ribbon!”

And that is a true story. A ribbon is obviously not valuable in its own right, but it is certainly valuable in the time, the expense, and the emotional and physical commitment that we invest to win one. It represents our love and belief in our ponies and in ourselves.

We “put ourselves out there” ... in front of others who have the same goals and desires with their equine partners. A ribbon, and the honor that it bestows, takes our full focus. It takes our time, and it takes the time of many other people who are part of getting us there.

To be a good competitor, I think, takes a certain “chip”. That chip is the desire to be the best we can be ... to excel in our sport. With each ribbon and each success that we achieve, that chip grows and pushes us onward toward more competitions and more awards. And that brings respect for our Connemara Ponies and for us as their pilots.

No one starts at the top. Somewhere in life, a love for horses is born in a child or in an adult. Last year I had the privilege of meeting such a child. She needed a pony and we had just the right girl for the job. Off they went together to pony club, to fox



hunt, and to event. Over the summer I got progress reports from their exploits and we ALL beamed with pride for the special connection that they had formed. That child and that pony competed in five recognized events last summer, and won the Green Division Championship for the Blue Ridge Eventing Association.

This is why we have an Awards Program: to promote and to support our ponies and their riders. As we keep track of them and their accomplishments, and as we hand out ribbons and awards, we acknowledge their abilities, but also acknowledge their commitment to be the best that they can be. It is the way that we, as a Society, thank them for their time, their investment, and their love for our wonderful breed.

As we move forward into a new year and a new Awards Year, we are excited to form “The Connemara Sport Horse” Registry. It will be a new registry affiliated with the ACPS for part-bred Connemarars. It will further showcase our marvelous breed in even more disciplines, and will be another chance for us to award even more of those ribbons that we all love.

We are all pressing onward and upward toward our goals, whatever they may be, as we share our lives and our love of our “ponies.”

Deb Norman



Alicia Daily (center) of Cady O'Daly Farm with two of her young riders who won awards.

2014 Awards

2014 Hall of Fame Winners BREEDING AWARDS

*Tooreen Laddie - presented to a stallion who has had a positive influence on the breed through his offspring:

Tre Awain Dobh McDuff 1988 14.1H Black S (Tre Awain Ginger Blue x Tre Awain Rosin Dobh x Clonkeehan Bowman) Bred by Three Creek Farm and owned by Ginny and Joe Winkler, Journey's End Farm, Gardiner, NY

Broodmare- presented to the mare who has had a positive influence on the breed through her offspring

*Tower Hills Killaire 1980 Dk. Bay M (Whitewood Galway Bay [Clonkeehan Auratum x *Keane's Selection] x Stoneridge Heather [*Texas Hope x Clare de Lune]) bred by Mary and Rogers Rutter, Tower Hill Farm, owned by Linda Haines and Scott McGuffin, Trout Ranch, Northfield, NH.*

PERFORMANCE AWARDS

An Tostal - in recognition of a career of outstanding achievement both competitive and non-competitive of a purebred Connemara stallion.

**Ardceltic Art (Deceased) owned by Donna Miller, Georgia*

Tre Awain Halfbred - in recognition of a career of outstanding achievement both competitive and non-competitive of a halfbred Connemara.

Gaelic Holiday 15.2h bay M (Hideaway's Erin Go Bragh x Vacation Fun [TB]), bred and owned by Lynn Blades ridden by Carol Kozlowski

Camlin - in recognition of a career of outstanding competitive achievement by a purebred Connemara mare or gelding.

*Tower Hills Darby Dun (*Chiltern Copa of Tower Hill x Tower Hill's Killaire) bred by Mary & Rogers Rutter of Tower Hill Farm, owned by Stacey Taylor.*

CONNEMARA OF THE YEAR

Purebred - to recognize purebred and halfbred Connemaras that have done something outstanding either competitively or non-competitively, to attract positive attention to the breed.

*Rosewood Scarlet (Witchcraft) (aka Crafty) 2011 13.2H bay mare (*Ard Celtic Art x Balmullo's Rhiannon) bred and owned for her short life by Darian Hall, Windsor, CA, nominated by Donna Duckworth.*

Halfbred

*Kynymont Gunsmoke's Gideon 2008 15.3 H gelding (*Gunsmoke x Kynymont Tara), bred and owned by Pam Liddell of Kynymont Connemaras, Conestoga, PA.*

2014 United States Dressage Federation All Breed Awards - Connemara

Adult Amateur – Intermediate I (63.816%) – Moses: Rider – Joni Zeccola: Owner - Joni Zeccola: Breeder – Leigh Roberts: Fergus x Big Bear's Divine Direction

Adult Amateur – Training – 1. (62.300%) Good Earth Sandman: Rider - Amy Marrich: Owner – Amy Marrich: Breeder – Sarah Booher: Concord River Roaringwater Bay x Bonnhenry Sandpiper; 2. (61.200%) North Pole's Harol: Rider - Denise Murray: Owner - Denise Murray: Breeder – Katherine Murphy: *Castle Beau Geste x Orchard Hills Little Hooligan.

Junior/Young Rider – First Level – 1. (68.908%) Cady O'Daly Gabriel: Owner - Emma Ciafone: Rider – Emma Ciafone: Breeder – Anne Frey: Tre Awain Goldsmith x *Cloud Shadows

Junior/Young Rider – Fourth Level – 1. (64.313%) Kynymont Gunsmoke's Gideon: Rider – Rachel Chowanec: Owner – Pam Liddell: Breeder – Pam Liddell: *Gun Smoke x Kynymont Tara.

Junior/Young Rider – Prix St. Georges - 1. (62.040%) Kynymont Blue Sapphire: Rider – Rachel Chowanec: Owner – Pam Liddell: Breeder – Pam Liddell: Landgate Bluebeard x Kynymont Moira

Junior/Young Rider – Second Level – 1. (64.691%) Kynymont Shenanigans: Rider – Alexander Dawson: Owner – Alexander Dawson: Breeder – Pam Liddell: Kynymont Dublin x Greystone Adirondack Roseanna.

Junior/Young Rider – Third Level – 1. (66.154%) Kynymont Kerrianna: Rider - Rachel Chowanec: Owner – Pam Liddell: Breeder – Pam Liddell: *Gun Smoke x Kynymont Arianna
2. (65.641%) Kynymont Copper O'Grady: Rider – Rachel Chowanec: Owner – Pam Liddell: Breeder – Pam Liddell: *Gun Smoke x Kynymont Moira; 3. (63.590%) Big Bear's Royal Finnegan: Rider – Anna Weniger: Owner – Dawn Weniger: Breeder – Ronald Roberts: Big Bear's Blue Royal x Big Bear's Lily.

Junior/Young Rider Training Level - 1. (65.209%) Grey Haven Kelsey Kilcullen: Rider – Caroline Cheval: Owner – Caroliine Cheval: Breeder – Brenda Kinyalocots: Ros na Ri Kilcullen x Heaven's Ridge Abby Dos.

Open – First Level – 1. (68.952%) Kynymont Ballytobin: Rider(s) Rachel Chowanec, Emily O'Neill: Owner – Pam Liddell: Breeder – Pam Liddell: Ballywhim Sterling Moss x Greystone Adirondack Roseanna; 2. (68.908%) Cady O'Daly Gabriel: Rider – Emma Ciafone: Owner – Emma Ciafone: Breeder – Anne Frey: Tre Awain Goldsmith x *Cloud Shadows; 3. (66.009%) Tricreek Greystone Merriana: Rider – Mary Wust: Owner – Mary Lou Thall: Breeder: Mary Lou Thall: Greystone McErrill x Watermark Blessed Brianna

Open – Fourth Level – 1. (64.375%) Kynymont Gunsmoke's Gideon: Rider – Jessica Jo Tate, Rachel Chowanec: Owner – Pam Liddell: Breeder – Pam Liddell; *Gun Smoke x Kynymont Tara.

Open – Intermediate I – 1. (63.816%) Moses: Rider – Joni Zeccola: Owner – Joni Zeccola: Breeder – Leigh Ellen Roberts: Fergus x Big Bear’s Divine Direction.

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Open – Second Level – 1. (64.691%) Kynnymont Shenanigans: Rider – Alexander Dawson: Owner – Alexander Dawson: Breeder – Pam Liddell: (Kynnymont Dublin x Greystone Adirondack Roseanna.

Open – Third Level – 1. (66.026%) Kynnymont Kerrianna: Rider – Paula Keller, Rachel Chowanec, Emily O’Neill: Owner – Pam Liddell: Breeder – Pam Liddell: *Gun Smoke x Kynnymont Airanna; 2. (65.128%) Kynnymont Cooper O’Grady: Rider – Katie Foster, Kaitlin Blythe, Rachel Chowanec: Owner – Pam Liddell: Breeder – Pam Liddell: *Gun Smoke x Kynnymont Moira; 3. (64.268%) Wildwych Peccadillo: Rider – Jane Renner: Owner – Jane Renner: Breeder – Mary Prewitt: *Glenormiston Flurry Knox x *Rudgeway Silver Filigree; 4. (64.103%) Tricreek Greystone: Rider – Sarah Casey: Owner – Mary Lou Thall: Breeder – Mary Lou Thall: Greystone McErrill x Cornerstone’s Arianna; 5. (63.590%) Big Bear’s Royal Finnegan: Rider – Anna Weniger: Owner – Dawn Weniger: Breeder – Ronald Roberts: Big Bear’s Blue Royal x Big Bear’s Lily.

Open – Training Level – 1.(69.464%) Tre Awain Cashela’s Belle: Rider – Zoe Steele-Rand/Kathryn Lucas: Owner – Kathryn Lucas: Breeder – Richard Meier: Tre Awain Cashela Bay x Cashel’s Rock of Ages; 2. (69.286%) Blue Ridge Monroe: Rider – Charlotte Bayley-Schindelholz, Carl Kozlowski: Owner – Katherine Wilkins: Breeder – Katherine Wilkins, Bryan Wilkins: Moxley Duncan x *Hayseldon Persephone; 3. (65.717%) Wildwych Ophelia: Rider – Zoe Steele-Rand, Vicki Dallas: Owner – Vicki Dallas: Breeder – Mary Prewitt: *Glenormiston Flurry Knox x Hideaway’s Irish Mist; 4. (65.209%) Grey Haven Kelsey Kilcullen: Rider Caroline Cheval: Owner – Caroline Cheval: Breeder – Brenda Kinyalocots: Ros na Ri Kilcullen x Heaven’s Ridge Abby Dos. 5. (62.300%) Good Earth Sandman: Rider – Amy Marrich: Owner – Amy Marrich: Breeder – Sarah Booher: Concord River Roaringwater Bay x Bonnhenry Sandpiper; 6. (61.600%) North Pole’s Harol: Rider – Denise Murray, Gwen Blake: Owner – Denise Murray: Breeder – Katherine Murphy: *Castle Beau Geste x Orchard Hills’ Little Hooligan

Vintage Cup Award – Intermediate I – 1. (63.816%) Moses: Rider – Joni Zeccola: Owner – Joni Zeccola: Breeder – Leigh Ellen Roberts: Fergus x Big Bear’s Divine Direction.

Sign up for All Breed USDF Awards - you must enroll your Connemara in the awards program for All Breed recognition. Visit USDF.org to find the procedures. The ACPS will verify your Connemara’s registration.



**Kynnymont Shenanigans
(Kynnymont Dublin x Greystone Adirondack
Roseanna)**

Owner / Rider: Alexander Dawson

- 2014 ACPS Seldom Seen Trophy for Junior Rider of a Connemara in Dressage
- 2014 USEF HOTY Half Bred Connemara Res. Champion in Dressage
- 2014 USDF ACPS Open Second Level and Jr Rider Level Champion
- 2014 USDF Second Level - Certificate of Performance
- 2014 Region 2 Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals Res. Champion, 14 -18
- 2014 Earned USDF Bronze Medal with Shenanigans

Shenanigans is a 12 year old Halfbred Connemara that was bred by Pam Liddell of Conestoga, Pennsylvania. Shenanigans and I became a team starting in late 2011. He is an awesome partner, best friend and my wonder pony. After an unbelievable 2013 show season, Shenanigans showed he still had more to prove. In 2014, he had another excellent year and rose to the challenge of showing Second and Third Level. He quickly learned how to do flying lead changes so we could earn the USDF bronze medal. He was able to compete against the large warmbloods at the USDF Region 2 Championships. In the Jr/Yr Second Level Championship class, he placed 5th out of 14 participants, the highest scoring pony in the class. He once again showed the great Connemara temperament during the large equitation class at Regionals where 19 riders competed. He was not bothered by the noise or the crowded arena. Shenanigans is very patient, kind and understanding and is a great partner to learn dressage with. Our adventures together taking us from the East Coast to the Rocky Mountains and all over the Midwest will forever be long lasting great memories!

ACPS National Awards

2014 ACPS National Award Winners

JUMPER

ACPS Purebred Jumper - Purebred Connemara in USEF Jumper Divisions
Sky Miles (Thunder Bay x Lanyoghen Thunder) Hallie Rush
ACPS Halfbred Jumper - Halfbred Connemara in USEF Jumper Divisions
Epona - Registered as - Caraway Single Malt (Irish Park's Caraway Finn x TB) Rachel Roth

HUNTER

ACPS Halfbred Hunter - Rattle and Snap Molly Bloom (Rattle N' Snap Laddie Boy x TB) Gabriel Bernier
(The ACPS does not offer a Purebred Hunter award as this is awarded at the USEF HOTY awards as the Clifden Trophy.)

EVENTING

Beginner Novice

Purebred: Balias Drumcolligan (Gilnocky Drumcliffe x Tre Awain Etain) Doug Howe
Halfbred: **Zephyr's Tasman** (Leprechaun's Irish Rebel x Sweet Miss Ellie) Coreena Duckworth

Novice

Purebred: **Cady O'Daly Gabriel** (Tre Awain Goldsmith x Cloud Shadows) Emma Ciafone
Halfbred: **Orion's Sweet Rubio** (Skyview's Orion x Sweet Harmony) Haley Turner

Training

Purebred: **WH Topgun** (Gunsmoke x Ballywhim Candice) Nancy Kilcrease
Halfbred: **MTF Cooley Caliber** (Ballinclea Festival x Graigueswood Mimi) Skeyeler Icke Voss

Preliminary

Purebred: **Bantry Bay's Winston** (Southridge Duncan's Honor x Bantry Bay's Wanda) Paige Crotty
Halfbred: **Ganymede** (Ballywhim An Luan x TB) Nicolette Merle-Smith

Intermediate

Halfbred: **Zaboomafoo** - Registered as -SLF Smoke and Mirrors (Gunsmoke x TB) Anna Stein

Advanced

Halfbred: **Sparrow's Nio** (Grange Finn Sparrow x TB) Alexandra Sacksen

DRESSAGE

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Junior/Young Rider – Prix St. Georges - 1. (62.040%) Kynynmont Blue Sapphire: Rider – Rachel Chowanec: Owner – Pam Liddell: Breeder – Pam Liddell: Landgate Bluebeard x Kynynmont Moira



Zaboomafoo

(Reg, name SLF Smoke & Mirrors by *Gun Smoke out of MacKee's Star, Thoroughbred mare)

Anna Stein

In 2010, I started looking for a project. I was 15, and had sold plenty of ponies, but not yet a horse. I found a cute, 3 year old Connemara/TB buckskin gelding on Dreamhorse, and we drove the truck and trailer to eastern Washington a few days later.

Boomer had 12 rides on him-the least experience of any horse I had worked with before. I went with my gut, put him in the trailer, and welcomed the new guy into the family. What was originally supposed to be a resale became "my" horse. He was the first horse I had bought myself, and I had hopes that he would one day event to training level, maybe.

I knew nothing about bloodlines, or *Gun Smoke babies at the time. As time went on, I realized I had something really special. Boomer was pretty lazy as a three and four year old, which, with me being 15, was a good thing!

Boomer learned to jump late in his three year old year, and it seemed effortless to him. When he turned four, I took him to a few schooling shows, and a one day, and he competed in his first recognized event at Novice level that June. Boomer did four novices that year, placing in three out of four of them.



Anna Stein on her Zaboomafoo

As a five year old, he moved up to training and, although he began to be a bit of a handful that year, still made the move up seem easy, and competed in five events that year.

As a six year old, we made the big move up to preliminary, once again, effortless. Boomer and I competed in eight events that year, and jumped clean cross country in all but one. Boomer had become more than I ever could have hoped for, and finished 5th in our area in the Young Rider preliminary division.

In 2014, Boomer and I had our eyes set on the CCI one star at Rebecca Farms. He came out in the season strong, placing 8th, 4th, and 1st, in the first three events. The one star felt so easy! I've never felt so nervous, and I've never felt Boomer so strong in the start box!

My trainer told me to attack the course, so, I did, and we came in double clean, with a lot of time to spare! After such a great season so far, we decided to push ourselves a little further. In August that year, we moved up to Intermediate.

Dressage left us with plenty of room for improvement, and I can honestly say I was terrified for cross country! Boomer was rock solid. By fence 6, he realized things were a little bigger,

and for the first time ever, I felt the slightest bit of hesitation.

I talk to him a lot on course, and as the questions got more difficult, he stepped up to the plate. Boomer was the only horse out of both Intermediate divisions to finish double clean. He jumped a stellar show jumping round the next day to finish 3rd.

We competed in two other Intermediates that season, and are aiming to do a CIC and CCI two star this year, with hopes to compete in the NAJYRC in Kentucky in 2016.

Boomer has qualified for championships every year, from novice to Intermediate, and has, by far, been the most solid, reliable horse I could have asked for.

Along side eventing, Boomer enjoys being ridden bareback and bridle less, swimming in the river, galloping at the track, and knows lots of tricks!

Connemaras are extremely intelligent, hardy, and athletic horses with more heart than any other. They make incredible partners, and are extremely versatile. Everybody should get the chance to ride a Connemara!

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Everybody should get the chance to ride a Connemara!



*Alexandra (Allie) Saksen and her halfbred Connemara Sparrow's Nio won the National Award for Eventing - Advanced. The gelding is by *Grange Finn Sparrow out of JB, a Thoroughbred mare.. The duo is headed for the 2015 Rolex Event in Kentucky.*



Ganymede

(Ballywhim An Luan x Court Hawk xx)

Nicolette Merle-Smith

Ganymede "Zena", my wonderful 12 year old 14.2h mare by Ballywhim An Luan out of Court Hawk xx, was leased to 16 year old young rider, Adrian Jones, from September 2013 to September 2014. During those 12 months, Adrian and Zena trained with Buck Davidson and spent the winter in Ocala, Florida, returning to New Jersey for the summer.

They periodically trained with show jumper Scott Keach and rode in a clinic with US show jump coach, Silvio Mazzoni. They completed 10 Preliminary events and two CCI one stars, Ocala and Bromont. They were extremely competitive against all the horses, and Zena jumped Adrian to the #2 USEA Junior Preliminary Rider slot for 2014 (She was #1 until Zena came home to me in September). They were a such a super pair and I couldn't be prouder of them!

Adrian is the first person, since me, to take Zena and do big things. It made me so nervous to let my little super pony out of my barn and my sight, but it was the best thing she could have done! For Zena to prove to the world that she is a great pony, no matter who is riding her, is amazing marketing for both of us and Connemaras. Zena has become an remarkable little pony and I just cannot imagine my life without having met her. I am beyond honored to call myself her owner.

The above photo is of Zena and Adrian having a lesson with Silvio Mazzoni, photo taken by Jill Lukens.

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Shannon Brinkman Photo

W.H. Topgun

(*Gun Smoke x Ballywhim Candace)

Jim and Nancy Kilcrease

We purchased W H Topgun as a yearling colt in July of 2005. My husband Jim was floating teeth at Donna Duckworth's farm in Florida when he saw this dun colt on the neighboring farm. When he found out that this colt was a purebred Connemara by *Gun Smoke, he just had to have him. We weren't sure what we were going to do with him other than use him as a breeding stallion.

My husband Jim worked with him and got him started under saddle. Then as a 5 year old he started some dressage training with Luke McLaughlin. Shortly after Luke started riding him, we asked Elliott Blackmon to try jumping him. The rest is history.

Topgun fell in love with Elliott and they have become an amazing team competing in eventing ever since. After competing successfully at Novice and Training level they have moved up to Preliminary this year. At his first horse trial at Prelim, he was sitting in second place after dressage and show jumping and went clean cross country but had some time penalties only because Elliott felt it would be best to have a safe and confidence building first cross country at this level. Topgun has also been Region IV champion three times. He also produces lovely foals. Some of his first crop are now competing successfully in eventing.



(Photo by Valerie Durbon)

MTF Cooley Caliber

(Ballinlea Festival x Graigueswood Mimi)

Skeyeler Icke Voss

MTF Cooley Caliber is a 6yr 16h Conemmara/TB. He is owned by the Chamberlain-Morningside Syndicate. He is the recipient of the Training Level Eventing Award for Halfbred Connemaras.

Orion's Sweet Rubio

(Skyview's Orion x Sweet Harmony)

Haley Turner

I have a Connemara - Thoroughbred. (¾ Connemara, ¼ Thoroughbred) His name is Rubio. He is a 15.3h Palomino. He is calm and sweet with an attitude here and there.

Rubio has taught me so much as we have gone through the levels together. When I purchased him, he had only done a few shows. He's not fancy but Rubio has a lot of heart. My dad jokingly called him "plow horse", but Rubio proved him wrong when I won my first show at Galway Downs last year.

He has taken care of me and given me confidence from the first time I rode him. Together we have been successfully doing Novice level, thanks to my trainer, David Acord.

Recently we have moved up to Training at Fresno County Horse Park. I think Rubio and I will have another great year. I will always cherish him and I am thankful to have my Orion's Sweet Rubio and am proud of our award for Halfbred Connemara Novice Eventing.



Cady O'Daly

Gabriel and his owner/rider *Emma Ciafone* were the *Novice Eventing Purebred Award winners, and the Open-First Level Dressage award 2nd place. "Gabe" is by Tre Awain Goldsmith out of *Cloud Shadows and was bred by Alicia Daily.*



Zephyr's Tazman

(Leprechaun's Irish Rebel x Sweet Miss Ellie)

Lorrie Duckworth

I'm so excited to get this news. of our award for Halfbred Connemaras in Eventing at Beginner Novice. I bought Tasman this past April and I could not ask for a better partner. He truly is my dream horse and deserves all the credit!

I have enjoyed owning him since May, 2014. Being a true amateur, and having only gone over my first cross rail two years ago, I needed the perfect partner to help Werner Geven (my coach and trainer at Poplar Place Farm) educate me in Eventing. Werner was there to assist in his test ride and immediately gave his approval stating, "If you want to event, this is your pony!"

Taz has proven to be everything we expected and more. He is the perfect mix of athleticism and brains! Thank you Connemara Society for supporting the development of such a superior sport horse. I couldn't imagine life without this wonderful partner!



Kathleen Bryan Photo

Grey Haven Kelsey Kilcullen

(Ros Na Ri Kilcullen x Heavens Ridge Abby Dos)

Caroline Cheval

USDF/ACPS Training Level Junior Connemara
 USDF/ACPS 4th Training Level Open Connemara
 USEF/ACPS 8th Purebred Connemara Dressage
 ACPS Achievement Award - Silver

Two years ago I was lucky enough to become partners with one of the best ponies I have met- Grey Haven Kelsey Kilcullen (Ros Na Ri Kilcullen x Heavens Ridge Abby Dos) known as Kelsey. Kelsey is a 16yr old Purebred Connemara and easily spotted in the show ring with her vibrant buckskin/dun coloring. She's a super hard working pony although sometimes she can be a little 'sassy', a social butterfly and very loving- gaining her

the nickname 'Princess'. This Summer we competed Training and First level dressage and despite some events that messed with our schedule and riding we ended on a high note winning a few awards and titles as a team. Kelsey has been a great ride to start my dressage career on and I'm so excited to continue this season with her.



Blue Ridge Monroe

Moxley Duncan x *Hayselden Persephone

Owned by Katherine and Bryan Wilkins, leased by Jill McNicol

Monroe had an exciting first year out in the competitive world. Only hitting the shows for four weekends he was successful enough to bring home the USDF Reserve Championship at Open Training Level and an ACPS Award of Excellence in Dressage. He also managed to breed a few mares and win friends wherever he appeared.

Monroe is trained and competed by Charlotte Bayley Schindelholz of CSB Dressage from Chardon, Ohio and Aiken, South Carolina with an occasional ride by Carol Kozlowski.

Monroe came to live with us in 2010 after several strong suggestions from Katherine, who felt he might benefit from some time in the Buckeye State and of course being "exposed" to our lovely group of ladies. We took some time getting to know him, showed him in hand at the Midwest Connemara show in 2011 and had him inspected.

We decided we wanted to start his career in dressage. At the time, Deb Busta was very interested in him and she suggested speaking with Charlotte about taking him on. When I spoke with Charlotte she asked if I would agree to actually have Deb ride him. I was of course fine with that idea! Within a few weeks of that conversation Deb's illness reared its ugly head and Charlotte had an freak incident which left her with multiple broken ribs forcing a long hiatus from the saddle. This delayed our plans.... until the next fall when we finally got Monroe going under Charlotte's tutelage just days before Deb passed away.

When I informed Charlotte that Monroe had achieved the Award of Excellence in dressage, she was thrilled of course and felt it was a tribute to Deb to achieve with a Connemara. I also purchased Deb's dressage saddle last year - so his achievement came with Deb's nameplate on his saddle every step of the way. We will now take it off and send it back to Michael. We miss you Deb.

Monroe is currently in Aiken. He starts his show season at First Level. We also hope to see him doing some jumping this year, and maybe working on his next achievement award!

USEF Horse of the Year Awards - 2014

High Score Connemara for Combined Training –The Joan R. McKenna Memorial Trophy

Rochambeau, Susan Jellum

High Score Connemara Hunter Pony – The Clifden Trophy

Caraway Charlotte - Bridges

High Score Connemara Ridden by a Junior Rider in USDF Competition – the Seldom Seen Award

Kynnymont Shenanigans – Alexander Dawson

Halfbred Connemara – Dressage

CH – Kynnymont Gunsmoke’s Gideon, Pam Liddell

RES – Kynnymont Shenanigans, Alexander Dawson

3. Quite a Lady, Jane Beshear

4. Finnian’s Chase, Helene Delle Chiaie

5. Morning Glory’s Elysium, Ilaria Rebay

Halfbred Connemara Hunter

CH – Denver’s Ceol High Caliber, Kathryn Vasquez

RES - S.R. Irish Lace, Marilyn Z. Cheek

3. Morning Glory’s Belle Fille, Janet Penelope Gunn

Finnian’s Chase, Helene Delle Chiaie

5. S.R. Perseus’ Pleasure, Marilyn Z. Cheek

Halfbred Connemara Jumper (open)

CH – Epona, Rachel Emma Lynn Roth

Purebred Connemara Dressage

CH – Ridgetop Windy City, Karen McIntyre

RES- Kynnymont Kerrianna, Pam Liddell

3. Kynnymont Cooper O’Grady, Pam Liddell

4. Kynnymont Ballytobin, Pam Liddell

5. Kynnymont Brianna, Pam Liddell

6. Kynnymont Blue Sapphire, Pam Liddell

Purebred Connemara Eventing

CH – Cady O’Daly Gabriel, Emma Ciafone

RES – Foothills Field Marshall, Donna Duckworth

3. W.H. Topgun, Nancy Kilcrease

4. Wildwych Eclipse, Barbara Crabo

*Tintern Merry Robuck, Rebecca Severt

6. Hideaway’s Special Delivery, Cathy Blackmon

Purebred Connemara Hunter

CH – Oakfields Hazel Sparrow, Susan McConnell

RES – Oakfields Amber Sparrow, Susan McConnell

3. Oakfields Jade, Susan McConnell

4. Dunclare, Susan McConnell

5. Thurman Sienna, Christine Chatham

6. Leahy’s Rocky Road, Rebecca Bender

Purebred Connemara Jumper (Open)

CH – Sky Miles, Hallie Rush

RES – Wil Ya’ Love Me – Katie Lista

3. Dawn’s Brennainn, Sydney Marie Kuharik

4. High Jynx, Elizabeth Hinckley

Purebred Connemara Mare

CH – Oakfields Hazel Sparrow – Susan McConnell

RES - Oakfields Jade – Susan McConnell

Purebred Connemara Stallion or Gelding

CH – Oakfields Amber Sparrow, Susan McConnell

RES – Ridgetop Windy City, Karen McIntyre

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**Irish Park's
 Belfast Bonfire**

"Bonfire" is a 1995 Grey (from Bay) 14.1 1/2 hand Connemara Stallion
 By Hideaway's Sebastian (by Hideaway's Erin Smitheren)
 out of Cedarhills Reendest Lass (by Kilgreaney Lad)



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A Pretty Good Weekend at the CBLMs

By Karen McIntyre

Ridgetop Windy City

(*Kilfenora Windy Isles x Greystone Echo's Megan)

Champion - Purebred Connemara Dressage

Reserve Champion - Purebred Connemara Stallion/Gelding

On October 16, 2014, I escaped my daily duties, loaded up my Connemara pony into the horse trailer, and headed south down I-81. My destination? The 32nd annual Colonel Bent Ljungquist Championships (CBLMs) and VADA Fall Show held at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, VA.

Fresh off a disappointing weekend at the Great American Insurance Group Region One Finals in North Carolina, I hoped that the "learning experience" from two weeks prior would pay off. It had been a miserable show for me, except that I had learned one very important thing: dressage is NOT jumpers. Amazing, isn't it? It took 14 hours of driving, one crummy hotel, and several hundred dollars of show fees to learn that very important fact. I knew consciously that I wasn't supposed to complete my dressage test in as fast a time as possible; however, after almost a decade of competing in the jumper division, it was like some unconscious, subliminal, Pavlovian dog response took over as soon as I heard that bell telling me to enter the ring.

As far as my subconscious mind was concerned, that bell meant I had made it to the jump off, and it was time to go FAST! So, having realized that, unlike jumpers, the point of dressage is NOT to try to get from halt at X to halt at X in the shortest amount of time possible – yes, the judge actually confirmed that for me... in writing – I had hope for my last show of the 2014 season. I could do this! I could ride *S...L...O...W...L...Y*.

After an uneventful trip down I-81, arriving before midnight, and checking into a hotel room where I didn't have to shove large pieces of furniture against the door, I was feeling rather optimistic for the coming weekend. Friday dawned bright and sunny, and my day ended up matching the weather: good rides, good scores, and good placings in both classes. My original

plan was to take off right after my last class, drive an empty truck and trailer north back to my farm, bathe and braid a small pony, and then bright and early Saturday morning take my daughter and her hopefully still clean and braided pony to the Washington International Horse Show (WIHS) to compete in the lead line classes. Then, after she finished her classes, I was going to take everyone back to the farm and then drive back down I-81 in time for my championship class on Sunday. This is really just a long way of saying that, after common sense took over, my daughter borrowed her cousin's pony to show in the WIHS, and I got an entire day off on Saturday.

Freed from the dreaded chore of spending 30 minutes on my knees braiding the tail of an 11.0 hand pony, I was able to spend the entire Saturday watching test after test of some pretty amazing horses and riders. (Windy spent the entire day sleeping – the woman across the aisle said he was down and snoring for a good part of the afternoon). Some parental guilt set in when I got a text from my "horse show dad" husband later in the day. My daughter won one of the lead line classes. Joy quickly overrode the guilty feeling from having missed her special day, and I felt on top of the world that my little girl had realized her dream of getting a blue ribbon at the WIHS.

Sunday morning came and it was cold and windy. But I have a Connemara pony, so I didn't even think about the possibility that my lovely Connemara pony would act up in the cold weather. We



had been here since Thursday and he had been a perfect gentleman. Forgetting that my neighbor across the aisle had mentioned that he had spent the majority of the previous day sleeping and snoring, I hiked half way up the advanced level ski slope hill and loosened my grip on the lead rope. All was fine. Windy was eating grass as some of the other horses were spooking and leaping about as the wind whipped their blankets around their bodies.

And then, a small black car appeared, driving between the two lower rings. It was headed straight up the hill to the rings on top of the hill. A car! A black car! A small black car!

Windy must have had a bad experience with a small black car at some point in his life because although we have only been training dressage for a few months now, he demonstrated some very well executed airs above the ground. The car stopped. I would like to think the occupants were admiring the lovely white Lippizaner dancing in the wind. The airs above the ground continued for several more minutes. I realized that this car must be carrying the judges up to the rings on top of the hill. (It just had to be the judges, didn't it?) The car eventually turned around and headed back through the rings, barns, around the Coliseum, and then finally reached its destination on top of the hill. Did I mention that my first class was on top of that hill? In front of those judges?

I rode training level test three for my first class. It was my last chance to ride through my test before my championship class. It was my dress rehearsal, and it was on top of that hill. Turns out Windy was a perfect gentleman. He won the class. Perhaps the

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Balmullo's Gallagher

"Emmitt" is a 2001 Buckskin 14.1 1/2 hand Connemara Stallion (also above left)
By Concord River Roaringwater Bay (by Whitewood Galway Bay)
out of Premium Mare Balmullo's Miss Emma (by Aladdin)



Erin Terra's Dream On

"Zach" is a 2004 Bay 14.0 1/2 hand Connemara Stallion (also pictured above right)
By Fiddler's Sparrow MacDaire (by "Grange Finn Sparrow")
out of Premium mare Tre Awain Dare to Dream (by Tre Awain Ginger Blue)

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morning airs above the ground really did wow the judges. And then, it was time for the Championship class. I was nervous. I don't usually get nervous. Usually I am just too tired from all of the driving, braiding, cleaning, packing, washing, washing, washing, and more washing. Did I mention that I have a grey Connemara?

And dressage isn't like jumping. There are no liver pools, triple bars, or tricky triple combinations. No need to get nervous. But the reality of it was, I had been working for this all year – 15 years actually – but that is a whole other and much longer story. And of course my parents had driven four hours the spotlight. My...time...to...go...SLOWLY.

And I did. And Windy was perfect. And I rode the best test I have ever ridden on Windy. The best test I have ridden all year! Regardless of whether or not I had made my goal of placing in the top ten, I was thrilled with our performance. My horse had performed with all of his heart and I had ridden my very best. I even made sure that I rode the last transition with as much energy and enthusiasm as the first transition. And more importantly, I rode S...L...O...W...L...Y.

When I arrived back in the stabling area, my neighbor across the aisle, also in the class, told me I was standing in fifth place. That put me in a happy daze! With only about ten more to go I waited to see where I would end up. I really wanted to make the top ten. There was just something about going to the awards ceremony... And then, I realized I didn't own any white polo wraps. The only polo wraps that I own are hot pink, received sometime around 1986 or so as a Christmas present (yes, I still have them). I was informed by the show office that white polo wraps were "appropriate" attire for the awards ceremony. Luckily, the tack shop was still open and had just one pair of white polo wraps left.

It was fun going to the awards ceremony. Windy wore a beautiful green ribbon (and his brand new white polo wraps) and we danced to Madonna's "Celebrate!" as it blared over the loud speakers. We left the show tired but happy. We had accomplished our dressage goals for the year. I would say all in all it was a pretty good weekend at the CBLMs.



The Horse of the Year Awards Gala at the USEF Annual Meeting in Lexington, KY. (From left, front) Susan McConnell, Marynell Eyles, Karen McIntyre, Kathy Lucas, Deb Norman, Joan Webster, Alexander Dawson, Darian Hall. (Back row from right) Mrs. Dawson, Gloria LaCroix, Sue Jellum, Lisa Rease, Randy Rease, Scott McGuffin, and Linda Haines.

Finnians Chase of Journey's End

(H.H. Greystone Sir Charles x Lady Adele)

Helene Delle Chiaie

According to the Chinese calendar 2014 was the “Year of the Horse” and for Helene DelleChiaie and her Connemara Pony, Finnian’s Chase of Journey’s End, it turned out to be “Horse of the Year.” On January 17 in Lexington, Kentucky Finn received three 2014 National Horse of the Year awards from the United States Equestrian Federation -- 3rd English Pleasure Hunter Seat -- 3rd Halfbred Connemara Hunter and 4th Halfbred Connemara Dressage.

In addition to these National Awards they received the American Connemara Pony Society’s -- Award of Excellence - Dressage; New Jersey Horse Shows Association Annual High Score Award 2014 Reserve Champion - Pleasure Horse or Pony; New Jersey Professional Horsemen’s Association High Score Award 2014 - 3rd Place Pleasure Horse; as well as Helene (with Finn - who she has owned for 20 years) receiving the United States Dressage Federation’s Master Challenge Award - Training Level.

Obviously, there were many championships earned to achieve these amazing year end awards.

S.R. Irish Lace

Connemara Halfbred Hunter—Reserve Champion

(Greystone Ian McVai x Misty Dear)

Marilyn & Les Cheek

This was “Lacey’s” third HOTY award for Halfbred Hunter and we are immensely proud of this lovely mare, as well as the equally lovely young women who have teamed with her over the years and helped develop her talents.

Last year, several girls rode her in the interschool shows—Hope Johnson, Madison Dyer, and sisters Tess and Ivy Sandberg—but her primary rider was Caroline Shipe of



Caroline Shipe and S.R. Irish Lace



Helene Delle Chiaie and Finnians Chase of J.E.

Culpeper, VA, who showed her at the Upperville Colt and Horse Show, the Warrenton Pony Show, and in most of the shows to qualify for the Virginia Horse Shows Association (VHSA) finals in Lexington, VA.

2014 also was the third time “Lacey” had qualified for the VHSA finals and this time her rider was Ivy Sandberg, (whose pony, Sycamore Ridge Eve, had won the Clifden Award last year).

Ivy reported, “My horse had been injured, so I was so happy to have the ride on S.R. Irish Lace—she is such a fantastic horse. My division, Children’s Hunters, had about 40 horses and riders total, so they split the division in half and pinned them separately. In my group there were a lot of nice horses and good riders and the lines were stretched out to feel a little long. Still, once I learned how to successfully ride “Lacey” we had no problems getting down the lines and making every distance. The 3ft height was no problem for her either, though it was her first time showing at that height, because she is such a great jumper. Being able to ride her was a great experience for me. I learned a lot and had so much fun while doing it. I only started riding her very consistently a couple weeks before the show and those preparation rides were a learning experience in themselves. “Lacey” is more talented and athletic than a lot of horses and riding her gave me the opportunity to step up my game and the ability to start jumping higher and riding harder. I hope I get more opportunities to ride and show her!”

With Caroline off to college this fall, Ivy and the other younger girls may get more chances to do just that! Here’s to a successful season for all.

S.R. Perseus' Pleasure

USEF HOTY: Connemara Halfbred Hunter Fifth Place
ACPS Award of Excellence Hunter
Marilyn Z. Cheek

S.R. Perseus Pleasure (*Hayselden Perseus x T.F. Apple Crisp) had a banner year in 2014.

Pleasure works full-time as a school pony at Summerduck Run Farm in Culpeper, VA. The younger students there love her for her kind nature, patience and mischievous ways. This year, one student in particular, Taylor Foard, got to show her through the season, and they proved to be a successful team.

Early in the year, they won ribbons at the 4-H District show, and then there was the Connemara Division at the Upperville Show, which was very exciting. It was Taylor's first time there, and Pleasure's second time, so they were a little nervous. Moreover the classes are held in a big field and the horses tend to get frisky, but Taylor hung in, Pleasure settled down, and they got a 4th and a 5th in their classes.

The pair skipped the Warrenton Pony Show because it conflicted with the Summerduck Run Farm show series where they were in contention for high point in two divisions. But in late July, they headed down to Lexington, VA with the SRF "team" to compete in the ACPS Region 3 Connemara Show where Taylor and Pleasure won the Jr. Trail Class and were second in the combined event. They capped the season by winning year-end high point grand championships at Summerduck Run in the Short Stirrup Equitation and Short Stirrup Hunter divisions.

Taylor's says, "Showing Pleasure is such a thrill because you never really know what she's going to be like when you get



S.R. Perseus' Pleasure and Taylor Foard

to the show. Sometimes she's laid back like she's lived there all her life, other times, she acts like a 3-year-old filly. Pleasure and I have competed in lots of different classes but I think our overall favorite is jumping. She has the most bravery and spunk I've ever seen in a horse jumping, yet has beautiful form and grace. In our jumper classes, she can also be quite the mischief! I'm very blessed and thankful to be able to ride and enjoy Pleasure as much as others do. I really think we've learned a lot from each other."

2014 ACPS Awards Committee Report

Submitted by Marilyn Z. Cheek, Overall Awards Chair

2014 was an exciting year in the Awards department. So let me first thank Marynell Eyles, Sally Oxnard, Deb Norman, Kate Denton, Deb Clinch, Linda Haines and Robyn Fillman and all the committee members who work with them, devoting so much time and effort to making these programs possible. Thank you, thank you, thank you all!

- 58 HOTY Awards given this year, including the first open jumper awards
- Introduced the new Seldom Seen trophy for highest placed PB or HB Connemara ridden by a junior at USEF Dressage Competitions
- Had excellent candidates for all of our Hall of Fame trophies this year, but we still desperately need people to nominate ponies for these awards. There currently are no nominees in the pipeline.
- Introduced a new Adult Amateur Eventer Scholarship in memory of Deb Busta
- We had 21 USDF All Breed Awards given this year
- Had three Connemara stallions, Landgate Bluebeard (#244), Tre Awain Goldsmith (#449) and Ballywhim Sterling Moss (#482), on USEF's list of 1,056 dressage sires
- Had three Connemara stallions, *Grange Finn Sparrow (#50) Tre Awain Goldsmith (#58) and Skyview's Orion (#79) on the USEF list of leading eventer sires
- Had 1 Connemara stallion, Greystone Ian McVai ranked 91 of 537 hunter sires

- Had two Connemara stallions, Hideaway's Erin go Bragh (#287) and Wildwych Eclipse (#406) among the 541 leading jumper sires
 - Had two Connemara stallions, Greystone Ian McVai (#28) and Skyview's Orion (#97) on the USEF list of 178 leading pony hunter sires
- On the 2015 horizon are the following:
- Plans to recruit some of our newer members for Awards—managing all these awards take a great deal of legwork on the part of committee members and the registrar who has the onerous job of checking registrations on all of the potential winners. Anyone who thinks they would be good at the awards jobs should sign on and start learning the process—it takes quite some time to figure the jobs out.
 - We are studying ways to make the Achievement Awards application process ever easier and we are looking at new categories for Achievement Awards. Will also be reviewing the point structure for awards and the criteria to make sure those are still relevant..
 - We need help in searching out software that might make the point tracking for Achievement Awards less onerous for our staff. Deb Clinch has done a terrific job with this, but she needs help because the awards are getting to be a very large and complicated process.
 - Will be working with Chris Knox and the Connemara Committee to try to streamline our national awards and eliminate redundancies.
 - We are asking for a minimum budget of \$1500 this year.

*Ridgetop
Connemaras
Congratulates
All the Award
Winners*

*We are especially proud of those
Connemaras we had a part in
producing or breeding*

including ~

*The Joan R.. McKenna
Memorial trophy winner -
Rochambeau owned and ridden
by Susan Jellum. A Halfbred by
Aladdin's Denver*

*Denver's Ceol High Caliber -
Champion Halfbred Connemara
Hunter Horse of the Year owned
by Kathryn Vasquez*

*Ridgetop Windy City - by
*Kilfenora Windy Isles,
Champion Purebred
Connemara Dressage, owned
and ridden by Karen McIntyre*

*Kynymont Blue Sapphire by
Landgate Bluebeard - USDF All
Breeds Champion at Open Prix
St. Georges*

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ACPS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS!

Marilyn Z. Cheek
Awards Chair

Good job, ponies! The events are over, the points are counted, and the results are in: 2014 was a banner year for members participating in the ACPS Achievement Awards program.

Fifty-one Connemaras earned 60 achievement awards last year, of which eight were Awards of Excellence, the top honor, four were gold medals, 11 were silver medals, 19 were bronze medals and 20 were certificates of merit.

Several ponies earned multiple awards: Black Dog's Top of the Morning and Thurman Sienna earned three apiece; and Cady O'Daly Gabriel, Elderglen's Lilithe, Gateway Night Light, Glenmeadow Golden Wish, and Ridgetop Windy City each earned two. At the rate some of you are going, we'll have another Golden Shamrock winner or two before long.

Special thanks are due to Deb Clinch who does the truly hard work of tracking points and maintaining the achievement awards histories.

Your Awards Committee loves to reward your endeavors, and we welcome your ideas about possible new categories to include in our program. As you wait for spring, please remember to plan for your pony's participation in the activities we already honor—for information, go to the ACPS website, look under Awards, and read the rules. It's easy to get started and your pony deserves the honors.

Hunters

Award of Excellence

Erin Terra's Dream On, Owner: Nicole Perin, Slatington, PA
S.R. Perseus's Pleasure, Owners: Marilyn & Leslie Cheek, Warrenton, VA

Gold

Wildwych Hazel, Owners: The Rowe Family, St. Louis, MO

Silver

Rock My World, Owner: Marian McEvilly, Springfield, VA

Jumpers

Bronze

JEF Anna Rose, Owner: Christina Keim, Madbury, NH
Morning Glory's Belle Fille, Owner: Janet Gunn, Nokesville, VA

Certificate

Elderglen's Lilithe, Owner: Karen Joyal, Spring Hill, FL

Dressage

Award of Excellence

Blue Ridge Monroe, Owners: Pat & Jill McNicol, Leetonia, OH
Cady O'Daly Gabriel, Owner: Emma Ciafone, Castle Rock, CO
Finnian's Chase of Journey's End, Owner: Helen DelleChiaie, New York, NY

Ridgetop Windy City, Owner: Karen McIntyre, Gainesville, VA

Gold

Prairie Wildfire, Owner: Alicia Kuebler, Layfayette, IN

Silver

Good Earth Sandman, Owner: Amy Marrich, Coral Springs, FL
Grey Haven Kelsey Kilcullen, Owner: Caroline Cheval, Boulder, CO

Hideaway's East Cork, Owner: Beth Ann Harris, Geneseo, NY

Bronze

Concord River Fife and Drum, Owner: Lisa Anne Page, Longboat Key, FL

Drybrooks Moon River, Owner: Michelle Schwartz, Hinesburg, VT

Elphin Kookaburra, Owner: Sally Oxnard, Exeter, NH

Gateway Night Light, Owner: Michelle Cale, Palo Alto, CA

Nora Rose, Owner: Shelley Feldner-Schuerman, Colfax, WA

S.R. Irish Envoy, Owners: Marilyn & Leslie Cheek, Warrenton, VA

Thurman Sienna, Owner: Christine Chatham, Norwalk, CT

Certificate

Black Dog's Top of the Morning, Owner: Michelle Cale, Palo Alto, CA

Elderglen's Lilithe, Owner: Karen Joyal, Spring Hill, FL

Tower Hills Carmody, Owner: Sally Oxnard, Exeter, NH

Driving

Silver - *Ballencrief's Brogan*, Owner: Debra Spark, Wellington, FL

Bronze

Foothill's Hopefilly, Owner: Vanessa Morgan, Athens, TN

In-Hand

Award of Excellence

Ridgetop Windy City, Owner: Karen McIntyre, Gainesville, VA

Gold

Erin Terra's Dream On, Owner: Nicole Perin, Slatington, PA

Silver

Sycamore Ridge Irish Liberty, Owners: Marilyn & Leslie Cheek, Warrenton, VA

Bronze

Thurman Sienna, Owner: Christine Chatham, Norwalk, CT

Certificate

ArtCeltic Tiara, Owner: Janet Gunn, Nokesville, VA

Eventing

Award of Excellence

Tre Awain Irish Punch, Owner: Amy W. Miller, Reisville, NC

Silver

Cady O'Daly Gabriel, Owner: Emma Ciafone, Castle Rock, CO

Life of Reilly Go Bragh, Owner: Erin Loitfellner, Spring Grove, IL

Bronze

Cobblestone Ivy, Owner: Coralee Richardson, Parker, CO

Foothills Field Marshall, Owner: Donna Duckworth, Richmond, VA

Thurman Sienna, Owner: Christine Chatham, Norwalk, CT

Certificate

Black Dog's Top of the Morning, Owner: Michelle Cale, Palo Alto, CA
Cady O'Daly Liberty, Owner: Robyn Taliaferro, Jena, LA
Gateway Night Light, Owner: Michelle Cale, Palo Alto, CA

Endurance

Bronze

Glenmeadow Golden Wish, Owner: Kim Harrison, Moseley, VA

Pony Club

Certificate

Black Dog's Top of the Morning, Owner: Michelle Cale, Palo Alto, CA
Cybatina Cian O'Cham, Owner: Cynthia Richard, Swanzey, NH
Cybatina Finn O'Cham, Owner: Cynthia Richard, Swanzey, NH
Cybatina Torranach O'Cham, Owner: Cynthia Richard, Swanzey, NH

4H

Bronze

Ripleigh's Abra Cadabra, Owner: Carolyn McEvitt, Amston, CT

Certificate

Rock My World, Owner: Marian McEvelly, Springfield, VA



Thurman Sienna

Bronze - Dressage
 Bronze - In-Hand
 Bronze - Eventing

Owned and Ridden by Christine Chatham

We received Achievement Award news that my mare Thurman Sienna (by Rattle N' Snap Laddie Boy x out of Thurman Raven) has earned a bronze in eventing, a bronze in dressage, and a bronze in-hand. Sienna also placed 5th Nationally thru USEF HOTY Purebred Connemara Hunter division. We are looking forward to competing this 2015 season. Congratulations to all the breeders, owners, ponies, and riders on your success this past year!

Therapy

Bronze

KKC Katie, Owner: Carolyn McEvitt, Amston, CT
VSH Devine Alexander, Owner: Susan Dudasik, Salmon, ID

Foxhunting

Gold

Tre Awain Irish Punch, Owner: Amy W. Miller, Reidsville, NC

Silver

Balmullo's Dundee, Owner: Kathleen A. Nebel, Tryon, NC
Sparrow's Emma, Owner: Megan Harris, Luthersville, GA
Thurman Shammy, Owner: Janet Chayes, Conway, MA

Bronze

Ridgetop Echo, Owner Nancy D. Dillon, Washington, VA

Certificate

Glenmeadow Golden Wish, Owner: Kim Harrison, Moseley, VA
Miss Madeira, Owner: Nancy D. Dillon, Washington, VA
Providence Mountain Smoke, Owner: Megan Harris, Luthersville, GA
Prairie Madeline, Owner: Carol Siebecker, Layfayette, IN
WR Brianne Sequin, Owners; Pat Reichle & Martha Slamer, Middletown, OH



Photo Credit HORSETRAIT

ArtCeltic Tiara

Certificate - In Hand
 Owned by Janet Gunn

ArtCeltic Tiara is a 2011 daughter of *ArdCeltic Art, out of Jasmine and Lace, a TB daughter of Fight Over. In Dec 2012, I had just sold my previous "project" horse, who was Anglo x Irish x French. After attending Anne Frey's funeral (she first introduced me to Connemaras back in the late 1960s), I decided my next project would be a Connemara cross. I found Tiara in a frozen field in upstate New York, bred by Joanne Vukman. She had seen Art in competition, and was determined to breed her mare to him. As a two year old we did one Future Event Horse show and the ACPS Region III show, though her show ring manners left something to be desired.

As a 3 year old we did the FEH again, qualifying for the East Coast championships, where she finished 4th. She is registered ISR (International Sport Horse), as well as a Connemara Halfbred, and a friend convinced me to take her to the ISR Mare Inspection. I was somewhat intimidated when I saw all the famous Warmblood names in the pedigrees of the other mares,

but she was one of only two mares approved as “Premium” at that inspection, and one of only four on the East Coast. While inspections are not “shows, she got a nice yellow ribbon for being the third highest scoring ISR mare in the East Coast.

She got lots of compliments on her manners, and on her full, flowing tail. With help from trainer Colin Fraser, she is now happily walking, trotting, cantering under saddle, including “courses” of rails on the ground.

Janet Gunn



*Sparrow's Emma with owner Megan Harris - Silver in Foxhunting. By *Grange Finn Sparrow x Gjetost (QH)*



Balmullo's Dundee, owned by Kathleen Nebel, earned a Silver Medal in Foxhunting. He is by Concord River Roaringwater Bay x Oak Hills Sweet Ashley



Providence Mountain Smoke with owner, Megan Harris, earned a Certificate in Foxhunting

The gelding is by Tullymor's Samson MacDara x Foothill's Smokey Bay



Prairie Madeline

Certificate - Foxhunting

By Blue Ridge Jefferson x Tre Awain Ballyclare

Shown here enjoying a day out hunting in February with whipper-in Carrie Hill and the Miami Valley Hunt, Urbana, Ohio. Maddie, who turns five in March, is a keen pony who loves the excitement of galloping and jumping while following hounds. Also learning the discipline of dressage and developing her jumping technique, Maddie is on her way to becoming an all-around, versatile pony. One thing she needs no practice at: working the crowd with her considerable charm and “cute factor”!



Woodchuck Ridge Brianna Sequin

Certificate Foxhunting

Martha Slamer

Little Miss Bri has been a fun and rewarding training project since she came to our farm in Spring of 2013. She hunted some as a green bean 3 year old and really took to it this last year as a 4 year old. She is quick or quiet depending on the need at the moment. Bri is developing into a nice jumper with a sensible, compliant attitude. She has done a number of hunter paces, placed second in a local hunter derby against the big kids, placed nicely in unsanctioned minitrials, is ready for the next step this next year.

Bri was owned by Pat Reichle last year, is co owned by Pat and her rider, Martha Slamer this year. She is by *Rosemont Irish Abbey and out of Woodchuck Ridge Casey Sequin.

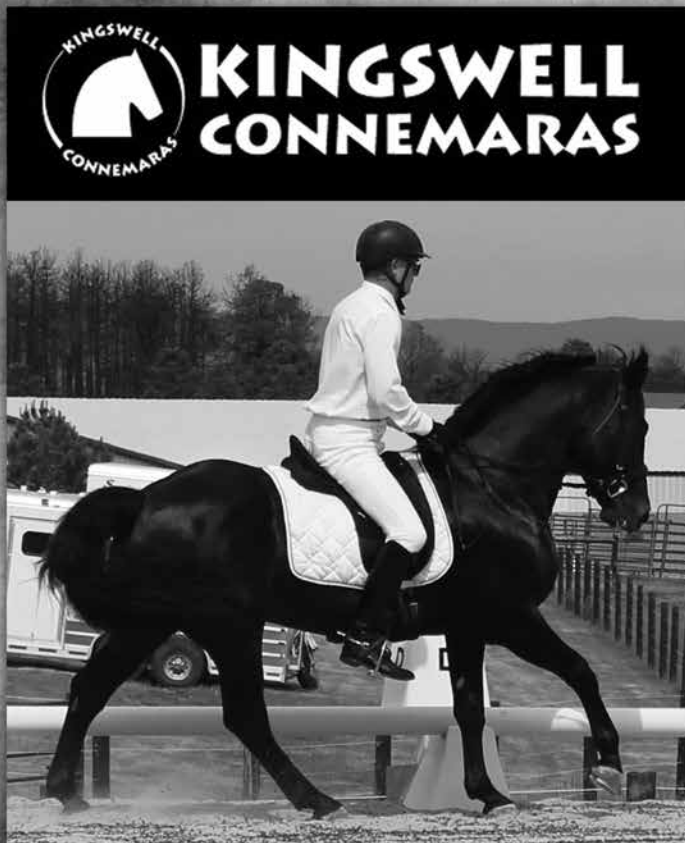
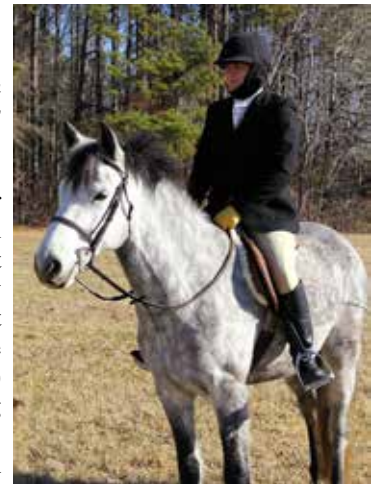
Glenmeadow Golden Wish

(*Kinzighausen Golden Mortimer x Ledgewood's Greystone Desiree)

Kim Harrison

Wish earned most of her competitive trail points in the international trail sport of TREC ,which is very popular in Europe, but not well known here in the US.(see www.trec-usa.org) It combines orienteering (with map and compass, no GPS allowed!) with obstacles and some dressage

skills in a three phase event. Wish and I developed a wonderful partnership during our hours wandering the woods alone together, as well as obedience and trust as we polished our obstacle and control of pace work. These skills paid off when we took up foxhunting this summer with the Red Oak Foxhounds, a newly registered pack in Brunswick County, Va. The hunt was sorely in need of a whipper-in, and I thought the skills Wish had perfected competing in TREC (willingness to go out alone, cross any log, creek, hill, or bank, work gates, steer with one hand) plus her generally bossy personality would serve her well as a whip's horse. I was right! She took to the role of staff horse like she was born to it, earning many admirers for her work ethic, sensible nature, and good looks. I am always quick to tell them she is a Connemara!



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CONNEMARA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 6-7 - Region IV Show - Mark your calendars for the ACPS Region IV show at the Tri-State Exhibition center in Cleveland, TN on June 6-7, 2015. The show this year will include hunter, jumper, dressage, combined training, driving, in-hand and western classes! This show features Connemara-only classes for performance and in-hand and also classes specifically for the Mountain and Mooreland pony breeds (British Shetland, Connemara, Dales, Dartmoor, Exmoor, Fell, Highland, New Forest, Welsh, British Riding Pony). Connemara Champion and Reserve ribbons will be awarded to the top-placing Connemaras in each open division. So make plans now to show off your pony or simply join us for the fun and camaraderie. You will find more information (lodging, directions, etc.) and the class list on the Smoky Mountain Horse Show website: <http://www.smokyshowseries.com> or call the show manager, Ashley Jenkins, at [\(865\) 306-1196](tel:8653061196)

July 18-19 - Midwest Connemara Show and Inspections, National Equestrian Center, Lake St. Louis, MO. Contact Gloria LaCroix at folklorcp@gmail.com

July 18-19 - Region I Connemara Show - GMHA, Woodstock, Vermont. Contact Amy Plavin at whconnemaras@yahoo.com

August 22-23- Region III Connemara Show - Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, VA. Prize list includes in-hand, h/j, combined test, dressage, trail, Mountain & Moorland division, and a fun party on Saturday night! Contact Anne Moe or Marynell Eyles at lynneeyes@gmail.com

October 3-5 - Save the Date - ACPS Annual meeting and Inspection Clinic, educational seminars - Bethlehem, PA - Region II members are the organizers and have already made great plans for a super weekend.

Tre Awain Irish Punch

*Tre Awain DeValera x Purr Purr Purr
(TB)*

Gold in Foxhunting

Award of Excellence - Eventing

Thank you so much for this award, Punch and I have enjoyed almost every minute of our growth together. Laura Balding and Bertram Culver sure produce a wonderful amateur, friendly horse. He is kind, athletic, and above all a gentleman. Thanks to all my trainers, especially Sam Henley, who was always there and never gave up on my lapse of memory, breathing, and usually being the oldest woman on the youngest horse. I have a feeling he will teach many more students, and continue to do what makes him happy, pleasing whoever is kind to him. I am a lucky woman to own such a wonderful horse.

Amy W. Miller



Advertise with us....

A Note to all Members/Advertisers: Prices are based on camera-ready ads (defined as fully composed and ready to be scanned into place). PC files only.

Prefer PDF, WORD, or Microsoft Publisher....all for PCs. High resolution photos/ads should be sent to marynelleyes@hughes.net

Classified Ad Rates: \$10 minimum for 5 lines, 42 characters and spaces per line. Add \$2 for each additional line. Sales lists are \$2 per line. The magazine is not responsible for content of ads.

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Full Page (7 1/16 x 9 1/2 inches).....	\$200
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Six Issue Package-----Full Page.....	\$800
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Three Issue Package---Full Page.....	\$400
Three Issue Package---Half Page.....	.\$200

NEW REGISTRATION RULES -

HOOF WALL SEPARATION DISEASE STATEMENT

In an effort to reduce the number of foals affected by HWSD, the American Connemara Pony Society has adopted the following breeding policy: All breeding stallions must be tested with UC-Davis lab, and the test results reported to the ACPS Registrar no later than Feb. 1, 2015. If the stallion is not tested for HWSD, the 2016 foal will need to be tested in order to be registered with the ACPS.

The ACPS also strongly supports the importance of testing all breeding mares prior to covering. The simple test will be a breeder's best tool to avoid producing foals affected by the Hoof Wall disease. This policy will reduce the possibility of affected foals if the test results are used responsibly by both the stallion and mare owners.

If a stallion has already been DNA sampled, that hair can be used for the HWSD testing. Send \$40 to ACPS, and the test will be ordered, or set up your own testing through the web site for Cal Davis.

ALL FOALS OF 2015 MUST BE MICRO-CHIPPED. The Microchip will be sent to the foal owner with the DNA sample kit. A veterinarian must insert the microchip and a form for that will be sent with the microchip. The new fee for registering a foal is \$60 up to 6 months of age: \$75 after that time.

NEW FORMS FOR TFCS, PUREBRED, HALFBRED AND CONNEMARA SPORT HORSES ARE NOW IN USE, and are posted on the ACPS web site.

ACPS
PO BOX 100
MIDDLEBROOK, VA 24459

DEADLINES....

MAY/JUNE 2015 - THE JUNIOR ISSUE

This issue is all about our fabulous ajunior members. We welcome photos of what you do with your Connemara, and a story about your favorite activity --- whether it's competitive or just plain fun!
Deadline - April 10, 2015

We always welcome submissions of photos and articles. Please identify photos and provide return address.

*Send to ACPS, PO Box 100, Middlebrook, VA 24459
or send email to: marynelleyes@hughes.net*

Please let us know if you move....

Since postal rates continue to increase, the following policy will apply to those people who move and do not notify us of a change of address: the Society will charge \$4.00 for a replacement copy of the magazine. The charge includes the cost of the replacement issue plus postage for mailing a single copy within the US.

Changes of address should be sent to

Anne Moe, 7725 Stoney Ridge Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Memberships run from January 1 through December 31

All memberships include a subscription to *The American Connemara*

Senior (qualify for awards, discounts, votes) **\$40** _____

Family (parents, all children under 18,
qualify for awards, discounts, votes) **\$70** _____

Names of children _____

Associate (qualify for awards) **\$35** _____

Junior (under 18 years, qualify for awards) **\$25** _____

Life (same as Senior, no expiration date) **\$600** _____

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Wildwych

Hazel

Gold - Hunter

with her two riders

*Lucie (right)
and Charlotte (left)*

Rowe.



Hazel arrived last Christmas and has been our sweet angel ever since. Lucie (13) and Charlotte (10) were hoping for a partner that they could learn and grow with. A friend from our Pony Club, Lizzie MacKenzie, who owns her own Connemara, suggested that we travel to Aiken, SC to meet a very special pony owned by her grandmother. It was a perfect match for the Rowe sisters.

Hazel is kind, loveable, and always tries to please. The bond between our family and this pony is like no other. Hazel is willing to take it slow for newcomers, but will also turn on her tiny engine when asked to perform. Lucie and Charlotte ride and care for her daily under the instruction of Sarah Monfort in St. Louis, MO. They enjoy going to local shows, trail riding at the

farm, and even attempting to take Hazel for swims in the pond!

Hazel's highlight of her show season was winning the Short Stirrup Under Saddle Class at the St. Louis National Charity Horse Show. Lucie and Hazel successfully competed in the Short Stirrup Division earning Year End Champion in the Mid-Illinois Sport Horse Organization and Reserve Champion in the Missouri Hunter Jumper Organization. Charlotte had a lot of success in cross rails, earning division champion results at many shows. Both girls are ready to move up to the next divisions this year, thanks to the giant heart of this little mare.

Kerri F Rowe



GRC Photo

Morning Glory's Belle Fille

Bronze - Jumpers
Janet Gunn

Morning Glory's Belle Fille is a 1996 daughter of Fiddler's Glory Boy (by *Grange Finn Sparrow) out of the TB mare French Letters. I bought her as a five-year-old from breeder Mary Dearden, and she is a fabulous jumper, though not always an easy ride. Even though she is only 15.1 hands, a 3'6" fence looks a lot smaller when I am riding her than when I am riding one of my 16-hand+ "projects." 2103 was spent recovering from an injury, and 2014 was a "rebuilding" year with only a light competition schedule. We are looking forward to a more active competition schedule in 2015, mostly in Eventing and Jumpers, and probably a little bit of Hunters and Dressage.



S.R. Irish Envoy earned a Bronze Medal in Dressage.

He is owned by Les and Marilyn Cheek.

JEF Anna Rose

Bronze - Jumpers
Christina Keim

JEF Anna Rose, better known as Anna or Annapony to her friends, had a great 2014 with her human, Christina Keim, and her equine friend Lee (not a Connemara but we love her anyway), spending May-August at Tamarack Hill Farm in Strafford, VT, to train with the legendary Denny Emerson. There, Anna enjoyed competing in jumper shows and schooling horse trials, as well as learning about cows, hills and how to escape from her mountainside pasture and then lead her herdmates to visit May Emerson's gardens.

Upon returning to her home in New Hampshire, Anna and Chris had a fulfilling fall season, training with Verne Batchelder and Nancy Guyotte, competing in dressage and jumper competitions as well as horse trials, and hacking in and around Lee Ridge Stables. Although both horse and human are currently wading through feet and feet of New England snow, they are continuing to value their partnership, sharing carrots and looking forward to warmer temps and not wearing blankets. Anna is very proud to have earned her ACPS bronze award in jumpers in 2014 and now has set her sights on silver and gold.



If anyone would like to read more about Anna and Chris's adventures in VT, please visit our blog, [Chronicles of a Mini-Pro](http://ChroniclesofaMiniPro.wordpress.com), at christinakeim.wordpress.com



Erin Terra's Dream On

Award of Excellence Hunters

Gold - In-Hand

Owned and Shown by Nicole Perin

Erin Terra's Dream On, or "Zach" as we call him, had a phenomenal year showing in 2014! He regularly participated in both USEF rated Connemara divisions and also open classes on some of our local Hunter/Jumper circuits. I am blessed to have such a wonderful partner to ride and show, and he enjoys the shows as much as I do! Zach makes showing a stallion easy and is always a gentleman, constantly impressing people with his behavior and way of going.

His first achievement this year was winning his Gold Medal In-hand. Zach loves to strut his stuff and has always been at home in the in-hand classes! His successes were spread over Connemara classes, and open model classes where we competed against both Welsh type hunter ponies and imported warmbloods. We received many compliments from the judges on his conformation as well

as his excellent manners.

His second big achievement this year was the Award of Excellence in the Hunter ring. Zach again competed successfully by sweeping every USEF Connemara under saddle class that we entered this past year! His success was just as great on the local circuits and we garnered many Champions and Reserves against both professional and amateur riders. Zach's ride-ability is second to none, and his big ground covering stride makes it easy to show him to his best advantage. As an amateur owner and rider, I couldn't ask for a better pony - he is one in a million!

The past year was a lot of fun, not only because I had such a wonderful pony to ride but also since my husband and young son were able to come to every show with me. They were my biggest cheerleaders and we couldn't have done it without them! My long term goal for Zach is to try and earn the Golden Shamrock Award so this year we hope to try our hand in the Dressage and Jumper rings.



Life of Reilly Go Bragh

Silver - Eventing

Owned and Ridden by Erin Loitfellner

Life of Reilly Go Bragh, a 9 year old halfbred by Hideaway's Erin Go Bragh, and I had another successful year, filled with achieving many personal goals and dreams in 2014. After taking some time off over winter and early spring, we were able get back in our groove in June at FRVPC Horse Trials with a third place finish. We were able to participate in multiple clinics throughout the year, including spending a week at the Kentucky Horse Park for the United States Pony Club Festival. This gave us many amazing opportunities, including a cross country lesson with Gina Miles and countless sessions to help improve my horsemanship. With the great experience and education we received from riding with multiple great clinicians, Reilly and I completed the season with multiple top three placings, including a win at the inaugural Sundance Farm Horse Trials. Reilly and I were honored as Reserve Champions of the IDCTA Freehorse Farm Dressage Challenge, IDCTA Novice Grand Champion, USEA IV 8th place rider and 9th place horse.

All of these honors were dreams I never imagined of achieving. Earning a Silver Medal is a major milestone in Reilly's career, and I can't wait to see what the future holds for my incredible partner.



Coralee Richardson and Cobblestone Ivy

Bronze - Eventing

Our First Year of Eventing - what a trip!

Owned and Ridden by Coralee Richardson

Due to a health crisis, Sue Laidlaw, a dear family friend, gifted Ivy and two other Connemaras to my family. I had never ridden much or taken lessons. My sport was ice hockey, and I played on the Colorado Select hockey team for eight years. I didn't know anything about riding except that I had a lot of fun when I visited my Aunt Lee's Blue Chip Stables in California and sat on her Connemara ponies. Mom took Ivy and me to lessons one time per week and I worked at the stable to support my lessons. In January 2014, we rode in our first hunter/jumper schooling show. Six months later I rode in my first Introductory Level Horse Trials at the Colorado Horse Park. Finishing 7th, we were on our way - literally.

Barely repacking, Ivy and I hit the road for California with Aunt Lee Webster Ramensky. I spent a month there, riding every day. I attended a four day Eventing camp with the BHS certified trainer, Andrea Pfeiffer, and one of my most fun experiences was riding the trails above the Pacific Ocean and galloping on the beach at Bodega Bay. Mom flew west to see me successfully compete in my first USEF/USEA Junior Beginner Novice horse trials at Shepherd Ranch in Santa Ynez, California. We hustled back to Colorado where I rode in two more Junior Beginner Novice events at the Rocky Mountain Horse Trials and Colorado Horse Park Summer Horse Trials, placing in the top five in both events. Summer fun added up to qualifying Ivy and me to compete in the September Nutrena USEA American Eventing Championships in Tyler, TX! We started off small and finished BIG in Texas! Ivy and I placed 7th out of 26 in the Junior Beginner Novice Division. When I received the news, from Dr. Sally Oxnard of the ACPS Awards Committee, that I had earned a Bronze Medal in Eventing in our first year out, I couldn't believe it! Ivy is very sensible, and sensitive, and has become so bold. She is all about business when she is working. Ivy is the best and we have learned so much together. Thank you, Sue Laidlaw, for the gift you have given us. I can't wait for 2015 – Junior Novice Level, here we come!!



Tir na n'Og Ranch
SHAMMER CONNEMARAS

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Okeechobee, FL 34972 USA	www.cpriding.com



Cady O'Daly Liberty, owned and ridden by Robyn Taliaferro, earned a certificate in Eventing.



Concord River Fife and Drum - "Major"

By Bantry Bays Archie x Concord River Kaleigh-Dam.

Bronze - Dressage

Owned and ridden by Lisa Page

When I was a young girl I read a book by C.W. Anderson called "The Blind Connemara". It is a true story about a young girl from New Hampshire who falls in love with a blind Connemara, gains the ponies trust, becomes his owner and rides him for many years. My grandmother lived in the same town where this Connemara and his owner lived and I got to meet both of them. That was my introduction to the Connemara breed and it was my dream to someday have my own Connemara pony.

I became friends with Liz Platais at River Road Farm in Carlisle, Massachusetts, and many years ago she had a young gelding advertised for sale. I went to her farm to see him and fell in love with the young bay gelding right away. I bought Major when he was only 18 months old.

It was an adventure, raising a young pony and teaching him all of the things he needed to learn to become a pleasant, safe riding partner. With the patient help of good trainers during his early years his training progressed and so did mine. I sometimes felt sorry for Major in that he had to put up with me as I learned to work with a young horse while he was learning the basics at the same time. I learned greater patience, bravery and to appreciate how much time and work goes into training a horse. I also appreciated Major's calm, intelligent disposition and his positive attitude.

We made it through the early years, went to the Region one Connemara show a couple times, showed locally in dressage and did some beach riding and trail riding. Major will be 16 years old this July and I cannot believe how fast the time has gone by. He is such a good pony and very handsome. The best thing about him is his happy and willing attitude. He is a joy to be around. I know why we all love our Connemara ponies so much and I am thankful that my dream to have my own Connemara pony came true. Thank you to Liz and her mom, Rachel Page Elliot for breeding him and mostly, thank you for allowing me to make him mine in back in February 2002.



Dry Brooks Moon River, owned and ridden by Michelle Swartz, earned a Bronze Medal in Dressage.



Elderglen's Lilithe

By Ballencrieff's Brogan

Certificates of Achievement in Jumpers and Dressage

Owned and Ridden by Karen Joyal

I am honored to have this classy mare, Elderglen's Lilithe, in my life since 2007. My first introduction to the Connemara breed began as a teenager with a lesson horse fondly named "Toothfairy". I have dreamed of owning my own Connemara pony for over 20 years and I was able to finally make this a reality with my first Connemara purchase, "Lilly".

I searched for a Connemara for years and I finally located Lilly (nearly in my backyard) and purchased her as a yearling. Lilly has been a fantastic pony and tries her heart out on anything we set out to accomplish. However, I was surprised to learn my "event pony" earned a Certificate in Dressage and Jumping for 2014. We mainly competed in Novice eventing, but also competed in a few other shows during the year to work on our skills and prep for upcoming events.

Lilly has also produced a filly by *Ardceltic Art in 2011. I showed her in a few In-Hand and Hunter /Jumper classes as a youngster. We then started Eventing together after her filly was weaned. Lilly and I have had a great time showing and playing for the last several years. She has a heart of gold and the determination of a giant. Her pint size body does not keep her from dreaming and competing BIG.

I have now started riding her now 4 yr old filly and my daughter will take over Lilly's reins in 2016. I am so proud of this pony and I can't wait to see her future with Emma in Pony Club, Dressage and Eventing.



Prairie Wildfire

By Blue Ridge Jefferson

Gold Medal in Dressage

Owned and Ridden by Alicia Kuebler

When I first met Prairie Wildfire, or Sparki as he's known around the barn, he was only a few weeks old and scared of his own shadow. Over the next three years, I would show up at Prairie Connemara Farm just to hang out, really to play with Sparki as he had stolen my heart. Carol Siebecker finally figured it out when we were standing outside of the pasture talking and Sparki came up behind me and starting making faces at me. From that point on, it's been an adventure.

The first few years together we spent trying to overcome that fear of his own shadow. Needless to say I learned how to fall gracefully and I continue being reminded of it today. Up until last year we spent time hacking around, going to maybe one show every 2-3 years but just not really doing much else. Last year, when he turned 12, I finally decided to really make a go of it and we went to one show a month for six months straight, and I am so proud of the little show pony he has become.

We started out pretty rough but with an amazing trainer and a lot of work, we ended the season as the Indiana Dressage Society's Training Level Champion in the Adult Amateur division. We also placed 3rd in High Percentage for the year. I can't even begin to express my appreciation for him.

I have learned how to be patient yet stubborn, I've been able to overcome fears of showing, and most importantly I've started having fun again. This year we will be taking on a new adventure and putting together a musical freestyle for 1st level. I am so excited to continue our journey together and so appreciative that he chose me to a part of it.

Visit the newly Designed and Updated ACPS

Web Site at

www.acps.org



Foothills Hopefilly

Bronze Medal- Driving

Owned and Driven by Vanessa Morgan

Foothills Hopefilly is a 13.3 hand purebred by Concord River Roaringwater Bay, out of Blue Hills Morning Star. She was born in 1999 and spent most of her first decade as a trail horse and broodmare. In 2010, after tagging along with Carole Moss to the National Drive for several years, I decided it was time to overcome my fear of driving and give it a real go.

I started Hope in driving training in May. In October, I took her to the National Drive in Indiana. In November, we entered our first HDT (horse driving trials) at Katydid, SC, using a borrowed cart and harness. This was less than six months after her (and my) driving training began.

Last year, in 2014, we did our first Preliminary CDE (combined driving event) at Indiana and finished in the ribbons. We have had so much fun! My husband, Charlie, is now involved in competition (after 25+ years of owning and breeding Connemaras); he is my current navigator for marathon and an excellent one at that.

Hope is such a solid, trustworthy and willing pony; she is keen in the hazards, careful in cones, super reliable and consistent all-around. We have an absolute blast every time that we head out on course. I believe we have even brought home a ribbon from every competition so far, which is frosting on the cake. Hope is now the anchor in my new driving pair that will be heading to FL in March for the final leg of "The Caravan". Current plans are to continue competing Hope in the Prelim Single Pony division at CDEs, do some scurry &/or driving derby competitions and maybe a bit of pair driving just for the fun of it.



VSH Devine Alexandra

Bronze - Therapy Horse

VSH Devine Alexandra (Lexie) is a seven year-old, halfbred Connemara, sired by Tullymor's Ned Devine. Lexie is owned by Misfit Farm in Salmon, Idaho where she's used for regular and therapeutic riding and in-hand lessons. Her riders range from ages 5 to over 60. One of Lexie's students, Stefanie Middlebrook, has cerebral palsy. Together they have mastered the skills needed for in-hand trail events and have competed, and placed, in the local open horse shows. Lexie's riders are novice adults or ones recovering from riding accidents who are trying to overcome various fear issues. Whether on the ground or under saddle, as an energetic pony, Lexie, challenges her riders as they build self-confidence, balance and good rider skills.



SR Irish Liberty

Sycamore Ridge Irish Liberty competing in dressage with Maggie Butters of Culpeper, VA at the Region 3 Connemara Show in Lexington, VA, July, 2014. "Libby" (Mountain Fields' Owen O'Neill x Grey Duck [TB]), owned by Les and Marilyn Cheek, earned her Silver ACPS Achievement Award medal for In-Hand.

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TRANSFERS

G 906 XXXIX – BANTRY BAY’S ERIN from Joanne Quill to Susan Perry, 3 Bradish Farm Rd, Upton, MA 01568
 TFC 4381 XL – (G 2617 XII) HEAVEN’S RIDGE BRODY MCMOR from Diana Anderson to Sandra McNeeley, 4951 W. Condor Dr., Tucson, AZ 85742
 G 2041 XLIII – WILD ACRES DUNEDIN PIPER from Lisa Karandanis to Kathy Trum-Searah, 305 Ravine Rd., New Braintree, MA
 M 3558 XLIV – WILDWYCH GISELLE from Lora Howard to Pat Norton-White & Heather Magnan, 2130 Scotch Hill Rd., Bloomville, NY 13739
 M 3592 XLIV – ROSCOMMON LIADAN from Sue Holland to Christine Deutsch, 4407 1st Street Dr., NW, Hickory, NC 28601
 HBG 1985 XLV – GIDDEON from Courtney Yeager to Beverly J. Nachman, 616 Barretts Church Way, Aiken, SC 29803.
 M 3805 XLV – CENTURY HILL’S TAYLOR MAID from Lisa Martin to Bobbi Criner, 287 Dahlstrom Rd., Arbutle, CA 95912.
 HB M 2233 XLVI – LARK’S GAMIN from Martha Slamer to Sarah Thelen, 71 Drake Lane, West Lebanon, NH 03784.
 HB M 2320 XLVII – WEST WINDS OPENING KNIGHT from Elayne Knight to Nicolette Merle-Smith, 2701

Poindexter Rd., Louisa, VA 23093.
 HB G 2104 XLVIII – DRF Little Einstein from Janet Johnson to Jenny Dougan, 2951 315th St., Ellsworth, IA 50075
 M 4050 XLIX – SNIPPER from Carol Lund to Shannon Woolfe, 457 Mike Lindley Rd., Snow Camp, NC 27349.
 HB G 2126 XLIX – DRF JUMPIN JUPITER from Janet Johnson to Jenny Dougan, 2951 315th St., Ellsworth, IA 50075.
 TFC S 6106 LI – IRISH GATES CHARMJING LAD – from Bob and Patti Stalder to BRB Ranch, Shelly Bluthardt, 5120 W. 165th, Burlingame, KS 66413.
 G 2599 LI – ERIN TERRA’S GATSBY from Richard Meier to Tracey Gentry Ryan, 1410 Ridge Rd., Wildwood, MO 63021.
 TFC HBS 3645 LI – TWIN STARLIGHT from Yvonne Bach to Stephanie Lee Caldwell, 61 Meadow Ave., New Caoth, VA 24127
 HB M 2533 LII – ELDERGLEN’S IRIEL from Jim and Nancy Kilcrease to Marie Martin, 4414 SE 185th Ave., Micanopy, FL 32677.
 M 4123 LII – BLUE ROCK MOLLY from John Keaney to Carole Siebecker/Prairie Connemaras, 7500 N. 50W., W. Lafayette, IN 47906.



The hard working Board of Governors met during the USEF Annual Meeting - from left, front row - Lisa Rease, Darian Hall, Kathy Lucas, Joan Webster; Linda Haines, (back row from right) Scott McGuffin, Marynell Eyles, Janice Meyers, Pat Reichle, Deb Norman, Wayne Quarles, Debby Howell, Fonda Eigel, Susan McDonnell, Kathy Sparks, Cathy Blackmon, Gloria LaCroix, Randy Rease, Chris Knox.



Northern Victory Winners Give All

By Charlotte Zovighian

The key to success is courage and love. I have something more important than courage, I have patience. I will become what I know to be a winner. My name is Charlotte Zovighian and my pony is Northern Victory . We work as an unstoppable team. Vic is a six year old dapple grey large Connemara pony gelding that I've owned since May of 2014. With the help of my trainers Lisa and Brian Sabo and their friend Emily Daily, I traveled 3,000 miles from Newport Beach, CA. to Springfield, Virginia where we met owner Marian McEvilly and breeder Sarah McRae Thrasher. When I first laid eyes on Vic, I thought I have never seen anything so perfect. I remember thinking to myself that I had to make him mine or I would be miserable. I knew the moment I felt him whisper that he loved me that whatever happened from that day on I could handle it because I was going to have the best pony I could ever ask for.

When I first started riding Vic the struggles and tears started to come - maybe I wanted him to be perfect right now. People started telling me through social media that I wasn't good enough, that my horse doesn't have potential, that I should sell him. Doubts and loss of confidence passed through my head. Horseback riding is not an easy sport as some may think. Vic was a young horse, so we both had to learn a lot. Vic is a strong horse but so very generous. Together we have already accomplished a lot in jumping, and are still improving our dressage.

Success is not always about winning, but rather about staying in the game and not quitting, or letting someone make you quit. I started working harder and became stronger. I wanted to succeed as badly as I wanted to breathe. I believed in my horse and started having courage.

Whenever I have a rough struggling ride or lesson, I tell myself this quote over and over again. "If you give it your all, you've already won" (unknown).

Vic has been the number one team player that I could have ever asked for. He has already taught me so much and I cannot

thank him enough. We have such a strong friendship that is too strong to be broken.

Although my superstar pony has helped me accomplish many dreams, we still have some big goals for this years show season. I hope to start competing at novice level eventing at many USEA events as well as getting dressage scores in the 20's and hopefully go to the 2015 USEA eventing championships. To achieve these goals, I will work through the sweat, tears, bad, and great days. Our adventure is just beginning.

My name is Charlotte Zovighian, my pony is Northern Victory and we won't leave this competition until each one of you knows that we will become winners.

Procedures for Transfers

The registration certificate for a Connemara, whether purebred or halfbred, is a lifetime record of that equine's ownership. Please try to file your certificates in safe places. The fee to replace each is now \$100.

To transfer from the seller to the new owner, please use the "form" on the reverse side of the registration certificate (temporary foal certificate or permanent). The responsibility for filling in the blanks on the form, and for sending the transfer with fee \$25 for 30 days, then \$35), rests with the seller. Please do not simply hand the new owner the papers and walk away!

For many years, the ACPS has suggested that the seller also kindly include an associate membership for the new owner as away to introduce the newcomer to the Society, the awards programs, the magazine, and show dates.

When the transfer information has been recorded in the ACPS database, and has also been reported for publication in the magazine, the original certificate will be sent to the new owner. Please make sure as a seller that the complete address is provided.

Thanks to a computer crash as this magazine was being finished, the Transfers were stuck in the broken hard drive --- watch for a complete listing in the next issue.

Directory of Breeders

REGION I

BANTRY BAY FARM. Bill and Candy Verhulst, 28 Wheeler St., Pepperell, MA 01463. (978) 433-2570. info@bantrybayfarm.com www.bantrybayfarm.com.

CONCORD RIVER CONNEMARAS at RIVER ROAD FARM. Elizabeth Platais, 291 River Rd., Carlisle, MA 01741. (978) 369-4380. plataise@aol.com

DRY BROOK FARM. Patricia and Stephen Shields, Harwinton, CT. (860) 866-7116. drybrookfarm@yahoo.com www.drybrookconnemaras.com Purebreds and Conn/Han. Crosses available.

PARADOX CONNEMARAS. Tom and Sally Oxnard, 5 Greenleaf Dr., Exeter, NH 03833. (603) 772-6265. stoxnard@yahoo.com. www.paradoxconnemara.com.

REGION II

DUHALLOW CONNEMARAS. Sheila and Don Larkin, 2669 RD 2, Estey Rd., Manlius, NY 13104. (315) 682-8804. dlarkin@gartnerequipment.com. Purebred ponies.

HIDEAWAY FARM. Stirlin and Beth Harris, 4130 Roots Tavern Road, Geneseo, NY 14454. (585) 243-4299. BHarris62@aol.com; www.hideawayconnemaras.com.

KYNYNMONT CONNEMARAS LLC. Pam Liddell, 175 River Hill Road, Conestoga, PA 17516. (717) 872-9728. liddellpam@hotmail.com *Kynnymont Aidan McVai S 645 XXXVII Kynnymont Cooper O'Grady*

LOUGHREA FARM. Cynthia Sisto, 1477 Route 91, Fabius, NY 13063. (315) 683-5883. loughreafarm@aol.com.

SUNNY SLOPE FARM. Nicole Haas Perin and Scott Perin. 7620 County Bridge Rd. Slatington, PA 18080 (610) 767-8464. poniesinpa@aol.com *Balmullo's Gallagher S 686 XL, Fiddler's Sparrow MacDaire S 646 XXXVII, Irish Park's Belfast Bonfire S 603 XXXV.*

TRIPLE CREEK FARM. Mary Lou Thall, Winfield, NY 13491. (315) 855-7878. tricreek@hotmail.com, www.tricreek.com *Tricreek Greystone Connor S 718 XLII, Tricreek Greystone Riley S 717 XLII*

WALNUT HOLLOW FARMS. Diane M. Sulouff, 768 Carroll Rd., Sunbury, PA 17801. (570) 286-5169. Dms5518@ymail.com www.walnuthollowfarm.com *Good Earth Freedom Go Bragh S 448 XXII*

REGION III (MD, DC, DE, VA, WV, NC)

BALMULLO FARM. Donna Duckworth, 6494 Charles City Road, Richmond, VA 23231. (804)507-0269 or (358) 538-0125. balmullofarm@gmail.com www.connemaras.com/balmullo/index.html *Foothills Field Marshall S 1931 XLVIII*

GLENDALE FARM. Deb and David Norman, 1318 Old Charles Town Road, Berryville, VA 22611-1914. (540) 955-1995 or cell 225-921-6810. deb@glendalefarm.com www.glendalefarm.com Purebreds and halfbreds. **Rattle 'N Snap Laddie Boy S 685 XL, * Fernville Matchmaker S 1918 XLVI*

HOLLYMEAD FARM. Sue and Larry Holland, 675 Oxford School Road, Taylorsville, NC 28681. (828) 302-2082. hollymeadfarm@gmail.com www.hollymeadfarm.com *Loughrea's Seamus S 1873 XLIV*

INDIAN SUMMER FARM. J. Barry Dumser & Sandy McShea, 1205 Lake Bay Road, Vass, NC 28394. (910) 245-4474 swmcshea@embarqmail.com, www.indiansummerconnemaras.com

KENTISH CONNEMARAS. Sam Davis, 1231 Milldale Farm Road, Front Royal, VA 22630. (540) 837-2123. **Hayselden Perseus S 535 XXXI.*

OAKFIELDS FARM. Susan McConnell, 1085 Wood Lane, Charlottesville, VA 22901-5038. (434) 242-7778. susan@oakfieldsfarm.com. **Hearnesebrook Dunoon S 584 XXXV, *Grange Finch S 550 XXXII. Young stock usually available.*

RIDGETOP CONNEMARAS. Walter and Marynell Eyles, PO Box 40, Middlebrook, VA 24459. (540) 886-2239 marynelleyles@hughes.net *Landgate Bluebeard S 577 XXXIV, *Kilfenora Windy Isles S 600 XXXV.*

SYCAMORE RIDGE FARM. Marilyn and Leslie Cheek, 9188 Lee's Ridge Road, Warrenton, VA 20186-8659. (540) 341-7104, fax (540) 341-4968. mezahn@wildblue.net *S.R. Irish Envoy S 1871 XLIV*

THURMAN FARM. Barbara Byrd, PO Box 472, Berryville, VA 22611. (540) 955-1215. Bjb1971@verizon.net

REGION IV

BLACK DOG FARM. Alan and Beth Davidson, 6306 Barton Road, Plant City, FL 33565. (813) 355-7178. <http://blackdogconnemaras.tripod.com> pcwertb@yahoo.com Purebreds and halfbreds sometimes available.

BRAMBLERIDGE FARM. Nancy Buchanan. 120 Mask Rd., Fayetteville, GA 30215. (678) 713-0750. nancy@synectec.com www.brambleridgefarm.com

DARK HORSE STATION. Paul and Kelly Windus, 1203 County Rd. 104, Ozark, AL 36360. (334) 445-0741, darkhorsestation@centurytel.net. www.darkhorsestation.com, **Glenormiston Cuchulainn S 678 XL.*

ELDERGLEN FARM. Jim and Nancy Kilcrease, PO Box 260, Reddick, FL 32686. (352) 591-4331. elderglenfarm@yahoo.com, www.elderglenfarm.com *WH TopGun S1846 XLIV*

FADE TO GREY FARM. Home of the Brambleridge prefix. Megan Buchanan Harris and Lee Harris. 1750 Bishop Rd., Luthersville, GA 30251. (770) 833-5159. Fade2greyfarm@yahoo.com www.fadetogreyfarm.com

FOOTHILLS FARMS & PIEDMONT CONNEMARAS. Vanessa and Charlie Morgan, 738 County Rd. 114, Athens, TN 37303. (423) 744-9071. Youngstock for sale. Connemaras9@gmail.com, www.connemaras.com *Balmullo's Beacon, S 545 XXXI, (frozen semen only).*

HIDDEN CREEK SPORHORSES. Donna Miller, 12660 Bethany Rd., Alpharetta, GA 30004-1059. (770) 569-0839, (678) 491-0717. donna@hiddencreekhorses.com www.hiddencreekhorses.com **ArdCeltic Art S 1766 XLIII - frozen semen*

TIR NA N'OG RANCH/SHAMMER CONNEMARAS. Maureen Loughman Abel, 24 NE 325th Trail, Okeechobee, FL 34972. (863) 467-5377. mloughman@embarqmail.com www.cpriding.com.

REGION V

DAWN OF PROMISE FARM. Vickie J. Maris, PO Box 306, Battle Ground IN 47920-0306. (765) 567-2067., vjmaris@purdue.edu www.dawnofpromisefarm.com *Kerrymor Madison, S 500 XXVII*

LEDGEWOOD FARM. Kathleen Manyo and Rosemary Griffiths, 11429 Pekin Rd., Newbury, OH 44065. Kathleen Manyo – 440-479-7244. Purebreds

PRAIRIE CONNEMARAS. Carol Siebecker, 7600 No. 50 West, West Lafayette, IN 47906. (765) 404-0515. cgsponies@aol.com *Blue Ridge Jefferson, S 637 XXXVII*

SLIPPERY ELM SHOOT FARM. Tim, Kathy and Faye Sparks, 5349 Slippery Elm Shoot Road, Unionville, IN 47468. (812) 988-2377, elmshoot@aol.com. www.slipperyelmshoot.com

REGION VI

DAYTON RIDGE FARM. Janet M. Johnson, 25310 Spring Valley Lane, Richland Center, WI 53581. (608) 604-4840. jjay@countryrider.com www.daytonridgefarm.com *H.K.'s Danny Boy S 700 XLI, Skyview's Triton S 699 XLI*

REGION VII

IRISH GATE FARM. Bob and Pattie Stalder, 10360 Lazy Creek Rd., Westmoreland, KS 66549 (785) 456-3278. www.Irishgatefarm.com backdoor@bluevalley.net. *JEF Sir Lancelot*

REGION VIII

KINGSWELL CONNEMARAS. Karen K. Laden, 12625 Halleluia Trail, Elbert, CO 80106. (719) 495-3892. kingswellponies@yahoo.com www.kingswellconnemaras.com **Smaragaid Cliff S 719 XLII*

HEAVEN'S RIDGE FARM. Pam and Dennis Blaha, 9625 N. 36th St., Phoenix, AZ 85028. (602) 953-2272. pamblaha@hotmail.com. *Bear Creek's Croagh Patrick S 534 XXXI, Heaven's Ridge Tiarnan Donal S 692 XLI*

KEAHEY CONNEMARAS. Julie Keahey. 2437 S. Country Rd. 21, Loveland, CO 80537 (970) 962-9303. dreampony@keahey.us <http://www.keahey.us/> *Ceili Mosa oa Tunya S 1905 XLV*

REGION IX

KNOX FARM. Chris and Phil Knox, 950 Miles Road, Chesterfield, ID 83217-5045. (208) 648-7175, chris@knoxfarm.com; www.knoxfarm.com *Ros Na Ri Kilcullen S 551 XXXII.*

JOLLEY FIR LINE FARMS. Kelsie Staeheli, 374 Gold Creek Loop Rd., Colville, WA 99114. (509) 684-5484, jolleyfirline@gmail.com www.firline.com *Tullymor's Mountain Sun S1904 XLV*

REGION X

COBBLESTONE FARM. Pat and Bob Ashworth, PO Box 27, Raymond, CA 93653 (559) 689-3096, pat@cobblestoneconnemaras.com www.cobblestoneconnemaras.com Young stock available.

GATELY FARM. Kathy Lucas, 10501 Randall Street, Orange Park Acres, CA 92869. (714) 538-5656, fax (714) 538-5561. <http://www.gatelyconnemaras.com/> *Cashel's Rock of Ages S 526 XXX, *Sydserrff Avalon S 679 XL*

MERRY-GO-ROUND MANOR. Joan Ervin, 2130 Sharlene Court, Morgan Hills, CA 95037. (408) 779-8995, mgrm@earthlink.net *M.G.R.M. Brigadoon S 595 XXXV.*

STONYBROOK CONNEMARAS. Joanie Webster, 6440 Wild Horse Valley Rd., Napa, CA 94558. joanmwebs@sbcglobal.net **Canal Laurinston S 571 XXIX*

Ireland

CASHEL BAY CONNEMARA PONY STUD. Robbie and Barbara Fallon, Cashel Bay House, Craughwell Rd., Athenry, Galway, Ireland. Tel: +353 87 2324627, robbie@cashelbay.com www.cashelbay.com/ *Cashelbay Prince, Cashelbay Rocket.*

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American Connemara Pony Society

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AMERICAN CONNEMARA PONY SOCIETY BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING – Lexington, KY - January 2015

A quick look at the ACPS Board Meeting – bullet list of topics, motions, decisions voted upon, and passed.

- Minutes of ACPS Board Meeting, Oct. 2014, passed with corrections and additions submitted by Sally Oxnard. Those changes are: change the wording re the HWSD testing to say “If the stallion is not tested for HWSD, the 2016 foal will need to be tested in order to be registered with the ACPS; Under the ACPS-F, add a comment that there were no applications for the Deb Busta Memorial Adult Amateur Eventing Scholarship; Under the Melanoma study, the next to last line should say “ponies who developed their melanomas under the age of 6.”
- Membership – Anne Moe’s report was sent before the meeting – The changes have been sent to Amy Plavin for the web site: Anne Moe has been responsible for saving the ACPS as much as \$10,000 in her work, by not taking a salary, and by moving to the email system instead of many snail mail processes: Questions from Board members included asking if there was some way to separate youth members out of the Family Memberships. The report was accepted.
- Treasurer – Cathy Blackmon provided the detailed financials, and announced that in the coming year that Stephanie Fenton-Hickey would take over the day-to-day accounting and check writing. Cathy Blackmon will still complete the tax returns and insurances. Susan McConnell remarked that the ACPS owed Cathy Blackmon much appreciation for her work, and for understanding how the Society works and is inter-connected. The Society and the Foundation were applauded for the work done to raise funds for WEG, and it was held as a great example of how a small organization can succeed. The USEF grant of \$1.00 per member was explained, and the Society also earned a \$1,500 grant for having a Youth Scholarship Applicant. Discussion on the Form 990 tax return was explained, and it has been taken care of each year by the Treasurer. Each region needs to submit their financials – which is part of that tax report. The Budget was presented and discussed and it was approved as presented.
- President’s Report – Deb Norman – Welcomed and thanked people for making the effort to be present at the meeting, and all agreed the previous day’s “open discussion” about issues and ideas had been very encouraging and productive.
- ICCPS – Susan McConnell – explained the current state of the somewhat unsettled group. The March Festival in Clifden is set for the last weekend in March.
- ACPS-Foundation – Susan McConnell – the balance in the Foundation is \$37,329, and has been kept in a simple checking account. One scholarship was paid in 2014, and the USDF Seldom Seen trophy produced by Jean Claggett will be paid out of the Foundation funds. Susan made the initial investment for the scarves and ties that have provided much of the fundraising money through sales. Gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible. The funds have grown from the beginning \$1500 to the present balance, and Susan suggested it might be time to investigate some sort of Vanguard fund to earn more money with the current balances.
- Committee Reports - Arbitration – Fonda Eigel said there were no formal grievances, but that she needs a better and clearer procedure for handling issues that might arise. Scott McGuffin suggested a Mediation process – or a “Can’t we all just get along” idea. He noted that with the many types of “Social Media” that the ACPS Board and its representatives have to be held to a higher standard. He noted that it would take a minor change to the ByLaws to create a procedure. A motion was made and passed that a Procedure for Mediation would be written and would be attached to the Arbitration Policy. Discussion followed on adopting a Code of Ethics. The consensus of the Board and those others in attendance was that a Code of Conduct was needed now, Deborah Howell noted that other organizations of which she is a member, send reminders about code of conduct or ask for a statement to be signed annually. A suggestion was made to use the already in place, USEF Code of Ethics that judges and stewards and officials must sign annually. The wording will be examined, and the statement will be signed by all paid employees of the ACPS, by the Board of Governors, by Regional Governors and Chairs, and should be discussed at the time of accepting nominations for the Board. Fonda Eigel recommended that it be extended to all members – that each needs to sign a code of conduct, on the web site, or on hard copy. That statement will be written by Scott McGuffin, and will be approved by the Board, and will be implemented as soon as possible.

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- By-Laws – Scott McGuffin – explained the changes being proposed, the revisions in light of the recent events with social media comments, and after review by the Board, the By Law changes will go to the membership on the 2015 ballot.
- Inspections – Gloria LaCroix – said the program has continued to be self-supporting. Gloria will be receiving the Inspection Nominations for 2015, and will do the planning for the Inspection sites. So far, there will be a site at the Midwest Show on Sunday, July 19 in Missouri, and on Sunday, June 8 at the Region IV show in Cleveland, TN. Region III will not have a site, but CA members would like to host one. Deb Clinch has been asked to help Gloria with the statistical reporting and organizational duties. The committee hopes to provide more educational clinics in 2015, and perhaps had a video and photos to enhance education for Connemara owners and breeders. An Illustrated Standard and a Power Point program has already been produced and will be sent to the Inspection Committee to build their program. Gloria is writing a new column for the American Connemara magazine – the Inspection Corner – to help members understand the program and its value. The List of Inspected ponies will be resent to the webmaster.
- Promotions – Heather Magnan and Melanie Trimper are the dynamic duo, and have accomplished much in 2014 with even bigger plans for 2015. They will work with the magazine to get more ad sales and more information on things like a list of stallions standing in the US. They have placed ads in national magazines in 2014, and will look for other avenues to promote the breed. Their full report will be in the official minutes
- Region Chair Liaison – Gloria LaCroix reported that she is working with Joan Ervin to keep all the Region folks involved and more interactive. Gloria noted that NOT attending the Board meetings causes a breakdown of the group, and people who do show up, suffer by lack of input. Much discussion followed on the value of a offering the region a proxy for a meeting --- with the idea that representation is better for communication and it gives each region a voice at the table.
- USEF Connemara Committee - Susan McConnell reported that the committee meeting was beneficial, and Chris Knox put forth a motion to drop the three hunter and jumper divisions from the ACPS National Awards since those same divisions are now included in the USEF Horse of the Year point accounting/awards. The motion passed. Chris also noted that in the USEF committee meetings that the ACPS supported micro-chipping.
- Registrar Report – Marynell Eyles – the discussion centered around the need to raise the fees to register Connemarans since micro-chipping was mandated, and that takes another \$6 per animal from the registration fee – which already has the \$24 deduction for DNA testing. A motion to change the registration fees for each purebred was set at \$60 up to 6 months of age and \$75 after 6 months. The discussion on the recent problem with foals born by a stallion not yet registered, and whether to change the rules or opt for the one-time exemption, or use DNA parentage to prove registration, was tabled until more research on what other registries do, and to look at Best Practices policies. It was suggested that reminders of the rules of registration should be sent to stallion owners.
- Partbred Registry --- Megan Harris, chair, was present by telephone – and in her absence had missed much of the open discussion on the topic held the day previous. Wayne Quarles noted he thought the name of the Registry should reflect its make up – the Connemara Sport Horse Registry. That name was agreed upon by the Board. Megan Harris asked for approval for the \$500 for Kim Martin, the Microsoft technician who built the ACPS database program and that request was approved. The adult halfbred stallions, whose owners had already gotten their halfbred TFC's, would be eligible for Halfbred Stallion Permanent Registration at \$250 per stallion, which includes a DNA sample and micro-chipping. The registry would be built on produce from breeding a halfbred stallion to a halfbred mare, or a halfbred stallion to a Non-Connemara mare. No less-than-1/4-bred Connemara would be eligible. No 1/4-bred stallions would be registered, as the registry is an “end product” or a performance registry rather than a breed registry. Each applicant will be put into the new database as they apply for registration – thereby building the database, with no “grandfathering” any of the entrants into the new Registry. The concern was to keep the Sport Horse Registry under the ACPS umbrella and not to set it apart. Susan McConnell moved that the address for the Connemara Sport Horse Registry be the same as the other Society registration addresses – which is PO Box 100, Middlebrook, VA 24459, thereby simplifying what people have to remember when sending their paperwork. That motion passed. The applications will be opened at the Middlebrook office, and copies made (if information is needed for the database, that will be added by Marynell Eyles as well), and sent either by snail mail or email to Megan Harris who will do the data processing, produce the new registration certificates and send the certificates to the owners.
- Melanoma Research – Maureen Loughman Abel is chair and sent a report – but in her absence, Joan Webster read the report, and asked the Board to give Maureen a big applause for her hard work. With some new discoveries in the research, it's more important than ever for fund and finding the ponies for each category.
- Annual Meeting planning – Deb Norman suggested each Fall meeting should be the fun and family event, and that the January meetings should be the “work sessions”. She noted that the most recent AGM at Pennmeryl Farm had offered more “pony friendly” options, and that should be the focus. She noted the policies for moving the meeting around the country can still be upheld, and that choosing sites for the meetings could be put in the hands of the AGM committee. Lisa Rease said she felt each region should have the opportunity to host a meeting, because many regions can raise funds at the same time. It was noted though, that regions with small populations, have a lot of trouble getting the job done.
- Fleur Bryan, President of the US Irish Draught Society, attended the meeting, and she asked if the Irish Draught breed could be included in some of the Regional Connemara shows. She noted that Sept. 11 – 13 is their show at Logan Township, NJ.
- New Business – registering Blue Eyed Cream stallions – Discussion on how the ACPS had funded and produced the research for learning about the genetics of the BEC gene – or dilute gene – and that the ICCPS was still a bit behind on acceptance. While the idea in the US and Canada can be discussed from the research side, the Board agreed that getting the Connemara Sport Horse Registry up and running was probably the priority, and that the stallion topic could be revisited at the next meeting.
- There being no more new business, the meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted: Marynell Eyles



(Left) Photo of Kim Walnes and her halfbred Connemara stallion, now eligible for registration with the ACPS

The Connemara Sport Horse Registry

Megan Buchanan Harris

Just over two years ago, I made a proposal to the ACPS Board of Governors to create a supplementary registry through our society. Primarily due to my involvement in eventing, I saw that we were losing an opportunity to capture more members and to claim some of these ‘Irish Sport Horses’ as ‘Connemaras’ that were competing at the upper echelons of sport.

While I was already aware of several breeders that were using half-Connemara stallions in their programs, but having to attain registration through other means, like the ASPR and the ISR/Oldenburg NA Sport Pony Division, I also discovered that Irish Sport Horse breeders, who like to add a dash of ‘pony’ to the recipe, were utilizing the IDHSNA and Horse Sport Ireland.

I, myself, was looking for an opportunity to register some of my own sport horses. I have been using Thoroughbred and Irish Sport Horse stallions on my halfbred mares to produce sport horses suitable for upper level eventing. Although the resulting cross is only ¼ Connemara, I believe that is the most important part of the recipe! I’ve been begrudgingly sending my money to other registries, registering my stock as something other than a Connemara, when I want to be able to claim that portion of the pedigree more than anything else.

As many of you know, our ponies add vital ingredients when crossed with other breeds. Their sensibility and smarts can get them out of difficult or dangerous situations, their quickness off the ground and carefulness makes them exceptional jumpers, and their hardiness and soundness provide longevity. We have already seen the success of many halfbred Connemaras in a multitude of disciplines, with some rising to the top in eventing, dressage and show jumping. With the right planning, the ¼ Connemaras should consistently be competing at the very top of these disciplines, whether selectively bred to Warmbloods for dressage mounts, Thoroughbreds for eventing, or Welsh ponies for the hunters, the Connemara CAN make the difference in the pedigree.

Imagine my surprise when none other than William Micklem, renowned breeder of Olympic eventers, Mandiba and High Kingdom, mentioned the Connemara in one of his breeding columns. An excerpt from the column in *Eventing Nation*:

“The quality Connemara blood available in the U.S. can also play a big part in creating the winning recipe for an upper-level event horse. The brain and ‘fifth leg’ of ponies should not be underestimated. What puts people off is that it requires taking a longer term view, as it is the second or third cross that produces the performance horse,” William said.

“However, if someone was brave and stood a superb stallion with exceptional performance bloodlines that was half or a quarter pony, this would accelerate the process. I would certainly use such a stallion.” That’s a nice vote for confidence for pony breeders out there! In using Connemaras, William recommends that a foundation pony stallion, for an event horse breeding program, *“have excellent genetics and feet, as well as a good brain, quality paces, including the gallop, and easily jump a 1.50-meter vertical.”*

Precisely the affirmation that our ponies need and deserve! In response to hearing about our potential registry for partbred Connemaras, Carol Kowzloski echoed William’s sentiments,

“It is my opinion, as a longtime competitor, breeder and trainer of Connemaras, that establishing a Part-bred registry would enhance the ACPS and the profile of the breed in open competition. Those of us that are raising ‘purpose-bred’ horses could add clout to the marketing of Connemaras- in eventing, in my case-and contribute revenue through registry fees. I urge the ACPS to consider adding a Partbred registry and embrace the breeding of horses that still showcase the best of the breed in a mixture that is designed to add to the talents already established in these ponies.”

I’m happy to announce that the Board of Governors has approved the initiation of this new registry. Under the new registration rules halfbred stallions will be permitted full registration and ¼ Connemaras, to be called Connemara Sport Horses, will be eligible for registration. Horses or ponies qualified for registration will include:

Halfbred stallions (must have one registered purebred parent)

The offspring of Halfbred Stallion x Halfbred Mare = Connemara Sport Horse (one or both parents must be registered)

The offspring of Halfbred Stallion or Halfbred Mare x non-Connemara = Connemara Sport Horse (the Halfbred parent must be registered)

The registration opportunity will end at ¼ Connemara, meaning the offspring of ¼ Connemara cannot be registered through the ACPS unless they are bred back to a registered Purebred or Halfbred Connemara.

Registration fees will be \$75 for Halfbred or Connemara Sport Horse Mares or Geldings and \$250 for Halfbred Stallions.

A newly produced registration application has been posted on the ACPS web site (www.acps.org), expressly for the Connemara Sport Horse registration. While Megan Harris will do the data processing, the applications and fees will be sent to the ACPS office at PO Box 100, Middlebrook, VA 24459.

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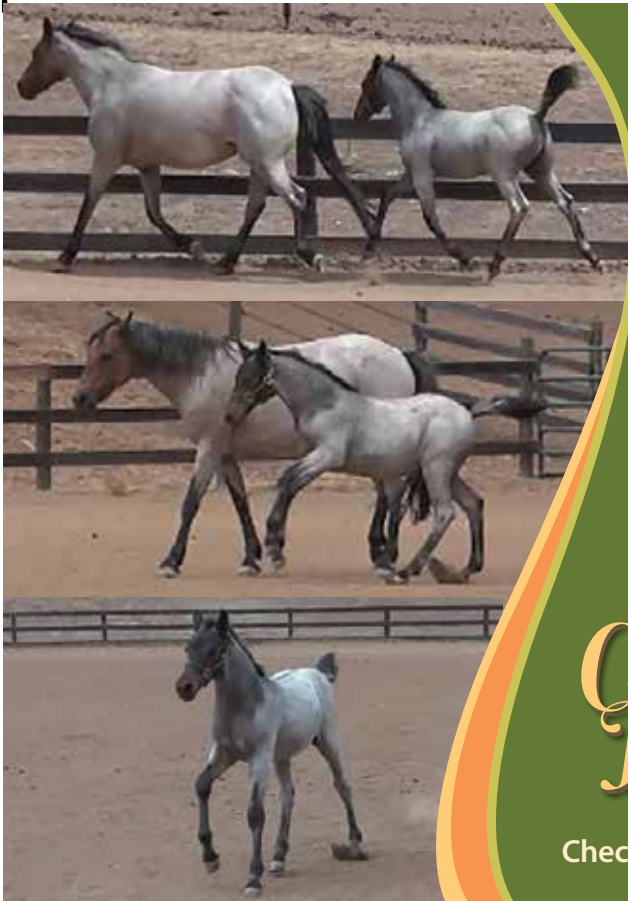
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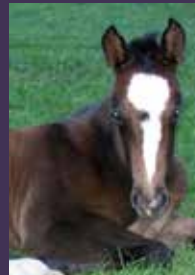
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PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ 2012 Midwest Connemara Breeders Show Purebred Performance Champion
- ❖ 2011 Midwest Connemara Breeders Show Res. Champion Performance, 4th In Hand
- ❖ 2011 Res. Ch. Battle of the Breeds, EquiFest of Kansas
- ❖ 2010 Ranked 1st in Jr/YR & 2nd Overall USDF
 - ❖ ACPS All Breed Award
- ❖ 2010 Finished 11th Nationally, USDF Horse of the Year Training Level Jr/YR
- ❖ 2010 Finished in the Top at USDF Regional Championships
- ❖ 2009 Briar Fox Horse Trials, Novice Champion
- ❖ 2008 Heritage Park Horse Trials Novice Champion
- ❖ 2007 USEA Area IV Overall High Point Champion
 - ❖ 2007 USEA Area IV Horse of the Year
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