

# AMERICAN CONNEMARA

The Official Publication of the American Connemara Pony Society

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022

EDITION II, VOL. 13 NO. 1

## HALFBRED AND CONNEMARA SPORT HORSE ISSUE

*Labras Leannan and Jen Garutti*



# The American Connemara Pony Society's

## 3rd Annual Stallion Auction

Coming February 2022!



Our sincerest gratitude to the stallion owners that have participated in the ACPS Stallion auctions. They have been a huge benefit to the society's foundation and a great marketing asset for the breed!

We are requesting donated breedings for the 2022 auction. Stallions must be a registered Purebred or Halfbred Connemara with fresh or frozen semen readily available in North America. Information & photos of your stallion must be submitted by December 31st, 2021. The auction will be shared widely across social media platforms, garnering thousands of hits on the site. This is a great opportunity for 'free' press & advertising at the beginning of the breeding season, while making a charitable donation to the society.

Our first two years have earned over \$15,000 for the Susan McConnell ACPS Foundation.

The foundation is a 501c3 not for profit entity that provides funds exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. Thanks to donations from our membership, the foundation has supported breed exhibitions such as the 2010 World Equestrian Games, HWSD & Melanoma research at UC Davis, Senior & Junior scholarships & awards established to recognize contributions to the Connemara breed. We hope that the ACPS Stallion Auction will continue to be a reliable source of income to the foundation.

For more information, or to donate a breeding to your stallion, please contact:

Megan Buchanan

[fadetogreyfarm@gmail.com](mailto:fadetogreyfarm@gmail.com) (email preferred)

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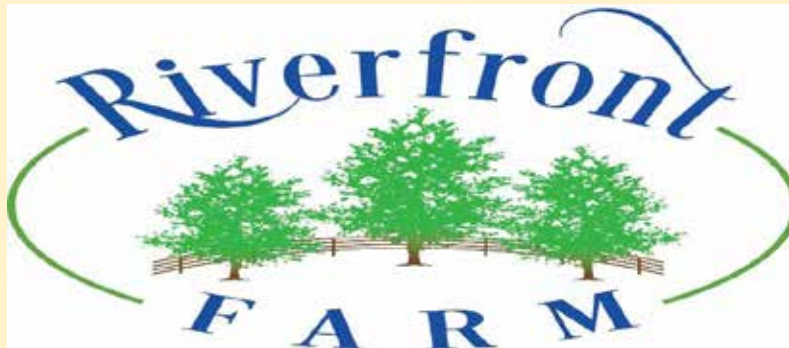
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*Winning at Modi-  
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*Awards Issue - Deadline Feb. 10, 2022*

*Membership Dues are DUE!*

*Happy New Year to ALL the ACPS Members*

# President's Page

## Welcome to your new Halfbred and Connemara

**Sport Horse** edition of the American Connemara. Both registries are growing and as they grow, we want to keep track of these performers and their accomplishments. We celebrate and appreciate these athletes that make our Connemara name more familiar in the equine competition venues. Social media seems to be the way that information is shared but can we get more congratulatory results on the website and into the magazine? Can we make it easy to do? Want to be an identified scooper-upper of the posts you see? We could use you on our Internet committee! Our Awards Committee has done a great job of finding successful halfbreds who are out making names for themselves and perhaps not capitalizing on their Connemara birthright. I know these Awards committee detectives would like to see more halfbreds share our website and magazine limelight. Is the time right to consider where the CSH athletes fit into ACPS Award program?

Our digital library, although in its infancy, is now live. You can go to Internet Archives and sign up for a free account. (YouTube can provide instruction if necessary.) Then two of Pat Lyne's books are available to borrow for an hour at a time, longer if no one else is in line. So, if you want some background history on the development of the Connemara, seek out [Shrouded in Mist](#) and [Turning the Pages](#). Pat tells about the stallion custodians of the not-too-distant past. These stallions were on the Society's approved list and rotated to new communities after a year or two. The custodians would travel their stallions around two or three days a week to different locales. The men often rode bicycles and led the stallions to their scheduled sites. Pat also delves into the reasons for adding outside stallions, what stallions were chosen and the outcomes of those decisions. Our ponies' heritage comes alive in her telling of the preservation choices made by early stewards of the breed.

The library links should be on the website shortly if they aren't there already. We are looking for additional books to send to the library to be digitized and then looking for donations to sponsor the costs of digitizing and postage. The out-of-print books are our priority. Get ready for the Connemara Stallion Raffle coming soon. A super opportunity to view some of our special stallions in one place and the proceeds support our Susan McConnell Foundation for the ACPS. The Foundation provides funds for scholarships, educational activities, and scientific research projects. While considering your breeding choices, please give a thoughtful look at Lisa Martin's scholarly article on the Coefficient of Inbreeding (COI). As current stewards of our breed, we need to understand the impact of some of our breeding decisions.

Our Breeders Committee, headed by Kate Denton, has been seeking avenues to be supportive to our members in response to the results of the ACPS Strategic Plan. Committee member Lisa Martin's recent email included an article containing this list of attitudes and abilities required for progress as a successful breeder.

- Passion for the breed
- Commitment to the long-term success of the breed
- Adequate financial resources to manage and maintain a breeding population
- A clear-headed commercial or utilitarian outlook that

does not sacrifice breed type or heritage

- Personal integrity
- An "eye" for good stock and type
- Pride without arrogance
- An ability to listen to and learn from diverse resources
- Reasonable freedom from assumptions

*(from: D. Phillip Sponenberg, Jeannette Beranger & Allison Martin. "Managing Breeds for a Secure Future." Apple Books.)*

Our winter meeting is in the process of being organized. It will be another Zoom on February 5<sup>th</sup> and everyone is invited. It will be a business meeting initially, but we will have some discussion time as well. In our last meeting, we took an hour-long break, and it provided some informal chat time. Watch the website and Facebook for details.

I love this recent storybook photograph of Tower Hill's Donnelly (by \*Chiltern Copa of Tower Hill, out of Tower Hill's Katie). He enjoys his dream job in retirement. He has spent time in the hunt field, been a trail horse, a lesson horse, did a little showing and now he is a perky unicorn model and fun mount of small children. Evelyn is the granddaughter of Jodi Fortier who used to show Copa on the Hunter circuit back in the day. Now Jodi borrows Donnelly for the summer for her toddler camp. He wears feathers or sunglasses with his ears up every time the camera comes out. Donnelly is 26 and Evelyn is 9. Thanks to Jodi for the picture.





# FINN'S IRISH CREAM JARRE CREEK CONNEMARAS



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# The Story of Anne, Labras Leannon

By Jennifer Garutti

In 2014 I was looking for my next horse. I was a full-time working mom of two kids and recently semi-retired my saint of horse from eventing to be my daughter's "pony". I was perusing Facebook ads, hitting lots of dead ends when I found an ad for a pony. She was a bit non-descript, brownish sun-bleached coat, a bit on the chunky side but her breeding jumped out at me. She was a halfbred Connemara with the other half being Quarter Horse. I've always loved the pony breed crosses and as a petite adult myself ponies have always been something that work for me. She did not have any official show record but I didn't think I was looking to do a whole lot at that time.

I took the drive from NJ to MD to try Anne – called Annie at the time. As soon as I settled into the saddle, I felt at home. Like sliding into a favorite pair of jeans. I had been out of regular riding for a bit and she was very willing to accommodate anything I asked for, even covering for me when I missed a distance jumping. It was clear to me this was my new girl.

We hit a few bumps with the vetting but her then owner was very amenable and had her own vet take a look and discovered a high Lyme titer. She was treated for a few weeks and then came to me on a short trial.

She was foot perfect for the trial and Anne because officially mine. I transferred her ACPS papers and off we went. I did my first unrecognized horse trial with her that fall, without even a proper cross-country schooling before then. We had such a fabulous time, finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and I was bitten by the competitive bug once again.

We spent that first winter attending lots of jumping clinics and working on her flatwork. It was so great to have a feisty mare...she was quite full of herself and started showing her propensity to not always want to be caught, earning that nickname SheWhoShallNotBeCaught, she once went 48 hours without letting anyone near her. Did I mention she has a very opinionated streak?– ha!

Regardless of the catching dilemma we worked all winter. I headed out to my first recognized event early that spring, CDCTA. Once again with no cross-country school due to lovely NJ weather. She won that event from start to finish and at that point I knew I had a very special pony. We moved up to Novice thereafter and dominated the season. She earned the USEA Area 2 Novice Amateur Championship as a result of many top placings throughout the year. She is a very funny mare...lots of opinions, you have to be physically strong to ride her but incredibly tactful and almost make her think the input you are giving her are her own ideas. But she has a huge step, is very scopey and just a complete blast to jump.

Early in 2016 I received a letter from Sally Oxnard of the ACPS letting me know that Anne has earned the USEA Novice Connemara award for the 2015 season. Fun side note Sally's husband was my pediatrician growing up before we moved out of NH...small world! At that point I joined the ACPS myself and was truly amazed at such a wonderful group of pony loving



people. I also received a voicemail that spring from Sam Davis, the owner of \*Hayselden Perseus, Anne's sire, telling me how pleased she was to read about Anne's accomplishments. I never had the chance to speak with Sam before she passed, but I still have that voicemail on my phone.

We rolled further into 2016 and once again had a stellar season. We traveled to Tryon for the American Eventing Championships, I was lucky enough to finish in the top 20, be on the Championship winning Chronicle of the Horse Adult Team and earned the Avery Dudash Memorial Trophy for being the highest placed adult on a pony. Because of Anne I claimed the USEA Area 2 Amateur Novice Year End Championship once again.

We were moving at the time to the house we had built on our future farm, the day after that move I received a letter from the USEF indicating that Anne has earned the USEF HOTY Reserve Championship for the Connemara Halfbred of eventing category. At the time that seemed like a once in a lifetime accomplishment. I had no idea how truly consistent Anne would be for the next 4 years.

In 2017 we had another fabulous season and another trip to the AECs...that one didn't go as planned when the grounds crew put down green colored sand in an odd pattern on the turf to assist with the footing. That is the only time in my life that pony has said "oh hell no". It looked like a very funky mottled ground and she wanted no part of that. The quirky side was still in there! Still, we had another great season and additional year end awards, including another USEF HOTY Reserve Championship in the Connemara halberd of eventing category. I was lucky enough to move the horses home that fall of 2017.

I had them in my backyard growing up but had yet been able to have that luxury in my adulthood. It was wonderful having her (and my daughter's pony) right out my back steps. In 2018 it rained and rained and rained...not having a ring yet at home due to all the rain we had a light season, but we make our first trek to attend the National Dressage Pony Cup Championship show in Illinois that year. What fun that was and my love of straight dressage was reignited. We did a few more dressage shows and managed to qualify for the USDF Regional Champs that year too. That year Anne earned herself a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in the USEF HOTY standing for Connemara halfbred in dressage. 2019 was a stellar year we had a wonderful season, had been working on our ACPS medals in Dressage and Eventing and earned the Awards of Excellence in both categories. We were 11<sup>th</sup> at the AECs in Kentucky and got to have a victory gallop in the Rolex arena! Anne was the USEF HOTY Champion in the Connemara Halfbred Eventing category that year, once again just showing how utterly consistent she was year over year. 2020 well we all know the challenges of that year, as many barns were closing down to boarders to protect their staff, I felt so beyond lucky to have my crew at home under my own care. It was a crazy time and with everyone home all the time my barn and my pony time became especially crucial to my sanity. Also, that year Anne developed an abscess that just wouldn't heal. After further diagnostics it was uncovered that Anne had a keratoma and had surgery to remove it in October. It was a massive necrotic mass...absolutely amazing that she had run an event 2 weeks before that surgery...tells you how gritty she is and the size of her heart. It was a huge resection of the hoof wall so the aftercare was very involved, I spent a lot of time with the surgeon and when he wasn't at the farm checking in on the healing process, I was texting him updates every bandage change. We were cautiously optimistic about her full return to work. As the fall turned to winter and winter to spring she kept improving and we got the green light to start her back to work.

Getting her shod was quite the challenge without a hoof wall on that side – but my farrier worked his magic and she was back out eventing in June. She was sound and very happy to be back out doing her thing. We had a great blend of events and dressage shows for the season. Including yet another AECs trip for another top 20 finish. We worked very hard on our straight dressage too and earned qualifications for both first and second level at the USDF Regional Championships. This year this amazing tenacious consistent pony earned herself the USEF HOTY Championships in both Dressage and Eventing categories for the Connemara Halfbred.

Anne will be 20 in March and I was kind of thinking this would be her last big year and what a way for her to wrap up her career with two USEF HOTY Championships. Unfortunately, after dressage regionals we started dealing with more abscess like lameness. We opted to do some diagnostic work quickly and found a new mass growing in that same hoof further back toward the heel. She just underwent another round of surgery in mid-December. She is home now healing. My goal for her at this point is to have a happy and comfortable retirement. She will never leave my farm. This pony was supposed to be my mid life pony that I maybe did a few things with. Well, this feisty mare took me on so many amazing adventures and brought just the best people into my life. She has her own little fan group. Everyone always loved seeing “the little mare that could” jump around at all the Area 2 events. She gave me everything she had for 7 years...now I look forward to pampering her in her golden years. She has my complete heart. I am not sure what is next for me...I am hoping to have a new Connemara to play with in the future. Anne has absolutely made me a fan of the breed for life. I feel so honored to be her person. I have gotten more involved with the ACPS and now oversee the Fun with Your Pony Award. I look forward to more opportunities to support and work with Connemara's and their people. Truly a special group.



09/18/2021

# Connemara Sport Horse Registry Report

*Updated on 12/12/21 from the report  
submitted to the 2021 AGM Zoom Call.*

The Connemara Sport Horse registry continues to chug along as we add both older sport horses and new foals each year. The foal crops are becoming slightly larger with 3-5 being registered the last several years.

2021 is our largest year since the registry's inception with ten already registered and a few others 'floating' out there. We've had six 2021 foals registered so far, one 2020 foal registered, and four older horses. Three of the registrants required a Halfbred parent to be registered – added bonus – now we have three more Halfbreds that were previously lost to the record books. We continue to gain new members through this little registry as the word spreads.

There are finally quite a few out there competing – Rivendell's Royal Sparrow, BRS Dauntless Sparrow, Brambleridge Flex Ability – all in recognized horse trials. HMF International Delight has seen success this year in the dressage ring,

Picturesque Heartbreaker is still showing in the hunters and Rivendell's Olive Lucy is hunting in the Midwest. Two of this year's older horses are Nancy Hamill Winter's phenomenal eventers Crystal Crescent Moon & No May Moon. Crystal Crescent Moon has been a prolific winner this year at the Intermediate/\*\* level with Allison Springer in the tack.

A number of purpose-bred Connemara Sport Horse mares are making their mark in the breeding shed – Black Points Merrigold and Brambleridge Avril Sparrow are both breeding in GA, Brambleridge Truth or Dare is part of a program in Canada and Samantha – one of this year's registrants – is breeding hunter ponies in the Carolinas. All of these mares were registered at age two or older – a couple of them were already in their teens - and their owners find the 'Connemara' portion of the pedigree worth touting!

As of today, we have 46 individuals registered and quite a number of Halfbreds registered on their behalf.

## FOOTHILLS FARMS and PIEDMONT CONNEMARAS HOME OF

**Tullymor's Mountain Steel**

and

**Balmullo's Beacon**



**N/HWSD Available for live cover breeding**

(Tullymor's Mountain Shadow x Tullymor's Kiss of Sun)

**N/N Frozen Semen Only**

**2012 An Tostal & 2021 Tooreen Laddie**

**Hall of Fame Winner**

(Aladdin x Tullymor's April Fool)



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Vanessa and Charlie Morgan

Phone: 423-744-9071

Cell: 423-506-6975



*Rivendell's Royal Sparrow*

*(Innkeeper x Sparrow's Spring Mist by  
\*Grange Finn Sparrow)*

Rivendell's Royal Sparrow is a 9-year-old Connemara Sport Horse gelding bred by Lisa and Randy Rease, and owned by Andrea Hill and Dustin Corro.

Andrea bought the CSH as a 3-year-old and brought him along for a number of years before handing the reins over to Dustin.

Dustin is working "Roy" slowly up the levels in the jumper ring and hopes to contend the big fences classes with him one day. They ended this summer of 2021 with their first win in the jumper ring. Dustin reports that they are working on dressage this winter and may try Eventing next year.

# *Two Left Hands Farm Offers...*

## *For Sale ~*

*Three superbly bred Halfbred Connemaras. Each by a proven sire and out of quality mares. All very well handled and all have been shown. Winners at the 2021 Region III Show.*

*Donna Power ~ Yvonne Bach—(804) 854-9129 [twolefthandsfarm@gmail.com](mailto:twolefthandsfarm@gmail.com)*



*Sertich—by Landgate Bluebeard out of Magical Thinking, a Buckskin mare. This rising 2 year old gelding will surely be a Do It All Halfbred.*



*Showstopper—by \*Kilfenora Windy Isles, out of AllyKhan, Irish Sport Horse mare. This rising 2 year old filly will live up to her name.*



*Liam—16.2h, rising 3 year old gelding by Foothills Field Marshall out of AllyKhan (ISH). This gelding is the one everyone is seeking.*



## SAVE THE NEW DATE

### ACPS Annual Meeting Lexington KY

OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup>- 23<sup>RD</sup> 2022



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ACPS Members - Unique Horse Farm Tours\*

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Annual BOG Meeting - Awards Dinner

Guest Speakers - Region Basket Competition

Auction Items\* - Irish Pubs\*\*

University of KY - Garden Tour



\*These attractions will involve a \$ Cost. More details to come!

\*\* Self-Guided & Cost

### LEXINGTON DOWNTOWN HILTON

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RESERVATIONS \$149 PER NIGHT (EXPIRES 9/19/22)



Coming Soon: Group Code and Registration Link

More Info: Bonnie Reid 859-312-4971 [Mixedbordersky@gmail.com](mailto:Mixedbordersky@gmail.com)

# ACPS ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

October 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022



## LEXINGTON DOWNTOWN HILTON

369 West Vine Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40507  
1-859-231-9000, or toll free 1-877-539-1648

Coming Soon: Group Code and Registration Link

Registration Fees: Adult \$125 Junior \$35 10 & under: Free

Meeting Registration includes: Welcome Wine and Cheese Reception Friday night, Sat Meeting Lunch,  
Awards Dinner, and Hospitality Room Refreshments

Awards Banquet Only: Adult \$75 OR JR. \$35 OR 10 & UNDER FREE

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Arriving: \_\_\_\_\_ Rooming With: \_\_\_\_\_ Roommate Wanted: \_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergy: \_\_\_\_\_ Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to: ACPS Region V

Mail Registration: Bonnie Reid 1000 Fords Mill Road Versailles, KY 40383

859-312-4971

[Mixedbordersky@gmail.com](mailto:Mixedbordersky@gmail.com)

# “Out of Oklahoma by Truck” or A Little Primer on Horse Breeding Lingo

When you join the horsey world, you are exposed to a lot of new things. Most of them cost money, One of the things that is free, is the lingo. Because everyone starts somewhere or if you have embarrassed yourself by referring to chestnuts as those things that hang down between a stallion’s legs, here are some common terms breeders like to banter around.

Let’s start with the title of this article “Out of Oklahoma by Truck” In this example, Oklahoma would be a mare and Truck would be the stallion. A horse is BY a stallion (the stud) and OUT of a mare (the dam) . An easy way to remember this – the horse actually did come OUT of a mare. Other mare related terms include “distaff” which always means the mare side of the pedigree and “tail female line” which following he distaff side of the pedigree down through the female line. Tail male refers to the same concept on the “top side” of the pedigree. Let’s move on to siblings.

Generally the dam side is referred to when establishing sibling relations. A “sister” or a “brother” to a horse is normally used to indicate siblings out of the same mare, regardless of the sire. A full sibling is by the same stallion out of the same mare. Siblings by the same stallion but with different dams are usually not referred to as siblings at all due to the large number of offspring a stallion can have. Instead of being brothers or sisters, they are simply “by” the same sire. A  $\frac{3}{4}$  sibling is generally out of the same mare by sires that are either half-brothers -out of the same mare or by the same sire.

Although not a breeding term per se, the term “blooded” or “the blood” is often heard in horse breeding circles. In the horse world “blooded” is used to refer to the Thoroughbred breed. In the non-horsey world, the word Thoroughbred is often used interchangeably with the term purebred which of course is not accurate. This is probably some long standing vernacular interpretation of the Thoroughbred being the “true blood” of horsemanship, ie the purebred. Most of us have had the experience of standing proudly in front of the fruits of labors, showing off our gorgeous new foal crop while explaining all the wonderful qualities of the Connemara and your aunt/uncle/cousin etc asks “ So are they thoroughbreds? “ As you try to regain your composure you decide to still feed them dinner because they are really just asking if they are purebreds. Consider it a chance to educate.

While talking about the blood, we now have to specify the “temperature” of that blood. The Thoroughbred is considered to be the “hot blooded” horse along with many of the other light horse breeds. Cold-blooded is a term typically applied to draft horses and some ponies. This group is characterized by steady temperaments, strength and stamina. This is not a reference to

body temperature. A warm-blood by definition is a hot blooded breed crossed with a cold blooded breed. The goal of this cross is a middleweight sport horse of many breeds and types.

Since the goal of most breeders is to produce baby horses, it’s important to know what to call them! Of course all horse people know a colt is a male baby horse and a female baby horse is a filly. In the non-horsey world a colt is often used interchangeably. Foal is the interchangeable term, used to refer to a colt or a filly until the age of weaning. After weaning they are a colt or filly until the age of 3-4 years. Foals are the “get” of their sire and the “produce” of their dam. The stallion that sired your broodmare is a damsire or broodmare sire.

In these days of chilled and frozen semen and artificial insemination the word “cover” is not as intuitively obvious as it may once have been. A stallion “covers” a mare when he breeds her. It makes sense when you have seen it “in the flesh” although you may want to cover your eyes!

For most purposes a foal is considered “bred” in the locality in which it is born regardless of where conceived. Therefore a mare who is bred (covered) in Ireland, imported to the US and foals in her new home is the dam of an American bred foal. For most registries the same line of thinking is applied to the breeder of record. The breeder is the person who owns/leases the mare at the time of foaling which may not be the person who owned the mare at the time of breeding.

Many breeding contracts offer a “live foal guarantee”. A live foal is one that not only is born alive but a foal that stands and nurses normally in the expected amount of time. For many breeding contracts it is essential that the foal stands and nurses with minimal assistance to determine if the live foal guarantee is in force and/or in some cases the stud fee required to be paid. Many Thoroughbred and Standardbred stud fees are not due and payable until after the foal stands and nurses.

The state of a male horse’s “family jewels” offers up a few terms which often require clarification. Different breeds tend to have their own favorite terminology so it’s nice to know what your horse friends are talking about. A horse with a retained testicle is called a cryptorchid to a veterinarian. The large majority of retained testicles are only on one side so more accurately these horses are unilateral cryptorchids. Occasionally you will hear the term monorchid for the unilateral cryptorchid but cryptorchid seems to be the term preferred by the veterinary community. A horse with two retained testes is a bilateral cryptorchid. Many registries do not allow the breeding of cyptorchids as it is considered a heritable trait. The Jockey Club ( the registry body



# HIDDEN CREEK HORSES

## \* Coud'Poker Tartifume "Cooper"



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*Westide Mirah II*

*(Westside Mirah ) x Quitas DeLaLoue (Dexter Leam Pondi)*

*Granddam is Don Juan V x Naughty Van Graaf Janshof. Great Granddams were Grand Prix Ponies:*

*Neioui Ninon Tartifume and Violene II.*

*N/N Foaled in 2012*

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of the Thoroughbred in the US) is not one of these and allows for cryptorchids to be bred. While unilateral cryptorchids usually have normal fertility, horses that are bilaterally retained are usually sterile. Thoroughbred folk refer to the unilateral cryptorchids as “ridgelings” or “rigs”. Leading sire AP Indy was a ridgeling.

As every Connemara enthusiast knows, the Connemara cross is a great ambassador for our breed. When two horse of known parentage such as a Connemara stallion and a Thoroughbred mare are crossed, the resultant foal is termed a “crossbred” and in this specific example would be a half-bred Connemara. This is different than the term “grade” which generally considered a horse of unknown parentage/ancestry.

Knowing the lingo is important in any endeavor. A person can know everything essential in horse world but if the wrong terminology is used, it’s hard to convince the horse world of your competence.

*Note from the Editor - this article is a reprint from a 2013 issue, and the author has been “lost”. Nevertheless, the explanation of the vocabulary we all use in conversations with our “horsey” friends stands the test of time. If any reader has an addition to the list of vocab words, please send it along to americanconnemara@gmail.com  
And, if you wrote the original article, please let me know!*

# CALENDAR

Region III St. Patrick’s Day Meeting - March

Region I - Annual Show, So. Woodstock, VT - July

Region III - Annual Show, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, VA - Sept. 2, 3, 4, 2022

ACPS Annual Meeting - Lexington, Kentucky, Oct. 19 - 23, 2022.

Please send your clinic, show, special events, and meeting dates to [americanconnemara@gmail.com](mailto:americanconnemara@gmail.com)



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## ***Sunshine Valley's Minnie***

***(Wildwych Thunder Snow x Mint Julip)***

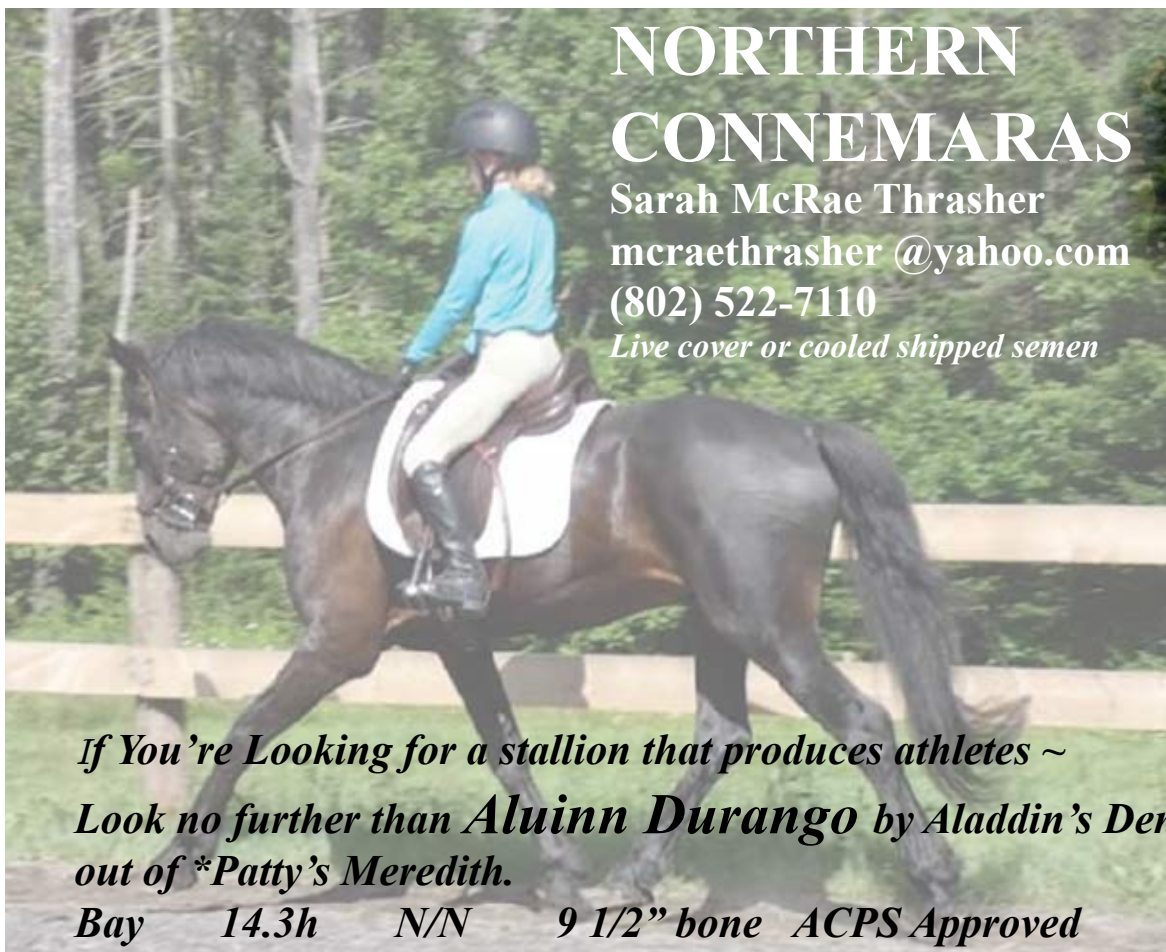
***Aiden Beaubien, owner/rider***

My horse Minnie and I have been doing a lot of riding lessons with our Pony Club. We have been learning not only about dressage but also on how we can become better partners.

I am excited because we are going to be going to the Southern California Pony Club Reign Super Clinic and will be doing the D rated jump clinic.

This past weekend we completed our first Dressage4Kids clinic with Lendon Gray. It was two really fun and long days. Minnie and I had a blast with our private lessons where we learned new techniques to better help us perform in dressage. I also went to all the lectures where I learned to braid and do Minnie's polo wraps

. In conclusion, Minnie and I did a lot of time in the saddle with our Pony Club and Dressage4Kids. Oh, and Minnie and I accumulated 89 points this show season!



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## *Connemara Sport Horse*

Fortune Cookie, a Connemara Sport Horse bred, trained, owned, and ridden by Nikki Merle-Smith of Virginia, started the season with a very successful outing at the ACPS Region III Connemara Show and the blue ribbon in the Combined Test. The mare topped off her 2021 with two more successful outings. At the Warrenton Hunt Night in September, she was second out of more than 30 entries in the Field Hunter Over Fences ages 30 - 45 class, fifth in the Staff Class, and eighth with her partner in the Pairs Class. She went on to the Pennsylvania National Horse Show Hunt Night in October and was third out of 33 entries in the 35 & Under class, sixth with her Keswick Hunt Club Team in the Teams Class.

Fortune Cookie is a 2013 Chestnut mare by the Holsteiner Concerto Grosso out of the Eventing Champion Halfbred Connemara Ganymede by Ballywhim An Luan out of Court Hawk.

# *It's a Family Affair --- Sisters*

## *Ridgetop Royal Locket*

*By Nora Goldfarb*

I've been so lucky this year to accomplish what I have with my wonderful halfbred Connemara Ridgetop Royal Locket (Aladdin's Denver x Secure). "Maddie" helped me earn my USPC "A" riding rating earlier this summer.

We also debuted at third level and earned the Reserve Champion title for second level in the small horse division in the US Dressage Pony Cup. We had many successful runs at the prelim and CCI2\* levels, and showed at three hunter derbies throughout the year.

I had Maddie at school with me this fall at Bryn Mawr College, and she was truly fantastic. She took right to foxhunting and we hunted with Radnor a few times this fall. She was so easy to have around and is one I can ride bareback one day and take to a show the next. Maddie is so versatile and can really do well at a relatively high level across many disciplines. I can also just hop on her bareback whenever and ride around. She is an exemplary Connemara and really can do it all.



## *Denver's Twobits*



*By Margo Goldfarb*

It all started when my mom saw an ad online for a Connemara/Thoroughbred filly by Aladdin's Denver (a stallion my mom herself campaigned and my grandparents stood). While we didn't get the filly at the time, several years later she made her way into our lives via a family friend.

Twobits was filled with joie de vivre and always loved to make things more exciting than necessary. I was itching to event and she was the perfect partner; immensely talented and very willing. We climbed the eventing ladder together from beginner novice through intermediate/CCI\*.

When I went to college, it seemed like the perfect time to breed the next superstar (my mom and I always joked about cloning her anyway!). After doing some research, I found a nice blood stallion in the hopes of producing a Connemara sporthorse suited to event.

Despite breeding being financially as well as emotionally taxing, it all seemed to pay off this May when Teddy (Raven Sky- Twobits-Aladdin's Denver) came into our lives. He was quite the handful from day one but very willing and inquisitive, just like his mom. I cannot predict how he will mature, but I am thrilled with him so far so fingers crossed!

In the meantime, we are hoping for another foal next spring. Twobits has been truly exceptional in everything we have done together; from being a stellar eventer, jumper, bareback hacker, mom, and companion. I hope that the next generation lives up to Twobits; I think the goal of breeding is to make each generation a little bit better, so if they're a little better than the previous generation, they will be amazing!

Even though I am related to long-time Connemara breeders, after this experience, I have a newfound perspective and respect for breeders. So, thank you to all the breeders for your passion and hard work that you put in to produce all the ponies and horses I've loved!



*"Teddy" the young Connemara Sport Horse*



# Registration and the Database

## Notes from the ACPS Registrar for Halfbreds and Purebreds ~

2021 may have been a challenging year for many people but in the Connemara world, it was a year of welcoming an increased foal population for both purebred and halfbred Connemaras. The number of foals produced has slowly increased since the downturn in the economy some time ago, but unlike the stock market, it takes a long time to recover from a foal crop total that was only 25 registered purebred foals in the nation.

There were more foals bred in those years, but it turns out, many were not registered. That fact remains a mystery for any sensible reason, but it is now evident as many foals of years' past are finally getting papers.

One surmises that the current popularity of the Connemara has made breeders and owners look for those jewels standing in the back pasture, and finally get their paperwork completed!

The process has become more "complicated" as more and more items are added to the registration procedures. The first addition was the microchip. Each foal, purebred, halfbred, and CSH, gets a microchip now. Each breeder is expected to have a vet insert that chip, and fill out the form sent with the registration papers. The chip number is printed on the registration form, both TFC and permanent. Please don't just stash the microchip in the desk drawer. Many shows and events require chip numbers, and will scan the pony at the class ring. The chip is

a safety measure, and we have identified ponies that have been "rescued" from auctions and sales barns.

Another plus that comes with registration is the USEF Lifetime Recording Number. The ACPS pays for that record, and it opens many doors to showing in USEF recognized competitions. For 2021, the file of registered 2021 foals is being sent to the USEF as I complete this magazine. Owners should be getting the recording numbers in January 2022.

The ACPS requires DNA samples from hair for the registration of all purebreds. The DNA results are kept in the database at the lab, and if additional tests are done, those records are also in that database. The ACPS sends a copy of the DNA markers with the registration certificate.

In addition, if the animal to be registered is by, or out of, a purebred or halfbred that is not N/N, the ACPS will test the hair for Hoof Wall status. If both parents are N/N, no test will be done, as the pedigree proves the N/N status. The results of the Hoof Wall test are also printed on the registration certificate.

At present, the ACPS database is being updated, and installed in a new laptop to replace the old ailing one. The new registration certificates will include Hoof Wall status, Microchip number, USEF number, and Premium mare and/or Stallion status. Up to now, all of those items have been tagged onto the Name line, but will now have a "field" of their own so we can search on all of those.

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# HK's Danny Boy

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# USEF Horse of the Year Awards

## USEF Connemara Horse of the Year Awards 2021

### Halfbred Hunter

1. Prize, Jennifer Daly (Greystone Ian McVai x TB)
2. Bright Star, Lynn Harrington (Greystone Ian McVai x TB)
3. Picturesque Heartbreaker, Marino Frano (Greystone Ian McVai x TB)
4. Morning Glory's Belle Fille, Janet Gunn (Fiddler's Glory Boy x French Letters TB)

### Halfbred Dressage

1. Labras Leannan, Jennifer Garutti (162) (\*Hayselden Perseus x Laurel)
2. MTF Cooley Caliber, Skyeler Voss (42)
3. Dry Brooks Annika's Angel, Sara Carlisle (39) (Dry Brook's Moon River x Roscommon Annika)
4. Talamah Bound, Tammy Lisi and TBF Triton's Rauri, Grette Witt (Tied) (27) (\*Smaragaid Cliff x Tartan, TK)
5. Kynynmont Gunsmoke's Gideon, Pam Liddell (24) (\*Gun Smoke x Kynynmont Tara)

### Halfbred Eventing

1. Labras Leannan, Jennifer Garutti (99)
2. Fate's Patriot, Laura Dehamel (54) (Concord River Roaringwater Bay x TB)
3. Gold to Blue Trapper Jack, Carrie Meehan (36)
4. Big Bear's Cepheus, Tessa Geven (24) (Cor de Lux x Big Bear's Esther)
5. Sparrow's Owen, Megan Harris (14) (\*Grange Finn Sparrow x Savings Carrie)

### Halfbred Jumper (Open)

1. Spoot DeLa Jourlais, Kennedy Chang (522)
2. Ridgetop Royal Locket, Sally Goldfarb (81) (Aladdin's Denver x TB)
3. Fabrianna DR, Shauna Pingrey (69)
4. RR Cool Play, Ryder Richardson (Bentley O'Dea x Corner Oak Penelope)

### Halfbred Hunter (Open)

1. Radiance, Allison Coleman (2682) (JEF Sir Lancelot x Ruby)
2. Molly Bloom, Gabrielle Bernier (342)



*Prize, owned by Jennifer Daly, shown here at Warrenton Pony Show, Virginia*



*Labras Leannan owned and ridden by Jennifer Garutti*



*Ridgetop Royal Locket, owned by Sally Goldfarb and ridden by her daughter, Nora Goldfarb*

# \*Kays Moonlight



*Tanzen*  
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\*Kays Moonlight was imported from Ireland in 2018. Registered Class 1 with CPBS in Ireland and ACPS in the U.S Great temperament! Anyone can ride him, he can go alone or with other horses.

\*Kays Moonlight is 14.3h, is a N/N on hoof separation, he is homozygous grey, currently eventing at Beginner Novice and will start Novice next season.

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# From the Breeders' Committee

## *The Breeders Committee*

*The ACPS Breeders Committee was formed earlier this year to provide a resource to our breeders. The goal of the Committee is to support and educate breeders of Connemara ponies. Following is the second article to be printed in the Magazine (the first was by Kathy Sparks on inspections) and this one is by Lisa Martin-Gerdes. Please feel free to contact any one of us with your questions and suggestions.*

*Members are: Lisa Martin-Gerdes, Kathy Sparks, Deb Norman, Kate DeLaVega, Fonda Eigel, Chris Knox, and Kate Denton.*

*Lisa Martin-Gerdes and her family own and operate Redbud Ranch in California, and stand the stallion Redbud's Blue Moon.*

## Considering the Coefficient Of Inbreeding

Sometimes breeding plans happen just before or during the holiday season. Experienced breeders like to take advantage of early booking specials and stallion service auctions to secure a season for their mare at the best available pricing. Many factors are considered when choosing which ponies to use in our breeding programs, including: type, conformation, temperament, performance, offspring, coat color, pedigree, etc. Assessing inbreeding coefficients should be another consideration as we make our breeding choices.

To guarantee that our Connemara Ponies remain a viable genetic resource, we must continue to monitor and promote diversity within our breeding population. Genetic diversity allows breeders to continue selecting for and producing high-quality ponies both now and in the future. If there were no genetic variation, all ponies would be genetically indistinguishable, and our choices would not result in any new variation or improvement in the next generation. The loss of genetic diversity is driven by inbreeding, sometimes referred to as linebreeding. Inbreeding results from the breeding of related ponies and reduces genetic variability. Reduced variation reduces individual fitness and has a detrimental effect on health, reproduction, and performance. Inbreeding is also associated with higher mortality, diminished fertility, increased developmental defects, greater susceptibility to disease and stress, and reduced competitive ability.

## Wrights Coefficient of Inbreeding

Over time, animal breeders have recognized that mating two related individuals resulted in more uniform, predictable, and often desirable characteristics. Predictability is essential to all breeds and implies a certain level of genetic uniformity. However, early breeders also noticed that higher levels of inbreeding produced traits that diminished the usefulness and quality of their animals, and the greater the level of inbreeding, the higher the consequences.

Both the benefits and the risks associated with inbreeding result from homozygosity. Homozygosity is the condition of possessing identical variations of a particular gene; one inherited from each parent.

As an aid for breeders in the early 1900s, Sewall Wright created the Coefficient of Inbreeding (COI) to measure inbreeding. This equation estimated the level of inbreeding that would result from a particular mating, so breeders had a tool for weighing potential risks and advantages. Two positives that result from inbreeding are uniformity and prepotency. Uniformity is vital to transmitting type traits, those characteristics that set one breed apart from another. For our Purebred ponies, ideal type traits are summarized in the Breed Standard for the Connemara Pony. Breed standards favor uniformity (breeding for type), and to achieve this uniformity, a certain level of inbreeding and reduced genetic variation is involved. Genetic uniformity ensures that purebreds maintain a certain level of consistency from generation to generation. Prepotency is the ability of an individual to stamp its own trademark qualities on a majority of its offspring.

## What does COI tell me?

The inbreeding coefficient represents the probability that alleles at a randomly selected location on the chromosome are identical by descent. In other words, the likelihood of inheriting two copies of the same allele from a pony-ancestor that appears on both sides of a pedigree. These alleles are called "identical by descent." The inbreeding coefficient also calculates the percentage of all of an individual's homozygous genes (two identical copies of the same allele). For example, a foal with an inbreeding coefficient of 5% has a 1 in 5 chance of inheriting two copies of the same allele, and 5% of its genes will be homozygous. Breeders should recognize that Wright's equation will only consider repeated ancestors if the same ancestor appears on both sides of a pedigree. So if you have a stallion that is inbred and a mare that is inbred but not to the same pony-ancestor, the inbreeding coefficient will underestimate the level of inbreeding from that potential mating. Most online databases will assume that the earliest recorded ancestors in a pedigree are unrelated. Therefore, a COI calculated from too few generations could appear much less than COIs calculated from a 100-generation pedigree. In computing COIs using online pedigree data, it is best to use

as many generations as possible. To put this in perspective, we know that only six ancestors contributed half of the genetics found in our modern ponies (Characterization of the Connemara Pony. Feely, Brophy, and Quinn, 2004). We also know that only three ancestors (Carna Bobby, Carna Dun, and Dun Lorenzo) contributed a disproportionate share of these genes. From a more recent study of Irish Connemara Ponies, the average COI within the population was estimated to be 4.4% (The Level of Inbreeding Within The Connemara Population. Web Blog Post, Latest News. CPBS 12/14/2015). To put this number in perspective, a mating of first cousins results in a COI of 6.25%.

### **Is there a good COI?**

The primary purpose of the inbreeding coefficient was to give breeders a way to balance both the positive and negative consequences of inbreeding. The breeder's responsibility is to weigh these benefits against any potential risks from a particular match and choose an acceptable balance.

Outcrossed individuals (offspring resulting from unrelated parents) may be very desirable in every way but may lack the ability to pass those traits on in the next generation. Increasing the COI could potentially correct this lack of desirable prepotency, but health risks exist. For this reason, there is no one right level of inbreeding.

Research suggests that the adverse effects of inbreeding become noticeable at a COI of about 5%. At a COI of 10%, there can be a considerable loss of vigor and increased expression of recessive mutations. So, a COI of less than 5% is best concerning health and performance. Above 10%, there are risks, and every breeder needs to weigh these risks against whatever benefit is anticipated.

### **What about Genetic Screening?**

Utilizing DNA testing and responsible breeding practices for disorders caused by a single recessive mutation will eliminate the risk of producing an affected foal. But like all animals, every pony has many hidden genetic defects (most of which will have minimal, if any, effect on the individual). These hidden mutations have few consequences and are often quickly dismissed.

It is the accumulation of these minor defects, though, that results in the diminished health and performance seen in inbred animals.

This decline in well-being is termed "inbreeding depression." All ponies contain some level of recessive alleles. Inbreeding increases the homozygosity of these alleles giving rise to new

mutations. Genetic screening can tell you about a specific gene, a known risk such as HWSD or SCC, for example. But if the COI of a Pony is excessively high, you can expect that new harmful mutations will accumulate and manifest in future generations. To breed hardy, healthy good performing ponies, we need to consider the inherent risks of high COI, and the one thing we can be sure of is that there are many more hidden mutations than the ones we can test for.

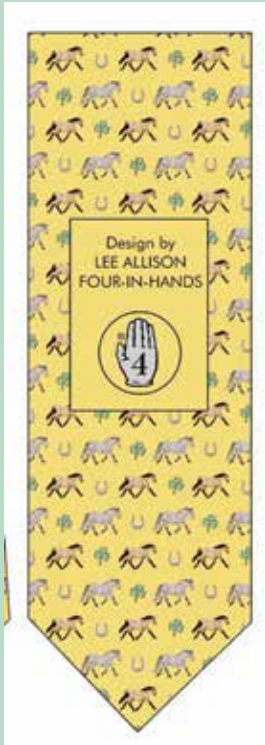
### **Final Thoughts**

So what can you do to sustain herd health and preserve our breed's genetic resources? Let's use the best tools available and avoid unnecessary inbreeding. Let's test our ponies for known mutations and use those test results and your knowledge to avoid perpetuating the harmful effects of inbreeding and keep as many breeding animals in the gene pool as possible. Combined with DNA screening, COI estimates are our best means to protect the Connemara Pony as a viable genetic resource. Remember that there is no one right In Breeding Coefficient, and it is not a measure of the quality of an individual. But we can use it to evaluate inbreeding levels and avoid excessive inbreeding. Choosing partners that will result in offspring with desirable traits and with reduced inbreeding coefficients is always recommended.

By Lisa Martin-Gerdes



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# *Tre Awain Halfbred Winners Through the Years*

The ACPS Hall of Fame Tre Awain Halfbred Trophy has been awarded since 1984 when D.J. Moore and her daughter, Laura Balding, donated the trophy to recognize the career of outstanding achievement. The following list is a wonderful record of those halfbreds that have made their marks in many disciplines, in many arenas, and definitely made impressions on the hearts of their owners and riders.

1984 – Tre Awain Belfast – Bred by Three Creek Farm, owned by Nancy Winter, by Tre Awain Roderick O’Conor out of a TB mare.

1985 – Seldom Seen – Bred by Peg Whitehurst, owned by Kim Whitehurst and ridden by Lendon Gray, out of Tarsown Tully by the TB Mitipo.

1986 – Not Awarded

1987 – Shadyridge Rosemont’s Colleen bred by Ulla-Britt Ekengren and owned by Liz Platais, ridden by Cindy and Rachael Platais, by Poppa Grande, TB, out of Round Robin’s Rosemont.

1988 – Greystone Billy Moon and Greystone Sir Oliver – bred by Marianne Alexander, owned and driven by Lana duPont Wright, they were by Hideaway’s Greystone-Alex out of Greystone Lady (TB).

1989 – Ramblin Rose Honora, bred by Margaret Barisone, owned and ridden by Linda Pearsall, by Norothan (TB) out of Clynnagh Rose’s Tulip.

1990 – Tre Awain’s Red Rocker bred by Three Creek Farm, owned by Max Riter, by Tre Awain Roderick O’Conor out of Shining Nob (TB).

1991 – Hideaway’s Dividend – bred by Hideaway Farm, owned by Susan Foryt Arney, by Hideaway’s Erin Smithereen out of Marletta (TB).

1992- Gilnocky Soul on Ice – bred by Gilnocky Farm, owned by Pam Schwarz, by Fox Ridge Star Light out of Rip Time (TB).

1993 – Last Scene – bred by Mrs. Robert Whitehurst, ridden by Lendon Gray, by Night Before Last (TB) out of Tully Roblassie.

1994 – Dun Laddin – bred by Ridgetop Connemaras, owned and driven by Lorraine Tilney, by Aladdin out of Larque (Tb/Clydesdale).

1995 – Balmullo’s Amazing Grace – bred by Donna Duckworth, owned and ridden by Katherine Leigh Harper, by Sy-A (TB) out of Rose Hill’s Glenconi.

1996 – Tre Awain Waterford – bred by Three Creek Farm, owned and ridden by Nancy Winter, by Tre Awain Roderick O’Conor out of Florida (TB).

1997 – Syzygy St. Finbar – bred by Mrs. R. Sayre, owned by Jim Gornall, by Face East (TB) out of \*Dairina.

1998 – Not Awarded

1999 – McCardon’s Kilkerrin Concorde – bred and owned by Ellicott Million, by Bar Bar A’s Kilkerrin Paddy out of McCardon’s Pretty Me (Appaloosa).

2000 – Not Awarded

2001 – Not Awarded

2002 – Black Points Tilly Go Bragh – bred by Mary Delton, ridden by John Williams, by Hideaway’s Erin Go-Bragh out of Skipper (TB).

2003 – C.K. Emily Grey bred by Carol Coyne owned and ridden by Dawn Weniger, by Hideaway’s Erin Smithereen out of Genesee Star (TB).

2004 – Funny Farm’s Dutch Sparrow – bred by Harry DeLeyer, owned and ridden by Kathy and Samantha Williams, by \*Grange Finn Sparrow out of Dutch Trim (TB).

2005 – Hideaway’s Cracker Jack – bred by Hideaway Farm, owned and ridden by Robyn Fillman, by Hideaway’s Erin Smithereen out of Frisk (TB).

2006 – Hideaway’s Flicker – bred by Carolyn Kissell, owned and ridden by Kathy O’Hara, by Hideaway’s Erin Smithereen out of a TB mare.

2007 – C.K.C. Katie – bred by Carol Coyne, owned and ridden by Carolyn McEvvitt, by Hideaway’s Erin Go-Bragh out of Feather In My Cap (TB).

2008 – Ridgetop Ringdancer – bred by Ridgetop Connemaras, owned and ridden by Debbie Busta, by Aladdin’s Denver out of Flosie’s Turn (TB).

2009 – Tre Awain Centrix – bred by Three Creek Farm, owned by Mary Zell, by Tre Awain Roderick O’Conor out of Easter Bunny (TB)>

2010 – Indecent Proposal – bred by Elayne Knight, owned by Dawn, Andrew, and Anna Weniger, by Greystone Ian McVai out of Gossip (TB).

2011 – Take Time – bred by Lynn Blades, owned by Lynn Blades and ridden by Carol Kozlowski, by Hideaway’s Erin Go-Bragh out of Vacation Time (TB).

2012 – Bantry Bay’s Devon – bred by Candy Verhulst owned by Eliza Farren, by Springledge Bantry Bay, out of Happy Talk (TB).

2013 – Not Awarded

2014 – Gaelic Holiday – bred and owned by

Lynn Blades, ridden by Carol Kozlowski, by Hideaway's Ein Go-Bragh, out of Vacation Fun (TB).

2015 – Orion's Dunaire – bred by Jenny Youngblood, owned by Lee Thomas, by Skyview's Orion out of Sweet Harmony.

2016 – Sparrow's Owen – bred by Tootie Jones, owned and ridden by Megan Harris, by \*Grange Finn Sparrow out of Savings Carrie (TB).

2017 – Tricreek Greystone Laughlin – bred by Mary Lou Thall, owned and driven by Kim Stover, by Greystone McErrill out of Wise Precept (TB).

2018 – Cedar's Kiss Me Kate – bred by Eileen Berkeley, owned by Darcy and Daphne Bigelow, by Tre Awain Irish Sweeps out of Hillside Elizabeth.

2019 – Glynmary Mary Rose – bred by Gerard Pearsson owned and ridden by Kay Clements, by Tre Awain McGill out of Alie Ahna.



*Glynmary Mary Rose and Kay Clements*



*Sparrow's Owen, owned and ridden by Megan Buchanan, has been awarded Halfbred Connemara of the Year and has won the Tre Awain Halfbred Hall of Fame Award.*



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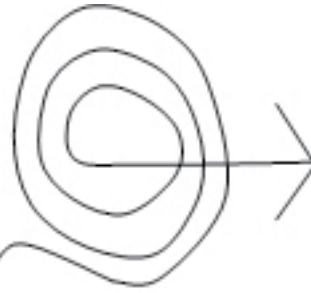
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*Handwritten signature*

## Our Way Forward



*By Christine Kelton  
Assisted by Trout Ranch Polly Claire  
(\*Smaragaid Cliff x New Song's Autumn)*

### Episode 13- Pony Personalities- Part 2 In Praise of the Mares

My quest for learning about where horses' personalities come from continues. In the last article, I discovered several physical reasons for some of Polly's behaviors - Lyme disease and glandular ulcers, and described symptoms and our medical plan for eliminating them. Hopefully, this information helped my fellow Connemara enthusiasts because this can happen to any horse. Never did I dream that my air fern girl who lives mostly out would be the candidate for an ulcer! I've spent the past few weeks reading articles about what determines horse behaviors and personalities, and what I've learned is very interesting! I'm not a scientist, or a breeder. I'm just the owner of a pony mare with a big personality who enjoys doing some research that I hope you will enjoy, and which may spark some thoughtfulness and conversation. I'd love to hear what you think, so feel free to email me at [cckelton@gmail.com](mailto:cckelton@gmail.com).

Bear with me a moment while I seem to change course. I promise this relates to this article! What picture comes to mind when you think of how people in Africa live? Several years ago I attended the Bat Mitzvah for a friend's daughter, and she spoke about a TED talk called "The Danger of a Single Story." If you have 19 minutes, go to YouTube, type in that title, and watch it. It has stuck with me through the years because it has such a wide connection to many aspects of life. My big takeaway is that we all have experiences in life that shape our beliefs, those beliefs spread, and turn into preconceived ideas when they become ubiquitous within societies, or even groups. And it's also very possible that these ideas are far from the truth.

Even though I'm not a breeder, I love all the chatter and excitement this time of year when friends are getting ready to choose a stallion for their mares. I'm jealous. In the back of my mind I'm always thinking how much I love Polly, and I should breed her. But then reality sets in. First, she's my riding pony and very good at what she does; second, I don't own a farm. I'm a boarder, and a second pony doubles my board. And third, honestly, I don't have the time to ride two. I do my own



work where I board, and after working all day, then coming home and mucking... one is enough. But then I think about how much I'd love to have another Polly ... I'd rather convince Linda Haines to make another one for me. :) But it's still fun to go to the Facebook stallions of North America page, or Elsie Priddy's comprehensive stallion spreadsheet, and of course the Stallion issue of this magazine is absolutely fantastic! It's fun to dream and to talk with my friends who are breeders.

From what I understand, a very basic premise is that breeders look at their mares, decide what they want to improve on, and choose the stallion that best fits the bill. They look at the pedigrees and make sure they wouldn't be too closely related, and see how many of the original lines are represented. And they consider color, what type of movement they want, and they look at offspring already on the ground that a stallion has produced. Of course, temperament is key, as well. And HWSD status! A few sentences about what to do doesn't seem like nearly enough. If it were that easy, straightforward, and predictable, it wouldn't be nearly as exciting. At the end of the day, what I've heard over and over is that the end result is "a crapshoot." Maybe a controlled one, but you just never know. When I think of my own children, I totally get it. Never were two full siblings so vastly different.

It has always seemed to me that the stallions get most of the buzz. Which made me think, what about the mares? How much of a difference do the mares make? I hear a lot less about this, and it made me think that this may be another big piece of the personality puzzle. In June 2018, Dressage Today had a terrific article on the importance of mares in breeding:

“In the majority of cases, breeding experts will tell you the mare’s characteristics override the stallion’s. A rule of thumb in the breeding world is that you can breed a mediocre stallion to a great mare and still have a nice foal. But breed a great stallion to an undesirable mare? The results will be disastrous. Temperament, conformation and talent are each critically tied to the mare’s genetic structure, a structure she passes from generation to generation. Therefore, understanding the mare’s crucial role in the breeding process is an undeniably essential part of the breeding equation.”



*Exmoor Irish Jack*  
(Photo credit to Glenormiston Connemara Pony Stud, 7/4/2008 at 12 years old)



*Trout Ranch Polly Claire*  
8/2020 at 5 years old

The top photo is Exmoor Irish Jack, Polly’s maternal grandsire. The next photo is Polly at age 5. Not even considering the color, there is a remarkable resemblance between these two that may not be as clear in these pictures. Polly often has that same stance, and for sure she has been widening over the past year. Polly’s dam line shows a strong influence two generations back.

German Hanoverian breeder Ingo Pape in the same article explained that mares are the “basis of the breeding equation” and what they contribute to the breeding equation is passed on for generations.

The damlines are the origin of all breeding products and are passed consistently through all generations. “It is easier to switch to a different stallion if a certain combination of mare and stallion does not produce a good foal,” Pape says. “If you have a mare with a negative trait, you can try to select the right stallion to override that trait, but that approach will seldom succeed completely. Mares pass on everything-not only their appearance, health, character, temperament and movement, but little things such as ticklishness, ear shyness and chewing on the reins. Every little thing moves from generation to generation.”

Genetics are key, but the mare is so important because that’s who raises the foal and teaches it so much in its first few months. The early input of the mother will affect the foal for its entire life. There is a strong genetic component, but environment, and early training by humans, is also key. The result of this combination can have unfair consequences on the reputations of both sires and dams, but I’m wondering if it falls more often on the stallion’s head?

Back to the danger of the single story. If you watched that TED talk video, maybe it changed your perception about a typical African upbringing. I thought it was funny in a mirthful way, and admit that when I thought of life in Africa, the mud hut was the picture in my mind. Shame on me maybe, but I also once had a student adopted from Ethiopia, and he told me about not having shoes and walking around with a gourd filled with water, dreading when the water pipe would be shut off again. It’s easy to form an opinion about something when you’ve heard a story or two about it. But what does that have to do with horse personalities?

I think it’s safe to say that breeders want to produce horses with good temperaments, so that they are good citizens and safe for human handlers. Stallions are definitely campaigned and marketed much more than mares, but of course one stallion can have potentially hundreds of offspring every year, whereas a mare can only have one unless humans step in with technology. But my question is, are we discounting what the mare brings to the table? Are stallions being given too much credit for what is produced, in both positive and potentially negative ways?

The danger of the single story in horse breeding is that a stallion gets a reputation - positive or negative - that can cause it to be underused or even overused, in which case the small Connemara gene pool becomes even smaller. Do breeders have mares who are not being bred anymore because they haven’t liked the results? If the mare is lacking, even the best stallion will not make up for that according to expert breeders. My vet once said to me, “Just because it has a uterus doesn’t mean it should be bred.” Warmblood breeders in Europe start their mares under

saddle, and if they don't show a certain ridability, or the gaits they want, they aren't bred. Often they're shipped to America to become show ring hunters - Polly lives with a barnload of these beautiful horses who are superb for that job.

And speaking of jobs, our ponies definitely have preferences and their personalities shine when they're given a job to do that they love. Polly loves fox hunting and hunter pacing - I think maybe she's a bit of an adrenaline junkie. We have "conversations" about this when I tell her that her weekend warrior habits are fun and all, but during the week she needs to compromise and put some polish on in the sandbox. (Brakes are useful. So is turning. And we've used leg yields a lot when someone behind us gets a little too close!) She can be good in the ring, but when we step off the trailer at a meet she's ready to rock.

I love watching the videos of all those Connemara stallions out there performing. Breeders and riders are totally rocking it! Great job promoting your stallions. I'm thinking that it's too bad your nice broodmares are so busy having babies that they can't be campaigned, because as a mare owner, it's always uplifting to see what the girls can do, too. Even though I'm not in the breeding game, I totally appreciate your dedication to this wonderful breed, and your never-ending quest to produce do-it-all athletes with temperaments suitable for anyone, including children and "grannies."

SOURCES:

Dressage Today - The Mare Matters in Sporthorse Breeding  
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June 12, 2018.

Thoroughbred Daily News  
Equine Temperament: Nature, Nurture, or Both?  
Monday, April 8, 2019 at 3:20 pm | Back to: [Shared News](#), [Top News Europe](#)  
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"Genetics of Equine Behavioral Traits"  
Carissa Wickens, Samantha A. Brooks  
Department of Animal Sciences, University of Florida, UF Genetics Institute  
August 2020  
Published in [Equine Genetic Diseases](#) - Clinics Review Articles





## **Halfbred Connemaras in the Hall of Fame**

*(Above) Carol Kozolowski on Gaelic Holiday (by Hideaway's Erin Go-Bragh) winners of ACPS Halfbred Awards and USEF Horse of the Year. (Brant Gamma Photo)*

*(Below) Rochambeau (by Aladdin's Denver) and breeder/owner/rider, Susan Jellum, winners of the Hall of Fame Trophy and USEF Horse of the Year. (Brant Gamma Photo)*

*(Facing Page) Sparrow's Nio (by \*Grange Finn Sparrow) and Allie Saksen at the Rolex International Horse Trials, KY - putting in a clean cross-country round.*



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# AWARDS ISSUE

*Featuring all of our Award Winners for 2021*

*Please send a write-up and a high resolution photo to*

*[americanconnemara@gmail.com](mailto:americanconnemara@gmail.com)*

*If you won a Hall of Fame Trophy, a USEF Horse of the Year Award,  
an Achievement Award, the Seldom Seen Trophy, the McKenna Trophy,  
the Clifden Trophy, a USDF All Breeds Award.....*

*We want to read about you!*

*DEADLINE - February 10, 2022*

*Don't be shy - send a photo and an article telling us about your  
Connemara and about you.*

*publication date is March/April - be sure you're included.*



## Transfers

HBG 2026 XLVI – WINDY HOLLOW BRUNO BESTE from Amy Halley to Jay Fenlason and Jocelyn Van Bokkelen, 96 Woodman Rd., South Hampton, NH 03827

G 2480 XLVII – HOPEWELLS EOIN OF LEDGEWOOD from the estate of Kathleen Manyo to Nicole Trimble, 3113 Saint Mikala Ct., Twinsburg, OH 44087.

M 4029 XLIX – WILDWYCH FOREVER AMBER from Martha Slamer to Kathleen Tostanoski, 5399 Bower Rd., Trumansburg, NY 14886.

HBM 2510 LI – DENVER’S ABIGAIL from Frances O’Reilly to Eva Brandenburg, 649 Montgomery Rd., Sebastapol, CA 95472.

HBS 1308 LII – WELLEN GOLD POINT from Alicia Z. Kline to Melissa Jo Hollingsworth, 2369 Nelson Rd., Melbourne, KY 41059.

M 4552 LIV – LEDGEWOOD’S NEVAEH from Kathleen Manyo to Janet Johnson, 5310 Spring Valley Lane, Richland Center, WI

M 4679 LVII – RFF LUCKY IN KENTUCKY from Kathy Lucas/Gately Farm to Megan Gastel, 2817 Valley View Ave., Norco, CA 92860.

TFC S 6432 LVII – MOUNTAIN FIELD’S IRONMAN from Anne Wadlow Drogula to Katie Cobia, Hidden Haven Ranch, 489 S 2150 W, Marriott-Slateville, VT. 84404.

TFC M 6474 LVIII – GALLO’S EMERALD DREAMS from Katie Pinner to Ashley Mount, 929 Shepherd Rd., Towanda, PA 18848.

G 2694 LVIII - \*MLC DON RUAIRE from Kim Denton to Judy Brescia, 14213 Purcellville Rd., Lovettsville, VA 20180.

TFC S 6484 LVIII – FOOTHILLS CELTIC PARTY from Vanessa Morgan to Marion Caldwell, 805 Hughes Lane, Danville, IA 40422.

TFC HBS 3783 LVIII – DRF BEACHCOMBER from Janet M. Johnson to Bonnie Baffinton

SAME from Bonnie Baffinton to Janet M. Johnson.

SAME from Janet M. Johnson to Sandy Cuddihy, 6011 Fourth Line Rd., North Gower, Ont., Canana, KOA 2T0

TFC S 6486 LVIII – SOUTH RIDGE WINSTON from Janet M. Johnson to Hastings Weydevel, 2044 Ester Rd., Saucier, MS 39574.

M 2124 XLI – BEACON’S KALEIGH from Cynthia Copolo to Emeraude Dandorand, 1416 Chambers Rd., Rougemont, NC 27572.

TFC M 6406 LVI – DUET FARMS EASTER LILY from Chris and Annie Balotti-Paleen to ill McNicol, DVM/Cool Springs Farm, 41743 Crestview Rd., Leetonia, OH 44431.

M 4022 XLVIII - \*CASHEL BAY ELLIE from Darian Hall to Kendra Relvea, 3775 Burnside Rd., Sebastopol, CA 95472

M 4618 LVI – BLUE ROCK NUALA from Kathleen Tostanoski to Maureen Luschini-Karla, 3816 East St., Skaneateles, NY 13152.

CORRECTION FROM LAST ISSUE: HBG 2692 LIII - ARTHUR O’BRIEN from Nancy Hamill Winter to Brian Courtney, 2297 Oakland Rd., Louisa, VA 23093

## ACPS New Members (October 7 – December 11)

### Region 1

June Scott

### Region 2

Kim Denton  
Kait Kennedy

### Region 3

Emeraude Dandurand  
Bridgette Marsfield  
Ellie Pack

### Region 4

Teresa Uddo

### Region 5

Nicole Trimble

### Region 6

Kristin Apple

### Region 9

Lisa Spitzmiller  
Beverly Syslo

### Region 10

Nina Lewis

*Correction from 2021 Awards Issue: Talamah Bound (\*Smaragaid Cliff x Tartan/TK) and owner/rider Tammy Lisi, were tied for first place and champion in the USEF Horse of the Year Halfbred Eventing Awards. The report in the magazine last year showed the halfbred in second place.*

## Transfer Procedures

The seller is responsible for filling in the blanks on the reverse side of the registration certificate with the new owner’s name and address and date of sale

The seller sends the certificate to the ACPS office with the transfer fee (\$25 within 30 days of sale or \$35 after that time).

The Secretary will record the transfer and send the original certificate to the new owner.

Each pony gets ONE lifetime certificate. A new certificate is NOT printed after each transfer.

Please do not lose the certificate.



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