

AMERICAN CONNEMARA

The Official Publication of the American Connemara Pony Society

MAY/JUNE 2021

EDITION II, VOL. 12 NO. 3

Juniors



and Seniors Issue





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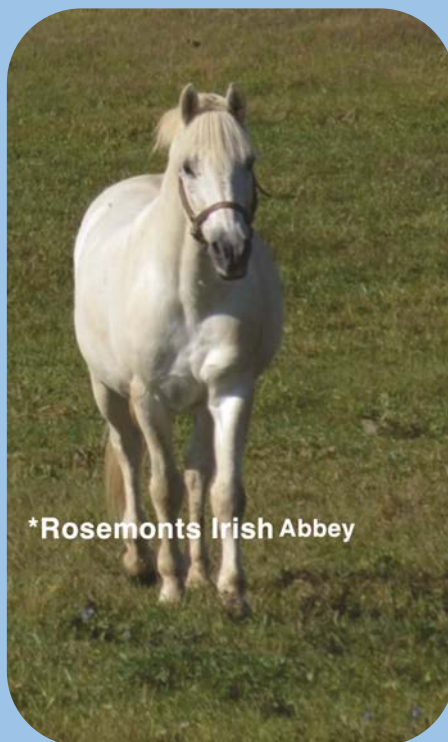
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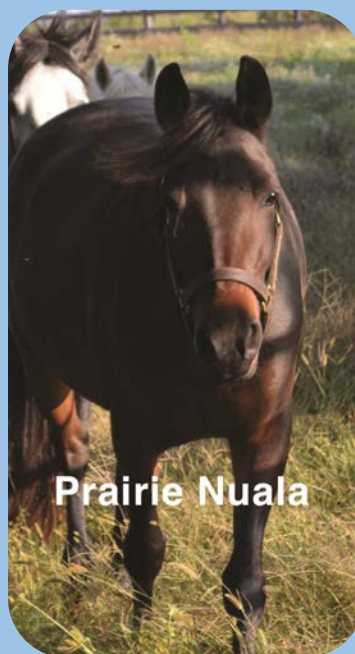
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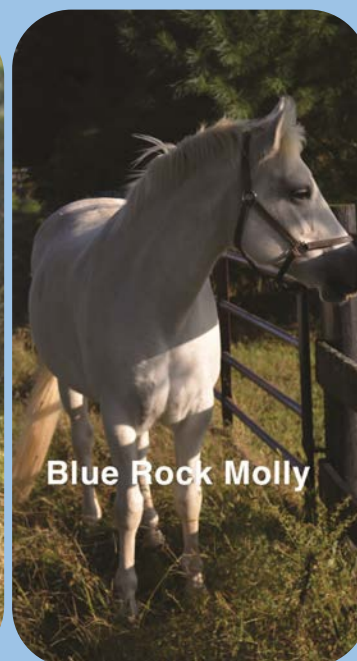
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FEATURES

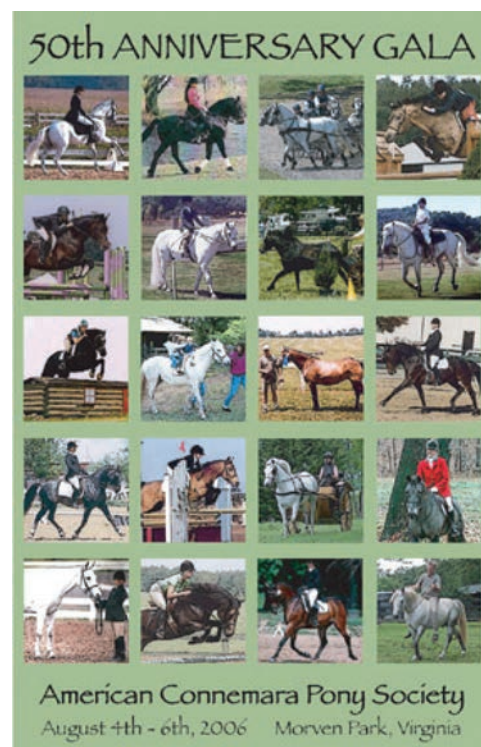
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Editor's Note ~ I and the good folks at Johnson Press work very hard to get this magazine done on time, and into the postal system so our readers can enjoy the pages of Connemara news and photos.

Sadly, our U.S. Postal System is dishearteningly slow in delivery since the changes were made to the whole system. My apologies are insignificant since we have no way to improve the performance. I hope this issue makes it to your homes in better time.



Talamah Bound and Tammy Lisi earned a Bronze Medallion in Eventing in the Achievement Awards Program.



15 Years ago the ACPS celebrated 50 years of caring for, preserving, and registering the Connemara in America. Nicole Haas Perin designed this poster for the celebration at Morven Park, Leesburg, VA. Many of the stars of today came from the ponies featured in this artwork.

President's Page

Welcome to the Junior (and Senior) Edition of the American Connemara magazine.

Like most of us, I love hearing from juniors about their Connemaras and about their relationships with their ponies. Our Editor decided to add some articles written by our Seniors – since they have no dedicated issue of their own. Please enjoy contributions from both age groups – the shared love of the Connemara rings out through each one.

The ACPS, in conjunction with the USEF and the Susan McConnell Foundation for the ACPS, has made connecting with our junior members a priority through the Junior Scholarship Program. Juniors make an application through an essay that includes a few specific questions. Most of our juniors expound significantly beyond those questions. You can find the policy and application under Awards on the updated ACPS.org website. I encourage our juniors to continue to apply for scholarship money that can be applied to educational activities. Our new coordinator for Junior members, Donna Powers, is looking for additional ways that we can support our juniors. I picked out some pieces of essays written by juniors of a few years ago. You may recognize comments that you wrote about your pony back then. Some of these writers were first time Connemara riders. Others were the daughters and granddaughters of members we know. (We have had a few boys apply, but not nearly enough.) There are some themes that come through every year. Juniors express the connections they have developed with their ponies. Often the quirky personalities are highlighted. Competition is often a focus of the letters. These smart juniors are the future of our small breed society.

"I loved riding Ivy and it seemed like Ivy really wanted to teach me. She is so kind and easy going. She calls to me when I go to see her and makes me feel so special."

"Misty is the sweetest and smartest mare you will ever find. When I have a lesson on Misty and we are working on something specific by the time my next lesson comes around Misty already has it fixed perfectly. She is also the perfect size and is very sporty. My trainer says no horse tries harder than Misty does!"

"What I love the most about my Connemara pony, Dillon, is his willingness to do his best and work his hardest to do well in shows. Whenever he is in the show ring, he has a unique expression that shows no sign of limitations in his athletic abilities and is very confident in the way he moves. His love for showing and competitions is unlike anything I have worked with in my life, and I am extremely grateful I took the opportunity to care for him. It has been a slow but steady progression of teambuilding and companionship over these past few years. Through the hardships we faced with moving constantly from barn to barn, he has never failed to stay true and loyal to me while we continued with our journey. We have grown so much together in the years I had him, and his genuine love for riding and showing is something I do not take for granted."

"Not only is it rewarding to compete at a show and

earn ribbons, it is a lot of fun as well! We always have a good time while showing, and I am definitely grateful to have a pony that enjoys the overall experience as much as I do. My pony is incredibly talented and gifted, and I would like to enable him to express that talent as much as possible. He is a bright light in my family as well as the horse community."

"I appreciate Higgy's classic Connemara temperament as well. He was more or less born bombproof, and we joke that he didn't have to be taught to crosstie because he falls asleep immediately. He's the easiest horse on the farm to take to shows, on trails, and even in Region III's famous costume class."

"I cannot remember a time when I was not a Connemara person. My parents were involved with Connemaras long before I was born, and the first horse I can remember riding was a Connemara."

"Riding Connemaras has shown me what versatile ponies these animals truly are on show day. My dressage class was actually right after my jumper class, so I went from cantering and soaring over jumps one minute to having Lily quiet, loose, and comfortable the next."

"I never really believed that things happen for a reason or that you meet people for a reason. That was until I got Kelsey, my 16yr old, 14.1hh, buckskin/dun (with the most amazing eyes) Connemara mare that I would not be where I am today without. She is well trained, gentle and sweet but also very much a mare and a pony in that if she doesn't want to do something, chances are she's won't do it. This is also the reason I love to call her princess. She can be kind, willing and an overachiever but also spoiled and want things her way and her way only [but I love her anyways]."

"I really don't know how to describe it but we just fit. She loves the trails, is a total diva when it comes to the camera but also doesn't mind just standing around and relaxing while I groom her."

"I love how willing and patient she is and her sweet temperament but I also love her challenges [Her sometimes stubborn attitude] and quirks [She is actually a very picky eater!] as they help me become a better rider and person. I never pictured myself with a Connemara Pony but now that I have one- I wouldn't trade it for the world."

"She is a smart Connemara pony with a good temperament, tremendous endurance, versatility, and best of all, she is competitive amongst all of the large horse breeds! She has "saved" me on several occasions in the show jumping ring because of her sound mind and ability to make the right decision at any moment. When I first bought her, she was a lot for me to handle, but over the past two years Nola has taught me so much and has made me a much more confident rider. One of the things I like best about Nola is her special attitude. She loves to make every ride interesting and she loves to jump."

"Valencia and I have been a team for about a year now, and I don't know what I would do without her. She has

helped me gain back my confidence on cross-country and is making my eventing dreams come true."

"Connemara's may be small but don't let them fool you, they sure are mighty. My favorite thing about Connemara's is on the ground they are so sweet, gentle and kind but when you get on them they want to please you and you feel like you are riding a big horse with a powerful engine! Connemara's are different from any other horse breeds I have gotten to know, they are never snotty, caring for food more than people, instead, they are sweet and make angelic best friends. My friends always ask when I'm getting a horse and I inform them that my pony can go all the way to training maybe even preliminary, she is quite enough horse for me."

"What I like about my Connemara, Iriel, is her loving, high-energy personality, and eagerness to fly around a jumper course. When I go to the barn she always greets me with a welcoming nicker, and when jumps are in sight, her ears are pricked forward. When we are not training, we spend our time on trail rides, grooming, and eating treats!"

"Life is like a dressage test. If you're too busy thinking about you're last move, the next one won't be any good either"

"Sorry I did not get my application in yesterday but I had been working at the barn and got home late. :("

Other news:

Do check out the beautiful new look at www.acps.org.

Also, the ACPS Annual Meeting and Breeding Conference is coming up quickly. It will be well worth the hassles of travel and farm sitters to get together in person and consider weighty matters, learn about cutting edge nutrition and reproduction from experts, get the background and reasons to understand the foundational breeding lines of our pony breed, and meet and greet old and new friends in Kentucky. (Oh, and there's a bourbon tour!!!)

Linda Haines



Can you see the connection?

Photo by Jodi Fortier

ACPS ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

SEPTEMBER 23RD -27TH 2021



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

Meeting Registration includes: Kentucky Welcome Reception Friday night, Awards Banquet Saturday, and Hospitality Room Refreshments

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

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ACPS Annual Meeting in Lexington KY

SEPTEMBER 23RD -27TH 2021

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Kentucky Horse Park**

Board of Governors Meeting - Awards Dinner

Guest Speakers - Region Basket Award

Auction Items* - Irish Pubs**

Inspections - Garden Tour* - Keeneland**.



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

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1-

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More Info: Bonnie Reid 859-312-4971 Mixedbordersky@gmail.com

Junior Scholarship Winners

2020 ACPS Junior Scholarship Winners

ACPS \$200 Award Winners

(Under 15 years old)

Bridget Kelly age 12, (Her entry showed great energy and enthusiasm for her half bred Connemara)

NM Our only ACPS member in New Mexico

(15 and older)

Katherine King age 18, (She introduces her half bred to people who have never heard of Connemaras) TN

ACPS \$100 Award Winners

Grace Jefferson age 12, (Grace would like to find a new trainer and attend some clinics with her Connemara) WV

Katherine Hackett age 14, (Katherine found her half bred Connemara pony in Ireland.) NJ

Sydney McRae Schoenbech age 12, (Sydney likes that she can take her pony CJ anywhere and jump anything) VT

Stella Marsh age 15, (Stella is working on her dressage to keep Jasmine's "inner dragon" in the sandbox.) CT

Julia Latham age 19 (She and Whimsey entertained residents at a nursing home with their masks on)

NH

Cailey Fay age 17, (She and Kookaburra rode in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Boston last year)

CT

Bridget Kelly

What do I like about my Connemara Pony? I like everything about her! Okay, okay. That might be a slight stretch. Probably not every single thing (like some of her little mischievous moments!), but there is so, so much about her that I love.

Her barn name is Chai, like the spicy tea. She is an amazing pony who is super fun to be around and to ride. She has great manners and thankfully no vices or bad habits. She has an awesome temperament (calm and cool, but also fiery when needed). She is also cheeky and silly at times. Chai's personality never fails to make me laugh!

When riding, I love her athleticism and desire to work. Chai is brave and bold, always giving her best in everything we do. She is also gentle and kind. When I make a mistake, she helps me. She is sensitive to my aids, which makes her a great ride. She is a very talented jumper, and jumping her feels like flying! Even though she loves any type of jumping, cross-country is her favorite (and mine too). We have so much fun together when doing cross-country!

I love her spirit; one of my favorite things about her is watching her gallop to the big pasture in the morning. She is my best friend, and we have so much fun together. She is such a good girl, and one of the sweetest horses that I have ever met. Chai has taught me so much and continues to teach me every single day. She is truly an amazing, sweet, smart, brave, kind, talented pony that I am very, very lucky to have.

What do I do with my Connemara Pony? Chai is very versatile, so we do a lot of things together! Our main discipline is Eventing. We are working very hard to enter our first competition at the Beginner Novice level, but it has been hard because of the coronavirus pandemic. Each week we take dressage lessons, school cross-country and practice show jumping. Before the pandemic shutdowns started in March, we had a blast at Isaack's Ranch in Las Cruces for their Spring Cross-Country Derby. We also did a virtual dressage show online, which was a lot of fun. We love to go on trail rides in New Mexico's mountains,



*Bridget Kelly and her halfbred Connemara Windover Tarragon
plains and deserts.*

On days when nothing is planned, I love riding her bareback around the farm. As a member of Pony Club, we attend monthly meetings and lessons. We do show jumping clinics, dressage clinics, and hopefully soon a fox hunt with Juan Tomas Hounds. We really like to compete in jumper shows at Hipico and the NMHJA. We hope to go to some Training level dressage shows in the near future. Chai is certainly up for anything, which is one of the things about her that I love!

What learning opportunity would the scholarship provide for me and my Connemara Pony? A scholarship will provide us the opportunity to continue our dressage training. We started dressage lessons in the spring of this year and have both responded very well to them. Chai learns quickly and I have become a better rider because of the dressage lessons. Continuing our training will keep us improving so much.



Katherine King

have a Connemara Paint mare named Rain is a Good Thing, or “Rain”, for short. I have owned her for nearly 3 years now, but I have known her for much longer.

When I was a young rider, I had just begun learning how to jump 2 feet tall jumps when I was introduced to a mare named Rain whom I had no idea I would eventually own. She had terrible manners and I was frightened of her. She had bad stable vices like pawing, wood chewing, biting and kicking. I initially refused to ride her, but after much convincing from my trainer, I rode her and during just one lesson I instantly fell in love with her.

After a few lessons, my parents and I decided to lease her for a 6-month period. During this time, we began going to hunter and Starter level Eventing shows, where we would compete in classes with 18 inch and 2 feet high jumps. We started off show seasons getting low scores and near last place ribbons, but quickly found ourselves earning 2nd and 1st place ribbons almost constantly. We ended up leasing her for 2 whole years.

By this time, we were jumping around 3 feet tall jumps and were beginning to further our career in dressage. My parents came up with the brilliant idea to purchase Rain from her old owner and that is exactly what we did. Eventually came time for another level move-up. I would move-up from the 2 feet Starter level to the 2’6 Beginner Novice Eventing level.

This time was quite difficult for both my horse and for me. We constantly refused out of jumps and my pony would sense my

nerves and slide to a stop or swerve around the jumps, causing elimination after elimination at horse shows. I fell off twice at two different horse shows, causing automatic disqualifications. I was so frustrated I wanted to quit riding and I wanted to sell Rain. However, we began pursuing Dressage more and more. After years of intense training and riding 6 days a week, I qualified for the United States Pony Club Dressage Championships which was July of 2019 in Tryon, North Carolina. Rain has changed into a wonderfully mannered mare who I trust deeply. She no longer has any vices and attracts the eyes of little kids every time they come to our barn.

Most of the young riders Rain meets have never heard of Connemaras, so I help educate them all about the amazing breed. Now, Rain and I show in first level Dressage and train in second level at home. I love Rain’s willingness to work and try new things as we progress in Dressage. If Rain and I were to receive the ACPS scholarship, we would put the money towards helping pay for out-of-state shows and clinics with higher level instructors to further our education in Dressage.

I will most likely put the funds from this scholarship towards bigger riding clinics with higher level dressage trainers. This would greatly benefit both Rain and me and would help us advance further. We are currently showing in first level dressage and practice second level movements. This scholarship gives us a wonderful opportunity to further our education in dressage, to better achieve absolute precision in the arena, and to further connect the relationship between my Connemara and me.



Grace Jefferson on her mare, Wildwych Hazel

Grace Jefferson

I'm Grace Jefferson. I am 12 years old and was born March 26 2008. I am applying for the ACPS Junior Scholarship. I have a purebred Connemara Pony mare, Wildwych Hazel, but she goes by Hazel. Hazel's registration number is M 1953 XXXIX. Her Sire is Glenormiston Flurry Knox and her Dam is Ballywhim Glynnis. Hazel and I live in West Virginia on our family farm, along with my family and the other horses. My family has 10 horses, a small breeding operation, and we event.

What I like about my Connemara is she has everything you could ask for in a horse/pony. She is 20 years old and is still at it we have been jumping Beginner Novice, and some Novice. What I do with my Connemara is kind of a little bit of everything. We do games, Pony Club, Dressage, Show Jumping, Cross Country, Trails and ride on the beach. The learning opportunity that the scholarship would provide for me is a new trainer and maybe a few clinics.

Katherine Hackett

It was October of 2019 when I first met my Irish Sport Connemara pony, Tullinskey Buttons, in Ennis, County Clare, Ireland. The little bay mare had successfully competed up to 1.25m with her previous owner, so I automatically assumed that she would never set a foot wrong with me. But within the past nine months of bringing her to the United States and calling her my own, I have come to realize that no, she is not perfect. She has her good days, as well as her bad, but that is what this sport is all about. Some days we make it around the ring clear and bring home a blue ribbon, while other days we can't even get her into the ring at all. But that is what I like most about my pony; her quirks.

She is the pony who won't stand still on the cross ties. She is the pony that bucks whenever you kick her a little too hard or hit her with the crop. She is the pony who spooks at the invisible monsters while walking on the trail, and the pony who rears and spins while entering the show ring. And though all of these things are true, she also is the pony who can beat all the horses. She is the pony who acts like a puppy dog, and makes silly faces whenever anyone walks by. She is the pony who tries her hardest and makes sure you are always giving your 100%. These are the qualities that make my pony unique.

Recently my pony and I have spent time competing at local shows such as the Princeton Classic, and finding our groove together. Currently we are doing the Low Child Jumpers set

at 90cm, with hopes to move up to the High Child Jumpers in 2021. At home we have been working on finding distances and building confidence/trust as a team. Moreover, she is still only 7 years old, and she is preparing me to work with young and inexperienced horses.

Looking towards the future, my biggest goal with Buttons is to take her to the Pony Jumper Finals that take place at the Kentucky horse park every August. Going to Pony Finals has been a goal ever since I got my first pony about four years ago, and I am so lucky to now have the horse that can take me there. If I were to win any scholarship money, I would put it towards qualifying for Pony Finals. Whether I would use it to cover lesson costs, clinic costs, or entry fees, I am unsure, but I know that the scholarship could ultimately help me reach my goal.

As you can imagine, Buttons is quite different than I thought she would be. I expected a calm and laid back Connemara pony, who would always cover up my mistakes. Though a pony like that would still teach me a lot, I am so glad that I wound up with the one that I did. Buttons has taught me to appreciate all of the good rides, and even the bad rides. She always manages to keep me humble, and constantly makes me smile. At the end of the day, I couldn't imagine myself with a different pony, and I am so thankful for all that Buttons teaches me.



Sydney Schoenbech and GHF Crosswinds Journey

Sydney McRae Schoenbech

What I like about my Connemara is that I can take him anywhere and jump anything I want while feeling safe, most of all having fun and working with CJ as a team. His registered name is GHF Crosswinds Journey, and he is by *Kilfenora Windy Isles. I like that I can call his name for his morning breakfast and he will come running all the way from the other field.

I do many things with my Connemara including I go to jump lessons with Olympian Denny Emerson, dressage shows, horse trails, and bareback trail rides to go have a picnic in the meadow. I took him to an overnight camp for two weeks, and I rode him bareback in only a halter and two lead ropes. We do games together like doing an obstacle course, ride a buck, and egg and spoon.

The learning opportunity this scholarship would give me and my pony is that we could go take more lessons at Denny Emerson's, and compete at a ton of horse trials.

Stella Marsh

My name is Stella Marsh, I am 15 years old, and I am the lucky owner and rider of Coastal Tranquility (By Hillside Robert Macdaire, out of Canaela). "Jasmine" turned 21 years young this year, and she continues to amaze me everyday with her love for her job and her fiery (if sometimes a bit dragonish) spirit. I live in East Hampton, Connecticut, and I am fortunate enough to keep my horses at home, so I get to spend my free time training them.

My family purchased Jasmine from Pat and Emily Shields when I was ten, so for the first few years, Jazzy's only job was taking care of me. She outdid herself at that job, and five years later, she still has yet to do anything unsafe. One of the things that I have always loved about her is how gentle she is. Unless she is having a "mare day" (which does happen sometimes), Jazzy is incredibly sweet. She loves to be scratched on her neck and chest, and she makes sure that I know when she wants to be groomed. She adores being

brushed, and from day one, grooming is the one thing that can almost always calm her down if she has gotten upset. I love this, because something that I really enjoy is bonding with my horses and simply getting to know them on the ground, so I like a horse that enjoys being groomed. The thing that I love the most about Jasmine is how much I can trust her. I sometimes joke that I trust her more than anyone else in the world, and I am only joking a little bit when I say that. I have literally gone under her belly and in between her front legs and she will just stand there and look at me. Jasmine saved my mistakes countless times while I learned to jump, and she still will usually save me if I make a mistake coming to a fence. She really is the most trustworthy horse I have ever known.

Under normal circumstances, I would have spent this summer taking Jasmine all over Area 1 to compete at recognized horse trials. We moved up to Novice last fall, and the plan was to compete her at Novice for this season. However, with competitions canceled and barns being closed due to COVID, I was not lessoning at all, never mind competing.

As much as I was disappointed about this at first, in retrospect it has actually been amazing for my partnership with Jasmine. I am extremely competitive, so I tend to become a little bit intense about training for competitions, to the point that I stress myself out so much that competing isn't as much fun as it should be. With competitions canceled this year, I started to just really relax and have a ton of fun with Jasmine. We went on a lot of trail rides this spring, and I actually rode bareback a few times for fun. I also did some bridleless work, which was really fun, because although I taught Jazzy how to go bridleless when I was 12, I did not practice much last year because I was training her for competitions.

The last, and most amazing thing (to me anyway) that I discovered about Jasmine this year is that she loves being ridden in Western tack. My family has an endurance saddle for



(Photo credit: Brian Wilcox/Connecticut Photo)

our mustang, and one day I decided to try riding Jasmine in it. She loved it! The pony who usually likes to argue about putting her head down or going in a frame, promptly dropped her nose to the ground and went around like a western pleasure mount whenever I rode her in the endurance saddle! We did this several times, and it was incredibly fun!

During the last week of July, I discovered that Town Hill Horse Trials was running a recognized event at the end of August! With a little less than four weeks to prepare, I decided to enter at the Beginner Novice level. I managed to take Jasmine to four jumping lessons with my trainer Imanol Echeverria to help us prepare. In addition, I was extremely grateful for all of my at-home “quarantine dressage” practice!

I was lucky enough to have a jumping lesson with five-star eventer and trainer Heidi White during our last week of preparation, and Heidi gave me several helpful ideas. It was amazing to take a lesson with her because she loves Connemaras, and after watching Jasmine go cross-country, Heidi said that Jasmine could have gone Prelim if she was younger!

Fast-forward to competition day, and I was super excited. Jasmine, however, often gets very anxious at the first competition of the year, and she was in what my mom and I call “Brown Dragon” mode. It didn’t help that my first ride time wasn’t until 2:50 in the afternoon. Jasmine likes to get off the trailer and go to work, so when we got there in the morning, I went to walk my courses while my mom (who deserves a horse show moment of the year award) managed Jasmine in all of her dragon glory. Dressage was definitely not our best phase of the day. Jasmine was mad that she had waited at the trailer all morning, and she also gets very tense in dressage, so she pranced around the test in a very tense and reactive manner. Show-jumping warm-up went really well, and Jasmine flew around the course like a wild woman, ending up well within the time and with no rails down. Something about our partnership that has always been a balance is how much I can tell her what to do before she gets offended and decides to take over. We’ve ended up coming to an agreement that she (mostly) listens in stadium, and then gets more of an opinion on cross-country.

Jazzy definitely had an opinion at this event. She absolutely flew around cross-country, jumping a massive hedge fence without batting an eye (neither of us had ever jumped a hedge before). We had so much fun, and I was three quarters of the way around the course still trying to slow her down because we were way too fast. At the finish flags, my watch revealed that we were 43 seconds too fast, but thankfully we did not get time penalties. Jazzy and I ended up getting third place, and I am so excited because that is our highest placing ever at a recognized event. This also meant that we qualified for the 2020 Area 1 Championships, which is another first for both of us!

If I were awarded this scholarship, I would use it towards training for the Area 1 Championships, which have been postponed to 2021. I would like to take some more dressage lessons to learn techniques for containing Jasmine’s inner dragon in the sandbox.

Connemaras Do It All!



Julia Latham

Before sitting down to write this essay, I reflected back on my past submissions to be somewhat disappointed in the rigid format I had adhered to. The writing was informative yet bland, and although the overall message was correct, it lacked a genuine tone. In the past, I have struggled to convey the emotions that accompany my connection with my pony for fear that the words might come across as ingenuine. This year I decided to break the cycle, and trust that this niche group of people understand the complex emotions and lessons that come with being an equestrian.

I am a firm believer in the notion that we do not get the horse we want, but rather the horse we need. In hindsight, I am lucky enough to say that my mare, Trout Ranch Whimsey (No. M 4064 XLX), is both; I just did not always know it. Our paths first crossed on my May 14th 2011, my 10th birthday, when I met an eleven day old fiery chestnut filly. Even in filly form, Whimsey commanded charge of her surroundings. She wasted no time sizing me up in true connemara fashion, with her mouth, as she quickly untied my shoes! We locked eyes and I was hooked, but the message was not that of instant love and affection. Instead, in that look it was clear that she was the smarter of the two and I had a great deal to prove otherwise. About a year later, Whimsey came to live at Cadbury Woods Farm and thus began the actual start of our partnership. After much pleading with my mom, who doubles as my trainer, she let me do the groundwork under her supervision. Whimsey was dominant and expressive which combined to be a very intimidating combination. I have to imagine that from the outsiders view, it was questionable who was lounging who! It was at this time where I learned the important skill of standing one’s ground and setting boundaries. And so began the first stage of our growth together. She was the horse I wanted, and I became the handler she needed.

One of the greatest lessons she has taught me is to be vulnerable for those who matter. Whimsey is a very rational horse, by this I mean given the opportunity to stop and investigate something new, she will tackle the obstacle with ease. Through no fault of her own and just some pure bad luck, Whimsey became petrified of jumping ditches. It is quite difficult to be an event horse when a common obstacle is near impossible to get over. It has taken us two years and dozens of treats to overcome this fear. During our last event, she flew over the ditch and I was humbled that she trusted me enough to overcome her

greatest fear. This brings me to my second lesson; be brave enough to be humbled. An important part of being a fair rider is to continue one's education despite any anxieties that may come with it. I for one have always found it nerve wracking to ride with different trainers. While being told your shortcomings as a rider can initially be a tough pill to swallow, it is necessary in order to be better. To quote my mom, "growth never happens from your comfort zone" and Whimsey has certainly made me leave that many times. Together we have had the opportunity to attend the GMHA Junior Horsemanship Clinic for ten days. I trained under John Bourgoin, Suzi Gornall, and Jane Hamlin. From there, we continued our dressage training with Jordan Laplaca and Luis Reteguiz-Denizard. All of these opportunities allowed me to learn the art of introspection rather than jumping to feeling attacked. The common factor for these people was them working with me toward the goal of being better for the horse and setting her up for success. This change in mentality allowed me to enjoy the experience rather than fear it. Whimsey truly is my wonder pony, and has been a pivotal part in shaping the person I am today. From her back, I have experienced some of my greatest joys. A few being; jumping bareback at the Equine Affair, bringing joy to the residents of a nursing home, and finishing our first event together. She has even made the journey to Maine with me and is enjoying her time as a college pony. My hope with the scholarship is to continue our dressage training with Luis Reteguiz-Denizard. Taking after her sire, Trout Ranch Malarkey, and her dam, Elphin Kookaburra, Whimsey excels at dressage. My hope for this winter is to focus on fine tuning and elevating our flatwork and compete second level in the spring. That being said, I would be more than content to never compete again as long as I can continue to grow with her.



Cailey Fay and Elphin Kookaburra

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Cailey Fay

I think I speak for all of us when I say that 2020 did not go as anyone expected it to. That being said, we are all very lucky to have our Connemaras, who can, without fail, make anyone's day brighter.

I first was introduced to the breed in 2013, and after my first lease, Tower Hill's Carmody, I never looked back. Along with Carmody, I have had the privilege of leasing two of Sally and Tom Oxnard's other mares, Tower Hill's Breeze and Elphin Kookaburra.

My time with Kooka began at the Region 1 show in 2016, and since then, Kookaburra and I have foxhunted, completed our first few recognized USEA events (and placed in the top 3!), attended clinics with Lendon Gray, and even marched through the streets of Boston on Saint Patrick's Day.

To say the least, it has been a spectacular four years, full of fun, adventures, and new experiences. I'd have to say that my favorite thing about Kookaburra is her playful and carefree personality. I can do anything or go anywhere with Kooka, and both on the ground and under saddle, she consistently maintains an air of amusement and trusting curiosity.

Some of my favorite times with Kooka have been in my barn aisle, where the mundane task of clipping Kooka with my mom always seems to turn humorous when Kooka reaches her nose out and plays with the pom-poms on our hats (my mom and I wear hats almost year-round). She is always completely relaxed despite the loud clippers, the dog running underneath her every now and then, and the Taylor Swift songs playing in the background.

It's not surprising that Kookaburra is rarely fazed by any of the show-ground excitement that many other horses get caught up in. Although Kookaburra and I have worked quite a bit on jumping, my main focus has been on dressage for the past year and a half or so. Of course, given my mom's busy work schedule and the crazy state of the world right now, Kooka and I have been doing more hacking than I'd like to admit. Still, while Kooka and I are walking up and down the quiet road by my house, we practice our leg yields



Cailey Fay and Elphin Kookaburra

and rein backs, with some shoulder-fore sprinkled in here and there. On the weekends, we ship out to local parks where there is better footing and more space to practice. If we have learned anything from this crazy year, it is how to be flexible and make the most out of the opportunities we are given! This winter, I would like to attend a Kathy Connelly clinic at the barn that I work at, Meadowbrook Farm. The date has yet to be determined, but the clinician comes to the barn at least once each winter and summer, and she is a highly respected dressage instructor and judge. I would love to have the opportunity to ride with her and get some one-on-one instruction. Kooka and I are a solid first level pair, and, although we have done some schooling at second level, we have a lot of work to do in order to level up!

More From Stella Marsh ~

My name is Stella Marsh, and I am a 16-year-old member of ACPS Region I. My two ponies are Coastal Tranquility (Hillside Robert Macdaire x Canaela), and RMF Time of O'Riley (Morning Glory's Illyushin x RMF Irish Rose). I first got involved with the breed at the age of ten, when I was taking lessons with Cailey Fay, who was riding Tower Hills Carmody, Sally Oxnard's lovely mare. My family had just begun to look for a pony for me, and my instructor told us that I should have a pony "just like Carmody."

My mom contacted Sally, who put us in touch with several Connemara people who she thought might have ponies. One of those people happened to be Pat Shields, and when my mom contacted her, she wrote back immediately, saying "I have what you need." As it turned out, she could not have been more correct, and Coastal Tranquility (Jasmine) became mine.

After a little less than a year of getting Jasmine, she went lame and ended up needing a summer off. I had planned on going to

the Region I breed show that year, and when Pat heard about this, she kindly offered me a ride on her pony Connie. That was my first Connemara show, and I have not missed one since then. I have made so many friends and met so many amazing people, and I just love how connected the people involved in this breed are!

Jasmine became sound again, and we have had the most incredible journey together. We both started eventing and she took me from my first proper jumping course to my first novice, and she has taken the best care of me all along. When we had a lesson with a five-star eventer last year, she told me, "If this pony was younger she would have gone Prelim no problem. Yeah. She would have done that easily." I can honestly say that Jasmine is just about the only horse I have ever ridden that I have never fallen off! She is the best pony in the world, and I am not joking when I say that I think she knows me as well as I know myself. My whole family adores her, and she continues to astonish all of my friends with her love and talent for cross-country. In January of 2019, my mom lost her longtime horse to colic. We were

both devastated, and she was not planning on getting another horse anytime soon. That April, however, Caroline McEvitt sent out an email which said that RMF Time of O'Riley (Riley) needed a home for a while. We weren't expecting (and didn't think we were ready) to get another horse, but it seemed like it might be the perfect thing for a year, so we agreed to take him as a lease. As these things go, we fell in love with him (despite my mom declaring that she couldn't because we would only have him for a short time), and when the year was up, his owner couldn't take him back. We ended up buying him, and he is one of the funniest little ponies I have ever met and has been so amazing in helping both my mom and me heal.

Riley is a true pony; too smart for his own good as well as very sassy and amusing. He is my top pick for a ride if I just need to laugh, because his sassy trot is the cutest thing in the world. That is not to say that he doesn't try to dump me on occasion (would he even be a pony if he didn't?), but he is a very good boy, and adored by my family.

Obviously, last year was a complete bust for everyone, and I did not get the chance to do much of anything with either pony. However, this year is shaping up to be much better already, and I have some exciting things planned. Currently, I am conditioning Jasmine for a horse trial in a few weeks, which will be our preparation for the Area 1 USEA Championships at GMHA this June. We qualified at the one event we did last year, so I am super excited to get her back on cross-country this year, and I can't wait to be at GMHA again. Jasmine is also very excited about jumping and is still going like a dragon (apparently she doesn't think that being 22 means she should slow down). After Champs, I am planning on continuing to compete her, and depending on how she feels, we might even try a Novice, but at this point my



Stella Marsh and Coastal Tranquility

biggest goal is to keep her super comfortable and loving her job. Teaching Riley to jump is ridiculously fun, and my goal for him this year is to just get him to a few shows and show him the ropes. If he seems to be enjoying himself, he might even make it to Beginner Novice! My mom and I are also planning on taking him to the Region I show this year. I am so thankful to have the opportunity to work with these amazing ponies, and they are steadily increasing my belief that collecting Connemaras is a great hobby (Dad, if you're reading this, don't blame me... blame Mom).

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Bridget Kelly - Thank You for Scholarship

My name is Bridget Kelly and I am a 12-year-old junior ACPS member from Roswell, New Mexico (Region VIII). As you read in my application for the ACPS scholarship, I have an incredible halfbred Connemara, Windover Taragon aka "Chai" like the tea. The name Chai suits her perfectly as she is both spice and sweet. I got Chai in November of 2019 and we have had so much fun together. Of course, there have been downs as well, and it took us a while to become a good team, but this pony is just a blast! We are Eventers, and although Chai can be a little sassy sometimes, putting in a few cheeky bucks, she does love her job. She is fiery, kind, super smart, and a little pocket-rocket. She loves to jump, and zooms around the cross-country courses. I think one of the reasons we get along so well is because our personalities match: we both LOVE cross-country.

This year, many exciting things happened to us. IN September, we won an ACPS Junior Scholarship for \$200 which I have decided to put into our dressage lessons, and we have been having lots of fun and improving greatly. Recently, Chai and I were finally able to compete in our first recognized event, the Southern Arizona Eventing Association Spring Horse Trials. We had a lot of fun and placed sixth in a competitive division. We have also been having a lot of fun enjoying our normal activities: going to Pony Club meetings, schooling cross-country, riding bareback around Mescalero Farms (our farm) and simply riding and spending time together. Chai and I are looking forward to our upcoming Eventing competitions and I am excited to see what the rest of 2021 will bring for us!



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2020 ACPS Achievement Award Winners

January 19, 2020

Competitive Awards

Dressage

Certificate – Shammer Eagle (*Canal Laurinston x Shammer Tessie Sparrow) O: Leigh Ellen Ertle

Silver -- Piedmont Herman (Balmullo's Beacon x Ruby) O: Gardner Cook

Eventing

Certificate – BDF Tag You're It (Wildwood Hearne Topgun x Running Eagle) O: Carla Jimmerson

Bronze -- Talamah Bound (*Smaragaid Cliff x Tartan) O: Tammy Lisi

Silver – Gold to Blue Trapper Jack (Frederiksminde Hazy Match x My Tangos Duchess) O: Carrie Meehan

Hunter

Certificate -- Shammer Eagle (*Canal Laurinston x Shammer Tessie Sparrow) O: Leigh Ellen Ertle

Jumper

Certificate – Shammer Eagle (*Canal Laurinston x Shammer Tessie Sparrow) O: Leigh Ellen Ertle

Silver -- S.R. Irish Envoy (Greystone Ian McVai x Glenmary Absinthe) O: Marilyn Cheek

Non-Competitive Award Winners

Foxhunting

Certificate – Windy Isles Quiet Kate (*The Quietman x Arbor Lanes Bailey) O: Fiona Cheever

Bronze – Miss Madeira (*Canal Laurinston x Felton Lea Larkspur) O: Nancy Dillon

Bronze – New Song's Courageous Son (*Smaragaid Cliff x *Glenormiston Rossleague)

O: Nancy Dillon

Bronze -- Stoney Creek Kittiwake (Erin Terra's Dream On x Stoney Creek Sandpiper)

O: Fiona Cheever

Silver -- Ceili Coral Isles (Kilfenora Windy Isles x Coral Misty Ciara) O: Erin Driscoll

Silver – Sparrow's Zeus (Grange Finn Sparrow x Molly) O: Melissa Town

Award of Excellence -- *TBS Declan Pondi (Dexter Leam Pondi x Dandy Sparrow)

O: Megan Harris

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2020 ACPS Achievement Award Winners Continued

Pony Club

Bronze – Ripleigh's Abra Cadabra (Ripleigh x Lean On The Wind) O: Carolyn McEvitt

Silver -- Elderglen's Miss Kitty (*Gunsmoke x Foothill's River Queen) O: Amy Treat

Award of Excellence -- Cybatina Cian O'Cham (*Annalaun Oscar x Concord River Chamois)

O: Cynthia Richards

Award of Excellence -- Cybatina Finn O'Cham (*Annalaun Oscar x Concord River Chamois)

O: Cynthia Richards

Award of Excellence -- Cybatina Torranach O'Cham (*Annalaun Oscar x Concord River Chamois) O:

Cynthia Richards

Therapeutic Riding/Driving

Gold – Ripleigh's Abra Cadabra (Ripleigh x Lean On The Wind) O: Carolyn McEvitt

Gold -- Shammer Eagle (*Canal Laurinston x Shammer Tessie Sparrow) O: Leigh Ellen Ertle



Ripleigh's Abra Cadabra

Bronze - Pony Club (Above)

Gold - Therapeutic Riding (Above right)



Talamah Bound and Me

by Cate Brown

Tammy Lisi recently leased me a horse and his name is Tali (short for Talamah Bound). Before Tali came to me, he was in training with Hannah Jungling for several years, then after her, he was leased to Darci Lorensen. Darci needed a horse that would take her around the event field like an old pro, which Tali happily did. When he came to me all I wanted to do with him was dressage.

The previous two riders mainly evented him in 2019 and 2020 he won HOY awards for eventing, and he even successfully completed an endurance ride. Now he was going to focus on dressage with me.

When Tali and I first met I was actually a little bit skeptical, but I had always wanted to ride a Connemara. When I rode him for the first time I knew that he was going to be a challenging project for me.

Tali is a big powerful half Connemara with the other half being Trakehner. My first couple of rides with him were difficult, but I could tell he was really talented and knows more than I did.. Immediately I knew it was going to be a great show season.

In the near future I want us to be a good team that can do an accurate 2nd level test. I want to set goals and reach them with him. I hope we can work together successfully and meet these goals. Being able to ride through third level with him would surpass my goals, but I believe we could do it together.

I'm super excited to move on with Tali this year and learn as much as I can from him. I would like to thank Tammy Lisi for leasing him to me this season. Another part of this opportunity included training with Tali



Talamah Bound

Bronze - Eventing

at Winds Reach Stables with Bill Coester and Anna Dykstra. I think we will go very far in the foreseeable future and we have so many good friends behind us who help and believe we can get to the top one day as well.

23

Courtney's Four Leaf Clover
Sire: Custusha's Cashel Rock
Dam: BarBar A's Gift of Blarney
1997/black/mare
Owner: Barbara Clark

Clover

Clover was born on my ranch in Southern Oregon in 1997. Five years later I lost my eyesight in an accident. I sold Clover to a couple in Illinois; later she went to a Connemara stable in Iowa

I kept in touch over the years and started riding my daughter's horse. Clover's Iowa owner, Ann gave Clover back to me when she was 21 years old. What a joy to have her home!

Clover is calm, friendly, and above all, rock solid; she holds still as I scramble onto her with a bareback pad. I ride Clover under my daughter's supervision once or twice a month. Every day I put Clover in and out of pasture. I hug her, brush her and give her treats.

We have a magnificent time together.

This last year has meant gaining more and more trust in each other and bonding more and more as friends. I am so blessed to have her back after our 15 year separation.



Seniors Love Their Connemaras Too!

Historically this issue has been devoted to the ACPS Junior members, but in the interest of fairness, this year, we are including a chosen few of the many Senior Members who also share their lives with Connemaras. Our motto, Connemara DO it ALL, can be altered to say, Connemaras are LOVED by ALL!

My Life as a Senior Rider with my Two Connemaras

By Christina Lego

At some point my high-achieving sister said to me, “Chris, you have no ambition and yet you seem so happy.” Now, as a 69 year old rider, I find that my two Connemara ponies are perfect partners in this view of life.

First there is Danny, “Ridgetop Normandy.”

He is a 20 year old bay Connemara/TB and a wise and patient trail pony with a level of ambition that neatly matches mine. Very little worries Danny. We wander steadily in the fields and woods across the road, enjoying the same views ride after ride of the distant Blue Ridge Mountains in one direction and the Allegheny Mountains if we face the other way. If we are on a trail which is climbing up a steep hill and we encounter 10 big cows lounging in our path Danny just keeps his confident pace towards them and as we get near them they heave their great bodies up and step quietly out of his way, as though a prince is passing through their midst. And the same is true of the deer all around us here. One day there were 8 of them lying down and as Danny and I quietly approached them one or two of them rose to their feet and stood still. The rest of them just followed us with their heads as we passed within 10 feet of them.



Skip Gercke, another Senior Wanderer, and her Connemara Mulberry riding with Danny and me. The Allegheny Mountains are in the background.

We sometimes ride over the ridge behind our farm and down to Eyles farm for a visit. One day Marynell and Walter did not notice our approach and Danny and I had to ring the big heavy farm bell to scare them up. A loud clanging noise like this bell would, I suspect, frighten some horses whose rider is reaching up and pulling the rope. Not Danny the Connemara pony.



Skip and Mulberry and Danny and I riding up to Eyles' place, where Marynell is walking out to greet us.

‘Lean off my back and ring the big iron farm bell? No problem,’ says Danny.

Sometimes we go through a gate that is too awkward to open from his back so I have to get off. With degrading senior hips and knees I can’t mount from the ground as easily as I used to. This time I found a big, long branch-filled tree trunk and Danny walked quietly right next to me while I tight-roped my way along the wobbly log until I got high enough to mount him.



Then there’s Mickie, ‘Darrah’s McGolden’. He is a 15.2 bay full bred, 16 years old. He arrived to me as an active eventer, but it didn’t take him too long to ease into my lack of ambition. He does have more go than Danny and he will happily trot or canter up a hill and he may decide to jump a log in the woods that we could have walked over. Up until my hip went wonky I did dressage lessons with him, and I soon learned that he knows a lot more than me about dressage, and the usual order of things is that he is the one who is pleased to feel our success when the old lady finally “gets it.” He also is one of those ponies with a sense of humor. Every morning one summer when I had him on the cross ties he had to have his Yoga Moment. Down dog pose.



How I Came to be a Senior Escorted Along the Way by Some Lovely Connemara Ponies

By Adele (Skip) Gercke

I started riding at age 9 but did not ride ponies. I started on a horse, a very kind horse with the unlikely name of Hornet.

As I grew older, finished college, got married, had children, I was drawn to the idea of the pony but knew that many pony breeds were naughty. This was the mid 70's and I knew a little more about the Connemara pony, who was (mostly) kind, generous, loved going cross country and loved jumping. I felt sure, even though I had never met a Connemara in person, that this is what I wanted and would be the perfect animal to have with my children and allow me my second childhood – this time riding ponies.

So by the early 80's I had found a friend with a very Connemara-like mare who had been a school pony for 15 years. She was willing to loan me the mare to breed. I went about looking for a stallion in Virginia. There were two. Things were different then. The mare I had was a dun and there was an issue with breeding duns to greys and both Virginia stallions were grey. I called Catherine Mack, the owner of Aladdin, to ask about this and she had lots of information and was terribly nice and we made a booking for little Spice. Spice had no papers but she was almost the definition of a Connemara.

At this time most of my friends who hunted or showed or whatever had thoroughbreds or thoroughbred crosses and ponies for adults were kind of an odd concept. So I was a little sensitive about hauling this little mare to Catherine's for breeding, but when she opened the trailer door, her exclamation was "Oh, she's perfect." I had met just the right person.

Long story short, we had several foals from Spice and then bought several weanlings from Catherine and we were off on our Connemara adventure. I was not exactly a senior at that time. My children were still young, but I could get the ponies started and then let the kids do lessons, go to shows etc. They were perfect family ponies.

As time went on, my children grew up. What's up with that? And I was left to carry on by myself with the ponies I had at that time. One of those was Aluinn Torrance, an absolute treasure, who was fearless and fun but had some unfortunate injuries early on which limited her riding career. No problem. She had six foals and could do easy trail rides in between and was one of the joys of my life. A beautiful personality and soul.

One of her later foals was by Greystone's Ian McVai. Kyldeere's Piper was a blue roan filly born bay and full of vim and vigor. She hit the ground running and I wondered if this was what I really had ordered – so much energy. But as she grew she became more like her mother with a great mind and lots of talent. As I had no children to hand her off to, she became my senior horse and told me that we could do lots more than I had been doing up to that point in my adult life. Which was riding young horses and putting miles on them mostly on trails. Piper was a lovely mover and had a great jump and steady rhythm to her stride which made things easy for me to catch up on my riding skills. Mostly I stayed out of her way and she did the work and made most of the decisions in the ring.

She was wonderful at our Connemara Show in Vermont and

always did well in the Hunter Division. Showing was not her favorite activity but she was proud and always did her best. She did not like eventing. She won her first outing at Hitching Post at Elementary Level but after that she told me the dressage test was way too boring and she found no reason to perk up and look interested while doing them. Her comments from judges were always – "very obedient, needs energy". Fortunately she and I were almost always on the same page so we left the eventing world behind, concentrated on a few lessons and the Connemara Show and beyond that did lots of trail rides with friends and at GMHA.

Piper's best attribute was that she was a thoughtful, thinking pony. From an early age if she confronted something she was unsure about on the trail or anywhere, she would stop and figure it out. Calmly. She loved new territory. Her favorite life would have been to ride four days a week somewhere new every time. Some horses are described as needing a leader to feel comfortable in their job. But Piper was a true partner thinking the same thoughts that I was or maybe thinking a little ahead of me. She trusted me and I certainly trusted her and she gave me some of the most wonderful years of my life. Maybe she was my leader. I lost her at age 70 so she brought me happily to my senior years and I still miss her terribly every single day.

I now have a very cute pony, Mulberry, who can best be described as a pony truly made for a senior (or a child, I suppose – for my third childhood possibly). She could certainly do more if I get ambitious but for now she is happy moseying around our trails and enjoying the countryside at a sensible pace. Feels fine to me.



Skip Gercke and her newest Connemara mare, imported from England, Mulberry, in their show debut with the Ridgetop Connemara Quadrille group. She is third from the leader.



Nicole Cranford Photo

The Low-Drama Connemara - Oakfields Kieran

By Suzanne Phelps

My Connemara is Oakfields Kieran, bred by the late Susan McConnell, sired by Tre Awain Dobh McDuff out of Tullyglen Truffles. He has been just what I have wanted in a mount suitable for both a junior and a senior. We purchased him in 2004 as an eight-year-old to be a first horse for my daughter, and he did that job splendidly. Now at twenty-six, he is an awesome horse for me. Only three years left until we can qualify for a Century Ride! The temperaments of Connemaras overall are legendary, including stallions and mares, but for my money it is hard to imagine a more wonderful, low-drama horse for a senior like myself than a good Connemara gelding like our Kieran.

Kieran is a 15H purebred gelding. His color is a rich, deep brown that looks like fine dark chocolate when he first sheds out in the spring. He has a very handsome head and neck, with big, soulful eyes that he uses to great effect. Kieran lives in the first stall at the door of our boarding barn, where he can keep a watchful eye on all who come and go. He takes his role as the barn greeter very seriously, and welcomes all humans, who might, after all, have some sort of treat. I am told that he has a collection of fans who pay the toll of a cookie as they pass by.

Kieran was born “more whoa than go”, which suits me just fine. In fairness, while Kieran is straight and sturdy, his hip and shoulder angles simply don’t allow an overstride or real impulsion. What he does have, even at twenty-six, is a dreamy, rhythmic, floating little trot that never feels like it is about to get out of control. It is so smooth that even I can sit it like a pro, or post to it with that soft little forward movement that is so much harder to achieve when you are being rocket-launched from the saddle by the spring of a big, forward horse. Kieran’s trot might drive a serious dressage instructor to tears, but it brings a smile to my face and to my less-than-young knees.

More than once when other boarders have had challenges sorting one brown horse from another and inadvertently nabbed Kieran from the field instead of whoever they intended, they inevitably tell me how remarkably agreeable Kieran was. One person who was borrowing

someone else’s horse for a lesson grabbed Kieran and got him fully tacked (with the wrong tack, of course) and was mounted and ready to go before the instructor caught the mistake. Kieran never batted an eye. A young woman who rides him occasionally for me once led him to the mounting block, and he very uncharacteristically refused to let her get on. After several futile attempts, she figured something had to be wrong, so she got off the mounting block to check. Bingo! She had fastened the girth ends but never tightened it, so it was swaying beneath his chest. Once she tightened it correctly, he let her get on. She now thinks he is a saint.

Yet while Kieran will tolerate just about anything, his very eloquent expressions will let you know quickly what he actually thinks. Sometimes a new piece of tack has been accepted right away, sometimes I have gotten the dreaded face-of-disgust. Kieran never hesitates to share his two cents worth. A bitless bridle? It did make it easier for him to grab a passing branch for a snack on the trail, but in the ring he made it clear that it just didn’t give him the communication that he had come to expect from a bitted bridle. And when I tried a fancy new Micklem bridle that was supposed to be better suited to a horse’s anatomy? Some horses may love it, but Kieran viewed the strap that fastened in front of his bit as highly irritating and insulting. He prefers his plain cavesson, a mild double-jointed snaffle, and a light rein – really, what more could anyone want?

The ability to bond with people is one of the well-known and highly treasured attributes of the Connemara, and Kieran truly exemplifies that. In all the 17 years since we first met him, I have never once seen him make an aggressive move or even an ugly face toward a person. When he comes to me in the field when called and lowers his head into the halter in my outstretched hands, other boarders watch in admiration. When I scratch his withers in just the right spot so that he turns and grooms my shoulder at the same time, I just melt. I am deeply grateful for the good fortune that brought Kieran and me together. Kind, gentle, and possessing the wisdom of his years, he brightens my days. May they last long.

“I ride what I love and I love what I ride”

By Suzanne Antilla

Over the years I have had some pretty awesome Thoroughbreds. They were beautiful, talented, wonderful riding horses with fabulous personalities and very high maintenance. As with most amateur adults, I was constantly told by trainers that I needed something at least 16 hands or larger. Since I assumed they “knew better” I complied.

My first Connemara was a purebred, Snug Pines Bryan who I purchased in 1999 without professional guidance. He was 15.1 and built so solid he looked bigger than my 16.1 TB mare. I was hooked. I began to hoard Connemara ponies. I bought Folklore Tess Gallagher at 7 months old. She matured 14 hands and is built like a mutant. I am almost 5’5” and do not look big on her. Tessie convinced me that a pony was perfect for me. Tess is 20 this year. I have also bred several ponies, Folklore A Wink and A Nod, Folklore Grainne, Folklore Practical Majik who I have kept. Folklore D’Arcy, Ridgetop Tom Collins and Ridgetop Valor who are out of Folklore Grainne have gone on to new homes with the promise of outstanding careers.

If that was not enough three years ago, I was given Folklore Elizabeth McNicholas as the best Christmas present ever. Liddy is Tessie and Folklore Practical Majik’s dam and was my go-to riding pony for years until she crossed the rainbow bridge. I acquired Loughin’s Knight Wind (the famous Nello) last year from Marynell Eyles. There was something that drew me to him and it turns out his great grandam was Bryan’s dam. He is an endless source of joy and amusement besides being a fabulous and dependable mount. With the exception of Wink all my ponies are under 14.2.

Now in answer to the question why I love my ponies and what do they have to offer.

I am 72 years old and have MS. I need a mount that is safe with great gaits that are not HUGE. I also need a pony that is close to the ground for mounting and dismounting and God forbid falling off.



As I said before I have always had lovely, talented TBs and with my ponies that legacy continues without the high maintenance. No shoes, rarely sick and very easy keepers, what more could a person ask for. My ponies are talented, beautiful movers who I can proudly take into the dressage ring or hack through the state park with utter confidence. Dogs, ATVs, bikes etc. do not faze them. I have children that love to groom them and handle them and they are perfect. They take care of us. Several years ago, I bought myself a barn jacket and had it embroidered with my new mantra which says it all

Connemaras

When you are ready to move up to a pony.

What makes a Connemara Pony Owner a Breeder ?

By Kathy Sparks, Chair of the ACPS Inspection Committee

We’ve all had these conversations, whether it is with friends or family. You might have, in your travels, visited “breeding farms”. You know the large, expansive ones in Kentucky or Virginia or maybe quaint, small backyard operations in Ireland, tucked away behind an unassuming garden gate. There might be one mare producing a foal or there could be many. Does owning a stallion determine whether you are a “breeder” ?

If we take a look at our Society’s guidelines and try and arrive at a definition of a Breeder, the farm prefix associated with the name of a pony, upon registration, is that of the mare owner. Yes the stallion is important in the process, but it is the mare owner who is the “BREEDER”. But what does the role of Breeder encompass. Is it producing the foal of your dreams, with significant bloodlines – a pony that will be the Connemara who can do it all ? Is it the feeling that you have preserved the attributes of your beloved pony, passing on the genetics to a future foal so that the legacy of a past partnership will be continued as you yourself progress in years ?

Or is it simply the joy and satisfaction of producing a foal and watching it grow into a trusted companion.

Now all this sounds great, but not all Breeders keep the foals they breed. Almost everyone who has produced a foal has at some point had one listed for sale. In some circumstances foals are sold because of changes in one’s personal life: relocation, or move, change of job or family situation, going off to college, maybe a personality, performance or behavioral issue has surfaced. But with the sale of a foal, the role of the Breeder does not stop. The Breeder has some tasks that need to be performed. These are NOT optional; they are part of being a responsible Breeder.

The foal or pony, it really doesn’t matter the age of the animal at this point, has been listed for sale or the word of mouth network has spread the word. Bloodlines might have been studied, maybe the pony’s “immediate” family is known to the interested party..... perhaps the buyer was hoping and waiting for the cross of bloodlines in the pony for sale to take place. Whatever the circumstances, there is a future change of ownership in the works. Photos and/or videos have been exchanged, emails and phone calls have taken place and



perhaps the prospective new owner(s) have visited the pony and additional information has been shared.

But let's be honest, not every Breeder takes their role seriously. Not everyone follows through in his or her role as a Breeder, not everyone is open with all information about the pony for sale. Often it is a case of "Thank God, there will be one less pony I need to train or feed and the sooner they are off the farm the better."

Now to the meat of the matter: Let's walk through a couple of scenarios, which have happened when a pony is sold. It is NOT a case of Caveat Emptor (Buyer Beware) First and foremost: We, as Breeders, need to "vet" our clients. Do your homework, ask for references, and question their stable management skills. Do they know about feeding, are they aware of founder, fencing issues (is the pony an escape artist), what about veterinarian and farrier care? Being pony owners we are all versed in this, but if the buyer is a first time pony owner, take responsibility to ensure that the pony is going to be taken care of properly. Take the time to make the phone calls and ask the questions. We all know of situations where a pony might have been placed in a home that was not the best for the pony.

Second, the Breeder needs to be honest with the prospective buyer. The new owner might be purchasing a mare for their child or as a riding pony for themselves. BUT..... and this is the big question, what happens when that pony is outgrown or is no longer being ridden. Well, in some situations, it then becomes a broodmare. It becomes an important point to share with a prospective new owner, as a responsible Breeder, the HWSS results of said pony. Buyers or those new to the Connemara pony breed may not be aware of the significance of this condition. It is your job as a Breeder to be honest and forthright with information about the pony and its family history. A pony should NEVER be sold without passing on ANY information about genetic or health conditions. I once had a pony that was allergic to phenylbutazone and would colic. This fact was written right in the sales contract.

Thirdly, get everything in writing. Yes, verbal agreements work and are traditionally how sales take place, but to safeguard everyone and to provide full disclosure, have a written contract spelling out the terms of the sale. Is there a trial period, a pre purchase veterinarian

exam required and who is paying and scheduling the exam, is the mare to be sold in foal or covered before traveling to its new home, who will arrange for the pony to be transported, and is there a first right of refusal agreement, should the pony need to be rehomed in the future.

Lastly, is the paperwork drill as they say. You've received the down payment or maybe all the money for the pony, so "Let's, quick as can be, get the pony loaded and off the farm". End of responsibility! Not quite so fast. There is still a very important task the Breeder needs to handle. Our ACPS Policy and Procedures for Registration states "It is the responsibility of the seller to submit the Transfer of Ownership to the Registrar". For members, the fee is \$30, if submitted within 30 days of the sale. It is not that hard to do, but more times than not, the transfer does not take place. Do not give the Registration papers to the new owner and expect them to know what to do. It is YOUR responsibility – you are the Breeder/seller of the pony. Registration papers can be lost, misplaced, accidentally destroyed and should not be taken lightly. Please keep them in a secure place, one that can be accessed should a pony be sold. People tend to realize the significance of the Registration papers only when it becomes critical and they are required for a specific event. Then panic sets in. Keep your pony papers handy and up to date.

A Connemara pony Breeder is an individual who takes full responsibility for all aspects of producing a foal, from mare care, to stewardship of the breed, due diligence in the timely completion and filing of Registration and Transfer of Ownership paperwork, being a promoter of the breed, a historian and student of bloodlines and one who shares the attributes of the Connemara. The ACPS is here to "Assist and promote the breeding, registration, training, exhibition and general use of the Connemara, and to preserve the unique qualities of the breed". Becoming a member (it is recommended that sellers purchase a membership for the new pony owner) attending meetings, reading the magazine, visiting the website (there is a Breeder's map on the website: (www.acps.org) and sharing pony news with other are just a few of the many ways to enjoy Connemara ponies. There are several ACPS Committees here to assist members with pony ownership: Registration, Inspections, Breeders and Arbitration. But most of all, act in a responsible manner as a pony owner or Breeder, share your love of the Connemara with all who will listen and enjoy your Connemara pony!

The 55th Annual

ACPS Region 1

Connemara Breed Show

At Green Mountain Horse Association
www.gmhainc.org
 South Woodstock, Vermont
Saturday July 24, 2021







Region I Prize List available on Region I Page - www.acps.org

Entries due by July 10. There are no entries day of show due to COVID restrictions.

Contact Amy Plavin at whconnemaras@gmail.com with any questions.

Calendar

Shows and Special Events

June 13, 2021 - Sunday - Upperville Colt and Horse Show, Upperville VA. Connemara classes.

June 18 - 20, 2021 West Coast Connemara Show, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, Watsonville, CA. CDS Recognized Dressgae on Friday. Breed and Hunter classes on Saturday. Jumper and Trail classes on Sunday. Contact Lee Webster Ramensky at bcs@sonic.net

July 4, 2021, Sunday - Warrenton Pony Show Connemara Division, Warrenton Pony Show Grounds

July 24, 2021 Region I Connemara Show, So. Woodstock, VT Green Mountain Horse Association grounds. Contact Linda Haines at troutranch@metrocast.net

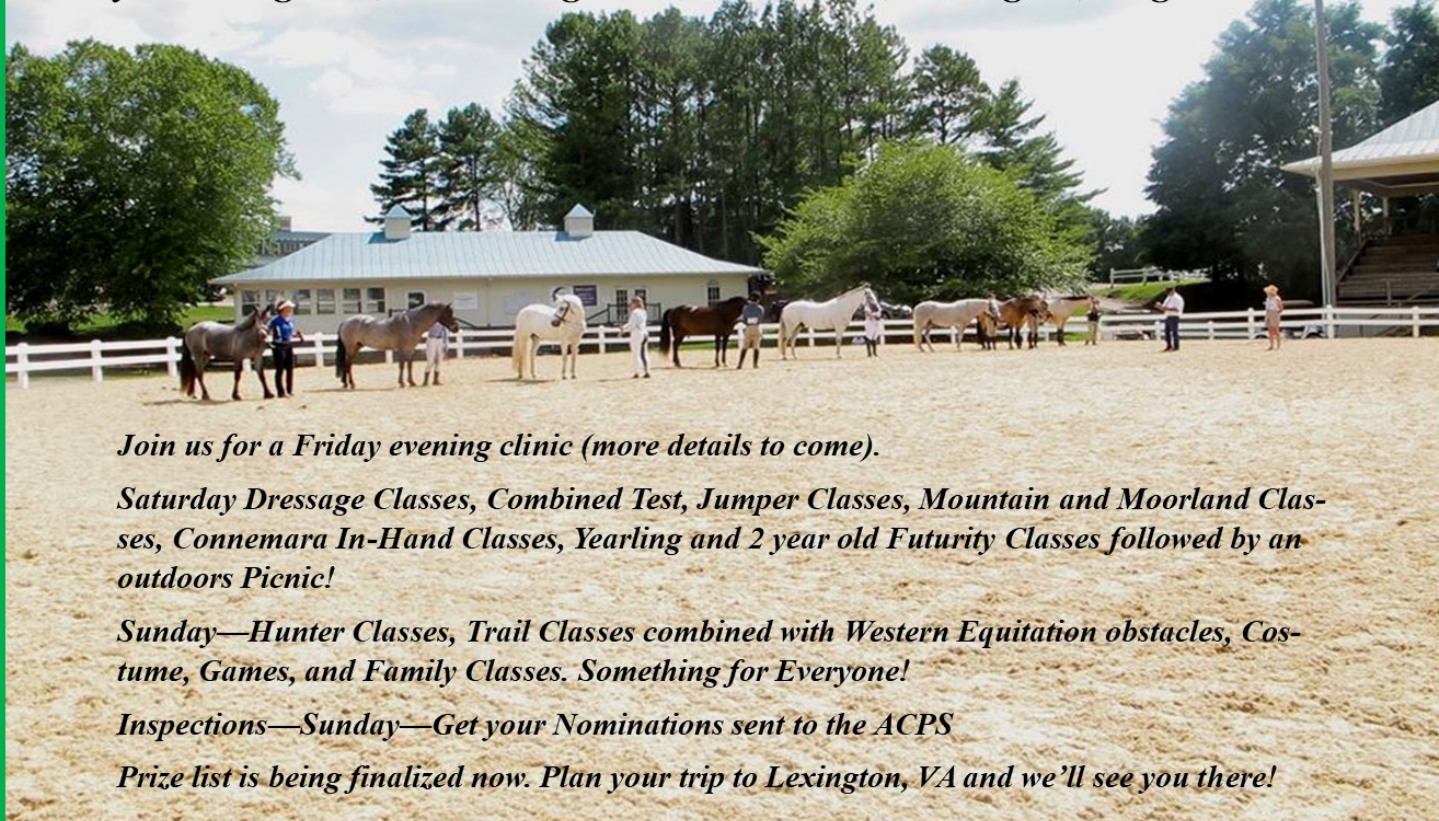
July 31 - August 1, 2021 Region III Connemara Show and Inspections, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, VA Dressage, Combined Test, Jumper, In-Hand classes on Saturday. Hunter, Trail, Costume, Inspections on Sunday. Contact Marynell Eyles at ridgetopconnemaras@gmail.com

September 23-27, 2021 ACPS Annual Meeting, Lexington Downtown Hilton Hotel, Lexington, KY See Page 9 of this issue for more information

October 30 - 31, 2021 Region IV Connemara Show and Inspections, Pine Top Farm, Thomson, GA. Bay of Plenty hosts a show on Saturday. In-Hand classes and Inspection on Sunday. Contact Kim Gates at gatesbythecreek@hotmail.com

You're Invited—to the Region III Connemara Show

July 31—August 1, 2021 Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Virginia



Join us for a Friday evening clinic (more details to come).

Saturday Dressage Classes, Combined Test, Jumper Classes, Mountain and Moorland Classes, Connemara In-Hand Classes, Yearling and 2 year old Futurity Classes followed by an outdoors Picnic!

Sunday—Hunter Classes, Trail Classes combined with Western Equitation obstacles, Costume, Games, and Family Classes. Something for Everyone!

Inspections—Sunday—Get your Nominations sent to the ACPS

Prize list is being finalized now. Plan your trip to Lexington, VA and we'll see you there!

ANNOUNCEMENT!

WEST COAST CONNEMARA SHOW

JUNE 18-20, 2021

**Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds
Watsonville, CA**

**Friday—Open CDS Recognized Dressage Show
and Trail Classes (open gate 10 am—2 pm)**

Welcome Reception

**Saturday—Breed Show, Connemara In-Hand and
Performance Classes. Western, Costume, and
Games**

**Sunday—Open Jumper Classes, 17 and under
Flat Classes, Awards Ceremony**

Wayne Quarles—Judge

For information contact:

**Joanie Webster—
joanmwebs@sbcglobal.net**

(707) 266-4941

Our Way Forward

true tales of an adult amateur and her rather cheeky mare



Polly feeling the love from 10-year-old Madeline Fasse.

Episode 9 - The Come Back

By Christine Kelton

Assisted by Trout Ranch Polly Claire

*(*Smaragaid Cliff x New Song's Autumn)*

"...to feel only that the horse is with me and I am with the horse.
That is bliss."

From Four Legs Move My Soul

Isabell Werth

The long, cold, New York winter has finally made its last gasps, giving way to buds, birdsong, and plenty of flying horse fur. The Canada geese are also back on the farm, honking their heads off as they strut through the fields and congratulate each other on meteoric water landings on the pond behind the barn. All seems as it should be, and the horses are quiet and happy.

There's been quite a bit of action at the farm this winter, with a few clinics and people coming in for lessons from Hannah. She's been riding Polly a few times a week while I'm recovering, and at this point I've had the cast off for about as long as I had it on. I walked around in a big boot for a couple weeks, and once the doctor said I could "slowly transition into the brace," off came the boot, the brace went on for a couple more weeks, and since then I've been walking around (walking is a loose term) on my own, scheming and dreaming about the day I could get back on Polly. And also worrying a lot about it, as well.

Has anybody else noticed all the advertisements on social media about "getting your riding confidence back" and "overcoming your fear?" I always thought, *Why would people ride if they were afraid? or Are there really that many people with confidence issues?* These were ideas I had never even considered for myself. And then I had three serious accidents within a span of 4 months, and even though only one was Polly-related, I had a lot of time to think. Before I knew it, I was one of "those people," treading in uncharted waters, and it was not a good place to mentally find myself.

Meanwhile at the barn, Hannah was riding Polly, and I got reports that Polly was giving kids bareback pony rides out to her field when she was done, or she was chasing the gator to and from her field, all in all living the good life with just enough work to keep that active mind busy, and time every day out with the donkeys. But I was really missing Polly, and as I could move around better, I started going over at night to have a chat and give her a couple diet treats. It wasn't until the beginning of March that I could take her out of her stall to brush her because I really wasn't very steady walking, and with my luck I'd end up getting stepped on or I'd trip over my own feet. And the thought of riding again was a constant worry.

On the fourteenth of March, I went over to watch Hannah ride. Polly looked fantastic. She was forward, listening, and looked like she was enjoying the ride. On days like that, Hannah ends the ride before Polly starts to think she's working.

"Hannah, I'll be right back. I'm getting my helmet."

I couldn't believe I'd said it. I limped to the tack room, then back out to the ring and over to the mounting block. My heart was hammering. I didn't know if my left foot would be able to take swinging up into the saddle. Polly stands very well at the mounting block, but I made sure Hannah held her head. I couldn't believe how I was shaking. In the stirrup went my left foot, pushed off, up and over, and there I was, in the saddle. Except for a couple short rides, it had been six months.

My victory ride lasted about a minute, or however long it takes to walk a 20 meter circle. Even though Polly was absolutely perfect,



the craziest thoughts went through my head. I finished that circle mentally fried, and at the same time completely astounded that I was even thinking that way.

Then it was time to dismount. I hadn't thought this all the way through. Hmmmm... how to get off a pony without landing on one of your feet. Thank goodness Polly was such a good sport, because it was a most inelegant dismount with one arm draped over the saddle and the other hanging onto a handful of mane while I slid down her side. This was the ride I needed very badly, and once it was over, I was looking forward to the next.

A few days later, I graduated to walking up and down the driveway, and in another week I went out with Michelle and Luigi for a "neighborhood patrol" on the road. My foot couldn't take any pressure on the ball of my foot, so my stirrups were a bit long and I definitely could not trot.

Polly and I have since settled into a regime of long walks around the neighborhood after work and on the weekends, while Hannah continues to ride her in the morning a few times a week. We're blessed with a network of quiet back roads to explore. I remember Denny Emerson in one of his books saying, "It's really hard to injure a horse at the walk," and Polly has a few extra winter pounds to lose, so all these long, slow walks are good for both her fitness and my confidence.

She is such a steady girl on the road and doesn't bat an eye at cars, bicycles, baby strollers, UPS trucks, or even dump trucks pulling excavators on trailers. Ninja squirrel demons are sometimes another story. The best part is that we just get to spend hours with each other without any pressure or expectations. Getting off is still the trickiest part of riding.

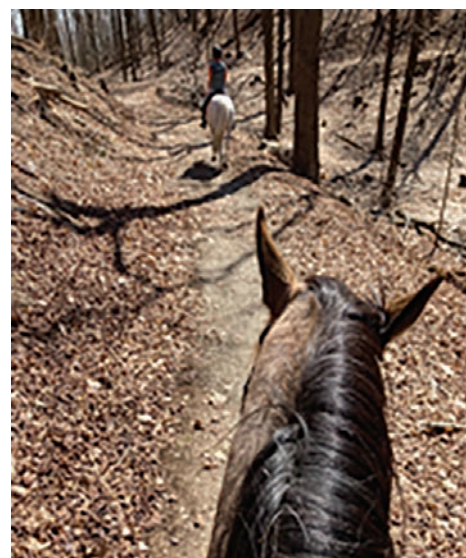
Last weekend, we even ventured to the Mohonk Preserve with my friend Beth and her POA, Jackpot. Oh, sure, I can try a little trot,

or so I thought. Polly trotted out beautifully and went right into the bridle, her hind legs moving like pistons. Hannah's done a terrific job with her. I was ecstatic and it was great fun while it lasted, but that night my ankle revolted. It was so worth it!!

Today is April 11th and this article was technically due yesterday, but there is one ride I've needed to do before sending it in. Every time we walk up the driveway, Polly wants to turn off and go up to the field where we had our wild ride back on September 10th that ended with my broken arm. Today I faced that demon

Up the path we went to the field, and there it was, that beautiful mowed field where we used to do trot-canter laps. The tree branch we always trot over was right where it had been. No maniacal deer were in sight. I grabbed a healthy hunk of mane in one hand, tried my best to ignore the alarm bell in my head, and off we went. We picked up the trot, went over the branch, walked the rest of the way down the long side, rounded the corner, picked up the trot again, and then Polly struck off in the quietest, softest canter and we glided back to the top of the field. THIS is what I needed to do, and Polly was right there for me.

It would be fantastic to think that my confidence troubles are a thing of the past; they definitely are not. I'm making solid headway, but I do worry that I'm going to come off and land on my weak ankle or on my arm again. Sometime, someday, it's going to happen. What these long months have taught me is a strong sense of emotional empathy for people who are facing similar fears and I understand how they can creep up on you and cause self-defeating thoughts. For me, it's been a conscious, ongoing decision that I want to get back to where I was both physically and mentally, and I know that I have the right pony to get me there.



Remember The Thoroughbred Option ~



Stroller - Mexico Olympic Silver Medalist, Thoroughbred sire out of a Connemara dam

By William Micklem

Reprinted from the online magazine

SporthorseData

The Supreme Sport Horse Breed Improver. STUDY SUCCESS!
CONNEMARA / THOROUGHBRED CROSS

In the 1940s a number of stallions were brought into Ireland to improve the Connemara Pony herd.

One stallion was only used for four seasons on a limited number of mares, but his influence on the breed can be judged by the fact that it is now difficult to find a performance Connemara without him in their back breeding.

That stallion was a Thoroughbred called LITTLE HEAVEN XX. Famous for being the sire of both DUNDRUM, Tommy Wade's 15.1 wonder horse, and Marion Coakes' famous pony and Mexico Olympic Silver Medalist, STROLLER.

Little Heaven

Breed:Thoroughbred

Colour:Bay

Sex:Stallion

Height:153cms ~ 15.0½ hands

Date of Birth:1942

Born In:United Kingdom

Progeny Level:Showjumping: 2-SJ-1.60m

Family:TB-3-b

Breeder:The Knockany Stud

Licensed Studbooks:Thoroughbred



These two equine legends won not only numerous Grad Prix, at a time courses were bigger than today, but also speed and Puissance classes.

Stroller

Breed:Riding Pony

Colour:Bay

Sex:Male

Height:147cms ~ 14.2 hands

Date of Birth:1950

Born In:Ireland

Currently In:United Kingdom

Comp Level:Showjumping Olympic/World Champs SJ-1.60m

Owner:Marion Mould nee Coakes

Marion Coakes & Stroller 1968 Olympic Games Mexico
Little Heaven produced the Connemara super sire CARNADUN, who stayed in Ireland, and TEXAS HOPE, who has been a major influence in Connemara breeding in the USA.

Most 'experts' say that Little Heaven's biggest contribution was his courage and 'heart', they also say he was just a "Thoroughbred weed", being fractionally over 15hh. But his dam sire was PORTLAW XX who produce a number of good racehorses, including PALL MALL XX and SING SING XX, and the Irish Sport Horse stallion CHOU CHIN CHOU, who was a prolific producer of both show horses and jumpers in the 1970/80s.

Even more important was that Little Heaven's Grandsire was BLANDFORD XX, who produced a stunning jumping line of sires led by UMIDWAR XX, BLenheim XX, BAHRAM XX, BRANTOME XX & WINDSOR LAD XX.

He was also grandsire of BIG GAME XX, the constant element of the famous Welton event horses, PERSIAN GULF XX, WILD RISK XX & FRA DIAVOLO XX. An extraordinary thoroughbred breeding jumping dynasty.

The Thoroughbred Connemara cross has produced a clutch of wonderful event horses, and is considered by many to be the best breeding combination for event horses.

This cross includes the legendary 15.1hh USA Hall of Fame member THE GRASSHOPPER, who achieved Olympic success with both Ireland's Ian Dudgeon and Michael Page of the USA. With Michael he won individual Gold in both the 1959 and 1963 Pan American Games. They also were in the USA team at the Rome Olympics in 1960 and the 1964 Games in Tokyo, when they were part of the silver medal team.



The Grasshopper

Breed:Irish Sport Horse

Colour:Bay

Sex:Male

Height:155cms ~ 15.1 hands

Date of Birth:194x

Born In:Ireland

Currently In:United States of America

Comp Level:Eventing Olympic/World Champs CCI5*



My personal favourite with this breeding was PORTERSIZE JUST A JIFF with Camilla Speirs, who together went from Pony Club to Junior European and Young Rider European glory, before finishing up at the London Olympics and in 2014 the World Equestrian Games in Caen, France.



Portersize Just a Jiff

Breed:Irish Sport Horse

Colour:Bay

Sex:Male

Height:157cms ~ 15.2 hands

Date of Birth:10-Apr-2000

Born In:Ireland

Currently In:Ireland

Comp Level:Eventing Olympic/World Champs CCI5*

Family:2714451

Breeder:PHILIP G L WHITE

Owner:Bridget & Camilla Speirs

I still vividly remember the first water complex at Caen, with a big drop followed by a narrow arrowhead in the deep water on a difficult distance. The arrowhead caused numerous problems, but Jiff, asked to take the forward option by Camilla, simply neatly and safely banked the arrowhead, just as my ponies did over a Cornish bank when I was a child out hunting. Job done, easy!

**Texas Hope, by Little Heaven and out of the Connemara mare, Knock Molly.*

He stood with Jim Bailey in Vermont for many years.

The One and Only Pat Lyne

Pat Lyne, A Memorial

By Caroline Nesbitt

The Connemara pony lost one of its greatest champions on February 22 with the passing of Pat Lyne. Pat's Chiltern ponies became cornerstones of breeding programs on every continent that has a Connemara Society. Her books are essential reading for everyone who has ever dreamed of raising Connemara ponies. Her fame as a judge took her to every corner of the world. And there was no better companion for a good laugh, a long story, a heated argument, and a glass of whiskey or a good red wine.

Pat was born August 12, 1929 into a family for whom horses were a business. She learned very early the ins and outs of running a livery that maintained hunters, hacks, and a few steeplechasers for owners from London who rode only on weekends and holidays. Buying, selling, and showing were a natural part of the equation, and by the late 1950's her breadth of knowledge and experience lead to success as a judge.

Her life changed in 1964 when, on holiday in Ireland with a friend, she was persuaded to visit the Geoghegans of Canrower. There, she fell in love with a dun filly that was absolutely not for sale... until Pat received a letter later in the year offering it in foal to Bridge Boy. The owners didn't give a reason for the change of heart, but Pat found later that it was because she hadn't placed in that year's breed show.

That filly was Arctic Moon. Pat said it was the best purchase she ever made, especially given that she had little knowledge of Connemara bloodlines at the time and relied on her excellent eye for a good pony. It was a real stroke of luck. Moon's half-Thoroughbred sire was the immortal Carna Dun. Her dam, Canrower Lass, was a full sister of Silver Lining, one of the best Connemaras of a generation – but not as good a producer as Canrower Lass.

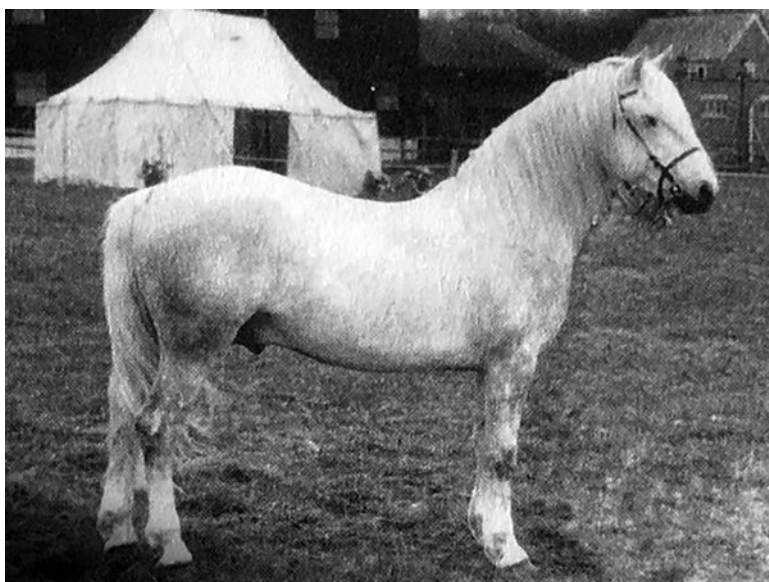
While Moon was producing three fillies in a row – Lune Star by Bridge Boy, Chiltern Dragonfly by Silver Snow, and a halfbred by a thoroughbred stallion that went to Europe as a show hack – Pat set about educating herself about all things Connemara and fell more deeply under the spell of the breed, the land, and the people of Connemara itself. In 1968, she took another leap and



Pat Lyne and her Arctic Moon

bought Island Duke (Clonjoy x Grey Dawn Lassie, by Silver Pearl) as a mate for her three mares. The English were not immediately impressed, and 'Dougal' had to go through inspections twice before he was allowed into the ECPS studbook. But Pat knew her own mind, and the Chiltern ponies headed by Arctic Moon and Island Duke produced a long and consistent line of offspring that proved themselves in hand, in performance, and in the breeding shed. Both were later awarded Premium status by the British Connemara Society; a number of their offspring and grandchildren followed suit. Several, including Chiltern Gazelle (dam of Chiltern Colm, sire of ponies with both the Balius and Wintervale prefixes) and Chiltern Curlew (sire of Chiltern Copa of Tower Hill, the Rutters' herd stallion), achieved Super Premium status.

The ponies took Pat all over the world - not only as a breeder, but as a lecturer, a judge, and along the way, a valued mentor to many. I first met her when she came to New Hampshire to deliver the lovely yearlings Chiltern Copa and Cocum Coppellia to Mary and Rogers Rutter at Tower Hill Farm in 1978; a really exciting day. The Three Day World Championships and the ACPS Annual Meeting were coincidentally happening in Lexington that year. Mary borrowed a four-person motorhome from a friend who owed her a favor and away we went on one of the more rollicking road trips of my life. Pat was astounded by the sheer size of the U.S. and wondered how it could be that Kentucky and New Hampshire were so far apart. In the dark depths of the graveyard shift she woke up to hear me cursing West Virginia's notorious switchbacks. She kept me company until dawn and we talked and laughed and argued away the hours about ponies, life, ponies, philosophy, and more ponies, cementing a lasting friendship. Once in Kentucky, no memory can quite compare with that of Mary Rutter trying to scale the back of a large grandstand where some friends had saved us seats for the show jumping. Mary was not a small person. With Viv pushing and Pat and me pulling, she had almost gotten to the top when she was overcome with helpless laughter and let go entirely, leaving the three of us hanging on desperately as she dangled in space, begging her to grab hold of the struts, *Please!* Among Pat's photos were some of a jaunty colt she called Colm. I wanted him so badly I could taste it, not that I could have afforded him. Pat said bluntly that I couldn't have him anyway, because he was the best colt ever sired by Corrib, and he was going to stay in England. Fortunately for me, nobody in England





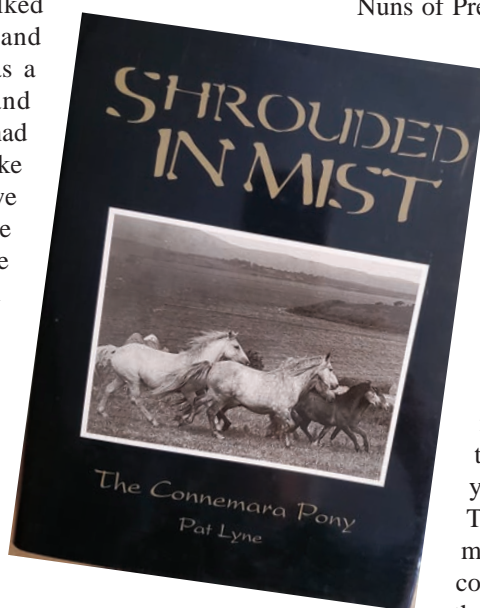
*Chiltern Colm and Caroline Nesbitt



*Chiltern Copa of Tower Hill, owned by the Rutters

wanted him. Buckskins were poison. Breeders thought the risk of getting the odd cremello was worse than catching the plague. Sally Green took him to Balius Farm in California instead, and five years later he finally came to Wintervale.

Perhaps the greatest gift Pat gave to the Connemara world was through her writing. In 1974, seeing a great need for a publication dedicated to the Connemara pony and its people, she founded *The Connemara Chronicle*. Here at last was a magazine that talked about bloodlines and history and shows and breeders. There was a section devoted to Ireland, and news from every country that had a Connemara Society. It was like manna from heaven. Every year we waited on tenterhooks to receive our copies, which usually were available in time for the R.I show, and read them until they were creased and dog-eared. At about the same time, Pat began seriously researching the history of the breed in order to write a book about it. It took seven years, countless trips to Ireland, countless glasses of whiskey drunk and stories told, countless hours buried in mangled archives and old reports. It was Pat who discovered written evidence that proved Rebel was indeed sired by Cannonball, who brought the O'Malley papers back to light, who re-opened a discussion of the Ewart report, who untangled the threads of all the various outcrosses and 'improvements' both successful and not, who put together a history not only of the pony, but of the people who stood by it, and the land and history that created it. The result, in 1984, was *Shrouded In Mist*. Yes, there have certainly been other books about the



Connemara. None have the same heart, or the same reach. Pat was a natural raconteur, and she loved every facet of her subject.

Many other books followed. As her beloved farm Redgates and the continued physical stresses of raising cattle and ponies began to tell on both her and her longtime partner Jo Donnelly, writing, speaking, and judging gradually became her chief support. During that time, the deep Catholic faith that was always her touchstone called her to serve the Carmelite Nuns of Presteigne, Wales, as a go-between from them to the outside world. She disbanded the greater part of Chiltern stud, sold Redgates, and moved to Combe Cottage just over the border into Wales. Only Arctic Moon and Chiltern Gazelle stayed with her. But Pat could never ignore a new challenge. Hearing that the last stallion of the Mountain Lad line in Ireland was about to be sent to the killers at the age of twenty-one, she threw herself into action again to put together a consortium to buy Thunderbolt and get him to the Cocum Stud in England for what became eleven more years of a productive life. Then, seeing a need for some way to celebrate and commemorate the place, people, and ponies she had spent so many years among, she entered a partnership to develop The Station House Museum in Clifden. Every spare moment was taken up until she had succeeded in collecting and cataloguing the assorted memorabilia that forms the heart of the museum, and its intimate focus on the role the Connemara pony has had in shaping the area through generations.

In her final years, Pat suffered from a debilitating case of shingles that left her with constant unresolved nerve pain. That, and the inevitable loss of beloved people and ponies, pulled her down badly, and she finally retired, with Chiltern Sunday (by Thunderbolt out of Gazelle's daughter Cameo), a lovely deep brown Irish donkey named Nectar, and a very large and furry black cat with her until almost the end. Visitors from all over the world



passed through Combe Cottage to keep her cheered, and regular calls from her many friends in Connemara made sure she was up on all the news and scuttlebutt. We made a point to visit her annually with our traditional feast of bread, paté, cheese, and wine. These happy occasions always began with a ceremonial glass of whiskey drunk by Pat & Bob while I set up the lunch and were followed by food, wine, laughter, verbal abuse of various sorts, stories of the old days, comments on the new days, and catch-ups on ponies and people near and far. The last time we saw her was just before her 90th birthday. We left with an awful sense that this would be our last visit, and some months later her beloved niece Nicola Brain had to have her moved



(Left) Pat Lyne and Caroline Nesbitt share a cold one at Combe Cottage.

(Above) The “traditional” dinner with Susan McConnell at Mitchell’s Restaurant in Clifden after the In-Hand Classes. Always the corner table in the window. This year, other guests included Laura Balding, Marynell and Walter Eyles

into a care facility after Pat’s mind began to slip badly. There she died very peacefully, ‘lying on her bed, rosary in one hand and flowers in the other, bless her,’ as Nicky said.

There are so many stories to keep her memory fresh. So many ponies that owe something to her breeding. So much generosity in a long life well lived and well considered. We are the poorer for her loss, and the richer for having known her.

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Sarah McRae Thrasher, 1410 Goose Green Rd., Vershire, VT 05079. (802) 522-7110. mcrathrasher@yahoo.com *Aluinn Durango S 727XLII*

PARADOX CONNEMARAS.

Tom and Sally Oxnard, 5 Greenleaf Dr., Exeter, NH 03833. (603) 828-9039, stoxnard@gmail.com, www.paradoxconnemaras.com

SOUTH RIDGE CONNEMARAS.

Kimberly Sterl, 148 Deer Hill Rd., Brentwood, NH 03833. (603) 493-3921. srfponies@gmail.com. www.SouthRidgeConnemaras.com *South Ridge Aidan S 668 XXXIX*.

TROUT RANCH CONNEMARAS.

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Donna Duckworth, 6494 Charles City Road, Richmond, VA 23231. (804) 507-0269 or (352) 538-0125. balmullofarm@gmail.com www.balmullofarm.com *Foothills Field Marshall S 1931 XLVIII*

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RIDGETOP CONNEMARAS.

Walter and Marynell Eyles, PO Box 40, Middlebrook, VA 24459. (540) 886-2239 lynneeyles@gmail.com *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, cell (540) 229-3471. mzcheek@gmail.com

THURMAN FARM.

Barbara J. Byrd, PO Box 472, Berryville, VA 22611. Bjb1971@thurmanfarms.com (540) 955-1215. (540) 931-2983.

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*Send high resolution photos to
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*Make sure to send sire, dam, and foal's
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names.*

Transfers

M 1507 XXXI – HEAVEN’S RIDGE MISTYKIL SUNSET from Kathy Manyo to Janet Johnson, 25310 Spring Valley Lane, Richland Center, WI 53581
HBM 718 XXXIX – SOUTH RIDGE AILEEN from Kim Sterl to Ava Hamlett, 120 Center Hill Rd., Landaff, NH 03585.
M 2053 XL STARLIGHTS DESERT ROSE from Susan Libbey to Andrea Clibborn -Anderson, 29615 154th Ave. SE, Kent, WA 98042.
M 2004 XL – BLUE RIDGE SINEAD from Jill McNicol to Chloe Guinter, 15975 Grenbower St., Alliance, OH 44601.
M 3291 XLIII – WILDWYCH CLIO from Kimberly Sterl to Janet Johnson, 15310 Spring Valley Lane, Richland Center, WI 53581.
M 3560 XLIV – WILDWYCH VALKYRIE from Mary Prewitt to John Lowe and Mejken Greenwood, 2752 E. 5900 N., Liberty, UT 84310.
S 1908 XLV – WILDWYCH THUNDER SNOW from Mary S. Prewitt and Libby Milroy to John Lowe and Mejken Greenwood, 2752 E 5900 N. Liberty, UT 84310.
M 4026 XLVIII – FREE RAYN CONUNDRUM from Lisette Healy to John Lowe and Mejken Greenwood, 2752 E. 5900 N., Liberty, UT 84310
M 4071 L – SAGEWIND SABINA from Rich Cobia to Molly Jensen, 8150 D 9355, Huntsville, UT 84317.
HBM 2525 LI – STONEY CREEK KITTIWAKE from Fiona Cheever to Louisa Woodville, 5532 Merry Oaks Rd., The Plains, VA 20198
HBG 2628 LIII – DRF ARCHER T – from Caroline R. Mandeville to Lori Bond, 4230 Calgary Way, Louisville, KY 40241.
M 4173 LIII – BLUE ROCK JULIET from John Keaney to John Lowe, 2752 E 5900 N., Liberty, UT 84310.
G 2566 LIII – TBF RESTRICTED AIR SPACE from Kris Carney to Brickelle Miller, 13007 70th Ave. E., Puyallup, WA 98323.
G 2614 LV – ROSEWOOD’S ODE TO JOY from Darian Hall to Maureen Duffy, 171 H Lane, Novato, CA 94945.
G 2612 LV – RFF RIVER RUNNER from Fonda Eigel to Sandra McShea, 1205 Lake Bay Rd., Vass, NC 28394.
M 4592 LV- LEDGEWOOD GREYSTONE LILLIANNA from Kathleen K. Tostanoski to Barbara Jo Metcalf, 400 Westhampton Rd., Florence, MA 01062.
HBG 2751 LV – TESTIMONIAL from Sarah Shade to Falita Liles, PO Box 1080, Middleburg, VA 20118.
HBG 2713 LV – PIEDMONT WOODROW from Vanessa Morgan to Kylie Hudson, 1680 Raulston Falls Rd., Jasper, TN 37347.
S 2002 LVI – BLACKWING GOODNIGHT MOON (GELDED) from Melissa Mayo to Susan M. Plyler, 413 N. Kensington Rd., Greenville, SC 29617.
SAME – from Susan M. Plyler to Sarah E. Plyler, 4165 Sage Ct., Beaufort, SC 29907.
G 2725 LVIII – WILDWYCH KITE RUNNER from Mary S. Prewitt to John Lowe, 2752 E. 5900 N., Liberty, UT 84310
SAME – from John Lowe to Natalia Baumgartner 1119 Portland Place, Boulder, CO 80304.
M 4582 LVIII – CLOON LARA LEGACY from Karen Libuse to John Lowe, 2752 E. 5900 N., Liberty, UT 84310.

New ACPS Members

ACPS New Members (February 10 – April 20)

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Ava Hamlett
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Kelly Holway
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Clara Beck
Faith Hainsworth

Region 3

James Power
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Region 8

Mejken Greenwood

Region 9

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Shannon Brinkman photo