

AMERICAN CONNEMARA

The Official Publication of the American Connemara Pony Society

MAY/JUNE 2023

EDITION II, VOL. 14 NO.3

The Junior Issue



Gately Farms Presents



*MLC The Duke of Sussex

(Morning Glory's Illyushin x
Elphin Sandpiper)
2018 Bay stallion
13.2 HH
Hoof wall N/N

*Castle Monarch

(Castle Comet x
Orphee Schueracher)
2010 Grey stallion
14.2 HH
Hoof wall N/N



Ridgetop Tom Collins

(Landgate Bluebeard x
Folklore Grainne)
2018 Bay stallion
14.2 HH
Hoof wall N/N

* **Castle Monarch** won the stallion trophy at the 2022 West Coast Connemara show for the third time in a row and retired the trophy. He also won Breed Supreme Champion for the second time. We are so proud! Both of our young stallions ***MLC The Duke of Sussex** and **Ridgetop Tom Collins** did fantastic at their very first horse show, we could not be more excited about the future of both of these young stallions!

Kathryn Lucas

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Orange, CA

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N/HWSD



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In 2022



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Welcome to America

***Hohnhorst Elwood** (Ardnasillagh Island x Norlunds Sweet Molly)



Special Thanks goes to Holger and Mae Reimann of Connemara Pony Stud Hohnhorst for breeding this lovely colt.

Breeding~Training~Stock for Sale~Foaling~Boarding

Tom and Fonda Eigel

1646 Cook Road Cynthiana, Kentucky 41031

Riverfrontfarmllc@gmail.com ~ 859-576-4027



Devon Ridge *Treasure Hunter*

Connemara X Irish Draught Sport Horse Stallion

2018 - 14.3 - Blood Bay - HWSN N/N

Sire: DRF Semper Flexibilis (IDSH)

Dam: Devon's Golden Treasure (Connemara)

Dam Sire: Bantry Bay Dillon (Connemara)

Grand Sire: Flexible (IDSH)



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Contact us at: 219 - 765-0814 or on Facebook

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American Connemara

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COVER PHOTO

The Sillanpaa sisters at the Region I Connemara Show

Need Help from the ACPS Office? New Phone Number is 540 430-3745.

Leave a message or send a text.

or email: americanconnemara@gmail.com (preferred method)



President's Page

Welcome to the Junior Edition of the *American Connemara*. I hope you enjoy reading about what some of our juniors have been doing with their Connemaras. Our Scholarship program for Juniors supports young riders providing educational opportunities for Juniors who apply. You can find the application in the Forms section of the website under Awards. The deadline for 2023 is September 1st and the scholarship awards are announced at the Annual General Membership (AGM) meeting.

Look for the announcement of our AGM and consider making plans to attend the meeting and have a chance to learn more about the UC Davis study to discover the DNA of Melanoma. The research has been conducted exclusively using Connemaras as the study participants. UC Davis will be hosting us the day before our Saturday meeting. Our ACPS Foundation and many members have supported this research and the results will be applicable to all grey equines. Life member, Maureen Loughman Abel, continues to spearhead the search for one category of participants. If you have a purebred grey Connemara, age six and younger with a melanoma, no matter how small, your pony can assist in this valuable research. Contact Maureen and she will guide you through the process. (mloughman@embarqmail.com)

About 80% of grey equines develop melanomas by their late teen years. Most of these skin tumors are benign and horses with them lead normal lives with no, or relatively simple, treatments. They can, however, become malignant or occur in places that interfere with bodily functions. Our Tower Hill's Donnelly, age 28, has a marble sized melanoma under his tail and a tiny one on his scrotum. He participated in the study about ten years ago. His full brother died at a young age due to melanomas blocking his rectum. Their sire, *Chiltern Copa of Tower Hill, also died due to a similar condition of

melanomas. He was not young, but it was still a devastating way to go. The opportunity to hear about the research and the implications for the findings is a big draw for many of us.

Our AGM is itself a reason to plan to attend. We meet Connemara people. We talk about Connemaras. We share opinions about all things Connemara. If you aren't there, we don't get to meet you, hear about your Connemaras and we don't hear your opinions. We have a mission: To assist and promote the breeding, registration, training, exhibition, and general use of the Connemara. To preserve the unique qualities of the breed. To assist and promote equestrian competition. To keep members informed of all matters concerning Connemaras.

It is a lofty mission and it takes a lot of attention and at least 11 committees composed of ACPS Board members and volunteers to continue to pursue these objectives. Much of the work occurs throughout the year, but this annual coming together helps us refresh our enthusiasm and provides a broader view to check that we are serving our mission.

Our Inspections Committee and its Education subcommittee of Tracy Garland and Sarah Thrasher have been gaining ground on the Connemara Online Learning Program. They had the opportunity to present portions of it to a Connemara audience in Ireland in March. The program is getting closer to being available via our website sometime soon. This is a brand-new venture for ACPS and will be able to inform our members, and anyone interested in the Connemara pony, about the unique qualities that we are working to preserve.

Here's a special shout out to Life member Barbara Clark of Eugene, Oregon. (You can check her out in the May/June 2021 American Connemara, Fun with Pony page.) She's been a Life member since the 70's and has had several generations of Connemaras. She still cares for and rides her Courtney's Four-

Leaf Clover even though Barbara lost her eyesight 20 years ago. She can't read the magazine so if you know Barbara, give her a call and let her know she was in the news.

It's April in NH. It's 50 degrees but still snowy in the ring and on the trails. Blue Ridge Bluebell is glad to get outside for a ride. New Song's Autumn, or Alyce, is due to foal in four days. It looks like she's waiting for spring to really arrive, at least to have one daffodil make a debut. I hope she does hold on a bit longer.

Linda





Royal Storm owned by Mady Lippencott was the 2022 ACPS/USEF Clifden Trophy winner. The gelding is by Marvel van Grouf Janshof out of Birkely Spohoyna bred by Elin Springer in Europe.



RR Cool Play and his owner/rider, Ryder Richardson.

Ryder is the 2022 Winner of the USEF Youth Sportsmanship Award



**2023 ACPS Annual Meeting
 Davis, California
 September 28 - October 1, 2023**

HYATT PLACE UC DAVIS
 530-756-9500
 173 Old Davis Rd. Davis, CA 95616, USA

Make your travel and room reservations now! Use the link below to get our ACPS Discount:

https://ucdavis.place.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html?corp_id=G-ACPS

Deadline for group rate is August 28, 2023.

Complete meeting registration will include lunch on Friday at UC Davis, Welcome Reception, Friday 5-8pm at Great Bear Vineyards - wine tasting, appetizers and live music, Saturday meeting lunch, Awards Dinner, and Hospitality Room goodies!

Adult \$150, Junior \$50, 10 and under free!
 (Awards Dinner Only: Adults \$75/Juniors \$35)

Fly into the Sacramento International Airport and stay at the Hyatt Place UC Davis. From Sacramento the hotel is a 26-minute drive by shuttle/rental car/Uber. (From San Francisco International/83-minute drive, or Oakland International/78-minute drive.)

Name: _____ Email/cell: _____

Roommate Name: _____ Date of Arrival: _____

Roommate Wanted (circle)

Food Allergy: _____ Special Needs: _____

Please make checks payable to ACPS Region X
 Mail this completed registration form and check to:
 Lee Ramensky, 4795 Acacia Way, Penngrove, CA 94951





Cell: 707-695-1654

2023 ACPS Annual Meeting
Davis, California
September 28 - October 1, 2023

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Come enjoy the California sunshine and visit the #1 Vet school in the country, #2 in the world! Arrive early and enjoy a day to relax by the pool, catch up with friends and explore the charming university town of Davis. There is a super tack shop in nearby Woodland or take a drive into Old Town Sacramento for great shopping and food. Wine tasting in Amador County or a visit to the Sacramento International Horse Show are also worthy day trips. Dinner Thursday and Friday will be on your own, and reservations are recommended. The beautiful Arboretum Trail takes you on a leisurely one mile walk from the hotel to town. Unless otherwise noted, the meetings and activities will be onsite at the Hyatt Place.

Friday, September 29, 2023

8-10am Executive Committee Meeting

11am - 3pm UC Davis School of Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. Box lunch, presentation, and tour. Dr. Carrie J. Finno, DVM, Ph.D., Diplomate ACVIM (LA), Director of the Center for Equine Health at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and Dr. Alain Theon, DVM, MS, PhD, Dip. ACVR-RO, Professor and UCD-VMTH Oncology Service Chief. will present the latest in Equine Melanoma Research. 1 mile, walk or drive.

5-8pm Great Bear Vineyards Welcome Wine Tasting, appetizers, and music! 10-minute drive.

Saturday, September 30, 2023

9am Annual ACPS Board of Governors and General Membership Meeting

6pm Cocktails, Silent Auction – featuring Region X stallion breedings for 2024 and much more!

7pm Dinner and Awards Ceremony

Sunday, October 1, 2023

9-11am Rosewood Riders' Masterson Method Demonstration, the Backs Family Farm, 10-minute drive.





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HYATT PLACE UC DAVIS

530-756-9500

173 Old Davis Rd. Davis, CA 95616, USA

Make your travel and room reservations now! Use the link below to get our ACPS Discount: https://ucdavis.place.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html?corp_id=G-ACPS

Deadline for group rate is August 28, 2023

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Other helpful links:

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STALLION AUCTION 2024



The American Connemara Pony Society extends sincere gratitude to stallion owners who have participated in the three Connemara Stallion Auctions to benefit the ACPS Susan McConnell Foundation. Sincere thanks is also extended to the mare owners who bid on the stallion services, and to all who helped make the fundraisers a success.

The Foundation is a 501c3 Not-For-Profit entity that provides funds exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes. The first three years of this event raised more than \$20,000 for the Foundation. The ACPS is thankful.

Donated breedings are being sought for the 2024 auction. There will not be a auction in 2023 but hopes are high for an even bigger and better offering in 2024. To offer a stallion for the event – stallions must be a registered Purebred or Halfbred with fresh or frozen semen readily available in North America. Information and Photos must be submitted by Dec. 31, 2023,. Watch for more information.

The auction will be widely shared across social media platforms, national publications, and through our own ACPS website and magazine.

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

Fonda Eigel

Summerresort3@gmail.com



ACPS CALENDAR

JULY 21-23, 2023 - REGION I CONNEMARA SHOW

ACPS INSPECTION SITE

SOUTH WOODSTOCK, VT

JULY 29-30, 2023 - REGION III CONNEMARA SHOW

VIRGINIA HORSE CENTER, LEXINGTON, VA

JULY 28-30, 2023 - REGION X CONNEMARA SHOW

CALIFORNIA



Introducing ~ Ceili Cosmosi

Out of Corner Oak Celtic Star

by Ceili Mosi oa Tunya

Standing in North Florida

Live cover (first mare in foal) & AI

Available for Sale

Purebred Connemara filly by

Ceili Mosi oa Tunya

Ceili Whistlejacket



Videos on Youtube – Dream Connemara Pony

Keahey Connemara Farms

Fernandina Beach Florida keaheyjulie@gmail.com (970) 581-6120

Ryder Richardson
USEF Youth Sportsman 2022
ACPS Scholarship Winner

Ryder Richardson of Colorado submitted this application to the USEF for consideration in the Scholarship Program administered by the USEF. He was the National Winner for 2022 ~

I am a 16 year old boy rider from Colorado that is hoping to make a difference in the lives of my fellow equestrians, as well as the lives and well being of the horses that I love. I enjoy volunteering and standing up for all animals, kids, and causes that I believe in. I am currently riding and training with hopes of qualifying for Young Riders in the next year of two. I have been extremely blessed by great trainers and mentors and hope to pay it forward. I enjoy working alongside trainers, grooms, and horses and really love learning everything that I can about this sport. I am working towards helping the equestrian community to become more inclusive and diverse through education and awareness.

I am an experienced and proficient rider in the hunter/jumper field, but I have experience with dressage, eventing, and western disciplines too. I enjoy all forms of riding and respect the horse above all else. I am passionate about excellent horsemanship and loving the animals that we call partners. Currently I am showing in the 1/20m Low Junior Jumpers and Pony Jumpers in the USEF. I am an experienced catch rider, a team player and hard worker. In an effort to help promote inclusivity in the horse community by supporting riders from all walks of life and people that would otherwise be unable to ride due to finances or support, I founded JoyRyder.org in 2021.

In addition to my riding, I have played Lacrosse for more than 10 years on different teams. Most recently I played varsity (as a freshman) for my high school and was awarded Offensive Player of the Year, was one of the team Captains, and was awarded as a National all-Star in the Midfield position. My most ardent work is with the JackStong-Teen Mental Health and Anti-Suicide Organization. I lost my best friend, Jack Padilla, to suicide a few years ago. I am very passional in advocating for teen mental health and attend different summits as a speaker.

My future career goals are many. I would love to help other young riders get opportunities to achieve their dreams by helping with grants and networking. I would love to have my own farm and training business someday where I could focus on helping to diversify the equestrian community. I would really love to raise young horses and develop them into brave and kind children's horses. I would love even more if I could gift those horses to deserving riders. I volunteer at Drifter's Hearts of Hope Horse Rescue and I feel like that has made me even more appreciative of the unique bond we share with the incredible animals.

I would really like to be a trainer and coach, but I am also interested in equestrian sport governance and being an advocate



Ryder Richardson on his RR Cool Play, a halfbred Connemara .

for the future of our sport. I am toying with law school so I can be knowledgeable about contracts and process. I want to help ensure that equestrian sport becomes more popular and accessible to all people.

I have developed by own non-profit to help other riders find opportunities within the equestrian community. It is called Joy Ryder (pending 501(c) 3 status). You can look it up online at www.joyRyder.org. I have donated nearly every penny of my own money to support a few different kids that my former Pony Club leader, Nancy Sachs, pointed out to me. I have paid for once weekly lessons for two deserving kids that are in neglect/abusive homes and I have made a scholarship at Marian Maybank's Colorado Show Circuit shows. I have sponsored and paid for five entries (one at each show) for kids/adults that were doing their first horse show. I have very big plans for the future in developing grants and scholarships.

Above anything else, I NEED to make a difference in the world.

Clara Beck
USEF Scholarship
Applicant

Clara J. Beck of Pennsylvania submitted the following for her USEF Scholarship application ~

I am an active promoter of the equestrian sport, especially within the disciplines regarding hunters, jumpers, and equitation. I am committed to being an advocate and a role model for both human and equine partners alike. I am a determined participant in equine genetic research, experiments, and breeding programs. In 2022, I interned as a herdsman on a dairy farm, and was responsible for treating animals and feeding calves, and I worked 12-hour days. Since 2022 I have fulfilled computer and phone duties, including listing items for sale, advertising, and general labor and registering animals at Long Acres Farms. I also assist in emergency veterinary practice and help log information into their patient records, clean, answer phones and assist in the intake of patients at Northwest Pet Emergency Clinic.

I am an active participant within the USEF, American Connemara Pony Society, Western Pennsylvania Horse Show Assn., Interscholastic Equestrian Assn., and Cornell University's Division One Equestrian Team. I was a 2021 IEA Sportsmanship Award Recipient.

As an extremely ambitious individual, my goals within my future career are vast. I grew up surrounded by the Veterinary industry with the mom being in diagnostics and my dad being a farmer. I have volunteered at small, large, mixed, exotic, and emergency clinics enough times to make receiving my D.V.M. a vigilant objective. As of now I have my own small business in sport horse breeding with two mares expecting April 2023 foals. I focus on bringing in new genetics to the United States will simultaneously utilizing the foundation lines within the lower 48. I have produced and consulted breedings for German Riding Ponies, Norwegian Fjord Horses, Westfalen's, and my favorites, Connemaras. My oldest foal crop are now beginning



Clara Beck and her Connemara

to hit the circuits with none placing below reserve champion within their respective divisions. My first pony was a Connemara and took me from the cross-rails divisions to the 2'6" large pony hunters. She is an absolute gem and has provided my sisters and me the most amazing opportunities, including the opportunity to continue her legacy through her progeny. When I graduate from Cornell and look toward applying to veterinary school, I plan on expanding my business further. I hope to be able to apply my education to my business to be able to provide services and specialize in reproduction within the equine industry.



For more information on the ACPS Scholarship Program

go to

www.acps.org

There you will find the forms to submit for your own scholarship application

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Tullymor's Mountain Steel

and

Balmullo's Beacon



N/HWSD Available for live cover breeding
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Hall of Fame Winner
(Aladdin x Tullymor's April Fool)



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Duet Farms One Love, Marley
2016 Stallion by, *Kippure Cara x Tre
Awain Maeve (Premium Mare)

- ▶ N/N HWSD
- ▶ 14.1 ½ HANDS
- ▶ AWSSR INSPECTED AND APPROVED BREEDING STALLION
- ▶ PASSING ON GREAT BONE, TEMPERAMENT AND TYPE
- ▶ SHOWN WITH GREAT SUCCESS IN HAND AND STARTING HIS UNDER SADDLE SHOW CAREER IN 2022
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Alyssa Gadberry

My pony is a 14-year-old Connemara Morgan cross gelding named Boo. I have been riding for three years and riding Boo for over a year. We bought him December of 2021 from my trainer. It has been so much fun getting to know him better, and owning my own pony has taught me a lot of responsibility.

Boo is so easy to be around and has the best personality. His personality matches mine. He is sweet, sassy, energetic, fun, and silly, which I love about him. My favorite thing about is he never refuses a jump. Boo helps me be confident knowing he'll always take care of me when we're jumping. We have built a strong bond which has helped Boo to improve on picking up his feet, trailering, and bathing.

Boo and I do so many fun things together. I started eventing with Boo this year, which is dressage, show jumping, and cross-country. His favorite thing about eventing is cross-country, and I enjoy doing it with him, as well. Sometimes I ride bareback, and we have also gone on trail rides. On his riding days off we do groundwork, showmanship, liberty work, or just have fun playing around. This year we also got to go to the ACPS Region 9 Conformation Clinic. I have a lot to learn, and Boo is an awesome partner. I look forward to riding Boo for many more years. I take riding lessons at least once a week and sometimes more if we're working on a challenging skill and especially during show season. This scholarship would help me pay for lessons or maybe shows and clinics next year.



Alyssa Gadberry and her Connemara/Morgan named Boo.



*Rose Vinson and
Denver's Nora
Foley*

Rose Vinson

Horse's Name: Denver's Nora Foley

Sire: Aladdin's Denver Dam: Sparrow's Spring

I have a half-breed Connemara pony mare named Denver's Nora Foley, or as we call her, G. The G stands for Girlfriend, which is a name that really suits her. I've met lots of horses, but I've never met one as sweet as G. Whenever I walk into the barn, she pricks her ears and noses me like she's glad to see me. Or she's looking for treats. I like to think it's a bit of both. She loves hugs, licking people, and even gets dressed up for her birthday and Halloween. The only thing bigger than her appetite is her personality. As sweet as she is, she's always up

for some mischief, makes the funniest facial expressions, and has an intense loathing of baths. She rarely ever sits like a lump in her stall; she's always either playing with her hay, tormenting the poor horse in the stall next door, or trying to hypnotize people into giving her treats. She runs to me when I call her name when she's out in the field, and she likes to play follow the leader and chase. It's one of the things I love about G. You're never bored when you're with her.

The same is true when you're riding her. G is stubborn, way too smart, and is always convinced that there are lions in the bushes. This can be a problem, because I am an extremely nervous rider. Something that has really helped G and I with our connection is dressage lessons. Jumping falls under the category of parts of riding that terrify me, but I still wanted a discipline to do. When I started dressage lessons a year ago, I thought they would be boring, but I was very wrong. Not only have they tremendously improved my position, but I have learned a lot about understanding what G is telling me and improving my confidence, both of which have strengthened my connection with G and made us a better pair.

I've learned to understand what G is telling me with her body. If she isn't doing something I ask, I stay calm, don't panic, and instead of thinking about what she isn't doing, I focus on what she is doing and what I am doing in comparison. This gives me clues to what I am missing when I ask. When I ride G, it's a lot like I'm having a conversation with her. I ask her something with my aids, and she replies with her body. I've started noticing what it means when she does a certain thing with her body. If, when I ask her for trot, she drops her back, it means my thighs aren't engaged enough. If she doesn't stop, it means I'm leaning forward. Our "language" has helped our connection grow. When we trust and understand each other, our rides go smoothly and

we are both happy.

Our connection improved so much over the past year that, this summer, I finally decided it was time to face an old foe of mine: cantering. Any gait faster than a trot makes me nervous, and G is definitely the fastest and most unpredictable horse I have cantered. Up until this summer, the only horse I had cantered regularly and comfortably was an ancient pony who was more likely to fall asleep at the canter than to run away. I had tried several times to canter G but had only succeeded in getting a few wild steps, all with me leaning forward and flailing in the saddle. More often than not, my desperate attempts at a trot to canter transition resulted in a million mile per hour extended trot, which looks pretty but definitely doesn't feel so great.

This summer, my strengthened connection with G came in handy at the canter. My biggest obstacle was the extended trot. I had spent so long asking G half-heartedly if maybe she wanted to canter that she had stopped believing that I really wanted to canter. Instead, she did that fast extended trot around the ring, and when I finally got the trot under control, I was too scared to try again. This summer, through dressage lessons and improving my confidence and relationship with G, I was finally brave enough to keep asking after the extended trot. I learned to keep my position even through the fast paced bouncing, and to calmly ask for canter out of a ten meter circle. I've also learned that often G is telling me something with her extended trot. Sometimes it's that I am not asking enough, sometimes I'm pulling, or leaning forward.

She's just like a riding instructor, always checking to make sure I'm doing everything right, and she will definitely find a way to tell me if I'm not! After all, if I'm not doing my part of the work, G sure won't do hers! Now, I canter G in big circles around the ring, and even if I get the extended trot, I stay calm, think about what she is telling me, adjust my position and ask again.

The scholarship money would provide me with the opportunity to continue taking Pony Club lessons with various visiting instructors. It is so helpful for G and me to get feedback from instructors with different points of view, and at every Pony Club lesson I have taken I've gotten at least one piece of advice that has been extremely helpful in improving my position and relationship with G. These lessons are good practice for G and I off property, and for eventual showing. It was at a Pony Club lesson that G and I did our first canter off property.

I couldn't have a better horse to be doing all of this on. G is the sweetest, smartest, funniest horse ever. She has taught me so much, and she isn't just an amazing horse, she's an amazing friend.



A Champion Stallion from Champion European Lines successfully passing it on

***Smaragaid Cliff**

(Munkholm Cobbergate x Shamrock
Bright Roxanne) 14.3h, brown

- ACPS Premium Stallion
- Two ACPS Gold Medallions
- USDF & All-Breeds Champion
- USEF Leading Eventing & Dressage Sire, HOTY
- German Golden Medal Winner
- HWSD N/N; no grey, dilute genes

The Proof is in his Progeny

Karen Laden

<http://www.kingswellconnemaras.com/>

Visit Cliff on Facebook at
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719-495-3892



The Sillanpaa sisters, Georgia and Lilly, share their family pony, Stone Pony Mira, and both submitted applications for an ACPS Scholarship.

Landon Beaubien, age 6, was excited that he was chosen for a 2022 scholarship. He thought long and hard about what he wanted to buy and decided on a new helmet. He appreciates that his pony, Minnie, listens to him and is a good girl. He is learning to go over ground poles.



THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR

CITYVIEW
PRINCE CHARMING

NORTHERN
CONNEMARAS
VERSHIRE, VT

***Cityview Prince Charming**

Shannon Prince (Monaghanstown Fred)
x Tallyho Holly (Kingstown Cavalier)

14.2H ~ Bay ~ N/N

•
Shipped cool semen

•
Youngstock available



CONTACT

Sarah McRae Thrasher
(802) 522-7110
mcrathrasher@yahoo.com
northernconnemaras.com



Stella Marsh and R.M.F. Time of O’Riley

My name is Stella Marsh, I am 17 years old, and I am lucky enough to ride my mom’s incredible little Connemara, R.M.F. Time of O’Riley (By Morning Glory’s Ilyushin, out of R.M.F. Irish Rose). “Rye,” as we like to call him, is a stunning 13-year-old buckskin, and the combination of his sassy attitude and striking appearance makes everyone fall in love with him. I live in East Hampton Connecticut, and between being homeschooled and keeping my four horses at home, I get to spend a large part of my time training them. Connections with some amazing people through different horse adventures has given me the opportunity to ride and work with a lot of amazing horses, but I can honestly say that Rye has been hands down one of my absolute favorites to work with.

Rye came to us in 2019, after my mom had lost her heart horse to a colic in December of 2018. We hadn’t been looking for another horse at all, but Carolyn McEvitt sent out an email advertising Rye for his owner who was looking to find a home for him in the Region 1 community. At that point, his owner was looking to lease him out with the option to buy him after a year. When we saw Carolyn’s email my mom initially didn’t pay much attention, because she was thinking about a horse for me and knew that I was looking for an event horse, not a small, out-of-work pony who also had patellar fixation. However, I suggested that we should at least talk to Rye’s owner about the lease, because I thought that even if it was just for a year, my mom could have something to trail ride again (spoiler: it wasn’t just a year lease... we bought him in 2020). We decided to go ahead with the plan to lease him for one year and traveled up to New Hampshire to pick him up. He definitely didn’t have the most auspicious beginning with us, as he managed to bolt backwards and escape under the tail bar as we tried to load him in the trailer and he spent several minutes bolting around loose on a dirt road in the middle of nowhere. We did get him back on and home safely, and then we got to start getting to know him.

He quickly earned the nickname “McGregor,” as he reminded us of the Irish fighter Conor McGregor. Rye would slam into you while you tried to lead him, nearly knock you over with his attempts to itch his face, and bite if he thought there might be

food anywhere in your hand or pocket. When I first started to work with him, he seemed to have forgotten that he had been started nicely as a younger horse and quite frankly he acted a bit feral. He would rear and bolt away from me when I tried to lunge him, spook at lots of things on the arena, and was quite tense and anxious. Because he has patellar fixation syndrome and he had been out of work, our first few rides were not pretty. He was so weak that he looked lame on both hind legs, and that combined with his level of tension him made him feel like a hot mess to ride. My mom and I slowly got him conditioned, and then she began trail riding him. For the most part it went ok, apart from the occasional bolt and meltdown. I rode him whenever my mom couldn’t and began teaching him to jump and took him cross-country schooling a few times. From the time we got him in 2019 through 2021, my role in his training was mostly just riding him when my mom couldn’t and doing fun things with him. I did take him to a few shows in 2019, one of which was the Region 1 Connemara Breed Show (I would just like to say to my Region 1 folks- if you were at that show and had to be anywhere near Rye, I apologize. He was pretty darn horrific that weekend). I used him for Pony Club events several times during 2019, and during 2020 (when we decided to buy him) my mom was his main rider, and we went trail riding all the time. During this time, I had gotten a 4-year-old OTTB, and so I really only rode Rye a couple times per week for most of 2020-2021. Unfortunately, I lost that young horse to a tragic colic in December of 2021 and was left feeling heartbroken and incredibly discouraged. Then, this year, my mom started working a full-time job after my dad retired from his job as an airline pilot, and that left Rye in need of a full-time rider, while I needed a horse.

I decided to just start training Rye seriously. No pressure to compete, or prove anything, but just training him and really building a relationship with him. Slowly but steadily, he started to improve. We did tons of hill work and pole work, strengthening his hind legs to help with the patellar fixation. I started working really hard on his jumping and dressage, and he began making major improvements in both things. He can be a bit of a weird horse to work with, because he often presents as very confident and brave, but the reality is that he tends to be very anxious and insecure. Unfortunately, that anxiety presents itself in a very defensive way, so he can come off as a complete brat. It took me a little bit to figure out that he needs me to reassure him a lot, even when he acts like he doesn’t want that reassurance. It took a few months, but I started to notice a difference in his attitude around me. He would actually relax when I patted him and told him that everything was fine. Sometimes he would just press his head into my shoulder and let me wrap my arms around him and scratch his neck. That was a big one, because he tends to be a rough love type of fellow, so for him to want to just be with me quietly was a huge step in the right direction. We started going exploring alone. Sometimes we’d just disappear into the woods, or other times we’d go for hacks out on the road. I’m honestly so proud that we’ve gotten to the point that he can trust me, I can trust him, and neither of us really worry about much even when we’re alone. I started riding him bareback, which was another big deal because when I used to try to ride him bareback, he’d get very anxious and try to either run away or buck me off. One day, I decided to ride him bareback and bridleless, using just the neck rope to steer him. On his first ever ride without tack, he did walk/trot/canter, as well as circles and other figures. I’ve continued to ride him without any tack sometimes, and it’s amazing to me how well he listens just from my seat. He’s learning his walk-to-canter and counter canter in dressage and is confidently jumping 2’6” in both show jumping and cross-country. We’ve also been playing around with some liberty work,

JAB General Sherman

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Stallion

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5 proven foals

N/HWSD

Causey's Lucky Clover
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and he's getting quite good at it. He will stand completely still while I jump on from the ground and then stand up on his back. I've always struggled with putting a lot of pressure on myself when it comes to training my horses, and for the first time in a while, I feel like working with Rye this year gave me a chance to just really fall in love with the process and have fun. I said to my mom recently that I feel like Rye came into our lives to heal broken hearts, first for her, and then for me. He gave me something to focus on and love after it felt like my world fell apart when I lost my young horse, and that is priceless to me. He's so sassy, has the most serious/insistent nicker, and he really the funniest horse we have. Rye has an opinion about everything, and nothing gets done without a discussion, but when I can discuss things in a way that he understands, he is seriously the coolest laddie in town.

If I were awarded this scholarship, I would like to use it to either go on some hunter paces or hopefully go foxhunting this fall/next spring. A lady at the barn where I work has an experienced foxhunter Connemara, and she's offered to have Rye and I go to a few foxhunts with her and see if we like it. I would love to take her up on that opportunity as I have always wanted to try foxhunting and I think Rye would really enjoy it. Thank you so much for considering me for this scholarship, and here's to lots of adventures for all of us and our wonder ponies who truly do it all!

Liliana Green

First off, there are so many things that I love about my Connemara pony. He is so kind but also very stubborn at times. He has challenged me and pushed me to ride my best and work hard. I love that one moment he can be a fancy little dressage pony and the next moment he can be a cute dirty pony in a field. He also has such an amazing personality (and a luscious mane and tail!) My Connemara has so many awesome attributes that it's very hard to name them all, but those are some of the ones that I love the most.

My pony and I mainly do dressage. We are working on training and first level and we just did the Dressage for Kids Festival with Lendon Grey. We also went to Dressage Days at GMHA and the ACPS Connemara Region 1 show, where we placed second in Junior Showmanship and won a Green Pony Pleasure class. We also did our first crossrail class! Dressage is both of our strengths but we also throw in a little jumping and cross country work. I feel as though the jumping helps so much with dressage and it's fun for both of us to try new things. Having a Connemara is amazing because Connemaras do it all! I feel like my pony and I could do any discipline we set our minds to.

I love watching other riders at dressage shows because I learn from them. This scholarship would help me be one of those riders. We all know the price of entry fees, stabling and things like that at shows. This scholarship would help me and my pony go to shows and maybe even put some money aside for a nice dressage saddle! I have so many goals and I know that opportunities like this would help me and my pony along on our journey.

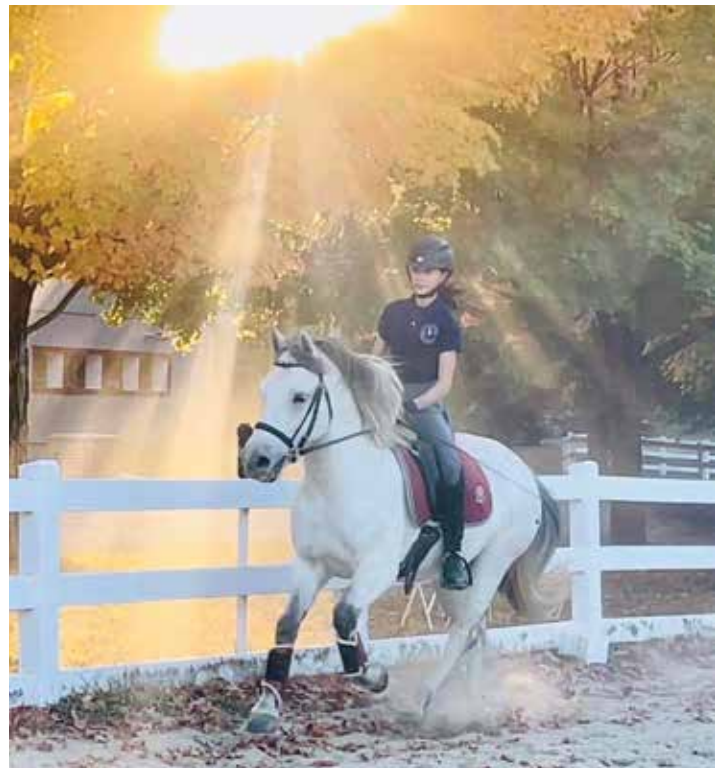
My Journey with Riggins

Mila Arian

Riggins. The small sweet bay Connemara. We started our adventure with him almost two years ago and I never thought we would end up where we are now. When we had just gotten him he was a 5 year old who had very little muscle and a lot of fat. He had come all the way from Missouri and he was very interested in where he was now. Riggins also did not have a lot of experience under saddle. After a few days I rode him for the first time, we worked on the basics

like walk to trot transitions or walk to halt. In the first few months my cousin rode him mostly as I was riding a different pony at the time. That pony has taught me so much and is the reason I was able to ride other horses like Riggins. Although Riggins wasn't always sweet and easy. He started to stop and plant his feet and refused to move at all. And if you used a crop on him he would buck. We started to bring him to a trainer to help with this problem. This helped him so much.

This trainer taught me how to deal with this, and then I started to ride him more and more. Then I moved full time onto him since both my sister and my cousin sadly quit riding. In my lessons with my trainer, Riggins and I started jumping. It's one of my favorite things we do together. Fast forward a while later and Riggins was jumping heights I never thought we could, It was crazy watching his improvement. I love that Riggins can always learn so fast. I also like how he has an attachment with his people. He loves me and my mom so much. I have learned so much from riding and so much from Riggins. A lot of others at my barn and I want to plan a trip to Connemara in Ireland to learn all about where these horses all started so this scholarship would help not only me but everybody at my barn learn about our horses.



Liliana Green and Blackwing Holden's Thunder



Skylan Rayne Nelson and Seaborne's Maritime

Hello, my name is Skylan Rayne Nelson, I was born April 15, 2009. I am 13 years old. The horse that I am riding is Seaborne's Maritime A.K.A Marit. Her registration number is HBM 2184 XLV; her sire is Seaborne's Schooner and the dam is a TB mare named Double Avenue. Marit is a 15.2 hand bay mare .

The things that I like about Marit:

I love her personality. She is very honest; if you ask her to do something then she will try. She also does not have any games that she thinks are fun even if it's not, and she does not have any tricks. For the little bit that I have had her, we have had fun trying to learn each other. Marit is very kind. She is also very trusting and willing. Marit will let you give her a shot or soak her hoof and she will stand there while you groom her, put hay, water, or even much out a stall, and when you come back, she will still have her foot in the bucket. I also think that she is mature for being 14. I love that I can count on Marit to take me to higher levels; also, I love that I can ride her for a long time because I am still growing and I will not out grow her. I know that Marit will be here for a long time because she is my grandmother's horse. I also know that she is proven in all three phases of eventing, which is what I am training to do with her. I also like that she is game to jump; you do not have to kick her to get her to go over every jump. She also has very good dressage training. For a plus we like the same treats, puffy mints.

The things that I do with my pony:

I plan on showing and eventing her, maybe even foxhunt her. I am in Pony Club so I will attend clinics on her also. I have started to train on her in dressage and jumping with my grandmother but

would also take dressage, jumping and cross-country lessons with professional trainers whenever I can. We also enjoy trail rides around the farm and I would like to take her out this fall and winter to ride in the mountains and public parks with trails in our area. Since I only started riding her late this summer, I am just trying to get to know her and learn what buttons to push. I am also wanting to make a close bond between Marit and I

The learning opportunities that I would use the scholarship for will be pony club clinics, schooling shows, cross-country schooling or lessons. I think for sure a dressage lesson would be beneficial so that we can really grow as a team.

Last year I received a scholarship from the ACPS that helped me with a big goal in pony club, riding the Connemara pony I had earlier this year (that pony, Corner Oak Celtic Star, is now on maternity leave and expecting a purebred foal in October.) The goal was to compete in rally at the Kentucky Horse Park. My pony did well in all three phases - a soundness jog for the vet, a formal turn-out inspection before dressage, turn back inspections and the vet box after cross country. Plus we did not have a barn manager on our team so we had to work extra hard to stay on top of everything. Rally was fun and exhausting. I learned so much and thank the ACPS for helping me get to rally. I love all the Connemaras I have ridden and I see Connemara ponies always in my future. I am super excited about getting to ride Marit now!

The Story Behind the Story

By Sue Perry

As members of the American Connemara Pony Society, we all know what versatile little athletes and friends our ponies are. My pony, Banty Bay's Erin, is a shining example of our club's motto "Connemaras do it all".

I grew up showing hunters and equitation as a junior, as that was what everyone at my barn did (Dana Hall School Riding Center) in the 1970s. I had a chestnut Quarter Horse cross named Lion. Luckily, we had access to some trails nearby, which we enjoyed riding on after school. As a college equestrian, I took group dressage lessons. In 1978 my family went to watch the Ledyard Farm Three-Day Event in Hamilton, MA. It was exciting, and I thought, "That really looks like fun. I wish that Lion and I could do that in miniature."

I soon learned that eventing does come in "miniature," and I was hooked. I turned my Children's Hunter into a successful Novice level event horse and we competed all over Area 1. I came to call Lion my "versatility horse" and we spent the rest of his life doing a little of everything together – hunter shows, events, dressage shows, hunter paces, and trail rides.

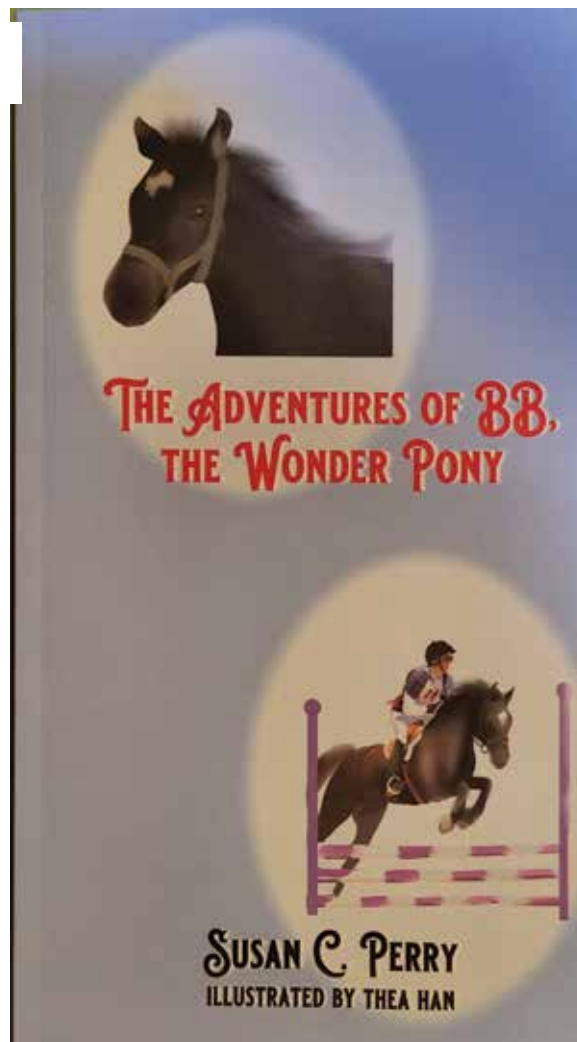
My next horse, Magic, was an off-track Thoroughbred and I did my best to teach her how to be a show hunter, event horse, dressage horse (tough given her long neck and downhill conformation) and hunter pace horse paired with my Fjord/Paint pony Sugar. Lessons for me and Magic did not really exist, except for an occasional clinic, as I was working full-time as the large animal radiology technician at Tufts University Veterinary School and my two equines lived at home with me and the cats. Somehow, it worked out, and Magic and I won ribbons in all of the above types of competitions. In retrospect, I must have been a little crazy to do all that myself with Magic!

Cody was to be my next versatility competition mount, purchased at age 3.5 years. He, unfortunately, did not take to ANY type of competition. We had time for both dressage lessons and jump lessons, as I was working part-time as an equine massage therapist, but neither I nor my trainers could convince Cody to "play the game du jour." The good part about Cody was that he was totally unflappable when I took him on "outings" to ride just about anywhere – trails, fields, beaches. Still a bit crazy myself, I recall trailering him solo to the Southern New England Trunkline Trail on his fourth birthday, and Cody being a perfect gentleman.

Corky came to my farm next, with lots of event experience, but at a very young age, to his detriment. Poor Corky turned out to be terrified of competing, and jumping in general, because he had been abused by his previous owner. Although that woman was an advanced-level competitor, she had used excessive force to get young Corky to "go over the jump or else." Patience and training with me did nothing to help the poor guy, so I sent him to a retirement farm in rural NY. There, with no pressure, he finally relaxed and even got fat!

Now it is January 2011. I am a petite, 51-year-old rider with two horses who cannot show – Magic is now a lawn ornament and Cody enjoys hacking only. I wanted another versatility horse to compete, preferably one in a small package. I did not have aspirations of eventing at Training level as I had done with Magic – just smaller jumps for fun. A friend suggested that I look for a Connemara Pony, known for their versatility under saddle and calm temperament.

All those years after watching Ledyard as a teenager, I ended up back there in that historic indoor arena (where the USET three-day team had trained with Jack LeGoff) trying Bantry Bay's Erin. He was for sale because his owner Olivia had outgrown him in both ways. She



had gotten too big for the pony, and she wanted to move up to Training (after winning ribbons in almost every event at Novice). At 14.3 hands, the Training jumps were just a bit too big for her pony's physical talent, although his heart was saying "I'll try." "Olivia, I hear that you call him 'Erin'. All of the people that I know called Erin are girls. Do folks think that your pony is a girl when you introduce him to them?" I asked.

"Yes, all of the time," she replied.

Erin did not put a foot wrong when I rode him in the indoor arena, testing his dressage skills and going over a few simple jumps. After the ride, I sat in the tack room and said to everyone there, "This pony is perfect. If I don't buy him, what else am I looking for? What is Erin missing that I would want to find in another mount? Nothing. So pending a satisfactory pre-purchase exam, I want to buy him ASAP. And I will call him 'BB' – that's a cute pony nickname and does not imply any specific gender."

I called Dr. Bryan Parrott, a veterinarian in the area, to do the exam for me. Small world: he was a Tufts student circa 1985, and I taught him how to take radiographs!

BB happily went to work as my next versatility horse, already off to a good start given his early training at Bantry Bay Farm and then with Olivia. Eventing was our favorite type of competition, and we travelled all around New England to Area 1 events, having a *blast* and much success competing at the Beginner Novice level. We had one particularly memorable blue ribbon at UNH in April 2016 – and a trophy cooler which remains on display because if BB wore it while he was sweaty, he would stop, drop



TELESIS CONNEMARAS

*SWANSVIEW MIRAHS SHADOW

*2019 Purebred Approved Gray
Stallion by Silver Shadow out of
Graces Girl by Westside Mirah
HWSD N/N*

With outstanding pedigree by the famous Silver Shadow out of a Westside Mirah mare. Silver Shadow is one of the top performing Connemara ponies on the European circuit. He excelled at the highest levels of competition, successfully competing in the 1.30s and is now producing top 1.30 athletic competition ponies. Dam sire is Westside Mirah who is one of Ireland's most successful sires of show jumping ponies, producing grade A European winners.



TELESIS CARRAIG RUA

*2019 Purebred Approved Buckskin
Stallion by R Blue Moon out of
*Lishmar Topaz by Silver Heaven
HWSD N/N*

Stunning boy with correct type, conformation and movement. This boy's personality captures the heart of every person who meets him. Fantastic brain and willing attitude with lovely floaty gaits will make this boy a top prospect for the future.

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and roll in a nano-second.

BB and I tackled the occasional hunter show also, mostly for extra practice jumping in a show ring; our fellow competitors towered over us. I recall one judge remarking at the end of the day, “You did a nice job of fitting in three strides in that 36’ in-and-out every time”. Horses do it in two strides. But my training worked well, as every event stadium jumping course we did had a 36’ line of two jumps; we always did a neat, tidy job in three strides and BB never once pulled a rail down.

Dressage shows were always on our competition schedule as well. I belong to a friendly local dressage club, Charles River Dressage Association, where we would show 2-3 times a year at Amateur Adult First Level. Club members who did at least four hours of volunteer work at the shows or clinics were eligible for the year-end awards (tricolor ribbons through 6th place and trophy saddle pads for Champion and Reserve Champion). BB and I brought home ribbons every year, and saddle pads as well in 2021 and 2022.

BB ended up bringing me more competitive success than I ever dreamed was possible. On Christmas Eve 2016, I got a letter from the USEF to say that we had won a national award – 5th place in Purebred Connemara Eventing! I did not know that such a division even existed, but we were eligible since we were both members of USEF and ACPS. Soon after, a long, fancy pink ribbon arrived in the mail, which I proudly hung next to BB’s portrait.

Two years later was almost a repeat victory – we were in 6th place for 2018 USEF National Horse of the Year in PCE. Then in 2019, BB and I earned our Eventing Gold Medals from the United States Eventing Association, awarded for receiving three scores of 35 penalties or fewer in events being held at three different venues. I stared with stunned pride at all of these awards for days after each one was put up on the wall.

BB and Cody became best buddies, not only at the farm but on the trails as well. With a friend or my sister Linda riding along, we go just about everywhere on woodsy trails, open fields, re-purposed rail trails, Acadia National Park Carriage Roads and the Nashoba Valley Hunter Paces. I tell everyone, “You can trailer BB and Cody anywhere to ride; unload them, tie them to the back of the trailer, switch shipping boots for galloping boots, tack on, mount up via the trailer running board, and off we go!”

So now we come to “the story behind the story.” Last August, while trotting in the grass riding field, BB stumbled and fell to his knees. I flipped over his head, and he rolled on top of me.

BB found his feet and stood up, with me lying directly underneath his belly, crumpled up with the wind knocked out of me. He stood immobile for several minutes. In excruciating pain, I got up and got us both to the barn. I yelled for my neighbor to help me. Amazingly, BB was unhurt. Unfortunately, I did not escape unscathed.

My diagnoses – severe bruising of the left hip/pelvis (just about unable to walk) and a distal fracture of the left clavicle. The latter required a surgical repair a few weeks later, incorporating a 4” bone plate and 8 screws. Linda stayed with me to help with everything in the house and barn, as I had my left arm in a bulky “shoulder immobilizer” contraption.

It got pretty boring spending most of my day reading books and doing jigsaw puzzles, with only short walks to break up the monotony. Honestly, I was going stir-crazy! One day Linda said, “Sue, I think that you should write a children’s book.”

“Me? A kids’ book? I am not really a kid person.”

“Yo do so many fun things with BB. You could write about those, from BB’s point of view, in his own child-like pony voice.”

“Well, maybe.” I went out for my walk, thought about it for an hour, and returned to say, “Yes, I will give it a try.” The book was to be an



Susan Perry and BB

Spectrum Photo

illustrated, first chapter book for ages 8-10. Linda and I went to the town library and checked out three books of this type to get an idea of what I should and should not do when writing for this age group. I learned quite a lot from this bit of research.

I really don’t know how to do anything on the computer, so I sat down at my desk with a pen and stack of lined paper. In a couple of hours, the first draft of *The Adventures of BB, the Wonder Pony* was born.

Linda teaches full-time for an international, on-line school. Currently, she has middle school writing students. This also means that she has way better computer skills than I do! Linda helped with editing as I did a couple of revisions, then she typed the manuscript into the computer.

What to do for illustrations? The professional artists that we contacted did not really draw in the style that I had in mind – realistic rather than cartoon-y, but not as detailed as a photograph. Linda had a 12-year-old student named Thea Han who is an artist; she could draw in a style that fit with my ideas and was thrilled to get the job as book illustrator.

How to get the book made? Fate arrived again in the form of a publisher in the tiny town in WA where Linda lives. Methow Press specializes in getting first-time authors published. Perfect! Linda was able to meet with the owner in person, which expedited the publishing and then printing process. By January 25th, we had THE BOOK in our hands!

The Adventures of BB, the Wonder Pony is BB’s autobiography. He tells readers all about his life, starting out as a foal and ending up today. In his pony voice, BB talks about life on the farm, going on trail rides with Cody, and competing in a variety of competitions. There is an entire chapter on the Region 1 ACPS Connemara Breed show in South Woodstock, VT. BB goes into detail about what he has to do to win Fitting and Showmanship as well as how to do the “jolly ball carry” in Dressage Trail.

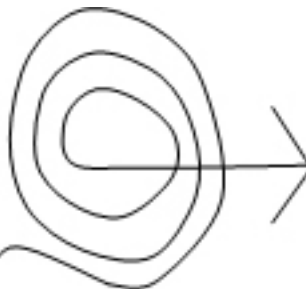
This book is really a tribute to a *wonderful* pony, one that is a shining example of how “Connemaras Do It All!” If you would like to purchase a copy of BB’s book, there are two options. You can buy it directly from me: sue.perry@charter.net

Mailing address: 3 Bradish Farm Rd, Upton, MA 01568

\$5.00 per book plus \$3.00 shipping of 1-3 books to one address (\$5 for shipping 4 or more books). Checks should be payable to Susan C. Perry.

The other option is to order the book on-line from Amazon or Barnes & Noble. They each charge \$7.99.

I hope that you all have *wonderful adventures* with your Connemara Ponies!



~~Our Way Forward~~

true tales of an adult amateur and her rather cheeky mare

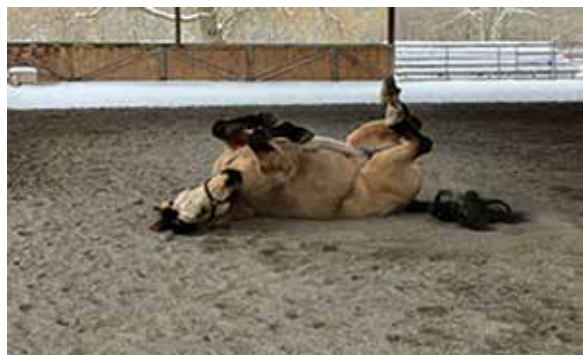
By Christine Kelton Assisted by Trout Ranch Polly Claire

(*Smaragaid Cliff x New Song's Autumn)

Episode 18- Doing Nothing is Doing Something

"Contentment is not the fulfillment of what you want but the realization of how much you already have."

—Anonymous



Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. Those words hang on my wall in a poem by Max Ehrmann called *The Desiderata*. I found it years ago in my landlord's attic while helping his wife clean out junk, rolled up in a scroll. She gave it to me, and I loved its message so much that I splurged and had it framed even though at the time I was a poor college student. Without getting into particulars, let's just say that the last six months of life have brought a whirlwind of change, and through it all my ESP (Emotional Support Pony) has remained a constant blessing, and a reminder that I already have everything I need.

I think it's human nature to see what other people are doing and think, "Boy, she's so lucky! She gets to... go on a European vacation, buy a custom show jacket, spend the cold Northeast winter down south riding her pony while I'm shoveling 3' of snow for the third time, with a broken snow shovel and a hole in my wet mittens. Yup, there have been many days I cock my head and think *if only... if only... if only...* Honestly, I've thought *if only...* about much smaller things like when I watch a training level dressage test and a young horse picks up the canter right at C when the rider asks. Yep. It just doesn't seem fair, does it?

Don't get me wrong - I'm honestly beyond happy for my friends and acquaintances who seem to "have it all." I enjoy following people and horses on Facebook to see what everyone's up to, and I bear no grudges. OK. There's maybe some envy, but I am genuinely delighted for their good fortune and wish everyone all the success they're after. And when I see a post or hear that somebody's pony decided to exit the arena at C or added a few

airs above the ground at X, there is a small part of me that smiles because it's good to know that everybody else doesn't have a perfect pony, either.

Last summer, Polly was in fantastic shape. She had been in work all winter and spring, and by early August, that girl could go for hours. There was no holding her back. She was a lean machine and ready to go. In mid-August, I decided it was time to make some life changes which included a divorce, selling my house, and finding a new domicile. I don't wish moving on anyone. The worst part was mucking out my home of 20 years plus all the outside work - gardens, pressure washing, mulching, painting, those little repairs that I'd get to someday - that someday was now... the whole gamut. It's mind and back-numbing work, it takes hours and weeks and tears - yes, tears. My friends Steve and Barbara Graf were instrumental in getting it done. Finally, by mid-October, the house was listed.

Where was Polly all this time? Well, she sat around for the better part of two months at this point. We hunted a few times in August, but other than that she was contently hanging out at the farm in her stall with the giant aisle fan by day to keep the bugs away from the princess, and at night in her paddock with her nice shed and her friend, Gala, next to her. October 2nd was our Opening Meet, so I took her out for a spin. It was a spectacular, four hour day with two viewings and a reminder that the best things happen when you don't leave the field early.

The house listed in mid-October and, inundated with showings the first weekend, we had to make ourselves scarce. Luckily, there was a hunter pace that day, so I grabbed Polly out of her mini-retirement and thought we'd just go easy for the day. My hunting friend, Darlene Wiessmann, had a young half draft mare, Maya, we teamed up with. They weren't overwhelmed with entries in the Open division, so we figured we'd give it a try and see what happened. Yes, the Open division is the "fast" one, but we weren't going to go all out.

What happened was Polly fell instantly in love with Maya - doe-eyed Polly - never saw that coming in a million years. I've made it no secret that Polly has strong opinions on just about everything and she is not always for the faint of heart, but that



The end of the day...Polly side by side with no "snaky mare neck or scary faces". Still ready to go.

Emily Wiley Photo

pony was under some spell I've never seen before. There we were, trotting and cantering side by side with no snaky mare neck or scary faces. And while I doubt I'll ever get that girl to canter at C when I ask, she knows and loves her job out pacing. And to her credit, I can pull her out of a field after not being ridden for weeks, load her on a trailer, and go out riding for the day and she's the exact same pony I'd put away the last time. That's something to truly appreciate. And kudos to Maya, a young mare who led the way for much of the time.

It was a successful day all around. The two mares and their riders returned no worse for the wear, and I had multiple offers on my house. I remember feeling such a sense of relief - but ignorance is bliss, as they say. I thought getting a house ready to sell was stressful, but complications love to rear their ugly heads at every turn, and there were many turns in the road.

I'd rented a 10 yard dumpster and filled that before listing the house. It quickly became apparent that another was in order. Where did all this stuff come from? It's like my vacuum cleaner - no matter how many times I vacuum the same spot of carpet, it fills with dog hair. I swear Dyson has that purple ball pre-stuffed with a never - ending supply of dog hair that automatically fills the canister when none is detected on the rug.

Then the buyer's attorney sent their idea of a contract. OMG. All the things that needed to get done... and one biggie was that the assessor's office claimed no knowledge of a finished basement with a bathroom and a finished room over the garage. That was news to me, because we'd built the house, and all those things were finished right at the beginning. The former building inspector had even helped me re-site the basement bathroom because the concrete truck had dumped excess concrete in the foundation right where the plumbing was supposed to go. Of course, that was 20 years ago and there was now a different building inspector. Was he going to make me tear out sheetrock so he could see what was behind everything? I'll make a long story short - it came close, but an electrical inspector came and did some sort of inspection and I produced receipts for work done 20 years ago. The legal separation happened at the end of October. The closing happened in mid-December. A very timely phone call came from my hunting

friend Nancy Morisco who gave me the sage advice, "Keep your head where your feet are." I wrote it on my cell phone. The whole experience was the most stressful four months of my life.

I didn't know if I would be able to keep Polly. That was just too much to bear on top of everything else. She can be such an opinionated little tart, but she's *my* opinionated little tart. At one point in desperation and fear, I was going to lease her out as a broodmare. I had several friends who intervened and some who even offered to keep her for me until I landed back on my feet. Even the amazing Gail Finnerty, who owns the farm where I board Polly, offered to keep her until I figured out life. I would occasionally get to the barn through the long winter months and just ended up brushing her and bawling. She's a very good listener, and more than anything, that's what I needed.

Thankfully, my greatest fear never came to be. My imaginings were much worse than anything that happened. Polly lives exactly where she's been for the past year, happy and healthy. My belongings are mostly in storage while I wait for this crazy real estate market to settle down. Many thanks to my dear friends, Mary & Scott Kimelman, for housing me until I can find the nearly perfect place, and Polly's only 15 minutes away.

I practiced "pony therapy" this long winter. The days were dark early, so I didn't ride. I was mentally exhausted. Instead, we talked. We talked a lot. Polly got brushed a lot. We did a lot of nonsense - that's exactly what it was. Polly rolled in the sand, then got up and galloped, bucking like a lunatic and snorting like a dinosaur. It's a blessing to see her feeling so good. We played soccer on the weekends with her purple sparkly ball from the dollar store, and her Spanish Walk is... a weapon. Yes, Amy Plavin, I've said before - I concede to your wisdom that teaching this very smart pony that trick was not in my best interest. It's too late to turn back now.

We didn't spend the fall and winter going after that ever-elusive canter transition at C or tuning up jumping distances. Far from it. But the time we spent together "doing nothing" did more for our relationship and mental well-being than anything else ever could.

Spring is here in more ways than one. I have a job I still love even after 15 years (I'm an ESL teacher for grades 3-5), a strong network of friends and family, a safe place to live, and I can assure you I'm never hungry. I went to our Hunt Ball a few weeks ago and won Trudi Graham's ladies hunting whip in the silent auction and I'm feeling very official going into the next season. Last week Polly got new shoes, so we're ready to hit the beaten - and unbeaten - paths again. There are a bunch of spring hunter paces coming up, so we've started our long fitness walkabouts and neighborhood patrols to get ready. Last week she took off like a shot down the road at her super trot, so she's ready to go. I have everything I could ever want or need. Life is good.

ACPS Membership Application Form

Memberships run from January 1st - December 31st.

All memberships include a subscription to the American Connemara magazine and a Membership Directory.

Membership (please check one category):

- Junior (under 18 years, qualifies for awards) \$25
- Associate (adult, qualifies for awards) \$40
- Senior (adult, qualifies for awards, votes) \$50
- Family \$100 (spouse and/or parents, children under age 18; qualifies for awards, up to 2 votes per family, but must have 2 members age 18 or older)
- Life (one individual, senior privileges) \$750
- Check here if this is a Gift Membership

American Connemara Magazine: Subscription Only (i.e., nonmembers) \$25

There is a \$30 surcharge for magazine mailings to foreign (including Canadian) members and subscribers.

ACPS Foundation: \$ _____ tax deductible donation
You may designate preference for Youth Programs or Education

Make checks out to "ACPS" (US funds)

For voting purposes, I prefer:

an e-ballot _____,

a paper ballot _____

I prefer to receive:

an e-directory _____,

a printed directory (add \$10 to your membership fee)

I am a new member _____ (please complete all contact information below)

I am a renewing member _____

and my contact information is unchanged

changes in my contact information are noted below

please do not include my contact information in an e-directory _____ any directory _____

Make check out to ACPS (US funds) and mail with application to: **ACPS Membership**
2010 Miracle Lane, Falls Church, VA 22043

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone _____

Email: _____

ACPS Registration Fees

Member

Fees double for non-members

Purebreds

Purebred within 6 mos. of birth temporary foal certificate good for 2 years (dna, microchip by HWSD tested stallion and out of HWSD mare) \$ 85

Over 6 mos. \$ 100

TFC for foals of current year include USEF lifetime recording number

Purebred within 6 mos. of birth temporary foal certificate good for 2 years (dna, microchip) but by or out of HWSD non-tested Connemara\$125

TFC for foals of current year Includes USEF lifetime recording number

Permanent Registration Certificate at 2 years w/TFC - \$30

Permanent Registration Certificate at 2 years or above without TFC - \$150. Includes DNA, Microchip.

Halfbreds

Halfbred - mares and geldings \$ 85

Includes Microchip and USEF Lifetime Number for foals of current year.

Halfbred colts - TFC\$ 85

A TFC is issued until colt is gelded. At age 2, Permanent certificate will be issued.

Purebred and Halfbred Stallions 2 yrs. \$250

Includes DNA, Microchip, and HWSD test

Purebred and Halfbred Stallions 3 yrs. and older \$500
Imported stallions - same fees.

Connemara Sport Horse - \$85 includes Microchip and USEF Lifetime Recording number for foals of current year.

Transfer of Ownership

Within 30 days of date of sale \$30

After 30 days \$35

Transfer of Imports -mares, geldings

Within one year of arrival \$30

Transfer of imported stallions \$250

The seller is responsible for completing the transfer papers, and is encouraged to take out an Associate membership for the buyer.

Farm Registration \$100

Name Change \$100

Duplicate Certificate- issued only to last recorded owner \$50

Lifetime USEF numbers will be assigned by the USEF one or two times a year. Since 2019, foals of the current year will get USEF Lifetime Recording Numbers..

Send applications (www.acps.org) for registration to: ACPS, PO Box 100, Middlebrook, VA 24459

Farm Directory

REGION I (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)

CONCORD RIVER CONNEMARAS AT RIVER ROAD FARM. Liz and Maris Platais, 291 River Road, Carlisle, MA 01741. (978) 369-4380. plataise@aol.com

NORTHERN CONNEMARAS. Sarah McRae Thrasher, 1410 Goose Green Rd., Vershire, VT 05079. (802) 522-7110. mcraethrasher@yahoo.com *Aluinn Durango S 727XLII *City View Prince Charming S*

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

SOUTH RIDGE CONNEMARAS. Kimberley Sterl. Goose Pond Equestrian Center, 317 Goose Pond Rd., Canaan, NH 03741. (603) 493-3921. srfponies@gmail.com. www.SouthRidgeConnemaras.com www.goosePondEquestrian.com *South Ridge Aidan S 668 XXXIX.*

TROUT RANCH CONNEMARAS. Scott McGuffin and Linda Haines, 149 Shaw Road, Northfield, NH 03276. (603) 387-0157. troutranch@metrocast.net

REGION II (NJ, NY, PA)

CATSKILL CONNEMARAS. Heather Magnan and Pat Norton-White, 33 Frisbee Rd., East Meredith, NY 13757. 678-278-5256. www.catskillconnemaras.com. hrmagnan@gmail.com *Blue Rock Fintan, S 1975 LII*

KYNYNMONT CONNEMARAS. Pam Liddell, 175 River Hill Road, Conestoga, PA 17516. (717) 872-9728. liddellpam@hotmail.com

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

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

BALMULLO FARM. 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*

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

GLENMEADOW CONNEMARAS. Margaret E. Long, 104 Water Pointe Court, Midlothian, VA 23112. (804) 380-1022. glenmeadowfarm@aol.com

RIDGETOP CONNEMARAS. Walter and Marynell Eyles, PO Box 40, Middlebrook, VA 24459. (540) 409-1773 lynneeyles@gmail.com

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.

TWIST OF FATE CONNEMARAS. Melissa and Ryan Mayo, 7992 Ohio River Road, Lesage, WV 25537. (304) 634-9203. tofph3@aol.com www.twistoffateeventing.com *Blackwing Goodnight Moon S 2002 LVI*

REGION IV (AL, FL, GA, MS, SC, TN)

BRAMBLERIDGE FARM. Nancy Buchanan. 1953 Bishop Rd., Luthersville, GA 30251. (678) 713-0750. brambleridgefarm@gmail.com

FADE TO GREY FARM. Megan Buchanan Lichty. 1750 Bishop Rd., Luthersville, GA 30251. (770) 833-5159. fadetogreyfarm@gmail.com www.fadetogreyfarm.com **TBS Declan Pondi S 1959 LI,*

FARKLEBERRY FARM. Kate Denton, 61 Colonial Lake Dr., Camden, SC 29020. (803) 432-9850 or (803) 427-3472 kdenton53@gmail.com

FOOTHILLS FARMS & PIEDMONT CONNEMARAS. Vanessa and Charlie Morgan, 738 County Rd. 114, Athens, TN 37303. (423) 744-9071 Text 423-506-6975. Breeding and Sales. Connemaras9@gmail.com, www.connemaras.com *Balmullo's Beacon, S 545 XXXI, (frozen semen only) Tullymor's Mountain Steel S 1979 LIII (Live Cover)*

HIDDEN CREEK HORSES. Donna Miller, 12660 Bethany Rd., Alpharetta, GA 30004-1059. (678) 491-0717. donna@hiddencreekhorses.com www.hiddencreekhorses.com **Coud Poker Tartifume S 2004 LVI Fresh cooled for AI, *ArdCeltic Art S 1766 XLIII -frozen semen, private treaty.*

KEAHEY CONNEMARA FARM. Julie Keahey. 1733 N. Fletcher Ave., Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 (970) 581-6120 keaheyjulie@gmail.com

PROSPECT PARK FARM. Elliott Timmons and Cathy Blackmon, 440 NW 49th Street, Ocala, FL 34475. (352) 361-4841. timmons.elliott@gmail.com *Wildwood Hearne Topgun S 1846 XLIV*

STARTING POINT FARM. Phil and Melissa Town. 811 Bear Creek Road, Moreland, GA 30259. (404)433-7444. irishjump@gmail.com Sparrow's Zeus HBS

TANYDERI FARM. Sally, Michael, Margo, Maya, and Nora Goldfarb. 3030 Old Hillsboro Rd., Franklin, TN 37064. (615) 591-2562. tanyderi@bellsouth.net

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

REGION V (IL, IN, KY, MI, OH)

HEART AND HORIZON. Bonnie Reid and David Wittmer. 1000 Fords Mill Rd., Versailles, KY 40383. 859-312-4971. mixedbordersky@gmail.com Young Stock Available.

MOUNTAIN FIELD FARM CONNEMARAS. Anne Drogula, 5550 Pleasant Hill Rd., Athens, OH 45701. (401) 215-5904. aswsx@virginia.edu **Illaurra Duster S 2033 LVIX*

ONALARK FARM. Martha Slamer, 10242 Rocky Road, Middletown, OH 45042. (937) 689-9406. marthas@fairpoint.net Trained Ponies and Pony Training Available.

RIVERFRONT FARM LLC. Thomas and Fonda Eigel. 1646 Cook Rd., Cynthiana, KY 41031. 859-576-4027. 859-983-9410. Summerresort3@gmail.com **Rosemont's Irish Abbey.* Boarding, Breeding, Foaling, Breaking and Training.

SLIPPERY ELM SHOOT FARM. Tim and Kathy Sparks, 5349 Slippery Elm Shoot Road, Unionville, IN 47468. (812) 988-2377. elmshootfarm@gmail.com.

REGION VI (IA, MN, NE, ND, SD, WI)

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

INLAND CONNEMARAS. Lisa Etzel and Larry Wied. 27965 510th Ave., Kelley, IA 50134. (515) 291-6738, (608) 576-1076. www.inlandconnemaras.com inlandconnemaras@gmail.com **Patty's Etoile de Paris S 1874 XLIV*

REGION VII (AR, KS, LA, MO, IL, TX)

IRISH GATE FARM. Bob and Pattie Stalder, 10360 Lazy Creek Rd., Westmoreland, KS 66549 (785) 456-3278. www.Irishgatefarm.com backdoor@bluevalley.net. *JEF Sir Lancelot S 676 XXXIX*

DUET FARMS. Chris and Annie Balotti-Paleen, 165 Allen Drive Union, MO 63084. (314) 322-3393 (314) 409-7545 AnnieB1032@hotmail.com *Duet Farms One Love S 1999 LV*

JAB EQUINE CENTER & CONNEMARA FARM. Jill Barnes, 11150 South Highway M, Stockton, MO 65785. Jabconnemaras@gmail.com 417- 209-6772 Wwww.jabconnemaras.com JAB General Sherman S .

REGION VIII (CO, So. ID, MT, NM, UT WY)

JARRE CREEK CONNEMARAS. Kaye Hurley Lefkowicz. 3794 N. Stare Highway 67, Sedalia, CO. (303) 619-0433. grniedldy@gmail.com. *Finn's Irish Creame S 2526 XXXIII*

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

REGION IX (WA, OR, Alaska, No. ID)

EKBERG SPORTHORSES. Karlin Ekberg. 430 Mansperger Rd., Ellensburg, WA 98926. ekbergsporthorses.com **MLC Van Helsing*

TANZEN WILLOW FARM. Ken and Mandy Campbell. 23255 Johanson Ave., Poulsbo, WA 98370. (360)710-1734. www.tanzenwillowfarm.com campbells@tanzenwillowfarm.com **Kays Moonlight*

REGION X (AZ, CA, HI, NV)

GATELY FARM. Kathy Lucas, 10501 Randall Street, Orange Park Acres, CA 92869. (714) 538-5656, fax (714) 538-5561. gatelyfarm@gmail.com. **Castle Monarch S 1952 L. Ridgetop Tom Collins S , *MLC The Duke of Sussex.*

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

ROSEWOOD FARM. Alan and Darian Hall, 1340 Sanders Rd., Windsor, CA 95492. (707) 481-0728 darianhall1340@gmail.com

TELESIS CONNEMARAS. Megan Gastel, 2817 Valley View Ave., Norco, CA 92860. (909) 782-2816. telesisequestrian@hotmail.com www.telesisconnemaras.com. *Telesis Carraig Rua, *Swanview Mirah's Shadow.*

FARM DIRECTORY

Name of Farm _____

Owner: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Stallion name and reg _____

\$100 p/year. Send check to ACPS

PO Box 100, Middlebrook, VA 24459

ACPS New Members (February 11 – April 10)

Region 1

Alicia Kinson
Brianna Tarulli
Christine Thompson

Region 2

Stacy Kichline
Kristin Martin
Mary McCormick-Archutowski
Carol Ann O'Connor

Region 3

Kathy Corker
James McKinley
Katherine Wood

Region 4

MaryCarol Harsch
Kim Holderfield
Lori Rodriguez

Region 5

Holly Gossett

Region 6

Jacqui Bertelsen

Region 10

Sophia Mazzoni

DUES ARE DUE!

Don't miss an issue of the

American Connemara

ACPS Membership

**Pay on-line on USEF.org or send check
to the address on the form at right..**

FAQ - Changing A Connemara's Name

I bought a registered Connemara, and I would like to change the name.

How can I do that and what is the procedure?

As a Breed Registry, the ACPS discourages name changes. But, we also realize that not all names are equally loved.. Yes, you can change the registered name. The name change procedure costs \$100, payable to ACPS.

Procedure – Send the certificate back to the ACPS with the new name written on the name line.

IF the Connemara has a registered farm name – a prefix that denotes who the breeder was, like Happy Acres or Blue Dog, or initials like BDF, then you must keep that as part of the name. The Farm Prefix can only be dropped or changed with permission of the breeder.

You will receive the registration paper back with the change acknowledged. We do not change the prefix unless the owner of the prefix, the breeder, agrees to the change in writing. So you would have to contact the breeder to get that permission.

If your pony received a lifetime USEF registration and number as a foal, that original name and number will not change.

FAQ – I sent in my registration application for my foal of 2022 in December but it didn't get a USEF number? Why not?

Thanks for asking...the turnaround time for getting a pony registered, with a DNA sample and HWS tests on record at the lab, takes a while. If you started the process in December for a spring foal, you simply waited too long to get all the process done. The labs at US Davis are closed over Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, so even though the hair may be sent, it's not processed. The registration process is not complete until all the required elements are done.

For this reason --- the **NEW DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING FOAL REGISTRATION AND RECEIVING A USEF LIFE RECORDING NUMBER IS DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR.**

Please make it easy on yourself and the registrar by filling out the registration application soon after the foal is born.

The fee included in the registration program is a huge bargain and if you miss the deadline, the USEF fee goes up dramatically.

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Transfer Procedures

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

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

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

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

Please do not lose the certificate.





“Oh, Boy!”

Rattle N' Snap
Laddie Boy

**2001, 14.2 hh
Dun Connemara Stallion
by Moy Hazy Cove out of Castle Strange Sparrow**



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Matchmaker exemplifies what we love about this wonderful breed. He has lovely straight movement and a disposition beyond compare. He is working in dressage, and he loves to go out on trail rides with his big brother to chase deer and turkey. Matchmaker is a joy with that "Here I am, take me!" attitude.

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(*Grange Finn Sparrow x Molly)
1998 Halfbred Connemara Stallion



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PRELIMINARY EVENTER

Zeus is going strong at 24! He is still hacking & hunting, and settled all of his mares this year, including 5* Eventing mare, Petite Flower, formerly ridden by Buck Davidson.

Don't miss the opportunity to use a direct offspring of *Grange Finn Sparrow in your program! His foals are proving bold, correct and athletic and are well suited for a professional or an AA with aspirations.



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***Coud'Poker Tartifume** Westside Mirah II x Quitus de la Loue (Dexter Leam Pondi). CCI 2* Eventing and 1.15 m



***OMS Machno Fear Dun** Halfbred stallion by Machno Carwyn out of a Templebready Fear Bui mare. Competing Eventing and 1.0 m

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to American
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Send all UAA to CFS. NON-POSTAL AND MILITARY
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