

# AMERICAN CONNEMARA

The Official Publication of the American Connemara Pony Society

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

*Stallion Issue*

EDITION II, VOL. 11 NO. 6

*M.G.R.M.  
Brigadoon*



*Christie B, '09*



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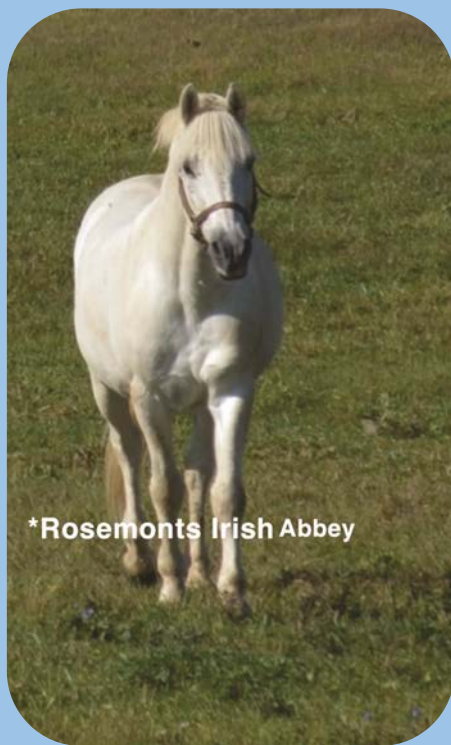
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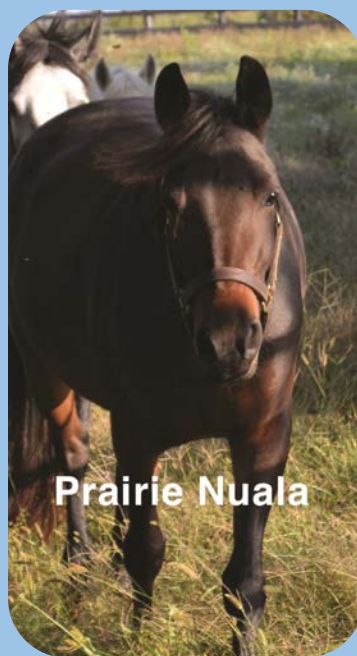
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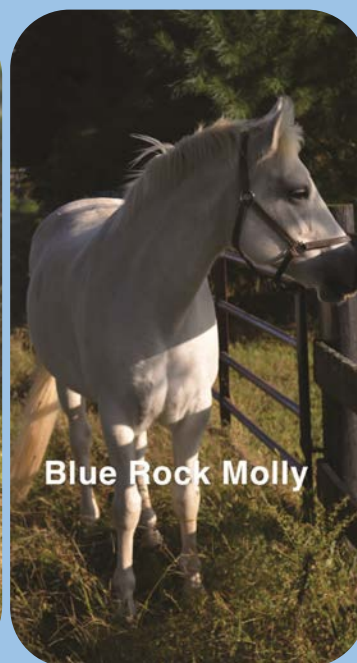
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*The ACPS is a member of the International Committee of Connemara Pony Societies.*



*The Official ACPS Scarf - one of the fundraiser items for the ACPS Foundation which is the fund from which Scholarships and special educational events are provided*

*If you haven't gotten at least ONE scarf -- send your check for \$75 to ACPS-F, care of Deb Norman, 1318 Old Charles Town Rd., Berryville, VA 22611.*





# President's Page

## *From Linda Haines - newly elected ACPS President*

First, let me say what an honor it is to represent the ACPS as its president. I have loved the ponies and their people for decades! Second, our previous president's boots will be hard fill. Cathy Blackmon held the reins softly but with such skill and tact that the organization proceeded forward effortlessly. She recently presided over the first Annual Meeting conducted over Zoom and the tone lent itself to efficiency and accomplishment. You can read the minutes and discover more than I can elaborate here, but to mention a few things that come to mind: Policies and Procedures were updated; the website, which is in the midst of a makeover, was reviewed; the Strategic Plan became a working committee with some objectives met and others in process; Promotions Committee had more to share than we had time for; we heard from the region chairs and felt their presence; and we watched the new ACPS video done by Kate DeLaVega and David Norman. Thank you Cathy and please continue as our financial guru as well as valued adviser.

### *Introducing Myself ~*

Next, I will introduce myself briefly. I met my first Connemara in the Tower Hill barn in Sanbornton, New Hampshire. Mary Rutter and I sat on a Board of Directors for a Human Services agency together. I was picking her up for a meeting and she invited me to the barn where I saw Tower Hill's Killaire, (Whitewood Galway Bay x Springledge Heather). The recently weaned filly was the most beautiful equine I had ever seen. I knew nothing about Connemaras but Mary and Rogers Rutter began a concerted campaign to draw me into the culture and society of the Connemara Pony. That was 1980.

I was not in a position to buy a pony, but I don't think I would have met their criteria as a Connemara owner anyway. It was hard to buy a Connemara from the Rutters unless you either already had one or you were highly recommended by someone who did. Two years later, I had apparently proven myself enough to purchase the fabulous filly, Tower Hill's Leannan (\*Chiltern Copa of Tower Hill x \*Cocum Coppelia of Tower Hill). She became my pony of a lifetime for the next 28 years. Leannan and I were mentored by Mary and Rog over the years. They expected that I would get involved with the society, volunteer in our region, support the region horseshow, and become an ambassador for Connemaras wherever I went. Their nudges, nurturing, role modeling, and *occasional* corrections guided me to visit and get to know many more Connemara people and ponies. I hope Mary would feel that I have developed sufficiently to make an acceptable leader for our society.

One of the especially fun things I did at Tower Hill was to ride Copa (Chiltern Curlew x Common Market) to help him stay fit between training sessions with his show riders. Taking a young, fit stallion out to walk, trot, canter and gallop the dirt



*Linda Haines with the 2020 foal, Trout Ranch Jest by Trout Ranch Malarkey out of New Song's Autumn*

roads near the farm was one of the coolest things I've ever done. He was a perfect gentleman and he never minded when I got us lost and an hour ride lasted much longer. Copa would have been prominently featured in the ACPS stallion editions of the past.

### *Welcome to this Stallion Issue ~*

Now I welcome you to the 2020 Stallion Issue of the American Connemara magazine. Our ponies do it all; look at all the ways Connemara stallions jump out as remarkable. They excel in multiple disciplines while demonstrating the good citizenship we value in the breed.

Enjoy the read and pick out your favorites. We have an active committee planning to put together another on-line stallion auction to support the Susan McConnell Foundation for the ACPS. Look for it in February. Researching bloodlines and making breeding plans is a positive approach to leaving 2020 behind and enthusiastically moving forward in 2021.

*Linda Haines*



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Stephanie Keen – Co-Chair

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Kate DeLaVega

Donna Power

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Donna Power

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Sparks, Deb Norman, Chris Knox

**Zoom!** And just like that, the American Connemara Pony Society went light years into the future and held a virtual meeting via the Internet. The screens on laptops, desktops, phones, tablets, iPads, and whatever device would work --- was replete with the images of the Board of Governors. As if by magic, and through the Zoom account of Heather Magnan in New York, who was the “doorkeeper”, the meeting was opened by Cathy Blackmon, president, from her home in North Carolina, at 11 a.m. EST.

Before the attendance was taken, the president explained the structure of the meeting, differing from previous on-site meetings, with the use of a “Consent Agenda” which according to *Robert’s Rules of Order*, meant the “routine meeting discussion points are grouped into a single agenda item. In so doing, the grouped items can be approved in one action, rather than through the filing of multiple motions.”

A very long document containing the reports of each standing committee of the ACPS had been circulated to the Board

members and Region Chairs, and Ad-Hoc Committee members. Each attendee was expected to read, digest, and decide on any actions that needed to be taken. The new process worked “like a charm.”

When the attendance was taken, the following were seen on the monitors: Catherine Blackmon, Kate Denton, Donna Duckworth, Fonda Eigel, Stephanie Fenton-Hickey, Cynthia Holbrook, Becky Jordan, Karen Laden, Jill McNicol, Donna Power, Wayne Quarles, Lisa Rease, Raelin Schenck, Linda Haines, Heather Magnan, Suzanne Phelps, Bonnie Reid, Kay Clements, Sue McLaughlin, Tracy Garland. Also attending were Kathy Sparks, Amy Plavin, Kate DeLaVega, Deb Norman, Liz Platais, Joanie Webster, Marilyn Cheek, and Julie Keahey.



Deb Howell had noted that her computer would not support the ZOOM meeting format. Each person in attendance was asked to report how many dogs were in the room with them for the meeting! As the Minutes for the January 2020 meeting of the Board of Governors were approved, Joan Webster, “proofreader extraordinaire” commented that “Finally, the spelling of the word Halfbred had been decided upon and kept uniform throughout the document!”

**The Report of the Membership** by Suzanne Phelps and Cynthia Holbrook centered on the Policies and Procedures followed by the team. One action item on one category of membership to be changed was: FAMILY: spouses and/or parents, children under age 18; reduced fees for registration and transfer; eligible for awards; up to 2 votes per family but must have 2 members age 18 or older

Suggested change: up to 2 votes per family but must have 2 members age 18 or older to qualify for 2 votes

Another change: • Send out membership cards in a timely manner and include a Directory of Membership for new members  
Suggested change:

Send out membership cards in a timely manner and note availability of online Directory of Membership for new members

A change in the Directory wording: • Publish and send members a yearly membership roster by state in the form of a directory of membership to be posted online or mailed by May 1.

Suggested change:

Publish an online, yearly membership roster by state and by last name in the form of a directory of membership to be posted online. Prepare a paper directory by May 1 with roster by state and last name to be available for member purchase

**The Report of the President** – Cathy Blackmon thanked the group for responding so well to the request for written reports submitted before the meeting. In this, her last meeting as president, she thanked everyone for supporting the Connemara, for supporting her, and for moving forward on so many items over the last several years.

**Report of the Treasurer and Finance** – Stephanie Fenton-Hickey noted that the Society was in good shape financially, and the bank balance was \$13,752.02. She said she has finally learned the job, and hopes she got re-elected to the Board! Cathy Blackmon added that the ACPS Investments have grown over the year, and it looked healthy. She also provided a Profit and Loss statement that had been sent with the reports. She asked that all Regional Treasurers send the 2019 financials for the annual IRS form 990EZ.

**Registrars’ Reports** – Marynell Eyles and Megan Harris – both had sent their statistical reports on foals, purebred, halfbreds, and Connemara Sporthorse foals. The first 25 purebred foal information has been sent to USEF for lifetime Recording numbers. Four new farm prefixes have been added to the list of registered farm names. A total of 45 Purebred foals have been registered, 6 Halfbred colt foals have gotten TFC’s, and 11 Halfbred fillies of 2020 have been registered. No Halfbred stallions or Purebred stallions have been registered in 2020.

In the Sport Horse Registry, there have been three foals registered with paperwork submitted on three more. There are now 31 mares and geldings registered in the registry.

*Action item – “For 2021, all Halfbred and CSH foals out of or by a HWSO carrier, must be tested as part of the registration process.” That statement was put in the form of a motion after discussion, to be “All foals of 2021 will be tested for the Hoof Wall Separation Disease unless both dam and sire are tested and proven N/N.”*

Additionally, it was decided to make the new USEF Passport

available for \$25 to breeders as an option on the registration form. The information is available on the USEF Website.

**ICCPS** – Linda Haines reported that the group had not met since the Clifden (IRE) show was cancelled for 2020. Sheila Ramsey had asked the CPBS and the ICCPS to share their databases/pedigrees with her for a website on HWSO. The CPBS declined, and as “Mother” society for the ICCPS, the other nations followed suit.

**ACPS-F** – The Susan McConnell Memorial Foundation – Deb Norman and Stephanie Keen are co-chairs of the Foundation, and it was noted that some of the forms for items like scholarship payments or forms for fund distribution were missing from the website. Deb Norman will work on the missing items. At this topic, Kate DeLa Vega, who has been working on the update to the ACPS website, reminded all that she needs all the correct forms, and that they also need to go to Julie Keahey for the document control. Deb Norman noted that the Stallion Auction was a great success and with Board approval, there are plans for another in 2021. The Board did approve the idea.

**Arbitration** – Fonda Eigel – no disputes to report.

**Awards** – Marilyn Cheek, Sally Oxnard, Donna Miller – needed clarification on how to engrave the bronze plates on the Hall of Fame trophies for 2020 since they will not be awarded. The decision was the to use the words, “Not Awarded.”

Marilyn Cheek’s report - This year was the strangest in my 13-year experience as Awards Committee Chair and one might think that little could have happened with the Covid-19 pandemic forcing the country into full sequestration. But one would be wrong.

Our members exploits in 2019 garnered 30 USDF All Breeds Awards, which the Awards Committee finances. USEA recognized 12 purebred and halfbred Connemaras for high point honors in the seven divisions. We also send those awards out. The USEF awarded 47 Horse of the Year (HOTY) ribbons, plus the Clifden, McKenna and Seldom Seen trophies which were presented in January 2020. And thanks to the hard work of our Achievement Awards wizard, Karen Laden, assisted by Tracy Garland, and Sue Antilla, we gave out 54 awards ranging from certificates to Awards of Excellence this spring.

Although the rated shows were suspended for a large part of the year, we still have ACPS ponies in the lineup for some HOTY Awards. The cancellation for the first time of the nation’s two oldest shows, the Warrenton (VA) Pony Show and the Upperville (VA) Colt and Horse Show (which both feature Connemara Divisions) resulted in no Breeding or Connemara Hunter winners. However, there are 13 contenders in the Purebred Dressage Division, 8 in Halfbred Connemara Dressage, 13 in Purebred Eventing, 8 in Halfbred Eventing, 2 in the open Halfbred Connemara Jumpers and 2 in the Open Halfbred Connemara Hunters.

When shows started opening back up, Katie Donaruma supplied a number of High Point Connemara at an Open Show ribbons to various events. Please remember we offer these, but the shows must list the award in their prize lists and the requirement that show secretaries must verify that the ponies are registered with ACPS.

There also were administrative duties to while away the hours, and Sally Oxnard used them wisely to revise and update all our awards policies and forms. Working with Robyn Fillman, she also cleaned up the Adult Scholarship policies and the Deb

# The American Connemara Pony Society's

## 2nd Annual Stallion Auction

Coming February 2021!



If you missed the opportunity to participate in our inaugural stallion auction, listen up!

We are requesting donated breedings for the 2021 auction. Stallions must be a registered Purebred or Halfbred Connemara with fresh or frozen semen readily available in North America. Information & photos of your stallion must be submitted by December 31st, 2020. The auction will be shared widely across social media platforms, garnering thousands of hits on the site. This is a great opportunity for 'free' press & advertising at the beginning of the breeding season, while making a charitable donation to the society.

In our first year, we had 23 donated breedings (fresh & frozen) from registered Purebred & Halfbred Connemara stallions in the USA & Canada, and raised over \$9,000 for the Susan McConnell ACPS Foundation. The foundation is a 501c3 not for profit entity that provides funds exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. Thanks to donations from our membership, the foundation has supported breed exhibitions such as the 2010 World Equestrian Games, HWSD & Melanoma research at UC Davis, Senior & Junior scholarships & awards established to recognize contributions to the Connemara breed. We hope that the ACPS Stallion Auction will continue to be a reliable source of income to the foundation.

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

Megan Buchanan Harris  
fadetogreyfarm@gmail.com (email preferred)  
770 833 5159



# American Connemara Pony Society Stallion Auction

## *Benefiting the ACPS Foundation*

**Stallion Name:**

**Sire:**

**Dam:**

**Year of Birth:**

**Purebred or Halfbred:**

**Intro Sentence** (*15 words or less*):

**Method Available** – *Fresh AI, Fresh LC, Frozen (Type all that apply)*:

**Height:**

**Bone** (*inches*):

**Birth Color:**

**Color** (*if different from birth color*):

**HWSD Status:**

**Country of Birth:**

**Standing at:**

**Location** (*city, state*):

**Breed Registry (ies) & Registration number:**

**Pedigree Link** (*please provide a link to allbreedpedigree or a comparable site*):

**Description** (*any information you wish to share about your stallion*):

**Contract Terms** – *provide your terms, i.e. – duration of stallion's availability during the season, days for collection, number of straws in a dose of frozen, LFG (yes or no), any motility stats you wish to provide, breeding must be initiated in 2021, etc:*

**Collection Fee** – *provide amount or type 'at mare owner's expense':*

**Booking Fee** – *provide amount if you wish to charge a booking fee or type 'included':*

**Shipping Fee** – *provide amount or type 'at mare owner's expense':*

**Other Fees:**

**Farm Website Link:**

**Contact:**

**Please send the following with this form:**

1. Profile Photo – clearly tell us which one it is
2. Up to 9 additional photos and/or videos. These will be shown as expandable thumbnails. Youtube links are fine for videos.

**Email to Megan Harris at [Fadetogreyfarm@gmail.com](mailto:Fadetogreyfarm@gmail.com)**



# Premium Stallions - The Process and Examples

## Premium Stallions in Our Lives

Inspections ....What are they all about ? If you read the objectives outlined in our By Laws you find the following bullets:

- To assist and promote the breeding, registration, importation, training, exhibition and general use of the Connemara.....
- To preserve the unique qualities of the Connemara through encouraging selective breeding for type and conformation as described in the Society's Standards for the Breed
- To assist and promote the Connemara.....
- To keep members of the Society informed in all matters.....

When you dig further into the Policies and Procedures of each committee, you find the nuts and bolts of how each committee operates within the By Laws. The Inspections Committee plays a vital role in the objectives of the ACPS. The objectives of the Inspections Committee are as follows:

- To continue to maintain, encourage and preserve the highest standard of Connemara Pony Breeding
- To preserve the unique qualities of the Connemara Pony through encouraging selective breeding for Connemara Pony type with correct conformation, athletic movement and a willing, tractable temperament as described in the ACPS Breed Standard

In order to recognize the "highest" standard in a Connemara pony, the ACPS developed a Premium program by which outstanding mares and stallions are identified. Naturally one of the criteria taken into account during the quest for Premium status is whether or not the mare or stallion has produced offspring. Generally Connemara ponies are inspected under the age of five years, depending on the Inspection schedule, the location of the ponies and the number of ponies nominated for inspection. In most cases, ponies presented for inspection have not produced offspring, although some ponies may have serviced mares or a mare might be in foal. That being said, it is rare that a pony being brought forth for its first inspection, achieves Premium Status. Then, later in a pony's life, the pony may be nominated for Premium Status and the Inspection team will evaluate the pony's type, conformation and movement, using the same Inspector's Worksheet used during the initial inspection. The only difference in the Premium Inspection is whether or not live foals have been born.

Over the past 30 years, the ACPS has inspected many, many ponies. We are fortunate with our breed in that there are many wonderful ponies that we can share our lives with. However, not every pony is a Premium pony. In fact, currently the list of Premium mares and stallions numbers less than 40. Yes, that is a small number compared to the size of the pony population. But we are talking the best of the best, the cream of the crop, the top banana, the icing on the cake, A number one.....however you want to think of it. We all think our ponies should receive Premium status, but there are only a select few and we should treasure them.

We asked owners of the Premium Stallions, this being the Stallion Issue of *The American Connemara*, to share a few thoughts about their ponies, when did they recognize that the pony was special, what separates the Premium Stallion from other ponies they have shared their lives with, and any other thoughts about what makes an outstanding representative of the Connemara pony.

Here are some of their remarks:

*Katherine Grayson Wilkins of Blue Ridge Farm shared these memories of her stallion:*

### Moxley Duncan (S 507 XXVII)



"I bought Duncan's dam, Gralyn's Dungannon, after Catherine Mack told me to buy some ponies from Ann Gascoyne, who lived in Kentucky, near my husband's family farm. Dungannon was bred to Blue Ridge Jubal Early and produced a dun colt, springing forth looking like he was a month old, and was nicknamed "Muscleman" by a farm worker because of his athletic physique. I tried to sell him for a few years, but decided to keep him as a stallion.

"At age 5, Duncan moved to Virginia and was trained under saddle by Sam Davis. He hunted for 15 seasons with many hunts in Northern Virginia, including Blue Ridge, Piedmont and Orange County, and showed hunter division wherever pony stallions were allowed to compete. Later in life (13) he started eventing and also successfully completed several endurance rides. He represented the Connemara breed at Equitana in Kentucky and several other horse expos. Duncan loved going everywhere, and was very social, enjoying people and horses alike. His outgoing personality and good manners and looks made him a great ambassador for the breed.

"In addition to breeding his own mares, Duncan was the "teaser" for the Thoroughbred nursery operation at Blue Ridge Farm. For several years, over 200 mares were bred at the farm, most of them having been "checked out" and encouraged by Duncan. He took this job very seriously and never tired of chatting up the ladies. "Duncan sired many partbreds and purebreds, including stallions Blue Ridge Jefferson, BR Monroe, BR Donnelly and several that were bred by others. His last "crop" occurred when, age 25, he jumped in to a field of Thoroughbred mares in Kentucky. The following spring, 2 dun foals appeared: Moxley Leonard and Moxley Tryst.

"In addition to Tryst and Leonard, Duncan has many "legitimate" offspring out in the world and I hope that every one of them is making their owners as happy as he made me. Good looks and athleticism are important, but most important is a good brain and temperament! Duncan died in January 2018 at age 30."



*Karen Laden of Kingswell Connemaras in Colorado shared these comments about her Premium Stallion \*Smaragaid Cliff, imported from Germany:*



“\*Smaragaid Cliff [S 719 XLII], (Munkholm Cobbergate x Shamrock Bright Roxanne by Power Boy) 14.3h, brown, HWSD N/N; bred by Martina Ferfers of Smaragaid Connemaras in Germany

“The first time I saw photos of \*Smaragaid Cliff as a foal, he took my breath away. His presence: regal with the look of eagles. His movement: fluid and powerful. His conformation: exemplary. This was one stunning, look-at-me Connemara colt! The judges at the German 2003 Wickrath Breed Show obviously agreed, awarding Cliff First Prize and the coveted Golden Medal as well as designating him a Premium Foal.

“Everything Cliff foreshadowed as a foal and promised with his princely pedigree came to fruition with his own ACPS, USDF and USEF awards and championships, both in hand and under saddle.

“What makes Cliff an extraordinary stallion? He consistently stamps his progeny with the best of himself and his famous ancestors – multi-generations of respected German Federal Premium Mares, Danish Elite Mares and Stallions, Danish Dressage Champions, Clifden Champions. Yet the finest traits of his mares still shine through. Cliff’s kids are actively distinguishing themselves regionally and nationally, competing successfully in dressage, eventing and showing in hand. They also participate in pony club, foxhunting and therapeutic riding. Cliff’s kids are beloved by their breeders and owners.

“\*Smaragaid Cliff still takes my breath away, whether watching him at play or performing.”

“These are the marks the inspectors gave to Cliff and their comments about him on the report form:

TYPE : Excellent; “Excellent example of a Connemara!”

TEMPERAMENT: Excellent; “Good presence”

CONFORMATION: Very Good; “Very good overall conformation -- found nothing to complain seriously about;

MOVEMENT QUALITY: Excellent; “Light mover with strength”

MOVEMENT CORRECTNESS: Excellent”

*Ridgetop Connemaras - The Eyles Family  
Premium Stallions in our lives*



“During our 40 years of sharing our lives and farms with the Connemara breed, we have been fortunate to have owned three Premium Connemara stallions. Truth to tell, the first and eldest, was just a matter of luck and happenstance. Aladdin’s Denver ticked all the boxes for requirements to become a premium stallion, but in 1984 when he was foaled, none of us had an inkling that the Society would move toward that accolade.

**Aladdin’s Denver ~**

(S463 XXIII) was by Aladdin (Erin Laddie x Fox Ridge Irish Lady – both foundation Connemaras found in Stud Book II.) He was out of Tre Awain Cricket Song (Tourbillon x \*Loughconceera Linnet M 62 I – also foundation stock). Cricket, a bay roan, was in her 20s when she had the foal, but it didn’t hinder her jumping from field to field at her whimsey, and she had several more foals after he was born. Aladdin was born a gentleman, and in his amazing way, never put a foot wrong. He was somehow larger than life and the kindest horse we have ever known.

“We bought Denver when he was 6 months old, from Catherine Mack, who had been our neighbor and friend in The Plains, VA. She told me “you need this colt” and I dutifully wrote the check. Denver grew up with a chestnut TB mare, and gelding friends, and except for trying out his dam’s habit of jumping out of his field once or twice, he decided to use his jumping talents when asked, not just willy-nilly. He matured to an almost 15h, black, stallion with 9 ½ inches of bone, short cannons, and very strong/long hip. Sally Eyles climbed on him when he was 3, played around in our little arena for a short time, and announced, “He’s ready to go for a trail ride”. That was the start of his long and successful career as an Event ( to Preliminary in the days of old) and Dressage (2<sup>nd</sup> level champion at many shows), and all-around friend to the family. He went to many Region III shows, and hunter paces and miles of trail rides. We never asked him to go foxhunting because too many people are too apt to blame an “incident” on a stallion. I am sure he would have loved it but following was never his real forte.





“He lived to age 36, and he earned his Premium status at age 24. He measured 15h at that time, with 9 ½ inches of bone. Inspectors wrote for his TYPE – “Stallion with great bone and quality that has kept these Connemara qualities throughout his lifetime.” For his TEMPERAMENT the comment was “Kind with a sense of humor”. That was true. He got knocked down to Very Good for his CONFORMATION because at age 24, his chest was not as broad and square as it had been. For his MOVEMENT, he got Excellent in both quality and correctness with the comments, “Light, supple, amazing for his age.” Indeed to us, he was always amazing. He sired more than 100 foals, and they are out there competing.



### **Landgate Bluebeard (S 577 XXXIV)**

“Our second Premium stallion was another “happenstance” of having a friend like the late Anne Frey. She had bred her mare, Landgate Singing Bird, (Bob White by \*Bobby Brown x Lynfields Kylemore) to the recently imported young colt, and winner at the Clifden, IRE show, \*Rocky (Cuchulainn x Silver Fort). We had seen Cuchulainn in Ireland. We had visited his stables, and his owner at the time had tried to talk us into taking the stallion to the US, as \*Grange Finn Sparrow had been recently sent over, and reports were that “he was making money hand over fist”. We sort of knew better, but we did love Cuchulainn and his pedigree, and we knew “Birdie”. Anne suggested we take the colt, to Virginia, and see how he turned out. We did. He was blue-black, kind, very amiable, and very correct. But did we want a grey stallion, and did we want this one? That was 1994. He is still all of those things, and he is happily grazing in his paddock by the house. He matured to

14.3, and he won the Region III Yearling Futurity in 1985, and in 1997, was inspected and approved. At age 16, he earned his Premium status, and was much lighter grey, but still with his bay patch on his nose, and he had 8 ½ inches of bone.

“Bluebeard’s Report Form in the TYPE category said, “Excellent example of a Connemara stallion with good bone.” For CONFORMATION he got a Very Good – with the comments, “Very Good conformation with a balanced, correct L/S joint placement, excellent chest, forelegs, top line, and feet.” He got Very Good in his MOVEMENT with the comments, “Free movement especially in front.”

Truthfully, he has such a nice short back, and he is so correct, I am not sure what the Inspectors found to fault him on, but he still earned his Premium status. He is still breeding mares, he was Evented at the lower levels with young riders, he was champion at the Region III show several times, and he had a great career as a foxhunter for Walter Eyles with Blue Ridge Hunt. He could be hunting today, but our local hunt doesn’t like to welcome stallions. We took him out once, and the master didn’t even know Bluebeard WAS a stallion, but we don’t like to break rules. He gives Walter Eyles bareback trail rides now.

“Blue has sired winners of all of the ACPS regional shows. His get are eventing, showing, Pony Clubbing, and foxhunting, and they are as kind as their sire.



### **\*Kilfenora Windy Isles (S 600 XXXV)**

“And finally, Number three in our hit parade. \*Kilfenora Windy Isles (by Windy Day out of Boden Park Firethorn). He was foaled in 1996. On one of our trips to Clifden, we had met Martin Haller of Austria, but living in IRE. He had taken us to the farmstead of Michael O’Brien, where the older stallion, Windy Day, was ending his breeding career in the lovely County Clare. What a little dynamo. We were smitten. “It so happened, we had also met the breeder of Boden Park Firethorn at the Clifden show. When we went with the ACPS group to Ireland the next year, to follow the CBPS Inspection Team, and learn about their process, the US group had rented three VW vans. Katherine Wilkins







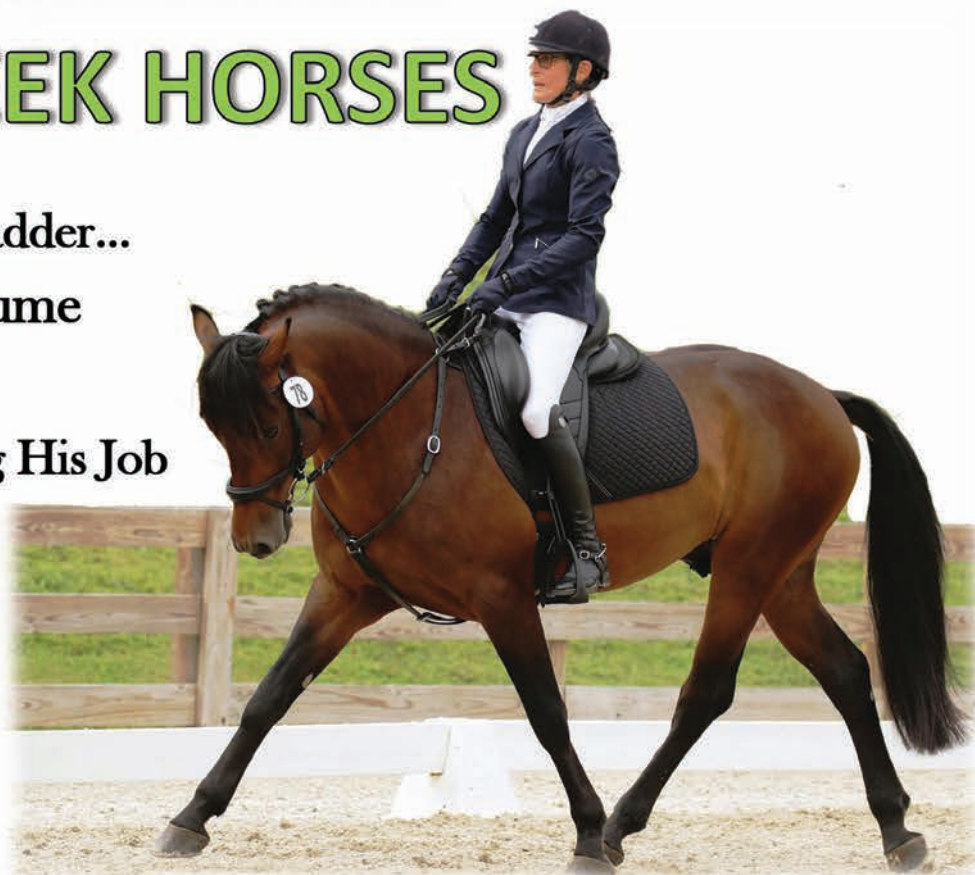
# HIDDEN CREEK HORSES

Moving Up the Eventing Ladder...

\*Coud'Poker Tartifume

"Cooper"

Connemara Stallion Loving His Job



*Bred in France with a pedigree chock full of  
International and Grand Prix Ponies!*

*Westide Mirah II*

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

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

*Neioui Ninon Tartifume and Violene II.*

*N/N*

**HIDDEN CREEK HORSES LLC**

**678 491-0717 millbrow@bellsouth.net**

Facebook @hiddencreekhorses.hch and  
[www.hiddencreekhorses.com](http://www.hiddencreekhorses.com)





*The “Renegades” in the Burren, County Clare, Ireland. From left - Anne Frey, Marynell Eyles, Catherine Mack, Walter Eyles, and Katherine Wilkins*

was one of the drivers. We had an afternoon to ourselves, and never wanting to spare any moment in our quest to find the Connemara colt of our dreams, we sort of hijacked Katherine Wilkins and her van, as Catherine Mack, Anne Frey, Walter and I climbed aboard and headed for County Clare. Eventually, we found Boden Park Firethorn with a bay colt foal at her side. That colt was full of himself, pretty much untouched, and totally brilliant in our eyes. On the way back to Clifden, we all schemed and planned, and thought of ways to get that colt to America. Long story short, Walter and I bought him, and included more Windy Day bloodlines in the form of fillies we found (in case our colt turned out to be a dud).

“The colt and four fillies filled a pallet, were flown from Shannon to Newberg, NY, where Anne Frey, (who bought two fillies) Ginny Winkler, Nancy Steele (Walter’s sister) and Walter and I, met the ponies with our stock trailer as they were led down the ramp. A trip to Virginia, and turn out in our fields, and we were all happy campers. The colt, \*Lickeen Ballerina, and \*Kilshanny Misty Day were our treasures, and in fact, \*Lickeen Ballerina became a Premium Mare

for ACPS.

Windy won the ACPS Region III Futurity, and he went on to win many in-hand classes. He never got to have a real competitive career as he was a bit too short for the tall Eyles family, but his children have long since proved his worth. He is fun to ride, and full of talent.

“His first inspection was at age 5, and he was 13.3h, with 8 ½ inches of bone. He got Excellent in all the TYPE categories with the comment, “True Connemara pony, lovely head, wonderful flat bone.”

“He was inspected again at age 14, when one of the CONFORMATION comments was “Shortest cannons west of Ireland.” That was followed by “Tremendous forearm, substantial hocks and gaskins. In MOVEMENT, the comments were “Lovely rhythm, balanced in trot and lovely canter.”

“His get have been champions at all the Regional shows, in USEF recognized competitions, in driving, and many ridden disciplines. He has kept his brilliance, and he too is a very kind and generous of spirit Connemara. “

We hope after reading about some of the Premium Connemara ponies in the US, you are excited, energized, enthused and proud of the ponies sharing your life. You should be even more so if you share your life with a pony sired by one of the outstanding stallions and if you are considering breeding your mare, why not take a look at the list of living Premium Stallions. The “List of Inspected and Approved Connemaras”, including both Premium Stallions and Mares, can be found on the ACPS website, acps.org, find the Inspections tab, click and the current list is posted.



*\*Canal Laurinston faoled in 1990, (by Callowfeenish Mairtin) was imported from Ireland by the Webster family. He was made a Premium Stallion on his second inspection at age 19.*





*(Above) \*Hearnesbrook Dunoon was made Premium at his second inspection at age 13. He was imported from England, and stood at Eileen Berkeley's farm in Kansas before coming to the late Susan McConnell at Oakfields Farm in Virginia*



*Folklore James McNicholas (by Fieldstream Nicholas) was made Premium stallion at age 17, his second inspection. He was bred and is owned by Gloria La Croix of Missouri.  
(Below) Tre Awain Dobh McDuff (by Tre Awain Ginger Blue) was made Premium at age 21. He stood at the Winklers' Journey's End Farm in New York.*



*(Left) the diminutive stallion shown on the cover, M.G.R.M. Brigadoon, was awarded his Premium status in 2009 at age 17. He is by MGRM Rock N Roll and out of RBR Miss Patrice. He was owned, trained, and ridden by many of the Ervin family. Karen Vicencio, now of Ireland, was trainer at the event shown*



*Cashel's Rock of Ages "Leo", at right, was made a Premium stallion at age 19. He was by Custusha's Cashel Rock and was owned most of his life by Kathy Lucas and Helen King. He was ridden by a number of riders, Jennifer Tears is shown here.*





# FINN'S IRISH CREAME

ACPS (2526) XXXIII - Inspected & Approved HWSD-N/N

1996 Dun Stallion 13.3H

By \*Grange Finn Sparrow (659)CPBS out of Matilda (8360)CPBS

Shipped Cooled or Frozen Semen.

Call or email for pricing.



## JARRE CREEK CONNEMARAS

Kaye Hurley Lefkowitz | Sedalia, CO | 303.619.0433 | grniedldy@gmail.com

To view more photos visit <https://heatherbellphotograp.photoshelter.com/gallery/Finns-Irish-Creame/Go000QOdwrBfnHIE>

## Inland Connemaras

**\*Patty's Etoile de Paris**

2005 Imported Purebred Stallion

14.3H N/N



[www.inlandconnemaras.com](http://www.inlandconnemaras.com) | [inlandconnemaras@gmail.com](mailto:inlandconnemaras@gmail.com)



**September 30, 2020 USDF Breeders Championship show** was held at Xanadu Farms in Washington, MO. The Champion Stallion of the Open Show/Qualifier was none other than Duet Farms One Love, purebred Connemara stallion owner/breeder Chris and Annie Balotti-Paleen. "Marley" as he is known informally, went on to win the USDFBC Stallion Final. "Marley's son, Isle of View, a 4 month old half bred, owner/breeder, Dr Nancy Roth, was awarded USDFBC Reserve Grand Champion Current Year Foal.



*Summer Solstice, a colt by \*Smaragaid Cliff out of Big Bear's Glory Be, was born too late for the Mares and Foal Issue, but here he is! Bred and owned by Sally Reid of TN.*

### New Farms Registered

#### Magnificent Misfits Farm

Allyson Myers, 7150 GA Hwy. 85, Waverley Hall, GA 31831. Prefix: MMF

#### Dubuque Stud

Kelsie L. Staeheli 374 Gold Creek Loop Rd., Colville, WA 99114 Prefix: Dubuque's

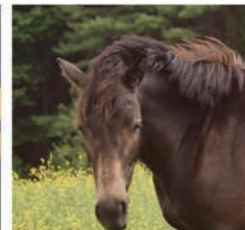
## Muskoka Lakes Connemaras



# STALLION LINEUP

[www.muskokalakesconnemaras.com](http://www.muskokalakesconnemaras.com)

Fiontar MacTire  
MLC Tormod the  
Rebel  
Glenn Erinn Echo



*The HALFBRED AND SPORTHORSE ISSUE*

*January/February 2021*

*Deadline - December 10, 2020*

*The HALFREDS AND CONNEMARA  
SPORTHORSE Issue*

*If you have stories to share, send to  
americanconnemara@gmail.com*



**South Ridge Aidan**

**South Ridge Duncan's Honor-Concord River Minute Maid. by Hideaway's Erin Smithereen**

**Grey (born bay, no dilute) purebred Connemara stallion**

**ACPS inspected and approved, Multiple Championships**

**13.3 ½ hh HWSD N/N**

**Cooled fresh or frozen semen**

**SouthRidgeConnemaras.com [srfponies@gmail.com](mailto:srfponies@gmail.com) 603-493-3921**



ACPS HAS A NEW

Membership Chair - Please Take Notice

*Send your check for dues and your address changes to:*

*Suzanne Phelps*

*2010 Miracle Lane*

*Falls Church, VA 22043*

*email: srphelps@cox.net*

*Memberships may also be paid on the ACPS website - [www.acps.org](http://www.acps.org)*

## NORTHERN CONNEMARAS

Sarah McRae Thrasher  
mraethrasher@yahoo.com

(802) 522-7110

*Live cover or cooled shipped semen*

*If You're Looking for a stallion that produces athletes ~  
Look no further than **Aluinn Durango** by Aladdin's Denver  
out of \*Patty's Meredith.*

*Bay 14.3h N/N 9 1/2" bone ACPS Approved*



# Region Reports

**Region II Report** - Heather Magnan - ACPS Region II surveyed its members for activities in 2020 early in the year. The Region members show interest in a Region Tea gathering in the spring, and either a clinic or trail ride later in the summer. Downstate New York was the location that most members surveyed responded that they would travel to.

In March Covid-19 hit NY especially hard. The state was shut down entirely for months. Due to the high volume of cases in NY, downstate specifically, all gatherings for 2020 were postponed. There will be a Zoom meeting in October for all members to share ideas and get to know each other better. We are hoping to plan events for 2021 including a tea, farm visits, and either a clinic or group trail ride.

Kristy Menner has unofficially agreed to be Assistant Chair and help with welcoming new members in the region. Christine Kelton has agreed to assemble our newsletter and do junior outreach. Heather and Kristy will continue to run the Region II Facebook page, as many members are active there.

## ACPS Region III Report

The last time the members of region III met together was December 2019. Our planned March meeting, region horse show in July, and other activities were all cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. It was agreed that the officers for the region, who normally would have stood for re-election at that March meeting would continue to serve until we could meet again, and activities in the region resume. We look forward to restrictions being lifted and getting to meet together in the near future.

The newest member of the BOG from region III, Donna Power, has been active behind the scenes gathering intel and feeling out interest in some new activities for the region, and ways to promote the breed. Our other governor, Suzanne Phelps, has been helpful and active in sorting out the ACPS membership data base, which will hopefully make it easier to find fellow Connemara fanciers from the membership list on the ACPS website.

Respectfully submitted, Kim Harrison, region chair

## Region VI – Kay Clements

2020 has been a quiet year. Due to the virus, little in the way of personal contact has happened. I have had some ideas about activities for our region.

At present I believe we have 20 members or so. Most are middle aged women, and pleasure riding or dressage seems to be their main interest. We have a few younger and a few older members. There are two breeders in our region now.

I was pleased to hear we would be having a regional page on the new website. I contacted four members who have responded to my emails in the past and asked if they would send a picture and short story about their pony. Three have replied and I have sent one of their stories to Kate De La Vega.

I have been thinking about activities for the region members and the thought came to me that what I need is to know the age, sex, disciplines they are interested in with their ponies, do they

want social, educational, riding, driving activities. I spoke with Donna and Sally about this when they called. They suggested using survey monkey. I spoke with a local horse person that I have known for several years. She is a former Pony Club DC, vet tech, and still does educational presentations at Pony Club conventions. She gave me information about state youth clubs and facilities that foster different disciplines and competitions. She would be willing to do educational presentations after the Covid 19 restrictions are over.

I'm looking forward to life without the threat of Covid. Cheers, Kay Clements

## Region VIII Report - Covering: Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Montana & Southern Idaho Susan Dudasik

Region VIII Representatives: Susan McLaughlin from Colorado is the Region VIII Governor. Karen Laden from Colorado, is the achievement awards points secretary & Board of Governors - Governors-At-Large Chris Knox from Chesterfield, ID is on the USEF Connemara Committee & Breeders Committee. Susan Dudasik, from Salmon, Idaho is the newsletter editor and Region VIII Chair. Membership: From the membership list sent in April, 2020, it looks like we declined to 16 members. We had 25 members. I don't know if more joined since April. By state, we have, Colorado- 10, Southern Idaho- 3 (membership list shows 4 but that person is in Lewiston, ID which is in Northern ID.), Montana- 0, New Mexico-1, Utah- 1 and Wyoming -0. , Land wise Region VIII is larger then regions 1, 2 & 3 combined. We run from Mexico to Canada.

Region Newsletter: I put out a Region VIII newsletter for Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/June and Sept/Oct. I didn't do one for July/Aug because I had no input or response from any members. Starting in March, to encourage more newsletter input, names were taken of all contributing information and with each issue, a drawing was held for a surprise gifts which was sent to the winners. I never heard back if they received the gifts.

Region Membership Directory: This was made and sent by e-mail to members. Pony Inspection Event: As far as I know, this has been put on hold. Facebook: We do have a public Facebook page which can be found at: American Connemara Pony Society -





Region 8 that everyone can post to. It currently has 279 followers from across the country. This is up from 105 followers last year at this time. I try to repost everything sent out from the main ACPS page.

Junior Rider Activity: We currently have 4 youth members. One of our junior members, Ryder Richardson and his pony, RR Cool Play (Becks), were recently featured in the Chronicle of the Horse magazine and he has been to several shows. I haven't heard from the other youth members. Would like to do some kind of Region VIII Youth Ambassador or something special for the youth, but we don't have any funds to purchase anything for them.

Meet & Greet: Did a small M&G at the Big Sky Horse Park in Missoula, MT during the WE show 9/12/20. Handed out several brochures that were graciously sent to me by Linda Trimper. Met several folks that once had Connemaras and one gal that just got a half-bred. Will be encouraging her to join. Will also be at the mini-event on 9/26/20. this is a one day event with dressage, x-country and jumping.

Looking Forward: We are trying to find shows were Connemaras compete at so we can see if they would be interested in offering the ACPS awards at their shows. One of the shows is The Event at Rebecca Farm in MT. I was in contact with the show committee but it was canceled this year. Will try again for next year. Would also like to offer ribbons at the smaller non-rated shows as we don't have many large or rated shows in much of the

region. Colorado has a very large variety of shows, but many for the more rural areas don't have that kind of opportunities. Personally the closest show to me is in Missoula, MT which is about 4 hours away or down toward Boise, ID which is 6 hours away. As for rural, the nearest town to me is 57 miles away in the next county. We have about 8,000 people in our entire county and only one show a year during the county fair. I have recently become involved in Working Equitation (WE) so I asked on the American Connemara Pony Society (Unofficial) fb page if there were any other Connemara owners in WE. I received a lot of positive input and will be starting a new fb page, not affiliated with WE or ACPS just for Connemaras. It will be called WE Connemaras. Through this I have already met a few folks in my region and several across the country that are not members. I hope to encourage them to join.

Issues: Region VIII covers a very large, remote area. The nearest member to me is about 2 1/2 hours away. With only one or two members in most states, it is hard to try planning a get together or event. Our largest contingent of members is in Colorado and I can't afford to travel that far.

A few suggestions for 2021 include: Having more ideas for folks that ask: I don't compete at any shows, so why should I join ACPS? Possible pony inspection Coming up with some type of stall signs to use at events (I suggested something but never heard back from the members.)



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# Transfers

HBM 2252 XLVI – DENVER’S NORA FOLEY from Rilla Spellman/Laura Manak to Marianna Vinson, 14700 Braemer Crescent Way, Darnestown, MD 20878.

S 1942 XLVIII (GELDED) TULLYMOR’S ECHOTA from Vanessa Morgan to Virginia Wilson, 1387 Augusta Rd., Thomson, GA 30824.

M 4029 XLIX – WILDWYCH FOREVER AMBER from Brenda Kinyaloc to Martha Slamer, 10242 Rocky Rd., Middletown, OH 45042.

M 3625 XLIV - \*CORHA’S DREAM from Susan McConnell/Oakfields Farm to Fonda Eigel, Riverfront Farm, 1646 Cook Rd., Cynthiana, KY 41031

G 2500 LII – PRAIRIE SMITTY from Martha Slamer to Justin Peacock, 5 W 440 Derby Rd., Wayne, IL

M 4152 LII – R.M.F. FINNOULA from Megan Kerr to Heather Dostal, 54 Plain Rd., Hatfield, MA 01038.

M 6326 LV – SEARAH’S AMARETTO from Kathy Trum Searah to Cindy Sisto, 1477 St. Rt. 91. Fabius, NY 13063.

HBM 2787 LVI-SHEZA MCKINZIE JFL from Erika Nasichuck to Christine A. Roux, 251 Brattkus Drive, Ellensburg, WA 98926.

HB G 2820 LVI – BLUE JAMESON from Bonnie J. Reid to Susan Vail, 750 W. Lakeshore Dr., Cleveland, OK 74020.

TFC S 6416 LVII – TROUT RANCH JEST from Linda Haines to Beth Adams and Meagan Seely, 86 Winnicutt Rd., Stratham, NH 03885

HBM 2816 LVII – QUIETLY CHARISMATIC from Jennifer Herzog to Rebecca Conroy, 6536 145<sup>th</sup> Bay N., Hugo, MN 55038.

HBM 2822 LVII – DRF BELLA LUNA from Janet M. Johnson/Dayton Ridge Farm to Kaitlin Rector, 20 Reno Rd., Averill Park, NY 12018.

M 4564 LV – ROSEWOOD’S LITTLE GEM from Darian Hall to Megan Gastel, 2817 Valley View Rd., Narco, CA 92860.



## Sparrow’s Nio – A Tribute

*By Megan Harris (written in 2015)*

Nio was a 2003 Halfbred Connemara gelding by \*Grange Finn Sparrow and out of a TB mare. He was bred by Tootie Jones of WV. He died on the cross country course competing at Morven Park, VA, at the highest level in Eventing. He was owned and ridden by Allie Saksen and was the 2015 Connemara of the Year.

When Nio came into Allie’s life, she was no stranger to Connemaras, in fact, she owned another Halfbred Connemara at the time, Briar Fox Mundungus aka Marshall, also by \*Grange Finn Sparrow. Allie had already successfully climbed the levels with Marshall, having competed him to the Intermediate/CCI\*\* level. She got the ride on Nio when he proved too much for his (then) owner. Not long after Allie began working with Nio, Marshall was tragically struck by lightning and killed. Allie was devastated and knew she had to figure out how to keep Nio; fortunately for both of them, her grandparents helped her get the funds together to buy him. The pair has never looked back.

Allie and Nio made their recognized debut in 2010 at the Novice level, and less than a year later they were successfully competing at Preliminary. Nio continued to improve and ate up the bigger fences

– they moved up to Intermediate in the spring of 2012. Nio’s reputation as a cross-country machine grew, and people began to take notice of the diminutive grey gelding. He had his first Advanced start in the fall of 2013, completing two, and placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in his second run, as a prep for the Fair Hill CCI\*\*. He and Allie WON the Fair Hill International CCI\*\* on their dressage score of 47.8. This was a turning point – it was evident that this pair had the athleticism and skill to be competitive at Advanced, and the notion of competing at Rolex was no longer a lofty dream, it was a realistic goal. Allie set her sights on competing at Rolex in 2015.

Nio continued to be a solid competitor at the Intermediate and Advanced levels in 2014, and ran his required outings at the \*\*\* level, including a return to Fair Hill. Allie sent her entry in for Rolex.

Nio and Allie were selected to perform their dressage test on Thursday, leaving Friday for schooling, and (hopefully) a little relaxing. They scored a 64.8 in the dressage, finishing towards the bottom of the pack, but Allie was thrilled to have met her goal.

Cross-country day was rainy and cold. In an effort to get all the rides in before the predicted afternoon monsoon, ride times were moved up. Allie and Nio were fortunate to be going early on in the day. They had an incredible run, Nio ate up the course, handling the mud with ease. They had a small bobble at the head of the lake when Nio jumped the drop with great enthusiasm, causing the pair to miss their line to a (very) narrow chevron. Allie kept her cool, rerouted to the option and carried on.

Many pairs were either eliminated during, or withdrew after, cross-country which whittled down the numbers going into show jumping. Stadium has been the most difficult phase for Allie and Nio and unfortunately had a number of rails on Sunday. They were not the only ones – there were many tired competitors and horses on Sunday. When it was all said and done, Allie and Nio finished a remarkable 36<sup>th</sup> out of 74 entries at their very first \*\*\*\* event. Incredible!

Very few event riders make it to the Preliminary or Intermediate level, much less compete successfully at the Advanced level and complete a CCI\*\*\*\*! Allie has achieved this with her own Connemara Halfbred that she has brought up the levels herself. They have made a great impression on the eventing community and have been fantastic advocates for the Connemara breed!



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*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)

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## First Families of the ACPS - The Ervin Family



*Connemaras and their families in the San Francisco St. Patrick's Day Parade. (From left) Elizabeth Platais, then President of the ACPS, Joan Ervin, MGRM Brigadoon, Larry Ervin, and Karen Vicencio.*

*(A note from the Editor) From the time I started attending ACPS Annual Meetings, without fail, there was always a ginger-haired, very well dressed, joyful personality meeting and greeting anyone who entered the room. Always smiling, often laughing her way from person to person, and bubbling with energy. We had missed her presence in the last few years, but she was always in my thoughts at every meeting when I spied the "California girls." Joan Ervin was hard to miss and hard to resist. She loved life, her family, her Connemaras and her friends. We received news of her passing last week.*

*This series of the "Families of the ACPS," seemed the perfect place to say our farewells, and to introduce Joan to those who might be new to the organization. Also, this is an opportunity to mention Larry Ervin, her husband, who was President of the ACPS when solid leadership was sorely needed. Joan and Larry were two of the most devoted people to one another, and to the family of the Connemara pony. We have been privileged to have them in our midst for many years. They were awarded the Crestwood Award for their efforts.*

*Joan's family and friends, and her redheaded "partner in crime," Joanie Webster, have worked with me to put together this remembrance and tribute to the Ervin family.*

We shall never forget the fun that came with being Joan Ervin's friend. She was vivacious and incredibly entertaining, obviously born with the gift of quick wit and a delightful sense of humor, all packaged up in her spirited petite stature. The red hair definitely

made a difference—I believe she could have stood up to King Kong. As sweet and caring as she was, she had a wee bit of Irish temper—"don't mess with Joan!" We shared years of fun and "always unique" experiences in our travels together. Often, we stayed over an extra day and night, following an annual ACPS/USEF meeting—wherever. We would brave winter winds and weather, perhaps in Louisville, to see live theater, or find an art gallery, concert or museum to take in. She had a zest for life and all it had to offer, especially when one looks at the world with a positive attitude, as she did. On one of our January trips to meetings in Louisville, KY, we decided to take a tour bus to Churchill Downs. So much "horsey," was wonderful, but do you know what I think she loved best? We reached a room, where behind glass, were great numbers of hats that prominent ladies had worn to years of Kentucky Derbies! She was in seventh heaven, viewing the stunning assortment of—hats! Yes, for those of us fortunate to spend time with Joan, I think you will agree that she could have been a stand-up comedienne, but her family and Connemara ponies were the answer and meaningful solution to her life's quest. She answered the call brilliantly, in every way. Joan lives on in our hearts and minds.

Merry Go Round Manor the Ervin home in Morgan Hill, CA, was never a boring place to be. Many Connemara «would-be» owners and breeders started their days of appreciation at the Ervins' home. The following vignettes of the «Life and Times» with Joan, follow from her long-time friends, neighbors, and family.



## *Bright and Shiny: Moments of Laughter with Joan Ervin*

from Sharon Janzten ~

Laughter filled the barn aisle, as Joan Ervin and Charlene O'Neil, entered the Connemara stabling area at the St. Louis National Horse Show. No one could miss their entry. One East Coast breeder turned to them and said, "Well aren't we BRIGHT and SHINY this morning!"

That comment forever defined the two-some whenever they were together. Charlene and Joan were always bright and shiny whenever they were side-by-side, bestowing laughter and love to all. Of course, they would forever argue over who exactly was "Bright" and who was "Shiny". Several times Joan, with a twinkle in her eye, would turn to me and say, "You know, I'm really the bright one!"

She's right about being bright . . . as another memory of the barn aisle in St. Louis involves me giving the ladies a personal leg wrapping lesson. Joan was my "horse leg" for the demo. Well, my "demo" took off down the barn aisle before I could get the wrap secured. The shipping bandage was flailing, like a toilet paper stream, from her leg as Joan galloped away!

To me, however, she truly was "Shiny". Joan loved clothing and jewelry. I have a treasured memory of her love of shiny things. She was staying at Charlene's with my family in Palos Verdes, my home town. We were all serving, alongside Charlene at the Las Amigas Charity horse show. As I worked the beverage counter, I unknowingly fulfilled the beverage order of a childhood classmate of mine who then recognized me. Karen and I chatted for a bit, then right there on the spot Karen invited me to a ladies'

luncheon planned the next day which was to include several other classmates (a class reunion had taken place the weekend before). Later that day I told Joan about the luncheon and she made sure I made a good impression on my childhood classmates. Since I hadn't packed anything specific to wear to the luncheon, Joan gave me advice on my outfit and lent me one of her beautiful jewelry pieces that she happened to pack along for working at a horse show. It was, of course, a horse necklace which truly complemented my ensemble and gave a nod to my own love of horses.

Joan's legacy of wild golf cart rides continued at the Las Amigas Horse show. She delighted in taking my late elementary-aged children for a spin whenever she could get behind the wheel of a utility cart. Here too, she found rocks to bump into, hills to roll up and down and people to almost take out. Joan laughed with and embraced my children while supporting the work at the Las Amigas horse show. Michael especially enjoyed her sense of humor, as he is the funny one at our house. We all have warm and happy memories of her connecting with all of us in so many loving ways. Joan was a true treasure and a shiny gem of a friend who is missed on this side of heaven.

## *Adventures with Joan ~*

From Bonni Kelley ~Little did I know 30+ years ago, what life would bring upon meeting a sassy, passionate horse woman named Joan Ervin. For this single mom and her 2 kids, it was the beginning of a precious friendship, (really family), with Joan and Larry Ervin, and the lively band of the Ervin clan. A fellow boarder at my barn, told me that a woman had come into her store and was looking for a rider for a Connemara pony. I had never even seen a Connemara pony. I signed up with Joan



*The ACPS group at the Annual Meeting in California at Medieval Times, the equestrian show. Organizer Kathy Lucas made arrangements for the group to be acknowledged as Mary and Rogers Rutter were the King and Queen of the evening.*

*The group, from bottom left, Ginny Winkler, Kathy Sparks, Joan Ervin, Joe Winkler; Liz Platais, Kathryn Roe.*

*Back row from left  
Joan Webster, Helen King Kathy Lucas, Mary and Rogers Rutter, Pat Lightbody, Winston Sheppard.*

in time to prepare for and participate in the 1999 West Coast Connemara Show in southern California—and so it began. I can talk for hours about the many adventures I shared with my beloved friend/Mom, Joan.

### ***First Adventure, WCCS, 1999:***

Joan thought I would be the perfect rider for her ponies because “my name was Bonni!” Over the next 3 weeks, we took a shaggy and small lean pony, MGRM Music Man, no longer owned by Joan, and readied him for the show. That year, Joan had nothing at home that was ready for the show.

Finally, at the show, I met more members of the ACPS California family—the legendary, Dorothy Lyons, the Websters, Charlene O’Neil, Sharon Brubacher Jantzen, Diana and Jerry Cooley, Kathy Lucas and her family, Joan and Fred Latty and their son, Derek, as well as many others who became dear friends. My first Connemara show was such fun and a complete success. Music Man was a perfect gentleman and looked pretty spiffy by show time. This four-day trip, far from home, was the first of *many* trips around the country, sharing various horsey adventures with Joan and my new friends.

### ***Thirty Years of Adventures ~***

~ It was always a whirlwind adventure to travel with Joan. I had many firsts on these travels while learning to love this amazing breed Joan so passionately loved and promoted. My first USEF/USEA Horse Trial was at Napa’s beautiful Wild Horse Valley Ranch. I moved on to attend and appreciate Combined Driving events throughout California, followed by participating in recognized USDF dressage competitions. I rode my first dressage test at the West Coast Connemara Show in Eagle Point, OR, one of two years that it was organized by Joan Latty and her family.

At first, I was absolutely a fish out of water. Joan was always my one-woman cheering section! I was often pushed out of my comfort zone. Before meeting Joan, I had competed in 4-H shows on an Appaloosa Quarter Horse and a Paint Horse Hunter. I rode primarily in the Western discipline, and also experienced some local cow work. It was Joan who broadened my perspective, introducing me to the vast array of disciplines in which these wonderful ponies excel.

In 2003-ish, I went with Joan and our mutual dear friend, Sue Laidlaw, to “Shady Oaks,” in Lodi, California. Sue was competing with her Connemara Thoroughbred mare, “Pallie,” in a Combined Driving Event, (CDE). In the accompanying photo, you see the three of us are together. Bob and Pat Ashworth, Cobblestone Farm Connemaras, were also at the event. Bob competed successfully, as well. WHAT A BLAST!!

Yes, I did continue on with my own Connemaras, keeping them on my property in Morgan Hill, CA. With Joan and our “California core” of Connemara friends, I helped with the organizing of the West Coast Connemara Shows, developing our first show website for promoting the annual show which has been held in various locations. With Joan’s interest and encouragement, I developed a very successful drill team in which I participated on one of my 3 Connemaras, “Rabbit’s Run.” My two other Connemara ponies are “Bodhran,” (Bobby Brown), and “Ailish Briggs,” (MGRM Brigadoon).

Joan was always game for just about anything. In typical Joan Fashion, 2004, she joined me when I trained with Mary Schrieber at EQUISSAGE Equine Massage in Virginia. Joan went through the week-long program with me. Mary and the team didn’t know quite what to think of this sassy redhead from California who was going to take the class *on her terms*. As always, she charmed the pants off of them. On the final day, Joan was seen in the last stall, sitting alongside the ever-so-patient pony, “Smurf,” while she took her “open book” practical exam.

The world will miss this shining light we all cherished, Joan Ervin.



Photo, left to right: Joan, Sue Laidlaw and Bonni Kelley  
Our deepest condolences go out to the Ervin Family on the passing of Joan. I have known Joan for many years. Around 2012, during a trip to Ireland with two friends, Joan came to visit us at our Cashel Bay Connemara Pony Stud in Athenry. Joan was such a bubbly person with a great sense of humor. Knowing that she and her family had been breeders of Connemara ponies for many years, Barbara and I were pleased to welcome her to our Stud, giving us the opportunity to know each other better as we “swapped stories.”

Robbie and Barbara Fallon



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N/N - by \*Windy Day (Killyreagh Kim x Windy Joy) out of Boden Park Firethorn.

Contact us at [ridgetopconnemaras@gmail.com](mailto:ridgetopconnemaras@gmail.com)



## MRS. ERVIN'S WILD RIDE aka Mr. Toad's Wild Ride ~ Charlene O'Neil

It was 1989 and the West Coast Connemara Show was held at the famed Los Angeles Equestrian Center. We were all thrilled to be at this special venue with our ponies! Joan brought Miss Patrice, Oak Hills Fancy, and Oak Hills Lacey. I had Ballingarry Rose, Captain Cricket and Red Ridge Super Star. Sharon Brubacher Jantzen and I were walking past one of the arenas when Joan drove up in a golf cart. "Want a ride, ladies?" she inquires. "Where'd you get the golf cart?" I ask. "Stole it." Joan replies. "No one was using it, so let's go for a ride!" Have you ever ridden with Joan? She INTENTIONALLY hits every rock, every ditch, and turned corners with her foot on the gas pedal; our screams of "slow down" went unnoticed by Joan. We were laughing hysterically because, as you know, Joan Ervin was so-o-o much FUN! No one was injured, no one was arrested, around the show stewards we behaved, around the ponies she was careful. We only "stole" the golf cart for a half-hour, put it back where she found it, and no one was the wiser . . . (that we know of!). But, the wonderful memories of my precious friend will stay with me forever.

### ESTHER," FOR GAS!

Joan, Heather Hutspillar and I, (known as the CA girls), were headed to the St. Louis National Horse Show. My Connemara mare, Red Ridge Super Star, had been chosen to represent the Connemara pony in the BATTLE OF THE BREEDS. Our husbands were very concerned that this would be a very challenging trip for three females.

I picked up Joan at LAX and she had, as usual, overpacked. The cart was tottering with weight. The top suitcase was really heavy. "What have you got in here . . . bricks?" I asked. "No, Esther," she replied. "Esther!" I exclaimed. With sparkling eyes and her unique giggle, Joan said, "Yes, Esther, the ewe. I had her butchered to pay for my share of the gas."

Well, now you get the tone of our trip! Many laughs, sparkling moments, serious times when my Super Star beat the Quarter Horse in barrels and the furious owners demanded a drug test on my horse. The day we were scheduled to begin our return to California, we waited until 3am for the test results, which we knew would prove "no nefarious activity." Joan, of course, made the best of it by having me "wrap her legs for shipping," and then she galloped and kicked down the stall aisles. Heather and I were on our backs with hysterical laughter. Rogers Rutter called us "Bright" and "Shiny," but we never knew who was who, and all I knew or cared about was this precious friendship that lasted ages.

It was best lamb I've even eaten!



## Memories of Joan Ervin

Joan came into my life when I bought a halfbred filly sired by MGRM Premier Performance (Stetson).

Of course she made sure I came to and entered the next West Coast Connemara Show. Over the years, we became best friends and shared all things Connemaras. Joan loved her ponies and made sure they also had good manners.

Joan was a very artistic personality. Her enthusiasm for life was palpable. She would find faces and animals in the clouds and everywhere. During trips we made together she noticed things in signs and scenery that escaped most of us. Joan frequently accompanied Jerry and me to Horse Expos and Auctions and she would stop to visit and make new friends in every booth along the way.

Joan was famous in the family and friends with her "look", a statement without words that told all how she felt about actions or words. Most parents have that "look" but Joan's was especially profound. She was proud of it. When Joan became ill, her words faded away. I visited her frequently and always knew she was enjoying the visit by her eyes.

We miss her terribly; but, the memories will always be with us and we feel her sitting on our shoulders whispering her thoughts in our ears.

Diana & Jerry Cooley



*The Ervin granddaughters on their Connemaras*



Joan Ervin was my introduction to Connemaras and the ACPS. She helped me accumulate a small herd of mares and of course, I bred a few to her MGRM Brigadoon. We became great friends. I loved her quirky personality.

One day I mentioned to her that Allen and I were making plans to go to England and travel to Ireland with my Irish friend, Mia. "Great", Joan said, "Wait until I tell Jeannie! When are we leaving?"

We all had a wonderful, memorable trip. Allen took off to ride old trains and the three of us women headed to Ireland via Stonehenge and a few other side trips. We then flew into Dublin so we could to Johnny Fox for a night of Irish dancing. The next morning we were checking out our hotel when Joan could not find her cell phone. She had housekeeping take her back upstairs to search the room. On her way she said, "Those young men will help put the luggage in the truck."

The two young men were having biscuits and tea at a side table. "Joan," I said, "those are hotel guests."

"They are men. That's what they are for," she called back. Like obedient children they jumped right up and took a suitcase each and followed me to the car. They hoisted the suitcases into the trunk and returned to their tea. Joan returned without the phone. She was almost panicked now. We decided to search the car and finally, the suitcase. I unzipped it only to discover it was full of children's clothing. "Oh dear, that is not MY suitcase!" Joan said.

So, we hauled it back to the lobby where there was a frantic couple with two small children. They were so happy to see their belongings again. I located Joan's whale of a suitcase parked in a corner. I unzipped it to find the missing phone, so all was well. Joan once again beckoned the young men to load it for us. The taller one hesitated for a moment, "Are you SURE now?"

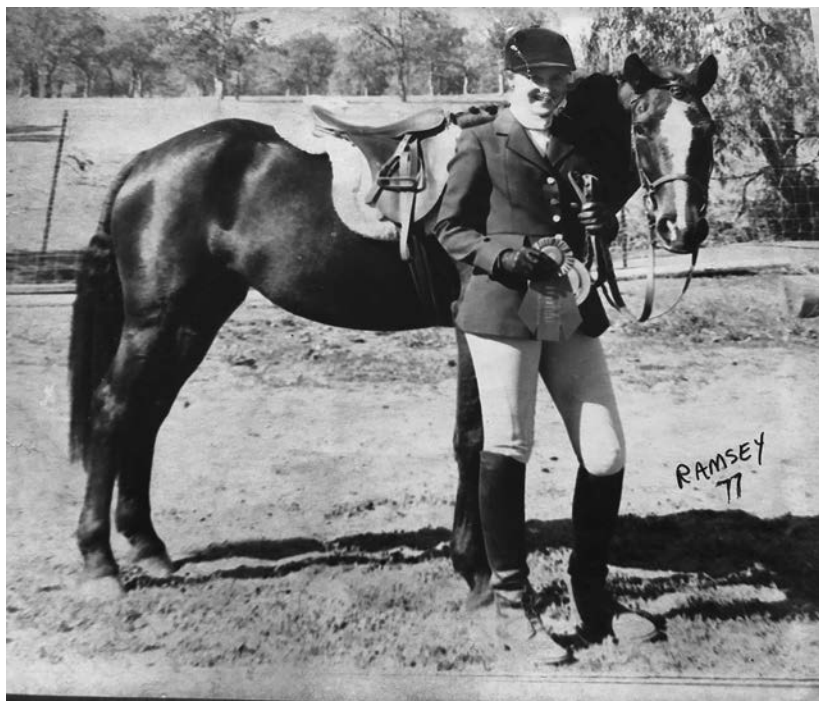
"Of course" she said, "I know my own suitcase, what a silly question."

Anyone who has traveled with Joan will remember this behemoth of a suitcase she took everywhere. And it always required a strong man to load it, and Joan was always able to flag one down.

Darian Hall

#### *From Darian*

By the way, you have just read about my trip across the pond adventure with Joan. My Irish friend, Mia, and I were seriously looking for Connemara pony mares for our breeding farms. Besides the fun we shared with Joan, we actually purchased just what we had hoped to find. Mia bought 2 young mares from "Robbie" Fallon and 2 mares from John Riordan. I purchased my lovely mare, Cashelbay Lady, in foal, from "Robbie!" It was a successful trip in every way, especially traveling the byways together while seeing many beautiful Irish Connemara ponies."



*Joan Ervin on the plow horse at Uncle Jack's farm in Quebec, Montreal, area. On the back of the photo Joan wrote, "It was one of my major wishes, we spent 3 weeks at the farm each year, my most wonderful vacations, getting eggs, baking, running free. My best dreams come true."*

*Written Aug. 29, 1995 - All of those dreams became reality later in life and today I love it just as much. Find your dreams and do them. There's always time. Love, MOM*

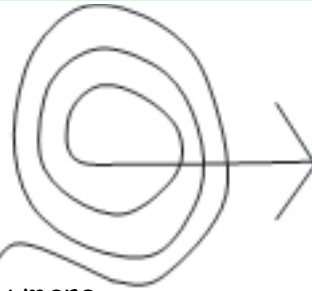
#### *From Joan's daughters ~*

And so all Mom's dream was realized. The little girl on the plow horse became the owner of her first Connemara pony, RBR's Miss Patrice. She established Merry Go Round Manor with her husband, Larry Ervin in 1976 and that one pony grew into a herd of many amazing Connemara Ponies including what she would consider her crowning achievement, MGRM Brigadoon whom still resides at home.

We are so thankful to all of the stories and love shared from our Connemara friends who became family. Love, the Ervins, Duartes, and Dashnows.

*Tricia Dashnaw with RBR Miss Patrice, the Connemara mare who started a long family history.*





## Our Way Forward

true tales of an adult amateur and her rather cheeky mare



Photo credit: Emily Wiley

### Episode 6 - Is It About the Trailer?

By Christine Kelton

Assisted by Trout Ranch Polly Claire

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

*You can lead a horse to a trailer...*

*....Everyone at some point*



**Question:** *What's more infuriating than a calm, cool, and collected pony standing quietly at the end of a leadrope, refusing to step into your horse trailer?*

**Answer:** *Nothing. Absolutely nothing.*

When I bought Polly as a 2-year-old, I traveled with Cathy Speidell, my long-distance hauling buddy, to the Brown Farm in southern New Hampshire to pick her up. It was a warm day at the end of August, and Linda Haines was there on a trail ride with other Region 1 members. She had brought Polly there with her so I wouldn't have to travel quite so far to pick her up at her farm. She had also just had Polly at the Region 1 show a month before and told me how she had self-loaded when she was packing up to go home. True to form, Polly stepped right up into my slant-load and off we went to New York. I remember thinking how wonderful it was to have a new pony who was so easy to trailer. She stood like a pro for the entire 5 hour ride and came off just as calm and easy as could be. All was right in the world. Every month or so I would load her up and we would go on a short "ride to nowhere" for maybe 15-20 minutes. She was positively angelic! Here was one aspect of horse ownership that I didn't have to worry about.

The following June, almost a year later, I brought the trailer around to bring her to her inspection at Pam Liddell's

Kynymont Farm in Pennsylvania, and here is where the story inexplicably started to veer off the predicted plot line. Same truck, same trailer, same loading spot. Nothing had changed. Polly wasn't awful, not by any stretch, but she was not going to just go along as usual. I was puzzled because this had never happened before. It wasn't awful. I think it took about 10-15 minutes for her to decide to get on, but when your only history has been to hop right on, this was way out of character. What had happened? We'd never had an incident. No abrupt stops or anything. Well, maybe it was just an anomaly.

After a 5 hour trip, we arrived at Pam's farm in the early afternoon and Polly was inspected maybe 20 minutes after getting off the trailer. No sooner did we get her in her stall when it was her turn, the last inspection of the day. I have to give her a lot of credit because that day was exactly her 3rd birthday, and after such a long ride and being at a strange place, she was well-enough behaved, although definitely not her typical cool as a cucumber self. Pam and Dirk were so accommodating and put Polly, Cathy, and me up for the night. Our plan was to leave at the crack of dawn. And at that crack, there we were, behind the





trailer with a pony who was not thrilled with the idea of getting back on. I really can't blame her as that was a long ride, but we had to get home. She did the dance in front of the open door. OK - I needed a bribe. I got a bucket with a little feed in it and started doing that bucket-shaking thing we've all tried. Except Polly is not one to be swayed by bribes. If she doesn't want to do something, food is not going to make her change her mind. That's who she is. The whip came out - tap tap tap. How long did it take? Maybe 15 minutes. That's not terrible by a long shot, and she wasn't white eyed and crazed. Cool Polly saying "No." But this was a pony who previously just walked on. What was going on? Yes, the long ride must be the culprit, right?

The next month was July - the month of the Region 1 show at GMHA (Green Mountain Horseman's Association) in South Woodstock, Vermont. I love that show and I had been looking forward to it all year. The grounds are absolutely beautiful, nestled into the side of a mountain with multiple rings, permanent barns, and a lovely stream that flows right through that's great

for practicing water crossings with horses and for cooling off. I highly recommend anyone who can get there to do so!



The morning came to load up and 15 or 20 minutes later she was on. She stepped on with a foot, then off. Repeat, repeat... Again, not terrible, but ultimately not what I'd hoped for. But she did it and we were on our way. We made the 5 1/2 hour trip with no hiccups, a smooth ride all the way up and over the mountains into Vermont. OK - there was one dirt road we had to navigate, but it was doable. The show was great as it always is. But then the time came to leave.

I brought Polly out to the parking lot where the trailer was waiting and marched her up to the doors. ERRRRR. On went the brakes. OK, try again. Walk her in a circle, get a nice walking start and... ERRRRR. Full stop once again. My trailer is a step-up slant load, and I love step-ups because the horse is either on or off and there's no ramp to make a hollow sound and no way for a horse to slide off the side of it and skin up a leg, which I've seen. We all have our trailer preferences, and this is mine. And because it's a slant load, I can walk on with her and stand there and push the bar over. I don't need a 2nd person to hook up the butt bar in the back in case my pony won't stand. Around and around we went. The bucket shaking, the tap-tap-tapping of the dressage whip on her side... tap-tap-tap. I'll tell you that Polly doesn't react in any way, shape, or form to buckets of feed or tap-tap-tap. And she doesn't get wild eyed and upset. Her whole being politely says, "I'd prefer not to." That to me is more infuriating than a horse who at least acts afraid.

We were being watched. There's a separate dressage show that goes on at the same time as the Connemara Breed show, and a kind woman who was at her trailer came over to help.

"Have you done any natural horsemanship with her?" she asked. Nope. She tried to get Polly to back up quickly, with the intent she explained to keep her feet moving, and she would want to get on the trailer rather than be kept moving outside of the trailer. OK. Let's try it.

Polly had no intention of backing up quickly. She'd back up, then march up to the trailer, step up with her two front feet, and there she would stay. This went on for a good half hour. The afternoon was passing, and I had a long drive ahead. The nice woman started shaking her head. "Mine just get on. She really doesn't want to do this. You should do natural horsemanship groundwork with her. That will help."

If you've read my article about what to do with a pony when it's too young to ride, you know I've done a lot of groundwork with Polly. Maybe not "natural horsemanship" groundwork, but I have a generally polite pony who moves when I ask her to and doesn't drag me around. I knew a little about what "natural horsemanship" entailed, I'd heard of Pat Parelli. I knew there was a special whip involved that he sold and he wore a cowboy hat. OK. I'd look into it when I got this stubborn beast home. If I ever got her home.

"Well, she has to get on." I was frustrated, and there Polly stood, outwardly calm, with her two front feet in the trailer and the two back feet firmly on the ground. Treats don't work, tap-tap-tap doesn't work, backing up and keeping her feet moving wasn't working, either. I knew a sharp smack with the whip would earn me absolutely nothing, so there was no use going down that dead end, tempting though it was. Without thinking, because at that point I was out of my mind, I stepped behind her, put my right shoulder under her butt and gave a mighty heave. Polly stepped up into the trailer. No joke. DO NOT EVER DO THAT!

The kind woman looked at me incredulously and said, "You just picked up a pony and put her on the trailer. I've never seen that before." I was embarrassed because I knew better than to do that, but relieved because she was finally on. We secured the pony, shut the back doors, and off we went back to New York. The whole ordeal took at least an hour, and I was hot and mentally exhausted. Maybe she was, too, but it sure didn't seem that way. I think she was thinking that now she had my number. I might have won that battle, but there was more to come.

I went directly to YouTube and watched several Pat Parelli trailer loading videos. He had that orange "carrot stick" clinician's stick, and of course I bought one, too. He talked about keeping their feet moving, and had horses lunging at the back of the trailer, and then he would aim them on. If they went on, that was their rest and reward. If they didn't get on, they kept up the circles. He said how licking and chewing showed they were in the mindset to show acceptance or something like that.

I got out my pony and suited her up in her rope halter, attached





my long rope lead line, picked up my orange clinician's stick and made my way down to the trailer, which I'd parked in a nice mowed area so it would work for lunging. This should be over in no time!

After about 30 minutes of circling and stopping and more circling, I brought her into the round pen and put her through her paces. She did everything obediently, of course with her mare stink eye face, but she was obedient. Back to the trailer we went. An hour and a half later, I was dripping in sweat, eye to eye with my sweaty pony, whose front feet were in the trailer, but whose back feet were firmly planted in terra firma. Actual picture is shown. And she was busily licking and chewing with a look that said, "How's this working for you?" Really? Licking and chewing shows submission and acceptance? I've looked it up since then, and I beg to differ! Polly 1: Christine 0. I admitted utter and complete defeat and put her away. I cried. That was in August of 2018. I didn't attempt any more trailer loading until the winter in the hope that she would just forget about that ordeal.

That winter I vowed to get back to our original trailering relationship. I started bringing Polly to Cathy's farm to work her in the round pen. We both slept over for a few weekends, and getting her there and home was always an adventure. Respect on the ground is the foundation for everything. Polly was great in the round pen. Point, cluck, and off she went. She stopped, turned... no problems there. But getting her in the darn trailer was always so stressful. I remember Cathy telling me that Polly had to follow me everywhere obediently. She spread out a sheet on the ground. Polly obediently followed me over it. Next she followed me over a pallet with plywood. No problems there.

We pulled my trailer into the indoor because it was February and cold and icy outside. An hour and a half later she was still standing there with only her front legs in. This is the actual picture from



that day. I wasn't about to try to shoulder her in again. Frustration hung thick in the air. I knelt down about 20 feet behind her and in desperation started madly flinging arena footing at her butt, my arms going like a windmill. Polly leapt into the trailer, and off we went. There had to be another way!

I started researching other trainers and methods. A friend lent me her Clinton Anderson dvds. No way. Not for me. Way too rough! Enter the TRT Method. I can't remember where I first heard about Tristan Tucker. He's an international level grand prix dressage rider, originally from Australia but now based in the Netherlands, and he has one of those online training programs. I saw he had a segment devoted to horse trailering issues, so I signed up. He showed a video, in its entirety, of getting a difficult horse to load. I think it took him over an hour - not one of the many on YouTube where it only takes the expert 15 minutes and makes me feel completely incompetent. It can take a long time! But it was his always calm demeanor that I really liked.

I don't have enough pages to go into his method, but I can tell you that it depends on groundwork - there are a few basic ground patterns that he teaches all of his horses, and he incorporates them into trailer loading. It is similar to "natural horsemanship" in that it does involve the horse moving his feet, but in certain patterns, and giving the horse "sound advice." And the patterns are done slowly, with the focus on placement of the feet. Yes, the horse does find his rest on the trailer. Suffice it to say I tried it Tristan's way. I taught Polly the ground patterns, she listened to a kiss noise and whip tap to move forward, a "ssshhhhhhhh" to move backwards... there's more to it than that, but this is a basic idea. She learned to move forward and back getting on and inside the trailer, obedient to what I was asking.

The other thing I did was start walking her out in the neighborhood in hand for miles. She would undoubtedly call them "forced marches." She had to stay well behind me, something that Tristan also teaches, and walk briskly at my pace. She was never allowed



in my space. When I stopped, she stopped, right where she was. No inching into my space. This was psychological warfare! I had to prove every moment that I was in charge. Here's a picture of one of our marches. Note the mare face and body language. Five miles was the norm.

The day came to get on the trailer. This was on a Saturday afternoon in March of 2019. I had all the time in the world. We started with the ground patterns outside the trailer, then we opened the doors and started to have at it. No, she didn't miraculously walk in immediately. It took close to an hour, but what worked was the constant calm persistence and going back to the patterns that she knew, keeping her feet moving... She got in. I took her out and put her away.

The next day, we did the same, and it took less than an hour. The next weekend we did it again, and again the next and the next and the next after that. Each time it took less and less time. The key was the familiarity of the specific ground patterns and complete calm, followed by the persistence that she was only going to find rest on the trailer. No trotting around to exhaustion, no "spanking the ground" or other means. Familiarity and persistence.

For the remainder of 2019, I took Polly everywhere-- to spring hunter paces, trail rides in the mountains, a few lessons, and lots more hunter paces in the fall. It didn't always go perfectly. Typically, 10 minutes was our loading time, and I accepted that. We had a few bloopers for whatever reason only a cheeky mare knows. Once I brought her to the rail trail that's only 6 miles away. We had a terrific ride, but for whatever reason, Polly decided she didn't want to go home. OMG. We were parked at the Gardiner Library, and it wasn't long before we had an audience. I wanted to KILL her! The thought of tying her to the trailer and dragging her the short distance home crossed my mind. Families out on bike rides stood around for the show, as did many people out walking their dogs. An older woman approached and asked if she could help, even though she didn't know anything about horses. Brave soul. Calm persistence won the battle. People were clapping. My face burned, and Polly was undaunted. And yet I continued to take her everywhere, hoping for the best, but mentally prepared for whatever happened. We



only ever had one more episode like that. The 10 minute load continued to be the norm.

Forward to 2020 and the pandemic. I had plenty of time to practice loading at the farm. All the time in the world and no place to go. But something else was also at play, which I'm chalking up to maturity. Polly was coming 5 this year, and out of nowhere, trailering became almost a non-issue. I also had to store a bunch of "stuff" in my trailer during the pandemic, so I had to close one of the doors and use that area for storage. I thought this might add to the difficulties, but in fact, I think it helped. With one half closed, I think it gave her a "channel" to step into, much like Temple Grandin made those channels for the cows to walk through. In July we started going out roading twice a week with the Windy Hollow Hunt. One morning, she literally followed me into the trailer. I was stepping in, and she popped in right behind me. Surprise! As the weeks went on, the routine became step on, step off, poop, let out a big sigh, and then just get on, and off we went. The sigh is key. Resignation? She knows she's going. And she really liked the hunt! One early morning it was still dark and she walked right in by trailer light. This pattern has held true up to this day in October, when I loaded her myself in under a minute with my left arm in a sling. Cathy Speidell is my witness!

What goes through those pony brains when something that was never a problem suddenly becomes one? What changed? Did anything change? I'll never know. What I can say is, find a technique that you're comfortable with and stick with it. Keep calm. Go back to some kind of consistent groundwork. Put cement blocks under the back of your trailer for practicing if it's not hooked up to your truck. Keep at it, practice often and not when you have a timeframe, and never, ever lose your temper. Keep going places! It will happen!

*PS - Now I feel like everyone will be watching Polly and me get on the trailer the next time I see you. Hopefully that will be next summer at the Region 1 show. I'm feeling pressure already.*



Busta Eventing Scholarship. After the board reviews these, they will go to Julie Keahey to be put in current ACPS format and put online so they can be found more easily than they are now. We also want to get the excellent “how to” of awards articles Megan Harris wrote up into an interactive format for the website as well as a concise form of the USEF and ACPS Performance Awards Clarification Table that Donna Miller put together.

It was a hard decision to suspend awarding any of the Hall of Fame and Connemara of the Year Awards in 2020. The consensus was that a significant part of the honor is receiving the award in person in front of colleagues. We need to decide what we should engrave on the trophies to recognize the aberration this year is. Some have suggested simply stating “Not Awarded” but others prefer to explain by adding “Due to Coronavirus Pandemic.” We welcome the Board’s input.

Regions 1 and 9 are continuing the Fun With Your Pony program trial and there have been a few inquiries about when we will have a separate award program for the Connemara Sport Horse registry. At present they are able to compete for Achievement Awards along with halfbreds. We are also hearing more suggestions for expanding our Western and trail awards. If we do that, we would need to assign another person to those as there are as many Western disciplines as there are English ones. The same is true for a separate Sport Horse program.

Something we’d like to do now is put more money into our scholarships. The cost of clinics and specialized training has increased steadily since we established those programs and it seems to us that it might be better to offer one large one than smaller first, second, etc. place awards.

Speaking of money, the silver lining to the Covid crisis is that we will have only minimal charges in 2021 for updating the Hall of Fame Ribbons we have and for Achievement Award Medals. We are well supplied with the latter because of the quantities we have to buy at one time, plus our former National Chair, Mary Delton, found more in the course of her move this year and sent those along. The cost of the Hall of Fame keepers and Awards of Excellence frames are likely to increase and there may be more Golden Shamrocks to buy as a number of ponies are collecting gold in several disciplines. Finally, Sally and I request that the new president assign some of the new Board members to our committee. Sally has been doing this job since she was in preschool and I’ve been at it for more than a decade. The job gets bigger every year and while we would be very glad to help successors learn the ropes, we would like to step back from primary roles.

**By Laws** – Scott McGuffin – no action needed

**Inspections** – Kathy Sparks submitted lengthy reports on the Policies and Procedures documents that she and her committee have been updating. The work is nearing completion, and the Board applauded her diligence. There will be Inspections in 2021, at the sites planned for 2020. There could be additional sites added.

**Internet** – Amy Plavin – said the updates are being made, and the revamped website is anticipated to be a great improvement. The Domain name, American Connemara was available and she asked if the Society should own it. The decision was swift, and the answer was “yes.”

**Nominating** – Deb Norman was chair and reported her committee was very pleased that the nominees for the Proxy were excellent. She thanked those who had served, and noted that Jill McNicol was revolving off the Board as she had served the term limit. She will be welcome to serve another term after a year.

**Promotions** – Heather Magnan, Kate DeLaVega, Donna Power - Heather Magnan, Promotions Chair 2020 was an interesting year to say the least for ACPS Promotions. Early in the year the promotions committee said goodbye to our longtime co-chair, Melanie Trimper. With Melanie’s absence the committee looked to add new members at the USEF Annual Meeting in January 2020. Donna Power, Kate Delvega and Raelin Schenck joined the committee. Many shows, including all the ACPS Regional shows were cancelled for 2020. But, the promotions committee had plenty of projects to keep them busy. 2020 Accomplishments

- ACPS/USEF promotional flyer: Kate worked primarily on this project with input from the rest of the committee as well as the executive committee. ACPS facts and info were compiled and the USEF promotional team put the finished project together.

- Breyerfest video: Since Breyerfest 2020 was cancelled, the ACPS was asked to put together a short video highlighting the breed and the new Breyer model, WH Topgun. Kate and her stepfather David tackled this project and the resulting video was a great montage of member submitted clips of ponies in all disciplines.

- Website Updates: A new website platform will be launched with updates and a streamlined appearance. All committees have given feedback as to changes need and an interactive breeder map will be added to the new site

- Social Media: Facebook continues to be a huge source of engagement for members. Our page has been quite successful and continues to be a source of information for members and the general public alike. Heather continues to be the admin of this page, with help from Jill McNichol (as well as Megan Harris). The ACPS and ACPS Juniors Instagram accounts also continue to have engagement with a younger demographic of riders.

- Regional Outreach: Donna, with the help of Sally Oxnard has reached out to all the region chairs. Their needs for promotional support and support in general were addressed and Donna is working on a plan to move forward. Goals for 2021:

- Policies and Procedures: Heather will lead this task, working with the committee and Cathy Blackmon to complete all necessary updates for USEF Meeting in January 2021.

- Launch the new website. Kate will work with the webmaster as well as various committee chairs to complete all updates prior to launching. Deb Norman will work to ensure all breeders are included on the Breeder’s Map.

- Regional Outreach: Donna will continue to work with region chairs to address regional needs.

- Youth Outreach: Donna will continue to develop and implement a youth outreach program to engage our young members.

- ACPS Brochures: Heather will update/create new ACPS brochures in the winter of 2021. She will work with Marynell for any needed text/photos/resources.

Region Chair Liaison – Sally Oxnard and Donna Power reported Youth Program – A new chair is being sought for this committee. The Goldfarb family of TN have been the outreach connections and Nora Goldfarb established Facebook and Instagram pages for the ACPS young riders. While she is still maintaining those connections, and the family is still providing high point ribbons to

# Ceili Mosi oa Tunya

*By Irish Park Caraway Finn out of \*Coral Misty Ciara*

14.2h HWSD—N/N Inspected and Approved

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Julie Keahey and "Mosi" try their skills at Western Equitation classes in Florida.

**"Cosmo"**

Colt foal by

Ceili Mosi oa Tunya out of Corner Oak Celtic Star

Offered for Sale.



*Marie Riley Photo*





competitions for youth such as Pony Club and other junior arenas, it would be a benefit to have a group leader who is not busy with college classes. If any junior reading this is interested, contact the ACPS at [americanconnemara@gmail.com](mailto:americanconnemara@gmail.com)

USEF Connemara Committee – Chris Knox, chair – reported that the committee is being re-populated and that it is now possible to get a USEF passport for foals of 2021.

**Ad Hoc Committees**

**Melanoma Report** – Maureen Loughman Abel sent her report - Update from Dr. Carrie Finno:

We have secured additional funding (\$21,000) through the UC Davis Center for Equine Health to continue investigating the early-onset melanoma “risk” region on chromosome 1. Due to COVID-19 research shutdowns, this funding has been extended through June 2021.

We have demonstrated that the gene of interest on chromosome 1 is expressed in skin normally. As this gene is a tumor-suppressor gene, we strongly suspect that these risk variants (i.e. single nucleotide polymorphisms or SNPs) within this gene are associated with early-onset melanoma in greying ponies.

While the campus shutdown due to COVID-19 has slowed down research overall, we still aim to perform many of the required studies in the next 12-18 months to confirm these genetic markers. The research is funded through June 2021, there is a particular gene they are focused on, and the research has been slowed due to the Covid 19 virus but it continues.

Drs. Theon and Finno are still looking for :

1. grey Connemaras who developed melanoma before 6 years
2. grey Connemaras who are melanoma free and over 15 years.

Contact me and I will register your pony and guide you through the process of donating a blood sample.

As we near the development of a melanoma DNA test, our society needs to discuss how this testing is going to affect the breed and how we can keep this test from becoming a marketing nightmare for the owners of grey ponies. We should rightly receive much credit for facilitating the research that developed a DNA test for melanoma. On the other hand, a melanoma DNA test as a pre-sale condition can result in many beautiful, talented Connemaras being left behind. I think you will all agree that this is something we need to stay ahead of!

Strategic Planning – Liz Platais reported During the past year, the SPC met via conference call on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month 8 times. The focus of each meeting was to review the ongoing work of the ACPS committees, encourage tracking, closure deadlines and identify areas of need. Awards, Media/Promotions/Website, Membership, Breeders Support, Volunteers, Inclusivity, Inspections, Breeders Support and the Annual meeting were all reviewed.

Each area point person was invited to join the eight core SPC members to review their policy and procedures and their mission statements in their presentation. The excitement of the committee in the area of promotions through Kate Delavega and Heather Magnum has led to the development of a newly updated website which should be up and running before the new year. Additionally the committee has been discussing an interactive map of breeders their locations and

**FOOTHILLS FARMS/PIEDMONT CONNEMARAS**

**ATHENS, TENNESSEE**



**HOME OF TULLYMOR'S MOUNTAIN STEEL by Tullymor's Mountain Shadow out of Tullymor's Kiss of Sun (Breeding Live Cover)**

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their breeding stock.

Donna Power and Sally Oxnard are now coordinating regular supportive conference calls with the eleven Region Chairmen. After several years of inactivity the Inspections policy and procedure has been totally reviewed and revised by Kathy Sparks and the inspections committee. It was noted that the majority of the ACPS policies and procedures had not been updated since 2008. President Cathy Blackmon will ask all committee chairmen to update their P&P and submit it to the BOG for approval.

Deb Norman and Kate Delavega presented the Breeders Support Group to encourage the small and large breeder. This will be discussed at the BOG meeting with the question as to whether this should be a standing committee or remain an Ad Hoc.

Many thanks to the members of this committee Kate Denton, Tracy Garland, Kathy Sparks, Donna Miller, Donna Power, Linda Haines, Marynell Eyles and Cathy Blackmon as well as the many contributing members such as Deb Norman, Kate Delavega, Sally Oxnard and Heather Magnum.

The list of Action Items was discussed and reviewed, and the items were approved as per the Consent Agenda, with unanimous approval.

**In New Business a new Ad Hoc committee** has been formed – the Breeders Committee, based on the idea that while the pony, and the rider, and the owner get accolades in

competition and announcements, it's often the breeder who does not get recognition at all. The committee will present a report in January. The Chair is Kate Denton with committee members Kate DeLaVega, Fonda Eigel, Kathy Sparks, Deb Norman, and Chris Knox.

There being no further business, the Board meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m., to be followed by the first meeting of the newly elected Board for 2020/2021.

Cathy Blackmon opened the meeting and Deb Norman, chair of the Nominating Committee listed the newly elected members of the Board. They are Catherine Blackmon, Stephanie Fenton-Hickey, Cynthia Holbrook, Deborah Howell, Lisa Rease, and Kay Clements. Jill McNicol was thanked for her years of service.

The election for the officers of the Board was conducted by Deb Norman, as she offered a slate of officers for the coming year, with an invitation for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the slate of officers as presented were elected. They are Linda Haines, president, Fonda Eigel, vice-president, Stephanie Fenton-Hickey, treasurer, Marynell Eyles, secretary (not a Board member).

The attendees were thanked and a 15 minute chat session was enjoyed by all.

The meeting was closed at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: *Marynell Eyles*

# R BLUE MOON

AN IDEAL MIX OF FORM TO FUNCTION, QUALITY & CHARACTER



REDBUD RANCH / WWW.GOODPONY.NET



SKIP THE UNCERTAINTY // PROVEN TO CROSS BEAUTIFULLY ON YOUR TB, SPORT HORSE & PONY MARES





# Junior Page



Hi, my name is Bridget Kelly, and I am 12 years old. I live in Roswell, New Mexico, and I have an incredible half-bred Connemara named Chai (aka Windover Tarragon) who I do Eventing with. We won a two-hundred-dollar junior scholarship from the ACPS this year, which is amazing! I have decided to use the scholarship money to continue our dressage training. Chai and I started dressage lessons in the spring of this year and have both responded very well to them, so we are very excited to continue to learn and improve greatly with our dressage work.

## Help Wanted

*The ACPS is looking for a Junior ACPS Member who would like to be involved with communicating, connecting, and publishing news and events that ACPS Junior members are enjoying.*

*If you would like to apply for the position - unpaid but very appreciated - please send an email to Linda Haines at [troutranch@metrocast.net](mailto:troutranch@metrocast.net)*

*Let us know how you think the ACPS could improve interaction with the Junior Members.*

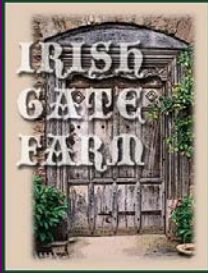
*Connemara stallions are known for their superlative temperaments.*

*Balmullo's Gallagher, aka Emmitt, is shown here with Hannah Smith, daughter of longtime Connemara owner/breeder/rider Michelle Haas in North Carolina.*

*The beginning of another lifetime Connemara lover starts with a kiss on the muzzle.*







# FOAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

## It's a Colt ~ Due March 18, 2021

Irish Gate Farm, Westmoreland, KS

**Sire:** JEF Sir Lancelot



Lance is a well-established sire of 125+ offspring. He offers 10" bone and a Temperament rated "Excellent."

Riley has been at our farm for a few years and we know her very well. She has a gentle soul and a keen mind. She melds well in our herd without using her size to dominate.

***This colt will be someone's dream horse!***

Visit us on FB, Irish Gate Farm, or [www.irishgatefarm.com](http://www.irishgatefarm.com) to see more about Lance and other young offspring for sale.



**Dam:** Riley (Hanoverian)



Riley is a 16/3h, 2006 mare by Hilltop Farm's Royal Prince (pictured below) out of a Contucci/Matcho mare (Chloe). Riley is registered with the American Hanoverian Society and also approved with the IRS/Oldenburger.



*Dam's Sire:* Royal Prince of Hilltop Farm





# Classified Ads

## Package Deal

Year of Birth: 2007

Height: 14.2hh

Gender: Mare

Purebred Connemara

ACPS Registered?: Yes

Website: [www.daytonridgefarm.com](http://www.daytonridgefarm.com)

Dam: Heaven's Ridge Mistykil Sunset

Sire: Rills Lothlorien

I've started to think about cutting back, Partial Dispersal. Key Word ~ Partial. I simply do not need to breed 7-8 mares a year and can be just as happy breeding 3 or 4. So I'm putting this out there... if this package sells, that's fine, if it doesn't that's fine to. If the foal sells in utero, then this package offer will no longer be available.

I can go either way with it. Offering good old lines. Kymirra of Ledgewood Currently in foal (with a Filly) to \*Smaragaid Cliff Due Mid-May, 2021. Price will go up as gestation progresses, and I will not move her within 10 weeks of foaling.

The plus is Kymirra can also double as a useful trail horse that just about anyone can ride. Please call me for details and check out her page on my website.

\$ 8,500

Contact

Janet M. Johnson

Location: Richland Center, WI

Phone: 16086044840

Email: [jjay@countryringspeed.com](mailto:jjay@countryringspeed.com)

## PB Dressage Pony

Year of Birth: 2013

Height: 14.2 H

Gender: Mare

Purebred Connemara

ACPS Registered?: Yes

Dam: Four Lochs Perfect Storm

Sire: \*Smaragaid Cliff

Cobblestone Sandpiper. Perfect for the petite adult. Sensitive to aids. Not a beginner's pony. Showing Second Level @ 68.5%. Trained by a USDF silver medalist. Has also done some fences to 2'6". Good ground manners.

Last year Piper was USEF Horse of the Year and Adequan/USDF All-Breeds Champion. She was also ACPS Region X Supreme Breed Champion. She is a rare combination of good breeding, correct conformation and lovely movement, \$ 20,000

Pat Ashworth

Location: Raymond, CA

Phone: 559-689-3096

Email: [patnboba@gmail.com](mailto:patnboba@gmail.com)

## Let's Play!

Year of Birth: 2020

Gender: Stallion

Purebred Connemara

ACPS Registered?: Yes

Website: [www.daytonridgefarm.com](http://www.daytonridgefarm.com)

Dam: Kymirra of Ledgewood

Sire: \*Smaragaid Cliff

3 weanling's left ~ I would only like to winter 2!

\$1,000 off 1st Weanling to sell!

Must ship this year.

\*Purebred Colt by \*Smaragaid Cliff

\* 1/2 bred Conn/TB colt by Skyview's Triton

\*Connemara Sport Horse Filly by WB Parcival .

\*I'll even throw a yearling 1/2 Buckskin gelding in the mix!

See my website for details.

Janet M. Johnson

Location: Richland Center, WI

Phone: 16086044840

Email: [jjay@countryringspeed.com](mailto:jjay@countryringspeed.com)

## Purebred Weanling Bay Colt

Year of Birth: 2020

Height: 9 hands

Gender: Stallion

Purebred Connemara

ACPS Registered?: Yes

Dam: Corner Oak Celtic Star

Sire: Ceili Mosi oa Tunya

Three month old bay Connemara foal for sale. Lovely bloodlines, including Clifden Ireland Connemara Show Supreme Champion. Ceili Mosi oa Tunya X Corner Oak Celtic Star both talented, calm, athletic, well-bred Connemaras. Sire is a competitive eventing pony. His early trainer said he could go Preliminary. Dam was a winning driving pony. This foal is beautiful, athletic with a super personality. He is a pocket pony - loves his people. Would make a children's eventer. Should be highly competitive, or a best friend.

Parents Inspected and Approved by the American Connemara Pony Society.

Both parents are N/N for HWSSD

Search: Name Ceili on Dreamhorse to see more about sire

More photos on request.

\$ 6,000

Julia Ann Keahey

(970) 581-6120

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

## 6yr Gelding Ready For Career

Year of Birth: 2015

Height: 13.2 1/2

Gender: Gelding

Purebred Connemara

ACPS Registered?: Yes

Website: [www.jabconnemaras.com](http://www.jabconnemaras.com)

Dam: Patty's Noblesse Oblige

Sire: Legacy's Spirit of Camelot

Riggins is a fully registered Connemara gelding standing 13.2 1/2. Hes a solid thick build. I broke him out and then got pregnant so we are starting him up again. He's got a w,t,c and started over fences. Super sweet and healthy. Can go any direction. He's out of Legacy's Spirit of Camelot & Patty's Noblesse Oblige. He's tested N/N for hoof wall. He stand good for farrier and baths. Ties, clips and loads. Excellent mover and very comfy to ride.

Information

Jill Barnes

Location: Stockton, MO

Phone: 4172096772

Email: [jillagoebel@hotmail.com](mailto:jillagoebel@hotmail.com)

## 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 \$20 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. [plataisee@aol.com](mailto:plataisee@aol.com)

**NORTHERN CONNEMARAS.** Sarah McRae Thrasher, 1410 Goose Green Rd., Vershire, VT 05079. (802) 522-7110. [mcrathrasher@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:stoxnard@gmail.com), [www.paradoxconnemaras.com](http://www.paradoxconnemaras.com)

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

## REGION II (NJ, NY, PA)

**CATSKILL CONNEMARAS.** Chad and Heather Magnan, 33 Frisbee Rd., East Meredith, NY 13757. 678-278-5256. [www.catskillconnemaras.com](http://www.catskillconnemaras.com). [hrmagnan@gmail.com](mailto:hrmagnan@gmail.com)

**TRIPLE CREEK FARM.** Mary Lou Thall, Winfield, NY 13491. (315) 855-7878. [tricreek@hotmail.com](mailto:tricreek@hotmail.com), [www.tricreek.org](http://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](mailto:balmullofarm@gmail.com) [www.balmullofarm.com](http://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](mailto:deb@glendalefarm.com) [www.glendalefarmconnemaras.com](http://www.glendalefarmconnemaras.com). Purebreds and halfbreds. \**Rattle 'N Snap Laddie Boy S 685 XL*, \**Fernville Matchmaker S 1918 XLVI*

**RIDGETOP CONNEMARAS.** Walter and Marynell Eyles, PO Box 40, Middlebrook, VA 24459. (540) 886-2239 [lynneeyles@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mzcheek@gmail.com)

**THURMAN FARM.** Barbara J. Byrd, PO Box 472, Berryville, VA 22611. [Bjb1971@thurmanfarms.com](mailto: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](mailto:tofph3@aol.com) [www.twistoffateeventing.com](http://www.twistoffateeventing.com) *Blackwing Goodnight Moon S 2002 LVI*

**TWO LEFT HANDS FARM.** Donna Power/Yvonne Bach, 51 Hillcrest View Rd. Raphine, VA 24472. (804) 854-9129. [tlhf@netzero.net](mailto:tlhf@netzero.net)

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

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

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

**FADE TO GREY FARM.** Megan and Lee Harris, 1750 Bishop Rd., Luthersville, GA 30251. (770) 833-5159. [fadetogreyfarm@gmail.com](mailto:fadetogreyfarm@gmail.com) [www.fadetogreyfarm.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:Connemaras9@gmail.com), [www.connemaras.com](http://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](mailto:donna@hiddencreekhorses.com) [www.hiddencreekhorses.com](http://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](mailto:keaheyjulie@gmail.com) *Ceili Mosa oa Tunya S 1905 XLV*

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

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

**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@countryringspeed.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 510<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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

**JARRE CREEK CONNEMARAS.** Kaye Hurley Lefkowitz. Sedalia, CO. (303) 619-0433. gmiedldy@gmail.com. Finn's Irish Cream S 2526 XXXIII

**KINGSWELL CONNEMARAS.** Karen K. Laden, 12625 Halleluia 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.** 430 Mansperger Rd., Ellensburg, WA 98926. ekbergsporthorses.com \*MLC Van Helsing

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, \*Sydserff Avalon S 679 XL \*Castle Monarch S 1952 L.

**HEAVEN'S RIDGE.** Dennis and Pam Blaha. 9625 N. 36<sup>th</sup> 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

Advertise with us.....

A Note to all Members/Advertisers: Prices are based on camera-ready ads (defined as fully composed and ready to be put into place). PC files only. Prefer PDF, WORD, or Microsoft Publisher...all for PCs. High resolution photos/ads (all at least 300 dpi) should be sent to americanconnemara@gmail.com The magazine is not responsible for content of ads.

Single Issue  
Full Page (7 1/16 x 9 1/2 inches).....\$200  
Bleed dimensions ...page size 8 1/2 x 11 - no extra charge. Images that go to trim should extend .125" past trim. Any type should be .25" inside trim.  
Half Page (7 1/16 x 4 3/4 inches).....\$100  
1/4 Page (3 3/8 x 4 5/8 inches).....\$60  
Business Card (2 x 3 1/2).....\$20  
Inside Front Cover (full page only).....\$300  
Reserved location, other than above.....\$50

Packages  
Six Issue Package-----Full Page.....\$800  
Six Issue Package-----Half Page.....\$400  
Six Issue Package---Business Card.....\$120  
Three Issue Package---Full Page.....\$400  
Three Issue Package---Half Page.....\$200



# Heaven's Ridge Farm

## CONNEMARA Horses & Ponies

**Standing:**  
 Bear Creek's Croagh Patrick S 534 XXXI  
 Heaven's Ridge Tiarnan Donal S 692 XLI

*Breeding Exceptional Connemaras  
 For Over 20 Years*

**Dennis & Pam Blaha 602.953.2272**

9625 N. 36th St. • Phoenix, AZ 85028 • pamlaha@hotmail.com



## BLACK DOG FARM Connemaras & Half-Breds

*Breeding Competitive and  
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 Correctly Started and From  
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Phone: 813-355-7178  
 E-mail: pcwertb@yahoo.com  
 www.blackdogconnemara.com

## Dayton Ridge Farm

Richland Center, WI  
 Janet Johnson  
 (608) 604-4840

**Standing:**  
 Skyview's Triton  
 HK's Danny Boy

**Selling:**  
 Connemara Ponies  
 Connemara/TB Crosses  
 Connemara/Warmblood Crosses  
 www.daytonridgefarm.com



## SHAMMER CONNEMARAS

**Maureen Loughman Abel**  
 24 NE 325th Trail  
 Okeechobee, FL 34972 USA

**863 467-5377**

mloughman@embarqmail.com  
 www.shammerconnemaras.com



*Tiz na n'Og Ranch*

*Guess Who? Email your guess to Americanconnemara@gmail.com*



*This Issue*

*Guess Who?*



*Last Issue - the Answer*

*Custusha's Cashel Rock - stallion by \*Texas Hope out of Springledge Taffy. He was owned by Mel and Helen King. The first correct answer was sent by Janet Johnson of Wisconsin. Her stallion Skyview's Triton is by this sire.*



## Frequently Asked Questions About Transfer of Ownership

- I am the owner and am selling my Connemara. Do I hand the registration certificate to the buyer? No. Please do not. Fill in the blanks on the reverse side of the certificate and send the certificate to the ACPS office with the transfer fee.
- How much is the fee? \$25 within 30 days of the sale or \$35 after 30 days. Double for non-ACPS members.
- Does the new owner get a new certificate? No – the new owner gets the lifelong record of the pony's ownership through life. One certificate per Connemara for life. And no, the new owner's name is often NOT on the front side of the certificate. Please look at the reverse side.
- What if I lost the original certificate? The fee for a duplicate certificate is \$50. The fee is sent with a letter of explanation of how the papers were mislaid/destroyed/lost.
- The ACPS suggests a seller should pay for the new owner's Associate membership as a token of "welcome" to the Society. It's fine to include that membership payment in one check with the transfer fee.
- Do you take credit cards? No, not for transfers
- Can I do the transfer over the phone? No, the original certificate signed by the seller is required, and must be sent to the ACPS office.
- Where do I send the certificate? Please send the papers with the fee to PO Box 100, Middlebrook, VA 24459. It is not necessary to use certified mail. Since each pony gets one LIFETIME certificate, it's best to send it in a large envelope instead of folding it into a business sized envelope.
- Questions? You can read through the Registration information on the ACPS web site – [www.acps.org](http://www.acps.org) and if you still can't find an answer, email [americanconnemara@gmail.com](mailto:americanconnemara@gmail.com)



*Making wishes* come true, one ride at a time...



### BALMULLO'S GALLAGHER

2001 14.1hh Buckskin Stallion  
by Concord River Roaring Water Bay  
x Balmullo's Miss Emma (premium mare)  
HWSD N/N ACPS Approved

[www.erinterra.com](http://www.erinterra.com)

Sunny Slope Farm . Michelle Haas . 314-378-5323 . [mardigraspwr@aol.com](mailto:mardigraspwr@aol.com)







*“Oh, Boy!”*

*Rattle N' Snap*  
*Laddie Boy*

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



**Call Deb Norman at (540) 955-1995 or email [deb@glendalefarm.com](mailto:deb@glendalefarm.com)**



*Love* is in the air at  
Glendale Farm



**\* FERNVILLE MATCHMAKER  
JOINS THE GLENDALE  
FARM FAMILY**  
2006, 14.2 grey born bay  
By Fredericksminde Hazy Match / Rosa  
Castle Moya x Abbeyleix Owen  
Bred in Ireland by Jimmy Canavan  
Imported in 2006

*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.*

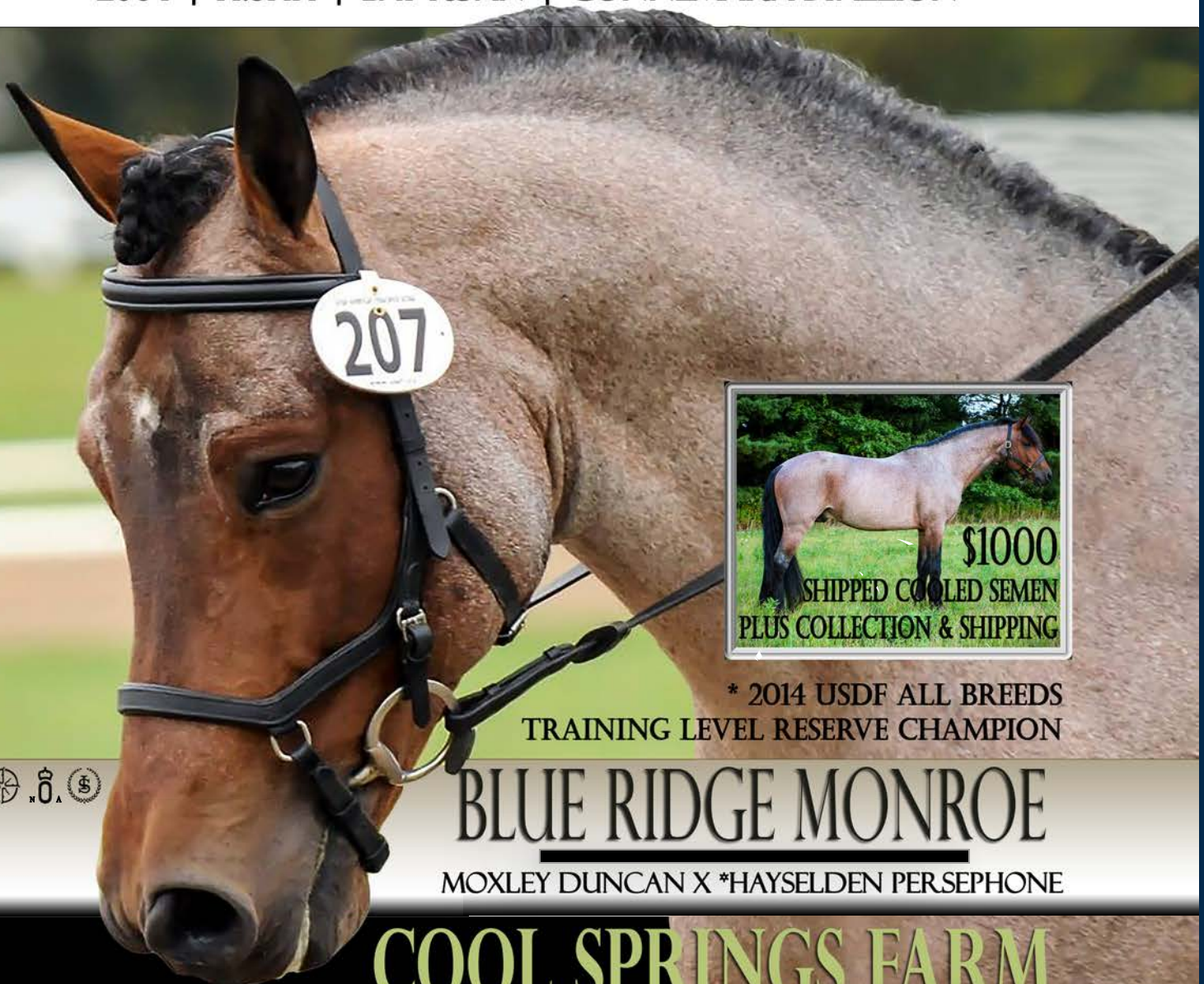
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TRAINING LEVEL RESERVE CHAMPION



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MOXLEY DUNCAN X \*HAYSELDEN PERSEPHONE

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