

AMERICAN CONNEMARA

The Official Publication of the American Connemara Pony Society

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020

EDITION II, VOL. 11 NO. 5

Horse Show Issue



Rockhaven McBrigh - 2019 Camlin Trophy Winner

Owned by Mary Carol Harsch and Stephanie Fenton-Hickey

*TBS DECLAN PONDI



(Dexter Leam Pondi x Dandy Sparrow x Ashfield Bobby Sparrow)
Heterozygous Grey from Buckskin Roan * 14.1+ hds * 8 3/4" Bone * HWSD N/N

Declan won his only USEA start in Feb of 2020- his 6th WIN in 1 year. Due to this year's circumstances we decided to wait until 2021 to show again. Declan had a busy summer in the breeding shed & we are legging up for his 5th season of foxhunting!

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



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

The international group meets annually at the same time as the August Clifden Show in Ireland. Read a letter from the Chairman of the committee on Page 12.



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

*Mannerly and manageable, kind, responsive,
possessing good sense and basic intelligence.
The Connemara Breed Standard for Temperament*

It has been a distinct honor to serve the last three years as president of the American Connemara Pony Society. I thought it fitting to pen my last message with the above statement as I have truly grown to believe we reflect the same attributes as our beloved Connemaras.

The ACPS Board of Governors meets twice a year, Committees meet at least twice a year and usually have conference calls in between, Region Chairs and Governors meet more often than not. As well the Regions host a myriad of events including teas, clinics, field days, trail rides, and horse shows. I love our Regional horse shows. They are steeped in local ponies, families, and history, always reminding me of a country fair in Ireland or England. When tough issues or challenges arise we tackle them, mannerly, manageable, kindly, responsive to each other's opinions, with good sense and intelligence. Just like our ponies. I encourage you to come be a part of the ACPS, locally in your Region or Nationally. You will be rewarded with new friendships that will last a lifetime, just as I have.

The most pressing item we have right now is that our September 2020 AGM/BOG meeting and Hall of Fame Award Gala must be postponed to 2021 due to the virus. Above all, the safety of our members is paramount so the decision was made. Region V is eager to host us in Lexington, KY 2021 and I am guessing they will out do themselves!



We will host a ZOOM meeting for the BOG, Region Chairs and Governors and Committee Chairs to conduct the business of the ACPS. The date will be either Friday, September 25th or Saturday, September 26th whichever is most convenient for the group. This is uncharted territory for us so we are asking all Committee reports be submitted along with Policy & Procedure updates well in advance so we can get an Agenda and packet of reports to the participants well in advance of the Zoom meeting. We are hoping it will allow us to conduct the necessary business and elections, but more importantly give us an opportunity to see each other and share pony stories, which is the BEST part of the meetings.

Our oh so clever Editor has come up with a lovely treat for this issue, which is usually chocked full of Region and National horse show pictures, news and results. But again, due to the virus, all were cancelled. Prepare to be delighted with a walk or trot or canter, down memory lane. Hoping to see you sooner than later,

Cathy Blackmon

Hideaway's Special Delivery, age 23, and Cathy Blackmon have served as Connemara Ambassadors and Cathy has been President of the Society for the last 3 years. The ACPS won't be able to thank her in person in 2020, but we all send a collective, "Job Well Done!" from our homes, spread far and wide.

The ACPS Annual Meeting for 2020 is Cancelled

Please save the Date, Same time/Same Place for 2021

Please watch your email inbox for a message from SurveyMonkey.

It's not Spam....it's your Proxy for voting for the members of the ACPS Board of Governors.

Our use of the Postal Service last year was less than stellar with a low return rate so we are going back to the digital method in this year of Covid 19. Please read the directions and make your selections and vote.

It's easy.

The American Connemara Pony Society is closely monitoring the situation with COVID-19. We have cancelled several social gatherings and are willing to do our part to shelter in place. We will stay abreast of and implement as necessary the USEF guidance and protocol. If you have any questions please see the USEF website for any updates at the following link <https://www.usef.org/media/coronavirus-resources> We will publish any necessary updates for our membership and our organization on our website www.acps.org and the American Connemara Pony Society Facebook page regarding upcoming shows or events status.

The motto for the Connemara breed says "they do it all " and in this case, we must do all we can to keep our ACPS people and ponies safe and healthy. In these times it's important to remember that we hold each other's lives in our hands. Our bodies may be still but we are reaching out with our hearts and know that we are all connected.

Please stay safe and take care of yourselves and your ponies.

2021

Save the Date!

September 24-27

Annual Meeting

Lexington Downtown Hilton
Lexington, Kentucky






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36 USDF All Breed Awards



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judging, & clinics



24 Connemara/Half-Breds

competed at the American
Eventing Championships in 2019



6 Magazine Issues
printed annually

ACPS and the ICCPS

A Letter from the Chairman of the ICCPS,

Dear all ICCPS members,
The ICCPS Executive Board held a Telephone Conference on 29th July 2020. In the extraordinary circumstances prevailing due to Covid19, it was decided to postpone ICCPS AGM 2020 and agreed that the ExB would continue as it is until the AGM 2021. The British CPS delegate, Anne Harries, will continue as Secretary with support from BCPS Secretariat. We do hope you all will accept our decision and we will do our best to fulfil ICCPS ExB commitments. Please read the ExB Meeting Minutes for details.

We are happy to welcome our new ICCPS Web master - well known since many years with Connemara Ponies - Bob Plummer, Australia. Bob has already started the web site work, thank you very much, Bob.

We have the pleasure to announce that the 2020 Michael J O'Malley Award has been awarded to Miss Blanche Miller, Rosenaharley Stud in England, for her life time and dedicated work for the Connemara Pony. The Prize ceremony will be held next year during Clifden Show Week.

The Ex Board Meeting also discussed international judges' list, PSSM questions, Connemara Pony Genetic Research Request and New Member Societies. Please see the enclosed Minutes for details.

The Ex B agreed on sending out the 2019 AGM Minutes to all member societies -please send any comments to Secretary, Anne Harries. We will soon send out the yearly questionnaire about pony registrations etc, and ask for a brief written report of each Society's activities.

You will find the 2020 Chairman's Report in the ExB Meeting Minutes. Do not hesitate to contact me or other ExB members with your thoughts and questions. 2020 will always be a year to remember - and forget. Let us hope for a brighter and better 2021.

Kindest regards and best wishes to you all,

Madeleine Beckman
ICCPS Chair

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2019 - Daughters of Susan McConnell presented the Trophy for the Class at Clifden sponsored by the ACPS.



Connemara Puissance - two different years



Horse Shows 2020 --- While not all horse shows were cancelled for the year, all of our ACPS Regional Shows were not held in the interest of the health and welfare of competitors, staff, family, spectators, and friends. Without all the wonderful horse show photos and reports to fill these pages, your Editor decided to ask for the history of each Regional Show. You will find the history of Region I and more historical items that seemed too good not to share. A real look-back is good for all of us to learn about where we started, and where our paths are leading.

In researching old clippings and files and envelopes full of history in order to write an overview of the Region shows, in particular, the Region III Show, I opened a stuffed folder of newsletters and prize lists saved by Mrs. William G. Grayson of Blue Ridge Farm, mother of Katherine Wilkins also of Blue Ridge Farm. I was reading the very early literature when it dawned on me that the prize lists I was thumbing through were dated early 1960s...clearly as early as the "oldest" Connemara Show at So. Woodstock, Vermont! Giving meaning to the "Devil is in the details", my conclusion is that the Region I Show is the oldest Continually held Connemara Show. Region III may have started early, but lapses in the sequences of the shows take that prize away from them!

The photos on this page are dedicated to the Mother Ship of Connemara shows, the Clifden Show in Ireland, where three of our own ACPS members/Inspectors, have served as judges; Catherine Mack of Aladdin Connemaras, Kathy Sparks of Slippery Elmshoot Farm, and Laura Balding of Tre Awain Connemaras.



Hubert Laurent, Catherine Mack, Nicola Musgrave, and Padriac Hynes



Laura Balding and Gabrielle Murphy



Kathy Sparks of Slippery Elm Shoot Farm, Indiana

Liz Platais presented the trophy for the Clifden class sponsored by the ACPS



ACPS Region I Connemara Show Holds the Record

Region 1's 'Oldest In The Nation' Connemara Show

The Green Mountain Horse Association in South Woodstock, Vermont has been hosting ACPS Region 1's annual Breed and Performance Show since 1966, missing only two years when it was held elsewhere due to upheavals in GMHA's scheduling. This makes it the oldest continuously held Connemara breed show in the country, and it's a vast labor of love. In early days it was Charlotte Read, Jim and Mary Bailey, Louise Clough, probably Frank and Doris Fee, and others who I apologise for forgetting, who made it happen. In time the torch passed to Mary and Rogers Rutter, Pagey Elliott, Liz Platais, Sandy Peterson (Dix), Bill and Anne Halstead, Candy Verhulst, and a few upstarts like Linda Haines and Scott McGuffin and Caroline Nesbitt and Bob Butcher. In recent years, it's been Linda and Scott, Susan Goodhouse, Bette Frederickson, Carolyn McEvitt, Sally Oxnard, Amy Plavin, and Sarah McRae Thrasher leading us forward.

The show started as a part of GMHA's (now defunct) All Breeds show, and the prefixes of the ponies there represented both the imported and those bred by our earliest farms – Round Robin, Cybatina, Lynfields, Spring Ledge, Spar Hill, Hideaway, then Annandale, Syzygy, and Gilnocky, among others; later joined by Tower Hill, Bantry Bay, Concord River, Wintervale, Rolling Meadows, Trout Ranch, Paradox, Northern, and the list goes on. Eventually our show aligned itself with the GMHA Hunter-Jumper Show, opening a whole new cadre of competitors who were already showing Connemaras in hunter classes throughout New England.

Originally, all Connemaras jumped 3'6" (nose-bleed height for some of us) but this was reduced to 3'3" at the urging of those who insisted it might interfere with the ponies' First



The Young Mares Class at an early show. Jim Bailey in the front of the line.

Year Green eligibility. In reality, this only affected riders of Connemaras over 14.2, but it resulted in a collective sigh of relief and an uptick in the number of people competing. The advent of the 3' Adult Amateur divisions, which gave adults on ponies and stallions another division, lowered fence heights to an even 3', and was greeted with universal glee.

GMHA's courses were real outside hunter courses in a giant field, wonderful for galloping and jumping. Some days it felt like flying. The catalogue of ponies competing was a litany of names on trophies. There were Sue Smith's wonderful mares RHF Tully's Rose and RHF O'Harazan, Shirley Fenner's *Lambay Seamus, the almost unbeatable Lynfields Merrylegs, owned by Ben and Ellie Betts and ridden by their granddaughter. There were Sue Houle's Lynfields Ballymore, Lynfields Patrick, Candy Verhulst's foundation sire Spring Ledge Bantry Bay, Greenway Pollyanna, Gilnocky Classic, Gilnocky Ard Righ MacDaire, Chris Dixon's Hideaway's Freedom Fighter, Jody Loring's Tower Hills Silver Fiddle, Helen King's Custusha's Cashel Rock with his regular jockey Michael Keough, *Chiltern Colm, *Chiltern Copa of Tower Hill, and one year even the newly arrived *Bobby Brown, ridden by an Irish steeplechase jock. Those were halcyon days. Over a long weekend we celebrated our Connemaras, then segued into the regular hunter divisions with a built-in cheering section. We loved every minute of it.

We also loved GMHA's Friday evening wine and cheese exhibitor's party, which was almost entirely taken over by a rollicking collection of Connemara people who were not shy in making the most of it. Afterwards a sizable group of us would retire to our trucks and trailers where we were camped in a lively and rather noisy tent village in the area between D Barn (where the Connemaras held court) and the outside courses. So many memories - for conversation, but maybe not print! Eventually GMHA's neighbors got tired of tent cities that 'lowered the tone of the area', and GMHA stopped offering wine and cheese parties that were only attended by rowdy Connemara people. The show became somewhat more civilized, and indeed has continued to succeed because of its ability to adapt to changing needs.

When Beryl Eddy expressed her concern that we were





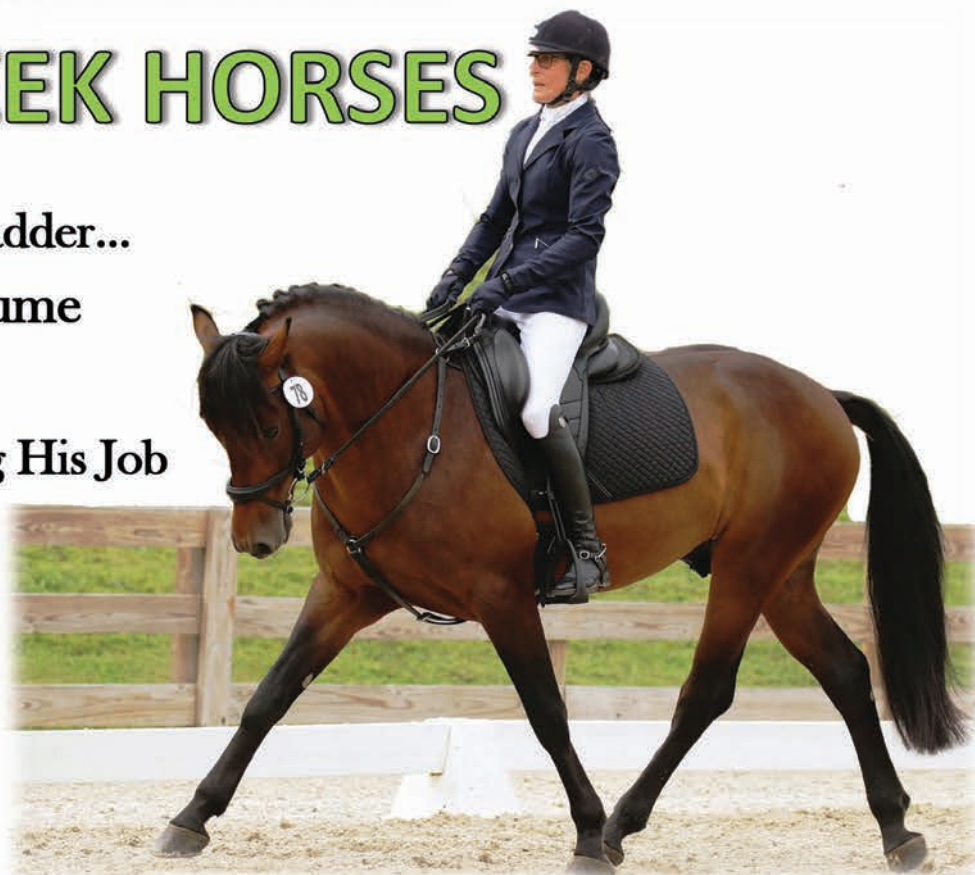
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Neioui Ninon Tartifume and Violene II.

N/N

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Mary Rutter with Whitewood Galway Bay



Sue Smith of Gilnocky Farm with Aladdin

losing track of the Connemara's true nature, she founded a trail class that became the centerpiece of the show's popular Sue Dexter Versatility Award. As interest in hunters and jumpers waned and interest in dressage expanded, fence heights were reduced again and the show changed its dates to coincide with the CVTDA dressage show. Old favorites are replaced by new repeat winners: the Hyppas' Tower Hills Siobhan, Lynn Wallace's Hideaways Answered Prayer, Amy Kuo's Wintermist Irish Fairy, Linda Haines' Tower Hills Leannan and Blue Ridge Bluebell, Cynthia Richards' Cybatina Chan O'Sham and his full brothers, and those redoubtable campaigners Bantry Bays Kenny with Lauren Ochs, and Julia Latham's Trout Ranch Whimsey, among many others. And, thanks to Region III, in defiance of New England's innate puritanism, the show now boasts some really fun games and a great costume class.

Of course the real reason to have a breed show is to show off breeding stock, and it's been fascinating to see the standard of ponies improve over the years with the advent of inspections and a greater understanding of what a Connemara should look like. In early days, classes ran the gamut from ponies who looked like small Thoroughbreds to ponies that looked like they could be pulling a turf cart. Now, while hunter judges might prefer one look and sport horse judges another, in general the ponies in the ring represent a beautiful array of a beautiful breed in all its colors and sizes. Breeding ponies is a long game, and stallions have a faster and larger effect on a breed than mares. Going through our history of breed champions it's easy to see how dominant the Tower Hill ponies were in the nineties, just as the Lynfields ponies



Caroline Nesbitt on Wintervale Ronia

were in the seventies. But it's equally interesting to see which mare families reproduce themselves through generations: so that Susan Goodhouse's Tower Hills Meghan and her daughter RMF Fionnuala were Champion Mare in different years, Sally Oxnard and Linda Haines' Elphin Kookaburra was later represented by daughter Macbradaigh's Irish Whistle, and Caroline Nesbitt's Gilnocky Chantilly Lace was followed by daughter Wintervale Ronia and granddaughter Wintervale Mayblossom. It's all a part of a grand continuum, new lines building on old.

We miss our beautiful show this year. We miss the smorgasbord of ponies, the laughter, the joy, the eating and drinking, the meeting of old friends and making of new ones, the competition, the auction, and the ad hoc trail rides in GMHA's green hills. We hope to see everyone back at Woodstock, bigger and better, in 2021.

Caroline Nesbitt



The stallion, *Chilern Copa of Tower Hill



Waiting their turn to canter in the large Connemara Hack Class

From the American Connemara Pony Society Newsletter - October 3, 1969

What is probably the largest of the American Connemara horse shows or divisions was held in conjunction with the Woodstock Horse Show, Vermont the weekend of August 1,2,3, under the auspices of the Northeast Region. The showgrounds are beautiful, the courses challenging, the competition both plentiful and keen and the surrounding area so lovely it is a delight just to be there. At the close of Saturday's schedule Mr. and Mrs. Edward Harris gave a cocktail party betwixt the brook and the end barn for all the Connemara people. It is not often the members can meet and greet each other leisurely so it was all the more enjoyable to have this opportunity,

The results from that year included Champion Registered Connemara Mare in Hand - Polaris Brandon Bay Gilnocky Farm Senior Champion Connemara In Hand - Texas Hope, Res. Polaris Brandon Bay.

Breeder's Herd: Gilnocky Farm; Res: Lynfields Farm



Ribbons, Trophies, Friendships, and Connemaras



The fabulous Tooth Fairy costume



*The Driving Class - the stallion, *Kippure Cara*

The More Things Change - Learning from the Past

Show Results from the Connemara Shows of 1967 and 1968 ~

To demonstrate how things never really change – here are the show results from the major Connemara Shows of those years. Maybe you will find an ancestor of your Connemara here in the results from these shows.

Reprinted from a newsletter September 1967 – Connemara Clippings – Vol 3, No. 4 - The spelling that changes from time to time was left "as is" from the newsletter of 1967.

First Annual Mid-Atlantic Show 1967

Yearling and 2 yr old colts – Rose Hill's Marc, Rose Hill Farm; Jerrielee, Mrs. H.F. Watson

Three yr and over stallions – Spring Ledge Bantry Bay, Springledge Farm; Rose Hill's Tarzan, Rose Hill Farm

Yearling and 2 yr old fillies – Clevertex II, Mrs. and Mrs. R.H. Norton Jr.; Shannlor's Tex, Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Norton, Jr.

3 yrs and over mares – Gentian Hill, Springledge Farm; Rose Hill's Savery Miss, Rose Hill Farm

Broodmare – Shan Lor, Mrs. H.F. Watson

Breeders Championship – Spring Ledge Farm, Rose Hill Farm

Connemara under saddle – Shan's Peanut, Edward Harrison; Shan's Easter Dawn, Mrs. H.F. Watson

Connemara o/f Jr. to ride – Land Gate Charade, Katy Mallon

Connemara o/f Adult to ride – Lystra Lad (owned by Anne Frey)

Hunter Hack, open – Gentian Hill

Working Hunter Stake – Lor Pride

Hunter Champion – Lor Pride

Jumper, Jr. to ride – Lystra Lad

Jumper, Adult to ride – Lonesome Sam

Open Jumper Stakes – Lystra Lad

High Point Connemara Trophy – Lystra Lad

New York Breeder's Show, Syracuse, NY 1967

English Hack – Castletown Princess; Clynagh's Clancy, Mavis Farm

Champion Mare – Gentian Hill, Springledge Farm; Res. Ch. Celtic Twilight, Mavis Farm

Champion Stallion – Springledge Bantry Bay, Springledge Farm; Res. Ch. Blagdon Silver Gilt, Hideaway Farm

Model – Gentian Hill; Res Ch. Springledge Bantry Bay, Springledge Farm

Fillies under 3 yrs – Better Late, Hideaway Farm

Mares 3 and over – Gentian Hill

Geldings – Siegfried, Nancy Wullie

Jumping class – Castletown Princess, Franmeryl Farm

Working Hunter – Castletown Princess, Franmeryl Farm

Open working pony hunter – Castletown Princess.

Donnybrook Farm, Olathe, Kansas

Exhibitors from Texas, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Illinois, and Missouri gathered at the Krauses in Olathe, Kansas on June 17 for the second annual Connemara Breed Show for the Midwest area.

Pony Jumper Ch.- Carna Countess, Donnybrook Farm

Pony Hunter Ch. – Carna Countess, Donnybrook Farm

Connemara Jumper Champion – Carna Countess, Donnybrook Farm; Res. Gael Linn, Donnybrook Farm

Connemara Hunter Champion – Rose Ann, Debbie Corkran;

Res. Gael Linn, Donnybrook Farm

Connemara Western Champion – Tinker's Kate, Marilyn Van Doren

Connemara Western Res. Champion – Roderick O'Connor, Tre Awain Farm.

Connemara High Point Champion – Gael Linn, Donnybrook Farm

Connemara high point Res. Champion – Carna Countess, Donnybrook Farm

Grand Champion Connemara Mare – Tre Awain's Tinker's Kate, Marilyn Van Doren

Grand Champion Stallion – Black Master (Gael Linn x Caroline) Norbert Fritz

Res. Grand Champion Stallion – Tre Awain's River Mist, Tre Awain Farm

Pony Jumper Fault & Out – Clynagh's Clancy, Mavis Farm

Northeast Connemara Show, Woodstock VT

Aged mares – Pat Tooreen, Trina Vernlund; Tully Judy, Judy Vullo

Connemara Stallions – Whitewood Galway Bay, Spring Ledge Farm; Spring Ledge Bantry Bay, Spring Ledge Farm

'66 Foals – Spring Ledge Bobby, Spring Ledge Farm; Limerick, Bernice A. Johnson

'65 Foals – Spring Ledge Wiget, Spring Ledge Farm; Lynfields High Hope, Lynfield Farm

Geldings – Lynfields High Hope, Lynfield Farm; Polaris Astronaut, Beth Curran

Under Saddle (27 in class) - Whitewood Galway Bay, Spring Ledge Farm; Sooner or Later, Pam Fessenden.

Handy Hunter – Pat Tooreen, Trina Vernlund; Five of Diamonds, Gilnocky Farm

The ACPS and the Executive Officers in the 60s

~
The years 1966-67 roster for officers of the ACPS were Mr. Douglas Chatterley Indian Run Farm, Sparks, MD, president; Vice presidents – Mr. Kenneth Krause, Donny Brook Farm, Olathe, KS, Mrs. William Clough, Springledge Farm, New London, NH and Dr. Walter Fordham, Connemara Hill, Factoryville, PA. Mr. Al Mavis of Mavis Connemara Farm, Rochester, IL was Sec/Treasurer. Appointed by President Chatterley, according to a newsletter of November, 1966, was chair of the Publicity Dept.: Mrs. Kenneth Krause. In that same newsletter (*donated to the ACPS by Blue Ridge Farm/Katherine Wilkins*), the Regional Chairmen were split thusly:

Northeast – Mrs. Bayard Smith, Gilnocky Farm, Falmouth, ME; Mid-Atlantic, Mrs. John Frey, Land Gate Farm, Brookeville, MD; Southeast, B.R. Hundley and Richard Underwood, Hickory, NC; South Central – Mrs. George Sloan, Brentwood, TN; Midwest, Mr. Kenneth Krause, Olathe, KS; West-South, Miss Dorothy Lyons Santa Barbara, CA; West-North, Mrs. Leon Butts, Woodbrook Stables, Tacoma, WA; North Central – Mrs Frank Fee, Franmeryl Farm, Ballston Spa, NY.

TRICREEK GREYSTONE RILEY

14HH HWSN N/N

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November/December 2020
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The STALLION Issue

*If you have stories to share, send to
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Historically, this was the year that after January 1967, "NO blue-eyed cream-colored foals will be registered."
 It was also the year that promotion of the Connemara, largely in *The Chronicle of the Horse*, was very successful. "Have you seen the pony issue of *The Chronicle*? " was the leading question followed by "WE are proud of the work the Krauses did in making this such a fine issue, and our thanks to McKay Smith."

It was also the year that the same Krauses put together a questionnaire that I reprint here:
 In order to learn more about the Connemara, the people who own him, and the people who will own him, we need the following information This will take time, thought and effort, but I assure you the information will be tabulated and used to further the growth and prosperity of the Connemara breed. *While some of the questions seemed dated, many were the same queries we ask today, so fill out the form and return it now. Thank you for your cooperation. There were 26 questions on the original sheet of which I selected 12 which were still pertinent today. It will be fun to read today's answers to yesterday's questions.*

Connemara Pony Breeders' SHOW

Sponsored by the
 American Connemara Pony Society

Thursday, June 20, 1963
 9:00 A. M.

Farmington Hunt Club Showgrounds
 Garth Road
 Charlottesville, Virginia

I insert here, the current Promotion Committee member's name and address and hope our readers of 2020 will take the time to send the answers to the questions. Donna Power, 51 Hillcrest View Rd., Raphine, VA 24472 or email answers to tlhf@netzero.net

1. If you were to purchase a Connemara for your daughter or son, or yourself, would you buy a mare _____ or a gelding? _____
2. How old would it be? _____
3. What price would you expect to pay? _____
4. When or how did you learn of the Connemara?
5. What motivated you to buy a Connemara (List numerically in order of importance)
 Size _____ Hardiness _____ Gentleness _____
 Performance _____ Record _____ Conformation _____
 Price _____ Investment _____ Pride of Ownership _____
6. Your "horsey" friends know of the Connemara. Do they think they are: underpriced _____ Average priced _____ Over-priced _____
7. Why don't your "horsey" friends own a Connemara? Is it because a. Size? _____ b. Lack of Conformation? _____ c. Lack of Brilliance? _____ d. Lack of Beauty? _____ e. Price? _____ f. Lack of knowledge or information about the breed? _____ g. Lack of fieriness? _____
8. Do you a. Stable at a commercial stable? _____ b. Raise the ponies on your own acreage? _____ c. Rent a pasture? _____ d. Live with your Coennemaras? _____
9. What size of Connemara do you prefer? _____
10. Is your family involved with the U.S. Pony Club? _____
11. Is your family or a member of your family involved with Foxhunting? _____
12. What is the total number of Connemaras you own? _____



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2020 Foals



*A Halfbred Filly by *Kilfenora Windy Isles arrived too late for the last issue but here she is. She was bred and is owned by Two Left Hands Farm, Donna Power of Virginia.*



Tonya Cummins of South Carolina, sent this photo of her Halfbred Connemara colt foal by Windy Isles Get Smart, out of Forever 21, a Dutch Warmblood mare by Hall of Fame.



*Balmullo Farm welcomed this filly, Balmullo's Celtic Memory by *ArdCeltic Art out of Balmullo's Irish Moss by Foothills Field Marshall.*

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(*ArdCeltic Art x Balmullo's Irish Moss)

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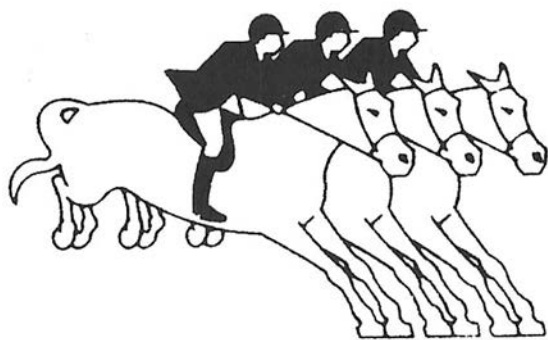
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First Families of the ACPS - The Three Creek Family



Three Creek Farm Tré Awain Connemara Stud

**Dorothy Jane, (“D.J.”), Carpenter Moore and Laura
Carpenter Balding
Three Creek Farm, St. Charles, Missouri**

Three Creek Farm, a 500-acre property, originally owned by her parents, was purchased in 1945 by Dorothy Jane Carpenter, (“D.J.”), and her husband, Clarkson Carpenter, Jr. It was named for the three creeks that run through the property, flowing in a confluence under the KATY railroad and into the Missouri River. In the late 50’s, the Carpenters discovered the Connemara Pony. They founded a band of beautiful and talented ponies who lived on the rolling hills and bluffs overlooking the river. They were not the very first Connemara Pony breeders in our country, but soon their herd became the biggest in North America. One of D.J.’s sisters was instrumental in choosing a name for the Carpenter Connemara Pony Stud. She had taken her family to live for two years in Ireland. Upon their return, she brought with them a young au pair who spoke Irish; she translated “Three Creek” into Irish, “Tré Awain,” [pronounced “tray-ah-win”], which became the official prefix of the Three Creek Farm Connemara Ponies. To this day, in pony breeding circles, the prefix, Tré Awain, has a venerable ring. Since 1959, the farm has produced award-winning jumpers, eventers, dressage horses, circus performers, therapeutic riding mounts, foxhunters, driving ponies and pets.

Laura tells us that the 1950’s were busy, industrious years for her family. Her sister, Dorothy, was born in 1950. When Laura was almost five-years-old, and her brother, Joe, was four, the family moved into a bigger home in 1951 and enjoyed a weekend house on the river bluff at the farm. Initially, the farm was a working dairy, and neighboring farms, including the next-door farm of D.J.’s sister, were managed by “gentlemen farmers” whose homes were in the city. These families were longtime friends, and many of them had a few riding horses. Everyone had a couple of work horses or mules. Laura’s parents would foxhunt Sundays, with the Bridlespur Hunt, which remains an active hunt club today. The horses lived at the farm in a section of the dairy barn kept separately for them, with a hired horseman to care for them.

During the hunt season, the horses were stabled in a boarding stable closer to their St. Louis home where the children took riding lessons. In 1955 and 1958, the family increased with the arrivals of another brother and sister. Staying closer to home with her children gave D.J. “a lot of time to cook up things for her children to do.” In those days, the family read *The Chronicle of the Horse* from cover-to-cover. It was more of a newsletter back then with a core interest built around foxhunting, hounds, steeplechase racing and polo. It was also the way

families first heard of and learned about Pony Club. There were also ads to buy and sell, and in the Carpenter family, that had become serious business. It was a challenge to find appropriate ponies for the Carpenter children, with their parents scouring the countryside. They did have some success over time. Laura remembers “Mamie” and “Maude,” both gaited ponies “who were darling and safe. There was also a big, fuzzy, brown Shetland pony--‘Nellie’--that Santa brought and left under the tree!” She recalls being especially adventurous “riding out into the farm and the neighborhood accompanied by a donkey called Bobo, a sheep called Sophie and Homer, the Basset.” As the children grew and became more skilled in their riding, more than ever, they needed good and bigger ponies. D.J., who was reading articles about the U. S. Pony Club, encouraged other parents to take up the challenge of locating appropriate mounts. With assistance from the Bridlespur Masters, the Bridlespur Pony Club was born.

D.J. continued reading articles about ponies in *The Chronicle of the Horse* and numerous other equine publications. An article saying that there is “nothing better than a Connemara Pony for children and all the rest of the family,” caught D.J.’s attention. Already with a preference for all things Irish, born in her “Irishness,” from both sides of the family and with a bent for the superstitious, D. J. decided the time had come to take a closer look at the Connemara Pony. The breed sounded like perfection, thought D. J., and realizing “one just can’t call and order a horse over the phone,” she wrote the acting Secretary of the fledgling American Connemara Pony Society, Charlotte Read.

The information from Read led the Carpenters to Le-Wa Farm in Lake Forest, IL., where in 1959 they bought four Connemara mares in foal. The following summer the family went to Ireland. They wanted to see firsthand where these remarkable ponies originated. The visit was an extraordinary experience. In those days, many of the ponies ran wild on the hills, and there were bands of ponies everywhere. One afternoon the visiting Americans met a family of tinkers--Irish gypsies--whose entourage of caravans, children, goats, sheep dogs, and ponies filled the road. Having been in Switzerland just days before, Laura remembers wearing “souvenir sweaters,” and freezing, in chilly Ireland. The gypsy children were barefoot. Stopping to pass, they noticed a very pretty mare among the ponies and asked if she were for sale. The tinker replied indeed she was for sale and not to worry about the rope line around her middle. It was from the line used to steady her on the rowboat when they had taken her from the island that morning.

Since the ponies would be going to America, however, the Carpenters wanted registration papers and these, the tinker sadly did not have. He said “The man you should see, with the finest ponies of all, is Mr. James Lee in Recess. Tell him, ‘The Tinker Man’ sent you.” The visit to Mr. Lee was fruitful. After exploring the byways and lanes of Connemara and visiting several breeders, the Carpenters wound up with a package of nine purebred ponies--three mares in foal, each with a foal at side.

One of the mares acquired by the Carpenters was *Lonely Cottage, who would become the dam of Tré Awain Roderick O’Conor, the respected, dun, long-lived, signature stallion standing for many years at Three Creek Farm. Long story short, as they say, by the end of their journey to “the Emerald Isle,” the family had purchased three mares, with foals at side and all in foal. To honor the helpful gypsy, all of the foals produced by one of the mares, *Gowlane Heather, had the name “Tinker” incorporated into the ACPS registered names of all of her foals. On the trip home the family boarded the “Queen Elizabeth” and were followed three months later by the three mares in foal, plus their yearlings, sailing on a much smaller ship, “The

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SPF Sparrow's Demeter
Connemara Sport Horse filly by Zeus o/o a TB mare

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Parthia.” En route, one mare slipped her foal, but the rest reached Three Creek Farm safely. “Then we really got into it,” said D.J., in an interview with a reporter from *The Chronicle of the Horse*. The early days were very busy for the ponies at Three Creek Farm. The Carpenter family members were ambitious about spreading the word of their growing herd. As imagined, D.J. found homes for the young Connemaras with the children of friends. She loaned and sold them to camps and schools, took them to shows, trail rides, Jenny Camp Trials and Pony Club events.

An influential person at Three Creek Farm, Rich Shelton, from Missouri’s “deep country,” was hired in 1960 and worked tirelessly for a decade at the farm—the Carpenters labeled him “a genius” in his handling and training of the ponies. Even before the terminology, “horse whisperer,”

was coined, Rich had that “magic.” There was a lot to do, with two and three-year-olds unbroken, and even a few had never been caught. Laura writes, “Mares were in foal, and foaling at different times. Luckily, we could see easily who the sire was—our newly acquired stallion, by Tooreen Laddie, Tourbillon. He was sent off for under saddle training. Ponies now spilled over onto D.J.’s sister’s farm, next door, where by then, her sheep had been sold.

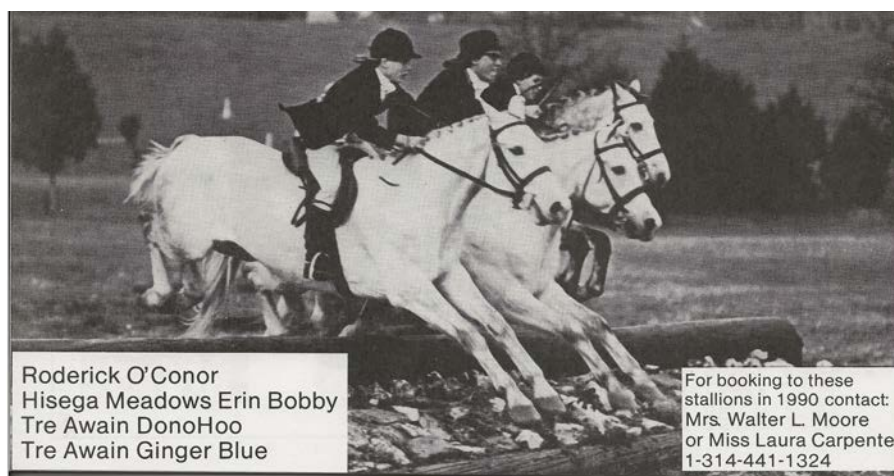
Soon after settling into his job, the Carpenters built a house on the farm for Rich. He and his wife picked their favorite colt out of the herd. This dun colt was Roderick O’Conor, out of *Gowlane Heather. He became the junior herd sire at Three Creek Farm. Tourbillon fillies were bred to Roderick, and vice versa. In what seemed like no time at all, the youngsters were all broke to ride, and the herd had grown to nearly 60 ponies and horses, not all purebred Connemaras. Laura had started to ride Tourbillon; she foxhunted him and received special permission to use him in Pony Club events. Rich also rode Tourbillon in the hunt field and his wife rode another Connemara when she joined the hunt. When Laura commenced boarding school, in her absence, Rich’s wife rode Tourbillon.

D.J.’s “project” had gotten big, and she was never a passive joiner of associations or societies. In the late 50’s and 1960’s, D.J. met every year in New York, supporting the U. S. Pony Club and the American Horse Shows Association, (now the U. S. Equestrian Federation). She was also instrumental in guiding the developing American Connemara Pony Society, attending meetings held in New York, or at an appointed location in New England. Also, during the Three Creek Farm formative years, the Carpenters established their kennel of working Basset Hounds, which Laura still oversees, along with the breeding program for the Tre Awain Connemara Pony Stud. During this time, D.J. and her husband traveled twice annually to Virginia for the Basset Trials near Middleburg. The two interests, Connemara Ponies and Basset Hounds, were beginning to overlap geographically and philosophically, with new people coming into Carpenter lives from different angles.

Also, in the early 1960’s, Al Mavis, Rochester, IL, imported some Irish Connemara Ponies. He transformed acres of corn and cattle into endless fields of grass. He ultimately bred more than 100 Connemara Ponies. The Midwest became a center for the Connemara Pony in this country, with a large population of ponies still scattered across New England and Virginia.

The American Connemara Pony Society, (ACPS), was still a fairly small group. Everyone could, and wanted to participate, in the governance of it. Not only were the members friendly;

they often became close friends. This phenomenon was consistent across the board with the constituents of these groups. For example, after the annual Basset Trials, the Carpenters would accept invitations to stop by someone’s farm on their trip back to Missouri, to hunt their hounds with others and just visit. One thing often led to another, and



Roderick O’Conor
Hisega Meadows Erin Bobby
Tre Awain DonoHoo
Tre Awain Ginger Blue

For booking to these stallions in 1990 contact:
Mrs. Walter L. Moore
or Miss Laura Carpenter
1-314-441-1324

these interests in common paved the way for Tre Awain Cricket’s Song going to Virginia! Lucy and Jimmy Andrews lived on a farm in Virginia where they kept their foxhunters and some huge Great Danes. They had a few “retired” fighting cocks, remembers Laura. They hosted the Carpenter family and their Bassets on one occasion. Lucy was intrigued and decided she wanted a Connemara Pony; Cricket was sent to her.

After a few years of foxhunting and a good life in Virginia, unfortunately, Lucy died. For a few years, it was largely unknown where Cricket went from her original Virginia home. Enter, Catherine Mack, Aladdin Connemaras, The Plains, VA, who made a project of finding Cricket. Success! She brought Cricket to her farm and bred her to Aladdin. The result was the recently deceased Top of the Ridge foundation stallion, Aladdin’s Denver! Denver became a valuable part of the American Connemara Pony gene pool and ACPS history. Cricket’s dam was one of the original, America-bred Connemara mares the Carpenters purchased from the Lake Forest, Illinois, LeWa Connemara Farm.

Many other Connemara connections led to successful breeding operations throughout the long history of Tre Awain Connemaras. Carrying on the family tradition of sharing the ponies, Laura “loaned” the stallion, Tre Awain Ginger Blue by Gilnocky Ard-Righ MacDaire, to Kathryn Roe, in Washington State, where the stallion sired sons and daughters to carry on the Ros na Ri prefix, and win many dressage classes along the way. Tre Awain Dobh McDuff went to Nancy Montanaro in CT, and eventually to Journey’s End Farm and the Winklers for a lifetime of JEF Connemaras. Tre Awain mares traveled to Blue Ridge Farm in Virginia, and contributed not only to the gene pool there, but were stalwart mounts for the Wilkins family in Pony Club and Foxhunting. Through the years, besides the two foundation stallions, these stallions stood or were produced at Tre Awain Connemaras – Tre Awain Donoghue, Loughmor Aran, Hisega Meadows Erin Bobby, Tre Awain DeValera, Tre Awain Cavan O’Conor, Tre Awain Winterset, and more.

Returning to the retrospective of lives at Three Creek Farm, in

1966, after receiving a teaching certificate for the Montessori method and teaching for two years, Laura took over her parents' roles in the management of the farm. She remained active in the equestrian community, which included whipping-in for the Bridlespur Hunt, instructing and showing. The breeding operation flourished under Laura's management. "In the beginning most of our customer were junior riders," she said. "As time went on, more and more moms took over the ponies." Laura keeps tabs on the whereabouts of Tre Awain ponies. If any of them don't work out, they are welcome to return to Three Creek Farm, but most of the time, the ponies satisfy their new owners.

In the 1970's, at Three Creek Farm, D.J. teamed up with Sandy Rafferty to start "Therapeutic Horsemanship," a program for the disabled, recognized nationally in 1976. Laura stated that their "Therapeutic Horsemanship Program became so popular because of the ponies." In 1987, four Three Creek Farm riders represented the United States at the first "International Games for the Disabled," held in Sweden. Sandy Rafferty as the T.H. director and Laura, working together, coached their team to several medals and victories in other national and international events. D.J. always made a point of getting the ponies out, which eventually led to a Connemara Pony breed division in two nationally-recognized "A" shows.

Along the way, Laura married Ivor David Balding, co-founder and artistic director of Circus Flora, a one-ring circus in the tradition of early Victorian traveling groups. For a number of years, Three Creek Farm became "home," intermittently, to circus performers, acrobats, "Flora, the elephant, and numerous other fur and feather members of the traveling troupe. When David died, Laura was left to manage the farm and all of its residents, including the loving care of her well-known, beloved mother, D.J. Moore, who had re-married for many happy years to Dr. Walter Moore. D.J., always welcoming both Connemara and Basset friends to their beautiful Three Creek Farm home, passed away just days after Region IV hosted the annual ACPS Meeting in the St. Louis area, 2018. Many members who had known D.J. for a long time were fortunate to chat with her that beautiful fall evening. She appeared as lovely as ever, reaching

out to visit with many of the attendees.

Because of their dedicated mutual interest in Connemara ponies, Laura and D.J. traveled the world on behalf of the American Connemara Pony Society. During that time, they both served the Society in a variety of executive positions, as well as nurturing Connemara Pony breeders around the country and abroad. Both served as President of the ACPS.

Like many other business managers, Laura has taken time to re-engineer her enterprise. "I am refocusing the energy of the farm, so I'm cutting back," she said in 1996 when interviewed by a reporter from *The Chronicle of the Horse*. "We're breeding Connemaras in a mere shadow of our former activity. The farm that once included 65 horses is now home to 30 horses, 17 couple of Bassets that comprise the Three Creek Bassets pack, several peacocks, seven sheep, four goats, assorted chickens and geese, cats, dogs, and two pot-bellied pigs." In 2020, the Connemara population is under 10, but the Bassets are still hunting with Laura as the Master.

Laura in 1995, was one of the organizers and Inspectors for the first, nation-wide, ACPS Inspection Tour of purebred Connemara Ponies, evaluating Connemara Pony breeding stock and offering continuing education to American breeders, and also encouraging breeders to travel internationally to see other populations of Connemara Ponies. In that "First-Off Inspection," including two certified Irish Breed Inspectors, 150 ponies, at 11 sites, were inspected—quite a "landmark event" in the interest of preserving native Connemara Pony characteristics, according to the International Connemara Pony Breed Standard.


In this "First Family" series of articles, we honor two generations--the late D.J. Moore and her daughter, Laura Carpenter Balding, for their ever-present interest, influence and support of the American Connemara Pony, the American Connemara Pony Society, and the breed's Irish heritage. Both mother and daughter have earned—and received—numerous awards, among them, inductions into the St. Louis Charity Horse Show "Hall of Fame" in 1985 and 1988. The honor is reserved for "nationally known personalities who, over the years, through their efforts and contributions, have brought

glory and recognition not only to themselves, but also to the St. Louis area." The Mother/Daughter team are both Crestwood Award winners, an honor bestowed by the ACPS for dedication to the American Connemara Pony Society "above and beyond" that call of duty.

From the Editor - Thank you Laura Balding and Joan Webster (Editor for this series) for your devotion to duty in getting this article done by the deadline. It's an honor to publish a good story about such a supportive family and their love for the Connemara breed.

TRÉ AWAIN
Sires of Substance and
Good Temperament


Tré Awain Roderick O'Connor



Dun, 14.3, 1961

by MacDara ×
"Lonely Cottage,
by Carna Dun


HISEGA MEADOWS ERIN BOBBY



GR, 1973, 15.1

by Carna Bobby ×
"Maggy, by Carna Dun


TRÉ AWAIN DONOGHOO



Grey, 1979

Tré Awain Winterset
× Clonkeehan Lent Lily,
by Clonkeehan Numbus

TRÉ AWAIN DE VALERA



Bay, 1980

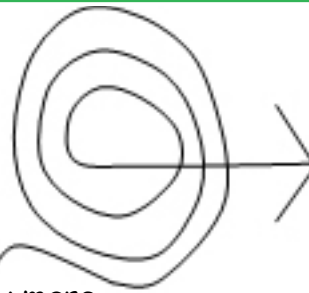
Tré Awain Roderick O'Connor
× Clonkeehan Lent Lily,
by Clonkeehan Numbus

and
Glinocky Ard-Righ MacDaire,
by Fox Ridge Star Light × Glencara Lady, by Tiger Gill

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Our Way Forward

true tales of an adult amateur and her rather cheeky mare



Photo credit: Emily Wiley

Episode 5 - Over the River and Through the Woods

By Christine Kelton

Assisted by Trout Ranch Polly Claire

(*Smaragaid Cliff x New Song's Autumn)

Problem: My horse won't go forward.

Solution: Go fox hunting, tally ho and make sure breakfast is ready when we get back. Your horse will go without you.

-author unknown

The quest for a more forward thinking dressage pony continues. Polly has been stepping up and coming along, but I also wanted to give her a new experience in an environment where "forward" would be fun and exciting. The lines above are from something I saw online that claimed fox hunting would fix any and every "problem" that a horse or rider could possibly have. The first lines have always stuck with me. I posted it in its entirety at the end of this article. I wish I could give someone credit, but I have no idea who wrote it!

In my continuing mission to convince Polly to "think forward," I heeded this advice and enrolled her in a "forward immersion course" for the month of July. This took the form of roading, usually twice a week, with the Windy Hollow Hunt. This is a great place to add that the people of Windy Hollow were the most welcoming, helpful, and entertaining group I've been around in ages-socially distanced, of course!

Roading is when the hounds go out to get them fit for the upcoming fox hunting season. It also teaches the young hounds what their job entails- staying with the pack, listening to the huntsman, following directions. Some hunts do this on foot, and others on horseback. Roading also gets the horses out to help get them in condition, as well. We met at various "fixtures" - places to meet - moved off at 8:30 am sharp, and typically stayed out for 1 ½ - 2 hours. It's a slow pace for much of the time, but there were quite a few gallops. An added benefit was that the terrain was very hilly, which makes for a wonderful way to make a pony fit.

Polly and I had to travel a little over an hour to get there, so we had some rather early mornings. Added bonus - trailering practice! She got in like a superstar every time. (Now I've jinxed myself.) Your horse won't get in the trailer? Take it fox hunting! More on that another time.

30

Part of Polly's charm, and at times what makes her infuriating, is her typical chill attitude toward just about everything. Motorcycle? *Noisy wheeled thing. No big deal.* Dump truck? *Much noisier, very big wheeled thing. Whatever.* Riding crop? *Hahaha. Is that all ya' got?* Barking dogs running straight for us? Polly faces them down. *Get over yourself, Fido.* Of course, I very much appreciate all of this, except for the riding crop bit.

True fact. The suspicion of a deer popping up out of tall grass will cause sudden, enthusiastic forward motion, and sometimes in a split second I find myself heading in the opposite direction, partially unseated with a case of whiplash. (Yes, unseated, too. Twice.). I wish there were a spray, "Deer in the Grass." Two squirts gives you an hour of enthusiastic forwardness.

I was a bit nervous about what she would think of all those hounds. Polly is a brave defender who turns, faces, and goes straight at the neighborhood dawgs who have come after us. The hounds arrived in a stock trailer, their excited, colorful noses sticking out of the window slats as it bumped across the field. Polly was tied to the trailer, face buried in her hay net, oblivious to all the comings and goings so far. I love that about her!



I mounted up and rode her over to the trailer with the hounds and let her watch. She was definitely interested in what was in there, but stood calmly with her ears up. The huntsman opened the door, and the pack came bounding out.

A pack of hounds is a beautiful thing to behold, and while I thought they were pretty special, in true Polly fashion, she was unimpressed. What is this? Who invited them? Is this for real? So many? She stood there watching, watching, ears up, watching... then gave a sigh and promptly decided that this was something that didn't concern her and perhaps was there a chance she could eat some grass? And that was that.

July was hot here in New York. Super hot, with humidity so thick the flies were practically swimming through the air. By 8:30 when we started out, it was evident that most days were going to be scorchers. The territory was absolutely beautiful, located on the border of NY and NJ. Everything was so green, with undulating hills of tall grass with mowed paths - some like roller coasters and on one occasion I got that stomach dropping out feeling when Polly let'er rip on a steep downhill that quickly went back up again. Then we would find ourselves in a cooling woods, so quiet except for the calls of birds and hoofbeats. An added bonus was the Waywayanda Creek that meandered through the territory, which we crossed several times when we were in that area. If your horse won't go through water, take it fox hunting! That will get rectified rather quickly.

Polly had never ridden in a group this size before - the biggest was a threesome for hunter paces - and there were probably 15 or more riders that day. She was perfectly fine, preferring to stay in the back and mosey along. I stayed with the "hilltopper" group the first day, which is the slower group that doesn't go over any jumps. After that, we went with the "first field," which is the faster, jumping group that stays behind the huntsman, hounds, and whippers-in. I have to say that all of the horses were so well-behaved that it was easy to have a green bean amongst them.

Even in the first field, Polly liked to stay in the back. She moseyed along and didn't care if she fell behind. Once when everyone



was walking, I let her go at her own pace to see what she would do. Whatever. That girl is so chill! I'd think most horses wouldn't want to be left, but Polly really didn't mind in the least. It wasn't long before the hilltopper group was coming up behind us and I had to scoot her along. We ended up doing many, many little trots to catch up with the group, so she got extra exercise. However, when the field moved off, Polly was right there with them, and would often turn on her "big trot," the one I can barely post to, and keep up with cantering horses. Once the field got moving, she was right there, and very respectful about not getting too close to the horse in front of her.

The water crossings were a welcome relief on the hottest days. Once, the section we crossed was almost up to her chest and Polly motored through like a boat. She is now quite shark-like in that tenacious mare sort of way - she charges in and stands there pawing like mad and woe to anyone near, because she splashes continuously and I can't get her to stop or move! One particularly hot morning when we caught up, the field were all standing in the creek taking a break when in cannonballed Polly, who started with the pawing, so noisily that nobody could continue their conversations. Out came the crop to get her to walk forward and out of the water, but her response was, as usual, "Are you tapping me with that wisp? Is that all ya' got?" Infuriating. And embarrassing. She just wouldn't stop with the nonsense until everybody moved along.

As the weeks went by, Polly became more and more fit, and with that came not just a necessity to move forward to stay with the field, but a sense of joy in moving out. She pays attention to what everyone is doing and I swear she calculates where she needs to be. A few times I had her in the middle of the field, and even though her perceptive little mare ears were working overtime with the opinions, she remained respectful of the other horses, though her faces were plentiful. We had many opportunities to gallop up and down some pretty steep hills (oooooh- Polly likes galloping down hills), and toward the end of July, she even started throwing





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in a few bucks just for fun. With a confident lead in front of her, she leapt over stone walls, and proved to be an excellent bushwhacker when the opportunity presented itself.

At the end of the month, my opinionated little mare learned a lot more than the exuberance of going forward and galloping with a group of horses. She learned balance going up and down hills, confidence charging into water, steadiness traversing over different types of footing, resignation that she was going for another ride in the trailer, and maybe a bit of acceptance that sometimes I can have good ideas, too, and it wouldn't kill her to play along once in a while. As for me, I got to ride my favorite little charmer whom I wouldn't trade for the world, through beautiful countryside with a terrific group of people, hounds, and horses. (Did I mention that even the hounds were well behaved?) The informal "cubbing" season has just begun, and I think we both can't wait to get back out there again.

Be safe. Stay healthy. Wash your hands!

Here are a few entertaining fox hunting FAQs - from the website of the Kimberton Hunt Club in Chester Springs, PA. <http://www.kimbertonhunt.org/fox-hunting-faqs/>

What do you do when you catch the fox?

We do not catch the fox. The object is to chase him until he goes to ground (down his hole, or earth) and then to look for another fox to chase.

I'm a little confused. If you don't want to catch the fox, why chase him?

That's a good question. We do it because we like to get outside in the countryside. We like to watch the hounds try to find the line of the fox and work it out. We love to hear hound music. We like the uncertainty of whether we will find a fox, and if we do, where he will lead us. We hope to catch a glimpse of him. (View him) We enjoy galloping around and getting covered with mud, soaked by rain or sweat, depending on the weather, slashed by brambles, whacked by tree limbs and other such thrills. We love to ride until our legs feel like jelly. We love the partnership between horse and rider that this sport requires. And, if we don't find a fox, and spend the day standing around, we still are satisfied by being outside and trying. We like spending time with our friends. And we have great parties afterwards where we tell lies about what we did.

Are you interested in trying fox hunting? Here's what you can do:

1. Do a little reading! Try [Riding to Hounds in America](#) by William P. Wadsworth, MFH. I got my copy when I was a pony clubber way back when. If you can't find a copy, search online for fox hunting etiquette. Most hunt clubs have the basics posted.
2. Go to the Master of Foxhounds of North America website at www.mfha.com and find the nearest hunt.
3. Contact that hunt's secretary and ask politely if you could join them for a day. That's called "capping" and there is a fee.
4. The secretary will tell you where to meet and when. Don't be late! The hunt waits for no one.
5. Have fun!

If you'd like to learn more about the Windy Hollow Hunt, go to www.windyhollowhunt.org.

EQUESTRIAN PROBLEM SOLVING 101 - author unknown

Problem: My horse won't go forward.

Solution: Go fox hunting, tally ho and make sure breakfast is ready when we get back. Your horse will go without you.

Problem: My horse bucks.

Solution: Go fox hunting. He will get left behind and will be so focused on keeping up, he will forget to buck.

Problem: My horse is spooky.

Solution: Go fox hunting. He will be so focused on navigating the in-your-face obstacles, he won't have time for drama.

Problem: I have trouble seeing distances.

Solution: Go fox hunting. Every distance is pretty much a hail Mary whether it's correct or not.

Problem: I need to get my confidence back.

Solution: Go fox hunting, we will give you alcohol if needed.

Problem: My horse is green.

Solution: Go fox hunting, the hunt is colorblind.

Problem: My horse rears.

Solution: Go fox hunting. Hard to rear while galloping.

Problem: My horse is afraid of dogs.

Solution: Go fox hunting. No dogs here.

Problem: I am against hunting.

Solution: Go fox hunting. We do no harm to animals, only the occasional human and they had it coming.

Problem: I can't ride well enough.

Solution: Go fox hunting. You will surprise yourself when in fear of your life.

Problem: My horse won't load on the trailer.

Solution: It will only happen the first time. Once he knows how much fun he'll have he will run on.

In short: Go fox hunting and you and your horse will be happy.





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Marie Riley Photo

The Shows That Went On....



*The imported mare by Banks Timber, *Glenrevagh Holly, owned and ridden by Sarah McRae Thrasher at their first dressage show together in Vermont.*



Crosswinds Journey, aka CJ and Sydney, daughter of Sarah McRae Thrasher, were second in the Intro Division at Huntington Farm Horse Trials. The pair will move up to Beginner Novice for their next outing.



Doe Valley Brosna Go Bragh and owner/rider Leslie van der Wal, winning their Senior Novice Division at Twin Rivers Horse Trials in Paso Robles, CA.

(Marie Riley Photo)



**Doonhill Dancer, a recent newcomer to California, now owned by Leslie van der Wal, was the winner of the Intro Division at Twin Rivers Horse Trials in Paso Robles, CA.*

(Marie Riley Photo)



Rainbow's Shenandoah and his owner/rider, Brooks Cushman of Virginia, competed in a series of Judged Hunt Trail Rides with Oak Ridge, Rockbridge, Farmington, Bedford, and Glenmore Hunts and ended the season in 3rd place



Ridgetop Royal Locket, owned by Sally Eyles Goldfarb and ridden by Nora Goldfarb (who was an ACPS Scholarship winner) are shown here at the Fair Hill International Horse Trials. The pair finished in 8th place at their first Preliminary outing, and at the recent Great Meadows Horse Trials, they finished sixth in a very competitive division.

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ACPS Inspection Committee Members Past and Present

Helen King (Deceased) Cashel Connemaras

Horse and dog show judge, breeder of champion dogs and ponies, personal assistant to Hollywood stars, business woman, interior decorator – Helen King did it all. She and her husband Mel owned and operated Cashel Enterprises where they manufactured closed cell foam saddle pads as well as other various equine related products. Helen bred and raised one of the most famous Connemara Ponies in America, Custusha's Cashel Rock or "Rocky", the fabulous hunter jumper pony and first Breyer Connemara model. Helen had been a rider most of her life and in the early 1960s while riding at Myopia Stables in MA, saw Whitewood Good Friday on the trails. While attending a school of horsemanship in Ireland in 1966, she would go to shows every weekend, There she came to know Tommy Wade and Dundrum. Back in the US in the early 1970s, Helen began to search for perfect Connemara broodmares. Some of her first ponies were purchased from Louise Clough and Helen was quite a student of bloodlines. One of her mares Springledge Taffy, was bred to *Texas Hope and the resulting foal was "Rocky". His show career spanned decades and started with a three in a row In Hand Championship run from 1977-1979. He went on to have a stellar performance career.

While in Ireland attending the horsemanship school, Helen's love for conformation and movement was started. She became a well respected In Hand judge, both for Connemaras and other breeds. Helen's interest in conformation expanded to the canine world and she began to breed Great Danes, Basset Hounds and a few Afghans, producing many champions and Group and Best of show winners. Knowing the importance of Connemara breed type, conformation and movement, Helen was a strong supporter of the development of the ACPS Inspection program. She was one of the first Inspectors and she and husband Mel would spend their last years together traveling in the motor home known as the "Global Warmer" while they both enjoyed agility dog trails, often with Standard Poodles.

Helen's served to mentor many of today's Inspectors, sharing her advice; "NEVER EVER think you know all there is to know AND don't let your heart rule your purchasing and breeding decisions. Always be open to new ideas and learning."

She authored two very helpful book for students of anatomy, for those wishing to study form to function: *What's your Angle* and *Picking Your Performance Puppy*.



Mary Rutter - (Deceased) Tower Hil Farm, Vermont

In 1971, Mary and Rogers Rutter were looking for land and stumbled onto the avocation which would take a lifetime for them- Connemaras. Rogers was working in Concord NH, and they were looking for land in Sanbornton, near the lakes. While she sat in the parking lot at the realtor's office, Mary saw a girl riding her pony bareback over some fences in a nearby field. She left the realtor's office, and went to visit the pony. He was a lovely bay stallion named Springledge Bantry Bay, and that is where this story begins.

In 1978 while visiting Pat Lyne in England, Mary and Rogers spotted a grey colt in a field beside some cows. His name was *Chiltern Copa, and he looked like a perfect match for their mares by Galway. Copa had won the yearling class and Reserve Champion at the big show that year. Soon he and a yearling filly *Cocum Coppelia were delivered to N.H. by Pat Lyne herself, who was visiting the US and the ACPS.

Mary worked with the AHSA to welcome Connemaras and stallions in shows. She was one of the foundation ACPS inspectors, serving faithfully for many years. Mary's eye focused on ponies who were true to type, good movers that have the ability to perform. There have been 20 Tower Hill ponies inspected and approved and Mary realized the need for Inspector continued trainings at the national meetings. She believed the goal of inspections is to PASS ponies, but they really need to be able to NOT pass ponies which are not up to standard, so the breed will remain as close to the ideal as possible. Mary and Rogers devoted countless hours to the ACPS board of directors, and many other committees. They were presented with the 1998 Crestwood Award for their dedication and service to the breed. Always the diplomat, but one to speak her mind, Mary shared her love of the Connemara Pony with all and served as a mentor to many individuals new to the breed as well as those wishing to increase their knowledge of Connemara type and breeding. She is missed by many,



Kathy Sparks Slippery Elm Shoot Farm Unionville, IN

Kathy Sparks spent her younger years growing up in northern Indiana, but studied abroad as a teenager, living near Antwerp Belgium. It was living in the Belgian countryside that her love of equines increased and after returning to the US to attend Purdue University, she was able to finally have horses in her life full time. After moving to Washington State with her husband Tim, she began a teaching career and earned graduate degrees. Daughter Faye was bitten by the horse bug and after Tim's retirement from the Navy and subsequent relocation back to his parent's farm in south central Indiana, Kathy was able to focus on Connemara ponies. After retiring from a 29 year teaching career, educating nursing and health care workers in anatomy and physiology, she has been able to enjoy her grandsons and travels as often as she can.

Kathy has served as an Inspector since the late 1990s, and has been active in the ACPS as Awards Chair, Inspection Committee Chair, Internet Chair as well as a member of the BOG, VP and President. Always an educator, Kathy has been a Pony Club examiner, DC, and developed a children's history program for her local society. She has been a judge at several ACPS Region Shows, as well as a judge in Clifden Ireland. She has competed in Three Day Eventing, Competitive Trail and Combined Driving. But now just enjoys a simple ride through woods and trails on her property.

Kathy is the author of a multitude of articles for the *American Connemara* as well as in other national magazines focusing on fiber arts and is the author of three books. A popular clinician, she has taught at many fiber arts venues over the years, and loves to create color on fiber using historic dye plants and other materials. Slippery Elm Shoot Farm is home to 10 retired Connemara ponies and one halfbred. Her philosophy is simple: the importance and continuation of the attributes of the Connemara should be shared with everyone. The Inspection program insures that the Breed Standard is maintained and that breeders, owners and admirers of the Connemara Pony appreciate the wonder of our breed. She received the Crestwood Award in 2012.



Laura Balding

Three Creek Farm, Missouri

Laura Balding's story with Connemaras is told on page ??? of this issue.

She was part of the original committee to establish the current Inspection program when it was begun, and was part of the team of Inspectors who conducted the first "once over" inspection with Eamonn Hammon and Dermot Power of Ireland

The Connemaras at Three Creek Farm have been used countless times for clinics and Inspection educational seminars with guest inspectors from Scotland, Ireland and England acting as mentors

Laura served as the Co-Committee Chair for the Inspection Committee early in the program's history, with Katherine Wilkins. Together the team instituted many of the procedures used today for inspecting ponies. They also hosted and facilitated the Connemara exhibitions at Equitana, the European-style equine Expo held for years in Louisville, KY.

Laura has been invited to judge all of the Regional shows in the United States, and she is one of three Americans to have judged the Clifden Show in Ireland.

As noted in the First Families article, Laura has been involved with Connemaras all of her life, serving the ACPS as President, and in many other capacities. She and Joan McKenna of Kerrymor Farm, were instrumental in aligning the ACPS with the then AHSA (now USEF) and she helped grow the loose-knit relationship with the governing body, into a full-fledged Affiliate status of today.



Empowering

“An Exciting way to learn...”

My name is Angel Coylewright. I am 13 years old and this summer I attended Empower with Horsepower camp in Vershire Vermont. This is a summer riding camp run by Sarah Thrasher, whose daughter is good friends with my sister. Empower with Horsepower is a fun and exciting way to learn to get on a horse for the first time or learn to ride better. This was not the first time that I had ever ridden but I don't ride often. I actually haven't ridden since last year at camp where I learned to walk with the right posture and learned how to trot, last year I rode a horse named Dexter, who is a very sweet horse.

This year I rode a Holly, who is a bit smaller than Dexter and is one of my favorites. Holly was the horse I first cantered on. This year I learned trot better and even canter. The first time that I had ever cantered was on a bareback trail ride, and we were going up a steep hill. This hill was a challenge for the horses so instead of walking we cantered up the hill. Empower with Horsepower camp is one of my favorite summer camps that I have ever gone to because of the awesome people that you meet and the two amazing counselors that teach us to ride, and to be kind, caring people.



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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@countryrider.com www.daytonridgefarm.com H.K.'s Danny Boy S 700 XLI, Skyview's Triton S 699 XLI

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

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

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

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 Creame 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 SPORHORSES. 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. 36th St., Phoenix, AZ 85028. (602) 953-2272. pamblaha@hotmail.com. Bear Creek's Crough 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

The STALLION ISSUE

The Nov/Dec Issue is the time to advertise your breeding program and your stallions for 2021.

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If your farm is not listed here in the Farm Directory - make sure you sign up for next year.

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THE
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OCT. 10
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G 935 XL – SHAMMER PATRICK from Mary Beth Fleming to Ellen and Dave Smitson, 7867 Retriever Lane, Zionsville, IN 46077

M 2177 XLI – BIG BEAR’S ARAYAHOPÉ from Shelley Feldner-Schuerman to Kemberly A. Ellwood, 13324 S. Clear Lake Rd., Medical Lake, WA 99022

G 2470 XLVII – FOOTHILLS BOBBY SOCKS from Patricia Cunningham to Marion Cadlwell, 805 Hughes Lane, Danville, KY 40422.

M 3995 XLVIII – CONCORD RIVER SCOTTISH THISTLE from Cynthia Richards to Daron Kopczynski, 10 Willow St., Keene, NH 03431.

G 2557 XLIX – WCR COLL THUNDER from Patricia Reichle to Shannon Persson, 4698 E. Weedman Rd., Rosebush, MI 48878

HBM 2449 L – ELDERGLEN’S AMELIA from Elderglen Farm to Maggie Shuman, 1042 Lullwater Rd., Atlanta, GA 30307. SAME to Lenora Floyd, 3004 Wilmot Ave., Columbia, SC 29205.

M 4087 LI – NORTHERN DIVIDE from Sarah McRae to Marynell Eyles, PO Box 40, Middlebrook, VA 24459

HB G 2421 LII – GALLO’S HEAVENLY GOLDFOIL from Paula Moore to Reece Foster, 5132 Astoria Bridge Ct., Edmonds, OK 73034

M 4505 LIII – RMF MISS AOIFE from Karlin Ekberg to Leigh Ellen Ertle, 1055 Butts Mill Rd., Pine Mountain, GA 31822-9430

G 2611 LIV – PRAIRIE DECLAN from Martha Slamer to Steph Burke, 7501 Kiester Rd., Middletown, OH 45042

HB G 2704 LV – NORTHERN KENNEDY from Frances O’Reilly to Natalie Shaw, 3850 Spurfin Rd., Missoula, MT 59804

M 4660 LVII (CAN 275) *DEVON RIDGE THUNDERBIRD (H/HWSD) from Jocelyn Davies to Lisa Etzel, 27965 510 Ave., Kelley, IA

M 4590 LV – WILDWYCH CARRIE HATCHET from Laura Stevens to Ann Olstad, 277 Mountain Home Road, Woodside, CA 94062

M 6357 LV – ROSEWOOD WHISPER from Darian Hall to Sharon Jantzen, PO Box 35, Arroyo Grande, CA 93421.

S 1997 LV - *DOONHILL DANCER (Gelded) from Michael Keane/Seafeld Farms to Leslie van der Wal, 1460 Calzeda Ave., Santa Ynez, CA 93460.

HBG 2693 LV – BLUE HIGHWAY from Rosemary Merle-Smith to Ava Halpin, 174 Two Rivers Rd., Chesapeake, MD 21915.

HB G 2806 LVI – R. TROUBADOUR from Jenny Auer to Whitney Crosby, 16253 Wildlife Dr., Huson, MT 59846

G 2687 LVI – PARADOX GREYSTONE CLARION from Sally Oxnard to Janet de Groff, 3021 Mt. Tabor Rd., Blacksburg, VA

HBG 2821 LVI – DAY STAR’S KYLE JACKSON from Madyson Schubbe to Cora Risher, 122 Grange Rd., Meyerdale, PA 15552.

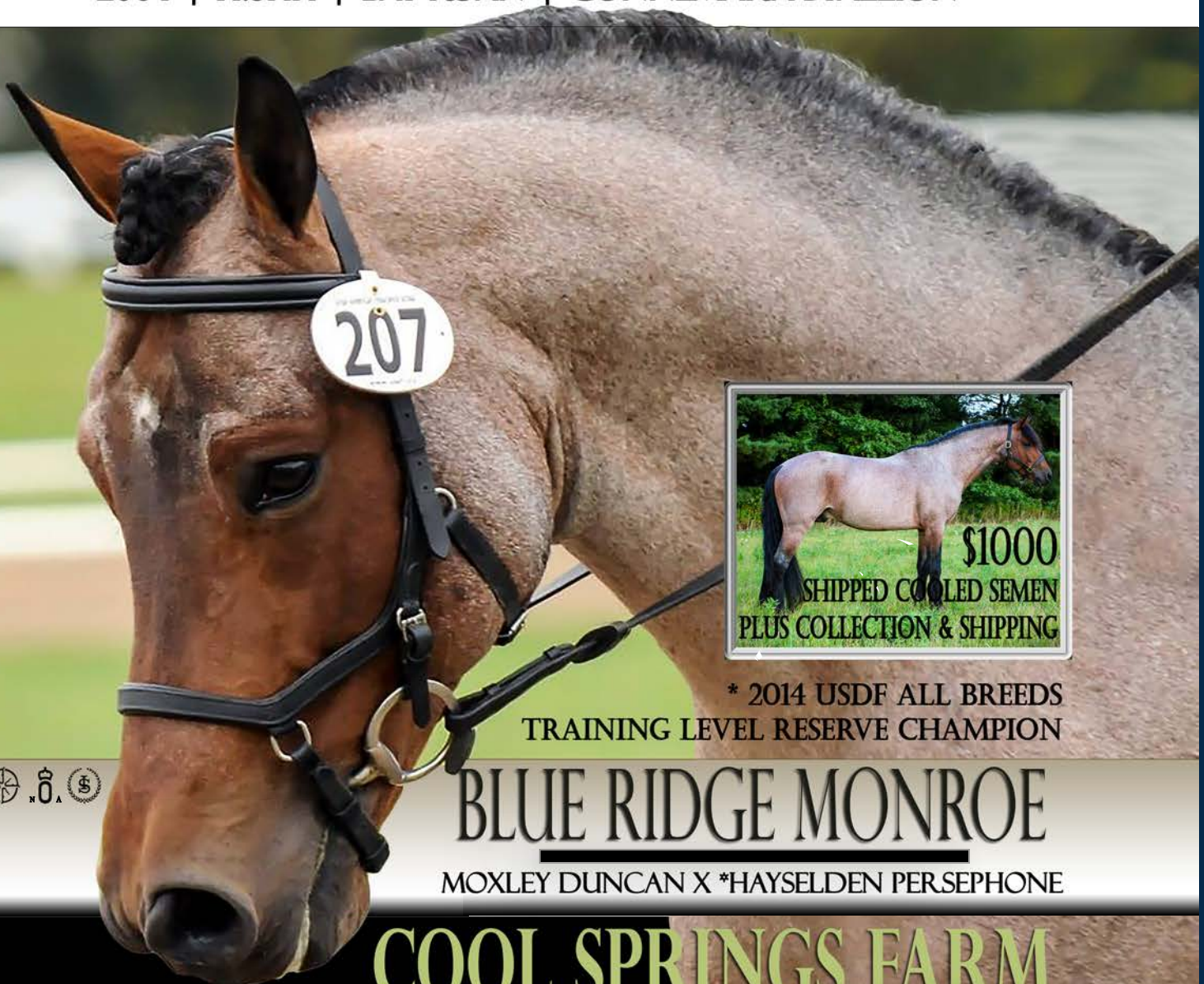
TFC G 6380 LVI – DRF LORD LOTHLORIEN from Janet M. Johnson to Amy Plavin, 545 Skyline Drive, Weathersfield, VT 05156

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 and if you still can’t find an answer, email americanconnemara@gmail.com



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