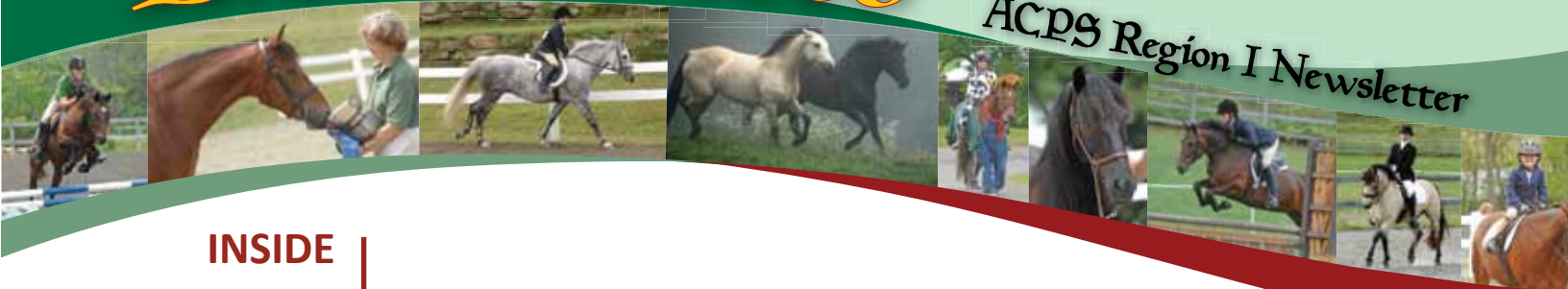


Bits & Pieces

ACPS Region I Newsletter



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Show Report

By Tracy Roettiger

The 57th annual ACPS Region 1 Breed Show held at The Green Mountain Horse Association had very wet welcome. The management of GMHA had worked double time repairing rings, grounds

and facilities that had been damaged in a significant flood less than 2 weeks earlier, and when the ponies and their people arrived at GMHA on Friday July 21st, it was raining again. Ponies were settled in but the weather was not, dumping many inches of rain in the late afternoon and into the evening. The flooding that occurred on Friday night was even worse than what the show grounds experienced earlier in the month. Stalls flooded and owners moved their ponies to higher ground. Roads, rings, driveways, portable toilets and foot bridges were washed away by Saturday morning; the show grounds management allowed us to stay, but we had to remain unmounted as the grounds were too damaged to allow for safe riding and we had to clear out by Saturday night. The Region 1 show was also hosting inspections....so what to do? We decided to do what we could.

Inspections and in- hand classes were held, and the open fit and show classes saw the enthusiastic participation of the stranded entries from the cancelled neighboring dressage show that usually happens on the east side of the show grounds on the same weekend. The show photographer was in attendance, and the Saturday night dinner happened a few hours earlier thanks to a quick call to the caterer. The space between the in- hand classes and the arrival of The Taco Truck was filled with an informative clinic on breed inspections! After all, it isn't every day that multiple ACPS breed inspectors and judges are all stranded in one *on page 2*

From the chair...

Tracy Roettiger

I have a distinct memory of a discussion held over the

summer - to be specific, the summer between kindergarten and first grade - during which I tried to convince my parents that because the summer starts at the end of one school year and ends at the beginning of the next school year, then summer must also be a year long. Unfortunately, my logic was not watertight, and alas, not only is summer not a year long, but one's perception of time also seems to shift dramatically from one year to the next (if you are starting to smell an excuse for the very late B&P newsletter, you are not entirely incorrect).

Within the time warp called adulthood I have also had a bit of a shock to realize that my ownership of my practice has been up and going for what is almost exactly 8 years. I practice optometry in a beautiful 1873 Italianate mansion, which went from private home to optometry practice in 1947. I am the 4th owner/doctor of the practice and building, and with that nod to the tradition, I'm proud to say that I'm the first woman in that roll, thus breaking with the long line predecessors who were men. The practice is busy - I was booked solid for 5 months straight heading!

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The Connemara Bits & Pieces Newsletter is published four times a year as an information source for American Connemara Pony Society Region I members. The Bits & Pieces staff and ACPS shall not be held responsible for any typing errors or mis-information submitted for publication by members.

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place. The ponies were packed up at the end, and people departed, allowing a resilient show grounds staff to start the process of recovering yet again. The Region 1 Show experienced the least traditional, most educational, most well organized and communicated show shake up in its long and quite storied history.

Class Results:

Costume Class: Too good for words and beyond expectation. All participants wowed.

Class: 26 - Halfbred In Hand Entries:

1st My Lucky Clover owned and shown by Alex Rodday

Class: 27 - Purebred Connemara 2023/2022/2021/2020 In Hand

1st Gallo's Emerald Dreams: owned by Ashley Mount, shown by Justin Mattocks

Class: 28 - Purebred Connemara Geldings/Stallions In Hand (over 4)

1st Cybatina Cian O'Cham owned by Cynthia Richards

2nd *Ballindown Buster owned and shown by Alexandra Piaget

3rd Far Mountain Taner owned by Alexandra Piaget, shown by Tess Batchelder

4th *Aughnasilla Paddy owned by Alexandra Piaget, shown by Julia Latham

5th Cybatina Finn O'Cham owned by Cynthia Richards, shown by Charlotte Kivisto

6th Blackwing Holden's Thunder owned and shown by Liliana Green

Class: 29 - Purebred Connemara Mares In Hand (4-10 years)

1st Trout Ranch Polly Claire owned and shown by Christine Kelton

2nd South Ridge Thistlebit owned by Kim Sterl, shown by Emily Belanger

3rd Wintervale Hollywood owned and shown by Caroline Nesbitt

4th Paradox Westerly owned and shown by Sally Oxnard

5th Cybatina Country Girl owned by Cynthia Richards, shown by Alicia Kinson

Class: 30 - Purebred Connemara Mares In Hand (11 and older)

1st Blue Ridge Bluebell owned and shown by Linda Haines

2nd MacBradaigh's Irish Whistle owned by Sally Oxnard, shown by Lilly Sillanpaa

3rd Irish Gate Moira owned and shown by Midge Dunn

4th South Ridge Chloe owned by Kim Sterl shown by Annie Seymour

Class: 34 - Junior Showmanship (8-11)

1st Cybatina Finn O'Cham owned by Cynthia Richards shown by Charlotte Kivisto*

*Charlotte was the winner of the first annual Novice Handler Award, created in honor of Cynthia Richards and her enthusiastic support of children and ponies.

2nd Stone Pony Sugar owned by Sillanpaa Family shown by Georgia Sillanpaa

into summer - and by adding more hours to my work week I decreased the wait to 3 months (if you smell excuse number 2 forming you are, once again, not incorrect). I marvel at the experience of a job that holds history and a very special ambiance from both the generations of families who have come through the door, as well as the very doors themselves

The similarities of my historic building and office allow me to draw parallels to the very special ACPS zone we call Region One. The region has generations of members and ponies who come together in locations that add just that extra sparkle. The annual sprintime ACPS Tea, hosted by members willing to open their homes and farms to a small but enthusiastic group of pony enthusiasts willing to brave the March weather, to our Field Day, hosted and taught in various disciplines and in various locations, to our breed show, held at the Green Mountain Horse Association. Other than the Connemara breed show in Clifden, Ireland, *we are the longest running Connemara breed show in the world.*

The balance of tradition and progress are not mutually exclusive. The discovery of pipelines for the old gas lights did not exclude wifi from existing in my building. Running a region steeped in history feels a bit the same way. If any of our members in the far reaching corners of Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont or New Hampshire are a bit tired of my finding hosts that seem to be within a specific geographical zone or a specific discipline, please let me know. Even better, help me find a farm and a clinician willing to host and teach a really fantastic group of riders and horses. Please attend those clinics and our show, and bring a friend or two, and their equines as well! The foot and hoof speaks volumes and keeps the extra sparkle of our locations from just being glitter than fell on the ground with no celebration to go along with it.

I hope that 2024 allows the region to really connect with our members in a way that strengthens their bond with their ponies, their love and knowledge of the breed, builds adventures and memories worthy of sharing through the generations to come. I'll see you there!

Cheers,
Tracy 

Continued from page 2

3rd MacBradaigh's Irish Whistle owned by Sally Oxnard shown by Elsie Sillanpaa

Class: 35 - Junior Showmanship (12-18)

1st Gitt Nu Deja Vu owned by Tasha Landman shown by Shiane Wheeler

2nd Dudley Doodlebug owned by Shelby Ballantine shown by Natalie Maynard

3rd Blackwing Holden's Thunder owned and shown by Liliana Green

4th Paradox Westerly owned by Sally Oxnard shown by Caitlyn Coryell

5th Cybatina Cian O'Cham owned by Cynthia Richards shown by Alyssa Smith

6th Tricreek Greystone Brielle owned by Amy Halley shown by Reno Halley

Class: 36 - Fitting and Showmanship

1st MeadowBrooks Shake UR BonBon owned by Tasha Landman shown by Shiane Wheeler

2nd Dudley Doodlebug owned by Shelby Ballantine shown by Natalie Maynard

3rd Tango owned and shown by Teresa Berry

4th Sheza Hot Callback owned and shown by Justin Mattocks

5th Blackwing Holden's Thunder owned and shown by Liliana Green

6th My Lucky Clover owned and shown by Alex Rodday

Continued from page 3

Champion Mare In Hand: Blue Ridge Bluebell owned and shown by Linda Haines

Res Ch Mare in Hand: Gallo's Emerald Dreams owned by Ashley Mount shown by Justin Maddocks

Champion Gelding In Hand: Cybatina Cian O'Cham owned by Cynthia Richards shown by Charlotte Kivisto

Reserve Champion Gelding in Hand: *Ballindown Buster owned and shown by Alexandra Piaget

Champion Connemara In Hand Blue Ridge Bluebell owned and shown by Linda Haines

Reserve Champion in Hand: Gallo's Emerald Dreams owned by Ashley Mount shown by Justin Maddocks



New Member Bios

Luka Madden

I have Percy, a 2 1/2 yr old (May 2021) Connemara partbred by Janet Rowe's Fiontar Mac Tire, out of a Dales pony mare. Right now he's happy growing out in the field, doing a little bit of ground work and getting ponied around the farm. I'm hoping that he will mature into a little all rounder doing some dressage, eventing, hunter paces and trail riding.

I grew up riding in England after starting learning to ride at Heritage Farm in Easthampton, MA. I mostly rode native ponies and fell in love with them. My first pony was a New Forest called Lulu, and when I outgrew her I moved onto a Welsh section D called Luke and then an ISH called Conway. I moved back to America in 2010 to go to Mount Holyoke and rode throughout my 4 years there. I always wanted my next pony to be a native pony but wasn't sure exactly what I wanted, and then Percy came up for sale. I backed his granddam, a Dales pony, after a herd dispersal and knew she had a great temperament and figured I couldn't go wrong with some Connie thrown into the mix.

We tried to make it to GMHA this year but our plans were thwarted by the flooding, so hopefully we'll make it for 2024!



Kessler Scholarship

For the last two years for many reasons my riding had become very sporadic. When I started riding again, I found myself unable to even mount without supervision due to MS and age. I was determined to get back into my former independent riding condition. This meant tons of lessons. Actually, five lessons a week for months. In May, I was granted a Kessler Memorial Scholarship which really helped defray some of the lesson costs.

Because of this scholarship when I was able to start riding much more consistently. I can now mount and dismount and actually ride for more than twenty minutes. While this does not sound like much, to me it is a huge accomplishment. My strength is coming back and I am able to teach my ponies to respond to very light aids because of the lack of strength in my right leg.

I cannot thank this scholarship fund enough for their help in attaining my goals. I encourage all of you who might need that extra help whether to attend a clinic or like me take extra lesson to investigate this great program.

The photo is of myself on Nello with Loughin's Knight Wind friend

☘ Sue Antilla



The Connemara Calendar

The Connemara Calendar has been a major fund raiser for Region 1 for over 13 years. I have been involved in the calendar production since 2011.

I start working on the calendars in March when I offer "months" for sale for \$75. The exception is December which is \$100 because the calendar has become a 13-month calendar and December carries over to the following year. With the purchase of a "month" you get one free calendar. The calendar is usually published mid-September and is usually sold out by December. Despite rising costs, we have managed to keep the price of the calendar at \$17.00 which includes postage.

Initially, the calendar was used to promote stallions. It has since expanded to anyone who wants to promote their farm or just show off their ponies. Simple rules are the pony must be Connemara, purebred, half bred or part bred and we ask that the photos be high resolution. We have gotten ponies from all over the country. Region 9 even buys a month and holds a contest for their members to vote on the best photo.

The extremely talented Hannah Howard does the covers for us. Any of the main photos are eligible to be chosen for the cover if they are high resolution. The photo that shouts "buy me" is usually the one chosen. If you have purchased a calendar in the past, you have seen Hannah's incredible work.

The funds raised by the sale of calendar months and the actual calendars were used to fund our presence at Equine Affaire. Since the pandemic Region 1 has decided that it is no longer worthwhile to participate as a breed at Equine Affaire and is exploring other avenues to promote our wonderful ponies. We are looking for ideas from our members to see what options are available. If you have any suggestions, please contact Tracy Roettiger at acpsregion1chair@gmail.com. All ideas are welcome.



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ACPS Achievement Awards – you can get them too!

I am writing to urge my Region 1 friends to start applying for the ACPS awards program for their ponies. Christina Keim is writing about her pony JEF Anna Rose who received a well-deserved Hall of Fame Award, and I am writing about my two ponies who are getting less significant ones.

One is Paradox Westerly, age 8, by Kynnymont Cooper O'Grady x Tower Hill's Breeze. She has been a successful driving pony this year and has been in one USEF rated CDE and one driving division at a USEF rated Arabian show in NY and some smaller shows in PA and NY with her trainer Ashley Mount. A rated show gets you more points but they all count. So we are sending in her Achievement Awards forms, with the name and date of the show, and either the results that were posted somewhere and the evidence that they were USEF rated, or the signature of the Show Secretary. With her registration and my membership card. All by December 30 to Karen Laden in Colorado. Very easy. These points go with the pony so that now that Ashley is leasing Westie, the points will stay with the pony and accumulate next year.

Next is Macbradaigh's Irish Whistle who is receiving her third Fun With Pony Award- a silver medal. This is a noncompetitive award, you just need to fill out the fillable form on the ACPS website and document the hours you spent with the pony over the year- Whistle has done lessons and shows and driving demos and Squamscott Pony Club with a handful of young riders. That form goes to Jen Garutti and you can email it to her with the pony's registration and your membership card and some nice photos. And of course Whistle also qualified for another year of her Achievement Awards in Pony Club. So she has a pretty good resume for a little plain bay pony!

So I hope to see more of the region 1 ponies in the American Connemara magazine when Marynell posts all of these results. Congratulations to all! Call or email me with questions

🍀 Sally Oxnard



A Gift from Old Friends

Our dear friend, Beryl Eddy, enjoyed her Connemaras, especially Round Robin Mountain Echo. She was always up for a trail ride and did some competitive distance riding as well. She was an active member of our Region I activities. She did not show herself but volunteered where she was needed. One year she did bring Echo to the show but asked Bob Butcher to show her as she didn't think it was her thing. Bob and Echo won the mare class and went on to be the In Hand Champion of the show. That was 1986.

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Some of you will recognize Beryl's name from our gorgeous perpetual trail award trophy. Back in the day, Beryl volunteered to set up and run the trail class at the show. It was a big job and at the time, it was run in the white ring. However, hardly anyone entered the class. Beryl felt this was wrong on many levels. The ponies should be doing these exact things, they should show how good they are at natural obstacles. That was the impetus for creating the Versatility Championship with the Trail Class a mandatory component. It revolutionized the trail class in Region I. It became, and remains, one of the best filled classes at the show!

Beryl was taken too early by a bout with cancer. She left a big hole in our Region. Her good friend and fellow Region I Connemara owner, Susan Houle, commissioned the artfully designed and constructed High Point Trail Trophy. It is usually the highlight of the season for the winner. I know because it came home with me this year. The trophy has a compartment for pictures and notes. I was disappointed to see that many winners did not leave a note or photo. It's not too late, if you have been a past winner, your name is on the trophy and your photo can be in the memory book inside. (Send it to me or bring to the show next year.)

After losing Beryl, her husband Bill, also a supporter of Region I, sent two Persian saddle blankets to be included in our Silent Auction. He had purchased them for Beryl when he was in Tibet in 1996. At the time, it seemed a lovely gesture, but with Bill's permission, I got an estimate of the value of the blankets. It was clear that our auction was not the place to secure the value or anything close to it. We decided to place them with Peter Pap's Oriental Rugs in Dublin NH. That was in 2012. The small one was finally sold, and we recently received a check for \$485. It was sent to Janet to put in the bank. We might consider what we want to do with this windfall.

The larger and more valuable blanket remains with the Peter Pap auction house. It is on their website and Pap agreed to slightly discount it. He was confident that it remains very saleable, and he estimates it's worth at about \$1800.

Here's a description of the "blanket":

Handwoven from wool in Tibet, this reclaimed saddle cover features ornate traditional Buddhist motifs in a vibrant palette. Originally woven as a protective covering for a horse, Tibetan saddle rugs offered comfort to both the steed and the rider. Today, these pieces are rare, one-of-a-kind collectibles - relics of an age-old tradition of innovation and artistry.

 Linda Haines

Region One in a Nutshell

The following information is well known to many, but in case you didn't know, here is an introduction to Region One.

As Region One Connemara Enthusiasts, we are very fortunate to have so many skilled and energetic volunteers. It takes many people to run our Horseshow. It is very well overseen by Amy Plavin and a long list of helpers. It is the touch stone event of our Region One year. It is not a money maker, but we are usually in the black thanks to Amy. We want it to be a welcoming and friendly weekend at GMHA in South Woodstock Vermont. We are always seeking volunteers to help it unfold easily. We also appreciate input and feedback; it takes most of a year to plan and prepare.

We celebrate spring with a Connemara Tea, usually initiated by Sally Oxnard. The Tea is a social event with the flare provided by a Connemara focus. We congregate at a member's house or barn and may mostly eat and

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socialize or visit local ponies and see what they are doing. Anyone interested in inviting us to their house or farm for refreshments and sharing pony stories?

Our next activity is usually Connemara Field Day, which is a non-competitive, fun outing with our ponies. We have done Mountain Trail Obstacles, Horse Agility, Gymnastics for ponies, jumping clinics, working equitation, cross country practice, in hand showing practice, straightness work, what am I forgetting? Basically, this is an enjoyable learning activity based on what people would like to do and is in the form of a clinic. It is so flexible; it can be almost anything. As someone who went to my first Field Day in 1982, I am the fortunate beneficiary of multiple skills and innumerable friends based on my Field Day experiences. We have a short Region One meeting on the day to catch up with others, elect new officers as needed and continue our Region planning and activities. People also come to watch and provide support; we welcome spectators and people curious about the venture.

We have a Region One store, capably managed by Emily Belanger, that has Connemara branded clothing, saddle pads, and other Connemara swag. It's available at the show and usually on Field Day. Emily will also take orders for specific items or sizes.

Sue Antilla creates our Connemara calendar, a treasure in my barn each year. This is a fund raiser for our Equine Affaire activities. Did you know that Region One will provide financial support if you want to participate in a professional clinic at Equine Affaire? Thank You Sue! The calendar is beautiful and usually sells out quickly.

Region One has a scholarship fund set up with a generous donation in the name of Jack Kessler. Members can apply to the scholarship committee to attend a clinic, spend time with a legendary trainer, or a novel idea to advance their own or their pony's skills. Criteria includes some volunteer activities for the region and a write up to share about the event afterward.

People also get together to ride at Hampton Beach State Park or maybe a trail ride, contacts are made through the Bits and Pieces newsletter, compiled by Hannah Reynolds-Brown, another area where another volunteer or two would be great. We also depend on Carolyn McEvitt to get announcements out to folks through the year. We have Janet Chayes, our Treasurer, to thank for keeping the books up to date and reminding us to spend money where appropriate to promote our region and our ponies. You do not need to be an ACPS member to be part of our Region One activities, although that membership is well worth it, just getting the magazine is a notable perk. *By the way, it's time to renew your ACPS membership for 2024.*

Tracy Roettinger is our Region One chair. She holds the reins for this multi-pony hitch of activities. She was recently elected to the ACPS National Board of Governors. Sally is also on the National Board. I serve as the Region One Governor, elected by Region One members, and currently serve as the ACPS President. ACPS has a small membership and requires many volunteers to perform lots of leadership and governance functions. We are incredibly fortunate in Region One to have a large, dedicated group of volunteers. We try to be welcoming to new members as we always need more hands and minds to continue our activities. New ideas are welcome as well. Contact us, don't be shy. The criterion for participation is interest in the Connemara, our favorite equine!

 Linda Haines

Barn News

Northern Connemaras

We had 2 foals born to our new stallion *Cityview Prince Charming. This combination of Aluinn Durango daughters and Prince exceeded our expectations. We are pleased with the bone, temperament and athletic ability of these foals. Both of these foals are sold. We had a colt foal by Aluinn Durango x *Sternbergs Mia Maia who we will be retaining as a stallion prospect for the future.

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Trout Ranch Moxi (Trout Ranch Malarkey x New Song's Autumn)

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We had inspections in July. Aluinn Durango and *Sternbergs Mia Maia were awarded Premium status. *Cityview Prince Charming was approved with excellent marks. Two young Durango daughters were also approved.

I sustained a knee injury in June so Sydney and Scarlett had to attend to all the goings on with camp as well as breeding mares for 2024 and collecting and shipping semen for clients. They bred 11 mares total.

We are excited for 2024 foals and the competition season for Prince and several others. I plan to be back in the saddle by April.

☘ Sarah McRae Thrasher

The Halley Family

Brielle and Reno had a great time this summer despite all the events that were rained out. At Junior Horsemanship Camp the pair was awarded the Bell-Wood Award "Given to the clinic participant who brings together their talent with the horse in a harmonious performance working calmly, confidently and energetically."

Reno and Brielle were bummed not to have the jumping phase of the Connemara Show but then in August they moved up from Beginner Novice to Novice no problem at the GMHA Festival of schooling soon after.

The success just continued in the early fall as they did their first recognized trials at GMHA in September and finished the season with a flawless Novice at Huntington in late September with a 21 in Dressage and no jumping faults!!

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2 gorgeous Connemara x Tb crosses were welcomed on to the Halley's Second Wind Farm this summer.

Glendale's Birdie a 2 year old grey 3/4 Connemara xTB mare (Rattle N'Snap Laddie BoyxGlendale's Miss Hannigan) Birdie is the most personable, most lovable horse—aside from Brielle that I've ever had the pleasure of working with. She is in your pocket and confident.

BB is a 4 year old bay 1/2 bred Connemara X TB mare (R Blue Moon) She is a sensitive the boss of the herd type who doesn't miss a beat. Can't wait to see where we are in a year's time!

🍀 Amy Halley



Cold Moon Farm

JEF Anna Rose, a 2004 Connemara/Trakhener cross owned by Christina Keim of Cold Moon Farm in Rochester, NH, and bred by Ginny Winkler of Journey's End Farm in Gardner, New York, was selected as the 2023 Tre Awain Halfbred Performance Award winner. Christina accepted Anna's recognition virtually at the ACPS Annual Meeting in Davis, California, this September.

The Tre Awain Award is meant to recognize a "career of outstanding achievement, both competitive and non-competitive, of a halfbred Connemara." Anna (Tre Awain Dobh McDuff x Annick by Ith) has competed in-hand, and in hunters, jumpers, eventing, and dressage, earning ACPS silver awards in jumpers and eventing and an Award of Excellence in dressage. She has even completed two competitive trail rides, and in 2023, finished the virtual Tevis Cup (100 miles of trail in 100 days).

In 13 years of under saddle work, Anna has never missed a day (knock wood) due to lameness. But most importantly, she has been a treasured and beloved companion and partner.

"Being Anna's human has made me a better trainer, a better rider, and a better horseman," said Christina in her acceptance speech. "And along the way, she has served as the quintessential breed ambassador. Whether it is because someone stopped to admire her signature tail, read one of my blogs about her journey, or commented on her personal hashtag, #canyourThirdLeveldressagehorsedothis, Anna's adventures have connected with thousands of fans, all of whom now have a better sense of what it means to ride a Connemara.

✻ Christina Keim



Reminder

Don't forget to renew your ACPS membership for 2024!



**Join online at [ACPS.org](https://www.acps.org)
or**

download the membership form and mail to Suzanne Phelps.

Suzanne can be reached at srphelps@cox.net with any questions