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ACPS WEBSITE: http://www.acps.org

CONNEMARA BOUTIQUE.
Melanie Trimper at mmt328@yahoo.com; or visit us on Facebook Region-III-ConnemaraBoutique

Decals and magnets available from the boutique!

Wonderful News!

Our region show is ON! We will once again gather for a weekend at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Virginia on July 31-August 1, 2021. There will be adjustments to events made for current conditions, but a full slate of classes are planned. We will have a “make-up” futurity class for 2 year olds who did not get the chance due to cancellation of the show last year, as well as the “normal” yearling futurity. Start working with your youngsters now! The show is a friendly place to show off your babies, and we all love to see the new members of the herd. There will be a nomination form for futurities in the next newsletter.

Our region treasurer reports that virtual sales from the boutique over the past year have kept our finances healthy, and the ribbons we ordered have no dates on them, so we can use them this year.

We will also have inspections at the show, so please get your nominations in to Kathy Sparks as soon as possible. We need at least 10 ponies for the inspectors to come. Information and forms to nominate a pony are found on the ACPS website under “Inspections.”
At the Show:

We can always use volunteers for small jobs and large. Contact Marynell to see what she needs in the way of helpers.

SOME BOOKS FOR A DREARY MONTH
From Marilyn Cheek

The books I have to recommend are not hot off the presses, but are reasonably new releases and easily obtainable.

The first is Elizabeth Letts’ A Perfect Horse. I put off reading this because I wasn’t that taken with her previous book, The Eighty-Dollar Champion, about Harry DeLeyer’s rags to riches show jumper, Snowman, one of the phenoms we used to cheer at shows when I was a kid. However, when I browsed a copy at Horse Country in Warrenton, I decided it looked pretty interesting. And it was. This is the story of how some of the finest equine breeding stock in Europe was nearly lost in World War II, and how horse loving Germans, Austrians, Czechs and Americans connived to rescue them.

There have been numerous books and articles telling parts of the story of the theft and rescue of the famous Lipizzaners of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, including those by Alois Podhajsky, the school’s director. But the thefts affected breeds all over Eastern Europe as well, notably the Arabian farms of Poland and the Ukraine, and many other breeds and stud farms. The purpose was to perfect breeds for various disciplines, from dressage to farmwork. Thousands were then lost to the tides of war. The fact that some of the best were saved through daring and bravery on the part of a fairly small and determined group is no small achievement and worthy of remembrance.

Letts pulls the various threads together into a compelling, horrifying, heart warming and heart wrenching story.

Horse, is about as far as one can get from the horrors Letts chronicles. If you’ve already discovered his art or his website, you know what I mean. If all the world were like Charlie, there wouldn’t be any wars.

If you weren’t familiar with him, or were but couldn’t find the book because it is so popular, be of good cheer. The book is again readily available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble and other online outlets (as well as physical bookstores and Charlie’s website, charliemackesy.com). If you are a bibliophile and collector, you’ll even find a first edition on abebooks.com for a mere $1,400, give or take a few bucks.

Although the book was published before covid sent the world into a tailspin, it might have been written just to help us keep our sanity and humanity at this time. With a deceptively simple story illustrated with dynamic sketches and atmospheric paintings, it extolls the virtues of kindness, love, and friendship. I gave copies to children and adults for Christmas and Valentine’s Day and the universal response was “Boy did I need this!”

Jane Smiley’s new novel, Perestroika in Paris, is hard to pigeonhole, but also explores the true meaning of friendship. No, it is not about Gorbachev and Reagan! Rather, it is a whimsical tale of a young steeplechaser (Perestroika) who finds herself accidentally at liberty in the heart of Paris. With the help of a coterie of animal and human friends she meets in her peregrinations around the city, she sheds some of her innocence and ignorance and learns that love and friendship are worth a few compromises to absolute liberty.

Some would call this a children’s book, and indeed, it would be a delightful choice for an older child, who no doubt would enjoy the surface story. A younger child might be disturbed by some of the
sadder parts, however. Smiley is an enormously sophisticated writer who is working at several levels here. With humor and a fine appreciation for equine curiosity, she tackles themes of loyalty and loss and the rewards of mutual respect and sharing. If this sounds dull, blame me. The book is hilarious, especially so for anyone who has owned a flighty filly as many of us have.

Smiley is a stylish writer with a fine eye for the little details that make a scene or a character come alive. The helpful dog who manages their “purse,” the wiley old crow who provides aerial reconnaissance, the lovelorn rat, the squabbling mallards and all the humans who encounter them are so wonderfully realized that you easily overlook the absurdity of a racehorse living on the streets of Paris.

**PONY TALES**

No one has sent me any news, and the past few weeks have been dreadful weather near me, with ice storms, power outages, and mud beyond belief. While stuck in the house I started surfing and found many free videos for yoga that are designed for equestrians. I think they are fun and useful. Here are a few links to get you started.

https://dressageridertraining.com/article/5-stretches-that-every-dressage-rider-should-do/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUro7LHw1JU&t=185s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6gtlbl6RM0&t=45s

**Classified ads are FREE in the newsletter, can have pictures and as much text as you wish, just send copy to Kim Harrison:**

vaharrisons@verizon.net

Send your pony tale news, too!

**Classified Ads**

Cleaning out your tack room? Looking to rehome some stuff?

**Needed:** a child’s saddle (hunt seat) 15” or so WIDE....needs to fit a “leg at each corner” non- Connemara Shetland type pony 11 hands.

Please send particulars and a photo to: Elisabeth. e285@gmail.com
BALMULLO FARM OFFERS:

Would you like a foal like this? Bazzle’s sire, Foothills Field Marshall, is available via fresh or frozen semen. $1000 includes $200 booking fee. balmullofarm@gmail.com 804-507-0269

Wanted: Side saddle; plantation ok; very old ok; buy or borrow. balmullofarm@gmail.com

GLENDALE FARM OFFERS:
Deb Norman debnorman@mindspring.com

We will once again stand Rattle 'n Snap Laddie Boy (Moy Hazy Cove x Castle Strange Sparrow). Stud fee is $800 which includes a $250 booking fee

Also standing at Glendale Farm is *Fernville Matchmaker (Fredericksminde Hazy Match x Ross Castle Moya [Abbeylack Owen]), imported from Ireland. He is a 2006 14.2 grey pony with excellent bone and movement. Stud fee is $600
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