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VOLUME 2 | 2016



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Upcoming Issues & Deadlines

September 6, 2016
Welsh Review
Sec. B, Hunter, Stallions

December 31, 2016
WPCSA 2016 Journal
National Regional and
Shows, Year-End Results

March 6, 2017
Welsh Review
Sec. C & D, Dressage,
Annual Convention News

June 6, 2017
Welsh Review
Sec. A, Driving, Junior
Riders

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From the President

In this issue we feature our Youth. Encouraging our youth is so important because they are the future of our breed.

I am fortunate to show mainly in the South Central Region in which the Oklahoma Kansas Welsh Pony Society (OKWPS) and the Red River Welsh Pony Association (RRWPA) are very active. There is a large active group of our junior members associated with these two groups. This year these groups had four graduating high school Seniors and it was decided that we should honor these graduates. Lots of discussion via social media resulted with an amazing idea that would not only benefit these graduates but would also benefit the WPCSA. At a delicious potluck dinner at the show in Claremore, OK, Turner Davis, Marissa Gomez, Emma Polus, and Fisher Vanbuskirk were given WPCSA memberships for the next ten years. OKWPS and RRWPA members all contributed. We hope these graduates will continue their interest in Welsh ponies and Cobs for many years. We are so blessed that our membership values not only are beloved Welsh but also fosters so many important values that are important to pass on to our youth: a strong work ethic, empathy for our ponies and cobs as well as our fellow members, working together as a team, setting and achieving goals, and many others that are too numerous to count.

~ Dr. Ruth



*Turner Davis, Emma Polus,
Marissa Gomez and
Fisher Vanbuskirk
photo by Joni Brown*



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Marketing Welsh as Sport Ponies

submitted by Jean White

Sport pony as a term is usually descriptive of a pony that competes in the equestrian sports of dressage, eventing, jumping, and combined driving. For the scope of this article we'll focus on dressage and combined driving.

A few highlights of sport pony conformation include:

A moderate length neck that comes uphill out of the shoulders. The neck is arched on top and concave on the bottom. The shoulder is sloping and open. A deep heartgirth with a strong topline and a well developed croup that has its highest point directly above the point of the hip. Uphill build and legs that are straight with correct angles.

The above conformation description of sport ponies easily fits into the Welsh breed standard. Here I've used the Section C Cob from the WPCSA rule book as an example:

Neck: Lengthy and well-carried. Moderately lean in the case of mares, but inclined to be cresty in the case of mature stallions. Shoulders: Strong but well-laid back. Forelegs: Set square and not tied in at the elbows. Long, strong forearms. Knees well-developed with an abundance of bone below them. Pasterns of proportionate slope and length. Feet well-shaped. Hooves dense. When in the rough, a moderate quantity of silky feather is not objected to but course, wiry hair is a definite objection. Middlepiece: Back and loins muscular, strong and well-coupled. Deep through the heart and well-ribbed up. Hind Quarters: Lengthy and strong. Ragged or drooping quarters are objectionable. Tail well set on. Hind Legs: Second thighs, strong and muscular. Hocks large, flat and clean, with points prominent, turning neither inward nor outward. The hind legs must not be too bent and the hock not set behind a line falling from the point of the quarter to the fetlock joint. Pasterns of proportionate slope and length. Feet well-shaped, hooves dense.

Movement for sport ponies varies depending on the discipline. For a focus on dressage and driving we need at minimum:

An athletic naturally uphill pony with a long stride in the correct rhythm moving through an elastic body. Suspension in the trot and canter and overstride in the walk are desirable qualities. The quick and powerful hind legs should readily reach well under the pony's body to allow the rider or driver to collect and extend the pony's stride.

Compared to the WPCSA Rule book:

Action: Free, true and forcible. The knee should be bent and the whole foreleg should be extended straight from the shoulder and as far forward as possible in the trot. Hocks flexed under the body with straight and powerful leverage.

In comparison the sport pony has more exact movement requirements than the Welsh Rule book demands but they are not contradictory.

Most horse sports require many years of training to be successful. Therefore, sport pony temperament must include a high level of trainability and a good willingness to work. The ponies that are intended for the uppermost levels of competition in the sports of combined driving and dressage are generally more energetic and sensitive and may be less forgiving. That energy and sensitivity may create too much pony for an amateur or novice to be comfortable with training and competing. However, this high level of energy can be used to advantage by experienced or professional pony competitors who wish to compete at the highest levels. For those

of us that are mere mortals the typical friendly, forgiving, outgoing Welsh with good trainability will do just fine in his job as a sport pony.

Once you have critically evaluated your Welsh ponies you may find some sport type ponies in your herd. So, what is the best way to market these ponies



Jean White driving Lascaus Ginko (*Popsters Mr Moffat x Glendower Honeysuckle)

to dressage riders and carriage drivers? To answer that question I asked two top trainers for advice. Here are some answers from Grand Prix dressage rider Jill Hardt and World Champion driver Suzy Stafford.

What first catches your eye when you see a pony advertised?

JH “A picture that looks like a person knowledgeable about sport ponies selected it. I want pictures that show the pony in a correct athletic outline under saddle. Pictures are forever so a good picture is really important. Don't put a bad picture out there; it will be found.”

SS “Nice photos and video”

When looking for a pony what would you like to seller to do for you?

JH “Provide a video that will answer many of my questions. This would include the quality of all three gaits and the correct extent of the training.” “Getting back with me in 24 to 48 hours.” “We all know that there is no perfect horse. However, I do expect the seller to present the pony in its best light. That said, the best sellers are also really looking to make a good match between the pony and rider and are willing to discuss the areas that may be difficult or need extra or specialized attention. That could be maintenance, training, or health issues. When I try out the pony and there are no surprises I have respect for the seller and have much more confidence in the pony.”

SS “Verbally represent the pony honestly. Supply adequate photos and video. Have the capability to work pony (if applicable) in adequate footing/area. Be able to show the pony's selling attributes (for example, if the pony is being sold as a driving pony the seller should be able to show the pony in the carriage)”

What are you looking for in a pony for competition at these levels:

Beginner:

JH “A correctly trained pony that has been successful with a prior beginner. These are difficult to find.”

SS “A pony that is sound, has good temperament, and miles of experience.”

Local:

JH “The pony should be sound and have mileage at the level that the potential owner would like to compete. I'm also going to look up the scores. As an agent for a buyer I would be negligent in not accessing this information.”

SS “A pony that is sound, of good temperament and trainability, and that has miles of experience”

Regional:

JH “Better than average gaits and the training should be excellent as well.”

SS “The soundness and good temperament are still important but I will accept a pony with less show experience. Nicer movement is required to be competitive at this level of competition”

National:

JH “Everything above squared. Ponies at this level should have the scope and movement to compete with horses.”

SS “This pony must be sound, of good temperament and have some show experience. In addition they need above average movement, be attractive in type, and of good character.”

International:

SS “To soundness must be added the special character needed of a

pony at this level. A forward thinker with exceptional movement, sound conformation, and intelligence rounded out with some show experience.”

Are bloodlines important to you?

JH “Yes but secondarily to performance. I will look at what the bloodlines have produced in the past.”

SS “No”

When looking for prospects that are not yet trained, do you want ponies that have parents or siblings that have competition records in your sport?

JH “Yes, It gives more me confidence in the ponies future performance and re-sell value.”

SS “This is certainly ideal and very helpful but not having this information would not deter me from purchasing a young prospect.”

Before marketing your Welsh pony as a “sport pony” develop an eye for a good sport pony so you can recognize the correct qualities in your stock. Then establish relationships with trainers that excel in the sport that fits your pony's talents. Get your pony out to the competitions and be prepared to take or pay for professional quality photographs and video. Be honest in representing your pony and timely in responding to inquiries.

I'll be looking forward to seeing your pony representing the Welsh breed in future dressage shows or combined driving events!

Suzy Stafford

Suzy Stafford's first international medal was with Sybil Humphry's Welsh Pony of Cob Type Cefnoakpark Bouncer at the 2005 World Pony Driving Championship in England where Suzy and Bouncer won the individual Gold. Named to the 2009 United States Equestrian Team with Courage to Lead she received an individual bronze medal in Germany. Suzy has won many National Breed and FEI CDE Championship titles with breeds as diverse as Half Arabian, Morgan, and Freisian. She is currently driving a pair of Half Welsh owned by Margaret Mayer in CDE's and her own horse, PVF Peace of Mind, is riding an unprecedented wave of success that Suzy hopes will lead right to the top of the medal podium at this summer's 2016 FEI World Single Horse Championships in Piber, Austria.

Jill Hardt

Jill is a USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold medalist. She has had a variety of equine partners providing her with a huge diversity of experience. Although she is a frequent Grand Prix winner with her self trained German and Dutch warmbloods, Jill is also known for her expertise with ponies. Forrest Flame, a New Forrest Pony stallion, who made his mark as a serious dressage competitor competing and winning in the open division against the “big guys” was Jill's first big pony success. Recently her pony winnings have been on Delores Seketa's German Riding Pony Adonis. Jill and Adonis were 3rd in the USDF Region 3 Championships at Open Intermediate! Jill is a 5* rated dressage rider who teaches and trains out of her Tristan Oaks Farm in Central Florida.

Welsh Mountain Pony Enthusiasts

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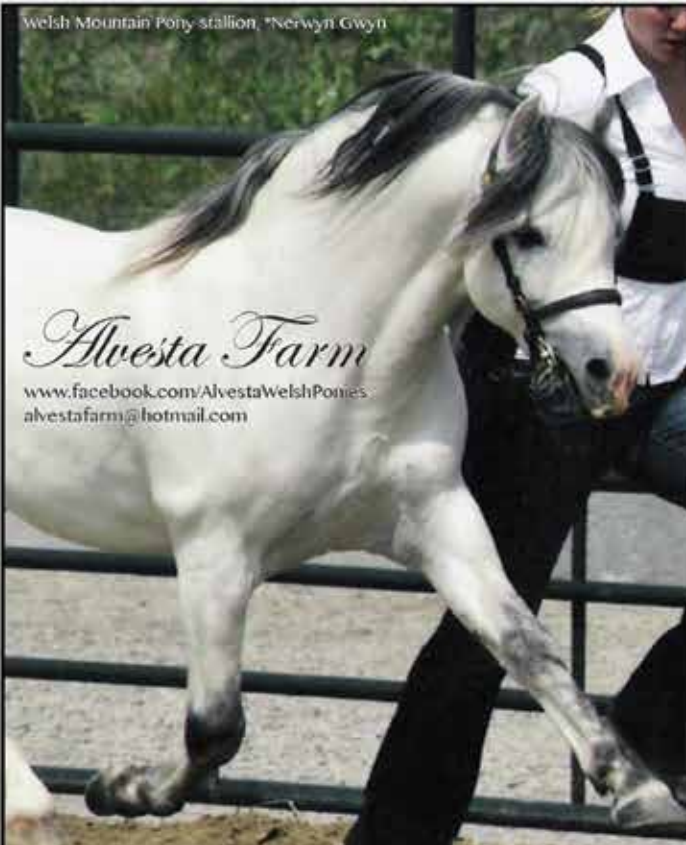
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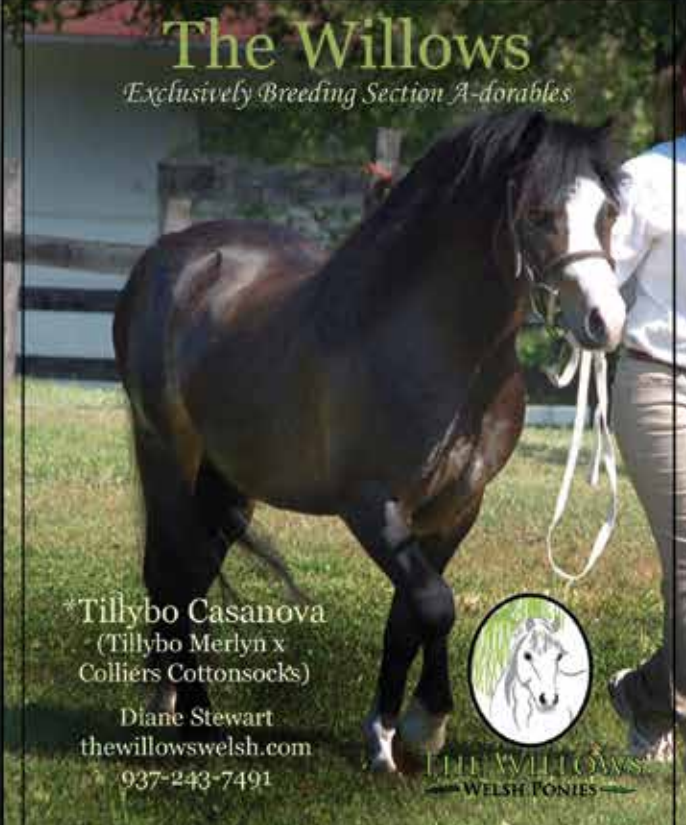
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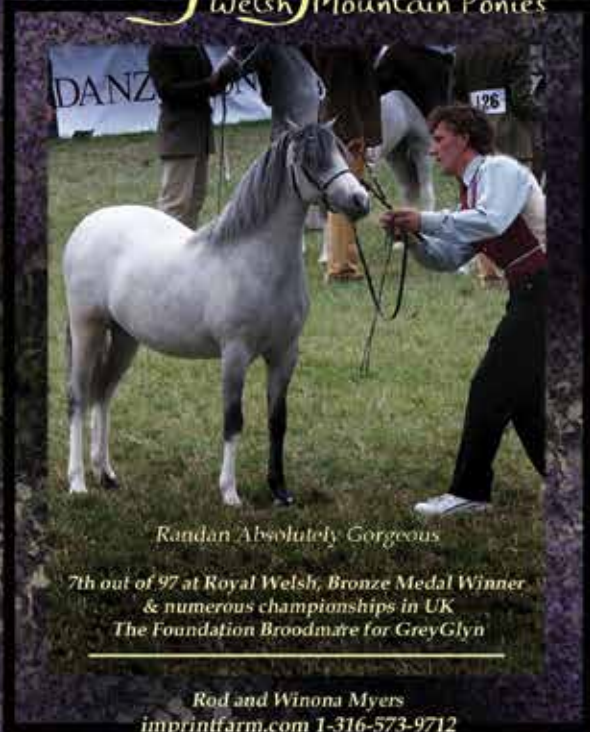
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Meet one of our new junior stallions, Gaslight Absolut. Shown lightly in hand, he was Grand Champion Mountain Pony at Tulsa in 2015, and WPCAC in Brookside, CA this spring. Now in Driving Training with Gerald Verkuyl. Accepting bookings for the 2017 breeding season.

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*Runshaw Hedeg



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WELSH OF THE YEAR



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Katarina



Angel Heart Farm would like to thank everyone that voted for our sweet pony, Loafers Lodge Katarina, for Welsh of the Year! We were honored to be nominated in a field of stunning Welsh Ponies and Cobs with show records miles long, special ponies that teach children and adults the art of horsemanship, love their jobs and are good citizens of the Welsh World and beyond. Our hearts are filled with pride and love for all of our horses and ponies at Angel Heart Farm. They love unconditionally, they serve the most courageous children and families battling cancer. They are the true healers and angels.

Thank you to Katarina's breeders John and Dr. Margaret Almond of Loafers Lodge Ponies and Miss Sabra Schiller for breeding such a lovely pony that is not only beautiful on the outside but the inside. To everyone that had a hand in her care, training and showing you are the reason she does what she does.

With Grace and Gratitude from all of us at Angel Heart Farm

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The 2016 babies - all but one for sale



Severn Jeeves

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Severn Kiev

(Gypsy Rose's Pride x Brightleaf Dresden)



Severn Penelope *(not for sale)*

(Severn Bay Rum x Severn Olympia LOM)



Severn Glitter 'n Gleam

(Severn Bay Rum x Alliance Designer Bow LOM/AOE)

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How It All Began - The Stonecroft Story



Stonecroft ponies. Photo by Amy Riley

Submitted by Marsha Himler

Several decades ago (1968 to be exact) I first became involved in Welsh Ponies and the Welsh Pony world. I had recently moved to Syracuse, NY, after a stint working in NYC for Abraham & Straus as an Assistant Buyer. When it became apparent that this was not the job nor the city for me, I took a test for NYS and moved to Syracuse when I was offered a job there. Not four months after moving to Syracuse, I went out and bought my first horse. At the time, I had aspirations to compete in the dressage world but that was not to be. Fortunately, the place where I bought my horse was a Hackney Pony and Welsh Pony farm, Thornhedge, owned by Francis and Harriet Koberline. A few years later, back problems from an auto accident in college flared up, forcing me to give up riding.

The Koberlines drove their ponies and suggested I try driving as they didn't think it would bother my back; my doctor agreed and so I entered the world of pleasure driving (although that came later as the Koberlines drove roadster ponies and fine harness ponies.) A longtime Welsh pony breeder, Clayton Freeman, took me under his wing and taught me to drive - on a pony RACE TRACK! Back then, any breed of pony that met the height requirements could compete in pony races. Llyntrum Pretty Bee was my introduction to driving. We never won any races but we had a good time.

The Koberlines invited me to join the Northeastern Welsh Pony Association (NEWPA) of which they were President and Treasurer. At that time, the club's annual show was held at the NYS Fairgrounds in the coliseum and Mr. Freeman decided to take some of his ponies and asked me if I wanted to show Pretty Bee in the pleasure driving class. Of course, I said yes. We took the roadster cart and Mr. Freeman built a wooden boot for it and off we went to the show. I don't remember much about it, nor who was judging. I just know there were 8 or 10 ponies in the class and I was sitting there when they called out the number of the winner, looking around to see who it was. My girlfriend at ringside finally had to tell me to go get my ribbon. I was dumbfounded as I never expected to win. After that I was hooked!

Time passed and I moved to Middleburg, NY, to accept a promotion in Albany. In the meantime, I had the opportunity to drive roadster ponies for Welsh breeders, Rollin and Doris Hanson of Rol-Dor Welsh Ponies. When I bought my 'farmette' in Middleburg, they allowed me to purchase Rol-Dor Topsy. Back then, there was a large horse show in Saratoga Springs that featured Welsh pony classes and we had fun showing there for several years. A year or so after moving to Middleburgh, Mollie Butler (Glannant Farm) told me of a lovely Welsh mare, Severn Willful, that was for sale as she thought I would like her and that she would make



Marsha Himler and Alderdale Black Satin at Walnut Hill in the Park Performance class.

a great start for my breeding program. She was owned at that time by Stephen Barger (who still comes to the Welsh shows and watches the breeding classes from the rail.) I fell in love with "Willie" and brought her home. She remained in co-ownership with Mr. Barger until her death a few years ago at the age of 31. "Willie" was definitely what you could call a 'blue hen' mare and was the dam or grand-dam of many Stonecroft ponies.

I sent 'Willie' up to Dick and Adele Rockwell's Ardmore Stud in Canada to be bred to Ardmore Artist. That breeding produced the lovely filly, Stonecroft Storm Dancer aka "Peaches". I contacted Hetty Abeles (Shenandoah) and took a trip down to look at her stallions. I had decided that I would like to breed black Welsh ponies since, at that time, the majority of the ponies were grey, knowing full well that it would not be an easy task. (I had done my research on color inheritance and knew that I'd always have a 50% chance of grey if one parent was grey.) There were several lovely stallions that interested me at Mrs. Abeles' farm. I was very impressed that there were five or six stallions all in the same pasture and they all got along (of course,

there were NO mares anywhere near.) Eventually I decided on Shenandoah Kobold and brought him home to start my Welsh herd. One of the first crosses of Kobold and "Willie" produced a chestnut colt that caught the eye of Sabra and Monty Schiller (Dragoncroft) at one of the NEWPA shows. Stonecroft Enchanter ("Inch") went home with them. I believe he was one of their first Welsh ponies. He is still alive today and owned by Cecile Hetzel-Dunn of Florida.

Now that I was committed to breeding Welsh Mountain Ponies, I became a life member of the WPCSA and decided on a prefix. A croft is a small farm or landholding. My "farm" was certainly small - all 3.7 acres of it - and it was certainly stoney. Thus, the name Stonecroft which I registered in 1978.

Fast forward a few years and the acquisition of several more broodmares - Black's Pretty Girl, Aquila Gwyneth, Braithwyn Flying Colours, Crossroad's Starfish, *Llanerch Sapphirine, Kenview Ann Beau Lyn; Thornbeck Golden Deilen (cob) and Rockledge April Lady. Along the way, I was able to lease and then purchase Talybont Shawn from Mollie Butler. He was

my driving pony par excellence for many years. It was with Shawn that I took up Carriage Pleasure Driving and started participating in American Driving Society shows. I also used him on some of my broodmares, and he produced probably my winningest halter mare, Stonecroft Cloud Dancer aka "Blossom" who was Grand Champion Section A mare at the Toronto Royal Winter Fair one year. "Blossom" is still with me today at the ripe old age of 31.

Along the way, I obtained my judging card for Welsh and for the American Driving Society. At one show in Canada, a black stallion being judged in another ring caught my eye (I was judging performance.) After the show I approached the owner and asked if the stallion was for sale; he was not. I gave the owner my name and address and asked that if he ever did become available to please let me know. Wonder of wonders, about two years later I got a call asking if I was still interested in the stallion. I was and Elmrock Starlight (aka "Blackie")



Stonecroft Dream Dancer
photo by Amy Riley

came to Stonecroft to become my senior herd sire. He, in my opinion, was one of the typical larger Section

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A stallions I have ever seen, measuring exactly 12.2 hands. I had been looking for a larger (preferably) black mountain pony stallion to put to my smaller mares and he fit the bill. I made the decision early on to breed to the UK standard for mountain ponies and breed to the 12 hand limit and to keep all Section A breeding in my bloodlines. He sired many black and black roan foals for me and sadly was put down at age 29 due to kidney failure. Probably his most famous get is Stonecroft Spring Cloud, owned by Deborah Brown-Moon of Hidden Ponds Farm.

In 1986, I bought the farm in Stillwater, NY where I live today. Over the years I have leased/owned/bred several other stallions which I have used in my breeding program, which leans heavily on the excellent breeding program of Tiz Benedict (Severn). Some of the stallions I bred were Stonecroft Storm Signal (Talybont Shawn x Severn Willful) and Stonecroft Handsome Lad (Talybont Shawn x Black's Pretty Girl) and Stonecroft Super Storm (Twinkling Super Star of Penrhyn x Severn Willful) - sire of the fantastic driving pony, Stonecroft Lida Rose, superbly shown as a single and as part of a lovely Welsh Mountain Pony pair by Molly Neville (Silverwood). Call me foolish but I also leased (permanently) another Talybont Shawn son, Glannant Victory Lane (Talybont Shawn x Glannant Primrose Lane) who died here of old age in 2014. He sired a lovely palomino cob out of Thornback Golden Deilen. Golden Victory is now the property of Kristi Kipp where he is showing the ropes to her children.

Welsh Cobs were becoming popular in the 1980s, and I was bitten by the cob bug. I bought a lovely palomino Sec. D colt from Grazing Fields Farm - Chwedl Aur Y Penrhyn (aka "Daniel") which translates to Golden Legend of the Cape. Unfortunately, 'Daniel' died in a freak pasture accident at the age of 5 before he could ever demonstrate his great potential. He was one of the last sons of *Turkdean Sword Dance x Gwyneth Pres y Penrhyn (by *Daffyd y Brenin Cymraeg.). After his death, I bought Pres and had her bred to Swordie but sadly, she did not catch and Swordie was put down before I could try again. At that point, I sent her to *Fronarth Tywysog Du who was owned by Glenda Armstrong (Gynhafen Farm). After that I bred her to *Parc Dillwyn and she produced my current cob stallion, Stonecroft Bold As Brass (aka Freddie.) Then she was bred to Ashton Caradog and produced Stonecroft Copper Classic who has been a great broodmare and performance cob for Glenda.

After Daniel's death in the pasture accident, I lost (temporarily) my interest in cobs and concentrated on the Mountain ponies. All in all, I have registered some 120 ponies, if memory serves me correctly. When I became interested in Combined Driving, I sent my cob stallion, Freddie, out for training and competed in that discipline for two or three years before bringing him home. I still have him and two cob mares, Thornbeck Golden Deilen and her daughter, Stonecroft Gold Medallion (aka Bonnie.)

I was elected to the WPCSA Board of Directors in 2009 and have enjoyed working with the other directors immensely. Besides the By Law Committee and the AGM Committee, I currently head up the Open Awards program which rewards Welsh and half/part bred Welsh showing in open venues. It is still a work in progress and new disciplines and awards have been added for 2016. The registration forms are now available online and are interactive, as is the form for reporting show results.

As of this writing, I am hoping to sell my farm in Stillwater, NY and move to Aiken, SC, where I won't have to deal with snow and ice and frozen water buckets, etc anymore. There are many Welsh Pony people and carriage driving friends down in the Carolinas and I look forward to the day I can continue the rest of my journey with them.



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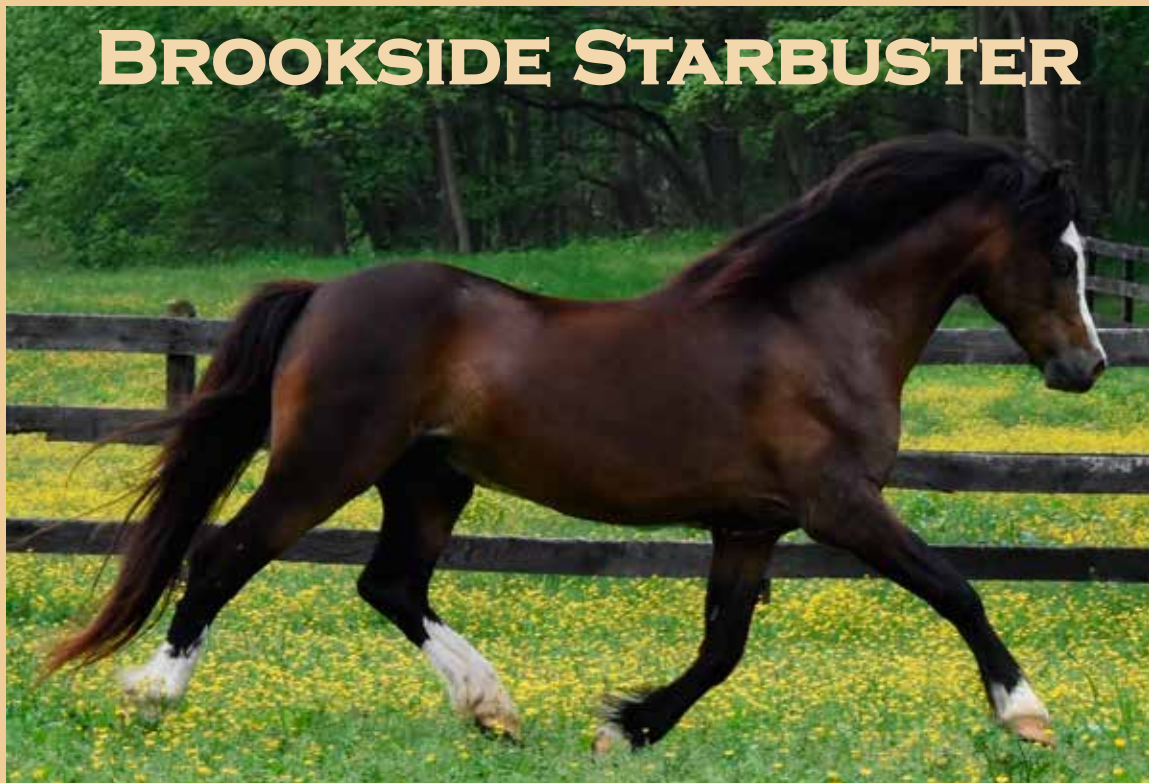
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Angel Heart Farm

shares the story of

Clovercroft Rocky Too



You hear the words “perfect pony” often, but what does it mean? Does it mean they are cute, friendly, the perfect jumper, tolerant, easy to catch in the pasture? But what does it take to be an angel pony? The answer lies in the hearts of many children and families at Angel Heart Farm in Nashville, Tennessee who have spent time with our Clovercroft Rocky Too (Severn Sirocco x Gayfields Redneck Chic). They will tell you he is adorable, cute, friendly, funny, sassy, caring, a blast to ride, a good friend but mostly they say he is an angel.

Tracy Kujawa, a now four time cancer survivor, is the owner of Angel Heart Farm. When she was born her daddy bought her a Welsh pony, little did he realize the impact it would make on her life. When she was nine years old Santa Clause brought her the most beautiful Welsh pony/Arabian cross named Pony Town Cris. Her love affair with Welsh ponies and Arabians had begun. Tracy not only loved caring for her pony but riding and showing became a large part of her childhood, into adulthood and still today. Fifteen years ago after battling cancer twice, Tracy created an equine assisted therapy program called Angel Heart Farm. The mission of the program is to serve children and families battling chronic and life threatening illnesses using equine therapy to increase their quality of life in conjunction with their medical treatment. The goals are simple: help kids be kids away from all the medical necessities, and bring joy into their lives through ponies/horses and nature, and allow families to reconnect in a peaceful caring environment.

In 2001, the task of looking for the “perfect pony” began. Pony after pony but none seemed to fit the bill until driving a few miles down the road to meet Clovercroft Rocky Too and his Shetland pony friend Cisco Pete. Both were owned by The Alan Jackson Family (yes, the famous country singer). Alan’s daughter Maddy Jackson owned and showed Rocky to many blue ribbons in the hunter division in Tennessee. To say we found the “perfect pony” was an understatement. Cisco was a sweet little black and white Shetland and Rocky was the most beautiful Welsh pony one could imagine. Rocky’s big soft brown eyes, strawberry roan coat with flaxen mane and tail, wide blaze and three high white stockings and the cutest face ever plus his conformation was flawless and his movement a 10 plus! After a promise to love and care for them forever The Jackson Family gifted Angel Heart Farm with two pony angels. Rocky and Cisco hopped in the trailer and headed down the road to a new adventure. Little did we know the impact a chubby red roan pony would have on so many lives.

In 2005 a darling seven year old little girl named Surelle came to visit the farm with her family. Surelle was battling ALL Leukemia for the second time when her doctor at Children’s Vanderbilt Hospital suggested Angel Heart Farm to her parents. “How could a pony help my sick child?” her mother asked. Surelle’s doctor responded “you’ll see”. After introducing Surelle to all the ponies and horses at the farm, she picked Rocky as her equine friend. The moment these two laid eyes on each other a connection was made to last a lifetime. Visit after visit, ride after ride, treat after treat and hug after hug a friendship grew like wildfire between this very sick little girl and her new best friend, her pony soul mate.

Surelle needed a second bone marrow transplant to save her fragile life, this meant months in the hospital and not being able to see Rocky. Her hospital room was filled with pictures of Rocky, pony books, stuffed pony animals and pony videos, she was determined to get well and get back to being a cowgirl. The day finally came when she got to come to the farm, Rocky and Surelle did not miss a beat, reconnecting like old friends, there were tears of joy from her family as they watched her trotting around the arena. A year later her cancer returned for the third time. This time treatment caused Surelle to lose her sight. How could one little girl go through so much and still have so much fight still in her. She would tell you Rocky gave her the will to continue to fight and that she really wanted to show in a horse show with him. Fulfilling a wish for this amazing child to show her pony came true at a small local show outside Nashville. Surelle’s favorite colors were purple and pink, so of course a custom made sparkly outfit complete with chaps, pink boots, white hat and matching saddle pad for her “hunter pony” goes western for a walk trot/jog class. When Rocky and Surelle hit the show ring not a dry eye in the stands. This beautiful bald headed blind child being taken care of by the most beautiful pony in the world earned a fourth place ribbon out of 15 sighted healthy young riders. Surelle was so proud and happy, she said one of her wishes had come true. Watching Rocky in that class and witnessing the love, patience and commitment to Surelle, he surpassed the “perfect pony” status” to become best pony ever made”.

A month later Surelle was back in the hospital battling to stay alive. Doctors told her parents to prepare for the worse, she was on high level of pain medication and struggling to breath, how could this be happening to such a warrior princess? No medicine in the world seemed to be helping until Angel Rocky Perfect Pony came to the rescue. Rocky rode up to the sixth floor elevator at

Children’s Vanderbilt exited off into the outdoor atrium and that’s when the real medicine kicked in. The nurses wheeled Surelle out in a little red wagon, IV pole in tow and doctors watching the power of love between a girl and her pony. Though she was blind, she knew Rocky was there to give her the extra support she needed the most. When a nurse asked if she needed a pump of pain meds she responded “No Rocky is here”. She spent over an hour with Rocky and even sat on his back walking up and down the atrium and then feeding him tons of treats. Rocky again proved himself as “the best pony ever”. The next day doctors were astonished of Surelle’s turn around, her pain decreased, her blood counts were stabilizing, breathing normal and the fungus on her brain was gone, and a week later Surelle was home. A few months past and Surelle celebrated her 11th birthday with a pony party at the farm. She went on a little trail ride with Rocky as her family walked beside her.

A few months passed and Surelle relapsed again, she wanted to stay home and not go to the hospital. This brave young lady knew in her heart she was ready to be with God. Her mother called the farm to let us know the turn of events. We quickly loaded Rocky up to visit his girl at home one last time. Surelle had not spoken in days and hospice informed us her organs were quickly shutting down. Rocky was guided into her room that was filled with love and faith, he put his sweet face into hers and she whispered the word LOVE.

The next day her mother called and said Surelle passed away at 2:30 in the morning and the last word she said was LOVE. When getting to the barn that early morning to feed, Rocky stood in the corner of his stall, head lowered and would not eat. He was not colicky, no fever or any other signs of illness. Looking into his sweet eyes, I knew he knew his best friend passed away. The connection between Rocky and Surelle did last a lifetime.

We have been honored and blessed to have Clovercroft Rocky Too as our Angel Pony for 15 years. His heart is bigger than any pony I have ever seen. His love for the sickest children that adore him and to his pure willingness to make you smile everyday cannot be measured. May 9th is Rocky’s 25th birthday, he is happy and healthy and rules the pony paddock at Angel Heart Farm. He has brought so much joy and hope to so many children and their families. Rocky is not just “the perfect pony” or “the best pony ever made” he is Angel Rocky!



TRI-EF RANCH AND DIANA FISCHER'S WELSH MOUNTAIN PONIES

by Jane Fischer deThouars (her daughter)

Throughout her years of owning and breeding multiple breeds of equines, Diana Fischer (1929 - 2009) had an undying love of the Welsh breed from very early on, she had an impeccable taste for breeding, raising, leasing, or buying only the best quality ponies with the best pedigrees that she could. Over the years her program has produced and still is producing champions both in the halter ring and in performance. She had an intimate knowledge of Welsh Mountain Pony pedigrees. She studied Welsh pedigrees, stud books and every book, magazine or any Welsh pony literature she could find. She even impressed Dr. Wynne Davies with her knowledge of Welsh pedigrees!

Herein I will present a few of the highlights of Diana's life-long WMP breeding program.

Diana's very first Welsh Mountain Pony (WMP) was actually a Christmas present for me, the pregnant grey show- & brood- mare, Talybont Sparkler (*Owain Glyndwr x *Cefn Queen by Eryri Gwndaf) foaled in 1967, and purchased by Diana in Dec. 1970. Then her chestnut filly, Lley'n's Crystal, sired by a gorgeous palomino JSCO Rollwen, was born in April 1971... Shortly after Diana bought T.Sparkler, her next 2 WMP's were: a chestnut



Tri-Ef Cognac LOM 1982 - 2015
(*Coed Coch Pernod x Aquila Curlew by *Clan Dash)

stallion, Monarch's Genius (Red Dog's Monarch x *Gretton Flash by Criban Pilot), foaled in 1966; and his dam, *Gretton Flash foaled 1954, Diana used her for breeding a few American Walking Ponies (AWP's) and she was also Diana's favorite riding pony!

Also in the early-70's Diana traded a very nice purebred Arabian filly she had bred for 4 Reg. WMP mares in Bend, Oregon. Of those mares, Diana kept 2: the chestnut roan Kerr's Dainty Maid (Kerr's Rowan Lad by Bryntirion Rowan x Rawill Dainty Maid by Coed Coch Tlws) and the brown Her Luk's Just Jeannie (Cui Marks



Chaparral's Elfin Treasure 1976 - 1993
(Seamair Crusader x *Gretton Dainty by *Bowdler Blue Boy)

Shy Boy x Fashion Starflight by Saddle Acres Paddy Kelly). Mom and Dad had to make that trip to Oregon twice as they only had a 2 horse trailer! The other 2 mares (I forgot their names) she sold to Audrey Parks who was a friend of hers.

Kerr's Dainty Maid had a fabulous Coed Coch Glyndwr-bred pedigree and one of Mom's favorite female lines (Gatesheath Dainty, two crosses). (I have a great-grand-daughter of hers, Tri-Ef Finest Vintage, foaled in 2015, a third generation Tri-Ef bred). Diana bred Her Luk's Just Jeannie mostly for AWP's but did breed her to Monarch's Genius and got a gorgeous old-type bay stallion, Tri-Ef Carnedd Dafydd.

In 1975 Mom wanted to include some new bloodlines in her Welsh herd, so she leased a grey WMP mare, *Gretton Dainty [by Bowdler Blue Boy], from Diane Isaacson; and a champion stallion, Seamair Crusader (*Criban Button B x *Stoatley Edelweiss) from George Lilly. Dainty was in foal to Crusader and she foaled an ultra-gorgeous grey colt on the evening of 2-28-1976 in Diana's lap in the pouring rain, with her cradling him in blankets until Dainty was ready to get up and take care of him, in that time, Diana built a life-long special bond with him, he was Chaparral's Elfin Treasure. (He sadly passed away of colic at just 17 yrs of age, that was very hard on Diana and she never quite got over losing him).

In 1981/2, Mom purchased two more mares; Smoke Tree Siwgr (*Coed Coch Sandde x Coed Coch Symbal), and Aquila Curlew (*Clan Dash x *Coed Coch Ceinwen by Coed Coch Pwyll) in foal to the 100% Coed Coch stallion, *Coed Coch Pernod (Coed Coch Bari x Coed Coch Peri), and to be Pernod's first foal in the USA.

TRI-EF RANCH AND DIANA FISCHER'S WELSH MOUNTAIN PONIES, CONT'D...

It was March of 1982 when Aquila Curlew arrived at Tri-Ef Ranch. When Curlew foaled on May 3, 1982, he was all Diana asked for and more! From Tri-Ef Cognac's first show as a 3-year-old in Ventura where he won his class and Grand Champion Section A, he won halter and pleasure driving championships everywhere; including 1994 Western National Grand Champion Section A. He even won a Roadster Under Saddle class. He sired numerous winners in halter and performance; and has several foals around the nation thanks to shipped semen. Cognac's get were shown in Get-of-Sire classes, winning many of them. One important event was a son of Cognac was sold and exported by Tri-Ef Ranch to Hokkaido, Japan, in Spring 1996/7. This colt was Tri-Ef Fame-n-Fortune out of the lovely Seamair Crusader daughter Tri-Ef Glyndwr Fable. So it was a great finale for Diana's retirement from breeding ponies for Cognac to earn the WPCSA Sire Legion-Of-Merit in 2007! His 5 get that contributed the required 300+ points each were: Tri-Ef Hannelore; Gaslight Siwgr Baby (out of Smoke Tree Siwgr); Coffing Oaks Charisma LOM; Tri-Ef Hailstorm and Coffing Oaks Brandy.

In 1995, Diana decided to import some new bloodlines from Wales. With a little prodding from the Maurer's and me too, she chose one of Dr. Wynne Davies' colts, a palomino, *Ceulan Cadog (Yaverland Nero x Ceulan Cariad by Twyford Sprig). I took him to his first show in 1996 as a yearling and he won Champion Welsh pony at the California Mid-State Fair! In 1997 I took Cadog to many parades with the Welsh Pony & Cob parade group, "The Welsh Dragons". We were in the 1997 Hollywood Christmas Parade, where it rained cats and dogs but we all still had a great time, and on January 1, 1998 we were in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade! Wow, that was some experience!

Cadog's most successful son is Dragonvale Hails King Arthur LOM (x Tri-Ef Hannelore by Tri-Ef Cognac LOM). He won Supreme Championships and performance Championships in many divisions! He is a dark buckskin and is now owned by his breeder, Teresa Mumford.

From the very beginning our whole family was involved in the horses and ponies, although my dad, George, was not a horse-person, he supported us girls in all of our "equine endeavors". Very early on we three dubbed the ranch "Triple F Ranch" (for the 3 Fischer's). When Diana chose a prefix for naming her Welsh ponies, she shortened it to "Tri-Ef" which I still use to this day.

In 2012, a friend and I decided to re-ignite Mom's favorite Coed Coch bloodlines with the importation from the U.K. of a buckskin WMP colt, *Runshaw Hedeg (Churtoncroft Aries x Runshaw Hyfryd by Coed Coch Atebiad). He has two lines to Coed Coch Bari, and his great grandsire on the tail female side is Coed Coch Superstar, a Full brother to Tri-Ef Cognac LOM's sire, *Coed Coch Pernod (Coed Coch Bari x Coed Coch Peri).



Photo © Tass Jones 2014
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Movement unretouched

***Runshaw Hedeg** 2012 Imported buckskin WMP stallion
(Churtoncroft Aries x Runshaw Hyfryd)

I bred Hedeg to the two last Tri-Ef Cognac LOM daughters, Tri-Ef Hannelore (x Gamble's Heidi by Texas Snow Crop x *Kirby Cane Gamble) and Tri-Ef Feather (x Tri-Ef Glyndwr Fable by Seamair Crusader x Kerr's Dainty Maid!) Of the 6 foals by Hedeg foaled in 2015, I am of course the happiest with the two foals out of those mares, Tri-Ef Hennessy and Tri-Ef Finest Vintage who I am keeping.

In the fall of 2015 a very nice lady contacted me looking for WMP's to start a brand new Sec. A WMP show and breeding herd for herself, so we sold to her the following 5 ponies: a chestnut 2 yr gelding, Tri-Ef Highlyte (Brookside Sweet Sebastian x Tri-Ef Hannelore); a bay wnlg gelding, Tri-Ef Sir Lancelot (*Runshaw Hedeg x Brudel Lily Flower); a bay wnlg colt to be her future herd sire, Tri-Ef Hennessy (*Runshaw Hedeg x Tri-Ef Hannelore); and the 2 Cognac broodmares Tri-Ef Hannelore and Tri-Ef Feather, both in foal to *Runshaw Hedeg. So practically my entire Tri-Ef herd is now in the hands of a happy new WMP breeder in MN! She now owns the descendants of several of Diana's most treasured foundation ponies. Good Luck to her!



Tri-Ef Finest Vintage 2015 filly
(*Runshaw Hedeg x Tri-Ef Feather)

Heavenly Welsh Pony Farm

submitted by Winona Myers



Kurt Beecher with one of his favorite mares, Lianna's Golden Girl and her foal, Heavenly Victory

The Heavenly Welsh Pony Farm, owned by Kurt and Shari Beecher began because of a runaway pair of Belgians. Shari managed a large carriage service company in Ohio in the 1990s. When she and Kurt were married they started a carriage service in Oklahoma but were sold a pair of apparently drugged Belgians who were not safe driving horses. At the auction in Kansas where they took the horses to be sold (as runaways), they met a man who had a successful carriage company and was selling his beloved pair of Welsh Mountain Ponies because he was going out of business. At that moment the Beechers lives took a turn and there are now about 75 Welsh Mountain Ponies living in 30 states and Canada bearing the Heavenly prefix.

Kurt and Shari soon learned why the man loved the Welsh pair as they proved to be intelligent and had a great work ethic. When their registration papers came in the mail, Shari began what would become a quest to know as much as she could about the WMP breeding. They visited with J.D. Orear, who bred their initial WMP pair and learned from him about different lines of breeding. The Lianna farm in Canada was also an influence on the Heavenly Farm and some of their favorite mares were Lianna girls.

Shari keeps watch on the Improvement Societies and Premium Stallion Shows to know what is happening with WMPs in Wales. She likes the hill type ponies with more bone, thicker bodies and more feather and the older Revel type bloodlines crossed with Clan Pip for a little more refinement. Disposition is also very important. After an auto accident where Shari and Kurt had to deal with life challenging injuries, they decided to keep only ponies they could easily catch in the pasture. One of those resulting ponies is the beautiful driving mare, Heavenly Kealakekua, who with Shari as whip is winning in carriage and pleasure driving as well as halter at Welsh shows.

Heavenly ponies have incorporated numerous breeding stallions including Pendock Larkspur and Friarly Benjamin. Keeping breeding that follows the hill pony vision, the Heavenly ponies have won many championships over the years in halter and performance and are being enjoyed all over the country.

Shari would like to see the Welsh Mountain Pony promoted more so people realized that they can compete in every discipline and feels this can be achieved through extreme brand promotion. As their Heavenly name suggests, Shari 'gives the credit for the ponies success to God as He created them all.'



Heavenly Kealakekua (Pendock Larkspur x Crumpwell Felita) and Shari Beecher showing in a carriage driving class. Kali is a Grand Champion halter mare as well as a winning performance pony.



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South Central Region

Since the inauguration of American Horsemen Challenge Association National Finals, the Welsh breed has been well represented. AHCA is an obstacle challenge competition that emphasizes horsemanship. Their motto is Competition, Camaraderie, Respect, and Integrity. All events offer the following divisions: Wrangler (12 and under), Youth, Green Horse, Novice, English, Amateur, Legends (55 and over), Open, and In-hand.

The first National finals was held in 2012 but the date conflicted with the WPCSA Nationals. However, Flying Diamond The Bailef LOM/AOE/LOM/AOH did represent the Welsh world winning the National Championship in the English division with Wendy Stephens. In 2013, National titles were won by Dannah Westbrook riding Lazy J Star Witness LOM in the Youth division and Jordyn Baxter riding Lazy J Bailef's Star in the Wrangler division. Jordyn and Lil Star also placed 3rd in the Novice division riding against adults on a 12.1 hand pony. Meg Wills competed successfully on Part Welsh, WRF Starfire, in the English and Open division.

2014 was another big year for the Welsh at the National Finals. Jordyn Baxter won the Youth division on Lazy J Bailef's Star and was Reserve National Champion in the Novice division. Jordyn also rode Part Welsh, Lazy J Legally Red finishing 3rd in the Wrangler Division and Reserve National Champion in the Green Horse Division. Dannah Westbrook and Lazy J Star Witness LOM again won National Championship in the English division and the Reserve National title in the Amateur division. Meg Wills and Corry Key competed well on WRF Starfire and Dancin' Valentine Rose, respectively.

2015 turned into a year of True Grit. Dannah had major knee surgery 3 months before the National Finals and was not able to use her right leg for queing. Jordyn was qualified in Youth, English, and Amateur on Lazy J Legally Red who was lame and unable to compete. Jordyn was able to do some last minute qualification rides on Lazy J Starry Night whom she had ridden a couple of times in the Green Horse division. Starry was truly a green pony! The teams decided to make the trek to Sedalia, Mo. for the National finals in October, Against All Odds. Dannah rode Star Witness to another English division National title while Jordyn and Starry managed to pull themselves together after a rough start and win the Youth National title and finished 6th in Green Horse. Corry Key was excited to ride Dancin' Valentine Rose to 3rd in the Amateur division and 4th in the English division. Baleigh Chambers competed on Lazy J The G-Man winning 3rd in both the Wrangler and Youth

divisions after the Westbrooks offered him to her when her pony was unable to compete. Mary Roman finished 7th in the In-Hand division with her part bred MHS Northern Star. It was an unbelievable experience. The girls learned that no matter what life throws at you, you go out and give it all you can. You do your best to finish what you start! The video of Dannah and Lazy J Star Witness has been viewed almost million times on Facebook.

AHCA is open to all breeds and offers something for everyone. The competition is challenging and creates well trained horses/ponies. The National competition awards saddles and buckles to the champions. In 2016, buckles will be awarded to the High Point Welsh and Part Welsh competing at Nationals. It would be wonderful to have more Welsh compete in AHCA events and Nationals. Several of the AHCA sanctioned judges are also involved with Welsh ponies. www.americanchallengeassociation.com.



Submitted by Janice Early

Taylor Carton



Though Taylor Carton did not grow up riding Welsh Ponies, she has certainly made a name for herself in the “Welsh World” just the same. She was first introduced to the breed four years ago when she took a tour of Patty Eastman’s farm in Colts Neck, New Jersey. She then began riding their four-year-old Section A, Heavens Gate Wish Granted. She fell in love with the temperament, personality, and curiosity of the Welsh breed. She loves that they are always willing to please and learn new things.

Taylor and “Wishy” grew in their partnership and began showing. Taylor also enjoyed showing the Eastman’s other young ponies in the in-hand ring, an experience she describes as exhilarating. Now, going to Welsh Pony shows on the weekends is something she really looks forward to. Notably, Taylor likes English Pleasure and Ridden Welsh A/B classes.

Taylor has had many successes throughout her show career so far. In the 2015 season, she won WPCSA national championships in Small Junior English Pleasure and Junior Welsh Handler 13-17, and a USEF reserve national championship in Junior Pleasure Sections A&B. Additionally, she and “Wishy” won the 2015 Tylwyth Sec. A Western Glow Award for an all around high-pointed Section A pony.

This year Taylor is showing Heavens Gate Margarita Time in the junior classes, and has already had some champions and reserves under her belt! The Northeastern region congratulates her on all of her accomplishments and looks forward to what the future has in store for this talented junior rider.

Submitted by Kristy Wilkinson

Last year was our first year to attend the Welsh Pony Nationals show. We had a lot of fun. I'm attaching a photo of my son, Adam, and his pony, Wyndam Hill Wynter Rose from the Junior Handler class :)

Thanks for remembering Adam and his pony!
Sandra Sicilia

Convention



Dr. Ruth Wilburn surrounded by the youth attending the Annual Convention. Photo by Lisa Landis

Adam Sicilia



I just wanted to thank WPCSA for the beautiful leadline ribbons my son received in the mail yesterday. It was an awesome surprise and just made his day!

I hope the registry will continue to award ribbons to the leadline class kids in the future. The little kids work so hard preparing for and travel so far to the shows.



“Best Friends” Lila Chapman and Lucy Harlow.



Mary Frances Mangum, Turner Davis and Marissa Gomez. Photo by Joni Brown

Youth Roundup

As usual our children were a delight to work with at the Annual General Meeting. San Antonia was beautiful, weather was fabulous and we have so many special children in the Welsh Pony Society. We began the AGM with our annual meet and greet. This gives each child a chance to do a few crafts, make some new friends and learn a little in the process. Each child was given a chance to complete a scavenger hunt which allowed them to talk to the adults at the meeting as well as have a little friendly competition. Of course it was Ella Polus who answered the most important question on the scavenger hunt (who is your favorite adult at the AGM) correctly. I won't tell you which adult was chosen but let's just say I was thrilled with her answer.

We were fortunate to have our own Pat Cochran educate the children and introduce the children to photography. Pat talked with them about picture taking and then introduced a photo contest at the AGM. Several children participated and some good prizes were earned.

Moving on to the awards banquet as usual these kids surprised me with their poise and elegance when away from a horse show. Alex Johnson and Marissa Gomez did a great fabulous job of emceeding our banquet; only butchering a few of our Welsh names. The room was slain when one youth winner, Lila Chapman, grabbed the microphone after the awards banquet and thanked her Father for making her mother buy the pony. These children are not only talented but are all well-grounded in why we show Welsh ponies.

Of course we did the usual fun stuff with swimming and pizza party. Our Youth clinic consisted of a discussion of the costs and work that goes into showing your pony. I think some of these children had never thought about the costs and all left a little more appreciative of the sacrifices of the adults in their lives. As an Adult I will tell you that I consider it a real privilege to work with these children. To a fault each child is generous with their time to other children, to me in setting up awards and to the Welsh breed. We are in good hands and the Future of the Welsh Pony and Cob Association looks very bright.

Submitted by Sally Ross Davis

Samantha Verkuyl



Samantha Verkuyl is one of our premier young exhibitors from two of the "foundation families" of our CWPCAC club, the Hubert and Verkuyl families. And dare I say that Samantha (one of my favorite young people) brings together the very best of

these two wonderful families. She always has a smile on her face and always has fun! Samantha had her 9th birthday and is show age 8 for the 2016 competition year.

We have seen Samantha at the shows with her parents, Jackie and Gerald Verkuyl, since she was a baby, and with grandmothers Judy and Rhoda, as well as grandfather Jay. Samantha began showing when she was 2 and 1/2 years old in leadline with her mother and then in child's first pony when she was old enough for that class at 4 years old. She also started showing in pee wee handler when she was 3 years old. She regularly rode her pony Fancy (Goldhills Mystique), and when Fancy was on "maternity leave" in 2011, she rode Goldhills Abracadabra. She did the walk/walk-trot/poles classes for a couple of years, as well as junior Welsh handler (which she continues to do), and then in 2015 moved into the English and Western pleasure classes riding at the walk, trot and canter, which she really loves. This year (2016), she has added the short-stirrup classes over fences, as well as ridden pony and junior trail. She has driven at home and also ridden "Syd" (Sydenham Gardenia, a beautiful Welsh Cob mare) at home. She is very competitive in junior handler, which she really enjoys. Samantha is fully engaged in the shows, enjoys the Fun with Fido activities with her augie Reecie (who came home with Samantha from the Tulsa show in 2011), and loves playing with her friends.

Samantha's favorite ponies and cobs are her pony mare Fancy, her friend James Anders' pony Indy (Goldhills Silver Rose), and Welsh Cob mare Sydenham Gardenia. Samantha told me that riding Syd is both fun and different than riding Fancy, but she really enjoys it! She loves riding a variety of ponies and cobs, and I recall her telling me at our WPCAC play-day in the spring of 2015 that having the opportunity to ride at the Kirtlan's Silver Bend farm for a week with Alissa and Carrie Kirtlan, and riding their ponies and cobs, was a blast! And of course, her best friend Riley Hayes is a Kirtlan. Riley and Samantha have taken lessons together (as have Samantha and good friends James and Lauren Anders), and really enjoy going to the annual general meetings and award banquets, as well as playing.

Samantha has won a number of WPCAC year-end awards and perpetual trophies, as well as WPCSA high-point awards. Her favorite prize is the halter she won in the junior Welsh handler class in 2014. Samantha enjoys attending the WPCSA AGM every year with her parents and grandparents, and she says her favorite activities there are the kids art classes and the awards banquet. At the AGM in San Antonio, she was a roving junior reporters and interview attendees. She is very active at the AGM, and always helping!

Samantha is in the third grade, and she says she really enjoys school. Her favorite subject is math, which she is completing at the fourth grade level, with straight A's. Her hobbies include dance (including ballet) and playing the piano (she is taking lessons in both), theater (she was recently in her first performance of Annie Jr. at her school where she played an orphan), riding, reading, and going to Stockton Ports baseball games, but otherwise, she tells me it is all about the ponies, especially her pony Fancy. She told me her favorite hobby is dancing, and this past Christmas, she danced in six performances of "The Nutcracker" with the Sacramento Ballet company - amazing! Samantha, we are so lucky to have you as one of our junior members and friends! You are a special young person! Submitted by Debbie Elliott-Fisk

Lexi Marmion



Fourteen year old Lexi Marmion exemplifies the dedication and determination shown by so many of the juniors in the South Eastern Region. Lexi follows her mother, who owned and rode horses when she was young; and she has also been influenced by her older sister who rides. When she was younger Lexi would always beg her mother to go to the barn so she could fuss over the ponies and watch her older sister take lessons. Lexi first started taking riding lessons when she was 5 years old and gradually moved up to riding and showing larger ponies.

When asked why she loves ponies Lexi reports “I really like ponies due to their beauty, gentle natures and of course their larger

than life attitudes! Sadly, I do not have my own pony YET but I would definitely like to!” Lexi is involved in many ways with the Welsh breed taking lessons, leasing, handling and showing a number of ponies, following that old adage that many horses/ponies make the rider. This year she is riding and showing Loafers Lodge SweetnessNLite (aka Sweetie).

Lexi reports “Sweetie is doing very well this year and I look forward to riding and showing her more! Last year I rode and also showed Loafers Lodge Waltzing Mathilda. Mathilda is the best pony, she is so sweet and wonderful to ride, especially with her smooth comfortable canter. Matilda and I were national reserve champion in the WPCSA Low Hunters last year, she received her LOM and we also won the 2015 Hellen Burns Smyth Award for In Hand Showing at the Maryland State Fair! I honestly love ALL the Loafers Lodge ponies and appreciate the opportunity so much!” In addition to showing on the WPCSA circuit, Lexi says “I enjoy riding with my friends and just hanging out with the ponies watching them interact with each other (especially the foals), running around, etc...they are so hilarious!”

Lexi is in the 8th grade and hopes to pursue a career in the medical field, perhaps as a Physician’s Assistant. She also participates in and plays softball as a first baseman and catcher, runs on her schools track and field team and enjoys collecting Breyer Model Horses. Although she enjoys all these other activities her favorite activity has always been riding, and it goes without saying that her passion is Welsh ponies. The South East Region is very fortunate to have Lexi and so many other juniors like her as active members of the WPCSA.

Submitted by Lois Ferson

News Bits

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the members of the *Emerald Empire Welsh Club* for donating the balance of their treasury to the Welsh Pony & Cob Foundation. This donation was made in honor of **Dorothy Lane**, former WPCSA Board of Director, and long-standing breeder from Lebanon, Oregon. Mrs. Lane became a WPCSA member in 1978. She, along with her husband Albert, registered 179 ponies under their Lane’s prefix. The funds were used towards our “Raise the Roof” campaign and helped to reshingle the roof of our office building.

On the Website

Have you visited the website lately? The Youth tab on the navigation menu provides more information regarding many of our programs and activities for youth. Submenu items include:

- Kid’s Corner
- Junior Merit Program
- Links to other pages
- Scholarship Application
- Junior Book List
- All Aound High Point Youth

Plus complete information on participating in our increasingly popular Junior Handler Class.

News Bits

REMEMBERING DEIRDRE PIRIE, FORMER WPCSA PRESIDENT

Reprinted with permission from *The Chronicle of the Horse*

International four-in-hand driver Deirdre Pirie died at her home in Ipswich, Mass., in January at the age of 78. She was born in Dayton, Ohio, and grew up in New York City. As a child, she rode at Claremont Riding Academy (NY), spent time foxhunting and went on pack trips during summers in Cody, Wyoming. She attended the Foxcroft School (VA) and then studied geology and Chinese at Radcliffe College (MA) which merged with Harvard in 1999.

In 1962, she and her then-husband Robert Pirie, bought Aquila Farm in Hamilton, Mass., and began breeding Welsh ponies starting with the champion stallion Clan Dash. She was President of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society of America and registered over 101 ponies.

Mrs. Pirie became a licensed race horse trainer and bred, trained and raced her own Thoroughbreds under the guidance of trainer Mike Carter and bloodline expert Trish Moseley. With Moseley, she founded the Myopia Hunt Pony Club (MA) and became invested in the US Pony Clubs.

Mrs. Pirie became involved in driving through showing and training her Welsh ponies, beginning first with single and pair ponies before moving to four-in-hand and eventually horses. She was introduced to combined driving in 1974 and worked with her friend and fellow driver Holly Pulsifer to bring the sport to the United States. She and Pulsifer created the Myopia 3-Day Driving Event in 1975, which continued for 25 years.

Mrs. Pirie was a member of the American Driving Society, and in 1977 she founded the Combined Driving Committee, which developed the rules for the national sport based on the Federation Equestre Internationale guidelines.

“She was very hands on; she wouldn’t ask anybody to do something she wouldn’t do herself,” said her former navigator and barn manager Marc Johnson. “She was a very capable person. That’s how she made all this happen over the years. She wasn’t satisfied with just doing it like everybody else.”

She competed in six consecutive World Championships beginning in 1980. She was the only American to finish that competition. She went on to compete as a member of the team, achieving several top-20 results. In 1982 she was a member of the bronze medal-winning team at the CAIO in Aachen, Germany. The first FEI World Equestrian Games in Stockholm in 1990 would be her last World Championships because of a brain tumor that was undiagnosed at the time.

After the tumor was removed, Mrs. Pirie suffered physical limitations that prevented her from driving competitively, so she turned to endurance riding. She completed the Old Dominion 100 (VA) in 1993 and finished third in the USET Festival of Champions in 1995 (NJ), also winning a 50 mile ride that year. Mrs. Pirie was also an FEI driving judge and steward from 2009-2011.

She inspired a love of horses in her daughters as well. Amanda Pirie Warrington would go on to become a top-level professional

event rider and was the national advanced champion at the time of her death in 1997. Sophie Pirie also evented before becoming an FEI-level dressage rider, trainer and clinician. (Son John Pirie played polo briefly but ultimately chose to pursue other interests.) She continued to drive a single pony until several months prior to her death.

In 2004, she was named a USPC National Legend, and in 2008 she received a USPC Founder’s Award. In 2005, the US Equestrian Federation awarded her a Pegasus Medal of Honor, an award that recognizes individuals who exhibit outstanding service to horses and sport.

Throughout the years, Mrs. Pirie also ran a commercial greenhouse, eventually selling her goods to Whole Foods. She also wrote a cookbook, *Entertaining Desserts*, published in 1991. “She always had the desire to be the best in her field,” said Pulsifer. “If she was going to driving horses, she was going to drive four horses; if she was going to grow orchids, she was going to grow rare orchids; if she was going to cook, she was going to cook difficult desserts; if she was going to study languages, she was going to study Chinese.”

Mrs. Pirie is survived by her children, Sophie Pirie of Bozeman, Mont., and John Pirie and his wife Jane of Hamilton, Mass.; and four grandchildren.

PREFIX REGISTRATIONS

ALAINN	Beth Nicholes
DEEP CREEK	Julie Weaver
FAYLINS	Donata Lins
LDYBUG	Cameron, Paula & Hattie Vanbuskirk
MOONBEAM	Karen Mowrey
RIVAH	Cindy Evans
SADDLERSWOOD	Deborah Suhadolnik
SALINA’S	Susan & Geoff Garcia
SAND BAR’S	Shannon & Mike Sand
SNB	Eric Hancock
TRU WIL	Lisa & David Biggs
WOODBERRYS	Bobbie Jo Sawyers

Prefix Transfers:

GF	John David, Emily Smith & Susanah Ball
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ADDITIONS TO JUDGES' LIBRARY

We would like to thank Norman Kalinski for adding four new DVD's to our Judges' library:

1. Welsh Fine Harness – taken at the Illinois State Fair. Even though there are very few shows with this class, many judges will not be familiar with this type of movements and requirements.
2. The Welsh Pony in Heavy Harness – an extensive coverage that a friend of Thalia Gentzels in Wisconsin had prepared and sold.
3. A copy of JUDGING WELSH PONIES AND COBS – from the UK Society. It is 180 minutes that will benefit many of judges as it covers in-hand for each section, Ridden for each section, Leading Rein/First Ridden and working Hunter.
4. A copy of a DVD entitled “1996 Royal Welsh Excerpts” that is 116 minutes long.

If you are a WPCSA judge and would like to borrow one of these videos, please let us know. If you have a DVD that you feel would benefit our judges, please send it to the National office at: 720 Green St., Stephens City, VA 22655



Clarwood Mr. Wiggles attends his first show. Photo courtesy of Ann Spinelli

SOUTHEAST REGION NEWS

Submitted by Lois Ferson

Southeast regional members have had a very busy summer attending a number of wonderful WPCSA shows throughout our region. We have also had the pleasure of showing off our wonderful ponies at a variety of open events such as Walnut Hill, Morven Park, the National Dressage Pony Cup, and needless to say many, many recognized and open hunter shows as well as USDF and schooling dressage shows in our Region.

For those of you who ventured out to open shows and events this year don't forget to submit your results to qualify for the Society's year end awards program. Additional information is available on the Society website under WPCSA Forms/Open Show Program. Showing at open events is one of the best ways we can promote our breed to newcomers and we want to recognize your accomplishments and efforts.

Members of the Carolina Welsh Club thoroughly enjoyed the annual yearend awards luncheon and program following the Hot Summer Nights Shows at Saint Andrews showgrounds this summer. A special thanks goes out from all our members to Jean Romeo who worked tirelessly all year recording all the show results and DeDe Bushneck who prepared an awesome array of awards for our members. Thank you both! For those of you who show in the Carolinas and have not yet joined or attended these shows, please put it on your to-do list for 2017. We have a great time and would love to have you join us.

Don't forget – visit the Society's new website: www.wpcsamembers.com And, if you have not been to our region's Facebook page you may also want to visit www.facebook.com/WelshSE1/?fref=ts and once on our page remember to “Like” it! Please share your photos and input for future Southeast Region reports or posting to our website by sending them to:

Deborah Branson Odysseynor@aol.com

Elrita Annett eannett@Farms.com

Lois Ferson loisferson@yahoo.com

News Bits

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION NEWS

Submitted by Winona Myers

The South Central region is in the middle of a summer of diverse Welsh pony activity including a busy show schedule, open barns, planning of a hippology event for children, 4-H informative talks and American National preparations.

A graduation celebration for high school seniors who show in the regional was hosted by a group of exhibitors at the TAPS show over Memorial Day weekend on Friday evening. A cookout and evening of good times included presenting the seniors with gifts supported by numerous farms and exhibitors in the region.

Michelle Allen, Oklahoma, is planning a hippology activity for children during the American National. She will have several age divisions and participation goodies for children who go through the equine educational event and ribbons for high scores. Hippology is the study of equine.

I had a wonderful evening sharing Welsh Ponies with a 4-H horse group in Wichita. The adults were as interested as the children and the group is planning a field trip to our farm this summer. One little boy was so enthused during the presentation and said at the close, "I NEED a Welsh Pony!"

Pam Johnson, Kansas, is leasing the beautiful Section C stallion USA Railside Laddy Supreme from Mary Martin of Texas. Laddy, AI available, has settled in and Pam is enjoying his wonderful personality. Next spring two of his cute foals will be gracing her pasture.

The Red River Welsh Pony Society is very busy producing numerous Welsh shows from March through November. They hosted the AGM in San Antonio this year and everyone enjoyed their famous Texas hospitality. The goodie bags were especially nice and we all looked very fine wearing our flashing cowboy boot pin. Texas is home to seven weekends of shows this season!

GreyGlyn, Kansas, hosted its first open barn in June. They advertised on local facebook equine pages and at feed stores. It was modeled after the Verdrefawr Farm Tour in Wales and had tea and biscuits (Welsh cakes and scones) on the lawn and then a pony parade. Thanks to Helen Bandy for the farm tour CD and a great recipe for Welsh cakes!

Pat Kultgen, Texas, is donating a well handled and shown Welsh Section B two year old gelding, Windstar Lightning. Her daughter's first pony was a raffle pony so she is spreading the joy. Proceeds will benefit OKWPS and WPCSA. Check out the OKWPS page for more information.

Cedarglen and Cedarfield Welsh announced that their nice young stallion, Cedarglen Topper, is on lease for the 2016-17 seasons to Amy Burkemper in St. Louis. Kelli Jackson-Broers expected his first foal to be born this June at Cedarglen.

Floods in Texas impacted many of the people in the region. Groups of Welsh owners went to Texas to help with the clean up led by Smoke Tree and Willow Hill Welsh and others. A Go Fund Me account has been set up for those who wish to help at South Texas pony owners recovery. Some farms were underwater and others badly damaged by the storms.

SOUTHWEST REGION NEWS

Submitted by Debbie Elliott-Fisk and Judy Hubert

Winter and spring 2016 went by quickly, as we have topped 100 °F temperatures already in May and approach summer. We want to thank everyone who helped put on the AGM in San Antonio in February (including the Red River Welsh Pony Association), as it sure was wonderful. It always a joy to see Welsh pony and cob friends from across the country. Nowhere do you find such amazing people!

In February, we had our WPCAC annual meeting and awards luncheon in Sacramento. We thank Rebecca Hayes (a member of the Kirtland family and Riley's mom) for being our incredible hostess again. The event was wonderful, and it is especially satisfying to see our youth members receive their year end high-point awards and perpetual trophies!

We would like to remind our Southwest Region members to log on and take advantage of the relatively new wpcsamembers.com website. If you have not logged on before, you will need to enter your WPCSA member number from your membership card and set up an account. Our Southwest Region blog is posted there, but more importantly, lots of committee reports, pony records, a sales section, the Welsh Review, and other good stuff! Megan Burtness and Lisa Landis are working hard on this new website, and we thank them for all of their efforts! And the auction at the San Antonio AGM brought in a significant amount of funds to help support the establishment of this website and its integration with the welshpony.org site. Thank you to everyone who donated auction items and who had the winning bids!

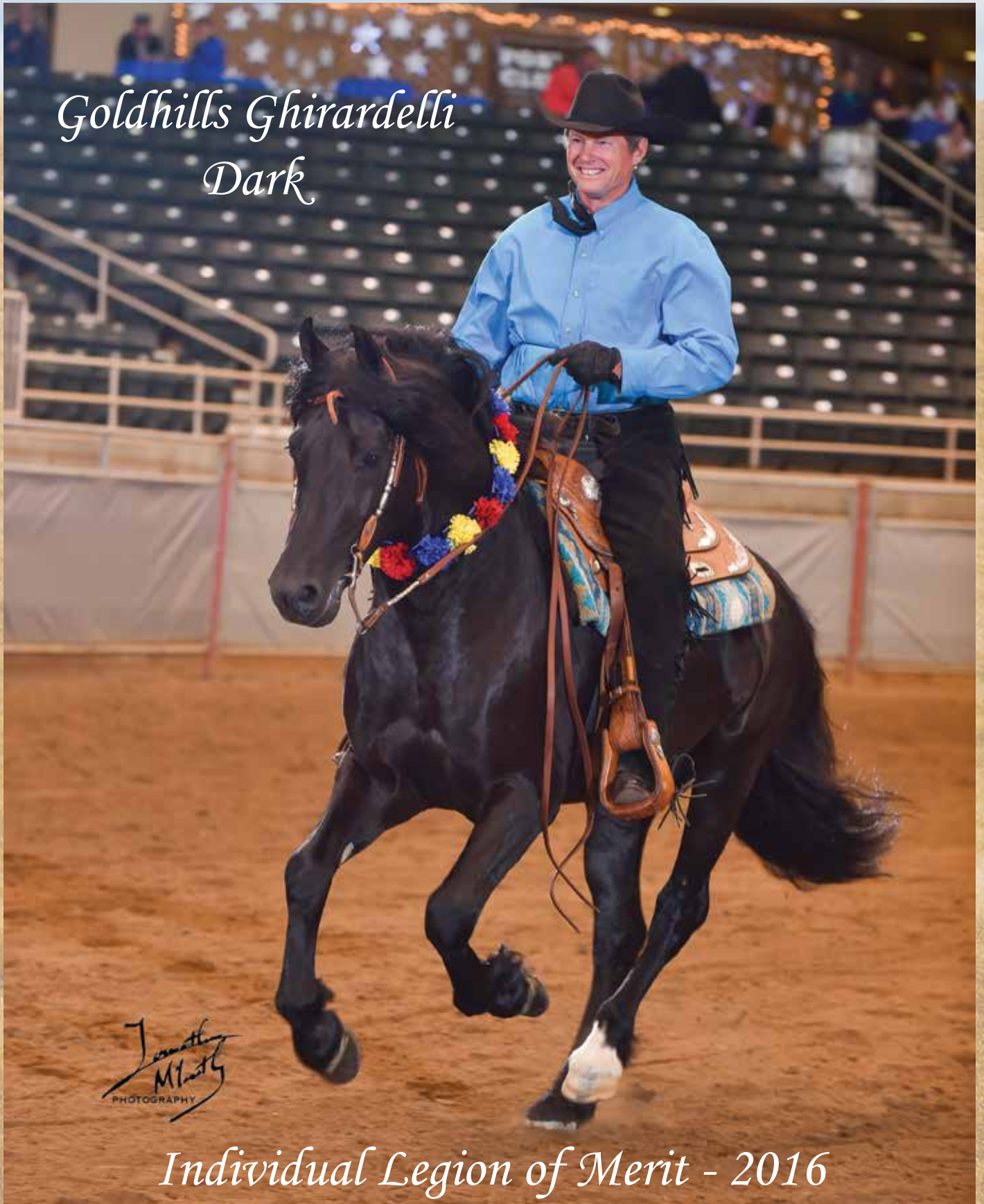
Here in California, we just finished our first Welsh show of the season at the Brookside Equestrian Park in Elk Grove. While we were small (72 equines), it was a wonderful show, with some very nicely turned out Welsh Ponies, Welsh Cobs, and Mountain and Moorland ponies! Many thanks to all of you who made the effort and came to the show. And we would especially like to thank our show secretary Jen Sommer, show managers Kim Boyd, Alissa Kirtlan, and Carrie Kirtlan, and our wonderful judges Faye Cole-Tanner and Guy Clardy.

Some of our west coast members attended an incredible TAPS show in Oklahoma! Might as well attend that show as a warm-up for driving to Tulsa! We are also gearing up to attend the Far West Championship Horse Show in Redmond, Oregon, June 17-18, then the Santa Barbara National Horse Show July 7-9, with some folks also planning to head up to the August 5-7, OWPS Welsh Show in Eugene, OR. Our next WPCAC show is the Brookside/WPCSA Western Regional Show, September 2-5 (only 4 days this year instead of 5 days). For those of you who haven't been lately for whatever reason, it's time to COME to this event.

We would like to encourage all of our Southwest Region members to participate and contact us. To those of you in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah – what's happening in "your neighborhood?" Trail rides, dressage, eventing or open shows? Do you have any new foals on the ground? Please take a few minutes to share what's happening at your place and in your area. Please share so we can work on improvement of our group communication and help everyone. Thank you!

Goldhills Welsh

*Goldhills Ghirardelli
Dark*



*Jonathan
Minty*
PHOTOGRAPHY

Individual Legion of Merit - 2016

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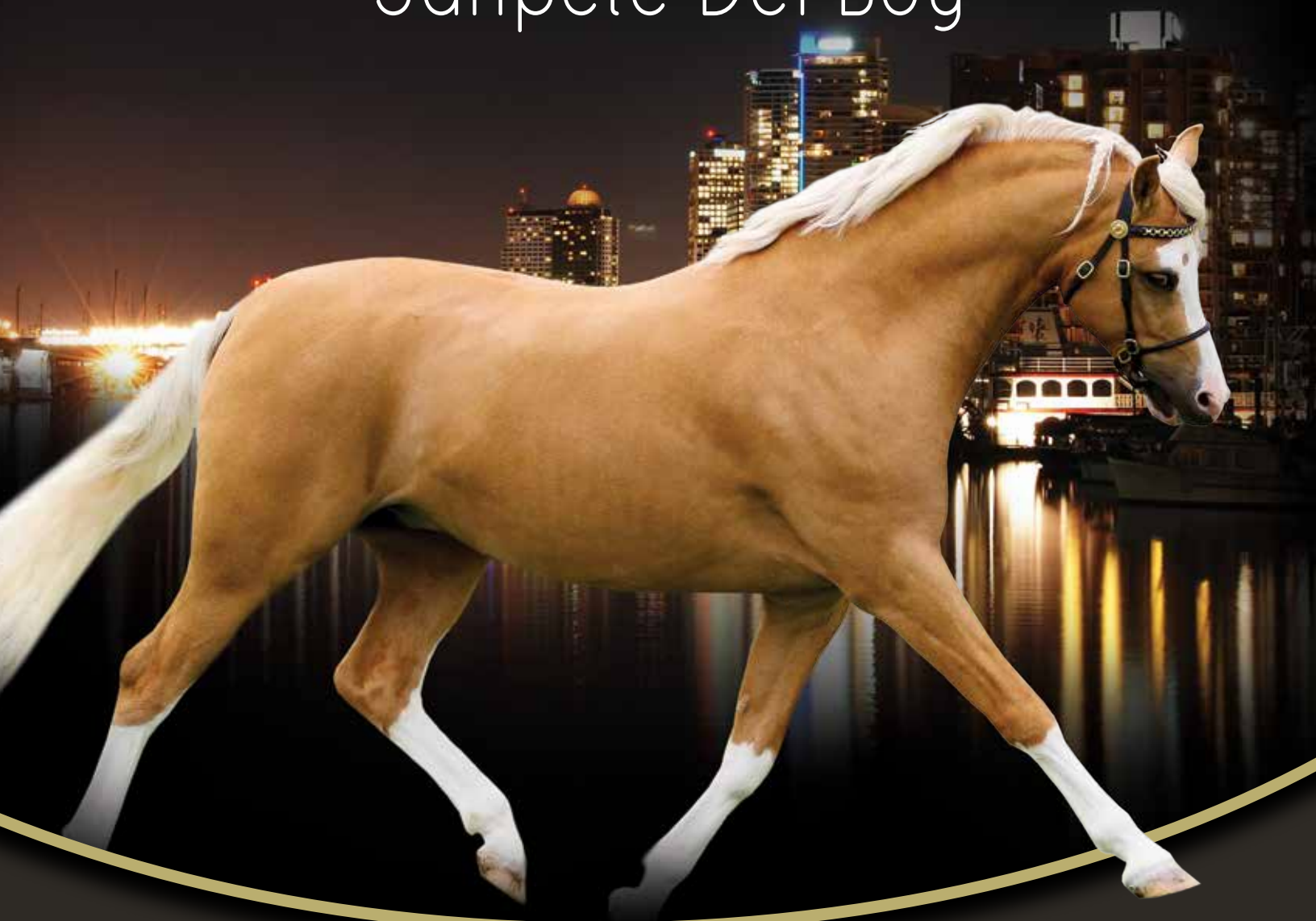
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2012 Section B Welsh Pony stallion

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