

Region VII

Newsletter
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Region VII, American Connemara Pony Society.

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Calendar

May 1—Deadline for paperwork, Chicago inspection

June 19-20—Celtic Heritage Festival in Stillwater, OK

July 10 —Midwest Connemara Breeders' Show—Chicago area

July 11—Inspection @ Midwest Connemara Breeders' Show—Chicago area

Sept 25—Oct 10 WEG, KY

Oct 23 –24 Annual Mtg , GA

From your Region Chair—

There are several fun happenings to come during the summer months. Marilee Tussing reports plans for the **Celtic Heritage Festival in Stillwater, OK** are coming along. There will be lots of music and dancing. A short list of classes to include Celtic breeds is available from Marilee at mrstussing@aol.com. **Possible meeting. See page 5.**

The next event is the **Midwest Connemara Breeders' Show** (July 10) with inspections on July 11 at the show site (www.windyislesfarms.com). The coordinators of the Show want very much to see it as an event which would be a true Midwest Show, to include Regions V, VI, and VII. The Show was HUGE success last year. Reports of prize money (helps to pay your entry fees) and fun parties flew over the Yahoo list last summer. The Irish definitely do know how to put on a FUN event. In addition to Hunters, Jumpers, In Hand, and Dressage classes this year, there is the possibility of a mini-event course if enough interest is expressed. Volunteers are always needed. I plan to drive up. It would be fun to get a group of us who want to volunteer to share a camp site or motel room. We can also support the show by advertising in its program for as little as \$25.

More information can be found on the Windy Isles Website at: <http://www.windyislesfarms.com/acps.html> please note that if you are interested in staying at the local Country Inn and Suites it is advisable to make your reservation by June 1st.

Hope to see you all there!

The next undertaking is WEG. Laura Balding writes: A little about the WEG. To date we have just past the deadline for having administered the first required flu vaccination for ponies going to or hoping to go to the WEG. The list of possibles is not as long as I would have liked, but

they are very nice ponies and will be good ambassadors for our breed! When we know for sure who they are we will let everyone know.

Volunteers are needed to staff the booth so there will be time to tour the Irish Village and other fun venues. Please contact Susan McConnell at susan@oakfieldsfarm.com if you can volunteer. Susan is working with Joanie Webster and other to try to find housing for volunteers at a minimum cost. Updates about WEG will be available on an ongoing basis on the website (acps.org) and in our newsletter. **More on Page 5.**

Connemara Showcase @ EquiFest of Kansas

It's not often we have an opportunity to showcase our unique ponies to an audience of close to 17,000 spectators. However, at EquiFest of Kansas, during the weekend of February 12, 13 & 14th in Wichita, Kansas, that's just what happened.

This is the second year Connemara Ponies have participated in the Breed Showcase at the largest horse expo in Kansas. Aside from having a hospitality booth in the stall barn, the ponies were featured in one of the main arenas each of the three days.

Ponies participating this year included: Eileen Berkley's Story Creek Farm stallion, Sternberg's Heartbreaker, who demonstrated his driving skills. Up from Oklahoma, Marilee Tussing and her mare, Roscommon Monday Morning, participated each day in Linda Allen's jumping clinics. Marilee also brought her purebred mare, Roscommon Cian, who was ridden daily by Kay Wolfe in the Breed Showcase. Bob & Pattie Stalder of Irish Gate Farm had their stallion, JEF Sir Lancelot, there with two of his halfbred daugh-

ters owned by Sue Datillo of Topeka. One of her mares, Cha Cha, ridden by Paige Sullivan, won 3rd place in the Ultimate Horseman's Challenge Association competition Friday night.

Her other mare, Lady Gwenivere, was used as



a demo horse by clinician Ken McNabb in his presentation on introducing horses to scary objects. (See more on Sue Datillo on page 4.)

Having Connemaras in the Breed Showcase and three of the other activities was great exposure for our wonderful ponies and the ACPS. It was a testament to the fact that **Connemaras really can do it all!**

For a special treat on Saturday afternoon Marilee and a number of her musician friends entertained everyone in the stall barn with live Irish music. One observer said she would have paid extra just to listen to the wonderful Irish music!

EquiFest will be held for the 14th year next February 11, 12 & 13th at the Coliseum in Wichita, KS. To learn more about the event



visit www.equifestofks.com. We would love to have even more ponies next year. Contact Pattie Stalder at director@kansashorsecouncil.com for more information.

Bits and Pieces

From Alyssa Tompkins, TX Rep
alyssa@garner-es.com

Bonnie Wrenkowski is expecting a PB Connemara foal in April.

Sharon Garner is expecting a pb Connemara foal March 22 by Wildwych Don Juan out of Dark Horse Sparkle Plenty (Greenway's Erin Donaghdee X Big Bears Camus).

From Laura Balding

Here at Three Creek Farm we have only one mare to foal this season...a TB mare belonging to a friend who is also one of the Joint Masters of the Three Creek Bassets. The Connemara Pony in residence at the KY Horse Park representing the Connemara Pony in the Breeds Barn is one from our Region!! His name is Erin Terra's Gatsby...He is called Wiley...and belongs to Richard Meier and his daughters, Emilee, Maggie and Colleen...who are all in

school and for the time being do not have time to ride him often enough to keep him at home. Wiley will probably be at the Horse Park for a year maybe two... If anyone chances to visit the Park in the near future be sure to see the Breeds Barn and say "Hello " to Wiley!



Another topic for your consideration is the **Year End Awards Program**. As you know this year we have finally been included in the USEF system by which individuals can amass points through winning at licensed shows throughout the year. The next step is to license our shows!! Or to get our local/nearby rated (already existing) shows to incorporate a Connemara Division... I think the minimum number of ponies required to support a division is 3 ponies! Start talking... Ask the show managers in your area... Most of them are friendly and probably open to this idea... And then let us all support the classes!

Tommy McIntyre who manages shows in the area...has a few he produces here at the National Equestrian Center in Lake St. Louis, MO. The dates are May 22, June 30-July 4, and Sept 1-5 and 8-12...all this year. If you think...anyone...that any of these dates would be good for you, let me know. We would be able to have a recognized division...points

awarded for placings!!! We technically need only 3 ponies to get the classes in the show! There are good, not too expensive hotels, in the area as well as camper hook ups...for those of you traveling from afar. Let us know so we can support the effort...

I am interested to learn if anyone would be interested in bringing in Mari Zdunic for a one or two day Dressage/High School clinic... She told me she could come once a month... Starting whenever we can... Realistically I could not pull it together before Fall... But with interest and commitment, we could all have regular sessions with this expert teacher and horsewoman. If we planned it, we might be able to make it a Regional thing... get Mari to come to different venues each month, making it easier some months for everyone to get there ... Let me know if any of you even thinks you might be interested.

From Pattie Stalder: Sue Datillo, Cha Cha, and Lady Gwenivere

Sue Datillo is an over 50, beginning rider from Topeka, KS. She is also funny, beautiful and loving. A long time resident of Kansas she still hasn't lost her Brooklyn accent which is definitely part of her charm.

About 5 years ago Sue was diagnosed with bone cancer and had her right leg amputated just above her knee. Along with trainer and friend, Ann White of the Vermillion Valley Equine Center, they began searching for a mount for Sue that would be quiet, talented and above all a smooth ride due to the tenderness of the area of the amputation. Sue bought Murphy, a large Quarter Horse gelding and he was almost a

Perfect match, but her leg just couldn't take the jarring of his trot.

At the same time Sue's husband, Ray, bought her a week old filly she named Cha Cha. The filly was out of Ann's thoroughbred mare and by the Connemara stallion, JEF Sir Lancelot. Sue worked on the ground with Cha Cha as she was growing up and after some professional training, began riding her as a three year old. Unexpectedly, she had found her perfect match.

Cha Cha is everything Sue needs and more. As Sue is learning to jump she wears her prosthesis loosely fitted to her stump in case she falls. Quite often as she's riding, because it's very heavy, the leg simply falls off. When Sue starts cursing in that charming Brooklyn accent, we know the darn thing fell off again. Cha Cha stops and waits for Sue to get her leg back in place then they're off again, enjoying their ride just like everyone else. The picture on page 5 shows Sue and Cha Cha during a lesson.

One of the riders at the barn, Paige Sullivan, is also very partial to Cha Cha and competed on her in the Ultimate Horsemen's Challenge Association event at EquiFest of Kansas this past February. They placed in the top five after a course that included, scoring a goal with a giant soccer ball, galloping around the arena waving a large UHCA flag, jumping, leading a miniature donkey, and lots of other creative and uncommon tasks.

Sue was so happy with Cha Cha that she now owns her full sister, Lady Gwenivere. These halfbred mares are her first experience with Connemaras. Sue and her "girls" are wonderful ambassadors for the American Connemara

Pony Society.



More WEG

FUND RAISING: Donations to the ACPS Foundation are tax deductible. A number of fund raising opportunities have been suggested. There has been an offer from the Windy Isles Farm to have a silent auction at the Chicago show. The USEF has 1000 people interested in the Connemaras, but we need to get their names. There is a discussion of a “virtual ride” fundraiser from California to Lexington, KY that would coordinate the active involvement of Region Chairs and the ACPS membership. Approximately, \$2675 has been pledged for WEG from 8 people.

Donations of money to fund the Booth, printing costs and lodging are needed. If you cannot be in Lexington, KY, please consider a monetary donation to help with this exceptional opportunity for the ACPS. Donations made to the ACPS Fund are tax deductible.

4.) Volunteers (manning the booth for any portion of the time during the 2 weeks) Contact Susan McConnell susan@oakfieldsfarm.com

Volunteers needed for the Booth (10AM-7PM) from set up on Sept 24 – take down on Oct 10. Passes will be provided to volunteers. Thankfully, several people have volunteered to help in the Booth, but more will be needed.

RV INFORMATION from the WEG people: There are several RV parks listed on the WEG Visitor page plus a place about 16 miles north of the KHP that has parking for RV’s short term. It is called Eagle Creek Horse Motel. The contact is Roy Cornett 859-806-2788. He has a good website so you can look at it in advance. Tell him you’re an RV candidate that you have your own.

Possible Meeting...

Stillwater seems to be a somewhat central place in our Region. What do you think of having a short meeting during our time there? It would be a good time for us to meet each other and exchange ideas about the kinds of activities we’d like to see in our region. It could be as long—or short—as we want it to be.

Sally Oxnard has asked members of each region to try to contribute financially to the ACPS WEG effort. Laura Balding has suggested that we create some sort of fundraiser (small scale) at our get-together. The idea being to contribute as a region, rather than as individuals. What do you think? Please email or call me with your suggestions. Sue Laidlaw at ohfastfriend@centurytel.net or (417)284-3088.