

A Full Year for 2008!

by Sandy McShea

ACPS members gathered for the annual Christmas party and a 2008 planning meeting at Blue Ridge Farm on December 9. The food (especially the fried chicken), hospitality and companionship, as usual, was wonderful!

News from the meeting includes Katherine Wilkins' expected resignation as Region III Chairman and my designation as her successor. I promise to do my best to keep everyone in Region III apprised of regional and national matters of interest to Connemara aficionados.

The calendar for 2008 contains the following entries:

January 10 through 12, 2008

ACPS meetings at the USEF Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. See www.USEF.org

January 20, 2008

Annual show meeting organized by Deb Norman, Marilyn & Les Cheek's Sycamore Ridge Farm, 9188 Lee's Ridge Road, Warrenton, VA 20186-8659, 540-341-7105, mezahn@crosslink.net. RSVP for noon luncheon.

March 16, 2008 (alternate date: March 15)

St. Patrick's Day Party, Marilynn & Adam Davis's home at 36985 Snickersville Turnpike, Purcellville, VA 20132, 540-338-3776, mdavisrealtor@mrisc.com.

Late Spring/Early Summer, Date TBA

Mountain Laurel Trail Ride, Marynell & Walter Eyles' Greenwood Farm in Middlebrook, Virginia 24459, 540-866-2239, marynelleyes@hughes.net.

Summer

Region III Show (dates, location and contact individuals to be determined)

October 4 & 5 (proposed)

ACPS National Annual Meeting Hosted by Region III, Pinehurst, NC. Contact Denise Hill of Seaborne Farm, 919-528-0331, denise@seabornefarm.com.

In conjunction with annual meeting:

Craig Kellogg Driving Clinic, Contact Sandy McShea of Indian Summer Farm, 910-245-4474, swmcshea@cs.com. Other clinics to be determined.

Fall, Date TBA

Fall Foliage Trail Ride, Contact Catherine Mack (540)253-5893, aluinnponies@earthlink.net (location and date to be determined)

Fall, Date TBA

Connemara Booth at the NC (Raleigh) Horse Extravaganza, Contact Denise Hill of Seaborne Farm, 919-528-0331, denise@seabornefarm.com.

December 14, 2008

Annual Region III Christmas Cookie Party and 2009 Planning Meeting, Avis and Paul Hodge's home at 21028 Unison Road, Middleburg, Virginia 20117, 540-554-8624, a.p.hodge@starpower.net.

Several Region III members have generously offered their time for projects noted above. In addition, Anne Moe and Marian McEvilly have agreed to assist me as co-coordinators: Maryland, DC, and Delaware (Anne at 410-552-5729, protem@juno.com) and Virginia and West Virginia (Marian at 703-354-0912, clipclop@email.com). Marilyn Cheek has volunteered to keep us informed and coordinate the Region III involvement in the Warrenton Horse Show. Catherine Mack has volunteered to take care of the same for the Upperville Horse Show. Marian McEvilly has agreed to keep the region's members current about the Devon Horse Show in conjunction with the National Association's contact, Sally Oxnard. Lauren Giannini

has offered to put together a variety of clinics of interest to members. Catherine Mack will do the same for potential trail rides. Pat and Judy Brescia will continue to serve as the Region III Treasurer and Secretary, manage the futurity, and distribute the e-newsletter. Anne Moe will continue her good work in compiling and editing our Region III newsletter, which is loved by many Connemara enthusiasts far and wide beyond the boundaries of Region III.

Katherine Wilkins has expressed her desire to find a successor to take over the Connemara store. Anyone with interest, please contact Katherine directly at wilkinses@aol.com or 202-966-5789.

At the Christmas meeting, the passing of Eve Fout of Middleburg, a long-time Connemara supporter, was sadly noted by Nancy Dillon with the thoughtful (and well supported) suggestion that Region III make a donation to the Middleburg/Orange County Beagles.

With regard to the national association, we discussed the proposed elimination of the associate membership category and the dues increase, which will no doubt be discussed further on the national level.

We can all plan for an activity-filled 2008! Look for my next communication by e-mail following the USEF meeting. Anyone receiving this newsletter who has not received the several e-mails I have sent out should contact me at swmcshea@cs.com to add themselves to my mailing list.

It's 2008!

And it's time for patrons and hard copy subscribers to renew their subscriptions. Patrons (\$40) receive a printed copy of the newsletter and have unlimited free advertising throughout the calendar year. Subscribers (\$15) receive a printed copy of the newsletter throughout the year. This is the last issue you will receive if you do not renew. (Please see the last page of this newsletter.) PDF versions of the newsletters via e-mail are, of course, free.

Subject for Discussion: Can you Overvaccinate?

I had an e-mail conversation with Ann Skidmore recently about vaccines and she had this interesting comment: "It is surprising how many people do not vaccinate. I think we overvaccinate and some years ago I ran a rabies titer on Cherry. It is supposed to be 1 to 10—Cherry was 1–4000. She never got another rabies shot. I'll bet she had a high titer on other vaccines but I did not run the other tests. The vets never do these titer tests but I know after she got her one shot this spring that the vet said she absolutely had to have (can't remember which one it was) she reacted and went downhill very quickly. She should never have had another vaccine."

If you have anything to say on this subject we'd love to hear it. E-mail protem@juno.com. —Ed.

Continuing Pony Education: Just Stallion Handling

by Sandy McShea

I attended a two day Short Course at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine on November 15 and 16. Titled "Just Stallion Handling," it was presented by the Havemeyer Equine Behavior Laboratory at New Bolton Center and addressed stallion care, behavior and handling from a breeding standpoint.

As a stallion owner, I found it very informative. It reinforced many of my observations, closed some gaps in my knowledge and gave me practical skills and a point of reference to develop my expectations for my stallion and for colts I will handle in the future. I especially enjoyed the behaviorist point of view and the opportunity to observe the school's semiferal herd of ponies.

The Havemeyer Equine Behavior Lab presents a few short courses throughout the year. All are open to veterinarians and some are open to owners and breeders. (Google University of Pennsylvania vet school, equine behavior short course.) I attended a basic equine behavior course there several years ago, which I also found enlightening.

Lo and behold, what a small world, two of the stallions on staff at the University were Connemaras—*Annlaun Oscar, donated to the University by Gerry Bogaard, and Springhills Eamon, owned by Dr. Sue McDonnell, Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist and the head of the Equine Behavior program at New Bolton. Both stallions performed their tasks with classic Connemara cooperation and enthusiasm. Breedings by AI are available and proceeds from the same are used to fund special expenses for Penn's vet school residents. (Contact Cheryl O'Sullivan at 610-925-6203.)

Once again it is true "Connemaras do it all!"

Things Stallion Owners Hope to Never Hear Again

- I really don't want a foal around but I need a tax write-off to protect my land use.
- My mare is really wicked and unrideable so I decided to breed her.
- I want to pay the stud fee for my 30-year-old maiden mare after she has foaled.
- I didn't know you required a Coggins. I'm sure she's all right; I just picked her up from the track yesterday.
- She's really easy to handle if you don't go in the stall with her.
- I want to be sure she gets pregnant. Can't you breed her twice a day?
- My mare ovulated yesterday but I think she's coming back into heat so I better get her to you today. I leave for vacation tomorrow.
- I chose your stallion because he's the cheapest and closest.
- My mare is solid chestnut and I was hoping your chestnut stallion might have color behind it so I'll get a bay with socks and a blaze.
- She's a maiden mare so I didn't think she needed to be cultured.
- I don't think she's in foal as she's only been pastured with a yearling colt.
- I have an ad from five years ago that says your stud fee was \$300 less.
- I really don't want "Missy" frightened. Could you keep the stallion from making any noise?
- We didn't get around to inseminating on time. Could you just send us some more semen at no charge?
- I know it's 9 p.m. but my vet wants her bred tonight. Isn't too late, is it?
- I have four 16.1-17hh Thoroughbreds that I would like to breed to your 13.2 stallion to get a pony breeding hunter prospect for Devon.
- Of course she was winking this morning . . . oh, you don't mean her eye.
- We hope getting her pregnant will calm her down.

Reprinted from *The Equiery*

PONY TALES

From Emily Daily: As many of you already know, when I signed on for the co-chair position last year, I had just finished my internship at the Chronicle of the Horse and was headed home to the family farm in Lynchburg to pursue my riding career. But at the last minute, I was hired by the United States Eventing Association to work in the Communications Department full-time in Leesburg, and before I knew it my time was filled with flying across the country to cover events, working on the website, writing press releases and articles for Eventing USA, taking pictures, and further promoting the sport. I apologize for my absence from the Connemara community—but alas, something has to pay the bills and feed the ponies!

I'm in a wonderful position to be able to provide the ACPS with news of Connemaras in the eventing world, and I'll do my best to report the latest news from my neck of the woods. I attend quite a lot of events with my ponies and have been intrigued by the number of Connemaras and Connemara crosses I've encountered. Truly, this is one of the best venues for this breed.

I recently traveled to the Wellpride American Eventing Championships and noticed quite a bevy of Irish ponies competing at all levels: Lauren Chumley riding Pat Reichle's **Rung Rim's Grainne** tied for 7th in

the Open Beginner Novice division (out of more than 70 entries!), Brooke Baugher and Benita Strini's **Elphin Odin** finished 26th, and Cathy Blackmon and **Hideaway's Special Delivery** also competed. Annie Read rode her mother's Conn/TB **Fairycatcher** in the Jr/YR Novice Division, finishing 2nd out of over 50 entries. **Denver's Jovial Lass** and Meghan McCamis also competed. In the Novice Horse division, Allison Springer rode Nancy Hamill Winter's **Gold Dust Moon** to an impressive 5th place finish. Cindy Lippon and **Kilpatrick** also competed in the division as well as the young stallion **ArdCeltic Art**, owned by Donna Miller. In the Novice Amateur division, Betsy Holdsworth and **Elfin Dublin Ball** finished 15th out of more than 60 competitors. In the Junior/Young Rider Training Division, Lauren Ochs and **Bantry Bay's Kenny** pulled off an impressive 4th place finish in this competitive division. Devon Brown rode Donna Miller's **Limerick** to finish in 10th, and Claire Kelly and **Ridgetop Miss Emma** finished in 22nd. Sonya DeChaine and Kiira Troth's **Leprechaun's Liam** competed in Training Horse. Missy Miller pulled off the most spectacular ride on her **Leprechaun's Rowdy Boy**, finishing in 2nd in the prestigious Jr/YR Preliminary division on her dressage score of 39.6. Christina Garafola and **Erin's Nighthawk** finished in 8th in the same division. The famous Connemara ambassador Carol Kozlowski competed Lynn Blades' **Take Time** in the Intermediate division and finished in the top ten. I apologize to those who I missed, but often times I look for farm prefixes that I recognize and unfortunately some riders do not list these when registering their horse's name.

I've been fortunate enough to be head of the USEA's newest program, the Future Event Horse series, an in-hand program designed to acclimate young event horses to the competition atmosphere, provide an outlet for breeders to showcase their stock—and give buyers a place to come! In addition, and probably most importantly, the USEA will track these horses throughout their lifetime, keeping track of their pedigree and also keeping tabs on their results. We've had several youngsters who've sold literally as they've left the ring—and most of these are amateurs looking for their next eventing partner. For those of you who breed sport ponies and horses, particularly the halfbreds, keep this program in mind. The Connemara/Thoroughbred or warmblood crosses are doing exceptionally well in today's market and this is the outlet breeders have been waiting for. For more information on this program, visit the Future Event Horse section (under Competitions) at www.useventing.com. Already several Connemaras and Connemara crosses have been involved in this unique program, including Tom and Kathy Polmateer's **Tip Top Kayla McVai** who competed and placed well at the Championships at Morven Park in early October. Most of these events are very close to Northern Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, North Carolina, etc. The Irish Draught society has even had a few of the classes at their national show. Hope to see you at some of these events this spring and summer!

Speaking of Connemaras in the news, Cady O'Daly Farm has had quite a bit of success this year with our stallion **Tre Awain Goldsmith's** homebreds. **Cady O'Daly Michael**, our wonderful blue-eyed crème, has taken the eventing world by storm, placing incredibly well at Novice as a four-year-old and gathering a large fan club at his events. We'll hang onto this special guy for a long time; he has the talent to compete at some of the upper levels. **Cady O'Daly Goldkeeper**, a halfbred by Tag, has just begun her eventing career at Beginner Novice and seems eager and will likely be a future partner for Emily or Alicia. **Cady O'Daly Mistletoe** has begun her eventing career with her young rider Suzanna White, who trained the five-year-old mare herself. **Oaktree Greystone Colleen's** three-year-old by Tag, **Cady O'Daly Punchline**, aka "Tobey," has relocated to Northern Virginia to begin training for his career in eventing with Emily.

Ridgetop Cady O' Daly has been competing successfully at Training this year, with several great runs at Midsouth Horse Trials in Kentucky and Rubicon Horse Trials in Leesburg, VA. The pair has Prelim in their sights for the spring, and are currently training with Jan Byyny in Purcellville, VA.

An alert from Nancy Dillon: Look for the Mountain View Equine stallion ad in the Virginia Horse Journal (and presumably elsewhere) and see who the STAR is! Our very own **Aladdin's Denver** jumping a cross-country fence and looking VERY tidy as he always does.

In early December, **Blue Ridge Breckinridge** and **Blue Ridge Lightfoot Lee** climbed on a trailer and headed to North Carolina, near Winston-Salem, to their new homes. Cynthia Holbrook bought Breckinridge for her husband, Brian, although she plans to ride him too, and Elin Call bought Lee for her husband, Roger. They had come to Blue Ridge a few weeks previously to visit Duncan to see if he was a suitable choice for breeding their mares, but decided to not wait for babies to be born and bought the Blue Ridge boys. They also both wanted duns. Cynthia says, "I have always been a big fan of Connemaras and

am hoping to breed my TB mare to a Connemara stallion in the future.” Elin adds, “I am planning to breed my Oldenburg mare to a Connemara.”

Also **Blue Ridge Bluebell** made a reservation on a van going north to become part of Linda Haines' pony family!

Kathryn Hutchins wrote, “I own a 2002 Connemara/Hanoverian cross. Her name is **Morning Glory's Waterfall**. My membership has lapsed, but I wanted to let you know that I am showing her in dressage. This year we won Third Place at the Intro Level VADA/Nova Schooling Championships. The first place was a Friesian, and the second place was a Hanoverian. So my little Connemara did pretty well this year. I will be showing her at Training Level next year in the USDF and USEF competitions. I am also going to renew my membership with ACPS. I thought I would share this with you because I don't see too many Connemara crosses competing in the dressage competitions. She is quite a joy to me.”

Lisa Stroud and her **four-in-hand** triumphed again at the Dansko Festival at Fair Hill (MD) this fall, picking up the necessary points in cones after trailing for the first two days. Robin Groves of Vermont, well known to driving competitors, claimed her first National Single Horse Championship with Lana Wright's **Thor's Toy Truck**, a Connemara/TB. Long-time Connemara breeder Lana Wright designed the marathon course, described as “mentally challenging for the drivers and physically challenging for the horses.”

WINTER READING 2008

We have to start with *Barbaro: The Horse Who Captured America's Heart*, because he really did. Author Sean Clancy could not conjure up a happy ending but it is a heartwarming book just the same.

An unusual coffee table-type book, *More Old Friends*, by Barbara D. Livingston, features not only the rich, famous, and glamorous in the horse world, but unsung and obscure equines and their owners. Tales of quiet heroism and undying love might bring tears to your eyes.

In the “how-to” genre, you might try *101 Eventing Tips: Essentials for Combined Training and Horse Trials*, by Jimmy Wofford, who knows whereof he speaks. It actually starts with Step One (join your local eventing organization and learn about the sport before you ever even think about competing). Wofford is an entertaining writer and this is an easy way to assimilate vital information.

If you are a history buff, you will enjoy *White House History: Presidential Horses*, produced by the White House Historical Association. Photos, tidbits of presidential information, behind-the-scenes peeks at horses in the lives of our presidents and their families.

And just for the fun of it, check out these books by novelist Sara Gruen: *Riding Lessons* throws a bit of romance into a good horse story with a suspenseful turn. *Flying Changes* continues in the same vein. Both are quick reads and highly entertaining.