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Calendar

August 4-6, 2006 the ACPS will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary at the Morven Horse Park in Leesburg, Virginia with an exciting celebration. Imagine being able to see outstanding ponies from all over the country in one place, driving and dressage exhibitions, festive meals, fascinating exhibits. We hope foreign visitors will be able to come too. Look for more information in the next ACPS magazine.

September 23, 2006 - Camargo Hunt 66th Annual Fall Hunter Trials, see Steph Burk's article for more info.

October 28 - Region V horse show at the Hoosier Horse Park.

October 29 - Inspection at the Hoosier Horse Park, contact Mary Yeager if you have ponies to be inspected.

OUR NEW REGION CHAIR

Dear Region V Members,

It is probably time for a little introduction. My family and I own Loughin Farm, which sits in the heart of the lovely Lake Erie snow belt east of Cleveland. We have been breeding and showing Connemaras for about 10 years now. Actually, I have been breeding and my daughter Courtney does the showing. (I only figure into that picture as the horse show mom.) Currently we have 3 broodmares, 2 of which are in foal for 2006 babies, 4 youngsters ranging from weanling to 3 years old, one halfbred boarder and Shammer Jake. Since Jake lives wherever Courtney is, he has just finished his first quarter at Ohio State University as a freshman, residing at the OSU Equine facility where he is as close as he can get to her. Courtney is studying Political Science and Jake studies the adjacent pig barn. They continue to train for a spot on the FEI Young Riders Team.

For the last 4 years I have been assisting Pat Lightbody in her duties as region chair. Pat is the most energetic and organized person I know and has tried hard to show me the way. I have yet to figure out what kind of system she uses to keep everything straight. I think I may have made a breakthrough when I started color coding the post it notes that stick to everything on and around my desk and fridge.

In my spare time I am the supervisor of the first assistants in Cardiac Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. I have worked in the operating room there since 1977 and just love my job. I am there on Mondays and Wednesdays, usually for at least 13 hours, so if you ever need to reach me I am lost to the real world at those times. It's a nice balance though because the rest of the time is pony and home time. My husband Michael and 21 year old son, Kenny, are invaluable help with farm chores. I think the best thing about having Connemaras is that in this high tech, disjointed age, having them and the farm has forced us to focus on working together as a family unit. The boys pick up the slack when I am working and when Courtney and I are traveling to the shows. I believe that the ponies are responsible for this old fashioned idea that the family that works together, stays together. Now, if they would just learn to unload the dishwasher.....

I was a little tentative about taking on the responsibilities of region chair at first. But somehow now I find myself feeling enthusiastic and excited about the prospect. Every day a thought or an idea comes to mind about things to do or a little something about what I would like to accomplish. And oops, there goes another post it note stuck up somewhere! I have many colors and they are starting to match my new collection of fiestaware. The first goal I have is to get to know all of the people in the region better that I haven't yet met. I'll gradually be trying to get in touch with you all, but it would be just lovely if you could introduce yourselves to me also. I really do want to get to know you and your ponies. E-mail is just fine, at loughinfarm@msn.com, or feel free to give me a call at 440-834-0234. The farm is always open to visitors, which the ponies particularly like because they associate visiting pony people with treats. So don't hesitate to get in touch with me, especially if you have any issues or ideas you want to discuss. You too could have your very own post it note!!

Pat and Janice do a grand job with this newsletter and I will use it as a way to get you any information about any region doings. Oh, and try to keep your e-mail addresses up to date with them as we use that as a good communication tool and we don't want you to miss something. Hope you are all having a nice winter. Fortunately, spring is right around the corner.

Cheers, Mary Yeager

We would like to hold an inspection in conjunction with our Region V show in October. Please let me know as soon as possible if you have ponies that you wish to be inspected at that time.

Mary Yeager 440-834-0234 or e-mail at loughinfarm@msn.com. Thanks.

REGION NEWS

Staring the young ponies at Dawn of Promise Farm Connemaras, Battle Ground, IN

The footing is a little soft and the ponies covered in mud in this mild January, but I'm not complaining. I've enjoyed getting to ride more this winter than in many winters past. With my new job taking so much of my time and requiring travel, I find the moments with the ponies more precious than ever.

Dawn's Brennainn (Kerrymor Madison X Realta) will be four this spring and he's coming along nicely in his under saddle work. I just love to ride him. He reminds me so much of his dad, Madison, in his gaits and his forward-going, hard-working attitude. I've also been starting my other gelding, Loughin Aragorn "Conor," who will be three this spring, in his tack. He is just a stitch – always happy, loves trying new things. He is by Landgate Bluebeard and out of Serendipity's My Goodness McGinnis.

I like taking him and Brenn on trail walks where I lead them out in the woods and through the creek. It allows them to learn to leave the herd quietly, and explore surroundings before they have the responsibility of a rider on their back. I even tried the Native American training technique of mounting to ride for the first time in deep snow or water. With Conor, I took him on a walk out in the woods and led him down the bank into the creek. While he was about knee deep in the water, I got on and rode him for about an eighth of a mile in the water. He was so busy splashing and having fun, he never noticed that I had climbed on board. He even willingly took me up the steep bank and back through the hay field. He doesn't really understand leg pressure yet, so once he stopped, we were stuck, eating the tall grass in the field of course, but I was proud of him for not being afraid.

Since there is not enough of me to go around, I sent the two girls, Dawn's Amber Glow (Kerrymor Madison X Serendipity's Jenny) and Old Carolina's Bitsy (*Gunsmoke X Oakfields Garnet Finch), to the western training program at Findlay University for the spring semester. They each have their own student trainer and will be western pleasure ponies when I bring them home. I figured it would be great to have an extra discipline on their resume. They are the talk of the barn at Findlay and both of the young trainers have told me their fellow students are rather envious of their gorgeous and personable Connemara mounts. They are the only two Connemaras in a barn of 200 horses – mostly Quarter Horses, Arabians, and grade horses. I plan to go see them in the show at the end of the semester before bringing them back home to Dawn of Promise.

Back at home, I'm looking forward to Savannah's pending delivery of a mid-March foal by Kerrymor Madison. This will be her third. Her first two sons are enjoying very successful hunter careers so I'm eager to see what this baby will blossom into.

I hope this update finds everyone well and enjoying their ponies and families.

Vickie Maris

Dawn of Promise Farm www.dawnofpromisefarm.com



This is Dark Horse Madison O'Malley who is by Kerrymor Madison and out of Big Bear's Bonnie Blue. He was recently outgrown and sold to a new family as a Christmas pony and will continue raising children in the show ring.



This is Dawn's Daniel Madison who is by Kerrymor Madison and out of Serendipity's Savannah. He has been trained as a hunter and was recently sold by Chris Marks to a family who will be enjoying his talent over fences.



This is Dawn's Amber Glow (left) and Marshwood Summer Keavey at the Reg. 5 show after winning the Progeny Group Class. These mares are of nearly identical breeding. They are both by Kerrymor Madison. They are out of mares who are half sisters, Serendipity's Jenny and Serendipity's Irish Spring (who now lives with the Baughmans in Michigan). Amber and Keavey were born 24 hours apart in Indiana and Michigan, although they were due about three weeks apart. This is how Jenny and Irish have foaled for years. Most of their lives, they lived together in the same field and whenever one would foal, the other would follow suit within a day or two.

News from Marchwood Farm... Biggest news is that Harvey Roberts is now marketing the Bionic Glove for Hillerich and Bradsby (yes, the bat people). He is in charge of the equine glove and right now is out in California at the Indio HITS promoting the glove. If you are curious you can look it up on the web site www.infohorse.com, which lists it, or on its own, www.bionicglove.com. Pony-wise, we have been busy again. Took Bally and Oreo (our paint) to a dressage schooling show two weeks ago to tune up for summer. Bally and I were 4th and 7th in Training 3 and 4. It was the first time out since last July and we had a lot of fun. We also rode in a jumping clinic at Alta Vista with Mary Lowry just last weekend. Harvey rode his Trakehner mare, Alutia, and I took our Connemara, Foothills Lorenzo. Zoie loves to go FAST when we jump so it was a lesson in slow and more controlled for him. He was pretty good after we put the power brakes on, i.e. different bit. I plan to ride Zoie in the Flying Cross mini-trial this spring. Both Zoie and Bally are being worked on their Level 2 of the Parelli program and Bally and I are going to a Level 2 clinic in March. It's a lot of fun and gives us a nice break from going in circles in the ring. Finally, if the weather gets a little warmer we hope to hit the trails with our next-door neighbor. The property behind us connects several farms and there are about 1000 acres we can go on. Just need to figure out how not to get lost as it is very wooded.

That's all the news from Pendleton, Kentucky, and Marchwood Farm, Tamme Roberts

News from Dori Zidell... My son Brian goes to Redeemer Community Christian School. Each semester, the school has wednesday afternoon clubs that begin after lunch and go until the end of the school day. They are always looking for people to help out and or run a club so the kids have more choices. They have things like cooking, scrapbooking, model airplane, so I thought, why not pony club? So, last year was the first year that I did pony club during the second semester. I made use of my equine library in the extra bedroom and came up with some lesson plans for the cold snowy weeks until the weater was nice enough for them to come out to the farm. Some of the topics we covered were:

1. Design a 2 stall barn and tell why you have the rooms/items that you do. (We did this first so that the kids could learn what things they needed in a barn throughout the club. One boy put a small pig pen in his barn so that his horses would have company. Some had only the stalls with no feed room or hay storage. One person put a bathroom in. It was interesting to see what things they put in and why, and what they had forgotten.) We did this at the end of the club also, and their drawings were a little different.

2. Horses in history, and what they were used for. Also, the different types, heavy/draft, pony breeds, and horse breeds. They broke into groups of two, I had six kids in the club, and researched these in horse breed books. Then at the end of the session that day, they gave oral reports about the breeds that they learned about.

3. They learned how to clean tack, take apart and put back together bridles. That day they learned about steering a pony, as one person held the bit and the other steered with the reins. They were surprised at the amount of pressure, rather how little pressure they needed to use.

4. We did a day on pony color genetics. I had them do simple color predictions for simulated breedings.

5. We also watched some of the Cherry Hill horse tips videos, which are kind of comical but very useful.

Finally it was time to come out to the farm. The kids learned how to groom ponies, which came in handy for me during the spring shed out time. I wasn't the only one that looked like a werewolf that day. They learned how to lead correctly and practiced that. They learned how and what to feed to a pony. And yes, they learned a very little about riding. We began with lead line lessons for everyone, though at the time I had only one pony trained and child safe under saddle, Corner Oak's Moonlight Dancer, whom you may remember as our Toy Story Slinky Dog. So each child got to ride only a short time. They progressed to longe line walking and then free walking in the small pasture before our club times were over. The last day of clubs, we hosted the kindergarten - 4th grade classes in a farm field trip. Each of the pony clubbers had six children to be "in charge of" and they each gave a short talk about the things that they had learned. They led ponies around the field to show the other kids how to do that.

It was a very fun experience for them, and for me. We found out that one boy was allergic to what we thought the horses ate at first, but it ended up being the hay, so no more feeding help for him. The kids were very good about taking turns and wearing the hard helmets.

This year should be better as I now have 2 child trustworthy ponies to use. Dancer won't be the only one out there being ridden.

Our school is starting a high school this next year and I'd love to find out if they have a program for inter-school equestrian sports here in northern Indiana.

Our new mare is Ledgewood's Keely Mor. She is by Ledgewood's Karack Beau Tuck (Balmullos Same As Gold x Heaven's Ridge Mystikal Sunset) out of Thornhill's Greystone Gillian (Hideaway's Greystone Alex x F.F. Blessed Be) Keely was foaled in 1999, she is bay with a blaze, and is around 14.1 hands, perhaps larger I haven't measured her yet. She came to us from Kathy Manyo's Ledgewood farm, where she was ridden by children. She is believed to be in foal to Greenway's Erin Rosslare (Tigger) who is also bay. Tigger has since gone back to his home in New York and is no longer at Ledgewood farm. He is a lovely bay with a very sweet disposition, tall, close to 15 hands and goes back to the Springledge Banty Bay breeding which is known for great temperaments. We plan to have her checked again to be sure she is in foal in a month or so when it's light a little longer and not so cold! I may breed her to Patty's Look @ Me this year.

Dori

News from Nicole Fiedler... We are planning to rebreed Tessa back to Brigadoon this coming spring. We so much love last year's foal that we must try for another. My daughter (15) would like to show "TY" at the region V show this fall. He will be over one year, is there an age limit for handlers to show the babies? We did go ahead and geld him, a very tough decision to make because he is so perfect in every way. It came down to the fact I have a barn full of Mares, and one retired Thoroughbred who thinks he is a Stallion. It would just be unfair to all. (Plus my barn could not handle it)

We also bought a new trailer for hauling everyone to shows this year, it is "baby safe" So, if you know anyone looking for a good two horse trailer, I am selling my old one. Make, Bison / Model "sport" / 1995 step up, dressing room, straight load. Rewired, new tires, good brakes, good floor, white fiber glass roof. Good condition. I have it advertised in the paper for three thousand, but I am willing to negotiate. Especially for a Connemara owner!! :) Will the region V show be open to all again this year? (editor's note: yes) If yes, we may bring my daughter's four year old quarter horse.

“Cleo” will be showing for the first time this coming summer, I am a nervous wreck and my daughter can’t wait!! “Go figure” I rest assured in the fact she has one of the best instructors in Cincinnati!! I pray for this summer to be fun and educational for all!! Take good care, Nicole Fiedler

News from Stephanie Fahey... My daughters and I attended the USPC (United States Pony Club) annual meeting in January where the ACPS’s very own Chris Knox was honored. She was inducted into the USPC Academy of Achievement along with four other individuals, including Olympians David O’Connor and Mary Beth Larsen-Iagorashvili. Chris judged our region show last October. She is also a graduate “A” pony clubber.

Stephanie Fahey
sfahey@stephaniefahey.com

Hi to everyone from Steph and Paddy... Hope you are all keeping warm and well. Pretty soon we will be looking at dry trails and warm show days and new foals...but for now, it’s a daily battle to get out to the barn and back without having my boots sucked off my feet by this terrible mud - argh. Well...this too shall pass.

And as for looking ahead - I am interested in getting together a Connemara Contingent for the Camargo Hunter Trials in Cincinnati this fall - whether you show or just watch, come on out and let’s put on an Irish-theme tailgate that will impress even the most hardened foxhunters! I’m mentioning this now so we can snap up Irish decorations around St. Patrick’s Day next month (maybe for 1/2 off the day after...).

This is a really neat, fun, traditional show, and those of us who attended really enjoyed it (including my dog Pete, who so charmed the hamburger stand cook that she gave him a free burger...). Please do let me know if you’d like to be involved: sburk@cinci.rr.com.

Had a nice midwinter horsey interlude last week; I went with Martha Slamer down to Paxton Farms (my first visit...geez. Can I just live there??) in Batavia for a dressage trial and watched Pat Reichle’s Rung Rims Grainne and her rider Lauren Chumley capture two blue ribbons - very nice! (How’d she get that pony so clean??)

Things are otherwise quiet here, except for a riding lesson mishap a couple weeks ago that I wish I had on video. Paddy had to check out a jump that was still decorated with pine roping from Christmas. It was green, so of course he thought it was edible and picked up one end between his teeth. To his surprise the entire 15' length of roping MOVED. Obviously the smart thing for any pony to do is “move away from the snake.” Right? Well, yes, but if you don’t DROP the snake it will come after you! He forgot the “drop the snake” part and just kept backing up, faster and faster (“hey, it might still be edible”, he was probably thinking, “if it doesn’t kill me first!”) I was thinking dismounting might be a good idea and a quick body twist on his part just helped me on down. So it was not a fall, exactly...more like an “assisted dismount in which I was proving gravitational constants.” I can tell you that both my butt cheeks hit the ground at exactly the same time.

Happy Valentine’s Day and give your ponies an extra hug!

News from Windy Isles Farms...



Our family has been breeding Connemara ponies in Ireland for the past 45 years. We immigrated to Chicago from Ireland in the early eighties. My husband, Martin grew up with ponies and has had them all his life. We have three kids, one girl Jessica, 17 and two boys Martin, 9 and Brendan who is 4. We still have our farm back at home in Co. Clare, Ireland. We go back several times a year.

Our breeding program focuses on breeding sound, correct, true to type Connemara ponies, which are athletic and have great temperaments. All of our ponies are imported from Ireland and have a great selection of wonderful Irish bloodlines.

Henry Prendergast, my father-in-law’s, first stallion was *Cree Silver Cloud - a son of Carna Bobby. *Cree Silver Cloud’s dam (Poll) and sisters (Passport and Poll’s Story) were exported all over Europe – The Netherlands, France and Germany – they are mentioned in Pat Lyne’s book Out of the Mist. For ten years he also owned and stood *Windy Day (sire of the stallion *Kilfenora Windy Isles and many other lovely ponies here in the States).

In Ireland we currently have some good foundation bred mares (Harwell's Jenny Wren a Dun Aengus granddaughter and Woodhaven Molly a two year old Ashfield Storm Cloud daughter that we are planning to import at later date). Henry's stallion Catamaran CPBS S828 (Murphy Rebel x Miss Charger by Clare Charger) died a week ago at the age of 22. Henry Prendergast had owned him for 12 years.

We imported 4 ponies from Ireland in July of 2005: *The Quietman (Moy Hazy Cove x Blathin Chonamara by Cloonisle Cashel) (CPBS S1-1232/ACPS S724) a 14.2 hand grey Connemara stallion who was Inspected/Approved by the Connemara Breeders Society of Ireland and given Gr.1 Status. He is full brother to the 2005 Champion Foal of Show/ Winner of the Colt Foal Class.

We have three fillies at the moment: *Catherine's Pride (Gurteen Paddy x Annagh by Robin Hood) a grey filly whose sire is full brother to Bobby Bolger's 2 times Supreme Champion at Clifden, Coral Misty. *Summer Sun (Ashfield Jovial Joker x Silver Lady by Thunderbolt) a gray filly who has Thunderbolt 2x in her pedigree. And *Cree Lady (Forest View Sparrow x Castletown Girl by Mervyn Kingsmill) a red roan granddaughter of *Ashfield Bobby Sparrow.

Windy Isles Farms is a boarding/breeding operation situated on 100 acres in Peotone IL which is forty minutes from Chicago. Our website is www.windyislesfarms.com. Our e-mail is WindyIsles@comcast.net.



*The Quietman and Jessica trotting during the stallion parade.



*Summer Sun at the show



*Catherine's Pride (left) and *Summer Sun (right) in the snow

Catherine Prendergast

News from Janice Meyer...Pat Reichle is so proud of her pony Rung Rims Grainne, she's been in one show this year, two classes, scores of 70% and 74%, and two blue ribbons! What a great way to start the year. The show was the Winter Dressage Series at Paxton Farm on January 28th. Lauren Chumley has been leasing Grainne since last fall and the two of them really click, you may have seen them at our fall show. Grainne tries her at times but Lauren just laughs at her and keeps riding. Grainne really loves jumping like so many Connemara's do but, in spite of her feelings towards dressage it is coming along nicely. It was really a fun day, Martha Slammer, Steph Burk, Pat and I were all Lauren and Grainne's cheering section. Lauren's dad is her number one supporter/groom/reader. It's really nice to have more connemara enthusiast in the area to support each other at the shows. Martha, Steph and Lauren are all planning on bring their ponies to the Carmargo Hunt in September and I'm sure they will be competing against each other in many shows to come. We are all looking forward to the coming show season.



Lauren and Grainne



Lauren, Dad and Grainne - what a team



Janice, Pat, Lauren, Grainne, Martha and Steph



Lauren and Grainne

Hideaway's Bantry Pride , a family treasure

Even in his thirties Bantry Bay loved to go trail riding; and loved to go somewhere fun in the trailer. In his early days he thought nothing of jumping over 4' fences to get in the best pasture or to head for home from a boarding barn. But when ridden by a child, he was careful to keep under her, perhaps even doing a careful volte before a jump as if he were saying, "ready now?"

He started life at Hideaway Farm, destined to be the second stallion after Hideaway's Erin Smithereen, but only bred two mares because at 14.1h he was considered too small by the owners of mares in the early 70's. Just our luck! He has lived with our family ever since. In the 80's I competed on him in dressage, not the best discipline for such a wonderful jumper, but he was always obedient and accurate and tried his best. Then he went to Columbus and did Pony Club with the Noss girls. Jumping at last! Act four was back at our family farm to teach more grandchildren to ride and to travel the Chagrin Valley trails carrying six foot Jim or Richard, or me, across the river and up the hills at a good clip. He was very bold and careful. Several times he stepped in old postholes in a grassy field and quickly fell to his knee to save his leg.

He had the wonderful kind and willing temperament of his sire, Springledge Bantry Bay, and the athleticism of *Texas Hope through his dam, Lynfield's Proud Hope. For years he did it all for us and we watched with sadness as he began to age at 30 and had trouble with his teeth. We fed him a special Senior mix and fitted him to a soft hackamore and how he loved to go out on a trail last summer and early fall. In October, when he was 32 years old, we had him put down before the Ohio winter.

Pat Lightbody

Late Breaking News!

We at Willow Run Connemaras are anticipating a very lovely and exciting segueway into Spring! To help us transition from the blah blah Winter into this delightful new season, we are planning a trip to the Illinois State Horse Expo!! Not only will we be attending the EXPO, but we have entered our young, handsome stallion, "Willow Boy" (*Chiltern Colm x *Sillbride Miranda ex Thunderbolt) into the Stallion Parade and will have him on exhibit representing the Connemara!

You may wish to visit this EXPO online at: <http://www.horsemencouncil.org>

Chris Cox and Gherhard Politz are just a few of the renowned Clinicians and we are looking forward to a wonderful time and the opportunity to meet and interact with other Equestrian Enthusiasts in our Region.

Speaking of Equestrian Enthusiasts in our Region, this EXPO appears to be the PERFECT locale to not only promote our breed, but to gain EXPOSURE!! For this reason, I am asking that if ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING THEIR FARM, THEIR STALLION OR THEIR PONIES FOR SALE, we would be happy to hand out your fliers at this venue! We ask that you compile your own ad and: a) if you wish for us to post your flier (one copy only) then just email us your flier OR, b) if you wish for us to hand out more than one of your fliers PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH COPIES OF YOUR ADVERTISEMENT OR FLIER***YOU MAY SEND FLIERS TO US AT: WILLOW RUN CONNEMARAS

RR 3 BOX 303-74A

BLOOMFIELD, IN 47424

Again, we are looking forward to this event and hope that everyone will take this opportunity to "get out there" and show the Mid-West that Connemaras can DO IT ALL!

Thanks for your time,

Erin Moira Lemrow

Willow Run Connemaras

<http://www.willowrun.cc>

Editor's note: In the last edition of the magazine there was a picture of Fonda riding her stallion at our show that was labeled incorrectly, it was not Debbie Busta, we just wanted Fonda to get full credit for making it into the national news.

When your day seems out of balance
And so many things go wrong...
When people fight around you
And the clock drags on so long...
When most folks act like children,
And fill you with remorse,
Go out into your pasture...
Wrap your arms around your horse.
His gentle breath enfolds you,
As he watches with those eyes
He may not have a PhD,
But he is, oh, so wise!
His head rests on your shoulder...
You embrace him good and tight;
He puts your world in balance,
And makes it seem all right.
Your tears will soon stop flowing,
The tension will be eased.
The nonsense has been lifted,
You are quiet and at peace.
So when you need some balance
From the stresses in your day...
The best therapy you can seek...
Is out there eating hay.
Author Unknown



Bebinn, the Queen of my heart.
(Editor's Note: I'll used the space to inundate
you with pictures of my ponies if we don't get
enough stuff.☺)



Proper attire for a cold day of riding for Tre Awain Kierstin and The Marauder!

Dead line for next newsletter is April 15th: any new babies, have you started showing, are your ponies still sludging around in the snow? We just love stories and pictures!