March Region Meeting

The 2017 Region III Annual Meeting was held at the beautiful home of James and Skip Gerke in Rockbridge Baths, Virginia on March 19. In attendance were:

James Gerke
Skip Gerke
Marynell Eyles
Walter Eyles
Kim Harrison
Linda Trimper
Suzanne Phelps
Lynn Norley
Donna Duckworth
Christina Lego
Janet Gunn
Susan McConnell
Wendy Higgenson
Blair Lear
Anne Lear

Election of Officers:

Kim Harrison – Region Chair
Judy Brescia – Secretary
Linda Trimper – Treasurer

The above three incumbents agreed to continue in their respective positions and their new terms for 2017–2018 were approved unanimously.

Regional Governor:

Donna Duckworth’s 3-year term expires in 2017. Anne Moe nominated Suzanne Phelps to serve as the new Regional Governor for the next three years. The Regional Governor’s term begins in the Fall of 2017. Suzanne gracefully accepted the nomination and she was approved unanimously.

Topics Discussed:
Horse Show – Marynell advised that in response to her request for proposed revisions to the Prize List for 2017, two (2) suggestions were received:
1. A class for stallions. Marynell will add “Stallions” to the class for Purebred colts and geldings age 2 and over.

2. An outside course – Marynell advised that an outside course is doable and will be added to the prize list under Miscellaneous Classes. A possible location for the outside course could be at the top of hill near where the trail classes are held.

Judges - Caroline Nesbitt has been retained to judge the In-Hand, Performance, and Mountain and Moorland classes. Jan Redmond has agreed to judge the trail class. A dressage judge has also been hired.

CDCTA - The Region III Horse Show will not participate in the CDCTA Recognition Program in 2017

USEF – Marynell advised that the USEF is offering a new “Lite” format for horse shows that is not as restrictive or expensive. Ponies and exhibitors still must be registered with the USEF and a USEF Steward is mandatory. Since Warrenton and Upperville are both USEF recognized shows that offer Connemara classes, it is not imperative that the Region III show be USEF recognized. However, points could be accumulated for USEF year end awards if the Region III show participated in the “Lite” format.

Susan McConnell suggested that some type of “Hospitality Event” be included this year. One suggestion discussed was a wine and cheese reception for Friday night. Another option could be a coffee/donut station centrally located for all exhibitors to enjoy free of charge.

A “Fine Arts Exhibition” was also discussed. Paintings, drawings, and sketches of Connemara ponies done by Region III members would be displayed during Saturday’s exhibitors’ dinner. Some of the pieces of art may be available for sale. Donna Duckworth and Christina Lego will coordinate this endeavor.

The meeting was adjourned and members had the opportunity to shop at the Connemara Boutique before heading home.

---

**From the ACPS**

Greetings to you and all of your members as you gather to start your spring activities. The Irish teas planned for mid-March in many regions and the Fun Field days soon to follow remind us that winter is almost over.

The ACPS National meeting hosted by Region I will be here before we know it. The committee is already hard at work planning for your arrival in Brownsville, Vermont, September 14-17 2017. See the website and the next issue of the ACPS magazine for hotel reservation information and the registration form.

The committee needs your support of the Silent Auction and the Regional Basket Competition. The fund raising Silent Auction helps defray the meeting hotel and meal expenses. Please ask your members to plan to attend and think ahead as to what they might donate. Many members will be traveling to Clifden for the March/April events and again for the August festivities. Every donation counts no matter how small. Talk up the Regional Basket competition! Some regions cannot be out done and take great pride in their donations. I am happy to receive items shipped in ahead of time and can provide extra display baskets for those of you flying in from afar. FOR LAST MINUTE SHOPPERS – The tack shop right beside GMHA is the best.

Our donation list is well started but we need everyone’s help to make this meeting the best ever. New and slightly used books, tack, an Irish sweater, a generous stud fee, a week at your summer home, gift certificates to Dover Saddlery, Horze or SmartPak… the options are endless. A wooden jig saw puzzle and an etching of Clifden are just a few of the item so well received in the past.
So please be in touch with Amy, Sally or me. We look forward to having you with us.

Come see New England! Vermont will be dressed in its very best of autumn colors.

Liz Platais  
plataisEE@aol.com

**Calling all Artists!**

Region III is planning a Connemara art show to be held at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington in conjunction with their annual Pony Show on July 29 and 30, 2017. We will display paintings, drawings, and sculpture depicting the Connemara Pony or reasonable facsimiles; i.e., no proof that the painting is a Connemara has to be presented. The art work may or may not be offered for sale (artist’s preference); if sold, ACPS Region III will take a 10% commission. Please contact balmullofarm@gmail.com if you have any questions. And.....please.....get painting!!

![Whipper-in](image)

Whipper-in, by Yvonna Frazer. The pony, as much as you can see of her, IS a Connemara!

**Lost and Found?**

In my capacity as region chair, I most often field phone calls that start something like this: “I bought a pony and they told me it was a Connemara. Can you help me get his papers?” I decided to ask our registrar, Marynell Eyeles to answer a few question that may help to find and identify these “lost ponies.”

**Will a microchip make it possible to replace missing registration papers?**

The new microchip program was instituted to help identify ponies who might turn up in an auction yard, or might be in someone’s pasture. Yes, the chip will also help replace registration papers. It would help if owners were a bit more caring about where the papers are filed, but I know that is every registrar’s fervent desire! Each pony’s chip number is recorded in the ACPS database and it’s been added to the Cal Davis DNA records as well.

**Will the microchip prove if a pony is a purebred or not?**

As of the foals of 2017, the halfbred foals will get Microchips as well, so yes, the chip number will be indicative of halfbred or purebred status. As above, the chip number is now a part of the registration, and that number will appear on the line with the pony’s name. It should be quite obvious, but when papers get lost, the microchip should help identify the animal again.

**What would you do if the DNA on a pony that was seeking registration showed that he was not purebred?**

There is no DNA “genetic diagram” for a Connemara. All we can know from our DNA samples is the DNA of each pony, and we can prove the possible parents. We cannot tell you from the DNA sample IF the pony IS a Connemara. I get many calls and emails, “I have this pony and everyone tells me, it looks like a Connemara”. We cannot prove it is, or isn’t unless there is some history – a possible sire or dam.
If we suspect a pony is the offspring of such and such a parent, do we have DNA on file that can prove parentage?
Yes, we can prove parentage for any of the Connemaras who have hair samples or blood samples on file with our lab at Cal Davis.

If we have DNA from a pony, is there any way to tell who the parents are? i.e., is there a searchable DNA file at UC Davis or anywhere else?
Yes, there are parentage tests, but the lab will not do a “needle in a haystack” search through all the DNA samples. The owner has to have some information – a possible sire, or dam, or a list of those. We have done searches like that and some have been successful and some have not.

Is our computer studbook searchable? That is, if we think my pony is 6 years old and a son of XYZ stallion or mare, can we look at the studbook and find ponies born in that year from that parent? (assuming my pony was ever registered)
Yes, our database is searchable, and it’s been done many times. Often the problem is simply lack of information but if the pony you have “found” was registered, and the DNA samples were done, hair samples can be pulled and the results matched to ones already on file. One of these days, the information will be posted on the ICCPS web site, and breeders can search bloodlines, but it seems to be taking a long time. The information on sites like AllBreeds Pedigree is not always reliable.

Is the studbook searchable in anyway?
Yes, it is. By name, sire progeny, produce of dam, year of birth (but that is too wide to find much useable information).

Does the ACPS keep track of deaths of ponies at all?
Yes, as it says in the registration procedures, the papers are supposed to be returned to the Society upon the death of a registered pony. But, that doesn’t usually happen. So, we don’t have good statistics about how many ponies are actually still alive. You have to remember that this breed lives a long time in good circumstances!

How many registered ponies are in the studbook right now?
The Temporary Foal Certificate number right now (ponies who are born and get their first registration as a foal) for Purebreds is 6293. For Halfbreds, it’s harder to know since we quit issuing Temporary Foal Certificates for Halfbreds and used a one-step registration procedure. A ballpark number for Halfbreds is usually equal to (or slightly higher than) the Purebred numbers. We have returned to Temporary Foal Certificates for Halfbred colts since the Society now registers Halfbred stallions.

Any estimate on how many more are out there that are not registered?
No estimate. No way to know. I tried to use annual stallion service reports to figure out how many mares were bred to each stallion, but stallion owners didn’t respond and I quit sending the forms.

A Special Opportunity

ACPS Inspection Educational Clinic – OPEN TO ALL
JULY 31ST, 2017 (Monday)
Lexington, VA

The ACPS is sponsoring an educational clinic for aspiring Inspectors, as well as any interested Connemara Pony owners and breeders on Monday, July 31st. Registration is required by July 15th (online). Come one, come all, to Lexington, Virginia, to this great opportunity! There is no cost, but reservations are needed so we know how many lunches to order. Please send a note to americanconnemara@gmail.com to reserve your lunch.
Tentative clinic schedule:
9:00 – 12:00 Judy Wardrope didactic and hands on presentation
Lunch provided
1:00 – 2:00 Marynell Eyles (ACPS) presentation including USEF rules and judging
2:00 – 3:00 Discussion of recommended reading material (see below)
3:00 – Written test (open book) for Inspector Candidates
Or, end of Clinic

HIGHLY Recommended reading list for aspiring Inspectors, as well as owners and breeders, to be read, in the next several months, before attending the clinic:

Judy Wardrope website: jwequine.com
(download information on Functional Conformation)

New Arrivals

Cady O’Daly farm welcomed Cady O’Daly Kerry, a filly by their stallion Tre Awain Goldsmith out of Ridgetop Cady O’Daly on March 22

Classified Ads

Thurman Farm Offers:

**Thurman Sileach** (Rattle ‘N Snap Laddie Boy x Thurman Keepsake (Landgate Bluebeard x Tre Awain Sileach))
“Best of The Day” at the Upperville Horse Show and the Region Ill Show this year. Great over fences.
**Thurman Sileach**

**Thurman Miss Independence** *(Rattle ‘N Snap\nLaddie Boy x Thurman Raven (Aladdin’s\nAdmiral Byrd x Tre Awain Sileach)\nHigh placing in hand, under saddle and trail\nclasses. Great over fences.*

**Thurman Miss Independence** (Rattle ‘N Snap\nLaddie Boy x Thurman Raven (Aladdin’s\nAdmiral Byrd x Tre Awain Sileach)\nHigh placing in hand, under saddle and trail\nclasses. Great over fences.

---

**Thurman Miss Independence** for sale. These five-year-old mares are for sale. They are a combination of “old time” bloodlines and a new Irish import. They have 3 years of professional training. They have been successful at the Upperville, the Warrenton and the Regional Horse Shows. They also have experience in Combined Training and trail riding. Thurman Farm – Berryville, Virginia

540-955-1215 – bjb1971@verizon.net

---

**BALMULLO FARM OFFERS:**

Offered at Stud: **Foothill’s Field Marshall** (*Gunsmoke x Foothill’s Maybee). Cooled, shipped semen, only. $850. For further information call 804-507-0269.

**CADY O’DALY FARM OFFERS:**

Also standing at stud: **Tre Awain Goldsmith** (Tre Awain Ginger Blue x Tre Awain Golden Lily) - 15.2, 1999 dun stallion with an impressive competition record. Winner of the 2015 ACPS An Tostal Award. Known for passing along his lovely temperament, athletic jump, and beautiful movement to his offspring. N/N for HWSD, $800 Located at Cady O’Daly Farm in Lynchburg, VA. Contact us at **www.CadyODalyFarm.com**; 571-271-9441

---

**GLENDALE FARM OFFERS:**

We will once again stand **Rattle ’n Snap\nLaddie Boy** (Moy Hazy Cove x Castle Strange\nSparrow). Stud fee is $800 which includes a $250 booking fee.

Also standing at Glendale Farm is **Fernville Matchmaker** (Fredericksminde Hazy Match x Ross Castle Moya [Abbeyleix Owen]), imported from Ireland. He is a 2006 14.2 grey pony with excellent bone and movement. Stud fee is $600 which includes a $250 booking fee.

Two 3-year old fillies: **GDF Match Point** (aka Peony)\nBy Fernville Matchmaker\nOut of GDF Rock the Boat (by Rock Point- TB)\n$5500. Bay w blaze and a couple white feet
**GDF Matchless** (aka Iris)
By Fernville Matchmaker
Out of Annie- TB. $5500
Plain dark bay
Both will be over pony size

All of these "ponies" w/t/c in the ring and have been trail ridden.
Call if you need more particulars.
**Deb Norman**, 540-955-1995 or deb@glendalefarm.com,