Connemara Pony News
The ACPS Region III Newsletter
No. 175    November/December 2014

ACPS REGION III OFFICERS:
Region III Governor: Donna Duckworth, 6494 Charles City Rd., Richmond, VA 23231, 804-507-0269, balmullofarm@gmail.com
Region III Chairman: Kim Harrison, 6001 Clayville Lane, Moseley, VA 23120, 804-639-0881, vaharrisons@verizon.net
Secretary: Judy Brescia, 14213 Purcellville Rd., Lovettsville, VA 20180, 540-882-3684, newmont@loudounwireless.com
Treasurer: Linda Trimper, 3277 Old Taneytown Rd., Westminster, MD 21158, 410-756-6117, ltrimper5@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: Kim Harrison, 6002 Clayville Lane, Moseley, VA 23120, 804-639-0881, vaharrisons@verizon.net

ACPS WEBSITE: http://www.acps.org

CALENDAR:
Sunday, December 7, Annual Region III Christmas Party, home of Avis and Paul Hodge, Unison, Virginia. 540-554-8624.

CONNE MARA BOUTIQUE

Ladies' Soft Shell Jacket with ACPS Logo on Front and Connemaras Do It All on Back. Grey/Lime. Small - 2XL $70.00 each (Add $5.00 for 2XL). Contact Melanie Trimper at mm73328@yahoo.com. Visit us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Region-III-Connemara-Boutique/110616691379

Come to the Christmas Party!

We thank Avis and Paul Hodge for hosting the Christmas Party once again at their Butterland Farm in Unison, Virginia, on Sunday, December 7. Arrive at noon, bring a dish to share, catch up with your pony-loving friends, and stay for the brief business meeting. Crafters are invited to bring their wares. If you know a new Connemara owner or someone who might not usually join us, please extend an invitation. Many of us know exactly how to get there, but just in case . . .

Butterland Farm is in the Unison Village Historic District, at 21028 Unison Road; the front pasture is at the intersection of Foxcroft and Unison Roads. From Foxcroft Road turn left onto Unison Road and take the first left into the Hodge’s driveway. If you get to the stop sign at the “Unison Store,” turn around in the store’s parking lot, retrace past a couple of houses and look for the yellow house behind a hedge.

Coming from the east on Route 50, turn right at the one stoplight by the Red Fox Inn and go about 6 miles on Rt. 626, Foxcroft Road. You’ll pass Glenwood, Foxcroft School, and come to a stop sign at Rt. 611. Continue straight for another mile to a stop sign at Unison Road, turn left and take the first left into the driveway.

Coming from the west on Route 50, don’t go all the way into Middleburg, but a few miles after Upperville you will cross Goose Creek and take the next left on Rt. 611, St. Louis Road. Go about 4 miles and turn left onto Foxcroft Road (Rt. 626); continue a mile to Unison Road. Turn left and take the first left into the driveway.

From Purcellville, it’s about 9 miles. Go south on Rt. 690 at the western end of town, by the second 7-11 store you would see if you were coming from the east. After several miles, you’ll come to a blinking light (at Snickersville Turnpike). Continue straight (the road now becomes Rt. 611) for a few miles, until you come to Foxcroft Road (Rt. 626). Turn right and go about a mile to Unison Road. Note: You will pass the first entrance to Unison Road a few miles after Snickersville Turnpike, but this is a long and rougher gravel road. Continue until just past Foxcroft Road and turn left into the driveway.

If you get lost, call the Hodges at 540-554-8624.

Annual Meeting News

You’ll read all about it in the American Connemara and in Donna Duckworth’s report, but Becky Jordan of Summerfield, NC sent an up close and personal take on it. Shown are Becky on Erin Terra’s Dream Believer and Julia on Aluinn Wyatt.

“With the annual ACPS meeting just a state away, my daughter, Julia, and I could not pass up the opportunity to attend. The added invitation to bring two of our ponies to trail ride with other Connemara ponies and their people in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia made it impossible to miss. From the moment of our arrival at Pennmerryl Farm, we were overwhelmed by the kindness and cheerful hospitality of both the Pennmerryl staff and the ACPS members. We enjoyed seeing people we had seen at the Region III show last summer, as well as meeting new Connemara owners and putting faces to names.

“The meeting schedule included a welcome party on Thursday, and plenty of time for trail rides and clinics throughout the weekend. There was an Awards Banquet on Friday evening at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, followed by BOG and the annual membership meeting on Saturday. Marynell Eyles and Susan McConnell both generously hosted tours of their beautiful farms and Laura Hunt led a trail ride from her farm in the area though gorgeous hunt territory.

“We had such a wonderful time and thank all of those involved in the planning of this excellent gathering.”
Report of our Region III Governor  
by Donna Duckworth

The ACPS annual meeting was held on October 2-5 at Penmerryl Farm in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. At the meeting a new Board of Governors and new Officers were elected. Deb Norman will remain president for another year with Amy Plavin as Vice President. The long-serving secretary and treasurer, Marynell Eyles and Cathy Blackmon, respectively, will also remain. A new webmaster has been selected and it is hoped that the website will now function as intended. News is particularly needed and can be sent to Donna Duckworth.

A new rule mandating that all stallions be tested for HWSD (Hoof Wall Separation Disease) was also enacted. Besides meetings, there were demonstrations, clinics, trail rides and dinners.

One of the highlights was the awards dinner held at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington. Breeding awards went to Tre Awayne Dobh McDuff (Tre Awayne Ginger Blue x Tre Awayne Rosin Dobh) who won the Tooreen Laddie award for stallions, and Tower Hills Killaire (Whitewood Galway Bay x Stoneridge Heather), who won the Broodmare trophy. In the performance category, the prized An Tostal Award went to ArdCeltic Art (Monaghanstown Fionn x Moydow Lady), the super eventing stallion who sadly died last year. The Camlin Trophy, which goes to a mare or gelding in recognition of a career of outstanding competitive performance, went to Tower Hills Darby Dun (Chiltern Copa of Tower Hill x Tower Hills Killaire). The halfbred performance award, The Tre Awayne Award, went to Gaelic Holiday whose Connemara half comes from the stallion Hideaway’s Erin-Go-Bragh. The purebred Connemara of the Year Award went to Rosewood Witchcraft (ArdCeltic Art x Balmullo’s Rhiannon) for her contributions to solving the puzzle of HWSD, a genetic hoof wall disease. “Crafty” was the poster child of HWSD and was, additionally, the first case of HWSD seen by the geneticists at UC Davis, the institution that eventually solved the puzzle and now provides a test for carriers of the disease. Crafty contributed to not only the science, but also to the publicity and the fundraising. Sadly, though, because of the disease, she had to be put down before her third birthday.

The Crestwood Service Award went to Katherine Wilkins, who has served the society in many capacities for more than thirty years.

A complete report of the meeting will be in the American Connemara, now to be published six times/year.

Changing of the Guard

As of the next issue, our Region Chair, Kim Harrison, will be taking over as editor of the newsletter. Send all your news and photos to her at vaharrisons@verizon.net. She can also be reached at 804-639-0881.

With most hunts’ Opening Days right around the corner in November, we like to feature that aspect of our ponies’ talents. To get her feet wet, Kim took over preparing the “foxhunting issue” article.

CONNEMARAS IN THE HUNT FIELD  
by Kim Harrison

Often in the newsletter we have stories of ponies who have been making their mark in the competitive world. This month we would like to recognize the ponies who carry us safely as we ride to hounds. Here are just a few of our region members who ride Connemaras for everything from hilltopping to whipping-in to leading the field. Remember, if you keep track of your days out and send in the forms, the ACPS does give achievement awards for foxhunting.

Katherine Kelly Cawood has been Jt.-MFH of Marlborough Hunt since 1990 and for most of those years led the field on BonnHenry Anecdote, aka Kerry, a purebred Connemara by *Bobby Brown.

Above is Tag the Clown (Tre Awayne Goldsmith x BonnHenry Anecdote) who has led the field with Katherine for the past six years, since he was a three-year-old. She calls his color “?” but says it is great for not showing the dirt!

Gusto (Cashel’s Rock of Ages x Gately’s Darling Dara), a seven-year-old Connemara bred by Nancy Dillon, sails over a coop with owner Kathy Milam, a member of the Piedmont Fox Hounds in Virginia. She says that “Gus” absolutely loves to hunt and is a shining example of the Connemara’s athleticism, bravery, and intelligence, which are characteristics that make the breed an ideal choice for foxhunting. Gus believes he is a big horse!

Photo courtesy of Middleburg Photo
Before Kathy purchased him from Nicolette Merle-Smith, Gus hunted with several packs, even spending time as the huntsman’s horse. In the field, he easily keeps up with the speedy thoroughbreds in open country, making short work of the sometimes daunting stone walls, coops, and drops in Piedmont’s legendary Thursday territory. Gus also safely navigates the trappier wooded country without hesitation, and is always pleased with himself at the end of the day.

From Deb Norman: I started hunting in Virginia in 1980 with friends from Louisiana. We came twice a year and hunted with Blue Ridge Hunt and I fell in love with the sport. In 1995 we moved to Virginia and bought Glendale Farm and started breeding Connemaras. I have hunted several of our homebreds but my favorite is a little halfbred mare, Glendale’s Annabelle by Concord River Roaringwater Bay. I really didn’t think she would hunt because she is such a forward little mare. But she loves it. It is our third year with Blue Ridge and we are getting better every time we go out. She really loves galloping cross-country. I love this breed. I love how careful they are with their feet and how level-headed they are. We are forming a strong bond… a partnership… and that is the very best part of these “ponies”.

From Katy Carter: Seven-year-old Oakfields Carnelian (*Hearnesbrook Dunoon x *Templebred Ruby), bred by Susan McConnell and owned by Kathy Milam, has just begun his hunting career under the guidance of Piedmont subscriber Katy Carter. It is vitally important that green horses have a methodical, positive introduction to hunting. Prior to going hunting, “Ian” was presented with a variety of terrain, water crossings, and riding out in groups before meeting hounds for the first time. His extremely thoughtful, intelligent, and highly trainable nature have enabled him to make the adjustment to his new career. Ian has gone in Piedmont’s second field and it appears that he was born to be a hunt horse! He listens and looks for hounds, is polite at checks, and aims to please. He will eventually move up to first field and owner Kathy will take the reins. She will surely have a wonderful time!

From Lydia Harrison, Kim Harrison’s daughter: This year, Kim Harrison and her pony, Glenmeadow Golden Wish (Kinzighausen Golden Mortimer x Ledgewood’s Greystone Desiree) have broken into a club usually reserved for a larger class of equines: foxhunting. Wish has become an excellent whip horse and has attracted the attention and compliments of the other staff of the Red Oak Foxhounds. One even remarked, “That mare was born to be a staff horse!” While some look down their noses at a pony in the hunt field and scoff that Wish is “too close to the mud,” Kim likes to point out all the benefits of hunting a pony. They’re easy to mount (without a block!), surefooted without needing shoes, and out of range of the dangerously low hanging branches that threaten taller horses, just to list a few. Kim and Wish have also been noted for their ability to move through the woods more quickly and quietly than their larger counterparts, occasionally startling other members of the hunt with their stealth. It’s true that Connemaras do it all!

Veteran foxhunters will feel like they’re back in the field as they read Nancy David Dillon’s vivid description of a good day out hunting.

MADDIE EARN A DOLLAR
This is a story about Miss Madeira a.k.a. Maddie (*Canal Laurinston x Felton Lea Larkspru) in the very early part of her first foxhunting season. This was Maddie's fourth day out.

What a beautiful morning to go out with hounds! Temperature in the 60s, sunshine and very low humidity. Maddie and I arrived at the kennels first, as usual and she had a few minutes to graze before I finished tacking up and got on.

We left the kennels with six in the field, including two junior members, one of whom was riding her Connemara mare. I was behind the field master as we entered the woods above the kennels and our huntsman cast hounds on the east side of the mountain. Maddie was just a little impatient as hounds hunted quietly for a few minutes. But she settled nicely before they hit a line and headed south.

We trotted briskly along the ridge and checked briefly at the intersection of the trail that goes to the gravel road. Hounds were still running southward and it sounded as if they could continue out to the big cornfield. So we trotted down this trail and Maddie handled the grade and the hazards very well. We stopped part way down as hounds turned back up the hill towards us. It sounded like they were coming right at us!

They crossed the trail 50 or more feet ahead and powered up on through the trees towards the ridge. We reversed and trotted/cantered back up the trail to the ridge. Just before we reached the ridge, we saw flashes of white, black and brown racing along the trail as we heard the whole pack in full cry. As the Master entered the trail, I actually had to hold up briefly to let some of the older, slower hounds pass. Maddie was quite willing to do as I asked. She's beginning virtually to ignore hounds passing her.

So back northward along the ridge we went, trotting and cantering and stopping once or twice to listen as the pack slanted down the mountain again towards the river. It sounded as if they might cross, so we headed down another eastbound trail at a good clip. Maddie was balanced, agile and easy to rate with an occasional "HU-HO" or light contact. At the bottom of the trail, we stopped and heard hounds climbing again. It seemed the fox might be making another loop, so our Master said "First one to see the fox gets a dollar." A couple of minutes later, Maddie looked to her left and I took the hint and viewed a small fox at the edge of the woods, going north. "Tally-ho," I said, "but probably not the hunted fox." The Master saw the fox too and said the dollar was mine even though it was not the hunted fox. Maddie of course is really the one who spotted the fox.

About then, hounds went out of range. We couldn't hear anything. In this country, that usually means that they went over the top and are on the other side of the mountain. So we reversed again and climbed back over the mountain, emerging from the woods above the kennels. It was a little tough to hear the pack because of the noise from the kennels, but we did hear them off to the south possibly headed for a smaller mountain there.

We went back into the woods and along the ridge trail, trotting and cantering briskly. Maddie, who was a little winded but did not feel fatigued, threw in one little buck on a slight downslope on the trail. I may have said something like "you little stinker," but the misbehavior was over already and we followed the Master all the way to the other end of the big mountain and down to the driveway at the bottom. There we found the huntsman, the whips and the pack. The huntsman said they had stopped in the woods along the driveway. I don't think they accounted for the fox, but it had been a fast and fun 45 minutes so we decided to go in.

We'd love to have more "rehab" stories from our readers!
Swannie - how miles with a child. Cute mover and Tre Awain Goldsmith x Han/TB, 7 yo 15.3

Sue Holland sent in a kudo to the inspection team at the Region III show: "Swannie [Hollymead Swan Bay] is pleased to be an Approved Connemara mare! Thank you to all the hard-working members of the ACPS that made the inspections possible. It was a valuable learning experience for both of us.

Classified Ads

FOR SALE: Stubben Juventus Dressage saddle. Very good condition. $800. 15” seat, 30 cm tree, wool flocked. I’m using it on my 15.1 Connemara. Let me know if you have any questions. Pictures available, Cynthia Holbrook, elohimfa@triad.rr.com.

BALMULLO FARM OFFERS two coming two-year-old pure-bred fillies for sale at VERY reasonable prices to knowledgeable and kind homes.

Tullymor’s Annie May (Tullymor’s Chip O’Perseus x Tullymor’s Anastasia Pearl), Cute as a button, grey. Will mature medium pony. Has been well civilized, leads loads, ties.

Tullymor’s Gracie Gray (Tullymor’s Mountain Shadow x Tullymor’s Kiss of Sun), dark grey, Full sister to the stallion Tullymor’s Mountain Sun. Beautiful conformation, movement, and temperament. Leads, loads, ties.

Also offered, Tullymor’s Clementine Rose (Tullymor’s Little Admiral [unreg. PB Connemara] x Roslands Carolon), 9 yo, dun. Is a purebred but circumstances of her birth mandate that she be registered as a halfbred. This is an absolutely lovely mare, wtc, jumps, trail rides. Loves to be by herself. Still somewhat green. Needs very loving home. Offered at Stud: Foothill’s Field Marshall (*Gunsmoke x Foothill’s Maybebe). Cooled, shipped semen, only. $850. For further information call 804-507-0269.

HOLLYMEAD FARM OFFERS for your consideration:

Hollymead Night Owl (Loughrea’s Seamus x Roscommon Liadan) is a lovely large grey weanling gelding born in May 2014. He is a big uphill mover and will mature in the 14.2 hand range. He may go over limit. He has ample bone, correct limbs and a lovely long neck. $2500.

Hollymead Barn Owl (Loughrea’s Seamus x Anam Cara Pearl) is a striking buckskin weanling gelding born in May 2014. He is most likely going to mature in the 14 hand range. He is outgoing, attractive and correct with a lovely top line. $2500.

Hollymead Swan River (Loughrea’s Seamus x Gately’s Red Robin) is an elegant and correct bay weanling gelding born in June 2014. He will mature close to 14.2 with ample bone and a lovely neck set. He will be the last foal of Gately’s Red Robin (Balius Rhyddspence x Gralyn’s Gypsy Rover). $2500.

Hollymead Rock ‘N Robin (Loughrea’s Seamus x Gately’s Red Robin) is a super sweet, attractive yearling purebred bay Connemara filly with lovely movement. Robbie is my granddaughter’s favorite and will mature in the 14 hand range. $3000.

Please visit our website, www.hollymeadfarm.com for more information on these ponies and pictures of their sire and dams. Since we need to reduce our numbers, we will consider all reasonable offers. I can be reached by phone at: 828-302-2082 or email Hollymead@gmail.com

FOR LEASE: As I am retiring from breeding I am looking to lease my wonderful stallion, Irish Parks Belfast Bonfire. Like most Connemara owners, I have grown attached and don’t want to part with Bonfire, but also don’t want him lonely and not used. He is very quiet when living with mares but can be enthusiastic when hand-bred. If I don’t find someone interested in leasing, he will be castrated and remain with me. He evented in Canada, and has sired some good-minded, athletic ponies. He loves people and is very friendly. Feel free to email me: ksasso01@yahoo.com or call 704-813-3682. Please only contact me if you are experienced, and serious.

CADI O’DALY FARM OFFERS:

Cady O’Daly Artisan (Trie Awain Goldsmith x Han/TB), 7 yo 15.3 homebred mare out of a nice jumper. Very athletic, bold, and scopey. A fun ride! Currently eventing at Training level and ready to show in 3’3” jumpers. Also foxhunts and great hacking out. Fabulous personality. $25K neg.

Puff of Wind (*Kilfenora Windy Isles x Fuvanna Pippin), 10 yo 14.1 grey gelding. Fabulous all-around purebred with a wonderful temperament and tons of show miles with a child. Cute mover and lovely jumper. Fun and easy! $20K.

Shenandoah (Aladdin’s Denver x QH), 8yo 14.3 dark bay halfbred mare. Big-bodied, suitable for a taller rider. Athletic, cute mover, with a lovely temperament. Local show miles and has also hunted. Would be a fun all-around mare for a petite adult or Pony Clubber. $13K.

Padric (Ballywhim An Luan [*Rocky] x HB mare), 8yo, 14.1 bay halfbred gelding. Padric is a sweet, talented pony who will excel in any discipline. He could go quite far in straight dressage, though he’s a fabulously bold and athletic jumper as well. Asking $12K, very negotiable.

Thurman Sileach (*Rattle and Snap Laddie Boy x Thurman Keepsake), 3 yo gray filly. Her dam placed Reserve Champion at Upperville for the last three years and was Best Purebred of the Day at the Region III show in 2012. Like her dam, she placed well at Upperville in 2014 and was judged Best of the Day at the 2014 Region III Connemara Show in Lexington, VA. Inspected and approved. A sweet filly; will stay large pony, $9,500.

Nola (Tre Awain Dohi McDuff x PB mare by Aladdin’s Denver), 8 yo 14.1 black mare. Nola is a gorgeous mover and incredibly talented jumper. She has local show and eventing experience. Sweet temperament. Would be a fun pony for a Pony Clubber or petite adult. Has been produced by Advanced level eventer Carol Kozlowski. Asking $8500.

Pippen (Tre Awain Goldsmith x TB), 4 yo, 14.2 palomino gelding. Sweet, straightforward, and easy. Though he’s green, he’s been ridden by children and amateurs all summer, hacking out on trails and doing basic flatwork and light jumping in the ring and out on
cross-country. A lovely all-around fellow with striking features! $7K.

**Thurman Ambrosia** (Aladdin’s Admiral Byrd x Oak Hills Miss Independence), 17 yo black mare. Broken to ride and a proven brood mare. Inspected and approved. 14.1/2 h. $5K.

**Thurman Crescent** (*Rattle N Snap Laddie Boy x Arab) Very classy, 2 yo bay gelding with lots of performance potential. Will go over large pony. $3K.

Other nice youngster available in Canada and the Midwest. 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. Known for passing along his lovely temperament, athletic jump, and beautiful movement to his offspring. $800 stud fee.

Located at Cady O’ Daly Farm in Lynchburg, VA. Contact us at 571-271-9441 or email at CadyODalyFarm@gmail.com.

**GLENDALE FARM OFFERS:**

We will once again stand Rattle 'n Snap Laddie Boy (Moy Hazy Cove x Castle Strange Sparrow). 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.

Several nice two- and three-year-old prospects, all started under saddle. Call if you are looking for a young horse to start.

**Deb Norman**, 540-955-1995 or deb@glendalefarm.com, www.glendalefarm.com

**SERVICES:**

Bright Horse Communications

Does your business need some help getting noticed? Bright Horse Communications, a marketing and production company owned and operated by Connemara breeders, offers a wide selection of promotional packages for stallion and farm owners. We offer web and graphic design, logo design, photography, video production, and communications management. Email us at Info@brighthorsecommunications.com to check out our stallion and farm package deals, and be sure to check out our website for more information: www.BrightHorseCommunications.com

**EMBROIDERY ~ SCREEN PRINTING ~ LOGO DESIGN:**

Let MMT Communications customize apparel for your farm or organization! Choose from thousands of items from our online catalog from top brands like Hanes, Gildan, Devon & Jones, Outer Banks, Dickies and more! We offer top quality polos, tees, sweatshirts, jackets, etc. at affordable prices. Please visit www.mmtcommunications.com to view our online catalog. If you don’t have a logo already, we can design one for you. We also offer many services tailored to the Equestrian Industry including designing advertisements and websites as well as creating newsletters and business cards. We can help develop a creative and professional campaign for your farm. Whether you are a rider, trainer, breeder, or farmer owner, we are here to cater to your every need, allowing you more time to spend enjoying your ponies. Call **Melanie Trimper** at MMT Communications at 410.913.5443.

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**Serendipity Frankie**

1979 – 2014

Barbara Lohre advised us of the passing of Serendipity Frankie, aka Phoenix, at the advanced age of 35. “He came from Arizona with two other Connemaras. I think the three were bought sight unseen. June Ruhsam took Phoenix. I had looked at some of Anne C. Hindman’s young ponies but they were too green for me so she showed me Phoenix. He was staying at her place because June had too much grass. The moment I sat on Phoenix’s back, I felt like I was with an old friend.”

Reprinted from Connemara Pony News, August 1993

**Pony of the Month**

Serendipity Frankie, also known as Phoenix, is a 14.3-hand bay gelding. He came to Chancellor’s Rock Farm in the summer of 1981 and has proven that Connemaras are indeed quite versatile. His first winter with us, he stopped and listened every time he heard the distant sound of hounds or the huntsman’s horn; so last winter we subscribed to the Old Dominion Hounds and I took him foxhunting. Phoenix was wonderful, from being ever so patient while I clipped him to being surefooted and steady while galloping across Virginia’s hilly terrain. It goes without saying that Phoenix sailed over all the coops and telephone poles in true Connemara style.

Just as the foxhunting season was coming to an end, I started hearing talk of the Region III Connemara Pony Show. We decided to give it a try and began working in the ring. It took a few lessons to refresh Phoenix’s memory about lowering his head and using his hind quarters. After many weeks of practice, the big day arrived and we headed to Foxcroft School for the Region III Show. Phoenix and I came home with the farm’s first ribbon, a green one.

Phoenix is now back to doing what he was originally purchased for, which is trail riding. He and I accompany the farm’s owner and her halfbred Thoroughbred on long walks through the woods, across fields and along shade-covered roads in Flint Hill.

Thanks to Phoenix, there will probably always be Connemaras at Chancellor’s Rock Farm. His outgoing personality and splendid disposition have prompted the purchase of a second Connemara, Sidney, and also the breeding of the farm’s Quarter Horse mare to a Connemara Stallion. Phoenix will always be a favorite at Chancellor’s Rock.