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ACPS WEBSITE:  [http://www.acps.org](http://www.acps.org)

**CALENDAR:**
Sunday, March 15, St. Patrick’s Day meeting, Glendale Farm, Berryville, VA
August 22-23, Annual Region III Connemara Show, Lexington, VA

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Time to renew your ACPS membership**

You can renew online through a link with USEF, download, print and mail the form at [www.acps.org](http://www.acps.org), or find the membership form on the last page of this newsletter.

We thank Avis and Paul Hodge for hosting the Christmas Party once again at their Butterland Farm in Unison, Virginia, on Sunday, December 7. Topics covered included the next region show, the new ACPS website, and a treasurer’s report.

It was decided that we all liked the Virginia Horse Center as a venue for our annual show and Marynell Eyefles will make arrangements with the Center to fix a date. Anne Moe will continue to man the secretary booth and of course the region boutique will be open for business as well. Last year’s show was a financial success and the region is in good shape to fund the next show.

With the new ACPS website up and running, each region has a “button” and we will be able to post region information there to make it available to the general public. This newsletter will be posted there, as well as regional contacts and a link to our regional boutique.

**The Stallions of Region III**

*by Kim Harrison*

Our region is blessed to have one of the highest concentrations of Connemara stallions in the country. Many of these fine gentlemen have stood in the region for years and have talented offspring performing here as well as in other parts of the country. Others are relatively unfamiliar to most of us, or are young and new to our region. I would like to thank all the stallion owners who answered my requests for pictures and information, I really enjoyed reading the stories and learning more about “our guys;” I hope you do too.

Tag is **Tre Awain Goldsmith**. He is 15.2, and he throws size, talent, and good temperament. He has retired from showing, but he evented at the training level, and was in the first AEC and finished 6th in his division. That was a memorable victory lap. I will always be thankful to Laura Balding who brought him to VA, and to Catherine Mack who owned him with me for the first years. He is a special guy, great to work with, and I am so proud of all his youngsters. I am especially proud of his first kids, CadyO’Daly Gabriel and Michael, two blue-eyed creams that many laughed at—but who hold three AEC championships and one reserve between them. Gabriel is the USEF purebred Connemara Eventer of the year. For more information, go to Cadyodalyfarm.net.
Foothill’s Field Marshall (*Gunsmoke X Foothill’s Maybee)  
Foothill’s Field Marshall, aka Bruiser, is owned by Balmullo Farm but lives in Florida where he is evented by Elliott Blackmon. Foothill’s Maybee, his dam, now owned by Elaine Mehlhan, is by Balmullo’s Beacon who is by Aladdin. We are lucky to be able to watch Maybee’s jumping feats at all our Region shows where she is a regular winner both in hand and in the performance classes.

“Bruiser” came into our lives quite by accident. While I was still living in Florida, Vanessa Morgan sent me Maybee, in foal to *Gunsmoke, to have her foal as she was due in early January and Vanessa was afraid it would be too cold in Tennessee. So late in January, 2008, on a frigid Florida day (probably colder than in Tennessee) I went to the foaling paddock early in the morning to see how Maybee was doing and was quite surprised to see two horses standing there looking at me. The second one was so big that I thought one of the yearlings had crawled through the fence to be with Maybee. But it was not too long before I realized that Maybee had had her foal. He was a huge furry bay thing that walked right up to me and gave me a friendly nuzzle. I loved him from that very first minute. Long story short, when Vanessa came to pick him up I somehow managed to convince her to take my two-year-old gelding, Balmullo’s Catfish, back home with her and leave me baby Bruiser. He is now a strapping 15 hands at almost seven years old with one adorable filly on the ground and two more on the way.

He is super talented, both in dressage and jumping with cross-country his absolute favorite. He was trained by Luke McLaughlin, now assistant trainer at Lyndon Rife Dressage in Dallas, who showed him to great success. At his first Connemara show at Pine Top Farm in Georgia he won the high-point dressage award with a score in the 70s. At next year’s Region IV show in Florida, he was the Grand Champion In Hand as well as a dressage star. At his next two shows, USDF recognized dressage shows, he won every class he entered and qualified for the Regional Championships in Georgia, where he was 12th out of 27.

When Luke left Florida for Texas, his training was taken over by Elliott Blackmon, an event rider, who also rides and trains another stallion by *Gunsmoke, WH Top Gun. At Bruiser’s first horse trial, he beat all others in his division by some 20 points and had clean stadium and cross country rounds. He has continued that success becoming Reserve Champion at the USEF American Eventing Championships in the Beginner Novice Division in 2013, and placing 10th (out of 25) in the Novice Division at the Championships in 2014. Just recently he took second place in the stallion class at the Region IV Connemara show in Florida.

His semen ships very well and he has gotten all mares in foal with the first shipment. He is negative for the HWSD gene. His one foal so far, Balmullo’s Summer Solstice (Junie), out of Hillside Emily by Aladdin, now lives in Vermont. She was a beautiful, friendly filly who has a great career ahead of her. Bruiser is expecting two foals this spring, one here out of Hillside Emily, who I hope will be a carbon copy of Junie, and one in California. He has tremendous scope and power so would be a great choice for anyone wanting a performance Connemara or half Connemara.

Willow’s Art of Kells (*Ardceltic Art x Shammer Gypsy Queen) “Kelly” is a 2011 colt who has never been bred, so we can consider him Region III’s most eligible bachelor! Owner Katie Pinner of Pinner Hill Farm in Montpelier, VA reports he is almost 15 hands and has just been started under saddle in 2014.

S.R. Irish Envoy (Joey) is by Greystone Ian McVai x Glenmary Absinthe (by *Bobby Brown) and was born in 2005. He stands with the Cheek’s trainer, Rosemary Thomas, at Summerduck Run Farm in Culpeper, VA. Joe has a great mind, is extremely athletic with beautiful movement and has a big jump. He loves to go and do! He was quite successful early on at both dressage and low-level events, earning the CDCTA year-end high point award in his division his first year going. Unfortunately his career went into hiatus when one rider after another did such foolish things as get married and move, have babies, get hurt in cars, etc. So we are all looking forward to this winter when, with a new rider, he will be going to some local dressage shows again and (fingers crossed) getting more seriously into eventing again in the spring. So far, he has had three handsome sons: a purebred bay (Glendale's MacAdam Road) who is coming four and is currently packing trail riders for Mountaintop Ranch, where he was started and deemed one of the nicest babies they’ve ever trained; a fancy bay Welsh cross (Picturesque Class Act) coming two, who will be a large pony and is headed for the hunter ring; and a 3/4 bred out of a half-TB mare familiar to

Foothill’s Field Marshall with Elliott Blackmon

Willow’s Art of Kells
Region III folks, Sycamore Ridge Irish Liberty. This gonna-be-gray boy is gorgeous, big (over 15 hands at a year and a half) and tremendously athletic.

S.R. Irish Envoy

For those who aren't familiar with Joe's sire, Ian McVai was a very popular Connemara stallion in Virginia who produced fancy halfbred hunters, eventers and dressage horses and ponies who have been extremely successful performers. Like Joe, he had, and passed on, his wonderful temperament and work ethic.

I would love to get more babies of Joe's on the ground and would consider a reduction in his $600 stud fee to approved mares. Anyone who is interested in seeing Joe or his offspring is more than welcome to come visit! Our number at Sycamore Ridge is 540-341-7104 and Rosemary's farm number is 540-825-6177.

A stallion many of you may not know is Tullymors Ned Devine (Tullymors Mountain Shadow x Bar Bar A's Rebel Doll) a 2002 dun standing at Virginia Sport Horses near Montpelier, VA. Owner Liz Booth reports she has had many halfbred offspring of his from many different types of mares, all have been good-minded, good-looking athletes performing in the hunt field, as eventers and in the show hunter ring. In 2015 she will have a few purebred foals as well as halfbreds.

Landgate Bluebeard

Bluebeard’s dam, Landgate Singing Bird, had a one-of-a-kind-sire, Bob White, who only produced one filly and was then gelded to become a riding pony. Bob White was by *Bobby Brown, imported to Virginia by Hal Shaeffer, a fellow who brought four young stallions to Virginia, and started a farm near Staunton. Interesting that Bluebeard has returned to that area!

Bluebeard’s granddam, Lynfields Kylemore, goes back to early American bloodlines, being sired by *Texas Hope (Little Heaven x Knock Molly), out of Round Robin’s Easter Bonnet by Fox Ridge Star Boy.

Bluebeard was foaled coal black, and very gradually went grey, but keeps that year-round shine in his coat that I notice on Connemaras with some *Texas Hope blood. Maybe it’s what the Thoroughbred Little Heaven gave them! But, that
seems his only TB attribute, as his back is short, his head is one of the most classic Connemara faces, and his limbs are truly correct and very sturdy! He has sired many hard color foals, as his base coat is bay. He has kept his bay patch on his face throughout his years.

Bluebeard has done many things in his 19 years—eventing at the lower levels with Marynell Eyles, and other family members or riders who happened to be at Top of the Ridge Farm; dressage schooling with a classical instructor, who brought Marynell and Blue to the realization that learning the movements was as fun as competitive dressage, so Blue got a bit cheated in that department; but he was a tried and true foxhunter for Walter Eyles, with Blue Ridge Hunt for many seasons. Walter still tells the stories of foxhunting compatriots who wondered why in the world Walter was hunting “that pony,” until they came to that trappy coop…..then as Bluebeard led the more cowardly mounts over, the questions stopped.

Bluebeard has sired winners in-hand from coast to coast, and he has many sons and daughters doing well in the hunter rings, the event world and the dressage arenas across America

Also standing at Ridgetop Connemaras is *Kilfenora Windy Isles*, by Windy Day (by Killyreagh Kim) out of Boden Park Firethorn, was foaled in Ireland and imported as a yearling by Walter and Marynell Eyles. The credit for finding him in the wilds of County Clare go to Catherine Mack who knew a “friend of a friend.” While on the Inspection Tour with many ACPS members, Catherine mentioned that she had a friend in County Clare, who had a friend who had some nice Windy Day foals, and that bloodline in Ireland was a bit scarce. The friend had found an old stallion, Windy Day, and he was siring foals that were showing some promise. The ACPS “tribe” was traveling in rented buses, with an ACPS member volunteering to drive; Katherine Wilkins happened to be one of the drivers, and happened to be in our little rebellious group. We “borrowed” the van (Anne Frey, Walter and Marynell Eyles, Catherine Mack, and our driver Katherine Wilkins) and off we went for a day’s outing in Kilfenora, across the Burren, and back into some little farms where the stallion stood, and where his foals were cavorting.

*Kilfenora Windy Isles*

It took all of us exactly one look to realize the foal to be named Windy Isles was a stellar individual. As he bounced around as his dam’s side (she was elderly, too, at this time in her life, and her breeder happened to be visiting Kilfenora at that time so we all got to learn about the mare’s history as well). That bay-turning-grey colt was the talk between us for the rest of the trip. Walter and I returned in October of that year to look at him again—was he really as good as we thought? Were his cannons as short as we thought? Was his head a cute and classic as we thought? Was that pronging going to convert to athleticism? Yes, and yes to all. We brought him, and four fillies, back with us.

“Windy” won the Region III Yearling Futurity, and everything else he attended. He went to Blue Ridge Farm to learn to be collected, and as Staples’ says...”that was easy.”

His foals have been winners across the U.S., and as they have grown up, they have proven to be all-around athletes and competitors. He stamps his children with that classic head and eyes, and a bit of a cheeky attitude sometimes! He creates very smart individuals, and much talent. Nicola Musgrave, a longtime breeder and a friend in Ireland, told us as we were contemplating what Windy would amount to, that her family stood Killyreagh Kim for many years, and that the family was replete with many great athletes. Nicola and her family were some of the few people in the West who actually used their Connemaras for sport, not just working or producing foals, so we put our faith in her knowledge. She has proven to be “spot on.”

Two imported stallions stand at Oakfields in Charlottesville, Va,: *Grange Finch* *Coosheen Finn x Grange Agnes Sparrow, 1993*) and *Hearnesbrook Dunoon* (*Hearnesbrook Fastnet x Kirtling Bonnie Doon, 1995*). Both have been tested for HWSD and are N/N. Cooled or frozen semen is available. Both are premium stallions with many winning performance offspring competing all around the country.

*Grange Finch*

*Hearnesbrook Dunoon*
At Hollymead Farm in North Carolina, **Loughrea’s Seamus** is a 2004 inspected and approved ACPS purebred Connemara stallion. His sire is Greystone Adirondack A’Herne and his dam is Loughrea’s Lioch. Seamus is 14 hands, a dark bay/brown with an excellent temperament, lovely correct limbs and athletic movement. His test results for HWSD are N/N; he does not carry the mutation. His fee for breeding outside mares for 2015 is $600.00. His foals have all been athletic, correct and personable.

**Pony Tales**

York River State Park, between Richmond and Williamsburg, is a great place to ride. Ponies from Balmullo Farm visit there often. Here *Belle Dawn* and *Balmullo’s Miss Emma* are pictured on their December ride. We would like to arrange a picnic ride for the Region in the Spring.

Rita Hamlet of Marriottsville, MD, has leased **DRF Traveler** (Skyview’s Orion x TB) from Janet Johnson of Dayton Ridge Farm in Wisconsin. He is a seven-year-old gelding and will be ridden by both Rita and her daughter, Isla. Rita says, “He is green, but a good boy and the most comfortable ride I’ve ever sat on!” Isla has been competing in local shows for several years on her previous pony, so maybe we will see them at the Region III show next year!

Karen McIntyre and **Ridgetop Windy City** competed at the BLM Championships in October at the Virginia Horse Center and were 6th place at Training level with an average score of 69.732

**CLASSIFIEDS:**

**FOR SALE:** 17.5” Duett Presto, 34cm tree, flocked panels. This saddle is specifically made for wide/flat backed horses. Duett considers it a jumping saddle, but I would say it is more like an All Purpose with the flaps cut back enough to ride with a longer stirrup if you like. While it is 3-4 years old, I rarely used it (due to switching Lee to my trail saddle) and it is in “like new” condition. They are $1299 new. I’d like $800 for it. Also 17” Collegiate dressage saddle, wide tree, flocked panels, long billets. This is an older saddle but in very good condition. $500. I can send pictures. Located outside of High Point, NC. Elin Call, 336-687-4885.

**Balmullo Farm Offers** two coming two-year-old purebred 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. Beauticul 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 Maybee*). Cooled, shipped semen, only. $850. For further information call 804-507-0269.

**Hollymead Farm Offers** for your consideration: **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](http://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.

**CADY O’DALY FARM OFFERS:**

**Cady O’Daly Artisan** (Tre 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 Fluvanna 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 an athletic jumper as well. Asking $12K, very negotiable.

**Thurman Sleach** (*Rattle and Snap Laddie Boy x Thurman Keepsake*), 3 yo grey 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 Dobh 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 youngstock 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 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 [Abbeyleigh 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.
RENEW NOW!

ACPS Membership Application Form

Memberships run from January 1st - December 31st.

All memberships include a subscription to the American Connemara magazine and access to the Members Only section of acps.org.

Membership (please check one category):

__ Junior (under 18 years, qualifies for awards) $25
__ Associate (adult, qualifies for awards) $35
__ Senior (adult, qualifies for awards, votes) $40
__ Family $70 (spouse and/or parents, children under age 18; qualifies for awards, up to 2 votes per family, but must have 2 members age 18 or older)

List names of children:

__ Life (one individual, senior privileges) $600
__ Check here if this is a Gift Membership

American Connemara Magazine: Subscription Only (i.e., nonmembers) __ $20

There is a $30 surcharge for magazine mailings to foreign (including Canadian) members and subscribers.

ACPS Foundation: $_________ tax deductible donation

You may designate preference for __Youth Programs or __Education

Make checks out to “ACPS” (US funds)

For voting purposes, I prefer:

an e-ballot ,
a paper ballot

I prefer to receive:

the e-directory ,
the printed directory (add $10 to your membership fee)

I am a new member (please complete all contact information below)

I am a renewing member

and my contact information is unchanged (please fill in your name and e-mail address)

changes in my contact information are noted below

Please do not include my contact information in the directory

Make check out to ACPS (US funds) and mail with application to: ACPS Membership, 7725 Stoney Ridge Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104 Phone: 443-878-9719 Email: anne.protem@gmail.com

Name: ____________________________________________

Farm Name: ______________________________________________

Address:

City, State, Zip

Home Phone: ________________________ Cell Phone________________

Email: ____________