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Calendar:

Deadline for next newsletter: February 15
St Patrick’s Day meeting: March 20
Region III Show: August 27-28

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

CONNEMARA BOUTIQUE

Wilkers made in USA baby pads available in assorted colors with Connemaras Do It All logo (logo not shown in photo). $26.95 each.

Melanie Trimper at mnt328@yahoo.com; or visit us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Region-III-Connemara-Boutique/110616691379

Happy New Year!

Meeting Minutes

Thanks to Les and Marilyn Cheek for hosting our annual Christmas party! Deb and David Norman, Sam Davis, Suzanne Phelps, Marilynn Davis, Elaine Meilahn, Debby Howell, Walter and Marynell Eyles, Donna Duckworth, Anne C. Hindman, Avis and Paul Hodge, Anne Moe, Kim Harrison, Karen McIntyre Welch, Lucy Bernstein, Eileen Peet and Rosemary Thomas were on hand to enjoy the feast as well as newcomers Amanda Welch and her husband Dennis Cronin. They have just purchased Glenmeadow Chocolate Chip and we hope to see more of them at Region III activities.

Region Chair Kim Harrison opened the meeting and welcomed all attending. The search is on for someone to take over the position of Achievement Awards Chairman (currently Deb Clinch of Iowa), someone to coordinate High-Point Connemara ribbon awards in any show in which Connemaras participate, and someone to take over “News of the Week” on the website which Donna Duckworth has so ably manned for many years.

Marilynn Davis offered to host the annual St. Patrick’s Day Party and Region III annual meeting at her home in Upperville on Sunday, March 20. Details will be confirmed and announced in the next newsletter.

The 30th annual (can you believe it?) Region III Connemara Show will be held August 27-28 at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, VA. If you have any ideas for celebrating this landmark, get in touch with Marynell Eyles who is once again managing the show. According to Wikipedia, the pearl is the traditional gift for a 30 th anniversary, so maybe we could build on that.

Several ideas were presented about including other breeds in the show, perhaps Irish Draughts or Cleveland Bays, but there wasn’t any enthusiasm for that proposal. The Mountain and Moorland ponies are a better fit, especially since Connemaras are included in the M&M classification. The M&M entries last year were light but there was a one-time conflict for the Dartmoor people and the show committee will check with them to see if they can increase their attendance in 2015.
Will there be inspections in conjunction with our 2015 show? Ten ponies must be nominated in order to hold inspections so an e-blast will be sent to Region III members to inquire about possible nominees. Marynell said if your pony has been inspected and approved, and is eligible, they may be presented for inspection for Premium status.

Owners of breeding stock are encouraged to have their ponies tested for Hoof Wall Separation Disease. All stallions must now be tested, but if you by chance have a foal by an untested stallion, that foal must be tested. Get in touch with Marynell for details.

Maureen Loughman Abel has sent an update on the Melanoma study that Kim will put in the newsletter.

Meeting adjourned; on to shopping with our Region III crafters!

Anne Moe (for Judy Brescia, who could not attend)

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**Update on Melanoma Research**

Progress is being made! Unique qualities in the genome of grey ponies with melanoma compared to older grey ponies without melanoma have been discovered. In depth analysis has identified 360 genomic sequences associated with a predisposition to developing melanoma which will be further studied.

As opposed to Hoof Wall Separation Disease which is a disease associated with a mutation of a single gene, melanoma is a polygenic disease which involves several dozens of known and unknown predisposing genes and cancer genes. 360!

Our generous members have volunteered ponies from four specific groups who gave samples of blood, tissue, urine and tumors for a total of 74 Connemaras. I have provided the project with an Excel file of the bloodlines of these ponies back to the grandparents.

This project is now delayed because of funding. These initial results have been used to apply for a grant from the Morris Animal Foundation, and applications will be make to other relevant grant agencies.

Also needed are at least two more Group 1 ponies – greys who have developed melanoma by age 6.

We have identified a BEC who developed melanoma prior to age 6. Dr. Theon said we can use this pony, although it is not grey, because of the advancement in dna technology since the project began. I am working with the owner to get the samples.

Another pony was identified through the recent email sent with the help of Anne Moe. This pony is a grey 5 year old, but the owner does not want to have him sampled because of concerns for the ponies’ health. I have supplied her with information from Dr. Theon (which I include below) and hope she may change her mind in the future. It has been two years since we first looked for ponies for this research. Please take another look at your young stock to see if any melanoma has developed in the last couple of years and let me know. If funding the vet bill is a problem, I have benefactors who will help with this.

Don’t give up! It will take some time, but the results will help preserve the popular and beautiful white horses of all breeds by eliminating melanoma through genetic testing and informed breeding practices.

Maureen Loughman Abel

Dr. Theon’s Comments Concerning Biopsy of Tumor

** Biopsy: I want tumor tissue sample the size of the biopsy instrument that I sent in the kit. I do not want to have a biopsy and leave the rest of the tumor because the biopsy may trigger tumor growth and maybe a source of infection. I thought it is clear to any veterinarian who graduated in this country that nobody does biopsy a lesion (particularly if one knows it is a melanoma) without following with a complete resection. I will clarify this in the instruction.
“Biopsy sample will be done on tumors that can be completely removed or on tumors that very large and ulcerated (in this case biopsy will not make things worse). If there is concern that the biopsy and complete removal of the tumor may interfere with a coming event (competition or pregnancy), it is recommended to wait until the event is over.” Everybody (Vets and owners) should keep in mind that melanomas are tumors and like any tumor the earlier you surgically resect it, the easier it is to entirely remove it, the less likely the surgery site will get infected and the less likely the tumor will have a chance to spread.

Dr. Theon’s Comments Concerning Vaccines

** Mercury in vaccine: I have checked with Equine Medicine Faculty members at Davis, contacted vaccine company reps and all vaccines have mercury based preservative (by the way human vaccine, eye drops, and most medication that have a long shelf-life contain mercury based preservative). It has been used for more than 20 years and there is not a shred of scientific evidence (only internet speculations) that it causes mercury poisoning or cancer. As long as unstable biologic products (like vaccines) are used, preservatives will be needed. Vaccine manufacturers are looking for replacement nothing as good so far. There is good epidemiological data showing that in wild horse populations (unvaccinated) graying horses get melanoma and the risk of developing sarcoid is the same (even Zebra in the savanna in Africa get sarcoid). The goal of the study is not to develop a vaccine but to identify genes associated with melanoma and then develop treatment that would either modify bad genes or shut them down to prevent the disease. Vaccines are treatment that boosts the immune system to fight the cancer. I have clinical trial with anti-melanoma DNA and cytokines vaccines that do not contain a drop a mercury-based preservative, I don’t need it because DNA is extremely stable. An owner made a very good observation. Melanomas grow in spurs, quiet in fall and winter. They are more likely to grow in spring when they get their vaccines; it is true but nothing to do with vaccines. It has been well shown that melanoma tumor cells in horses and actually in people have sex-hormone receptors. When the receptors located on cell membrane get exposed to increase in sex-hormone this activate tumor cell proliferation and tumors grow. During spring mares, stallion and even gelding have increased sex-hormone production which triggers melanoma tumor cell growth. Of course, it is also the time of year we give spring vaccines.

Winter Reading

This month is typically a slow news month and a slow riding time of year with poor weather so we often have members suggest some books to fill the hours we are not spending in the saddle. Last newsletter I printed a story about a book written by one of our region 3 members, The Great Hound Match of 1905. I am pleased to report that I have now read this book and was entertained and educated. The author, Martha Wolfe, covers not only the hound match, which took place in the hunt country around Middleburg, Virginia, but many historical tidbits and anecdotes that led up to the match. I found the chapter about the women who rode to hounds in that era particularly interesting.

Another, much older book written by a woman with a Connemara connection is Lessons with Lendon: 25 Progressive Dressage Lessons to take you from Basic Whoa and Go” to your first competition. The author, Lendon Gray, is well known in the Connemara world as the rider of two half-bred Connemara dressage champions, Seldom Seen and Last Scene. I found this book quite by accident in my local library. Published in 2003, it is a compilation of a series of articles that Lendon wrote for Practical Horseman magazine, and is still available from Amazon. It is very well illustrated, easy to read, and in spite of the subtitle, covers more than basic dressage.

Older still is a book published in 1973 by yet another Connemara woman, Dog Steps, Illustrated Gait at a Glance, by Rachel Page Elliott. “Pagey” was better known as a breeder
of Golden Retrievers, but she did raise Connemaras under the “Concord River” prefix until she passed away in 2009. (This breeding program was carried on by her daughter, Elizabeth Patais) Her books are still available on Amazon, mostly in used condition. I was given this book as a hand-me-down from a friend who knew nothing about the Connemara connection, but I saw Mrs. Elliot’s obituary on the ACPS website and put two and two together. *Dog Steps* is still regarded as the definitive analysis of dog gait, and is well illustrated by the author with simple line drawings. It is not a weighty tome, to horses. She does have a comparative skeletal drawing of a horse, dog and human in one section and makes note of the differences that matter.

**Pony Tales**

New member Amanda Welch has an interesting story to tell about her new partner, **Glenmeadow Chocolate Chip** (Tullymore’s Chip o’Perseus x Rosland’s GR’s Sarah by Balmullo’s Same as Gold) who is called “Snickers.” Amanda fell for Snickers because he reminded her of her childhood pony, **Landgate Goldberry**, and as she learned more about Snickers, she found the two ponies had more in common than their color. Both were the result of accidental surprise breedings, and Snickers was born on a farm in Louisa once owned by Amanda’s now neighbors and good friends. Snickers was born in 2003, the same year that “Berry” passed away. More details about the story can be found at [http://www.grubbygirl.com/2015/12/](http://www.grubbygirl.com/2015/12/)

Then and now:

![Amanda and Berry, circa 19??](image1)

![Amanda and Snickers, 2015](image2)
CLASSIFIED ADS

Blankets for sale: 1) 75 Rambo Original Heavyweight (green with red trim), slightly faded but good condition. 2) 76 Schneiders midweight, black, designed to not put pressure on the withers. very good condition. Both blankets were professionally cleaned and waterproofed this spring. Marla Stoner 301-368-3435

Balmullo Farm Offers:

Balmullo’s Uproar, aka "Pinky", is looking for a new home!! She is a seven-year-old bay 13.3 hand mare out of Wildwych Clio by Castle Baron. Her sire is CR Roaring water Bay. (Sire of the lately famous Azalea!) She has been ridden for the past two years by a now 12-year-old young lady, but young lady has recently graduated to a slightly larger pony (Connemara of course) so we are offering Balmullo's Uproar for sale. Pinky has lots of ribbons from schooling hunter shows...she qualified in first place for the Pony Club Show Jumping rally and has done a little eventing. And she always wins the pony puissance at our end-of-camp show! She is very easy….totally uncomplicated. She would make a perfect pony club pony, hunter pony, or broodmare. Email balmullofarm@gmail.com for further information. VERY reasonably priced!

Tullymor's Clementine Rose wants her forever home. WTC, jumps. A little shy until she gets to know you. Is purebred but registered a half bred due to no fault of her own. 10 years old, has had one foal. Special this month only, $2500. balmullofarm@windstream.net

Foothill's Field Marshall (*Gunsmoke x Foothill’s Maybee). Offered at Stud -- Cooled, shipped semen only. $850.
For further information call 804-507-0269.
Cady O'Daly Tinker - 5yo, 15.2 Connemara x Hanoverian/TB mare by Tre Awain Goldsmith. "Tink" is a striking palomino with tons of chrome. She has a wonderful personality, is a beautiful mover and excellent jumper. Shown locally--will excel in any direction, though we can see her as a dressage or eventing performer. Perfect for adult amateur or junior. Currently eventing Beginner Novice, showing 2'6-2'9, doing hunter paces, and hilltopping. Recently showed at the Region III show and got some great ribbons. $15K, negotiable to perfect home.

Durango - 6yo, 15.2 bay Connemara-cross gelding by Tre Awain Goldsmith. Lovely, laid back temperament - safe and sweet. Great family horse! Loves trails and hacking out. Currently foxhunting and is a perfect gentleman. Would be a fun lower-level eventer/foxhunter/Pony Club type. Easy and straightforward. $10K

Cady O'Daly Clare - Weanling purebred filly, black, sired by Tre Awain Goldsmith and out of Premium mare Ridgetop Cady O'Daly (by Aladdin's Denver). Very sweet, laid back, and correct. Lovely gaits! Will be an exceptional athlete like both her parents, and also a fabulous addition to someone's breeding program. Should mature oversize (full siblings around 15+ hands). $4500

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; CadyODalyFarm@gmail.com, or call 571-271-9441. Lynchburg, VA.

Glendale’s Boot Camp (Camper). Five-year-old bay mare, 15’1”+. Big bodied. Really nice. Brave, smart, quiet, a lovely mover. She has spent 1.5 years in Ocala with Elliott Blackman who events Training-Intermediate. Lots of flat work plus trail ridden. Out of a TB mare by Rattle ‘n Snap Laddie boy. I cannot say enough nice things about this mare. She has no limits as to discipline. $12.5K

Glendale’s Macadam Road (Mac). Four-year-old purebred dark bay gelding. 15+ hands. Also big bodied. Has been trail riding in the Blue Ridge Mountains for a year. Has done a couple of hunter paces. He W/T/C in the ring but has not done a lot of flat work while he was trail riding but we are riding him daily on the trail and he is wide open and completely capable of going forward. He just needs his person. A lovely little horse. Out of a Denver mare (Glendale’s Brooks and Dun) by an Ian McVai stallion (SR Irish Envoy). $ 8500.


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

Now Available from the American Connemara Pony Society Promotions Committee, American Connemara Pony Society Solid Pewter Christmas Ornaments, Approx. 2” in Diameter. Handmade in the USA. $25.00 each with Free Shipping.