Equine Affaire Recap

By Amy Treat

Now that Equine Affaire 2019 is in the history books I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped the American Connemara Pony Society, Region 1 Equine Affaire team find so much success. Our smaller booth without a stall in the breed pavilion along with our setup of 3 stalls with ponies and a display in C Barn was actually easier to organize and provided a broader way for people to access information about Connemara Ponies and to be able to meet some wonderful ponies and their people. There were many great conversations had throughout our 4+ days there. We also had a number of ponies demonstrate the amazing temperament and versatility of the breed with our 2 demos as well as with a few of our ponies participating in clinics over multiple days. This year we had 10 volunteers sign up to fill volunteer slots in our breed booth… what wasn’t covered by volunteers was covered by our core crew from the EA Planning committee. Our demonstration ponies and their riders and driver did a fabulous job during the demos. On Saturday, in the Coliseum, we had Sarah Thrasher riding Denny, Amy Plavin riding Millie, Corrinne Lauzer riding Gilly and Ashley Mount driving Whistle. We were allowed, this year, to use the jumps left up from the Candice King clinic, and while there weren’t quite as many jumps as we expected, they were beautiful and already set up! With the addition of our club

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The cold weather did nothing to dampen the spirit of the Region 1 members this fall as we made a good showing at the Equine Affaire in West Springfield, MA. Cognizant of the fact that we represented the ACPS as a whole, our volunteers fanned out to cover a smart looking informational booth, the stall row of ponies in the breed barn, and of course, our beautiful performance teams in the ridden breed demos.

The breed demos and displays were coordinated by the herculean efforts of Amy Treat and Hannah Reynolds-Brown and their respective families. One amazing aspect of the Connemara breed that so many endeavors really do involve the entire family! Many family members took shifts at our breed booth, answering questions from the public about the breed. The Region 1 store, set up in the corner of our booth, did a good job selling merchandise. The demo riders and horses represented many aspects of the breed that “does it all.” Eventing ponies Aluinn Denmark (owned and ridden by Sarah McCrae Thrasher) and Caraway Gilly (owned by Katherine Northern and ridden by Corrinne Lauze and not too far out from their first 1* competition), dressage

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Sydney McRae Schoenbeck on Seafield's Dangan Nora
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owned Connemara panel jump we had a nice selection for our two jumping ponies, Gilly and Denny, who wowed the crowd with their beauty and form over fences. Millie and Amy showed off their Dressage prowess while Ashley and Whistle were fine examples of a beautifully well-behaved and turned out driving pony and a gorgeous carriage borrowed from Mary Lou Thall.

On Sunday, the demonstration in Mallory included Sarah Thrasher on Denny, Corinne Lauzer on Gilly, Ainsley Treat on Kitty and Sydney Schoenbeck on Nora. Sydney and Ainsley showed the crowd what great ponies Connemaras can be for juniors as they jumped around a few jumps… Sydney even wowed the crowd with a very cool demonstration of Nora’s ability as a very calm and quiet vaulting pony while Sydney did a few gymnastics on her. Gilly and Denny again showed beautiful form and function over jumps as we raised them higher and higher for our more advanced pony/rider teams.

In C Barn, our resident Connemara Pony breed ambassadors, Kitty, Rhubarb and Sheena were available to meet with the public and pose for LOTS of pictures. I have found that one of the best ways to introduce Connemara Ponies to the public is through the clinics. There have been many times that people have come up to us after a clinic to talk to us about our ponies, generally about how impressed they are with their temperament and willingness, but also about how adorable and beautiful they are. Very often our ponies develop a bit of a fan club and we have people back at the barns asking if our pony was the one they saw in a particular clinic. Kitty, Sheena and Whistle had a blast in their respective clinics and were fantastic ambassadors for the breed!

Next year we are planning on keeping the format similar to what we had this year but will be changing up the volunteer times in the booth a bit. As you can tell, we are already excited about planning our Connemara participation at Equine Affaire for 2020!

The Connemara Bits & Pieces Newsletter is published four times a year as an information source for American Connemara Pony Society Region I members. The Bits & Pieces staff and ACPS shall not be held responsible for any typing errors or mis-information submitted for publication by members.
Member News

Adventures in December 2019

by Tracy Roettiger

Stepping into uncharted waters, I decided to enter a dressage clinic in December. Not as in I sent in my deposit for a far off clinic (for example, to reserve a spot in a clinic in, oh, say, June), but an honest to goodness wear as many base layers as I can layer, the warmest fleece I can find, and suck it all in to zip up my ACPS Region 1 vest over the top. For as marshmallow lady as I felt, Windy Hollow Tamarack (Aluinn Durango x Caraway Gilly) was feeling as spry as his four years of age would allow (which, in case any one had any doubts, can be very very spry).

The night before the clinic, I turned the lights on in the indoor and was able to relish the fact that I was in an arena, with my pony, with lights, no snow, and good footing. Thankful, I started working in hand, checking out where Tam felt stuck and where he was fluid. I’d lugged my western saddle out to the indoor to see if he would stand to be tacked. He was calm and relaxed. I then asked him to move off and he noticed the good footing, which led to a discussion about appreciating an indoor but not losing sight of the fact that we were working. Softness ebbed and flowed, and at one point I noticed an especially soft response to backing up while my left hand was under his chin. Earlier this year, backing up while my left arm was asking had been difficult. I wondered to myself when backing up had gotten so good. I have to admit I can’t remember the problem disappearing, but it left, leaving me with an appreciation of a very straight and supple pony.

Saturday morning came, and Tam and I were in the arena with clinician Greta Wrigley. The warm up trots were decent if not a little erratic. Greta was pleased though, seeing progress and increased maturity despite not having put in a lot of ride time. Canter were, well, spry, reinforcing the importance of my weekly Pilates sessions. My pony can move, and my hips need to as well! Sunday's session yielded much better rhythm at the trot, and much more of a reminder that he's a four year old when we cantered. I am reassured that Tam will eventually see cantering as much easier when one just steps into it, which, after lots of sweat and reminders of how to go respectfully with my ask, we had some transitions that did not include a helium filled pony posterior.

Tam and I got a lot out of the clinic - it was a bit like peeling an onion....the layers come off one by one, revealing a new set of challenges as the old ones are shed away, all the while collecting and appreciating the improvements. One of my favorite take homes was the three Ts: things take time. I was also reminded not only to look ahead at where I hope to go, but more importantly, remember to look back on occasion to see how far we've come. Another neat thing about the clinic? Three Connemara ponies took part: Windy Hollow Modern Millie (owned and ridden by Amy Plavin), Maeve (owned and ridden by Midge Dunn), and Windy Hollow Tamarack. Nearly enough to be considered an invasion!
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**Patty Montana**

Patty Montana of Raynham, MA, competed 7-year-old Prairie Mulligan (Blue Ridge Jefferson x Dawn’s Mary Kate) aka Brady at the Mystic Valley Hunt Club’s Fall Finale Oct 11-13, 2019 in Gales Ferry, CT. They earned scores in First Level Tests 2 and 3 ranging from 63% up to 66%.

**Through Katie’s Eyes**
by Kerry Page

There she was, crumpled up in the snow. I hadn’t seen her quite like this before. I went over and sniffed her on the cheek with a warm, gentle breath. She greeted me quietly, but remained still, as if waiting for something. It was a quiet night; a few flakes shuffled their way down coating my back. It was long past dinnertime, an unusual time for a visit, but I didn’t mind. She spent some time with us, just listening and watching. Shortly after, she would leave, and I always waited for her return.

She continued to come back when the dark and cold air immersed us. And there she sat, in the snow. At times she seemed troubled and was less silent. I went to visit her, wondering why she sat there in this unfamiliar way. She would always pat me and perked up when I greeted her. She would bring hay and I would munch as she remained with us. It seemed comforting, and I did my best to please her.

The nights like these lasted during the cold time but became less frequent as it became warmer. She always came back when the light lifted. I waited for her to call to me, “Kaatatiee!” she would shout. I enjoyed seeing her like this, and with a smile she would choose the best spot of grass for me to eat that day.

I now have a new home with a different stall, and I see her every day. I wait for her to open the door with my bucket. I poke my ears just in sight through the window, so she knows I am there.

I haven’t seen her sitting out late at night in a long time, but if I do, I will remember to greet her, and much my hay, as this seems to provide comfort.

The phrase, *Connemara’s Do It All*, may have a slightly different meaning to each of us. Maybe the phrase reminds you of Dressage or Jumping. Perhaps it’s Eventing or possibly even Barrel Racing. But to me, it became so much more. At the age of nine, Tullymore’s Katie Kisses came into my life. We competed in Dressage and Eventing over the years and created irreplaceable memories. Throughout all the changes in my life, there remained one wonderful constant, Katie. She did it all. More than clearing every fence or nailing every movement, my Connemara became my foundation. She was there to hug, cry on, celebrate with and in its purest form, just enjoy. There was a time in my life I would drive to the barn, long past the curfew, and sit with my Connemaras. They didn’t need to say or do anything to help me, and when I was searching for someone to do just that, I found all the love and comfort I could possibly need. I ask you to think deeply the next time you hear the phrase, *Connemara’s Do It All*, and remember how much your Connemara truly does for you.
Kessler Memorial Scholarship

- To be awarded to an ACPS Region I member in good standing.
- Both rider and owner must be current Region I members of the ACPS and a copy of their membership card must be included with the application.
- The purebred, half bred or Connemara sport horse must be registered with the ACPS and the registration number must be on the application form.
- Applicants must have volunteered their time for at least two Region I events or a Region I office within 12 months prior to the application due date.
- The amount of each scholarship shall be $100.
- Recipients of the scholarship award agree to share the knowledge of their learning experience with other Region I members by either writing an article for “Bits and Pieces” newsletter within 6 months of the activity or a demonstration at a Region I meeting.
- Applicants receiving an award from this scholarship are eligible to re-apply two years from receipt of previous award. Scholarships will not be awarded for two consecutive years to the same person.
- Juniors must be no more than 18 years old; Seniors are 19 years or older.
- Applicants for 2020 must be received by May 1st 2020. You may use a separate piece of paper to describe how you plan to use the scholarship award.
- Send to Amy Plavin, whconnemaras@gmail.com, 413-834-1804 or to Carolyn McEvitt, cbmcevitt@comcast.net, 860-228-8675 by May 1st, 2020.

ACPS Region I

2020 Kessler Memorial Scholarship

Date: _____ (Include copies of member and owner’s membership card)

Pony/Horse Registered Name: ________________________________

Registration #: ____________ Rider’s Name: _____________________ Age: ___

Address: _____________________________________________________________________________

Owner’s name and address (if different than Rider): ________________________________

Describe the activity and cost which the scholarship is to be used for:
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Activities which you have volunteered for: ____________________________________________

Applicant Signature: ____________________________

MAIL TO: Amy Plavin, 403 Parker Hill Road, Rockingham, VT 05101

OR

Carolyn McEvitt, 32 Hope Valley Road, Amston, CT 06231
Paradox Greystone Clarion
Clarion is a 2018 red bay gelding by Tricreek Greystone Riley x Macbradaighs' Irish Whistle. He was born at Triple Creek Farm in NY and is now home in Exeter NH. Whistle is a 13.3 hand bay mare, by Maplehurst Michael Macdaire, inspected Premium by the ACPS. She is a nice jumper, big dressage mover, and is currently trying her hand at driving. She was driving in the Connemara Breed demo at Equine Affaire. She is a very quick study. Riley is a 14 hand bay dressage pony, excelling this year at Prix St Georges and Intermediare. Clarion should finish around 14.2 hands. HWSD negative. Registered with the ACPS and lifetime with the USEF. Asking $5000
contact Sally Oxnard, stoxnard@gmail or 603-822-9039.
The 54th Annual
ACPS Region 1
Connemara Breed Show

Saturday July 18 and Sunday July 19 2020
At Green Mountain Horse Association

Region 1 Tea at Paradox Connemaras
March 15, 2020
10 am

5 Greenleaf Dr
Exeter, NH 03833
Contact Sally Oxnard at 603-828-9039 with questions
From your Bits and Pieces Team

To all our Members:
In a busy world full of busy lives, it's our intent to keep this great regional round-up on a reasonably regular schedule. And that's where you come in. We need your input! Do you have something to brag about? Have you participated in a cool clinic? Is there an issue you think needs to be addressed? Do you have something to sell or trade, or are you looking for something to buy? If so, send us your materials! If you send photos, please identify all the people & ponies in them, & please, please credit the photographer.

Publication Dates: January (Winter), April (Spring), June (Summer), and October (Fall)
Deadline for Submission: 1st of the month prior to publication date
Thanks! We look forward to hearing from you! 🍀

Region 1 Store Update

The store had a very successful time at Equine Affaire this year. I’m very happy to say that many people went home with new connemara gear. Our winter hats were a big hit! I’ve also done a few custom orders for people looking for the perfect cross country saddle pad. Have something special that you want for your pony? Send me an email and we can work together to get exactly what you want.
I will be at Field Day, the annual show, and Equine Affaire so if you want to order anything in advance of those events please let me know.
My email is hannahereynolds@outlook.com
Thanks! See you around the region! 🍀

ACPS Membership News

Effective January 1, 2020, the position of Membership Secretary will be taken by Suzanne Phelps (membership) and Cynthia Holbrook (database).
Please contact Suzanne for membership questions, renewals and new member applications.
Suzanne’s contact information is:
2010 Miracle Lane
Falls Church, VA 22043
(703)244-5731
srphelps@cox.net
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