Field Day
By Tracy Roettiger
August 22nd was a quintessential New England day with big white puffy clouds in a deep blue sky that only gave way to the rumbles of thunder for a little while before blowing away to the north. The jumping clinic was full to capacity, with 12 horses and riders ready to learn from clinician Joe Forest. Sunny Dell Stables was groomed to the max for our special event. The dell the stable is located in is atop a ridge not too far from the Connecticut River, which yielded vistas covering 3 states and plenty of room for participants to watch and learn from a socially distanced position.

Riders brought ponies ranging in age from 3 years to 19 years and included Alicia Kinson with Cybatina Cian O'Cham, Muriel Hagen Smith with Cybatina Finn O'Cham, Ainsley Treat with Elder Glenn's Miss Kitty, Helena Kopczynski with Bantry Bay's Roper and a second ride with Concord River Scottish Thistle, Corrine Kinson with Baobab de Brio, Alex Piaget with *Aughnasilla Paddy and For Mountain Tanner (in hand), Hannah Reynolds Brown with Lady Sheena, Tracy Roettiger with Windy Hollow Tamarack, Holly Mathers with Northern Storm, Cailey Fay with Elphin Kookabura, and Julia Latham with Trout Ranch Whimsey.

Joe's lessons held a common thread of communication and confidence. From ground rails to courses, riders and ponies were able to work towards improving their performance. The course was set out in a recently cut hay field, allowing continued on page 2
loads of space for flat work and jumping. Many horses and riders stayed after the jumping was done to participate in Sarah McRae Thrasher's Conformation Clinic, where we learned some pearls on presenting our ponies as well as what the judges look at when they are assessing how our ponies are built. Sarah pointed out how the influences of different blood lines are seen in today's ponies despite the many generations and decades that have gone by and by doing so emphasized the important responsibility Connemara breeders have in understanding what strengths and weaknesses they are propagating. After the in hand work was done, two tireless ponies and their humans set out on a trail ride overlooking the vistas of Leyden Massachusetts. Angie Reynolds with Lady Sheena and Tracy Roettiger with Windy Hollow Tamarack must have had some strong coffee to last that long!

Earlier in the day the annual Region 1 Meeting was held with participants masked, spaced out, and in the beautiful sun of the hay field. The attendance register was, for the first time in 40 years, not passed hand to hand, but rather attendance was recorded by our chair, Tracy Roettiger. The meeting business was attended to: all officer positions remained the same, a treasurer report was given by Janet Chayes, and our show and Equine Affaire reports were on hold until we are able to host them again (hopefully 2021)!

The general consensus was that we needed the entire weekend for our clinic! Not only could more people participate, but our diehard enthusiasts could have 2 days to ride with Joe. A good time was had by all, and we hope to have Joe back again next year.

Clockwise: Muriel Hagen Smith with Cybatina Finn O’Cham, Helena Kopczynski with Bantry Bay's Roper, Holly Mathers with Northern Storm, Tracy Roettiger with Windy Hollow Tamarack
When you’ve been riding the same steady eddy paint gelding for the better part of a decade and then purchase a recently turned six-year-old unbroken Connemara mare you’re in for some ups and downs. However, the journey is made much easier when you have the right guidance and support.

For Lady Sheena (Greystone’s Adirondak A’Herne X JEF Meara) and I a large part of that support and guidance at the beginning of our journey came from Mountain Lane Farm. With a large training program which has an amazing reputation for developing dependable trail horses and giving great foundations I knew it was the place for us. So much so that I spent three hours a day on the road just to go ride there and be a part of her training process.

When Mountain Lane started the construction of their mountain trail course I knew I wanted to go back to be able to introduce Sheena to these new types of obstacles. The opportunity to share this experience with all of our connemara pals (new and old) made it even better. The clinic quickly filled with twelve people signing up. The morning group consisted of myself with Lady Sheena, Hannah Reynolds-Brow with Bantry Bay’s Rhubarb, Amy Treat with Elderglens Miss Kitty, Helena Kopczynski with Bantry Bay’s Roper, Dawn Kopczynski with Concord River Irish Thistle and Sally Oxnard with Tower Hill’s Breeze. Then we had the afternoon group who included Margaret Sanford with her Irish Gate’s Ace In The Hole, Linda Haines and Blue Ridge Bluebell, Julia Latham with Trout Ranch Whimsey, Elizabeth Oellers with Durango’s Irish Rose, Tracy Roettiger with Windy Hollow Tamarack and Janet Chayes with Cobblestone Roxanne. I love that the Connemara community feels like family…so much so that there were three sets of mother daughter combos.

Mountain Trail Clinic

By Angie Reynolds

Hannah is quite busy with her pony Bantry Bay’s Rhubarb and may also be seen on her mother’s pony (Angie Reynolds’ Lady Sheena). Photos of the dynamic duo are often seen on the Region 1 Facebook page.

Kessler Memorial Scholarship is another financial opportunity for members to apply for. Based on a combination of a history of volunteerism in the region and the desire to participate in an educational activity with the pony, Tracy Roettiger was awarded the $100.00 scholarship to use in the region’s Field Day Clinic with Joe Forest as well as a Centered Riding Clinic with Susan Harris with Tracy’s own pony Windy Hollow Tamarack.

Field Day happened, masked, sanitized, outside and socially distanced. Thankful for the flexibility of clinician Joe Forest and host farm Sunny Dell Stables, the event was moved from June to late August with a careful eye on the pandemic, travel restrictions, and state regulations. 12 riders and ponies cantered and jumped under Joe’s watchful eye, with most staying late into the afternoon for an in hand clinic with our own Region 1 member Sarah McRae Thrasher. The finer points of presenting a pony in hand as well as what the judges are looking for was a fascinating eye opener. Two brave energetic members stayed even later to hack out in the beautiful trails of Sunny Dell and surrounding farms…Lady Sheena with Angie Reynolds were the guides to the young Wind Hollow Tamarack and his person Tracy Roettiger.

Trail Clinic at Mountain Lane Farm with Heather White was proof positive that Connemara Ponies may be distantly related to mountain goats. Climbing, balancing, cantering and splashing their way around a Mountain Trail Course designed by Mark Bolender, seasoned show ponies and green beans alike had their ears forward and thinking caps on. The clinic was at maximum capacity on the outdoor course, with 6 participants in the morning and 6 in the afternoon. Skinny bridges, ponds, suspension bridges, rolling bridges, and a stacked “cake” bank obstacle were some of the beautiful and fascinating obstacles found at the clinic.

The region has been active to say the least….what will 2021 bring? Hopefully as much comradery as 2020!
Continued from page 3

taking part in the clinic. Myself and Hannah, Elizabeth and Julia and Helena and Dawn. Love that these ponies keep us all together. The first group woke up to some true New England weather with temperatures in the thirties. However, everyone arrived ready to go and the clinic got underway starting in hand. We worked through the different obstacles with the guidance of Mountain Lane owner Heather White. The quick progress was a true testament to the breed as the ponies stomped over the suspension bridge, through the water, and crossed the teeter totter. You could see all of their brains working as they figured out what was being asked of them and how each obstacle worked. We learned how mountain trail shows are scored with an emphasis on straightness through or over the obstacle. We then went back to the trailers so everyone could tack up. The ponies went back to the obstacles with the same willingness and desire to try that they had shown in hand.

“Every breed of horse and mule can participate in mountain trail. Riders range from Olympic competitors to those who are just starting with their first horse; from youth riders to those in their 80’s – all are having fun. You can see riders in every type of saddle – dressage, jumping, roping, equitation reining and endurance. As a matter of fact Sheena and I were the only ones using a western/endurance saddle during the clinic. Participants come from every walk of life, yet when everyone comes together they are one in their passion to learn and in their love for the horse.” (IMCTA.org) In many ways the connemara pony is the same. They can be enjoyed by all riders from 8-80 in a variety of tack or disciplines.

Overall, it was a very fun day enjoyed by all! I know I look forward to going back for their trail play days, especially with my daughter and her pony Rhubarb.

☘️

Top to Bottom: Sally Oxnard with Tower Hill’s Breeze, Dawn Kopczynksi with Concord River Irish Thistle and Helena Kopczynski with Bantry Bay’s Roper, Elizabeth Oellers with Durango’s Irish Rose, Julia Latham with Trout Ranch Whimsey, Linda Haines with Blue Ridge Bluebell, Tracy Roettiger with Windy Hollow Tamarack, Janet Chayes with Cobblestone’s Roxanne, and Margaret Sanford with Irish Gate’s Ace In the Hole
New Members

Dawn Kopczynski & Concord River Irish Thistle
At this time Thistle and I are working on our Misfit Farm Trial/Obstacle Program. We have completed the Bronze level one. Now it's onward to Silver level one. Helena is guiding us along the way. She is a wonderful teacher and mentor. I know without her Thistle and I would be lost. Helena and Thistle will be teaming up for field day with Joe Forrest. This will be Thistle's first outing. In Sept Thistle and I will be attending the trail/obstacle clinic. Looks to be a fun day of learning. It seems like trail riding and obstacle courses might be our thing.

Thistle brings a smile to my face and to my heart everyday.
I have longed for a horse/pony of my own. Who ever knew that day I first saw her standing in the field she was the one.
Fate is a funny thing. Thank you Cynthia B Richards for making this happen. And yes I am having fun.

☘

Abigale Luetjen & High Jynx

A new member to Region 1 is Abigale Luetjen who sent in a paragraph about her pony High Jynx. They live in Toland CT and they bought High Jynx (*Corrib's Silver Fox) from a family in VT.
She writes “My name is Abigale Luetjen, I am 16 years old and my pony’s name is High Jynx. He is a 16 year old, 14.2 hand, grey, imported, pure bred Connemara gelding. I have owned Jynx since 2016 and have been competing in the pony jumpers with him. He is truly a pony of a lifetime since he is so well mannered and could jump the moon. In 2019 I went to pony finals and hope to return in 2021. Since I have had Jynx he has let me move up the levels and has taught me so much. 

Her mother Patti adds "We are in love with Jynx and the Connemara breed. He is the type of pony that you could hand off to a 100 year old or a little toddler and he would be perfect. We can and do take him any where and everywhere and he is so patient and easy going. We do our own shipping, grooming and sometimes training at shows and we have never had an issue. He is just perfect. “

I have seen High Jynx's name in the USEF jumper year end awards as high point purebred Connemara jumper. We are delighted to have them in our Region-

Classifieds

ISO: Heart horse for a loving owner
Looking for a bombproof gelding who enjoys trail riding for a fit older woman. The owner is looking for a lifelong partner and will provide a phenomenal home.
*Budget up to $15k for the right horse*
We are looking for a horse that meets the following criteria:
- Must be a gelding
- Must be safe: no buck, bolt, or hot headed horses.
- Must be a confident horse who is able to go out on the trails alone or with others.
- Must be able to easily pass a PPE
- Prefer the height to be between 14.1 - 15 hands
- Preferred age between 8-12
Please contact Meg Burden if you think you may have a good fit: 207-479-3633
Camping with my Connemara

By Angie Reynolds

“She is a what?” is usually the question I get when people ask what breed my pony, Lady Sheena. (out of JEF Meara x Greystone Adirondack A'herne) is. One of my favorite parts about traveling and camping with my husband and our ponies is introducing the Connemara breed to fellow campers. I find it interesting when someone has never heard of these wonderful ponies and their amazing attributes. Usually the first remark is how beautiful she is but then it is usually how amazing it is she can keep up with my husband’s gaited Missouri Fox Trotter mare. Sheena’s athleticism and how sure-footed she is has proven to be such an asset especially since I ride with gaited horses often. Sheena loves the woods and our favorite is running switchback trails or rambling through a grassy meadow.

We have spent our down time this year going on quite a few camping adventures from Northern VT to upstate NY. We had plans to go further south this year but alas Covid changed our plans… but aren’t we lucky to have enjoyed New England in all its beauty. Travelling in our Living Quarters Horse trailer we arrive either having to put up temporary fence or when lucky have paddocks already set up for us. Our days usually consist of trail riding with a lunch stop on the way where both riders and ponies can rest before returning to camp where we usually enjoy good food and sitting around a campfire with friends singing and laughing about the days events.

We have camped in OH, VA, MD, PA, RI, MA, NH, NY and VT and while this year has kept us closer to home hopefully next year there will be no pandemics and I will find myself, with my Connemara Mare, heading on lots more camping and trail riding adventures. I encourage everyone to give camping and travelling with your ponies a try. The connection you feel with your Connemara after is unlike anything else. And if you need help getting started give Sheena and I a call we are always up for another adventure. Happy Trails!
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!

Store Update
With the Region 1 show and Equine Affaire being cancelled I haven’t placed any bulk orders this year. With the complications imposed by COVID I haven’t been able to bring the store anywhere. However, I am more than happy to help with any custom orders. The pad shown here was a custom order that was sent to me for embroidery.
Connemara gear makes for great holiday presents!
Feel free to email me at hannahereynolds@outlook.com with your ideas!

ACPS Junior Scholarship Winners
Congratulations to Region 1 members Sydney Schoenbeck, Stella Marsh, Julia Latham, and Cailey Fay! We’re proud to have you representing our region!

Membership Renewals
Don’t forget to renew your ACPS memberships!
ACPS memberships run from January 1st to December 31st. Membership questions should be directed to the Membership Secretary,

Suzanne Phelps
2010 Miracle Lane
Falls Church, VA 22043
srphelps@cox.net
(703) 244-5731

Fun with Pony Award
Just how much time are you spending with that fabulous pony? Start recording it. In hand work, trail rides, artistic explorations in grooming, soccer practice...you name it! This is a fantastic opportunity for members who have ponies too young to ride, or are feeling more risk averse and are taking this year super slow!
Reporting form on next page.
ACPS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS REPORT for FUN WITH PONY PILOT

Name of Connemara__________________________ Registration number__________________

Pony’s age___________ Sex _______ Color___________________ Height_________

Current Owner____________________________________________________________________

Address___________________________________________________________________________

City______________________________ State______________ Zip ________________

Phone_______________________________ E-mail_____________________________________

Name of Sire_______________________________________________________________________

Name of Dam_______________________________________________________________

Breeder__________________________________________________ Year foaled__________

Year____________________________________________________________________________

Report Hours Spent Riding, Driving, Conditioning, Training, Groundwork, or Bonding

Number of Hours______________________________________________________________

What was your experience with your pony?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
What did you and your pony accomplish this year?

Please send stories if desired. You may attach one more page if needed.

Be sure to include the following:
- A copy of the ACPS registration certificate
- Two to four representative photos of the pony are encouraged

By December 31, 2020, send the application to:
Region IX  Tarrah Baker  tarrahbaker@gmail.com
Region I  Bette Fredrickson  Fredrickson@conknet.com
  Sutton Connemaras
  181 Eaton Grange Rd
  Warner, NH 03278

All information is correct to the best of my knowledge. I give the ACPS the right to retain all information submitted as well as the photos enclosed, which may be reproduced in the American Connemara Magazine and on the ACPS website. Photos will be returned upon request.

Signature_________________________________________ Date________________

Revision History

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