



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Several of us on the Region IV Committee have been getting together on our monthly conference calls to work on various topics: our Region IV show, one or more regional outings/trail rides, getting Connemara classes in USEF rated shows, promoting High Point Connemara awards at local open shows, promoting ACPS membership within the region.

- **Our annual show for 2012** – A strong possibility for our 2012 show is **Highfields in Aiken, SC**. This would be a two-day show in conjunction with one of their shows **on September 29-30**. It is a very nice facility and pretty centrally located for everyone in Reg IV. In addition, a late September date may allow us to escape our notorious summer heat. Trail riding in the famous Hitchcock Woods in the center of Aiken is a possibility for those who arrive a day early, or stay over another day. No final decision has been made yet but we hope to do so by year-end. Any comments on the location/date pro or con are welcome!
- Stephanie Keen has been exploring the possibility of having a Connemara division at a couple of USEF recognized shows in our Region. At this time the two proposed show venues are HITS in Florida and River Glen in northeastern Tennessee. These venues would give us visibility at both ends (north and south) of our Region and the eastern Tennessee venue would probably attract some Region III ponies as well.
- Carole Moss and Vanessa Morgan are working on a Reg IV activity – such as a trail ride. Crossville, TN, is a possible venue. Again, suggestions of other locations/events from all you Region IV folks are very welcome!
- Megan Harris was our representative at the ACPS Annual Meeting in Boxborough, MA, in September. Her report appears elsewhere in this newsletter. I was unable to attend the September meeting but will be in Cincinnati (brrr) in January for our ACPS meeting in conjunction with the USEF Annual convention.
- Ponies for Inspections - if we have enough candidates (10 minimum) we can hold an inspection in conjunction with our annual show in late September. Please if you have a pony or ponies that you'd like to have inspected please contact Megan Harris for information.
- We have several Connemara owners in Region IV who are not ACPS members. This year we are going to try to encourage all of them to join. Benefits include: subscription to the ACPS American Connemara magazine (see the Region IV show results and photos in the most recent issue), high point Connemara ribbons at open shows, voting privileges (except for junior and associate memberships), annual membership directory, half-price pony registration and transfer fees and eligibility for Life time Awards, and eligibility for the following ACPS awards: Hall of Fame Breeding and Performance, Connemara of the Year, Achievement Awards in multiple disciplines and the Crestwood Service Award (won this year by our own Vanessa Morgan!). On a national level the USEF provides the McKenna Award for Eventing and the Clifden Award for Pony Hunters. ACPS members are also eligible for ACPS scholarships. So, if you are not an ACPS members we strongly urge that you consider joining. More information is available on the ACPS website at www.acps.org

Respectfully submitted, Kate Denton, Region IV Chair

ACPS BUSINESS, OLD AND NEW

September 2011 Annual Meeting Report

The ACPS' 2011 Annual Meeting was held in Boxborough, MA this year, and Region I did a fantastic job putting it on. Committee members hit the ground running Friday, starting with inspections, finance, and the ACPS Foundation. We broke for lunch, and listened to Dr. Theon from UC Davis speak on equine melanomas. He put together a very informative power point presentation for us.

After our session on melanomas, it was back to work! The history, promotions and executive committees met in the late afternoon. We had another short break, just enough time to take a quick nap, and freshen up before dinner. Liz Platais made arrangements for us to have dinner at a local restaurant called Waxy

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O'Connors. After a fabulous meal we were entertained by a slide show on Connemara 'type'. We all enjoyed seeing photos of so many ponies, and it didn't take long before it turned into a rowdy game of 'guess the pony'.

Saturday's board meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m., and moved along fairly quickly. Some of the key highlights include:

- Registration: The annual number of foals registered is still declining. For 2011 (thus far) approximately 50% foals have been registered than were in 2008. We have seen a steady decline since then.

- The USEF donated \$1000 towards our annual meeting this year. YAY!

- Regions I, III, IV, V and X had shows this year.

- A motion was made to omit the necessary signature on the awards page (if you're sending in points for ACPS awards). You can now send a print out of a show page, or record, instead of trying to run down the show secretary.

- Our Juniors program has fizzled out again. We need a new chairperson that can draw juniors in and come up with things for them to do at the meetings. Any takers?

- Our own Stephanie Fenton-Hickey was voted in for the new nominating committee.

- The new executive committee is Kathy Lucas, President; Megan Buchanan Harris & Deb Norman, Vice Presidents; Cathy Blackmon, Treasurer; and Marynell Eyles, Secretary.

- A motion was made, and approved, to donate \$1000 from the ACPS Foundation towards Dr. Theon's studies on melanomas.

- Lastly, we received a report from Jill McNicol, DVM (and newly elected ACPS BOG member) on HWSS. Jill has been named as the ACPS' liaison with Dr. Carrie Finno at UC Davis, who will be researching the HWSS in Connemara ponies. For those of you who haven't heard (you must not be on Facebook), HWSS is an acronym for Hoof Wall Separation Syndrome. This syndrome, although still unproven, is now under study by Dr. Finno. The hypothesis is that HWSS is genetic; autosomal recessive, which requires two carrier parents to be bred, with a 1:4 chance of the resulting foal being HWSS positive. There are a varying cases of severity in affected ponies, but the integrity of their hoof wall is compromised, and can chip away causing the pony to walk on the sole of their foot. Please be cautious of who you speak to, and what you say, if you think you have, or know, an affected pony. Jill would be happy to advise you, can assist you if you'd like to make a donation to the study, or if you think you have a pony with this condition, she can get you the proper paperwork to submit for study at UC Davis. There is not a test for this condition yet, but that is what Dr. Finno is ultimately trying to achieve with her research.

We had a very productive and fun meeting, and will be reconvening in Cincinnati January 11-15th 2012, in conjunction with the USEF Annual Meeting.

Submitted by Megan Harris

ACPS Farm of the Week

Notice: Starting in January, we are planning on featuring a "Farm of the Week" in the News on the Web. If you are interested please send the following information about your farm to Donna Duckworth at

balmullofarm@gmail.com

Be sure to include one or two photos!!

Name and Location:

What you breed (or train) for, How many resident ponies you have, Names of one or two notable residents:

One thing you would like people to know about your farm:

Farms will be featured strictly on a first come/ first served basis. If enough profiles are received we will feature them by Regions.

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2012 ACPS Calendars are available!

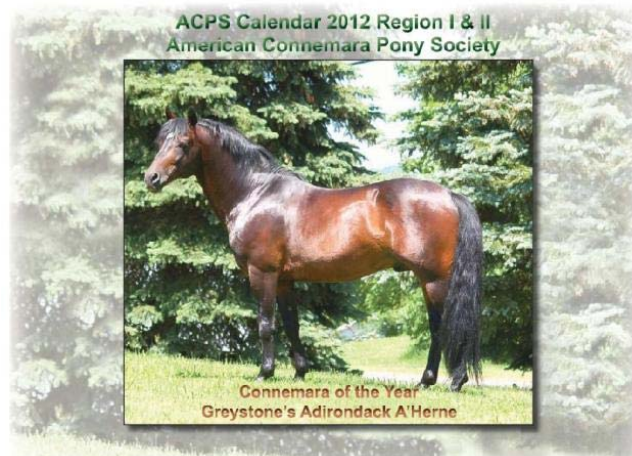
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Your 2010-2011 Regional Committee

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Like our Group Page on Facebook!
"ACPS REGION IV"



PONY NEWS FROM AROUND OUR REGION *Connemaras Do It All!*

Eventing News:

Vanessa Morgan would like to congratulate the team of "Beacon-Lewis" on their very successful fall eventing season. 10 year old Avery Lewis is tied for 8th in the nation in the USEA rankings at Beginner Novice. Avery completed her first horse trials in the spring of this year. Since September, she has completed 5 horse trials earning a 5th, a 3rd and three 2nd place finishes, all on her dressage scores. Avery recently received her USEA Gold Medal, which is awarded for three shows with dressage scores below 35 with all clear cross country. She can wear the medal pin on her jacket when she competes. They (Avery Lewis and **Balmullo's Beacon**) have also earned USEA Blue Ribbon Awards for finishing 1st through 3rd in three events in the same year. They are already qualified for both Regional Champs (May) and AEC (Sept) 2012.

They placed 2nd again at Pine Top over Thanksgiving weekend. A cute story from Avery's father, Jeff "The two horses next to us were owned by young ladies in their 20's in Avery's class. Their Mom came up to us halfway through the competition and asked if Jill Mooney had ridden Beacon. We told her the story of Bubba's history, and she said 'Oh great! Ten years ago that horse always beat me, and now he is beating my daughters! What luck!' All in all, a great weekend. Beacon was truly great, as usual. He really is unflappable." Jeff (Nov 2011)



New Connemara Owner in our Region, from Boots Plyler:

Connor's (**Elk Creek O'Connor**) half-brother, **Paradox Presto**, is now in my neck of the woods. He is technically in Region 3, but just over the border from us and his new owner, Kathy Nebel, is pleased as punch with him. She said,

"The ride took 23 1/2 hours due to road delays. I love this pony because he got off the big transport truck and directly onto my stock trailer without much hesitation. Not bad for a 2 1/2 year old!"

Kathy recently moved from Charlotte and owns a few more Connemaras. We have great hopes of a "pas de deux" with the two siblings in the future.



News from this year from Tanyderi Farm and the Eyles-Goldfarbs:

Maya Goldfarb, 12 years old, achieved her D-3 rating in Pony Club on her **Loughin's Knight Wind** (Nello), a 10 year old black Connemara gelding by Windy Isles. Nello was gelded as a 7 year old and started under saddle at that same age. He has been on the "fast track" to success as he is so willing and kind, and he is now our guest horse in addition to being Maya's main ride. They did the Midsouth Regional Games Rally in KY in March (in the FREEZING COLD TEMPS!) and later did the Show Jumping Rally in June with Middle Tennessee Pony club. They have had a great year.

Margo Goldfarb, age 14, took her **Landgate Bluegrass** (Tucker), a 10 year old grey gelding by **Landgate Bluebeard**, to the Midsouth Regional Rally in Lexington, KY, and qualified for the USPC Championships in July. They had a good show, placing 7th in their Equitation round and were members of the 6th placed team, and gained many admirers of his natural jumping ability. They are now working towards the Pony Jumper division and will hopefully represent the USPC at the Pony Finals next year. Margo also rode her grandmother's pony,

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Ridgetop Moya, to a second place finish at her first eventing rally in Lexington and later ribboned at River Glen and moved up to Novice at Middle TN horse Trials. Margo is lucky to have Moya in her life as the pony definitely knows her job and loves having a rider to take her out and show her off.

Nora Goldfarb, age 10, took her purebred Connemara mare, **Loughin's Magic Moment**, to her D-3 rating in Pony Club and passed with flying colors. Magic was previously known for making up her own jumping courses in the field, over ditches and logs, so she is so happy to have found a game rider in Nora to share in her joy and talent. Nora also did the games rally on a small pony who we have decided is a welsh x Connemara cross (where else did that bone come from?!).

Trying to keep up with my girls, I dusted off my saddle and tried to fit in my old clothes and took my 7 year old halfbred mare by Aladdin's Denver, **Twobits**, to her first novice events at River Glen and Middle TN. She brings me so much happiness as she reminds me of her dad who might be the best horse I have ever had the good fortune to ride and love.

All for now! Sally Eyles-Goldfarb



From Karen Joyal, Spring Hill, FL:

www.cypresshavenfarm.com

This year, I added one more Connemara to the herd. I am now up to two. My husband insists I am starting a "collection". **Elderglen's Lilithe** (Lilly) had a beautiful filly on April 30, 2011. Her name is **Cypress Haven's Artful O'Mira** (Ardceltic Art x Elderglen's Lilithe) - Mira for short. We originally thought to spell her name the Irish way - Meara. However, she decided to make a difficult entrance into the world - so we changed the spelling. It is now a shortened version of Miracle. She is a joy to be around, very smart and loves to talk.

Lilly was an excellent mom, but I think she is now enjoying her weaning time and some peace and quiet. Even though Lilly's showing was cut short due to "motherhood", she was still able to achieve a Certificate Award in Hunter for 2010. She is just now getting back in shape and I hope to take her back out to a few shows in 2012. Mira may tag along for some Model Pony classes and experience away from home.



Lilly and Mira taken in November 2011. Lilly just took a bath in dirt.



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From Peggy Clark in GA:

2011 has been a busy year at TLC Sport Horses in middle Georgia. We have placed ponies in forever homes, and, thanks to Rai Pullen, acquired **Spryte** to join our bunch of forever ponies. **Spryte** will meet **Tullymor Echota** next spring.

Tullymor Echota had a good year, both in the breeding pen, and as supreme leader of the batchelor herd (we rotate him in and out so he does not get too arrogant hanging with only his girlfriends). Spring of 2012 will bring a crop of five foals: two purebred, and three partbred. We are very excited about the new arrivals and have placed one, have a first refusal on two, and plans for the last! Mary Kathryn has backed him, but he is only four, so we are not pushing the under saddle work. We are very careful of all our babies' backs, since they grow til they are nine, or so. And, we have plenty to ride, so there really is no rush!

It looks like our great endurance/jumper/timed event mare, **Nvyo** (Big Bears Special Order x Big Bears Georgia Whiskey) is officially off the riding list, as her cracked femur (now healed as well as it's going to) just won't allow her to carry a rider's weight soundly. She is fab in the field, but not under work. **Nvyo** has nothing left to prove performance-wise, so she can hang out and do whatever her little heart desires. Usually, that is terrorizing her pasturemates. Get'em, **Nvyo**! Our vet assured us that she should have no problem carrying a foal, so we are hoping for a buckskin! She is due in April. Also in foal are **Winwood Jewel** (Arabian); **Poppyfields Penelope Thelwell** (purebred); **Granny's Apel Bask-it** (bay and white Pinto 1/2 Arabian); and **Seneca** (Arabian).

We have chased the sun all year, with a high point being Mary Kathryn as part of Team USA-SE at the North American Young Riders Championships in Kentucky in July. Our team brought home a Silver in Endurance. (Sadly, MK was not mounted on a Connemara! But we forgive her.) Then she was off to California for the North American Team Endurance Challenge in September followed by a quick trip to Chile for the Pan Am Games in October. To finish her year, she has been selected as a member of Team USA at the Young Rider World Championships (endurance) in Dubai, UAE in December! While we travel, all ponies go on vacation to get ready for the upcoming season.

TLC Chatta (Big Bears Special Order x Big Bears Georgia Whiskey), the super pony, has covered herself in glory this season. Currently, she is ranked second in our division in the sport of endurance, which is usually dominated by Arabians. She has been nominated for Rookie Horse of the Year for 2011. And, we have been asked to join Team USA-SE and qualify for FEI in endurance. Chatta is all for it, especially if it involves more food.

Our herd foundation mare, **Big Bears Georgia Whiskey** is still humming along at about 28, grumpy with others, and hollering for food. Bless her heart, she only has three teeth, and cannot eat grass or hay, but we adjust. She hates being in retirement, but her back end is weaker now, and so we are protective of her and have life arranged so that she does not overdo.



Vanessa Morgan competed in her 3rd ADS show, the Indiana CDE, on Sept 3-4, driving her pony **Foothills Hopefilly** in the Training Single Pony Division. This is the first time without her friend and navigator Carole Moss on board (Carole was busy winning the Preliminary Single VSE division!). Vanessa' son, Dillon, filled in as navigator. This was his first-ever equine competition. They had a wonderful mother-son time together.

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Vanessa writes, "Hope was fidgety on the center-line of our dressage test; I have obviously schooled the rein-back on 'X' too much. We only scored to 7th place (out of 10) with our dressage test. However, we made up a few spots with a double-clear cones round. The course was very nice and flowing, with a bridge option, which was fun. Hope is great in cones, but I do have to take as many short-cuts as I can, to make the time. I was very surprised and pleased at the end of this round, when I learned that all the balls stayed up. I had a very hard rub at one of the first gates and thought 'OK, that's out of the way', and also thought another one fell toward the end, but my 3-person spectator team confirmed that it was a clean run.



Yea:-) A storm rolled in Saturday night, which was much, much needed in the area, and it turned out to be a nice ground-softener. Dillon and I started phase A in the rain, but it let up before we came to the 3rd gate. Hope finished right on time in phase A, but I had to really keep her attention and keep her moving in the walk in the next section. She heard voices and activity over the hill and walked the last half of 'D' like a drunken sailor. But, we made it in time. With the rain that came in, we were so blessed with a nice cool go for phase E. I was not so much on my game (had a real hard time remembering my route in a few hazards), so was very glad to have a 20 year-old college brain in the box to help me out. Other than getting a direct route OUT of a few obstacles, the only problem we had is that MOM (i.e. me) confused the whole matter by writing down my own cheat-sheet with the WRONG times on it. Between the times I wrote, and the ones that Carole and Dillon figured, we only had about a 30-second window to hit them all, so it was a bit of a panic there in the last 500 to decide if we had to walk or trot-on! Turns out, the navigators were right, and we finished right on time with another clear go. Happily, we finished in 4th place.



The following weekend, Charlie accompanied me with two of our ponies, **Foothills Hopefilly** and **Corner Oak Celtic Star**, on a wonderful driving outing on the Cumberland Plateau at the Catoosa Ridge Campground. For anyone interesting in trail riding or driving in the middle-TN area, we highly recommend this place. We will

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probably be planning a Region IV gathering there, so if you're outside Region IV but are interested in joining, just send me an email at vanessa@compfxnet.com ."



Jeff Lewis wrote to me "Vanessa, you would be so proud of your little guy this weekend (11/12-11/13/11 at Poplar Place). He (**Balmullo's Beacon**) just went about his business. Their dressage was very nice, a 30.0, and everyone was complaining that the judge was too tough! Stadium jumping and cross country went off without even the slightest problem. Second place overall. Beacon never blinked, just did his thing. They were a bit fast on cross country, but Avery said they were both having so much fun that they didn't care. Still under the time limit, but only 15 sec under. We sure do love that pony!!!

Avery received her USEA Gold Medal yesterday. That is for three shows with dressage below 35 and all clear cross country. She can wear the medal pin on her jacket when she competes. Beacon seemed to prefer carrots, which he got a lot of."

They (team Beacon-Lewis) have also earned a USEA Blue Ribbon Award for finishing 1st through 3rd in three events in the same year. They finished 2nd at Pine Top in October and 3rd at Poplar Place in September. They are already qualified for both Regional Champs (May) and AEC (Sept) 2012. They also finished in the ribbons on their dressage score of 31.0 at the Paradise Farm HT in October.



News Flash! Thanksgiving weekend, Avery Lewis earned another red ribbon on Balmullo's Beacon at the Pine Top Horse Trials finishing on her dressage score (as usual). There were only 2 juniors in the field of 12. This puts her in the top 10 in the USEA Junior BN standings, in a 3-way tie for 8th in the Nation!



From Linda Staton:

Attached is a pic of my mare, Glendale's Berkeley (on the left) and her 1/2 brother, Shiloh. They're both out of Aladdin's Denver. Shiloh was stabled a few stalls down from us at Jumpstart Horse Trials in Sept, 11. Berkeley was going novice for the 1st time (and finished 6th) and he was going beginner novice - 2nd after dressage and stadium. We commented several times on how much they looked alike and the light bulb finally went off when we finally asked each other what their breeding was! LOL...

Hope all is well w/ you. Happy Holidays!



Fade to Grey Farm, home of the 'Brambleridge' prefix. Lee & Megan Harris

Our new farm and Owen's show schedule prevented us from being able to attend the regional show this year (the first time we've missed since '05!) but we're looking forward to trying out a fall show in 2012!

Owen and I completed our first 3 Preliminary events this fall! No top placings, but I've achieved a long time goal, and I'm eager to work on improving things for our spring season. Owen is currently enjoying a mini-vacation, and will go back to work in mid-December. Our foxhunting season is in full swing, and I've really enjoyed being able to just ride across the creek to our meet site! I've been hunting twice a week, and Lee's often joined me on the weekends.



Megan & Owen competing at Preliminary



Our purebred filly, Brambleridge March Mayhem, made her trek to Ontario, and is safely settled in at her new farm, Muskoka Lakes Connemaras. She's already attended her first in-hand show, and her owner said she was better behaved than the older and more experienced ponies.



Brambleridge March Mayhem



Brambleridge Celtic Sparrow

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Our project pony, Big Bear's Silver Britches, aka 'Dooley', progressed quickly in his training this summer; he was trail riding regularly, schooling training level dressage, and was going out on hound ex with Bear Creek. We're happy to announce he's found a wonderful home in NY! His owner is a first time Connemara owner, and is hugely enthusiastic about Dooley and the breed. She plans to take him to her regional show next year.

Dooley and his new owner in NY!

My partbred mare, Sparrow's Tiptoes (by *Grange Finn Sparrow) has been confirmed in foal to the TB stallion, Salute the Truth, and is due in May.

Balius Miakoda was left open for 2012, and will be coming back to my farm in December to resume her under saddle training. My mom (Nancy Buchanan) hopes that she'll make an additional family mount for trail riding and foxhunting.

We hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! -
The Harris'



CLASSIFIEDS

Hi All,

I am selling two of my last ponies (My mom still has B. Gallagher-he will prob live with her forever). If you know of anyone that would be interested, please pass the info along. These two are some of the best-why I have tried to hold on to them. They have correct conformation, great movement and type and are wonderful ponies. Thanks so much.

Erin Terra's Dream On-

http://www.dreamhorse.com/show_horse.php?form_horse_id=1742648

Tre Awain Dare To Dream-

http://www.dreamhorse.com/show_horse.php?form_horse_id=1742592

Footage of Dream On is available-just contact me.

Dare To Dream has some You tube video from her hunter ring days...I can possibly get more if need be.

There are also photos on the web site- www.erinterra.com . It is slightly outdated, but still good reference.

Much appreciated.

Michelle

314-378-5323

mardigraspwr@aol.com

ACPS Region IV Sales List

If you are, or know anyone who is, shopping for a Connemaras, be sure to look at the ACPS Regions IV sales list. A link to the sales list is located on the official Region IV webpage at:

<http://www.connemaras.com/Region4/home.html>

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If you have a Connemara or Connemara cross for sale, email your ad ("cut and paste" ready) to me at vanessa@compfxnet.com with the subject "R4 Sales List). For completeness and simplicity, please use the following template for submissions. (Please do not include the text below in the body of your ad). You may include 1 or 2 photos to go along with your ad. This is a free service, so please be patient if it takes a week or two for the updates to be completed. My target is to update the sales list once per month, depending on submissions.

TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Note if this pony is sale, lease, giveaway, wanted etc

Pony's name (registered name and barn name, if applicable)

Age or birth date, height, color, markings

If ACPS registered, please include registration number and indicate if inspected and approved

breeding: sir and dam

Current Location of horse/pony

Brief description of skills, temperament, greatest accomplishment

suitable for what kind of rider or discipline

may include 1-2 reasonably sized photos

Price - Contact info: name, email, phone numbers.



An Irish Christmas Blessing

*The light of the Christmas star to you
The warmth of home and hearth to you
The cheer and good will of friends to you
The hope of a childlike heart to you
The joy of a thousand angels to you
The love of the Son and God's peace to you.*