Before we get to the HOW......Look who's driving our Shirley on a visit to Bennington a few years ago!!! It's Don Johnson from Russell, Iowa, long time Cream member, former Director for many years, and original owner/breeder of Shirley (and a bunch of others!). Don't they make a good pair?

Now here's HOW to plan for your weekend in Vermont, the agenda after you arrive, and the signup sheet:

Airport - all major airlines at Albany International Airport, Albany, New York
Car Rentals - all major car rentals at Albany International Airport
Amtrak - train station name Albany-Rensselaer, New York - NO CAR RENTALS
Motel - Paradise Motor Inn, Bennington, Vermont - www.paradisemotorinn.com or 800-575-5784 or 802-442-8351 - BOOK BY JULY 15, 2008 TO GET $85/NIGHT RATE-2 NIGHT MINIMUM AND MENTION THE ACDHA

Thursday, October 16th
5:00 PM - We will pick you up with our Creams and wagon(s) at the Paradise Motor Inn and bring you to The Bennington Station - a renovated train station - for dinner. And, oh yeah, we'll take you back, too!!

Friday, October 17th
7:30 AM - Pancake and Vermont Maple Syrup breakfast at the Lively's plus a meet and greet with the horses. Vermont is the largest producer of maple syrup in the country and we'll have a display for you of how it's done with all of the different grades to sample.

Schedule continued on page 6
American Cream News is a benefit of membership in the American Cream Draft Horse Association, published quarterly, as of 2005. American Cream News welcomes articles, pictures, letters, and classified ads dealing with American Creams, other draft horse breeds, and equipment and events dealing with draft horses.

Nancy Lively, Secretary
lively123@comcast.net
193 Crossover Rd
Bennington, VT 05201

Nancy E. Phillips, Editor
creamnewseditor@yahoo.com

Dean Tick, Webmaster
www.acdha.org

Please pay annual dues by June 15th. See Page 7 for forms.

Merchandise

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FROM THE DRIVER’S SEAT

Spring is in full force here on the East coast with lots of rain to make up for last year’s draught. Just a few reminders:

Horse Progress Days - July 4 & 5, Mt Hope, Ohio. To date we have one team promised. If you schedule has changed and you can bring horses, contact the secretary. Help is needed to man the ACDHA booth and to assist with the team of horses. Refer to page 14 for the mileage reimbursement plan. This event gives us national exposure each year with the Rural Heritage spot on RFD TV.

Your dues notice will be arriving shortly. When you pay your dues please provide the secretary with your foaling/stallion report. We need this information.

Annual Meeting - October 16 - 18 Bennington, Vermont. Remember your reservation must be made at least 90 days in advance to lock in the special group rate. When making your reservation be sure to tell them that you are with the American Cream Draft Horse Association.

The ACDHA web site is up and running. (www.acdha.org) Please look it over and give us your concerns and suggestions. Your comments are always welcomed. The directors can be contacted by email directors@acdha.org, phone, or the old fashion US mail. Remember as a member of the ACDHA you can advertise your animals. As of now there is only one horse listed.

Lastly, I would like to personally thank all of the Directors for all of the time that they have spent this past year on Association business. There hasn’t been a week since our last annual meeting that we haven’t been in contact with one another trying to solve the many problems that have arisen.

Frank Tremel, President

FOR SALE: Yearling colt, white tail and double mane, medium cream. Excellent conformation. Dam #T0004, Sire #463. JEB Neg. Frank Tremel, 301-261-5327, rosehillcreams@aol.com
Dear Members,

I am running again for the position of Director in our Association, and I would appreciate your vote in October. I have been a member of this Association since 1995. My husband, Ben and I have bred and worked Creams since 1995. We have worked to promote the Creams by attending shows and being in local parades.

Since 1995 I have attended numerous meetings and have enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting new members. I wish we were closer together so meetings could happen more often, but am very thankful our membership touches all parts of this country. As a member I have been on several committees, the latest of which was the Brochure Committee. Working with Betsy Ziebell and Karen Smith to produce an updated Brochure was a joy.

I am looking forward to continuing to serve the Association and helping it grow. It has changed so much from where we were when I joined, to the Association we have become. We have so much potential as an organization because of our members (and our truly amazing horses)!

Sincerely,
Linda Corson

Dear Fellow Members,

As one of the newer members to the Association it is a honor to place my name for your consideration for a seat on the board. We (Bill and I) became interested in the Creams after seeing a horse shoeing demonstration at the Draft Horse Classic in Grass Valley. They were utilizing John Schwartzler's Creams and Donna Miller was talking to the audience about Creams. It was love at first sight and soon after bought our first Cream, Bobbie from Donna Miller and then six Creams later and the birth of our first foal, Lucky, we have a herd of Creams.

I always felt it a privilege to be part of bringing a breed back from near extinction and have enjoyed watching all our young horses grow up. Our intentions out to cross-train all our horses to ride and drive so that we can better promote the versatility of the breed and get more people interested in owning a Cream. Bill and I enjoy grooming and cleaning the Creams and showing them off to all our friends and family and in turn to their friends and family.

I have been a Farm Loan Manager with the Farm Service Agency for the past seven years and I am comfortable working with people and organizing, participating and getting the job done. I have been with the Agency a total of 30 years and know what it means to be dedicated to something you believe in. We were privileged to attend an association meeting here in California that first year and were able to meet many of you and enjoyed seeing everyone's dedication to the breed. Though we are unable to attend all the association meetings we will always attempt to attend a few.

However, with the modern convenience of email it is not always necessary to attend everything in person to stay in touch. I have first hand experience in this because of my work and being responsible for 17 counties in California. I would strive to make it easier for all members to feel a part of the association even if they never could attend a meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,

Belle Davis  belle.davis@clearwire.net  209-334-2446

This year’s Nominating Committee consisted of:

John Schwartzler
Karen Smith
Sue Engel

Dear Members,

I am running again for the position of Director in our Association, and I would appreciate your vote in October. I have been a member of this Association since 1995. My husband, Ben and I have bred and worked Creams since 1995. We have worked to promote the Creams by attending shows and being in local parades.

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Sincerely,
Linda Corson

Dear fellow ACDHA members,

I have been an owner and breeder of American Cream Drafts for 8 years. From one mare in foal our herd has grown to 11 horses. Although I enjoy riding and driving our horses, my primary focus is on breeding. I want the genetics of our breed to be preserved and a niche found for them in the horse world. Due to the lack of a market for Creams, I feel stymied. Since we are not wealthy, I can’t continue to breed horses indefinitely to either sell them at a loss or keep them myself. Hay is currently $16 for a 100 lb. bale in California, and I go through A LOT of hay.

I would like to see the association dedicate the next year to developing a marketing plan. Our current one is ineffective. For this, we need to pursue grants or find resources that will help us at no cost. Our resources include the ALBC and Equus Survival Trust. I believe we could also get help from an agricultural college such as Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Marketing courses in the Agricultural Business Department are always looking for projects in which their students can gain experience while performing a service to the community. As a director, I would pursue this for the association.

Thank you for your consideration!

Donna Miller
MILLERS' CREAM DRAFT, Grass Valley CA
Photographer William Curtis Rolf to Speak on "The Stable: Unsung Glory of British Architecture" at the National Sporting Library on Saturday, June 14.

MIDDLEBURG, Va. - Photographer and architecture enthusiast William Curtis Rolf will speak at the National Sporting Library on Saturday, June 14, at 2 p.m., on the topic "The Stable: Unsung Glory of British Architecture." A book signing will follow the lecture. Admission is free but seating is limited. To RSVP, contact Judy Sheehan at 540-687-6542 x 10.

The lecture is part of the Library's Saturday Public Lecture series. Made possible by the generosity of an anonymous supporter, this series features talks and an annual symposium on subjects relating to the Library's collections of equestrian sporting books and art.

Rolf's lifelong affection for the lifestyles of 17th through 19th century England and France, combined with his love of all things equestrian, bring a sense of elegance and gentility to his photographic imagery. In 2005, Rolf collaborated with architectural historian, Giles Worsley, on the The British Stable, published by Yale University Press for the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art. Rolf's captivating color and black-and-white photographs document stables from the twelfth century through 1914, with special attention to country house stables—including those at Chatsworth and Kelston. Rolf also photographed historic French stables for Les Écuries des Châteaux Français (The Stables of French Country Houses) for a volume written by Pascal Liévaux.

Rolf graduated in English Literature from UCLA and in Photography from Art Center College of Design. In addition to photographing at locations throughout the world and making fine art edition prints found in collections and exhibited in museums and galleries in the US, England, and France, his commercial clients include: Ralph Lauren, HSBC Bank, Foster Farms, Anthropologie, E & J Gallo Winery, Chandon Vineyards, and Newsweek. He currently resides in the San Francisco Bay area. To see examples of Rolf's photography, visit www.williamcurtisrolf.com.

For more information on the National Sporting Library, visit www.nsl.org.

The National Sporting Library is a non-lending research library open to the general public. Its 16,000-book collection covers a wide range of horse and field sports, including foxhunting, polo, coaching, shooting, angling, and Thoroughbred racing. It also includes biographies of sporting enthusiasts, newly-published fiction and non-fiction, current and back issues of periodicals, and scores of rare editions housed in the F. Ambrose Clark Rare Book Room. (The earliest editions date to the 1520s.) Films, magazine articles, and unpublished papers—diaries, scrapbooks, and manuscripts—round out its offerings. The Library also houses many fine works of sporting art, including paintings, sculpture, and such Americana as weather vanes donated by the late philanthropist Paul Mellon.
Reciprocation and Fostering Healthy Breed Communities

By Victoria Tollman,
Executive Director, Equus Survival Trust

What is Reciprocation?
Reciprocation - the ability to have purebred individuals recognized by other registries of the same breed. This translates to allowing transfers between one another's stud books.

Why is Reciprocation so Important?
In today's fast global society and the ever-present threat of shrinking gene pools among the endangered breeds, reciprocation is imperative to keeping endangered breed gene pools viable. Every - single - animal - counts!

Reciprocation allows for the greatest amount of genetic material to be available to the breed community at large which typically equates to a healthier genetic diversity

In foreign breeds it is all too easy for a breeding population to become orphaned in North America if strong ties are not kept to the mother registries and their respective daughter societies. Losing the ability to exchange genetic material back into the primary gene pool undermines the viability of important breeding stock.

In America, anyone can hang a shingle and overnight set up a registry. If the new registry has not ensured recognition by the mother registry (or in the case of domestic breeds all existing American registries) the progeny of those individuals will become orphaned from the greater gene pool.

It is therefore essential that strong communication and good relations are maintained between domestic registries, mother registries, daughter societies and, wherever possible other populations of traceable purebreds throughout the globe.

My personal journey into understanding reciprocation began with my introduction to and my passion for the endangered Fell pony in 1993. Fell ponies were my breed of choice. There were no websites or organizations for Fells at that time except the mother registry in England. I was determined to change that.

By 1999, I helped to found the Fell Pony Conservancy. In my well intended ignorance, I dedicated a great deal of my time gathering breeders together to network and getting Fell information and contacts on the world wide web, convinced that if I took certain steps, the population of ponies would automatically grow thus “saving” the Fell pony.

During the next several years of my association with the Fell pony, I began to realize conserving the Fell pony or any other endangered breed was not about jumping through the hoops and simply waiting for numbers to grow. Sheer numbers alone would not improve the conservation of our breed. The key was good stewardship.

If you steward your breed well, the quality of breeders and the genetic diversity the ponies need to survive in healthy numbers will be there. Equally, if not more importantly, I became aware it was essential these ponies retain full rights and privileges within the global breeding population. If we did not maintain good relations with our mother Society, our gene pool in North America would become orphaned.

The Purpose of a Good Endangered Breed Organization

In the years that followed, what I have come to understand is this: It is the duty of an endangered breed association to support its breeders. That is the primary reason the organization exists. If the organization is also a registry, part of their work is in the processing of registrations, but its primary function should be in the conservation of their endangered breed. This requires the organization to focus on education, promotion of markets, and the fostering of cooperation between breeders.

Additionally, the organization has a duty to foster good relations between other support groups and registries of its breed as well as other endangered breed organizations in general. Everyone must work together for the greater good of the entire breed community. To do otherwise is counterproductive to the conservation of the breed both locally and globally.

Many of the endangered breed populations in North America have reached the stage where support groups have been formed to aid the promotion and conservation of their breeds. A few have formed registries as well.

However, support groups and registries for endangered breeds must do more than process papers and put on

Continued on page 12
Days End Farm Horse Rescue to Host 16th Annual Spring Carnival
Visitors Invited to Join Tinkerbell for Fun and Games at New Farm

Lisbon, MD - May 12, 2008 - Tinkerbell, the spunky roan horse who dazzled spectators at Days End Farm Horse Rescue's parade to their new farm last month, eagerly awaits visitors at Spring Carnival on June 28th, 11 am to 4 pm.

Spring Carnival is the 16th annual event celebrating Days End's successes, and Tinkerbell is one of them. Under the organization's care, she has gone from a state of dire emaciation at the time of her rescue, to one of full health. Not only does she receive plenty of food and tender-loving care; she also gets to frolic on acres and acres of grassy pastures. Tinkerbell is not quite ready for adoption but many of her horse friends on the farm are ready for their forever homes. People looking to adopt will be able to meet these horses on "Adoption Alley" during the festivities.

In addition to seeing most of the 60+ horses now living at Days End, visitors can enjoy pony rides, a petting zoo, face painting, games like balloon darts, bean bag toss and plusher flusher, door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, a souvenir booth, food and live music. There will also be opportunities to take in the new facilities, including a critical care barn, educational and volunteer centers, and interns' residence.

Local businesses are invited to sponsor this year's event, which is projected to draw more than 1,000 local attendees. Various sponsorship levels are available by calling Sue Mitchell at 301-854-5037. All proceeds from this fun event directly support Days End's mission: Fostering compassion and responsibility for horses through intervention, education and outreach. They have rescued more than 1,000 horses from neglect and abuse since their founding in 1989.

The Carnival will be held on Saturday, June 28, from 10 am to 4 pm, rain or shine. No pets please! Days End is located at 1372 Woodbine Road in Lisbon just south of the intersection of 144 and 94. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Admission is $5 for families, $2 for adults, $1 for children under 12. Children under 6 are free. Information about the event, and pictures from last year's Spring Carnival, can be found at www.defhr.org. Questions? Email defhr@erols.com or call 301-854-5037 or 410-442-1564.

###

Days End Farm Rescue, Inc.
1372 Woodbine Road
Lisbon, Maryland 21765
www.defhr.org

For Immediate Release
Contact: Sue Mitchell, 301-854-5037

About Days End Farm Horse Rescue, Inc.: Days End is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, volunteer-based humane organization providing horse rescue services, quality care, and treatment for abused and neglected horses impounded by animal control agencies. Its mission is to foster compassion and responsibility for horses through intervention, education and outreach.

Heather Napolitano
Office Manager

Days End Farm Horse Rescue, Inc.
P.O. Box 309
Lisbon, MD 21765-0309

Phone: 301-854-5037 * 410-442-1564
Fax: 301-854-5143
heather@defhr.org * www.defhr.org

"Protection for Horses...Education for People"

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail
Barbecued Pork Ribs (Serves 8)
[Jo Turner -- Roy Frey eNL]

Marinade:
2 cups soy sauce
1 cup water
½ cup light brown sugar, packed
1 tablespoon dark molasses
1 teaspoon salt
5 pounds meaty pork ribs

Barbecue Sauce:
1/3 cup water
1 14 oz bottle ketchup
1 12 oz bottle chili sauce
½ cup light brown sugar, packed
1 teaspoon dry mustard.

In medium saucepan, combine the soy sauce, water, ½ cup brown sugar, molasses, and salt. Bring the marinade to a boil and set aside to cool.

Put the ribs in a large, turkey-size oven baking bag or sealable plastic bag. Support the bag in a 12 x 14-inch baking pan. Pour the marinade over the ribs and seal the bag. Marinate the ribs in the refrigerator overnight, turning the bag occasionally to thoroughly coat the meat.

The next day, preheat the oven to 375° F.

Drain and discard the marinade from the bag. Cut 4-slits in the top of the baking bag if you are using one (sure makes clean up easier). Otherwise, drain the marinade and transfer the ribs to the baking pan, and cover the pan with foil. Bake the ribs for 2 hours.

While the ribs are baking, prepare the barbecue sauce. In a large saucepan, blend the water, ketchup, chili sauce, brown sugar, and dry mustard. Bring this mixture to a boil, stir well to dissolve the sugar, and set aside to cool.

When the ribs are cooked and tender, open the bag and discard the drippings. Lower the oven temperature to 350° F.

Brush the ribs on both sides with the barbecue sauce and return them to the oven to bake for 30 minutes longer. Just before serving, throw the ribs onto the barbecue grill or blacken them under the broiler to give them a bit of a char.

Jo’s tablescape idea for this meal: Serve on western dishware with a clean, old boot full of flowers for your centerpiece. Use bandana handkerchiefs under the boot or as placements or napkins as they wash up nicely.

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A COUPLE NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

First, this is just a reminder to all voting members that the ballots will no longer be a part of the Newsletter. You will, if you haven’t already, receive them in a separate mailing. Due to a Bylaw change that was passed in 2006, the Secretary’s position does not come up for re-election every three years. 2008 is the first year that this Bylaw has an affect on the voting membership. You will be voting for only ONE director this year. Ballots are due to the Secretary by June 15, 2008.

And second, my e-mail address has changed to lively123@comcast.net. We’ve finally joined the world of high speed internet and it’s GREAT! As always, don’t ever hesitate to contact me via any mode of communication. My phone number, 802-447-7612, and mailing address, 193 Crossover Road, Bennington, VT 05201, remain the same.

Thank you, and a good summer to you all.
Nancy

Nothing Like a Mudpack Treatment at the Spa to Make a Girl Feel Like She’s Got That Creamy Movie Star Complexion.
Annual Meeting Schedule continued

Friday, October 17th


12:00 NOON – Lunch on the veranda of the Park/McCullough House.

1:30 PM – "Caravan of Creams". We are inviting everyone to bring their Creams for the weekend. See special questions on the signup sheet for anyone bringing their horses. Everyone that has accepted our invitation will caravan on a mostly dirt road – in wagon(s) or on horseback (see signup sheet) – to and through the Henry Covered Bridge and back – a four mile loop. Finger food and refreshments of all kinds will be served at the covered bridge on the lawn of the Henry House B&B, www.henryhouseinn, built in 1769 and the home of Revolutionary War hero, William Henry. AND a complimentary Lively's Livery Covered Bridge Tour tee shirt for everyone.

6:00 PM - Dinner at The Peppermills in Bennington.

8:00 PM - Visiting and exchanging of stories and photos.

Saturday, October 18th

8:30 AM - 2008 ACDHA Annual Meeting at the Paradise Motor Inn in Bennington, Vermont.

5:00 PM - Dinner at Hunter's Restaurant in Bennington.

ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT

David and Nancy Lively
Lively123@comcast.net or
802-447-7612 or 802-379-1299
American Cream: A Novel
By Catherine Tudish

Lovers of the American Cream will be pleased to know that their favorite draft horse plays a starring role in a novel of the same name. Set near the fictional town of Tenney’s Landing, Pennsylvania, the book offers an intimate glimpse into the workings of small-town life and the struggles of keeping a family farm alive. Having achieved a comfortable middle age, protagonist Virginia Rownd must suddenly cope with her mother’s death, her father’s hasty remarriage, the troubles and temptations of old friends, and her own imperfect marriage, as she returns to the farm and tries to reclaim her past. Remembering a wish of her father’s, Virginia sets off on a road trip to Iowa to locate a pair of American Creams for him. When she finds the yearlings Jack and Jewel, they seem nearly magical beings, and she pins her hopes on them.

The novel will appeal to anyone who has ever longed for a second chance, for the luck and wisdom to return to the place of their youth and make things come out right. It is a story that holds out hope, even as it portrays a way of life that seems to be passing away. As a reviewer wrote in the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch, “With spare but moving prose, a wise and engaging story, and characters who will remind you of people you know, Tudish has rendered, with grace and authenticity, the irresistible call of the irretrievable past.” For an online review of the book, go to: http://blogcritics.org/archives/2008/03/27/202904.php
Alliance

Equus Survival Trust
Victoria Tollman, Executive Director
775 Flippin Rd, Low Gap, NC 27024
EquusSurvivalTrust@yahoo.com 606-522-4009

Please see Victoria’s article on “Reciprocation” on page 5.

ALBC

American Livestock Breeds Conservancy
Don Schrider, Communications Dir.
PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312
editor@albc-usa.org 919-545-0022

Changes to the 2008 Conservation Priority List

ALBC has completed its annual review of the Conservation Priority List (CPL), which has led to several changes for the 2008 version.

...The most noticeable change has occurred in the ass and horse listings. A separate page has been created for equines to allow for the expansion of the listings (and to ensure its readability). The Dales Pony and the Fell Pony have been separated, out of respect for the breeds’ long and continuing history under separate registries. The Fell Pony remains in the Threatened category. The Dales Pony has been moved to the Study category until population and pedigree information can be obtained. The Hackney Horse has moved from Threatened to Critical. Recent changes in the registration procedures of the American Hackney Horse Society now differentiate horses and ponies, allowing the horse population to be tracked. Data shared by the AHHS reported that fewer than 24 horses were registered in 2006; approximately 1000 Hackney Horses are registered in the United States. English registrations are reported to be similar to those in the US. South American numbers are not known.

The Colonial Spanish horse listing has served as an umbrella for all of the unique strains of the breed, many of which have been isolated from one another for more than 500 years. Changes have been made in an effort to support the conservation efforts of the stewards of the strains, make the breed as a whole and in its parts more accessible to interested individuals, and include those that are bred from more than one strain. Colonial Spanish – Combined represents the total population of mixed strain and pure strain animals, and remains in the Threatened category. Colonial Spanish Strains shows the individually recognized strains that can reasonably survive independently of the others. These include Banker, Belsky, Cerbat, Choctaw, Florida Cracker, Marsh Tacky, New Mexico, Pryor, Sulphur, and Wilbur-Cruce. Footnotes on the Conservation Priority List further explain the strains and their relationship to the combined population. The Florida Cracker horse has been included in its rightful place among the strains of Colonial Spanish horses.

...Finally, the 2008 CPL has further standardized its format by consistently identifying subpopulations with “-” (e.g. Milking Shorthorn – Native); alternate names with “or” (e.g. Devon or Beef Devon) and genetically linked, though not identical, breeds with “/” (e.g. Mountain Pleasure / Rocky Mountain).
What made me choose an American Cream Draft?

Of all the horses I could have chosen after my Morgan mare passed on at 32 years of age, why did I want a draft horse and particularly an American Cream Draft? That is the question my husband asked when I wanted to stop and see the horses at a neighboring farm. We passed the farm every day on our way to work and witnessed foals and mares blissfully playing in the field. Beautiful creamy-colored horses with long flowing white manes and tails prancing as if in a horse ballet. WE finally stopped and found out they were registered American Cream Draft horses and were considered a rare draft breed that originated in the United States.

WOW, to think about helping keep these horses around for future generations really interested us. At the time there were only two fillies available for sale, a 2-year-old dark cream foaled from a black Percheron mare and an American Cream Draft stallion or a yearling medium cream foaled from an American Cream Draft mare and an American Cream Draft stallion. My husband actually liked the dark cream filly and I liked both, but was partial to the medium cream filly. My choice was the yearling filly who had the name of Lady May and whose birth date was the same as the date we were married. It was like an omen when I found out all the particulars about her.

I have since realized that I was drawn to the drafts due to memories of my childhood, I would visit my Grandfather when he was feeding his last 2 Belgian horses from the days when he used to farm with them. He would always lift me up to sit on the horses while they stood eating in the lower level of the bank barn and I could touch the beams of the barn with my hands. That was always a great thrill, those horses were far bigger than my pony.

I have had a variety of horses since I was young and I can honestly say I wouldn’t trade my American Cream Draft horse, Lady May, for any other. I find such a kind and gentle nature plus a willingness to please. Don’t get me wrong, they can still act just like horses, but they are very people-oriented naturally, making schooling for whatever task much easier. Lady May was and is a very patient and diligent student because I had never trained any of my horses for riding and driving. All my other horses came to me with the foundation work and I just had to keep up the training. So, I too have learned and what a tremendous breed of horse to give me my training.

By the way we found it hard to stop with one, we now have 4 mares and each personality is consistent with the gentle nature of our first.

- Susan Engel
Directors breeds Support choosing markets that glean the most money.

Those who have formed registries have a duty to maintain reciprocation with purebred stock in other registries. This ensures that none of the genetic population will become orphaned.

Those who have formed support groups should strive to maintain good relations with their associated breed communities, including registries and other support groups. This will ensure the best networking possible and foster cooperation between breeders, an essential atmosphere for genetic diversity and breed promotion.

One of the places registries and support groups can be effective is by providing good resource materials to the public and to their breeders. If used properly, the internet can be extremely useful for networking and for providing resources. It can also be dangerously inaccurate, depending upon the integrity of the sources and so care must be taken to provide impeccable information.

Surviving the Trends by Good Stewarding

Americans are notorious for creating their own new, improved version of a breed.

This kind of thing isn't usually a conscious decision. It often happens by popular show ring selections that carry over into the breeding shed. It is further distorted by people who come out of the woodwork to cash in on the latest fashion craze before they skitter off to the next cash cow. If you need proof, just look at what the breed type of show Arabs and Morgans has changed in the last three decades. Look at the "modern" Friesian.

Whereas, a mainstream breed can absorb this trendy fashion drifts from traditional type by virtue of sufficient pockets of original type, this sort of thing is far more detrimental to an endangered breed with fewer horses to weather the trends.

Good stewarding requires developing markets that are best suited for conserving our respective endangered breeds as they have been, not in following fashions or choosing markets that glean the most money.

Support Groups & Registries - Only as Good as Its Members & Directors

Some organizations manage to run smoothly. Others struggle with funding or manpower. Some are plagued with political adversity. Some have succumbed to one or more of these pitfalls and folded, leaving breeders stranded and struggling disjointedly on their own.

What to do? Support groups, be they clubs or daughter societies can help people by:

(1) providing accurate resources and networking between prospective buyers, existing owners and breeders.

(2) providing encouragement, education and mentoring to support responsible stewarding.

(3) support groups and registries that uphold the guidelines of the mother registries.

(4) Support groups that a) fill membership rosters with people of integrity and b) breeders who produce quality and c) promote selling to other responsible stewards.

As breeders in these support groups, we should look for buyers who have long-term goals and quality (not sheer quantity) in mind, and we must cultivate and insist that breeders have ethics beyond reproach.

We should also encourage these buyers to do their homework BEFORE they purchase horses. They should be familiar with the breed standard and look for breed mentors to help them choose quality stock with a track record. Typically it is best to buy adult stock with proven breeding records. This will minimize the "prospect" guesswork and new breeders will be less likely to produce inferior stock to survive their initial investment.

In non-breeders, we should look for owners who are properly matched to the ponies and horses we sell and encourage them to participate on whatever level they are able. Whether they are for pleasure, work, or show, even geldings are valuable ambassadors

If we cultivate new owners, new breeders and new enthusiasts and induct them into our support groups and registries, it will go a long way to stewarding conservation goals for our respective endangered breeds.
Cheater's Amber #482

Dennis & Betsy Aufdenkamp - CA