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HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS

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INTERNATIONAL
*Heritage
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ASSOCIATION



Preserving the Past to ensure the Future

IHWWA.com

On our cover:

Paula Vervaet with her horse, Trinder's Crusader.

Paula writes:

Trinder's Crusader came to me 5 years ago from Manitoba, Canada and has followed me from NY to my new home in TN. After owning the show bloodlines of TWHs for more than 20 years, discovering the Heritage lines has been like finding a hidden jewel. He is as naturally gaited as they come, without bit or shoes. He jumps as well as any trotting horse I've ever ridden and can gallop like a Thoroughbred. He is the definition of versatility. He is very intelligent and enjoys his trail rides as much as I do. He is natural horsemanship trained and we have a close bond. He is quite the ambassador for the Heritage Registry in his new home state and I look forward to more years on the trails with him. – Paula Vervaet

Our lovely covers are designed courtesy of Jennifer Klitzke. Please visit her blog: www.NaturallyGaited.com for stories, videos, and information about training your gaited horse using dressage and natural humane training methods. Thank you, Jennifer!!

Color Crazed

By Franne Brandon, Petersburg, Tennessee

The March-April issue will feature the Highlights tribute to registered Heritage Stallions. So, this month Highlights is offering a refresher on color genetics and how it impacts the Heritage Horse breeder. Any questions that it inspires can be discussed on the Heritage Facebook page or on Walking Horse Color Genetics on Facebook.

For over thirty years, flashy coat colors have driven the market that embraces the trail and field trial pleasure Tennessee Walking Horse. Even when sales were at their lowest from 2006-2010, geldings with fancy coat colors still had a market and at times continued to command top pleasure dollars. Now that demand is on the upswing, the color trends continue.

Wanting a horse of a desired coat color is not a bad thing. Neither is breeding with the hope of obtaining certain colors and patterns. Entire color breed associations have been developed, successfully, around this concept. A breeder should never sacrifice quality for color, however. If the standards of correct conformation, good minds, and strong walking gaits are met, then opting to toss some color prospects into the package makes the entire foal producing experiment a little more intriguing.

Breeders who hope to obtain certain colors, modifiers, or patterns need to know a few basic color genetics principles. A horse will appear in two basic colors, black or red. Black is dominant, and red is recessive.



Billy Taylor's mare Smokey's Myriah Angel models the black color



Pleasure's Eternal Flame, Ravi, models the sorrel red color



Walkien Jesse Skywalker shows his chestnut genes. Jesse has been color tested and carries NO agouti

This means that if two chestnut horses are mated, the result will always be chestnut. When two blacks are mated, though, because black is dominant and can hide red, the results will not always be black. Some foals will come chestnut, unless one black parent carries two copies of the black gene, making it homozygous for black. When a black meets a red, however, it is possible that some foals will be neither appear black nor red, IF the red parent is carrying an agouti gene, the one that creates a bay horse from black pigment. The agouti gene has no known effect on a chestnut coat, requiring DNA testing or production to determine if a chestnut carries agouti.



Austin Turley's Carbonado's Copperhead Rd sports the bay sabino pattern. His dam, Society's Miss Echo is a sorrel sabino; sire, Carbonado's Black Gold is a smoky black.

Gray has been popular in the walking horse breed for over 35 years. It is also a dominant gene, so a gray foal only results when one parent is gray. All gray horses have a basic color underlying their gray, black, bay, or chestnut. In general, gray foals arrive a very intense shade of that base color, and gray as they mature. Certain patterns do not mix well with the gray gene, as the horse's progressively lighter gray coat will cause the other pattern to fade as the horse ages. When grays are crossed on sabinos, should the foal inherit both patterns, it will often grey out at a much younger age than a horse with only the grey modifier.



This lovely filly by Buds Sterling Bullet (gray) and out of Ostella Reese's Red Rose (red sabino) looks as if she took after her dam in color. However, veteran breeder Leon Oliver knew that she was a gray, found the signs, and registered her as one. She had lost the sabino pattern to the effects of the gray gene by the time she was a two-year-old.



This young filly is Ostella's Rockann, born a black roan, she shed off gray



Ostella's Rockann showing more gray coloring



Ostellas Bullet Trademark – Leon Oliver's junior stallion was born chestnut and is graying

A modifier that has been confused with gray for decades in the walking horse breed is classic roan. Classic roan also has white hairs sprinkled in the coat, but not in the dappling patterns of gray. Nor do classic roan horses exhibit white hairs in the face or on the lower legs. Roans have been a part of the breed since the registry began in 1935, but in low numbers, and they have only achieved popularity in the past 10-15 years. Classic roan is a dominant gene. To get one, the breeder must have one roan parent.



Ostella Silver Lady models the black roan pattern

Until the foal crop of 2000, TWHBEA lumped all non-gray horses with white hairs sprinkled in the coat into one category called "Roan". This had been done since the beginnings of the registry. But in 2000, the breed association bowed to the dictates of the science of coat color genetics and accepted a new title for the hundreds of horses that possessed the spotting pattern that is the oldest in existence – the sabino pattern. Sabinos were the original spotted walking horses, and although the flashy white faces with stockings and body spots fell out of favor for several decades, the sabinos are popular once again. The sabino gene blends best with the solid base colors, although some black genetics appears to resist the action of the sabino gene. Perhaps that is why many maximal white sabinos are red base rather than black or bay base. As mentioned above, sabino is not the best gene to mix with the grey gene. The action of sabino on dilutes also can result in less than optimal color expression.



Confederate Hills Farm's Chance's Society Paige shows off the sorrel sabino pattern

The cream gene had its upsurge in popularity in the walking horse breed in the late nineties and first decade of the 21st century. Then an abundance of cremello stallions flooded the market with golden foals at about the same time that it crashed due to the economy and overbreeding of all walking horses. The cream gene is a dilution gene, which lightens red coats to various golden shades with little to no impact on black pigment. The classic palomino will have a golden body with pale gold or cream mane and tail. A buckskin is a bay horse diluted by cream. Mane and tail and points remain black on a buckskin, unless sabino is also interacting on the coat with its color shifting.



Confederate Hills' Echo's Confederate Rebel is a black sabino



Franne Brandon and Tanasi Gold model the palomino color



Echo's Lady Bug Allen wears a bay sabino coat



Tanasi Gold with her new owner, Kenzie Hope showing off "Misti's" color in Iowa



Tsuniah Sage King's Echo shows off his rich shade of palomino



Lady's Got The Gold, left, showing off her buckskin color in Pinefolly Farms' pasture with her palomino friend, Tanasi Gold

The champagne gene has been around the walking horse breed since the foundation era, although very few champagnes found today will color trace. The majority that do color trace are in Canada, along with the descendants of the stallion Sir Joseph's Rocker in the United States. The champagne gene dilutes hair, skin, and eyes. It impacts all colors and patterns. Its effects are no more consistent than the effects of cream, which means the action of champagne on lighter shades of chestnut, like honey sorrel, or sandy bay will often result in a horse with washed out color tones rather than vibrant or unique ones. Other patterns and dilutions have appeared in the walking horse breed since 1985. These include tobiano, frame, silver dapple, and dun. The general results of color traces on horses of all these is that they are not descended from stock registered between 1935 and 1947. One family of tobianos does trace back to a mare registered

in 1947. One tiny family of silver dapples does trace back to foundations. The rest dead end in color combinations impossible to produce dun or silver dapple, or in horses without spotting patterns.

A final word about homozygous color. A number of online and print stallion ads since 2000 have featured stallions that are homozygous for a color, pattern, modifier, or dilute. Some are homozygous for more than one trait. This can happen by accident, as when a breeder crosses a black and a bay to get an EE black, or it can be the result of seeking out two horses with the desired trait and crossing until a foal tests homozygous. The mare owner needs to analyze her qualities and think before choosing such a stallion. Is it proven to sire the overall type of foals that the mare owner wishes to raise? If the mare is a little plain, can the stallion contribute beauty? If the mare is small and fine boned, can this stallion contribute bone and more size? If she is perfectly gaited, does the mare owner want to risk raising a foal with a gait repertoire inferior to the mare's by breeding to a homozygous stallion with too much trot or too much pace?

And one more point. Most homozygous color bred stallions do not have Heritage Horse pedigrees. If a Heritage breeder chooses one, the breeder should ascertain beforehand whether this stallion color traces. The breeder should also be sure that the bloodlines of the stallion do not have any show horse surprises. If the homozygous stallion does not color trace or goes back to several modern show horses, the mating of a Heritage Mare with this stallion will not produce a foal that will **EVER** breed up to Full Heritage status.

Within the ranks of the International Heritage Walking Horse is a wide spectrum of colors, patterns, and dilutes. Most Heritage owners and breeders like a little color in their barns. Walking Horse color options are fascinating, but nothing is more exciting than a strong, dependable, strong gaited horse traveling in style and smooth walking gait down the trail.

My Trail Classification System

By Doug West, St. George, Utah

You might wonder why I decided to develop my own trail classification system. Most websites and trail maps will give you some information about length, time, and difficulty. While these are adequate for most trails, they don't include what I call the "Wild Jim" factor. Jim and I have been riding together regularly for a number of years. He is a fearless rider who likes to create his own trails: me, not so much. At my age, I prefer the typical 18" wide, well maintained, and signed backcountry public land agency trails. Jim regularly gets me out of my comfort zone.



Jim and Dorey

The sunglasses hide the mischievous glint in Jim's eyes when he says, "We can get there from here." My usual response is "Are you kidding me?" To make this conversation as brief and objective as possible, we will now refer to My Trail Classification System. We have an understanding that I will ride all trails in **Classes I-III** and some in **Class IV**. However, he frequently forgets to tell me about the one bad spot that instantly changes from **III** to **V**.

Trail Classifications

Class I. Ho Hum Ride Through Central Park. An established bridle path that frequently parallels a well-established walking path.

Class II. Follow the Yellow Brick Road. A two or single track shared with mountain bikes and ATVs.

Class III. Backcountry Trail. An established, non-motorized Forest Service, BLM, or National Park Service trail which is passable when cleared, maintained, and signed. These trails all too often deteriorate to **Class IV** or **V** due to lack of maintenance.

Class IV. Game or Stock Trail. These are never found on any map which usually causes uninitiated riders to loudly question, "Are you out of your mind?"

Class V. No Trail at All. Usually only fit for good mules, where even experienced riders frequently scream "Are you nuts? I'm walking!"



Class IV or V: Follow the Deer

Let's try applying my Trail Classification system to an actual ride to see how it works. I live a short 40-mile drive from Zion National Park. While Zion Canyon is overrun with tourists, March to December, the area managed as wilderness sees a lot fewer visitors. In these areas, you have to either use your feet or ride a horse, substantially reducing traffic and crowds. The Chinle

Trail, one of my favorite rides, provides magnificent views of astounding red rock formations. Using my rating system, I would classify the trail as mostly an easy **Class III**. It has all the classic features of most National Park trails: well maintained, well signed, and only a few rocky, steep spots.

Jim, Robert, and I decided to ride the Chinle Trail a few Saturdays ago. I thought we would take the traditional route starting at the Anasazi Way trailhead located in an upscale subdivision between Rockville and Springdale. The most difficult part of the Chinle Trail is parking your horse trailer. The parking area requires a sharp left turn off Highway 9 and an immediate sharp right into the parking area. Maneuvering my 26-foot trailer around the blind turn is a bit unnerving.

Jim had his sunglasses on, so I didn't notice the glint in his eye when he told Robert to stop at the mouth of Huber Wash. Immediately, he tells us, "We can get there from here." Check your maps. There isn't an established foot or horse trail up the wash. Huber Wash is on state lands that connects with the Park. My immediate thought "How far and how bad?"

At the start, I was encouraged to see hoof and boot prints as we let ourselves through the gate. It wasn't long before we were following an old stock or game trail full of deer tracks and an occasional hoof print. A classic **Class IV** trail.

All of us are experienced riders used to rough country. However, Jim and Robert were riding two relatively inexperienced horses. Both are young and strong, but have spent most of their lives in the arena team penning or reining. They are just learning to negotiate the steep, rocky, ledges found on this section of trail. While the riders were experienced on **Class IV** and **V** trails, Dorey and Dodger were still at **Class III**. Fortunately for

them, they had an experienced teacher in my 20-year-old Walking Horse mare. Like Jim, my Rose is totally fearless, and goes anywhere I point her nose. Even with Rose leading the way, I thought seriously about turning around, but there wasn't room and I didn't want to ride down what we had scrambled up.

After a hard-rocky climb, we found hoof prints and boot tracks again, a sure sign that we had reached the junction with the **Class III** Chinle Trail. It wasn't long before we met hikers. Their facial expressions led me to believe they thought we were three ghost riders who had plummeted from the sky. Rather than dropping from the sky, we had climbed Jacob's Ladder to intersect the Chinle Trail where they were hiking pleasantly. We continued on another two to three miles to the junction with the Old Scoggin's Stock Trail.

The Scoggin's Stock Trail is a short connector which drops approximately a fourth of a mile into Scoggins Wash. While short, it is quite steep with a bit of exposure. It is easily negotiated on a good horse, so I classify it as a typical **Class III** trail. There isn't an established Park Service Trail in the wash, but through regular use, an obvious trail has been created by hikers and horses. It is an intimate place with interesting rock formations on both sides of the wash with a stream of water in the upper reaches where your tired and thirsty horses can get a drink. Using my subjective scale, I classify the approximate 2-1/2 mile ride to the junction with Coal Pits Wash as an easy **Class III**.

When you reach Coal Pits Wash, the fun and challenging part of the ride ends. Coal Pits Wash is named for the piles of black, volcanic rock found on the benches above the wash. It is beautiful in the fall when the cottonwood trees are awash with color and in the spring when leafed out. This time of year, you ride on the banks through sage brush flats

paralleling the lower part of the wash to Highway 9 approximately 12 miles from the mouth of Huber Wash. The most dangerous part of this ride is along busy Highway 9, the main artery to Zion Canyon, where we parked the truck and trailer.

By now, it's obvious that trail classification systems, especially mine, are quite subjective. Degree of difficulty depends to a great extent on a rider's risk tolerance and experience. More importantly is the trust he has in his trail horse. While I have ridden most of my life, exposure still gives me pause, and I always like to ride **Class IV** and **V** trails uphill. **NOT** down. At my age, I'm long past trying to impress anyone, and I never have had Jim's tolerance for risk. My motto is "Live to ride another day."

Doug is a member of the Southwest Chapter of BCHU. He lives in St. George, Utah with his wife Trea, dog Maynard, and three Walking Horse mares. You can contact him at parasite.ranch@gmail.com.

From Mike Davis, Wabasha, Minnesota

"Our winter Soup and Sandwich rides have started. There will be 6 rides over the next 7 weekends. Yesterday it was at Robin's and it was cold! 22 riders showed up though. We had a great ride too. I was thinking that if you wanted I could put together some photos of the rides for the highlights."



Definitely, Mike, We'd love to hear about your rides.

Willie

**By Brittany Sexton Odom,
Highland Home, Alabama**

I have had horses my entire life, but it was not until the last year and half that I entered into the gaited horse world. Tennessee Walking Horses to be more specific. I was not in the market for a new horse, as I had two already. My aunt and uncle were getting back in the horse business and decided they wanted a couple of walkers. To make a long story short, I went to Shelbyville, Tennessee, with them to look at a few horses. Instead of coming back with the planned two, three horses were in the trailer.

I had no idea that I had a gelding off one of the most sought after TWH sires in the country, Buds Sterling Bullet! My guy, Overstride's Bud Souvenir, "Willie", seems to have taken much after his sire in disposition and riding style. He is the best trail partner I have ever had and tries so hard of everything I ask of him. We are currently working on how to side pass! That is a work in progress, but it is coming along.



Brittany and Willie



We began competing in the North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) just a few months after I acquired Willie. NATRC is a competitive trail ride over a certain distance and must be completed within a time window. There is a vet judge and a horsemanship judge that will see you before, during, and after the ride. During the ride, you will usually see 2-4 judged obstacles for you and your horse to navigate. Willie and I have competed at several of these rides over the past year. It is amazing how much knowledge I have gained from being a part of this amazing group of people. Each of these rides, I take away something new and it is helping Willie grow and learn as well. The very first NATRC ride we attended, Willie had a complete meltdown. Now, when we show up, he has on his game face. He knows it is time to work.





Competing in NATRC rides

From Celena Verdegan Cadott, Wisconsin

“Today is Solomon’s birthday. I really like him! He has warmed up and is very friendly. He gets along great with Bridget's burro, Burrito. Yes, we did get a donkey too. I can't remember if I told you we had looked at donkeys. Bridget always liked them, so we found a nice mammoth Jenny yearling. I can't wait to visit and see my buckskin baby again. I know you have your son's wedding coming up, so I'll check in with you sometime after that. Take care, bye for now, Celena”



The firecracker 6-year-old that I got a year and a half ago is becoming a man. On most given weekends you can find us on a dirt road somewhere. Willie has a heck of a running walk. Perfect for long and lazy trail rides. Which are what we just so happen love to do! Happy trails, y'all!

Copy Editor's note : The dam's rare lines to Souvenir's Rascal and Rip also had a strong influence on Willie.



**NFF Society's Soolaimon, aka, Solomon
(Society's Duke Allen x Krispy Cream) with
Celena**

IR Poster Child

By Ted Manning, Lodi, Wisconsin



NFF My Echo's Foxy Lady

Foxx joined our little herd September 2015. Foxx was the horse my wife Cheryl and I were looking for to have a second gaited horse to ride together. Diane Szczepanski, Northern Foundations Farm, was her breeder and currently had her when I contacted Diane to see if she knew of a gaited horse that might meet our interests. Foxx was one option that she knew about during the summer of 2015. The bloodline I was most interested in was a good "using horse". I especially liked all of the knowledge Diane had about the breeds and especially the heritage bloodlines. Diane and I renewed our relationship about 5 years previously when we met Jack. His story was in a previous newsletter "How We Met Jack".

Diane provided an accurate profile of Foxx including her metabolic syndrome condition and current inactivity. Foxx had good early years of work, but needed a different lifestyle with more activity. Diane was using MS supplements for Foxx. I was willing to help improve her health and give her a forever home. I already had done lots of management for Jack, now a senior, and Sylverado, our 12 yr old rescue Arabian bred for endurance. So, each horse needed specific nutrition, exercise, and purpose.



Foxx's first wellness exam was done by Dr. Corinne and indicated elevated blood readings and she was overweight. Diane had said Foxx could lose 200 pounds when I was considering her. I already had a good support system from Lodi Veterinary Care vets and Veterinary Service Specialists.

Nutrition and Exercise are the Keys with the help of many great people:

- Diane and Rachel Hill for their encouragement and knowledge of Foxx's history and care
- Dr. Corinne for wellness exams and consistent knowledge of Foxx's progress and nutrition
- Cathy Jo VSS who provided hay testing and nutrition plans for the horses
- Jacob Sharpee of JLS Horsemanship of Lodi WI for his knowledge and commitment to help Foxx improve her softness and conditioning
- Numerous riders and interested parties

The first fall and winter involved a nutritional plan which included supplements and hay below 10% NSC (non structured carbohydrates). In addition, the most important aspect was exercise. Cathy Jo did the nutritional plans and also would come out to take hay samples for analysis for feeding correctly. We would review the plan if I changed hay or at least after Foxx's fall wellness check.

In addition, the most important aspect was exercise. Cathy Jo did the nutritional plans and would come out to take hay samples for analysis for feeding correctly. We would review the plan if I changed hay or at least after Foxx's fall wellness check.

The first 6 months Foxx did lose about 60 pounds and her blood got very close to normal. She did not get as much exercise as planned. All the horses are at liberty, but she still needed more structured exercise. So, Foxx was still overweight and under used. During that winter, I was able to connect with Jacob Sharpee, a local trainer with his business JLS Horsemanship. This relationship began to help refine the horses and improve our riding. The first time Jacob rode Foxx he said "I love this horse! She is so sweet".

Jacob is enthusiastic about training horses and connecting their riders. He helps his students compete successfully in numerous shows and events. He is also the Lodi 4H Equestrian Team coach. That summer we moved the horses to Jacob's for more work and I would ride several times a week. I would feed the horses every morning and most days see them later in the day. Jacob worked them almost every day along with all the horses and riders he taught. Foxx and Jack did 60 and 30 days respectively. Sylver did 100 days. Jacob also used Foxx for students and as an extra horse for groups. Jacob said he would try to work Foxx into the day based on other horses he rode so that Foxx would be "a comfortable ride". Foxx did need additional work to soften and she loves the trail and not arena work.

My experience, as her owner, was that I could almost get into a zone where I didn't want to stop, but she needed to be more conditioned and vary her speed. It is addicting to go that smoothly.

This was a good start, but it wasn't enough to get Foxx where she needed to be.

Late winter 2017, Foxx was moved to Jacob's again as he had an indoor arena which could give her more consistent work regardless of weather. Sylver went later, and I had two of Jacob's horses for the summer to keep Jack company. Again, this year Foxx was used at times as a lesson horse. She was also the first gaited horse some people had ever ridden. Sometimes Foxx

was worked twice a day and fed appropriately for her exercise program. Jacob's comments included "that Foxx is still his favorite gaited horse". Jacob had about a dozen gaited horses to tune up or train since he started with Foxx and he was supportive of her development.

Foxx's last wellness exam was October 2017. Dr. Corinne did the exam and said Foxx was really looking good and could even gain 50 pounds to be ideal.



Foxx October 2017; Wolf's Man Jack (Jack) is behind her

When I reviewed Foxx's nutrition plan in December, Cathy Jo had already done the update so there was very little change needed. As we concluded, Cathy Jo said that Dr. Corinne had updated her as to how well Foxx had done. Cathy Jo said, "Foxx is our IR Poster Child. Foxx is the success we tell other owners about. This is what can be accomplished for an IR condition."

2018 is now my plan to ride her more, and I have more opportunities with friends I have met in the last two years. Thanks to everyone who helped me help Foxx!



Miss Foxx looking good!!

Trip to Vermont

By Stephanie Langston, Locust Dale, Virginia

When we went to look at Remembrance's Jubilee in September of 2017, we thought we'd be coming home with just one horse. After meeting Tim & Annie Leverette and visiting their herd of foundation walking horses, we ended up bringing home three Sun's Remembrance half siblings: Remembrance's Merry Snip, Remembrance's Jubilee, and Remembrance's Hot Tamale.

Remembrance's Merry Snip aka "Snip" is a gorgeous black stallion, 15.1 hands, 1,000 lbs, foaled in 1996. He is large boned with feet to match and has a ground pounding action very much like his grand sire, Midnight Sun. Snip's sire, Sun's Remembrance (1966-2004) was the last living son of Midnight Sun (1940-1965). Snip's dam, Merry Nite Doll 88, was sired by Merry Boy's F88, one of the last living sons of Merry Boy. Merry Nite Doll's dam, Stormy's Ebony Doll, was sired by Go Boy's Nite Storm, one of the last living sons of Merry Go Boy. Snip has a pedigree that in years past was known as the "royal cross," horses sired by Midnight Sun out of Merry Boy mares. Stormy's Ebony Doll's dam was a direct Ebony Masterpiece daughter, and her dam was by the great Society Man. In addition, Snip's registration shows four foundation horses.

When we pulled into the Leverette's Hard Scrabble Farm in Sheffield, Vermont, Snip was standing quietly in his paddock. I took one look at his thick build and conformation and thought "Wow. That is a Jarred horse." I didn't get to finish the thought before Jarred said "Now THAT is what I'm looking for." The idea was to add one foundation bred stallion to our herd, so I looked at Snip and thought "I hope Jubilee is as nice as you!"

After seeing Jubilee and the rest of the Leverettes' herd, we came to Snip's paddock. He picked up the pace to meet Tim, obviously his best friend, at the gate. When I heard (and felt) that Midnight-Sun ground pounding four beats as Snip approached, I began to get the sneaking suspicion that we'd be adding two stallions to our farm. When Snip calmly and sweetly stood by

Tim with his quiet, humble disposition, I could see the gears turning in Jarred's head. When he proclaimed, "He's just like my Jack!" I knew Jarred had fallen in love. And so, we added TWO sons of Sun's Remembrance to our farm.



Remembrance's Merry Snip

In 1996, Tim and Annie Leverette purchased Snip as a five-month-old colt from Robert and Arlene Pralle of Williston, Florida. Snip has lived with them in Sheffield, Vermont, until coming home with us in September of 2017. When Snip first arrived, he was understandably homesick for his people, but he has since come around and is learning that he is loved here, too. He has the most wonderful disposition and loves to please. We had his semen evaluated by the Equine Reproduction Center and he will be standing live cover only next spring.

Remembrance's Jubilee has some of the oldest foundation lines that can be found. His dam is Chance's White Gold, a granddaughter of John A's Chance. His sire is Sun's Remembrance, the last son of the great Midnight Sun. This puts 18 horses from the 1940's and earlier on his papers, including two foundation (F) horses. With lines to Midnight Sun, and therefore, Wilson's Allen and Roan Allen on the top, and Merry Boy and Merry Legs to those same foundation horses on the bottom, he truly represents some of the last close-up links to the old greats. His striking buckskin color, large framed build, and piercing "tiger's eyes" give him commanding presence. We had his semen evaluated by the Equine Reproduction Center, and he will be standing at stud with shipped semen available next spring.



**Remembrance's Jubilee with Tim Leaverette
in September 2017**

Arlene Pralle remembers his dam, Chance's White Gold, as an amazing moving mare. They leased her from McAllen Finley for breeding to Sun's Remembrance. The first of that cross was Remembrance's Onyx and Lace, a buckskin filly. Then the palomino stallion, Remember Prayer Warrior (certified heritage). When they returned the mare to McAllen Finley, she was in foal to Sun's Remembrance. When Arlene came back to visit the next year she absolutely fell in love with Jubilee. She paid a hefty sum for the young colt and brought him home with her.

The final selection we made was Remembrance's Hot Tamale. I'm the bloodline aficionado, so I loved the idea of preserving the close-up lines to Midnight Sun as well as the rest of her pedigree. Jarred is less interested in pedigrees, but a close student of conformation as it relates to motion. He picked Tamale based on her excellent conformation. The drop on her hip, her deep loin, and the set of her hocks was did it for him. "Tamale" is a 15.2 hand chestnut mare foaled in 1997. She has a beautiful, inquisitive face, and is athletic with a flashy, generous overstride. Tamale's sire, Suns' Remembrance (1966-2004), was the last living sun of Midnight Sun (1940-1965). Tamale's dam, Selfwinder Foxy Lady, shows four pre-1970 World Grand Champions on her registration (Midnight Sun 1945 and 1946; Ebony Masterpiece 1962; Sun's Delight D. 1963; Ebony's Senator 1969).

Tamale's registration shows two foundation horses. Tamale was broke to ride over the course of three days when she was three years old. She then went to pasture until we brought her home. Out of curiosity, Jarred climbed on her back and took her out to see how she'd do. While you can tell she is green, she stepped right off at a four-beat gait, just as we expected. That is exactly what we are breeding for! Tamale is certified heritage, and we look forward to breeding her in the spring.



Remembrance's Hot Tamale

We are so thankful to Tim & Annie for the opportunity to own these foundation horses and the wonderful care they've obviously received in their lives. We hope to continue their passion of preserving and furthering these great lines.

Stephanie Langston, Westwood Farms
westwoodfarms.net | 540-825-1300

LEON TWO SOCKS (Bud's Sterling Bullet X Slush Creek Coral Cameo) – 30 DAYS WITH TRAINER ROBIN SECRIST

By Mike Davis, Wabasha, Minnesota



Leon, now 2 ½ years old, actually had his start with me in 2009. That was the year that I brought his mother, Cameo, home from Slush Creek Montana as a yearling. Cameo has her heritage thanks to Mark and Shelly Pacovsky of Bainville, Montana. They purchased Tennessee Walker ranch stock from the Calvin Miller Ranch in nearby North Dakota that included Zephyr Dakota Breeze (Breezy), a mare whom they bred to their stallion Slush Creeks Jubal S. Breezy has Roy Rogers Trigger Jr on her papers and Jubal has Reyclif Mid-Merry (a stallion that was last owned by Ross Perot). When I got into the walking horses I had this notion that I'd like to breed a TWH bred and selected for ranch work over the years with one from the old central Tennessee stock that held true to the useful original characteristics of the breed. I was lucky to get my Cameo to Leon Oliver's Tennessee farm in the spring of 2014 to meet his famous Bullet stallion.

Eleven months later a little colt hit the ground in my pasture, Cameo's first foal. He came early and was pretty small. My daughter Anna and I found him when we were turning out the two horses we had just been riding all afternoon. He was still dripping wet and had yet to get up. Talk about timing! I picked him up and carried him a few steps over to his somewhat bewildered mother, then set him down and steadied him while he lurched around trying to figure out what to do and where to get his first meal. It was a blast! I named him Leon on the spot – in honor

of Leon Oliver and all he knows and has put into breeding quality, sensible horses all his life. Now it's the end of 2017 and last week I had my first trail ride on Leon. I thought I was surely on an experienced old trail horse, found myself relaxing and chatting with the others riding with us, then reminded myself that this horse only had a few days under saddle! This is a tribute to the skill and decades of experience of Robin Secrist, his trainer, and the sound breeding in his genes. You now know about his genetic background, let me walk you through the 30-day training that Robin has developed to turn out a desensitized trail horse that listens to its rider, crosses water, climbs up and down steep rocky ravines over logs, bushwhacks through all sorts of wooded terrain and comes equipped with an emergency brake. The owner can't go home until they know how to use it either. Training the owner how to keep the horse trained is part of his program.



Lesson #1 is getting familiar with the "training stick" and paying attention to the human. Leading the horse is more than leading, it includes stopping when you stop and backing up if you back up.



Backing up is the first task a horse is taught. Robin has 3 different types of backups he uses, they teach a horse to respect your space and to come into to it only when asked in. Notice Leon's ears as he is paying attention to his teacher.



When the horse complies, he rubs the training stick on his forehead, this calms and rewards the horse. Look for the horse to soften his posture as he accepts the lesson.



“Move over Leon! I want two eyes for respect”. Leon’s hind legs are crossing over to move away, a humbling move for a horse that is submitting to a “leader” – in this case a human.



Next comes what Robin calls a short lunge, done on a lead rope. He points to the right and signals with the training stick to move ahead. He keeps the horse at distance by tapping him on the neck with the stick if he comes in too close. The horse has to circle him so all he does is pivot. Robin uses body language (the natural communicator of the horse) to signal the horse to stop and to face him. If he doesn’t move his hind away Robin threatens with the stick and his body, if no response the horse gets a tap on his hind quarters, stronger until he responds – then Robin relaxes the pressure to reward the behavior. This is repeated until the horse will immediately move his hind quarters away with just a terse glance from Robin. This may take only 5 minutes to teach some horses and most learn pretty fast. When you take your horse home from Robin’s horse school you are told to keep this reinforced for your own safety.



Leon has put his eyes to Robin and his rear away, he is rewarded with the stroking of the stick on his forehead again.



Next comes learning to flex on command. This is the main installment of the emergency brake. A horse with its head flexed over can’t do much, like buck or run away in fright. Making this an instant instinct on cue is important. Combined with disengaging the rear legs (making them cross over to move over) is a good way to show a horse that it is much easier to do what you ask than to spin in a circle crisscrossing his legs to stay in balance.



Going where you tell your horse to go is important, walking the wood bridge on command gets the horse used to obeying and dealing with unfamiliar stuff.



Like crossing big logs, in this case barrels. Cross to the left and to the right.



With practice it just becomes second nature to follow the leaders' commands.



A job well done gets another stroking with the stick and time to relax as reward. Notice that this is all done surrounded by a lot of distractions. Like a Holstein steer and other horses in an adjacent pen and two hogs snorting around in the shed. There's chickens and ducks out loose patrolling around all the time too, and a pack of 6 dogs roaming all over. Then there's the 4-wheeler, cars, trucks and trailers coming and going. A horse learns to ignore the stuff that's not asking anything of it and pays attention to its leader – YOU!



Robin works to desensitize Leon to otherwise scary stuff, like the plastic bag on the end of his stick he is waving all around. The goal is to change the brain of the horse so instead of running off in fear to get rid of what is scary the horse learns that it will go away if he just stands still long enough. This makes a horse a lot safer when something on the trail startles him.



If anyone is looking for a trainer to get a horse started and ready for trail riding or wilderness adventures Robin Secrist is my recommendation. You can reach him at 715-495-4496. He gets horses in from all over the USA.

Leon's first ride out alone. 2 weeks into his 30 days of training. He gaits, and Robin says he has a satin smooth canter! Robin was impressed that this young gelding was perfectly willing to ride off into the hills alone the first time he tried and go anywhere.

"This is going to be a great horse!" he told me. "He's calm and willing to go wherever I ask and is even careful about where he puts his feet, takes his time going down the steep trails to pick a good path, unusual for a green two-year-old!"



Me on Leon after an hour of trail riding in the Mississippi River valley hills – 3 weeks into his 30 days of training at Robin's. Leon is back home now and I'll be taking him on short rides this winter and letting him grow up for another year or two so one day we can head into the wilderness together for a week or two of riding.

**From Tim & Annie Leaverette
Hardscrabble Hollow Farm
Sheffield, Vermont**



Remembrance's Legacy
Photo taken 10-23-2017



Remembrance's Legacy is a very spry 28-year-old Bay stallion with a terrific demeanor and tons of play energy. He stands for grooming, farrier and the vet. Leads easily. Legacy is a willing and easy in-hand breeder. His papers do not include Sun's Delight D or Ebony Masterpiece. He has been ridden alongside mares and exhibits the manners of a true gentleman. If someone would take a chance with this horse, we believe they could hit a gold mine with foals from him!!

Remembrance's Legacy is being offered to a good home. The only costs involved will be a coggins, health certificate, and annual shots if needed and the cost of the vet. Current annuals are good until July 2018. If interested, please contact Tim and Annie Leverette at twhvermont@hughes.net



Legacy



Jubilee's Naughty Kisses

"Kisses" is a large solid black filly foaled in June, 2008. Her sire is Remembrance's Jubilee (buckskin), and her dam is Prowlin' Woman (black). Naughty Kisses, with training, will make a wonderful riding horse. She is big, smart, gaits like a champ, and is just a really fun personality.

The only costs involved will be a coggins, health certificate, and annual shots if needed and the cost of the vet. Current annuals are good until July 2018. If interested, please contact Tim and Annie Leverette at twhvermont@hughes.net



IHWHA Membership Application

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE OR PROVINCE _____

ZIP CODE _____

COUNTRY, IF OTHER THAN US OR CANADA _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Enclosed is my check or money order for:

☐ \$ 40 Family Membership (Husband, Wife, one child under 18)

☐ \$ 25 Annual Adult Membership (18 years or older)

☐ \$ 350 Lifetime Membership (18 years or older)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE OF APPLICATION

SEND APPLICATION TO: IHWHA, PO BOX 267, Whitehall, WI 54773-0267

Readers Write

“Looks good, Diane! Love the variety of pix with the Performance Horse reprint.” Franne Brandon, Petersburg, Tennessee

“Thank you”, Grace Larson, Kalispell, Montana

“Thank you”, Sue Gamble, Ontario, Canada

“Great Job”, Nir Kalash, Israel

“Thank you! I look forward to reading it. The lead article looks very interesting, as do the photos of the Association members' beautiful foundation horses. I am not currently freelancing as a journalist at this time. However, I remain committed to providing a voice for the beautiful TWH. Thanks for your keeping in touch over the past several years.” Sincerely, Cindy McCauley, northern Ohio

“Thanks for the magazine.” Duke Schultz, Winona, Minnesota

“As always and very informative and interesting publication.” Polly Aulton, Summertown, Tennessee

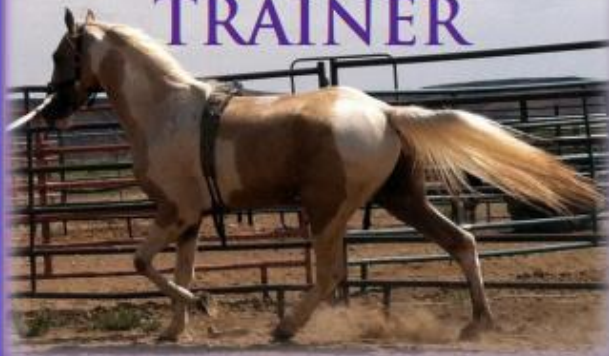
“I stand guilty of neglecting to thank you for the Christmas edition of Heritage Highlights. Thank you. I have read every line and ogled all the photos plus admired all the Christmas cards. Good job. I was expecting more cards, but they were at least mostly different to previous years. The constant traveler stayed home, unusually. The historian/editor produced an excellent anthology, as usual. The illustrative photos presented a broad spectrum of international equine ambassadors. Correction; almost truly representative because there were notable absentees. Belgium was depicted wearing a floppy pixie hat on a Christmas card.” Henry Ferreira, Johannesburg, South Africa



IHWHA memberships for Family and Individuals go from January 1 to December 31 each year. Enclosed in this newsletter is a membership application.

Come on join us! We are a sound horse organization and the only registry that requires gait certification and our fees are very low compared to other registries.

TRAIN THE TRAINER



The *Train the Trainer* program was designed to assist individuals from different disciplines who may not be familiar with the gaited breeds. The program will assist trainers, owners, and riders to recognize and/or achieve gait in both American and Spanish gaited breeds.

Our clinics, lessons, and horse training are tailored to each situation, location, and/or group. Individuals can bring horses to the ranch in Idaho, or plans can be made to travel to the local area.

For more information contact:

Nya Bates 208.559.2755

Website: www.batesgaitedhorses.com

Readers seem to be enjoying the stories of every day people and their horses so we thought we'd share a publication dedicated to Tennessee Walking Horses that are not show oriented:

Canadian Walking Horse News, is published bi-monthly by Marjorie Lacy of Alberta, Canada. The magazine is dedicated to the plain shod horse in Canada and features articles by the Heritage Society's Franne Brandon on the history of the Walking Horse breed.

Website: www.walkinghorsenews.ca

HOW TO SUBMIT MATERIAL TO HIGHLIGHTS

By Franne Brandon, Petersburg, Tennessee

Do you enjoy reading the articles in Heritage Highlights and sometimes wish that you could share your own adventures, experiences, or knowledge with the readership?

You can! Heritage Highlights encourages all articles, long, short, or of moderate length, about all aspects of the Heritage Horse world.

Submissions can be sent via email messages or in Word format as email attachments. Grammar is not a major issue because we have a copy editor (C'est moi!) who reads each article before the layout editor works her magic touch.

Highlights welcomes all photo submissions that accompany an article.

Photographs tell the story in many cases, and because we are a non-print publication, we do not have the photographic limits of a magazine.

It is best to send all photographs separately from the text, as downloadable email attachments, with each shot accompanied by a clear caption. This works out best from the layout perspective. The Heritage Highlights staff looks forward to hearing from more of the readership in future issues.

Advertising in Highlights:

If anyone would like to place a classified ad in Highlights, our set up fee is \$10 for photos and text.

Also, if you purchase a Heritage Horse from someone who already has a certificate for the horse and you would like the certificate in your name, we can print a new certificate and mail it for a \$5.00 fee to cover the certificate, mailer and postage.

You can find us on Facebook!!

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The Heritage Society does not endorse any trainer, style of natural training, or tack and horse equipment, to the exclusion of others, as each horse is an individual and not all will respond positively to a particular trainer or training style. Articles published by the Society, which include such endorsements, reflect the view of the author, but not necessarily that of the Society.