



Renee Beckwith

BY EMILY SHIELDS

Mike Tippett of Blue Diamond Horseshoe knew he needed someone, and Renee Beckwith was exactly the person he had in mind.

The lifelong horsewoman had plenty of experience, being around equines since she was just 2. She worked as an administrator at the Estrella Equine Hospital and had been breaking Tippett's horses alongside her husband, Brent, at their Paso Robles farm for 10 years.

"I basically really needed her at exactly the time that she came around," Tippett said.

Beckwith had originally met Tippett when she rescued a Distorted Humor mare named Wharped. Beckwith wanted to breed her, but the stallions Wharped nicked well with were out of her price range.

"I listed her for sale at a decent price, not intending to get money for her but to find her a good home," Beckwith recalled. "Mike called, came and picked the mare up, gave us three babies to start, and it turned out that he owned the stallions I wanted to breed to. It was a random, weird meeting."



Wolfy's Consortium as a foal

That random meeting has turned into a blessing on both sides.

"Renee and her husband became my live-in management," Tippett said. "She has a significant veterinary background, so she knows a lot of about everything from first aid to colic, and specializes in layups. She's very familiar with tendons, chips, knees, ankles, and how to rehab just about anything. Because of that background, the breeding end was just a natural fit."

A dressage rider with a Western pleasure background, Beckwith found herself in charge of mares and foals this spring.

"We had 24 foals of our own this year," she said.

Blue Diamond Horseshoe currently has 90 horses on 20 acres, and Beckwith and her husband run the show.

"We do the breeding and foaling; we start the babies. Brent starts the yearlings, and we basically do everything from the time



Renee Beckwith and her husband, Brent, are integral to Mike Tippett's Blue Diamond Horseshoe operation

they are created to the time they leave to go to the racetrack."

Tippett's operation is different from most others, in that in addition to the horses they also operate a Fodder Green production system that produces its own high-quality barley fodder.

"It's in full production," Tippett said, "and Renee handles that as well."

From two dirt lots five years ago to its current state of two completed barns and two houses, Tippett's Blue Diamond Horseshoe would not be what it is without Beckwith's help.

"She's made some suggestions to the way we arranged the facility that promote growth and conformation," Tippett said. "She is 24/7 over there, up at 4 a.m. sometimes, working with the veterinarian, etc. She basically knows how to do just about anything if something goes wrong. I couldn't run the operation without her."

The farm stands six well-bred stallions, from El Prado sons James Street and Wolfcamp to a new son of Pioneer of the Nile named Osiris of the Nile. They also recently added Lightnin N Thunder, by Storm Cat, who has more than \$5 million in progeny earnings.

But the horse Beckwith is most fond of is that original horse that brought her and Tippett together. Wharped produced a Wolfcamp colt in 2016, and that juvenile, Wolfy's Consortium, is preparing for the races this year.

"He's an A+++ eNick," Beckwith said. "And his mother is how we all met." **CTB**

COURTESY OF RENEE BECKWITH