

USLF

LIPIZZAN

News

Year 40

Spring 2021

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States Lipizzan Federation

On the Cover:

Maestoso Troja (Maestro)

Story page 4 - Ellen L Chappel Photography

ellen l chappel
PHOTOGRAPHY

Cover Price: \$9

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Please submit questions, advertising requests, articles for consideration,

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NEXT DEADLINE: May 15

- On the Cover -

Maestoso Troja (Maestro)

Maestoso Troja, "Maestro" (b. 2008)
St. Cloud Lipizzans • M. Contessa-58 x Troja-78

Last June, as I was looking to launch my equine and pet photography business, I asked Lisa Kelly Simmons, our President, if I could come photograph at St. Cloud Lipizzans. And so it followed that I brought my mask and my new camera to Creswell, OR.

We had an amazing morning of shooting, with the sun coming up over the hill. Maestoso Troja (barn name 'Maestro'), put on quite a show! He is very noble, powerful, and kind - like so many of our breed. Maestro's parents, Maestoso Contessa-58 and Troja-78, were imported from Piber, and he represents the Imperial type. I'm sure it comes as no surprise that he is very athletic.

I captured a number of liberty images, as well as this portrait. While St. Cloud has a lovely wooden arena nestled in the Pacific Northwest forest, I was inspired to do a fine art edit of this headshot. The textured background replacement was done using Photoshop.

I am looking forward to photographing more Lipizzans, as it is yet one more way to give back and help with breed promotion.

Ellen L Chappell Photography, Albany, OR

Fine Art Photographic Portraits by
Ellen L Chappell Photography



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Message from the President

I had a conversation with Rhine Cureton, the breed association manager at The Livestock Conservancy last month. Their organization, which is a non-profit dedicated to the conservation of rare heritage breeds, has identified the USLF as a high-functioning breed registry and wanted to hear about how we operate. When I shared our mission statement – to preserve, protect and promote the Lipizzan breed – this prompted a discussion regarding what it means to conserve versus preserve. Rhine made some great points with respect to slightly modifying our mission statement and changing “preserve” to “conserve.”

We conserve the Lipizzan breed through a dynamic ‘synergistic effect’ stemming from the efforts of volunteers, breeders, owners, and enthusiast members. This applies to the present and traces back to the inception of the US Lipizzan Registry in 1981. We can see the continuity thread related to all individual contributions and how they have powerfully integrated to create a more impactful outcome. Laura Weiner Smolka, referenced in this issue, is a shining example of someone who created timeless ripples for our breed.

The pillars of the Lipizzan breed have consistently improved the quality of our horses throughout the last 40 years, guided by education from European experts. This knowledge is now available to all our members through the 2021 Lipizzan Education and Guidelines Series (L.E.G.S.), which was created by our Breeders Committee. Our first zoom event covering forehead conformation was held in February and received much acclaim. A replay will be made available through the member-only login section of our website. The next event in the Series is scheduled for April and will focus on front leg conformation. Please keep an eye out for your invitation and be sure to sign up!

This past January, we held our first Committee Virtual Roundtable in lieu of a board meeting. Another example of our synergy was on display as each committee introduced themselves and outlined their top initiatives for the year. Then each presented a topic or question for input to all in attendance.

LIPIZZAN NEWS - Spring 2021

pre•serve

/prə'zərv/ verb

maintain (something) in its original or existing state.

versus

con•serve

/kən'sərv/ verb

protect (something, especially an environmentally or culturally important place or thing) from harm or destruction.



PICTURED HERE: Samantha Martinson, USLF Vice President, and MVF Lipizzans' stallion Favory Canada. Showing helps conserve the Lipizzan breed by raising awareness and allowing people to see and meet Lipizzans in person.

Following the virtual roundtable, a number of members shared that they were unaware of everything being done by other committees and then talked about how much they enjoyed the cheerful collective brainstorm sessions. Wonderful ideas emerged, including two super fun initiatives already in the works! We will be looking for member participation for both a USLF Cookbook and a USLF Coloring Book. Please confirm that USLF emails are landing in your primary inbox to ensure that you are receiving information on how to participate.

The Lovin' our Lipz (LOL) Training Collaborative has already implemented expanded offerings. Please see pages 22-23 in this issue, where you will find opportunities for all members (whether you own a horse or not) to join and engage in this fun, supportive program with fantastic milestone awards.

Are you considering breeding your mare this year? The Breed Promotion and Advertising Committee are the ones to thank for spending long hours putting together our GORGEOUS 2021 Stallion Guide (available on the website). You should take a moment to indulge in the eye candy so beautifully presented in this guide, even if you aren't breeding!

Finally, I would like to take a moment and recognize our Enthusiast Members who have stepped forward to volunteer. This aspect of our membership is growing and USLF operations are benefiting significantly. As our breed numbers continue to decline (the bulk of our population is 12 and older), the synergistic effect of all our members, particularly the Enthusiast and Legacy members, will be even more important.

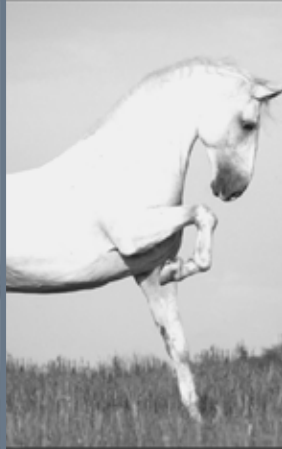
Thank you everyone for stepping forward--we are excited to have you on board!

Be well,

Lisa Kelly Simmons

ry Allura
hh Date of Birth: 4/
Delta x Allura

Maest
Height: 14.3 hh
Maestoso Legeny



Delta
el Farms
k, IL

325 Fa
2/16/1974

47
5/12/1977

Pluto
4/20/1982 -

ge Stables
, MB

Maestoso Leger
2/2/2000 - Szilvasv



852 Batrina
5/11/2002 - Tempel F
Old Mill Creek, I

SNEAK PEEK

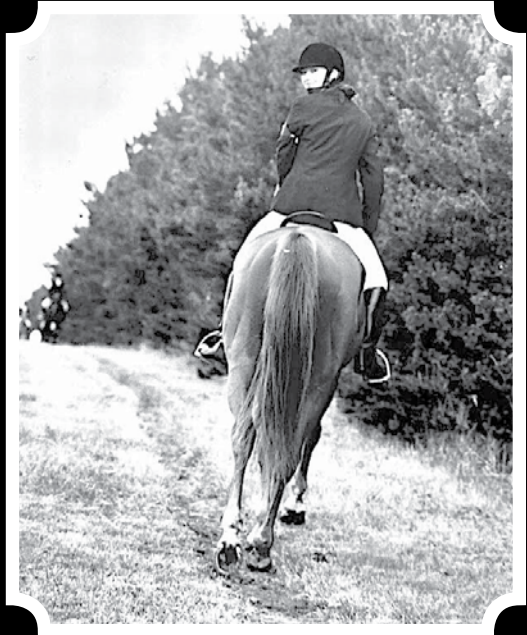
Available online

2021 STALLION GUIDE




Thank You to the Breed Promotion & Advertising Committee, for your time and talent bestowed in creating this stunning guide!

Mystery Rider




Who is this issue's MYSTERY RIDER?
Do you have a guess? Look for the answer
on page 11 of this issue.

For even more fun, please submit your
OWN photos, for inclusion in this section
of the NEWS.



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Remembering Our Friend, Laura

By Elaine Hutchison

Laura was, to put it simply, the best!

She was also sweet and wonderful and funny. So FUNNY!

If you had met Laura, you would have liked her. To feel otherwise would have been difficult.

If you had met her, you would be taken with the blueness of her eyes, the sweetness of her smile, and her love of laughter. She loved to laugh. And drink wine. And eat good food. But most of all she loved to laugh . . . and to talk about her beloved Lipizzans.

Like many people who are reading this article, Laura loved Lipizzans. She loved them deeply, purely, simply, and strongly. It was a love that began later in life but one that would never leave.

Her Love of Lipizzans

Laura Wiener Smolka's passion for Lipizzans began when she was a young mother. When her eight-year-old daughter, Julie, caught the horse bug, Laura caught it too. Laura bought Julie her first horse, a Thoroughbred/Quarter Horse named Charcoal. But when Laura discovered Lipizzans, it was as if she had discovered an entirely new world of horsemanship. She felt like she had discovered her vocation.

Laura bought her first Lipizzans only a couple of years afterwards, purchasing two mares named Deja Vu (Deja II) and Griselda (541 Griselda). These two mares would be the foundation of Laura's dream, a farm of her own that would eventually be known as Lipizzans West.

That farm (and her dream) would grow slowly, supplemented by only a secretary's salary. For decades, Laura worked as a secretary at the San Juan Bautista school district. That job supported her family, her farm, and her horses.

It wasn't easy. She would work eight hours as a secretary, come home, do the farm work, do the housework, and work with the horses. And raise a family.

Laura did all this as single mother. But she also faced other challenges.

She had scoliosis of the spine that kept in her constant pain. It would cripple her in later life but even during her early years, living with it was a daily challenge with the demands of the farm.

There were a lot of demands. As most horse breeders know, many folks eat and sleep and breathe and dream about their horses. That is particularly true of a small farm like Laura's Lipizzan West--especially when twins are born.

In the early years of breeding, Laura's mare, Griselda, had given birth to twins. The smaller of the twins wasn't tall enough to reach the mare's teats. She had to be lifted up to the mare to nurse. To make sure this baby got enough to eat, Laura slept with her in the barn, in a sleeping bag, holding the tiny twin next to her. Every time the foal would kick and try to get out, Laura knew it was time for her to be held up again to nurse on her mama.

She did this night after night until the baby was able to reach mama on her own. To Laura, this 24-hour commitment her babies was never a chore. She was honored to be involved in process of helping raise Lipizzan babies.



In fact, Laura was thrilled to contribute to the Lipizzan breed in whatever way she could. She was also active in Lipizzan organizations within the U.S., including the United States Lipizzan Registry (USLR). After joining the USLR in its early days, her involvement stretched into many years, serving as President, Vice-President and Treasurer of that organization.

She was also an ardent collector of all things Lipizzan. From the beautiful Augarten porcelains of SRS horses and riders, to embroidered patches and scarves, her collection was one of her private joys. She enjoyed showing each piece, recounting the memories attached to it.

A few of those pieces were purchased during a trip to the SRS in Vienna, which she described as the trip of a lifetime. She had been invited by Dr. Oulehla as a guest to a gala SRS





This photo of the US LIPIZZAN REGISTRY, 1996, was taken when Laura Wiener became President. Pictured: Nancy Pizzamiglio, Treasurer; Jennifer Roth, Board; Laura Wiener, President; Carole Gauger, Board; Kathryn Ring, Vice President; and Melinda Suydam, Secretary. Photo submitted by Carole Gauger

Laura Weiner had an impact on my life.

We met at an annual meeting in Oregon and she shared her love of aerobic swimming in a pool class. I was inspired and have spent years enjoying the people and activities. I am very grateful to her. - Kathy Kelly

performance, and was lucky enough to also attend a practice session, made possible by the kindness of then Chief Rider Arthur Kottas.

Years later, you could still hear the marvel in her voice, the magic of that moment. She said, "It was a spiritual experience . . . I just kept experiencing the art, the majestic spirit of these horses, the timeless tradition . . . the incredible, noble, enduring power of the Lipizzaner horses and the full body of the Spanish Riding School. It is a memory I will never forget."

That trip was like a pilgrimage or hajj for Laura. She came home from that trip and continued to spread the gospel of the Lipizzan breed. To her it was almost a calling.

Farm, Family, Friends

Laura's farm outside of San Juan Bautista California was a sacred place for her Lipizzans, but it was also a place of welcome. Until her scoliosis caused her to become bedridden, her farm was a wonderful expression of her.

If you were lucky enough to visit her on her prized farm, you would be greeted by a pack of Jack Russell terriers around your feet. Laura and her husband, Don, bred Jack Russell terriers for years. Just like the horses, their dogs were part of their family.

You'd be invited in for a wonderful meal and a good glass of wine. Both Laura and Don were great cooks, and they raised an impressive garden. Guests to the farm were treated to some truly delicious dining.

Eventually, entertaining became too much of an effort as her scoliosis progressed and became even more painful. But even in her last difficult years—when she could stand the pain—she would join her occasional visitors by the outdoor arena and enjoy a glass of wine while watching her trainer, Roy Berta, work with the horses.

There was always Spanish music blaring from the loudspeakers surrounding the arena. Flamenco guitar music was her favorite.

"After all, they ARE Spanish horses," she would laugh, her blue eyes dancing. "I think they enjoy it more than other music."

To her friends, Laura was simply fabulous. And generous.

If you were a friend, gifts from the farm - glorious veggies and fruits - were pushed into your arms as you left her door. And if you were a horse person, after you got home, you might find pieces of her Lipizzan collection in your luggage.

Laura had a lot of things that she loved on that farm: her horses, her gardens, her dogs. But one thing that she always missed, and she always talked about, especially in her later years, were her sister, her kids, and her grandkids.

When she was showing you pictures of the horses, she would also show you photos of her family. Happy photos of a proud mama and grandma, photos of kiddie pools, summer outings, school pictures. She LOVED her family so deeply, tearing up at photos of those who lived far away.

And then, she would show you pictures of Smokey, her very special companion and friend. He was something entirely different.

Smokey

(416 Maestoso II Sabrina)

All of Laura's Lipizzan mares and babies had been amazing and wonderful. But her world was truly transformed when she purchased a stallion named 416 Maestoso II Sabrina, soon to be known as *Smokey*. Born in 1976 at Tempel Farms, Smokey arrived with a German groom. In order to connect with this new horse,

Laura Wiener-Smolka

... What I know about her

by Dee Jordan

I never personally knew Laura Wiener-Smolka, but she loomed larger than life in my thoughts.

Laura owned a filly that I bred - Favoressa (Favory Pen Julia and Erga). This mare ended up being bred twelve times (maybe more) to Laura's stallion, 416 Maestoso II Sabrina, producing very many beautiful Lipizzans.

If Laura considered Favoressa a foundation mare, I am not certain, and I probably will never know that answer. I knew Laura had been sick, and I never heard back from her to find out the answer to this question. I do know that this mating produced many offspring who went on to produce other offspring and these bloodlines are still producing to this day.

Through Laura's wonderful breeding program, and Favoressa's progeny, I have met many people in the USLF whom I now call friends. My one regret is not having had the courage to pursue getting to know Laura better earlier in both of our lives. I imagine we would have had a lot to talk about. I feel that my hesitation grew from intimidation, knowing that she had been one of the cornerstones of the United States Lipizzan breeding program.

There are very few Lipizzan lovers who have not been impacted in some way by Laura Wiener, or her horses. May this wonderful woman rest eternally in peace and be remembered by all of us in the USLF.

Remembering Our Friend, Laura; continued from page 9

Laura hurriedly learned some German terms but soon realized they were not going to be needed. She said she knew from their first meeting that Smokey was an extraordinary horse. Communication between the two of them was instantly easy and instinctive.

Smokey would become the love of her life. At least that's how Laura described this magnificent horse. There was a true partnership, one of those rare relationships that defy the boundaries of species. There was a love shared between them that was evident to all who saw them together.

In their years together, Smokey did what most people expect a Lipizzan stallion to do - make babies and compete in dressage. He was ridden in competition by the amazing and talented Jennifer Roth. (You can see this wonderful duo in action on YouTube, performing an Intermediare freestyle at the 1989 California Dressage Society show.)

But Smokey and Laura would go on to more than competitions. As a sire, Smokey passed on his most desirable traits, including his fantastic personality. He was also an excellent lesson master when it came to teaching an inexperienced rider.



But Laura claimed that his greatest role was that of a healer. Whether it was giving a ride to a burn victim or to a child who was deeply afraid of horses, Smokey was a healer. He reached out with a love that knew no boundaries. Those people who felt that love came away feeling that they had experienced something profound. Because they had.

No matter where they were - at a dressage show or a Christmas parade - Laura and Smokey acted as ambassadors of the Lipizzan breed. Even in the later years, when they mostly stayed at the farm, Smokey still had a presence - an Internet presence.

Laura created a website that showcased the Lipizzan breed, Smokey, and her Lipizzans West farm. Smokey was so stunning that his photos began to be shared all over the Internet, making him one of the first horse influencers of the worldwide web.

When Smokey passed away in 2006, it broke Laura's heart. She always said that his leaving took a part of her heart with him, leaving a huge hole. She grieved and grieved for him for years, saying she would miss him the rest of her life.

And so she did. Her daughter, Julie, said Laura mourned Smokey right up until her own passing on Thanksgiving of last year.

But perhaps that place in her heart is now full again.

When Julie announced Laura's death, she wrote, "I hope you're singing Amazing Grace among the angels and riding Smokey through the clouds of heaven, Mama."

We hope so too, Julie. We hope so too.

Wherever you are, dear Laura, thank you. Give a kiss to Smokey from us. You were simply the best.

Laura Wiener-Smolka

December 29, 1948 - November 26, 2020

Links:

Smokey's musical Intermediare freestyle, Jennifer Roth riding
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Txe972g2Pz0>



Laura with the Board of USLR at the 1996 Annual Meeting. Thank you to Carole Gauger for submitting these historical photos.

Mystery Rider, Revealed

Did you have a guess as to the identity of the Mystery Rider on page 7? Here's a hint: Her initials are L.K.S.

Lisa Kelly Simmons is the current president of the USLF, and her mother, Kathy Kelly, played an important role in the organization for many, many years.

Lisa has been involved with horses for most of her life, with her exposure to Lipizzans being life-changing.

Please see her story on pages 18-21 of this issue.

The top photo on page 7 is of Lisa and Myty Tide, an off-the-track Thoroughbred, who taught her to be a sensitive rider.

The second photo is of Lisa and Pinecrest Stormy, riding in an outdoor stadium jumping round. Stormy is an appaloosa.

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"I DON'T WANT TO SAY IT'S A CAREER-ENDING INJURY, BUT..."

by Janet Buckner

Anyone who hears those words, whether they are directed toward a human, but especially toward a competition horse, well, you know that sinking, light-headed feeling, right? My veterinarian had just completed a set of diagnostics, and, being a man who addresses injuries with thoughtfulness and carefully measured words, he prefaced his nuts-and-bolts diagnosis with the above words. I felt the air just "whoosh" out of my lungs and the words seems to appear over his head in a cartoon bubble, shaded slightly gray and storm-cloud-like.

Here's our story...

I purchased Siglavy Presciana II-II, aka Chester, a rare bay Lipizzan, from Matt McLaughlin in the spring of 2015 as a recently gelded seven-year-old, lightly ridden but beautifully started. In short order we were competing at Training and First Level. Then Second Level. And by March 2018, we competed at Third level, earning our Bronze medal. That's when the trouble started.

In August of 2018, at a recognized show, the judge blew the whistle on me. She said he looked "uneven" (which having attended the L program, is a kind way of saying something's wrong and maybe your horse is lame). It was almost imperceptible. She said I could continue if I wanted, but I said to her, we do what's best for the horse, and I retired from the

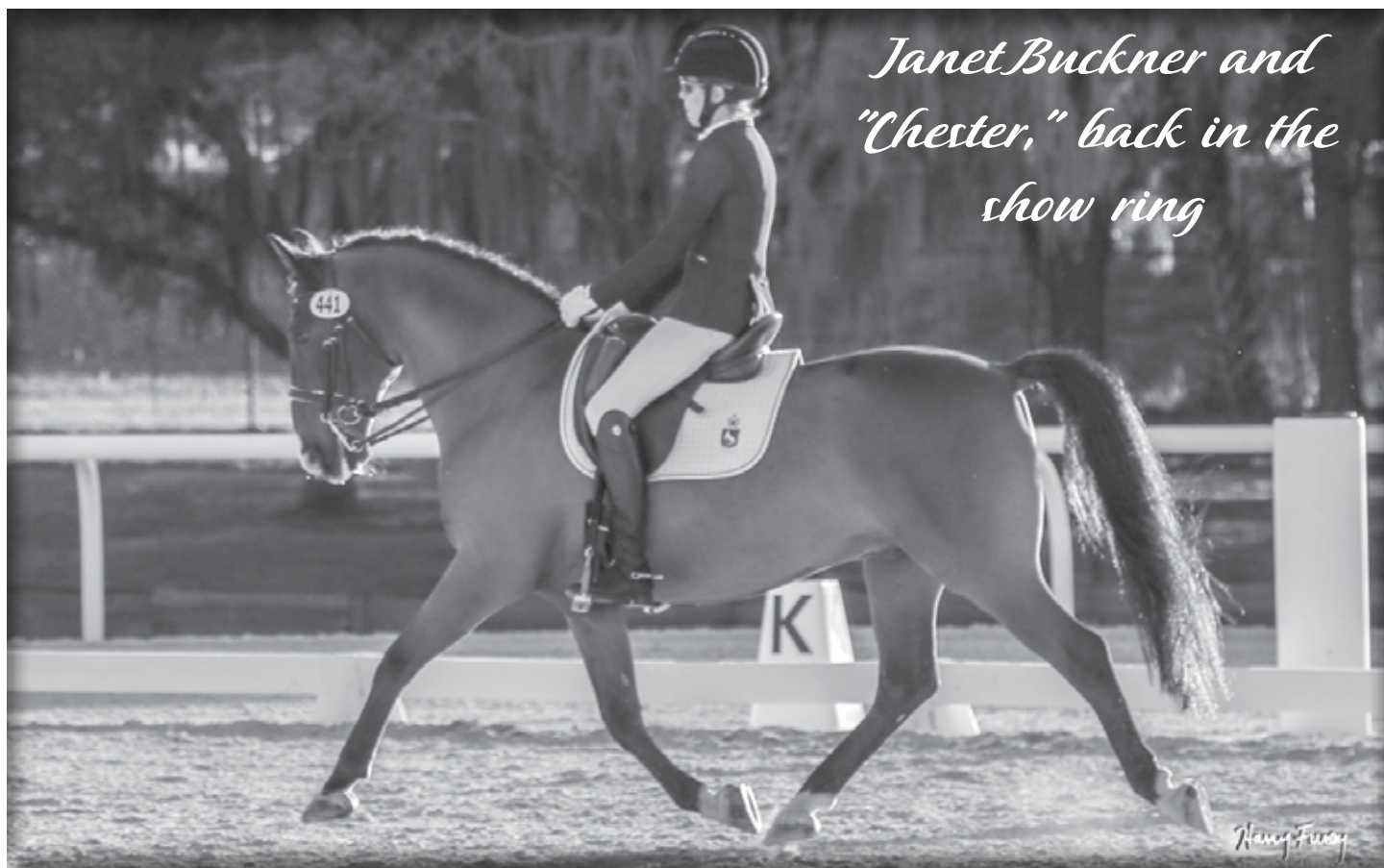
class with her agreement. Chester was then x-rayed and ultra-sounded. **Diagnosis:** right front suspensory strain. **Treatment plan:** Hand walk then tack walk, then introduce trot. Ninety days later, he was good to go. A little fatter, but ready to get back to work. We're now into November and by December, we're cantering, getting fit and generally in a very happy place.

February 2019: Chester, why oh why must you be so joyful in your turnout area? I came to the barn and his rear left leg was hot and slightly swollen. I found a place in his turnout where he clearly stepped in a hole. It's the nature of the beast, right? He found the only hole in the entire daggone pasture. I iced him and of course, called my favorite vet, trying hard not to demean myself with vulgar speech (as a friend of mine is fond of saying).

Diagnostics revealed a hole in the deep flexor tendon and suspensory branch strain (insert vulgar speech related to manure). That was when my vet uttered the words that are the title of this article. Yes, I cried a little, stomped around a little, took a walk around the farm and looked at this potential pasture ornament who could live another 25 years and wondered, now what?

Treatment plan: some time off, slowly working in tack walking over a long period of time, estimate 3-6 months minimum.

Everyone has helpful suggestions when this happens, right? I had folks suggests magna wave (I was already doing that), laser (yup, that too) and one suggested stem cell therapy. While I didn't want to doubt the diagnosis of my vet, I took Chester in



"Chester;" continued from page 12

for a second opinion. Several hundred dollars later, another vet confirmed the hole (which was getting smaller) and identified more suspensory branch strains – in both hind legs – with lots of tiger striping, showing old injuries. This didn't make a lot of sense to me because Chester had been with me for several years by then and had great care prior, so it was just one of those things that wasn't easily explainable. But I had to accept it.

The options this vet offered were injections (the least of the expensive treatments) or stem cells (\$6,000 or so). I must have looked a little stricken because he said, "The thing is, we can maybe get him healed up and comfortable with these treatments and you get him back to work quicker, and it might work, but it might not. The thing most people don't want to do is give the horse the time to heal. And it will take a long time." So, I could spend the money and it may or may not work, or I could just let nature heal it on her own schedule. I opted for the latter, continuing with magna wave and laser, acupuncture and chiropractic.

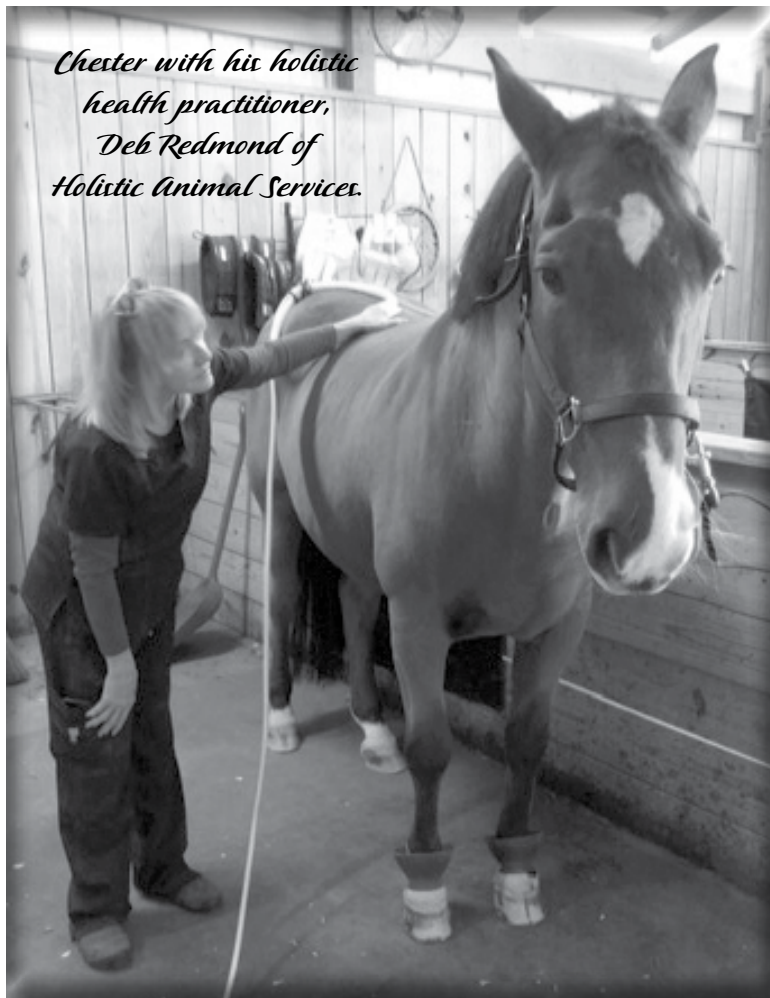
So began our slow, methodical road back to work. Chester is an orchid, he lives on air (like most Lipizzans) so keeping his weight down without starving him, but still offering good hay and feed to provide the building blocks for tissue repair, was a challenge. If he was too boisterous in his paddock when nobody was around, there was nothing to be done about it. So, for the entire 2019 year, we walked the requisite weeks and then started trotting after the follow up ultrasounds showed the hole completely healed and the suspensory branch strains weren't causing him pain. The branches are still a little wonky (I imagine them as old rubber bands that are a little overstretched and thin here and there – that's what they look like on the ultrasound) and will always be a concern – but Chester's rehab went to plan. It just took a very long time!

When we finally got the ok to canter at the end of 2019, I couldn't believe it, but at the same time wondered if it was just a matter of a few rides and we'd be back where we started. I know y'all will empathize with me – nobody wants to have a broken horse after a year of patient, hopeful rehab. The happy ending is coming, I promise.

By July 2020 we were ready to try our first show since 2018. We qualified for Region 3 Championships during the summer, competed at Regionals in Florida in October (during a pandemic no less) and even threw down our first Fourth level test at Regionals. Chester hasn't had any lame days, just an occasional sore back from his over-enthusiastic efforts at tempi changes and we're full speed ahead. We squeaked in enough scores to win some Lipizzan Laurels Awards, and we've done two Third Level freestyles to the music of Dire Straits (thank you Kate Phillips for helping with the choreography and my wonderful music person). We're readying ourselves for Prix St. Georges in a couple of months.

To wind up this saga, I can only say that I feel very fortunate. It doesn't always happen the way we want with horses. I'm glad that in this case "time heals all," and my beautiful boy is back in business.

Chester with his holistic health practitioner, Deb Redmond of Holistic Animal Services.



Chester with his signage at a horse show, pre-injury,



The Missing Link in the Chain

by Brittany Purcell

When we watch the greats ride a horse, it seems like they are in almost perfect unison with the horses they ride. It's as if the rider thinks, and the horse feels their thoughts and takes action. Like a perfect dance where two beings become one.

Meanwhile ... at home, the rest of us get some version of the spooky horse, the horse that tosses their head, leans on your hands, curls away from bit pressure, or won't pick up one of their leads (along with various other training challenges) and more. Are these behavioral signals of a naughty horse that need proper training and an attitude adjustment? Are they health signals of a sick or hurting horse? Or could they be tack-related?

The hardest part about loving these creatures is that they don't talk when things aren't going well, and the answers to the questions above could actually be quite variable. There's no hard and fast answer, but there's one very simple and cost-effective way to help you and your horse on your journey to "one-ness": proper-fitting tack.

Three major pieces of the communication with your horse are the saddle, the bridle, and the bit.

Proper saddle fit is actually more rare than you think. Most riders choose a saddle for the type of work they are doing, the comfort of the rider, and sometimes price or appearance. What most saddle fitters will tell you is that they can see improperly-fitted saddles from a mile away, and they are actually more prevalent (even at public events like shows) than properly-fitted ones. Cindy Adcock, a County Saddlery representative and professional saddle fitter in North Georgia, says one of the most common problems is that, "People don't believe that a saddle

can make a real difference in rider position; and therefore, how their horse performs." She recounts her favorite success story of a "horse/rider combo in which the horse struggled. Was balky, wouldn't jump anything above two feet." Cindy fitted the pair with a properly-fitting saddle and it changed everything for them. They "won several classes at their first hunter jumper show (after the fitting), and were able to get the horse showing consistently at Novice."

If you're not sure if your saddle fits, perhaps it's time to call a local saddle fitter to check your saddle, its flocking, and any support you have under the saddle to help keep it balanced and comfortable for your horse. A saddle fitting is often cheaper than a vet visit and the price of a few lessons with your favorite trainer. If you're wanting that money with the trainer to go as far as possible, start with making sure your tack is fitted properly. Your horse will thank you!

Another professional, Kelli Jackson, is a Montar bridle and Fager bits in North Georgia, representative. She too, has discovered major transformations when anatomical bridles and properly-fitted bits are used. Most often, when people reach out to her, they are "looking for a high-quality bridle that properly fits my horse and makes him most comfortable." The surprising part is when there's an instantaneous and significant difference in the horse's behavior. She shares success story after success story, but her favorite story follows. A hunter trainer called her to help with her "adorable and sensitive redhead, who had a history of head-tossing and -shaking, running from fences, and generally not being a fan of standing around in a relaxed fashion, particularly at horse shows." Kelli put one of her



*Proper-fitting bridle
- montar bridle and
hermsprenger bit*

The Missing Link in the Chain

favorite anatomical bridles on the sweet boy and “he closed his eyes, sighed, yawned, and moved close to {Kelli}.” Next, he and his rider went out into the warmup arena at a huge and busy show and there was an immediate transformation. The horse stretched his nose to the ground and floated through the arena like he was on air. “He jumped happily over the jumps and went back to a loose rein.” Rider, mom of rider, and trainer were all equally astonished.

While both of the professionals I interviewed are brand-specific representatives, they share a common mentality of tack sales reps: no pressure sales. What’s right for the horse and rider is right for the horse and rider. Period. The common denominator I have personally found in professional tack fitters is that they pursued this part of their career for the horses. They’ve seen what a change in tack can make to the riding experience for the rider as well, but most importantly ... the horse. Their hope is that when a horse owner invites them out to be a part of the journey, the end result will be a horse that enjoys his work more because he is no longer uncomfortable in his tack, distracted by intense pressure points, unevenness, or an unbalanced rider.

While tack may not be the only reason for your pony’s challenging behavior, it is one of the simplest problems to solve,

and the most cost-effective. I think Cindy said it best in our interview: “I’d love for the general public to know ... A custom saddle is no substitution for proper riding and training. I can help and should help, but the rider has to do the work.”

If you find yourself looking for more synergy in your relationship with your horse, I’m here to tell you: tack matters. Invest in your pony by having your tack examined by a professional, and consider investing in great-fitting, high-quality tack. In addition to a happier pony, and a more balanced ride, it will also mean less rotation of random tack, and a more organized tack room as well, which surely most of us would appreciate.

Not sure where to start? You’re welcome to ask your local representatives of various top brands who may cover your geographic area. You can even check with local riders and trainers and listen for names with success stories, that pop up over and over again. Great tack fitters exist in every market and for every type of riding. My wish for your pony is that when they see you coming to get them from the barn or field, they long for the joy of working and playing with you. Help them get there by replacing painful, distracting, or ill-fitting tack.

Happy trails!



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Ask the School Master!

Question: Dear School Master - I don't understand how Lipizzans receive their names. Can you please explain, Wise Master?

The following article is an updated and condensed version of the talk by Jeff Kelly at the 2011 North American Lipizzan Symposium.

Understanding Lipizzan Names

Part I: North America

Among the USLF requirements for Lipizzan registration is a pedigree requirement.

"To be eligible for registration by the USLF, a Lipizzan horse must firstly have a five generations of pure Lipizzan pedigree on both the dam and stallion side (six generations in all)."

"A five-generation pedigree is one which shows the horse being registered and five generations behind that horse. Dates and places of birth are required for each horse named in the pedigree." So, a five-generation pedigree includes six generations in all, and for each horse the pedigree must list the sire and dams' names, place of birth and date of birth.

Figure 1a is the sire's portion of a five-generation pedigree for the Lipizzan mare Alsea, born and bred at White Horse Vale by June and Leonard Boardman.

We see that her sire was 272 Pluto III Fantasca, born at Tempel Farms in 1972. In his ancestry are many horses from the European stud farm at Babolna. The US Army imported a number of horses foaled at Babolna as "War Booty" in the 1940s, following the Second World War, and both Tempel Farms and El Capitan Ranch in CA imported horses from this Hungarian stud farm in the 1950s and 1960s.

Figure 1b displays Alsea's dam, Artica, portion of the pedigree.

Artica has Tempel Farms background on her sire's side and Piber ancestors through horses imported by Ian Monroe to Canada on her dam's side.

There are some European traditions and some USLF requirements in naming Lipizzan foals. Colts are given a two-word name. The first word is the name of the colt's stallion line and the second is the name of the dam. Fillies, registered with USLF, are given names up to 12 characters long. It is strongly recommended to follow the historical practice of naming the filly with the same first letter of her dam's name and ending the name with an "a".

You can see that the Boardmans followed this practice when they named Alsea after her dam Artica. The same is true of the other female offspring of Artica – Alaska, Anthea, Adora, and Alita II. If an owner submits a name at registration that has already been assigned to another horse, then the owner is offered a chance to choose a different name or have a Roman numeral placed after the name, as was the case of Alita II, 1b.

The naming of colts is more rigid. Anthea, 1b, had a 2006 colt (sire 546 Conversano Mina) that was named Conversano Anthea. If she had had a second colt with the same sire (or a different Conversano stallion) the name of the second colt would be Conversano Anthea II using a Roman numeral to indicate a second offspring. Now, what if the daughter, Alita II, had just one colt with a Conversano stallion? The name Conversano Alita II would not be appropriate as he is not a second stallion, so the USLF would assign the name Conversano Alita II-I. *Note that the name Alita II is the full registered name of the mare and is used in the name of the foal – Conversano [Alita II]-I.*

XL Lipizzans are registered with a number starting with "XL" and must have at least one pure-bred parent. An XL foal with one pure-bred and one non-Lipizzan parent is entered as an XL50. The foal of an XL50 and a pure-bred parent is registered as an XL75 corresponding to the percent Lipizzan in the foal. A 2004 colt, whose sire was registered as XL97-472-98, was issued the registration number XL98-507-04. The pedigree of the colt goes back six generations to a 1952 Yugoslavian mare that is not recognized as a Lipizzan by the Lipizzan International Federation (LIF) but all the rest of the horses in the pedigree are pure-bred Lipizzans. Horses that are XL94 and higher are considered Genetic Reserve (GR) Lipizzans and these horses are to be counted on, should a Lipizzan population collapse occur.

Let us look more closely at the name of Alsea's sire, 272 Pluto III Fantasca. The name tells us that Alsea's sire was of the Pluto stallion line lineage and his dam's name was Fantasca, which you can confirm from Alsea's pedigree. The number 272 is a Tempel Farms' registry number based primarily on birth order. The assignment of birth order numbers started at Tempel Farms about 1958. A more modern example of a Tempel stallion name is 872 Favory VIII Ivana.

Now where did the Roman numeral III come from in Alsea's sire's name and the VIII in the Favory Ivana foal? Eastern European stud farms have long used Roman numerals after a stallion's name to indicate their major breeding stallion of the day. These stallions may or may not be related and may even be at stud at the same time, but one stallion at stud in each stallion line is honored with a name change by including a Roman numeral. For example, the stallion Conversano XXII-30 was born in Romania in 1974. Here you see a naming system which uses the name of the sire's stallion line and the birth order number

Figure 1a

272 Pluto III Fantasca

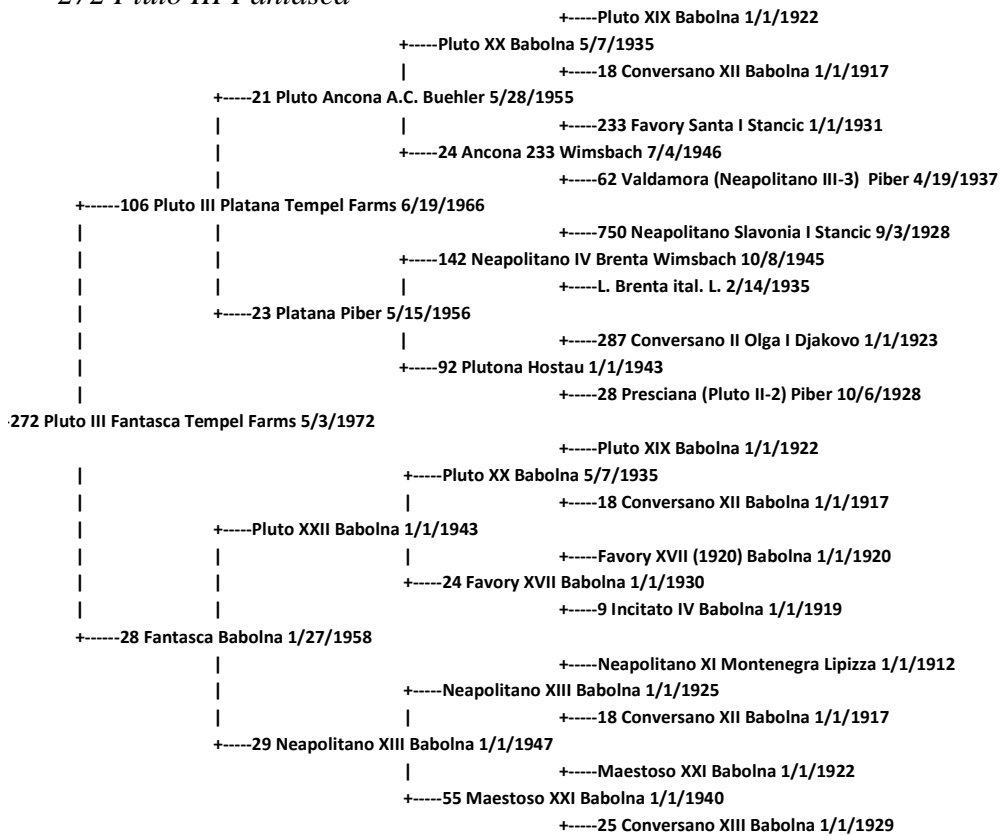
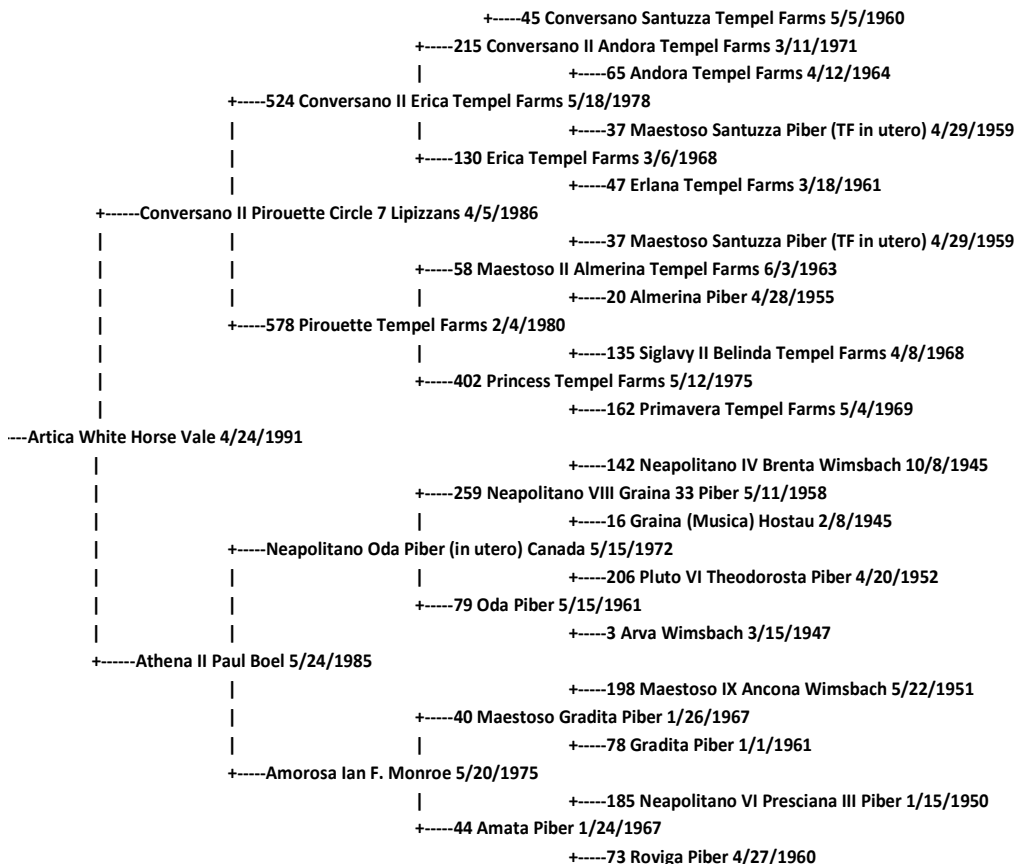


Figure 1b

Artica



of each foal, whether male or female. Conversano XXII-30 was the 30th foal sired by Conversano XXII. This Romanian naming system can be very confusing as Conversano XXII-106 born in 1980 was female.

Thus, you cannot tell, by the Romanian name, whether a horse is female or male. (USLF has recorded Conversano XXII offspring up to Conversano XXII-122.)

By 1990, Conversano XXII-30 had been chosen as the major Conversano breeding stallion and his name was changed to Conversano XXIV. These name changes impact some pedigrees going back to Europe, as the stallion may be at stud with his birth name and used in a pedigree, before being elevated to a new Roman numeral name.

Sometime in the 1960s, Tempel Farms began assigning a Roman number between the stallion line name and the dam's name for their main breeding stallions. Thus 21 Pluto Ancona (1955) had offspring 67 Pluto II Sardinia (1964) and 106 Pluto III Platana (1966) that become the second and third Pluto breeding stallions. The two offspring were born without the Roman numeral, but it was added after the birth of their first offspring. Male offspring of 67 Pluto II Sardinia, such as 198 Pluto II Gradiosa and 200 Pluto II Fantasca, retained his Roman numeral in their names even though they were not selected as major stud stallions.

106 Pluto III Platana sired 47 colts, including two that become major breeding stallions at Tempel Farms - 310 Pluto IV Fantasca II (1973) and 469 Pluto V Slatana II (1977). The other 45 of his colts all have Pluto III in their names.

Alsea's sire was sold and became a breeding stallion at White Horse Vale. Since his sire was 106 Pluto III Platana, 272 Pluto III Fantasca's name includes the Roman numeral III.

Coming next issue: **Part II: Piber**

Send us YOUR QUESTIONS,
and see what the
Schoolmaster has to say!
lipizzannews@gmail.com

My Equine Journey

By Lisa Kelly Simmons

Horses have always been the silver thread woven into the fabric of my life.

My mother's (Kathy Kelly's) childhood love of horses was realized soon after she married my father (Jeffrey Kelly) and was able to have horses of her own. In turn, I've had the good fortune of being with horses from the first moments of my life. In addition to their physical presence, I've always been captivated by everything equine, including photos, artworks, magazines, and countless books checked out of the library when I was young. Horses have always magnetized me and captured my imagination.

My first 'horse' was a spicy Shetland Pony named 'Frito Bambito.' Frito's mission was to see how quickly she could land my bum on the ground. She'd quietly canter along and then execute a full stop with her head down to see how far I would fly as she blissfully munched grass.

My next horse was 'Filly,' a small Appaloosa mare with a colt named 'Midnight,' who was always at her side. Filly was too much for me as a seven-year old and I received a Welsh Mountain pony named 'Oatmeal' on my eighth birthday. Oats was L-A-Z-Y, and she was exactly the right fit for me. She built my confidence and I was able to trust her. We had a three-mile loop through forestland just beyond our driveway and my mom and I would either ride at home or go on trail rides during the early years of my childhood.

When I was around 10, my mom and I upped our game and took the next big step in our equestrian journey. We explored other disciplines with curiosity and fell in love with dressage. We appreciated the structured system of training, in which you receive personal feedback when competing in a show. It was the early 80s in the Pacific Northwest (PNW) and people were showing their Arabians, Morgans, Quarter Horses, Appaloosas, and the fancy off the track thoroughbreds (OTTBs). It was a different time, one in which I remember running to the ring of a local show to watch one of the first imported European warmbloods in the PNW.

Given that I'd grown up riding bareback, learning to ride in a saddle took some getting used to. At that same time, my mom got a Second Level-trained Running Quarter Horse named 'Timothy,' and began taking lessons from Kari McLane (now a well-respected FEI 3* and USEF 'S' dressage Judge). Occasionally, I was gifted with the last 5-10 minutes of my mom's lesson.

'Pinecrest Stormy' arrived in my life at the age of twelve. This beautiful gray Appaloosa had a silver mane and tail, with big black and white ermine spots on his rump. He was a "been there; done that," kind of horse who had participated in the 100-mile Nez Perez trail ride in Idaho. Stormy had a huge personality and I spent countless hours with him — he knew all of my teenage secrets.

At that same time, I joined Pony Club. Pony Club opened up my world to team rallies, know-downs (equine knowledge competitions — our team competed nationally at the Kentucky Horse Park one year), three-day eventing and show jumping. This organization became a large part of my life through middle



Lisa and Pinecrest Stormy, mid-1980s.

and high school. Looking back now, I'm incredibly grateful for all the local volunteers (including my parents) who made this possible.

As I became more skilled (and ambitious), our own fancy OTTB joined our herd. Unlike Stormy, 'Myty Tide' was very high strung and extremely sensitive. Despite being in over my head, I stuck with him and he taught me how to be a sensitive horse handler and rider.

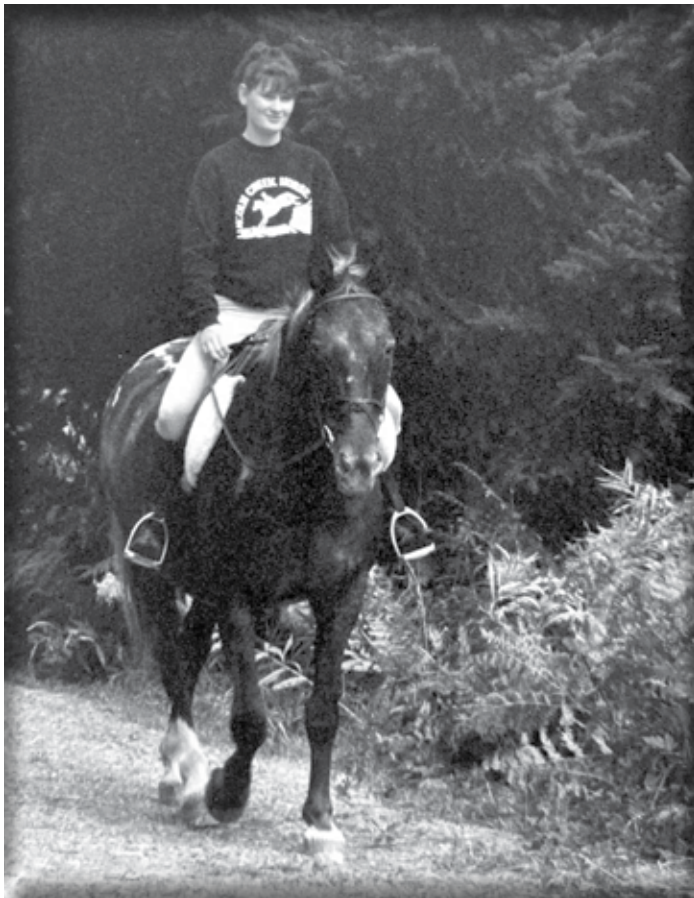
I learned a lot about professional horse barns during the summer before my senior year in high school as a live-in working student for Kari McLane, and decided that I did not want to pursue a career based on horses. Instead, I wanted them to be my joy and sanctuary.

Following my senior year of high school, I went to an out-of-state engineering college and was not in a position to bring my horse with me. I returned home for the summer after my freshman year and took Myty Tide to dressage shows for three months. This built consistency without regular jumping (and cross-country galloping), and produced a calm horse that was fun to ride.

I'd fallen in love with dressage again.



Lisa and Myty Tide, cross-country



Lisa and Pinecrest Stormy

At the end of that summer, we sold Myty to one of Kari's students. It was emotionally tough, but the right thing for him. Myty's most endearing quality was the little squeal of enthusiasm he would give when taking the canter. He never grew out of it and it was frequently recognized by dressage judges. Stormy remained at our home, blissfully in retirement, and enjoyed spending time with my mom until he passed at the age of 28.

I found horses to ride throughout my 20s, including a few half-leases. In 1994, I landed an environmental consulting job in the second year of my professional engineering career with a firm in Portland, Oregon. John Edwards was the 'Big Boss' in this 90-person office. Also, he is the husband of long-time Lipizzan owner and breeder, Gayla Edwards. Because of Gayla, my passion for horses evolved into a passion for Lipizzans.

The barn where Gayla kept her Lipizzan gelding in training had three Lipizzans. I didn't think much of it because I was young and certain that I needed a fancy warmblood to be competitive at dressage. The barn trainer owned the stallion, Conversano II Pirouette. One day she asked me to cool him out by walking him around the ring, which made him the first official Lipizzan (and stallion) I ever rode.

After I'd been at the barn a couple of years, the trainer asked me to start riding the third Lipizzan; a young mare named 'Nikia,' owned by Annie Saunders. I was aware that Annie was struggling with her, so my first thought was, "Ugh, not *that* mare," but as someone who was getting to ride a nice horse free of charge, I opened my mouth and said "Sure, I'd love to!"

The immediate reaction I'd had could not have been more wrong. The Lipizzan difference was evident the moment I

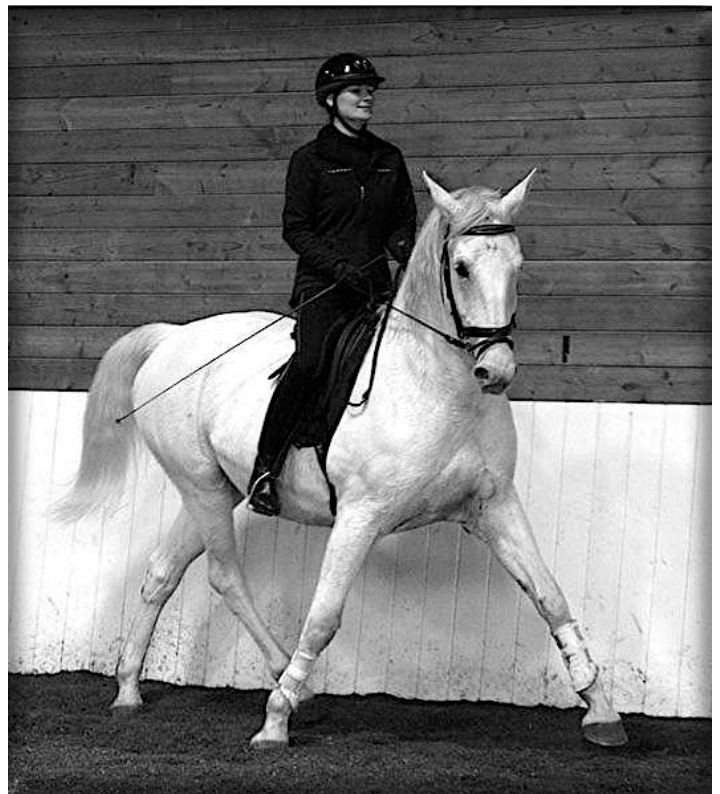


Lisa with Annie Saunders and her mare Nikia, late 1990s.

opened her stall door. It was an incredible privilege to ride Nikia and we went on to develop an amazing partnership over the next few years. I will forever be grateful to Annie for this life-changing experience.

In 2001, my mom and I joined Gayla, Annie and another friend for a fun daytrip up to White Horse Vale in Goldendale, WA. As we drove in to this Lipizzan mecca, the young colts came galloping over to say hello and my mom was hooked. Following that trip, my dad likes to say that my mom began stopping people on the street to tell them about Lipizzans.

My mom and I returned to Goldendale a month later, and June Boardman introduced us to her extensive herd. Three-year-old 'Alsea,' and four-year-old 'Pluto III Omegga,' aka *Blackbird* or *Bird*, decided to come home with us. Eight-year-old Gabriola (owned by June, and bred by Lindsay Scott in Canada) joined us in the role of broodmare a year later.



Lisa with Alsea. Photo credit Barb Riebold.

We began searching for a well-matched stallion for Gabriola, and met Piber-bred Maestoso Contessa-58, who was living near Eugene, Oregon. His owner was bringing Karl Mikolka (then in his 70s) in for clinics every other month to her facility, Coyote Ridge.

Karl Mikolka was a Spanish Riding School (SRS) rider who was accepted as an eleve by Podhajsky right after WWII. Karl studied with all of the senior riders throughout his training, but primarily worked with a gentleman named Alfred Cerha who'd been pulled out of retirement. Karl left the SRS in 1971 for Brazil to support their formation of an Olympic Dressage team, and then fulfilled his dream of moving to the United States a few years later.

I decided to go back to the drawing board and dedicate myself to the art of Classical Riding after watching and participating with Bird in my first clinic with Karl. My mind was officially blown! The depth of knowledge and understanding of the horse passed down through centuries of riding and training was something I'd never encountered before and I was hooked.



Lisa with Alsea and Karl Mikolka in 2006. Photo credit Barb Riebold.

At this same time, I married my husband, Jase. During our honeymoon we played the game: 'If we could live anywhere where would it be?' Proximity to a Karl clinic emerged as a major variable and one year later we were living at St. Cloud Ranch, a 15-minute drive from Coyote Ridge. I spent the next five years attending many clinics (roughly 30 days each year), and learning what Karl termed 'the Weyrother Method.' The Weyrother Method was named for Max Ritter von Weyrother, Chief Rider of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna from 1813, and Director from 1814 to 1833.

In 2005, my family learned that Piber was going to be selling a large number of horses and we were given access to the sales list prior to it going public. My family's journey of Lipizzan pedigrees and genetics began at this time. As we studied the photos and pedigrees of over 60 horses, we saw that looking at them all together revealed information.

For example, we discovered that Duba-59 (Djebrin mare line) already had at least three daughters in Piber's broodmare herd (because both she, and the three daughters) had offspring for sale. This suggested that, 1) Duba-59's filly (Kulpa-96) was being sold due to duplication of genetics (they didn't need any more Duba-59 daughters in their herd), and 2) Piber liked the fillies produced by Duba-59. This was all our own interpretation, but we compiled a number of these types of deductions and ultimately decided to import three-year old Kulpa-96 and four-year old Troja-78.

In September 2005, my husband, Jase, and I visited Piber and met the mares before their journey home. This incredible experience launched the international chapter of my Lipizzan life.

My life's story is one filled with and shaped by horses. I could write many chapters expanding on everything you've read in this submission. My last 16 years of involvement with the USLF and the North American and International Lipizzan Communities could be its own lengthy book.

I will forever be grateful to my parents for introducing me to horses and then providing unending support and involvement in this lifelong passion.



Living a childhood dream. Lisa leading stallions during the Herbstparade at Piber in September 2005. Photo credit James Simmons.

New! New! New!

Check out this unique NEW way to be a part of the LOL Training Collaborative (TC)!

LOL's Training Collaborative AUTHOR Contributions

By Lynn Smith

I have been a member of the Training Collaborative since its inception. I enjoyed building and tracking a relationship with a new mare and tracking our progress at clinics in which we participated, for several seasons.

But now, I must admit that I fell off the cart, and as some of life's little (and not so little) challenges have come along. I have set the more goal-oriented riding aside.

MonaLisa and I are still a riding couple. We ride a bit less often, though we still practice the exercises and plans we were enjoying from the clinics – good for both of us. Mostly, however, we practice, and are getting quite good at, less structured riding. We are more apt to follow our noses and be snoopy around the neighborhood – the view from a good horse is always the best view.

Today, a new Training Collaborative opportunity has presented itself and I am already loving it. I am looking forward to writing about not only the time I spend on a horse, but also the time I spend observing, listening, and now writing about our herd of mares. For those of us lucky enough to keep our horses at home (we know how often and probably unconsciously we check on them) we observe their behavior, notice the patterns and interactions, and hear their voices.

The new Author pages in the Training Collaborative give me the chance to take note and write for the simple enjoyment of living with my mares.

Two Purebred Lipizzan Stallions for Sale:

♥ What a wonderful opportunity to acquire one or two of the last Fruska mare line horses!



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(Conversano Ivey x Cassiopeia)

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\$10,000

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LOL's Training Collaborative **AUTHOR** Contributions

What Took So Long?

By Katherine Arce

As a founding committee member of the **Loving Our Lipizzans (LOL)** program I can tell you that it's evolved greatly since its inception in 2014. The program was established to provide noncompetitive/non-showing USLF members a way to earn recognition and awards for spending time with their Lipizzans. The LOL program wants to encourage participants to work at their own pace, with the flexibility to not have to work within a calendar year like some of the other USLF member awards require. The committee also created the USLF Lovin' Our Lipizzans Facebook group, so that people participating in the LOL activities would have a private space to interact.

In 2016 Cheri Isgreen began the **Training Collaborative (TC)** that has steadily grown – and has become the flagship of – the LOL activities. So, I ask myself, “Why did it take ME so long to participate?” (Well, there actually were a variety of reasons related to work, horse health, moving to a new state... etc.) But I finally got serious about it, and now I wish that I had begun sooner! Participating in the TC has really allowed me to “see” the progress that I have made with my gelding, and I have earned some really neat awards along the way.

How does it work? Simple! I interact with my Lipizzan like I would normally do. In my case, I brought him along from a goofy two-and-a-half-year-old, to putting him under saddle last summer. I document all the time spent together learning how to stand for saddling, getting into a trailer, working on the ground in the round pen, etc... (Maybe a better question to ask is what is not considered training? In my mind, that's the everyday maintenance activities like feeding and cleaning up manure...)

In the way that I work with my Lipizzan, I am considered a “TC trainer.” After a training session, I go to the TC blogspot, record my entry, and shortly afterwards I can begin to read lovely comments from other participants about my entries. (Think of it along the lines of a Facebook thread, but it's NOT actually part of social media. So no worries there.) I magically get super fun incentive awards that appear in the mailbox to keep me motivated. Believe me that is important, because not everything to journal about is rainbows and butterflies.

The journaling/logging that I have written up is so very helpful to go back and read. The comments from the other TC participants are encouraging and positive. We really can support one another on our journeys – whatever your point in the journey with your Lipizzan happens to be. So, after so many years of not being a participant, my horse and I earned our bronze level award in December 2020! (It's a gorgeous swallowtail saddle pad. Believe me when I say that the awards are really nice!)

The big announcement about the LOL TC this year is that there are new categories of participation. You don't even have to be actively training your Lipizzan, or even own one, to be recognized with awards! The TC has expanded to include Enthusiast USLF members with an Author TC Participant option, a Youth option, and there will even be an Artist showcase.

So as a USLF member you are eligible to take part in this very flexible, extremely rewarding (in all senses of the word) and practical program. The LOL TC fulfills the USLF's mission of preserving, protecting and promoting the breed by creating relationships between members and their Lipizzans, and between members themselves.

If you are curious about it, please sign up for the program on the uslipizzan.org site and learn about the ways that you can take part and ENJOY!



LOL's Training Collaborative AUTHOR Contributions

By Cheri Isgreen



TRIBUTE, by Cheri Isgreen. This watercolor painting of Chris' beloved Lipizzan gelding, Rocano, was created in memory of Chris Crowhurst, USLF TC first tenured trainer and a mentor to many of us.

The USLF Training Collaborative (TC) is growing, and we want you to join us! Over the years, the program has adapted to meet the needs of its members with streamlined submissions and individualized formats to meet the goals of each member. Each year we assess what is working and how we need to adjust to meet members' needs, as well as to support and grow our Lipizzan community.

Our active members have their own online training journal — an invaluable resource to track one's progress and assess one's methods. If you are a professional trainer, you can share your page with your students or clients. If you are a student, you can share your page with your instructor. If you are a competitor, you can track progress and plan for upcoming shows. If you are dancing in the dark without professional help, use your page to evaluate your methods and connect with other members who can give you feedback on your questions, training issues, and success. By sharing photos, you can have a beautiful online album of you and your horse to share with your family, friends, and barn buddies. The Training Collaborative is open to all members of USLF, so even if you are a professional trainer, breeder, or competitor, we would love for you to join us.

For inactive members, we invite you look at the new journaling forms. We know you are busy, so we have streamlined the journals to focus on your monthly training. Simply keep track of your hours, (estimate—we trust you) and record your training goal, your

methods, and your results. Contact Cheri Isgreen through the USLF website with your questions: <https://www.uslipizzan.org/contact> Let's get you going again!

The Training Collaborative has new avenues for other USLF members to be engaged with the Lipizzan community.

Join the Training Collaborative as an **author**. Your personal author page will be created on the TC website. Share what you know! This is perfect for those whose horses are retired or those who are no longer actively riding. You can attend a clinic and submit a report. Perhaps you are rehabbing a horse, or your horse has a medical issue. Submit articles about what you learn about the health and maintenance of your horses. As an example, one member will be sending her musings about the dynamics of her retired herd of Lipizzan mares.

Do you love to read? Send **book reviews**.

Have you **rescued a Lipizzan**? The TC wants to hear from you as either a trainer or an author. You will get your own member page where you can fill it with photos, articles, and/or training.

Are you an Enthusiast member of USLF? The Training Collaborative has a place for you too! Join as a trainer if you are riding a USLF registered horse. If you do not have access to a horse, join as an author. Are you a junior/young rider? The Training Collaborative does not have age restrictions. All are welcome to join with a USLF membership.

USLF Intel - Talking Points

Reported by Sarah Casey, USLF Secretary

In January, the first Virtual Round Table meeting for all the USLF committee groups and volunteers took place. Many great ideas and requests for ideas were shared by the following committees:

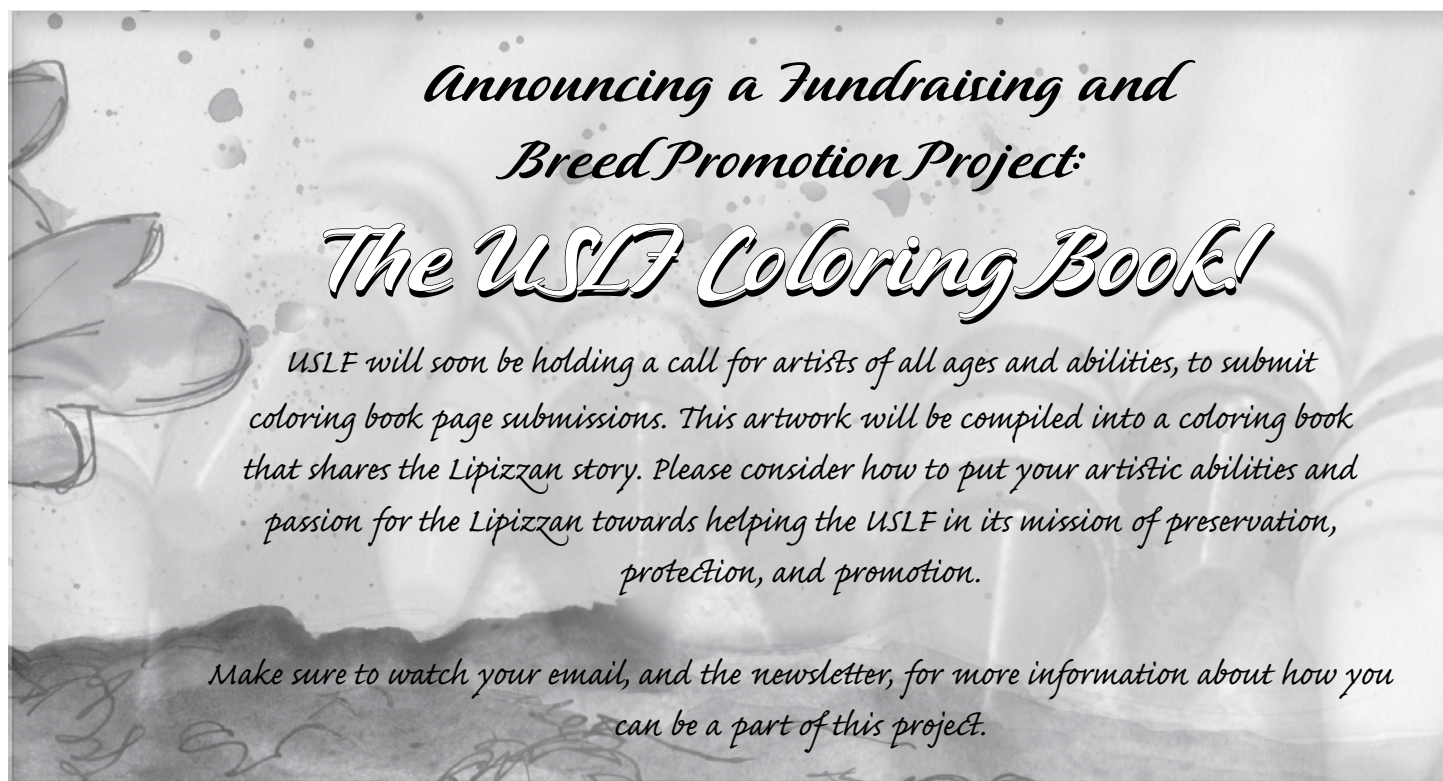
- a) Annual Member Meeting
- b) Awards and Show
- c) Breeders
- d) Breed Promotions and Advertising
- e) Bylaws
- f) Finance
- g) Historical
- h) LOL Training Collaborative
- i) Membership
- j) Merchandise
- k) USLF Lipizzan NEWS
- l) Nomination/Election
- m) Registration
- n) Website

An exciting new educational program is now offered in 2021. The Lipizzan Evaluation Guideline Series (LEGS) is designed and presented by the Breeders Committee. The material presented and open for Q&A is designed to help inform others in making decisions when either choosing a match for breeding or in purchasing a horse. The first session took place in February and focused on the forehead of the horse. Next session is scheduled for April 18. Keep your eyes peeled for sign-up info on social media, as well as on the USLF website.

Website renovations are occurring under the eyes of our new web master, Brittany Purcell ... THANK YOU! Be sure to check out the new "Winners Circle" page! Brittany is also open to ideas to help make the website a more user-friendly go to place for education.

The USLF Bylaws are due for an update and revisions are currently underway.

And finally ... a little birdie told me there might be a USLF Coloring Book in the making!



*Announcing a Fundraising and
Breed Promotion Project:
The USLF Coloring Book!*

USLF will soon be holding a call for artists of all ages and abilities, to submit coloring book page submissions. This artwork will be compiled into a coloring book that shares the Lipizzan story. Please consider how to put your artistic abilities and passion for the Lipizzan towards helping the USLF in its mission of preservation, protection, and promotion.

Make sure to watch your email, and the newsletter, for more information about how you can be a part of this project.

Kids and Lipizzans


by Lauren Self



Lipoli Farm
LIPPIZANS
 IMPORTED FROM ITALY



Polly du Pont
 143 Cook Hill Rd.
 Alstead, NH
 pdlpzzan@together.net



The Lipizzan Connection

BARBARA GJERSET

(818) 353 1616
 barbara@lipizzanconnection.com



The Story of Gail and Ella: A Perfect Match

LRF Adoption Synergy

by Lauren Self

This story began with a lovely equestrian and long-time horse mom named Gail, who reached out to the Lipizzan Rescue Foundation about possibly adopting a horse. Her heart horse, a beautiful Polish Arabian gelding named *Rage*, pictured below, had passed away at the astonishing age of 42! After some time had passed, Gail's heart was ready to continue



Gail's heart horse, Rage, is pictured here. He passed away at age 42!

healing by adding another special horse into her life. Perhaps it would be a Lipizzan? She filled out an adoption application and completed the adoption approval process with flying colors. Gail checked the LRF website for available horses and a handsome gelding caught her eye. After inquiring further about him, Gail decided that he did not completely meet her specific medical needs as her next partner. (The handsome gelding was soon adopted into his forever and perfect home.)

Gail's medical needs and requirements could not be compromised in any way. She had suffered from a horrible car accident in the past, and she could not injure her back or neck again. Her next horse would have to be a saint of a horse, very steady in mind and body, to be Gail's perfect fit. Gail says, "I had to have a horse that worked with me as a team, and where I felt safe." Was this horse out there? Was this angel-horse a Lipizzan? Thus, still very much interested in adopting a Lipizzan or Lipizzan cross, she waited patiently for possibilities. Several months passed and then the LRF received a potential fit: A Lipizzan cross mare named *Ella*. Gail was notified: Would she be interested in this newly-available horse? Gail had never owned a mare, and she had not considered owning a mare. Even with slight hesitation, she decided to pursue this option and see what, if anything, unfolded. Something told her to find out more about this mare. Perhaps that gut feeling Gail had was partially guided by her old companion, *Rage*? After all, the cross part of *Ella* is $\frac{1}{4}$ Arabian. It is nice to think he helped guide *Ella* to Gail, checking the box of past Arabian love with the future love of a Lipizzan/Arabian cross.

Ella's details, photos, and videos were then sent to Gail for review. Immediately, she felt a spark of a connection with *Ella*, and she began to see the possibility of a match between them. On paper, *Ella* checked all the boxes, so it was time to meet her in person! Gail purchased a plane ticket and off she went to meet *Ella* to see if the spark she felt in watching her videos was stronger when they met face-to-face. Would *Ella* feel the same for Gail? They had to find out!

Knowing horse/human relationships can take time to develop, Gail gave herself and *Ella* several days together without pressure or expectations to determine her next steps. In this time, they introduced themselves and learned about each other. Gail discovered that *Ella* has quite the personality, as well as being very

LRF Mission Statement



The USLF now estimates that there are fewer than 1,000 purebred Lipizzans in North America. The Lipizzan Rescue Foundation was formed to assist with breed preservation and to provide aid to individual horses.

The Lipizzan Rescue Foundation is a registered 501(3)(c) organization based in Las Vegas NV. The Lipizzan Rescue Foundation (LRF), as the only non-profit Lipizzan Rescue in the United States, joins others who have dedicated themselves to the preservation and safety of the Lipizzan horse breed. The first priority of the LRF is the rescue of Lipizzan/ Lipizzan Cross horses, who suffer from malnutrition or abuse, or are in physically dangerous or neglectful situations.

<https://lipizzanrescuefoundation.org>

Lyn Schaeffer President – Lipizzan Rescue Foundation



Gail and Ella share a moment

but Ella is helping me heal.” Every step along the way of this adoption screams synergy. All parts working together for this adoption fell into place like it was meant to be. At every place when something needed to happen, it did. It all worked out in a fluid, positive, and effortless way.

As a reminder, it is because of donations from you in Lipizzan community, that a perfect match such as this can occur. The Lipizzan Rescue Foundation would like to give a sincere “Thank You” to all of our supporters.



*Above: Rage
Below: Gail and Ella*

treat motivated. Ella bribed Gail out of her granola breakfast bar from the hotel on day one and by the next day, Gail had been caught taking ALL the hotel granola bars to bring to Ella! Ella was thrilled. The next step was to take Ella for a test ride. Together, they took several soft and easy rides, and at the end of her visit, Gail says, “She’s the one!” Ella seemed to agree. A vet check was performed and with a clean bill of health, shipping was arranged, and the “adoption ball” was officially rolling.

A couple of weeks later, after the perfect boarding facility was found to meet Ella’s dietary needs, and Gail’s wishes for her new horse, Ella arrived at her new home in Florida. Ella settled in quickly, and immediately let all other horses in the barn know that she is the princess and that is just how it is going to be. She has a big personality, is quite intelligent, and sometimes silly. But that’s the naughty kind of silly, in that she soon learned how to unlock her stall door and free herself to roam the aisles or go out to pasture on her own accord. Gail was once met at the front gate of the facility by Ella who greeted her with a, “Where have you been with those treats?” The barn management had to eventually give Ella a new lock for her stall door, about which she is now less than thrilled!

After only three days of being at her new home, Ella officially picked Gail as her person. We all know how amazing that feeling is when a Lipizzan picks you. What pure joy it is! Now both are officially hooked on each other and could not be happier. Gail says, “To not have my balance, and to be able to do what I am doing with Ella is a miracle.” “My heart still aches for Rage,



BREEDERS' DIRECTORY

Chocolate Lipizzans

Stephanie du Pont
Whitefish, MT 59937
Phone: 406-249-6216
Email: chocolatelipizzaners@gmail.com
Standing:

Siglavy Ballestra (Bay)

Horses occasionally for sale

Melody Hill Lipizzans

Lindsay Scott
Hixon, BC, Canada
Phone: 604-861-9777
Email: mylipizzan1@gmail.com
Standing via Live Cover or Frozen Semen:

Neapolitano Pepita (Bay, 15.1hh)

Horses/foals occasionally for sale

Mississippi View Farm

Kate Phillips
Sauk Rapids, MN
Phone: 320-980-5564
Email: kate@missviewfarm.com
Web: www.missviewfarm.com
Standing:

Neapolitano Wandosa II

Favory Canada

Foals and occasional started horses for sale
USEF Dressage Judge, FEI Competitor, Trainer, and Clinician

Sugar Magnolia Farm LLC

Brittany Purcell
Commerce GA
Phone: 770-713-4278
Web: www.SugarMagnoliaLipizzans.com
Standing:

Favory Allura

Four mares available for custom breeding leases

Tempel Lipizzans

Esther Buonanno
Tempel Farms
17000 Wadsworth Road
Old Mill Creek, IL
Phone: 847-244-5330
Email: esther@tempellipizzans.com
Web: www.tempelfarms.com
Standing:

890 Maestoso Batrina (fresh cooled) Tempel bred bay Lipizzan
– Topolcianky/Szivasvarad lines on sire side

226 Favory Naussica (fresh cooled and frozen) C. Philip bred,
France, old Piber and Monterotundo lines

Educational center, training, breeding, exhibitions, horse sales,
tours and lessons.

Tempus Renatus

Debbie & Emily Wright-Thomasson
Raeford, NC 28376
Phone: 910-986-7743
Email: tempusrenatus@gmail.com
Web: <http://www.tempusrenatus.com>
Standing:

Conversano Ivy (fresh-cooled and frozen semen)

Maestoso Bresciana

Youngstock for sale and mare leases
Boarding, Classical dressage instruction, and Clinics

The Equine Inn, LLC

Tina N Teegarden
8278 NW 162nd Ct
Morrison, FL 32668
Phone: 352-239-1423
Email: Solartnt@mac.com
Standing:

Pluto Gisella

Services offered:

Full breeding services @ \$600/month plus vet and blacksmith,
including: boarding mares & foals, foaling mares, maiden mares,
breeding AI-my stallion or your choice. Foals handled daily.

Fresh cooled shipped semen

Occasional foal for sale

The Lipizzan Connection

Barbara Gjerset
3275 Stonyvale Rd
Tujunga, CA 91042
Phone: 818-353-3556
Email: Barbara@lipizzanconnection.com
Web: www.LipizzanConnection.com
Horses occasionally for sale

Touchstone Acres

Kathleen Donnelly
Rowland, NC 28383
Email: info@touchstoneacres.com
Web: www.touchstoneacres.com
Standing via Frozen Semen:

Maestoso Takoma

5599 Maestoso Mefiszto (Black Hungarian Champion)

Neapolitano Altamira

Neapolitano Samira VI (Imported in utero)

Neapolitano XXIX-18 (Black Romanian GP Stallion/
available USA only)

Breeding & Sales, Mare Lease/Custom Foals

Waltzing Horse Dressage

Sarah Casey
130 Musk Road
New Berlin, NY
Phone: 508-733-4809
Email: WaltzingHorseFarm@gmail.com
Web: www.waltzinghorsesdressage.com
Standing via fresh cooled semen:

Conversano Belamilana (Bay)

Maestoso Marina

Pluto Pompea-55 (Piber import)

Maestoso Alga - Available with frozen (ICSI) only

*Calling Artists of
all Ages !!!*

Send us your drawings, to be included in our **NEW COLORING BOOK**, a fundraiser for the USLF.

See page 24 for more details.
lipizzannews@gmail.com



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oglesaddlery@gmail.com

TRANSITIONS

DECEMBER 2020 - FEBRUARY 2021

REGISTRATIONS:

Lipizzan Mares:

- 29 Djebrin** (b.1999, Piber, 414 Conversano Mantua x 59 Duba) by Tempel Lipizzans of Old Mill Creek, IL.
- 31 Gradita** (b.1998, Piber, Favory Alea x 8 Pompea) by Tempel Lipizzans of Old Mill Creek, IL.
- 39 Bionda** (b.1999, Piber, 505 Siglavy Dubovina x 95 Biondella) by Tempel Lipizzans of Old Mill Creek, IL.
- 900 Atessa** (b.2010, Tempel Farms, 832 Favory VIII Bellana x 850 Amarika) by Tempel Lipizzans of Old Mill Creek, IL.
- 915 Ada** (b.2016, Tempel Farms, Favory Canada x 868 Adelenia) by Tempel Lipizzans of Old Mill Creek, IL.
- 916 Aurora** (b.2016, Tempel Farms, Maestoso Lègeny x 859 Aurelia II) by Tempel Lipizzans of Old Mill Creek, IL.

Lipizzan Stallions:

- 872 Favory IX Ivana** (b.2006, Tempel Farms, 832 Favory VIII Belanna x Ivana) by Tempel Lipizzans of Old Mill Creek, IL.
- 878 Neapolitano XI Batrina** (b.2007, Tempel Farms, 823 Neapolitano VI Anita x 852 Batrina) by Tempel Lipizzans of Old Mill Creek, IL.
- 890 Maestoso Batrina** (b.2009, Tempel Farms, Maestoso Lègeny x 852 Batrina) by Tempel Lipizzans of Old Mill Creek, IL.
- Pluto Baldasara** (b.2015, Diana Swift, Pluto III Precocia x Baldasara) by Dane Lawrence of Sunland, CA.



Maestoso Troja

FROZEN SEMEN
AVAILABLE

See USLF 2021
Stallion Guide
for details
or email

Lisa.Simmons.PE@gmail.com

Offered by St. Cloud Lipizzans

Welcome New Member, Kelsey Dietrich!

Hello *USLF Lipizzan NEWS* readers! My name is Kelsey Dietrich, and I am a new USLF member and volunteer. I have started my journey by volunteering with the *USLF Lipizzan NEWS* and the Historical Committee. I am very excited to be a part of this organization!

Now for a little about myself. My love of horses started at an early age, but my love of the Lipizzan horse started more recently. My fascination with the breed started after I bought a video about the history of the Lipizzaner and the Spanish Riding School. Ever since then I have been enthralled with the breed but unfortunately, I did not have much of an opportunity to work with them until now.

Today, I am a working student at Waltzing Horse Farm (WHF). I am working and learning with the help of Sarah Casey, owner of WHF. Many of you also know Ms. Casey as the USLF Secretary. She is also the Interim Chair of the USLF Historical Committee.

My goal is to be a dressage horse trainer and breeder. I believe that, given where I have landed, I will for sure achieve this! It is a dream come true to be surrounded by beautiful horses and to learn from them every single day. I am so excited to be working with Sarah's beautiful Lipizzans!

I am currently working with one of the Lipizzan geldings, *AJ* or *Pluto Tucso Liberty*. I am getting him back into work after a little hiatus. In doing so, I am learning how to double lunge and have also started to ride him. My hope is to do some training level dressage schooling shows with him this year.

In addition to AJ, I am also working with *Conversano Belamilana* (aka "Bubbi"), Sarah's bay Lipizzan stallion. He is easily one of my favorite Lipizzans at WHF. Bubbi is a very particular type of horse, who clearly wants to see what his person is made of. After a few sessions together, I started to understand him better and we have started to build a partnership. My goal with him is to eventually show him in dressage.

Of course, I must not forget *Britta*, a bay Lipizzan mare, with whom I have begun bonding. She is by far my favorite mare at the farm (even though I love all the horses here!)

I have a dream for this year; hopefully to soon become a reality. I have been given the wonderful opportunity to breed *Britta* to one of Sarah's stallions! I could not be happier to be a part of this wonderful breed by having my own full-blooded Lipizzaner to raise and train! My goal with this baby is to train up the levels, and perhaps one day do a little breeding of my own.

I look forward to learning more about this wonderful breed and its unique and wonderful attributes.

I am also excited to meet more people who are involved with Lipizzans.

And last, but not least, I am exceptionally excited to be volunteering with the USLF committees!



Worth the Wait



McMillan Doherty and her beautiful XL50 mare, Brava Canissa
(b 2004 - Favory Canissa II x Lille B Kash (STB))

by McMillan Doherty

In 1980, I was ten years old and my mother took me to go see the “World Famous Lipizzan Stallions.” They were spectacular, dramatically entering the ring through red curtains with a spot light on the horse and rider in an otherwise dark coliseum. I will never forget the images of the blinding, silvery white coats of the horses and the formality of the riders' red uniforms. I always felt that horses were extraordinary, but Lipizzans were different: majestic and regal. It was as if they understood their heritage and carried it like a badge of honor. I spent most of my younger years, wishing, hoping, praying for a horse of my own. As an adult, I had long given up my childhood dream of owning my own horse. It just wasn't meant to be.

Brava found me nine years ago when I was 41, recovering from a TBI (traumatic brain injury) from a car accident. I was a mother of two young girls and focused on introducing my two young daughters to horses. While the girls had their lessons, I would walk through the barn and visit the horses. Brava would stand quietly and let me stroke her neck as though she knew how enormously calming and healing it was for me. It became a weekly ritual. My family saw the change in me and my recovery due to this magical mare. All you have to do is look into her gentle, peaceful eyes and you understand. It was almost a year before I was able to be in the tack once again but, for us, that wasn't what it was about. It was about her and me and our connection.

Brava came up for sale, which could have been the end to our story, but instead it was the beginning. My family decided to purchase her for me! They understood how transformative our relationship was beyond being a childhood dream come true. I am thankful every day for the love she brings to this world. Every single time I see her, I am overwhelmed with gratitude. When she hears my voice and looks for me, everything else melts away.



U.S. Lipizzan Federation
PO Box 310
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*X150 mare, Braava Canissa, (62004) -
Faery Canissa II & Lille B Kask (SFB) peer out of
her stall door. - McMillan Doherty photo*