

**Opportunity Knocks:
Lendon Gray on Ponies**

Incorporating
HORSEMEN'S *YANKEE*
PEDLAR

**Think Spring: Warm
Up Your Wardrobe**

February 2013

Equine Journal

Your All-Breed, All-Discipline Resource

Baby on Board

**The Keys to
Successful
Breeding**

page 40

Must Love Horses

ONLINE
EQUESTRIAN
DATING

page 58

**CAMPING
IN THE
CATSKILLS**



[EQUINE JOURNAL AFFILIATE]

American Bashkir Curly Registry

Takes Note of Stallions and Breeders

SUBMITTED BY SUE DAVIS

THE EXACT ORIGIN OF THE BASHKIR Curly Horse is one of the greatest mysteries of the horse world. They have been depicted in art and statues in early China as far back as A.D. 161. It is still a mystery how the Curly Horse came to the United States. While the exact origin of the breed remains a mystery, there is nothing mysterious about their perfor-

mance and remarkable talent.

In general, the Curly Horse is tough, strong, and athletic. Performance-wise, Curlies are a no-nonsense horse and have an uncanny ability to do all that is asked of them, since they are usually intelligent, learn quickly, and have a remarkable memory. Licensed Curly breeders strive to maintain the unique qualities of the breed.

Listed below are the stallions and breeders of the American Bashkir Curly Registry.

High Desert Equine—Reno, NV

hdequine.com

- WW Peter Lakota (ABC-3686, ICHO-870-D) 16H, Bay
 - Warrior Starberndt (ABC-3445, ICHO-1258-D) 14.3H, Palomino
 - Maximum's Pride (ABC 3650, ICHO-964-D, MFT-06-90273), 14.3H, Gaited Strawberry Roan
- High Desert is a full-service equestrian facility, specializing in the breeding, training and sales of American Bashkir Curly Horses and Curly Missouri Foxtrotters.

Traveling Moon Ranch—Spokane, WA

travelingmoonranch.com

- DCC Traveler (ABC-2450, ICHO-142-D, CSI-C00701-98), 15.2H, Sport Horse Stallion
- Traveling Moon Ranch breeds, raises, and promotes the Curly Sport Horse. Standing at stud is DCC Traveler, a USEA Eventing Stallion and National Performance Horse.

Woodke's Walnut Woods—Monterey, IN

marwoodke@gmail.com

- DCC Drifter
 - WW My Friend Flag
 - WW Drifter's Blazing Image
- Woodke's Walnut Woods breeds mainly gaited horses. DCC Drifter has performed in shows, exhibitions, trails, parades, and cattle chasing.

Curly Pines Ranch, Sunflower Trails LLC—Bastrop, TX

curlypinesranch.com

- SFT True Heart—silver buckskin dun with zebra stripes on his legs
- Competitive events for True Heart include

halter and western pleasure; he is in training for western horsemanship and western dressage.

Oakesmuir Curly Horses—Guelph, Ontario, Canada

curlyhorse.com

- Oakesmuir Spartan (ABC-2773)
 - Oakesmuir Pinto Pete (ABC-2606)
- Oakesmuir breeds Curlies for their temperament and athletic ability.

Tall Trees Curlys/Farm—Bonfield, Ontario, Canada

talltreescurlys.com

- WCC Butch Cassidy
 - Tall Trees Rogue
 - Maximillion Gold
 - Tall Trees Panhandle Pete
- Tall Trees Curlys breeds for quality, gentle-natured mounts of good conformation. Tall Trees Curly Horses are suitable for most disciplines, and they are excellent for children and for people who want a quiet ride.

Lightfoot Boys and Curlis—Cashmere, WA

light@frontier.com

- DSF Colby Britches, Grey
 - LBC Kiss Paladin Britches (up-and-coming stallion), Seal Brown
- Lightfoot breeds Curly Horses that are all-around riding horses used for trail riding, parades, drill team, and working horses.

North Country Ranches—Tobin Lake, Saskatchewan, CA

northcountryranches.com

- Skip The Taxman
- Skip is a two-year-old stallion who is calm and loves people. He will begin his western training in the spring of 2014. Our breeding program is aimed at the western



KC Prince Charles of Barrington Stables.



DCC Traveler of Traveling Moon Ranch.

disciplines—specifically roping, reining, and gymkhana.

Stag Creek Farm—Comanche, TX

stagcreekfarm.com

- Angel's Spirit (ABC 3652)
- Stag Creek breeds for preservation, using fully-registered, foundation bloodline Curlies.

Dacotah Performance Horses—Dacotah, Manitoba, Canada

dacotahperformancehorses.com

- Prairie Pharoh
- Prairie Pharoh is showing great potential in reining, western dressage, and working cow horse. His first foal crop is already showing incredible athletic ability.

Three Feathers Native Curly Horses—Lawrenceburg, KY

three-feathers.com

- TFN Nagi Hanhepi Wi To
- We are a small breeding farm striving for quality over quantity. Our stallion, Nagi, is a striking black-and-white pinto with lots of presence, gorgeous movement, and is as sweet as they come!

continued on page 136 ▶

[EQUINE JOURNAL AFFILIATE]

Northeast Fjord Horse Association

Member Praises the Breed

SUBMITTED BY WENDY LUSCOMBE

ONE OF THE BEST-KNOWN FJORD breeders once said to me, "I like what you are doing for this breed. Unfortunately, too often the image of a Fjord is a cute fat pony being ridden in just a halter by a woman in a T-shirt. That is not what this breed is about."

The Fjord may not look like the perfect dressage horse or jumper, with his short powerful neck, his fairly short legs, and his powerful body, but he can be the total athlete. Unlike many other breeds, the breeding of Fjords was not originally manipulated by man. They evolved before human influence, over 4,000 years ago from the original wild horses, and what you see today is the result of a naturally selected gene pool that gave the horse the best chances of survival. So the qualities of strength, intelligence, athleticism, and hardiness are a time-tested gift from nature's proving ground! So many of today's horses are bred to qualify for a brand. The intensive select breeding over just a few years may have produced some lovely trots, but a lot of other characteristics, such as soundness and temperament, have not always done so well. You cannot hurry nature and the Fjord is proof of that.

I own seven Fjords, most of them since they were youngsters. I compete with them in dressage, and my friend Stephanie Kleinbauer competes two of them in eventing and jumping.

Judging by my results, we have done very well in dressage, with multiple High Score Championships, East Riders Cup wins, regional placings, year-end awards, and USDF awards.

I previously used to ride Arabians and warmbloods. I learned a lot from Arabians, but I never really got particularly high scores on them. I showed up to Fourth Level. I tried Warmbloods and my scores did improve a bit, but I did not feel comfortable on them. It was not until I started riding Fjords that I got into the 70s on a very regular basis and also even into the 80s. Looking at my tests, the judges seemed to like the consistency and rhythm of the Fjords'



Stephanie Kleinbauer and Quest.

movement. I often score an 8 on gaits and have had several 9s too. I also feel very comfortable and confident on them and that shows in my riding. There are bigger moving horses out there, but if you are too nervous to ride them or cannot sit them, it does not help you, and besides where is the fun?

To give you an idea of the athleticism of Fjords, Eleni Econopy, a very talented junior rider, rode Orgonne in a piaffe/passage clinic and he picked up both movements in the 30-minute session. She also has asked some of my other Fjords for their first flying changes and they have just given them totally naturally, no problem, no fuss! Notwithstanding all of this, all of my Fjords are happy trail horses and do other things such as pleasure classes, jumping trail classes, etc.

My eventing and jumping Fjords ridden by Stephanie have a similar story. BDF Quest is only 14.1, but he can fly over a jump. Stephanie has cleared 49" with him. He has a horse length stride, and at a recent horse trial, he went clear over a 19-jump, 1 1/2 mile course in 4:50. He was the closest time all day to the optimum time of 4:48. Quest frequently out jumps bigger horses and wins at open show jumping competitions as well as horse trials.

The other attribute I love about my Fjords is that they are very people oriented; they love being around people

American Bashkir Curly Registry

continued from page 134

Cozy Nook Curly's—Colville, WA

cozynookcurlys.com

- CNC Poetic Motion Xpress
- CNC Prince Jacob's Xpress

Cozy Nook breeds for multiple disciplines, from family horses and trail, to showing and competitive events.

Golden Curls Ranch—Kaufman, TX

goldencurlsranch.com

- Renegait Chesterfield (ABCR 3556), Sorrel
- Black Rock's Golden Firefly, a.k.a.

O'Sparky, Bay Curly Mustang

Both stallions are currently training for classical and western dressage and show extraordinary talent and great collection. O'Sparky brings the original Curly Mustang breeding back into domestic Curly lines, which includes intelligence and athleticism.

Barrington Stables, LLC—Lititz, PA

BarringtonStables.com

- KC Prince Charles, a.k.a. Chuck

Chuck has lovely movement, both on the ground and under saddle. He has sired many nice horses, which have inherited his wonderfully calm disposition and his sturdy Curly conformation.

Swan Creek Andalusians, Lusitanos and Curly Horses—Lamont, Alberta, Canada

swancreekandalusians.ca

- BNC Big Ben (ABCR Curly)

We breed working ranch and heavy harness horses, with attributes for dressage. We have Multiple Provincial and National Champions in halter, all the way up to Grand Prix dressage and jumping. 🐾

and other animals. They also want to please their humans and they try their hearts out for you. For me this is what makes them such a joy to work with. However, the Fjords I have worked with all have a sense of social justice! They will try their best for you and forgive your mistakes, but you cannot take this for granted. They need to be appreciated! How could you not love this breed?

If you have a story that you want to share, please contact spookus3@aol.com. This is a great story about the capabilities of our Fjords. Please consider joining if you are interested in the breed and stay tuned for the club's annual meeting details in the next issue. Until next time, happy Fjording. 🐾