

NEWSLETTER "A Figure of Speech"

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

volume 12, number 1

Fun times at Tampa Bay Downs





FMHA BANQUET AND ANNUAL MEETING







FLORIDA MORGAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

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FMHA ANNUAL MEETING & BANQUET

Our Annual Meeting was held on January 21 at the Tampa Downs Racetrack in Tampa. Some members took advantage of the opportunity to spend the afternoon watching the races before the meeting began. It was a beautiful day and great fun to cheer on your favorites (and maybe win a few dollars at the betting window).

Following the cocktail reception, President Rick Davis called the Business meeting to order. Glenn Winograd gave an update on the 2012 Summer's End show, slated for the 6-9th of Septembetr. Ann Lawter will be the judge for that show.

Alicia Davis gave a report on the Cirtus Cup Show. This year we are offering the opportunity to sponsor an entire session with those sponsors having an advertising banner displayed in the photo area. For our party we will have "Movie Night" with an outdoor movie and refreshments. Alicia also passed out copies of the show schedule.

Nina Spencer reminded everyone about the upcoming CDE at Live Oak Plantation. Tailgating spots are available for Marathon day with FMHA getting the proceeds.

Martha Stein announced the date for the first 2012 meeting of Tropical Trotters. Outgoing Treasurer, Jane Brown presented the 2011 Financial report.

The proposed slate of officers was elected by acclimation. A list of officers and their contacts is located on page 2 of this newsletter.

Following the meeting, the members enjoyed a buffet meal while the High Point Awards were given out and items auctioned.

Complete minutes of the business meeting and a complete list of the High Point winners will be available on the FMHA web site.

Many thanks go to Glenn Winograd for making all the arrangements for the evening.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH HOSTING DUTIES at the AMHA CONVENTION - if you can help, contact Glenn Winograd glenn@cesfl.com

CITRUS CUP - April 11-14, 2012

Host hotel Best Western Gateway Grand 352-331-3336 or toll free 877-464-2378. Be sure to make your reservations early to receive the Citrus Cup discounted rate.

JUDGES

Main Ring -Tim Roesink Carriage Obstacle Driving - John Rannenberg Dressage - Lisa Hyslop

New For 2012:

Full session sponsorships available (see sponsorship form in this issue)

Exhibitors Party - "Movie Night" complete with outdoor movie and refreshments

Contact Alicia Davis -- 352-472-6727 alicia@raindropfarm.com

TAMPA CHARITY

Academy division.

The Florida horse show season is here! The Tampa Charity show begins on March 6 and runs through the 10th. I A full slate of Morgan classes is being offered as well as an

Judging this year will be Jim Lowry.

LIVE OAK MARCH 22 - 25, 2012

The Live Oak Driving Event will celebrate its 20 th year. Over this twenty year period it has been the industry standard for Combined Driving Competition welcoming leading drivers, trainers, coaches and owners from Europe and North America and drawing thousands of people to the area as we again serve the dual purposes of giving the public a chance to enjoy world caliber combined driving competition while also supporting many non-profit and charity goals. The 2012 Event will host the USEF National Championships for Four In Hand Horses.

The multigenerational love for equestrian sports shared by the Weber family will take another logical step in 2012, with the addition of a Jumping Speed Class following Dressage on Friday and a Jumping Grand Prix on Saturday. We look forward to providing our spectators with some of the best Jumping competition with some of the best Driving competition at the same venue on the same afternoons. A world class Driving event and a world class Jumping competition will be together at the world class Live Oak Plantation in Ocala Florida.

We are very excited about hosting the second Horse Fever Auction Friday Evening. The first auction in 2002, raised almost one million dollars for charities. This year's auction features 30 life sized fiberglass horses painted in a wide variety of styles and subjects. All these are currently placed in different locales around Ocala and can be seen on the website Ocala.com. Our very own Sally Ann Lyle was chosen to be one of the participating artists.

FMHA will once again have a promotional tent at the hazard known as the "Gulch" for the marathon day. It gives us a great opportunity to spread the word about Morgans to the thousands of spectators who turn out to watch the excitement.

The Live Oak event is produced by a team of volunteers. Your attendance will support our effort to produce this spectacular event. For additional information our website is www.liveoakinternational.com

TAILGAITING WITH STYLE

There will be a limited number of tailgating (and yes, we know how to spell tailgate, this way is just way more appropriate) locations at all of the marathon hazards on Saturday, March 24, 2012. This is an opportunity for you to gather up some of your friends and watch the live action from a prime spot. Tailgating area will be assigned on a first come, first paid basis, with consideration given to previous years. Proceeds go to FMHA For more information please contact Nina Spencer 352-207-3615; ninaespencer@aol.com

AMHA CONVENTION IN ORLANDO

This convention is going to be one for the history books! Seminars with nationally-known presenters and self-guided farm tours in the Sunshine State are just some of the exciting things awaiting your participation. In addition, seminars end each day at 2 p.m., allowing you to spend a long afternoon with Mickey and his friends!

Make your reservation today by calling The Hilton Walt Disney World Resort, I-800-782-4414 and ask for the AMHA group code "AMH."

Top Three Reasons to Attend the AMHA Convention! The annual AMHA Convention is slated for February 29-March 4 this year in Orlando, Florida! While there are many reasons to join us, here is the top three!

- I. The Seminars! The convention committee has carefully crafted a seminar schedule to match any Morgan lover's interest. A focus on sport, health, marketing, and much more equal an educational and informative convention!
- 2. Farm Tours! Several Florida Morgan farms are opening their doors on Wednesday. This informal day allows you to visit the barns you want to on your own!
- 3. It's Disney! What better way to celebrate the wonder of Disney than by taking advantage of reduced rates? All Morgan activities end at 2 p.m. each afternoon, so convention goers can enjoy everything that Disney has to offer.

All this plus much more! February and March are busy months at Disney World with school vacations and rooms are going quickly! Don't miss out on your opportunity to join us

2012 ELECTION: WE NEED YOU TO GET OUT THE VOTE

It seems the national news is filled with United States president hopefuls on the campaign trail, political analysts observations, and national election events. AMHA wants to encourage you to stand up and be counted, not just on the national level but also right here--in the Morgan Horse Association!

2012 ballots recently were mailed and we hope you'll take the time to vote for candidates running in Regions 6, 7, 8, 10 and Director at Large. Quorums requirements are the lesser of 100 or 10 percent of the votes entitled to be cast. That means Region 6 needs 35 votes, Region 7 needs 59 votes, Region 8 needs 51 votes, and Region 10 needs 33 votes to elect a candidate. Director at Large needs 100 votes.

Members also are being asked to vote on the possible transfer of the Registry Trust from TD Bank to the Vermont Community Foundation.

In 2011, AMHA had one of its highest voter turnouts with 37.63 percent of members voting! Let's keep the momentum going!

Mailed Ballots are due by February 18, 2012 or you may vote in person at the annual members meeting on March 2, 2012 in Orlando, Florida.

STALLION SERVICE AUCTION

Are You Looking for That Perfect Stallion?
The best place to look is the 2012 AMHA/World Morgan Futurity Stallion Service Auction!

Breedings are being offered include new stallions, returning stallions, and top world and national champions, including some crowned at the 2011 Grand National! The cover of the December 2012 issue of The Morgan Horse magazine, one of the most widely read issues of the year, and a bronze sculpture by Maretta Kennedy also will be auctioned. The minimum bid on all stallions is \$800, unless otherwise noted. The top ten bids will move on to the live auction that will take place on Saturday, March 3 at AMHA's annual convention, held in Orlando, Florida. All remaining contracts to be sold to the highest bidder as of 4 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, March 2. All proceeds from the auction will benefit the AMHA Marketing Program, World Morgan Futurity, Regional Shows, and AMHA Show Grant Program. Go to www.morganhorse.com/news events/stallion auction/ to make your bid today!

AMHA SEEKS APPLICANTS TO TEAM MORGAN 2012:

AMHA is pleased to announce it is seeking five young equestrians to apply for Team Morgan 2012, a Multi-Discipline Competition Slated for July. The three-part competition, which will be comprised of hunter seat equitation, saddle seat equitation, and driving, will take place July 4-7, 2012 at the Bluegrass Morgan Classic Horse Show in Lexington, Kentucky. Five riders will be selected to become members of this year's team. Applicants must be between the ages of 14-21 years of age, AMHA youth members in good standing, and will be judged on several elements including horsemastership, character, and writing ability. Riders who have competed in two Team Morgan events are ineligible. The application fee is \$50 and selected team members will be required to obtain sponsorship of at least \$350 to help offset expenses. Applicants also are responsible for travel and hotel expenses to and from the event.

In 2007, the American Morgan Horse Association and the American Morgan Horse Educational Charitable Trust approved "Team Morgan," an international, multi discipline competition program for Morgan youth ages 14-21. Past Team Morgan competitions have included saddle seat competitions in South Africa and the Massachusetts Morgan Horse Show, as well as a competition in North Carolina in August 2009. The Team's last competition was a hunter seat equitation event in November 2010.

Applications to take part in this competition are now available by going to

http://www.morganhorse.com/news_events/latest_news/team_morgan_2012_announce/. Contact Christina Koliander with any questions at chris@morganhorse.com or by calling (802) 985-4944 ext. 402. Application deadline is February 15 and the Team will be announced by May 15, 2012.









FMHA 2011 HIGH POINT AWARD CEREMONY



thanks to Martha Stein for these photos and those on the cover

See FMHA web site for full results



TROPICAL TROTTERS NEWS

The Tropical Trotters youth group held their first meeting of 2012 recently. Although all of our members were not present, we were off to a great start. Plans were outlined for the coming year. We would like to take a road trip or two this year and are looking to our training barns for ideas. The group is excited to bring a new idea to the Citrus Cup regional show. We are going to not only sponsor a Championship class, but present a special ribbon to represent the fight against Juvenile Diabetes. This is a disease that touches the lives of friends, family and members of our own Morgan community.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 19 in Tampa. We will meet at the Westchase Jazzercise Studio for a meeting on how exercise can improve your riding. The meeting will be conducted by a certified Jazzercise instructor. Parents are welcome to join in! We will also be doing a game and craft item. The meeting begins at 2 pm.

Our March meeting is going to be held on March 18 when we plan to do horse judging.

Martha Stein, youth director

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SWFDA OFFERS HIGH POINT MORGAN AWARD at Fort Myers Dressage Shows

The South West Florida Dressage Association (http://www.swfda.org) now offers the AMHA Open High Point Award at each of their shows. The shows are held in North Fort Myers at the Lee Civic Center, which is just a few miles from Route I-75. The award is offered by the AMHA recognizing the highest scoring registered Morgan horse in an open show or event. The award is given not only to promote the Morgan breed at shows where all breeds compete, but also to encourage Morgan owners to compete with their horses in open shows.

FR Freedom First (Townshend Top Hat x UC Rianna), a Morgan gelding bred, owned and shown by Victoria Surr was the recipient of the award at the SWFDA Reindeer Romp on December 10, 2011. FR Freedom First (Fred) started as a carriage driving horse, he was shown in New England at the New England Morgan shows. He was the first horse ever to win the USEF National Horse of the Year Champion in Driven Dressage (open to all breeds). He also won the USEF National Horse of the Year Champion in the Morgan Carriage division, as well as many regional and local championships in driven dressage and carriage pleasure. Fred has taken to ridden dressage with the same talents that made him such a fun driven dressage horse. He and Vici are showing in Training Level, earning scores in the low to mid-60s.

SWFDA is hoping that by offering the award, more competitors will show their Morgan horses in future shows. If you have a Morgan dressage horse (or know someone who does) SWFDA would like to see you (or them) at their upcoming shows

Victoria Surr

AMHA PARTICIPATION IN UPHA PROGRAM

The American Morgan Horse Association (AMHA) is pleased to announce its participation in the Equestrian Life "Learn to Ride and Drive in Style" campaign. Joining forces with the United Professional Horseman's Association, American Saddlebred Horse Association and American Hackney Horse Society, AMHA is working to increase awareness of saddle seat riding and driving.

Equestrian Life.com has partnered with the American Morgan Horse Association (AMHA), American Saddlebred Horse Association (ASHA), the United Professional Horsemen's Association (UPHA), and the American Hackney Horse Society (AHHS) to bring a unique promotion to aspiring equestrians across the nation. "Equestrian Life.com is about connecting horse lovers across the country, in every breed and discipline," said Deana Bergquist, President and Co-Founder of Equestrian Life.com. "We are thrilled to join four incredible associations to help more people discover the wonder of riding or driving one of these amazing animals."

The first step is to visit www.equestrianlife.com/freelesson, check out the commercial on the Learn to Ride and Drive in Style campaign, and sign up for a complimentary lesson. On the

UPHA PROGRAM continued

Equestrian Life.com page, there is a list of participating trainers, and interested participants can print a coupon for a FREE lesson!

Several celebrities have publicized the campaign and the response has been overwhelming. "We are delighted that Carson Kressley helped kick off the campaign on the Nate Berkus Show." Well-known actor and Saddlebred breeder. William Shatner, also has promoted this campaign and commercials, press releases, and videos are running on television, on the web, and in print. To date more than 40,000 people have viewed the videos on www.equestrianlife.com and there is currently a waiting list of 82 people excited about learning to ride or drive, and wanting to take a lesson. In addition to several commercials featured on HRTV and EquestrianLife.com that promote the joys of riding and driving featuring Saddlebreds, Hackneys and Morgans, a special educational video will be produced promoting the Morgan breed for the www.equestrianlife.com/freelesson http://www.equestrianlife.com/freelesson dedicated page, Equestrian Life YouTube channel, and Equestrian Life Facebook page. The videos will be made available to the entire AMHA membership for use on their websites, YouTube and Facebook pages as well to help promote their businesses. "Equestrian Life's Learn To Ride and Drive in Style Program is a

rare opportunity to bring together the United Professional Horseman's Association, American Morgan Horse Association, American Saddlebred Horse Association, and the American Hackney Horse and Pony Society for one common goal: To promote, expose and give access to our wonderful horses and ponies. This campaign is the first marketing project we have taken on as a team that not only showcases our product, it actually gives the horse lover a way to enter the world of the Morgan Horses, American Saddlebred Horses and Hackney Horses and Ponies by giving free riding and driving lesson coupons. We know once they discover our amazing Morgan Horses, American Saddlebred Horses and Hackney Horse and Ponies, they will be hooked for life. The UPHA is proud to be a part of such an exciting endeavor," said Bret C. Day, UPHA President.

The campaign will run throughout 2012, and the AMHA currently is soliciting participation from Morgan professionals with lesson programs. To learn more or enroll, see AMHA Directors Cindy Mugnier or David Earehart at the UPHA Convention or AMHA convention. To find out more about Learn to Ride and Drive in Style, please visit www.equestrianlife.com/freelesson

AMHA CHAMPION TITLE PROGRAM

AMHA is pleased to announce the inception of a new pilot program, titled the Champion Title Program, where Morgan horse champions can apply to receive the status of CH (champion) or GCH (grand champion). The program, which begins with the 2012 competition year, has a \$75 enrollment fee; to enroll a horse with points prior to 2012, the enrollment fee is \$250. Following the 2012 competition year, the program has a \$15 per year annual fee. Horse owners must be AMHA members. To become a Champion, a horse

CHAMPION TITLE continued

must earn 15 points at any USEF rated all Morgan show or in Morgan classes sanctioned by USEF; to become a Grand Champion, a horse must earn 30 points. Eligible classes include performance, equitation, and sport horse. Limit, Maiden, and Novice classes are not eligible for points. Upon earning the required number of points, the horse's registered name will be updated in the AMHA database to reflect the acronym at the end of the name. Owners may use the champion status for advertising a Morgan's wins and to help with sales prospects. A new registration certificate signifying a horse's Champion or Grand Champion status is available for \$25.Co-chairs of the AMHA Show Horse Committee, Carol Fletcher, AMHA Region 8 Director, and David Earehart, AMHA Region 3 Director, said, "We are delighted to introduce this exciting new program that recognizes the accomplishments of horses that excel in competitions. While some wonderful horses reach the pinnacle of competing at the Morgan Grand National, many horses never make it to that level of competition. Those horses do lots of winning and deserve this recognition and distinction. We also feel this will serve as a great breeding and sales tool to help prospective owners easily recognize the achievements of the horses they are considering."Like all of AMHA's programs, this pilot program will be evaluated at the end of each year to make any changes or modifications that may be needed. Applications will be available online at

Champion Title Program Updates

AMHA would like to thank all those that have called or written in support and are excited about the new Champion Title Program. We also wish to extend our appreciation to those that have offered suggestions for improvement. "This is a pilot program, which means as we learn from our experience and based upon feedback and suggestions AMHA will expand and refine the program, so we greatly appreciate the ideas thus far and hope others will offer their thoughts, too," stated Julie Broadway, AMHA Executive Director. Below is a brief Q&A, which has been compiled to address questions. Please note that several updates have been added effective 1-1-2012.

What does the term "Pilot" program mean? "Pilot" program means this is the initial rollout of the program with the intent to refine and/or expand the program as we learn from our experience and based upon suggestions. We encourage participants to submit questions or suggestions, and look for future announcements and changes.

Do championships at open shows count? If the show is USEF sanctioned and the championship was an all-Morgan class, the championship will count. Is there a minimum number of horses required for the class to count for the program?

Yes, for 2012 and future years, to achieve a CH title, one class of all the classes submitted must have had four or more horses. To achieve the GCH title, two classes of all the classes submitted must have four or more horses.

Do equitation horses qualify for the program?

UPDATES continued

Yes, equitation horses may enroll and the same point system applies. However, AMHA must receive class results including both the rider and horses name to verify points.

What high point awards qualify?

High point awards given at USEF sanctioned All Morgan shows or All Morgan classes at USEF sanctioned shows qualify. USEF, Saddle Horse Report, and club year-end high point awards are not eligible for points.

Do Sport horse classes like dressage, carriage, over fences, reining, etc. count?

First and second place in a championship or a high point award for all disciplines at an USEF sanctioned All Morgan show or All Morgan classes at USEF sanctioned shows qualify for points. Effective I-I-2012 AMHA has added I point for reserve high point award.

Do qualifying classes at Morgan Grand National receive points? Qualifying classes for the World Championship class are considered Grand National Championships thus they count as championship classes and receive 2 points. World Championship winners receive 3 points and USEF Horse of the Year award recipients receive 3 points.

Do stake classes count?

Stake classes will count if they serve as a championship classes. The class must have had a qualifying class and serve as the final competition for that division.

What classes are ineligible?

Initially maiden, novice or limit horse classes were ineligible, but after further consideration effective with the 2012 competition year all championship classes or high point awards at USEF sanctioned All Morgan shows or All Morgan classes at USEF sanctioned shows will be eligible for points.

To receive new registration papers, the old registration papers must be returned to AMHA along with \$25 fee for processing. This also applies to persons wanting new registration papers for horse whose parentage includes horses with titles.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Not a fan of AMHA's new Champion Title program I'm not here to berate AMHA for their efforts. On the contrary, I think our association tries really hard (sometimes too hard) to make every member happy. It always seems like in the process, it ticks off someone. Well, this time it's me. Let me make it perfectly clear that I am all for recognizing accomplishments of any and every Morgan horse in our breed. I'm behind AMHA 110% on any program they wish to implement that recognizes a Morgan horse and/or it's owner/trainer/rider for outstanding accomplishments. Here's my problem: Unless it's a notation that will be retrospect to every Morgan in the registry at no cost, I am completely against notations on the registration papers. Yes, that's right. The new Champions title that will be PERMANENTLY AFFIXED to registration papers can be bought by anyone who wants to pay the \$75 enrollment fee and an annual \$15 fee. If you wish to enroll a horse that's already been showing and you want his points from years prior to 2012 to count, then you need to pay an enrollment fee of \$250. After the fees and enrollments are done and your horse has

won it's qualifying points at USEF rated shows, at CH or GCH will be applied to their registration papers and in the registry attached to their name.

First and foremost, this is not a fair designation because it is only going to be applied to horses in the registry who've been enrolled and PAID. It's a little like running for public office. Everybody doesn't get a fair shake at votes because not everyone has the same size pocketbook. What about all the deserving horses who are still in the registry, but are long gone or perhaps have owners who are long gone? We're just going to ignore them?

The secondary issue is that this prime designation is only available to horses showing at USEF shows. "We're still working out the issues with the sport and open horses" they say. Well, then let's not implement this program until ALL Morgans that compete in ANY venue are accommodated. Although this is a minor issue for me, since my big issue is the fact that only horses who've been paid into the program will receive the title. I would only want designations on registry papers if they applied to every single achievement a horse could have, and if it was fairly applied to every horse in the registry. Not to mention we're completely ignoring the Morgans who are out there making a name for the breed in CDEs, 4-H, reining or wherever else USEF may not have a rating. Those are the Morgans that are actually doing the selling and keeping "versatile" in the repertoire of the breed.

The fact that this only recognizes horses whose owners paid to put them in the program makes this program an absolute NO NO for marking registration papers, in my opinion. The country is already in an economic struggle. WE (the horse industry) are in an economic struggle to stay alive and keep up and/or grow our numbers. Look at our AMHA registrations for recent years. We as a breed are heading to extinction at the rate we're going. We need people to stick with us, continue to breed Morgans and promote the breed forward to the future.

Had this been offered to the membership as a vote, I for one would have vehemently voted against it.

I think the program is flawed and I think AMHA's Board has made an error here by implementing this program without taking a membership vote. And, more importantly, I am not alone. Other folks have come to this conclusion without *any* prompting by me or anyone else. The entire comment period of the recent AMHA Town Meeting call was taken up by discussion on the dissatisfaction with this program. Not because time was limited to this topic, but because that is all anyone on the call wanted to talk about.

This is a significant enough change in the registry policies that perhaps member input should have been considered *before* implementation.

The basic registry data should be restricted to objective, unbiased, factual data *equally* for every Morgan regardless of what they did for a living or how much money their owners have. Adding these letters creates a permanent and distorted view of what is valued by the Morgan owners of our versatile breed.con't pg 9

LETTER TO EDITOR continued

Again, I have NO problem with acknowledging achievement of USEF Morgans. Create a program for this and have the players pay for it. That's not what this is about. I am absolutely 100% for AMHA maintaining a historical database of all kinds of verifiable achievement (by almost any measure: competition, production, societal, etc) for *all* Morgans. Link it to the individual registry records for *all* Morgans. Just don't create the impression that USEF Morgan champions, or even any competitive successes, are so highly valued by our breed that we are willing to change Registered names for a price, because it is NOT that valued by a huge portion (the majority, actually) of our membership and perhaps, even more importantly, by the majority of the Morgan owners in the USA. And that's exactly what adding "CH" and GCH" does.

Let the AMHA Board of Directors know how you feel. Take a few minutes to send a note to your director, or better yet, the entire board and our Executive Director (you can find their emails on morganhorse.com). They won't know how this affects the membership if we don't speak out. I encourage everyone who cares to do just that.

(signed) Tami Johnson WINDENHILL, Morriston, FL

HOW DO YOU.....

Induce labor in a mare? Take a nap.

Cure equine constipation? Load them in a clean trailer.

Cure equine insomnia? Take them in a halter class.

Get a horse to stay very calm and laid back? Enter them in a liberty class.

Get a horse to wash their own feet? Clean the water trough and fill it with fresh water.

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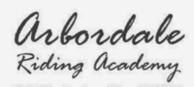
Get a show horse to set up perfect and really stretch? Get him out late at night or anytime no one is a round to see him.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 3-5 2012 Jubilee of Breeds show, Newberry, FL

February 29-Mar 3 AMHA Convention, Orlando, FL

March 3-10 Tampa Charity Horse Show, Tampa, FL

March 22-25 *Live Oak CDE*, Ocala Fl *tailgate spots available March 24-benefit FMHA

April 11-14 Citrus Cup Regional, Canterbury FL

November 2-4 Harvest Days Horse Show, Tampa

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