

AUGUST NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

U.S.A.

Susan McConnell's Oakfields Farm had a day out on June 12 when the Region III show was held at Pine Top Farm. The show was reported as the biggest and best yet. This could also be said for Susan's ribbon tally at the end of the show. Oakfields Hazel Sparrow (Hearnsbrook Dunoon – Oakfields Maria Sparrow) was awarded the Grand Champion Connemara trophy and was also awarded Best in Show. The ribbons continued! In the pure bred Connemara Mare class – 7 yrs and over- 1st Oakfields Amazing Sparrow, 2nd Oakfields Diamond Jamie Gibson and 6th Oakfields Fuchsia.



Owner Susan McConnell, handler/rider Emma Kennedy, and Oakfields Hazel Sparrow at Upperville Show. Photo by Lisa Etzel

Pure bred Connemara Mare 3 – 6 yrs - 1st Oakfields Hazel Sparrow, 2nd Oakfields Linianne, 5th Oakfields Sapphire, 6th Oakfields Crimson. The Pure Bred Champion went Oakfields Hazel Sparrow with reserve Oakfields Amazing Sparrow.

In the Open Hunter Crossrails – 1st Oakfields Jade, 4th Oakfields Lilianne, 5th Oakfields Crimson. Open Ponies 14.2 and under saw Oakfields Fuchsia taking the 2nd ribbon with 5th going to Oaklands Fuchsia.

In the open Horse over 14.2 - 1st Oakfields Amber Sparrow. The Open Hunter saw Oakfields Jade, Oakfields Lilianne and Oakfields Amber Sparrow collect ribbons. Other Ridden classes saw a

repeat ribbon flow for Oakfields Farm with an additional 15 ribbons being awarded.

Reading a little further into the “American Connemara” magazine, Oakfields Farm had further a outstanding show at Upper Ville Horse Show with an additional 7 ribbons being won by Oakfields farm Ponies.

From the USA Eventing world comes news that the imported Stallion Ard Celtic Art, ACPS Connemara of the year for 2009 continued his winning ways with rider Donna Miller, by taking 2nd place at the CCI One Star event at Chattahoochee Hills, GA. The combination was 3rd at the Ocala Fl. One star event in May.

Will'Ya Love Me (Grange Finn Sparrow) and rider Courtney Sendak took 1st place at the Virginia Horse trials and moved up the Eventing ladder with further successful outings at Intermediate Level.

UNITED KINGDOM

The 5yr old Connemara, “Drummore Castle” ridden by Kirsteen Douglas was reserve Champion at the NPS Scotland Spring Show and also won the Picton Qualifier.

The Scottish Connemara Group show in July was a most successful show. “Eastlands Wild Orchid” was awarded Pure Bred Young stock Champion and the Pure Bred Champion for the show went to “Bellindene Franklin”.

Novice Ridden Champion went to “Sydserff Misty Morning” and the pure bred Ridden champion was awarded to “Lockinge Flossy. Supreme Champion for the show was awarded to “Eastlands Dunielle” and reserve went to “Lockinge Flossy”

Sarah Hodgkins mare, “Callowfeenish Mary” took the M7M Pony of the year at the Lincoln Show and Breed Champion. “Village Laura” was also successful with Vanessa Compton winning the in hand and reserve Champion.

News to hand also indicates that three Connemara ponies and their riders have been selected for the English team at the WHP International Team Event that is to be held at Cavan Equestrian Centre in Ireland. “Smokin Gun” (Gunsmoke – Hazel Dew) will be ridden by Hetty Woyka, “Tully Oisin” (Earl of Castlefrench – Tullinadaly will be ridden by Alice McCullagh and Elinor Strapp will guide “Dancing Hero” (Shannon Prince – Campbell Star). This event should see a number of Connemara Ponies competing.



IRELAND

Early news from Ireland is that the Connemara festival in Clifden was a great event this year. Work had been done on the Arena and the surface was level, well drained and hardly a foot hole to be seen after over 500 ponies had competed. This was in sharp contrast with other years when ponies were hock deep as they moved, particularly on the upper or office side of the arena.

The Friday events were fabulous! The Puissance was an exciting event with the rail rising to 155 cms and still 6 ponies left in the competition. The rules stipulate that the event must stop at that height and one has to wonder to what height these wonderful Connemara ponies would the rail would have risen to find an absolute winner.

Much more news from the Clifden Connemara pony festival will be available shortly I am sure. Many of the overseas visitors will take home their own thoughts and these will appear in local newsletters etc.

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