



# HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS

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Welcome to the first issue of Heritage Highlights! We hope you enjoy it. Please feel free to share it with your friends and add them to our emailing list. We are excited about our new venture and encourage feedback.

We welcome your stories about what you do with your Heritage Horse.

In 2006 we had a number of applications from coast to coast for Heritage status. We will be listing these horses, as well as Heritage Horses that were sold this year.

We will be offering advertising in future Heritage Highlights at reasonable prices. So if you have horses to sell, or anything horse related you want to advertise, just let us know.

## ***NEWSFLASH!!!***

The Heritage Society is now taking orders for the 2007 Heritage calendars. The price for the full color calendar is \$13.00 and includes shipping to the US. Postage for International sales will be extra. This year's calendar features some of the newly certified Heritage Horses from 2006. Don't miss ordering your calendar, they make great Christmas gifts for those hard to buy for people on your shopping list.

## **“ ABOUT THE TWH HERITAGE SOCIETY” By: Franne Brandon**

For several years, Diane Szczepanski and Franne Brandon had been discussing the possibility of organizing a group to promote the older, non-show bloodlines of Tennessee Walking Horses. This idea took root after discussions on various e-lists had revealed that many, many breed fanciers were totally unaware that any bloodlines were still extant other than those promoted in the padded show ring. Discussion finally gave way to action when Leon Oliver, Billy Taylor, Diane, and Franne met at the home of Danny and Sherry Taylor to discuss the options for just such a group. Also present at this meeting on December 6, 2003 were future advisors Nancy Bergman, who brought with her a wealth of experience in 4-H and youth horse work, and Dawna Hansen, retired educational professional and private business owner.

The initial meeting proceeded smoothly. As discussion progressed, everyone began to envision what the purpose of the group would be and what type of horse it would promote. As the decision was made to form an actual marketing group with an educational emphasis, everyone agreed that the group would need a name which conveyed its unique nature. It was Sherry Taylor, with the help of the American Heritage dictionary, who provided the name of Tennessee Walking Horse Heritage Society.

The Society began its advertising campaign in the spring of 2004 with a Marketplace ad in the annual pleasure issue of Voice of the Tennessee Walking Horse. What surprised most members was not the interest that the ad generated, but the interest in joining "the club" that the ad produced. The Society was and remains a marketing group with an educational emphasis, not a club to join. Our purpose was and is to inform the general buyer or interested individual that alternate bloodlines are available in horses that are sane, intelligent, willing, people-loving, and bred for equine and human generations for smooth natural gaits, not for the fire and paciousness of the show ring.

Due to continued interest in Heritage Horses, however, from breeders over the nation who had older bloodlines that were different from those of the Society's breeders, a plan for certifying Heritage Horses was devised at the 2005 annual fall meeting of the Society. This involves both pedigree and gait certification. Candidates must have at least five animals on their pedigrees with registration numbers from the thirties and forties. The color lines must trace, horse by horse, back to the Studbooks. Eligible horses must display the classic walking gaits of the foundation period, not the speed rack and stepping pace that became popular after the show walkers added pads and speed to their repertoire. At this point, interest is increasing in the certification process.

Heritage Horses are found across the United States, from Florida to Wisconsin, from Georgia to Iowa, and are also in Canada and in Europe. A Heritage Horse is different. Their outlook is different. Their look is different. Hopefully, the near future will see more Heritage Walkers giving their owners pleasure on the trail and on the rail around the country.

## **“Don’t Go To Tennessee With An Empty Trailer”**

**By: Joan Hendricks**

In October of 2005, Diane Sczepanski and Nancy Bergman invited me along to Tennessee to return a stallion Diane had borrowed for the season and to pick up a load of horses in Tennessee for Diane. They were looking for someone to help with the long, long drive. So, I said "Yes", it would be fun to visit Tennessee.

Before we left, I looked at the Heritage Society web site to see the horses for sale, just for kicks. We visited Billy and Danny Taylor's farms. Danny had a 2-yr-old filly that followed me around while we were at his farm. I had seen her on the web site with a few grandchildren sitting on her back when she was a yearling. Then we visited the Leon Oliver and Marty Lowe's farms. We ended the day at Harry and Franne Brandon's farm.

Diane decided not to buy one of the horses she had planned to buy. What should we do with the empty stall that will now be in the trailer on the way home? Will Diane buy a different horse?? I am waiting for her to decide what to do while I keep thinking of the filly at Danny's farm. I finally mention to Diane that I like that No Fear Merry filly and that decides what we will do with the empty trailer in the stall. I make a deal with Danny and No Fear Merry is coming home with me!

What was I thinking? I'm 65 years old and bought an untrained 2-yr-old filly from Danny Taylor. I have had and trained horses all my life, but I've never had a Tennessee Walker and don't know anything about any special techniques for training them. Not only that, but at my age, I will have to hire someone to start her for me.

It's October so there is some nice weather for me to do some ground work with this No Fear Merry filly. I put a saddle on her. She doesn't care. I flap the stirrups. She doesn't care. I put some long lines on her to drive her. She doesn't want to move with me behind her. I push on her rump as hard as I can. No reaction. One of my neighbors is riding by on her bicycle. She has to stop and see what in the world I am doing standing out by the barn pushing on this horse's rump. I'm embarrassed but Carol scratches her and plays with her head and thinks she is a really nice horse.

Next I try to pony her with the horse that has been her buddy since I brought her home from Tennessee. That works better than ground driving. I always do this with a saddle on the horse being ponied. With this horse, I can also put my weight in the stirrup and even lie across her back without getting all the way on. No reaction to any of this.

One day I decided to pony her over to my sister's place to show my sister how mellow No Fear Merry is. I have given her a barn name. She is now called Tweak. I will only have to "tweak" her a little and she will be fully trained. My sister, of course, is not satisfied with what I have done so far. I show her how I can step in the stirrup and lie across "Tweak's" back. My sister leads her around with me lying on her back. "She's not going to do anything," says my sister. "Put your leg over and sit up on her." This is the commitment hard to make at my age. It's easy to slide off when both legs are still on one side of the horse if something happens.

Old fool that I am, I let my sister convince me nothing will happen. So, there goes my leg over the top and I'm sitting up there all tense. My sister starts leading Tweak around her yard with me aboard. No reaction. My sister gets on the horse I had used to pony Tweak to her house. Off we go for my first half hour ride on my new horse.

Someone in Tennessee said these Echo horses are born broke. I have to agree!



**Joan on “Tweak” June 2006**

## News & Congratulations!

Congratulations to Leon Oliver of Brown Shop Road Farm for selling eight horses in two days! That has to be a record.

Congratulations to Billy Taylor for selling Echo's Bon Bon to Angelo Guerri of Crema, Italy. Bon Bon is the very first Tennessee Walking Horse to be exported to Italy. We are proud Angelo chose a Heritage Horse to be Italy's first Tennessee Walking Horse! Bon Bon was in foal to Sun's Smokey Midnight when she left for Italy and delivered a gorgeous black sabino colt for Angelo.



Congratulations to Dale Miemietz! Dale is the resident foal and horse trainer/breeding assistant/all around helper for Northern Foundations Farm in Wisconsin. Dale was selected as Wisconsin's candidate for the National FFA Stars Over America award. His category was Star in Agriculture. Highlights of Dale's application included his work at Northern Foundations Farm, University of Colorado's Equine Reproduction short course, and the Bugle Lake Restoration Project in Independence, Wisconsin. Dale also interned for the River Country Resource Conservation & Development Council during the summer of 2005, as well as assisting the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service. He's a busy guy!



**Dale with Chance June 2006**

Congratulations to Billy Taylor for selling Echo's Midnight Lace to Eli Kapshuk of Israel. Lace is a full sister to Echo's Bon Bon. She will be leaving for Israel in 2007. Both of these mares are daughters of Sun's Midnight Bonnie, one of Billy's two Midnight Sun granddaughters.



**Billy Taylor with Echo's Midnight Lace**

## Congratulations to the newly Certified Heritage Horses!

Slush Creek's Jubal S., Stallion, Owned by Mark & Shellie Pacovsky, Bainville, Montana

Ebony's Country Charm, Mare, Owned by Mark & Shellie Pacovsky, Bainville, Montana

Dakota Gambler BB Cake, Mare, Owned by Mark & Shellie Pacovsky, Bainville, Montana

Go Boy's Fancy Gal, Mare, Owned by Dan & Rebecca Berkstrom, Weyers Cave, Virginia

Remembrance's Bonfire, Stallion, Owned by Barb Christensen, Blackfoot, Idaho

Go Boy's Windwalker, Stallion, Owned by Nya Bates, Melba, Idaho

Echo's Yellow Rose, Mare, Owned by John Lee, Marshville, North Carolina

## Congratulations to buyers of Heritage Horses!!

Sterling's Jolie Allure, Mare, purchased by Greg McCandless & Katherine Dunlop, Jacksonville, Florida

The Society's Fashion Lady (was Generose), Mare, purchased by Neil & Barbara Earl, Indiana

Echo's Nancy J., Mare, purchased by Gwen Moberly, Russellville, Kentucky

NFF Jimmie Gray Wilson, Stallion purchased by Judy Malisheski, Sheldon, Wisconsin

Ostella Walking Tod, Weanling Colt, going to Georgia

## **Congratulations to Buyers (Cont)**

Ostellas Mark of Bullet, Weanling Colt, going to Georgia

Ostella's Bullet Brook, Weanling Colt, going to Georgia

Mark's June Girl, Mare, New Owner: Angelo Guerici, Crema, Italy

Echo's Midnight Lace, Mare, purchased by Eli Kapshuk, Israel

Sabino Filly by Dan Allen, out of Sun's Midnight Rena, Sold, going to South Carolina

## **"First Tennessee Walking Horses sets foot in Denmark" By: Sandra van den Hof**

On October 31st the first Tennessee Walking Horse arrived in Praesto, Denmark. Proud owner is Lotte Scott who realized a dream with the purchase of Pleasure's Ltd. Edition, a bay Walking Horse filly bred by Pleasure Gaits TWH in Belgium.

Over the years, Tennessee Walking Horses have gained more popularity on the European continent. These smooth gaited horses can be found in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Norway, Switzerland and The Netherlands. Denmark however was still without Walking Horses until Lotte Scott acquired a fine young filly from Pleasure Gaits TWH in Belgium.

Lotte Scott and Sandra van den Hof, owner Pleasure Gaits TWH, had been communicating about Walking Horses for over 5 years. Lotte is familiar with gaited horses and owns Icelandics herself. A Walking Horse however was still on her wish list. For several seasons Lotte contacted Pleasure Gaits for a Walking Horse filly but somehow she was always either too late or the mares only delivered stud colts like last year. This year however, Lotte was the first to know about the newborn filly that Ostella Bay Rose delivered on May 28. Without any hesitation Lotte purchased the filly the next day. The bay foal was named Pleasure's Ltd. Edition, barn name L.E. (Elly). The sire is Heritage stallion Tsuniah's H.B., a Canadian bred and raised stallion that moved to Switzerland several years ago. This stallion had been at stud at Pleasure Gaits in Belgium for two seasons and has several more offspring in Europe.

Lotte still had to wait several more months before she could finally meet her long desired TWH filly face to face. Finally, at 5 months of age, Elly was weaned and ready to

be picked up by her owner. They arranged a beautiful van that offered a very safe stable environment for the long trip this filly had to overcome. After a ten hour drive we finally got the call that both foal and owner arrived safely in Denmark where a crowd was waiting to welcome Elly to her new home.

We are proud one of our babies is the ambassador of the breed in Denmark. We wish Lotte and Elly best of luck and many smooth trails.

## **Announcing the Natural Walking Horses of Europe!**

Some of you might have heard already we were working hard on building a new website to promote the natural Walking Horse in Europe.

Another new website? Yes! Is it necessary? We think so. But this one is different:

[www.naturalwalkinghorses.eu](http://www.naturalwalkinghorses.eu) is created to identify the natural Walking Horse trainer, owner, breeder and supporter. We aim to focus on giving a good example and educate people on how to get the best out of their Tennessee Walking Horse with good horsemanship.

The official launch of the website will be announced at the European TWHBEA Championship which starts this Friday.

You are privileged to take a sneak preview on [www.naturalwalkinghorses.eu](http://www.naturalwalkinghorses.eu) today. We are positive you all agree with the statement and appreciate it a lot if you take the opportunity to be one of the first to sign.

Feel free to drop us a note. We are open for questions and comments.

Email Sandra van den Hof at [info@Pleasuregaits.com](mailto:info@Pleasuregaits.com)

## **“Trail Riding at East Fork” By: Bob Long**

What started as a “ wouldn’t it be fun to “ discussion around a pot-bellied stove in the Delina Store, finally became reality over the Memorial Day weekend 2006.

The original concept was to get together a group of individuals that all owned and rode horses sired by Leon Oliver’s, Bud’s Sterling Bullet. That thought quickly expanded and a group of 20 some individuals gathered from across Tennessee and Georgia at The East Fork Stables near Jamestown, Tennessee, to ride the beautiful mountains of the Cumberland Plateau.

Trail mounts included Heritage and Heritage cross horses sired by Bud’s Sterling Bullet, Red Bud’s Rascal and Sonic Boom Sensation. The group was guided by trail boss Mike Hamilton and his posse from Knoxville, Tennessee, and included Tom Connor and Norman Hunley from Greeneville, Tennessee, the Benefield family from Georgia, along with Leon Oliver, Buddy Oliver, John Oliver and Bob Long from Middle Tennessee.

The weather cooperated and the ride was spectacular through open meadows, hardwood stands crisscrossed by spring fed creeks, and around the canyon rims that the area is noted for. The riders took many opportunities to stop along the way to enjoy the beautiful mountain overlooks and vistas.

Good friends and good horses, combined with the wonderful home cooking and mountain music provided by the East Fork crew, resulted in a unanimous vote to not only make the Memorial Day outing an annual event but to expand the venue to include an annual fall ride.



**Some of the gorgeous scenery on the ride**



**The Gang at East Fork**

## **Visit us on our websites:**

[www.walking-horse.com/twzheritagesociety/](http://www.walking-horse.com/twzheritagesociety/)  
and  
[www.twzheritagehorses.50megs.com](http://www.twzheritagehorses.50megs.com)

## **Contact us:**

Franne & Harry Brandon, Petersburg, TN  
(931) 276-2232

Sandra van den Hof, Hectel, Belgium  
+32 (0) 11 666 158

Leon & Mary Lou Oliver, Cornersville, TN  
(931) 293-4156

Danny & Sherry Taylor, Winchester, TN  
(931) 967-9553

Billy & Mary Taylor, Winchester, TN  
(931) 967-9621

Diane Szczepanski, Whitehall, WI  
(715) 538-2494