

1st Annual Sporthorse Stallion Expo a Resounding Success!

By Eliza Sydnor

On a beautiful, chilly January 5, in Raleigh, NC, over 250 spectators came to enjoy the first annual Sporthorse Stallion Expo. It was a day filled with presentations of beautiful stallions and educational lectures on breeding. Twenty five stallions of various breeds were presented including Hanoverian, German Riding Pony, Oldenburg, Trakehner, Thoroughbred, Friesian, Knabstrupper, Gypsy Vanner and Spanish Colonial Mustang.

The event was the brainchild of Maryanna Haymon. Maryanna owns Marydell Farm in Columbus, NC, and is a successful breeder and stallion owner herself. She had discussed the idea of a European style stallion show with many people in the sporthorse breeding community throughout 2007, and starting in October began to bring the event together. Any sporthorse stallion was welcome, including jumpers, dressage horses, and driving horses. Maryanna included lectures throughout the day on various topics. The morning began with Don Kapper, an equine nutritionist from Progressive Nutrition, lecturing on "Feeding the Sporthorse From Conception to 3 Years." Before lunch Kathy St. Martin and Jos Motterhead of Equine-Reproduction.com talked about "The Problem Broodmare." Immediately following the lunch break Dr. Fernando Cardenas gave a lecture concerning "Being Prepared for Foaling." The day ended with a round-table discussion, led in part by Denny Emerson, former USEA President, and Jeanne McDonald, FEI "I" dressage judge. The discussion focused on the Universal Life Number, and how it can help to market the American-Bred horse, including ways breeders can be pro-active in getting the number implemented.

The stallions gave incredible performances over fences in the morning and in dressage in the afternoon. Each stallion had 10 minutes in the arena and performed to a musical selection of his owner's choice. Many of the older stallions were represented by their offspring, either in hand or under saddle. This was not your typical, quiet horse event! Many of the stallions performed to entertaining music selections such as, "I'm too Sexy," and the crowd was encouraged to cheer loudly for each stallion.

The day ended with an amazing show, as 12 of the stallions rode into the coliseum together and performed to "Macho Man" and "It's Raining Men." It was a beautiful example of the kind and willing dispositions of these stallions, as they all calmly trotted and cantered around the arena together, lining up at the end stirrup to stirrup for a final salute to the audience.

The event would not have been possible without the generous sponsorship of Pepperwood Farm, Marydell Farm, Markel Insurance and the NCDCTA. The event was very well organized, and Maryanna Haymon is already hard at work on next year's 2nd Annual Sporthorse Stallion Expo. It will again be held in Raleigh at the Hunt Horse Complex, this time over two days. Mark your calendars for January 3-4, 2009!

The following stallions were presented:

Artrageous – 2002 Thoroughbred (Artrax/Alysheba) owned by Cheryl Knobloch of Fox Haven Farm. Artrageous performed in both jumping and dressage at the expo. He impressed many in the audience with his jumping ability. He will be competing this year in 3-day eventing.

Atlantis of Asgard – 2001 Knabstrupper (Adonis of Asgard/Stjernephrinsen af Vejrup) owned by Bec Stud. Atlantis was free jumped in the morning to show his incredible talent over fences. This year he will begin his career in 3-day eventing.

Cayuse Gold – 2001 Colonial Spanish Mustang (Jessie James/Wyoming Kid) owned and ridden by Sharon Sluss. This rare breed was well represented by both father and offspring. He impressed many with his good gaits and ability over fences.

Decoupage – 1999 Oldenburg (Art Deco/Diwan) owned and ridden by Tiffany Hattler of Weatherlea Warmbloods. This boy wowed the crowd with his incredible movement. He has been competed through 4th level in dressage.

Don Principe – 1999 Hanoverian (Donnerhall/Prince Thatch) owned by Maryanna Haymon of Marydell Farm, ridden by Jim Koford. This show stopper started the day with a great pas de deux to “Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better” and then returned with a super freestyle to “Do You Think I’m Sexy” that had the crowd cheering. He was also well represented by his lovely offspring.

Donatelli – 1993 Oldenburg (Donnerhall/Pik Bube) owned by Shooting Star Farm. Donatelli was a favorite with his Grand Prix freestyle to “I’m Too Sexy.” He will continue to compete at the Grand Prix in 2008 with rider Jim Koford.

Edison – 2003 Hanoverian (Escudo I/Wolkenstein II) owned by Robin Stewart. Edison showed his talent over fences in the free jumping portion of the morning and then came back in the afternoon to show of his beautiful movement for dressage under rider Jim Koford.

Leendert Leopold – 2003 Friesian (Frans 289/Lars 278) owned by One Pond Ranch. This sleek stallion was presented in tandem driving after the lunch break. Many in the audience had never seen this before, and everyone was impressed with both this stallion, and the rider, Stacy Griffin’s ability to control two horses at one time! He was then unhitched and ridden by Bruce Griffin to show his excellent rideability.

Murdo Mackenzie – 2004 Gypsy Vanner owned and ridden by Muffy Seaton of Sheperd’s Purse Farm. This little guy was one of the smallest stallions, but by the

end of the day he had one of the biggest fan clubs! He was very well behaved for such a young stud as he presented himself in dressage in the afternoon.

Nastase – 1996 Friesian (Brandus/Fietse) owned by Mary Dixon of Forerunner Farm . Presented by Jim Koford, this powerful guy represented a beautiful example of his breed.

Orion – 1998 Oldenburg (Heisman/The Silver Baron) owned by Renee Weidel of Steeple Hill Farm. This lovely stallion showed his ability over fences in the morning.

Pegasus Pure Gold – 2002 Thoroughbred (Billionaire/Pontoise) owned and ridden by Anne Kaufman of Pegasus Farm. Everyone was impressed by this gorgeous palomino with his beautiful movement and talent for jumping. He has already proven himself as a successful event horse and will continue moving up the levels of 3-day eventing this year.

Prince Champ – 2001 Hanoverian (Prince Thatch/Longchamp) owned by Pineland Farms, ridden by Brendan Curtis. Epitomizing a well-rounded sporthorse, this stallion wowed with his jumping ability in the morning (well over 4 feet) and his dressage presentation (at 4th level) in the afternoon.

Prince Optimus – 1988 Hanoverian (Pinkus/Matcho) owned by Eleanor Eltoft of Elandale Farm. This handsome gentleman might have been the oldest stallion there, but he did not seem to know it! He strutted his stuff in hand as his many offspring presented themselves both over fences and in dressage. It was clear that he passed on his athletic ability and incredibly kind disposition.

Richmond HL – 2004 Hanoverian (Rotspon/Davignon) owned by Lucile Broadley of Honey Locust Farm, ridden by Eliza Sydnor. This stunning young guy just returned from the 100 Day Stallion Testing where he finished 3rd in dressage. He impressed everyone at the expo with his outstanding movement and handled it all expertly, especially for a 3 ½ year old! Everyone is excited for his competitive debut this year in the FEI 4 Year old tests.

Rolling Stone – 1996 Oldenburg (Rubinstein/Figaro) owned by Judy Arnold of Stonecrop Farm, ridden by Stacey Hastings. Rolling Stone, a crowd favorite, was the other half of the morning's great pas de deux to "Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better" and then returned with his lovely offspring to "My Father Was a Rolling Stone."

Schiffon – 1995 Trakehner (Anduc/Mago xx) owned and ridden by Lee Ann Hansen of Glamorgan Manor. This lovely stallion represented the Trakehner breed beautifully as he showed off movements from the I-1 level.

Sea Accounts xx – 1999 Thoroughbred (Sea Hero/Private Account) owned by Cyndi DeBracy. The fences just kept getting higher and higher for this statuesque

boy as Christian Trainor jumped him to over 5 feet! Everyone was impressed by his excellent manners.

Sheik of Hallundback – 2004 Knabstrupper (Figaro of Hallundback/Don Ibrahim) owned by Raven Walters of LaRen Stud. This young splashy boy showed off his super talent for jumping in the morning. This young stallion is the only one of his breed to be tested in a 30 day RPSI stallion performance test.

Staccato – 1999 Dutch Warmblood (Idocus/Domino) owned by Yolanda Williamson of Terraceia Farm. Jim Koford rode yet another lovely boy to a wonderful freestyle of movements from the Prix St Georges level.

Sweet Rock Solid – 2002 German Riding Pony (Sweet Dream SF/Downland Donner) owned by Louise Rascoe of Longview Farm, ridden by Bailey Cook. A crowd favorite for sure! This adorable pony looks like a stuffed animal but moves like a top dressage horse! He will continue his successful dressage career at 2nd level in 2008.

Tantris – 1989 Oldenburg (Traumdeuter/Aktuell) owned and ridden by Jeanne McDonald of Turning Point Farm. A beautiful pas de trois was performed by this boy along with two of his sons. Tantris also showed off with Grand Prix movements in the finale to much applause.

Walldorf – 1979 Hanoverian (Watzmann/Perser xx) owned by Judy Arnold of Stonecrop Farm. Walldorf would have been proud of his two lovely offspring that showed his ability to pass along wonderful dispositions coupled with outstanding athleticism.

Wildcard – 1990 Hanoverian (Western Star/Picard) owned by Judy Arnold of Stonecrop Farm, ridden by Stacey Hastings. Wildcard was shown under saddle by Stacey Hastings and was represented by two beautiful daughters. He showed off his flashy gaits and level headed mind, which he clearly passes on to his offspring.

Wilmington HL – 2001 Hanoverian (Waikiki/Fabriano) owned by Lucile Broadley of Honey Locust Farm, ridden by Eliza Sydnor. This handsome boy impressed the crowd with his three outstanding gaits. He has been very successful in dressage shows with Eliza and will hopefully continue that trend this year!