



KWPN
NORTH AMERICA

HARNESS HORSE NEWS

Hello! We are thrilled to be kicking off Spring with great articles from contributors Bill Duffy and Erin Shea. Thank you both for the quality content you provide on a regular basis. As we are all thrilled to be attending shows in person again, we highlight two major events in this issue: one in Edinburgh, IN and the other in Devon, PA. We hope to see you there in support of our strong harness horse community.

Thank you for your ongoing enthusiasm for our newsletter!

With thanks,
KWPN-NA Harness Committee

Upcoming Events!

See inside pages for more details on these premier events:

- THE NATIONAL DRIVE
- THE DEVON HORSE SHOW

Schmucker Family Breeding

BY BILL DUFFY and ERIN SHEA



Mijona

If you talk to many serious horse breeders, one thing I think you will find they will universally agree on is the importance of a quality mare line in the program. From a young age, that is exactly what Martin Schmucker, of New Haven, Indiana, learned to focus on. His father was a breeder of Belgian Draft horses, and always put a strong emphasis on having a strong, quality mare line. His father had very notable success with one mare in particular, who raised 5 top quality foals, sired by 5 different stallions. That accomplishment did not go unnoticed, and this mentality has proven successful as Martin eventually began his own successful breeding program.

Growing up, Martin and his brother enjoyed the Belgians, but also appreciated lighter type horses, and found themselves breeding road horses with Saddlebred/Standardbred crosses.

When Martin saw his first Dutch Harness Horse in 2000, he was, like so many others, instantly hooked. He was blown away by the type, movement, conformation and presence that really make the Dutch Harness Horse stand out from so many other breeds of horse. At the time, the breed was successfully being crossed with Standardbreds for road horses, but Martin was inspired to breed and raise purebred Dutch Harness Horses and really increase the quality of this amazing breed.

Patijn's breeding (Kolonel x Renovo) was a favorite of Martin's, and in 2012 he found and imported from The Netherlands a Keur daughter of his, named Dijona. She has produced for him top quality foals, including the 2018 2 year old KWPN National Champion, who was sired by Vaandrager. Dijona has a beautiful 4 year old daughter, Mijona, by Hermanus who has already seen success in the fine harness ring, and who is currently in foal to Manno, due this spring. In 2018, Martin had yet another product of his breeding program named KWPN National Champion, a weanling filly by Hermanus out of his Reflex M x Manno mare, Emy Duca.

Schmucker Family Breeding

Continued from front cover



In the meantime, in 2013, Patijn himself was imported to the US, much to the excitement of the Dutch Harness community. Martin took this opportunity to breed Emy Duca to the great stallion, and she produced a colt that Martin exported to The Netherlands as a stallion prospect, something very few breeders have done.

In 2015, after the untimely death of Patijn, Martin went in on a partnership to import one of Patijn's approved sons, Hermanus. Hermanus, bred by G. Hermanussen, was the Champion of the 2015 Stallion Selection in 's-Hertogenbosch, in The Netherlands, and also comes from a strong mare line. His dam, Biantha V is an elite mare by Manno, and out of the Keur Preferent mare Niantha, by Renovo, who has won multiple championships.

Always looking for interesting bloodlines to increase the gene pool of the breed, and having admired the Hackney Horses that Ron Egan had, Martin purchased the Hackney x Dutch Harness Horse mare Iota, who was bred in the US by Myron Miller. He found her to have the natural talent that every breeder and driver loves, as well as a real desire to show. She was a successful show horse for him, and Martin currently has a 2 year old stud colt out of her, by Hermanus that is proving to really be an exciting prospect for the future.

What does the future hold for the successful breeding program Martin has created? He can't see himself ever getting out of it but has downsized his herd a bit. He is holding onto a few quality mares to breed to Hermanus, and their fillies he will breed to outside stallions, keeping with his standards and goals of creating the best Dutch Harness Horses possible.

Continuing with the generations of horsemen in his family, Martin really enjoys sharing the horses and the breeding with his sons. His boys had amazing opportunities to learn from some of the US' top Dutch Harness trainers, Ron Egan and Wim Cazemier, as well as Roelof Van T Oever from the Netherlands, and they soaked it up like sponges. They have taken what they've learned and been able to apply it to their own young horses and really show the best of what their breeding program has to offer.

Martin's favorite time of year is the KWPN-NA Keuring, where he gets to display the results of his years of effort with breeding, and so far he has several National Top 5 horses, as well as no fewer than 2 National Champions. With any luck, the KWPN-NA will be able to host their keurings in 2021, after unfortunately having to cancel in 2020, and we will get to see what this great breeding program has produced since we saw them in 2019! •

The Happy Atleet

BY ERIN SHEA and BILL DUFFY

IT IS ALWAYS EXCITING TO US BREEDERS WHEN AN ACCOMPLISHED STALLION COMES OVER FROM EUROPE TO STAND AT STUD. WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE AND IMPORT ATLEET.

In the fall of 2019, after years of trying to breed a stallion and only getting fillies, we finally decided to bite the bullet and buy one. Finding exactly what we were looking for was proving challenging, so we reached out to some of our contacts in the Netherlands. At the time, Atleet was not for sale (of course we had to ask!) and we ultimately ended up purchasing Macho in February of 2020. Macho has worked out like a dream so far, better than we could have ever hoped for, really. So well, however, that we decided to stand him at stud in the Netherlands, and give him the opportunity to breed mares over there. This decision still left us without a stallion to stand and show here in the US.

Throughout the spring and summer of 2020, we developed a relationship with Macho's trainers, Robbie and Chantal Van Dijk, which led us to the Van Manen family and their stallion station. Jan Van Manen wanted the chance to stand Macho at his farm, with the company of legends such as Atleet and Cizandro. Standing Macho at such a well respected farm sounded like a great opportunity to get Macho the quality of breedings that he deserves. This relationship with Jan Van Manen opened the door for a conversation about buying Atleet. We were able to work out a deal with him, and in January 2021, Atleet made the trip from The Netherlands to The United States.

Atleet is one of the breed's most proven producers, receiving the incredibly prestigious Keur predicate, and will be an excellent breeding compliment to Macho in both type and genetics. We are very excited to have him here and so far, he is everything we had hoped he would be. We cannot wait to see his first US foal crop in 2022! •



Atleet

KWPN-NA
HARNES HORSE SHOWS UPDATE



THE NATIONAL DRIVE

APRIL 29 - MAY 2, 2021

Hoosier Horse Park in Edinburgh, IN

This semi-annual event is where combined driving people get together with their horses... carriage driving for everyone! They would be excited to see some KWPN harness horses there. Call Aaron with questions at **717-475-5917** or call directly to register. The event runs Thursday morning through Sunday evening. You may arrive on Wednesday and leave Monday morning, if you like. Come for the day or the whole event. Attendees from previous years have this to say:

"The National Drive is a stand-alone event, unique in its purpose, with a growing following of equestrians from varied backgrounds, enjoying countless types of activities while riding and driving many different kinds of equines, all coming together to enjoy the camaraderie and non-competitive atmosphere with only two rules - be safe and have fun."

REGISTRATION FORMS & SCHEDULES AT:

WEBSITE - nationaldrive.net

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CALL - 217-621-7845 (leave a message)

EMAIL - thenationaldrive@gmail.com



THE DEVON HORSE SHOW

MAY 26 - JUNE 6, 2021

Devon Horse Show & County Fair in Devon, PA

The Devon Horse Show and Country Fair is the oldest and largest outdoor multi-breed horse show in the United States and so much more. Devon attracts competitors, spectators, and visitors from around the world. It's more than just another equestrian event, for many is a family tradition that spans generations and marks the start of summer.

This year the Devon Horse Show is hosting an open fine harness class where the KWPN dutch harness will be eligible to show! As there are many events on the calendar for this one, and more being added, please contact them directly with questions.

VIEW SPECIAL EVENTS & SCHEDULES AT:

WEBSITE - devonhorseshow.net

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CALL - 610-964-2723



Update on Governor

The KWPN licensed stallion, Governor, has been sold to Rachel Barrett. He will be trained by Sarah Stinneford of Sarah Stinneford Equestrian in Newfoundland, NJ. He was castrated prior to the sale and they plan on putting him on

the dressage program immediately. The goal for training is to show Governor in dressage by this summer, and feel that with his good mindset it will be possible!



Governor



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If you are interested in advertising in our newsletter, please contact Aaron Jay Fisher at 717-475-5917 (KWPN-NA Office).