



Tricia WACLENA Promoting THE MORGAN HORSE IN GEORGIA

by Sara Pizzuto

Tricia Waclena moved south to Georgia for warmer weather but was soon tasked with helping the state to “warm up” to the idea of Morgan horses. She made the decision to uproot her life and travel to a location free from the dreary winters that continuously plagued her then life in the Northeast. This move led her to the land of the peaches, choosing Canton, GA. as her new home. However, Tricia soon realized that Georgia lacked a Morgan presence, and made it her goal to introduce the community to the horse she loved. She opened the doors to her Rosewood Farm and welcomed new clients to meet her Morgans.

“The Morgans were my love, so my dream became to promote the Morgans in this state and in this area where I lived, so I just started one step at a time,” Tricia said.

Tricia’s passion for Morgans began at Tanglewood Farm in upstate New York. She was a mere four years old when she had her first riding lesson. Her time at the barn increased as she earned daily lessons in exchange for work, and later joined the staff as an instructor and an assistant to Tanglewood’s Cindy Stanton. While at Tanglewood, she accepted a position teaching students in Syracuse University’s college riding program. It was then that she knew she wanted to become a trainer and made educating other riders and their horses her full time career.

“I love the horses and I love the people,” she said. “There’s nothing else I would rather do. I tried to do a few other things to see if I could find another path where I could just have and show my own horses and I was lost without it really. It’s just a part of who I am. I really don’t want to do anything but this.”

Upon graduation from college, Tricia made the long trek from New York to Georgia. The

Stanton’s from Tanglewood Farm gifted Tricia a Morgan mare by the name of Shad O Val Celeste, who accompanied Tricia down south.

Celeste became Tricia’s first Morgan at her barn in Georgia and also marked the start of Tricia’s breeding program. The mare was brought to Georgia in foal to the park horse Directus. She produced a filly by the name of RWD Direct Class GCH, who went on to win a myriad of accolades with Tricia.

“I won numerous world championships with her in dressage up through fourth level in Oklahoma,” Tricia said. “She was very versatile and also won over fences as well as the bridle path hack, and many other titles in Oklahoma.”

Tricia’s breeding program continued as she soon bred Direct Class. Her third foal sired by Magenta’s Mad Moonshine CH was born earlier this year.

“He’s a big black colt who is strikingly like his dad in looks,” Tricia said. “He has a good brain and is going to be fun. I really love him.”

With the help of Tricia’s breeding program and training services, Rosewood Farm is now home to 28 Morgan horses.

Rosewood FARM



Shad O Val Celeste was the first Morgan that Tricia had in Georgia and marked the start of her breeding program. She went on to produce World Champion RWD Direct Class GCH, who recently gave birth to a black colt by Magenta's Mad Moonshine CH.



"One step at a time I have filled my barn with Morgans and introduced people to them and developed a community of wonderful people that have a love for the breed here," Tricia said. "We came from almost nothing to a full barn of Morgans, so it is exciting."

A day at the busy Rosewood Farm begins in the wee hours of the morning. Tricia and her new assistant trainer Hannah Doyle work between 15-18 horses per day.

"Hannah is really stepping it up and getting the hang of things as we are starting into the new show season," she said. "She helps me keep things flowing and helps with the youngsters. We have got a couple of young ones that we are starting now that will be under saddle in the next 30 days or so."

Training ceases by 1:30 in the afternoon, to make time for lessons. Many of Tricia's students leave school by noon and spend the rest of their day in the barn. These riders are all preparing for the upcoming shows that Rosewood will be attending.

Two of those riders, sisters Amberleigh and Ella Kate Payne are among Tricia's youngest students. RWF Paganini GCH is Amberleigh's new mount for the walk/trot hunter pleasure division. The Payne family purchased the multi-titled world champion immediately following the Morgan Grand National last year.

"He is so fun to ride," Tricia said. "We have had a blast with him so far."

Younger sister Ella Kate has stepped up to show her sister's former hunter mount, French Flambeau GCH for the first time this year. Ella

Kate and "Connor" already have championship wins from Gasparilla and Citrus Cup this season.

Both girls additionally star in the western pleasure division. Amberleigh is partnered with Magenta's Mad Moonshine CH this year, while Ella Kate will ride Tracemark Top Shelf GCH.

Their father Porter said that both of his daughters thoroughly enjoy riding with Tricia.

"They both have a significant want for learning and improving," he said. "With Tricia, they get consistent coaching, mentoring and someone who truly loves and cares for them, well beyond the competitive arena. All of us, trainers, parents and riders have an unsaid understanding, we never settle and never stop learning, we never stop improving, and the goal always is to have fun and be a classy competitor."

Another competitor from Rosewood Farm, Isabel Davis, is partnering with MEM Star Power and Batali in both the walk/trot saddle seat and western pleasure divisions respectively. Isabel's mother Valorie appreciates the dedication that Tricia shows to each of her riders.

"There is no better trainer than Tricia," Valorie said. "We love her, and she loves her horses and her girls that show."

Whitney Shapiro feels the same way. This Rosewood student is paired with The Mastercraft SS in the hunter pleasure and equitation divisions this year. Whitney said that Tricia is an incredibly generous trainer that does so much for her entire barn family.

"Tricia is just the absolute best because she puts up with my crazy stories and always answers questions I have, sharing her vast knowledge of horses," she said. "She's super patient and always wanting to teach. It's easy to tell that she really cares about her riders, which is really comforting. When I'm feeling a little down, she is always ready with a joke."

The Rosewood Farm hunter pleasure contenders continue with sisters Skyler and Danielle James, and their horses Sarde's Satisfaction, AW Disturbing The Piece, and PLK Shamrock



Tricia's riders consider her part of their families and think of her as an incredible trainer and mentor.

Rosewood FARM



With a successful academy program, Tricia prides herself in introducing new families in Georgia to the Morgan horse.

Spirit. The girls' mother, Deb, says that Tricia is an amazing trainer, mentor, and friend to her daughters.

"She has been an invaluable part of Skyler and Danielle's lives," Deb said. "We think of her as family and can't thank her enough for everything she does every day, in every way."

Skyler also stars over fences with her hunter/jumper partner Aikane's A Pair Of Aces. Tricia explained that they are also competitive in open competition against other breeds.

"I think that when you have a horse that loves to jump, they can really excel in that area," she said. "It takes a special mind and a special braveness and heart, and they just have to have a certain drive to do well over fences. And when a Morgan is good at it, I think they are incredible. Our Aikane's A Pair Of Aces horse, he can go and show against the Warmbloods and he does fantastic. He can hold his own."

This horse is one of many sport horses that Tricia trains in her barn. In addition to the hunter/jumpers, Tricia also focuses on dressage instruction. Tricia grew up riding with a strong dressage background and finds that the techniques of dressage can be applied to all styles of riding.

"I feel like putting some of the dressage basics of balance and light to the leg and soft in the mouth and supple in the bridle creates the type of animal that you can show in any arena," she said. "Whether it be an English pleasure horse or a western horse or a show hunter, I think that dressage puts the important basics on all disciplines. That is truly an important part of all riding to me."

Tricia stressed the significance of the sport horses in the breed, and her hope for them to gain more attention and notoriety at each horse show. She suggested not limiting these riders only one day to show their horse as opposed to four days at a longer horse show.

"I think the sport horses whether it be the dressage, the carriage driving horses, the over fences horses, I think they need to make sure that they are treated as just as an important part of the show world also," she said.

Regardless of the division, or type of saddle, Tricia's infatuation with the Morgan horse has only increased since opening her own farm.

"I love the Morgan's heart and their soul and interactive nature," she said. "So many of my horses give back to me as the trainer and to their

owners. It matters to them how well they do and to see that partnership and the horses that are so proud to give it everything they have when they go in the show ring or they have a good lesson at home. The heart and soul of the Morgan horse is unmatched in my opinion."

As the new season unfolds, it is clear that Tricia's dedication and appreciation for the Morgan horse is unparalleled. She has introduced new riders to the breed and is sure to give a "warm welcome" to anyone that walks into Rosewood Farm.



Rosewood Farm is responsible for the success of many young riders, including walk-trotters, Ella Kate and Amberleigh Payne, and Isabel Davis.



The Rosewood Farm team is off to a great start in 2019. They brought home winning ribbons in a myriad of divisions at the recent Citrus Cup Regional.



Tricia has a love for sport horses and stresses their importance at Morgan horse shows. She is especially proud of Aikane's A Pair Of Ace and Skyler James, who excel in the over fences and dressage divisions.