



# Honoring HVK OBSIDIAN In Her Formal Retirement

*Editor's note: HVK Obsidian, BHOE was officially retired on Friday, October 14 at the Grand National and World Championship Morgan Horse Show. She was represented by one of her sons and three of her grandsons who all earned 2022 World Championships. The large and enthusiastic audience celebrated the legacy of HVK Obsidian during the ceremony and at the party held in her honor and hosted by Ling Fu Wylie and Iann Fu Longenecker following the evening session. Announcer Peter Fenton and the video presentation featured the following:*

**L**adies and Gentlemen, tonight Morgan Grand National salutes one of our two 2022 retirees, HVK Obsidian, BHOE. Although this beautiful black World Champion Mare is not with us in person tonight, she is present at Oklahoma through world titled offspring, grandsons and granddaughters, and, in turn, their winning offspring. This one mare's influence is everywhere in the contemporary Morgan horse show ring.

As queen of all she surveys at Dragonsmeade, HVK Obsidian is a cornerstone of one of our breed's most productive programs. She is also among the most important mares to come from another prominent program that of Kohler Stables, bearing the HVK prefix of the late Herbert V. Kohler, Jr.

As both a show horse and a broodmare, Obsidian is a signature daughter of the Triple Crown World Champion Stallion HVK Bell Flaire, whose influence on the show ring has been revolutionary. In addition, Obsidian boasts three crosses to the Kohler foundation stallion Vigilmarch, one through Bell Flaire and two through her dam, Dragonsmeade foundation mare HVK Dragon Fly.

But HVK Obsidian became "the next step" in advancing her royal breeding. In 2001 she was named World Champion Mare with Bob Hughes at the lead for Dragonsmeade. In 2007 she climaxed her performance career with rider Ling Fu Wylie, winning the Ladies Amateur English Pleasure World Championship, a division in which she had been twice reserve world champion in 2003 and 2006.

Obsidian's most important role for Dragonsmeade began when she entered their broodmare band. Today she is among the prestigious Broodmare Hall Of Fame recipients, an accolade she earned as the dam of five world champion offspring.

The first of Obsidian's world champion offspring was SLB Andiamo GCH, bred by Sherry Bartolucci when she owned the mare. At three years of age, Andiamo was the youngest Morgan ever crowned Pleasure Driving World Champion, with Bob Hughes on the lines. In addition, he was World Champion Amateur Pleasure Driving the next year for Helen

Crawford. And the gelding won the English Pleasure Ladies Amateur World Championship—the same title his dam won—twice for owner Kathleen Kabel.

Two signature sons born at Dragonsmeade were Dragonsmeade Icon, by Mizrahi in 2004, and Dragonsmeade Axios, sired by And The Beat Goes On in 2005.

As everyone in this audience knows, Icon lived up to his name being an iconic show horse for the Fu Family and for trainer Tim Roesink. He is among the few horses in the Morgan breed who can claim "Triple Crown" status for wins of Open World Championships, in his case World Champion Stallion (a title he won twice), 2011 Park Saddle World Champion, and 2015 Pleasure Driving World Champion. Among his other titles, Icon gave Iann Fu Longenecker three wins of the Park Saddle Amateur World Championship in 2009, 2010, and 2012.

Dragonsmeade Axios, sired by Dragonsmeade's highly decorated Amateur Park Harness World Champion, And The Beat Goes On, duplicated "Bud's" show ring accolades by being named Amateur Park Harness World Champion in 2014. Iann Fu Longenecker was in the four-wheel cart driving both of these horses to victory.

Over more than a decade services to Dragonsmeade Axios and Dragonsmeade Icon have netted the AMHECT/WMF Stallion Service Auction nearly \$90,000. Yet another contribution to Morgan breeding by these important sires.



Axios has two full brothers who have graced the winner's circle here at Oklahoma. Dragonsmeade Black Dragon GCH has as many as nine world and reserve world championships in the Classic Pleasure Division shown by both Madeline and Emma von Ballmoos and treasured throughout his career by the von Ballmoos and Gravel families. The youngest of the full brothers, Dragonsmeade Eltanin GCH dazzled Oklahoma when he won the Three-Year-Old Park Saddle World Championship in 2019 with Jenny Taylor riding. In 2021 he was Reserve World Open Park Saddle with Tim Roesink and he shows today in the amateur ranks with his owner Spencer Shelby Pilot.

Obsidian's importance goes so far beyond her immediate offspring. As we said at the beginning, her presence is felt everywhere in main ring competition here at Grand National and on the Morgan circuit.

Dragonsmeade Icon's show commitments meant he came to the breeding shed later than his half-brother Axios. Prior to his untimely death he accounted for 52 get. Multiple-world champion Dragonsmeade Spectre (x Dragonsmeade Ibarra) leads both the farm's breeding program and show string today. Other world titled offspring include Dragonsmeade Synergy, Dragonsmeade Anthracite GCH, Dragonsmeade Damsel, Dragonsmeade Mighty Quinn CH, Dragonsmeade IconicFusion, Dragonsmeade Synchronicity, and Stoney Point Bogart.

Dragonsmeade Axios, who passed away unexpectedly this year, got a head start in the breeding department siring 70 foals to date. He has been an overachiever as a breeding stallion. His first offspring to show, Dragonsmeade Sea Dragon, soared to spectacular success in both English pleasure and pleasure driving before he made a name himself as a sire of champions. Other world title holders sired by Axios include Dragonsmeade Hereafter, Dragonsmeade Cloisonne, Dragonsmeade Adele, Dragonsmeade Vendome, Dragonsmeade Dark'NStormy, Dragonsmeade Kept Secret, CN Awaited Masterpiece, Dragonsmeade Indochine, and Dragonsmeade Citadel.

To fully appreciate the contribution of Dragonsmeade Axios to Morgan breeding, consider this. At the 2021 Grand National his son Jus' Sayin' (out of Brenda Starr) was World Champion Stallion for Phil and Peggy Alderman. His grandson, MLF Dynamic GCH, sired by Dragonsmeade Sea Dragon, was Reserve World Champion Stallion for owner Deb Kindsfater—an enviable achievement few breeding stallions can claim.

Obsidian has been influential through her daughters as well. Dragonsmeade has retained Dragonsmeade Euphoria, Icon's full sister. She is the dam of Dragonsmeade Griffin, a young stallion already winning in this arena and for whom there are high expectations. Another full sister, Dragonsmeade Quintessence, sold at last year's Superior Sale for \$128,500, an astonishing price for a broodmare. She is the dam of Dragonsmeade Dress Blues by Dressed Up GCH. So valued is the bloodline that breeder Dan Kelley paid a record price for an embryo from Obsidian which produced the mare

VL Alegria for Victory Lane. She is the dam of both world champion VL Peekie Blinders and VL Enter The Dragon, who was named New England Regional English Pleasure Champion this summer.

Ladies and Gentlemen, witness just some of the influence of Hall of Fame Broodmare HVK Obsidian as we invite to the ring...

- Her son, Dragonsmeade Black Dragon GCH, a multiple world champion in the classic pleasure division and the joy of Nancy Gravel and her granddaughters Madeline and Emma von Ballmoos
- And HVK Obsidian's grandsons...
  - 2022 World Champion Gelding Dragonsmeade Synergy, a son of World Champion Dragonsmeade Icon
  - Multiple world champion from the amateur pleasure diving division for owner Nancy Hendricks, Dragonsmeade Vendome, a son of Dragonsmeade Axios
  - And the Dragonsmeade Icon son, crowned on Saturday as 2022 World Champion Stallion, RWF Dralion for owner by Jonathan Fisher

We see Obsidian in each and every one of her descendants.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you share your applause tonight for the retirement of a legend, remember you are saluting more than an individual, you are recognizing a mare who first descended from a Morgan breeding dynasty, before creating one of her own at Dragonmeade. We honor Broodmare Hall of Famer, World Champion, and matriarch of World Champions, HVK Obsidian, one of the best of our breed.



photo by Howie Schatzberg