

DRAGONSMEADE FARM

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Breeder Of The Year

BY SARA PIZZUTO



Dragonsmeade Axios is one of the prominent stallions that represent Dragonsmeade Farm. Both Iann Fu Longenecker and Ling Fu Wylie celebrated the success of his offspring, including the 2021 World Champion Stallion, Peggy and Phil Alderman's Jus' Sayin'.

Anticipation hangs in the air during the early spring months each year as breeders await their newest foal crop. For Dragonsmeade, a new year often means the birth of their future world champions—the start of what will lead to momentous achievements in the show ring. In the Morgan industry, horses bearing the Dragonsmeade prefix have become synonymous with success across a myriad of disciplines. From a foal's first steps after birth to their first trot through Oklahoma's Gateway Of Champions, Dragonsmeade has left their stamp on the industry through their homebreds. The success of the Fu family's breeding program has helped them earn your vote, for the impressive seventh time, as the People's Choice Breeder Of The Year.

Dragonsmeade Farm was established as a result of the late Yum Kee and Susan Fu and their involvement within the show career of their daughters Iann Fu Longenecker and Ling Fu Wylie. Both daughters were successful junior exhibitors and were greatly supported by their parents who quickly took an interest in the Morgan Horse breed.

"Ling and I grew up with our Morgan horses as constants in our lives," Iann Fu Longenecker said. "We made important lifelong memories with our parents over the years."

What began with a few broodmares blossomed into a thriving breeding operation in 1999 when Dragonsmeade Farm was established. Yum Kee Fu, a prominent architect, made it his mission to design the farm—creating an ideal establishment on 100 acres of land in Winchester, Kentucky. Dragonsmeade then began its rise to the top of the Morgan industry, drawing on influences from Kohler, Cedar Creek Farm, and Rock Walker Stables.

Susan Fu paid particular attention to the maternal line when breeding Dragonsmeade's homebreds. Those mares in their broodmare band crossed with their many world-titled stallions have produced notable champions in the industry, many of which excelled throughout the 2021 show season at the Morgan Grand National, resulting in Dragonsmeade being awarded with the 2021 AMHA Breeders Award.

Dragonsmeade Griffin is one of the Dragonsmeade bred entries who wore the roses in Oklahoma City last season. The son of JW Standing Tall and Dragonsmeade Euphoria, a full sister to Dragonsmeade Icon, made a sensational show ring debut at the Morgan Grand National with trainer Tim Roesink handling the presentation assignments. Roesink led the youngster to be crowned the Yearling Colt Grand National Champion, the Reserve World Champion Junior Stallion and the Futurity In-Hand Yearling Colt World Champion—a remarkable first horse show for this promising entry. Iann Fu Longenecker is optimistic for Dragonsmeade Griffin's future as both a sire as well as a performance horse, with his harness debut slated for the 2022 show season.

"It is interesting that 'Harry' is exactly what I imagined and hoped for when I called Mike Carpenter for Standing Tall's contract," Longenecker said. "Phenotypically and genotypically, he is what we'd like to infuse back into our Axios daughters. More importantly, he is a good thinker and he has a good work ethic without being too hot or frenetic."

Yet another colt with ties to Dragonsmeade made waves in 2021. The Fu family's breeding program shown through in Jus' Sayin', the reigning World Champion

Stallion, Peggy and Phil Alderman's homebred is sired by one of Dragonsmeade's prominent stallions, Dragonsmeade Axios, and out of Alderman's homebred mare Brenda Starr. His debut show season resulted in remarkable feats all achieved at the mere age of two.

"When we saw the cover of Jus' Sayin' on The Morgan Horse magazine we were immediately reminded of the only in hand shots we have of Axios from a photo shoot Shane Shiflet did at Grove Pointe Stables the first year he was there," Longenecker said. "Sire and son's stance and expression from the withers forward are almost identical. It is great fun to see. It would be fun to see the two stand side by side."

While colts like Dragonsmeade Griffin and Jus' Sayin' are in the midst of their burgeoning careers, other show ring veterans have successfully represented the Dragonsmeade breeding programs with their lengthy careers. Dragonsmeade Black Dragon GCH made four victory passes in his four classic pleasure classes in Oklahoma City last season with sisters Emma and Madeline von Ballmoos, while Dragonsmeade Vendome added yet another pleasure driving world title to his extensive resume. Dragonsmeade Varvatos GCH was draped in the roses as the English Pleasure Youth World Champion and both Dragonsmeade Kept Secret and Dragonsmeade Anthracite CH scored additional English pleasure top honors.

"As breeders we can't keep them all," Longenecker said. "Our trainers know that finding good homes is paramount. World champions sell themselves, and everyone needs to have a chance to enjoy showing and being successful."

Yet another Dragonsmeade homebred, Dragonsmeade Eltanin earned the ultimate distinction as the Park Saddle Reserve World Champion. Tim Roesink rode the entry for Lora Lyons in the Morgan Grand National's grand finale, having won this offering with Dragonsmeade Icon in 2011.

"It means the world to have our bloodstock be successful with new owners and trainers," Longenecker said.

Both Iann Fu Longenecker and Ling Fu Wylie chose to further share their horses with the Morgan industry in 2021, selling eight of their mares in the Superior Sale. Longenecker explained that it was their hope that this would aid other Morgan enthusiasts in their breedings and further support the future of the breed.

"The decision gave other breeders a chance to have rare bloodstock infused into their own breeding programs," Longenecker said. "We enjoy cheering for all of them in the show ring and in the breeding shed."

The sisters also enjoyed their own success in the show ring last season as they remained prominent exhibitors in this community of competitors. Ling Fu Wylie was aboard their homebred western pleasure newcomer Dragonsmeade FullSpectrum throughout the 2021 show season. The son of Hollybrook Stage Rage and the recently inducted Broodmare Hall Of Fame mare, Donatella, earned top prizes both with Wylie and trainer Tommy Garland. Ling Fu Wylie also piloted the Tim Roesink trained Newmont's Timeless Joy to be crowned the Ladies Amateur English Pleasure Mare Grand National Champion.

Iann Fu Longenecker debuted with their stallion Dragonsmeade Spectre earlier in the season at the Blue Ridge Classic to garner impressive ribbons in the amateur pleasure driving ranks. The Dragonsmeade Icon sired entry has matured into a multi-titled performer with a myriad of world title. He has now begun a promising career as a breeding sire with guidance from Tim Roesink.

"Over the many years we've been blessed to ride and show at Kohler Stables, Cedar Creek Farm, Blackridge, and Grove Pointe Stables," Longenecker said. "We've been lucky enough to learn from Tom Caisse, Larry Bolen, Jonalyn Gwinup, Tim O'Gorman, Rock Walker and Bob Hughes, and Tim Roesink."

With guidance from the aforementioned trainers and others, what began with a family's passion for horses dating back to the 1970's has transformed into an illustrious breeding operation, producing quality, versatile Morgans, with some set to step into the show ring in 2022.

"We are always excited to see the young ones making their debuts," Longenecker said. "It will be fun to see the Spectre offspring show, and we can't wait to see Griffin in his first harness class."

With each passing decade, Dragonsmeade has continued to positively impact and support the Morgan Horse breed, allowing the industry to thrive with new talent. The efforts of Dragonsmeade has spanned over 30 years, producing horses who have stood alone in their breed, with Ling Fu Wylie and Iann Fu Longenecker focused on continuing the legacy established by Yum Kee and Susan Fu and strengthening their passion for the breed that they have built their life around.

"Every one of those chapters gave us knowledge, and those chapters also gave us lifelong friends," Longenecker said. "Ling and I are close because Morgan horses gave us that bond."



Dragonsmeade Griffin made a sensational debut at the 2021 Morgan Grand National with Tim Roesink at the lead. The young colt earned multiple top honors and will now make his harness debut in 2022.



Tim Roesink was aboard Dragonsmeade Eltanin in 2021 to be crowned the Park Saddle Reserve World Champion. This entry was one of many Dragonsmeade bred performers to amass impressive show ring resumes.



Iann Fu Longenecker made her debut on the lines of Dragonsmeade Spectre this past season at the Blue Ridge Classic. Both she and sister Ling Fu Wylie are looking forward to watching his offspring show.