

DRAGONSMEADE FARM

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE *Breeder Of The Year*

BY SARA PIZZUTO

In the Morgan industry, the Dragonsmeade prefix has been linked to a myriad of show ring notables, who have entered the history books for remarkable achievements. However, the Dragonsmeade name also bears a reputation of excellence in its commitment and dedication to the Morgan breed. Each year, the Fu family's Dragonsmeade breeding program continues to infiltrate the equine world with quality horses who have a stamp recognizably their own. Dragonsmeade Farm's efforts in 2022 combined with the accolades bestowed on numerous Dragonsmeade bred horses have helped them earn your vote, for the eighth time, as the People's Choice Breeder Of The Year.

The Fu family became involved in the horse industry in the 1970s-long before Dragonsmeade Farm was a prominent breeding program. The late Yum Kee and Susan Fu supported the show ring careers of their then junior exhibitor daughters, Iann Fu Longenecker and Ling Fu Wylie and developed a passion for the breed. This love of the Morgans ultimately led to Dragonsmeade Farm's inception in 1999, with Yum Kee Fu creating an ideal property on 100 acres of land in Winchester, Kentucky.

Since its start, Dragonsmeade has been committed to producing and raising outstanding Morgan horses. Susan Fu was a strong believer in the maternal line when breeding. One such broodmare, HVK Obsidian, has produced a remarkable list of offspring for the Fu family. The Fu sisters explained that this mare's maternal dam lines have been woven through most of their breeding program, and that she represents their family's long history and friendship with the Kohler family.

"Everything about 'Obi' is organic and natural," Longenecker said. "Mr. Kohler and his family breed high quality and concentrated Morgan horses. Kohler has always been the best at breeding the classic and the contemporary lines together, creating highly innovative Morgans. Like her sire, HVK Bell Flaire, Obi is a perfect example of this. When I think of breeding our horses, I imagine their pedigrees like patisserie dough that is made with the key ingredient of high quality butter, layered with the mix of flour, yeast, water, eggs, and salt. The butter and flour mix are folded and rolled out repeatedly until the perfect croissant dough is achieved. Obi is the butter in our farm's gene pool. More importantly, she is the bridge between all the chapters of our Morgan horse life."

Ling Fu Wylie was HVK Obsidian's partner in the show ring, before the grand mare retired to join the Dragonsmeade broodmare band. Wylie explained that the mare was hot in the show ring yet kind on the ground-traits that she has since passed on to her offspring.

"Obi is in so much of our breeding program because we also adored her dam, HVK Dragon Fly," Wylie said. "We have been blessed with a longtime friendship with the Kohler family. And that friendship is interwoven with our breeding program including our sweet stud from many years ago, HVK Hotspur. She almost always gives her babies her incredible head. She gives her babies the spiciness to be a fancy show horse, but the kindness to be checking out your pocket for treats while hanging out with her on the ground."

HVK Obsidian's integral part in the Dragonsmeade breeding has long been on display through her winning offspring in the show ring. However, the Fu family chose to honor the Broodmare Hall Of Fame mare last year at the 2022 Morgan Grand National in

a special ceremony on Friday evening in Oklahoma City. World champions Dragonsmeade Vendome, Dragonsmeade Black Dragon GCH, RWF Dralion, and Dragonsmeade Synergy represented Obsidian in center ring under the spotlight—all entries that earned additional world titles in 2022. The ceremony was made even more poignant due to the recent passing of Mr. Herbert V. Kohler Jr., and the Kohler influence on Dragonsmeade.

"We were working on the interview for the video narration when we heard about his passing," Longenecker said. "All of our memories from our time in Kohler and when we bought Obi rushed instantly to the forefront in our minds. We are honored to have her and all of her descendants on our farm. We still keep in periodic touch with the Kohler family, and we are thrilled they are continuing to breed and to show. We wish them the highest success with all of their stock at Kohler Stables. Obi brought us closer to Bob Hughes and Rock Walker when they organized her purchase from Pete and Sandy Hendrick for Ling. We're grateful we still have those close relationships, and that we are able to continue Obi's legacy with the foals born every year on our farm."

Ling Fu Wylie had long been wanting to throw a party in Oklahoma City for HVK Obsidian. She explained that for her, honoring Obsidian was also in part honoring the breeding program of the Kohler family.

"History is so important to the Morgan family as a whole," she said. "And the history of our connection to the Kohler family goes back to the late 1970s. So being able to represent such a breeding program was such an honor. And then to have it be the year that Mr. Kohler passed was so very emotional for us. To be able to recognize our time with Rock Walker and Bob Hughes, Pete and Sandy Hendrick of Queens River Farm and our partnership with all of them as part of Design Group and our ownership of Mizrahi was a precious memory for all of us to be a part of."

HVK Obsidian has produced a long list of Morgan world champions including Dragonsmeade Eltanin GCH, The entry, sired by And The Beat Goes On, has earned multiple world titles in the park saddle and park harness ranks, including being named the 2021 Park Saddle Reserve World Champion. Under the direction of trainer Tim Roesink, Eltanin was crowned the 2022 Park Saddle Amateur World Champion in his first year with Spencer Pilot in the saddle. Pilot explained that she greatly enjoyed her debut season aboard "Herbie"

"The trust was instant, and he really takes care of this amateur," she said. "Herbie will always show up to put on a powerful performance. I adore his kind disposition, especially when my toddler eats his peppermints in front of his eyes. He's an absolute dream. Dragonsmeade has a long history of producing top quality Morgans in every competitive discipline. I'm truly proud to ride a horse that is part of a great legacy."

Sara Foy is yet another proud owner of a Dragonsmeade bred performer that excelled in 2022. She purchased Dragonsmeade Provenance in November of 2021 and placed the son of Dragonsmeade Axios and JW Gay Paree under the guidance of David and Kristen Cater. David Cater took the reins of "Teddy" for the duration of the 2022 show season.

"They worked really hard all year and to me that was the most fun—just watching this horse really figure



Ling Fu Wylie and Iann Fu Longenecker celebrated a successful 2022 show season with their Dragonsmeade bred horses. They also honored one of their integral broodmares, HVK Obsidian, with a ceremony and party at the 2022 Morgan Grand National.



Dragonsmeade Eltanin GCH is one of many offspring of HVK Obsidian to be crowned a world champion. Spencer Pilot rode the And The Beat Goes On sired entry to the roses as the 2022 Park Saddle Amateur World Champion, under the direction of Tim Roesink.



Dragonsmeade Spectre is one of Dragonsmeade Farm's stallions who is continuing their legacy of success and producing a new generation of Morgan horses. He also was crowned the 2022 English Pleasure Reserve World Champion with trainer Tim Roesink.



Dragonsmeade Nehru, out of Dragonsmeade's Infusion, is one of Dragonsmeade Spectre's newest foals. The youngster is an example of the quality Morgans that are born at the Kentucky based Dragonsmeade Farm.



Sara Foy has had a longstanding friendship with both Iann Fu Longenecker and Ling Fu Wylie. She and members of the Cater Stables team were on hand to cheer as her horse Dragonsmeade Provenance was named the 2022 Pleasure Driving World Champion with David Cater on the lines.

it out," Foy said. "He has a great work ethic, and he just kind of blossomed in the program and it was just really fun to watch, and it was also really fun to watch what happened in Oklahoma."

Dragonsmeade Provenance and David Cater left Oklahoma City with the 2022 Pleasure Driving World Championship. Provenance marked the first Dragonsmeade horse that Sara Foy had owned, but it wasn't her first introduction to Dragonsmeade Farm. Her family's mare, MEM Scan-Dal-Less has been at Dragonsmeade Farm since 2012 and has had six foals while there.

"Iann and Ling very graciously allowed us to send Scan-Dal-Less there when my husband asked them, so we have believed in the Dragonsmeade program for a long time," Foy said. "When I got Teddy, I was chatting with Ling and I said, 'I can't believe I had never owned a Dragonsmeade horse. I have been with you guys for so long and I can't believe I finally own one now.' She looks at me and she goes, 'Sara you have been part of the family for quite a while.' It was so nice. We have been behind the Dragonsmeade breeding program for a while now but just hadn't owned one of their horses. But I am delighted to now have a horse with the Dragonsmeade prefix, and I am delighted to have Teddy. He is amazing."

Many of the horses bearing Dragonsmeade prefixes, like Dragonsmeade Provenance, have gone on to excel in the show ring with different owners. Iann Fu Longenecker and Ling Fu Wylie were thrilled with the performances of their horse Dragonsmeade Synergy, and Jonathan Fisher's entry, RWF Dralion, who have direct roots to the Dragonsmeade breeding program. Synergy, the son of Dragonsmeade Icon and Dragonsmeade Balenciaga, was crowned the World Champion Gelding, while Dralion, also sired by Icon and out of Patchwork Simply Amazin' wore the roses as the World Champion Stallion. Tim Roesink led both of these entries to victory and made history by also presenting the World Champion Mare, Saralin Slam Dunk. Longenecker explained that she feels honored to be part of the Grove Pointe family.

"When we saw those two boys (Synergy and Dralion) standing together for the photo shoot, I saw all the horses in their families that we have had the honor of showing and living on our farm," Longenecker said. "We cherish them and the memories we made with them. Most of all, we are happy for Tim making history winning all three in-hand world championships. The organization that goes into the behind the scenes at Grove Pointe starts at the top where Tim's dedication and work ethic transcends throughout to his clients and to their horses. Tim is the first to say it is not just him, but all who work with him. His team, with Kim by his side, their sons Tate and Connor, Shayna, José, Mario, Juan, Kelvin, and Modesto, keep a well-oiled family company farm."

Ling Fu Wylie echoed this statement.

"It was such an honor to have our breeding program recognized with the representation of two incredible individuals," she said. "There is a look to Dragonsmeade horses. Even if they are chestnut, you can tell it is a Dragonsmeade horse. Look at Dragonsmeade Battalion. He looks so much like Icon only he is chestnut. We were so happy for Tim and the Grove Pointe team for these successes. It is proof that it does take a village."

Wylie and Longenecker will once again partner with the Grove Pointe team as they look ahead to the 2023 show season. Longenecker expressed a particular excitement for Dragonsmeade Griffin to make his under saddle debut. The son of JW Standing Tall and Dragonsmeade Euphoria was last year's Futurity In-Hand Two-Year-Old Stallion World Champion and the Futurity Park Harness Two-Year-Old World Champion. She also explained that she is looking forward to crossing Dragonsmeade Griffin, Dragonsmeade Spectre, and Dragonsmeade Axios to a few new and different mares during the upcoming breeding season.

The aforementioned Dragonsmeade Spectre will team up with Wylie for the first time in 2023. The stallion, sired by Dragonsmeade Icon, left the ring in Oklahoma City as the English Pleasure Reserve World Champion with Tim Roesink in the saddle.

"Tim has a lot more confidence in my skills than I do," Wylie joked. "But it is always exciting to see the young stock doing what they are bred to do. Walking the fields when they were babies, and then seeing them fill their potential is mind blowing. A part of me likes keeping them hidden until pow, they come in the ring looking perfect. It's so much fun."

In addition to owning Dragonsmeade Eltanin, Spencer Pilot is also the proud owner of Dragonsmeade Skyfall. The entry, out of Dragonsmeade Sweet Emotion is one of the first offspring of Dragonsmeade Spectre and made his show ring debut in Oklahoma City to be crowned the Futurity Pleasure Driving Two-Year-Old World Champion. This youngster is one of the many examples of how Wylie and Longenecker are continuing to breed new generations of sensational Morgan horses-paying particular attention to the bloodlines that have successfully represented their program for decades. They are focused on continuing the legacy established by their parents over 30 years ago and are committed to supporting all in the industry who have played a role in the career of one of their Dragonsmeade homebreds.

"One of the unexpected gifts of owning Herbie was the friendship with Ling and Iann," Pilot said. "When people ask, 'Why Morgans?' my answer is always, 'Come for the horse, stay for the people.' Iann and Ling are those people. They'll always be incredible ambassadors on the rail for their horses."