

THE EVOLUTION OF SCOTTFIELD

BY BOB FUNKHOUSER

The countryside of Pennsylvania is home to many equine operations of various breeds and sizes. One of those is owned and operated by a young couple who are making an impact on the show horse industry in a number of ways. In 2015, Tuffy and Alicia Owens moved from the barn in which she grew up and honed her craft to a beautiful, sprawling facility in Lenhartsville, part of the renowned Lehigh Valley area.



Scottfield Stables is home for Alicia and Tuffy Owens (right). Great friends Glenn T. and Mackenzie Werry were visiting right before the inaugural American Saddlebred Expo, which was held an hour down the road.



In the beautiful countryside of the Lehigh Valley sits a remarkable facility filled with champion Morgan and American Saddlebred show horses and now it also houses top bloodstock.



Scottfield Stables has been home to a number of champion Morgans and American Saddlebreds with everything from young horses, to amateurs and junior exhibitors, and open stars. Most notably, the 2022 and 2021 World Champion Park Harness titleholder, EKL Shakedown calls Scottfield home. “Seger” was selected by Alicia as a baby and the beautiful stallion has grown to fulfill the lofty expectations placed upon him by his enthusiastic owners and trainer.

While fulfilling the dreams of many clients, the Owens family has also been putting together another element of their operation, to help fulfill their dreams – a breeding operation.

“When I started breeding Seger to our mares we were having a hard time getting vets out here when we needed them and mares weren’t getting in foal,” said Alicia. “I thought with all of the money I had spent and didn’t have anything in foal, I could hire someone on staff to handle the breeding.

“About that time, I got a call from a good friend, Cat Hester, who was running a breeding operation in Utah. She’s the type of person I would always have a place for. She moved here in January of 2021 and it has been a blessing. I had added 10 stalls to the broodmare barn but she built the lab with everything she needs right here.”



These two future stars were born at Scottfield Stud. Owned by Scottfield Stables, SFS All Dolled Up (l) is by Dressed Up GCH out of CBMF Stealing The Scene, while SFS Eye Candy is by EKL Shakedown out of the many times world champion CBMF Random Hearts GCH. She is owned by Iron Princess, LLC.



△ Across the pond from the main show barn are the breeding and lesson program barns, in addition to an outdoor track. The staff stays busy with all three divisions.

▷ The resident star is 2022 World Champion Park Harness titleholder EKL Shakedown. He loves spending time in the ready stalls so everyone can pay attention to him. He is also the premiere sire at Scottfield Stud.



Alicia Owens has built a strong show string in two breeds, including Morgan Park Harness World Champion EKL Shakedown and the ladies/open five-gaited champion Queen Of Memphis.



The dedicated crew at Scottfield includes (l-r) Ciara Long, Erin Sopp, Greysen Fors, Alicia Owens and Cat Hester.

The results of Hester joining the staff have been nothing short of fabulous. In 2022, every mare that was bred left the farm in foal.

“To date, 68 of the 70 mares bred last year are still in foal,” Alicia said proudly. Besides our mares and clients sending mares to our stallions, we have also picked up business from local breeders who send their mares here to get in foal no matter who they are breeding to.”

With so many show horses to work, the addition of Hester was necessary. It allows Alicia to stay focused in the training barn, while providing a great service to the farm and the industry.

“Adding the breeding operation has given us a steady stream of young horses to bring in and sell,” said Owens. “That has helped our business.”

The key to Scottfield Stud taking off has been the addition of Hester. And actually, it was a welcome back for her.

“I had worked for Alicia as an assistant trainer from 2013 to 2018 and then I went back to Utah where I had family. Out there I started working for a Friesian and Percheron farm and got interested in horse husbandry. I started learning a lot and in the back of my mind I was thinking, ‘If I got really good at this, we could have one of these at Scottfield.’

“So, I spent a couple of years learning everything I could and when I felt confident enough about mare care, collecting, shipping, every aspect of the breeding industry, I called her and pitched what I had been doing at the Friesian farm. I told her I could set up her lab and take over that part of the business.

“There was silence on the other end of the phone so I thought she didn’t like the idea and then all of a sudden I heard a snuffle and she says, ‘This is a dream come true. This is exactly where I want to take this.’

“I moved to the farm in January of 2021 and hit the ground running. It’s been such a pleasure to build this program. I was there with them when they pulled Seger out of a field at 6 months old and now to see what he’s done in the show ring and as a sire. It’s come full circle.

“I’m really excited that we can offer the mare care that we do here on the farm. To be able to collect a stallion and inseminate the mare within the same hour is awesome. When you have your mare at a place that is dedicated just to getting her in foal your conception rate goes way up. It’s a better long-term investment.

“We’re looking forward to watching the offspring of Seger and our other stallions hit the show ring. We want to see the quality of the progeny we are producing.



Cat Hester brings a wealth of knowledge to Scottfield Stud. She is pictured with the impeccably bred Chocolate Kisses, a daughter of War And Peace out of Pompp And Pazazz, in foal to EKL Shakedown.

It's a pleasure to work with our customers. I want to be able to offer great care and high-quality semen as a service to our customers. They breed their mares because they love them and I treat them like they are my own."

In addition to their own world champion EKL Shakedown (Centerpiece x EKL Standing Sensation by Stand And Deliver GCH), Scottfield Stud is standing WVS Full Throttle (Ledgfield Potenza x NSM Midnight Lace by Hollybrook Stage Rage) for Matt and Kelly Carver, the Kelly3000, LLC; Get Your Groove On (Get Busy x Queen's No Mercy by Mizrahi) for David Fisher and Simeon Esch; and Daniel Hershberger's On Demand, a GLB Bell Pepper son out of Dragonsmeade Tahari (by Mizrahi). These stallions, a great facility and a well-trained staff make for the ideal setting to reproduce and raise the next generation of show ring champions.

In 2023, the Owens family and Hester anxiously await the arrival of nine more babies. In just a few months the fields will be full of frolicking babies who in a few years will be heading up the hill to the show barn. The cycle continues!



Owned by the Gove Family, CBMF Carnival Ride (Ben's Rhapsody x FRF Stolen Moment BHOF by Cedar Creek Harlequin) is at Scottfield to be bred.



Owned by Daniel Hershberger, On Demand (GLB Bell Pepper x Dragonsmeade Tahari by Mizrahi) is one of four stallions standing at Scottfield Stud.



This group of weanlings got their start at Scottfield Stud. HPW Queen Of Memphis is a daughter of HPW Starstruck and Patchwork Ginger Spice. Hartland Shake It Up Baby is by EKL Shakedown out of BJB Baby Jane by SYP High Definition. Owned by Whitney and Meredith Bodnar, SFS Fantastic Voyage is by RWF Dralion out of FHS Ruby.