



Luman Wadhams Stable is situated in picturesque Warren, Vt. Surrounded by the rich history of the Morgan horse and his childhood memories of working and showing with some of the best Morgan trainers, it seems only fitting that this is where Luman decided to open his own stables.

Luman Wadhams *and Elaine Gregory*

By Kendra Peebles

Nestled amongst the Vermont pines and hills is Luman Wadhams Stable, owned by Luman and Jennie Wadhams. Luman was born and raised in this state, and he chose to make Warren, Vt., the location of his American Saddlebred and Morgan horse training stable. Like many horse kids that grew up in Vermont, the first barn he found was full of Morgans. He began working for horse trainers at age fourteen, and one of those trainers was Bob Baker. "I just thought that Morgans were wonderful horses and that they were great to train. Growing up on the New England show circuit, and particularly by attending the New England Regional, was a chance for me to get exposed to some wonderful horses and wonderful trainers. It was always such an exciting, fun place to be. The people in the Morgan business are really great people."

About fifteen years ago, Luman dipped his toes into the American Saddlebred and Hackney world. He partnered up with Jim and Jenny Taylor of Memory Lane Farms in Medina, Ohio. The Taylors had already had experience in buying, training, and then selling young American Saddlebred prospects, and they wanted to bring Luman into that fold, as well. "I had always admired the Saddlebreds," Luman said. "Anyone who likes show horses has got to love a Saddlebred. It was really interesting to work with the Taylors to get these colts ready to go. We had some success showing and selling the youngsters, and we eventually bought some older horses that needed work that we could train and sell, as well."

"A show horse is a show horse, and Luman has got an eye for a good horse," Jenny said. "We would go shopping together to buy some colts, then he would start them, and then we would finish them, get them in the

ring, and sell them.” One horse that this team found was It’s Tea Time. They decided to purchase him while he only knew how to be led on a shank. In 2003, he and Jim would go on to win at River Ridge, Cleveland Classic, Lexington Junior League, and the Kentucky State Fair, in which he concluded his undefeated debut season by claiming the ASHA Kentucky Futurity Two-Year-Old Fine Harness World’s Championship. Another horse that would go on to win big that year was Gaitway’s Once In A Blue Moon. When the Taylors and Luman first saw her, she was just a two-year-old who had only recently started learning how to rack. After winning the UPHA Five-Gaited Classic at the Dayton Horse Show, she and Jenny hit the American Royal full force to win the UPHA Five-Gaited Classic Grand Championship. In 2004, she won the Junior Five-Gaited Mares class at Lexington and then went on to earn the world’s champion title in the Junior Five-Gaited Mare Stake. It became clear to Luman that this was something in which he could excel.

Elaine Gregory jumped head first into the equine world at the age of nine. She says that she had always been an animal lover of all sorts and that

she remembers loving horses since before she could walk. She finally got the chance to begin riding when she accompanied her childhood best friend to a barn. Since her friend was her ride to and from the barn, Elaine was required to ride in her lesson group. “She had been taking lessons for two years and thus was in an intermediate group of riders,” Elaine explained. “As you can imagine, I was a train-wreck, but getting to ride the horses was all I had hoped for: The smell, the sounds, and the feeling of sitting so high up on what was probably just a 14 hand pony.” Unfortunately for Elaine, she sustained a serious hand injury which required several surgeries, after just a small handful of lessons. By the age of 12, Elaine had finally succeeded in convincing her parents to buy her a quarter horse.

“He was a bona-fide runaway and, in retrospect, one of the most dangerous horses I have ever sat on, but I adored him,” Elaine recalled. “While trail riding through the woods in Wilmington, Mass., I happened to pop out of the woods at the North Shore Horseman’s Association Show. The first horse I saw was a walk-trot horse named Teakettle’s Bubbling Over ridden



Just a month after earning the Reserve World’s Champion Three-Gaited 15.2 & Under title at Louisville, Luman and Thunderboomer captured the Three-Gaited Championship at the Big E in 2011.



Luman, Elaine, Ann MacMurray Cox, and Ron Cox were all smiles after Ring Of Fire and Luman won the World’s Champion UTSA Roadster Classic in 2012.

by George Page. My jaw fell open as I watched that horse trot. It would have been mesmerizing, but at that moment my trusty horse Red ran screaming for the hills at the sight of the walk-trotter. I tried frantically to gain control and even considered ditching so I could stay and watch. That first Saddlebred was all I could think of and I eventually ended up with my own!” Elaine then went on to start her career in the Saddlebred world by showing her own horses with Linda Weber. Elaine cites Linda’s activeness in sales as a point of interest and something that appealed to her.

“I met Elaine about eight years ago,” Luman recalled. “I had known who she was, but I hadn’t gotten to meet her yet. We eventually had lunch, talked, and I convinced her to send over a few prospects. She liked the job I did with them and things went on from there. She is a very good horsewoman and has a tremendous eye for a horse. She can also identify a horse that needs a little work for a lot of gain. She has a lot of experience in this business, and things have certainly worked out well in our partnership.”

“Unflappable, determined, and a very good hand with a horse” were the qualities that left an impression on Elaine concerning Luman. “He looked like someone who could get things done,” Elaine said. It does not matter what I have brought to him as he has given them all excellent care. As we know, often times horses who are sold at the lower end of the price spectrum often come with a myriad of quirks and fears and can lack confidence. They all get the same education at ‘Lu U’! There are people who rescue horses from ill fates. I have to say that Luman has helped more horses become useful, happy, and successful show horses than anyone I know. They are all better for having crossed through his barn doors.”

Nowadays, Luman has 25 to 30 Saddlebred and Morgan horses stabled on his farm, and he and Elaine focus on getting those horses sold and bringing new ones into the barn once they leave. It would be remiss to not mention Beth Pollack, assistant trainer to Luman for the past 25 years. Luman credits her as being fundamental in the success of his business. Elaine also has a

love of birds and she keeps all sorts of ducks, chickens, pigeons, and guinea hens. Luman explains the typical day as being much like any other training barn's: they wake up early, they clean stalls, then they work the horses until everything is all done. Saturdays are often big client days. One of those clients is Chloe Deeb.

"Luman and Elaine have helped me develop the skills to adapt to any horse they have me ride," said Chloe Deeb, a familiar face in both the American Saddlebred and Morgan show worlds. "I met Luman and Elaine six years ago when I began catch riding for Luman. I am very lucky that they have given me the opportunity to show dozens of horses over the years, all in different divisions and with different temperaments to help expand my knowledge and gain experience. Luman emphasizes that it's all about 'the feel' that a rider gains through saddle time and years of experience that helps you become a better rider. Because of that, he and Elaine let me try to figure out how I should change my riding to help my horse perform better before stepping in. They can't talk me through every step in the show ring, so it's up to me to ride and show each horse to the best of my abilities, and they have taught me how to do that. They have also shown me what teamwork is all about and have demonstrated how developing my leadership skills is going to be critical in me succeeding in the areas of my life that are most important to me."

Chloe has ridden such notable horses as Tom Lewis, Just Go With It, Wednesday, SSLC Striptease, Roselane's Champagne Man, Monnington Iconic, Miyagi, Annie's Perfect Design, Babble, OVT Gangster Of Love, Legacy's Midnight Rambler, Courageous Writer, and reserve world's champion Thunderboomer under the watchful eyes of Luman and Elaine. Indubitably, Luman and Elaine's emphasis on understanding the feel of a horse has had a positive influence on Chloe's career as she was a member of the gold medal winning U.S. Saddle Seat Young Riders Travel Team in 2015.

Teresa Rosa is new to the Luman Wadhams Stable crew. Following the end of the 2016 show season, Teresa made the move to Warren to begin working. Teresa has spent many years working at a variety of horse barns, and she said that what drew her to working here was the quality of horses

and level of showmanship that Luman and Elaine possess. "Luman really takes his time to do things correctly and make sure the horses are clearly understanding what is being asked of them," Teresa praised. "He also takes time to help me with the horses that I am working. He will work with me until both the horse and I understand what he has explained. I am constantly learning, and it keeps me engaged and excited to come to the barn every day. Elaine always puts a smile on your face! She is a businesswoman who really knows what she wants, but she is also a very funny person. She always puts a smile on your face."

The number of horses' careers that Elaine and Luman have had a hand in starting or have otherwise played a role in is practically impossible to count. Luman has racked up world championship titles in the Morgan world for decades, and his success in the Saddlebred, Hackney, and Roadster worlds continues to grow. Elaine has bought and sold many a horse that has made victory passes all the way from West Springfield, MA, to Freedom Hall and the American Royal, whether Elaine was in the irons or she entrusted someone else to guide the horse to the top of a different division. They both enjoy that they have been able to grow and develop at the sales and marketing level without losing their close relationships with clients and their ability to run a public stable that has both Morgans and Saddlebreds.

Luman acknowledges that speculating horses is a challenge, but his partnership with Elaine has added "a whole new dimension" to the business and that it is working out very well. Luman and Elaine also remain very involved in the equine world by holding memberships to USEF, UPHA, and ASHA. Luman is also a USEF licensed judge and a member of the AMHA. Elaine remains steadfastly committed to developing her marketing skills with these horses. "To do that, you need horses that are prepared and ready to present," she explained. She went on to say that Luman perfectly complements her sales and marketing focus with his interest in sales and commitment to the individual horse. When she was younger, Elaine said that her goal was "to make a living in the horse business and still have time with my family." As she reflected on that statement and where she is now, she had two words to say: Mission accomplished.



The Luman Wadhams Stable team celebrated together following Chloe Deeb's winning ride at Octoberfest in 2016 in the Five-Gaited Show Pleasure Championship abroad Courageous Writer. This was their second championship win in as many shows.



Luman accompanies Rich Thompson and his road pony Mr. Ed back to the stalls. Mr. Ed secured wins and reserves from Children's Benefit, UPHA Chapter 14 Spring Premier, Bonnie Blue, Devon, Syracuse International, Deerfield Fair, and Twin State Octoberfest all during the 2016 show season.