

# Morgan Dressage association

*Dedicated to promoting and supporting Morgan Horses in Dressage.*



## THE DRESSAGE EXPERIMENT

*By Ange Bean*

*Ange Bean and Statesman's Eclipse were highlighted in a recent article in Dressage Connections on "non-traditional" dressage breeds. Below is a more detailed account of the success of her experiment with her partner, Statesman's Eclipse. Statesman's Eclipse is owned by Kathleen Farris of Ensign's Grace Morgans.*



*Ange Bean and Statesman's Eclipse*

Several years ago, I started "The Dressage Experiment." I wanted to know if the "warmblood advantage" was created by some amazing warmblood genetics, or by the deeper pocketbooks that a lot of warmblood owners used to invest in their mount's education. I met a Morgan stallion, Statesman's Eclipse (Caduceus Montour x Statesman's Manzanita), who met the criteria of an FEI dressage prospect: active hind leg, uphill movement, good mind—but in a non-warmblood package. I talked his owner, Kate Farris of Ensign's Grace Morgans, into letting me develop him to FEI. Eclipse was ten when he made the career switch from combined driving; which put him far behind schedule for an FEI dressage prospect. The German thinking, which had filled my working student years, is that horses should be trained in half-pass and changes before nine, because the softer, younger ligaments are more able to learn these high-torque movements with less injury. At ten, Eclipse would be learning to work with the weight of a rider on top instead of behind him, so I knew I couldn't afford to make mistakes in his training. I was going to need help.

In order for The Dressage Experiment to be valid, I needed to give Eclipse the same education any warmblood would get. First, he had me, a professional dressage trainer with four years of working studenthood and many trips around the sandbox under my belt, for six rides a week. Not my working student, but me. Then I gave him extra help in the form of lessons with many, many big-name trainers—Gunnar Ostergaard, Maryal Barnette, and JJ Tate, to name a few. However, the two trainers that provided the most help with his progress were Scott Hassler and Catherine Haddad Staller.

*(continued on Page 2)*

Volume 3 Number 1

### News and Reminders:

- Check out [Page 13](#) for **new Classified** listings—they are growing!
- Find us on Facebook
- Did you know you can "like" your favorite Morgan in the USDF Awards standings? Try it!
- It is time to **renew your MDA Membership** for 2012. Membership applications are also online (and on [Page 15](#)). PayPal is now available.
- Have a **picture** to share? Or a great **book** or **website**? A special event in your area? Let us know and we will pass it on in the next **MDA Extensions!**
- The MDA will be at the AMHA National Convention in Portland, Oregon this February! Be sure to stop by and visit.

### Inside this issue:

<a href="#">The Dressage Experiment</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">MDA Member Spotlight</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">The Brunk Family of Morgan Horses</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">News</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">2011 USDF All-Breeds Awards</a>	<a href="#">8</a>
<a href="#">2011 MDA Awards of Excellence</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">Classifieds</a>	<a href="#">13</a>

## Spotlight on the Members



Beth Sheller and Laughters Lord Wilson

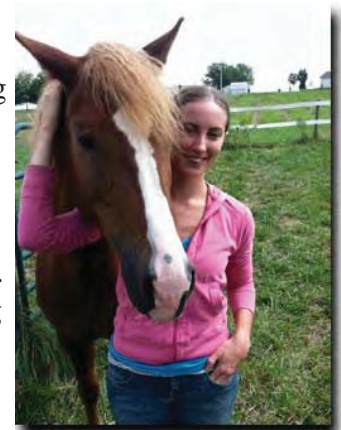
I have been learning about Morgans for sport for over 30 years. Starting dressage at age 30 as an adult learner means learning humility. I explored Centered Riding and body work (Feldenkrais mostly) to teach me body awareness. We raised a few foals and I learned about natural horsemanship techniques. I dabbled in driving and learned I was too big a coward! Making breeding decisions helped me learn different Morgan lines and trying to select for dressage gaits. I helped with the MDA Stallion Service auction and got to meet some other knowledgeable Morgan sport people.

I currently own two competitive dressage Morgans, though I've also learned I don't like competing much. I was blessed to have **Laughters Lord Wilson** (Statesmans Silhouette x Otterbein

May Mary) come into my life as an upper level schoolmaster. He has taught me the feel of getting the horse relaxed over his back to be 'through and light'. Now he is teaching me canter pirouettes and tempis (and that I can't count!) I also have **Flower of Diva** (Caduceus Denver x Bar Y Lori Lynn), a young mare who was very competitive in her first recognized show with a talented rider (I got to be the groom). I am blessed with a determined competitive trainer Garra Walline. My two favorite clinicians are Jan Brons and Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez. My long term goal is to ride as long as I can, and learn as much as I can while promoting Morgans in dressage. ~ **Beth Sheller**

I purchased my first Morgan this fall. He is a five year old chestnut gelding named **Grapevine Legato** (Easthill Legacy x Gold Cross Raven). He recently started his under saddle work and I am thrilled with his natural enthusiasm and gaits.

Currently, we are enjoying lots of trail riding in beautiful Southern Illinois. As he matures, I hope to do dressage, lower level eventing and fox hunting with him. I've mostly ridden and loved Thoroughbreds, but now that I am in graduate school I was looking for a breed that was likely to be a low maintenance easy keeper while still being an athletic partner for the disciplines I enjoy. I couldn't be more thrilled with his sensible mind and the enjoyment he finds in his own athleticism—attributes I am told are typical of Morgans, my new favorite breed! ~ **Hillary Marler**



Grapevine Legato and Hillary Marler



*Looking for something to visit over the fence about? Have an interesting story you want to share? A little (or big) brag? Well here is your chance!*

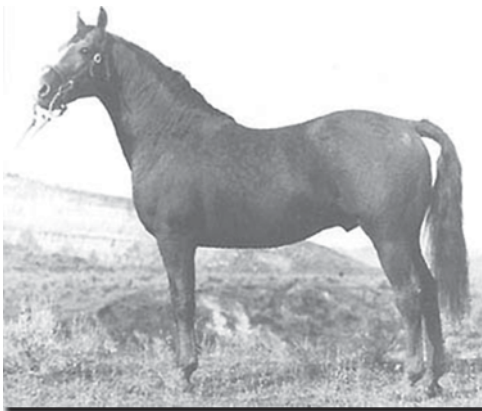
Send us a short (two or three paragraphs) tale about your self and your Morgan horse (with a picture, of course!) and we will be happy to share your story with the rest of the MDA Membership on our "Spotlight on the Members" page. Come on, don't be shy...we would love to hear from you! Send your story and photos to [sally@montanasky.us](mailto:sally@montanasky.us)

# The Brunk Family of Morgan Horses

by Gail Perlee

The story of the Brunks is about a human dynasty as well as an equine one. It began in 1821 when young George Brunk walked from Ohio into the wilderness near what is now Springfield, Illinois. By 1829 he had befriended the local Sacs and Fox Indians, homesteaded and cleared his land and built the limestone house which still stands on Cotton Hill Farm. When the Lincoln family arrived from Indiana, George and Abe Lincoln became neighbors and friends. During his long life George Brunk married three times and fathered nine children. Although George admired Morgans and always kept horses tracing to old Justin, it was his son Joseph Chase Brunk who was to forever link the name Brunk with Morgan horses. Born in 1864 in the house built by his father, "JC" grew up with a love and admiration for good horseflesh. In 1893, the same year his son J Roy Brunk was born, JC paid \$1,000 for group of fine Morgan horses. They were purchased from the estate of a General Jackson in Tennessee, and had been used to cross with Thoroughbreds, but all were originally from Vermont. The group included the stallions Chetco and Morgan Rupert and the mares Lucy, Gyp, Jenny Lind, Flora Temple, Peter's Girl, Rosa, Bessie and Daisy. These horses, especially Chetco (a grandson of Daniel Lambert) and Daisy (by Billy Bodette), were the foundation stock for a line of Morgans still being bred today by members of the Brunk family.

JC Brunk was very shrewd about acquiring bloodlines



From top to bottom: Flyhawk, Jubilee King and Senator Graham.

to cross with his original stock. In 1902, he bought Jubilee De Jarnette, which was the only offspring of the famous exhibition mare, Lady De Jarnette, and sired by the speedy trotter Jubilee Lambert. The once proud stallion, who had twice been champion at Madison Square Garden and had often been shown in harness with his legendary dam, was 19 years old and in deplorable condition due to neglect when he came to Cotton Hill. He produced only two foal crops for Brunk, but one of his get was the great mare Daisy De Jarnette, out of Ben's Daisy (Ben Franklin x Daisy). She in turn produced another great matron, Daisette (by Senator Knox). Daisette was the dam of the famous full siblings, Sentola and Jubilee King.

At the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, eleven year old J. Roy Brunk showed his father's mare, Senata, to the title of Sweepstakes Champion Mare over the largest group of Morgans ever assembled. Senata was a direct product of the foundation stock, being by Senator (Morgan Rupert x Lucy) and out of the original Daisy. At the same show the Maine bred Knox Morgan was crowned Champion Stallion. In 1915, after years of negotiation, JC was able to acquire the 24-year-old Knox Morgan and breed him to 17-year-old Senata to produce Senator Knox. The same cross later produced Florence Chandler, who was accidentally killed as a young mare, but not before giving birth to Florette (by Allen King). Florette was traded to the Government Farm and became one their best brood mares

(continued on Page 6)



## 2012 USDF All-Breeds Awards



### TRAINING LEVEL OPEN

1. 65.600 Gray Barron Major Star (Greentree Brigadier x Capricorn Maidmarion). Ridden by Sean Cunningham; Owned and bred by Wendy Bizzaro.
2. 65.400 Awen's Rock Star (Simply Maserati x Kate's Dark Liberty Star). Ridden by Pamela Thompson; Owned by Cara-Lynne Schengrund; Breeder, Anna McFarrland.
3. 64.375 Crossfire Dessert Rose (Corinthian Seville x Hilton's Karalee). Owned and ridden by Lisa Mauriello.
4. 63.707 Merriehill Buzz Lightyear (Astronomicalle x Merriehill it's my Day). Ridden by Teresa Foster; Owned by Dale Huston; Breeder, Merriehill Farm.
5. 62.200 Gray Barron Gold Bar (DJJJ Ebony Gold x WTR Chocolate Bar). Ridden by Sean Cunningham; Owned and bred by Wendy Bizzaro.



*Gray Barron Major Star  
and Sean Cunningham*

### TRAINING LEVEL JUNIOR YOUNG RIDER

1. 64.375 Crossfire Dessert Rose (Corinthian Seville x Hilton's Karalee). Owned and ridden by Lisa Mauriello.

### TRAINING LEVEL VINTAGE CUP

1. 65.400 Awen's Rock Star (Simply Maserati x Kate's Dark Liberty Star). Ridden by Pamela Thompson; Owned by Cara-Lynne Schengrund; Breeder, Anna McFarrland.

### FIRST LEVEL OPEN

1. 68.065 Thunder Alexander (ZZ Top X Thunder Poison Ivy). Ridden by Julie Haugen; Owned by Ann Bialkowsky; Breeder, Don and Michelle Dilley.
2. 67.761 Forsite Renior (Ravenscroft Renown x Forsite A'Cappella). Ridden, owned and bred by Debra McGonigle.
3. 65.806 Raintree Sam I Am (Ultimate Command x Raintree Remembrance). Ridden by Lucretia Galbraith; Owned by Gary Ward; Breeder, Barbara and Max Rudicel.
4. 65.702 Mykatas Questionnaire (Kennan's Supreme Air x SHF Fire's Melody). Ridden by Sarah Kirchner; Owned by Victoria Fernalld and Kylee Lourie; Breeder, Paul Siemens.
5. 65.323 KKM Millennium Fire (Minion Millennium x Amethyst). Ridden, owned and bred by Karen Graves Stephen.

### FIRST LEVEL JUNIOR YOUNG RIDER

1. 65.702 Mykatas Questionnaire (Kennan's Supreme Air x SHF Fire's Melody). Ridden by Sarah Kirchner; Owned by Victoria Fernalld and Kylee Lourie; Breeder, Paul Siemens.

### FIRST LEVEL VINTAGE CUP

1. 67.761 Forsite Renior (Ravenscroft Renown x Forsite A'Cappella). Ridden, owned and bred by Debra McGonigle.
2. 65.323 KKM Millennium Fire (Minion Millennium x Amethyst). Ridden, owned and bred by Karen Graves Stephen.
3. 64.677 Equinox Chief Justice (UVM Tennyson x Equinox Katrina). Ridden and owned by Linda Marciante; Breeder, East of Equinox Farm.
4. 64.0312 Solid Rock's Morningstar (Irish Ebony x Avatar's Silver Ribbons.) Ridden by Jeanette Mitchell, owned by Tamara Langecker; Breeder, Steven and Jennifer Thames.

### FIRST LEVEL MUSICAL FREESTYLE

1. 66.617 Spiritquest Loanna (Crown Enterprise x Love's Hot Topic). Ridden by Kimberly Robbins; Owned by Patricia Backoff; Breeder, Chris and Gordon Hensel.



# Morgan Dressage Association 2012 Awards of Excellence



## INTRO LEVEL

1. 64.625 Mnt Top Forever Hawk (Mtn Top Whipporwill Tanek x Gar-Don Lady Glimmer). Ridden by Ticci Tarockoff and owned by Carol Yates.

## TRAINING LEVEL OPEN

1. 70.600 Flower of Diva (Caduceus Denver x Bar Y's Lori Lynn). Ridden by Brittani Wright and owned by Elizabeth Sheller.
2. 70.196 Gray Barron Gold Bar (DJJ Ebony Gold x WTR Chocolate Bar). Ridden by Sean Cunningham owned by Wendy Gray Bizzaro.
3. 68.900 Gray Barron Major Star (Greentree Brigadier x Capricorn Maidmarion). Ridden by Sean Cunningham owned by Wendy Gray Bizzaro.
4. 64.638 Ensigns Stately Mandolyn (Chief of State x SC Island Vermont Maid Lauriet). Ridden and owned by Ange Bean.



*Flower of Diva and Brittani Wright*

## FIRST LEVEL OPEN

1. 70.612 Forsite Renoir (Ravenscroft Renown x Forsite A'cappella). Ridden by Debra McGonigle and owned by Douglas and Debra McGonigle.
2. 67.420 Gray Barron Major Star (Greentree Brigadier x Capricorn Maidmarrion). Ridden by Sean Cunningham owned by Wendy Gray Bizzaro.
3. 66.385 Equinox Chief Justice (UVM Tennyson x Equinox Katrina). Ridden and owned by Linda Marcinate.
4. 64.153 Dakota's Royal Laser (Rimlee Koloper x Dakota's Raindancer). Ridden by Frances Luse and owned by Barbara Lewis.
5. 59.517 Ragtime Boiangles (Robbi Sue's Ragtime x CAS Twilight Amber). Ridden and owned by Frances Luse.

## FIRST LEVEL ADULT AMATEUR CHAMPION

1. 64.153 Dakota's Royal Laser (Rimlee Koloper x Dakota's Raindancer). Ridden by Frances Luse and owned by Barbara Lewis.
2. 59.517 Ragtime Boiangles (Robbi Sue's Ragtime x CAS Twilight Amber). Ridden and owned by Frances Luse.

## SECOND LEVEL OPEN

1. 64.736 Queen's Cultured Pearl (Mizrahi x Queen's So Rare). Ridden by Nicole Nowak and owned by Andra Collins and Joseph DiPietro.



*Clockwise from left: Mythic Juma and Krista Martinko, Gladheart Linhawk and Kimberlee Barker, SC Island Jubilee, and Kennebec Ladyhawke and Margaret Bailey-Miller.*

## THIRD LEVEL OPEN

1. 66.827 Gray Barron Midnight Serenade (Statesman's Silhouette x Greentree Ever Reddi). Ridden by Sean Cunningham and owned by Wendy Gray Bizzaro.
2. 66.775 Gladheart Linhawk (Funquest Diviner x Rogue's Midnight Melody). Ridden by Kimberlee Barker and owned by Jack and Bernadette Stang.
3. 64.039 Equinox Ebony Knight (Equinox Reflection x Equinox Love Song). Ridden by Kimberly Robbins and owned by Gloria Crawford.
4. 61.889 Mythic Juma (Mythic Aladdin x W-B Bedazzlemint). Ridden and owned by Krista Martinko.

## THIRD LEVEL ADULT AMATEUR CHAMPION

1. 61.889 Mythic Juma (Mythic Aladdin x W-B Bedazzlemint). Ridden and owned by Krista Martinko.

## THIRD LEVEL JUNIOR/YOUTH CHAMPION

1. 64.905 Queen's Delilah (Mizrahi x NBN Noble Vixen). Owned and ridden by Ciara Cumiskey; Breeder, Queens River Farm Inc.

## FOURTH LEVEL OPEN

1. 65.997 SC Island Jublee (H-Ken x Caduceus Margaux). Ridden by Katie Hoefs-Martin and owned by Angela Bower.
2. 65.031 Gladheart Linhawk (Funquest Diviner x Rogue's Midnight Melody). Ridden by Kimberlee Barker and owned by Jack and Bernadette. Stang.
3. 64.875 Kennebec Ladyhawke (Triple S Dark Eagle X Kennebec Sassy). Ridden and owned by Margaret Bailey-Miller.



Morgan Dressage  
association

*Dedicated to promoting and supporting Morgan Horses in dressage.*

## Membership Form

Membership year runs from January 1 – December 31. Please print out this form, fill it out, and send it with payment to: Morgan Dressage Association, Karin Weight, 1069 N. Geneva Rd., Provo, UT 84601. Refer to the MDA website for Paypal options.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Farm name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ (required)

Please list family members participating in MDA programs and note birthdate of any junior young rider members.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Please check your membership category (check all that apply):

Renewal

Jr/Young Rider (\$10)

Individual (\$25)

New

Farm/Family (\$35)

Patron (\$100)

Please indicate if you are willing to help the organization by donating your time and skills. Check all that are of interest to you:

Newsletter

Membership directory/advertising

Write educational articles

Awards

Breed promotion

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Business Listing.** For an additional \$15, a link to your farm/business is included in the membership directory as well as in the Directory of Services and Professionals on the website with a brief description of services.

Please check all that apply: \_\_\_\_\_ Breeder \_\_\_\_\_ Sales \_\_\_\_\_ Training \_\_\_\_\_ Clinics

**Business Card.** For an additional \$25, a business card with link to your website is placed in the Membership Directory and the MDA website.

Web site URL for listing in directory and link on MDA web site: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please be sure your email address is clear and legible, all newsletters and MDA Extensions will be sent via email.**

Please make your checks payable to MDA and return this form with membership dues to:  
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