

# Morgan Dressage association

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

## IT'S THE JOURNEY—NANCY MANGUM AND CANEQUIN'S LOCAL HERO

*By Nancy Mangum*

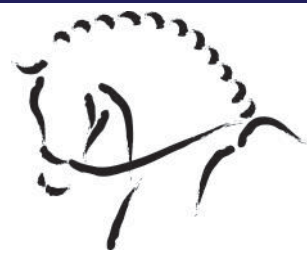
I became obsessed with wanting a horse after receiving a rocking horse for Christmas at age three; I rocked it so hard I could elevate all four springs off the floor. As I was not from a horsey family, my rides were limited to pony rides at the fair. However, after a family- move at age ten my luck changed. I found there were horses nearby so off I went, begging to ride. It was a small family farm that raised Morgans sired by UVM and Paramount stock, and over the next twelve years I learned how to care for and ride horses. As my skills increased, I showed several horses of different ages in many areas: in-hand, saddle seat, hunt seat, jumping, driving and competitive trail riding. I also joined 4-H and took jumping lessons at a local hunter barn. It was at this Morgan farm that I developed a deep love and passion for the Morgan breed.

After another family-move, I had the opportunity to ride and show an experienced hunter (Thoroughbred) in the working hunter division. I did very well, winning many championships and this led me to buying a Thoroughbred fresh off the track. It was a rewarding experience, but I missed the personality and dependability of the Morgan breed. Luckily, I only got bucked off once. During that period of time I had developed knee problems and had to have a couple of surgeries. This was as a result of my rheumatoid arthritis which I was diagnosed with when I was three. I also began having hip problems and I knew this would lead to more surgery. So, after much thought, I decided that it would be better and safer for me to go back to the breed I loved and trusted the most—the Morgan horse.

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*Canequin's Local Hero and Nancy Mangum*



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### News and Reminders:

- Check out [Page 15](#) for **new Classified listings**—they are growing!
- Find us on Facebook! 
- **It is time to think about renewing your MDA membership for 2014.** Fill out the hand application form on [Page 18](#) or renew on the [website!](#) It is that easy!
- Upcoming events:  
—AMHA Convention  
February 20-22, 2014
- MDA saddle patches, magnets and key chains are still available. See [Page 3](#) for more information.
- Competing? Don't forget to renew your memberships (e.g. AMHA, USDF, USEF).

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## Spotlight on the Members



Hollyhock Bella Luna and  
Brenda Thoma

*I am a new member of MDA and a relative newcomer to the charms of the Morgan breed as well. In preparation for the retirement of my former competitive horse (an Anglo-Arab) I looked for a horse with a determined work ethic, a competitive spirit, sound conformation and a pretty face. Of course, a Morgan was the perfect answer. **Hollyhock Bella Luna** is the result of a careful breeding program that focuses on traditional Morgans, mainly from the Brunk and Government lines. This adorable, cookie-loving and opinionated little mare has revitalized my middle aged life, leading me to compete in horse trials (eventing) and dressage.*

*While she is a bold and thoughtful jumper, “**Eclipse**” seems to really enjoy the mental work involved in dressage training. We began showing at rated dressage shows just this year, completing eleven tests at Training and First Level which yielded rewarding scores. Our final score of 75% served as a clear indicator that it is time to move on to a solid First Level next year, with a possible Second Level test if I can convince her not to skip the walk in the simple change where she occasionally substitutes her own version of a flying change.*

*More important than the shows and scores though, is the joy that she brings to me every day. We make the most of fall in Minnesota on trail rides in the woods and participate in weekly dressage and jumping lessons in the indoor arena during the winter months, all in preparation for the brief, but action packed summers.*

*I am lucky enough to have boarded for the past seven years at the same barn and have developed so many important and close-knit relationships there. Although **Eclipse** has only been there with me for the past few years, her small size and huge personality make her a popular barn mascot and have a strong and lasting hold on my heart. I am looking forward to being an active member of the MDA; competing next year and enjoying many years of good friendships and happy rides with Eclipse. ~ **Brenda Thoma***

*I bought my first horse, a yearling Morgan, in 1992. **Concert Don Lee**, aka “**Leroy**”, was a golden liver chestnut with flaxen mane and tail. I learned to ride dressage on Leroy, clinicing with Sherry Ackerman and taking lessons from Jeff Lindberg. We showed at many schooling shows, but only one rated dressage show – the New England Regional Morgan Horse Show in 1998. I was so pleased to ribbon at Training Level. **Leroy** was my joy, and I cried for days after he was euthanized due to a neurological injury in 1999. My next horse was not a Morgan, rather an Anglo-Arabian mare trained to Fourth level – I needed something that would not remind me of Leroy. I learned so much on Mauri, but the itch to own another Morgan grew as my heart healed.*

*In December of 2001, I bought **Ragtime Bojangles** as a weanling based on photos and videos. He was sooo cute! Unfortunately, despite a pre-purchase exam, he arrived with epiphritis. Soon after recovering from that, he went horribly lame – x-rays diagnosed severe OCD in both stifles. My heart was broken again as I already loved this sweet boy. I sent “**Bo**” off to Texas A&M for surgery and although the prognosis was grim, **Bo** has been mostly sound ever since. **Bo** is my heart horse, a spoiled pet, with whom I have done so many things (I recently taught him to bow!). We have competed at schooling and rated shows through Second Level. Quite a few years ago, we were a recipient of an MDA scholarship which helped fund training/lessons.*

*My best progress with **Bo** has been since I started training two years ago with Barbara Richardson Lewis, a many-time Morgan Grand National dressage Champion/Reserve Champion rider. Although I had put all the lateral movements on **Bo**, he lacked suppleness. Barbara fixed that which greatly improved **Bo**'s ridability. Unfortunately, **Bo**'s past stifle problems became an issue in January, 2013 when learning the flying changes and he went Grade 4 lame. We thought he was done, but with very careful management he has been able to come back to work and I was able to show my First Level musical freestyle in September, 2013 for which we received very competitive scores (mid 60s). Barb continues to train **Bo**, but with a lighter schedule. As Western Dressage is becoming so popular, I'm going to try that, while Barb works on **Bo**'s Third and Fourth Level skills.*

*I am currently looking for a youngster to replace **Bo** as my competition horse – but with a limited budget. Whenever I find my “next” Morgan, he or she will probably be my last horse. Hopefully, the third time will be the charm and it won't have any health issues to derail my dream of showing Third and Fourth Level at the Grand Nationals! ~ **Francis Luse***



Ragtime Bojangles and Francis Luse

# Winter Health Care Basics For Horses

*By Douglas O. Thal DVM DABVP*

Generally, horses are not used as heavily during the winter months, but their proper care is every bit as important as in other seasons. Winter provides different stresses on horses than they experience during the rest of the year, and horse owners should know the basics before winter arrives.



health problems, thin horses, and those with little coat have higher critical temperatures. The extra heat required to maintain body temperature uses extra energy, which must come from extra feed.

## FEEDING HORSES IN WINTER

### HOW COLD TOLERANT ARE HORSES?

Given some protection from the wind and wet (shelter), a healthy horse can easily tolerate -40 degree Fahrenheit temperatures. The single greatest factor allowing horses to be so cold tolerant is their size. There is a simple scientific reason for this: The larger an animal is, the lower the surface to volume ratio.

In other words, the heavier the animal, the less skin surface area per pound is exposed to the outside world, so the slower the body temperature responds to changes in air temperature. Young foals lack this surface to volume ratio, but have much higher metabolisms that compensate otherwise.

The horse's winter hair coat is a very important barrier against cold. It is a surprisingly sophisticated system that traps an insulating layer of air against the skin. The hair coat functions well as long as it is "fluffed" and stays dry. Wind and rain act to flatten this system and reduce the barrier to cold. Muscle and fat also play very important insulating roles. A horse that goes into winter in good flesh is more able to tolerate cold weather than one that goes into winter thin. A fit horse of good body muscle mass and a normal layer of fat has advantages over an unfit horse who has a thick layer of fat and less muscle.

There is a critical temperature at which healthy horses must produce extra heat to maintain their body temperature. This critical temperature depends on many factors, but is around 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Horses with

There is a lot of confusion regarding how much more feed horses need during the winter months. Horses do not need more feed until the temperature averages at or below their specific critical temperature, which depends on the factors discussed above. Generally, horses need about 15-20% more feed for every 10 degrees average the environment is below their critical temperature. In many areas, the average 24-hour temperature is above the critical temperature for a healthy horse, meaning that extra feed is not necessary. Unless it is an unusually cold winter, here in the desert Southwest horses generally do not need much more feed in the winter.

### TIPS ON WINTER FEEDING

- Less mature, high quality grass or mix hay should form the basis for the healthy horse diet. Less mature hays are more palatable and hold water better in the gut. Over-mature, straw-like hay may create problems with intestinal impaction.
- A simple and safe bet for winter feeding is to simply increase grass or mix hay in the diet 20% over warm weather feeding amounts. Make any feeding changes gradually, over a few days.
- Whatever method of feeding you choose, do not vary it with daily weather changes. If you do choose to change it, simply feed a little more hay, not grain.
- Once cold weather sets in, it is difficult to put weight on horses, especially thin ones. It is

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# MDA Scholarship Report

*By Kristal Homoki*

I was super excited when I was selected to receive one of the Morgan Dressage Scholarships. While being very new to the "rules" and technical terms of dressage, I was in no way new to the training methods. As for several years I had friends telling me: "Kristal, you ride and train dressage". For me it was always just training the horse to be the best that the horse could be. So in 2010, I started with my "dressage" training.

Last year, I had decided to take my 7-year-old cremello Morgan mare, Universal Selection (aka Faith) and head her down the road to showing her dressage. I had started Faith under saddle at age three, and taken her to a couple of shows and rode her western pleasure in walk-trot classes. Then Faith had three years off to have babies, so I figured she would be a perfect candidate for this new dressage adventure. She sure didn't fail me on that.

I had worked with Faith for about 4 months, and with my scholarship funds Faith and I were able to participate in a John Lassetter clinic in May for three days. Mr. Lassetter really worked us hard, but in a fantastic way. He seemed to really know when and how much to push not only me, but Faith as well. The changes at the end of three days were amazing to see. Faith and I were not only leg yielding and half passing at the trot down the entire arena AND on a soft contact, but with some work we were counter cantering as well. The smoothness of transitions was fantastic and Mr. Lassetter told me he didn't think we would have any problem going right to Training Level together. So that was the plan.

We had our first show all lined up for July--it was really two shows within three days-- but alas, just three days before the show I broke a rib and had to cancel going. The next show up was two shows in two days



*Universal Selection and Kristal Homoki*

less than five weeks later. So, I waited to heal up for a few weeks and then Faith and I started working again very slowly so I would not reinjure myself.

I could not have been prouder of Faith at her very first dressage show. As they say, if it can go wrong it probably will and this is how our show was. Faith was in her full blown fall transitional heat, and I mean "what a heat" she had. Geldings would stop while being lead by her and she didn't even have her tail lifted--those boys just *knew* she was in heat. Then just as we were getting ready to go into our very first class, the clouds opened up and it

rained (fairly hard) through my test. By the second test, the winds were up and howling the judge's tent was rocking. And with the last test I didn't have a reader, so I sadly didn't concentrate as much on Faith as I should have.

Above all that Faith still managed to increase her scores improving with each test and raising her score up about a point and a half by our last test. Faith and I are continuing our work and I am excited to see how 2014 will be.

Thank you MDA for this wonderful opportunity.

## In the News...



*A special congratulations* to Cathy Echternach who earned her Gold Freestyle Bar this past December from the United States Dressage Federation.

To earn a Freestyle Gold Bar, a rider must have four scores of 65% or higher: two freestyle scores at I-1 from two different judges/two different rides, and two freestyle scores at Grand Prix from two different judges/two different rides. Echternach earned scores toward her award on two Morgans: Whippoorwill Ebony(Black Tie) and Whippoorwill Dorado.



# 2013 USDF All-Breeds Awards



*Hollyhock Bella Luna and Brenda Thoma*

## TRAINING LEVEL OPEN

1. 68.000 Hollyhock Bella Luna (Summit's Conbria x Hollyhock Isabella). Owned and ridden by Brenda Thoma; Breeder, Pamela Eller.
2. 67.534 DVF Kootenai Ice (Carlyle Carrier x Buckshee). Ridden by Debbie Fornia-Dewitt; Owned by Ursula Cristofaro; Breeder, Eldon Blennett.
3. 66.742 Pink Martini (LPS The Boogie Man x Queen's Midori). Ridden and owned Karen Rossen; Breeder, Sheaffer Farm.
4. 66.191 Bay State Quizical (Windcrest Highlander x Bay State Winson). Ridden by Jaqueline Helle and Danielle Helle; Owned by Danielle Helle; Breeder, University of Massachusetts.
5. 66.000 FRM Flower of Remington (Caduceus Denver x Bay Y's Lori Lynn). Ridden by Birgit Villeminey and Judy Kelly; Owned by Birgit Villeminey; Breeder, Libby Flower.

## TRAINING LEVEL AA

1. 68.000 Hollyhock Bella Luna (Summit's Conbria x Hollyhock Isabella). Ridden and owned by Brenda Thoma; Breeder, Pamela Eller.
2. 66.742 Pink Martini (LPS The Boogie Man x Queen's Midori). Ridden and owned Karen Rossen; Breeder, Sheaffer Farm.
3. 61.600 Roy-El's Leading Man (Eethree Supreme x Nobel's Lady Lisa). Ridden by Rena Haynes; Breeder, Roy-El's Farm.

## TRAINING LEVEL JUNIOR YOUNG RIDER

1. 66.191 Bay State Quizical (Windcrest Highlander x Bay State Winson). Ridden by Jaqueline Helle and Danielle Helle; Owned by Danielle Helle; Breeder, University of Massachusetts.
2. 61.042 Mantic Nemo (RJM Pardon My French x D&D April's Promise). Ridden by Ashley Anderson; Owned by Sally Anderson; Breeder, Joan and Roland Bowers.

## FIRST LEVEL OPEN

1. 70.000 Greentree Ever Reddi (Greentree Bonnie John x Ready Anne Eager). Ridden by Sean Cunningham; Owned by Wendy Bizzaro; Breeder Greentree Ranch.
2. 66.610 Bay State Quizical (Windcrest Highlander x Bay State Winson). Ridden by Jaqueline Helle and Danielle Helle; Owned by Danielle Helle; Breeder, University of Massachusetts.
3. 65.903 Flower Of Alliance (Caduceus Denver x Caduceus Sonata). Ridden by Sally Anderson; Owned by Valerie Radtke; Breeder, Libby Flower.
4. 65.323 Best's National Anthem (Courtnaire x Epic Anthem). Ridden and owned by Karen Rossen; Breeder, Beth Binion.
5. 64.231 ATMF Moonlight Sonata (Hiquera Sondarling x Futurity's Provoacative). Ridden and owned by Sierra Breckenridge; Breeder, Patricia Carlson.



*Greentree Ever Reddi and Sean Cunningham*

## FIRST LEVEL AA

1. 65.323 Best's National Anthem (Courtnaire x Epic Anthem). Ridden and owned by Karen Rossen; Breeder, Beth Binion.
2. 64.231 ATMF Moonlight Sonata (Hiquera Sondarling x Futurity's Provoacative). Ridden and owned by Sierra Breckenridge; Breeder, Patricia Carlson.

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# Morgan Dressage Association 2013



## TRAINING LEVEL OPEN



*FRM Flower of Diva*

1. 73.400 FRM Flower of Diva (Caduceus Denver x Bar Y's Lori Lynn). Ridden by Garra Walline and owned by Beth Sheller.
2. 71.709 Hollyhock Bella Luna (Summit's Conbrio x Hollyhock Isabella). Ridden and owned by Brenda Thoma.
3. 70.250 FRM Flower of Remington (Caduceus Denver x Bar Y's Lori Lynn). Ridden by Judy Kelly and owned by Birgit Villeminey.
4. 68.767 Mythic Oden (Robbie Sue's Ragtime x Mythic Honabe). Ridden by Beth Heubisch and owned by CeAnn Shipley.
5. 67.100 Firecrest Aurora (RBF Time to B x Ami go Alexis). Ridden and owned by Susan Edwards.
6. 66.225 Mythic Nike (Mythic Hyperion x W-B Bedazzlemint). Ridden by Cathy Echternach and owned by CeAnn Shipley.
7. 63.600 Mantic Nemo (RJM Pardon My French x April's Promise). Ridden by Ashley Anderson and owned by Sally Anderson.



*Firecrest Aurora and Susan Edwards*



*Mantic Nemo and Ashley Anderson*

## TRAINING LEVEL ADULT AMATEUR

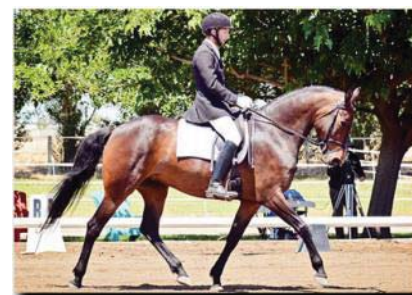
1. 71.709 Hollyhock Bella Luna (Summit's Conbrio x Hollyhock Isabella). Ridden and owned by Brenda Thoma.
2. 67.100 Firecrest Aurora (RBF Time to B x Amigo Alexis). Ridden and owned by Susan Edwards.

## JUNIOR YOUNG RIDER

1. 63.600 Mantic Nemo (RJM Pardon My French x April's Promise). Ridden by Ashley Anderson and owned by Sally Anderson.

## FIRST LEVEL OPEN

1. 74.634 Greentree Ever Reddi (Greentree Bonnie John x Reddy Ann Eager). Ridden by Sean Cunningham and owned by Wendy Bizzaro.
2. 70.656 Merriewold Kirin (RG Stuarts Monarch x Caduceus Marika). Ridden by Alejandro Salazar and owned by Diana Wold.
3. 68.396 Flower of Alliance (Caduceus Denver x Caduceus Sonata). Ridden by Sally Anderson and owned by Valerie Radtke.
4. 67.420 Gray Barron Gold Bar (DJJJ Ebony Gold x WTR Chocolate Bar). Ridden by Sean Cunningham and owned by Wendy Bizzaro.
5. 66.334 Foxbrush One Tuff Juan (Funquest Erick x Timberloft Mary Mead). Ridden and owned by Sherri Spoltman.
6. 64.555 The Legacy of Scotmadison (Charlestown Scotland x Equinox Mademoiselle). Ridden and owned by Rebecca Darragh.
7. 63.880 KLN Darling Command (Final Command x Ironwood Tiffany). Ridden and owned by Kelsey Hagan.



*Merriewold Kirin and Alejandro Salazar*



*Foxbrush One Tuff Juan and Sherri Spoltman*

## FIRST LEVEL ADULT AMATEUR

1. 66.334 Foxbrush One Tuff Juan (Funquest Erick x Timberloft Mary Mead). Ridden and owned by Sherri Spoltman.
2. 64.555 The Legacy of Scotmadison (Charlestown Scotland x Equinox Mademoiselle). Ridden and owned by Rebecca Darragh.

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*The Legacy of Scotmadison and Rebecca Darragh.*



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, send it and a check to: Morgan Dressage Association, Karin Weight, 1069 N. Geneva Rd., Provo, UT 84601. Checks should be made payable to MDA.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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:

Renewal  New  Jr/Young Rider \$10  Individual \$25  Family/Farm \$35  Patron \$100   
Check all that apply: Rider  Professional Trainer  Breeder  Enthusiast

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 coordination   
Breed promotion  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Professional/Breeder additional information to be included in the 2011 MDA Membership Directory and on MDA web site for an additional \$15 charge. Up to 30 words describing your services and/or program/stallion (Use additional sheet if necessary).

Category (Check all that apply): Trainer/instructor  Breeder/Stock for sale

Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

*If you've already renewed and want your information/listing to be included in the next directory and on the web site now, just send the bottom portion of this form with a check for \$15 and mark: "Already renewed" at the top.*

**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:  
Morgan Dressage Association • c/o Karin Weight • 1069 N. Geneva Rd. • Provo, UT 84601