

DeGraff Stables **25**
CELEBRATING
YEARS
of Business in 2010



Heres The Facts with M.J. Fowler, AQHA Superior and compete successfully in USEF competitions.

DeGraff Stables

Redefining the Quarter Horse in Sport

www.WhatiWork4.com

How much better can a website name clearly identify what the horse industry signifies for Robin DeGraff? DeGraff Stables, recognized as an AQHA 4AHorse Breeder and an American Warmblood Registry Breeder, has been developing their own variety of English horse since the acquisition of Indian Artifacts in 1996. “

It has been exciting and actually astounding when you think about it to see the multitude of winners that have been produced at DeGraff Stables as a result of finding and matching the right mares to produce suitable offspring for several English venues,” Robin DeGraff shares with us. “Indian Artifacts’ offspring truly are leading the way for the appendix type Quarter Horse, to be recognized and sought after in Sport Horse venues.”



Speaking Softly by Indian Artifacts with Kelby Kane. Bluegrass Classic - Circuit Champion Novice Youth Working Hunter. Huntfield Derby Show - Novice Youth Working Hunter Champion and Youth Working Hunter 13 and Under Champion under the guidance of David Warner

“Indian Artifacts met her personal inner ideal of the perfect equine athlete.”

Early on, Robin recognized that Indian Artifacts “met her personal inner ideal of the perfect equine athlete” and set out through her breeding program to realize the goal of making him a household name not only in the Quarter Horse world, but also in Hunter, Eventing and Dressage competitions. And, so far it is working! Today Indian Artifacts has World or National Champions/Reserve Champions and National Top 10’s in AQHA, APHA, PtHA, ApHC, NSBA, AWR, USEF, USHJA and USDF competitions in many, many events. “In fact,” Robin says excitedly, “each of his Warmblood offspring that have been submitted for inspection through the American Warmblood



that the Sport Horse World rewards superior movement. They classify superior movement as ‘that which exhibits suspension with a free shoulder and an elastic way of going.’ In jumping events, we find that the course will demonstrate the horse’s freedom, energy, skill, speed and obedience. Competitions in hunter over fence courses highlight the horse’s form over the jump, and the forward stride required to safely navigate the course design. Dressage requires the horse and rider to combine the strength and agility of gymnastics with the elegance and beauty of ballet (think of the Freestyle) to perform the step-by-step progression of gaits and

Registry program has outscored their dam in conformation and movement abilities, according to the criteria set forth by the breed standards.” Indian Artifacts is the only breeding stallion today who is himself an AQHA World Champion, AWR First Premium and an AWR Inspection Champion, and has plainly demonstrated that he is genetically capable of improving the dam through the foal, and therefore improving the breed.



HBF Iron Man (AQHA/APHA) Stallion – Photo by Celeste

“Our recent purchase of 5X World Champion HBF Iron Man (AQHA/APHA) (PHOTO 2) really opened up other breeding opportunities for us at DeGraff Stables,” Robin explains. “HBF Iron Man was selected to cross on the Indian Artifacts daughters and our other top quality Thoroughbred and Appendix mares. We are thrilled about the results we have achieved through these crosses, the Champions we are producing and what those individuals could represent not only at Quarter Horse shows but in the Sport Horse market.”



Why are the characteristics of height, size, stride and scope important? Robin has found



Indyvisible owned by Kim Seitzmeir is currently competing and winning in jumping and equitation over fence events on the USEF circuit.

“ I would much rather have a horse that is pleasant to be around. One that ‘tries’ every ride to please me, than a horse that has more athletic ability and cannot remember what it learned the day before, or is nervous, excitable or impatient, or is not interested in trying to do what I ask it to do. I’ll take the trainable horse any day! ”

—ROBIN DEGRAFF

movements- from simple to increasingly complex movements- through the tests of each succeeding Level. The 3-Day Eventing competitions require the horse to start with Dressage (think of ice skating preliminaries), add endurance to their jumping skills in the cross country phase and finish with stadium jumping.”

DeGraff believes she has found the perfect combination. “While our Appendix Quarter Horses may not be able to jump the highest jumps, or have the exotic and extreme animated movement found in the highest levels of Dressage, the conformation and movement of our Appendix Type Quarter Horses is well rewarded through the many levels of competitions where most Amateurs and Youth compete successfully.”

Where does the Appendix Quarter Horse shine? Temperament. Trainability. Attitude. “I would much rather have a horse that is pleasant to be around,” states Robin, “one that ‘tries’ every ride to please me, than a horse that has more athletic ability and cannot remember what it learned the day before, or is nervous, excitable or impatient, or is not interested in trying to do what I ask it to do. I’ll take the trainable horse any day!”

Whether because of age or experience, not all riders have the ability to compete at an Olympic level anyway, therefore, the Appendix type Quarter Horse, with its easy to ride gaits and forgiving natures, are ideally suited for Open, Amateur and Youth riders in Sport Horse competitions. The quiet demeanor of the Quarter Horse makes it indispensable to an owner. The competitive owner also wants horse



Indyvisible owned by Kim Seitzmeir is currently competing and winning in jumping and equitation over fence events on the USEF circuit.

“*Indyvisible is bold to the fence, with cadence.*”

showing to be an enjoyable experience when it comes to caring for and riding their show horse. It is great that their solid and steady performance over fences or in Dressage competitions in the ring garners many awards for their riders.

“A couple of our offspring owners have had successes with the Appendix horses.” says Robin. Roger Seitzmeir, an accomplished hunter/jumper trainer and owner of Waldpoint Farms in North Fort Myers, Florida, advised Robin that his wife Kim knew it was

‘business’ and necessary to their success to buy, train, show and sell prospects, but really wanted her own show horse. The Seitzmeirs found that selling their Waldpoint Farm prospects often caused Kim to be without a ‘ride’ until another came along. “We were pleased when Roger chose Indyvisible, a big bay gelding by Indian Artifacts for her. Roger credits the horse’s willing temperament and trainability to their success in the show ring. He says the horse is amazing. He describes Indyvisible as bold to the fence, with cadence and has the perfect forward stride down the line. He says everybody loves him. Even better? Kim is pleased and the team is winning in jumping and equitation events. Since then, Roger now has other Appendix



A Well Dressed Man by HBF Iron Man shown by owner Sarah Elder Chabot in Amateur and by Jessica Johnson in Open, currently 2nd in the Nation in three AQHA events.

Quarter Horses in his barn and says his amateur owners are happy and competitive!”

Under the guidance of Karen Evans Mundy, Sarah Elder Chabot of Tennessee has A Well Dressed Man by HBF Iron Man. (PHOTO 8) “Sarah shows him in the Amateur events and Jessica Johnson in Open. Sarah is like many riders that want to do multiple events such as on the flat, over fence and pattern classes but needs an athletic horse that can cover ground,” explains Robin. Sarah and Jessica with “Calvin” have racked up many points at Quarter Horse shows and are World Show qualified in the Working Hunter events, Hunter Hack and Equitation classes. Sarah tells us, “Calvin has made me enjoy showing

again. He has that laid-back temperament and talent that makes showing fun and winning possible! He is currently second in the nation in three events!” The big, strong, flashy gelding with his great attitude has proven that he is just what they are looking for in the various hunter competitions.

“Calvin has made me enjoy showing again!”

“We have so many other competitors with our offspring under the governing body of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), that are competing over fence in the United States Hunter Jumper Association



Indian Artbeat, owned by Marie Hoffman AQHA Superior Dressage, AWR Inspected as First Premium Rating, 2010 USDF High Point All-Breed Quarter Horse Training Level 5th and currently Indian Artbeat is 5th in the Nation in most AQHA points earned in Dressage, as of August, 2013



Indian Artbeat

(USHJA), and in the eventing world in the United States Eventing Association (USEA), I wish I could list them all." DeGraff laughs. "It is great for our Appendix-breds, opening many avenues to market prospects. We find that when the trainers actually get them in their barn and work with them, they recognize the value of their solid work ethic, quiet attitude and good form on the flat and over fence."

Marie Hoffman of OEW Equine Center in Kirkland, Illinois worked hard in 2010; that was the first year that AQHA recognized Dressage. Marie, like many other Quarter Horse owners who wanted to compete in the newly approved Dressage competitions, found that in many instances they had to work with each show administration to make sure the proper AQHA approvals were in place with the USDF event, prior to showing. But Marie found the effort worth it. She very successfully competed her stallion, Indian Artbeat (PHOTOs 11) by Indian Artifacts, to 5th in the Nation in USDF All-Breeds Awards Quarter Horse Division and 6th in the Nation in USEF standings, in 2010. Indian Artbeat earned an AQHA Superior Award in Dressage

that season as well. As of August of this year, the team is back in the show ring and Indian Artbeat is 5th in the Nation in most AQHA points earned in Dressage. Indian Artbeat, the same as Indian Artifacts, was submitted for inspection to the American Warmblood Registry. Passing the conformation, jumping and dressage standards of the Stallion Inspection, Indian Artbeat earned a First Premium Rating and excitingly, to date, has produced ALL First Premium foals! Indian Artbeat is well on his way to making a mark in the Sport Horse world.

"As a result of producing offspring with a modern type, an uphill build, the ability and mindset to perform and outstanding eye appeal at DeGraff Stables, we have been blessed to form a rewarding working relationship with Lynn Palm of Ocala, Florida, to perpetuate our Appendix Quarter Horse offspring in the Dressage arena," shares Robin.

“ Dressage, an Olympic event, has become one of the fastest growing equestrian sports in the country. ”

"Dressage is open to ANY horse, and people like the challenge of riding patterns, or pattern classes. They love learning and riding the Dressage tests. Most importantly, there is literally a 'level' at which everyone can compete. As they master the tests within the levels, both rider and horse are able to progress."



Western Dressage is the newest and fastest growing discipline. This training follows a progressive scale similar to traditional dressage where emphasis is put on harmony between horse and rider. Riders execute transitions, figures and maneuvers in a correct balance while the careful training progression develops horses gradually both physically and mentally.



In Dee Extreme with Lynn Palm, 2012 Adequan/USDF All Breeds Award AQHA Open Training Level Champion and Highest Median Score All Levels – 71.3%, AQHA High Point Champion – Training Level Dressage 5th and currently Indian Artbeat is 5th in the Nation in most AQHA points earned in Dressage, as of August, 2013

Lynn Palm explains the scoring and how the horse earns AQHA Incentive Fund points: “USDF Dressage competitions are scored based on a national standard of correctness and accuracy. The percentage score is a mathematical compilation determined by totaling the scores awarded by the judge for each element in the test. AQHA points are awarded by your percentage score according to the number of points you get in each element and collective marks (the rider gets judged also) to a perfect score. After the class is complete, the judge provides each entrant with a complete test result. The judge identifies the score for each movement in the test and makes comments they believe will help the rider learn from so that they may advance with the horse. You also will get placed in the class; First, Second, Third

and so forth, based on the number of horses shown in your same class and test level. It is really a fun strategy to improve the training and correct performance of your horse,” Lynn continues, “as well as your own riding skills, using the results from your scores and written comments from the judge at each show. Another great tip to get started in Dressage, each entrant is designated a time slot for their test (like a golf tee off time), you know the exact time you are going to show, so you can prepare and plan a great test!”

“*Western Dressage is another quickly growing sport in the realm of Dressage, using western tack with more traditional dressage movements and patterns.*”

The Western Dressage Association of America recently had approval to become a USEF discipline in 2014.

Just last year, Lynn competed on In Dee Extreme, a 2008 bay stallion owned by DeGraff Stables, to earn the 2012 AQHA High Point Championship – Training Level Dressage, the 2012 Adequan/USDF All Breeds Award AQHA Open Training Level Championship and was the 2012 Adequan/USDF All Breeds Award AQHA Open Highest Median Score All Levels – 71.3%.

But that was not Lynn’s only champion

by Indian Artifacts! Lynn has worked long hours developing Dressage for the Quarter Horse breed within AQHA. She was showing the Appendix Quarter Horse long before it became an AQHA recognized event. In 2006 and 2008, Lynn showed Indian Harvest, a 2001 bay gelding to USDF AQHA All-Breeds Awards Open Training Level Year End Championships. And as AQHA began recognizing Dressage competition in 2010, and expanded to recognize Levels of

Dressage in 2012 starting with Training Level through FEI Grand Prix, this team of Lynn Palm and Indian Harvest was AQHA Honor Roll High-Point Reserve Champion Dressage First Level in the Open and the Senior Horse Divisions in 2012. To date, Lynn Palm on Indian Harvest is the only Quarter Horse to appear on the cover of Dressage Today magazine!

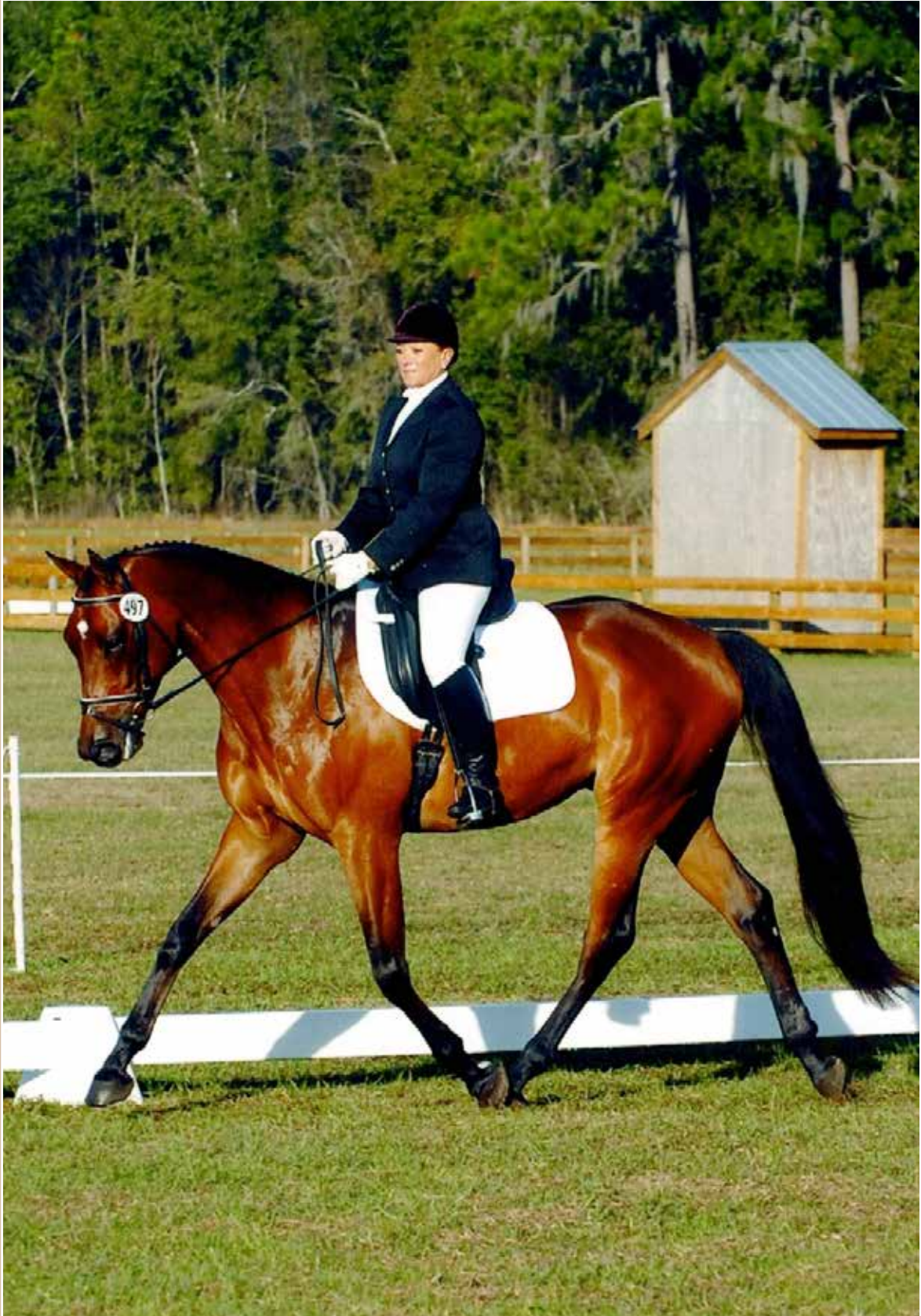
Lynn welcomes and works with many great horses of all sizes and credits much of her success and her higher scores with the Indian Artifacts offspring due to their size. "She advises us that along with height, typically an extended length of stride is realized, as well as additional suspension." states Robin."

“*Suspension is the all important ingredient to develop in order for the horse to be able to move up the levels through training.*”

In 2013, Lynn is competing on another stunning prospect by Indian Artifacts: DGS Replicated. With very limited showing, the DeGraff Stables-owned grey stallion stands 3rd in the Nation in Training Level All-Breed for Quarter Horses. Lynn continues, "It has been so much fun learning about a new market for our Quarter Horses - Dressage. Quarter Horses have been appreciated around the country in the USDF/USEF Dressage rings and are becoming recognized for their temperament, trainability, and easy gaits to work with. This is just what we want for our Amateur and Youth riders! It has been



Lynn Palm with her new partner; DGS Replicated by Indian Artifacts, currently 3rd in the Nation USDF All-Breed Quarter Horse Training Level Champion, Training Level and First Level



Indian Harvest with Lynn Palm, multiple year AQHA and USDF High Point Year End Champion and/or Reserve Champion, Training Level and First Level

very comfortable for me to show my horses as I have learned from Dressage training all my life.”

“Dressage is proven.” Lynn continues, “The principles of Dressage apply to all training. Dressage is successful training and understanding of natural horsemanship. How a horse performs; in correct balance and self-carriage, as well as with correct movement in gaits is reflected in the scoring of the tests. Each level builds upon the movements, which are accomplished and perfected in the previous level. Horses are always rewarded for being happy and accepting in their work, as well as having their ears forward. The training develops strength and the longevity of a horse’s performance is also appreciated in this market. If you have a 15-year-old horse, he is middle aged and very popular! Horse owners who have a passion for the horse and his well being will share the same appreciation for Dressage for Quarter Horses as I do. It is a new market. Please join us!”

Robin wraps up by saying, “So, at DeGraff Stables, we have worked hard over the years to develop our progeny and to promote them across many venues. In addition to being competitive in the show ring, we want people to have fun with their horse. After all, that’s what it’s all about. We believe our breeding has resulted in the accomplishment of those two goals. I love hearing Lynn at a horse show when someone says to her, ‘I love your horse! What is he?’ She always smiles and says, ‘It’s an American Quarter Horse!’”

Thanks to Robin for sharing about this quickly growing sport, and we hope to see it continue to evolve and gain followers! To see more of what Robin DeGraff, DeGraff Stables and WhatIWork4 is all about, visit the websites.



DEGRAFF IS GOING GLOBAL!

“Frosty The Goodbar, HBF Iron Man, and Invited The Artist will have frozen semen available in Europe” Robin shares excitedly, “and Frosty The Goodbar and HBF Iron Man have entered in the DQHA in Germany! Very exciting and fun!”