

Equine Affaire
November 2007

By Dr. Diane Kozwich

The Equine Affaire is a national equine exposition and equestrian gathering held in W. Springfield, Massachusetts. This year was the 10th anniversary of the exhibit. It is one of the largest equine gatherings in the US and was held November 8th -11th at the Eastern States Exposition. Every year more and more folks attend the event. This year more than 100,000 horse enthusiasts passed through the gates over the 4 day event. It is a great opportunity for the IALHA to promote our wonderful breed and the organization. It is also a great way to create new Andalusian and Lusitano horse lovers and owners!

Each year all breeds are invited to showcase their organization and horses in the Breed Pavilion. Most of the major breeds are represented, including the IALHA. The booth and adjacent stall provide an opportunity to educate others about our Andalusian, Lusitano and part bred horses.

Having the horses next to the booth provides an opportunity for people to personally meet our horses and ask questions about the breed.

The IALHA booth was well manned during the 2007 Equine Affaire by members Brenda Hammar of Snowbrook Farm, Pelham, NH; Dr. Diane Kozwich of Wild Rose Farm, Nottingham, NH; Ann Vinkler of Preston, CT; Bryan, Donna and Duncan Martinez of Hudson, MA and Noreen Duffy-Granbery of Nottingham, NH. Non-IALHA members helping at the booth included Michelle Freeman of Chicopee, MA; as well as Orintha and Phil Silva of Ten Broeck Farm, Pepperell, MA. These folks talked with other horse enthusiasts about our breed, gave out IALHA handbooks and Andalusian magazines to many; and handed Andalusian horse posters to delighted youngsters.



Purebred Andalusians taking a turn in the stall next to the exhibit booth in the Breed Pavilion included Bryan Martinez's gelding, Dakota Tesoro (Te) and Ann Vinkler's mare, Madeira. Lusitano horses included stallions Mr. Bond Interagro (007) and Valente; and the gelding Vencendor (Vinny). All three Lusitano horses are owned by Tom Mikes of Windridge Farm in Ashby Ma. Michele Freeman brought 5 year old Spartacus (Sparky) to represent the Azteca, a cross between an Andalusian and a Quarter Horse.

The booth, a portico structure including hanging grape vines and countryside views, provided a feeling of being in the country side of Andalusia. The IALHA's educational video and other breed specific videos, displayed on a huge flat screen TV, drew people into the booth to ask questions and sparked interest in our beautiful horses.

Karen Turner of Hillsboro, NJ donated a breeding to her Andalusian stallion; El Todopodoroso. The breeding was raffled over the weekend, and on late Sunday afternoon the name of the lucky winner was drawn. The thrilled winners are Deb and Trib DeBurgo of Northfield NH.

A special thanks to all who volunteered their time and expenses to helped man, erect and take down the booth; brought horses; and were spokesmen for our organization and breed.

Each year the breed demonstration, a 15 minute educational presentation highlighting our horses, gets better! This year's event, on Friday evening, was well attended and the crowd was not let down. The show started with our guest announcer Paul Eason of Milford, NH doing a superb job of describing the history and characteristics of the breed while the horses were shown in native attire and in hand. Michelle Freeman rode her bay Azteca, Sparky, in Western Pleasure attire Phil Silva of Ten Broeck Farm showed Mr. Bond, the beautiful buckskin Lusitano stallion in hand. Orintha Silva of Ten Broeck Farm, rode the cremelo Lusitano stallion Valente in Portuguese native tack and attire. Bryan Martinez rode his white Andalusian gelding, Te, in attire appropriate for the medieval period in history. Bill Duffy of Asby, MA demonstrated the versatility of our breed by driving the palomino Lusitano gelding, Vencendor, from a carriage known as a Meadowbrook Cart.

The second half of the breed demonstration showed the graceful movements and collection that Andalusian and Lusitano horse are known for with a choreographed "pas de trios" of dressage movements. The dancers included trainer Leslie Kornfeld of Maynard, MA riding her white Lusitano gelding, Rebelde. Orintha Silva returned riding Mr. Bond and Alexia Rosoff rode her Percheron/Andalusian cross, Mozart, who is owned by Alexia and Sherril Rosoff of Pepperell, MA. Rebelde pleased the crowd by exiting with the famous Spanish walk!

A special thanks to the participants and organizers of the breed demo for making Equine Affaire 2007 the most memorable event yet! Also, thanks to IALHA member and photographer, Noreen Duffy-Granbery of Duffy Productions for donating her time and talent to take the wonderful photographs for this article.

We hope to see you there next year.