

HORSE WORLD

Paso Fino

Vol. 2 of 4, 2024

The Official Publication of the Paso Fino Horse Association



GRAND NATIONAL SHOW

SEPTEMBER 25-29th, 2024

World Equestrian Center - Ocala, Florida



**THE PASO FINO HORSE ASSOCIATION
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FROM THE SECRETARY

I have been a member of PFHA for 25 years and have seen the ups and downs.



But we have a thriving membership and we are always positive to look forward and learn from the past and do what is best according to our Rules and Policies.

I believe the success of our association is that everyone gives back in one form or another. That is what I want to reiterate, we all give back and set examples to those coming after us. We do not get paid for being a President, Vice-President, Treasurer or Secretary or 1, 2, 3 year Directors or Board of Directors of PFHA, we do what we can to positively impact the future of our breed. We are very grateful for even the smallest of participation or volunteering on every level of membership. Every little bit helps us grow our future. Speaking of the future, I have had the privilege to see our Youth becoming a product of giving back. They are serving on PFHA Committees and on their respective regional associations. We are very fortunate to have such a growing Youth influence.

They are our future and they have very good input to impact their future with PFHA. In closing, please keep giving back and setting an example because our breed deserves to be handed down for generations to come. ■

-KATHY YARBROUGH, SECRETARY

HORSE WORLD
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CONTENTS

VOL. 1 OF 4, 2024

- 4 2024 GNS LICENSED OFFICIALS
- 12 2024 GNS CLASS LIST
- 15 2025 OFFICER NOMINATIONS
- 16 BREYERFEST WITH GASCON THE GREAT
- 28 YOUTH MUNDIAL
- 30 ASHEVILLE ALIVE
- 32 BLUEGRASS TRIPLE CROWN
- 34 HALL OF FAME: CABO
- 35 NEW MEMBERS

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UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

SHOW	REGION	DATE	LOCATION
Mason Dixon Last Chance	Mason Dixon	August 30-31, 2024	Dream Park
Mid America's THT	Mid America	August 31-September 1, 2024	Rochester, MN
2024 Grand National Show		September 25-29, 2024	World Equestrian Center
Piedmont Fall Fiesta	Piedmont	November 2-23, 2024	South Carolina Equine Park



Introducing THE 2024 GNS LICENSED OFFICIALS

This year, our judges will be focusing on divisional judging, ensuring specialized expertise in every ring. Angela Ochoa and Willman Rodriguez will be the constant presence in the ring, overseeing all classes. The judges for the Fino classes include Derek Fernandez, Mirta de La Cruz, and Paul Marlowe. Cindy Griffeth, Keith Dane, and Nick Burgos will be judging the Pleasure/Performance and specialty classes. Our dedicated stewards for the show are Adele Mauer, Andrea Lord, and Paulette Denault-Bryce.



Angela Ochoa

Born in Bogotá, Colombia, Angela Ochoa has been a both a breeder and owner, and has worked with various horse breeds, with a particular focus on the Paso Fino. She is a certified judge for the Colombian Federation of Equine Associations, the Paso Fino Horse Association (PFHA), the United States Equestrian Federation, and the Technical Federation of Certified Judges of Paso Fino Horses of Puerto Rico. She is also the only certified international judge in Colombia for Arabian horses and judges the Higüeyanos breed in the Dominican Republic.

Angela has served as the executive director of the Colombian Association of Arabian Horse Breeders since 2010. She has been president of the equine, donkey, and mule network of the Colombian Ministry of Agriculture and currently represents the equine species for the Animal Welfare Council of the Ministry of Agriculture. She also presides over the international committee of judges of Confepaso and is a Board member of the Leonor Calderón de Noguera and Rodrigo Noguera Laborde Foundation at the Sergio Arboleda University.

Angela has judged equine exhibitions across Colombia, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Ecuador, Aruba, Curaçao, Panama, the Dominican Republic, and the United States. Her judging portfolio includes national exhibitions of Fedequinas, Copa America, Feria de Las Flores, and several CONFEPASO World Championships. She has also coached national teams from Colombia and the United States in world championships.

A columnist for various equine publications, Angela has authored two books on judging Paso Fino horses and equitation. She has lectured at UDCA University and given seminars and conferences across the USA, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Ecuador, Panama, Aruba, and Curaçao.



Willman Rodriguez

Willman was born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and has been involved with Paso Fino horses from a young age as an owner, breeder, showman, amateur rider, and pleasure rider. He is a National and International judge certified in Puerto Rico, a Senior Judge with the Paso Fino Horse Association (PFHA), and a USEF "R" judge.

Willman has judged significant national and international shows, including:

- Tropical Park Miami 2024
- Hispanic Heritage 2022
- Summer Spectacular 2022
- Summer Classic 2022
- Bluegrass Kentucky Horse Park 2022
- PFHA National Show (2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2022)
- Pre-Spectrum Show 2007, Spectrum (2011, 2023)
- Extravaganza (2009, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2023)
- Virginia Presidential 2014
- Interpaso in Aruba and Curacao
- Adopaso in the Dominican Republic
- Clasico Internacional Equitation
- Ponce Internacional (2018, 2022)

He has also judged three Mundial World Cups: Puerto Rico 2005, Jacksonville Florida 2007, San Juan Puerto Rico 2011, and numerous other shows such as Feria Dulce Sueño Puerto Rico 2019, Miami International 2019, and Ohio 2019.

Willman was President of the Puerto Rico Judges' Association in 2004 and 2005, organizing the judges' Congress and Certification before the 2005 Mundial in Puerto Rico. He has participated in all Equine Congresses as a speaker and has written various articles on judging Paso horses. He was also, the President of the Board of Directors of la Asociación Puertorriqueña de Criadores de Caballos de Paso Fino de América (Los Abiertos) in 2008 and 2009. Currently, Willman is a Real Estate Broker and Internal Auditor at Tropigas of Puerto Rico.



Derek Fernandez

Derek Fernandez, a Puerto Rican native, developed his passion for Paso Fino horses in the 1980s. He started riding Paso Finos at age ten and began training them by age twelve. His show career began in his hometown of Trujillo Alto in the early 1980s, with his first international show in Cidra, Puerto Rico, at the Mundial in 1985.

In 1998, Derek moved to the United States to work with Paso Fino horses, leading to the establishment of DNA Paso Fino in 1999, where he breeds, trains, and shows Paso Fino horses. Competing across the Southeast, he has won numerous classes and championships in Bella Forma, Pleasure, Performance, and Fino.

Derek's journey to becoming a judge began in 2003, training under knowledgeable and respected senior certified judges. He became a PFHA-certified judge and a Confepaso judge in 2007, and received his USEF "r" certification the same year. In 2016, he achieved Senior Certified PFHA Judge status.

Derek has judged in various states, including Oregon, Missouri, New York, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia, New Jersey, Texas, and Georgia, as well as in Puerto Rico. Some of the notable shows he has judged include:

- 2009 Spectrum International
- 2009 Extravaganza
- 2016 Asheville
- 2016 Extravaganza
- 2016 National Show
- 2018 Ponce International in Puerto Rico

Derek considers himself a fair and knowledgeable judge who prioritizes the 4-beat gait throughout the class. He strictly adheres to the Paso Fino rule book to ensure all competitors are judged equally. He emphasizes promoting the breed and upholding high standards, being particularly strict with trocha horses in a Paso Fino class and fair with schooling horses.

When given the opportunity to judge the 2024 National Show, Derek promised to perform to the best of his ability, adhering to the PFHA Rule Book.

Mirta De La Cruz

Mirta De La Cruz is a PFHA Member and PFHA-certified Judge and waiting for USEF to administer her judge's card; she also holds the International Paso judge certification issued by CONFEPASO. As a judge, Mirta has had the opportunity to judge some important shows and horses in the USA, Puerto Rico, Curaçao, Aruba, Colombia and the Dominican Republic

She has been a Judge in shows that include the Mundial 2021, Ocala Cup 2022, Miami Summer 2023, Mundial de Jinetes y Amazonas 2022, Nacional de Chaleneria 2022, Feria di Imno Bandera 2022, Mundial Confepaso 2023, Nacional Adopaso 2023, and Gran Nacional Curaçao 2023.

Mirta was born in the Dominican Republic and has been involved with Paso Fino horses since she was four years old, when she started to compete in Paso equitation.

Since that very young age and through her teenage and college years, Mirta showed, bred, and continued to compete – not only in equitation but also in professional classes. In the Dominican Republic, she enjoys her passion for the Paso Fino horse at shows and at the farm.

Mirta is a member of PFHA's Judges and Stewards Committee and is the secretary of the CONFEPASO International Judges Committee.

Outside of the Paso world, Mirta is an attorney and owns a company that produces goat cheese for sale to grocery stores in her country.

Paul Marlowe

Paul Marlowe, an experienced equestrian and judge with a deep passion for the Paso Fino breed, is excited about the opportunity to contribute to such a prestigious event. Having dedicated 32 years to the study, training, and appreciation of Paso Fino horses, he brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the judging arena.



His understanding of the breed's conformation, gait, and performance standards align closely with the expectations set forth by the Grand National Paso Fino Horse Show.

Paul has a proven track record of integrity, fairness, and professionalism in his judging assignments. He understands the importance of upholding the highest standards of sportsmanship and respect for both competitors and their equine partners. His approach to judging is rooted in objectivity, thoroughness, and a genuine appreciation for the beauty and athleticism of Paso Fino horses.

Over the years, Paul has judged numerous prestigious shows, including:

- 2015: Midwest Classic - St. Louis, Mason Dixon Spectacular - New Jersey, Extravaganza - Ocala
- 2016: Kentucky Classic, Mason Dixon Spectacular - New Jersey
- 2017: Ocala Spring Festival
- 2018: Miami Hispanic Heritage, Grand Finale Last Chance - Ocala, Volunteer Spirit - Tennessee

- 2019: Hispanic Heritage Festival - Miami, Texas Christmas Show, Ozark Empire - St. Louis, Spectrum International - Miami, Germantown Charity - Memphis, Heritage Great Lakes
- 2020: Texas Christmas Show
- 2021: Ocala Cup International, Pre-Spectrum - Tampa
- 2022: Spectrum International/Extravaganza, Germantown Charity, Last Chance Miami, Youth Mundial - Cali, Colombia
- 2023: Miami Winter Festival, Mason Dixon Spring Fling
- 2024: The Texas Christmas Show

Committed to ensuring a positive experience for all participants and spectators at the Grand National Paso Fino Horse Show, Paul is eager to contribute to the success of the event by evaluating each entry with diligence, consistency, and impartiality. He is honored to be considered for the judging position and looks forward to the possibility of serving as a judge at the Grand National Paso Fino Horse Show.

JUDGES

(Divisional Five-Judge Hybrid System)

Hon. Nicholas Burgos
 Hon. Mirta De La Cruz
 Hon. Keith Dane
 Hon. Derek Fernandez
 Hon. Cindy Griffith
 Hon. Paul Marlowe
 Hon. Angelo Ochoa
 Hon. Willman Rodriguez

GROUP A
Division: Fino
Classes: Diagonals, Horsemanship and International Equitation
Judges: Cruz, Fernandez, Marlowe, Ochoa and Rodriguez

GROUP B
Division: Country Pleasure, Performance, Pleasure
Classes: Bella Forma, Costume, Driving, Equitation, Rescue, Trail, Versatility, Walk-corto Leadline and Western Pleasure
Judges: Burgos, Dane, Griffith, Ochoa and Rodriguez

GRAND NATIONAL SHOW
 World Equestrian Center, Arena 4
 Ocala, Florida



Cindy Griffith

Cindy has been involved with Paso Fino horses since 1973 when her family purchased their first Paso Fino horse. She trained Paso Fino horses for 40 years and has owned and operated Mandalay Bay Paso Fino Horse Training for over 20 years. She has been a PFHA judge since 1995 and is a PFHA senior certified and USEF judge. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Paso Fino Horse Association as the Georgia Region delegate and is the chair of the Events Committee. She also serves on the Rules, Rules Clarification, Hearing, and International Committees.

Keith Dane



Keith Dane is a horseman who has owned, shown, bred, and trained gaited horses for most of his life, with a particular admiration for Paso Finos. A judge licensed with many organizations, Keith has held his PFHA and USEF cards since 2006, judging dozens of PFHA shows and thousands of Paso Fino horses.

Keith has judged several national and international championship shows, including the Paso Fino Grand National Horse Show, the FOSH North American Championships, and Rocky Mountain Horse International Championships. He has also judged the United Mountain Horse Association World Show, the Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horse Association International Show, and the European Tennessee Walking Horse Championship Show.

With more than 30 years of experience in horse protection, Keith is the Senior Director of Equine Protection for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). He leads domestic horse welfare policy efforts, including campaigns to end horse slaughter and secure the welfare of sport and racing horses. Previously, he was the executive director of Friends of Sound Horses (FOSH), co-founding one of the first show circuits for the sound gaited horse community.

Keith was honored to judge the 2015 PFHA Grand National Championship Show and welcomes another opportunity to officiate at this prestigious event. Some of the notable shows

he has judged include:

- 2015: Midwest Classic - St. Louis, Mason Dixon Spectacular - New Jersey, Extravaganza - Ocala
- 2016: Kentucky Classic, Mason Dixon Spectacular - New Jersey
- 2017: Ocala Spring Festival
- 2018: Miami Hispanic Heritage, Grand Finale Last Chance - Ocala, Volunteer Spirit - Tennessee
- 2019: Hispanic Heritage Festival - Miami, Texas Christmas Show, Ozark Empire - St. Louis, Spectrum International - Miami, Germantown Charity - Memphis, Heritage Great Lakes
- 2020: Texas Christmas Show
- 2021: Ocala Cup International, Pre-Spectrum - Tampa
- 2022: Spectrum International/Extravaganza, Germantown Charity, Last Chance Miami, Youth Mundial - Cali, Colombia
- 2023: Miami Winter Festival, Mason Dixon Spring Fling
- 2024: The Texas Christmas Show

Nick Burgos



Nick Burgos is a seasoned judge affiliated with the PFHA and a true equestrian at heart. Nick's journey with horses began at the tender age of nine, when he was introduced to his first Paso Fino at Fieldstone Meadows in Dallastown, Pennsylvania. Instantly captivated by their majestic presence, Nick knew he had found his passion.

Since then, Nick has dedicated himself to the world of Paso Finos. He acquired his first horse – a three-month-old – and embarked on a journey of training and competition. Under the mentorship of renowned trainers like Robert Kilgore and James Laird, Nick honed his skills and immersed himself in the intricacies of the Paso Fino breed.

With a plethora of national and grand national championships under his belt, Nick's expertise as a trainer and judge is unparalleled. His commitment to excellence extends beyond the show ring as he actively promotes the Paso Fino breed through parades, open houses, and competitive trail rides.

As a member of the Professional Paso Fino Trainer's Association, Nick is frequently sought after for his insights into the breed's unique gait. His passion for educating others about the Paso Fino's innate abilities is evident in his engaging presentations and demonstrations.

Over the past four years, Nick has lent his expertise to prestigious shows such as Let the Good Times Roll, Texas Spring Classic, Heritage 2.0, State Line Classic, Harvest Days Holiday Festival, Oregon State Fair Horse Show, Tennessee Spirit, and the Last Chance Ocala. His keen eye for detail and unwavering dedication to the Paso Fino community make him an invaluable asset to any judging panel. Nick is deeply honored to be considered as a judge for the 2024 GNS, and his extensive experience and unwavering dedication make him an invaluable asset to any judging panel.

GNS STEWARDS

Adele Maurer



Adele Maurer has always been intrigued by Paso Fino horses, captivated by their smooth gait and even temperament at multi-breed shows. This interest led her to become a Paso Fino senior steward several years ago. However, living on the West Coast, where there are no active Paso Fino clubs or shows, made maintaining her license difficult, and she relinquished her PFHA steward's card two years ago.

Growing up, Adele showed Morgans and won her first national title at the age of nineteen at the first Morgan National. She has been actively involved in the Morgan National, showing, officiating, and lately acting as night manager. She also enjoys working at the Arabian National and Arabian Youth National shows as her schedule permits.

Adele's journey as an official began in 1996 when she became a USEF steward. Her "R" license allows her to work at various breed shows with multiple divisions, known as a C2 steward, and at Hunter-Jumper shows using her C1 steward's card. This part-time hobby has turned into a year-round job, with Adele annually working 25-30 shows. In addition to stewarding, she has also been ring master, managed the paddock, and worked as an awards coordinator.

Some of the Paso Fino shows Adele has stewarded include:

- Santa Barbara National
- Fiesta of the Spanish Horse
- Germantown Horse Show (which she will be stewarding again this year)
- Oregon State Fair
- Texas Christmas Show (all Paso Fino)

Andrea Lord



Andrea Lord has been a PFHA Senior Certified and USEF Registered ("R") C2 Steward since 2010. Residing in Wildwood, Florida (The Villages), Andrea grew up riding Arabians and Morgans. She operated a boarding stable and managed a therapeutic riding facility in Maine. Her Paso Fino experience began in the 1980s while attending college in Raleigh, where she became captivated by the breed at a Fairgrounds Flea Market. She bought her first Paso in 1990 and started showing.

Andrea occasionally shows locally but primarily enjoys Florida trails on her mare, Isabella de Leader. She primarily does steward work for PFHA shows but also works at a few Morgan and Arabian shows. She values the connections she makes through stewarding, having met many people who have become good friends.

Andrea has served the PFHA on the Executive Committee as Secretary and as chair of the Rules Committee and Co-Chair of the Judges and Stewards Committee. She hopes to bring the Paso Fino family closer together to support the breed and grow the organization. Her stewarding work helps improve the show experience for exhibitors and management. Andrea has worked in many regions, including the Northeast, Mason Dixon, Virginia, Piedmont, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Texas, Tennessee Valley, Florida, and the Southwest, as well as the 2015, 2019, 2020, and 2022 PFHA National Shows.

Andrea's hope is that all participants leave with great memories, feelings of achievement, and pride in their personal accomplishments at the event.



Paulette Denault-Bryce

Paulette Denault-Bryce established Riofino Paso Fino Farm in 1989, but her love for Paso Fino horses began much earlier on the small island of Puerto Rico. Moving there at one year old, she fell in love with the culture, music, food, and especially the Paso Fino horses after seeing a show at El Morro Grounds.

Paulette began showing in the early 1990s and bred for many years. She has shown in all divisions, including specialty classes, and has been an announcer for over 25 years, a Senior PFHA Steward for more than ten years, and a USEF C2 Steward.

Paulette's passion for Paso Fino horses and their community has driven her dedication to stewarding. She was honored to serve as a Grand Nationals Steward in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2020. Her ability to speak Spanish is a significant asset at shows.

Education and Work

- ****Bachelor of Science in Food Science**** from Florida State University
- ****Master of Science in Quality Assurance**** from SPSU
- ****Owner, FS&DT, LLC****: Independent contractor in food safety and auditing, working with multi-billion dollar companies and NSF International.

Paulette's stewarding experiences include:

- Grand Nationals: 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020
- Spectrum: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
- Many regional shows since 2012
- 2023 US National Arabian Championship Night Supervisor
- 2023 Mid-Summer Youth and Amateur Arabian Championship

Paulette looks forward to officiating in 2024.

CONCLUSION

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Board of Directors for their thoughtful selection of the Grand National Show judges and stewards. Your dedication ensures that we have the best officials to uphold the standards and integrity of our beloved Paso Fino community. We also thank everyone who entered their names for consideration. Your passion and commitment to the breed are what make our events truly special. We look forward to a spectacular show and the continued growth of our Paso Fino family. ■



2024 GNS Quick Links

	Prize List
	Sponsorships and VIP Tables
	Hotel and Travel
	Vendors
	Patterns
	Work Offs
	Easy Access Forms

2024 GRAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

Class List

CLASS	CLASS NAME
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25	
1	Bella Forma Colts up to 23 months
2	Bella Forma Colts 24 to 35 months
3	Bella Forma Colts 36 to 48 months
4	Bella Forma Stallions 49 months and older
5	Bella Forma Stallions and Colts Championship
6	Adult Amateur Horsemanship
7	Performance Schooling Fillies 36 to 48 months
8	Amateur Performance Geldings 85 months and older
9	Performance Schooling Colts 49 to 60 months
10	Versatility
11	Amateur Versatility
12	Pleasure Schooling Colts 36 to 48 months
13	Pleasure Mares 61 to 84 months
14	Pleasure Stallions 61 to 84 months
15	Pleasure Geldings 61 to 84 months
16	Pleasure Schooling Fillies 49 to 60 months
17	Pleasure Geldings 85 months and older
18	Pleasure Schooling Geldings 36 to 48 months
19	Pleasure Schooling Geldings 49 to 60 months
20	Pleasure Schooling Fillies 36 to 48 months
21	Amateur Performance Geldings 61 to 84 months
22	Pleasure Schooling Colts 49 to 60 months
23	Fino Amateur Owned and Trained
25	Amateur Fino Schooling Geldings 36 to 48 months
26	Amateur Fino Schooling Geldings 49 to 60 months
27	Amateur Fino Schooling Colts 36 to 48 months
28	Trocha and Galope Open
29	Amateur Fino Schooling Fillies 36 to 48 months
30	Amateur Fino Schooling Fillies 49 to 60 months

CLASS	CLASS NAME
31	Amateur Fino Stallions 61 to 84 months
32	Performance Stallions 85 months and older
33	Trote and Galope Mares and Fillies
34	Pleasure Mares 85 months and older
35	Amateur Fino Geldings 85 months and older
36	Pleasure Stallions 85 months and older
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26	
37	Trail
38	Amateur Trail
39	Bella Forma Fillies up to 23 months
40	Bella Forma Fillies 24 to 35 months
41	Bella Forma Fillies 36 to 48 months
42	Bella Forma Mares 49 months and older
43	Bella Forma Mares and Fillies Championship
44	Driving
45	Amateur Pleasure Geldings 85 months and older
46	Performance Geldings 61 to 84 months
47	Amateur Pleasure Schooling Colts 36 to 48 months
48	Amateur Pleasure Schooling Colts 49 to 60 months
49	Performance Geldings 85 months and older
50	Amateur Pleasure Mares 61 to 84 months
51	Performance Schooling Geldings 36 to 48 months
52	Performance Schooling Geldings 49 to 60 months
53	Trote and Galope Stallions, Colts and Geldings
54	Performance Schooling Fillies 49 to 60 months
55	Amateur Pleasure Schooling Fillies 36 to 48 months
56	Amateur Pleasure Schooling Fillies 49 to 60 months
57	Performance Mares 61 to 84 months
58	Amateur Pleasure Geldings 61 to 84 months

CLASS	CLASS NAME
59	Amateur Pleasure Schooling Geldings 49 to 60 months
60	Amateur Pleasure Schooling Geldings 36 to 48 months
61	Performance Schooling Colts 36 to 48 months
62	Amateur Pleasure Stallions 61 to 84 months
63	Trocha Stallions, Colts and Geldings
64	Amateur Performance Geldings for Gold
65	Performance Stallions 61 to 84 months
66	Amateur Fino Geldings 61 to 84 months
67	Amateur Fino Mares 61 to 84 months
68	Trocha Fillies and Mares
69	Amateur Pleasure Stallions 85 months and older
70	Amateur Pleasure Mares 85 months and older
71	Performance Mares 85 months and older
72	Amateur Fino Stallions 85 months and older
73	Amateur Performance Stallions 85 months and older
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27	
74	Bella Forma Geldings 48 months and under
75	Bella Forma Geldings 49 months and older
76	Bella Forma Geldings Championship
77	Pleasure Amateur Owned and Trained
78	Horsemanship Sub-Junior (7-9)
79	Horsemanship Sub-Junior (10-12)
80	Horsemanship Junior (13-15)
81	Horsemanship Junior (16-17)
82	Western Pleasure
83	Amateur Western Pleasure
84	Breeder's Sweepstakes Fillies
85	Amateur Pleasure Geldings for Gold
86	Performance Geldings for Gold
87	Fino Schooling Fillies 36 to 48 months
88	Fino Schooling Colts 36 to 48 months
89	Fino Schooling Geldings 36 to 48 months
90	Pleasure Junior (16-17)
91	Pleasure Junior (13-15)
92	Amateur Performance Schooling Fillies 36 to 48 months
93	Amateur Performance Schooling Colts 36 to 48 months

CLASS	CLASS NAME
94	Amateur Performance Schooling Geldings 36 to 48 months
95	Fino Geldings for Gold
96	Amateur Performance Stallions 61 to 84 months
97	Pleasure Sub-Junior (10-12)
98	Pleasure Sub-Junior (7-9)
99	Adult Amateur Equitation
100	Fino Schooling Fillies 49 to 60 months
101	Amateur Fino Schooling Colts 49 to 60 months
102	Fino Schooling Geldings 49 to 60 months
103	Breeder's Sweepstakes Colts
104	Amateur Performance Schooling Fillies 49 to 60 months
105	Amateur Performance Schooling Colts 49 to 60 months
106	Amateur Performance Schooling Geldings 49 to 60 months
107	Amateur Fino Mares 85 months and older
108	Fino Stallions 61 to 84 months
109	Amateur Performance Mares 85 months and older
110	Fino Stallions 85 months and older
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28	
111	Horsemanship Junior Youth Championship
112	Horsemanship Sub-Junior Youth Championship
113	Pleasure Geldings for Gold
114	Country Pleasure Mares and Fillies
115	Fino Sub-Junior (7-9)
116	Trocha and Galope Championship
117	Fino Sub-Junior (10-12)
118	Country Pleasure Stallions, Colts and Geldings
119	Fino Junior (16-17)
120	Amateur Performance Mares 61 to 84 months
121	Fino Junior (13-15)
122	Pleasure Mares Championship
123	Amateur Performance Stallions Championship
124	Performance Sub-Junior (10-12)
125	Amateur Fino Geldings for Gold
126	Performance Sub-Junior (7-9)
127	Pleasure Stallions Championship

CLASS	CLASS NAME
128	Fino Sub-Junior Youth Championship
128A	Amateur Fino Stallions Championship
129	Equitation Junior (16-17)
130	Equitation Junior (13-15)
131	Amateur Pleasure Geldings Championship
132	Equitation Sub-Junior (10-12)
133	Equitation Sub-Junior (7-9)
134	Performance Junior (16-17)
135	Performance Junior (13-15)
136	Pleasure Sub-Junior Youth Championship
137	Pleasure Junior Youth Championship
138	Fino Geldings 61 to 84 months
139	Fino Geldings 85 months and older
140	Fino Schooling Colts 49 to 60 months
141	Fino Mares 61 to 84 months
142	Fino Mares 85 months and older
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29	
143	International Equitation (13-17)
144	International Equitation (10-12)
145	International Equitation (7-9)
145A	Fabulous Pleasure Futurity
146	Amateur Performance Geldings Championship
147	Performance Sub-Junior Youth Championship
148	Equitation Junior Youth Championship

CLASS	CLASS NAME
149	Trocha Championship
150	Fabulous Performance Futurity
151	Walk-Corto Leadline (non-pointed)
152	Pleasure Geldings Championship
153	Performance Amateur Owned and Trained
154	Fabulous Fino Futurity
155	Equitation Sub-Junior Youth Championship
156	Country Pleasure Championship
157	Performance Junior Youth Championship
158	Rescue Class (non-pointed)
159	Amateur Pleasure Mares Championship
160	Amateur Pleasure Stallions Championship
161	Performance Stallions Championship
162	Amateur Fino Mares Championship
163	Trote and Galope Championship
164	Performance Mares Championship
165	Amateur Fino Geldings Championship
166	Fino Junior Youth Championship
168	Performance Geldings Championship
169	Amateur Performance Mares Championship
170	Costume
171	Fino Geldings Championship
172	Fino Mares Championship
173	Fino Stallions Championship



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BREYERFEST

with Gascon the Great

PFHA MEMBER JENNIFER CEFALU SHARES HER UNIQUE EXPERIENCE AT BREYERFEST 2024 WITH HER RESCUE HORSE AND BREYER MODEL, GASCON THE GREAT.

Could you tell us about your background and how you became involved with Paso Fino horses?

I have been a horse lover my entire life. I am a trainer and professional rider from Chicago, Illinois. I grew up riding and training jumpers,

but quickly fell in love with dressage because I loved the training process with horses. I have a background as an emergency vet tech as well, and I enjoy saving animals. I reached a point in my life where I was able to combine those two passions, and I started rehabbing and working with horses that people had given up on or

did not have the means to train, and started making things happen with them.

I started working with Yvonne Barteau, a FEI gold medalist dressage rider and trainer in Chicago years ago. Instead of just working with the show and sale horses, we went on a mission to save the ones that no one else knew how to save, didn't have the time or money for, the ones that people had given up on, or just didn't have the experience to work with safely. We wanted to truly rescue, rehab, retrain, and rehome these horses.

I moved down to North Florida to help make that happen and help put Horses Without Humans on the map. I did lots of groundwork, and lots of thinking outside the box to figure out what would work with some of the horses. As the trainer at Horses Without Humans, I helped so many horses find their human that first year. I had a great team behind me, and it was amazing to be a part of it. We accomplished so much in our first two years of being established as a 501(c)3 in Florida – it was a chapter I will never forget.

This is where I met Gascon, and this is where my journey with the Paso Fino breed first started. We took in seven Paso Finos from an ASPCA seizure. The ASPCA needed rescue facilities to step up and help them take on a seizure of 52 Paso Finos. I started working with all seven and learned quickly how different the breed is from any other breed I had worked with before. Their gaits are so unique, and so smooth. I found them fascinating. They all had endless energy, and a great work ethic. They were all very smart and wanted to learn and interact with people. They were all very sensitive, and I found they could easily be misunderstood as "reactive" if not taught confidence correctly. Going slow, being patient and soft with them worked really well, and all of them were successfully adopted out into great homes and are still doing well.

What drew you specifically to Gascon?

There are so many things that drew me to him. Some were instant, and some drew me in more over time working with him.

When I met Gascon, I thought he was a stunning young horse that gave off this massive energy and presence but was surprisingly small. From the very beginning, he was just so different from any other horse I had ever met. Riding him for the first time out of the round pen felt like riding an 18-hand stallion in a war.

He was also pretty scruffy when I first met him. He had a long, dull coat at the time, and was a darker grey than he is now. With how meticulous I get with grooming, I felt drawn to really turn his neglected look around and show off how beautiful and unique he really is. The difference was amazing. In my first week of working with him, he let me do a full body clip on him with no sedation, he was perfect for it and looked like a completely different horse. It was very unexpected that he would behave so well for something so foreign to him.

Another thing that really stood out for me with Gascon is that he is the only horse I have ever felt truly out of control on. Because of how exceptionally fast he is, and how small the center of gravity is on him when he is going that fast, he really gives off the feeling that you are flying.

He is also one of the most stubborn horses I have ever worked with: his steering can just disappear at times.

Riding him effectively is almost like "unriding". He is particular, and really needs to have a solid relationship with his rider, otherwise it just doesn't work. When I saw how he would perform for me, versus anyone else that I would have try to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18





ride him, it was an obvious night and day difference. That was when I made the decision to adopt him. He chose me, and I couldn't get over that. I think that is something really special as a rider, when a horse specifically chooses to partner up with you.

One last thing that really drew me to him in the beginning, we were in the round pen together at the rescue, and I put out an X for him to free jump over. When I saw how well he free jumped naturally all on his own, it was a surprising adrenaline rush for me, and at that moment, our worlds really connected. I was so shocked and intrigued with his form.

He is naturally so good at something I love doing, and the Paso Fino is not typically recognized or thought of for jumping. I admired him so much for that. For being talented and different.

Gascon was only three when I adopted him, and in the jumper world, that is pretty young to jump. I didn't focus on jumping him too much under saddle. We would be working on flat work and going out on trails, and he would gravitate toward logs and jump them, then he started to jump out of the round pen on his own, and then out of the dressage arena, which always made me laugh. When a horse really likes doing something, they are almost always going to have an advantage over other horses doing it.

He has humbled me and made me really appreciate our partnership. We have done so many things together over the past six years, but some things have remained absolutely consistent. He always wants to work, he loves to jump, he loves to canter, and he wants to please in a way that is very unique to just him. It makes riding him for me a lot of fun. No ride is ever

the same or boring. It is always an interactive and adventurous conversation with my best friend. He may not be able to talk, but I feel like I have had more conversations with him than I have had with most people in my life.

Can you describe Gascon's registration process?

That is actually a really interesting story, and I am forever thankful to the PFHA for helping me. I did some research into the ASPCA seizure that Gascon came from, and I put together as much about him as I could in terms of his breeding. I was actually at a jumper show with him, and there was a couple there that couldn't believe he was a Paso Fino because of how well he was jumping. They told me all about the rescue class opening up that year at Paso Fino Nationals. They suggested I take him there and show him in the class representing rescue horses, and I thought that was a great idea.

There were two volunteers at Horses Without Humans that were experienced Paso Fino owners, and they were so helpful in answering all of my questions about the PFHA and who to contact to help register him. The PFHA then walked me through the process of what I needed to do to get him registered with papers. They located his mother Reynita de La Victoria in Jacksonville, Florida and the contact information of the current owner on record. I contacted her, and explained that I had her mare's son, that I had rescued him, and I was trying to register him with the PFHA. I needed to get a DNA hair sample from her mare to match it to his DNA hair sample, and I only had two weeks to have all this done and approved. Amy at PFHA was amazing in getting all of that approved and accomplished. I went to Jacksonville and got to meet and ride

his mother when I got her hair samples! She is a lovely grey mare, and I could see a lot of his characteristics that came from her. I have seen photos of his dad; his DNA was on file with the PFHA already. He is a beautiful black and white pinto stallion. It was a great process to go through and know more about his family.

Can you share the story behind his name?

He is named after my friend and world-renowned horse trainer, Michael Gascon! Michael has a lot of experience training and showing Paso Finos, and he came to visit us at Horses Without Humans and share some of his training advice working with Paso Finos, and what people are looking for in terms of riding when they are looking to adopt a Paso Fino.

I liked the name Gascon and researched it further and found out it is a French name that comes from a place in France named after a group of people known for being very proud of themselves, and elite. That confirmed for me the name was perfect for him. When I registered him, I saw how the horses were registered with phrase show names, so Gascon the Great in the style of Alexander the Great who sought to conquer everything, became his official registered show name.

How did you prepare Gascon for his role in the demos at Breyerfest?

I started first with getting him fit, supple, and mentally ready by riding bareback every day after work. I did shorter sessions with a nice stretching walk, working into longer ones. He would do hill work on grass twice a week. Then I started working on his walk-corto transitions. Then I added some canter, getting his leads and then added some gallop time because he enjoys it and we both have fun with it.

Preparing for Breyerfest was the first time I have incorporated so many different things with him all at one time in the same training session and with the same tack on. Typically, I ride him one set of tack for the flat, or I will ride him bareback, and then different tack for jumping. My saddle fitter and good friend, Kim Benson of Flying Star Saddlery in Ocala, Florida, did an amazing job fitting him for our demo. Kim came out, measured him, and put him in a Thorowgood saddle. It's a great quality, all purpose saddle that has worked wonderfully for him, and I don't have to change tack. Getting the proper saddle fit, as well as tack that doesn't offend the horse, is so important for every horse. I can't stress that enough.

He is a horse that works best with variety. I started working on his rear at liberty on the ground and then when he was strong enough to hold the rear on the ground, we worked on his rear with queues under saddle. He enjoys doing Spanish steps with me as well.

I like to have him work with a soccer ball, because it helps him animate his shoulders, reaching forward while moving forward, and it's also a huge confidence builder going forward into something moving that is bigger than him. I started playing with that and putting it all together with our music. We enjoyed training for our demo.

Then I borrowed my friend's two children, so that he had real life preparation for all of the kids that I expected would be there to see him. I had the kids handle his lead rope, walk him down the barn aisle, touch him, groom him, and just be around the barn with him so that he felt comfortable with them and their childish energy. I put the little girl on him bareback and I would walk him around with her on him.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



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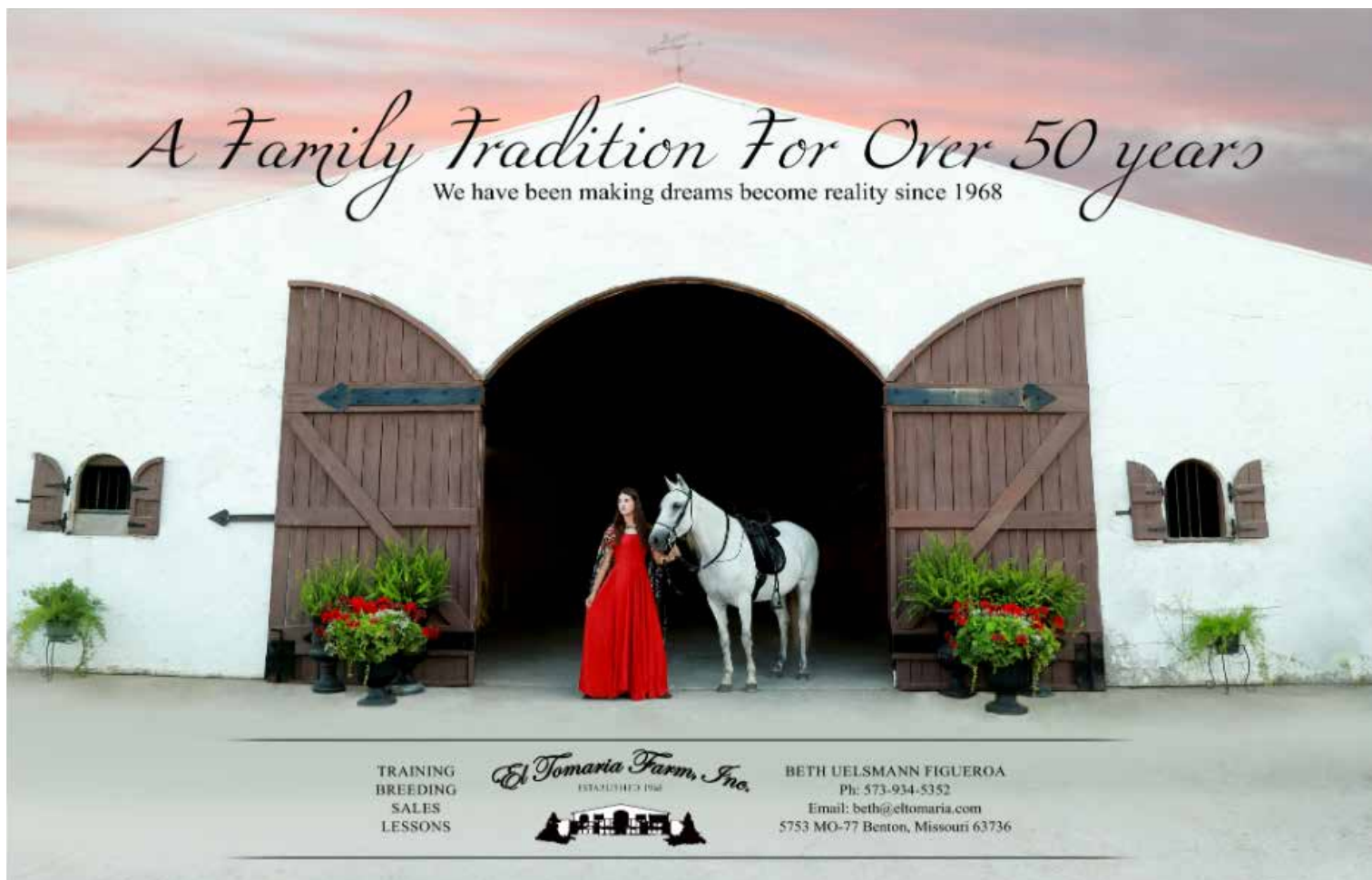


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Borrowing children and doing live role play with him and the kids for Breyerfest worked out so well. He was so patient and gentle with the little kids. Everyone just loved him, and he was great for the camera and taking photos with everyone. He holds a pose quite well and has the most innocent expression on his face.

What are some of the unique characteristics or traits that make him stand out?

There are lots of unique things about him. Not many people realize that he is a Pinto! He has black skin with a perfect blaze, four high white socks, a thin white patch across his haunches and a triangular patch on his right shoulder. His coloring is really unique. Keeping him looking his best is a full-time job, but I really enjoy it and he deserves it. I think rescue horses still fall into the stereotype of being lower quality than expensive show horses, and I am working hard to break that mindset. Every time I get him ready for a show or event, I feel so lucky that this beautiful horse is mine. He is high quality and fits in well with the other show horses.

Gascon enjoys being treated like a person; he goes with me to get coffee at Starbucks. I am so grateful that he trusts me, and loves going anywhere with me, he never says 'no'. He enjoys Columbian-style music the most, which I find highly entertaining. His energy working with the Columbian dance playlist is always the best, and it really helps with rhythm and making sure he is staying in each gait.

Fun fact I just recently learned about him at the Fest: he does not take treats offered to him by strangers. He takes them from me, but no one else. His favorite snacks are German muffins.

What have been some of his most significant achievements or milestones?

Winning third place in the rescue class at the Grand National Championships was really special. It was my first Paso Fino show, and to be able to show off a rescue horse that I had trained myself at a national level, representing such an amazing cause, really meant the world to me. Winning in the pleasure class, and most recently the performance class, have been milestones for me as I am gaining more experience and knowledge of the breed and what they are looking for in each class. Being able to ride him in a variety of classes and do so well together has been such a fun experience for both of us.

How are his personality and versatility differ from other breeds that you have worked with?

His personality is very different from any other breed. He has fire. His energy and work ethic are exceptional in the variety of things we do together. Comparing him to other horses, he is like working with an OCD, ADHD horse that is afraid of nothing.

If you want to work twice a day leading up to the show, he is all for it, and remains pleasant and happy. He always wants to get the right answer, he is very forward thinking, and gets bored of the same thing quickly.

I work with a lot of Warmbloods and Thoroughbreds, so high energy and speed for me are pretty normal, but Gascon is so



smooth, and has more endurance. He is super quick to respond to the aids. He is also more sensitive; any change of balance in your seat is all he needs for any transition. He is the only horse that has been brave enough to do whatever it is that I ask him to do the very first time. He trusts me, and even if I feel like he is questioning something, he doesn't say 'no', which is perfect for jumping, as well as out on the trail.

He does everything I ask, as long as he feels respected, and I remain light. He is not a push button partner. He is the lightest horse in terms of contact that I have ever worked with.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

Most horses fall into a routine, learn what they are supposed to do, and become predictable after a certain point. I have been riding Gascon for six years now, and in a good way, he is not predictable. I love the way he is, and his breed is very much part of that individuality.

How did Gascon get nominated to become a Breyer model and how has that process gone for you personally?

Breyer actually nominated him for their Breyerfest "Against All Odds" theme based on everything we have accomplished together and our story. He is the type of horse that fits the role of being a Breyer model, and they recognized that. A Breyer model horse needs to perform well and love the audience and people. He is very interactive with an audience and can hold his poses and stand with people for long periods of time and behave like a gentleman. I was honored that his life story, and the things we have accomplished and overcome together have immortalized him. Personally, I think it is such a great way to share him with everyone.

What does it mean to you and Gascon to be honored with a limited-edition model at Breyerfest?

Together, Gascon and I are a true "Against All Odds" story. I am his rider, trainer, and owner. That is not typically the case with most trainers or riders. As his owner, I am the one responsible for all of his expenses and show fees, in addition to riding him, and developing his training and fitness plan. I maintain a full-time job during the day, sometimes two or three, and keep everything running at the barn with my other horses as well. It is a lot to manage for just one person. They are very long days, packed into 24 hours, but I still manage to get sleep, rest and recover and do it all over again.

We would never be where we are without the amazing individuals that have stepped up on our journey and helped us navigate through: Mette Larsen and Stefan Peter – I cannot thank them enough for giving us such opportunities and believing in me even if I doubted myself.

Another huge thank you to Gascon's farrier Jose Sanchez, and his vet, Dr. Kathryn Papp. They both are incredible and essential assets to have, and their hard work has directly led to our success as well. There is always a great team behind a great show horse, and I am so lucky to have that on my side.

Being 'limited edition' to me is a specific quality, and I am honored that our hard work together and success, literally against all odds, has been recognized on such a large scale at Breyerfest. It means everything to me to represent the Paso Fino breed and advocate for rescue horses also.

I want to go out and show the world what a jumper and dressage trainer can do in her "free time" with a Paso Fino rescue horse, training and applying things differently, yet still being successful. Due to the bond I have created with this horse over the years, when we start training for an event, it's all in. We are both super focused, and ready to push all limits. We put in all of our effort into each ride. There are no training sessions taken for granted. We have a plan, and can execute that plan every time together, and so we trust in our path getting there.

How did you feel when you first found out about this honor? What has been the reaction from the Paso Fino community?

I was so excited and so proud. I was beyond flattered that Breyer nominated him. I always played with Breyer horses as a kid. I always wanted to be the kid on the black stallion galloping on the beach. I have always had a glorified vision



of what I want to do with any of my horses, and this honor is just the beginning of knowing that we can do whatever it is we set our minds on doing.

The fact that I own a horse so beautiful and talented is already such an honor, so to find out that he was going to be a limited-edition Breyer model was so satisfying because it goes with his personality so well. I was able to walk him around the Fest with his Breyer blanket on, into his store to see his models in boxes all lined up and watch him look at himself in the aisle. That was just such a special moment for me.

Breyer horses are versions of horses that kids can take places. I have been able to bring Gascon everywhere in Florida, on our social media campaign for The Right Horse Initiative in 2019, to Starbucks through the drive through, to the beach, and even into my office at work. He is that horse for me. The horse I can bring into my human world, and he just enjoys being right there with me.

The Paso Fino community has been so supportive. They are the best show family, and they have been so helpful to me since our very first show back in the rescue class in 2019. They have been there watching us get better every year and have watched him grow up into the seasoned show man he is now. I am so happy I could call them and tell them about him being a Breyer horse; accomplishing something so different, and being able to raise awareness for rescue horses as well as the Paso Fino breed at the largest horse fest in the United States.

The PFHA staff met me in Kentucky, arranged for me to have a real sounding board and Fino poles that I wanted for our performance, helped me organize a set up crew to help build the sounding board, and make my Breyer performance come together like I had it in my head.



I had never met this team of people, and we worked together so well! All was set up and taken down in a 10-minute window; it was perfect teamwork, and I am so thankful for their support. They came back to Gascon's stall and had a table set up with some educational videos and brochures telling people more about the breed. They also helped manage the crowd that kept building outside his stall, allowing him and I to take a minute in between autograph signing and meet-and-greets and performing to just re-group.

What are your future goals with Gascon? Are there any upcoming events or competitions that you are particularly excited about?

We just got back from the Georgia PFHA Summer Spectacular Show and have qualified for Nationals! He did fantastically in the Performance class. I want to do the Versatility class with him at Nationals as well as the rescue class to support and create incentive and interest for all of the Paso Finos currently in rescue facilities. I am excited and looking forward to that at the World Equestrian Center in September.

My goal after that is to have a relaxing and much needed change of scenery with him. The PFHA competitive trail programs sound perfect for that, and I am excited. We are going to focus and explore all of the great trail riding programs PFHA offers and start logging our miles together, going out to different places and maybe doing a beginner endurance ride. I would also really like to take him camping.

Gascon is a special horse with a heart of gold. His breed is very much part of who he is, and I am so proud of him. I love the Columbian culture, and there is so much to be grateful for. Cheers to an exciting and successful Nationals, we are looking forward to seeing everyone in September! ■



2024 Youth Mundial

The 2024 Youth Mundial is a wonderful memory now, and I am honored to share it with so many of you. Team USA truly exceeded all expectations in so very many ways. In addition to the medals won and the ribbons awarded, the members of our team gave outstanding performances in every category again and again.

As we all know, there is much more to competition than just awards and I was so proud of the outstanding examples of good sportsmanship, respect and professionalism that I saw demonstrated by the team, the coaches and the families there to support through out the entire event.

I am sure that this is an experience our team members will never forget and I have no doubt that they are all proud of the opportunity they have had to represent their country, their association and their Paso Fino Horses on an international stage.

I am grateful to the team for representing us so well and to our excellent coaches Javier Suarez, Jorge Nicolas Suarez, and Luis Conde who set the example for all. Their support team – Amy Yarbrough as team captain, and team moms Carolina Gonzalez and Katherine Alvarez – ensured that every detail was taken care of and their efforts were evident throughout every stage of the process.

I must also express my appreciation and gratitude to Maddy Fisher from the PFHA office who served as the team manager and put her heart into everything she did to assist and support the entire team.

On behalf on the entire PFHA, congratulations and thank you for a job well done. I sincerely hope that you all enjoyed this experience as much as I did and that you will be a part of Team USA in 2026.

Jeanne Griggs
President
Paso Fino Horse Association





Recently, I had the privilege of serving as the judge representing the United States at the 14th Felix Santiago Oliver Mundial in Humacao, Puerto Rico. I want to express my gratitude towards Team USA, the coaches, and the parents for an outstanding job well done! Throughout the entire competition, their professionalism, poise, and confidence were palpable. Considering how little time the majority of Team USA riders had with their horses—the bulk of which they were unfamiliar with before traveling to Puerto Rico—it is astounding how effectively they performed. This demonstrates the skill with which the Team USA coaches guided and advised them.

Like me, we should all be incredibly proud of Team USA!

Sincerely,
Rick Meyer

XIV
MUNDIAL DE EQUITACIÓN
EN CABALLOS DE PASO 2024
Atlix Santiago Olvera





to Shelly Bridgford on winning the poker hand and cash prize, and to Ducktown Farms for winning best farm party for the second year.

The show began Friday morning with judge Willman Rodriguez and his junior judge, Jorge Duque. With 123 horses showing in all divisions, there was a great learning opportunity for the junior judge from outside the United States to learn and practice our PFHA rules and class procedures. The Saturday-Sunday show had two conferring judges, Mirta de La Cruz and Miguel Poleo, who worked well together to evaluate all the entries and come to the one set of placements. On Saturday evening, to start the Championship session, we had a flag presentation in memory of the members we lost in the past year. Caroline Murphy riding Modello La Estrella, carrying the American flag and representing Alvaro Iriarte; Luis Figueroa riding Curioso del Seminole, carrying the North Carolina flag and representing his brother Eduardo Figueroa; and Donna Hajek with the Piedmont region flag, riding Argento and representing her sister, Debbie Stevens, all did an amazing job on their matching set of gray horses, who stood like statues during the national anthem, sung by Tina Bunce. Also announced and remembered were Jerry and Diedre Guarino, whose family was in attendance as a memorial to them, since Jerry was our show ringmaster for many years; and Jane White, who with her husband, Steve, was a longtime Region member and supporter of all our shows.

Once again, our Asheville show was successful due to the support of all of our volunteers, staff, officials, exhibitors, spectators, and our sponsors. We appreciate all those who help make this annual show fun and competitive. ■



Asheville Alive Horse Show

SPONSORED AND HOSTED BY PIEDMONT PFHA

The 42nd annual Asheville horse show was held June 14-16 at the WNC Ag Center in Fletcher, North Carolina.

We were again blessed with good weather for our show. There were several extra events during the week – including a trip to the Tryon International Equestrian Center on Wednesday evening which we arranged for our members and guests to see this facility and its potential to host a future national show. About twenty exhibitors made the trip to tour the facility and dine at the Italian restaurant on site.

On Thursday afternoon, Rick Meyer offered a clinic for training and showing help, which several people attended with their horses for specialized instruction. Rick spent several hours guiding and instructing the owners how to fine-tune their riding skills.

On Thursday evening, eight of our Piedmont farms hosted food and beverages during our Second Annual Barn Party and Poker Rally. This event promotes the camaraderie of a horse show and the exhibitors and guests enjoyed the food and the game. Congratulations





Bluegrass Triple Crown

The 2024 Bluegrass Triple Crown was a scorcher this year! Not only did the temperature rise, but so did the number of reigning National and Grand National winners who were competing against the majestic background of the original Horse Capital of the World – The Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky.

The Honorable Cindy Griffeth and Javier Suarez judged on the weekend of June 28-30 and witnessed firsthand the talent of the Midwest's horses.

The coveted Stick Horse Race Challenge – always a fan favorite – was enjoyed by all, as were the beautiful Sponsor gifts and Championship Rose Blankets created by Mrs. Janice Meyer.

We have some changes for 2025, and we are excited to announce that Tennessee Valley will be joining Great Lakes, Kentucky, and Ozark Empire for next year's show. There is also a potential of changing venues so stay tuned for 2025 dates. The Bluegrass Triple Crown will be greater than ever and you won't want to miss it! ■



2024 Hall of Fame

CABO

Tomaria's Juan Luis, AKA "Cabo", was a Paso Fino gelding who literally blazed new trails for the breed in recreational riding. Foaled in Missouri, he spent most of his life in the Intermountain West by way of California. He was shown in a few PFHA performance classes early on. Then he was a pack horse for a while (the only Paso Fino among Quarter Horses and other traditional "Western" breeds). But neither was his favorite pursuit. At ten years of age, he was purchased by his last owner, Melissa Margetts. They formed an amazing bond and from then on Cabo soared.

He loved obstacle trail challenges, playing soccer, working cows, and participating in arena sports like pole bending. Photos of him doing these things graced the cover of a PFHA recreational rider program brochure in the

mid-2000s. The brochure found its way into the hands of countless Paso lovers as well as non-Paso Fino folks attending equine events throughout the United States when different PFHA Regions handed them out at breed display tables.

He also enjoyed bar hopping. A video of him and Melissa walking down the main street of Telluride, Colorado and into the local bar has had thousands of hits on YouTube. Folks loved seeing the beautiful buckskin horse carrying his rider up to the huge wooden bar to stand calmly while Melissa ordered refreshment. He was definitely a pleasure to be around, and many were surprised by the look on faces when people were told he was not a Quarter Horse or Mustang, but a Paso Fino.

Cabo's forté, however, was in the distance riding sports, particularly endurance (rides of 25 to 100 miles in a day or less). He participated in 30 American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC) rides, eight of which were one hundred miles. He completed twenty-four. Of the eight 100s, he completed five. Three of those were the Western States Trail ride, "Tevis", held every summer. This ride is the birthplace of endurance riding and is arguably the most difficult 100 miles in a day ride on the planet. The trail travels the old immigrant trail over the Sierra Nevada from Truckee in eastern California to Auburn in the western part of the state. The trail climbs almost 15,000 feet and descends over 20,000 feet. Historically only the toughest – usually Arabian – horses attempt Tevis. And even their completion rate is just 50%.

Prior to Cabo completing in 2007, no Paso Fino had even attempted the Tevis ride. In 2009 Cabo did it again, this time carrying Melissa with her broken leg in a heavy cast. He had to be trained to lie down to allow her to mount after every rest period. In 2010, Cabo completed once more, this time finishing in the top third. Thus, Cabo became not only the first Paso Fino to enter Tevis, but was the first to complete and to do it not once, but three times. He is one of few horses of any gaited breed to accomplish this. Fourteen years later, he remains the one and only Paso to complete the ride.

After his last Tevis, Cabo and Melissa were tapped to participate in a film promoting endurance riding. They are also in videos showing the difficulty of Tevis, taken while they were climbing Cougar Rock during one of their Tevis competitions.

In summary, Cabo did much to showcase and prove the grit of the Paso Fino in distance competitions and in other recreational sports. He was a true ambassador for the breed and gave Paso Finos in distance and other venues elsewhere in the country much needed legitimacy doing these sports. ■



Board of Directors
APPROVED MEETING DATES

November 16, 2024
Frankfort, KY
9AM-5PM EST

WELCOME NEW PFHA MEMBERS

AS OF AUGUST 19, 2024

Criadero El Lomo	Bal Harbour, FL
Enoc Pallango	Pembroke Pines, FL
Nohemi Boll	Miami Lakes, FL
Richard Stevens	North Logan, UT
Carlos Peirats	Tampa, FL
Omayri Rodriguez	Tampa, FL
Cristian Peirats	Tampa, FL
Brandi Kurtz	Parkville, MO
Wendy Wright	Swansea, SC
Carmen M. Jimenez	Tampa, FL
Arianna Quinoa	Philadelphia, PA
Frank Camilo Alvarez Piedrahita	Elizabeth, NJ
Moira Boswell	Rockingham, VA

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The truly special ones define it."*

-UNKNOWN

Paso Fino 2024 MAGAZINE ADVERTISING RATES

The Official Publication of the Paso Fino Horse Association

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Full page bleed.....	8.625"	11.125"	
Full page no bleed.....	8.5"	11"	
1/2 page horizontal.....	7.5"	5"	
1/2 page vertical.....	9.5"	3.5"	
1/4 page.....	3.5"	4.875"	
Business card.....	3.5"	1.75"	
Rider ad.....	2.5"	5"	

PREMIUM ADS	AD RATES	1x
	Front Cover.....	\$1,600
	Cover Package**.....	\$1,900
	Back Cover.....	\$900
	Inside Front Cover.....	\$900
	Inside Back Cover.....	\$900
	Two Page Spread.....	\$799

AD RATES	1x	4x (full year)
Full Page.....	\$475.....	\$450
1/2 Page.....	\$299.....	\$275
1/4 Page.....	\$199.....	\$175

NOTE: 4x ads must be consecutive

Business Card (4 issues).....	\$199
Rider Ad/Trainer Ad.....	\$75

PFHA REGION AD RATES	
Full Page.....	\$255
1/2 Page.....	\$175

Discounted rates are not applicable for premium advertising.

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