



# MY PEPPER ANN KABU MBA'S ROYAL SHADOWPHAX

If history is any measure of the desire to breed successful show horses, lifelong Illinois resident Margo (Fraser) Baird-Valentine certainly qualifies as having put in the effort towards that goal. Margo, as owner of the successful Illinois-based show horse training and breeding facility known as MBA Equestrians, has been around American Saddlebreds her entire life.

Her late grandfather, John P. Wheeler, raised a few nice horses over his tenure in the industry, most notably the great three-gaited show mare CH Bellissima (Valley View Supreme x Fairview's Gay Divorcee) who was the 1967, 1968 and 1969 World's Champion Three-Gaited Horse as shown by the late master, Tom Moore and under the ownership of the Urban Palmers of Chicago.

After marriage and raising her two daughters, Brittany, 18, and Ashley, 14, Margo returned to the show ring and to raising American Saddlebreds, in addition to some really top selections of horses she has purchased for herself or her daughters to show. Many of these have been pictured these last five years on our June front covers.

For the June 2008 edition of Saddle & Bridle Magazine, we present a trio of champions all trained by resident trainer Pat McConnell, and assisted by Antonio Hernandez, along with instructor Karen Greenwell. Pictured is the grand grey five-gaited pleasure mare, My Pepper Ann (For What It's Worth x Pippi Greystockings) who is owned by customer Toni Nastali of Springside Stables in Downers Grove, Illinois. "Pepper" was shown to much success as a young horse in the three- and four-year-old divisions. Her campaign with Brittany Baird, who just graduated at the end of May from Hinsdale Central High School, and will be attending the University of Kentucky this fall, began in 2007 and they ended that season in the winner's circle in the championship at the Mid America Mane Event Show. Thus far, in 2008, they are undefeated in Championship competitions at the Mid America Spring, MGM and Madison Classic Horse Shows.

2006 dual World's Champion for the 13 & Under Country Pleasure division, Kabu (Kabuki x Mountainview's Elegant Princess) is also pictured on the cover with youngest Baird daughter, Ashley, who recently graduated from Clarendon Hills Middle School and will attend Hinsdale Central High School this fall. Not only was this lovely dark bay mare a two-time World's Champion in 2006, but she returned in 2007 for another Reserve World title.

And rounding out the trio of stars on this month's front cover is the handsome three-year-old stallion MBA's Royal Shadowphax (Attache's Royal Assets x CH Cary's Moonraker) who is the embryo transfer son of Margo's multiple World's titled fine harness mare CH Cary's Moonraker. Royal Shadowphax is known as "Lordy" around the barn at MBA and this coppery chestnut colt was presented by Pat McConnell at the recent MGM and Madison Classic shows and won the UPHA Three-Year-Old Fine Harness Classic event at both.

With mares like CH Cary's Moonraker, Crimson Blue, and She Walks On Water Too (a full sister to WC CH He Walks On Water) producing foals either by embryo transfer or naturally by some of the top stallions in the Saddlebred industry today, it's no wonder that they are really beginning to be noticed by judges on a national level. Another testament to the MBA program is the 2006 Wisconsin Futurity Limited Breeders Championship won by MBA's Sir William Blue (Sir William Robert x Crimson Blue).



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