



ON OUR
COVER



Crimson Blue, Cary's Licorice Treat, Callaway's Rosemary & Thyme, and MBA's Sir William Blue

It's a family affair for MBA Equestrians owner Margo Baird-Valentine. MBA Equestrians is located in Willowbrook, Illinois, right along the frontage road of Interstate 55 and within close proximity to both Midway and O'Hare airports.

Touted as the "warmest barn in Chicagoland," Margo and her capable staff, which includes trainer Pat McConnell, assistant trainer Antonio Hernandez, and riding instructor Karen Greenwell, invites you to come and visit them at their location at any time.

The MBA Equestrians string has produced some well-known combinations in recent years, and some of their stars are WC CH Cary's Moonraker, WC CH Star Spangled Steel, WCC Kabu, CH CF Night At The Castle, Future Vision, In A Heartbeat (Hackney Pony), Crimson Blue, Molly O'Donnell, MBA's The Powers That Be (raised by Margo) and many others for the performance and pleasure divisions. In addition to these grand horses, is the wonderful five-year-old Callaway's Blue Norther daughter, Callaway's Rosemary & Thyme (pictured on the cover), who was at the top her Junior Three-Gaited classes in 2008 with trainer Pat McConnell in the saddle. 2009 will have "Rose" making her mark in the Juvenile division with daughter, Ashley in the irons.

MBA is a multi-faceted operation. Not only does Margo's staff work a nice string of personal mounts shown by her daughters, Brittany (19) and Ashley (15) and the occasional show ring appearance by Margo herself behind CH Cary's Moonraker, but they also work a nice string of customer owned horses.

Margo, as the granddaughter of the late John P. Wheeler, who was the owner of Tanglewood Farm in Kankakee where Margo grew up riding after school and on the weekends, would be quick to tell anyone that her main love is breeding and raising American Saddlebred foals. In recent years she has been concentrating mainly on breeding only her best mares and doing embryo transplants and this has proven a successful venture for her.

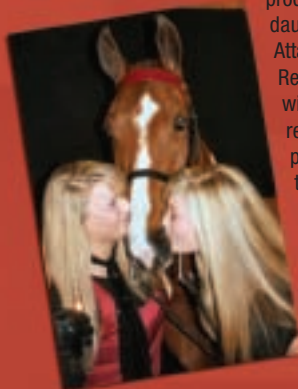
MBA's Sir William Blue (pictured on the cover) was the 2007 Wisconsin Futurity Limited Breeder's Grand Champion and he is out of the grand show mare, Crimson Blue. Known as "Wendy", Crimson Blue has been a champion in the Three-Gaited Juvenile division, Juvenile Country Pleasure division and now in the Amateur Park division for Margo's daughter, Brittany, who just finished her freshman year at the University of Kentucky. Wendy has a motor that won't quit and she has been as productive in the breeding shed as she has in the show ring, as evidenced by the likes of Sir William Blue, a/k/a "Achilles". Wendy also has several nice two-year-olds being readied in the training barn, and also a weanling stud colt on the ground that is a full brother to Achilles.

CH Cary's Moonraker, a four-time winner of the ASHA Youth Foundation Fine Harness World's Championship as shown by both Brittany and Ashley, has had an enviable career in the ring and is probably one of the best

producers of embryos in the country. This beautiful CH Foxfire's Prophet daughter has to her productive credits: MBA's Royal Shadowphax (by Attache's Royal Assets) who was the UPHA Three-Year-Old Fine Harness Reserve Grand Champion and the Three-Year-Old Fine Harness Open winner at the 2008 UPHA American Royal Horse Show. Shadowphax is ready to go again in 2009 under saddle or in harness! Cary also has produced the likes of Cary's Sure Will MBA, by Sir William Robert, who was the 2008 Weanling Futurity Grand Champion at Wisconsin Futurity; Cary On Broadway MBA, by I'm A New Yorker, who will likely be out in harness or under saddle later in 2009; and Cary's Licorice Treat (pictured on the cover), by VHF The Licorice Drop Kid, who is also ready to rock 'n roll this season in the Two-Year-Old division. Cary's Moonraker proudly presented four nice babies this spring as sired by stallions Undulata's Nutcracker, WCC Call Me Ringo, and Hoops, owned by Pat McConnell.

Margo and husband Todd Valentine, Brittany, Ashley, Pat, Antonio, Karen and the entire staff and extended MBA Family wish everyone a successful show season in 2009!

— Brendan Heintz



VOL. LXXXII

NUMBER 6

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Saddle & Bridle (Issn: 0036-2271) (USPS: 475-060) is published monthly for \$79 per year by Saddle & Bridle, Inc., 375 Jackson Ave., St. Louis, Mo., 63130. Periodicals postage paid at St. Louis, MO and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Saddle & Bridle, 375 Jackson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63130-4243.

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