

# BREEDER FINALS

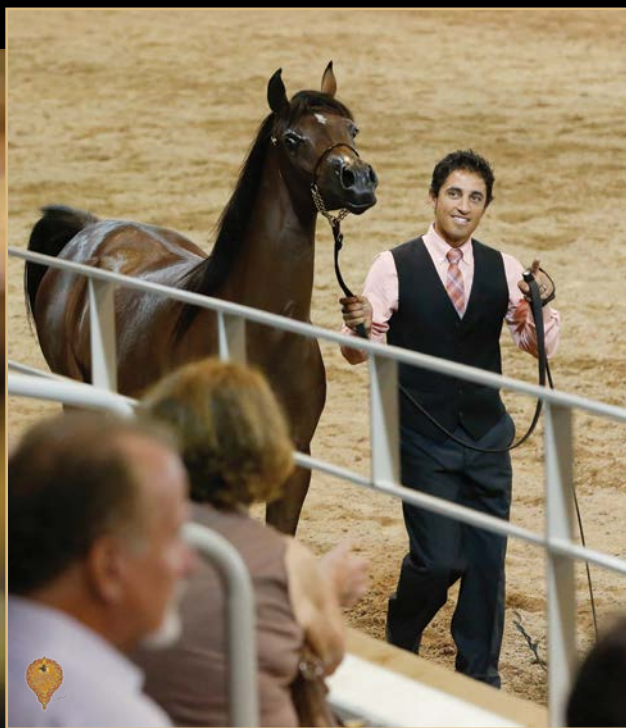
## *In Oasis* IN THE *Stand's*

by JEFF WALLACE WITH ERIN NAAS

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As fall descends on the scenic southwest, a gathering of some of the most astute Arabian enthusiasts come together each October to celebrate the Arabian National Breeder Finals. For the past several years this competition has grown into what one might describe as a boutique show with tremendous international flair and appeal.

The National Breeder Finals showcases halter classes specifically, with an emphasis on the unique, and entertainment aimed for the spectator and exhibitor alike. This show was founded in order to recognize breeders and owners—a gathering of friends, professionals and newcomers. A setting with which to share stories, garner knowledge, and alas, compete. The leisurely afternoon start times allow for open houses and private tours of some of the world famous training barns and small,





*Judges, l-r: Shelly Brinkert-Hjelm, Jeff Schall, Glenn Schoukens, Duane Esser, Joseph Polo and Olivia Strauch.*

breeding farms in the area. Many are only minutes from the famous WestWorld Convention Center where the show is held. Spectators are welcomed by the hospitable farms sponsoring the show, with cocktails, wine tastings and good eats. Visiting international judge, Glenn Schoukens, from Belgium shares, "I not only love seeing the comparative system at work here, but found this show incredibly well run and exciting for the spectators to watch. I also enjoy spending time in Scottsdale visiting the surrounding farms and seeing great horse flesh. I had a great time participating on a judges level." Meanwhile, back at the show, the individual farms' very own cabanas resembling Bedouin tents of a bygone era were lavishly appointed with the comforts of catered food and cozy seating areas while just below were the stands, easily accessible and close to the rail for great views of the competition.

Taryl O Shea, Janice McCrea Wight, and company, did a truly amazing job with the show and are consummate and savvy professionals with a successful and impressive resume' when it comes to putting on horse shows and they did not disappoint this year. Recalls American Judge Jeff Schall, "The show committee did an excellent job in many areas, but one thing that really stood out was how they turned a big arena into such an intimate setting. The choices made around the selection of judges was out of the box and quite interesting; breeder judges rather than a complete panel of deemed judges, if you will." The judging panel consisted of Shelly Brinkert-Hjelm (USA), Duane Esser (USA), Joseph Polo (USA), Jeff Schall (USA), Glenn Schoukens (Belgium), and Olivia Strauch (Uruguay).

What makes the Breeder Finals unique is its array of classes usually not found anywhere else in the continental states. For instance, 2014 marks the first year in which Egyptian Heritage classes were a part of the schedule and since its inception, the weanling classes remain an audience favorite. Weanlings are presented in a relaxed and comfortable way with no live chains or whips. This year a palm frond did the trick of prompting ears or an interested expression from one of the lovely weanling competitors. It was refreshing to see such high quality, young stock turned out to compete in this manner. To see the breeders' pride and trainers' smiles as they presented their foals is touching and truly enjoyable. Schall expounds, "Palm fronds were a wonderful choice; elegant, non-threatening, and fit the motif. Also, judging weanlings took me back to my beginnings, as they were a gateway into my brother and me learning how to show and win. Weanlings taught us patience, perseverance, and how to perfect the art of being a good handler. I loved this experience."

The Gold Champion Weanling Filly was the lovely Amani Al Shahania (Ever After NA x Psyches Amber Dream)



handled by Sandro Pinha. Winning the title at only 2 months of age, she was purchased by Michael Byatt on behalf of Al Shahania Stud in Qatar. She is following in her full siblings' hoofprints, the notable Pitonisa AS and Forever Mi Dream. Lisa Markley, the breeder of Amani Al Shahania, glows when saying, "To have bred both the champion weanling filly, as well as Commadera LMA who was top five, out of 23 entries at the Breeder Finals was just amazing! I was so proud of the fillies and delighted in seeing how happy they were to be there. It's a big decision to have a weanling compete, while not wanting to stress them, and in the end they both did great!"

The Weanling Colt division was won by the lovely Pietro (\*ZT Magnanimus x Viva Marwan), and Gary McDonald, taking the Gold Championship award home for owner/breeder Sheila Stewart. Silver Champion went to Grand Journey NA (Grand Commandd x Just Amazing NA), shown by Sandro Pinha for owner/breeder Robert and Dixie North; and the Bronze to Naseem M (\*Pogrom x JJ Symphony), handled by Alcides Rodrigues for owner/breeder Anthony Marino Jr.





*Top Left: Allan & Norma Jean Abel, Denise Marino and Janey Morse.*

Horses with at least 50% Egyptian blood, competed against one another in the Egyptian Heritage classes. Gold Champion Filly Victoria Al Shaqab is bred and owned by the world renowned Al Shaqab. She is by Farhoud Al Shaqab, the newly re-imported straight Egyptian son of Al Adeed Al Shaqab, and out of the World Champion Mare Victoria II, by RSD Dark Victory.

The Gold Champion Egyptian Heritage Stallion, the exotic black Magic Magnifique, a son of True Colours and out of Magic Mon Amour, is an international entry owned by Kathleen Olsson of Sweden Arabian Stud. Taking home the Silver was another international entry, the beautiful ER Invictus (Ravenwood Jaleel x Kaela), shown by Joao Rodrigues for Beverly Tokar.



Mares in the 4 to 5 Year Old class brought not only the past and the present to the arena, but the future, as well. \*Wieza Mocy, a great-granddaughter of 1977 U.S. National Champion Mare \*Wizja, shown by David Boggs for leasee Janey Morse of Oak Ridge Arabians, is a young mare from the storied fields of Michalów Stud in Poland, and can best be described as none other than a glorious vision. The crowd and competitors fell silent as she entered the ring. \*Wieza Mocy is truly a feast for the eyes as she repeated her performance once again on Saturday evening while lighting up the ring and being pinned the unanimous Gold Champion Mare. Breeder judge Shelly Hjelm emotes, "Her nostrils continued flaring as she stood in front of me in center ring; I was simply in awe of this gorgeous creature. Amazed by her heritage, being that she is the great-granddaughter of \*Wizja, one of the greatest mares of all-time, but also in awe of her immense power and beauty, and knowing that she too, will surely go down in history as one of the greatest that ever lived, is somewhat mind boggling." Adds Judge Duane Esser, "I new from the moment she entered the arena, that I was witnessing greatness. Whether she was showing off her amazing movement, standing like a statue in center ring, or just at the walk, this mare exuded a level of quality you rarely see. I remember \*Wizja also, very well. How special it is to see years later her return to the ring represented by a descendant so exquisite."



Steve Heathcott also had a successful show. "What a great show and venue to promote our Arabian horse. The competition is as tough as any show in the country. To walk away with gold and silver championships against horses such as \*Wieza Mocy and \*Hariry Al Shaqab is an honor, I would think, to any horseman. For Pershahna to come away with Silver Champion shows the judges have an eye for a great breeding mare, especially since this is her first and only show so far. Interestingly enough, two of my other champions were also sired by Pershahn El Jamaal: RA Princess Jamaal and Royal Maestro, bred and owned by Royal Arabians. Both horses, I feel, could win anywhere in the country. Breeder Finals is a show we will continue to support."



*Bottom Left: Pegasus Arabians' Dean and Terri Wikel, High Point Breeders of the show.*



The stallion class also did not disappoint as the beauty, the promise and the romance of the Arabian horse is captured so wonderfully. A highlight and favorite for most shows, this year's Breeder Finals Stallion class delivered by bringing several exciting entries to the ring, including former Scottsdale, Breeders World Cup and U.S. National champions. Big names such as the handsome and very correct Brixx IA; the extreme and always beautiful Marwan Al Magnifico; newly imported and Region 3 Reserve Champion Stallion \*ES Harir, and \*Hariry Al Shaqab—all in one arena together. It was pure horse show excitement, and a thrilling championship in which the ethereal \*Hariry Al Shaqab, handled by David Boggs and owned and bred by Al Shaqab reigned supreme as Gold Champion. Brixx IA owned by Regan and Renae Rohl was chosen as Silver, and the young and exciting international entry \*ES Harir, owned by Al Saqran Stud of Dubai and Kuwait, won the Bronze.

Schall shares, "This year's Breeder Finals Stallion Championship was another genuine highlight. The depth of the class, combined with the spectacular performances, made it an honor to be a part of. I have been an admirer of many of these 'golden boys' for some years now. \*Hariry Al Shaqab epitomizes where our breed has evolved to and is making quite an impact."

Glenn Schoukens agrees, "Hariry Al Shaqab is a stallion that can win anywhere on the planet today. He is magnificent to witness in the ring."

David Boggs of Midwest Training and Breeding Centre had this to say about presenting the Gold Champion Mare and Stallion, both unanimous, "We are so honored and blessed at Midwest to be able to present horses of such immense quality and beauty; horses that define today's contemporary Arabian and that will undoubtedly contribute much to our beloved

breed during their lifetime. We thank each and every breeder and owner for entrusting us with these exquisite creatures who bring tremendous joy to our lives on a daily basis."

Elizabeth Milam of Regency Cove Farms ties the entire show experience up beautifully. "As recent Arabian owners and breeders, we've approached each show with very open eyes and ears. The National Arabian Breeder Finals ranks as one of our favorite events on the annual Arabian horse show calendar. We love the camaraderie between owners and trainers, which is apparent from the moment we arrive to set up our cabanas until the end. The quality of the exhibits continues to inspire us to be better breeders and this year we once again came away with an even clearer understanding of the breed and the direction we hope to take."

It's an incredibly well run event and the hard work of the committee is evident in every detail. We are already looking forward to next year." ■

*~In memory of Linda Erickson.*





# 2014 ARABIAN NATIONAL BREEDER FINALS

## - SENIOR STALLIONS -



Senior Gold Champion Stallion **HARIRY AL SHAQAB** (Marwan Al Shaqab x White Silk), shown by David Boggs for owner Al Shaqab.



Senior Silver Champion Stallion **BRIXIA** (Gazal Al Shaqab x Bella Versace), shown by Rodolfo Guzzo for owners Regan and Renae Rohl.



Senior Bronze Champion Stallion **E.S. HARIR** (AJ Dinar x TF Magnums Magic), shown by Dagmar Gordiano for owner Bassam Al Sagran

## - SENIOR MARES -



Senior Gold Champion Mare **WIEZAMOCY** (QR Marc x Wieza Marzen), shown by David Boggs for owner Michalow State Stud Farm.



Senior Silver Champion Mare **MISS PRYME PERSHAHNAH** (Persahn El Jamaal x Miss Pryme Tyme), shown by Steve Heathcott for owners Stacey and Ashley Griffith.



Senior Bronze Champion Mare **NYAH JOY LA** (Enzo x Alia Psyche LA), shown by Sandro Pinha for owner Robert & Dixie North Family Trust.



## - JUNIOR COLTS -



Junior Gold Champion Colt **NIMER AL SHAQAB** (Marwan Al Shaqab x RHR Vallacontessa), shown by David Boggs for owner Al Shaqab.



Junior Silver Champion Colt **MC VULCAN** (Vitorio TO x Lovins Khrush SSA), shown by Dagmar Gordiano for owner Oak Ridge Arabians.



Junior Bronze Champion Colt **SIR POGROM APA** (Pogrom x Angellinab WLF), shown by Sandro Pinha for owner Arabian Park Arabians LLC.

## - JUNIOR FILLIES -



Junior Gold Champion Filly **MC VITORIA** (Vitorio TO x Angelinaa JD), shown by David Boggs for owner Oak Ridge Arabians.



Junior Silver Champion Filly **LADY FADORAPA** (Cavalli x Fadilla PCF), shown by Sandro Pinha for owner Pegasus Arabians.



Junior Bronze Champion Filly **STAR OF VITORIO ORA** (Vitorio TO x Star Of Gaishea), shown by Alcides Rodrigues for owner Oak Ridge Arabians.



- WEANLING COLTS -



Weanling Gold Champion Colt/Gelding **PIETRO** (ZT Magnanimous x Viva Marwan), shown by Gary McDonald for owner Sheila Stewart.



Weanling Silver Champion Colt/Gelding **GRAND JOURNEYNA** (Grand Command x Just Amazing NA), shown by Sandro Pinha for owner Robert & Dixie North Family Trust.



Weanling Bronze Champion Colt/Gelding **NASEEM** (Pogrom x JJ Symphony), shown by Alcides Rodrigues for owners Anthony Marino and A C Marino Jr.

- WEANLING FILLIES -



Weanling Gold Champion Filly **AMANIAL SHAHANIA** (Ever After NA x Psyche's Amber Dream), shown by Sandro Pinha for owner Al Shabania Stud.



Weanling Silver Champion Filly **PRINCESS RAHERRA ORA** (Vitorio TO x Raherra), shown by David Boggs for owner Oak Ridge Arabians.



Weanling Bronze Champion Filly **MR BELLALUNA** (Jagger SWF x Empress Of Marwan), shown by Gary McDonald for owner Moss Rose Farm LLC.



## - EGYPTIAN HERITAGE STALLIONS -



Egyptian Heritage Gold Champion Colt/Stallion **MAGIC MAGNIFIQUE** (True Colours x Magic Mon Amour), shown by David Boggs for owner Swedish Arabian Stud.



Egyptian Heritage Silver Champion Colt/Stallion **ER INVICTUS** (Ravenwood Jaleel x Kaela), shown by Alcides Rodrigues for owners Beverly and Janice Tokar.



Egyptian Heritage Bronze Champion Colt/Stallion **JUSTYNN BEY** (Alixir x Bint Bint Justina), shown by Ricardo Rivero for owner Timothy Manring.

## - EGYPTIAN HERITAGE MARES -



Egyptian Heritage Gold Champion Filly/Mare **VICTORIA AL SHAQAB** (Farhoud Al Shaqab x Victoria II HPS), shown by David Boggs for owner Al Shaqab.



Egyptian Heritage Silver Champion Filly/Mare **DURARA AA** (Gazal Al Shaqab x Dafina AA), shown by Alcides Rodrigues for owner Arabian Heights.



Egyptian Heritage Bronze Champion Filly/Mare **AL JAMEELAH BJ** (Imperial Mistaar x Imperial Karmah), shown by Bryan Jeffries for owner Abdulrahman Ahmad Al-Mansouri.