

Cedar Grove Quarter Horses:

In the mid 1970's, Cedar Grove Stables did an abrupt about-face. They went from showing Tennessee Walking Horses competitive at the Walking Horse Celebration to showing American Quarter Horses. The transition wasn't easy. A single mother and her three girls wanted to be competitive so they began with open shows and 4-H.

Tom McBeath of Sebastapol, MS, proved to be instrumental in matching each of the daughters, and their mother, with a horse that suited them. Amanda Viator, the eldest, fell in love with a palomino mare purchased from Louis Hufnagel named Skip Jun Command. The mare, better known as "Skippy," not only performed in the show pen, she became one of the foundation mares for Cedar Grove's breeding operation. Julia Viator, the middle daughter, opted for a sorrel mare, another of the foundation breeding mares.

The Fleming/Viator family found the palomino shows in Jackson and began exhibiting during the late 1970's. Amanda made her first appearance at Youth in 13 and Under poles where she earned her first World Championship. She was High Point in MS in Showmanship and also High Point Youth during this time. Amanda was also the first youth officer from MS to serve nationally, serving as historian. Amanda's success and the family atmosphere of the PHBA shows drew the rest of the family towards PHBA. Julia took over Skippy when Amanda moved up to 14-18. She and Skippy continued the mare's winning ways by also earning World Championships, while Amanda began working with new and different horses. By this time even the youngest sibling, Perri Fleming, was involved in showing.

Cedar Grove took those two foundation mares and began a breeding program that is still extremely active today. Sometimes years would go by without a palomino to show, but the family would still breed for that elusive color. In the mid 1990's, a competitive streak reared its head again. Unfortunately, the reality of new jobs and finishing educations intervened. The next few years were slow years competitively, but not idle ones. The fourth generation based on those two foundation mares proved to be the best yet.

With the new millennium the bunch at Cedar

Grove were determined to get back in the show pen. The purchase of two new mares to add to the showing, then breeding program launched a successful and competitive mother/daughter team. Gold Star Investment and How D My Valentine were trotted through their paces and given an opportunity to find out what their areas of strength would be. While those two were active in the show pen each earning championships in their own right, horses from the Cedar Grove breeding program were warming up in the wings. Over the past years the show pen has witnessed the versatility of that program. Extravagant Mac, Tuff Gold Skip, and The Naked Bean have all earned points in a wide variety of classes ranging from halter, English, western pleasure, reining, even contesting.

Extravagant Mac is the first superstar. A gelding off one of our foundation breeding mares, he found his niche in the reining. Maybe his papers didn't read like the NRHA Hall of Fame, but don't tell "Mac" that or try to take away his AQHA/PHBA registers of merit. He also made the USET long list in 2003 and 2004. He also competed in many other sports with his amateur, Amanda Viator. Last year they won High Point Amateur, High Point Horse, and High Point Performance Horse, and despite his flowing mane, finished high point in Showmanship and reserve in Horsemanship.

Tuff Gold Skip is a young mare whose great-



Helen Fleming with Gold Star Investment.

A family adventure, a family's passion

grandmother started this great adventure. She follows in Skippy's hoofprints by competing in the all-around and Amanda earned her Amateur Championship with her. "Harley" attended one AQHA weekend last year, but came home with wins and a point in reining. She finished her four year old year as PHBA Reserve Performance Horse.

Cedar Grove is continuing the tradition of adding quality animals to our existing program with Mistys Easy Zipper and Troubles Golden Gal. Both of these mares were extremely competitive at the 2004 PHBA World. Misty is currently leading the nation with Amanda aboard in PHBA and also the leading AQHA Justin Rookie Amateur for Mississippi.

Cedar Grove also has two palomino stallions, Flash of Seven and Dezippotino, standing at stud. "Seven" is by Mike and Sandy Walker's stallion that needs no introduction- Seven S Flashyzipper. His long awaited appearance in the show ring is anticipated soon. Dezippotino,



Our stallion, Flash Of Seven.

or "Friday," is by Zippotino (a son of Zippo Pine Bar and an AQHA Superior Western Pleasure horse). He has competed in trail and will be back in the show pen to exhibit more of his talent. Cedar Grove is extremely happy to add these animals to the growing family.

Many people make the equine industry stand out in its continued family type atmosphere. Tom McBeath and Aprylle Watts continue to work with us and our animals pushing us to succeed. Paul Carruth not only trains the horse, he makes both animal and person learn to try harder. Greg Bermond studies each horse to

find its individual potential and maximize it. Max Eisenburg sets his goals high and achieve them. Bruce Walquist settles for nothing less than perfection. Don Martin understands and drives



Perri Fleming O'Rell with Troubles Golden Gal.

each animal and competitor to do their very best. Terry and Melonie Furnish strive for excellence in all their clients, horses and they do and go above and beyond mere training. On a more personal note, the Furnishes hold a special place in our hearts for their concerted effort to help us reach our goals last year and continuing to support us. Any person who has had the opportunity to experience the pride of being a part of their unique family will never forget it. Each of these trainers, plus innumerable other people, make Cedar Grove Quarter Horses the best it can be. And don't let me forget to mention a special thanks to both Melonie and Melanie for being there.

As a family run breeding organization, it would be impossible to be successful without help. Each individual is just a part of the whole. Some are trainers, some are family, some are friends, some are fellow competitors and many are more than that. My mother, Helen Fleming, holds a special place. She has worked hard to insure the continued growth of the breeding program while never losing sight of supporting her children in their quests. The wonderful thing is that she did that while competing and having fun herself. Helen, Amanda, and Perri welcome Danielle Lawrence to the Cedar Grove family of competitors and look forward to seeing everyone on the road.