

GLOBAL FOXTROTTER PROMOTION GROUP NEWSLETTER

Candidates – Jim Woods

As a current member of the MFTHBA Board of Directors my guiding principles are to provide leadership and be responsive to the needs of the membership. I have demonstrated my loyalty to and confirmation of those principles through my collaboration on many modifications to the operation of our Association.

Open Communication of Board Action At the first meeting of the current board in Nov. 2007 I proposed we create an atmosphere of openness and integrity and I recommended:

- Publication of the meeting minutes in its entirety, not edited or incomplete minutes;
- Critical or important votes taken by the board would be made by a role call vote, making individual board members accountable to the membership for their votes;
- "Executive Sessions" would be rare and the topics discussed in these meetings focus on **Legal** matters, **Personnel** discussions, and **Real Estate** transactions, and decisions made during "Executive Sessions" would be voted on in open meeting.

Business Planning and Goals Effective business management of the association is essential for our future success. I proposed that the board adopt Strategic Business Planning that would include a Five-Year Plan, Annual Measurable Goals, and comprehensible Operation Policies and Procedures. The current Board has never developed these basic business principles, but this will be my first priority in 2008.

Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Another priority has been to revise our Articles of Incorporation and Association Bylaws. What many of us did not know is that the Association does not have Bylaws. The Douglas County Court confirmed this. It is impossible to develop effective policies and procedures and have an enforceable rulebook without a foundation of Bylaws. The current Board has approved the placing of Revised Articles of Incorporation and proposed Bylaws on the 2007 Ballot after final legal review. This information is currently available on the MFTHBA website and is being published in the September and October 2007 issues of The Journal.

Fiscal Responsibility Financial responsibility and accountability is another priority of mine, and members on the Budget Committee have vast experience in financial planning. Our first goal this year has been to change the methods used to track income and expenses; secondly, to develop a budget that was realistic. The positive effects of this planning can be seen in the Income Statement released at the July 31 Board meeting. The Budget Committee is currently reviewing this information and will have a public statement soon.

Two-Way Communication and the Internet Effective communication is crucial for any organization and I am in strong support of making information available to the membership. But effectual communication is also listening and seeking input from our members. My support for this principle can best be illustrated by my commitment to keep avenues of communication open. Regrettably, not all Board members agree with this ideal and voted to discontinue the Members Only List (Internet Chat Room) and effectively deny a vast number of members a link to the Association. This Board decision was reversed and the denial of communication was overturned by a re-vote of the Board. Granted, some changes are in order, but not disbandment.

Growth and Regional Representation At the July 31 Board meeting I presented a report that demonstrated effectually that MFTHBA growth in all categories is stagnant at best in some cases is declining. The solutions to this trend are complex and will require input and actions by many. One of the ways to offset these declining numbers is to implement the Regional Representation Plan (details have been previously published.) This new plan will make available opportunities to members outside the Missouri area to bring new and creative ideas to the planning table. Regional Representation has been discussed for many years with no action. This past year the Court ruled that we could not execute the amendment proposed and approved last October because "MFTHBA does not have Bylaws". It is imperative that the members approve both the new Bylaws and the option for Regional Representation so we many continue to move forward.

21st Century Technology The future is in changing technologies and the ability of our association to adapt to that revolution. We must effectively research and apply our strategies to address these rapidly changing business environments. I have been on the leading edge of developing a new Website. This site will be in place to meet these changes and should be operational by November 1, 2007. The new site will allow members easy access to MFTHBA services and through the application of new marketing methods will attract non-members to our Website through Search Engine Optimization. Additional technological changes I have sponsored include the current expanded phone system now in place which permits teleconferencing with Board members, or others on the meeting agenda, not physically present at Board meetings.

2008 Platform Basically, I will list my platform for 2008:

- Continue to work for **Effective Communication**;
- Implement a **Strategic Business Plan** that will include the development of a **Marketing Plan**;
- Establish an **Affiliate Relations Committee** staffed by affiliate members to better address their needs;
- Establish an **Education Committee** to develop strategies to improve the knowledge of current members, our youth, and potential new users of the Missouri Fox Trotter.

The Missouri Fox Trotter is the ideal horse for both performance and pleasure. The Association must develop strategies that will address all the uses of our horse: Performance, Versatility, Ranch, and Trail. While the market is soft, presently there are other breeds that are experiencing growth simply because they are developing new markets. We must do this also.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve. While my decisions and actions as a Board member have not always been perfect, I have freely acknowledged when I have made mistakes. These have been publicly stated and corrective action has been taken by me. Members reading the Board minutes or attending the meetings know that I do not attempt to hide or deny my actions, but take appropriate steps to acknowledge, correct and move forward on these issues. The biggest mistake any of us can make is to do nothing.

I serve no special interests, but instead those of the general membership and pledge to support what will best serve the interests of our Association. I have done so in 2007 and will continue to place the interests of the Association first in 2008 and the years to come.

STALLION SHOWCASE - KING MIDAS

WRITTEN BY PAT ANDERSON



After some years of being Appaloosa breeders, and with our daughters grown and on their own, my first husband and I decided we'd like to "go gaited" since we are great lovers of trail riding comforts.

We bought King Midas when he was a green three-year-old, from Marshall and Lee Yates in Missouri. And we bought him "in spite of his color"! He was Palomino, and they are hard to keep clean in our wet winters. But we've never regretted anything in buying him, and as time went on, we felt more and more grateful for our good fortune.

He actually was my first husband's horse, and the bond they formed was incredible. He was always described as his "perfect horse". Midas was promoted a quite lot in those early years, Fox Trotters were pretty rare in Oregon, and he was a terrific "Promotion Agent" and "Ambassador" for the breed. Many people actually didn't notice he was a stallion, didn't know unless they were told. His manners and behavior are impeccable. When he's ridden or in hand, or in camp, he's convinced he's only a gelding.

Midas was shown in several FT shows in Western states, and he almost always came home Grand Champion Model Horse, and did well in performance also. Jim Antley campaigned him on the South West Circuit, and they were a great and successful team. He's done Endurance and did very well (miles and best condition). He was trained as a reining horse. and excelled at it, too. In his reining competitions he started out winning his first class and Reserve in Jr. Reining, over QH's, Paints, Appaloosas, and Arabians, judged by a nationally known QH breeder and clinician, who didn't know Midas wasn't a QH until after the show!

We always wanted to teach him to drive, figured it was the next step, and we didn't have a buggy yet. (We do now, so guess what!)

My first husband passed away suddenly in 1994. I know without a doubt that Midas always wondered where his *Best Buddy* went. At that point, Midas's care became my responsibility. It didn't take me long to find out he was absolutely as wonderful as my husband always bragged. He's a sweetheart at breeding time, he's a joy to ride and love. He truly loves going trail riding to this day. He produces lovely, gentle foals. And I swear he has a real sense of humor! My present husband loves him as much as I do.

I sold Midas for a brief time - I had prayed, and felt that this was part of God's plan for my life. He had a wonderful new home and new owners in Texas, they had been watching him and Jim Antley showing in the South West. But I actually was very torn apart the whole time he was gone, I missed him like he was a part of me. Perhaps God was testing me, and if so, I apparently passed the test. His Texas owners let me buy him back! And he will never leave us again.

Midas will be 23 in 2008, but he doesn't know it! He's still giving "demo rides" to visitors, and his sweet nature has sold so many of his foals. He's still a great ride on the trail. He's a great gentleman always. What an important member he is of our family!

2007 SOUTH CAROLINA FALL CLASSIC

It is that time of year again – the leaves are turning spectacular colors, there is a distinct nip in the air in the evenings, and the stores are putting out Halloween decorations. All this means it is time for the South Carolina Fall Classic in Clemson, SC. I have no doubts that Jerri and Bob Fronhauer and all of their assisting volunteers are busy into the wee hours of the nights as the big day approaches. Visit the SEFTA website (www.sefta.org) for the show bill, a list of area hotels, and general information about the show. If you have never had the pleasure of attending the Fall Classic and have some free time Oct 20-21st, I strongly urge you to make the trip. The show is extremely well organized, the people are friendly and fun, and the area is beautiful.

Bob and Jerri Fronhauer of Southern Comfort Farm have planned and organized this show every year for the past seven years. Although it comes across as effortless, countless hours are spent bringing the entire show together for everyone to enjoy. Over the years they have found many knowledgeable volunteers to help make this show such a hit for exhibitors and spectators alike. And I do not expect this year to be any different. From the treats waiting for you on your stall door, to the excellent help in the office, to the ring stewards and judges, and the wonderful class prizes, this show is first class all the way.

Exhibitors come from all around – MO to FL and everywhere in between. The show ground parking lot is filled with huge multi horse show trailers to small bumper pull trailers as show day arrives. Many stay on the grounds in their fully-equipped camping trailers while others enjoy the local motel/hotel accommodations. But wherever they spend the night, they are all up at the crack of dawn putting on the last minute touches to their horses on Saturday morning.

The T. Ed Garrison Arena is the perfect location for the Show. It is a huge covered arena with a covered practice area as well. There are plenty of stalls for everyone – spacious and safe for the treasured horses. The grounds are beautiful and the surrounding town has everything you could need while visiting the area. Remember to bring your hose, stall rake, muck bucket, and the other basics to keep your area clean – but if you forget something -- someone there is always willing to lend a helping hand.

Whether you want to show your horses or just watch, you will feel welcome. Whether you choose to exhibit or would rather be a spectator, you will have a great time. If you come to the Show once, you will want to return every year. Good Luck to all of the exhibitors from the Global Foxtrotter Promotion Group!



MEET TIM AND JENNY MEYER

My daughter, Chelsea, loves to ride. But for a while I had to use the past tense in that sentence because she was bucked off a horse earlier this year and completely lost her confidence. She had no physical injuries from the incident, but she fell into a downward confidence spiral. She had pretty much given up even trying to ride by the time Tim and Jenny came to our house this weekend for a visit.

Now I have known them for years, but we had never met. I consider them family and feel like we know each other from all the phone conversations and emails we exchange. When they told us they were coming down to Tennessee, we were thrilled and anxious to finally meet them. When they pulled into the driveway it was like seeing dear lifelong friends! We had a campfire waiting for them and we sat around the fire until the wee hours of the morning roasting hotdogs and fruit pies and talking and laughing.

Tim is a wonderful guy. He is funny and smart – the perfect complement to Jenny and she to him. He was tired and really just ready to get some much needed rest from the long trip, but he was a trooper and we very much enjoyed his company.

Jenny is a little powerhouse. She is a beautiful woman and has the most generous heart and soul. We went to bed very late and she was up early the next morning talking to Chelsea and showing her the fine points of photography. We looked at the horses and visited for a little while and then she was off to the round pen with Chelsea to give her some pointers on riding. Jenny knew that Chelsea lost her riding confidence and was ready to help straighten out the situation. She watched Chelsea interact with her horse for a few minutes and zeroed in on the confidence issue right away. She gave Chelsea some pointers, demonstrated them, and then gave the reins back to Chelsea. There was an immediate improvement in Chelsea's confidence level. It was wonderful to see some of the old "Chelsea confidence" showing through again. Jenny also showed her some games to play with her horse on the ground. It was a great experience for Chelsea and very giving of Jenny to share her time and knowledge with her.

Before we knew it, it was time for them to get on the road again. We all hated to see them go. Jerry enjoyed the time he was able to spend with Tim while we girls were working with the horses. One day is just not enough time to spend with such nice people. We are looking forward to spending more time with them in the future.

If you ever have the opportunity to meet the Meyers, do take advantage of the time. They both are very knowledgeable horse people and they like to vacation with their horses in different parts of the country. They have a breeding farm in WI and work very hard for the Promotion Group. They regularly attend different horse clinics and believe in natural horsemanship techniques for riding and training their horses. According to Chelsea, Jenny is the best instructor she has ever had. Jenny is somewhat shy and generally does not like the limelight, but she really should jump out into it from time to time. She has a wonderful "way" with animals (and people) and reminds me of Mary Poppins. If you remember the Disney movie, everyone falls in love with Mary and everyone here fell in love with Jenny.