

# AKHAL-TEKE

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

## 04 THE CONFERENCE

Our Annual ATAA Conference was a great success in Washington! See the highlights

## 09 FEATURED ARTIST

We are excited to share the imaginative Akhal-Teke works of Fefa Koroleva from Latvia!

## 13 AT IN UKRAINE

Collaboration efforts have provided much needed relief and support to ATs of Ukraine.

## 15 TEKES IN FILM

Interest and excitement is growing for Tekes to appear on the silver screen! A studios may make it possible.

Cover photo of Preamble by Katie Damon Photography, shared with permission by Yorke McGillivray. Below: by Monica Bretherton, shared by Cathy Leddy.



## EDITOR'S NOTE

by Yorke McGillivray

Flip into a new era with us—in this first, fully electronic issue of the Akhal-Teke Association of America's Quarterly Newsletter! We're proud to present an interactive, digital format which will allow us to better link and share content from the community in our quarterly updates. Should you still prefer a physical copy, this issue can be printed and enjoyed in hand.

The ATAA Newsletter has been run by our fearless leader, Cathy Leddy, for the past decade. Started in 2012, the quarterly publications have kept members up to date on Teke news, events, achievements, and, of course, all the best breed gossip! Before then, Cathy also ran the AT Quarterly from 1995 to 2002. In its early days, not only did Cathy dedicate 40-80 hours to compiling information, writing up articles, and preparing the newsletter, but she would print and mail each copy by hand to all our members. Gradually, as our membership grew, more and more members have opted for an electronic copy to help us save on paper and postage.

We hope, with this issue, you will come to love our new look, feel more connected with our online community, and be even more excited to share your story in the next one!

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# WE WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEMBER FOR 2022-23!



Photos shared by Amanda Gonczi

The Akhal-Teke Association of America (ATAA) is governed by a Board of Directors that sets policy and priorities for the organization. Directors are elected by the Active Members and serve three-year terms, and may be re-elected. Potential board members are put before the ATAA's membership for voting and once elected, board members can make a significant contribution to the preservation and promotion of the Akhal-Teke horse breed.

This year we are excited to announce our newly elected official, **Amanda Gonczi**, who will be joining us as Vice President!

"I have been dedicated to science, conservation, and education my entire life. I hold a B.S. in Natural Resource Management, a M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction, and a Ph. D. in Science Education. Prior to getting my Ph. D. I taught middle and upper school science for 8 years at Wakefield School in The Plains, Virginia. During my time at Wakefield School, I was honored to be chosen Teacher of the Year in 2008. I also developed a Conservation Ecology class that provided high school students an opportunity to engage in wildlife research techniques and travel to Namibia to work for a week at the Cheetah Conservation Fund. I am currently an Associate Research Scientist for Michigan Technological University where I support education efforts of STEM faculty and lead my own education research projects.

As a child, I loved horses but my family did not have the financial means to support my passion. I paid for my first riding lessons as an adult and bought my first horse (Sassy Sasha) 17 years ago when I was 28. Sassy Sasha was my best friend, partner (and teacher) until I got married and had my daughter. Sassy Sasha, then inspired a new generation of horse lover! With my daughter and husband's help and support, I launched a business in 2021 to merge my passion for horses, education, and conservation with the Akhal-Teke horse at the forefront. The business is still in its growth stages, but in addition to breeding I plan on hosting education seminars for learners of all ages and with the help of my daughter showing Akhal-Tekes to promote the breed in a variety of shows. It is my belief that children are the key to increasing interest in the breed.

# Akhal-Teke Foals of 2022

I have a range of skills that could be valuable to ATAA including non-profit board experience, passion, exceptional writing and presentation skills, a commitment to education, and grant writing success. I am just now stepping down from the Virginia Association of Science Teachers (VAST).

While on the VAST board, I acted as co-editor of their biannual journal for the past three years. I am passionate and committed to the promotion of Akhal Tekes specifically, and good horsemanship in general. I am an entrepreneur and willing to lead new projects. Finally, I have exceptional writing and communication skills. I have three published book chapters, 20 peer-reviewed publications, and more than 40 conference presentations. I have been recognized for my writing and research accomplishments and received the Association for Science Teacher Education Award V: Implications of Research for Educational Practice (2018). Finally, I am a successful grant writer. I have received more than 10 million dollars in federal funds as a Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator. It is my hope that I can use these skills to advance the mission of ATAA."

By Amanda Gonczi



Photo submitted by Kevin Matthews

Here is the much anticipated news of North American Akhal-Teke Foals 2022! Keep in mind many of these names are "barn names" as their registered names have yet to be decided/announced:

"Adlunia Amor" (Anduma x Ahmyetli)  
June 2022 bay filly  
Bred by Jessica Newman/Adlunia Akhal-Teke  
Sold!

"Ak Kelle" (AK Farfor x Kurinka)  
March 2022 perlino/cremello colt  
Bred by Tracy Brock  
Available!

"Anna" (Anikit x Arima)  
May 2022 buckskin filly  
Bred by Kevin Matthews/Pat Johnston  
Available!

**Pictured left.**

"Atabek" (AK Farfor x Anadana)  
March 2022 buckskin colt  
Bred by Tracy Brock  
Not for sale

"Bizzy" (Tarek x Aishet)  
July 2022 buckskin filly  
Bred by Cathy Leddy/Cascade Gold Akhal-Tekes  
Sold!

"Forest" (Tarek x Tulah)  
June 2022 bay colt  
Bred by Montana Longbottom  
Not for sale

"Honey Bunch" (Tay Shael x Appaloosa mare)  
June 2022 blanketed bay filly  
Bred by Jim Hauge  
Not for sale

"Lightning" (Joshua American Horse x Kazahk-Yurek RHR)  
May 2022 bay colt  
Bred by Betsy Wandler/Silver Hill Akhal-Tekes  
Sold!

"Lunar Dream" (Caladesi x Kestrel)  
April 2022 dark buckskin/golden bay filly  
Bred by Amanda Gonczi  
Available!



# 2022 Annual ATAA Conference Wrap-up

by Cathy Leddy

Whew! The 26th Annual ATAA GMM, Seminars and Clinics are all wrapped up.

We had people fly in from MT, CO, FL, and PA.

Thursday, Betsy Wandler and Yorke McGillivray came in a bit early and helped out with some of the final details. My barn crew and family were a huge help – we used this as a deadline to get some of our 'on the list' things done. Thanks to April Pierce, Niki Spencer and Larry Brader for all the extra time and effort they put in.

Friday was our real first day: the Meet and Greet was set up at the Hampton Inn Hotel in Woodinville for 7 pm. Laura Spear came up from OR and unfortunately had to drive back that night, as there was a fire burning just a little too close to her home. She did get to ride Gala though.

I had Lewis and Main of Monroe, WA catering all our food and they did not disappoint! Friday was Fresh fruit and berries, Sliced veggies with assorted dipping sauces, Charcuterie display with house pickled vegetables and crostini. Yes, it was as good as it sounds!





Karen and Alamet, doing a leg yield.



Alice and Andre



Kevin and Alamet



Yorke and Ari



Cathy and Gala



Wendy and Mouse



The morning group clinic



Group shot with our observers.



We got to meet Jean Sanders, who owns Nazenin (or Pippi), Sephard Shael x Nadiyah Shael, from PA and new Teke person, Amanda Folson from Florida. By then, several others had shown up, including Kevin Matthews, Laurel Brock and her husband Amir, and Donna Haselow. We all munched and chatted until around 9 pm.

Saturday:

Saturday was the General Membership Meeting, Seminars and Awards Dinner. We had 4 of the 7 BOD members there, Betsy Wandler, Cathy Leddy, Yorke McGillivray and Kevin Matthews. Yorke was able to set up video and calls for other members to join in the meeting and seminars and I believe she did make a recording of it all. Our meeting included the World Premiere showing of "Akhal-Tekes at Equitana", which the ATAA made in conjunction with HorseFlicks films, and the screening of our first finished how-to video; "How to measure your horse for registration", thanks to Katrina Ardiel and Jon Mays of HorseFlicks.

Voting for the open BOD spots (Tish Saare and Cathy Leddy were going off the board) was completed. We had 4 nominees for the 2 openings: Laura Spear, Sarah Schumann, Margaret Wakefield and Amanda Gonczi. Thank you to all of you for being willing to serve! Votes were counted and Margaret and Amanda are the new ATAA BOD members.

Then, it was lunch: Catered by Lewis and Main.

Several other local Teke people showed up, including Monica Bretherton, who was our photographer for the rest of the Conference, Marlee Young and Eleana Woods. We also had the Silent Auction items out. We had several donations of items, including items from Sophie's Equine Design, Katrina and Giles Ardiel, Niki Spencer, the ATAA, and also several art prints.

After lunch, we went straight to the Seminars. Our first speaker was Karen Ososki, who gave an excellent talk on How a Horse Learns. This was fascinating and was a preview for Sunday's clinics. After Karen, we had a short break and then Dr. Brandi Holohan DVM gave a talk on "The Hard to Breed Mare". Once again, it was a very interesting presentation and we had many questions to follow up.

Following the seminars, we had a short break and set up for the Awards Dinner. We had several more locals show up for dinner, including my barn staff, April and Niki, and my friends Gene Mitchell, Wendy Ford and Alice Chapman.

And yes, it was delicious! Even the vegans were happy. The fish was fantastic and I don't think there were any leftovers.

Then, the presentation of the ATAA Awards: These are by member nomination and are always something very nice. Betsy Wandler has been doing them for years, and would like some help...

Sunday: Karen Ososki demo and clinics

We had one outside horse come for the clinic and everyone attending was invited to participate with one of Cascade Gold's horses. Kevin and Yorke both used a CGAT horse, Kevin partnered with Alamet and Yorke with Arzuw. Karen did a demo using Arzuw (Ari) and explaining her work. Then, we had the group clinic, with 5 people-Teke pairs in the arena. Wendy Ford had her NP/Teke gelding Mouse, Yorke had Ari, Alice had Andre, Kevin had Alamet and I had Gala (who happened to be in heat and spent the entire time gazing longingly at Mouse).

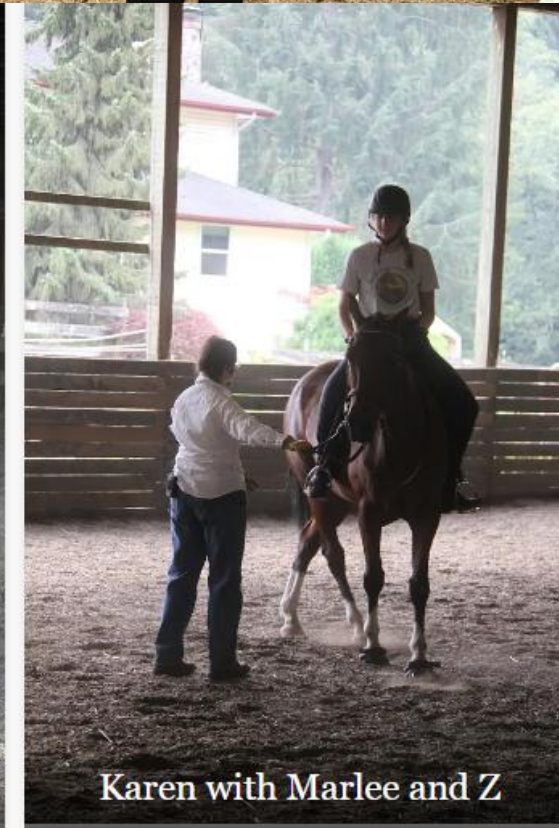
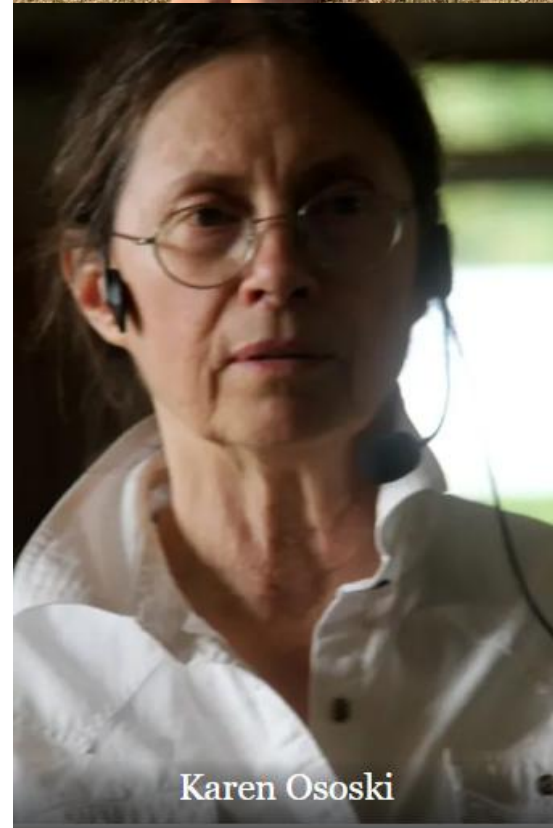
Lunch was served and of course, it was from Lewis and Main! It was a repeat of Saturday's lunch, with Baguette sandwiches, pinwheels and salads.

We did have 1 auditor come for Sunday's Karen Ososki seminar and one on Sunday for the demo and clinics. I was a bit disappointed that more people didn't show up, but oh well, more food for us! My mother-in-law, Carol, came for lunch and part of the afternoon session. At 93, she is spicy and had lots of questions for Karen.

After lunch, it was the individual sessions. We had 4 participants, including Marlee on Dr. Z, a Teke/warmblood cross, Yorke on Ari, Gene Mitchell with Astra and Alice with Andre.

By the end of the last individual session, it was closing in on 5 pm, so we said goodbye to everyone that had to leave and then retired to the front yard lounge area and just chatted for quite some time. We finished up anything left from the weekend's meals and had an adult beverage or two!

All in all, we had a lovely weekend and came out very narrowly in the black, moneywise, mostly because of my two major donors: Dayville Hay and Grain Supply and Wepaly Gulki. Thank you very much to both of them, they made the entire event painfree (financially!)



All photos shared by Cathy Leddy, taken by Monica Bretherton and Yorke McGillivray during the conference at Cascade Gold Akhal-Tekes.

# BREYER DREAMS COME TRUE

## AKHAL-TEKES AT BREYERFEST

Reported by Sabine Desper and written by Yorke McGillivray



Top: Photo of Sabine Desper and Adamek at Breyerfest (shared by Sabine Desper); Bottom: Photo of Sabine Desper on Adamek and Indyka handled by Ryan Daniel (shared by Sabine Desper); Rightside: Portrait image of Adamek and his model from Breyer Model Horses' Twitter page.



Following Breyer Horses' release of the portrait model of Akhal-Teke Foundation stallion Adamek in February, he and his long time rider and trainer Sabine Desper were invited to make a special live appearance at the BreyerFest annual model horse collecting event and show at Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky! The event spanned 3 days, July 15-17, packed with Akhal-Teke meet-and-greets, demonstration rides, and photo ops with model horse collectors of all ages.

Sabine Desper packed up Akhal-Teke horses Adamek and Indyka on Wednesday morning before the event and arrived that evening to settle into the beautiful Kentucky Horse Park grounds. On Thursday, Adamek had a private photo session with Breyer official to take photos with him alongside young kids and adults holding his Breyer model. The kids were really cute and Adamek received his official Breyer blanket!

Cindy Sither arrived Thursday with her Akhal-Tekes Garpun, Mascot, and Ithildin, and helping hands Meredith Johnson and Ryan Daniel.

Friday morning the doors opened for BreyerFest. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings Adamek had a photo session with visitors, where people could take pictures with him and his model. People loved to get their programs and models signed by Sabine! It was a great opportunity to chat with people and invite some back to the barn to meet the other Akhal-Tekes, which was really fun.



Twice a day for the three day event, Sabine Desper and Cindy Sither joined together for demonstration performances of the Akhal-Teke breed with the horses in costume. Each demo session, Adamek had the first two minutes to himself with a little script read by Pat Johnston, Friday and Saturday, Victoria Tollman, Saturday evening, and BreyerFest officials, Sunday. In the mornings, Adamek demonstrated some dressage and in the afternoon jumps were set up for him. Meredith Johnson rode Garpun side saddle, Josh Robinette handled Indyka through walk and trot along the rail as well as did the costuming for the horses, and Cindy Sither rode Mascot. Cindy even ponied two horses at once!

Everyone took breaks to graze the horses between rings and talk about Akhal-Tekes with passerbys.

In the evenings, people would come by the barn. An Akhal-Teke banner was set up with a table that had coloring pages of Adamek and details about the breed. Cindy had a stall open for Mascot, who loved the crowd and hung his head out for people to love on him and take pictures. Adamek had his stall guard up so people could greet him while talking about the breed.

The entire event was very busy but a great opportunity for breed exposure!



Photo of Josh Robinette and Indyka



Photo of Adamek and Sabine Desper

## Dressage at Devon

Reported by Sabine Desper and written by Yorke McGillivray  
Dressage at Devon, an annual world class dressage event held in Devon, Pennsylvania, ran September 22th to October 1st. This year a special breed specific Akhal-Teke class, USDF Dressage Sporthorse Prospect In-Hand: Akhal-Teke Division, was offered this year to the breed's community. It was held in the Dixon arena, and judged by Carter Bass.

Congratulations to Sabine Desper and Adamek, winners of the class!

Unfortunately this year this team was our only participant, but we hope to offer a class like this at another show next year. Maybe someone would like to challenge them for the 2023 title!



## ATAA will be at Equine Affaire!

This **November 10th - 13th, 2022**, the Akhal-Teke Association of America will be at Equine Affaire in Springfield, MA! We will again host an educational booth for the breed and we look forward to seeing you there.

If you are interested in sponsoring for the event, please email [support@akhal-teke.org](mailto:support@akhal-teke.org)!

Sponsorship levels include...

**Bronze Sponsor, \$50:** Be mentioned on social media!

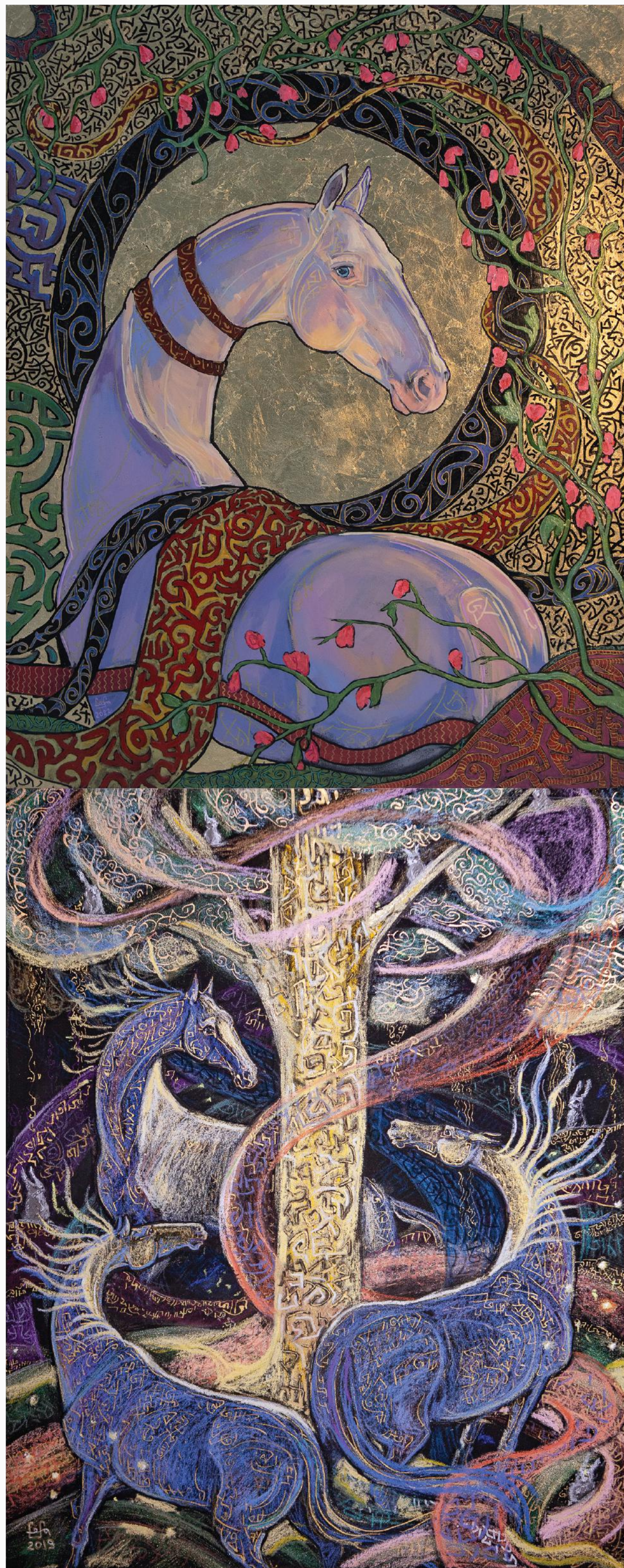
**Silver Sponsor, \$250+:** Be featured in a newsletter highlight, on our website, and on social media!

**Gold Sponsor, \$500+:** Have postcards with a photo of your horse printed for handout at the event, in addition to being featured in the newsletter, website, and social media.

# Fefa Koroleva

See more works at: [behance.net/fefa\\_koroleva](https://www.behance.net/fefa_koroleva)

All images are pictures of original works created and photographed by Fefa Koroleva.



## *How did you get introduced to the Akhal-Teke?*

I have admired Akhal-Teke horses from afar for many years. But in 2019, a wonderful perlino Akhal-Teke stallion appeared in my life. We lived together for three years. He left a big mark on my work. I can not say that the experience of close communication with one representative of the breed can affect the attitude towards the breed. But this period was very positive and my interest and respect for the Akhal-Teke breed grew.

## *What about the Akhal-Teke inspires you artistically?*

I really like the type of Akhal-Teke horse. The lines of their body, amazing plasticity and eastness. I'm interested in horse breeds which vividly reflect the culture and history of their country.

## *What make the Akhal-Teke unique to you, and how do you capture the breed's distinctive characteristics in your art?*

I notice that the Akhal-Teke horse is often drawn as a little bit aggressive, like a snake. On the one hand, I agree with this image. But for me the Akhal-Teke horse is subtlety, tenderness. Many of my work with Akhal-Teke horses is about family and love. My charge Akhal-Teke stallion opens for me the nature of these horses from this side with his gentle character and fragility. For me, they are sensitive, responsive and kind horses.





### *How would you describe your style?*

My style began for many years. Back in school, I used to like drawing small patterns and match them with large shapes. Also topics of fairy tales and myths have always been interested to me, which entailed the study of the ornaments of different countries. The topics of animals has always been my favourite, and gradually it all came together in my work. My style, although found, is changing and developing. I always try something new in technology and materials. I am interested in experimenting. But gold patterns have become my hallmark in any technique..

### *What do you hope to inspire with your art?*

I draw what delights and excites me and I want to share these feelings through my art. I don't really like talking about myself and sharing my feelings. I'm an introvert. But through my art I discover a lot for the viewer. And I want to share the object of my admiration with the outside world.



# Akhal-Teke Cross In Action

## Melissa Harlinski & Bavaria RDF

Photos and update submitted by Melissa Harlinski

I have been showing my 5 year old registered half Teke mare Bavaria RDF at Potomac Valley Dressage Association (PVDA) schooling shows in Maryland. The following are shows I have been to:

5/22/22 Promise Landing Farm PVDA Show: First Level Test 1 61.897%

6/5/22 Oakridge Park: First Level Test 2 65.571%

7/31/22 Exalt Farm: First Level Test 2 66.429%

8/13/22 Schooley Mill Park: First Level Test 2 60%

She also was awarded a Premium Verband mare status at the GOV Oldenburg Inspections which included a performance test. Attached are pictures from the inspection.



# Up-And-Coming Rider Program Updates

## Kathy Thode & Kazimir

Photos and update submitted by Kathy Thode

Kazimir celebrated his 9th birthday and is definitely starting to grow up now. Our little herd of three horses got smaller by one old mare who had ruled the roost since her birth on the farm, 34 years ago. Consequently, Kazimir has now discovered that he CAN be in the stable all alone without standing on his hind legs, climbing the walls and screaming nonstop till someone helped him out and brought his herd mates back. It was like a miracle after she passed away. He is even left alone on the farm for a day or two while my gelding is on an outing. He calls once then starts back eating.

Kazimir had another good educational experience in April when we attended the Ohio Equine Affaire. This was stimulation overload but he behaved for the most part. The overhead train track just about made him come unglued with fear. Fortunately, the other Tekes that we were out walking with, all stood like statues and accepted that there was a giant train speeding along directly overhead. He followed their lead and thankfully didn't drag me careening down the pavement in the opposite direction. His other death defying experiences at Equine Affaire were meeting a herd of miniature ponies all decked out in hot pink, and running into the two horse hitch barreling towards him while out walking alone.

At Equine Affaire, Kaz and I had an amazing time and got to get acquainted with Katrina, Giles, Sabine, Billy, Morrigan and their lovely Akhal-Tekes. Their horses were all well behaved and hung out in the exhibit stall without being nervous and most took naps. Kaz was not a fan of the exhibit stall at all, but he gave it his best shot. He much preferred the stall in the stable with his Teke buddies that he had made fast friends with. The Breed Demo went without a hitch other than the baby carriages and those damn garbage cans that seemed to be everywhere.

## Kathy Thode & Kazimir (continued)

The 2022 show season is upon us, and thanks to the UCAT Sponsorship, generously given out by the Equine Survival Trust, we are able to go to lots of competitions. The first show was on Memorial Weekend and it went very well. We tried our hand/ hooves at Third level as well as attempting to qualify for the Regional Championships (2nd Level) at the end of the competition year. Windy Hollow Hunt Dressage Show, in NJ, was in June where we once again competed at 3rd level. The third show we attended was at Houghton NY. Luck was on our side at every turn there. We attained the last qualifying score needed at 2nd level test 3 so it is off to the Region 8 Championships in Sept. On a lark to see if my riding seat was improving, I had entered the equitation class and I managed a score high enough to qualify for the USDF Adult Amateur Equitation Program at the Championships. Then, there was a \$100 sweepstakes prize for the 2nd place finish that I got in the 2nd level test. That score also qualified us for a prize given to the highest scoring horse that was competing at 2nd level or above and solely trained by an amateur owner. Most shows don't end this favorably!

I want to thank Sabine for encouraging us to go to the Ohio Equine Affaire. I was very nervous about the whole idea at the time. She has mentioned that they are planning to go to the November Equine Affaire, in Springfield, MA. so I may have to find the nerve to do it again. Before the huge championships and Equine Affaire, we have plans to go back to the Adirondack Park for another leisurely camping and trail riding trip like we did last year. Kazimir deserves some time to kick back and unwind in nature before the last couple of stressful events for the year. Once again thank you so much for the opportunity to herald these wonderful horses! And a special thanks to Cathy Leddy for all of her encouragement in this process! The people in this organization have all been so supportive.



# THE WORLD COMES TOGETHER TO HELP UKRANIAN AKHAL-TEKES

Update written by Katrina Ardiel. Top photo by Yorke McGillivray; Bottom photos taken in Ukraine and shared by Katrina Ardiel.

The start of April 2022 the global Akhal-Teke Community came together to help Ukrainian Akhal Tekes in need. People started connecting worldwide in an attempt to bring aid to the Akhal-Teke and their breeders in war then Ukraine. Collaboration between the Akhal Teke Association of America and the Akhal Teke Foundation started raising funds to be able to help. Collaboration with individuals for organizations and delegation of funds, mobilization of supplies, and offers of refuge for horses in Europe resulted in successfully evacuating horses and bring aid in the way for much needed hay and grain to the horses left behind. Below are some of the social media posts for the collaboration.



**March 25th 2022.** The first Ukrainian akhal tekas are scheduled to leave the country within a few days, but as of this morning are still in quarantine in Ukraine. The difficult and expensive evacuation has been made possible largely from donations made to the Akhal-

Teke Foundation GoFundMe site. The donations are also funding support of the 40+ Akhal Tekes still in the country.

**April 18, 2022.** Positive update on the efforts to help the Akhal Tekes in Ukraine! Thanks to all the generous donations, we have been able to evacuate two mares. Their breeder traveled along with them to their new temporary home in the EU, and then turned around and went back into Ukraine to look after her other horses there. The most intense fighting in the area of her broodmares has subsided somewhat (though no area in Ukraine is safe), allowing an assessment of the situation. Large amounts of military debris were collected from the pastures and clear signs of artillery strikes could be seen. The video shows the



road driving to the mares pastures. There are still four horses that she hopes to get out of Ukraine: two broodmares who have already arranged stabling for, plus a 3 year old stallion and a yearling colt, both of whom will be for sale once they are safely out of Ukraine. The sales of those two should help provide funds for the remaining horses. Inquiries are welcome.

**June 8, 2022.** Thanks to your generosity, this Akhal-Teke yearling in Ukraine has been moved out of the area where he endured weeks of daily bombardments around his paddock, and he can now safely relax in his own personal stall and receive proper nutrition in anticipation of his further journey to safety in the EU.

# Continuing Research on the Teke Glide

by Molly C. Nicodemus, PhD, Gaited Locomotive Research Program,  
Mississippi State University

In 2014 the Gaited Locomotive Research Program (GLRP) at Mississippi State University working with the Livestock Conservancy conducted the first study on the unique trotting gait of the Akhal-Teke breed that is often referred to as the “Teke Glide”. The research found that the Akhal-Teke at slower trotting velocities performed a symmetrical, 4-beat stepping gait with coupling, rather than pairing, of the diagonal limbs. The unique stepping nature of the gait and the dissociation of the diagonal limb pairs created a gait similar to the fox trot of the Missouri Fox Trotter allowing for a comfortable ride, thus, the name “Teke Glide”. However, the lack of suspension during the stride cycle made for an inefficient gait that would lead to early fatigue. Knowing that the Akhal-Teke excels as endurance horses, the researchers at GLRP continued their work with the Livestock Conservancy collecting numerous video clips of Akhal-Teke horses performing various trotting velocities. This summer the finalized research on the impact of velocity on the trotting gait of the Akhal-Teke was presented at the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) Symposium in Oklahoma City. GLRP researchers found that at faster velocities the Akhal-Teke can produce a true trotting gait with suspension and diagonal limb pairing allowing for a more efficient gait for longer endurance rides. This ability to have an additional “gear” within the velocity range of the typical trot is similar to what is seen in the Icelandic horse breed. Akhal-Teke riders have the opportunity to enjoy the smoothness of the “Teke Glide” or can select for a more efficient ground-covering movement of the typical trot when participating in an endurance ride.

As to what's next for the GLRP, along with their collaborative work with the Livestock Conservancy, researchers also dedicate time towards educating the horse community about the work they are doing. This outreach program includes working with the Mississippi 4-H Horse Club educating youth involved in the horse judging program about various types of gaits found in more unique breeds like the Akhal-Teke. Through these educational youth programs, the GLRP researchers began a high school research internship for Mississippi youth. The first youth interning with the GLRP is Grace Christian School senior Julius Culwell from Louisville, Mississippi. He assisted this summer with the Mississippi State University poster presentations at the ASAS Symposium along with working on a grant proposal for funding his upcoming gait research. Julius submitted his grant proposal to the Livestock Conservancy Youth Microgrant Program. His grant proposal is focused on a comparative study looking at other similar stepping gaits as the Akhal-Teke with his research tentatively scheduled to begin this fall. If funded, Julius is hoping to complete his work by the end of his senior year so that he can present his research at the upcoming Equine Science Society Symposium in Fort Worth in June. Individuals can refer to the Livestock Conservancy website for further details concerning the collaborative gait research being done between the GLRP and the Livestock Conservancy.



*"Akhal-Teke riders have the opportunity to enjoy the smoothness of the “Teke Glide” or can select for a more efficient ground-covering movement of the typical trot."*



Top: Akhal-Teke stallion Gallo demonstrating the Teke Glide (shared by Tish Saare); Bottom: Julius Culwell, GLRP Intern, at the 2022 ASAS Symposium presenting Akhal-Teke gait research.

# Lights, Cameras... Tekes?

Ever since I was a little girl I understood the power of cinema. It's ability to capture, evoke, empower, and inspire; it's ability to connect us with the intangible and the unimaginable. One of the most formative films to my lifelong passion for horses was *The Black Stallion*, a Walter Farley best-selling novel turned film that grossed nearly 40M and has captured imaginations worldwide since its release in 1979. Its following has even supported a successful sequel, prequel, and TV series. What is most memorable about it, however, is the horse.

The director of *The Black Stallion*, Carroll Ballard, understood how to capture the spirit of the horse and essence of why this particular horse was so special. His creative visuals, and cinematic embrace of the black stallion as an equal hero in the story, invited viewers on an enchanting and emotional journey—leaving many to dream of the horse for years to come.

Many other horse movies around the world have similarly portrayed a horse as a hero in their stories. *Black Beauty*, *Flicka*, *War Horse*, *Secretariat*... Movies like these capture horses in a way that makes us remember and treasure them. They fuel our imagination, and even spark desires to meet or own horses that remind us of the equine hero onscreen.

The *Black Stallion* film hugely promoted the Arabian horse breed. Until I met Akhal-Tekes, my first horse was set to be an Arabian, believing I could live some of the movie magic. The film *Ladyhawke* was likewise a major promotion for the Friesian horse, inspiring people to buy their own in order to live out part of the fantasy. *Hidalgo* did the same for the American Mustang and the story of *Misty* brought attention to the wild Chincoteague Pony. But what about a film to promote the Akhal-Teke?

The Akhal-Teke played a pivotal role in human history, with countless tales of equine heroism, and its story has waited over 3,000 year-old to be told on the big screen. Their intelligence, grace, heart, and gleam deserves to be captured in HD for the world to see.

This past May, I was serendipitously introduced to someone who could give Tekes that opportunity to shine on the silver screen!


Todd Piece, a film producer who has adopted a great appreciation of the Akhal-Teke breed and its long history alongside some of the greatest empires that ever existed, has decided to make Akhal-Tekes a centerpiece of his studios' new direction. Todd and his internationally-talented team, have already written scripts for two feature length films featuring Akhal-Teke horses and are nearing completion on the plans for a live-action, historical drama series. In two of these productions, the Akhal-Teke will stand as a hero in the story, but in all productions the studios' goal will be to promote and bring more exposure to this ancient, endangered breed.

One of Todd's passions is in representing those who are often under-represented. So rather than using typical stock, whenever horses are casted Todd wants them to be Akhal-Tekes.

Production and filming on the first projects could begin early 2023, and the studios is excited to start connecting and collaborating with the Akhal-Teke community to make it happen! Then perhaps, the next generation will dream less of a black stallion and more of a "golden" one.

If you are interested in getting involved, please email Todd Pierce at [thesunsetrider.sdp@gmail.com](mailto:thesunsetrider.sdp@gmail.com) for more information about what the studios is looking for.

**By Yorke McGillivray**



*The Akhal-Teke played a pivotal role in human history, with countless tales of equine heroism, and its story has waited over 3,000 year-old to be told on the big screen.*



## Monthly Meeting Minutes are Moving!

For the past decade, monthly meeting minutes have been published in the ATAA quarterly newsletter! These documents have provided regular updates to our members about the ideas, projects, campaigns, and current events under discussion or in progress amongst our Board of Directors and volunteers. However, as our organization grows we want new members to be able find and review these records and hope to make them more accessible to current members in the process. So as our publications evolve, we have decided to move the newsletters to one easy-to-access location on our website, Akhal-Teke.org, under the the "News" section.

**View the new Meeting Minutes page here**, or go to:  
[akhal-teke.org/news/monthly-meeting-minutes/](http://akhal-teke.org/news/monthly-meeting-minutes/)



Above photo shared by Katrina Ardiel and taken by Artur Baboev; bottom photo: shared by Cathy Leddy.



**Contact us for more info on how to get involved and learn more about our volunteer positions!**

## BECOME AN ATAA VOLUNTEER!

The Akhal-Teke Association of America is run by volunteers, and we would love to have your help!

We are currently looking for individuals interested in helping with the newsletter, website, social media, events, and more!

Join the fun, share your skills and creative ideas, and help preserve & promote the Akhal-Teke!

## Farm Reports

### Silver Hill Akhal-Tekes

Betsy Wandler

Billings, Montana

[www.silverhill-tekes.com](http://www.silverhill-tekes.com)

[betsysee@gmail.com](mailto:betsysee@gmail.com)



Hi all!

I hope 2022 is treating everyone and their horses well! We have been keeping busy here in Montana between all the animals and kids activities.

We had the arrival of our only foal "SH Karkadann" this year back in June, we call him "Lightning". He is out of the mare Kazahk-Yurek RHR by Joshua American Horse. He is growing like a weed and doing well! He will be heading to his new home in Bozeman, Montana here in November.

We have 2 horses bred to Kevlin for 2023: Silver Hill Avienda, and Silver Hill Aytasi. Avienda's in-utero foal is sold, and Aytasi is now out on a breeding lease so she can be started under saddle and will return late 2024 bred to Tasarim Yakor.

Kevlin will be staying with us for another year! I would like to once again give a heartfelt "Thank You" to Tish Saare at Pleasant Grove Akhal-Tekes for leasing us your golden boy!

Check out my website [www.silverhill-tekes.com](http://www.silverhill-tekes.com), the fb page, or message me directly if you have any questions about my horses!

## Classifieds

Each ATAA member will receive a free ad in the ATAA Newsletter Classifieds each issue. Individual membership: 30 free words per issue. Family membership: 60 free words per issue. Farm membership: 1/4 page ad. If that amount just isn't enough, you can buy more ad space for the next newsletter issue by contacting [support@akhal-teke.org](mailto:support@akhal-teke.org) or paying with the PayPal button below.

- Full Page: \$75 per issue
- Half Page: \$50 per issue
- Quarter Page: \$35 per issue
- 1/6 Page: \$10 per issue
- Business card: \$8 per issue

Buy now with **PayPal**

# AKHAL-TEKE FOUNDATION

AT STUD FOR 2023

Adamek (Virginia), Anduma (Tennessee), Kiergen (Oregon)



[www.akhaltekefoundation.org](http://www.akhaltekefoundation.org)

Live cover, fresh, & cooled options. Contact 541-514-4766, [akhaltekefoundation@gmail.com](mailto:akhaltekefoundation@gmail.com)

# SWAN FARM AKHAL-TEKES

AT STUD

Ehvr Atlaz, 16.1 hands, Pan Tau x Pallas Athena



[www.swanfarmakhaltekes.com](http://www.swanfarmakhaltekes.com)

Contact Pat and Kevin, 541-514-4766, [swanfarmdexter@gmail.com](mailto:swanfarmdexter@gmail.com)



Gerald



16.1hh Akhal Teke Stallion Born 2006  
By Arim out of Gekla  
Bred by Akhal Texas (Tito and Natasha Pontecorvo)

Parentage 6.5, Typicality 7.0, Measurements 8.5,  
Conformation 9.0,

Akhal Valley Farms - Clarksburg ON Canada.  
[www.akhalvalleyfarms.ca](http://www.akhalvalleyfarms.ca)

If you are looking for a proven stallion then look no further. Gerald is the epitome of a modern accomplished Akhal Teke. From the show ring to his progeny Gerald is an excellent example for his breed and his sport. He will capture you with his undeniable presence, and hold your attention with his refined uphill build, and beautiful copper coat. Gerald brings excellent Akhal Teke bloodlines with proven success in both the jumper ring and the dressage ring.

As a two year old, Gerald won a gold medal and red preferred status at an American Warmblood Inspection. He went on to win the 2 year old division, at the first Akhal-Teke championship in America, at the Kentucky Horse Park. Finally, at one United States Dressage Federation in hand class, Gerald's score earned him 6th place in the nation, for sport horse suitability. However Gerald's career did not end in the hand ring.

Gerald started his career at Akhal Valley Farms in Eventing progressing from entry level to Preliminary level in three short years of competition. Although he showed promise in Eventing it became apparent that he enjoyed dressage more.

Gerald started his dressage career in the spring of 2014 and progressed through the levels and made his debut at Prix St George in Spring of 2016. Gerald has had great success at Prix St George level and is currently working on moving up the levels.

Gerald's offspring show all promise talent, beauty, and reliability. They all possess their dad's excellent work ethic, intelligence, as well as his great conformation, and natural athleticism. They are beautifully balanced with excellent uphill movement, and they have already been winning ribbons in conformation classes, dressage, and in the jumper ring.

## Cascade Gold Akhal-Tekes

2021 Buckskin filly, Sephard Shael x Aishet, for sale



2021 Chestnut filly, Gerald x Alamet, for sale



2020 Bay filly, CG Azalia, Metman x Aishet, for sale



[c.leddy@frontier.com](mailto:c.leddy@frontier.com)

[www.cgakhaltekes.org](http://www.cgakhaltekes.org)

*At Stud: Kerkan*  
2019, Gallo x MV Fergazel

Available Cooled and Frozen Shipped Fresh  
US & Canada

\$500 Introductory Fee  
plus cost of collection  
and shipping.

*Preamble, "Algush"*  
2020, Kevlin x MV Fergazel

Looking for creative arrangements! 2YR, sensitive &  
intelligent; forward & floaty mover; ready to be  
challenged and deserves more  
time than I have while starting his  
half-brother. Open to a service  
trade: trainings for breedings.  
Cooled/Frozen Avail for 2023








contact Yorke McGillivray | [yorkenberry@gmail.com](mailto:yorkenberry@gmail.com) | [arcanatekes.com](http://arcanatekes.com)

Available:  
Silver Hill Aytasi (MV  
Mele-Chus x Amerka)  
bred to Kevlin for June  
2023 foal \$9500  
Would consider saddle  
training in exchange for  
foal.




Silver Hill Akhal-Tekes  
Betsy Wandler  
Billings, Montana  
[www.silverhill-tekes.com](http://www.silverhill-tekes.com);  
instagram; fb  
[betsysee@gmail.com](mailto:betsysee@gmail.com)

Soudjie (AK Syrgym x Khiva)  
Maiden mare, saddle broke.  
\$5500

In-utero Kevlin x Amerka  
June 2023 foal  
Private treaty

**WEPALY GULKI**



**16H BLACK AKHAL-TEKE AT STUD**

FROZEN SEMEN SHIPPED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, NFS NEG,  
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TO PRESERVE AND PROMOTE  
**THE AKHAL-TEKE**

Cover photo of CG Alara by Monica Bretherton  
and shared with permission by Cathy Leddy.

[akhal-teke.org](http://akhal-teke.org)

