

my own bad experiences. I've bought young horses that looked like world beaters but had bad pedigrees. Screwed me every time. And there is one young horse in the business I've been watching very closely for a couple of years. I know his sire's and dam's pedigrees very well. I quit breeding to his sire because his babies weren't bottomless and too many were flashes in the pan that ultimately were quitters. I can't wait to see if that horse's pedigree on the sire's side haunts him.

5. Do you use live cover, transported semen, embryo transplant, oocytes, etc.?

We use transported semen for mares [that] will carry their own foals and for embryo transplants, but use frozen semen for oocytes. Many of my foals are by deceased stallions such as The New York Times, RWC I'm Lookin' For You and WC Our Axel Rose. Due to the limited availability of their semen, we have to go the oocyte route.

6. What specific bloodlines do you look for when choosing a stallion?

The studs I'm breeding to today match well with some of my mares, but none matches with all of my mares.

Undulata's Nutcracker: What more needs to be said? *Nutcracker* is the best sire of our time and has brought back to the breed what was waning (gameness, athleticism, strong trot and charisma). His ^{CH}Caramac top side and The New York Times bottom side (royal breeding with a capital "R") make him one of the all-time greats whose name should be spoken whenever a very short list of the greatest of all time are discussed. Look in the ring. Look at the stats. Look at the judges' cards. Look at the top producing sires in all divisions. Now consider where our breed would be today without this magnificent stallion.

Carl Lynn: A grandson of ^{CH}Caramac (the stud that, in my opinion, produced hotter offspring than any stud in the last 50 years) and out of Carol Lynn (BHF). ^{CH}Caramac is a son of *Nutcracker* and Carol Lynn (BHF) [and] is by one of the great broodmare sires of our time, RWC ^{CH}The Talk Of The Town, and she is out of a full sister to HS Daydream's Heads Up, making the colt line bred to *Nutcracker*.

RWC I'm Lookin' For You: I'm not an expert on this horse's pedigree, and the Roseridge Heir x Worthy Son bloodlines are something I'm experimenting with. But the facts are that this horse had an extremely high "hit rate," given the few mares he bred before his untimely death, and so I'm grateful that Kaye Bowles-Durnell sold me some of his frozen straws. This horse is a three-fourths brother to Samur, and since I own the straws and slightly prefer I'm Lookin' For You dam's bottom side, I'm breeding to him. In 2019, I bought Lady Lyra (dam of current Five-Gaited WGC I'm Lookin' At You) and now have a full sibling due in 2021. Lady Lyra is by *Nutcracker* and out of a WC Belle Reve's Renaissance Man mare. *Renaissance Man* was nearly 100 percent Chief. For those of you who don't know about the Chief, Denmark and Peavine original families of our breed, you should edify yourself. If *Renaissance Man* mares are high-headed, they are interesting to me.

Our Axel Rose: Although his sire, RWC I'm A New Yorker, has some traits I don't like, I love his ^{CH}Courageous Admiral bottom side and really liked this horse as an individual. Our Axel Rose was weak

behind but otherwise had everything I look for. Since I have high-headed mares, most with strong back ends, I like breeding to him. All the stuff about this horse once being a "bad actor" can be chalked up to "environmental inputs" and ignored. I have already bred RWCC HS Rose's Knockout (RWCC) and WC HS As Lovely As Ever. His offspring are gifted and hot but trainable by calm, talented trainers.

Northern Vegas: With Callaway's Blue Norther on his top side and WCC ^{CH}Santana Lass (by the great sire The New York Times) on the bottom side, this horse should continue producing high-caliber horses, and his progeny are already making a big splash in the ring. I only have one foal on the ground by him, but she is magnificent and I will cross this stud with a lot of my mares.

The New York Times: By New Yorker and out of an Oman's Desdemona Denmark mare with two BHF grand dams (one being Reverie's Desdemona (BHF), easily and arguably one of the top five broodmares of all time), The New York Times is the sire of fabulous horses such as Cherry Cherry (BHF), Lass Vegas, WC ^{CH}Undulata's Perfect Gift ERB (BHF), WCC Princess Stephanie ERB, WC ^{CH}That's My Story (BHF), Christmas In New York ERB (BHF), WCC ^{CH}The L. A. Times, WC ^{CH}Times Best, WCC ^{CH}Wall Street Week and WCC ^{CH}Best of Time, and he crosses well with my mares. I have bred and raised RWC HS Times Are Changing and HS The New York Times Best Seller by him.

WC Mountainview's Heir To Fortune: By WC Supreme Heir and out of a RWC ^{CH}Starlike Sultan daughter, this line bred Supreme Sultan stud adds athleticism and trainability, and I have had good success breeding big mares to this stud of Fred Sarvers.

RWC Joe Fabulous: by I'm A New Yorker (RWC) but with a wonderful ^{CH}Courageous Admiral bottom side, I like this cross with a few of my mares and have a wonderful 2019 colt out of WC HS Daydream's Fashionista.

There are a few other studs that I haven't had the opportunity to cross my mares with whose pedigrees I like, such as Arrowhead's Bateleur (grandsire Callaway's Blue Norther, line bred to ^{CH}Courageous Admiral, Booker Noe (*Nutcracker* on top and Evangelique (BHF), by Harlem Globetrotter on the bottom) and RWC Noble Braveheart (second and third generation Callaway's Blue Norther and ^{CH}Caramac on the top side and double bred WC Royal Memories on the bottom side shows a lot of potential).

HS Daydream's Masterpiece: This completely blind full brother to Three-Gaited WGC HS Daydream's Heads Up (by *Nutcracker* and out of *ADB*) has been lightly bred as most of my mares are too closely bred to him. However, the mares I have bred to him, including daughters of Callaway's Blue Norther, ^{CH}The Talk Of The Town and *Nutcracker*, have produced great offspring. My best two-year-old is a filly by him and out of a Blue Norther mare. Jim Stachowski has a two-year-old daughter out of a ^{CH}The Talk Of The Town mare that is stunning, and I have a 2021 foal due out of Lady Lyra (dam of Five-Gaited WGC I'm Lookin' At You). These babies have extreme high headedness, are very athletic and exude quality. Nelson Green and Jim Stachowski saw HS Daydream's Masterpiece as a long yearling right before he was blinded in a stable accident and both thought he was one of the best prospects they had ever seen.

7. What is your opinion on line breeding?

Line breeding is one of the most important aspects of successful breeding. I have owned and hunted English

Pointers from Alaska to Georgia since I was 12. The foremost breeder of English Pointer hunting dogs since the 1950s was Robert Wehle (spelling his last name backwards created his Elhew Kennels). Mr. Wehle bred hunting pointers for 60 years. He started with five dogs and line bred those five dogs each year, keeping the best male and a few of the best females. Other than small amounts of outcrossing to two particular stud dogs approximately 40 years into his breeding program, there was no outside blood introduced. Elhew Kennels became famous for producing conformationally consistent and emotionally stable dogs of unparalleled talent. The homogeneity of his dogs was world famous.

Line breeding, when done carefully, and with particular consideration of the individuals being mated, is the most successful way to eliminate variables that are undesirable and promote and enhance desirable traits. I just shake my head when I hear people say, "Breed the best to the best and hope for the best." To me, that is uninformed gibberish. Know your mare. Know the stud. Know the families. Cross families with families that are proven crosses. And when you have the chance to breed tight and close do it.

So, in my opinion, line breeding eliminates a lot of variables and creates a consistency of progeny that outcrossing is less successful at. Can you breed too close? Sure, but I am not hesitating crossing *Nutcracker* sons to *Nutcracker* daughters if the bottom sides of the mares are reasonably outcrossed.

8. Do you think the rising popularity of the Western and hunt seat divisions will help you as a breeder?

Not really. If I produce a horse that fits into these divisions, I have failed as a breeder, although I believe these divisions are important for our breeders to attract a wider variety of buyers and to have divisions for horses that would not be successful in the "higher" divisions. I am probably different than most breeders. My primary goal isn't to breed a lot of marketable babies. By that, I mean I'm willing to push the limits that may produce colts that are too hot for little Susie but have a higher chance of meeting my primary goal, which is to produce World's Champions and World's Grand Champions that, almost by definition, will be difficult. I'm breeding to produce superstars. In that quest, there are always lots of colts that don't make the cut, but when you succeed at producing a great one, the sense of achievement is exhilarating.

9. Do you show your colts in the in hand division? Why or why not?

Never. If I have a foal I think can win those classes then I have a foal I definitely would not do that to. I feel it is too stressful mentally and physically on them and, with very few exceptions, dooms them from becoming competitive performance horses. If you analyze the stallions that produce successful in hand babies, they almost without exception are not stallions that produce world-class performance horses, which is all I'm interested in.

10. What impact do you want your breeding program to leave on the industry?

I hope that HS's legacy is associated with world-class performance horses that are hot as fire and bred to go the distance. Horses that have/had quality and a "look" that is identifiable as an HS horse. Mrs. Weldon accomplished that, and although I won't have 10 percent of the impact on our breed that she had, I hope to leave a significant, discernible mark on the breed.