

What We Learned

As Fate Would Have It

By Kim Oplotnik

Lori Sargeant's Three Fates Farm is steeped in Greek Mythology and the desire to stay faithful to the Morgan breed. Lori's decision to focus on Morgans began 13 years ago with the single purchase of the stallion PKM Gamborian (K-Lyn Gambit x Cherbrook Aria). Prior to that she had been an open hunter exhibitor with Thoroughbreds and TB crosses. Willing and versatile, PKM Gamborian is a great example of a Morgan carrying old bloodlines of Fleetwing, Reatas Mexicali Rose, and Trophy. Lori was able to show "Gamby" in every discipline and eventually decided she wanted another horse just like him. Oak Grove First Lady (Saddleback Nightaire x Oak Grove Ginger) was the next addition to the Three Fates Farm and the resulting union with PKM Gamborian produced Three Fates Cheiron.

Lori's decision to stay with the Morgan breed did not come lightly, therefore she wanted a meaningful farm name. The Three Fates were the deities of Greek mythology who determined your birth, your life, and your death (Having three children herself, the number three was symbolic to Lori.). Three Fates Cheiron was the first-born and his name was chosen with much consideration. Cheiron was the centaur son of Titan, making him immortal. Unlike other centaurs who were unfriendly, Cheiron was a teacher both to other Gods and humans, making him a great friend. These qualities are generally found in our Morgans and they blossomed as Lori's partnership with Three Fates Cheiron developed. The story of Cheiron ends with him being immortalized as the constellation Sagittarius, which is also Lori's astrology sign. All of this symbolism resulted in the perfect name for Lori Sargeant's first farm-bred Morgan.

Three Fates Cheiron, "Ronny," was started as a three-year-old and has lived on the farm since. Everything Lori and Ronny explore, they work on at home in Ohio. Dressage became a natural division to focus on since Ronny has the mind and willingness of his sire. "I love dressage because it is a partnership to build on. It is a discipline that can be done at home," explains Lori. To further her education, Lori takes Ronny to clinics and lessons. With the

growth of Western Dressage, Lori and Ronny added that division to their repertoire.

The 2015 show season saw Lori and Three Fates Cheiron competing in a total of 58 classes, in five shows. Traveling herself, Lori took Ronny to Southern States, Buckeye, Jubilee, NY Regional and finally, Grand Nationals. Being in the sport horse division means a lot of classes, often 13 or more, and Ronny never said no. Willingness is his best quality. In addition to dressage and trail, Ronny participates in hunter paces, cross country schooling, mini-

trials and has even pony clubbed with Lori's daughter. All of the challenges and experiences in the ring have made him a better horse and an even better partner, but the best thing about him is his reliability and focus. Ronny is a typical Morgan showing off his versatility and showing it off well. That versatility was well rewarded with the Three Fates Farm earning its first home grown world championships this year. The Western Dressage Level 1 and Musical Freestyle First & Second Level Finals tri-color ribbons were proudly worn by Lori and Three Fates Cheiron in the dressage presentation.

"Of all the horses I have Ronny is my 'go-to,'" says Lori

"That alone makes him priceless, not many horses would do what he does." This year Lori also entered in the AOTS Western Pleasure class at OKC. "I was so proud of his accomplishments this year and last year he won the USEF Incentive Cup. I plan on continuing with dressage and hope to add carriage. He also does over fences working hunter and I want to expand on that. I want to take him to Western Dressage Nationals next year, as well. The best part of Ronny is that he is an incredible ambassador for the Morgan breed. People who have never really seen a Morgan love him and his adorable face. It gives me the opportunity to tell everyone what a fantastic breed the Morgan is."

The future is bright for the Three Fates Farm, with babies on the ground and young ones developing, the Morgan world is the one to reap the benefits from Lori Sargeant and her love for the breed. ■



(Above) Lori Sargeant and Three Fates Cheiron (Photo © Howard Schatzberg).