



***Dr. Dan Sudilovsky Owner of SF Munieco +/-  
(Navarre x Amyr Sunrise)  
Randy & Laura***

## ***Laura Anderson and Randy Stoneback***

*By Laura Anderson*

It started with a dream...

Well, it always starts with a dream but a dream many of us had and followed. This tale is about Arabians, family, love and some mild obsession. Yes, you know, we've all been there.

As a boy, Dick Stoneback yearned to own an Arabian horse. He researched and studied horses and bloodlines. The day came where he had the opportunity to own his very own Arabian. "Amyr" was beautiful, perfection, at least, to Dick. Looking back, Dick admittedly said that Amyr was a plain horse. But that first Arabian is always so beautiful in the eyes of the lovestruck. That first love is the stamp on our farm. Amyr Arabians is named after a first, true, and deep love of Arabians and horses.

As a young Veterinarian, Dick and his wife Marge and their young family settled on a farm in Oxford, Pa. This is where the real work on breeding, showing, and raising Arabians and Arabian lovers truly began. Arabians were bred, sold, traded and most importantly loved, all in the name of improving the breed, moving it forward, and bringing in the new acolytes...oops I meant owners and breeders. The Stoneback household was an open door to people coming and going. Sometimes staying and hopefully falling in love with Arabians.

Randy and his siblings, Rickie and Peggy, were raised side by side with Arabians. It's no wonder Randy caught the fever, coaxing broodmares over to the fence to ride them, riding and showing as a boy, and finally going out to Al-Marah to apprentice under his hero Harold Brite.

Laura on the other hand had a completely different upbringing. Raised in a neighborhood, no horses allowed. Her mom got her family goats instead of horses, trying to appease the horse fever. It helped, but it didn't cure. Although, as luck would have it, having goats introduced us to Dr. Richard Stoneback as our vet.

Riding lessons ensued and finally a lease of a half Arabian gelding was acquired, 23 years young and smarter than both Laura and her sister, Christine. He taught them a lot. He was always kind, loyal, and sometimes in the neighbor's field. Laura had long coveted a chestnut mare with four high white stockings about a mile from her house, watching for her every time she passed. Then one day the stars aligned, and this mare was for sale. She was quickly bought, and a call was made to the Stoneback's to see where she could be boarded.

They would board her, they knew her, they had bred her! Perfect! Laura went to work for Randy. Mom and Dad couldn't afford horse board so Laura was there every weekend and after school. She learned, she loved, and she knew this is what she wanted forever, much to the chagrin of her parents.



***Randy aboard A Golden Alybi  
(My Alybi x MTN Blond Bomshell)  
Owned by Donald & Donna Shelatree***

So here we are still breeding, showing, training and hooking people on Arabians like the horse crack dealers we are. We're breeding Crabbet, Skowronek/Raffles, Azraff/Ferzon, Count Dorsaz just to name a few. We love their great temperaments, trainability, athleticism, and beauty.

Both of us each bring a different view of important breeding goals. Randy, raised by a horse breeder, but also educated as a horse trainer, has had his view of why two horses should be bred tempered by both areas.

My goals lean more toward conformation and sweet personalities.

How wonderful to be able to blend our goals to get the best of both worlds. We always try to recognize the importance of pedigree as well as evaluating the physical look of the horse. Sometimes, we might take a chance on a stallion or mare, as some of the best producers weren't necessarily the best-looking horses. (Hindsight is always 20/20).



*Laura-Randy-Donna Bella CS (Don De Marco x Porsha CS  
Owned by Cricket Gates*

Breeding for what you need as opposed to what you like is often a big challenge. A horse can't just be pretty, it has to be trainable. Most people want a horse to ride so they have to be rideable. Oh, and a great temperament, keeping with the fiery, bouncy Arabian temperament but not at the expense of the loyal, kind, sensible best friend we all need and want.

Each breeder sees his horses as unfinished paintings: a little more bone, a little less back, better feet, bigger eyes and so on. We are no different, we see what each has, what each could produce, what each needs to improve. Some of our greatest joys are evaluating the foals for improvement, where we have succeeded and

where we need work. Or, maybe it's just Randy evaluating the foals because I think they're all perfect. I'll just wait till they're a little older and can handle some criticism before I do my evaluation.

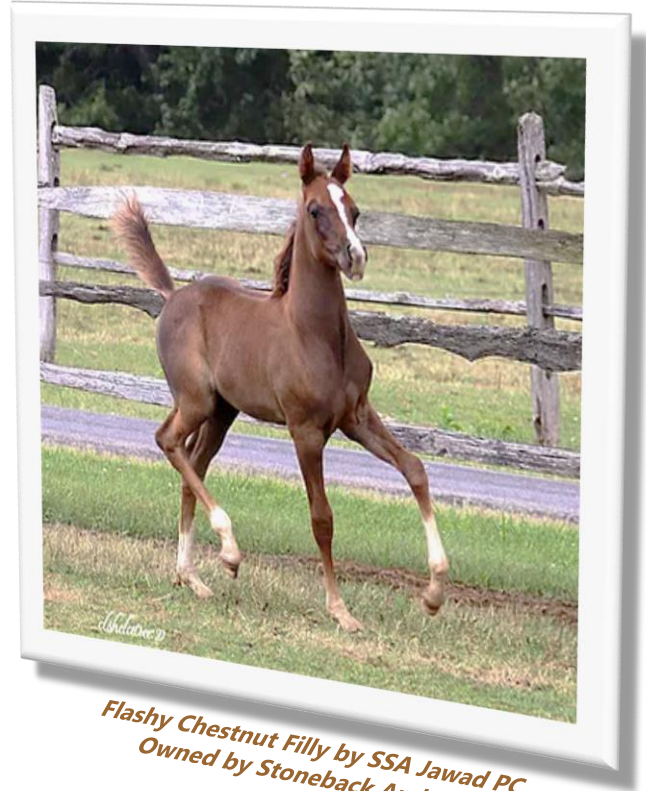
Oh, the horses we have known. We have been so lucky to be a part of so many special horses' lives. We know them all; we can picture their lineage because we knew them; we know them still. They have, in return, brought many special people into our lives, too. Arabian people are the best people. We're here for each other. We support each other, and we raise each other up. All for the love of a horse!

Here's hoping for perfection but enjoying the ride!

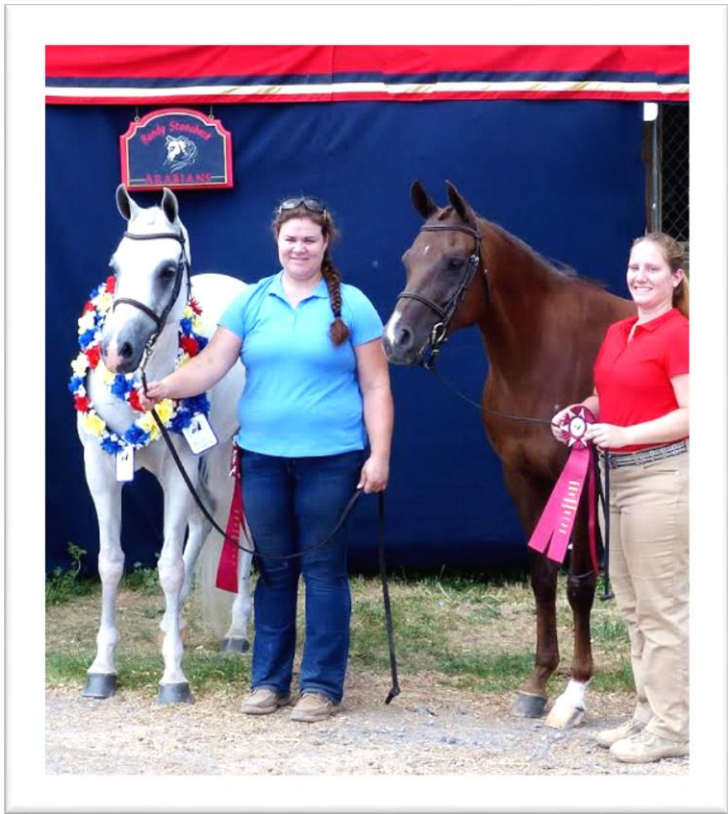




*Randy Cares...*



*Flashy Chestnut Filly by SSA Jawad PC  
Owned by Stoneback Arabians*



*FFC Anne Bonney-Laura-FFC Miz Barbara-Leah Moyer  
Bonney & Barbie owned by William A. Moore*

## Tributes

Congratulations, Randy and Laura, for being honored with the ECAHS Benefactor of the Breed Award. You both truly have worked so hard every day to pursue your passion for Arabians. We all still remember you, Randy, as that little boy in red boots featured on the cover of an Arabian horse magazine. Who knew then that, with Laura by your side sharing your passion, you two would rise to the top of your profession as trainers and breeders worthy of the recognition of your peers that this award signifies. Moreover, we are grateful that you have picked up the reins to further advance the lifelong dream of Dick and Marge Stoneback and Amyr Arabians, honoring the legacy of those who came before.

We are all so very proud of you both!

With All Our Love,

Mom (Marge Stoneback) and all of the Stoneback family,  
and Peggy, Paul, Drew and Michael Beardmore



### Randy and Laura

Randy was four when I first met him in 1964 and here he is at age 12 with Amyr's Grand Count (\*Count Dorsaz x Zaree) in a photo taken by Dee Moore on a visit we made after our marriage. One of my favorite stories (and Randy's) is on another visit Dee and I gave him a ride in our new Ford Ranchero from the farm up to Quentin, PA for the East Coast Show and we stopped just north of Lancaster for Root Beer Floats. Root beer floats, well I don't know about Laura for sure, but Randy still likes them, especially if I am buying.

He and Laura are great friends who have been significant trainers, show persons and publicizers of the Arabian breed as long as I have known them.

Congratulations Randy and Laura, well deserved.

Buzz Moore

**Randy and Laura,**

I attended the 1998 Crabbet Celebration, held in Kentucky, with the instruction from Dick to talk to Randy Stoneback about the Ragala (\*Mirage x \*Rifala) bred mares he had recently purchased. He was an important breeder and trainer and I was new to the Eastern Crabbet group. I was really nervous to meet Randy, because I had heard he was hard to visit with. WELL, after 23 years of almost daily conversations, I can say - he is easy to talk to.

It didn't take more than a few years before Stoneback horses were coming to Iowa and Hasbrook horses were in Pennsylvania. We were at a standstill - not breeding or selling. Randy rejuvenated our interest in our breeding program and the bloodlines we had been preserving. Through Randy, we were introduced to the old Crabbet lines crossed with the Skowronek lines. The good/bad to all of this is, both farms have increased their numbers and have become two of the larger breeders of these bloodlines in the country - preserving lines that are close to disappearing.

One of the early memories of Laura was watching her attempt to halter a young colt that had not been handled (probably one of ours). As she was being tossed around the stall, she was laughing and talking to the colt. In no time she had the halter on him, and was quietly leading him out of the stall. This talent is not taught or learned, it is a natural thing a person is born with.

With the combined talent of Laura and Randy, they make an unbeatable team. They work harder than anyone we know to maintain, promote, show, and breed some of the best horses of the breed. Their number of wins and championships in both the main ring and sport horse is proof of this. They are more than qualified to be awarded "Benefactor of the Breed".

Congratulations - Dick and Carolyn Hasbrook

### **Congratulations Randy and Laura**

We have had a very long and treasured journey with these two. Like any great team, each one brings unique strengths that make the other person better. Randy is the visionary and dreamer and Laura is the rock or foundation that pulls them through their many adventures.

Their lives have been dedicated to the Arabian horse, specifically, the Crabbet Arabian horse. Continuing the legacy that Dr. Richard Stoneback began many years ago, they have both added their own unique talents to improving on the pedigrees that Dick developed into the unique horses that they produce and train today.

Randy has kept a network of legacy breeders that he continues to work with. This has given him access to their counsel as well as the ability to share mares and stallions. We have never looked at our relationship as a business. It has always been friends helping each other to chase a shared dream.

Laura and Randy seek other people's opinions and make you feel like your input is very worthwhile. We have gone on many adventures together to Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Iowa and Nebraska just to name a few. We have usually come home with horses.

Some of the best True Blue Arabians were produced in collaboration with these two. True Blue Zada, True Blue Gabriel, True Blue Goldmine, and True Blue Goldrush all happened because of our friendship with Laura, Randy and Dick.

Their generosity and kindness is what stands out to me.

Sharon, Will and Bill Noonan  
True Blue Arabians

A snippet or more from the Oxford years from Virginia Kelsall.

I did not see this, but it was talk of the town for many years and a real tribute to the daring spirit of a little boy and the calm disposition of a Crabbet mare. \*Nadeyria was being bathed on the driveway, when along came Randy in his little wagon. He steered the wagon under her belly between the front legs and the rear ones. It is hard to believe, but no one was hurt.

As Randy got older, he developed a strong empathy for the stallions. They should have the chance to be "horses". When the Pennsylvania Arabian Horse Association (PAHA) had its annual judged pleasure ride, Randy always rode one of the Stoneback stallions. One year, he even got his dad to ride one of the Amyr sires.

Of course, he was in Oxford when he and Laura met. As Marge, Randy's mother, said "Randy and Laura love the horses."

I (Virginia Kelsall) was telling my long-time friend Camille about being asked to write for the new directory remembrances about ECAHS Benefactor of the Breed Honoree, Randy Stoneback. Her immediate comment was "Well, I have a Randy story for you."

"On a trip to a show, I stayed in the truck while you looked for Dr. Stoneback. It proved to be a ring-side seat for watching two little boys play with their tricycles on the back porch. They would ride off the edge, landing on the ground in a muddied heap. Up they would get to climb back on the porch, laughing and giggling to do it all again. These daredevils were of course Randy and his brother Ricky. I remember thinking at the time that these two would never survive to some day help their dad show horses."