



≈ INTERNATIONAL ≈

FOUR PROFILES OF MORGAN BREEDERS AROUND THE GLOBE

By Stacey Stearns

Breeding horses is a pursuit that harmonizes science, artistry, and a profound understanding of equine genetics and behavior. The Morgan horse stands as a testament to generations of people who stewarded the breed with thoughtful planning, passion, and unwavering dedication.

Breeders work tirelessly to create horses that not only fulfill their aspirations but also elevate the Morgan as a whole. From Australia's rugged landscapes to Shropshire's rolling hills, each breeder contributes a unique perspective shaped by their environment, culture, and personal philosophy.

ABOVE: Australian breeder Noni Martin with foundation sire Mt Tawonga King (Marvelous Encore x Lizotte Lil Bridget) (1); Canadian breeders Dwayne and Shannon Comeau's daughter Ashley riding Morgan Hill Stompin Tom (SYP High Definition GCH x Morgan Hill Maple) (2); Rosita Hamar with the stallion Mossrose Triumphant (3); Swedish breeder Gunnar Lidmer visiting with Hagas Caroline Ingalls, Hagas Young Lady, and Zanté (4).

Morgans featured in this article are registered either with AMHA or among the international registries having reciprocity with AMHA.

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Featured are four international Morgan breeders living in countries sharing reciprocity with AMHA. Each profile delves into the triumphs and challenges of advancing the breed outside of its American homeland, while celebrating the universal truth that the Morgan is the horse that chooses you. Every thread in the breed's tapestry—from the pioneering efforts of early breeders to the modern ambitions of today's visionaries—enriches the enduring legacy of the Morgan horse.

Together, they bring decades of expertise and invaluable perspectives on the global development of the breed, building on the foundation of previous generations and fueled by a commitment to celebrate and preserve this extraordinary breed.

NONI MARTIN FERNLEIGH CREEK, AUSTRALIA

Mt Tawonga King (Marvelous Encore x Lizotte Lil Bridget) and his owner, Noni Martin, revolutionized the Morgan breed in Australia. “I fell in love with a particular Morgan look,” Noni says of her vision. “I wanted to retain and enhance those traditional Morgan features, supply quality horses with good form to function, and never compromise on temperament.”

As a breed ambassador and prolific sire, King left a lasting legacy. Though he passed in January 2024, the Morgan Horse Association of Australia honored him as Sire of the Decade in their Conformation Awards. Noni herself was named Breeder of the Decade, a testament to the impact of her Fernleigh Creek Morgans program. With 24 horses carrying her Fernleigh Creek prefix and 53 registered Morgans sired by King, Noni's contributions to the breed in Australia are unparalleled.

THE JOURNEY TO BREEDING MORGANS

The road to becoming a Morgan breeder was long. Noni lives in Lenswood, part of the Adelaide Hills in Southern Australia. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, Morgan horses were scarce, so she added herself to a waiting list at a local farm for a Morgan filly. In the meantime, she bred her stock mare to the farm's Morgan stallion.

“It was eight years and the importation of Marvelous Encore (Ryegate Major x Moro Hill's Royrita), the 1987 bay Lippitt stallion, to the Mt Tawonga Stud before female Morgan stock could be found available for sale,” Noni recalls. The filly Mt Tawonga Genevieve (Marvelous Encore x Mt Tawonga Miss Mary), or “Neve,” was born in November 1998.

Neve was a flamboyant brown filly with looks, movement, and temperament balanced by a heart of pure gold. “She had it all,” Noni says. “She was the mare of my life—everything I had ever read, seen, and researched about the Morgan horse.”

A STAR IS BORN

When Neve was two years old, Noni started searching for a Morgan gelding to ride. She wanted something big and baroque, but with the Morgan pool still small in Australia, her criteria seemed almost impossible to meet. That's when she found Mt Tawonga King.

“He was a stunning three-year-old who had won Supreme In-Hand Exhibit as a foal at the 1997 Australian National Morgan Show,” Noni shares. “He was all my desires and more. Big, black,

and sculpted, oozing grandeur and kindness. My horse of dreams. The only standard he didn't meet was being a gelding. King came home with me, and Fernleigh Creek Morgans was born.”

King's breeders recognized his potential and knew he needed to showcase the breed. Noni spent seven years showing King and Neve at baroque breed festivals, both in-hand and under saddle. They competed in open rings at agricultural shows until Morgan breed classes were established, in part thanks to the promotional work that Noni and other breeders were doing.

“King turned heads and gathered admirers wherever he went,” Noni recalls. “His results in-hand over these years were faultless. He achieved nothing less than Supreme Exhibit. He was also an educated riding horse, and we were always in the ribbons.”

King's first Supreme title was as a foal in 1997. He continued this streak, winning Supreme Morgan Exhibit at three consecutive National Shows as a mature horse. His last Supreme title came in 2007, after which Noni retired him from showing to focus on breeding.

EXPANDING THE HERD

King and Neve both traced their lineage back to the original Morgan lines imported to Australia in the 1970s. Due to the small population of Morgans, King bred non-Morgan mares during his first two seasons. His first Morgan foal, Mountain Crk Crown Jewel (x Mt Tawonga Tiara), was born in 2002. The liver chestnut filly became the matriarch of Mountain Creek Moriesians, Australia's largest Morgan farm.

To expand breeding options, Noni turned to New Zealand. In 2001, the stallion Tui's Nimrod (Taproot Paul Revere x Tui's Secret Song) was imported, and Noni bred Neve to him. This pairing produced Fernleigh Creek Nena, known as “Nena,” a bay filly born in 2003.

“Nena is a much-loved and admired mare countrywide,” Noni says. “She produced three foals by King for us before moving to Wildu Mandaawi Morgans, where she has dominated as head broodmare, and created a family line that I call the Morgan Browns. Her line is widely sought after four generations on.”

Nena earned Conformation Dam of the Year three times and was named Conformation Dam of the Decade in 2024. These important honors, alongside those earned at the show, garner much respect and appreciation among Australian Morgan owners and breeders. Nena's offspring, including Fernleigh Creek Madralena (by Mt Tawonga King), have continued her legacy.

GENERATIONS OF EXCELLENCE

Fernleigh Creek Madralena was the first foal from the King and Nena cross. Madralena means mothers' line and she embodied everything Noni hoped to produce and is also well decorated with National Champion and Supreme sashes. Wildu Mandaawi Morgans purchased her as a yearling, and she shone in her role as heart horse, riding horse, and broodmare. Madralena also added a twist to the “Morgan Browns” legacy by producing an exceptional black colt, Wildu Night Tide (by Quietude Cezanne), who they retained as a future stallion.

Noni purchased Myross Morgans Hine (Chalk Mtn Nimble Sprite x Mt Tawonga Miss Suzy), and the 1997 bay mare had a huge impact on Fernleigh Creek. Hine was purposefully purchased and

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AT AUSTRALIA'S FERNLEIGH CREEK

Foundation stallion Mt Tawonga King (at 26) **(1)**; his 2011 son Fernleigh Creek Antares **(2)**; Important mares in Noni Martin's program are Myross Morgans Hine (with foal) **(3)**, Fernleigh Creek Madralena **(4)**, and Fernleigh Creek Nena **(5)**; foals shown include the 2013 colt Fernleigh Creek Leander **(6)** and his 2019 filly Fernleigh Creek Leonesse **(7)**; the 2010 Fernleigh Creek Grandien **(8)** is the gelding Noni's long been waiting for.

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imported from New Zealand to cross with King. She easily stepped into the alpha mare role alongside him and the pair produced 14 foals. “Watching them raise their offspring in my herd was a joy and a privilege,” Noni says.

Frozen semen from the United States also introduced new possibilities. Fernleigh Creek Deuce (PT Cruiser x Mt Tawonga Genevieve), Australia’s first buckskin Morgan filly, produced three cherished fillies now active in breeding programs. Having each successive foal maintain the type, conformation, and temperament for which Noni originally strove for was even more rewarding.

Along the way, Noni also served the Morgan breed in other capacities. She was South Australia’s State Liaison Officer for many years for the Morgan Horse Association of Australia, responding to enquiries about the breed; and was a driving force for the country’s Morgan calendar. Noni was also a supporter and exhibitor of the annual Australian National Morgan Show. “From the difficult beginnings of a passionate few people before me, I have seen the Morgan Horse Association take shape, our membership and horse numbers grow, and our association prosper. Now we fund our yearly national show, supply a current newsletter, and promote the Morgan horse in various media.”

THE LEGACY LIVES ON

Today, anyone who wants a Morgan in Australia can get one—a stark contrast to Noni’s years-long journey. Though her breeding efforts have slowed, she retains two mares and is expecting a 2025 foal out of Fernleigh Creek Orla (Mt Tawonga King x Myross Morgans Hine). “By both luck and intention, I sold my fillies to the right people,” Noni says. “Getting fillies into breeding homes was crucial in those early years and remains a challenge today.”

Noni’s influence extends far beyond Fernleigh Creek. South Australia has become Australia’s “Morgan state,” home to eight breeding farms. Many, including Wildu Mandaawi and Kelarah Morgans, were founded on Fernleigh Creek horses. “I see my Morgan vision replicated and expanded in wonderful ways by these breeders,” Noni reflects.

Her journey has come full circle with Fernleigh Creek Grandien (Mt Tawonga King x Myross Morgans Hine), a much-loved Morgan gelding with his father’s black coat. A local family purchased him as a yearling in 2011; Grandien participated in pony club, dressage, working equitation, and the show ring. He earned two national champion in-hand gelding titles and two reserve championships under saddle. Grandien, who embodies the qualities Noni sought all those years ago, was recently offered to Noni, who was thrilled to have him.

“I hold close the immense fulfillment and incredible memories from years of breeding Morgan horses,” Noni concludes. “And now, I have that special Morgan gelding I always dreamed of.”

WAYNE AND SHANNON COMEAU MORGAN HILL FARM, CANADA

Nestled in Alberta, Canada, Morgan Hill Farm spans 160 acres of picturesque grasslands near the Montana border. This haven for Morgans is home to Wayne and Shannon Comeau, who are on a mission to produce world-class champions and continually en-

hance the Morgan breed. That dedication was evident at the 2024 Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show*, where three horses carrying the Morgan Hill prefix made triumphant victory passes, and a fourth finished in the top ten.

Playboy’s Royal Rose (Playboy’s Black Hawk x Canbre’s Princess) was the first foal born at Morgan Hill in 1991, with 84 foals produced to date. Wayne’s original intent was breeding competitive horses for Shannon and their daughter, Ashley, to show. Over the years, their national and international ambitions evolved.

Morgan Hill Montego Bay (CY Don’s Jarad x DVF Elegance) was the first from the farm to show in Oklahoma City in 2008, and was also the first of Wayne’s horses imported to the United States. Since then, many more have traveled south, with numerous victory passes in Oklahoma City.

“We go to an open breed show and people say it’s such a beautiful horse,” Wayne says. “I promote the Morgan wherever I can.”

KEEPING YOUNGSTOCK FOR THE PROGRAM

“Starting a breeding program in the early ’90s was tough,” recalls Wayne. “People wanted to buy our horses, but we needed to retain some of the best to build our herd. It’s always a balance—selling high-quality horses while preserving the core of your program.”

Wayne honed his expertise through constant research, studying pedigrees, bloodlines, progeny reports, and show results. He talks to top breeders and trainers, reads bloodline features, studies mare and stallion ratings in *The Morgan Horse* magazine, and consults both the AMHA and Canadian Livestock registries. His breeding philosophy is simple yet ambitious: to produce foals that are at least as good as their parents, ideally surpassing them.

Wayne’s program includes breeding to top stallions in the United States and Canada to ensure consistent improvement. He often pairs mares with stallions whose bloodlines are known to complement them. “I look at pedigrees, genotype, and phenotype to match strengths. Some breeding decisions are real turning points. I try to envision what the cross will look like, and it seems to be working. I balance linebreeding with outcrosses to maintain diversity while avoiding concentrating potential genetic faults.”

BMF Willow (UVM Antietam x BMF Kristen) was purchased for their daughter, Ashley, to ride and show. Several years later, Harvey Sawatzky of Birch Meadow Farm asked if he could lease Willow to breed to his stallion Aftershock Dot Com (Centerpiece x Fleeting Heart). In exchange, he would send her back in foal to the stallion of their choice.

“We also chose to breed Willow to Aftershock Dot Com, because prior to that, we didn’t have any Serenity Masterpiece in our breeding program,” Wayne says. “The resulting foal was a beautiful filly, Morgan Hill Maple, who is one of our top broodmares. She has produced 11 foals to date, including our stallion Morgan Hill Marked Man by DBA Street Talk, [plus] Morgan Hill Stompin Tom, Morgan Hill Rattle N Hum, and Morgan Hill Roxy Bell, all sired by SYP High Definition GCH.”

Morgan Hill Marked Man is also an excellent producer and outcross stallion. Another turning point was purchasing the chestnut weanling filly She Runs Guns (Minion Millennium x Aljaks Miss Ladeeda) from John and Belle Hufferd at Triumph Stables.

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AT CANADA'S MORGAN HILL FARM

Shannon Comeau on Morgan Hill Coupe Deville and Ashley Comeau on Morgan Hill Rattle N Hum with trainer John Beaver (1); Dwayne Comeau showing the 2023 chestnut filly Morgan Hill Helen Of Troy (DBA Street Talk x Morgan Hill Joan Of Arc) (2) (photo © Blou); Mares and foals include Morgan Hill Joan Of Arc with 2023 filly Morgan Hill LaFleur (by Morgan Hill Funky Phantom) (3), another photo of Morgan Hill Helen Of Troy (4), the productive mare Morgan Hill Maple with 2024 colt (5); Morgan Hills Tony Lee (Morgan Hill So Very Tony [by Graycliff Tony GCH] x Belle Jolie [by Astronomicallee]) (6); Morgan Hill Light My Way (Queen's Sebastian GCH x Fire Run Fairytale) (7); and Morgan Hill Noble Legend with Nikki Rae Woodworth Cruz (8) (photo © Howard Schatzberg).

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Dwayne retained all three of her daughters, Morgan Hill Rush To Glory by SYP High Definition GCH, Morgan Hill Joan Of Arc by Futurity French Command, and Morgan Hill Guns N Roses by Morgan Hill Marked Man.

MARKETING ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

“One thing I love is when people who we have sold horses to send us photo and video updates, and it’s awesome when it’s their heart horse too,” Dwayne says. “A lot of our horses are showing locally at the Alberta Morgan Horse Show, and I’ve been at a show where the top three horses in hunter pleasure are ones that we bred—it’s cool. The horses and people are happy; there are so many special horses, I could name a lot.”

Morgan Hill Forever Young (RGM Special Delivery x Stoneholm Phebe) won World Champion Jumper in 2015, and Morgan Hill Monster Mash (Triton Brigadoon x DVF Elegance) was the 2015 Grand National Parade Horse Finals Reserve Champion and the 2016 Grand National Parade Horse Finals Champion.

Morgan Hill Stompin Tom (SYP High Definition GCH x Morgan Hill Maple) was the first classic or English pleasure horse from Morgan Hill to have a victory pass in Oklahoma City, and that earns the 2014 bay gelding a spot on the list of Dwayne’s notable horses. “It’s overwhelming; the first time it happened was with Stompin Tom, who was trained by our friend, trainer John Beaver; our friend Catriona Kozijn was riding, and he ended up winning and we just couldn’t believe it. It really makes you think, anyone can win if you have the right horse and apply yourself,” he reflects.

Stompin Tom is now owned by the Miner Family of Maine and trained by Taylor River Farm. He and Camden Miner were the 2024 Reserve World Champion English Pleasure Junior Exhibitor 14–17. Dwayne and Shannon enjoy watching his career; they have his full sister, Morgan Hill Rattle N Hum, or “Glitter,” who had a good Grand National showing in 2022, including Reserve Grand National Champion Three-Year-Old Mare, and placings in classic pleasure driving and saddle. Dwayne sold their 2023 full sister, Morgan Hill Roxy Bell, to Leslie Garoufalis and Anthony Pierce.

Next on the list of notable horses is Morgan Hill Noble Legend (SLB Da Vinci x Morgan Hill Rush To Glory), a 2021 bay gelding originally purchased by MonteRae Farm in Massachusetts. He was the 2024 Three-Year-Old Pleasure Driving Reserve World Champion with trainer Nikki Rae Woodworth Cruz at the lines.

Looking to the future, Dwayne highlights Morgan Hill Light My Way (Queen’s Sebastian GCH x Fire Run Fairytale), a 2022 bay stallion. Nicknamed “Bono,” this young horse shows exceptional promise, with Dwayne calling him “possibly the best we’ve bred to date.” They feel extremely fortunate that the late Jay Kleiber of Ridgewood Farm gave them the opportunity to lease and eventually purchase Fire Run Fairytale (Pondview Tres Bien x FRF Bridalveil).

Morgan Hill Funky Phantom (LPS The Boogie Man GCH x MPM Kendra Command) is also shaping the program’s trajectory. The brown stallion is a key figure in the farm’s lineup, who Dwayne says is producing foals with outstanding conformation and trainability. Some of Funky’s foals are Morgan Hill Funky Byzness, out

of BMF Yoshida, a 2023 brown stallion that Monica O’Guinn of Maryland purchased in May 2024; Morgan Hill Simply Divine, out of Morgan Hill Rush To Glory, owned by Elaine Rohaly-Mason; and Morgan Hill Lafleur, out of Morgan Hill Joan Of Arc, owned by Jacob Lavarney. The Comeau’s hope these horses, among others, will form a significant legacy for Morgan Hill.

CARRYING ON THE LEGACY

The Comeau’s dedication extends beyond breeding, as all foals are taught to lead and model early, ensuring a solid foundation. Horses retained by the farm or awaiting their next chapter are sent to John Beaver for training. Morgan Hill Farm currently has four stallions, Morgan Hill Funky Phantom, Morgan Hill Marked Man, Morgan Hill Light My Way, and Morgan Hill Off The Chain (Merriehill After Hours GCH x Morgan Hill Rush To Glory), a 2023 bay.

There are also 11 exceptional broodmares on the farm, including daughters of SYP High Definition GCH, LPS The Boogie Man GCH, Futurity French Command, Astronomicallee, Pondview Tres Bien, Stonecroft Byzantine, DBA Street Talk, Minion Millennium, and Aftershock Dot Com.

Dwayne believes in golden crosses and is influenced by the success of the Noble Flaire and Serenity Masterpiece cross. He replicated it by breeding Morgan Hill Maple and She Runs Guns to SYP High Definition GCH. Both matings double up both the Noble Flaire and Masterpiece bloodlines.

Dwayne believes, “The pedigree matters, especially if you want consistency and horses breeding true. It’s more than just breeding champion to champion. I breed what will improve our program.” For instance, the young stallion Morgan Hill Marked Man has three crosses to Serenity Masterpiece. Dwayne also emphasizes honoring the breeders who paved the way and “laid the foundation we build on today.”

Morgan Hill Farm’s success lies in its balance of tradition combined with an ongoing pursuit of improvement. From Alberta to Oklahoma City, Morgan Hill Farm is a beacon of excellence, showcasing the versatility and beauty of Canadian Morgans on the world stage.

ROSITA HAMAR

HAMAR HORSES AT LAGDEN FARM, ENGLAND

The equestrian lifestyle is mainstream throughout much of Great Britain, and Rosita Hamar grew up immersed in it at Lagden Farm in Shropshire, England. She began breeding Welsh Mountain Ponies at age 13, inspired by her father, who always bred a foal or two annually on the home farm. At 21, her father gave her a Thoroughbred mare, sparking her lifelong passion for sport horse breeding. Now based near the same family farm, Rosita’s mission at Hamar Horses is, “to breed the best I possibly can with the right minds, too. Temperament means everything, and I try to breed horses with lovely temperaments and correct conformation, horses that move well and have a lovely disposition.”

DISCOVERING MORGAN HORSES

Rosita first encountered Morgan horses through a book cataloging all the breeds. England’s initial Morgans arrived in 1975, imported by the

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AT BRITAIN'S HAMAR HORSES AT LAGDEN FARM

The stallions Mossrose Triumphant (1) and Coulee Bend Talisman (2); Mares and foals include Nasuddens Velocity with filly Justin Perfekt Gloria (by Mossrose Triumphant) (3); Red Bluff Tralee with colt Justin Winawoo (by Mossrose Triumphant), purchased by Elisa Thorell in Northern Sweden (4); and Justin Evan Elp Us (Coulee Bend Talisman x Welland Megan [by Taproot Yankee Doodle]), owned by Jenn Bird in Australia (5); British-bred Justin A Whorl (Mossrose Triumphant x Taproot Karie W), the lead palomino horse in the Atkinson's Display Team of stunt riding (6).

Bulmer family of Monnington Morgans. Rosita often watched these horses at the Three County Show near Monnington in the 1980s.

“Yvonne Gregory, a family friend, wanted to revisit Monnington Morgans in 1989 to see how the horses had developed,” Rosita recalls. “I found myself liking these little horses.” Yvonne encouraged Rosita to find a broodmare, promising to leave the horse to her in the future. Rosita located a mare but struggled to find a suitable stallion for breeding. In 1990, Yvonne gave Rosita plane tickets to the United States to search for a stallion.

Rosita and Yvonne had first met Charlie and Charlotte Ross of Vermont’s Taproot Morgans at that fateful 1989 Monnington visit and started talking. Charlie told Rosita about his sport Morgans and encouraged her to come see the horses. She went and stayed with them on her American stallion buying trip. Charlie took her all around Vermont to various farms, and they became lifelong friends.

She purchased two stallions from Taproot Morgans and returned to England with them, Taproot Green MT Boy (Deer Run Command x Taproot Copper Iris), a three-year-old bay, and Taproot Yankee Doodle (Taproot CommandPilot x Taproot Twin Flower), a weanling bay. “I flew back with the stallions in the hold,” Rosita laughs. “From there, it was all downhill—or uphill, depending on how you look at it. Back then, we only had two mares, and my Morgan breeding interest has grown significantly since.”

CHAMPIONING MORGANS IN THE SPORT HORSE WORLD

Rosita’s breeding program focuses on sport horses, blending her passion for discipline-specific performance with the Morgan’s versatility. “I’ve tried to show British equestrians that Morgans are capable of excelling in any sport. They’re so trainable and intelligent, good looking, too.”

Morgans are not as popular in Britain as Rosita thinks they should be, but she continues promoting the breed and is happy to report that they are gaining popularity. Morgans and part-bred Morgans are competing in open competitions and more people are inquiring about them. “At last, they are getting recognized for what they are.”

Hamar Horses maintains its Thoroughbred and sport horse breeding program alongside the Morgan horses. While Rosita breeds more registered Morgans annually than any other breeder in Britain, she’s also incorporated her Morgan stallions into her Thoroughbred program, outcrossing with these mares, and garnering further name recognition and accolades for Morgan influence across Europe.

Richard Davison, a four-time Olympian on the British dressage team, is one of Rosita’s friends and happily champions her Morgan sport horses. “That’s recognition. His son, Joe, show jumps, and has a five-year-old part-Morgan, who could be really special. I’ve bred some very lovely sport horses that are excelling at the highest level, and all have Taproot Yankee Doodle as their grandfather or great grandfather.”

THE JUSTIN HORSES

Lagden Farm has more than 30 years of Morgan horses in its breed-

ing program, supplemented by Rosita’s continued importations to maintain diverse bloodlines. She’s imported several Canadian mares, U.S. sport mares, an Australian and a Swedish mare, and currently has stallions from Wisconsin and Alberta. Rosita’s bloodlines include sport, Working Western, and some show lines. “The bloodlines are very diverse; I am not too fussy as long as they are a lovely model inside and out.”

Among Rosita’s foundation sires, Taproot Yankee Doodle remains pivotal. A tall, athletic stallion with dressage paces, he sired horses that excel across disciplines. Rosita uses the Justin prefix on her Morgans, and one of Yankee’s notable sons made a name for himself in Australia. Justin Morning Glory (Taproot Yankee Doodle x Taproot Hollyhock) was a 2002 bay stallion that Jennifer Bird bought and imported for her breeding program, where he’s sired 18 get. Jennifer has just imported the two-year-old colt Justin Evan Elp Us to further her breeding program.

Mossrose Triumphant (Sunup Neptune x Jacque’s Lor-Don-Lin) is a 2001 buckskin stallion from Wisconsin, bred by Jane Pietenpol. Rosita says she had some funds, needed a new car, but had always wanted a buckskin. She found a yearling colt on the internet, just what she wanted. She bought the colt instead of the car! “He’s 24 now and was the start of our colorful Morgans. His stable name is “Turbo,”—he came with that name, so you could argue that I did get a car, just a different kind. I always loved buckskins and duns and was always looking for something a little different. A good horse can be any color, but a good horse in a fancy color is even better. I love breeding colorful Morgans and seeing the diversity, but you must have conformation and temperament with the color.”

Turbo’s many get include Justin A Whorl (x Taproot Karie W). He’s part of the Atkinson Action Horses; they travel all over Britain and perform stunts and display riding at the biggest venues, and appear on television, including in the series *Poldark*. Justin A Whorl is an absolute star on the team and used in many performances. Similarly, Justin The Mood (Mossrose Triumphant x Callaly Elation) also has a versatile career for owner Pernilla Nilsson of Sweden, including dressage, jumping, handiness, and some display riding.

The friendship and breeding conversations with Jennifer Bird from Australia continue to this day, and Rosita purchased Red Bluff Tralee (Marvelous Encore x MT Tawonga Miss Mary) from Jennifer after a visit to Australia. Tralee and her daughters have been very influential in Rosita’s breeding program. Tralee was a 2006 chestnut mare; Rosita has three of her daughters she is breeding, Justin Alice Springs, Justin Jindera, Justin Adelaide. Tralee’s final filly, Justin Tumbarumba, now three, will join her sisters this spring.

Coulee Bend Talisman (Unconventional x Mirabellas Mesmerized) is another important horse in Rosita’s program. He is her youngest Morgan stallion, registered bay but described by Rosita as a silver dapple zebra-striped dun, and many of his progeny have similar color characteristics. The 2014 stallion was bred by Cindy and Lyle Dietz, and Rosita purchased him in 2016. Her broodmare band consists of Justin Jindera (Mossrose Triumphant x Red Bluff Tralee), Justin Alice Springs (Mossrose Triumphant x Red Bluff Tralee), Justin Adelaide (Mossrose Triumphant x Red Bluff Tralee),

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Welland Megan (Taproot Yankee Doodle x Monnington Bardot), DM One For The Girls (Nemaha Hill My-T Atticus x Baptiste Spock Mod Pal), Marana Providence Dunna (Mirabellas Mondo x DM Aimee Farrah), Nasuddens Velocity (Nasuddens Qeep x Nasuddens Ideal Touch), and Justin Tumbarumba (Coulee Bend Talisman x Red Bluff Tralee). Each plays a role as she continues fulfilling her mission of breeding athletic horses with correct conformation and wonderful temperaments.

BUILDING THE BREED

Almost all the Morgans Rosita imported were bought sight unseen. While she admits to being very lucky, she also does a lot of research beforehand, and videos are now an important part of the evaluation process.

Over the years, Rosita's horses have made their way across the globe, as she, too, balanced the mutual needs of building her herd but also selling some of her best. Three were exported to Australia, and one is going to New Zealand in 2026. Her Morgans also are in almost every European country, with 20 to 30 in Europe altogether, and most of these are also colorful horses. She has four stallions now, two Morgan and two Warmblood, and breeds about 12 mares annually. Morgans certainly chose Rosita, and she's ensuring the breed can choose others in Europe as well.

"Morgans have been good for me, they are enormous fun. They are also clever, talented, and lovely horses," she adds. "I try to ensure my youngsters go to homes where they'll thrive and be successful. Once people own a Morgan, they rarely let the breed go. They're just that special."

GUNNAR AND ANN-SOFIE LIDMER GREVARED MORGANS, SWEDEN

Gunnar and Ann-Sofie Lidmer are pivotal figures in promoting Morgan horses in Sweden, both as breeders and as active supporters of the Swedish Morgan Horse Association (SMHS). They've worked without fanfare because they love the Morgan breed and wanted the horses for their own enjoyment, and that of other people. Gunnar and Ann-Sofie's dedication has led them to key roles in preserving the breed's standards and ensuring its continued success in the region.

Their farm, Grevared Morgans, is in Fotskäl, in the southern section of Sweden, near the North Sea and Denmark. The idyllic landscape is forested with plenty of fields as well, and in a temperate part of the region that facilitates equestrian activities and horse breeding. "A good Morgan has a spectacular appearance. The Morgan is quite popular. If you are at horse events people are fascinated with the horses," Gunnar says of the breed.

A SERENDIPITOUS BEGINNING

In the early 1990s, the Lidmers owned a crossbred mare named Pandora who they competed with in combined driving. When Pandora was injured, they began volunteering at combined driving events while she recovered and casually explored the idea of finding another horse. At one such event, they noticed a woman advertising Morgan horses.

"I thought of the English sports car, so was curious," Gunnar

shares. "We asked where we could see Morgans, and she suggested a place close by. The horses looked good. We met our first Morgan on Valentine's Day and the horse shared a birthday with my wife, so we bought it." That horse was Hagas Young Lady (Isaksbo Jeronimo x Dancing Queen), a 1998 chestnut mare who became their combined driving partner, but also set them on the path to breeding Morgan horses.

THE BREEDING JOURNEY

Hagas Young Lady was bred in 2004 to Tronshagens Figure (Aranaway Viceroyal x Greentree NightN Day), from central Sweden, producing the Lidmers's first foal, Zante' in 2005. The Swedish tradition is for breeders to use their prefix and the first letter of the alphabet, progressing through with each new foal. All Morgans bred in Sweden also have their registration number added to their names; it's included on all paperwork and references to the horse.

Their next foal, Yasmin (SC Island Centavo x Hagas Caroline Ingalls), was born in 2008. This bay mare became the foundation for the next generation when Gunnar and Ann-Sofie's son, Mathias, purchased Yasmin for his family. Mathias, his wife Malin, and their children use their Morgans in jumping and dressage. They also own eight Shetland ponies that they compete in pony trotting races. Mathias has since bred Yasmin, producing two foals: the 2022 chestnut mare She's Got The Look (by Thorells Gold Coin), and the 2018 palomino gelding Golden Lightning (by Escania's Palomides).

One of the Lidmers's proudest breeding achievements is Grevareds Xocks (Hagas Charles Ingalls x Hagas Young Lady), a 2011 chestnut gelding they use for both riding and combined driving. Xocks has the personality, type, and conformation they strive for in Morgan horses.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS IN EXPANDING BLOODLINES

As in any pursuit worth doing, there are challenges along the way; it's part of what makes success so fulfilling in the end. "Finding good horses that fit our ideal was the biggest challenge," Gunnar says about the early years of their breeding program. "Lots of horses in Sweden are closely related to each other, it's a small, limited pool. We thought we would look elsewhere to find other horses; the type of Morgan was important to us too. We liked the look of Morgans in the magazines and on YouTube but couldn't find those horses in Sweden. The horses here are used on farms and for sport. We want the more expressive Morgans; we love their pride, expression, and showy look."

Their search led them to the United States. The Equinox prefix popped up from time to time through various channels, and Gunnar and Ann-Sofie thought that might be a place to look for a horse. Their drive to find more bloodlines for their breeding program coincided with the Swedish Morgan Horse Association working to establish reciprocity with AMHA. Gunnar and Ann-Sofie planned a visit to the United States to work towards their own, as well as the association's, goals. First, they visited with AMHA Registrar Erica Eulau to help facilitate the reciprocity.

FOUR PROFILES OF MORGAN BREEDERS AROUND THE GLOBE ∞ INTERNATIONAL



AT SWEDEN'S GREVARED MORGANS

Foundation mare Hagas Young Lady (Isaksbo Jeronimo x Dancing Queen) with Gunnar and Ann-Sofie Lidmer (1); Grevareds Top Notch and Grevareds What's Up watching Ann-Sofie driving Equinox Charlie's Angel with the dogs Mira and Issla (2); Ann-Sofie leads Grevareds Xocks (Hagas Charles Ingalls x Hagas Young Lady) with little Alma Lidmer aboard (3); Homebreds Grevareds Unlimited (Marvin x Gradells Kendra In Motion) (4) and Grevareds What's Up (Roberto Cavalli x Equinox Charlies Angel) (5); Recent foals Grevareds Top Notch (Astronomicallee x Gradells Kendra In Motion) (6) and Grevareds Stardust (Hagas Charles Ingalls x Gradells Kendra in Motion) (7).

ity process. Next, the Lidmers traveled to East of Equinox Farm in Vermont, along with some other Vermont Morgan farms, and Sebring Stables in Massachusetts.

They met with Ivan Beattie at East of Equinox. Jaisen von Ballmoos was training there at the time and showed them Equinox Charlie's Angel (Equinox Challenge x Quail Run Cicada), a 2005 bay mare, who they decided to purchase. Equinox Charlie's Angel was bred to Roberto Cavalli (Hollybrook Stage Rage x Schiaparelli, BHOF) before being imported to Sweden, and the mare had a brown colt in 2012, Grevars Whats Up. This was the same year the reciprocity was finalized between AMHA and the SMHS. "We're proud to have the reciprocity because it's an acknowledgement of what we're doing in Sweden," Gunnar says.

Gradells Kendra In Motion (Man In Motion x Gradells Seventh Angel) is a 2007 bay mare that they also imported, and she produced three foals for them. Gunnar and Ann-Sofie imported semen to continue expanding bloodlines. Decisions here were

constrained by which breeders had semen approved for European export, and Astro-nomicallee (Futurity French Command x Liberation Starbrite) was one of the stallions they used. This resulted in Grevars Top Notch (out of Gradells Kendra In Motion), a 2018 bay gelding.

"We were always depending on honest people in the United States to give us advice," Gunnar adds. "We want the pride and beauty of show Morgans, so spent the money and time importing mares and semen." Importing horses to Sweden from the United States is time intensive and expensive, it's not straightforward, but having the Morgans they wanted was important to the couple, and the results are in the horses they've bred.

PRESERVING THE BREED'S LEGACY

The Lidmers's dedication extends beyond breeding. Gunnar has served in several roles with the SMHS, including president, and he and Ann-Sofie were recognized with the AMHA International Award in 2022.

Breeding regulations in Sweden shifted over the years to make breeding more accessible. Fifteen or 20 years ago in Sweden, you couldn't just breed any mare and any stallion. "You had to have them approved physically and mentally, had to have the certifications," Gunnar shares. "At a certain point that regulation was withdrawn, and the outcome was you could breed whichever you want, which was a good and a bad thing. With that new condition anyone could be a breeder, before that people were more serious with their breeding program because of the approval process. Anyone can be a breeder, but it requires discipline to maintain high standards."

While Swedish breeders have historically focused on sport and equitation, the Lidmers's influence introduced U.S. bloodlines and bolstered the breed's versatility. Their expressive and upheaded horses work around the farm and compete in the show ring with the style Morgan enthusiasts in the United States recognize. Sweden also has more colorful and gaited Morgans now, too, compared with when Gunnar and Ann-Sofie started breeding, although none of the breeders are still specifically breeding for gaited horses, the trait still comes through in some horses.

All the Swedish breeders and club members help promote the breed, and work on building the Morgan population. A few breeders have bred 40 or 50 horses already, and one, Anneli Sätter Wangen-fors, who is located in the northern part of Sweden, has bred more than 100 Morgan horses. Gunnar and Ann-Sofie are quick to share that they are one of many who support the Morgan in Sweden; their diligent service helped steward the breed for all who are interested.

"There are probably around 400 or 500 Morgans in Sweden right now. But you seldom see any trained horses for sale, no one wants to sell them, they keep them. Morgans are small but look big and they feel big when you're riding. They are also friendly, easy to get along with and train," Gunnar says.

Thanks to the Lidmers and other passionate breeders, the future of the Morgan horse in Sweden is bright. Through careful stewardship, dedication to preserving its characteristics, and efforts to expand its presence, the Morgan continues to capture the hearts of equestrians in Sweden and beyond. Gunnar sums up the shared Morgan breeder ethos, "We all do it for the horse."

These breeders exemplify the resilience, dedication, and vision required to succeed. Their diverse approaches underscore a commitment to preserving and advancing the legacy of the Morgan horse while adapting to modern demands and innovations. Achievements remind us that the art of breeding is not just about producing exceptional horses but also about building connections—between people, across continents, and through time. Their stories serve as both inspiration and a testament to the enduring bond between humans and horses.

The Morgan breed is a living tapestry, continually enriched by the stories and contributions of breeders and owners who shape its future. Like any work of art, the depth and context behind each thread add meaning and appreciation. Across the globe, these breeders pursue unique goals, united by their unwavering love for the Morgan horse and a collective desire to see the breed flourish for generations to come. ■



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