

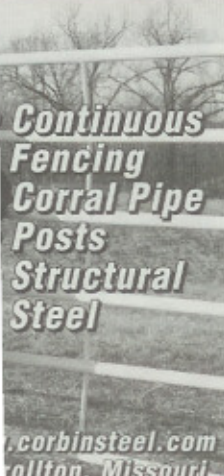
For High Quality

CO
TIME

DEALER CALL
-7622

tips to protect the
as the crop take up nutrients
the fertilizer nutrients... and
field with crop harvest. So,
ed. Also, aglime helps the
canopy cover, which helps to
uces runoff and erosion.

**Continuous
Fencing
Corral Pipe
Posts
Structural
Steel**



corbinsteel.com
ollton, Missouri

iation

le

• Noon
a, MO

ifers

Cows

Manager

ices

624

Practicing Patience at Pine Creek

By Stephanie Beltz-Price
OFN Contributor

Denise Vaughn tells you what it takes to train and show horses

It's rare to find a horse with the right combination of disposition, intelligence and quality of movement to be suitable for a child to show competitively," says Denise Vaughn of Little Pine Creek Quarter Horses near Mountain View, Mo. "When you do find trained show horses with these characteristics, they can be really expensive. That's why we've been concentrating on raising our own."

progressed to breaking our own horses," Vaughn explains. "It has taken practice, patience and of course assistance from her trainer, but this year, at 13, she started and is training her second two-year-old show horse."

With miles of backwoods paths nearby, trail riding is still important to the Vaughns. "We like to say our horses are good for both town and country," she notes. "I've seen pampered show horses that are rarely exposed to the outside world. They may be comfortable in town in the show ring, but get upset in the woods."

"We make a point of getting all our young horses onto the trail.



Denise and Clara Vaughn

Photo By Stephanie Beltz-Price

"It's important to find someone capable of teaching both the rider and the horse, particularly if the rider is a child."

— DENISE VAUGHN
MOUNTAIN VIEW, MO.

Although Vaughn has been raising registered Quarter Horses for trail riding since buying her first mare in 1980, it's only in recent years she and husband Glenn have turned the hobby into a serious breeding program.

"Raising horses has been a passion of mine for years," she says. "I get a lot of satisfaction from bringing up foals and guiding their development. But our focus has sharpened, with the goal now of producing show quality horses, ideally ones with child-friendly dispositions."

The shift from trail to show ring started four years ago. "When our daughter, Clara, was nine, she wanted to learn how to show horses. So we invested in lessons and she has

Many times I'll lead a baby behind the mare down to Little Pine Creek to get them used to crossing water," Vaughn reasons. "We want our horses to be ready for either trail riding or showing."

The Breeding Program

"About the time it became apparent the most affordable way to get Clara a good show horse was to raise one, we had the fortune of being offered half ownership in our trainer's stallion," Vaughn explains. He is Zip to the Topnotch, who stands at Risner Stables in West Plains.

"He is consistently producing good movers with great minds. Our co-owner, Linda Risner, says she's getting spoiled breaking his babies, because there's a remarkable difference in the ease of training between his offspring and other lines.

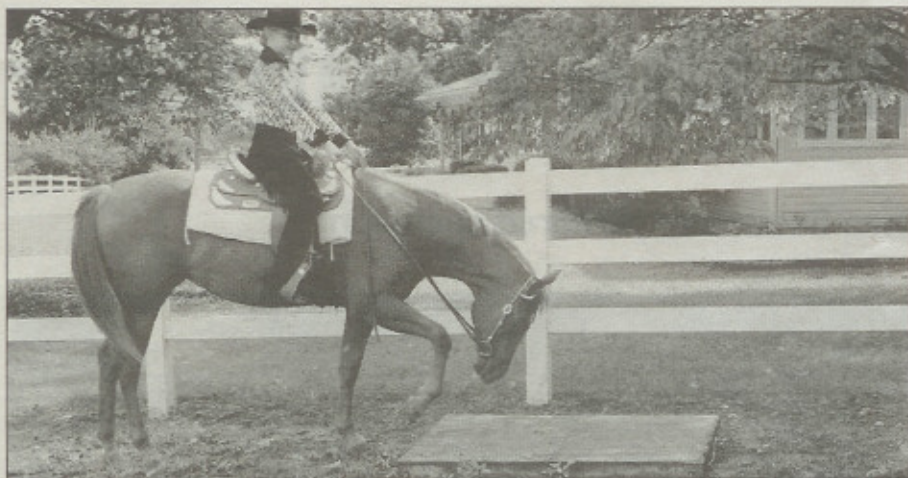


Photo By Stephanie Beltz-Price

Clara Vaughn's three-year-old mare executes a pattern during practice. The young horse was very competitive in American Quarter Horse Association breed shows this year.

"While I'm proud of my daughter for the major role she has played in breaking two of this stallion's offspring, I have to admit their agreeable dispositions have been a factor in her success," Vaughn adds. "Last summer, Clara, at age 12, competed in open shows on the filly she started that year, winning several Western and English pleasure classes. This year, as a three-year-old, the mare was very competitive at AQHA (American Quarter Horse Association) breed shows, showing in six

events per show, four of which required executing complicated patterns."

Marketing the Product

"We started our current breeding program mainly to produce show horses for ourselves, but we knew other people would be looking for the same qualities in horses for their kids," Vaughn says. "We're raising more than Clara can ride, so we might as well share."

Vaughn has developed a web site to highlight their horses, with good results reaching a wider market than normal advertising means. Last year they sold horses to the Cape Girardeau area, eastern Kansas, central Missouri, and one big surprise – Germany. "I had raised an unusually-colored mare, a grullo. A woman in Germany, specializing in grullo AQHA horses, imported the mare, bred to our stallion," Vaughn recounts. "After the foal was born, we received pictures with a note saying he's a beautiful dun; a people-lover with a floating lope."

Advice

For those wanting to learn how to show, Vaughn repeats the advice she was given before her family got started. "Choose your riding discipline, and then find a good trainer to teach it to you. That has certainly worked for us," she says. "It's important to find someone capable of teaching both the rider and the horse, particularly if the rider is a child."

Vaughn explains that another way for a young rider to learn more is to join a group such as a 4-H horse club or a saddle club. Vaughn and Risner have been leading the Rhythm Riders, a kids' horse group that meets and practices at Risner Stables.