

## **Meet Your Board Members -- Donna Coss**

My father gave me a little chestnut mare when I was about eight years old. He purchased her at an auction and figured she was "broke well" as she had a saddle mark on her withers and a half circle with ML brand on her hip. He made a good choice. Dixie and I rode many miles until her retirement many years later.

I did not have any formal riding lessons, but I still showed in several western shows, and we managed to bring home a few blue ribbons. I was the typical horse crazy girl and practically lived in the barn with my horses and the three foals that Dixie produced.

I was very close to Babson Arabians and knew many of their horses—even bred to one of their stallions. When I studied conformation, these horses have always remained the "perfect" type, in my mind's eye. They were not what is seen today in the Arab world, but had good bone and substance.

After my marriage, I purchased horses for my children from the local sales barn and they all learned to ride. Brian on his little Indian pony and Jody on a half-Arab gelding, Tango, I had purchased for only fifty five dollars. He turned out to be long lived and cherished by many who rode him as he could have won a versatility award, being a horse for many disciplines.

Jody continued her interest in riding and became interested in endurance. I was at Jan Worthington and Grace Ramsey's farm one day when a new mare they had purchased needed attention. China had been turned into a paddock and immediately went through a wire fence. She was cut up from head to tail with serious, but not life threatening body cuts. I spent hours hosing her off, really liked her conformation and decided to purchase her if they would sell her. She had an impressive pedigree and as it turned out the perfect endurance aptitude and attitude. Jody and China did many endurance miles. A family discussion took place as to who would the perfect stallion be, to breed China to. I stated that, "I had been reading about the Shagya, but where to find one"? My son, David, stated he knew of one in southern Illinois—a girl friend

had ridden at Dr. Kamarasy's farm while attending the university and she had been impressed with a Shagya stallion named BOLD BRAVO.

Thus began my journey into the Shagya world. China was indeed bred to Bravo! I met Egon and Nancy Skakel and both Jody and I were completely smitten with Sarvar, Szamos, and all the others. I purchased SUMMER PFF, leased Sarvar and his full sister, SONATA PFF.

I made a decision to breed purebred Shagyas, but at the same time I would purchase some Thoroughbred and sport horse type mares to breed to SARVAR, hopefully to produce a larger, taller mount that would be sold to finance the purebred endeavor. I was very fortunate to have Lazlo Monostory and Dr. Egon Kamarasy as mentors. Lazlo was the last living Hungarian stud manager. He visited my farm several times with Egon, always giving support and evaluating my mares and their foals.

I always remembered the Babson Arabians and how important legs, feet and conformation are to a fine, rideable mount and this was always my breeding goal.

To have SARVAR, in my opinion, one of the best Shagya stallions produced in the U.S. as my first stallion, was a blessing. He was such a kind stallion, easy with the mares and so wonderful to handle, at the time we considered him a miracle, only to find that almost all Shagya stallions share his great temperament.

His foals have gone on to win in many sport horse disciplines and all rave about their ability to perform. None have ever been re-sold, until this year when I had to re-home a couple of them.

Valerie Bullock came to Lily Creek Ridge and was a major force in my success. I had visited Europe with Egon twice and then Valerie and I made more trips in search of Shagyas to import. \*DANTE, \*KS TRIBUTE AND \*KS RUBIN came to the U.S. In 2001. I took a chance at weanling colts, but they had the criteria of successful parents with the correct conformation—how could I go wrong?

I have always bred to the best stallions available and have had success twice with frozen semen from Germany and three more times with domestic frozen semen.



The Lily Creek horses are doing well all over the U.S., South America, Mexico and Canada. Often I am rewarded by communications from those who have my horses.

They have won hearts and won awards and that is what breeding horses is all about! The satisfaction that I receive from having produced what to many are treasures and "the best horse I have ever had"! And this, I can take no credit for, because this breed is special and different and you will find this out, only when you have your own Shagya!

*Donna J. Coss*

*As, I was going to press, I received a message that my last purebred, Shagya mare, LILY CREEK BRIELLE has become available for sale.*

*If you go to my web site, [www.shagyasport.com](http://www.shagyasport.com) and click on her name, there are several photos.*

*Brielle, is a beautiful, chestnut mare, sired from frozen semen, BAHADUR, a black Shagya stallion from Switzerland, He is an extremely popular stallion in Europe.*

*If she is sold within the next month, I will give a breeding to KS TRIBUTE. This produced a chestnut filly with flaxen mane and tail for me -- it is a great cross [cossdj@gmail.com](mailto:cossdj@gmail.com)*