



This Fall we are looking forward to adding a new event to our Piedmont PFHA calendar.

The Piedmont Fall Fiesta

It will be held at the South Carolina Equine park at 443 Cleveland School Rd in Camden, SC on Nov. 2-3, 2024. This is an event geared to sharing the Paso Fino horse with the public. We plan to have demonstrations throughout the day to showcase the unique qualities of our breed. We are looking for horses of nice size, exceptionally good temperament, and quality of gait for these demos. Please let us know if you would like to participate.

Following the last demo of the day there will be a social hour hosted by Staige and Michael Debenedetti. Our evening will also include the start of our show. We will have approximately six of our Paso fino classes that showcase what our breed is all about and Derek Fernandez will be our judge. Sunday will continue with the rest of the show classes, with a condensed show schedule. During Saturday's events, it is our hopes that we can gather a nice group of horses that the public can demo ride in order to experience that wonderful Paso Fino gait. If you own a horse that would fit this type of event and don't mind sharing, please let us know. We will also have a barn allocated to horses that are for sale. This will be a fun filled weekend with lots to offer the participants and the general public. Come promote the breed and gather some show points for the new show year.

If you have any questions or would like to participate in this event, please contact
Vickie McQuinn (559) 355 0177
Milda Minter (336) 225 0214

[**LINK TO PIEDMONT
PFHA SITE**](#)



Breeding Quality
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For information on horses for sale:



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PFHA News & Updates

USEF Lite

Both Clemson and Asheville are sanctioned as Lite Shows with USEF. Anyone who signs the entry blank as a trainer must have a competing USEF membership and be Safe Sport trained. If you are an individual exhibitor or the parent of a youth who shows without a trainer, you will have to sign as the trainer and therefore must be a USEF member and take the Safe Sport training. We advise everyone to get memberships before arriving at the shows and make sure you are compliant in Safe Sport. Anyone who plans to show at the 2024 Nationals will have to have full competing memberships anyway, so if that includes you, it makes sense to get the membership before show season starts.



Calendar of events

- August 17 & 18, Southeast Summer Championship, open gaited show, Great Smoky Mtn Expo Center, White Pine, TN - contact Milda Minter for info
- **Grand National Championship Show.** September 25-29, 2024 World Equestrian Center Ocala, Florida
- November 2 & 3, Piedmont Fall Fiesta, show and open house, SC Equine Park, Camden, SC - contact Vickie McQuinn for info

Resources and Links

- [PFHA FORMS](#)
- [SAFESPORT](#)
- [PFHA RULE BOOK](#)
- [TACK GUIDE](#)
- [PFHA WEBSITE LINK](#)

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Full-service Paso Fino facility

Contact: Shaw Laney
PFHA member since 1982
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Feature Farm

HERITAGE FARM + STABLES

CHARLIE & MILDA MINTER

Charlie Minter Jr grew up in the Paso Fino breed from the age of 10, when his father and grandfather purchased their first 3 Paso Finos from the LaHoods in Valdosta, GA, and brought them to NC. Charlie's parents, and his brother Mike, raised and trained under the name Caroline Farm and were instrumental in developing not only the breed in North Carolina, but also the precursor of Piedmont PFHA, which in those days was the Atlantic region. Charlie trained and showed all divisions. Training was a process of trial and error, since in those days of the 70's, there was little if any published information about Paso Finos or how they should be trained. There were also no amateur or youth classes, so everyone showed in open division classes.

Charlie went to NCSU where he met his future wife Milda when both were Animal Science Majors. Having been raised with mostly trotting horses, plus one gaited pony, and showing Saddlebreds as a teenager, Milda found Paso Finos to be a new adventure after Charlie introduced her to his family's herd. Charlie and Milda got married the summer before graduation, and after graduating in December of 1982, they moved in January 1983 to Agua Dulce, CA, to join the team at Rancho Paso Bravo, where Charlie's family had become ranch manager and trainers. They feel blessed to have worked with and help breed and train many Paso Finos which went on to become National and Grand National Champions, Top Ten Sires and Dams, and producers of more champion horses. In 1986 they became trainers for Sweet Water Paso Finos, where they stayed for 10 years in California and Texas, before moving home to Lexington, NC, to open their own business after nationals in 1996.

Heritage Farm & Stables is truly a family business. Charlie and Milda's daughters, Shannon, Christina, and Morgan, all competed heavily in youth classes in all divisions, winning a number of national and grand national championships combined. Other youth and amateur riders, in addition to their open level horses, have also had many successes in the show ring. Charlie and Milda still train and both were honored to be chosen as Trainers of the Year by the Professional Paso Fino Trainers Association. Christina also trains as a professional and starts most of the young horses under saddle. She was chosen as head coach of the 2018 PFHA Youth Mundial Team.

The training philosophy of the farm has always been that every horse has a best purpose, and it is their job to find and enhance it. To that end, the training goal is always to begin with a strong foundation of ground work and saddle training, and then see how each horse develops. Whether that horse turns out to be a champion show horse, a quiet trail horse, or anything in between, each horse is valued and finished for its own use and talents. The farm hosts a variety of events to enhance the knowledge of owners and the fun of ownership, such as training clinics, dressage clinics, open fun shows, mounted shooting clinics, trail horse clinics and tests, youth clinics, trail rides, demonstrations, and open houses, plus the open gaited show series which began in 2017. Lessons are offered for all ages and skill levels of riders, utilizing a string of retired show horses who demonstrate that Pasos can be gentle and safe enough even for beginners. In addition, Morgan and the homebred black stallion Canchero de Herencia have represented the Paso Fino breed as the Black Knight mascot for North Davidson High School, where Charlie and the girls attended high school, for the past 3 years. After over 50 years in the breed, the Minter Family continues to enjoy the farm life with their Paso Finos. They never tire of introducing new riders to the breed or helping owners reach their goals with their horses. They welcome visitors to the farm in Lexington, NC, any time of the year.





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Carolina Classic Recaps

Our annual spring show, the Carolina Classic, was held on April 27 & 28 at Garrison Arena in Clemson, SC. The weather was wonderful and the turnout was good, including several farms from Florida. Our 2nd annual barn party/potluck allowed everyone to visit on Friday evening and was followed by our Piedmont PFHA membership meeting.



Judges Angela Ochoa and Sergio Garcia did an excellent job of working the 83 horses and making their decisions efficiently to keep the show moving each day. Although overall it was a fun and enjoyable weekend, we do want to give our condolences to Billieanna and Barbara Miranda for the loss of their gelding Destino de Armonia, who showed in his last classes with us at Clemson.



Thanks to all the staff and volunteers, including several of our friends from the Georgia region, who helped make this show run smoothly throughout the weekend. The support of our region's owners and trainers is invaluable in making this show successful. Special thanks to our farm sponsors:



- 4 Beat Paso Finos
- Cedar Lane Stables
- Dreamcatcher Paso Finos
- Ducktown Farms
- Heritage Farm & Stables/
Estridge Family
- Paso Fino Elegante
- Peacock Farm Paso Finos
- Rio Nuevo Paso Finos
- S & L Paso Finos
- Startown Stables
- Tuckaway Farm/Howard/Frady/Hajek



Asheville Alive Recaps

Our 42 nd annual Asheville horse show was held on June 14-16 at the WNC Ag Center in Fletcher, NC. We were again blessed with good weather for our show week. There were several extra events during the week, including a trip to the Tryon International Equestrian Center on Wednesday evening, arranged for our members and guests to see this facility and its potential to host a future national show. About 20 exhibitors made the trip to tour the facility and dine at the Italian restaurant on site.



On Thursday afternoon, Rick Meyer offered a clinic for training and showing help, which several people attended with their horses for specialized instruction. Rick spent several hours guiding and instructing the owners to fine-tune their riding skills.

On Thursday evening, eight of our Piedmont farms hosted food and beverages during our 2nd annual barn party and poker rally. This event promotes the camaraderie of a horse show and the exhibitors and guests enjoyed the food and the game. Congratulations to Shelly Bridgford on winning the poker hand and cash prize, and to Ducktown Farms for winning best farm party for the 2nd year.

The show started Friday morning with judge Willman Rodriguez and his junior judge Jorge Duque. With 123 horses showing in all divisions, there was a great learning opportunity for the junior judge from outside the US to learn and practice our PFHA rules and class procedures. The Saturday-Sunday show had 2 conferring judges, Mirta de La Cruz and Miguel Poleo, who worked well together to evaluate all the entries and come to the one set of placements.



Asheville Alive Recaps Continued

On Saturday evening to start the championship session, we had a flag presentation in memory of our members we lost in the past year. Caroline Murphy riding Modello La Estrella, carrying the American flag and representing Alvaro Iriarte; Luis Figueroa riding Curioso del Seminole, carrying the NC flag and representing his brother Eduardo Figueroa; and Donna Hajek with the Piedmont region flag, riding Argento and representing her sister Debbie Stevens, all did an amazing job on their matching set of gray horses, who stood like statues during the national anthem, sung by Tina Bunce. Also announced and remembered were Jerry & Diedre Guarino, whose family was in attendance as a memorial to them, since Jerry for many years was our show ringmaster; and Jane White, who with her husband Steve was a longtime region member and supporter of all our shows.

Once again our Asheville show was successful due to the support of all of our volunteers, staff, officials, exhibitors, spectators, and our sponsors, who supported the show in every way possible.

Platinum Sponsor: Triangle Oaks Farm, the McEntire Family

Diamond Sponsors: Arias Paso Finos and Cedar Lane Stables

Emerald Sponsors: Dreamcatcher Paso Finos, Peacock Farm Paso Finos, Rio Nuevo Paso Finos

Ruby Sponsors: Paso Finos Elegante and S&L Paso Finos

Sapphire Sponsors: Ducktown Farms, Mid-Iowa Paso Finos, and Startown Stables

Pearl Sponsors: 4 Beat Paso Fino Farm; De Los Mejores and Staige DeBenedetti; El Escudero Paso Finos; Hacienda Santa Maria; Heritage Farm & Stables/ Estridge Family/Wall Family; and Tuckaway Farms/ Frady/Hajek/Howard.

Class Sponsors: Oak Ridge Farm/Mickey and Debbie Evans/Savannah Williams; Paso Finos de Caballo Oscuro; and Starry Haven Farms/Rocky and Magda Reid.

