



## WILLIAM RICCI

Bill Ricci and his wife Wendy own and operate WR Ranch in Oxford, Florida. The ranch and his love affair with the Gypsy Vanner Horse began in 1998. A relative took them to visit Bill and Joanne Thorup who owned Esmeralda and Jasmine, two of the first sixteen Gypsy Vanners in North America. This began the search for a Gypsy Vanner of their own and she was found in 2002. Panda Rose became the grande dame of WR Ranch. The addition of Panda was quickly followed by other notables not in the least was the mare Kuchi, who was the first Gypsy Vanner born on American soil and a Breyer model. In 2004 their venture came full circle when they were able to acquire Esmeralda, then in 2007 they acquired Jasmine, the pair who started it all for WR Ranch.

Throughout the years, Bill and WR Ranch, have been influential in introducing the Gypsy Vanner to so many, by attending many events and welcoming so many to their ranch. Many equestrians of other breeds and many disciplines have been introduced to the breed through Bill and WR. Numerous people from many countries have visited the ranch and gone on to acquire Gypsy Vanners. WR horses were also featured in Vogue magazine and many other publications, as well as exhibiting at many venues to introduce the world to what the breed is about.

Bill has become a symbol of the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society shown on the home page of the GVHS website driving his vardo and pair of mares. This is a typical snapshot of one of the many ways he has contributed to the breed and the organization.

Bill is a founding lifetime member of the GVHS and has served as the President of the GVHS and also served as a Director from 2008 through 2012. He has continued contributing to the organization from the very first day. He had an instrumental role in the success of the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society.

The GVHS is honored to have Bill Ricci as a permanent member of the GVHS Hall of Fame.