

Region 3 Representative Bios

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Brenden Waddle

GVHS Member for 1 year

Owns 2 GVHS registered horses

I would like to be a GVHS representative because I have a passion for my horses and enjoy sharing them with people wherever I am. I attend a lot of open and breed shows and clinics throughout the year and love to represent the breed. I'm passionate about what I do and I try to represent myself the best I can. We have plans to attend the Ohio Equine Affaire and many shows in 2024. I think this would be a great opportunity for me!

Judy Conklin

GVHS Member for 8 years

Owns 11 GVHS registered horses

Thank you for considering me to become the GVHS representative for Region 3.

Before purchasing our first Gypsy Vanner in 2015, my husband and I fell in love with everything about this breed and knew that we needed to own one for ourselves. It did not take long for us to decide we wanted to purchase a few mares and a stallion and begin breeding these lovely horses so we could share them with more families like ours. So that is what we did.

Located in Ohio, we currently only 11 GVHS registered horses. I have had the privilege of training our own horses for riding and driving, showing in the disciplines of classical and western dressage, western and English pleasure, trail riding, obstacles, jumping, pleasure driving and driven dressage. I also enjoy sharing our horses in public settings such as holiday parades and the Ohio Equine Affaire. It is certainly a privilege to be able to demonstrate the versatility that the Gypsy Vanner is capable of!

To share a little about myself, I have owned and operated a restaurant business for the past 20 years. I am extremely detailed as it relates to planning, organizing and scheduling as I am very accomplished in completing tasks in a timely manner. I am a good listener but am a very capable leader, as the success of a good leader comes out of being a good servant. I am a team player, working well with others, capable of redirecting if the group loses focus of the task at hand.

I have assisted in event planning for a national wrestling tournament and was responsible for securing sponsorships for support the event as well as being responsible for establishing meals for referees, athletes and spectators alike.

I do have the desire to become, in the near future, a show manager for the GVHS, developing shows in areas that would help promote and build interest in the Gypsy Vanner breed. I believe I have the experience and skillset to be an asset to the GVHS and to the membership. I would enjoy being able to serve in the capacity of the representative for region #3.

Jennifer Brackman

GVHS Member for 1 year

Owns 3 GVHS registered horses

My husband and I have been the owners of Platinum Image Pony (now also called Gypsy) Farm for 15 years breeding, showing, and raising multiple National/Congress and Grand National/Congress Champions. About 10 years ago, we inherited the Buckeye Spring (now Summer) Classic after catching the attention of one of the founders of the Modern type Shetland Pony (ASPC-American Shetland Pony Club). He appreciated our commitment to the organization by starting various youth and Amateur activities ranging from creating; Junior Judging sessions (which at one point meant bringing in a volunteer judge from the Atlanta Olympics), showmanship and halter training sessions, to running bake sales booths to fund the National ASPC/AMHR awards program. Encouraging youth and Amateur participation in the organization was very necessary following the last economic downturn that had resulted in a 90% membership loss for ASPC/AMHR. Although the membership never fully recovered, we served as advisors encouraging programs, policies, and architecting IT solutions to regrow the organization. Our involvement with Gypsies began in 2018 after we incorporated Gypsies into our existing ASPC/AMHR show. A few years ago, we inherited a second show, the Great Lakes Spring Classic, and we have recently renamed our show organization the Mustached Horse Guild. Our show organization has hosted both local sanctioned and regional (Area) sanctioned shows over the years. The Mustached Horse Guild is a true family organization, with my husband, our children, and I working the shows and even hand making the neck sashes and engraved award plaques.

On a national scale, me, along with my husband, who has worked in IT for 25 years, architected an IT system for the Shetland organization, which included both a member services and forms system and a show program system. The show program system he designed includes one of the first show results entry systems which are able to be entered directly onto tablets by the judges saving a considerable amount of time and accuracy for show managers being only recently rolled out for use at the AMHR National Show. He has further served as a consultant over the years as the system he architected has been implemented, including personally merging data from the original defunct language system that no one else was able to merge.

On the show side, we have dealt with a number of issues over the years, including trying to keep shows running following economic downturns and dealing with both staff and show management issues. On a more national scale, I personally took over the responsibility of coordinating the contacting of registries, boards, facilities, and local registry clubs when it was found that our show manager at the time, who is no longer permitted to operate with GVHS, had stolen equipment and cash from multiple registries as well as scammed show facilities and local registry clubs across the country. Although not all parties involved received restitution for their losses, some parties did eventually receive partial restitution and the show manager lost her management license so no further damage could be done. More recently, I was brought in to serve as mediator in a heated situation between a representative for the carded judges and the IDHA Drum Horse Association,

after an issue arose where the judges refused to judge Drum shows due to an IDHA board decision in which there was confusion in the judging carding process. The solutions I offered allowed Drum classes to continue this year at sanctioned shows and has led their board to work to establish a carding process agreeable to all parties.

Perhaps most importantly, and one of the main reasons why we took over running shows is that we have a strong dedication to seeing shows be successful for both professionals and Amateurs/Youth. When we started showing Shetlands the organization was primarily composed of Amateurs and Youth. There were a few professional trainers, mainly driving trainers, whose secondary role in the organization was serving as catch handlers almost solely utilized during national shows. After the economic downturn, our organization turned from primarily an Amateur organization to an organization where it was no longer considered appropriate for people to show their own horses. There is a lot more than can be explained here, but the board at the time even encouraged the judges to judge in a more political manner (to encourage participation from a competitor organization), which resulted in even further membership losses. Through this all I spoke frequently with the board coming from both the perspective of a prior successful exhibiting family and a show owner, expressing my concerns with what was happening. The most recent ASPC board has admitted the failures of discouraging what had previously been the lifeblood of the organization, the youth and Amateurs, and I have worked directly with my old show manager who is now VP of ASPC to rectify mistakes that were made. What I see with GVHS is the same wonderful atmosphere that existed when I started with Shetlands, a welcoming atmosphere with a lot of camaraderie. As the organization grows, both me and my husband would like to be available as consultants to ensure that a balance can be found in allowing industry professional trainers to succeed, because they are necessary and wanted by the membership for a multitude of reasons, while ensuring policies exist to keep the existing fairness in showing as well as the existing camaraderie among the Amateurs/Youth going strong.

Even further back than the Miniatures I showed Quarter Horses and Appaloosas starting in the 80's working as both an apprentice under a professional trainer as well as helping to judge open shows. I also took on youth clients as well as ran a small horse finishing business. After graduation I went to work in the corporate world (Mutual Funds and corporate executive retirement accounts) prior to being a stay-at home mom. My husband has spent the majority of his working years serving in both management and architecture IT roles primarily within the finance and security sectors. My previous board experience was serving on local fair boards as a youth. Yes, we are new to the GVHS registry, but we have quickly dove into participating in this as we have other activities. Just last year we purchased our first Gypsy mare (picked up after her foal was weaned at the end of this past January), this year our second mare, and now we have a third colt after the foaling of our second mare. Both mares have been trained in English, Western and in-hand activities, primarily by our eldest daughter and shown both at GVHS sanctioned shows and at local shows/fairs by our entire family. We have already had some proud moments with both our second mare and her colt winning Grands against stiff multi-breed competition at 2 country fairs. Our daughter has competed in large multi-breed performance shows as well in classes of 20+ horses and placed at the top of the class with our new Gypsies. Although we might be new to owning the Gypsy breed, our appreciation for being able to take broodmares from pasture condition to being able to win against some of the top horses from other breeds in such a short period of time definitely solidifies our love of the breed we have been loosely involved with for the past 6 years. As our children get older, we expect that our Gypsy herd will only grow further to accommodate our big family (we have 7 children) and get them

all showing, as they definitely afford more exhibiting opportunities than the family has been used to with our ponies.

We hope you find our experiences valuable and consider placing either or both of us into positions where we might be of use to you.