

FOXHUNTING LIFE

with Horse and Hound

NOEL MULLINS PHOTO



The Scarteen (IR)

FHL WEEK, April 10, 2018

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Macron: Revive French Presidential Hunts

By Norman Fine

Latest

French President Emmanuel Macron is calling for the tradition of “presidential hunts” to be revived. This in the face of increasing public support for a ban on hunting with hounds. Presidential hunts were abolished in 2010 by then President Nicholas Sarkozy.

One a useful asset in French diplomacy, according to Macron, presidential hunting parties were arranged for visiting world leaders to experience a part of French culture. With almost four hundred registered hunts—more than any other nation—stag and deer hunting still flourishes in France.

“I will be the president who develops hunting,” Macron told a recent meeting of the French Hunters’ Federation, according to David Chazan, writing for *The Telegraph*.

Presidential hunts grew out of the royal hunts introduced in the late sixteenth century by King Francois I. The hunts were held on the grounds of the Chateau de Chambord in the Loire Valley and in other stately homes.

While a recent poll determined that eighty-four percent of citizens were in favor of a hunting ban as introduced by a far-left politician, an actual ban is deemed unlikely.

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Posted April 3, 2018

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The Classic Style of Carol Lee Thompson

By Norman Fine

Art



The foxhunter is an expert on the breathtaking beauty of the early morning light. Who of us hasn't been entranced on an autumn hunting morning as the first rays of sunlight refract through a gazillion dew-crystals on the trees and the natural world morphes from gray to brilliance. I am especially taken by artists who can capture those fleeting moments, allowing us to dwell on the scene—something the sun never does!

Carol Lee Thompson is a full-time professional artist, classically trained in the methods of the Old Masters. She paints a wide range of subject matter, including equine and animal art, landscapes, foxhunting, and western themes. And she loves to play with light.





Her studio training in traditional art forms allows her to work with the materials and techniques of the Old Masters. She prepares her surfaces with lead and glue, grinds her own pigments, and paints with traditional oil paint formulations.

This year her works were jury-selected for the 57th annual exhibition of the Society of Animal Artists, Inc., and will travel to four different museums and institutions across the country by November.



She is also proud that her work was chosen as Finalist in the Art Renewal Center Salon. The ARC is an online museum dedicated to the return to a talent-based realism as expressed by the nineteenth century Masters. This year the ARC annual competition drew 3,750 entries from sixty-nine countries



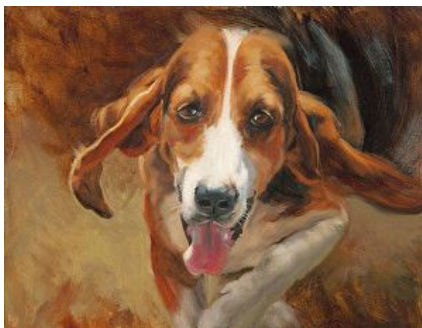
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from which fewer than thirty percent were chosen for their 13th Salon.

Carol Lee was chosen in the Animal and Landscape categories, marking her eleventh Finalist piece and one Honorable Mention in the last six Salons. One of her works, a flaming sunset over a busy commercial harbor (not foxhunting) received one of just six Chairman's Choice Awards.



Carol Lee's work is featured in galleries throughout the country and is part of many corporate and private collections including the Butler Institute and the Academy Art Museum. Her art hangs in Baltimore's City Hall, The Fort McHenry National Shrine, the U.S. State Department, the Star Pass Resort in Arizona, and Camden Yards Stadium, home of the Baltimore Orioles.



Her exhibits include: The Society of Animal Artists' Museum Shows, The C.M. Russell Museum Show, The Western Masters, The Scottsdale Salon at Legacy Gallery, the Gilcrease Museum's Miniature Shows, The International Salon at Greenhouse Gallery and the John Pence Gallery Shows. She has been awarded First Place in the Oil Painters of America (OPA) On-Line Showcase and a Regional OPA Award of Excellence. She won First Place/Animals in The Artist Magazine Competition as well as Finalist five times. She received awards for Best Sporting Art, the Action Award, and Honorable Mention with The American Academy of Equine Art (AAEA). She also received awards at the Cheyenne Frontier Days Show and at The Salmagundi Club. Carol Lee won the Fredrix Spirit of America Award, Best Painting by a Maryland Artist in Plein Air Easton, and the Award of Excellence in the National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society (NOAPS) On-Line Shows. She has received sixteen Award in International Miniature Competitions.



She is a recognized Living Master (ARCLA) with the ARC and a Signature Member of the OPA, AAEA and NOAPS. She is a member of The Society of Animal Artists as well as the Miniature Painters, Sculptures and Gravers Society of Washington, DC. She is published in several books and has been featured in many magazine articles.

A graduate of Towson State University, Carol Lee holds a Masters of Fine Arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art and is a graduate of the Schuler School of Fine Arts. She still teaches there part-time, having been affiliated with the School for over thirty years. She also teaches and holds workshops.

[Click](#) to view more of Carol Lee's work at the artist's website.

Posted April 2, 2018

March Madness Joint Meet with Bull Run and Farmington

By R. Reynolds Cowles, DVM and Elizabeth Sutton

Hunt Reports



Retired Bull Run huntsman Greg Schwartz leads the second flight. / Beth Sutton photo

Farmington Hunt's participation in March Madness Week at Bull Run Hunt started with a lot of questions. Hounds had not hunted in a week. Would they be up to the task of more open country and multiple game—fox *and* coyote? Did they have what it takes to give the sporting Bull Run field and their March Madness visitors a good day's hunting? Would renegades riot?

These questions nagged at some of the Farmington Hunt members and staff as we assembled at Horseshoe Farm in Rapidan, Virginia with twelve-and-a-half couple and a good gang of members. Three huntsmen and former huntsmen from further north said to me, "Well, you all will have to up your game today," as we kidded about the lack of action that had been experienced on the three previous days due primarily to the weather.



R. Reynolds Cowles and fieldmembers / Beth Sutton photo

The runoff from melting snow filled the ditches at the base of the hills running across the open fields, full of gurgling springtime sounds and peeping frogs. Perfect habitat and plenty of cover, big open country for expansive views, and nicely maintained wooded trails and farm roads allowed for access. Coops were everywhere.

For the first two-and-a-half hours, however, our questions remained unanswered. Huntsman Matthew Cook had hounds hunting well. A red fox was found that gave a good chase over the mountain heading toward Route 15, but vanished after it scooted through a wire fence and then a snow bank. Hounds sounded good for a few minutes, but couldn't recover the line.



(l-r) Mac Dent, Carter McNeely, Pippa and Julie Cook, Karen Bull / Beth Sutton photo

Then Bull Run huntsman Charles Montgomery took us to the pine thickets and the swamp. A fox was viewed out of the pines and hounds were brought to the view. A short run ensued, then that line was lost. A coyote rolled out and a path into the blackjack swamp was found. The thickets were a struggle, and hounds were brought back out to the road and put on a line where a coyote was viewed twenty minutes earlier.

I don't think there were many in the field confident that the coyote would still be in the vicinity, but hounds started working the old line and shortly were in hot pursuit. The next hour dispelled all doubters. Farmington's game was surely upped and the cry was fabulous! Even Bull Run Field Master Greg Schwartz and staff member Charlie Brown were impressed. Those of us who followed into the swamp and then back out had a view, then we were back in the swamp again.



Charlotte Delany, one of the "eight muddy souls" who struggled back from the swamp / Beth Sutton photo

I knew better, but my blood was up, so back we went, right behind Charlotte Delany and her great little mare, Boxy, behind Bull Run Master Rosie Campbell. Boxy is a fabulous field hunter and very handy in water and mud, a much-needed talent on this run. Matthew described it best: "We went from impenetrable to absolutely impenetrable!" Hounds took that huge coyote all the way to the rock quarry and back again to the swamp. The field was down to eight muddy souls before we wandered out.

Matthew collected hounds which were, by then, widely spread, but in the end all were back on. Farmington could hold their heads up proudly, and Matthew in particular. All questions were answered in a muddy, Yes!

Farmington members thanked Bull Run MFH Mike Long and family for allowing us to hunt over their beautiful property. Boo Montgomery piloted the lead Bull Run vehicle, followed by our Farmington road whips, Grady Collier, Ken Chapman, and Chris Cuthbert. These staff members kept close tabs on our hounds with radios in the truck. Mike Long and first-flight leader Rosie Campbell, MFH kept up with huntsmen Matthew Cook and Charles Montgomery, followed by Charlotte Delany and the rest of us. Honorary whipper-in Barbara Smith rode with Farmington whippers-in Carolyn and Jamie Altman and John Elliot.

Best of all, Matthew was highly pleased with the performance of his hounds and the chance to hunt in a completely different country. Matthew has been breeding for voice, and hounds really poured it on.

Posted April 9, 2018

Carolyn Chapman and Liz King also contributed to this article.

The County Limerick Foxhounds at Kilmallock

By Dickie Power

Hunt Reports



The well-bred Old English foxhounds of the County Limerick continue to show exciting sport. The Limerick breeding program has been closely associated with that of the Belvoir (UK) since the Mastership of Lord Daresbury beginning in the mid-twentieth century. / Catherine Power photo

Reports on hunting with *The Counties*, as the County Limerick Foxhounds are locally referred to, have been glowing with stories of one red letter day following hard on the heels of another. So it was with some sense of anticipation we joined last Saturday's meet at the mart yard in Kilmallock.

There were over sixty mounted, including several U.S. visitors. From the Midland Fox Hounds in Georgia came Mason Lampton, Jr, MFH, with his two sons Whitney and younger brother Henry—great-grandchildren of the famous foxhunter, Ben Hardaway, who at age ninety-eight passed away only recently. Organizers of the American expedition were Richard and Lilith Boucher, steeplechase jockey and trainer from Camden, South Carolina, and their daughter Mell.

I would know Kilmallock mart yard better as a farmer bringing cattle to sale with tractors, trailers, and cattle lorries, but on this occasion horse boxes, hounds, and foot followers were the order of the day.



Young Hugh Lillingston keeps tabs on hounds. / Catherine Power photo

With the field mounted, hounds enlarged, and the statutory photos taken, it was time for huntsman Fergus Stokes to take his seventeen-and-a-half couple of old English foxhounds to the first draw. This was just a short hack to the famed stud at nearby Mount Coote, home of Lady Vivi Livingston and her husband Alan, an outstanding hunting family. Alan was for many years Field Master in the hunt's halcyon days. So it was fitting that the family would be represented by the current generation, Hugh and his even younger sister Lara. Young Hugh is making a name for himself in the hunting field, having been one of that elite band to have swum the Camog recently from a meet at Bruff.

Huntsman Stokes was on a borrowed horse as the hunt horses were badly in the need of a day off, after some tiring and testing days hunting. Regular Limerick visitor George Lionel-Smith from Devon was out with his son and daughter and got through the day with a clear round which is more than could be said of many others both local and visiting. The hunt has a new whipper-in this season but he is no novice to the game. Nathan O'Connor, originally from Glenbeigh in the Kingdom of Kerry, has been acting as first whipper-in to Tom Dempsey with the Blazers for the last couple of seasons. Also out was last season's whipper-in Jamie Byrne who gets out every day his duties in Islanmore Stud in Croom allow.



Huntsman Fergus Stokes with whipper-in Nathan O'Connor (left) and Jamie Byrnes move off to the first draw from Bruff. / Catherine Power photo

All the regulars were on hand. There was honorary secretary Deirdre Hogan and Field Master Kieran Cusack. Two of the three serving Joint-Masters were mounted, John Halley, Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons was out on his good grey produced by Sean McAuliffe that has never been known to put a foot wrong, and Lady Ana Johnson of Dunraven who joined the Mastership just three seasons ago with her cousin Emma Thompson. Master Thompson lives in London, but was born and reared in Glenbevin, Croom. Her brother Sir Francis Brooke is one of the Queen's representative's who run Royal Ascot. Sadly Emma was missing this day.

First draw was of course Mountcoote Stud, now run by Luke and Tabs Lillingston. As well as running one of Ireland's most successful studs, Luke is also an international bloodstock agent and it was the latter duty that had taken

him off to Australia. *The Irish Field* directory lists Mount Coote as standing on five hundred acres. And every one of the five hundred was hunted on the day with the resident fox taking hounds on several guided tours. The spectacular Old English Limerick pack worked particularly well, and the orchestra was in the finest voice.



Mason Lampton, Jr, MFH, Midland Fox Hounds (GA), out with the Limerick. "We jumped some monster ditches!" he says.
/ Catherine Power photo

Hounds hunted into the Millennium Plantation with every native species flourishing, now eighteen years old but still with plenty covert underneath, and were at fault. It is at times like this that a good huntsman calls on his best hound. Sandhurst, a fourth season dog by Limerick Perkin out of Belvoir Saline soon had our pilot back in the open. The link between Limerick and the Belvoir has remained strong since Lord Daresbury was Master. Current Belvoir huntsman John Holliday regularly has a day with the Limerick Hounds and hounds are regularly exchanged between Belvoir and Limerick, both loyal to the Old English (traditionally-bred) type of hound. Belvoir Saline was out of the first litter of Limerick Sambo. Eventually all good things come to an end, and Reynard decided to run for the railway and was given best.

The Irish Field was doubly represented on the day. First season *Field* intern Orlaith Cuddihy was out on her good chestnut. She comes from Kildimo, and having done her BHS is now learning her journalistic trade under the able tutelage of *Horse World* editor Isabel Hurley. Orlaith takes up the story:

"Not a lot of jumping, but loads of galloping in Lillingston's place. I actually saw the first fox, who was massive! The day then got going in terms of jumping once we moved across the road to Riversfield. There were one or two nice banks there, including a kind of triple bank that I think took us out of the stud into Quane's farm."

Riversfield is now owned by Tom Mowlam and was formerly the home of the late Dolores O'Riordan of the Cranberries. The Mowlam's had previously lived in Carrigaline where young Alan still runs the Maryville Equestrian Centre. Having jumped into Quane's and on to McMahon's, fox and hounds crossed back into Mount Coote where he was given best.



Henry Lampton won't be left behind. / Catherine Power photo

They drew on through McMahon's extensive dairy farm where the hounds are always made very welcome, and on through Dominic and Nicolas Hayes' farm before coming out on the Kilfinane road near the Cross of Black. While hounds were drawing in this huge block of land bereft of roads the foot followers were kept in touch by Paul Woody in his famed white van. No one quite knows whether he has some mysterious means of communicating with the hounds or perhaps the fox but he always appears to be in the right place at the right time.



Mell Boucher from Camden Hunt (SC), is among the American visitors along with her parents Richard and Lilith Boucher. / Catherine Power photo

A short hack up the Ardpatrik road and drawing to the left towards Effin (a small village on the Limerick /Cork borders) and Sean Sheehan's farm. For many seasons, Sean was the very successful amateur whipper-in to the hunt. The farm held a fine dog fox which was holloed away by our huntsman's brother Shane from Tullylease. Both brothers were brought up to the sound of hounds in kennels, as the family kept a private pack and hunted on foot. Venery is in their blood. Duhallow is their calling but they are now staunch Limerick supporters. Shane is now a proud green collar member of the hunt and a key member of the team.

The field was now in serious bank country, rarely hunted with one more bank even more challenging than that which preceded it, and our scribe Orlaith again takes up the story:

“Jamie Brynes (former whipper-in) was saying about the ‘final five’ who hunted a different way, only to be confronted by that last dreaded bank. He said they got right hard jumping to get to the railway. The gallant jockeys were Fergus Stokes, Nathan O’Connor, Jamie Byrne’s, Joe Burke and Donnagh Buckley.”

Those who didn’t confront the monumental bank managed to continue by a less suicidal route. The bank, I am reliably told, has something in common with the Great Wall of China, in that they can both be seen from outer space! Hounds at this stage had swung right handed and the next landmark crossed was the Effin railway bridge (no pun intended).

It was just another mile or so before our pilot found welcome refuge in an underground shore at Ashill Stud just outside Kilmallock. It was indeed a happy, if tired group that made the short hack back to the mart yard and welcoming boxes to take tired horses and exhilarated riders home to a welcome rest.

Posted April 4, 2018

This article recently appeared in The Irish Field and is republished with permission.

Fout-Norris Dominate at Orange County

By Norman Fine

Horses



With four wins and two seconds of ten races on the card, Kieran Norris was leading rider at Orange County. / Douglas Lees photo

Kieran Norris had an outstanding day on the racecourse at beautiful Locust Hill Farm—timber, hurdle, flat—whichever course he rode. Norris, Virginia’s Leading Rider in 2017, rode four winners at the Orange County Point-to-Point on Saturday, April 1, 2018. He finished the day with two seconds as well, making it first or second in six of the ten races run.

Entries were reasonably strong, with the Maiden Flat and the Maiden Hurdle Races being split. Trainer Doug Fout saddled four winners as well, three of them with Norris aboard.



Maiden Flat Race: Winner Perfect Union (Kieran Norris up) leads the field in the 1st division. (l-r): Charity Show (Mike Woodson), Veyron (Jeff Murphy); 2nd place Mercoeur (Archie MacCauley), and Perfect Union. / Douglas Lees photo

Norris began his day on a Fout-trained horse by winning the second race, Maiden Flat, first division, on Beverly Steinman's Perfect Union. The dark brown gelding led the field through the entire race.



Maiden Hurdle, 1st Division (l-r): Confederate (Shane Crimin), Bridge Builder (Darren Nagle) shows 3rd, Bullet Star (Kieran Norris) trained by Doug, Fout the winner. / Douglas Lees photo

Norris's next two winning rides came in the Maiden Hurdle. Fout-trained Bullet Star, owned by Steinman, with Norris up, won the first division easily. Norris won the second division as well, this time on New Saloon, trained by

Madison Meyers and owned by Timber Town Stables. In winning for Norris, New Saloon had to hold off the Steinman-Fout entry, Jump Through It in the stretch. No loyalties when you change colors!



Open Timber winner Albus is ridden by Kieran Norris, trained by Doug Fout. / Douglas Lees photo

Norris's final win came in the Open Timber aboard Albus once again for trainer Doug Fout. Albus's previous race was at Warrenton this season where he won the Novice Timber with Norris in the irons. Moving up to the Open division, Albus went to the front of the four-horse field and held off the rallying Canyon Road for the win. Second place Canyon Road has been a top timber horse on the circuit for several years. Ridden by Jeff Murphy, Canyon Road won the Novice Timber at Warrenton in 2015, the Open Timber at Warrenton with Mark Beecher up in 2016, and the Open Timber at Old Dominion with Jeff Murphy back in the irons in 2017. Canyon Road is trained by Chris Kolb and owned by Gordonsdale Farm. This racing season has been packed with young bloods unseating the old favorites.

[Click](#) for complete results at the Orange County Hounds Point-to-Point.

Posted April 6, 2018

Timber Horses Show Up to Race at Piedmont

By Norman Fine

Horses



Teddy Davies, shown between (l-r) father Joe Davies and grandfather Bruce Miller, won two pony races. Trainer Joe Davies is a Maryland Hunt Cup winning rider. Trainer Bruce Miller is ex- MFH of Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Foxhounds (PA) / Douglas Lees photo

Two of the four timber races at the Piedmont Point-to-Point on Saturday, March 24, 2018, were split, giving race goers six well-filled and exciting races over the beautiful timber course at Salem. Turf conditions were good.

Dakota Slew, a multi-winning timber horse was back. Slew had the honor of retiring the Rokeby Bowl here two years ago after his third consecutive Open

Timber win at Piedmont. Still trained by Richard Valentine, the old favorite that for a time practically “owned” the course settled for a second place finish under McLane Hendricks in the first division of the Amateur/Novice Rider Timber Race.

Rutledge Classic, another old favorite and oft-winning timber horse trained by Eva Smithwick and ridden by Woods Winants was also bested in that same race, proving there are some new young bloods in the fields this year.



*Blair Wyatt's **Witor**, Eric Poretz up, won the First Division of the Amateur/Novice Rider Timber Race for trainer Todd Wyatt, one of Wyatt's three wins over timber for the day. / Douglas Lees photo*

The winning trainer in both divisions of the Amateur/Novice Timber Race *and* in the second division of the Maiden Timber Race was Todd Wyatt. Of all the trainers counting wins, this day was Wyatt's, with three firsts and two seconds of the six timber races run.

Wyatt saddled Armata Stables' Rudyard K and put Brett Owings up in the second division of the Maiden Timber, beating Kingofalldiamonds by three-quarters of a length at the wire.

In the Amateur and Novice Rider Timber Race, Wyatt put Eric Poretz aboard Blair Wyatts' Witor for the win in the first division (over Dakota Slew) and Brett Owings on Prime Prospector to win the second division.



*The trainer/rider team of Neil Morris (left) and Darreen Nagle won two timber races and a flat race. Here they meet up with **Balistes**, winner of the Virginia Bred/Sired Flat Race. / Douglas Lees photo*

Trainer Neil Morris saddled the winners of two of the timber races, including the Open Timber with Zancus, and also took Balistes to the Winners Circle after the Virginia Sired/Bred Flat Race. Darren Nagle was in the irons for all three of Morris's wins, and Sara Collette had pride of ownership for two of those wins—Zancus in the Open Timber and Balistes in the Flat.



Sweet Talking Guy, owned, ridden, and trained by Erin Swope, on his way to winning the Lady Rider Timber Race. / Douglas Lees photo

Piedmont also carded three exhibition pony flat races—small, medium, and large—for the enjoyment of the crowd and to stimulate interest in racing amongst young riders. Teddy Davies, a young member of a family racing dynasty, was the big winner of the day. And a more photogenic poster boy for racing would be hard to find. Teddy won the Medium Pony Race on Count Chocula and the Large Pony Race on Bailey. Both ponies are trained by Betty McCue and owned by EHM Stables.

[Click](#) for complete results.

Posted March 29, 2018



Teddy Davies hoists the pony trophy. / Douglas Lees photo