

World Champions

Marylyn Caliendo & InTheSweetShop

“Summer has arrived. Newborn foals, the next generation of World Champions to come, are playing in the sunshine. Every weekend, across the country, there is a horse show providing serious competition and fun-filled times with friends.

My horse, Inthesweetshop, aka “Bentley”, and I are looking forward to attending the World Wide Paint Horse Congress this year in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This year marks the first ever Lynn Simons Memorial Halter Futurity. We are beyond excited to support this inaugural event for many reasons.

Over the years, many people have asked me, “why did you decide to show Paint Horses?” We knew we were going to focus on the color horse industry for various reasons. My husband, Paul, has always participated in halter classes. We’ve had the opportunity to own some extremely talented horses, many of which became World Champions. Halter classes are great for the family member who doesn’t have time to ride, but can still participate at the horse show. Not only are these equine body builders beautiful, I have a lot of respect for their training regimes and the diet they have to follow. They may be born with the proper foundation and pleasing attributes, but, like any athlete, they need to be conditioned to achieve their maximum potential.

We met with Lynn and Andrea Simons for dinner one evening in Fort Worth, Texas. Lynn’s knowledge of the industry, his breeding program with Zippos Sensation, and his tremendous success with halter horses helped educate us even more.

I acquired my first Paint Horse, Call Me Sister, through Scott Suggs and Shannon McCulloch, and off to the shows we went. In Tucson, Arizona, Sara Simons welcomed us to the breed and took the time to introduce us to new people at the show.

Shortly after, we had another dinner date scheduled with



Marylyn is pictured aboard Beyond Sensational winning a Reserve World Championship at the 2011 APHA World Show.

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Lynn and Andrea. Sadly, Lynn was taken from us a few days before in a tragic car accident. After the funeral, we went to meet Zippos Sensation, looked at his babies, and purchased Elegant Sensation, which my daughter Megan rode to a Reserve World title. Over the years, we’ve had some great horses, such as Zipped With Lace and Oughta Be Sensational. We are blessed to have success with our horses and in keeping old friends and making new ones.

Beyond Sensational took me to a Reserve World title and a Junior Western Pleasure World Championship. I’ve handed the reins over to my son Cody to show in the classic amateur division. Call Me Sister is retired, producing great foals, and loving life. I have a three-year-old named A Smashing Sensation, which I can’t wait to show this year.

My grandfather once told me, “work hard to go where you want to go, but never forget where you came from.” Lynn Simons was that kind of man. So, at the upcoming Paint Horse Congress, I encourage everyone to attend the Memorial Futurity in his name. We certainly will.

Bentley and I can’t wait to see you at the shows. We wish everyone good luck and fun times.

– Marylyn Caliendo



Marylyn & Bentley celebrate their win at the 2013 APHA World Championship Show.

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Jana Simons, Gordon Downey & Marylyn Caliendo

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