

Southeastern Virtual Pygora Fleece Show

Elkton, Maryland October 24, 2020



The last Pygora fleece show of the 2020 season was held in Elkton, MD, on October 24. Pygora owners' who normally attend and participate in fleece, Pygora goat and vendor booth activities at SAFF (Southeastern Animal Fiber Fair) each October, hosted the live-streamed virtual event.

When SAFF 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19, this group of Pygora owners set virtual show activities into motion, following the lead of earlier virtual Pygora fleece show productions, the Lemonade Pygora Fleece Show and the 2020 virtual Michigan Fiber Festival.

Since the PBA show judge Liza Sanford-Crane, scheduled to judge all SAFF Pygora events this year, lives in Elkton, MD, the group moved their Southeastern fleece show closer to the judge. Longtime PBA member Gerry Scarfe, who also lives in Elkton, hosted the fleece show in her home and served as local show secretary.

Regular SAFF Pygora event participants Robin Oliver and Beverly VanHook-Schrey travelled to Maryland to serve as videographer and local show chair, respectively.

With almost 50 fleeces arriving in time for the show, fiber enthusiasts could watch fiber reveals and fiber judging throughout the afternoon as Robin streamed the video to the PBA website and later posted highlights of the show to the Missing SAFF website. Judge Sanford-Crane was impressed by the caliber and cleanliness of the beautiful fleeces.

The Grand Champion fleece came from Pygora buck RSA Jolly Jester, whose phenomenally long Type B locks, minimal guard hair, nice curls, waves and shine impressed the judge. Reserve Grand Champion fleece came from Pygora doe Greystone Fifty Shades of Grey, whose super soft fleece, the judge said she just wanted to "dive into" and remarked that the fleece matched every criterion on the checklist for its fleece type. Jester was bred by Fran Bishop and is owned by Beverly VanHook-Schrey. Fifty Shades of Grey was bred by Lisa Grzeskowiak and is owned by Kelly Shields of Red Flower Farm.

Big winners in the Doe Division were Greystone Fifty Shades of Grey, Doe Division Champion, and Mountain Meadow Farm Tiny Dancer, Doe Division Reserve Champion. Tiny Dancer was bred by Beverly VanHook-Schrey and is owned by Robin Oliver. Sanford-Crane appreciated the "like a pillow" softness of Tiny Dancer's fleece, the minimal amount of guard hair and the consistency in length and quality.

Wether winners were The Oaks Michigan, Wether Division Champion, and Gun Plain Pygoras Kole, Wether Division Re-

serve Champion. Michigan was bred by Liza Sanford-Crane and is owned by Beverly VanHook-Schrey. In her blind judging comments Sanford-Crane complimented the fleece production and fleece strength for eleven-year-old senior Wether Michigan. She noted the lock structure and staple length of Kole's fleece as well as the owner's harvest decision/timing regarding the fleece.

Buck champion fleeces came from RSA Jolly Jester, Buck Division Champion, and Bohemian Creek Farm Hadrian, Buck Division Reserve Champion. Both these buck fleeces have excellent lock length and crimp.

Grumpy Goat Puddin' took the First Place Junior Doe ribbon. Puddin' is owned and was bred by Brette Soucie and Matt Henschen of Grumpy Goat Experiment farm.

Top awards from Senior Does one year to under two went to Mountain Meadow Farm Tiny Dancer (1st), owned by Robin Oliver and bred by Beverly VanHook-Schrey; Gun Plain Pygoras Leena (2nd), owned and bred by Nan Nichols; Bohemian Creek Farm Delaney (3rd), bred and owned by Debbie Eubanks, and Mountain Meadow Farm Silver Belle (4th) bred and owned by Beverly VanHook-Schrey. This was the largest fleece class with 9 fleece entries.

While Greystone Fifty Shades of Grey had the top fleece in the Senior Doe class for does age two to under four years, Hawks Mountain Ranch Violet, took the 2nd place honor with Hawks Mountain Ranch Sweet Pea earning a 3rd place ribbon and Gun Plain Pygoras Keara taking 4th place. Violet and Sweet Pea were bred by Lisa Roskopf and are owned by Beverly VanHook-Schrey of Mountain Meadow Farm. Keara is owned by Brette Soucie and Matt Henschen of Grumpy Goat Experiment and was bred by Nan Nichols.

Greystone Screech took top honors in the Senior Does age four and over class. Screech was bred by Lisa Grzeskowiak and is owned by Brette Soucie and Matt Henschen of Grumpy Goat Experiment. Second place in this class went to Enchanted Acres Mount Marcy owned by Brette Soucie of Grumpy Goat Experiment and bred by Laura and John Sopczak. Lost Creek Mary Jane earned a 3rd place ribbon, and Enchanted Acres Daisy earned fourth place. Mary Jane was bred by Casandra Carsey and is owned by Kelly Shields of Red Flower Farm. Daisy was bred by Laura and John Sopczak and is owned by Beverly VanHook-Schrey of Mountain Meadow Farm.

Red Flower Farm Nox had the lone fleece entry in the Junior Wether Division for wethers under one year of age but was well deserving of his 1st place honor based upon his fleece crimp and length. Nox is owned and was bred by Kelly Shields.

Senior Wether honors in the one year to under two years class went to Mountain Meadow Farm Chewbacca (1st), Red Flower Farm Kili (2nd), and Gun Plain Pygoras Luke (3rd). Chewbacca, owned by Robin Oliver and bred by Beverly VanHook-Schrey, earned 1st place for the superb softness and "feel" of his fleece. Kili is owned and was bred by Kelly Shields and The Shields Family. Luke is owned and was bred by Nan Nichols of Gun Plain Pygoras.

First Place honors in the Senior Wethers age two to under four ears class went to Gun Plain Pygoras Kole, owned and bred by Nan Nichols. Wethers were well represented in this fleece class. Mountain Meadow Farm Moses, owned by Robin Oliver and bred by Beverly VanHook-Schrey, took 2nd place. Third place went to Gun Plain Pygoras Jengo, owned by Robin Oliver and bred by Nan Nichols. Fourth place honors went to Spinner's Joy Cappuccino, owned and bred by Gerry Scarfe.

Senior Wethers in the four years and older class ranged in age from 5 years 7 months to 11 years 7 months. The Oaks Michigan's fleece was first place winner in this class, sporting strength and minimal crimp loss for an aged goat fleece. Mountain Meadow Farm Dodger and Spinner's Joy Quinn took 2nd and 3rd place honors, respectively. Dodger is a Permanent Grand Champion Wether owned by Robin Oliver and bred by Beverly VanHook-Schrey. Quinn is owned and was bred by Gerry Scarfe.

Bohemian Creek Farm Hadrian took 1st place among the Junior Buck fleece entries for bucks under one year of age. Hadrian, whose amazingly soft fleece impressed the judge, was bred by Debbie Eubanks and is owned by Beverly VanHook-Schrey. Junior Bucks awarded 2nd and 3rd place were The Oaks Grover and Labor of Love Pygoras Simeon, respectively. Grover, whose fleece's tight curls, airiness and fluffiness were a hit with the judge, is owned by Robin Oliver and was bred by Liza Sanford-Crane. Simeon, praised by Sanford-Crane for his fleece's cleanliness, nice visual appeal and cool touch, was bred by Amanda Sadowski and is owned by Debbie Eubanks.

Sunshine Pygoras Balin was first in the Senior Buck fleece class for bucks one year to under two years of age. Balin was bred by Polly Dickerson and is owned by Kelly Shields of Red Flower Farm. Caney Fork Pygoras Carlos Jackson, bred and owned by Robin Oliver, was awarded 2nd place for the nice crimp and wonderful Type B representation of his fleece. Mountain Meadow Farm Angus and Mountain Meadow Farm Anakin, bred and owned by Beverly VanHook-Schrey, earned 3rd and 4th place for their fleeces, respectively.

In the Senior Buck class for bucks two to under four years of age, RSA Jolly Jester earned first place. Gun Plain Pygoras Jet, owned by Brette Soucie and bred by Nan Nichols, earned 2nd place in this fleece class, and Gun Plain Pygoras Junio, bred and owned by Nan Nichols, had a 3rd place fleece.

In the Senior Buck class for goats four years of age and older, Greystone Ace of Spades had a 1st place fleece with good luster, length, curl and yield. Ace of Spades was bred by Lisa Grzeskowiak and is owned by Kelly Shields. The Oaks Oregon had a 2nd place fleece. Oregon is owned by Nan Nichols of Gun Plain Pygoras and was bred by Liza Sanford-Crane. Great Lakes Pygoras Eewan had a 3rd place fleece finish. Permanent Grand Champion Eewan is owned by Debbie Eubanks of Bohemian Creek Farm and was bred by Allison Sluis.

This year's Pygora virtual fleece shows have been a success with home viewers offering positive comments on how much they have learned about fleece and judging from watching these events online.

As judge Liza Sanford-Crane needed time to think about the fleeces before her final decision in the various classes and divisions and to review her notes with local show secretary Gerry Scarfe, videographer Robin Oliver took viewers on a virtual tour of Gerry's museum-like home collection of fiber, working spin-

ning wheels, and looms as well as her collection of varied fibers and yarn from flax to her own angora rabbit fiber.

Sponsors for the Southeastern Virtual Pygora Fleece Show include: Janet Metz & Roy Vaninetti, Little Hawk Farm, Grumpy Goat Experiment, Kelly Shields of Red Flower Farm, Nan Nichols, Bohemian Creek Farm, Mountain Meadow Farm, and Caney Fork Pygoras.

