

WCM Beaumark Morgan
1982-2009
(Waseeka Thunderbolt - WCM Betsy Morgan by UVM Flash)

Once in a lifetime a horse passes through your life taking you to places unimagined. The scrawny little 2-year old Morgan that flashed past John Greenall at the Mid-A Morgan Horse Show consignment sale caught his eye and with a single bid, he was ours. John was looking for horses for his four-in-hand and by age four, Beau was in place as a leader. This should have been indicative of just what kind of horse we were dealing with. Beau performed at the 1986 Grand National both as a single and as a leader in the unicorn hitch and returned home Reserve National Champion. Every year from that point on, until he was 25, Beau earned a championship.

As a single driving horse Beau won The Devon Horse Show, won at the Preliminary level in combined driving and earned countless championships at American Driving Society shows where he competed against all breeds. He drove at the Newport Coaching weekend, in Rhode Island, as a leader in our four-in-hand and again as a unicorn. But it was as a tandem leader that Beau made his mark in driving. His career was so long that the daughter of our original wheeler replaced her mother. Beau never faltered as a leader, he knew he was spectacular and showed it off. In 1997 he was AMHA Open Competition Reserve Champion Single Driving Horse and in 2003 he was AMHA Open Competition Champion Pair/Tandem. At age 25 he competed one last time as a tandem leader and won the multiples division.

For most horses, that would have been enough. But Beau had such energy and competitive spirit that it was no surprise that he loved distance riding. With Sue as his rider, Beau started his career winning the Eastern Competitive Trail Riding Association Limited Distance Championship in 1991 and never was without a year-end award until he completed 5,000 miles. Beau was AMHA Open Competition Competitive Trail Horse Champion from 1992 to 1995 and was the first Morgan to earn a gold medallion in the AMHA Competitive Trail Division in 1999. Perhaps his greatest win was the New York 100-Mile ride with 60 entries. He did that twice which earned him the cover of The Morgan Horse in August of 1993. At age 24, Beau won the Championship at the New Jersey Trail Riders 30 Mile ride at which point he finally retired.

Still, that was not enough. Endurance riding, the ultimate test of a horse, was added to Beau's accomplishments. He was the only Morgan who qualified for the Race of Champions 100 Mile Ride in 1997. He was a consistent Top Ten winner and was AMHA Open Competition Champion Endurance Horse in 1994.

A look at Beau's breeding reveals the great mare Lippitt Miss Nekomia who won the GMHA 100-Mile ride in 1942. His sire crosses twice to Waseeka's Nocturne who owned the show ring as a park horse. Add Upwey Benn Don and UVM Flash and there was no doubt this horse knew how to show.

Perhaps more amazing was that Beau did all of this simultaneously. One weekend he would drive as a tandem leader, the next compete over 50 miles of trail. John drove him over 1,000 miles of Competitive Trail drives earning ECTRA Champion Driving Horse in 1997 and 2001. And we both fox hunted him as he proved a wonderful horse to whip from.

Beau was “the man” on our farm. With many other horses in the barn over the years, he never faded, he made it clear that he was a big horse in a little body. He was pressed into service at times to teach younger horses the ropes which he did with reserved interest. He was quicker than either of us to put them in their place should they step out of line.

There were times when we simply took Beau out for a pleasure ride. He never tired of the trails, always eager to eat up the miles with a trot that knew no end. He always offered us a fun time no matter what we asked of him. What a horse!

While it is sad that Beau is no longer in our pasture, we would like to celebrate his life with memories of his incredible accomplishments. He is buried on the finish line trail of the Vermont 100 Mile Endurance Ride and perhaps his spirit will join those that ride by.