

Hello, my name is Tess Smith. My husband and I have a farm in Xenia Ohio. I am the current president of the Tri-State Rocky Mountain Club and currently on the Trail Committee. I was first introduced to the breed back in the Spring of 1998 by Charlie Kilburn (who also introduced me to my husband later that same summer). It didn't take long hanging out at Shiloh Farm to get hooked on the breed. I was privileged to have gotten to know and work with Kilburn's Chocolate Sundown and many of Charlies mares and foals.

My other half, has been breeding these wonderful horses since 1990 and so has a few years on me in the breed. To say our relationship is based on horses is a laugh. It is more like we were founded in this breed ourselves. We just can't imagine ourselves with any other breed of horses. Over the years, we have had a few stallions and several great mares. Currently we are standing one stallion to the public and will most likely stand our young colt next year and are very excited to see what his future holds.

We spent many early years in the breed showing and mostly trail riding with our kids when they were young in the 1990's & early 2000's. However, as the kids were in sports, our showing & trail riding days were on hold. Now that our kids have grown, and we are empty-nesters, we have found a deep love of traveling around trail riding and camping with our horses. So far, we have traveled to several places in KY, TN & OH along with a few others in IN & IL. Perhaps, some day we will show again, but for now, we are truly having fun out camping with these great horses.

As for my breeding philosophy, I believe in breeding according to the Breed By Laws, set forth by our breed founders. I think that the temperament of the Rockies is what sets us apart from other gaited breeds.