

# Springwater Farm: A Top Notch Horse Operation for All Reasons

by Kay Yandell

When Mark Stevens and Tony Mocny combined their talents to initiate a horse business, they wanted to present a total, quality package to the public; and with their talent and insight they have accomplished just that. Springwater Farm, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is one of the most complete horse operations you will find anywhere in the country today. From every aspect of training and showing to a quality breeding program, Springwater Farm does, in fact, offer it all.

When the partnership was formed ten years ago, Mark, with his considerable experience, assumed the training and showing chores while Tony turned his talents toward breeding and management. And, over the years, they have each excelled in their chosen direction. They have since hired two other professionals, Susan Steele and Michael Colvin, to help; and now, between the four of them, they can quite literally provide just about any area of expertise that a customer might require.

Tony's capabilities in breeding and management are indisputable. From the beginning, both men wanted to concentrate on producing performance prospects when it came to the breeding end of the business, and in 1987 they initiated the farm's breeding program. From the first foal crop came the PHBA Reserve World Champion, Lil Danny Wagner. Mostly they bred some of their own mares, but they still continued to ship quite a few others to stallions in other locations as well.

By 1989, Tony felt it was time to acquire a top quality stallion of their own to consolidate their own breedings and to stand to the public. It was Mark who "dragged his feet." Past experience with a number of stallions had made him somewhat reticent about committing to this type of undertaking. When he did finally agree, he gave Tony a long list of criteria for a suitable horse; and undaunted, Tony began his search. The horse he found was one even Mark couldn't fault. It was the 1980 stallion, Skipadator, whose long list of credits included two Superiors (Hunter Under Saddle and Western Pleasure) and the 1984 AQHA High Point Hunter Under Saddle Horse title.

Tony became Skipadator's new owner, and with his consider-



**Im Certifiable - 16.1 hand black stallion**

able pedigree and attributes, the breeding program Tony hoped to build got off to a terrific start in 1991 and 1992. Then, in 1993, tragedy struck. With his first colt crop still a year away from the performance ring, Skipadator died; and Tony was devastated. In 1994 from that foal crop there were two Reserve National Champion Appaloosas, and a Quarter Horse colt that showed he carries Skipadator's versatility by winning two year old English and Western futurities. Thanks to Susan Steele, another stallion of equal attributes, Im Certifiable, was almost immediately offered as a replacement.

Susan had purchased Im Certifiable as a 2-year-old and had exclusively shown him during his quite notable career. Because she had become so attached to him, she couldn't bring herself to sell the horse. So, she generously offered to make Tony the new owner, and well aware of Im Certifiable's attributes, not to mention his potential as a sire, he literally jumped at the chance.

Im Certifiable is an elegant 1988 black stallion who is 16.1 hands tall. He is by Certifiable and out of a double-bred Three Bars mare. Certifiable is by the World Champion Halter Horse, AQHA Champion, Superior Western Pleasure Horse, Mr Impressive. Im Certifiable's dam is a granddaughter of the AAA Leading Sire of AQHA Champions, Sugar Bars, on the top side and a granddaughter of AAA Supreme Champion, Fair Bars on the bottom.

During his show career, Im Certifiable recorded numerous futurity wins including a first under all four judges at the Tom Powers Futurity. He was a top contender in AQHA open and amateur hunter under saddle events and earned his Superior in Hunter Under Saddle. He finished his Superior at the Gold Coast by winning the 1993 Hunter Under Saddle Stakes.

Tony stood Im Certifiable to his first book of mares in 1993, and

## **Im A Lil Certifiable**

*Dam: Lil Honey Waggoner,  
181 AQHA pleasure points,  
two-time PHBA World Champion*



## **Certifiable Tax (left)**

*Dam: Sonny Acres, full  
sister to TNT Fluid Fred  
and Docs Bo Doll, both  
AQHA Champions*



## **Certifiably GQ**

*Dam: Mac Muffin,  
131 Hunt Seat points*



his first foal crop is on the ground this year. Both Tony and Mark are extremely pleased with what they're seeing. The foals have their sire's good looks and have obviously inherited his incredible slow, sweeping lope.

Im Certifiable has tested Double Negative for HYPP and will stand the 1995 breeding season at Springwater Farm for a fee of \$500. The attending vet is Dr. Michael Kronk, D.V.M.

If Springwater Farm has developed an enviable breeding program under Tony's management, it can boast of an even more extensive training/show operation, thanks to Mark and the professional team he's put together. Mark's experience goes all the way back to his youth days when he trained and showed for other people to have enough money to show his own horses, and he's long been recognized as a top competitor ever since.

The first Quarter Horse Mark ever purchased was a \$300 weanling, Doc's Dee Lite. That was in 1970. After limited showing by Mark, the filly was sold and went on to earn four Superiors and 278 points. In 1976, Mark purchased another unknown yearling prospect for a customer, and this horse turned out to be none other than Reynolds Wrap! After he left Mark's care and supervision, he went on to finish his AQHA Championship and to sire get which have earned 5,167 1/2 points. Mark bred and raised one of the better point-earners, Handee Rap, that went on to earn 715 1/2 points in open, youth and amateur competition for his future owners. "I still have to say my biggest contribution to Reynolds Wrap's eventual success," laughs Mark, "Is that I saved him from being gelded!"

In addition to his accomplishments with a host of Quarter Horses, Mark has also shown Palominos, Paints and Appaloosas to world and national titles. In 1985, he purchased Lil Honey Wagoner for long-time customer, Maria Lloyd, and between them they showed the mare to her PHBA World Championships in Amateur Western Pleasure and Senior Pleasure, placed her third at the Congress in amateur western pleasure, and netted over 180 western pleasure points on her. Mark trained and showed the three-time PHBA World Champion, Peachy Pie, who earned approximately 200 AQHA western pleasure points.

Because of the many demands on his time, Mark spends most of his days in the saddle; he and Susan do all the riding. Mark handles the western duties, while Susan rides the English mounts. At present, three top performance horses, Majestic Stardom, Shesa Hot Cookie and Betcha I Can Do, along with several other outstanding amateur and youth horses, are being campaigned by Springwater Farm. Both Majestic Stardom (who is qualified for the World in junior and amateur hunter saddle) and Shesa Hot Cookie (who's qualified in junior and amateur western pleasure) are owned by Maria Lloyd. Betcha I Can Do, a qualifier in senior western pleasure, senior hunter under saddle and open and amateur pleasure driving, is owned by A. George and De De Shaw.



**Im Certifiable - 1988 Stallion**

Mark feels fortunate to have Susan at Springwater Farm. Considered by many to be one of the top English riders in the country, she has shown numerous horses including Im Certifiable to multiple wins and championships. However, although her specialty is English, she is also a competent western rider. In addition, she enjoys futurity competition and particularly likes to work with Springwater's amateur customers. "Susan has been with us for the last eight years and full-time for the past three," says Mark. "She does everything and does it so well, I don't know what we'd do without her."

When Michael Colvin joined the Springwater staff this year, still another dimension was added to the program. A veteran of World Show and Congress competition, Michael brings with him a wealth of expertise and experience for such classes as trail, western riding, horsemanship and reining. He rode the 1993 World Champion Senior Trail horse last year and has successfully shown numerous other horses at both the World and the Congress. Michael has taken over all the ground work and lessons at Springwater Farm and will also be available for seminars and the judging of area shows. He is currently campaigning the former NRHA Champion, Dangerous Liaisons, for George and De De Shaw. "We had expanded to a point where we needed the extra help," says Mark, "And having Michael here has certainly rounded out our capabilities. Tony and I both feel he's going to be a definite asset."

"The last ten years has been very rewarding for both of us," Mark concludes. "Our goal was a well-rounded operation, and I think we've done it. We're both very excited about the future, especially considering the quality of Im Certifiable's first colt crop. We can hardly wait to get them in the ring!"

Springwater Farm is located at 5353 Hancock Rd., Fort Lauderdale, FL. The phone number is 305-434-4937.<sup>sh</sup>



**Springwater Farm of Fort Lauderdale, Florida**