

For Immediate Release:

January 23, 2007

The Museum of Florida Art Presents: Equifest

The Equifest family festival will be held at the Lake Helen Equestrian Center on April 14th from 10:00AM to 5:00 PM This year's schedule of events will include the youthful Poulin Sisters, accomplished champion dressage riders who will perform a pas de deux and Ivory Pal, a champion Palomino Tennessee Walking Horse who will demonstrate his champion's style with his talented owner, trainer and rider, Rafael Valle.

Returning performances include the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Team, The Arabian Fantasy Riders, The Southern Pride Mounted Drill Team, The Paso Fino Drill Team and many other breeds and riding exhibitions. The Jack Russell Terrier races will be back again along a new dog agility event, equine art exhibits, food vendors, Civil War re-enactors, children's art activities, music, food and retail vendors.

Admission: Adults \$10, Youth and Seniors \$5, Children under 6 – Free.

Dressage Champion Ivory Pal to Appear at Equifest

In his last show before retirement, **Ivory Pal**, the Florida bred Palomino Tennessee Walking Horse Stallion showed the heart and determination of a true Champion by successfully defending his FOSH* (See glossary below) Southeastern U.S. Grand Champion title. At the Dixie Plantation All Breed Horse Show and 2005 FOSH* Southeastern U.S. Championship held in Jacksonville, Florida - **Ivory Pal** became the two-time FOSH* Southeastern U.S. Grand Champion by sweeping all but two of the gaited classes with blue ribbons.

Rafael Valle, **Ivory Pal's** owner, rider, and trainer said, "The Southeastern U.S. Championship in Jacksonville was the hardest **Ivory Pal** has ever worked to win blue ribbons," he said, and "I am thrilled that Ivory Pal is retiring as a champion."

A few days after his last show, **Ivory Pal** received the 2005 FOSH* Horse of the Year Award. **Ivory Pal** captured this prestigious award in 2004 also! Valle said, "Winning the FOSH* Horse of the Year the second time was as flattering and humbling as the first time. There are so many first class horses and owners in the naturally gaited world that having **Ivory Pal** win this award is an incredible honor."

Ivory Pal is looking forward to his well-earned retirement from the show ring and will spend his time trail riding, entertaining at exhibitions, expos and special events, working with therapeutic riding associations, and breeding. In his short but illustrious two-year

show career, **Ivory Pal** has accumulated these titles and awards:

2005 and 2004 FOSH* Horse of the Year

2005 North American Pleasure Walking Horse Championships High Point Grand Champion

2005 North American Pleasure Walking Horse Championships English Working Trail Pleasure Champion

2005 North American Pleasure Walking Horse Championships Western Working Trail Pleasure Reserve Champion

2005 and 2004 FOSH* Southeastern U. S. Grand Champion

Valle admitted that having **Ivory Pal** win all these titles and awards has been rewarding and is a testament to **Ivory Pal's** versatility, talent, heart, and cooperative nature. In Valle's mind “anyone that treats their horse with the respect and dignity that they deserve, whether they are into showing or just trail riding, is a winner and will attain the greatest blue ribbon of all; the respect, heart, and trust of their horse.”

Today's Glossary Words

FOSH

acronym - *Friend Of Sound Horses*. Organization advocating humane treatment of horses, particularly the Tennessee Walking Horse and opposes soring; the mutilation of the hoof to influence a horse's gait.

Coldblood:

The name used to describe the heavy European breeds of horse descended from the prehistoric Forest Horse.

Warmblood: In general terms, a half-bred, or part-bred horse, the result of an Arabian or Thoroughbred cross with other breeds. Also one of a number of specific breeds of horse which were developed by crossing Hotblood and Coldblood horses to produce a more refined, but athletically strong and capable horse, such as the Swedish Warmblood, the Dutch Warmblood etc.

The Tennessee Walking Horse Breed

A light horse breed founded in middle Tennessee, the Tennessee Walking Horse is a composition of Narragansett and Canadian Pacer, Standardbred, Thoroughbred, Morgan, and American Saddlebred stock. Originally bred as a utility horse, this breed is an ideal mount for riders of all ages and levels of experience. The breed easily adapts to English or Western gear, and its calm, docile temperament combined with naturally smooth and easy gaits insure the popularity of the Tennessee Walking Horse as the “world's greatest show, trail, and pleasure horse”.

William C. Hall
Marketing Director

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Museum Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday 10-4

Sunday 1-4

Closed Monday

Non-Member Admission \$3.00 Children under 12 Free

Sundays Free

Tours can be scheduled for groups of 10 or more. Youth tours are free.

Call the museum at 386-734-4371

The Museum of Florida Art offers a venue where:

- *creativity is fostered.*
- *appreciation of art is nurtured.*
- *all people are welcomed.*

The mission of The Museum of Florida Art is to integrate exhibitions and education to create an enriching and stimulating experience for a diverse audience. The Museum of Florida Art offers a venue for emerging and established Florida artists to support the cultural legacy of our state.