



# Country Life Press October 2019 Newsletter

*From Maryland's Oldest Thoroughbred Farm*

Established 1933



## New Partnerships Forming for Mosler Yearlings

*by Josh Pons*

At the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Yearling Sale in Timonium last week, Country Life purchased four Maryland-bred yearlings to place into racing partnerships. With the announcement this week of plans to rebuild both Pimlico and Laurel into world-class facilities, the future of Maryland racing is full of promise. (We include architect's plans below).

Two of the four Yearling Purchases are SOLD OUT as of this writing; the other two have a handful of shares "open" as we enter Maryland Million weekend. If you are interested in racing partnerships, speak up promptly.

Here are the horses and share costs (click on their name to link for catalog pedigree page):

1. **Mose Definitely, (SOLD OUT)**: Bay filly by Mosler out of As Long As Ittakes. Half-sister to stakes winners Moonlit Malibu and Wait it Out. Her dam has produced 10 winners from 11 starters. Shares were \$2,900 for a 10% interest. **Partners: Country Life (MD), Patrick Thompson (MD), Jim Kuhlman (VA), Colleen Akehurst (MA), Mark Ronsini (NC), Matt Brunner (MD), Vickie Ferguson (OK); Lisa Padian (MD); and John and Marcia Courson (AZ); Davis/Shelton (TN).**

2. **Mr. Mosley, (4 Shares Open)**. Bay colt by Mosler out of Helen Louise. Handsome, powerful colt who looks quick. His dam is by Preakness winner

Louis Quartorze. Helen Louise is the dam of \$222,000-earner Hell of Afire, still racing and winning at age 6. Shares are \$2,000 for a 10% interest. .

3. **Mosler's Turn, (4 Shares Open)**. Bay filly by Mosler out of R Turn Now, by Tiznow. Big, leggy filly with a great walk. Her dam is by two-time Breeders' Cup classic winner Tiznow; 2nd dam by Breeders' Cup Classic winner Wild Again. Family of Wild Escapade, winner of Saratoga's signature 2-Year-Old race, the Grade 1 Hopeful Stakes. This filly is correct and strong and should be early to the races. MD-Million eligible. Shares are \$2,500 for a 10% interest.

4. **Why Not Tonight, (SOLD OUT)** Bay filly by Tapiture out of Pay the Lady, by Not for Love. Her dam is a young, winning mare whose 3rd dam is the multiple graded stakes-placed Carson City mare Bent Creek City. Shares were \$5,700 for a 10% interest. **Partners: Country Life (MD); Harold Rottman (MD); John and Marcia Courson (AZ); Bob Kern (DE); Dave Johnson (TX); Colleen Akehurst (MA); Steve Bertrando (PA); John D'Amico (PA); Dennis Myers (PA); and Cape Fear Thoroughbreds (NC).**



**Mosler Yearling Tops OBS Open Sale**

A yearling filly from the first crop of our War Front son Mosler topped the OBS October Open Yearling Sale on Wednesday, Oct. 9, selling to Patrice Miller EQB, Inc., agent, for \$75,000. Bred by Country Life Farm, the filly is the first foal out of the winning Dominus mare Dominus Effect. Sandi Dorr purchased the filly at the Keeneland November Sale last year as a pinhooking prospect after she fell in love with the filly's big walk and attitude.

"When they pulled her out of the barn, she just strutted," Dorr told TDN's Christie DeBernardis. "She had a huge walk on her. She was not very big because she was a late foal...she just had an attitude about her like she was something special. Like I said, she just walked awesome and had a really strong forearm, hip and hind leg. I vetted her and everything was good there. When she went through the ring up at Keeneland, she just walked through the ring like she owned it. I love that kind of attitude, especially from a filly. I think she is going to be a racehorse. She showed beautifully and caught everyone's eye."

Mosler also had a yearling bring \$90,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Sale at Timonium on October 1st. The lovely bay colt out of the 100% winner producer Smash Review, also bred by Country Life Farm, is a half-brother to G3-placed, multiple stakes winner American Dubai (an earner of over \$485,000)

We have a half dozen first crop Mosler yearlings in training at Merryland, as we hope to make him Maryland's Leading Freshman Sire next year.

[Bloodhorse article](#)



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## New Broodmare Partnership: Watrugonnadorosie, by Curlin

Country Life made a quick trip to Saratoga on Tuesday, October 15, for the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Fall Sale. Josh Pons purchased the broodmare Watrugonnadorosie, who herself was a \$700,000 Keeneland yearling for Army Mule's owner Vinnie Viola.

"Rosie" broke her maiden at Belmont Park, ran in the Gr. II Gazelle Handicap, and her sire is Horse-of-the-Year Curlin. She is in foal to undefeated Grade 1 winner Army Mule (by Country Life's Friesan Fire). Her two foals to race are both winners; her Honor Code yearling filly sold for \$50,000 a month ago at Keeneland September. "Rosie" cost \$18,000; she'll be placed into a 4-share partnership at \$4,500/share. There are **2 shares open**. Click here for her pedigree: [Hip 72](#)

Army Mule was a popular first year stallion in Kentucky this year, covering 142 mares at Hill 'n Dale Farm at a fee of \$10,000. Purchased for \$825,000 by Vinnie Viola's St. Elias Stable at the 2016 Midlantic 2-year-olds in Training Sale, he was tabbed a TDN "Rising Star" after an eye-opening 8-1/2 length debut win at Belmont. He won a Gulfstream allowance by 7 lengths, then won the \$400,000 Grade 1 Carter Handicap by 6-1/4 lengths. A brilliantly fast sprinter, he earned the fastest speed figure up to a mile of any horse in 2018.

We're excited to have a mare in foal to Army Mule, who John Sikura raved about when Hill 'n Dale announced his retirement to stud.

"Army Mule won his first three starts by more than 22 lengths. His facile win in the Carter in near-track-record time left no doubt he was a generational talent," Sikura said. "When breeders see the horse in person, they will be overwhelmed by his presence and understand why he was the talk of the Maryland 2-year-old sale. Undefeated, brilliant and beautiful, the same qualities we saw in Candy Ride and Maclean's Music, breeders will love him."

This big, beautiful mare throws the kind of foals that sell well, and she's a 100% winner producer - what's not to like? Call us today before the last 2 shares are gone.



Watrugonnadorosie, in foal to Army Mule

## Future of the Preakness at Pimlico

The future of horse racing in Maryland looks bright after the announcement on Oct. 5 that an agreement had been reached between The Stronach Group and the City of Baltimore to keep the Preakness at Pimlico. The deal still requires State legislative approval in January, but lawmakers in support of the proposal along with Belinda Stronach, Mayor Jack Young and representatives from the Maryland Jockey Club, Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and the City of Baltimore wrote a joint letter to Governor Larry Hogan asking for the State's support to get the plan approved.

In addition to a renovated Pimlico, with the track rotated 30 degrees and new multi-purpose grandstand and temporary barns, there are plans for a new Laurel Park as well. Laurel would get a new grandstand and paddock, a Tapeta track in place of one of the turf courses, all new barns with a capacity of at least 1,500 stalls, and new backstretch employee housing.

Both tracks would become state-of-the-art, world-class facilities capable of hosting a Breeders Cup at either location in the near future. Read more about the announcement here: [Deal to Keep Preakness at Pimlico](#). View the plans for each track here: [Pimlico Proposal](#) and [Laurel Proposal](#)



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## Maryland Million Weekend Oct. 19-20th

The best weekend celebrating Maryland-sired horses is here. Maryland Million Day is tomorrow, Saturday, Oct. 19, followed the next day by our annual Autumn Day in the Country (Sunday, Oct. 20).

Saturday at Laurel will be a great day of racing, featuring a full card for MD-sired horses including 7 stakes races. The highlight of the day will be the \$150,000 Maryland Million Classic, which was won last year by Friesan Fire's son Saratoga Bob. There are 16 entries by Country Life stallions, including two in the Classic.

On Sunday at Merryland Farm, we'll host Autumn Day from 11-2. The new yearlings we purchased at the Fasig-Tipton sale as well as the new broodmare we purchased this week will be available to inspect for anyone interested in a share. We'll also have newly broken yearlings and other horses training on the track.

It will be a great weekend and we hope to see you at both events. **RSVP to the farm office (410-879-1952 or e-mail [christy@countrylifefarm.com](mailto:christy@countrylifefarm.com))** if you'd like to attend Autumn Day on Sunday at Merryland.

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## Fair Hill Fun

A fine group of partners and fans joined us on the morning of Saturday, Sept. 28, at the Fair Hill Training Center. We met at Mike Trombetta's barn and got to see the morning routine of horses getting tacked, trained and cooled out. Two of Country Life's partnership 2-Year-Olds---Combat Queen and

Savedbythebelle---breezed for us.

Mike talked about the challenges of finding races for all the horses in his stable, showed us his training charts and explained how he pairs young horses for their workouts. Jockey Julian Pimentel was there to work several of Mike's horses, including Savedbythebelle, and he answered questions from the group and posed for a picture.

After we returned from watching the workouts we were treated to a tour of Bruce Jackson's therapy center by barn manager Michelle Hurley. We watched a horse exercise in the Aquapacer and Michelle explained the benefits of the various therapy equipment and treated us to a few minutes on the vibrating floor therapy stall! Fair Hill veterinarian Dr. Kathy Anderson also stopped by to talk with the group and show us some of the new, high tech equipment veterinarians are using these days.

It was a great morning at a beautiful facility. Everyone enjoyed the experience and learned a lot about how much care and preparation goes into these marvelous athletes that we love.





Dr. Kathy Anderson (red shirt) with the group at Fair Hill Training Center. (L to R): Josh Pons, Peter Bloom, Paul Berube, William Riches, Melvin St. Clair, Dr. Anderson, Scott Little, Paul Biery, Angela Wims and Koren St. Clair. In attendance but not pictured: Susan Whitenack, Dave and Sam Martone, and Larry Davis.

## Breeder Bonuses - Cha Ching!

Country Life's breeding partnerships are in full swing with runners finishing 1/2/3 at Laurel and earning 30% breeders awards.

We earned both the "Owner" and "Breeder" bonus with Fifteen Royals, who won

at first asking with an impressive romp at Laurel on Sept. 28. Trained by Mike Trombetta and ridden by Julian Pimentel, the filly pulled her way up to the lead on the backstretch with her ears pricked. She led the whole way to win by 4 lengths.

The Palace Malice filly was bred by Country Life and the Fifteen Moons LLC and was sold as a yearling at Saratoga. Country Life purchased her for \$50,000 and put her into a racing partnership. Fifteen Royals earned \$24,453 for the win (which included the owner's bonus) and picked up a \$5,643 breeder bonus for her Broodmare Partnership.

Partners in the Miss Moonshine LLC celebrated a maiden win from the mare's first foal to race, the Twirling Candy filly Twirling Wind. Foaled at Country Life in 2017, the filly was sold at last year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Yearling Sale for \$55,000. She came back through the May 2-year-old-in-Training Sale, where she fetched \$90,000 from Donato Lanni, agent for Hidden Creek Farm and John Youngblood. She was 3rd in her debut in September and went wire-to-wire on Oct. 5 to get her maiden victory. The win and previous 3rd-place finish earned partners in the mare \$6,732 in breeder bonuses from two starts. A bright future in store for Twirling Wind's breeders, with residual income from the Maryland-Bred program.



Country Life and the Fifteen Moons Broodmare LLC are the breeders of Fifteen Royals, by Palace Malice, [pictured winning at first asking on Sept. 28 at Laurel.

*Jim McCue photo*

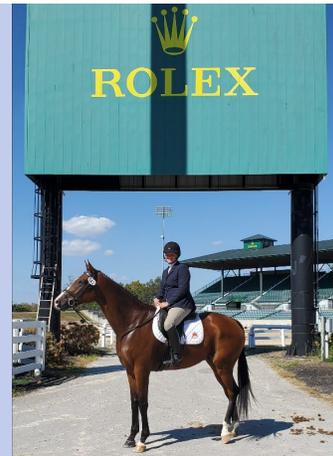


Twirling Wind (inside), the first foal out of Miss Moonshine (by Malibu Moon), broke her maiden at Laurel on Oct. 5 to earn her breeding partnership a nice Maryland-Bred bonus.

*Jim McCue photo*

## From Racehorse to Show Horse: Flash McCaul at RRP Makeover





Merryland Manager Kim Crowell and former Country Life partnership runner Flash McCaul made us proud at the Retired Racehorse Project Makeover Competition in Lexington, Ky. Held from Oct. 2-5 at the Kentucky Horse Park, the event showcased retired Thoroughbreds who have been re-trained in the past 10 months for various disciplines such as show hunters, field hunters, show jumpers, dressage, eventing, barrel racing, ranch work, competitive trail, polo and freestyle competition. Over 400 horses competed in the various disciplines.

Flash McCaul, who raced 26 times and earned \$214,821 for his Country Life racing partnership before being retired in October of last year, was a perfect candidate for this competition. Kim competed in the event last year with a mare she got off the track from a friend, and she knew she wanted to go back this year with Flash. A laid back, do-anything-you-want type of gelding, Flash's personality and athleticism made him an ideal horse to retrain for the show ring. Kim and Flash only competed in a few local shows before traveling to KY for the RRP Makeover, but you'd never know it from watching them in the ring. They competed in show hunters and dressage. Flash jumped everything with ease and looked the part in the dressage ring as well.

Flash's sire Friesan Fire was represented by 4 entries at the Makeover, which tied him with Oxbow, Bernardini, Trappe Shot and Congrats for the second most entries by a sire. His other progeny were Blazin Luck (Show Hunters), Fiery Challenge (who finished in the top 10 in Eventing) and Fireheart (Polo). Fireheart visited Flash at the barns to pose for a picture with her owner Neil Agate. Friesan Fire was the only Mid-Atlantic sire represented by 3 or more entries, which is a testament to the soundness and good minds that his offspring have.

## Country Life Apparel

Ellen Pons has been working on her Zazzle store site at [www.zazzle.com/store/ellen107](http://www.zazzle.com/store/ellen107). Here you can find hats and tops with your Country Life horse's name embroidered on them. Click on [Partnership Hats Collection](#) or [Partnership tops](#) to find collections of these items for all of our current horses in

training. To quickly find a specific horse, type in your horse's name in the search bar and it will display all the items relating to that horse. Or type "Countrylife" to find items with general farm tags. You can also create your own items.

We also have apparel available at Land's End - shop that site here: [www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com). If you need help figuring it out email Ellen at [ellen@ellenpons.com](mailto:ellen@ellenpons.com) or text her at 443-807-6402. Happy browsing!



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