



COUNTRY LIFE PRESS

From Beginning To Winning



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FRIESAN FIRE'S 2-TIME SARATOGA WINNER!

Friesan Fire's 4-year-old daughter Fire Key won not one, but *two* allowance races in August at Saratoga. Fire Key won an open \$85,000 allowance on August 28 after a win on August 6th. Her earnings stand at \$235,385, and trainer Pat Kelly is looking at Laurel's condition book for a mare sprint on Sept. 16, Laurel Dash Day.

Precedent was set for a Saratoga-to-Laurel turf combo this time last year, when Country Life's 2017 Freshman sire Mosler came to town after "The Spa Treatment" to win the \$100,000 Laurel Dash.

Read more about Fire Key in this link to a [Saratoga Special](#) article (p. 36).



Saratoga, New York
Backwards Stable owner
Patrick J. Kelly trainer
Vigor 2nd

Purse \$85,000
FIRE KEY

August 28, 2017
Rajiv Maragh up
5 1/2 furlongs (time 1:01)
First Charmer 3rd

Photo: Adam Coglianese/NYRA

ELKRIDGE CLUB'S "RACING-TO-BROODMARE" CONCEPT HITS PAYDIRT ON FIRST TRY



By Josh Pons

No other segment of the horse industry is as solid as investing in well-bred fillies and mares. And no other niche seems as suited for partnerships as broodmare ownership.

So in July, Country Life announced a new type of LLC, in which well-bred race-mares would be bought (or claimed) while "in training", raced again to earn back their purchase price, then be retired to the Country Life Broodmare Band. (Named the "Elkridge" Club, for the Hall-of-Famer foaled at Country Life in 1938; Elkridge was bought at a Horses-of-Racing-Age Sale at Pimlico and raced into the Hall-of-Fame.)

The "Elkridge" branding keeps alive Country Life's history. Our "Raise You" broodmare LLC's are named for Country Life-bred Raise You (1946), dam of

champion Raise a Native; Our "Carry Back" racing LLC's are named for the Country Life-sired Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner of 1961.

We described a plan to breed the acquired filly after her racing career to our War Front son Mosler (coming off a 2017 Freshman Season of 102 Mares Bred). Prospective partners quickly lined up. Mike and I looked at every filly in the July 10 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Horses-of-Racing-Age sale. Fasig President Boyd Browning emphasized the strong pedigree of a Claiborne-family filly named Rock Sapphire, a 1/2-sister to a \$1-million War Front yearling named The Great War. Rock Sapphire had raced only once, in \$50,000 Churchill Downs maiden claiming company. We bought her for \$43,000.

On Sunday evening, Sept. 3, at Presque Isle Downs, Rock Sapphire earned back \$16,200 of her purchase price when she won a \$27,000 Maiden Special racing for the Elkridge Club, comprised of Paul Barker (10%), Country Life (10%), Jon Davis (10%), Randy & Pat Doerter (10%), Bob Goldman (10%), Faith & Bob Hahn (20%), Robert Kern (10%) and Mike Stone (10%).

Meanwhile, we are scouting for a well-bred mare to claim, to be our next Elkridge Club offering.

MARYLAND BREEDERS TO RECEIVE "50%" MAIDEN BONUS



In this modern marketplace, when 175-200 mare-books have become routine for flashy Kentucky stallions, the "Forgotten Breeder" is the one who keeps his/her mares at home and supports regional sires. Recognizing the importance of circulating slots-machine-fueled Maryland purses in-state, through increasing the appeal of foaling and breeding back to local stallions, the Maryland Racing Commission approved a 20% increase to the existing 30% Breeders' Award, for a 50% total bonus to the winners of *any Maiden level race for a Maryland-Sired, Maryland-Bred runner*. Click [here](#) to read the announcement. Effective with the beginning of the Laurel Fall Meet, Friday, Sept. 8.



Friesing Waters will be eligible for the new 50% bonus for our Atlantic Tide breeding LLC!

MARYLAND RACING'S REALITY SHOW



When Maryland Jockey Club President Sal Sinatra suggested filming the life of a Maryland-Bred, Maryland-Sired foal, from birth to the Starting Gate, we reminded him that *Sports Illustrated* had the same thought way back in 1954. Over three years, the famous magazine followed a Calumet Farm homebred named Iron Liege from the Foaling Stall to the Winner's Circle of the 1957 Kentucky Derby. Link here: <http://www.drf.com/news/history-challenge-foal-crop-1954-had-talent-spare>.

If filming a Freisan Fire foal rewards Friesian Fire as sire of a Kentucky Derby winner (a race he was favored for in 2009), we're all in. Maryland breeder and trainer Sharon Banford owns the mare Rockhard N Noble, who delivered a Friesian Fire colt this spring at Country Life. The colt is now the young star of "Making a Maryland-Bred", a documentary of his life. Watch the

first episode on [Laurel Park Weekly](#) (starting at the 8-minute mark) and stay tuned for Part 2 later this fall. The narrator is Maryland Horse Radio host Stan Salter.

THREE "COUNTRY LIFE BREEDING PARTNERSHIP" WEANLINGS AT FASIG KENTUCKY'S NOVEMBER SALE

Fasig-Tipton official Dennis Lynch selected three Country Life-foaled, LLC-bred Weanlings of 2017 for Fasig Kentucky's boutique "Night of the Stars" Sale on Monday evening, November 6th. (Headlining the sale will be champion racemare Songbird.)

Two weanlings are from our Raise You LLC program:

1. The Tonalist colt out of the Cat Thief mare Miss Pauline, a 1/2-sister to Belmont Stakes winner and leading sire Union Rags. Miss Pauline was purchased in foal to Tonalist by Country Life for \$40,000 at Keeneland in 2016. (Miss Pauline is presently in foal to War Front's son Declaration of War).
2. The Kitten's Joy filly out of the Broken Vow mare Broken Trust Fund, purchased by Country Life for \$31,000 at the 2017 Fasig Kentucky winter sale. (Broken Trust Fund is in foal to Mosler for 2018).

The third filly is from the Fifteen Moons Broodmare LLC:

3. The Palace Malice filly out of Fifteen Moons, by Malibu Moon. This filly is by Belmont Stakes winner Palace Malice. Her dam, Fifteen Moons, is already the dam of graded stakes-placed Mayla (earner of \$299,604) and of Moon Vision (\$237,545). Fifteen Moons is a 1/2-sister to G1 winner and producer HookedontheFeelin', dam of current Freshman sire phenom Jimmy Creed. (Fifteen Moons is in foal to Mosler for 2018).

Two Country Life "Raise You" Maryland-Bred weanlings also will be offered at Keeneland November:

4. The Orb colt out of Captive Melody, by Unbridled's Song; and
5. The Tapizar filly out of Serena's Joy, by Forestry.



MALIBU MOON SIRES 12TH GRADE 1 WINNER!

Within two hours on Saturday, Sept. 2, Malibu Moon sired two Grade One Performers. The first, Maya Malibu, got left at the gate in Saratoga's Grade One Spinaway Stakes (\$350,000), fought gamely to grab the lead at the 16th pole, but just couldn't hold off the winner. The other Malibu Moon filly, Moonlight Memories, a \$650,000 Keeneland yearling of 2016, easily captured the Grade One Del Mar Debutante Stakes (\$300,000), stamping herself as the favorite for the Nov. 3 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Filly race, conducted right at home for her at Del Mar. Race replay and story at Spendthriftfarm.com. Malibu Moon began his stallion career at Country Life, before moving to Kentucky. He stands at Spendthrift Farm as property of B. Wayne Hughes, Castleton Lyons, and Country Life.



TWO-YEAR-OLDS ON THE MOVE TO TROMBETTA



We are excited about this year's 2-Year-Old crop of partnership fillies, both the homebreds and the new Carry Back LLC acquisitions. The cleverly-named group - Monte Crista (out of Aruban Sandwich), Friesing Waters (by Friesian Fire), Street Appeal (by Street Sense) and Lunar Rille (by English Channel out of Fifteen Moons) are progressing towards their racing debuts later this fall and will be shipping to trainer Mike Trombetta's barn in the next few days.



Friesing Waters, a robust chestnut by Friesian Fire who cost \$40,000 at the Fasig-Tipton May 2-Year-Old sale, is the most precocious of the group. After freshening briefly at Merryland following the sales, Friesing Waters joined trainer Mike Trombetta's string at Laurel. Her name will be in the entries shortly for Laurel's Fall Meet (where she'll be eligible as a MD-Sired/MD-Bred for the new 50% maiden win breeder bonus).



Long, lanky Monte Crista (top left) appears in the same mold as her half-brother Just Howard, who was still a maiden in May when we bought his half-sister by Cape Blanco for \$30,000. Just Howard got rolling midway in his 3-year-old season, and has won three in a row since we purchased his juvenile sister, including wins in the \$75,000 Find and \$75,000 Caveat Stakes.

Fleet and elegant is Street Appeal (middle), by KY Derby winner Street Sense, the priciest of the three at \$50,000. A KY-bred, she has been galloping over Merryland's training track during the summer and is ready for the finishing touches at the track.

Lunar Rille (bottom) is a big, rangy filly by English Channel out of stakes-producer Fifteen Moons who should love Laurel's sweeping turf course. A MD-bred for our Fifteen Moons LLC, the filly was born and raised at Country Life and has received all her early training at Merryland.

COUNTRY LIFE'S EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

No farm has done more to bring new people into the Thoroughbred sport than Country Life. Our partnerships bring the excitement of racing and breeding to folks at every level. In this fast-paced digital world of social media, we are stepping up our game. Our Facebook page and Live Foaling Barn Webcam touch a wide audience, but we are preparing to do more. People want real-time stories, photos, and live video as things happen. The horse business moves fast. We are moving with it.

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @CountryLifeFarm (we're also on Twitter @MerrylandFarm for training updates) to see what's happening in this wonderful world of horses. We'll have more videos on our YouTube page as well. Click the links below to like, tweet, and follow us as Country Life Farm gallops into this new age.

