

# COUNTRY LIFE PRESS

# From Beginning To Winning



CAPITAL BANK MARYLAND MILLION CLASSIC

BONUS POINTS

Bonus Points, bred by Country Life

Farm and foaled here in 2014, wins

the MD Million Classic! Photo: Jim

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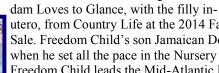




## CLASSIC WIN!

The 32nd Annual Jim McKay Maryland Million Day was one to remember for Country Life Farm on Saturday, Oct. 21st at Laurel Park. In addition to spectacular weather and a large crowd of 22,682 (up 4.4 percent from last year), we had good showings by progeny of our stallions. The best part was when Country Life-bred Bonus Points won the MD Million Classic! The 3-year-old colt, foaled at Country Life, is the second stakes winner from the Not For Love mare Baby Love. Sold as a weanling for our New Day LLC in Bill Reightler's consignment at the Fasig-Tipton December Mixed Sale in 2014, he was purchased by Three Diamonds Stable, whose silks he runs under. Jockey Nik Juarez returned to his native Maryland to ride for trainer Todd Pletcher and picked up his third victory of the

Other highlights included Freedom Child's talented filly Limited View winning the MD Million Lassie, despite a terrible break that left her 12 lengths behind the field. She became the first stakes winner for her Freshman sire. Breeder Barbara Smith bought the



utero, from Country Life at the 2014 Fasig-Tipton December Mixed Sale. Freedom Child's son Jamaican Don also provided some thrills when he set all the pace in the Nursery but got caught late to finish 2nd. Freedom Child leads the Mid-Atlantic Freshman Sire list and has more talented runners in the pipeline (see Breeders' Cup story below).

**M**ore notable mentions on MD Million Day were Friesan Fire's daughter She Rolls, taking third in the Distaff, Malibu Moon's son Blu Moon Ace (a Merryland training graduate) who won the Sprint, and Merryland training graduate Talk Show Man running third in the Turf Stakes.



Limited View, by Freedom Child, takes the Lassie in spectacular fashion! Photo: Jim McCue

#### BREEDERS' CUP PREVIEW

This weekend marks the biggest race day of the year—the Breeders' Cup, and this year Malibu Moon has an unbelievable 7 entries on the card of G1 races! On Friday, his 2-year-old filly Moon Dash runs in the \$1,000,000 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf. Then on Saturday, three of his daughters - Maya Malibu, Moonshine Memories and Heavenly Love, are running in the \$2,000,000 14 Hands Winery Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies, with undefeated Moonshine Memories the likely favorite. Moon also has Carina Mia in the \$1,000,000 Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint, Ransom the Moon in the \$1,500,000 TwinSpires Breeders' Cup Sprint and Hollywood Star in the \$2,000,000 Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Juvenile.

Speaking of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, a son of Malibu Moon is also represented by a runner in that race—our own Freedom Child! His son Bahamian, a Maryland-bred who has shown flashes of talent for trainer Simon Callaghan in California, was second in a maiden race at Del Mar to fellow BC Juvenile entrant Solomini in September (Solomini ran 2nd in the G1 FrontRunner Stakes next time out). Callaghan thought enough of Bahamian after that effort to ship him East for the G1 Champagne Stakes in October, but the colt



Malibu Moon has 7 entries in Breeders' Cup races this weekend! Photo courtesy Spendthrift Farm.

lost all chance when he stumbled badly out of the gate. He's been working very well the past couple of weeks and has gotten mentioned in the talk shows leading up to the race on Saturday, despite being a maiden.

#### YOU JUST NEVER KNOW...



Two years ago on a cold March day a chestnut colt was born at Country Life. Owned and bred by Kentucky bloodstock agent John Stuart, the colt was from the first crop of our stallion Freedom Child. A few days later he became sick, and our attentive staff quickly went into action. Dr. Russ Jacobson was called and he started the foal on IV fluids and antibiotics. Around the clock, every couple of hours, our staff administered bags of fluids and gave him his medicines. After a few days and many hours from our dedicated staff, the foal improved. It was a wonderful sight to see this foal, near death days earlier, become a healthy, energetic colt bouncing around the paddock.

Fast forward two years, and that chestnut colt sold for \$160,000 at the OBS April 2-year-olds in Training Sale to Reddam Racing (owner of KY Derby winners Nyquist and I'll Have Another). His dam, the Distorted Humor mare Final Humor, is now owned by Country Life and is in foal to Mosler.

The best part? On Saturday, he will enter the starting gate in the G1, \$2,000,000 Breeders' Cup Juvenile! Trainer Simon Callaghan is high on the colt, and while being a maiden may make him a long shot (there are 2 other maidens in the race), he has already run against many in the field and has gotten some press the past few weeks with his workouts. Win, lose or draw he's THERE, entered in the race, competing on the biggest day in Thoroughbred racing. **Go BAHAMIAN!** 



Photo credit: Lydia Williams

# SPECTACULAR AUTUMN DAY PARTY!

Our annual Autumn Day in the Country party at Merryland was another smashing success on October 22nd! With over 100 people in attendance on the day after the Maryland Million, the staff had the farm looking picturesque as usual and the weather couldn't have been better.

It was a day to enjoy the beautiful horses and the company of partners and clients on the lawn under the big oak trees. The popular event drew clients from as far away as Colorado, Texas, Illinois and Ohio. The weekend was marvelous, starting with the Maryland Million Gala on Friday night, the races on Saturday, and ending with a relaxing Sunday on the farm with the ever-popular Cream of Crab soup, sandwiches, desserts and drinks.

An annual tradition at the Autumn Day party is to present the "Bill Quinn Sportsman-ship Award" to an unknowing partner who displays the characteristics that the late Bill Quinn was known for. A knowledgable horseman, Bill Quinn was involved in racing for many years before he joined a Country Life racing partnership. He loved racing and especially loved coming out to Merryland to watch the horses train. No matter the highs and lows of the game—bad rides, bad luck, good rides and good luck – he was a true sportsman and took it all in stride. When he died of cancer in 2010 we decided more people needed to be recognized for the qualities he exhibited, so we created the Bill Quinn Sportsmanship Award that fall at our Autumn Day party.

This year we surprised James Hoover with the honor. "Hoover", as he's known to us, first got involved with us in 2009—in a horse named Cotton Moon. Ironically, this was also a horse that Bill Quinn was in. Cotton Moon may have been the slowest Malibu Moon colt ever, having only earned \$600 on the track! But Hoover took the disappointment like a pro and knew that playing the game of racing is like playing Poker. You get dealt bad hands sometimes and you just have to fold and look forward to the next one. He even spent a week at Merryland helping on the farm, mucking stalls and learning how

much effort goes into caring for these wonderful horses. Four partnerships later, he's enjoying the breeding game with one of our Raise You LLC's and is always supportive of the "Home Team" at Country Life.

Congratulations Hoover!

The "Bill Quinn Sportsmanship Award" was given to James Hoover this year (pictured holding the award).



Above: New partnership broodmares Curio, Laura's Moon and Raise Up are shown to the crowd.

Below: Horses trained on the track, including newly broken yearlings in our partnerships and some owned by clients who were on hand to watch.



# MORE FRIESAN FIRE WINNERS!



Redhairdon'tcare entering the winner's circle at Belmont after her debut victory.

Friesan Fire got two more stakes horses to his credit recently, with daughters Fire Key running 2nd in the Sensible Lady Turf Dash Stakes at Laurel in September and She Rolls finishing 3rd in the MD Million Distaff. In addition, his filly Pearl Gem won at first asking at Laurel on October 1st for owner/breeder Jalin Stable (Jim Bryant and Linda Davis), trainer Mary Eppler and jockey Katie Davis. Seven days later, first-time starter Redhairdon'tcare (a \$230,000 OBS April 2-year-olds in Training Sale purchase for West Point Thoroughbreds & Team D) won her debut at Belmont Park on October 8th. The chestnut filly, bred in Maryland by Country Life Farm and Mrs. Glennie Martin, is trained by Anthony Dutrow and took the field wire-to-wire in her debut with Joel Rosario in the irons.

Also in the winner's circle recently with Allowance scores were Hell of Afire (at Laurel), Florida Bay (at Mountaineer), Awsome Faith (at Mountaineer), Flash McCaul (at Laurel) and maiden winner Friesan Gal (at Penn National).

In the last two weeks of October, Friesan Fire had 12 runners in various races across the country, from Santa Anita to Parx, and all 12 hit the board, finishing either 1st, 2nd or 3rd. Now THAT'S a good sire!

## FLASH IS BACK!

The partners in our Fire Away LLC got another thrill from Flash McCaul on Monday, October 30th at Laurel, when the 4-year-old by Friesan Fire took the feature, a \$45,000 Allowance race, by three-quarters of a length! Running back just 9 days after a respectable effort in the Maryland Million Classic, where he had a bad start, Flash displayed his steady closing form to catch the leaders in deep stretch and inch away at the wire under jockey Feargal Lynch.

Flash McCaul has been trained his entire career by Mike Trombetta, and this win pushed his career earnings over \$200,000. It was the multiple stakes-placed gelding's 3rd lifetime victory, in addition to 2nd place finishes as a 2-year-old in the MD Million Nursery and MD Juvenile Futurity and a 2nd in the Private Terms Stakes as a 3-year-old. Bred in Maryland by Cliff & Mary Cornwell and Country Life Farm/Friesan Fire Syndicate, he was broken at Merryland before going to Trombetta as a 2-year-old. Earlier this year, he returned to our training center for a brief freshener in the spring before rejoining Mike's string at Fair Hill this summer.

Congratulations to all of our partners in the Fire Away LLC!

Partners celebrate in the Winner's Circle with jockey Feargal Lynch! Jim McCue photo



Flash gets to the wire first (above).

Jim McCue photo.



#### MID-ATLANTIC'S TOP SIRES

Fasig-Tipton held 3 nationally advertised Bloodstock Sales in October: the Midlantic Fall Yearlings in Timonium, the Saratoga Fall Sale in New York, and the Kentucky Fall Yearlings in Lexington. In all three sales, a Country Life stallion sired the top-priced offspring of all Mid-Atlantic based stallions.

In the Midlantic sale in Timonium, it was Friesan Fire with a \$70,000 yearling out of Lotosblume, purchased by Zayat Stables. At Saratoga it was again Friesan Fire with a \$45,000 NY-bred weanling colt out of Pleasant Harbor for breeders Elaine Peck (Rhapsody Farm) & Jon Davis. Then at the 3-day Kentucky Fall Yearling sale at the end of the month, a Maryland-bred Super Nine-ty Nine colt brought \$43,000 and a KY-bred Friesan Fire filly brought \$35,000, to be the two highest-priced Mid-Atlantic sired yearlings.

We know what kind of horse does well in the sales ring, and with the first crop from Mosler (a \$1,000,000 yearling himself) arriving in 2018, we can't wait to see who lights up the auction board next!



Freedom Child



Friesan Fire

Super Ninety Nine

Mosler



### **NEW ADDITIONS!**

We've been busy in October, attending all of the major sales in search of quality horses to add to our popular partnerships. The month started off with the purchase of two yearling fillies for our new "pinhooking" ventures. Both fillies were sold out immediately—a Street Sense filly and a Maclean's Music filly. Both are being broken at Merryland and will ship to South Carolina in December to continue their preparations for the May 2-year-olds in Training Sale in Timonium (right after the Preakness).

Then we went north to Saratoga and bought three broodmares in foal to very nice Kentucky stallions for our Raise You breeding partnerships. The mares, Curio (in foal to Will Take Charge), Raise Up (in foal to Carpe Diem) and Laura's Moon (in foal to Overanalyze) also generated a lot of interest and were sold out a week later.

With word from some sharp Kentucky horsemen that there was a Super Ninety Nine colt entered in the Fall Yearling Sale that could match up with any yearling on the sales grounds, Josh headed to the Bluegrass for the three-day sale. The Maryland-bred and MD-Million eligible colt by Super Ninety Nine didn't disappoint, and we purchased him for \$43,000. The colt sold out within an hour of Josh's e-mail blast to prospective partners! Many people responded an hour too late, so Josh and top horseman Mark Reid went back to the sales grounds and shopped for more. Back at the Denali Stud consignment, a pretty and fast-looking FL-bred filly by Yes It's True caught their attention. When she went to the ring, Josh raised his hand at \$40,000 as bidding paused and the filly was ours! Before leaving the sales gounds, Josh and Mark went back to the Paramount consignment to see a NY-bred Bodemeister colt out of Raise Up, the mare we had just purchased at Saratoga. He did not meet his reserve, so when the colt was brought out for Josh and Mark to inspect, they were told to make an offer. Mark's words to Josh were, "Look at that hip. He's correct enough, and he'll fill out fine by next spring. He's a New York-bred by Bodemeister? And they'll take \$13,000? Ship him home with the other two." So three more yearlings vanned home to Merryland to be broken, and all three are sold out!

Next stop—Keeneland November next week, where we are going to raise the bar and shop for an in-foal mare for our Raise You LLC's who is a notch above what we've done in the past. A mare in the \$75,000 range with the pedigree and covering sire power to produce a six-figure MD-bred weanling or yearling for our partners. Think fast, because these popular 2 year-and-out breeding partnerships are in demand!



Street Sense—La La's Cookin 2016 filly



Maclean's Music—Party Girl 2016 filly



Super Ninety Nine—Arch Enemy 2016 colt



Yes It's True—Lucky Song 2016 filly



Bodemeister—Raise Up 2016 colt

Curio
In foal to:
Will Take
Charge



Laura's Moon
In foal to:
Overanalyze



Raise Up
In foal to:
Carpe Diem

