



COUNTRY LIFE PRESS

From Beginning To Winning



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Follow Us!



**JOIN US TODAY at
the Fasig-Tipton
Sales Pavilion
(Monday, Dec.
4th) at 4:00 pm**

For a reception to intro-
duce Divining Rod and
view a video of the horse.

We'll have crabcakes,
shrimp and drinks for
those attending.

Click below to see link
to today's TDN with
the press release!

**[DIVINING ROD in
TDN](#)**

NEW STALLION FOR 2018 DIVINING ROD

Country Life Farm, Antony Beck's Gainesway Farm, and Roy & Gretchen Jackson's Lael Stables have formed a partnership to stand the Jackson's homebred Tapit colt **DIVINING ROD**, who placed in the Gr. 1 Preakness Stakes to American Pharoah, and who missed winning the \$500,000 Gr. 1 Cigar Mile by the bob of a head. Divining Rod's dam is three-time Gr. 1-winner Precious Kitten, a half-sister to Leading Sire Kitten's Joy and an earner of \$1,912,543 in her 25-race career. Gainesway Farm, where the legendary Tapit stands, will be sending 10 mares to Divining Rod for each of the stallion's first four years at stud. Country Life is breeding a dozen mares, and the Jacksons have pledged their support both in the stud and in the sales ring for his offspring.

Divining Rod won his debut at two in wire-to-wire fashion, then at three won the Gr. 3 \$250,000 Coolmore Lexington Stakes at Keeneland. He had enough points for the Gr. 1 Kentucky Derby but was aimed for the Preakness instead. He stalked American Pharoah to the eighth-pole but couldn't catch the Triple Crown winner. An "at-the-wire" defeat in last year's Cigar Mile denied him a Grade One win. In addition to that effort, he ran second to 2017 Cigar Mile winner Sharp Azteca in the Gr. 2 Kelso Handicap this past September. He finished "in the money" in 14 of his 17 races for trainer Arnaud Delacour, and earned \$882,604.

No other son of Tapit at stud has such an accomplished mother. His dam Precious Kitten, besides being a ½-sister to the No. 1 Turf Sire in the world Kitten's Joy, won the Gr. 1 Matriarch, Gr. 1 John C. Mabee, Gr. 1 Gamely, Gr. 2 Palomar, Gr. 2 Mrs. Revere, and Gr. 3 Gallorette (setting a course record at Pimlico).

Remarkably, all the daughters of Divining Rod's 2nd dam, Kitten's First, have produced stakes winners. Her first foal, Justenuffheart, produced Gr. 1-winner and Eclipse Champion 2-year-old filly Dreaming of Anna, and in turn, she produced the young sire Fast Anna.

Divining Rod will stand for \$5,000.



A Lael Stables homebred, Divining Rod won the G3 Coolmore Lexington Stakes and placed in 7 other graded stakes, to earn \$882,604.



Divining Rod is a beautifully balanced athlete.

Click here to view his video: [DIVINING ROD](#)

DECEMBER MIXED SALE ON TUESDAY, 12/5



Friesan Fire—Beau's Trip

The Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December Mixed Sale will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 5th at the Timonium Sales Grounds. There are a lot of quality weanlings, and some very nice broodmares and racing prospects, being offered.

Country Life has been prepping a number of horses for the sale, including some very nice weanlings by Friesan Fire, Super Ninety Nine, Dialed In, Gemologist, Race Day and other top sires. Agent Bill Reightler will be consigning for us, and recently The Racing Biz mentioned a few of our weanlings in his consignment (click [here](#) for link). Check out some of our offerings here, and come out to the sale on Tuesday to see all of the outstanding horses.



Super Ninety Nine—Lady Krista

Dialed In—Will Do

Super Ninety Nine—Legal Affect

Super Ninety Nine—Holy Trail

Gemologist—Sassy Molly

Race Day—Courage to Change



SEARCHING FOR "DIVINE" MARES



Divining Rod, by Tapit

There won't be a better first-year stallion next year than Divining Rod, and with the Maryland breeding program soaring to new heights we are reloading our broodmare band with select mares for our Raise You LLC breeding partnerships for his book. The upcoming Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December Mixed Sale features a few nice in-foal mares and broodmare prospects that we'll be looking at.

The Raise You LLC concept has been extremely popular with both new partners getting into the breeding for the first time and experienced breeders who no longer have mares of their own. The partnerships are generally active for 2-3 years, during which time the mare will produce two Maryland-bred foals to be sold as either weanlings or yearlings. The LLC is the breeder of record, and the members of the LLC will be eligible for breeder awards for the entire career of those Maryland-bred foals. Expenses end when the mare is sold after producing two foals for the partnership. Shares go fast, so call or e-mail us today to be added to our list if you're interested in participating!

MORE STAKES WINNERS!

Both Friesan Fire and Freedom Child had maiden winners in November. Friesan Fire's daughter Shecor, bred by Country Life Farm, won at Laurel and Freedom Child's son Eightyeightmph scored at Penn National. Even better, both stallions had first-time stakes winners last month also!

Friesan Fire's stakes-placed daughter Fire Key earned her first stakes victory at Aqueduct on November 25th in the \$125,000 Autumn Days Stakes on the turf! A winner of over \$344,000 with 5 victories, the NY-bred filly races for her breeder Ed McEneaney's Backwards Stable and trainer Patrick Kelly.

Joining in the stakes action in November was Freedom Child's first-crop daughter Fanniebellefleming, who won the \$50,000 Donna Freyer Stakes at Laurel on November 25th. The 2-year-old chestnut filly, bred by Mrs. Glennie Martin out of the Two Punch mare Ruby Peak, was foaled at Country Life and sold privately as a weanling to Lee Christian of North Carolina. Sent to Elloree Training Center in Camden, SC to be broken as a yearling, she qualified for the stakes race that was restricted to horses who had spent 90 days in South Carolina.

Fire Key won the Autumn Days Stakes at Aqueduct.
Coglianese Photo



Fanniebellefleming winning the Donna Freyer Stakes at Laurel.
Jim McCue photo



NOVEMBER SALES RECAP

Country Life's team of Josh Pons and General Manager Christy Holden deployed to Kentucky in early November for both the Fasig-Tipton November Sale and the two-week long Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale. At the star-studded Fasig-Tipton November sale on Monday evening, November 6th, partners in the Miss Pauline LLC watched online as the weanling colt by Tonalist out of Miss Pauline (a half-sister to Union Rags) was sold for \$65,000 to Mike Evans of Sheltowee Farm in KY. The pavilion was packed a couple hours later for the spectacular \$9.5-million dollar sale of Champion Songbird, who was purchased by Mandy Pope's Whisper Hill Farm. Songbird was followed by other multi-million dollar broodmare prospects that night. Two-time Champion turf mare Tepin sold for \$8-million to Coolmore's M.V. Magnier, and multiple G1 winner Miss Temple City brought a final bid of \$2.5-million from agent Steve Young. In addition to million-dollar mares, the sale set records with two weanling fillies selling for \$1,000,000—the first was by Street Sense and a full sister to a G1 winner, and the second was a half-sister to Bodemeister from the first crop of Triple Crown hero American Pharoah.

Keeneland's two-week November Breeding Stock Sale started on November 7th and Josh Pons and Country Life/Merryland General Manager Christy Holden set off in search of new broodmares for our Raise You LLC's. Josh sent an e-mailed "Letter From the Front" to prospective partners before the sale started and had 9 people lined up for the first yet-to-be purchased mare. With 5 catalog books full of broodmares in foal to hot Kentucky stallions, and 40 barns on the expansive Keeneland grounds to visit, Josh and Christy spent hours every day looking at hundreds of mares and researching deeper into the pedigrees and past sale history of each one. The sale was very strong the first week, with mares on their shortlist quickly exceeding their budget. On Thursday, Spendthrift Farm's mare Bandstand, the dam of Freedom Child, went through the ring in foal to the extremely popular sire Into Mischief. She had a June breeding date, which often gets penalized by commercial buyers, so she did not meet her reserve. Christy had the mare on her shortlist, and when the mare failed to sell she approached Spendthrift Farm's General Manager Ned Toffey and a deal was reached. We had a wait list of people who got shut out of her, so Josh and Christy continued to shop for mares during the 2nd week of the sale.

The following Tuesday was a productive day, with seven partnership horses selling, topped by our MD-bred Kitten's Joy colt out of Imagistic, who brought \$65,000. With more orders for broodmares to fill, Josh and Christy were joined by Mike Pons and they set out to find another gem or two. Former racing partnership filly Moonlit Malibu, a multiple stakes-winner who earned over \$250,000 for her Country Life partnership, was being offered in foal to Preakness winner Oxbow. A popular filly when she was with us, her first foal was already a winner. She made the shortlist, and when bidding stalled Josh raised his finger and bought her for \$40,000. A couple hours later, one of the top three mares on the short list came through the ring. Storm's Darling was a multiple stakes winner of \$411,000 and a stakes producer, and in foal to popular first-crop stallion and Horse of the Year Honor Code (his first foals averaged \$192,700 this fall). Another late cover caused her to fall into our price range, and she was purchased for a bargain \$35,000.

We're happy to have all three mares in the broodmare band for our partners, and look forward to the outstanding MD-breds they will deliver next year!



Bandstand—in foal to Into Mischief (below).



Moonlit Malibu—in foal to Oxbow (below)



Storm's Darling—in foal to Honor Code (below)



Mares on 11/9



Mares on 11/14



Our work at the sales involves many hours of research and scouting to narrow down a catalog of thousands of horses into a "short list". The lists above represent the mares that made the initial cut based on covering sire, pedigree, etc. for just ONE day at the Keeneland Sale.