



# COUNTRY LIFE PRESS

From Beginning To Winning



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## Follow Us!



## Don't Miss Our STALLION SHOW

Introducing Tapit's son  
"Divining Rod"

**Saturday  
January 20  
11 am—2 pm**

RSVP  
410-879-1952

Or: [sallvellen@countrylifefarm.com](mailto:sallvellen@countrylifefarm.com)

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Click below to view Ellen's great video recapping the people and moments that made last year memorable!

## 2017 Year-in-Review

## "Mares for Maryland"

The Country Life Campaign to Bring  
Better Mares to Maryland

By Josh Pons

We started the Raise You program two years ago: "Mares for Maryland" — that's the thrust.

Because being the sole owner of a modest broodmare has become such an expensive challenge, Country Life pioneered 10-Share "Mare" Partnerships in high-quality pregnant mares in foal to fashionable Kentucky stallions; then to breed back to the young guns in our stallion barn: sons of War Front, Tapit, A.P. Indy, Malibu Moon, Pulpit. The goal: to make Maryland-Bred foals who will sell well and run well.

Take, for instance, this scenario: when a Md-Bred wins ANY maiden race, the Breeder Bonus equals 50% of the Maiden's purse earnings. That's a 20% kick above the standard 30% Breeder Bonus for all other races.

Further incentives occur in tweaks to the Condition Book (e.g. Maryland-Bred Waiver Claiming races) : You can run against claimers but be protected from being claimed. How sweet is that?

Over the past two years, we've bought mares to foal in Maryland who have produced, or will deliver this spring, babies by Uncle Mo, Into Mischief, Kitten's Joy, Honor Code, Carpe Diem, Overanalyze, Will Take Charge, Declaration of War, Palace Malice, Tonalist and Dialed In. Some of the resulting foals have sold well at auction; a handful haven't (x-ray issues are ambushes.) Most mares recoup their acquisition

costs with the sale of the foal they were carrying when we bought them.

The Raise You LLC's are equine hedge funds; folks frequently have shares in several mares. Each foal is eligible to earn Maryland-Bred Awards for partners for years to come. Think of Country Life-sired Ben's Cat: winning stakes as a 10-year-old, with purse earnings of \$2,643,782. It's ridiculous to contemplate, perhaps, but Ben's Cat may have banked an additional \$750,000 in Breeders' Awards in today's Maryland-Bred dollars. That's the lottery-ticket facet to our Raise You LLC's: a Ben's Cat.

So we are heading to Keeneland for the January Mixed Sale (Jan. 8-11). The goal: to acquire one high-quality mare in the \$100,000-range (10 partners at \$10k each) to bring back home for Divining Rod's first book. See our ads appearing in the Bloodhorse later in this Newsletter.

Here's the deal:

- ◆ NO MARKUP on Raise You mares.
- ◆ Country Life buys the first 10% share.
- ◆ The LLC dissolves after two foals.
- ◆ Expenses for board, blacksmith, and vet average about \$150 a month.

If owning a broodmare by yourself is too daunting, hop into a Raise You with us. To hold a share, write to: [josh@countrylifefarm.com](mailto:josh@countrylifefarm.com); [mike@countrylifefarm.com](mailto:mike@countrylifefarm.com); or [christy@countrylifefarm.com](mailto:christy@countrylifefarm.com)

Follow at [www.keeneland.com](http://www.keeneland.com) LIVE streaming to see what we bring back from Kentucky.

**JUST ANNOUNCED:** G1 Goldmine developer Leo Tsatsaronis is holding a seminar for breeders at Country Life Farm on **Tuesday, Jan. 23rd at 11:30 am!** Learn how to use one of the world's leading Pedigree Systems to nick your mares. Register @ [www.g1goldmine.com](http://www.g1goldmine.com)

# STALLION SHOW

January 20  
11 a.m. — 2 p.m.

Maryland's leading sires are at Country Life Farm, where we'll be hosting a Stallion Show on Saturday, January 20, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We will introduce you to our latest stallion, **DIVINING ROD**, who arrived from Kentucky two days before Christmas. The son of Tapit out of \$1.9-million-earner Precious Kitten (1/2-sister to Leading Sire Kitten's Joy) now resides in a barnful of Maryland's Leading Sires:

- ◆ A.P. Indy's son **Friesan Fire** (#1 General Sire in Maryland);
- ◆ Malibu Moon's son **Freedom Child** (#1 Freshman Sire in Mid-Atlantic);
- ◆ War Front's son **Mosler** (#1 Covering Sire in Maryland 2017); and
- ◆ Pulpit's son **Super Ninety Nine** (#1 Yearling Sales Sire in Maryland 2017).

Divining Rod, who earned \$882,604, finished a game third in the Grade 1 Preakness Stakes to Triple Crown winner American Pharoah, and he was a head-bob second in the Grade 1 Cigar Mile. He's the next "Leading Sire" to stand at Country Life.

Country Life sires drew attention at the regional sales in 2017. **Friesan Fire** and **Super Ninety Nine** led all other Mid-Atlantic sires by sales average for weanlings, and Super Ninety Nine had the highest yearling sale average among Maryland sires with more than one sold. His yearlings averaged \$20,000 - five times his stud fee.



Friesan Fire, by A.P. Indy



Freedom Child, by Malibu Moon



Super Ninety Nine, by Pulpit



Mosler, by War Front



Divining Rod, by Tapit

## FOALING SEASON IS HERE!

Foaling season is underway! Many of the first mares due are in foal to Mosler, the son of War Front who bred 102 mares his first year at stud in 2017. In addition, we have several mares in foal to prominent Kentucky sires, to be bred back to Country Life stallions. The first mare due to foal at Country Life in 2018 is Bo and Stella Smith's Our Fantene, in foal to two-time Horse-of-the-Year California Chrome. She just might deliver the first foal sired by California Chrome, as she was the third mare bred to him in his freshman season at Taylormade Farm in Kentucky.

Other notable sires represented in our foaling barn are Into Mischief, Honor Code, Carpe Diem, Declaration of War, Maclean's Music, Overanalyze and Will

Take Charge. Then add in ten mares due to arrive for Divining Rod from Kentucky's Gainesway Farm, and a select group from the Lael Stable of Gretchen and Roy Jackson (who bred Divining Rod), and a busy foaling season is upon us.

Of course, this means mare owners and fans will be tuning in to our "live foal cam" to follow the action (now in our 6th year broadcasting!). Save this Foaling Cam link to your computer, iPad, or Smart Phone, and tune in for the excitement this time next week, as due dates approach!

Link to our  
"Foal Cam"





# Mares for Maryland

## THE COUNTRY LIFE CAMPAIGN: BRING NATIONAL MARES TO THE MARYLAND PROGRAM

**M**aybe it started in earnest some 30 years ago, when Kentucky's Allen Paulson sent Solar Slew to Country Life, where she delivered 2-time Horse-of-the-Year Cigar, leading all-time Maryland-bred (\$9,999,815).

With the growing popularity of an improved Maryland-bred program, national breeders are again sending mares to Country Life stallions to take advantage of the lucrative opportunities offered here.

For Country Life's new stallion DIVINING ROD, Antony Beck's Gainesway Farm is sending 10 mares, following the lead of Roy and Gretchen Jackson's Lael Stable, and five mares are arriving from Ken Ramsey's Kentucky Farm.

Spendthrift Farm supports SUPER NINETY NINE (by Pulpit) and FREEDOM CHILD (by Malibu Moon).

Claiborne Farm and Mrs. Adele Dilschneider support their War Front son MOSLER.

**H**ere is our newest opportunity to discover the Maryland-bred program, through our popular breeding partnerships: the Raise You LLC's (named for the Country Life-bred dam of champion Raise a Native).

Josh and Mike Pons will attend the Kentucky mixed sales, hoping to bring home a \$100,000 in-foal mare for Divining Rod's first book. The basics:

- No markup
- Country Life buys 1st 10% Share
- 9 partners at \$10,000 each
- Average monthly expenses, \$150
- Dissolves after 2 years

*Contact Country Life to reserve a share in the next "Mare for Maryland."*



ELLEN B. PONS

Champion CIGAR as a foal at Country Life Farm in 1990.



THORSTRIDE

Lael Stables Classic-placed homebred DIVINING ROD, GSW of \$882,604 by TAPIT, out of G1 PRECIOUS KITTEN (1/2 to Kitten's Joy). \$5,000 LFSN, BC/MM



## COUNTRY LIFE FARM

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# Inches from standing in Kentucky *Divining Rod*

a forked stick used in locating the source of water, or  
a bay colt used in attracting mares

Tapit-Precious Kitten

## Comes home to Maryland



JOE LABOZZETTA

Divining Rod on the inside, just inches away from a Grade 1 win in the \$500,000 Cigar Mile.

"I saw him win the Lexington, and I've had my eyes on him ever since. I'm breeding 10 of my own mares to him for each of the next four years. I'm looking for the next Tapit."  
Antony Beck, Gainesway Farm

"We will support him in the stud and the sales ring."  
Divining Rod's breeders Roy and Gretchen Jackson

"We've picked out 16 farm mares to breed to him."  
Josh and Mike Pons, Country Life Farm

Owned by Roy and Gretchen Jackson's Lael Stable,  
Gainesway Farm and Country Life

\$5,000 LFSN



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## Inches from standing in Kentucky

# Divining Rod

a forked stick used in locating the source of water, or  
a bay colt used in attracting mares

Tapit-Precious Kitten

## Comes home to Maryland



Divining Rod, who won Laurel's Polynesian S in 2017 and trained at Fair Hill, is a classic-placed earner of \$882,604



His sire TAPIT won the G3 Laurel Futurity, and trained at Maryland's Tapeta Farm

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS (2)



JIM MCLE (2)

Multiple G1SW dam Precious Kitten won Pimlico's G3 Gallorette, and earned \$1.9 million

### A mere head-bob decision in the Grade 1 Cigar Mile opens the door to Mid-Atlantic breeders

Divining Rod cooling out after a third place finish in American Pharoah's 2015 G1 Preakness



RICK BUCKLEY

Owned by Roy and Gretchen Jackson's Lael Stables,  
Gainesway Farm and Country Life  
\$5,000 LFSN



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