



# COUNTRY LIFE PRESS

Maryland's Oldest Breeding Farm: Established 1933

From Beginning To Winning



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## Grade 1 Winner for Friesan Fire

Friesan Fire sired his first Grade 1 winner on Saturday, April 7th when his son ARMY MULE impressively took the \$400,000 G1 Carter Handicap at Aqueduct by 6-1/4 lengths in near track record time of 1:20.94! The bay colt, bred by Jim McGreevy's Hope Hill Farm in PA, was undefeated in two starts coming into his stakes debut.

Despite making the jump from allowance company to a Grade One race, he was highly touted due to his impressive wins in his first two starts. The \$825,000 purchase out of the Fasig-Tipton May 2-year-olds in Training Sale didn't race until he was 3, breaking his maiden in his debut by 8-1/2 lengths in a \$75,000 MSW at Belmont and earning "TDN Rising Star" status. Put on the shelf with a sore knee after that effort, he came back in January of this year to win an Allowance at Gulfstream Park by 7-1/2 lengths.

Trainer Todd Pletcher recognized his talent and had no qualms with putting him up against much more experienced company, and bypassing his allowance conditions, to go right to the top in the G1 Carter. Pletcher was quoted in the Bloodhorse as saying "You never expect to win a grade 1 by that many lengths, but he was training really well coming into it, and he showed exceptional ability in his two races. It's not a move we make that often from a non-winners-of-one to a grade 1 stakes, but his last race was so powerful." The Met Mile on June 9th will be Army Mule's next start if all goes well.

Friesan Fire stands for \$4,000 LFSN at Country Life Farm.



Photo: Adam Coglianese

Army Mule wins the G1 Carter impressively.

## New Trainer at Merryland: Sonja Aleksic

We're pleased to announce that Sonja Aleksic, wife of longtime Merryland rider Milan Milosevic and former Assistant Trainer to top Laurel conditioners Ann Merryman and Catherine Robinson, has joined our staff as Trainer at Merryland Farm. She replaces Jackie Savoye, who left to pursue a college degree.

Born in Serbia in 1983, Sonja started going to the race track there when she was 10. She moved to the U.S. in 2005 and worked at Laurel for 11 years in the Merryman and Robinson barns. She also rode at Merryland in the afternoons for several years. She got her Trainer's license in 2010 and had 26 starts in her last year of "official" training in 2016, with 4 wins, 6 seconds and 2 thirds. A graduate of Towson University with a Bachelors in Biology, she is also a Certified Equine Massage Therapist and works on horses for trainers like Mike Trombetta, Hamilton Smith, Elizabeth Merryman and Ann Merryman. She and Milan have two children, daughters Nadja (6) and Lenka (2-1/2).



Sonja, pictured on Vee's Super Star, a 2-year-old 1/2-brother to Champion Declan's Moon.

## Country Life Sires: First at the Wire

Country Life sires were represented in the winner's circle often in recent weeks. Maiden winners for Friesan Fire include Change Is Coming (bred by CLF), Janes Brew (bred by David Baxter), Torched (bred by Ollie & Carissa Figgins) and Cherokee Fire (bred by Stephen Glessner & Donna Tullner). Freedom Child had a new maiden winner in Herman's Gold (bred by CLF). Limited View (MD-bred Champion 2 yr. old filly) was 2nd in the Beyond The Wire Stakes and Jamaican Don won an allowance at Mahoning Valley. Other notable finishes were repeat wins by Forest Fire (who was also 2nd in the Private Terms Stakes) with Freedom Child's Nico Bree N Teej a head behind in 2nd, Topsy Moose, Shoe Loves Shoe, Cowboy Mz, Shecor, and another stakes placing for She Rolls (2nd in the Conniver).



1st row L-R: Janes Brew, Cherokee Fire.

2nd row L-R: Shecor, Topsy Moose, Change is Coming.

3rd row L-R: Forest Fire and Nico Bree N Teej, Shoe Loves Shoe, Herman's Gold

## Memorial Tribute: General Lee

We're sad to announce that former partnership runner General Lee, a son of Sagamoon by notable KY sire Dixie Union, succumbed to injuries he sustained after losing his rider on a cross country school and running loose for miles on pavement. Normally a very quiet and gentle horse, he was startled when deer jumped out of the woods near him and the "flight" instinct, that is so strong in horses, took over. Partner Lucy Howard had graciously taken General Lee when his racetrack career was over, and he quickly became a favorite in Billy Santoro's barn, where he excelled at eventing and foxhunting.

Foaled at Country Life on Valentine's Day in 2010, he was a lover from the start and will be sorely missed by all who took care of him and got to know him.



General Lee was a barn favorite and a joy to fox-hunt or ride cross-country.



# Maryland-Breds of March 2018



Golden Lad—Grandanna filly, 3/1.  
Owned by James Anderson.



Mosler-European Union colt, 3/1 (died).  
Owned by CLF & European Union LLC



Mosler—Atlantic Tide filly, 3/3.  
Owned by CLF & Atlantic Tide LLC.



Cairo Prince—Written Request colt, 3/5.  
Owned by Gainesway Farm.



Mosler—Imagistic filly, 3/6.  
Owned by CLF & Imagistic LLC



Mosler—Silent Wisper colt, 3/8.  
Owned by Country Life Farm



Mosler—Parade of Colors filly, 3/9.  
Owned by Jay Williamson



Imagining—E Dubai's Humor colt,  
3/11. Owned by Randy & Gary Ridgely



Anchor Down—Simmadownnow filly,  
3/14. Owned by CLF/Simmadownnow  
LLC



Mosler—Tiz Partners colt, 3/17.  
Owned by Tom McDermott



Malibu Moon—Spin the Bottle colt,  
3/20. Owned by Candyland Farm.



Mosler—Success at Sunup filly, 3/20.  
Owned by Wes Carter.



# Maryland-Breds of March 2018



Mosler—Broken Trust Fund colt, 3/21.  
Owned by CLF & Broken Trust Fund LLC



Mosler—In Dad's Wallet filly, 3/23.  
Owned by Bill Bayne.



Great Notion—Delightfullstorm colt, 3/24. Owned by Steve Ferguson.



Maclean's Music—Rowdy Woman colt, 3/25. Owned by Susan Wantz.



Will Take Charge—Curio filly, 3/26.  
Owned by CLF & Curio LLC



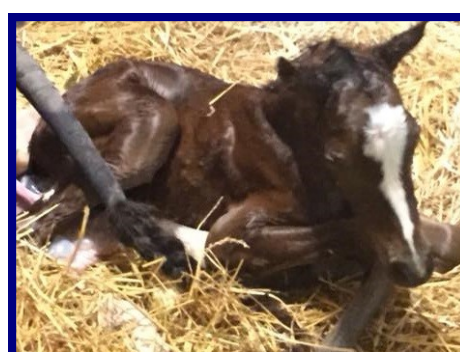
Cinco Charlie-D D Renegade colt, 3/27.  
Owned by Candyland Farm.



Street Boss—Ann's Smart Dancer filly, 3/28. Owned by CLF/Ann's Smart Dancer LLC



Midshipman-Maryland's Love filly, 3/28.  
Owned by Walt Vieser



Morning Line-Merrimac filly, 3/30.  
Owned by Gainesway Farm.



Mosler—Pilgrims Trail colt, 3/31. Owned by CLF/Estate of Mildred Wilson.



Follow all the action LIVE  
on our "Foil Cam" - click  
for link

Foal count as of press time: **29 colts**—**24 fillies**