



Country Life Press

March 2021

Newsletter

From Maryland's Oldest Thoroughbred Farm

Established 1933



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New Racing Partnership Offering



The Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream Sale of 2-year-olds in Training was today, March 31st. Country Life's Mike Pons was in attendance and saw a Hard Spun filly that caught his attention. He purchased the FL-bred for \$75,000 - Hip 110 ([pedigree link](#)) is out of stakes-placed Eva London.

With 4 stakes winners already this year, including G3 winner Antoinette, and a slew of other graded-stakes performers, Hard Spun continues to be a highly sought after sire of runners. This filly was in the Kirkwood Stables consignment, known for bringing along young horses slowly and galloping them for the under tack portion of the sale instead of breezing them. Watch her gallop in the video link below. She should have a good foundation under her and will ship up to our Merryland Training Center to put the finishing touches on her training. Once she's ready to go to the track later this spring/summer she'll be in trainer Michael Trombetta's barn at either Fair Hill or Laurel.

This will be a 10-share partnership with Country Life retaining the first share. Several shares are already spoken for as of press time. With no markup from the \$75,000 purchase price, a 10% interest is \$7,500 with monthly expenses estimated to be around \$350/month per share.

Call or e-mail us today to hold a share in this pretty filly and have some racing fun with us:

[Josh Pons](#) 443-807-0644

[Mike Pons](#) 410-459-8517

[Christy Holden](#) 410-808-1325



25th Anniversary of Cigar's Inaugural Dubai World Cup Win



On March 27, the Dubai World Cup celebrated its 25th Anniversary. Country Life Farm foaled the inaugural World Cup winner: the incomparable Maryland-bred Cigar. Ellen Pons' photograph of the future two-time Horse-of-the-Year is a classic.

On this 25th Anniversary of his thrilling victory over Soul of the Matter in the richest race in the world, we thought it appropriate to reprint Ellen's photo.

Cigar was born at Country Life on April 18, 1990. His 1996 Dubai World Cup carried a purse of \$4 million. This year's 25th edition carried a purse of \$12 million.

New Start for Bell Gable Stable and trainer Gary Contessa

Trainer Gary Contessa has come out of retirement to take over as private trainer for Nick & Delora Beaver's Bell Gable Stable. The operation will be based at Delaware Park, where they fixed up Barn 36 and moved a dozen horses in this past week.

With about 20 horses in training at Merryland Farm, plus others at various racetracks in the mid-Atlantic, they should have a full barn at Delaware when racing begins there in April. Gary and Nick have visited Merryland often over the past couple of months, watching the horses train. One of their up-and-coming youngsters is Maryland Brando, a \$250,000 MD-bred colt by Flatter who Nick purchased at last year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Yearling Sale.

We wish Nick, Delora and Gary the best of racing luck with their new venture, and look forward to seeing many of their Merryland training graduates in the winner's circle.



Bell Gable Stable shedrow at Delaware Park



Delora and Nick Beaver, owners of Bell Gable Stable



Trainer Gary Contessa watches a set of Bell Gable Stable runners breezing at Merryland.



2-year-olds Maryland Brando (left) and Mugsy Malone breezing at Merryland.



Bells willbering, a 3-year-old filly by Mosler, was purchased by the Beavers as a yearling after they bought her dam the year before with a full sister in utero.

Super Starter in Wood Memorial and other Stakes Nominees



Breeder Gregory Gordon is living his dream these days. Owner of one mare, named My Sonata, he bred her to Super Ninety Nine three times to start her broodmare career and has 3 winners from those three foals. The third one, Market Maven, is an allowance winner at Parx who has run impressively enough to warrant being entered in the \$750,000 G2 Wood Memorial at Aqueduct this Saturday.

The only horse Gordon has in training, Market Maven is a 3-year-old gelding who has two wins and a second from 4 starts at Parx. Trainer Penny Pearce will have her first graded stakes starter with Market Maven, and regular jockey

Dexter Haddock will be aboard for his first graded stakes try. All of the connections are excited and looking forward to the opportunity. Read more about their story in the [Paulick Report](#).

Meanwhile, Mosler's stakes-winning son Hello Hot Rod was also nominated to the Wood but looks like he may opt for the \$125,000 Federico Tesio at Laurel, a "Win and You're In" race for the Preakness. The Tesio got pushed back a week to April 24th due to the cancellation of racing at Laurel the past two weeks, and nominations are being taken on Saturday, April 3rd.

Mosler has another son, Johnny Sack, on the stakes trail as well. He was nominated for the \$200,000 G3 Bay Shore Stakes on April 3rd, a prep for the Kentucky Derby. The colt ran second in an \$82,000 Aqueduct allowance on March 24th after breaking his maiden on debut at Laurel in February.

Another stakes to watch this weekend is the Palisades Turf Sprint at Keeneland, where Malibu Moon will be represented by the timely-named colt FAUCI. Twice stakes-placed, the 3-year-old colt has never been worse than 2nd in four career starts.

February Foals

(click pictures for links to Ellen's galleries)

Annie Trust - Mor Spirit colt

Foaled: February 6, 2021 at 8:27 pm



Country Life Farm

Bred by Charles Parker's Barak
Farm

Swimmer - Force The Pass Colt

Foaled: February 14, 2021 at 10:21 pm



Country Life Farm

Bred by Wes Carter

**Dirigo -
Divining Rod filly**
Foaled: February 15, 2021 at 7:33 pm



Country Life Farm

Bred by Tony Bashore & Al Klerlein

**Rock Sapphire -
Mosler filly**
Foaled: February 16, 2021 at 11:38 pm



Country Life Farm

Bred by Country Life Farm & Rock
Sapphire LLC

**Grecian Maiden
Mosler colt**
Foaled: February 17 2021 at 8:55 pm



Country Life Farm

Bred by Country Life Farm & Grecian
Maiden LLC

**Variance -
Tapiture Colt**
Foaled: February 18th 2021 at 9:30 pm



Country Life Farm

Bred by Mark Ronsini & Country Life
Farm

Fluxx - Irish War Cry filly

Foaled: February 25th 2021 at 7:03 pm



Country Life Farm

Bred by Holly House Farm

[Foaling Webcam](#)

Country Life Bred or Sired Winners

FRIESAN FIRE

SQUEALER: 3/2 at PARX, Maiden (breeder Five of Us Farm, Inc., owner Morris E. Kernan, Jr.)

BRAZILIAN BAY: 3/5 at PENN, Claiming (breeder Elizabeth Houghton, owner Mark Sitlinger)

FOREST FIRE: 3/8 at PARX, Starter (breeder/owner Shirley Lojeski)

EDISON FIRE: 3/20 at HAW, Maiden (breeder Corsair Holdings, owner Belmullet, LLC)

WHISKEY AND YOU: 3/21 at LAUREL, Allowance (breeder Winding Creek Farm, owner Terry Overmier)

SUPER NINETY NINE

CATCH MY VIBE: 3/3 at PARX, Maiden (breeder CLF & Winding Creek Farm, owner H P I Stable)

BETTER YET: 3/15 at PARX, Claiming (breeder Country Life Farm, owner M3 Racing Stable)

PATAZ: 3/19 at PENN, Claiming (breeder Spendthrift Farm, owner Robert L. Cole, Jr.)

COUNTRY LIFE PARTNERSHIP BRED

OH SO JAZZY: 3/12 at PENN, Maiden (bred by CLF/Raise Up LLC, owner William H. Crigler)

Farm COVID Policies

Owners/clients can visit the farms by appointment only during the following times:

Monday - Saturday between 12-3 pm.
Masks and social distancing are required.

Masks and social distancing are required. Thank you for your understanding during these unprecedented times.

Call the farm office
to make an
appointment:

410-879-1952



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