



Country Life Press SEPTEMBER 2023 Newsletter



Maryland's Oldest Thoroughbred Farm

Established 1933: Celebrating Our 90th Anniversary in 2023

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Country Life and Starr of Quality LLC Partners sell \$775,000 Gun Runner filly at The Saratoga Sale



The best laid plans in the horse business seldom go as scripted. But when they do, you couldn't write a better script.

Shopping at the 2020 Keeneland November mixed sale, Country Life Farm and our bloodstock agent John Stuart singled out a Santa Anita stakes-winning mare named Starr of Quality, an earner of \$307,529, in foal to unproven freshman sire Bolt d' Oro. For our breeding partnerships, Country Life made the final bid of \$72,000 for the then 6-year-old mare.

Our guiding principle at broodmare sales is to search for young, fast mares, in foal to commercial sires. That is the mantra for many other breeders as well, so you have to stick your neck out for mares who fit the criteria. Country Life was joined in the partnership by Dr. Peter Bloom (CN), Tim Burr (MA), Kevin Edwards (MD), Joe Fonte (MD), Jim Guidera (FL), Dave McKenney (VA), John Stuart's High Peak Farm (KY), Harold Rottman (MD), David and Diana Sedney (VA), and Mike Stone (VA).

After Starr of Quality foaled her Bolt d' Oro colt here at Country Life to qualify him as a Maryland-bred, we shipped her to Kentucky to be bred to then-unproven sire Gun Runner.

Bolt d' Oro turned out to be the Leading Freshman Sire of 2022, and Gun Runner, well, not since Northern Dancer has a stallion made such an impact on the breed.

Country Life sold the Bolt d' Oro colt for \$90,000 at The Saratoga Sale in 2022. At the same sale this year, the Gun Runner filly brought the highest price of the sale for a "non-Kentucky-bred" at \$775,000.

The Bolt d' Oro colt has since been named Fulmineo, and on Saturday, September 2, he broke his maiden in a \$60,000, one-mile Colonial Downs event. (He finished third in his first start at Delaware Park, behind Bell Gable Stable's Nutella Fella, who came back to win the historic Grade 1, \$300,000 Hopeful Stakes at Saratoga on Labor Day, Sept. 4. Congratulations to Bell Gable owners Delora and Nick Beaver, and to trainer Gary Contessa, all longtime Country Life patrons.

The Gun Runner filly was purchased by agents Solis/Litt on behalf of Jaime Roth's LNJ Foxwoods. Roth told Mike Pons that her team considered her the best filly in the sale, and they plan to keep her on the East Coast to race.

We'll be shopping at this fall's breeding stock sales, looking for another nice young partnership mare like Starr of Quality to add to our broodmare band. Call to get on our list early if you would like to participate in our Breeding Partnerships. It's unrealistic to expect such staggering results with every broodmare, but you must make best-laid plans.

Country Life-Bred RESPONSE TIME (by Mosler) Wins the \$75,000 Timonium Distaff Stakes



Response Time scored her first stakes win in the \$75,000-added Timonium Distaff Stakes, worth \$100,000 to her because she's Maryland-bred and Maryland-Sired. Click photo for replay.

Jim McCue photo

Mosler sired his latest stakes winner on Saturday, August 26, when his 5-year-old daughter Response Time, bred solely in the name of Country Life Farm, swept to victory in the \$75,000-added Timonium Distaff Stakes. The winner's purse of \$60,000 was bolstered by Response Time being not only a Maryland-bred, but a Maryland-sired filly, as well.

Response Time, out of the mare Dominus Effect, had run second in the Alma North Stakes at Laurel in her prior start. Purchased for \$11,000 at the Keeneland November Sale as a weanling by Patti Miller's EQB, Agent, she was pinhooked into the Ocala October Yearling Sale where she brought \$75,000 from Sennebac South Farm. They turned her around at the Fasig-Tipton May 2-year-old sale in Maryland where Patti Miller still liked her enough to recommend her to David and Lori Hughes of Mens Grille Racing, who went to \$100,000 for the muscular dark brown filly.

With a record of eight wins, eight seconds, and two thirds in 30 starts, Response Time has been conditioned by veteran trainer Hamilton Smith. Response Time has lifetime earnings of \$460,658, ranking her as Mosler's leading money-winner, ahead of New York stakes winner Hello Hot Rod and 2022 Maryland Million Turf winner Wicked Prankster.

Everyone in the Mens Grille and Country Life camps are excited about the October 14 Maryland Million Day, where Response Time is next set to appear.

Homebred Lady Ensign Breaks Maiden



Lady Ensign breaks her maiden on the turf at Laurel.

[Click photo for replay.](#)

Jim McCue photo

Patience paid off for Country Life's partners in the Sister State LLC, who bred a winner with Lady Ensign on August 20 at Laurel. The 3-year-old filly by Midshipman is the last foal out of the A. P. Indy mare Sister State, who was purchased at Keeneland in November of 2019 for \$40,000 with this filly in utero. Sister State's dam is a full sister to Cara Rafaela, the dam of Bernardini. Sister

State, unfortunately, left us way too early after suffering a ruptured uterus three weeks prior to her due date in 2021.

Lady Ensign, a strapping filly who needed time to grow, was unraced as a 2-year-old. Brought along slowly over our 5-furlong Merryland Farm training track, she was sent to Mike Trombetta early this year to prep for her debut. She ran third on the dirt in her first start, then after a couple more starts on both dirt and turf seems to have found her niche sprinting on the grass.

The Maryland-bred and Virginia-certified filly is entered on the Colonial turf course on September 7 for her first try against winners. Her partners in this breeding-to-racing partnership are **Cape Fear T'breeds (NC)**, **Country Life (MD)**, **Eli Hackel (NJ)**, **Charles Henderson (NY)**, **Greg Larson (MD)**, **Dallas Scott (PA)**, **Ken Yingling (PA)** and **Frank Zhang (NJ)**.

Click the link below to see what races we're watching this week!

[Races We're Watching](#)

Country Life Bred or Sired Winners



Find Faith (Divining Rod - Manhattan Madam) scores an Allowance win at Laurel with Richard Monterrey aboard.

Jim McCue photo

DIVINING ROD

ALPHA WHISKEY: 8/3 at DEL, Claiming (breeder Gainesway Thoroughbreds Ltd.; owner Mark Dean & Mike Cohea; trainer Greg Compton)

FIND FAITH: 8/4 at LRL, Allowance (breeder Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowman; owner Robin Graham & Mary E. Jones; trainer Robin Graham)

LOOSE ENDS: 8/5 at DEL, Allowance (breeder Gregory & Caroline Bentley; owner Runnymore Racing LLC; trainer Cathal Lynch)

JUST DIVINE: 8/16 at PEN, Maiden (breeder Shirley Lojeski; owner JKX Racing; trainer Michael Catalano, Jr)

VICTORIA'S DEVINE: 8/26 at TIM, Maiden (breeder Joe Thomson; owner C and B Stables; trainer Charles Frock)

FANCY SCEPTER: 8/28 at PRX, Maiden (breeder/owner Smith Farm & Stable; trainer Tim Shaw)



Pay Zone (Mosler - Keep Right) broke his maiden at Saratoga on 8/10.

Adam Coglianese photo

MOSLER

PAY ZONE: 8/10 at SAR, Maiden (breeder CLF/Keep Right LLC; owner Balck Type Thoroughbreds, Kallenberg Farms and R.A. Hill Stable; trainer George Weaver)

SMALL BUT FEISTY: 8/14 at MNR, Claiming (breeder CLF/Placentia LLC; owner Cynthia Cordero; trainer Alexis Cordero-Lopez)

MYSISTERNANCY: 8/25 at TIM, Claiming (breeder/owner John (Jay) Williamson III; trainer John E. Salzman, Jr.)

RESPONSE TIME: 8/26 at TIM, \$100,000 Timonium Distaff Stakes (breeder Country Life Farm; owner Mens Grille Racing; trainer Hamilton Smith)

SAPONARA: 8/30 at PRX, Claiming (breeder Barak Farm; owner Guadalupe Perez Aguirre; trainer Felix Flores-Coba)



Shady Munni (Friesan Fire - Munnings Favorite) wins his 3rd in a row with Axel Concepcion in the irons.

Jim McCue photo

FRIESAN FIRE

RIPKEN: 8/5 at LRL, Claiming (breeder Sharon Banford; owner Sal Sinatra; trainer Flint W. Stites)

KISSED BY FIRE: 8/17 at DMR, Maiden (breeder Barak Farm & Sharon Dodgen; owner Exline-Border Racing LLC, Commonwealth Thoroughbreds LLC, Ocean Reef Racing and Aaron Kennedy; trainer Peter Eurlon)

WILLFUL DESIRE: 8/18 at LRL, Starter (breeder Bell Gable Stable; owner JKK Racing; trainer Jose Corrales)

SHADY MUNNI: 8/19 at LRL, Starter (breeder Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowman & Rebecca Davis; owner Robert D. Bone & Edward J. Brown, Jr.; trainer Rodolfo Sanchez-Salomon)

LUZIA: 8/25 at CT, Maiden (breeder Cristina Vena; owner Marcus Mosby; trainer Kristy Gazzier)

MY DEVILS CHILD: 8/30 at PRX, Claiming (breeder Ed Madden; owner Teofilo Peraza; trainer Elias Tapsas)



CLF-bred exacta at Laurel on 8/4 - *Bill of Rights (Constitution - Real Good Time)* defeats *Dowsing Rod (Divining Rod - Final Humor)*.

Photo: Jim McCue

OTHER COUNTRY LIFE/PARTNERSHIP-bred or OWNED winners:

BILL OF RIGHTS (Constitution - Real Good Time) - Maiden win on 8/4 at Laurel. Bred by CLF & Real Good Time LLC; owned by Charles J. Reed; trained by Holly Ferris (her first win).

TWIRLING WIND (Twirling Candy - Miss Moonshine) - Claiming win on 8/12 at Monmouth. Bred by CLF & Miss Moonshine LLC; owned by Luis R. Holanda; trained by Tony Perez Flores.

LADY ENSIGN (Midshipman - Sister State) - Maiden win on 8/20 at Laurel. Bred/owned by CLF & Sister State LLC; trained by Michael Trombetta.

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