



Country Life Press

OCTOBER 2023

Newsletter



Maryland's Oldest Thoroughbred Farm

Established 1933: Celebrating Our 90th Anniversary

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**LATEST RACING PARTNERSHIP
SELLS OUT QUICKLY:
Maryland-Bred Yearling Filly by Divining Rod
Under saddle at Merryland
Heading for Virginia in a few weeks**



(click on links in narrative for further info...)

**Thank you to everyone who inquired about this filly. Stay tuned for upcoming Broodmare Partnership Offerings after the Kentucky breeding stock sales. Make sure to send us a quick email, and we will hold you a share.*

Why the quick response to this filly? Maybe it was the price point?

At the Oct. 2-3 Midatlantic Yearling Sale at Timonium, we bid \$42,000 for Hip

#293, a stout filly by Country Life sire Divining Rod. We hurried back to the farm, wrote about the shifting Midlantic landscape, outlined the dual opportunities for Maryland-bred racehorses who are Virginia-certified, and offered 10 shares at "No Markup" for \$4,200 each---about our mid-market sweet spot. Maybe that's why she so quickly sold out?

Maybe it was her sire, a bright story in Maryland breeding, a young son of Tapit with five stakes winners and 20 runners who have earned more than \$100,000. Ten days after we bought this daughter, another Divining Rod filly, named Precious Avary, broken at our Merryland Training Center, went wire-to-wire in the \$125,000 Maryland Million Ladies Stakes. (Watch her thrilling race replayed at her link above.) When our Maryland-centric clients felt Country Life's support of a Maryland stallion, maybe that was the right message?

Maybe it was her mommy, Saltworks, a promising racehorse who broke her maiden by seven lengths at Pimlico for trainer Katy Voss? Katy and her partner in Chanceland Farm, the late Bob Manfuso, are responsible for this entire broodmare family. Saltworks is a half-sister to 2016 Kentucky Oaks winner, Maryland-bred Cathryn Sophia. Before being sold at Keeneland in 2017 for \$2.3-million, Cathryn Sophia earned \$1,229,720. Cathryn Sophia has a 2023 filly by leading sire Gun Runner and was bred back to him for the 2024 season. With a pair of Gun Runners coming along in the family, maybe that was a clincher for our pedigree-buff partners?

Maybe it was this yearling filly's sturdy conformation, her clean veterinary reports, her A+ Endoscope exam, or her A+ heart scan score from Equine Biomechanics expert Patti Miller?

But maybe it's just because we all like horses, and horse racing, and Maryland's home-grown, farm-to-racetrack feel. That's likely the most important reason: That our partners understand the local horse business, the risks, the rewards, and enjoy playing the game.

Partners in the new filly are:

1. Randy Blurton, TX
2. Tom Brannock, VA
3. Dave Callan, MD
4. Cape Fear T'Breds, NC
5. Dr. Allen Garst, MD
6. Jonathan Johnson, CT
7. P. A. Keating, MD
8. Kay Minton, VA
9. Guy Pastore, PA
10. Don Walsh, MD



FULMINEO

2-Year-Old colt pointing for the Friday, Nov. 3, Gr. 1, \$1-million

Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf

Bred in Maryland by Country Life Farm and Starr of Quality LLC

Second in the Gr. 2, \$200,000 Pilgrim Stakes at Aqueduct on Oct. 4

**"MARYLAND-BREDS" FOR COUNTRY LIFE
"BREEDING PARTNERSHIPS" TOP BOTH THE
SARATOGA AND KEENELAND YEARLING SALES**



Country Life's adaptive model for success in the Thoroughbred market certainly feels like the right path forward.

In August at Saratoga, Country Life and the Starr of Quality LLC, with Bluegrass Farms as our agent, sold the highest-priced yearling of any *bred outside of Kentucky*, not merely topping the Maryland-breds in the sale.

Our Gun Runner filly fetched \$775,000 from the Solis/Litt agency, on behalf of LNJ Foxwoods Stable. Country Life bought Starr of Quality for \$72,000 at the 2020 Keeneland November mixed sale. We sold her 2021 Bolt d'Oro colt for \$90,000 at Saratoga last summer. Named Fulmineo and trained by Arnaud Delacour, the colt broke his maiden in September at Colonial Downs, then ran a strong second in the \$200,000 Gr.-2 Pilgrim Stakes on Oct. 4th. It appears he will be pre-entered for the \$1-million Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf when entries are taken on Oct. 23.

In September at Keeneland, Country Life Farm and the Make Amends LLC were responsible for the breeding of a \$500,000 colt by Maclean's Music, the highest-priced Maryland-bred of the 29 offered in a sale of 3,000 yearlings. Maryland-breds overall averaged \$80,000, with a median of \$40,000.

Country Life bought Make Amends for \$82,000 at Keeneland in 2021 carrying the colt, which we sold as a weanling at the 2022 Fasig-Tipton

November sale for \$140,000, nearly doubling the mare's purchase price in the first year of the LLC. The colt's successful pinhook from weanling to yearling validates our business model, while reminding us of John Madden's famous quip: Better to sell and repent then keep and repent.

These two headline-making mares in our Breeding Partnerships are currently in foal to hot young Kentucky sire prospects. Starr of Quality is pregnant in the first book of Gun Runner's Grade-One winning son Cyberknife; and Make Amends is carrying a foal by Into Mischief's Kentucky Derby Gr.-1 winning son Mandaloun for 2024.

We'll be shopping in November hoping to land mares similar to Starr of Quality and Make Amends to add to our broodmare band. If you are interested in participating in our popular Breeding Partnerships, please let us know.

DIVINE ROMANCE A MAIDEN NO MORE



Homebred filly Divine Romance returned to the races after a yearlong layoff and trainer Mike Trombetta had her prepared perfectly. On Sunday, October 15th, while breeders and partners were enjoying crab soup at our annual Autumn Day in the Country at Merryland Farm, we crowded around the TV to watch Divine Romance romp home by almost four lengths. Two of her four

partners made it to the Winner's Circle: Al Petrillo and his family and Jim Ridgely.

Divine Romance is out of the Deputy Minister mare Imagistic. Foaled, raised and broken here before going to Chris Kolb at the Middleburg Training Center to become Virginia-certified, the filly ran three times as a 2-year-old but suffered a condyle fracture. Surgery to insert a screw was performed at New Bolton Center, and the filly was given time to recover all winter and spring. An advantage of Partnership Ownership is patience. Take care of the horses and they will take care of you.

COVERT KAT WINS AGAIN



Country Life Racing Partnership's Covert Kat scored his second lifetime victory on Sept. 1 at Colonial Downs. The Virginia-certified gelding, bred by the High Peak Farm of longtime Country Life advisor John Stuart, broke his maiden going a mile at Laurel, then shortened to 5-1/2 furlongs on the pool table smooth turf course at Colonial.

Trainer Mike Trombetta spotted Covert Kat beautifully, taking advantage at the end of the Colonial meet to ship the well-traveled gelding 535 miles from Saratoga to New Kent, Virginia.

A strong second on Oct. 13 at Laurel boosted Covert Kat's lifetime earnings to \$124,360.

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

Races We're Watching

Country Life Bred or Sired Winners



DANCINGONTHEBEACH
(Divining Rod - Dixie Dancer)
Winning in debut at Pimlico on Sept. 24

Jim McCue photo

DIVINING ROD

DIVINE MAGIC: 9/10 at PIM, Maiden (breeder Mike Burkholder; owner Dam Sire's Dreams Racing Stable LLC; trainer Timothy Salzman)

GHOST OF ALCINA: 9/23 at CT, Maiden (breeder/owner Cristina Vena Mosby; trainer Vernon Greaves)

DANCINONTHEBEACH: 9/24 at PIM, Maiden (breeder Gainesway Thoroughbreds Ltd.; owner SAB Stable Inc.; trainer Hugh McMahon)



Mocephus (Mosler - Spring Dance) won twice in September at Pimlico, both with Martina Rojas in the irons.

Jim McCue photo

MOSLER

SAPPHIRE BEAUTY: 9/2 at TIM, Claiming (breeder CLF & Rock Sapphire LLC; owner C and B Stables; trainer Charles Frock)

BANDITS HEART: 9/3 at TIM, Claiming (breeder/owner No Guts No Glory Farm; trainer Gina Robb)

WATERWORKS: 9/6 at DEL, Claiming (breeder Wes Carter; owner Lewis E. Mathews, Jr.; trainer Chelsey Moysey)

NEXT EPISODE: 9/6 at CNL, Allowance (breeder CLF & Rue de Rivoli LLC; owner/trainer Niall Saville)

TOUISSET: 9/8 at DEL, Starter (breeder CLF, Paul Berube & Karen Linnell; owner Paul Berube, Karen Linnell & Heather Hunter; trainer Michael Gorham)

MOCEPHUS: 9/9 at PIM, Claiming (breeder Dave Baxter; owner Robert Reidy; trainer Mario Serey, Jr.)

PAY ZONE: 9/15 at BAQ, Starter (breeder CLF & Keep Right LLC; owner SOK Racing; trainer Mertkan Kantarmaci)

ESPERANNA: 9/17 at PIM, Claiming (breeder CLF & Moonlit Malibu LLC; owner Jose M. Gallegos; trainer W. Thomas McMahon)

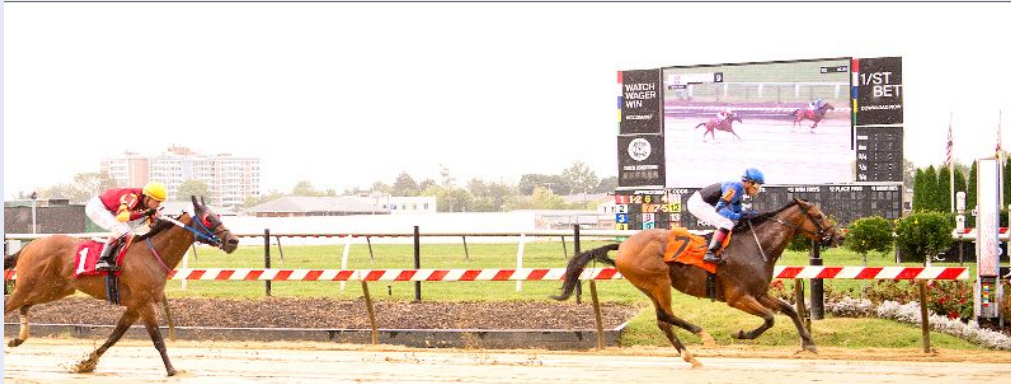
PEPE AND HEYWOOD: 9/22 at DEL, Claiming (breeder CLF & Sassy Molly LLC; owner Nazario Racing Stable LLC; trainer Pedro Nazario)

MOCEPHUS: 9/24 at PIM, Starter (breeder Dave Baxter; owner Robert Reidy; trainer Mario Serey, Jr.)

LIGHT UP MY LIFE: 9/25 at IND, Maiden (breeder Barak Farm; owner Marion F. Gorham; trainer Robert Gorham)

GAVICHI: 9/27 at PRX, Claiming (breeder James Anderson; owner Marco A. Arriaga; trainer Ruperto Perez)

BIG DADDY D R: 9/29 at CT, Claiming (breeder No Guts No Glory Farm; owner/trainer Barry Utterback)



One Truth (Friesan Fire - Sweet Little Lies) breaks his maiden under Jerry Villegas at Pimlico for Harry Dimitriou, who bred, owns and trains him.

Jim McCue photo

FRIESAN FIRE

PRINS FIRE: 9/1 at TIM, Maiden (breeder/owner Edwin & Janice Jenkins; trainer Mario Serey, Jr.)

WHO U GONNA CALL: 9/4 at MTR, Claiming (breeder Marathon Farms, Inc.; owner Bruno Schickedanz; trainer Juan Gotera)

ONE TRUTH: 9/9 at PIM, Maiden (breeder/owner/trainer Harry E. Dimitriou)

POCOPSON STATION: 9/15 at PEN, Claiming (breeder Elizabeth R. Houghton; owner Brandon Stem and Sheri Loechner-Stem; trainer Mark Ippolito)

WILLFUL DESIRE: 9/24 at BAQ, Claiming (breeder Bell Gable Stable; owner JKK Racing; trainer David Jacobson)

PEACE FIRE: 9/29 at DEL, Maiden (breeder Flying H Stables, LLC; owner Bell Gable Stable; trainer Jose A. Ramirez)

OTHER COUNTRY LIFE/PARTNERSHIP-bred or OWNED winners:

FULMINEO (Bolt d'Oro - Starr of Quality) - Maiden win on 9/2 at Colonial. Bred by CLF & Starr of Quality LLC; owned by Starlight Racing and Mark B. Grier; trained by Arnaud Delacour.

JEBOLOGIST (Gemologist - Sassy Molly) - Claiming win on 9/11 at Parx. Bred by CLF & Sassy Molly LLC; owned by Morris E. Kernan, Jr., Yo Berbs Racing and Jagger Inc.; trained by Jamie Ness. Lifetime earnings \$150,668.

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