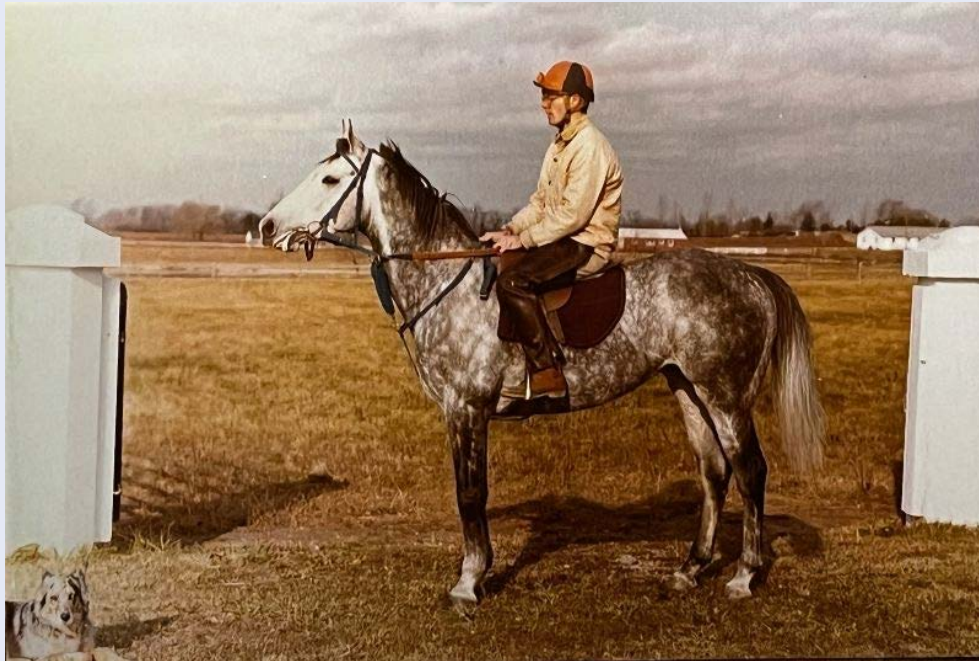


February 2024

The Ties That Bind



No family member contributed more to, or loved Country Life better, than Andrew MacNamara Pons, eldest son of Joe and Mary Jo Pons, brother to Norah, Josh, Mike, and Alice Pons. Andrew died on January 2, 2024, of complications after cardiac arrest. See link to his [Obituary here](#).

Mark your calendars. A celebration of Andrew's unforgettable life will be held at Country Life on Saturday, June 1st at 1 p.m., the day after what would have been his 71st birthday.

OMAHA BEACH, sire of unbeaten 3-year-old KOPION, and our recent filly out of MAYBE I WILL



We went shopping at the Keeneland January sale and came home with the stakes-winning young mare MAYBE I WILL, who just delivered a stunning filly by Omaha Beach here at Country Life.

Purchased for \$100,000 from her breeder Tom Bachman, MAYBE I WILL won the black-type Hastings Stakes, and earned a 101 Equibase speed figure. MAYBE I WILL has a 1/2-sister by Omaha Beach named Cayucos heading to Hall-of-Fame trainer Richard Mandella this spring. Their dam, My Due Process, is in foal to Kentucky Derby-winner Authentic. This is what we look for in our broodmare acquisitions: a "live" family.

MAYBE I WILL foaled a strikingly beautiful big filly by Omaha Beach on January 30th. All eyes will be on Omaha Beach's undefeated 3-year-old filly KOPION this weekend. She is set to run in the \$100,000, Gr.-3 Las Virgenes Stakes at Santa Anita. KOPION is the leading point-getter for the \$2.5-million Kentucky Oaks in May, after she won the \$100,000 Gr-3 Santa Ynez Stakes on January 7.

Congratulations to our partners on the arrival of MAYBE I WILL's first foal:

Carol Brdecka, Illinois
Tim Burr, Massachusetts
Tom Esposito, Connecticut
Bob Goldman, Florida
Guidera McKenney Equine LLC, Florida
Ann Laskodi, Nevada
Country Life Farm, Maryland

WHEN TO HOLD WHEN TO FOLD

Sometimes it's not the mare you buy at the auction, it's the one who gets away, the one you identify as value, until you get outbid.

It takes discipline at horse sales, which is what we exercised at the Feb. 5-6 Fasig-Tipton Winter Sale. We had our eyes on 2022 Maryland-bred Champion 3-year-old filly Luna Belle, who reeled off five straight local stakes wins and earned almost \$400,000. Her pedigree was regional, not national. Her catalog page listed her as Not Pregnant, a red flag which means she was bred the spring of 2023 but was not in foal.

Returned to training, her Past Performances showed a good third on Maryland Million Day in October of 2023 to Country Life-bred Response Time and 2022 Maryland-bred Horse-of-the-Year Fille d'Espirit. Maybe, maybe not, did Luna Belle still have some racing potential? Our first goal, though, was to acquire a well-bought broodmare.

Luna Belle was bred by the late longtime Maryland breeder Fred A. Greene Jr., his daughter Deborah and trainer Hamilton Smith and she was campaigned by Deborah and Smith. Luna Belle seemed like a potentially exciting addition to the Country Life broodmare band, that is, until a Kentucky breeder wanted her for his new stallion: Kentucky Derby winner Mage. Mike Pons did the bidding on [Hip 119](#), thought he had her bought at five figures, but she went for precisely six figures. The Mage man was not going to stop. Read the full story in this week's [Maryland Horse Weekly](#).

The lesson here is that you have to know when to hold, and when to fold, where Thoroughbred auctions are concerned. Maybe Luna Belle will cycle back through the auction ring this fall, in foal to Mage, and we'll take another swing....

Country Life Racing Partnership's MOSE PERFECT (by Mosler)



Mose Perfect: a farm favorite. While he's not always perfect, when he's right, he's a tough customer to beat. Purchased for a modest \$15,000 at the 2020 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October sale, this Maryland-bred gelding, who just-turned 5, ran his purse earnings to \$167,139 last week at Laurel, winning a \$40,630 Starter Allowance.

It was his fifth win in 15 starts, and he has been a happy "mailbox money" bonus to his breeder, longtime Country Life patron Charles Parker of Barak Farm in Lexington, Kentucky.

A winner of three straight last winter, "Mose" was given a well-deserved break at our Merryland Training Center from spring through summer. He returned to Laurel in the fall, and clearly the R & R at Merryland was time well-spent.

Congratulations to our partners Jim Guidera of Florida, Dave McKenney of Virginia, and the Gieron Family of Maryland.

"PONY RACING CLINIC"

February 25 at Merryland

Quickly becoming a popular annual event, the U.S. Pony Racing Association is holding another "Pony Racing Clinic" at Merryland Farm on Sunday, February 25th. Regina Welsh heads up the organization and does a fantastic job developing the jockeys of the future.

The clinic, which focuses on teaching young riders the basics of riding for both flat and steeplechase races, draws an overflow group of riders, ponies and spectators.

Open to riders under 16 years old on ponies under 14.2 hands (featuring lots of adorable Shetland ponies), the "Clinic" is an educational and fun day for all. The experience of riding on a real racetrack --- but on a private training center such as Merryland --- provides a unforgettable experience to these young riders, where they have the track to themselves for their very own races.

For more information on the Clinic, click the picture below for a link to the U.S. Pony Racing Association website. Entries are still being accepted. If you have a youngster who rides but doesn't yet have a pony, you might be able to "share" a pony for the day, by calling the Association.

**WANTED...
PONY JOCKEYS**

PONY RACING CLINIC
Sunday, 2/25, 11:00 AM
Merryland Farm
Hydes, MD

For Juniors on their own pony, on a real track!
 This is NOT a race, but a entry level even that
 teaches all aspects of racing. \$40 per rider.
 Registration closes 2/22, sign up at:
www.usponyracing.com
 410-340-2347 · usponyracing@gmail.com

January Foals

(click on picture for link to gallery)

**Zekara -
Nashville filly**
 January 21st 2024 at 8:25 am

Foaled at Country Life Farm

**Bred by Barak Farm (Charles
Parker) and Dinos Thoroughbreds
LLC (Dean Barber)**

**Stonerageous -
Divining Rod colt**
 January 21st 2024 at 4:47 pm

Foaled at Country Life Farm

**Bred by Black Star Stable
(Christopher Codey)**

Afleet Fairy -
Friesan Fire filly
January 23rd 2024 at 10:14 pm



Foaled at Country Life Farm

**Bred by Conroy Thoroughbreds
LLC (Joseph Conroy)**

New Wave -
Greatest Honour filly
January 25th 2024 at 5:18 pm



Foaled at Country Life Farm

**Bred by Barak Farm (Charles
Parker)**

So Far Away -
Mosler filly
January 25th 2024 at 9:28 pm



Foaled at Country Life Farm

Bred by Betsy Mead

Sugar Shack -
Friesan Fire filly
January 27th 2024 at 8:20 pm



Foaled at Country Life Farm

Bred by James Stevenson

Maybe I Will -
Omaha Beach filly
January 30th 2024 at 12:26 am



Foaled at Country Life Farm

Bred by Country Life Farm &
Maybe I Will Broodmare LLC

Our Bella Nicole -
Vino Rosso colt
January 31st 2024 at 10:01 pm



Foaled at Country Life Farm

Bred by Marie & Michael
Trombetta

Foaling Webcam

Country Life Bred or Sired Winners

DIVINING ROD

DIVINE FASHION: 1/5 at CT, Starter (breeder Susan H. Wantz; owner Richard Burnsworth; trainer Anthony Farris)

DIVINING STONE: 1/10 at TAM, Maiden (breeder St. Augustine Manor LLC; owner Robert Taylor III; trainer Mario Lopez)

LIVING WATER: 1/11 at PEN, Claiming (breeder Mr. & Mrs. M. Roy Jackson; owner/trainer Silvino Ramirez)

NEXT GIRL: 1/12 at LRL, Maiden (breeder Country Life & Fleet and Fancy LLC; owner WWCD, LLC; trainer W. Robert Bailes)

GLASTONBURY: 1/13 at CT, Maiden (breeder Linda Lee Sutton & Laura S. Roadcap; owner Laura Roadcap; trainer Jerry Roadcap)

LOOSE ENDS: 1/31 at PEN, Allowance (breeder Gregory and Caroline Bentley Breeders; owner Runnymore Racing, LLC; trainer Cathal Lynch)



Next Girl, by Divining Rod

MOSLER

BAY STREET: 1/28 at LRL, Allowance (breeder/owner Greycross Stable LLC; trainer Katharine M. Voss)

MOSE PERFECT: 1/28 at LRL, Starter/Opt Claimer (breeder Charles Parker; owner Country Life Farm & Mose Perfect LLC; trainer Michael Trombetta)



Bay Street, by Mosler

FRIESAN FIRE

PEACE FIRE: 1/14 at TAM, Claiming (breeder Flying H Stables LLC; owner Bell Gable Stable LLC; trainer Richard Sillaman)

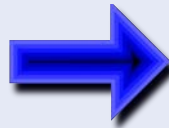
DUBAI FIRE: 1/25 at PEN, Maiden (breeder Randy Ridgely; owner Port Lairge Stables and Merribelle Stables LLC; trainer Mark Beecher)



Bill Denver, Equi-Photo

Dubai Fire, by Friesan Fire

**Check out our farm
YouTube Channel for
stallion videos,
training videos and more!**



**Country Life
Farm on
YouTube**



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