

OLD FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2009

FROM MICHAEL BLOWEN

The last few days at Old Friends have been absolutely amazing. Yesterday, Commentator, Tracy and Carol Farmer's spectacular multiple Grade One winner, arrived at Old Friends to live out his retirement with grace and dignity. On Friday, Black Tie Affair received his latest acupuncture treatment and, on Saturday, Bluesthestandard arrived from Kristin Mulhall's farm in California. Other recent additions include Proper Reality and Jade Hunter along with Sgt. Bert, Tour of the Cat, Sea Native, Boule d'Or, Shadowcaster, Eternal Orage and Regal Sanction.

It's a testament to the groundswell of support we receive daily from all Old Friends supporters. Naturally, we were disappointed when Lava Man's arrival was delayed by the decision to put him back in training. But owner Jason Wood assured us that if Lava shows up with as much as a pimple, he'll be retired to Old Friends. He also added that he wanted me to keep Lava Man's reservation on Tex Sutton's airplane scheduled for later this month.

Back to Commentator. Mr. and Mrs Farmer came to visit Old Friends last Thursday in the late afternoon and stayed for more than an hour. Mrs. Farmer visited every horse but she has a special place in her heart for her great racer and broodmare, Hidden Lake. Usually, Hidden Lake shoves Bonnie and Cozy and Personalized out of the way so we can share a few moments. As soon as she hears my voice she trots right

over. That happened Thursday but, as soon as she heard Carol's voice, she jilted me in a heartbeat. These great horses have long memories, especially for those who've treated them so well.

Not only did the Farmers donate their magnificent Commentator, but they're also generously donating shares in many of their breeding stallions and making sure that Old Friends remains on solid financial footing. Tracy has some great ideas for the long-term health of Old Friends. "We didn't just retire Commentator to you because of him but also so we can work on helping all of your present and future racehorses," Tracy told us.

On a sad note, we had to euthanize Appy Go Lucky. The King of Beulah Park suffered from a fractured vertebra in his back and, despite two months trying to help him recover, we failed in our efforts. He was a remarkable retiree who came to us through the monumental efforts of Vivien Morrison and Bea Snyder. Viv and Bea followed Appy's career for years and worked tirelessly to get him retired to Old Friends. Appy was very lucky to have two such devoted and generous fans. Unfortunately, while playing with his paddock mates he reinjured himself, losing the connection his brain and his hindquarters. Dr. Doug Byars explained that the injury was getting worse and that Appy was enduring more pain. Early



Commentator Checking out his new paddock

Commentator By Equisportphotos.com

Monday morning, under a warm Kentucky sun while munching grass, Appy died peacefully.

Most of you know that the Thoroughbred business is in a serious downturn. But not the Thoroughbred retirement business. I have the greatest job in the world except when I must tell dedicated, concerned people that we're filled up and can't accommodate their horses. The farm next door is available for lease...40 acres and 12 stalls for \$3500 per month. That would allow us to move some of our off-site retirees closer and open up room for more deserving athletes. If we got 70 supporters to pledge \$50 a month that would do it. If you're interested in participating let Sylvia know. This will be an Old Friends syndicate and everyone will get their name on a brass plate in the barn.

We have many events planned for the next year all aimed at drawing attention to our great retirees and raising both awareness and money. We want everyone involved with Old Friends to enjoy themselves and appreciate the beauty of these amazing athletes.



JOCKEYS

LOTS OF 'EM. COMING TO OLD FRIENDS.

racings2day.com Presents

JOCKEY PALOOZA!

Tues Oct 20, 2009, 3:30 pm

Expected guests: Calvin Borel, Jean Cruquet,
Kent Desormeaux, Chris McCarron, Bobby Ussery, and others!
(more to be announced)



Calvin Borel & Makors Mark

Calvin Borel Day at Old Friends photo by equisportphotos.com

Dinner will be served, autographs will be signed, stories will be told.

Tickets: \$50 (\$25 to OF members)
Proceeds benefit Old Friends
& The Don Macbeth Memorial Jockey Fund

Partner sponsor Markel Insurance

EXCLUSIVE COUTURE 'DERBY HATS' BE OFFERED IN ONE-OF-A-KIND ONLINE CHARITY AUCTION



Custom Millinery Maggie Mae Designs® has joined forces with Old Friends, the Thoroughbred Retirement Facility in Central Kentucky, to create an unparalleled online shopping experience: "Hats Off to the Horses: The Road to the Derby."

On November 1, 2009 Old Friends will auction through eBay the first of six elegant Kentucky Derby Hats handcrafted by acclaimed milliner Sally Faith Steinmann of the Massachusetts-based Maggie Mae Designs®.

Donated by Ms. Steinmann, each of the six hats will be inspired by one of the 70 retired racehorses pensioned at Old Friends's Dream Chase Farm in Georgetown, KY.

"Hats off to the Horses: The Road to the Derby" will offer a new, one-of-a-kind millinery creation for bid each month, with all of the high-fashion action leading up to the most exciting two minutes in sports.

Steinmann has been making hats for Derby and many other racing events since 1998. Her designs were seen in the winner's circle in 2008 when Big Brown captured the Run for the Roses. Her life-long love affair with horses has inspired her to create this matchless collection of Derby Hats to benefit Old Friends.

The first hat on the block will celebrate Old Friends retiree Black Tie Affair. The now 23-year-old stallion won the Breeders' Cup Classic in 1991 and subsequently the Eclipse Award for "Horse of the Year". His earnings on the racetrack exceed \$3 million.

For this superlative athlete Steinmann has crafted an extraordinary chapeau. A foundation of luscious silver dupioni silk and silver silk organza has been layered with waves of pale silk organza brims. The hat is, naturally, highlighted by...a black tie. Created in bold silk, the bowtie trim is adorned with red roses that recall the horse's stable colors and a swirling black-dot veil that "reminds us of the lovely dapple gray coat he had during his of racing days," said Steinmann. The chic finish: a single red rose curl on the backside. "This final touch," adds Steinmann, "makes the hat a stunning statement from every angle."

The "Black Tie Affair" hat will be available for bidding for 10 days only beginning Nov. 1, 2009. Interested bidders can see the hats for sale & learn more about Steinmann by visiting www.maggiemaedesigns.com

A SHORT NOTE FROM LITTLE SILVER CHARM



Our new retirees usually ask me for advice. After all, I am the most famous horse at Old Friends. Most of the horses who come here recognize me immediately, having seen my photograph in People magazine. Some pretend they don't know who I am. I guess they're intimidated by my star power.

I tell every new retiree the same thing. No matter how great a champion you are, you have to adapt to a new lifestyle here at Old Friends. What made you successful on the track or in the breeding shed won't necessarily make you successful with our visitors. You must be willing to re-invent yourself. Here are a few retirement tips that I recently shared with our newest retiree Commentator.

Live in the present.

Like all old athletes our retirees like to re-live their glory days. They talk about when they won the Breeders' Cup Classic or the Whitney Stakes. I can't tell you how many times I've had to listen to The Wicked North re-hash his famous disqualification in the 1994 Santa Anita Handicap. Get over it! And Black Tie Affair, one of our newest arrivals, keeps reminding everyone that he was Horse of the Year in 1991. Tell it to your acupuncturist, big boy. Focus on your new job. Concentrate on the fine art of lounging around and being admired.

Keep in shape.

I like to do my stretching exercises in the morning, before breakfast. It helps me get ready for another day of playing soccer with Michael, schmoozing with visitors, posing for photographs and generally being adorable. My job is very demanding and strenuous, but it's worth it because with all that exercise I get to eat lots of carrots. As I tell our new retirees, it's all about the carrots. It's my mantra, and it should be theirs, too.

Cuteness counts.

This is a difficult concept for some of our retirees, especially the stallions, to grasp, at first. Cuteness comes naturally to me because in addition to being talented and charming and intelligent, I am small. Big horses can be cute too, but it doesn't always come naturally, especially to Thoroughbreds, who have spent their lives focused on racing. I tell them that being adorable doesn't mean sacrificing their dignity. And it pays off big time in the form of treats. Look at Sunshine Forever, a great champion, an Eclipse Award winner. He loves mints. I suggested that he train Michael to do a trick. When Michael asks him a question, Sunshine nods vigorously and voila! A mint appears. Our visitors love this. And they love Sunshine. Almost as much as they love me.

GIFT BOXES—WE GOT 'EM

Need Holiday gift ideas? Varied and unusual items from our gift shop all packaged up in a white box with a printed red bow. We can mail directly to you or to the recipient. Tastes of the Bluegrass, Cups of Friendship, Kentucky Proud, Lady in Your Life and more! Gift boxes have different combinations of our hand thrown ceramic mugs, horse and racing books, Soap Werks' fabulous candles and lotions & more. We will make Custom Gift Boxes, too! Watch for our 2009 gift boxes on our website and in our eBay Store. Coming soon!



One of our new Gift Boxes

2010 CALENDARS AVAILABLE SOON!

Our 2010 Calendars will be ready to ship soon. Full of spectacular photos of Old Friends retirees. \$25. One of our best fundraising items. Makes a great gift for any horse lover! Watch the website.

OLD FRIENDS ALONG THE BOURBON TRAIL 2010

The Historic Seelbach Hilton Hotel presents the 2nd annual evening of fine food and drink highlighted by a silent & live auction to benefit Old Friends. The Master Distillers from Kentucky's world-renown distilleries will be there directing the tastings. This event is the ultimate bourbon tasting & progressive dinner experience. The Seelbach's Oak Room is the only AAA Five Diamond rated restaurant in Kentucky. Mark your calendars for February 20, 2010. Everyone had a wonderful time at this year's event. Watch for details on our website. If anyone can help out with auction item donations, it is always greatly appreciated! Last year at this event, your auction item donations helped generate over \$7500 for Old Friends.

Old Friends

1841 Paynes Depot Rd.
Georgetown, KY 40324

Phone: 502-863-1775
Fax: 502-863-1776
Email: sylvia@oldfriendsequine.org
www.oldfriendsequine.org

Old Friends is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing safe harbor & dignified retirement to Thoroughbreds whose racing & breeding careers had come to an end. By promoting these one-time celebrated horses through a campaign of education & tourism, we hope to draw attention & raise funds for all retired Thoroughbreds & all equines in need.

Reservations

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

JOCKEY-PALOOZA RESERVATIONS (OCT 20) Please make _____ Reservations @ \$50.00 each
I am a member or shareholder. Please make _____ Reservations @ \$25.00 each.

I CANNOT ATTEND BUT WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO HELP \$ _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

Children under 12 are free

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on CC: _____ CV # _____

Billing Address: _____

Signature: _____

MAIL THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK TO: OLD FRIENDS, 1841 PAYNES DEPOT RD., GEORGETOWN, KY 40324 OF
CALL 502-863-1775 WWW.OLDFRIENDSEQUINE.ORG