Old Friends

Thoroughbred Retirement in Georgetown, Kentucky

Accredited by Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA)



Apperoughbred

Winter-Spring 2021

A Message from Michael Blowen

Between Covid-19, the ghosts of visitors past, and February's snow, ice and rain, winter has been tough. Yet, our horses got through it without any serious illness or fatalities and, because of our great farm team, everyone came out of the ice just fine.

In early February our friend, Lee Meador, died. He, and his co-vivant, Shirley Ford, were attracted to Old Friends about a decade ago. For those who have been on a tour you may have noticed that our Feed Shack is named after Lee and Shirley. They were dedicated to the cats, the people and, most of all, the horses here at Old Friends.



Slim Shadey throwin' shade at a winter sky.

Lee had two favorite horses of all time—Citation and Old Friends retiree, A.P. Slew. This is probably the only time you'll ever read the names of one of the all-time greats and an also-ran in the same sentence. But that was Lee.

While I cherish our times together at the farm, it was our visit to visit Citation's grave at Calumet that was the most stirring. Lee stood over Citation's monument, transfixed by the moment of a lifetime. I'm so grateful to everyone at Calumet for allowing us to visit. It meant more than they'll ever know.

Shirley is left with an equine retirement home that she built near their home in Texas. Life won't be the same without seeing Lee. But he and Shirley changed the course of Old Friends forever. We will never forget Lee and all he taught us about compassion, generosity and friendship.

The COVID-19 pandemic shutdown has not only affected our financial health; it's affected my mental health. I have really missed interacting with all of our dedicated, well-informed, committed tour guides who, by the way, perform their tasks with no financial compensation. They do it all for the priceless experience of being up close and personal with all of our great retirees.



Michael Blowen President & Founder

Today, the sun is out and the temperatures are warming. All of us at Old Friends -- especially our tour guides and retirees- - are excited at the prospect of welcoming you back to Old Friends in 2021. Let's get the tours started! Check out our tour days and times on the back page of this newsletter & plan your trip to Old Friends soon. The horses miss you. We do, too!



Old Friends Board of Directors President: Michael Blowen Vice President: Bill Van Den Dool Secretary/Treasurer: Barbara Fossum

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Newsletter Production: Barbara Fossum © 2021 Old Friends Inc.

> Old Friends, Inc. 1841 Payne's Depot Rd Georgetown, KY 40324 (502) 863-1775 www.oldfriendsequine.org

Old Friends is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.



Meet Our Newest Old Friends

Even with the curtailing of farm tourism operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the late fall and winter months have seen a steady stream of new retirees arriving at Old Friends, ready to begin the next chapter in their lives. They come from many circumstances with one thing in common—your commitment has helped make the dignified retirement they deserve a reality. We are excited to introduce you to **these 12(!)** new Old Friends:



Photo © Laura Battles Millionaire Tom's Ready (7) arrived in December from the GMB Racing Stable of Gayle Benson, owner of the New Orleans Saints football team. Tom excelled at racing on the grass, so he'll fit right in with our retired turf superstars!



Photo © *Old Friends Farm Applicator* (7) won the Gleaming Stakes and Tourist Mile and earned \$571,87 in a 53-race career. He arrived at Old Friends in December.



Photo © Old Friends Farm

Arriving on New Year's Eve, *Romance Is Diane* (16) was the last new horse on the farm before we slammed the gate shut on 2020. A graded stakes-winner of \$700,000, Romance Is Diane produced foals by Awesome Again, Ghostzapper and Macho Uno before retiring from broodmare duty. She's pretty, she's tall, and she'll be a great addition to our band of Old girlFriends!



Photo © Old Friends Farm

Better (3), a \$200,000 OBS April Two-Year-Old in 2019, was unraced due to an injury, and retired by board member Susan Chu in December. Oh, and did we mention he's cute?



Photo © Old Friends Farm

Arriving from Adena Springs in December, *Silver Max* (11) won several graded stakes on grass & almost \$2 million in 27 starts. Another great addition to our grass superstar collection!



Photo © Old Friends Farm

Millionaire *Sharp Samurai* (7) is a turf star who raced in California, winning the City of Hope Mile, Twilight Derby, Del Mar Derby, & La Jolla in a four year racing career. He arrived in February, and we're all in love!

Meet Our Newest Old Friends



Photo © *Laura Battles Bellamy Road* (18) won the G1 Wood Memorial and \$800,000 in his racing career. He stood at stud in Kentucky and New York before retiring to Old Friends in January.



Photo © Old Friends Farm Stakes winner War Story (8) arrived in December. Co-owner Glenn Ellis says that War Story is a special horse and has earned a happy life. And his dam, Belle Watling, lives across the street at Summer Wind Farm!



Photo © *Old Friends Farm Mr. Jordan* (9), a fan favorite in Florida, won 10 races, including seven stakes

won 10 races, including seven stakes races, and \$860,000 in a 43-race career. He arrived at his forever home on a rainy February morning.



Photo © Old Friends Farm

Scotch (4) is one of those horses who didn't accomplish much on the track but is just as deserving of a good home as any millionaire. And now he has one.



Photo © Laura Battles

Royal Bonsai (12) was retired to Old Friends in November by Sean Clancy. Born in Great Britain, he didn't much like flat racing but he really loved to jump, finishing third in the G1 Grand National Hurdle Stakes at Far Hills in New Jersey.



Photo © Old Friends Farm A \$4.2M Keeneland yearling in 2010, *Mr. Besilu* (11) is a relative of the super-star mare Zenyatta. Unfortunately, Mr. Besilu did not have her talent and retired to stud in Texas without winning a race. And now he resides in retirement at Old Friends.



thirtysomething by Cynthia Grisolia

For us two-leggeds, turning 30 is a real mile marker: The end of insecure youth! The beginning of the "Best" decade! When you're a horse, though, the big 3-0 is something else altogether. A 30-year-old equine is approximately 85.5 years old in human years: For them it's the end of one journey and the beginning of a final voyage. On February 14 and March 30, respectively, two Old Friends residents made the leap into their third decade: Multiple graded stakes winner You and I and 1996 Breeders' Cup Classic Winner Alphabet Soup (the younger of the two by 44 days).

Both have a lot to look back on. In 1993, as a two-year-old, You and I was a star right out of the box. He followed his maiden win at Belmont Park—where he beat future Kentucky Derby Winner Go for Gin-- with a victory in the G2 Cowdin Stakes at Aqueduct. The near coal-black son of Kris S went on to capture the G3 Riva Ridge Stakes, the G1 Metropolitan Handicap, and the G2 Brooklyn Handicap before retiring in 1995. He stood as a stallion for a time Airdrie Stud in Kentucky, where he sired five-time Grade 1 winning filly, You.

Alphabet Soup, on the other hand, is better known for his slow stealthy burn. Racing mostly in California, he didn't really make his mark until the age of four, when he showed he really did have what



You and I

Alphabet Soup

it takes by winning the G2 Del Mar Breeders' Cup Handicap and the G3 Native Diver Handicap and placing in both the G2 Goodwin and the G3 Clark. By age five, in 1996, he was ready to set fire to the track. He took three important stakes races, the G2 San Pasqual, the G2 San Antonio, and the G3 Pat O' Brien, all en route to a spectacular triumph in the Breeders' Cup Classic, where he bested the "invincible" Cigar and that year's Preakness winner Louis Quatorze. His thrilling, white-knuckle win also set a track record at Canada's Woodbine racetrack for 1¼ miles. Now, at age 30, he is currently the oldest living Breeders' Cup Classic winner. Soup also retired to stud in Kentucky, standing his whole breeding career at Adena Springs. He has sired several stakes winners, including Alphabet Kisses and Egg Drop.

At Old Friends, we are well-versed with horses in their twilight years-- well aware of the stiff joints and the slower gaits. And over the years we've ferried many into their golden age: Clever Allemont, Ogygian, Gulch, Dinard, and now Soup and You and I. We know their time with us is shortening, but rather than mourn a future we embrace their pasts, remember their accomplishments, and celebrate their lives. We hope you will, too.

Happy Birthday, guys!

Old Friends at Ashton Grove Mascot Arrives!

Old Friends at Ashton Grove Senior Living, our satellite facility that opened last fall in Georgetown, KY, welcomed new resident Winston as its miniature horse mascot on February 9th. Winston, who happens to share the name of the much-loved former Kentucky Derby Museum mascot who lived at Old Friends briefly in 2018, will be on the job visiting residents and greeting visitors to the facility.

A 13-year-old pinto gelding, Winston is looking forward to warmer temperatures and a chance to interact with the retirees at Ashton Grove, both human and Thoroughbred.

Winston's owner, Christy Cassady, and her husband, Kevin, had been doing nursing home and assisted living facility visits with dogs for approximately 12 years when she bought Winston in January of 2020. Christy had been dreaming of finding a miniature horse that was suitable for these visits when she met Winston. His sweet personality, intelligence, and fondness for interacting with people made him an ideal candidate.

Although COVID-19 put Winston's plans on hold,



Winston with Christy, getting acquainted with Litigate and new pals at Ashton Grove.

the opening of Old Friends at Ashton Grove and the search for a miniature horse mascot provided an ideal opportunity. Winston is eager to make human and equine friends and assist in bringing joy to the residents and staff of Ashton Grove Senior Living.

According to Old Friends' Michael Blowen, "Little Silver Charm, of course, is at our main farm. and Fonzie lives at Old Friends' Mari Hulman George Annex just down the road. Ashton Grove wanted their own mini. And, now, they have him.

Winston has already taken several trips around the assisted living facility and he's boffo. John Bradley and Chrissy are his caretakers and they respond to every one of his royal dictums. He's smart and cute and everyone loves him. What more could he, or we, ask for?"

Just Published!



The 9th Annual Daily Racing Form/Old Friends 2021 Magazine Is Here! _{featuring}...

- Cover Boy Little Mike
- Our Year of Living Dangerously
- Daily Racing Form & Me with Michael Blowen
- Breeders' Cup Friends
- Barbara Livingston's Life at Old Friends
- Photos & Thumbnails of 125+ Old Friends retirees
- Old Friends by the Numbers
- Little Silver Charm
- The Catbird's Seat with Birdie
- In Memoriam
- How to Help
- If You Go
- Old Friends Hall of Fame
- . . . and more!

\$15.00 (includes shipping) To order: Call: 502-863-1775

Website: www.oldfriendsequine.org eBay: oldfriendsfarmgiftshop

Friends Happen

So, what happens when you have over 200 race horses--athletes accustomed to long stints in stalls and little equine interaction-- thrust together in retirement on rolling hills of bluegrass? Friends happen. Here at the farm our mares and geldings, if not in a herd, usually get a suitable hookup—a pasture pal to, well, horse around with. If you've visited the farm, you've probably met a lot of them. Here, some of our most popular buddies.

Pops & Ring The former movie star and former claimer is inseparable from his G1-winning chum. Popcorn Deelites is known far less for his race record than he is for his role in the movie *Seabiscuit.* Special Ring, on the other hand, is a two-time winner of the Eddie Read Handicap and a one-time Breeders' Cup contender. But social class makes no difference to these two, who have shared a pasture for nearly 15 years.

Game On Dude & Little Mike Together these guys form our \$10 million paddock. Dude, a California hero, earned over \$6 million winning West Coast G1 contests, including the Santa Anita Handicap three times. But Mike is no slouch. He's a \$3.5 million–plus winner of the Arlington Million and the 2012 Breeders' Cup Turf. And while Dude may have twice the bankroll, Mike rules the roost, proving that money isn't everything, you know.

Patch & Stormy Liberal Patch is a one-time Kentucky Derby contender with one eye. Stormy is a two-time winner of the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint with over \$2 million in earnings. Together they are nearly three tons of fun that look to be together forever. Stormy had a tough time making friends, but once he met Patch it was love at first site. But then, who doesn't love Patch?

Amazombie & Rapid – And when the bad folks all get together at night...they call them 'Zombie and Rapid. It's no surprise our resident gang of two teamed up. Amazombie & Rapid Redux both own Eclipse Awards that they keep on the mantle in their run-in shed. More importantly, both are bossy and demanding, though 'Zombie is the leader of the little pack. Most





of the bluster is about treats, however. The more the better.

Soup & George Stallions are loners, they said. Stallions can't be turned out with others, they said. It's dangerous, they said. Baloney, said Breeders' Cup Classic Winner Alphabet Soup and his bestie, Italian Donkey Gorgeous George. The two met over the fence lines and soon, Soup adopted the little guy and welcomed him to his pasture. These two are so tight, they even share a stall.



Arson & Fighting City Hall When multiple graded stakes winner Arson Squad lost his longtime pal, I'm Charismatic, Fighting City Hall, a staple of the Pacific Northwest racing circuit, stepped in with a steady shoulder to lean on. Isn't that what friends are for?



Soi Phet & Hogy It was inevitable that Soi Phet and Hogy would get along. They have so much in common. They are about the same age (13 and 12, respectively). Both fell into the claiming ranks, got claimed, and came back to being stakes winners. Both had over 50 starts and raced into their double digits. But while Soi Phet burned up the West Coast, Hogy mostly got it done in the East. Two sides of the same coin.



The Pizza Man & Work All Week This duo spent their whole careers together. Both were owned and campaigned by Midwest Thoroughbreds. Both are multiple graded stakes winners. Both were trained by Roger Brueggemann. Both got to the Breeders' Cup (Work all Week even won the 2008 Sprint). Both spent time in a second career as a stable pony. It only made sense to turn them out together when they arrived. They must have had a lot to talk about.

Photos © Laura Battles

You Gotta Have Friends!

Horses Healthy at Home: Winterized Photos © Laura Battles



Soi Phet, Persie & Hogy... cleanup in Paddock 19!





Popcorn Deelites & Special Ring The show must go on.



Comma to the Top, Fabulous Strike, Sokitumi Samurai, Hussonfirst, Fantastic Day and Marshall Rooster.





Rosebud, hay guard-cat.



Rail Trip, lost in hay.

Rapid Redux & the food truck.

Memory Lane: Brick by Brick

Nikki Bacharach Memorial Garden at Old Friends

Everything starts with one step, or one brick, or one word, or one day - Jeremy Gilley ... especially memories. Let's take a walk.

Twenty odd years ago a man held a grain of an idea in his mind...in his heart. Like a grain of sand in an oyster it became inescapable. But unlike the pearl created by the oyster's irritation, this grain multiplied and became mixed with other components to create a brick. This fully formed brick of an idea was shared with others who contributed various kinds of bricks of their own that built something solid on the foundation of the dream fostered by that first nagging grain of an idea.

Perhaps you have contributed a brick by taking a tour, purchasing an item on eBay or in our gift shop. You may be an occasional donor of funds, or even someone who does so monthly. You may send a little or a lot. You may follow us on social media offering support with your words of encouragement or praise.



Photo © Laura Battles

Perhaps you volunteer(ed) here in some capacity. You may have been one of the early souls who entrusted your horse to our care. You may have pointed the way to a farm or individuals that would be willing to help in some way. Maybe you provided health care, hoof care, end of life care, food or blankets. You might have sent cards or flowers in celebration or condolence.

No matter your contribution, it was another brick that helped build a dream into a reality. A reality that began with one horse and grew to over 200! A reality that began with a few loaned stalls and today consists of four facilities and a few good souls who care for some of our horses on their own farms.

Not only have you brought a dream to reality, you have created lasting memories for yourself, for us, for those who otherwise may have never known the thrill of meeting a Kentucky Derby winner and feeding him/her a carrot.

Whether you have contributed bricks of your own in the past or would like to contribute in the future, we are offering a new opportunity for you to add actual bricks in honor of your memories and those you shared them with.

- - Mary E. Greene

Our Memorial Garden is named after Nikki Bacharach, the daughter of actress Angie Dickinson and composer Burt Bacharach. Burt retired his great stallion, Afternoon Deelites, to us when we were just getting started. Angie has been a friend to me and Old Friends ever since the beginning. Nikki loved flowers and we have honored her with this garden named in her memory. The Nikki Bacharach Memorial Garden at Old Friends is a reminder of how much Nikki was loved and how much we love the horses who have graced our farm.

-- Michael Blowen

You are invited to join us on Memory Lane in the Nikki Bacharach Memorial Garden at Old Friends.

Memorialize your favorite Old Friends retiree, beloved horse, pet, loved one, or special occasion in the Nikki Bacharach Memorial Garden at Old Friends. Where Champions Are Celebrated.

Here, your brick will help form a path and courtyard in the cemetery where great horses such as Kentucky Derby winners War Emblem and Charismatic, Horse of the Year Skip Away, Breeders' Cup Classic winner Awesome Again, and Champions Hidden Lake, Noor and Bint Marscay (AUS) are at rest. The cemetery is open to the public.



Photos © Laura Battles

Choose your brick size, color, graphic and text to create a lasting legacy today!

PADDOCK LEVEL \$125.00 Brick Size: 4" x 8" WINNER'S CIRCLE LEVEL \$225.00 Brick Size: 8" x 8"

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To Order: https://www.thatsmybrick.com/oldfriendsinc Have Questions? (502) 863-1775 The World according to *Little Silver Charm* As I'm sure you know, I dislike calling attention to the many, many things I do to make sure Old Friends remains a smoothrunning enterprise. My tasks and responsibilities are too numerous to list here: spokes-horse, role model, tour director, landscape consultant, retirement advisor. I could go on and on, but you get the idea. Old Friends would be lost without me and I say that in all humility.



This has been a difficult winter. As I trudged from one end of the farm to the other, in rain and snow and ice, in all sorts of weather, checking on our retirees, my little feet were hurting.

Photo © Craft-the-Capture.com

Dr. Scott Fleming of Rood and Riddle diagnosed the problem as a hoof bruise. He fitted me for these boots, which are not only practical but fashionable. They have enabled me to resume my duties and to look fabulous while doing so.



On February 22, Silver Charm celebrated his 27th birthday with a party in the snow!



We are happy to make available this fabulous Laura Battles 2020 Old Friends collage featuring mug shots of 128 of our retirees.

This 16x20 photo is suitable for framing and comes complete with a key so you can easily locate your favorite Old Friends.

\$25.00 (includes shipping)

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The Hoof Patrol

Support the 500+ hooves of Old Friends retirees who have short/long-term hoof issues. Hoof Patrol keychain, email updates, videos & more! Bronze (\$50) Silver (\$125) • Gold (\$250) Membership levels

Old girlFriendsSociety

Do you appreciate great mares? Your \$100 lifetime membership donation includes an 8 x 10 photo of one of our Old girlFriends, an annual visit to the mares paddock, and your name on the Old girlFriends web page!





Shares for Life Show your love for an Old Friends horse! Donate \$100 to support your favorite horse and you'll receive a photo of your horse & a certificate suitable for framing. Friends for All Seasons

Is monthly giving right for you? Do you believe in dignified equine retirement to a forever home and the value of steadfast, reliable partnerships? Sign up as a monthly donor & receive a gift of Old Friends bookmarks.



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Old Friends is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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Old Friends is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing safe harbor and dignified retirement to Thoroughbreds whose racing and breeding careers have come to an end.



Kentucký

Kentucky Dept. of Travel & Tourisn

Old Friends 2021 Tours

Tours Begin April 1, 2021

Old Friends tours have been modified to comply with Commonwealth of Kentucky public health COVID-19 safety guidelines. Our tours are outdoors and socially distanced.

Old Friends Tour Menu

Reservations Required General, Speed 5/50, and Founder's Tours booked ONLY on our website: www.oldfriendsequine.org

Speed 5/50 Tours

50 minutes · Meet 5 horses

Thursdays—Sundays · 2pm

Limited Availability • \$15 per person

General Tours

90 minutes · Meet 12-15 horses Thursdays—Sundays · 10:00am & 1:00pm Limited Availability · \$25 per person

Private Tours Single-party tour for groups of 10 and under Limited availability • \$50 per person For information and to book: Call 502-863-1775



Founder's Tours with Michael 90 minutes · Meet 12-15 horses Fridays & Sundays · 12pm Limited Availability · \$75 per person

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