



Old Friends

Eclipse Award-Winning Thoroughbred Retirement
Accredited by Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA)

Georgetown, Kentucky



Fall 2022



A Message from Michael Blowen

Fourteen years ago, co-owner Jason Wood told me that Lava Man could retire to Old Friends. However, Doug O'Neil prevailed upon Jason and the other owners, the Henleys, to let Lava Man decide. And the great champion decided he wasn't ready to leave his home on the race track just yet. Needless to say, his second career propelled the Hall-of-Famer to even greater heights as the most popular track pony of all time. I hope Lava Man likes us while we provide him with another career—Lifetime Ambassador for horse racing and official greeter of fans in a paddock right next to our other superior Californian, Game on Dude.



Photo © Melissa Bauer-Herzog-Pyros Media

Lubash, arboreally framed.

While Lava Man, quite deservedly, earned all the attention, we've retired 14 other Thoroughbreds in the last few months who are not well known but who have traveled from diverse backgrounds to find their safe landing. Podcast, Moriah and Wicked Sorceress, aided by a bevy of supporters, all escaped dangerous situations. Get Western retired as the last winner of the Old Friends Stakes at Kentucky Downs and was joined by Brother Chub, Daaher, Spensive, and Exulting who all benefited by being managed by enlightened, caring, responsible owners.

Wally Ballou, who was found lost and wandering in a California back yard, got here because of his name. The fictional Wally Ballou was a bumbling sports reporter played by Bob Elliott, Chris' father, on the witty, sophisticated "Bob and Ray Show" on radio many decades ago. It really helped that it was Diane's favorite show.

Looking forward to 2023, and celebrating our 20th anniversary year, our commitment to you and to our great Thoroughbred athletes is to continue to grow our capabilities. We're working on more expansion plans and a new event center to make Old Friends better for more

retirees, horses and humans. None of this happens without your continued generosity. As I often tell Diane, we'll eventually die of something, but it won't be boredom! Thank you all so much for bringing us, and the horses, so much happiness.



Michael Blowen
President & Founder

Michael



Photo © Mary Greene

The legendary Lava Man, here with trainer Doug O'Neill and Michael, will take up residence at Old Friends.

Meet Our Newest Old Friends



We are excited to introduce you to our newest 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 **13(!)** new Old Friends:



Photo © Mary E. Greene

Podcast (9) had a seven-year racing career in Louisiana. Our friend, Diana Baker, and breeder, Jim McIngvale, rode to her rescue in July, and we were happy to offer her a home.



Photo © Mary E. Greene

Moriah (20) Longtime supporter Shirley Ford helped Moriah out of a bad situation in Texas and sent her to Old Friends in August for some TLC. We are happy to oblige!



Photo © Laura Battles

Exulting (9) Retired by our good friend, Michael Hui, Exulting won the Oaklawn Mile and nine additional races, earning over \$680,000 in his 7-year career. He arrived in July.



Photo © Mary E. Greene

Spensive (22) was pensioned from stud duty by Y-Lo Racing Stables. On the Derby Trail in 2003 with trainer Bob Baffert, he stood stud in California and Florida before arriving at Old Friends in August.



Photo © Laura Battles

Daaher (18) Owned by the famed Shadwell Farm, he won the 2007 G1 Cigar Mile and later stood at stud in Kentucky and Louisiana before being pensioned to Old Friends in August.



Photo © Old Friends Farm

Wicked Sorceress (19), a daughter of our Kentucky Derby winner, Charismatic, retired thanks to the combined efforts of R.A.C.E. Fund, Take the Lead Thoroughbred Retirement and Rick Schosberg. Everyone working together helped this girl land on her feet.



Photo © Mary E. Greene

Jonesboro (20) A son of Hall-of-Fame mare Moms Command, Jonesboro is a GSW of \$1.5 million. After a stud career in Arkansas at Lake Hamilton Equine, Jonesboro arrived in mid-September. In two words? He's cute!



Photo © Mary E. Greene

Quindici Man (16) won the Zia Park Derby, the Pomona Derby, and over \$550k in a 44-race career. He stood at stud in California before heading for retirement at Old Friends in October.



Photo © Mary E. Greene

Get Western (7) came to us from our sister Aftercare organization, The Secretariat Center, when soundness issues ended his preparations for a second career. Get Western won the 2019 edition of the Old Friends Stakes at Kentucky Downs, thereby earning a promised retirement home at Old Friends. He joins two other winners of the race, Kalamos (2015) and Next Shares (2018), in exercising the option for a safe, guaranteed retirement. Get Western arrived in October, ready for the next chapter in his life.



Get Western jumps a shadow on the wire to win the 2019 Old Friends Stakes, for our good friend, trainer Charlie LoPresti.



Photo © Old Friends Farm

Brother Chub (10), a New Jersey-bred, won the Claiming Crown Express Stakes at Gulfstream and \$674k in a 64-race career for Kasey K Racing Stable. He arrived in October.



Photo © Old Friends Farm

Ideal Image (24) was winless in 10 starts at the track, but gained fame as the dam of G1 winner Sassy Image, one of nine foals she produced. Pensioned from her broodmare career, Ideal Image arrived in October.



Photo © Mary E. Greene

Royalian (5) came to Old Friends via the Maryland Jockey Club. Winless in 11 attempts to break his maiden on the Maryland circuit, his racing career ended due to injury. He arrived in October.



Photo © Mary E. Greene

Wally Ballou (24) raced 91 times then disappeared until found in a California yard in July. A good Samaritan rescued him and contacted us. With a name like Wally Ballou (a character from the old Bob and Ray comedy team) how could we resist?

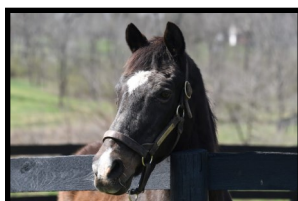
Medina Spirit Wood Sculpture Dedication

In September, with funding from the Baffert family, famed sculptor Kiptoo Tarus unveiled a magnificent wood sculpture, carved with a chain saw from the stump of a 100-year-old Sycamore tree, honoring the late Medina Spirit, whose remains are interred at Old Friends. Kiptoo's goal was to "capture the essence of a great racehorse here in the heart of Thoroughbred country". We think it's perfect!



We have sadly said good-bye to these wonderful Old Friends. It was our privilege to care for them.

Photos © Laura Battles



Swain
1992-2022



Dumaani
1991-2022



Albertus Maximus
2004-2022

A 'Spensive Boy

by Cynthia Grisolia

When Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert bought a two-year old at the April Ocala Breeders' Sale in 2002, he called new owner Paul Weitman and told him that the hammer fell at a cool \$125,000. "Wow," noted Weitman. "That's one 'spensive horse." And just like that, the gray colt by Ponche out of the Dr. Schwartzman mare Operate Quick, had a name.

Twenty years later, after 20 starts, earnings of over \$313,000, a change of ownership, and a breeding career in both California and Florida, the stallion called it quits and retired. He arrived at Old Friends this summer, though his trip to Bountiful was not as smooth as one might hope.

Owner Y-Lo Racing claimed Spensive in 2005 at Hollywood Park and transferred him to trainer Kristen Mulhall. After four starts and no additional wins, Spensive retired to stud, first at E.A. Ranches in California and then, in 2013, to Y-Lo Racing Stables, LLC in Ocala.



"After his racing career ended, he took his job as a stud very seriously," says Lolita P. Raquiza, the managing member of Y-Lo. "Almost every mare he covered was in foal, and his offspring were all very good looking and talented. They were such cool horses that almost all of them went on to second careers as beautiful show horses."

In Ocala, Spensive was beloved by the farm staff. Despite standing an imposing 17 hands, he won folks over with his easy-going nature and kind-heartedness. And it wasn't just his human friends who appreciated his personality.

"He was like Snow White in his pasture with all the animals hanging around with him," says Raquiza. "Whether it was the various birds, ducks, barn cats, dogs, squirrels-- he would allow them all into his paddock to eat his grain, drink water, and just visit. We often would see him with some animal sitting on his back just relaxing."

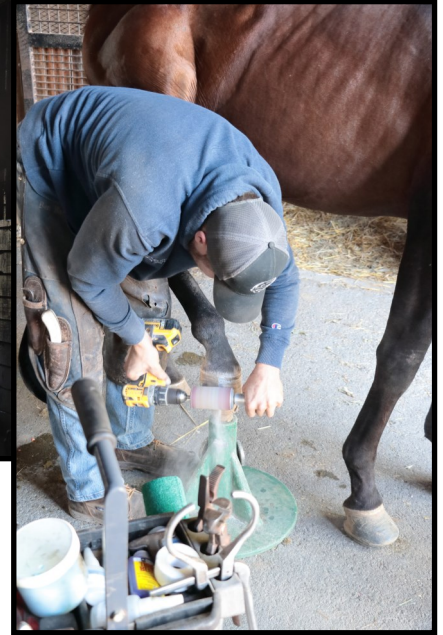
Last year Y-Lo decided to sell the Ocala farm, and Raquiza had to make a difficult decision about Spensive's future. "Being a stallion made him difficult to place," she notes. "When I started researching his options, I remembered Old Friends. When I received word that they could offer placement, it



was nothing short of a miracle! We could not have been more delighted."

Less delightful, however, was Spensive's trip from Ocala to Kentucky. Such journeys are usually uneventful, but this time, en route, the stallion reared up in the trailer and suffered a serious facial fracture and associated lacerations. Instead of coming to Old Friends, Spensive's first stop in Kentucky was Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital where he underwent surgery to repair his injuries. Treated by Dr. Katy Dern, Spensive spent seven days in the clinic before being released with a good prognosis. Three months later, we're happy to say his wounds have healed, and—head scar aside—he's back to his old sweet self.

"We will do our best to support Old Friends and spread the word about the incredible work they are doing," says Raquiza. "We are forever grateful for the wonderful opportunity they have given Spensive."



The camera lens of Mary Greene sharing life on **the236**. Clockwise from top: James and Quindici Man heading out; Birdstone's ailing hoof treated by Dr. Scott Fleming's podiatry team from Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital; our resident blue heron; a shed-full of custom blend feed from Woodford Feed; a rare day off for the tractor; round bales stocked for winter; dentist Shawn with patient Johannesburg Smile.



Old Friends

ASHTON GROVE



In 2020 Old Friends opened a facility at Ashton Grove, combining horse retirement with a full-care senior living community. I always thought that retired horses and retired people belong with each other because I was retired and I liked it. Retired horses. Retired people. A match made in heaven. -- Michael Blowen

Life at Ashton Grove

The significance of the stories we hear and share through our Old Friends horse-related activities here at Ashton Grove has far exceeded our hopes and expectations.

The value of our horse-to-human experience is expressed in many ways: the gentleman who comes to visit, laughs, and walks around repeating loudly "I'm down here horsing around", laughing, remembering his days as a youth on the farm; the woman, lost in another world, angry and combative, when taken to visit the horses, begins laughing and crying with our staff, declaring they are all hers, and we best take care of them; golf cart parades hauling those who cannot walk down to the barn; residents who just delight in visiting, feeding carrots, picking favorites, reminiscing of days gone by.

Old folks, old horses, the magic of Old Friends at Ashton Grove.

Ashton Grove Featured Horse—Ireland's Eye

Marisa Miller, Ashton Grove Manager: I love Ireland's Eye. We have a unique relationship. Before we both came to AG we were not fond of each other. He wasn't a bad horse, but he got distracted easily so I always had to remind him of what he was supposed to be doing. He can be very ornery, and knows how to push my buttons. We would just try to stay out of each other's way! But slowly,



Photo © Laura Battles

he started getting curious. When I feed I give kisses to whoever is willing. One day Ireland raised up for a kiss. I was shocked. Cautiously, I gave him a quick one on the nose. He pinned his ears at me. I

thought ok, that won't happen again. But every day after that he raised his nose for a kiss. I think he got upset because he didn't want just one! He loves a couple of kisses to the side of his nose and a good face rub. I think he likes the vibration of my lips on his nose. He has become my buddy now. If I'm in his paddock or nearby you can expect Ireland to be somewhere close.

Ashton Grove is not open to the general public for tours.



Old Friends Board of Directors

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Newsletter Production: Barbara Fossum

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Old Friends, Inc.

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Georgetown, KY 40324

(502) 863-1775

www.oldfriendsequine.org

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

Old Friends Press

Old Friends: Silver Charm

Limited Edition signed photobook. Thirty pages with over 50 photos chronicling the story of Silver Charm's life in retirement, reflections on his personality, and so much more.

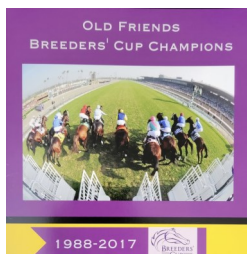
Price: \$29.00 (includes shipping)



Old Friends: Breeders Cup Champions

Limited Edition photo book featuring Breeders' Cup Champions of Old Friends. Includes Classic winners Alphabet Soup, Awesome Again, and Black Tie Affair, plus Little Mike, Amazombie, Stormy Liberal, and more!

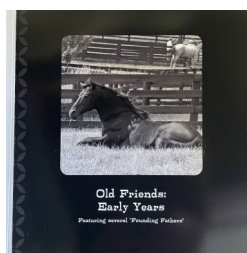
Price: \$29.00 (includes shipping)



Old Friends: Early Years

Limited Edition photo book featuring founding stallions Awad, Creator, Sunshine Forever, Ogygian, Kiri's Clown, Fortunate Prospect, Ruhlmann, Precisionist and Taylor's Special.

Price: \$24.00 (includes shipping)



oldfriendsequine.org/store/

Old Friends at Cabin Creek Greenfield Center, NY



Old Friends at Cabin Creek: the Bobby Frankel Division, located just minutes from Saratoga Race Course, is Saratoga County's only thoroughbred retirement farm and one of the few that accepts thoroughbred stallions. Cabin Creek provides a dignified retirement for all racehorses, both known and unknown, and is open to the public year round.

Saratoga Summer

We had a great summer season in New York. Our August After The Race party at Saratoga National Golf Course honored Acacia Clement and her parents, Sherri & Brien Courtney, of Racing For Home. They do wonderful work retraining retirees for a second career. Also, Ronnie Ebanks joined us for a book signing of *Staying in the Race*. It was a beautiful, warm August night and all had a great time. We are very thankful for our supporters and volunteers who give so much to our horses.

Featured Horse—Red Down South

Red Down South is a 21-year-old gelding known for being Zippy Chippy's best friend for 12 years. He was lightly raced, is in great physical shape, and is a kind, steady boy. He is a fan favorite for his good looks and love of treats. After Zippy passed away in April, Red eventually welcomed a new paddock buddy, Bold Illusion. They are working things out beautifully, but it seems that Red has taught Bo to do some of the things that Zippy used to do. Red is just a pleasure to care for...after he lets us catch him!



Photo © Samantha Decker

Visit Cabin Creek

Open-house style fall/winter visiting hours are Saturday from 12-3 pm. Reservations are not required. Please note, we will be closed for the month of January 2023.



To Donate:

Old Friends at Cabin Creek
483 Sandhill Road, Greenfield Center, NY 12833
518-698-2377 • oldfriendsatcabin creek.com

Meet our Old girlFriends

Most of you know about our fabulous boys, but did you know we also have a band of mares who call Old Friends home? Meet just a few of our Old girlFriends: Smokey Glacken, Miss DuBois, Moriah, and the LNJ Foxwoods mares Gold Round, Hi Dubai, and Mystery Trip.



Photos © Laura Battles



Say Hi, Girls!

The World according to *Little Silver Charm*

People ask me what I think of the larger-than-life carving of Medina Spirit in front of the Old Friends office. I think it's magnificent, even though it's not about me, not strictly anyway.



Photos © Old Friends

The artist, Kiptoo Tarus, transformed the giant sycamore that once stood there into the likeness of the beloved champion.

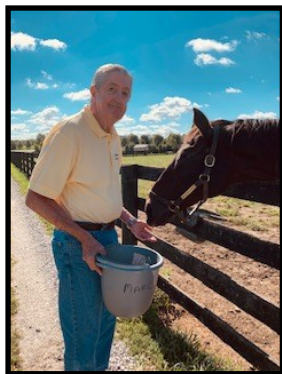
I knew that tree. It was very old and beautiful. But in the last few years it was dying, slowly. It was painful to watch it fail.

I admit I was dubious when it was first suggested that the celebrated chainsaw artist could turn the huge trunk of our sycamore into a horse. But as I watched it take shape I came to understand that it's not just about one horse, not only about Medina Spirit. It's a tribute to all horses, including me. *LSC*

GUIDING GURUS

If you have visited Old Friends and taken a tour, you have met one of our wonderful volunteer tour guides. They are unrivaled when it comes to greeting visitors, showing them around the farm, and sharing—with compassion and enthusiasm, not to mention great aplomb—the tales of victories, agonies of defeats, and human narratives behind the careers of our equine athletes. Come out for a tour and let them introduce you to our fabulous retirees!

Marc Craft: I'm a retired certified public accountant, and I love horse racing, non-profit volunteering, and watching my grandson play baseball. My wife and I attended an



Marc with Milwaukee Brew

Old Friends Kentucky Derby week-end fundraiser a few years ago. Afterward I told her I wanted to volunteer here when I retired. When I decided to retire, I contacted Old Friends and offered my help. Sylvia suggested being a tour guide. It was the perfect recommendation. I really enjoy the horses and meeting tour guests from all over the United States,

Canada, and Europe. I guess my enjoyment shows, as I have had a couple of guests ask me what I did before I found my "dream job". My favorite Old Friend? Milwaukee Brew. He's a great setup guy for Abbott (Sun King) and Costello (Special Ring). What horse would I like to see retire to Old Friends? Blame!

A Man and His Horse

Silver Charm & Michael

Photos © Laura Battles



Horses Healthy at Home: Fall Splendor

Photos © Mary Greene



*US Ranger
Gettin' His Shine On*



*Next Shares, Capuccino Kid,
The Pizza Man, and Work All Week*



*Bourbonize and Maybesomaybenot
It Definitely Is*



*Fall Colors Starring
Jonesboro, Arson Squad, Fighting City Hall, Daaher*



*Paddy O'Prodigy (horizontal) &
Lou Brissie (vertical)*



*Rocketry
Peek-a-Boo*



*Adventist
Struttin' His Stuff*

Old Friends Giving Tree



Looking for a perfect gift?

This holiday season, choose an ornament from our Giving Tree. Your gift will provide food, healthcare, wellness, and shelter for our more than 200 retired Thoroughbreds. Thanks to your unfailing generosity, we know we'll be able to meet our retirees needs now and in the months to come. Today more than ever, you make a world of difference to their world.

Thank You!

www.oldfriendsequine.org/givingtree.html



FEED US

FEED AN OLD FRIEND FOR A YEAR = \$1,230.00

CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR THE FARM = \$355.00

SQUARE HAY BALE = \$5.95

ONE BAG SENIOR FEED = \$17.24

ROUND BALE OF HAY = \$54.00

WAGON-LOAD OF HAY = \$1,187.80

GIVE US SHELTER

SINGLE HORSE RUN-IN SHED = \$2,000.00

KEEP US HEALTHY

DEWORMER 6-PACK = \$85.20

3M® VETWRAP 12-PACK = \$38.19

DENTAL VISIT FOR AN OLD FRIEND = \$75.00

ONE FARRIER VISIT FOR THE FARM = \$300.00

ANNUAL VACCINE FOR AN OLD FRIEND = \$56.00

WHAT WE REALLY WANT!

50 LB BAG OF CARROTS = \$47.20

CAN'T DECIDE?

GENERAL USE: FOR WHATEVER OUR
OLD FRIENDS NEED





How You Can Help Old Friends

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 and receive a gift of Old Friends bookmarks.



Memory Lane: Brick by Brick
Nikki Bacharach Memorial Garden at Old Friends
 Choose your brick size, color, graphic and text to create a lasting legacy!



www.oldfriendsequine.org/how-to-help/brick-by-brick/

Clubhouse Annual Membership

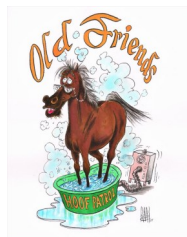
Your \$150 membership includes leather & brass keytag, free tours, discount admission to Homecoming in May, and free general admission to Kentucky Derby Museum in Louisville, KY and National Museum of Racing & Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, NY.



The Hoof Patrol

Support the 500+ hooves of Old Friends retirees who have short/long-term hoof issues. Hoof Patrol keychain, email updates, videos, and more!

Bronze (\$50)
Silver (\$125) • Gold (\$250)
 Membership levels



Old girlFriends Society

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 and a certificate suitable for framing.



Thank You for Supporting Our Horses!

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

General Use Donation \$ _____

Giving Tree Donation _____ \$

_____ \$

_____ \$

_____ \$

Old Friends Photobooks

Silver Charm (\$29) _____ Breeders' Cup (\$29) _____ Early Years (\$24) _____

Clubhouse Annual Membership (\$150) _____

The Hoof Patrol \$ _____

Gold (\$250) Silver (\$125) Bronze (\$50)

Shares for Life (\$100) Horse: _____

Little Silver Charm & Gorgeous George (\$25 each)

Old girlFriends Society (\$100) _____

Friend for All Seasons Monthly Donor (credit card)

Indicate amount to be charged monthly \$ _____

☐ Check enclosed ☐ Credit Card

Account number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVV# _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Old Friends is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
 Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.
 EIN 20-0049798

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 (502) 863-1775 • oldfriendsequine.org

Old Friends
1841 Paynes Depot Road
Georgetown, KY 40324
(502) 863-1775

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.



Old Friends 2022-2023 Tours

December 2022 thru February 2023

Reservations Required For All Tours
502-863-1775

PRIVATE TOURS

Single-party tour for groups of 10 and under. \$50 per person; children 11 and under free.

GROUP TOURS

Buses, Tour Companies and large groups. 20+ people \$10/person; under 20 people \$15/person.



2023 tour days and times will be announced in January.
www.oldfriendsequine.org/tours.html