

A Message from Michael Blowen

Every year seems the same. Some losses, some gains. And you can read it that way. But for anyone associated with all the old friends at Old Friends, it's so much more than that. This year we lost two of Old Friend's foundation fathers - Jerry Moss and Gov. Brereton Jones.

About 20 years ago, I made an appointment to see Gov. Jones over at his Airdrie Stud office. I didn't know what I was doing or how to do it. But I knew that he could help. After explaining the idea, he turned to me with his honest, equivocal gaze and said, "Let me get this straight, you're going to get these horses, some of them home from Japan. And you're not going to race them, sell them or breed them." "Correct." "What exactly are you going to do?" "I'm going to put them in my yard and hope that people will come visit."



Breeders' Cup champ Little Mike in a hurry to tell someone about something. It could be anything. He's a no-hints kinda guy!

With that, he reached into the lap drawer of his antique desk, pulled out a tattered checkbook and wrote Old Friends a check for \$5,000. "Good luck," he said, as he handed me this windfall. Fifteen years later, we had retired You and I and Afternoon Deelites, who both had significant breeding careers at Airdrie. Gov. Jones still looked at me with amazement. But that was

from a different angle. We were walking around the farm. When Jerry Moss, with the advice and consent of Dottie Ingordo-Shirreffs, decided to donate his great stallion Ruhlmann to Old Friends, it signaled to all the other owners that we were a suitable place to retire Thoroughbreds. A message, coming from him, that carried the weight of trust and respectability. And, of course, a generous donation.

Through the intervening two decades, Jerry visited the farm and continued to honor us with his retirees. About ten years ago, when we were going through some stormy financial waters, I was uncomfortably forced to call Jerry and beg for money. He rarely answered his own phone. But that day, he did. "Jerry, it's Michael." "Yes, I know" "Jerry, don't you have Caller ID?" "Of course, I have it." "You knew it was me, and you still answered?" "Yes." "Well, I'm only calling for one of two reasons. I need money or one of your horses died." Without missing a beat, he said, "I hope all my horses are alive. How much do you need?" That was Jerry.



Michael Blowen President & Founder

A few days before Halloween, on an early evening illuminated by a glorious sunset often captured by Barbara Livingston and Laura Battles, I stopped to offer a few of our new favorites a handful of Mrs. Pastures cookies for horses.

First, Welder, who was recently inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and, then Rated R Superstar, the nine-yearold gelding. Forget Astaire and Rogers or Tracy and Hepburn, this is an amazing partnership. Their coats gleamed. Their eyes glistened. And so did mine.

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

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 15 new Old Friends:



Photo © Rebecca Monakil

Fearless (7), a millionaire, won half of his races in a five-year career, including the Gulfstream Park G3 Ghostzapper, named for his sire. He retired in August from the Repole Racing Stable.



Photo © Mary E. Greene

Mike Man's Gold (12) won 26 of 86 starts in the Pacific northwest. A popular local star, Mike received a hero's send-off from Emerald Downs track in mid-September. After a cross-country van ride, he stepped into the next chapter of his life—retirement!



Photo © Mary E. Greene Nana's Hope (20) started 80 times with 14 wins in a six year career, earning \$160k. He disappeared, probably in a bad spot for a while, but ended up with good people who wanted a soft landing for him, He arrived at that spot in September.



Photo © Rebecca Monakil Welder (10), an Oklahoma Superstar, won 27 races, is a three-time Oklahoma Horse of the Year, five-time Remington Park Horse of the Meet, and was inducted into the state's Hall of Fame in September.



Photo © Mary E. Greene

Javerre (14) is a grandson of our Belmont Stakes-winning resident Touch Gold. He raced mostly on the Mid-Atlantic circuit, winning the G3 General George at Laurel and New Jersey Breeders H. at Monmouth. After years as the cherished stable pony of the Cathal Lynch barn, he retired to Old Friends in October.



Photo © Mary E. Greene



Photo © Mary E. Greene Shadow Cast (22) ran to her regal pedigree, winning the G1 Personal Ensign at Saratoga and just shy of \$1 million in her 21-race career. As a broodmare she was bred to some of the best stallions around. In August she retired to Old Friends to become a lady of leisure.

Weekend Hideaway (13) won 17 races in his seven-year racing career. A millionaire, in 2019 he retired to stud duties in New York at Irish Century Hill Farm. At the conclusion of his breeding career, he moved to Old Friends, taking up residence here in August.



Photo © Mary E. Greene

Hallucinogin (1) (26) and Tackle Eligible (r) (28). Michael does Ercel Ellis' weekly radio show, Post Time, every Saturday. When Ercel's two seniors were looking for a new home we were a natural fit. In the gently rolling paddock behind the office, they are attached at the hip and go everywhere together!



Photo © Mary E. Greene

me in September.

Photo © Old Friends

Wood Art (19), won eight races in California before suffering an injury. Subsequent careers as a broodmare and riding horse didn't work out. Hickory Hill Farm Rescue helped her out of a bad situation. They contacted us, and she arrived at her forever home in August. We've got you,

Charlie'sboywins (16) spent his racing career in California, winning four races and \$125K for breeder/ owners Nancy and Bill Gregory. Also trained by Bill, Charlie was frequently ridden by our good friend, Joe Steiner. We are happy to introduce Charlie to Kentucky!



Photo © Mary E. Greene

Say The Word (8) is a Canadian Sovereign Award champ on Turf, winning the G1 Northern Dancer in Canada, the G2 Elkhorn in Kentucky, and the G2 Hollywood Turf Cup in California. We are happy he has returned to Kentucky to his forever retirement home!



Spooky Channel (8) comes from the NSB Stable of our good friend, John Ballantyne. A millionaire, Spooky won graded stakes at Keeneland and the Fair Grounds in a 31-race career. Fittingly, he arrived in time for Halloween!



Photo © Mary E. Greene

Wet Your Whistle (8) won 7 of 17 starts including the 2019 (G1) Highlander at Woodbine, and the 2020 (G3) Belmont Turf Sprint Invitational. In his last career start, he finished second in the 2020 (G1) Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint. He arrived at Old Friends in October.



Photo © Mary E. Greene

Setna the Wise (4), also from NSB Stable, arrived at Old Friends with stablemate Spooky Channel. He wasn't a talented runner like Spooky, but with his gray good looks, he doesn't really have to be. Time will prove whether Setna the Wise is, well, wise. Michael's Message continued - -

Then, it was up the hill to see Spooky Channel and Setna the Wise, two recent retirees from NBS Stable. Their coats gleamed. Their eyes glistened. And so did mine. Between the setting and the soft nuzzling, I was completely overwhelmed.

Down the hill, stopping to assuage Lava Man and Chocolate Ride on one side and Game on Dude and Little Mike on the other before arriving at Tackle Eligible and Hallucinogin in the paddock made available by the heartbreaking loss of Sarava. These two old claimers, with nearly six decades between them, were owned by my great friend Ercel Ellis, who at 92, still hosts his weekly radio show, Horse Tales, every Saturday morning. I gave each horse what was left of the cookies and started to walk up the hill, marveling, like a little kid at Christmas, at the pure joy of it all.

Like our retirees, I know my future is shorter than my past. I'm not complaining. Just reporting. I'm surprised that, at my age, 76, I turned from sprinter to router. Like so many of us here at Old Friends, I'm in the final furlong. But, whatever the length of the stretch, it's going to be fun for the most privileged man in the world.

Thanks to you and the greatest collection of equine athletes on the planet.

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

Photos © Laura Battles



Lady Grizzley 2006-2023





Amazombie 2006-2023

Around Summer



On July 15, Old Friends threw a Retirement Party for Hall-of-Fame jockey Edgar Prado. Fellow HOF members Chris McCarron and Sandy Hawley joined in the celebration along with legion of fans and supporters. Highlight for Edgar was reuniting with his two Belmont Stakes winners, Sarava and Birdstone (shown). Happy Retirement Edgar!

Old Friends is thrilled to receive a 2023 grant from **Thoroughbred Charities of America**. TCA is a long-time supporter of Aftercare in general and Old Friends in particular, and our retirees know they can always count on their unfailing generosity. Grateful neighs!



Sandy the Wonder Horse re-imagined! Formerly the mechanical horse at Terry's fiveand-dime in Versailles, Sandy has been lovingly renovated by our good friend Steve at Horse Cents and is ready to embark on a second career. The spitting image of Old Friends retiree, Hall-of-Famer Lava Man, Sandy resides in a stall in the Josephine Abercrombie Center. Sandy arrived in September and will be the only Old Friends *retiree available for* riding. Giddy Up!





Mary Greene photos



We are honored to again be associated with the great race mare, **Zenyatta**. In a promotion celebrating her 2009 Breeders' Cup Classic win at Santa Anita, 1/ST Racing offered a fabulous Zenyatta pin in return for a donation to Old Friends. Our thanks to Santa Anita, the Moss family, Zenyatta's legion of fans, and Zenyatta herself!



Timely Writer, multiple Grade One stakes winner, reinterred on October 13, 2023 in the Nikki Bacharach Cemetery at Old Friends. The relocation was necessary due to excavation at Belmont Park, where he was originally buried after suffering a fatal injury in the 1982 Jockey Club Gold Cup. We are honored to have him at rest with our beloved retirees. Look for a celebration of Timely Writer coming in Spring 2024.



Michael was humbled to be honored with the J. David Richardson Industry Service Award at the 2022 TOBA National Awards Dinner, held on September 9 at Fasig-Tipton in Lexington. "It's such an honor. I'm flabbergasted that Old Friends now has its name attached to David. He loved the sport—everything about it. He worked on trying to solve racing's problems. That's one of the bonds we all have. I knew David pretty well. He knew the economics about Aftercare and racing. He understood it all. If they ever had a commissioner of racing, he'd be it. If he had lived a little longer, racing would have been in a much better place."

Solid Gold

by Rick Capone

When Swag Stables in Washington state was sold earlier this year, one of our good friends, former jockey Joe Steiner, suggested caregiver Karen Angelos reach out to Old Friends with a retirement request for Mike Man's Gold, aka Mike Man. Mike Man is the all-time wins leader at Emerald Downs with 26 victories, and Joe thought he would be a good fit for retirement at Racing's Living History Museum.

"I was there when Mike Man was born in 2010," Angelos said. "and, I took care of him until he went to the race track."

Mike Man, bred and owned by Swag Stables owners Keith and Jan Swagerty, became one of those beloved iron horses in the sport, with an 11year career which saw him become an absolute fan-favorite at Emerald Downs because of his winning ways there.

As a 2-year-old in 2012 Mike Man captured his first three starts, including the Premio Esmeralda Stakes and the Washington Thoroughbred Breeders Association Lads Stakes.

Through the years, Mike Man ran in some stakes races, but also began running in lower level races, where he captured most of his wins. It was following a claiming race in May 2016, that Mike Man, who was being trained by Joe Toye, was claimed by Greg and Chuck Conley. According to Angelos, they were all good friends, and truly loved the horse. How much so?

"Each time someone else claimed him, the Conleys and Toye would claim him back," she said. "I think that happened 10 times."

Mike Man ended his career at age 12, still enjoying running and racing, with 26 total wins, all at Emerald Downs, and earned \$380,427 in 86 starts.

After his final race, Mike Man headed back to Swag Stables to begin his retirement, but not without some major drama in getting there.

"The day after Mike Man retired last September, on his way home in the van, the floor boards gave way when the metal lip broke. Mike Man almost died that day. All four of his legs were injured. But, thankfully, he never hit the ground. The accident almost cut off his back hoof, but thankfully, he healed."

On a sunny September afternoon, Mike Man arrived at Old Friends. "I wanted him to be safe and have the retirement he deserved, so I applied to Old Friends. Having been a fan of the farm for so many years, I prayed he would get in. And, he did! Mike Man has been big part of my life, and I can't wait to come see him at Old Friends and give



Photo © Mary E. Greene

him some peppermints".

Michael says, "They don't make them like him anymore. Mike Man laid it on the line for a long time. He arrived on Wednesday a bit tired, but bright-eyed and alert. Thanks to Nancy and everyone at Emerald Downs, and Karen at Swag Stables, for making it possible for Old Friends to enjoy him every day."



Emerald Downs threw a retirement celebration for Mike Man's Gold and helped cover transportation costs for his travel to Kentucky.

the **236** Life and Times on Dream Chase Farm







Through the camera lens of Mary E. Greene

Fall Splendor Making the Rounds Refreshments Hay in the Round On The Pond At Rest Signalman Buzzing Around Leaves of Gold













Wally, Dan and the Women that Bind

by Lisa Q. Wood

The only thing retirees Dre Dan and Wally Ballou seemingly have in common is their Thoroughbred heritage. On paper, two horses could not have more polarized backgrounds. They would not have crossed paths in a lifetime.

Dre Dan and Wally Ballou were welcomed as Old Friends retirees in late 2022. Surprising every-



one. they became fast friends; inseparable best pals. Their ages span a broad spectrum. Dan is a very young nineyear-old and Wally is stoic at 25. Two horses with nothing in common. Or, do they have more likenesses

than we realize?

Dre Dan has lived the life most Thoroughbreds would envy. Even his name evokes a sophisticated, regal lineage. He was foaled in Kentucky, a state famous for producing great racehorses. His family tree is filled with success; a son of 2012 Belmont winner Union Rags, and Touched, who is the daughter of our 1997 Belmont winner, Touch Gold.

Dan was purchased as a two-year-old at a Fasig-Tipton Florida sale by Baoma Corp., for the racing stable of Old Friends board member Susan Chu, at a hefty \$975,000. Dan went to the barn of championproducing trainer, Bob Baffert. In three maiden race starts from 2016-2018, Dan sadly did not win and the decision was made to retire him from the track. Susan is an accomplished horsewoman, and Dan joined her personal stable to embark on a second career as a trail riding horse, a beloved member of the "Chu family riding team".

In time, the horse Susan describes as outstanding, brilliant, and very sweet showed increasing signs of back issues, and the decision to retire him permanently was made. Shortly after, Dan made the move to Old Friends and his forever home. Wally Ballou was foaled in Washington state far from the Bluegrass of Kentucky, and named after a comedic sports reporter character from *The Bob and Ray Show* that aired decades ago on radio.

His bloodlines are modest at best. A son of Game Plan and S. S. Hawk, he raced mostly in the Pacific Northwest from 2001-2009, with 91 starts, 13 wins, and earnings close to \$145,000. He was a hard-knocker, the toughest of survivors.

After his final race, Wally disappeared. In early July 2022, he turned up in the California yard of an elderly couple. They contacted nearby horsewoman Cezanne Ryerson-Jodka, who took Wally home to her quarter horse ranch. He was judged to be in relatively good health, suffering mostly from sore feet and a subsequent leg injury that occurred during a local fire evacuation.

When Cezanne contacted Old Friends about possible retirement for Wally, Michael's wife, Diane, urged, "With a name like Wally Ballou, we have to take him!" And so in November 2022, we did. Cezanne describes Wally as a strong guy who



likes to be in charge of the lead line. She adds, "I'm going to miss the big lug!"

What do these horses have in common? Obviously neither was destined to be a great racehorse. Dan had every opportunity, while Wally made his own.

What they share is the character of the women who cared about them. Susan and Cezanne valued them as horses. They wanted to give them a secure, safe life in retirement. And maybe, the gratitude shared by both horses is what binds Dan and Wally together. Best pals, inseparable friends.



As 1997 Kentucky Derby winner Silver Charm prepares to enter his 30th year, and being the modern, forward thinker that he is, we wondered what AI (artificial intelligence) would think of the totality of his accomplishments. So we asked language model chatGPT, "Is Silver Charm a great racehorse?". It took all of **three seconds** to come up with this:

Silver Charm was considered a great racehorse for several reasons:

Consistency: Silver Charm displayed remarkable consistency throughout his career. He consistently performed at a high level in a variety of races, which is a hallmark of a great racehorse.

Triple Crown Contender: Silver Charm came very close to winning the Triple Crown in 1997. He won both the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes but narrowly lost the Belmont Stakes, the final leg of the Triple Crown, by just three-quarters of a length. His performance in these prestigious races demonstrated his exceptional ability and competitiveness.

Versatility: Silver Charm was versatile in terms of his running style. He was able to win races from both on or off the pace, showing adaptability to different race conditions and strategies.

Stamina: His ability to handle the demanding distance of the Belmont Stakes (1.5 miles) demonstrated his stamina and endurance.

Winning Spirit: Silver Charm had a strong will to win, and he often displayed his determination in close races. This competitive spirit endeared him to fans and added to his legacy.

Successful Career: Throughout his racing career, Silver Charm won numerous stakes races and accumulated substantial earnings. He raced against top competition and consistently performed at a high level, which is a hallmark of a great racehorse.

Popular with Fans: Silver Charm's personality and racing style made him a fan favorite. He had a charismatic presence that endeared him to racing enthusiasts, and he became an iconic figure in the sport.

Silver Charm's combination of consistency, versatility, competitiveness, and popular appeal contributed to his status as a great racehorse and a beloved figure in the world of horse racing.

The World according to Jittle Silver Charm

I thought I had seen the end of the indignities heaped upon me here at Old Friends. I should have known better. Now they want me to play second fiddle to a mechani-



cal horse. The "horse" in question, Sandy the Wonder Horse, entertained generations of kiddies outside Terry's five and ten cent store in Versailles. Put a quarter in the slot and go for a ride.

When Sandy "retired", Michael thought he needed a second career. He asked an artist to give him a makeover in Lava Man's image. Then he installed him in our welcome center where Little Lava Man is ready to ride.

I consider Little Lava Man's presence a personal affront. For years I have selflessly donated my time to entertaining children who visit the farm. Now, this mechanical upstart is taking over.

This isn't the first insult I have endured in my long career at Old Friends. You may remember the goats Google and Yahoo, companions to Eldaafer. They took over my paddock, tore the place apart, squashed my soccer ball, and ate my Zenyatta pin up photo. I was forced to move, admittedly to a paddock built to my specifications, including the sign on the gate: Goat Free Zone.

But it was not to be. Just a few weeks ago I was unceremoniously ousted from my home and moved to a smaller paddock near Michael and Diane's house. My new headquarters are not nearly big enough to accommodate the scope of my duties. How can I function as Old Friends official spokes-horse if I am forced to inhabit a substandard workplace? How can I command the respect of our new arrivals when I try to teach them the finer point of horse retirement? How, I ask you. How?

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 our guides introduce you to our fabulous retirees!

Hello! We moved to Kentucky from Rhode Island in retirement and have been tour guides for about nine years



now. We had planned to volunteer as guides even before we moved, having visited the farm several times. Being tour guides has been all we had hoped for; great patrons and the horses are interesting, majestic, and a joy to be around at this idyllic haven. Hoping to meet

Joyce, Ken, & Silver Charm

you all on a tour in the future! Who would we like to see retired to Old Friends? Smarty Jones (Joyce) and Afleet Alex (Ken) - - Ken Hawes & Joyce Patci, Tour Guides

We think AI got it right. What do you think?

A Great Gift—Available Now! Order Your 2024 Old Friends Calendar



2024 Calendars are available now! Visit with your Old Friends all year long. Featuring Lava Man, Silver Charm, Ruler on Ice, Sharp Samurai, Bunker's Edge, Cost Affective, Get Western, Exulting, Draxhall Woods, Rapid Redux, Royalian, Ring Weekend, Quindici Man, Adventist, Rail Trip, Kayrawan and more!

Price: \$28.00 (includes shipping)



Old Friends Photo Books



Silver Charm

Old Friends: Silver Charm Thirty pages with over 50 photos chronicling the story of the 1997 Kentucky Derby winner's life in retirement, reflections on his personality, and much more.

Price: \$29.00 (includes shipping)



Old Friends: Early Years Features Old Friends founding stallions Awad, Sunshine Forever, Ogygian, Creator, Kiri's Clown, Fortunate Prospect, Taylor's Special Precisionist and Ruhlmann. Price: \$24.00 (includes shipping)



Old Friends: Breeders 'Cup Champions Featuring Classic winners Alphabet Soup, Awesome Again, and Black Tie Affair, plus Little Mike, Amazombie, Stormy Liberal, Work All Week and more! Price: \$29.00 (includes shipping)

Wish Your Friends a Charming Holiday Season!



Set of 10 Holiday Cards with envelopes, featuring 1997 Kentucky Derby winner Silver Charm and Old Friends Farm mascot Little Silver Charm. Inside reads, "Wishing you a 'Charming' holiday season!" **Price: \$30 (includes shipping)**

Credit Card: 502-863-1775 · Check: 1841 Paynes Depot Rd, Georgetown, KY 40324 Online: Old Friends eBay Gift Shop





This holiday season, choose a gift from our Giving Tree. 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

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GENERAL DONATION ?



TWO HALTERS WITH NAME PLATES \$112.00 CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR THE HORSES \$432.00 FEED AN OLD FRIEND FOR A YEAR \$1,350.00





oldfriendsequine.org/how-to-help/.

How You Can Help Old Friends

On behalf of our more than 250 Old Friends retirees, thank you for considering a tax-deductible gift to help provide for the care of these deserving Thoroughbred athletes. By supporting our mission, you will help us expand our facility to benefit more horses, champions and unknowns alike. Whether you choose a general "where-most-needed" donation, or support a specific funding program, your donation will have an immediate impact on our horses and the quality of their lives. However you choose to help, thank you for caring about our horses!

Our Annual Membership program. \$150	Thank You for Supporting Our Horses!
	Date:
The Hoof Patrol Support the hoof health of our retirees. Annual Membership Levels Bronze (\$50) Silver (\$125) Gold (\$250)	Name:
	Address:
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Support the great mares of Old Friends. Lifetime Membership \$100	わた ひちゅう ガヤック じわた ひちゅう ガイン ひょうしょう ひちょう
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Shares for Life Support your favorite Old Friend! \$100	Hoof Patrol \$250 (Gold)\$125 (Silver)\$50 (Bronze)
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Memory Lane: Brick by Brick Create a lasting legacy in our Nikki Bacharach Memorial Garden. \$125/\$225 www.oldfriendsequine.org/how-to-help/brick-by-brick/	Friend for All Seasons Monthly Donor (credit card) Indicate amount to be charged monthly <u>\$</u>
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	Expiration Date: CVV#
Friend for All Seasons Is monthly giving right for you? Dignified retirement, a forever home, a steadfast, reliable partnership. Answer—YES!	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
More information on these programs and other ways to help can be found at	Old Friends, Inc. 1841 Paynes Depot Road, Georgetown, KY 40324 (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.



Funded in part by a grant from Georgetown/Scott County Tourism Commission.





Old Friends 2024 Tour Schedule

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL TOURS (502) 863-1775 · www.oldfriendsequine.org/visit/

GENERAL TOURS 90-minute guided tour • \$25 per person Book Online

> Daily through November For available times: oldfriendsequine.org/visit/

General Tours end November 26, 2023 Resume March 1, 2024

FOUNDER'S TOUR with Michael

90-minute tour • \$75 per person Founder's Tours have concluded for 2023. Resume April 2024 PRIVATE TOURS (Available Year-Round) Customizable tour for groups of 10 and under. \$50 per person/children 11 and under free. Call to Book

EVERY HORSE ON THE FARM TOUR Resume April 2024

<u>GROUP TOURS (Available Year-Round)</u> Buses, tour companies and large groups. 20+ people \$10/person; under 20 people \$15/person Call to Book