SOUTHEAST

IN THIS SECTION

LEADING SIRES IN FLORIDA BY 2013 PROGENY EARNINGS

LEADING SIRES IN FLORIDA BY 2013 STAKES WINNERS

LEADING SIRES IN FLORIDA BY 2013 WINNERS

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

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47

SOVEREIGN FARM

Proud Transition

Bridlewood Farm retains its class in changing role

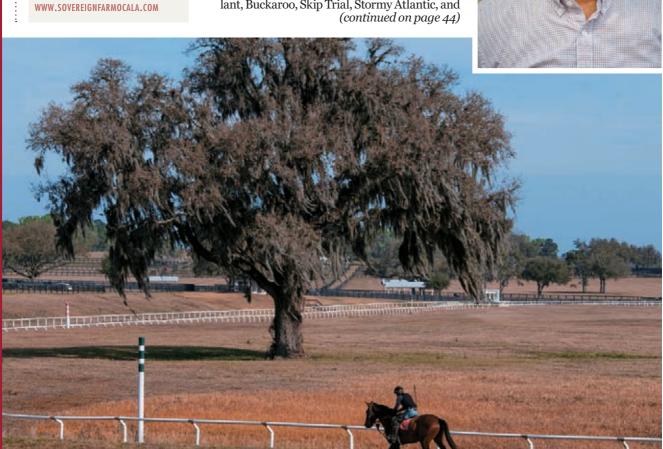
BY MICHAEL COMPTON

THE LATE ARTHUR I. Appleton will forever be remembered for building up Bridlewood Farm near Ocala, Fla., into one of the industry's most respected and successful Thoroughbred operations. Established by Arthur and his wife, Martha, on 500 acres in 1976, Bridlewood Farm has been a perennial leading breeder in Florida and routinely

ranks in the top 10 on a national basis. The farm, which grew over the years to encompass nearly 900 acres, is responsible for breeding, racing, or training more than 200 stakes winners in its illustrious history.

Among the best horses bred and/or raced by Appleton before his passing in 2008 are David Junior; Jolie's Halo; Forbidden Apple, Florida's Horse of the Year in 2001 out of that year's Florida Broodmare of the Year North Of Eden: Wild Event; and Southern Image.

Some of Florida's most influential stallions have called Bridlewood Farm home. My Gallant, Buckaroo, Skip Trial, Stormy Atlantic, and



Bridlewood Farm has produced more than 200 stakes winners; inset, George Isaacs has been general manager since 1996

Florida's stalwart leader . . . year after year.



LIFETIME:

28 stakes winners
11 graded winners
\$22.5 million progeny earnings
\$56,000 average earnings per starter
74% starters from foals
76% winners from starters

2012 - #1 FLORIDA SIRE:

progeny earnings: \$4.5M / stakes winners: 11 / graded winners: 5 2-year-old progeny earnings: \$1.2M / 2-year-old winners: 23

\$6,000 stands and nurses



8318 NW 90th Ter / Ocala, FL 34482 Inquiries to George G. Isaacs, General Manager tel: 352-622-5319 / fax: 352-622-2069 / email: bridlewood@att.net www.bridlewoodfarm.com

2013 BRIDLEWOOD STALLIONS:

BACKTALK | FORTY GRAMS | KEYED ENTRY | MACH RIDE | MOTOVATO

SEEKING THE DIA | THUNDER MOCCASIN | WAGON LIMIT | YESBYJIMMINY

2013 LEADING SIRES IN FLORIDA

So to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

	ZOIO LLADII 10 SINLO								_		
¥				Stakes						lative	
Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Wnrs/ Wns	SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2013 Earnings	Foals			Comp Index
1			82/21	3/3	1/3	(Merit Man, \$107,500)	\$654,623	*304		1.11	
		\$6,000	84/23	1/1	0/1	(Clawback, \$45,000)	\$543,927	*706		1.44	
3	. (,,,,	\$8,000	71/21	0/0	0/0	(Starship Wildcat, \$45,190)	\$493,581	*385	18	1.54	1.54
4		\$2,500	57/16	0/0	0/0	(Quality Lass, \$41,400)	\$396,535	146		0.96	
5	(***, *** * *** * * * * * * * * * * * *	\$3,000	59/15	1/1	0/1	(Lotta Lovin, \$29,140)	\$354,529	*437		1.17	
6 7	. , ,,	\$5,000	56/9 37/7	0/0 1/1	0/0 0/1	(Marathon Lady, \$44,500)	\$322,225 \$309,631	*382 *223		1.51	1.69
8		\$4,500	52/14	0/0	0/1	(Animal Kingdom, \$60,000) (Sweet Maxine, \$30,210)	\$265,542			1.02	
9	3//	ied, 2011	34/8	0/0	0/0	(Wicked Tune, \$37,840)	\$214,378	482		1.28	
10		\$4,500	33/6	0/0	0/0	(Siete de Oros, \$60,000)	\$203,036	126		0.90	
11	GREATNESS (99, Mr. Prospector), Hallmarc Stallions @ Stonewall	\$4,000	29/8	3/3	0/3	(Great Attack, \$52,500)	\$183,702	*188	8	1.48	1.07
12	· / / /	\$5,000	36/12	0/0	0/0	(Stallwalkin' Dude, \$25,635)	\$180,572			1.35	1.05
13	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	\$7,500	34/4	0/0	0/0	(Speak Logistics, \$52,500)	\$179,923	*111		1.47	
14	3. ,,	\$7,500	11/5	1/1	0/1	(Fort Loudon, \$130,000)	\$167,142	48		3.14	
15 16		ied, 2012 N/A	18/6 28/7	0/0 0/0	0/0 0/0	(Speak Easy Gal, \$60,000) (Shaye Appeal, \$19,848)	\$163,159 \$130,866	304 215		1.42	
17		N/A	26/6	0/0	0/0	(Dreaming of Lucy, \$25,200)	\$130,000	*417		1.53	1.29
18	, ,		34/7	0/0	0/0	(Prior Restraint, \$23,400)	\$127,469	*661		1.06	1.34
19	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		23/5	1/1	0/1	(Miss Da Point, \$34,200)	\$126,377	*126		0.90	
20		ied, 2009	23/8	0/0	0/0	(Grande Shores, \$17,779)	\$124,534	*184		0.92	
21	BURNING ROMA (98, Rubiano), Hallmarc Stallions @ Stonewall	\$1,000	26/6	0/0	0/0	(Bos'n Alwyne, \$18,000)	\$122,832	*164		0.84	
22	, , ,	ied, 2009	26/5	0/0	0/0	(Thank U Philippe, \$20,725)	\$121,696	*123		1.28	1.24
23		\$3,500	35/3	0/0	0/0	(Jan's Perfect Star, \$31,800)	\$114,317	150			1.01
24	CIRCULAR QUAY (04, Thunder Gulch), Journeyman Stud	\$4,000	18/5 24/5	0/0	0/0 0/0	(Salesman, \$38,800)	\$113,913	69 *85		1.10	1.54
25 26	, , ,	\$2,000 ied, 2010	28/6	0/0 0/0	0/0	(Premo's Star, \$29,110) (Wink At the Girls, \$19,500)	\$113,317 \$110,742	*549		1.29	
27	GOTTCHA GOLD (03, Coronado's Quest), Ocala Stud Farm	\$2,500	18/5	0/0	0/0	(Mucho Mans Gold, \$36,600)	\$108,736	*46			1.47
28	WAGON LIMIT (94, Conquistador Cielo), Bridlewood Farm	\$2,000	10/2	0/0	0/0	(Breckenridge, \$55,200)	\$88,813	181			1.16
29	DOUBLE HONOR (95, Gone West), Get Away Farm	\$2,500	39/6	0/0	0/0	(So Honored, \$17,678)	\$83,045	*578			1.20
30	MONTBROOK (90, Buckaroo), Ocala Stud Farm	\$7,500	28/7	0/0	0/0	(Great Escape, \$12,740)	\$83,019	*795	47	1.59	1.57
31	WESTERN PRIDE (98, Way West)	N/A	14/4	0/0	0/0	(River Rocks, \$26,100)	\$77,253	92		0.52	
32	377	\$3,500	25/2	0/0	0/0	(Woebegon, \$22,000)	\$77,001	*89		1.00	1.32
33	· ,	ied, 2012	14/5	0/0	0/0	(Appealing Lucy, \$19,680)	\$76,828	198		0.77	
34		\$5,000 \$4,000	13/4 14/1	0/0 0/0	0/0 0/0	(Dazzle Me Darling, \$15,800)	\$60,763 \$60,267	25 51	0		1.15
36		ied, 2013	12/4	0/0	0/0	(Sunrise Kitty, \$33,800) (Old Troubador, \$17,820)	\$59,168	*891		1.12	
37	BELGRAVIA (04, Mr. Greeley), Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	8/2	0/0	0/0	(I'm Not Gray, \$31,800)	\$58,645	31		0.68	
38		ied, 2010	18/4	0/0	0/0	(Angel's Sea, \$11,750)	\$56,967	*303			1.19
39		ied, 2008	16/1	0/0	0/0	(Ms. N. Tarsia, \$45,600)	\$56,035	142		0.99	0.83
40	LEADING THE PARADE (01, A.P. Indy), Lambholm South	\$2,500	17/3	0/0	0/0	(Marshall, \$18,750)	\$51,287	71	0	0.70	1.06
41	SWEET RETURN (GB) (00, Elmaamul), Journeyman Stud	\$5,000	10/1	0/0	0/0	(Massimo, \$25,000)	\$43,995	56		0.49	0.85
42		\$1,000	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Lotta Zalotta, \$16,700)	\$43,162	21		2.17	
43	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	\$1,000	10/3	0/0	0/0	(Cooperstown, \$12,360)	\$41,612	*73			1.08
44	(,	\$2,500 \$3,000	11/2 9/2	0/0 0/0	0/0 0/0	(Rosesintherain, \$15,900) (Evil Powder, \$27,000)	\$40,173 \$40,024	*67 58		0.62 2.50	1.43
46	3,,,	N/A	13/2	0/0	0/0	(Last Sting, \$12,725)	\$38,905	*116		0.89	1.10
47		\$6,000	15/2	0/0	0/0	(Italian Nany, \$7,080)	\$38,172	345			1.15
	IT'S NO JOKE (02, Distorted Humor), Hallmarc Stallions @ Stonewall	\$3,500	13/2	0/0	0/0	(Playing a Joke, \$15,540)	\$37,570	59		1.36	
49	WISED UP (95, Dixieland Band), Rising Hill Farm	\$1,500	9/1	0/0	0/0	(Wise Trick, \$19,160)	\$36,460	150	4	1.00	0.85
50		N/A	5/3	0/0	0/0	(La Belle Province, \$11,940)	\$32,040	95		1.47	
51	SEEKING THE DIA (01, Storm Cat), Bridlewood Farm	\$3,500	36/8	0/0	0/0	(Move Over, \$12,810)	\$30,241	*151	0	0.61	0.95
52			5/2	0/0	0/0	(Jax Maxx, \$12,660)	\$28,390	58		0.62	
53		N/A \$1,000	14/1	0/0	0/0 0/0	(Tres Bien Ensemble, \$12,120) (Colonel Red, \$10,500)	\$25,285 \$25,181	202		0.67	
54 55		N/A	8/1 3/1	0/0 0/0	0/0	(Hey Cuz, \$18,040)	\$23,161	30 33			0.90
56		\$1,000	13/2	0/0	0/0	(Truly Amazing, \$11,352)	\$24,799	404			1.22
57		\$2,500	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Fechoria, \$18,000)	\$22,641	144		0.51	0.80
58	HAL'S IMAGE (02, Halo's Image)	N/A	10/1	0/0	0/0	(Jordan's Image, \$13,680)	\$22,578	29	0	0.69	
59		N/A	7/0	0/0	0/0	(Working Man Blues, \$10,100)	\$20,125	409	13	1.01	1.06
60	(, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	\$1,000	2/2	0/0	0/0	(Better Than Safe, \$11,930)	\$18,265	57		0.73	
61		N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Awesomesundayblues, \$10,680)	\$17,446	49			1.04
62		Pnsd	9/1	0/0	0/0	(Quetzalito, \$10,300)	\$17,345	192			1.30
63 64		N/A N/A	1/0 1/1	0/0 0/0	0/0 0/0	(Hot Smile, \$14,570) (Balino, \$12,838)	\$14,570 \$12,838	111 5	1	0.92	1.03
65		N/A N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Mining Town, \$10,980)	\$12,685	8		1.30	
66		\$5,000	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Roccamo, \$11,180)	\$12,003	17		0.29	0.79
67		ied, 2012	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Guiltyguiltyguilty, \$6,933)	\$11,676	*460		1.94	
68		\$2,000	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Beautiful Mission, \$7,810)	\$11,630	10		0.48	0.87
69	DIPLOMATIC JET (92, Roman Diplomat)	N/A	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Diamondsdiplomat, \$11,600)	\$11,600	70	1	0.49	0.83
70	INDY WIND (02, A.P. Indy), Journeyman Stud	\$2,500	8/0	0/0	0/0	(Repentless Lady, \$3,500)	\$11,510	33	0	0.19	1.28

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in North America (stallions exported prior to the 2009 breeding season are excluded), and have runners in North America. All available statistics listed for the Northern Hemisphere through February 26, 2013. As supplied to *The Blood-Horse* by The Jockey Club Information Systems, Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. Current year stakes winners include all N.H.-foaled stakes winners worldwide and any S.H.-foaled horses that won a N.H. stakes. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. (A ¶ indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race.)

*AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX and COMPARABLE INDEX: Lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00; COMPARABLE INDEX indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX higher than their mares' COMPARABLE INDEX.

FIRST BUDGE'S FIRST FOALS









First in Performance,
First in Pedigree
First Dudo

Stephen Got Even—Run Sarah Run, by Smart Strike

"If this is representative of First Dude's foals, people should be flocking to him to fill his book"

> – Barry Eisaman, Eisaman Equine, commenting on his two First Dude foals.







A history of success begins with attention to the individual. DOUBLE DIAMOND FARM

Standing: First Dude • American Spirit • Wekiva Springs • Contact Roger Brand, Jimmy Alexander or Melissa Anthony for stallion inquiries 899 S.W. 85th Ave., Ocala, FL 34481 • (352) 237-3834 Fax: (352) 237-6069 • visit-www.doublediamondfarm.com

(continued from page 40)

Halo's Image all made indelible marks on the breed while standing at the farm.

Today, Appleton's daughter, Linda Appleton-Potter, and longtime general manager George Isaacs are leading a hopeful period of transition. Bridlewood Farm, which operates under the auspices of the Arthur Appleton Estate, while still a stallion station, has moved into more of a commercial role in the industry in recent years. The modification of the business plan was implemented to extend the life of the farm.

"Last year we made the difficult decision to put the farm on the market," said Isaacs, Bridlewood's general manager since 1996. "We're trying to find someone to purchase the property who will embrace what Bridlewood stands for and be true to the philosophy that made the farm what it is. It needs to be someone who is truly appreciative of the facility and the historic tradition behind it. If a big housing developer came in here to buy Bridlewood, it wouldn't happen. This property was intended to be a Thoroughbred nursery, and that was Mr. Appleton's vision. It is imperative that we find the right buyer to perpetuate Mr. Appleton's dream and legacy.

This is a turn-key operation," he added. "We have the stallions. We have the employees. This team could do it all again under the proper circumstances and with the right person."

It has been a long, challenging road for the farm since Appleton passed away.

"At the time of Mr. Appleton's passing, the economy was correcting and the horse industry was going through its difficulties at the same time," Isaacs said. "It was unfortunate timing, and it was difficult to endure. We have had to take strong measures to make it through these times, so we have changed the direction of the farm to focus



Put It Back has sired two grade I winners and three Brazilian champions

more on training and sales and emphasize the commercial aspect. We have had to identify new income streams for the farm."

Most of Bridlewood's bloodstock holdings have been sold in phases in recent years while other facets continue to bring in money. Pastures are leased to an Argentine polo team, Las Monjitas Polo, to freshen up horses during the offseason. The farm boards 91 client horses on the property and a training barn is leased to Jonathan Thomas, Todd Pletcher's former New York assistant.

'Sadly, little by little we have sold our stock," said Isaacs. "It's been a gradual phase out. Of course, it's very bittersweet for me, but we have to carry on. Now we



Backtalk, a son of Smarty Jones, is new to Bridlewood for 2013

2013 Florida Sires by Stakes Winners

Sire	Stks Wnrs	.Stks Win:
Greatness	3	3
With Distinction	3	3
Awesome of Course	1	1
Leroidesanimaux (BRZ)	1	1
Put It Back	1	1
Repent	1	1
Strong Contender	1	1

2013 Florida Sires by Winners

ZUTO FIORIDA SI	ites by Williters	
Sire	Rnrs	.Wnrs
Put It Back	84	23
With Distinction		
Wildcat Heir		
Exclusive Quality		
Repent		
Value Plus		
City Place		
Graeme Hall		
Simon Pure		
Seeking the Dia		
Concorde's Tune		
Greatness		
Gibson County		
Black Mambo		
Leroidesanimaux (BRZ)	37	7
Doneraile Court	34	7
B L's Appeal		
Montbrook		
Three Wonders		
Double Honor		
A. P. Warrior		
Halo's Image		
Burning Roma		
Concerto		
West Acre		
Proud Accolade		
Mass Media		
Strong Contender		
Circular Quay		
Gottcha Gold		
Unbridled Time	14	5
Awesome of Course	11	5
High Cotton	34	4
Roar of the Tiger		
Western Pride		
The Green Monkey		
Marquetry		
Essence of Dubai		
Imperialism		
Sarava		
Leading the Parade		
Da Stoops	10	3
Marco Bay		
Saint Anddan	25	2
Straight Man		
It's No Joke		
Scorpion	13	2
Wekiva Springs	13	2
Keyed Entry	11	2
Wagon Limit		
Hear No Evil		
Belgravia		
Spellbinder		
Unforgettable Max		
Awesome Sword		
Halifax		
Mount McKinley	2	2

GONEA AY

Millionaire Multiple G2SW

by DIXIE UNION

Won / Placed in 10 Stakes (6 Graded)

- At 2, won second start in Saratoga Maiden Special and finished on the board in the Champagne S-G1
- At 3, won the **Pennsylvania Derby-G2** by 9 1/2 lengths and the Ohio Derby-G2 by 2 1/2 lengths.
- At 4, won the Salvator Mile-G3 by 5 lengths and finished second by less than a length to BC Classic winner BLAME in the Curlin S. Record: 5-5-4 in 21 starts, with earnings of \$1,125,162.

Superior Family

ILLICIT, by Mr. Prospector, Unraced, Dam of 8 foals, 4 to race, 2 winners— GONE ASTRAY (c. by Dicie Union). Beyer 104, SUBJECT STALLION Contentious (f. by Giant's Causeway). Beyer 91, TF 107. Winner at 3 and 4 in ENG and NA, placed in 1 start at 3 in GER, \$94,660 (USA), 2nd Kolner Herbst-Stuten-Meile [G3], Pomfret S., 3rd Space Property Rosemary S.

3-year-old filly in U.S., Coaching Club American Oaks [G1] (BEL, \$300,000) [G1] (BEL, \$180,000), 2nd Acom S. [G1] (BEL, \$50,000), Three Ring S. [L] Shuvee H. [G2] (BEL, \$15,000). 0.000), 3rd

Manipulator (c. by Unbridled), Beyer 84. 4 wins at 3 and 4 in ARG and No Collusion (f. by Broad Brush). Beyer 62. Placed at 2, \$6,930. Illicit (f. by Mr. Prospector). See above.

PURE PROFIT, by Key to the Mint. 4 wins in 5 starts at 4, \$55,0PK to STRATOSPHERIC (\$43,821 (USA), 2nd hwt. filly at 2 on English Free Han QUICK AS LIGHTNING (\$188,070 (USA), One To labra S.-G3, etc.), s-G1, etc.), INFINITE

QUICK AS LIGHTWING (\$168.070 (USA), One
[S122.979, Garden City S., etc.). Dam of 7 winnersINSIDE INFORMATION (f. by Private Account). Beyer 119.

EDUCATED RISK (f. b) Mr. Prospector). Beyer 114. 11 wins, Z to 5, \$1,163,717, Frizette S. [G1],
Top Fight H. [GN]. Churchill Downs Budweiser Breeders' Cup H. [G2], Rampart H. [G2],
Virginia H. [G3], Shicey Jones H. [G3], 2nd Acom S. [G1]. Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies
[G1], etc. Dam of MILLIONAIRE (G1) / 114 BEYER

STANDING: FLASHSTORM / GONE ASTRAY / PLEASANT STRIKE / UNITED STATES

Bred 110 mares in 2012



GONE ASTRAY

Dixie Union - Illicit, by Mr. Prospector 2013 fee: \$4,500 stands and nurses — first foals arrive in 2013 —



2500 SW 125th Avenue, Ocala, 34481 Office: (352) 512-1134 or, (754) 300-4684 Fax: (352) 671-3264 E-mail: northweststud@gmail.com

www.northweststud.com



The breeding shed at Bridlewood Farm

are effectively transitioning to a boarding and training center in addition to the stallion division. Last fall we made the decision to lease a training barn to Jonathan. In my opinion, he's one of the best young trainers in the industry, and I believe he will likely have the training division full next year.

"It's been very hard on all of us," Isaacs continued. "This is a labor of love for me. I have spent 20 years of my life working at Bridlewood. When I took over the general manager position, Mr. Appleton was elderly but in reasonably good health. We had a lot of inventory and very nice stock. We had a vibrant racing stable with 30-40 horses in training. We also had an active and successful roster of stallions and 60-65 broodmares. Success wasn't rocket science. I made decisions and managed everything, but we were fortunate to have very good horses in all phases of the operation during those years."

With the challenges in perspective, Isaacs remains bullish on the future, and with plenty of reason. Today, Put It Back, Florida's leading sire of 2012, is carrying on Bridlewood's tradition of excellence in the stallion ranks. Bridlewood owns the son of Honour and Glory in partnership with Julio Bozano's Haras Santa Maria de Araras.

Winner of the seven-furlong Riva Ridge Stakes (gr. II) at Belmont Park as a 3-yearold in 2001, Put It Back won five of seven starts in his career, amassing earnings of \$232,895.

"Dr. Ignacio Leon called me about Put It Back when the colt was 3 years old," Isaacs said, "and we entered into a relationship with Haras Santa Maria de Araras on the horse. He has truly become a great stallion for Florida."

Put It Back has enjoyed success both in the U.S. and South America. He is the sire of Brazilian champions Requebra, Skypilot, and Nitido, as well as Back On Top, a champion in Trinidad and Tobago. In the U.S., Put It Back has sired the grade I stakes winner, millionaire, and 12-time winner In Summation, and grade I winner Jessica Is Back; as well as graded winners Black Bar Spin and Smokey Stover.

"Most years Put It Back shuttles to Brazil or Argentina because Mr. Bozano has farms in both countries," Isaacs said. "His runners have done very well in South America."

Isaacs attributes Put It Back's success at stud to numerous factors.

"He is a very strong physical-type stal-

lion. He had tremendous speed on the racetrack, and he is a complete outcross for most of the mares he is being bred to," Isaacs said. "Also, his In Reality influence is serving him well (Honour and Glory is a son of Relaunch, by In Reality)."

Bridlewood stands 10 stallions. In addition to Put It Back, the roster consists of Backtalk (Smarty Jones-Apasionata Sonata, by Affirmed), Forty Grams (Distorted Humor-Belle South, by Phone Trick), Keyed Entry (Honour and Glory-Ava Knowsthecode, by Cryptoclearance), Mach Ride (Pentelicus—April Invitation, by Formal Dinner), Motovato (Proud Citizen-Buffalo Bird Woman, by Slew City Slew), Seeking the Dia (Storm Cat-Seeking the Pearl, by Seeking the Gold), Thunder Moccasin (A. P. Warrior-One Stormy Mama, by Storm Cat), Wagon Limit (Conquistador Cielo—Darlin Lindy, by Cox's Ridge), and Yesbyjimminy (Yes It's True-Sisters Creek, by Pentelicus).

Backtalk, Motovato, Seeking the Dia (who raced primarily in Japan and earned more than \$5 million), and Thunder Moccasin are new to Bridlewood this season.

"I believe in the stallions we stand," said Isaacs. "You need a significant number of graded stakes winners to make it as a stallion or you get cast off pretty quickly. The young stallions we have definitely have a shot to make it.

"I'm really excited about Backtalk," he added. "He's a big, strapping horse. He is out of a high-class Affirmed mare, and I have been impressed with his first foals. Motovato was a hickory racehorse himself. He has a lot of scope, and he demonstrated a lot of class on the racetrack. With Seeking the Dia, (Hill 'n' Dale Farms') John Sikura wanted the richest son of Storm Cat to stand in Florida and be an affordable buy for the state's breed-



Isaacs with Eddie 'Wolf' Barney, center, and Robert J. McCord

ers. We stand Thunder Moccasin for Starlight Stables. He was on the Derby trail last year and was undefeated when he won the Hutcheson Stakes (gr. II) by daylight. I am really excited about his potential. He flashed brilliance until his injury, and he is a beautiful horse."

Bridlewood's history of producing and standing winners is testament to Appleton's proud legacy. The accomplishments and stories live on through the farm's dedicated employees, two of whom started at Bridlewood on the day the farm opened in 1977 and still work there. Training barn foreman Eddie "Wolf" Barney and his brother-in-law Robert J. McCord, a training barn groom, have worked at Bridlewood since day one.

"These guys are a dying breed," Isaacs said fondly. "It's a pleasure to work with them. I would venture to say that together they have had their hands on as many good horses as any good horseman could ever hope for."

Stallion manager Saul Rosas (32 years) and Mike Chamblee, Bridlewood's broodmare manager for more than 20 years, are other key members of the team. Isaacs estimates Chamblee has foaled more than 3,000 mares over the years.

"The people here are a big reason for the farm's success," Isaacs said. "It's rare in business to find the situation we have had where people really look forward to coming to work. Everyone at the farm has always been treated with respect, and it was Mr. A, as he was known by employees, who started it all. He treated everyone as if they were truly special. It was a rare quality, and you couldn't ask for more from an employer."

Bridlewood honors the farm's best horses that have passed on by burying them on the property in a cemetery located in a courtyard by the train depot. The location is known as Bridlewood Junction. Skip Trial is one of many accomplished Bridlewood horses buried in the cemetery. Skip Trial stood his entire stud career at Bridlewood before he was euthanized due to the



Stallion manager Saul Rosas has been with Bridlewood Farm for 32 years

infirmities of old age in 2012. Pensioned in 2010, Skip Trial sired Hall of Famer and 1998 Horse of the Year Skip Away in addition to 27 other stakes winners.

Bridlewood's foundation mare North Of Eden, dam of grade I winners Forbidden Apple, Paradise Creek, and Wild Event, and stakes winner I'm Very Irish, is also buried on the farm. She died in 2011.

"She was a magnificent blue hen mare," Isaacs said. "She was a farm manager's dream. I planned all her matings, but she made everything so easy. I matched her up physically with the stallions we bred her to and she did the rest. She always passed along the best traits of the stallions and then tossed in her own special influence. I was blessed to be able to work with a mare like her."

Getting racehorses to run to the maximum of their ability is a cornerstone of Bridlewood Farm's training philosophy. The farm's training program has proved to be the starting ground for many top performers, including 2004 Kentucky Derby (gr. I) and Preakness Stakes (gr. I) winner

Smarty Jones, multiple grade I winner Ron the Greek, and grade I winner Eden's Moon, the latter also bred by Bridlewood.

"We are proud of our training program graduates," Isaacs said. "We got Smarty Jones in here as a short yearling. We broke and trained him. That was a unique opportunity for us and very gratifying."

Despite the challenges involved in shifting gears, Bridlewood ranked as the fifthleading Florida breeder in 2012 with earnings of \$2,318,266. In addition to Eden's Moon, the farm also was represented as breeder on the track in 2012 by Turbo Compressor, winner of the United Nations Stakes (gr. IT) at Monmouth Park. The multiple stakes winner and earner of nearly \$1 million represents Bridlewood breeding through and through. Turbo Compressor is by Halo's Image out of the Wild Event mare Dixieland Event.

Looking ahead, Isaacs remains hopeful that a buyer can be secured for the farm.

"We had 60 employees when I took over as general manager," said Isaacs. "We had that same number of employees up until 2011. When Mr. Appleton passed, Linda and I had a long talk about the future. It was her heartfelt desire to try as long as we could to maintain the farm and enable all of the people here to keep their jobs until we could find a buyer. That's exactly what we've done.

"Mr. Appleton gave me the opportunity of a lifetime when I came to work for him," Isaacs said. "I will always be grateful for that. He was like a grandfather to me. We had good chemistry and he trusted me. Things worked out so well for so long. I want nothing more than to continue Mr. Appleton's legacy here at Bridlewood. My only regret is that we weren't able to carry on longer."

While the farm is on the market and the settlement of the estate is ongoing, with any luck, Isaacs and his dedicated crew will have many more chapters ahead in what is already a storied history of influence at Bridlewood Farm.

It's what Mr. A would want. BH

