

NORTHEAST/MID-ATLANTIC

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On the Road

*Jonathan Sheppard keeps
on moving and winning*

BY ESTHER MARR

ON A BLUSTERY day in late February, Hall of Fame trainer Jonathan Sheppard made a sidetrip to Kentucky, taking a rare break from his demanding schedule to celebrate an old friend's 30th birthday. The visit wasn't with a human acquaintance but with a dear Thoroughbred, one that helped shape the trainer's storied career.

As Sheppard fed the now-pensioned Storm Cat some treats at Overbrook Farm near Lexington, he couldn't help but reflect on days gone by. It seemed only yesterday Sheppard had trained the son of Storm Bird to a victory in the 1985 Young America Stakes (gr. I) at Meadowlands and a close runner-up finish in that year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile (gr. I) at Aqueduct.

Sheppard also recalled how he and his wife of 20 years, Cathy, convinced owner William T. Young to deviate from his business plan and retain Storm Cat as a stallion. At the time, Overbrook typically sold all of its stallion prospects when their running careers were done. The Sheppards' conviction and persuasiveness resulted in the farm standing one of the most influential sires of modern times.

Storm Cat is now enjoying his retirement, but Sheppard is far from slowing down. Spend a few minutes with the 72-year-old horseman and Ashwell, England, native, and it is clear the zeal for his vocation still burns brightly.



ANNE M. EDENHARDT

Jonathan Sheppard, 72, learned early never to give up on a horse

NEWS MAKERS

HIGHCLIFF Stallions | 2013

March 5–First mare pronounced in foal, by SMART STRIKE's leading son in NY

"Smart Bid is a millionaire who won from seven furlongs to 1 1/2 miles on dirt, turf and synthetic. He was a precocious 2-year-old and a classy older horse." -Graham Motion, trainer of Smart Bid

SMART BID

Smart Strike - Recording, by Danzig | \$4,500 Live Foal



March 13–First two-year-old to sell for Freshman Sire COSMONAUT

The leading New York stallion of 2012 by yearling average with 7 offered and 5 sold for an average of \$44,600, **COSMONAUT's** second highest price yearling, a colt out of Idle Gossip, is slated to sell at OBS March 13 as hip 286

COSMONAUT

Lemon Drop Kid - Cosmic Fire, by Capote | \$5,000 Live Foal



2013 Leading Sires in New York

Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOBB, Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2013 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	BLUEGRASS CAT (03, Storm Cat), Vinery New York at Sugar Maple	\$15,000	107/22	0/0	0/0	(Laurie's Rocket, \$72,900)	\$676,414	*348	10	1.37	2.11
2	POSSE (00, Silver Deputy), Vinery New York at Sugar Maple	\$12,500	87/26	1/1	0/1	(Trouble in Dodge, \$41,400)	\$571,116	*478	18	1.43	1.39
3	FREUD (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York	\$10,000	47/10	0/0	0/0	(Freud's Notebook, \$48,700)	\$425,761	*454	30	1.76	1.27
4	EL CORREDOR (97, Mr. Greeley), Questroyal North	\$7,500	66/15	3/4	1/3	(Little Ms Protocol, \$90,000)	\$422,134	*890	34	1.27	1.55
5	CONGAREE (98, Arazi), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$7,500	38/8	2/3	0/2	(Don't Tell Sophia, \$105,000)	\$354,261	*278	13	1.38	1.50
6	BOB AND JOHN (03, Seeking the Gold), McMahon of Saratoga Tbreeds	\$6,000	49/11	0/0	0/0	(Grand Mere, \$87,600)	\$348,208	*146	4	0.92	1.46
7	POMEROY (01, Boundary), Vinery New York at Sugar Maple	\$5,000	43/12	2/2	0/2	(Rubysandpearls, \$52,500)	\$273,708	*190	7	1.21	1.36
8	FROST GIANT (03, Giant's Causeway), Keane Stud Operations	\$7,500	10/2	0/0	0/0	(West Hills Giant, \$87,500)	\$252,757	*74	2	3.10	1.19
9	HERE'S ZEALOUS (97, Dehere), Kaz Hill Farm	\$3,000	22/7	0/0	0/0	(Flying Zealous, \$81,600)	\$236,300	152	0	0.69	0.93
10	ALPHABET SOUP (91, Cozzene), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$6,000	42/9	1/1	0/1	(Joan's Choice, \$52,100)	\$207,408	*789	45	1.25	1.36
11	ANDROMEDA'S HERO (02, Fusaichi Pegasus), Dutchess Views Farm	\$1,500	17/5	0/0	0/0	(Simplistic, \$55,000)	\$204,997	70	2	0.78	1.06
12	BUSTIN STONES (04, City Zip), Waldorf Farm	\$2,500	14/5	0/0	0/0	(Keep Bustin, \$62,400)	\$179,059	34	0	1.07	1.72
13	UTOPIA (JPN) (00, Forty Niner), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	35/4	0/0	0/0	(Papa Tom, \$40,850)	\$167,670	170	3	1.11	1.31
14	GOLDEN MISSILE (95, A.P. Indy), Milfer Farm	\$3,500	31/8	0/0	0/0	(Runaway Wildcat, \$17,060)	\$140,221	*600	15	1.07	1.59
15	CATIENUS (94, Storm Cat), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	43/7	0/0	0/0	(Off the Page, \$25,200)	\$138,781	*512	26	1.19	1.28
16	DISCO RICO (97, Citidancer), Keane Stud Operations	\$5,000	25/4	0/0	0/0	(Vicki's Dancer, \$46,800)	\$135,807	235	8	1.31	1.24
17	TEUFLESBERG (04, Johannesburg), McMahon of Saratoga Tbreeds	\$5,000	15/3	0/0	0/0	(Girl Code, \$42,750)	\$135,554	57	2	2.42	1.28
18	TOUCH GOLD (94, Deputy Minister), McMahon of Saratoga Tbreeds	\$7,500	51/5	0/0	0/0	(Cajun Diva, \$21,000)	\$131,674	*806	31	1.28	1.98
19	NOBLE CAUSEWAY (02, Giant's Causeway), Sequel Stallions New York	N/A	37/7	0/0	0/0	(Dandy's Noble, \$30,000)	\$122,117	152	2	0.60	1.11
20	PATRIOT ACT (02, A.P. Indy), Questroyal North	\$2,500	13/2	0/0	0/0	(Patriotic Duty, \$31,754)	\$105,826	*75	0	0.66	1.08
21	STONESIDER (03, Giant's Causeway), McMahon of Saratoga Tbreeds	N/A	16/3	0/0	0/0	(Sinistra, \$43,050)	\$93,630	108	0	0.68	1.18
22	POLLARD'S VISION (01, Carson City), Waldorf Farm	\$5,000	19/3	0/0	0/0	(Il Villano, \$50,000)	\$90,150	*267	13	1.74	1.36
23	ROARING FEVER (00, Storm Cat), Questroyal North	\$2,500	18/1	0/0	0/0	(Nine Loves, \$30,000)	\$81,825	165	6	1.21	1.01
24	SUNRIVER (03, Saint Ballado)	Died, 2009	22/1	0/0	0/0	(Grande Chica, \$18,900)	\$66,922	105	2	1.13	1.44
25	MR. SEKIGUCHI (03, Storm Cat), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	18/3	0/0	0/0	(Affair, \$13,850)	\$61,289	*73	1	1.07	1.34



ALICIA WINCZE HUGHES/LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER

Sheppard, left, celebrates Storm Cat's 30th birthday at Overbrook Farm

He gets his thrills on the road, either checking on his horses (many of which he has also bred and owns) stabled at Ashwell Stables, his home base near Unionville, Pa., or at racetracks throughout the country.

Heralded for his triumphs in both steeplechasing and flat racing, Sheppard quickly credits one of his early mentors for his success.

"Probably the most important thing I

learned in racing was from (steeplechase trainer) Burley Cocks, who was an extremely good, natural horseman and never gave up on a horse," said Sheppard. "With every horse he had, he thought it had to be a good horse; he just had to figure out how to get it out of him. I learned you don't just treat horses as disposable commodities but as living beings that have potential."

Sheppard has carried that philosophy

2013 New York Sires by Winners

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Posse	87	26
Bluegrass Cat	107	22
El Corredor	66	15
Pomero	43	12
Bob and John	49	11
Freud	47	10
Alphabet Soup	42	9
Congaree	38	8
Golden Missile	31	8
Catienus	43	7
Noble Causeway	37	7
Here's Zealous	22	7
Touch Gold	51	5
Andromeda's Hero	17	5
Bustin Stones	14	5
Utopia (JPN)	35	4
Disco Rico	25	4
One Nice Cat	9	4
Pollard's Vision	19	3
Mr. Sekiguchi	18	3
Stonesider	16	3
Teufflesberg	15	3
Congressionalhonor	13	3
Prime Timber	11	3
Judge T C	8	3

2013 New York Sires by Stakes Winners

Sire	Stks Wnrs	Stks Wins
El Corredor	3	4
Congaree	2	3
Pomero	2	2
Alphabet Soup	1	1
Posse	1	1
True Direction	1	1

Special Note For Sire Lists:

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 March 5, 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 1 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.

Proven & Promising

UTOPIA (JPN)

Forty Niner - Dream Vision, by Northern Taste

New York's **#1 Second Crop Sire** by Earnings

1.94 A Runner Index

Higher than other F2009 sires with 60+ strs.

Hat Trick	1.92
Silent Name	1.76
Scat Daddy	1.74
Street Sense	1.55
Discreet Cat	1.44
After Market	1.42
Any Given Saturday	1.36

Lifetime avg. earnings per starter \$27,446



HERE COMES BEN

Street Cry - Chasetheragingwind, by Dayjur

Grade I winner from a family of sires

"**STREET CRY (Ire)** is the most likely stallion currently standing to take on the mantle of

MR. PROSPECTOR."

-Scott Gillies, BloodHorse.com



Inquire about multiple mare discounts.

2013 Leading Sires in Pennsylvania

 Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2013 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	ROCKPORT HARBOR (02, Unbridled's Song), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$7,500	100/26	0/0	0/0	(Sinai, \$53,400)	\$664,230	334	10	1.25	1.49
2	SMARTY JONES (01, Elusive Quality), Northview PA	\$7,500	63/18	2/2	0/2	(Concealed Identity, \$79,950)	\$479,854	*356	19	1.72	2.33
3	E DUBAI (98, Mr. Prospector), Northview PA	\$7,500	101/21	1/1	0/1	(Oliver's Tale, \$33,600)	\$439,952	*731	30	1.38	1.24
4	SILVER TRAIN (02, Old Trieste), Northview PA	\$5,000	85/21	0/0	0/0	(Joy Train, \$34,240)	\$402,179	*292	11	1.08	1.39
5	JUMP START (99, A.P. Indy), Northview PA	\$10,000	66/17	0/0	0/0	(Start It Up, \$42,600)	\$393,364	*639	32	1.60	1.37
6	PETIONVILLE (92, Seeking the Gold), Penn Ridge Farms	\$6,000	54/14	0/0	0/0	(Villette, \$56,000)	\$349,534	*646	43	1.37	1.25
7	REAL QUIET (95, Quiet American)	Died, 2010	35/5	1/1	1/1	(Singlet, \$62,500)	\$283,453	*621	14	1.21	1.25
8	LITE THE FUSE (91, Buckaroo), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$2,500	23/9	0/0	0/0	(Metal Firecracker, \$39,900)	\$179,212	522	22	1.26	1.21
9	ALBERT THE GREAT (97, Go for Gin), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$2,500	33/7	0/0	0/0	(Chicharito, \$27,300)	\$176,502	*343	9	1.15	1.17
10	EUROSILVER (01, Unbridled's Song), Penn Ridge Farms	\$3,500	44/8	0/0	0/0	(Blues and Silvers, \$40,620)	\$174,182	*287	7	1.00	1.36
11	OFFLEE WILD (00, Wild Again), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$4,000	32/8	0/0	0/0	(Offlee Fast, \$34,335)	\$139,974	*258	6	1.36	1.30
12	MEDALLIST (01, Touch Gold), Northview PA	\$2,500	23/7	0/0	0/0	(Nastar Medallist, \$22,270)	\$138,694	160	6	1.34	1.46
13	WISEMAN'S FERRY (99, Hennessy), Dana Point Farm	\$5,000	39/5	0/0	0/0	(Kincaid, \$23,020)	\$134,380	*267	6	1.54	1.07
14	CAT THIEF (96, Storm Cat), Penn Ridge Farms	\$4,000	22/4	0/0	0/0	(Whattthecatdrugin, \$25,260)	\$121,492	*441	18	1.20	1.66
15	GIMMEAWINK (00, Elusive Quality)	N/A	39/6	0/0	0/0	(Subtle Signal, \$16,530)	\$98,464	*185	2	0.82	1.12
16	SNOW RIDGE (98, Tabasco Cat), Star Barn Thoroughbreds	Died, 2012	29/6	0/0	0/0	(Jax's Daddy, \$15,632)	\$95,449	*270	7	1.04	1.18
17	LOVE OF MONEY (01, Not For Love), Northview PA	Died, 2012	23/2	0/0	0/0	(Go Money Go, \$16,380)	\$94,640	96	2	1.11	1.27
18	ACTIVIST (94, Wild Again), Godstone Farm	\$2,000	13/3	0/0	0/0	(St John's Gospel, \$28,920)	\$81,793	165	3	0.99	0.85
19	AISLE (99, Pulpit), Whirlwind Stables	\$1,000	11/4	0/0	0/0	(Aisle Show You, \$21,000)	\$79,860	70	0	0.90	0.85
20	INVISIBLE INK (98, Thunder Gulch)	Died, 2011	14/6	0/0	0/0	(Paul the Octopus, \$16,470)	\$72,393	*108	5	0.84	1.21
21	FORMAL DINNER (88, Well Decorated)	N/A	17/4	0/0	0/0	(Spacecoast, \$17,000)	\$72,386	*630	24	1.09	1.10
22	DELAWARE TOWNSHIP (96, Notebook), Maui Meadow Farm	\$2,000	18/4	0/0	0/0	(Artistic Honors, \$18,480)	\$71,617	268	7	1.12	1.26
23	SHOW TUNE (04, Unbridled's Song), Safe Haven Equine	\$500	9/3	0/0	0/0	(First Show, \$22,430)	\$69,079	42	0	0.78	1.06
24	FAIRBANKS (03, Giant's Causeway), Northview PA	\$4,500	21/1	0/0	0/0	(My Amiga, \$10,920)	\$57,521	95	0	0.55	1.37
25	SOUTHERN SUCCESS (03, Dixieland Band), Xanthus Farms	\$1,500	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Southern Celebrity, \$19,530)	\$43,170	36	0	1.22	1.20

with him throughout the years—with horses such as four-time United States champion steeplechaser Flatterer, and more recently with 2008 champion grass female Forever Together and 2009 champion female sprinter Informed Decision, all of whom required patience to extract their full potential. Aside from their successes, these horses are a testament to the trainer through their owners, who have been Sheppard's clients for more than 40 years: Bill Pape had Flatterer, and George Strawbridge Jr.'s Augustin Stables had Forever Together and Informed Decision.

Early Years

Sheppard's association with horses goes back as far as he can remember. He grew up riding in a pony club, fox hunting, and racing ponies with his brother through the English countryside.

"We had friends in nearby villages, and we would ride over and spend the day playing games on our ponies, and racing around the fields," said Sheppard. His early hero in the horse industry was legendary English jockey Lester Piggott.

Sheppard kept up with the racing scene because his father was a track official, and soon he began dreaming of his own career in the industry—either as a jockey or trainer. His father's position, however, prevented him from getting a trainer's license for ethical reasons. Plus, he didn't have the funding to start his own stable, so Sheppard started his vocational career dabbling in a couple of other professions, including the military and the English stock exchange.

"I wasn't very happy doing either of those things. Eventually I was talking with some friends that said, 'Well, if you can't be a trainer in England, maybe you can be one somewhere else,'" remembered Sheppard. "I thought, 'Well, the only major racing country I know of where I can speak the same language is America.'"

Following a short stint working with a fox hunting club in Maryland, Sheppard landed his first racing job, with Cocks. He rode for the trainer's Hermitage Farm near Unionville, earning a respectable record and making numerous connections in the industry. Eventually the time came to move on.

"My career was a bit stagnant as a jockey and I had married and started a family," he explained. "I thought (being a jockey) maybe wasn't the best way to make a living, so I decided to get into training."

Sheppard started with a small string of six steeplechase horses, saddling his first winner as a trainer with Haffaday at the Rose Tree Hunt Meet in 1966.

Over the years Sheppard has trained many successful horses—both over jumps and on the flat—for Strawbridge, who has the distinction of being Sheppard's first client.

"His career as an owner started around the same time mine did as a trainer, so we grew together and one step led to another," said Sheppard. The owner bought his first horses from Sheppard, some steeplechasers shipped from England to the U.S., in the 1970s. "Not all of it was based on success, but rather curiosity piques that encouraged us to go to the next level. I feel

2013 Pennsylvania Sires by Winners

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Rockport Harbor	100	26
E Dubai	101	21
Silver Train	85	21
Smarty Jones	63	18
Jump Start	66	17
Petionville	54	14
Lite the Fuse	23	9
Eurosilver	44	8
Offlee Wild	32	8
Albert the Great	33	7
Medallist	23	7
Gimmeawink	39	6
Snow Ridge	29	6
Trust N Luck	23	6
Ecclesiastic	21	6
Invisible Ink	14	6
Wiseman's Ferry	39	5
Real Quiet	35	5
Cat Thief	22	4
Delaware Township	18	4
Formal Dinner	17	4
Aisle	11	4
Pure Precision	16	3
Activist	13	3
Show Tune	9	3

2013 Pennsylvania Sires by Stakes Winners

Sire	Stks Wnrs	Stks Wins
Smarty Jones	2	2
E Dubai	1	1
Real Quiet	1	1

The Rolling Stones

★ The 'Stones' keep on rollin' in 2013! ★

— Rock Solid Runners Earning Big New York Incentives —

Recent winner KEEP BUSTIN - undefeated in three starts in NY (\$93,600)!

FIRST CROP:

64% runners from foals • 55% winners / runners

78% runners have won or placed

33% runners won their first or second start

1 stakes-placed • 40% winners won first time out

BUSTIN STONES moves his mares up and offers incredible value with proven results that rival national leaders:

Stallion	(*2013 Second-Crop Rank)	Total First-Crop Runners	Winners	% Wnrs/Rnrs	\$ Fee
BUSTIN STONES	(16)	18	10	55	2,500.
MAJESTIC WARRIOR	(1)	70	36	51	12,500.
INTO MISCHIEF	(2)	26	11	42	20,000.
MIDNIGHT LUTE	(3)	61	17	28	15,000.
STREET BOSS	(4)	62	29	47	10,000.
CURLIN	(5)	49	19	39	25,000.

***2013 - #6 Nat'l Second-Crop Sire by **Percentage of Winners / Runners**

***#16 Nat'l Second-Crop Sire by Progeny Earnings**

***Top Ten NY General Sire**

*BLOODHORSE.COM 3/1/13
**10 OR MORE RUNNERS

2012 - #7 Nat'l First-Crop Sire by **Percentage of Winner/Runners

BUSTIN STONES

City Zip - Shesasurething, by Prospectors Gamble
2013 fee: \$2,500 stands and nurses



Waldorf Farm, P.O. Box 959, North Chatham, NY 12132

Inquiries to: Dr. Jerry Bilinski, DVM | mobile: 518.461.8424 | farm: 518.766.9400 | office: 518.766.4600 | fax: 518.766.4601
email: drbilinski@aol.com | www.nybreds.com/waldorffarm.com

2013 Leading Sires in Maryland

➤ Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOBB, Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/Wns	Rstrct SW/BT SW (Chief Earner, Earnings)	2013 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
								Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	ORIENTATE (98, Mt. Livermore), Northview Stallion Station	\$5,000	84/15	1/1	0/1 (Great Hot, \$124,710)	\$481,782	*702	32	1.37	1.86
2	OUTFLANKER (94, Danzig), Shamrock Farm	\$3,000	30/8	1/1	0/1 (Javerre, \$165,000)	\$344,789	*477	21	1.41	1.17
3	DANCE WITH RAVENS (02, A.P. Indy), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,000	55/11	0/0	0/0 (Seventeenohsix, \$39,480)	\$333,827	281	8	1.25	1.49
4	LION HEARTED (96, Storm Cat), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,000	47/15	0/0	0/0 (Irish Lion, \$46,010)	\$325,419	*525	20	1.29	1.32
5	TWO PUNCH (83, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2011	28/12	1/1	0/1 (Bold Affair, \$75,000)	\$313,953	*1085	56	1.45	1.41
6	NOT FOR LOVE (90, Mr. Prospector), Northview Stallion Station	\$15,000	62/16	0/0	0/0 (Take Down Two, \$44,800)	\$313,111	839	74	1.76	1.46
7	LOUIS QUATORZE (93, Sovereign Dancer), Murmur Farm	\$3,000	38/11	0/0	0/0 (Ribo Bobo, \$23,250)	\$247,142	*917	24	1.16	1.37
8	GREAT NOTION (00, Elusive Quality), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,500	19/5	0/0	0/0 (Blue Notion, \$65,640)	\$215,040	140	6	1.73	1.23
9	GATORS N BEARS (00, Stormy Atlantic)	Died, 2012	27/7	0/0	0/0 (Change of Command, \$28,400)	\$162,902	140	2	1.10	1.25
10	SCIPION (02, A.P. Indy), Murmur Farm	\$3,000	23/6	0/0	0/0 (Victoria's Comet, \$25,200)	\$146,590	73	2	1.11	1.12
11	ROCK SLIDE (98, A.P. Indy), Shamrock Farm	\$2,500	29/3	0/0	0/0 (Pass You Bye Bye, \$29,200)	\$137,550	233	6	1.05	1.24
12	CHEROKEE'S BOY (00, Citidancer), Murmur Farm	\$2,500	12/3	0/0	0/0 (Hanky Doodle, \$32,100)	\$99,820	68	1	1.43	1.16
13	DEPUTY STORM (01, Forestry), Northview Stallion Station	\$2,500	7/4	0/0	0/0 (Video Storm, \$32,110)	\$83,252	54	2	1.29	1.30
14	ST AVERIL (01, Saint Ballado)	N/A	9/2	0/0	0/0 (Manion, \$10,330)	\$39,221	*131	1	0.49	1.02
15	GREEK SUN (01, Danzig), Marathon Farm	\$1,500	7/3	0/0	0/0 (Sarbanes, \$11,130)	\$36,766	28	0	0.73	1.19

particularly linked to him because of the successes we've had together and the longevity of our relationship."

Two of Sheppard and Strawbridge's biggest triumphs together came with Forever Together and Informed Decision, respective winners of the 2008 Filly & Mare Turf (gr. IT) and 2009 Sentient Jet Filly & Mare Sprint (gr. I). Sheppard and Strawbridge have also teamed to capture other grade I steeplechase and flat racing events with Invest West, Irish Approach, and With Anticipation.

Strawbridge said Sheppard's patience and horsemanship are the trainer's most impressive qualities. He often sends him his most high-strung, difficult horses because he knows Sheppard has the ability to calm them down and get them to concentrate.

"He trains the horses not as if they're coming out of a factory, but as individuals," Strawbridge said. "That's really what differentiates him from other trainers."

Fittingly, it was Strawbridge's horse—Fugitive Angel—with whom Sheppard reached the 3,000-win milestone in flat racing at Delaware Park last Sept. 17.

Sheppard, a former president of the National Steeplechase Association, said he gradually added flat horses to his stable as he gained wisdom in his training methods. He has learned the art of maintaining infinite patience over the years, both with the people and the horses with which he is involved.

"You also have to be quite resilient to bad things happening, because bad things will happen," the trainer noted. "You need to be a bit of a business person, a good people-person with your staff, and have energy and enthusiasm for what you're doing."

One required quality that can't be learned is the innate gift of common horse sense.

"If I had a single quality that's helped me have an edge over my competitors, I would say that would be the strongest one," said

Sheppard. "Part of that's natural, and part of that is because of my background and growing up with horses.

"I'm not right all the time; it's a guessing game, but as long as you keep your mind open to the fact horses aren't just robots, you're more likely to do better with them."

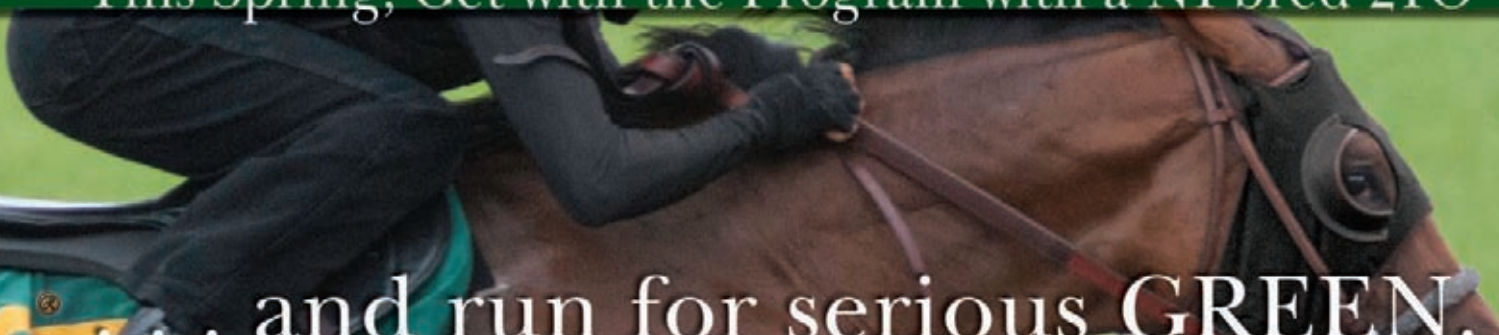
Then and Now

Sheppard may be in the twilight of his career, but he amazingly maintains around 150 horses spread among 20 owners, the most prominent of whom are Strawbridge, Pape, and Edward P. Swyer.

Sheppard additionally co-bred and co-owns several horses with the latter two horsemen. Factoring together Sheppard's total earnings as a steeplechase owner by himself, plus the additional money he's earned in partnership, he currently ranks among the leading steeplechase owners of all-time.

"He's got impeccable knowledge and he's as conscientious as they come," said

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2013 Leading Sires in West Virginia

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2013 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	LIMEHOUSE (01, Grand Slam), O'Sullivan Farms	\$3,500	59/13	1/1	0/1	(Drinksonthouse, \$34,535)	\$285,508	*297	13	1.27	1.27
2	WINDSOR CASTLE (98, Lord Carson), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$3,000	34/6	0/0	0/0	(Trevor's Journey, \$23,700)	\$170,690	174	8	1.27	1.20
3	FIBER SONDE (05, Unbridled's Song), Beau Ridge Farm	\$1,000	11/6	0/0	0/0	(Mr. Ripken, \$32,500)	\$119,380	34	1	1.33	0.75
4	LUFTIKUS (96, Meadowlake), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$2,500	30/4	0/0	0/0	(Fruitcake, \$20,900)	\$103,500	260	7	1.02	1.09
5	DURING (00, Cherokee Run), O'Sullivan Farms	\$2,500	12/3	1/1	1/1	(Su Casa G Casa, \$60,000)	\$95,551	151	4	0.87	1.20
6	YARROW BRAE (95, Deputy Minister), O'Sullivan Farms	\$1,500	11/3	0/0	0/0	(Runaway Brae, \$31,800)	\$78,545	278	9	1.13	1.01
7	FEAR THE CAPE (01, Cape Town), Blue Spruce Farm	\$1,500	9/3	1/1	0/1	(Fear the Facelift, \$48,120)	\$75,510	22	1	1.06	1.08
8	BOP (97, Rahy)	Died, 2012	11/3	0/0	0/0	(Bomber, \$33,800)	\$65,330	*146	5	1.07	0.92
9	MEADOW MONSTER (91, Meadowlake), O'Sullivan Farms	\$1,000	15/3	0/0	0/0	(She's My Monster, \$18,670)	\$59,830	365	9	0.96	1.07
10	PERUVIAN (92, Conquistador Cielo), Fox Run Stallion Station	\$1,000	2/1	1/1	1/1	(Saginaw, \$45,000)	\$53,550	85	2	0.97	0.88

2013 Leading Sires in New Jersey

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2013 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	DEFERRE (92, Deputy Minister), Walnford Stud	\$1,500	21/2	0/0	0/0	(Peter's Legend, \$19,290)	\$73,483	*559	22	1.25	1.19
2	DON SIX (00, Wild Escapade), Greenfields Farm	\$2,500	8/4	0/0	0/0	(Dee Dee's Comet, \$25,820)	\$62,888	67	0	1.21	1.26
3	MO MON (98, Maria's Mon)	Died, 2011	11/2	0/0	0/0	(Mo Work for Tim, \$23,800)	\$51,774	121	2	0.76	1.18
4	UNBRIDLED JET (96, Unbridled)	Died, 2011	11/3	0/0	0/0	(O K Lefty, \$14,300)	\$47,620	*250	9	1.04	1.24
5	PARK AVENUE BALL (02, Citidancer), Colonial Farms	\$1,000	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Park Avenue Appeal, \$22,575)	\$32,260	28	0	0.55	1.38

Pape. The trainer co-bred Pape's Flatterer, plus other grade I-winning jump horses It's a Giggle and Mixed Up. In 2009 Mixed Up earned an Eclipse Award as champion steeplechaser.

The best runners Sheppard co-owned with Swyer (under the name Hudson River Farms) include grade I-winning steeplechase victors Ninepins, Sovereign Duty, and Arcadius. In 2010, Arcadius gave Sheppard his 1,000th career steeplechase victory as a trainer when he captured the grade I Helen Haskell Sampson Hurdle Stakes at Monmouth Park.

"(Sheppard) knows when (our horses) are ready and knows where to race them," said Swyer. "Also, even though my experience with horses is limited, he'll always ask my opinion, and I appreciate that," Swyer added. "As a partner, his word is his bond; we don't even have to shake hands."

As a breeder, Sheppard likes to be in control of the decision-making from start to finish.

He currently has a band of 15-20 broodmares at his Pennsylvania farm. He plans all his own matings, around 50% of which are with regional stallions versus Kentucky stallions.

"I decide who they're going to be bred to, when they're going to be weaned, how they're going to be broken, when they should go into training, which ones need more time, and which ones should be flat horses and jumpers," said Sheppard. His best broodmare, Effervescent, has produced two stakes winners, both of which he owned and trained. "It's a pretty multifaceted program, and I'm rather intrigued by that and enjoy it."

Sheppard's weekly routine involves constantly circulating among the areas where he is most needed. He currently has barns



Sheppard likes to be on hand when his horses do gate work and schooling

at Tampa Bay Downs and Gulfstream Park in Florida; Camden Training Center in South Carolina; Fair Hill Training Center in Maryland; and at his own Ashwell Stables. The trainer also has divisions at Keeneland during the spring and at Presque Isle and Saratoga Race Course in the summer.

Sheppard likes to be present when his horses are doing gate work, schooling, and racing. When he can't be there in person, however, he relies on his 80-member staff, which includes eight assistant trainers and barn managers.

Northeast Focus

Chance may have brought Sheppard to the Northeast, but it's no accident that he has made Unionville his home base since then.

"It happens to be a good central location to most of the tracks in the Mid-At-

lantic area," said Sheppard of his Ashwell Stables, which is tucked far away from the bustle of other Thoroughbred operations. "With the slots money in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New York, they're all just a short van ride away, and it's good prize money and lots of opportunities."

Sheppard and his staff utilize around 300 acres in Unionville among Ashwell's broodmare operation, training facility, training track, and rented adjoining properties. The horses are worked over steep hills and wooded bridle trails to help develop both stamina and speed.

It may seem easy to forget some of the many horses that have served the trainer well, but Sheppard makes sure to keep up with all his former runners, wherever they may be.

"I do have an emotional attachment to the horses for whom I had a special affinity," said Sheppard, who also visited Forever Together and Informed Decision—now broodmares at Stone Farm—during his recent trip to Kentucky. "With some people, once a horse leaves their shedrow, that's it. But I'm in the category where the horse means something more."

Going strong in a career that has spanned more than four decades and is punctuated by six Breeders' Cup victories and Eclipse champion titles for 13 of his horses, Sheppard still maintains a childlike enthusiasm when reflecting upon his successes, as well as his hopes for the future.

"At some point I plan to downsize, but I still have enthusiasm for the business...I enjoy being with the horses and the camaraderie with the other trainers, standing by the rail and telling stories," said Sheppard. "It gets to be a bit of a way of life." **BH**

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