



KEVIN THOMPSON

ALL ABOARD

Whether Thoroughbred owners have invested a little or a lot, the care of their equine extended family is important. As circumspect as they would be in finding suitable boarding schools for their children, they need to ensure a proper facility is caring for their horses. Of primary concern are safety, welfare, access to proper veterinary care, top-notch facilities, experienced staff, and good business acumen that includes timely, thorough communications.

Learn about some of the leading facilities around the country that specialize in boarding in the following profiles.

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AURORA FARMS

Located on gently rolling hills near Shelbyville, Ky., Melody Adler's Aurora Farms offers 89 beautiful acres for boarding horses.

Adler launched the farm when she couldn't find the right place to retire her own horse. Today the farm boards retired horses as well as horses rehabilitating from injury and foaling mares.

With its roots as a retirement farm, Aurora prides itself in specialized care for the older horse. The farm, which accepts all breeds for retirement, offers individualized feeding programs, feed supplements for issues such as joint aid and hoof care, deworming on a rotating basis, annual vaccinations, dental floating from a veterinarian, and regular hoof trimming from a farrier.

Horses receive turnout on multiple pastures of more than 30 acres with new run-in shelters with fans and with new fencing. Horses also receive top-quality feed and hay, and all of the pastures have automatic waterers.

Aurora Farms specializes in recovery for surgical patients and long-term care for all types of injuries. The farm has experience with cases of severe founder, navicular disease, suspensory desmitis, suspensory injuries, post-colic surgery recuperation, fracture recovery, eye injuries, and more. Adler will discuss each case with the horse owner and customize a treatment to ensure the necessary steps are carried out to help a horse recover from injury or illness.

Treatments include bandaging, monitoring vitals, 24-hour monitoring,

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Sergio de Sousa
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Mark Roberts
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Bryan Cross
859.361-9027

injections, administration of oral medications, and specialized wound care. Blood work can be run on site.

“As such, we can keep up with the progress of the patient and get results quickly (including weekends and holidays) to the attending veterinarian,” the farm notes on its website.

The farm’s foaling care includes 24-hour video monitoring, a heated foaling area, four foaling stalls, and specialized attention—no more than four mares on foal watch at any time. Adler attends all foalings, and the farm has a veterinarian on call. In emergencies the farm has a foal resuscitator and oxygen tank.

The farm foaled Valerie and David Blethen’s homebred Withgreatpleasure, winner of this year’s Ruffian Handicap (gr. II) at Aqueduct.

Adler has certificates from Colorado State University in foaling, equine reproduction, and working with problem mares and stallions, among others. From Rutgers she has certificates in equine nutrition and horse management.

ENDEAVOR FARM

Endeavor Farm, 160 prime acres for Thoroughbreds on Old Frankfort Pike near Midway, Ky., hopes to build its successful first year of operation under the management of Terry Nickell and Mark Tsagalakis. The team is constantly working on improvements on the property while offering quality boarding facilities, sales prep, and even standing a

stallion: Greeley’s Conquest, whose first crop is off and running at 2.

“We’ve done quite a bit of repair work here,” said Nickell. “We built new fence and painted fence, added a six-horse walker to help with our sales prep, and did quite a bit of renovation on our pastures.”

Nickell managed Richland Hills/Wafare for 21 years prior to starting Endeavor on the same land, while Tsagalakis has been training on the Southern California circuit for more than 20 years and has a stable of a half-dozen homebreds.

The farm boasts two guest suites for traveling clients and four barns, two of which are being refurbished.

“We were pretty full this spring,” Nickell said. “We’re adding some fencing and creating more paddocks to help with our sales prep and trying to maximize the use and efficiency of our land.”

With a goal of obtaining a few new clients, Nickell plans to keep Endeavor a boutique service operation. He noted one of Endeavor’s best features is its dedicated employees, some of whom have been working on the property for more than 20 years.

Another strong point is the farm’s ability to get mares in foal. “Our in-foal percentage over the last four to five years (as Richland Hills) has been around 95%,” he said. “This year we only missed one mare out of 70, which we’re very proud of.”

The Richland Hills/Wafare property

has been represented by several prominent horses over the years. The farm was instrumental in launching the stud career of the late influential sire Dynaformer. Richland Hills/Wafare additionally raised Hall of Fame steeplechaser Mc-Dynamo, campaigned grade I winner Richter Scale in partnership, and formerly boarded the multiple New Mexico champion racemare Peppers Pride.

Nickell, whose father, Harry Schmidt, managed Spendthrift Farm from 1952-76, considers himself lucky that he grew up in the industry, as it has afforded him the opportunity to launch Endeavor.

“Being a second-generation horseman, my father has instilled in me a great love of the equine species,” said Nickell. “The opportunity to meet a diverse group of people that have now become clients has been wonderful.”

GLENCREST FARM

The Greathouse family and their Glencrest Farm banner has been synonymous with raising quality racehorses for seven decades now. The farm, founded by John W. Greathouse and now run by his sons John, Allen, and Edward, can trace the history of more than 120 stakes winners—including winners of the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks—to the land they own on the border of Scott and Woodford Counties near Midway, Ky.

A host of grade I runners spent their formative years at Glencrest including Dream Empress, Zoftig, Mizdirection, Adieu, Flying Snowdrop, and Roamin

ENDEAVOR FARM

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BOARDING: Quality broodmare care from our team that boasts a 95% conception rate

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STALLION MANAGEMENT: Current home to Greeley’s Conquest on the farm where Dynaformer started his career

CONTACT: Terry Nickell, Farm Manager/Partner

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Photo by Marc Manning

Rachel. Champion 2-year-old male of 2011 Uncle Mo was raised at Glencrest, as was Souper Colossal, an unbeaten son of War Front that ran seventh in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (gr. I). Glencrest also co-bred Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I) participant Imperative and co-owns Blofeld, winner of the Futurity Stakes (gr. II) and Nov. 2 Nashua Stakes (gr. II).

The familiar green and yellow Glencrest silks have also visited the winner's circle after grade I wins by stars such as Honey Ryder, Panty Raid, and Devil May Care.

Top-notch care and continuity are vital to any Thoroughbred operation worth its salt and that comes naturally to the Glencrest team as the Greathouse boys—and their sons—have been in the business since birth. Gene Guy has been the farm manager at Glencrest and is the "ultimate horseman" and considered part of the family while he's been in his position for more than 40 years.

Glencrest is not only a great place to raise a top horse but a great place to prep a horse for a sale or have a team member

pick out a horse or place your Thoroughbred in the proper sale.

"No one does a better job of finding good horses with a moderate budget than John Greathouse," said trainer Todd Pletcher, who conditions most of Glencrest's horses. "He understands the business from every side."

While Glencrest continues to sell some horses, its main focus in sales now is with Four Star Sales. The late David Greathouse was one of the founders of Four Star Sales that is now managed by Kerry Cauthen and Tony Lacy.

Glencrest is also known for its sales success with weanling-to-yearling pinhooking partnerships and racing partnerships. With an eye to the future John's son John III, and his nephew, Deuce, have leadership roles. Deuce spearheads the racing venture Pike Place Racing, named for Pike Place Dancer, the 1996 Kentucky Oaks (gr. I) winner bred by Glencrest.

Glencrest currently has about 60 mares on the farm with room for more. Visit glencrest.com or call (859) 233-

7032 for more information.

HIDDEN BROOK FARM

There is no better advertisement for a Thoroughbred farm than the equine company it keeps, and Hidden Brook Farm can proudly stand on its record of foaling, raising, and selling racehorses of note over the past 12 years. For owners looking for the best location and expertise when choosing a place to board their mares, Hidden Brook's 600 rolling acres must be strongly considered.

In the immediate vicinity of historic Claiborne and Stone farms, Hidden Brook's limestone-rich soil has nurtured generations of racetrack champions. The farm features 164 stalls and many spacious paddocks. The operation was formed by its current partners: Sergio de Sousa, Jack Brothers, Dan Hall, and Mark Roberts. Roberts, a former race-track trainer, is running Hidden Brook's breaking and training division at Frank Stronach's Adena Springs South near Ocala, Fla.

Hidden Brook's strength comes from

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Paddock size is an important factor when choosing a boarding facility

this unique blend of horsemen who offer hands-on care and individualized equine programs. Their expertise includes reproduction, feed and nutrition, sales prep, sales consignments, mating and pedigree analysis, and bloodstock advice.

For mare care and the subsequent care and raising of foals, Hidden Brook is second to none. It has raised such outstanding racehorses as Awesome Feather, Amen Hallelujah, Discreet Cat, Discreetly Mine, Dixie Chatter, Musket Man, Finnegans Wake, Lady of the Desert, Starship Truffles, and Yawanna Twist—all graded stakes winners. The farm has also been affiliated with cham-

pions Alpha Bettor, Big Brown, Knights Templar, and Shillelagh Slew.

In fact, Hidden Brook now has surpassed 100 stakes winners from its program, including 52 graded stakes winners. It has raised, through September 2014, 75 stakes horses, 50 stakes winners, and 26 graded stakes winners, for an impressive 16.3% stakes horses from those raised at Hidden Brook through their yearling year.

A decade's worth of success is no accident. The land must be rich, the facilities top notch, and the staff knowledgeable. Upon arriving at Hidden Brook one can sense that it is a special place, from the beauty of the landscape to the way

the partners and staff work together to provide a great atmosphere for people and horses.

"There is a go-to guy for whatever question comes up on any aspect of the industry," Brothers said in summing up the Hidden Brook way of accomplishing goals. "It's what we do as a team that makes us strong."

In a business that runs on past performances, Hidden Brook is a sure thing.

NANCY TERHUNE TRAINING CENTER

A strong mental foundation—that is where Nancy Terhune starts her training program for young equine athletes. The stress of race day, the stress of backside commotion, and the stress of everyday training are anticipated, and each young

charge in the Terhune Training Center is developed mentally, as well as physically, to handle the tasks ahead.

Based at the Sandy Dubose Farm near Camden, S.C., Nancy Terhune Training Center offers a quiet, individualized, empathetic environment for young horses to develop their racing attitudes and build strong bodies. The tranquil setting of large, secure cross-fenced paddocks and spacious fields is interwoven with trails ideal for developing confidence and agility.

Terhune Training Center accepts horses of all ages with a new emphasis on weanlings.

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Kentucky would be a smart thing to do,” Terhune said. “A lot of weanlings in Kentucky wind up with OCDs (Osteochondritis Dissecans). Everything I had in South Carolina last year X-rayed clean. It’s the sandy surface here and the fact it doesn’t freeze. Those horses up there are on frozen ground all the time.”

Terhune is also available to assist and represent prospective buyers at most national sales.

Decades of knowledge gained in every aspect of the Thoroughbred industry, from breeder and owner to trainer, are applied to every horse at the Terhune Training Center.

Her breaking program—she used to break up to 80 a year—begins with no-rush ground work to ensure a good mind and confident go-forward attitude rather than a rushed, nervous, and unsure juvenile. After developing a firm foundation, the youngsters progress through a program of long jogs and relaxing walks after training. Terhune believes that plenty of turn-out time and individualized work are essential for strong cannon bones and well-developed muscles as well as strong minds. She believes her regimen leads to fewer injuries down the road.

One of the current outstanding racehorses associated with the training center is 2011 graded stakes-placed homebred stakes winner Aspenglow, also the 2010 winner of the \$250,000 West Virginia Jefferson Security Bank Cavada

Breeders’ Classic Stakes and three other stakes and an earner of \$465,698. Other graded graduates from Terhune’s program include American Freedom, winner of the grade III Red Bank Handicap and \$645,829; Thorny Crown, winner of the grade III Cliff Hanger Handicap and \$461,271; and N B Forrest, a record-setting three-time winner of Monmouth’s Battlefield Stakes and \$520,104.

WALDORF FARM

Waldorf Farm in New York’s Hudson Valley offers a strong blend of experience, veterinary expertise, and top-notch facilities for Thoroughbred breeders...and one of New York’s hottest sires.

The North Chatham farm is owned by Dr. Jerry Bilinski, a reproductive specialist with more than 40 years of experience and co-owner of a veterinary clinic across the road from the more than 400-acre farm’s entrance.

“We treat horses as individuals, which is not so easy when you’re up to your elbows in the breeding season,” Bilinski said. “But you don’t want to have a mare that, before you know it, is in her third cycle and fallen through the cracks. You make your own luck in this game, which requires a high degree of management and a high degree of preventative medicine.”

While some may opt to raise foals in warmer climates, Bilinski believes New York farms raise robust racehorses.

“I think the horses don’t accept the heat as well as they do the cold,” he said. “They may have snow on their backs, but they’re running around frisky and alert.”

The farm has 120 stalls, offers services in sales prep and layups, and has a yearling division and a broodmare division. Farm managers Buster and Teri Brown live on the farm and have a network of cameras with which to monitor the foaling stalls.

Waldorf also stands Bustin Stones.

Bustin Stones (City Zip—Shesasurething, by Prospectors Gamble) is a grade I stakes winner who ranks among the top 10 third-crop sires nationally by percentage of winners from starters (55.5%). The second leading third-crop sire and among sires in the Empire State has two big stakes winners this year in Hot Stones and Bustin It. Hot Stones won the Bed o’ Roses Handicap (gr. III) in June at Belmont Park and also placed in the grade III Shuvee Handicap. Juvenile Bustin It won the Rockville Centre Stakes against New York-breds by seven lengths.

From Bustin Stones’ first crop came Keep Bustin, who has earned more than \$240,000 and is a poster child for the strength of the New York-bred market. Besides what the filly has earned on the track, owner/breeders Roddy Valente and Thomas Lemme have picked up another \$70,000 in breeders’ awards.

“It has really taken us to another level,” Bilinski said. **BH**



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