



MATT WOOLEVER/SPOUT PHOTOS

AIKEN TRAINING TRACK	32
www.theaikentrainingtrack.com	
BENCHMARK TRAINING CENTER	34
www.benchmarktc.com	
EQUIADE PRODUCTS	35
www.equiade.com	
HIDDEN BROOK	36
www.hiddenbrookfarmky.com	
MARGAUX	37
www.margauxfarm.com	
WEBB CARROLL TRAINING CENTER	31
www.webbcarroll.com	
WOODFORD THOROUGHBREDS	33
www.woodfordtb.com	

TAKING THE NEXT STEPS

With the year’s first major yearling sales in the books and the marathon September sale at Keeneland on the horizon, buyers will be working on where to take the next steps with their purchases. Before becoming the stars of tomorrow, however, those horses have important lessons to learn, lessons they must master in order to thrive at the racetrack.

Even the worst students often learn from the best teachers. Included in this section are some of the most successful breaking and training facilities around the country that have played key roles in shaping young horses into successful racehorses. At these operations, horses are taught how to communicate with the rider, what is expected of them in the starting gate, and how to acclimate to the training regimen over dirt and turf. These top-notch facilities work hard to ensure the horses in their care are well-educated before their charges move on.

All the operations profiled in the following pages can help take your horse from the sales ring to the winner’s circle.

AIKEN TRAINING CENTER

The Aiken Training Track was established in 1941 when horseman Fred H. Post and his son, William, came to Aiken to play polo. For more than eight decades now Aiken has been one of the premier spots for Thoroughbreds to winter and for younger horses to begin their racing careers.

The Aiken Training Track claims 40 champions have come off the grounds, including five winners of the Kentucky Derby (gr. I), Woody Stephens’ five consecutive Belmont Stakes (gr. I) winners, and 2013 Belmont winner Palace Malice.

South Carolina’s comfortable climate, with its mild winters and early

springs, combines with the sandy soil for an ideal environment for the equine. The sandy main track is a one-mile oval that has a clay base with banked turns for better rain runoff. Rare is the day that a session of training is lost to inclement weather.

While the facility touts the history, charm, and peacefulness of its grounds, the Aiken Training Track has “all the amenities” a horseman needs to get the job done according to track president Brad Stauffer, who has been in Aiken since 1986. “I’ve sent horses to Keeneland in the spring that won within a week of leaving here.”

When Post decided to build the Aiken Training Center, he found the perfect

location where his training track would be surrounded by the established polo fields, quiet dirt roads, and the 2,000-acre Hitchcock Woods. The training facility was soon considered one of the finest in the country and the first champion to train there was 1942 steeplechaser Elkridge.

Today, in addition to the tranquil woods where one can ride all day and not cross their footpaths once, there is a five-eighths track for galloping and exercising and a turf gallop.

The main facility has 80 stalls with an additional 80 privately owned stalls connected to the track. Close by are 10 additional barns that are for sale or rent—with plenty of options to suit any sized operation.

The Aiken Training Track is also home to the Aiken Trials, a series of six races—five for 2-year-olds—in the spring of each year. The Trials are a time-honored tradition for Aiken and the surrounding communities.

Aiken Training Track invites new owners and trainers to add to the legacy at Aiken Training Track. They look forward with great anticipation to a healthy and flourishing future.

BENCHMARK TRAINING CENTER

Benchmark Training Center has been riding a hot streak in 2015 with young horses that have come off their training surface. On Aug. 8 at Louisiana Downs, Benchmark graduates won four of the eight races on Super Derby Prelude day. Congratulations go to trainer Ralph

Plain & Simple. Our Program Works!

2YO Webb Carroll Grad
VENUS VALENTINE
shown winning first time out in
MSW 7-26-15 at Ellis



2YO Webb Carroll Grad
**HOLLYWOOD
HIDEAWAY**
shown winning the
Victoria Stakes
6-20-15 at Woodbine



2YO Webb Carroll Grad
MID LIFE CRISIS
shown winning first time out in
MSW 7-20-15 at Delaware



A job well done, a name you can rely on.

*Travis
Durr*



Webb Carroll Training Center

St. Matthews, SC

803.655.5738

Email: office@webbcarroll.com • www.webbcarroll.com

*Webb
Carroll*



Irwin and the Cantacuzene family on their win in the Super Derby Prelude Stakes with The Pickett Factor. On July 11 Danny Keene's Texas Chrome won the \$111,020 Texas Thoroughbred Association Sales Futurity at Lone Star Park.

Benchmark is home to Gerwyn "Taffy" Jones, who has owned the facility and been its head trainer for 18 years. The lifelong horseman began his racing career more than 35 years ago in Wales. He worked extensively on the East Coast of the United States before taking his talents to Texas.

Benchmark sits on 100 acres near Quinlan, Texas, about 40 miles east of Dallas. It provides easy access to not only Lone Star Park but top regional tracks such as Oaklawn Park in Arkansas, Louisiana Downs in northwest Louisiana, and Remington Park in Oklahoma.

Benchmark's features make it an ideal spot for conditioning young horses. The facility is highlighted by its five-

eighths-mile training track and multi-stalled starting gate, which get young runners off on the right foot with their racing careers. The farm has recently added a new barn, giving it three modern-style facilities that house all the right amenities. Benchmark also features a Eurociser and offers a variety of turn-out paddocks that range from one to five acres, which allow layups to return to the track in top condition.

The Benchmark team is keen on sales prep as well and had a recent foray to Florida for the Ocala Breeders' Sales Co.'s June sale. They've already made a name for themselves at auctions throughout Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma.

Jones estimates that 80-90% of horses that receive their early lessons at Benchmark win once they get to the track. He believes the training center's stellar results are the reason the facility has clients from all over the country.

"Our percentage rate of winners has been a key to our success," Jones

said. "From word of mouth about the successful way we turn out horses, clients send them to us from all over the country. We get them ready to go to the track, and once they show up, they're close to ready to start running. We have a reputation of doing a good job and producing a good horse."

WEBB CARROLL TRAINING CENTER

Three decades into running his training center near St. Matthews, S.C., Webb Carroll still gets a big thrill out of seeing his graduates succeed.

Carroll's training center boasts a long list of stakes winners over the years, and this season has seen many of its juvenile graduates register big wins in their racing debuts. DutchessViews Farm homebred Dr. Shane scored a 2¼-length victory in his Belmont Park debut just 21 days off the farm. Horse'n Around Racing Stable and Martha Gonzalez' Come to Mischief won Woodbine's My Dear Stakes by six lengths in her debut, and Bruce Luns-

Stalls & Barns Available
803-648-4631

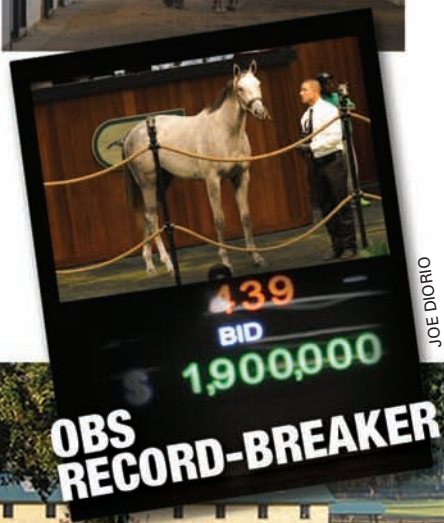
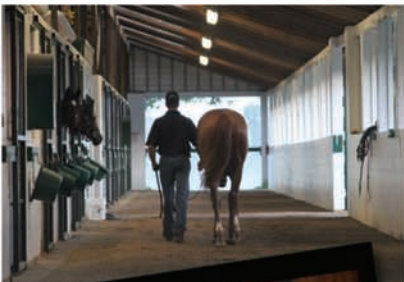
Where Champions Start

2013 Belmont Stakes Winner PALACE MALICE Trained here,
Saratoga Stakes Winners BAY OF PLENTY & CURALINA
Trained here...40 CHAMPIONS!

Visit Aiken in March for the 2016 Aiken Trials! • aikentrainingtrack.com

WOODFORD

THOROUGHBREDS



Start Your Yearling the WOODFORD WAY . . .

The world-class Woodford training center is located near Ocala on 1,000 acres of the county's richest soil and boasts one of North America's only one and a half-mile turf gallops. The facility offers every amenity required to safely develop and maintain the highest level of performance.

- 80-stall training complex
- 5/8-mile training track
- 1 1/2-mile European turf gallop through woods and fields
- six-stall starting gate
- swimming facility
- paddock turnout
- two free walkers
- covered round pen
- air-conditioned viewing station

This is the breaking and training ground of dual Eclipse Award winner **BEHOLDER** (2012 champion 2yo filly and 2013 champion 3yo filly); and 2014 Graded SWs **CAIRO PRINCE** (G2) and **STOPCHARGINGMARIA** (G1).

In only our third year preparing and consigning two-year olds, Woodford Thoroughbreds is the 6th Leading Consignor in 2015.



— STALLIONS —

BIONDETTI — BERNARDINI'S FIRST G1 WINNER

CROWN OF THORNS — MULTIPLE G2 SW / GRADE 1 SP

CURRENCY SWAP — JUVENILE G1 SW OF THE HOPEFUL S.

HE'S HAD ENOUGH — BC JUV-G1 SECOND BY A HEAD

MAGNA GRADUATE — A LEADING FLORIDA SIRE

MARK VALESKI — MULT. GRADED SW OF THE PETER PAN S-G2

SOLDAT — MULTIPLE GRADED SW BY WAR FRONT

VINEYARD HAVEN — WON OR PLACED IN SIX G1 EVENTS AT 2, 3 & 4



WOODFORD THOROUGHBREDS

FLORIDA KENTUCKY

5201 NW 144th Place / Reddick, FL 32686 / Office: 352.591.1745 / woodfordTB.com

Inquiries to: Scott Kintz, Farm Manager 859.420.1875

Matt Lyons, General Manager 859.361.1647 / John Gleason, Trainer 352.812.0811

ford's homebred Hollywood Hideaway claimed Woodbine's Victoria Stakes in his debut.

"We love that; that's why we strive so hard. When you see something like that, that's what it's all about," Carroll said of the first-out winners. "Our thing is we don't do broodmares, we don't do stallions, we don't do weanlings, we don't race; we specialize just in the development of young horses.

"And if they can benefit from our program with those large sets and all that gate work and the different drills we put in them, and they can go to the races—and they're early enough and everything goes—and they can win first time out, that's the ideal scheme and dream for the owner, the trainer, and us to accomplish that mission.

"So if they are able to go out there and win first time out or win early, it's utopia."

The early winners from this year follow a 2014 season in which the training center boasted 39 2-year-old winners, including 13 first out. Graduates won 40 stakes overall, of which 13 were graded stakes victories. Noted graduates include Horse of the Year Havre de Grace, Preakness Stakes (gr. I) winner Shackleford, and Canadian champion Solid Appeal along with Santa Anita Derby (gr. I) winner Goldencents and



MATT WOOLEVERUS/SPORT PHOTOS

Several breaking and training operations offer turf gallops

grade I winner Joyful Victory.

The Webb Carroll Training Center offers young horses a simulated race-track environment at the 50-plus-acre property that features state-of-the-art racing surfaces and facilities, including a seven-furlong irrigated dirt oval, six-furlong irrigated turf course, starting gate with an experienced crew, small and large turn-out paddocks, a swim facility, and an eight-horse exerciser.

The training center boasts about a

40-member staff, a sterling work ethic, and a preventative approach to conditioning. Carroll noted he is not a "one-man band," lauding the skills of his assistant trainer Travis Durr, who has been a strong part of the program for six years, and a capable crew that has been with him for 20-plus years.

HIDDEN BROOK

Hidden Brook Farm, long known for its excellence in raising stakes horses off its Kentucky land, has embarked on an exciting new project near Williston,

Visit BloodHorse.com to download a PDF version of this section

BENCHMARK TRAINING CENTER



TURNING OUT SUCCESSFUL RUNNERS

**Full Service
Training Facility
with Quality Services.
Call about our
Competitive Pricing!**



BENCHMARK TRAINING CENTER

Gerwyn "Taffy" Jones, Owner/Trainer • Mark Brennan, Farm Manager
9645 County Road 2300 • Quinlan, TX 75474
Phone/903.356.2998 • Fax/903.356.3480
www.benchmarktc.com • Email: taffyrace@aol.com

Fl., opening up a breaking and training division there under the banner of Hidden Brook South.

Mark Roberts will head the Florida branch, as he did when Hidden Brook was running its operation off Adena Springs in Florida. In a joint venture with veteran trainer Randy Bradshaw, Hidden Brook has purchased part of the former Scanlon Training Center. Hidden Brook and Bradshaw will each maintain separate farms on the 125-acre property and then share the historic training track that has given a start to so many star racehorses.

"The biggest thing in choosing this property is the history of the place," said Roberts, who is a partner in Hidden Brook with Jack Brothers, Dan Hall, Sergio de Sousa, and Kevin Latta. "When Mr. Scanlon had it—and before him when the Azpura family owned it—it's been a tremendous farm. We all know the quality of the horses that were broken and trained here. It's reassuring to know that horses such as Un-

bridled's Song, Stevie Wonderboy, Lion Heart, Sarava, Bernardini, War Pass, Afleet Alex, Stay Thirsty, Desert Party, and Rags to Riches all started their remarkable careers on this racetrack."

Hidden Brook South will welcome its first equine residents in late August, and several improvements will greet them. New fencing has been installed to accommodate new paddocks. A brand new 32-stall barn is nearing completion, bringing potential capacity of 80-85 head of horses to Hidden Brook South. In addition, Hidden Brook will be adding material to the three-quarter-mile dirt training track after a thorough inspection of the existing cushion and base. By springtime a five-eighths-mile turf track should be completed inside the dirt oval.

"We think 80-85 horses are the right number for us," said Roberts. "We don't want to be huge; this allows us to give individual attention to each horse and properly maintain the property. Down the road, if we decide to grow those

numbers, we have the room to expand."

Roberts added that the Hidden Brook partners chose this property because of its location and beauty.

"There are big, beautiful oak trees and it's a quiet setting, a nice place to break and train horses."

Roberts should know. He has spent 40 years in the business and was hired by Frank Stronach to break all of his yearlings, a monumental job that only grew in numbers through the years. With a refurbished track that has already been proven to produce classic winners, new paddocks, and a new barn, Hidden Brook South figures to go straight to the head of the class.

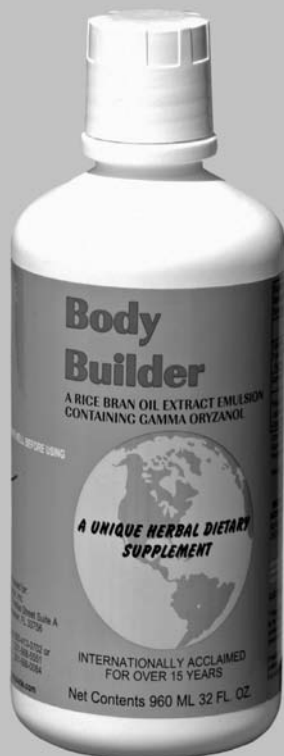
MARGAUX FARM

Where once horsemen automatically shipped their stock to South Carolina or Florida for winter breaking and training, today Central Kentucky is giving them every reason to keep their horses in horse country year 'round. Jim and Susan Hill, who a few years ago bought

**A Healthy Alternative
to Anabolic Steroids**

IT WORKS!!

*The First, and Still the Best,
for over 28 Years!*



Body Builder™

"I have been using Body Builder™ for over 10 years and it has kept my racehorses in excellent condition. It has helped increase their stamina, strength and over all performance. It keeps them feeling good."

— Doug O'Neill

"All natural, Healthy, and Effective."

Get Your Horses on Body Builder Today!

- Proven again and again the best for sales prep, yearlings, weanlings and 2YO's in training
- Increases muscle, energy and stamina
- Increases appetite and all around health
- Reduces nervousness and stress
- Excellent for racing and problem breeding stock



© BENJOIT PHOTO

DOUG O'NEILL

Trainer of Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winners, and many world renowned champions.

Introducing our newest product, **AIR BLAST**

EQUIADE PRODUCTS

(201) 568-5551 ■ (201) 568-0084 fax
www.equiade.com

Available in various catalogs and at your local tack shops and veterinarians.



ONE BOTTLE=ONE HORSE=2 MONTHS

NOW APPROVED FOR SALE IN CANADA (a.k.a. BODY SUPPORT™)

out their partners in Margaux Farm just outside of Midway, Ky., have built a state-of-the-art training facility that makes it easy for owners to save shipping costs and keep their horses in the Bluegrass around the calendar.

Set on picturesque Moores Mill Road and surrounded by scenic Elkhorn Creek, Margaux looks like horse heaven as soon as you pass through the front gates. You are greeted by 650 rolling acres and a host of brand-new facilities designed to get optimum performance out of the trainees fortunate enough to call Margaux home. There is a stamina-building, figure-eight-shaped gallop that goes about five-eighths of a mile around with spurs that take it to almost a mile. The surface on this track is Tru-Stride, specially manufactured so it will not freeze and designed so that water drains right off the top of it, making it perfect for winter use.

Nearby is another Tru-Stride surface, this one on a 1¼-mile straight strip that allows horses to breeze and do speed work as they prepare to be dispatched to racetracks. If clients prefer turf for their horses, no problem. On the banks of the Elkhorn, on a flood plain that keeps the silty soil soft, is an exquisite half-mile turf gallop featuring a three-furlong straight and then an uphill bend.

The farm boasts three newly converted tobacco barns that house horses in comfort, with up to 220 stalls total on the property. Margaux also has an arena and round pens. An extra bonus is that horsemen can come see their horses whenever they like. As a complimentary service, Margaux will board broodmares for their clients as well.

Recent graduates of Margaux' breaking and training program are grade II winner Divisidero and Canadian classic winner Breaking Lucky. The Hills

have also proved the effectiveness of the Margaux program by racing recent graded stakes winners Grand Arch, Solid Appeal, Tizahit, Sharp Sensation, and Go Blue Or Go Home.

Margaux is geared to training horses as well as boarding weanlings and yearlings that will eventually transition to the farm's training program. Margaux also accepts horses for layups, rehab, and freshening. The paddocks are spacious, allowing Margaux to turn all of its training horses out overnight in groups. When one takes into account the first-rate facilities, the beauty of a showplace Central Kentucky farm, and convenient location that allows breeders, owners, and agents to monitor easily the progression of their horses, there is less and less reason to ship horses 1,000 miles away.

Horses leave Margaux with a solid foundation that affords them every opportunity to maximize their talent and enjoy successful careers at the racetrack.

For more breaking & training facilities, visit BHSource.com

DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE in Florida

Now accepting Yearlings
for breaking & training
Lay-ups

- 3/4 mile dirt training track
- Abundant turnout space
- Round pens
- Inner turf course, *coming soon*

The same facility where these remarkable careers were started:

Unbridled's Song • Bernardini
Afleet Alex • Stay Thirsty • Rags to Riches



Hidden Brook Florida Training Facility

Located at the former Scanlon Training Center in Williston, Florida

Please contact Mark Roberts (352) 812-6724 or Dan Hall (859) 621-0526



WOODFORD THOROUGHBREDS

Woodford Thoroughbreds is a relatively new kid on the block when it comes to its breaking and training division, but it has wasted no time proving itself with outstanding facilities and results.

Its 1,000-acre property near Reddick, Fla., just north of Ocala, boasts plenty of history, as it is the same land that used to be Cloverleaf Farm. John Sykes owns Woodford, as he did Cloverleaf. The property enjoyed a grand reopening in 2009 and shortly thereafter opened its gates for breaking and training of young horses. According to Woodford general manager Matt Lyons, the Reddick training facility has 80 stalls, all of which were filled during training season a year ago. Young horses get their lessons on a newly resurfaced five-eighths-mile dirt training track with new rails.

In addition, a 1½-mile turf track is a jewel. It winds through a wooded area and gives horses a new experience and

keeps their minds alert.

"It is a great place to start out young horses," Lyons noted. "They get to see a little bit of everything when they go out there, including turkey and deer."

New to the Woodford operation is a swimming dock installed in the pond in the middle of the dirt track, enabling the staff to swim horses and aid in their development. Woodford also makes good use of its starting gate, making sure that training horses walk through it on their way to and from the track each session. Before horses are sent to their racetrack trainers, they will have broken from the gate and will be up to galloping a half-mile and going out five-eighths.

Lyons estimates there are at least 20 paddocks and fields around the training barn, allowing the horses plenty of outside time. Woodford takes the horses out in groups, acclimating them further to what awaits them at the racetrack.

"We have confidence-building rid-

ers, and we're all hands-on as far as all aspects of the breaking process," said farm trainer John Gleason.

Nothing speaks louder than success. Stopchargingmaria was pinhooked by Woodford Thoroughbreds and went through its breaking and training program before becoming a two-time grade I winner. Last year Woodford sold the highest-priced 2-year-old ever at an Ocala Breeders' Sales Co. auction.

Because the training facility doubles as a yearling prep facility after training season, Woodford is able to keep its top-notch staff together year 'round. Scott Kintz, a third-generation horseman, is general manager of the Florida farm. Gleason has 20 years experience in the business. He is assisted by Cody Hoppel.

Although just four years old, the Woodford Thoroughbreds training operation continues to grow as horses coming off the farm sell well at auction and perform at the races. Horsemen are taking notice. **BH**



MARGAUX
F A R M

Build a
SOLID
FOUNDATION
this year with
Margaux Farm's
breaking & training
program.

220 stalls
3 training tracks
Set on **650** acres
with pasture turnout
Conveniently
in **Kentucky**

Michael Hardy (859) 621-0120 | Rebecca Grabert (812) 774-6454 | www.margauxfarm.com
(859) 846-4433 | Info@margauxfarm.com