

NORTHEAST/MID-ATLANTIC

Old Friends at Cabin Creek

*A dream come true for both
 pensioners and caregivers*

BY TERESA GENARO
 PHOTOS BY SKIP DICKSTEIN

AT 9 A.M. on a chilly Saturday morning, the farm at first seems quiet. The parking lot is largely empty, devoid of visitors who will begin to arrive soon after the noon opening, and on first glance, it might seem impossible that the 15-acre facility a short drive from Saratoga Springs houses 17 retired Thoroughbreds.

The tranquility on a resplendent autumn morning belies the efforts of the small staff of Old Friends at Cabin Creek, and of the dedicated legion of volunteers, a handful of whom have shown up to muck stalls, carry water, and do whatever else needs to be done to care for the horses that now make their home at the Greenfield Center farm.

At the helm of the eight-year-old operation is JoAnn Pepper, though she'd likely demur at the notion that she's in charge. A native of Saratoga Springs, Pepper grew up going to the track with her Uncle Frankie, who'd take her to the backstretch with him.

"I loved it," she said. "When I was young, horses took my breath away."

Driving past local farms as a child, she'd look out the car window and say, "Someday, I'm going to have a horse farm."

"Someday" happened in 2007, when she and her husband, Mark, purchased the farm, initially intending to establish a boarding facility for mares in foal. Pepper had studied equine care for two years at a local Board for Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), then worked with harness horses at Saratoga Raceway, where she "fell even more madly in love" with the animals. She worked as a groom at Saratoga Race Course, then went to McMahon Thoroughbreds for a season, reading everything she could get her hands on about taking care of horses and helping to foal 60 mares.



JoAnn Pepper, a native of Saratoga Springs, is the "mom in charge" at Old Friends Cabin Creek

"We were going to raise money by foaling mares and started claiming Thoroughbreds off the track that needed a home," she said. "We realized that financially, that wouldn't work."

During the 2009 racing season Pepper read a column in the local paper that called for a Thoroughbred retirement facility to be established near Saratoga, and, after mulling the possibilities, she called Michael Blowen, who six years earlier had established Old Friends near Lexington.

"I saved that article, and when I called him, I kind of blurted out, 'I want to do what you do,'" she recalled, marveling in retrospect at her naivete. "'Would you mentor me?'"

He would do more than that. By November of that year, Old Friends at Cabin Creek: The Bobby Frankel Division was established, with New York-bred Moonshadow Gold, a veteran

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

Country Life Farm	21
www.countrylifefarm.com	
McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	119
www.mcmahonthoroughbreds.com	
New York Breeding and Dev. Fund	23
www.nybreds.com	

Northview Stallions.....	115, 117
www.northviewstallions.com	
Waldorf Farm.....	111
www.waldorffarm.com	

of 89 races, its first resident.

Eighteen years ago, Massachusetts native and longtime racing fan and gambler, Blowen was visiting Saratoga in the summer, having coffee on the porch of Anne's Washington Inn, when he first conceived of the idea of a retirement farm for racing's stars.

"I wanted to start it in Saratoga because I like it so much there," he said. "Then I realized that with the track open only for a short time and the cold weather, it might be hard to get visitors all year round. So we started in Kentucky, but it was always in the back of my mind to have a farm in Saratoga."

Hall of Fame trainer Bobby Frankel had died in November 2009, donating both money and nearly all of his trophies to Old Friends. As Cabin Creek prepared to open its doors a month later, Blowen honored the late trainer by naming the facility for him. Initially designed to house 12 horses, the farm continues to expand, with its most recent retiree arriving in October.

Now 7, Kentucky-bred El Oh El started his career racing mostly on the New York circuit and was claimed for the first time in his fifth start. Claimed multiple times after that, he raced until January of this year, compiling a record of 55-8-10-9 and earning \$221,904. His last race was an eighth-place finish at Tampa Bay Downs. Shortly after that, he began re-training for a second career as a track pony. Physically, though, he wasn't up to the rigors of that life, and assistant trainer Lorita Lindemann, long a supporter for Old Friends and an advocate for responsible aftercare, got a call about the horse that she'd trained when working for Michael Pino years earlier.

"He was going to be a sanctuary horse," said Lindemann. "And it's hard to find spots for them, but Michael and JoAnn made it happen."

Stall-bound while he's treated for EPM, a neurological condition, El Oh El had been at Old Friends for just a few days but was already a barn favorite. Volunteers crowded around his stall, feeding him treats and petting him, attention that he seemed all too happy to receive, despite the fatigue from his illness.

His original owner and breeder, Samantha Siegel of Jay Em Ess Stable, is a major



Old Friends at Cabin Creek: The Bobby Frankel Division honors the late Hall of Fame trainer and his support for the program

supporter of Old Friends; two of her stakes winners, Rail Trip and Arson Squad, reside at Old Friends in Kentucky.

"The cool thing about Samantha," said Blowen, "is that she really adores her horses. She shows up to visit them with carrots and mints."

While El Oh El's name might not be fa-

miliar to many of the farm's visitors, some of his fellow retirees boast a higher profile. Now 12, Be Bullish won and placed in multiple stakes races, running 87 times (19-26-14) and earning \$1.1 million. Ending his career with four straight wins at Belmont Park and Aqueduct Racetrack, he, too, had been claimed multiple times. His career ended when one of his former owners, Mike Repole, claimed him again to retire him.

Another former Repole runner at Cabin Creek is Cool N Collective, who had been running at Suffolk Downs at age 12. Repole, who had owned the horse four previous times, purchased him privately and retired him after three races.

Along with Jack Knowlton, Lake Star Stable, Terry Finley, and Tracy Farmer, Repole is among the major donors who support the 501(c)(3) organization. While Blowen and Kentucky's Old Friends cover the costs of any veterinary care the horses need, Cabin Creek's own fundraising efforts sustain the day-to-day costs of running the farm and caring for the horses.

A resident of Kentucky, Farmer has sent several of his horses to live at Old Friends, including graded stakes winners Sun King, Albert the Great, and New York-bred Commentator, two-time winner of the grade 1 Whitney Handicap at Saratoga.

For several summers Commentator traveled north to sojourn at Cabin Creek so that



Stall-bound to recover from EPM, El Oh El is one of the newest additions to Old Friends at Cabin Creek and already a favorite

2017 LEADING SIRES IN NEW YORK



For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2017 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2017 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative Sths Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	FREUD (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York	\$10,000	179/88	4/9	1/4	(Sharp Azteca, \$770,490)	\$5,122,408	*1171	46	1.57	1.26
2	BELLAMY ROAD (02, Concerto), Dutchess Views Farm	\$7,500	175/95	1/3	0/1	(Diversify, \$666,825)	\$4,196,835	*561	27	1.20	1.29
3	BIG BROWN (05, Boundary), Dutchess Views Farm	\$7,500	146/77	4/5	1/4	(Hard Study, \$227,000)	\$2,896,530	*620	20	1.17	1.58
4	HOLD ME BACK (06, Giant's Causeway), Irish Hill Century Farm	\$5,000	143/68	1/1	1/1	(Black Tide, \$296,644)	\$2,467,026	255	7	1.08	1.16
5	FROST GIANT (03, Giant's Causeway), Keane Stud	\$5,000	118/49	3/3	1/3	(Giant Expectations, \$220,000)	\$2,084,767	*358	10	1.18	1.18
6	BUSTIN STONES (04, City Zip), Waldorf Farm	\$5,000	72/46	2/2	2/2	(Bustin It, \$145,917)	\$1,906,072	164	6	1.36	1.40
7	DUBLIN (07, Afleet Alex), Keane Stud	\$2,500	79/37	2/3	2/2	(Celtic Chaos, \$232,500)	\$1,557,803	149	2	1.01	1.20
8	MISSION IMPAZIBLE (07, Unbridled's Song), Sequel Stallions New York	\$7,500	62/21	1/2	0/1	(Pure Silver, \$236,367)	\$1,399,853	109	2	1.22	1.16
9	DISCO RICO (97, Citidancer)	Died, 2014	31/17	1/4	0/1	(Disco Partner, \$457,000)	\$1,312,303	268	12	1.38	1.20
10	DESERT PARTY (06, Street Cry), Irish Hill Century Farm	\$2,500	90/38	1/1	0/1	(Top of the Game, \$78,600)	\$1,285,109	203	4	0.95	1.40
11	COURAGEOUS CAT (06, Storm Cat), Questroyal North	\$6,000	62/26	1/1	1/1	(Unbridledadventure, \$117,920)	\$1,247,542	129	2	1.05	1.14
12	HERE'S ZEALOUS (97, Dehere)	N/A	29/20	1/2	0/1	(Green Gratto, \$346,834)	\$1,026,180	192	1	1.05	0.98
13	D' FUNNYBONE (07, D'wildcat), Rockridge Stud	\$2,500	37/19	0/0	0/0	(D'funnything, \$127,718)	\$860,283	*60	2	1.13	1.31
14	GIANT SURPRISE (09, Giant's Causeway), Rockridge Stud	\$5,000	20/12	1/1	1/1	(Sudden Surprise, \$132,044)	\$658,761	44	2	2.03	1.22
15	COSMONAUT (02, Lemon Drop Kid)	Pnsd	34/17	1/2	1/1	(Wonderment, \$118,360)	\$593,879	91	2	1.06	1.01
16	TEUFLESBERG (04, Johannesburg), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$3,500	25/11	0/0	0/0	(Good Bye Greg, \$96,660)	\$467,291	107	4	1.41	1.16
17	NOBLE CAUSEWAY (02, Giant's Causeway)	Died, 2014	48/22	0/0	0/0	(Cause He's Western, \$62,530)	\$425,894	243	8	0.79	1.06
18	BOYS AT TOSCONOVA (08, Officer), Questroyal North	\$2,500	17/9	0/0	0/0	(Bertranda, \$79,324)	\$381,913	41	0	0.98	1.27
19	SOARING EMPIRE (07, Empire Maker), Rockridge Stud	\$3,500	20/9	0/0	0/0	(Reason to Soar, \$48,225)	\$317,707	37	0	0.70	1.11
20	MR. SEKIGUCHI (03, Storm Cat)	N/A	19/11	0/0	0/0	(Pacific Image, \$78,710)	\$276,780	*93	2	0.99	1.19

his many New York fans could easily visit him. Recently that move became permanent, and the 16-year-old chestnut now makes his home less than 10 miles from the site of his greatest racing triumphs.

"I'm kind of envious of them," said Blown of the fans that visit Cabin Creek. "I wanted to keep Commentator and (Travers Stakes and Whitney winner) Will's Way here because you fall in love with them, but

you have to put them where they'll do the most good."

Each summer during racing season, Old Friends at Cabin Creek holds a cocktail party fundraiser that has become one of the staples on the charitable, social Saratoga summer circuit, selling out the last two years. In December or early January the farm hosts a birthday party for its equine residents. Warmed by soup contributed by

local restaurants, more than 300 people attend, even in frigid weather and snow.

Hundreds also turn out for the farm's annual Zippy Chippy Day, honoring the 26-year-old gelding that raced 100 times without ever making it to the winner's circle. He and his buddy, the stakes-placed New York-bred Red Down South, share a paddock right next to Be Bullish and a 29-year-old Quarter Horse named Patrick.

Those paddocks were carved from the forest by Pepper's husband, an excavator by trade. They own an additional 25 acres that have yet to be cleared, and while there are no immediate plans to expand the farm further, the demand for space for retired horses in New York far exceeds the spaces available.

"We are so fortunate to be able to help these horses," said Pepper. "We have wonderful donors, and financially we are in good shape. But our horses here are the lucky ones. While we've made a lot of progress in Thoroughbred aftercare, there's still a lot of work to be done, and there are still a lot of horses that aren't getting the retirement they deserve."

Pepper herself does most of the feeding, taking off a few shifts each week, and



Red Down South (chestnut) and Zippy Chippy, who never won in 100 races, share a paddock with a glorious autumnal backdrop

Special Note For Sire Lists:

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in the states featured in this section (stallions that are dead or exported prior to 2012 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through October 29, 2017. As supplied to BloodHorse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., include adjusted money from Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Adjusted earnings are put on par with average North American earnings from the previous year. For example, the average North American purse in 2015 is \$21,782 or 50% of the 2015 average purse in Japan. To put earnings on par, all Japanese progeny earnings are multiplied by 50% before being credited to a sire's progeny earnings. Hong Kong earnings are adjusted by 17%; Singapore by 57%. 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.

MADEFROMLUCKY

LOOKIN AT LUCKY - HOME FROM OZ, BY PULPIT | \$5,000 LIVE FOAL

**Millionaire
Multiple
Graded SW**



1st dam
TAP YOUR HEELS, by Unbridled. Winner at 2, \$47,275, Hildene S.-R (CNL, \$18,000). Dam of 12 registered foals, 11 of racing age, 7 to race, 5 winners, including--
TAPIT (c. by Pulpit), 3 wins in 6 starts to 3, \$5578,300, Wood Memorial S. [G1] (AQU, \$450,000), Laurel Futurity [G3] (LRL, \$60,000), Leading sire 3 times.
Overandabeauty (f. by Grand Slam), 3 wins at 2 and 4, \$159,472, 2nd Ohio Valley H. [L] (MNR, \$15,000), 3rd Pearl City S. (BEL, \$7,638). Dam of--
NOBLE AND A BEAUTY (f. by Noble Causeway), 3 wins, 2 to 4, \$183,500, Cicada S. [L] (AQU, \$60,000), 2nd Ruthless S. [L] (AQU, \$20,000).
 Home From Oz (f. by Pulpit). Unraced. Dam of 4 winners, including--
MADEFROMLUCKY (c. by Lookin At Lucky), 6 wins, 2 to 5, 2017, \$1,351,500, West Virginia Derby [G2] (MNR, \$451,500), Peter Pan S. [G2] (BEL, \$120,000), Greenwood Cup S. [G3] (PRX, \$120,000), Temperance Hill Invitational S. [L] (BEL, \$120,000), 2nd Rebel S. [G2] (OP, \$150,000), Excelsior S. [G3] (AQU, \$40,000), Discovery H. [G3] (AQU, \$30,000), Harlan's Holiday S. [L] (GP, \$19,000), 3rd Essex H. [L] (OP, \$25,000), Poseidon H. (GP, \$38,400), etc.
A Shin Gold (c. by Medaglia d'Oro), 4 wins in 8 starts at 3 and 4, \$79,366,000, in Japan, 2nd Japan Dirt Derby. (Total: \$805,785).

2nd dam
RUBY SLIPPERS, by Nijinsky II, 5 wins at 3, \$83,760, [Q], 3rd [Q]. Half-sister to **GLITTERMAN** [G3] (\$473,914, sire). Dam of 10 winners, including--
RUBIANO (c. by Fappiano), 13 wins, \$1,252,817, champion sprinter, NYRA II Mile H. [G1], Carler H. [G1], Vosburgh S. [G1], Tom Fool S. [G2], etc. Sire.
TAP YOUR HEELS (f. by Unbridled). Black-type winner, above.
High Cascade (c. by Woodman), 5 wins, 2 to 5, \$180,352, 2nd Golden II Gate Derby [G3], 3rd Rushaway S. [L] (TP, \$10,000). Sire.
 Wichita, 2 wins at 3, \$69,862. Dam of **IN TUNE** [G2] (f. by Unbridled's Song, 3 wins, \$229,350), **AFFIRMATIF** (c. by Unbridled's Song, 3 wins, \$187,798, sire), **CHITAZ** (c. by Forest Wildcat, 3 wins, \$160,931, sire), Hong Kong Jade. Winner at 3, \$16,817. Dam of **Peninsula** (c. by Meadowlake, \$96,908, 3rd Lecomte H. [L] (FG, \$11,000), Granddam of **SUMMER BIRD** [G1] (c. by Birdstone, \$2,323,040, champion 3-year-old colt, sire), Secret Red. Placed. Dam of **DUBLEO** [G2] (c. by Southern Halo, \$422,134).

**Out of a
Full Sister
to TAPIT...**

**Won/placed in
12 Stakes, 6 Graded**

Won: Peter Pan S.-G2, \$750,000 West Virginia Derby-G2, Greenwood Cup S.-G3 (by 12 1/4 lengths), Temperance Hill Inv. S., 2YO MSW at Gulfstream.
Placed: Rebel S.-G2 (2nd to American Pharoah), Discovery H.-G3, Excelsior S-G3, Essex H., etc.

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Northview
 STALLION STATION

BANDBOX BUFFUM GOLDEN LAD GREAT NOTION MADEFROMLUCKY ORIENTATE REDEEMED

2017 LEADING SIRES IN PENNSYLVANIA



For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2017 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2017 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	JUMP START (99, A.P. Indy), Northview PA	\$10,000	161/88	2/2	0/2	(Prayer for Relief, \$250,000)	\$4,540,611	*1300	41	1.45	1.31
2	ROCKPORT HARBOR (02, Unbridled's Song)	Died, 2013	118/55	2/2	0/2	(Weast Hill, \$125,262)	\$2,209,161	470	26	1.34	1.42
3	SILVER TRAIN (02, Old Trieste)	Died, 2013	97/47	1/1	1/1	(Yeah Rocky, \$138,562)	\$1,974,225	*530	12	1.02	1.28
4	TALENT SEARCH (03, Catienus), Diamond B Farm	\$2,500	56/32	0/0	0/0	(Tipyourwaiterwell, \$107,576)	\$1,188,584	*131	2	1.01	1.22
5	WEIGELIA (01, Safely's Mark), WynOaks Farm	\$3,500	34/21	1/1	0/1	(Risque's Diamond, \$144,116)	\$1,015,507	*88	5	1.40	1.03
6	LORD SHANAKILL (06, Speightstown), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$4,000	75/28	1/1	0/1	(Time Shanakill, \$104,421)	\$680,119	168	2	1.13	0.91
7	MEDALLIST (01, Touch Gold), Northview PA	\$2,000	28/13	1/1	1/1	(Flashy Kyem, \$121,420)	\$645,322	194	7	1.27	1.36
8	CORINTHIAN (03, Pulpit), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$2,500	65/29	0/0	0/0	(Financial Freedom, \$66,996)	\$637,147	*505	11	0.74	1.39
9	BULLSBAY (04, Tiznow), Northview PA	\$3,000	29/14	1/2	1/1	(Unrideabull, \$82,722)	\$617,150	55	3	1.44	1.28
10	CAL NATION (08, Distorted Humor), Kingfisher Lane Farm	\$5,000	18/7	0/0	0/0	(Faze the Nation, \$150,368)	\$562,368	32	0	1.14	1.22
11	GOT THE LAST LAUGH (04, Distorted Humor), Diamond B Farm	\$2,500	17/11	0/0	0/0	(Dixie's Last Laugh, \$112,416)	\$472,713	48	0	1.19	1.15
12	ALBERT THE GREAT (97, Go for Gin)	Pnsd	27/13	0/0	0/0	(Ginner, \$56,135)	\$427,836	*387	8	1.12	1.12
13	IRIMOD (00, Danzig), Castle Rock Farm	\$1,500	25/10	0/0	0/0	(Checkbouncin Billy, \$87,186)	\$392,866	105	2	1.27	1.16
14	CITY SHARPS (99, Carson City), Woodvale Farm	\$1,000	19/6	0/0	0/0	(Campeona, \$99,326)	\$347,653	63	0	0.75	0.70
15	UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN (07, Limehouse), Diamond B Farm	\$1,500	9/5	0/0	0/0	(Midtowncharlybrown, \$150,250)	\$345,823	16	0	1.57	0.83

2017 LEADING SIRES IN MARYLAND

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2017 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2017 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	NOT FOR LOVE (90, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2016	92/52	1/1	1/1	(Cozy Lover, \$152,260)	\$2,353,864	974	81	1.67	1.44
2	GREAT NOTION (00, Elusive Quality), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,500	77/45	3/4	3/3	(Crabcakes, \$209,317)	\$2,279,776	279	15	1.51	1.22
3	FRIESAN FIRE (06, A.P. Indy), Country Life Farm	\$4,000	93/47	0/0	0/0	(Fire Key, \$191,445)	\$2,197,132	145	1	1.13	1.28
4	STREET MAGICIAN (04, Street Cry), Heritage Stallions	\$3,000	55/33	2/2	1/2	(My Magician, \$155,861)	\$1,454,620	99	3	1.16	1.32
5	ORIENTATE (98, Mt. Livermore), Northview Stallion Station	\$5,000	77/32	0/0	0/0	(The Great Provider, \$96,819)	\$1,161,166	*810	32	1.25	1.61
6	PETIONVILLE (92, Seeking the Gold), Murmur Farm	\$5,000	61/26	0/0	0/0	(Heatherly, \$99,600)	\$1,024,030	*727	42	1.28	1.26
7	LOUIS QUATORZE (93, Sovereign Dancer), Murmur Farm	\$2,500	35/14	0/0	0/0	(Miss Nosy, \$114,953)	\$771,016	*983	21	1.14	1.30
8	LION HEARTED (96, Storm Cat)	Died, 2015	50/26	0/0	0/0	(Willie B Mine, \$72,539)	\$761,984	*616	18	1.18	1.27
9	REDEEMED (08, Include), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,000	29/12	0/0	0/0	(Saint Main Event, \$120,479)	\$668,582	60	0	0.96	1.04
10	ROCK SLIDE (98, A.P. Indy), Shamrock Farm	\$2,000	30/15	1/1	0/1	(Nickyrocksforpops, \$65,842)	\$605,829	277	10	1.02	1.17
11	SCIPION (02, A.P. Indy), Murmur Farm	\$2,500	35/12	0/0	0/0	(In Arrears, \$64,670)	\$501,332	137	3	1.06	1.05
12	OUTFLANKER (94, Danzig), Shamrock Farm	\$3,000	28/9	0/0	0/0	(Pinkout, \$54,770)	\$385,093	*547	21	1.35	1.13
13	ETCHED (05, Forestry), Bonita Farm	\$2,000	17/6	1/1	1/1	(My Sistersledge, \$122,871)	\$298,371	38	1	0.66	1.04
14	¶ FREEDOM CHILD (10, Malibu Moon), Country Life Farm	\$3,000	14/3	1/1	1/1	(Limited View, \$117,096)	\$282,086	32	1	1.02	1.44
15	BALTIMORE BOB (05, Malibu Moon), Shamrock Farm	\$2,500	4/4	0/0	0/0	(Dundalk, \$74,876)	\$228,252	13	0	1.81	1.09

she checks on the horses daily. A couple of dozen people show up weekly or daily to muck stalls, all of them enamored of the horses they meet. Other volunteers coordinate the farm's many events or serve as tour guides, sharing the equine residents' accomplishments and personality quirks with the

thousands of people who visit annually.

"It's exhausting," Pepper admits. The farm is open for tours six days a week during racing season, and on Saturdays or by appointment the rest of the year, and despite her experience, running a horse farm is an ongoing education in equine first aid,

event planning, and record-keeping.

"JoAnn and Mark and all of the volunteers have been extraordinary," said Blowen, who is hoping to visit Cabin Creek in November. "When JoAnn called me and I met her and saw the farm, I knew she knew what she was doing with the horses."



Shelter, company, and attention await the pensioners at Old Friends Cabin Creek, set amidst the picturesque New York countryside

PEACE AND JUSTICE

WAR FRONT - STRIKE THE SKY, SMART STRIKE | 16.2 HH

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2017 LEADING SIREs IN WEST VIRGINIA



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2017 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2017 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	WINDSOR CASTLE (98, Lord Carson), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$2,000	97/62	2/2	2/2	(Castle Mari, \$78,465)	\$1,726,083	315	12	1.02	1.00
2	LIMEHOUSE (01, Grand Slam), O'Sullivan Farms	\$3,500	82/42	0/0	0/0	(Karla With a K, \$134,417)	\$1,481,819	*417	21	1.20	1.17
3	FIBER SONDE (05, Unbridled's Song), Beau Ridge Farm	\$1,000	63/41	1/3	1/1	(Moonlit Song, \$234,140)	\$1,359,637	170	8	1.23	0.81
4	CHARITABLE MAN (06, Lemon Drop Kid)	Died, 2016	76/35	1/1	1/1	(Charitable Annuity, \$190,414)	\$1,213,256	138	2	1.01	1.07
5	DENIS OF CORK (05, Harlan's Holiday), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$500	55/24	1/1	1/1	(Romantic Cork, \$91,335)	\$669,875	*117	4	0.72	1.10

2017 LEADING SIREs IN NEW JERSEY

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2017 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2017 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	HEY CHUB (00, Carson City), Joe-Dan Farm	\$2,000	20/15	1/2	0/1	(Chublicious, \$215,560)	\$723,556	31	2	1.75	1.49
2	DON SIX (00, Wild Escapade), Greenfields Farm	Private	18/12	0/0	0/0	(Don's Marsh, \$52,030)	\$383,062	82	3	1.19	1.28
3	DEFERRE (92, Deputy Minister)	N/A	20/8	0/0	0/0	(Oak Bluffs, \$53,640)	\$298,267	*590	22	1.21	1.18
4	CABLE BOY (04, Jump Start), Colonial Farms	\$1,000	8/3	0/0	0/0	(Liz's Cable Girl, \$118,720)	\$264,691	20	1	1.34	0.95
5	PARK AVENUE BALL (02, Citidancer)	Died, 2015	6/4	0/0	0/0	(Ebony Ball, \$60,600)	\$162,254	34	0	0.83	1.30

2017 LEADING SIREs IN VIRGINIA

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2017 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2017 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	REBELLION (GB) (03, Mozart), Hickory Tree Farm	\$3,500	16/7	1/1	1/1	(Blurrricane, \$107,556)	\$328,483	*42	2	1.20	1.27
2	FRIEND OR FOE (07, Friends Lake), Smallwood Farm	\$1,000	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Mr. Buff, \$103,900)	\$201,267	8	0	2.73	1.62
3	COSA VERA (05, Dynaformer), North Cliff Farms	\$2,500	10/4	0/0	0/0	(Zebennie, \$45,414)	\$167,089	28	0	0.54	1.43

“JoAnn is so selfless, and she gives everyone else credit,” said volunteer Cathy Hooley. “She loves and cares deeply for the horses, and she cares for us volunteers. She is generous in conveying her gratitude and appreciation, and her end-of-day hugs are heartfelt. I’ve volunteered at other farms and rescues, and I’ve never met anyone that has more love for the horses.”

“She’s a pioneer. If Cabin Creek didn’t go

well, there would be no Old Friends at Kentucky Downs,” said Blowen, referring to the facility near Franklin, Ky., which opened several years ago.

A victim of its own success in the best possible way, Cabin Creek regularly gets calls about horses but it just doesn’t have the room. As a result, Blowen is seeking ways to expand its New York operation through either development at its current

site or the purchase of another farm.

As the sun gets higher over the trees decked out in autumn colors, one shift of chores is wrapped up while another crew of volunteers shows up to greet the visitors who will shortly arrive. Not that the volunteers are in any hurry to leave. They stick around to visit their favorites and share stories, their commitment to the mission and to the horses obvious in their comments, in the pride they take in the farm, and in their attention to the retirees.

For the horses, Old Friends at Cabin Creek: The Bobby Frankel Division offers a home, shelter, company, and attention. For visitors, it offers the chance to feed, pet, and take pictures with some of their racing favorites, and it offers education about all types of horses and the need for aftercare plans. For Pepper, the farm is nothing less than a dream come true, inspired by an article in a local paper, flourishing as an exemplary and respected facility.

“I always,” she said, in typically understated fashion, “wanted to do something for the horses.”

Teresa Genaro is a freelance writer based in New York.



Roaring Lion with volunteers June Shaw, left, Barbara Nieman, second from left, Cathy Hooley, second from right, and owner JoAnn Pepper, right,

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