

NORTHEAST/MID-ATLANTIC

Three to Get Ready

*Boniface clan's new stallions
 move Bonita Farm forward*

BY EVAN HAMMONDS / PHOTOS BY LYDIA A. WILLIAMS



Bonita Farm
 patriarch
 Bill Boniface

MARYLANDERS OFTEN BOAST that the first Thoroughbred horse race contested in America took place in Maryland in 1721. The Boniface family might not have had a runner going that far back, but they have been the “first family” of the state heading into their second century.

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FIRST TWO-YEAR-OLDS PROVIDE *Outstanding Return*

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Hip 29 led the way, selling for **\$260,000** to Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC, the highest price for a NY Sire

Another colt sold for **\$180,000** to Hideyuki Mori and the top filly for her sire, Hip 208 went for **\$105,000** to Beach Haven Thoroughbreds LLC

Nationally ranked NA 2018 Two-Year-Old Sire by sale average, ahead of **TAPIZAR**, **SHANGHAI BOBBY**, **DIALED IN**, **DECLARATION OF WAR**, **TALE OF THE CAT**, **CREATIVE CAUSE**, **BROKEN VOW**, etc.



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2018 LEADING SIRES IN NEW YORK



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2018 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	FREUD (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York	\$7,500	50/11	1/1	0/1	(Sharp Azteca, \$650,000)	\$1,090,739	*1,207	46	1.56	1.26
2	FROST GIANT (03, Giant's Causeway), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$5,000	54/10	1/1	1/1	(Giant Expectations, \$686,000)	\$1,077,164	*378	11	1.20	1.17
3	BELLAMY ROAD (02, Concerto), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$6,000	79/19	0/0	0/0	(Total Control, \$49,400)	\$577,258	*606	27	1.20	1.29
4	DESERT PARTY (06, Street Cry), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$2,500	52/13	1/1	1/1	(Orchid Party, \$62,800)	\$446,400	216	5	0.94	1.39
5	HOLD ME BACK (06, Giant's Causeway)	N/A	61/19	0/0	0/0	(Blacktieandtux, \$50,530)	\$390,008	289	8	1.07	1.15
6	MISSION IMPAZIBLE (07, Unbridled's Song), Sequel Stallions New York	\$7,500	37/6	0/0	0/0	(Midnight Mission, \$67,200)	\$337,462	134	2	1.21	1.14
7	BIG BROWN (05, Boundary), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$6,000	58/18	0/0	0/0	(Monsieur Brown, \$31,680)	\$303,659	*685	20	1.14	1.56
8	BOYS AT TOSCONOVA (08, Officer), Questroyal North	\$2,500	12/6	1/2	1/1	(My Boy Tate, \$120,000)	\$275,168	59	1	1.16	1.27
9	BUSTIN STONES (04, City Zip), Waldorf Farm	\$5,000	29/6	0/0	0/0	(Tribeca, \$36,400)	\$195,118	189	6	1.34	1.39
10	SOARING EMPIRE (07, Empire Maker), Rockridge Stud	\$2,500	9/5	0/0	0/0	(Soaring Rosa, \$51,770)	\$154,842	54	0	0.91	1.10
11	COURAGEOUS CAT (06, Storm Cat), Questroyal North	\$6,000	32/5	1/1	0/1	(Winter Renaissance, \$22,134)	\$131,416	176	3	0.97	1.14
12	TRINNIBERG (09, Teuflesberg), Rockridge Stud	\$3,500	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Belleville Spring, \$44,228)	\$94,530	*31	1	1.14	1.62
13	DISCO RICO (97, Citidancer)	Died, 2014	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Jewel Can Disco, \$41,300)	\$71,525	268	12	1.39	1.20
14	GIANT SURPRISE (09, Giant's Causeway), Rockridge Stud	\$4,000	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Surprise Wonder, \$27,600)	\$70,470	48	2	1.90	1.25
15	MIDAS TOUCH (GB) (07, Galileo)	N/A	7/1	1/1	0/1	(Primo Touch, \$63,023)	\$70,111	*46	1	0.63	0.91
16	TEUFLESBERG (04, Johannesburg), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	16/1	0/0	0/0	(Dominic's Smile, \$23,400)	\$67,683	120	4	1.39	1.14
17	HERE'S ZEALOUS (97, Dehere), Kaz Hill Farm	\$1,000	12/2	0/0	0/0	(Mighty Zealous, \$20,650)	\$66,194	193	1	1.06	0.97
18	NOBLE CAUSEWAY (02, Giant's Causeway)	Died, 2014	16/3	0/0	0/0	(Altissimo, \$23,375)	\$56,861	244	9	0.78	1.06
19	FORTY TALES (10, Tale of the Cat), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	Private	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Transistor, \$25,300)	\$41,620	40	0	0.69	1.28
20	BANK HEIST (07, Maria's Mon), Kaz Hill Farm	\$5,000	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Merger of Banks, \$12,628)	\$38,936	40	1	1.04	1.36

Much like any other family concern, the Bonifaces' Bonita Farm, near Darlington, has been through its ups and downs. As Maryland's horse industry struggled a decade ago when surrounding states' programs surged with additional revenue from slots, Bonita Farm held tough, and now with the state coming up with a resurgent plan of its own, the family sees brighter days ahead.

The nearly 400-acre family farm, a full-service operation, has a trio of new stallions in the barn for 2018.

And when they say "family farm," they mean it. J. William "Bill" Boniface, a classic-winning trainer and classic Maryland horseman, is the general manager with his wife, Joan, who runs the office. Their children are all on the team. While son Billy has run off to become director of administration for Harford County, his brother John W. Boniface Jr. heads the breeding division; brother Kevin trains; sister-in-law Chris is the training operations manager; and sister Kim also trains.

They don't know any other way. How-

ever, the business wasn't always heading in the right direction. At a time when the industry was struggling, Kevin advised his kids to seek other lines of work.

"When my oldest daughter was 16 years old, she weighed 100 pounds and could turn a stick (riding crop) over and do anything," Kevin said. "Maryland racing didn't look like it was going in the right direction, and I coaxed her into staying in school and she became quite the academic girl. She went to work for CBS. I thought it would be better for her to do something like that."

Michelle St. John now lives in New York and is a producer for "60 Minutes."

"My oldest son—the timber rider—he'd won the Grand National and several stakes riding for Jack Fisher, and he kind of ended up in Colorado as a snowboard instructor and fly-fishing guide. My youngest, he got a chemistry degree from the College of Charleston," Kevin continued. "I was pushing all three of my kids away from the farm. I thought maybe it was the beginning of the end. Now with Maryland racing doing so good, it's coming back."

And it is coming back strong. While Bonita Farm has always stood stallions—the most famous being the Bill Boniface-



The Boniface family has called the current Bonita Farm home since 1983

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 2014 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through March 11, 2018. As supplied to *BloodHorse* by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., lists 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 2017 is \$22,593 or 47% of the 2017 average purse in Japan. To put earnings on par, all Japanese progeny earnings are multiplied by 47% before being credited to a sire's progeny earnings. Hong Kong earnings are adjusted by 15%; Singapore by 68%. Current year stakes winners include all Northern Hemisphere black-type stakes results from all available countries. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners include all countries.

*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.

Track Record-Setter by **MEDAGLIA D'ORO**

Out of a Half-Sister to...

2018 N.A. THIRD-CROP SIRES			
Rank	Stallion	Chief Earner	'18 Earnings
1	Dialed In	Gunnevera	\$1,874,242
2	Creative Cause	My Boy Jack	\$883,144
3	Bodemeister	Christmas Sky	\$844,387
4	Union Rags	Free Drop Billy	\$750,718
5	Shackleford	Promises Fulfilled	\$698,662

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Graded SW by **MEDAGLIA D'ORO**

8 wins, 15 starts, \$645,320
 Razorback H.-G3,
 Prairie Meadows Cornhusker H.-G3
 Track Record Setter at Gulfstream

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 TWO Grade 1 Stakes Horses
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trained Preakness Stakes (G1) winner Deputed Testamony—it's never had three new ones in the barn.

"We've been standing stallions for 50 years," the senior Boniface said. "But we've never had three new stallions in one year. It is very exciting and a reflection of what is going on here in Maryland."

The incoming roster starts with Alliance, a son of Harlan's Holiday—Life Happened, by Stravinsky, a half brother to the brilliant champion Tepin and a three-quarter brother to graded stakes winner Vyjack. Next up is the super-sized Dortmund (Big Brown—Our Josephina, by Tale of the Cat), winner of the Santa Anita Derby (G1) and more than \$1.9 million for Kaleem Shah. Third is Kobe's Back (Flatter—Well, by Well Decorated), a multiple graded stakes winner for the Searing family.

"I'm excited about them. We have strong owners who are backing their horses," said John Jr. "Hopefully, we'll get enough numbers to compete. You have to have the numbers. Our broodmares have doubled this year; we have about 50 on the farm."

Brother Kevin shares in the enthusiasm.

"You reap what you sow, and we haven't been sowing the best of oats with the stallions we've had around here the last few years," he said. "But when Dad went out to California, there were three we kind of wanted, and I don't know how, but we ended up with all three.

"Who doesn't want Dortmund? Alliance goes back to a great family developed by Oliver Goldsmith, a Maryland breeder for years, with horses such as Disco Rico. They took that family and put a little Kentucky blood with it, and the next thing you know you've got Vyjack and Tepin. I just love that family. The sky is the limit with him.

"Then it was complete strawberry, vanilla, and chocolate ice cream when we ended up with Kobe's Back. He's a great horse."

Three new stallions is a sizable undertaking. Adding to the regional mix is a handful of other new stallions to the state. Competition and "getting numbers" won't be easy. But Marylanders are Marylanders, and most are breed-to-race types.

"You aren't going to see a stallion in Maryland cover 200 mares," Bill said. "For one thing, it's not in the best interest

of the breeder who is going for the commercial market and has 80 other ones in the sale.

"The only stallion we have buried here is Deputed Testamony. He never went to more than 45 mares. He lived to be 32. And I grew up in the era of Northern Dancer and he lived to be 29 and he never went to more than 40 mares, but he was the most successful stallion of my lifetime and no one is going to convince me otherwise.

"A lot of people in Maryland are breed-

to-race people," Boniface continued. "Mr. Searing, he bought three really nice mares at the Kentucky and Florida sales for Kobe's Back. And Kaleem (Shah) is supporting Dortmund, and the Roths (LNJ Foxwoods) are supporting Alliance, and he's got six of his mares in Pennsylvania. They will foal in Pennsylvania and come here to breed. We're really just getting started."

Boniface pointed to the new bonus program in the state that features an 80% bonus for state-bred maiden winners with



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Dr M A M Ramaswamy Stayers Cup-G1

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Among 2017 Third-Crop Sires currently standing in North America, **COURAGEOUS CAT** ranked 14th by progeny earnings with just 73 runners.

2017 PROGENY EARNINGS OF \$1.5 MILLION

— Sire of 61 registered 2-year-olds of 2018 —

COURAGEOUS
1:31.58 108 **CAT**
FLAT MILE BEYER

MILLIONAIRE GRADE 1 STAKES WINNER

Storm Cat - Tranquility Lake, by Rahy Fee: \$6,000 LF/SN

breeder and owner incentives. He said there is even an additional 25% available should the horse spend a required amount of time in Virginia.

Those incentives have helped with the training segment of the farm.

"We break 20-30 yearlings every year," Bill said. "The emphasis now is running in Maryland. However, we've shipped to California for Breeders' Cup races there, and I've shipped a filly from here to England for the One Thousand Guineas (G1)."

A LITTLE HISTORY

Fritz Boniface, Bill's grandfather, was general manager of Mrs. Robert Heighe's Prospect Hill Farm near Bel Air, Md. Bill's father, "Big Bill," was the racing editor for the Baltimore *Sun* for more than 40 years. The year he left the paper, the Bonita Farm homebred Deputed Testamony became the eighth Maryland-bred to win the Preakness. There hasn't been once since.

Deputed Testamony (Traffic Cop—Proof Requested, by Prove It) was trained by

Bill, who was 41 at the time he saddled the classic winner in 1983. All of his children were in their teens, and they lived and worked on Bonita Farm, then near Bel Air. That 40-acre property was sold that year, and they moved to the larger spread near Darlington.


A Marine, Bill Boniface had spent several months of leave time in Newmarket, England, working with trainer John Waugh. His experience paid off when he returned to Maryland.

During that magical 1983 they had two classic contenders. Parfaitement made his way to the Kentucky Derby (G1), finishing 16th behind Sunny's Halo. A poor run by Deputed Testamony in that spring's Blue Grass Stakes (G1) prompted Boniface to hold him out for a run at Pimlico.

"I took the horse down to the Blue Grass at Keeneland," Boniface began. "I gave the van driver a \$100 bill to be sure and be there an hour before the plane landed because I didn't want that horse to sit on the plane—it can get very hot in the fuselage when you're on the ground. They couldn't find the key to the goddamned gate. So he stayed there a half an hour, broke a sweat, and ran a clunker the next day in the Blue Grass. I sure wasn't going to run against the best 3-year-olds in the country coming off a bad race, so I took him up to Keystone in a small stakes (May 14 Keystone Stakes) and ran him there and he won pretty easy, got a lot of confidence, and then ran him back seven days later and won the (May 21) Preakness."

Twelve years later Boniface nearly won the Preakness again with Charles Oliver's Oliver's Twist, who lost a heartbreaker to 1994 juvenile champion Timber Country, defeating Derby winner Thunder Gulch in the process.

"I think he should have won," Boniface said. "I took (jockey) Alberto (Delgado) up on the hillside of the racetrack the day before the Preakness and told him, 'This horse is going to run the best race of his life tomorrow.' I worked for Ben and Jimmy Jones for two years, and we won the Kentucky Derby both years. They knew how to 'peak' a horse for the first Saturday in May. This horse had peaked. I told him, 'You are going to have to ride the best race that you



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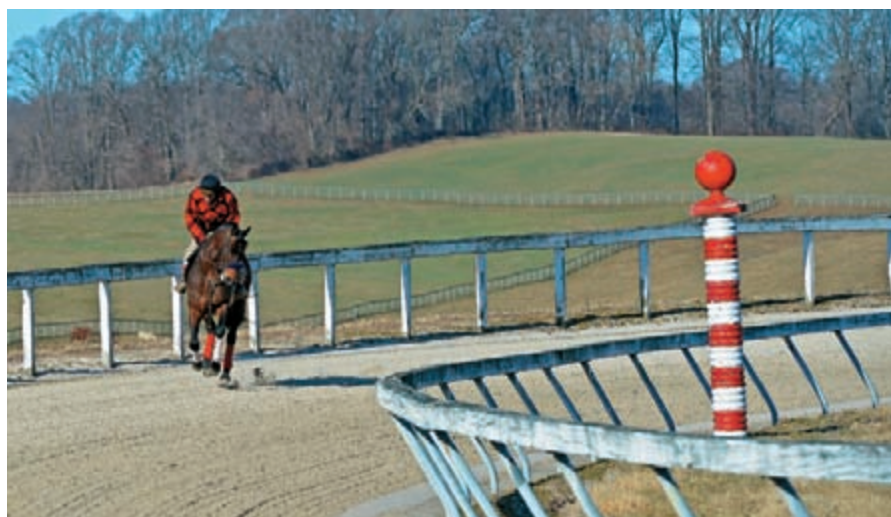
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Bill Allen, Farm Manager (518) 965-9346 • allenbill99@gmail.com

2018 LEADING SIRES IN MARYLAND



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2018 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	FRIESAN FIRE (06, A.P. Indy), Country Life Farm	\$4,000	48/9	0/0	0/0	(Forest Fire, \$61,740)	\$387,949	168	2	1.14	1.28
2	GREAT NOTION (00, Elusive Quality), Northview Stallion Station	\$5,000	38/10	0/0	0/0	(Elevated Vision, \$55,575)	\$338,995	309	15	1.51	1.22
3	NOT FOR LOVE (90, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2016	37/9	0/0	0/0	(Love Rules, \$45,050)	\$292,323	974	81	1.67	1.44
4	ORIENTATE (98, Mt. Livermore), Northview Stallion Station	Pnsd	27/7	0/0	0/0	(Align the Numbers, \$33,462)	\$184,271	*829	32	1.24	1.60
5	PETIONVILLE (92, Seeking the Gold), Murmur Farm	\$4,000	25/7	0/0	0/0	(Island Romance, \$20,640)	\$153,335	*738	42	1.27	1.26
6	FREEDOM CHILD (10, Malibu Moon), Country Life Farm	\$3,000	11/2	1/1	0/1	(Limited View, \$60,000)	\$141,050	51	1	1.46	1.47
7	STREET MAGICIAN (04, Street Cry), Legacy Farm Stallions Standing at Roland Farm	\$3,000	20/4	0/0	0/0	(Up Hill Battle, \$26,790)	\$123,845	124	3	1.16	1.33
8	REDEEMED (08, Include), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,000	15/3	0/0	0/0	(Pikachu Princess, \$22,932)	\$94,548	75	0	0.98	1.05
9	ETCHED (05, Forestry), Bonita Farm	\$2,000	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Tattooed, \$45,663)	\$87,862	42	1	0.69	1.05
10	LION HEARTED (96, Storm Cat)	Died, 2015	15/2	0/0	0/0	(Tricky Lion, \$23,800)	\$67,741	*624	18	1.18	1.27
11	DESPITE THE ODDS (06, Speightstown), Legacy Farm Stallions Standing at Roland Farm	\$1,000	8/4	0/0	0/0	(Port Louis, \$20,142)	\$64,474	42	0	0.80	1.30
12	SCIPION (02, A.P. Indy), Murmur Farm	\$2,500	13/1	0/0	0/0	(In Arrears, \$32,526)	\$48,175	142	3	1.05	1.05
13	NICANOR (06, Dynaformer), Shamrock Farm	\$2,000	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Lngtermrelationship, \$25,420)	\$47,925	32	0	0.37	0.96
14	OUTFLANKER (94, Danzig), Shamrock Farm	\$3,000	9/1	0/0	0/0	(Silver Slippers, \$15,950)	\$47,005	*554	21	1.34	1.13
15	ADMIRAL ALEX (07, Afleet Alex)	N/A	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Admiral Blue, \$40,535)	\$43,384	15	0	0.78	0.85
16	LOUIS QUATORZE (93, Sovereign Dancer)	Pnsd	8/1	0/0	0/0	(Crookit, \$11,865)	\$42,064	*989	21	1.14	1.30
17	M EIGHTY (99, Lite the Fuse)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Star Eighty, \$38,550)	\$38,850	15	0	1.30	0.89
18	CHEROKEE'S BOY (00, Citidancer)	Pnsd	9/1	0/0	0/0	(Jah Grace, \$16,302)	\$37,791	104	1	0.99	0.99
19	ROCK SLIDE (98, A.P. Indy)	N/A	9/2	0/0	0/0	(Big Bad Ben, \$14,538)	\$36,403	282	10	1.02	1.16
20	ETERNAL STAR (04, Five Star Day)	Died, 2013	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Call Me a Star, \$22,800)	\$22,800	14	0	0.48	0.65



Galloping over the training track at Bonita Farm



Bonita Farm homebred Deputed Testamony—trained by Bill Boniface—winning the 1983 Preakness



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	BT SWnrs/Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2018 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	JUMP START (99, A.P. Indy), Northview PA	\$10,000	74/17	1/1	1/1	(Startwithsilver, \$95,400)	\$658,940	*1,356	42	1.45	1.30
2	WEIGELIA (01, Safely's Mark), WynOaks Farm	\$3,500	20/11	0/0	0/0	(Risque's Diamond, \$40,890)	\$331,347	*106	5	1.42	1.02
3	DUBLIN (07, Afleet Alex), Mohns Hill Farm	Private	31/9	0/0	0/0	(Goats Town, \$53,397)	\$239,696	165	2	1.04	1.20
4	EL PADRINO (09, Pulpit), Northview PA	Died, 2017	13/6	0/0	0/0	(Whereshetoldmetogo, \$49,612)	\$215,879	94	0	1.32	1.29
5	SILVER TRAIN (02, Old Trieste)	Died, 2013	35/8	0/0	0/0	(Fiftyshadesofbay, \$40,800)	\$194,885	*533	12	1.01	1.28
6	TALENT SEARCH (03, Catienus), Diamond B Farm	\$2,500	29/7	0/0	0/0	(Captain Riley, \$26,861)	\$157,175	*142	2	1.04	1.22
7	LORD SHANAKILL (06, Speightstown), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$3,500	30/4	0/0	0/0	(Dark Kingdom, \$48,832)	\$133,267	176	2	1.13	0.90
8	UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN (07, Limehouse), Diamond B Farm	\$1,500	5/4	0/0	0/0	(Dixie Serenade, \$51,520)	\$107,370	27	0	1.78	0.81
9	BULLSBAY (04, Tiznow), Northview PA	\$3,000	11/7	0/0	0/0	(A True Gentleman, \$23,673)	\$107,111	71	3	1.37	1.24
10	CROWN OF THORNS (05, Repent), Equistar Training Center	\$2,000	19/2	0/0	0/0	(He Wears the Crown, \$18,737)	\$99,470	49	1	0.81	1.13
11	RIMROD (00, Danzig), Castle Rock Farm	\$1,500	11/4	0/0	0/0	(Mymomsablond, \$22,932)	\$86,153	111	2	1.27	1.16
12	GOT THE LAST LAUGH (04, Distorted Humor), Diamond B Farm	\$2,500	6/3	0/0	0/0	(Laughing Best, \$37,200)	\$82,215	51	0	1.22	1.14
13	CAL NATION (08, Distorted Humor), Kingfisher Lane Farm	\$2,500	12/2	0/0	0/0	(Parade of Nations, \$18,423)	\$64,566	44	0	1.05	1.15
14	ANDIRON (06, A.P. Indy), Xanthus Farms, Inc.	\$2,000	10/3	0/0	0/0	(Roxbury N Overton, \$28,090)	\$60,737	45	1	0.94	0.58
15	MEDALLIST (01, Touch Gold), Northview PA	\$2,000	12/2	0/0	0/0	(Hashtag Selfie, \$12,915)	\$46,758	198	7	1.27	1.35
16	ALBERT THE GREAT (97, Go for Gin)	Pnsd	9/2	0/0	0/0	(Al Do Great, \$10,128)	\$45,305	*405	8	1.12	1.12
17	ACTIVIST (94, Wild Again)	N/A	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Parade Promise, \$14,412)	\$42,743	188	3	0.91	0.87
18	FORMAL DINNER (88, Well Decorated)	Pnsd	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Formal Class, \$40,968)	\$41,928	*639	23	1.07	1.09
19	CITY SHARPSTER (99, Carson City)	N/A	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Colirubia, \$9,196)	\$37,043	63	0	0.76	0.69
20	LITE THE FUSE (91, Buckaroo)	Pnsd	8/1	0/0	0/0	(Hygh Life, \$22,889)	\$35,945	549	22	1.21	1.16

Billy, you ran the best horse.' I said, 'Well, thank you, but you got the money.'

Boniface no longer trains, but like almost everyone else in the business, he has an opinion on today's trainers.

"Everybody is so fanatical about their win percentage," he said. "They don't want to run their horses. They wait three months until they find a spot where he's going to be 6-5 or less because they're so worried about their win percentage. That doesn't fill the races or help the owners get a pot."

LIFE ON THE FARM

Multigenerational family businesses can be difficult, but at the 385-acre Bonita Farm—which has a 48-stall training

barn—the family members are steadfast in their love for each other and for the horses they are raising.

A rising business climate is helping in all aspects of the farm—from breeding and raising young horses, to training and racing.

"My son Kevin is training, and my daughter, Kim, is training," Bill emphasized. "Kevin has a division on the farm, and Kim usually stables at Delaware in the summer and is at Camden during the winter.

"John is doing the breeding operation now, but he's had his trainer's license; he's trained some jumpers. My oldest son, Billy, he's the county administrator. He's into politics.

"It's great to see them; no operation works smoothly all of the time, but they work their way through it."

"There's always family dynamics, but when you are on the farm, you have to go wherever you go," Kevin said. "Two days ago my dad and I were behind the mare, and I had to stick both hands down to turn the knee and get the leg straightened out to pull the foal out of the mare after I got off a jumper.

"When you raise your own, you are involved in all aspects of it and you have to be ready for that. Dad taught us all of that.

"He tells us we only have to work a half a day...from sunup to sundown."

"You just arrive and keep going forward;



Two of the three new stallions for the Maryland market at Bonita Farm: Dortmund, left, and Alliance

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2018 LEADING SIRES IN WEST VIRGINIA



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2018 Earnings	Foals	Sits Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	WINDSOR CASTLE (98, Lord Carson), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$2,000	51/19	1/1	0/1	(William and Mary, \$43,740)	\$333,572	338	12	1.02	1.00
2	FIBER SONDE (05, Unbridled's Song), Beau Ridge Farm	\$1,000	40/17	0/0	0/0	(Who's My Boss, \$20,580)	\$312,312	207	8	1.20	0.81
3	LIMEHOUSE (01, Grand Slam), O'Sullivan Farms	\$2,500	39/3	0/0	0/0	(Recount, \$36,700)	\$159,958	*442	21	1.20	1.16
4	CHARITABLE MAN (06, Lemon Drop Kid)	Died, 2016	31/8	0/0	0/0	(Charitable Hero, \$16,970)	\$140,440	169	2	0.98	1.06
5	DENIS OF CORK (05, Harlan's Holiday), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$750	37/6	0/0	0/0	(Scottish Denis, \$29,703)	\$136,258	*123	4	0.68	1.09
6	MR. SIDNEY (04, Storm Cat), Beau Ridge Farm	\$6,500	15/4	0/0	0/0	(Mr Satchmo, \$24,190)	\$85,027	117	0	0.94	1.86

2018 LEADING SIRES IN NEW JERSEY

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2018 Earnings	Foals	Sits Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	HEY CHUB (00, Carson City)	N/A	8/3	0/0	0/0	(Brother Chub, \$34,250)	\$104,219	37	2	1.78	1.48
2	DEFRERE (92, Deputy Minister)	N/A	8/3	0/0	0/0	(Oak Bluffs, \$39,100)	\$73,034	*590	22	1.20	1.18



get up and do it again, and hope for another big horse,” John Jr. said. “My father did it, and we’re trying to do it again.

“I’ve done everything; I’ve trained horses and now I’m doing the broodmares. I love the horses. I think my true forté would be training, but we all have to do something. I’ve had a couple of big years with the babies. I love to watch them, see on Equibase that they’ve won. That’s cool to me.

“There’s nothing like seeing that foal hit the ground and then finding out later they hit the winner’s circle first-time out. That’s happened a couple of times and is pretty impressive.”

As for the day-to-day, Bonita Farm keeps plugging along. Most horsemen don’t know any other way.

“(Hall of Fame trainer) Charlie Whittingham, the ‘Bald Eagle,’ said, ‘If it worked once, it will work again. Keep trying it. Get up in the morning and do it again,’” Kevin said. “That’s what we do...every day.”

“Horsemen live in hope or die in despair, as they say,” Bill said. “We’re all looking ahead like everybody else. We have a dozen mares of our own, but we have some partnerships and some year-around people who have been with us for 40-50 years that board their mares with us.

“It’s not about the money you make or the trophies you take, it’s the people you meet and the memories you keep.”

And the memories keep mounting at Bonita Farm. **BH**



At 400 acres, Bonita Farm has room for training—even jumpers—and the broodmare band

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