



Eddie and
Kate Maple

EDDIE MAPLE COMES UP ROSES

*Hall of Fame rider still enjoys the horses
at Rose Hill Plantation Equestrian Center*

BY FRANK ANGST / PHOTOS BY MAGGIE KIMMIT

BECAUSE EDDIE MAPLE RISES at the same time each day—5:10 a.m.—the retired Hall of Fame jockey notices daylight greeting him a bit earlier each morning this time of year. But as he gets out of bed and prepares to visit the barns at the Rose Hill Plantation Equestrian Center to start this March day, he perceives brightness even before the sun’s appearance.

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One of the barns at Rose Hill Plantation Equestrian Center near Bluffton, S.C.

“The moon was so big this morning,” Maple said from Rose Hill Stables near Bluffton, S.C., which has become home for Maple and his wife, Kate—a pair of empty nesters who’ve found their paradise in the South.

The Maples operate the equestrian center at Rose Hill Plantation, a property development that 960 families call home.

Most of the horses at the center are pleasure and show horses, along with Kate’s retired Thoroughbred, Crandall.

“We’ve had a little dip in the temperature, but we’ve been up in the 80s already. It’s not a bad place,” Maple said. “The gnats are horrible for about a month in the spring and a month in the fall. It gets hot, but I can remember Saratoga being a scorcher, too, and Long Island, N.Y., is no picnic either. It’s seasonal here, but you just don’t have the extremes. Maybe four mornings a year we have to go out and break the ice on the water in the paddock.”

The temperate and scenic region—with its live oak trees and Spanish moss—draws visitors to nearby Hilton Head, S.C., but the pleasant area is only part of the attraction for the Maples. The other charm is a home that allows them to continue their lives surrounded by horses. Eddie Maple immerses himself in that life.

“My day starts early. I get up at 10 after

five every single day and come down here and get things rolling. My main job is to do the feed because we have all sorts of horses with all sorts of backgrounds and some little problems—not so much physical but issues brought on by old age to where they need supplements,” Maple said. “I pretty much handle that.

“Then I go home usually about 7:30, and we have two Corgis and I bring them back to the barn and they play for a little while and then we go for a walk,” Maple added. “Then we turn horses out. We have 19 horses that go out in the morning. We have



Maple and Temperance Hill after the 1980 Belmont

five that go out from 12-4 p.m., and then we have six that go out from 5 in the evening until 6 in the morning.”

As the Maples’ sons Ivor and Edward

had moved to Atlanta for career opportunities, Eddie and Kate found themselves gradually moving South as well, in part to stay close. They settled at Rose Hill in 2006. Son Edward Maple has since moved to Boone, N.C., and he marvels at his 70-year-old father’s work ethic.

“He said to me, ‘Dad, you’ve gone full circle. You started mucking stalls and end up mucking stalls,’” Eddie Maple noted with a laugh.

The warm weather is welcomed by Maple, a Carrollton, Ohio, native who has been riding horses since age 12. He won his first Thoroughbred race as a teen: At age 17 he guided Swami to victory in 1966 at Charles Town Races. Within five years Maple had established himself in New York, where he rode some of the sport’s most celebrated stars.

Maple, who rode many horses for Woody Stephens, nailed down the Racing Hall of Fame trainer’s fourth of five straight Belmont Stakes (G1) wins with Brushwood Stable’s Crème Fraîche in 1985. That marked the second Belmont win for Maple, who had guided Temperance Hill to victory in the 1980 edition of the 1½-mile classic. Maple won the Metropolitan Handicap (G1) three times, defeating Forego in the 1974 Met Mile aboard Arbees Boy and following with wins in 1978 on Cox’s Ridge and in 1982 aboard Conquistador Cielo.

These days the race Maple says he’s most asked about is his mount aboard Secretariat in the final start of the Triple Crown winner’s career: the 1973 Canadian International Championship Stakes (G2T) at Woodbine. Regular rider Ron Turcotte was serving a suspension, and Maple picked up the mount, guiding Big Red to a 6½-length score in the 1½-mile turf race.

“I don’t tell many stories. Down here my ride on Secretariat resonates with the general public. Some of the other races are known by our boarders at Rose Hill,” Maple said. “My name seems to ring a bell because of some old press or whatever. They had me ride an old Thoroughbred in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade here in Hilton Head about four years ago—that was a kick.”

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2019 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2019 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	ADIOS CHARLIE (08, Indian Charlie), Ocala Stud	\$3,000	66/27	0/0	0/0	(Patternrecognition, \$200,000)	\$997,413	195	7	1.55	1.25
2	FIELD COMMISSION (05, Service Stripe), Solera Farm	\$2,500	31/13	1/2	0/1	(Drafted, \$445,000)	\$728,656	142	1	0.86	0.94
3	FIRST DUDE (07, Stephen Got Even), Double Diamond Farm	\$10,000	79/21	0/0	0/0	(Starr of Quality, \$59,800)	\$640,400	342	10	1.21	1.24
4	SONGANDPRAYER (98, Unbridled's Song)	Pnsd	87/30	0/0	0/0	(Titanium Pledge, \$46,500)	\$634,095	*1029	36	1.10	1.40
5	BRETHREN (08, Distorted Humor), Arindel Farm	\$7,500	54/16	1/2	0/1	(Cookie Dough, \$63,950)	\$581,619	136	3	1.50	1.65
6	WILDCAT HEIR (00, Forest Wildcat)	Died, 2015	85/19	0/0	0/0	(Faction Cat, \$37,070)	\$502,057	*687	34	1.34	1.32
7	BIG DRAMA (06, Montbrook), The Stallions at Oakton Farms	\$5,000	45/14	0/0	0/0	(Spring Drama, \$82,740)	\$471,361	222	4	0.91	1.28
8	SOLDAT (08, War Front), Woodford Thoroughbreds	\$1,500	62/19	0/0	0/0	(B's Ten, \$39,460)	\$438,146	176	1	0.72	1.26
9	GONE ASTRAY (06, Dixie Union), Northwest Stud	\$4,500	46/18	0/0	0/0	(Jay's Way, \$52,800)	\$405,118	*224	9	1.01	1.12
10	TREASURE BEACH (GB) (08, Galileo), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$7,500	67/13	0/0	0/0	(Cajun Treasure, \$39,951)	\$375,983	*280	1	0.97	1.40
11	OVERDRIVEN (09, Tale of the Cat)	Pnsd	44/10	0/0	0/0	(Razorback Lady, \$80,800)	\$347,856	150	1	0.86	1.15
12	UNCAPTURED (10, Lion Heart), Ocala Stud	\$6,000	29/5	1/1	0/1	(Bye Bye J, \$88,500)	\$313,526	106	4	1.01	1.21
13	HIGH COTTON (03, Dixie Union)	Pnsd	57/14	0/0	0/0	(Florida Cotton, \$25,820)	\$299,256	*399	11	0.96	1.24
14	J P'S GUSTO (08, Successful Appeal), Bridlewood Farm	\$2,000	29/10	0/0	0/0	(Velocita Brillante, \$55,122)	\$260,946	89	2	0.97	1.08
15	RATTLESNAKE BRIDGE (08, Tapit), Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds	\$7,500	40/13	0/0	0/0	(Rattlesnakerose, \$19,470)	\$238,428	106	0	0.49	1.05
16	AWESOME OF COURSE (00, Awesome Again), Ocala Stud	\$4,000	37/8	0/0	0/0	(Band of Angels, \$42,530)	\$232,050	*246	10	1.37	1.31
17	PROSPECTIVE (09, Malibu Moon), Ocala Stud	\$3,000	39/12	0/0	0/0	(Tiz Possible Dear, \$27,840)	\$224,277	105	3	1.01	1.14
18	HE'S HAD ENOUGH (10, Tapit), Woodford Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	38/5	0/0	0/0	(He's Smokin Hot, \$30,840)	\$201,854	115	0	0.54	1.41
19	DRILL (09, Lawyer Ron), Get Away Farm	\$4,500	27/9	0/0	0/0	(Destiny Over Fate, \$31,872)	\$200,251	67	1	0.93	1.07
20	GREATNESS (09, Mr. Prospector), The Stallions at Oakton Farms	\$1,750	18/8	0/0	0/0	(Lady's Island, \$65,350)	\$176,010	*261	7	1.30	0.99
21	HANDSOME MIKE (09, Scat Daddy), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$4,000	25/5	0/0	0/0	(Here Comes Jackie, \$36,300)	\$172,327	77	0	0.63	0.83
22	WINSLOW HOMER (07, Unbridled's Song), Journeyman Stallions	\$2,500	20/6	0/0	0/0	(Home Run Trick, \$52,920)	\$154,105	58	0	0.78	1.06
23	WROTE (IRE) (09, High Chaparral)	N/A	17/3	0/0	0/0	(Vincero, \$31,190)	\$127,016	*58	0	0.55	0.91
24	HELLO BROADWAY (06, Broken Vow), Ups and Downs Farm	\$3,000	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Harryhee, \$56,410)	\$95,276	31	1	1.06	0.77
25	IN SUMMATION (03, Put It Back), Ocala Stud	\$2,500	21/6	0/0	0/0	(Tearless, \$18,170)	\$94,107	*226	5	0.92	1.31
26	FLASHSTORM (04, Storm Cat), Northwest Stud	\$2,500	14/3	0/0	0/0	(Flashndynamite, \$28,120)	\$71,922	105	3	0.94	0.97
27	BACKTALK (07, Smarty Jones)	N/A	17/5	0/0	0/0	(French Accent, \$13,600)	\$69,572	58	2	1.03	0.74
28	GARY D (07, Successful Appeal)	N/A	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Midtown Rose, \$42,150)	\$58,783	12	0	0.97	1.14
29	RETRIEVE (10, Put It Back)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Quick Connect, \$56,000)	\$56,000	2	0	1.04	0.60
30	IQBAAL (06, Medaglia d'Oro)	N/A	7/4	0/0	0/0	(Riv, \$17,280)	\$49,892	26	0	0.99	1.16
31	ROCK HAMPTON (04, Storm Cat)	N/A	11/1	0/0	0/0	(Free for Nothing, \$28,090)	\$46,253	57	0	0.59	1.06
32	TELLING (04, A.P. Indy), Stonewall's Prestige Stallions	\$2,000	16/1	0/0	0/0	(Tell Me a Story, \$23,480)	\$43,634	49	0	0.64	1.28
33	THOREAU (08, Gone West), Ocala Jockey Club	\$1,500	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Music Babe, \$25,080)	\$39,205	22	0	0.44	1.23
34	DARK KESTREL (03, Stormy Atlantic), University of Florida Veterinary Med Center	\$1,500	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Roses for Sharon, \$19,620)	\$38,016	24	1	1.68	1.56
35	BEAU CHOIX (07, Elusive Quality), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$2,500	8/0	0/0	0/0	(One Classy Lady, \$11,370)	\$37,654	25	0	0.78	0.93
36	HEAR NO EVIL (00, Carson City), Ocala Stud	\$2,500	13/2	0/0	0/0	(Maranatha, \$13,950)	\$37,362	131	8	1.46	1.43
37	DOCTOR PEACH (07, Tiznow)	N/A	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Precocious Peach, \$26,400)	\$32,960	6	0	0.76	1.14
38	REWARD THE CAT (09, Good Reward), Buena Vista Farm	\$1,000	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Stronger Kat, \$28,700)	\$29,054	10	0	0.67	0.92
39	SILVER TREE (00, Hennessy)	N/A	8/1	0/0	0/0	(Love Tree, \$9,890)	\$28,865	47	1	0.83	1.12
40	BROOKS 'N DOWN (05, Montbrook)	N/A	7/0	0/0	0/0	(Garter and Tie, \$23,400)	\$28,644	29	1	1.45	2.36

The early morning routine has carried over from Maple's riding career, where he estimates he worked the vast majority of horses that he rode to 4,398 wins from 33,974 starts. His mounts earned more than \$105 million in purses and 60 grade 1 wins.

"The fact we do this early morning thing

here—I've always done that. I would work horses for anybody any day of the week when I was riding. I rode 33,000 races, and I probably got on 30,000 in the mornings—that might be a stretch—but some mornings I'd work four or five horses, which was fine. That's what I wanted to do. It helped me stay light, number one. And

number two, it was good for my business."

Maple retired from riding in 1998. As the Maples decided to move south, they looked for a home in South Carolina and were kind of hooked into the equestrian center, which was struggling when they arrived in 2006.

"I was supposed to just add my name



Jumps set up at the equestrian center

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Wildcat Heir	85	19
Soldat	62	19
Gone Astray	46	18
Brethren	54	16
High Cotton	57	14
Big Drama	45	14
Treasure Beach (GB)	67	13
Rattlesnake Bridge	40	13
Field Commission	31	13
Prospective	39	12
Overdriven	44	10
J P's Gusto	29	10
Drill	27	9
Awesome of Course	37	8
Greatness	18	8
In Summation	21	6
Winslow Homer	20	6
He's Had Enough	38	5
Uncaptured	29	5
Handsome Mike	25	5
Backtalk	17	5

to another fellow who was taking this place over, and about two weeks before we were to sign the lease, he got cold feet," Maple said. "So we could have backed out I guess—it was a four-year lease involved. But we didn't. It looked like something we might enjoy, and it's turned into quite a business.

"There were six horses stabled here when we took over, so we had our head against the wall for a few years until it leveled off and people found out it wasn't a bad place to board a horse."

The equestrian center is home to 29-year-old mare Crandall, who was bred by Kate and fellow jockey Craig Perret from one of two mares the Maples boarded at Claiborne Farm.

"She's the apple of Kate's eye," Eddie Maple said of the daughter of Bet Twice. "She still does some dressage, no competition, but it keeps them both happy—the mare looks like she's 14. She's named after



Maple with the 29-year-old Crandall, who was bred by his wife, Kate, and fellow rider Craig Perret

a Southern Belle little girl who's now a big girl—she's married with kids."

With their location, boarders at Rose Hill compete at shows in Jacksonville, Fla.; Camden, S.C.; and Ocala, Fla.

Maple noted some pleasure horse owners in the region prefer the cheaper rates afforded through pasture boarding, but he believes the lightning storms that frequent the area make stabling a necessity.

"We have people call all the time and ask if we pasture board—meaning they want their horses to stay out because it's cheaper, naturally, to board like that. But because of the thunderstorms, I can't see it. We're just not that kind of people. We're real horse people—city horse people, race-track horse people. We're not cowboys.

"People that are cowboys do that kind of stuff also—pasture board—but when these lightning storms come around—it is without a doubt scary. That's enough."

In 2016 when Hurricane Matthew battered the Hilton Head coast and region, the Maples loaded the 35 horses at Rose Hill on trailers and shipped to Camden, S.C. The Weather Channel is on the list of

television favorite channels in the Maple household as they work to keep up with any developing storms.

Sharing a love of horses has been good for Eddie and Kate.

"It's important. She rode in shows and stuff from 12 and up until she went away to college. One summer...I met her at Monmouth Park and she was galloping horses for Jimmy Croll," Maple said. "Kate is a fixer. If someone has a problem with a horse, she's the go-to gal. It's the same thing she has with the dogs. She was that way with our children. She got that from her mom."

The Maples are enjoying their life together with horses.

"We have a lot of nice boarders. We're horse people, not people people, but if we like your horse, we're probably going to like you," Eddie Maple said. "That makes it more enjoyable. We really don't have much of a turnover, so we've got plenty of time to know people. We have three people on a waiting list, but we're just not a turnover place. I guess that's a feather in our cap." **BH**

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 2015 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through April 7, 2019. 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 2018 is \$23,755 or 50% of the 2018 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 15%; Singapore by 66%. 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.