

Northeast/Mid-Atlantic

CONNECTICUT DELAWARE MAINE MARYLAND MASSACHUSETTS NEW HAMPSHIRE
NEW JERSEY NEW YORK PENNSYLVANIA RHODE ISLAND VERMONT VIRGINIA WEST VIRGINIA

Cheers for Old Tavern



Walt Borisenok's Thoroughbred enterprise on Saratoga Lake

BY TERESA GENARO / PHOTOS BY SKIP DICKSTEIN

WALT BORISENOK LAUGHS at the idea that the myriad enterprises at his Old Tavern Farm might collectively be called an empire, then acknowledges that, yes, there is indeed a lot going on at the parcels of land that in 2016 became one of the newest Thoroughbred breeding farms in New York State.

There is, of course, the breeding operation, which produces about half a dozen foals a year. There's Foal Patrol, a live stream of a mare in foal, part of a program established by the National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame. There are also a winery, run by Boris-

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Top Young Sons of SPEIGHTSTOWN

*The only top 5 Second
Crop Sire outside KY*

2019 multiple stakes winner
NEWLY MINTED (\$362,100, pictured)
won three stakes by a combined
19 lengths!

Other black type stakes horses in
2019 include NY Derby winner
BANKIT (\$537,825) and NY Stallion
Series stakes performers **Niko's Dream**
(\$172,210) and **Sterling Beauty** (\$86,540)

CENTRAL BANKER

Speightstown - Rhum, by Go for Gin | Fee: \$7,500 Live Foal

"**REDESDALE** showed exceptional talent to go undefeated through his first three starts. He is by Champion Sprinter and exceptional sire, **Speightstown**, out of a sister to **Danehill**, a 14 time Champion Sire who was a breed-shaping stallion on two continents, and is from the immediate family of **Northern Dancer** and **Halo...**"

- Alan Porter,
Pedigree Analyst/Consultant

"**REDESDALE** was the dominating winner of his first three starts over six furlongs. He was the sharp winner of a Churchill Downs maiden special weight on his career debut and later captured a pair of Fair Grounds allowance races. On the second occasion, he scored by four lengths for a **95 Beyer Speed Figure**. He met defeat just once when injured in the **Grade 3 Commonwealth Stakes** at Keeneland."

- Paulick Report Dec. 5, 2018

"**REDESDALE** has the best pedigree of any horse ever to retire in New York State. His pedigree combined with his brilliant dirt speed will make him a serious candidate to be a leading freshman sire in 2022."

- Joe McMahon,
McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds

New to McMahon for 2020

REDESDALE

Speightstown - Harpia, by Danzig | Fee: \$5,000 Live Foal

Also standing:

TEUFLESBERG

Johannesburg - St. Michele, by Devil's Bag
Fee: \$3,000 Live Foal

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NEW YORK THOROUGHBRED BREEDING & DEVELOPMENT FUND

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2019 LEADING SIRES IN NEW YORK



For daily updated sire lists
visit BloodHorse.com

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	FREUD (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York	\$7,500	127/54	3/3	2/3	(Munchkin Money, \$171,645)	\$3,292,697	*1308	51	1.51	1.23
2	BIG BROWN (05, Boundary), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$5,000	140/64	4/6	2/4	(Funny Guy, \$352,925)	\$3,249,966	*781	25	1.06	1.48
3	CENTRAL BANKER (10, Speightstown), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$7,500	79/42	2/4	2/2	(Newly Minted, \$362,100)	\$2,635,175	130	3	1.43	1.22
4	BELLAMY ROAD (02, Concerto), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$5,000	144/68	2/2	0/2	(Baseline, \$98,605)	\$2,427,523	*666	32	1.17	1.25
5	FROST GIANT (03, Giant's Causeway), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$2,500	101/43	4/5	4/4	(Kid Is Frosty, \$321,120)	\$2,142,557	*427	15	1.16	1.16
6	BUSTIN STONES (04, City Zip), Waldorf Farm	\$5,000	64/40	2/2	2/2	(Fair Regis, \$215,029)	\$2,081,507	207	9	1.32	1.33
7	MISSION IMPAZIBLE (07, Unbridled's Song), Sequel Stallions New York	\$7,500	97/45	2/2	1/2	(Espresso Shot, \$176,625)	\$2,016,391	206	6	1.19	1.11
8	COURAGEOUS CAT (06, Storm Cat), Questroyal North	\$2,500	96/43	2/2	2/2	(Carrera Cat, \$220,640)	\$1,710,300	212	7	0.95	1.10
9	DESERT PARTY (06, Street Cry), Irish Hill Century Farm	\$3,000	67/35	0/0	0/0	(Desert Poem, \$91,161)	\$1,433,975	240	6	0.95	1.33
10	FORTY TALES (10, Tale of the Cat), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	33/17	1/1	1/1	(Captain Bombastic, \$171,600)	\$792,044	*122	1	1.02	1.20
11	HONORABLE DILLON (10, Tapit), Rockridge Stud	\$4,000	53/22	0/0	0/0	(Honorable Hero, \$115,737)	\$788,592	93	0	0.61	1.11
12	TEUFLESBERG (04, Johannesburg), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	41/14	0/0	0/0	(Miss Mystique, \$75,508)	\$587,668	148	4	1.22	1.08
13	DISCO RICO (97, Citedancer)	Died	18/8	0/0	0/0	(Disco Partner, \$106,500)	\$514,568	268	12	1.40	1.19
14	SOARING EMPIRE (07, Empire Maker)	Died, 2018	28/13	0/0	0/0	(Ten Twenty Nine, \$77,721)	\$493,468	63	0	0.90	1.08
15	GIANT SURPRISE (09, Giant's Causeway), Rockridge Stud	\$3,500	30/11	0/0	0/0	(Jersey Fresh, \$53,532)	\$428,805	98	2	1.47	1.23
16	COSMONAUT (02, Lemon Drop Kid)	Pnsd	22/10	0/0	0/0	(Kreesie, \$120,611)	\$393,320	101	4	1.00	1.05
17	BANK HEIST (07, Maria's Mon)	N/A	24/7	0/0	0/0	(Won Dozen Banks, \$68,360)	\$356,475	75	1	0.86	1.29
18	HEAVY BREATHING (09, Giant's Causeway)	N/A	24/9	0/0	0/0	(San Juan Diego, \$67,450)	\$324,838	42	0	0.52	1.48
19	CATIENUS (94, Storm Cat)	Pnsd	17/8	0/0	0/0	(Moondance Joy, \$78,867)	\$213,223	*570	23	1.08	1.19
20	MIRACLE MAN (02, Yankee Victor)	Died, 2015	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Jc's Shooting Star, \$153,288)	\$199,956	11	1	2.12	1.57

2019 LEADING SIRES IN NEW JERSEY

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	HEY CHUB (00, Carson City), Joe-Dan Farm	\$1,000	25/14	0/0	0/0	(Izzadora Bella, \$118,530)	\$811,454	46	3	1.66	1.39
2	CABLE BOY (04, Jump Start)	Died, 2017	6/2	1/1	1/1	(Optic Way, \$205,713)	\$330,776	23	2	1.49	1.04
3	KING PUMA (06, Forest Wildcat), Sleeter Farm	Private	8/2	0/0	0/0	(Love Is Your Name, \$193,815)	\$322,747	26	0	1.00	1.46
4	IL POSTINO (06, Distorted Humor), Colonial Farms	\$1,000	9/5	0/0	0/0	(Irish Meadow, \$61,437)	\$304,951	16	0	1.06	0.81
5	DON SIX (00, Wild Escapade)	N/A	14/3	0/0	0/0	(Don's Escapade, \$60,650)	\$226,334	92	3	1.15	1.29

enok's daughter Nicole, and an Instagram account. And, naturally, there's an apparel line: T-shirts and sweatshirts sport the farm's logo, an image of a horse juxtaposed with an evergreen on a hill, evoking the geography of Old Tavern Farm, which overlooks Saratoga Lake, and, judging by the pictures posted on Borisenok's personal Instagram account, offers a spectacular

view of the sun setting over the lake.

But just as the autumn leaves were reaching peak color, set aflame by that setting sun, Borisenok wasn't at the farm to enjoy it. He was in Kentucky, hoping to sell a couple of yearlings at the Fasig-Tipton October yearling sale.

"This year has been...interesting," he said, his tone of voice suggesting that he

doesn't mean the "good" kind of interesting. "We had a couple of good years. Maybe too easy—this one is grinding."

The farm's first foals hit the market in 2017. The first one at auction, a Yes It's True filly out of Cabales (by Pulpit), sold at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July sale for \$155,000; a month later Borisenok sold a Central Banker filly from the Scatmandu mare Savasana for \$85,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale of New York-breds. Named Bank Examiner, he's won twice from four starts, his most recent victory at Belmont Park at the end of September.

In 2018 the farm sold a Ghostzapper colt out of Memento d'Oro (by Medaglia d'Oro) for \$240,000 at the Keeneland September yearling sale, the highest price to date for an Old Tavern Farm foal. That same sale saw a filly by Carpe Diem out of the Afleet Alex mare Taste's Classylady bring \$200,000, a price matched later in the year by a Malibu Moon filly out of Comme Chez Soi (by Empire Maker) at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale of New York-breds.

Overall that year Old Tavern Farm sent eight horses to auction; six sold for a total of \$713,500, an average of \$118,917.



Walt Borisenok, center, with Old Tavern Farm broodmare manager Trina Pasckvale, left, and farm director Greg Daley

2020 STALLIONS



NEW FOR 2020

Multiple GSW and WORLD RECORD HOLDER **DISCO PARTNER**

Disco Rico – Lulu's Number, by Numerous

- 11 Wins, 14 Placings, Earning \$1,487,560
- Won 2017 Jaipur Inv. S.-G3 – World Record, 6f Turf in 1:05.67
- Won Stakes From 5 1/2 furlongs to One Mile
- Placed in 2017 & 2018 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint-G1
- **\$5,000 LFSN**



NEW FOR 2020

Grade 1 SW by CANDY RIDE **LEOFRIC**

Candy Ride (ARG) - Lady Godiva, by Unbridled's Song

- 8 Wins, 4 Placings, From 14 Starts
- Career Earnings of \$951,040
- Won Churchill's G1 Clark H., Fayette S.-G2, etc.
- 3rd Woodward S.-G1, Only Beaten 2 Lengths
- **\$7,500 LFSN**



Grade 1 SW by FOREST WILDCAT **A SHIN FORWARD**

3rd All-Time Leading NY-Bred
\$3,500 LFSN



Multiple GSW by QUALITY ROAD **FRANK CONVERSATION**

Multiple Graded SW/G1-Placed
\$5,000 LFSN



Leading Sire by GIANT'S CAUSEWAY **GIANT SURPRISE**

Co-Leading New York Sire by 2YO Winners
\$4,000 LFSN



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2019 LEADING SIRES IN MARYLAND



For daily updated sire lists
visit BloodHorse.com

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	Cumulative			
								2019 Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	GREAT NOTION (00, Elusive Quality), Northview Stallion Station	\$5,000	89/47	3/7	3/3	(Anna's Bandit, \$356,830)	\$2,744,762	335	22	1.52	1.21
2	FRIESAN FIRE (06, A.P. Indy), Country Life Farm	\$4,000	92/47	3/5	1/3	(Call Paul, \$287,170)	\$2,387,364	225	6	1.21	1.26
3	NOT FOR LOVE (90, Mr. Prospector)	Died	47/33	1/2	0/1	(Clubman, \$187,952)	\$1,726,085	975	82	1.65	1.43
4	ORIENTATE (98, Mt. Livermore)	Pnsd	58/35	0/0	0/0	(The Great Provider, \$94,690)	\$1,336,893	*845	32	1.23	1.56
5	STREET MAGICIAN (04, Street Cry), Legacy Farm Stallions Standing at Roland Farm	\$3,000	57/24	1/1	0/1	(So Street, \$146,933)	\$1,318,888	137	4	1.12	1.28
6	FREEDOM CHILD (10, Malibu Moon), Country Life Farm	\$2,500	35/19	1/2	1/1	(Parisian Diva, \$180,235)	\$1,113,941	64	2	1.43	1.34
7	SEVILLE (GER) (08, Galileo)	Died	45/19	2/4	1/2	(Las Setas, \$224,640)	\$969,064	*146	2	0.58	1.27
8	SUPER NINETY NINE (10, Pulpit), Country Life Farm	\$3,000	39/18	0/0	0/0	(Wildcattin, \$94,381)	\$859,649	63	0	0.85	1.37
9	REDEEMED (08, Include), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,000	38/20	0/0	0/0	(Redeem My Heart, \$99,220)	\$834,904	93	0	1.03	1.06
10	DESPITE THE ODDS (06, Speightstown)	N/A	38/21	0/0	0/0	(Port Louis, \$69,306)	\$774,764	66	0	0.93	1.25
11	BANDBOX (08, Tapit), Northview Stallion Station	\$2,500	30/18	0/0	0/0	(Bunting, \$92,635)	\$744,247	57	1	1.11	1.25
12	PETIONVILLE (92, Seeking the Gold)	N/A	33/14	1/1	1/1	(Trace of Grace, \$158,180)	\$635,923	*752	42	1.26	1.27
13	OUTFLANKER (94, Danzig), Shamrock Farm	\$2,500	26/15	0/0	0/0	(Leap to Glory, \$89,576)	\$587,372	*567	21	1.33	1.12
14	TRITAP (09, Tapit)	Died, 2016	25/12	0/0	0/0	(Tappin Cat, \$93,337)	\$570,654	40	1	1.24	1.40
15	ETCHED (05, Forestry)	N/A	15/11	1/1	0/1	(My Sistersledge, \$114,102)	\$465,548	50	1	0.98	1.04

Easy game, right?

Not exactly, though 2019 has already seen two Old Tavern Farm yearlings bring six figures. A filly by Distorted Humor out of the Public Purse mare Celtic Princess went to Three Amigos for \$385,000 at the Keeneland September sale, where Bobfeld Bloodstock went to \$115,000 for a Kantharos filly out of It's Not Over (by Sky Mesa).

A Maclean's Music colt out of To the Moon Alice (by Malibu Moon) has twice failed to meet his reserve this year; he brought a final bid of \$72,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July yearling sale and \$24,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Oc-

tober sale. In Saratoga in August, bidders went to just \$42,000 for an Upstart colt out of the Birdstone mare Literary Lady, so he, too, went back to Borisenok.

"They're nice-looking horses," said Borisenok, "and Maclean's Music has had a little uptick. There's nothing wrong with them, and they all vet fine."

Such are the vagaries of the breeding business, particularly for a small operation. Old Tavern Farm breeds strictly to sell, and, until this year, Borisenok hasn't been in the position of having to take young horses back to race, something that is now a possibility.

"We've got three horses being broken

right now," he said. "Two will definitely go into a 2-year-old sale, and we might just keep the Distorted Humor filly."

The goal will be to bring 10 yearlings to the sale yearly and, in order to spread the risk, to pinhook four or five; Borisenok estimates that the farm needs 10–15 mares to build a sustainable business.

"We're trying to go to that upper market," he said. "We want to breed to Speightstown, to Ghostzapper, to Curlin. Those aren't \$7,500 stud fees, and we'd be carrying that expense for two and a half years."

Borisenok offsets his breeding risk by pinhooking; he bought the Yes It's True yearling filly for \$30,000 at the 2017 Keeneland January mixed sale in January and sold her six months later for five times the price.

"Once Walt figured out what he wanted to do, I gave him an outline of a program that I used for other clients," said Francis Vanlangendonck of Summerfield Sales. "We talked about what he needed to do to be successful, how many mares he needed to buy, how many weanlings and yearlings to sell. The breeding part of the operation helps the pinhooking, and the pinhooking helps the breeding. He liked the idea of diversifying his holdings."

"I wish I was smart enough to be 'the eye,'" said Borisenok ruefully. "I'm not



Old Tavern Farm occupies a scenic spot on the banks of Saratoga Lake

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 October 27, 2019. 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.

2019 LEADING SIRES IN PENNSYLVANIA



For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

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	JUMP START (99, A.P. Indy), Northview PA	Died, 2019	153/75	5/5	3/5	(Hey Mamaluke, \$176,819)	\$4,429,789	*1413	50	1.41	1.28
2	WARRIOR'S REWARD (06, Medaglia d'Oro), WynOaks Farm	\$4,500	203/99	2/3	1/2	(Night Ops, \$193,213)	\$3,671,786	*541	17	1.05	1.34
3	EL PADRINO (09, Pulpit)	Died, 2017	78/38	2/2	2/2	(Taco Supreme, \$196,627)	\$2,254,413	155	3	1.34	1.29
4	DUBLIN (07, Afleet Alex), Mohns Hill Farm	Private	60/34	2/2	1/2	(Celtic Chaos, \$133,050)	\$1,597,790	176	3	1.10	1.16
5	WEIGELIA (01, Safely's Mark), WynOaks Farm	\$3,500	49/26	0/0	0/0	(Chasing My Halo, \$115,622)	\$1,384,872	*131	7	1.47	1.02
6	FLASHBACK (10, Tapit), Diamond B Farm	\$3,500	80/30	1/1	0/1	(British Idiom, \$281,250)	\$1,234,328	163	1	0.76	1.26
7	SMARTY JONES (01, Elusive Quality), Equistar Training and Breeding	\$3,500	69/24	2/2	1/2	(Someday Jones, \$151,250)	\$1,103,421	*750	27	1.39	1.73
8	TALENT SEARCH (03, Catienus), Diamond B Farm	\$2,500	40/25	1/1	1/1	(I'm the Talent, \$135,190)	\$1,067,595	*159	3	1.03	1.20
9	UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN (07, Limehouse), Diamond B Farm	\$4,500	18/10	2/3	1/2	(Midnightcharly, \$229,088)	\$829,621	38	3	2.13	0.76
10	MAD FLATTER (05, Flatter)	Died, 2016	22/17	0/0	0/0	(Glowing Star, \$68,554)	\$644,223	48	0	0.95	1.30
11	CAL NATION (08, Distorted Humor), Kingfisher Lane Farm	\$2,500	28/16	1/1	1/1	(Ornatononparade, \$65,920)	\$576,621	49	1	1.00	1.17
12	MEDALLIST (01, Touch Gold), Northview PA	\$2,000	13/10	0/0	0/0	(Winning the Medal, \$108,498)	\$553,517	204	7	1.28	1.32
13	CROWN OF THORNS (05, Repent), Equistar Training and Breeding	\$2,000	27/12	1/1	1/1	(Crown and Sugar, \$116,490)	\$549,504	55	2	0.87	1.06
14	BULLSBAY (04, Tiznow), Northview PA	\$3,000	35/12	0/0	0/0	(Dancing Bull, \$60,460)	\$486,200	86	3	1.17	1.23
15	ALBERT THE GREAT (97, Go for Gin)	Pnsd	27/14	0/0	0/0	(Screen Saver, \$55,360)	\$455,710	*412	9	1.10	1.10

even close.”

Old Tavern Farm sits on the site of Palmer's Maple Shade Farm, which more than 100 years ago was a summer resort. To establish his farm, Borisenok bought discrete parcels of land to piece back together the old property. To his regret, he had to take down the old tavern for which he named the farm.

“We couldn't save it, except for two pillars,” he said. “We took them and put them inside the lobby at the entrance of the barn.”

Three decades ago Borisenok and his partners founded Fortitech, a company that creates combinations of vitamins, minerals, and other ingredients to increase the nutritional content of food and beverages. He was in his 20s, working at the Beech-Nut plant near Saratoga Springs, and couldn't find the nutrients he wanted for the baby food; unable to

find a company that suited his business needs, he created one, eventually selling it for \$600 million.

He partnered with his friend Tom Mina on some racehorses, running in the name of Twin Farms, and before too long Mina asked if he wanted to take the next step into breeding.

“He mentored me,” said Borisenok. “I didn't know too much about it. We bought a couple of mares. I spent time at his farm, and I really enjoyed it and said, ‘I think we're going to build our own farm.’”

Three years after establishing Old Tavern Farm, Borisenok is considering buying more property to expand his breeding operation.

“I feel like I can be more hands-on with breeding than I can with racing,” he said. “There's less control in racing.”

He spends a good part of his time at the farm, controlling costs by keeping his

team small and chipping in to help where he can, including, he says, fertilizing pastures.

With broodmare manager Trina Pasckvale, farm director Greg Daley, and consignors Francis and Barbara Vanlangendonck of Summerfield Sales, Borisenok is involved with every stage of the process, from selecting sires to deciding which sales to go to, bringing the acumen from his life as a businessman to his breeding decisions.

“I look at pedigree, but the way I see it, the reality in this market is, ‘What's hot?’” he said. “We have relatively young mares without a real track record, so for the most part, we try to go with more established sires, looking at what the market is keying on.”

In 2017 Borisenok bred Memento d'Oro to Bodemeister, rejoicing when, a month later, the stallion's son Always Dreaming won the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1).

“We thought we were the smartest breeders in the world,” he said. “Unfortunately now he's off to Turkey.”

By the time the filly got to the sales, the luster of Always Dreaming's big win had faded, and though she vetted perfectly and had a strong physical, she “didn't even get a look.” Borisenok will try again with her at next year's 2-year-old sales.

All Old Tavern Farm foals are registered New York-breds, and while Borisenok's eye on the market leads to his breeding primarily to Kentucky stallions, he did take a shot for Savasana with Central Banker, who stands at McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds, in the graded stakes



Interior of the main barn at Old Tavern Farm

2019 LEADING SIRES IN WEST VIRGINIA

For daily updated sire lists
visit BloodHorse.com

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	A-E	Comp
1	FIBER SONDE (05, Unbridled's Song), Beau Ridge Farm	\$1,000	92/58	4/7	2/4	(Runnin'toluvya, \$621,660)	\$3,293,791	242	12	1.33	0.79
2	WINDSOR CASTLE (98, Lord Carson), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$2,000	87/56	3/3	3/3	(Castle Bound, \$148,325)	\$1,923,565	362	15	1.00	1.01
3	LIMEHOUSE (01, Grand Slam), O'Sullivan Farms	\$2,500	77/37	0/0	0/0	(Lymebyrd, \$104,192)	\$1,209,620	*461	23	1.14	1.13
4	CHARITABLE MAN (06, Lemon Drop Kid)	Died, 2016	74/34	0/0	0/0	(Hero's Man, \$68,454)	\$985,662	189	2	0.85	1.04
5	EXCLUSIVE QUALITY (03, Elusive Quality), Pellinor Lane	Died, 2019	58/28	0/0	0/0	(Trev, \$60,940)	\$881,539	345	7	0.90	1.06
6	MACHEN (08, Distorted Humor)	N/A	32/18	0/0	0/0	(Shy Guy, \$48,860)	\$537,006	69	0	0.60	0.69
7	DENIS OF CORK (05, Harlan's Holiday), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$750	36/14	0/0	0/0	(B's Wild Cork, \$62,590)	\$523,948	*130	5	0.71	1.03
8	SWISS YODELER (94, Eastern Echo), O'Sullivan Farms LLC	\$2,000	31/16	0/0	0/0	(Alpine Moon, \$53,781)	\$360,782	785	15	0.97	1.02
9	OUR ENTOURAGE (09, Street Cry), O'Sullivan Farms LLC	\$1,250	12/7	0/0	0/0	(Chiefs Kingdom, \$72,611)	\$259,457	25	0	0.84	0.64
10	GATTOPARDO (05, Johannesburg), O'Sullivan Farms LLC	\$1,500	10/6	0/0	0/0	(Opera Nite, \$94,392)	\$248,780	28	1	1.14	0.75

2019 LEADING SIRES IN VIRGINIA

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	A-E	Comp
1	MR. SIDNEY (04, Storm Cat), Mountain View Equine Hospital, Breeding Div.	\$2,000	34/18	0/0	0/0	(Mr French, \$76,700)	\$650,336	127	1	1.08	1.67
2	FRIEND OR FOE (07, Friends Lake), Smallwood Farm	\$1,000	8/5	1/4	0/1	(Mr Buff, \$392,000)	\$477,257	19	1	2.25	1.59
3	REBELLION (GB) (03, Mozart)	N/A	9/4	0/0	0/0	(Blurrricane, \$56,848)	\$171,290	*54	2	1.19	1.21
4	COSA VERA (05, Dynaformer), North Cliff Farms	\$2,500	9/1	0/0	0/0	(Accountable, \$70,550)	\$117,900	37	0	0.60	1.31

winner's first season at stud.

"She sold for \$85,000," he said. "Not bad for a \$7,500 stud fee."

"The New York Breeding and Development Fund is an outstanding program," he continued. "It's really driven the New York-bred market. Go to the preferred sale in Saratoga, and you can see the numbers. You can go anywhere with a New York-bred now."

The horses aren't the only New York-breds on the property; sharing space on the farm with the mares and young horses are grapes that the Borisenoks bought in Washington State. From the 1,300 vines they planted, they've sold about six thou-

sand bottles of wine. Like the breeding business, wine-making is a long game, and not one that can easily be corrected if something goes wrong.

"It's not like we can just make another batch," Borisenok said. "It takes a while, and you have to grow the business incrementally. To be perfectly honest, it's doing better than I thought it would."

The labels include images of horses, chickens, and flowers, themed around the life of the farm; the cabernet sauvignon is called Big Barn, the chardonnay Hen & Hay. The wine is available in stores in and around Saratoga and by mail order.

Also available online is the store's

branded apparel, a direct result of the farm's participation in Foal Patrol.

"It's amazing how many people followed Memento d'Oro on the camera," marveled Borisenok. "That led to farm tours, and when people saw our crew wearing clothes with the Old Tavern Farm logo, they started asking if they could buy it."

He added, "I have to give the Museum and (president) John Hendrickson a lot of credit. Foal Patrol gives people an inside look at how horses are really taken care of, and people follow that haven't necessarily been racing fans. It's a great program, especially now with some of the press that's not as favorable as it could be."

Even as Borisenok adjusts to the "We plan; God laughs" element of breeding race horses, adjusting the sales schedule when a young horse gets hurt or doesn't get the attention he thinks it deserves, he nonetheless revels in what he's built, and continues to build, on the eastern shores of Saratoga Lake.

"I like the farming part of this," he said. "It's fascinating when a foal is born. This thing that literally drops out of a horse weighs 125 pounds and stands up in less than 30 minutes, and then after another half hour, it's running around the stall."

"My God, every time you see it, you have to shake your head. It's just incredible." **BH**

Teresa Genaro is a freelance writer based in New York.



Two pillars from the original old tavern are inside the lobby entrance of the new barn

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