

SOUTHEAST

ALABAMA FLORIDA GEORGIA MISSISSIPPI
NORTH CAROLINA SOUTH CAROLINA TENNESSEE

John and Leslie Malone are committed to preserving and protecting land, such as Bridlewood Farm near Ocala, Fla., for future generations



Well Grounded

**STEWARDSHIP THE PASSION THAT FUELS
JOHN AND LESLIE MALONE**

by CYNTHIA McFARLAND

T HE PURCHASE OF LAND TO maintain it for agricultural use and, specifically, to protect it from the developer's bulldozer is a rarity. Yet that is precisely the thinking of John and Leslie Malone, recipients of the 2021 Robert N. Clay Conservation Award.

The Malones were honored with the award in September during the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association National Awards Dinner at Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa near Paris, Ky. Established in 2014, the Robert N. Clay Conservation Award is

ALL SIRES LISTS ARE THROUGH NOVEMBER 2021

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Tunwoo-Resilient Humor 20
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2021 LEADING SIRES IN ALABAMA

For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2021 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2021 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Mosquito (08, Yes It's True)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Foolish Steve, \$29,590)	\$31,870	3	0	0.99	0.27
2	He's So Chic (04, Jump Start)	Died, 2018	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Pintlala, \$14,780)	\$18,206	7	0	0.10	0.37
3	Indy (01, A.P. Indy)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Gotta A. P. B., \$10,970)	\$10,970	21	0	0.57	1.55



Bridlewood is one of many Ocala-area farms located in the Farmland Preservation Area as designated by the Marion County (Fla.) Commission

a partnership between TOBA and the Equine Land Conservation Resource, emphasizing the importance of land conservation to the Thoroughbred community.

The largest private landowner in the United States, John Malone is a prominent philanthropist who has donated many millions of dollars to educational pursuits. He is the founder of the Malone Family Land Preservation Foundation and a board member of The Nature Conservancy, one of the country's largest land-conservation nonprofits.

In 2013 the Malones' \$14 million

purchase of the historic Bridlewood Farm in Ocala, Fla., marked their first major venture into the Thoroughbred world. While the initial purchase of Bridlewood was for 800 acres, their holdings now include some 2,200 acres with the original Bridlewood acreage at the heart of the property.

"Anytime Mr. Malone buys a property he really likes, when land contiguous to it becomes available, he likes to buy it," said George Isaacs, general manager of Bridlewood, who accepted the Robert N. Clay Conservation Award on behalf of the Malones at the TOBA event.

As owners of well over two million acres in the U.S., the Malones have the bulk of their holdings in Maine, Florida, Maryland, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Nebraska. Much of their land in Maine is devoted to a sustainable timber operation with an ecologically minded footprint. Working cattle operations in several states also are part of the Malones' land and business ventures. Silver Spur Operating Co., their ranch headquarters, is located in Saratoga, Wyo.

"Mr. Malone is a conservationist who wants to preserve and protect land for future generations. He is a capitalist at

LOUISE E. REINAGEL

VALLANT MINISTER

#1 FLORIDA Freshman Sire
FIRST CROP WINNER OUTFOXED
SUSAN'S GIRL STAKES
MY DEAR GIRL STAKES

OBS SPRING TWO YEAR OLD's
\$360,000, \$350,000,
\$100,000, etc.

By **CANDY RIDE** (Arg), out of a
DEPUTY MINISTER mare

\$680,000 OBS two year old
:09.45 breeze

\$5,000 LIVE FOAL (S&N)

photo: Ryan Thompson

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2021 LEADING SIRES IN FLORIDA



For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2021 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2021 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Khozan (12, Distorted Humor), Journeyman Stallions	\$10,000	112/67	2/2	1/2	(Background, \$208,536)	\$2,959,458	*160	8	1.52	1.32
2	Brethren (08, Distorted Humor), Arindel Farm	\$7,500	101/50	2/3	1/2	(Octane, \$410,000)	\$2,685,090	205	7	1.26	1.46
3	First Dude (07, Stephen Got Even), Double Diamond Farm	\$7,500	98/56	1/1	1/1	(Ready to Runaway, \$115,880)	\$2,067,863	429	13	1.13	1.16
4	Treasure Beach (GB) (08, Galileo), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$4,000	106/48	1/1	0/1	(Imperador, \$421,585)	\$2,024,611	*615	4	1.03	1.37
5	Adios Charlie (08, Indian Charlie), Ocala Stud	\$4,000	75/47	3/4	1/3	(R Adios Jersey, \$347,700)	\$1,915,374	255	10	1.39	1.15
6	The Big Beast (11, Yes It's True), Ocala Stud	\$4,000	67/39	2/2	0/2	(Livingmybestlife, \$147,720)	\$1,730,834	123	4	1.13	1.21
7	Gone Astray (06, Dixie Union), Northwest Stud	\$4,500	97/46	2/3	1/2	(Shifty She, \$124,195)	\$1,719,910	*331	10	0.92	1.08
8	Jess's Dream (12, Curlin), Ocala Stud	\$4,000	64/24	2/2	0/2	(Chess's Dream, \$124,455)	\$1,196,050	*125	2	0.76	1.48
9	Big Drama (06, Montbrook), Stormborne Stallions	\$5,000	62/28	0/0	0/0	(Drama Chorus, \$85,920)	\$1,003,677	276	4	0.88	1.20
10	Handsome Mike (09, Scat Daddy), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$4,000	67/25	0/0	0/0	(Here Comes Jackie, \$78,110)	\$1,002,311	134	0	0.80	0.80
11	Awesome of Course (00, Awesome Again), Ocala Stud	\$2,000	44/24	0/0	0/0	(Awesome Annmarie, \$76,580)	\$966,036	*273	12	1.26	1.25
12	Field Commission (05, Service Stripe), Solera Farm	Died, 2020	62/28	0/0	0/0	(Before You, \$77,755)	\$936,532	181	2	0.79	0.96
13	Songandaprayer (98, Unbridled's Song)	Pnsd	69/24	1/1	1/1	(Classy John, \$110,360)	\$930,799	*1064	37	1.05	1.35
14	Cajun Breeze (08, Congrats), Stonehedge Farm South	Private	40/19	2/2	2/2	(Cajun's Magic, \$232,900)	\$921,827	60	5	1.49	1.32
15	Bahamian Squall (09, Gone West), Double Diamond Farm	\$3,000	42/21	1/1	0/1	(Running Memories, \$128,475)	\$792,300	70	1	0.79	0.87

heart who believes in owning things that are sustainable,” Isaacs said. “He’s not a developer. He has never sold an acre of the land he’s bought.”

REFURBISHING THE FARM

Bridlewood had already had five decades as a successful operation when purchased by the Malones, who retained the name of the farm started by the late Arthur Appleton. The Malones have set out to reinvigorate and reenergize the property, which has seen more than 100 stakes winners born or raised, while keeping management in place.

Under Isaacs’ direction, this process has included restoring structures, reinvigorating the stallion operation, improving the training facility, and cultivating boarding and sales clients.

A major part of Bridlewood’s sustainability comes through having a public training center, which underwent a serious upgrade after the Malones took ownership. Existing barns were given a total refresh, and two new training barns were built—providing a total of 188 training stalls. The training center also features round pens, Eurocisers, an equine underwater treadmill, equine cold saltwater spa, and a natural pond swimming facility.

The existing seven-furlong dirt track was completely refurbished, a new five-furlong turf course was built, and a five-furlong Tapeta Footings synthetic surface uphill gallop was added to provide more conditioning options for horses.



Since purchasing Bridlewood in 2013, the Malones have committed to upgrading the property

Building a stellar broodmare band also has been part of the plan since 2015. Currently numbering close to 40 mares, the group includes numerous sisters of champions and grade 1 producers. Perhaps leading that group is 2020 Broodmare of the Year Drumette, dam of twice champion and two-time Longines Breeders’ Cup Distaff (G1) winner Monomoy Girl. Drumette has also produced grade 2 winner Mr. Monomoy.

“Bridlewood has a long history of sustainability, and I think that is what drew the Malones to the farm. The Thoroughbred industry is challenging, so that’s never an easy task, but it’s al-

ways the goal. They wanted to refurbish the farm and make it self-sustaining,” noted Isaacs, a Kentucky native who has worked in the Thoroughbred industry his entire career.

Bridlewood is one of many Ocala farms that lie within the 192,880 acres designated as Farmland Preservation Area by the Marion County (Fla.) Commission. Supporting the FPA is Horse Farms Forever, a local rural land conservation organization founded in 2018. The group’s formation was spurred by the Florida Department of Transportation’s proposed plan to put a toll road through the heart of Marion County’s horse country. A boisterous

LOUISE E. REINAGEL

RING the BELL

with an Ocala Stud stallion

Adios Charlie | \$4,000

Indian Charlie - Teak Totem, by Northern Afleet

Ami's Flatter | \$2,500

Flatter - Galloping Ami, by Victory Gallop

Awesome Slew | \$4,000

Awesome Again - Slewfoundmoney, by Seeking the Gold

Battalion Runner | \$1,500

Unbridled's Song - Tamboz, by Tapit

Dak Attack | \$2,500

Ghostzapper - Indian Spell, by Indian Charlie

Girvin | \$6,000

Tale of Ekati - Catch the Moon, by Malibu Moon

Greenpointcrusader | \$3,500

Bernardini - Ava Knowsthecode, by Cryptoclearance

Jess's Dream | \$4,000

Curlin - Rachel Alexandra, by Medaglia d'Oro

Noble Bird | \$4,000

Birdstone - Anyhow, by Tiznow

Seeking the Soul | \$5,000

Perfect Soul (IRE) - Seeking the Title, by Seeking the Gold

The Big Beast | \$4,000

Yes It's True - V V S Flawless, by Deputy Minister

Win Win Win | \$5,000

Hat Trick (JPN) - Miss Smarty Pants, by Smarty Jones

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Inquiries to David O'Farrell: david@ocalastud.com
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2021 LEADING SIRES IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2021 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	BT SWnrs/Wns	Rstrct SW/BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2021 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Sits Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Done Talking (09, Broken Vow), Ellore Training Center	\$1,500	14/7	0/0	0/0	(Dixie Drawl, \$101,815)	\$357,618	33	0	1.27	0.78
2	Wicked Rich (06, Yes It's True)	N/A	5/5	0/0	0/0	(Jersey Jewel, \$60,606)	\$179,670	22	0	0.82	1.32
3	Straight Talking (06, Dixieland Band)	N/A	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Peculiarity, \$22,440)	\$62,901	29	0	0.83	0.93
4	Hugo (05, Stormy Atlantic)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Classy But Sassy, \$20,612)	\$20,612	10	0	0.45	0.62
5	East of Easy (95, Trempolino)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Easy's Final Rose, \$13,916)	\$13,916	32	0	0.78	0.92

outcry from area farm owners opposed to the proposal helped table that plan.

“With the population explosion in Marion County, the toll road proposal ignited a fire for people to be more conservation-minded about land in general,” said Isaacs, who serves on the board of Horses Farms Forever. “I have never witnessed in all my years here a single issue that drew the entire community together so quickly to eliminate a potentially devastating threat that would have destroyed the beauty and economic value of many of our farms.”

John Malone was the keynote speaker of Horse Farms Forever’s Conservation Summit at Ocala Breeders’ Sales Company in November. Malone shared his views on the role of land conservation as it pertains to the exponential growth occurring in Marion County.

BEYOND BRIDLEWOOD

Leslie Malone is a lifelong horse lover, high-level dressage rider, and strong advocate for the sport. Her dressage farm, Harmony Sporthorses, is located in Colorado, southeast of Denver and not far from the Malones’ main residence. A major supporter of the U.S. Olympic Dressage team, Leslie Malone heads a dressage team that competes in Wellington, Fla., each winter.

In 2007 the Malones purchased Riveredge, a 600-plus acre property in Chesapeake City, Md., that previously had been a Thoroughbred breeding farm. The property was slated for development until the Malones bought it and protected the land with a 532-acre conservation easement. Riveredge now functions as a top sport horse and dressage operation. In keeping with Leslie’s passion for dressage, the Malones purchased a 123-acre farm in Wellington’s Equestrian Preserve just prior to



“MR. MALONE IS A CONSERVATIONIST WHO WANTS TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT LAND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.”

— GEORGE ISAACS

purchasing Bridlewood.

Bridlewood Farm might have been the first, but it’s not the only Thoroughbred operation for the Malones. Not long after they had purchased Bridlewood, the Malones bought two historic Thoroughbred farms in Ireland: Ballylinch Stud and Castlemartin.

Ballylinch Stud is a prominent Thoroughbred breeding operation in County Kilkenny that has been artfully managed for the past 30 years by John O’Connor.

“From a land perspective, what makes Ballylinch so remarkable is that it is 1,000 acres with the River Nore

running through the farm. It’s absolutely breathtaking. One of the special elements is that there is lime rock under the soil, just as at Bridlewood,” Isaacs said. “Ballylinch is in probably the most prolific area for raising horses in all of Ireland. There’s a reason that farm has raised so many good horses, including three Breeders’ Cup winners.

“One thousand acres sounds like a lot, but in Ireland one of their approaches is taking care of the land often better than we do here in the U.S.” he added. “They rotate cattle and sheep in the pastures, rotating sheep in for ‘clean up.’ Sometimes they even have cattle in the pastures with horses.”

At the same time they were looking at Ballylinch, John Malone was researching another potential Emerald Isle purchase, which also came to fruition.

Castlemartin in County Kildare is another historic property with a river running through the farm. Formerly owned by former rugby star Tony O’Reilly, the now 750-acre property was home to many group 1 winners, thanks to the breeding program of Chryss Goulandris (Lady O’Reilly). Since their purchase of the farm, the Malones have invested in significant upgrades, and Castlemartin now operates as a sister or satellite farm to Ballylinch.

The Malones bought both Irish farms in late 2014.

“The common thread with any purchase the Malones make is to buy property that has had a historical path of success with the land being a great producer and well managed,” said Isaacs. “There is a common interwoven philosophy that binds together the properties they own—stewardship, commitment, and perpetuity for the land, animals, and people.” **BH**



*“Begin with the
end goal
in mind.”* – Steven Covey

The first step to breeding success
starts with choosing the best stallion.

AMIRA'S PRINCE

Teofilo (IRE) / Twice The Ease (GB), By Green Desert

BELLAVIA

Honor Code / Glacken's Gal, by Smoke Glacken

BREAKING LUCKY

Lookin at Lucky / Shooting Party, by Sky Classic

BUCCHERO

Kantharos / Meetmeontime, By General Meeting

CURLIN'S HONOR

Curlin / Franscat, by Stormin Fever

GONE ASTRAY

Dixie Union / Illicit, by Mr. Prospector

GUNNEVERA

Dialed In / Unbridled Rage, by Unbridled

HANDSOME MIKE

Scat Daddy / Classic Strike, By Smart Strike

LEINSTER

Majestic Warrior / Vassar, by Royal Academy

LONG ON VALUE

Value Plus / Long Message, By Orientate

NEOLITHIC

Harlan's Holiday / Swingit, By Victory Gallop

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