

SOUTHEAST

ALABAMA FLORIDA GEORGIA MISSISSIPPI
NORTH CAROLINA SOUTH CAROLINA TENNESSEE

Still Shining

**PLEASANT ACRES
BELIEVES IN FLORIDA
AND IN ITS DEEP
STALLION ROSTER**

By CYNTHIA McFARLAND

FROM THE EARLIEST DAYS, experience and attention to detail established Joe and Helen Barbazon when they launched Pleasant Acres in the early 1980s.

Joe's experience as a trainer and Helen's expertise with show and racehorses made them a formidable team. Their hands-on focus enabled the farm to expand and flourish in Ocala's horse country even as other operations have folded or diminished over time.

From their original 10-acre farm, the Barbazons continued to invest in and grow their operation, purchasing additional property. In 2001, they moved west of Ocala to their current 400-acre location in the community of

ALL SIRES LISTS ARE THROUGH NOV. 2022

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This year Pleasant Acres adds a grade 2-winning son of Tapit, Magic On Tap, to its stallion roster

COURTESY OF PLEASANT ACRES STALLIONS



BREEDING • BOARDING • MARE CARE



Our Horses Come First

AMIRA'S PRINCE

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

GUNNEVERA

Dialed In / Unbridled Rage, by Unbridled

MAGIC ON TAP

Tapit / Aubby K, by Street Sense

BUCCHERO

Kantharos / Meetmeontime, by General Meeting

JAFMIL

Distorted Humor / Pleasant Temper, by Storm Cat

NEOLITHIC

Harlan's Holiday / Swingit, by Victory Gallop

CURLIN'S HONOR

Curlin / Franscat, by Stormin Fever

LEINSTER

Majestic Warrior / Vassar, by Royal Academy

NO NEVER NO MORE

Scat Daddy / Whosetheclownnow, by Tiznow

GONE ASTRAY

Dixie Union / Illicit, by Mr. Prospector

LONG ON VALUE

Value Plus / Long Message, by Orientate

SWEETONTHELADIES

Twirling Candy / Whataclassybroad, by Yankee Gentleman

PLEASANT ACRES STALLIONS

Joe and Helen Barbazon

2153 Southeast Highway 41 • Morriston, Florida 32668 • Office 352.528.2885 • Syndicate Manager Joe Barbazon 352.207.0449
Inquiries to: Helen Barbazon 352.207.0286 • Christine Jones 352.804.6618 • christine@pleasantacresstallions.com

Photos by Tandra Downs

www.PleasantAcresStallions.com

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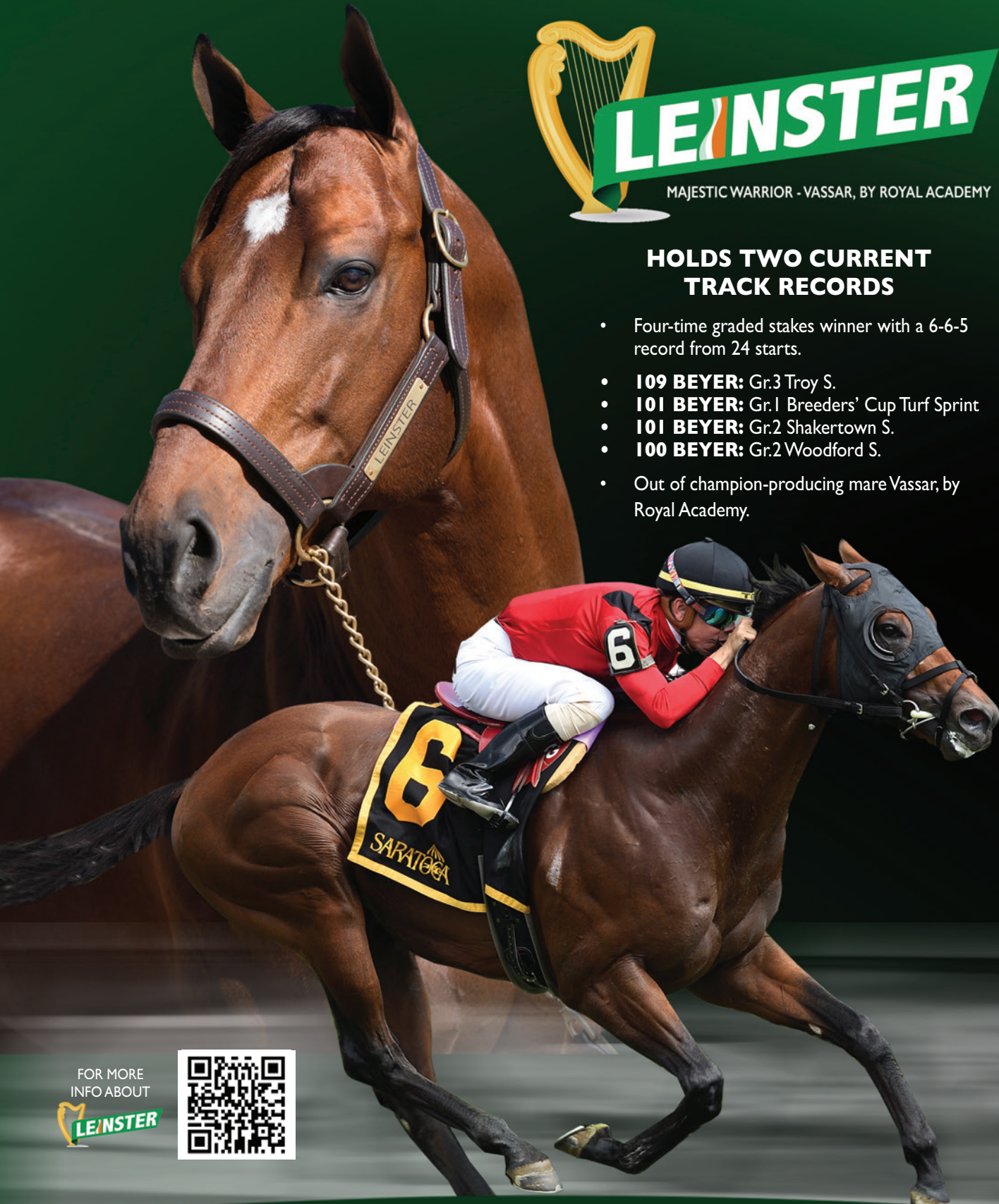


LEINSTER

MAJESTIC WARRIOR - VASSAR, BY ROYAL ACADEMY

HOLDS TWO CURRENT TRACK RECORDS

- Four-time graded stakes winner with a 6-6-5 record from 24 starts.
- **109 BEYER:** Gr.3 Troy S.
- **101 BEYER:** Gr.1 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint
- **101 BEYER:** Gr.2 Shakertown S.
- **100 BEYER:** Gr.2 Woodford S.
- Out of champion-producing mare Vassar, by Royal Academy.



FOR MORE
INFO ABOUT



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Headshot by Louise Reinagel

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MAGIC ON TAP

TAPIT / AUBBY K, BY STREET SENSE

- **WON** Gr.2 Triple Bend Stakes at Santa Anita Park, beating GIW Eight Rings in a two-length victory.
- **Purchased in utero for \$2.5 million** by Jane Lyon's Summer Wind Equine.
- **Son by Tapit** – America's most dominant sire of his time.
- **Impressive female line** of accomplished racehorses.
1st Dam – GIW, GSW, MGSP
2nd Dam – GSW, BTW, MSW
3rd Dam – GSW, MSW

FOR MORE
INFO ABOUT

MAGIC
ON
TAP



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2022 LEADING SIRES IN ALABAMA

For daily updated sires lists visit BloodHorse

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2022 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2022 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, \$27,000)	\$27,316	3	0	0.99	0.27
2	He's So Chic (04, Jump Start)	Died, 2018	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Pintala, \$13,610)	\$18,090	7	0	0.15	0.35
3	Indy (01, A.P. Indy)	N/A	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Bobby Jr., \$12,600)	\$12,990	22	0	0.54	1.55

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals



Joe and Helen Barbazon, here with stallion Bucchero, believe in the importance of building relationships

Morrison where the larger facility could accommodate their expanding horse population.

Among the best horses bred by the Barbazons is Presious Passion, the horse who put them on the map. A multiple grade 1 winner and runner-up in the 2009 Emirates Airline Breeders' Cup Turf (G1T), Presious Passion raced for eight years and retired with earnings of \$2,694,599. The gelding was Florida's champion turf male and older male in 2009, and 2009 Florida Horse of the Year.

Presious Passion has a home for life at Pleasant Acres. A favorite of visitors, he was the inspiration for the Florida Parade of Retired Equine Champions for

charity, which is the Barbazons' way of giving back to the industry.

In 2009 the Florida Thoroughbred Owners' and Breeders' Association honored Joe and Helen Barbazon as Florida's breeder of the year and in 2008 with the Needles Award, which recognizes small breeding operations.

BRANCHING OUT

In October 2013 the Barbazons launched Pleasant Acres Stallions, which has become one of the state's largest stallion stations.

At the heart of the farm, near the main office, is the stallion complex centered around the stud barn and generous paddock space. For the 2023 season,

12 stallions fill the roster:

- Amira's Prince [Ire] (Teofilo—Twice The Ease, by Green Desert)
- 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)
- Jafmil (Distorted Humor—Pleasant Temper, by Storm Cat)
- Leinster (Majestic Warrior—Vassar, by Royal Academy)
- Long On Value (Value Plus—Long Message, by Orientate)
- Magic On Tap (Tapit—Aubby K, by

JOE DIORIO

CURLIN'S HONOR

BY CURLIN - FRANSCAT, BY STORMIN FEVER

- **On the board** 12 out of 17 starts.
- **Versatile: Short / Long / Turf / Dirt / All Weather**
- Out of Stormin' Fever mare, Franscat – dam of **9 winners from 9 foals** including three BTW and GBPW.
- By **Curlin** – 2X Horse of the Year and the **2021 leading sire of GISWs** – currently standing for \$225,000 in Kentucky.

THE FASTEST SON OF CURLIN
**Multiple Triple
Digit Beyer SPEED**

FOR MORE
INFO ABOUT
CURLIN'S HONOR



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STALLIONS

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Photos by Louise Reinagel and Chelsea Durand

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2022 LEADING SIRES IN FLORIDA

For daily updated sires lists visit [BloodHorse](#)

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2022 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2022 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Khozan (12, Distorted Humor), Journeyman Stallions	\$8,500	145/74	3/4	1/3	(Hot Peppers, \$381,500)	\$4,115,557	*234	10	1.29	1.23
2	Brethren (08, Distorted Humor), Arindell Farm	\$4,000	108/64	5/6	4/5	(Lynx, \$303,000)	\$2,915,724	250	11	1.19	1.43
3	Jess's Dream (12, Curlin), Ocala Stud	\$4,000	92/50	0/0	0/0	(W W Crazy, \$94,868)	\$2,221,972	*164	3	0.83	1.38
4	First Dude (07, Stephen Got Even), Double Diamond Farm	\$7,500	91/50	1/1	1/1	(Maryquitecontrary, \$144,830)	\$2,116,945	472	14	1.09	1.13
5	Social Inclusion (11, Pioneer of the Nile), Briardale Farm	Private	45/28	3/6	2/3	(Flor de Sombra, \$320,000)	\$1,808,611	79	3	1.00	1.02
6	Gone Astray (06, Dixie Union), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$2,500	78/45	1/1	1/1	(World Gone Wild, \$152,005)	\$1,787,615	*341	10	0.91	1.04
7	Cajun Breeze (08, Congrats), Stonehedge Farm South	\$5,000	54/33	0/0	0/0	(Dean Delivers, \$147,000)	\$1,532,423	91	5	1.27	1.26
8	Adios Charlie (08, Indian Charlie), Ocala Stud	\$4,000	80/41	1/1	0/1	(You're Killin Me, \$78,780)	\$1,428,892	311	11	1.26	1.13
9	Field Commission (05, Service Stripe)	Died, 2020	48/24	1/3	0/1	(Drafted, \$321,000)	\$1,330,432	189	2	0.82	0.95
10	Big Drama (06, Montbrook)	Died, 2021	54/31	1/1	1/1	(Drama Chorus, \$110,395)	\$1,147,212	287	5	0.86	1.17
11	Bahamian Squall (09, Gone West), Double Diamond Farm	\$3,000	46/24	1/2	0/1	(Spirit Wind, \$189,010)	\$1,141,910	85	2	0.80	0.82
12	Awesome Slew (13, Awesome Again), Ocala Stud	\$4,000	19/10	1/3	1/1	(Awesome Strong, \$458,000)	\$903,529	36	1	1.65	1.53
13	Noble Bird (11, Birdstone), Ocala Stud	\$4,000	39/19	2/2	1/2	(King Cab, \$133,687)	\$856,219	65	2	0.73	1.20
14	Awesome of Course (00, Awesome Again), Ocala Stud	\$2,000	36/18	0/0	0/0	(Awesome Indra, \$119,810)	\$853,245	*279	12	1.24	1.23
15	Neolithic (13, Harlan's Holiday), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$5,000	35/19	0/0	0/0	(Poiema, \$108,455)	\$825,385	62	2	1.09	0.85

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals

Street Sense)

- Neolithic (Harlan's Holiday—Swing-it, by Victory Gallop)
- No Never No More (Scat Daddy—Whostheclownnow, by Tiznow)
- Sweetontheladies (Twirling Candy—Whataclassybroad, by Yankee Gentleman)

The roster includes both young sires and those with horses already running.

Statistics through Nov. 14 for Pleasant Acres stallions represented by runners reveal Amira's Prince has 25 starters and 13 winners—including two stakes winners and one stakes-placed, with nearly \$1.1 million in progeny earnings.

First-crop sire Bucchero boasts eight winners from his first 22 starters, including three stakes-placed horses.

Veteran Gone Astray is the sire of 194 winners, including Brazilian champion and group 1 winner Gaivina and Venezuelan champion Pregonera among his 11 black-type winners.

From just two starters, first-crop sire Long On Value—a grade 1 winner—already boasts a two-time winner in My Billeeboy.

With progeny earnings of nearly \$800,000 through Nov. 17, Neolithic was on pace to finish as a top 30 second-crop sire in 2022 and the top-ranked Florida-based second-crop sire.

First-crop sire No Never No More was represented by his first winner in June 2022.

"This business is very relationship-oriented. At least five of the stallions who are here now were all referrals,"



Pleasant Acres is home to more than 200 resident horses, including stallions and boarders, and foals more than 100 mares a year

said Pleasant Acres director of stallion services Christine Jones.

Among the new stallions for 2023 is Magic On Tap, a son of Tapit who won the 2021 Triple Bend Stakes (G2) at Santa Anita Park. Magic On Tap was a homebred for Jane Lyon's Summer Wind Farm, which purchased his dam, Aubby K, by Street Sense, while she was carrying Magic On Tap at the 2015 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky fall mixed sale.

Summer Wind Equine has owned and bred numerous top-caliber horses, including 2022 Longines Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner, Flightline. Lyon retains partial ownership of Magic On Tap and plans to support the young stallion

as his breeding career launches.

Besides the stallion operation, Pleasant Acres operates a boarding farm that offers mare/foal/weanling/yearling care, sales preparation, and layups. In addition to seasonal and permanent boarding, many owners ship their mares in during breeding season for foaling services.

The farm includes a total of eight barns. Large pastures offer abundant grazing with gently rolling land and mature live oaks.

Owners appreciate that their horses are groomed and handled daily. The Barbazons make a point of feeding each horse individually—never in a group

JOE DIORIO

GUNNEVERA

DIALED IN – UNBRIDLED RAGE, BY UNBRIDLED

HIGHEST EARNER TO
EVER STAND IN FLORIDA
\$5,561,800

- Averaged **\$264,848** per start.
- Hit the board in **six Gr. I** events.
- Victorious in three starts at two – including the **Gr. 2 Saratoga Special Stakes** and the **\$1 million Gr. 3 Delta Downs Jackpot Stakes**.
- At three, captured the **Gr. 2 Xpressbet Fountain of Youth Stakes** and finished 3rd in the **Gr. I Florida Derby**. That same year, won Gulfstream's **Tangelo Stakes**, and was runner up in the **Gr. I Travers Stakes** and **Gr. 2 Lambholm South Holy Bull Stakes**.

First weanling to auction
sold for **\$50,000** at the 2022
Saratoga Fall Sale.

FOR MORE
INFO ABOUT
GUNNEVERA



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NEW FOR 2023

ROADSTER



Impressive winner of the **\$1 million Santa Anita Derby (G1)**, defeating 2-Year-Old Male Champion Game Winner.

Named a **TDN Rising Star** after an emphatic 4 ¼-length MdSpWt victory at Del Mar in his debut.

G1-placed at two.

By **QUALITY ROAD** out of a stakes-winning and stakes-producing dam; A half-brother to **G1 SW** and track-record setter **ASCEND**.

\$525,000 KEESEP yearling for Arthur Hancock III's Stone Farm.

Quality Road—Ghost Dancing, by Silver Ghost
2023 FEE: \$7,500 S&N



Inquiries to David O'Farrell: david@ocalastud.com
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WITH G1 WINNER

9 GRETZKY - THE 9 GREAT



- *VERSATILITY
- *ATHLETICISM
- *PERFORMANCE
- *SPEED

The same **coveted characteristics** that carried
"THE GREAT ONE" on the ice also powered his
namesake on the racetrack

Winner of the **SUMMER S. (G1)** at 2

THREE-TIME SW in his career

Son of champion, Kentucky Derby (G1) winner, and
leading third-crop sire **NYQUIST**

GRETZKY THE GREAT
NYQUIST-PEARL TURN, BY BERNARDINI
2023 FEE: \$3,000 S&N



Inquiries to David O'Farrell: david@ocalastud.com
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P.O. Box 818, Ocala, FL 34478

2022 LEADING SIRES IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2022 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2022 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Done Talking (09, Broken Vow), Elloree Training Center	\$1,500	24/14	0/0	0/0	(Drive by Layover, \$75,581)	\$602,749	42	0	1.12	0.87
2	Straight Talking (06, Dixieland Band)	N/A	6/2	1/2	0/1	(Swayin to and Fro, \$244,000)	\$289,723	30	1	0.92	0.92
3	Wicked Rich (06, Yes It's True)	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Canoochee, \$44,485)	\$102,393	22	0	0.82	1.37

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals

setting—to ensure it receives the proper amount of the ration best suited to its needs.

“Every horse comes inside and eats separately two times a day. Babies are also fed separately so they have the nutrition they need to grow properly,” said Helen Barbazon.

Our boarding clients are a mix of Florida and out-of-state owners who breed to race and also sell,” she said.

William Churly of Ocala is one such client. Churly breeds to race and has been a Pleasant Acres’ client going on 10 years. He currently boards a mare and yearling at the farm.

“Joe and Helen do an excellent job raising my horses and they communicate well. It speaks for itself that I’ve been there for 10 years,” said Churly. “It’s a first-rate operation. The farm is perfectly maintained, and they take care of the horses. They have good grass and feed properly and their help has been there a long time.”

Churly notes that he feels welcome at the farm whenever he visits his horses.

“A benefit is that Joe oversees all the foaling and is there when the foals are born. This is important to me,” said Churly.

The farm is home to more than 200 resident horses, including stallions and all boarded horses. Pleasant Acres also foals more than 100 mares a year.

“Many mares ship in to foal, be bred to a stallion here, and then once in foal, ship back home, whether in- or out-of-state,” said Jones.

STALLION SHOW

Pleasant Acres has become known for its annual stallion show, which it has hosted every January since 2014. The 2023 event is scheduled Jan. 7. The invitation-only event targets owners and breeders.



In January 2022, Pleasant Acres welcomed the first foal for Curlin’s Honor, a filly out of Be All You Can Be, by War Front, from the family of grade 1 winners War Flag and Civil Union

“For us, it’s about the breeders and stallion owners in Florida,” Barbazon said. “Last year we had 450-500 people attend. Our stallion owners appreciate the exposure.”

Attendees enjoy live music, hors d’oeuvres, and libations. Of course, the stallions are the stars of the evening, and each horse is shown multiple times.

“Last year we featured a huge display of racing silks connected with the stallion owners and some of our resident clients who race,” noted Jones. “We’ll be doing the same this year with even more silks.”

STALLION OWNER INPUT

Operating as Breeze Easy, Mike Hall and partner Sam Ross own the young stallion Curlin’s Honor. Hall said the most important detail when deciding where to stand Curlin’s Honor was choosing a farm that does a good job promoting the stallions.

“I went to a stallion show at Pleas-

ant Acres and that helped make up my mind,” he said. “I think they do a great job with advertising and putting on the stallion show every year. They’re just good people and I enjoy working with them,” said Hall. “We like the horse a lot. The first year I supported him with seven mares and the past year I have supported him even more.”

Hall thinks Florida has been a good fit for the Florida-bred stakes winner that placed in six graded stakes.

“It’s hard to stand a young stallion in Kentucky without a grade 1 pedigree, so we thought Florida was the best place to start; plus, I have a farm and home there,” Hall said. “Pleasant Acres also stands Neolithic. I own a couple of shares in that stallion and breed a few mares to him.”

Tami Bobo and her husband, Fernando De Jesus, own First Finds Farm, a pinhooking business in Ocala. Bobo is the owner of graded stakes-winning Florida-bred Simplification, who was a 2022 Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve (G1) contender. Along with trainer Antonio Sano, Bobo co-owns multiple graded stakes winner and current Pleasant Acres stallion, Gunnevera.

“When Gunnevera was going to retire to stud, it was important that he stood with someone who would have the horse’s best interests at heart,” said Bobo, who bought into the stallion when he was about to retire from racing, where he earned more than \$5.5 million.

“We were looking at either New York or Florida because we felt he was better suited to those marketplaces than Kentucky,” Bobo said. “I really felt the people of Florida would be supportive of him. We’ve never had a stallion standing in Florida that’s earned as much as Gunnevera.

“I interviewed all the major stud farms in Ocala before I chose Pleasant Acres Stallions. From an owner-

COURTESY OF PLEASANT ACRES STALLIONS

racehorse-pinhooker perspective, I wanted a stallion farm that understood my vision and was willing to work with my criteria," Bobo added. "I had a business plan and wanted that plan executed as best possible. Pleasant Acres Stallions fit that business plan."

Bobo acknowledges that it's common for stud farms to offer incentives or discounts to breeders, but she was cautious about this practice when deciding where to stand Gunnevera.

"As a breeder and owner, I wanted to establish a value of his offspring that was fair across the board to his breeders," Bobo said. "I didn't want to do a disservice to some breeders by discounting the stud fee to other breeders because the stud farm was making deals."

The operation continues to impress Bobo.

"Over the years Pleasant Acres has evolved into being the stallion station

in Florida. They've modernized the way the stallion business is conducted in Ocala. It's a stallion station now, not just a farm. It's run like a business and that's what you need with stallions," said Bobo. "I think being one stallion among multiple stallions is a good thing. A stallion station brings more to the table than a smaller operation that doesn't have the vision of tomorrow."

Bobo sent 12 of her own mares to Gunnevera the first year and will likely send that many to him again in 2023.

"I feel very confident with how his babies look. He's throwing those Saturday horses. Now the cards are on his table," said Bobo, noting that his first weanling to auction sold for \$50,000 at the 2022 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga fall mixed sale.

All involved are plenty familiar with the current regional challenges. In September 2022, The Jockey Club projected that the North American foal crop

would continue to decline. Foal numbers dropped from 37,755 foals in 2000 to approximately 20,500 in 2020.

The Florida foal crop has followed this trend, declining from 4,551 foals in 2000 to 1,493 in 2020. According to TJC, Florida foals constitute 7.3 percent of the North American foal crop.


Despite the challenges, the Barbazons remain confident in their Florida program and market.

"Things change and you have to adapt. We've done that well and just continue to forge ahead," said Helen Barbazon. "We all know the benefits of foals being raised in Florida. Our whole program is based on raising racehorses starting from conception. We've had the same foundation staff for over 15 years. This experience is so important for the hands-on difference. You're going nowhere without a team." **BH**



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