

# SOUTHEAST

ALABAMA FLORIDA GEORGIA MISSISSIPPI  
NORTH CAROLINA SOUTH CAROLINA TENNESSEE



Summer, April, and Jeanne  
Mayberry of Mayberry Farm

## Proven Pedigree

**FOR THE WOMEN OF MAYBERRY FARM  
RACING RUNS IN THE FAMILY**

By CYNTHIA McFARLAND

**A**NY HONEST HORSEMAN knows raw talent and physical ability can only take a horse so far. It takes being in the right hands for a promising Thoroughbred to develop into a successful racehorse.

The women of Mayberry Farm excel at discovering and nurturing early talent. The Ocala, Fla.-based breaking and training operation is all about laying a foundation so young Thoroughbreds can go on to race to their best ability.

It's safe to say last year was exceptionally satisfying for the Mayberry team. Among the grade 1 stakes winners who received

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CYNTHIA McFARLAND

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# 2022 LEADING SIRES IN ALABAMA



For daily updated sire 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, \$37,000)	\$37,316	3	0	1.03	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., \$15,600)	\$15,990	22	0	0.54	1.55

\* includes Southern Hemisphere foals



April Mayberry said Flightline oozed class from the time he arrived as a yearling at the farm near Ocala, Fla.

early training at Mayberry Farm were the upset 2022 Kentucky Derby (G1) winner Rich Strike and the 2022 Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner and Horse of the Year Flightline. Both Rich Strike and Flightline learned their first lessons at the hands of the mother-daughters trio of Jeanne, April, and Summer Mayberry, the same team responsible for the early handling of four-time Eclipse Award winner Zenyatta.

In addition to these standouts, other top horses to receive initial training at Mayberry Farm include Exaggerator, Accelerate, Texas Red, Express Train, Catalina Cruiser, Collusion Illusion, Marley's Freedom, Bank Audit, My Boy Jack, She Be Wild, Edgeway, Fluttry Danseur, and Zoonqua. There are plenty more graded stakes winners and stakes winners as well.

There's no magic involved here, no glitz or glamor. It's all about practicing good horsemanship learned through many years of experience.

## FOLLOWING THE HORSES

Born in Ohio, Jeanne was raised in South Florida where her father, Sam Saunderson, trained show and racehorses. His horse-crazy daughter was happy to exercise both Saddlebreds and Thoroughbreds.

"I went to the track with my father and earned money ponying and galloping. There weren't really other women doing this then," said Jeanne.

Jeanne was just 19 when she got her trainer's license in Ohio in 1962. Not surprisingly, she met her husband, Brian Mayberry, through racing. Brian's father and grandfather were both

trainers. His grandfather, John P. Mayberry, owned 1903 Kentucky Derby winner Judge Himes.

After Jeanne and Brian married in 1966, they lived in South Florida and worked in the bustling racing industry there. Daughters April and Summer were born in Hollywood, Fla. The family moved to Southern California in 1984 where Brian was a successful trainer for many years. Among Brian's clients at the time were Jerry Moss and his then-wife, Ann. Brian trained 1994 Kentucky Oaks (G1) winner Sardula, the Mosses' multiple graded stakes-winning daughter of Storm Cat.

## FAMILY BUSINESS

After growing up surrounded by horses it's no wonder April and Summer chose careers in racing.

"I trained on my own and then was Bob Baffert's assistant in Kentucky for a while," April said. "When I left California, I trained in Kentucky and had the greatest gig. Bob Baffert, Bobby Franke, Rodney Rash, and some other California trainers would send horses to me to get ready before they ran."

Baffert started his first two Derby horses in 1996 with Semoran finishing off the board and Cavonnier finishing second, a nose behind Grindstone.

"After Cavonnier ran second in 1996, he asked me if I'd work for him in Kentucky," she said. "Silver Charm was in the next group of horses he sent to me, so I had a lot of good horses in my care for him."

Summer trained in Southern California for 14 years. A fond racing memory was the September 2003 "Battle of the Sexes" promotional match race at Del Mar.

"The racetrack came up with this match race for publicity because

MATT WOOLEY/EQUISPORT PHOTOS

# MARCH TO VICTORY

WITH  
**COLONEL LIAM**  
NEW FOR 2023

**3X G1 WINNER** and back-to-back winner of the  
**\$1 MILLION PEGASUS WORLD CUP TURF INVITATIONAL S. (G1)** at Gulfstream Park.

Won the 2022 Pegasus World Cup Turf  
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Winner of the **\$1 MILLION TURF CLASSIC S. (G1)**  
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A **\$1.2 MILLION** 2YO purchase at  
OBS by Robert and Lawana Low  
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A son of  
**BREEDERS' CUP DIRT MILE (G1)**  
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*Liam's Map—Amazement,  
by Bernardini  
2023 FEE: \$6,500 S&N*



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# 2022 LEADING SIRES IN FLORIDA



For daily updated sire 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		
									Sits Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Khozan (12, Distorted Humor), Journeyman Stallions	\$6,500	147/78	3/4	1/3	(Hot Peppers, \$381,500)	\$4,513,950	*234	10	1.29	1.22
2	Brethren (08, Distorted Humor), Arindel Farm	\$4,000	110/67	6/7	5/6	(Lynx, \$303,000)	\$3,159,003	249	11	1.19	1.42
3	Jess's Dream (12, Curlin), Ocala Stud	\$3,000	94/52	1/1	0/1	(W W Crazy, \$94,868)	\$2,585,492	*166	4	0.88	1.38
4	First Dude (07, Stephen Got Even), Double Diamond Farm	\$7,500	96/54	1/2	0/1	(Maryquitecontrary, \$220,780)	\$2,356,491	472	14	1.09	1.13
5	Gone Astray (06, Dixie Union), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$2,500	79/48	1/1	1/1	(World Gone Wild, \$152,005)	\$1,896,942	*341	10	0.91	1.04
6	Social Inclusion (11, Pioneer of the Nile), Briardale Farm	Private	47/28	3/6	2/3	(Flor de Sombra, \$320,000)	\$1,889,889	79	3	1.00	1.01
7	Cajun Breeze (08, Congrats), Stonehedge Farm South	\$5,000	56/35	0/0	0/0	(Dean Delivers, \$170,500)	\$1,718,280	91	5	1.28	1.25
8	Adios Charlie (08, Indian Charlie), Ocala Stud	\$3,000	85/45	2/2	1/2	(Cheerful Charlie, \$114,312)	\$1,710,320	311	11	1.26	1.13
9	Field Commission (05, Service Stripe)	Died, 2020	49/26	1/4	0/1	(Drafted, \$395,250)	\$1,476,300	189	2	0.83	0.95
10	Bahamian Squall (09, Gone West), Double Diamond Farm	\$3,000	47/24	1/2	0/1	(Spirit Wind, \$189,010)	\$1,164,972	85	2	0.80	0.82
11	Big Drama (06, Montbrook)	Died, 2021	54/31	1/1	1/1	(Drama Chorus, \$113,785)	\$1,160,202	287	5	0.86	1.16
12	Awesome Slew (13, Awesome Again), Ocala Stud	\$4,000	24/14	1/3	1/1	(Awesome Strong, \$458,000)	\$1,021,161	36	1	1.42	1.49
13	Noble Bird (11, Birdstone), Ocala Stud	\$3,000	44/20	2/2	1/2	(King Cab, \$134,297)	\$950,583	66	2	0.72	1.20
14	Awesome of Course (00, Awesome Again), Ocala Stud	\$2,000	37/19	0/0	0/0	(Awesome Indra, \$127,630)	\$946,820	*279	12	1.24	1.24
15	Neolithic (13, Harlan's Holiday), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$5,000	38/19	0/0	0/0	(Poima, \$109,785)	\$890,576	62	2	1.03	0.85

\* includes Southern Hemisphere foals

Patrick (Valenzuela) and Julie (Krone) were head and head for leading rider,” Summer said. “I wasn’t keen on it at first, but Bob (Baffert) basically talked me into it. (She added with a laugh that the only way she agreed to it was if the race was 1 $\frac{1}{16}$  miles, not one mile.)

That extra distance played out in her horse’s favor as Chester’s Choice, with Valenzuela up, edged the Baffert-trained Woke Up Dreamin with Krone up, to win by a head. (The race can still be viewed on YouTube.)

“Summer did a heck of a job getting this horse ready for this race,” Valenzuela said after the victory.

Summer routinely galloped her own horses at the track.

“It gave me a unique perspective as a trainer to ride my own horses and see how they were doing,” she said. “I rode every single day from age 5 until I was 35. Even when I came here to Ocala, I was still getting on some babies, but I came off one when I was pregnant with my first son and Mom said, ‘No more!’”

Both sisters laughed at this ultimatum since Jeanne herself rode until she was nine months pregnant with April.

Summer is married to Rick Rudman, owner of Rick’s Performance Equine Supply in Ocala. Rick and Summer met at the track in California and married in 2005. They have two sons, Brian, 15, and Brady, 10. Both boys are into horses and baseball.

April’s “kids” have four legs. At least one of her three dogs always accompanies her to the barn.



April Mayberry fondly recalls the cheers erupting as Rich Strike scored an 80-1 upset in the Kentucky Derby

## BACK TO FLORIDA

The family faced a decision after Brian Mayberry died in 1998 at age 60.

“I wasn’t sure what to do,” said Jeanne. “We’d always been in racing, and we’d always been on the racetrack.”

She decided to return to the Sunshine State—not to the South Florida racing scene—but to Ocala. After all those years on the track, it didn’t take Jeanne long to realize she wouldn’t be content unless she was doing something with racehorses. The three women saw an opportunity to combine their abilities and Mayberry Farm was soon launched.

By the spring of 2000, they’d rented training barns at what was then Plumley Farms, right around the corner from the little farm Jeanne had just purchased. Their racetrack connections carried over once they opened their training operation and it didn’t take long to fill their stalls with young Thoroughbreds.

“We have gone from the racetrack to the farm. Most people are at the farm wanting to get to the racetrack,” said April. “I think being trainers in our own right is an advantage because we know what we would want at the racetrack.”

COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

# ROADSTER



## NEW FOR 2023

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.

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



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# 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), Ellore Training Center	\$1,500	24/14	0/0	0/0	(Dixie Drawl, \$79,819)	\$641,977	42	0	1.13	0.90
2	Straight Talking (06, Dixieland Band)	N/A	6/2	1/3	0/1	(Swayin to and Fro, \$304,000)	\$353,203	30	1	0.96	0.92
3	Wicked Rich (06, Yes It's True)	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Canooshee, \$45,275)	\$108,683	22	0	0.82	1.38

\* includes Southern Hemisphere foals



David Ingordo, whom the Mayberrys have known since childhood, and April Mayberry

## GREAT HORSES

Having had their hands on some of the country's best racehorses, the Mayberry women say there's something that sets these horses apart from the rest.

"Other than ability, they have to have 'want.' We don't make these horses do anything they don't want to," said April.

In 2022 Flightline would follow in Zenyatta's Horse of the Year footsteps.

"You can't really compare Zenyatta and Flightline; they're both outstanding in their own right. They were similar in raw talent and intelligence. The one common denominator of these great horses is intelligence. Horses like that have 'presence,' something you can't really describe," April said, adding that both were handled exquisitely by their owners, trainers, and riders.

Flightline came to Mayberry Farm thanks to their long-time connection with Ingordo, whom they've known since childhood.

"He sold at the (Fasig-Tipton) Saratoga yearling sale and we got him in early December that year. He was a million-dollar Tapit and had presence as a yearling," said April. "He just oozed class and wanted to do what you asked. Everything he did was easy for him."

Flightline's first breeze was almost as impressive as Zenyatta's.

"I told the rider I didn't want company with him and didn't want to 'wind him up' too early. I said, 'Just smooch to him at the top of the lane.' The hair stood up on my arms when he galloped by me," recalled April. "I called David Ingordo after that breeze and told him, 'You need to come down and see this horse for yourself.'"

Ingordo made the trip to Ocala to watch the Tapit colt work, but as fate would have it Flightline never hit the track that day. Tacked up and being walked out of his stall that morning, the

## THE QUEEN

Jeanne and April saw then-unnamed Zenyatta for the first time at the Keeneland September sale in 2005. They were helping pick out horses with bloodstock agent David Ingordo, whose mother, Dottie Ingordo-Shirreffs, was racing manager for the Mosses at the time. Among the horses they "short listed" was a big, leggy dark bay filly by Street Cry. After Ingordo signed the ticket for \$60,000 for the Mosses, the filly was shipped to Ocala for her initial training at Mayberry Farm.

"She was a very laid-back filly. She slept a lot and took regular naps," Jeanne remembers of the now famous mare. "She was never sick and never had any problems. She was just a very pleasant horse—and smart."

The Mayberry women first saw superstar potential in the lanky filly in February 2006.

"We had her at the back of the group and she was just galloping along easily, but she galloped by the other four horses in the set," recalled Jeanne.

The other horses in the group were horses we'd helped purchase and they were nice horses, but she just passed them and they were working to keep up with her. The further we went with her, the more we realized she was something special."

At that time, Jeanne told bloodstock agent Ingordo she thought the filly might be one of the best horses she'd ever had her hands on. Obviously, time would prove Jeanne's assessment correct.

And yes, the Mayberry women have stayed in contact with "The Queen" since her retirement. They've even had the opportunity to break each of her foals. When in Kentucky, they make it a point to stop in at Lane's End and pay her a visit. April swears the big mare remembers them.

SHOOT AND SCORE  
WITH G1 WINNER

# 9 GRETZKY - THE 9 GREAT



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- \*ATHLETICISM
- \*PERFORMANCE
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The same **coveted characteristics** that carried  
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Winner of the **SUMMER S. (G1)** at 2

**THREE-TIME SW** in his career

Son of champion, Kentucky Derby (G1) winner, and  
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**GRETZKY THE GREAT**  
NYQUIST-PEARL TURN, BY BERNARDINI  
2023 FEE: \$3,000 S&N



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colt suddenly startled, reared up, and fell back against his stall door, driving the latch into his right hip. Although he recovered fully, the injury interrupted training long enough that it kept him from starting his racing career at 2. The lightning bolt-shaped scar from the incident is still visible on Flightline's hind-quarters, but clearly didn't impact the undefeated colt's racing ability.

Rich Strike came to Mayberry Farm because the operation routinely breaks yearlings for Calumet Farm, which bred the colt.

"He was an (April 25) foal. When he left, we knew he had ability, but how much, we weren't sure at that time. We weren't surprised he ended up being a nice horse," said April, adding that there was a lot of screaming going on when she and her family watched Rich Strike cross the wire first in the Derby as an 80-1 winner.



Jeanne Mayberry at the races at Santa Anita Park

way whether they're bound for a sale or the track, there are differences in expectations.

"The evolution of the industry has changed; the sales are so pedigree-oriented now. You need to have pedigree and athleticism, so it's getting harder to pinhook," Summer said. "But the actual training process hasn't changed."

When shopping for pinhooks, the women do have slightly different tastes when it comes to physicals and pedigrees, but there are certain qualities they always look for: intelligence and pedigrees known for producing early runners. A pinhook candidate also has to be engaging.

"You want them thinking and looking to you. If they don't pay attention to you, that's going to carry over to the track," noted Jeanne.

Once at the barn for early training, nutrition, handling, care, and condi-



Alex Moore walks Zenyatta in 2019 at Lane's End

## SALES AND RACING

Because of the large number of horses in its care, Mayberry Farm operates out of two locations, renting training barns at two farms less than 10 minutes apart. In addition to training for clients, the Mayberry women pinhook yearlings to train and resell as 2-year-olds. They consign as Mayberry Farm, selling primarily in their "backyard" at Ocala Breeders' Sales in March, April, and June.

Although horses are trained the same

tioning are the same whether a horse is targeted for a sale or going directly to the races.

"It's an interesting perception people have in that they think you have a different 'secret formula' if they're going to the sales. The only difference is putting a few more breezes on the ones going to the sales," said April. "We're going to train them for the races. You can't make them fast. We're just teachers; we give them the training and hope they can go out and make it. We want every horse we

have our hands on to be as successful as they can be for their owners."

The Mayberry women pride themselves on their crew of eight riders, most of whom have been with them for 15 years or longer.

"Our riders are consistent; we all have good rapport and respect each other's abilities. Eddie Herrera-Ordenez, the rider who rode Rich Strike here, also broke and sold White Abarrio," April said. "So there were two horses in the 2022 Kentucky Derby that he broke."

As of early January, the Mayberry women had 130 horses in training. They will be selling at the OBS March and Spring (April) 2-year-olds in training sales.

## GOLDEN OLDIES

While the women of Mayberry Farm work daily with young Thoroughbreds, Jeanne's small farm is home to nine retirees. Except for an old nurse mare, all are former racehorses they once trained. Two of those horses just turned 31; the youngest is 18. One of the 31-year-olds is Valid Attraction, a winner of \$100,505.

"She's surely one of the last Valid Appeal mares alive today," said Summer. "The Siegels (Jan, Mace, and Samantha) bought her as a yearling and we broke her. We lost track of her and years later I saw her at an OBS sale (2004 October sale) and realized who she was. There was no bid on her, so I raised my hand and we bought her."

"I call them my oldie goldies," added Jeanne, who admits to having favorites among these pensioners.

High Stakes Player, 31, a former Baffert trainee campaigned by Mike Pegram, was a multiple graded stakes winner who earned \$845,629. Jeanne calls him "Mac" and each evening the kind old gelding puts his head over her shoulder and gives her a hug. **BH**

LEFT: FOUR FOOTED FOTOS; RIGHT: ANNE M. EBERHARDT