

# SOUTHEAST

ALABAMA FLORIDA GEORGIA MISSISSIPPI  
NORTH CAROLINA SOUTH CAROLINA TENNESSEE



Art Bauer was named North Carolina's 2023 Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association Breeder of the Year

## Tar Heel State Proud

***NORTH CAROLINA BREEDER ART BAUER HAVING THE TIME OF HIS LIFE***

*Story and photos by* **JOE PEREZ**

**T**HERE WAS A QUOTE that's lingered in the mind of breeder Art Bauer.

"He doesn't know where he was born," said owner Murray Valene after Louisiana-bred Dapper Moon won a maiden special weight at Saratoga Race Course in August 2024.

For Bauer, Valene's words were especially apropos. As one of the precious few Thoroughbred breeders in North Carolina, the sentiment resonated: Where a horse is bred doesn't make it less than its competition.

"For me now, this has really become a hobby, more than anything," Bauer said from his home. "If you're in this for the money,

ALL SIRES LISTS ARE THROUGH DEC. 31

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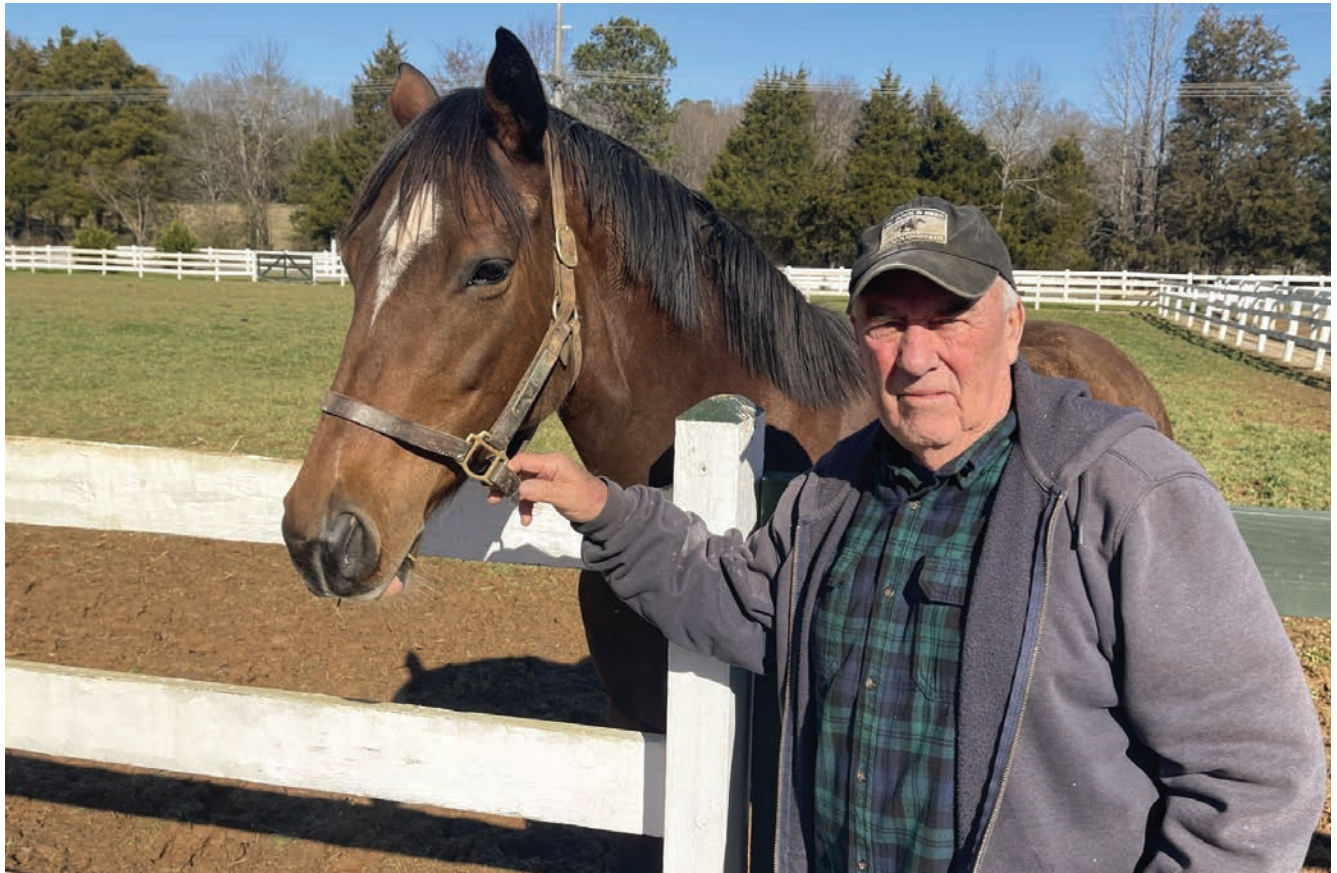


# 2024 LEADING SIRES IN ALABAMA

For daily updated sire lists visit [BloodHorse.com](https://BloodHorse.com)

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2024 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Indy (01, A.P. Indy)	N/A	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Bobby Jr., \$19,400)	\$19,400	22	0	0.53	1.48
2	Conan (07, Royal Empire)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Channelfortynine, \$16,960)	\$16,960	5	0	0.22	0.72
3	Mosquito (08, Yes It's True), H & H Thoroughbreds	Private	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Foolish Steve, \$10,380)	\$10,380	3	0	0.99	0.27

\* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; ¶ Indicates a first-crop sire



Girl On a Mission was winless in nine starts before being purchased by Bauer for \$3,500 at the 2020 Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale while in foal to Klimt. The resulting foal, Bauers Golden Girl, did not race. The mare also has a filly who turned 2 this year by Madefromlucky

you don't have North Carolina-breds. You send them to New York and have them foaled up there. Or they're a Florida-bred, or a California-bred, or a Kentucky-bred. You don't have North Carolina-breds."

Breeding in a state without Thoroughbred racing or viable stallions to breed your mares presents more than its fair share of challenges. The closest race-track is Colonial Downs, about five hours from Bauer's farm in Waxhaw, N.C. And without in-state racing, Bauer misses out on state incentives that are the lifeblood for breeders in many states. If there is a benefit, it's that there are numerous training facilities in South Carolina.

***"(BAUER'S) THE SAME GUY ALL THE TIME. HE TREATS EVERYBODY THE SAME. HE'S SALT OF THE EARTH. HE'S GOT GREAT STORIES. HE LOVES HIS HORSES. HE'S KIND AND EVERY HORSE THAT'S RAISED AT HIS FARM...FALLS IN LOVE WITH HIM."***

—DR. ALEXIS SAGE, BAUER'S VETERINARIAN

Not exactly the sort of selling points one might find distributed by a tourism board.

Despite every perceived disadvantage, Bauer, who was named the 2023 Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association Breeder of the Year for North Carolina, has tasted a modicum of success on the track.

A native of New York—born in Brooklyn, raised on Long Island—Bauer, 78, has been in North Carolina since 2012. He and his wife, Loretta, live in an equine community just east of Charlotte. His five-acre farm is home to three mares, two of which are in foal. One (She's Stylish) to Endorsed,

# 2024 LEADING SIRES IN FLORIDA

For daily updated sire lists visit [BloodHorse.com](http://BloodHorse.com)

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2024 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Khozan (12, Distorted Humor), Ocala Stud	\$6,000	221/118	3/5	1/3	(Wildwood Bye, \$144,897)	\$5,625,123	*425	16	1.15	1.15
2	Neolithic (13, Harlan's Holiday), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$5,000	76/50	3/3	1/3	(Dancing N Dixie, \$300,190)	\$2,879,158	132	5	1.08	0.88
3	Adios Charlie (08, Indian Charlie), Ocala Stud	\$3,000	109/60	1/2	0/1	(Stone Silent, \$171,655)	\$2,872,278	413	12	1.16	1.10
4	Jess's Dream (12, Curlin)	Died, 2024	96/51	3/3	1/3	(Beth's Dream, \$258,750)	\$2,867,379	*221	8	0.95	1.36
5	Valiant Minister (13, Candy Ride), Bridlewood Farm	\$4,000	57/33	2/2	1/2	(Bentornato, \$820,000)	\$2,446,182	118	3	1.20	0.98
6	Social Inclusion (11, Pioneerof the Nile), Briardale Farm	Private	56/37	3/3	1/3	(Uncle Heavy, \$257,100)	\$2,239,352	130	6	1.14	1.00
7	Awesome Slew (13, Awesome Again), Ocala Stud	\$4,000	72/37	1/1	0/1	(Hades, \$311,550)	\$2,215,773	96	2	0.99	1.32
8	Brethren (08, Distorted Humor), Arindel Farm	\$4,000	87/40	1/2	0/1	(Octane, \$428,500)	\$2,177,764	294	12	1.13	1.35
9	Cajun Breeze (08, Congrats), Stonehedge Farm South	\$5,000	73/32	2/5	0/2	(Dean Delivers, \$325,850)	\$2,061,323	149	8	1.10	1.15
10	First Dude (07, Stephen Got Even), Double Diamond Farm	\$7,500	71/31	1/2	0/1	(Charlie's Wish, \$184,745)	\$1,617,139	509	16	1.07	1.09
11	St Patrick's Day (15, Pioneerof the Nile), Journeyman Stallions	\$3,500	50/25	1/1	0/1	(Fiona's Magic, \$181,010)	\$1,010,728	90	1	0.70	0.95
12	Bahamian Squall (09, Gone West), Double Diamond Farm	\$3,000	34/17	1/3	0/1	(Spirit Wind, \$367,150)	\$998,567	107	2	0.79	0.86
13	¶ Win Win Win (16, Hat Trick), Ocala Stud	\$8,500	27/10	2/3	0/2	(Win N Your In, \$218,950)	\$797,233	50	2	0.92	1.13
14	Field Commission (05, Service Stripe)	Died, 2020	25/12	2/2	1/2	(Mish, \$169,585)	\$774,770	196	4	0.83	0.95
15	Big Drama (06, Montbrook)	Died, 2021	28/18	0/0	0/0	(Burnaway, \$84,070)	\$683,138	300	5	0.87	1.14
16	Rogueish (16, Into Mischief), Solera Farm	\$2,500	16/11	1/2	0/1	(Naughty Rascal, \$158,130)	\$653,565	31	1	1.00	0.88
17	Gone Astray (06, Dixie Union)	N/A	44/19	1/1	0/1	(Richiesonaroll, \$88,235)	\$620,755	*354	11	0.87	1.02
18	Chitu (11, Henny Hughes), Bridlewood Farm	\$2,000	35/18	0/0	0/0	(Esperon, \$78,555)	\$606,654	151	1	0.62	0.86
19	¶ Bodexpress (16, Bodemeister), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$3,500	19/8	1/1	1/1	(Hot Girl Walk, \$117,500)	\$395,658	46	1	0.67	0.70
20	¶ Curlin's Honor (15, Curlin), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$2,500	18/4	1/1	1/1	(R Morning Brew, \$129,000)	\$267,255	31	1	0.48	0.94
21	Flashstorm (04, Storm Cat)	N/A	8/5	0/0	0/0	(Flashdynamite, \$102,835)	\$252,496	130	3	0.86	0.87
22	Finale (09, Scat Daddy)	N/A	8/3	0/0	0/0	(Final Verdict, \$176,575)	\$229,803	55	0	0.37	0.82
23	Tunwoo (15, Medaglia d'Oro), Bridlewood Farm	\$2,000	14/5	0/0	0/0	(All About Lucky, \$40,610)	\$222,258	24	1	0.98	1.08
24	¶ Gunnevera (14, Dialed In), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$6,000	21/6	0/0	0/0	(Gunner Glacken, \$40,320)	\$187,662	46	0	0.31	0.85
25	Black Stash (10, Bernardini)	N/A	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Skipperini, \$80,070)	\$141,847	9	0	0.49	0.24

\* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; ¶ Indicates a first-crop sire

a son of Medaglia d'Oro, and the other (Kentucky-bred Girl On a Mission) to Engage, a son of Into Mischief.

The third mare, 4-year-old Stylish Girlfriend (by Friend Or Foe), was recently retired after needing screws inserted in one of her knees.

Trainer Bernie Houghton, who conditioned Stylish Girlfriend, said he really wanted to do well by Bauer who was only racing one horse.

"He's putting all his eggs in one basket; that's all he has," Houghton said. "You sure would like to do good for him. But it's hard because you have no wiggle room if something goes wrong with the horse. Basically, when you breed that horse, it's like a lottery ticket. You get what you get."

Bauer does all of the work with his horses, a one-man crew. He doesn't mind the work; in fact, he relishes it.

"I don't think it's that bad at all," explained Bauer. "It's work, but it gets you up in the morning, too. Don't let the old man in. So, for me, I love it. You go out and let them out, feed them, clean the stall. They don't ask for a heck of a lot."

Bauer's journey into the industry started like it did for so many: His daughter wanted a pony.

But having that pony eventually



She's Stylish (left), the dam of *Hartful Hope*, is in foal to *Endorsed* whose first foals arrive in 2025. *Girl On a Mission* is in foal to *Engage* whose first crop will reach the races this year

blossomed into Bauer thinking a racehorse would be a good idea.

Robert Entenmann, grandson of the founder of Entenmann's bakery, owned a Thoroughbred farm just miles from where Bauer lived on Long Island. Entenmann was the breeder of grade 1 winner *Victory Speech*.

A friend named Jeff Raines

connected Bauer with Entenmann. Bauer bought a mare named *Mary Lou* from Entenmann and that truly started Bauer on the path into the industry.

Raines, who was managing *Chester* and *Mary Broman's* *Chestertown Farm*, would welcome Bauer at the New York farm every winter. Bauer would help Raines foal and it was those visits that



# 2024 LEADING SIRES IN SOUTH CAROLINA

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									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Done Talking (09, Broken Vow)	N/A	26/18	0/0	0/0	(Stop the Cap, \$125,250)	\$741,556	59	0	1.00	0.89
2	Wicked Rich (06, Yes It's True)	N/A	2/0	0/0	0/0	(Canoochee, \$3,180)	\$3,580	22	0	0.79	0.97

\* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; ¶ Indicates a first-crop sire

equipped Bauer with the know-how to single-handedly run his operation.

"What I learned, I learned from him, because I foal my own horses here," Bauer said of Raines. "There's only two, so it's not like I'm having one a week. That's how I got started and if it wasn't for Jeff, I wouldn't know anything. And I know very little."

## STYLISH PURCHASE

Bauer purchased a mare, She's Stylish, in foal to Central Banker from Joe McMahon of McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds. That foal, later named Hartful Hope, is his "claim to fame," Bauer said.

After relocating from New York to Waxhaw, local veterinarian Alexis Sage left her business card at Bauer's farm. It's a relationship that blossomed into a partnership on horses where she handles the medicine and Bauer handles the horses.

"He's the same guy all the time. He treats everybody the same. He's salt of the earth. He's got great stories," Sage said. "He loves his horses. He's kind and every horse that's raised at his farm...falls in love with him."

In 2016, Sage introduced Bauer to her lifelong friend from Beaver Falls, Pa., Gerard Eckhardt, who 40 years earlier became a paraplegic from a car accident in which he was a passenger. Eckhardt was passionate about horses and Sage thought he would want to get involved. At the time, Bauer had two mares who were both in foal—She's Stylish and Banner Queen. The plan was for Eckhardt to get Banner Queen's foal.

"(Eckhardt is) in a wheelchair with the tray on top, and he comes out and he meets Banner Queen. ... The first horse Gerard had ever touched, she came to him and licked him—licked

his head, licked his neck," Sage said. "It was incredible. And he said, 'I want that baby.'"

But just weeks before she's going to give birth, Banner Queen suffered a uterine bleed and lost the foal.

Feeling bad about what happened, Bauer suggests to Sage they give Eckhardt the She's Stylish foal, by Central Banker. They charged Eckhardt \$1.50 for the foal with the money being split evenly between Sage, Bauer, and Loretta. They still have the six quarters to this day.

***"FOR ME NOW, THIS HAS REALLY BECOME A HOBBY, MORE THAN ANYTHING. IF YOU'RE IN THIS FOR THE MONEY, YOU DON'T HAVE NORTH CAROLINA-BREDS."***

—ART BAUER

Hartful Hope in the last two years has gone 4-1-2 from 19 starts and has \$76,782 in earnings. But it's not the record or the purse money that sticks with Bauer. It's the connection to Eckhardt, who died in February 2024.

Bauer recalled telling Eckhardt: "Most people don't understand how hard it is to get a horse from a foal to the track. The odds are terrible. If you get this horse to come out of the gate in a race, it's gonna be one of the best days of your life. And I don't care if that horse turns around and runs in the wrong direction, it's gonna be one of the best days of your life to get that horse to that point."

When asked about the story behind

Hartful Hope's name, Bauer pauses and tears start to fill his eyes. He's perhaps embarrassed to discuss it. Self-aggrandizing isn't part of Bauer's DNA. He's happy flying under the radar and doing the dirty work.

"If you look at the spelling of the horse's name, there's no E in Hartful. It's H-A-R-T-F-U-L, and (Eckhardt) spelled it that way for me," Bauer said while regaining his composure.

## SWAN SONG?


Bauer said that until Stylish Girlfriend ran as part of a syndicate under the NC Born and Bred banner, he had never raced a horse before; he had only focused on breeding. He has a pair of 2-year-olds who are now preparing for the track, plus who knows what is in store for the foals yet to come.

"I said, 'You know, let me do this one more time,'" Bauer remembered.

But Sage isn't convinced Bauer is ready to slow down just yet. He loves exploring nicking combinations and staying busy on the farm.

"He told me, 'Loretta and I decided that we want to do this one more time. And this is my swan song,'" recalled Sage. "That was four years ago and then (the mares) got bred again (in 2024). So I guess there have been two sets of swan songs. He says this is really the end, so we'll see."

Either way, not bad for a retired physical education teacher.

"I would never pretend to tell anybody else, but for me, you better be satisfied with that whole part of the experience of foaling them and watching them run around and watching them grow," Bauer said of being about as small of a breeder as possible. "And then you better be realistic enough to say, 'You know what, if this baby moves on, man, you're pretty lucky.'" 

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