

## MIDWEST/CANADA



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# Going Green

*Indiana breeding incentives help Pete and Melony Sacopulos at Green Gables Farm*

BY ESTHER MARR

**W**hile the last two years have been a whirlwind for Indiana residents Pete and Melony Sacopulos since taking their first plunge into the Thoroughbred industry, the couple's optimistic approach to breeding and enthusiasm for the future have made their new venture at Green Gables Farm seem more like an exciting journey than a daunting task.

After considerable soul searching and consulting with his wife, Pete Sacopulos traveled to the 2008 Keeneland horses of all ages sale in chilly mid-January to buy himself a mare.



Green Gables owner Pete Sacopulos with his Cactus Ridge—Velvet Steel colt

HICKMAN PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTOS



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# 2009 Leading Sires in Canada

State sire lists updated daily online.

Go to <http://breeding.bloodhorse.com/sirelists.asp>

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in Canada (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through December 31, 2009. As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. 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).

Rank	Stallion (Foaling Year, Sire), Farm Standing	2010 Stud Fee Can\$	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2009 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	MILWAUKEE BREW (97, Wild Again), Adena Springs/Gardiner Farms	\$12,500	147/85	5/9	1/5	(Milwaukee Appeal, \$786,808)	\$3,711,980	236	8	1.46	1.55
2	BOLD EXECUTIVE (84, Bold Ruckus), Gardiner Farms	\$15,000	133/73	5/5	3/5	(Sans Sousi, \$162,178)	\$3,581,467	660	42	1.71	1.34
3	ALPHABET SOUP (91, Cozzene), Adena Springs/Gardiner Farms	\$6,000	186/94	2/3	0/2	(Sal the Barber, \$168,900)	\$3,022,372	*619	37	1.37	1.43
4	GILDED TIME (90, Timeless Moment), Bar None Ranches	\$7,500	144/74	2/4	1/2	(Gayego, \$656,600)	\$2,850,845	*1069	46	1.41	1.74
5	CAPE CANAVERAL (96, Mr. Prospector), Highfield Stock Farm	\$5,000	134/83	2/2	1/2	(Made for Magic, \$119,600)	\$2,109,434	299	17	1.25	1.39

\*A-E and COMPARABLE INDEX: The lifetime Average-Earnings Index indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned, on the average, 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. The 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 AEI higher than their mares Comparable Index.

# 2009 Leading Sires in Michigan

State sire lists updated daily online.

Go to <http://breeding.bloodhorse.com/sirelists.asp>

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in Michigan (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through December 31, 2009. As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. 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).

Rank	Stallion (Foaling Year, Sire), Farm Standing	2010 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2009 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	SYNCLINE (97, Danzig), McMaster Farm	\$2,000	34/21	0/0	0/0	(Palamonium, \$140,150)	\$580,449	79	1	1.07	0.97
2	DEMALOOT DEMASHOOT (90, Bold Ruckus), McMaster Farm	\$2,500	64/29	1/2	0/1	(Valley Loot, \$112,875)	\$559,428	297	9	0.94	1.08
3	THE DEPUTY (IRE) (97, Petardia), Hubel Farms	\$2,000	64/33	0/0	0/0	(Kid Kearny Gabe, \$57,860)	\$534,076	188	4	0.60	0.99
4	MEADOW PRAYER (95, Meadowlake), Arnold Farms	\$2,000	27/18	4/5	4/4	(Meadow Wise, \$60,890)	\$429,409	84	9	1.19	0.76
5	NATIVE FACTOR (87, Foolish Pleasure), Arnold Farms	Died, 2009	36/19	0/0	0/0	(Al's Best Man, \$27,653)	\$292,635	167	6	0.74	0.75

\*A-E and COMPARABLE INDEX: The lifetime Average-Earnings Index indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned, on the average, 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. The 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 AEI higher than their mares Comparable Index.

Using the knowledge he had gained from reading a few books and from listening to seminars and the advice of friends, Sacopulos stayed up late in his Lexington hotel the night before the sale, poring over the sale catalogues and dog-eared his favorite prospects.

Sacopulos, who attended the sale with Indiana veterinarian Dr. James Carmichael and horseman Jim Elliot, looked at a dozen of his top choices and decided he was most fond of a gray daughter of Runaway Groom named Velvet Steel, who was in foal to Cactus Ridge.

"I thought she was striking," he remembered. "When she came

up, (Carmichael and Elliot) said she was going for cheap and I should jump in there. So I bid on her, and no one else bid. When the auctioneer said, 'Sold to the guy in the tan coat,' I turned to look to see who the hell bought her. My comment to the guy who was with me was, 'Did I buy her?' and he said, 'I think you did.' "

Sacopulos, who was so caught up in the moment that he forgot what he was wearing, was immediately approached by a group of Keeneland officials.

"(A Keeneland employee) asked me if I was registered, and I said, 'I didn't know I needed to be.' I was completely green," Sacopulos said with a laugh. "So they whisked me to some back room at Keeneland...they wanted to make sure I was good for the money. So I called the bank and got the money transferred to them. Once I did that, the guy said, 'Do you buy many horses?' and I said, 'I'll be honest with you, I've never bought a horse in my life.' "

That was all the sale company needed to hear. Sacopulos was then showered with gifts—Keeneland hats and pens—and received congratulations all around for making his first investment in the Sport of Kings.

Sacopulos has been on a high ever since that day two years ago. Even though Velvet Steel's Cactus Ridge offspring, a colt, has yet to go through a sale ring or race, the anticipation of the road ahead and the steps Sacopulos is taking toward getting there have kept him on the edge of his seat.

In addition to Velvet Steel (who is in foal to Charging Indian), Sacopulos and his wife also own the mare Here's Hogan, a daughter of Cherokee Run, and plan to continue adding one or two mares to their broodmare band each year.

For now, racing Velvet Steel's Cactus Ridge colt (who is the only known Indiana-bred Cactus Ridge offspring) is not in the cards, though Sacopulos isn't ruling it out completely. Currently, he plans on selling him at an upcoming auction.

"If he shows real promise, I might run him," he said. "But my game plan at this point is to breed my mares, then bring (their offspring) along and sell them rather than have a stable of race-

## MICHIGAN LEADERS

### MEADOW PRAYER

Meadowlake - My Prayer, by Hero's Honor 2010 Fee: \$2,000LF

#1 Miler and Turf Sire of Michigan-Breds by 2009 Earnings

#1 Sire by 2009 SWs, incl. MEADOW VESPER (\$472,368),

HAKUNA MATATA (\$92,086), MEADOW WISE (\$86,056), plus

2YO PRINCE OF PAULIE (\$55,220).

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- Sire of 2YO/3YO SW **ME THE SEA AND G T** (\$180,876).
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# *Sam-Son Farm*

horses of my own.”

It was in 2004 that Sacopulos, 47, an attorney, decided to build a stable near his home in the historic district of Terre Haute, Ind., for his wife and daughters, and it quickly evolved into a boarding business.

Melony Sacopulos, an attorney for Indiana State University, had become interested in horseback riding during her adult life, and the couple's daughters (Ali, 15, and Olivia, 13) also enjoy pleasure riding, as well as eventing, often competing at the Kentucky Horse Park.

“We ended up with a 38-stall barn with an indoor riding arena,” said Pete Sacopulos, whose stable sits on 50 acres of land. “We have a heated and cooled viewing room, a kitchen, tack rooms, bathrooms, and an office. It started out as an English riding barn and a site for pony parties, and we also had a summer camp at one point.”

Three years after Green Gables was up and running, casino gaming was approved at Indiana racetracks, and an improved state breeding incentive program was implemented as a result. At that point Dr. James Carmichael, a friend of Sacopulos' who was involved in the Thoroughbred industry, convinced him he ought to think about starting a breeding operation.

While Terre Haute isn't exactly a thriving Thoroughbred hub, and Sacopulos lacked extensive industry knowledge, he still decided to take on the challenge in hopes of eventually taking advantage of the state's new benefits.

The now-deceased Carmichael, who was on the board of the Indiana Thoroughbred Breed Development Commission, suggested that Sacopulos stand a stallion he owned named Whitney Tower. Unfortunately, the grade I-placed son of Storm Bird, who had had some previous success while standing at Rising Hill Farm in Flor-



The Sacopuloses' first venture in the sale ring will be with their Cactus Ridge juvenile

ida, died during his only season at Green Gables in 2008.

“We were in a hell of a spot, because it's tough to have a breeding operation without a stallion,” said Sacopulos. Instead of giving up, however, Sacopulos and Carmi-

chael went back to the drawing board.

The partners decided to contact a friend, veterinarian Bill Bernard, who is based in Lexington and has recently started his own equine surgery practice.

“He was helpful in putting me in contact with some people (in Kentucky),” said Sacopulos. “I tried to look and see what bloodlines Indiana did not have that I could bring in to offer something different. One thing (Indiana) did not have was a son of Indian Charlie. So we lined up a stallion named Charging Indian, and we also brought in another stallion by Aptitude named Well Said.”

“Charging Indian is a big, broad, strong horse, and Well Said has more of the traditional, sleek Thoroughbred look,” said Sacopulos, adding that Bernard is also a partner in both of the stallions.

While Sacopulos got a late start on the 2008 breeding season, he discovered there was still a considerable amount of interest in the stallions he had to offer.

“But the economy was really tight,” he said, explaining how they only bred around 10 mares to their stallions that first season, and maybe double that number in 2009.

Many of Green Gables' clients are from

#### 2009 Michigan Sires By Winners

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
The Deputy (IRE).....	64.....	33
Demaloot Demashoot.....	64.....	29
Syncline.....	34.....	21
Native Factor.....	36.....	19
Meadow Prayer.....	27.....	18
Daylight Savings.....	22.....	13
Equality.....	31.....	12
Quiet Enjoyment.....	19.....	12
Creative.....	19.....	11
Matchlite.....	19.....	11
Binalong.....	19.....	9
Secret Romeo.....	12.....	9
Elusive Hour.....	12.....	8
Ulisés.....	19.....	7
Research.....	15.....	7
Cat Doctor.....	12.....	7
Grand Circus Park.....	13.....	6
Island Storm.....	12.....	6
Great Allegiance.....	6.....	4
Sea Legs.....	6.....	4

#### 2009 Canada Sires By Winners

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Alphabet Soup.....	186.....	94
Milwaukee Brew.....	147.....	85
Cape Canaveral.....	134.....	83
Gilded Time.....	144.....	74
Bold Executive.....	133.....	73
Sligo Bay (IRE).....	102.....	54
Vying Victor.....	110.....	53
Stephanotis.....	86.....	52
Skimming.....	113.....	51
Pikepass.....	98.....	48
Trajectory.....	105.....	40
Mazel Trick.....	79.....	37
Where's the Ring.....	65.....	37
One Way Love.....	84.....	36
Peaks and Valleys.....	82.....	36
Mass Market.....	67.....	36
Perigee Moon.....	62.....	36
Katahuala County.....	81.....	35
Explicit.....	58.....	35



# 2010 CANADIAN-BRED *Yearling Sale*

**Nomination Closing Date**  
**March 1, 2010**

Selected Yearling Session  
September 7, 2010

Open Yearling Session  
September 11, 2010

**Entries Close on**  
June 4, 2010

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# 2009 Leading Sires in Indiana

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								Foals	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	CHIEF SEATTLE (97, Seattle Slew), WinRich Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	119/65	3/6	1/3	(Bold Chieftain, \$294,084)	\$2,412,608	*324	10	1.23	1.37
2	CHAMPALI (00, Glitterman), Richwine Farm	\$2,500	62/27	1/2	1/1	(Key Lime Baby, \$154,450)	\$1,027,792	*110	1	0.86	1.37
3	MAX'S PAL (97, Marquetry), Indiana Stallion Station	\$1,500	56/29	0/0	0/0	(Max Ahead, \$97,486)	\$900,982	121	3	0.96	0.98
4	PATTON (91, Lord At War)	N/A	47/19	1/2	1/1	(Whistle Pig, \$237,592)	\$894,426	389	13	0.97	1.13
5	SPANISH STEPS (01, Unbridled), Foot Fall Farm	\$3,500	56/25	2/2	0/2	(Rock 'n' Roll Gal, \$77,030)	\$834,939	98	2	0.93	1.47
6	INDY KING (99, A.P. Indy), Richwine Farm	\$1,000	50/30	1/1	0/1	(Indycency, \$100,030)	\$746,320	90	2	0.92	0.91
7	BLACK MOONSHINE (87, Mt. Livermore), Ayer Farm	N/A	32/17	1/1	1/1	(Brean Can, \$71,120)	\$638,798	80	4	0.97	0.77
8	CROWN AMBASSADOR (94, Storm Cat), Swifty Farms	Died, 2009	46/22	2/2	2/2	(Classical Ramona, \$69,165)	\$628,313	154	12	0.88	0.96
9	CENTURY CITY (IRE) (99, Danzig), Breakway Farm	\$2,500	50/20	0/0	0/0	(Oculuna, \$62,578)	\$623,776	*118	0	0.61	1.45
10	ARROMANCHES (93, Relaunch), Donald Dearth	\$750	17/12	0/0	0/0	(Brother Jamie, \$77,495)	\$572,731	38	0	1.29	0.57
11	WILD ZONE (90, Wild Again), Breakway Farm	\$3,000	67/23	0/0	0/0	(Pastor's Bad Habit, \$67,705)	\$540,058	*446	12	0.81	1.12
12	MORO ORO (93, Moro), L/J Sorrell Farm	\$1,000	42/18	1/1	1/1	(Mo Faster, \$69,416)	\$452,815	100	3	0.69	0.78
13	CAT DREAMS (01, Storm Cat), Still Creek Farm	\$1,500	33/12	1/1	1/1	(Caracortado, \$109,200)	\$411,815	70	1	0.68	1.03
14	PRESIDENTIAL ORDER (93, Danzig)	Died, 2009	28/13	0/0	0/0	(Sir Dakota, \$48,745)	\$395,206	107	5	0.65	0.72
15	¶ FOREST DANGER (01, Forestry), WinRich Thoroughbreds	N/A	40/10	0/0	0/0	(Gun Rock, \$46,135)	\$266,669	75	0	0.46	1.62
16	WAKI WARRIOR (89, Miswaki), Foot Fall Farm	\$1,000	21/9	0/0	0/0	(Waki Trick, \$45,130)	\$264,702	113	2	0.59	0.66
17	COMMEMORATE (81, Exclusive Native), House's Thoroughbreds	N/A	23/10	0/0	0/0	(Alyssa's Native, \$43,820)	\$248,396	*435	9	1.02	1.51
18	JACQUELYN'S GROOM (88, Runaway Groom)	N/A	20/6	0/0	0/0	(Racey Gracey, \$65,613)	\$229,351	110	0	0.49	0.56
19	HAP (96, Theatrical), Still Creek Farm	\$3,000	29/12	0/0	0/0	(Hapman, \$45,472)	\$216,669	67	0	0.53	0.84
20	CLASSY PROSPECTOR (94, Mr. Prospector), Dailey Double Farm	\$1,000	13/6	0/0	0/0	(Burke's Sister, \$82,259)	\$212,400	46	0	0.56	0.89
21	FAST FERDIE (92, Ferdinand)	N/A	14/7	0/0	0/0	(Ferdie's Image, \$31,580)	\$202,968	41	2	0.81	0.79
22	LEELANAU (99, Carson City), Still Creek Farm	\$1,000	31/10	0/0	0/0	(T C's Charmer, \$25,685)	\$188,965	82	0	0.51	0.88
23	WILD DEPUTY (93, Wild Again), Bona Terra Farms	\$900	27/11	1/1	1/1	(Wild Alaska, \$53,800)	\$177,671	149	4	0.65	0.82
24	SOLD TO WALLSTREET (96, Wall Street Dancer), MB Thoroughbreds	\$1,000	8/5	0/0	0/0	(Sold Out, \$48,683)	\$172,408	11	0	1.01	0.67

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**Indiana Welcomes  
ROYALLY-BRED**



Sire of 75% 2-year-old winners/runners in 2009, headed by Oak Tree at Santa Anita winner *Legal Separation* and *Sheza Foxy Jackpot* at Fairplex.

By leading sire **SEEKING THE GOLD**. Out of a G1-placed full sister to leading sire **OUT OF PLACE** (G3).  
Won the Grade II Gulfstream Park H.  
Immediate family of 4-time G1 SW **VERSAILLES TREATY** (\$1,271,154).  
(Seeking the Gold – Frolic, by Cox's Ridge) FEE: \$1,750  
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out-of-state. "With the new Indiana-bred program, we have clients from Ohio, Tennessee, Florida, and even Kentucky," Sacopulos said. "It's been really interesting to see what the interest is and how to market (stallions), and how the whole business fits together."

Depending on the country's economic situation this year, Sacopulos expects to breed 25-50 mares to his stallions during the 2010 season. He would like to add one more stallion to Green Gables' roster, and while he has already had some offers, he is still carefully considering what type of horse would garner the most interest from breeders and be the right fit for his farm.

While Green Gables, which has around 15-18 boarders, is a modest operation compared to many of the breeding giants in the industry, the quality of Sacopulos' program and his attention to detail are what he believes have so far made it a success.

"It has really been an interesting business," said Sacopulos. "It's really taken off...I think it's partly due to the Indiana program, and also because I try hard to be there to meet the people."

"I have a staff that works for me, but if you bring me a mare (to board), I want to be there to talk to you and find out the special needs of the horse. Part of what I hope for when people come to our facility is that they're happy we get their mare in foal, they get good service, and hopefully if that happens, they'll encourage others to bring their horses to us."

Sacopulos currently has three full-time employees and also hires some part-time help during the breeding season. In spite of having long work days, Sacopulos and his wife both check on their horses at Green Gables at least five times a week, and during breeding season, they are there virtually every day.

When the Sacopuloses can't be present at Green Gables, however, Shandra Walker, who handles the day-to-day barn work, manages the operation. "Being a smaller operation, you can keep better control over what's going on," said Sacopulos.

In the last five years Sacopulos has discovered that not only has his involvement with horses created camaraderie between himself and other equine enthusiasts across the country, but it

**2009 Ohio Sires  
By Winners**

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Mercer Mill.....	49.....	28
Academy Award.....	26.....	12
Mahogany Hall.....	14.....	8
Parents' Reward.....	13.....	6
Pride of Burkaan.....	13.....	6
Alladin Rib.....	12.....	6
Bold Truth.....	11.....	6
Keep It Down.....	11.....	6
De Hero.....	7.....	5
Political Folly.....	16.....	4
Donthelumbertrader.....	11.....	4
Noon Prospect.....	8.....	4
Private School.....	8.....	4
Musical Dreamer.....	5.....	4
French Legionaire.....	13.....	3
Part the Waters.....	10.....	3
Habayeb.....	9.....	3
Railway Cat.....	8.....	3
Runaway Casting.....	6.....	3
Yeti.....	5.....	3
I'll Raise You One.....	4.....	3
Maximum Wager.....	3.....	3

**2009 Illinois Sires  
By Winners**

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Cartwright.....	102.....	53
Unreal Zeal.....	55.....	29
Friendly Lover.....	64.....	28
Shore Breeze.....	49.....	24
Alaskan Frost.....	41.....	19
Caller I. D.....	49.....	18
Classified Facts.....	28.....	18
Crypto Star.....	38.....	15
Fappie's Notebook.....	29.....	13
Cashel Castle.....	20.....	12
Denouncer.....	20.....	10
Posh.....	20.....	10
He's a Tough Cat.....	18.....	10
Chicago Six.....	24.....	9
Marte.....	18.....	9
Irgun.....	31.....	8
Powerful Goer.....	24.....	8
Western Playboy.....	16.....	8
Animo de Valeroso.....	13.....	6
Conte Di Savoya.....	13.....	6
Sir Spellbinder.....	12.....	6
Honour Attendant.....	7.....	6

**2009 Iowa Sires  
By Winners**

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Wild Gold.....	47.....	27
Impeachment.....	28.....	12
Humming.....	25.....	10
Valley Crossing.....	20.....	8
Bravo Bull.....	17.....	8
Doug Fir.....	22.....	7
Winter Glitter.....	28.....	6
Classic Cat.....	25.....	6
Tiger Talk.....	10.....	5
Dignitas.....	14.....	4
Canaveral.....	11.....	4
Honest Ensign.....	12.....	3
Wild Invader.....	11.....	3
Williamstown.....	13.....	2
Cape Storm.....	6.....	2
Deputy Slew.....	5.....	2
Night Runner.....	5.....	2
Lord Pleasant.....	3.....	2
One Hundred Slews.....	2.....	2
Mercedes Won.....	4.....	1
Mr. Goldust.....	3.....	1
Swing Lord.....	3.....	1

**New to  
Indiana!**

# STAR CAT

*Storm Cat – Ashado, by Saint Ballado*

*Son of **STORM CAT**  
Out of Champion **ASHADO!***

■ By **STORM CAT**, leading sire and sire of 2009 Top-15 Leading Sires **GIANT'S CAUSEWAY**, **TALE OF THE CAT**, and **STORMY ATLANTIC**.

■ First foal out of Champion 3YO Filly and Older Mare **ASHADO**, Record-breaking \$9-million Broodmare and 3rd highest priced to sell at auction *ever!*

■ **STORM CAT** crossed with the **HAIL TO REASON** Line has produced Champions **SWEET CATOMINE** and **AMBITIOUS CAT**, as well as G1 SW **HARLAN**, sire of 2009 Top-5 Third Crop Sire **HARLAN'S HOLIDAY**.

■ 3x4 to **NORTHERN DANCER**, 5x5 to **ALMAHMOUD**.

2010 FEE: \$2,000 LIVE FOAL  
(payable when foal stands and nurses)  
Nominated to the Breeders' Cup and Indiana Stallion Stakes  
Owner: Cedar Creek Ranch



## BREAKWAY FARM

Dillsboro, Indiana

Inquiries to Janice Jordan, Farm Mgr., 13700 US Hwy 50, Dillsboro, IN 47018.  
Phone (812) 584-1967. Farm/Fax (812) 432-3221



has also opened new doors for him in terms of expanding his law expertise and business skills.

"While I don't ride myself, (the horse business) has provided me with the opportunity to be with my daughters and wife doing something they really like to do, and the business side of it is something I find very interesting," he said.

In addition to attending Indiana Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders seminars and the Saratoga Institute of Racing and Gaming conference, Sacopulos also attended the National Equine Law Seminar and is a member of the American Bar Association's section on equine business.

"I'm in constant learning mode, because (the equine business) is becoming more of a focus in my (law) practice," he said. "It's not the mainstay of my practice, but in terms of syndicating stallions, foal-share agreements, and stallion agreements, I now do those for clients.

"It started out in part to handle our own issues with our business, and then because nobody else was really doing it, I had a lot of referrals, so I've been doing more and more of that in Indiana," he added.

Before starting Green Gables, Sacopulos' only involvement with horses was trail riding as a young boy at McCormick's Creek



A filly from the first crop of Green Gables stallion Charging Indian, a son of Indian Charlie

State Park in Spencer, Ind.

After attending high school in Terre Haute, he then headed south for college at Tulane University in New Orleans. Following graduation, Sacopulos completed his master's degree in England, where he worked for the British government, and then went to law school at Indiana University.

Upon finishing his education, Sacopulos practiced law in Washington D.C. for a period of time at the firm of Abraham Fortas (Fortas, Prokop, and Hardman). Fortas was a U.S. Supreme Court associate justice.

"It was not really what I wanted to do long-term," Sacopulos explained. "I was doing mortgage work and secondary lending work. I'm more of a people person, and I ended up having an opportunity to come back and practice with my father, and I've been here ever since."

At the Terre Haute firm in which Sacopulos is now a partner—Sacopulos, Johnson, and Sacopulos—he does primarily civil litigation work on the defense side of trials in addition to the aforementioned equine law work.

While it has taken a lot of determination and persistence on Sacopulos' part to develop Green Gables into a breeding business, he is quick to credit Carmichael, Bernard, and Central Kentucky breeder Alberta Butner of Willmott Farm for steering him down the right path.

"(Butner) helped me better understand the whole operation, and she had a lot of background in breeding and racing," said Sacopulos. "Dr. Carmichael was the glue that was holding everything together and helped me get started, and when he passed away, Bernard stepped in and was very helpful as well."

While Bernard claimed he has played a very minor role in Sacopulos' operation, his recent aid in finding Green Gables a quality equine veterinarian will no doubt provide the breeding business with long-term benefits.

"(Finding a good vet) to help get mares in foal is the critical factor (to having a successful breeding operation)," said Bernard. "Green Gables is a nice facility, and I believe the horses will be well taken care of. It's a small place, obviously, but the (Indiana) breeders program is advantageous, particularly for people that want to raise and sell horses."

Bernard noted how Sacopulos may not have vast industry experience, but he brings a different strength to the table that many other operations lack—business skills.

"(Sacopulos) likes the marketing, advertising, and business aspects of things; that's what his forte is," said Bernard. "I think that's really important, because a lot of farms are lacking in that area." □

Indiana's Premier Breeding Operation  
Presents For 2010

PASS RUSH



Crown Ambassador – Profitable Knight, by Knight  
• Grade 2 Stakes Winner of \$594,603  
• Two-time Indiana Horse of the Year

• STORM CAT / MR. PROSPECTOR cross  
2010 Fee: \$3,500 Live Foal / Stands & Nurses

EL NINO

Storm Cat – Bay Harbor, by Forty Niner

• Grade 2 Sprinter by STORM CAT  
• Won at CD, KEE & OP setting all the pace  
• O/o half-sister to Champion 2YO BOSTON HARBOR, family of Champion Sprinter GROOVY.  
2010 Fee: 2,500 Live Foal / Stands & Nurses



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swiftfarms@verizon.net • www.swiftfarms.com

2009 Indiana Sires  
By 2-Year-Old Winners

Stks	2yos	2yo Rhrs	2yo Wnrs
Forest Danger .....	75	40	10
Champali .....	54	26	6
Spanish Steps .....	40	16	5
Chief Seattle .....	28	11	5
Wild Zone .....	25	11	4
Indy King .....	35	11	4
Cat Dreams .....	30	8	3
Jackpot .....	15	4	3