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MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION INC.

30 East Padonia Road
Timonium, MD 21093
P.O. Box 427
Timonium, MD 21094

410-252-2100
Fax 410-560-0503

www.marylandthoroughbred.com

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Off-the-track Thoroughbreds find their match

by Maggie Furbay

When Kimberly Godwin Clark first became interested in horses, she was a 20-year-old coed dating a young man who told her that if she was going to be with him, she would have to ride.

Admittedly more interested in dresses than dressage at that juncture in her life, she threw herself into the effort and discovered a passion that quickly became all-consuming. While the relationship with the boyfriend fizzled, her ardor for horses and riding endured. Twenty-five years later, Clark is a licensed trainer and tireless activist for the placement and rescue of off-the-track-Thoroughbreds.

She is now spearheading a non-profit venture called Maryland Thoroughbred Placement and Rescue, which functions more as a Match.com for former runners and potential new owners than a rescue operation in the classic sense.

Clark defined her mission statement: "We are Thoroughbred horsemen who are taking responsibility for our own retired race horses. What is happening is a cooperative effort on the backstretch by owners and trainers to get their horses

into the best possible hands. Too many times the responsibility falls on people outside the industry when it should be borne by us."

The niche she has discovered is rooted in the fact, she believes, that she is able to "speak both languages" and understand the needs not only of trainers and owners at the track, but of individuals seeking Thoroughbreds for use

as competition and pleasure mounts.

Proving that charity does indeed begin at home, Clark has used her own experiences and financial resources as a model for her burgeoning endeavor. She is based at Leighton Farm in Croom, Md. Neat as a pin, the 20-acre property with its red barn, white-fenced paddocks and dressage ring surrounded by pots of flowers

For Maryland, For Our Future

For up-to-the-minute information regarding the slots referendum to take place in the statewide election in November, visit the For Maryland, for Our Future Web site at www.formaryland.org.

Get the facts. Voting FOR the referendum will not only help the racing industry. It will lead to:

- Stronger Maryland schools, with half of total gross revenues dedicated to the Education Trust Fund.

- No tax increases, by generating approximately \$660 million in new state funding, according to independent budget analysts.

- No slippery slope, because the referendum is a constitutional amendment that prevents any additional expansion of gaming anywhere in Maryland without a future voter-approved constitutional amendment.



Kim Godwin Clark is shown with her beloved stable pony Punkie (registered name: Dancing Spunky), a 20-year-old son of Dancing Count.

is home to Clark and her husband of seven years, civil engineer William Leighton Clark.

"I have an amazing, very understanding husband," she said. "He supports me in everything I do." Also in residence are the two horses who inspired Clark to pursue her involvement with the rehabilitation and retraining of race horses.

The first, Dancing Spunky, called Punkie at home, is a gray Dancing Count gelding whom Clark credits with every success she's had as a trainer. Now 20, Punkie is the solid, reliable barn pony who helps break all the babies and provides the settling influence on the newly retired horses who occasionally rest at Leighton Farm on their way to new careers.

Cloud's Honor, known as Graycie, is most special of all to Clark. "She was one of two horses my husband purchased for me at the Fasig-Tipton yearling sale at Timonium in 2002," recounted Clark. "My longtime partner J.K. Adams and I broke her. She made over \$80,000 and retired completely sound. I don't plan to race her again simply be-

cause she is through her conditions. I would have to run her cheaper and risk her being claimed, and I won't do that. She's earned her place here at Leighton Farm."

Once word of Clark's concept got around, it wasn't long before business began to find her. Armed with video and still cameras, she visited trainers at Bowie who had horses to place, shot conformation photographs and movement footage of each, and uploaded them to her Leighton Farm Web site. She also became a rabid e-mailer, networking with numerous individuals and associations to garner contact information.

Clark's services aren't free, but the cost is minimal.

Here's how it works: "When a trainer or owner has a horse he wants to retire, they contact me," says Clark. "I take pictures and video of the horse and put him on my Web site. The owner decides on the price, if any. Interested parties contact me and I, in turn, furnish the contact information of the seller.

"The potential buyer contacts the seller directly and they negotiate a deal. The

seller then gives me 10 percent of the sale price, not the asking price. Whenever possible, JK or I meet potential buyers at the track and show them all available horses that might be of interest."

One of the first to seek out Clark's services at Bowie was Linda Gaudet, who operates a large stable with her husband, trainer Eddie Gaudet. In their barn was the stakes-winning Meadow Monster gelding Monster Chaser, earner of \$206,055.

"He had developed some small issues," Gaudet explained, "and we decided we wanted to stop on him. He is gorgeous and we knew he'd be really nice for someone. He needed a good rider, though, because he's a lot of horse."

Gaudet had carried Monster Chaser all winter after trying to get in touch with several of her own connections. "But no one was calling me back. I don't know if it was the economy or timing, but I got nowhere," she said.

Then Gaudet contacted Clark. The gelding was listed on the Leighton Farm Web site this past March, and within a few days Gaudet was inundated with calls. She had three serious inquiries all wanting to come see the horse on the same day. "So I said okay, whoever gets here first," Gaudet recalled.

Anne Williams, a show rider in Pennsylvania, beat the others to the punch. "I didn't even have to get him out of the stall," Gaudet went on, "before this girl said 'I'll take him.'" Williams continues to call Gaudet to keep her apprised of the horse's progress. She expects Monster Chaser to begin his career in the show ring late this year.

Clark believes the photography and video links on her Web site are one edge she has over many other rescue groups.

"I realized that getting really good pictures was extremely important. If you're going to help these horsemen, you've got to take better photos. The horses need to be presented correctly, or the average Joe on

the Internet is going to click to another site without even taking a good look. Those pictures had better make people stop."

Monster Chaser illustrated that point perfectly. "Anne already knew when she got to the barn that he was an athletic, good-looking horse," Gaudet added.

Clark's only frustration lies in the knowledge that there are so many horses out there in need of her services, but at this point, "There's only one me. I do all the editing, phoning, and Web site work. I want to promote the fact that we are horsemen and we take care of our own. It's bigger than just helping the horses—I want to help horse racing."

She firmly believes that horse racing is taking a terrible beating in the public's perception. "We do own our own reputation and it's partially our fault, because racing hasn't done a good job of promoting itself as what it really is, which is hardworking family people. Entirely too many people think that racing is made up of either the filthy rich or the dregs of society.

"And what I have found is that horsemen as a whole—owners, trainers—do want to take responsibility for their horses in their retirement. The American public is not going to fall in love with equine heroes if they think they aren't going to be cared for at the end of their careers."

Most trainers' schedules don't allow them the luxury of seeking placement for their horses in the show and pleasure communities, so Clark's assistance to that end has been positively and excitedly accepted. Her services have been widely embraced, and word of mouth on the backstretch has helped her find homes for 86 horses since the fall of 2007.

"I'm thinking this is great," Clark declared. "The people getting the horses are happy, the people selling the horses are happy. How often do you get to do something where everyone ends up happy?"

For more information visit www.LeightonFarm.com. 🐾

Maryland-bred/sired horses at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July yearling sale

A Not For Love colt hammered down for \$100,000 topped the eight Maryland-breds sold at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July yearling sale held July 14 and 15 in Lexington, Ky.

Bred by the Alan S. Kline Revocable Trust and consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency, Agent LXXIV, the colt, a chestnut born February 22, is out of Diva Girl (by Saint Ballado), who is a half-sister to multiple stakes winner Peaceful Road and stakes-winning multiple stakes producer D'Youville Nurse. The purchaser was George W. Parrish.

The 2008 MHBA Yearling Show reserve champion, breeder Cary W. Jackson's chestnut colt by Not For Love—Lady Tiara, by Vice Regent, brought \$90,000 from the consignment of Marshall W. Silverman, agent. David

Scanlon, agent, made the winning bid.

One other Maryland-bred topped the \$50,000 mark: a \$55,000 bay colt by Indian Charlie—Living On the Line, by Line In The Sand, sold by his breeder, John P. McDaniel's Hickory Ridge Farm, Sally Thomas, agent, to Hartley-Derenzo Thoroughbreds.

Medallist led Maryland sires at the sale, with three of his offspring averaging \$113,333. His top seller was a \$225,000 colt out of Anna K. (by Boston Harbor), consigned by Summerfield (Francis and Barbara Vanlangendonck), agent, and purchased by Jay Em Ess Stable.

Not For Love had three yearlings average \$78,333.

Not For Love and Medallist stand at Northview Stallion Station in Chesapeake City. 🍷



MARYLAND FOAL REPORT

AQUEEN'S SMILE, by Ops Smile, ch.f., April 13, by Disco Rico. Joe Cornacchia and Bonita Farm. Mare to Go for Gin.
 BANKBUSTER, by Housebuster, dk.b./br.f., April 23, by Go for Gin. Ron and Bernice Masone.
 BAY OF BENGAL, by Rakeen, dk.b./br.c., April 17, by Go for Gin. Timothy N. Hopkins. Mare to Go for Gin.
 CAROLINA GIRL, by Lion Hearted, b.c., June 7, by Unbridled Jet. Marty Carmichael. Mare to Go for Gin.
 CHAMPAGNE SWEEP, by End Sweep, b.f., May 6, by Go for Gin. Joe Cornacchia and Bonita Farm. Mare to Go for Gin.
 CONOWINGO, by Valley Crossing, b.c., March 15, by Siphon (Brz). Bonita Farm. Mare to Siphon (Brz).

EXPERTS ONLY, by Power of Mind, b.f., May 12, by Louis Quatorze. Rosalee C. Davison. Mare to Medallist.
 FLIGHT NUMBERS, by Polish Numbers, b.c., May 11, by Johar. Richard C. Granville. Mare to Artie Schiller.
 GLITTERING MARIE, by Marine Brass, b.c., March 20, by Go for Gin. Bonita Farm. Mare to Go for Gin.
 LIZZIE LANE, by Alyten, b.c., May 16, by Go for Gin. Todd McKenna. Mare to Go for Gin.
 LOOSELIPSSINKSHIPS, by Swear by Dixie, b.f., March 18, by Go for Gin. Bonita Farm. Mare to Go for Gin.
 MUVORNINE, by Cryptoclearance, dk.b./br.c., May 8, by Go for Gin. K.E.S. Farms LLC. Mare to Lion Hearted.

New to Maryland Racing Commission

Terms of two newly appointed members of the Maryland Racing Commission began on July 1. They are Mary Louise Preis and Charles G. (Chuck) Tildon III, both of whom Governor Martin O'Malley listed among his green bag appointments earlier this year.

Preis, an attorney, served two terms in the Maryland House of Delegates (1991 to '98) representing Harford County and is currently an executive with Citigroup, serving as vice-president for community relations in the Baltimore-Washington region. She has

had lengthy involvement in civic organization leadership.

Tildon serves as director of marketing for United Way of Central Maryland. A former advertising executive, he is also active as a civic volunteer in the Baltimore area.

The terms of commission members Gregory H. Barnhill and David Bramble ended on June 30.

Continuing as members of the commission are John B. Franzone (chairman), David Clogg, Frank F. Favazza, William Gerweck, John P. McDaniel, Jacqueline Nigh and Louis J. Ulman. 🍷

Rosecroft Raceway suspends live racing

Rosecroft Raceway, the harness track in Oxon Hill, Md., has suspended live racing.

The Maryland Racing Commission has declared Rosecroft to be in an emergency situation and approved the track's request to discontinue live racing for perhaps as long as two years while allowing it to continue simulcasting.

Rosecroft executives said that by eliminating the ex-

penses of conducting racing, and adding an additional \$1 million in cutbacks and layoffs, the track will be in the black by the end of the year.

Pursuant to the 15-year agreement signed in April 2006, Rosecroft remains committed to its payment of \$5.9 million annually to the Thoroughbred industry, allowing it to simulcast in-state and out-of-state Thoroughbred races. 🍷

PLEASANT ISLAND, by Pleasant Tap, b.f., March 11, by Storm Boot. Bowman Thoroughbreds LLC.
 ROCKET ROBYN, by Eastern Echo, b.c., April 12, by Lion Hearted. Darlene Townsend.
 SANDY E F, by Sandpit (Brz), b.f., April 11, by Johar. Richard C. Granville. Mare to Dance With Ravens.
 SOBRIETY TEST, by Wavering Monarch, dk.b./br.c., April 15, by Go for Gin. Bonita Farm. Mare to Go for Gin.
 SUM THIN BOUT MARY, by Valley Crossing, dk.b./br.c., April 21, by Go for Gin. Bonita Farm. Mare to Lite the Fuse.
 TAMAYO, by Tamayaz, dk.b./br.f., April 24, by Lion Heart-

ed. Rosalee C. Davison. Mare to Mizzen Mast.
 TETTAU, by Allen's Prospect, b.f., May 11, by Go for Gin. Bonita Farm. Mare to Siphon (Brz).
 THIRTY SIX CARAT, by Meadowlake, b.f., February 15, by Tiznow. Hindman Limited Partnership.
 TOKEN BEAUTY, by Gold Token, b.c., March 27, by Go for Gin. Bowman Thoroughbreds LLC. Mare to Go for Gin.
 WICKED STRIPES, by Candy Stripes, ch.f., February 29, by Father Steve. K.E.S. Farms LLC. Mare to Jazil.
 WOLF LAKE, by Wolf (Chi), dk.b./br.f., April 17, by Siphon (Brz). Bonita Farm. Mare to Go for Gin.

Maryland's top 20 earners in 2008

(through August 14)

1. Heros Reward . . . \$259,984	11. Fancy Diamond . \$114,200
2. Barbecue Eddie . . . 193,780	12. Smart and Fancy . . 104,250
3. Good Night Shirt . . 150,000	13. Fujita 102,787
4. La Chica Rica 139,398	14. Dempsey 102,270
5. Hartigan 127,000	15. Lexi Star 100,500
6. Henry Street 125,700	16. Natural Seven 100,060
7. All Giving 124,920	17. Casual 98,628
8. Maddy's Lion 124,810	18. Kosmo's Buddy . . . 93,605
9. For Kisses 120,350	19. Our Partner 92,400
10. Willsboro Point . . . 115,440	20. Essenceofthemoon . 91,767

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Maryland's leading sires

Supplied by Bloodstock Research Information Services (BRIS), these statistics were compiled on August 14. † denotes freshman sire.

Earnings in 2008

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Not For Love	162	770	83	127	\$3,427,620
Outflanker	120	656	64	107	2,478,730
Lion Hearted	114	531	53	68	1,769,530
Louis Quatorze	117	602	50	79	1,373,570
Two Punch	106	437	40	57	1,353,030
Allen's Prospect	82	422	42	60	1,047,340
Crowd Pleaser	41	191	22	29	802,689
Eastern Echo	59	275	22	37	699,948
Yarrow Brae	41	201	16	28	606,542
Mojave Moon	66	387	24	31	569,254
Go for Gin	46	215	18	23	511,902
Crypto Star	43	222	16	22	449,153
Citidancer	33	141	13	25	443,648
Seeking Daylight	21	107	11	14	416,528
No Armistice	30	126	16	22	360,038
Polish Numbers	27	119	10	14	339,201
Rock Slide	25	95	10	15	337,462

2-year-old earnings in 2008

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Lion Hearted	11	19	5	6	\$107,721
Not For Love	7	11	3	3	105,526
Two Punch	8	15	3	3	87,966
No Armistice	1	3	1	3	75,960
Outflanker	5	14	3	3	61,391
Rock Slide	6	14	2	2	59,090
Crypto Star	1	2	1	2	42,420
Parker's Storm Cat	7	16	1	1	31,690

Earnings lifetime

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Allen's Prospect	925	22,470	765	3,272	\$52,574,300
Two Punch	761	14,563	589	2,223	44,932,300
Not For Love	471	8,995	366	1,416	39,150,300
Polish Numbers	439	8,911	362	1,319	32,112,000
Carnivalay	494	13,170	404	1,799	29,857,600
Smarten	507	12,402	388	1,692	27,095,700
Horatius	590	15,129	470	1,925	26,525,300
Waquoit	446	10,690	349	1,461	25,634,300
Citidancer	291	6,684	248	1,164	24,289,100
Eastern Echo	408	8,020	281	1,063	21,482,100
Norquestor	293	8,719	252	1,241	20,934,500
Louis Quatorze	381	6,269	273	840	19,432,200
Deputed Testamony	352	10,111	265	1,396	18,388,300
Oh Say	418	10,056	353	1,472	17,584,800
Shelter Half	303	8,427	248	1,157	14,272,000

2-year-old earnings lifetime

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Allen's Prospect	458	1,558	175	240	\$5,629,410
Two Punch	372	1,184	147	184	4,738,650
Smarten	278	1,195	112	157	3,769,760
Polish Numbers	229	700	84	122	3,672,570
Not For Love	207	657	80	105	3,633,430
Citidancer	149	564	80	122	3,183,860
Eastern Echo	220	812	73	100	3,032,700
Carnivalay	249	1,010	88	122	2,480,130
Louis Quatorze	200	602	59	73	2,357,920
Outflanker	155	649	68	93	2,294,190
Waquoit	193	667	56	81	1,890,850
Horatius	267	991	99	134	1,642,260
Lion Hearted	93	294	41	57	1,529,480
Oh Say	152	574	65	90	1,457,000
Shelter Half	141	563	67	105	1,383,870