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TCA honors its founders at Timonium event

By Joe Clancy

In her quiet, yet powerful, style, Allaire duPont sent 521 words to the *Maryland Horse* magazine in the form of a letter about Thoroughbred retirement—in 1989. But it was far more than a letter.

DuPont, the owner of Woodstock Farm in Chesapeake City and a driving force behind many of the state's Thoroughbred developments (Windfields Farm, Northview Stallion Station, Fair Hill, the very idea of farmland preservation and so on) started a lasting force in Thoroughbred charity with those words. Herb and Ellen Moelis read the letter, in the October 1989 edition, talked to duPont and ran with the idea—hosting a small dinner/auction of art and racing memorabilia at the Moelises' CandyLand Farm in



Lydia A. Williams

In the early days, the auction was held at CandyLand Farm and grew large enough to demand an elaborate tent setup. Below left, Herb and Ellen Moelis present a trophy and below right, Herb with Allaire duPont and one of her much sought-after needlepoint chairs.



Hoofprints, Inc. (2)



Personal Perspective

By Allaire duPont

What happens every year to the hundreds of aging race horses who are no longer able to earn their keep? It's almost too sad to think about. You and I would worry ourselves to death if we knew.

Picture a broken-down old gelding, limping his way onto a horse ambulance. He is one of the lucky ones, in a way, because his end will probably come quickly and without added suffering.

Far away from the view of racing fans, many proud old runners are slowly succumbing to neglect and abuse—or being herded onto crowded trucks for shipment to meat packing plants.

We owe these animals a decent retirement. All of us here in Maryland who love horses need to work on starting a home for old horses. It has been done in New York, with heartwarming results. And there is no reason something like that can't happen here.

We need someone to come forward and volunteer to head up the project. I would be very glad to help, although it would be impossible for me to commit myself to the time required in getting it started.

There are resources available. One of my friends has talked about offering part of his farm, and the services of a few employees, to the cause. That kind of contribution would be enough to get the whole thing off the ground—if we had someone to act as a coordinator, and begin raising funds.

Horse lovers should not be discouraged by the enormity of the problem. Every little bit helps. Every horse we save is worth some effort.

The numbers are becoming worse, as breeders produce more horses, and the tracks put on more races. It is so important to keep the horses' welfare in mind. A lot of race horses never get any love at all—and they need it.

Racing in Maryland has gotten so wonderful. Now it's time to pay attention to the state's breeding industry. Broodmares, stallions, foals and old race horses are all part of the life cycle. We must work hard to breed horses who can compete in good company, and take care of them the best we can throughout their lifetimes.

The program in New York, known as the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, has saved many horses since it opened its doors in 1985. Located in Wallkill, in upstate New York, it trains local penitentiary inmates to serve as grooms—thus serving two highly worthwhile purposes at once. Labor costs are kept low, and inmates learn skills they can use after getting out of prison.

Their horses come from many kinds of backgrounds. Some are stakes winners; others were bottom-level claimers. They are selected by a committee, who try to ferret out the most deserving.

Perhaps we could model our program on theirs.

I've been in this business a long, long time. I bred my first horse in 1940, before the War. Over the years I've had a lot of ups and downs with my own horses. The "ups" have certainly made it worthwhile. But I do feel very concerned about some of the down sides of racing. □



Delaware the next year. It was nothing fancy—as Ellen Moelises put it she cooked “what seemed like a thousand meatballs”—but it worked. The meatballs and more that first year turned into a \$15,000 donation to the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation and the kernel of an idea.

From there, the event bloomed into an auction of stallion seasons, in addition to the art and memorabilia (including the much-sought-after needlepoint craft of duPont), and raised substantial sums of money. More importantly, the event spawned the creation of the Thoroughbred Charities of America, which takes a United Way approach to racing philanthropy.

Now based in Kentucky, TCA raises money, accepts grant applications and supports worthy causes. All these years later, more than 200 industry-related non-profits have received contributions

of some \$22 million. TCA supports Thoroughbred rehabilitation, repurposing, rehoming and retirement; backstretch and farm employee programs; therapy programs that utilize Thoroughbreds; and equine research. The annual stallion-season auction continues to be a major source of funding.

DuPont, who died in 2006, would be proud and she was on the minds of a group of people who gathered for a reception billed as the first Founders Day at Timonium in May. The group included TCA board members, Fasig-Tipton sales staffers (who have helped run the auction for years), 2-year-old consignors, owners, trainers and others who remembered duPont and recognized the efforts of the Moelises.

“How many ideas in the horse business don’t work out?” asked Mike McMahon, TCA president who toasted the Moelises and presented

them with a framed copy of that *Maryland Horse* page with duPont’s letter. “It’s really cool that this one continues to work well and it’s such a testament to their idea. Strong stewardship is the key.”

TCA moved its auction to Kentucky in 2007 and formally affiliated with the Kentucky-based Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association the next year. While the move took something away from the Mid-Atlantic, racing benefitted as TCA was able to take a broader approach.

The relocation idea came from Herb Moelises, who wanted to make sure he secured the organization’s future.

“He’s a smart guy,” said McMahon. “He knew he had to find a way to keep it going. He did it a long enough time ago that he was in the prime of his leadership position and could set it up the right way.”

The Timonium event came about as a way to honor the

Moelises, who now officially have emeritus status on the TCA board of directors, while also re-connecting with Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic region. The event was held during the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-old sale and drew support from a variety of areas. TCA wanted to honor its founders, while at the same time work to get in front of some potential new supporters.

“You want people to say, ‘Thanks for the opportunity,’ not ‘Oh, you again,’ when you’re trying to raise funds,” said McMahon. “We didn’t have an event in Maryland anymore and it’s important that we do. I’m hopeful it can be an annual event and it can keep our profile high. It’s all about a broader base of support.”

And some very determined founders. 🐾



Maryland Million 2018 internship opportunity

The Maryland Million fall internship provides a valuable experience in coordinating and executing a large-scale racing event while making connections within the Maryland Thoroughbred industry.

From Sept. 4 through Oct. 22, the intern will also be exposed to the other entities affiliated with Maryland Million Ltd., including the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Maryland Horse Industry Foundation, and *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* magazine.

Working on the final stages of production for the 2018 running of Jim McKay Maryland Million Day, specific duties will include:

- Sponsorship – working with assistant executive director and sponsors

- Ticketing – assist in mailing invitations, recording RSVPs and distributing tickets leading up to the event

- Live and Silent Auction – recruit and collect items, write item descriptions for gala program, assist with editing gala program

- Hospitality – serve as a host and assist with execution of all events leading up to and on Maryland Million Day (Saturday, Oct. 20).

It is a paid internship with an average of 10-20 hours per week.

Deadline to apply is July 27. See marylandmillion.com for more details and to apply. 🐾

Late Maryland sire Tritap gets first winner

The first two runners from the first crop of the late Heritage Stallions’ sire Tritap started May 12 at Pimlico and finished first and fourth in a waiver maiden claimer for 2-year-old fillies. Lucky Seven Racing Stables’ Knock Out Kid, bred in Pennsylvania by Gum Tree Stables and trained by Jerry Robb, reeled in favorite Pink Notion and drew off to win by a length. Tritap’s daughter Kimberly B. ran evenly and finished 5¼ lengths behind the winner.

Out of the Great Notion mare Sometimes Not, Knock Out Kid sold for \$1,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale.

Tritap, a son of Tapit, had 28 live foals in his first crop of which 15 have been named. He was standing his second season at Heritage Stallions in Chesapeake City when he died in 2016 at age 7.

A graded stakes performer of \$155,936, Tritap was retired after starting nine times and finishing first or second in six. A track record setter at Churchill Downs going 1¾ miles, he broke his maiden at Saratoga when running 7 furlongs in 1:22.56.

Out of stakes winner Victory Road, a daughter of the Seattle Slew stallion Ikari, Tritap traced back in his female line to Windy Answer, dam of Canadian champion Cool Reception and stakes winner Ciboullette, the latter dam of Canadian Horse of the Year Fanfreluche. 🐾