

February 2015
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PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:**
Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:**
Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:**
April 30 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile report:**
Oct. 15 prior to year foaling or
within 15 days of arrival in state

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Brian N. Sanfratello
Executive Secretary
execsec@pabred.com

Dorothy B. Weber
Asst. Exec. Sec., CIO/CTO

701 E. Baltimore Pike, Ste. E
Kennett Square, PA 19348
610-444-1050 phone
www.pabred.com

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Sylmar Farm still breeding to win

By Barbara Luna

For the last 38 years Ronnie and Betsy Houghton have worked side by side on their 300-acre Sylmar Farm in southeastern Pennsylvania. Surrounded by family members who all work on or for the farm, the Houghtons breed, foal, raise and race their own and clients' Thoroughbreds. Fan favorites like homebreds Whistle Pig, Banjo Picker and Turbo Speed contributed to Sylmar's four consecutive Leading PA Breeder Recipient titles from 2008 through 2011.

Betsy and Ronnie were Pony Clubbers together before he went off to college at Penn State. After Ronnie graduated they trained horses together during winters in Camden and travelled to racetracks the rest of the year. In 1970 they purchased their first farm on Sylmar Road in Rising Sun, Md.

It wasn't long before their breeding and training operation outgrew the boundaries of the Maryland property and by 1976 the Houghtons moved to Christiana and opened Sylmar Farm on 300 acres of rolling hills, fields and woods.

"We built all the barns and the training track," said Betsy, who after over 50 years breeding and racing Thoroughbreds demonstrates a remarkable memory for the details of many of the hundreds of horses born and raised at the farm. "My son Bernie, who is based at Penn National, trains all of the horses. We have a great system since our five-eighth-mile farm track has a starting gate and we can switch the horses back and forth from the track all the time. Turf gallops, six barns, two Eurocizers—we have a lot of options with the horses."

While Betsy spends her time in the training barn and in the office, Ronnie manages all of the outside work which according to Betsy is her reason the farm always looks so good.

"We built our whole operation up from nothing," she said. "This farm is our life. We don't play golf and we have no hobbies—our kids actually had to send us on vacation since we really don't go anywhere. They are all here and now our 11

grandchildren are too. More and more our family is taking over the farm as Ronnie and I get older."

The children are Bernie, Robin, Michael and Wendy who live at Sylmar or nearby. Robin works in the office while Michael owns a fleet of eight trucks in his Houghton Trucking Company. He supplies all the hay and straw for area farms including Sylmar.

Wendy Kinnamon and her husband, Travis, own Breakaway Farm just down the road and care for the Sylmar overflow of turnouts and layups.

Just as much a part of the Houghton family is Kim Eshleman, who since a teenager has been working for the Houghtons for nearly 38 years.

"Kim and her husband have their own little farm and we have her horses in training," said Betsy. "Kim has done every job on this farm at one time or another. She mainly runs the barns where the yearlings are being broke to ride and she was the first one to put tack on Princess of Sylmar."

Annually among the leading breeders in Pennsylvania, the Houghtons can proudly share in the notoriety of two stakes winners, neither one a homebred but both just as familiar to the Houghtons as if they were.

King of Prussia Stable's Princess of Sylmar was raised and began training at Sylmar before moving on to trainer Todd Pletcher. PJG Stable's Favorite Tale was bred by Paul Conaway and began training at Sylmar before moving to the track with trainer Guadalupe Preciado.

In 2013, Princess of Sylmar scored four consecutive Grade 1 wins in her 3-year-old campaign including the Kentucky Oaks, Coaching Club American Oaks, Alabama Stakes and Beldame Invitational Stakes. Her prowess against her age group and older fillies and mares earned her a trip to California and a start in the Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita. Although unplaced in the Distaff, she finished the year with over \$1.6 million in earnings.

Favorite Tale is a 2011 son of Tale of the Cat who won his first three starts at Parx at 3. Precia-

do then spotted him against stakes company in New York but returned to Parx on PA Derby Day for an impressive win in the Grade 3 \$300,000 Gallant Bob Stakes.

Like so many of the Houghton's clients, Ed Stanco, managing partner of King of Prussia Stables, and Conaway regularly visited their horses at the farm. Stanco, who was at Sylmar the day "Princess" was foaled, could often be seen in the field surrounded by 20 yearlings.

It is no coincidence that the talented filly shares a name with the Houghtons' operation.

"I love going to Sylmar to visit my horses," said Stanco. "But I don't like trying to think of names for them. So Betsy, Ronnie and I got together and named her for the farm."

"We will never have another one like her in our lives," said Betsy. "It was a great ride. We had her dam, Storm Dixie, here for seven years, and I still look out the window to the field where she was turned out. Ed Stanco got us so much recognition."

Betsy and Ronnie followed with great interest the purchase of their former charge when Princess of Sylmar sold for \$3.1 million as a broodmare prospect to Japanese interests

in Fasig Tipton's Select Fall Mixed Sale last November and her dam was purchased by agent Olin Gentry for \$1.9 million in foal to Tapit.

Like many reputable breeders and owners the Houghtons try hard to rehome their retirees. Betsy's favorite horse, a 2004 stakes-placed son of Patton named Saco River, retired at the age 8 and Betsy found him a home as a riding horse with a good friend.

"You can't take all of them back or you'd go out of business," she said. "But we do try hard to find safe homes for them all. We have 4-H groups and Pony Clubs close by and a lot of contacts and young girls who love to ride. We get pictures of them all the time with show ribbons and we just love to hear about their new lives."

Whistle Pig, PA-Bred Champion Older Male in 2008, is 11 years old and is back home at the farm lording over a field of 30 broodmares. His trainer and then owner Andy Carter had asked the Houghtons to take him upon his retirement four years ago and have offered to help financially if ever needed.

"We lost both Whistle Pig and Banjo Picker when they were claimed from us, but

without spending another penny we picked up \$240,000 in breeders awards from Whistle Pig alone," said Betsy.

"And we loved Banjo Picker. We had been given the mare Sean's Gold for free but at one point she set the record for having 20 claims in for her at The Meadowlands," Betsy said. "Banjo made most of his purse money and won multiple stakes races for Danny Limongelli after he claimed him but the breeders awards those years were also very good to us."

Banjo, now 15, is retired at War Horses at Rose Bower in Virginia.

After over 50 years breeding and racing the Houghtons still feel the thrill of a talented young homebred. Cautious in their optimism both Betsy and her son Bernie look forward to their Tazewell County's 3-year-old campaign. A 17-hand son of Jump Start out of the Malibu Moon mare Prairie Heat, the colt is still a maiden, and finished fifth in the Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes in his second start.

"He ran a little green in the stake," said Betsy. "But he was just beat in his maiden race a month before. We are really hoping that he will prove that Prairie Heat is a good mare."

Why Breed & Own in Pennsylvania?



PENNSYLVANIA
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- > **\$35 million** paid in PA-Bred Awards, Pursues & Bonuses
- > **500** days of racing which equals **500** chances to win at 3 PA racetracks
- > **500+** restricted races just for PA-breds
- > **22** restricted stakes races totaling **\$1.68 million** in purses
- > **Breeder award bonus of up to 30%** of purse earned on all races (1st through 3rd), with no cap on earnings
- > **Bonus of 25%** of purse earned to owner of PA-Sired horse in all PA-Bred stakes races (1st through 3rd)
- > **Bonus of up to 40%** of purse earned to owner on overnight races (1st through 3rd), with no cap on earnings

THE PA-BRED PREMIUM
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Contact Information:

State Horse Racing Commission
Harrisburg, PA • 717-787-1942

Parx Racing
Bensalem, PA • 215-639-9000

Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course
Grantville, PA • 717-469-2211

Presque Isle Downs & Casino
Erie, PA • 866-374-3386

Pennsylvania HBPA
Grantville, PA • 717-469-2970

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association
Bensalem, PA • 215-638-2012

THE PA-BRED PREMIUM EARN MORE!



JOIN THE PHBA

Whether you are currently a breeder or an owner, or if you are just considering getting involved in this exciting industry, there are many reasons to join the PHBA. The PHBA is devoted to those involved in Pennsylvania's Thoroughbred breeding industry. A not-for-profit organization founded in 1948, we provide a number of services to members, including informational assistance, educational opportunities and a variety of social events.

The goal of the organization is to advocate on behalf of the state's breeding industry. We are mandated by statute as administrator of the Pennsylvania Breeding Fund program, and as official registrar of the Pennsylvania-Bred roster of eligible program participants.

Working with industry leaders over the years, PHBA has achieved several goals that have brought reform and benefits to breeders, owners, race tracks and the public. The PHBA is vital to everyone involved in breeding throughout Pennsylvania. Your support and participation can help Pennsylvania's breeding industry continue to grow and prosper.

2015 PA-Bred Stakes Schedule

ALL BREEDING FUND STAKES WILL INCLUDE A 25% PA-SIRED BONUS FOR 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD.

Proposed 2015 schedule—dates and conditions for all the PA-Bred Stakes are subject to change. Please contact the Racing Offices for the most current schedules.

Sat., May 2 Parx	\$75,000 Lyman H , 3 & up, 7 fur.
	\$75,000 Foxy J. G. S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 7 fur.
Sat., May 30 Penn	\$75,000 Lyphard S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
Fri., June 12 Penn	\$75,000 Danzig S , 3YO, 6 fur.
	\$75,000 New Start S , 3YO fillies, 6 fur.
Sun., July 12, PID	\$75,000 Leematt S , 3 & up, 1 mi.
	\$75,000 Northern Fling S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 mi.
Sat., July 25, Parx	\$75,000 Crowd Pleaser S , 3YO, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
	\$75,000 Power by Far S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 5 fur., turf
Sun., Aug. 9, PID	\$75,000 Malvern Rose S , 3YO fillies, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi.
Sat., Aug. 22, Penn	\$75,000 Robellino S , 3 & up, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
TBA Parx	\$75,000 Banjo Picker Sprint S , 3 & up, 6 fur.
	\$75,000 Roanoke S , 3 & up, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi.
	\$75,000 Marshall Jenney H , 3 & up, 5 fur., turf
	\$75,000 Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial S , 3YO fillies, 7 fur.
	\$100,000 Mrs. Penny S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
Sun., Sept. 6, PID	\$75,000 Mark McDermott S , 2YO, 6 fur.
Sat., Sept. 19, Parx	\$100,000 Alphabet Soup H , 3 & up, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
Sun., Sept. 20, PID	\$75,000 Mrs. Henry D. Paxson S , 2YO fillies, 6 fur.
Sat., Oct. 10 Parx	\$75,000 Plum Pretty S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi.
Wed., Nov. 25, Penn	\$75,000 Blue Mountain Juvenile Fillies S , 2YO fillies, 6 fur.
Sat., Dec. 5, Parx	\$100,000 Pennsylvania Nursery S , 2YO, 7 fur.

Total: \$1,725,000

PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

(January 1, 2014 through November 30, 2014, rounded to dollars)

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Owner	Total	Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Owner	Total
Michael W. Jester	161,472	144,658	0	306,131	The Elkstone Group LLC	108,845	0	4,500	113,345
George Strawbridge Jr.	202,539	51,202	0	253,741	Jon A. Marshall	98,564	0	0	98,564
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	7,000	210,776	0	217,776	Charlton Bloodstock Agency Inc.	94,511	0	0	94,511
William J. Solomon VMD	71,067	141,664	0	212,731	Equivine Farm Inc.	88,160	0	0	88,160
Xanthus Farms Inc.	147,392	5,355	0	152,747	Bettina L. Jenney	82,922	0	0	82,922
Charles A. Cuprill	112,149	35,620	0	147,769	St. Omer's Farm	82,396	0	0	82,396
Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	87,462	57,333	0	144,795	Flint W. Stites	53,697	26,039	0	79,736
Thomas G. McClay	125,785	0	0	125,785	Triton Farms LLC	61,502	11,046	0	72,548
Sylmar Farm Inc.	124,846	0	0	124,846	Tea Party Stable Inc.	37,737	32,735	0	70,472
Arrowwood Farm Inc.	122,196	0	0	122,196	Joseph Imbesi	68,662	0	0	68,662
Pewter Stable	78,526	36,611	0	115,137	Sienna Farms LLC	68,182	0	0	68,182
Yaroslav Kolybabiuk MD	113,502	0	0	113,502	Judith M. Barrett	32,263	35,200	0	67,463

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Fairbanks	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	269	100,999	Changeintheweather	Pin Oak Stud LLC	91	33,908
Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	165	100,520	More Smoke	William J. Solomon VMD	99	33,641
Real Quiet	Michael W. Jester	186	70,640	Talent Search	Kenneth L. Ramsey	77	32,848
Ecclesiastic	Walmac Stud Managem't LLC	222	59,007	Barbican	Tea Party Stable Inc.	83	30,379
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	155	57,333	Love of Money	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	71	27,495
Cat Thief	Michael W. Jester	160	57,022	Siphon (Brz)	William J. Solomon VMD	100	26,462
Rimrod	George Strawbridge Jr.	147	51,202	Aisle	Flint W. Stites	108	26,039
Medallist	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	88	40,618	Partner's Hero	Peter Giangiulio	110	25,387
Lite the Fuse	William J. Solomon VMD	166	38,686	Southern Success	Barbara A. Rickline	107	24,805
Congressionalhonor	Pewter Stable	118	36,611	Wiseman's Ferry	Lainey Bug Stables LLC	106	23,511
Activist	Judith M. Barrett	166	35,200	Albert the Great	William J. Solomon VMD	134	23,137

LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder, Stallion and Owner Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	PA-Bred Restricted Purse	PA-Bred Stakes Purse	Total Breeder Award	Total Stallion Award	Total Owner Award	Total Owner Bonus	Total Fund Amount
Page McKenney *	Eavesdropper - Winning Grace	James E. Bryant	7	0	56,000	61,740	20,580	4,500	13,600	156,420
Edge of Reality	Lawyer Ron - Our Nancy Lee	The Elkstone Group LLC	3	0	109,500	21,000	0	0	0	130,500
Where's Rosie B *	Real Quiet - Lucky Nita	Michael W. Jester	6	0	45,000	44,740	14,913	0	20,024	124,678
Primo Via	Candy Ride (Arg) - Breezy Street	Cedar Meadow Inc.	16	0	15,000	51,578	0	0	47,340	113,918
Bound *	Jump Start - China Sky	Barlar LLC	5	0	60,000	33,378	11,126	0	6,660	111,164
Lenape Rim *	Rimrod - Mai Debeau	Margaret H. Brigham	4	0	65,000	32,295	10,765	0	0	108,060
Disco Chick *	Jump Start - Disco Flirt	Yaroslav Kolybabiuk MD	7	0	8,250	44,986	14,995	0	21,840	90,071
Aunt Ellipsis	Successful Appeal - Aunt Dot Dot	Truxton Stables	8	0	45,000	28,766	0	4,500	6,980	85,246
Raging Smoke *	More Smoke - Marquee Kelly	Thomas G. McClay	4	0	30,000	31,194	10,398	0	11,980	83,572
Duff	Candy Ride (Arg) - To the Brim	Two Sisters' Farm Inc.	4	0	45,000	24,344	0	4,500	7,320	81,164
Rustler Hustler	Ecton Park - Cozy Temper	Mark H. Stanley	7	0	53,250	20,016	0	0	3,760	77,026
Rockin Jojo	Street Magician - Chiqueada	David Miller	4	0	47,250	17,760	0	0	11,700	76,710
Favorite Tale	Tale of the Cat - Tricky Elaine	Paul E. Conaway Jr.	3	0	0	47,880	0	18,000	10,800	76,680
Appealing Cat	Successful Appeal - Dynamic Cat	George Strawbridge Jr.	3	0	64,500	12,000	0	0	0	76,500
Merry's Honor *	Congressionalhonor - Merry Princess	Pewter Stable	2	0	45,000	20,739	6,913	0	3,680	76,332
Pixie Dust *	Ecclesiastic - Seagrapes	Lawrence Stables Inc.	7	0	20,500	32,366	10,789	0	10,800	74,454
Star Pearl	Tapit - Lexi Star	Stephen E. Quick	4	0	45,000	21,212	0	0	6,660	72,872
Isabella Swift *	Weigelia - Polar Miss	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	14	0	0	41,796	13,932	0	16,424	72,152
Yougottthatgoinforu	Student Council - The Cat's Reach	R R Equine Stables LLC	12	0	4,500	34,956	0	0	31,645	71,101
Show Ya Luv	Grand Reward - Funny Woman	Joseph Besecker	10	0	0	29,910	0	0	40,200	70,110

*Denotes PA-sired

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